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April 30, 2005

Volume 9, Issue 3

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Meeting Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Refreshments at 6:45 pm

Membership in the Ocean Park Civic League is open to all Ocean Park residents or property owners. Ocean Park includes everything between the Lynnhaven Inlet and Baylake Pines. Annual dues are \$10 per household due January 1 of each year. Please become a current member and join us for our meeting on May 5th.

Meeting Agenda

Stratford Property

Open Space Planning Committee

Beach Party Plans

Pleasure House Point (PHP)

Zoning Committee

Financial Report

Newsletter & Website Report

"Job" Vacancies

Door Prizes Galore at our May meeting!!

- *\$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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Have you visited our new website? You'll find it at www.opcl.org. If you would like to advertise on the website, we will accept 3 advertisers for \$200 per year.

Message from The President

Chris Hendricks

Greetings Neighbor! This report is fairly short and sweet. The Board met Vice Mayor Louis Jones on April 7th. We had a good meeting and we spoke extensively about our position on Pleasure House Point (PHP) and the other positions which we had already expressed to Councilperson Wood and Mayor Oberndorf (see last issue or website for details). Mr. Jones made it clear that most of the city wants some open space to come from this area but funds are tight. Mr. Jones explained where there might be moneys available and that testifying at an upcoming budget hearing was in OPCL's best interest. We have made arrangements to get on the docket and to testify on April 21st.

Mr. Jones also was kind to recommend who we should be contacting on city council to expand OPCL's outreach. We will follow up on that as well. The best thing was OPCL has established a good dialogue and relationship with the Vice Mayor. There was a time, in the past, when the relationship became confusing and a bit disrespectful during a full session. I think things are much better now. So we move forward cooperating and with him, mindful of our positions

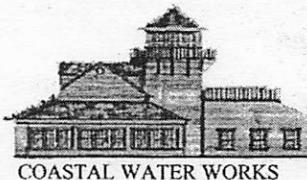
You may notice our website is now managed by our own local Quik Internet. Our editor Carol Collins and her new assistant editor and web person, Jim Royall, are working on building up changes and improvements to the site. Keep checking on www.opcl.org as we build it up. To offset our expenses, we are also seeking three advertisers for the site at \$200/year so if you know a local business interested, let us know.

Our Southside representative, John Wigmore, has managed some repairs to our Stratford property while we decide what uses there are for the property. By month's end, the building will comply with all building codes. Current thinking is that, if the city wanted this property as part of bartering chip towards open space at PHP, then that would be a good option for OPCL. Of course, any decision is a ways off and would require a full session vote. We will keep you posted.

Our next full meeting, as you should know, is May 5th. After that, our next meeting is not until September (unless something big breaks). I encourage you to be there. Also note our summer beach party is on August 4th.

Best, Chris

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Highlights of Minutes from 3/10/05 Mtg.

Grace Moran, First Secretary

An Ocean Park Beach Party is scheduled for Aug. 14 from 4 – 7 pm on the beach behind the Chesapeake House.

A report on the discussion our Pres & VP had with the Mayor and Clay Burnick emphasized our goal of having the city acquire some Open Space at Pleasure House Point (PHP) with the mention of our property on Stratford Road to possibly help in reaching this goal. Anne Kane attended a city sponsored Open Space Subcommittee Meeting and reported that 9 people spoke in support of the acquisition of Open Space at PHP. The President indicated the need for more active participation in the civic league to help us achieve our objective.

Ronda Morrison was elected to fill the VP chair vacated by the resignation of Dave Metzger and Carol Collins was elected to the board.

Susan Karlau reported that the Stratford Road Property Committee had identified 9 options for the property. A more immediate need, however, was to address the City Inspectors notice of code violation on the property which must be corrected by June 7. After much lively discussion a motion was made and passed to clear all code violations at a cost of no more than \$6,000. John Wigmore agreed to supervise this project.

A vote was held and carried to accept the changes previously proposed and posted on the website to the By-Laws of the Civic League.

A vote to accept the proposal by Quik to update and maintain our website was carried. Jim Royall agreed to act as assistant editor and website liaison.

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Neighbors helping neighbors during catastrophic events

Diana O'Brien

If you are reading this, it means that you probably care enough about your community to be a member of your civic league. If a catastrophe occurred in your neighborhood, you might be one of the first to respond because you do care. This would make you a "first responder". You are exactly what Virginia Beach CERT is looking for.

The training is held at the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center on Birdneck Road. Fire station, of course, means great food. During my training I looked on it as dinner out twice a week with great conversation. But while the training provided does not make you an expert, it does provide you with the basic skills necessary to be part of the solution in a catastrophic event instead of part of the problem.

To find out more contact Cappy Meredith, the VB Fire Department career liaison and program manager at cappy-meredith@vbgov.com or call her at 219-2874.

A Short Story of the Ocean Park Beach

Judy Conners

As we watch our Ocean Park beach become even more wonderful with the dredging and widening underway my thoughts go back a number of years to the civic league "pioneers" who worked so hard to preserve and protect this precious asset. I recall the first time I was in the Norfolk Federal Court in the early 1980s for yet another hearing on the ownership question. Betty Wood was a part of the civic league group and she made the comment that, when she first got involved in the ownership question, she was president of the league with an infant in arms at a court hearing and now that infant was an adult and we were still going to court!! That was an impetus for the civic league to ask the City Council to become pro-active rather than re-active on this problem.

In the late 1950s early 1960s Ed Lindsley, a developer and "land salvager" had purchased the assets (if any) of the original Ocean Park Development Company, assets which he maintained included the beach and all other "reserved areas" of Ocean Park. The citizens believed differently and so began the long saga of ownership. A replenishment had been done with dredged material in the early 1960s and by the early 1980's the beach was eroding at a rapid rate – the bulkheads that had been installed at the eastern end of the beach by owners trying to save their homes were being undermined as was the Chesapeake House bulkhead which threatened its parking lot and pool and vacant land where some new homes have been built was under water. Councilman Louis Jones listened to our concerns and supported the civic leadership as the process of resolving this long standing issue began. In question was the beach from the Lesner Bridge to Woodlawn Avenue (the undeveloped part) as the beach in front of the Water Oaks Condominium was no longer a part of the equation. The condominium property and the Aeries By The Bay land were part of the YMCA Camp that was a very viable summer retreat up to the years of World War II (this writer is not sure of the date it officially ceased operation) and for some unknown reason that stretch of beach belonged to the camp and passed to the purchaser who developed Water Oaks. When Aeries on the Bay was created the beachfront land was used for "open space" to allow the high density in that development. Upon completion of the development the developer deeded the beach to the city and hence that was the first piece of beach along the bay front that the city actually owned. The ownership of the beach was vital to replenishment since the dredging of the channel inside the Inlet is a federal project and the spoils cannot be placed on private property. The spoils from the regular dredging had been stockpiled on the "spoil site", now the new boat launce facility, and truck hauled to the oceanfront.

After two plus years of carefully orchestrated effort, the Ocean Park beach ownership question was resolved and in 1987 we witnessed the glorious sight of a dredge arriving off shore to create the most magnificent beach the citizens had ever imagined. Homes, including the Chesapeake House parking lot, were saved, one could walk the entire length regardless of the tides, and families from all across the city could enjoy this wonderful amenity. While the heavy equipment was still spreading sand the community came together for the first Sand Celebration Picnic at which time the many folks who had supported our efforts and came to share in the celebration were publicly thanked.

With so many wonderful things that we enjoy in our country, state and communities we can include and give our thanks to the civic league leadership that preceded us as we prepare for another summer season in our little piece of paradise.

Beach Sand Replenishment

I know we are all happy to see the new sand on our beaches that was trucked in from the dredging behind Marina Shores. And more is yet to come!

The Lynnhaven Inlet dredging project and beach replenishment is still moving forward. There was a delay due to a protest by one of the bidders and a review of the protest had to be conducted. The latest news received from the Army Corps of Engineers is that the protest has been withdrawn, but the bid is slightly higher than budgeted funds so additional funding is required. As soon as the additional funds have been approved and transferred, the contract will be awarded.

The Ocean Park Woman's Club

Judy Conners

The Ocean Park Woman's Club has been celebrating its 61st birthday during this club year. It is said that a group of women went to Louise Lyon's home (the former Three Ships Inn) for coffee one morning in 1944 and came away with a Women's Club – the rumor was this came about partly because the men were not eager to have the women take an active role in the Ocean Park Civic League! The club recently sent \$400.00 worth of prepaid telephone cards to the Red Cross at Walter Reed Medical Center for the hospitalized military members returning from the war zone.

The club is offering the Louise Lyons Memorial Scholarship of \$1000.00 to a graduating high school student who is planning to study to become a Registered Nurse. Applications are available in the Guidance Office at the local high schools.

New members are welcome to join in the friendship and fellowship – the club meets the second Wednesday of the month in the Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Building.

What we love about days on the beach (and don't)

The feeling of sand between my toes. Swimming. The sound of waves lapping the shore. The peace and serenity. Having to do nothing but lay in the sun. The sea breeze in my hair. Watching the children play. The natural beauty of sand, sea and sky. Making sand castles. The sun baking my body. The cooling waves that bury my feet in the sand as I stand watching the bay. The pure relaxation. The way the beach is never the same. Playing in the water like a child again.

These are some of the things we treasure about our summers here on Ocean Park beaches. What we look forward to all winter long. Rejoice, the time is here again!

Of all these recollections of why we love the beach there is not a mention of the noise of the waverunners or the smell of their gasoline. So this is a plea to all those who do enjoy your waverunners to be considerate of the rest of us who enjoy the peaceful sounds of waves breaking onto the shore and the smell of the sea and fresh air. Remember that your racing back and forth over the waves is an annoyance to us beach lovers. Be kind to your neighbors and go very slow while heading in or out, head straight out and stay far away from shore. Or even better buy a kayak or a catamaran. These are both more earth friendly and provide exercise, plus they won't ruin your neighbors' day at the beach.

Here's hoping everyone has a great summer!

Kristi Brown Emerson
President



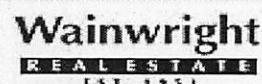
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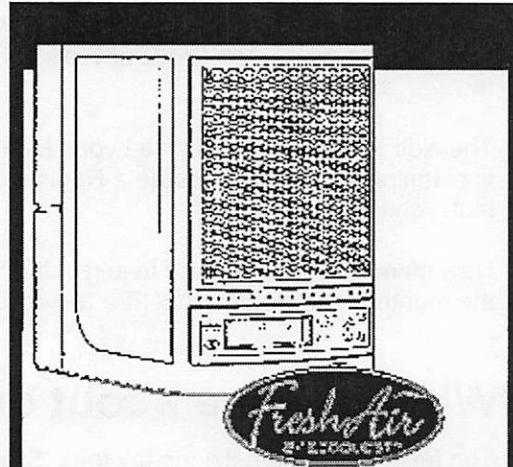
Thanks to Our Volunteers!

If you ever wondered who delivers the Ocean Park Echo to your home it is an active group of residents who volunteer their time to serve their neighbors. Next time you see them walking on your street be sure to tell them thanks!

The Newsletter Delivery Team:

Pelican Dunes	Walter & Susan Karlau Curtis & Susan Kelecava
Aeries -on-the-Bay	Gary & Jill Broome
Water Oaks	Jacki Byrtus Judy Connors
Northside Ocean Park	Doreen Rainey Jeanne & Marshall Callhan John & Betty Rehme
3 Ships' Landing	Ronda Morrison
3556 On the Bay	Dorinda Ennis Tommy Couch
Northside Ocean Park	Frank & Marilyn Buttimer Anne Kane Jackie Travers
Southside Ocean Park	Jackie Longworth Melissa McCormack John Wigmore Donna Epperson Eva Posey
Others who have volunteered:	Michael & Molly Page Kerry Beers Denis & Karen Bushey Francis & Paula Russo Cathy & Steve Carper Buddy Fisher & Lori Wheeler Mark & Mary Faust Bob Leavenworth Pam Lingle Ron Shaddeau Roswell & Deborah White Mike & Jennie Wells

We are currently in need of a new publisher for the newsletter. If you would like to help, please contact Carol Collins at 226-9433.



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WHAT DOES IT TAKE? A HEADLINE?

Grace Moran

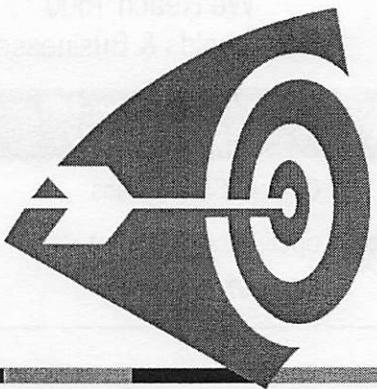
Not true. Yet. But the fact is, by the time you read it in the local daily or hear it on the hometown broadcast, the deal is done. Plans approved. Variances granted. Permits issued. You are left to grumble in a rage of helplessness that the City officials only listen to developers. But did you ever stop to think that developers are the only ones who are talking to City officials on a regular basis?

It doesn't have to be this way. The City maintains a Talent Bank, made up of ordinary citizens like you and me. By filling out a Talent Bank Application, you make yourself available to participate in City government, not just by observing, but serving on various City agencies, boards and committees. Before signing up, you should discover when and where the regular meetings of such groups are held. However, if you contact me, Grace Moran at 318-9224 or g_moran@juno.com, and let me know which area interests you, I will find out for you. Take a look at these opportunities:

Advertising Selection Committee
 Arts and Humanities Commission
Board of Building Code Appeals
 New Construction
 Building Maintenance
 Plumbing/Mechanical
 Electrical
Chesapeake Bay Preservation Board
 Francis Land House
 Historical Review Board
 Minority Business Council
Parks & Recreation
 Personnel
 Public Library Board
Resort Advisory Commission
Shore Drive Advisory Committee
 SEHR Disability Services Board
 Tidewater Regional Group Home
 Volunteer Council Board

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Beaches and Waterways Commission
Board of Zoning Appeals
Chesapeake Bay Alcohol Safety & Action Program
 Development Authority
 Health Services Advisory Board
 Human Rights Commission
Open Space Preservation
 Pendleton Project Management
Planning Commission
 Review & Allocation Commission
 Social Services Board
 TCC Board
 Towing Advisory Board
VB Foundation
Wetlands Board

I am not familiar with the duties and responsibilities of all these groups, but I have boldfaced the ones I think might make decisions of particular interest to Ocean Park residents. Doubtless, some of you know better. Remember, not all of these groups presently have openings, so please consider an initial interest in more than one. I know we all have full lives already, but most of us spend nearly two-thirds of our day in Ocean Park. We would not like to see our quality of life diminished, the unique charm of our eclectic neighborhood diluted. And if we make the time to talk to our city officials, we can preserve, in large part, what we enjoy here. The Ocean Park Civic League in the past has been successful in establishing enhancements: look at our beach replenishment program! Let's do it again. If everyone says, "Somebody else will do it, it won't get done!"



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 Office: 757.490.0524
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 Joankaup@aol.com



Zoning Variances

If you are planning to submit a zoning variance request to the city and would like to discuss this with the Ocean Park Zoning Committee, please contact Ronda Morrison for an appointment at rondamorrison@cox.net.

Ocean Park "Beach Party" August 14th 4 – 7 pm

Mark your calendars now and come join your neighbors
 The party will be on the beach by the new Dinwiddie beach access
 Good food and good fun

Election Officials Needed

The City of Virginia Beach is seeking Election Officials to work the polls on Election Day. You must be a registered voter, represent either Republican or Democratic Party and be interested in having an opportunity to be a part of the Election Day process. This is a paid position.

Election days this year are June 14 and November 8. Interest forms will be available at our May 5th meeting. If you have any question please call 427-8683.



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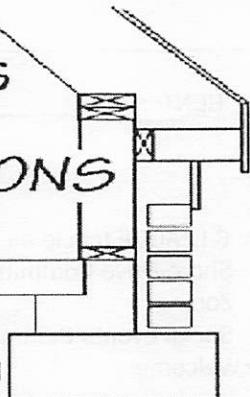
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Ocean Park Civic League

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

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

Call 9-1-1 immediately!

Get to the hospital quickly so you can be diagnosed and treated within 3 hours from when the symptoms begin – this will increase your chances of survival.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

05/05/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
05/19/05 / 3:30 pm	Shore Drive Advisory Committee / Bayside Rec Center
05/23/05 / 7:30 pm	Shore Drive Community Coalition (sdcc.info) / Ocean Park F&R
08/04/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
09/08/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
10/06/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
11/10/05 / 7-8:30 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/08/05 / 7 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/11/05 / 5-8 pm	OPCL Christmas Party

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005

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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
Newsletter Distribution
Traffic Committee

Shore Drive Committees Liaison
Zoning
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

We're on the Web
www.opcl.org