

Welcome to...

OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA



Important Dates

Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

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

25th Clean the Bay Day

Saturday
June 1
9 a.m. to noon
The bayfront and
waterways

BAC Meeting

Third Thurs
each month
Location Varies

SDCC Meeting

May 27
June 24
July 22
August 26
7:30 p.m.
Ocean Park
Rescue Squad

Fourth of July Fireworks

July 4
Rain date: July 5
Just after dark

Ocean Park Echo

MAY 2013

MANY HANDS · LIGHT WORK

CLEAN THE BAY DAY

25 YEARS

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2013
9:00 AM - NOON
To do your part:
CBF.ORG/CLEAN 800-SAVE/BAY ctbd@cbf.org

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure



Head Start on Cleanup: Ocean Park “adopted” Pleasure House Point and, on April 20, held the first PHP Cleanup Day. An OPCL work crew picked up almost 400 pounds of debris at PHP including signs, conduit, tire, carburetor, chairs, car seat and unfortunately, destroyed poop bag containers.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed



- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- State Boundary
- Chesapeake Bay



Data Sources: Chesapeake Bay Program
For more information, visit www.chesapeakebay.net
Disclaimer: www.chesapeakebay.net/termsfuse.htm



Created by EA, 1/24/08

UTM Zone 18N, NAD 83

Water quality in all of these areas from New York State to Virginia and from West Virginia to Delaware affects the Bay.

Lynnhaven River NOW

International Migratory Bird Day Walk Saturday, May 11

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Pleasure House Point

Free—Please call to register

Join LRNow and the Audobon Society on this ideal day to take a bird walk through Pleasure House Point, on the Atlantic Flyway.

Spat Catcher Workshop

Tuesday, May 14

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Great Neck Rescue Squad

Langhorn Hall 1243 Bayne Dr.

\$25 for two spat catchers

Pre-register by May 10

Hang two cages less than one cubic foot off of your dock (or a neighbor's or friend's dock) for the summer and see how many oyster spat settle on the recycled oyster shell and granite pieces in the cages. All you have to do is shake the cages around in the water every few weeks and you will raise oysters that will filter the Lynnhaven River for the rest of their lives. Space is limited. Please register.

Bayside History Day Bike Tour

Saturday, May 18

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bayside Public Library

\$15 Registration

Fee for Ride and

Lunch

Sign up early—

Free to the first

25

Ride with LRNow and TBA on an 11-mile guided historic tour starting and ending at the Bayside Public Library. The tour will visit Ferry Plantation House, the Thoroughgood House, Church Point Wayside and Old Donation Church.

This is a family-paced ride, so children are welcome to join. Helmets required for all riders.



—Chuck Guthrie

Paddle for the Lynnhaven Ecotour

Saturday, June 8

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First Landing State Park

64th Street Boat Ramp

\$35 Kayak Rent / \$20 BYOK

Register through Chesapeake Outdoors at (757) 961-0447

Lynnhaven River NOW and Chesapeake Outdoors are teaming up to offer a kayaking eco-tour of the Lynnhaven River.

Exploring Children's Nature Books

Tuesday, June 25 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

With summer almost here, children will soon have more free time to read and explore with their families. Spark their excitement for nature by reading some of our favorite environmental children's books to

them. Then join us for a family book discussion. Book titles organized into two categories encompassing pre-school to fifth grade.

For more information visit the Lynnhaven River NOW website www.LRNow.org or email Kris@LRNow.org.



—LRNOW staff

PHP/Beach dog walkers take notice: Laws explained

Warmer months coax people and their furry friends outdoors. A recent Facebook query prompted the investigation of the laws regarding dogs in Ocean Park. Rumors and half-truths (and some homeowner-made signs), showed a need for the official municipal code information.

Dogs may walk off-leash as long as “under immediate control of a responsible party who has an appropriate waste receptacle and removes/disposes of all waste”

on the Ocean Park beach at the appropriate times of day posted at each access. This means all day long during fall, winter and spring. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, it



means before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Dogs may walk, urinate or defecate on public property as long as their waste is removed appropriately.

It is illegal for owners to allow dogs to urinate, walk or defecate on private property unless it is their own. Anything from the curb to the back of your property is private property.

Pleasure House Point, which is now a natural preserve, has slightly different rules now. Since it is no longer private property, the city allows dogs, but al-

ways on a leash and owners must remove all waste in an appropriate receptacle.

Dogs, Leashes and Pleasure House Point: Different rules for different circumstances

A recent article in the *Virginian Pilot* newspaper highlighted the unique situation of dogs and Pleasure House Point. Since then, the topic has come up for discussion in numerous locations, including the Bayfront Advisory Committee meeting, on the Shore Drive Community Coalition's site and on the Ocean Park Facebook site.

The city of Virginia Beach designates Pleasure House Point a Natural Area, which is defined as a municipal preservation area with the primary purpose of preserving the indigenous vegetation and wildlife in order to serve as green infrastructure and as a scenic environment for Virginia Beach residents to enjoy. Natural areas include areas for protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Recreational use might include passive recreation activities such as hiking, birding and environmental education, but may also include public waterway access

improvements, public fishing opportunities and trail connections.

The city, with help from residents, environmental groups and a federal conservation grant, purchased Pleasure House Point last year, preserving the 118-acre site as a wildlife sanctuary and a destination for hikers, dog-walkers, bird-watchers and other nature-lovers.

Several problems occur when dogs run free in the sanctuary. Their activity disturbs birds nesting or resting. They also disrupt the nests of diamondback terrapins and traumatize their hatchlings. Dog waste is a major source of harmful bacteria, which degrades water quality, rendering shellfish unsafe to eat and making humans and animals sick.

Animal Control has begun patrolling the site more often and the city will work to educate the preserve's users. The city installed signs, trash cans and dog-waste bag dispensers hoping these

efforts will prevent the outlawing of dogs altogether.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries holds an environmental easement on 85 percent of the property at Pleasure House Point. The department has expressed concern about the issue of dog waste being left on the ground and dogs not on leashes within Pleasure House Point. Representatives from the city hope not to have to restrict dogs from the park, and that education and awareness will result in everyone obeying the law. Please spread the word. Animal Control will enforce both laws.

Currently dogs may enjoy walking at Pleasure House Point. Dog owners showing awareness, responsibility and accountability will help keep it that way.

Anyone observing violators should report it as soon as possible to Animal Control at 385-4444.

Ocean Park Waterway Development and Redevelopment Committee Report

A. Construction projects planned to impact Ocean Park

1. The city intends to utilize the western end of the Lesner Bridge construction property, including the approach area to Crab Creek, as a mooring area for larger dredge barges.
2. The dredge transfer facility will be adjacent to these mooring areas.
3. The city will construct a concrete cap bulkhead to support the bridge construction.
4. The new Lesner bridge will take three years to build.
5. Maintenance dredging of Crab Creek will be done in January, February and March due to spawning cycles.

B. Other related projects

1. The Thalia dredge material transfer station nears completion.
2. The city removed the Maple Street neighborhood transfer station as an option due, in part, to public outcry.
3. The city will not consider any of the other potential transfer sites for construction at this time.

C. City Staff Position Dredge Material Transfer Station

1. City staff has declared that a permanent dredge transfer station and daytime use of dump trucks through Ocean Park will have no financial impact to property values.
2. Dredge transfer operations will have no impact on Lesner Bridge Reconstruction.
3. Bridge construction will result in significant reduction in parking access on the north side.

4. The city will encourage neighborhoods to use their own roadways to haul dredge spoils instead of barge transfer to Lesner Bridge reconstruction.
5. City staff will have final decision with communities who wish to haul spoils through their own neighborhoods based on the structural integrity of their roads.
6. City staff has not studied the structural integrity of roads for any of the neighborhood routes for these dredge spoils hauling operations.
7. The city will integrate construction of the bridge and dredge transfer station into one project.
8. Construction of the bridge will create a tremendous burden on traffic.

D. Options for Ocean Park and possible recommendations from OPWDRC regarding the dredge transfer station use at Crab Creek and Lynnhaven Bridge Reconstruction.

1. Continue to meet with city staff and poke holes in their plan through the OPWDRC.
2. Begin a written agreement process with city limiting the development of the Crab Creek and Lesner Bridge reconstruction area.
3. Begin a written agreement process with city designating all operating conditions at LBR and Crab Creek.
4. Organize an opposition campaign in the name of Ocean Park Civic League.

Some good news and some bad news...

Look what we have in our own backyard!

Virginia Beach and the Trust for Public Land received a silver medal for environmental excellence as part of the 2013 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Program. On behalf of the city, Barbara Duke with Parks and Recreation accepted the award, presented at the Environment Virginia Conference held at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington on April 10.

The award recognizes the Pleasure House Point project as an excellent example of partnership and collaboration to conserve land. Pleasure House Point now holds the designation of a Natural Area Park open to all Virginia Beach citizens.

...and then there is this:

Letter from:
 Michael T. Moore; CNMP
 Open Space and Resource Manager
 Parks and Natural Areas
 Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation
 Parks and Natural Areas Office | 2289 Lynnhaven Parkway
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456

The past two weeks we have seen an elevated amount of vandalism at Pleasure House Point. The two dog boxes were ripped from their signs, along the two Marlin Bay trails last week. We installed new ones and I inspected the site yesterday and found that the same occurred again.

Last week we found that a household kitchen bag was dumped on a trail. Mail within the bag was addressed to (redacted). Yesterday, along the same trail I found four very large bags dumped on the trail. I removed the litter and pulled the dog boxes out of the woods from where they were thrown and placed them beside the posts from which they were installed. At this point we are discussing which dog boxes to reinstall. A police report was given and I have a case number pertaining to the issue.

I wanted to keep you posted as well as possibly ask if you wouldn't mind mentioning something about this in your next OPCL Newsletter.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.



Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership

Join in the celebration: Volunteer for the 25th Anniversary of Clean the Bay Day

We know that many Ocean Park residents are dedicated to maintaining a clean community. Not only has Ocean Park Civic League “adopted” Pleasure House Point to help keep it clean, there are daily examples of residents throughout the neighborhood constantly picking up litter and demonstrating care for neighborhood waterways.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its numerous municipal, county, civic, park and business partners are in full recruitment mode for Clean the Bay Day 2013. This year is extra special with June 1 marking the 25th anniversary of this annual event that has become a tradition and one of the most popular volunteer events in the state. Clean the Bay Day exemplifies the success that can be achieved when local governments, businesses, and citizens work together to improve water quality and implement Virginia’s Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint for restoring the Bay.

Clean the Bay Day has proud roots in Virginia Beach, where it all started with a group of citizens concerned about trash littering streets and shorelines. Since then the event has grown statewide. Last year, 22 cities and counties, 11 military installations, 11 state parks, 20 independent organizations, and numerous scout groups, businesses, churches, and civic organizations participated. Together 6,800 volunteers removed more than 150,000 pounds of debris from nearly 500



miles of streams and shoreline—in just three hours!

This year, for the first time, all 20 Virginia State Parks within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, from Shenandoah River State Park in the western part of Virginia, to First Landing State Park at Cape Henry, will host cleanup sites. Since 1989, Clean the Bay Day has engaged over 122,000 volunteers, who have removed approximately 5.8 million pounds of debris from nearly 5,500 miles of shoreline!

We hope that the silver anniversary of Clean the Bay Day will bring unprecedented public awareness to actions all Virginians can take to improve water quality. Join the celebration and show your stewardship to the waterways you love. Registration is now open. Sign up to volunteer at cbf.org/clean or call 800/SAVEBAY.

Donate now to Fireworks 2013

As of March 30 the Fireworks Fund had about \$370. The first and largest deposit drained the account and fundraising efforts will begin in earnest now that warm weather has appeared. Almost all the necessary agencies have issued the permits for this year’s show.

Improvements to this year’s show include even more explosions and a change in the trajectory of the explosions to provide a wider viewing range for those on the far ends of the beaches. If you had trouble seeing the show last year, this should improve your experience.

Remember that our partners in this show, Baylake Pines Civic League and Chesapeake Beach Civic League have several fundraisers and if you participate, the money goes towards their portion of the show.

Every dollar makes a difference and if every home donated only \$20 we would have our show.

Donations may be made through PayPal at www.opcl.org, by check to 3967 West Stratford Rd.

Show date: Thursday, July 4

Rain date: Friday, July 5



Brock Environmental Center to be smart and sustainable

Things are progressing with plans for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Brock Environmental Center at Pleasure House Point. Every aspect of the center—its location, materials, construction, utilities, operation, and use—will meet the strictest environmental standards of the Living Building Challenge and set a new bar for sustainable building. The building's footprint will use less than an acre of CBF's 10-acre parcel, a tiny percentage of the total area of Pleasure House Point.

As a net zero facility, the Brock Environmental Center will be the most sustainable building in Virginia. In addition to producing energy through renewable sources, other green initiatives such as natural day lighting and natural ventilation (see attached picture) will help conserve energy by natural means.

Natural Day Lighting: The onsite position of the center is a large part of the conservation strategy that aims to collect the maximum amount of natural daylight, minimizing the need for electrical power for light fixtures and heating equipment. The orientation of the front of the building is generally south, which picks up most of the winter sun at a lower angle to the horizon and provides passive heating during the winter months. The back of the building is oriented north to pick up natural day lighting, without adding too much heat to the building, in order to create natural light for work tasks.

Natural Ventilation: Another part of the conservation strategy



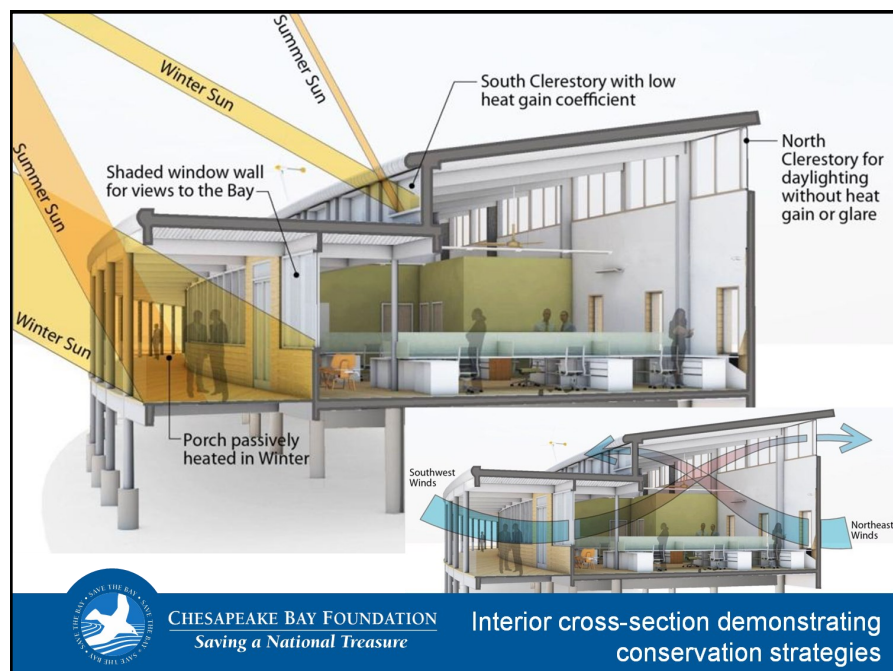
is using wind to help with cooling. The orientation of the building is important to capture the winds in the most effective way. Prevailing winds are southwest in the summer and northeast in the winter. The building's orientation will use this to maximize the efficiency of the HVAC system. Operable windows will open as the outside temperature and humidity reach optimal levels. Read more about the many green features at cbf.hourigan.com.

Given that the CBF Brock Environmental Center will be the headquarters for outdoor environmental education programs in Hampton Roads, you will see CBF teacher trainings again on Pleasure House Point this July. Nearby Pleasure House Creek, Crab Creek, the Lynnhaven River and the Chesapeake Bay offer perfect opportunities for meaningful outdoor learning experiences for countless students, teachers, citizens and community leaders.

Groundbreaking for the CBF Brock Environmental Center is slated for late this summer with a target completion date of autumn 2014. CBF hopes the new environmental education and community center will engage, inform and inspire the Hampton Roads community and serve as model to help solve the Bay's challenges in innovative, sustainable and collaborative ways.

For more information about the CBF Brock Environmental Center, contact CBF's Hampton Roads office at 622-1964 or hamptonroads@cbf.org or visit cbf.org/php.

—Christy Everitt, CBF Hampton Roads director



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

- Newsletter Graphic Designer (30)
- Fireworks Committee (10-50)
- Newsletter Distributor (4)
- Scholarship Committee (5)
- Zoning Committee Member (5)
- Audit Committee (3)
- Safety and Traffic Committee Member (5)
- Meeting Coordinator (6)
- Social Committee Member (5)
- Door Prize Coordinator (6)
- Business Liaison (10)
- Membership Committee Member (5)

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The SDCC Meeting Wrap Up

The Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) meeting minutes for March or April have not posted yet.

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.
- 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. 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. 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	

OPCL official business

OPCL Finance

Committee Update:

The Robbins Legacy account held investments valued at approximately \$210,000 as of March 31, 2013 after making a \$7,500 distribution to OPCL of accumulated interest to fund 2013

budget items. The portfolio is allocated 57 percent fixed income/cash and 43 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 you have ideas for funding of community projects and improvements in Ocean Park, please contact any officer of OPCL listed in the newsletter.

OPCL Zoning

Committee Update:

Currently, the zoning committee has no projects for review.

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.

Comings, Goings & General OP Info

Those with limited mobility may access the beach/off-road wheelchair available at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp. It can access the beach or traverse Pleasure House Point.

Terry Gearhart accidentally issued a batch of civic league benefit cards with a 2012 date. If you received one of those, send him an email to tgearpsu@gmail.com and he will deliver a corrected 2013 card.

Corp of Engineers have planned a summertime dredge for Lynnhaven Inlet and the sand from that dredge will benefit Ocean Parks beach. When the Lesner Bridge demolition begins, the Corp of Engineers plans to remove 5000 cubic yards of sand for placement on Ocean park beaches.

In response to members' request, Ocean Park Civic League held a special meeting April 17 to address the ABC licensing restriction changes awarded to Froggie's Cantina by the Bay. Representatives both for supporting the restrictions previously in place, and against made presentations. The final vote 25-36 in favor of abandoning support of the old restrictions. The restaurant may now stay open to 2 a.m. all nights, amplified music may occur any night and ambient music can occur on the outside deck until 10 p.m. any night.

Please submit any comings, goings and community-pertinent information or events to 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, those leaving (unless permanently leaving and saying goodbye) will not.

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**The Little People's Creative Workshop  
Dance, Theatre, and Art  
2013 Summer Camp**

July 15-19  
9:00 am-12:00 pm  
AGE 5-7

August 5-9  
9:00 am-12:00 pm  
PRESCHOOL AGE

During camp, your child will learn dance, theatre and art in our three hour session. Each day we will introduce a new theme for our dance class which is taught by Elizabeth Heely - Owner/Principle Instructor of DANCESpace. After snack, we will all create a piece of art with resident artist Kim Fisher from Hands on Art to go along with the daily theme. Your child will need comfortable dance clothes and footless tights. Please pack a snack and water.

Cost: \$160.00 (\$25.00 off for siblings)  
(Includes tuition and supplies)



**Hands on Art**  
Children's Creative Art Classes  
**Kim Fisher**  
Owner/Instructor

2013 Summer Art Camp

**Going to the Beach**  
Explore a variety of art materials and techniques while creating fun under the sea animals. Your little artist will love this multi-media, process oriented approach to art where they will paint, collage and sculpt while listening to music and storytelling.

August 13, 14, & 15  
(Age 5 and up)

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**\$150 (Includes Tuition and Supplies)**

\*Camp located at DANCESpace  
\*Call 757-285-8307 to Register

**NEW THIS  
SUMMER!!  
Mini Day Camp  
Dance & Art**

**Parents Day Out**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
June 21st  
July 26th  
August 2nd  
\$40.00

DANCESpace is located at  
2256 Seashore Shoppes  
VirginiaBeach, Virginia 23451  
phone: 757-965-7733  
[www.dancespacevb.com](http://www.dancespacevb.com)

**Ocean Park Civic League  
CRAWL OUT!  
(of Hibernation)**

Thank you to all who came out to the annual Ocean Park Civic League Crawl Out! on Saturday, March 23 at Froggies! We hope you had a great time and met some new neighbors in the process.

Raffle ticket proceeds of \$400 were raised and donated to Lynnhaven River NOW. Special thanks to all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes including:

- Salty C's
- C P Shuckers
- Tini's
- Bayside Bar & Grill
- Becka Brothers Landscape Services
- Ava Clara
- Amici Style
- Maninos

Tracy Wilson Norris on behalf of Origami Owl

Thank you to Brent Shepard for providing the awesome live music all night long :). Last but not least, thank you to Bill and Debbie Bickel, owners of Froggie's, for hosting the event.

**As seen on  
Facebook**

- A request for information about local honey and hosting honeybee hives. [www.beekeepersguild.org](http://www.beekeepersguild.org) will provide information about hives and Leaping Lizard may offer honey for sale.
- **Every day from now until the 25th Anniversary of Clean the Bay Day, you can find a posted tip on how to help the bay every day.**
- Car vandalizations and broken car windows with a possible blonde-haired teenaged male mentioned.
- **Free hoola-hooping and yoga classes offered by Yoga on the Bay for OP residents. See ad in this newsletter on page 15 for contact information.**
- Kevin O'Hara, Inlet Fitness personal trainer, will offer Ocean Park Boot Camp beginning June 1. Send a message to [kohara77@cavtel.net](mailto:kohara77@cavtel.net) for more information.
- **Plenty of dog poop discussion. Please pick up after your pets.**

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

**Crime Updates**

Police reports for the neighborhood include three larceny-from-motor-vehicle cases and a larceny-from-building where a bike was taken from an open garage. A reminder for all residents to secure personal items, lock their vehicles and do not leave valuables in vehicles.

—Captain Dennis A. Hebert  
Virginia Beach Police Department  
3rd Precinct

## **Andrew R. Broyles**

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## The BAC Meeting Wrap Up

Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting notes:

Phil Roehrs of Public Works/Beach Management reported that the dredging of Lynnhaven Inlet Channel received funding and that the Army Corps of Engineers will probably award the contract in August with a estimated start time of October 1, 2013. Relocated sand will benefit Ocean Park Beach from the Lesner Bridge to the west side of Aeries On The Bay.

Phil Davenport, Director of Public works asked that any problems with potholes, street signs, clogged ditches or similar issues be reported by calling 385-1470.

Barbara Duke from Parks and Recreation gave a report on Pleasure House Point. The construction by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will cause the temporary closing of one of the trails near the pump station. A new trail will be complete within 30 days. It will run from the end of

Dinwiddie and connect to the Beach Trail.

She also announced that a Bio-Blitz will take place May 4 and 5 conducted by various wild life experts in an effort to survey all the animal and plant life in the Environmental Easement held by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

She reported that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has shown concern about the issue of dog waste left on the ground and unleashed dogs at Pleasure House Point. The city hopes to not have to restrict dogs from the park and that education and awareness will cause everyone to obey the law. Please spread the word. Animal Control will enforce both laws.

A presentation was made by Taste Unlimited. They intend to build a new building on their Shore Drive site and tear down the old one upon completion.

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# What in Ocean Park is that?

The diamondback terrapin is believed to be the only turtle in the world that lives exclusively in brackish water (containing some salt, but not as much as ocean water) habitats like tidal marshes, estuaries and lagoons.

## Diamondback Terrapin

Chesapeake diamondbacks, distinguished by diamond-shaped, concentric rings on the scutes of their upper shells, act as predators whose preference for unpolluted saltwater make them indicators of healthy marsh and river systems. In winter, they hibernate underwater in mud. Around late May, diamondback terrapin emerge to mate, nest, and bask in the sun on coastal dunes or narrow sandy beaches.

Males reach maturity at three years old, while females are not full grown until age seven. Mating season runs May through July and after 60 days an average of 8 to 12 eggs will hatch. The hatchlings emerge from August to October completely independent. Only one to three percent of the eggs laid produce a hatchling, and the number of hatchlings that survive to adulthood is believed to be similarly low. After hatching, some young remain in the nest during the winter although most emerge and enter the nearest body of water.

Threats to the diamondback terrapin include habitat destruction, road construction (terrapins are common road kill) and drowning in crab traps. Projected climate change will also bring major changes to

the terrapin's habitats and life cycle. By the end of this century, sea level is projected to rise between 2.25 feet to 3.25 feet.

Salt water incursion into brackish tidal marshes will potentially make large areas saltier than the terrapin can tolerate. Higher temperatures on nesting beaches could skew the sex ratios of offspring.

Chesapeake colonists and Virginia natives ate terrapin roasted whole in live coals.



Baby terrapin found on washed up on our bay beach and

Abundant and easy to catch, terrapin were so ample that landowners often fed their slaves and indentured servants a staple diet of terrapin meat. Later, in the 19th century, the turtle was appreciated as gourmet food, especially in a stew laced with cream and sherry. Subsequently, tremendous retail demand and heavy fishing of the terrapin nearly depleted its



—msa.maryland.gov

supply, and protective laws were enacted. In 1891, some 89,000 lbs. of terrapin were harvested from Maryland waters. With few exceptions, annual harvests since 1956 have remained below 11,000 lbs.

—Jill Doczi  
Information from several sources including the Maryland State archives and Defenders of Wildlife

## Fast Facts

**Type:** Reptile

**Diet:** Omnivorous but lean heavily to carnivorous: fish, snails, worms, clams, crabs, mollusks, insects, marsh plants

**Location:** Along the Atlantic Coast of the eastern United States from Cape Cod to the Florida Keys and west along the Gulf Coast to Texas.

**Average life span in the wild:** 20+ years

**Size:** Female: seven inches long, Male: five inches long.

**Did you know?** The gender of diamondback terrapin offspring is determined by temperature — a higher nest temperature produces more females while a lower nest temperature produces more males.

**Description:** Diamond-shaped growth rings on the top shell.

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# Message from the president

May 2013

Spring couldn't get here early enough. Many of us enjoyed saying goodbye to winter at the March Crawl Out thanks to Lauren Bennis and her committee. In April, in continued support of Pleasure House Point, we had our first litter clean up event kicking off a two-year commitment under the city's adopt-a-space program.

A special meeting was held in April to air concerns about the ABC License of Froggie's Cantina by the Bay. The meeting was well attended and many neighborhood members spoke. Although at times we have differing opinions and take opposing stands on a matter, the evening showed we are able to approach a conflict with civility and respect for each other.

OPCL meetings are just one avenue for sharing information on matters of common interest. News blasts are sent out via email. We are fortunate to have this newsletter and an official OPCL web page. And for chatting and sharing, there is a Facebook group. These communication tools are made possible through the efforts of your neighbors volunteering their time. When you get a chance, thank Terry Gearhart, Jill Dozzi, Randy Hall and Rick Mercadante when you see them.

You can learn what's happening in this edition of the Echo. Come out for the May general membership meeting. Get ready for the July Fourth Fireworks show by contributing now. And stay tuned.

*Susie Walston, OPCL President*

## May 9 OPCL meeting

### Old Business

Old Business: Fireworks Update (Jill Dozzi)

### New Business

Presentation: Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Melissa C. Zibutis, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, VB Office of Volunteer Resources

### Committee & Liaison Reports -As Needed:

Audit Report (Sid Vaughn)  
Scholarship Award Potential Change (Grace Moran)  
Finance (Mike Wills)  
Fireworks (Jill Dozzi)  
Membership (Terry Gearhart) - *New members*  
Social Activities (Lauren Bennis) - *Crawl Out*  
Waterways Development & Redevelopment (Andrew Broyles)  
Zoning (Mike Wills)  
BAC (Martin Thomas)  
CAC (JP Cormier)  
CCO (Susie Walston)  
SDCC (JP Cormier)

### Announcements:

Saturday Clean up  
June 1 Clean the Bay Day