



Wards Corner Civic League

# Crossroads

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

June 2011      Web site [www.Wardscorner.com](http://www.Wardscorner.com)

## CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

**MONDAY**

**June 20, 2011  
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS  
CENTER**

**Agenda**

**Community Resource Officer**

**Public Works Update on Pump  
Station**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager invited**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear Neighbors,**

The June meeting will mark the last meeting of the first half of the civic league year until we resume our schedule again in September. Summer is just around the corner and schools will be out and hopefully we will all enjoy some vacation time. Over the summer please continue to enjoy the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. There are over 7000 members now. If you are not a member please consider joining. Please take advantage of this facility in our own back yard.

I wish to thank Barbara Ross for her continued dedicated service as our newsletter editor. She continues to do an excellent job preparing the newsletter each month. She has done this for us for the past seven years. This takes a significant amount of time to complete and Barbara's newsletters are informative and always on time. Barbara, we thank you for your service and look forward to your newsletters again in the fall. Enjoy your two months of newsletter free time. Also I offer a special thanks to Joan Griffey and Ray Duron for keeping the records of our meetings and ensuring that our finances are in order. We also thank Ray and Betty and their clean-up crew for keeping our adopt-a-

spot area clean year round. Joan, also thank you for your continued great efforts as Chair of the Beautification Committee. Joan is now also the Secretary of the Norfolk Federation of Civic Leagues. Also many thanks are in order to Sue Classick, our Vice President who is in charge of organizing the delivery of our newsletters each month with our many newsletter carriers. Thanks also to our many newsletter carriers for their time in delivering our newsletters to you. This also is no small task. Finally, a special thanks to Martin Thomas Jr. for his service as Vice President, providing us needed guidance at our Executive Committee meetings and for keeping our website up to date. As a newly appointed member of the Planning Commission, Martin has once again stepped up to provide needed service to the city and us on this important Commission. Martin is also the Webmaster for WardsCornerNow and an active participant in the leadership of that group. Also, thanks to you, our members, for your continued support by attending our meetings each month and working to improve our neighborhood. Thank you all!

Your job over the summer is to think about what improvements you would like to see in your and our neighborhood. Please let any member of the Executive Committee know what these improvements should be. Do you want improved lighting at the Northshore playground? Do you want more enforcement of cars parking on lawns? Do you see areas of city infrastructure (streets, curbs and gutters, etc.) in our neighborhood that need addressing? Is crime a continuing problem that needs to be addressed more aggressively? Think about what improvements you would really like to see in the entire Wards Corner area. Please also let us know what topics you would like to have speakers on in the fall out our civic league meeting and let me know. When we meet in September, we will hopefully have a list of these needs that we can share with you. Over the summer rest assured that the dedication and commitment of the membership of Wards Corner Now, the Task Force, Business Association and area Civic Leagues (including and especially ours) will continue the push with our city elected officials and senior city management staff to move ahead for making the Wards Corner area great once again. We will not be taking the summer off but will continue our important work.

I would urge all of you to attend the June meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, as we will again hear from the Department of Utilities regarding their proposed location for the new sewer pump station. I believe we have reached some location decision with Utilities that it will be near the entrance to the Wellness center, we are not sure just exactly where it will be in that area. Also please come and give input on what this proposed pump station should look like when it is finalized. This is your chance to have input on these decisions and I urge you to participate in that process.

Finally please have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer. We will continue our work to improve our area throughout the summer. We hope to see you again in the fall at our September meeting.

I also hope to see you at the June meeting.

My best to you,



**WCCL Membership**

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

***One hundred and one 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.***

<p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____ _____</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> _____ _____</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> _____</p>
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**NEWS AND NOTES**

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***The WCCL Website, created and managed by Martin Thomas, Jr. has had more than 6000 visits since its inception about four years ago.***  
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***It's almost summer, and in walking and driving through our area, it's wonderful to notice that so many of our neighbors keep their yards clean and neat, with trimmed and mulched shrubs, colorful flowers, or a newly painted door with a wreath.***

***Curb appeal is so important!  
 Safety is also a needed consideration, and adequate lighting plus an easily located house number with easy-to-read numbers could be critical in an emergency situation.***

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balance			\$2170.94
+ funds received	\$393.00		
- funds disbursed		\$82.95	
Ending Balance			2,480.99

**WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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)

**HAPPY SUMMER FROM YOUR CIVIC LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS**

## Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

May 16, 2011

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 6:45PM in NF&WCenter. President Jim English led us in The Pledge of Allegiance after welcoming members. Attendance: 28.

Officer Odell Davis reported 4 attempted burglaries, 2 robberies, 5 larcenies, 4 vandalisms, 3 narcotics and with some occurrences on Restmere, Maycox and near Norfolk Collegiate School. He could not respond to a question of how we are "crime wise" compared to other areas. The recent Denby Park/Granby High "walkout" during SOL Reviews was an event staged through texting.

The invited speaker was David Setchel, Administrator with Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center. The new CEO is John Barrett. It employs a staff of 1200. \$76 million uncompensated care is given yearly. Mr. Setchel explained the need to restructure and replace the present building into a 125 bed acute care hospital and ambulatory/ outpatient surgery edifice. DePaul will be updated with low dose PET scan, Cardiac Cath Lab, 8 bed neuroscience ICU and a \$500,000 Caravan, a stand alone clinic van for community centers, low income areas, churches. This is a multiyear planned development beginning in October. The rear of the hospital will be demolished for temporary parking. Future campus master plan is available for the public.

Update on the pump station design near Newport Ave/Norfolk F&W Center was addressed by Rick of Dept of Utilities. Decisions are being made with the help of neighbors, President English and VP Thomas. A 25X19 building with a chimney is proposed. Possibilities of relocating the driveway and landscaping will be presented to the Design Review Board for approval.

Ray Duron, chair of the Great American Clean Up on April 23 was recognized. He thanked volunteers Tom and Elizabeth Lockwood, Jim Pressler, Betty Duron, Robert Lester and Pat Yaros for their generosity in cleaning up 13 bags of litter/trash and 12 tree limbs. The civic league AdoptAStreet area is Ruthven Road from W Little Creek Road to the railroad tracks at Terminal Blvd.

Martin Thomas, Jr reported the recent Planning Council activity. Titustown Parking Lot is awaiting expansion and anticipated paving, complaints of homeless visitors occupying space behind the Meadow-

brook Hardware and at the Masonic Temple, a 50 ft flagpole is replaced with a 100 ft pole doubling as a cell tower for Intelos. . The Painted Lady area in Ghent is to be sold for new apartments.

Pres English reported \$2.7 mil has been allotted to land acquisition in Denby Park. The 2004 Comprehensive Plan advised this to rid the blight and crime and substandard apartments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM with announcement that City manager Marcus Jones will be June speaker

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Griffey, Sec.

## The EcoGarden at the Ernie Morgan Center

The EcoGarden, located outside the Ernie Morgan Center in Norfolk's Lafayette Park, has been teaching residents about sustainable gardening for over 10 years. The garden, which was created to spotlight the benefits of utilizing green gardening techniques, includes over 40 species of plants native to our region. Visitors to the garden can observe plants beds that represent soil compositions typical to Norfolk: low-lying sections prone to flooding; dry, sandy patches; cool and shady spots. Native plants that optimize existing conditions and improve the landscape's appearance are flourishing in each of the garden's sections.

Why garden with plants native to the region? Since they are native to the area, they are easily maintained and have a high rate of success. They are adapted to our weather patterns and are more resistant to intense, dry summers and garden pests found in our region. And, native plants are an integral part of our local ecosystems, providing food, habitat and shelter to our local wildlife. As an added bonus, native plants are more readily available at local nurseries.

The EcoGarden was made possible by over 100 native garden enthusiasts who have volunteered their time over the past ten years. Most recently, Norfolk Environmental Commissioner Deborah Mosher and members of the Norfolk Master Gardeners have adopted the garden for regular maintenance and plantings, which now includes a native herb garden. The Ernie Morgan EcoGarden is free and open to the public during the hours the Lafayette Park is open. To access the garden, enter through the Virginia Zoo entrance located off Granby Street, then take the first left; the Ernie Morgan Center and EcoGarden are located at the end of the parking lot. (from May Norfolk Civic Connection)