

Ocean Park Civic League NEWSLETTER

Volume II, #1

Virginia Beach, Virginia

January, 1998

NEXT CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, January 15, 1998
PLACE: Ocean Park Fire and Rescue Station
Stratford Road at Shore Drive

Meeting Agenda

Old Business

"Ocean Park Clean-Up Day" -- November 15, 1997: A critique by Cathy Wright.

New Business

(1) O&R Development has contacted the civic league and requested time to present a proposed single-family development for the property encompassing Shady Oaks Drive, Shore Drive and West Stratford Road (the property surrounding Three Ships Inn).

(2) December 17, 1997: Virginia Beach Board of Zoning Appeals -- Two Ocean Park Builders' requests.

(3) Does the Ocean Park Community want to be changing the area from R-5R, a category that allows single-family homes and duplexes, to R-5S, which only allows single-family homes?

(4) Appointment of a Nominating Committee for civic league officers for 1998-1999.

Three Ships Inn Property

We have an opportunity to influence the development of property surrounding the Three Ships Inn Restaurant. The property has been for sale and O & R Development, Inc., wants to purchase the land and build a number of single-family homes on the property. Your Civic League officers have reviewed the proposed development, access streets and landscape improvements, but wants to hear your comments at the January 15, 1998 meeting. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT PRESENTATION!

Board of Zoning Appeals

By

Jim McElligott

On December 17, 1997, members of your civic league attended the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to oppose two requests for variances in Ocean Park. One of the requests appeared in the Virginian-Pilot's Sunday edition (December 28, 1997) under the heading, "Unwelcome Changes Come To Ocean Park" and pertained to a corner property in Pelican Dunes owned by a builder who was requesting a variance to construct a duplex. Property owners in the area objected because the proposed structure would be constructed close to the property line, and affected property values of adjacent owners. The majority of homes in the Neighborhood are single-family residences, and owners preferred a single-family residence be built there. However, the BZA ruled in favor of the builder.

The second request pertained to a three-story duplex on Jefferson Avenue that exceeded 35 feet in height (V.B. City Code requirement for Ocean Park sets maximum height at 35 feet). The builder exceeded this by 40 inches. The City Attorney announced that a new Code addition allowed the BZA to approve a height variance based on topography. The BZA approved this request, also. This same structure appeared on Channel 3 news at 6:00 p.m. and at 11:00 p.m. as another example of duplexes changing the character of the community.

Most of Ocean Park is zoned R-5R, which allows construction of single-family houses and duplexes. To legally prevent the construction of duplexes, Ocean Park would have to seek a change in its zoning to R-5S. We are interested in your comments on this important issue.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

By

Judy Connors

On December 17, 1997, there were two items on the agenda of the Board of Zoning Appeals that were viewed by the leadership of Ocean Park Civic League to have an adverse impact on the Ocean Park Community. At that hearing, I observed something that was unfamiliar to me -- of the ten or twelve people who attended the hearing in opposition, we were introducing ourselves on the spot!

The purpose of a civic league is to give the residents the opportunity to work together for the good of the community. The community of Ocean Park encompasses the area from the Lesner Bridge west to Bay Lake Pines, including both sides of Shore Drive. ALL residents and business owners are encouraged to join the Ocean Park Civic League to become actively involved in the betterment of the area, and to work together to support those issues that are believed to be positive and oppose those that are determined to be a detriment.

We must realize that, although what happens in the immediate vicinity of our homes is important to us, what happens in the community as a whole impacts on the quality of life for all. The many variances that have recently been approved may be setting precedents for future applications, making it harder and harder for the opposition to prevail. Let us never again find us introducing ourselves to each other when we should have been working together from the beginning.

We will be electing civic league officers soon--they are charged with leading the league, but are not expected to be "one person shows". The value of property often is influenced by actively involved citizens. YOU ARE NEEDED. Offer your services. It has worked for Ocean Park in the past, and Ocean Park needs committed citizens -- for change is, no doubt, being planned by someone, somewhere in our future.

Citizens Advisory Meeting

The Third Police Precinct conducts a monthly meeting of "Citizens Advisory Meeting". This takes place on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Bayside High School. Sandra Baum is the Police Chief. All citizens are invited.

1997 Report Card for Ocean Park

- Sand replenishment of Ocean Park beaches.
- Repaving of Ocean Park streets.
- Defeat of high density housing development.
- Continued quarterly publication and distribution of Ocean Park Newsletter.
- Regular attendance by civic league officers at the monthly Citizens Advisory Meetings with the Third precinct.

A REMINDER!

If you want to contact any of the Ocean Park Civic League officers, their names and telephone numbers are as follows:

President--Bill Hook	464-2908
V.P. & Managing Editor--Jim McElligott	496-8202
Secretary--Shyrlee Hurwitz	464-4930
Treasurer--Betty Wood	464-3641

DID YOU KNOW?

Membership in the Ocean Park Civic League is one of the better values you get for your hard earned money. Annual dues are only \$5.00 per family.

We appreciate your support!

FOR THE "KOOKIE KROWD"

Okay, kids, here's a little quiz just for you. See how many of these famous people and familiar things you can name. No Peeking until you try all the questions, now.

- 1. He could have been our king but he preferred freedom from a king. He didn't chop down a little fruit tree. He lived at Mount Vernon. Who was he?
- 2. Millions are made every year. No two are ever alike. We see a lot of these in the winter. They fall out of a cloud when they become too heavy. What are they?

- 3. He was born and grew up in a log cabin. He taught himself law by candle light. He was an Illinois senator. freed the slaves. Who was he?
- 4. It was invented by a man who wasn't home for Christmas one year. He didn't want his friends to think he had forgotten them, so he sent each of them one. Because this was the very first one, everybody was very surprised. Now, millions are sold to be mailed in December each year. What is it?
- 5. It's Irish. It's thought to be very small and tricky now, but, in the early days, people thought he was large and mean. It wears green and smokes a quarter bend pipe. It doesn't want you to find its gold. What is it?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
for
OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (757) _____ OWN _____ RENT _____

Length of Residence
in Ocean Park _____

Areas of Interest in
Ocean Park Civic League

Newsletter _____ Socials _____ Newsletter Delivery _____ Meeting Announcements _____

Committee _____

Please specify the committee(s) in which you are most interested _____

Other (Please Specify) _____

MAIL APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$5.00 PAYABLE TO:

MRS. BETTY WOOD, TREASURER; OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE;
POST OFFICE BOX 55385; VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23455-5385

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"KOOKIE KROWD" ANSWERS

- 1. George Washington
- 2. Ice Crystals or Snowflakes
- 3. Abraham Lincoln
- 4. The Christmas Card
- 5. A Leprechaun