Ocean Park Echo

OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE SEPTEMBER 2011

MEETING

Thursday, Sept. 8

7:30 pm

Ocean Park
Fire & Rescue
Virginia Beach Police Officer
Marcus Johnson
from the 3rd Precinct

INSIDE

Ocean Park celebrates with red, white, and blue



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 15: Bayfront Advisory Committee, 3:30 pm

Sept. 26: Shore Drive Community Coalition, 7:30 pm

Oct. 5: Lynnhaven River Now Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm





At Kroger on Shore Drive, the bread aisle was bare by Aug. 25.

Hurricane Irene

The region's worst hurricane in years slammed into Hampton Roads and eastern North Carolina Saturday, Aug. 27, leaving in its wake several deaths, destroyed homes and widespread power outages and flooding. The hurricane downed trees, closed roads, including major bridges and tunnels. In Ocean Park, we were very lucky. For most of us, the storm just brought a lot of yard work and a 30-hour power outage.

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Message from OPCL President



I hope everyone had a great summer and managed to survive Hurricane Irene. I know first hand that hurricanes are especially worrisome for Ocean Park residents. I trust that everyone is reaching out to their neighbors in both preparing for the coming storm and repairing in its aftermath.

Well it is time to begin another year for the OPCL. I hope that folks will come to the September meeting to let us know what is on your minds. I hope everyone enjoyed the July 4 fireworks on July 9. They were even more spectacular than last year. Mother Nature just did not want us to have them during the July 4 parties. Thanks to Jill Doczi for collecting the donations to pay for the fireworks and thanks to all who donated. Please let us hear any feedback about the fireworks. If there is something we can do to improve, please let us know.

At the November OPCL meeting we will have Barbara Duke from the Department of Parks and Recreation as a guest speaker to give us an update on Pleasure House Point. At the September meeting I hope to have Officer Marcus Johnson from the VBPD speak and answer questions from members.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the leash law applied on our beach. I apologize for being mistaken. Dogs must be under the control of their owners but are not required to be on a leash on the Ocean Park beach. I am sorry for the mistake.

What issues do you want the civic league to address this year? Please come to the meeting and let us know. Terry Gearhart, who is our membership chairman, has been working hard to build a data base of email addressed for residents of Ocean Park. We hope you appreciate the messages and announcements he is distributing regarding our neighborhood. If you are not receiving them, then please let us know your email address! I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Busy day? We can help.

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It's so easy. Point. Click. Join OPCL.

Just a friendly reminder that annual membership dues for the Ocean Park Civic League are only \$15 per family.

Our membership year runs from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 so the earlier in the year you pay your dues, the more benefits you receive.

For a membership application and easy way to pay your dues through Pay Pal (even if you don't have a Pay Pal account!), go to www.opcl.org. Click on the "Join/Pay" link in the top menu bar.

If you use Pay Pal, please take an extra minute and fill out the membership application (available as a PDF download on the same link), and mail it in. This gives us a bit more information for our records, and we can match this up with your Pay Pal payment.

With your email address, we can make sure you're getting those all-important emails from OPCL. Even if you aren't a "paid" member of the OPCL, please consider sending your email address to Membership Chair, Terry Gearhart, at tgearpsu@gmail.com so he can add you to this important email list.

\$15 OPCL family membership has benefits.... chocolate, art, insulation

One of the benefits of your OPCL membership is that we solicit sponsors who provide discounts to our card-carrying OPCL members! Those sponsors for 2011 are: Let's Paint, Royal Chocolate, and Tidewater Insulators. They are also listed on our website, www.opcl.org under the Sponsors link. We appreciate our sponsors - but we need more!

We're looking for some OPCL members who can help with a sponsor drive in the fourth quarter, so that starting Jan. 1, we'll have a great list of restaurants, bars, retailers and service providers offering discounts to our members. It's a great way to leverage your \$15 per family annual dues! Can you help by just agreeing to call on two to three Shore Drive businesses? If so, please contact Terry Gearhart at tgearpsu@gmail.com and he'll hook you up with the 2012 sponsor form. We'd appreciate your help. Local businesses need our business, and this is a great way to bring customers in!

If you paid your 2011 dues but never got your membership card, it may be that we had your name when you joined, but not your address. If you know you paid and didn't get your 2011 OPCL Membership Card, please contact Terry Gearhart at the email address above with your information and we'll get that card out to you!

It was a spectacular July 9th



azing has become an amazing tradition. This year's show turned has has become an amazing tradition. This year's show turned out more spectacular.

THE DONATIONS STARTED OFF VERY SLOWLY in March with the

"Neighborhood Crawl Out," and didn't really take off until the warm weather got here. We have to book the date in advance and make a down payment to reserve it, so we were forced to borrow \$5,000 earlier in the year from the Ocean Park Civic League. The Fireworks Fund promptly paid that money back first and went on to achieve our goal of raising money for the show and the down payment for 2012. From now on, the fireworks show will be self-sufficient as long as we raise the exact amount to cover the show each year.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THOSE WHO DONATED. We know that you put your trust in the committee each year that you will get your money's worth, and I believe you have. A big thanks to the businesses that donated in the \$100 to \$500 dollar range: Colley Marine, Crawl Space Door Systems, Lynnhaven Masonry and Miller Remodeling. Also the businesses that agreed to collect checks: 7-11, Colley Marine and Chic, Cheap Resale Boutique.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE NEIGHBORS when you need products and services. Aeries on the Bay came through with a check for \$500. Our big personal donations are numerous, and in respect for privacy, I will just mention the amounts. We received four \$500 donations, two \$250 donations, nine \$200 donations, three \$150 donations and 36 \$100 donations. While every donation helped, these households showed incredible generosity. I will say that my most meaningful donation was from a man on disability who gave me the three dollars he had in his truck and said, "It's all I can spare, but I have to tell you, I love those fireworks and the Fourth of July."

THE ONLY MISHAP WAS THE WEATHER, which was completely out of our control.... but it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I stopped counting at 40, but many people told me that they wished the show could always be the Saturday after or the Saturday before the actual Fourth of July. Because of the rescheduled date, it became more like Fourth of July celebrations from years' past when it was only our neighbors, friends and family. There were no parking issues, no space issues on the beach, no crimes (that I've heard of) and it seemed more relaxed and casual. Let me know what you think about this idea or any other comments you may have. You may post messages on the Ocean Park Civic League Facebook page, send an email to the Ocean Park Civic League, send me an email personally or tell me when you see me around the neighborhood.

A FEW GREAT IDEAS DEVELOPED during our second year besides the idea of moving the date. We could benefit from a REAL Fireworks Committee. Anyone interested, let me know. Planning cannot start too soon. Also, we need ambassadors on the south side of Shore Drive and in the high rises. If anyone is still hanging on to our signs, please return them to 3967 W. Stratford Road. Only 13 of 20 came back. They are meant to last for many years. I enjoyed my time riding around the neighborhood and meeting neighbors. In my opinion, this fireworks show was the best we've had to date, and I hope we can continue to put on a great show.

By Jill Doczi
BY JILL DOCZI, jilldoczi@aol.com

OCEAN PARK

4TH OF JULY PARADE















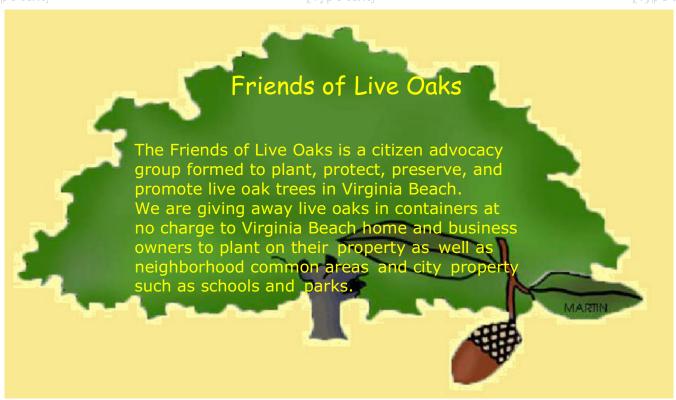




Ocean Park Treasurer's Report

UPDATED 08/29/11

OPERATING ACCOUNT Item Starting Balance	2011 Budgeted	2011 Actual \$5,568.22	2012 Proposed
Income Advertising Revenue Fireworks Reimbursement Money Market Interest Earned Membership Dues Raffle Money (Spring Crawl Out) Robbins Fund - Community Improvement	\$3,500.00 \$3,000.00 \$500.00 \$3,000.00 \$12,000.00	\$2,275.00 \$2,500.00 \$231.17 \$1,915.00 \$202.00 \$12,000.00	
Total Income	\$22,000.00	\$19,123.17	\$0.00
Item SDCC/VBCCO/Other Dues Fireworks Startup Online Payment Fees Legal Expenses Miscellaneous Donations (ie Rescue Squad) PO Box Annual Fee Newsletter/Flyer Printing Social Events Umbrella Liability Insurance Virginia Corporation Fees Postage and Mail Supplies Website Construction/Maintenance Scholarships Merchandise Purchase Pleasure House Point General Meeting Refreshments Civic League Logo Design Miscellaneous Expenses	\$100.00 \$3,000.00 \$50.00 \$0.00 \$6,000.00 \$70.00 \$2,600.00 \$737.00 \$25.00 \$10.00 \$300.00 \$1,000.00 \$0.00 \$1,000.00	\$50.00 \$2,500.00 \$32.86 \$867.90 \$2,500.00 \$70.00 \$1,774.25 \$1,260.00 \$737.00 \$25.00 \$1,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,392.00	\$11 , 166 . 00	\$0.00
Ending Balance		\$13,525.39	
OTHER Accounts: Fireworks Fund: Starting: \$ 2960.77 Money Market: Starting: \$ 50,000.00 Robbins Account: Starting: \$ 200,552.78 TOTAL OF ALL OPCL ACCOUNTS (as of 08/29/11):	Income \$13,608.16 \$25,231.17 \$7,790.96	\$10,641.01 \$231.17 \$12,000.00	Current Balance \$5,927.92 \$75,000.00 \$196,343.74



The trees are in three to 10 gallon posts and are 2-4 feet tall. The group offers free delivery as well as instructions and assistance in planting an caring for the trees. For more information, go to www.friendsofliveoaks.org.

Did you know:

- The average life span for new trees planted in an urban setting is 13 years.
- Live oaks can live for 1,400 years.
- Eight live oaks in Virginia Beach were nominated for inclusion in the book Remarkable Trees of Virginia.
- The live oak was officially named Quercus Virginiana in 1768, meaning "fine tree of Virginia."
- It was a popular food source among Native American tribes.
- Old Ironsides received its nickname during the War of 1812 because its live oak hull was so tough British warships literally bounced off it.
- Live oaks are in the movies. Think Gone with the Wind and Forrest Gump.

Ocean Park History Project

By Nadine Costenbader (Editor's note: This was written just before Hurricane Irene hit Virginia Beach.)

Here within 48 hours or so of the arrival of Hurricane Irene, I found two photos of a much milder storm from the early 50's. My family with our boxer, Rod, walked down to the water where the Lynnhaven boat ramp is now located.

I remember the dog being blown overboard from a wooden wall at the water's edge. No problem for that guy!

In the top photo you can see a picnic shelter where the locals held cookouts and crab feasts. The timbers mark parking places. The dark area to the right of the shelter may be dredging equipment. At one point, Mr. Parham thought he could dredge a channel to allow his rental boats easier access. It filled in almost as fast as he could dredge.

In the lower photo there are upturned rowboats on the right.





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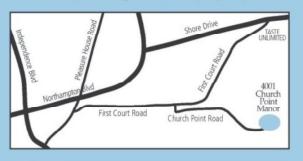






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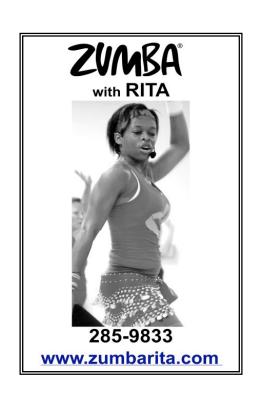
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