



## Important Dates

### Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

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

### Crawl Out of Hibernation Party

March 28  
6 p.m.—8 p.m.  
Froggies Cantina  
by the Bay

### OPCL Yard Sale

April 11  
Sign up by April 4  
Neighborhood-wide  
Yard and Bake Sale

### BAC Meeting

March 19  
April 16  
3:30 p.m.  
Virginia Beach  
Resort and  
Conference Center

### SDCC Meeting

March 30  
April 27  
Monday  
7:30 p.m.  
Ocean Park  
Rescue Squad

# Ocean Park Echo

MARCH 2015

## Message from the new president

As I write this message I am looking out my office window at the frozen over snow on the ground. School has been out for a few days, and parents with school-aged children are probably bouncing off the walls.

Fortunately we live where we do, and I know that spring is just around the corner. I'm excited to see all of you at our annual Ocean Park Crawl Out on Saturday, March 28 at Froggies. Before that though, we will have our next general membership meeting Thursday, March 5. I promised at the last meeting that I would try to make our general membership meetings more social, so our March 5 meeting will take place at Bucketheads.



*Kevin O'Hara Photography*

The speaker will discuss a topic I know is near and dear to the hearts of everyone in Ocean Park. Chris Wojtowicz, Virginia Beach Lesner Bridge project manager, will give us an update on the Lesner Bridge construction. This is your chance to ask those burning questions you have about the bridge construction, but are unwilling to post on Facebook. You might even get a real answer.

Speaking of Facebook, as the OPCL page monitor for the last seven years, I know some of you have questions about the page. The page was set up so residents of our neighborhood could exchange information about what's going on in our little slice of heaven. I have to admit when I started the page

in 2008 I was a bit naive about Facebook. At the time, I didn't even have an account. I just figured it would be an easy way for neighbors to stay connected. I was, and still am, of the opinion that most adults can have a civil discourse, and even disagree, without resorting to name calling and threats—and most can.

As with anything, there are exceptions. I think the page has been very successful. I am, by nature, a libertarian. Everyone has a right to their opinion. You also have a right to state your opinion, as long as it doesn't harm another, no matter how foolish it makes you appear. I personally live by the adage that I would rather sit silently and have one think me a fool, than open my mouth and confirm their opinion. With all that said, I must admit our page can be incredibly entertaining at times.

—Jill Doczi

—cont'd back page

# Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership



**Now in their new office location at the Brock Environmental Center in Ocean Park, CBF Hampton Roads staff will continue their legislative mission to improve the waterways in which we live, work and play.**

## General Assembly Wrap-up:

The Virginia General Assembly pleased the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) by including critical funding in its final budget bill for Virginia’s agriculture cost-share program.

The cost-share program is

critical for meeting the Commonwealth’s water-quality goals, including those in Virginia’s Clean Water Blueprint. Agricultural best management practices such as fencing cattle out of streams, planting streamside buffers, adopting rotational grazing, utilizing cover crops, and many others, are the most cost-effective ways for Virginia to meet its clean-water goals. Without the allocation in the final budget, the program and Bay cleanup efforts would have been hampered.

CBF is grateful to our members and supporters who took the time to contact their legislators to ensure that agriculture cost-share funding was included in the final budget. Other important issues during the General Assembly session included additional grant funding for localities to implement polluted runoff projects through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund program and legislation that would help prevent oyster poaching from by implementing stiffer penalties for those who are caught stealing.

CBF Releases 2014 State of the Bay Report  
CBF’s recently released 2014 State of the Bay Report is a mix of good and bad news. The good news is that the overall pollution score improved. The bad news was that this improvement was offset by declines in fisheries.

The report is a comprehensive measure of the Bay’s health. CBF scientists examine the best available historical and up-to-date information for 13 indicators in three categories: pollution, habitat, and fisheries. Taken together, these indicators offer an assessment of Bay health. The 2014 report score is 32, unchanged from the 2012 score. This year’s score is still far short of the goal of 70, which would represent a saved Bay. To help im-

prove the Bay’s grade, it is imperative that states continue to support and implement the Clean Water Blueprint. This will ensure that our children and grandchildren can inherit a restored Chesapeake Bay. To read the full report, visit [cbf.org/stateofthebay](http://cbf.org/stateofthebay).

—Christy Everett,  
*director Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

## BLUE PLANET FORUM

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Slover Library, 6th Floor Community Room 235  
East Plume Street, Norfolk  
Hear from expert panelists about how much a clean Chesapeake Bay is worth. The event is free, but please RSVP at [cbf.org/blueplanet](http://cbf.org/blueplanet) or 757/622-1964.

## CBF NIGHT —NORFOLK ADMIRALS

Saturday, March 28, 7:15 p.m.  
Norfolk Scope  
201 E. Brambleton, Norfolk  
Come cheer on the local hockey team and a portion of your ticket proceeds will go to CBF. This is one of the last games the Admirals will play in Norfolk Scope before moving to California after this season. Cross off a Hampton Roads bucket list item AND help Save the Bay at the same time!

## OYSTER REEF BALL CONSTRUCTION

April 7, 8, 9, 22, 23, 24  
9 a.m.—12 p.m. each day  
At VIMS in Gloucester Point, VA  
We need 15 volunteers a day.

## BROCK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PUBLIC TOURS

Arrange a time to come learn about the Brock Environmental Center. Reservations can be made by sending an email [tobrockgreentours@cbf.org](mailto:tobrockgreentours@cbf.org) or calling 757/622-1964.

## Prioritizing maintenance: Ocean Park houses need lots-a-love

Even if your house doesn't have a sand dune and waves at your back door, your Ocean Park home's exterior still bears the burden of salt water in the air that gnaws at your typical maintenance-free exterior. Live oaks create year-round shade and year round algae. Blowing sand pits your aluminum garage doors, ruins mechanisms in your windows and destroys your doors and locks. This is my top four list in order of importance to prevent the costliest damage.

1. Start with the roof. Algae (*Gloeocapsa magma*) stains your roof and moss (particularly lichen) destroys roof shingles. Both make roofs ugly, slippery and dangerous to walk on. Soft-wash asphalt roofing with a cleaner and a light brush and never pressure wash. Pressure washing will remove the granules bonded to the asphalt base quickly shortening the shingle life. Tree shade promotes the growth of algae and moss. If you have trees near your house, you probably have algae growing and you will need to clean your roof at least every four years. All roofs need to have the pipe collars inspected to make sure the gasket hasn't split or collapsed. Caulking that covers exposed nails at the collars and vents fails before the roof and needs touched up every 7-10 years. To clean a roof, use the roofing manufacturer's recommended cleaning solution of 1 quart bleach, 1 gallon water and ¼ cup TSP (trisodium phosphate) using a pump sprayer and a long-handled soft brush. Apply and rinse on a cloudy day.

2. Entry doors. (Bet you didn't think that was next.) The typical door is a steel door with a wood frame. There is a moisture trap where the jamb meets sill and weatherstrip, causing rot in the lower extremity of the jamb. Newer doors (after 2010) have a "no rot" lower piece in the jamb that prevents this. Steel doors showing surface rust should be sanded and painted immediately, preferably with an oil paint over rust preventive primers. All entry doors ben-

efit from a storm door to protect the door, jamb and lockset from all of these problems. A single swinging door is rated to leak at 38 mph wind-driven rain causing expensive repairs. A storm door also keeps water from leaking under your finished floor. Moisture damaged subfloors require removing the finished floor, good luck matching any flooring ruined by door leaks. Storm doors also provide another layer of protection from break-ins.

3. Treated wood decks are a high-maintenance item for Ocean Park homes. Today's building codes are much stricter regarding fastening the deck to the house and to its vertical

decks I use a cup of oxygen bleach, three quarts water, ¾ cup of liquid dish detergent. Apply it on the deck and scrub with a brush and rinse and repeat as needed.

4. Fireplaces: Burning a pile of wood in your house should be done only when you are 100 percent sure it is safe to do. Ocean Park fireplaces are mostly wood burning, zero-clearance vented or non-vented gas fixtures. Wood burning have a flu that typically has a flat galvanized metal cap that eventually leaks. Often times this leak is unknown because it is leaking in to the chase. Any cap replacement should have a pitch installed using arched cut 2x4s before installing the new cap. The chase should be inspected to make sure the firebreaks at each floor level were not destroyed from the leak and the flue pipe is not rusted through. Typically the firebreak is a sheetrock ceiling at each floor level and can easily fail from the water leaks. These firebreaks prevent a rapid flame spread in case of chimney fire. Cleaning the flue is a life-saving maintenance chore and should be done by a professional. If you have a gas fireplace, get a good CO2 sniffer, it's also a lifesaver. Know how to operate the damper and make sure it seals shut, no sense allowing the conditioned air in your house to go up the chimney.

Finally, when hiring a contractor, do your homework. Get it in writing, you should never sign any contract and still have questions. If your roof is being cleaned, have the details and methods part of the contract. Having your doors painted? Have the prep work and the exact paint and primers in the contract. Cleaning and/or sealing a deck? Get in writing the prep work, the type of cleaners and the type and number of coats of sealers. Ask for references and go look at those jobs.

*An investment in knowledge  
pays the best interest.*

—Benjamin Franklin

supports. A large percentage of decks were built with ACQ (Alkaline Copper Quaternar) treated lumber that actually dissolves nails and bolts. This treatment came about after decades of CCA treatment (Chromated Copper Arsenate) was found to contain arsenic and banned by the EPA in 2003. The most dangerous area on a deck is where it is fastened to the house. Never allow a large group of friends on your deck without some type of third party inspection. If you don't see bolts approximately every 16" to 24" at the band board and at the posts, your deck is not safe. Salt air can also corrode the joist hangers, the bolts and the nails on decks, rails and steps. If you have a ground level deck, chances are you will need to clean it every year. The underside of the deck never dries and is always growing mold and algae. The life expectancy for these decks is about a third of a raised deck. Decks should also never be pressure washed and should be soft washed with cleaners to prevent destroying the wood. To clean

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



## Poison ivy talk with the Emergency Doc

With summer coming, poison ivy becomes a common ailment (and source of many questions). Here is The Emergency Doc's definitive poison ivy/oak/sumac post—both from my experience as a doctor, but more so as a frequent victim of this evil weed.

Contact dermatitis or hypersensitivity occurs when your skin reacts to oils in the plant parts. In other words, your own immune system overreacts.

If the oil is still on your skin or clothes, you can spread it (especially if you're sweating). But once you've washed it off of your skin and out of your clothes, you won't spread it anymore. Once you have reacted to poison ivy it is not contagious. The fluid in the blisters is from your own body. It does not contain poison ivy particles or anything else contagious.

The response is “dose dependant.” The areas exposed to the most oils will break out first and usually the worst. Areas that had just trace exposure will break out last. This is why it appears to move around your body. The areas that appear days later are usually the areas exposed to the smallest amounts of oil (perhaps from your clothes brushing up against it).

Once exposed, remove your clothes, throw them in the washer immediately. Take a shower as quickly as possible. If you can't shower, wash the area with cold water—not hot. Warmth opens your pores, allowing the oils to soak in further. There is no exact timeframe, but less than 15 minutes after exposure may minimize the breakout.

Once you have poison ivy (and have washed away the oils) you won't spread it by scratching it (see above). However, scratching can open the skin and create an entry port for other infections, like bacteria.

**DANGER: DO NOT BURN POISON IVY!** The toxin in the oil transfers in smoke. Unfortunately, I got a particularly nasty case one winter from our backyard fire pit. I burned some scavenged wood from our backyard (yes, the same backyard where I contract poison ivy) and the smoke blew all over my right arm. A day later, my arm began itching and turned into a full-blown rash. I was lucky, it was confined to my arm; however, inhaled smoke from burning poison ivy can inflame your eyes, nasal passages and throat leading to a life-threatening reaction.

Treatments are complicated and diverse. There is no cure, but since your own immune system creates the reaction, medications that blunt your immune response are most effective. Oral steroids work best for more severe cases, but a five-to-six day course is often ineffective and too short. The rebound effect after you finish can be even worse. You should take at least a 14-day course (even up to 21 days). Many people (myself included) don't want to take them for that long, but they work.

Antihistamines work also. The immune reaction releases histamine, causing swelling, fluid and itching. Medications such as Benadryl and Atarax will block this, but also cause tiredness. Claritin, Allegra, and Zyrtec don't make you drowsy but aren't nearly as effective.

Antihistamine and steroid creams work in a few people but the evidence doesn't support their effectiveness, and up to 30 percent of people react to antihistamine creams, so I recommend avoiding them. Over-the-counter ster-



oids show little benefit. Strong prescription creams can help, but these can also create their own side effects, especially if used on the face or sensitive areas. Generally avoid applying strong steroid creams to young children. If the case is bad enough to warrant strong topical steroids, just use oral steroids.

What about alternative treatments? As a doctor who has tried this with patients, but most importantly as a frequent poison ivy victim, I swear by the heat method. Take a hot shower, or use a hair dryer to blow hot air on the rash. The itching will quickly get more intense, to the point that it feels like it is burning. Stay in the heat as long as you can possibly take it. This gives you six to eight hours of almost complete itching relief. Disclaimer: use as warm of water or air as you can stand, but don't burn yourself.

Calamine lotion, Sarna and similar medications help some people. The same applies to baking soda, cornmeal or oatmeal paste made with warm water. The warm water probably provides the relief, but if it works for you great, it certainly won't hurt.

*Cont'd. next page*

Some people spray affected areas with hair spray or cover the area with nail polish. I tried the hair spray and did not get nearly the relief I did with heat. Don't use nail polish. Don't scrub with alcohol, there is nothing to "kill" and

the alcohol will irritate it more and could lead to scarring.

Of course, the best treatment is prevention. Wear long sleeves, pants and gloves when working near poison ivy

and take the clothes off immediately minimizing any skin contact.

Website resource:  
<http://poisonivy.aesir.com/view/info.html>

—Todd Parker, M.D.

## Adopt-A-Spot cleanups

Mark and Mary Ellen Faust lead the cleanups as the OPCL Adopt-a-Spot chairpersons. They schedule cleanups throughout the year at Pleasure House Point.

The committee will announce cleanups on the Ocean Park Facebook Page, by email and in the newsletter.

For more information or to participate, please contact them at [mary3739@cox.net](mailto:mary3739@cox.net).



Pleasure House Point — Jill Doczi

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### 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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(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

- **Lost puppy collar with night light on the beach between Albemarle and Bay Vista. Reward offered. Contact Anne Kane if you have any information.**
- Neighbors continue to monitor the possible switch by the city from a temporary materials dredge station at the boat ramp to a permanent station. Stay tuned for upcoming information.
- **Rita Sparling, north side Ocean Park mail carrier, had a feature article in The Beacon about her dedication to and presence in the community.**
- Low-flying helicopters with cameramen identified as Dominion Virginia Power aerial surveyors.

*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](mailto: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](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 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 \$225,000, as of January 31, 2015, up from \$222,770 on December 31, 2014. 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 Affairs and Zoning Update:**

The committee has not presented any reports regarding decisions.

**OPCL News:**

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](http://www.opcl.org) and signing

up for email update. Contact Ryan McCawley, communications chairperson with any questions or concerns at [communication@opcl.org](mailto:communication@opcl.org)

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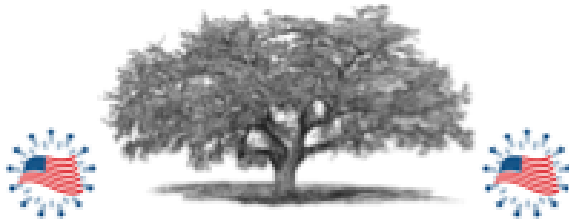
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Or come in and get ten dollars off a haircut with one of our selected stylists. We think you are on a road to "be"ing your best self.

*We're at the corner of Shore Drive and W. Great Neck Road for a hair appointment call 757/351-3447*

\$



**Ocean Park Yard and Bake Sale  
Saturday April 11th 2015**

**8 am to 2 pm**

***\$10.00 per house fee to  
help pay for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks***



***OP Bakers and Yard Sales wanted!***

***\$10.00 fee covers advertising  
campaign and map distribution.***

***Spring clean and bake to help raise  
money for OP fireworks***

***Be ready for a huge crowd of buyers!***

**SIGN-UP DEADLINE 4/4/2015**

***Sign up contact***

***Andrew Broyles @ [andrew@shelladditions.com](mailto:andrew@shelladditions.com) 621 2082***

***Bake sale coordinator Kristie Zeller***

***Kristie Zeller @ [kristie.zeller@icloud.com](mailto:kristie.zeller@icloud.com)***

***Join the group***

***On Facebook "as" [Ocean Park Yard Sale/Bake Sale](#)***

Ocean Park Civic League  
members:

**CRAWL  
OUT!!!  
Of  
Hibernation**



Saturday, March 28

6 p.m. at

Froggies Cantina by the Bay

Bring a neighbor to the  
Crawl Out of Hibernation

Celebration!

Enjoy free food,

live entertainment and

raffle prizes

You may join at the door for  
\$15

RSVP to

Lauren Harrington or

Robin Geisen at

[socialactivities@opcl.org](mailto:socialactivities@opcl.org)

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# Lynnhaven River NOW

## River Cleanup

Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. to noon

Francis Land House

3131 Virginia Beach Blvd.

Join LRNow to help clean up the shoreline at the Francis Land House

## 13th Annual LRNow Oyster Roast

Saturday, April 18 noon

Home of Eleanor and Bob Stanton

4141 First Court Road, Virginia Beach Blvd.

Adjacent to the Bayville Golf Club

Sign up early for this zero-trash oyster roast/ barbecue and silent auction.

Tickets will go on sale in March for \$70 each.

Volunteer positions will post in late March.


## Taste Tidewater Oysters

Sunday, May 31

Taste Tidewater Tours and Pleasure House oysters will team up for a culinary craft brew and oysters tour that benefits LRNow. Sign up through Taste Tidewater Tours.

## Brock Environmental Center Move

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




**13TH Annual Oyster Roast**  
ZERO TRASH EVENT

**Join the celebration and see  
The Art of Saving a River for yourself!**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
12 - 3 p.m.

- Home of Eleanor and Bob Stanton  
4141 First Court Road, Virginia Beach
- Lynnhaven River Aquacultured Oysters, Oyster Stew, Barbecue and Beverages
- Festivities include an oyster shucking contest and silent auction
- More Perfect Jones bluegrass band
- Raffle – Win your own oyster roast for 30 people
- Tickets \$70 per person
- For tickets call 962-5398, email Dana@LRNow.org, or order online at www.LRNow.org



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## Dicentra eximia



Family: Papaveraceae

Common Name: Wild Bleeding Heart

- Height: 1-1.5'
- Spread: 1-1.5'
- Light requirements: Part Shade
- Soil: Average, medium, well-drained soil; intolerant of wet soils in winter and dry soils in summer; prefers moist, humusy soils
- Flower color: Rose pink to purplish red
- Planting time: fall to spring
- Growth: Bushy, mounding, perennial
- Native Origin: Eastern US
- Good alternative to invasive English Ivy as a woodland groundcover
- Interesting Fact: Native Bleeding Heart provides nectar to migrating hummingbirds, as well as an early spring supply for native bumblebees.

Reference:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

<http://www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com/dicentra-native-bleeding-heart.html>

**CP Shucker's**



**Cafe & Raw Bar**

to host



**BENEFIT NIGHT**

Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>  
from 5pm to 9pm.

**Mention Ocean Park!**

20% of your meal purchase on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
will be donated in support of

**Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Unit Inc.**

(757) 412-2929  
CP Shuckers Shore Drive  
3232 Shore Drive Virginia Beach VA, 23451

## 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](http://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**

For those conspiracy theorists out there, I am the only monitor, and I am extremely reluctant to delete comments. As I said above, everyone has a right to their opinion, you just need to keep your opinions civil. If you resort to name calling or personally disparaging remarks, I will delete your comments. Fortunately it doesn't happen too often. Most folks self delete before I have to. When I started the page I didn't want to have a long disclaimer with fine print stating the rules, so I kept them simple. Keep the discussions civil, no politics, no personally disparaging comments or attacks, no business advertising. That's it, simple enough, isn't it? And yet...

Lastly, we want to add a couple of social events to our calendar this year. In years past, your civic league sponsored block parties. I think it's time we bring those back. We want

to have two block parties this summer, one on the north side and one on the south side. I think these will help promote good cheer among neighbors as we are chartered to do; however, with all things civic league, we need volunteers to make these things come about.

If you are socially inclined, and enjoy having fun with your friends and neighbors, you may just have the skill sets we need to make these type of things happen. Please email me, text me, call me or knock on my door if you can help organize our neighborhood block parties. Your neighbors will really appreciate it.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting at Bucketheads. Until then, stay warm.

—Rick Mercadante, OPCL, president

**March 5 OPCL Meeting**

**Join the your neighbors at the Bucketheads restaurant for the Ocean Park Civic League meeting in March.**

**Refreshments provided.**

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

