

Ocean Park Echo

SEPTEMBER 2013

Important Dates

Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

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

Ocean Park Fall Festival

October 5
Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The bayfront and
OP Rescue Squad

Lynnhaven River NOW Fall Fest

October 12
Saturday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
31st Street
oceanfront

BAC Meeting

Third Thurs
each month
Location Varies

SDCC Meeting

See website
7:30 p.m.
Ocean Park
Rescue Squad

Two great festivals from OP organizations



THIRD ANNUAL OCEAN PARK FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

3700 Block of Shore Drive

Ocean Park Rescue Squad Building

Lynnhaven Marine and Captain Max King's

**TO BENEFIT OCEAN PARK VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

LOCAL ARTISTS & CRAFTERS • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • LIVE MUSIC

Support Your Community—Support LOCAL Artists

For more information or to volunteer, please call 468-1193.

Lynnhaven River Now Fall Fest 2012 Saturday, October 12 Noon to 5 p.m. 31st St. at the oceanfront Part of the Virginia Beach 50th Anniversary Celebration



- Children's treasure hunt
- Eco-friendly craft vendors
- Locally-sourced food
- Guided nature walks
- Environmental corn hole
- Farmer's Market and Seafood Market
- Fun and educational river displays
- Sand castle building contest
- Kayak tours of Little Neck Creek

Visit www.LRNow.org, call 962-5398 or email Office@LRNow.org for more information.

OP Rescue fundraisers

Please consider attending the numerous events throughout the year benefitting the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, including the OP Fall Festival (front page details) and the First Golf Tournament (see right).

Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad relies on donations to operate and purchase new equipment. The 100 percent volunteer and 501(c) 3 nonprofit rescue squad uses no tax money and does not bill patients for treatment or transports to the hospital.

Founded almost 70 years ago at the request of the Ocean Park Civic League, volunteers of the Ocean Park Men's Club originally staffed the department. After the formation of the Ocean Park Fire Department, the Ocean Park Women's Club staffed the ambulances.

Today volunteers continue to staff the Ocean Park station. Members of the Ocean Park Rescue Squad (Rescue 1) provide services to the citizens of Virginia Beach 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Volunteers respond to Virginia Beach EMS 911 calls from the Ocean Park Station and the First Landing Station along the Shore Drive and Great Neck corridors. In addition, the Ocean Park station hosts events such as Explorer Scout meetings, dance classes, civic league meetings, condo association meetings, woman's club meetings, parties and fund raisers.

For more information about the Ocean Park Rescue Squad, as well as contact information for those who wish to become operational or administrative members, visit www.vbrescue1.com.

Three years ago, Ocean Park Civic League took on the responsibility of awarding a scholarship honoring the contributions of George and Louise Lyon, lifelong members of the Ocean Park Civic League community members .

GEORGE AND LOUISE LYON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

OPCL's Scholarship Committee met in May of 2013 to review applications for the 2013 Award and chose Abbie Gregg, graduate from First Colonial High School. Gregg plans to attend Old Dominion University to pursue a degree in science or medicine.

The Scholarship Committee also discussed changes that would make the award more beneficial to future winners.

The scholarship committee evaluates applicants on a scale of 1 to 5, (5 being the highest) in five categories: academic achievement, financial need, essay, community service and letters of recommendation.

The Scholarship Committee proposes that the award change to \$1,000 annually for

four years if the recipient maintains a specified grade point average. The committee also supports the creation of additional identical scholarships in future years.

These proposed changes offer an opportunity to formalize procedures.

Details for submitting applications for this scholarship can be found at www.vbschools.com by selecting the "Students" tab and clicking on "Scholarship Central." Select "Search for a Scholarship" and type in "Lyon Memorial Scholarship." Deadline is April 30, 2014.

If you would like to participate in the committee, please contact Grace Moran at g_moran@juno.com or 757-318-9224.



First Annual Charity
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

MONDAY • OCTOBER 14
LAKE WRIGHT GOLF COURSE, NORFOLK, VA.

REGISTRATION AT 7:00AM
SHOTGUN START AT 8:00AM

AWARDS & RECOGNITION LUNCHEON FOLLOWING
AT FROGGIE'S CANTINA

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT FROGGIESCANTINABYTHEBAY.COM
OR AVAILABLE AT FROGGIE'S CANTINA 3656 SHORE DR.

PRE-REGISTRATION
\$60 PER PLAYER
AFTER OCT 7TH
\$80 PER PLAYER

OCEAN PARK
VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad for the purchase of needed medical supplies and equipment. Please check out their website at www.vbrescue1.com and help support your local rescue squad!

Lynnhaven River NOW

Check out upcoming LRNOW events in and around the watershed

Ride to the River, September 7

Lynnhaven River NOW w/ Tidewater Bicycle Association
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Enjoy the cool breeze off of the Lynnhaven River as we leave from Bayville Park to explore on bicycle the Chics Beach area, Church Point and Pleasure House Point along the banks of the Lynnhaven River.
\$15

Children's Night Hike, September 20

Lynnhaven River NOW w/ First Landing State Park

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Bring children on a night hike through First Landing State Park to search for night critters and glowing owl eyes hiding in the trees.

International Coastal Cleanup, September 21

9 a.m. to noon
Walk the shoreline or paddle around and pick up trash to help clean the Lynnhaven River. Provide your own boat if paddling.
Free

The Lynnhaven, Restoring A Legend Book Discussion, September 24

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Read "The Lynnhaven, Restoring A Legend" then hear about our book first-hand from some of the authors, photographers, and artists who thought up the brilliant idea to capture stories of the Lynnhaven in writing.

Free

Benefit Tennis Tournament, October 3-6

All day at the Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club
\$50 to play; Free to watch! See below.



Men's & Women's USTA Doubles Benefit Tennis Tournament

October 3-6, 2013

Flexible play time given to players attending that weekend's ODU home football game Saturday.

Hosted by the Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club

1052 Cardinal Road, Virginia Beach

\$50 per person

Join us for a really great cause, the first benefit tennis tournament supporting LRNow and the restoration of the Lynnhaven River!

Special exhibition matches between local elite high school players. Separate tournament brackets for men and women.

Divisions:

- 3.0 – 3.5
- 4.0 – 4.5
- Open

Snacks, soft drinks, two drink tickets for beer & wine provided

Friday night from 5 to 8 p.m. Players receive light breakfast

both Saturday & Sunday morning and a cookout from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Call the Cavalier Pro Shop to sign up no later than Noon October 1 at (757) 761-6122

Play or come out to watch a tennis tournament to benefit Lynnhaven River NOW and the restoration of the Lynnhaven River.

Fall Festival, October 12

Noon to 5 p.m.
As the leaves start turning brown, visit our "green" festival.

- Kayak tours of Little Neck Creek
- Guided nature walks
- Fun and educational river displays
- Sand castle building contest
- Eco-friendly craft vendors
- Farmer's Market and Seafood Market
- Delicious locally-sourced food
- Environmental corn hole
- Children's treasure hunt

Questions? Visit www.LRNow.org, call 757.962.5398, or email Office@LRNow.org

Pearl Home Awards

Many Ocean Park residents participate in the Pearl Home program, identifying your home as one of good stewardship to the waterways and the land adjoining them. You can see if your home qualifies and apply at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYWTCSP>.

Fireworks wrap up 2014

The Ocean Park fireworks show went on... even though a mishap and a mis-anchor caused delays.



—Jill Doczi

We had a gorgeous evening and a great start to the show after a slight delay when the Coast Guard and city and state marine police had to move a yacht that had anchored to watch the show right in the spot where the barge needed to go.

Once under way, the explosions proceeded as planned until a roughly 20-minute intermission caused by an accident on the barge.

Once the barge crew assessed the issue, they quickly rewired the ending of the show to provide a finale.

The July 5 morning cleanup revealed the true nature of our beach neighborhoods. Random early-morning neighbors had

picked up most of the serious trash by 9 a.m. The remainder consisted mostly of drink bottles, food wrappers and a large number of beach toys.

The current amount in the fireworks budget meets our goal of having the downpayment, due in January, for the next fireworks show.

As usual, a big thank you to all who helped make this event possible and easy including Bill Kelly, special events with the city; Brittany Couter, John Burkhard and Robert Gramkowski with Virginia Beach EMS for officially providing standby services for the show this year; Sergeant Brian Ricardo, Virginia Beach Marine Patrol; Stephan Bennis, Virginia Marine Resource Commission; the Coast Guard;

Captain Hebert, Virginia Beach Third Precinct; Virginia Beach Fire Marshal; and our beach police patrol. Without their help, coordination and permission, none of this would happen.



Trash from final bridge-to-bridge pickup.
—Jill Doczi

Letter from the fireworks vendor regarding the show

Jill,

After taking the time to investigate the barge and equipment, and talk with the crew, I was able to come up with some answers to what happened during the July Fourth Shore Drive Fireworks show.

A six-inch shell malfunctioned during the display which caused several other six-inch shells to detonate on the deck of the barge. Many of our guns and equipment, which the shells are shot out of, were damaged due to the impact from the detonation.

Due to the extensive training of VA Pyro's crew, were we able to determine the problem quickly and prevent further misfires and damage. We were able to take out the damaged section of the display and finish the show with minimal down time.

After the Fourth of July, we were made aware that this display was not an isolated incident for the Fourth of July holiday for other companies around the country. It was reported that there were several other shows that had the same incident, causing injuries and damage to property. We are fortunate to say that our crew is now safe with minimal injury, and due to the opportunity of having a barge show instead of a land display, there was no risk to the families and friends of the Shore Drive neighborhoods.

I realize this display was not a show the community has come to expect from VA Pyro. I apologize for the disappointment that this has caused. We are one hundred percent willing to discuss a discount for next year's display in the hope of reassuring the community that we appreciate their business, and want the opportunity to put on a spectacular event next year like it's used to seeing from VA Pyro.

Sincerely,

Ron Silva Jr., Owner
VA Pyrotechnics


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Fireworks questions answered

The following article went out through the Ocean Park Civic League email list and Facebook page immediately following the show in July.

Answers to several other questions that came up as a result of this year's show:

Could there have been an announcement made at the time to let the community know what was happening?

Unfortunately, due to the crisis-management nature of the situation, the answer to the cause of the delay, approximate time it would take to pull together a finale and whether or not it would even work, an announcement in real-time was impossible. It was a very fluid and evolving situation and the outcome at the time was not evident.

Was the company the same we've used in the past?

Yes, it is the same company as always, but different shooter on the barge.

Why did the location change? It looked like it was closer to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

The barge positioned in the exact spot as last year, as determined by landmarks and GPS coordinates. I walked down just to make sure. It has always directly in front of Rookery Way in Aeries, Ocean Park. It's the dead center GPS point of the three communities. It is also far enough from the Bay Bridge Tunnel as determined by numerous permitting agencies. The distance from shore is determined both by permitting agencies and the tide/draft of the barge. The barge sat further east in the afternoon and then moved into position after a yacht was moved by marine police.

Do we compare prices and look at the recommendations of other shows around the area?

Yes. While we have a track record of this company working well with our

community, the best interests of the community are always the main priority, from financial, safety and satisfaction standpoints.

Did the company, at any time, react in an inappropriate or unsafe manner?

The fireworks show requires many permits from many agencies before getting final approval by the fire marshal and the city. The company met or exceeded all requirements. In addition, I am aware of the stringent emergency response training voluntarily required by the company. They use many of the same experienced shooters and staff year after year, so the employee turnover is minimal while the employee experience is increased every year. After viewing footage of some of the shows throughout the country that had major issues, I feel even more grateful that we have a barge instead of a land show. The barge puts it safely out of range of the viewers and is clearly worth the extra cost. I will add that I have seen the photos of the incident, and because of the way VA Pyro sets up a barge show, only the one rack was affected. This eliminated the damage and possible malfunction of other racks of shells, unlike other shows with malfunctions throughout the country. Because of that, the crew on the barge had the capability to assess the situation, recoup and provide a belated finale for our show.

Please take the time to read the vendor's letter of the explanation of the experience. While I am sorry and saddened by the disappointment of some neighbors regarding this year's show, I ask that we try to understand the unpredictable nature of explosives.

Our vendor, as well as others, will continue to examine the cause of the malfunctions. After the determination,

we can only learn from this experience and continue to try and outdo last year's performance.

In closing, it's difficult to top last year. We have set a high standard. The way I see it: We had gorgeous weather, a perfect start time, the fireworks were enjoyable until the fire, I got to watch them with my favorite people, I didn't have to drive anywhere or deal with parking/traffic hassles, no one was seriously hurt and although the show had a gap, we had an incredible finale. The only way I can only look at it positively and improve based on what we learn.

The fireworks vendor agrees, and will learning more as time goes on. He will share more information. I plan to have a complete report at the September civic league meeting. Additionally, Ron Silva, the company owner, has expressed a willingness to participate in a community follow-up meeting, should we request one.

Thank you for this year's support and for supporting future shows in the best community in Virginia Beach. Happy belated Fourth of July!

—Jill Doczi

Crime Update

June: Two assaults, one narcotics violation, one larceny from building and three larcenies from a motor vehicle

July: One fraud case, one hit and run, one larceny, and one tampering with auto (showed signs of someone attempting to get into a vehicle, or got into it and did not take anything).

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

Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership

Moving Forward on the Brock Environmental Center

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) started construction on the Brock Environmental Center in August on a small section of CBF's 10-acre parcel on Pleasure House Point adjacent to the City of Virginia Beach Natural Area. CBF intends to use the Brock Environmental Center as a cutting-edge environmental center, a venue for community collaboration, a restoration site with improved habitat and a platform for environmental education.

CBF plans for the Brock Environmental Center to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Platinum certification and to meet the "Living Building Challenge"—a set of strict environmental standards that requires the facility to have a "net zero" impact on the surrounding land, water, and air. As such, the center would be the first of its kind in Virginia.

The building utilizes a design to capture, store and use only as much water as building inhabitants need and use during the course of a year. Treating rain water for most potable water uses and using no-flush Clivus composting toilets will attain this goal. All greywater (wastewater generated from sinks and showers) and additional rainwater will biofilter slowly through a native vegetation landscape, also known as a rain garden.

The building also will generate as much energy as its inhabitants use during the course of a year by employing photovoltaic solar roof panels (providing 60 percent of the Brock



Virginia Beach teachers engage in group discussion on Pleasure House Point in a conservation partner teacher training that is organized by Chesapeake Bay Foundation.—Chesapeake Bay Foundation

ventilation systems; and weather-dependent window opening patterns.

CBF already works with community partners to showcase Pleasure House Point as a venue for education initiatives. In July, a group of Virginia Beach Public School teachers visited Pleasure House Point as part of the Virginia Beach Systematic Environmental Literacy Program. This program provides hands-on outdoor experiences and classroom activities to every sixth-grade student in the Virginia Beach school district and trains more than 50 middle and high school biology and oceanography teachers. The CBF-led course helped teachers explore the area via canoe and learn how to more effectively teach their students about the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. This program represents a partnership effort among CBF, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Lynnhaven River NOW, Elizabeth River Project, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center and Oyster Reefkeepers of Virginia; funded by grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, CSX Transportation and the Junior Virginia Beach Garden Club.



—Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Environmental Center's energy), operating two small wind turbines (providing 40 percent of the Brock Environmental Center's energy) and using aggressive energy conservation techniques such as highly efficient geo-thermal heating and cooling; natural day lighting; dynamic, architecturally-based

To learn more about CBF's Brock Environmental Center, go to cbf.org/brockcenter or call CBF Hampton Roads Office at 622-1964 or hamp-tonroads@cbf.org. For more information about the CBF Brock Environmental Center, contact CBF's Hampton Roads office at 622-1964 or hamp-tonroads@cbf.org or visit cbf.org/php.

FEMA changes will affect flood insurance rates

Tuesday, July 16, 2013, Rich Sobota, insurance specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III, briefed Virginia Beach city staff on changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as a result of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. Biggert-Waters extends the NFIP until 2017 and encourages financial stability of the program by increasing flood insurance premium rates to actual risk rates for some subsidized properties.

Rate increases will affect two classes of properties: 1) Pre-FIRM properties and 2) Grandfathered properties. **Pre-FIRM properties** in an area with a one percent annual chance of flooding (100-year floodplain) built before the first Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). In Virginia Beach, these properties built before October 1, 1970. **Grandfathered properties** previously had flood insurance, but as the result of a FIRM change, will fall into a higher risk flood area. In the past, they kept paying their old, lower rate.

Beginning January 1, 2013 owners of subsidized non-primary residences will begin to experience an annual rate increase of 25 percent with their premium renewal bills until premiums reflect the full risk rate.

Beginning October 1, 2013 the following group of policies will also experience annual rate increases of 25 percent with their premium renewal bills until premiums reflect the full risk rate:

- Owners of subsidized business properties
- Owners of subsidized properties with four or more separate claims with payouts of over \$5,000 or two separate claims where the cumulative amount exceeds the value of the property (severe repetitive loss properties)
- Owners of properties with cumulative flood insurance payouts that exceed the value of the structure
- Owners of all properties with policies purchased after July 6, 2012

Owners of primary residences in areas with a one percent annual chance of flooding can keep their subsidized rates until they experience one or more of the following triggers: 1) they sell their property; the new owner will have to pay the actual risk rate, 2) they allow their policy to lapse, 3) they suffer severe, repeated flood losses, or 4) they purchase a new policy.

The guest speaker at the OPCL Sept 5 meeting will discuss this impact. Bring your flood insurance declaration and flood elevation certificate to the meeting to receive an on-the-spot analysis of your property.

Another round of increases will take place in late 2014. This round will impact grandfathered properties receiving subsidized rates as a result of being mapped into a higher risk area.

These properties will see rate increases of 20 percent per year until they reach full risk rates. This provision will also impact properties affected by new FIRMs. The city will adopt new FIRMs in 2014. Virginia Beach has the largest number of flood insurance policies of all communities in FEMA Region III.

Of the approximately 25,000 flood insurance policies in effect for Virginia Beach, the following currently receive subsidized rates:

- Non primary residences (132 policies)
- Business properties (27 policies)
- Pre-FIRM Severe Repetitive Loss properties (28 policies)
- Properties subject to rate increases by experiencing triggers (757 policies)
- Grandfathered properties (83 policies)

Increases will apply to the number of grandfathered properties impacted and will increase with the adoption of new FIRMs next year.

To prevent or decrease the impact of these insurance rate increases, property owners have several options. First, all policy holders should talk with their insurance agent about options. They will most likely recommend obtaining an

elevation certificate to determine their true risk rate based on the elevation of their home in relationship to the one percent annual chance flood elevation. An elevation certificate can be obtained from a licensed surveyor at the property owner's expense. Another option will allow policy holders to increase their deductible.

Property owners can also make structural changes to their property to lower their flood risk. These options include elevating their structure and adding vents or using breakaway walls for enclosed spaces below the one percent annual chance flood elevation.

The city can lower insurance rates for all residents by joining the Community Rating System (CRS). Participation in the CRS gives the city credit for actions the city takes that satisfy certain FEMA criteria. The level to which a community participates can result in a five percent to 45 percent decrease in flood insurance premiums for residents. Virginia Beach can also pursue FEMA grants to elevate flood prone structures. Nine properties will already initiate elevation work in the next month.

An interdepartmental city work group will make revisions to the current city floodplain regulations to bring them into compliance with minimum state and federal requirements. The city will adopt the new flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) early to mid-2014. These new maps will modify how flood plain regulations will affect properties in the city, with some properties not previously included added and others currently included deleted from regulated floodplain areas. The group will explore strategies that may afford the city and its residents better management practices to respond to recurrent flooding, storm and sea level rise matters as they relate to hazard management and mitigation, including both engineering and land use planning approaches.

Comings, Goings & General OP Info

Welcome to the new **My Chics** — an OP owned and operated consignment business. Located in the shops next to Froggies at 3700 Shore Drive suite 103, 271-5901, they accept quality consignment housewares and men's, women's and children's clothing.

Welcome also to another OP owned and operated business, **Stand-Up Paddle Virginia**

Beach, specializing in private and semi-private paddle board lessons. 356-5512, SUPvabeach@gamil.com, www.SUPvabeach.com

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.

- 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)
 - At Large Board Rep
 - Membership Committee Chair

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.
- 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 July 31. The portfolio is allocated 65 percent fixed income/cash and 35 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:

3824 Jefferson Blvd.
Applicant requested a variance to a 40 foot building height instead of the 35 foot height as allowed and to a 35.8 percent lot coverage instead of the 35 percent as required (Proposed Single Family Dwelling). The committee did not oppose due to the hardship presented by the high degree of the elevation change associated with this bay front lot.

2320 Raleigh Ave., #B:

Applicant requested a variance to an 18 foot rear setback instead of the required 20 foot rear setback, on Lot 13, Ocean Park. The committee opposes as the committee did not recognize any hardship regarding irregularity of the lot which warranted a variance.

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.

As seen on Facebook

- Requests for roommates, houses for rent, service referrals, lost and found pets, etc. Facebook gives residents a quick way to ask for their neighbors' opinions and help.
- **Crime and evolving-situation updates occur quickly on Facebook from questionable door-to-door salespeople to questions about neighborhood fires.**
- Thursday, September 5 and Tuesday, September 10 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Chesapeake Bay Foundation needs volunteers to transplant native grasses to enhance buffers/filters for Crab Creek on the Lynnhaven Rier. Tools provided. For details and to register, email Chris Moore at cmoore@cbf.org or call 622-1964.
- **Many posts about dead dolphins washing ashore. Add the Stranding Team number to your phone. 385-5000. Do not touch or disturb the dolphins or any other marine animals, large fish or reptiles you find.**
- Discussion about missing the services provided to much of the North side of Ocean Park by our United States mail carrier, Rita Sparling. She participates in our community through spearheading non-perishable food drives, watching out for our homes, providing treats for our pets, donating to fireworks and enjoying our neighborhood events and beach. Oh, and she delivers the mail flawlessly as well. The neighborhood misses her when she's on vacation.

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

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## The SDCC Meeting Wrap Up

- Stakeholder Pleasure House Point Master Plan created in August, 2012 changed from draft to official document.
- An oversight team created as required by easement grant will work to develop a management plan that will post on vb.gov.com in October for review. Some items they will plan include a hydrology study, animal counts, handicap trail, sidewalks on Marlin Bay Drive, cut-throughs in the outer berm to allow tidal changes, walking bridges over cut-throughs and debris removal.
- A management group will work with Chesapeake Bay

- Foundation to determine sharing potential of a kayak launch to eliminate the need for two separate launches.
- No dog park will exist on the site. Owner must leash dogs always on Pleasure House Point and clean up after them. No horseback riding allowed on PHP. No current development plans at city would require the extension of Marlin Bay Drive.
- Still no plans to remove Lesner Bridge Reconstruction from dredge transfer station plans.

—Todd Solomon, SDCC

# The BAC Meeting Wrap Up

Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting notes:

1. Application for CUP by car sales location at the corner of Shore Drive and Hollis Road withdrawn.
2. Miller Holdings request for re-zoning on Oliver Square at corner of Shore Drive and South Oliver Drive withdrawn pending design changes.
3. Taste Unlimited sign deemed legally non-conforming (grandfathered), however the signboard cannot be resurrected since recent removal (grandfathering voided.) BAC opposes the city's "harassment" of the youth football league using the fields adjacent to the Baylake Retirement Community.
4. The city advises citizens to call in issues of broken signs and potholes.

**Design Subcommittee:** The next meeting of the subcommittee will discuss design guidelines for Shore Drive neighborhood signs.

**Public Safety:** Bruce Drees of Tidewater Bicycle Association to attend the next subcommittee meeting to address bike issues in Phase III process.

- Shore Drive Capital Improvement Plans (Dave Jarman):**
1. Lesner Bridge: Construction request submitted to

VDOT, ads for construction bids expected in September. Utility lines moved and all permits issued. March-April 2014 construction start anticipated. The single overlook will use input from the community for development. Art similar to the Laskin "Wave" discussed. Peripheral seating planned with water and power established easily to the location. Discussion conducted through the city's Public Arts Commission and public participation solicited. The city anticipates re-naming the bridge, and again will want community input. BAC promised not only its input, but that BAC would seek help from other organizations, SDCC specifically named. Construction time frame, three years.

2. Phase III: Drainage has become such an important element of Phase III that it almost overshadows road improvements. Start date moved from Apr 2015 to June 2015. Final design approximate eight to nine months away. Construction time frame, two years.

**Brock Environmental Center (Christy Everett):** Discussion of Living Building Challenge components. Details of Brock Environmental Center available at [www.cbf.org/brock-environmental-center](http://www.cbf.org/brock-environmental-center).



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## What in Ocean Park is that?

Researchers squeezed these sponges through a fine mesh into a bowl of sea water. The divided red cells crept along the bottom of the bowl and found other cells, sticking to each other. Eventually an entire sponge re-grew.

### Red beard sponges

They wash up on shore to the delight of children and unseasoned beach combers who think they have found coral only to realize that the floppy, dead organism they have in their hands also harbors many other very alive little creatures.

Red beard sponge under water resembles a coral that varies in color from orange to bright red with thick, intertwining branches. In fact, this common sponge lives throughout the Chesapeake Bay, and like all other sponges, has pores all over its surface allowing water to come into and leave its body.

They grow in thick clumps on rocks, piers and pilings in the shallow waters as well as on wrecks and oyster reefs in deeper water in the middle to lower Chesapeake Bay. Once they attach to an object, they spend the rest of their life there.

Red beard sponges feed by drawing water through the pores into chambers. Hair-like cilia capture food particles (mostly dead or decaying plants and animals) in the water and unused water and waste products exit through another opening at the top of the sponge.

They reproduce in two ways. When a branch breaks off, the sponge fragments bud into new sponges or eggs become fertilized within the sponge and free-swimming larvae hatch and



Look closely at one of these on the beach and you can

settle to the bottom, where they find a hard surface to become attached for their permanent home.

The skeleton, made up of tiny crystals (spicules) and fibers of collagen, exists inside the sponge. Spongin (a tough protein) makes up the outside of the sponge.

Red beard sponge provides a habitat for shrimp, worms, crabs and other small Bay creatures. In addition, sea slugs, sea stars (starfish) and turtles eat these sponges.

They cannot survive outside of water. This explains the beige color of the beached sponges.

—Jill Doczi

### Fast Facts

**Type:** Animal

**Diet:** Phytoplankton

**Location:** Eastern Canada, Florida, New England, Mid-Atlantic, California, Texas, Northwest. In the bay: middle to lower Chesapeake Bay.

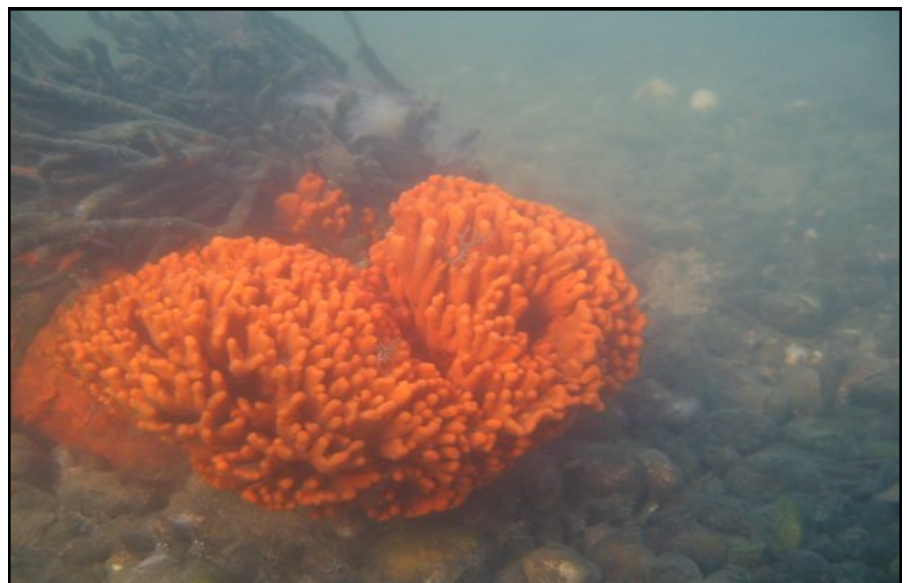
**Average life span in the wild:**

Three months to 20 years

**Size:** Eight inches tall by 12 inches wide.

**Did you know?** During reproduction, eggs fertilize within the sponge. Free-swimming larvae eventually settle to the bottom, where they find a hard surface to attach.

**Description:** Varies in color from orange to bright red with thick, intertwining branches and small, scattered pores.



Under water, the sponge is actually red. — J. Leviton

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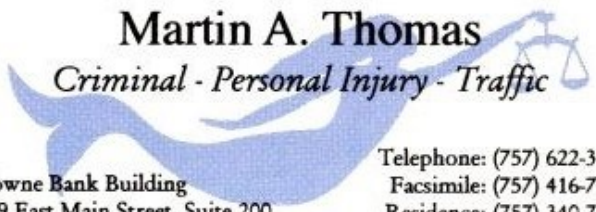
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# Message from the president

September 2013

I hope that you had a wonderful summer. We have had many good days on the beach and good times spent with family, friends and neighbors. The Fourth of July parade and fireworks, once again, showed how we come together as a community. We helped out on Clean the Bay Day at Pleasure House Point. Look for another litter clean-up day soon to fulfill our commitment under the city's adopt-a-program.

Please plan to attend the September 5 General Membership Meeting. Of importance, there will be committee reports to share the work done since our last meeting. A presentation by Drew Monroe of Prosper Insurance will address flood insurance rate changes brought on by FEMA changes.

Thank you to the many individuals working on OPCL committees. Please consider volunteering if you have not. We have a number of areas that could use more help. Check out the list in this newsletter.

We need a civic league historian; there has not been one for some time. A small group is going through and organizing the records with the goal to complete the work this year. A historian going forward is much needed. Check out the OP History Project, a link is provided on our web site.

We also need a new membership chairperson to take on this important function. This position also improves communication by sending out update messages. The current chairperson has been doing the job for three years and has increased work obligations. He would help the new chairperson transition.

See you in September and at the 2013 Fall Festival October 5.

—Susie Walston, president

## September 5 OPCL meeting

**Old Business**

**New Business**

2013 Scholarship Award Recipient & Recommended Award Changes  
Presentation— Flood Insurance changes by Drew Monroe, Prosper Insurance

**Committee & Liaison Reports -As Needed:**

Finance (Mike Wills)

Fireworks (Jill Doczi)

Membership (Terry Gearhart)

Social Activities (Lauren Bennis)

Zoning & Regulatory Affairs (Mike Wills & Andrew Broyles) *share new committee structure, zoning process and recommended changes for membership vote in November*

BAC (Martin Thomas)

CAC (JP Cormier)

CCO (Susie Walston)

SDCC (JP Cormier)

Website (Randy Hall)

Scholarship: (Grace Moran)

**Announcements:**

PHP Adopt-A-Spot cleanup Saturday, September 21, 9 a.m. to noon  
Fall Festival Saturday October 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.