



OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE



NEWSLETTER

January 2001

✧ Serving the Ocean Park Community ✧

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 4, 2001

@ Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue H. Q.

Time: 7:30 P. M.

A New Year, A New Beginning

Do you know what parcels of land the City of Virginia Beach owns in Ocean Park? Is it possible that the Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Squad will get a new building?

Please make every effort to be at the next meeting on January 4, 2001, and let us share some interesting information that we recently learned. We will have two knowledgeable speakers that everyone will enjoy. Mr. Clay Bernik, City of Virginia Beach Planning Department, will speak about City owned property in Ocean Park. Mr. Frank Shields, member of the Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad will inform us about the probability of a new building at the present site.

Our December Holiday Social was great. The food was excellent and everyone had a great time eating, talking and listening to holiday music.

More social events are planned for this year so everyone can meet their great Ocean Park neighbors. Please, try to come to our Civic League meetings and help us plan the social events and vital local projects.

Our civic league is a community resource. Every day, with dedication and purpose, we the officers of the organization, and many of our residents demonstrate our collective optimism and responsibility to this community in which we have great pride. We look forward to working together in the ensuing year to make Ocean Park an even better place to live.

With the Compliments of the Season,

William G. Sykes



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome -Billy Sykes
2. Mr. Clay Burnick, Virginia Beach Planning Department will acquaint us with the status of City-owned property in Ocean Park
3. Mr. Frank Shields, Ocean Park Fire and Rescue, will discuss new building plans at the present site
4. Secretary's Report - Nancy Taylor
5. Treasurer's Report - Anne Kane
6. Insurance update on property owned by Ocean Park Civic League - Wendy Vaughn
7. Holiday Social Report- Donna Epperson
8. Raffle - Two (2) Twenty-five Dollar (\$25) Gift Certificates will be raffled at the conclusion of the meeting. You must be present to win.



GIFT CERTIFICATE DONORS: DUCK IN & BAYSIDE EXXON

NEWSLETTER DEVELOPMENT

Should residents have any information or knowledge of events or news about our area, please compose a story and forward it, call, or send it via e-mail to the editor.

We always need assistance to deliver the newsletters on the weekend before the civic league meeting. If you can spare some time, please let us know.

We also need a team to give special attention to the business establishments along the Shore Drive corridor between the Route 13 underpass and the Lesner Bridge. People are needed to deliver newsletters and solicit advertisements.

Thank you.



Ocean Park Civic League Officers

P. O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, VA 23455-5385

Executive Committee

Donna Epperson (Phone: 460-3052)

William Sykes (Phone: 464-2015)

Wendy Vaughn (Phone: 363-9141)

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And the Winners are----

At the November 2000 meeting, three twenty-five dollar gift certificates, one each donated by **Bayside Exxon, Coastal Charm** and **Duck In** were raffled. The winners were Anne Kane, Jerry Blancet and Sid Vaughn.

Gift Certificates will again be given away at the no-cost raffle at the next civic league meeting.



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OCEAN PARK HISTORY

Ocean Park is a beautiful bay front section of Virginia Beach with many interesting historical facts that are hidden in history and only remembered by area seniors. We want to share with you some history, which we recently learned.

The Ocean Park Corporation started developing this area around 1910.

Early residents were attracted to Ocean Park by the abundance of fish, clams, oysters, and crabs inside and outside of the Lynnhaven inlet. Hunters enjoyed duck hunting inside the Lynnhaven Inlet where many duck blinds were built.

In early times there was only a railroad truss bridge that crossed the Lynnhaven Inlet. The railroad truss bridge pivoted sideways to allow large boats to enter and exit the inlet. This truss bridge was manually operated by a resident of Ocean Park. This resident was called to open the bridge by a loud siren. The Southern Railroad owned the train tracks and operated a train from Norfolk to Fort Story. Later a two-lane draw bridge was built along the side the truss bridge. In time the railroad truss bridge and the draw bridge were replaced by the current two high rise bridges.

An amusement park and bowling alley were in operation on the ocean side of Jefferson Boulevard near the intersection of Albemarle Avenue. These two businesses were destroyed by storms sometime in the 1940s and eventually replaced by beach front cottages.

The section on the North side of Shore Drive at the intersection of Powhatan Ave. was called Sylvan Beach and was marked by two large brick columns.

Late in the 1940's two groups, the Ocean Park Civic League and the Ocean Park Voluntary Fire Department/Rescue Squad, built two fire stations. The Civic League's building is located on Stratford Road and is still owned by the Civic League. The Fire Department's building is the present day fire station. The Fire Department obtained the first charter. Since only one chartered fire station is allowed in an area, the Ocean Park Voluntary Fire Department/Rescue Squad's building was used. The Ocean Park Civic League agreed to let the Fire Department store their vehicles and equipment in their building and the Fire Department agreed to let the Civic League use their building for meetings.

In the latter part of 1940s or early 1950s there was a tower built on the fire department's property and voluntaries stood shift work looking for enemy airplanes.

Should you have any Ocean Park history or photos of the area, please share that information with us. As we uncover more about Ocean Park and its lineage, we will pass it to you in future newsletters.



Submitted by William G. Sykes



STOP CRIME IN OCEAN PARK! Recurrent vandalism is taking place in our area and in neighboring Baylake Pines. Several cars and at least eight homes have been damaged between hours of midnight and 4:00 A. M. Everyone is urged to try to remain aware of suspicious activities or noises. Take all the precautions to protect your property. More patrols should be provided by the Third Police Precinct. Do not hesitate to call **911**. Is there anyone in our community that will assume a leadership role and establish a crime watch program? . The attempt at doing that a year ago failed Does anyone in our community have security or police experience ? If you do, please come forward and let us know who you are.



The Ocean Park Civic League Holiday Social on Thursday, December 7th was a great success. About 75 residents came to the Ocean Park Fire and Rescue building for a fun evening. This was an excellent opportunity to meet our neighbors. Bravo Donna Epperson and Jackie Longworth! You did a splendid job placing the plan in action. We will try another one in the spring or early summer.



At the last meeting in November 2000, Secretary Nancy Taylor, provided a sumptuous after--meeting spread of the most tasty cookies, pastries and petite fours-- absolutely scrumptious. We who were there really enjoyed them.

Thank you, Nancy.

William G. Sykes
Attorney and Counselor-at-Law

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**YOUR OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE
OFFICERS WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR! !**



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ENJOY A WHALE OF AN ADVENTURE THIS WINTER



Here is a chance to see the most magnificent creatures on earth right in Virginia waters at the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. The Virginia Marine Science Museum will host its annual Whale Watching Boat Trips from Wednesday, January 3 through Sunday, March 4, 2001. Leaving the Virginia Beach Fishing Center, boats will search for juvenile humpback and fin whales in their natural habitat off the coast of Virginia Beach. (Since most of us cannot go to see whales in the deep waters between Maui and Lanai in Hawaiian Islands, let's enjoy this great phenomenon at home). For information on whale watching boat trips, please contact: (757) 437-BOAT.



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AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT WELL DESERVED

At the Council of Civic League Organizations of Virginia Beach Annual Recognition Banquet, December 13, 2000, our own great lady, and doyenne of Ocean Park, Judith "Judy" Connors, was presented a Certificate of Recognition for outstanding service to the Community and the City of Virginia Beach. Commonwealth's Attorney, Harvey L. Bryant, III made the presentation.



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SHORE DRIVE TRANSPORTATION STUDY

The City of Virginia Beach authorized a study by, Cordell & Crumley Communication Strategists, to conduct a Shore Drive Transportation Study between November 6-8, 2000. Stakeholders (property owners, commercial enterprises, residents and Shore Drive Advisory Committee) were interviewed.

The team solicited answers for the following questions:

1. What changes have you observed in the corridor over the past 10 years?
2. What would you like the corridor to look like 10 years from now?
3. What has been your interest/level of involvement in the corridor up to this time? (Live here, own property, own business, member of an advisory committee? Etc.)
4. What kinds of improvements would you most like to see on Shore Drive? Are there places in the city where these already exist that you would like to see here?
5. What are your greatest concerns about what might or might not happen to this corridor?
6. Are there questions we can answer at this time?
7. What is the best way to stay in touch with you? (I.e., mail, fax, e-mail, etc.)

The Study Team's Assumptions at this time:

1. Traffic mobility, pedestrian safety and aesthetics are already a concern in the Shore Drive Corridor.
2. These problems are expected to increase as redevelopment occurs and density increases, and all three will need to be addressed as part of any improvements in the Shore Drive corridor.
3. The study will revisit traffic projections and explore a range of ways to improve traffic flow, pedestrian safety and aesthetics in an attempt to maximize benefits and minimize negative impacts.
4. The current study divides the corridor into three sections that reflect the different character and conditions of these sectors. The study will develop two alternatives for corridor improvements, both which include designing capacity for six lanes in the middle of the corridor.
5. There is a strong preference not to take additional right-of-way to make improvements, but this will be considered if necessary to achieve a solution.
6. Improvements along the corridor will need to be phased, but the city would like to have phase one improvements in place by 2007, and will put a "placeholder" project in the 6-year plan this year so it can begin to seek Virginia Department of Transportation funds.
7. The goal of this study is to build on the work done to date to develop the best solution to meet the various competing goals for the corridor.

We recognize it will require takeoffs, but believe it can be done.

