

# Ocean Park Civic League

**Ocean Park Residents – Please come join your neighbors and participate in your Civic League! This month we will be voting on new officers and would love to have *you* as a volunteer.**

## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, May 6, 2004**

**Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters**

**Meeting Time: 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

### OPCL Officers

#### President

William G. Sykes 464-2015

#### VP/ Webmaster

Tim Solanic 464-6922

#### Secretary

Nancy Taylor 464-1303

#### Treasurer

Anne Kane 363-7321

#### South Side Liaison

John Wigmore 460-9478

#### North Side Liaison

Chris Hendricks

464-4587

#### Newsletter Editor

Carol Collins

226-9433

## Message from the OPCL President

It is very important that everyone attends the May 6, 2004 meeting since it is our last for the summer and we have some very important issues to discuss. We will discuss the status of the Pleasure House Point development on Marlin Bay Drive. We will present a site plan from a new developer who is proposing a Harris Teeter, 400 townhouse condo units, a restaurant, boat docks and open space along the waters edge.

A presentation will be made concerning the civic league's property at 3608 East Stratford Rd. The presentation will include a cost and feasibility study to renovate the existing structure or to replace the building with a community center. A volunteer group of residents has been working on this project for the last few months. Full scale preliminary plans will be presented to the membership. Discussions will include committee selections, use of property, design standards, neighborhood impact, financing and community involvement. This building has a long history including as the former volunteer fire station but age has taken its toll and remedial efforts are now needed.

It is time again to vote on new civic league officers. The current officers have completed their two year term. We are still searching for a few more volunteers to fill these positions. Please consider volunteering! Your help is needed. Our civic league is facing some real important issues that must be dealt with.

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## Meeting Agenda

- Pleasure House Point Updates – Billy Sykes
- Web Site Updates – Tim Solanic
- Stratford Property Recommendations – Andrew Broyles
- Live Oak Saplings Collected – Tim Solanic
- Newsletter Procedures – Chris Hendricks
- Vote on New Officers – Billy Sykes



"...primary sand dune was knocked down for building at the end of Roanoke Ave ..."

## Summary of the Minutes from March 4, 2004 Meeting

Nancy Taylor, Secretary

Attendance 18

Billy Sykes said the Title search on the East Stratford Road property showed the Volunteer Fire Department as owners. Since ownership reverted back to OPCL we will have the deed recorded in the civic league name.

Regarding Pleasure House Point we submitted 1200 signatures stating we would like the city to purchase 39 acres of the property for open space. Billy will write Louis Jones to see when he will present the petition to the city council, and other civic leagues will write a letter also. The option on the land was extended for 6 months. We should continue to get more signatures and write or call the city council members.

The newsletter has a new editor and will be going out before the next meeting.

The proposed building on the Dinwiddie property, after several changes made by the planning department, was said to now be approved to be 83 feet tall instead of only 3 stories. Stanley Singh said he will put \$10,000 into the city tree fund, but the trees have already been trimmed.

Tim Solanic has a report on the live oak trees on the website. There are 1,763 trees visible from Shore Dr. from Kendall St. to the Norfolk line.

Tim Solanic presented a petition which was passed requesting the city council to lower property tax rates. He also updated us the Newton property next to the 7-11. There are 8 buildable lots there which the city is planning to purchase for open space.

Billy Hook says that fresh land fill is being put on Pleasure House Point property owned by Wayne McClesky and gave a brief history of the property.

George Lee and Judy Johnson brought up the issue of a primary sand dune that was knocked down for building at the end of Roanoke Ave. Apparently there was no special permission from the city and no intervention by the wetlands board or marine resources commission and no zoning variances obtained.

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## Money Matters From Your Treasurer

Anne Kane, Treasurer

The OPCL Roster has finally been formatted as a database. This makes it very easy to update when someone sends in their dues or inquires about their current standing. I have found many members to be a year or more in arrears. This being partly due to the fact that the newsletter has not been published recently. As a reminder, 2004 dues are now payable. I will respond to your questions regarding your status by phone (363-7321) or E-mail (Akten@cox.net)

We are planning to finance some "fun" neighborhood gatherings over the summer. Come to the meeting and make some suggestions while paying your dues.

## Updates and Reminders

**GET INVOLVED – Ocean Park Civic League is here for YOU!**

Ever complain about what's going on in your community? Wish something had been done differently? Have some ideas on how to make this a better place to live? Want to preserve our beaches and live oak trees? Well, come out to meet your Ocean Park neighbors and get involved with your civic league! You can make a difference!

### Purchase at least 39 acres of Pleasure House Point for Open Space

It is not quite too late to sign the petition to encourage the City to purchase at least 39 acres of Pleasure House Point (south of Marlin Bay Drive) for Open Space. If you haven't already done so.... please sign the online version! Go to [www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org). Encourage all your friends, neighbors, relatives, church members, etc to do so too?! It might also help to write or call our city council members encouraging the preservation of this area as open space.

### Open Space for Ocean Park

The city has reached agreement to purchase as open space the property to the west of the 7-Eleven on Shore Drive and Shady Oaks Drive.

### Don't Forget to Vote!

When: Tuesday, May, 4, 2004

Where: Bayside Community Recreation Center  
4500 First Court Road

You will be voting for City Mayor, City Council Members and School Board Members.

### Articles for our Newsletter

We are always looking for new articles to be included in the newsletter. Ever considered becoming a writer or just having your voice heard? Give it a try. Anything related to environmental concerns, community issues, historical interests, etc. are welcome. Submit all articles to the newsletter editor a minimum of 3 weeks before the next civic league meeting to [opcleditor@cox.net](mailto:opcleditor@cox.net).

## Ocean Park Civic League Web Site – [www.OPCL.org](http://www.OPCL.org)

We're undergoing another upgrade to a more permanent home. You've probably noticed in the past how the site was sort of duct taped together. Well no longer!

The site is also being redesigned to make it more people-friendly and will include new items such as an Events Calendar.

Contributors are wanted! OPCL.org will only be as good as your contributions. So please, if you have info that you feel would benefit the neighborhood in knowing, email it to [webmaster@opcl.org](mailto:webmaster@opcl.org) and it'll be reviewed, even spell checked and then posted at OPCL.org. Want to be a daily/weekly/monthly Contributor? Please... contact us.

Look for the new Officers you'll elect in May along with the Board to keep you current with what's happening in and around Ocean Park. They'll appreciate your comments & feedback to their articles you'll find at OPCL.org.



"The site has been redesigned . . . And will include new items such as an Events Calendar."

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"Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Ocean Park Fire and Rescue."

## The Ocean Park Women's Club

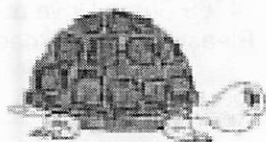
Nancy Taylor

The Ocean Park Women's Club has been a vital and active part of our area since it began in 1944. The object of the club is to "build a better community". From the beginning the club ladies have worked with the Red Cross and visited what was then known as the Kecoughtan Veterans Hospital in Hampton. Through the years the club ladies have been responsible for spearheading many a worthy fund raiser, including helping to raise funds for Eastern Virginia Medical School and the Virginia Marine Science Museum.

The Ocean Park Fire and Rescue Station where we meet was built by the husbands of the club members. Over the years the Woman's Club has purchased a piano, stoves, refrigerators, chairs, tables, curtains, etc. for the fire station. The club makes yearly donations to the Volunteer Rescue Squad and has already made a sizable donation to the building fund for the new rescue squad building.

Members of the Women's Club sky-watched during WW II and manned the ambulance during the day. The ladies currently give an annual college scholarship each year, and they also donate to Operation Smile, Samaritan House, Marine Science Museum, Girl Scouts, Girls State, the public library, Camp Easter Seal East, Hermitage Elementary School and many others. The club has two major fund raisers a year, which include a card party/craft show in the fall and a fashion show in the spring.

Our club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Ocean Park Fire and Rescue club room at 11:00 a.m. We have a business meeting from 11-12 noon, lunch from 12-1 and then listen to a great speaker. Our club members range in age, with two of our most active members being 92 and 94 years old! If you are interested in joining an active, fun-loving, dedicated group of inspiring ladies, please call the membership chairperson, Dot Scott, at 464-5919.



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## Shore Drive Community Coalition

Anne Kane

As your representative to SDCC, I want to report all issues and activities of the coalition that affect Ocean Park. The SDCC meets at the Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Station on the last Monday of every month from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. During these meetings invited speakers present issues for the entire Shore Drive corridor, yet most have a direct impact on Ocean Park. I encourage all to attend these meetings.

During the March 29th meeting we were given a lively and informative presentation by Barry Frankenfield, a certified Landscape Architect, Design & Development Administrator for the City of Virginia Beach, and Executive Director of the Lynnhaven River 2007 Project. For more information on the project visit their web-site: [www.LynnhavenRiver2007.org](http://www.LynnhavenRiver2007.org). Mr. Frankenfield described five activities we can all perform that will help restore the health of the Lynnhaven:

- Proper plant health care
- Plant "buffers"
- Utilize bay landscaping principles
- Scoop the poop
- Grow oysters

There has also been a keen interest and very active involvement on the part of SDCC relating to the development of the Pleasure House Point Property. SDCC president, Todd Solomon, has taken a leadership position in meetings with the potential developer, the City, and even the property owner. Communication and involvement is critical to achieving an end result that addresses public concerns regarding any development of this property.



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Regarding the "demonstration project" along Shore Drive between First Court Road and Marlin Bay Drive, the city has awarded a contract to improve aesthetics and traffic flow in this key zone. The question is how best to implement the recommendations of the Shore Drive Corridor Plan and still allow for community input. There have already been several "Open Houses" to show preliminary plans and invite public input, resulting in some modifications to the plans.

The SDCC is also instrumental in getting the City to construct Bay Beach walkways similar to those at the North End. The one at Albemarle is now complete and I think it looks great. Many have commented on the vast improvement to beach access for the handicapped, young children, and beach carts. The other is being constructed at Sandalwood over in the Cape Story area.

## Live Oak Projects

Tim Solanic

Chris Wood, brother of Councilman Jim Wood, helped city employees, Master Gardeners & other volunteers move more than 750 live oak saplings. You can read about it at [LiveOakProjects.com](http://LiveOakProjects.com).

The event was called Live Oak Preservation Day. The group was started by a number of concerned people around the Shore Drive area who've become concerned there hasn't been enough education about how important full grown live oaks are to the culture, environment & soul of Virginia Beach; particularly the Shore Drive area.

An inventory of live oaks visible from Shore Drive was taken by 10 dedicated & appreciated volunteers. Some key elements of the Inventory Draft Report is:

- Southeast Virginia is the northernmost range for live oaks. The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage ranks live oaks as a S3 species, which is considered "rare to uncommon in Virginia." In Virginia, live oaks are found naturally growing in the Maritime Forest community type. This community type is ranked as a G1 community type which is considered "extremely rare and critically imperiled, with five or fewer occurrences" in the world.
- Only 423 "large" live oaks remain visible from Shore Drive.
- The City along with First Landing State Park sponsored the Inventory.
- Erik Molleen, District Resource Specialist at First Landing State Park, was responsible for organizing, reporting & determining the Purpose & Methodology of The Inventory.

Erik's presentation to the Shore Drive Advisory Committee helped inspire Jim Wood to make a motion to make the "Live Oak the Official Tree of Virginia Beach" which Louis Jones seconded. The resolution passed unanimously by City Council.

So how can you help?

- Donate to the City sponsored Tree Restoration-Shore Drive Area Trust Fund. Chris Wood made the first contribution in the amount of \$1,000 in April.
- Read Mary Reid Barrow's column in the Virginian-Pilot & let her know how important live oaks are to you.
- Visit [LiveOakProjects.com](http://LiveOakProjects.com) and see what else you could contribute in time, expertise & funds.

And about those 750 saplings mentioned above? We'll keep you up to date on the research and tender loving care by Kristina at the Virginia Tech/Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HRAREC) on Diamond Springs Rd. Those little guys will be ready for planting in a couple years. Of course, if you're familiar with how slow growing live oaks are... it might be better just to save every one we have now.



"Live oaks [are]  
considered extremely  
rare and critically  
imperiled ..."

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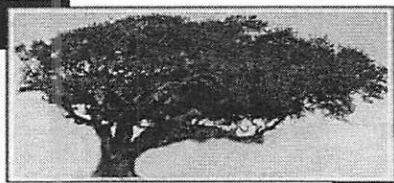
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### Ocean Park Civic League

P.O. Box 55385  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471

## Name the Ocean Park Civic League Newsletter Contest !!!

Our new and improved Ocean Park Civic League Newsletter needs a new and improved name. It's not too late to submit your suggestions, maybe something that represents our lifestyle here in Ocean Park. Bring your suggestion to our meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. where we will vote on the winning name.

The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Wisteria Restaurant!



## 2004 Civic League Meeting Dates

All meetings are held on Thursdays at the Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Head Quarters. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Sharp.

May 6, 2004  
September 9, 2004  
November 4, 2004



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004–2005

Now is the time to renew your membership in the civic league for the ensuing 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

New Development

Newsletter Distribution

Zoning

Refreshments, Civic League Meetings

Crime Watch 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