

Ocean Park Civic League NEWSLETTER

Volume I, #2

Virginia Beach, Virginia

May, 1997

NEXT CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, May 1, 1997
PLACE: Ocean Park Fire and Rescue Station
Stratford Road at Shore Drive

Because of the high level of interest in the condominium project proposed at our last meeting, we did not get to address several issues of importance to Ocean Park residents. Some of the more important issues on the agenda for May 1 are (1) should the Ocean Park Civic League continue to be a member of the CCO? (2) Delay in the sand replenishment schedule and how it will affect our "Sand Celebration," (3) Report on the meeting of City Manager Spore, Lewis Jones, Bill Hanna and Judy Connors at the site of the house being built more than 50' further east than any others along the shore line in that neighborhood, and (4) The offer of "Hobie Fleet 22" to police the beach and dunes to remove any abandoned crafts.

Other topics will be on the agenda also, but we need your voice and your vote on these matters as well as others to be considered.

GATEWAY TO FUN? OR JUST ANOTHER HEADACHE

By
J. C. Pitts

The "access road" and the gateway at the foot of Albemarle Drive, has been requested as a launch area by many who have small sailing craft which are unable to sail against the current of Lynnhaven Inlet to reach the Bay. However, it has been suggested that the traffic that would result from the launching of small sail craft by hundreds of people would really be more of a headache than anything else. The streets here are narrow and winding. Trailers being backed across the road to attain beach access would create havoc for residents on Jefferson Boulevard. Not to mention how it will affect those who want beach space free of parked small craft. And you can guess where the trailers will be parked--as close as possible to this gate.

Although we can well appreciate the fact that these small craft owners need a launch point, we must admit that almost any other site would seem to be a better choice. Once the summer people "discover" this launch point, there will probably be a queue for launch all day long. NOT GOOD!

Put on your thinking caps and come up with a better idea, one that will not disenfranchise the residents as this has the potential to do.

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Did you remember to attend the Virginia Beach Public Works Department Public Hearing on Thursday, April 24, 1997 at Bayside Community Recreation Center, Room 3, (located at 4500 First Court Road) from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.?

The topic was the Shore Drive Intersect, Project CIP 2-133. The intent of this roadway project design is to improve traffic flow and safety through signalizing and realigning the intersection of Baylake Road and Shore Drive. The existing intersections at Baylake & First Court and at First Court & Shore Drive will be removed.

Our contact, Mr. Bill Hickman, P.E., (427-4131) made himself available for questions to be answered via telephone for several days before the meeting.

THE HOUSE IN THE BAY OR "HOW HIGH THE TIDE"

By
J. C. Pitts

The duplex now being built and fronting on Chesapeake Bay Drive, a paper street which is very nearly under water, is the recipient of zoning variance ruling from the City of Virginia Beach. This variance has allowed the owner of this lot to build more than 50 feet closer to the water line than any other house in the neighborhood.

On Wednesday morning City Manager Spore was on site with several others to take a look at this project. Although he acknowledged that this variance should never have been granted, he was unable to say what might be done at this point.

Ocean Park residents should be grateful to Lewis Jones and Bill Hanna who really did work very hard trying to stop the issuance of this variance. It is uncertain what will occur next in this little saga. All we know is the City Manager agrees with the position of the civic league (no variances of this magnitude should be issued on water front properties). And, we know that Mr. Spore will take a close look at this situation to determine what can be done to prevent this variance from becoming a precedent setting ruling.

CONDOMINIUMS SCOTCHED, FOR NOW

Due to the perceived opposition to the condominium project presented at the April 10th civic league meeting, Mr. Bernard has decided not to proceed with the project, but to seek a use for the parcel which conforms to current zoning restrictions. Mr. Bernard said he would stay in contact with Ocean Park Civic League regarding future plans.

ATTENTION -- ALL SERIOUS BIKE RIDERS

By
Bill Hook

You are about to get one of your wishes granted. That is, you will if you are willing to come out to the meeting on May 14 at the Bayside Library from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. when the Parks and Recreation Department Outdoors Plan will be the topic of the evening.

The Civic League of Pembroke Meadows suggested an "historical/cultural bicycle tour" become part of the outdoors program of the City this year. If the idea appeals to you, by all means attend and add your voice to those of others who are also interested.

SAND CELEBRATION? WHAT'S THAT?

By
Judy Connors

In 1986, the final chapter of a 20+ year entanglement was played out, with the City of Virginia Beach gaining ownership of the many "reserved" areas of Ocean Park -- the largest being the beach! During these years, many civic league leaders spent many, many, hours with attorneys, in the courts, at City Counsel meetings, lobbying State legislators and local officials, and even going to Richmond to petition the Governor.

The badly eroded beach was the catalyst for asking the City to take a pro-active role in resolving the problem so that we could then concentrate on sand. There was no sand in front of 3556 On The Bay, Chesapeake House, Sea Gull Bluff, and very little all through the 3700 block of Jefferson Boulevard. Even the bulkheads had water behind them! Again, civic league leaders were successful, in that the 1987 dredging of the Lynnhaven Channel resulted in a massive beach rebuilding, creating the beautiful public beach enjoyed by all.

"Sand Celebration I" was held in June, 1987, with Ocean Park residents, City Council members, City staff, and friends of Ocean Park joining together to celebrate one of the choicest spots in Virginia Beach in which to live -- and to pay tribute to the many residents, past and present, who never gave up the fight.

The beach is again being badly eroded, so plans for "Sand Celebration X" will have to wait until there is some sand to celebrate!

UPCOMING EVENTS, ETC.

By
Judy Connors

We promised we would let you know when something for the "cookie crowd" came up. Well here are some of the events planned for the coming weeks. (We've included some stuff for Mom and Dad, too.)

May 3 - Cinco de Mayo Celebration
24th Street Park. Free. Call 491-7866 for more information.

May 7 - Fishy Fun for Preschoolers
Parents and their children, ages 3-5, will enjoy these arts and crafts from 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. or from 3:15 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. at the Virginia Marine Museum. Admission is \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members. There is no additional fee for the parent. Call 437-4949 to register.

May 10 & 11 - Multi-Cultural Festival
24th Street Park. Call 491-7866 for more information.

May 17 - Asian Fest 1997
Princess Anne Park, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 427-4126 for more info.

May 25 & 26 - Pungo Strawberry Festival
Everybody is invited. Clearly the best tartsing invitation of the year! Call 721-6001 for details.

June 12-15 - Boardwalk Art Show & Festival
The best outdoor art show in the Mid-Atlantic is about to open. This year the art show will return to its traditional four-day format. Approximately 385 artists will be approved participants this year. Their works will be displayed from 17th Street to 30th Street. The awards have been increased to \$30,000 and the first place winner will take home \$7,500. Entertainment at the 34th Street stage is still pending at this time.

As always, volunteers are needed during the show to sell t-shirts and soft drinks, and to booth-sit for the artists. Please call the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (425-0000 or 425-8186 Fax) if you are interested. It's a great way to help out.

June 13 - Family Friday Beach Night
Mt. Trashmore, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 471-5884 for more info.

July 4 - Family Fun Day & Fireworks!
Mt. Trashmore, Noon to 10 p.m. Call 471-5884 for more info.

ART CAMP IS BACK!

By
J. C. Pitts

Leave your insect repellent, sleeping bags and archery skills at home. This will be the 13th season for opportunities for First through Sixth Grade students to explore ideas and skills in a wide range of media (drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, theater and more!) in both traditional and non-traditional settings: the Art Center, Seashore State Park, and the Marine Museum.

Classes begin on July 7 and end on August 29. Choose mornings (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) or afternoons (12:30 p.m. until ...) or both, if you want to stay all day. More information about classes and schedules will be available shortly after May 1. Keep checking your newspaper for these items.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

By

Melinda L. Gray

CONGRATULATIONS! Since Ocean Park's November civic league meeting, many of our residents have been concerned about the criminal mayhem going on in our community. Many of the residents have had questions about starting their own Neighborhood Watch program. Here's your chance to do so!

On May 1, 1997 at 7:30 p.m., Ocean Park Civic League will have as its guest Officer Jesse Monroe of the Virginia Beach Police. Officer is fully conversant with the Neighborhood Watch program and will answer any questions you might have and explain just how the program would work.

Here are some of the basics that will be covered. Being alert; Reacting; Knowing what to watch for in your neighborhood; Who to notify about your observations; How to report your information; Arranging absences from your home for vacations, etc.

For more information, please contact Officer Monroe of the Crime Prevention Unit at the 3rd Precinct (757-563-1006) or me, Melinda L. Gray, Coordinator for Neighborhood Crime Watch, at 757+460-0436 (or 757+307-5312 = pager).

A 75% or greater participation will get you off to a great start.

BE A CONCERNED NEIGHBOR.
JOIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM.

AN INVITATION

Won't you join the roster of members of the Ocean Park Civic League? Without your continued support and the support of new residents, the Civic League can not provide you with the information and services needed to make Ocean Park a great place to live.

Please complete the membership application below and return it to the League Treasurer -- or bring it to the next civic league meeting on May 1, 1997.

Dues for the calendar year are \$5.00 per family.

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