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March 4, 2004

Volume 9, Issue 2

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Meeting Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Be sure to come and bring a neighbor!

Membership is open to all residents or property owners of Ocean Park, the land between Lynnhaven Inlet, the Chesapeake Bay and Pleasure House Creek, including all condominiums and sub-neighborhoods therein. You may join by paying annual dues of \$10 per household which is due January 1 of each year, giving you the right to vote at meetings. These dues allow us to publish this newsletter to keep the community informed and to conduct all other business that benefits the interests of Ocean Park residents and property owners. Please become a current member, if you are not one, and join in the good fellowship with your neighbors at the upcoming meeting on March 10th.

Meeting Agenda Highlights

Follow up to meetings with Mayor and Councilperson Wood

Open Space Planning Committee – Anne Kane

Social Committee – Summer Party Date

Volunteer Get Together – Grace Moran

Pleasure House Point (PHP)

PHP petition signing & membership drive

Zoning Committee – Ronda Morrison

Stratford Property update – Susan Karlau

Vote on By-laws

Vote on filling Board vacancies – Ronda Morrison for VP, Carol Collins for liaison

Dredging and OP beach replenishment

Traffic Committee to start

Newsletter Report

Web-site status

Door Prizes Galore at our March meeting!!

Thanks to the following businesses for their support:

- \$25 gift certificate to H2O Restaurant
- \$25 gift certificate to Dockside Restaurant
- \$25 gift certificate to CP Shuckers Café & Raw Bar
- Gift from Lynn Hume – ReMax Allegiance

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Message from The President

Chris Hendricks

Greetings Neighbors! There is much to report. I will try to make it short.

The highlight is that Ocean Park Civic League is growing a healthy communicative relationship with our Mayor, Meyera Oberndorf. Following two letters to her and receiving her replies to each since last July, we met with the Mayor on January 20th, 2005 for a good hour.

The best thing to report is that I feel we have established a friendship with Ms. Oberndorf which includes an open invitation to her to join our summer social; an open invitation to any or all our board and plenary meetings; and a standing offer for her to contribute to our newsletter. The quality of the communication was excellent.

One thing that stuck in my mind was the Mayor saying she has a history of voting pro-environmental. This tells me we need to approach all the city counselors so they know where we stand here in Ocean Park [OP]. Along those lines and in a slight tangent, the Board met local area [Lynnhaven] counselor James Wood last week and had a productive chat during our regularly scheduled meeting. We have already extended an invitation to local council-person [Bayside] and Vice-Mayor Louis Jones for a meeting in six weeks. That will make three of the eleven council members that OPCL has met in 2005. Onward to the rest of the City Council!

In our meeting with our Mayor, we spent a lot of time talking about the developments of pleasure House Point [PHP]. As with other zoning discussions we had, we made it clear that we are opposed to extensive development, but understand that property owners have rights too. We stressed that properties should be developed within existing codes and that we are concerned about our neighborhood losing its style to a wall of double unit and multi-unit homes where single ones or nothing once stood.

Nothing is known of future plans at PHP. There are only rumors. I sense we may be close to some news.

We made clear that Ocean Park pays substantial property taxes and that, as the City's open space plan of 2001 calls for acquiring space in Ocean Park, why not acquire space at PHP. They are well aware of last year's petition to acquire at least 39 acres there. The Mayor and her assistant, Clay Bernick, were quite interested in our offer to throw our newly acquired Stratford Property into the mix if it would secure open space. We demonstrated that we can be partners not adversaries to accomplish our open space goals. No one knows what the owners have in mind for that property but the City is clear we want to be involved in any processes and expect open space as one of the outcomes.

In addition we stressed our opposition to the widening of Shore Drive though we do support the Shore Drive Advisory Committee's recommendation for Shore Drive's beautification. We also reiterated our support for the 2002 City Beach Management Plan. We explained that Ocean Park will also be developing a position paper on R-5-R and R-5-D zoning initiatives this summer. It was a great opening of dialogue between the Mayor and Ocean Park.

At our full membership meeting on Thursday, March 10th, we will finally be able to vote on the by-laws of OPCL. It has been a laborious process. I also ask that you support the Board's nominations of Ronda Morrison from Board member to Vice President and Carol Collins, our wonderful Editor, to Board member. Each is a huge contributor to OPCL and deserves the position to which they are nominated.

Happy March, Chris

**Be at the meeting to vote on
our revised By-laws.**

**Looking for a corporate sponsor to
cover our newsletter printing costs
* Includes free 1/2 page advertisement ***

Highlights of Minutes from 1/6/05 Mtg.

Grace Moran, First Secretary

On the status of the Pleasure House Point (PHP) development Hendricks informed the assembly that although nothing has been confirmed, rumor has it that the Sandler brothers have a contract of the property. It was agreed that the zoning committee would take on the issues regarding PHP and that Stratford Property Development (SPDC) will be a standalone committee.

Grace Moran will be organizing a brainstorming session to increase membership and attendance at meetings that will include those members on the volunteer list.

Hendricks proposed a drive this spring to get signatures on a new petition for open space for PHP which would also serve as a membership drive.

On the status of our Stratford Road property our attorney had been instructed to secure clear title of the property by recording an agreement signed by the Rescue Squad representing that they had relinquished any claim. This method will result in substantially less costs for us. The SPDC will reopen discussions on (our options for the property, which Hendricks thinks will most likely result in our selling it.). Treasurer Kane stated that the accountant was looking into the consequences of such a sale so as not to jeopardize our tax-exempt standing.

The newsletter advertising rates have been increased to \$35 per issue or \$150 for all 5 annual issues. It was suggested by Stuart Terrell that we remember to thank our advertisers and contributors for their generous support. More contributions of articles from league members was requested.

We are trying to locate another Webmaster for our website and request assistance from anyone who might know of interested parties.

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Thanks to Our Volunteers!

We appreciate all who share their talents to help strengthen our organization. More members are always welcome on our committees. We currently are looking for an **assistant editor** to assist in website postings and a **youth reporter**.

	Position	Volunteers	Home Phone
Special Projects		Susan Karlau	460-6922
SPDC Committee	Chair	Susan Karlau	460-6922
	Members:	Anne Kane	363-7321
		Nancy Koch	560-9033
		Ronda Morrison	407-7782
		Sharon Need	363-8004
		Jean Sleeman	328-2930
		Tim Solanic	464-6922
		John Wigmore	460-2431
		Mike Wills	536-6682
Shore Dr Advisory Committee	Primary	Mike Wills	536-6682
	Back up:	Vicky Schiano	318-9211
	Channing Weaver		363-2502
Shore Dr Community Coalition	Primary	Anne Kane	363-7321
	Back up:	Vicky Schiano	318-9211
		Channing Weaver	363-2502
Zoning Committee	Temp Chair	Rhonda Morrison	407-7782
		Anne Kane	363-7321
		Susan Karlau	460-6922
		Brian Parker	363-1049
		Jim Royall	363-0460
		Byron Sargent	460-4518
		Jean Sleeman	328-2930
		Mike Wills	536-6682
Attendance/Door Prize	Coordinator	Vicky Schiano	318-9211
Social Committee	Coordinator	Judy Terrell	318-7252
	Members	Jill Broome	460-3251
		Kathy Carpenter	464-3491
		Ellen Gladney	460-5637
		Donna Epperson	460-3052
		Jackie Longworth	460-4025
Traffic Committee		Rebecca Anderson	460-1918
		Channing Weaver	363-2502
Youth Reporter		vacant	

Kristi Brown Emerson
President



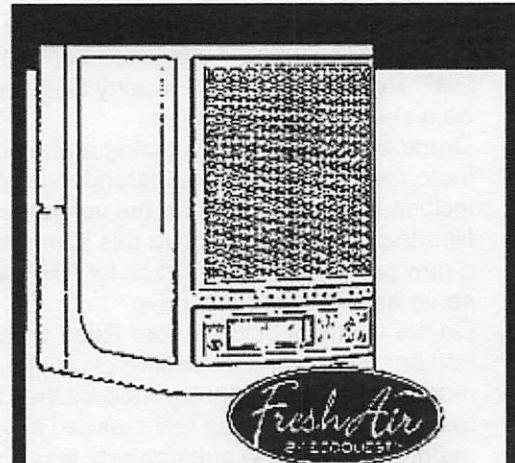
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Lynnhaven Inlet Maintenance Dredging

The Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting the maintenance dredging for the Lynnhaven Inlet Basin. The project is expected to get underway with the removal of 32,000 cubic yards of sand from the Maple Street placement area (located behind Surf Rider in Marina Shores) and truck hauled to the Ocean Park beach. In mid March the dredging of Lynnhaven Inlet is scheduled to begin and the sand dredged from the channel will be hydraulically pumped onto the Ocean Park beach as well. Both placements will be between Rookery Way and the Lynnhaven Inlet. The project is expected to be completed prior to June and will leave a beach of over 200 feet wide. Please be aware that heavy equipment will be on the beach during this project so please adhere to any signs or instructions to ensure your safety and enjoyment of the beach as well allowing the contractor to complete his work. If additional information is needed please contact Michael Kay or the City of Virginia Beach Public Works, Office of Beach Management at (757) 427-4167 or mfkay@vbgov.com.

Treasury News

Anne Kane, Treasurer

We received dues from 35 residents after our last reminder. That leaves 21 residents whose dues expired in December. There are many more even further in arrears. Please contact me if you are uncertain of your status. I can be reached on-line at OPCL-Treas@cox.net or by phone at 363-7321.

A detailed summary of our income and expenses is on the web-site and I will have hard copies available at the meeting. We currently have \$16,000+ in reserves. That will allow us to pay for needed repairs to the Stratford property, yet still be able to have the terrific Beach Blast we envision for this summer. Remember our parties are always free to members, so get your dues in now!

Volunteer Rescue Squad Opportunity

The Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach are a great way to get involved and give back to your community. Each year the volunteers of Virginia Beach's EMS system answer roughly 34,000 calls for help. Our 725+ volunteers are a family of providers who not only make lifelong friendships while giving back to their community, but also experience firsthand the joy of truly making a difference in someone's life.

This is a great opportunity for anyone 18 years or older, who has a valid driver's license, a high school diploma or GED and is interested in serving the people of Virginia Beach. You will be medically trained as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and serve on an ambulance 48 hours per month with one of the city's 10 volunteer rescue squads. Training is free!

Orientation sessions are held twice a month and last about 90 minutes. **Call 426-5000 for dates, times and location.**

For more information, visit www.vabeachems.com and view the recruitment video.

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By-Laws Changes

Anne Kane

The final draft of our efforts to up-date the By-Laws of Ocean Park Civic League are now posted on our web site (www.OPCL.org.) Please take a minute to review them, as we will be voting to approve the new By-Laws at our meeting on March 10, 2005. The major changes are the addition of several more people to the executive board and the dues increase that was voted on a year ago. I will have several hard copies available at the meeting. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy for review prior to the meeting, please call Anne Kane at 363-7321.

SDCC Notice of Open Space Subcommittee Meeting

The City's Open Space Subcommittee will hold a Community Involvement Workshop for the Bayfront area on Monday February 28th at the Bayside Recreation Center. The meeting will be held in room #3.

The Open Space Subcommittee will have its general meeting from 3:00 to 4:00pm and will follow with a Community Involvement Workshop from 4:00 to 5:30pm.

Each Civic League and Condo Association is being asked to send a representative from their group to provide input on the purchase of open space in the Bayfront area. This may be the last time we get a chance to voice our opinion and help guide the committee toward the parcels of land we feel need to be purchased.

One of the only remaining spots for purchase is the Pleasure House Point property (McLesky Property). This area could be used for non-motorized boat access, a small Chesapeake Bay/Lynnhaven River research facility, and just plain natural space.

By eliminating the increased traffic that would come with land development, the purchase of site development rights could also prevent the potential need to create a six lane Shore Drive. This is a potential tax payer savings of over \$300 million dollars.

Bottom line, please pass this on to your civic/condo representative and have a person at this meeting to express any concerns your group may have. (Anne Kane will be attending this meeting representing Ocean Park)



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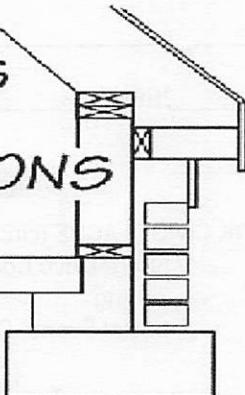
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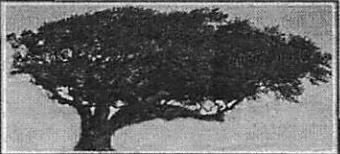
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Residents are invited to contribute timely news articles or stories of interest to the OPCL newsletter. Please call the editor.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
3/17/05 / 3:30 pm	Shore Drive Advisory Commission / Bayside Rec Center
3/28/05 / 7:30pm	Shore Drive Community Coalition / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
4/7/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
4/21/05 / 3:30pm	Shore Drive Advisory Commission / Bayside Rec Center
4/25/05 / 7:30pm	Shore Drive Community Coalition / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
5/5/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
8/4/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
9/8/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
10/6/04 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
11/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/8/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/11/05 / 5-8 pm	OPCL Christmas Party

Signs of a stroke:

Sudden weakness/numbness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Symptoms may go away and return

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Courtesy of the Va. Beach Health Dept. Cardiovascular Health Program

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Dizziness, fainting, or nausea

If you experience any of these warning signs:

- Pain spreading to neck & arms
- Pain/pressure in the chest
- Severe sweating, shortness of breath

Call 9-1-1 immediately!

Courtesy of the Va. Beach Health Dept. Cardiovascular Health Program

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005

Now is the time to renew your membership in the civic league for the calendar year. Dues are just \$10 a year. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and send it to our treasurer Ms. Anne Kane. You will be helping your community and yourself. If you attend the next meeting, please give your dues to Anne.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ RENT: : _____ OWN: _____

YEARS IN OCEAN PARK: _____

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

Newsletter Contributions

Shore Drive Committees Liaison

Newsletter Distribution

Zoning

Traffic Committee

Social Events Committee

Suggestions are Welcome



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

Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL), P.O. Box 55385, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471



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Vice President

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Treasurer

Anne Kane 363-7321

Past President

William Sykes 464-2015

Secretary

Grace Moran 318-9224

Secretary

Ronda Morrison 363-1985

South Side Liaison

John Wigmore 460-2431

North Side Liaison

Stuart Terrell 749-9648

Aries on the Bay Representative

Jill Broome 460-3251

Three Ships Landing Representative

Ronda Morrison 363-1935

High Rise Representative

Open Position

Newsletter Publisher

Jean Sleeman 328-2930

Newsletter Editor

Carol Collins 226-9433

opcleditor@cox.net

December 31, 2004

Volume 9, Issue 1

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Meeting Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Be sure to come and bring a neighbor!

Happy New Year!

While thinking about your resolutions for the New Year, if you're interested in becoming more active in the community, please consider what you can do for your civic league. We are here to serve the Ocean Park residents and property owners, but this can only be achieved when the residents participate and share their concerns and desires to improve the community. If you want to know what is going on and share your ideas on how to make this a better place to live, please become more involved by coming to our meetings, sharing our fellowship, and better yet volunteering to share your talents with us in one of our volunteer positions. You can make a difference.

Meeting Agenda Highlights

Pleasure House Point [PHP1] - Report on current developments, Dave Metzger

Volunteer Get Together - Orientation/social date to be announced.

PHP Petition Signing & Membership Drive - Pick date, signups.

Stratford Property - Deed re-recording. Tenant leaves in Feb. SPDC to resume

By-Law Changes - Vote on Final Version.

Zoning Committee and Issues Discussion - Need volunteers.

Traffic Committee - Starting.

Newsletter report - Advertising rates go up. Corporate sponsorship of printing

Web-site - Changes to original plan have been made necessary. Here is update.

Social Committee - One more thank you and shall we have a party this summer?

"Job" Vacancies Status

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Door Prizes Galore at our January meeting!!

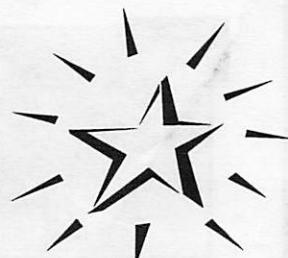
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Message from The President

Chris Hendricks

Happy New Year! Your new Board is not so new now at the six month's mark. Much has been done to make progress. We have three full meetings ahead before the summer break with full sessions in January, March, and May. Please come and bring your neighbor to the Jan 6th meeting. Get involved and be social.

Of recent note, I want to start by crediting the social committee led by Judy Terrell for pulling off a very nice holiday party. It was good to see our neighbors and try their very good pot luck creations with warm decorations and holiday music. A few kids got to see Santa who joined us. We were able to express our appreciation to our guests, the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, as well. Every single attendee received a good door prize thanks to the hard work of Social Committee and Board member, Jill Broome, who managed this part of the group effort. Organizing this was no easy task, so we thank each committee member for their efforts. Besides Judy and Jill, we thank Jackie Longworth, Donna Epperson, Kathy Carpenter, and Ellen Gladney.

I was pleased to get a call from our Mayor, Meyera Oberndorf, on Friday, Dec 17th. She was unable to attend the party but kind to reply to the invitation. Building off the two letters Dave Metzger [VP] and I separately sent her, we have established a good dialogue with her speedy replies. So, I did ask that the three of us meet in January, to which the Mayor agreed.

At the party, I was tempted to ask Santa if the City would bestow at least half of Pleasure House Point as open space to comply with the City's existing open space plan. We have asked for this several times via letters and petitions. No movement has occurred, though our requests are acknowledged. This is still the gift this high tax paying community seeks. We hear mutterings of development plans for high rises there, but none have been confirmed. Full, even partial, development of those 69 acres would really adversely change this neighborhood into wall to wall structures at the cost to the neighborhood in terms of quality of life, quiet enjoyment, strained infrastructures, and further endangering our delicate estuaries which renew the Chesapeake Bay. We do listen to you!

On Dec 9th, The Board voted to create two new committees: Zoning and Pleasure House Point [PHP]. Zoning will deal with current applications, appeals, any new rulemaking and enforcement. This committee may have to become two at some time. A team of experts for the Pleasure House Point Committee is being formed so it is already ready, once any news breaks to us on property planning there. With new committees, we need more help: regular citizens with opinions, legal, environmental, real estate, and other professionals are sought.

The Stratford Property Committee is just restarting after some internal structural changes. Some time this spring the Board will receive a recommendation from the committee and will approve one to send to all of you for your vote. A traffic committee is also being formed to address safety concerns and speedy cars within our quiet neighborhood.

Please pitch in and help your neighborhood's quality of life by contacting Carol Collins to join a committee. The two new ones need people or we will not be effective. It's as serious as that. We can not do these things alone. In return for volunteering, make new friends while learning about your community, zoning and building code laws, and local politics while you help steer Ocean Park's decisions.

We expect you to approve the new by-laws at our next meeting on Jan 6th as well. See you there. That's it from the helm, Chris



Ocean Park Civic League
www.opcl.org

P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471

Highlights of Minutes from 11/10/04 Mtg.

Grace Moran, First Secretary

Our speaker the President of the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, Kreg Kinney, gave us an overview of the Rescue Squad operations, the current staffing issues, and then answered questions. Other items discussed were the status of Pleasure House Point, the progress on the property we own on Stratford Road, the By-Law revision which will be voted on at the January meeting, zoning issues, and web-site upgrades.

The entire minutes can be viewed on our website at www.opcl.org.

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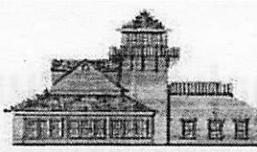
Treasury News

Anne Kane, Treasurer

As of this writing, we have approximately \$13,500 in our savings account and \$3500 in our checking account. A detailed accounting will appear at the end of the month on our web site.

Since our Holiday party was achieved with the generous donations of food and prizes from local businesses as well as the fabulous foods prepared by our membership, the costs incurred were minimal. Already, I'm hearing plans for our summer bash on the beach, which will be free to all members of the civic league. We still have on-going issues with the property on East Stratford and some potential violations that may result in costs from bringing the building up to code. We have been working on getting clear title and then the SPDC will be making recommendations to the executive board. This will be briefly addressed at our next meeting.

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Thanks to Our Volunteers!

We appreciate all who have stepped up to offer their time to strengthen our organization and achieve our community objectives. There are still some positions to be filled, and we'd love to have you involved. To volunteer please let them know how you would like to serve when you sign in at the upcoming meeting or call the editor.

OPCL Christmas Party Success was a hit!

We want to thank our Social Committee headed by Judy Terrell for the wonderful job they did on our Holiday Party. The kids had a visit with Santa, the decorations and music were lovely, and the food and fellowship with neighbors were great. They obtained so many door prizes from local businesses that everyone went home with a gift. Thanks for all your hard work!

And to all who volunteer

We appreciate all who have volunteered to share their time and talents to help strengthen our organization. We have established some new committees so are still in need of members to serve on these. If you can give a little of your time to help achieve our goals to improve the quality of life here in Ocean Park, please let us hear from you. We will have a sign up list at our January meeting or you can call Carol Collins at 226-9433.

Position	Volunteers	Home Phone	We need chairs for the Zoning, the SPDC and the Traffic committees. Please volunteer to help fill these vacant positions.
Special Projects	Susan Karlau	460-6922	
SPDC Committee	Temp Chair Members:	Dave Metzger Anne Kane Susan Karlau Nancy Koch Sharon Need Jean Sleeman Tim Solanic John Wigmore Mike Wills	318-9090 363-7321 460-0291 560-9033 363-8004 328-2930 464-6922 460-2431 536-6682
Shore Dr Advisory Committee	Primary Back up:	Mike Wills Vicky Schiano Channing Weaver	536-6682 318-9211 363-2502
Shore Dr Community Coalition	Primary Back up:	Anne Kane Vicky Schiano Channing Weaver	363-7321 318-9211 363-2502
Zoning Committee	Temp Chair	Anne Kane Byron Sargent Jean Sleeman Mike Wills	363-7321 460-4518 328-2930 536-6682
Pleasure House Point Committee	Chair Members:	Dave Metzger	318-9090
Attendance & Door Prize Coordinator	Vicky Schiano	318-9211	
Social Committee Coordinator	Members	Judy Terrell Jill Broome Kathy Carpenter Ellen Gladney Donna Epperson Jackie Longworth	318-7252 460-3251 464-3491 460-5637 460-3052 460-4025
Traffic Committee	Chair	vacant Rebecca Anderson Channing Weaver	460-1918 363-2502
Youth Reporter		vacant	

Starting the New Year Right

Kreg Kinney, OPVRS

The New Year has arrived and some of you may have vowed to become more community oriented. In addition to actively supporting your civic league, how else might you become more involved in your community? You might consider joining Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad.

What are the benefits of volunteer rescue squad membership? Consider the following:

1. Sense of community involvement. You may be the person who saves your neighbor's life.
2. Free training in an important employment field. Many of our volunteers have used their training to secure jobs with local fire departments, EMS agencies, private ambulance companies, and health care providers.
3. Free city vehicle registration for one vehicle. The city will waive your city vehicle registration fee for one vehicle. You still have to pay for license plates, but the city will waive their portion of the registration fee.
4. Free Recreation Center membership. Members of Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad are reimbursed the full cost of their Rec Center membership.
5. Discounts at many local businesses and eateries. Many local shops and restaurants offer discounts to rescue squad members, both on and off duty.
6. Free Uniforms. Members of Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad have all uniform items (except footwear) provided free of charge.

What does it take to join? Below is a list of the basic requirements:

1. Willingness to serve your fellow citizens.
2. Ability to run four 12-hour duty shifts per month.
3. Good physical health
4. Criminal background investigation.
5. No experience is required. We will train you free of charge. There are no out of pocket expenses associated with rescue squad membership.

If you meet the basic requirements above, contact the City of Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services Administration Office at 426-5000. They will arrange for the following:

1. Application packet. Fill out this packet and return it to the Admin office. No charge.
2. Orientation. Attend one of the orientation sessions to learn more about the city's EMS system. No charge.
3. Physical. The city will send you for a complete physical. No charge.
4. Criminal background check. The city performs this check. No charge.
5. Training. If you require training, you will be scheduled for the training. Again no charge. Textbooks are required, but there are "loaner" texts available for those on a tight budget. Additional training up through the Paramedic level is available, also free of charge.

Once the application is approved, you will be assigned to the rescue squad of your choice. Of course, we hope that you will choose Ocean Park, but there are nine other squads if you would rather serve elsewhere in the city.

At the squad you will get the opportunity to put your skills to work on our state of the art ambulances and under the supervision of our experienced members. You will treat everything from stubbed toes and tummy aches to heart attacks, strokes, and serious trauma calls. After a few months under the watchful eyes of our stations experienced members, you will be "released" as an Attendant In Charge (AIC). As an AIC, you will take charge of the ambulance crew, take charge of patient care, and eventually begin working with newer members to share your experience.

If this sounds like an opportunity you just can't refuse, call the Admin office at 426-5000 to start the application process. If you have questions, please call Kreg Kinney (President of Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad) at 961-3944 (home) or 475-8760 (pager).

Shore Drive Advisory Committee Report

Mike Wills

The SDAC held a retreat at the Westminster Canterbury penthouse in Sept. to discuss important issues that exist between the committee, the Shore Dr. community and the City.

The committee members expressed concerns that they were not getting the communication and cooperation from the City needed to make progress on improving the Shore Dr. Corridor. As a result, the SDAC has lost some of its "legitimacy" and needs to start making things happen and produce results.

Ideas included asking the city for a designated city staffer to work with the SDAC and setting-up a non-profit event to raise funds for community functions and events. They also want to push for more of the taxes paid by the community to be redirected back into the community.

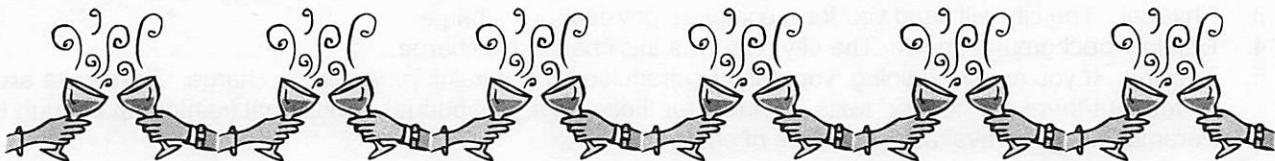
Committee also felt it needs to refocus on priorities such as connecting the community via bikeways and sidewalks, pushing for more zoning enforcement, developing a structured review process that has teeth to influence future development and impact the beautification of Shore Dr. and the ULI study/Pleasure House Point.

At the regularly scheduled meeting in October, a presentation on the new Cape Henry Fire Station was given by the Fire Dept. Construction is set to begin in the spring of '05 with completion in 12 months. The new station will have a new 110 ft. Ladder Truck and a fully functional 35-40 ft. training tower complimenting the coastal design. Staffing will also be increased to 8 personnel.

The Terry Cos. presented on their proposed development at the Duck-In with little comment or concern.

Construction on the Shore Drive Demonstration Project is slated to begin at the end of '05 when funding becomes available and is an example of the frustrating length of time it takes to get things going.

Short term goals set by the SDAC were to pursue city funding for the requested staffer to work with the committee and push for funding of open space.



Membership News

Anne Kane, Treasurer

Our treasury continues to grow. Since November 1st, we have gained 21 additional paid up members. Unfortunately that brings our total paid up through calendar year 2005 to only 98 households. Of the 323 names on our roster, 54 memberships expire in December 2004. Let's set a goal of 160 paid memberships by year's end! I believe this is easily attainable since we deliver newsletters to more than 1400 households.

I have the entire roster on a computer maintained spread sheet, which gives me instant access to the data. I will be happy to verify your membership status via e-mail (OPCL-Treas@cox.net) or phone (363-7321.)

WILLIAM G. SYKES
Patent Attorney

4605 Pembroke Lake
Circle, Suite 103
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Office: 757.490.8586
Home: 757.464.2015

Recipe's Corner

FRUIT DESSERT

Combine:

1 (20 oz.) can pineapple chunks (save 3/4 cup of juice)

2 tbs. corn starch

1/2 cup sugar (add to taste)

1 (11 oz.) can mandarin oranges (drained)

1/3 cup orange juice

3-4 unpeeled apples (chunked or chopped)

2-3 sliced bananas

walnuts if desired (chopped)

Stir all liquid ingredients (pineapple juice, orange juice, lemon juice, sugar) over medium heat until thick and bubbly. Combine all ingredients. Chill. Serve in bowls.

TATER-TOT CASSEROLE

1 lb. ground beef

1 onion (diced or chopped)

1 package mixed vegetables (frozen)

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 can tomato soup

1 small package tater tots (frozen)

Brown ground beef and onion. Drain. Add soups. Mix well. Boil vegetables according to package. Drain. Mix meat/soup, with vegetables in casserole dish. Place tater tots over top of mixture. Bake at 325* for 1 hour. Serve warm.

Ruth Manlove

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Updates and Reminders

Come to the January meeting to vote on our revised Civic League By-Laws

You can review them on line at www.opcl.org, or call board members, Anne Kane, Chris Hendricks, Grace Moran to get a copy.

Classified ads in the Ocean Park Echo

If you are a member of Ocean Park Civic League you can advertise personal items either For Sale, Free, or to Trade in our newsletter. Your children can also advertise their services such as babysitting or yard services. To place your ad, call or e-mail the editor 3 weeks before the next civic league meeting.

Letter writing campaign for Open Space at Pleasure House Point

Have you written your letter to the mayor and city council yet in support of the city purchasing part of Pleasure House Point for open space? If you'd like to see that happen you need to do your part and write that letter. There is truth to the squeaky wheel getting the oil. To get some suggestions and guidance in getting the message across, you can visit our website at www.opcl.org, click on View by Date, then under October 2004 click on Campaign to acquire Open Space on Pleasure House Point.

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Information on The Board of Zoning Appeals

Judy Conners

At some point most of us think "I love my house but I want to do some upgrading to better fit my growing family needs". Do you want to raise the roof? Do you want to add a room, a screened porch, a patio, deck or balcony? Would a shed in the yard be helpful, would a swimming pool create a wonderful family recreation center? All of these are influenced by the applicable zoning of the particular property and may not be allowed. Before the idea becomes a plan on paper, do contact the City Zoning Office. Find out from knowledgeable professionals what you can do within the zoning limitations.

Are you contemplating purchasing a new home – either new or a resale? Do your homework and ascertain, with a resale, if any existing improvements or additions have had the proper permission, determine how much of the building envelope (allowable land coverage) has been used for the current home if you are looking at the purchase with the intentions of making additions. With the purchase of a new construction home it pays to do the same – can you add any extras and stay within the allowable square footage.

Any variances to the allowable use for such improvements must go before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the Code of Virginia says that a hardship not shared by other properties has to be shown for a variance to be granted.

The bottom line is, do not get into difficulties because you listened to what a "knowledgeable friend" or any one else tells you. Go to the experts in the Zoning Office before you even talk to a contractor or do-it yourself expert.

Those Yellow and Red Signs

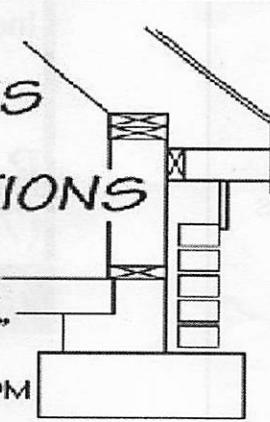
If you spot a yellow sign on property within Ocean Park it indicates that an application for a variance has been filed. Contact a member of the civic league board as the hearing date for that application to go before the Board of Zoning Appeals will be within the next 30 days and your civic league board is interested in protecting the integrity of our community. A red sign indicates that someone is going before the Planning Commission for a major change for that piece of property, so again contact a board member as they may not become aware of the sign until it's too late.

Being alert to proposed changes in land use is the best way to protect the quality of life we cherish in Ocean Park. Any citizen has the right, and maybe obligation, to appear before these "official bodies" to express his or her personal opinions on any issue that comes before them. Cases to be heard are published in the "Beacon" insert to the daily paper. These boards and commissions are composed of citizens just like you. Act before they act rather than complain after the fact!

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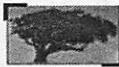
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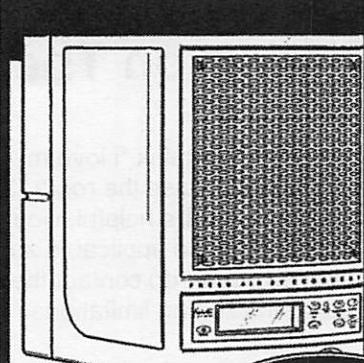
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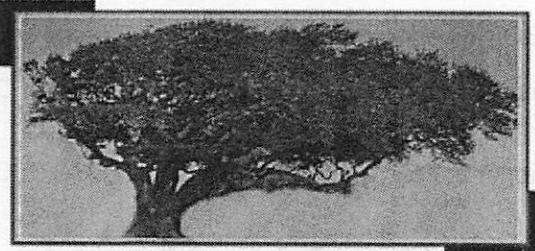
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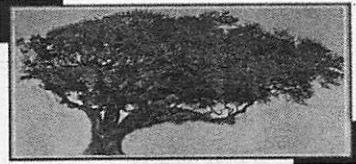


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Ocean Park Civic League

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1/6/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
2/10/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
2/11/05	Deadline for new paid advertisements in the March Ocean Park Echo
2/18/05	Deadline for articles and contributions to the March Ocean Park Echo
3/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
4/7/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
5/5/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
8/4/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
9/8/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
10/6/04 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
11/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/8/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/11/05 / 5-8 pm	OPCL Christmas Party

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004-2005

Now is the time to renew your membership in the civic league for the ensuing year. Dues are just \$10 a year. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and send it to our treasurer Ms. Anne Kane.

You will be helping your community and yourself. If you attend the next meeting, please give your dues to Anne.

NAME: _____

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PHONE: _____ RENT: : _____ OWN: _____

YEARS IN OCEAN PARK: _____

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

Newsletter Contributions

Shore Drive Committees Liaison

Newsletter Distribution

Zoning

Traffic Committee

Social Events Committee

Suggestions are Welcome

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

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