



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

December 2013

Web site www.wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

MONDAY
December 16, 2013
6:45 PM

Program

Anna Bowerman
Towne Bank Representative

Delegate Lynwood Lewis
Discussion of Upcoming Campaign

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 war 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.

Instead of my normal message I am attaching the following safety tips from the National Safety Council

that we should all be aware of this holiday season and all year around.

Holiday Safety Tips From the National Safety Council

Decorating Safety

Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." It can irritate your eyes and skin. A common substitute is non-flammable cotton.

When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many plants may be poisonous or can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

When displaying a tree, cut off about two inches off the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.

Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.

If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.

Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs, around furniture legs or across doorways.

Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Unplug extension cords when not in use.

If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered to avoid dry branches from catching fire from the heat of light bulbs.

When displaying outdoor lights, fasten them firmly to a secure support with insulated staples or hooks to avoid wind damage. Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.

Ladder Safety

When putting up holiday decorations, always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places. Don't stand on chairs, desks or other furniture.

If you have to use a step ladder near a doorway, lock or barricade the door and post signs so no one will open it and knock you off the ladder.

A straight or extension ladder should be placed one foot away from the surface it rests against for every four feet of ladder height.

When you climb, always face the ladder and grip the rungs to climb – not the side rails. Always keep three points of contact on the ladder whether two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand.

When climbing, keep your hips between the side rails and do not lean too far or overreach. Reposition the ladder closer to the work instead.

Use ladders with slip-resistant feet and wear clean, dry and slip-resistant shoes when climbing a ladder.

When using ladders outdoors, get down immediately if high winds, rain, snow or other inclement weather begins. Winds can blow you off the ladder and rain or snow can make both the rungs and the ground slippery.

Hosting and Food Safety

When preparing a holiday meal for friends and family, be sure to wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry. Keep in mind that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook.

Never defrost food at room temperature. Thaw it in the refrigerator, in cold water or in the microwave.

While doing holiday cooking, keep your knives sharp. Most knife injuries occur due to dull blades.

Use a clean food thermometer to cook foods to a safe internal temperature before serving.

Avoid cleaning kitchen surfaces with wet dishcloths or sponges. They easily harbor bacteria and promote bacteria growth. Use clean paper towels instead.

When reheating leftovers, bring the temperature up to at least 165°F to eliminate any bacterial growth.

Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers (less than two inches deep) within two hours after cooking. Date the leftovers for future use.

Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. You can't avoid stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief. Allow enough time to shop for gifts and meal items rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. Only plan to do a reasonable number of errands.

Winter Vehicle Preparation

Prepare your car for the winter by checking items such as the brakes, spark plugs, battery, and tires. Check your owner's manual for the recommended interval for a tune-up.

Be prepared for emergency situations on the road by having a winter "survival kit" in the vehicle including items such as, a working flashlight, extra batteries, reflective triangles, compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper, snow brush, wooden stick matches in a waterproof container, and non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy.

Disclaimer: Information and recommendations contained in this piece are compiled from sources believed to be reliable. The National Safety Council makes no guarantee as to and assumes no responsibility for the correctness, sufficiency or completeness of such information or recommendations. Other or additional safety measures may be required under particular circumstances.

Lastly, I look forward with much anticipation the Grand Opening of K & K Square at Wards Corner in early 2014. It will be really great to have more stores to shop in at Wards Corner.

We hope to see you at the December Civic League meeting.

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

Best,

Jim English

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

November 18, 2013

WCCL met on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 6:45PM in NWFCenter. President Jim English welcomed guests, then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance:22.

Our invited speaker, Steve Anderson, the newly hired Director of Development in Norfolk, was unable to attend and did not wish to send a replacement.

Vice Pres. Martin Thomas, Jr. gave a synopsis of his knowledge of topics from the October Taskforce meeting, the Planning Council and other community events: usage ideas for the Talbot Hall property, ticketing of cars parking on the lawn (W Little Creek Rd), Denby Park apartment acquisition demolition, Public Art for Wards Corner update, Dalis empty storefronts, Towne Bank construction, search for a restaurant in the new Harris Teeter site, new Sentara physicians' office, new Pizzeria (former Sal's), Krogers is not leaving, McDonalds is renovating and North Shore Road construction for new sewage connections begins in January. N.I.C.E., Neighbors Initiating Community Enhancement, a block grant submitted by Martin, would fashion North Shore Road at Newport to Granby Street into a pedestrian gateway. A bump-out to assist walkers, disabled and bikers to cross the intersection with ADA ramps, aesthetic street lamps, sidewalks on the Fitness Center side were suggestions for the project.

Jim Barton, owner of a house across from 7-11, has been trying for years to work with this business with traffic, illegal activity and parking. The one way sign has been abused. He is frustrated with inaction by the Mayor and seeks our help for a solution. The police will be more vigilant with violators.

Officer Odell Davis introduced Officers Warner and Simian. The holiday season brings more crime and robberies from cars in shopping parking lots. Be aware of surroundings. Topics: concerns of Granby High truancy in the Fitness Center fields (report this at 911),

3 burglaries, 1 larceny (vehicle), 2 stolen vehicles (Timothy and Birmingham), the SunTrust Bank robbery, red light cameras, and driveway width.

For December meeting: Lynwood Lewis and his opponent for State Senate will be invited speakers, a representative from Towne Bank, and the election of officers.

Our annual Home Holiday Decorating Contest will be judged by new members on the third weekend. Please tell neighbors to join the Civic League if they wish to be considered for prizes.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Joan S Griffey, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1749.78
+ funds received	\$75.00		
- funds disbursed		\$106.00	
Ending Balance			\$1,718.78

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	831-3484
Police Red Sector	664-6914
Code Enforcement	664-6532
Environmental Health	683-2712
Sewer Backup	823-1000
Waste Management (Call here for large pickups)	441-5813
Norfolk Cares Call Center (Don't know what office to call on the problem?)	664-6510
Police Emergency	911

NEWS AND NOTES

Don't forget to light your holiday displays the week-end of December 21-23. The Judging Committee will be touring our neighborhoods to pick winners. (you must be a member of the Civic League to win)