



Grove Beach Point Association April 2011 Newsletter

A Message from the Chairman of the Board of Governors By Gary Bazzano

The calendar says its Spring but I'm still waiting for the weather to really warm up so we can all start heading to GBPA. I hope all of you had a great winter and enjoyed all the snow. And for you folks that head somewhere else for the winter, I hope you all had a wonderful winter also.

Last year in the April newsletter I had stated that the BOG had wanted to make safety a top priority for the coming year. As such, we have been researching security for the Association through means of a certified security company. The Annual budget will possibly reflect some changes that will be made regarding that aspect. We all want to feel safe at our Association and the BOG would like to hear your feelings regarding issues that may arise out of lack of security and/or adequate security. We are still working on the patio beautification project, which includes a new wall along the road accented with stone pillars spaced in between a black aluminum fence. The BOG is waiting for final pricing on the project and is anxious to start this as soon as possible without interfering with the daily enjoyment of our members. If the BOG feels that this will impede on any enjoyment, then the BOG will delay the project until the fall. We are also working on new ways to protect our members from outsiders utilizing our beautiful beach. Believe me, we are spending many hours debating the best ways to alleviate any security concerns.

The BOG has decided to make the parking lot a top priority this year by clearing it of all debris and overgrowth and extending it to its full capacity. There will also be stone poured inside the perimeter, along with an apron to define the street from the parking lot.

Another item the BOG has been working on is purchasing a new shed. This item is in our Capital Projects Fund and we intend on using some of that fund to accomplish this purchase this year.

Darylle has been busy evaluating all of the assets of our Association and has compiled a list of "to do" items for this year. We will be addressing each item individually with hopes of accomplishing most items this year. The Association has many assets and we need to make sure we continue to maintain these assets.

As all of you start to head to the beach, please be mindful of your neighbors and don't hesitate to help your neighbors out. It could be as simple as picking up debris that you may see at a neighbor's house or simply sweeping up some stone off the street. We

all live in this tight community for a short time and we must live with and help each other out. This includes respecting our neighbors as friends and driving through the neighborhood with caution and at a reasonable speed. Please stop at all stop signs and obey all traffic signs. The police will be watching this summer. Our safety and assets are what makes GBPA a premier Association to be part of. We have the best Association in Westbrook and by far one of the best Associations on the Connecticut coast. Let's all be proud of it and take great care of it.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 28, 2011 at the patio. Your Annual Meeting Packets will be sent out in mid May.

If you haven't already, please be sure to return those postcards we sent out this winter. It is the BOG's mission to have everybody that has an email address sign up with the BOG by summer's end.

One final note about our Tax Collector Petra Shearer. Petra will be leaving us soon. She has decided to move to Hartford and will be relinquishing her duties as Tax Collector. The BOG will be appointing Nancy Waters as the new Tax Collector and Petra will be assisting her in the transition this year. With that transition comes the chance of mistakes happening. Though the BOG anticipates a seamless transition, please be patient. Petra has been doing this for many years and I know the BOG had been spoiled by her tremendous ability to do handle the job perfectly. We hope the same for Nancy. Please be sure to wish Nancy luck on her new position and also thank Petra for all her years of service and wish her well. We will miss you Petra and we all thank you for your many years of service. Please go to the Website and send a note to the two of them.

Enjoy the Spring and I hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting on May 28th.

Beach Preservation
By Ken Penfield

In November 2010, Gary Bazzano and I were invited to a meeting with representatives from the State of CT Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Protection at the DOT. There was an interest coming from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the DEP and DOT in our Woods Hole Study which will provide Wave Climatology, Transformation and Sediment Transport Modeling in the area of the Inlet to the Patchogue and Menunketesuck Rivers.

A major dredging of the Patchogue and Menunketesuck was being planned for 2012 by the USACE. Our study was of interest to the USACE. We were being considered for a Pilot Program and the USACE had funds available. The idea was to share our study and in turn be compensated for the cost of our study of at least a 60/40 split. Along with that we would be negotiating on how and where any compatible dredging materials (sand) would be disbursed.

Unfortunately as we went into the winter months, the program was stopped because of the lack of funds in the USACE budget. However, I think it is important to note that we now, more than ever, have gained relationships within the DEP, DOT and USACE. We have been noticed by these agencies because of our persistence over the years in resolving our ongoing erosion problem.

Our Woods Hole Group Study is proceeding as anticipated. Three of the five tasks are complete, including Historical Shoreline Change, Wave Climatology and Transformation, and Sediment Transport Modeling. Woods Hole will begin to provide us with an Alternative Analysis which is the basis for determining the optimal solution geared towards mitigating the ongoing erosion occurring at Grove Beach.

I anticipate the completion of the study in the early summer months. I will arrange for Woods Hole to present this study to all members of GBPA at a meeting as soon as we can coordinate a time.

Email addresses
By Nancy Waters

Thank you to everyone who returned Email address cards last fall! We especially appreciate those that are following the GO GREEN effort and opting for email copies only! Our lines of communication include 137 email addresses! Still looking for about 40 or so more to complete the roster (we do have multiple email addresses for single properties). We still are mailing out a number of the Hard Copy newsletters, but thanks to all who are helping to keep our costs down. For those of you that still do not have a computer, no worries, we will still mail you the newsletter!

Please be sure to send any news or questions to our new email address:

GroveBeachPoint@comcast.net

Grove Beach's Archives
By Nancy Waters

Documents that have been stored and shared from Board to Board since the inception of the GBPA are being scanned in electronically. This is a long and time consuming effort, however following scanning, the Board's plan is to make the documents available on the Website. These documents go back to 1945 and do make for interesting reading. It is also interesting to note that throughout the history of GBPA, residents primary areas of concern remain consistent: security, fishermen & dogs on the beach.

A side note from the Board: The Board would like to thank Nancy Waters for all of her hard, and careful work scanning and digitally archiving GBPA's 'historical' documents!

Council of Beaches
By Nancy Waters

The Council of Beaches will begin their meeting schedule in May of 2011. As a reminder, last year Vision Appraisal had signed a contract with the Town of Westbrook for the property reevaluation process. Their website is www.visionappraisal.com and their reevaluation process will determine Westbrook property market values in 2011. Coastal properties will be appraised this spring. The Westbrook Council of Beaches is working with Vision Appraisal so that there will be a town meeting in the spring for property owners to meet with Vision Appraisal to discuss any concerns. When this date is set in the spring, it will be published on the GBPA website.

Social/Movies on the beach committee
By Nancy Waters

Movies on the Beach for 2010 was highly successful. We are looking forward to 2011 and welcome your ideas. The tentative (Saturday) dates that we will be showing movies are: July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 20 & August 27
If you have any thoughts on what movies we can put on the list, please email them to GroveBeachPoint@comcast.net.

Additionally, we have an interesting idea for an event this summer! Anyone up for CHRISTMAS in JULY?! While we are still working through some ideas on this, the premise is that since, for the most part, association members don't see everyone during the Holiday season, why not hold our own celebration in the summer? The weekend of July 23 will be set aside to decorate with beach with Holiday lights, play Christmas music and in the evening, play some classic favorite films like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". (Rain date will be July 30).

From the Website
By Nancy Waters

Updates to the Website are always a work in progress:
<http://www.grovebeachpoint.org/>
As always, please keep an eye in your email inbox for news and information!

Around the Neighborhood

New Additions! Maggie & Peter Vincent want to share with everyone that they have a new addition to the family: Ryan Alvin Vincent, born February 23, 2011 to Christopher and Tovah Vincent. His big sister Grace (2 years old) welcomed Ryan with open arms. Christopher's second deployment to Afghanistan ended on November 22, 2011. The Vincents wish to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during Chris' deployment.

Egret Rescue! Last fall, Jenna Ireland spotted something floating towards GBPA from Duck Island. She thought that it looked like a white garbage bag, but wasn't quite sure, so she sought out Darylle Connelly. As the item got closer, Darylle and Jenna thought that it was a white egret that had died. The bird drifted closer on the rather rough waves, and almost came ashore in front of the Gandolfo's cottage. Still thinking it was dead, Darylle found a blanket and asked Paul Ireland and another man on the beach to help her pull it from the water. Once Darylle got close enough she realized that the bird was not dead, but seemed to have a broken neck. Luckily, Darylle was able to reach a friend who is a bird specialist. The specialist said that egrets and herons are not deep water birds, and are sometimes swept out too far by a wave. Once they are carried by the water to deep water, they usually drown. The specialist said that there was a slim chance of saving the bird, but that Darylle and Jenna could try drying it, trying to feed it, and keeping it safe in the sun.

Jenna and Darylle proceeded to get out a hair dryer and supported the bird with towels inside of a small bin. Darylle found some food for the bird at the local bait shop, and after 5 ½ hours of T.L.C., the bird was able to hold its head up and jump out of the box. Darylle and Jenna escorted him back to the marsh, stopping traffic in the streets. Still, both ladies were concerned that the egret may not have been able to fly, so they enlisted the help of their other neighbors who chased egrets until they took flight. No one reported finding an egret that could not, and Darylle and Jenna feel confident that their boy made it!

If anyone finds a hurt or struggling bird, do not hesitate to call Darylle for help! Her cell is 203-887-7172 (157 Old Mail Trail).



Here he is!

Missing Pug! Just a reminder that Darylle Connelly is still missing her beloved pug! If anyone has seen him or knows who may have him, please let Darylle know: 203-887-7172.

GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION

GBPA has been having “group” garbage collection from Neelys Waste Removal Company (Hometown Waste, LLC) since October 1, 1996. The monthly fee for garbage and recycling service is now \$23.00. The summer residents have a choice of the 4 month plan or the 6 month plan as follows:

May 15 to September 15 – 4 month plan for \$92.00

May 1 to November 1 – 6 month plan for \$138.00

The full time residents will be billed directly by Hometown Waste, LLC @ \$23.00 per month.

Garbage and recycling pick up will be on Mondays from May 11, 2011 through November 11, 2011. Pick up is on Friday for the rest of the year.

On Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day weeks garbage service will be on the Tuesday following the holiday.

NAME: _____

Mailing Address: _____

GBPA Address: _____

Four Month Plan enclose \$92.00 _____ Six Month Plan enclose \$138.00 _____

Make Checks Payable to Hometown Waste, LLC

Please mail this completed form with your payment in advance to:

Hometown Waste, LLC

P.O. Box 1340

Madison, CT 06443

If you have any questions concerning your bill please call 203.245.8840.

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