



The Aquia Harbour Newsletter – July 2008 Edition
Official Communications from the AHPOA

**General Manager
Review**

(Chuck Halt) 659-3050

In the past month the weather has been brutal and really punished us. The heavy downpours have put in water places never seen before. So many people got flooded, ditches overflowed and road shoulders destroyed. The Roads and Grounds Crew have had to put all other work on hold and are working full steam to restore things. As an example 9 dump trucks of debris were removed from the picnic area at Lions Park. Please inspect the road pipe under your driveway. Ensure it's not clogged and if it is get it cleaned. Even though the ditch in front of your home is common property it's a homeowner responsibility to keep it neat and clean. The trees and debris that came down the creek behind the Catholic and Episcopal Churches was amazing. The weekend of June 14th a large group of volunteers headed by Director Humphrey worked on clearing the waterway. Kudos to all that participated. Along the same lines several major road pipes that we had on the list to replace suddenly became an urgent requirement. The most significant one is on Aquia Drive near Cutter Cove. This is going to be a challenge due to the depth, proximity of water/sewer/telephone lines and the emergency generator.

The long awaited dredging of the creek has started. The contractor is on site and the first phase, the removal of the E and F Docks, is underway. The whole project should be complete in September. The contractor, Lake Services, will be plying with barge laden equipment so please keep out of the way. I am still holding out hope that Stafford County will step up to the plate and match the state with some financial assistance.

The strip of land necessary for Stafford County to build the Government Island access walkway has been transferred to the county. We can expect to see construction soon. The big plus for us will be our own access bridge over the creek near the stables. Planning is now under way for new front paddock fencing at the stables and some lighting for the hay barn. Horse shows are still planned for September 13th and October 11th. All are welcome.

The volunteer baseball group is continuing their work on the fields at Briar Patch Park. The swings and barbeque grills to complement the new shelter house will be installed soon. A climbing wall is in the mill.

Recently, all we seem to see in the news is doom and gloom with the housing market falling, foreclosures and bankruptcies increasing and jobs going away. If you find yourself having difficulty paying your dues

please talk with us. We'll do our best to work with you. Don't wait until an attorney gets involved as the cost escalates quickly.

Just a reminder- Watch for details on the Fourth of July program. Home swim meets are July 2nd, 9th and 22nd.

With school out kids will be everywhere. Please drive carefully.



**Director's
Articles**

(Shawn Desmond)

Woodson Votes to Have Residents Pay for County Clean Up

Last month, I urged residents to contact your elected representative, Griffis-Widewater Supervisor Bob Woodson to have him support the county taking responsibility for the silt they allowed to enter Aquia Creek. Unfortunately, Mr. Woodson did not listen to those requests. Instead Mr. Woodson argued and defeated Aquia Supervisor Paul Milde's motion to provide \$80,000 dollars in funds to assist in the dredging of Aquia Creek. This money could have possibly prevented the flooding of at least two houses during a recent rain event. The vote was 6-1 against funding. The vote also was held at around 2am.

For those who had missed it, I included Mr. Woodson's response from a previous letter to the editor below which sheds some light on his decision of non support. This is coupled with his idea that the waterways which run through the Harbour are owned by our "private gated community" as eluded to in the response from Supervisor Woodson. "My position on this is that I will not support using transportation dollars to maintain the amenities of a private, gated community. Any public funds used to dredge Aquia Creek must lead to a public benefit." -Bob Woodson in Stafford County Sun., May 16, 2008.

Also appearing of no consequence to the county during their vote was that Aquia Harbour manages 33 miles of roads within its boundaries and employs its own road/ground crew and police force. A breakdown of those for the past three years is as follows: Road maintenance - \$600,000, Gate expenditures - \$200,000 and Police expenditures - \$390,000. Looking out farther, the county collected over \$850,000 for 2007 in Personal Property Boat Tax with a majority of those boats located right here in the Harbour. Do the others not use Aquia Creek? When put in perspective, \$80,000 would have been a small reinvestment for a neighborhood with over 8,000 residents, considering the savings the Harbour provides to the county.

Should there be legal action taken? On Mr. Woodson's website (see copy below) he notes that "supervisors knew about the recommendations, and deliberately chose to ignore them, or they didn't know about them and were asleep at the wheel." in regards to silt entering Aquia Creek. Mr. Woodson admits in writing that the county knew there was a problem....

"In December of last year, the Department of Conservation and Recreation found that there were soil and erosion control violations at the construction site, and made specific recommendations to correct the problems, including the "phasing" of construction so that no more than 25 acres of land at a time would be disturbed. And in January of this year the Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District wrote the County asking when those recommendations would be implemented.

Are our representatives "asleep at the wheel?"

And yet, there was no action by the Board to direct staff to enforce the recommendations. Either the Griffis-Widewater and Aquia Supervisors—who represent the affected residents--knew about the recommendations, and deliberately chose to ignore them, or they didn't know about them and were asleep at the wheel. Instead, the Board has spent nearly \$50,000 on a study that is overdue, incomplete, and seems to support the developer's contention that they are not responsible." -Bob Woodson website

The Board of Supervisors for Stafford County in total does an excellent job for the residents of Stafford. However, in this one instance, it would appear that they were not presented with all of the facts to make an accurate assessment. Considering a large majority of the constituents from the Griffis-Widewater district reside in the Harbour, this vote was a disappointment. Without the support of the supervisor representing his constituents, any motion was bound to fail in these hard economic times for the county. It is just too bad the county which allowed silt to fill the creeks is now shirking its duty and placing the burden onto innocent residents.



Director Cruea

(Renee Cruea)

COME CELEBRATE THE 4th WITH YOUR HARBOUR NEIGHBOURS!

It is hard to believe that the Fourth of July is almost upon us. I was just recently yearning for the lazy hazy days of summer to be upon us. Well, summer is here but it seems to be anything but lazy or hazy. THE AQUIA HARBOUR JULY 4th CELEBRATION will take place this year ON Friday, July 4th.

The festivities will kick off with a FOURTH OF JULY PARADE at the HARBOUR INN. Arrive at 9:30am for a 10am START. The parade will end at LIONS PARK where the celebration will begin. ALL decorated bikes, scooters, cars, motorcycles and boats are welcome to join the parade procession.

Following the parade, at Lions Park there will be a moon bounce, cotton candy and snow cones available for the entire family from 10am until 2pm. There will be no charge for the bouncing or consuming of sugar via cotton candy or snow cones, courtesy of the AHPOA. There may be additional concessions set up sponsored by a Harbour group for a nominal charge.

Unlike in years past, this year the celebration will not be sponsored by a Harbour group so we will need to rely on the residents of the Harbour to staff and volunteer some time to make this event possible and

successful. PLEASE call me or email me if you can take even an hour to help at this event: cell: 202.747.4122, email: r.cruea@verizon.net or just show up and help out!

We will need the following areas staffed:

*Neighbors to pose as parade leaders to get the parade moving along and organized. Basically some loud folks to ensure the large boats are in the back and the small tots on wheels are safely in the front with everyone in between. Time commitment: *9:15am until 10am*

*Neighbors to judge and pass out small prizes for the bike parade participants. Time commitment: *9:15am until 9:40am*

*Neighbors to staff the moon bounces for the big kids and the moon bounces for the little kids. Time commitment: *10am until 2pm in half hour increments*

*Neighbors to make cotton candy at the machine. Time commitment: *10am until 2pm in half hour increments*

*Neighbors to make snow cones at the machine. Time commitment: *10am until 2pm in half hour increments*

*Clean up crew. Time commitment: 2:30pm until 4pm

Thank you so much for your dedication to this community! Without the participation and support of the residents in this community, events such as this would not be possible. Enjoy the summer!

I cannot end this article without reminding you to slow down when driving through this community. School is out. Kids are out. We have no sidewalks. There is a speed LIMIT. Play nice and leave early.

Director David Humphrey

Aquia Creek Clean Up Day

You may have seen the recent “call for volunteers” to help remove some of the trees and debris that were obstructing the creek up beyond the bridge and along the 2000 block of Aquia Drive. I want to give you an update on that project. We had more than two dozen volunteers show up on Saturday morning, June 14th and they did a fantastic job clearing the creek. Those men and women worked hard and were very successful in their effort to clear the creek. We had a great time working together, made some new friends and had a wonderful opportunity to build camaraderie and community spirit. Some people were amazed at how much of that debris we were able to remove. We were well fed at the lunch break and many of us worked until about 4 o’clock in the afternoon. Thanks to Ben Kruzinski, our thirst was well quenched with the abundant supply of bottled water that he donated. Lynne Malinowski also donated snacks and chips. George White from the Clubhouse Restaurant helped with hamburgers and soda and Dunkin Donuts also donated 3 dozen donuts. Below is a list of the names of those who volunteered. If you know any of these people give them a thumbs up or a pat on the back the next time that you see them.

Ben Blankenship
Bud Blankenship
Jason Blankenship
Kerry Block
Mike Cobb
Chip Collins
Shawn Desmond
Andy Esserman
David Humphrey
Rob Kirby

Donna Martinelli
Jim McAleese
Maria Morrison
Del Morrison
Joe Neigh
Mike Nerenberg
Keith Pladson
John Reinboldt

Frank Rivera

Kira Runkle
Tim Russell
Dwight Schmidt
Ken Stoner
David Young
Laurie Zeiszler
Jennifer Humphrey

The creek was cleared all the way up to where it bends away from Aquia Harbour. At that point a huge log dam completely blocks the waterway and one giant tree in mid stream must be close to 4 feet in diameter. Other large logs have piled up behind it and jammed up the water flow. That job was left for another day because of the size of the logs and difficulty to get access to the area from the shore.

Unfortunately, on Sunday evening, June 22nd, we had what appeared to be a microburst, or mini tornado, and at the very least, straight line winds that seemed to stretch from the bridge on Aquia Drive, all the way up to Harpoon Drive. There were numerous trees down in yards and across the roads. Our maintenance crew responded very quickly and worked until almost midnight clearing the trees from the roads. They deserve a big thanks from all concerned for their effort to make the roads passable for residents and emergency vehicles. There were also several more trees in the creek. They are not as bad as the last time but they do need to be cleaned out. It's probably best to wait until we are out of this weather pattern of violent storms. If you are interested in joining us the next time we have a clean up day, drop me an e mail at <mailto:dvd.humphrey@verizon.net> or call the office and leave your phone number and an e mail address. It would be helpful for organizing the next clean up event.

**Communication
Committee**

(Greg Stocksdale)

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.

**Public Safety
Committee**

(Greg Stocksdale)

Nothing to report.

**Aquia Harbour
Preschool**

(Melissa Dileo)

For anyone new to Aquia Harbour or any resident who just may not be familiar we have a preschool located right here in our subdivision. The Aquia Harbour Preschool "is a one-room schoolhouse nestled in the trees on Spain Drive." The Preschool has been in operation since 1978. It is a non-profit cooperative association whose existence depends solely upon the support of its membership. Because it is a co-op, parents are involved in the school's daily operations. We depend on the parents to volunteer at preschool clean ups each month, serve on the Preschool Board of Directors, participate in school fundraisers, do repairs when able, and come read to the children or help in the classroom when the

teachers request it. The 3- and 4-year old classes (both AM and PM sessions) are taught by a certified teacher and classroom aide who have worked at AHPS for a number of years. Our fees are quite economical compared to other preschools, and we are right here in your neighborhood. There is a \$50 registration (non-refundable) due when you sign your child up for school, a \$30 supply fee (refundable only up until orientation), \$120 co-op fee (refundable in part or whole if you participate and earn your co-op points throughout the year), and a monthly tuition. Our tuition is \$95 per month for the 3-year-old class, and \$110 per month for our 4-year-old class. The 3 year olds go to school Tuesdays and Thursdays either in the morning (9AM to 12 noon) or the afternoon (12:30 pm to 3:30 pm). The 4 year olds go to school Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the morning (9AM to 12 noon) or the afternoon (12:30 pm to 3:30 pm). If you would like to know more about AHPS just go online to: <http://aquiaharbour.org/> and click on Amenities. If you want to enroll a child in the preschool call us at (540) 659-5771. We currently have openings in the 3 PM class and wait lists for all the other classes.

Graduation

Our 4 year olds graduated on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at the Harbour Inn. The children looked quite scholarly in their caps and gowns. They sang songs, received diplomas, memory books, and keepsake plaques, and then everyone enjoyed cake and punch. We hope all who attended had a memorable night.

First Clean-up of the School Year

All AHPS members are **required** to participate in at least one monthly clean up during the school year so why not get it over with sooner rather than later. Members mark your calendars for Saturday, August 23, 2008 at the preschool from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Come out and help us get the school ready for the first day of class. If any high school students need to fulfill community service requirements or anyone else in the community does please call us at (540) 659-5771. We would love the help and you can earn community service hours.

How You Can Help Us

Also, throughout the year we may need help with cleanups, yard work, minor school repairs, etc. If you would be willing to assist please call or email us. Also any Girl Scout or Boy Scout who needs to do a Silver Award or Eagle Scout Project please keep us in mind. We have had Eagle Scouts assist us in the past with sidewalks and landscaping so we are always open to new suggestions on how you can beautify our school.

Also any adult wishing to be placed on our substitute teacher list please call the preschool. We are always looking to expand our sub list.

And if any member of our community has a special talent that they feel a preschooler could benefit from please let us know. Children love hands on activities so maybe you are an artist or gardener. Maybe a mom or grandma would like to come read to the children. Just let us and perhaps we can use your services.

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 21 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 or pay any fees needed before your child may attend school. Please arrive prepared. The Co-op fee of \$120.00 and supply fee of \$30 is payable by check. You can also pay your first month's tuition and return your child's medical forms (including a current copy of your child's immunization record) at Orientation.

2008-09 AHPS Board of Directors

Our newly elected Board of Directors is looking forward to serving you this year. We can't wait to meet the new parents and say hello to our returning parents. We will see you at Orientation, but if you need us before then please contact us.

Here is a list of our new officers:

President – Krista Lenzmeier

Vice President – Heather Pierce

Treasurer – Angela Hensley-Lay

Secretary – Melissa Dileo

Committee Director – Madalyn Sandstrom

**Aquia Harbour
Stables**

(Leslie Scott)

The Stable Scene

Greetings from Aquia Harbour Stable. Things have been fairly quiet around the barn since the first horse show. Spring cleaning went well. Many thanks to all who participated, with special thanks to Gerald Payne, who generously donated his time and his power washer in order to clean the moss off of all the show jumps prior to the first show.

There are a few ongoing projects at the barn. These include adding lights to the hay barn, subdividing the paddocks in preparation for the much needed new fencing and tapping in to an outdoor water line so we can end the misery of dragging fifty feet of hose out to the paddocks in order to fill the water troughs.

Miss Taylor Stonesifer and her horse, Hollywood, have returned from Virginia Tech for the summer and we welcome them both back.

Below are the results of the May horse shows attended by students of Jamie Kempf:

Hidden Haven-Richmond

-Marisa Reins

Pre-short Stirrup- 4th, 6th

-Brooke Gardner

Pony Equitation- 1st

Pony Pleasure- Division Champion

Pony Hunter- Division Champion

Aquia Harbour- Stafford

-Victoria Del Toro

Leadline- 2 2nds, 1 3rd

-Claudia Houtz

Leadline- Division Champion

-Aliana Stark

Leadline- Division Reserve Champion

-Marisa Reins

Pre-short Stirrup- Division Reserve Champion

-Kaitlyn Maher

Pre-short Stirrup- 1 3rd, 2 4ths

-Megan Withycomb

Pleasure Division- 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Short Stirrup Equitation- Division Champion

-Brooke Gardner

Pony Equitation- 1st place

Student Equitation- Division Champion

Pleasure Division- Division Champion

-Samantha Strong

Novice Rider- 2 2nds

Fox Chase Farm- Middleburg

- Victoria Del Toro

Leadline- Division Reserve Champion

-Brooke Gardner

Pony Equitation- 3rd

Student Hunter- 3rd, 4th, 5th

**Aquia
Evening Lions**

(Jane Stoll)

Thank You From the Aquia Evening Lions

The Aquia Evening Lions' annual yard sale held on June 7th was once again successful in raising funds for Lions' vision and hearing programs.

Our club would like to thank the Aquia Harbour Staff and Police for their assistance with the park and in handling all the added traffic so early in the morning. We thank the local business community and our advertisers, especially the Harbour View. We give a round of applause to this generous community who were willing to both give donations and come to our event.

From each and every Aquia Evening Lion, thank you very much.

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Women's Club

(Melissa Dileo)

The Aquia Harbour Women's Club held our end of the year at La Rosetta's Restaurant. We had dinner and installed our new 2008/2009 Executive Board:

President - Trisha Englman
Vice President - Tammy Nolan
Secretary - Ann Spevacek
Treasurer - Dolena Sinclair
Membership – Rachida McCravey
Historian - Madalyn Sandstrom

I would like to thank all members who ran, and wish the new board good luck. I also want to thank the ladies from the 2007/ 2008 Executive Board. It was a pleasure to serve with you. Lastly, I wish to thank Shari Phillips our President for 2007/ 2008. Shari deserves our thanks and applause. She did a fantastic job; she went above and beyond but she did this because she enjoys the club and wanted to do her best for the community. I would say she served us well.

I hope all our members have a safe and relaxing summer. Just keep the club in mind. If someone new moves in on your block consider asking her to come with you to our September Meeting. Also if you hear of problem over the summer and a member needs our assistance please let Rachida know.

We hope in September that female residents would consider coming out to learn more about our club, and possibly joining. The more members we have the more good we can do for Aquia Harbour and Stafford County. We all have busy schedules but it is truly rewarding to provide help to the community as well as fun activities for the children. The commitment is one night a week, and that allows us to do things like the Christmas Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, Coat Drive, donations to Adopt-A-Classroom and the Rescue Squad, and a scholarship to Brooke Point High School. So please keep us in mind and really consider joining.

Telephone Directory sales are over and the new directory should be going to print this summer. After which it will be available to all Harbour Residents. Thank you to all club members for their hard work, and thank you to all the businesses who supported us by buying ad space.

Signboard

In July please contact Rachida McCravey at (540) 720-3648 with any information you would like placed on the signboard.

This is my last article as Secretary of the Womens' Club. Thank you for reading the articles. Hoped they helped you stay informed as to what we do. Have a fun summer!

Aquia Harbour Rescue

(Chris Schoon)

The warm weather is here and nothing is more refreshing than a dip in the pool. It's a great time as long as a few safety tips are followed.

Drowning is the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury death in Virginia. Over 500 fatal drownings have occurred from 2002-2006 in the state. 46% occurred in a natural body of water, 13% in a swimming pool, and 12% in a bathtub. A responsible adult should be in charge of watching young children around the pool or bathtub.

Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In time of an emergency CPR started before the ambulance crew arrives, can save a life.

Avoid swimming after dark.

Avoid drinking alcohol before swimming, boating, or water skiing. Avoid drinking alcohol while watching supervising children.

Diving into shallow water can cause spinal injuries. Never allow diving in above ground pools, shallow water or unknown areas.

If interested in learning CPR call the station for our next class, 540-659-8911.
Statistics from VA Department of Health

School Board Update

School Board Update – Griffis-Widewater District **By, Dana Reinboldt**

The following includes important reminder information for the parents of Aquia Harbour students:

AQUIA HARBOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONE INFORMATION: This is a reminder that ALL Aquia Harbour Elementary students will be attending Anne Moncure Elementary School starting September 2, 2008. This will be the first time all the children from our subdivision will be together attending elementary school! If you have any questions, or if you need additional information or if you are new to Aquia Harbour and need to register your child for elementary school, the phone number for Moncure Elementary is 540/658-6300.

AQUIA HARBOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONE INFORMATION: This is reminder that ALL Aquia Harbour Middle School students will be attending Shirley C. Heim Middle School starting September 2, 2008. If you have any questions, or if you need information, or if you are new to the Harbour and need to register you child for middle school, the new phone number for Heim Middle, effective the beginning of July, is 540/658-5910.

CONGRATULATIONS to our 5th Grade students who are now rising 6th Graders! Good Luck to you in Middle School!

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

**Dolphins
Swim Team**

(Andy Bauwens)

First, we would like to congratulate the graduating senior Dolphins of 2008. We're happy to have you for one last swim season and wish you the best of luck! May the friendships and experiences you have gained, both as a team player and personal, be treasures for you to draw on for years to come.

Thanks to the volunteers who pitched in at Time Trials and to the swimmers for their patience and help keeping things moving along. The results of the Time Trials were used for seeding our first meet at Dahlgren and upcoming meets. Morning practice schedule is in effect now that all the schools are out for the summer.

Meets start at 6:00pm unless otherwise changed by the coaches and officials. Swimmers should be at the pool an hour early to participate in warm-ups and get event assignments. Volunteers, please make sure you are ready and available to cover your shift. If you can't make it for any reason, please find someone to take your place. Checking in with either meet director (Jill Stafford or Kerri Rogers) when you arrive is much appreciated. The volunteer sign-up sheet is online at <http://godolphins.pbwiki.com/Meet-Volunteer-Sheets-2008>.

Swim team families: Don't forget to make arrangements for your annual AHPOA dues. Your family pool passes will automatically be transferred to you new membership cards for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Here's the latest meet schedule:

Wednesday	June 18	vs. Dahlgren	Away
Thursday	June 26	vs. Curtis Park	Away
Wednesday	July 2	vs. Chancellor	Home
Wednesday	July 9	vs. Hampton Oaks	Home
Wednesday	July 16	vs. Grafton	Away
Monday	July 21	vs. Woodlands	Home
Saturday	August 2	FINALS	

Go Dolphins!

**Stafford County
Litter Prevention & Recycling
(Julie M. May)**

Save Money, Go Green, and Fight Vampires

I recently heard that it takes more energy to turn on a fluorescent bulb than it does to leave it on. Since I was trained at an early age to turn off lights when leaving a room and switching the bulbs in my house to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), this concerned me. I did a little research on the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy website and the frequently asked questions page on www.gelighting.com to find out the truth.

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As it turns out, it is partially true. It's worth flipping the switch if the light will be off for more than 15 minutes. There is an increase in power demand when a fluorescent bulb is switched on. Exactly how much electricity is needed depends on the individual light fixture and bulb. However, the increase in energy typically lasts only 1/120th of a second and is about equal to the energy that is used when the light is on for a few seconds.

The value of the energy saved by turning the light off can be difficult to calculate. It depends on the price the electric utility charges (rates can be higher during peak times and can include service fees), the wattage of the bulbs, and the length of time they are on or not. To complicate things more, the operating life of a fluorescent bulb is shortened each time it is switched on and off. But, generally speaking, if you leave a room for more than 15 minutes, you should turn off your fluorescent lights and always remember to turn off traditional incandescent bulbs.

Now that the issue of turning lights off is cleared up, what about other appliances and electronics. Appliances, electronics, and battery chargers are known as electricity vampires since they suck energy even when they are not in active use and can account for about five percent of your home's energy use. Observe the clock display on your microwave or stereo. Battery chargers use electricity even when the battery is not charging. You can verify this by touching the warm wall transformer for your cell phone or portable drill. TVs and other items with remote controls are powered up enough to receive a signal when you push the button. There is a simple solution, and no it's not garlic or holy water. Rid your home and office of vampires by plugging things into a power strip and switching it off or just unplug the items when not in use.

You'll probably be surprised at the energy savings and money savings on your electric bill. For more information about being more energy efficient in your home and office, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy website: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/>. For more information about electricity vampires, go to <http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/greentips/energy-vampires.html>. It's a good article with more tips to reduce electricity vampires and links to other related articles.



Editorials

(Ben Blankenship)

That Mother's Day Mess

When it rains it pours. Please remember that truism for our area the next time the county comes out with more restrictions on watering. For droughts here are unusual, wet spells aren't.

"Wet spell" doesn't do justice to our soggy spring this year. For we had considerable raindrop duress before and during Mother's Day--which I'll long remember around here as The Mother's Day Mess. Who would have thought we were just getting started in the moisture department?

I was worrying whether our Aquia bridge was in danger of being breeched and perhaps destroyed by the rising creek. It looked to get up within maybe a foot or so of the bridge. But while the waters then subsided, damage elsewhere had been done. Delaware Drive looked like Lake Aquia.

By the way, I had also worried aloud over the age of the bridge itself. Turns out, thanks to long-time resident J.D. Moore, we're a lot older. When J.D. was managing lot sales for Aquia's developer, American Service Realty, he says they decided to expand and sell lots in the Flats--the second section. So the developer built the bridge over the creek, J.D. estimates, about in 1970. By the way, J.D. also allowed as how he'd sold the Harbour's first lot, on Richmond Cove.

(Ben Blankenship)

Helping to Save Aquia Creek

Over 20 Aquia Harbour residents gathered beside Aquia Creek and voluntarily worked most of the day on Saturday before Father's Day to remove trees, logs and other debris from the shallow waters upstream from the vehicle bridge.

“This action will help minimize the risk of flooding and bank erosion for our residents who live alongside Aquia Creek,” said the project’s manager, David Humphrey. He, along with two other members of the board of directors, Chip Collins and Shawn Desmond, participated in the cleanup effort along with the recruited residents.

At day’s end much progress was made, all agreed. But it wasn't easy. For example, Frank Rivera worked for hours from his kayak to chop big limbs and hand-saw them prior to the trunks being pulled by rope, via Jeep, to the creek bank to be stacked in piles in the fishing park beside Aquia Drive.

Back at project headquarters across the street in the new pavilion beside the baseball field, David Young presided over the administrative details, obtaining signed waivers of liability from participants and providing them with gloves, hard hats and such, as well as overseeing lunch preparations involving hamburger grilling and icing down drinks for the volunteers.

Even with the productive labors on the creek, which lasted well into the afternoon, much more effort was still needed to complete the task, the participants agreed. Further upstream from their worksites there remain several major downed trees, some with trunk diameters as large as four or five feet.

Humphrey said those also should be removed. Not only would that free up more of the shallow creek area for use by kayakers and canoe enthusiasts and fishermen. It also would remove the danger of the trees being washed downstream by a major storm and thus endanger the vehicle bridge’s safety--a major concern since it is the sole, regular outlet for Section 2 and 3 residents' vehicles. The clogging debris also raised the danger of backing up the creek waters during a storm, causing over flooding of the banks and damaging properties backing onto the creek.

Several women also participated in the debris removal, including Maria Morrison, who helped workers create waterfront limb and log barriers to creek erosion behind her neighbors’ creekside back yards. Maria's front yard has the lovely display of roses she has developed over many years in the Harbour, with hubby Del's help, of course.

From using ropes to free submerged limbs to chain-sawing larger trunks to piece them up for removal from the creek by hand, it was a combined effort that produced the desired results. Humphrey admitted, however, that some of the remaining large impediments a sort ways further upstream might require a crane or other industrial equipment to complete the task, in addition to the volunteer labor, of course.



Much of the work involved removing sizable trees that had recently become lodged in the sediment of the shallow creek in its upstream reaches in Aquia Harbour.



Some of the storm-- damaged trees, too large to be removed from the creek with the volunteer labor at hand, will have to await the employment of industrial cranes, according to the project's leader, David Humphrey.

EVENTS

COME CELEBRATE THE 4th WITH YOUR HARBOUR NEIGHBOURS!

THE AQUIA HARBOUR JULY 4th CELEBRATION will take place this year ON Friday, July 4th.

Be a part of the FOURTH OF JULY PARADE at the HARBOUR INN or come enjoy the festivities. Arrive at 9:30am for a 10am START. The parade will end at LIONS PARK where the celebration will begin.



Plenty of activities for the family at Lions Park from 10am until 2pm.

Free moon bounce, cotton candy and snow cones for the entire family.

Volunteers still needed to help staff the event (contact Renee at 202.747.4122, r.cruca@verizon.net or just show up and help out!)



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
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
RESCUE SQUAD - 659-8911

Committees

Architectural Control 659-5921 David Young
Bylaws Committee 288-1878 Mike White
Golf Committee Ken Laenger
Communications Committee 658-6330 Greg Stocksdale
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
Dog Park Committee wendyaj@msn.com Wendy Desmond
Bingo Committee queenprim25@verizon.net 659-5921 Prim Young