

Ocean Park Echo

www.OPCL.org

Welcome to...

OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA

Meeting

Thursday

March 4

7:30 p.m.

Ocean Park
Fire & Rescue

Guest Speaker
Carolyn Weems

Bayside School Board Representative



Carolyn Weems

Bayside School Board Representative

Carolyn Weems was elected to the Virginia Beach School Board in May 2002 and re-elected in May 2006 as an at-large member. In December 2009, the School Board appointed Mrs. Weems to fill the District 4 – Bayside seat vacated by the resignation of former Board member Dan Lowe.

A former tennis coach at Old Dominion University, Mrs. Weems has served as a volunteer for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools and the Virginia Beach community. She has held the position of PTSA President at Bayside High School, served on numerous PTA boards, and has been a member of the Planning Councils of Thoroughgood Elementary, Independence Middle and Bayside High schools

Mrs. Weems has served as a youth leader, Sunday School teacher, speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and volunteer counselor for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Mrs. Weems earned a bachelor's degree in administrative management from Clemson University. Mrs. Weems and her husband, Billy, have five children – four of whom have graduated from Virginia Beach City Public Schools and one who is currently an eighth grade student.



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Dear Neighbors,

As I sit here looking out my win-

dow at the winter wonderland that is Ocean Park (I'm writing this the last weekend in January), I'm having fond memories of my youth growing up in New England. I also recall my college days in Rochester, N.Y., and learning which adult beverages were best to fortify you against the cold, long, long, long Rochester winters. (If you come to our next OPCL social, I might be talked into revealing some of my northern hibernation secrets).

This weather reminds of why I live here. By the time you read this newsletter we will hopefully start seeing the first signs of Spring, which means beach time is around the corner. I'm excited about this spring and summer because our new social committee has great plans to bring our community together. Part of our civic league charter is to promote good fellowship, and I believe the rest of our mission flows from there. I hope to see as many of you as possible out at our March social at Don Julios. This will be a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and see what they look like when they're not wearing a bathing suit.

“What we really need are folks that can put in one or two hours a month. If you think that sounds like a commitment you could make to help out the civic league, please get in touch with me.”

We are fortunate to have our Bayside school committee rep, Carolyn Weems, coming to our March general membership meeting to let us know what is going on with the school committee. After Mrs. Weems speaks, we will take a break for a little socializing, so you'll get a chance to speak with her one-on-one if you want, so take advantage of this great opportunity. We also will vote on our budget for the 2010 calendar year, and vote on whether to transfer funds set aside for a new Ocean Park Rescue station to them now for building repairs. Come out, and let your opinions be known. And of course we will end our meeting with a social at one of our local restaurants, what better way to spend a Thursday night.

There are a lot of changes going on with our civic league right now, and what makes it more robust is getting new folks involved. We have all sorts of things that need to be done, and most of them won't take up much of your time. Of course we always love to see folks that want to put in lots of hours helping out with the civic league, but what we really need are folks that can put in one or two hours a month. If you think that sounds like a commitment you could make to help out the civic league, please get in touch with me. Who knows, you might even have fun helping out. See you around the 'hood.

By Rick Mercadante
OPCL President



News from the Bayfront

Shore Drive Community Coalition & Bayfront Advisory Committee

By Grace Moran

The Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) and the Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) continue the **"Win Lunch with the Mayor"** promotion to sign up subscribers to news and alerts concerning issues pertaining to the Shore Drive Corridor. Not only will you get periodic updates about issues, but also by signing up at www.sdcc.info, you will be entered into a drawing to win lunch with the Mayor. Drawing will be held in late March. Even if you were already signed up before the promotion, you can sign up again for the drawing. Whether you like the Mayor or not, it's a free lunch and a chance to tell him what's important to you.

Did you know?

This November, seats for both Lynnhaven and Bayside City Council representatives are up for your vote?

Beach Sand Replenishment and Access Repairs

We have received the following information via Drew Lankford, of the Department of Public Works. From Phil Koetter:

"We are working on repair plans for all of the City's damaged public accesses along the Chesapeake Bay. As soon as we get our restoration plans finalized we plan on notifying the residents along the Bay so that they are aware of the plans. We hope to have the surveyor to start working on gathering data for these repairs in the next week or two. We are working to get all accesses restored as soon as possible while also working with FEMA and VDEM on storm damage reimbursements for covered damages.

Some property owners may want to use the same contractor for private restoration work while they are in the area. All private work must be reviewed, approved, and receive all applicable and required permits. This work should be coordinated through the City's Planning Department & Permit and Inspections Division."

From Mike Mundy:

"More great news is that the permit modification (to do the truck haul from Maple Street dredge disposal area) that was submitted to Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) was approved Tuesday January, 26th."

Continued



News from the Bayfront

Continued from Page 3

- **LED Sign Ordinance Deferred** City Council was set to hear the proposed LED sign ordinance February 9, but the matter has been deferred. A new date will be forthcoming.
- **May is Bike Month.** Bruce Drees, Advocate for Tidewater Bicycle Association, notes that plans are under way to organize local events for Bike Month in May and Bike to Work Day. Friday, May 21. All with an interest in participating should contact Bruce at bwd-vb@cox.net. Note: deadline for event submissions for publication in the printed calendar is March 15.

Meetings this month:

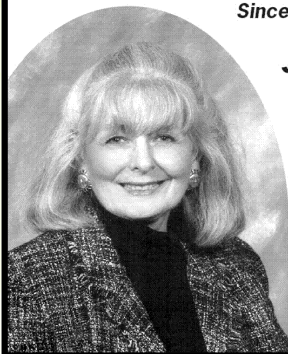
- **March 16:** BAC Communications Subcommittee
3:00 p.m. 1st Landing State Park (water side)
- **March 18:** Bayfront Advisory Committee
3:30 p.m. Bayside Rec Center
- **March 29:** Shore Drive Community Coalition
7:30 p.m. Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Station

Remember to visit www.sdcc.info for all the up-to-date Shore Drive news.

Got an idea for "Did you know?" Email me at grace@sdcc.info

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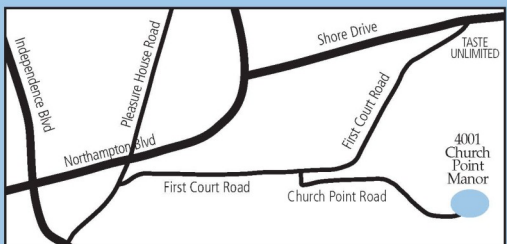
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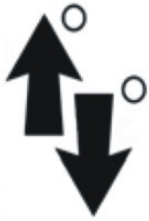
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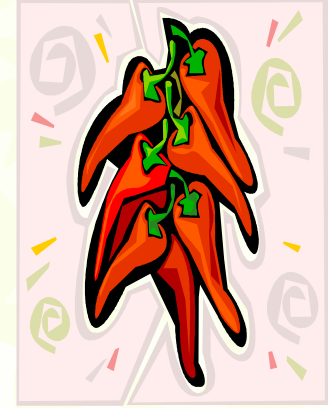
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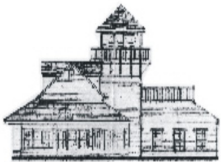
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OPCL.org: Sign up for news, photos, facebook

By Rick Mercadante

Thanks to Jim Royall, we have a beautiful new Web site to keep you informed of what's happening in Ocean Park. The site contains newsletters, important information about community issues, photos, meeting minutes, budget reports, etc. Visit [Recent Posts](#) for neighborhood news and also check the [Calendar](#) for upcoming events.

For those of you on facebook, our Ocean Park group page has been a success. We now have 69 members, and it's growing daily. We'd love to have all our members on the group so we can more quickly keep in touch. It's easy to join and doesn't cost anything.

You now can renew your membership easily at the new via [PayPal](#) or [Google checkout](#). You don't need an account with either of these services. Just click on either link, and you will be directed to the site where you can use your credit card to renew. We're trying to make it extremely easy for you to keep up your membership with the civic league.

We are working on an Ocean Park Civic League membership card that will provide OPCL members with discounts at local restaurants and businesses. I recruited some volunteers, and we hope to move it forward soon. With the current economy, some businesses are reluctant to give discounts. If you know local businesses interested in participating, please let me know.

Ocean Park Civic League: *Committed to protecting, improving neighborhood*

The Ocean Park Civic League is a neighborhood association made up of concerned residents who are committed to protecting and improving our neighborhood and its ways of life from the beach to the streets and properties. There are about 1,500 residences in Ocean Park. While OPCL works for all our great neighbors, we need your participation. Don't wait until there is a problem. Get involved proactively and meet your neighbors. Currently, our major issues are:

1. Working with the Shore Drive Community Coalition on difficult issues regarding Pleasure House Point and Indigo Dunes.
2. Ensuring that Shore Drive Improvements (beautification) are made without turning it into a six-lane highway and involving the community in the decision making process.
3. Working with the City on the Lesner Bridge replacement and dredging site.
4. Ensuring property owners develop their lots under existing guidelines to preserve our neighborhood and prevent a wall of condominiums from permanently changing our look.
5. Addressing issues regarding public safety, maintaining property values, and quiet enjoyment of the area.
6. Educating our residents on safety issues and avoiding problems so we continue to maintain our area as one of the safest in the city.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

events in the area

Annual Thoroughgood Spring Celebration

Adam Thoroughgood House

Saturday, April 17, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Plants sale, antique car show & art show

2nd Annual

East Beach Art Show

27th Bay Street (off Pretty Lake Road)

Saturday, April 24, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5th Annual

Chic's Beach Art Show

Under the trees behind HK on the Bay

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Leaping Lizard Café's Concept is Simple.

We have created a menu with heavy emphasis on ingredients from local farms of tidal Virginia, and we stock our kitchen with local fruits, vegetables & seafood from our very own produce market. Our ingredients are more than fresh, they are often "just-picked."



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Let's countdown 'til summer!



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What can you do?

Take Responsibility for What goes Down your Drains

Sweep your gutters. Keep leaves out of storm drains. Don't put grease and fats down your drain.

Scoop the Poop & Don't Feed Wildlife

Reduce animal waste entering our waterways to reduce bacteria levels.

Use Water-Friendly Landscaping Practices

Fertilize less...Replace part of your lawn with mulched beds. Use native plants in your landscape. Create permeable surfaces. Build a rain garden.

Practice Clean Boating

Pump, don't dump. Use marine approved products. Fill, don't spill.

Support "No-Discharge Zone" legislation.

Raise Oysters for Reef Restoration

Oysters filter water and reefs provide habitat for many species.

Create a Buffer or a Rain garden on your Property

Come to one of our water-friendly landscaping workshops.

Talk to your Neighbors; Talk to your Legislators

Schedule a Lynnhaven River Now presentation.

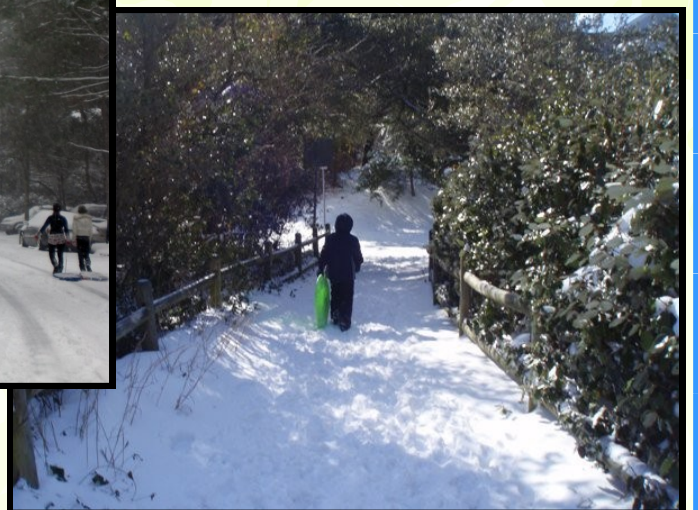
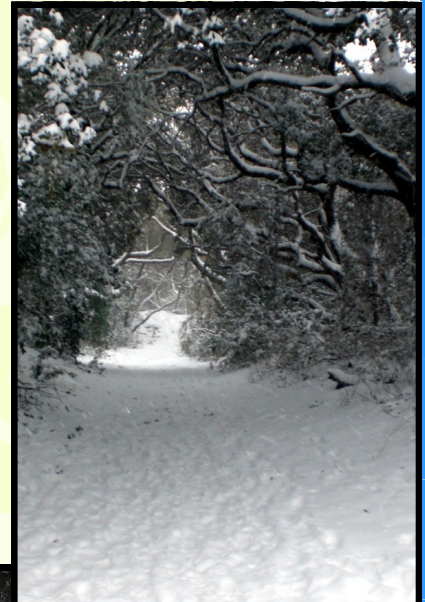
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Education...PR & Marketing...Special Events and Access Task Force...Clean Boating...Landscape Practices...Oyster Restoration...Water Quality...Public Policy



One for the record books

A powerful winter storm brought near-blizzard conditions to Hampton Roads in late January. In Virginia Beach, 9 inches of snow fell – that's more than the area typically gets in an entire winter. Winds gusted up to 35 mph, and icy roadways forced schools and businesses to close. In Ocean Park, residents enjoyed the rare snow storm by riding sleds, building snowmen and taking these photos.



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