



Our 51st Year

Cape St. Claire Improvement Association, Inc. Community Newsletter

May 2006

Did you recycle last month's Caper prematurely? You can view past and present issues of the Caper online at www.cscia.org!

Clubhouse Improvement

Open Meeting Wed. May 24, 8:00 p.m. Cape St. Claire Clubhouse, 1223 River Bay Road

The Cape St. Claire community clubhouse has served us well for over a half century. We have continued to grow and the demands on the clubhouse have increased. The Cape St. Claire Improvement Association is evaluating how to improve our community clubhouse, and we are looking for community input on the best ways to improve the clubhouse to meet our diverse needs.

Please take a couple of moments to fill out the survey below, and submit your survey response by Friday May 19, 2006. This survey is also available online at www.cscia.org under "News." Please either fax to 410-757-1697, drop off or mail to:

**Cape St. Claire Improvement Association
Attn: Clubhouse Chair
1223 River Bay Road
Cape St Claire, MD 21409**

1. *What type of events/function(s) would you hold at an improved clubhouse? Please Circle all that apply.*

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Wedding | b. Birthday/ Anniversary |
| c. Charity event | d. Dance |
| e. Exercise class | f. Club meeting |
| g. Business function, (conference/training seminar, etc.) | |
| h. Other (specify) _____ | |

2. *How many people would you have at these events?*

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| a. 200+ | b. 150 – 200 |
| c. 100 – 150 | d. Less than 100 |

3. *What type of facilities would you like to see in the clubhouse?*

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Full Kitchen | b. All Purpose Room |
| c. Small Meeting Room | d. Reception Hall |
| d. Dance Floor | e. Stage/Band Stand |
| f. Vending Machine/Snack Room | |
| g. Other (specify) _____ | |

Please join us Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the results of the survey and report on the progress of the Clubhouse Improvement initiative.

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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 article 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 format to: **capereditor@cscia.org**. Or drop off at the CSCIA Office at 1223 River Bay Road. Articles must be submitted via electronic format, 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 filename (s), 4) **IBM format ONLY**, and 5) software product and 6) version used. Submitters should keep a backup copy of each data file, and should 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.

Board in Brief

The CSCIA Board of Governors met on April 10, 2006 for its monthly meeting.

Minutes and Financials:

A motion was made to approve the March 13, 2006 monthly BOG meeting minutes. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The Treasurer, Governor Puglisi, reported that the Financials for the last month would not be presented at this meeting. He explained that the accountant is in the process of making corrections and that two monthly financial reports would be presented at the next BOG meeting.

President's Remarks:

President Wolin presented the overall agenda for the meeting and introduced a guest at the

meeting to speak on behalf of numerous neighbors also attending the monthly BOG meeting - to show their petition and voice their concerns to the CSCIA about "noise and dirt pollution" and other complaints at: 968 Highpoint Dr.

Neighborhood Complaints About: 968 Highpoint Drive:

In a coordinated effort, several neighbors expressed their concerns about long-term problems at 968 Highpoint Drive, including:

- Noise and dirt pollution – caused by constant riding of RV's in backyard; revving of car engines and playing horn "games." Windows/doors cannot be left opened due to noise and dust.
- Front yard – containing several abandoned vehicles; several expired tags or untagged vehicles; and assorted debris strewn about.
- Back yard – consisting of an unsightly, dusty bike/dirt track; and assorted debris strewn about and stored under the deck.

These neighbors already contacted the police chief, County Executive and County Council. They requested CSCIA assistance where possible. The Covenants Committee chair, Governor Puglisi, advised that the CSCIA has already submitted a complaint to the County for action, which is pending, and, that County action must be taken prior to the CSCIA taking its own legal actions. BOG members also advised that infractions in general are categorized as zoning, covenants, and legal issues – therefore some infractions are not CSCIA enforce

(cont. on page 3)

Cape St. Claire Improvement Association

www.cscia.org

The Board of Governors

Office:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Officers:

Daniel Wolin
Josephine Gardner
Joe Daly
Matt Puglisi

Committee:

Beaches & Parks
Building
Caper
Clubhouse
Covenants
Long Range Planning
Membership
Personnel
Piers
Roads
Web Master
Nominating

Chair:

Craig Madden
Josephine Gardner
Kari Maltz
Mike Juras
Matt Puglisi
Joe Daly
Mary Lamb
Josephine Gardner
Sam Gallagher
Bruce Campbell
Frank Newman
Peter Clarke

Budget Committee:

Chris Knott, Matt Scarlett and Carl Schumaker

Board *(cont. from page 2)*

able and some are legal issues that may require civil action. Governor Madden recommended that the independent services of the County Mediation Center be considered to work out these issues.

Committee Reports:

Covenants: Governor Puglisi reported that Governor Daly and Budget Committee member, Matt Scarlett, agreed to help him draft a set of covenant codes, similar to that of the Building Code. He also reported that the CSCIA legal representative had sent a letter to the real estate broker trying to sell the property at 1041 Little Magothy View, advising him that selling a Cape property as a multi-family dwelling is in viola-

tion of our covenants and subject to legal action.

Building: Governor Gardner and the BOG went into a Closed Session to hear a variance request to allow construction of an eight-foot fence in the front of the house. The variance was denied.

Piers: Governor Gallagher reported that: most of the completed boat slip rental contracts have been received; the bubbler system was recently removed; and the fire department reported that the hydrostatic pressure at the Lake Claire pier area is insufficient and must be repaired.

Beaches & Parks: Governor Madden reported that new benches have been received for installation at the Main Beach.

Roll Call: Three board members were absent. A motion was made to "excuse" two of these members (prior notification of absence was provided) and deem the other absence as "unexcused." This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: *The regular meeting of the April 10, 2006 Monthly BOG Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The next Monthly Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on May 8, 2006.*

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Richard & Jen Hare



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County Council in Action May 2006

By Cathleen Vitale, 5th District
County Council Representative
ROADSIDE SOLICITATION

Warm weather is finally here. Let me see... that brings spring blooms, birds, boating season, and yes... increased panhandlers and roadside solicitors. As many are aware; the Anne Arundel County Council has been attempting for the last several years to enact legislation to prevent roadside solicitation.

While there have been suggested, several types of bans, the majority of the County Council seems to be leaning toward a total ban. In order to be able to do so, the Council needs from our State legislators specific enabling legislation that will in turn, allow us to introduce legislation to ban panhandlers, not only on county, but the state roads throughout our district. Remember, it's like the sign laws, if the county cannot enforce the law on both the county and state roads (like Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Route 10 and Ritchie Highway), how effective will even partial legislation be?

Maryland counties currently differ on how they handle the issue. For example, in Frederick County, legislation was passed that would prohibit the use of a controlled access highway in the county's jurisdiction by a person soliciting money, donations, employment, business, or a ride from an occupant of a vehicle on

the controlled access highway; and prohibits, in Frederick County, a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations from an occupant of a vehicle — a total ban. In Prince George's County, legislation was enacted which prohibits a child under the age of 15 from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle and goes on to prohibit an adult in Prince George's County from causing, encouraging, allowing, or petitioning a child under the age of 15 to violate the prohibition. At a minimum, legislation similar to that of Prince George's County is required.

Several attempts have been made on behalf of Anne Arundel County to address the issue. In 1994 Delegate David Boschert sought enabling legislation to ban all roadway solicitors along Anne Arundel County Roads. (Hose Bill 61). The bill never got the support of the committee it was assigned to, and died. That same year, HB 187 was enacted which would give the county permission to set up a licensing program which would prevent teenagers from soliciting, but would not only permit, but license and therefore condone (by default), adult panhandlers. The Council, for many reasons, has chosen not to enact that legislation. Can you imagine licensing solicitors and giving them permits to stand at particular corners? It is not often that I ask for your help, but

here I am, and I'm asking. Until legislation can be provided to ban at least our youth, from standing on street corners to solicit money; I am asking that you assist in preventing your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and even the neighbors' children from participating in such activities.

I have been speaking with various civic and school groups to ask for assistance. The students I have spoken to appear to understand the need for safety. Last year, I watched the dance team from Severna Park High School hold a successful car wash at a local gas station. Rather than having several girls running up and down the median strip of Ritchie Highway, two young ladies stood on a sidewalk, two others stood about five feet from the edge of the property, and held signs. They didn't jump up and down, didn't waive the signs to distract the drivers, but they had colorful balloons and streamers on the business lot, and a lot of enthusiasm and energy.

Please help me keep the children off the strips and out of the streets. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at cvitale@aacounty.org with your thoughts.



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Seeing Through a New Set of Glasses

As I stroll my newborn son through our beautiful neighborhood, for the first time I am truly enjoying spring-time here in Cape St. Claire. I see the burgeoning flowers come to life, bushes and trees sprouting new limbs; and hear the birds chirping happily while building new nests for the season.

After years of climbing the corporate ladder, driving to and from work, now, as a work-at-home mom, I take daily walks through our neighborhoods while wearing a new set of glasses. I see my neighbors tending their homes, gardens, and boats and all our children coming out to play. My husband and I were excited to take our new son to meet the Easter Bunny, and look forward to the annual Strawberry Festival with renewed

enthusiasm. Along with these new pleasures, I also have become acutely aware of the dangers of pushing my stroller along our windy roads.

During my daily walks, I wave to my neighbors both young and old who, like me and Erik, are enjoying this great weather. While I walk and Erik strolls, others are out walking their dogs and riding bikes. Many of our young folk are on scooters and skateboards. Now that spring is here, we are all sharing the roads.

Today unfortunately, my son and I were nearly run over by a driver taking a curve to quickly near our home on Lake Claire Drive. Last week, a young boy was knocked off his bicycle by a driver blinded by the sun on Little Magothy View. Thankfully, he is OK.

While my new set of glasses was brought on by a change in lifestyle, I encourage everyone to don your own new set of glasses, preferably "sunglasses", slow down, and remember the many blind spots we have throughout our neighborhood. Let's take our cars off "auto-pilot," put on our new glasses, and look out for our children, pets and neighbors sharing the roads beside us.

Submitted by Kari Maltz

Cape Tots Please join us at the beach on Tuesdays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for our weekly playgroup. Children and babies of all ages are welcome! Bring snacks or lunch, and join us for some sunshine and playtime. Any questions? Please phone Audrey Lengbeyer at 410-757-5175, or just show up – see you there!



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Child's Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

We the Parents/Guardians agree to our child participating in the Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival Parade with their decorated bike entry. We understand judging is based upon the Theme Decorations. We agree to meet at the CSC Fire Hall at 9:30 AM on Saturday, June 3, 2006 for the Parade and Contest Presentation immediately following at the Festival on the main beach. Rain date June 4, 2006. I hereby give my child permission to participate in the parade and the festival activities. I will accept full responsibility for my child's safety. I understand my child must wear a bike helmet.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

Please return form to: Mary Lamb 1180 Summit Dr. Annapolis, MD 21409

Free Moon Bounce At the Strawberry Festival

Mona LaCovey, the #3 Ranked Realtor in Anne Arundel County, is sponsoring the Moon Bounce for the kids on June 4th starting at 11:00 at the Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival. Come meet Mona, Lori, Dave & Steve at the Cape St. Claire main beach at 1223 River Bay Road. There will be a drawing for a Super Soaker and prizes for everyone.



Mona sponsors the Moon Bounce every year at the CSC Strawberry Festival.



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YCCSC Youth Sailing News

By the time you read this, registration for the summer program will have been open for many weeks. Note that there is an error in the dates for session 3 on the blue program cover. The correct session dates are July 31 – August 11. Registration preference is given in the order that applications are received, with special consideration to last year's participants and Cape residents through April 15. If you are thinking about registering a child for the program, give us a call - because we've added new boats, and increased our student capacity — there might still be openings. If you'd like to see what the program is about or to register, information is available at the Broadneck library branch (look for the bright blue registration pack-

ets), the community home page, www.cscia.org (thanks to Frank Newman), the Cape's Yacht Club home page, www.yccsc.org (thanks to Ralph Reitan) or from our registrar, Brenda Lee Norman, 410-757-0926. Parent Orientation is on Sunday, June 4 at 7 p.m. at the Lake Claire beach. The program depends heavily on volunteer energy and parent involvement, so please plan on coming out and showing your support for this great program. Weather permitting, we'll move the boats to the beach on Saturday, June 10, and get them ready for the season, too. Don't forget to order your Youth Sailing hoodie sweatshirt. Contact Shelley Greenhouse via email at capeyouthsailing@yahoo.com to place an order. Stop by and say hello at our Strawberry Festival booth or at our organizational meetings on the third Tuesday of

each month at 7 p.m. in the Cox meeting room of the community clubhouse.

Shelley
Greenhouse
Youth Sailing
Committee

Boating Safety Course

The friends of the Anne Arundel Trails will present a three-part Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course at the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, top floor meeting room at 161 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, on:

- Monday May 1, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- Friday May 5, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- Monday May 8, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

This course provides an overview of the rules and fundamentals of safe boating and will familiarize students with required safety equipment, as well as rules on who has the right-of-way and other helpful information.

Registration can be made in person at the B & A Trail Park office at 51 West Earleigh Heights Road, Severna Park, or by mail. A non-refundable and non-transferable \$25 program fee includes the book, certification card and instructional services.

Registration forms may be found at www.friendsofaatrails.org. For further information, contact the B & A Trail Park office at 410-222-6244.

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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.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Meggan Armiger	410-349-0439	Michelle Maurer	410-626-7079
Crystal Arp	410-626-7906	Mary Beth McAndrews	410-349-3728
Heather Carr	410-626-8712	Shannon McClanahan	410-626-8380
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
Phoenix Geimer	410-349-0945	Sydney Stultz	410-757-3014
Winters Geimer	410-349-0945	Zachery Treakle	410-349-0576
Margie Harper	410-626-8218	Lauren Tucker	410-757-6841
Stephanie Herrmann	410-757-9130	Lauren Velasco	410-757-4350
Amy Laking	410-349-8320	Madison Welder	410-757-1359
Lauren Lepthien	410-349-0221	Liza Wambugu	410-757-4551
Amanda Machen	410-349-8175	Lyndi Whitis	410-757-3651
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The Cape is Enforcing its Covenants Against Apartments

Since January 2004 the Cape Saint Claire Improvement Association (CSCIA) has successfully resolved over 60 violations of our Covenants and county zoning code. Violations have ranged from uncut grass to abandoned vehicles and junk in front yards.

The Cape has resolved these violations by notifying, encouraging and sometimes forcing various county agencies to enforce county laws and regulations. However, there are a number of problem properties in the Cape that the county has failed to adequately address.

The Cape has therefore initiated legal action against a handful of problem properties that have illegal apartments, junk and aban-

doned vehicles on their properties, or both. The property owners have been notified by our attorney that they have 30 days to resolve the violations of the Covenants or we will take legal action to enforce them. Four of the problem properties have apartments.

The Covenants of Cape St. Claire state that dwellings or residences in Cape St. Claire are for the occupancy of one family only. The rental of apartments in the Cape is therefore a violation of the Covenants. We have asked property owners who rent apartments to immediately take steps to inform their tenants that they will no longer be permitted to rent the apartment.

Furthermore, they must notify us about the actions they have taken and the date their residence currently used as an apartment will no longer be available as a rental unit.

Property owners who continue to rent an apartment in the Cape have forced us to take legal action to

enforce the Covenants in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. We will ask the court to have the property owners reimburse the CSCIA for our attorney's fees and costs. We are confident that our actions have been diligent and reasonable, and that we will ultimately succeed in court.

Every once in awhile I meet a Cape resident who justifiably assumes that the CSCIA does not enforce our Covenants. It's easy to make such an assumption because there are some problem properties in the Cape that have been problems for awhile.

The truth is that the CSCIA has been quietly and methodically resolving the vast majority of Covenants violations, while building a solid case to resolve particular violations in the courts.

Resolving these problems takes time, but the CSCIA has the will and the means to ultimately resolve them. As we do so, we'll make the Cape an even better place to live.

Submitted by Covenants Chair
Matt Puglisi

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WANTED: Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival Princess

Are you a Cape Resident? Are you a young lady entering 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade in the fall of 2006? Are you active in your community? If you are interested in representing the Cape as this year's Strawberry Festival Princess; please submit a 500-word essay entitled, "Cape St. Claire a Wonderful Place to Live" along with this form and a picture of yourself to: **Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival 1180 Summit Dr. Annapolis, MD 21409.** The essay should summarize what you like about the Cape and what you can contribute to make it a better place. All entries must be submitted by May 23, 2006.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

School you will be attending
fall/2006 _____

Phone _____ All contestants should be available to ride in the parade on Saturday, June 3rd, 2006 (rain date June 4th). Call Mary at 410-757-0593 with any questions.

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Cape Culture Club

Hello all you culture vultures!
The Cape Culture Club announces their first event!

We will be attending Spamalat at the National Theater July 5, 8:00 p.m. Ticket price is just \$50.00. A few tickets are still available. Come join us. Call Amy Juras at: 410-353-2123 or email her at: amy@househuntress.com.

Upcoming Culture Club events include:

- Fall-NY-Broadway
- Winter-Nutcracker
- Spring-Baltimore Musical Production

In Between-Drama of our choice to be announced.

Submitted by Amy Juras

Cape Folk

"If you don't know where you are going you will probably get lost and eaten by a lion." The HouseHuntress

You may have seen the quirky little Jim Hunt logo of "The HouseHuntress", resplendent in safari gear, sporting binoculars, with an enigmatic Mona Lisa smile gazing at you from local magazines.

Amy Juras, aka "The HouseHuntress" is no newcomer to our community, it's been her passion for over twenty years. We even hear that when she was introduced by a friend to her husband Mike, (who has lived in the Cape himself for some thirty years and whose parents also own property here), the conversation went something like, "Amy, this is

Mike, who lives in Annapolis. Mike, this is Amy, she wants to live in Annapolis!" And when the wind changed, as in all good Fairy Claire stories, Amy got her wish, the boats got docked and the dog got to swim Ad infinitum.

Amy Juras loves this area and while she's originally a Northern Virginia girl from Olde Towne Alexandria, her family kept a boat in Annapolis and sailing was a childhood staple. Needless to say, her love of the salt air and the Annapolitan lifestyle, where everything evolves around sailboats, crabs and all things nautical was deepened even further when she discovered Cape St. Claire. Educated in Georgetown Day High School and Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, Amy spent her junior year

(cont. on page 12)



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Amy Juras, AKA the HouseHuntress,
will be featured in the upcoming HGTV-The House Hunter Show.
Stay tuned or email Amy - Amy@HouseHuntress.com - to find out when it will be airing.

You will see first hand what it is like
to hunt for houses with the huntress!



Cape Folk (cont. from page 11)
abroad where she attended La Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Columbia studying Spanish and music. She earned a BS degree in Psychology and minored in Spanish.

Before settling on real estate as a career, Amy was a technical recruiter in the Washington D.C. corridor for nineteen years. Amy told Cape Folk that following the post 9/11 industry slump she became disenchanted with recruiting and realized there were many similarities between being a recruiter and a realtor.

"With both," she says, "you have to be a good listener, find out what the motivation is for the move.

"Negotiating skills are critical — being able to put a techie in the job

or the family into a house both involve top priorities in people's lives and I like making a difference."

Amy told us that contrary to popular belief a career in real estate is not "quick money." It is an expensive business and while it might appear to be as simple as showing a house, getting an offer and walking away, there are tremendous expenses for licensing, advertising and the investment of time itself. In her first year, it was not unusual for her to work over eighty hours a week.

In answer to our real estate questions, Amy said, "In this present market, which really has changed since the fall, the biggest selling points would be "move-in-ability." Most families have two people working and don't want to spend the time or money changing the carpet, appointing the walls and patching

the ceilings. If your house is clean, neutral and fairly updated it is going to sell faster and for more money. Buyers are paying for convenience!" The Cape, she maintains, has come a long way since she moved in twenty years ago, with the construction of more modern homes. The Cape's water privileges are excellent, the beaches and parks are well maintained, our schools attract families and we have a real sense of community, citing that you see people you know not only at the soccer field but in the shopping center every time you visit. It really is, Amy believes, rather like the old TV Show "Cheers", where "everybody knows your name."

Amy told us that interest rates have risen, thus slowing down the market somewhat. When Amy

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bought her first house here the interest rate was 8.5%, down from 18% in previous years. (Note from Cape Folk: When this writer bought her first house in the Cape in 1977 it was 7.5% for a five bed room rancher which cost less than a fully equipped Toyota Avalon today ... and the times they are a changin'.)

Amy says it has been a sellers market for the last thirty months, adding, "Whereas sellers smiled when they got four offers on their house on the second day, the smile soon faded when they went to purchase their next home and found they were competing and paying above the asking price. So as the market changes, fast sales won't be the norm – but there will be more selection."

Outside of work, Amy Juras loves to ski, sail, swim and sing. She has performed with the An-

napolis Chorale. She also loves theater and has spearheaded "The Culture Club" whose members are going to "Spamalot" at Washington's National Theater on July 5th.

A volunteer for school fund-raising, Amy is also involved with the ALS Foundation (Lou Gehrig's disease), believing it to be the most insidious disease of our time, which she fervently hopes will become curable in her lifetime.

Amy has three children; Erica, 15, Rachel 11, and Alex, 9. The family also includes a Chesapeake Bay retriever named Magothy.

If she could change anything in Cape St. Claire it would be the club house! She feels we deserve something structurally beautiful that we can be proud of. (This very project is currently under consideration by our association as Cape Folk goes to press.) And if Amy

Juras could wave her magic wand, she'd like all of the junked cars, abandoned campers and neglected boats to disappear permanently.

See Amy at work in an upcoming HGTV spot called "The House Hunter," which she told us was not only a lot of fun to participate in, but will feature Cape homes as well as property on the Little Magothy. Needless to say, Cape Folk are always making news! Enjoy the spring.

For more information on our neighbor, you can contact Amy Juras at her website www.househuntress.com.

Submitted by Mandy Johnson
Mandy Johnson is the Director and Founder of The Enehey Group, an Investigative Research Company specializing in human rights issues and pre-trial investigation.

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The Garden Club

Tulips! Oh lovely tulips are everywhere, just as the daffodils are fading. The azaleas look like they will bloom any day. What a lovely spring it has been so far, except for the lack of rain! The Garden Club is pleased to announce the Yard of the Month winners for April:

- * *Area 1:* The Clairs
1308 Cape St. Claire Road
- * *Area 2:* The Ferrises
1016 Mountain Top Drive
- * *Area 3:* The Schillers
109 Linden Drive
- * *Area 4:* The Joneses
1246 Pinehill Drive
- * *Area 5:* The Lords
718 Mount Alban Drive

Congratulations to these industrious gardeners on their lovely yards! The Garden Club met in March for its annual Anniversary Dinner, celebrating our founding 31 years ago. We had a lovely evening of fellowship over a delicious potluck supper, and a good time was had by all. Our members will be spending April preparing for our annual **plant sale**, which will fall this year on **Saturday May 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** (rain date Sunday May 21).

This is your last reminder, so mark your calendars! Join us for a wide selection of colorful annuals, vegetables, herbs, and perennials, and come meet some of your neighbors while you shop!

The Garden Club met on April 18th to hear Lew Shell speak on managing pests in the garden. He talked about various plant pests, such as scale, aphids, and beetles, and then moved on to the bane of the Cape: moles and voles. Yes, the two critters are different, in many ways. Moles, irritating as their trails through our grass can be, do not actually eat our plants. It is the voles that munch our tulips and the roots of our hostas and other plants. He discussed ways to deter voles with crushed gravel or oyster shells around our plant roots and bulbs, and ways to trap voles with buried coffee cans. Unfortunately, where there is one vole, there are dozens, as they live in large colonies. So protecting one's plants is probably the easiest solution. Our

members brought lots of questions and even a suffering houseplant, and we all learned a tremendous amount. Future topics include growing fruit trees and berries (at our June 20 meeting), lawn care, minor bulbs (smaller and less well-known than tulips and daffodils), poisonous plants, and water gardening. Sound intriguing? Keep your eyes on the Caper and the signboard, and join us at any meeting. All are welcome!

As I said last month, we are still seeking **plastic pots** so the Garden Club can reuse them for our plant sale! Any plastic pots that you have leftover can be dropped off at **1138 Little Magothy View**. Any questions can be directed to Lori Ann, at 410-757-8331, or Audrey, at 410-757-5175. Thanks very much for your help!

Submitted by Audrey Lengbeyer



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Baby's Name _____ Birth Date _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

We The Parents/Guardians agree to participate in the Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival Parade with our Berriest Baby. We understand judging is based on the Strawberry Theme Decorations. We agree to meet at the CSC Fire Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2006 for the Parade and Contest Presentation immediately following at the Festival on the main beach. Rain Date June 4, 2006. I hereby give my child permission to participate in the parade and the festival activities. I will accept full responsibility for my child's safety.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Beach Bums Since moving to Cape St. Claire last September; I, along with my dog, cat and daughter have found ourselves at the beach nearly every evening. I've been impressed with the lack of litter left to flush into the Bay by our neighbors and friends that frequented the beach in the off-season. But the warm sun one Thursday in April evidently brought quite a few others out to the beach — along with their trash. Although it seemed that much of it was washed in with the tide; it was clear that many folks decided to add to the pile, rather than clean it up.

Luckily, my dog had no need for her baggie that day, so I filled it up with cups, cans, straws and such. Let's all help to restore our Bay and keep our beach beautiful by reminding our neighbors and kids that there are plenty of trash cans available at the park.

Submitted by Dana Raymond

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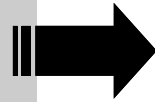
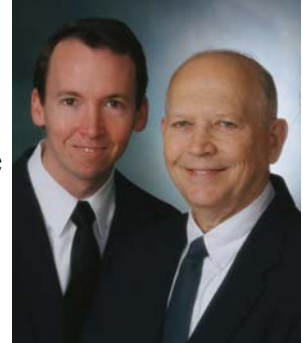
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