



Ocean Park Civic League

NEWSLETTER

November 1998

****Serving the Ocean Park Community****

Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 5, 1998
@ Ocean Park Volunteer Fire & Rescue H.Q.
Time 7:30 P. M.

ATTEND MEETINGS

Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL) meetings provide the community to be informed about issues vital to our locale.

Local sources provide our president, James J. McElligott ,with information about the city and its environs. Civic league meetings serve as the local forum for our residents to learn about these matters, and to comment, plan and act.

At these meetings, the populous of the area make decisions affecting the welfare of Ocean Park. On many occasions, we have come together, boxed our compass and steered a prudent course for our community.

MEETING AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

1. We are still looking for volunteers to assist with the following committees:

A. Newsletter delivery in Pelican Dunes - maximum time is one hour on Saturday or Sunday---- need two volunteers----Notify Jim McElligott @ 363-8112

B. Articles for Newsletter---if you have any information of community interest, please submit a draft to Jerry Nelinson for inclusion in the newsletter.

2. The third precinct has Citizen Advisory meetings on the third Thursday of the month and we are looking for an attendee or attendees to obtain and report information to the civic league.

3. Vacancies exist for a Southside Coordinator and vice-president to assist with Civic League activities. Notify Jim McElligott of your interest.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report on Shore Drive Commission Advisory Committee activities: Mr. Dan Creedon

A. Status of overlay plan for B-4 zoning on Shore Drive

B. Status of bike path including bridge modifications

C. Status of Waterman's Walk proposal

D. Status of Crab Creek boat ramp project

E. Other.

2. Crime Watch- Mr. Mark Johnson

At the conclusion of the meeting a no-charge raffle will be held. Everyone attending the civic league meeting will have a chance to win a Gift Certificate valued at \$20 from La Fiesta Mexican Restaurante, Shore Drive. You must be present to win.

CLEANING UP

Two months have passed since the summer tourist season was in full swing in Ocean Park. Residues of visits by beach goers and sightseers remain. The refuse they cast off is primarily along the city's rights of ways to the beach and adjoining vacant lots. Let's pick up some of the trash they left, even if it is not on your property. Let us restore the beauty of our area.

If there are areas you observe that are trashy looking, let's get a volunteer work party out to clean it up. Saturday mornings seem to be a good time. We have done it before. Make an announcement at a civic league meeting or in our newsletter. There will be a response.

Ocean Park Civic League Officers P. O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, Va 23455-5383

President
James J. McElligott, Jr.

Phone: 363-8112

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Shyrlie Hurwitz

Treasurer

Betty Wood

Southside Liaison

Vacant

Northside Liaison

Gene Contreras

460-0660

Newsletter Editor

Jerome W. Nelinson

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Historical Building in Our Midst?

On the corner of Shore Drive and East Stratford Avenue, across from Jimmy's House of Pizza and Subs, stands an old elongated building somewhat tattered by time and weather. It has been there for a while.

This building was recently purchased by Broyles Construction Company and Mr. Broyles is seeking information on its background. He would like to restore it to its original appearance and have it recognized as a historical site. If anyone has any historical information and/or old pictures showing the building and what it looked like when it was new----circa 1937. Please contact Mr Broyles at 486-5678



Ocean Park, divided by Shore Drive, offers easy access and egress to intruders. A crime watch program, long talked about, but with little done, has been considered for a long time.

While not in a high crime area, crime statistics in this area can be lowered. It is up to us to make it happen. Perhaps someone with experience in this field, civilian or the military, will step forward and get this program moving. You will receive cooperation from our residents.

Perspectives

The group of police managers, who are associated with the Virginia Beach Police Department, made a fatally flawed decision by issuing the new policy of "non pursuit" relating to crimes defined in the Beacon, August 9, 1998.

Should the Virginia Beach Council and the citizens of our city permit this policy to stand, we will all lament that decision.

The City of Virginia Beach is noted worldwide as the safest city in America for its size. Any change in police policy that will allow criminals to come here and leave comfortably and will signal we are a municipality where crime is permitted to flourish. Criminals of every breed will recognize the

vulnerability of the city's police department.

Chases by the police should be unequivocally permitted and encouraged. Since our city is an exceedingly safe city, it is in part, because law enforcement officers are conscientious and well trained. They will, we hope, maintain good judgement and break off a pursuit when the safety of the public is threatened thus avoiding any unfortunate incidents. We must maintain full faith and confidence in our primary protectors of the law.

We strongly urge council members and the police department to continue its policy of safe pursuit in enforcing all infractions of the law where a pursuit is a fundamental part of apprehending lawbreakers.

Newsletter Development

The Ocean Park Civic League Newsletter serves the residents of Ocean Park well, bringing assorted items of interest to our citizens.

In 1980, the civic league newsletter was conceived, written and distributed by Mr. Jeffrey Shepard, and his mom, Mrs. Millie Shepard, owners of Century 21 Chesapeake Bay Realty. It was printed on goldenrod colored paper and known in as the "gold sheet." Somehow, Jeff came into possession of a warehouse full of colored paper and he was trying to use it all.

After a brief hiatus in 1995, I assumed the responsibility for the newsletter under former President Bill Hook and with the assistance of Ms. Jane Pitt, it has been published on a bimonthly basis ever since. When she left the area in the summer of 1998, Mr. Jerome Nelinson accepted the role. He is a long time resident. Your contributions to the newsletter are invited by notifying Jerry at 464-5018 or me at 363-8112.

We will endeavor to move our active forward thinking organization ahead by keeping you informed. This newsletter, together with regular meetings, we hope, will become a visible element in that quest.

Jim McElligott



May we suggest that our citizens participate in a Veteran's Day remembrance service at one of the many sites where they will be held in Hampton Roads on Wednesday, November 11.

Since this is the last newsletter of the year,

The Officers of the Ocean Park Civic League Extend The
Compliments of the Season
To The Residents of Ocean Park and Pelican Dunes

NOTICE

The next Ocean Park Civic League Meeting will be on Thursday, January 7, 1999

LA FIESTA **Mexican Restaurante**

The True Taste Of Mexico

Specializing In Fajitas & Margaritas
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363-7398



3656 Shore Drive

Just West Of The Lesner Bridge

OPEN ALL DAY

Mon. - Thurs.: 11am - 10pm • Fri.: 11am - 11pm
Sat.: 12 noon - 11pm • Sun.: 12 noon - 10pm

PATRONIZE SHORE DRIVE MERCHANTS

Tax Exempt Status for Ocean Park Civic League

At one time the civic league was a tax exempt organization which qualified it for the lowest mailing rate for the newsletter. When we approached the Post Office to receive this most favorite rate, we were asked for proof of our tax exempt status. Of course, we were not able to produce it. Since we continue to use volunteers to distribute the newsletter the problem has been on hold for 2-3 years. However, it would be nice to

have the capability to economically mail the newsletter.

We are looking for a volunteer to help us with this issue. It requires completing IRS forms (which we have) to acquire tax exempt status and coordinating with the Post Office for the lowest mailing rate. If anyone would like to take on this challenge, please let Jim McElligott know at 363-8112.

Dues Are Always Due

A robust membership in the Ocean Park Civic League enhances our power to conduct our locality's business with influence and determination.

Membership dues of five (\$5.00) per year are used for civic league expenses, which are minimal. The civic league maintains a contingency fund. The intent and purpose of this fund is for use when major issues confronting our sector of the city arise---and they often do. In years past, the fund has been used for legal fees in two petitions to obtain sand for our beaches and to acquire beach property in a very convoluted land matter. This contingency fund was used to keep a go-go bar from becoming part of the make-up of Shore Drive. Another time the fund was used to restrain the closing hours of a dubious bar at the same site. In all matters, we were represented by counsel. We urge you to support your civic league. If you are not a member, or you have not paid your dues within the past year, please fill in the application and send it with your dues to our treasurer, **Ms Betty Wood**.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE..... RENT..... OWN..... YEARS in OP.....

Areas of Interest in Ocean Park Civic League (check off)

Newsletter contributions.....

Crime Watch committee.....

Newsletter distribution.....

New development.....

Refreshments, civic league meetings.....

Zoning.....

Social events committee.....

Suggestions.....(your remarks, please)

Mail this Application with your dues, Five (\$5.00), to
Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL), P. O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455-5385

FIGHTING CRIME IN OCEAN PARK

Ocean Park is continuing to experience burglaries, thefts, car break-ins and vandalism. Teenagers drinking alcohol in the streets is common place in the some parts of the neighborhood. In some cases, teenagers are assembling in groups of 8 to 10 and drinking in the street and yard of some of the teen's homes. In most cases, the parent(s) are not home. The lack of parental supervision, combined with an environment conducive to such activities, attracts more teens into our area from other areas. It is my opinion that these groups of teens and their friends may be responsible for some of the problems that we are experiencing in our neighborhood. The recent shooting of 5 at a party in Ocean Park on 10/24 may be indicative of this. The shooting occurred at 11:30 P.M.. The alleged shooter and 2 of the victims were 18 years old. How many others at the party were under 21?

Our community has to become much more proactive in dealing with these issues, or the problems are going to get much worse. Ocean Park needs to implement a Neighborhood Watch program, in conjunction with the local police department. While the program will take time and effort initially, the rewards are well worth it. The Civic league has discussed the Neighborhood Watch program in the past; however, due to a lack of involvement and commitment on the part of the community, the program never got off the ground. It is time for the Civic league and the residents of the community make a commitment to establish the watch program. Please contact myself or Jim McElligott at once to see how you can assist your community.

In the meantime, I would recommend that we do the following to help combat the problems that are occurring:

1. Be aware of all strangers in the neighborhood and immediately report suspicious activity to the Police. Suspicious activity includes such things as individuals walking in others' yards and around houses and garages, loitering in the streets, looking into cars, etc.
2. If you suspect teens are drinking in their cars or in the streets, call the police.
3. Ensure that your homes are secure. Do not leave garage doors or utility rooms or sheds open while unattended.
4. Be aware of your environment, who is coming and going around you and what they are doing.
5. Alert your neighbors if you are the victim of a theft or if you have seen suspicious activity.
6. Do not leave valuables in your car. That includes cell phones, money, briefcases, CDs, checkbooks, wallets, tools, etc.
7. Ensure that your property and automobiles are well lit at night. Motion detector flood lights are a good deterrent.

I am hopeful that we can institute a Neighborhood Watch program in the near future. If you have any comments or suggestions, please call me or Jim McElligott. We welcome your thoughts.

R. Mark Johnson
473-3369