

Bayberry Cove Bulletin

June/July 2011



Next HOA Meeting

Tuesday, June 14th



Manager's Corner

BMPs and What They Mean To Our Community

Managing storm water runoff is often considered the job of the local government, a subdivision developer, or possibly a homeowners' association. Certainly, good planning and implementation by any or all of these entities is important to a successful community storm water management plan (best maintenance plan). However, it is also important that individual homeowners understand their role in storm water management and their impact on the larger community.

Storm water runoff can affect the quantity and quality of water that must be handled. Excess runoff can contribute to flooding. Contaminated runoff can damage water, making it unfit for human consumption and wildlife habitat. Both situations can be costly to correct. Prevention is more effective and efficient.

Some ways that you can help prevent contamination is:

- Make sure that your pool water is treated or de-chlorinated before you dump it
- Avoid overuse of pesticides and fertilizers - use only the amount needed and apply when necessary.
- Clean up hazardous material spills properly
- Clean up oil or other vehicle fluid drippings
- Avoid allowing pet waste to be dumped or washed into the storm sewer. Properly bury or flush the waste down a toilet in to the sanitary sewer system for treatment. Reduce or avoid areas of concentrated pet waste.

- Qiana Solomon

President's Corner

Bayberry Cove – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly – a letter from your Board

I was asked to contribute an article to this edition of the Bayberry Cove Newsletter. I remembered when we decided to stop the newsletter due to lack of interest and cost issues. Looking back, I think that was not the wisest decision on our part. Although, we now have the web, email notifications, and the occasional sign out front. The newsletter is most likely the primary way homeowners stay connected. I relate it to the ritual of coffee, a bagel, and the newspaper on a Saturday or Sunday morning. I wish that could happen every morning, but if you are like me, morning routines don't include time of quiet solitude with my paper and a good cup of java. Rather, it's filled with one million decisions, a quick bag of food and a check of the weather and away I go. Off to the cubicle insanity, I call work or ground hog day, for some... So this newsletter hopefully brings back the small bit of relaxing time we forfeit throughout the week. So enjoy.

As you sip your java and read this article, I wanted to talk with you about some of the changes in the cove and the Board I've seen since I got here in 2005. Before 2005 and in the early days of the Board and neighborhood, I heard stories of extreme, strict compliance with the rules and regulations. Not that that's bad since that's what they are there for but in some cases, it sounded like a stretch to enforce compliance with some of the vague rules that had been written. Just preceding 2005 and into 2005, the Board was in what I would consider organized disorganization. I came on the Communications Committee only to help with web portion of our presence. Not being a member of the Board and watching from the outside, I saw items in the minutes just roll from month to month without getting done. I saw a UPA manager who did nothing to help the cove, hardly answer inquiries from homeowners and more hinder its progress and growth. I saw angry and fed up residents who had just had enough. I too, was one of those residents. I saw little purpose in our homeowners' board and I saw a decline in the number of homeowners who really cared about what happened at the meetings anymore. These are the same homeowners who had been here a long time. Homeowners who have a real stake in Bayberry Cove and call this neighborhood home. Up to and including 2005 these were sad times. This continued through 2006 too as I tried to understand what was going on and how this was supposed to work.

In 2007, things started to change. There were new and fresh faces in the Board leadership. This was just what the doctor had ordered. Early 2007, we also picked up a new a fresh UPA manager, A.D. White. He was also just what we needed. He was someone who really cared about what we wanted and us. He listened, acted, and threw himself into his work to accomplish our goals. This was the year I had moved to a Member-at-large position on the Board. Bob Garrott was our President and Janine DeMello, our VP. Laura Fleming and Carol Martins were also on the Board that year. They were our leaders and they all led with distinction. This was indeed the year of change. I saw Board members and homeowners really start to see how a Board purpose and function start to change. The biggest obstacle for the Board at that time and still today was to overcome the stigma that had been built up for so long

over the last few years. The stigma that the Board does little for us and that they seem to just be wasting money on an unreal budget. We still get that a little today from the long time residents who have lost touch with the Board and the neighborhood. Some even vent frustrations from that far back when I go house to house for proxies in December and January every year.

2008, all I have to say is “oi”. This year I moved to VP with Janine as President. We also picked up Scott Ramsay as our new Treasurer. This was the year I was part of a full-scale, line-by-line audit of our budget. We inquired about every line and every dollar that was spent. We tweaked, we cut, and we really drove the UPA finance folks nuts I think. This went on for at least 6 months to ready us for the new, realistic budget that next year. It’s funny; UPA said no other Board had EVER done this. So, we were poised and ready for the following year.

Since 2007 and now moving through 2009, 2010, and now 2011, the Board and our current UPA manager, Qiana Solomon are striving to reverse the sad stigma that fell like a dark cloud over the whole neighborhood these past years. We picked up Jamie Rivoir in 2009 and this year we picked up Rick Curtis, two more fresh faces, who have really brought great ideas to the table. I have to admit the turn-around is slow, but it is occurring. I know things have not been all rosy all the time since 2007, but we are really trying. I’ve seen an increase in the questions that have come in, more web visits, more homeowners wanting on the email announcements, a thriving Social Committee, and a budget we can be proud of. Yup, I said proud.

One person though has been here throughout the whole transition and has been a long time HOA Board member and supporter. Her name is Laura Fleming, our Secretary. She diligently takes the minutes and is relentless in her pursuit to make Bayberry Cove a great neighborhood to live in. The Board really would be lost without her.

As I close this letter, I want you all to know a few things about your Board and me. We volunteered for these positions because we all care about Bayberry Cove. I have found the consistent group of dedicated Board members who want the best for Bayberry Cove. We want you all to want the same. We want your input. We want you to attend meetings and voice your concerns and just get a feel of how we do things now. Things have changed and the stigma is going away.

I coined a phrase for us this year that represents how things are now and I hope you find it to be true because it is. This IS “a Board that works...”

Todd Breeding

Bayberry Cove HOA President 2009-2011

“A Board that works...”



Architectural Review Board

Hello neighbors! Spring is in full force and all of the plants, shrubs, trees and grass are coming to life to brighten up our neighborhood. There are some beautiful landscapes in our neighborhood and I encourage everyone to get out for an evening walk and enjoy the scenery. As far as your own yard, if you aren't yard savvy or have a green thumb, here are some tips:

- Put down a pre-emergent weed treatment in early to middle spring to kill off weeds before they start to grow.
- Put down a post-emergent during late spring or one month after your pre-emergent treatment. This will kill the actively growing weeds.
- Put down a granular insect killer to kill off insects such as ants, ticks, spiders, and grub worms, which turn into beetles. Also, if you have no grub worms you have no moles.
- In late May spray your ornamental and fruit trees with an insect killer to prevent the June Bugs (Japanese Beetles) from feasting on your plants. Spray the ground as well since the June Bugs go back into the ground each night.
- To keep your lawn healthy and green, remember to fertilize.

Enjoy your summer and please get out in the evening and meet your neighbors.

Social Committee



Neither rain, nor clouds, nor winds could stop the Social Committee from holding its planned events. The Book Drive collected over 500 books, which were donated to the CHKD Thrift Store. A couple of weekends later, the weather threatened the Easter Extravaganza, but thankfully children and adults filtered to the park to join in the activities. There were games and fun for all ages. The egg hunt and egg roll proved to be very popular. Visit <http://www.bayberrycove.org> for cool pictures of the event. The most recent event, the Community Yard Sale netted profits for all participants. One resident, Wilma Jack, donated her proceeds to charity. A BIG THANK YOU to all residents who participated in or supported the Social Committee.



Upcoming Event:

Jazz in the Cove

When: Saturday, June 25th from 7:00-10:00pm

Where: Gum Court

* Adults Only

Come mingle and get to know your neighbors! Look for more information to be distributed and on www.bayberrycove.org.

Check the Bayberry Cove web site for additional future events.

Local Community Events

Patriotic Festival: A Celebration of Our
Military

June 3rd-5th Virginia Beach

Website: www.patrioticfestival.com

Blackbeard Pirate Festival

June 3rd-5th Hampton

Website: www.blackbeardpiratefestival.com

American Indian Festival

June 4th-5th Chesapeake

Website: www.cityofchesapeake.net/PRevents

Norfolk Harbor Fest (35th Annual)

June 9th-12th Norfolk

Website: www.festevents.org

Summer Celebration Wine Festival

June 11th, Newport News

Website: www.leehall.org

Star Party/Laser Light Nights at the Virginia
Living Museum

2nd Saturday of the month, Newport News

Website: www.thevlm.org

Hampton Jazz Festival

June 24th-26th Hampton

Website: hamptoncoliseum.org

Constant's Wharf Summer Concert Series

Every Friday June 24th- July 22nd

Website: www.suffolk-fun.com

Stars & Stripes Spectacular

July 4th Suffolk (Constant's Wharf Park)

Website: www.suffolk-fun.com

July 4th Celebration at Mount Trashmore

July 4th Virginia Beach

Website: www.vbgov.com/specialevents

4th of July Stars in the Sky

July 4th Newport News (Victory Landing Park)

Website: www.newport-news.org/things-to-do/events.php

Summer BrewFest TGIF

July 15th Norfolk

Website: www.festevents.org

Flicks at the Fountain

July 6th- August 31st Norfolk

Website: www.festevents.org



Red, White, and Blue Strawberry Shortcake

Ingredients:

- 1 (18.25 oz) package yellow cake mix
- 1 (8oz) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 pint fresh blueberries, rinsed and drained
- 2 pints fresh strawberries, rinsed and sliced



Directions:

1. Prepare cake according to package directions. Bake in a 9x13 inch pan. Cool completely.
2. Frost the cake with the whipped topping. Place blueberries in a square in the top left corner. Arrange strawberries as stripes to make an American flag. Chill until serving.

Make as a Fourth of July dessert. Add sparklers at night for a great effect!

Helpful Household Hints

Go “green” to clean coffee or tea stained cups. Mix equal parts of salt and white vinegar. Scrub the cup.

Are odors oozing from your garbage disposal? A “green” way to eliminate those odors is to pour ½ cup of table salt into the disposal, then run with water as usual.

A great idea used by professional cooks is to keep a small plastic bag handy in case you have both

Hurricane Safety Tips

Tips from the American Red Cross

Hurricanes are strong storms that cause life and property threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes.

Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane.

When is hurricane season?

June 1st through November 30th

What's the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning?

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by the authorities.

What supplies do you need?

- Water – at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Food – at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy to prepare food
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids, contacts, glasses, and so on)
- Multi-purpose tool
- Emergency blanket
- Family and emergency contact information
- Cell phone with charger



For more information access the American Red Cross web site.

<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/Hurricane.pdf>

Continue to stay informed about your community. Keep checking Bayberrycove.org for additional issues of the Bayberry Cove Bulletin newsletter!