



The Aquia Harbour Newsletter – July 2007 Edition
Official Communications from the AHPOA

**General Manager
Review**

(Chuck Halt) 659-3050

The issue with the siltation in the creek has still not been resolved. Action is awaiting the completion of the Stafford County funded study by Woolpert Engineering. The study is overdue and rumored to be over budget. Our neighbor at the Hills at Aquia has offered to make right any contribution they have made to the situation. While we patiently wait we have made more progress on obtaining the dredging permit. We expect the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to issue their permit in early July followed by the permit from the Army Corp of Engineers. Both permits are required to move forward. When both permits are in hand and funding available expect initial dredging at Austin Run again followed by other shallow areas. One major issue is the intake for the Briar Patch Ball Field pumping station used to water the fields. Due to the significant silt below the bridge we are unable to run the pumps thus leaving the fields dependent on rainfall for water.

The new Harbour Inn Pool is fully functional and the expanded deck at the Country Club Pool completed. Both are proving very popular and came in on time and within budget. The new hay barn has been completed and the stable patrons are moving the hay from above the stalls alleviating a health and safety problem. New rough and finish cut movers have been received and are in service at the golf course. The Roads and Grounds Crew has a new chipper on order and it is anxiously being awaited. As soon as it's received expect significant clearing along the sides of the roads. Many don't realize that even though their property line sets back from the road they are still responsible for maintaining the area as well as any pipe under their driveway. Please take a look and clean up where necessary. This includes leaves and debris in the ditch.

At the last board meeting the board approved finalizing the sale of lot #1237 (the old basketball court) to Stafford County this will allow relocating the pumping station and emergency generator. Everything is to be enclosed behind a screening barrier with appropriate plantings. Planning work on the proposed dog park is underway with the land being cleared and layout taking place. The plan now is to enclose an area of approximately an acre just south of the dredging spoils site.

As you read this the votes should be in on the proposed "age restricted" development of the old school site. Another vote is anticipated in the near future authorizing the board to transfer a small segment of the land below the stables and across the creek to Stafford County for a walkway to Government Island. The agreement with the county would include our own bridge to the elevated walkway to allow residents to access the elevated trail to the island. Discussions are still underway with a local builder to exchange a small easement for a bath house for the swim team or several shelter houses.

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Work at the Town Center continues unabated on the first of many buildings. Our Board of Directors has met with the developer to discuss the plans and they are anxiously awaiting further plans/discussion. The long poles in the tent are the overall impact on the community as well as our entry way on Washington Drive.

Waste Management has been put on notice that service must improve or we will look elsewhere for service. When we negotiated the current contract there was no real competition. Now there are two active competitors. A reminder all trash must be in the toter. A second toter is available for a nominal one time fee. See the article elsewhere in the newsletter or call the Business Office for details.



**President's
Review**

(David Humphrey) 720-8847

President's Review

Web Walking for Fun & Info

One of my priorities as President of the AHPOA has been to effectively communicate with the homeowners and give them an opportunity to voice their concerns, suggestions, complaints and compliments. About a year and a half ago we had hired a consultant on an hourly basis to revamp our website. We were not able to make much headway with that process when a talented resident stepped up and volunteered to do for free what we were paying the consultant to do. The result was that Greg Stocksdale was able to reformat the website with useful and relevant information. It's in an attractive presentation so that residents and outsiders alike could get a flavor of the uniqueness and quality of our community. It also allows us to provide updated information and notices about issues important to residents. If you have not taken advantage of the opportunity to browse around the site thru the internet, I encourage you to take a look at

<http://www.aquiaharbour.org> Since the launch about 14 months ago the website has had more than 24,000 hits. In addition to the website we have published a monthly electronic newsletter that Greg sends to about 800 residents. To subscribe to that newsletter, simply send your e mail address to Greg at aquiaharbourcc @ gmailcom. He promises to absolutely protect your e mail address and only send you the newsletter and relevant & important alerts. Never any spam.

Now the best part of the website is that people can interact with questions and comments and have an ongoing dialogue about issues that they are concerned about. On the homepage of the website, on the left hand side, are a series of buttons. Scroll down past the amenities button to the message board. On the next page click on the blue "Message Board" button and you will find 34 different categories of discussion. A simple registration process will allow you to join in the dialogue. There are already nearly 200 members. In addition, many others monitor the conversations by "lurking" or just viewing the dialogue. They don't even have to register unless they want to post their opinion. It is a great way to get information out, get clarification on issues, ask questions, and simply communicate with each other. If you haven't been there yet, you are missing out on some interesting conversations.

It will keep you coming back to follow the latest news and topics of interest.

Government Island Historic Site

Stafford County has some ambitious plans to develop historic Government Island as a tourist attraction. Tim Baroody, a harbour resident and Director of Economic Development for Stafford County, is directing that effort. In order to access the island the county needs to build an elevated wooden walkway on some of our Aquia Harbour common property. It is a few acres of wetland property on the other side of Austin Run down near the stables and Lion's Park. We cannot even get to it without crossing the creek or driving outside the harbour on Coal Landing Road. If we gave them an easement to that property, we would still have some liability if somebody got hurt on that land. In order to release us from any liability we intend to give the county that property. As part of the project, the county will build an \$86,000 foot bridge so that Aquia Harbour residents can get out to the island. Although our by laws do not mandate it, we have established a precedent to allow residents to vote on any resolution to sell any common property within Aquia Harbour. You will soon be getting more information about this and a ballot to express your consent. We will also hold an open Town Hall meeting to discuss this proposal. The AHPOA Board of Directors supports this proposal. Please take the time to examine this issue and cast your vote. We may have some difficulty reaching a quorum on this so please vote one way or the other. Otherwise, the vote may not be validated and the issue not resolved. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns about our community.
<mailto:dvd.humphrey@verizon.net> (540) 720-8847

**Aquia Harbour
Police**

(Chief Schwarting) 659-4600

Now I know it is finally summertime. My left arm is about two shades darker than my right and occasionally it is hot enough in the Blazer that I roll the window up. Today is another gorgeous day as many have been this year. At last check it was 82 degrees and the humidity is low. We even had a little shower last night that we needed and if anyone has the right contacts, a little more rain would be nice.

This month is going to be "odds and ends month". On a regular basis there are topics that come up about things that hopefully we all know about or at least should know about and usually they don't warrant a single topic article in the Harbour View. I will try to mention some of the most common topics that are brought to my attention and give some information about the laws or AHPOA regulations that are connected to them.

Dogs and pooper scoopers

"My neighbor walks her dog in my neighborhood and doesn't clean up after him."

There are no specific Harbour regulations that address cleaning up after dogs but there is a County ordinance that does cover it. Owners of dogs are required to dispose of the dog's solid waste.

Theft of signs

"I get the proper permits from the Association office and after I properly display my signs someone takes them."

Harbour regulations allow the posting of signs if a permit is issued through the business office and the signs are displayed as required by the regulations. Any properly authorized sign that is taken without the owner's permission is listed as a larceny and is subject to being prosecuted as such.

Paint ball and B-B guns

“There is damage done to Association property by the paint ball shooters.”

A County ordinance prohibits the discharge of air guns including B-B guns and paint ball guns in subdivisions in the County of Stafford. Aquia Harbour is specifically listed in the ordinance. Damaging Association property is covered under State laws dealing with the destruction of private property.

Dirt bikes and 4-wheelers

“Kids ride unlicensed dirt bikes on the roads, on their property and on my property.”

The operation of dirt bikes and 4-wheelers is prohibited on private property in Aquia Harbour by Harbour regulation and unlicensed vehicles are prohibited from operation on our roads by State law. Trespassing laws also apply when the vehicles are ridden on someone else’s property without permission.

Under age possession of alcohol

“My kid was hassled just because he was carrying some unopened beer.”

Persons under age 21 are prohibited from possessing alcoholic beverages, opened or unopened, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Trespassing

“Neighborhood kids cross my property as a shortcut to the park and they damage my fence.”

Again, both trespassing and destruction of private property laws apply.

Yard sale parking

“When there are yard sales in the Harbour, people park all over the street and block traffic. It is dangerous.”

We all know that it is not safe or legal to park in the street in Aquia Harbour even if there is a great yard sale taking place. For everyone’s safety don’t park in the street and don’t allow your customers to.

It is obvious that most of these violations require involvement by the complaining party or victim for there to be a prosecution. If you are affected by any of these violations or others let your police officers know. If we cannot place charges without your involvement we will let you know what we need from you and help you to take action. If you are someone who has committed any of these violations, or are the parent of someone who has, please consider if any one of these activities is worth a fine, jail time, sanction by the Association, or even the ill will of your neighbors.

Enjoy the great weather and our beautiful surroundings.

Aurie W. Schwarting, Chief of Police

**Public Safety
Committee**

(Greg Stocksdale) 658-6330

The Public Safety Committee was informed (again) about the continued increase in speeding within the Harbour along with a fairly large increase in warnings and tickets. I know you have all seen this here several times in the past, but please, for your safety and others, adhere to our speed limits. This is especially true now that summer is upon us and schools are closing for the summer. We all want the children in the Harbour to remain safe, do your part. As a side note, it would be beneficial for visitors you are bringing in to the Harbour to remind them that not only is our speed limit 25 mph but that the speed limit is enforced. You will be doing us and them a favor. Thanks. Finally, here is hoping that you all have a great and safe July 4th holiday.

**Communication
Committee**

(Greg Stocksdale) 658-6330

To go along with President Humphrey's article on the website, I thought it would be a good time to remind you of some quick tips that will help you find up-to-date information on the website.

On the home page, which is the first page that comes up when you go to <http://www.aquiaharbour.org>, at the top of the page you will find a message bars that will be updated with important information. Please check this at each visit to see if any breaking news has been posted since your last visit. Also, on the same page, the top message bar will tell you when the Aquia Harbour Events page was last updated. This way you can quickly determine if there have been new events posted since your last visit. Clicking on any of these message bars will take you directly to the appropriate page.

Okay, so now you know how to quickly determine whether new events or breaking news has been posted since your last visit. However our site is quite large and consists of thousands of individual pages, so how do you know what pages and areas have been updated. Very easily, in the frames area on the home page (this is the area on the left side of the page with all of the buttons) at the bottom, you will see a button named Website Updates and Website Contacts. Click this button and you will be taken to a page that will list all the updates made to the site, by date, AND (wanting a drum roll here) a link directly to that page. So you have now clicked on the Website Updates button and you see that on 6/17/07 a new Dolphins Swim Team schedule was posted. At the end of that line you will see a Click Here, if you click that you will be taken directly to the page that was updated.

A few, did you know?

Did you know that on the Aquia Harbour Business page, besides many of the Harbour forms being available for download, there is also budget information, the AHPOA Bylaws, and the Restrictions and Covenants available for downloading and viewing?

Did you know that there is a page that mimics the front sign near the rescue squad? It is the Main Entrance Sign Information button.

Did you know that the monthly Aquia Harbour police statistics are available for downloading and viewing? These are available on the Police Page under the Aquia Harbour Police Security button.

Did you know we have a nice photo gallery area? There are many pictures from past Aquia Harbour events, ranging from July 4th celebrations, to Swim Team events, to Horse Shows, and issues related to the silt problem we have been facing.

Did you know that you express your concerns, opinions, ask questions, sell and buy items, or just make new friends without ever leaving your home? Well you can, stop by the message board and check it out. You will need to register for an account, which I will approve quickly so that you may begin posting messages. You are welcome to stop by and view messages without registering. When

you go to the Message Board page, please take the time to read the rules. At first they might seem a little harsh to some, but if you have been to other message boards you have seen how quickly things can turn ugly. We don't want that and won't let that happen to our message board. We welcome your opinions and thoughts, we just ask that you also be respectful of others even if they are different from yours. To avoid having to always go through the rules page each time you want to visit the message board, just go to <http://www.aquiaharbour.org/forum>

Anyway, this hopefully will get you started if you haven't already. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns, problems, or questions. I am always glad to help.

Greg

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the business office. In the meantime, feel free to contact me if you have any issues you would like to discuss. You can email me at <mailto:AquiaHarbourCC@gmail.com> or call me at 658-6330.

**Aquia Harbour
Preschool**

(Anne Spevacek)

Ahhhh ... summer! Warm weather, sunscreen, and lots of outdoor play. This time of year brings back memories of my own summer vacations. My friends and I had plans, and lots of them – swimming, biking, exploring the woods behind our houses, backgammon matches on the front porch, cold iced tea, and day trips to the Jersey shore. Those were the days. Carefree, without a worry in the world, except to run through the house wondering where our swimsuits were hiding!

With two months of summer left, it's hard to think about the Fall and school starting up again. But, the funny thing is, my 3-year old daughter *misses* school. She tells me on a regular basis that she can't wait to go back ... that is, to Aquia Harbour Preschool. I am thrilled that she enjoys school so much that she actually thinks about it during her summer vacation. Her dad and I truly hope this is a premonition of things to come! The previous preschool year was chock full of learning and fun for her and her friends – and in another few months they will begin their second year at AHPS, in the 4-year old program. Sheesh, they're experts at the whole school thing now!

Our Little School

It may sound corny, but there's definitely a Mayberry factor attached to AHPS. For those of you new to the Harbour, AHPS is a one-room schoolhouse nestled in the trees on Spain Drive. In operation since 1978, it's a non-profit cooperative association whose existence depends solely upon the support of its membership. The 3- and 4-year old classes (with both a.m. and p.m. sessions) are taught by a certified teacher and classroom aide who have worked at AHPS for a number of years. They not only care about the kids, but about the preschool's role in our community, as well. Because it's a co-op, students and parents are involved in the school's daily operations. We have moms and dads who regularly lend a hand to get things done – like volunteer to clean the school each month, serve on the Board, get involved with fundraising, do handywork, and come in to read to the kids or help with a craft. AHPS provides a creative and safe learning environment for our little ones – but it also offers us parents a greater sense of community. And that's something we don't necessarily experience everyday as we run errands, commute to our jobs, deal with daily life stresses, etc. To many, the preschool is like a breath of fresh air.

Want to know more about AHPS? It's easy. Just call the school at 540-659-5771, or go online to: <http://aquiaharbour.org/> and click on Amenities.

All the Best to Mrs. Jones!

As you may have heard, AHPS recently said goodbye to Mrs. Jones. After dedicating herself as the 3's teacher for ten years, Mrs. Jones made the decision to retire in May. We will miss Mrs. Jones, and hope to see her around the Harbour! The school, its students and parents can't thank her enough for making our children's first educational experience a creative and supportive environment.

So, you might ask, who will fill these shoes?? AHPS is very fortunate to have Mrs. Spero, our current 4's teacher, as the new 3's teacher. Mrs. Spero will teach both the 3's and 4's classes, which no doubt will lend seamless continuity to the school's overall programming. Mrs. Head will continue as classroom aide to both groups. Thank you, Mrs. Spero and Mrs. Head! We look forward to a fantastic and fun-filled school year!

Available Spaces

Registration for the 2007-2008 school year is already underway, but there are still a few open slots in the 3 p.m. class (with waiting lists for others). If you plan to enroll, it's best to hurry as newcomers to our community may soon be vying for those precious few spaces. Please contact Heather Pierce at <mailto:sandhpierce@verizon.net> or call the preschool at 540-659-5771 to reserve your child's space as soon as possible.

Orientation

Orientation for the upcoming school year isn't far away. We ask all our preschool parents – new and returning – to mark their calendars for **Monday August 20 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Harbour Inn. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the teachers and Board members, as well as to complete last minute paperwork, which may be needed for your child's file. Please arrive prepared. The Co-op fee of \$120.00 is payable by check. You should also plan to bring your child's medical forms (including a current copy of your child's immunization record) to orientation, or at least by the first day of school. Make those doctor appointments now!

Any questions you might have about AHPS may be directed to Jodi Odum, President of the AHPS Board of Directors at <mailto:jkodlum@verizon.net> or Heather Pierce, Vice President of AHPS Board of Directors at <mailto:sandhpierce@verizon.net>. Both can be reached by calling the preschool at 540-659-5771.

Have a safe and happy summer!

**Aquia Harbour
Golf Club**

(Terry G. Ryalls, Mgr.)

Mother Nature hasn't been very cooperative with providing the necessary rainfall to keep the course looking as great as it started out this spring. The maintenance staff has worked long and hard, to keep the sprinklers running on the entire course, and have done the best they can to keep the greens alive. The greens are a little slow because of the continuous watering, but it helps them survive the extreme heat of the summer that usually occurs in July and August. We have been fortunate in past years to maintain our greens, when many courses in the area have very poor green conditions by the end of the summer. The heat and lack of rain have also resulted in our going back to "cart path only" until we see

an improvement in the fairway conditions. The cart tracks were becoming very visible in the fairways as the turf thinned out, and rather than end up having nothing but dirt to hit off of, we decided to eliminate the traffic for awhile.

We held our first Women's Only Scramble on Sunday June 10, and have decided to try having one every other Saturday beginning July 7th. It will be a 9 hole Captain's Choice Scramble and will begin at 1:30pm. This is open to any ladies interested in playing whether you are a member of the golf course or not. We will post a sign-up sheet in the pro shop a week prior to that date, so if you are interested in joining us please call 659-4478. We only had eight participants at our first one, which was sponsored by the AHGA, but we would like to see more ladies show up for those planned in July. A special thank you to RC Tabler for shagging all the ladies' balls, Dan Ferrier who operated the drink cart for us, George White for the refreshments served after the scramble, and to the AHGA for paying for this event. On the opposite Saturdays we are trying to have a Mixed Scramble which will begin at 4:00pm. This will also be a 9 hole Captain's Choice.

FYI - There are several regular golf groups that would welcome newcomers at any time. Call the pro shop for information about these groups, or to inquire about starting a group of your own.

Congratulations to all of our "Class of 2007" graduates!

**Dolphins
Swim Team**
(Andy Bauwens)

The meets have finally begun after our "bye" on the first one. The extra week of practice gives us an edge on speed and endurance while reducing the number of DQ's that is common the first meet of the season.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at time trials and also to those who attended the RSL training class and for being flexible to step in where needed. Your time and effort is a valuable asset to the team and is greatly appreciated by even our youngest (future Olympic) swimmers! Please remember to check the volunteer schedule for when and which positions you will be working at the meets. If you can not cover your spot, it is your responsibility to find someone to take your place. It helps a lot if you check in with Mike Nichols, our meet director when you arrive so he can make sure your position is covered.

Don't forget to sign the vacation binder for every meet you will not be competing in. We appreciate the email notifications, but you still need to write it in the book.

This month, the Nomination Committee will swing into action and begin the process for selecting next year's board members. They will be soliciting for nominees and sending out ballots. The ballots will be counted and the board members announced during the awards ceremony on August 1st.

If you are not getting regular emails from the Swim Team, please send me an email. It's likely that we have it spelled incorrectly on our registration sheet. My email address is <mailto:abauwens@verizon.net> .

Please note that the July 2nd meet against Curtis Park is a HOME meet, not an away meet as previously written.

<u>Meet Date:</u>	<u>Swim Team</u>	<u>Home/Away</u>
Wed., Jun 27 th	Chancellor	Away
Mon., Jul 2 nd	Curtis Park	Home
Mon., Jul 9 th	Hampton Oaks	Away

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Thu., Jul 12 th	Woodlands	Away
Wed., Jul 18 th	Grafton	Home
Mon., Jul 23 rd	Lee's Hill	Home
Sat., Aug 4 th	FINALS	@Curtis Park

Social Events:

Wed., Jul 4th Bike Parade and Festival at Lions Park.
 Wed., Aug 1st 6:30pm - Awards Ceremony and Banquet at Harbour Inn.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July! See you at the bike parade and festivities at Lions Park!

GO DOLPHINS!!!

**Aquia Harbour
Stables**

(Susan Merryman)

Greetings from Aquia Harbour Stable. There have been many visitors to the barn over the course of the past month. It is wonderful to see folks take an interest in the equine residents of Aquia Harbour. For awhile, each column featured a horse from the barn so that readers could learn a little more about each horse. This time, let's identify each horse currently in the barn.

Each stall is numbered, with stall number 1 on the left as we enter the barn. Stall number 1 houses Crispy, a sorrel Quarter horse with white markings. Next to Crispy in Stall number 2 is Buttercup, a buckskin pony with a dark mane and tail. Buttercup is very popular with young visitors. Stall number 3 is home to Secret, a dark bay Thoroughbred who is very light on her feet. Next is Rosie, another pony. She is a chestnut. In stall number 5 is a new addition to the barn. His name is Little Bit and he is a chestnut Thoroughbred. In stall number 6 is Maggie, a blood bay Thoroughbred. Maggie loves a snack whenever she can convince a visitor to give her one. Next to Maggie in stall number 7 is Falcon, a large Standardbred. She is a bay with a tiny white mark on her forehead. Stall number 8 is home to Mac, a chestnut with white markings who is half Quarter horse and half Thoroughbred. Mac's buddy in Stall 9 is Abby, a beautiful grey Thoroughbred with dark dapples. Stall 10 houses Zion, a very large Thoroughbred. He is a wonderful guy who teaches lots of beginner riders proper horse handling skills. Skye, a dark Quarter horse with white socks and white markings on her face is in stall number 11. Stall 12 is where you will find Ginger, a sorrel Quarter horse with flaxen mane and tail. Ginger is 17 years old and she is also a friend to beginners. Dakota, another blood bay, is half Quarter horse and half Thoroughbred. He is in stall number 13. Those are all the horses on the left side of the aisle.

On the right side in stall number 14, directly across the aisle from stall 1, you will find Dreamer, a buckskin pony with a darker mane and tail. Next to Dreamer is Hollywood, a bay Thoroughbred who began life as a racehorse, but now lives in stall number 15. In stall number 16 is Koty. Koty is a chestnut Saddlebred who loves to play in the water troughs. Stall 17 houses Michael, a grey Thoroughbred who also used to race. Thunder, an Appaloosa, lives in stall 18. When he is in a bad mood, he turns his hindquarters toward his stall door to discourage visitors. Max is a black and white Spotted Saddle Horse who lives in stall 19, but spends most of his time outside. He seems to be a magnet for adult barn visitors. Finally in stall number 20 we have Gideon, a chestnut pony who loves the show ring. Gideon is very friendly and loves company.

And now you have met all of the Aquia Harbour Stable residents. They have a nice life here in the Harbour. They get fed twice a day, their stalls are cleaned daily and they get ridden or put in the paddocks each day. If they get sweaty, they get hosed off with cool water. Summer flies are controlled in the barn by an automatic fly spray system. Outdoors, fly

spray and fly sheets and masks protect them. Acres of lush green pasture is all they lack, but their owners try to mitigate that with plenty of time out in the paddocks. Paddock time can be a little complicated at times because we have only 6 paddocks for 20 horses, but it all seems to work out somehow.

At print time, we will have had our second show of the season. That show will be covered in the next column. Until then, thanks for stopping by the barn!

**School Board
Update**

(Dana Reinboldt)

School Board Update – July 2007

By, Dana Reinboldt
Stafford County School Board Member
Griffis-Widewater District

The Stafford County School Division's Operating Hours for Summer 2007 are:

All schools and offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday with the exception of high schools, which will be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Colonial Forge will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All schools and offices will be closed to the public on Friday.

The Summer schedule is in effect from June 18 through August 17.

The Fridays impacted by this schedule are in June 22, June 29, July 13, July 20, July 27, August 3, August 10 and August 17. All schools and offices will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 on Friday, July 6.

All schools and offices will make accommodations for parents needing to meet on Fridays.

The Stafford County School Board Office Phone Number is 540/658-6000.

If you have any questions or comments, you can reach me at <mailto:reinboldtdh@staffordschools.net> or at 540/659-1487

**Old School Site Town Meeting
May 26, 2007
10:00 a.m.
The Harbour Inn Community Centre**

Board members in attendance: Directors Collins, Cruea, Gill, Hawkins, Humphrey and Reinboldt.

12 association members in the audience.

- The history of the 33 acre site was outlined and a description of the site was given.
- The development of the site could be a potential source of income.
- Creating an 'active adult community' will provide older residents with an opportunity to move to a maintenance free home while remaining in Aquia Harbour.
- The association has not yet expended money on working out the details until the results of the referendum are known.
- An ad hoc committee, charged with coming up with a menu of options for use of the site, felt that an active adult community was the best option.
- Several developers had been contacted. It appeared that the land could be sold for between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000.
- Residents of the active adult community would be charged an extra fee for the additional services they will receive.
- There had been no positive feedback from Aquia Harbour residents for developing an assisted living/nursing home type of community.
- The county probably would not approve the construction of single family homes on the site but would probably support homes for people 55 years of age and over with nobody under 19 living with them.
- An opinion was voiced that the two board of supervisors for Aquia Harbour were limiting the association's options for use of the site and that if Aquia Harbour residents want to use that site for something other than an active adult community, that they should take advantage of it being an election year and say what they want.
- The amount of land that would be used for the proposed active adult community depended on what would be attractive to developers. The proposal was for single family homes.
- A school was never built on the site partly because of the power lines and the site's topography.
- One side of the site is fairly steep. Several developers had walked around the site and none of them had felt that this would be an obstacle.
- A treed buffer should be left between the new community and the houses around it.
- The value of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 for the land was based on an estimate that each lot is worth between \$20,000 and \$30,000.
- There was a concern that the houses will be very expensive. The developer will set the prices.
- It was suggested that a waiting list could be started of residents wanting to buy a house in the active adult community and that this list could then be shown to the developer.
- Property owners adjacent to the site will be contacted after the referendum.
- Because of the topography, even if only the right-hand side of the property is developed, the road would still have to go up the left-hand side of the site and cross under the power lines.
- The residents of the active adult community will have rules to follow in addition to the association's bylaws, restrictions and covenants etc.
- The Widewater supervisor, who is up for reelection this year, said that he would support the active adult community proposal. If the rest of the board of supervisors, however, vote against the proposal then it will fail.
- If the majority of the association members vote yes to the referendum, the board will petition the supervisors for a deed modification for the site to allow the development of an active adult community.
- The ACC will have some oversight of the project.
- If it is decided to proceed with the project, an RFP will be drafted.
- The income from developing the site will be used for work on the amenities. The intent is to eventually have the reserves funded properly so that the association can keep up with the maintenance of its amenities.
- The developer will put in the roads and the water and sewer pipes.
- The county might ask for a proffer. Typically, this is \$20,000 per lot in an active adult community.
- The association will incur some costs in developing the land e.g. legal fees.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**AQUIA HARBOUR GOLF ASSOCIATION
(AHGA)**

MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT NEWS

The annual AHGA Member-Guest Tournament will be held this year on June 29-30 and July 1. This year the Tournament will be dedicated to the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings that took place on April 16, 2007. Mr. Mike Foxwell, an Aquia Harbour resident and owner of Stafford Marine has donated a boat as a prize for a hole-in-one. All of the players in the tournament who want to participate in attempting to make a hole-in-one will make a donation prior to their shot. All proceeds from this activity will be donated to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund which was specifically established by the university for assistance to victims and families, grief counseling, memorials, communication expenses and comfort expenses. There will be a short dedication ceremony on Friday, June 29 at the Country Club beginning at 8:00 am. Speakers will include Mr. Jeff Howard, a former resident of Aquia Harbour, successful businessman and a Hokie Alumni, Mr. Shawn Brown a resident of Aquia Harbour and a current student at VT and Mr. David Humphrey, an Aquia Harbour Resident and President of the Aquia Harbour Board of Directors. All Aquia Harbour residents, especially Hokie Alumni, are invited to attend the dedication ceremony.

Editorials

(Ben Blankenship)

Jobs aplenty for lucky grads

Today's local grads can look forward to higher paychecks, unless it's with a hammer or shovel. For the bloom is off home building hereabouts, with lots of new homes standing vacant, and home sellers pining for buyers.

For degreed tech graduates, though, I would guess the Beltway bandit market remains lively, especially in this area. Defense contractors keep opening and enlarging offices. For example, BAE Systems, a recent newcomer, now has some 200 employees. And area defense jobs are slated to increase by 3,000 over the next few years, based on the federal government's switching them from offices inside or nearer the Beltway.

It's no secret that the best paying jobs in the federal government remain downtown, meaning most local breadwinners still need to commute.

Still, local business growth over the past five years has amounted to a hardy 45 percent. And wages for jobs within Stafford recently averaged nearly \$36,000 a year. Not bad, I'd say, since my first job in the business world paid a whopping \$100 a week, and I was happy to get it.

Local businesses, no surprise, focus on retail. Retail sales in the county have risen nearly 9 percent a year over the past 16 years, nearly doubling the state's average growth.

That first job for grads seems mighty important at the time. But really. Everyone raise your hand who still has the same job you got after leaving school. (I didn't mean you, Carole Lee.) I almost forgot. When guys in my generation married, the wives stayed home.

Now the poor dears gripe about their jobs when they're paid less than hubby. But I digress.

My first job after army service was working for my dad on a ranch in Colorado. That lasted three months. One of my son's first job was at a skating rink; he's now a mainframe computer guru. The other son began as a sales clerk in an office supply store in D.C.; he now provides document imaging systems for federal installations.

Getting on with the federal government, I know, is a pain. It seems to take forever. I started out as a temp and didn't get status for another year. Things worked out very well for me. I retired after 35 years of government service. It proved stimulating (as an information officer) but not stressful. Others have horror stories about their stints in government jobs. One thing is clear. No two agencies are the same. There are good ones and rotten ones. I lucked into a good one after enduring a rotten one for a while.

One thing is for sure, grad. Now that you're on your own, it's time to get a job and acquire a true education.

[Want to know how to get involved? Call an organization and see how you can help!](#)

Amenities

Golf Course – 659-4478
Stables – 659-5024
Marina – 659-4232
Pools & DOLPHINS SWIM TEAM - 659-4003
Parks & Harbour Inn – 659-3050
Country Club – 288-0091
Pre-School – 659-5771
Rescue Squad - 659-8911
Police - 659-4600

Clubs/Organizations

EVENING LIONS – 659-9910 Florence Mittino
HOSPICE - 659-9910 Florence Mittino
HOST LIONS – 720-4060 Tom Heck Howard
AQUIA CREEK CORVETTE CLUB Accclub@aol.com, Dave Greer d.greer2@verizon.net
WOMEN'S CLUB 659-4407 Joanne Payne
WOODSTOCK OF AQUIA GARDEN CLUB 659-3309 Irene Conte
YACHT CLUB 659-1399 Tom Kenavan
MID_POTOMAC POWER SQUADRON – 659-1399 Tom Kenavan

Committees

Architectural Control 659-5921 David Young

Bylaws Committee 288-1878 Mike White

Golf Committee Ken Laenger

Communications Committee 658-6330 Greg Stocksdale

Gvmt/Public Affairs 288-1878 Mike White

Legal Compliance 720-1024 Robert Lester

Public Safety 658-6330 Greg Stocksdale

Stables 657-0995 Paul Coughlin

Beautification & Planning Committees 659-6111 Jane Gill

Pools & Parks and Waterways Committees 659-1487 John Reinbolt

Marina Committee desm10@yahoo.com Shawn Desmond

Bingo Committee queenprim25@verizon.net 659-5921 Prim Young