

Ocean Park Echo

Meeting

Meeting

Meeting

Thursday

January 7

7:30 p.m.

New Location

BayVista

Meeting Room



Nor'easter 2009

A powerful Nor'easter parked over Hampton Roads for 3 days in November bringing wind, waves, and torrential rain that resulted in severe flooding and damage to local beaches and favorites spots facing the Chesapeake Bay. More photos, pages 10-11. Photos courtesy of Ocean Park residents, and Virginian-Pilot.



OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

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Rick Mercadante Elected Civic League President

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK all you who voted for me to be the new President of OPCL. I hope I can live up to your expectations. Next, I would like to thank Mike for his tireless devotion as President for the last 2 years. His accomplishments were many during an especially difficult time for the civic league. If you see him hanging around the neighborhood, give him a pat on the back for a job well done.



A FEW YEARS AGO I had an epiphany about my personal involvement in our civic league. I have lived in Ocean Park for 20 years, and I had from time to time attended membership meetings, but I had not really been involved. I realized that a few members were shouldering the entire burden of keeping OPCL alive and relevant. While attending a general membership meeting, it occurred to me that it was my turn. It was my turn to help shoulder some of this burden. I dove in and got involved.

THIS CIVIC LEAGUE DOES SO MUCH important work protecting our community from encroachment and keeping our members informed, but it requires volunteers. I know we are all at different stages of our lives and have a variety of personal commitments, but I ask each of you to think to yourself, "Is it my turn?" You don't have to take a head first leap into the water. If you only have an hour or two a month, we could use the help. If you answered yes to the above question, please contact me, and we can discuss how you can get involved to help out your civic league.

GOING FORWARD, I PLAN TO EXECUTE some new initiatives, which I hope will help bring our area closer together and get more residents involved in the civic league. Our new membership cards and our Facebook page are examples of the things that we'll be doing to move OPCL forward. If you have any suggestions for things you want to see, please don't hesitate to contact me. — Rick Mercadante

Bayfront News



BAYFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WIN LUNCH WITH THE MAYOR!

The Bayfront Advisory Committee and Shore Drive Community Coalition are partnering to offer you the opportunity to get advance notice of City of Virginia Beach plans and hearings that affect our Shore Drive Communities. You will receive an insert in your next water bill telling you how to sign up to receive these alerts and win a free lunch with Mayor Will Sessoms.

If you don't like receiving the alerts, you can unsubscribe. You only will receive emails from the BAC and SDCC. We will not share your email address with anyone else. We hate spam as much as you do. If you don't get the insert in your water bill, visit www.sdcc.info and sign up there. The winner will be drawn at random late in February. No purchase necessary.

— Grace Moran

ZONING UPDATES

The following BZA agenda items were deferred until 2010:

- ♦ *3656 Seagull Bluff Drive*, requests a variance to a 6.5 foot side yard setback (East side) instead of 10 feet as required (Proposed Elevator).
- ♦ *3782 Jefferson Boulevard*, requests a variance to a 4-foot side yard setback (East and West sides) instead of 8-feet each as required and to an 8-foot rear yard setback (South side) instead of 20 feet as required and to 39.4 feet in building height instead of 35 feet in building height as allowed (Proposed Single Family Dwelling).

New items: Bischard Development Corp. has applied to the planning commission for December to change the proposal for improving the old Colley Marine site. It is proposing 15 vs. 18 residential units. The OPCL did not have any objections to the changes or the permitting of a temporary daycare until the redevelopment starts.

— Mike Wills

FINANCE UPDATE

- ♦ As of Nov. 30, the Robbins Legacy account was valued at \$188,477, which was allocated to 75% fixed income/cash and 25% equity/balanced funds. The account is currently generating about \$6,000/year in interest and dividends, which is available for community projects. Your ideas for funding of community projects are encouraged and welcomed.
- ♦ Louise and George Lyon Memorial Scholarship: Applications for the \$1,000, Louise and George Lyon Memorial Scholarships have been distributed to Virginia Beach high schools and are available at www.OPCL.org. Applications will be accepted until March 15.

— Mike Wills

OPCL Is On

facebook

Our facebook page is up and running. It's a great way to stay in touch. For facebook members, just search for Ocean Park Civic League in *facebook Groups*.

Feel free to upload pictures or start discussions. For non-facebook members, it doesn't cost anything to join. The goal is to make it easier to stay in touch with our members, and I think facebook is a great way to accomplish this.

With the new year comes new goals. We have a new slate of officers and new initiatives, and I hope to get more of our residents actively involved in OPCL. Of the 1,500 homes in Ocean Park, my goal is to get 300 paid memberships. This may seem like a modest goal, but it is double our average paid memberships for the last 2 years. I think together we can reach this goal.

For Aeries on the Bay residents, the board is considering discontinuing general distribution of the newsletter to your area due to lack of involvement. Of 240 homes, we had less than 10 paid memberships. If we do not see a large increase in active memberships in Aries by the March issue of the Echo, we will no longer be able to continue the general distribution to homes in that area. We will continue to deliver the Echo to homes with paid memberships. I strongly encourage all our neighbors in Aries to get involved.

Our new membership cards are almost ready for distribution. The cards will be another benefit of being a dues-paying member of OPCL and provide discounts at local businesses like Coastal Waterworks, Crab Creek Pizza, Seashore Bicycle shop, and many others. Initially, we will distribute the cards at our general membership meetings. I will explore additional methods of distribution, but I am trying to minimize cost to the civic league. Our list of participating local businesses is growing. If you have any suggestions for a business that might want to participate, let me know.

— Rick Mercadante

Point, Click And Join

Renew membership online

It's time to renew your Ocean Park Civic League membership for 2010. Memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. We now have Google Check-



out
and

PayPal accounts. Just go to OPCL.org to renew.

Paid Members as of Jan. 1

Scott and Gaynelle Ayers

Dora Beal

Doug and Shirley Blount

John and Kirstie-Ann Cowan

Love Dishman

Liz Dyer

Jack and Debbie Glaser

David and Gloria Harris

Marilyn Harrup

Gary and Kathy Hartman

Patricia Mirani

Jim Royall

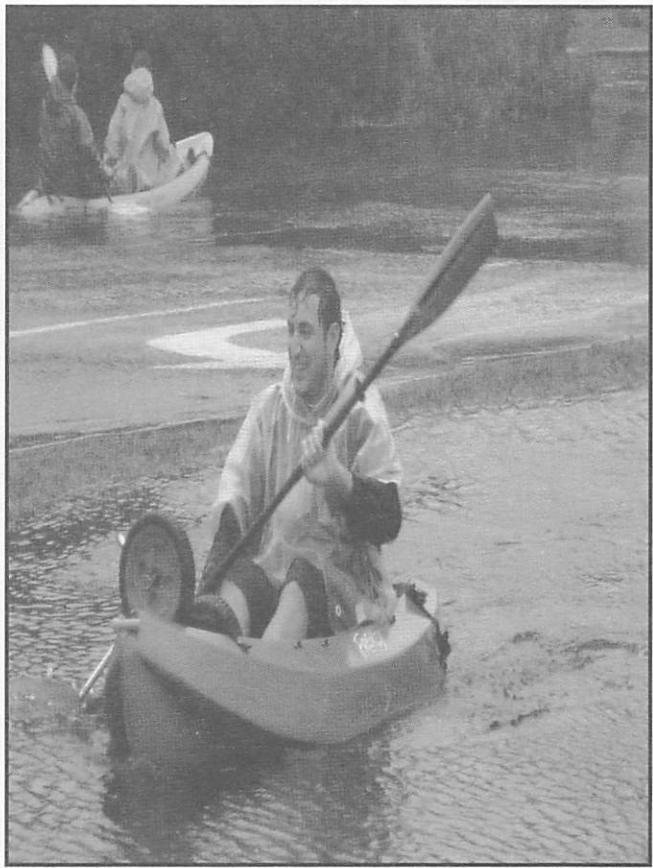
Howard and Kathleen Weinberg

Carol Collins

Leslie Giljohann

Laurie and Dean Rogers

Three-Day Nor'easter



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NEWS – EVENTS – ISSUES

Welcome New Neighbors

The Ocean Park Civic League is starting a Welcome Wagon Program. We would like to welcome all new neighbors to Ocean Park with a small gift and an invitation to join the Civic League. Please help us keep up with new residents by contacting Laurie Rogers when you have a neighbor move in.

Laurie Rogers
lrogers7@cox.net

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch program needs your help! Consider serving as a block captain – a great way to meet and keep in touch with neighbors.

Contacts:

♦ Northside

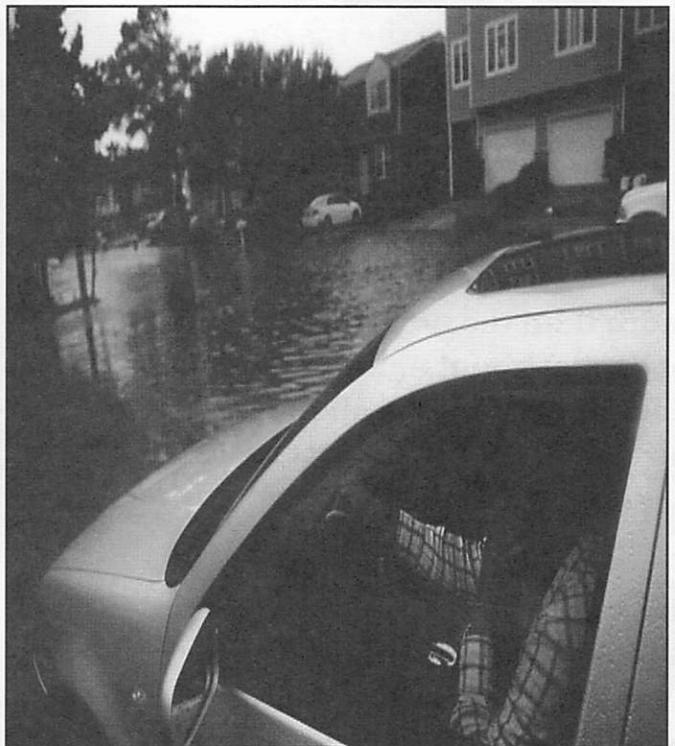
Alan Gaskins

msva92@aol.com

♦ Southside

Sid Vaughn

esvaughn2@cox.net



Ocean Park Rescue Needs It's Own Rescue After Storm

By Kathy Adams

The Virginian-Pilot © Nov. 28, 2009

When Brian Ledwell walked into the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad station after the nor'easter earlier this month, the damage knocked the wind out of him.

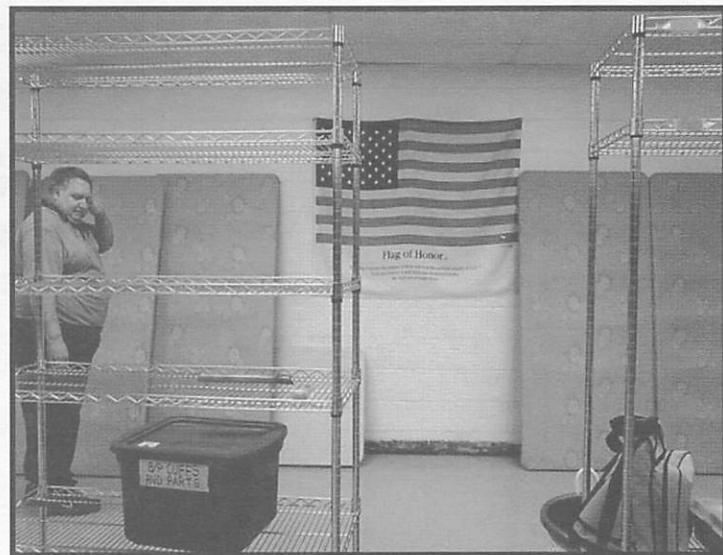
Leaves floated in puddles on the floor. Loose wires and sheets of insulation hung from the ceiling. Water-logged furniture blocked doorways. Garage doors were caved in.

"It was gut-wrenching," said Ledwell, president of the rescue squad's executive board. "It looked horrible."

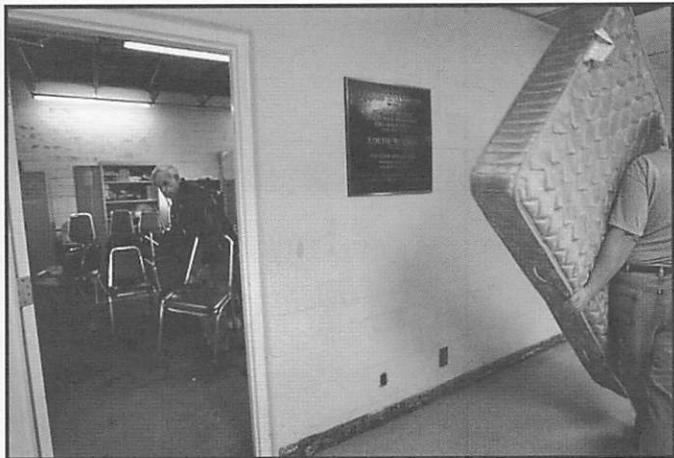
The three-day storm caused roughly \$50,000 in damage to the building alone, he said. That's more than the nonprofit's annual budget of about \$48,000 and doesn't account for all the furniture and other items lost to water damage, he said.

Now the rescue squad must find the money to finance repairs and is looking to the community for help. Donations fund the rescue squad's operations, Ledwell said.

"Our first goal is to keep the ambulances on the street," he said. "So we don't want to rob that money to go toward repairing everything, even though it's needed."



Last Saturday, nearly 50 people volunteered to clean up the station, located on Shore Drive near the Lesner Bridge. They tore wet paneling from the walls, swept up debris and hauled ruined furniture to the curb, Ledwell said. ServPro, an emergency cleanup business, lent several thousands of dollars in equipment to dry out the building.



Thanks to those efforts, Ledwell thinks the station will be habitable again by this weekend. But the squad's volunteers won't be able to return until new furniture is purchased or donated, he said. At a minimum, the station needs six beds for the paramedics who work overnight shifts.

Nearly 50 volunteers and three ambulances call the Ocean Park station home. They responded to almost 4,000 calls citywide last year, but their first priority is the Shore Drive and Great Neck Road corridors, Ledwell said.

No storm in recent memory, including Hurricane Isabel in 2003, caused so much damage to the station, which is more than 60 years old, he said.

"I don't like it, but you can't tell Mother Nature what she can do and not do," said squad Capt. Sherry Swayze. "We'll just come back even stronger."

Storm Update

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Our headquarters at Shore Drive and East Stratford Road has sustained a moderate amount of damage to the building from the recent storm.

While in the recovery process, we will be mainly operating from the First Landing Station at Great Neck Road and Shore Drive.

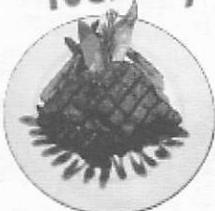
Repairs will need to be made to various areas within the station, therefore, all scheduled events for the meeting rooms must seek other locations to hold their activities until further notice.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging situation.

**Brian Ledwell
Executive Board President**

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Every
Tuesday



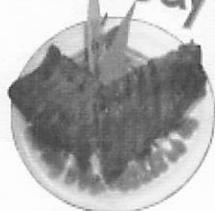
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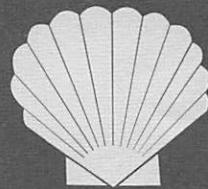
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Ocean Park Echo

Welcome to...

OPCL



Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA

Meeting

Thursday

May 6

7:30 p.m.

Ocean Park
Fire & Rescue

Ocean Park July 4th Fireworks



I know the rumors have been flying about fireworks on the beach this 4th of July. Well here's the skinny. The Shore Drive Civic Leagues Fireworks Committee is a small group of Shore Drive residents trying to organize a professional fireworks show on a barge off our beaches to celebrate our nation's birth.

We have the support of all three civic

Our plan is to have a professional fireworks display July 4th on a barge 800 feet offshore, between Lesner Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay.

leagues from Lesner Bridge to JEB Little Creek. Our plan is to have a professional fireworks display on 4th of July on a barge 800 feet offshore, centrally located between Lesner Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. This show will be for Shore Drive residents, and paid for by Shore Drive residents and businesses. The show will be open to anyone who has access to our beaches, but the show will not be advertised outside of the Shore Drive corridor. The Shore Drive Fireworks Committee is open to anyone who wants to have a say in how this show is going to be done. Everything we are doing is out in the open, no secrets. Right now our committee is pretty thin, just a half dozen folks working really hard to get a show that we can all enjoy. If you want to have a say, jump in the water and get involved.

We already have a local fireworks company that will be doing the show. Associated Pyrotechnics is a licensed and insured fireworks company and has done many fireworks shows locally. We have asked the Commanding Officer of JEB Little Creek/Fort Story to donate a barge and to do our onload/offload at the base. I wish I could tell you it was a done deal at this point, but the base is still staffing the request. *Continued on Page 3*

OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

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WWW.OPCL.ORG

Dear neighbors,

By **Rick Mercadante**

OPCL President



Spring is here! I know that because I watched the Red Sox beat the Yankees on opening day at Fenway. A cold winter like we just had makes you remember and appreciate why we live here. It's mid April and I've already been to the beach several times. There's nothing like the feel of warm sand between the toes. As we get back to the beach this year, we need to remember that our beaches are here for the enjoyment of all. Beach etiquette should be practiced by all. If your beach activities are impeding on someone else's enjoyment of the beach, maybe you should rethink what you're doing.

Loud music and profane language while others are within earshot isn't very neighborly. While we're talking about etiquette, let's discuss dogs on our beach. I am a lifelong dog owner and lover, and many of you know my beagle mix, Raleigh. All of us dog owners need to be more aware of our dogs' activities on the beach as more people are at the beach during warm weather. Letting your dog run loose without a leash, however friendly they might be, could be intimidating to someone who isn't a dog lover. Small dogs might get intimidated when a larger dog comes rumbling up looking to play. The stories abound of large dogs getting aggressive with smaller dogs, for no apparent reason.

How many times have we heard the story of a dog attacking a person or smaller dog, and the owner saying "I don't understand, he/she has never done anything like that before." So letting your dog bound up to folks on the beach, and shouting out that your dog is friendly doesn't help. Please be mindful of your neighbors and control your dog on the beach so everyone can enjoy the beach. One last note about dogs, the world isn't their toilet. If you are walking your dog and don't have a plastic bag, you probably aren't intending to pick up after them. There are plastic bag containers at every beach entrance, use them. The number-one pollutant of our waterways is fecal matter -- don't let your dog contribute to the problem.

Now on to more fun matters. Thanks to everyone who attended a fun night out at Don Julios for our neighborhood crawl out. It was a fun night of socializing, and would have been a perfect night had Kentucky not lost. Fortunately I had many friends around to commiserate my NCAA bracket being busted. Dove and Eric did a great job putting together this event, and I'm looking forward to the Loch Luau they are planning for June. They are also hard at work planning the Ocean Park 4th of July Parade, which promises to be a fun event. I won't go into details because I don't want to steal the thunder of the Social Committee, but they have some great events planned to help our community come together in a social setting.

If you're by the Sylvan Beach entrance this summer, say "Hello." I'll be the one in the Red Sox hat. If I don't see you on the beach, I hope to see you at a future OPCL-sponsored social gathering.

Fireworks (Continued from Page 1)

As far as funding goes, that's the hard part. Our goal is \$25,000. This will pay for the show, our marketing effort, and give us a little seed money for next year's show. The OPCL general membership has authorized the executive board to use \$5,000 to help get this effort started, but any funds used will be reimbursed by donations received. At this point, none of the three civic leagues has committed any of their own funds to this effort, just their support that this is something that the community wants.

There are 5,000 homes between Lesner Bridge and Jeb Little Creek.

If a quarter of those homes each donated \$20, we're at our goal.

So far, several Shore Drive businesses have stepped up and committed funds, but we are still a long way from a done deal. I know that's a little optimistic, but it makes you realize our goal isn't that farfetched. I will put up the first \$100 donation, and four of my fellow Ocean Park residents have committed \$100 each to get us started.

Well now you know everything. For all of you who have been asking for this, now is your chance. You can donate by sending a check to the above address made out to the "Shore Drive Civic Leagues Fireworks Committee," or go to www.OPCL.org and click on the "Fireworks" link. If you have questions about this effort or want to get involved, contact me.

— Rick Mercadante, OPCL President
mercadante@cox.net

Norfolk teacher hit by car, killed on Shore Drive

Information in this article is from WAVY.com and The Virginian-Pilot

Whitney Lynne Hulce, 25, of Chesapeake, was struck by an eastbound car while crossing Shore Drive on Sunday, April 18, at about 1:30 a.m. in the 2900 block near the intersection with Great Neck Road. According to police reports, she did not use a crosswalk or intersection. She died at the scene.

The driver of the car was not identified and was not facing charges.

Hulce taught second grade at Tanners Creek Elementary School in Norfolk.

"Shore Drive has become known as a dangerous stretch of road for bicyclists and pedestrians," wrote *The Virginian-Pilot*.

In October, a 21-year-old man was also struck by a car as he tried to cross Shore Drive. He later died of his injuries.

Bicyclists pushed for slower speed limits after two people were killed after being struck by cars. This past summer, the 45 mph speed limit was lowered to 35 mph on Shore Drive between the traffic signals for First Landing State Park and North Great Neck Road.

OPCL Finance Committee Update:

As of the end of March, the Robbins Legacy account was valued at \$193,324 ,which is allocated 72% fixed income/cash and 28% equity/balanced funds after reinvesting \$40,000 of CD proceeds last month. The account is currently generating approximately \$6,000/year in interest and dividends with an accumulated balance of over \$10,000 available for community projects. Your ideas for funding of community projects are encouraged and welcome. —

Mike Wills, mandjwills@cox.net

Burglaries and Increased Thefts of Large Screen TV's

Virginia Beach Police Department Crime Prevention Unit reminds you:

- When you take your new TV home, **DO NOT LEAVE THE BOX BY THE CURB** for trash pickup, because this can advertise to potential thieves that you have a new TV they may want to steal.
- Cut up the box and place it in your trash or recycle bin, or dispose of it at a cardboard recycling drop- off location.
- Write down the serial number, brand, and model number of the items and keep that information in a safe place.
- Remember to watch out for your neighbors and report ALL suspicious activity.
- Call 9-1-1 for crimes in progress, or 385-5000 for non-emergency police reports.

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OPCL Membership Cards: Discounts at restaurants, flower shops, car washes, hair salons, and more!

Seventeen Ocean Park businesses have agreed to provide discounts on their products or services to OPCL members who show their membership card at the time of purchase. We will distribute cards to paid members at the May meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, email me to pick up your card. When patronizing these businesses, thank them for their support of .OPCL.

— Rick Mercadante.

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Sonshine Hair Studios	10% off all services	www.sonshindhairstudios.com
John Guswiler services	10% off all handyman services	

New members since March Newsletter

**Patti and Mike Bowman * Mary Compton * Michael and Sharon Grossman *
Gaylon and Nancy Herndon * Shannon Kisiel * Nancy Koch * Michael and Beverly Manlove * Susie Miller * Todd and Joanne Parker * Cindy Phillips * Tasos and Christi Tsolakis * Leo and Gloria Wardrup.**

Send us a picture of your dog, cat, parrot, hamster, rooster...

The Echo will begin a photo feature on pets who live in Ocean Park in the September issue. Send us a photo of your pet, and pick one characteristic, idiosyncrasy, or endearing trait about your furry friend, and tell us about it in a short caption to appear under the photo. Photos will be featured in the order they are received.



The Rules:

1. Photos must be sent electronically as jpgs with the information listed below.
2. Pet: name, age, breed
3. Owner: First and/or last name (If submitted, owner's name will appear with photo.)
4. Caption: No more than 300 words. Less is better.
5. Deadlines: August 1 for September issue; Oct. 1 for November issue.
6. Submit photos to UPSMT@COX.NET. Use "Ocean Park Pets" as subject.

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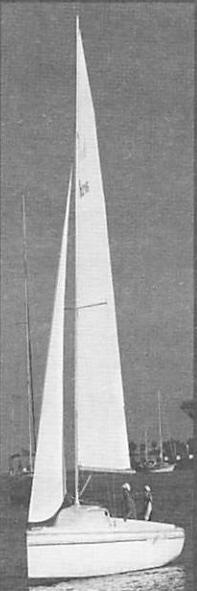
Sail with your Woodlawn Ave Ocean Park neighbor Capt. Dave Wilbar

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Volunteer for Clean the Bay Day, and show the world that an unhealthy Bay is unacceptable! Every year since 1989, thousands of volunteers of all ages have dedicated their time to clear debris from Virginia's urban, suburban, and rural shorelines and waterways.

In 2009 alone, 7,022 volunteers removed 102 tons of debris from 475 miles of waterways. Cigarette butts, plastic bottles and bags, tires, paper, furniture, bikes, construction materials, are just a sample of the types of debris that pollute our shorelines and waterways, kill marine and other wildlife, and degrade our communities and the water quality of the bay. As rain falls onto our streets, roofs, parking lots, and lawns, the storm water runoff collects debris and other pollutants, travels through the storm drains and ditches and ultimately deposits this pollution in our waterways and along our shorelines.

The debris is a visible and pervasive reminder that the Chesapeake Bay needs restoration and improved stewardship. Removal and disposal of waterway and shoreline debris is a service to local communities, the Commonwealth, and the Bay. Through citizen volunteers, Clean the Bay Day provides localities with a cost effective way to remove litter from the waterways and shorelines and increase environmental stewardship.

Get involved! By foot or by boat, gather your groups, friends, neighbors, co-workers and volunteer for a fun day and worthwhile way of helping us Save the Bay.



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Behind the scenes at a resale boutique

By Krys Stefansky
The Virginian-Pilot

This article from The Virginian Pilot was published May 24, 2009. Chic Cheap Resale Boutique celebrates its one-year anniversary this month.

As the middle child of three daughters, Leslie Giljohann was never like Robin, the oldest and most responsible one, or Becky, the youngest, who enjoyed special privileges as the family's "baby." Rather, Giljohann saw herself as the one who would "get there" but had to think about things for a bit first.

For years she'd been considering this little cinder block building on Shore Drive, the one a few doors from her own place, between a seafood restaurant and a lawyer's office.

In recent months, she mulled over the poor economy, passing road traffic, the fact that she is footloose and fancy-free except for her Doberman, Caine.

She saw the building was vacant again. Finally, she rented it and opened a shop, ***Chic Cheap Resale Boutique***, where she sells used, old, and brand-new stuff. Her plan was simple: Buy low, sell fair, get more, do it again.

She's almost two months 99 into having her own store. The only constant is that each day is different from the one before.

On a recent Wednesday, her silver BMW crunched the gravel parking lot in a downpour. She dashed inside, turned on the lights and got ready for customers. The rain? Not a good sign. It hammered down on the asphalt and made the nearby Lesner Bridge look like an amusement-park water ride.



*Leslie Giljohann, owner of **Chic Cheap Resale Boutique** in Ocean Park, Beach, sets lawn furniture outside her shop after a rain shower. (Photo by Bill Tiernan | The Virginian-Pilot)*

She headed for a back corner in the two-room shop to check for roof leaks and shift things out of harm's way I'm learning to take things down, move them around," she said. China plates can take a few drips. Framed artwork cannot.

They stroll through, checking out beaded jewelry, decorative items for the home, gently used furniture, accessories and antiques - on this day an Eastlake chest, tiger oak dresser, sideboards, a pair of French Provencal nesting tables and armoires with beveled glass in the doors. Things are oak, mahogany, pine or painted and distressed. It just depends on what she finds at auction, what she buys at garage or estate sales.

"A lot of people now are coming in who are moving or downsizing. I'll go to their houses and look at it. Some of it, I consign. But I usually just buy it. It's better for them and for me," she said.

She muscles it all into the space herself. Even the big stuff. "Well," she said, pooh-poohing the hauling, "there's always somebody there to help me when I buy it, and then when I get here with my truck, I just use blankets and drag it in."

Continued on Page 10

Behind the scenes Continued from Page 9

Except for one tall armoire. A huge thing that screens off a portion of the back room, she uses it for storage. She says it's not for sale, but it does have a price tag, "\$795 Firm." "I guess I'd sell it. I just won't make anyone a deal on it. A neighbor helped me get it in here and refused to ever help me again," she said, laughing.

She looked out the window. Still a gusher. "Weather like this is unfortunate," she said, shrugging. "It keeps customers away. But that's when I rearrange."

It might have been a good idea to hook up her charge card machine, which came in the mail and which she unpacked, then eyed suspiciously. "Ugh," she said, "I'm technically challenged." She took the machine out, set it on the counter and turned her back on it.

She tidied her metal mermaid plaques. When she ordered them, she thought they'd sell well near the water. She was right. The first set sold eventually, she'd like to carry things by local artists and crafters. A couple of teachers have already begun painting scenes on old windows for her. "And I've got to get some more mirrors," she said. "People seem to like mirrors."

Giljohann has worked in retail, watching the public's taste, trying to anticipate it and feed it, since childhood. The Orange, Calif., native helped out in her family's clothing store for men in Long Beach from the time she was 6. When she was about 11, her mother taught her a good lesson about money. Giljohann and her sisters begged for banana-seat bikes and got them. A few years later, three-speeds were popular, so they wanted those. Their mother told them to earn their own money. They did. "We learned from an early age to be responsible and to have a work ethic," she said.

Later, the sisters worked in their mother's women's clothing stores. When their mom retired, the three girls split their time between the two shops. They'd each work two weeks, then take a week off to ski or camp.

Giljohann, who headed for college at 16, studied fashion merchandising and design, then worked in physical therapy for a while. Marriage to a Marine brought her to Virginia Beach in 1991 during a May as wet as this one. After reinventing herself a few more times - fitness instructor, condo-association manager, real estate agent, job coach. She divorced again. Somewhere along the way she got into the antiques business and had booths in antique malls in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. She closed the last one about three years ago.

Then, at 48, she waitressed for the first time. "I was great with the people," she said, "but was bad with all the other aspects of the job, like carrying plates. I have to carry just one in each hand."

This spring seemed like a crazy time to open a shop, even though she had enough saved to do it without borrowing, just like her mother always said. "People said, 'Leslie, are you crazy, opening a business in this economy?' But this is the economy for this kind of business."

The day's first customer came through the door about 11 a.m. Giljohann chatted, explaining her shop and its contents, and fielded kind words. She said goodbye without making a sale. In the beginning, it made her nervous when people left without buying. "But I get that a lot," she said. "People drive by and stop in. Now I'm getting repeats and word of mouth and friends."

The phone rang. The shopper who just left was calling to ask her to put a crab print on hold. A few minutes later another woman stopped in and, after a chat and a few purchases, promised to e-mail pictures of two sofas she was eager to sell to Giljohann, who said she might take them on consignment.

A third person brought boxes filled with fish-themed items, painted birdhouses and fabric things. After a lengthy negotiation, Giljohann worked a trade: two fish and two birdhouses for one mermaid plaque. Bartering is fun, Giljohann said after the customer left. She recently traded a stained-glass piece for a dresser, which she later sold.

After someone came to pick up an already-purchased mahogany dresser, Giljohann shifted an oak buffet into its place.

The rain stopped, and with the sun came a steady stream of customers who, in the course of the afternoon, bought an Art Nouveau-style armoire, printed canvases with beach scenes, jewelry, a fish tile, a framed picture, more jewelry.

Few people left without Giljohann's first asking where they lived and what they would do with the things they bought. "It makes me happy when things go to good homes," she said. Only one big-ticket item sold, but that was OK. "Your little stuff pays the rent," she said. And several people left their names, numbers and specific items they were looking for, giving her a focus for her next round of auctions and yard sales. In the end, not a bad day at the shop.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

events in the area

5th Annual Chic's Beach Art Show

4600 Lookout Rd., VA Beach

Under the trees behind HK on the Bay

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Stoney's Craft Market

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1065 First Colonial, VA Beach

Saturday, May 8, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

“Who Arted?”

Summer Art & Craft Show

Cheap Chic Resale Boutique

3617 Shore Drive, VA Beach

Saturday, June 12, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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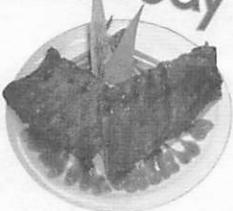


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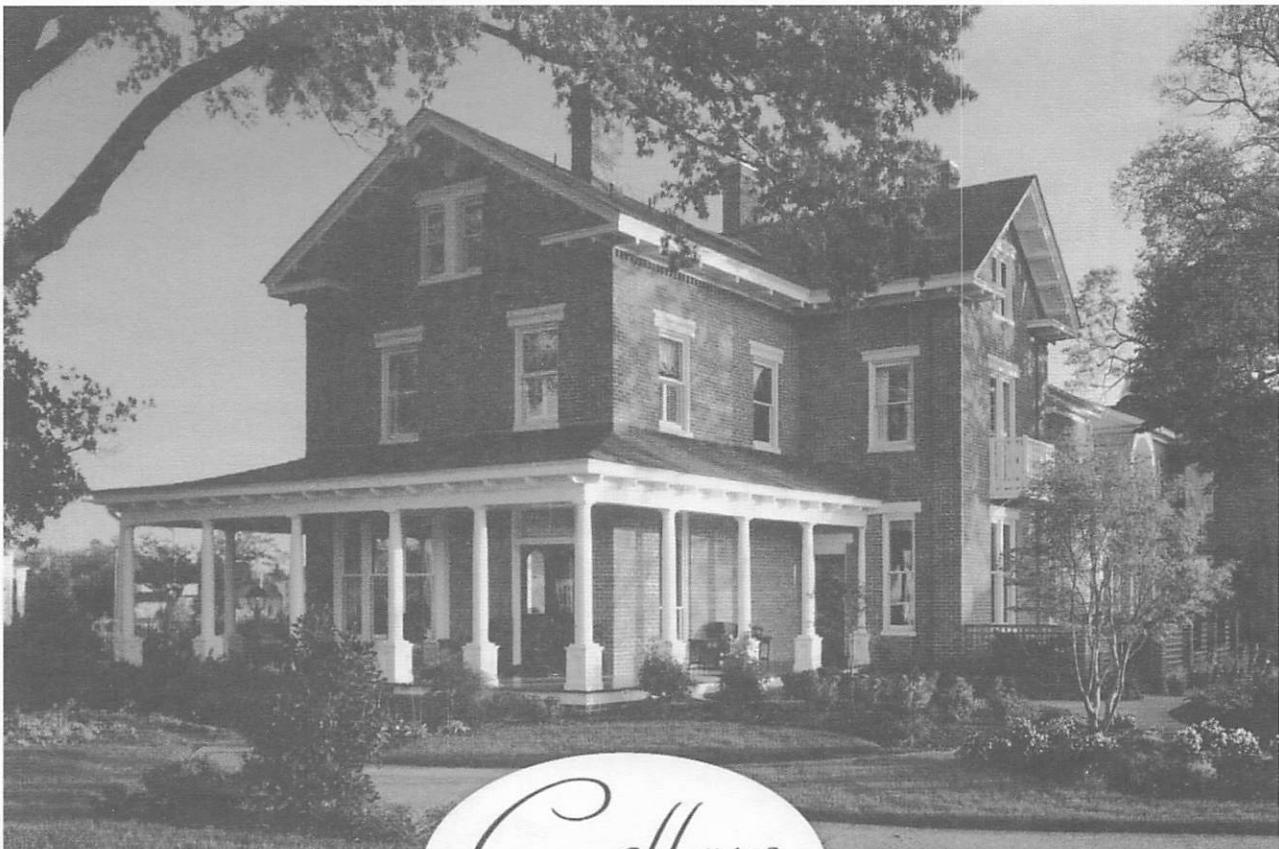
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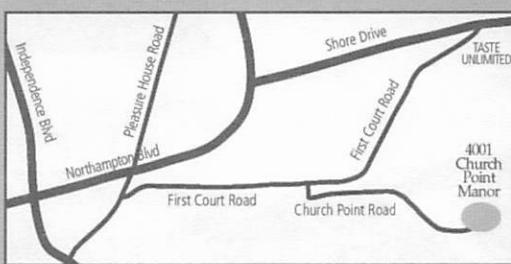
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as seen in **skirt!** magazine

Check Out Ocean Park Civic League on facebook

The new Ocean Park Civic League Website is at www.opcl.org. This site functions as the archive of OPCL business. It contains newsletters, bylaws, community issues info, meeting minutes, budget reports, etc. Visit **Recent Posts** for neighborhood news, and check the **Calendar** for upcoming events.

Ocean Park also has a facebook site that can be reached under the "Links" entry. Some news items will be published there but it is primarily for social interaction between the members and residents of Ocean Park. Please visit both sites often to stay in touch with our community!

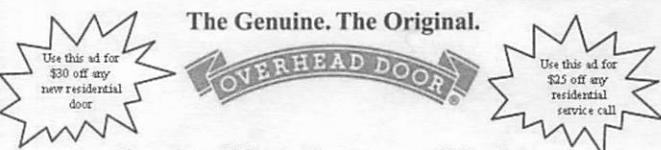
Questions, Comments, Suggestions

Send your questions, comments, and suggestions about the Web site to the Web administrator at jgroyall@yahoo.com. Questions about Ocean Park Civic League or League activities may also be sent to the same email address, and they be forwarded to the appropriate person for reply. The Web site also shows a list of your neighbors that volunteer their time for the Board and other positions in the OPCL organization.



Mayor Sessoms Delivers Annual State of the City Address

More than 700 city leaders gathered March 18 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center to hear Mayor Sessoms deliver his annual State of the City address. The mayor reviewed Virginia Beach's top accomplishments of 2009, the challenges that lie ahead, and his vision for next two decades. To read the speech go to: www.VBgov.com/stateofthecityspeechtext



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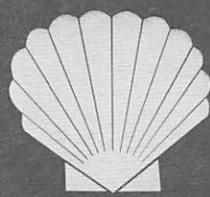
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Traffic Committee Newsletter

Zoning Committee Social Events Committee



Ocean Park Echo

www.OPCL.org

Welcome to...

OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA

Meeting
Thursday
March 4
7:30 p.m.
Ocean Park
Fire & Rescue

Guest Speaker
Carolyn Weems

Bayside School Board Representative



Carolyn Weems

Bayside School Board Representative

Carolyn Weems was elected to the Virginia Beach School Board in May 2002 and re-elected in May 2006 as an at-large member. In December 2009, the School Board appointed Mrs. Weems to fill the District 4 – Bayside seat vacated by the resignation of former Board member Dan Lowe.

A former tennis coach at Old Dominion University, Mrs. Weems has served as a volunteer for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools and the Virginia Beach community. She has held the position of PTSA President at Bayside High School, served on numerous PTA boards, and has been a member of the Planning Councils of Thoroughgood Elementary, Independence Middle and Bayside High schools

Mrs. Weems has served as a youth leader, Sunday School teacher, speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and volunteer counselor for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Mrs. Weems earned a bachelor's degree in administrative management from Clemson University. Mrs. Weems and her husband, Billy, have five children – four of whom have graduated from Virginia Beach City Public Schools and one who is currently an eighth grade student.

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Dear Neighbors,

By Rick Mercadante
OPCL President

As I sit here looking out my window at the winter wonderland that is Ocean Park (I'm writing this the last weekend in January), I'm having fond memories of my youth growing up in New England. I also recall my college days in Rochester, N.Y., and learning which adult beverages were best to fortify you against the cold, long, long, long Rochester winters. (If you come to our next OPCL social, I might be talked into revealing some of my northern hibernation secrets).



This weather reminds of why I live here. By the time you read this newsletter we will hopefully start seeing the first signs of Spring, which means beach time is around the corner. I'm excited about this spring and summer because our new social committee has sgreat plans to bring our community together. Part of our civic league charter is to promote good fellowship, and I believe the rest of our mission flows from there. I hope to see as many of you as possible out at our March social at Don Julios. This will be a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and see what they look like when they're not wearing a bathing suit.

“What we really need are folks that can put in one or two hours a month. If you think that sounds like a commitment you could make to help out the civic league, please get in touch with me.”

We are fortunate to have our Bayside school committee rep, Carolyn Weems, coming to our March general membership meeting to let us know what is going on with the school committee. After Mrs. Weems speaks, we will take a break for a little socializing, so you'll get a chance to speak with her one-on-one if you want, so take advantage of this great opportunity. We also will vote on our budget for the 2010 calendar year, and vote on whether to transfer funds set aside for a new Ocean Park Rescue station to them now for building repairs. Come out, and let your opinions be known. And of course we will end our meeting with a social at one of our local restaurants, what better way to spend a Thursday night.

There are a lot of changes going on with our civic league right now, and what makes it more robust is getting new folks involved. We have all sorts of things that need to be done, and most of them won't take up much of your time. Of course we always love to see folks that want to put in lots of hours helping out with the civic league, but what we really need are folks that can put in one or two hours a month. If you think that sounds like a commitment you could make to help out the civic league, please get in touch with me. Who knows, you might even have fun helping out. See you around the 'hood.

News from the Bayfront

Shore Drive Community Coalition & Bayfront Advisory Committee

By Grace Moran

• The Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) and the Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) continue the **"Win Lunch with the Mayor"** promotion to sign up subscribers to news and alerts concerning issues pertaining to the Shore Drive Corridor. Not only will you get periodic updates about issues, but also by signing up at www.sdcc.info, you will be entered into a drawing to win lunch with the Mayor. Drawing will be held in late March. Even if you were already signed up before the promotion, you can sign up again for the drawing. Whether you like the Mayor or not, it's a free lunch and a chance to tell him what's important to you.

• Did you know?

This November, seats for both Lynnhaven and Bayside City Council representatives are up for your vote?

• Beach Sand Replenishment and Access Repairs

We have received the following information via Drew Lankford, of the Department of Public Works. From Phil Koetter:

"We are working on repair plans for all of the City's damaged public accesses along the Chesapeake Bay. As soon as we get our restoration plans finalized we plan on notifying the residents along the Bay so that they are aware of the plans. We hope to have the surveyor to start working on gathering data for these repairs in the next week or two. We are working to get all accesses restored as soon as possible while also working with FEMA and VDEM on storm damage reimbursements for covered damages.

Some property owners may want to use the same contractor for private restoration work while they are in the area. All private work must be reviewed, approved, and receive all applicable and required permits. This work should be coordinated through the City's Planning Department & Permit and Inspections Division."

• From Mike Mundy:

"More great news is that the permit modification (to do the truck haul from Maple Street dredge disposal area) that was submitted to Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) was approved Tuesday January, 26th."

Continued

News from the Bayfront

Continued from Page 3

- **LED Sign Ordinance Deferred** City Council was set to hear the proposed LED sign ordinance February 9, but the matter has been deferred. A new date will be forthcoming.
- **May is Bike Month.** Bruce Drees, Advocate for Tidewater Bicycle Association, notes that plans are under way to organize local events for Bike Month in May and Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 21. All with an interest in participating should contact Bruce at bwd-vb@cox.net. Note: deadline for event submissions for publication in the printed calendar is March 15.

Meetings this month:

- **March 16:** BAC Communications Subcommittee
3:00 p.m. 1st Landing State Park (water side)
- **March 18:** Bayfront Advisory Committee
3:30 p.m. Bayside Rec Center
- **March 29:** Shore Drive Community Coalition
7:30 p.m. Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Station

Remember to visit www.sdcc.info for all the up-to-date Shore Drive news.

Got an idea for "Did you know?" Email me at grace@sdcc.info

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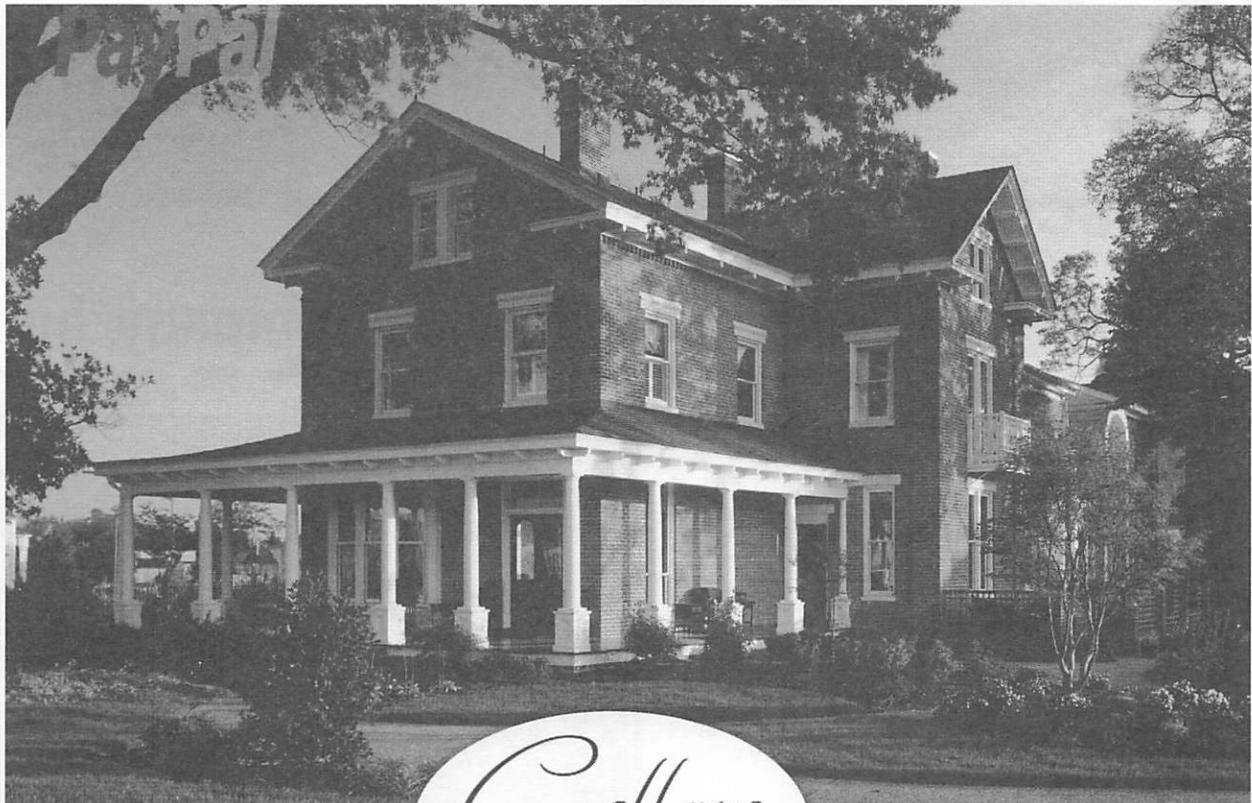
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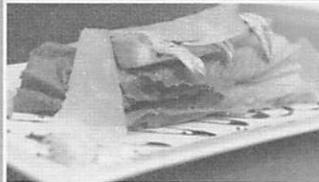
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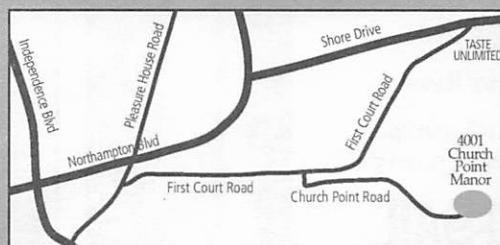
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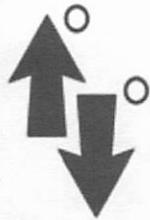
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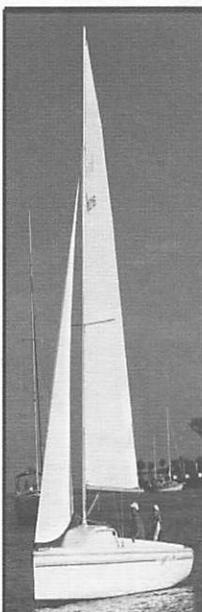
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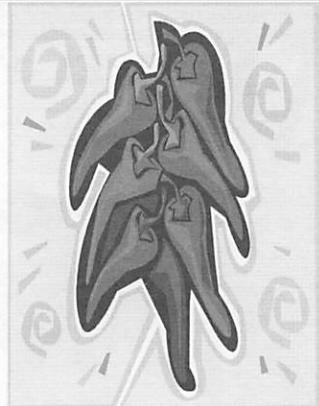
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OPCL.org: Sign up for news, photos, facebook

By Rick Mercadante

Thanks to Jim Royall, we have a beautiful new Web site to keep you informed of what's happening in Ocean Park. The site contains newsletters, important information about community issues, photos, meeting minutes, budget reports, etc. Visit Recent Posts for neighborhood news and also check the Calendar for upcoming events.

For those of you on facebook, our Ocean Park group page has been a success. We now have 69 members, and it's growing daily. We'd love to have all our members on the group so we can more quickly keep in touch. It's easy to join and doesn't cost anything.

You now can renew your membership easily at the new via PayPal or Google checkout. You don't need an account with either of these services. Just click on either link, and you will be directed to the site where you can use your credit card to renew. We're trying to make it extremely easy for you to keep up your membership with the civic league.

We are working on an Ocean Park Civic League membership card that will provide OPCL members with discounts at local restaurants and businesses. I recruited some volunteers, and we hope to move it forward soon. With the current economy, some businesses are reluctant to give discounts. If you know local businesses interested in participating, please let me know.

Ocean Park Civic League: *Committed to protecting, improving neighborhood*

The Ocean Park Civic League is a neighborhood association made up of concerned residents who are committed to protecting and improving our neighborhood and its ways of life from the beach to the streets and properties. There are about 1,500 residences in Ocean Park. While OPCL works for all our great neighbors, we need your participation. Don't wait until there is a problem. Get involved proactively and meet your neighbors. Currently, our major issues are:

1. Working with the Shore Drive Community Coalition on difficult issues regarding Pleasure House Point and Indigo Dunes.
2. Ensuring that Shore Drive Improvements (beautification) are made without turning it into a six-lane highway and involving the community in the decision making process.
3. Working with the City on the Lesner Bridge replacement and dredging site.
4. Ensuring property owners develop their lots under existing guidelines to preserve our neighborhood and prevent a wall of condominiums from permanently changing our look.
5. Addressing issues regarding public safety, maintaining property values, and quiet enjoyment of the area.
6. Educating our residents on safety issues and avoiding problems so we continue to maintain our area as one of the safest in the city.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

events in the area

Annual Thoroughgood Spring Celebration

Adam Thoroughgood House

Saturday, April 17, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Plants sale, antique car show & art show

2nd Annual

East Beach Art Show

27th Bay Street (off Pretty Lake Road)

Saturday, April 24, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5th Annual

Chic's Beach Art Show

Under the trees behind HK on the Bay

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

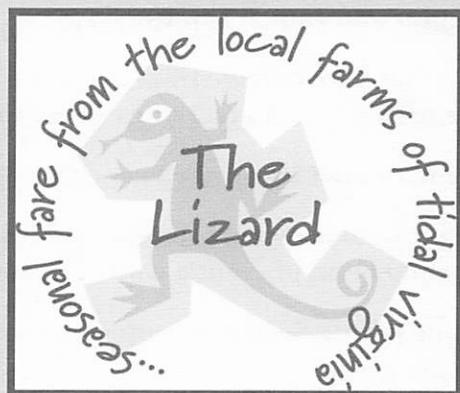
The Leaping Lizard Café's Concept is Simple.

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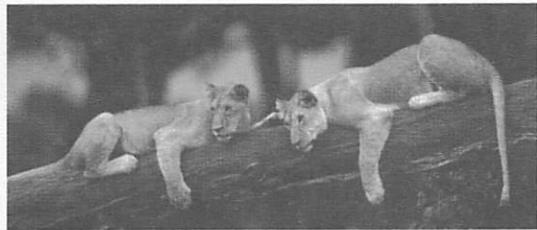


Shore Drive, Virginia Beach



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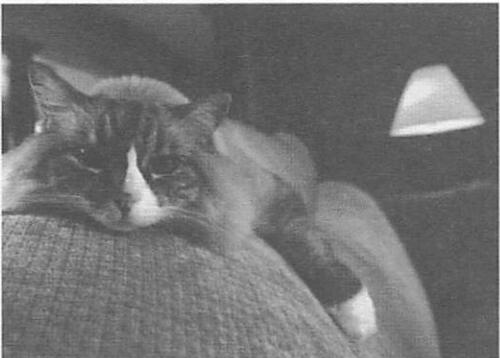
*Your Ocean Park Civic League Social Committee
would like you to join them in a*

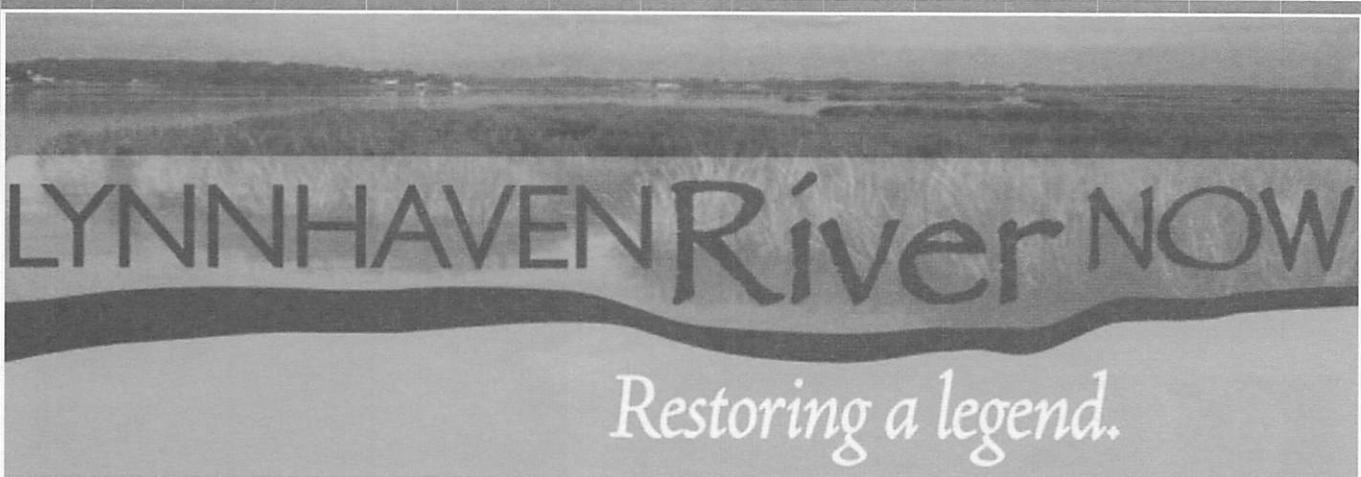
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Restoring and protecting the waterway starts with you

In 2003, a group of local citizens joined together to foster partnerships that would apply public and private resources to the challenge of reducing pollution in the Lynnhaven River. That group formed the nucleus of what has grown into an award-winning river restoration project with over 3,000 members called Lynnhaven River NOW. "NOW" because the work of restoring and protecting the beautiful Lynnhaven River is something that we can do NOW for the future. The group's goal is a clean and healthy Lynnhaven River and its objectives are:

What can you do?

Take Responsibility for What goes Down your Drains

Sweep your gutters. Keep leaves out of storm drains. Don't put grease and fats down your drain.

Scoop the Poop & Don't Feed Wildlife

Reduce animal waste entering our waterways to reduce bacteria levels.

Use Water-Friendly Landscaping Practices

Fertilize less...Replace part of your lawn with mulched beds. Use native plants in your landscape. Create permeable surfaces. Build a rain garden.

Practice Clean Boating

Pump, don't dump. Use marine approved products. Fill, don't spill.

Support "No-Discharge Zone" legislation.

Raise Oysters for Reef Restoration

Oysters filter water and reefs provide habitat for many species.

Create a Buffer or a Rain garden on your Property

Come to one of our water-friendly landscaping workshops.

Talk to your Neighbors; Talk to your Legislators

Schedule a Lynnhaven River Now presentation.

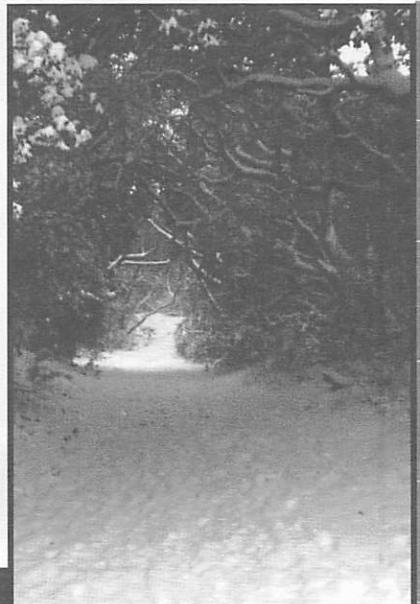
Join a Committee and Get More Involved

Education...PR & Marketing...Special Events and Access Task Force...Clean Boating...Landscape Practices...Oyster Restoration...Water Quality...Public Policy



One for the record books

A powerful winter storm brought near-blizzard conditions to Hampton Roads in late January. In Virginia Beach, 9 inches of snow fell – that's more than the area typically gets in an entire winter. Winds gusted up to 35 mph, and icy roadways forced schools and businesses to close. In Ocean Park, residents enjoyed the rare snow storm by riding sleds, building snowmen and taking these photos.



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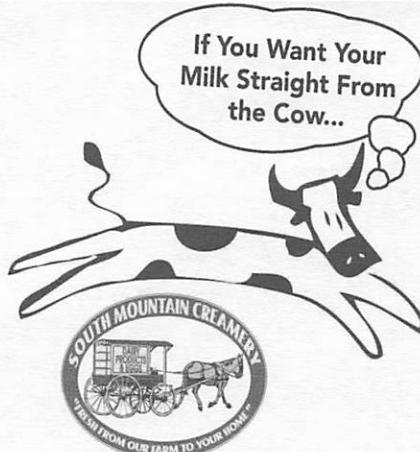
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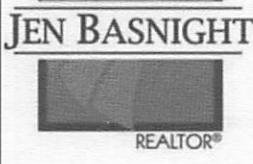


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Years in Ocean Park _____

Select areas of interest

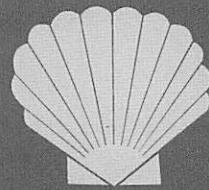
Newsletter

Shore Drive Committees Liaison

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Social Events Committee



Ocean Park Echo

Welcome to...

OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA

Meeting

Thursday
November 4

7:30 p.m.

Ocean Park
Fire & Rescue

PHP purchased by Wells Fargo at auction

Editor's note: On Oct. 22, Wells Fargo purchased PHP. This article ran Oct. 21 and provides information on the next steps for saving the property.

By Deirdre Fernandes
The Virginian-Pilot
© October 21, 2010

Wells Fargo Bank is auctioning off 120 acres of environmentally-sensitive land owned by development firm L.M. Sandler & Sons Inc. today.

Pleasure House Point Site Boundary



PLEASURE HOUSE POINT MAP

The auction, part of the foreclosure process, doesn't alter the bank's plan to sell the land to conservation groups and the city for preservation, said Kristy Marshall, a spokeswoman for Wells Fargo. "In order for us to get possession of the property, it needed to go into foreclosure," Marshall said. "It's just a formality, and we can now move forward with our plans." She said she expects the bank to be the sole bidder.

The Trust for Public Land, a national organization, in partnership with the city of Virginia Beach and other environmental groups, has struck a tentative deal with Wells Fargo to buy the property for \$13 million.

The trust, city officials and groups like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation want to prevent the property - which boasts oyster beds, wetlands and a maritime forest - from falling into a developer's hands again. Sandler had plans to build Indigo Dunes, a development of more than 1,000 homes, on the property before the firm fell into financial problems.

Continued on page 5

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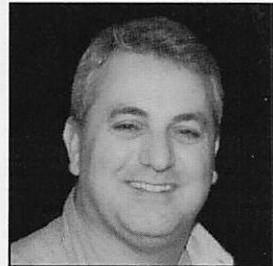
Jim Royall

jgroyall@yahoo.comWWW.OPCL.ORG

Dear neighbors,

By Rick Mercadante

OPCL President



Dear Ocean Park Neighbors,

What a beautiful fall we're having. This is my favorite time of the year. It's been a busy few months since our last newsletter. As some of you already know, a small group of folks have been very active in trying to help the City of Virginia Beach purchase the Pleasure House Point property. They ran a very successful rally on Marlin Bay drive at the beginning of October, as well as several fundraisers at local restaurants. It's a long, uphill battle, but they are fighting a courageous fight. We all have our fingers crossed that their efforts will be successful.

Most of you know that earlier this year the owner of Don Julio's restaurant applied to have the restrictions lifted on their ABC License. OPCL took a position in opposition to this application. At the September general membership meeting our members voted to approach the owner with a compromise position, which was accepted. Starting this month, Don Julio's will be able to remain open until 2:00 am on Friday nights (Saturday morning), on Monday nights during NFL football season, and on New Year's eve and Cinco de Mayo. The can have live, non amplified, acoustic music until 10 p.m. (indoors only), and they can now have games. I know that not everyone will be happy with these new, less restrictive rules, but this is the best outcome to this situation that we could expect.

Lastly, as some of you already know, after this upcoming meeting I will be resigning as your president. This unfortunately is not by choice. It seems that the Navy has decided that my services are needed overseas. Apparently there is a shortage of white-haired, creaky-jointed, almost 50-year-old Naval reserve officers in theater, and my presence will tip the balance in our favor. I regret not being able to stick around and finish my term, but you will be in the capable hands of Martin Thomas, our current Vice President.

I have lived in Ocean Park for 21 years, this is, and always will be, my Home. While I'm away, my heart will still be here in Ocean Park. They say that when you're in a stressful situation you should relax and take your mind to a happy place. My happy place is sitting in beach chair on Sylvan Beach, sipping a beer, and enjoying the sand between my toes while hanging with my friends and neighbors. I'll see you all in a year.

Civic League plans donation to Ocean Park Rescue Squad

As of the end of September, the Robbins Legacy account was valued at \$196,500, which is allocated 65% fixed income/cash and 35% equity/balanced funds. The Ocean Park Civic League Finance Committee decided to take the allocation up to the maximum of 40% equity allowed with the purchase of preferred securities in October with matured CD proceeds because of the current low interest rate environment.

This will position the account to continue generating approximately \$6,000/annually in interest and dividends. We expect to make a donation to the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad to fund operations and have begun to explore participating in an upgrade of the exterior of the OPVRS buildings on Shore Drive.

Your ideas for funding community projects are encouraged and welcome.



Photo by Tim Solanic

Shore Drive Treasure

Ocean Park resident Grace Moran is the author of this Letter to the Editor. It appeared Oct. 1 in The Virginian-Pilot.

Your Sept. 21 editorial, 'A last chance on the Lynnhaven,' summarized perfectly the situation with regard to Pleasure House Point, which many had assumed would be renamed Indigo Dunes.

The city of Virginia Beach, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Trust for Public Land have our boundless gratitude for bringing us this far.

As you so correctly point out, the stumbling blocks we currently face are not insurmountable.

A grassroots effort is forming to raise sufficient funds to acquire the maritime forest that may otherwise be sold for commercial development. Why bother with one 5- to 10-acre parcel? This particular section of the tract is home to the most heavily wooded portion of the whole.

The remainder is sparsely treed in comparison. This forested refuge provides a habitat unique to the property and supports wildlife species that may be lost if compromised.

This affects more than just the residents along Shore Drive. Boaters and fishermen, for whom the nursery and spawning grounds are so important, would benefit from not having the canoe and kayak population crowded in with them at Lynnhaven Boat Launch. Property owners stand to have property values improve because of the proximity to a refuge. Commuters would not have the increased congestion from commercial development.

We need to hear from parents and grandparents who want to leave a legacy.

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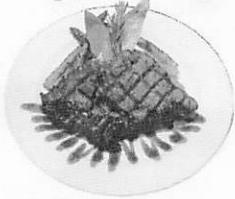
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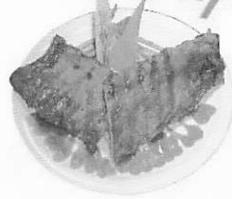
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PHP purchased by Wells Fargo

Continued from Page 1

The coalition has hit obstacles in coming up with the cash to pay Wells Fargo. The city had applied for a \$3 million National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant, but the federal government last month ranked the preservation project lower on the priority list, decreasing the city's chances of getting full funding.

The city also committed to contributing \$5 million to the purchase of the land. And the trust is still looking to sell a small portion of the land, probably for commercial uses, to help defray the cost of the property.

"At this point, our plan is to carry through with the purchase," said Vice Mayor Louis Jones.

Jones said he is not concerned that a last-minute buyer would come forward at the foreclosure sale and scoop up the property. A developer would need City Council approval to build high-density homes on the property, which is unlikely to happen based on the Beach's commitment to preserve the land, Jones said.

Typically, the bank has been the highest bidder in the foreclosure of other Sandler properties.

Sandler bought the Indigo Dunes land for \$30 million, with a \$19.4 million bank loan.

Wells Fargo also is scheduled today to auction Sandler property at the intersection of South Independence Boulevard and Princess Anne Road. Sandler's plans for the more than 132 acres included some work force housing.

Make Your Point raises money for preserving land

The Shore Drive Community Coalition's fundraiser for the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation was Oct. 9.

By Grace Moran

It looks like we took in \$5,887.75 in donations, and Cindy Helmkamp sold an additional \$113 in raffle tickets. Big thanks to Vicky Schiano for procuring so many restaurant gift certificates, for a grand total of \$6,000.75. Contributing restaurants were Beach Bay Café, Cabo Café, Deuce Magee's, Guadalajara and Smoke House Cooler. Shannon Stone of Total Health Massage Therapy and Therapeutic Massage Works furnished a gift certificate valued at \$60. VBSPCA donated two gift baskets for silent auction. Please remember to patronize these generous supporters.

In addition, Lynnhaven River Now donated \$84.60, 15% of T-shirt sales from Saturday. Dominic's of New York donated 10% of food sales. Additional credit and thanks go to Brian Morris, who served as both musician and musician coordinator; Jon Friedman, who designed the promotional poster, mixed the sound, and got some great video/stills. Other musicians who deserve a big thanks include Mike Proffitt, Seth Stainbeck, Pete Hansen, Dahna Rowe, Rachel Hall & Bruce Kittell who play as Solace.

Steve Pahno at Dominion Printers was more than generous in printing of the promotional poster for free and the donation cards and initial flyers for next to nothing. And on time, which takes him to the top of the list of local printers.

About 300 people circulated through the event over a four hour period, enjoying the music, playing corn hole toss and chalking the street. All this in full view of the 5 to 10 acre stand of trees which are currently in jeopardy.



**donate to preserve
pleasure house point**

WWW.OPCL.ORG

Check out the Ocean Park Civic League Web site at www.opcl.org. The site contains information about important community issues, newsletters, by-laws, budget reports, meeting minutes, and photos. Visit "Recent Posts" for neighborhood news, and check the "Calendar" for upcoming events.

Ocean Park also has a **facebook** site that can be reached under the "Links" entry. Some news items will be published there, but it is primarily for social interaction between members and residents of Ocean Park.

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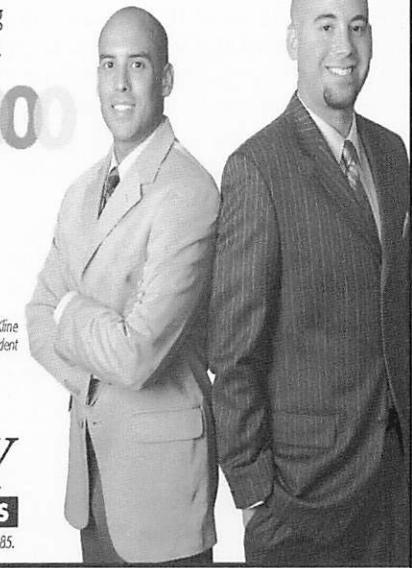
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Move afoot to revise 35 mph limit on Shore Drive

Editor's note: This article ran Oct. 2 in The Virginian-Pilot. It was written by Aaron Applegate.

Momentum is building to partially roll back this summer's speed limit reduction on Shore Drive, an emotional - and increasingly political - issue that has polarized drivers in the busy corridor thick with bars and restaurants along the Chesapeake Bay.

The City Council dropped the speed limit to 35 from 45 mph on a four-mile stretch between Pleasure House and North Great Neck roads in June. That was in response to public outcry after two pedestrians were killed in six months. Ten pedestrians have been killed on Shore Drive in the last eight years.

The change pleased safety advocates and family members of the deceased. But it angered others who said inebriated pedestrians were largely at fault. They called the City Council's actions a knee-jerk response to score political points ahead of the November election.

Now, the two architects of the change are suggesting it may need to be revised, which could include raising the speed limit back to 45 mph on the west side of Lesner Bridge.

"The impression I get is it's probably an effective tool on the eastern side on the bridge, but that it hasn't been that much of a tool on the other side," said Vice Mayor Louis Jones, who represents part of the corridor. "I know there's a sense that the lower speed limit on the east side is appropriate," said Councilman Jim Wood, whose district includes part of Shore Drive.

Any change would likely come around December, officials said.

Jones and Wood called for the speed limit reduction in June. No council members objected. City traffic engineers had said 45 mph was the proper speed. The public response has been split, council members said.

People such as Beach resident Barbara Black, who owns a pet-sitting business on Shore Drive, said the speed limit reduction made the road crowded, didn't take into account pedestrian behavior and wasn't based on engineering. "It should all be 45," she said. "It's a straight road. When you get hit at 35 you are just as dead, but people don't want to hear that. Everybody I know is irate or more than irate about it."

Scott Hulce, whose daughter Whitney was killed in April while trying to cross Shore Drive after leaving a bar, questioned why people would want to raise the speed limit. "Why, besides time? To save a couple of minutes?" he said. "There's no other reason other than people are impatient. You hope it's not one of theirs that's the next victim."

David Williams, who worked with the Shore Drive Community Coalition to push for the lower speed limit, said the road appears to be safer. "It's been very effective at reducing the speed," he said. Speeding tickets have spiked on Shore Drive. In July and August, police handed out 162 speeding tickets, compared with 10 handed out in July and August 2009, according to department records. With November City Council elections approaching, many candidates expressed skepticism about the 35 mph limit.

Candidate Wally Erb, one of seven people running for two at-large seats, said the reduction was illegal because the city didn't do a traffic study first, which he argues is required by state code. City Attorney Mark Stiles disagreed, saying it's not required because state code calls for a speed limit of 35 mph on roads like Shore Drive.

Dave Redmond, a planning commissioner and at-large council candidate, said the reduction should be reconsidered. "My feeling as a driver with the slower speed limit is I feel boxed in. My visibility is less," he said.

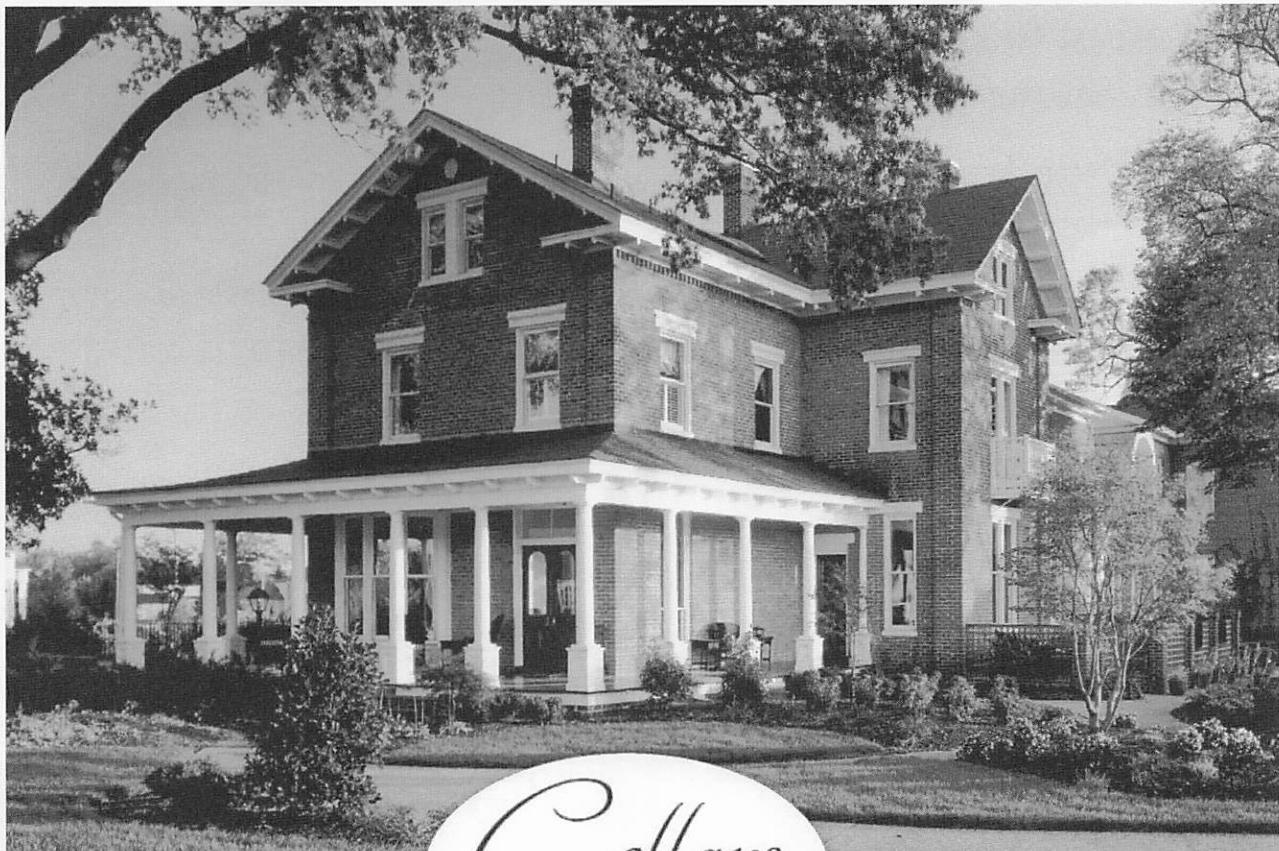
At-large incumbents Rita Sweet Bellitto and Bill De-Steph said they're waiting to see a city traffic analysis of the lower speed limit.

Challenger James Cabiness said the speed limit should stay at 35 for safety reasons.

Candidate Andrew Jackson called the increase a "knee-jerk reaction to pressure from voters" and said it should be re-examined by traffic engineers. Candidate John Moss said he wants to see traffic data about how the speed decrease has worked before taking a stand.

Jones' challenger in the Bayside District, George Furman III, said he doesn't like the 35 mph speed limit.

"It should go back to what it was before," he said. Wood's challenger in the Lynnhaven District, Toni Hedrick, said Shore Drive has become more dangerous since the speed limit was lowered, especially during the day. "There's a lot of tailgating and hand gestures," she said.



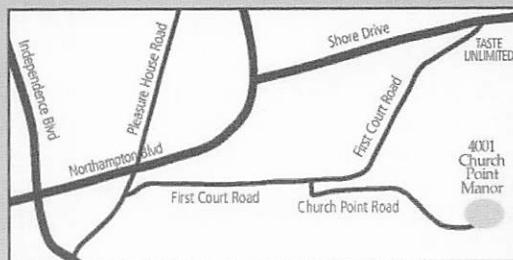
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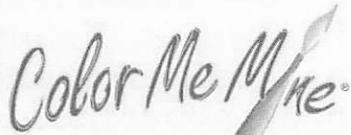
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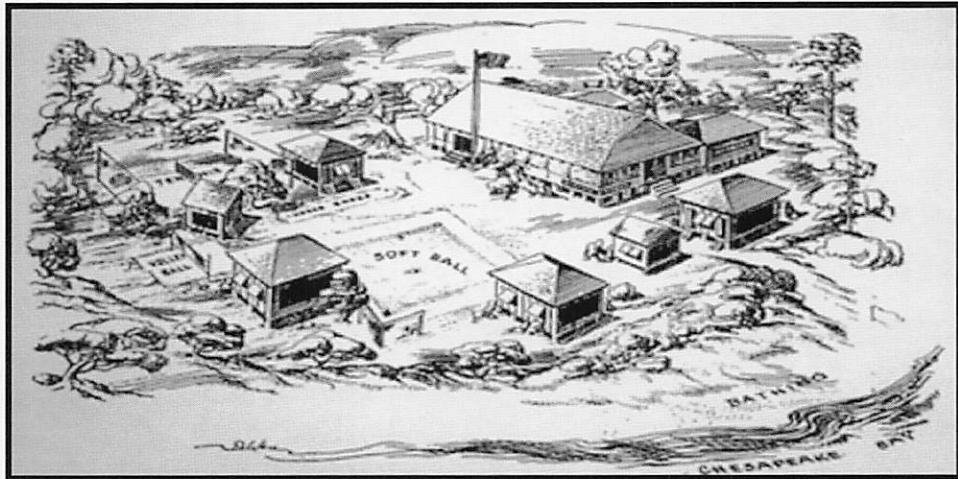
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Ocean Park History Project



These photos show views of Ocean Park over several decades: Old bridge-new bridge, Cold War-era fire station with plane spotting tower barely visible over the "DEP'T", and YMCA camp plans for the area that Water Oaks now occupies.



Nadine Costenbader chairs the Ocean Park Civic League History Committee. She is collecting photos and documents about the history of the Civic League, and posting the information at opcl.org under Ocean Park History. Suggestions and contributions are welcome.



They call PHP home

Turtle Species known to occur in PHC/PHP

Diamond back terrapin

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Kemp's Ridley



And, a few of the Avian species

American Black Duck

American Crow [Common Crow]

American Oyster-catcher

American Wigeon

Bald Eagle

Belted Kingfisher

Black Skimmer

Boat-tailed Grackle

Brent Goose [Brant]

Brown Pelican

Bufflehead

Canada Goose

Canvasback

Clapper Rail

Common Egret

Common Snipe



Double-crested Cormorant
Gadwall

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Greater Black-backed Gull

Herring Gull

Hooded Merganser

Killdeer

King Rail

Laughing Gull

Least Tern

Mallard

Marsh Wren

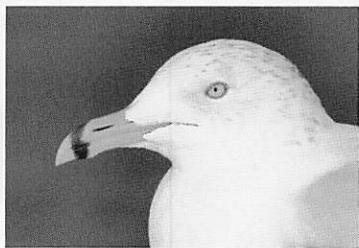
[Saltmarsh Wren]

Mourning Dove

Northern Shoveler

Pied-billed Grebe

Red-winged Blackbird



Ring-billed Gull

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Seaside Sparrow

Spotted Sandpiper

Starlings

Willet



Yellow-crowned Night Heron

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Ocean Park History Project

Please visit the website at

http://web.me.com/nadinecostenbader/Ocean_Park_History/Welcome.html

An active link appears on the
OPCL home page under
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