



Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

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Monica Coskey, Jack Keenan,

MESSAGE FROM THE AHLOA PRESIDENT

I am honored to have been elected President of the Avalon Home Owners Association and to be following in the footsteps of my predecessor, John Cuthbert. I would like to thank him for his years of service. We look forward to his continued involvement and input.

As we enter into the off-season, we will keep you apprised of developments impacting your investment in land and home ownership here in Avalon. The biggest project underway here in years is the back-bay dredging project that will commence in the fourth quarter of this year. Work is nearly complete offloading the remaining materials from the Graven's Island site adjacent to Avalon Boulevard. Permits have been received and the project has gone out to bid. Please remember that dredging is not permitted after December 31st due to the winter flounder season through State and Federal regulations. This project is necessary to continue to maintain navigable waters surrounding our island. Land and home owners adjacent to the bay should be receiving information from the Borough of Avalon and/or the contractor who will be doing the work. That contractor will be selected very shortly.

I want to encourage you to continue to provide us with your feedback at our meetings, or by writing to us at AHLOA, PO Box 21, Avalon, NJ 08202 or by emailing through AHLOA.com. Thanks for your participation in our forum to continue to maintain and enhance what makes our town something very special on the Jersey Shore.

Recently we have seen multiple communications

David Knoche, John Cuthbert,
Ramona Sanabria.

Trustee (ending 2017)

Joseph Dvorak, Milt Kuhn,
Deborah Ney, Fred Pracht, Jim
Thatcher.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Council Work Sessions
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Borough Hall

Regular Council Meeting
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Following Work Session
Borough Hall

Planning/Zoning Board
2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Borough Hall

Environmental Commission
3rd Tuesday 4:00 p.m. Borough
Hall

AHLOA General Meeting 2nd
Saturday 10:00 a.m. Senior
Citizen Center

AHLOA Annual Meeting
2nd Saturday in August
9:30 a.m. Community Hall

Chamber of Commerce
1st Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
As announced

Community Library Board 2nd
Thursday 4:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m., June, July, August
Library Meeting Room

Avalon Lions Club
3rd Thursday

regarding a proposed boutique hotel planned for 21st Street in the downtown area across from the Whitebrier Motor Boat Club. While nothing official has been presented to the Planning and Zoning Board, the information provided so far sparked a lively discussion at our September monthly meeting. Planning and Zoning Board members who are also Officers/Trustees of AHLOA excused themselves from our meeting during this discussion to avoid being influenced by unofficial information shared during this discussion. It will be important for AHLOA to be apprised of the feelings and opinions of our members either for or against this project. To that end we will survey our member's in the coming weeks once formal plans are presented to the Borough. This will be conducted by email in order to provide a more rapid turn-around time than by doing it by snail mail. If you have not already provided AHLOA with your email address, please do so by contacting us on AHLOA.com. Stay tuned for further developments.

Bob Hoesly President, AHLOA

AHLOA ANNUAL MEETING

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Richard Perniciaro, Cape Atlantic Community College, and he discussed the economics of shore living. He stated that South Jersey lacks a new basic industry and that this part state has the highest unemployment rate and, with the exception of Cape May County, the lowest earning rate in the state. The situation is aggravated by the closing of a number of casinos in Atlantic City. He also pointed out that the southern part of New Jersey has the highest home foreclosure rate in the state. Cape May County has seen a 9% decline in population between 2006 and 2013. As a result there is a decline in school enrollment. He felt that while the population is getting older it is becoming more seasonal. The growth industries are health care and hospitality, the latter having rebounded since the recession. Even though the fishing industry has stagnated it is still very healthy and Cape May is one of the largest fishing ports on the east coast. Recent industries are the vineyards and the craft brewery at the Cape May County airport. Possible new industries include wind power and UAS (drones) and in the latter case Cape May County has obtained permits to test fly drones in conjunction with the Coast Guards.

The Mayor gave an outline of the financial situation of the Borough. He indicated that the budget for 2014 will

As announced As announced

Avalon Civic Club

4th Monday (April-Oct.) 12:30 p.m. Community Hall

Avalon Garden Club

3rd Tuesday (Sept.-June) 9:30 a.m. Community Hall

Avalon Senior Citizens

2nd Tuesday (Sept.-June) 12 Noon As announced

American Legion

2nd Monday 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall (Stone Harbor)

Avalon Board of Education 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m. School General Purpose Room

Dates to note on your calendar:

Second Saturday of each month

- Avalon Senior Center at 10:00 a.m., Trustees meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Saturday, November 8th

Big Band Dance/John Clark Big Band, Community Hall, 7:00pm, \$8 call 967-3066

Tuesday, November 11th

Veterans Day ceremony, Veterans Plaza, 11:00am

Saturday, November 15th

Cape May County Disabilities Awareness Day, Avalon Elementary School, 10:00am

Friday, November 28 -

Festive Friday, 11:00a.m.- 6:00p.m.

increase by just over \$500,000 and the tax rate will increase from 21.9 cents to 22.5 cents. The ratable base in 2013 was \$7.266 billion and had increased to \$7.309 billion in 2014. The municipal library has a state mandated tax rate of 3% and can return 50% of any surplus back to the municipality. For the second consecutive year Standard & Poor's has given the Borough a AAA bond rating making Avalon the only seashore community in the State to have such a rating. This "Class 5" rating translates to a 25% discount on flood insurance rates. There has been a big increase in the cost of health care and the Borough is looking at competitive programs and pricing. Capital projects for the 2014 budget include paving 4th Avenue and the parking lot at 28th Street. Also included are improvements to parks and Community Hall as well as the back-bay dredging project. The back-bay dredging project is a partnership project with Middle Township and the State. There has been a preliminary report on a study on how to maintain the condition of the north end beach. This year 50,000 cu. yd. of sand were successfully back passed to the north end of Avalon. The Borough has submitted a Municipal Public Access Plan to the NJ DEP. The Borough is a model statewide for public access to beaches and waterways with many access points, public bathrooms and free parking throughout the community. Avalon will be holding a stakeholders meeting to secure endorsement at the federal, state and county levels for a systematic removal of greenbrier vines choking healthy trees in Armacost Park. A grant of \$488,000 has been received from the Cape May County Open Space Program for restoration of the 39th Street park. The Borough has implemented a joint dispatch program with Stone Harbor for police dispatch. The County is working on a similar program for fire and ambulance services. The Mayor is trying to get the County to have a centralized system for 911 dispatch.

Questions and answers from the Annual Meeting

Some written questions were entertained from the attendees. Questions and answers are summarized below:

Q: Is the municipal water system being outsourced to a private for profit entity? What else are you privatizing?

A: The Mayor stated that the Borough owns the water system and manages it through Middlesex Water Company. Savings have been about \$500,000. The trash collection and landscaping has also been privatized.

Avalon Business District.
Tree lighting ceremony, Veterans Plaza, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 29th
Snowfest Saturday, Avalon School Field, 11am-4:00pm

Local Links

Borough of Avalon
www.avalonboro.net
[609-967-8200](tel:609-967-8200)

Avalon Free Public Library
www.avalonfreelibrary.org
[609-967-7155](tel:609-967-7155)

Avalon Chamber of Commerce
www.visitavalonnj.com
[609-967-3936](tel:609-967-3936)

Avalon History Center
www.avalonhistorycenter.com
[609-967-0090](tel:609-967-0090)

Q: What shared services contracts are currently in place between Avalon and Stone Harbor and what shared service arrangements can we expect in the future?

A: There are two shared services in place at this time. The combining of the schools with one superintendent was the first to occur, and the police dispatch program. It is possible that more may occur.

Q: I am still not clear what the specific plan is for the spring of 2015 for replenishment of the north end beaches - when and how much? When is the next scheduled beach replenishment for 24th Street?

A: No plans are in place for the north end replenishment this winter. The Borough is watching dredging projects in Ocean City and Sea Isle City under the Corps of Engineers and may try to get a dredge company in the spring. Since Sandy there has been a tremendous backlog on dredge operations.

Q: Re construction sites - How can the Borough provide better enforcement of the regulations for silt fences and covered dumpsters at construction sites? We had a terrible time cleaning up sand that blew across the street. **A:** If you notice any problems contact Paul Short. He tries to take the complaints as they arise.

Q: What is the status of the Resort House issue that was the big topic last year?

A: The ordinances have been amended to squelch the Resort House problem.

Q: Why should Avalon taxpayers pay for a few people to charge their electric cars?

A: The charging station at the Public Safety Building was installed for free. Avalon gets revenue from its use.

Q: Why are the high dunes being destroyed for more and more oversized homes?

A: There is some private property in the dunes that has been built on. The Borough is revising the Beach Management Plan to ensure protection of the dunes.

Recent update on the Dredging Project

www.avalonboro.net/2014-15-dredging-project

AHLOA NEWS

Visit us on the Web at www.ahloa.com

Published quarterly as a service of The Avalon Home & Land Owners Association

Bob Hoesly, President October 2014 Edited by B. Reynolds

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