

Our 54th Year

Cape St. Claire Improvement Association, Inc. Community Newsletter

February 2009

Maintenance Bills have been mailed– please pay yours on time

President's Perspective

Let me start by thanking all of you who cast your ballots for the Board of Governors, the Budget Committee members, the 2010 budget, and the increase in the Special Community Benefit District assessment. In particular, I want to thank the Board of Governors for electing me to serve as the CSCIA president for the next year. I am truly looking forward to serving again in this position of responsibility and trust. I am also looking forward to working with the new Board and Budget Committee members.

We have a busy capital improvement agenda this coming year. We have received approval in the 2010 budget for reconstruction of the bulkhead around the launching ramp and parking area at Deep Creek. While the full funds will not be available until next November, we will use some internal “bridge loans” to get this project completed as quickly as possible. We are also planning to undertake an exterior renovation of the clubhouse, a project approved in the 2009 budget. We are looking forward to soliciting formal bids on this project as soon as possible.

In addition to working on these capital improvement projects, I will do my best to increase the turnout at our quarterly and annual membership meetings. As the coverage in *The Capital* pointed out, in a community of 2,300 homes and twice that number of eligible voters, we had only 42 residents attend the annual meeting. While many more than that did take the time to mail their ballots, overall participation in this very basic, community level of democracy leaves something to be desired. While I often hear from residents that their schedule does not allow for greater participation, two hours or less every three months is not a lot to ask. Many BOG and Budget Committee members hold full time jobs or run their own business, travel on business, have kids, go to school, go to sporting events, and run community activities outside of the scope of the CSCIA. They also run the important functions for the community such as piers, the clubhouse, beaches and parks, and *The Caper*. They would appreciate hearing from you in person a couple of times a year.

That being said, if you still cannot find the time to participate, please read *The Caper*. It is the official tool for the BOG to

communicate with the members of the community. The minutes of BOG meetings will give you a good overview of both the day-to-day and important issues faced by the community. The meeting minutes and a wealth of additional information is also available at the CSCIA web site, <http://www.cscia.org/>.

In addition, while it is not an official house organ, the CSC Google Group has many posting that may be of interest and relevant to life in Cape St. Claire. Occasionally, members of the BOG use this mechanism to distribute information that is time sensitive such as upcoming meetings on the county General Development Plan and extra

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The deadline for articles and ads is the 12th of the month.

The Caper is published monthly and sent bulk rate to all residents of Cape St. Claire, all nonresident lot owners, local government officials and advertisers. Copies are also available in CSCIA Office, Broadneck Library and local stores.

POLICY FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

All submissions for *The Caper* must be received by the editor by the 12th of the prior month. Submissions should be emailed as Microsoft Word attachments (PC only) to: **capereditor@cscia.org**, or dropped off (on disc or CD) at the Clubhouse. Articles must be submitted electronically. DO NOT submit as inline text of email. All articles should be clearly labeled with the 1) submitter's name, 2) phone number, 3) article file-name (s), 4) software product and 5) version used. Please keep a backup copy of each file and do not submit disks containing extraneous files. After *The Caper* processes each article, the submitter's disk can be picked up at the CSCIA office during regular hours. *The Caper* Staff and the Cape St. Claire Improvement Association reserve the right to refuse any article, letter or advertising that it deems inflammatory, in poor taste or inappropriate.

Continued from Page 1

reminders about upcoming quarterly meetings.

If you have concerns or comments, please address them to me at president2009@cscia.org. I will do my best to get back to you quickly, even if it to say that the matter will have to go before the Board of Governors

BOARD IN BRIEF

The CSCIA Board of Governors met for its monthly meeting on January 12, 2009 at the Cape St. Claire Clubhouse at 7:30 p.m. in the Cox Meeting Room. President Gardner provided opening remarks and presented the agenda for the meeting.

Cape St. Claire Improvement Association

www.cscia.org

The Board of Governors

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Vice-President

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Treasurer

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Beaches & Parks

Building

Caper

Clubhouse

Covenants

Membership/

Nominating

Personnel

Piers & History

Roads

Website

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Josephine Gardner

Frank Newman

John Berley

Chair:

Frank Newman

Joe Daly

Kari Maltz

Mary Lamb

Joe Daly

Kathleen

Mooneyham

Josephine Gardner

Sam Gallagher

Bruce Campbell

Frank Newman

Budget Committee:

Chuck Ritenour

Michael Buchet

Attendance: Governors Biondi, Campbell, Gallagher, Gardner, Maltz, Newman and Wolin were in attendance. Governors Daly, Lamb and Pollock were absent.

President's Remarks: President Gardner received a request from a group of "home-schoolers" requesting to be designated as a CSCIA recognized organization. Stated the CSCIA received notice of a 21% rate increase from the insurance company.

Stated that the CSCIA's legal representative was just appointed as the County's Zoning Hearing Officer. The CSCIA will need to identify a new legal representative.

Minutes and Financials:

Motions were made to approve the December 8, 2008 Monthly BOG meeting minutes, the October 31, 2008 Financials and the November 30, 2008 Financials. All three motions were seconded and approved.

Committee Reports:

Piers – Governor Gallagher reported that the boat slip rental contracts were sent out, and some completed contracts have already been returned.

Membership – President Gardner reported that Governor Pollock notified her that she would need to resign from the BOG due to personal obligations.

Governor Biondi stated that he recently recruited a nominee to run for the Budget Committee.

New Business: Governor Newman commented that since the Board of Governors always borrows a projector when needed, that the CSCIA should purchase one. He made a motion, which was seconded and approved, to purchase a projector for the clubhouse.

Adjournment: The January 12, 2009 BOG Monthly meeting ended at 8:10 PM. The next monthly Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for **February 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM.**

From the Office

By the time you receive your February Caper, you will have also received your mandatory annual CSCIA Lot Maintenance bill. The maintenance bill (yellow post card) was mailed to every home January 2, 2009.

Every year many residents ask the same question "Do I really have to pay this bill?" ...after all, I do not use the beaches and parks, I do not want a boat slip, and I do not want stickers or a guest pass so therefore I should not have to pay the Maintenance Bill.

As documented in your homeowner HOA package, every property (lot) within Cape St. Claire is subject to a ten dollar (\$10) annual lot fee for the community maintenance fund.

This commitment is detailed on page 18 under the Covenants section of the HOA package that was issued to you at settlement. Should you need to purchase a new copy of the CSC HOA package please contact the office at 410-757-1223.

The specific language reads "For the purpose of creating and maintaining a fund to be known as the maintenance fund the owner of each lot subject to this Deed and Agreement, shall pay to the River Bay Company, its successor's or assigns, on March 1st of each year the sum of Ten (\$10) Dollars for each lot so owned, which said sum shall be a lien on the Land until paid. The maintenance fund shall be used for construction, improvement, lighting and repair of streets, parks and

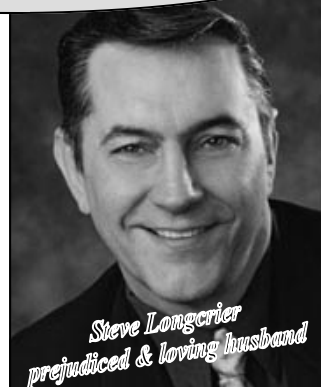
Why Use Mona (3 of 6)

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A nine year old can drive a car and like a Realtor®, a teenager can get a license. But who would you trust to always avoid accidents, arrive home safe & sound; a teenager or someone with 22 years of experience and dozens of awards for their driving expertise? I had to write small but how many Realtors® can match this?

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beaches in the subdivision, and for expenses incident to the subdivision, and for expenses incident to the examination and approval of plans as herein provided, and to the enforcement of the restrictions, conditions, covenants, easements, charges and agreements herein contained.

In 2008, due to a large number of lot owners disregarding the bill due date, we began charging a \$5 late fee.

We make every effort to remind residents of the date with notices in the Caper and on the community Sign Board. Residents who paid late in 2008 but did not include the \$5.00 late fee will find the fee on their bill this year and each succeeding year until it is paid. Bills are marked paid the date they are received in the CSCIA mailbox. We encourage residents to hand deliver their bill to the CSCIA office mailbox to avoid incurring the late fee.

Processing the maintenance bills, vehicle information, stickers and guest passes is a huge undertaking, please do your part and pay your bill on time. Thank you from the CSCIA Office



Caper Conundrum

Have you heard your neighbors say that they are not receiving their Caper? Residents miss out on important community news and meeting reminders when they do get their Caper. If you know of any Cape St. Claire residents that are consistently not receiving their Caper please notify the office by either calling 410-757-1223 or emailing office2008@cscia.org.

Thank you!

Cape St. Claire Building & Covenants Committees at Work for You

The Cape Building Committee has competed a full year under the most recent revision of the CSCIA Building Code, and our policy-based system of Building Code operation and enforcement in the Cape. We take building applications and review them for all the required compliance with the CSCIA Building Code as provided for in the Covenants every property

houses very close together, adherence to property building setbacks and required heights is very important to the unencumbered use of our neighbor's property. Other provisions in the CSCIA Building Code preserve property values and neighborhood appearance by mandating certain restrictions on new and remodeling construction.

In general, we follow the County Building Code, most differences are due to specific restrictions in the CSCIA Covenants. The most problematic are:

The CSCIA in our Covenants mandates 10 feet from each property line on the sides of a structure. The County allows a bit less in some circumstances. The CSCIA requires that overall building height to the highest point, (not including chimneys) is 35 feet.

The CSCIA requires permits for all fences, has specific conditions for fences placed near roadways, and does not allow fences over 6 feet in height. A 6 foot fence may be placed in the rear and to the side of a building, in the front a fence must be less than 4 feet.

In 2008, we approved many construction projects in the Cape, reviewed several variance requests by the entire CSCIA Board, and took legal action on several construction projects that were not approved by the CSCIA. We also are now initiating remediation action for

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owner agrees to when they purchase property in the CSCIA and become a member of the CSCIA. As a community of mostly ¼ acre lots with

non-conforming, non-approved building as discovered or reported to the CSCIA.

Some reminders for building in the Cape:

The CSCIA Building Committee must issue a permit before work can begin on any building or remodeling project in the Cape. A County building permit is completely separate; you may get one before or after the CSCIA permit. All fences in the Cape must have permits. All construction is subject to the Building Code, and the CSCIA will take legal action as required in the case of construction that was performed without a CSCIA building permit. Some basic guidelines from the CSCIA Building Code are:

Principal Structure:

- 25 feet from the front boundary line
- 15 feet from the rear boundary line
- 10 feet from side boundary lines
- 15 feet from side boundary line if either side is along a road
- Cantilevered fireplaces, steps and stoops may be permitted to infringe on the side setback provided they occupy less than 25 SF of area
- Shall not exceed 35 feet in height

Detached Garage:

- 10 feet from side boundary line
- 10 feet from the rear boundary line
- Shall not extend beyond the front of the principal structure
- Shall not exceed 20 feet in

height

Sheds and other Accessory Structures 100 Square Feet or Larger:

- 10 feet from side boundary line
- 10 feet from rear boundary line
- Shall not extend beyond the front of the principal structure
- Shall not exceed 10 feet in height

Fences:

- Front fences shall not exceed 48 inches in height. (Adjacent to the road with respect to waterfront lots.)
- Other fences shall not exceed 72 inches in height

Fences erected adjacent to roadways:

- Set back 4 feet from the road surface for fences of 48 inches or less
- Set back 8 feet from the road surface if fence is over 48 inches

Improvements we wish to make in 2009 include putting the Building Committee process, forms, and Code on the CSCIA website. We will perform more follow-up and remediation in 2009 on prohibited structures (such as shipping containers and tent-like portable garages) and construction that was not performed with a valid and approved CSCIA building permit.

Cape Covenants enforce-

ment has been an ongoing process in 2008. We attempt to enforce the conditions in the Covenants every property owner agrees to when they purchase property in the CSCIA and become a member of the CSCIA. As a community of mostly ¼ acre lots with houses very close together, adherence to the CSCIA Covenants and County Zoning ordinances is very important to respect our neighbor's right to enjoy their property without interference. We have maintained a list of Covenants complaints, and utilized the County Zoning Enforcement mechanism to try to reduce the numbers of Zoning violations that also are Cape Covenants violations. We have kept pressure on the County to investigate and adjudicate these ongoing problem properties in the Cape and have had some success in 2008. We invited the County Zoning Department to meet with the CSCIA BOG on this issue and had a very frank and productive discussion.

The CSCIA has also taken some civil legal action in 2008 on some problem properties where it was not a concurrent

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violation of County Zoning Law. Our procedure is to let the County handle problems if it is a violation of County Zoning law, and to utilize the civil process by the CSCIA when it is a violation of the CSCIA Covenants only. Of note to residents is that the County judicial system is very lenient on offenders and takes a very long time to finally force some action on a scofflaw homeowner. Several recent actions by the County Courts on Cape properties to force compliance of egregious violations have taken several years of legal proceedings. We on our part though, have kept the pressure on the County to prosecute these cases for several years running.

Our process is that when a complaint is received by the CSCIA office, we investigate the problem, and make a formal complaint if it is a Zoning violation to the County in the name of the CSCIA. If it is a violation of the CSCIA Covenants only, then we take action civilly as warranted. In either event we maintain a database of the complaints, and actions by the County and CSCIA chronologi-

cally.

Improvements we wish to make in 2009, include putting the Covenants violation reports and some guidelines on what is a County Zoning and CSCIA Covenants violation on the CSCIA website. We also plan to expand the Covenants Committee with ad-hoc members, and to utilized a more standard, policy-based approach to CSCIA remediation action on CSCIA Covenants violations.

Some of the major types of Covenants complaints received and acted on by the CSCIA this year include:

- Large Commercial vehicles parked overnight
- Dwellings in such poor repair as to be a health hazard
- Trash, junk and construction debris stored on properties
- Derelict vehicles on properties
- Hazardous materials stored on properties
- Illegal apartments and multi family dwellings in the Cape
- Illegal commercial activity on properties
- Non-home commercial business (as defined by AA County)

operated in CSCIA homes
Animals not under control or not allowed in residential areas.

The CSCIA Covenants Committee would like to thank Ms. Elaine Barnhart for her consistent, outstanding support and assistance to the residents wishing to construct in the Cape and the CSCIA Building Committee in administering the permit process; Mr. John Pirchio for his assistance in administering Covenants and Zoning issue, and the entire CSCIA office staff.

Submitted by
John Daly
CSCIA Covenants Committee
Chair



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Do You Remember?

It is the 1960s, a Sunday afternoon in late January. This winter has been a cold one and now the thick, smooth ice blanketing Deep Creek is beckoning to the skaters. Entire Cape St. Claire families, young and old, converge at the piers. The day is sunny but biting cold and everyone is bundled in coats, sweaters, mittens, scarves and wool caps - brilliant dots of colorful motion against the barren landscape. No one notices the cold.

The smallest children with brand new skates struggle to keep from falling with a bit of help from Mom or Dad, little boys taunt giggling little girls, teen couples glide romantically in pairs, older boys try their hand at hockey and enjoy impromptu races while girls attempt to perfect graceful spins and figure eights, imagining at that moment that they could become world-famous figure skaters. Parents keep a watchful eye on all the children as they glide up and down the river. People gather in groups and catch up on the news. Sooner or later someone starts a "crack the whip" and more and more youngsters join in till the end ones fall off and someone cries.

Children are reminded that, when they sit on the low decks of the few remaining boats, now solidly locked in the ice, they need to be careful not to swing their feet back and forth because the sharp ends of their blades will damage the wooden hulls.

Some of the men decide

to take a break and walk up the hill to Cap'n Clyde's (now Deep Creek Restaurant) for some refreshment, striding across the bare floor to the bar still wearing ice skates and no one minds. One fellow, whom no one noticed was missing, appears at the mouth of the creek and announces that he's just skated to Baltimore and back and that the Magothy, the Bay and the Patapsco are all solidly frozen.

As the sun sinks low over the marshy headwaters, families gather beside crackling fireplaces for hot soup and friendly conversation before taking their happy, red-cheeked children home to sleep. Memories of this day and many like it will remain with them as they grow and leave the Cape.

Submitted by
Joan Machinchick
History Committee
and Goshen Farm
Preservation Society Member

Thank you from Goshen Farm

The Goshen Farm Preservation Society would like to thank all of our neighbors and supporters who have donated to our Capital Campaign. To date we have raised over \$2,000. If you should need a receipt please contact us through our website www.goshenfarm.org. Thank You!!!

The GFPS meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Cox Room of the Clubhouse. For membership information please visit our website.



*Cape Saint Claire
Improvement Association*

The Cape SIGNBOARD

**Please contact Mary Lamb at
signboard2008@cscia.org for
reservations or information**

Did You Receive Your 2009 Cape Calendar?

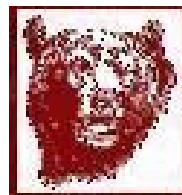
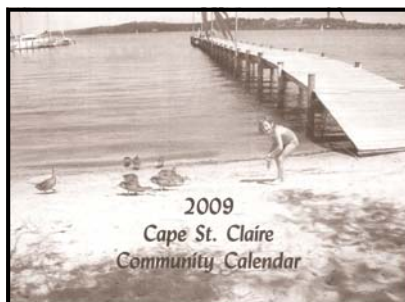
The 2009 Cape St. Claire Community Calendar was mailed to all homes the first week of December. If you did not receive a calendar or are new to the community, you can pick up a copy at the Cape St. Claire Improvement Association office on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (410-757-1223).

The calendar includes community organization's meeting and event dates, as well as a large directory of useful telephone numbers and a map of the Cape.

Many thanks to all of the businesses who support the calendar

with their advertising each year. Because of their continual support, the calendar is printed and mailed free to all Cape residents.

Submitted by
Amy Podd
Advertising Director,
2009 CSC
Community Calendar



Broadneck High School Class of 2009

The class of 2009 is hosting it's Annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Thursday, February 19 from 5:30-8:00 PM in the Broadneck High School cafeteria (1265 Green Holly Drive Annapolis, MD 21409).

Dinner will include spaghetti with choice of homemade meat or vegetarian sauce, salad, bread, and beverage. Dessert will be available for extra charge. Children under 6 are free and adults are \$8.

All proceeds benefit the Class of 2009 for graduation and prom fees. There will be varied musical entertainment throughout the evening as well as a raffle drawing.

Submitted by
Grace Burger
Vice President
Broadneck High School,
Class of 2009

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Garden Club News

Happy February!

So far this year, it seems our plants are not listening to all the dire reports of the coldest winter in decades. As I write this in mid-January, several Garden Club members report that their hellebores are sporting blooms, and this gardener sees flower buds on her winter jasmine and winter daphne, as well as the noses of many of her daffodils, peeking up in anticipation. How cheering it is to know that the fragrant, colorful days of spring are not far off!

The Garden Club met in January to hear Eric Butler speak about orchids. True to his word, Eric brought potting medium and repotted several members' tired old orchids. He also talked about the importance of cutting the flower spike after bloom, to give the plant time to rest between blooms. If the spike is left, it will continue growing and flowering, exhausting the orchid, which will essentially bloom itself to death! Properly nurtured, orchids should bloom once a year with a new flower stem each time.

In March, the Garden Club will host its annual Anniversary Dinner, to mark the founding of our club so many years ago. It's always a fun and festive evening, with delicious food, great company, and all of us looking forward to yet another growing season in our gardens, to plant sharing and sales, and of course to the beautiful spring

blooms.

As you do your spring plant shopping and planting, please keep us in your thoughts! Though plant pots can now be recycled in our big yellow recycling bins, please let the Garden Club do the environment one better by *reusing* them in our annual plant sale. Any size pots can be dropped off in the driveway of Doris Claire, at **1308 Cape St. Claire Road**, on the corner of Mountain Top. This not only gets one more use out of the pot before recycling, it allows us to save valuable funds by reusing old pots instead of purchasing new ones. We thank you for your support!

As always, the Garden Club happily welcomes any new participants. If you've been meaning to come, perhaps this is the year for you! Please feel free to join us at any meeting. Phone Laura at 410-349-3390 with any questions, or just show up!

Happy spring anticipation...

Submitted by
Audrey
Lengbeyer

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Council In Action

By Cathleen M. Vitale
Councilwoman,
District 5

New Year, New Woes?

Seems like everywhere I turn, people are talking about economic downturn, lost jobs, foreclosures and every imaginable “bad happening” one could think of. Not me. While I certainly am sympathetic to the current events, be them on a national, state or local level, I proudly take my place among those eternal optimists who believe that this year will be better than last and that we as a County will take steps to ensure its success.

Not one to leave agenda items unfinished, the Council will finish up several pieces of legislation held over from the 2008 legislative year. Among them are bills addressing sprinklers in single and dual family (duplex) homes, septic tank replacements, water and sewer master plan expansions and tax credits for certain solar energy installations in your home. The County Council will continue to

hone the County’s zoning regulations including roadside stands and taxidermists. Most of these bills will be resolved with the first two legislative sessions of the New Year.

Perhaps the largest project on the horizon for the County Council will be addressing the general development plan. Of all the legislation the Council will undertake, other than the budget, the General Development Plan is the most important. The General Development Plan has as its purpose, comprehensive land use policies and decisions that are to guide the County’s development for a period spanning ten to twenty years. For the first time, State legislation dictates that our plan provide a fiscal assessment of the impacts of future land use plans on area water resources, including water and wastewater supply capacities and local tributaries. There has been a push by the current State administration to focus on environmental impacts and the county GDP will serve as one of those tools. The document, when finished, is to combine the work of the citizen small area plans and new local and state

laws to create one comprehensive tool to be used by both the County and citizens for small and large development, preservation and environmental plans.

The draft
General Devel-

opment Plan can be found on the County’s website by going to www.aacounty.org and scrolling down to the GDP Homepage. Once there, you can download any one of the many background area reports, which make up the draft plan. I will apologize on behalf of the County for this cumbersome method of review, but the document itself is some 250 pages and not everyone is interested in reading every section. I guess this is one way to save trees and expenses, read it on line.

As I have been saying from the beginning of this process, public input is critical to the success of this plan. As we saw with the small area plans, citizens have an incredible grasp on the needs and resources of their particular area. The small area plans, fully discussed, debated and vetted provided each community with an opportunity to shape their respective neighborhoods. It was only because of citizen input, that the County created commercial revitalization districts, mixed-use zoning and preservation areas. I am again, asking for that level of commitment, albeit on a small time frame. The County administration has scheduled public forums where citizens can be briefed on the General Development Plan. The first one is scheduled this month in Annapolis on January 26th at Annapolis High School beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be a total of four such forums, the others being Wednesday, January 28th, at Old Mill High School; Tuesday, February 3rd at Southern High School; and

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Thursday, February 5th at Meade High School. Each forum is scheduled to begin at 6:00 and run approximately three hours. Since there are no hearings scheduled in Severna Park or the Broadneck area, I urge you to attend either the Annapolis or Old Mill forums. The County administration will take public comments on the draft plan which may be submitted in writing or via email between January 20th and February 16th. Much has been written over the last several months about the lack of public input, inability of community activists to disseminate the plan to their community membership and the feeling that we have been left out of the process. We must, as a community, make our feelings known. Do we want more development on Ritchie Highway? Is a mixed-use development center the right development zone for College Parkway and Bay Dale? What type of infill development should be permitted and what effect does such development have on our schools?

The plan is much more than mere zoning. The policies and strategies that the county

will approve are as important as what can be built on what site. I urge each community group or community umbrella organization to hold your own forums. Learn what the County believes its vision for your area is, and if that vision is not yours, STAND UP and SPEAK OUT. As I have said in the past, your voice is the most important advocacy tool you have. I will be glad to see you attend these meetings with me and to provide input where you disagree and agree on the GDP. Please, make this a New Year's priority. I know I will. Let me hear your thoughts.
cvitale@aacounty.org or 410-222-1401.

Thank you from the CSC PTO

The Kindergarten Playground is now complete as of December 15, 2008. The Cape St Claire PTO would like to say thank you to the entire Cape St Claire Community that rallied to raise the money that was needed to replace the Kindergarten Playground.

We would also like to thank the following businesses and organizations that helped make this possible:

Lowe's Tool-box for Education Grant
 Cape True Value Hardware
 Dave Jensen & Associates
 DreamMaker

Bath and Kitchen
 Kinderman

With the funds that were donated we were able to purchase two large pieces of play equipment for the Kindergarten and the additional primary grades that use the playground as well. Little Tykes Commercial was the company that was chosen to purchase and install all of the equipment.

Thank you to the 5th grade class of 2008 that donated the stencils for the Kindergarten blacktop as their promotion gift. The stencils are now complete as well.

Thank you to all who supported this project,
 Cape St Claire PTO

Letter to the Editor

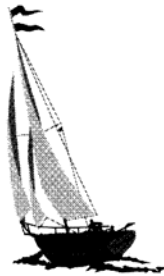
Dear Editor,

In these troubled economic times, I wanted to write a quick note to encourage Cape residents to support our Cape businesses whenever possible. The thought of my favorites in the shopping center going belly-up is simply heartbreaking, and would change the face of the Cape forever. Remember our local restaurants and shops whenever you have dining or shopping dollars to spend, and help keep them going until the economy recovers. And may it be soon!

Thanks,
 Audrey Lengbeyer,
 Broadneck Grill and True Value Hardware enthusiast

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Anne Arundel County Recycles. More. Often. and You Can Too!

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With the New Year quickly approaching now is a great time to make sure you are recycling everything you can in your home. Are you recycling the shampoo containers in the bathrooms? How about all your junk mail, newspapers, inserts, magazines and catalogs? Did you know we accept all types and sizes of cardboard boxes?

To help you recycle more, we have recently made several enhancements to our program. We now accept rigid plastic items such as flower pots, food trays, shelving, toys,

buckets, crates and other rigid plastic items. In addition, we accept plastic bags and shrink wrap! Be sure to place your plastic bags and shrink wrap in a single plastic bag for easy collection. You can also recycle aluminum foil and pans, empty aerosol cans, wide-mouth plastic containers and cups, and wax-paper milk and juice cartons.

As you know, recycling is easy in Anne Arundel County. You can put all your recyclable materials in the same container, the items do not need to be cleaned or rinsed, and there is no limit to the amount of recycling you can put out each week!

You make a choice with every item you throw away, a choice between throwing it in the recycling container or throwing it in

the trash can. We encourage you to recycle at home, at work and on the go. Please visit our website at www.RecycleMoreOften.com for tips to boost your recycling and to take the 50/50 Challenge.



A Caper Overseas

To Answer the questions: Are you glad to be home? Did you like your trip?
YES and YES.

Now that the boxes have been unpacked, now that my garden has returned to some semblance of order, now that the leaves are raked and bagged and awaiting a 2nd life in the composter, now that we all, kids and parents alike, have reconstituted our social lives here, now that our Christmas tree and menorah are gone, now that our frantic rushing about has relaxed – now I am ready to wrap up my Caper Overseas adventure tale, to reflect a bit about our year and what it means to come home. What a whirlwind year it was!

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We are so glad we ventured off for ten months in Israel and one more circuiting western Europe. Though Larry suffered quite a bit during our Israel stay, worrying about us finding friends and overcoming the language barrier, we all feel it went smashing. For all of us, children included, the most positive and lingering happiness came from the people we connected with. To make new friends, to continue loving and communicating even as the distances grow – that is for us one of life's greatest gifts. We also really miss the food there, not just the traditional falafel and shwarma and wonderful cheeses and the fresh and abundant produce, but even the "Fountains of Beer" restaurant that served completely un-kosher Polish and Russian food (and with a live R&B band to boot). Oh, the eating was good. And of course we miss the deep, blue, beautiful Mediterranean Sea and the miles upon miles of sandy beaches we visited even in February. Ah...

We enjoyed so much the Israeli trait of being much more intimate than Americans are accustomed to. This trait also has the


flipside of Israelis being more unabashedly in-your-face, and I was the object of daily criticism for bringing my kids out to play during the winter, when the weather was in the 50s, for shame! But it's a trait we would happily accept in more Americans if they also had the positive face of that coin, the tremendous openness to connection and new friendship. We would be invited for a play date or even dinner after merely chatting with a fellow parent at a playground or shopping mall for 10 minutes, and I found they really meant it! We quickly became entwined into many people's social circles. Everyone in Israel seems to make more time for connecting with people, including their families. We wish for this practice to follow us home, for ourselves and all our fellow Americans!

Our brief foray into Palestinian life was perhaps even more illustrative of this people-first mentality. Through a visit-

ing friend, the girls and I went into the West Bank for 2 days, and our hosts would not hear of us paying for a single thing while we were their guests.


Though we had no idea what to expect regarding our safety (we received the entire gamut of predictions from our Israeli friends and colleagues), it seems that we were completely safe in our hosts' homes, and I am so glad I went, even so briefly, to have just a glimpse of what Palestinian life is like.
To Be Continued.....

Submitted by
Audrey Lengbeyer

PATRICK DONNELLY

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