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March 4, 2005

Volume 9, Issue 2

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Meeting Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Be sure to come and bring a neighbor!

Membership is open to all residents or property owners of Ocean Park, the land between Lynnhaven Inlet, the Chesapeake Bay and Pleasure House Creek, including all condominiums and sub-neighborhoods therein. You may join by paying annual dues of \$10 per household which is due January 1 of each year, giving you the right to vote at meetings. These dues allow us to publish this newsletter to keep the community informed and to conduct all other business that benefits the interests of Ocean Park residents and property owners. Please become a current member, if you are not one, and join in the good fellowship with your neighbors at the upcoming meeting on March 10th.

Meeting Agenda Highlights

Follow up to meetings with Mayor and Councilperson Wood

Open Space Planning Committee – Anne Kane

Social Committee – Summer Party Date

Volunteer Get Together – Grace Moran

Pleasure House Point (PHP)

PHP petition signing & membership drive

Zoning Committee – Ronda Morrison

Stratford Property update – Susan Karlau

Vote on By-laws

Vote on filling Board vacancies – Ronda Morrison for VP, Carol Collins for liaison

Dredging and OP beach replenishment

Traffic Committee to start

Newsletter Report

Web-site status

Door Prizes Galore at our March meeting!!

Thanks to the following businesses for their support:

- \$25 gift certificate to H2O Restaurant
- \$25 gift certificate to Dockside Restaurant
- \$25 gift certificate to CP Shuckers Café & Raw Bar
- Gift from Lynn Hume – ReMax Allegiance

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Message from The President

Chris Hendricks

Greetings Neighbors! There is much to report. I will try to make it short.

The highlight is that Ocean Park Civic League is growing a healthy communicative relationship with our Mayor, Meyera Oberndorf. Following two letters to her and receiving her replies to each since last July, we met with the Mayor on January 20th, 2005 for a good hour.

The best thing to report is that I feel we have established a friendship with Ms. Oberndorf which includes an open invitation to her to join our summer social; an open invitation to any or all our board and plenary meetings; and a standing offer for her to contribute to our newsletter. The quality of the communication was excellent.

One thing that stuck in my mind was the Mayor saying she has a history of voting pro-environmental. This tells me we need to approach all the city counselors so they know where we stand here in Ocean Park [OP]. Along those lines and in a slight tangent, the Board met local area [Lynnhaven] counselor James Wood last week and had a productive chat during our regularly scheduled meeting. We have already extended an invitation to local council-person [Bayside] and Vice-Mayor Louis Jones for a meeting in six weeks. That will make three of the eleven council members that OPCL has met in 2005. Onward to the rest of the City Council!

In our meeting with our Mayor, we spent a lot of time talking about the developments of pleasure House Point [PHP]. As with other zoning discussions we had, we made it clear that we are opposed to extensive development, but understand that property owners have rights too. We stressed that properties should be developed within existing codes and that we are concerned about our neighborhood losing its style to a wall of double unit and multi-unit homes where single ones or nothing once stood.

Nothing is known of future plans at PHP. There are only rumors. I sense we may be close to some news.

We made clear that Ocean Park pays substantial property taxes and that, as the City's open space plan of 2001 calls for acquiring space in Ocean Park, why not acquire space at PHP. They are well aware of last year's petition to acquire at least 39 acres there. The Mayor and her assistant, Clay Bernick, were quite interested in our offer to throw our newly acquired Stratford Property into the mix if it would secure open space. We demonstrated that we can be partners not adversaries to accomplish our open space goals. No one knows what the owners have in mind for that property but the City is clear we want to be involved in any processes and expect open space as one of the outcomes.

In addition we stressed our opposition to the widening of Shore Drive though we do support the Shore Drive Advisory Committee's recommendation for Shore Drive's beautification. We also reiterated our support for the 2002 City Beach Management Plan. We explained that Ocean Park will also be developing a position paper on R-5-R and R-5-D zoning initiatives this summer. It was a great opening of dialogue between the Mayor and Ocean Park.

At our full membership meeting on Thursday, March 10th, we will finally be able to vote on the by-laws of OPCL. It has been a laborious process. I also ask that you support the Board's nominations of Ronda Morrison from Board member to Vice President and Carol Collins, our wonderful Editor, to Board member. Each is a huge contributor to OPCL and deserves the position to which they are nominated.

Happy March, Chris

**Be at the meeting to vote on
our revised By-laws.**

**Looking for a corporate sponsor to
cover our newsletter printing costs
* Includes free 1/2 page advertisement ***

Highlights of Minutes from 1/6/05 Mtg.

Grace Moran, First Secretary

On the status of the Pleasure House Point (PHP) development Hendricks informed the assembly that although nothing has been confirmed, rumor has it that the Sandler brothers have a contract of the property. It was agreed that the zoning committee would take on the issues regarding PHP and that Stratford Property Development (SPDC) will be a standalone committee.

Grace Moran will be organizing a brainstorming session to increase membership and attendance at meetings that will include those members on the volunteer list.

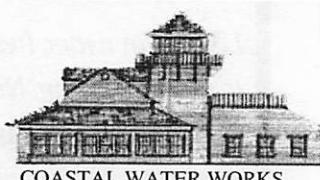
Hendricks proposed a drive this spring to get signatures on a new petition for open space for PHP which would also serve as a membership drive.

On the status of our Stratford Road property our attorney had been instructed to secure clear title of the property by recording an agreement signed by the Rescue Squad representing that they had relinquished any claim. This method will result in substantially less costs for us. The SPDC will reopen discussions on (our options for the property, which Hendricks thinks will most likely result in our selling it.). Treasurer Kane stated that the accountant was looking into the consequences of such a sale so as not to jeopardize our tax-exempt standing.

The newsletter advertising rates have been increased to \$35 per issue or \$150 for all 5 annual issues. It was suggested by Stuart Terrell that we remember to thank our advertisers and contributors for their generous support. More contributions of articles from league members was requested.

We are trying to locate another Webmaster for our website and request assistance from anyone who might know of interested parties.

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Thanks to Our Volunteers!

We appreciate all who share their talents to help strengthen our organization. More members are always welcome on our committees. We currently are looking for an **assistant editor** to assist in website postings and a **youth reporter**.

	Position	Volunteers	Home Phone
Special Projects		Susan Karlau	460-6922
SPDC Committee	Chair	Susan Karlau	460-6922
	Members:	Anne Kane	363-7321
		Nancy Koch	560-9033
		Ronda Morrison	407-7782
		Sharon Need	363-8004
		Jean Sleeman	328-2930
		Tim Solanic	464-6922
		John Wigmore	460-2431
		Mike Wills	536-6682
Shore Dr Advisory Committee	Primary	Mike Wills	536-6682
	Back up:	Vicky Schiano	318-9211
		Channing Weaver	363-2502
Shore Dr Community Coalition	Primary	Anne Kane	363-7321
	Back up:	Vicky Schiano	318-9211
		Channing Weaver	363-2502
Zoning Committee	Temp Chair	Rhonda Morrison	407-7782
		Anne Kane	363-7321
		Susan Karlau	460-6922
		Brian Parker	363-1049
		Jim Royall	363-0460
		Byron Sargent	460-4518
		Jean Sleeman	328-2930
		Mike Wills	536-6682
Attendance/Door Prize	Coordinator	Vicky Schiano	318-9211
Social Committee	Coordinator	Judy Terrell	318-7252
	Members	Jill Broome	460-3251
		Kathy Carpenter	464-3491
		Ellen Gladney	460-5637
		Donna Epperson	460-3052
		Jackie Longworth	460-4025
Traffic Committee		Rebecca Anderson	460-1918
		Channing Weaver	363-2502
Youth Reporter		vacant	

Kristi Brown Emerson
President



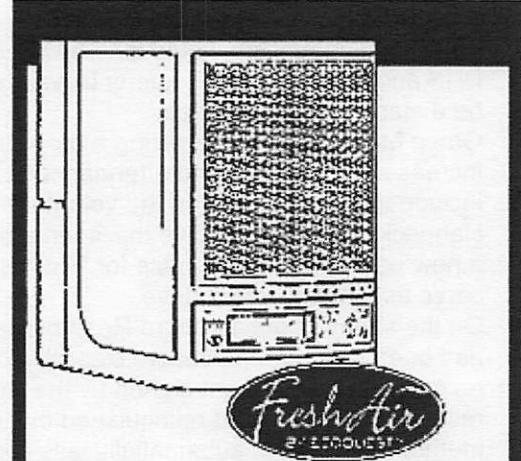
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Lynnhaven Inlet Maintenance Dredging

The Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting the maintenance dredging for the Lynnhaven Inlet Basin. The project is expected to get underway with the removal of 32,000 cubic yards of sand from the Maple Street placement area (located behind Surf Rider in Marina Shores) and truck hauled to the Ocean Park beach. In mid March the dredging of Lynnhaven Inlet is scheduled to begin and the sand dredged from the channel will be hydraulically pumped onto the Ocean Park beach as well. Both placements will be between Rookery Way and the Lynnhaven Inlet. The project is expected to be completed prior to June and will leave a beach of over 200 feet wide. Please be aware that heavy equipment will be on the beach during this project so please adhere to any signs or instructions to ensure your safety and enjoyment of the beach as well allowing the contractor to complete his work. If additional information is needed please contact Michael Kay or the City of Virginia Beach Public Works, Office of Beach Management at (757) 427-4167 or mfkay@vbgov.com.

Treasury News

Anne Kane, Treasurer

We received dues from 35 residents after our last reminder. That leaves 21 residents whose dues expired in December. There are many more *even further* in arrears. Please contact me if you are uncertain of your status. I can be reached on-line at OPCL-Treas@cox.net or by phone at 363-7321.

A detailed summary of our income and expenses is on the web-site and I will have hard copies available at the meeting. We currently have \$16,000+ in reserves. That will allow us to pay for needed repairs to the Stratford property, yet still be able to have the terrific Beach Blast we envision for this summer. Remember our parties are always free to members, so get your dues in now!

Volunteer Rescue Squad Opportunity

The Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach are a great way to get involved and give back to your community. Each year the volunteers of Virginia Beach's EMS system answer roughly 34,000 calls for help. Our 725+ volunteers are a family of providers who not only make lifelong friendships while giving back to their community, but also experience firsthand the joy of truly making a difference in someone's life.

This is a great opportunity for anyone 18 years or older, who has a valid driver's license, a high school diploma or GED and is interested in serving the people of Virginia Beach. You will be medically trained as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and serve on an ambulance 48 hours per month with one of the city's 10 volunteer rescue squads. Training is free!

Orientation sessions are held twice a month and last about 90 minutes. **Call 426-5000 for dates, times and location.**

For more information, visit www.vabeachems.com and view the recruitment video.

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By-Laws Changes

Anne Kane

The final draft of our efforts to up-date the By-Laws of Ocean Park Civic League are now posted on our web site (www.OPCL.org.) Please take a minute to review them, as we will be voting to approve the new By-Laws at our meeting on March 10, 2005. The major changes are the addition of several more people to the executive board and the dues increase that was voted on a year ago. I will have several hard copies available at the meeting. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy for review prior to the meeting, please call Anne Kane at 363-7321.

SDCC Notice of Open Space Subcommittee Meeting

The City's Open Space Subcommittee will hold a Community Involvement Workshop for the Bayfront area on Monday February 28th at the Bayside Recreation Center. The meeting will be held in room #3.

The Open Space Subcommittee will have its general meeting from 3:00 to 4:00pm and will follow with a Community Involvement Workshop from 4:00 to 5:30pm.

Each Civic League and Condo Association is being asked to send a representative from their group to provide input on the purchase of open space in the Bayfront area. This may be the last time we get a chance to voice our opinion and help guide the committee toward the parcels of land we feel need to be purchased.

One of the only remaining spots for purchase is the Pleasure House Point property (McLesky Property). This area could be used for non-motorized boat access, a small Chesapeake Bay/Lynnhaven River research facility, and just plain natural space.

By eliminating the increased traffic that would come with land development, the purchase of site development rights could also prevent the potential need to create a six lane Shore Drive. This is a potential tax payer savings of over \$300 million dollars.

Bottom line, please pass this on to your civic/condo representative and have a person at this meeting to express any concerns your group may have. (Anne Kane will be attending this meeting representing Ocean Park)



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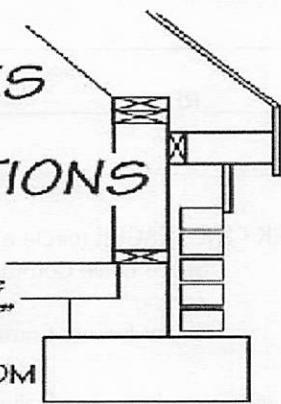
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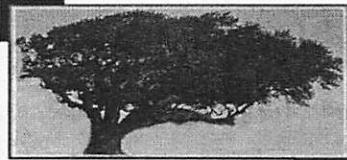
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Ocean Park Civic League

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Residents are invited to contribute timely news articles or stories of interest to the OPCL newsletter. Please call the editor.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
3/17/05 / 3:30 pm	Shore Drive Advisory Commission / Bayside Rec Center
3/28/05 / 7:30pm	Shore Drive Community Coalition / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
4/7/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
4/21/05 / 3:30pm	Shore Drive Advisory Commission / Bayside Rec Center
4/25/05 / 7:30pm	Shore Drive Community Coalition / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
5/5/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
8/4/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
9/8/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
10/6/04 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
11/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/8/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/11/05 / 5-8 pm	OPCL Christmas Party

Signs of a stroke:

Sudden weakness/numbness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Symptoms may go away and return

Call 9-1-1 immediately!

Get to the hospital quickly so you can be diagnosed and treated within 3 hours from when the symptoms begin – this will increase your chances of survival.

Courtesy of the Va. Beach Health Dept. Cardiovascular Health Program

Heart Attack warning signs:
Dizziness, fainting, or nausea

If you experience any of these warning signs:

- Pain spreading to neck & arms
- Pain/pressure in the chest
- Severe sweating, shortness of breath

Call 9-1-1 immediately!

Courtesy of the Va. Beach Health Dept. Cardiovascular Health Program

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005

Now is the time to renew your membership in the civic league for the calendar year. Dues are just \$10 a year. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and send it to our treasurer Ms. Anne Kane. You will be helping your community and yourself. If you attend the next meeting, please give your dues to Anne.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ RENT: : _____ OWN: _____

YEARS IN OCEAN PARK: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE (circle all that apply)

Newsletter Contributions

Shore Drive Committees Liaison

Newsletter Distribution

Zoning

Traffic Committee

Social Events Committee

Suggestions are Welcome



Mail this Application with your dues, Ten Dollars (\$10.) to:

Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL), P.O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471