



Chincoteague Island, VA Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter September 2014

Hello OB II Community Members, I hope everyone has enjoyed, or will be enjoying in the next couple of weeks, some fun and relaxation time over the summer of 2014.

Best wishes to one and all for a happy, healthy and safe Labor Day weekend

New To The Neighborhood ...

While we may not have any new neighbor announcements this month, we do have some neighborhood news. The pilings and steel gate have been removed and N. Hibiscus Dr. has been extended. The excavation work is complete and gravel will be spread in the coming weeks. It's quite attractive and worth a stroll. Check out some of the beautiful new homes that are under construction there. As always, be aware of the mosquitoes as they seem to be even bolder and hungrier where there's more brush.

You're Cordially Invited ...

The 39th annual Oyster Bay Property Owner Association meeting is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday, October 25th at the Rodeway Inn located at 6273 Maddox Blvd, and you're invited. In preparation for this meeting, the Board of Directors will meet at 1pm on Saturday, September 20th also at the Rodeway Inn. This meeting will be used to review committee status, determine the POA and Water and Sewage Company budget requirements and fee schedules for 2015. This meeting is open to all members of the OB II POA.

These meetings provide everyone with opportunities to meet and talk with the Board of Directors and your neighbors and to voice community ideas and concerns.

A History Lesson Part 3 ...

The Oyster Bay development on 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.

In the late 1980s the Health Department would not permit expansion of the central sewer system as originally anticipated to allow additional connections to the central sewer system. With the exception of 5 seasonal, conditional (summer use) permits for traditional septic systems issued in 1995, the Health Department denied all applications for on-site disposal using traditional septic systems or newer technology systems, including approaches being permitted in Oyster Bay I at that time. The rationale was cited as being that Oyster Bay II was built over filled marshland which would prevent septic system effluent from dispersing properly from drain fields. As of 2005, 25 of the 95 lots in the Community had year-around homes with sewage disposal services (septic or central) while 5 additional lots had seasonal, conditional septic permits, leaving 65 lots with no known form of acceptable on-site sewage disposal. 4 of the 5 seasonal, conditional permitted lots had septic systems installed although none of the 4 had homes built.

In 2005, there being no other apparent means of sewer disposal available for new homes, the Property Owners

Association Board of Directors agreed to pursue the building of a new central sewer system for Oyster Bay II. Waste Water Management, Inc. of Falls Church, VA was selected as the engineering firm to develop an approach and cost estimates for the new central sewer system which would serve all lots in Oyster Bay II. At the October 2005 annual Property Owners Association general meeting, the membership voted to pursue the new central sewer system. Throughout 2006 and 2007 a central sewage system design was developed and revised through meetings with the Chincoteague city council and through sewage discharge and operating system permit applications and discussions with the Virginia Department of Health. The process continued through early 2008 at which time some new questions remained to be addressed with the Department of Health.

In 2008 the Virginia State Department of Health downsized and restructured their organization which resulted in requirements being changed in July 2008 to performance-based specifications with state and county inspectors not reviewing the details of each individual sewer system application. If a licensed professional engineer designed an on-site system and certified that it met all performance-based requirements, the county Department of Health would approve the application. This permitted several new-technology systems to be designed and installed which met the performance-based Department of Health requirements. New individual lot on-site permits immediately began to be approved for Oyster Bay II. Since new homes once again could be built in Oyster Bay II using engineered on-site sewer systems, the Board of Directors voted to no longer pursue a new central sewer system for Oyster Bay II.

Since 2008, as of this date 21 new septic systems have been approved and installed and 14 new homes built. New on-site sewer systems continue to be approved although sewer system requirements continue to be more restrictive as new state regulations are enacted.

Gardening Goodies ...

Weeds can drive all of us crazy! They grow fast and can easily take over gardens and also ruin the look of many driveways and walkways. Some commercial weed killers are very potent and do eliminate the weeds but they pose additional risks to the environment and they're expensive. The following provides a much less expensive and very effective alternative. In your sprayer container, combine:

1 gallon Vinegar

2 cups Epsom Salt

¼ cup Dawn Dish Soap (the blue original)

This mixture will kill anything you spray it on. Note, spray when it's dry outside and this includes waiting until the morning dew has evaporated. After spraying, wait several hours before checking out the results.

Lovely Lunches ...

When you're hungry for lunch, consider a couple of local favorite spots that serve delicious homemade food at prices that won't exhaust the budget. Eat in or take your lunch out the door with you.

Mr. Paul's Kitchen – 5030 Chicken City Rd. Really good and really tasty. Excellent soups. Open for breakfast (pancakes and french toast are awesome!) and lunch only.

Saigon Village – 4069 Main St. Fresh Vietnamese food, full of flavor and comes in generous portions. There's definitely something about the wonton soup that'll have you coming back.

Steve's Famous Pizza – 6738 Maddox Blvd. Extensive yummy menu with much much more than just pizza.

Steve's II Express – 6761 Maddox Blvd. Great place to hit before hitting the beach for a sub or sandwich. High quality coldcuts, terrific homemade salads, fresh sub rolls and bread and an excellent beer selection.

Who's In The Community?

By Dave Hudgins



There are rats in the OBII community! Don't panic, just keep reading. There are Muskrats in and around the neighborhood ponds. Muskrats are large rodents that always live near water. They have thick brown fur and a long, furless, scaly tail. They can grow up to two feet long (with tail). Their rear feet are webbed for swimming, and their eyes and ears are very small.

Muskrats live in marshes, or alongside ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. You can see them swimming across Mallard Pond on a regular basis. They build a "lodge" out of reeds or may create a burrow in the pond bank.

Muskrats are active during the day but most active at night. They eat a wide variety of vegetable and animal foods, including: cattails, sedges, rushes, pondweeds, switch grass, mussels, crayfish, frogs, snails, and fish.

Muskrats breed between late winter and September. A female may have up to five litters each year. Muskrats are territorial. But, if it gets too crowded, the mom will drive away the offspring.



We also have River Otter in Mallard Pond. From a distance, the muskrat and otter look similar. But you can usually identify the otter by its larger flat tail. The river otter is a large, brown, weasel-like mammal found along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and lakes, streams, rivers and marshes throughout the Bay watershed.

The otter lives in a den built on the edge of the pond with an underwater entrance, similar to or stolen from a muskrat. Otters are carnivorous and feed mostly on fish but will also eat frogs, crabs, crayfish, and small mammals such as young muskrats. Otter breed in late winter to spring and usually have one litter.

A similar species to the muskrat is the Nutria. The nutria is also a rodent that can live in ponds and marshes. Nutria feed on marsh plant. They have been known to wipe out marsh area and the habitat and food provided for many other species on animals. For this reason, they are considered an unwelcome species. There have been no reports of nutria in the OBII community or Chincoteague at this point. They are prevalent in Dorchester County Maryland and spreading.

If you see something swimming across the pond, take a good look to see if it is a muskrat or an otter. If you're lucky, maybe you will spot an otter playing on the bank of the pond or doing a little back stroke just to show off.

All Around Town ...

Chincoteague continues to host a wide variety of events thru the month of September and everyone is welcome.

Fri., Sept. 5th, Sat., Sept. 6th and Sun., Sept. 7th - Chincoteague Bay Field Station's Friends & Alumni Weekend. Support and celebrate marine and coastal education on the Eastern Shore. The weekend will be full of fun family activities including presentations of current research projects. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.CBFieldStation.org or call 757.824.5636 for info.

Fri., Sept. 12th and Sat., Sept. 13th - 11th Annual Chincoteague Plein Air Painting Event. Over 45 artists spend 2 days painting outdoors on Assateague and Chincoteague Islands. On Sat. from 6pm – 10pm, this art will be on exhibit and for sale at Christ United Methodist Church at 6253 Church St in the parish hall.

Sat., Sept. 13th - 10th Annual Chincoteague Police Poker Run. Bikes leave Sting Rays in Cape Charles, VA at 11am. The "Run" ends at Don's Seafood Restaurant on Chincoteague. Food, fun, live auction, Harley raffle and more. To register or for more info, call 757.336.3155.

Sat., Sept. 13th Artful Flea & 2nd Saturday Art Stroll. Artful Flea community yard sale runs from 8am – 2pm at 6309 Church St. Vendors are also welcome but must pre-register. Call 757.336.1789 for info. Art Stroll takes place from 5pm – 9pm in participating galleries and shops on the Island: arts 'n crafts demonstrations, exhibits, wine tastings, live music and more. Please Visit www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

Fri., Sept. 19th, Sat., Sept. 20th, Sun., Sept. 21st – 14th Annual Island Square Up. Square dancing, vendors, door prizes and more at the Chincoteague Town Center. For more info, call 757.467.2557.

Sat., Sept. 20th 6:30pm – 10pm - "Island Coffeehouse" Island Coffeehouse features eclectic, non-electric acts in a casual cabaret setting at the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St. Admission \$5/adults, \$3 for those aged under 22.

Sat., Sept. 27th - 15th Annual Chili Chowder Cook-Off 12 Noon – 5pm. Sponsored by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Co., this event features amateur and professional chefs from all over competing and sharing their secret chili and chowder recipes. Live music, arts 'n crafts. For more info, visit www.cvf3.com

Wallops Island Rocket Launches Mark your calendars! Launching on an Antares Rocket from the Wallops Flight Facility, Orbital-3's blast-off is scheduled for no earlier than October 14th. This mission will deliver cargo and supplies to the International Space Station. For schedule updates and info, go online to www.nasa.gov

Watch the launches from: The Wallops Island Visitors Center on Rte. 175; Robert Reed Waterfront Park, Curtis Merritt Harbor, the Assateague Bridge and the Accomack Public Launch on Rte. 175; Assateague Island beach is open for launch viewing during business hours, too.

Please don't forget to recycle. The Accomack County Convenience Center is located at 5073 Deep Hole Rd., Open daily from 7am – 6pm (closed Tuesdays).

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

LOOKING FOR ARTICLES & IDEAS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS! Do you have a favorite activity, place to eat or shop around the area? Or maybe a great day trip, cooking recipe or gardening idea? Please share it with our community. Email articles, ideas and info to Jean Hubbard.