

Fall 2007

From The Mayor

What a wonderful time of year – our fun-in-the-sun kind of town, also knows how to celebrate every changing season. Although it felt like Fall might never get here, she put on a colorful show that was well worth the wait. Halloween at the Waterpark was full of fun and good spirit. Veterans Day caused us to pause and reflect at our beautiful Veterans Park. Thanksgiving reminded us of all we have to be thankful for – our family and friends, and our place on the bay. And now we have Christmas to look forward to. The Brightest Beacon on the Bay not only lights up our streets and lawns, but also the imaginations of the young and the young at heart. The New Year will be here before we know it. Best wishes to everybody in town for a wonderful year in 2008!

Gerald W. Donovan
Mayor

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Are you looking for a unique gift for a special “person who has everything”? Give them a permanent place in the Veterans Park, a brick embossed with their name or message. Call Town Hall for information. 410-257-2230

WITH GRATEFUL MEMORY



American Legion Post 206 observed Veterans Day with a ceremony at Veterans Park. The Knights of Columbus color guard added pageantry to the ceremony as representatives of each service branch laid wreaths at the memorial plaques and Honor Roll.



Town to Replace Bulkhead in 2008

Work will begin in early 2008 to replace about 250 feet of deteriorating bulkhead next to the Northeast Community Center. Major funding for the project will come from a \$99,000 grant from the State Waterway Improvement Program of the Department of Natural Resources.

The property on which the Center sits is owned by the County, which has granted permission for the Town to enter the property to accomplish the work. The project will also include the

installation of a storm water quality sand filter system behind the bulkhead, and to add sidewalks between the street and the Water Park. Sidewalks are being added along Bayside Road as part of the ongoing Streetscape project.

This filter system will treat storm water runoff from the existing Community Center access drive and parking area. The Town also plans in the near future to request permission to reconstruct the parking area to eliminate a significant drainage and standing water problem within the access drive area and to provide some aesthetic landscaping and handicap access upgrades.

NEIGHBORS ARE KEY TO 'WINDWARD' LIFE

Meet the Neighbors:

Windward Key, which marks its 20th anniversary this month, falls next chronologically in our occasional series focusing on the distinct communities within the Town.



The banners outside some of the homes at Windward Key reveal the community personality. “Happy Thanksgiving”, one proclaims. This is a neighborhood whose residents have much to be thankful for.

By another front door, two banners hang together – “Redskins” and “Ravens”. Not quite as telling as “Cowboys” and “Redskins” would be, but still, they speak of getting along, and of team spirit.

Other entries proclaim patriotism, holiday zest, or natural beauty. And the small patches of earth at the bottom of the stairs pack a lot of landscaping and décor into compact areas — scarecrows, turkeys, rainbow whirligigs, and flowers still blooming cheerfully in mid-November.

This is a place with joie de vivre!

Phil and Joyce Pfanschmidt had to bring their own esprit when they moved in in 1987, because there was no one else there. They were the very first residents in the neighborhood, begun by Kettler



Brothers Development Company but finally finished by Marrick years later, with a period of savings-and-loan-crisis stagnation between.

The Pfanschmidts had been looking for a weekend place on the water, but had found Annapolis prices too high and looked south. Drawn by the Kettler reputation and the relatively inexpensive price for waterfront property at that time, they moved in and soon loved the place enough to make it their full-time home. Not long afterward, as others arrived, Phil became the first president of the homeowner’s association.

Fast forward two decades, and history repeated itself in Bob and Pat Carpenter, who, according to Bob, were looking for a weekend home and fell in love with Chesapeake Beach and Windward Key. Soon they decided the commute was worth it and sold their Alexandria home to live here full time, despite the daily drive back to Alexandria. And Bob is now the homeowner’s association president.

In a town that was just beginning its transition from summer place to vibrant year-round community, Phil looked out his window one day to see about 100 swans in his back yard, while Joyce was amazed to find friendly greetings and no lines in the Post Office at peak Christmas

rush. “We moved to the right place”, she said, and it became their mantra.

As others followed, a community grew; beginning with a progressive dinner from house to house every New Year’s and picnics every summer. There were many opportunities to meet the neighbors, as residents gathered at the developments’ many amenities.

Looking at Windward Key from the Bay side, one could easily imagine they were looking at a seaside resort – sand beach, swimming pool, marina, tennis courts and lush landscaping fill the eye.

“The beach gets a lot of use in the summer, especially by the kids,” Phil says. “The water is very shallow, so you can walk far out. Even in winter it is used by walkers, and there are lots of shark’s teeth, especially after a storm.”

Other attractions right outside the window are sailboat races out of Annapolis on Wednesday evenings, and “the sunrises are wonderful”. But alas, no more swarms of swans, whose numbers dwindled as construction increased.

Asked what’s best about living in Windward Key, Bob Carpenter quickly responds “the people, the water, the Town. But it’s really the people.

“It’s a fairly tight-knit community. We see each other a lot. There is a community clean-up every spring to clear the winter accumulation of debris around the beach and pool, and at least 30 people will take part.”

When they first moved in, the Carpenters enjoyed seeing all those neighbors out and about in good weather. “You’d run into people at the pool or beach, and someone would tell you to stop in for dinner, or drinks. Then in winter, you didn’t see them so much. We missed that interaction.”



So the Carpenters created a new community tradition, “Sundays at 7”, a y’all-come potluck at their home. Each month, year-round, Pat sends out a schedule to an ever-growing email list, telling the recipients what weeks they will be hosting. “We welcome anyone in the community who wants to come. All they have to do is knock on the door with a dish in hand, and they’re welcome,” says Bob.

The homeowner’s association presidency has thus far not been a burden, he says. A management company takes care of general operations, landscaping, snow removal and such. The association meets just once a year, with quarterly Board meetings, and the meetings “are not contentious”.

“With only 74 homes, about a quarter of them weekenders, we are a tight-knit community, and there’s not a lot of turnover.”

Phil reports that in his original section, only one unit has changed hands in the community’s history. Apparently the Pfanschmidts’ belief is shared by the other residents – they “moved to the right place.”

Sunrise and “Sundays at 7” photos by Phil Pfanschmidt



Library Spices Up Holiday Offerings

'Twas three weeks before Christmas, and throughout the library, the sharp smell of ginger made everyone merry. The children all wrestled with frosting and treats, trimming gingerbread houses with colorful sweets.

Sound like fun? If you are in first through seventh grade, the fun can be yours, as the library hosts two gingerbread house workshops, December 8, from 10 a.m. to 11a.m. and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., *not at* the library, but at the Northeast Community Center. (But what holiday word rhymes with Center?)

Participants are encouraged to register online for this event at <http://host.evanced.info/calvert/evanced/eventcalendar.asp> or click from the library's homepage, <http://www.calvert.lib.md.us> to "Register for Library Events". The homepage is also a great place to see everything coming up, month-by-month, Or do it the old-fashioned way, and call for information from a real live human voice, at 410-257-2411.

Adults who yearn for a little holiday spirit of their own can read *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote, and discuss it at the monthly adult book group, December 10, 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Bayside History Museum (a December-only departure from the usual Bayhill Market location).

The library also offers respite from the post-holiday blahs. For the

youngsters, Storytime picks up again January 9. Times are:

Cuddle Up & Read to Me (birth to 24 months) Wednesdays, 9:15 - 9:35 a.m.

2-3 Year Olds Wednesdays, 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Family Storytime (all ages welcome) Wednesdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. and 1:00 to 1:45 p.m., and

Saturdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

Topics for January and February are:

1/9 & 1/12 **MD Food**

1/16 & 1/19 **Winter**

1/23 & 1/26 **Colors**

1/30 & 2/2 **Home Sweet Home**

2/6 & 2/9 **Pirates**

2/13 & 2/16 **Valentine's Day**

2/20 & 2/23 **Arctic Animals**

2/27 & 3/2 **Dr. Seuss**

Adult book discussions will be 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Bayhill Market.

January 14, *Ethan Frome*, by Edith Wharton

February 11, *The History of Love*, by Nicole Krauss



Lt. Governor Brown, Councilman Cumbo

Cumbo Presides Over MML Fall Conference

Town Councilman Stewart B. Cumbo, president of the Maryland Municipal League, presided over the MML 2007 Fall Conference held in October. City and Town officials had the opportunity to gather, exchange information, and renew acquaintances. In addition, the conference featured Lt. Governor Anthony Brown as the luncheon speaker, and the Town's Congressman Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, also addressed the group.

MML's 2008 legislative priorities adopted at the conference are: (1) Statewide Speed Camera Authorization; and (2) Protecting and Enhancing Municipal Revenues to allow the legislative committee to both protect existing fiscal resources that may be the target of state budget cuts and to pursue opportunities to pass legislation that would expand municipal revenue raising authority.

Purvis Family Trust Fund

The Town suffered a great loss when two of our children, Alyson and Ryan Purvis, were killed in a car crash on their way to Northern High School. They have been buried, but the family still faces enormous expenses. A memorial account has been set up for the Purvis family with SunTrust Bank, by Exit 1 Stop Realty, to help offset medical, funeral and other expenses. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to: "Stommel Enterprises Inc, Memorial Account for the Purvis Family". Donations can be given to the family, Lee Funeral Home or mailed to: Exit 1 Stop Realty, 10130 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Dunkirk, MD 20754. We have a caring and generous community here in our piece of the world, so thank you.

A message from Councilman Pat Mahoney

Journey to N. Pole Aboard Beach RR

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum invites you to hit the holiday rails for two special events.

The Museum's annual Holiday Open House, with the station and Dolores decked out for the season, and punch and treats for all, takes place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. December 2. Author James Tigner, Jr. will also be at the open house signing copies of his book, *Memories of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach*.

The fun continues on December 21st, as the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, along with the Twin Beaches Library and the Chesapeake Beach Hotel & Spa, invites you to a cozy gathering celebrating its new holiday tradition featuring a reading of the classic children's Christmas story *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. *The Polar Express* is a heartwarming train ride to belief and the joy of Christmas. This event for all ages takes place on Friday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the Hotel's lobby afterwards.

After the holidays, the Museum stays busy with activities, all of which depend on the helping hands of volunteers. There will be a Volunteer Training Workshop March 8 at the Museum. If you are looking for a rewarding volunteer activity with interesting people, for as much or as little time as you are able to give, come to the orientation at 9 a.m.

Looking ahead, Save the Date: April 5. The annual railway hike of a part of the railway bed will be on wheels this year, a bus exploration of the Railway route all the way to the end of the line at Seat Pleasant, including a lunch stop and boat ride. Limited seating; reserve in advance.

For details on these and other future events, call the Museum at . . .

410-257-3892



Councilwoman Finch trims the tree in the Town Hall atrium and urges you to light up the Town.

BRIGHTEN THE TOWN WITH HOLIDAY SPARKLE

It's Light's on for the Holidays time again. Once again, the Town will be the Brightest Beacon on the Bay – if you participate.

Councilwoman Jo "Mother Christmas" Finch kicked things off as always with the post-Thanksgiving community tree-lighting party at Town Hall. Now it's your turn.

If you wish to compete, you must contact Town Hall and sign up to be judged. Categories are Best Decorated Business, Town House, House and Boat.

Judging will take place December 17. Prizes, donated by local businesses, will be awarded to the winners prior to the December 20 Town Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Sign up to Receive or Give Gold Service

Difficult as it is to believe, with no frost as of Veterans Day, winter will eventually reach the Beach. Will you be ready? More important, will the elderly woman next door, who can't shovel her driveway, or the disabled man across the street, who can't drive to the pharmacy, be ready?

Ready or not, it's coming. If that neighbor with special needs is not on the Town's list for Solid Gold Service, a snowstorm can be a major emergency. Make sure he or she is registered. Better yet, sign up yourself as a Solid Gold volunteer to make sure they can get through the weather ahead unscathed.

If you are over 55, or eligible for handicap license plates, contact Town Hall to be put on the list for emergency services. If you are motivated to help your neighbor, contact Town Hall to volunteer. You don't have to be able to do physical labor. Your task may be as simple as making phone calls to check on people on the list, or picking up bread and milk at the store.

Call or e-mail Town Hall, or use the coupon in this issue, to sign up to serve or be served.



Mail to the Town, PO Box 400, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732, or e-mail to kjohnson@chesapeake-beach.md.us, if you are eligible and need service.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Plan Comments Focus on Bridge

A good Comprehensive Plan can be a bridge to the future. Citizens who spoke out at the Planning Commission's recent idea sessions for Plan updates were more worried about today's bridge, across Fishing Creek.

Work is now underway on revisions to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Although it may feel as if the ink is barely dry on the current document, State law requires revisions every eight years, and the process takes so long that the Planning Commission has to begin now to be certain of meeting deadlines.

To get the process started, the Commission invited all Town citizens to present their ideas for changes at open speak-out sessions following its September, October and November meetings. Town Councilman Jim Parent, who chairs the Commission, reports that the messages at all three gatherings were similar.

"People think that the current plan captured their concerns well and is being implemented properly, but one issue came up at every meeting, the safety and adequacy of the bridge," he said. "They were worried about pedestrian safety, which our on-going



Streetscape improvements should resolve, and the structural safety of the bridge itself. They also brought up concerns about the ability of emergency vehicles, police, fire and ambulance, to get through the Town when traffic is backed up and there is no place on the bridge to pull over."

The Town has hired the consulting firm of Rhodeside & Harwell to guide the planning process. "Chris Jakubiak

did a great job for us on the last Plan, but I think it's important to use fresh eyes when you do a revision," Councilman Parent said.

The consultants will take the comments from the public, as well as input from the Planning Commission, and begin the job of drafting revisions. Drafts will go through scrutiny by the Commission, public hearings, and then to the Council, for more public input and Council tweaking, with resulting amendments throughout the process. County Planning and Zoning and the State Planning office will also have input into the document.

"There will be many more opportunities for public input in this long process," Dr. Parent says. "We hope that our citizens will pay close attention and continue to give us their thoughts. Ultimately, it is about the future of *their* hometown."

Club Selling Real Green for Holidays

Living "green"? Make it real. What could be living greener than ditching those petroleum-based "pine" boughs for real live fresh greenery and filling your home with the fragrance of the holidays? And you don't have to waste gas driving to a distant woods to get them.

The Chesapeake Beach Garden Club plans a Holiday Bazaar and Flea Market, Saturday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall atrium. They will have holiday arrangements, fresh green wreaths and beautiful fresh green centerpieces at reasonable prices for holiday use and giving. All earnings are used for the beautification of the Town.

The Garden Club also extends an invitation to anyone interested in fun gardening and fun social interactions. They offer interesting programs along with good food and drink.

Recent programs have included a visit to the College of Southern Maryland to hear a speaker on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and what gardeners can do to help. They toured a local winery one afternoon. The visit included lunch along with learning something about making wine and growing grapes. The November meeting featured a local flower grower who demonstrated arrangements with her beautiful dried flowers.

All are welcome to join. For further information call Marianne Valaer at 301-855-5891.

Yard Debris

Reminder: Yard debris pick-up is suspended at the end of December and will resume April 1, 2008.

CHRISTMAS TREES must be outside for pickup no later than the third Monday in January. For pickup after this date, a fee of \$25.00 will be charged.

Major Changes In Local Election Laws Apply in '08

Town elections for Mayor and Council will take place in the coming year, and they will be conducted under comprehensive changes in local election laws adopted by the Council this year.

To bring the Town election process into the 21st Century – until the revisions, the regulations did not even allow the use of electronic voting machines — and make it consistent with State law, the Mayor appointed a blue ribbon commission chaired by Council Vice President Bruce Wahl with Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin, Election Board members Chuck McDonald and Donald Jones as task force members and Town Attorney Eric Blitz as adviser. The process took about nine months.

Even though the Town elections take place every four years at the same time as Presidential votes, **the early February 12 scheduling of the Maryland Presidential primary has no impact on the Town election schedule.** Local elections are “completely separate from the County Election Board and totally under the auspices of the Town,” according to Councilman Wahl.

There is *no primary, on any date, in the Town*, because elections are non-partisan. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, and candidates must file no later than 45 days before that, a significant change in the regulations. The Newsletter will carry reminders, and an Election Guide, in future issues.

When the election does take place, Town voters will have an hour longer to get to the polls, whose hours will now coincide with State polling hours. The

polls will now close at 8 p.m. “In the past,” Councilman Wahl explained, “a voter might go to their State polling place after work, finish voting there for President at 7:30, and get to Town Hall to find that the polls had closed at 7.”

No matter how many new precincts the County may establish, “voting for Town office will always take place only at Town Hall.”

Many of the changes to the laws relate to accommodating potential election challenges. For the first time, the Town will be able to offer provisional ballots. A person who does not appear on the voter registry but asserts a right to vote would be allowed to cast a vote whose effectiveness would be provisional on the outcome of a review of his eligibility to vote in the Town.

The earlier deadline for filing for office also relates to challenges. The former time limit of 20 days did not allow the Election Board sufficient time to rule on challenges for candidate eligibility before votes were cast.

Likewise, a change was made in the date the newly elected officials take office, to allow review of challenges before the new members are sworn in, or to give time for a recount. Also new are provisions that would trigger an automatic recount, at the Town’s expense, if the outcome of a race was within a certain percentage of the vote, and allow the Election Board both to conduct the recount and to require the candidate requesting the new tally to reimburse the cost of a recount if it does not fall within the automatic margin.

Members elected in 2008 will serve for 49 months, until the third Thursday in December, rather than the standard 48-month term, and the officials elected in 2012 and thereafter will take office on the third Thursday of December.

Registration for Town elections can be done at the same time and place as State registration, or individuals whose primary residence is within the Town limits may still choose to register only for Town elections. In the past some have chosen this option on the mistaken belief that jury pools are still drawn only from voter lists. Jury names now come from Motor Vehicle Administration lists of driver’s licenses and ID cards as well as the voter lists.

If you have questions about the election process or qualifications for public office, forget about asking the Board of Election Supervisors. It no longer exists. But the same good citizens are still doing their same hard work on your behalf. But now they’re doing it under a new name, so contact the “Election Board” instead. Members are Malcolm Funn, Randy Getman, Chuck McDonald and alternate Brian Beard.

Number, Please

There’s a fierce-looking stray dog in the yard. Quick, what’s the number for Animal Control?

I want to talk to a deputy about the speeders through my street. I don’t need 911, so where do I call?

For emergencies, we all know 911. But for the everyday questions that come up in Town, what’s the number?

Clip and save the following list:

Animal Control	410-535-2800
Beach Elementary ..	410-257-1512
Community Center .	410-257-2554
Fire Department	410-257-6564
Library	410-257-2411
Post Office	410-257-6180
Railway Museum ...	410-257-3892
Sheriff’s Dept.	410-257-2800
Town Hall	301-855-8398
Or	410-257-2230



With Our Thanks

The Town would like to thank the following participants for making the Haunted Water Park such a huge success. Please give them your own thanks for supporting this holiday tradition: Calvert All-Stars Cheer and Dance, Maggie Moo's, Calvert Kettle Corn, Chesapeake Beach Garden Club, Fastop, Girl Scout Troop 3102, Northeast Community Center, PNC Bank, Papa John's Pizza, Prime Time Children's Center, Rod-n-Reel Restaurant, Trader's Restaurant, Twin Beaches Library.



Keeping the Town Green and Green

Does care for the Bay mean that the Town has to sacrifice its lush landscaping, or that you have to give up your impressive lawn?

Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin, who is chairing the Town's "living green" project, shares another of her encounters with her friend Kermit, showing him that it is really not that hard to be green.

"One day when Kermit was traveling down Route 260 and saw Veterans Park and the Bay beyond, he noticed the beautiful green of the lawn and wondered - the Bay, the green, green, green grass; how can that be without some fertilizers that would be

harmful to the water? So, off he hopped to the Town Hall and again he asked. How can the Veteran's Park be so beautiful without doing harm?

CAUTION!

'Tis the season of good will toward men. Unfortunately, it can also be a season of crime and crashes. Our sheriff's office reminds you to keep your vehicles locked and packages out of sight to prevent theft. And if your celebrations include holiday spirits, have a designated driver. If you're the host, make sure your guests return home safely. Don't drink and drive. And don't let your guests drink and drive.

"Kermit heard an answer that eased his fears. The Town's landscaping contractor uses the "Cockadoodle DOO" Brand of Organic Lawn & Garden Products, which they guarantee is absolutely safe for use around kids, pets, drinking water and the environment. Children and pets can play on the lawn immediately after application."

For more information on what the town landscaper uses for such wonderful results, please reference <http://www.purebarnyard.com/cockadoodledoo/faq.asp>. Or research other safe products for your own yard. The Bay will thank you.



BRIGHTEST BEACON ON THE BAY

December 17, 2007: Judging of Lighting Contest.

If you wish to have your display judged, please contact the Town Hall at 410-257-2230.

December 20, 2007: Contest winners announced and Awards Ceremony at 7:30 PM.

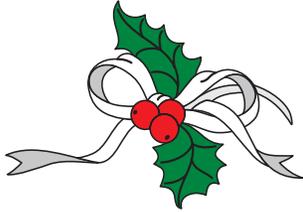
Please join the Town in this annual event, catch the holiday spirit and decorate your home, business, boat or townhouse!

Awards are given for the best decorations.

Contest is limited to residents and businesses *within* the Town limits.



Happy Holidays
From the Town of Chesapeake Beach



**Town Hall
Closed
December 24th
December 25th**



**Town Hall
Closed
December 31st
January 1st**



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