

Ocean Park Civic League NEWSLETTER

Volume I, #3

Virginia Beach, Virginia

June, 1997

NEXT CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, June 5, 1997
PLACE: Ocean Park Fire and Rescue Station
Stratford Road at Shore Drive

It is planned to discuss, at length, the issue regarding the opening of the Albemarle Street beach access to assorted watercraft during weekends and holidays.

A REMINDER

If you want to reach any of the Civic League officers, their phone numbers are as follows:

President	Bill Hook	464-2908
Vice President	Jim McElligott	363-8112
Secretary	Shytree Hurwitz	464-4930
Treasurer	Betty Wood	464-3641

Call them if you have a story lead, a problem, or a question. All of them will be happy to help in any way they can.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

By Jim McElligott, Managing Editor

The following proposal was received from Hobie Fleet 32, INC., recommending that Albemarle Street be opened to assorted watercraft that utilize the Ocean Park Beach. Your Ocean Park Board has reviewed the proposal and its implications for the long term and are against the opening up of Albemarle Street for this purpose.

Although we don't object to Hobie Fleet 32's intent to be good citizens in wanting to tag watercraft and clean the Ocean Park Beach from the Lynnhaven Inlet to the Baylake Beach, we object to Albemarle Street being a launching site for the City of Virginia Beach. This is a heavily populated area. Streets are too narrow and there are "No Parking" signs posted. The locked gate on Albemarle Street is for access of City of Virginia Beach vehicles.

We solicit your help and support in preventing the City from adopting this proposal from Hobie Fleet 32, INC.

SOD

"Save Our Dunes"

By William Hannah

Sound familiar? Well, I guess it does. If you have been in Ocean Park more than 20 minutes during the past two weeks, you have heard this phrase a lot. In a nut shell, nine years ago the citizens of Ocean Park fought a long, hard battle for replenishment of primary dunes to save coastal area beach and safe guard real property in the area. They won.

Now, the construction of a new house is threatening to undo all that was fought for. At the Ocean Park Civic League Board meeting on May 6, 1997, it was decided to support a citizens' committee which would work to stop the construction at 3790 Jefferson Boulevard. The permit issued allows an on-grade structure to be built 58 feet closer to the replenished dunes than had been previously been allowed.

Commentary from the highest levels of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), as well as your elected officials indicate that a grave mistake has been made. Despite the genuine efforts of Councilman Louis Jones, State Delegate Leo Wardrop, and City Manager James Spore, it appears the development will continue.

Legal opinion has already been presented to the City indicating this building is precedent setting, and is, therefore, unacceptable. At this time, it appears litigation is the only option.

In light of this, the Ocean Park Civic League Board of Directors has recommended that interested citizens contribute whatever funds they can to the SOD Legal Fund. If you would like to assist, please send your checks to the Ocean Park Civic League, SOD Fund, Post Office Box 55385, Virginia Beach,

Virginia 23455-5385. Checks should be made payable to the Ocean Park Civic League with "SOD Legal Fund" as a description.

"CLEAN BAY" DAY

By J. C. Pitts

If you have ever wondered why anyone would volunteer for trash pick-up detail, wonder no more. The secret is out, now. On June 14 this year, citizens all along the Chesapeake Bay will turn out in the hundreds to gather up all the trash and other inappropriate "junk" left behind by beach goers. Every one of these teams will have a "zone captain" to make sure all goes smoothly. In some cases a Jon boat will be furnished to teams. Zone Captains will need special instructions, data cards, trash bags, etc., so they will meet at the Kempsville Recreation Center on June 3 and June 4 at 7:00 p.m.

And here's the best part! The City is throwing a party for these guys on the enlisted beach at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base at 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the 14th. There will be an awards ceremony and contests for the most unique finds of the day, the youngest participant, the oldest participant, etc. They are even going to try to furnish a house! (Not a real one, of course.)

BICYCLE BRIGADE RETURNS

By Bill Hook

Sergeant J. B. Spy will begin patrolling our area on bicycle very shortly. He is with the Third Precinct, located on 926 Independence Boulevard. His phone number is 464-0361. We are pleased to report that Officer Palmer will be patrolling the beach again this year and we welcome him back with a smile. It will be nice to see a friendly, familiar face coming to our rescue when we get ourselves into a pickle or need help with disgruntled visitors.

And on another tack: Don't forget the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Third Precinct which meets on the third Thursday of each month at Bayside High School at 7:00 p.m.

NEW STUDY ON SHORE DRIVE CORRIDOR UNDER WAY

By J. C. Pitts

The City of Virginia Beach has engaged the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to provide an Advisory Services Panel beginning May 18, 1997 to focus on strategies for the future development of the Shore Drive Corridor.

The ULI is a non-profit research organization which fosters and encourages high standards of land use. Recognized as one of North America's most respected and widely quoted sources of objective information on urban planning, growth and development, ULI members all donate their time, efforts and expertise to the Advisory Services program.

The ULI panel members for the Shore Drive study group have been chosen for their expertise relative to the problems and opportunities in our community.

A reception on Monday evening at a local hotel served to introduce local participants in the study to these panel members before the serious business of the one-to-one interviews scheduled for May 20 and 21 took place. If you were one of these interviewees, CONGRATULATIONS! You were considered to be one of our most valuable assets--an informed citizen.

A GRAND OL' FLAG

By Bill Hook

If you have been meaning to buy a flag, but never seem to get around to it...NOW'S YOUR CHANCE. There will be information on the purchase of cotton and nylon flags that have been flown over the Capitol through the office of Congressman Owen Pickett. Many different sizes available. Come to the June 5 Civic League meeting to find out more.

WHEN DID WE DO THAT?

By Judy Connors

The Ocean Park Civic League was formed on November 28, 1944 with 36 residents in attendance. Objectives set forth at that meeting included:

- ⇒ Any undertaking of a civic nature that would be of benefit to the residents of Ocean Park and vicinity;
- ⇒ Erection of a civic center;
- ⇒ Better roads and streets;
- ⇒ Improved school bus transportation;

Fire fighting equipment committees were appointed and efforts began to accomplish some of these badly needed improvements.

A report to the civic league, dated November 1, 1947, outlines progress made on these objectives. Look for notes from that report in the next Newsletter when your memories will be tested.

ATTENTION JET SKIERS!

By William Hannah

On May 7 the Ocean Park Civic League sent a letter to Police Chief Wall requesting vigorous enforcement of City Ordinances #2317 (11 April 1995) and #2333 (06 June 1995) summarized as follows:

During the period of May 1 through October 15 of each year, from 10:00 a.m. until sunset in the area adjacent to the beaches of Chesapeake Bay and extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline; and from Little Creek Amphibious Base to Fort Story, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor craft (including jet skis) *except* when proceeding to or from the beach or an anchorage at an angle perpendicular to the shoreline at a minimum speed to maintain steerage and headway and while maintaining a distance of 100 feet from any person in the water.

Copies of the letter to Chief Wall and the ordinances will be available at the June 5 meeting.

THE "KOOKIE KROWD"

By Judy Connors

If your little rascals are starting to get "stir crazy" because of the weather or have tired of the toys at hand and have tried to burn down the house "just because", you definitely need a change of pace! Every Wednesday, throughout July and August, the Francis Land House Historic Site Gardens will be presenting special programs. The programs will be continuous from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and are included in the regular admission price of \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, \$1.50 for students, and \$1 for children 6-12. For more information about these and other programs, call 431-4000.

DATES

02 JULY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Colonial Game Day: Try your hand at 18th century games such as hoop rolling, lawn darts, Jacob's ladder, bilbo, five stones, nine-men morris, and many others.

09 JULY

Flax to Linen: Help us harvest our flax crop and learn how this "miracle" plant becomes linen cloth.

16 JULY

FUNDamentals of Fiber Arts: Wash, card and spin wool; visit with a weaver; enjoy an herbal

dying demonstration over an open fire; learn how clothing was made long ago. *Become part of the "human loom"!*

Who Made that? Explore the world of early American trades. Visit a basket maker; put together a wooden bucket with a cooper; try your hand at tinsmithing and pottery; or make a trade sign.

To Be A Colonial Child: What daily chores do you do today? What kind of chores did children do 200 years ago? Come and see what it was like to be a colonial child. Help crush herbs for potpourri, help fill a mattress, carry water, churn butter, and more.

Using Nature's Bounty: The 18th century plantation had to be self-sufficient. Learn how nature supplied the materials needed to live 200 years ago. Visit with a hornsmith, see a cooking demonstration over an open fire. Learn about herbal dyes and see how herbs were used in other ways.

At Home with Miss Elizabeth Land - A Colonial Girl: If you like to read about colonial girls, you'll love this program! Explore the life of a young gentry lady. Take a lesson with the tutor, practice the "latest" dances, and learn to prepare a proper "dish" of tea.

Music and Stories: Join the Tidewater Friends of Folk Music for songs and listen to stories of the sea with "Jack Tar". Explore a 19th century sailor's sea chest. Peak inside "Elizabeth's Trunk" and see how a gentry lady lived 200 years ago.

Colonial Games Day: A second chance to try your hand at 18th century games such as hoop rolling, lawn darts, Jacob's ladder, bilbo, five stones, and nine-men morris.

WHEN IS A PUBLIC BEACH NOT A PUBLIC BEACH?

By J. C. Pitts

Answer: When the beach can no longer be enjoyed by the general public, it is no longer a "public beach". It has become the playground of whatever special interest group "took control". It has become a beach used by only a small segment of the community. And, in some cases, such domination of the strand is normal usage. Indeed, is expected. But there is precious little beach in the Ocean Park area and we owe it to the residents to see that the broadest possible segment of the population can enjoy its sandy shores.

Residents would like the City to properly develop a launching site in an area which will not have such an adverse impact on residential properties. They want small craft owners to be happy, but not at the expense of other residents.

If you are one of those who would like to have this access, if you have a good alternative idea for small craft, if you are an irate citizen and want to "tell it like it is", June 5 is your golden opportunity. Whether for or against, you will have an opportunity to convince the community that you have the correct solution to this problem.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

OWN _____

RENT _____

Length of Residence
in Ocean Park _____

Areas of Interest in Ocean Park Civic League

Newsletter _____ Socials _____ Delivery of Newsletter/Meeting Announcements _____ Committees _____

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