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October 29, 2004

Volume 8, Issue 4

THE OCEAN PARK ECHO

Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 4, 2004
Ocean Park Fire & Rescue Headquarter
Meeting Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Be sure to come and bring a neighbor!

Ocean Park is a great place to live, under the live oaks and by the bay! Come to our meeting to learn what's happening in your neighborhood and to make it an even better place to call home. We gain influence with greater participation. We need you!

Ocean Park lies between the Lynnhaven Inlet and Baylake Pine, and the Chesapeake Bay and Pleasure House Creek. The neighborhood and Civic League include all properties within that geographic boundary including but not limited to Aries on the Bay, Water Oaks, Three Ships Landing, the Chesapeake House and 3556 On the Bay.

Meeting Agenda Highlights

Speaker: Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad President Kreg Kinney
Pot Luck Christmas Party to be December 12 from 5-8 pm – Judy Terrell
Pleasure House Point Developments – Dave Metzger
Stratford Property Status – Chris Hendricks
By-Law Changes to be voted on – View them on www.opcl.org before meeting
Zoning Issues Discussion – Chris Hendricks
Web-site Upgrade Discussion
Job Vacancies

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Door Prizes Galore at our November meeting!!

\$25 gift certificate to H2O Restaurant
\$25 gift certificate to CP Shuckers Cafe

\$25 gift certificate to Dockside Restaurant
Gift Basket from Vicky Schiano of Long and Foster

**Thanks to our neighborhood
businesses
for their support!**



Message from The President

Chris Hendricks

Greetings Neighbor! Regarding our upcoming Nov 4th meeting I ask a favor: if you have not come to a civic league meeting, come to this one. When you do come, bring some one new to OPCL. We need to grow membership and involvement to make things happen in our neighborhood, Ocean Park. Please do this.

In September, your vote allowed us to change an Ocean Park Civic League by-law (Article V, specifically) so that we could expand the Board. At our November 4th meeting, we are proposing you vote to approve the rest of our by-laws so as to modernize and improve them since the 1993 version. The draft by-laws may be accessed at www.opcl.org or by contacting any Board member for an e-mail version or a printed copy. Besides your vote, it is wise to read the by-laws. They will tell you what our purpose is.

With the Board expanded, we have collateralized duties and continue to monitor Pleasure House Point development via VP, Dave Metzger. In September, he wrote to the Mayor to express our interest in being involved in any planning process and to reiterate our wish for open space on at least half that land. We encourage every resident to write a letter to the city officials, and to make it easy a sample template and addresses can be found at www.opcl.org . Each of you who care should write! It matters to our elected officials when they receive them. Please write a letter.

Our 3608 Stratford Street property is in the process of having its title rerecorded in the OPCL name. First Secretary, Grace Moran, deserves credit for clearing the way to obtain clear title. We will restart the Stratford Property Development Committee (SPDC) that is analyzing the options. This committee's chair, Andrew Broyles, has continued to exceed the Board's expectations in getting the job done. The Board will make a recommendation on options presented, but it will be your full-session vote that decides what we will do there ultimately. We also should thank the SPDC for standing by patiently for the re-titling.

Meanwhile, our recently added Second Secretary, Ronda Morrison, has been tracking the daily staffing levels of Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad (OPVRS) so we can know the long term readiness of our local emergency services. The news is a bit disturbing but she is working to verify the data, understand its implications and organize it. It seems the city may be short of volunteers, explaining why 34 paid EMT's have been added to the squads. At the same time, we find no fault in our unselfish volunteers. They are the best. Ocean Park's Volunteer Rescue Squad's President, Kreg Kinney, will speak with us on this issue on Nov 4th and will start contributing to our newsletter starting with this issue.

Further, the Ocean Park Civic League plans our annual Christmas Party Pot Luck on Dec 12th 5-8pm. Bring your favorite dish and your kids, because Santa will be there too. We have invited the volunteers of OPVRS to join us. Stuart Terrell and John Wigmore are soliciting some food trays from our local restaurants to be donated on behalf of our volunteers so they can just come and enjoy. It will be nice to get on a first name basis with some of the volunteers. Judy Terrell and the new social committee deserve our thanks in advance for organizing this for us.

Editor Carol Collins and Publisher Jean Sleeman deserve plenty of credit for the new direction they have taken with our newsletter now named the Ocean Park Echo. Our next step is to sell more advertisements, with help again from John and Stuart, and to get our web site improved and more useful.

We are trying to form two new committees: Traffic Committee and Zoning Committee. We know many of you are concerned with cars driving too quickly on back streets and the dangers this poses or with zoning violations such as boats and trailers parked about or poor cosmetics, which are detriments to your property values. I will ask for volunteers for these committees at the meeting or you can call any Board member to sign up. If you could contribute 2 or 3 hours a month, we can make a difference in Ocean Park with two new groups addressing these issues.

As the Board extends best wishes to you and yours this holiday season, please come wish your neighbors and our rescue squad the same at the party on Dec 12th. Come to our next civic league meetings on Nov 4th and Jan 6th or come volunteer on a committee. Please bring a friend or neighbor to your next meeting. We need to make Ocean Park Civic League stronger and more cohesive. Challenges lie ahead. Be involved in your neighborhood.

Minutes from the Sept. 9, 2004 Meeting

Grace Moran, First Secretary

Highlights from the meeting include the presentation on the staffing at the Volunteer Rescue Squads, an update on the development of Pleasure House Point and possible action on R5R zoning laws, and the proposed Osprey Point Park. We voted to expand our Board to include representatives from Aeries on the Bay, Three Ships Landing, and the two high rises.

The entire minutes as well as the minutes from the October 7th Board meeting can be viewed on our website at www.opcl.org.

Treasury News

Anne Kane, Treasurer

Our computerized membership records shows that we have 317 names on the roster, yet only 140 of those are current in their dues through December 2004 or later. Remember dues for a household are only \$10 a year. If you are not sure of your status, please contact me via phone at 363-7321 or e-mail at OPCL-treas@cox.net.

The Treasurer's Report will be presented at the general meeting and posted on our website www.opcl.org.

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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.

Committees and Volunteer Positions

Special Projects		Susan Karlau	460-0291
Stratford Property Development Committee Chair		Andrew Broyles	621-2082
Shore Dr Advisory Committee Representatives (Additional Back up needed)	Primary Back up	Mike Wills Vicky Schiano	536-6682
Shore Dr Community Coalition Representatives (Additional Back up needed)	Primary Back up	Anne Kane Vicky Schiano	363-7321
Zoning Committee (Additional member needed)	Primary Primary Back up	Dave Metzger Anne Kane Jean Sleeman	318-9090 363-7321 328-2930
Attendance & Door Prize Coordinator		Vicky Schiano	318-9211
Social Committee Coordinator		Judy Terrell	318-7252
Traffic Committee	(Members & Chair needed)		
Youth Reporter	UNASSIGNED		

Updates and Reminders

Vote on November 2nd

Don't forget that our polling place is now at the Bayside Community Recreation Center at 4500 First Court Road. Voting hours are from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm.

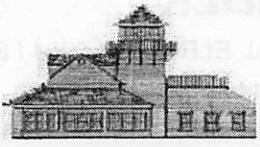
Come to our meeting to vote on revised Civic League By-Laws

We will be voting on improvements and updates to our Constitution and By-Laws at our November 4 meeting. Please review the proposed By-Laws on our website at www.opcl.org to be prepared to vote on them.

Classified ads in Ocean Park Echo

If you are a member of Ocean Park Civic League (the membership dues are a mere \$10 per year per family) 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.

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Ocean Park Civic League

P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23471

www.opcl.org

RECIPE CORNER

SALMON LOG

Ruth Manlove

1 package cream cheese
1 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. minced onion
1 (15 oz.) can salmon - cleaned, de-boned
1 tsp. horseradish (2 tbsp. crushed garlic can be substituted)
Dash salt
1/4 cup chopped nuts

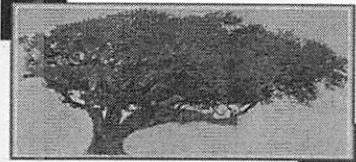
Let cream cheese come to room temperature and combine all ingredients, except nuts. Shape into a log and roll in nuts. Refrigerate for 4 hours before serving.

PECAN FINGERS (Great holiday cookie)

1 stick butter	1 tsp vanilla
1 stick margarine	2 cups sifted flour
1/3 c granulated sugar	1 cup chopped pecans
1/2-1 tbsp cold water	4 heaping tbsp confectioners sugar

Carol Collins

Beat butter & margarine 30+ sec, add granulated sugar & beat until fluffy. Add vanilla & water, beat well. Stir in flour & pecans. Chill in refrigerator for 30+ minutes. Shape into 1 1/2" fingers and place on un-greased cookie sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 25-30 min. Cool. Shake a few cookies at a time in bag of conf sugar. Cool totally and shake again in conf sugar. Makes 2 – 3 doz.



Ocean Park Civic League

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

11/2/04 / 6 am-7 pm	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2004 / Bayside Rec. Center
11/3/04 / 7:00 pm	Social Committee meeting
11/4/04 / 7:00 pm	OPCL meeting / Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
12/9/04 / 7:00 pm	OPCL BOD meeting / Chesapeake House
12/12/04 / 5-8 pm	OPCL Pot Luck Christmas Party Ocean Park Fire & Rescue
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
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: _____

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



We're on the Web
www.opcl.org

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

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

Disaster Preparedness Education

Bob Leavenworth

This is an invitation to volunteer with the Virginia Beach Community Emergency Response Team (VBCERT), a program of neighbors helping neighbors during a catastrophe. You can join by attending about 35 hours of evening training over a 4 week period. Courses are sponsored by FEMA and are managed by the Virginia Beach Fire Department at the Birdneck Rd Fire Training Center. Classes and practical exercises cover such topics as: Emergency Preparedness, Terrorism Awareness, CPR, First Aid, Fire Safety, Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology and a scenario driven exercise.

To enroll contact Cappy Meredith at 219-2874 or cmeredit@vbgov.com and if you have any question you can contact me at 464-4415.

Tips for a Safe Holiday Season

OPVRS

- Keep small toys, gifts, and breakables out of reach of infants and toddlers.
- Be aware that Christmas tree electrical cords may pose a tripping hazard if left on the floor or may be pulled on by children.
- Do not leave purses with medications in areas where they can be reached by children.
- Do not piggyback multiple extension cords and inspect all cords for cracks as these may cause electrical fires.
- Be aware that candles pose a fire risk if not handled correctly; they may fall over or be pulled over by children and start a fire.
- You may have visitors who have food allergies, especially nut allergies. You need to inform all guests with allergies to ask what is in the food before they enjoy it.
- When decorating for the holidays, be aware that tinsel is a common cause of choking for infants, toddlers, and your dogs and cats.
- Keep infants, toddlers, and animals away from Poinsettias. Even though it is not poisonous, it may cause them to be very ill.
- Check all carbon monoxide and smoke detectors to be sure they are in working order.
- Keep all stairs in your home clear of toys and gifts.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed, or when you leave your home.
- Please remember "Don't Drink and Drive", have a designated driver.
- Never leave cooking unattended on the stove and try to use the rear burners to help to prevent clothing catching on the pots that could cause a spill or burn.
- Always have a first aid kit in your home. Be sure it is stocked and everyone knows where it is.
- Always keep the draw strings for blinds and drapes high and out of reach of children. Children can have their necks become entangled and risk suffocation.



Joan Kaup, ABR, GRI
Office: 757.490.0524
Fax: 757.490.9002
Mobile: 757.860.1433
Joankaup@aol.com



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holiday season.



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Pleasure House Point and Zoning Issues

Dave Metzger, VF

Our most recent action on Pleasure House Point (PHP), the property on Marlin Bay Dr., was to write a letter to the Mayor and all City Council members to let them know that we, the community, would like to be involved with PHP and encourage the city to renew its effort to purchase as much of that land as possible for open space. The Mayor's response to my letter is published in this newsletter.

As for the controversial R5R issue, I would appreciate your comments and questions on this issue be directed to me at opcl-vp@cox.net or by calling me at 318-9090. A copy of the proposed changes can be downloaded from the Shore Drive Community Coalition website, that is www.SDCC.info.

Finally on to zoning, particularly code violations. Please remember that it is a violation of city code to erect signage in public right of ways and on city property. This includes signs in the median. Other violations that have been brought to my attention are For Sale/Rent signs, new business signs, trailered boats and trailers parked on city right of ways. There are some others.

We are currently considering the establishment of a committee to police and report to the city zoning department violations of these codes. Please know that it is not the intent of the Civic League to offend residents and/or new business owners or to make life difficult for anyone, rather it is an effort to keep the community looking nice. This committee would also contribute to zoning hearing and appeal efforts as a voice of residents when controversial developments surface. Let me know if you are interested in joining this committee.

As always, questions and comments and be directed to me at opcl-vp@cox.net or by calling me at home, 318-9090.

The Reply Letter from the Mayor can be found on our web site at www.opcl.org

Action YOU Can Take for Open Space at Pleasure House Point

Editor

After viewing the mayor's response to our Vice President's letter regarding the acquisition of open space at Pleasure House Point we should hope the best, but plan for the worst. If we keep up the noise level with our city officials they will be more likely to remember the desires of our community, their electorate. To help in that effort our secretary, Grace Moran, has made it more expedient for us to compose an effective letter to the mayor and city council by providing talking points and guidance to get your message across. Please access this on our website at www.opcl.org if you need ideas and let's all sit down and write these letters. Let's make sure our opinions are heard!



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Rescue Squad Corner

Kreg Kinney, President OPVRS

Most of you are familiar with Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad (OPVRS). Your civic league meets in our meeting room, you pass our station when you drive along Shore Drive, and some of you have even been unfortunate enough to require our ambulance services. But how much do you really know about OPVRS?

Did you know that OPVRS is the oldest rescue squad in the City of Virginia Beach? We were founded in the early 1940s as a volunteer fire department, long before rescue squads evolved. During the 1950s and 1960s we began to offer emergency medical service (EMS) to our citizens. Although paid firefighters replaced our volunteers in the 1970s, OPVRS continues to offer state of the art EMS services to the residents of Ocean Park and to all of the City of Virginia Beach.

Did you know that OPVRS is an all-volunteer squad? Every one of our 50+ members is a volunteer. Although the city's Department of Emergency Medical Services and the Fire Department provide supplemental city-wide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, all of our 37 ambulance crewmembers are unpaid volunteers.

Did you know that OPVRS members come from all walks of life? Our membership roster includes a Wal-Mart sales associate, several Navy personnel (enlisted and officer), defense and government contractors, paid firefighters from other jurisdictions (volunteering their time at OPVRS), engineers, school teachers, retired folks, and domestic engineers (housewives). Our membership roster is a true cross-section of our community.

Did you know that we always need volunteers? We need members for ambulance and non-ambulance duties in our squad. Ambulance crews receive free training. If you bring your willingness to serve your community, we will supply everything else. If ambulance service is not your call, we also have openings for administrative members who assist with other duties around the station including fundraising, recruiting, and community awareness.

Did you know that you can "ride along" with one of our crews? If you would like to see what a real ambulance crew does on an average shift, come ride along with us. You can ride for all or part of a 12-hour ambulance shift. You can watch, ask questions, read our maps, see all of our state of the art equipment, interact with our onboard computer, and do everything we do except touch the patient.

If you have more questions about OPVRS, would like to discuss volunteer opportunities, or would like to schedule a ride along, please contact our president, Kreg Kinney at 468-4709 (home) or 475-8760 (pager). If you would rather not call, you can just drop into the station anytime that the ambulance is not on a call. We are YOUR rescue squad and we look forward to hearing from you.



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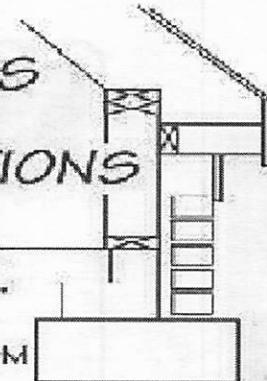


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