



# Chincoteague Island, Virginia Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter January 2017

Dear OB II Friends & Neighbors,

I hope all of you are having a joyous Holiday Season and are looking forward to a great 2017 as am I and the OB II Board of Directors.

Even though it wasn't planned to be, this has been an eventful year. Sadly our Treasurer, Karen Frank, passed away unexpectedly in October; our long-time Community maintenance contractor, George Bowden, wasn't able to continue mowing in the Community this year; and a lawsuit was brought against the POA by Phillip Ettinger regarding access to his Parcel E adjoining North Hibiscus Drive.

Our new general maintenance contractor, Jim Kalil, I think you will agree has done a wonderful job in keeping the Community mowed and trees and debris cleaned up this year. In addition to normal Community maintenance, Oyster Bay II's major stormwater ditching project was completed with the disturbed ground reseeded. A few issues remain with drainage and erosion which we will try to address in the coming year. No major projects are planned for 2017 but Community maintenance and further improvements will continue to be top priorities for the OB II Board of Directors.

As during this past year, the Oyster Bay II Community is expected to continue to mature in 2017 as more new homes are built and new neighbors move into the neighborhood. If you have ideas for the further improvement of our Community for the enjoyment of our Community members, please get in touch with myself or any of your Board members at any time. Remember, this Community is an asset for all of us as property owners to enjoy and we are all responsible for its continued success.

Be careful over the Holidays as we look forward to a wonderful 2017!

Sincerely,

Buford T. Rowland  
President

## Updates from the Boards ...

**OB II POA:** As you may recall, the POA has not agreed that access to vacant property proposed to be developed adjoining North Hibiscus Dr. on the right side of the OB II entrance off Main Street should be from OB II Community-owned North Hibiscus Dr. In June the owner of the property brought suit against the OB II POA in Accomack County

circuit court, arguing right of access to the property using North Hibiscus Dr. The case came before the Court on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The judge, after reading all documentation provided by our attorney and the property owner's attorney and after getting responses from the attorneys at the hearing, ruled that the property is considered to be part of the OB II Community but is not a part of the OB II Community POA and is not subject to covenants and any fees imposed by the POA. The judge further determined that the owner of the property has right of access to the property using North Hibiscus Dr. The OB II Board of Directors is reviewing next actions with our attorney.

**OB Water & Sewer Co.:** The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Oyster Bay Water & Sewage Co. was held on Sat., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Officers were nominated and the following were elected:

President – James G. Smith  
Vice President – Miranda Duston  
Secretary – Jean Hubbard  
Treasurer – M. David Hudgins

Committees were also established, including Budget & Financial, Communications, Documentation and Operations & Maintenance.

The OB Water & Sewage Co. has a new email address. It is [obwatersewerco@gmail.com](mailto:obwatersewerco@gmail.com). Also, it has a new mailing address:

Oyster Bay Water & Sewer Co.  
P.O. Box 1139  
Chincoteague, VA 23336

The next meeting will be held on Sat., Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10am. The location is to be determined.

## 50% Off at the Brant ...

*By Dave Hudgins*

If you don't have room in the den for that full size Canada Goose, you might consider a Brant. It takes up about half the space of your average goose.



**Brant vs. Canada Goose from Pioneer Birding**

Flocks of Brant can be seen on a regular basis this time of year in Chincoteague Bay. They generally visit from fall through spring before heading north for breeding season.

Brant do give the appearance of a miniature Canada Goose. They grow to about 26 inches in length and weigh around 6 ½ pounds. Compare that to an adult Canada Goose at 43 inches long and 18 pounds.

The Brant is an abundant small goose of the ocean shores that typically breeds in the high Arctic tundra and winters

along both coasts. The Brant along the Atlantic have light gray bellies versus the Pacific subspecies Black Brant with their black bellies.

This small goose has dark brown upperparts and brown-barred, pale gray underparts. The head is black, and the short black neck has a partial white ring. The tail is white. Brant possess a highly developed salt gland that allows them to drink salt water.

Although a goose, Brant are duck-like dabblers, meaning they may tip up while feeding on green plants including eel grass and sea lettuce. Brant were on the verge of extinction in the 1930's as a blight wiped out much of the eel grass along the shores. The Brant that survived adapted their diet and began feeding on sea lettuce. Eel grass has since made a comeback. So, Brant have numerous food sources to choose from. Possibly as a result of the blight, during the winter Brant can be seen feeding a short distance inland on grasses and winter sown cereals.



**Brant Feeding**

Flocks of geese on the ground are called a "gaggle", while flocks of geese in flight are called a "skein". Flocks of geese in flight may also be called a "wedge" (think of Canada Geese in a v-formation) or; when flying close together, they are called a "plump". Other nouns for groups of geese include a "blizzard", "chevron", "knot", and "string" of geese.

Keep an eye out for a gaggle or plump of Brant and other wintering waterfowl around the island.

If you'd like to share the birds you're seeing in 2017, consider <http://feederwatch.org/>. Project FeederWatch is sponsored by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Another way to share your sightings and see what others are seeing in the area (or any other area) is to use the site <http://ebird.org>. eBird is also sponsored by Cornell Lab and captures data year round



## What's Cooking ...

Well, the NFL playoffs are upon us and it's vitally important to be prepared not only with your picks but the right appetizers as well. Here's one that my sister-in-law highly recommends as well as many other fans of The Pioneer Woman do:

### **The Best Spinach Artichoke Dip Ever!** *Courtesy of The Pioneer Woman*



*Photo courtesy of recipegreat.com*

#### **Ingredients:**

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons minced garlic
- (1) 16 oz. bag spinach
- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 cans artichoke hearts, rinsed and drained
- 3 additional tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 ½ cup whole milk (more if needed)
- (1) 8 oz. package of softened cream cheese
- ½ cup crumbled Feta cheese
- ½ cut grated Parmesan cheese
- ¾ cup grated Pepper Jack cheese
- Pita bread wedges, tortilla chips or crackers

#### **Instructions:**

Melt 3 tablespoons butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add the minced garlic and cook for a couple of minutes. Crank up the heat a bit and toss in the spinach. Stir around and cook until the spinach wilts. Remove the spinach from the skillet and put it in a small strainer. Squeeze the excess liquid and put it back into the skillet. Set the spinach aside,

Add the artichokes to the skillet and cook over medium heat for several minutes, until liquid is cooked off and artichokes start to get a little color. Remove the artichokes.

In the same skillet or different pot, melt the 3 additional tablespoons of butter and whisk in 3 tablespoons of flour until it makes a paste. Cook over medium-low heat for a minute or two, and then pour in milk. Stir and cook until slightly thickened, splash in more milk if it's needed.

Add cream cheese, feta, parmesan and pepper jack cheeses and stir until the cheeses are melted and sauce is smooth. Chop artichokes and spinach and add to the sauce. Stir to combine.

Pour mixture into a buttered baking dish. Top with extra grated pepper jack cheese and bake at 375° for 15 minutes or until cheese is bubbly.

Serve with pita wedges, chips or crackers.

Enjoy!

## All Around Town ...

For sure, one of the following events taking place during January 2017 has got to have some appeal. How about throwing yourself into the Atlantic Ocean, watching a variety of classic movies or taking your imagination into space

### **Sun., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:17pm, Polar Pony Plunge**

*Few things compare to a quick dip into the ice-cold ocean on the first day of the new year. It's an awesome experience (as if I've done it). This celebration promises to be lots of fun all around and brave plungers are encouraged to dress up in the craziest costume that they can come up with. To convince the doubters, participants will get a t-shirt to memorialize every chilling detail. Prizes will be awarded to the best costume in many categories. Anyone brave enough to take the plunge will need to read and sign the Plunge Waiver and Release form. There is no fee to participate. For more info, visit [www.chincoteaguechristmas.com](http://www.chincoteaguechristmas.com)*

**Fri., Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Classic Film Series at the Island Theatre** – Come and enjoy a great movie every Fri. from Jan. thru May for just \$5:

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, "Oh God" (1977) – When God (George Burns) appears to an assistant grocery store manager (John Denver) as a good natured old man, the Almighty selects him as his messenger for the modern world. Directed by Carl Reiner. Rated PG.

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961) – A young New York socialite (Audrey Hepburn) becomes interested in a young man (George Peppard) who has moved into her apartment. Also starring Patricia Neal. Directed by Black Edwards. No rating.

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, "Nashville" (1975) – Over the course of a few hectic days, numerous interrelated people prepare for a political convention as secrets and lies are surfaced and revealed. Starring Keith Carradine, Karen Black, Ronee Blakely. Directed by Robert Altman. Rated R.

### **Sat., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1pm - 3pm, STEM in the Sky Astronomy Series: Solar Viewing**

– Learn about Earth's sun and participate in solar viewing through high powered telescopes, as well as sun-themed activities and movies. The sun is a star, a hot ball of glowing gases at the heart of our solar system. The connection and interactions between the sun and Earth drive the seasons, ocean currents, weather, climate, radiation belts and aurorae. With the help of experts from the Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation, you will safely view the sun through a solar telescope while looking for sunspots, solar prominences and flares. Learn about the 2017 total solar eclipse and how you can safely view this rare opportunity. This event will occur regardless of weather, however, solar telescope viewing is subject to cancellation due to inclement weather. Admission is free. Visit <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter> or call 757.824.1344 for more details. NASA Wallops Flight Facility is located on Route 175, Wallops Island.

**OB II Community Property Owners Association  
2017 Board of Directors & Membership Committees**

**President**

*Buford T. Rowland*

**Vice President**

*Tim Landolt*

**Secretary & Treasurer**

*Dave Hudgins*

*Kathy Bradley*

*Neal Faircloth*

*Phil Hoey*

*Jean Hubbard*

*John M. (Jack) Keene*

*Maria Paccioretti*

*Jeff Shelton\**

**Architectural Committee**

*Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)*

*Maria Paccioretti*

*Neal Faircloth*

*Ethan Simonson*

*Phil Hoey (alt.)*

**Budget Audit Committee**

*Tim Landolt (Audit)*

*Phil Hoey*

**Communications Committee**

*Jean Hubbard (Chairperson)*

*Neal Faircloth*

*Dave Hudgins*

*Andy Suchoski (webmaster)*

**Community Improvement Committee**

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*Jeff Shelton*

*Buford T. Rowland (alt.)*

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*Dave Hudgins*

*Maria Paccioretti*

*Jeff Shelton*

**Maintenance Committee**

*Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)*

*Terry Bradley*

*Tim Landolt*

*Ethan Simonson*

**Utilities Committee**

*Jean Hubbard*

*Jack Keene*

*Jim Smith*

**\*Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay II Community POA and  
Oyster Bay II Water & Sewage Co., Inc**

**OB Water & Sewage Company  
2017 Board of Directors & Membership Committees**

**President**

*James G. Smith*

**Vice President**

*Miranda Duston*

**Secretary**

*Jean Hubbard*

**Treasurer**

*Dave Hudgins*

*Arlene Dougherty\**

*Mary Hubbard*

*Robert Kasper*

*John M. (Jack) Keene*

*Ray Major*

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**Budget & Financial**

*Dave Hudgins*

*Miranda Duston*

**Communications Committee**

*Jean Hubbard*

**Documentation Committee**

*Miranda Duston*

*Robert Kasper*

*Jim Smith*

**Operations & Maintenance**

*Jean Hubbard*

*Jack Keene*

*Ray Major*

*Jim Smith*

**\*Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay Water & Sewage  
Company, Inc.**

**Check out our community website, at [www.ob2poa.org](http://www.ob2poa.org)  
as the format and content continue to evolve. Email  
Andy Suchoski at [andy.suchoski@verizon.net](mailto:andy.suchoski@verizon.net) if you  
experience any problems or have any comments.**

**Please mail all OB II POA, Inc. dues, payments and  
correspondence to:**

OB II POA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 642  
Chincoteague, VA 23336

**Please mail all OB Water & Sewage Co., Inc. dues,  
payments and correspondence to:**

OB Water & Sewage Company  
P.O. Box 1339  
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