

Welcome to...

# OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA

## Ocean Park Echo

**Meeting**

**Thursday**

**May 5**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Ocean Park  
Fire & Rescue**

[www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org)

### **Fireworks Goal: \$10,000**

The Shore Drive Civic Leagues Fireworks Committee is a small group of Shore Drive residents who are trying to organize a professional fireworks show on our beaches to celebrate our nation's birth. We have the support of all three civic leagues from Lesner Bridge to JEB Little Creek.

The show will be for Shore Drive residents, paid for by Shore Drive residents and businesses. The show will obviously be open to anyone with access to our beaches, but it will not be advertised outside the Shore Drive corridor.

Last year's spectacular was enjoyed by probably the largest crowd ever assembled on our beach. The funds needs for a major fireworks show on the 4th of July: \$10,000.

To make contributions to the fireworks' show, go to [www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org).

*Ainsley John Darling helped her mom, Jill Doczi, chair of the fireworks committee, collect \$566 in donations at the March "Crawl Out of Hibernation" party. See photos on page 7.*



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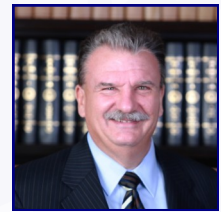
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**Fellow Ocean Park Residents:**

**I**t's been a long, tough winter and we are all delighted that Spring finally is here. The last membership meeting before the summer break is Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. I encourage all Ocean Park residents to attend. Join your Civic League and participate.



Martin Thomas  
 OPCL President

Dove Payman and the social committee did a wonderful job putting on the CRAWL OUT at Salty C's. You can see the photographs depicting the great fun at OPCL.org. Thanks to all who worked on this wonderful event and those who attended as well.

***Fireworks on the beach***

Jill Doczi is working hard to collect the money necessary to pay for the July 4th fireworks display. I know that all of us enjoy having 4th of July parties. I hope that everyone who lives in Ocean Park will make a donation to help pay for the fireworks. There is a link for donating on our website. Please be generous.

***What would you like the Civic League to do?***

Please come to the meeting, and tell us what you would like the Civic League to do and what you are interested in accomplishing. We would love to hear from you, and we would especially love your help in accomplishing the goals.

***What is your pet peeve?***

Let us know. I hear many complaints about dogs running loose on the beach. We all love dogs, and we all love to walk our dogs on the beach. However, there is a leash law in Virginia Beach, and it is against the law to allow your dog to run free on the beach. You may know your dog won't attack anyone, but others who are walking the beach don't know that and may be very afraid of your dog that is running full speed at them. Also, not everyone appreciates wet dogs jumping up on them no matter how friendly they are. Please be considerate of other folks.

Many people complain about cars parking on corners in the neighborhood. This is a safety hazard because it can prevent drivers approaching the intersection from seeing pedestrians or other cars that may be entering the intersection. Section 46.2-1239 of the Virginia Code prohibits parking within 20 feet of an intersection where there are curbs and 15 feet of an intersection where there are no curbs. Be considerate of the safety of children in the neighborhood by not parking on corners.

Another complaint we receive is about people who do not pick up their dog excrement. There are bags placed at each beach entrance for that purpose. Please encourage your neighbors and others who visit the beach to use the bags to scoop the poop.

Summer is approaching, and I hope everyone has a relaxing, enjoyable summer on the beach. Let us know your concerns and your feedback.



# News from the Bayfront

By Grace Moran

## Marina Shores Boat Slips and Proposed Dredge Spoils Site

The rhetoric is heating up over the proposal by the owner of Marina Shores to add 45 boat slips. Originally, this was coupled with a plan by the City to install a permanent dredge spoils transfer site nearby. (For the original proposal, visit [www.sdcc.info](http://www.sdcc.info) and type "Boat slips" in the Search block.)

Since the original proposal, the two issues have been separated, but both are being contested by many residents of the neighborhoods of Cape Henry Shores, Cape Story by the Sea, and Broad Bay Island. For a full airing of the reasons for their opposition, visit [www.longcreekwetlands.com](http://www.longcreekwetlands.com).

It is also possible that a permanent dredge spoils transfer station is again being considered at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp, in spite of the objections of fishing and boating enthusiasts, environmentalists, commuters, residents and taxpayers, which had derailed the proposal a couple of years ago.

## More Sidewalk for Shore Dr.

What and where is the Lake Joyce Crossing?

Here's the CIP description: A 10' wide pedestrian bridge and sidewalk connection on the south side of Shore Drive at the Lake Joyce crossing located just west of Treasure Island Drive. The connection shall extend from the existing sidewalk located in front of 4357 Shore Drive to the existing sidewalk in front of 4225 Shore Drive. The total distance is approximately 700 feet in length. Laurie Murphy, of the VB Public Works Department, says that the Notice to Proceed should be issued by April 19, 2011, with a proposed start date within 3 weeks or so. Work should be completed within 5 months, barring unforeseen circumstances.



Update

## Pleasure House Point

Students from Kemps Landing Magnet School and Cape Henry Collegiate produced approximately 100 mailing pieces to be sent to their favorite celebrity, sports figure or known philanthropist, asking them to consider the purchase of a living monument: a live oak.

These trees would be planted on the 5 to 10 acre parcel of Pleasure House Point which might have been sold for commercial development. Each monument tree could honor a person or concept cherished by the donor. The live oak was chosen, not only for its Virginia Beach connection, but because it is a specie that can live for up to 1,400 years — much more enduring than any man-made memorial could create.

The City has not been idle, either. It is being said that soon, if not already, the State of Virginia and the City will be close to an agreement to secure interim financing for the purchase of the land from Wells Fargo, which currently holds title. Details are pending the outcome of a lawsuit, among other things.

However, this interim financing is still just a loan. Under the original plan, the wooded northern-most tract might yet be offered if other grants or allocations are not made.

(A tip of the hat to Becky's Hallmark Shop in Great Neck Village for donating the stickers to seal the mailers.)





# News from the Bayfront

## Gov. Bob McDonnell Draft Fiscal Years 2012 - 2017 Commonwealth Transportation Board Six-Year Improvement Program includes more than 900 projects, including the replacement of the Lesner Bridge.

"Over the last several years, the Commonwealth Transportation Board has cut more than \$4 billion from its program," says McDonnell. "At the same time, our roads and bridges have continued to deteriorate and congestion and demand for alternative modes of transportation have continued to grow. Thanks to the bipartisan support of this year's transportation package, we will make an upfront investment in restoring our transportation system and addressing these critical needs.



"This infusion of funds will help accelerate or complete the more than 900 projects I recommended as part of the package. These projects will benefit all regions of the Commonwealth, both rural and urban, and will help provide jobs for thousands of Virginians in desperate need of work without raising taxes."

As a result of McDonnell's transportation package, more than \$3 billion in additional funding has been provided in this year's SYIP to accelerate and advance many phases of the projects included on the governor's illustrative list. Examples of projects include: - Much-needed and long-sought urban and secondary project phases, such as: Replacing the Lesner Bridge, widening Lynnhaven Parkway, and improvements to Holland Road and Witch Duck Road in the Hampton Roads District.

## Coming Soon to Bayfront Beach: Our Own Beach Wheelchair

**T**he Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments are finalizing plans to place a beach wheelchair at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp. From Brian Solis, of the P & R department comes this: "...the transfer point for wheelchairs will be on the overlook area where the boardwalk exits from beneath the east side of the Lesner Bridge at the main east beach area — at the closest point to the beach before heading down the perpendicular ramp.

The beach access wheelchair will be chained/locked to the boardwalk railing. Beach wheelchair users will first visit the facility office to sign out the beach access wheelchair by leaving behind their identification and getting a key. They can then use their own wheelchair to make their way down to the overlook to unlock the beach access wheelchair and lock their wheelchair. These measures should address issues of sand, salt, and lack of security.

The beach access wheelchair will be generally available from dawn to dusk. It will be in a locked storage building away from the elements and secured overnight and will be brought out to the beach access landing each morning by staff as part of their normal morning duties. We just ask for everyone's patience as the one staff person's availability is stretched among two facilities. Also, we will adjust the process as needed if the beach access wheelchair use becomes more popular, etc.

Public Works has indicated that they are looking at the beach transition from the edge of the ramp onto the beach to adjust the grade as needed."

This new addition will benefit not only wheelchair users, but also those who rely on a walker for mobility. Kudos to Parks and Recreation and to Public Works! It is hoped that there will be plenty of public announcements when all is in place.



# Membership has its rewards

## *OPCL members eligible for discount program*



Terry Gearhart  
Membership Chair

The Ocean Park Civic League has started distributing membership cards to residents who have paid their 2011 dues. Additionally, we have started reaching out to local businesses to encourage them to support the OPCL by offering discounts to those who show their membership card.

This is just another great benefit for the mere \$15 annual family dues. Let's see if we can't convince some local vendors to do business with their neighbors! Any and all help is very much appreciated!

We're just getting started, so we're hoping to really grow this list in the coming months. But thanks to our first two vendors to step up!

**Tidewater Insulators (455-5680)** is offering a 10% discount on any attic or crawl space insulation package. Contact Donna Prince if you're ready to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

And **Let's Paint! at Thoroughgood Commons (615-8148)** is offering a 15% discount to members who pre-pay for a class using PayPal. Upon arriving at the first class and showing your membership card, a 15% credit will be issued. Contact Pamela DePaoli for more information.

Thanks again to these new sponsors. If you know of someone who may be interested in offering our members a discount to drive some local business to them, please have them contact Pat Mirani at [triciao730@cox.net](mailto:triciao730@cox.net) or Terry Gearhart at [tgearpsu@gmail.com](mailto:tgearpsu@gmail.com) and we'll get them a Sponsor Form!

## **Better Late Than Never: Winners of 2010 Holiday Lights Contest**

- **Most Outlandish:** 3651 Dupont Circle. Holiday music display.
- **Best Balcony:** 10<sup>th</sup> floor Chesapeake House facing Shore Drive  
**Close contender:** 1st floor neighbor of Chesapeake House & 3752/54 Powhatan Ave.
- **Best Use of Blow Ups:** 3821 Surry Road. Large Santa, Sponge Bob, Cat in the Hat & Grinch
- **Best Door:** 3900 Whooping Crane Road. Large Santa knocking on the roof  
**Close Contender:** 2200 Dinwiddie Road
- **Charlie Brown:** 3908 West Stratford Rd. Small tree out a window  
**Close contender:** 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window of Chesapeake House

Pictures posted at [opcl.org](http://opcl.org) under "Recent Posts"



# Who needs boater education?

The law has changed. To operate a jet ski or other motor boat, you, your children, or grandchildren may need to take this course.

In 2007, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law to establish a boating safety education compliance requirement. This requirement will be phased in over the next several years and by 2016, all operators of PWCs (Personal Watercraft such as jet skis, Sea Doos, Wave Runners) and operators of Motorboats with a 10 hp or greater motor, will be required to have a boating safety education course completion card on board when operating a PWC or Motorboat. As of July 1, 2010, operators of PWCs 35 years and younger must show proof that they have completed a boating safety course. On July 2, 2011, operators of PWCs 50 and younger and operators of motorboats 20 and younger must show proof that they have completed a boating safety course.

## Virginia Boating Safety Education Classroom Course

Monday, May 9  
AND  
Wednesday May 11

You must attend  
BOTH days

6-9 pm

## Course Description

This course is recommended for motivated students age 12 and older with good reading and comprehension skills who want to learn more about the fundamentals of safe and responsible boating. Course materials are on a 6th grade reading level.

The course is sponsored by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 83, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). Subjects covered are Choosing the Right Boat, Boat Hulls, Motors, Legal Requirements, Navigation Rules, Cruising, Docking, Anchoring, Knots, Accidents, Alcohol Consumption, Fire on Board, Weather, Trailering, Water Sports, and Personal Watercraft.

A typical Boater Education course lasts 6-8 hours with exam time depending on the class location and instructor. (Monday night and Wednesday night). There is a test on Wednesday night.

The course is free, but registration is required. Each graduate earns a wallet card showing successful completion of the class and is registered with the DGIF Education Division in Richmond. This course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard. Instructors are certified by the DGIF. Most major insurance companies endorse the course and allow insurance premium discounts to graduates. This course meets the requirements of the new Virginia Boating Safety Laws.

For information and to register, contact Cookie at 385-2914 or [douglas.duggan@vbcert.net](mailto:douglas.duggan@vbcert.net). Please let your friends and family know about this class. We have room for 200 people to attend.







## *Crawl Out of Hibernation*

**Our second annual Crawl Out event was a great success. About 80 Ocean Park residents showed to enjoy each others' company, make new friends, and build a stronger community.**

**Special thanks to Salty C's for hosting us, Taylor's Do It Center and Sal's Pizzeria for their generous donations of door prizes. We plan to concentrate our efforts into making our annual Crawl Out and December Holiday Lights Contest bigger and better, and therefore, we have decided to forgo this year's summer BBQ. In addition, we'd like to welcome Lauren Bennis as a new social committee member. — Dove Payman, Social Committee Chair**



# The Bay Needs Homeowners To Help

## Three, low-cost ways we all can help

By Jill Doczi

**In 2010, The "State of the Bay Report" issued by the University of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation had promising results for the first time in years. Both agencies rate the overall health of the Bay at it's best since 2002.**

**Indicators of health included the increases in the crab population, more disease resistance in oysters and steady progress for underwater grasses, which were once devastated by pollution. This is all excellent news. Finally, slowly, efforts began tipping the balance in favor of the Bay.**

But the overall health index of the Bay is still 31 out of 100 so the Bay still needs attention. Health departments sill warn people to stay out of the water for 48 hours after a heavy rain. While larger forces have fought successfully to reduce pollution from all sources, only one significant source has not decreased--urban/suburban run-off. This includes contaminants, yard waste, fertilizers and pet waste.

What an interesting challenge to residents in Ocean Park. We benefit directly from the health of the bay. Those of us who play in the Bay risk illness if there is contamination. Our residents have bad fishing days if crab and fish populations become unhealthy. We can make a difference in the last hurdle to conquer. It is a simple case of education and lifestyle change. There are three simple, low-to-no-cost ways we all can help.

### **1. Keep streets and storm drains clean. Don't put ANYTHING in them.**

They are for water only and drain directly into the Bay without treatment. Even the drains that go to a pump station are releasing untreated water. Rake up debris in the street and throw it away or compost it. Not only does this help the Bay, but it also helps the storm drains to drain. We all appreciate drainage after experiencing flooding in recent years. We all have access to rakes and brooms. If you don't have one, borrow one. Start a clean-up rotation with the neighbors immediately adjacent to the storm drains and this becomes even less of an effort. Free and easy.

### **2. Clean up after your pets.**

Pet waste equals more nitrogen, which kills the health of the Bay. Pet waste is a primary source of pollution to the Bay. Besides, it's just plain disgusting and causes disease, flies, smell, and mess. This is especially true for pet owners who don't leash their pets. If your dog runs ahead of you, you can't tell if you need to clean anything up or not. There is a common misconception that pickup is unnecessary in the grassy road-sides, wooded areas, empty lots and the dunes. The term "pickup-free zones" gets used in reference to these locations. There are no "pickup-free zones." Pick up every time and you are helping the Bay for free.

**Continued on next page**





# Zoning UPDATE

## **3784 Jefferson Blvd**

Applicant sought approval from the Virginia Beach Wetlands board to build two duplexes with decks and paved parking involving a coastal primary sand dune. Several residents in Ocean Park voiced concerns over the request and hired an attorney to oppose. The zoning committee reviewed the concerns and agreed that the alteration of the primary sand dune was not in the best interest of Ocean Park residents and could potentially impair the natural protection afforded by the dune and eventually subject Ocean Park properties to coastal flooding. As a result, the zoning committee asked the Executive Board to contribute \$500 towards the legal fees to oppose the request. The Virginia Beach Wetlands Board denied the request in December.

## **3584 E. Stratford Road**

Requests a variance to allow 11 parking spaces instead of 30 spaces as required (Proposed Restaurant) on Lots 1 & 2, Ocean Park. The former Jimmy's Pizza and Crab Creek Pizza were operating in the facility under a convenience store permit. The new owner is seeking approval to operate a Sushi Bar, which requires additional parking. The applicant has agreed not to use the second level as service area and will direct overflow into the adjacent city parking lot if needed. The application is not opposed by the OPCL-ZRC but was deferred until March to finish details of the proposal.

## **The Bay Needs Homeowners To Help**

### **Three, low-cost ways we all can help**

#### **3. Test your soil.**

This is the only cost-incurring suggestion. Yes, it will cost a few dollars and it is inconvenient to go the extension office or a public library, but you can easily test your soil to pinpoint exactly what nutrients it needs before spending the money on fertilizer. Excessive fertilizer use by homeowners is a primary source of pollution for the Bay. Do you know how much of what specific fertilizer you need for your garden or lawn? If you send a sample of dirt to the extension agency, they will tell you what you need, when to apply it and how much to apply. You will save money by purchasing only what you need and not over purchasing and using fertilizer and amendments in a blanket application. If you use a service, you can pass this information on to them. Most services don't test your soil. They just apply general and possibly unnecessary fertilizer. To make this process simple, you may pick up soil test kits with instructions at the OPCL Fireworks Donation Table at the Neighborhood Crawl Out in March. Send it away with a \$10 fee and receive a report back. Simple, effortless and inexpensive (think of the money you'll save on unnecessary applications).

If we start simply, smartly and with awareness of our actions and their effects we can all sit back this summer with our feet in the sand and look out over a healthier Chesapeake Bay knowing that we made a difference.

For more information on soil testing or lawns visit the following links:

[http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/files/pages/Spring\\_2009\\_Insert.pdf](http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/files/pages/Spring_2009_Insert.pdf)

<http://www.soiltest.vt.edu/soiltest.html>



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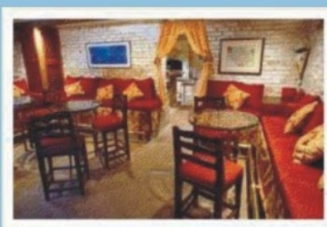






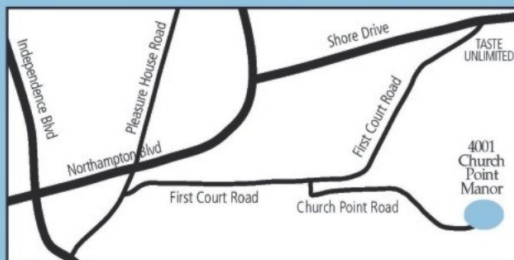
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# Ocean Park History Project Virginia Beach, Virginia

## THE USO IN OCEAN PARK?

By Nadine Costenbader

[nadinecos@aol.com](mailto:nadinecos@aol.com)



Three different women who lived in Ocean Park at about the same time have, in one form or another, mentioned working at the USO that was in Ocean Park. Does anyone have any idea where this organization may have been located?

I went to the USO website, which is very cool, by the way, and copied the history section below. According to that, it could not have been before 1941 which doesn't seem to fit with what I know about the lives of these women.

In the late 40's and into the 50's I can recall a sign on what is now the Ocean Park Business Building on the corner of East Stratford Rd and Shore Dr having a neon sign that read "The Anchor Club." It was a dark green anchor shape outlined with neon. The sign never worked that I recall and for most of that period, it seems to me the building was unoccupied.

Supporting America's troops was the first mission of the USO. In 1941, as it became clear that the nation was heading into World War II, several organizations mobilized to support the growing U.S. military: the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created synergy among these agencies by forming the United Service Organizations, with the objective of providing the emotional support the troops needed.

Over time, the USO has evolved, developing new programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of the troops and their families, while holding fast to the original mission.

Today, the USO continues to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families, and will continue to be there for them until every one comes home.

Source: USO website

### Advertise in the Ocean Park Echo

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For more information and news related to the Shore Drive Community, sign up for the Shore Drive Voice, a new and improved eNewsletter sponsored by the Shore Drive Community Coalition. It will be distributed no more than once a week.

Go to [sdcc.info](http://sdcc.info). If you have any comments, please send them to my attention at [david@sdcc.info](mailto:david@sdcc.info)

David Williams, Shore Drive Community Coalition President



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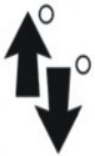
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**OPERATING ACCOUNT**

**OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2011 Budgeted</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Proposed</b>
<b>Starting Balance</b>		<b>\$5,568.22</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Advertising Revenue	\$3,500.00	\$1,450.00	
Fireworks Reimbursement	\$3,000.00		
Money Market Interest Earned	\$500.00	\$86.34	
Membership Dues	\$3,000.00	\$1,425.00	
Raffle Money (Spring Crawl Out)	\$0.00	\$202.00	
Robbins Fund - Community Improvement	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,163.34</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>2011 Budgeted</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	
Fireworks Startup	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	
Virginia Corporation Fees	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Social Events	\$2,500.00	\$1,260.00	
PO Box Annual Fee	\$70.00	\$70.00	
Newsletter/Flyer Printing	\$2,600.00	\$1,296.25	
Umbrella Liability Insurance	\$737.00	\$737.00	
Postage and Mail Supplies	\$10.00		
Online Payment Fees	\$50.00	\$22.50	
SDCC/VBCCO/Other Dues	\$100.00	\$25.00	
Website Construction/Maintenance	\$300.00		
Scholarships	\$1,000.00		
Merchandise Purchase	\$1,000.00		
Pleasure House Point	\$0.00		
General Meeting Refreshments	\$0.00		
Legal Expenses	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Civic League Logo Design	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$108.99	
Miscellaneous Donations (ie Rescue Squad)	\$6,000.00	\$2,500.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$18,392.00</b>	<b>\$9,044.74</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$11,686.82</b>	

**OTHER Accounts:**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses/Debits</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>
<b>Fireworks Fund:</b> Start- ing: \$ 2960.77	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$460.77
<b>Money Market:</b> Start- ing: \$ 50,000.00	\$59.48	\$59.48	\$50,000.00
<b>Robbins Account:</b> Start- ing: \$ 200,552.78	\$4,623.84	\$12,000.00	\$193,176.62

**TOTAL OF ALL OPCL ACCOUNTS (as of 02/22/11):** **\$255,324.21**



# Point. Click. Join.

The Ocean Park Civic League Needs Your Support

Join or Renew Today.

Dues are only \$15 per year

Go to [www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org), or mail this form with your dues to:



Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL)

P.O. Box 55385

Virginia Beach, VA 23471



## OPCL Membership Form

<b>Name:</b>	_____
<b>Address:</b>	_____
<b>Email:</b>	_____
<b>Phone:</b>	_____
<b>Rent:</b> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Own:</b> <input type="radio"/>

Circle areas of interest

Shore Drive Committees Liaison  
Traffic Committee      Newsletter  
Zoning Committee      Social Events Committee

