

Street Names in I'On

by Vince Graham

Street naming offers an opportunity to exercise creativity and imagination. The I'On Company was strivings for names that are short, meaningful, and “street-like”. Furthermore, a street name must pass muster with the County’s 911 services. If a proposed street name even sounds like an existing street in the County, it will be rejected due to the concern over possible confusion by a 911 operator in the event of a future emergency. Four out of five proposed names are typically rejected through this process.

Several streets are named for maverick literary figures, both real and imagined. Thomas **Sowell** is an esteemed thinker and prominent author best known for his writings on education and political philosophy. The *Post and Courier* runs his weekly syndicated column. Leon **Krier** (pronounced *Kree'-er*) is a prominent European architect whose challenges to the modernist architectural creed in the late 20th century have inspired a renaissance of civic art and the creation of meaningful places. Robert **Heinlein** was a great writer of science fiction, whose story of lunar revolution – The Moon is a Harsh Mistress – I count among my favorite books. Ludwig Von **Mises** (pronounced *Mie'-zees*) was an Austrian economist who championed free markets at the beginning of the 20th century when the rest of the world was becoming enamored with socialism. **John Galt** Way is named for the fictional hero in Ayn Rand’s Atlas Shrugged. It may bring a smile or laugh to those familiar with this work when a friend asks, “Who is John Galt?” Read the book and you’ll understand why.

Some streets are named for famed planners who have left a significant mark in the area of civic design. Raymond **Unwin** and John **Nolen** were famous early 20th century planners. Unwin wrote a book called Town Planning in Practice that is considered by some to be the “Bible” of planning. Nolen laid out many towns throughout the country. At age 88, **Jane Jacobs** lives in Toronto. The author of several books, including her landmark Death and Life of Great American Cities in 1961, she provided a thoughtful critique of modernist city planning and set off the revival of old-fashioned neighborhoods that later inspired the New Urbanist movement.

Other streets are named for qualities admired by the neighborhood’s founders. **Hospitality, Grace, and Resolute** are self-explanatory. A prescient person is one with vision. Thus, **Prescient** Street is named for those early pioneers who bought the first homes in I'On establishing the neighborhood. **Civitas** is the Latin word for citizenship, especially as imparting a sense of shared responsibility, a common purpose, and sense of community. It provides the root for such words in our language as civilization, civility, and city. **Perseverance** is what it took to get I'On through the permitting gauntlet and to build the neighborhood.

There are also streets named for built or pre-existing structures. **Boathouse Close** is obvious. **Shipyard Road** was an 18th century road that ran through the property to a Revolutionary War shipyard on Hobcaw Point. It followed in approximately the same location as its namesake does today. It’s also worth pointing out that **Shelmore** comes from a former seafood company of that name, which, long ago, operated a docking facility where the Creek Club now stands.

“*Pons*” is the Latin word for bridge – hence the name **Ponsbury** for the five bridges in this borough (3 on roads, and 2 on the walking path). The area comprising Ponsbury borough also serves as a bridge connecting the boroughs of Eastlake and Westlake, and Ionsborough and Shelmore.

Still others are named for admired and inspirational places. **Isle of Hope** is a little waterside village near Savannah. **Frogmore** is a tiny hamlet just outside of Beaufort. **Rialto** is named for a famous bridge in Venice, Italy. **Latitude Lane** is the directional counterpart to Longitude Lane, a favorite little street in downtown Charleston. **Hopetown** is a small town in the Abaco Island chain of the Bahamas. It was settled by Loyalists from Charleston and Boston who escaped there after the Revolutionary War. **Fernandina** is a

small Florida town north of Jacksonville. It was the last town laid out by the Spanish in the western hemisphere (1830's.) **Port Royal** is a little town south of Beaufort, SC. **Mobile** is a coastal city in Alabama. **Georgetown** and **McClellanville** are quaint coastal towns north of us on 17 that boast a thriving main street and pedestrian friendly community surrounding it. **Sanibel** is a wonderful place in Florida. **Edenton** is a historic waterfront town in eastern North Carolina, and **Fairhope** is a small town overlooking Mobile Bay in Alabama, first settled by free-thinkers, now home to a thriving arts-friendly community. **Montrose** is that area of Scotland where the Graham clan originally hails from. **Moultrieville** was an early name for a part of the area that later became the Old Village of Mt. Pleasant, named after Colonel William Moultrie, hero of the famed Revolutionary War battle at the fort which now bears his name. He later became Governor of SC.

McDaniel is named for a sergeant who fought bravely alongside William Jasper in the Battle of Ft. Sullivan (now Ft. Moultrie).

Some names simply fall into the fun-sounding category. **Saturday** was chosen because it was thought this area would be frequently visited on that day of the week. **Secession** was once a popular southern sentiment. **Jogging** is named for the famous jogging board. And **Serendipity** is the faculty for making fortunate discoveries by accident, which is hoped to be a common occurrence on the streets of I'On.

There are a number of "Ways" providing pedestrian links in parts of I'On, named to recognize local leaders who figured prominently in the approval of I'On. Since conventional zoning and development regulations make it 'illegal' to build a traditional neighborhood, gaining approval for I'On required an arduous three-year effort on the part of scores of individuals, several of whom now make their homes in the neighborhood. Joel **Ford** is the Town's Director of Planning and Zoning. A maverick in his own right, Joel's leadership and direction were critical in guiding I'On through the approval process. David **Jordan** is the trustee of the estate which sold the land to The I'On Company. His belief in the traditional neighborhood concept, and willingness to forego offers from other developers enabled the extra time needed to gain approvals. Ken **Willingham** was the Chairman of the Planning Board at the time I'On was approved. Like Joel, Ken weathered much criticism during the process, but his leadership enabled a fair treatment and examination of the facts of the plan. Sam **Passmore**, Director of Land Resources for the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, and Skipper **Woody**, long time Mt. Pleasant resident and attorney, masterminded the effort to get the project through the permitting gauntlet. Tom **Tanis** was the member of Town Council who championed I'On's approval. The home at the corner of Jake's Lane and Tanis Way was built for Tom's late father by Tom's son, Kirk. We are indebted to these individuals who defied conventional thinking to help get I'On approved. When it comes to enabling traditional neighborhoods to be built, we hope these men always get their "way".

Last, but certainly not least, **Faye** is my mother's name!