Ocean Park Echo

Meeting Meeting Meeting

Without volunteers **OPCL** may take hiatus

Ocean Park has been at the center of many important issues over the past few years, and the Civic League has had a positive influence on the outcomes.

However, if we do not have enough participation, the civic league may have to go on hiatus and will not be as effective in protecting our community's interest.

Thursday Nov. 5 7:30 p.m.

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

Social 8:30 p.m. Salty Dog As we come to the close of 2009, I am pleased to report that the Ocean Park Civic League has seen a dramatic increase in membership, and the newsletter has provided residents with information critical issues facing the neighborhood. However, to everyone's disappointment, 2009 has been one of the weakest in the civic league's history for attendance at meetings and participation.

In an effort to boost participation at the Nov. 5, meeting, we will hold a social at Salty Dog restaurant. Food and beverages provided. Please bring a non-perishable food or monetary donation for the Southeastern Foodbank.

aybe it's the lack of a major,

LVL polarizing issue in Ocean Park, or maybe it's just people hunkering down during difficult times. But it's not fair that in a community this size to depend on a dedicated few to carry the load for everyone. The Civic League has been a vital part of this community for many decades and, with many great success stories past and present. I would hate to see what this community would be like without it.

Imagine a bulkheaded beachfront that is under water at high tide, a half finished 1,500 unit ghost town at Pleasure House Point and sludge-filled dump trucks rolling through all day long.

The OPCL board and a handful of members have spent countless hours and made sacrifices to serve Ocean Park residents. But when it's time to ask for a few more volunteers to chip in, there are few around. This year many board positions are vacant. We need residents of Ocean Park to volunteer to serve on the board and chair committees. If we do not have volunteers, the OPCL may have to go on hiatus until volunteers step forward.

- Mike Wills, OPCL President

Board of Directors

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At Large Rep

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> Newsletter Susan Terpay upsmt@cox.net

Webmaster Jim Royall jgroyall@yahoo.com

Three ways to stay connected to important Ocean Park news that could impact you

1. Attend the Nov. 5 OPCL meeting, and bring your

neighbors. We will be preparing for officer elections and need members for the nomination committee and candidates to run for office. After several years of much appreciated, dedicated service, some key board members will not seek re-election. We hope that you will consider stepping up or encouraging your neighbors to help preserve Ocean Park as the best community in Virginia Beach.

2. Protect your home. Be a block captain for the Neighborhood Watch program. Sign up neighbors on your street.

3. Send us your email. Receive the newsletter electronically and get important updates on issues that could affect your neighborhood. We promise that we will not bombard you with general community information or advertisements. If you would like your name removed from this list, please respond with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject. If you are still a resident, but have not renewed your membership, it's just \$15 annually. To make it more convenient to keep your membership current we now have a link to **Google Check-out and Paypal at OPCL.org.**

Ocean Park Civic League 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009

Old Business:

Status of Pound Net Appeal

Neighborhood Watch/Membership Drive

Web site-PayPal, Google

Email Communications

New Business:

Law Enforcement

July Fireworks

Election Committee

Committee Reports:

Finance and Zoning: (Mike Wills)

Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) and

Bayside Advisory Committee (Grace Moran)

Social Events

VBCCO: (Barb Pritchard)

Membership (Rick Mercadante)

Website (Jim Royall)

Bayfront News

By Grace Moran

Bayfront Advisory Committee

Next meeting: Nov. 19, at 3:30 p.m. at Bayside Recreation Center. Scheduled speaker will be Captain Bill Crow, Commander, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. Also presenting will be Dave Jrman, who heads up the City's Shore Drive Improvements, including Phases II-IV, and the Lesner Bridge Replacement.

At the Oct. 15 BAC meeting, revisions to the draft of City's Comprehensive Plan Update, which must be approved by City Council before the end of 2009, were discussed. (The draft can be viewed by visiting www.vbgov.com/planning and clicking on Comprehensive Plan Update.

If you visit the site, you will want to look at Chapter 3, pages 3 - 7 and 3 - 8.) Suggested revisions to the Comp Plan should be delivered to the Planning mission before the next Planning Commission meeting Nov. 12.

Once the Planning Commission meets, the draft will be revised and presented to City Council.

Also good to know, access to the BAC Webpage has been improved. If you use vbgov.com/bayfront, it will take you to all the background information about what the City has planned for the Bayfront area over the years. A great research tool to\evaluate how we're doing on getting where we need to be.

Finally, although BAC meetings start at 3:30 p.m., the opportunity for public comments does not occur until after the agenda has been disposed, often near 5 p.m., so if you have something to bring forward, you might still make it after work. If not, you will find a link to the phone numbers of BAC members at the vbgov.com/bayfront Webpage.

Shore Drive Community Coalition

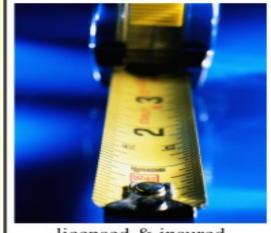
Last Monday, October 26, saw the grand unveiling of a concept for Pleasure House Point, if the property on Pleasure House Creek falls out of the hands of the Indigo Dunes people.

Much is still unknown about where the control of the property will wind up, but a contingent of dreamers have developed a concept for using the space as an environmental learning center. An environmental learning center with surrounding open space could provide a small revenue stream and increase Bayfront home values that when combined with infrastructure (6-lane Shore Drive, larger city water and sewer lines, etc.) cost avoidances will result in a viable alternative to a large residential/commercial development. This is a work-in-progress and SDCC would like to hear from all OP residents about what you would like to see and what you would like to do to help.

Continued

Ocean Park Civic League Volunteer Opportunities

Position	Term	Responsibilities	Time requirement
At-Large Representative (Voting Executive Board Member)	2010-2011	Attend monthly meetings, represent membership	2 hrs./bi-monthly
Block Captains (50) / Neighborhood Watch	Open-ended	Distribute newsletters/ flyers/assist with Neighborhood Watch	2 Hrs/bi-monthly
Social Committee	Open-ended	Plan OPCL social events 3 to 4 per year	4 hours/quarter
Welcome Wagon	Open-ended	Identify and deliver Welcome packages to new OP residents	1 hour per month
Door Prizes/Refreshments	Open-ended	Solicit donations from local businesses for raffles	1 hour/bi-monthly
Nomination Committee	Until election	Identify potential candi- dates for board	1 hour/month
Audit Committee	Jan-March 2010	Audit OPCL membership rolls and finances	4 hours 1x per year
CAC representative	Open-ended	Attend monthly 3 rd Precinct and Citizens' meetings	2 hours/month



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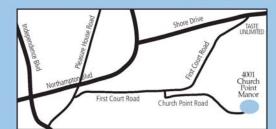
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Local Payroll Service National Recognition



November 2009 Ocean Park Echo

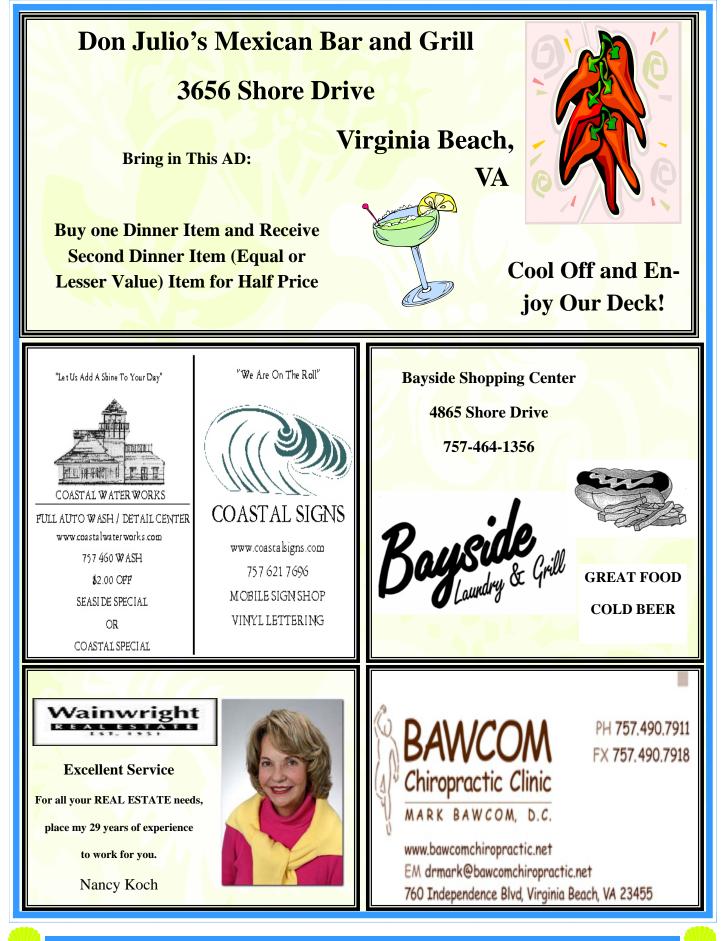


Recycling Quiz

- It's okay to bag your recycling materials in a plastic bag.
- It's good to put the empty margarine tubs, the cottage cheese containers and similarly shaped plastic tubs in the recycling bin, as long as they're clean.
- You have to take out the staples and rip out those glassine envelope windows before you recycle.
- It's okay to leave the lids on the plastic soda bottles and the milk containers.
- It's not okay to recycle food containers, only drink bottles.
- Pizza boxes are perfect for recycling

ANSWERS: All are false. Plastic bags gum up the machinery, making work stop while the works are cleaned out. Only plastic with a neck or a spout, like a soda bottle or a laundry detergent container is acceptable. The equipment can handle staples and the glassine windows. Those lids turn into projectiles when the plastic containers are squeezed flat, creating a hazard for workers. Food containers of metal can be recycled, as can plastic bottles like salad dressing bottle with a neck or a spout, as long as they are free of food residue. Any kind of clear, green or brown glass is okay. Pizza boxes are NOT okay, unless food has not touched the cardboard.

It costs \$30 per ton to recycle, \$50 to send it to the landfill and \$65 to incinerate it. Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour! Most are thrown away. If all our newspapers were recycled, we could save 250, million trees annually. We use 80 billion aluminum soda cans per year. More aluminum goes into soda cans than any other product. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1 million sea creatures every year! Source: TFC Recycling, Chesapeake, VA



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Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch program needs your help! Consider serving as a block captain – a great way to meet and keep in touch with neighbors. Contacts:

Northside: Alan Gaskins, msva92@aol.com Southside: Sid Vaughn, esvaughn2@cox.net



OPCL Finance Update

We have two CDs up for renewal. One for \$50,000, pledged to the Ocean Park Rescue Squad for construction of a new building at the existing site. The other is \$25,000 set aside to fund efforts to preserve Pleasure House Point as open space, of which \$5,000 has been appropriated to challenge the pound net permits. We expect to renew in short-term CDs soon.

It's been a little over a year since the Robbins' Legacy Account was established with \$180,000. The account holds \$186,500, allocated to 75% fixed income/ cash and 25% equity/balanced funds. The account is generating a little over \$6,000/ year in interest and dividends, which is available for community projects. We encourage your ideas for funding community projects.

The OPCL voted to assume responsibility of the Louise and George Lyon Memorial Scholarship from the recently retired Ocean Park Woman's Club. We expect to award two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving seniors from Virginia Beach Public Schools this spring. If you would like to serve on the selection committee, please let us know. — Mike Wills, OPCL President

City Page Online

THE CITY'S NEW EMAIL NEWSLETTER. TWICE A MONTH, DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX.

Sign up at: vBgov.com/citypage

News – **Events** – **Issues**

CITY SERVICES

Ocean Park Memories

Seafood seven days a week!

Crabs, spot, croaker, deviled conch (whelk), fried roe with eggs, and corned spot (cured with salt-like bacon). All fished from the Chesapeake Bay.

A recent discussion of childhood memories about growing up in Ocean Park started with food and the wonderful bounty that was available. Lifelong residents Gaynelle Ayers, Frankie Sykes and her mother, Mirium Horton, sat down with Ocean Park Historical Committee members Susan Spears and Anne Kane to share their memories.

Gaynelle remembers her mother wanting clam chowder for dinner so she would send the kids outside with a shovel and rake to capture fresh clams that were abundant and delicious. Fresh vegetables came to the neighborhood by the "vegetable man," who sold produce from his truck. Ice cream vendors and even a bakery truck would sell goods to the neighborhood. There was an egg factory off Shell Road. Frankie remembers the joy of 25 cents worth of penny candy purchased at the little corner market called Morris's Grocery and, later, Nock's Grocery. Mrs. Nock still lives in Baylake Pines. When fisherman put out their drag nets, they would capture maybe a bushel of crabs, a shark, sea horses, all sorts of delicacies from the sea. Gaynelle remembers her father selling fish at the Navy yard, and people coming to her home to buy fish.

The surrounding woods -densely treed -- was a child's paradise for building forts and playing. The YMCA was a huge building (where Water Oaks is now). Ice cream, soda, frozen snickers, cute lifeguards, and nuns swimming in their habits were there. A jukebox completed the summer evening.

The Ocean Park Volunteer Fire Department, which started in 1946, was truly all-volunteer. When the siren blasted, it was so loud that it would wake the whole neighborhood even at 2 a.m., and everyone would go to the fire station. It was like a men's club, sort of a rite of passage to volunteer at the station.

City water didn't reach Ocean Park until 1962. Before that, there was well water that didn't smell good, or one could go to Bayville Farms where there was an artesian well. Folks would bring a five-gallon jug to fill for drinking and cooking. Kids would pet the cows while their parents got a few days' drinking water.

Frankie remembers going to school one morning and being rescued that evening by her Dad in an Army Duck from Fort Story. It was the Ash Wednesday storm of 1962. Gaynelle was on the phone when water suddenly came into her home. Ocean Park residents were taken to a shelter by the Army Duck. Shore Drive was flooded. The storm hit at high tide. **Continued**

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."

2 locations: Shore Drive & inside Prince Books, Main St., Norfolk





Mrs. Horton has seen it all. She still resides in her family home, which was built in 1932. After the 1962 storm, she moved her house further up on her lot (away from the beach). She recalls scouting for airplanes during war times from the tower of the Firehouse.

For more information about scouting for planes off our coast during wartime, **go to: www.sandlapper.org/planes.pdf.** There used to be a bowling alley on Jefferson Blvd (formerly known as Route 1) where she sometimes bowled and helped set the pins.

Mrs. Horton believes her homestead was originally purchased from the Ocean Park development company. There is a plat that shows the Ocean Park development company purchased what is now known as the Ocean Park neighborhood from the University of Virginia in the early 1900's.

This article was written by Susan Spears from the memories of Gaynelle Ayers, Frankie Sykes, and Mirium Horton October 1, 2009. If you have information or memories of Ocean Park history that you would like to share please contact the Ocean Park historical committee, which includes Susan Spears, <u>susan.spears@cox.net</u>, Anne Kane, <u>Anne-OPCL@cox.net</u>, and Nadine Costenbader, <u>nadinecos@aol.com</u>

Zoningeres

The committee is aware of two variance requests on the BZA agenda for Nov. 4. We will be conducting a review and sending our comments to the BZA.

- ⁽²⁾ **3656 Seagull Bluff Drive,** requests a variance to a 6.5 foot side yard setback (East side) instead of 10 feet as required (Proposed Elevator).
- 3782 Jefferson Boulevard, requests a variance to a 4-foot side yard setback (East and West sides) instead of 8-feet each as required and to an 8-foot rear yard setback (South side) instead of 20 feet as required and to 39.4 feet in building height instead of 35 feet in building height as allowed (Proposed Single Family Dwelling).
- ⁽¹⁾ OPCL has forwarded a letter to the Dept of ABC opposing the lifting of restrictions on Don Julios' license.
- The city has declared the bayfront Jefferson/Powhattan duplex in violation for lack of progress as required.
- ⁽¹⁾ City inspectors have declared the red "antique" shop on Shore Dr. next to Chix Custom Cycles uninhabitable and is trying to work with the owner to remedy the current situation.

If you would like to express your comments and concerns on zoning issues in Ocean Park please contact Mike Wills or any OPCL officer.



Shore Drive Community Coalition (Continued)

If you did not get to the SDCC meeting, please visit www.savephp.com to review the concept. Comments on the effort can also be made at www.sdcc.info.

In addition, the meeting last Monday also addressed the draft Comprehensive Plan Update. Language relative to Chapter 3, pages 7 and 8, were discussed, as well as the lack of attention to the shortcomings of Shore Drive as a major FEMA evacuation route.

Quite a number of Shore Drive issues are still hanging out as the year ends. The Shore Drive Safety Initiative, an effort to make pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists safer, continues. The Lesner Bridge replacement plan has not fully addressed the concerns of the impacted residents. The Pound Net placement is still not favorable to residents of Ocean Park, Baylake Pines nor Chesapeake Beach. Bikes and Trails study has not been dealt with. And we haven't even started with those LED signs that are popping up here and there. Or monitoring noise ordinance compliance.

With so many issues on the burners, there's bound to be one that resonates with you. Visit www.sdcc.info to chime in with what you think.

More than 600 stolen GPS systems

Did you know that the Virginia Beach Police Department has received more than 600 reports of stolen GPS systems? Most of the thefts could have been prevented if the owners removed the device from the car windshield.

The VBPD also suggests rubbing the suction cup ring off the windshield. This will deter potential thieves from opening the unlocked door, or worse, breaking a window.

With the holidays just around the corner, remember to remove all valuables from eyes' view, lock your car doors, and park in a well-lit area.

Theft is on the Rise...Report Suspicious Activity

For events that are life-threatening or immediately damaging to property, call 911. To report suspicious activity, use the non-emergency number: 385-5000

The most important information needed by the police is:

- What happened
- When
- Where
- If anyone is hurt?
- **Description**(s) of suspect(s)
- Direction of travel
- If there are any weapons involved
- License numbers and description(s) of vehicle(s)

By acting quickly and calmly, your call could stop a crime. Don't dwell on your possible embarrassment if your call should prove to be unfounded. Think instead of what could have happened if you had not called.

-A message from the Virginia Beach Police Department



Ocean Park Real Estate Activity since 5/1/09 Pending Sales: Listing Price Sales Price 3803 Clipper Bay Drive \$218,900 2125 Whispering Sands Lane 249,800 2208 Tideway Court 329,900 3987 W Stratford Road 389,900 Sold: 3750 Pendleton Avenue \$ 239,500 \$ 222,800 3745 Chesterfield Avenue 254,900 256,000 2204 Wood Ibis Way 305,000 300,000 2210 Hermit Thrush Lane 310,000 300,000 2201 Wood Ibis Way 319,900 310,000 2209 Tideway 339,900 320,000 2200 Dinwiddie Road 339,900 333,000 3585 Piedmont 404,000 399,000 2305 Rookery Way 419,000 419,000 3749 Stratford Road W 429,000 387,000 **Provided** by 2074 Tazewell Road 599,900 570,000 **REIN MLS** 2072 Tazewell Road 624,900 575,000 **Carol Collins** 3800 DuPont Circle #202 679,000 567,000 **Rose and Womble Realty**

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630,000

770,000

788,000

799,000

3800 DuPont Circle #302

3808 Jefferson Boulevard



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Dues are only \$15 per year per household

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