

Happy Holidays!



TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH



Holiday 2006

Creek Trail Now Now Good to Go

If waiting for Santa seemed to have no end when we were kids, it's nothing compared to the wait for the Fishing Creek Trail. But just as Santa's visit is almost at hand, the Trail has cleared a major hurdle that should let it begin moving to reality.

On December 6, the state Critical Area Commission at long last gave its

final approval to the project. With this hurdle cleared, the process can begin to move forward to actual construction.

According to planning consultant Chris Jakubiak, several steps remain. The State Highway Administration will host a meeting of technical advisers to review the final engineering plans for the Trail, likely in early February. When that step is completed the Town can advertise the

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From The Mayor

It is always good to come home. It is especially good to come home now after the sun goes down. Whether you enter town from Route 260 or Route 261, you have probably noticed that we are really lit up – like a Christmas tree!! We can thank Mother Christmas, Councilwoman, Jo Finch for getting us all in the mood, the whole Council for supporting our decorating ideas, and K&H Electric and Windmill Farms Nursery for working extra hard to make it happen on time! I hear so many compliments everywhere I go. Everyone has a favorite – from the little train getting steamed up to the penguins sliding down the igloo. The Town Hall truly glows with the spirit of Christmas –

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And the Winners Are. . .

The winners of the Brightest Beacon on the Bay lighting contest will be announced and presented with awards at the December 21, 2006 Town Council Meeting. The Awards Ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The long awaited 2007 Town calendars have arrived! They will be presented at the meeting. Come to the meeting, and be the first to receive your calendar.

Read Tree Rules Before Chopping

*Townsmen, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bow!
In youth, it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now.*

George Pope Morris' 1830 poem addressed the "woodman", not the Townie, but protecting trees is a Town priority, and "The Protector," Zoning Administrator Bill Watson, wants you to know the rules.

Trees are obviously important to the Town's beauty, and for the shade and recreation they provide. Properly maintained, they enhance property values. But there are many other vital services they provide, including energy conservation, improving air quality, erosion control, bird and animal habitat, and perhaps most important, protecting the Bay.

The Town's tree regulations do not require that you "touch not a single bow", but there are rules you must follow. **If a tree is on Town property**, only the Town can cut or trim it. The Town will not cut any trees that are alive and healthy.

On private property, always consult with the Zoning Administrator before cutting. In general, trimming of trees is allowed without a permit. ***If the tree is NOT in the Critical Area*** (See Critical Area Zoning Map, available at Town Hall), the Town's Forest Conservation Ordinance governs. Generally, no permit is required for the cutting of a tree(s) amounting to less than 40,000 square feet on an individual lot. **But**, in some cases there are Forest Conservation areas (FCA's) that have been created during the development process. ***Trees in these areas may not be cut without a permit.*** Usually these

FCA's are on Homeowner's Association Property, but not always. Champion and Specimen trees (more than 30" around measured at 4.5 feet above the ground) may not be cut without a permit.

If the tree is in the Critical Area (See Critical Area Zoning Map, available at Town Hall), the land use designation in its area will determine the restrictions.

There is very little land in the Town in the RCA (Resource Conservation Area) designation. Per Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance, the limits are the same as in the LDA.

LDA - Limited Development Area. There is a moderate amount of land in Town in the LDA, mostly in areas having larger lots or no sewer service. While individual trees that are dead and threatening damage to other property may be taken down, a **Zoning permit must be obtained** prior to such removal. Land clearing is limited to retaining 80% of the forest existing at the time of the enactment of the Critical Area in 1984. If trees to be removed are over 12" in diameter, a Calvert County Grading Permit must also be obtained. Removed trees are to be replaced on a one-for-one basis, if done with a permit. *If removed without a permit, fines and penalty replacement may be required.*

IDA - Intensely Developed Area.

Yule Tree Pick-up

Leave Christmas trees for pick-up outside in your regular trash location They will be picked up by Town Public Works, not by the trash contractor, and not necessarily on your regular trash day. There will be a \$25 fee for each tree picked up after January 15, the third Monday in January.

This is the most prevalent land use designation in Town. *Within the IDA, any tree may be removed.* If dead and threatening, it may not need to be replaced. A **Zoning permit will be required.** If a large number of trees are to be removed, or land clearing/grading of more than 5,000 square feet will take place, stormwater management must be addressed. Computations and possible best management practices (BMP) to remove water pollutants will be needed. The goal of this stormwater management requirement is to reduce the pollutants in the runoff to a level 10% less than prior to the clearing. This is known as the 10% Rule. Usually a consultant may be needed to make the necessary computations and recommendations on the BMP's.

When trees being removed are to be replaced, **a bond is required.** This bond is to ensure that the replacement tree survives at least two growing seasons after planting. For small numbers of trees to be planted, most people simply write a check to the Town. This money is held until the owner requests an inspection after the two growing seasons, and if the trees are found to be in good health, the money is refunded. Note that *it is up to the owner to initiate the inspection.*

Mayor-from page 1

outside and inside. The sense of community is wrapped up in bright lights.

If I were to choose my favorite, it would surely be Veterans Park. So many people have said "it takes their breath away" or "I got a lump in my throat the first time I saw it." I have also heard "I see something new each time I ride through town."

I know what they mean!

Here's wishing every family a wonderful holiday season –

Gerald W. Donovan
Mayor

Remembering Heroes of 9/11

When Veterans Park was designed and built, no one anticipated 9/11. But the park has become an important place of remembrance of that horrific event, and on September 11 dignitaries and Town folk gathered there for the fifth annual candlelight ceremony. Congressman – and now House Majority Leader – Steny Hoyer, Maryland Senate President Mike Miller, Mayors Donovan and Frazer, Delegate Sue Kullen, Chesapeake Beach Town Council, and County Commissioners were among the notables. But perhaps most notable, and given special recognition, was Chuck Klein, the last remaining individual listed on the “Honor Roll” sign of Beach men who served in World War II. Three others, Bernie Loveless, Martin Cochran and Zane King have passed away since the sign was erected at the site. Another important part of the evening’s events was the unveiling of a National Guard monument stone, joining the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine stones already in place.



PHOTO CREDITS: 9/11 photos in this issue were taken by JAX Photography. All others, unless otherwise identified, were taken by Nancy Feuerle. The Newsletter appreciates these important contributions.

Love thy neighbor?

Do you have a few minutes to help a neighbor? Yes, just a few minutes, and no dollars, is all it takes.

Solid Gold Service needs you, because your neighbor needs you. You know the one, the elderly lady next door, or the man in the wheelchair across the street. Can you spare five minutes to call and see if they need anything when a storm is impending? Do you have 15 minutes to pick up the prescription they won't be able to go out into the snow to get? Can you take 20 minutes to shovel some steps or a sidewalk?

When a major storm is impending, Town Hall staff have many Solid Gold registrants to contact and potentially assist. If you could give a few minutes to help with this task, it would allow staff to spend more time on preparation and follow-up, and you might not even have to leave the comfort of home. Easy work, for the reward of so much gratitude and good feeling.

Please call Kathy at Town Hall if you are willing to help.

Don't Get "Taken" During Holidays

It may be the season of giving and goodwill, but for some among us, it is unfortunately the season of taking as well.

The Sheriff's office reports that thefts from cars have become a problem, and you need to take precautions. They recommend the following, no matter how short a time you will be away from your car:

- ✓ **KEEP ALL WINDOWS CLOSED**
- ✓ **LOCK ALL DOORS**
- ✓ **KEEP ALL VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT**
- ✓ **NEVER LEAVE ANY KEYS EXPOSED**
- ✓ **NEVER LEAVE KEYS IN THE IGNITION**
- ✓ **PARK IN WELL LIGHTED AREAS AT NIGHT**

If you see anything suspicious, notify the Sheriff's Department.

Solid Gold Service

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: _____

Museum Offers Winter Attractions

While away winter with dreams of riding the rails, or memories of Beach summers past.

Although officially closed until March except for classroom events, the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum has some wintertime treats for you – two special exhibits and two "Bayside" chats. And no, "Bayside" does not mean sitting outside on the sand.

A new winter tradition of "Fireside Chats" by the hotel fireplace proved so popular that a larger venue had to be found. Now you can enjoy the talks in the comfort of the Northeast

Community Center, with plenty of elbowroom.

The first talk will be held in collaboration with the Bayside History Museum. Tom and Gracie Rymer will share their memories of life at the beach decades ago, and of Camp Roosevelt. It takes place January 27 at 2 p.m., is free, and no reservations are required. In March, to celebrate Women's History Month, there will be a peek into Grandma's Trunk, for a look at the garments Grandma and Great-grandma would have worn. Both of these talks are designed for adults.

Two "mini-exhibits" at the museum offer an opportunity to highlight some new artifacts in the museum collection, and to focus on two particular aspects of railroad history. "Lighting the Way" focuses on railway lighting devices in the collection, and "Keeping on Track" will expand your knowledge of railway construction in general, and railroad rails in particular. This should give visitors added appreciation for what they can visit when the Fishing Creek Trail finally gets underway. See article, page 1.

Don't let the fact that the museum is closed for the season keep you from seeing the exhibits. It will open for you. Call any weekday, at 410-257-3802, to arrange a viewing. Both exhibits will remain on display until the next Founder's Day exhibit goes up, so there will be regular weekend openings in the spring to visit as well.

Fishing Creek, from page 1

project and accept bids from construction firms.

The project began as a gleam in the eye of Councilman Bruce Wahl in 2000, and then the formation of a Fishing Creek Improvement Committee to develop plans. With Councilman Cumbo, he made presentations to civic groups, neighborhood associations, PTA etc. to gather ideas and respond to concerns. The proposal was adopted as a Council priority, and, in an article in the spring 2001 Newsletter, Councilman Wahl wrote that “The Railway was discontinued in 1935, falling victim to the ever-increasing use of the automobile. Although the steel rails are gone, the right of way is



It takes a village to keep the Town abloom. At the final Railway Museum concert in September, the Chesapeake Beach Garden Club President, Tara Lindhart, presented a Westlawn Inn gift certificate to Chuck and Betty MacDonald in appreciation for their watering of plants along the Bayfront Park boardwalk this past summer, even though they are not club members. Last year they recognized Gary Gardner in the same way for his time and generosity in providing gallons of water for the same purpose. The Garden Club is very grateful for the civic-minded service of those who help keep the Town beautiful.

almost entirely intact from Chesapeake Beach to Seat Pleasant. We plan to bring it back to life!”

That resuscitation has been a long process thus far. When it is finally accomplished, the Trail will be 1.38 miles in length and eight feet wide and consist of both asphalt sections over land and elevated boardwalks and bridges spanning Fishing Creek.

State Senator Mike Miller and then-Delegate George Owings obtained a \$250,000 state grant to the Town, along with \$250,000 from the State bond pool, in the 2001 legislative session. Governor Ehrlich visited the Town in 2004 to announce \$1.6 million state funding to match what the Town had raised. In January 2005 Dave and Pam Sisson granted the Town an easement across Fishing Creek Marina property, and construction seemed imminent. Since then, as the Summer 2005 Newsletter stated, it has been “moving forward, with all the speed of a southern creek at the end of an August drought, meandering its way through the State approval processes.”

“Most townspeople have never seen the area in the Fishing creek watershed, because it is now difficult to reach, but it is a pristine natural area right here in the middle of town,” Councilman Wahl wrote in 2001. “Our proposed trail system will allow you to walk or bicycle right out into the marsh, across the creek and get ‘up close and personal’ with our wonderful wetlands...Since the trail will be built along the old right-of-way, no other development will ever be able to destroy this historic artifact.”

The hiker/biker trail will provide connections between Richfield Station and Bayview Hills and the center of Chesapeake Beach at the Kellam’s Field recreational complex. The project is made possible through the



Trail route shown on March, 2001 aerial photo of creek by Bruce Wahl.

efforts of the Mayor and Town Council, especially Councilman Bruce Wahl and through matching federal Transportation Enhancement Program funds.

Town Hall Wants You to Know:

Yard Waste

Yard debris pick-up will be discontinued (except for Christmas trees; see page 2) on Tuesdays between January 1 and spring. The next Newsletter will include the resumption date.

Water System Flushing

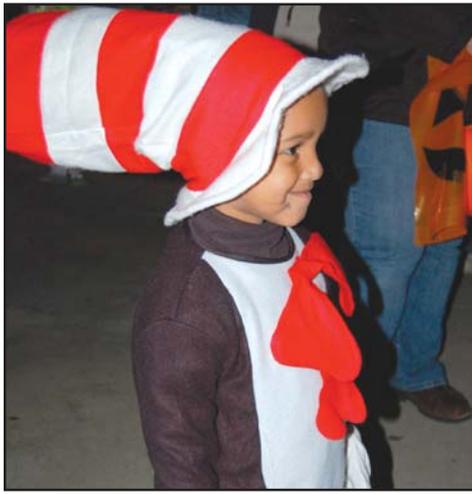
The Town will flush the water system the first Wednesday of each month. We will place signs out to remind everyone of the flushing.

Calendar Photos

Calendar photos for 2006 have been returned to Town Hall. If you would like your photo submissions back, please call, or stop by and pick them up.

If you have questions about either of these reminders, or other Town services, call Town Hall at 410-257-2230 or 301-855-8398, or check the website at www.ChesapeakeBeach.md.us

Creatures of all shapes and forms were out in force the Sunday before Halloween for the annual Family Fun Night. The (dry) river flowed with hundreds of assorted princesses and monsters, as local businesses and organizations dispensed treats and fun.



Aha! Hands On For Science Buffs

Time to snuggle up with a good book. Or to buy one for a special friend for Christmas. No ideas on what book you might love, or what would be appropriate for that friend, or a child in your life? Talk to a librarian. The friendly staff at the Beach library branch are always ready to share book advice.

Books and advice are not all you can find at the library, however. A special new program offers *Aha! Science*, a fun introduction to science experiments for mid-elementary, grades 2, 3 and 4. The programs are presented at the NE Community Center from 7 to 8 p.m., and registration is required. Dates and

topics are: January 18, **Crazy Chemistry**; February 15, **Goopy Globbs**; March 15, **Volcanoes**; April 19, **Weird Weather**; and May 17, **Roaring Rockets**.

For the younger set, *Storytime* returns January 10. Registration begins December 18. Dates and topics are:

Winter: 1/10, 1/13; **Dinosaurs:** 1/17, 1/20; **My Five Senses:** 1/24, 1/27; **Trains:** 1/31, 2/03; **Weather:** 2/07, 2/10; **Valentine's Day:** 2/14, 2/17; **Babies:** 2/21, 2/24; **Elephants:** 2/28, 3/03; **Pirates:** 3/14, 3/17; **Wild, Wild West:** 3/14, 3/17; **Down by the Bay:** 3/21, 3/24; **Fruits & Vegetables:** 3/28, 4/01; **No Storytime 4/04;** **Insects:** 4/11, 4/14; **Gardens:** 4/11, 4/14; **Spring:** 4/25, 4/28; **Picnics:** 5/02, 5/05; **Storytime Celebration:** 5/11, 5/14.

CONTACT

Have something to say?

Reach us at:

Town Hall: 301-855-8398; 410-257-2230

Sheriff: 410-257-7171 (non-emergency)

Council:

Mayor Donovan:

gdonovan@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Council Vice President Wahl:

bwahl@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Councilwoman Beaudin:

vbeaudin@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Councilman Cumbo:

scumbo@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Councilwoman Finch:

jfinch@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Councilman Mahoney:

pmahoney@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Councilman Parent:

jparent@chesapeake-beach.md.us

Newsletter: editor@chesapeake-beach.md.us

As always, the adults are not left out. You not only get to read, but to talk about it with fellow book lovers, on the second Monday of each month, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Topics for the new year are:

January 8, Non-fiction *Captain John Smith and the birth of the American Dream*, by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler.

February 12, Non-fiction, *Team of Rivals*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

March 12, Fiction, *The March*, by E.L. Doctorow

April 9, Biography and poetry, *Leaves of Grass*, by Walt Whitman

May 14, Fiction, *Prodigal Summer*, by Barbara Kingsolver

June, no meeting

July 9, Have you read anything good lately?

August, no meeting.

The "Light"ful Holiday!

When "Mother Christmas", Councilwoman Jo Finch, says "let there be light", there is light to spare. A happy crowd joined her at Town Hall on the Sunday after Thanksgiving for the traditional kick-off of the "Brightest Beacon on the Bay".

Fifth graders from Beach Elementary who participate in Advanced Band got the crowd in the spirit with a rendition of two seasonal songs. Led by band teacher Lou Libelo, they were Christian Constantino, Ryan DeNitto, Jesse Printz, Brandon Marshall, Kaitlyn Kapper, Viola Riggelman, Rebecca Crane, Ian Beard, Jasmine Hawkins, and Justin Hart. Costumed cast members of the Twin Beach Players production of "A Christmas Carol" sang, and then the crowd joined Mrs. Finch and Santa outside for the countdown to illumination.

After the Town Hall holiday lights magically beamed forth, with help from some Public Works elves, everyone was invited back inside for punch, cookies, candy cane ornaments, and private chats with Santa. Council vice president Bruce Wahl took a turn on Santa's lap, but did not reveal his wish, which may already have been granted. (See Fishing Creek Trail article, page 1.)

The Town illuminations include 20 new light features in public spaces this year. Private lighting efforts will be judged on December 18 and honored at the awards presentations on December 21.



Light photos by Krug



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Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

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Holiday Greetings

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