

The PIER

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

SEPTEMBER 2014

General Meetings:

Saturday, Nov. 22
12.30 – 2.30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10

10 a.m. Hillsmere Library

Board Meetings:

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Tuesday, Nov. 11

7 p.m. Hillsmere Library

Tuesday, Dec. 9

7 p.m. chez Delia

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THE BUDGET ON YOUR MIND, IN YOUR HANDS

After election day, November traditionally conveys harvests and Thanksgiving, including – normally, anyway – Arundel on the Bay's financial crop; we give functional thanks that month for the community's annual tax allocation from Anne Arundel County. In addition to relief for this year's access into the black, the AotB Board and officers encourage all of us to think smartly ahead. What should they be sure to fund in the community's next budget – for FY2016, applicable from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016? Our budget request for that year must reach County supervisors by late January so the Board has to present its proposals for membership approval at our January 10, 2015 meeting. That will be our last chance to prescribe how we support our streets, shores, beach, playground, and newly installed drainage swales, among other vital assets (not excluding this humble newsletter).

To prepare that budget proposal, our leaders need advice from the membership. That's the essential purpose of the November 22 General Meeting. Your attendance is vital for this purpose, so don't hesitate to entertain some Big Ideas, including your own, during that debate. To nourish this physical and spiritual check-up, you also get morning refreshments, on the house.

We're also required at this meeting to choose a Nominations and Elections Committee that will prepare a slate of candidates for next June's election. Please remember that all posts (Board, officers, committees) are filled by unpaid volunteers. They do their work willingly and usually with pleasure – certainly with enjoyment for the company they keep. If it's your turn, that's another good reason to be present on Saturday, November 22. All this gives additional meaning to Thanksgiving Day.

From David Delia's presidential desk:

Got any Swales? Keep them clear.

Given the torrential rains over recent weeks, we're reminding all homeowners that it's in their best interest to keep the swales (indentations in the road shoulders) alongside their properties clear; while you're at it, do keep any underground pipes or catch basins open and in good repair. The County is charged with doing major work along our main north-south streets, so contact them if necessary (DPW 410-222-7940; <http://www.aacounty.org/DPW/ContactDPW.cfm#.U-w9GlaFeHY>). Our new drainage project has alleviated many problems already, but your best bet for smaller clogs is to grab a rake and clear out the debris to keep the water flowing properly.

AOTB Directory nearing completion.

Thanks to the major efforts of several of your dedicated neighbors, our new community directory is nearing completion. Not simply a rehash of the very spotty county tax roles, this AOTB-specific contact list is Google-searchable and as current as we could make it. Designed from the start as a secure and living research tool to help everyone keep in touch with everyone else, it's primarily intended to be accessed and maintained in the members only sector of our website (call an officer if you don't have the code). Since printing and mailing costs can be pretty onerous for over 300 families we will print hard copies only if needed by folks with limited access to computer technology. So, if you want your own copy either mailed (if you're living elsewhere) or hand delivered locally let us know by contacting **Sheri Reno** at sherireno@verizon.net or (410) 224-5518.

From Alison Buckler, Board personage and Bay pilot:

Hallowed Festivities

Trick-or-Treat time is approaching fast, and we expect a fabulous renewal of a hallowed AOTB tradition. This year the Morrison family will host our third annual AOTB pre-trick-or-treat party on Friday, October 31 at 5 p.m. at 3523 Rockway Avenue. THANK YOU, MORRISONS! The celebration is open to the community, at the cost of \$10/family for pizza and soda. The sponsors need a head count, so if you plan to attend, please email: AOTBEVENTS@gmail.com, noting the number of participants from your family.

If you're planning to provide treats to mysterious visitors on Hallowe'en, thank you. But to avoid recurrence of unpleasant surprises when porch lights failed to distinguish participating residences from others, please email AOTBEVENTS@gmail.com to receive an identifying "object" to be put out that night. For security purposes, the object's identity will emerge via email blast in mid-October only and no map of participating residences will ever be issued. Have huge fun on the 31st!

Draining the bogs off AOTB

It's official: our new drainage project in the west-central part of Arundel-on-the-Bay and the infrastructure work along Magnolia Ave worked like a charm last month. These professionally engineered projects were accomplished thanks to the work of neighbor Julie Winters, the South River Federation, the County's Master Watershed Stewardship Academy and Department of Public Works, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, State Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Critical Area Commission, and volunteers from Keller-Williams Realty. As recorded in *The Pier's* May 2014 issue (and previous), these environmental agents collaborated on a massive, multifaceted storm-water runoff mitigation effort along Newport and Chestnut Avenues and the living shoreline at Fishing Creek. After their first big challenge with four inches of rain on August 12, the levees held and the water trickling into the bay ran clear.

Although our project is barely a half-year old, and its essential plantings have only just taken root to "do their jobs," we've already seen positive results and look forward to many more. We also anticipate more productive relationships with SRF, DPW, and DNR in our collective quest to bring back our healthy Bay and its living environment.

All our drainage is connected, although it is sometimes difficult to see the larger picture if you're in any specific puddle. Some important remedies were less noticeable than the Newport/Chestnut Avenue complex. The County's infrastructure team saved us money at the southern end of our fair community where uncontrolled runoff may have been at least partly responsible for the decaying bulkhead by the derelict pink mansion.

David Delia

AOTB Live in Color!

Are you interested in exploring formation of a community garden club? If so, you're invited to take coffee at Pamela Duncan's home, 1362 Myrtle Avenue, on Saturday, October 11, at 10 a.m.

Possibilities include beautification of community property; exchange of plants, techniques, and ideas among residents; scheduling events on topics related to gardening; obtaining information and advice from master gardeners, the Cooperative Extension Service, and other community resources.

RSVP to 410-267-6611, or to: pjtduncan@verizon.net.

[Editor's Note: If like Hugo's canine cohorts you've missed the authentic dog's barque in recent issues of *The Pier*, attribute his silence to the need for austerity in the administrative budget. Hugo's absence from the public has even turned him aggressive on the leash. Look for his barque in a forthcoming issue.]

BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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