

## **CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**December 19, 2011  
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS  
CENTER**

**City Manager Invited**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Neighbors,

Holiday Greetings to all. The holiday season is once again upon us. It is a time for great anticipation, reflection and joy as all of us celebrate our respective traditions and religions. It is also a time that we need to reflect on those in our community, city, nation and world who may not be celebrating a joyful season and reach out to them when and if we can do so. Helping those who are in need or are shut-in is perhaps the best gift we can give them. Thinking of those still fighting a war in the far away Middle East and being thankful for those returning from a war ending in Iraq and helping or assisting their families if needed is the best way we also as neighbors can support them. As we gather with our own families this holiday season let us not forget that there are those folks out there who may not be able to celebrate. They need our thoughts and prayers. A simple smile, hello or can I help you goes a long way to show them that someone cares. Let us also pray for all of our city, state and national leaders that they can make sensible and responsible decisions for all of the residents of Norfolk, Virginia and the United States in the coming year.

As I make out my Christmas list this year I wish for:

- The city of Norfolk to continue to purchase blighted property in Denby Park.
- The city of Norfolk to continue to make Wards Corner a higher priority.
- The redevelopment of the Perry Property
- The redevelopment of the Dalis Property
- The redevelopment of the Farm Fresh Property
- The redevelopment of the Kroger shopping center.
- A permanent Police Chief
- A new Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools
- A permanent Development Director
- A permanent Human Services Director
- No robberies and larcenies in our neighborhood.
- No transvestites and prostitutes walking the streets in our area selling themselves.
- A new sewer pump station and sewer lines.
- A beautiful revitalized Wards Corner Business District that blends with our neighborhood.

Do you think I am asking for too much? I am trying to cut back in my wishes this year! Perhaps you can add to this list.

Again this year, instead of my normal message, I thought I would use the space to share with you some old and new ideas on going "green" for this Holiday season in case you were looking for some ways to protect our environment this season. I am a firm believer that environmental protection leads to the betterment of the public's health through sound environmental practices. I also believe we all can do something, if even so small, to make a difference in protecting our environment for everyone. The following tips are taken this year from the Sierra Club website. Also remember the quote by C.S.Elliott Have an Eco Friendly Christmas."Christmas is a holiday noted for conspicuous consumption." Show your respect for

the planet by adopting some new Christmas traditions this year. Going green is becoming more popular, but even more important, it's good sense: for you, your family, and the entire world.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/tips/holidays.aspx>

### **Make Your Own Wrapping Paper**

Most mass-produced wrapping paper you find in stores is not recyclable and ends up in landfills. Instead, here's a great chance to get creative! Wrap presents with old maps, the comics section of a newspaper, or children's artwork. Or use a scarf, attractive dish towel, bandana, or some other useful cloth item. If every family wrapped just three gifts this way, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

### **Buy Energy-Saving Holiday Lights**

Now you can decorate your house with LED lights that use 90 percent less energy than conventional holiday lights, and can save your family up to \$50 on your energy bills during the holiday season! LED lights are available at many major retailers, including Target, Costco, and Ace Hardware.

### **Add Organic and Local Foods to Your Holiday Feast**

Support local family farmers who grow sustainable meat and produce. Not only does it taste better, you'll be doing your part for the planet too. Looking for an organic turkey or ham for Christmas dinner? Find out where to get [local green products](#) in your neighborhood.

### **Do a "Cool Home" Tour with Our Energy-Saving Checklist**

Take a pledge this New Year's to reduce your home energy use by buying energy-efficient light bulbs. Installing only 6 compact fluorescent light bulbs will save the average American family \$60 per year. You can also use our handy "Cool Homes" checklist to see what easy things you can do in your home to save energy. If there's a fire in your fireplace this Christmas, turn down that thermostat! Lowering the temperature even five degrees can take 10% off your energy bill. Check out a [complete list of energy-saving tips](#).

### **Stocking Stuffers: Test Your Eco-Knowledge**

Do you have a family member who loves the outdoors? Stuff their stockings with [Sierra Club Knowledge Cards](#), which come in a variety of outdoor themes ranging from survival skills to baby animals. Another great stocking stuffer is "guilt-free" chocolate! Give the gift of organic, fair-trade chocolate and you can eat your way to a better planet.

### **Give a Gift that Gives Back!**

Help support the critical work of the Sierra Club and give an eco-friendly gift at the same time! [Sponsor a Wild Place](#) this holiday season and share our country's most special wild places and national parks with friends and loved ones. Sponsorships start at \$20 and come with a range of special gifts, like a photo, plush animal, certificate of sponsorship, or a backpack. For last minute shoppers - or the most eco-conscious person on your list - download a virtual version and print or email your gift right from home

### **Get a Pesticide-Free Tree**

Demand is on the rise for Christmas trees that are not covered in chemicals; some growers use 40 different pesticides, as well as chemical colorants. The good news is that there are now a number of tree-farms that sell pesticide-free trees, so ask your local Christmas tree seller, or [search for an organic tree farm](#) near you.

### **Recycle Your Christmas Tree**

Ninety-eight percent of Christmas trees were grown on farms, not in forests, so at least it's not as if you're cutting down an ancient tree. Each year, 10 million Christmas trees end up in the landfill. While your tree won't fit in the recycling bin with your newspapers and bottles, you can recycle your tree: many cities offer programs to turn your tree to mulch or wood chips. Call (800) CLEANUP or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) to find the tree-recycling program near you.

### **Donate Your Time or Money to an Environmental Group**

Get into the holiday spirit by volunteering! There are countless ways to help improve your community- and the planet - from cleaning up a local river to helping inner city kids experience the outdoors for the first time. Contact your local Sierra Club to find out about volunteer opportunities near you. A donation in honor of a loved one can also be a special holiday gift.

## Recycle Your Old Cellphone

Getting a new cell phone for Christmas? Not sure what to do with the old one? Now, you can drop off that old phone at any Staples store, as part of the Sierra Club cell phone recycling program. Each year, 130 million cell phones are thrown out, weighing approximately 65,000 tons. Recycling your old phone prevents hazardous elements like mercury, cadmium and lead from ending up in our landfills. [Find out more.](#)

## Last but not Least! Get Ready for Dinner-Table Debate

Are you likely to be the lone environmentalist at the dinner table sometime soon? Win arguments and influence people with [our famous holiday survival guide](#). You'll find ready responses to the predictable dinner table arguments that'll be directed at you. Who knows, you might even make a few converts!

Finally from my family to yours, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season with the best of wishes for a prosperous New Year.



## Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

November 21, 2011

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, November 21, 2011 at 6:45PM in NF&WC. President Jim English led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed guests and members. Community Police Officer Odell Davis reported 11 larcenies (7/11, Kroger, Farm Fresh, the Pulse, Rite Aid, AutoZone, AJGators), 10 burglaries, 3 vandalisms and 1 robbery. He asked that we report any suspicious behavior and stated that increased patrols will begin November 26. Rick Dempsey, Project Manager, Dept of Utilities, (664-6719), updated us on the \$4.4 million pump station and sewer infrastructure improvements which will begin January 2012. Aging sewer pipes and resurfacing of streets begin on Newport Avenue and last through summer.

Guest speaker Superintendent of Schools was not available. School Board member Brad Robinson and Councilman Andy Protogyrou offered as substitutes. With Jim English (Public Health Advisory Board), Martin Thomas, Jr (Planning Council) and Brad Robinson (School Board), Wards Corner should have more influence for this area downtown. Councilman Protogyrou stated that there are board and commission vacancies listed on the city website and anyone interested should contact him. He updated us on 68 Denby Park apartment acquisitions, Perry property/Harris Teeter, Dalis/Martone potential for helping displaced businesses after February, Farm Fresh update, talks with out of town restaurants, hardware chain, etc. Norfolk Collegiate School will have groundbreaking on December 15 for a 400 seat theatre. The stone house and professional office building will be demolished. This will be an anchor for future Wards Corner development. Questions posed were: W Little Creek Road curbing at Ruthven Road, city plans for Denby Park, Fleet Park relocation and success of Broad Creek redevelopment funding. Brad Robinson, a Wards Corner chiropractor of 25 yrs., Fitness Center Advisory Board member, and a resident of Cromwell Farms, was appointed to the Norfolk Public School Board in July, 2010. He stated that Dr Brinkley has left his position in a mutually agreed upon decision. A lack of leadership was given as the reason. Schools have a \$31 million budget. Michael Spencer will fill in as temporary chief until the position is filled. Martin Thomas, Jr, VPresident, reported that the city, in 4-5 sites/dates, is hosting an open forum with a 15 minute presentation to draft a comprehensive master plan. Our last vision was prepared in 1992. In January, this plan will be sent to State and then to City Council in summer. A search is ongoing for a police chief, an economic development director, a school superintendent and a Community Services Board Director. Super ward candidates are Barclay Winn and Marcus Calabrese. Titus town Recreation Center is recipient of an enlarged parking lot (destruction of Alexis Apartments by the City). Sherry Romulus suggested members check TRULIA.COM for reviews on Wards Corner real estate. Each of us can make a difference by adding an opinion to

boost the area to potential home buyers, a collective consensus. The Board has investigated info/prices for an Email addition, in similar material, to our 10 neighborhood green signs. The website wardscornernow.com can be attached below the sign. A vote will be taken at December meeting. There are 105 civic league paying members. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Griffey, Rec Sec'y

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balance			\$2,245.04
+ funds received	\$70.00		
- funds disbursed		\$84.45	
Ending Balance			\$2,230.59

**Membership**

*It's getting to be time to pay your civic league dues. Annual membership is a bargain for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members).*

*One hundred and five 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Board wishes you a happy and blessed Holiday Season.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

***We need substitutes to help deliver our newsletters when regular delivery persons are not available. The time commitment is small-about an hour each month (or less, if needed) – September through June. We ask that the newsletters be delivered in the week before our monthly meeting. Contact Sue Classick if you'd be willing to help. (phone-489-2315)***

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**The annual Civic League Board election will be held at our December meeting. If you or anyone you know would like to be nominated for a position on our board, please notify Jim English at [ajim.english@gmail.com](mailto:ajim.english@gmail.com).**

**Thanks to the volunteers who took part in the Adopt-A-Spot clean-up on Saturday, November 12. We collected 10 bags of litter and one limb and old tire. Members participating were Robert Lester, Jim Pressler, Sue Classick, Stephanie Gallagher, Shawna Gallagher, Christian Armstrong and group leader, Ray Duron. This will be our last clean-up until sometime this coming spring.**

**House Decoration Contest**

**Our annual Holiday House Decoration contest will be conducted on December 17 or 18 between the hours of 5:30-7:00PM. Judges will be driving through our neighborhoods to select the Most Traditional, Charlie Brown, and the Best Overall, plus two Honorable Mention. So, get those homes decorated and turn the lights on!**

**Let's Talk**

**The Board is considering the idea of adding signs to the bottom of our neighborhood signs. These would advertise our website address and help maintain communication in our area. We'd like input from the membership and will discuss it at our December meeting.**