



Orleans Citizens Forum

Keeping You Informed

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Summer 2014

Email us - OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com

Orleans Citizens Forum Annual Meeting

The Orleans Citizens Forum held its 2014 Annual Meeting at the Orleans Yacht Club. This year the program included the annual business meeting, a presentation by guest speaker Orleans Police Chief Scott MacDonald and a member social.

It was an opportunity for members to provide their suggestions on the general performance of the organization in meeting its mission and on future forum topics that they believe would be beneficial to our community.

The business meeting included the election of officers and directors, approval of meeting minutes and the financial report, a recap of the past years activities and program plans for the coming year. A copy of the business meeting slides can be found on our website www.OrleansCitizensForum.org by clicking on Annual Meeting event.

This year is the 17th year since the founding of the Orleans Citizens Forum and the Annual Meeting presented the opportunity to recognize its original founders, its past presidents and the many who have worked so diligently to continue the organization's mission.

The elected officers and the board members for the coming year are:

Officers

President - Joseph Cardito (15)

Vice President - Kingsley Nelson (16)

Secretary - Jeanne Hayward (15)

Treasurer - Robert Renn (16)

Board Members

Hugh Andrews (16)

Eileen Bergquist (16)

Jane Chirgwin (17)

Edward Daly (15)

Sandy Davidson (15)

Jeff Roy (16)

Judi Weil (17)

Andree Yager (16)

Note: numbers in parentheses indicate year term ends.

This past year the Board of Directors doubled the number of forums presented from three to six by introducing the "Mini-forum." Mini-forums are presented at smaller less costly venues, may only have one or two presenters and are not video recorded. It was a major undertaking but one which offered more topics and information for the community. By all reports, including attendance numbers, forums conducted in smaller venues during the afternoon time frame were a terrific hit and the board plans to continue their use in the future. Forums presented this past year were as follows:

- *Homeless Prevention*
- *Frauds and Scams*
- *Aging in Place*
- *Advanced Emergency Medical Support*
- *Candidates Night*
- *Beach Access and Plover Nesting*

Information on these and other past forums can be found on the organization's website at www.OrleansCitizensForum.org.

The board has been hard at work identifying topics and developing forums for the upcoming year.* The initial list of forums planned for the 2014 - 2015 season are as follows:

- *Medical Marijuana Centers*
- *Life Folio*
- *Chat with the Chiefs*
- *Mental Health / Autism*
- *Candidates Night*

*** Suggestions for additional topics are always welcome and may be communicated to any member of the board or through the website by clicking on "Contact Us."**

President Joseph Cardito provided a brief summary of the history of the Orleans Citizens Forum organization and its founding members. It was back in 1997 that a group of concerned citizens came together to form the organization which was incorporated in 1998. Please click on "About" and then "History" on our website for more information about the organization's beginnings.

Guest speaker, Orleans Police Chief Scott MacDonald, presented the recently completed plans for the Orleans Police Department's five-year Strategic Plan. With the department motto of "Honored to Serve," the plan outlines goals and objectives to be accomplished. The plan provides a great amount of detail in describing how each goal and objective is to be met including an action plan, purpose and methods to measure success. The police department's "Strategic Plan" can be found on the department's website or directly through the link:

<http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/Pages/OrleansMA>.

Following Chief MacDonald's presentation, including Q&A, members enjoyed hors d'oeuvres prepared by the board and an opportunity for good conversation. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful time was had by all.



OCF President Joe Cardito tells the members this is the organization's 17th year!



Members attentively listen to Chief Mac Donald

Beach Access and Plover Nesting Forum

As many OCF members know, vehicular beach access by residents and visitors to Orleans during the summer months has been severely limited to allow Atlantic Piping Plovers to nest and raise their chicks on portions of Nauset Beach. In 2013 vehicular beach access was prohibited for eighty-three days during the peak summer vacation period. This prohibition resulted in:

- *Loss of recreational use of the beach by ORV operators*
- *Significant loss of revenue to the town related to ORV beach access permits*
- *Adverse impact on the summer vacation business in town, and,*
- *Formation of a coalition of Cape Cod towns to find a way to accommodate the desires of residents and visitors to access the beach without adversely affecting the plover nesting period.*

During the past six months this subject has appeared in local newspapers and been discussed by town residents. Concurrently, representatives of town government, advocates for beach access, and advocates for plover nesting met to formulate a plan

that would result in a win-win solution to this perplexing issue. A 361-page proposal was compiled and submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to implement a 'habitat conservation plan'. Since this topic was scheduled to appear on the 2014 Orleans Town Meeting warrant, OCF scheduled a forum on this subject so residents would have the latest information in hand prior to the annual town meeting.

On Tuesday evening, May 6, the Orleans Citizens Forum hosted a public forum on Beach Access and Plover Nesting in the Nauset Regional Middle School auditorium. The following representatives participated in this forum:

- *Dave Currier, Representative, Outer Beach Coalition*
- *John Hodgson, Selectman, Town of Orleans*
- *Scott Morris, President, MA Beach Buggy Association*
- *Dr. Katherine Parsons, Director, Coastal Waterbird Program, MA Audubon Society*
- *Jonathan Regosin, PhD, Chief of Conservation Science, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife*
- *Sean Summers, Selectman, Town of Chatham*

This forum was attended by approximately fifty OCF members and interested residents. Each representative made opening comments regarding their position of the issue. The US Fish and Wildlife Service was invited to participate but chose to submit a written statement that was read to the audience. Then the representatives responded to a wide range of questions from the audience. Those who attended learned that natural predators, not beach traffic, are the primary threat to this endangered species. Orleans was complimented for its successful plover management efforts and the US Fish & Wildlife Service acknowledged that the MA plover population alone has allowed the entire New England recovery effort to exceed its goal in the past three years. However, despite all this favorable information, the final decision on the 'habitat conservation plan' has been delayed past this coming summer.



Forum Panel - Left to right:

Bob Renn, Moderator; Dave Currier; John Hodgson; Scott Morris; Dr. Katherine Parsons; Johnathan Reaosin, PhD; and Sean Summers

President's Message

Your Board of Directors is actively planning forums for the upcoming season which starts in September. At the present time six forums are being organized and are summarized elsewhere in this newsletter. A review of the topics will show that it promises to be a very informative season. We continue to look to you, our members, for suggestions of topics that are of interest to you and would probably be of interest to many in our community. You can easily give us your comments through our website, OrleansCitizensForum.org, by clicking on "Contact" and typing your suggestions.

We made a significant increase to the number of forums that we offered this past September to June season, going from our historical three per season to six. This we believe has been very successful and we intend to continue. To accomplish this we must reduce expenditures for each forum to accommodate the added number. Cost reductions by themselves are not sufficient and we must seek additional sources of revenue. To this end we have embarked on applying for grants from local organizations. We would very much appreciate your suggestions for organizations that support community organizations such as the OCF.

Although we are seeking grants, membership dues and donations are our primary source of revenue. We thank you very much for your past support and hope you will continue in the future. Please consider gifting a membership to one or more of your friends as a way of introducing them to the OCF programs. Simply go to our website and either pay online or download an application.

Finally, the OCF wants to stay relevant to your information needs and fulfill our mission so please let us hear from you with suggestions for future forum topics.

Sincerely,
Joseph Cardito
President

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

Keeping you informed

Orleans Citizen's Forum Presents:

WHAT ARE MEDICAL MARIJUANA CENTERS?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S INVOLVED?

A panel discussion to be held on:

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

at

Orleans Council on Aging

150 Rock Harbor Road, Orleans

at 4:00 pm

In 2012 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved, through a ballot question, the legalization of medical uses of marijuana by a 63% majority. Subsequently Massachusetts approved 11 permits for distribution centers of medical marijuana throughout the state. The Orleans Citizens Forum will present a panel discussion on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 to address this topic. The forum will be held at the Orleans Council on Aging, 150 Rock Harbor Road beginning at 4:00 PM.

A panel of experts consisting of Robert Canning, Orleans Health Department; David Dunford, Orleans Board of Selectman; Jane Heatly, William Noyes Webster Foundation; George Meservey, Orleans Planning Department; and Chief Michael Whalen, Dennis Police Department will explain what is involved in the production and dispensary operations as well as the implications of a center within a community. Each panelist will briefly describe their roles concerning this subject matter. Following their introductory remarks the forum will be opened to a question and answer period.

This topic is very timely and the OCF forum will provide a good opportunity to become better acquainted with what is being planned for the operations of these centers. This forum is free and open to all Cape citizens.

The Orleans Citizens Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization which informs residents about issues important to the quality of life in Orleans and the surrounding area. Membership contributions make it possible for the OCF to present its programs.

For more information about this forum and others held by the Orleans Citizens Forum, please visit our website at www.OrleansCitizensForum.org or e-mail us at OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com

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

Life Folio

If hard pressed, most people would have a difficult time locating important documents and information in a timely manner if a major life event occurred. Even more difficult is the task that your loved ones would have if you were no longer able to provide guidance. How will they know what insurance policies or bank and investment accounts you have or how to access them? Will they know where the safe deposit box key is and are they approved for access? Will they be able to obtain your passwords to your online accounts like banks, credit cards, and utilities and be able to access your email in the event you receive important notifications? Will they be able to pay bills coming due? Preparing a Life Folio will help identify information that can answer these and many questions like them and may be one of the most important gifts you can give your family.

Robert B. Mauterstock, our presenter, had over 30 years experience working with hundreds of clients before retiring in 2009. Bob is author of "Can We Talk? A Financial Guide for Baby Boomers Assisting Their Elderly Parents." Bob will share with you the documents you must maintain and how to create a fool proof system to access them in an emergency.

Life Folio will be hosted and presented by the Orleans Citizens Forum on October 16, 2014, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Orleans Council on Aging, 150 Rock Harbor Road. Orleans. Standard FREE admission.

Chat with the Chiefs

A "fireside chat" with our Fire and Police Chiefs, reminiscent of the presidential chats of the past! The Orleans Citizens Forum will be hosting just such an event on *Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Craine Room at the Snow Library.*

This will be an outstanding way to meet the chiefs and learn about our Public Safety services firsthand. Orleans Fire & Rescue Chief Tony Pike and Police Chief Scott MacDonald will answer your questions and talk about these important organizations.

Chat with the Chiefs is FREE and open to everyone. Join us at the Snow Library on December 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. and for more information, see our website at:

OrleansCitizensForum.org.



Police Chief MacDonald



Fire Chief Pike

Coming in 2015

MENTAL HEALTH - AUTISM and the newly-proposed CAPE COD VILLAGE

The Orleans Citizens Forum is planning a forum on "Mental Health - Autism," to be held in January 2015, date, time, and location to be announced. Autism is reported to be a developmental disorder that generally appears in the first three years of life and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 1 in 68 children have been identified with Autism, which represents more than a doubling of cases since 2002. Here on Cape Cod, with our aging population and its own significant medical needs, many parents and grandparents find they face formidable challenges when education/services for school-age children with Autism ends at age 22 (per government funding). The upcoming forum will address what is needed to support adults with Autism and will include a discussion of Cape Cod Village, a proposed 16-unit four-home facility to be located in Orleans that would provide affordable housing and around-the-clock care specifically for adults with autism.