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February 28, 2006

Volume 10, Issue 2

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarters

Meeting Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Refreshments at 6:45 pm

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

Meeting Agenda

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes

Treasures Report

Zoning Committee Update

New Chair Person

Set meeting date for committee

Discuss N. Oliver Development

SDAC Update

SDCC Update

Meeting Date Change

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

New Business

Adjourn Meeting

We're on the Web
www.opcl.org

Ocean Park Future

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March Door Prizes—must come to win!

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

Have you visited our new website? You'll find it at www.opcl.org.

"The Future Is Now"

Grace Moran

A great ad slogan, but more than that for Ocean Park. This year, Ocean Park residents will be affected by three vital issues. Pleasure House Point development plans are sure to be heard this year. **New proposals by area civic leagues** will be going before the Zoning and Planning Commissions and City Council, with regard to the proliferation of duplexes and multi-family units this side of the Lesner Bridge. **Traffic and safety issues** along Shore Drive continue to involve area residents. There are ways you can connect to these issues. There are ways to be heard. But it requires that you put your whole self, not just your heart, into the issue. You must make it a point to present yourself to the people who hold your future in their hands. Two of the bodies who will decide these issues are the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the City Council. In addition, there are two powerful community organizations that will take your opinions before the governing bodies, the Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) and the Shore Drive Advisory Council (SDAC). The SDCC (Website www.SDCC.info) and the SDAC meetings are listed below, as are the BZA and City Council schedules for the next three months.

Check the Websites to see if there are issues that concern our neighborhood. Plan ahead to car pool and show up in large numbers to make City Council listen to us. You can *control your future* regarding development in Ocean Park. Do not shrug off this message and say nothing can be done. Our elected representative will listen, if you take the time to *make yourself heard!!!* It has been said that people deserve the government they get. Speak, and they will listen. Lie down, and they will roll over you.

"The Sunday Beacon is the "official" vehicle for the legal announcement of Public Hearings for the City Council, Planning Commission, BZA, Wetlands Board and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Board all of which meet in City Council Chambers in the Administration Building. The **Planning Commission** meets the second Wednesday of the month at noon and the meeting is televised on Channel 48. Reruns are shown the following week usually on Friday at 7:00 PM. The **Wetlands Board** meets the third Monday at 9:00 AM and the Chesapeake Bay Board on the fourth Monday at 11:00 AM. The City Council usually hears an application that has been heard by the Planning Commission the following month. The Planning Commission makes recommendations to council so citizens have "two bites of the apple" so to speak on Planning Applications."

City Council

Meetings are on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM and the meeting is televised on Channel 48 - the informal session prior to the formal session is also televised. The Sunday Beacon has the television schedule and the Council Agenda. Reruns of those meetings are aired the following week usually Thursday at 7:00 PM and Friday at 9:00 AM.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 pm in City Council Chambers preceded by an informal meeting at 1 pm. The next meetings are March 15, April 5 and April 19.

Continued.....

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Shore Drive Advisory Committee

Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm at the Bayside Recreation Center. The next meetings are March 16 and April 20.

Shore Drive Community Coalition

Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Ocean Park Fire/Rescue Squad. The next meetings are March 27 and April 24.

Participate in Clean the Bay Day

From: vbgov.com

Each year, tons of refuse, especially plastics, enter the marine environment from ships, recreational boaters, and land-based sources. This debris is not only unsightly as it accumulates along our shorelines, but it is a life-threatening hazard to marine wildlife, especially birds, sea turtles, and fish. In an effort to put an end to the problem of marine debris Clean the Bay Day beach cleanups have been conducted since 1989. The purpose of this annual, one-day effort has been not only to enlist the help of citizens to clean up beaches and shorelines, but also to quantify and document the types of litter found. The resulting data is then used to help identify and support policies and practices that address the use and disposal of waste, such as plastics. Perhaps the most beneficial impact of these projects, however, is the education of volunteers who participate in the cleanups and the environmental stewardship that results from it. More and more people are becoming aware of the marine debris problem and expressing a genuine desire to help solve it.

There are many ways to help. Educate yourself and the people you know about the marine debris problem. Become a responsible consumer. On boats or at home, reduce the litter that you generate by buying goods that are not over packaged. Reuse the items that can be reused. Recycle materials that can be recycled. Above all do not litter. Most of the trash collected during Clean the Bay Day is just plain litter items. These were either deliberately left behind by careless beach goers, or washed to our shores from streets via storm drains. Littering is not only against the law and an eyesore, it is an endangerment to wildlife. The future of the Chesapeake Bay and its wildlife depends on all of us "cleaning up our acts."

Volunteer for this three-hour Saturday cleanup which will be happening all around the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries each year, on the second Saturday in June. **Date: June 10, 2006** For more information on how you or your organization can become involved, call the Virginia Beach Clean Community office at 757.385.4104, or 1-800-SAVEBAY, or visit the [Clean the Bay Day](#) Web site.

Virginia Beach 2005 Clean the Bay Day stats: 1,982 Volunteer / 158 Miles Cleaned / 62,338 Pounds Collected

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Highlight of Minutes from 01/05/06

Grace Moran

Speaker David Hay, attorney, discussed his experience representing various clients including civic leagues before the City Board of Zoning Appeals, and has offered his services to us.

Reports from both the SDCC & SDAC meetings discussed their positions to push for short term safety fixes for Shore Drive. Mike Wills made a request for more residents to attend BZA meetings to make known our monitoring and objections on zoning issues.

Vice-major Louis Jones was in attendance and confirmed that the Sandlers have Pleasure House Point under a contingent contract but no plans have yet been officially submitted. It was reported that it is currently zoned for 1900 units and that tentative plans for the site are rumored to have 900 condos and 80 single family homes. Jones stated that he could be reached at 583-0177 with concerns or opinions and that he responds to all calls.

Deep Blue Marine has not yet completed renovations and landscaping at their new location and no Conditional Use Permit has yet been granted. **Karen Lasley, City Zoning Administrator**, can be contacted with any comments or complaints at **563-1264**.

A community yard sale has been proposed for possibly late April or May.

For the complete minutes visit our website www.opcl.org.

Highlight of Minutes from 02/09/06

Grace Moran

Guest speakers Billy Almond, a landscape architect, and Dave Jester of the North Virginia Beach Civic League (NVBCL) presented information on soon to be proposed R5R guidelines they developed along with an alliance of fourteen area civic leagues in the Shore Dr. corridor and with input from property owners, architects, realtors, builders, developers and the City Planning Department. City Councilman Richard Maddox who is assisting in the effort was also in attendance. To address the proliferation of new duplexes on lots of less than 10,000 sq. ft. it was found that all lots platted prior to 1974 had been grandfathered in and nothing could be done to prevent this duplex use as long as all set back requirements were met. That left them with addressing issues of size, scale, magnitude, parking requirements and city infrastructure to develop guidelines that improve aesthetics by such things as reducing the square footage on the third floors, incentives for making side loading garages such as allowing front porches into the front setback. They concluded by saying the group hoped to make these presentation to the Planning Commission and then City Council beginning in April 2006. (To see the slide presentation, visit our website at www.opcl.org.)

Mike Wills' report on the Shore Drive Advisory Committee (SDAC) addressed the proposal for rezoning for an 80 unit condo complex to be built on nine lots on Shore Drive west of the WaWa gas station. The same project was opposed by the Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC). The presentation to the Zoning Department for rezoning has been deferred pending completion of a Shore Drive Safety Task Force Committee study. At the SDAC meeting owner Eddie Sal made a presentation regarding his proposed restaurant, the Big Easy, which he stated would not have live music and will be a sit-down restaurant with low volume.

Anne Kane reported that information on the Shore Drive Development Plan could be viewed as the Shore Drive Vision Plan on the SDCC website at www.sdcc.info.

Liz Dyer informed us that the City has denied the OPCL request to adopt the two waterways bordering Ocean Park as they are private property. It was also determined that we could not adopt Shore Drive by Ocean Park as it is already taken and the bay beach areas are also not available.

For the complete minutes visit our website www.opcl.org.

**YOU CAN
HELP KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL!**

You may already have noticed or read about it, but the Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL), in conjunction with the Virginia Beach SPCA, has installed ten (10) animal waste collection ("Poop") boxes at beach access locations. OPCL has paid for the boxes and volunteers installed them. The boxes contain plastic bags for people to use in picking up their pet waste and disposing of it properly.

Now it's up to you, the Community, to keep this effort going strong by:

Using the bags contained in the box and picking up after your pet

Replenishing the supply of bags contained in the box — Next time you go for a walk to the beach, bring along any extra plastic grocery or newspaper bags (finally - a practical use for them!) and put them into the box

For further information, you may contact Ronda Morrison at 407-7782.

Update on City Beautification Project

Liz Dyer

Back in November of 2005, the Ocean Park Civic League voted in favor of Liz Dyer's proposal to adopt our neighborhood portion of Shore Drive, as well as the two waterways that are between Shady Oak's Drive and First Court, for trash pick up. A number of volunteers, including our president of the League, Ronda, rallied and went out, collecting trash Sat. Dec. 17.

Then the City Beautification Adopt a Highway/Waterway Department informed us that our portion of Shore Drive had already been adopted by another group. A few weeks later we were informed that the two waterways were private property!! Not to be discouraged, and at the suggestion of the City Beautification Dept/Adopt a Waterway program, we were assigned the Bay from Rookery Way to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. At the last Ocean Park Civil League meeting, a number of members stated that the Bay between those two points is private beach. This proved to be the case and now we are without an area to "beautify"!! This issue has not been laid to rest.... stay tuned!!

The Beacon will be writing a story about Ocean Park Civic League's successful installation of SPCA scoop the poop boxes. If you are interested in this, let me know.



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Thanks to Our Volunteers!

We are currently in need of a new publisher for the newsletter, a Social Committee Coordinator and a chair for the Zoning committee. If you would like to help, please contact one of the officers.

OPCL Volunteer Positions

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

Kristi Brown Emerson
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Do you have a catamaran on the beach?
If so, you might want to check on it. The
sand replenishment has resulted in some
boats being partially covered in sand.

SDAC February Meeting

Anne Kane

The Shore Drive Demonstration Project Phase 1 between First Court Rd and Marlin Bay Dr. is proceeding on schedule. The group is seeking addition funding for a "bike trail – walking path" on the north side between Bayville Road and the 7-11. They will proceed with the "trail" on the south side, the right-of-ways have been secured, and it hopes that the north side access will receive financing to proceed.

With regard to Live Oak preservation the City is working with the State and developers to encourage preserving as many trees as possible and does require all builder/developers to present a survey of all existing Live Oaks on any property that may be impacted by a proposal. Along these lines, the City in conjunction with a research group from Va Tech will be offering about 1000 Live Oaks for planting. The guidelines will be strict, but you will be able to plant them on private property. They are targeting April 28th (Arbor Day) and more information will follow.

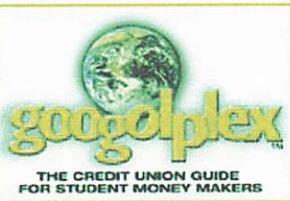
Zoning is and has always been a major issue along Shore Drive. The City has beefed up its efforts in enforcement including not allowing Deep Blue Marine to open for business until all proffers and zoning requirements are met. They are still working diligently to abide by the rulings.

The Task force representative noted that the local police have been more present regarding speeders, DWI, etc... They want more suggestions and participation of the Ocean Park residents. www.SDCC.info

City Launches Capital Improvement Program Project Status Web Site

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, the City of Virginia Beach launched a new online service that allows citizens to search and review the status and details of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. CIP projects pertain to the improvement of the city's infrastructure system, such as roadway improvements or the construction of public facilities (schools, parks, etc.).

The new Web site (www.vbgov.com/cipstatus) enables the public to search CIP projects by title (full or partial) and/or the specific project number.



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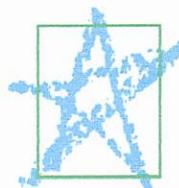
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To view the slide show that was
presented at our February
meeting by the North End
Virginia Beach Civic League
regarding new guidelines to be
proposed for R5R property see
our website at:

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Ocean Park Safety

There have been recent instances of discharging of paintball guns in our neighborhood, which is illegal. Regulations provided by the Crime Prevention Office (563-1757) from the City of Virginia Beach Code in regard to air guns, paintball guns, etc. are as follows:

Chapter 38 WEAPONS

Section 38-3 Discharge of firearms, air guns, etc.

Paragraph d

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm, spring-propelled rifle or pistol, or air-propelled rifle or pistol from, on, across or within one hundred and fifty (150) yards of any building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway or public land or public place within the city."

Additionally, Section 38-4 may well apply to those individuals involved.

Section 38-4. Possession and discharge of firearms, air guns, etc., by certain minors.

"It shall be unlawful and a Class 4 misdemeanor for any person under the age of fifteen (15) years to have in his possession or use any firearm, shotgun, spring-propelled rifle or pistol, or air-propelled rifle or pistol, provided that such minor may possess and use such weapons subject to the provisions of section 38-3, but only under the immediate supervision of any adult."

Parents, please monitor your children if they have such equipment to ensure no one is hurt or property damaged.

Another way for parents to insure the safety of your children is to go to the following website which monitors registered sex offenders: <http://www12.familywatchdog.us/>.

Recipe Corner

Grace Moran

Desperation Dessert (Fruit Cobbler)

1 stick margarine	1 16oz. Can of fruit or
1 c. sugar	1 Small bag frozen fruit or equivalent amount of fresh fruit
1 c. flour	
1 1/2 tsp. baking power	
3/4 c. milk	

Melt margarine in 9"x9" baking pan.

Mix together sugar, flour, baking powder and milk.

Pour into melted butter in baking dish. DO NOT STIR

Dump in fruit. DO NOT STIR. Bake at 350 for 1 hour.

I call it Desperation Dessert because it only takes 5 minutes of prep time, and you can use whatever fruit you have on hand that bakes well...apples, blackberries, blueberries, cherries or peaches. You could even make up the dry ingredients beforehand and store it in the pantry. Any kind of milk will do...whole, 1%, 2%, even half and half.

If you have something you would like to contribute to the newsletter, or a suggestion, please email it to: opcleditor@cox.net or call 226-9433.

We welcome new advertisers! The cost is \$35 per issue or \$150 for the 5 annual issues, that are distributed to over 1450 homes and businesses. Please contact the editor.


The Ocean Park Echo

P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471

www.opcl.org

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

03/09/06 / 7-8:30 pm

03/16/06 / 3:30pm

03-27-06 / 7:30pm

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

04-20-06 / 3:30pm

04-24-06 / 7:30pm

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

OPCL Meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

SDAC Meeting / Bayside Rec Center

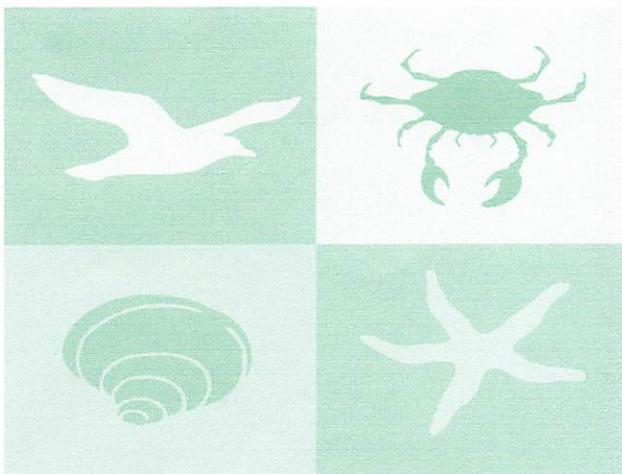
SDCC Meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

OPCL Board / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

SDAC Meeting / Bayside Rec Center

SDCC Meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue

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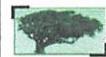


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Now is the time to renew your membership in the civic league for the calendar year. Dues are just \$10 a year. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and send it to our treasurer Ms. Anne Kane. You will be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

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Zoning

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Social Events Committee

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

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