

The PIER

Property Owners Association of Arundel-on-the-Bay

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

General Meetings:

Wed. Jan. 29, 2014
at 7 p.m.

Sat. Apr. 19, 2014
at 10 a.m.

General Meetings
are held in Hillsmere
Library

Board Meetings:

Tues. Jan. 14, 2014

Tues. Feb. 11, 2014

Tues. Mar. 11, 2014

Tues. Apr 8, 2014

Board Meetings are
held in Hillsmere Lib-
rary starting at 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 2013

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Please Make a Note: The next membership meeting of Property Owners has been *rescheduled* from Saturday 25th to Wednesday, January 29th at 7 pm in Hillsmere Library. This extraordinary adjustment allows us to discuss the current status of the **property claims** brought by several property owners (see p. 5) as well as to cover the very important normal January agenda – **ratification of the budget** for FY 2015, to begin July 1, 2014. See pages 2 and 3 for the draft budget (both the Special Community Benefit District and the Shore Erosion Control budgets).

A full house at the November 23 Membership conclave testified to (1) **BGE's** Bonnie Johansen's pride over reinforced energy supply links for our peninsula (do expect fewer outages); (2) **County Police** Chief Kevin Davis' explanation of how we are served by law enforcement – especially by our district commander, Captain Michelle Simpson; (3) preliminary discussion of the **property claims**; and (4) election of the 2014 **Nominations and Elections Committee**, once again steered by the indefatigable Tim Hamilton, joined by Toni Ray and Michael Postlewaite.

Openings for elections in June 2014 include four Board of Directors slots, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all beginning on July 1, 2014. Although several incumbents will probably seek to continue in these offices – it's that enjoyable, honest it is – you may nominate yourself or a suspecting other for any of the openings. Simply call or email Tim (timhamilton47@mac.com), Toni (tray@hobobags.com), or Michael (myldo@aol.com).

PROPOSED SPECIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FY2015

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>Proposed FY15</u>
1. Non-shore Erosion Prevention and Protection	10,000	10,000
2. Construction, Maintenance and Repair of Non-County Owned Roads, Paths, Streets, Signs and Streetlights. <i>The Roads Sub-Committee maintains a prioritized list of road projects that is reevaluated on a yearly basis.</i>	75,000	80,000
3. Construction, Maintenance and Repair of Drainage Ditches and Culverts <i>The Drainage Sub-Committee has presented projects to repair the most significant areas of drainage problems</i>	40,000	40,000
4. Acquisition, Maintenance and Improvement of Real Property, or Any Interest Therein, Necessary to Accomplish Community-wide Projects <i>This category covers electric bills for community owned property, grass cutting and other property maintenance.</i>	55,000	57,000
5. Insect and Pest Control <i>As the County has responsibility for mosquito spraying minimal Community funds are allocated for this purpose.</i>	5,000	5,000
6. Snow Removal	5,000	5,000
7. Special Police Protection <i>This category funds special private police patrols through the Community.</i>	25,000	25,000
8. Acquisition or Lease of Equipment Necessary to Accomplish the Foregoing Purposes	0	0
9. Maintenance of Recreational Areas and the Acquisition and Maintenance of Recreation Equipment and Facilities <i>This category funds maintenance and improvements to the Community Beach, playground and other community recreational areas. Projects are proposed for those areas in FY14.</i>	30,442	30,000
10. Other Expenses Necessary for the Administration and Implementation of These Purposes <i>This category includes administrative expenses such as accountant and legal fees, file storage, newsletter, elections, web site maintenance etc.</i>	22,817	22,916
Total of Above Budget Items	268,259	269,916
Required County Administrative Fee	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Budgeted Amount	270,259	271,916

SOURCES OF INCOME TO FUND SCBD BUDGET

Carry-over monies	135,459	65,041
County Held Funds		
Estimated tax revenues needed for this	<u>134,800</u>	<u>206,875</u>
Total Income	270,259	271,916

*The FY15 estimate of tax revenue is based on a tax rate of \$0.125 per \$100 assessed valuation increased from .10 last year. **To view prospective amendments at current tax rate, see p. 3.***

The current assessed value of Arundel on the Bay is 165,500,000

Prospective amendments to FY2015 SCBD budget by numbered item (p. 2):

- 2. Road construction, maintenance, and repair: Reduce from \$80,000 to \$55,000
 - 3. Drainage ditches and culverts: Reduce from \$40,000 to \$25,000
 - 4. Real property acquisition, maintenance, and improvement: Reduce from \$57,000 to \$30,000
 - 7. Special police protection: Reduce from \$25,000 to \$20,000
 - 9. Recreation areas maintenance, equipment, and facilities: Reduce from \$30,000 to \$20,000
 - 10. Administration and implementation expenses: Raise from \$22,916 to \$25,000.
- Total Budget Items: Reduce from \$269,916 to \$195,000.

PROPOSED SHORE EROSION CONTROL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FY2015

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>Proposed FY15</u>
Construction, Maintenance and Repair of Shore Erosion Control Facilities	81,413	104,977
Loan Payments	2,969	2,969
Required County Administrative Fee	<u>1,768</u>	<u>1,655</u>
Total Budgeted Amount	86,150	109,600
Tax revenues	35,350	33,100
County Held Funds	<u>50,800</u>	<u>76,500</u>
Total Income	86,150	109,600

This amount is based on a tax rate of \$.02 per \$100 assessed valuation.

The current assessed value of Arundel on the Bay is 165,500,000.

We currently have one Shore Erosion Control District Loan outstanding. This is a 25-year, no interest loan.

4/92 Loan #17-90 Total amount: \$74,220 Annual payment: \$2,969 Will be paid off in 2017.



AotB's BIG DRAINAGE DIG is underway!

Thanks to hard work by Julie Winters and the South River Federation (our project manager), the **Chestnut & Newport Avenues Drainage Project** already boasts a mighty moat filled with rocks, bio-retention filter materials, and icy water; it's also fringed by evergreen saplings. Completion of bio-retention cells along the avenues, and of the living shoreline and wetland at the end of Chestnut, should end in a few weeks, weather permitting. These small, well-engineered rain-garden structures will alleviate half of AotB's chronic drainage problems and help keep storm water runoff from polluting our Bay.

So when you see equipment and barrier tapes along Newport, you may have to explain to the kids why they can't use playground equipment for a while. Just tell them we're making things healthier for everyone, and that we appreciate their patience. Our kids are smart; they'll understand.

In us we trust: David Delia's Credo

By now most of you have either gotten the email blasts, seen the printed flyers in your mailboxes, attended the last general membership meeting (GMM), or simply spoken to a neighbor about the current property claims. Many of you have expressed strong feelings about the situation, and I'm not going to try to explain the facts any further than you can see and read for yourselves on our website:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs172/1102520674494/archive/1115254445572.html>.

I am, however, going to repeat that your officers and board members are working diligently to do right by **all** the members of AOTB. Furthermore, I am asking you to remember that after this business is concluded, we will all remain what we were at the onset, neighbors, in the very small, increasingly tight-knit, and even more interdependent slice of heaven that we're privileged to call home. That's right: Arundel-on-the-Bay is our slice of heaven. If you need proof, put down the smart phone and step outside your door to catch a glimpse of the eagle flying overhead; that incredible sunrise or sunset; the amazing marine weather patterns; the moonlight bouncing off the rippling bay's water; or simply your neighbor moving your trash can out of the road.

As many old-timers have noticed by what's been happening at our Board or GMMs (go ahead, **read** the minutes <http://www.arundelonthebay.org/meetingmin.html>), AOTB is evolving into a much less confrontational and far more cooperative place to live. Many older old-timers remember a long time ago when AOTB was a welcoming neighborhood and folks couldn't do enough to help each other; that time is returning to us through many neighborly efforts.

When somebody says "trust us" you need to closely examine their history; not just history, but **their** history. And the history of the folks working for you **right now** has been one of incredibly selfless service and proven integrity. You have **real physical evidence** of the deeds these good folks have done for AOTB, not out of a sense of personal gain, but simply because it was the right thing to do. Here are just a few examples of how many of your recent officers, board, and committee members **have earned your trust through their deeds by:**

- Fixing chronic drainage problems that breed mosquitoes and contribute to the bay's dead zones, **and** getting the million buck-cost covered half by the state!
 - Getting our roads repaired so nobody breaks an axle on their way to work.
- Installing dog waste stations (and get the county to pay for them!) to reduce the pollution and ughh factor of misdirected doggy-doo.
- Providing a welcoming, naturally lovely entrance portal to make you glad you're home.
 - Making our community beach more user friendly and less likely to slide into the bay.
 - Repairing and maintaining a playground fitted with quality kiddie equipment.
 - Rebuilding and immediately repairing our pier, boat ramp, and crabbing pier.
 - Consistently holding **three** annual (and a bunch of other) community get-togethers, specifically designed to get us **together!**

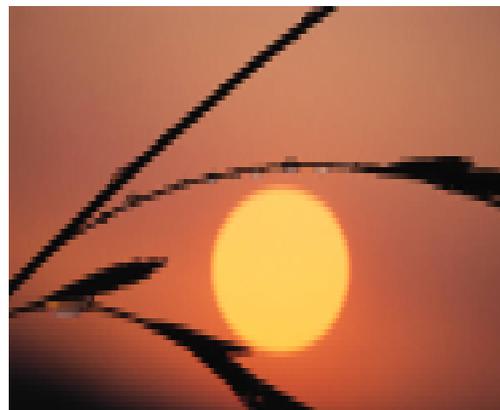
- Addressing security issues with supplemental patrols by law-enforcement professionals.
- Not waiting for our overburdened county (or a spring thaw) to clear AOTB's roads after various Snowmageddons
- Completing firetruck drafting sites to help keep AOTB from burning to a crisp during the **next** big fire; remember the Oyster Harbor conflagration in December 2008?

We share a wonderful place filled with wonderful opportunities and wonderful neighbors **that must be preserved** for everyone. So let's let the lawyers – and our Association has a very fine one in Sue Ford – work to achieve an outcome we can **all** live with, not just for now, but for our future. We'll keep you informed and won't make any deals without consulting you – **trust us**.

On Wednesday 29JAN14 at 7:00 pm, in the Hillsmere Library, your officers and board will give you their recommendations for dealing with these claims, with our legal counsel present to handle your technical questions. Perhaps by then everything will be on its way to being sorted out; we're

already hearing encouraging responses from some of the claimants. Call me (or stop by) with any questions, comments, or if you just want to yak.

David J. Delia, President, AOTB-POA
 1375 Walnut Avenue
 Annapolis, MD 21403-4741
 H: 410-268-8622 C: 443-534-7229
ddelia@comcast.net



HUGO's LIST for SANTA PAWS, with thanks for Visiting AotB:

1. An *iPaws* phone; surely Apple will make one for me.
2. A *pawtographed photo* of my canine friends who barque greetings from behind fences and from inside houses.
3. An FBI *pawprint lab* to analyze prints from dogs whose leash-holders don't clean up after them.

Property Owners Association of Arundel on the Bay 6
P. O. Box 4665, Annapolis, MD 21403. www.arundelonthebay.org
BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board of Directors Board Members	Officers	Standing Committees & Chairpersons (cont'd)
Michael Adams** 1328 Magnolia Avenue H: 410-280-3003; C: 443-610-9952 wmadams1328@verizon.net	PRESIDENT David J. Delia** 1375 Walnut Avenue H: 410-268-8622; C: 443-534-7229 ddelia@comcast.net	Planning, Dev't & Community Services, Capital Improvements, Alan E. Hinman 3531 Cohasset Ave. H: 410-990-0258 Alan_e_hinman@fanniemae.com
Marc L. Apter** 1292 Magnolia Avenue C: 301-904-3690 marca1030@gmail.com	VICE PRESIDENT Donna Watts-Lamont* 3510 Cohasset Avenue H: 410-268-4130; C: 410-971-9306 wattslamont@verizon.net	LongRange Planning, Coastal & Com'ty Property - Beautification David E. Sullivan 1372 Walnut Ave. H: 410-263-4380 dave@zonar.com
Rosalynne Atterbeary** 3551 Narragansett Avenue 301-412-2511 ratterbeary@gmail.com	TREASURER Heath Nielsen* 3440 Rockway Avenue C: 847-372-6777. aotb.t@icloud.com	Security Mike Adams, 1328 Magnolia Avenue H: 410-280-3003; C: 443-610-9952 wmadams1328@verizon.net
Mike Lord* 3510 Rockway Avenue H: 410-280-5641; C: 410-991-9144 mikelord75@yahoo.com	SECRETARY Pamela Duncan* 1362 Myrtle Avenue H: 410-267-6611; C: 410-533-8106 pjtduncan@verizon.net	Beach and Security-Related Support Roxanne Veal, 3500 Newport Ave 410-268-7220. jvsweetpea@aol.com ----- Special Fundraising Committee Margaret Delia, H: 410-268-8622; C: 443-534-7230. omdelia@comcast.net
Dick Peyton* 3528 Newport Avenue H: 410-598-5103 H & W: 302-739-0858 rpeyton@thematworks.com	<i>STANDING COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS</i> Nominations & Elections Tim Hamilton, 1330 Walnut Avenue H: 410-280-9439 timhamilton47@mac.com	Hospitality/Recreation; History Project Marc L. Apter, 1292 Magnolia Avenue C: 301-904-3690 marca1030@gmail.com
Lori W. Strum, Chair* 3515 Newport Avenue C: 410-804-4188 baystrum@aol.com	Special Committee for Landscape Services Roy Karten, 3530 Narragansett Ave H: 410-295-3530 photode@verizon.net	Website; Constitution Review Mike Lord, 3510 Rockway Avenue H: 410-280-5641; C: 410-991-9144 mikelord75@yahoo.com
Roxanne Veal* 3500 Newport Avenue H: 410-268-7220 jvsweetpea@aol.com	Special Committee on Environment Julie Winters, 1343 Hollywood Ave. H: 202-997-4240 wintersttime@aol.com	Membership Directory Sheri Reno, 1349 Sycamore Avenue H: 410-224-5518; C: 443-994-5386 sherireno@verizon.net
*Term Expires 2014 **Term Expires 2015	PIER Editor & Parliamentarian Philip Allen, 3463 Rockway Avenue 410-626-2068. pallen@frostburg.edu	Pier & Boat Ramp Mike Morrison, 3523 Rockway Ave 443-253-0596. tugmik@aol.com

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P.O. Box 4665
Annapolis, MD 21403