

The Conciliator

London Towne Community Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume XLIII

December 2008

No 23

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

John Rhodes

On behalf of the entire LTPOA Board of Directors I wish you a safe and happy holiday season. Winter is here again and snow plows will be working on our roads. Please give them lots of room to work. Winter will bring darker mornings as our children are trying to get to school or waiting at bus stops. Please drive with extra care and allow a few extra minutes so that you can reduce your speed.

This year the LTPOA Board of Directors will again be sponsoring a holiday decorating contest. I urge you to participate. Even if you don't win, it's fun and helps beautify the community.

I was pleased to learn that this year LTPOA has received a \$75,000 grant to

help with our continuing shoreline and habitat restoration projects. Over the past four years we have received close to a quarter million dollars in shoreline restoration grants. This has gone a long way towards helping our tight budgets. I would also like to thank the many community volunteers whose time and efforts have made these grants possible and helped us restore almost one-half mile of shoreline.

I am sure that everyone has noticed the "Doggy Pots" all along our community shorelines to remind and help dog owners to clean up after their pets. I am gratified that the vast majority of pet owners have been cooperating with this program. The very few who still are not doing so are reminded that walking dogs on community property is a privilege that can, if necessary, be revoked.

Section News

Section 1
No Report

Section 2
No Report

Section 3
By Don Creveling

Section 3 is going to ground for the winter. We will not be meeting during December, January, and February. Section 3 meetings will resume the second Wednesday of March (March 11) at 7:30 at the Clubhouse. Please try to attend some meetings this coming year so your voice can be heard.

Our traveling swim platform is now permanently secured in the swim area by pilings. This should prevent its escape from the swim area and provide a stable place for lounging and diving. In addition, permanent video monitors are now monitoring activity at the pier and bulkheads to discourage unlawful activity. Signs have been posted to inform those with bad intent that they are being watched. We will also be installing some new picnic tables and benches along our shoreline. Hope you have a safe winter and we will see you in the spring.

Section 4
By Tony Zavoosky

The days are shorter. The nights are longer and colder. In a few weeks we will celebrate Thanksgiving, then the shortest day of the year (daylight speaking) will be

here and gone. We will share the most holy of holidays with loved ones and dear friends, and then usher in the New Year. That will be followed by approximately two months of bone-chilling cold, and if the weatherman is right, lots of snow this year. And then....

Hallelujah-Summer will be back!!!!

We have a lot to look forward to for next year. For those of you who haven't been to see the new Bentley crabbing and fishing pier, you owe it to yourself to check it out. It is fabulous. We were able to rebuild it to its original length with all new decking and pilings. The swim platform has been rebuilt and is now a floating platform. No more climbing the rickety ladder. New pilings were placed that will give us anchors for sea-nettle (jellyfish) nets, which will make the swim area more enticing. On behalf of Section 4, I want to thank Dave Fish and the Park and Planning Committee for getting the work done.

The boating pier at Bentley has also been renovated, to include power washing and new sealant being applied. Thanks to Paul Nelson and his crew for the tremendous amount of work that has been done there. In addition, the pier was extended about 12 feet inland, so that the end is now above the high water mark. It should eliminate the need to take those few steps through the muck.

I hope to make similar improvements to the Fullerton boat pier next year.

Thanks to all of you who showed up at our last monthly meeting of the year. We

ended with a party that was attended by about 20 people. We brought the food that was left over from the picnic, and Mark Powell cooked it. After an abbreviated meeting, we enjoyed a nice meal and some good camaraderie. I hope to see all of you, and others, next year. Don't forget, our first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the clubhouse.

I want to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to my executive committee: Vice-President Stephen Hult, who fills in during my absences and helps keep me in line; Secretary Rosana Powell, who keeps me focused at the meetings, reminds me of commitments I have made, sees that I follow (mostly) Robert's Rules of Order, maintains copious notes of all the meetings, and otherwise acts as my responsible alter-ego; and Treasurer Greg Pitser, who manages our funds and the attendant paperwork that goes with it.

See you all next year. Happy Holidays, etc.

Section 5
No Report

Committee Reports

Ramps & Credentials

Mark LaBuda

Credentials:

NEW CREDENTIALS STICKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING MONDAY JANUARY 12th 2009!!

We will return to the LTPOA hall beginning Monday Jan 12th from 7-8pm. New stickers for vehicles, boats, and trailers will be available as well as ramp keys.

Current vehicle, boat & trailer registrations are required for issuance of stickers. Proof of property ownership is required, i.e., deed or tax bill. New residents to community should bring settlement papers. Tenants must have current lease. Other documentation may be required. Stop by the community hall on Monday evenings beginning January 12, 2009 for complete information.

All LTPOA boat slip holders are reminded that a current LTPOA sticker must be visible on all boats and the sticker number must be given to section dock masters for slip renewals.

Please remember: Current stickers must be displayed on all vehicles, boats & trailers that are parked on LTPOA property or that use boat slips & ramps.

Stickers must show either **09, 10, or 11** to be valid.

Ramps:

Locks will be changed Monday January 12th, 2009. New keys will be available Monday, January 12, 2009, 7-8 pm at the LTPOA community Hall.

CURRENT Boat registrations are required for issuance of new keys, **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

Please remember to bring old keys to avoid additional fees.

I wish to thank those who help every Monday night. Tony, Greg, & Terry, Thanks guys, couldn't do it without your help. Also, I want to thank Janet for your dedication the past few years entering all the information into the computer. You definitely made our job easier. Also, thanks to Trez for your help. Thank you!!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all!!

POLICE COMMITTEE
Darlene Moore

As the holiday season is upon us, please be extra "safety conscious".

When out shopping, remember to:

Keep cars parked in well lit areas, locked and place packages and purses in the trunk.

Keep your keys in your hand when walking to your car.

Take advantage of mall escort services to your vehicle.

At home:

Keep doors and windows locked, don't forget your shed or forget the "doggie" door .

Thieves are still targeting copper, GPS systems, laptops and MP3 listening devices. Consider etching your equipment and recording serial numbers.

Be alert and report suspicious activity. Do not hesitate to call 911. Remember, calls can be made anonymously.

DON'T THINK IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO YOU!

Erosion Committee
Stephen Hult

**LTPOA Receives \$75,000
Shoreline Grant**

The Erosion Committee's was extremely gratified recently to learn that for the fourth year in a row we have received a matching grant to assist in our ongoing shoreline restoration efforts. The most recent grant of \$75,000, from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, will be used to help with the costs of our Section 2 project next fiscal year (2010). The project will restore and protect 631 feet of severely eroding shoreline by constructing four segmented stone sills and three sand containment structures. Clean, washed sand will be placed behind the structures to create a sandy beach that will be planted with wetland grasses creating approximately 10,250 square feet of new marshland. The existing storm water outfall channels have been addressed by designing the sand containment structures to reduce the flow velocity and direct the runoff through the newly constructed marsh area. A 740 tons of stone and 1,400 tons of sand will be used in the construction of this project. Actual construction of this project is scheduled to start late next year. The following spring community volunteers will help plant the newly restored area with shoreline grasses to create a living shoreline.

Construction of this fiscal year's (2009) shoreline restoration project in Section 2 will be done between December 2008 and March 2009 when it will minimally interfere with boaters use of the existing pier. We received a \$50,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to help pay for this project. This project will restore and protect approximately 425 feet of severely eroding shoreline by constructing four segmented stone sills and two sand containment structures. Clean, washed sand will be placed behind the structures to create a sandy beach that will be planted with wetland grasses creating approximately 10,000 ft² of new marshland. The newly constructed shoreline will be planted next Spring by community volunteers as soon as plants become available. In order to prepare for the project, we have already done some preliminary work such as spraying to eradicate invasive phragmites plants and thinning brushy vegetation that would otherwise shade the project area and prevent the establishment of shoreline grasses.

Our recently completed project for last fiscal year (2008) restored an eroding shoreline in Section 5 with a 500 foot newly created living shoreline and established 10,000 square feet of new marsh. The project created new habitat and will reduced the severe sedimentation in Alms-house Creek. The Section 5 project was completed in June with the help of a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The committee wishes to thank the many people, including the Cub Scouts who assisted with the planting the shoreline vegetation.

Gray/Mott Update!

Just in Time for the Holidays

Pam Obee Sargent

The note cards of our prize winning photos from this year's 1st annual photo contest are available. The note cards are \$8.00 for a set of 10 cards. They make great stocking stuffers.

We also have some of our cookbooks left. Let us know if you would like a copy of the cookbook for holiday gift giving. The books are still only \$12.00 and come with their own convenient stand. Give me a call if you want a copy of the book.

We're thinking of a wine/beer tasting event for early spring. We'll keep you posted on events as they unfold. If you have any ideas for fund raising events, please contact me at 410-956-7679 or email me at pam.obee@comcast.net.

What is THE GRAY-MOTT YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP ?

The **London Towne Property Owners Association** has established educational scholarships to assist current school year high school graduates in continuing their education at an accredited post-secondary institution of their choice.

This scholarship was instituted in 1989, in recognition of the invaluable contributions made by **Mr. Charles Gray and Mr.**

Ralph Mott to the community of London Towne. As a reminder of their contributions and in their memory, we dedicate those scholarships awarded to young people of our community who choose to follow in the paths of these two men through **volunteer community service**.

The scholarship awards will consist of two (2) **\$1000.00 non-renewable** grants from two graduating students, who will continue their education at either a four year college or university, two year junior or community college, or at a trade, technical, or business school.

The following eligibility requirements will govern: Must be a son or daughter of a resident of the London Towne community; must have demonstrated community involvement and satisfactory high school achievement (minimum of 2.0 GPA); must have character recommendations and work related references.



Holiday Lights Contest

by Pam Obee Sargent

LTPOA is continuing the tradition of the Holiday Lights Contest again this year. Get out the decorations and deck the halls! The Holiday Lights committee will be driving around to see the lights on the evening of Friday, December 19, 2008. We will begin judging at 7:00 p.m. We will be awarding prizes in the several categories including the Good Neighbor Award (team up with a neighbor and show your spirit) and Best Holiday Decorations – Community Business. We will award the winners in each of the categories cash awards. The Community Busi-

ness that wins the award will receive a free ¼ page ad in a future edition of the Conciliator. All winners will be announced in the first edition of the 2009 Conciliator. If you have any questions about the Holiday Lights Contest or would like to participate in the judging, contact Pam Obee Sargent at 410-956-7679. Don't forget to turn on your lights and brighten the holiday season! Happy holiday!

HELP WANTED !!!!!

As the year winds down and thoughts turn to the new year and resolutions, make one this year that is easy and fun to keep. Resolve to take part in your community. Attend a section (beach) meeting, this is one way to have your voice heard. Make a difference, join one of the committees, new thoughts and ideas are always welcome. You can give as little or as much time as you'd like. Check out the calendar on the LTPOA web page (www.ltpoa.info) for meeting times and dates and other activities.

In the meantime, here are some things that might help pass the time this winter:

Teach you pet a new trick to show off at the Pet Show during Community Awareness week.

Resolve to reduce clutter - the yearly flea market is just 8 months away.

Get into shape for the volley ball tournament - sure to be a grudge match this year.

Start working on your raft design for the Rambling Raft Race.

Take a walk and see how many birds you can identify, keep a watch for the return of the Osprey, a sure sign that spring is just around the corner.

Join in with our neighbors from "The Pointe" and pick up litter along Mayo Rd (check web site for next scheduled clean up).

Write an article about an event (upcoming or recent) or special person in the community and submit it to *The Conciliator* at LTPOAConciliator@verizon.net. Articles will be printed as space allows.

Though winter is not filled with as many fun things to do as summer, remember that this is a great place to live, help keep it that way by getting involved.

Marian Creveling
Editor

OOPS!

Credit for the Community Awareness Week collage belongs to Trez Moreland. Thanks to all who supplied photos for the collage and to Trez for putting it together.

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