

The Observer

Orleans Citizens Forum

Keeping the Lower Cape informed

Visit us - OrleansCitizensForum.org

Spring 2015

Email us - OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com

Citizens Forum Has Active Schedule

During its 2014-15 season, the Citizens Forum held seven separate events:

1) *Medical Marijuana* – September 2014

The panel discussed how medical marijuana centers are expected to operate with focus on the center scheduled to operate in Dennis by the William Noyes Webster Foundation.

2) *Preparing Your Life Folio* – October 2014

Speaker Robert B. Mauterstock addressed the question: "If you were to have a life changing event from which you could no longer provide guidance, what would your loved ones do?" A subject Bob stressed is communication between parents and children to develop an "international financial plan that works."

3) *Chat with the Chiefs* – December 2014

Reminiscent of a "fireside chat," Orleans Police Chief Scott MacDonald and Orleans Fire and Rescue Chief, Tony Pike, discussed operations of their respective departments and some of the general public safety issues addressed widely in the national press.

4) *Mental Health – Autism* – January 2015

The focus of the panel discussion was on an alternative for providing housing for autistic adults. Government funding only covers education until age 22 and aging parents 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.

5) *Police Station Building Study* – February 2015

The panelists provided information to develop a better understanding of the preliminary plans for the Orleans Police Station Building. Included was a



presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Police Station Building Committee which was chartered by the Board of Selectmen.

6) *Wastewater* – April 2015

Panelists included representatives of the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel who have been working since Summer 2014 to define approaches, seek consensus and build widespread community support for a customized, affordable water quality management plan. The panel addressed progress to date.

7) *Candidates Night* – April 2015

Candidates Judith Bruce and incumbent John Hodgson provided opening and closing statements and responded to a myriad of questions at a packed Orleans Senior Center.

8) *Annual Member Meeting* - June 2015

Over 700 attendees participated in these 7 forums as well as countless others who watched the videos of each session on the Citizens Forum website. Past events dealt with *Frauds and Scams*, *Beach Access and Nesting Plovers*, *Advanced Emergency Medical Services*, *Emergency Preparedness*, *Aging in Place: Obstacles and Opportunities*, *Homeless Prevention*, and *What's New for You in Cape Medical Care* among others.

Check the website for proposed and past forums, as well as video archives, at OrleansCitizensForum.org

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) 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.

President's Message

We have all heard it before. Each year seems to go by faster and the past two are no exception. But for the Orleans Citizens Forum it has been two years of innovative improvements instituted by your Board of Directors that has both improved operations and increased membership while reducing operating cost for presenting forums.

The Board has increased the number of forums from our traditional three to seven per year in addition to the Annual Meeting of Members we hold each June. These forums are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter and have been archived for your viewing by access through our website.

At the Orleans Citizens Forum presenting forums is a team effort and each Board member does his/her part in making sure that we are meeting our mission of providing topics that are informative and non-partisan and important to the quality of life in our Orleans and Lower Cape community. Our efforts are relevant to our community when we provide educational information of interest to you. Please share your ideas for topics with us. If you are not a member you can join on our website or by mailing in a membership application located at the back of this newsletter. If you would like to find out more about being a Board member please contact me or any member of the board listed in this newsletter.

If you haven't been to our new website please give it a try as it represents a dramatic improvement. Thanks to our webmaster, Kingsley Nelson, who worked with a web consultant to develop a user-friendly site for easy access to all OCF information including current and past forums. If you have any interest in working with websites or social media please contact King through our website.

Our cost saving efforts focused on reducing expenditures for advertising, mailings, venues, and audio/video recording. Thanks to Judi Weil, our publicity chair, who found a way to improve our visibility by concentrating on free web calendars and writing

articles about the subject matter covered in our forum topics for no cost publication in local newspapers. The need for mailings were also greatly reduced thanks to King for effective use of web notifications. Also thanks to King, we were able to eliminate our cost for audio and video recording by working with Lower Cape TV volunteers.

A special thanks goes to Judi Wilson, Director of the Council on Aging, and her staff for their effort in helping us use the Senior Center as a venue for holding some of our forums. Also a special thanks to Tavi Prugno, Director of Snow Library, for use of the Marion Crane room at the library.

As an all volunteer organization we are dependent on member dues and donations to continue to meet our mission. A sincere thanks to all our members for believing in our mission and continuing to support our activities. This past year, to augment member dues, we applied for and received grants from several charitable organizations including the Cape Cod 5, Rotary Club of Nauset/Orleans and the Orleans Cultural Council. Many thanks to these organizations for their financial support and belief in our mission.

Several of our board members whom I have had the privilege of serving with are also completing their term of office this year. Our secretary, Jeanne Hayward, with her impeccable knowledge of shorthand, produced meeting minutes that provide a detailed accounting of our deliberations and votes taken that were priceless for us and will be for future boards. Jeanne also coordinated several forums. Our Membership Chair, Sandy Davidson, showed us how to attract members and during her tenure our membership increased by over 50%. Last but not least, our Past President and Nominating Chair, Ed Daly, produced slates of candidates well qualified to carry on our mission.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President and I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting of Members on June 13th and at future forums.

Joseph Cardito

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at**

OrleansCitizensforum.org/join-us

We Need Your Ideas!

***Please share your ideas for sources of grants
and***

donations to enable the OCF to continue meeting