

The Observer

Orleans Citizens Forum

Keeping the Lower Cape Informed

Visit us - OrleansCitizensForum.org

Winter 2015

Email us - OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com

ORLEANS Faces Major Projects

The Town of Orleans is investigating three non-school related capital improvement projects that will undoubtedly have an impact on its tax rate. The first of these is the Police Station Building which has been evaluated in the past. In 2008 a plan for improvement was developed but was not approved by Town Meeting or at the polls. A new Police Station Building Committee was recently selected (November, 2014) by the Orleans Board of Selectman and is developing a recommendation based on considering four alternatives: renovation; add-on; demolish and build new; or some combination of the aforementioned. It is fully expected that a warrant article for the upcoming May Town Meeting would request approval of funds to initiate one or more aspects of this project.

To provide an opportunity to better understand the plans for the Police Station Building the Orleans Citizens Forum is presenting a forum on February 19, 3:30-5PM, at the Orleans Senior Center. Panelist are: Tom Finan - Chair of the Police Station Building Committee; Sims McGrath - Orleans Selectman; Scott MacDonald - Orleans Police Chief; Gwen Holden Kelly - Chair of the Finance Committee; and Gordon Smith - Orleans Tax Payers Association. This forum is free and open to everyone.

The second capital improvement project being considered is the DPW Facility. The Orleans Board of Selectman has very recently selected members of this committee. The Orleans Citizens Forum will consider presenting a forum on the results of the DPW Facility Committee's efforts when those results are available.

The third capital improvement project being considered, which is fully expected to be the largest single project to be addressed by the Town of Orleans for the foreseeable future, is for Waste Water. The Orleans Water Advisory Panel has been working for several months to build a consensus water quality management plan for the Town of Orleans. It is expected that this advisory panel will have some results so that the Orleans Citizens Forum will be able to present a forum on the subject before May Town Meeting.

For links to documents describing these projects please visit our website at OrleansCitizensForum.org or contact us at OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com.

We are a non-profit organization, supported primarily by member contributions. We employ public forums and communications media to inform full- and part-time residents about issues important to the quality of life in the Lower Cape area.

Orleans Citizens Forum has several membership levels as shown below, and payments and contributions to this 501(c)(3) organization are tax-deductible. Levels of membership are:
\$100 for Patron, \$75 for Sustaining, \$50 for Supporter, \$25 for Family, and \$15 for individual.

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

Keeping you informed

Mental Health - AutismForum held January 15, 2015

The Orleans Citizens Forum held a forum entitled “*Mental Health – Autism*” on January 15, 2015, at the Orleans Senior Center, attended by over 65 people.

The subject of Mental Health covers a broad range of issues but one in particular — Autism — seems to be increasing in number or at least in its detection.

Our forum focused on adult autism and what happens when someone diagnosed with autism reaches 22 years of age.

Government funding only covers their education until age 22 and aging parents in their 60s, 70s or 80s are finding it difficult to provide the level of care they once did.

One local organization, Cape Cod Village, Inc., is trying to address this issue by providing housing in Orleans for autistic adults.

Our panelists for this important forum were:

- Mary Ellen Mountain – Head of Special Needs at Nauset Regional High School
- Robert Jones — President and founder of Cape Cod Village, Inc.
- George Meservey — Orleans Director of Planning & Community Development

Ms. Mountain spoke to the needs of teenagers with autism at Nauset Regional and what she sees as critical needs for these emerging adults as they leave high school.

Mr. Jones informed us about Cape Cod Village, a proposed 16-unit, four-home facility that would provide affordable housing and around-the-clock care specifically for adults with autism.

Mr. Meservey discussed how the proposed Cape Cod Village fits within the community with regard to zoning, affordable housing, traffic, site plan review, etc.

A question and answer period followed.

This project is only in its early stages of development - land has been procured and a preliminary site plan has been developed

A video of the Autism Forum can be found on the Orleans Citizens Forum Website



Speakers from left to right

*George Meservey
Robert Jones
Mary Ellen Mountain*

And a very attentive audience.

We Need Your Ideas!

Please share your ideas for sources of grants and donations to enable the OCF to continue meeting our mission. Email us at webmasterOCF39@gmail.com