



# Orleans Citizens Forum Observer

We Keep You Informed

**Nov. 12 Mini-Forum**

**"Frauds and Scams:  
Beware"**

Avoid identity theft and other  
frauds. See article below.

[OrleansCitizensForum.org](http://OrleansCitizensForum.org)

Fall 2013

[OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com](mailto:OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com)

**October 29, 2013 Forum:**

## **Homelessness on the Lower Cape** *How an 'ounce of prevention' really matters*

Preventing homelessness, a hidden but critical problem on the Outer Cape, will be the focus of an Orleans Citizens Forum panel discussion October 29 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 204 Monument Road, Orleans, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Helping individuals and families who risk losing their homes, because of illness, joblessness, and other setbacks beyond their control, ends up costing taxpayers much less than helping those who have actually become homeless.

But public policies frequently misplace priorities, spending money on shelters rather than assisting those who need a temporary helping hand. The forum will focus on how prevention saves taxpayer money.

Even though much less dramatic than stories of people—often mentally ill—living under bridges or in shelters, the plight of at-risk individuals receives relatively little attention. A weak economic recovery and government spending cutbacks amplify the problem.

Most Cape residents don't know the problem exists or how prevalent it is. More public awareness can realign policies and programs, leading to more robust and stable local economies,

stronger families, reduced crime, and overall less human misery.

Panelists will be Allison Alewine, Housing Assistance Corporation; Chris Austin, Executive Director of the Homeless Prevention Council; Merrill Blum, Executive Director of Nam Vets of the Cape and Islands; Diane Casey-Lee, Executive Director of Council of Churches Cape Cod; Jay Coburn, Executive Director of the Community Development Partnership; and Larry Marsland, Executive Director of the Lower Cape Outreach Council. Herb Montgomery, a financial expert who works closely with prevention groups, will be the moderator.

Tuesday, November 12, from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

The subject for this initial mini session will be "Frauds & Scams: Beware." It will feature Detective Lieutenant Kevin Higgins of the Orleans Police Department, who will cover the latest scams and frauds that challenge all of us as well as providing guidance on how to respond and what to do if we are confronted by these insidious threats.

The concept of our new mini-forums is to present focused topics, often with a smaller panel, during the day in smaller venues. These "minis" will not be recorded for later viewing, so to see them you must attend them. There will be ample opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

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## **Frauds & Scams: Beware**

***Nov. 12 Mini-Forum  
features latest law  
enforcement advice***

As a new format and source of important information, the Orleans Citizens Forum is launching a series of mini-forums, the first of which will be held in the Craine Room at Snow Library on

**The Orleans Citizens Forum**  
... an independent non-partisan organization that provides public forums on issues important to the quality of life.

## President's Letter

As I think about the Orleans Citizens Forum and its accomplishments, I must say it's an honor for me to have the opportunity to serve for the next two years as your President. I am a strong believer in our organization's mission of providing forums on issues important to the quality of life coupled with our principle of being independent and non-partisan in our manner of delivery.



OCF president Joe Cardito

Your board of directors is in the process of selecting this year's forum topics as well as planning for the next 3 to 5 years. Your comments and suggestions are extremely important to us and help ensure that our planning effort produces forums that are genuinely beneficial to our members. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, so please contact us through our organization's email:

[OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com](mailto:OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com)

Our plans for the near future include a forum on Homeless Prevention to be held on October

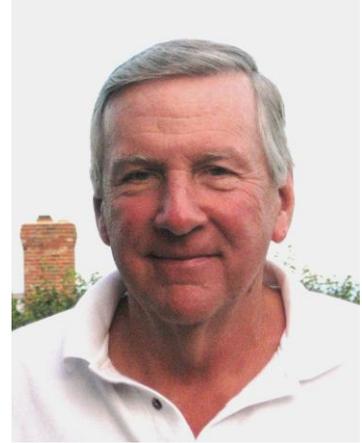
29, 2013. The focus of the organizations which will be represented by panelists is how to keep people in their homes. Those of us unfamiliar with their work might wonder about the relevance of the word "homeless" when applied to Orleans and surrounding communities. However, it is only through the success of these organizations that individuals and families are able to stay in their homes so that homelessness is not the issue it is in other communities.

In our quest to continue to bring timely and relevant topics to our members we are looking for less costly ways of delivery given that our budget is limited by member dues and donations. Our budget provides funding to present only three of the larger forums with audio and video recording. We plan to continue these larger forums. In addition, and on a trial basis, we are planning "mini forums" at the library that will not be recorded. The topic for the first mini forum is "Frauds and Scams: Beware" and is scheduled for November 12. Your comments on the idea of "mini forums" would help our planning effort and be much appreciated. See other articles in this edition of the Observer for more information about this "mini forum" and the Homeless Prevention forum.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support in making it possible for us to serve the community. I look forward to seeing you at the next forum.

*Joseph Cardito*

## **Kingsley H. Nelson Joins OCF Board**



King grew up and lived in Westchester County, NY, graduated from Clarkson University, and spent 46 years in the telecommunications industry, both at Verizon and as VP of Marketing and Sales for a telecom contractor.

He has been coming to Orleans for more than 60 years, first to his family's summer cottage and then moving here permanently in 2006. He is active in community and neighborhood organizations (Orleans Yacht Club, Nauset Neighbors, Nauset Heights Association, Federated Church Board of Trustees, Habitat for Humanity).

King and his wife Lynn have 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

### **Forum Calendar 2013-14**

Oct. 29	Homeless Prevention
Nov. 12	Fraud & Scams
January	Planning to Die
February	Financial Management for Retirement
March	Medical Marijuana
April	Candidates Night
May	Beach Closures

