

Ocean Park Echo

Welcome to...

OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA

Meeting

Thursday

May 6

7:30 p.m.

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

Ocean Park July 4th Fireworks



I know the rumors have been flying about fireworks on the beach this 4th of July. Well here's the skinny. The Shore Drive Civic Leagues Fireworks Committee is a small group of Shore Drive residents trying to organize a professional fireworks show on a barge off our beaches to celebrate our nation's birth.

We have the support of all three civic

Our plan is to have a professional fireworks display July 4th on a barge 800 feet offshore, between Lesner Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay.

leagues from Lesner Bridge to JEB Little Creek. Our plan is to have a professional fireworks display on 4th of July on a barge 800 feet offshore, centrally located between Lesner Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. This show will be for Shore Drive residents, and paid for by Shore Drive residents and businesses. The show will be open to anyone who has access to our beaches, but the show will not be advertised outside of the Shore Drive corridor. The Shore Drive Fireworks Committee is open to anyone who wants to have a say in how this show is going to be done. Everything we are doing is out in the open, no secrets. Right now our committee is pretty thin, just a half dozen folks working really hard to get a show that we can all enjoy. If you want to have a say, jump in the water and get involved.

We already have a local fireworks company that will be doing the show. Associated Pyrotechnics is a licensed and insured fireworks company and has done many fireworks shows locally. We have asked the Commanding Officer of JEB Little Creek/Fort Story to donate a barge and to do our onload/offload at the base. I wish I could tell you it was a done deal at this point, but the base is still staffing the request. *Continued on Page 3*



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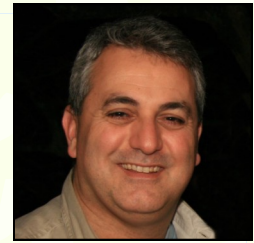
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Dear neighbors,

By Rick Mercadante
 OPCL President



Spring is here! I know that because I watched the Red Sox beat the Yankees on opening day at Fenway. A cold winter like we just had makes you remember and appreciate why we live here. It's mid April and I've already been to the beach several times. There's nothing like the feel of warm sand between the toes. As we get back to the beach this year, we need to remember that our beaches are here for the enjoyment of all. Beach etiquette should be practiced by all. If your beach activities are impeding on someone else's enjoyment of the beach, maybe you should rethink what you're doing.

Loud music and profane language while others are within ear-shot isn't very neighborly. While we're talking about etiquette, let's discuss dogs on our beach. I am a lifelong dog owner and lover, and many of you know my beagle mix, Raleigh. All of us dog owners need to be more aware of our dogs' activities on the beach as more people are at the beach during warm weather. Letting your dog run loose without a leash, however friendly they might be, could be intimidating to someone who isn't a dog lover. Small dogs might get intimidated when a larger dog comes rumbling up looking to play. The stories abound of large dogs getting aggressive with smaller dogs, for no apparent reason.

How many times have we heard the story of a dog attacking a person or smaller dog, and the owner saying "I don't understand, he/she has never done anything like that before." z So letting your dog bound up to folks on the beach, and shouting out that your dog is friendly doesn't help. Please be mindful of your neighbors and control your dog on the beach so everyone can enjoy the beach. One last note about dogs, the world isn't their toilet. If you are walking your dog and don't have a plastic bag, you probably aren't intending to pick up after them. There are plastic bag containers at every beach entrance, use them. The number-one pollutant of our waterways is fecal matter -- don't let your dog contribute to the problem.

Now on to more fun matters. Thanks to everyone who attended a fun night out at Don Julios for our neighborhood crawl out. It was a fun night of socializing, and would have been a perfect night had Kentucky not lost. Fortunately I had many friends around to commiserate my NCAA bracket being busted. Dove and Eric did a great job putting together this event, and I'm looking forward to the Loch Luau they are planning for June. They are also hard at work planning the Ocean Park 4th of July Parade, which promises to be a fun event. I won't go into details because I don't want to steal the thunder of the Social Committee, but they have some great events planned to help our community come together in a social setting.

If you're by the Sylvan Beach entrance this summer, say "Hello." I'll be the one in the Red Sox hat. If I don't see you on the beach, I hope to see you at a future OPCL-sponsored social gathering.



Fireworks (Continued from Page 1)

As far as funding goes, that's the hard part. Our goal is \$25,000. This will pay for the show, our marketing effort, and give us a little seed money for next year's show. The OPCL general membership has authorized the executive board to use \$5,000 to help get this effort started, but any funds used will be reimbursed by donations received. At this point, none of the three civic leagues has committed any of their own funds to this effort, just their support that this is something that the community wants.

There are 5,000 homes between Lesner Bridge and Jeb Little Creek.

If a quarter of those homes each donated \$20, we're at our goal.

So far, several Shore Drive businesses have stepped up and committed funds, but we are still a long way from a done deal. I know that's a little optimistic, but it makes you realize our goal isn't that farfetched. I will put up the first \$100 donation, and four of my fellow Ocean Park residents have committed \$100 each to get us started.

Well now you know everything. For all of you who have been asking for this, now is your chance. You can donate by sending a check to the above address made out to the "Shore Drive Civic Leagues Fireworks Committee," or go to www.OPCL.org and click on the "Fireworks" link. If you have questions about this effort or want to get involved, contact me.

— Rick Mercadante, OPCL President
mercadante@cox.net

Norfolk teacher hit by car, killed on Shore Drive

Information in this article is from WAVY.com and The Virginian-Pilot

Whitney Lynne Hulce, 25, of Chesapeake, was struck by an eastbound car while crossing Shore Drive on Sunday, April 18, at about 1:30 a.m. in the 2900 block near the intersection with Great Neck Road. According to police reports, she did not use a crosswalk or intersection. She died at the scene.

The driver of the car was not identified and was not facing charges.

Hulce taught second grade at Tanners Creek Elementary School in Norfolk.

"Shore Drive has become known as a dangerous stretch of road for bicyclists and pedestrians," wrote *The Virginian-Pilot*.

In October, a 21-year-old man was also struck by a car as he tried to cross Shore Drive. He later died of his injuries.

Bicyclists pushed for slower speed limits after two people were killed after being struck by cars. This past summer, the 45 mph speed limit was lowered to 35 mph on Shore Drive between the traffic signals for First Landing State Park and North Great Neck Road.



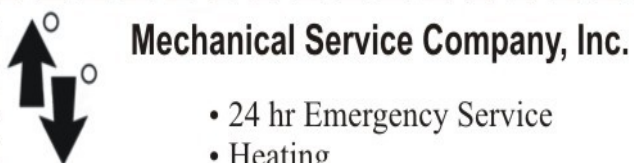
OPCL Finance Committee Update:

As of the end of March, the Robbins Legacy account was valued at \$193,324, which is allocated 72% fixed income/cash and 28% equity/balanced funds after reinvesting \$40,000 of CD proceeds last month. The account is currently generating approximately \$6,000/year in interest and dividends with an accumulated balance of over \$10,000 available for community projects. Your ideas for funding of community projects are encouraged and welcome. — **Mike Wills, mandjwills@cox.net**

Burglaries and Increased Thefts of Large Screen TV's

Virginia Beach Police Department Crime Prevention Unit reminds you:

- When you take your new TV home, **DO NOT LEAVE THE BOX BY THE CURB** for trash pickup, because this can advertise to potential thieves that you have a new TV they may want to steal.
- Cut up the box and place it in your trash or recycle bin, or dispose of it at a cardboard recycling drop-off location.
- Write down the serial number, brand, and model number of the items and keep that information in a safe place.
- Remember to watch out for your neighbors and report ALL suspicious activity.
- Call 9-1-1 for crimes in progress, or 385-5000 for non-emergency police reports.



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OPCL Membership Cards: Discounts at restaurants, flower shops, car washes, hair salons, and more!

Seventeen Ocean Park businesses have agreed to provide discounts on their products or services to OPCL members who show their membership card at the time of purchase. We will distribute cards to paid members at the May meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, email me to pick up your card. When patronizing these businesses, thank them for their support of .OPCL.

— Rick Mercadante.

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Crab Creek Pizza	20% off food and bait	
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Sea Shore Bike and Fitness	10% off all parts and accessories	
The Smoke House Cooler	15% off Menu Items, not valid w/other discounts	www.smokehouseandcooler.com
Sonshine Hair Studios	10% off all services	www.sonshindhairstudios.com
John Guswiler services	10% off all handyman services	

New members since March Newsletter

Patti and Mike Bowman * Mary Compton * Michael and Sharon Grossman * Gaylon and Nancy Herndon * Shannon Kisiel * Nancy Koch * Michael and Beverly Manlove * Susie Miller * Todd and Joanne Parker * Cindy Phillips * Tasos and Christi Tsolakis * Leo and Gloria Wardrup.






Send us a picture of your dog, cat, parrot, hamster, rooster...

The Echo will begin a photo feature on pets who live in Ocean Park in the September issue. Send us a photo of your pet, and pick one characteristic, idiosyncrasy, or endearing trait about your furry friend, and tell us about it in a short caption to appear under the photo. Photos will be featured in the order they are received.



The Rules:

1. Photos must be sent electronically as jpgs with the information listed below.
2. Pet: name, age, breed
3. Owner: First and/or last name (If submitted, owner's name will appear with photo.)
4. Caption: No more than 300 words. Less is better.
5. Deadlines: August 1 for September issue; Oct. 1 for November issue.
6. Submit photos to UPSMT@COX.NET. Use "Ocean Park Pets" as subject.



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Saturday, June 5

9 a.m.—Noon

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Volunteer for Clean the Bay Day, and show the world that an unhealthy Bay is unacceptable! Every year since 1989, thousands of volunteers of all ages have dedicated their time to clear debris from Virginia's urban, suburban, and rural shorelines and waterways.

In 2009 alone, 7,022 volunteers removed 102 tons of debris from 475 miles of waterways. Cigarette butts, plastic bottles and bags, tires, paper, furniture, bikes, construction materials, are just a sample of the types of debris that pollute our shorelines and waterways, kill marine and other wildlife, and degrade our communities and the water quality of the bay. As rain falls onto our streets, roofs, parking lots, and lawns, the storm water runoff collects debris and other pollutants, travels through the storm drains and ditches and ultimately deposits this pollution in our waterways and along our shorelines.

The debris is a visible and pervasive reminder that the Chesapeake Bay needs restoration and improved stewardship. Removal and disposal of waterway and shoreline debris is a service to local communities, the Commonwealth, and the Bay. Through citizen volunteers, Clean the Bay Day provides localities with a cost effective way to remove litter from the waterways and shorelines and increase environmental stewardship.

Get involved! By foot or by boat, gather your groups, friends, neighbors, co-workers and volunteer for a fun day and worthwhile way of helping us Save the Bay.



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Behind the scenes at a resale boutique

By **Krys Stefansky**
The *Virginian-Pilot*

This article from The Virginian Pilot was published May 24, 2009. Chic Cheap Resale Boutique celebrates its one-year anniversary this month.



As the middle child of three daughters, Leslie Giljohann was never like Robin, the oldest and most responsible one, or Becky, the youngest, who enjoyed special privileges as the family's "baby." Rather, Giljohann saw herself as the one who would "get there" but had to think about things for a bit first.

For years she'd been considering this little cinder block building on Shore Drive, the one a few doors from her own place, between a seafood restaurant and a lawyer's office.

In recent months, she mulled over the poor economy, passing road traffic, the fact that she is footloose and fancy-free except for her Doberman, Caine.

She saw the building was vacant again. Finally, she rented it and opened a shop, **Chic Cheap Resale Boutique**, where she sells used, old, and brand-new stuff. Her plan was simple: Buy low, sell fair, get more, do it again.

She's almost two months 99 into having her own store. The only constant is that each day is different from the one before.

On a recent Wednesday, her silver BMW crunched the gravel parking lot in a downpour. She dashed inside, turned on the lights and got ready for customers. The rain? Not a good sign. It hammered down on the asphalt and made the nearby Lesner Bridge look like an amusement-park water ride.

Leslie Giljohann, owner of Chic Cheap Resale Boutique in Ocean Park, Beach, sets lawn furniture outside her shop after a rain shower. (Photo by Bill Tiernan | The Virginian-Pilot)

She headed for a back corner in the two-room shop to check for roof leaks and shift things out of harm's way. "I'm learning to take things down, move them around," she said. China plates can take a few drips. Framed artwork cannot.

They stroll through, checking out beaded jewelry, decorative items for the home, gently used furniture, accessories and antiques - on this day an Eastlake chest, tiger oak dresser, sideboards, a pair of French Provencal nesting tables and armoires with beveled glass in the doors. Things are oak, mahogany, pine or painted and distressed. It just depends on what she finds at auction, what she buys at garage or estate sales.

"A lot of people now are coming in who are moving or downsizing. I'll go to their houses and look at it. Some of it, I consign. But I usually just buy it. It's better for them and for me," she said.

She muscled it all into the space herself. Even the big stuff. "Well," she said, pooh-poohing the hauling, "there's always somebody there to help me when I buy it, and then when I get here with my truck, I just use blankets and drag it in."

Continued on Page 10



Behind the scenes Continued from Page 9

Except for one tall armoire. A huge thing that screens off a portion of the back room, she uses it for storage. She says it's not for sale, but it does have a price tag, "\$795 Firm." "I guess I'd sell it. I just won't make anyone a deal on it. A neighbor helped me get it in here and refused to ever help me again," she said, laughing.

She looked out the window. Still a gusher. "Weather like this is unfortunate," she said, shrugging. "It keeps customers away. But that's when I rearrange."

It might have been a good idea to hook up her charge card machine, which came in the mail and which she unpacked, then eyed suspiciously. "Ugh," she said, "I'm technically challenged." She took the machine out, set it on the counter and turned her back on it.

She tidied her metal mermaid plaques. When she ordered them, she thought they'd sell well near the water. She was right. The first set sold. Eventually, she'd like to carry things by local artists and crafters. A couple of teachers have already begun painting scenes on old windows for her. "And I've got to get some more mirrors," she said. "People seem to like mirrors."

Giljohann has worked in retail, watching the public's taste, trying to anticipate it and feed it, since childhood. The Orange, Calif., native helped out in her family's clothing store for men in Long Beach from the time she was 6. When she was about 11, her mother taught her a good lesson about money. Giljohann and her sisters begged for banana-seat bikes and got them. A few years later, three-speeds were popular, so they wanted those. Their mother told them to earn their own money. They did. "We learned from an early age to be responsible and to have a work ethic," she said.

Later, the sisters worked in their mother's women's clothing stores. When their mom retired, the three girls split their time between the two shops. They'd each work two weeks, then take a week off to ski or camp.

Giljohann, who headed for college at 16, studied fashion merchandising and design, then worked in physical therapy for a while. Marriage to a Marine brought her to Virginia Beach in 1991 during a May as wet as this one. After reinventing herself a few more times - fitness instructor, condo-association manager, real estate agent, job coach. She divorced again. Somewhere along the way she got into the antiques business and had booths in antique malls in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. She closed the last one about three years ago.

Then, at 48, she waitressed for the first time. "I was great with the people," she said, "but was bad with all the other aspects of the job, like carrying plates. I have to carry just one in each hand."

This spring seemed like a crazy time to open a shop, even though she had enough saved to do it without borrowing, just like her mother always said. "People said, 'Leslie, are you crazy, opening a business in this economy?'" But this is the economy for this kind of business."

The day's first customer came through the door about 11 a.m. Giljohann chatted, explaining her shop and its contents, and fielded kind words. She said goodbye without making a sale. In the beginning, it made her nervous when people left without buying. "But I get that a lot," she said. "People drive by and stop in. Now I'm getting repeats and word of mouth and friends."

The phone rang. The shopper who just left was calling to ask her to put a crab print on hold. A few minutes later another woman stopped in and, after a chat and a few purchases, promised to e-mail pictures of two sofas she was eager to sell to Giljohann, who said she might take them on consignment.

A third person brought boxes filled with fish-themed items, painted birdhouses and fabric things. After a lengthy negotiation, Giljohann worked a trade: two fish and two birdhouses for one mermaid plaque. Bartering is fun, Giljohann said after the customer left. She recently traded a stained-glass piece for a dresser, which she later sold.

After someone came to pick up an already-purchased mahogany dresser, Giljohann shifted an oak buffet into its place.

The rain stopped, and with the sun came a steady stream of customers who, in the course of the afternoon, bought an Art Nouveau-style armoire, printed canvases with beach scenes, jewelry, a fish tile, a framed picture, more jewelry.

Few people left without Giljohann's first asking where they lived and what they would do with the things they bought. "It makes me happy when things go to good homes," she said. Only one big-ticket item sold, but that was OK. "Your little stuff pays the rent," she said. And several people left their names, numbers and specific items they were looking for, giving her a focus for her next round of auctions and yard sales. In the end, not a bad day at the shop.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

events in the area

Stoney's Craft Market

7 Cities Crafters

1065 First Colonial, VA Beach

Saturday, May 8, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

5th Annual

Chic's Beach Art Show

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Under the trees behind HK on the Bay

Saturday, May 22, 2010

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

"Who Arted?"

Summer Art & Craft Show

Cheap Chic Resale Boutique

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Saturday, June 12, 2010

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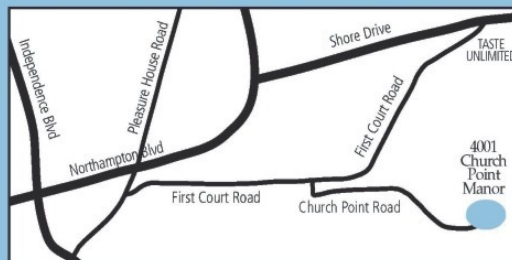
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Check Out Ocean Park Civic League on facebook

The new Ocean Park Civic League Website is at www.opcl.org. This site functions as the archive of OPCL business. It contains newsletters, bylaws, community issues info, meeting minutes, budget reports, etc. Visit **Recent Posts** for neighborhood news, and check the **Calendar** for upcoming events.

Ocean Park also has a facebook site that can be reached under the "Links" entry. Some news items will be published there but it is primarily for social interaction between the members and residents of Ocean Park. Please visit both sites often to stay in touch with our community!

Questions, Comments, Suggestions

Send your questions, comments, and suggestions about the Web site to the Web administrator at jgroyall@yahoo.com, Questions about Ocean Park Civic League or League activities may also be sent to the same email address, and they be forwarded to the appropriate person for reply. The Web site also shows a list of your neighbors that volunteer their time for the Board and other positions in the OPCL organization.



Mayor Sessoms Delivers Annual State of the City Address

More than 700 city leaders gathered March 18 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center to hear Mayor Sessoms deliver his annual State of the City address. The mayor reviewed Virginia Beach's top accomplishments of 2009, the challenges that lie ahead, and his vision for next two decades. To read the speech go to: www.VBgov.com/stateofthecityspeechtext



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