



Chincoteague Island, VA

Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter

July 2014

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our newsletter. Many thanks to everyone for providing feedback, input and ideas for this and future issues. Please continue to send information and we'll share it with our entire community.

A few days from now, we'll be celebrating our nation's 238th birthday and we wish everyone a very happy, healthy and safe July 4th holiday.

Happy Birthday America!

New To The Neighborhood ...

Greetings to our new OB II neighbors and property owners. Miranda, Jeff, Hannah, Julia and Guapo Duston live at 5256 Meadow View Ct. Miranda and Jeff own *Baycraft On Main* located at 4044B Main St. (next to Bill's Restaurant) and their shop sells Chincoteague apparel, souvenirs and gifts.

News From The Board ...

The following projects are expected to be completed over the summer.

Road work -

N. Hibiscus Drive extension - Remove the gate and pilings and build a gravel roadway to the Oyster Bay I boundary line bordering Lot 210. Currently, there is only a grass path beyond the gate.

Clear the vegetation and re-gravel Wild Pony Ct, Green Glade Ct. and Deep Fern Ct.

Tree Removal - Remove 7-8 trees on Community property that have fallen or are leaning. Most of the trees are

around the Community entrance pond with the remainder off Meadow View Ct bordering Mallard Pond.

The board is considering the following proposals:

Community Entrance Improvements – Add a low fence from the entrance sign that would extend along Main St. and N. Hibiscus Dr. to reinforce that OBII is a private Community. A new sign will be added on Main St. at the north border of the Community.

Add a fountain to the pond. This will help with aeration and clear the water of algae blooms as well as providing an aesthetically nice look to our entrance.

Additional items such as pillars on each side of the Community entrance, lighting for the entrance sign and plantings will be considered in the future.

A History Lesson Part 1 ...

The Oyster Bay development in Chincoteague is primarily made up of two sections. This series of articles written by Buford T. Rowland provides a history of the development of the Oyster Bay II Community and the evolution of the Property Owners Association.

Oyster Bay, Section II was begun to be developed in 1969-70 by the Oyster Bay Development Co., Inc., Washington, DC. The land was owned by First Chincoteague Corporation and Rosslyn Investments, Inc. Oyster Bay, Section II consists of 86 lots accessed from N. Main St. plus a parcel of land with 9 lots that is accessed from Hibiscus Dr. within the Oyster Bay I Community. Oyster Bay, Section II, was created by filling a strip of marshland and ridges which runs along the center of Chincoteague Island from north of Oyster Bay, Section II, to the south beyond Halley W. Smith Blvd. Fill material was dredged from what became

Mallard Pond, the large 7 acre pond in what is now known as the Oyster Bay II Community.

By 1971, the Oyster Bay I Community was already mostly developed with lots being sold and homes built. Sales of lots in Oyster Bay II came with the promise that all utilities would be available and that all roads would be paved. Oyster Bay, Sections I and II were originally planned to utilize on-site traditional septic systems for sewage disposal. 1 home was approved in Oyster Bay, Section II (Lot 204) which was to be the Section II sales office. By 1972, The County Department of Health began to impose more strict requirements for septic systems and approved only 9 additional lots for septic systems with the provision that if a central sewer system became available, the lots would have to be connected. All of the lots approved for septic were either on the Oyster Bay I (east) side of the pond dredged during the development of the Community or adjoined Oyster Bay I on the north side of the pond.

The developer then began construction of a central sewer system in Oyster Bay II to handle initially 12 homes, expandable up to 36 homes. The developer estimated the Town of Chincoteague or Accomack County would install an island-wide central sewer system and further expansion wouldn't be needed. The Oyster Bay II central sewer system consists of Community wide collection lines and pump stations, a treatment plant using settling tanks and sand filters and an effluent drain field system using concrete "aeration chambers", all located on Community property. The central sewer system collection lines were designed to service only the 85 contiguous lots in the Community. The 10 lots adjoining Oyster Bay I Community (lots 201-210) were provided septic tank permits.

Sometime in the early 1970's, the septic permits for any of the lots not built on were revoked by the Health Department and were allowed to be reassigned to other lot owners in the Community who were ready to build if their lot soil conditions were appropriate for septic as determined at the time. Homes began to be built throughout the Community using the allocation of septic system permits.

Gardening Goodies ...

As many of us are painfully aware, the mosquito population (a.k.a. the Chincoteague Air Force!) is alive and well here. While the town spraying helps control the mosquitoes, there are also plantings that you might consider adding to your gardens that discourage the little pests from hanging out. Thank you Laura and Phil Hoey for researching and sending this interesting information:

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) Also known as horsemint, this hardy perennial repels mosquitoes by giving off a strong, incense-like odor, similar to citronella grass. The smell, however, does not deter bees and butterflies. This plant is extremely aggressive – it's fast growing, drought resistant and reseeds itself easily. Try containing it in a planter that can be moved to a seating area when you want some relief from pesky mosquitoes.

Marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.) As a popular annual, marigolds are always found in flower beds and containers during the summer months, but their mosquito-repelling ability hasn't been widely advertised. Many gardeners use them in the veggie garden to deter other insects, but as a mosquito repellent, marigolds are powerful. Their distinct smell is unbearable to insects - and even some people. Plant marigolds in containers as you normally would, but then place the containers anywhere in the garden where you want a mosquito-free zone.

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) We all know that cats love catnip, but this perennial also has quite a reputable history as a medicinal herb. One trait that this plant is less known for is its mosquito-repelling ability. The natural oil within the leaves has been proven to be 10x more effective than DEET at repelling mosquitoes. Plant catnip around your patio and deck, but remember while you're repelling mosquitoes, you may attract feline neighbors. Of course, if you don't like cats, don't use this plant.

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) Basil is one of the few herbs that give off a scent without the leaves having to be crushed or physically disturbed. There are many varieties of basil, but the ones with the most mosquito-repelling powers include **lemon basil** and **cinnamon basil**.

HINT: For a quick, natural insect repellent in the garden, take a few basil leaves and rub them on your skin. The oils will deter any nearby mosquito from bugging you while you work.

Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) Mosquitoes and many other insects don't like the smell of lavender. This trait makes lavender a welcome addition to any garden, especially considering how attractive this plant is when it blooms. Aside from planting lavender around seating areas to deter pests, try making your own natural insect repellent with lavender leaves. This is a very beautiful plant that's useful for planting around the perimeters of the property. And it'll help you and your neighbors.

Citronella Grass (*Cymbopogon nardus*) Many natural insect repellents found on the market contain citronella oil, which of course is derived from a natural plant source - citronella grass. Citronella candles and lanterns repel mosquitoes.

There are a couple of issues with this plant that might make burning citronella candles an easier alternative: It's primarily a tropical plant that doesn't tolerate frost. Also, it's a very aggressive plant and would need to be in planters or an area with some physical barrier to prevent the spread of the roots. It will choke other plants.

Last but definitely not the least, make sure the culverts under your driveways are kept clean of debris so that water doesn't get trapped and attract the mosquitoes.

Local Egg Hunting ...

Have you ever enjoyed eating fresh eggs? They're delicious and you can really taste the difference compared to what we buy at the supermarket. There are places close by where you can buy fresh brown eggs: 5161 Chicken City Rd., 3276 Ridge Rd., The Farmer's Market at 6309 Church St. (Wed. & Sat. 8am – 12Noon) and at the Giving Tree Garden on Rte 175.

All Around Town...

Looking for something to do? Here are just some of the many events scheduled in July:

July 4th & 5th Fireworks 10pm at the Carnival grounds

Eastern Shore Summer Scramble July 5th Gather a group of family or friends and participate in a scavenger hunt, visiting some of the BEST kept secrets of the Eastern Shore. Your team will complete tasks and earn points at each destination. Meet back at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station at 5pm on Saturday for a cookout and fabulous prizes. Pre-registration is required. For more details visit www.cbfieldstation.org, or call 757-824-5636.

Summer Cinema Series Join the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance for Summer Cinema. Bring a chair to Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park to enjoy free films outdoors on the big screen. Films begin at dusk. Movies include:

July 10th - "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial"

July 24th - "The Fantastic Mr. Fox"

Chincoteague Bay Field Station Workshops:

July 10th – "Fintastic Fish" Discover the world of fish through hands on activities like seining and seiving for organisms in tidal creeks, and more.

July 18th – "Marsh Mysteries" Visit the salt marsh on the restricted Wallops Island and observe wildlife, learn about food webs, marsh formation and tidal zonation. organisms in tidal creeks, and more.

July 25th – "Incredible Inverts" A stunning 97% of the world's organisms lack a backbone! Interested in spineless marine creatures like whelks, urchins and blue crabs? Learn about their life, behavior and anatomy.

Workshops run 8:30am – 12Noon. Pre-registration is required at www.cbfieldstation.org or call 757.824.5636.

89th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fire Co.'s Carnival
July 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th - 7pm - 11pm.

Artful Flea July 12th 8am – 12Noon, 6309 Church St. Vendors sell unique items, including vintage antiques, jewelry, hardware and tools, art, handmade jewelry and purses, tote bags and a lot more. And you can also sell your own attic treasures. Call 757.336.1789 for info.

The 2nd Saturday Art Stroll July 12th, 5pm – 9pm. It will feature arts 'n crafts demonstrations, exhibits, live music,

readings, book signings, wine tastings and it takes place at participating galleries and shops around the island.

27th Annual Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival
July 25th – 27th, 9am - 4:30pm, Chincoteague Center at 6155 Community Dr. The largest fine arts 'n crafts event on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Visit www.chincoteagueblueberryfestival.com for nfo and to print out discounted admission coupons.

Pony Penning July 28th – August 2nd; world famous Pony Swim on Wed., July 30th at slack tide. Slack tide is the short period of time when there's no movement either way in the tidal stream, and it occurs before the direction of the tidal stream reverses. The window is a sliding one and it changes everyday with every tide and is the result of many conditions. It's impossible to time slack tide perfectly.; Pony Auction begins at 8am on Thurs., July 31st.

Farmers Market (every Wed. & Sat 8am – 12Noon) at 6309 Church St. The market offers fresh seafood, poultry, locally grown produce, garden and house plants, jams, jellies and baked goods.

Wallops Island Rocket Launches For upcoming mission and launch dates and info at the Wallops Island facility, go online to www.nasa.gov

Wondering where to watch a rocket launch from?

The Wallops Island Visitors Center and grounds are open to support most launches from Wallops Island with a perfect view of every launch from ground to sky..

Chincoteague is a great place to view launches. Viewing locations include Robert Reed Waterfront Park on Main St., Curtis Merritt Harbor on south Main St., the bike trail adjacent to the Assateague Bridge and the Accomack Public Launch on Rte. 175.

Assateague Island beach is open for launch viewing during their normal business hours, too. If a launch is scheduled to occur outside of these hours, please contact the Visitors Center at 757.824.1344 for additional info.

Please don't forget to recycle when possible. The Accomack County Convenience Center is located at 5073 Deep Hole Rd., open from 7am – 6pm (closed Tuesdays). Thanks for keeping our Community clean!

If you have a Community concern that needs immediate attention, call: Jack Keane or Kathy Bradley.

And if you have any suggestions or Community information for this newsletter, please contact Jean Hubbard.