

CHESAPEAKE BEACH Newsletter

Spring 2009

From the Mayor

I am writing this on January 20, Inauguration Day for President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. I have been captivated by the events of the day, and the sense of hope and optimism for our future. In spite of severe economic hardship, job layoffs, and a steep decline in the real estate market, I get the sense that our country has begun a new era.

I grew up in the 1960's, when the struggle for civil rights culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. At that time, I was in high school in Fairfax County, Virginia, and remember when four black students entered my school of about 2000 students for the first time. Prior to that time, the policy was "separate but equal". I can only imagine how overwhelming it must have been for those four students to be in such a tiny minority in that huge school. But it was a small step forward.

Skip ahead to April 1968. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, and many of the nation's large cities erupted in riots, including Washington, D.C. At the time, I had a job driving a newspaper delivery truck. My route was Capital Hill, including all of Southeast Washington on the west side of the Anacostia River. The rage that permeated the city resulted in police clashes, arson, looting and general mayhem. It was a very uneasy time in the Nation's Capital. This was a terribly

difficult time in our history.

Now here we are in 2009 with an African American President. To say that I could not have imagined this in my youth is a major understatement. But I am so happy to see this! I feel that our country has achieved a new maturity. To see nearly two million people in Washington to CELEBRATE (not protest) is something we have never witnessed in our history. The

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The new Council takes office. From left, front row, Stewart Cumbo, Mayor Bruce Wahl, Council Vice President Pat "Irish" Mahoney. Standing, Julie Spano, Robert Carpenter; Ingrid Lamb; Valerie Beaudin.

Meet the Town Council

Potluck, but No Surprises, for Rookie Council Member Bob Carpenter

Meet the Council, a feature that helps us get to know the Town's elected officials in their non-government lives, focuses this month on the alphabetically first new Councilmember Robert Carpenter. Councilwomen Lamb and Spano will be profiled in subsequent issues.

If anyone is ever truly aware of what they're getting into when they run for public office, new Town Councilman Robert (Bob) Carpenter should be. Professionally, he is a campaign resource for candidates at all levels, so he had a grasp of how to get elected. Personally, he has served as president of his homeowners' association, so he knew, on a smaller scale, what happens after you win. And he has been a regular attendee of Council meetings and Town activities. Thus it should be no surprise that, three months into his first term, he says "it's pretty much what I expected."

And what he expected, apparently, was to enjoy the new challenge, because so far, it's been fun. "We haven't had anything contentious yet, but the budget is coming up, and this year we'll have to prioritize. I don't look forward to disagreement, but we'll deal with it if it comes."

"After 30 years helping to elect others, [with American Viewpoint, an Alexandria-based Republican public opinion business] it's a different feeling running and winning yourself," he says. "You have all those people working on your behalf

"You have all those people working on your behalf and contributing to your campaign, and you don't want to let your supporters down."

and contributing to your campaign, and you don't want to let your supporters down. You feel more responsible for the whole team."

A six-year resident of the Town, Bob lives in Windward Key, where he was on the board of the Homeowners Association and served as its president. He chose not to run for re-election to that body, but his wife Pat ran in his stead and is now serving. He has not given up other obligations, however. He continues to serve as President of the Calvert County Arts Council, a volunteer organization that supports both visual and performing arts in the county. And he and Pat continue a

neighborhood tradition that they started, "Sunday at Seven". Begun as a way to keep in touch with the neighbors during the winter months when folks hunkered down indoors, it evolved into monthly y'all-come events open to anyone in the community that showed up with a dish

to contribute. With his new schedule, however, he anticipates that the gatherings will be held less frequently.

With the schedule he keeps, "what do you like to do in your leisure time?" seems a moot question, but he was ready with a "like", even though short on the "leisure" side of the question. It was love of sailing and looking for a place on the water that drew the Carpenters to the Beach in the first place. Now, at the Windward Key marina, he keeps "a 27-foot sailboat that I hardly ever get to use."

He also loves to travel, and he has



Bob Carpenter takes his oath of office.

combined that love with his political bent, to visit emerging democracies, including Liberia, Angola and Bosnia, under the auspices of the International Republican Institute, to teach political party building. "They are not exactly what you would think of as vacation spots, but the experiences have been fascinating."

With two grown sons, he and Pat are looking forward to a new leisure activity, grandparenting. They have their first grandchild due in April. Unfortunately, the baby will be living in Seattle, so like sailing the boat, playing with a grandchild will be a less frequent event than he would prefer.

With a very full plate, Councilman Carpenter also wants to be out in the community and as accessible to constituents as possible, and welcomes contacts. In the Voters Guide he listed his Council priorities as reducing property taxes, attracting new businesses and promoting those already here, and cleaning up the Bay. Now that he's in office, he added an additional message for the voters – "Thanks for trusting me."



TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR 2009 HOLIDAYS

When a holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday collection day, the corresponding days(s) will be a day behind. If the holiday falls on a Thursday or Friday, then the corresponding days(s) will be a day behind.

NORTH SIDE of Town (from North Beach to Rod n' Reel Marina West includes Bayview Hills) REGULAR TRASH collection is on MONDAY and RECYCLE is on THURSDAY.

Summer Schedule: There will be an additional REGULAR TRASH collection on Thursdays from June through October.

	<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Collection Day</u>
Memorial Day	May 25, 2009	May 26, 2009
Labor Day	September 7, 2009	September 8, 2009
Thanksgiving Day	November 26, 2009	November 27, 2009
Christmas Day	December 25, 2009	December 26, 2009
New Years Day	January 1, 2010	January 2, 2010

SOUTH SIDE of Town (from Rod n' Reel Marina West at Fishing Creek to Chesapeake Village, including Richfield Station) REGULAR TRASH collection is on TUESDAY and RECYCLE collection is on FRIDAY.

Summer Schedule: There will be an additional REGULAR TRASH collection on Fridays from June through October.



Reminders: Yard debris pickup will resume on April 7. You MUST call the Town Hall to pre-arrange for a bulk trash pick-up at 410-257-2230 or 301-855-8398.

In Class and On Foot

Council Members Learn the Ropes of Town Government Ready, Set, Go ...

With a new day and a new group occupying Town Hall, the Mayor and Council, rookies and veteran office-holders alike, have engaged in two intensive orientation sessions to prepare themselves for the four years ahead, with an "Infrastructure Field Trip" and a back-to-school style program led by the Maryland Municipal League.

The field trip, all day on Saturday, January 31, was not only hands-on, but feet-down and noses-up. A group that included Mayor and Council members Bob Carpenter and Valerie Beaudin were joined by Town Administrator Michelle Jenkins, Public Works Director Wilson Cochran, Town Engineer Paul Woodburn, and Jeff Sturdevant, principal of the Town's water and sewer consulting engineering firm Sterns & Wheler, met at Town Hall and walked to Veterans Park, the 26th Street site of a new force sewer main, the E Street Pumping Station where they got an "in-depth" demonstration of operations, including opening up the pipe and watching the flow. Then it was off to the ball fields at Kellams, the Town boat ramps, Water Park and Northeast Community Center, all on foot. After a lunch break, the

group was joined by veteran Councilmen Stewart Cumbo and Vice President Pat Mahoney, and made the rest of their circuit by County bus. Julie Spano and Ingrid Lamb were unable to make the tour but will take it later.

The afternoon portion of the trip took them to the wastewater treatment facility, where they spent an hour seeing all aspects of the operation and observing the shellfish holding tank, then had the fortuitous opportunity to see the public works crew and contractors doing an emergency sewer repair. They wrapped up the day with visits to the new water tower at Richfield Station, all nine pump stations, the old water tower on Bayside Road and the new water tower and well site at Chesapeake Village. The purpose of the outing, according to Mayor Wahl, was "to make sure that all members see and understand what it is that we are responsible for."

At a Tuesday night session on January 13th, both rookies and veterans gathered in the Council conference room to learn, or be refreshed on, the basics of municipal government. The top lead-



Deputy Clerk of the Court Jackie Hawkins congratulates Bruce Wahl after swearing him in as the first new Town Mayor in 25 years.

ership of the Maryland Municipal League was present to present an overview of all aspects of a mayor/council organization, including budget, open meetings laws, ethics, parliamentary procedure, and the separate powers of executive and legislative officials.

Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz, the current president of MML, Scott Hancock, Executive Director of MML, and Linda Burrell, Manager of Member Services and Education, briefed the group. It was a president-heavy gathering, as Councilman Stewart Cumbo is immediate past president of MML, and County Commissioners President Wilson Parran also attended and shared observations. Mr. Parran is also the President of the Maryland Association of Counties.



From left, Council members Beaudin, Cumbo and Spano take oath.



From left, Council members Lamb, Carpenter and Vice President Mahoney are sworn in.

The Town of Chesapeake Beach
presents



The Sixth Annual
Easter Parade

FREE!

Saturday, April 11, 2009

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**GAMES
CANDY
PRIZES**

Parade starts at 17th Street
At the Boardwalk then
Down to the Beach!

Wear your best Easter bonnet and bring your Easter basket!

Free Parking and
Shuttle Service From
Kellam's Ballfield and
Beach Elementary
School To and From
17th Street

**EASTER TREATS WILL BE GIVEN
OUT ON THE BEACH BY
CHESAPEAKE BEACH LOCAL
MERCHANTS!**



Stimulus

Mayor Presents Stimulus Project at Hoyer Meeting

Chesapeake Beach is "shovel ready", and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer knows it. Congressman Hoyer convened a meeting of local leaders from his district to brief them on the funding opportunities that the Economic Stimulus package could potentially bring to the area. He invited representatives of three municipalities in the district, one from inside the Beltway, one outside the beltway but still somewhat urban, and a "rural" town, to present ideas on projects in their locales that could meet funding criteria.

Mayor Wahl, as "rural" representative, was invited to talk about a "shovel ready" project that could provide immediate work and lasting public benefits. The mayor presented the new 350,000 gallon water tank and well already necessary and planned for Chesapeake Village. "This is a project for which the Town will have to seek bond funds in a bad funding environment, and one that is ready to go," Mayor Wahl explained. "It will cost about \$3.3 million."

Added to the 150,000-gallon water tower on Old Bayside Road and the 350,000-gallon tank at Richfield Station, the new tank would not only serve the needs of Chesapeake Village, but would also enhance fire protection for the entire Town.

Stimulus funding will come to localities through the State. The mayor is very hopeful that the Town will receive the funding, an opportunity that would benefit the Town for generations, relieve the Town of the bonding burden, and potentially help play a small part in restoring the national economy.



House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, far right, Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, and Maryland Transportation Secretary John Porcari met with municipal officials to brief them on the proposed Economic Stimulus package. Far right at the facing table is Mayor Wahl, who was one of three invited speakers.



Mayor Wahl speaking with House Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer.



In the Spotlight

Chesapeake and North Beaches got special, high-level attention at the winter meeting of the Maryland Association of Counties. The Mayors of both towns attended the gathering to celebrate the installation of County Commissioner Wilson Parran as MACO president. Commissioner Parran recognized each in his remarks, the only municipal officials cited, and Governor Martin O'Malley, who installed the officers, joined the three for a photo.

APRIL 4, 2009

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FREE!



Beach Family Fun Fest

**For Families with
Children 5 & Under**

**Location:
Beach Elementary
School**

Games & Food
ENTERTAINMENT
★ Photos with
DORA the EXPLORER
& SNEAKS THE CAT
Free Books
MUCH MORE!

Sponsored by:

A Friend of Families



United Way

SUCCESS BY 6

United Way of Calvert County



For more information, call Success By 6 at 410-286-0101 or e-mail initiatives@unitedwaycalvert.org

Committees

Citizen Volunteers Fill Vital Community Roles

They helped you with your election registration questions, certified candidates, counted votes. They make decisions about how our Town should grow and develop. They help you when you need a setback adjustment for your new addition. They listen to your complaints about the zoning violation next door that's impacting your quality of life. Or, they have to tell you "no".

They are your neighbors, giving their time to duties that rarely bring them thanks, and often are the focus of anger. But they are all essential to the smooth operations of the Town and assurance that rules are followed and quality of life protected. They are the appointed, volunteer members of the Town's official boards and commissions. Next time you see them, you might say thanks.

Planning Commission

Note: Planning Commission meetings have been changed from the second Tuesday to second Wednesday of the month,



and if there is nothing on the agenda, there is NO meeting, so check before attending.

Jeff LaBar, Chairman; Joe Jenkins, Darren Maertens, Eleanor Nelson, Tim Stafford, Marilyn VanWagner

Board of Appeals

Jim Burke, Chairman; Ken Horsmon, Jeff Krahling, Warren Laheist, Doris Spencer

Election Board

Malcolm Funn, Chairman; Ron Draper, Mary Horsmon, Brian Beard, Alternate



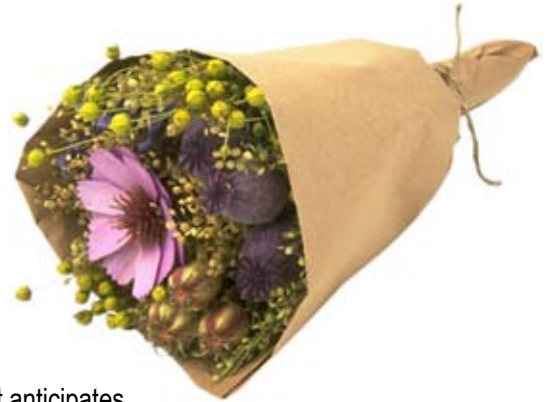
Meet with the Mayor. Mayor Wahl welcomes your inquiries, ideas, complaints, pleasant chats. He will be at your disposal in his Town Hall office every Monday afternoon, except when Town Hall is closed for holidays. Hours are 4 to 5:30 p.m., except the first Monday of each month, when the door will be open only from 5 to 5:30 p.m. No appointment necessary, first-come, first-served. Call Town Hall at 410-257-2230 or check the Town web site at chesapeake-beach.md.us for up to the minute Mayoral availability.

Spino Surgery

Councilwoman Spano Faces Spine Surgery

Everyone who runs for office has to stick his neck out and keep her chin up, but for new Councilwoman Julie Spano, that has been entirely too literal. Painful injuries incurred in an auto accident required her to have spinal surgery February 18 and will force her to limit her activities during her recovery. Her car was struck from behind in September by a driver using a cell phone, and she has endured much of the final months of the campaign and the beginning of her Council term in a neck brace.

Councilwoman Spano does not yet know how long the recovery period will be but anticipates that she will be sidelined or on limited activity for several weeks. During her absence, you can contact her via her Town email, although her ability to respond may be limited. Meanwhile, she wishes to remind all that, while behind the wheel, any messaging should be hands free, or pull over. The primary task of a driver is to drive.



Lights

At Long Last, Lights On!

That long dark stretch between Brightest Beacon and Daylight Savings Time got a lot brighter on January 25, when Mayor Wahl ceremonially lit the long-awaited streetlights on routes 260 and 261 as on-lookers applauded.

An intrepid group of Council members and interested citizens braved frigid night air to watch and rejoice as the Mayor signaled the electrical contractors to let there be light. The group's response was warm even if the air was not. A total of 97 lamps were lighted in this phase. In the future, 18 more will be added on Gordon Stinnett Avenue and four more on Rt. 260 between F and G Streets.

"It's been almost two years since Mayor Donovan, Councilman Cumbo and I selected the lights at the Maryland Municipal League convention," the Mayor recalled, "so this has been a long time coming." Handsome poles and globes, and money-saving, environmentally friendly bulbs will help make the new fixtures worth the wait.

Those energy-efficient bulbs gave the crowd a momentary concern, as they do not burst instantly into full light as old-fashioned incandescent bulbs do, but with contractors from Mackey Electrical Services reassuring the group that there was nothing amiss, the lights soon warmed into a cheerful glow.

Beach Bucs

Lacrosse Registration Open For Beach Buccaneers

On-line registration is now underway for Beach Buccaneers spring lacrosse. The sport is open to ages from 5 and 6-year-old "Scoopers" through age 14. To register, visit the website at www.beachbuccaneers.com.

Officers, executive board and commissioners for 2009 are: **Executive Board:** Jimmy Niland, President; Jeff Hagen, Vice President; Stefany Lang, Treasurer; Michelle Hagen, Secretary. **Commissioners:** Greg Disney, **Football**; Marcy Rice, **Cheerleading**; Carrie Almond-Jones, **Poms**; Chevy White, **Select Basketball**; Kevin Collins, **Lacrosse**; Sherri Niland, **Ways & Means Chair**.

For further information on Bucs teams and activities, visit the website, or you may direct specific questions and comments to jimmysherri@gmail.com.



Departures

Finch and Parent Depart Council After Decades of Public Service

When Jim Parent and Jo Finch left office in November, each of these Council members was wrapping up service that spanned more than two decades. And although their departures were overshadowed that night by the farewell of Mayor Donovan, who had served even longer and brought them both into Town government, they left behind admiring colleagues and indelible marks on the character of our community.

Councilwoman Finch was well known by the nickname she earned during her tenure, while Dr. Parent did not acquire a special appellation. But if Mrs. Finch was indeed the Town's "Mother Christmas", Jim Parent could have been known as "The Man with the Plan", for his key role in the Town's planning and zoning processes.

Councilman Parent was roped in first, in 1982, to be a member of the Board of Appeals. As he recalls it, he attended a Town meeting as a new resident, and near the end of the meeting the Mayor asked for a volunteer to fill a vacancy. "I asked how much time it would entail. He said, 'It has only been meeting one or two times a year', so I agreed. What he didn't tell me was that the Council had recently changed the zoning ordinance allowing town houses with a special exception. From that time we met every month for at least three years with a packed house up in arms about building homes on the beach across from Town Hall. That was the beginning of my 26-year saga in town government."

That anecdote is typical Jim Parent, wry, straight-faced, but with sardonic humor. But who better to control an "up-in-arms" group than a former school administrator? It was that profession that led him to the Beach, in 1982, after coming to Calvert County to be principal of Northern High School. He moved to the Town because, he said, "I liked the people. The



County Commissioners Kelley, Stinnett and Shaw present proclamation to outgoing Councilwoman Finch.

Beach parents I dealt with would say straight up what was on their minds. It was neat to deal with people who didn't have a hidden agenda."

He continued his work on planning and zoning throughout his Town career, and his direct manner, and willingness to take on the tough decisions, did not stop him from being elected to the Council in 1988 and re-elected in 1992 and 1996. He took a voter-imposed hiatus after the 2000 election, was appointed to take Jan Ruttkay's place when she resigned in June 2004, then was elected in November 2004 and opted not to run again in 2008, to retire (this time he really means it) to Delaware.

"Jim's mark will be on the Town forever," said Mayor Wahl. "He worked on the development of two comprehensive plans, and has been a leader in the most recent update now underway. He spent his career shaping the lives of young people through education, and he has spent his public service time shaping the growth and

development of the Town. For both, he deserves our respect and thanks."

Council Vice President Pat Mahoney shares that high regard, calling him "the single greatest influence on my public life. What I have taken from Jim (after serving on three different Councils with him) is his sage visionary wisdom. He once told me 'Pat, we must think and make decisions in blocks of 20 future years, else we are not doing our job!' Certainly, the voice of a "Man with a Plan."

If his education career helped lead to Dr. Parent's success in his planning and zoning role, Jo Finch's 30-year career as a beautician may just as well have led to her role in making the Town more beautiful. Certainly "Mother Christmas", a nickname imposed on her by the Newsletter that fit her so well it stuck, brightened and beautified the community the way she brightened and beautified people. Her Brightest Beacon leadership even made the front page of the Baltimore Sun in an extensive article in

December, 2000.

Mrs. Finch's Council career had its beginnings in 1987, when she and husband Ed, newly moved to Town, had dinner at the Rod 'n' Reel and met Gerald Donovan. The following spring, the mayor urged her to run in the 1988 Council election. She says she facetiously responded that he was looking for a woman and a Republican to join his ticket. "It has been a standing joke between us ever since," she says.

Philip Goldstein, describing a trip to an Orioles game when he served with her on the Council, recalled the spirit she brought to public office. When the Yard Bird competition came up to pick the most enthusiastic fan at the game, "Jo started to cheer and jump up and down. When she saw her picture displayed on the large screen in centerfield, she became even more enthusiastic, and was picked as the winner. This is just one example of her enthusiasm, and

this was how she conducted herself in the business of the Town."

In 1989, the Mayor challenged her to raise private funds for a community holiday light effort, to be matched by the town. She raised \$50,000, and the Brightest Beacon began. Thereafter, for these next 20 years, she has rounded up prizes from local businesses, judges for the competition, and support for additional lights, and joined forces with Santa for the annual lighting celebration on Thanksgiving Sunday.

But she played another major, important role, Council VP Mahoney points out. "In terms of Chesapeake Beach politics, Jo was a barrier breaker indeed, a pioneer for women candidates. She remained the only woman elected to office in Town for 16 more years. Then in 2004, a second woman (Dr. Valerie Beaudin) was elected to the Town Council. Today, in 2008, three elected women (Dr. Beaudin, Julie Spano and

Ingrid Lamb) sit on the Chesapeake Beach Town Council. These accomplishments by women in Chesapeake Beach and Calvert County are in no small part a direct result of the glass ceilings broken by Barbara "Jo" Finch some 20 years ago."

In March, 2001 she reluctantly had to resign from the Town Council because she moved to North Beach Park to a one-level house next to her daughter. The Town was fortunate to have her move back into Chesapeake Beach, and she was elected to the Town Council again in 2004, and served through November 2008. "Jo was indeed a role model for the women, and men as well, who have followed her to office, and her dedication to the Brightest Beacon has helped to heighten our sense of community, and the special feeling that all who live here have for Chesapeake Beach," said Mayor Wahl. "We have indeed been fortunate to have been served so long and so well by these two officials. We will miss them both, and wish them well."

Presented To

Barbara "Jo" Finch
For your dedication to the
Town of Chesapeake Beach as a
Town Council Member

And

In Grateful Appreciation for Your Many Years of
Devotion and Leadership as Our Own "Mother Christmas" as the
Town Celebrates the 20th Annual Brightest Beacon on the Bay

Presented by

Mayor Bruce A. Wahl

And Council Members

Valerie Beaudin Robert Carpenter
Stewart B. Cumbo Ingrid Lamb
Patrick J. Mahoney Julie Spano

December 18, 2008

Message on the plaque presented by the
Council to Councilwoman Finch.

Brightest Beacon

Thanks and Congratulations To Beacon Winners, Donors

They light up our lives! Following are the winners of the 2008 Brightest Beacon competition, along with the public-spirited businesses that donated their prizes, with thanks to all participants for making our Town even more beautiful during holiday season.

Best Decorated Business

1. Tyler's Tackle Shop - 8210 Bayside Road – George Klein -- Three pizzas from Papa John's, Gift Certificate donated by Sneade's Ace Home Center.
2. Horizons by the Bay - 8501 Bayside Road – Kenneth & Donna Muller – Gift Certificate donated by Richard's Bayside Florist and a Fish Figurine donated by A-1 Antiques.



Best Decorated Townhouse

1. 3443 Silverton Lane – Diane Constantino - Gift Certificates donated by Care Drug and the Chesapeake Beach Hotel & Spa.
2. 8253 Silverton Court – Mary Harmon - Two fish figurines donated by A-1 Antiques and Pizza from Papa John's.
3. 7975 Delores Court – Jennifer & Brian Zlotorzynski – Fishing Rod donated by the Rod n' Reel Tackle Shop.

Best Decorated House

1. 3218 Smith's Retreat – Paula Caulk – Gift Certificate from the Rod n' Reel, Pizza from Papa John's, Wooden Fish donated by A-1 Antiques.
2. 7539 Bayside Road – Lucia Gott – Trolley Season Pass donated by the Beach Trolley Association, Gift Certificate from Richard's Bayside Florist.
3. 3718 13th Street – Robert & Anna Hamilton – Wooden Duck donated by A-1 Antiques.

Brightest Beacon on the Bay

3222 Smith's Retreat – Gary & Teresa Linton – Trolley Season Pass donated by the Beach Trolley Association, Roland's Gift Certificate, Gift Certificate donated by Smokey Joe's Grill, Fish Peg Holder donated by A-1 Antiques.

Garden Club

Garden Club Welcomes Spring, and Your Presence

If you love flowers and attractive yards and public spaces, it's not too early to think spring. The Chesapeake Beach Garden Club, in its eighth year, continues to meet once a month in members' homes, for programs, fun, garden projects, and to share plants, seeds, bulbs and ideas. You are welcome to join them. Contact Laura Watkins at 301-855-6734 for further information.



Railway Museum

“Winter Lull” at Railway Museum Masks Preparations for Spring

It may be late winter, and the building closed, but the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum never sleeps. Like the daffodils growing vigorously beneath the soil, the museum spends the winter months preparing for its spring and summer “blooms” – all those fun and educational activities that you enjoy in warm weather, from trail tours to Family Fun Days to outdoor concerts. Add in school education programs, and all the curatorial chores of a museum, and you have a busy winter.

But the interested public is not left out. A series of Bayside Chats is now being scheduled to tide you over the rest of the winter. For topics and dates, you can call the museum. And if you have a more active interest, and would like to be directly involved with what is happening

there, helping to plan or put on an event, be a “Station Master” welcoming visitors, or helping behind the scenes, the museum will host a Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, March 14. In the morning, you will become familiar with the different opportunities available and meet with several long-time volunteers. In the afternoon the Friends of the CBRM will provide pizza for lunch and a field trip to a nearby historic place of interest. If you are unable to attend the March 14 meeting and are interested in joining a fun group of volunteers, contact the Museum for more information.

By April, the Museum is in full swing, and open for visitors on weekends. On Saturday April 4, the Friends of the CBRM



will host their annual Heritage Tour. This bus tour will follow the right-of-way from Chesapeake Beach to Seat Pleasant, and a box lunch will be provided. There are a cost and reservations required for this program.

As always, there will be Family Fun Days and the Summer Concert series coming up. If you are interested in any of the above programs, please contact the Museum at 410-257-3892.

Beach Clean Up

All Hands on Deck to Clean the Beach

February chill may make it hard to envision, but spring will soon be here, and with it beach clean-up time at Bayfront Park.

Town Council Vice President Pat “Irish” Mahoney will once again lead an intrepid and enthusiastic crew of volunteers in clearing winter’s dirt and debris from Brownies Beach. He encourages all to participate in the annual pre-Easter Bayfront Park (Brownies) Beach clean-up on Saturday April 4.

“Bayfront Park will receive distinguished visitors Saturday, April 11, including the Easter Bunny and the Town’s children. The Bunny is ready to hide away eggs for the big hunt, but he really doesn’t care for the idea of tucking them away in piles of trash, or having little ones romping through an accumulation of winter debris,” Councilman Mahoney said.

A core group of devoted volunteers including Scouts and Garden Clubbers gathers each year, last year even in ice, to make sure the area is ready to welcome the Easter Bunny and

his parade followers and all the Townsfolk who will enjoy the park in the ensuing months. Helpers are welcome and encouraged to join them beginning at 10 a.m. (or whenever they can get there) and ending when the work is complete. They will find their



task perhaps a little easier this year, as a group of scouts from Beach Elementary took advantage of the pleasant end-of-January Saturday weather and showed up on their own to get a head start on the cleaning.

“The Town will provide gloves, bags, water and great neighborly fellowship,” Councilman Mahoney says. “Volunteerism is a wonderful thing to teach our children, so please just show up with your family and help us clean up our beach for the Easter Parade and the Spring beach season.”

The group proved last year that they will not be daunted by cold weather, nor by other slightly inclement weather. Who minds drizzle when you’re on the beach anyway! But in case of heavy rain, the clean-up will take place the next day, Sunday, April 5.



Solid Gold **'Solid Gold' Helps Neighbors Through Storms' Challenges**

How did you do in the ice storm? If you are registered for Solid Gold Service, you did very well indeed.

For people who may be elderly or disabled, ice-covered sidewalks and driveways can be a scary prospect. How will I get out to get food and medicine or visit the doctor? But if they live in Chesapeake Beach, that fear is unnecessary.

When a storm – winter or summer—or other event is threatened that might leave a qualified individual isolated, Town Hall staff or volunteers call to determine what services they might need – a pharmacy pick-up, a sidewalk shoveled—and arrange to fill them. Ideally, a neighbor or other volunteer would provide the service, but if none are available, staff provides. And the next round of calls coming into Town Hall are those of gratitude, thanks for the kindness and hard work of staff, most often Public Works employees.

If you live in the Town and are over 55 and need help, or are younger but qualify for handicapped license plates, you are eligible for Solid Gold service. Contact Town Hall by phone, email, or mail in the coupon that appears in most issues of the Newsletter. And if you do not need assistance yourself, but are willing to help a neighbor, staff would love to hear from you as well. Even if you are housebound yourself, you can be a volunteer by making calls. Either way, it's a golden opportunity.

Calendars

A Year of Pretty Days For Servicemen Abroad

It's a new year, and a new era, for the Town and the country, and so far, 2009 looks great – in the Town calendar, at least!

The new calendar is the beautiful and information-packed production that Town folk have come to expect, the work of committee members Doug DeMark, Nancy Feuerle, Ingrid Lamb, Jacqueline Malonson, Sherry Smith, Becky Wahl, Dennis Young, and Chairman Bruce Wahl, and it can bring a taste of home to Town and County folk serving their country in distant places.

Council Vice President Pat "Irish" Mahoney has once again volunteered to distribute the calendar to those with local ties in service throughout the world. If you know such an individual or individuals, submit their names and addresses to Town Hall and he will see that Beach 2009 is sent to them with appropriate greetings and gratitude from the homefolks.



Outgoing Mayor Donovan presents Jim Parent a plaque from the Town in recognition of his long service, at the last Town meeting for each.

Mayor

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spirit of cooperation, optimism, hope and faith in our new President is wonderful! I trust that you share this spirit of renewal with me.

Just as we have seen a new day for the country, it is also a new day for our wonderful town with a new Mayor and three new Council members. I wish to express my deep gratitude to former Mayor Gerald Donovan. Under his stewardship, the town flourished and grew quite well. He has left us in sound financial shape. Thank you Gerald.

Despite the sound shape we are in, the nation, and perhaps



the Town and we as individuals, face tough economic times. I encourage you to support our local businesses here in Town. We have seen four town businesses close up shop in the past few months. The people that own and operate our local businesses and their employees are your neighbors. They need your support. It benefits us all, as a Town, as a community, if we have a vibrant commercial core. Please shop the Town first.

My best wishes to you and your families for 2009 and the future beyond. I look forward to serving you. Please take advantage of my "Open Door" opportunities most Mondays if you wish to chat. Check the town's web site at www.chesapeake-beach.md.us for my availability. I enjoy hearing your comments, concerns, suggestions and offers to volunteer to serve your fellow citizens.

Bruce A. Wahl, Mayor

Cookbook

Business Group Seeks Your Recipes for Cookbook

The surest recipe for good living is a Beach address. The Beach Business Group thinks that Town residents also hold the surest recipes for good eating, and they hope you will share them.

The group, comprised of representatives of businesses in North and Chesapeake Beaches, will publish a Taste of the Beaches cookbook this summer, and they hope your best bites will be in it. You are urged to submit up to five of your favorite recipes, in any of the following categories:

Appetizers & Beverages
 Vegetables & Sides
 Meat & Poultry
 Breads & Rolls

Soups & Salads
 Casseroles & Pasta
 Seafood
 Desserts

Proceeds from the sale of the book will not only support the organization, but also the Bayside Boys & Girls Club, which will receive \$1 for every copy sold.

There are three ways to submit:

1. Go online to www.typensave.com and click on login; indicate your name as the contributor; group login is BBGCB2009; and the password is f3e6q.
2. E-mail recipes to Leanne@btresures.com
3. Mail recipes to Linda Woods, 8501 Bayside Road, #410, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732.

With your help, the group says it "hopes to make Taste of the Beaches a must-have cookbook that attractively represents our beautiful surroundings here on the Chesapeake Bay. We thank you for joining us in making this exciting project a reality."



Library

What's the Story? Tales for all Ages

Who doesn't love a good story -- to hear them, read them, tell your friends about them, dissect them in discussion?

Twin Beaches library believes you're never too young – or too old—for a good story, and they offer a chance for every age, birth to seniors, to hear or talk about them. **Storytime** is every Wednesday at the library, 9:15 for the **Cuddle Up & Read to Me** crowd for birth to 24-month-olds accompanied by an adult; 11 to 11:30 for **2-3 Year Old Storytime**, including not just a story, but making a craft, accompanied by an adult, and **Family Storytime**, at 10 to 10:45 and 1 to 1:45, and again on **Saturdays** at 10, for families with mixed-age youngsters. Family Storytime also includes craft-making.

Topics for spring Storytime are **Dr. Seuss**, March 4, 7;



Snakes March 11, 14; **Under the Weather** March 18, 21; **Jungle Animals**, March 25, 28; **Rainy Days**, April 2, 5; **Ocean Life** April 15, 18; **Spring** April 22, 25. There will be no Storytime the week of April 6.

Special **Evening Storytimes** for the whole family will focus on Earth Day April 23, and Summer Reading Kick-Off June 11, both at 7 p.m.

Registration is required for all Storytime participants. Call 410-257-2411 or register online at calvert.lib.md.us.

For the adults, it's not so much tell me a story, as tell me *about* one. Adult book discussions take place at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Town Center Apartments in North Beach. Upcoming books are **House of Mirth** by Edith Wharton, March 9; **Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How it Can Renew America** by Thomas L. Friedman (author of **World Is Flat**, which can also be part of the discussion) April 13; **John Adams** by David McCullough May 11. Watch the HBO special or read the book. July 13, **"What have you read good lately?"**. There will be no meeting in June or August.