

Important Dates

July 4th Fireworks

July 4
Friday
9:15 p.m.
The Beach

Crawl Out of Hibernation Party

May 3
Saturday
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Froggies

Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

May 8
Thursday
7:30 p.m.
Ocean Park
Rescue Squad

BAC Meeting

May 15
June 19
3:30 p.m.
Virginia Beach
Resort and
Conference Center

SDCC Meeting

May 28
June 30
7:30 p.m.
Ocean Park
Rescue Squad

Ocean Park Echo

MAY 2014

Shore Drive Fireworks July 4, 2014 9:15 p.m.

Planning has begun for the 2014 Fourth of July fireworks show. Three civic leagues on our crescent of the beach combine to sponsor the event, which takes place on a barge in the Chesapeake Bay at the middle coordinate between Lesner Bridge and Little Creek's fence.

The current fireworks show began several years ago in response to a city-wide crack down on fireworks. Previously, residents up and down the Chesapeake bay privately purchased fireworks to set off. Heavy enforcement that first year left us without fireworks on the Fourth of July until our former civic league president, Rick Mercadante, and several volunteers pulled together a legitimate professional show with city approval.

Several years after holding smaller, beach-based shows in Ocean Park, the beaches suffered a large sand loss. That, coupled with new regulations for fireworks shows, forced the idea of a barge-based show. High fuel prices and the barge rental made a this show cost-prohibitive until Ocean Park joined forces with Baylake Pines and Chesapeake Beach to sponsor and raise funds for the show. While Ocean Park includes Pelican Dunes, Chesapeake House, BayVista, 3356 on the Bay and Aeries on the Bay under it's neighborhood umbrella, many have their own civic leagues that raise and contribute money to the show.

The Ocean Park portion of the contract required a down payment of \$9,000 due January 1. The remaining payments come due June 1 and July 5. Additionally, we always need to raise enough money for the next year's down payment. Each of the three civic leagues has a separate contract obligating them to their



portion of the funds, determined by permanent households.

This safe, professional, neighborhood fireworks show provides entertainment for us, our friends and family. We don't have to leave the neighborhood. We don't have to deal with parking, traffic, public restrooms, crowds, etc. Families with small children can choose to simply walk home if they are afraid or tired.

If we want this private, neighborhood fireworks show to continue, donations remain the only way to carry on the tradition. Currently only about 25 percent of Ocean Park donates. A quick look around on the actual day shows that many more of residents actually attend.

Please consider donating if you enjoy seeing fireworks on July Fourth without leaving your neighborhood. Every little bit helps. You may donate through PayPal at www.oceanparkcivicleague.org, by use of payment envelopes you will receive shortly or by handing your donation to any of the civic league board members.

—Jill Doczi

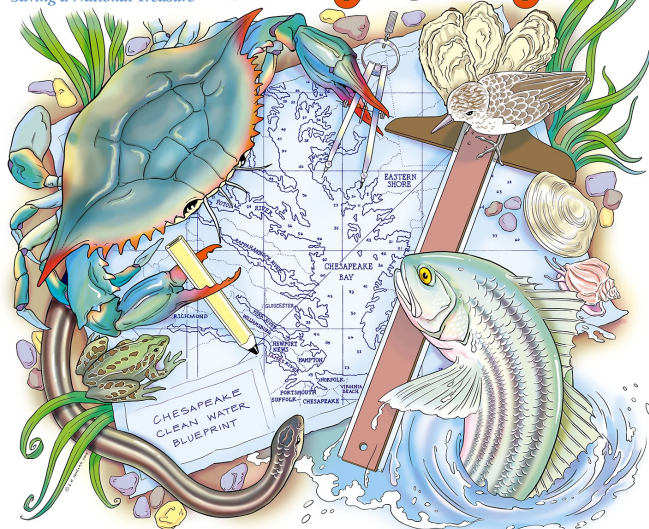
Clean the Bay Day

On Saturday, June 7, 2014, Clean the Bay Day will celebrate its 26th anniversary. Since 1989, more than 120,000 volunteers—citizens, businesses, and local governments—have collected 5.65 million pounds of debris from nearly 5,500 miles of the Commonwealth’s shorelines. Don’t miss this opportunity to join your friends, neighbors, co-workers and local decision-makers as we all come together to clean the Bay. To register or for more information, please visit cbf.org/clean.



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

26TH ANNUAL Clean the Bay Day



Ocean Park Civic League CRAWL OUT!

Of

Hi-



bernation Party

Froggie’s Cantina by the Bay
Saturday, may 3

6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Live music by
Jesse Chong
Raffle prizes
Refreshments

Civic league signups at the door.
Free admission to member households.



Ocean Park beach this winter—Susie Walston

The SDCC Meeting Wrap Up

The Shore Drive Community Coalition met in March and April but has not reported on the meetings. The meeting minutes online reflect the meetings held up until the February meeting only.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership

What's New at Pleasure House Point: Construction Under Way

Construction on the building has a fall completion date. Learn more at cbf.org/brock, including the live web feed of the construction.

Housed in the Brock Environmental Center, an international model for sustainable building, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will begin a tour program for interested parties to come learn about Brock Environmental Center's green features when it opens. Are you interested in training to be a docent at Brock Environmental Center? If so, please contact Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Tanner Council at tcouncil@cbf.org for more information on upcoming



training sessions. In the fall, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will need volunteers to help plant native plants on the property, including vegetation for onsite rain gardens and grey-waters gardens. If you are

interested, contact Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Tanner Council at tcouncil@cbf.org to be notified of exact dates.

—Christy Everett,
director Hampton Roads
Chesapeake Bay foundation

Legislative news of the Chesapeake Bay

In April, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of Virginia's plan to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation President William Baker responded to the announcement: "The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) roundly applauds Attorney General Herring for supporting federal-state Chesapeake Bay pollution limits and Virginia's Bay restoration plan, generally called the Bay Blueprint. Virginia has long



been a full and active Bay restoration partner and was at the table to help craft the Blueprint, a cooperative, federal-state plan that has been called the Bay's best, and perhaps last, chance for restoration. The

Commonwealth and her citizens clearly have much to gain from a healthy Chesapeake Bay, and much to lose should Bay restoration be thwarted. It is deeply gratifying that Virginia will stand with CBF, other regional states and numerous localities in defending clean water, a restored Bay and healthy rivers and streams."

Read Virginia's Amicus Brief at CBF.org.

—Christy Everett,
director Hampton Roads
Chesapeake Bay foundation

Lynnhaven River NOW partnership: Consider planting native species

This time of year those with even the blackest of thumbs admire green shoots as they spear their way through the thawing soil. Fresh, new growth is everywhere, promising an end to the dark and chilly gray of winter. As you plan and prepare your garden this year, the Lynnhaven River NOW (LRNow) Landscape Practices Committee requests that you consider adding a few native plants to your landscape. We introduce a “Year of Natives,” presenting an attractive native plant in our newsletters and e-news each month that will

When this food source disappears, so do they.

Native plants can be defined in many ways, but for our purposes, we define them as those naturally present (at least since written history), and that have adapted to life in our climate. This means that, in addition to providing habitat to the critters they have co-evolved with, they also need little or no maintenance once established, requiring little to no fertilization or irrigation which helps maintain our local water quality. This is in direct contrast to invasive species typically introduced (accidentally or intentionally) by humans. Without native predators or pests to control growth and spread, invasive species will often overtake native plants. Common invasive plants include: English ivy, common orange daylily, Bradford pear, burning bush, Japanese barberry, miscanthus, tree of heaven, butterfly bush and liriop.



Pruned American wisteria—forums-gardenweb.com

enhance your property and provide wildlife habitat.

Planting natives becomes increasingly important as residential and commercial properties continue to encroach on woodland and open space—at a rate of 6,000 acres per day in the United States. Insects, bugs, birds and reptiles need to live somewhere as their options become limited. Monarch butterflies provide an example of how quickly a species can suffer when key habitat plants, like milkweed, disappear. Since insect and bug larvae provide food for other species, this loss can quickly spread up the food chain to songbirds, raptors, reptiles and amphibians. Many species, like monarchs, rely heavily or even completely on one sole source of food.

LRNow works with several businesses and individuals to provide resources for purchasing appropriate native plants. (Please take care when purchasing plants, as there are many cultivars (cultivated varieties bred to



Black eyed Susan—whispersfrom the woods.com

have different colors, foliage shapes, blooms or size), which most often do not provide the same habitat value as the true native species.) Wherever you shop, please help increase the availability of native plants by requesting them.

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www.SouthernBranchNursery.com

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Wild Woods Farm Native Nursery
Vickie Shufer
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wildfood@cox.net
<http://www.ecoimages-us.com/nursery.aspx>

—Trista Imrich
outreach and communications coordinator,
Lynnhaven River NOW

A Year of Natives Month by Month

- May: American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*)
- June: black eyed Susan, (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- July: Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginiana*)
- August: trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
- September: milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- October: sweet or smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
- November: American beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)
- December: American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

Lynnhaven River NOW partnership: Volunteer and event opportunities

Planting Helpers Needed for the Wetlands in the Classroom Project.

May 5 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

May 14, 10:30 a.m. to noon

May 21, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

May 22, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

May 27, 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

May 28, 10 a.m. to noon

June 4, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

LRNow needs one or two helpers at each of the times listed to help students plant wetland plants they have grown in their classrooms. The LRNow education coordinator, Jody Ullmann, will lead all plantings at Mount Trashmore Park. If you can help, please contact Jody@LRNow.org or 962-5398.

Free Rain Barrels for Faith Communities

LRNow has nine rain barrels available free to any faith community in Virginia Beach. If your church, synagogue, temple or other faith group can use one, please contact Pam

Northam at Pam@LRNow.org.

Rain barrels reduce the runoff from property and make the water available for gardens or other outdoor uses. Less storm water drainage equals a cleaner river.

River Cleanup

Saturday, May 10

LRNow will clean in London Bridge Creek in the Lynnhaven Mall area using kayaks and canoes launched from the Hutton Circle site and Virginia Beach Boulevard. Call 962-5398 or email Dana@LRNow.org for more information or to sign up. If you know an area of river that needs cleanup, please let LRNow know.

Oyster Spat Catcher Workshop

May 15

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

More information coming soon to the LRNow website.



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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)
- Door Prize Coordinator (6)
- Business Liaison (10)
- Membership Committee Member (5)
- Membership Committee Chair

We desperately need newsletter distribution volunteers, especially on the south side of Shore Drive. The current routes for newsletter delivery are being restructured to account for several large delivery areas. The commitment carries a five hour requirement per year. In addition, we could use some backup delivery people for when some of the regulars cannot distribute. If you are interested, please email opclnews@aol.com.

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% 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 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 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

As seen on Facebook

- Several neighborhood photographers posted images of local wildlife including night herons, mourning doves and red foxes.
- **Rita Sparling, the mail carrier for a large portion of the north side of Ocean Park announced her temporary departure during her upcoming hand surgery and recovery.**
- Many residents reported or requested information about recent crimes in the neighborhood ranging from an armed robbery at 7-11 to thefts from cars.
- **Welcome to and reviews of Bucketheads, our new neighborhood eatery.**
- The Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad posted several times about new events and improvements to the neighborhood, including a regular cookouts for the neighbors. They encourage walking and bike riding to the events on Fridays due to limited parking.
- **Wateroaks made improvements to the neighborhood entrance.**
- Numerous residents posted about the storm and the ships that had issues in the bay due to high winds

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

Crime Update

March 1-April 14:

3/4/14 Chesterfield Ave. larceny from a motor vehicle
 3/4/14 Three Ships LD. larceny from a motor vehicle
 3/5/14 Dupont Cir. larceny from a motor vehicle
 3/4/14 Jefferson Blvd. larceny from a motor vehicle
 3/4/14 Roanoke Ave larceny from a motor vehicle
 3/4/14 E. Stratford Rd. larceny from a motor vehicle
 3/11/14 E. Stratford Rd. assault, simple, domestic
 4/8/14 W. Stratford Rd. Fraud, identity theft

Officer Marcus Johnson, Third Precinct liaison to Ocean Park, will speak at the May meeting about the increase in crime.

—Officer Marcus Johnson
 Virginia Beach Police Department
 Third Precinct

OPCL official business

OPCL Finance

Committee Update:

The Robbins Legacy account held investments valued at approximately \$219,300 as of March 31, 2014. The portfolio is allocated 75 percent fixed income/cash and 25 percent equity/balanced funds. In addition to appreciation from the original \$180,000

investment, the account generates approximately \$6000 per 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:

Survey results came back and the civic league will address the topic of a new version of this committee. If approved, the focus will change to better

reflect the needs and wants of the community. Several volunteers have already stepped up to serve in this capacity. If interested, please ask at the meeting.

OPCL News:

Volunteers collected 86 pounds of trash

from Pleasure House Point April 18. Ocean Park committed to six volunteer cleanup days a year through the city's Adopt-A-Spot program. Mark and Faust coordinate this effort. Contact them at Mary3739@cox.net for more information.

The first Ocean Park Yard and Bake Sale raised \$489.82 for the Ocean Park fireworks fund. Participation fees raised @220 and the bake sale raised \$269.82. Much thanks to the creators and organizers of this successful event.

The OPCL scholarship committee has awarded the 2014 George and Louise Lyon Memorial Scholarship to a qualified recipient. Since it is a surprise, the committee will release the recipient's name after the award ceremony in

May. Look for a mention in the September newsletter under "OPCL News."

The 2015 OPCL scholarship opportunity will post mid-November 2014 on ybschools.com/scholarship with a deadline to apply of March 31, 2015. It will consist of a \$1,000/four-year scholarship to a Virginia school or Virginia nursing program. Applicants must reside in Virginia Beach, maintain at least a 2.8 GPA throughout four years, maximum household income must not exceed \$100,000 and the candidate should have experience volunteering the community. Only complete applications will be considered. Scholarship does not transfer to another school. Transcripts required each year for the scholarship to be paid to the registrar. Funds benefit tuition only.

The BAC Meeting Wrap Up

The Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) commissioned the development of a web site where residents can opt for keeping the name "Lesner Bridge" or submit a new name for consideration.

The city accepted McLean Contracting Company for the the Lesner Bridge Replacement project, a federally-funded project that includes an eight percent Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal at \$78,645,191. The company plans to meet that goal with a subcontract award of \$6,310,000 to Rod Busters, a certified DBE and small, woman-woned business. McLean will also utilized additional SWAM-certified subcontractors when possible on the project. Find more details on all bids at <http://www.vbgov.com>.

If you know a neighbor or bayfront civic league that should receive the BAC newsletter, please email normcarrick@cox.net.

Lesner Bridge Replacement Updates

Step 1. The sidewalk on the north side of the westbound span will be removed; two lanes of traffic will remain open in each direction.

Step 2. The new westbound bridge will be built north of the existing bridge; east and westbound traffic will be striped; barriers and pedestrian railings will be placed; traffic will switch to the new bridge.


Estimated construction time is 15 months.

3. After traffic moves to the new bridge, demolition for the old bridges will begin and should take three months.

Step 4. The second new bridge will be built; traffic lanes will be striped; barriers and pedestrian railings placed, eastbound traffic will switch to the permanent configuration. Estimate construction time for the second bridge is 15 months followed by three months of clean up.


Total construction time is 36 months.

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--Carter Coupland, Ocean Park

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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 always on a leash and owners must remove all waste in an

—Jill Doczi

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

An 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.

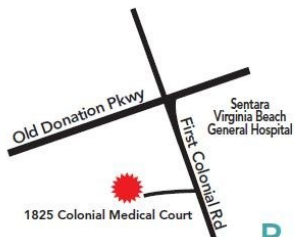
—Jill Doczi

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Neighborhood cookouts

The Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad invites all neighbors to a cookout every other Friday evening at 7 p.m. throughout the summer months. They have burgers and hotdogs and you may bring whatever you like to contribute. Walking and biking encouraged due to limited parking. The next cookout is Friday, May 7.

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Message from the president

As vice president, I am tasked with trying to fill the shoes of our fantastic president, Susie Walston, while she recovers from a successful surgery, and I wish her well. After our unusually cold and wet winter, I am glad to say that spring is finally here and Ocean Park residents are hitting the ground running. With lots of new volunteers contributing ideas and leadership, the calendar has been full of community activities and opportunities to get out and enjoy the improving weather. Many thanks to everyone who made the neighborhood yard and bake sale a big success, kicking off the fireworks fundraising with several hundred dollars in donations.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Brock Environmental Center at Pleasure House Point (PHP) is really starting to take shape. I hope many of you have or will in the future help welcome CBF as a member of Ocean park by participating in the Adopt-a-Spot cleanups at PHP.

Please keep in mind May marks the last meeting and newsletter until the fall so be sure to come to this meeting and then stay updated during the summer by visiting www.OPCL.org or Facebook. I look forward to seeing everyone on the beach soon!

Mike Wills, vice president

May 8 OPCL meeting

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation—OP Crime Report — Officer Marcus Johnson
President's Remarks

Establishment of Quorum
Minutes of November 7, 2013 Meeting (Kristie Zeiler) - Approval
Treasurer's Report and 2014 Budget Proposal (Todd Parker)

Old Business—Beach Sand Replenishment

New Business—Report from Ad Hoc Committee on
Governmental Affairs & Zoning—Scope of Activities

Committee & Liaison Reports—As Needed

Finance (Mike Wills)

Fireworks (Jill Doczi)

Membership (Ryan McCawley)

Scholarship (Lauren Harrington)

Social Activities (Lauren Bennis)

BAC Bayfront Advisory Committee (Martin Thomas)

CAC 3rd Precinct Community Advisory Committee (JP Cormier)

CCO Council of Civic Organizations (Susie Walston)

SDCC Shore Drive Community Coalition (Rick Mercadante)

Web site (Randy Hall) *Will respond if questions asked*

Christy Everett—CBF Report

Announcements

Next Meeting—September 11

Adjourn Meeting