

# The PIER

## POA/AotB: Property Owners Association of Arundel-on-the-Bay

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

#### General Meetings:

Sat. Nov. 19, 2011

General Meetings are held in Hillsmere Library starting at 10 a.m.

#### Board Meetings:

Tuesday, August 9

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Board Meetings are held in Hillsmere Library starting at 7 p.m.

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## YOU Voted THEM into SERVICE:

Your June 18 membership meeting confirmed the election of the following candidates for vacant positions on the AotB **Board of Directors** and **Officer** ranks:

#### Board of Directors:

Alison Buckler

Wilma Coble

Katie Jereza

Michael Lord

President: Andy Grannell

Vice-president: John R. Moses

Secretary: David J. Delia

For biographical information on your new officers and directors, see pages 2 and 3 of the May 2011 issue of ***The PIER***. To communicate with them, see page 8 of this issue.

At its first meeting, the newly constituted Board elected Marc Apter as its chair.

From where we sit, the newsletter editorial team greets our new team of volunteers with enthusiasm. The roster has social and professional diversity and significant strength in areas crucial to decisions affecting life in Arundel on the Bay. Some of our leaders are recycling themselves for new rounds of service while others bring fresh perspectives into our debates, perpetual and sudden. As we consult them – and among ourselves – on such weighty matters as shore erosion and interior drainage, security of private and community property, the character of our community through its long history, let us please sustain the civility that currently prevails at our assizes and remember that our officers and directors are all volunteers who serve because they choose to do so.

The Community expresses its appreciation for the service volunteered by departing members of the Board, David J. Delia, chair, Roy Gamble, Helene McConnell, Joe Morrison, Sr., and by outgoing secretary Jessica Demers.

## **Andy Grannell, from the President's Perch: Want Security? "GET A DOG!"**

This is America where "we hold these truths to be self-evident -- that all men are created equal." That said, not everyone should be given an opportunity to succeed. I'm talking about crimes of opportunity. Every year stuff gets stolen and a lot of times it is stuff that has not been secured behind a locked fence or locked shed, or otherwise locked. Some folks don't lock their cars – WHY SHOULD THEY? Because not everyone can avoid temptation. They might even rationalize you did it on purpose to help someone out who thinks himself down on his luck.

I walk my dog about every day and am amazed at the bicycles, lawn equipment, and other goods seemingly left unprotected for that tempted person. In a way I find it pleasant that so many seem to have confidence in the honesty of their fellow man, at least in this community.

Recently I attended a meeting offered to officers and directors of waterfront communities by our Anne Arundel County Police. This is the second year of their Strategic Waterfront Education Enforcement Program (SWEEP). Here's the deal: since most of the waterfront communities are private, the police have limited powers there, just as their powers are limited in being unable to pull you over or enter your house without probable cause. But for security's sake, they suggest that these communities allow the AA Police to be their agent, to be able to enforce not only the laws of AA County but the rules of our community as well. So I signed us up. For example, a resident sitting on a beach picnic table at midnight isn't committing a crime but if our rules say no one is allowed on the beach after dusk, then that person is breaking our rule and can be asked to leave -- and a report will be rendered to AOTB. Should they find that resident again breaking the rule he/she can be arrested for trespassing which otherwise could not happen.

In the almost seven years that we have lived here I've heard of petty theft and minor mischief, but on June 14<sup>th</sup> AOTB had a home invasion during the middle of the day; valuables including inherited treasures were taken by thieves. Although some of this was covered by insurance you can never replace a treasured keepsake. AOTB Security learned that the thieves seemed to have "cased the neighborhood," determined a house vacant of people, and broke in. The investigating officer was again notified on the following Saturday when a non-resident property owner, after attending our General Meeting, arrived at his second home to find a screen cut, a window broken, and similar goods missing -- i.e. electronic equipment and other valuables.

What to do? We have explored posting a surveillance camera at the front entrance, which I had thought to be the only roadway in and out of AOTB until a neighbor told me that someone routinely drives a regular sized vehicle thru the Narragansett Avenue bollards (without removing the middle one) that separate AOTB from Oyster Harbor. Moreover, we were advised by a security company that a surveillance camera was not recommend based on the cost and the need of a security-sophisticated person to review the data. I asked Lt. Bruce Whitlow (the AA County officer who ran the SWEEP meeting) about that; he said the camera just told you who came into the neighborhood on county roads and who left -- not a crime and insufficient to obtain a conviction. If we were to erect a camera or cameras (even dummies), Lt. Whitlow advised that they should be erected on private property for less chance of vandalism.

Asked what was the one thing we could do to better protect our homes he said, "Get a dog."

## **Some reminders about our Community Rules & Regulations**

- All guests must be accompanied by a resident at all times – no exceptions
- The beach is open from dawn to dusk only
- The boat ramp is open from dawn to dusk only
- There are four steps to operating the boat ramp gate, not two – namely,
  1. unlock the gate
  2. open the gate
  3. close the gate
  4. lock the gate
- Vehicle parking is not permitted on any paved or paper street or any community area unless you have reserved the beach or you are attending an AOTB function

### **Should you note suspicious activity or suspect an unaccompanied guest you should:**

1. Contact our private security: Sheriff Mike Harris (410-212-4220) and/or
2. Contact our Security Chair Mike Adams (cell: 443-610-9952; home: 410-280-3003) and/or
3. Call 911 – even if not an emergency; the police constantly tell me they have just one number; the dispatcher will direct your call to the proper contact.

Andy Grannell

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## **AOTB Wins Grant to Work on Chestnut Avenue Drainage Problem**

Arundel on the Bay, in partnership with the South River Federation, won a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (which redistributes funds collected from the Bay license plates). The grant is for \$20,000, with a \$10,000 cash match from AOTB, for a total of \$30,000 to do design work toward addressing the drainage blockages on Chestnut Avenue.

The design project will fund concept designs for 4 to 5 stormwater management practices and the final designs of 2 to 3 specific projects, approved by the community, which will be pursued for implementation. Storm-water management practices are bioretention areas and tidal/non-tidal wetlands, all on community owned property. The primary objectives are to arrest and treat significant amounts of storm-water runoff in the area of Chestnut Avenue.

Everyone is invited to the kick off community meeting with the contractor, Joe Berg of Biohabitats, on August 9, 7 to 8 PM, at the Hillsmere Library (269 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis).

Please attend the kick off meeting. The success of this project will be greatly improved by your early input. You have knowledge of the problem, how the water flows and where it stands! Please come to the meeting and share what you know, ask questions, and voice concerns.

Contact: Julie Winters, 202 997 4240 (mobile) or [winterstime@aol.com](mailto:winterstime@aol.com)

Thanks to Julie for her ingenuity, diligence, and perseverance creating and shepherding this grant.

# **AOTB Community Picnic**

## **Music! Monster Water Slide! Moon Bounce!**

### **Beer and Grilling on the Beach!**

## **Old Photos in Your Attic Worth Big Bucks**

**Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 7 pm**

The AOTB Property Owners Association is throwing another great community picnic on the Magnolia Ave. beach Saturday, August 27, from 3 to 7 pm. A DJ with a high-end sound system will preside over dance contests for all ages (with great prizes). A moon bounce will warm up the kids but the country's largest water slide (21ft high) will cool off adventurers of all ages. Food and drink in abundance. Teams representing streets in the community will vie for major prizes in volleyball on land and sea -- as will the best AOTB historic photos.

DJ Roland Mills offers music for every age group with a kickin' sound system. Roland's mixing and scratching skills are sure to have everyone up and dancing. Dance contests for every age group bring valuable prizes.

The AOTB History Project is sponsoring a tent and will award prizes to the folks who bring in the best historic photos and artifacts in various categories. For details, see articles by Karen Neale and Pam Duncan on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

You can purchase AOTB T-shirts and baseball caps at the picnic with new colors and designs, produced under the leadership of Beach Committee chair Roxanne Veal. Let her know what you want. Call Roxanne at 410-268-7220, or stop by her home at 3500 Newport Avenue.

This year's picnic will include a misting tent. The tent offers a cooling water mist that drops the temperature by 25 degrees but does not soak those under it. Great relief -- and fun for all ages.

AOTB is providing a keg of beer for adults and will have the beach grills all fired up. Main course folks (see below) are encouraged to bring hamburgers or hotdogs with buns for 10 people. Covered dish main courses are also welcome.

Every family is asked to bring a dish to be shared based on the first letter of its last name. Last names starting with A through F should bring a main dish. Names starting from G through M should bring a dessert. Those with last names starting with N through S should bring bottled water, soda, and other non-alcoholic drinks. Folks whose last names start with T through Z should bring hors d'oeuvres. Each family will also be charged \$10 for ice, glasses, plates, condiments etc. to offset the cost of the DJ, Moon Bounce, tents, and Water Slide at the event. The association needs to bring these events close to breaking even to insure that we can keep doing them in the future.

## **Annual Picnic, August 27, cont.**

AOTB will be providing a porta potty, tables, and some chairs but you are encouraged to bring your own folding chairs. We will have some tents for shade and protection from showers. There is no rain day planned. The party goes on rain or shine. Please RSVP to [marca1030@gmail.com](mailto:marca1030@gmail.com) by August 25<sup>th</sup> so that we may plan accurately for the size crowd to expect.

Most importantly if you are a party person and would like to help plan games like volley ball tournaments with teams based on the street you live on, dance contests or water balloon toss with real prizes for the winning teams, please contact Marc Apter, Social Committee Chair, 301-904-3690 or [marca@gmail.com](mailto:marca@gmail.com).



## **Hugo's Beat: A Shadow POA – with real political parties and ideology!**

CHEWER of The BOARD: *Doberman Boss*, Mulch-Rakers Party  
BOARD BARKERS: *Cathy Corgy*, Libertarian Party: "Mark Everything!"  
*Leo Labradorable* Car Chasers Party: "Only Wimps Use Turn Signals!"  
*Jumpin' Jack Russell*, Voice of the Underdog: "We Got Bones to Pick"  
*Patrick Poodle*, Liberal Party: "Free Cookies and Shady Sidewalks!"  
*Solomon Shepherd*, Conservative Party: "Evict Undocumented Strays!"  
*Debra Dalmatian*, Green Party: "Save the Bay: More Poop Pots!"

PRESIDENT: *Shamus the Bear*, Accountability Party: "Rules are in your favor!"  
VICE-PRESIDENT: *Princess Papillon*: Bayside Barkers: "Don't mow my salad bowl!"  
SECRETARY: *Irish O'Setter*: Fences Party: "Name and serial numbers, please!"  
TREASURER: *Furrier Terrier*: Independent: "Pure as the driven snow (in July)!"



*Looking east on Magnolia Avenue, ca. 1892.*

*Courtesy of Wilma Coble*

## **The ARUNDEL-ON-THE-BAY HISTORY PROJECT**

Since February of this year, a dozen of your neighbors have been working to uncover the history of our community—finding some surprises including a major fire that wiped out all but five homes. \ At monthly brunch meetings under the leadership and hospitality of Board Chair Marc Apter, stories are exchanged and research reported. We propose to publish a book with an accompanying video to integrate the on-going oral history filed on the AOTB website.

An outline for the book has been developed and responsibility fixed for the various chapters:

Chapter 1 - Geology, Native American and Colonial Life. Philip Allen

Chapter 2 - The Gay 90's: Victorian Era Summers at Arundel-on-the-Bay. Pamela Duncan

Chapter 3 - The Wars and the Depression: Arundel on the Bay From 1914 to 1949. Karen Neale

Chapter 4 - The Era of Social Change: Life in the Fifties and Sixties. Aris T. Allen, Jr., Errol E. Brown, Sr., and Errol L. Brown

Chapter 5 - Guests of the Bay: Adapting to the Environment. Roy Karten

Chapter 6 - The Last 50 Years. John Moses.

Also contributing are committee members Wilma Coble, David Delia, Edie Dolberg, Ed Johnson, Billie Keyes, Fern Underdue, Nancy Weller, and Marc Apter, chair.

Our group is now combing materials in area libraries and seeking out local historians. We encourage you to join, or to contact us with information and/or photographs. All sources are being mined; for example, on July 30 several of us will be attending the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of AOTB Resident Thelma Sparks to glean history from the guests.

We'd like to hear from you! Please visit our History Tent at the community picnic on August 27. Think about competing in a contest to submit materials in various categories as described on page 7 by Karen Neale. Photographs of events, our environment, your family and home; a history of the ownership of your house; or an artifact found would be of great interest. Please contact any of us or join us at the next meeting -- Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 1292 Magnolia Avenue at 10:00 a.m.

**Pamela Duncan**

**Karen Neale** of the History Committee Urges You to **SHARE AOTB HISTORY AND WIN-WIN**

Do you have a photo, memoir, or artifact from “the old days” to add to our AOTB History Project? We think many property owners and residents have items that could help tell the story of our community. Accordingly, between now and August 27<sup>th</sup>—the day of the Family Picnic—you can enter a **Contest** for the best photograph, artwork, or other depiction in the following categories:

- Gatherings of Residents
- Oldest Standing Structures
- Art-Work Depicting Life at AOTB
- Maps of AOTB
- Miscellaneous (you pick the topic).
- Most Amusing Depiction
- Architecture from Yesteryear
- Photo or Video Depicting Life at AOTB
- Water Scenes Identifiable to AOTB

It would be ideal if before the 27<sup>th</sup> you could lend the item to the History Project for consideration; items should be labeled with your name, address, telephone, and e-mail and sent to Marc Apter at 1292 Magnolia Avenue. Or else scan a photo, map, or picture of an artifact, architecture, or standing structure and e-mail it to Marc at [marca1030@gmail.com](mailto:marca1030@gmail.com), phone 301-904-3690. You can be sure that your items will receive the utmost care! They will be returned within one week after being copied via scanner. Prizes for “Best” in each category are awarded at the picnic on August 27<sup>th</sup>; winners will receive \$25 gift certificates courtesy of Homestead Gardens. Contestants need not be present to win.

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**Board member Mike Lord reports on *The Reserve at Quiet Waters***

At a meeting on July 21, the Planning Commission of the City of Annapolis considered the proposal of Chesapeake Realty Partners to develop a 39-acre site near the entrance to Quiet Waters Park, on Annapolis Neck Road. The plans call for 86 single-family homes and 72 town houses. Approximately 40 citizens showed up to voice their concerns over the project. The meeting ended after midnight with the Commission postponing presentation of the plans until September 1.

Annapolis Neck Road used to connect with Hillsmere Drive, just east (toward the Exxon Station) of the Park entrance. The road was closed off around the time the park opened up. You can get through by bike/on foot; the road runs behind the Beechwood Hill community and comes out on Forest Drive about halfway between Hillsmere Drive and Tyler Ave.

Discussion on *The Reserve* focused on its anticipated impact on traffic. Mayor Josh Cohen expressed concern that the project should not aggravate Forest Drive traffic problems. A consultant hired by the developer presented the results of a traffic study that assessed the potential impact of the development on several Forest Drive intersections – with Hillsmere, Tyler, Gemini, Spa, and Hilltop -- as less than 2 percent (or 3 seconds per vehicle). The exception is Annapolis Neck Road which will carry a serious increase in traffic and is at present without a traffic signal.

There are three options under consideration for access from the proposed *Reserve* to Forest Drive: (1) add a signal at the intersection of Annapolis Neck Road and Forest Drive; (2) make geometric changes to improve sight distances, allowing traffic to exit from Annapolis Neck Road without the addition of a traffic signal; (3) add a road that would link Annapolis Neck Road to Hillsmere Drive, with traffic then entering Forest Drive from Hillsmere Drive. This decision will ultimately be determined by the County, which has various questions about each option.

Property Owners Association of Arundel on the Bay

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