



Important Dates

Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

November 5
Ocean Park
Rescue Squad
7:00 p.m. socialize
7:30 p.m. meeting

OPCL Crawl In To Hibernation Party

Nov 21
Saturday
7 p.m.—9 p.m.
Bucketheads

OPCL Adopt a Spot Cleanup

November 14
Saturday
9 a.m. to noon
Marlin Bay entrance to
Pleasure House Point

Ocean Park Echo

NOVEMBER 2015

Message from the president

I often get the question, “what does the Civic league do?”

That’s a very interesting question, because we do so much. Our By Laws say, “The purpose of the Ocean Park Civic League shall be a non-profit organization, operated exclusively for the purposes beneficial to the interests of the residents and property owners of Ocean Park.”

That’s a pretty wide swath as far as a purpose goes. Additionally, “the organization shall bring together both residents and property owners, at frequent intervals, to promote good fellowship, to further the interests of the community with respect to beautification, recreation, sanitation, safety and the protection of property values. The organization shall also strive to inform residents of issues of neighborhood importance, to provide a forum for discussion of concerns and to promote participation in public affairs by encouraging members to register and vote in all local, state and federal elections.”

That’s a lot of stuff to be doing for an organization run completely by volunteers. Fortunately, we have some great vol-

unteers. For those of you who missed it, our social committee, led by Lauren Harrington and Robin Geisen, ran a fabulous fall block party on October 17 that promoted tons of good fellowship. They have another great event coming up in late November, our annual Crawl Into Hibernation Party, so we can all get together before we

For July 4, Jill Doczi coordinates one of the premier fireworks shows in all of Hampton Roads, right in our backyard on the bay—completely funded through donations.

We have committees that give out scholarships (Lauren Harrington), that discuss how we will invest and be good stew-

ards of the funds we have in our bank account (Mike Wills), and that audit all of our finances (Sid Vaughn).

This newsletter you’re reading requires a lot of work to produce (Jill Doczi), distribute (Mike Wills) and pay for with advertising (Krista Shanafelt). Keeping track of our membership (Ryan McCawley) and Communications (Ryan McCawley) is another task that is vital to our organization.

I’ve put all the committee heads in parentheses above. I hope you noticed something about

those names. There aren’t that many. Many of our volunteers wear several hats. Many of the people who volunteer to work on those committees are also chairs of other committees, elected officers or board members.

Please volunteer with OPCL Volunteer Positions (Annual Hourly Needs)

- Newsletter distribution Coordinator (6)
- 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)
- Social Committee Member (5)
- Business Liaison (10)
- Membership Committee Member (5)
- At Large Representative (20)
- At Large Representative (20)
- Secretary (20)
- Council of Civic Organizations Rep (10)

hibernate for the winter.

If you have walked through Pleasure House Point, Mary Faust, our Adopt a Spot committee chair, coordinates several cleanups a year keeping this beautiful jewel in our neighborhood picked up for the enjoyment of all.

Ocean Park Civic League CRAWL In! to Hibernation Party



**Join your neighbors at Bucketheads
Saturday, November 21
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Keep an eye out through OPCL website, Facebook site and email for more details.

Raffle prizes

Refreshments

Civic league signups at the door.

Free admission to member households.

Annual fee-\$15

Renters welcome as well.

Please RSVP on the OPCL Facebook page or to Lauren Harrington, social committee chairperson.

Message from the president con't

What I'm trying to get at is that it's a relatively small amount of volunteers who make happen all the great things our civic league does. Interestingly, most of these volunteer positions require less than ten hours of volunteer time annually. But when it's the same folks running or working on several committees, it adds up. In every issue of the Echo we run a list of volunteer positions and the estimated annual commitment. Take a look at this list and see if there's any area where you might be interested in helping.

I know the first step is always the hardest, but once you get involved you won't regret it, and you might even find that it's fun. Don't hesitate to approach me or any of the other officers, board members or committee chairs at the next general membership meeting or social gathering about getting involved. If you can't come to the meeting, please email me or any of the other board members or officers, just take that first step. We sure could use the help.

—Rick Mercadante, OPCL president

Brock Environmental Center news

Are you interested in becoming a Brock Environmental Center Tour Guide?

We're looking for additional tour guides who would like to volunteer at the Brock Center providing tours to guests at times convenient to your schedule. We will train you and provide all of the information that you need in a class held this winter, date to be determined.

If interested in signing up or you would like more information, please email BrockCenter-GreenTours@cbf.org and your name will be put on the list to email for the training.

Please note, emailing for more information does not automatically sign you up as we understand you may just be looking for more information. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully working with you!

—Chris Gorri, manager, Brock Environmental Center

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation volunteers wanted

Volunteer:

Calypso Bar and Grill - Oyster Roast:
 Saturday November 14
 1 p.m.— 5 p.m.
 1101 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

This annual event includes all you can eat and drink oysters and beverages, with a portion of the proceeds going to CBF. We will also recycle all the shells from the event. This event is a lot of fun and includes, of course, plenty of oysters. We need three to four volunteers to man a CBF display, share information with the attendees and enjoy this very informal event. To volunteer, please email or call Tanner Council: tcouncil@cbf.org or 757.622.1964.

Train:

CBF Speaker's Bureau Training Event:
 Saturday December 12

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

CBF's Brock Environmental Center
 (3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455).

With far more requests for speakers than we have staff or time, CBF relies on its Speaker's Bureau volunteers to tackle these varied speaking opportunities. Whether you are current on the issues and ready to share our message, or just enjoy public speaking and would like to get trained, we welcome your commitment to this important and high profile program. And if you have any sort of nerves about speaking in public, this is a great way to get over that – quickly! So, if you think you have the right stuff, please inquire at tcouncil@cbf.org or call 757.622.1964. RSVP Required.

Tanner Council, Hampton Roads Grassroots Coordinator
 Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 Brock Environmental Center

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. As the representative for our Adopt-A-Spot participation, Mary Faust attended the Virginia Beach Volunteer recognition event on October 28.

While the Adopt-a-Spot committee has fulfilled the required number of cleanups for the year, in a wonderful expression of community support for Pleasure House Point, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and General Contractors of Virginia-Tidewater-Young Leaders group will hold a clean November 14. They have reached out to the Ocean Park committee for additional volunteers.

Next Clean up

November 14, 9 a.m. to noon

Meet at the Marlin Bay Dr. and Ocean Tides Dr.
Wear appropriate clothing, footwear and gloves if preferred.

Bring the kids and instill great community volunteer values. Fulfill volunteer commitment hours for schools or clubs.

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.

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The social committee needs volunteers to help plan, organize and execute upcoming events.

If interested, please contact Lauren Harrington at www.socialactivities@opcl.org

Or my email www.laurenharringtonsd@gmail.com.

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OPCL Sponsors

- The UPS Store Shore Drive: 10 percent off all services except United States Postal Service postage and UPS shipping.
- Tidewater Insulators: 10 percent off any attic or crawlspace insulation package.
- The Royal Chocolate: 10 percent off product purchases. Does not apply to gift cards, shipping or delivery. One per person, per visit.
- Lend a Hand Massage Therapy Free half hour reflexology added onto your 60-minute massage. Not valid with other discounts.
- Froggie's Cantina by the Bay: five percent discount for all OPCL members. Not valid with other discounts/coupons.
- Ampmor Electric Corporation: Buy a one year Energy Saving Maintenance Agreement and get a year free. (\$140 value). Receive \$30 off service calls. Receive \$350 off a HVAC system replacement, home generator or tankless water heater installation.
- Happy at Home Professional Pet Care: 50 percent off pet care and dog walking services. Not valid with other offers.
- Salon De Bella: 25 percent to first-time customers and a 15 percent on subsequent visits. See coupon ad for more.
- Complete Automotive, Inc.: Ten percent off any work up to \$100.

Consider becoming a business sponsor. Contact **Ryan McCawley** at Ryan.mccawley@me.com. You may need to show your OPCL membership card to receive discounts.



PROTECT THE BAYFRONT SAFETY FIRST PLEASURE HOUSE POINT

Now is the time to join - or renew your membership in - the Ocean Park Civic League. Pay now and get credit for all of 2014!! Dues are just \$15 a year per family. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and mail to the P.O. Box listed below. Or join on-line at www.opcl.org. You will be helping your community and keeping yourself informed.

Name:	_____	
Street Address (and City/State/Zip if not 23455)	_____ _____	
Email:	_____	
Phone:	H: _____	C: _____
Do You Own or Rent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent	

Areas Of Interest (Check all that apply):

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

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

OPCL official business

OPCL Finance

Committee Update:

The Robbins Legacy account held investments valued at approximately \$221,300, as of October 27, 2015, down from \$222,770 at year-end, 2014. \$5000 in distributions were made in 2015 to fund the approved budget.. The current portfolio allocation is approximately 74 percent fixed income/cash and 26 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 \$44,000 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 News:

OPCL needs a new Council of Civic Organizations representative. Duties involve attending meetings once a month and reporting back to the civic league board and to the general membership.

Also, our two at-large board member positions have vacancies. Brad Hedrick and Liza Gibhart have left office.

The secretary position on the board also needs filling. Ann Boyd, our previous secretary has left the position.

Thanks to all theses volunteers for the time they have given our community.

If interested contact OPCL President Rick Mercadante at president@opcl.org for more information.

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Lynnhaven River NOW partnership: *Volunteer and event opportunities*

9th Annual Shellfish Company Oyster Fall Fest

October 7
Shellfish Company and Back Deck
Proceeds from the festival will go to Lynnhaven River NOW, a tax-exempt charitable organization, to support the education programs in public and private schools of Virginia Beach.
Tickets still available for purchase over the phone
www.shellfishcova.com/index.php/fall-fest
757-962-5398

Lynnhaven River NOW monthly River Cleanup

November 14
9 a.m. to noon
Interested in participating in a cleanup? Sign up by emailing Dana@lrnow.org or calling the office at 757-962-5398

Lynnhaven River NOW Shopping Day & Giving Tuesday

December 1
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Join us for Giving Tuesday at the Brock Environmental Center.
Become a supporting LRN member, make a donation or buy a T-shirt.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

December 6
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Brock Environmental Center

Lynnhaven River NOW Holiday Market

December 13
Noon to 6 p.m.
Visit the Brock Environmental Center for your holiday shopping. The holiday market will include eco-friendly crafts, classes, vendors and Lynnhaven River NOW merchandise.

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



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November 5 OPCL Meeting
Join the your neighbors at the Ocean Park
Volunteer Rescue Squad for the
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
All neighbors welcome.