

ECA News

Newsletter of the Eastport Civic Association

October, 2004

General Membership Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2004

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm and are held at the Eastport Elementary school unless otherwise noted.

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October Membership Meeting Agenda Items

From the Board

Election of the coming year's Officers is the principal order of business. We will also bring you up-to-date on ECA issues such as our Safety Study, proposed revisions to Title 21 Zoning Regulations, the Boatyard Market and the Eastport Yachting Center proposals, and the 4th Street Revitalization.

Treasurer's Report

By Dick Franyo

Our cash on hand is \$9,685. Income is on budget, with a slight increase in donations from last year compensating for a decline in dues. Membership is currently at 466, down slightly from 493 last year. Spending to date is on target with the budget.

ECA Website

Be sure to visit the new ECA Website for up to date news and information from and on the Association (www.eastportcivic.org). In the near future we plan to use the site to gather instant input from you, our members, on current issues or concerns. This Newsletter will also be online there.



Presidents Message

By Ross Arnett

I thought I'd take part of this message to reintroduce myself to you.

I'm a retired civil servant, leaving the federal government's Senior Executive Service after 32 years of employment, mostly with the Department of Health and Human Services. There I worked as a health economist in charge of operations to provide measures of US health care use and spending. I now manage a small health care consulting business. Prior to employment I attended the University of Maryland at College Park, where I graduated with honors in economics.

I have held several civic positions over the years. These include President of our Home Owners Association in Columbia, Maryland; Board member and Historic Preservation Officer of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Washington, D.C.; founding member of the Victorian Society of America's Washington D. C. Chapter, member of the Board and Newsletter Editor of the Eastport Civic Association, and many other similar types of positions. So I come to you with some experience, even if I am a relative newcomer to Eastport.

Now let's get to some ECA business. Like many of you, I am shaking off the cobwebs of summertime and ready to get back to the work of our organization. Many of the issues we face are carryovers from previous years.

We await Josh's proposals to revise the Residential Conservation Overlay. The Board was gratified by the strong response you gave our survey on this topic, and we think the results will be helpful to Josh in his deliberations. Though there were differences among you on some of the details, the survey results certainly indicated your desire to preserve the Eastport way of life.

The revisions to Title 21, the Zoning Regulations, are still working their way through the process. The City Council is holding monthly "working" meetings to go over the details of the proposal. It seems that no such progress is being made on the revisions to Title 15, Harbors and Waterfront Areas, but we will be keeping track of this for you. Similarly, we are still waiting from word from the City on the status of many of the Street-end Parks.

On a very positive note, the BB&T Bank buildings are complete and open. Though the effect of the

bank on traffic is still unknown, the buildings have turned out quite well and are an asset to the community. The bank also is to be thanked for their extra effort in rehabbing the house on the corner of Bay Ridge. In the next block, the Rockfish Raw Bar and Grill is progressing quickly to replace the Clipper. Last but not least, the Boatyard Market is close to clearing the permits process. That expansion will provide an even stronger anchor to the Fourth Street business corridor. Now we need more progress and clarification for the rest of Fourth Street.

One of my primary goals for this year is to find ways to get more involvement by you, the membership, in ECA activities. We need to see more of you attending the Membership meetings and have more of you help us on the ECA Committees. The ECA has been successful for many years, but the workload continues to grow and we have high standards to live up to. We need your participation to maintain our success and grow with the new demands.

Community Safety Update

By Joe Haebler

An objective of every neighborhood is to *eliminate completely* the occurrence of crime in their community. A more realistic and attainable goal, however, is to *reduce the occurrence* of crime, and increase community safety. This is one of the current Eastport Civic Association priorities.

To that end, over the past seven months, the ECA collected and analyzed data regarding the occurrences of crime in the ECA community. The information used in this effort was made available with outstanding cooperation by the Annapolis Police Department (APD), specifically Norman Johnson – Community Service Specialist.

The expectation is that we would present our findings to the APD, and then the ECA general membership, where we would develop and implement a crime-prevention plan. Although it has taken longer than expected, the findings will be presented to the ECA Membership at the October General Membership meeting. In the interim, here is a condensed version of our findings that were discussed with APD:

- The total amount of crime in our area is up,

although the total amount of “*violent*” crimes has decreased. An upswing in the number of “*non-violent*” crimes is responsible for the overall increase, with Burglary, Theft, and Larceny leading the way.

- Most crime is committed during May through October
- The vast majority of all crimes are committed on just a small number of our streets.

The data analyzed was based on “crimes committed” during the period January 2001 through March 2004. APD is also now using an additional database, which documents/monitors phone calls made to a specific APD phone number by area residents when they observe “suspicious activity or persons” in their area, or street. This call initiates immediate police response. APD’s ongoing analysis is showing that **the areas with the highest call volume are showing a reduction in the incidents of crime in that area.** This database is being referred to as “Stage 2,” and representative data from APD is currently being analyzed by ECA.

In the meantime, take the initiative to remove all visible valuables from your car or truck, and make sure that the vehicle is locked.

ECA Architecture Committee

By Chris Ledoux

The ECA Architecture Committee represents community concerns and provides comments and constructive feedback to the ECA Board, and through it, to the City’s Planning & Zoning Department (and property owners) regarding issues connected to P&Z’s review of site designs under the Zoning Code. The committee comments on the site designs proposed for the development and construction of residential and commercial structures throughout Eastport generally, and in the Residential Conservation Overlay zoning district specifically.

The Architecture Committee acts solely as an advisory group to the ECA Board. The Committee typically limits its review to the architectural aspects of proposed designs, mass and scale issues, and conformance with the character of the particular neighborhood. More controversial issues, such as

variances and use exceptions, are left to the ECA Board, however, the Architecture Committee will occasionally make recommendations to the Board on such issues.

The Architecture Committee is made up of 5 association members who serve a minimum of one year. The committee typically meets once a month in an informal setting but can meet more or less often depending upon the volume of plans referred to it by the City’s Planning & Zoning Department.

There currently are vacancies on the committee. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact any member of the ECA Board. Architectural or design backgrounds are not a requisite, but are obviously helpful. Knowledge of local architectural history of Eastport and the Zoning Code and P&Z guidelines is also helpful.

A Message From Our Alderman

By Josh Cohen

Eastport Streetscape Plan -- What do we, as a community, want Fourth Street and Sixth Street to look like in the future? What sort of design elements such as lighting, signage, and paving materials would we like to see? During these next few months the community will answer these questions as we create a vision for the streetscape of Fourth and Sixth Streets. Public input is encouraged.

The planning process kicked off on September 30th with a community meeting at Eastport Elementary School. The city has hired The O’Doherty Group, a local landscape architecture firm, to develop draft plans based upon this input. These draft plans will be presented to the community at a second public meeting to be scheduled in mid-November for further review and comment. There is still time to provide input and ideas. For more information or to provide input you can call city planner Virginia Burke at 410-263-7961.

As always you can reach me at 410-216-9449 or eastportjosh@yahoo.com to discuss this or other issues. Josh Cohen



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