



Ocean Park Echo

**Meeting
Meeting
Meeting**

Thursday

Sept. 4

7 p.m.

**Ocean Park
Fire and Rescue**

www.opcl.org



Message from the President



Mike Wills

It has been another fantastic summer in Ocean Park, but not one filled with relaxation and leisure only. Many OPCL members and others were hard at work on several issues that could have a tremendous impact our community.

I want to give special thanks, particularly to those from our surrounding communities and organizations who helped Ocean Park oppose the Dredge Spoils Transfer Station at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp and the proposed destruction of wetlands and over development of Pleasure House Point. These battles are not over yet, but your efforts are making a difference.

Please take a moment to fill out the membership form and return it with your dues for 2009 — the stronger our membership, the louder our voice.

Expect budget shortfalls and belt-tightening

The City of Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) co-hosted a town-hall style discussion Aug. 6 to give citizens an opportunity to provide input into the City's 2008 Legislative Agenda, which the City will submit to the local General Assembly delegation later in the year.

All City Council members and most area General Assembly members were present to answer questions, hear comments, and provide a forecast for the coming legislative session. It was clear that budget shortfalls were the burning issue for both City and Commonwealth representatives. State Sen. Frank Wagner pointed out that at the state level, budget projections were based on a 7% increase in revenues and that such an increase was extremely unlikely. Consequently, the second most imperative concern, transportation, would again suffer severe funding shortages.

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jgroyall@yahoo.com

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Bayfront News

VB City Council to present alternate locations for dredge spoils transfer site in fall

Here are highlights from the Aug. 21 Bayfront Advisory Committee meeting:

1. **Virginia Beach City Council** will present alternate locations for the dredge spoils transfer site in early fall. It also will review potential long-term spoils locations for the other branches of the Lynnhaven River.
2. **The City is in final stages** of negotiating with private property owners for access rights to replenish the east side of the Lesner Bridge beach. The mediator has been the city-created "Beaches and Waterways Commission," not the Bayfront Advisory Committee.
3. **Phase IV of the Shore Drive** Improvement Plan is fully funded. This includes the design, acquisition, and construction phases. In light of tight times, this is a major accomplishment. A second citizens' briefing on the project will occur this winter.
4. **In addition to the near completion** of the West Great Neck sidewalk extension, a right-turn lane will be added at Jade Street to assist heavy beach access use of the intersection.
5. **We ask citizens to contact the 3rd Precinct** of the Virginia Beach City Police department to report vehicles that are parked or crossing the median near the Crab Creek overlook. These vehicles are destroying the recent landscaping in that area. Call 385-5000.

OPCL Finance Committee Update:

The Robbins' Legacy Account is nearly fully invested under the parameters established in the OPCL Investment Policy Statement. By month's end, the asset allocation will be approximately 28% equity and 72% fixed income/CD exposure as targeted, on a balance of approximately \$178,600. To date, \$1,000 of interest has been earned since March and available for disbursement to OPCL. Your ideas for funding of community projects are encouraged and welcomed.

Candidates' Forum scheduled for Oct. 1

The Ocean Park Civic League is scheduled to hold a Candidates' Forum for mayoral and city council contestants in association with SDCC at 7 p.m. on Oct. 1, at Baylake United Methodist Church. Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- Indigo Dunes
- Dredge Spoils Transfer Site proposed at the LBR & BF
- City Marina Rezoning
- Open Space Opportunities
- Shore Drive Beautification
- Beach Nourishment
- New Lesner Bridge
- Taxes

State Water Control Board Meeting Re: Indigo Dunes set for Oct. 16

After the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued preliminary approval of the Sandler's permit for wetlands destruction at Pleasure House Point in June, a vote by the State Water Control Board was postponed from July until the Oct. 16, meeting in Richmond. The rescheduling was necessary due to the tremendous amount of opposition voiced during the public comment period.

DEQ specifically requested "...sufficient time to thoroughly evaluate and address all public comments before going before the Board." Many thanks to those of you who submitted your comments and took time to attend the public comment session. Please continue to visit www.noindigodunes.com for updates.

Budget Continued from Page 1

At the local level, because of the Dillon Rule, Mayor Meyera Oberndorf reminded the audience that many local ordinances and improvements require General Assembly approval and that State funding shrinkage would require belt-tightening in Virginia Beach. Residents from Virginia Beach vented frustration over the inability of State legislators to come to terms over these and other issues over the past years. On a positive note, all representatives noted that the turnout for this event exceeded any expectations.



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Shore Drive Community News

Here are highlights from the July meeting

Here are highlights from the July Shore Drive Community Coalition meeting. SDCC is a diverse group of civic leagues, condos, and community associations located along Shore Drive in Virginia Beach.

- ◆ Second District candidate Glenn Nye spoke about his vision for service in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ◆ **NoIndigoDunes** (www.noindigodunes.com) reported that the first JPA is still languishing on appeal and the second JPA is still under advisement by Virginia DEQ. The next Water Control Board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30. SDCC has scheduled a planning meeting with Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lynnhaven River Now and Wetlands Watch to put together a plan for the hearing. Discussion was held to consider offering the City a plan for acquisition and use of the property, should the Sandlers be willing to sell, given their current financial difficulties.
- ◆ The LBR dredge transfer status is reported to be on hold, pending the City seeking an alternate site on and adjacent to 4338 VBB. In discussions about whether to send another letter to City Council supporting the effort to acquire the alternate property, SDCC President Todd Solomon pointed out that support of condemnation exceeded the scope of SDCC, as the property does not fall in its purview. Since no letter will be sent, the idea of joining with Saw Pen Point Civic League to state the case is moot.
- ◆ The proposed rezoning of the property on which the City Marina is located has been put on hold. SDCC has sent a letter opposing the rezoning, as the Marina needs no rezoning to perform as it has in the past and leasing the property to a private operator stands to lose the City the approximately \$50,000 that is currently earned. It was also noted in discussion that the expansion of Chick's Oyster Bar has brought a large influx of undesirable transients.
- ◆ SDCC Nominating Committee is still looking to fill the slots for vice president and/or secretary. Leslie Cornwell has agreed to remain as treasurer and Todd Solomon has agreed to serve as either vice president or secretary. Dan Creedon is chair of the nominating committee and will present a slate at the Oct. 27 meeting.
- ◆ The City of Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach CBCCO held a town-hall meeting on the 2008 Legislative Agenda. The City will submit the agenda to members of the local General Assembly later in the year.
- ◆ Final discussion was an issue raised by Al Strazzulo about short-term rentals in Lynnhaven Colony. Suggestions were made to inquire about restrictions on the length of stay relating to number of occupants, etc. Also, if tenants disturb the peace, the police will respond and that no time or decibel levels need to be considered.



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Zoning UPDATES

See the items below for an update on current issues affecting your community:

There are two new variance requests scheduled to be heard in September as listed below. Neither Virginia Beach City staff or the OPCL Zoning Committee has reviewed plans or issued opinions at this time.

2098 Tazewell Road, Unit 2 requests a variance to a 5-foot side yard setback (north side) instead of 10 feet as required (proposed elevator), Crab Creek Condo.

3559 Piedmont Circle request a variance to a 5-foot side yard setback (west side) instead of 10 feet as required (proposed elevator), Crab Creek Condo.

If you would like to express your comments and concerns or participate in the Ocean Park Zoning Committee contact Mike Wills at mandjwills@cox.net

Be A Crime Stopper:

Volunteers needed for Neighborhood Watch

Ocean Park neighbors have reported incidents of theft and vandalism of property and cars from the July 4th weekend to the present. We need volunteers who are interested in forming a "Neighborhood Watch." If you want to help, contact Mike Wills at mandjwills@cox.net. Here are two Web sites that provide information about crimes reported in Virginia Beach.

ePRO: Electronic Police Reports Online allows you to view reports for specific streets, neighborhoods during a specific time period and generate reports for the entire area.

<http://www.vbgov.com/epro/>

Spot Crime: View crime reports, and sign up for crime alerts.

<http://spotcrime.com/va/virginia+beach>



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There are **1,500** households in Ocean Park, and less than 200 are members of the civic league. Join or renew your membership. Dues are only \$10 per household. Property owners, residents, renters and businesses are eligible to join. Please encourage your neighbors as well. We need your support.

OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP FORM

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AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE OCEAN PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

Newsletter Contributions/Distribution • Shore Drive Committees Liaison

Traffic Committee

Zoning Committee

Social Events Committee

Mail this application with your dues (\$10 annually, payable to OPCL) to:

Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL)

P.O. Box 55385

Virginia Beach, Va. 23471

