



## Important Dates

### Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

Jan 10  
March 27  
May 9  
Sept 5  
Nov 7  
Thursday  
7:30 p.m.  
Ocean Park  
Rescue Squad

### BAC Meeting

Third Thurs  
each month  
Location Varies

### SDCC Meeting

Jan 28  
Feb 25  
7:30 p.m.  
Ocean Park  
Rescue Squad

# Ocean Park Echo

JANUARY 2013



**Egret at  
Pleasure  
House Point.  
Photo taken  
by Kevin  
O'Hara.**

## Lynnhaven River NOW

Lynnhaven River NOW and the city of Virginia Beach need volunteers to mark storm drains throughout Ocean Park.

Identify 20-25 drains that have not been marked as you can and provide a log. As the weather warms up they will provide medallions and a tutorial on how to permanently mark them.

Contact Helen Webb Kuhns at [Helen@lnow.org](mailto:Helen@lnow.org) for more information.

## 3rd Ocean Park Holiday Lights Contest results

**Best Use of Lights 3651-A Dupont Circle**  
**Best Overall Display 3656 East Stratford-**  
**Best Balcony 3752 West Stratford**  
**Best Door/Entryway 2172 Dinwiddie**  
**Road Charlie Brown 2304 Kingbird Lane**

Thank you to everyone in the neighborhood for spreading holiday cheer! On behalf of the OPCL Social Committee, HAPPY HOLIDAYS! If you have suggestions for future Holiday Lights Contest categories, please let Lauren Bennis know and we will consider those for next year!

## Copy of the letter from our mayor to the governor asking for sand replenishment



WILLIAM D. SESSOMS, JR.  
MAYOR

## City of Virginia Beach

**VBgov.com**

MUNICIPAL CENTER  
BUILDING 1  
2401 COURTHOUSE DRIVE  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9000  
(757)385-4581  
FAX (757) 385-5699  
wsessoms@vbgov.com

December 11, 2012

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Subject: Mining Sand for Beach Replenishment along the Chesapeake Bay Beaches**

Dear Governor McDonnell:

The City Council has included an item in its legislative agenda for the 2013 session regarding the mining of sand for beach replenishment along the Chesapeake Bay beaches. I know you are very familiar with this area, especially the severe erosion and loss of property that has taken place due to severe nor'easters and most recently, Hurricane Sandy. The City has been performing nourishment of portions of our Bay beaches utilizing the Lynnhaven Inlet dredged material provided by the Corps of Engineer navigation maintenance projects. Unfortunately, these small sand replenishment efforts occur every third year and, in no way, provide sufficient storm protection for adjacent properties. The most efficient, practical method of creating a Chesapeake Bay Beach Storm Protection Program is by mining sand from nearby sources in the Chesapeake Bay and directly pumping it onto our beaches using a hydraulic dredging process.

We on the Virginia Beach City Council recognizing the importance of creating a long term storm solution for our Bay front communities, appropriated funds for the purpose of conducting a study to determine if there was an engineering solution available by mining sand within the Chesapeake Bay. We are pleased to report that VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences) performed the study for us, and determined that there are ample sources of sand available just short distances from the shoreline. Establishing a replenishment program would provide significant protection to the residential and commercial Bay front beach properties. A copy of the VIMS findings are posted on our City website, VBgov.com, for public review.

Obtaining the environmental permits for mining sand in the Chesapeake Bay has never been requested by the City of Virginia Beach, nor to our knowledge, by our sister city of Norfolk. It is our intent, however, to continue developing a long term storm protection program involving the widening of our Bay front beaches in order to reduce the intensity of storm surge and wave action

Subject: Mining Sand for Beach Replenishment for Chesapeake Beach

December 11, 2012

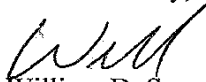
Page 2

impacts to our beaches and dune system. We acknowledge this new program will require permit approvals from at least two state agencies and a consolidated federal permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The City of Virginia Beach has tremendous working partnerships with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is our respectful request that you encourage the state agencies to prioritize streamlining this emerging process for sand mining permits and work collaboratively in establishing the necessary framework for developing an approval process. Rest assured we do not wish to avoid any environmental regulatory compliance issues; however, we recognize state agencies will be challenged to work through the details of creating a new solution for protecting life, property and the economic well-being of our municipalities adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay.

Our request is simply that your administration and subsequently the General Assembly favorably support pursuing the creation of a Bay Front Storm Protection Program which incorporates the replenishment of sand through mining of deposits within the Chesapeake Bay.

The damages along our Chesapeake Bay beaches caused by Hurricane Sandy underscore the critical nature of our request. The City staff has briefed our General Assembly delegation and, along with our community leaders, are available to sponsor a tour of our Bay front beaches so you and your staff can get a first-hand view of our needs and discuss our engineering solutions for enhancing the protection of what we feel is a critical asset to our economy and our quality of life. As always, I am certainly available to talk with you about this new initiative at a time convenient to you. Thank you as always for your great leadership of our Commonwealth.

Most Sincerely,



William D. Sessoms, Jr.

Mayor

WDS/DLH/s

c: The Honorable Scott Rigell, United States House of Representatives  
 The Honorable Members of the Virginia Beach General Assembly Delegation  
 The Honorable Paul Fraim, Mayor of the City of Norfolk  
 The Honorable Members of the Virginia Beach City Council  
 James K. Spore, City Manager  
 Mark Stiles, City Attorney  
 Dave Hansen, Deputy City Manager  
 Robert Matthias, Assistant to the City Manager  
 Phil Davenport, Interim Director, Public Works  
 Kal Kassir, Chairman, Bayfront Advisory Committee

# Temporary bulkhead for Lesner explained

email from Dave Hansen posted unedited with permission:

Kal & Grace,

FYI - The "Temporary Bulkhead" as shown in the permit application and on the current design plans, is designed with steel sheeting with a tie-back system and a concrete cap. The length is approx 400 LF.

Timber is great for residential bulkheads, but it is not adequate for a commercial/ industrial application like this.

Timber would not hold up for the construction duration. The cap would require cleats to tie-off and a timber cap would not provide an adequate anchor for loaded barges, boats, etc., to tie off.

The concrete cap provides more structural stability for the bulkhead design.

This concrete cap bulkhead design is more of a standard section that contractors are used to building.

As an alternate, a more expensive steel cap could be used, but in either scenario (steel or concrete) the cap needs to be more durable than timber.

As promised in my many briefings to your respective organizations we will visit this discussion just past the 50% construction stage to see how we are co-existing with our boating public. Regards, Dave

Dave Hansen  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Virginia Beach

## The SDCC Meeting Wrap Up

The Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) meeting notes for the December 26, 2012 meeting:

**LED Traffic Signs:** The project was presented to The Bayfront Advisory committee two years ago with no public communication since then. Plans to paint the signs black and install wooden guard rails instead of standard VDOT metal rails are reported. It is still unknown how often and for what purposes the signs will be used.

**Bayfront Bulkheading:** Councilman DeSteph provided legislation to send to the state requesting bulkheading of Bayfront properties. It was withdrawn.

**Other issues discussed:** Lesner Bridge Replacement Project, Storm Water Management, Pleasure House Point Lots and the creation of committees within the SDCC to handle the many concerns needing attention in 2013.

## Comings/ Goings

Both neighborhood Christmas Tree Lots that usually operated at the corner of Marlin Bay Drive and Shore Drive and at the little red house on Shore Drive relocated this year. City zoning issues contributed to the change. One moved across the street from Shorebreak Pizza and the other moved to the front lot at Taste Unlimited. In addition, Leaping Lizard added a Christmas Tree lot.

Chic, Cheap Resale Boutique closed and should be bulldozed sometime in January for multiple condominiums.

*Please submit any comings or goings to [www.opclnews@aol.com](mailto:www.opclnews@aol.com). If you just moved into the neighborhood, please introduce yourself and give us your location. Returns will be printed, but, for obvious reasons,*

## January 10 OPCL meeting

### Old Business

Adopt-a-Spot PHP - Contract & Volunteers (Martin & Grace so far)  
Volunteers Needed for OPCL work

### New Business

Marlin Bay Extension - Jennifer Colaizzi

### Committee & Liaison Reports -As Needed:

- Finance (Mike Wills)
- Fireworks (Jill Dozier)
- Membership (Terry Gearhart)
- Social Activities (Lauren Bennis) - Pre-Hibernation & Holiday Party
- Waterways Development & Redevelopment (Andrew Broyles)
- Zoning (Mike Wills)
- BAC (Martin Thomas)
- CAC (JP Cormier)
- CCO (Susie Walston)
- SDCC (JP Cormier)

**\*\*UPDATED 12/31/12\*\*****OPERATING ACCOUNT**

Item	2012 Budgeted	2012 Actual	2013 Proposed
<b>Starting Balance</b>		<b>\$12,510.60</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Advertising Revenue	\$3,000.00	\$3,250.00	\$3,000.00
Fireworks Income	\$0.00	\$7,975.00	\$20,000.00
Money Market Interest Earned	\$300.00	\$317.77	\$325.00
Membership Dues	\$3,000.00	\$4,055.00	\$4,000.00
Raffle Money (Spring Crawl Out)	\$200.00	\$242.00	\$250.00
Robbins Fund - Community Improvement	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>	<b>\$15,839.77</b>	<b>\$35,075.00</b>

**Expenses**

Item	2012 Budgeted	2012 Actual	2013 Proposed
SDCC/VBCCO/Other Dues	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Fireworks Expenditures	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$20,000.00
Online Payment Fees	\$50.00	\$56.54	\$55.00
Legal Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Misc Donations (ie Rescue Squad, CBF)	\$3,000.00	\$3,232.00	\$5,000.00
PO Box Annual Fee	\$70.00	\$86.00	\$90.00
Newsletter/Flyer Printing	\$2,500.00	\$2,768.17	\$2,800.00
Social Events	\$2,500.00	\$2,835.20	\$3,000.00
Umbrella Liability Insurance	\$737.00	\$1,451.00	\$700.00
Virginia Corporation Fees	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Postage and Mail Supplies	\$10.00	\$24.44	\$25.00
Website Construction/Maintenance	\$300.00	\$262.00	\$300.00
Scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Merchandise Purchase	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasure House Point	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Meeting Refreshments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Civic League Logo Design	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$250.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$13,242.00</b>	<b>\$20,040.35</b>	<b>\$35,045.00</b>

<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$8,310.02</b>
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<b>OTHER Accounts:</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses/Debits</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>
<b>Fireworks Fund:</b> Starting: \$ 7057.92	\$18,016.50	\$15,070.00	<b>\$10,004.42</b>
<b>Money Market:</b> Starting: \$ 75000.00	\$286.92	\$286.92	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
<b>Robbins Account:</b> Starting: \$ 193475.86	\$17,824.59	\$0.00	<b>\$211,300.45</b>
<b>(Robbins Cash Balance: \$12207.36)</b>			

<b>TOTAL OF ALL OPCL ACCOUNTS:</b>	<b>\$304,614.89</b>
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## Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership

### The CBF seeks local salvaged materials for living building at Pleasure House Point

Pursuing the most stringent sustainability standards for its planned environmental center at Pleasure House Point, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is seeking salvaged building materials needed for the project.

CBF plans to construct the Brock Environmental Center to meet the “Living Building Challenge™,” a set of strict environmental standards established by the International Living Future Institute that requires the facility to have “net zero” impact on the environment.

Toward that goal, one requirement is to use as many recycled or salvaged construction materials as possible, and CBF is seeking local sources for them. The salvage wish-list includes solid wood doors, solid wood flooring and interior wood trim, cabinets and hardware, granite or stone countertops, bathroom mirrors, lockers, ceramic tile, wooden barrels (for rain cisterns), cypress or cedar ship-lap style siding, wall-mounted sinks and a mop sink, and parking lot wheel stops.

“We are counting on the community to be a literal part of CBF’s ambitious, environmentally sustainable project by donating approved construction materials,” said Christy Everett, CBF Hampton Roads director. “The CBF Brock Environmental Center will be a national model of how to

live responsibly on the land while protecting our surrounding waterways.”

The CBF Brock Environmental Center will become the hub for CBF’s Hampton Roads office staff and the foundation’s award-winning environmental education programs, which take thousands of students and teachers onto local waterways

each year for in-depth Bay learning experiences. It will also provide office space for Lynnhaven River NOW and Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation staff, and serve as a venue for community meetings and collaboration. The center’s footprint will include one acre of the 118-acre Pleasure House Point Natural Area on the northern most portion of the site.

To inquire about providing construction items or supporting the project, visit [cbf.org/php](http://cbf.org/php), email [hamptonroads@cbf.org](mailto:hamptonroads@cbf.org) or call 622-1964.

— Christy Everett, CBF Hampton Roads director



## Seen those big Menhaden boats fishing in the Chesapeake Bay?

### Big news for little fish!

In December, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted to limit the total amount of menhaden that can be harvested by a 20 percent reduction in the average catch over the past three years.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) has worked with a wide range of partners to achieve a more sustainable population of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast. CBF roundly applauds the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for adopting a strong, science-based plan to better protect menhaden, a fish vital to the marine ecosystem and to important commercial fisheries.

The commission’s action is a critical first step toward restoring healthy menhaden stocks along the Atlantic coast and in the Chesapeake Bay. It is historic and ultimately will benefit the Bay, wildlife, watermen, and anglers. It is equally critical that East Coast states from Maine to Florida implement the commission’s management plan. This is especially important in Virginia, where 80 percent of the coastwide menhaden catch is landed. **In Virginia, the menhaden fishery is the only one managed by politicians, not scientists.** CBF urges Virginia Governor

Bob McDonnell and the Virginia General Assembly to adopt the commission’s management plan during the 2013 legislative session. Failure to do so could result in sanctions that threaten the livelihoods of thousands of hard-working Virginians. For more information, go to [cbf.org/menhaden](http://cbf.org/menhaden).



Commercial harvesting of menhaden  
Photo by CBF S

## OPCL official business

### **OPCL Finance Committee Update:**

The Robbins Legacy account held investments valued at approximately \$210,800 as of November 30, 2012. The four member Finance Committee met on December 13, to review the portfolio and rebalance the allocation as a result of appreciation of the current holdings to comply with the Robbins Account Investment Policy Statement. After the

rebalance the portfolio is allocated 69 percent fixed income/cash and 31 percent equity/balanced funds. In addition to appreciation from the original \$180,000 investment, the account continues generating approximately \$6000/year in interest and dividends.

If approved by the membership in January, \$7000 of the current cash balance of \$9000 will be distributed to fund the

OPCL budget for 2012.

If you have ideas for funding of community projects and improvements in Ocean Park, please contact any officer of OPCL listed in the newsletter.

If you have questions or concerns about zoning request or other potential zoning issues please contact any of the OPCL board members or representatives listed in the newsletter.

### **OPCL Zoning Committee Update:**

The zoning committee reviewed two issues in December. One issue was a request to allow a dune crossover to be constructed at 3792 Jefferson Blvd. where a new residence is to be constructed.

The committee fielded input from several residents concerned about the potential impacts to the dunes and setting a precedent that could lead to

more encroachment onto the dunes. The committee and OPCL board felt that the structure would be in violation of the Coastal Primary Sand Dune Act, which seeks to protect dunes from construction of hardened structures and preserve the natural barriers to coastal surges and flooding.

After sending a letter and meeting with city officials concerning the request, it appears that we have city

support to deny and the request will not be permitted.

The committee also reviewed a request for a variance to a 10-foot, rear-yard setback instead of 20 feet as required (Proposed Screened Porch) at 2245 Sunvista Drive. The committee did not field any concerns from neighbors and was not opposed to the request.

It's time to think Ocean Park Membership again. Pay now and receive benefits all the way through 2013! You can use the form on page 8, or join/pay on-line at [www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org). Your Civic League is always hard at work, supporting the Pleasure House Point acquisition, working to block a permanent Dredged Material Transfer Station at Crab Creek and keeping a close eye on variances and rezonings, and hard at play, putting together great social events to bring our neighbors together. Plus you get great discounts and offers by showing your membership card to local merchants listed on page 8. Membership is only \$15/year/family. The best bargain in town!

## The BAC Meeting Wrap Up

The Bayfront Advisory Committee meeting notes for October were released.

Topics at the meeting included modifications to the Shore Drive Corridor Overlay and ordinance, implementation of the Neighborhood Sign project, design of a sense of arrival for tourists coming into the city via route 13, money for entertainment in the summer, recognition awards for individuals and companies in the community.

The Public Safety and Transit Strategies Committee reported continuing work on parking issues.

Community reports requested on Lynnhaven River NOW candidate forum, the Maple Street Transfer station, several community oyster roasts, and a possible water feature for Lake Joyce.

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**Web:** <https://home.wellsfargo.com/advisors/coffey-wills>

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### OPCL Sponsors

- The UPS Store Shore Drive: 10 percent off all services except United States Postal Service postage and UPS shipping.
- Tidewater Insulators: 10 percent off any attic or crawlspace insulation package.
- The Royal Chocolate: 10 percent off product purchases. Does not apply to gift cards, shipping or delivery. One per person, per visit.
- Lend a Hand Massage Therapy Free half hour reflexology added onto your 60-minute massage. Not valid with other discounts.
- La Casa Rana: five percent discount for all OPCL members. Not valid with other discounts/coupons.
- Ampor Electric Corporation: Buy a one year Energy Saving Maintenance Agreement and get a year free. (\$140 value). Receive \$30 off service calls. Receive \$350 off a HVAC system replacement, home generator or tankless water heater installation.
- Tim Sidow, CPA will donate 10 percent of the professional fees from tax services to the Fireworks Fund. 615-9730 or [www.facebook.com/SidowLLC](http://www.facebook.com/SidowLLC).
- Salon De Bella: 25 percent to first-time customers and a 15 percent on subsequent visits. See coupon ad for more.
- Complete Automotive, Inc.: Ten percent off any work up to \$100.

Consider becoming a business sponsor. Contact Terry Gearhart at [tgearpsu@gmail.com](mailto:tgearpsu@gmail.com). You may need to show your OPCL membership card to receive discounts.



PROTECT THE BAYFRONT   SAFETY FIRST   PLEASURE HOUSE POINT

**Now is the time to renew your membership in the Ocean Park Civic League. Pay now and get credit for all of 2013!!**  
**Dues are just \$15 a year per family. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and mail to the P.O. Box listed below. Or join on-line at [www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org). You will be helping your community and keeping yourself informed.**

Name:	_____
Street Address (and City/State/Zip if not 23455)	_____ _____
Email:	_____
Phone:	H: _____ C: _____
Do You Own or Rent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent
Areas Of Interest (Check all that apply):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (contributions/distribution/solicitation for ads) <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Shore Drive Community Coalition Liaison <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning <input type="checkbox"/> Social Committee	

Mail this application and your dues of \$15.00 (check made to OPCL) for calendar year 2013 to:  
Ocean Park Civic League  
P.O. Box 55385  
Virginia Beach, VA 23471



# As seen on Facebook

- Announcements about random free yoga classes with Jennifer Colaizzi at different neighborhood locations
- **Discussion about Christmas Tree dune reclamation. The neighborhood needs a volunteer coordinator to work with the city on communication for this.**
- Continuing issue with trash dumping on the side of Marlin Bay Drive
- **MANY lost and found pets needing their owners. Please take the time to check out their photos and see if you recognize them. Owners, try to keep identification on your pets. Just a phone number if nothing else.**
- Several people respond to advice request about invasive fish pond vandals
- **Several requests for year-round and short-term rental requests**
- Several crime notices. One in particular about a teen chased through the neighborhood by an indecent man on New Year's Eve
- **Remembering the old YMCA Club by Aries**
- Discussion of correct beach names along the Bay
- **Rita Sparling, mail delivery person, would like to know who left her the white chocolate-dipped pretzels. A temporary person got them and passed them on to her, but she would like to know who they came from.**
- Several requests for repair people
- **Discussion of the planned Chesapeake Bay Foundation building at Pleasure House Point**

Posting to the OPCL Facebook page requires joining the site. Valuable real-time information about OP residents. These are summarizations of posts.

# New OPCL Board Roster

## Executive Board

President	Susie Walston	susieandmac@gmail.com
Vice President	Mike Wills	mandjwills@cox.net
Treasurer	Todd Parker	dulca89@hotmail.com
Secretary	Kristie Zeiler	blondie545@gmail.com
Past President	Martin Thomas	mthomas2001@gmail.com
South Side Rep.	JP Cormier	jp.cormier@prudentialtownreality.com
North Side Rep.	Anne Kane	Anne-OPCL@cox.net
At Large Rep.	Randy Hall	randy@hall757.com
At Large Rep.	Grace Moran	g_moran@juno.com

## Standing Committee Chairs

Finance	Mike Wills	mandjwills@cox.net
Fireworks	Jill Doczi	opclnews@aol.com
Membership	Terry Gearhart	tgearpsu@gmail.com
Newsletter	Jill Doczi	opclnews@aol.com
Scholarship	Grace Moran	g_moran@juno.com
Social Activities	Lauren Bennis	laurenbennis@verizon.net
Waterways, Development & Redevelopment	Andrew Broyles	andrewbroyles@cox.net
Website	Jim Royall	jpgoyall@yahoo.com
	Randy Hall	randy@hall757.com
Zoning Review	Mike Wills	mandjwills@cox.net

## Special/Ad hoc Committee Chairs

Adopt-a-Spot	Susie Walston	susieandmac@gmail.com
Audit	Sid Vaughn	esvaughn2@cox.net

## Liaisons

BAC	Bayfront Advisory Committee	Martin Thomas
CAC	Citizen's Advisory Committee	JP Cormier
	Third Precinct	
CCO	Council of Civic Organizations	Susie Walston
SDCC	Shore Drive Community Coalition	JP Cormier



## Artistic Creation Art Gallery

Virginia Beach's premier venue for local art & artists!

Randall Jordan  
Owner



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~~~~~

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Call for Class Times/Dates/Prices

|                                                          |                                                       |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Hours:<br/>Mon-Thur 10-7<br/>Fri/Sat 9-8 Sun 12-5</p> | <p>Commission Work<br/>Offered in all<br/>Mediums</p> | <p>Monthly Shows/Student Exhibitions<br/>Classroom Space Available for Rent<br/>Gallery No. #757-646-1199</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Proposed changes for the intersection of Page Avenue and Shore Drive



## Acronyms: CCO

### Council of Civic Organizations

The Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO or CCO) represents over 100 civic organizations throughout Virginia Beach.

The VBCCO, founded in 1959, plays a central role in many community issues, such as public safety pay compression, Open Space Advisory Committee, Workforce Housing Taskforce, Resort Advisory Commission, Clean the Bay Day and Public Voices on Redevelopment.

The VBCCO educates our member civic leagues about how to improve their community and how to ensure their voice is heard. The Community Empowerment Taskforce serves as a collective voice on key issues whenever an issue affects a substantial number of members.

The VBCCO meets monthly and the schedule is posted on the website at [www.vbcco.org](http://www.vbcco.org).

— Jill Doerj



## **Andrew R. Broyles**

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# What in Ocean Park is that?

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## Live oak

A large number of common names are used for this tree, including “Virginia live oak,” “bay live oak,” “scrub live oak,” “plateau oak,” “plateau live oak,” “escarpment live oak.” It is also often just called “live oak” within its native area, but the full name “southern live oak” (Flora of North America) helps to distinguish it from other live oaks, a general term for any evergreen species of oak. Although evergreen, the leaves persisting until the time growth resumes in spring

Their lower limbs often sweep down towards the ground before curving up again. They can grow at severe angles, and American Indians used to bend saplings over so that they would grow at extreme angles, to serve as trail markers.

The southern live oak has a deep tap-root that anchors it when young and eventually develops into an



Live Oak – Louisiana Garden Club Federation

extensive and widespread root system. This, along with its low center of gravity and other factors, makes the southern live oak extremely resistant to strong sustained winds, such as those seen in hurricanes.

They can withstand occasional floods and hurricanes, and are resistant to salt spray and moderate soil salinity. They tend to survive fire, because often a fire will not reach their crowns. Even if a tree is burned, its crowns and roots usually survive the fire and sprout vigorously. Furthermore, live oak although they grow best in well-drained sandy soils and loams, they will also grow in clay. Live oaks are also surprisingly hardy.

Live oak wood is hard, heavy, and difficult to work with, but very strong. In the days of wooden ships, live oaks were the preferred source of the framework timbers of the ship, using the natural trunk and branch angles for their strength. The frame of the USS Constitution was constructed from southern live oak wood harvested from St. Simon’s Island, Georgia and the density of the wood grain allowed it to survive cannonade, thus earning it the nickname “Old Ironsides.” Even today, the U.S. Navy owns extensive live oak tracts.

American Indians extracted a cooking oil from the acorns, used all parts of live oak for medicinal purposes, leaves for making rugs, and bark for dyes.

— Jill Doerzi

## Fast Facts

**Type:** evergreen

**Location:** Virginia to Florida and west to Texas along the coasts

**Average life span in the wild:** up to 1,400 yrs

**Size:** Depends on growing conditions, but open grown reach 45 feet (15m) tall.

**Did you know?** A water oak is not the same as a live oak (*Quercus nigra*). Water oaks are deciduous (lose their leaves each fall).



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# Message from the president

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Winter has arrived and a sunny day is always welcome. Lauren Bennis and members of the Social Activities Committee did a great job in putting on a very enjoyable Pre-Hibernation & Holiday Party at the end of November.

Please join me in thanking Martin Thomas, other members of the OPCL Board, and all Volunteers that helped make 2012 another good year in Ocean Park. I look forward to serving as OPCL President this year. Many of your neighbors have volunteered to work for our community by serving on the board, leading and working on committees, helping to bring us together, and tackling issues. I hope you will add your effort to assist in civic league efforts. I don't need to tell you that OPCL is your civic league.

I hope I have the opportunity to meet those of you that I do not know and work with many of you to continue the legacy of Ocean Park. Please join us for the first meeting of 2013 on Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Building. We need you there in order to adopt a 2013 budget and to learn what is happening is happening in Ocean Park.

*Susie Walston, president*

**Please volunteer with OPCL**  
**Volunteer Positions (Annual Hourly Needs)**

- Vice President (12)
- VB Council of Civic Organizations Rep (6)
- Secretary (12)
- VBPD Community Advisory Committee Rep (6)
- At Large Executive Board Member (12)
- Newsletter distribution Coordinator (6)
- Newsletter Graphic Designer (30)
- Newsletter Content Contributor (5)
- Fireworks Committee (10-50)
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- Door Prize Coordinator (6)
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- SDCC Representative (10)
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