

The PIER

Property Owners Association of Arundel-on-the-Bay

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

General Meetings:

Sat. April 19, 2014,
12.30 – 2.30 p.m.

Sat. June 21, 2014
12.30 – 2.30m p.m.

Hillsmere Library
(*Note time changes*)

Board Meetings:

Sunday, April 6, 2014,
7 p.m., Delia residence
1375 Walnut Avenue

Tues. May 13, 2014
7 p.m. Hillsmere Library

Tues. June 10, 2014
7 p.m. Hillsmere Library

MARCH 2014

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IT'S SPRING: TIME to NOMINATE SOMEBODY!!

Our annual Community Renovation Ritual is upon us. The imminent April 19 General Meeting will serve in part to collect nominations for election to the following positions, starting on July 1, 2014:

- **Vice-President** – 1 year term
 - **Treasurer** – 2 year term
 - **Secretary** – 1 year term
- **Board of Directors** (four positions) – 2 year terms

Candidates must be full members of the Community when nominated, at the time of election (June 21), and for the entire term of service. You can find descriptions and responsibilities in the Constitution & By-Laws on the website of Arundelonthebay.org.

You may submit your own or somebody else's name for the ballot by making contact with any member of the **Nominations and Elections Committee**:

<u>Tim Hamilton</u> , chair	timhamilton47@mac.com	410-280-9439
<u>Toni Ray</u>	tray@hobobags.com	410-263-9181
<u>Michael Postlewaite</u>	myldo@aol.com	410-268-9658

The committee will mail ballots to the membership after the April 19 session. Ballots will have space for write-in votes for each position and will be collected when, or before, the June 21 meeting is convened. Votes will be tabulated and results announced at that meeting.

President David Delia thinks you will be pleased to note that, in addition to exercise of your right to nominate (see page 1), our April 19 **General Membership Meeting** also offers several stirring opportunities for discussion. They include two matters of importance, as he describes them:

First, as perhaps a few folks have noticed, we've been very actively engaged in making our **public safety services** – including Anne Arundel County Fire and Police Departments (AAFD and AAPD) – aware of our Tiny Town and its small, but important security issues. We've already completed a series of fire safety projects, including our drafting sites, and had our former Fire Chief, Bob Ray, down to address us. Last summer we had personal discussions with AAPD's CAPT. Michelle Simpson, our Southern District Commander; and Chief Kevin Davis addressed our membership on November 23, 2013. On both occasions, we spoke on a macro or big-picture level. We saw real results of our discussions with both of these dedicated officers in the form of stepped-up patrolling by AAPD during an unusual period of home and vehicular break-ins, as well as increased monitoring and remediation of our ever-present speeding problems. Sure, some folks got speeding tickets, including AOTB residents, but after all, they **were speeding** and thus placing ourselves and our families in jeopardy, right?

Now we're getting down "into the weeds" and we've scheduled Lt. George Halpin, our community liaison officer, to speak with us on April 19 about what he's done and is doing for us and about other things **you'd** like to see done. So please come armed with discussion points and questions about security issues that matter to **you**.

Second, our new Treasurer Becky Morris – after over a decade's service as our chief financial officer – in consultation with, and having the approval of, our accounting and auditing firm, has recommended that we revert to **single-signature check issuing** for community expenses, while maintaining a written record of approval by either our President or Vice President. To accomplish this goal the Board proposes that you vote an amendment to **Article 10, Section 4, subsection e** of our Constitution to read:

The Treasurer shall release funds, either by conventional check or electronic bill paying, under her or his signature, upon receipt of a bill or voucher, with all expenditures periodically reviewed and approved by the President or Vice President.

Our rationale for this constitutional amendment is two-fold: first, the current policy requiring two busy persons to sign **every** check has resulted in frequent payment delays and subsequent duplicate billings. Secondly, the recommended policy will facilitate our inevitable move toward electronic bill paying services, and provide adequate oversight for that procedure. We hope you'll agree that an activist board with an activist treasurer needs a more streamlined method of getting stuff done for everyone while maintaining prudent accountability as advised by our professional auditors.

David Delia reports:

Newport and Chestnut Avenue Improvements

Most of you have already seen the heavy equipment come and go from Newport and Chestnut Avenues, leaving behind the not-quite-finished drainage improvement project spearheaded by our environmental chair Julie Winters. As a result of Julie's dedicated efforts and gifted grant writing, AOTB was awarded nearly \$500,000 (yes, that's a **half-million bucks!**) to help alleviate the chronic drainage problems that affect over 50% of our small peninsula – and also contribute polluted runoff to the Bay. The bio-retention cells (BRCs are well-engineered rain garden-like structures) have been dug, the major swale along Chestnut Avenue has been formed, and the living shoreline along Fishing Creek is almost completed. Some of the plants (but not all) have taken root, and most of the earth-moving along the creek is done. About 10% of the work remains to be completed after the spring thaw.

We've already seen great changes in the drainage pattern in this area and it will get much better as the plants establish themselves and the land "heals." While not all the storm water run-off from the paved areas will be held back from the Bay, **a large percentage will arrive downstream a little cleaner**; not all the puddles will disappear immediately, **but many will**; not every skeeter will get dispossessed from their swampy breeding grounds, **but a whole lot**

will. So as you can see, this is a work-in-progress that will need some time for most of us to feel the full effects, but feel them you will. And we don't plan to stop there either.

Ours ranks among the first of some very important pilot projects underwritten by the State of Maryland. Given some righteous publicity owed to Julie and AOTB for this farsighted initiative to help save the Bay, we'll be much better positioned to go back and ask for more. That **more** is planned to target individual homeowner sites – your big puddles –and obtain either outright grants to build some mini-BRCs in your back yards, or minimally establish a cost-sharing partnership between homeowners, AOTB, and the deeper-pockets of our County and State. Nothing this big happens tomorrow, but we've taken some mighty long steps toward realizing our vision of a better future.

Most of you have also seen the **Newport playground** develop into an even greater asset to our community. That glittering site has happened thanks to the tireless efforts of our resourceful board chair Lori Strum. The results: an extended, deepened wood chip base; repair and augmentation of our current equipment with a wide variety of quality gear that has been praised by everyone, from moms and grampas with kids, to our knowledgeable insurance carrier.

We now have colorful, attractive, and most importantly, **safe** stuff for kids, allowing toddlers and 10-year-olds to devote a sunny afternoon to complete kiddie ecstasy.

And we're not done yet with that **playground**. You will see new bits added this spring, with some additional plantings to round out the total package. Since almost everything in our tiny town is linked, Julie did a magnificent job of integrating the water features along Newport (in front of the playground) as part of our overall **drainage project**. Our next step will be to complete the Myrtle Avenue access path between Newport and Rockway and integrating that swampy area into the drainage project.

To formally dedicate our new playground and expose our state and local benefactors to the scope of our environmental improvement efforts, we're planning a small ceremony to be followed by a **big block party** later this Spring. This gathering will be the handiwork of Lori Strum, Roxanne Veal, Margaret Delia, and as many of you folks who will please volunteer your help to make this the super-special occasion it deserves to be (call or email Lori at 410-804-4188 baystrum@aol.com to signup).

We plan to invite our County and State officials who have helped make all of this possible. In addition

to showing them our thanks, we'd like them to put a **face** on AOTB and see that our community is united in caring deeply about our kids, our homes, and our unique environment, – The Chesapeake. We do all live in Arundel-on-the-**Bay**, right?

David Delia

Talk of Living: We Also Run

AOTB's **First Annual 5K Race** (and kid's **Fun Run**) will be held (rain or shine) on Saturday, April 26th at 10 o'clock, with the Fun Run starting at 11:15 a.m. We'll line-up before 10 a.m. at the community beach – Magnolia between Cohasset and Narragansett. Registration fees of \$10.00/runner and \$5.00/kid will defray expenses; any excess over costs will go to the AOTB Social Fund that supports all of our various community get-togethers.

Come join us for a "scenic tour" of AOTB as we shake the winter from our legs. Refreshments, including possibly Kona Ice, await you at the finish. No prizes (except for the kids); we're racing for bragging rights here! Sign up on the Facebook link at active.com. Note that this is not a professionally timed event. **Please volunteer your help** to Alison Buckler at runner2m@aol.com or call (703) 980 5234.

Thank you, Alison! Run dazzlingly!!

Once Again! Wine Tasting and Live Jazz on the Beach This Year's Party on Sunday, June 22 from 3 to 7 pm

Wine Cellars of Annapolis Recognized for 2013 Contribution

The AOTB Property Owners Association will again throw a great party with wine tasting and live jazz on the community beach, Sunday, June 22, from 3 to 7 pm. Last year wine tasting was offered to our adults by Wine Cellars of Annapolis in Clock Tower Place at no charge to community members. Their wine experts guided party-goers through some of the best wines from California, Europe, and South America. Wine was also available to purchase by the glass and bottle. This year will continue the tradition.

Recently AOTB formally thanked Wine Cellars of Annapolis for their contribution in 2013. A plaque was presented to Ellen Spicknall, store manager, by David Dalia, AOTB President, and Marc Apter, Board member and Recreation Committee Chair. Apter praised "the generosity of Patrick Bouculat, owner, and Ellen Spicknall, store manager, [who] helped create a wonderful community event at the lowest cost to AOTB of any of our community functions."

The 2014 event will feature the Jim Ballard Jazz quartet, performing all afternoon. The Quartet, including saxophone, bass, piano, and drums, has played with the Ink Spots and locally at Middleton's Tavern, and was even featured during the Obama Inaugural. Jim Ballard will perform the vocals.

Most importantly if you are a party person and would like to help plan games, pour wine, etc. contact Marc Apter, Social Committee Chair, 301-904-3690 or marca1030@gmail.com.

Here's how AOTB's certificate of appreciation reads:

Arundel-on-the-Bay

A PRIVATE COMMUNITY ON THE CHESAPEAKE

With appreciation and gratitude for your contribution to the 2013 Arundel on the Bay Wine and Jazz Festival, the residents of AOTB salute **Wine Cellars of Annapolis** for their generosity and community spirit.



Cheers!

David Delia, President.

Marc Apter, Chair, Hospitality Committee

Property Owners Association of Arundel on the Bay

P. O. Box 4665, Annapolis, MD 21403. www.arundelonthebay.org

BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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