Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

# AHLOA NEWS

**Visit us on the Web at www.ahloa.com**

***Published quarterly as a service of The Avalon Home & Land Owners Association – Mike Matt, President***
***September 2016***
***Edited by B. Reynolds***

## *From the President*

*Happy harvest-time to all AHLOA members. As I write this the weather is as nice as it can get in Avalon: 74 degrees and not a cloud in the sky. I hope your dance card allows you a visit before the weather turns ugly in the New Year.*

*AHLOA is working on your behalf on a few fronts: Bike Safety, Road Construction and Beach Raking.*
*With regard to bike safety we are meeting with the Police Chief to request additional police on bikes from June through August to enhance their presence in areas of concern. AHLOA will continue its efforts on Facebook (facebook.com/AHLOANJ) and web site (AHLOA.com).*

*The area of the beach between 38th and 60th Streets is partially fenced off to protect endangered species of birds nesting in the area, notably the piping plover and least tern. Normally the area is opened up after the birds leave in early August, However, this year a single Seabeach Amaranth plant (which is also endangered) was apparently identified and instead of restricting the area around that plant the Borough was not given permission to remove the "bird fence" when it could have.*

*As you plan your fall schedule keep in mind Thanksgiving Weekend in Avalon; Helen Diller Vacation Home for the Blind "Turkey Trot", Festive Friday events and parade along Dune Drive, lighting the Christmas tree and Santa's first appearance.*

***Mike Matt***
***President, AHLOA***

## *AHOLA Annual Meeting*

The Keynote Speaker was Commander Joseph Meuse, Cape May U. S. Coast Guard Training Center.
Commander Meuse mentioned that the 42,000 Coast Guards are equivalent to the fourth largest navy in the world. He discussed various aspects of the Coast Guard functions:

- **Military. Coast Guards are deployed around the world in eleven locations.**
- **Law enforcement.**
- **Humanitarian. This includes search and rescue.**
- **Protection of sea and ecosystems.**
- **Regulators to ensure the safety of mariners.**
- **They are part of the Navy in war and today assist the HSA.**

Cape May has about 1000 recruits of whom about 100 graduate weekly. The Training Center Cape May is the center for Regional and National operations and is a Community Partner. It is the largest Coast Guard base.
Included in the community impact functions is the 3rd Annual Coast Guard Community Festival to be held May 5-7, 2017.

Cape May will be the future home port for three new cutters which are expected to arrive between November 2016 and January 2017.

Coast Guard personnel are stationed overseas to ensure that ships leaving foreign ports meet U.S. standards. They also track these vessels at sea. A very important duty is to counter drug importation by sea.

In answer to questions, Commander Meuse mentioned there is about 17% attrition of recruits mainly due to medical problems and poor physical fitness. Between 15 and 30% of the recruits are women.

The Avalon Business Administrator, Scott Wahl, gave an outline of the financial situation of the Borough. Of the $26.8 million budget a total of $3.25 million is being spent on capital improvements.

The ratable base increased by almost $16.5 million in 2015.

The Police Department got a second 3-year accreditation in 2016.

The Environmental Commission has put a lot of effort into an educational feature which is a beach/dune trail at 44th to 48th Streets. Along the trail is mapping, photos and a large educational component. The website at avalonbeachanddunetrail.com has information about the dunes and trail and children can play a game. [Since this meeting the Commission has been awarded the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission (ANJEC) 2016 Achievement Award for the trail.]

## *Questions and Answers from the Annual Meeting*

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

Q: What resulted at the August 9 Planning/Zoning Board hearing on the proposal for the Boutique Hotel?
A: The Board denied the request for the hotel.
Q: Biking doesn't seem to be enforced. Bikes on the boardwalk after 10:00 a.m., in the middle of the road, etc.
A: Police Chief William McCormick stated that one problem is the Saturday changeover of visitors whereby the newcomers are not necessarily aware of the requirements. The police encourage people to follow the rules. There have been 700 bicycle violations this year. People appear to obey the laws when the police are around and not when they are not.
Q: Why is it taking so long to repair the dock at 5th Ave. and 20th Street on the bay? The storm was in January.
A: A contract to replace the bulkhead has been awarded and the work will probably be done in September. Replacement of the dock will probably be covered by FEMA. It is hoped to do this work after the Bulkhead is completed since the process in the case of the dock is different.
Q: Will handicap cuts in the sidewalk ever be 100% done? Pushing a wheelchair is difficult.
A: Council has required the Borough Engineer to review a number of streets each year prior to resurfacing. When the work is done the cuts are replaced. When work is done on the 29th to 62nd Street projects the cuts will be updated in the process.
Q: Will the electric company repair the grass and replace the trees that were removed at the 53rd Street Marina?
A: Yes.
Q: Will you address the damage that is done to the donor beach by back passing? Shouldn't the work only be done outside beach hours?
A: Some of the ponding issues at 35th/36th Streets were not due to sand back-passing according to the Borough consultant. The littoral current moves sand south along the beach and causes sand bars to occur just off-shore. Working when people are on the beach is necessary. If the work were only done outside beach hours the job would not have been

completed in time.

Q: While I understand the need for increased capacity and reliability I wonder why we needed to triple the existing electricity capacity – less capacity would require shorter poles?

A: Less capacity could have resulted in additional work being done in the future. If the new substation had not been constructed the old poles would not have been able to provide the necessary power. Due to larger houses and increased use of electrical facilities more power is needed. The steel poles are transmission poles, the wooden poles are for distribution.

Q: Will the Recreation Department consider evening programs for teenagers? It may possibly cut down on the bike gangs on the streets.

A: The single biggest challenge is to provide activity opportunities for "teens" and "tweens". If you know of steps that are being taken in other communities please contact the Recreation Department.

Q: What about flooding between 7th and 29th Streets on Dune Drive? Also the area of 21st and Ocean always floods.

A: Avalon cannot prevent flooding due to rising tidal waters. The Borough has a very detailed Storm Management Plan in place and is trying to work out additional components. A new pumping station has been installed in the 70's to alleviate flooding in that area. Studies are being carried out in other areas.

### ***OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES FOR 2016-2019***

The Officers and Trustees elected for the year 2016/2017 are:

**President** – Michael Matt
**Vice Presidents** – Jim Thatcher, Jack Keenan
**Vice President, Programs** – Eileen Donovan
**Treasurer** – John Bell
**Secretary** – Brian Reynolds
**Trustee** *(ending 2017)*
Joseph Dvorak, Milt Kuhn, Chuck O'Hara, Fred Pracht.
**Trustee** *(term ending 2018)*
Maureen Corrigan, Marty Kindsvatter, Anne Oberg, Nancy Runzer, Frank Short.
**Trustee** *(term ending 2019)*
Monica Coskey, John Cuthbert, David Knoche, Joseph Reese, Ramona Sanabria

### ***OCEAN DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION***

Ocean Drive is a County road and the portion between 29th and 62nd Streets will be reconstructed by the County. At the same time the Borough will replace the sewer main in advance of the County work. The sewer project will be finished before the summer of 2017. Resurfacing of the roadway is expected to begin in March 2017 and will continue through mid-June before being suspended for the summer season. Work will resume in September 2017 until completion.

The project will also result in a partial elevation of Ocean Drive that will include the replacements of sidewalks, curbs and driveway aprons from 30th to 41st Streets and replacement of some curbs south of 41st Street. New drainage, which in some cases will be placed on the backside of the sidewalk in the right of way, will be added to help alleviate nuisance flooding caused by rain events. This may also help to alleviate issues with minor tidal flooding events.

Additional information, as it becomes available, can be obtained from the Borough website www.avalonboro.org

### ***BACK BAY DREDGING***

The Borough is prepared to enter the final phase of the dredging project. Dredging, where necessary, will be carried out along Graven's Thorofare, Long Reach, Whale Harbor, Bay Park Marina and between 73rd and 75th Streets in the Third Avenue waterway. The material dredged from the waterway and private slips will be placed into Avalon's CDF located off Avalon Boulevard. Since the CDF is nearing capacity work will be done to create more capacity in the facility.

This phase of the project involves State channels. New Jersey transportation projects have been shut down due to a dispute in Trenton over funding the Transportation Trust Fund. Until that issue is resolved no dredging of State channels will occur.

### ***PUBLIC SAFETY***

The Police Chief, William McCormick, has indicated that things have turned quiet after Labor Day. He has stated that in previous years there have been some thefts in the Borough. He asks the help of those residing in the Borough to notify the police if they see anything suspicious.

### ***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.
Scheduled Speakers are:
October 8, Jacquie Ewing, 7 Mile Business Association
November 12, Scott Wahl, Avalon Business Administrator;
December 10, Chuck McDonnell, Avalon Recreation Dept.
Friday, November 25 – Festive Friday, 11:00a.m.-6:00p.m. Avalon Business District.
Tree lighting ceremony, Veterans Plaza, 5:00 p.m

## UPCOMING EVENTS

| Organization | Day | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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.<br>2:00 p.m., June, July, August | Library Meeting Room |
| Avalon Lions Club | 3rd Thursday | 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 | 6:00 p.m. | School General Purpose Room |