

Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

Serving: Colony Point, Hariton Gardens,
Merridale, Pinehurst, Restmere, Rose Gardens,
Sussex of Norfolk, Virginia Gardens and Wexford

March 2011 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

**March 21, 2011
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

Agenda

State Representatives

Paula Miller, Kenny Alexander

State Senator

Ralph Northam

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you missed our February meeting, you missed a great one. It was great in that we honored three Granby Elementary Students who won 1st place in their school class's science fair with their interesting science experiments. They then went on to the Norfolk City Science Fair where each one of them also did very well. In fact one of the students won first place in their class category. The names of the three students and their science projects that they shared with us at our meeting are:

5th Grade:

Jacob Grigsby

"Which Method of Transferring Bacteria is the Quickest?"

Heath Science, 5th Grade, 3rd Place

4th Grade:

Xander Chiera

"Which Combination of Bearings and Wheels Will Make My Awesome Skateboard Go The Fastest?"

Design Technology, 4th Grade, 1st Place

3rd Grade:

James Rakestraw

"Which Marble Will Fly Farther When Thrown With a Constant Force?"

Design Technology, 3rd Grade, 3rd Place

Congratulations to all the winners, their proud parents and their Lead Science Teacher and Fair Coordinator, Ms. Laura Moore. You make us proud!

In other news and after discussion with Police Red Sector Commander Lt. MacKenzie and Community Resource Officer Davis at our last meeting, we have decided to make increasing our communication with the police a top goal for us this year. Our primary goal is to work with the police in responding to incidents that are currently happening in our neighborhood in real time. We want to assist by providing the police with information such as descriptions of suspects, their locations, vehicles they may be driving, and other needed information in an effort to help the police apprehend those individuals. The police officers in turn will provide us with more timely information concerning incidents in our neighborhood when they can do so. This will probably be done in part by establishing email links between the police and us. As this process develops we will bring you more information.

At its last Planning Commission meeting, the Commission members voted against the proposed changes submitted by Art Collins regarding his development project on Newport Ave. While this is a setback for him, it is not over for the project. He can still build what he wants without any more approvals if he goes back to the original plan that was approved a

couple of years age. So, we should not be overjoyed yet with this latest development since we still don't know what he will do. We can only hope that whatever he does he will get serious and do what is in best interest of our neighborhood. We will continue to monitor his development proposal with the city Planning Department.


We recently found out that although the application by For Kids for a thrift store in the business district was turned down by the Planning Commission, For Kids is resubmitting its proposal again in hopes of getting a different vote to allow them to open their thrift store in the same place. While I have already submitted a letter to the Planning Commission indicating our disapproval of this project because it is not a positive fit for the business district, I will again submit another letter indicating the same as the first. In my opinion "NO MEANS NO" and I don't understand what they don't get about NO. So stayed turn for future developments on this issue as well.

Also regarding the businesses in the district and on a sad note, I must report that the Wards Corner Pub has closed effective March 13th. This is indeed unfortunate and yet becomes another victim of the lack of attention being paid by downtown to revitalize Wards Corner. Perhaps we need more thrift stores, check-cashing places, pawnshops and rent-to-own stores in the area to attract quality businesses to Wards Corner.

We would like to hear from you regarding what you would like to see or hear at our regular civic league meetings. Each month we try to bring you as much new and important information as we can as well as interesting speakers. If you have ideas for topics, speakers or other issues please let us know. You may email me or contact any of the officers that are listed in the newsletter. This is your civic league and we want you to be a part of it.

Finally, our Virginia General Assembly Delegation will be at our next civic league as announced in this newsletter. Please come and hear what they have been doing for us in Richmond. This is an important year in that Norfolk will be redistricted and it could have a significant impact on who represents us in Richmond in the future.

Sincerely,



WCCL Membership

Please join your civic league. Annual membership is a bargain for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members).

Ninety three households in our area have paid their dues.

Send your check to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2423.53
+ funds received	\$100.00		
- funds disbursed		\$142.95	
Ending Balance			2,370.58

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution	Sue Classick	489-2315
Secretary	Joan Griffey	440-9508
Treasurer	Ray Duron	423-4337

Web Master – Martin Thomas, Jr. (618-6468)

Newsletter ideas/comments-Barbara Ross
(Bookworms@WHRO.Net or 489-1024)

NEWS AND NOTES

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Thanks to several people who have volunteered to deliver newsletters. Steve and Pat have taken the 300 and 400 blocks of Maycox, Synnove has taken Millbrook/Chevy Circle and DeCrenny, and Susan has agreed to be a sub when needed.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your help is needed to pick up litter at our Adopt-a-Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek Road) on Saturday, March 26 at 8 AM. It only takes about an hour or two, and makes an impressive difference in the area. Questions?? Call Ray Duron at 423-4337. Gloves, trash bags and safety vests are provided.

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Interesting-Could We Petition for a Trader Joe's in Our Area?

One of our members recently sent an e-mail to Trader Joe's (Trader Joe's.com) asking them to consider placing a store in the Ward's Corner area. She actually received a response, and although no commitment was made, there was at least a comment that it would be placed on a list for consideration.

Many positives to suggest to them about our area: next to interstate, close to the largest Naval Base in the world, central location, easily accessible, with lots of parking. To send your comments, go to their website-on their Homepage is "About Us" at the top, then you'll see on the right of the page "Contact Trader Joe's, Customer Questions". Click to "Location Request" and there will be a form to complete. As consumers, we have a voice.

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

February 28, 2011

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, February 28, 2011, at 6:45PM in Norfolk F/W Center. 41 guests and members attended. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Jim English recognized 3 Granby Elementary students: James, Xander, Jacob and their science teacher, Laura Moore. These young men, third to fifth graders, won first and third place awards for their knowledge and visual displays in a recent contest.

Granby was the only elementary school earning 3 awards. President English presented accolades and a gift certificate to each.

Lt. McKenzie of Red Sector Patrol (Wards Corner) and Officer Odell Davis were guest speakers. These policemen explained the workings of the department in Wards Corner. They addressed concerns of a rash of recent home break ins, the policy of response, reporting and follow up. A question, concerning an Email alert to be sent to neighborhoods under a possible threat, was posed. We were informed to call 911 if something seemed suspicious or out of place. Red Sector patrols areas from Naval Base to ODU to Tidewater Drive to Wards Corner. Calls for service are served by priority, forwarded to an officer and a call for backup. This influences response time. Detectives and Vice and Narcotics are part of the team. Officers, frustrated with decreased overtime, began 12 hr shifts. This is impacted with illnesses, training, days off, time in court, attrition. There is a police presence at Granby High School. There was a question regarding what level of protection can be used on one's own property? Force is not advised unless there is fear for one's life. Check the norf.gov website for police crime stats. There were 13 incidents near Norfolk Collegiate recently from inattention to locking the car and leaving valuables in sight. Citizens need to be aware and responsible. Drug stores selling alcohol have not presented an increase of intoxication complaints. Homeless persons may walk and display signs for help but may not verbally solicit. No arrest has been made for the January robbery at BB&T. You may call Norfolk Cares 664 6510 for security surveys of your property.

President Jim asked for input as to speakers and topics for the remaining months (are we serving a useful purpose? Is there a perception of crime not attended to by the police?) Next month, members of VA Legislature are scheduled. Tonight, Treasurer Tom Moss was unavailable to attend. Updates 1) Collins property (rejected by Planning Council 4-4 but can return to the original plan) 2) FORKIDS Thrift Store is proposing another vote from the Planning Council to open in Wards Corner. Surrounding Civic Leagues have voted NO. When does NO mean NO? Some parents are concerned about their junior high students being assigned to Lafayette Winona rather than to Blair. There is a redrawing of boundaries ongoing. Parents appreciate our vocal support on this issue. Register complaints to Michael Spencer. The Book Exchange has renovated and expanded in the business district. Sarah's Cards has closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Griffey, Sec.