

The Observer

Orleans Citizens Forum

Visit us - OrleansCitizensForum.org

Winter 2015-16

Email us - OrleansCitizensForum@gmail.com



President's Message

The Citizens Forum has an aggressive schedule this 2015-16 season with 8 events. On October 1 we had an Update on the **Orleans Police Station Plans** that was well-attended and extremely informative. The November 18 forum was held at the Snow Library and afforded our attendees the opportunity to meet and question the new **Nauset Schools Superintendent**.

Our next forum is Tuesday, January 12, 2016, and the topic is the **Opiate Crisis** that is plaguing the Cape and the globe. This important discussion will tell us what is happening, where it is happening and what can and is being done. It will feature local public safety officials, state police and the Cape Cod Drug Task Force, as well as an emergency medical doctor and the head of Gosnold on Cape Cod. We will hear about this epidemic, its challenges and what it means to us locally. This is an event not to be missed. It will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Orleans Senior Center, hopefully to enable young working people to attend.

The balance of the year will bring us a presentation and discussion on the Orleans Village Master Plan on February 4, and Update on the Orleans DPW Facility in March, Orleans Candidates Night in late April and an Update on Wastewater. The season ends with our Annual Member Meeting on June 2.

The Citizens Forum is a great organization, run by a 13-member Board of Directors. It is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, all-volunteer entity that depends entirely on membership and donations. It is open to everyone and we try to present forums on topics that are of interest to the entire Lower Cape area. It is both a genuine pleasure and a rewarding experience to lead our extremely talented and enthusiastic board of directors.

If you are not a member, please take a moment to visit our website and join. We would value your input, too, for future forums.

Kingsley H. Nelson,
President

MEET NAUSET PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS NEW SUPERINTENDENT, TOM CONRAD



On November 18th, the Orleans Citizens Forum presented an opportunity to meet Tom Conrad, the new Nauset Public School System Superintendent. Mr. Conrad was selected for the post after serving 21 years as Principal of the Nauset Regional High School.

Approximately 40 people attended the forum held at Snow Library where Mr. Conrad presented his vision, goals and challenges for the school district. Among many topics introduced were the underutilization of the school busses, student school choice and how Nauset favorably fares in this issue, international student programs and the challenges and opportunities that these and other subjects create for the district. Mr. Conrad also discussed expanded foreign language offerings at earlier ages, expanded information technology, innovative class offerings and the challenge of recruiting and retaining quality teachers.

The Superintendent fielded many questions from the audience. To view the entire program, please visit our website: OrleansCitizensForum.org.

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 Police Station building project forum was held on October 1, 2015 at the Council on Aging in Orleans. The panel consisted of Tom Finan - Chairman, Police Chief Scott MacDonald and Selectman Sims McGrath. Extensive descriptions and examples of the condition, needs, and deficiencies of the current Police Station were shared by the panel including a brief history of the building.

In 1966 the building was constructed to house both the Police and Fire departments. In 1989 it was converted to Police only with 11,500 sq. feet. In 2006 a Police Station renovation committee was appointed and planned a 3-phase project. In 2007 phase one was completed - emergency (keep-alive) work cells, leaks, lead, asbestos, mold, and boiler. In 2008 the committee embarked on a total renovation plan to complete phases two and three and discovered that it would be less expensive to demolish and replace the building. There was insufficient voter support to move forward. Therefore phases two and three were never done.

In November 2014 the Selectmen appointed a new Police Station Building Committee, which consisted of Tom Finan - chairman, Bill Weil - Vice Chairman, Bill Stoeckert - Clerk, Jeff Roy - Member and Dale Fuller - Member.

In May of 2015 voters approved \$670,000 for a detailed design for a new building on the existing site.

Based on estimates made recently reflecting the escalating building costs there are strong indications that the cost will be beyond the \$10.5 million originally projected.

The architect's extensive renderings were displayed and explained thoroughly by Chief MacDonald. He indicated what features and where these areas were to be located in the building: Public shared space; circulation; Building Support; Administrative; Prisoner and Evidence processing/detention; Operations; Staff support and Dispatch. Both the Project Manager and Design Architect were charged with the task of getting an independent cost estimate based on the design presented.

In closing, Mr. Finan requested that we all be patient while the committee works its way through these logistics and stated that, "We believe your Police Building Team has produced an efficient design that will serve your Police Department well and the Town of Orleans can be proud of for many years to come. The only additional comment I can make with certainty is the need to move this project ahead is urgent, and the longer we wait the more it will cost."



Tom Finan, Chairman



Scott MacDonald explaining the areas of the new station renderings



**Orleans Police
Station Panel
(left to right)
Chairman,
Tom Finan
Police Chief,
Scott MacDonald
Selectman,
Sims McGrath**

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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