

April 28, 2006

Volume 10, Issue 3

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Meeting Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Refreshments at 6:45 pm

Membership in the Ocean Park Civic League is open to all Ocean Park residents or property owners. Annual dues are only \$10 per household per calendar year. Please attend our meetings to provide another voice into those issues which effect your community. Current members please bring a neighbor with you.

Meeting Agenda

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes

Treasures Report

Zoning Committee Update

SDAC Update

SDCC Update

Meeting Date Change

Go back to bi-monthly meeting with the off month used for Board to meet.

New Business

Adjourn Meeting

We're on the Web
www.opcl.org

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March Door Prizes—must come to win!

- \$25 gift certificate to H20 Restaurant
- \$25 gift certificate to Dockside Restaurant
- \$25 gift certificate to CP Shuckers Café & Raw Bar
- \$25 gift certificate to The Smokehouse & Cooler
- Gift from Lynn Hume—ReMax Allegiance

Have you visited our website? You can read past meeting minutes. You'll find it at www.opcl.org.

President's Message

Ronda Morrison

Greetings Neighbors! Spring is finally here and we will be back on our much wider beaches soon.

Many things are going on within Ocean Park. We have our Zoning Committee up and running with absolutely fantastic co-chairs Diane Muhlendorf and Jennifer Downin. Everyone is doing a great job watching out for all of our best interest and I would like to personally like to thank all those on the Zoning Committee for their hard work and dedication to preserving our great little community.

We have retained an attorney, David Hay, who is assisting us with an appeal of a decision from the Wetland Board regarding construction along Jefferson Blvd. in which the builder is trying to invade the primary dune. This has the potential to set a precedent that we do not need in Ocean Park.

Many of us also attended the Open Space Budget Hearing at the Bayside High School on April 20th. Once again we asked for 39 acres of the land known as Pleasure House Point to be purchased by the city to help in the fight to preserve the integrity Lynnhaven Inlet and provide the much needed protection for the marsh life in the area.

With the issues facing Ocean Park, we need everyone's help and participation and therefore hope to see all of you at the meeting.

See you Thursday!!!

Elections on Tuesday, May 2

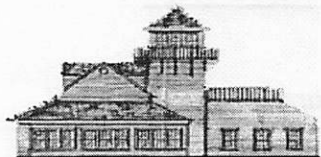
Be Sure To Vote!

Bayside Community Recreation Center

From 6:00 am until 7:00 pm

"The Ocean Park Woman's Club recently had a very valuable demonstration of the touch screen voting machines which will be in use for the May 2nd election. These will completely replace the old paper ballot machines. If you have not had the opportunity for an "up close and personal" demonstration, Channel 48 will be running a video as often as possible (about five minutes long) right up to election day to acquaint voters with its use. The video will probably be available for viewing at the public libraries, in high school government classes and the Voter Registrar's Office at the municipal Center.

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Update on the Lynnhaven Dredging Project Monday, March 13, 2006

Langenfelder Marine has begun to mobilize, but the dredge will not be here until late this week or next week. This will be a much larger dredge than has been out there recently and is being brought in to complete the entrance channel dredging. They will be installing a larger pipe down the beach for the larger dredge and will begin pumping at approximately station 38+00 (about 2 blocks west of the Powatan/Jefferson Blvd intersection) and proceeding westward. Once pumping begins it is estimated that there is about 70,000 cy of material to dredge and should take approximately 3 weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Woodside, currently working in the turning basin, will continue working but may drop back and fill in some of the areas where the material has washed away.

If you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 385-4511 or mfkay@vbgov.com.

Michael F. Kay, P.E.
Coastal Engineer
City of Virginia Beach
Department of Public Works/Beach Management



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Highlight of Minutes from 03/09/06

Grace Moran

Shortly after 7 p.m. it was determined that a quorum (20 members) was not present to conduct business and President Ronda Morrison noted that the minutes from the prior meeting could not be approved, but asked if everyone had read them. The next item she brought to everyone's attention was the recent installation of "poop boxes". She noticed that many more residents are cleaning up after their pets, but asked that people monitor the boxes and refill them with plastic bags as often as possible. She suggested that residents "adopt" a box and be responsible for seeing that it is filled.

There was then a discussion on the opening of Deep Blue Marine on Shore Drive. It was explained that this company had been granted a concession in order to move their equipment in, but cannot open for business until other requirements are met.

Ms. Kane then went over the Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2006. She reported the balances in the savings and checking accounts at BB&T as follows: Savings: \$8542.00, Checking: \$2152.42. She also reported that a thank you note had been received from the Ocean Park Rescue Squad for the donation made to them by OPCL.

Ms. Morrison stated that the Zoning Committee Chairperson had stepped down and called for the members of that committee to set a date to meet. Ms. Kane stressed the important role the committee can have in bringing the voice of the residents to the City Council and Ms. Morrison gave as an example the current development under contract on North Oliver. Currently, there exist nine homes on this small street, with 80 new units being planned. The estimated impact on traffic would go from 90 to more than 500 cars in the same time period. It was noted that in prior instances, numerous variances to zoning laws had been granted, with unsatisfactory results, simply because the community did not stay on top of the situation. A tentative meeting date was set for March 22nd at 7 pm at the Ocean Park Fire and Rescue Station.

Carl Godwin brought up a case currently before the Wetlands Board, requesting variances to actually build on top of dunes. He has a feeling the variance would pass and asked that people attend a meeting at Council Chambers on March 20th to voice their concerns. Car-pooling was encouraged.

Judy Connors spoke about the upcoming City Council election on May 2, 2006. She said there are ten people running for office, along with Ron Villanueva, the only incumbent. She strongly advised the formation of candidate's forum to advise the candidates of our positions. Ms. Connors also mentioned an event called "Breakfast with Barbara", being held on April 1, 2006 at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center. Barbara Henley has arranged the breakfast to hear the community's concerns.

Ms. Morrison brought up the issue of bi-monthly meetings, but pointed out no vote could be taken, since quorum had not been attained at the meeting.

Jill Broome then asked if there had been any further plans made for the Community Yard Sale. Ms. Morrison said there had not, since no one had volunteered to chair the committee. Liz Dyer was asked if she would chair the committee and she agreed to do so. She did state that she would only be available after school ends in June.

Anne Kane gave an update on the Shore Drive Beautification Project. Work has been approved to start in the spring and will extend from First Court Road to Marlin Bay Drive and will include bike paths and walkways.

Clean the Bay Day

To volunteer for this 3 hour Saturday cleanup on **June 10, 2006**
Call 385-4104 or 1-800-SAVEBAY

Minute Highlights from 4/6/06 Board Meeting

The primary discussion concerned the status of the OPCL appeal to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) of the Virginia Beach Wetlands Board decision to grant a construction permit on 3796 Jefferson Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA. Judy Connors opened by questioning why another application for construction on Jefferson Blvd. which was approved by the Wetlands Board on the same day was not also under appeal. The reason given was that only the proposal for 3796 Jefferson appeared to encroach on a primary dune. John Wigmore noted that OPCL had previously stated that it would oppose any request for variance in Ocean Park. However, Kane and others amended that it was not that OPCL would **oppose** any variance, only that OPCL would not **support** any variance. Additionally, OPCL did not oppose development, only that the League wanted to see **responsible** development. It was further noted that this matter was not a request for variance, which is an application to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Diane Muhlendorf, Zoning Committee Chairperson, who attended the Wetlands hearing, did not believe that what was projected at the hearing was an official site plan. She had been in contact with Mr. Wayne Couch, a city employee about getting a copy of the site plan. Muhlendorf then read the acknowledgement sent by VMRC to Mr. David Hay, a land use attorney retained by OPCL to represent OPCL at the VMRC appeal hearing. She then expressed difficulty in acquiring a transcript of the Wetlands Board hearing, which VMRC stated would form the basis of the appeal process.

Someone asked if any contact had been made with the owner, Clint Bradshaw, or his attorney Eddie Bourdon to discuss a possible compromise. Muhlendorf said that Scott Ayers, who had some experience in these matters, was not optimistic about any compromise in this case. Wills volunteered that he had spoken briefly with Bourdon, who while not totally uncooperative, asked questions Wills was not able to answer, not having an official OPCL position to offer. It was then posited that Hay attempt to find common ground with Bradshaw, but Wills noted that OPCL might be better served to work out some agreement on a more direct basis.

Prior to the meeting, both Kane and Wills had been in contact with State Delegate Leo Wardrup to see if the proposed construction violated any aspects of legislation he had sponsored protecting the dunes. Muhlendorf stated that Ayers had told her that Wardrup's legislation was too vaguely worded to be very effectively applied but he could be influential. Connors volunteered to contact Wardrup to find out more about how his legislation might serve the cause.

In other Zoning Committee business, Muhlendorf related her inquiries regarding demolition at 3768 Surry Road and she called the city and was told that no demolition permit or construction permits had been issued to that address. She was assured that an inspector would be sent to the site. When she called back a couple of days later, another city employee in the Building and Permits office told her that a permit for demolition had been granted on April 9, 2006. As yet, no construction permit has been granted, according to the city employee.

In closing discussion, Muhlendorf said that she had been told that the only hope OPCL had on the VMRC appeal was for Hay to prove that the Wetlands Board had acted frivolously, but that Hay was prepared to go forward on all six objections listed in the petition signed by 74 residents and filed on OPCL's behalf. Connors asked if anyone knew how to discover what guidelines the Wetlands Board operated under and Kane responded that the city Website provided only a very vague mission statement. Someone then asked if this matter infringed the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and should be heard by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Board, but no one could supply any information about that body.

Summer Vacation

Youth Reporter - Maddie McCutcheon

We all know that summer is coming up, and all of the kids including me, are counting the days until we can let our toes sink in the sand again. This summer is going to be awesome, that's for sure! Every summer is great here at Chicks Beach! So let's make sure we don't ruin that. I mean what more could we ask for?! I mean, we have a great beach, not to mention the good weather and the awesome memories it brings you. I hope you all have a great summer!

Thanks to Our Volunteers!

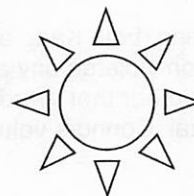
OPCL Volunteer Positions

	Position	Volunteers
Special Projects		Susan Karlau
Shore Dr. Advisory Committee	Primary Back up	Mike Wills Vicky Schiano Channing Weaver
Shore Dr. Comm. Coalition	Primary Back up	Anne Kane Vicky Schiano Channing Weaver
Zoning Committee	Co Chair Co Chair Members	Diane Muhendorf Jennifer Anne Kane Brian Parker Jim Royall Byron Sargent Jean Sleeman Mike Wills Alvin Owens
Attendance & Door Prize Coordinator		Vicky Schiano
Social Committee Coordinator	Members	Vacant Jill Broome Kathy Carpenter Ellen Gladney Donna Epperson Jackie Longworth
Traffic Committee		Rebecca Anderson Channing Weaver

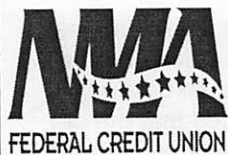
Resident's Recommendations New!

If you, a resident of Ocean Park, know an Ocean Park business, newsletter advertiser or Ocean Park resident who owns a licensed business that has provided you with an exceptional service or product you can now share that information with the community. Provide the name of the business and/or owner, the address or telephone number of the business and one line describing the recommendation along with your name. This information will run in the newsletter one time only.

Note: These recommendations come from the community and are not sponsored or approved by the OPCL Board of Directors.



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Ocean Park Zoning Committee Looks to Our Future Diane Muhlendorf

And what we see is not necessarily a pretty picture. The Zoning Committee of the Civic League wants to participate in plans for future development of our neighborhood. We want developers and property owners to work with us and yes, to seek our approval of their plans. We certainly are pro-development, but in a responsible manner which protects both the environment and the rights of property owners. For a very long time building permits, variances, and assaults to the wetlands and beaches have been granted without very much successful opposition from Ocean Park residents. If we are interested in having input and impact on our future growth, each of us needs to voice our concerns and actively participate in achieving our goals as each issue arises. Of course goals may be different for each property owner, but a consensus can be arrived at which satisfies the majority of the needs of each of us as well as the requirements to maintain and enhance the very special beauty of Ocean Park.

The Zoning Committee has been granted an appeal to the Marine Resources Commission to protest the granting of a building permit on Jefferson Boulevard which would encroach on and alter the primary sand dune. Our Counsel is David Hay who has extensive experience in arguing to protect the dunes. The meeting is on Tuesday, April 25th. The permit was granted by the Wetlands Board in spite of the fact that the Planning Commission staff argued for deferral pending a review of alternative solutions. It is our hope that winning this appeal will send a message to builders that we care about how Ocean Park will develop and intend to play an active role in that development.

We are also beginning to be mindful of requirements for permits and signs which will tell us when changes are about to be made in land use. Each of us can be helpful by notifying the Zoning Committee of these potential changes as we walk or ride around the neighborhood. We will then check with the appropriate permit department to see to it that all necessary forms have been filed and that signs are put up in a timely manner.

Please let us know if you would like to participate on the Zoning Committee. We need your help and we want your opinions!! It would be ideal if we can have a committee which represents a broad range of ideas.

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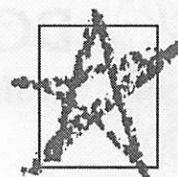


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To view the slide show that was
 presented at our February
 meeting by the North End
 Virginia Beach Civic League
 regarding new guidelines to be pro-
 posed for R5R property see our
 website at:

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Welcome Back to Perry Caudill & Brian Clark

Our Return To Ocean Park

Perry Caudill & Brian Clark

When I left the Pelican Dunes area 6 years ago, I had no idea what I had left. Moving to Virginia Beach from Richmond, I found the area friendly and fun. And then I met a man. He promptly moved to the west coast, I promptly followed. What I found was a world very different from what I had expected. "Only in California!" I remember Dan Rather commenting, following a report on a uniquely California phenomenon. Yeah, the surfing was great. At times I would compare myself to a golf widow. The biggest danger there however, would be getting hit in the head by an errant golf ball, or someone's practice swing, or maybe staying too late at the clubhouse after the game. They were lucky, I found myself worrying about rip currents. Had I lost him to the sea forever? Or was he saying to himself, "just one more wave, and *then* I'll go home". He was in heaven. I however, found things a little harder. The neighbors weren't as friendly, and even those I saw at the gym on a regular basis, month after month, were reluctant to carry on a conversation. After awhile, I realized it wasn't just me.

Over time my fiancée and I would make a game of it. Okay, say hello to that couple over there and see how they react. We'll give 'em an 8 on the uncomfortable response scale. What about that guy working in his driveway? Hey, he seemed pretty agreeable. Well, he does look like a fellow surfer. Know what I mean bro?

Just before I left to return to the east coast, the neighbor's girlfriend moved in. Being from Chicago, she had had the same observations for quite a while. I could tell if given time, we could become good friends. What crummy timing.

When we returned to Virginia Beach, we had no idea we would return to live in the same neighborhood where we met. Maybe it was subconscious. Maybe it reminded us of a time when our new love was unconquerable, holding endless possibilities and thrills. I'm not sure, but we like it here. We don't have to worry about the responses from those on the beach, or in our neighborhood. We met most of our neighbors before we even closed on the house. The prior owners left several welcoming gifts and a copy of the *Ocean Park Echo*. We were struck by the sense of community we felt as we read it. So we went to a meeting. The board members welcomed us, and asked for our input. This was definitely different from the civic meetings we had attended in California!! We are impressed. We're glad to be home, once again.

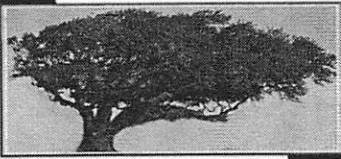
Lynnhaven River System Implementation Plan Meeting Notice

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has classified the Lynnhaven River System (Lynnhaven Bay, Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay) as impaired due to violations of the state's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. A TMDL report, which establishes loading limits for these waters, has been completed by DEQ and approved by both the State Water Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report is available for review on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/implans/drafts/lynnhvnip.pdf>.

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is working in cooperation with the City of Virginia Beach, DEQ and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to develop an Implementation Plan to begin achievement of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) established for fecal coliform bacteria in the Lynnhaven River System.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will be holding a meeting on the draft plan on **May 4, 2006, at 7 PM at the Princess Ann High School** on Virginia Beach Blvd. They will be taking comments on the plan for the thirty days following the meeting. Be sure to come to the meeting and get informed

Since the first public meeting on March 10, 2005 (minimal outreach caused only a few folks to show up, so don't miss this one), federal, state, and local government officials have been meeting to formulate a plan to reduce fecal bacterial levels in the watershed. This draft presents some options - but they aren't cheap - \$10.6 million up front and \$6.8 million a year to maintain.



The Ocean Park Echo

P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471

www.opcl.org

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

MARK YOUR CALENDER

05-02-06

05-04-06 / 7-8:30pm

05-18-06 / 3:30

05-22-06 / 7:30

06-08-06 / 7-8:30pm

09-07-06 / 7-8:30pm

Go to the polls and vote

OPCL Meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

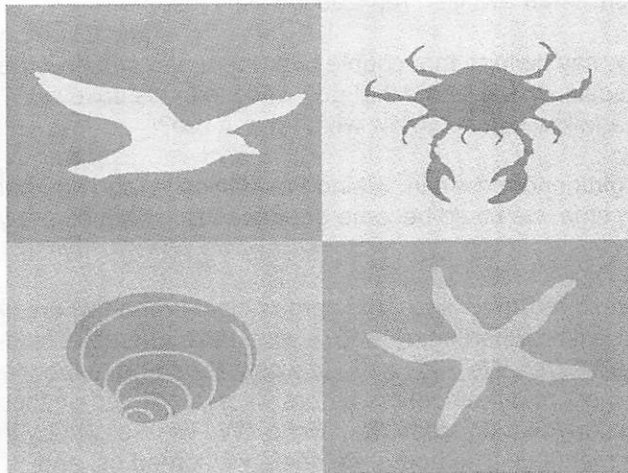
SDAC Meeting / Bayside Recreation Center

SDCC Meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

OPCL Board Meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

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EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ RENT: : _____ OWN: _____

YEARS IN OCEAN PARK: _____

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

Newsletter Contributions

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Suggestions are Welcome

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

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