

Not today or tomorrow, **but soon**.

What's that? The outlook for everlasting world peace? Not quite. But it *is* a statement of fact about the increasing effectiveness of plans to mitigate our chronic Arundel-on-the-Bay drainage problems. Simply put, things are gonna get better, for everyone, but cautious optimism is advised.

We are well on the way toward reducing our **collective** stormwater retention during moderate rain events and will further improve water flow to the bay during downpours, but fixing that monster puddle in your backyard, well, that may still be the individual homeowners' responsibility.

Over the past several years, POA-AOTB officers, board members, and other volunteers have accomplished a gradual improvement, most notably with the 2014 completion of the Chestnut Avenue watershed project that is already helping properly retain some water and drain the rest affecting almost 40% of our peninsula. Several smaller projects accomplished by, and in cooperation with, Anne Arundel County's Department of Public Works (DPW) have since improved the areas along Magnolia and Saratoga, Rockway and Saratoga, Walnut and Narragansett, and Newport and Redwood to name only a few.

But more, much more, needs to be done to come close to fixing what some of us inadvertently made worse ourselves by filling in drainage swales and eliminating connecting pipes and catch basins. The occasional trash truck has also crushed some pipes, but all of these actions have collectively resulted in impeded water flow and that has translated into much bigger roadside puddles, inundated streets, and in winter, some unexpected ice-skidding for our cars.

What to do? Well, in the spring of 2017, your dedicated DPW personnel, who had been answering our calls on an ad hoc basis for years, decided to work with us to plan a more systematic approach that addressed the worst of our water flow issues along our **mostly** north/south roads. That plan, which will almost certainly total over a million bucks to complete, included a bunch of stuff already done and a ton more stuff that you'll see being accomplished next spring and for the next several months thereafter. The improvements you may have noticed so far include roadside swales dug, rock-lined or reseeded—and don't call them ditches, it disrespectful of a simple but invaluable structure that's essential to proper water flow—old pipes repaired, new pipes laid, corner catch-basins repaired or installed, and driveways resurfaced. DPW's work began at the northern end of Newport and Rockway, but falling leaves, a very limited staff (only 22 folks to serve all of our southern county's roads), and a very meager budget (something **you** might want to urge your new council person to remedy, hmmm?) slowed work considerably.

Your neighbor-volunteers have also been busy coordinating and helping prioritize our county's efforts as well as planning for the future, that is **after** DPW has waved their magic backhoes and earth movers and we are still left with problem areas along the mostly east/west roads that fall to us to fix. That effort will be guided by a professional, contractor-performed drainage study

that will probably cost us around \$35,000. After seeing this essential, skin-in-the-game proof that we're serious about helping ourselves—a strategy that worked very well for us in 2013 with respect to the Chestnut Avenue project—we'll be needing some talented grant writers to help us secure funds for these big-ticket improvements. (Any volunteers here, hmmm?)

To those of you who have been at any of our recent—within the past half-decade—General Membership Meetings, this issue has been frequently discussed and significant progress has been reported. Most recently, on 29JAN19 four AOTB officers and board members met with four county officials and three concerned neighbors (see notes on our website at [http.....](http://www.aotb.org)) to discuss yesterday, today, and most importantly, tomorrow. That's what some of us are up to; so what kind of “skin-in-our-game” can you help supply? Gimme a call or send an email and get involved in helping us all help each other—***it's what neighbors do.***

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