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Volume 7, Issue 1



Ocean Park Civic League

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 8, 2004

@ Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Time: Social 7:00 P.M.—7:30 P.M.

Meeting: 7:30 P.M.—9:00 P.M. Sharp!

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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 Hendrick~~
~~Michael Spangler~~

318-9478

Newsletter Editor

Jackie Longworth

~~Carol Collins~~
460-4025

226-9433

Update on Pleasure House Point

Over 1200 signatures were collected from our petition drive to try to convince City Council to purchase at least 39 acres of Pleasure House Point (PHP) for Open Space. We've been working with Mr. Tseng of Ft Worth Development, attempting to convince him to reduce the number of units he's proposing from 680. Other ideas discussed were alternative funding solutions from starting an Urban Reserve Program whereby the city would simply purchase the development rights from Mr. McLeskey to offering Mr. McLeskey tax breaks, bonds, etc.

There was also a recent meeting with a number of people including Mr. McLeskey, Mr. Tseng, the Virginia Marine Science Museum and others where it was determined the VMSM is not interested in PHP. There are more discussions planned with Mr. Tseng to bring in other educational institutions from VWU, ODU, TCC etc.

Other information that will be followed up on is the actions the City has/or has not taken to negotiate with Mr. McLeskey to sell the property. This is an area that needs more investigation and clarification, so the OPCL can have a clear understanding of all the facts.

Very significantly, it is recognized that working with Mr. Tseng of Ft Worth Development is the most productive solution Ocean Park and the Shore Drive Community has in helping to create a quality of life enhancing project at PHP.

There will be critical decisions made in early 2004 that will affect Shore Drive and Virginia Beach for generations to come. If you've been procrastinating about getting involved with the future of PHP --- one New Years Resolution you should consider now is to get involved!

Letter to Ocean Park Pet Owners

Dear Pet Owners,

Your Responsibility to Ocean Park !

With another early February coming, many of us will be eagerly watching those beautiful dogs of the Westminster Dog Show [Feb 9th and 10th]. Dogs and cats are one of the great things in many of our lives. Our neighbors like your well-behaved ones, which are the majority, and abhor the owners of the few poorly trained and un-curbed ones.

Through an informal poll, it is believed that of all our dog and cat owners in Ocean Park, some 20% are still being poorly managed by their owners when it comes to pet waste [cats and dogs alike, folks!]. Below is important information for pet owners:

1. Allowing a pet to make waste and not picking up is not neighborly: whether on someone else's property or on our public property [like a circle, paper street, or on the beach], it is a rude statement by a non-compliant pet owner on what they think [or don't think] of their neighbors and their property. Then, think about the kids playing in our small public spaces and all of us lying in the sand at the beach. It is a matter of public health and its downright offensive.
2. Unscopped pet waste is against the law: according to City Ordinance [go to city website], section 5-16:

Allowing dogs to urinate or defecate on public or private property. It shall be unlawful for any owner or person in control of a **dog** to:

- (1) Knowingly or willfully allow his/her **dog** to urinate or defecate on the private property of other persons without their consent or that of the authorized agent of the one having control of the premises.
- (2) Knowingly or willfully allow his/her **dog** to urinate or defecate on public property, except that defecation by a **dog** on public property shall not constitute a violation of this section if the owner of the **dog** immediately removes the material defected and disposes of it in a safe and sanitary manner.

Similar ordinances within this section apply to cats.

It's a class 4 misdemeanor. If you are an offender, your neighbor has a right to ensure the law is enforced!



3. Pet waste is bad for the environment: it seems odd that offending pet owners were probably attracted to this area for its near natural appearance and clean beaches, yet hypocritically act so unconcerned about their pet's waste. Human waste is treated at sewerage treatment plants while unattended pet waste adds to all the farm animal waste that is oxygen starving our endangered Bay as it seeps into the Bay. Don't believe it? Go to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation web site describing the 2003 continuing rise of nitrogen in the Bay and its impact [and to learn more about the Bay]:

http://www.cbf.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=7515&news_iv_ctrl=1261

And then take this quiz with your family, What's Your Poo IQ?
To learn more:

<http://www.cbf.org/site/Survey?>

So, Pet Owners You Have A Responsibility to the Ocean Park Community:

1. Be good to your neighbors, their kids, and our public spaces on and off the beach.
2. Respect the law; and, stop being part of the Chesapeake Bay nutria problem.
3. Clean up after your **dogs** whether you think someone is watching or not. If you own a **cat**, don't pretend your neighborhood is your cat's kitty litter container.

One solution: is buying specially designed dog poop pickup mitts that convert into a small trash bag. Should you not wish to drive to the pet supply store: here are some of the many sites offering products and dispensers so you can be a responsible pet owner.

<http://www.muttmitt.com/shop.html>

<http://www.pickupmitts.com/aamuttmittspage.htm>

This bag is also bio-degradable:

<http://www.masterscoopers.com/main.htm>

Now you know how we feel, the law, and your environmental impact on the Bay. One last message on behalf of the good people of OPCL, take responsibility for yourself and your pets. We know it's not your pet's fault. For those pet owners who are pet waste compliant, we thank you for being good citizens.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens of Ocean Park



**Ocean Park
Civic League**

P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471

Website: www.opcl.org



SERVING THE
OCEAN PARK
COMMUNITY

We're on the Web
www.opcl.org

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

We are redesigning our Ocean Park Civic League Newsletter. With a new format, we need a new and dynamic newsletter name. We are asking all Ocean Park residents to put their thinking caps on and submit your entry at the meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2004 at the Ocean Park Rescue Squad Meeting Room. Please have all submissions in by 7:15 p.m. and we will select the winner during the meeting.

We are looking for something that embodies the special nature of our area which includes the Bay, trees, parks and all the activities that go with this area.

The winner will receive a very special gift!!!

2004 Civil League Meeting Dates

All meeting are held on Thursdays at the Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Head Quarters. Social starts at 7:00 p.m. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Sharp.

January 8, 2004

March 4, 2004

May 6, 2004

September 9, 2004

November 4, 2004

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ Rent : _____ OWN: _____

YEARS IN OCEAN PARK: _____

AREAS OF INTERESET 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 Civil League (OPCL), P.O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471