



Chincoteague Island, VA Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter January 2019

Dear OB II Friends & Neighbors,

Another year passes, they seem to go by so quickly now, especially since I retired. I've spent more time on the island this year, as many of my neighbors can attest with the added noise of my grandkids. While most of them have become familiar with my dog, Arthur, too, since I've had to call him back in so often, and probably a bit too loudly as well. At this time, I don't have a hard count, however, it seems that new construction is down from last year; but we still have plenty of new community members.

The Parcel E case has become too complex to adequately discuss in the newsletter. Suffice it to say that our legal counsel is following up on several aspects and we hope to have resolution in early 2019.

We are welcoming several new Board members in 2019, and as always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Beyond that, I and the Board hope that you have a fantastic holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Tim Landolt
President, OB II POA

Updates from the Boards ...

Oyster Bay II Property Owners Association: Don't forget your POA annual dues are due. You should have received an invoice covering 2019 in your email inbox or mailbox.

Meeting Minutes from the BoD meeting held on October 20th, including the 2019 election of the Board are available on the community website, <http://www.ob2poa.org>, under the members section.

Oyster Bay Water & Sewer Company, Inc.: The Annual Shareholders Meeting Minutes, including the 2019 election of the Board, and the W&S Co. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, from October 20th are posted on the website, <http://www.ob2poa.org>.

Slow Down ...

The speed limit in OB II is 15 mph. This time of the year is particularly quiet here and you may not expect to see people walking and biking. Driving slow, and even slower over the potholes will also help our roads. Under no circumstances should people drive on any common area. Driving too close to the swales causes damage to the swale itself and that affects the ability of the water to flow.

Happy New Year ...

Content courtesy of www.history.com

Have you ever wondered about the history of celebrating New Year's?



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

In 45 B.C., New Year's Day was celebrated on January 1st for the first time in history as the Julian calendar took effect. Soon after becoming Roman dictator, Julius Caesar decided that the traditional Roman calendar was in dire need of reform. Introduced around the seventh century B.C., the Roman calendar attempted to follow the lunar cycle but frequently fell out of phase with the seasons and had to be corrected. In addition, the pontifices, the Roman body charged with overseeing the calendar, often abused its authority by adding days to extend political terms or interfere with elections.

In designing his new calendar, Caesar enlisted the aid of Sosigenes, an Alexandrian astronomer, who advised him to do away with the lunar cycle entirely and follow the solar year, as did the Egyptians. The year was calculated to be 365 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days, and Caesar added 67 days to 45 B.C., making 46 B.C. begin on January 1st, rather than in March. He also decreed that every four years a day be added to February, thus theoretically keeping his calendar from falling out of step. Shortly before his assassination in 44 B.C., he changed the name of the month Quintilis to Julius (July) after himself. Later, the month of Sextilis was renamed Augustus (August) after his successor.

Celebration of New Year's Day in January fell out of practice during the Middle Ages, and even those who strictly adhered to the Julian calendar did not observe the New Year exactly on January 1st. The reason for the latter was that Caesar and Sosigenes failed to calculate the correct value for the solar year as 365.242199 days, not 365.25 days. Thus, an 11-minute-a-year error added seven days by the year 1000, and 10 days by the mid-15th century.

The Roman church became aware of this problem, and in the 1570s Pope Gregory XIII commissioned Jesuit astronomer Christopher Clavius to come up with a new calendar. In 1582, the Gregorian calendar was implemented, omitting 10 days for that year and establishing the new rule that only one of every four centennial years should be a leap year. Since then, people around the world have gathered en masse on January 1st to celebrate the precise arrival of the New Year.

New Year's Traditions From Around The World ...

Courtesy of Victoria Doudera, *The Old Farmer's Almanac*

Many New Year's traditions that we take for granted actually date back to ancient times. This year, ring out the old and ring in the new with a new New Year's tradition – or two!

Make some noise. Making a lot of noise from fireworks to gun shots to church bells seems to be a favorite pastime around the world. In ancient Thailand, guns were fired to frighten off demons. In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness. In the early American colonies, the sound of pistol shots rang through the air. Today, Italians let their church bells peal, the Swiss beat drums and the North Americans blow party horns to bid the old year farewell.

Many New Year's traditions surround food. The tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight comes from Spain. Revelers stuff their mouths with 12 grapes in the final moments of the year – one grape for every chime of the clock. In the southern U.S., black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune – look up a recipe for Hoppin' John. In Scotland, where Hogmanay is celebrated, people parade down the streets swinging balls of fire. Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a doughnut) symbolizes "coming full circle" and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *olie bollen* are served. The Irish enjoy pastries called *bannocks*. In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity. In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors.

Have a drink. Although the pop of a champagne cork signals the arrival of the New Year around the world, some countries have their own beverage-based traditions. Wassail, a punch-like drink named after the Gaelic term for "good health" is served in some parts of England. Spiced "hot pint" is the Scottish version of Wassail. Traditionally, the Scots drank to each others' prosperity and also offered this warm drink to neighbors along with a small gift. In Holland, toasts are made with hot, spiced wine.

Give a gift. New Year's Day was once the time to swap presents. Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome. Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians. Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks. In Scotland, coal, shortbread and silverware were traditionally exchanged for good luck.

Put your best foot forward. In Scotland, the custom of first-footing is an important part of the celebration of Hogmanay, or New Year's Eve day. After midnight, family and friends visit each other's home. The "first foot" to cross a threshold after midnight will predict the next year's fortune.

Turn over a new leaf. The dawn of a new year is an opportune time to take stock of your life. Personal introspection, visiting graves, church "watch-night" services and the practice of making New Year's resolutions are just some of the ways to reflect on the past and plan ahead.

Wishing one and all a very happy 2019!

REMINDER: Chincoteague's quarterly brush pick up is scheduled for Thursday, January 3rd. Call 757-336-6159 (48) hours in advance to schedule your pick up. Quantity is limited to what would fill a full size pickup truck.

**OB II Community Property Owners Association
2019 Board of Directors & Membership Committees**

President
Tim Landolt

Vice President
Buford T. Rowland

Secretary
Dave Hudgins

Treasurer
Michelle Ruane

Kathy Bradley

Terry Bradley

Jean Hubbard

Margaret Nichols

Maria Paccioretti

David Weber

Architectural

Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)

Maria Paccioretti

Ethan Simonson

Budget Audit

Dave Hudgins (Chairperson)

Jean Hubbard

Communications

Jean Hubbard (Chairperson)

Dave Hudgins

Andy Suchoski (Webmaster)

Community Improvement/Maintenance

Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)

Terry Bradley

Jean Hubbard

Ethan Simonson

Documentation/Records

Monica Suchoski (Chairperson), Historian

Dave Hudgins

Maria Paccioretti

Utilities Committee

Dave Hudgins

Jean Hubbard

**Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay II Community
Property Owners Association**

Terry Bradley

**OB Water & Sewer Company
2019 Board of Directors & Membership Committees**

President
Miranda Duston

Vice President
Ted Ruane

Secretary
Jean Hubbard

Treasurer
Michelle Ruane

Arlene Dougherty*

Mary Hubbard

Robert Kasper

Frank Norman

Jim Smith

Budget & Audit

Dave Hudgins

Jean Hubbard

Communications

Arlene Dougherty

Jean Hubbard

Documentation

Miranda Duston

Robert Kasper

Jim Smith

Operations & Maintenance

Jim Smith

**Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay Water & Sewer Co., Inc.*

Please Check Your Information ...

Please check and confirm that your contact information featured on the website is correct and current. If you have forgotten your login and/or password, please contact Andy Suchoski at andy.suchoski@verizon.net.

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

OB II POA, Inc.
P.O. Box 642
Chincoteague, VA 23336
email: obicommunity@gmail.com

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

OB Water & Sewer Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1139
Chincoteague, VA 23336
email: obwatersewerco@gmail.com