



OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE



NEWSLETTER

November 2002

Serving the Ocean Park Community

Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 7, 2002

@ Ocean Park Fire & Rescue H. Q.

Time: Social - 7:00 P. M. ~ 7:30 P. M

Meeting: 7:30 P. M. ~ 9:00 P. M. Sharp!

A VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Civic League in a Constitutional Crisis

We need a president! Anne Nelson, the civic league's elected president has left the area. She moved to Alaska to further her career. Indeed, what an adventurous lady! Our civic league lost an extraordinarily valuable person. We are happy she found an exciting and challenging position in her profession of law. We wish her well.

At the November 7th meeting, we will endeavor to resolve this issue. Since our president left, the entire executive committee has been maintaining the president's duties with dedication and purpose.

Our civic league continues to work vigorously on various neighborhood issues, including: Vandalism, cars speeding on our small winding streets, beach patrols, irresponsible citizens who permit their dogs to litter the streets, neighbor's lawns, the beaches and pathways to the beaches.

Additionally, some members are engaged in enhancing the

neighborhood by working on the open spaces and recreational facilities, and we plan to follow up the tree-planting project shortly and set out more Live Oak trees in selected areas of Ocean Park.

At the meeting, law enforcement and safety information will be discussed by our distinguished guest speaker, Virginia Beach Police Officer A. C. Palmer.

The Ocean Park Civic League website is up and working. The site was developed by Vice President Tim Solanic. Ocean Park is there for the world to see. It can be located on the Internet at: www.OPCL.org.

On the occasion of Veterans Day, we will, at the next civic league meeting, honor Ocean Park military veterans. If you are a veteran, please join us at the meeting. More information is located in this newsletter.

William G. Sykes
Vice President, Ocean Park Civic
League



Meeting Agenda

(We will keep to the time schedule)

7:00 - 7:30 P. M: Social and Refreshments
7:30- Pledge of Allegiance- Meeting called to Order- Anne Kane
7:35- Introduce and recognize veterans- Nancy Taylor
7:45- Treasurer's Report- Anne Kane
7:55- Distinguished Guest Speaker: Police Officer A. C. Palmer, Third Precinct, VABCH
8:15- Resolving the issue of selecting a new president
8:25- Shore Drive Community Coalition and Oyster Roast Updates-Anne Kane
8:30- New Business
8:55- Raffle of Door Prizes
9:00- Adjourn (On Time!)

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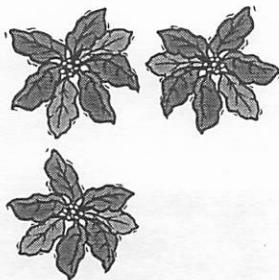
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You're Invited To A Festive Holiday Party In Ocean Park



Celebrate the Holiday Season with your fellow neighbors!
Mark your calendar to join us Sunday, December 15th,
from '5:00P.M.-until?' for an evening of casual
merrymaking & sociable good cheer. The festivities will be
held at the
Ocean Park Rescue Squad Meeting Room.

*** Holiday Party Highlights ***

A tantalizing array of delectable edibles:
Bring your favorite savory or sweet to share

Holiday music ~ Kid's corner ~ Lots of door prizes & raffle goodies

We hope to have a visit from a "special guest"
(hint: he's very jolly and wears a red suit)

Watch for more details to follow in the "Special Edition Holiday Party Flyer"
you will receive the Week of December 2nd.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Your Ocean Park Social Committee
(Chris Solanic & Donna Epperson, chairpersons)



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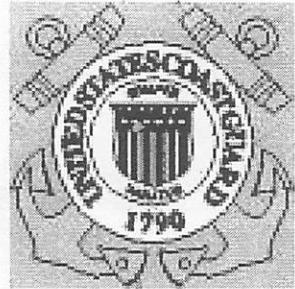
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Our community would like to honor and recognize all the veterans living in our civic league area. It is their values, deeds, and sacrifices that define the character of our Nation and its prevailing principles.



The civic league officers respectfully invite all the veterans residing within the Ocean Park area to attend the November civic league meeting.



Veterans-please wear anything that identifies you, i.e., VFW, DAV, American Legion, veterans or reunion organization caps, and/or other objects that will denote who you are.



It is our fervent hope the entire citizenry of our community will come to this meeting to meet and honor these veterans.



We look forward to seeing you!



*Submitted by Nancy Taylor, secretary,
Ocean Park Civic League*

THE SHORE DRIVE COMMUNITY COALITION

As your representative to SDCC, I try 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. During these meetings, many 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. This Monday, we were pleasantly surprised to Fire Department Chief Gregory Kade in attendance. He added the Fire Department's position to the presentation by Kreg Kinney, the Rescue Squad's chief. This led to a very interesting opportunity to converse with the two major people involved with the move of the Fire Station.

The SDCC had invited both Louis Jones and Jim Wood (the representatives of Council Districts Bayside and Lynnhaven, respectively.) They did not attend.

On a very positive note, the Second Annual SDCC Oyster Roast made a better showing than Wall Street...we netted about \$1000. It's not huge, but given the competition of the Neptune Festival, organizers are pleased. In the past these funds have benefited the local volunteer rescue squads. Since discussion still continues...make your voice heard.

Speaking of voices, the Beautification Committee of SDCC has received recognition as the neighborhood connection to Shore Drive from the Shore Drive Advisory Committee. Yes I know it all starts to sound the same! But the Shore Drive Advisory Committee is the City council selected group that oversees all the future planning for this area. They spent years working with planners for a design of what can and should be accomplished in this area. It addresses everything from traffic planning to housing and business density.

The most immediate impact we will be seeing is the "Demonstration Projects" at key intersections. The City has awarded a contract to improve the esthetics and traffic flow to determine how best to incorporate the recommendations of the Shore Drive Corridor Plan. Once proposals are drawn, there will be a couple public meetings for input by the residents and businesses affected by these improvements.

The City is also performing an "in-house" beautification project at the intersection of Shore Drive and Diamond Springs Road. I must contact the City's landscape department for more information. I will also discuss the need for "clean-up" activity on the Lesner Bridge, as perhaps it is an area that we can "Adopt-a Bridge" to keep cleared of debris.

I also will have more information on the progress of uniting the Shore Drive communities to erect distinctive signs in accordance with the Shore Drive plan, and still retain the character of individual neighborhoods.

Look forward to meeting with you on Thursday, Anne Kane

*Submitted by Anne Kane, OPCL treasurer
and the civic league's representative
to the Shore Drive Community Coalition.*

FROM THESE
SHORES

LEAVING LYNNHAVEN
ROADS FOR THE BEACHES
OF FRENCH NORTH AFRICA
LYNNHAVEN ROADS LINEAGE IN
AMERICAN HISTORY

THIS AREA PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE DURING WORLD WAR II

Just sixty years ago during October and November 1942, and onward to May 1945, this area played an important part in the Battle of the Atlantic and in the history of the Europe and Africa. Allied victories on the sea and on the land were launched from here.

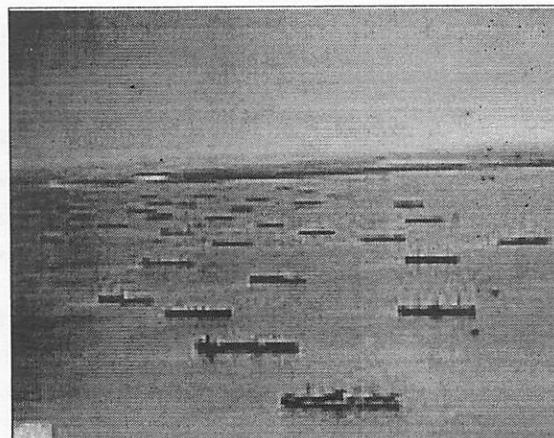
Many would believe the epic invasion of Normandy in France in June 1944 was the initial and final action on the part of the Allies in World War Two in their quest to recapture Europe from the armies of Nazi Germany. Not so. The long path to the Elbe River in Germany where the American Armies met the Soviets began at these shores in the Autumn of 1942.

Lynnhaven Roads, during World War Two, served as the staging area for the United States and its allies as the first stepping stone in retaking the Old World from the Axis partners, Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and collaborationist France.

For months before the departure of that first Allied Task Force, our beaches and waters were alive with activity and continuous preparations for the invasion of French North Africa, known as Operation Torch. The old Nansemond Hotel, now gone, located in Norfolk, was the planning headquarters for the Army commander, General George S. Patton, and the Navy commander, Vice Admiral Henry Hewitt.

On October 23 & 24, 1942, two formidable task groups comprised of combat loaded transports and cargo vessels, with destroyer, cruiser and battleship escorts sailed from these waters. This fleet made their easting to join with ships from Casco Bay, Maine, and Bermuda. Later they were cojoined with an invasion force from Great Britain. Together, on November 8, with destiny in their favor, they conducted a successful landing on the shores of North Africa, which was controlled by Vichy France, then a puppet of Germany. The first endeavor to recapture conquered countries worked. Subsequent invasions of southern Europe, all supported from Hampton Roads followed throughout 1943 and 1944.

To sustain Allied operations in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations and those beyond Port Said, Egypt, by mid-May 1945 over 6,149 merchant ships of all types, escorted by hundreds of Navy warships to form anti-submarine screens, bound themselves into 126 protective convoys. They originated at Lynnhaven Roads for the 3,000 mile trek across the U-boat infested Atlantic, all Gibraltar and North Africa bound. Merchant ships from other East Coast ports joined the convoys. On return trips from Gibraltar, 140 convoys, comprising of 5,610 merchant vessels of all types made Hampton Roads their destination.



Allied convoy designated as UGS 52 (United States to Gibraltar, slow) at anchor in Lynnhaven Roads awaiting to depart on August 23, 1944

~~FROM THESE SHORES~~

A former resident of the area recalls those times: We used to see the convoys gather outside of the Capes. You would see fifty (to) sixty vessels. When the coal ships were out there, it was somewhat reminiscent of when the convoys would come out. They (the convoys) were usually further out though, and there was no bridge- tunnel then. They would take up that whole Lynnhaven Roads and meet there. Then all of a sudden one day you would say, "They were all gone!" They had taken off and all fifty (to) sixty ships would be gone 2

The primary effort to breach Fortress Europe stemmed from these beaches. The beaches of Chesapeake Bay were the testing grounds and learning schools for the newly developing concept of amphibious warfare. It is hard to imagine the disaster that might have befallen an inexperienced American Army had they not practiced here. Much support for all the European campaigns came from here.

On this Veterans Day, let us remember those who were part of these efforts and many more during World War II. Let us also pay tribute to all veterans who served in this Nation's wars and in times of peace .

Jerome W. Nelinson, Editor, Ocean Park Civic League Newsletter

The following list contains sources from which materiel was drawn. It would be ungracious not to acknowledge the obligation.—JWN

Mr. Joseph Judge, Curator, Hampton Roads Naval Museum, Norfolk, Virginia.

1. Hague, A. *The Allied Convoy System*, Naval Institute Press, 2000
2. From Norfolk Women's History, and interview with Dr. Laura Morris on November 18, 1988, by Dina Miller held at Eastern Virginia Medical School



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