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# THE PIER

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Property Owners Association of Arundel-on-the-Bay

## AOTB Blurbs

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### Spring General Meeting

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*Saturday, April 13  
10am - 12pm  
Pip Moyer Recreation  
Center - Room #1*

We will be taking nominations for those Officers and Board of Directors' positions that are open for election in June.

### Summer General Meeting

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*Saturday, June 15  
10am - 12pm  
Pip Moyer Recreation  
Center - Room #1*

#### **ELECTIONS!**

We will be voting for candidates to fill all open Officers and Board of Directors' positions!

## Message From Our Association President

As of this writing, spring hasn't yet sprung and snow continues to fall here and there. When snow isn't falling, it seems it's raining. Many people have puddles in their back yards that seem almost permanent.

This is why David Delia's interaction with our County on drainage is so important. Please heed his updates on meetings and progress to keep yourself informed. As neighborhood wide projects are undertaken, we will notify the community.

Thanks also to Alan Hinman, who has worked with our vendor to ensure roads are cleared and plowed. As we head into better weather, Alan will resume the task of having road repairs made to make traveling through our neighborhood as smooth as possible.

At times our vendors, including plowing, have time to take on additional customers. If you would like contact information for any AOTB vendor, please email [info@arundelonthebay.org](mailto:info@arundelonthebay.org).

I hope to see you at our next General Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 13th at the Pip Moyer Rec Center, Meeting Room #1 at 10am. We will be accepting nominations for elections—an important spring meeting that everyone should attend.

Until next time, stay warm!

**Dawn Davis, POA-AOTB President**

# Back On Track!

*By David Delia, POA-AOTB Board Member*

At last, after several years of costly financial expenditures on other neighborhood issues, we can resume our efforts to make AOTB an even more beautiful and user-friendly place than it already is. Not that we've neglected the most important aspects of maintaining our peninsula as a real "Land of Pleasant Living." Take for instance our major capital investments—the Chestnut and Magnolia Avenues shoreline improvement projects—as well as our five fire department drafting sites, our three refurbished piers, our wonderful and still-expanding playground, and all nine of our lovely "nature paths" that provide an off-road experience for our many walkers. But we've sort of held back on some other nice-to-haves that we've talked about for so long, and can now have! Discussions at our monthly Board of Directors meetings always bring up these issues, and this past February, we formally voted funds for their implementation.

The first of those nice-to-haves is simply making a few (actually only eight total) of our street ends more user-friendly and beautiful places for all of us to enjoy by the addition of some really simple gear—park benches....all the better to enjoy the beauty of a sunrise, or a moon rise, or a sunset, or our iconic Thomas Point Lighthouse, or a flight of waterfowl on final approach, or just some swans paddling by, or the ship and boat traffic we simply take for granted. To that end, our long-time neighbor, playground maven, and Board Chair, Lori Strum, will be initiating her plan this spring to place some fairly comfortable, weather-resistant, two-person benches, and perhaps a few low, flowering shrubs along several of our street ends.

We're not trying to start up anything grand, just a few small places for any of our AOTB neighbors to sit, share, and soak up the beauty that we all came here for in the first place. This really isn't a new concept, as we started it with our first bench on the east end of Chestnut Avenue so many years ago, then life happened. Now we plan to restart that effort on our southern side with the first four benches being situated at the extreme southern ends of Newport, Rockway, and Saratoga Avenues as well as the extreme western (creekside) end of Magnolia. One bench each won't overwhelm any natural aspects of the sites, yet will provide a place to sit, stare, read, or just be in a very pleasant and special spot. We're not allowing motor vehicles and will be posting small, tasteful signs indicating the dawn-to-dusk hours right on the benches so as not to take away any of the natural feel of these special places.

After these four spots get "benched," we'll be moving on to other equally beautiful street ends, namely Myrtle at the creek, Myrtle at the bay, Oak at the bay, and Cedar at the bay. We'll also

*(see "Back on Track" on page 3)*

*("Back on Track" continued)*

entertain suggestions for other bench sites as well as soliciting ideas for additional ways to make AOTB even more user-friendly, so, go ahead, make some!

Finally, we're asking politely that a few of our neighbors do what they said they'd do when the time was appropriate, specifically removing boats, vehicles, and construction equipment that have for too long made our common street ends seem inaccessible to our neighbors. Please also note that we won't be placing any benches along Chesapeake Walk for a variety of reasons, including some previous agreements. So that's it in several nutshells; think we'll have to be taking reservations for Sunrise Seating at Chestnut or Oak?

Have ideas? Share them! Our website contains the calendar for both General Membership Meetings and Board Meetings.

## Newsletter Changes

If you haven't gotten a Pier in the mail in a while . . . well, we have re-adopted our policy of mailing our community newsletter, The Pier, four times per year to all taxpayer addresses per County records. Or you can always access the Pier electronically from our website [www.arundelonthebay.org](http://www.arundelonthebay.org) (Documents tab). We will be posting The Pier on the website the same day it goes to the printer for mailing. And while the County doesn't let us change addresses in their taxpayer records, let [secretary@arundelonthebay.org](mailto:secretary@arundelonthebay.org) know if you would like a copy of The Pier sent to an address other than your County address. Renter residents: we'll be happy to send you a copy of the Pier, just email Susan Cook at [secretary@arundelonthebay.org](mailto:secretary@arundelonthebay.org).

## Drainage Work

David Delia reported to the board on his continuing focus on the need for drainage work in the community. This issue was brought to the forefront based on the fact that our region has received almost twice the normal precipitation over this past year, the results of which have significantly heightened our drainage problems. A meeting with County officials and neighbors was held on January 29 to discuss various related matters including the status of the county's current work in the community. (see [https://www.arundelonthebay.org/pdf/AOTB\\_NotesFromJan19\\_DPWdrainage\\_meeting.pdf](https://www.arundelonthebay.org/pdf/AOTB_NotesFromJan19_DPWdrainage_meeting.pdf)). Once we see the results of the county repairs, the community will then be in a position to professionally analyze and prioritize what needs to be done in other impacted areas. (see also [https://www.arundelonthebay.org/pdf/AOTB\\_DrainageArticlePIER\\_4-19.pdf](https://www.arundelonthebay.org/pdf/AOTB_DrainageArticlePIER_4-19.pdf)). Residents are reminded that neither the county nor the Association will be undertaking drainage work on any individuals' private properties.

## Community Directory

Have you checked your listing in the community directory lately to ensure that your phone number and email are accurate? Visit [www.arundelonthebay.org/members](http://www.arundelonthebay.org/members) to check. If it's either changed or not there at all, please send your updated info to our own community directory maven, Sheri Reno, at [sherireno@verizon.net](mailto:sherireno@verizon.net). We rely on that information to keep in contact with each other, especially those who are not full-time residents.

# Proposed New Community Policies

**NOTICE: The following policies, adopted by the Board, will be voted on by the membership at the April 13 general meeting:**

## **Competitive Bidding**

- a. Competitive bidding is encouraged for all contracts entered into by the Association when practicable regardless of the amount of the contract.
- b. All contracts entered into on behalf of the Association in excess of \$5,000 may only be entered into after a competitive bidding process. In making its decision of which bid to accept, the Board of Directors shall consider, in addition to the price of the proposal, any other relevant factors including which proposal offers the best value, the quality of the customer service offered by the bidder, and the feasibility and/or practicability of the details of the proposal.
- c. Subparagraph B of this provision shall not apply to contracts for accounting and legal services. While competitive bidding is encouraged for all Association contracts, it is not required for contracts for professional services given the benefits of a continuity of professional knowledge.

## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the Association at all times. In carrying out their fiduciary duty, the Officers and Board Members shall adhere to the conflict of interest provisions set forth in this policy.

### *Definition*

An Officer or Board Member may not participate in the discussion of, or voting on, any matter in which the Officer, Board Member or family member (spouse, child, parent or sibling, whether natural or adopted) has a direct personal or monetary interest in, or will benefit from, the matter at issue in a manner not common to other Officers and Board Members. A conflict of interest need not involve money, but can involve matters such as professional standing.

### *Duty to Disclose*

An Officer or Board Member who has a conflict of interest as defined above has a fiduciary duty to disclose such conflict upon first learning of a matter touching on the conflicted interest, and to thereafter recuse him or herself from proceedings concerning that matter.

### *Duty of Confidentiality*

An Officer or Board Member may not disclose to anyone, or use in any way, confidential information acquired by reason of the person's position or status in the Association for personal or monetary advantage when that information is not available to the full membership of the Association.

*Failure to Recuse*

If the Officer or Board Member who has a conflict of interest fails to disclose that interest and to thereafter recuse him or herself from proceedings relating to that interest, the Board of Directors is entitled to make and approve a motion to bar the conflicted Officer or Board Member from being involved in matters concerning the conflicted matter.

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## **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT OF MAGNOLIA AVENUE LITIGATION**

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The Parties announce a resolution of the Magnolia Avenue Lawsuit, which concerned ownership and access to portions of Magnolia Avenue and Chesapeake Walk that abut the Atterbeary Property and the Coble Property and which are located between Narragansett Avenue and the Chesapeake Bay (the "Disputed Roads"). The Settlement Agreement and related exhibits can be found on the Association's website at [https://www.arundelonthebay.org/pdf/litigation-postings/Settlement-Agreement-w-Exhibits-\(Signed%20and%20Notarized\).pdf](https://www.arundelonthebay.org/pdf/litigation-postings/Settlement-Agreement-w-Exhibits-(Signed%20and%20Notarized).pdf).

Pursuant to the agreement, all members of the Association, residents and their properly identified guests have the right to use the Disputed Roads, "during daylight hours for normal pedestrian activities, including walking, jogging, viewing the Chesapeake Bay, watching boat activities, watching Blue Angels performances, nationally publicized celestial and NASA (or organizations similar to NASA, e.g., Space X) events (during which time use of the Disputed Roads shall be permitted past daylight hours as may reasonably be necessary to view such events) and viewing fireworks (during which time use of the Disputed Roads shall be permitted past daylight hours as may be reasonably necessary to view fireworks). Except in the event of an emergency, nonmotorized vehicles that cause damage to the grass and motorized vehicles are not permitted on the Disputed Roads. Fishing shall be permitted at the Disputed Roads subject to the following restrictions: (1) residents and their guests only; (2) only during daylight hours; (3) no more than three persons may fish at a time provided one of the persons fishing must be a lot/property owner; (4) persons must carry appropriate state-required licensure for fishing at all times; (5) no alcoholic beverages permitted; (6) no tents or large umbrellas."

# Heavy Rains Mean Big Problems for Neighborhood Landscapes

*By Tim Hamilton, POA-AOTB PIER Editor*

Normal annual rainfall in our part of Maryland is around 42 inches. This past year we were inundated with almost double that amount. Worse, most of that was concentrated from mid-summer until now, with little respite. Aside from being annoying, if you are a gardener, that rain was very problematic. Even if you aren't a gardener, that rain is going to affect your lawn as spring arrives.

The ground remained saturated for the past few months, including during the heat of late summer and a warm fall. That means that there is a good chance that root-rot might have affected some of your perennials, especially those that disdain water, such as lavender. What's more, warm and wet conditions are favorites of myriad different fungi, and the winter temperatures were not cold enough to finish them off, so they may be showing up again this spring. So be prepared to replace some perennials and deal with fungal problems with those that do come back. But if you do have to replace some of your plants, this is a good opportunity to select some native plants that will weather our hot summers, and look great while doing it.

Lawns are going to be a problem. Odds are that there are going to be some areas that just turned to mud this winter and drowned everything underneath. You may have to think about reseeded or laying sod once the weather warms up in early April. That is usually done in early fall, but this year is the exception. The trick is that you need to get seed down early enough so that it is established before the heat of summer kicks in, but not so early that it is finished by a frost. Your best bet is to spread grass seed when you see forsythia blooming. But that means that you CANNOT put down a weed-and-feed, crabgrass preventer, or fertilizer, which would render the seed useless. Plus, being where we live on the bay, you don't want to use any of that stuff anyway!

Water erosion did its damage. Chances are that, as you are reading this, there is still standing water in parts of your yard. That's good, though. It shows you where you need to do some re-grading, because it is likely that the rain erosion has changed the drainage pattern of your yard, so it is time to address this. That said, landscapers are going to be more slammed than usual this spring because of the damage caused by the rains, so you are going to want to book them right now, or roll up your sleeves and get started yourself.

All that said, consider this an opportunity. The rain took a toll on our gardens and lawns, and now we have the chance to upgrade our landscaping!

# PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF ARUNDEL-ON-THE-BAY

P.O. Box 4665 Annapolis, MD 21403

## Board of Directors

Lori Strum (Board Chair)** 3515 Newport Avenue 410-263-9394 boardchair@arundelonthebay.org	Mike Adams 1328 Magnolia Avenue 443-610-9952 wmadams1328@verizon.net	Aris T. Allen, Jr. 3505 Saratoga Avenue 240-355-7104 atallenjr@aol.com	Richard Peyton** 3528 Newport Avenue 443-774-0073 rpeyton826@gmail.com
David J. Delia** 1375 Walnut Avenue 443-534-7229 ddelia@comcast.net	Brigid Haragan 3420 Cohasset Avenue 310-646-7013 bharagan@msn.com	Alan E. Hinman 3531 Cohasset Avenue 443-994-0258 parrotbar@msn.com	<b>**Term Expires 2019</b>

## Officers

<b>President</b> Dawn Davis** 1344 Chestnut Avenue 410-571-5353 president@arundelonthebay.org	<b>Vice President</b> Donna Watts-Lamont** 3510 Cohasset Avenue 410-971-9306 vicepresident@arundelonthebay.org	<b>Treasurer</b> Roxanne Veal 3500 Newport Avenue 410-268-7220 treasurer@arundelonthebay.org	<b>Secretary</b> Susan V. Cook** 3403 Saratoga Avenue secretary@arundelonthebay.org
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## Committee Chairs

<b>Pier &amp; Boat Ramp</b> Aris T. Allen, Jr. 3505 Saratoga Avenue 240-355-7104 atallenjr@aol.com	<b>Security</b> Mike Adams 1328 Magnolia Avenue 443-610-9952 wmadams1328@verizon.net	<b>Membership Directory</b> Sheri Reno 1349 Sycamore Avenue 443-994-5386 sherireno@verizon.net	<b>PIER Editor</b> Tim Hamilton 1330 Walnut Avenue 443-994-8350 timhamilton47@mac.com
<b>Traffic Safety Committee</b> Mike Lord 3510 Rockway Avenue 410-991-9144 mikelord75@yahoo.com	<b>Special Fundraising Committee</b> Margaret Delia 443-534-7230 omdelia@comcast.net	<b>Nominations and Elections</b> Donna Watts-Lamont 3510 Cohasset Avenue 410-971-9306 wattslamont@verizon.net	<b>Beach Reservations</b> Roxanne Veal 3500 Newport Avenue 410-268-7220 jvsweetpea@aol.com

<b>Landscaping and Property Maintenance Committee</b> David J. Delia* 1375 Walnut Avenue 443-534-7229 ddelia@comcast.net	<b>Planning, Development &amp; Community Services, Capital Improvements</b> Alan E. Hinman 3531 Cohasset Avenue 410-990-0258 parrotbar@msn.com	<b>Hospitality &amp; Recreation; History Project</b> Mark L. Apter 1292 Magnolia Avenue 301-904-3690 marca1030@gmail.com
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