



Important Dates

Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

Jan 8
 March 5
 May 7
 September 10
 November 5
 Thursdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Ocean Park
 Rescue Squad

BAC Meeting

Jan 15
 Feb 19
 3:30 p.m.
 Virginia Beach
 Resort and
 Conference Center

SDCC Meeting

Jan 26
 Feb 23
 Monday
 7:30 p.m.
 Ocean Park
 Rescue Squad

Ocean Park Echo

JANUARY 2015

Message from the new president

I would like to start by thanking you for once again having the faith in me to allow me to be your president. I am honored by the privilege to serve as your president, and am

promote good fellowship in our community. I think this an incredible, but all too often overlooked, goal. Our civic league doesn't exist just to further the interests of our

our meetings at venues that promote more social interaction. Our first meeting in January will be at the new Brock Center. Following that, I will talk to our local



truly excited by the possibilities the next few years will bring. I think we all owe a heartfelt thanks to both Susie and Mike for shouldering the responsibility of being your presidents over the past few years. They have done an exceptional job and we should all be grateful for their time and efforts.

Every new year brings forth the excitement of new beginnings. For me, this year is especially exciting because I see tremendous opportunities and possibilities for our civic league. One of the main objectives of our civic league, as stated in our bylaws, is to

community with respect to beautification, recreation, sanitation, safety and protect property values, although those things are extremely important. First and foremost, our charter says that we shall bring together residents and property owners to "promote good fellowship." Towards this end, the first thing I will do as president will be to change the format of our general membership meetings. Our meetings will have a more social flair to them, including having food and beverages. Although we will still have to conduct business at our meetings, they don't have to be boring. Also, we will be having

restaurateurs to see if we can conduct our meetings at one or more of these local establishments. Promote good fellowship in our community-- what an incredible goal. It's time to put this goal back in the forefront.

Too often folks have a narrow view about what they think our civic league is, or what they think it should be. We all have opinions about what we think a civic should and should not do, and we all feel, with various amounts of passion, that we are absolutely correct in our opinion. Well I can say from experience that our civic league is whatever the preponderance

Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership

Now in their new office location, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Hampton Roads staff will continue their legislative mission to improve the waterways in which we live, work and play.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will call on Governor McAuliffe and the General Assembly to provide adequate support in fiscal year 2016 for local governments and farmers to install practices that reduce polluted runoff. While CBF recognizes current budget uncertainties, investing in a restored Bay is an investment in a more prosperous Virginia. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation initial estimates indicate that the funding need for agriculture cost share and technical assistance in fiscal year 2016 is approximately \$68 million. Reasonable estimates indicate that \$50 million per year for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund is warranted to assist localities in developing effective stormwater controls on urban lands to reduce the flow of excess nutrients and sediments to local streams, rivers and the Bay.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

CBF will call upon the General Assembly to reject efforts to weaken Virginia's new stormwater management program. This program, developed over a 10 year period by diverse stakeholders across the commonwealth, will ensure that new development can proceed with no net increase in pollution to waterways from stormwater. The program began July 1, 2014, with smaller localities able to opt out of the program's administrative responsibilities and developers and localities adjusting to its new concepts. It is imperative that the process be allowed to continue, without interruption, exemptions or weakening, to ensure Virginia can meet its Blueprint commitments to reduce pollution from urban and suburban stormwater.

OYSTERS!

CBF will urge the General Assembly to ensure that the state's fisheries managers have the tools necessary to effectively manage the burgeoning oyster


fishery. Recent years have seen dramatic increases in oyster farming or "aquaculture." Virginia once again leases public oyster grounds for commercial propagation, with great success (from 23,000 bushels in 2001 to approximately 500,000 bushels in 2014). The rebound of this fishery has generated new challenges, including a sharp uptick in oyster larceny (poaching) from sanctuary and leased grounds. To protect against poaching, safeguard the public investment in sanctuary reefs (which provide water quality benefits), and support public confidence in the safety of Virginia's oysters, appropriate management and enforcement tools will be crucial.

—Christy Everett,
director Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's

VoiCeS Course 2015

Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards
Adult Education Program



Learn to be an Active Watershed Steward!


This intensive six-week program provides information on subjects affecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay including: Bay history, wildlife, wetlands, fisheries, urban and rural solutions to pollution, local restoration, citizen advocacy, and much more! There will also be at least one field experience through the program.

The VoiCeS program culminates in a service requirement of 40 hours on a Bay-related project(s) of your choosing. Successful graduates receive CBF's designation as "Chesapeake Stewards."

Wednesday evenings @ CBF's Brock Environmental Center
(3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455)
January 21 through February 25, 2015
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Space is limited! Registration/Applications are due by January 9, 2015
Materials fee: \$25/individual, \$40/couple

Register Online: <https://www.cbf.org/events/voices/virginia-beach-registration>
Questions? Contact Tanner Council: rsvp@cbf.org | 757/622-1964



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cbf.org

Variances: The good, the bad and the ugly

An official yellow sign shows up on your neighbor's house and a certified letter notice in your mailbox. The city of Virginia Beach has notified you that your neighbor wants the rules changed for their property's zoning requirements. If you received a certified letter, it likely means the zoning regulations your neighbor appealed will be within your view. According to Chris Langaster, assistant zoning administrator seven to 10 neighbors will receive these letters per project.

The Good:

State law allows citizens to appeal zoning requirements such as rear, front and side yard setbacks required for additions, decks, porches, gazebos, sheds and accessory structures. Zoning appeals also deal with building height, percentage of lot coverage and parking variances. The city of Virginia Beach has a panel of seven Virginia Beach citizen members appointed by city council for (two) five-year terms. This group is the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and declares itself as a quasi-judicial board that will hear and vote on your case. This board meets monthly and has an average of 15 cases per meeting. Hearings are held in City Council Chambers beginning at 2 p.m. and continue sometimes in to the night depending on complexities and oppositions.

For those requesting a variance, city staff suggests discussing the options and any hardships associated with the property such as odd lot configurations, wetland areas, nonconforming (substandard) lots, easements etc. with them prior to filing. Hardship criteria as established by the Virginia Code Section 15.2-2309 can be found at www.vbgov.com/government/departments/planning/boards-commissions-committees/Documents/BZA/hardship.pdf. There is a \$250 fee for the variance filing and an average of \$150 for state-law-required print advertising (newspaper "Beacon") and sign-

age posting for 30 days. City staff, including Langaster, can discuss the variance's merits or downfalls. You must have a survey site plan to original scale and photos of the yard from many angles for this preliminary meeting. Based on feedback from city staff you may now file an appeal. The actual hearing date may take as long as 60 days depending on the BZA's agenda.

The Bad:

Even though you may have spent \$400 and drove to city hall a couple times all the way from Ocean Park, there is no guarantee you will be victorious with your appeal. Your neighbors may not be thrilled with your appeal. Considerations should be given to all of your neighbors because likely they bear the burden of your request. The smarter homeowner thinks of neighbors before rushing to file that variance, let alone gambling \$400.

You will have approximately three minutes to detail your appeal to the board. Each person opposing or supporting your variance request will be limited to an average of three minutes. Based on the number of individuals speaking and the agenda, the chairman will use his or her discretion on speaking times. You have a rebuttal period as deemed necessary by the board. You will also need to make your yard available soon after filing for city staff to take pictures for the board. At the same time, city staff will place the actual variance sign at your house. The day of your hearing city staff and board members drive to your house to look at your property. There should be no discrepancies with your site plan you submitted. A staffer will note discrepancies by photograph and personal observation. This may cause complications with your case, possibly resulting in deferral or additional re-advertising cost.

The Ugly

Besides losing \$400, you may have just

put a wedge between you and your neighbor without any guarantee your variance will be granted. Avoid this in the early stages by meeting with city staff as recommended and separately meeting with neighbors prior to filing. Come to a compromise. Some will agree just to avoid controversy. According to Langaster, it's not uncommon for neighbors to sign an approval petition agreement first with applicants and realize later the appeal is not such a good deal for them.

Typical Ocean Park type improvements:

- *Sheds less than 150 square feet (10x15) and with an eave height less than eight feet may be built at a five-foot setback from a property line, except when adjacent to a street.
- *Detached garages and accessory structures cannot exceed 500 square feet or 20 percent of the living area of the house.
- * Fencing within 30 feet of a street requires a fence permit.
- * All sheds 256 square feet or larger require a permit.
- * Decks less than 16 inches in height can encroach onto a required setback, but require a building permit.
- * Call Miss Utility, cutting cable and phone lines is expensive and inconvenient.
- * Easements for drainage, utilities and pedestrian access are very common in Ocean Park and have very specific restrictions, check with Zoning Department.
- * Finally, not all rules are black and white, many parts of Ocean Park are located in environmentally sensitive (CBPA) borders. Regulations in those areas can alter the above projects. For good, bad or ugly questions about variances contact Chris Langaster at clangast@vbgov.com or 385-8074.

—Andrew R Broyles
Class A contractor in Va. since 1978, O.P. resident since 2001

Flu facts and myths

With the flu season in full swing, the “flu vaccine” debate is also at its peak, especially since this year’s vaccine was not as effective as years past. While that is a debate for another time, I want to address a very important topic that rarely gets addressed, yet creates a lot of problems and confusion: testing and treatment for Influenza. What’s the issue you say? I think I have the flu, I go to the doctor I get tested and they give me Tamiflu. Easy, right?

WRONG

Two things that may amaze you:

1. You do **NOT** need testing for the flu, unless you need hospitalization.
2. Unless you belong to a high risk group or hospitalized, you do **NOT** need, and will not benefit from Tamiflu. Even then it may not actually help.

So why don’t you need to be tested? Because influenza is here and the rapid flu test has a one in five chance of being a false negative. Bottom line is that if you have a fever, cough, body aches, sore throat, and perhaps some intestinal symptoms, you probably have the flu and don’t need to be tested.

But you still need to go to the doctor to get an antibiotic or your Tamiflu prescription, right? First, Influenza is a virus, as are almost all seasonal illnesses like colds and bronchitis. Antibiotics are worthless against viruses. **As for Tamiflu, most people will receive no benefit.** We have very clear Tamiflu treatment criteria created by the CDC, summarized as:

-Symptoms of the flu for less than 48 hours and one of the following:

- a) you’re older than 65 or younger than age two
- b) you’re sick enough to be hospitalized
- c) you have chronic disease, especially a respiratory disease like asthma
- d) your immune system is compro-

mised, like chemotherapy patients
e) you’re pregnant or very overweight

These are the groups at highest risk of suffering from complications of the flu. If you’re not in one of these groups, as miserable as you might be, you will almost assuredly recover from the flu on your own without complications.

Influenza has developed resistance to Tamiflu, and so if we use it on everybody, it won’t work for anybody, especially those for whom using it may be the difference between life and death. So if you have the flu and don’t meet treatment criteria, taking Tamiflu likely won’t make a difference in whether you get over the flu or not, and may contribute to resistance that kills those people at most risk.

But there’s more: even if you are treated with Tamiflu, you are likely wasting your money and most people will more likely to suffer from adverse reactions than be helped.

Almost all of the research on Tamiflu was sponsored and conducted by the company that makes the drug. They initially didn’t release most of their data. Numerous groups pushed for years to get the raw data released, and when it finally was last year, the results were staggering.

To summarize:

1. Over 60 percent of the data from the studies was never published... namely that which did not show any benefit from Tamiflu.
2. The raw data actually showed Tamiflu does not reduce hospitalizations.
3. The studies did not show that Tamiflu reduced complications such as pneumonia.
4. The studies did not show that Tamiflu reduced transmission between people.

5. Tamiflu did reduce the length of illness by about 12 hours, yes just half a day.

6. Those that took Tamiflu showed decreased natural immunity to the flu. In other words, by taking Tamiflu, you won’t build up the natural resistance that protects against future flu strains.

Here is the link to the Cochrane Review, a non-profit group that analyzes studies, and their findings on Tamiflu:

<http://www.cochrane.org/features/tamiflu-relenza-how-effective-are-they?>

While you may say “well, if I get better half a day faster, why not take it?” Is getting better 12 hours faster worth tens of thousands of babies, elderly and people with other medical conditions dying due to Tamiflu resistance? If you receive treatment for the flu, all you do is contribute to resistance, increase your likelihood of side effects and adverse reactions, and make money for the makers of the test and drugs (and your doctor if they are able to bill for testing or giving you medicines). Unless you are in a high risk group you are likely causing more harm to yourself, and certainly to society, than receiving any benefit.

Don’t believe me, or want to read more? Here are a couple of great articles on the topic!

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/02/tamiflu-myth-and-misconception/273167/>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/harlankrumholz/2013/01/08/the-myth-of-tamiflu-5-things-you-should-know/>

So what should you do if you have the flu? Just like any virus, take care of yourself. Use ibuprofen or acetaminophen for the fever and body aches.

Cont’d. next page

Drink a lot of water, get plenty of sleep. An inhaler can help with the cough and bronchitis symptoms. Any over the counter cold medicine should help with the symptoms. Also, wash your hands and avoid coughing on others. But ex-

cept in rare circumstances, what you don't need to do is go to your doctor, or get a prescription.

***Please note, this article is a general medical discussion, and does not consti-

tute official medical advice. Any specific medical questions or concerns that you have should be discussed with your doctor.

—Todd Parker, M.D.

Lynnhaven River NOW partnership: Volunteer and event opportunities

River Cleanup Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m.

Join LRNow to help clean up the shoreline at a location yet to be released. No other information available at this time, but check the LRNow website for more updates.

Brock Environmental Center Move

LRNow has a new address. Offices have moved from the Pleasure House Road location to the new Brock Environmental Center.

Winter Wildlife Festival

Visit the LRNow during the Winter Wildlife Festival 2015. On February 7, as part of the festival, LRNow will hold a rain barrel workshop and a bird walk at Pleasure House Point. Visit VBGov.com/WinterWildlife for more information.

It takes a community to restore and protect our waterways. We know how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful place. Water is a large part of our More information coming soon to the LRNow website. Call (757) 962-5398 for more information or to register.

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

- Newsletter Graphic Designer (30)
- Fireworks Committee (10-50)
- Scholarship Committee (5)
- Audit Committee (3)
- Safety and Traffic Committee Member (5)
- Meeting Coordinator (6)
- Social Committee Member (5)
- Social Committee Chair (30)
- Door Prize Coordinator (6)
- Business Liaison (10)
- Membership Committee Member (5)

As seen on OP Facebook

- **There is a chance the city will remove the live oak trees at the boat ramp entrance. A third party arborist will now assess.**
- The commentary regarding dogs on PHP resurfaces. ALL dogs on PHP must be on a leash at all times and owners must remove all waste properly.
- **Police arrested Leigh Ann Larson on counts of grand larceny and petit larceny. After she stole more than 150 packages dropped off by UPS, FED-EX or USPS from front porches throughout the Shore Drive area. Contact Detective Cutrer at 385-2724 to claim missing packages.**

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

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.
- Froggie's Cantina by the Bay: five percent discount for all OPCL members. Not valid with other discounts/coupons.
- Ampmor 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.
- Happy at Home Professional Pet Care: 50 percent off pet care and dog walking services. Not valid with other offers.
- 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 **Ryan McCawley** at Ryan.mccawley@me.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 join - or renew your membership in - the Ocean Park Civic League. Pay now and get credit for all of 2014!! 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. 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):

- Newsletter (contributions/distribution/solicitation for ads)
- Traffic Committee
- Shore Drive Community Coalition Liaison
- Zoning
- Social Committee

Mail this application and your dues of \$15.00 (check made to OPCL) for calendar year 2014 to:
Ocean Park Civic League
P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach, VA 23471

OPCL official business

OPCL Finance

Committee Update:

The Robbins Legacy account held investments valued at approximately \$223,500, as of November 30, 2014, up from \$216,900 on January 1, 2014. After distributing \$7,000 to the OPCL operating account in November. The current portfolio allocation is approximately 75 percent fixed income/cash and 25 percent equity investments. In addition to the growth of the original \$180,000

investment, the account generates approximately \$6,000 a year in interest and dividends, which is available for distribution. Since 2008, over \$39,000 has been distributed in support of civic league functions and community organizations. If you have ideas for funding of community projects and improvements in Ocean Park, please contact any officer of the civic league listed in the newsletter.

OPCL Committee on Governmental Affatirs and Zoning Update:

The committee has not presented any reports regarding decisions.

OPCL News:

The Social Activities Committee has new chairpeople. Robin Geisen and Lauren Harrington both did an excellent job of organizing the last-minute Hibernation Party and the Ocean Park Lights Display Contest.

OPCL voted in representatives to all board positions at the November meeting. Check the roster on the back page of the Echo for new contact information.

Seeking communications volunteers: The newsletter provides a great source of

information that only comes out a few times a year. Volunteers distribute the newsletter to the neighborhood. OPCL can always use new and substitute volunteer distributors. You may deliver to your street or a block or two. Please email communication@opcl.org if you have interest in helping with "The Echo."

Between newsletters, OPCL sends emails concerning time-sensitive information or short-term updates. Be sure OPCL has your email by going to www.opcl.org and signing up for email updates. If you would like to unsubscribe from these mailings or make any changes to your preferences, fill in your information and choose the link to update your profile. Contact Ryan McCawley, communications chairperson with any questions or concerns at communication@opcl.org.

Holiday Lights Contest:

The winners:

Best Overall: 3656 E. Stratford Rd.

Best Use of Lights: 3868 Jefferson Ave.

Charlie Brown: 3828 Mystic Cove Ct.

Best Balcony: Chesapeake House

Best Door: 3816 Long Ship Ct.

Honorable Mentions: The corner of Surry and Roanoke and the Duplex on the corner of W. Stratford and Powhatan Ave. This year's winners received a \$25 gift card to Lowe's.

Pleasure House Point Adopt-A-Spot cleanup March 21, 2015 from 9 a.m. to noon. Treats provided for the first 20 volunteers.

Please consider giving blood at the OP Volunteer Rescue Squad drive Friday, February 5 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Exterior Improvements

- * Additions
- * Structural and Moisture repairs
- * Decks
- * Porches
- * Fencing
- * Siding
- * Windows and Doors
- * Roofing
- * Shell construction
- * Driveways

Interior Improvements

- * Kitchens
- * Baths
- * Crown molding
- * Bearing wall removal
- * Floor plan changes
- * Interior trim
- * Balcony and stair railings
- * Interior decorating
- * Whole house remodeling
- * Space planning

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Lesner Bridge Updates

For the next several weeks the city plans no scheduled daytime lane closures within the Lesner Bridge project limits.

Construction of the new bridge abutment “A” continues on the west side of the Lynnhaven Inlet. The first concrete pour on the new bridge abutment took place Wednesday, October 29. The last concrete placement for this bridge abutment took place December 12.



—City of Virginia Beach public works bridge camera.

All the drilled shafts at Piers 1, 2 and 3 (the first in-water pier constructed) of the new westbound (WB) bridge have been installed. Concrete placement for the foundation cap at Pier 1 has been completed.

Work on the WB bridge approach in front of 3556 On the Bay condominiums continues. The concrete retaining wall, utilities and temporary wire wall are being installed. As the grade is built up to plan elevations, you will get a sense for the new height of the bridge. The top of the wooden formwork for Abutment A will be the new elevation of the bridge deck.

Work on the WB bridge approach next to the old Duck Inn Property also continues. A portion of the concrete footing for the new retain-

ing wall has been poured and the area prepared for the placement of the pre-cast concrete retaining wall panels. Work on the new seawall (closer to the water's edge has begun within this area.

The city will coordinate their seawall construction with the private construction contractor building the private seawall on the Point Chesapeake property. The city's seawall starts at the right of way line located north of Shore Drive and will continue south until it connects to the existing bulkhead located south of Shore Drive at the Maryland Pilots Association. The private seawall connects to the city's seawall at the right of way line and continues north along the dune line towards Cape Henry Towers.

The temporary bulkhead at the Lynnhaven Dredge Material Storage Site (LDMSS) continues. The tie-back system and placement of all the reinforcing steel on the new bulkhead is now complete. Approximately half of the concrete cap has been in place on the the bulkhead. Work will continue on the bulkhead over the next several weeks to form and place the remainder of the bulkhead cap.

As a final note, the construction contractor will not be working over the holidays. No work will take place on the project between December 24 and January 5.

As a reminder, the city regularly posts bridge construction updates at <http://vbgov.com/government/departments/publicworks/roadways/Pages/lesner-bridge-7-14.aspx> and on Twitter at @lesnerbridge.

If you would like to receive email updates contact Drew Lankford, media and communications, Department of Public Works at dlankfor@vbgov.com

—Information provided by Drew Lankford, media and communications, Virginia Beach Department of Public Works and Chris Wojtowicz, P.E. project manager, Virginia Beach Department of Public Works

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****UPDATED 12/28/14****

OPERATING ACCOUNT

2014 STARTING BALANCE \$11,264.47

Income

Item	2014 Proposed Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Proposed Budget
Advertising Revenue	\$3,000.00	\$2,525.00	\$3,000.00
Money Market Interest Earned	\$300.00	\$261.87	\$300.00
Membership Dues - Checks and Cash	\$3,000.00	\$1,580.00	\$2,500.00
Membership Dues - Paypal	\$1,500.00	\$870.00	\$1,500.00
Raffle Receipts	\$400.00	\$405.00	\$300.00
Robbins Acct-Community Improvement	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00
Miscellaneous (Foodbank, etc)	\$400.00	\$0.00	
Total Income	\$15,600.00	\$12,641.87	\$15,600.00

Expenses

Item	2014 Proposed Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Proposed Budget
SDCC/VBCCO/Other Dues	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
Online Payment Fees	\$75.00	\$42.92	\$60.00
Legal Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Charity (ie OPVRS, CBF,LRN,Foodbank)	\$4,200.00	\$3,405.00	\$3,300.00
PO Box Annual Fee	\$90.00	\$92.00	\$95.00
Newsletter/Flyer Printing	\$3,000.00	\$2,771.80	\$3,000.00
Social Events	\$3,000.00	\$1,723.75	\$3,000.00
Umbrella Liability Insurance	\$675.00	\$673.00	\$675.00
Virginia Corporation Fees	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$25.00
Postage and Mail Supplies	\$150.00		\$500.00
Website Construction/Maintenance	\$300.00	\$74.12	\$75.00
Scholarships	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
Merchandise Purchase	\$0.00		
Pleasure House Point	\$0.00		
General Meeting Refreshments	\$0.00		\$1,000.00
Civic League Logo Design	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$255.31	\$1,000.00
Chesapeake Bay Foundation Sponsorship	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,565.00	\$13,162.90	\$18,820.00

2014 ENDING BALANCE \$10,743.44

OTHER Accounts:

	Income	Expenses/Debits	Current Balance
Fireworks Fund: Starting: \$11288.75	\$15,114.00	\$13,208.81	\$13,193.94
Money Market: Starting: \$ 75000.00	\$261.87	\$261.87	\$75,000.00
Robbins Account: Starting: \$ 216909.53	\$13,182.25	\$7,000.00	\$223,091.78
(Robbins Cash Balance: \$ 1589.50)			

TOTAL OF ALL OPCL ACCOUNTS as of 12/28/2014 \$322,029.16

GEORGE AND LOUISE LYON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Attention all high school seniors and parents: The Ocean Park Civic League has a four-year, \$1,000 scholarship opportunities for qualifying students. Please see details at www.vbschools.com/scholarship. Type in "Ocean Park Civic League" where it asks for "Scholarship Name/Title" on

the main page and it will take you to the application. Deadline for applications: March 31, 2015. Only complete applications considered. Good luck to all applicants. (Continuing qualifications must be met to receive all four years of scholarship.)

—Lauren Harrington, scholarship committee chair

dedicated a good portion of their free time to serving the community in which they lived. They were especially committed to supporting the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad which was the first, all voluntary rescue squad established in Virginia Beach and is still in operation today on Shore Drive. Ocean Park Civic League has assumed the role instituted by the Women's Club of Ocean Park in annually awarding a \$1,000 scholarships honoring the contributions of George and Louise Lyon.



The Lyons were lifelong members of the Ocean Park Civic League and

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WWW.OPCL.ORG

Message from the new president con't

of those involved want it to be. Let me say that again, our civic league is whatever preponderance of those involved want it to be. The key here being that those neighbors who are involved get to choose the direction. Unfortunately for those with egalitarian ideas about the civic league representing the will of the community, that's just not the reality. I don't mean to say that representing the will of the community isn't the goal, but we can only represent the will of those who participate and let us know what direction we should be going in. That doesn't mean that you have to be involved in the leadership, or serve on committees, although those things help. It just means that you have to show up at a few of our five general membership meetings a year and let your voice be heard. It means that you volunteer to help out occasionally at one of our social events, or one of our community involvement events. It means you participate in a meaningful way. Your

involvement is also part of that good fellowship that I will be spending the next few years to help promote.

As anyone who has perused our Facebook Group knows, we live in an incredible community with a diverse and extremely unique group of neighbors, which is part of what makes Ocean Park the wonderful place it is. I have lived here in Ocean Park with my family for over 25 years. My children grew up playing in the sands of our beaches. Thanks to the United States Navy I have had the opportunity to travel all over the world, and I can say from experience, there's no place like home. With all the horrific things going on in the world today, we should never forget that we get to call Ocean Park our home. Once again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your president for the next few years, and let the fun begin.

—Rick Mercadante, OPCL president

January 8 OPCL Meeting

**Join the your neighbors at the
Brock Environmental Center for the
Ocean Park Civic League meeting in January.
Refreshments provided.**

**Thursday, 7:30 p.m. All neighbors welcome.
This is a great time to renew or join.**



Brock Environmental Center—SDCC site.