



OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE



NEWSLETTER

September 2002

Serving the Ocean Park Community

Meeting Notice
Thursday, September 5, 2002
@ Ocean Park Fire & Rescue H. Q.
Time: Social- 7:00 P. M. ~ 7:30 P. M
Meeting: 7:30 P. M. ~ 8:45 P. M. Sharp!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ocean Park—what a wonderful place! Most of us chose to live here because we love its atmosphere and easy access to the beach, the Lynnhaven Inlet, restaurants, and shops. As Ocean Park's popularity (and population) increase, so do the issues that affect our community. Your civic league has been busy working to promote and protect the qualities that drew many of us to this neighborhood. Our efforts over the past few months are discussed in *What Did OPCL Do This Summer?*

As the summer winds down and we plan our fall schedules and activities, OPCL is busy identifying issues that affect our neighborhood and planning our efforts and activities for the upcoming year. Preserving and enhancing the neighborhood's open space and recreational facilities is on the list, as is another Live Oak planting event. We will be working with the City on implementation of the Shore Drive Advisory Committee's report, concerning traffic plans and architectural design guidelines for the Shore Drive corridor. We plan on holding more social events so that neighbors can spend time getting to know and enjoy each other. We will continue to develop and improve the interactive capabilities of your website, www.OPCL.org. We also plan on developing a planning and zoning committee to work with developers and City staff to promote development in the neighborhood that adheres to City zoning requirements and aesthetic guidelines and preserves the natural beauty of our neighborhood.

As you can see, your civic league is involved in issues that really make a difference in your neighborhood. And the Ocean Park Civic League is here for YOU, the residents of Ocean Park. Let us know what you like about OP. Let us know what concerns you. We want to hear it—all of it—what you think is going well in OP and what you think needs improvement. Your civic league is your voice, and also your way to make a difference. So get involved. Don't for a second think that you can't contribute if you can't make the meetings. And don't think that getting involved will take too much time. There are many ways to make a difference that don't involve attending meetings or lengthy time commitments. (That said, of course we do always need members who are able to attend the various City-sponsored public meetings and hearings . . .) Just let us know what interests you and what you are able to contribute.

I'm excited by the opportunities and promise that lie ahead for Ocean Park. The lifestyle afforded by this neighborhood makes Ocean Park a great place to live, but what makes Ocean Park such a great neighborhood is its residents. Your neighbors. YOU! Let us get to know you, and let yourself get to know Ocean Park.

Anne Nelson,

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
- 7:35- Introduce New Board Members
- 7:40- Treasurer's Report- Anne Kane
- 7:45- Update on planned relocation of Fire Engine Company One-Anne Nelson
- 7:50- Open Space Update-Billy Hook
- 8:00- Shore Drive Community Coalition Update-Anne Kane
Oyster Roast, Transportation, Demonstration Project and more.
- 8:15- OPCL on the Internet-Tim Solanic
- 8:25- New Business- Planning and Zoning, Talent Bank, Next Meeting's Programs
- 8:40- Raffle of Door Prizes
- 8:45- Adjourn (On Time!)

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Ocean Park Civic League Officers

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Know Your Civic League Officers

This is the first in a short series of profiles to introduce you to the new board of your Civic League.

Name: Anne Nelson

OPCL Position: President

Occupation: Attorney

Where in Ocean Park do You Live? In the townhouses.

What Brought You to Ocean Park? The Bay on one side, the Lynnhaven Inlet on the other, the live oak trees in between, and the restaurants and shops on Shore Drive.

Why Do You Stay in Ocean Park? I've lived here 8 years and I love the neighborhood feel of this community. I also love having the Bay on one side, the Lynnhaven Inlet on the other, the live oak trees in between, and the restaurants and shops on Shore Drive.

The Best Thing About Being Active in the Civic League? Definitely getting to know people in the neighborhood, and learning what brought them to Ocean Park and about the community's history. Did you know Ocean Park was a mini-resort in the 1920's? That it had an amusement park? And a casino (until the 1933 hurricane wiped it out)? OP also used to be served by an electric railroad (to get people to the casino), and the railroad had a bridge over the Lynnhaven Inlet. The automobile bridge over the inlet was a drawbridge. Also, our volunteer fire and rescue service was the first in Princess Anne County (that's why they are *Station One*).

What are your goals for your tenure on the Civic League board? First, whatever Civic League members tell me is most important to them! I'd like to foster more involvement by OP residents. The Civic League is here for its members, and we need to know what members care about and what they want us to be doing for them. Second, I'd like for the neighborhood to have more of a voice in the City's site planning process for the redevelopment and new construction that is happening in our neighborhood. The newer, upscale construction is very good for the neighborhood, but we should also try to preserve the older trees, especially the live oaks, and the quiet neighborhood feel of OP. And third, I hope to advance the efforts already underway to have Pleasure House Point added to the City's open space program, and to generally enhance the open space we already have in the neighborhood so that it is more available to residents to appreciate.

OP Pet Peeve? People who have great ideas for our neighborhood and expect somebody else to make them happen! (And also dog owners who don't pick up after their dog . . .)

Great Food!



**Shore Drive Community Coalition
2nd Annual Oyster Festival
September 28, 2002 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Meet Your Neighbors!**

Live Music!



Tickets: Adults \$15.00
Children: 6-12 \$5.00
Under 6 FREE
Day of Event \$20.00

Join the Fun and Support Your Community!
Menu: Oysters, Fried Chicken, Barbeque, Hot Dogs and Sides

**For Tickets Susan Karlau
460-0291
434-5636**

What Did OPCL Do This Summer?

Your civic league exists to promote the concerns of its members, and we have been busy this summer working to maintain the qualities that make Ocean Park such an attractive place to call home. Here's an overview of some of the issues on which your civic league has been working.

We have established a web site for Ocean Park, which enables residents to surf to timely information on neighborhood happenings and post opinions and articles on issues affecting our community. Check it out at www.opcl.org!

We have supported the City's efforts to acquire Pleasure House Point for the City's Open Space program. Many Ocean Park residents enjoy this property for its resident wildlife, and regularly walk the paths through the marsh to observe heron, egrets, numerous duck species, redwing blackbirds, and osprey (to name only a few). Having Pleasure House Point preserved as open space would greatly enhance our neighborhood. The property currently is privately owned.

Last spring, we learned that the Virginia Beach Fire Department planned to move Engine Company One from its historic location at Shore Drive and East Stratford to a new location at the intersection of West Great Neck and Shore Drive. We have been working with the City to ensure that our neighborhood continues to receive the best fire protection services possible and that community concerns regarding the planned move are addressed. We also have been working with the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad to ensure that Ocean Park residents and civic organizations continue to have a place to meet and socialize as the Squad launches its exciting project to construct a new, state of the art EMS station.

We worked closely with the Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) to ensure that City Council and City staff hear the concerns and suggestions of Shore Drive residents in the consideration and development of studies and plans affecting our neighborhoods. The SDCC's influence successfully modified the Shore Drive Transportation Study to include evaluation of alternatives to a six-lane replacement for the Lesner Bridge.

We also are participating the SDCC's wildly popular annual Oyster Roast, which will take place this year at the Duck Inn on Saturday, September 28. Information on what is planned for the Oyster Roast and how to obtain tickets is featured in this newsletter.

Your civic league will continue to work on these issues, as well as the numerous other items on its "to do" list. Let us know what issues are important to you, or better yet, volunteer your time and special talents to help make Ocean Park an even better place to live!

Anne Nelson, President, Ocean Park Civic League

FROM THESE SHORES

THE BATTLE OF THE CAPES

THE END OF A WAR, THE
BEGINNING OF A NATION

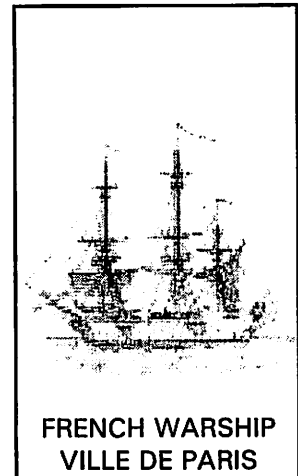
LYNNHAVEN ROADS' LINEAGE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

On September 5, 1781, coincidentally, on the date of our Ocean Park Civic League meeting, precisely 221 years ago, one of those strategically decisive, tactically indecisive engagements that mark strange turning points in the history of warfare took place off our shores.

In Lynnhaven Roads, just north of what is now Virginia Beach, a fleet of 24 French ships of the line and two frigates lay anchored. That morning, Rear Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse was aboard his 104-gun flagship, *Ville de Paris*, the largest ship in the French navy. The ships were positioned at the entrance of the Chesapeake Bay to halt any incursions of the British fleet to resupply England's troops who were engaged in a crucial struggle with Allied American Colony and French troops at Yorktown.

Late that morning, a British squadron comprising 19 ships, under the command of Rear Admiral Thomas Graves, in *London*, approached the mouth (between Cape Henry and Cape Charles) of the Chesapeake, and sighted Admiral de Grasse's French squadron just inside the bay. De Grasse immediately set sail, deploying his ships, though some were under strength. At the confluence of the bay, the two fleets aligned opposite each other.

When the battle commenced, the French navy had five more ships, and also 1,794 cannons versus 1,410 British guns. Signal flags used in that period provided the means of communication between ships. Misunderstood signals from the English flagship bridled the English fleet and caused it to maneuver ineffectively against the French. The opposing armadas exchanged furious broadside fire during the afternoon, then drifted south until near sunset.



The two squadrons deployed their naval stratagems against each another for three days. Both sides suffered considerable structural damage to their ships, though none were sunk or captured. Heavy personnel casualties were incurred. The British dared not continue the contest, and returned to New York for needed repairs.

During the engagement at sea, a small French naval squadron from Newport, Rhode Island, slipped into the Chesapeake with the French heavy artillery that would be of critical support to the Allied siege of Yorktown.

There was no Continental Navy that could have stopped the Royal Navy, which had a total of 140 ships of the line. The French had 67 capital ships. The Colonies had none.

The Battle of the Capes could be considered the most important naval engagement in the eighteenth century. This victory on the water enabled the Virginians and other rebels to win the Battle of Yorktown, establishing the United States of America as an independent nation.

Jerome W. Nelinson, editor, OPCL Newsletter

My thanks to Judith Connors, long time resident of Ocean Park, for jogging my memory about this event and encouraging me to write this story.—JWN

**TWO NOTABLE EVENTS ON THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE-TUNNEL**



Family Fun Day On The Bay

**Bike/Walk Event
Chesapeake Bay
Bridge-Tunnel**

*The date has been set!
Saturday, September 28,
2002*

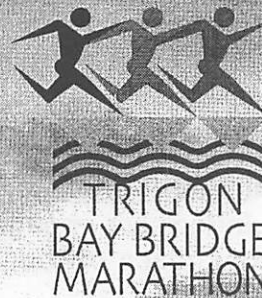
The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel will hold their 5th Annual "Fun Day on the Bay" on Saturday, September 28, 2002. Bikers and walkers can begin at 8A.M. Wind up time is 1P.M. The event is free, but donations of nonperishable food items for the Southeastern Food Bank are requested. For additional information regarding this spectacular event, please call the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel at (757) 331-2960



After the Bridge event, come over to the Shore Drive Community Coalition Oyster Roast at the Duck In. The action begins at 1P.M. and lasts until 5 P.M.. More information is noted in this newsletter.



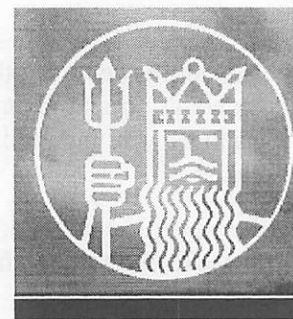
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On The
Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

Virginia Beach, Virginia
October 20, 2002

VIRGINIA BEACH NEPTUNE FESTIVAL



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS MAY BE
OBTAINED BY CALLING THE
VIRGINIA NEPTUNE FESTIVAL OFFICE @
(757)498-0215

www.baybridgemarathon.com

Share Your Talents

Getting involved with OPCL doesn't have to take up much time. You can get more involved, and more "in the know" about what's happening, in many easy ways. Do you have 15 minutes occasionally to make phone calls? Would you like to help organize a social event for your neighbors? Or would you have time one weekday to attend a City meeting on traffic, public safety, or recreation? You can also get involved by contributing special skills you may have. For example, if you are an architect, designer or planner, perhaps you would have an hour to review plans or advise our Planning and Zoning Committee. Perhaps you like to garden or work outside and would like to help plant live oak seedlings one weekend morning. Maybe you are an accountant and wouldn't mind filing OPCL's annual tax forms. Perhaps you know something about property management or construction and could assist with minor repairs on property the civic league owns. Maybe you have computer skills and would like to help out with our website.

OPCL is creating a "talent bank" to give members the opportunity to let us know what special interests and skills they have and how they might want to get involved. Signing up just lets us know you are out there and that you might be willing to help. It doesn't commit you to anything, and if you get a call, you are always free to say "no" (even though we hope you won't!) Signing up is easy—just call Anne Nelson at 318-7525 or Tim Solanic at 464-6922 and let them know your interests and availability. And remember, signing up doesn't commit you to anything! It's just an easy way to get a little more involved, and maybe give a little something back to this wonderful neighborhood.



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HELPING COLLEGE STUDENTS VOTE

Many students in the City of Virginia Beach are unaware that even though school may pull them away from their local city or state, voting should never be an overwhelming issue. There are several ways college students can ready themselves to vote.



- Register to vote before leaving for college
- Download a voter registration application and/or absentee ballot application from the registrar's website: www.vbgov.com/voter
- Mail voter application or absentee ballot application to the Virginia Beach Office of the Voter Registrar.

Citizens of Virginia Beach that will be 18 on or before the next election can register at over 125 city locations including all DMV customer service centers and most public libraries. Post offices, public schools, recreation centers and the Central Library provide mail forms.

Parents may want to include this information together with all the advice, admonitions, and warnings they will give to their college-bound children.

For more information, contact:
Marlene Claya Hager, Voter Registrar
Municipal Center, Building 14
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456
Phone: (757) 427-VOTE [427-8683]
www.vbgov.com/voter

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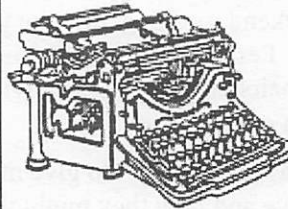
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WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

Residents of Ocean Park are invited to submit timely and informative articles for the Ocean Park

Civic League Newsletter.

ADVERTISEMENTS ACCEPTED

You can place commercial and personal advertisements (well not too personal) in the newsletter.

Should you have an item of interest you deem suitable for publication, or need information about placing an advertisement in the newsletter, please contact:

Jerry Nelinson @ 464-4018 –
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CITIZEN BIKE SURVEY

The Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Department is conducting a Citizen Bike Survey. Voice your opinion about the current state of cycling in Virginia Beach and provide input about the direction the City should take. Survey responses will be used to draft recommendations and will be reported to the Virginia Beach Council. Survey questionnaires will be available to citizens at Virginia Beach Recreation Centers, Libraries, various Bike Shops and on line at www.vbgov.com/surveys until September 15. If you have any questions, call Carol Rizzio, Virginia Beach Park Planner at: 427-4310.



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OCEAN PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE KICKS OFF ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The Ocean Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad ("OPVRS") kicked off its annual fund drive this month. OPVRS was the first volunteer rescue squad established in Princess Anne County. While the City of Virginia Beach established a paid fire-fighting service when it annexed Princess Anne County in the early 1970's, volunteers continue to staff the emergency medical services system.

OPVRS and the other nine volunteer rescue squads that serve the City of Virginia Beach provide emergency medical services throughout the City.

Because volunteers staff the City's emergency medical service, Virginia Beach taxpayers save over \$12 million each year. The rescue squads respond to an average of 80 calls each day, a 12% increase over last year in the number of calls received citywide. While the City provides training for OPVRS volunteers, OPVRS pays for its own supplies, building maintenance, and ambulances. OPVRS bought a new ambulance last year for \$110,000.

OPVRS's membership includes 38 state-certified medical technicians and 11 administrative support members, and is on call "24/7." In addition to providing ambulance services, OPVRS helps staff the City's Specialized EMS Teams, including Crash Rescue, Dive Rescue, Field Commander, Search and Rescue, SWAT Medic and Bike.

We in Ocean Park are fortunate to know we can rely on OPVRS to be there should we need emergency medical help. And OPVRS never sends a bill to those it helps. Let OPVRS know they can rely on us. Your donation is 100% tax deductible.

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**Susan
Karlau**



MEMBERSHIP IN THE OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

With the September meeting of the Ocean Park Civic League, we begin our 2002-2003 term. At this time, civic league dues are payable. Your dues contribute, in many ways. They help make this beautiful enclave by the sea a more perfect place to live.

Over the years, many of the civic league's officers and residents, with dedication and purpose, have devoted their time and efforts for the benefit of our community. We have gone to council meetings, attended Board of Zoning Appeals meetings, and advisory committee meetings to suggest just a few. We have chartered buses, hired attorneys and have gone en masse, to whatever venue we needed to be present at to proffer our views. We work on sand enhancement for our beaches, promote family-friendly business development on Shore Drive. Our efforts have been successful. Hence, we do have a better community.

Five times a year, we publish an informative newsletter. We endeavor to keep the residents of Ocean Park apprised of subjects important to the community.

More than 1,100 residences and businesses call Ocean Park home. While membership in the Ocean Park Civic League voluntary, your civic league's efforts benefit all who live and work in Ocean Park, not only members.

Do your part to support your civic league. It works for all of us every day. Dues are just \$5.00 per year. Send your membership dues check in for this year—do it now! Additional contributions provide even greater benefits to you, the Ocean Park community. The OPCL is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Dues and contributions are tax deductible.

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES - YEARS 2002-2003

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE:.....RENT:.....OWN..... YEARS IN OP.....

Dues: \$ 5.00..... Other contribution: \$.....

Mail your dues, Five (\$5.00) and any contribution to:
Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL), P. O Box 55385,
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471