

The Caper



Our 51st Year

Cape St. Claire Improvement Association, Inc. Community Newsletter

July/August 2006

QUARTERLY MEETING: Tues. July 25 at 7:30 p.m. PRIMARY NIGHT: Tues. Aug. 22 at 7 p.m.-Meet the State and County candidates competing in the primaries. **CANDIDATE NIGHT: Fri. Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.**-Meet the winners of the primaries who will compete in the November elections.

Presidents Perspective

Welcome to summer! Boating, beaches, fishing, and crabbing - all the things we love to do here in the Cape. Sharing these activities with friends and families . . . it is a good life when you come right down to it. So that we all can enjoy our community resources, I would ask everyone to remember to keep our beaches and parks clean. Remember to clean up after your parties and have your kids help (that may make them think twice when they are about to drop a wrapper on the ground).

We have also had some parking problems recently down at the clubhouse because of simultaneous renting of the Clubhouse and people (some residents, some not) using the beaches. We have started to vigorously enforce the Cape's towing policies, so make sure you bring only cars down to the community parking lots that have stickers or guest passes. I hate when we end up towing residents cars, which happens every year. So make sure your cars are properly identified. We will be towing at Deep Creek (cars, even with trailers), Lake Claire, and the Clubhouse (parking for Main Beach).

Parties on the beach are limited to 30 people and no more than six guest passes for vehicles. You also need to get a request form and submit it to the office two weeks prior to the party. For further policy on beach usage, as it applies to parties, please go to <http://www.cscia.org/beachpark.cfm>.

The Cape News list is moving to the **CapeStClaire** group! on Yahoo. We ran into a Yahoo email problem when we got over a hundred members, trying to mail one message to everyone. So if you still want current news and events, this will be the place to get it. I hope to have registration access up on the www.cscia.org website soon.

The Improvement Association is planning two meet the Candidates nights. The first is for the primary candidates on Tuesday August 22nd. And a second will be held on Friday October 6th for the candidates who make it to the general election in November. Please come and join us for these two events. The more that turn out, the stronger our voice will be after the election.

The **Quarterly meeting (July 25 at 7:30 p.m.)** should be

enlightening. I am changing up the format, so that the Committee chairs will give a mid-year progress report. Each report should be fairly brief, describing what's new and what we plan on doing to improve things. Residents will have the opportunity to make suggestions directly to the Chair during Q & A. And it is a good time to make suggestions, because it is budget time.

We are currently putting our budgets together for the next fiscal year. These budgets will be presented and reviewed in October. One of our biggest financial challenges is the electricity bill, which is going to skyrocket (like everyone else's). Put this together with the need for more

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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 **preferably** be emailed in Microsoft Word (PC only) format to: **capereditor@cscia.org**, or dropped off at the Clubhouse. Articles must be submitted electronically, either on a computer disk or via 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.

President (Cont. from page 1)

security and a rise in employee costs and we might have to consider raising the SCBD cap a bit just for these expenses.

In addition, History Committee Chair Sam Gallagher will be putting together a short presentation on what the committee has learned about the history of Cape St. Claire. I think they have done a bang-up job. I enjoy listening to what they found out about our community. I would come to the July meeting just to hear some of the history of the Cape. It truly is fascinating! Hope to see you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Dan Wolin, President

**Cape St. Claire Improvement
Association**

www.cscia.org

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Beaches & Parks
Building
Caper
Clubhouse
Covenants
History
Long Range Planning
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Nominating

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Matt Puglisi
Sam Gallagher
Joe Daly
Mary Lamb
Josephine Gardner
Sam Gallagher
Bruce Campbell
Frank Newman
Peter Clarke

Budget Committee:

Chris Knott, Matt Scarlett and Carl
Schumaker

Board in Brief

The CSCIA Board of Governors met on June 12, 2006 for its monthly meeting. President Dan Wolin provided the following opening remarks:

- The CSCIA accountant would not be attending this meeting.
- In preparation for a Candidate's Night, he is putting together a listing of County and State candidates for office, and he will send them invitation letters next week.
- He received several complaints from residents about the parking areas for our Cape beaches being over-run with unauthorized vehicles

Minutes and Financials:

A motion was made to approve the May 8, 2006 Monthly BOG Meeting Minutes as amended. This motion was unanimously approved. Another motion was made to approve the February 28, 2006, March 31, 2006 and the April 30, 2006 Financials. This motion was also unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Website: Governor Newman reported that new panoramas would be appearing in our website, www.cscia.org in about a month.

History Committee: Governor Gallagher reported that he met with the Ridout brothers, who are in their 90's, to hear and learn more about the Cape St. Claire area history. They stated that the Stinchcomb property was once called the Persimmon Farm, and that the Radoff property was purchased from the Brice family.

(Cont. on page 3)

Board (Cont. from page 2)

The St. Margarets Episcopal Church is currently researching former church sites, including a Westminster Church site that was located in the Lake Claire area in the 1600's. People traveled by boat to visit this church. Governor Gallagher also stated that Arnold has a History Committee.

Piers: Governor Gallagher reported that he is still in the process of assigning boat slips. He plans on conducting a boat slip usage survey in the near future.

Building: Governor Gardner received a letter from the State Mosquito Control office and she will publish it in a future Caper. Mosquito testing is being conducted once a week.

Clubhouse: Governor Juras reported that all of the Clubhouse floors have been stripped and cleaned. He also reported that most of the residents who attended the May 24th meeting about improving or enlarging the current Clubhouse, voiced opposition to such ideas. He plans to conduct another Clubhouse survey in about six weeks.

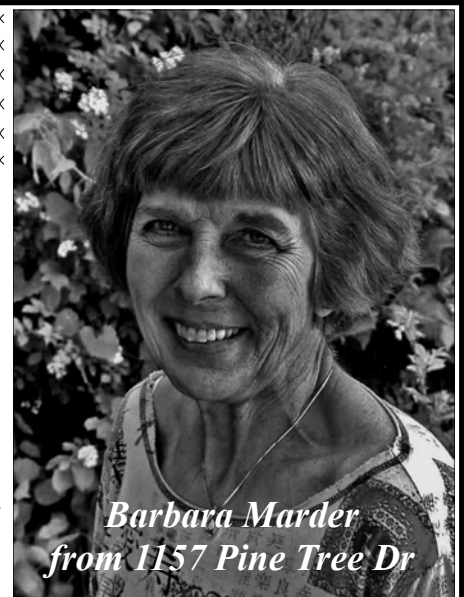
Covenants: Governor Puglisi reported that he would be meeting with the CSCIA legal representative to discuss actions being taken on the current covenant violations being processed through the legal office. Zoning Department, and other County Department violations continue to be processed through the County with Covenants Committee follow up.

Roads: Governor Campbell reported that last month the County submitted plans to the CSCIA on the Cape St. Claire Road Improvement project. He recommended the CSCIA wait until receipt of the next set of updated County plans to do a complete review and provide feedback.

Beaches & Parks: Governor Madden reported that he and another BOG member recently chased unauthorized people from the Lake Claire parking/beach area. It was reiterated that any CSCIA board member could call and authorize the towing of unauthorized vehicles from our community parking areas. In the past, Cape residents not having Cape stickers on their vehicles owned most of the vehicles that were towed. Owners of towed vehicles
(Cont. on page 4)

Mona Knows the Neighborhood

Many thanks to Mona and her staff for making my move as rapid and comfortable as possible. After living in a house for more than thirty years, I was unsure of its market value or the best way to present it. Also, I wanted the new owners to find a home they could enjoy as my family had. Mona knows the neighborhood, the features a buyer likes to find, and the intricate details of sales and settlement in Maryland. She provided value assistance every step of the way from assessing the market to readying the house for sale to managing inspections, financing, and the final settlement. I was up for sale, sold, and moved in record time. My buyers report what a good time they are having in their new home...and I in mine.



*Barbara Marder
from 1157 Pine Tree Dr*

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Board (Cont. from page 3)

must pay about \$300 to the towing company to retrieve their vehicles.

Old Business:

As community complaints continue to be received about 968 Highpoint Drive, Governor Gardner recommended more aggressive CSCIA actions be taken in an effort to help resolve these problems. The BOG agreed. President Wolin authorized the Covenants Committee chairman to pursue appropriate action through our legal representative.

New Business:

For Long Range Planning purposes, Governor Daly plans on constructing a Cape St. Claire listing of "what we want to do" projects. This listing would be helpful to the Budget Committee for budget planning. Governor Campbell asked that the CSCIA review its Building Code as it applies for three-story level homes. This subject will be an agenda item at the July 10th BOG meeting.

Roll Call:

One board member was absent. A motion was made to "excuse" this member as she provided prior notification of her necessary absence. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Closed Session:

A motion was made and unanimously approved for the BOG to enter into a Closed Session meeting. The Closed Session meeting began at 9:15 P.M.

The next Monthly Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on July 10, 2006.



County Council in Action

By Cathleen Vitale
5th District County Council
Representative

THINKING GREEN

As promised, this month's article is devoted to money. Not the fictitious kind that grows on trees, but the honest to goodness, cold hard cash that some say runs the world (and we know, the County). This year's budget stands at approximately \$1.164 million for County operations and \$202.9 million in new or continuing projects around the County.

As many may be aware, the County Council can reduce expenditures, but cannot add to any budget items except the Board of Education, and even then, it can only be increased up to that amount requested by the Board of Education but not funded by the County Executive. While the Executive funded most of the programs and positions requested by the Board, the Council added more than one million dollars to programs and positions requested by the Board. To do that, other projects in other departments had to be cut or

reduced.

This Council has made a commitment to education over the last four years, and this year is no different. The Council has supported the request for 284 new teachers and teaching support staff positions. Full funding is provided for all day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten. Athletics, music and other extracurricular activities will receive funds as well as the continuation of the "textbooks for every child" program. The International Baccalaureate program received its senior year funding, rounding out the high school program, including a new West County program.

Many public safety upgrades were included in the budget for new positions, equipment and facilities. The public safety funding will include a new Eastern District Station on Ritchie Highway in Pasadena to enable quicker response to matters along Broadneck and Arnold.

A large portion of the County budget is going to the continued infrastructure upgrades to include roads, storm drains, sidewalks and other similar projects. The Mill Creek spill has resulted in

(Cont. on pg. 5)

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County (Cont. from page 4)

several million of additional dollars to go towards completing the repairs, replacement and cleaning of Mill Creek.

The budget itself is several hundreds of pages long, and having read it from cover to cover (including its multiple supplements and appendixes), I thought better than to reproduce it here. Instead here are many of its highlights that directly affect our district. Please know that you can get to the budget documents by going to www.aacounty.org and looking under FY '07 budget. Remember there is an expense (operating) and capital (projects) portion to the budget. In reviewing the department of public works appendix pages, know that these are proposed projects. Until the funding is awarded and costs are provided, we do not know exactly how many projects will be performed.

Now the highlights:

Residential property: The County has provided funding for financial incentives to property owners for the cost of upgrading on-site septic system upgrades and in cases of financial hardship for property owners to repair or replace failed septic and private

well systems, and for installing of holding tanks in order to comply with county regulations.

Recreational and Athletic Parks and Fields: Funding was approved for athletic facilities improvements to Kinder Park and money provided to extend the Broadneck Trail to Bay Dale Drive.

Roads, Signals, Storm Drains and Sewers: The Cape St. Claire storm drain project will be completed with this last round of funding. The almost \$5 million in funding was to address 13 independent systems to assist in resolving flooding and erosion problems in Cape St. Claire; Cape St. Claire Road and Green Holly will also see improved and enhanced signals at the intersections.

As a result of Mill Creek, the County underwent a review process of its forced mains. Ben Oaks will have several sections of the forced main replaced in this next year in those sections that have been identified as deteriorating segments.

Waterway projects: Finally Whitehall Creek and Amberley community will see funding for the long

awaited dredging and the creation for a waterway improvement district; design and construction of the eroded stream channel along Evergreen Road; funds to correct the eroding stream channel from Broadneck Road Ops Yard to Blossom Tree Road as well as the stabilization of the stream channel.

Board of Education: Benfield Elementary and Arnold Elementary have been added to the list of schools to be funded within the next several years.

All in all we, as a district, did pretty well. Space does not permit me to list all the roads getting resurfaced, storm drains getting worked on, or the multitude of multi-year repair and renovation projects that have been budgeted. If you are curious about a roadway or park project, drop me an email at cvitale@aacounty.org and I will be happy to respond.

Enjoy the beginning of summer!

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: To follow is the first letter I've received in my short tenure as Caper editor. Don't forget, you can send letters to:

capereditor@cscia.org. This one, I think we can all agree, is a great icebreaker and I'm happy to print it:

On the morning of Wednesday, May 24, as I was on my way to work driving on Chestnut Tree, I noticed a bike on the sidewalk and then a little boy, maybe eight years old, lying face down next to it. I continued looking as I drove by, wondering if the boy had just fallen off his bike and was thinking he would quickly get up. I'm watching through my rearview mirror and the boy isn't moving. Many thoughts then run through my mind, and as I approach the stop sign for Green Holly, I decide I should drive back to the scene via Ramblewood, back to Chesnut Tree. When I get back there just a minute later, I see there are already at least three vehicles stopped and five people assisting the boy, one of them on their cell phone.

I drove off not wanting to cause anymore traffic congestion on the road, knowing that the boy was in good hands. I'm sharing this because it made me feel really proud to be a Cape resident, witnessing "good Samaritan" care for a young stranger. I hope the boy is OK.

Tom Olszewski
1150 Southview Drive

Wanted— Cape Historian

As the editor for the Maryland pictorial histories at Arcadia Publishing, I thought you might be able to help me. Although we have many successful Maryland books, we are looking to expand our publishing list.

I wonder if you know anyone—local history buffs, accomplished writers—who might be interested in authoring a Cape St. Claire history

for us. Such a project would fit nicely with our other books, which include histories of Annapolis and Baltimore.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Also, please feel free to pass along my contact information to your colleagues!

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:

Lauren C. Bobier
Southern Publisher
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YCCSC Youth Sailing News

A huge round of applause for Mary

Lamb for another great Strawberry Festival! The rain early on and the cool weather were a bit worrisome, but the day warmed up, the bands were great, and Youth Sailing raised some much needed funds to maintain and build our small fleet of sailboats for our students. A thank you goes out to all the parents who volunteered to staff the booth and to everyone who came by to purchase a soda, or to chat.

As I write this (in early June), the boats are on the beach, rigged and ready, thanks to the parents that volunteered to help on June 10th. As you read this, the first session of student sailors is tak-

ing to the water, learning to tack, jibe and heel. We're so lucky to live in such a great community with water access and community programs to teach our children skills they can use to enjoy all this community has to offer.

Youth Sailing is selling hoodie sweatshirts to raise funds to replace one of our aging 420s. If you'd like to purchase one, contact Shelley Greenhouse via email at

capeyouthsailing@yahoo.com.

Stop by and say hello at our organizational meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Cox meeting room of the community Clubhouse, or check out the sailing program at Lake Claire beach!

Shelley Greenhouse



Girl Scout Troop 2175

Hello again from Troop 2175!

It has been a busy year for us! In our last Caper article, we told you about some of the things we had accomplished during the fall and winter. It's time to update you on what we've been up to since then.

As Cadette Girl Scouts, six of us have been working on earning our Girl Scout Silver Award. We have been working on earning the Cadette Girl Scout Leadership Award (part of the Silver Award requirements) by running meetings, planning and carrying out

(Cont. on Page 9)

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Cape Babysitters Below is a list of willing sitters. It is up to you to evaluate their qualifications. If you would like to have your name added to or removed from this list, please email the editor at capereditor@cscia.org.

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Samantha Carr	410-626-8712	Chelsey McLaughlin	410-349-0576
Melody Clore	410-757-3971	Cindy Miller	410-626-8872
Ashley Donatelli	410-757-4792	Courtney Miller	410-757-6663
Hillary Fisher	410-757-0304	Monique Morgan	410-626-7037
Britani Fox	410-626-7481	Sara Naeseth	410-757-9255
Molly Friedland	410-757-6517	Madeleine Schroeder	410-626-7576
Lisa Gamiz	410-757-3127	Samantha Stern	410-626-7812
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Winters Geimer	410-349-0945	Zachery Treakle	410-349-0576
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Scouts (Cont. from Page 7)
events, and organizing volunteer projects. Many of us have reached the required 15 leadership hours and are encouraging the others to earn all of theirs. Six girls in our troop are on their way to completing several requirements on the Silver Award path.

Meanwhile, the three girls who earned the Bronze Award last year (by placing the flagpole and garden at the main beach) have added new flowers to the garden and were able to enlist a local company to put a curb edging around it. We would like to thank Curb-A-Garden owners Jim and Michelle Bordes for donating their time and materials to give the garden the finishing touch. Go to the beach to check it out!

As we reported in our last article, we adopted a sister troop in Louisi-

ana that was affected last year by Hurricane Katrina. We wrote letters to them and recently received replies. We had been planning on sending them money to help them restock their troop supplies, but they asked that we direct our donation to their local Girl Scout camps, because they love to camp but many of their camps had been destroyed. We decided to send a donation of \$200 to their council to help rebuild and restock the camp-grounds with needed supplies. We have each sent a letter to a pen-pal in the troop, and we hope to continue sending and receiving letters next fall.

Throughout this year, we have earned money for our troop by selling cookies and working events. We finally used some of that money to go to fun places together. We invited our families to enjoy the dinner and show at Medieval Times in April, and we

received a patch at Medieval Times. Some of our girls attended the Mother-Daughter Brunch and others attended a Babysitting Workshop. We also attended the yearly Community 44 Encampment in April, where we camped with other troops, slept in a cabin, went on hikes, and learned the true meaning of being a Girl Scout.

Our troop also participated in the Strawberry Festival again this year, as we have done for the past 6 years running. We did not participate with a booth, but we were in the parade! One of the girls volunteered her dad's truck as a float, and we ended up decorating the truck on the day of the festival. We rode in the strawberry-covered truck and tossed candy to all parade watchers.

That's all for now, and we hope you have a wonderful summer. See you next fall!

By Mary Shaughney



JEANNIE MOHR

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CAPE FOLK

Herman the Goose and his entourage have returned to The Cape! The word from Ron Lample and the Young family is that they didn't really fly south for the winter, they just took a mini-break and have now made a permanent love nest on their property. Herman, Hermione and kids now observe Ron from various angles as he performs tasks in the yard, scrutinizing his work on cars, and we wait with baited beak for them to accompany him on his walks with their killer Chihuahua...just when you thought you were safe!

Now that the summer is here we hear complaints about teenagers destroying property, getting into trouble, using drugs and alcohol and making bad choices, but seldom do we hear about teenage entrepreneurs with legitimate

businesses on the fast track to success.

Such a young man is Cape St. Claire's Josh Jennings, raised in our community and a classic example of how being part of a happy, close-knit family can give a young person a great advantage in life. Josh, who graduated from Broadneck High School this year, was seen cringing with embarrassment as his positively beaming Aunt Barb lovingly affixed "Congratulations Graduate" signs all over their house. Grinning from ear to ear were grandparents Dick and Ida, Uncle Joe Hagan, Dad Steve and little brother Brandon.

Underneath the blushes however was a young man who really has been a stellar student who always does his best!

Josh's ambition, is to achieve success in both the business and the computer market. "I want to own a few computer-related businesses as well as real estate and some restaurants."

He chose Frostburg State to pursue his academic objective because they have a prestigious business program and Josh was awarded various scholarships and grants to ease the way financially. He is planning on majoring in business and hopes for a minor in computer science.

"Combining these two will enable me to achieve my goals," he said. When we asked him, why Frostburg over UMBC, he said it was the atmosphere — that he simply fell in love with Frostburg's small-town life.

(Cont. on Page 11)



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Folk (Cont. from Page 10)

Josh the Entrepreneur leaves, as this goes to press, for business meetings in Florida and is the co-owner of a rather successful Internet marketing company.

“If you have a website that needs visitors,” he said, “we are who you come to, as we specialize in search engine marketing, which generates the post-productive traffic out there.”

Upon completion of his degree, he plans to expand the company and open up smaller branches for other projects. Move over Bill Gates – Jennings is on your tail!

We asked Josh, who is also a member of Cape St. Claire United Methodist Church, about the importance of family relation-

ships and how a strong family has helped him. He said, “You need to stick by your family, because no matter how much of a pain they can be, they are only looking out for you. They will be there after everyone else has left you.”

Josh plans to give back to the community by volunteering or mentoring while attending college. He also claims he had no particular role models outside of his family, citing their accomplishments as the basis for his personal growth. “I’m not a follower. I consider myself my own person but I do look up to my family.”

Asked if he was scared of leaving home he responded, “In some ways, yes and in some ways, no. I will miss being

called up for dinner and always having the family and friends I grew up with around. But I’m ready for new experiences and to start my own life. As hard as it seems, everyone has to grow up sometime.”

Josh told us what matters to him is to obtain as much knowledge as he needs to achieve his goals but he realizes that life can’t just revolve around education and school. “You need to have the skills to balance out fun and education.”

He also said he’d like to see more opportunities offered students here in the county at an earlier age. Then there are those early morning classes. He said, “Students need to get more sleep and later openings would increase

(Cont. on Page 12)



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Folk (Cont. from Page 11)

productivity a lot.”

Single young ladies in Frostburg, look out! Currently not in a dating relationship, Josh Jennings wisely claims there are no specific qualities he searches for. “It all depends on what happens when you meet.” His interests, ladies, are music, (his iPod has a “crazy” variety) and horror movies, as well as sci-fi and comedies. He also loves Cape St. Claire. “It’s like a small town inside Annapolis set apart from the city. It’s a very close neighborhood where almost everyone knows their neighbor by name. I loved growing up here and wouldn’t change it for anything.”

When asked if he had any words of wisdom for future Broadneck

graduates he offered this advice, “Always remember to have fun, but balance that fun with school. For example don’t go out partying the night before finals! In my opinion, a good balance is the key to success.”

Josh Jennings, 18 years old, drove off into the sunset in his little yellow sports car saying that he’d like to own a Lotus or a Benz someday and this writer smiled and wondered, what do you have to do to have a child like this? It has to be something in the Cape Water!

Enjoy the summer!

Mandy Johnson (a.k.a. M. D. Johnson) is currently working on the second novel of a five-part series. Her first, “Circle Around the Sun”, a spy-fi/

terrorism thriller, was released in May and can be obtained online or at your local bookstore. This debut book is set in Europe, the Middle East and a sleepy little town on the Chesapeake Bay!

Cape St. Claire Improvement Association Upcoming Meetings:

**QUARTERLY MEETING:
TUESDAY JULY 25
7:30 P.M. AT THE CLUB-
HOUSE**

**PRIMARY NIGHT:
TUESDAY AUGUST 22
7 P.M. AT THE CLUB-
HOUSE**

**CANDIDATE NIGHT:
FRIDAY OCTOBER 6
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Please phone Audrey Lengbeyer at 1-410-757-5175, or just show up – see you there!

Cape Message Board

Have a message or announcement you'd like to share with the community? The Cape St. Claire Community Signboard can make your news known.

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The Garden Club

HCappy July, all!



Thanks to everyone who turned out for our plant sale, from all our club members who put in a hard day's work to all you shoppers who came out and made our plant sale a success.

Special thanks to those members who showed up bright and early and stayed all day, and especially to our new treasurer, Karen West, who worked her tail off despite being eight months pregnant!

The sale was a resounding success – we sold every single plant, shoppers got some awesome bargains, and our coffers are refilled for yet another year of gardening gathering: speakers and refreshments for our meetings, birthday gardening gloves for our members, and plenty left over for helping with community planting projects. Thanks again to all for contributing!

Congratulations to the Yard of

the Month winners for June:

- * Area 1: The Peakses, 1148 St. Catherine Drive
- * Area 2: The Hartmans, 1039 Skyview Drive
- * Area 3: The McLarens, 1040 Lake Claire Drive
- * Area 4: The Banareses, 1196 Summit Drive
- * Area 5: The Knoxes, 1393 Greenway Drive

The Garden Club will continue judging through the summer, but we will take July and August off as usual.

Join us for our first meeting in the fall on Tuesday, September 5th, as we move back to the first Tuesday of each month.

We'll hear our former president Catherine Salam, a knowledgeable and seasoned gardener, speak on *Minor Bulbs and Spring Ephemerals*.

Come learn about some of the spectacular smaller bulbs that we use to set off our daffodils and tulips or smaller planting beds, and about charming plants that are with us for a few fleeting weeks in spring, before they disappear back into the earth, to hide from the hot summer sun. All are welcome!

A Bay-wise Gardening tip for the month of July: Maintain a 2-inch layer of organic mulch around trees and shrubs and in planting beds. This will help the soil stay cool and moist during out hot, dry summers, and prevent erosion and weed germination. As it decomposes over the years, it will enrich the soil with nutrients that will be available to your plants. Keep the mulch at least 1" away from tree trunks and shrub collars to avoid disease, and avoid freshly chipped woodchips, as they can actually starve your soil and plants of nutrients as they decompose (let these age at least 6 months before using around your plants). Using mulch near your plantings means less weeding, less watering, and healthier plants, not to mention a prettier garden!

Happy summer, all.

Submitted by Audrey Lengbeyer

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Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this year's festival a success. We were a little worried in the morning but the sun came through for us and everyone had a wonderful time!! Special thanks to all of the commercial residents who continue to support our festival year after year. The next time you are in the shopping center, say thank you to your local merchants for being a part of our community Strawberry Festival!!



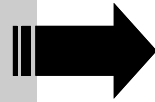
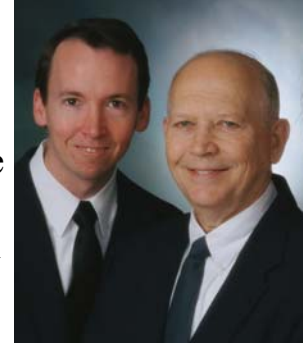
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