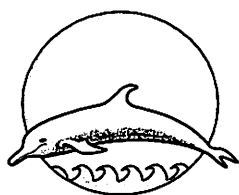


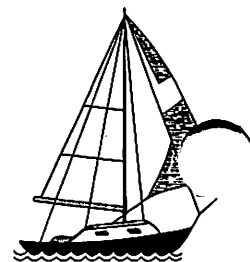
OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2001



OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE



NEWSLETTER

March 2001

✧ Serving the Ocean Park Community ✧

Meeting Notice
Thursday, March 1, 2001
@ Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue H. Q.
Time: 7:30 P. M.

March Messages

OCEAN PARK BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT

Walking on the beach in the winter is wonderful, especially if the sun is warm. Last month my husband and I walked on the beach heading West from the Lesner Bridge and we were surprised at the extent of the sand erosion from the storms we had a few months ago. At a high tide, there is no beach left in one area, and in others the beach narrows sharply, as those of you who live along the beach are aware.

I called the City's Public Works Beach Management Office and spoke with Steve Sadler (427-4167) asked about sand replenishment plans along Ocean Park beach. I learned that the Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to maintain the public beaches every three years. Fortunately we are scheduled this year. The cost is split: 35% City of Virginia Beach and 65% Federal funds that will not be available until May 1st. The Army Corps of Engineers is now putting out bids for the work and expects to do the work sometime from June through August. Mr. Sadler does not know when in that time frame it will happen, but encouraged me to call back periodically for updates. I will call for an update and put something in the May newsletter.

SPRING CLEANING

Ocean Park needs YOU!

Our neighbor, Mr. Thomas Couch has, graciously agreed to be the chairman of our "Clean the Bay Day" initiative. He will announce the date, whether it will coincide with the City date or another date. He needs volunteers! He will be calling those who helped last year, but we need more help. Please sign up at the March 1st meeting or call Mr. Couch to sign up. He can be reached at his office in the mornings at 456-9410 or at otherwise at home at 363-1166. Thank you, Mr. Couch.

REFRESHMENTS COMMITTEE

Thank you to Mrs. Nancy Koch, who will be our refreshment's committee chairwoman. She will also be looking for members for her committee. Please sign up at the March 1st meeting!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We need a chairperson and committee members to plan social activities for our Civic League. Please come to the March 1st meeting and sign up!

Wendy Vaughn,
Co-President

Meeting Agenda

1. Social and Refreshments- 7:30 - 8:00 P. M
2. Welcome and introduction: Wendy Vaughn
3. Speaker: Mr. Clay Burnick, Virginia Beach Planning Department, will speak on the status of City owned property in Ocean Park
4. Secretary's Report: Nancy Taylor
5. Treasurer's Report - Anne Kane
6. New Business
7. Raffle: Two (2) Twenty-five Dollar (\$25) Gift Certificates will be raffled at the conclusion of the meeting. You must be present to win.

GIFT CERTIFICATE DONORS: DUCK IN & BAYSIDE EXXON

Ocean Park Civic League Officers

P. O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, VA 23455-5385

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Wendy Vaughn (Phone: 363-9141)

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SHORE DRIVE COMMUNITY COALITION

OVERVIEW OF A MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2001

Fifty-four individuals representing 12 Shore Drive Condominium Associations, Civic Leagues and the Shore Drive Business Association were present at the meeting.

The agenda included: election of officers, the presentation of an architectural sketch for a possible "town center" to be located at Sea Shell Road should the street be closed. A discussion followed about a new volunteer rescue and fire squad facility in Ocean Park.

Consideration was given to prospective events and issues. A vote on the bylaws was tabled until the February meeting. Mr. Todd Solomon was elected president; Mr. Scott Ayers was elected vice president.

Architect and member of the SDCC, Mr. Irwin Kroskin, worked (pro bono) with the Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, and with Mr. Frank Shield, Ocean Park building committee chairperson. Together they presented an architectural rendering of the suggested design for new construction at the present site. The absence of a suitable piece of land along Shore Drive precludes an alternate location. The limitations of the aging current structure were discussed. Lack of space presents a problem, since more room needed to house a new hook and ladder apparatus which is needed to deploy to "high rise" apartments and condos that exist along Shore Drive corridor and its environs. Many thought-provoking discussions followed.

The last agenda item caused a short but intense dialogue as the City of Virginia Beach sponsored preliminary design study for Shore Drive was evaluated. The design study included, as one option, the widening of Shore Drive to six lanes. A straw vote on the six lane proposal was taken. Only one individual of the more than fifty present expressed support for widening the road.

The next meeting of the Shore Drive Community Coalition will take place on Monday, March 26, 2001 at the Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Headquarters. All are invited to attend.



CURRENT INFORMATION ON WIDENING SHORE DRIVE

- * The City of Virginia Beach Public Works has hired out an engineering consultant to perform a Shore Drive Transportation Study. The cost of the survey is \$500,000. The study is to be completed sometime in August 2001.
- *The survey group working for the city will hold a "Stakeholder" meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2001 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Bayside Recreation Center, Room #3. A stakeholder is someone that represents a civic group or business group.
- * The survey group working for the city will hold a Public Information meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2001 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Location yet to be determined. Notices will be placed in the newspaper.

- * Consultant's survey questionnaire assumes all road modifications will include a widening to six lanes. Public Works opinion is that state funding will be needed to make scenic improvements and the only way to receive state funds is to widen Shore Drive.
- * The Shore Drive Community Coalition has taken several straw votes which resulted in only one person supported the six lane expansion. An unofficial Internet poll taken by the Virginian-Pilot showed 75 % for continuing 4-Lanes, 25 % for enlargement of Shore Drive to 6 lanes.
- * The Urban Land Institute and Shore Drive Advisory Committee reports suggested that Shore Drive remain scenic and 4 lanes.

**PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY/VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS
A LECTURE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST LANDING STATE PARK**

The Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Historical Society will sponsor a lecture and discussion about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), (circa 1933). This was a plan to put 500,000 unemployed youths to work in forests, parks and range lands. The CCC played the primary role in building and developing First Landing State Park. The program will take place on Sunday, March 25th, 2:30 p.m., at First Landing State Park. Nonmembers are welcome.

Questions may be directed to: esvaughn@infi.net



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HONORING TWO PIONEERS AND BUILDERS OF OCEAN PARK A DEDICATION CEREMONY

**The Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad
will dedicate a bronze plaque to honor the memory of
George and Louise Lyon
at the Ocean Park Fire Station on Saturday, April 21, 2001 at 1:00 P.M.**

All members of the Ocean Park Civic League are cordially invited to be present

Mr. George Lyon was one of the founding members of the Ocean Park Fire Station. He was the fire chief for 33 years. In 1977, he died. Louise Lyon, George's wife, was a founding member of the Ocean Park Woman's Club and a member for 45 years. She passed away in 1999. They moved to Ocean Park about 1940 and lived in the house that was formerly the restaurant, The Ships Inn, located on the northwest corner of Shore Drive. and Albremarle Avenue. George and Louise were founding members of the Ocean Park Civic League and remained members until George's death

With dedication and purpose, over many decades, they made numerous contributions to our area. Was it not for them, we may not know Ocean Park as it is today. Perhaps, it is for what they did here is why many of us are residing in Ocean Park today. On that Saturday afternoon, when these two persons, architects of our community, will be recognized, try to take a little time to say, "thanks," to them in your own way.

Should you like to attend, please contact Mr. Frank Shield.- E-mail: www.bosbt1@aol.com, his works phone: 481-7190.



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THE NAVY TO COMMISSION A NEW DESTROYER USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL (DDG 81)



PRIME MINISTER
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

Poignant events that occurred more than sixty years ago (World War II, 1939-45) could have changed history, our country and our lives. The way we live today would be very different if Great Britain was defeated by Germany at that time. To honor the individual, Sir Winston S. Churchill, who dominated those events in many ways, our nation and the U. S. Navy will commission a new Arleigh Burke class guided- missile destroyer, **USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL (DDG 81)**, on Saturday, March 10, 2001 at 1:00 P. M. at Town Point Park, Norfolk, Virginia.



The naming of the new destroyer, **USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL**, commemorates the life and times of Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, born half American and all British.

With the British Isles, the Western World, and civilized nations in great peril of Nazi/Fascist domination, Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, a war making machine in his own right, lead his nation from the abyss of Nazi darkness and guided the Allies to victory.

At the request of the Navy, the Navy League in Hampton Roads acts as the commissioning coordinator for the newest ship in the Atlantic Fleet.

The public is invited to attend the commissioning of **USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL**. Seating tickets for the ceremony are available. There is no charge for seating tickets or to attend the event. Everyone is welcome. Should you want to be present at this historic commissioning, you can pick up your seating tickets at the office of:

THE HAMPTON ROADS COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE
770 LYNNHAVEN PARKWAY, SUITE 115

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23452 - Phone: 486-7654

For more information please view web sites: <http://www.hrcnl.org/nl/> and
<http://www.spear.navy.mil/ships/ddg81/>

A QUICK NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

I am in the process of creating a computerized listing of all our civic league members. I hope this will make the tracking of membership dues easier. In the meantime, I have what I consider to be an accurate (manual) listing of dues-paying members. So....if you are not sure if you are current in your dues, or want to know how far in advance you have been credited, or what is done with your monies collected; just come to the next meeting on March 1st. Or, if you would like a personal response, you may call me @ 363-7321. Leave your name and telephone number and **I WILL** return your call.

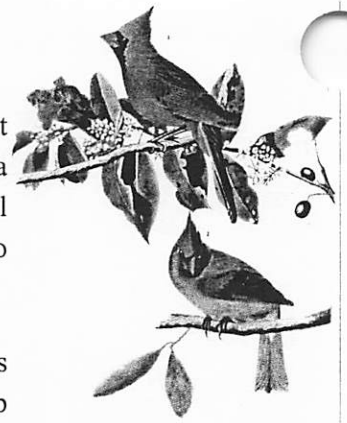
Thank you to all who realize that \$5 per year is rather modest. We appreciate your added contributions and support on issues that concern all of us.

Anne Kane

NOTABLE NEIGHBORS

Did you know we have a wildlife habitat right here in Ocean Park? An observant walk on Dupont Circle, between Shore Drive and Jefferson Boulevard, reveals a wooden plaque attached to a fence post at the property of Jeff Birch and Michael Spangler. The National Wildlife Federation has recognized the efforts of these two nature-lovers abilities to attract various forms of wild life to their yard oasis.

Even on a chilly winter day, I witnessed several species of birds visiting various types of feeders. They are also attracted to the water ponds and bird baths, often lining up on the fence for a turn at the bath. The guys tell me they receive more visitors in the "season." Butterflies are drawn to the Buddleia bushes and dragonflies to the Koi pond. All this, despite the ever-present dog and rambunctious kitten.



Hilltop.

In barely two years, they have transformed a tiny patch of weeds and sand into a wildlife Mecca. They planted trees, bushes, perennials and even a vegetable garden, all without the use of chemical pesticides or additives. Many things they learned from trial and error, such as: birds prefer to dine while perched and/or sheltered. So the empty picture frames that Jeff's mother and nieces had encrusted with peanut butter and seeds now have short dowels protruding from their ornate edges.

Spangler and Birch have proven what can be done in a small space and a very busy, noisy area. Please join us in creating a wildlife friendly neighborhood. The keys seem to be food, water, shelter and mostly patience and you, too, can have a backyard (or front yard) haven.

For an informational package and more ideas, visit the website: <http://www.nwf.org/> or phone (703)790-4000. The package is also available at Wild Birds Unlimited @

*Submitted by Anne Kane,
OPCL Treasurer*

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Would Refinancing Be Worth It?

Many of us are familiar with the general rule of thumb that proclaims refinancing becomes worth your while if the current interest rate on your mortgage is at least two percentage points higher than the prevailing market rate. However, that rule of thumb may be somewhat oversimplified.

For accuracy, be sure to compare apples to apples when considering refinancing. Specifically, compare the after-tax cost of the new mortgage with the old. Since mortgage interest is deductible, the after-tax cost of the loan equals the principal and interest payment after deducting the taxes saved attributable to the deduction.

Choosing to refinance is not wise for those planning to move in the near future. There is typically not enough time to save with the lower interest mortgage to make up for or to surpass the cost of refinancing. Most sources say that it takes at least three years to fully realize the savings from a lower interest rate, given the costs of the refinancing.

If you take a fixed rate loan and you refinance identical loan amounts you can roughly calculate the recovery time by dividing your total refinancing costs by your monthly mortgage payment savings. This provides you with the number of months you will need to stay in your home to "break even" (Example: if you will save \$110 per month by refinancing and your refinancing costs total \$3,000, divide \$3,000 by \$110 and the break-even point is 27 months. If you plan to stay in the house longer than 27 months, then refinancing makes sense).

Of course, this article is no substitute for a careful consideration of all of the advantages and disadvantages of refinancing in light of your personal circumstances. Before implementing a significant tax or financial planning strategy such as this, consider consulting your financial advisor, attorney and/or a tax advisor.

*Submitted by
Rick Mayo*



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MEMBERSHIP DUES 2000-2001

In the Ocean Park conclave there are approximately 950 residences and businesses. Only one quarter of the families and businesses maintain a membership in the Ocean Park Civic League. Surely, we can all do more to support our civic league. It works for all of us every day. Dues are just \$5.00 per year. If you have not sent your membership dues check in for this year—do it now!

Just fill in the Membership Application and send it today. You will be helping your community and yourself. If you attend the next meeting, please give your dues to Anne.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION-2000-2001

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE:.....RENT:.....OWN.....

YEARS IN OP.....

Areas of Interest in Ocean Park Civic League (Check Off ✓)

Newsletter contributions.....

Zoning

Newsletter distribution.....

Crime Watch committee.....

Refreshments, civic league meetings.....

Suggestions.....(Your remarks, please.)

Social Events committee.....

New Development.....

Mail this Application with your dues, Five (\$5.00) to:
Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL), P. O Box 55385,
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455-5385

