

# Oyster Harbor News

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2011

[www.oysterharbor.org](http://www.oysterharbor.org)

## President's Report

As my first newsletter of this Presidency, I would like to share with you the measures by which I feel my year would be a success.

The first big activity is the repair of the bulkhead giving access to Oyster Harbor. I will be disappointed if this project is not completed for the start of the boating season next year. We are at the final stage of permitting and the contractor is ready to start work within 2 weeks of the permit being granted. We will not be able to give folks with boats in the creek a lot of notice so I urge anybody who wants to get out of the creek before next spring to move their boat soonest.

The next big activity is continuing to improve water management in the community. The board has pretty much done all we can do on the community property and swales so for further improvement we need to consider private properties.

We have had a study carried out (financed by a National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant, hurrah!) that has identified our problem areas. The report is on our website and can be found at <http://www.oysterharbor.org/pdf/BiohabitatsOysterHarbormemorandum101011.pdf>. I urge you to read it as it is full of good ideas on how we can better manage storm water runoff. In many cases issues are caused because one homeowner has solved a local problem by moving the water onto an adjacent property. The best way to solve a water management problem is to address it at the source. Through our Green Committee Chairpersons and Watershed Stewards, Kim and John Boris, and our Past President and Watershed Steward, Norman MacLeod, we have a wealth of practical experience in the use of rain barrels, rain gardens and use of native specialized water tolerant plants to absorb water where it drops. I have tasked our Green Committee to approach homeowners in the problem areas to see if there are ways the community can assist homeowners

to make improvements for the benefit of all. This is of course voluntary but I'm sure that everybody approached will see the benefit of being part of the 'greater good'.

An ongoing problem is the beach and Shore Drive. The prevailing wind is causing sand to build up at the Shore Drive side of the beach. We can't keep building higher and higher walls so I'm looking at alternative approaches. I'd also like to make it easier for folks in wheel chairs to have access to the gazebos. Another problem we have is erosion of the

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## President's Report (cont.)

shoreline on the empty lot at 3317 Shore Drive. We are in discussions with the owner to encourage him to protect his lot so we don't end up with our road being compromised. This needs to be resolved within the next 6 months as the shoreline is eroding rapidly.

My last focus is recycling. I'd like to see twice as much recycling as normal trash across the community. We are very fortunate to live in Anne Arundel County which is a pioneer in recycling. Pretty much everything but food, electronics, batteries and engine oil can be recycled. There is no need to wash anything - the County will sort that out. I put out 2 yellow bins and 1 small bag of trash per week. We can all recycle more!

Finally, as we approach the holiday season I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Ian MacKinnon  
President, OHCA

Oyster Harbor Citizens Association

PO Box 3174

Annapolis, MD 21403

410-280-8999

[manager@oysterharbor.org](mailto:manager@oysterharbor.org)

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Newsletter:

Kathy C. Burk, Chairman of the Board

Ian MacKinnon, President OHCA

April Kohles, Editor

Direct comments to  
[manager@oysterharbor.org](mailto:manager@oysterharbor.org)

Contents of the newsletter posted on the OHCA  
website: [www.oysterharbor.org](http://www.oysterharbor.org).

## Save the Date

**Thursday, December 8. 7-9 p.m.**  
**OHCA Board Meeting**

Anne Arundel County Public Library  
Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch  
269 Hillsmere Drive

**Sunday, December 11. 4:45 p.m.**  
**Santa Run**

Corner of Washington & Shore Dr.  
Bring a new, wrapped toy with a tag stating  
the age and gender of the gift to support the  
less fortunate kids of Anne Arundel County.

**Thursday, January 12. 7:00 p.m.**  
**OHCA Board Meeting**

Anne Arundel County Public Library  
Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch  
269 Hillsmere Drive

**Tuesday, January 24. 7:30 p.m.**  
**OHCA General Meeting**  
**Annual Budget Meeting**

St. Anne's School of Annapolis  
3112 Arundel on the Bay Road

**Thursday, February 9. 7:00 p.m.**  
**OHCA Board Meeting**

Anne Arundel County Public Library  
Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch  
269 Hillsmere Drive

**Tuesday, February 28. 7:30 p.m.**  
**OHCA General Meeting**

St. Anne's School of Annapolis  
3112 Arundel on the Bay Road

## Annual Budget Meeting

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.** for the Oyster Harbor Citizen's Association Annual Budget Meeting to be held at St. Anne's School of Annapolis. This important meeting is to approve the budget that is submitted to Anne Arundel County and we must have a quorum of residents to have the approval. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

## **Green Committee** ***No Mow Zone & Swale Plans***

Committee Chairperson: Kim Boris

Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave their time to assist with the Watershed Steward Academy projects. We accumulated 63.5 service hours and had a blast! We planted a no-mow zone on County property at the entrance pump station (875 square feet) and a native garden at Fishing Creek Park (200 square feet). A no-mow zone is a conservation landscape that is designed to be mowed once or twice a year. It reduces turf, which is shallow-rooted, and replaces it with more deeply-rooted plants that help to soak up polluted water. It also helps to reduce non-native plants. The rain barrels at the pump station are used to water the no-mow zone, helping to establish the plants and when needed during dry spells. Two rain barrels have been placed at the community shed at the Harbor Road lot as a demonstration area. Feel free to take a look and think about buying a few this springs. We will be posting informational signs at these project areas.

We have been working with a firm, Biohabitats, to assist with identifying areas of need where drainage is concerned. We walked through the entire community several times throughout the assessment process. Soil samples were taken in several locations and Biohabitats posed possible solutions to drainage concerns. The report can be viewed at <http://www.oysterharbor.org/pdf/BiohabitatsOysterHarbormemorandum101011.pdf>. The work done by Biohabitats was made possible through a National Fish & Wildlife Federation grant, which was a grant that was achieved at no cost to the community. Our next goal is to assist residents with educational seminars and to tackle one of the “hot spots” that has been identified.

The Shore Drive swale plans will be done in time for a spring review before the community meeting in February. Planting the swales will serve several important purposes. The plants

will help to filter or “clean” the water, thus reducing pollution, before it enters the Bay. They will also help to soak up some water, provide food & shelter for wildlife, & improve soil structure over time. They will additionally increase the curb appeal of Shore Drive. We will, as always, be looking forward to your comments.

Kim Boris  
Green Committee Chair

## **Piers & Harbors** ***Winter Boat Care***

Committee Chairperson: Eric Epstein

As we think about winter & its coming cold, wind, & potential snow, now is the time to think about your boat(s).

Here are a few tips & recommendations from OHCA Piers & Harbors for putting your boats up for the winter.

- Boat US & many other boating magazines have winterizing tips for boats. If you don't have a winterization checklist that works for you, one of these sites makes a great reference for information.
- OHCA is NOT responsible for damage from ice, snow, storm surge, or other effects of nature.
- OHCA is also not responsible for damage done to your boat if a piling or dock breaks free or is pulled up during the winter.



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- OHCA has bubblers that we place to protect the docks from freezing. They are not intended to protect boats & may not be placed where they will aid in keeping ice from forming around your boat.
- Winter with its storms, dramatic temperature changes, winds, & storm surges can be very hard on boats. Storing your boat properly can significantly increase the life expectancy of your boat.
- Kayaks & Dinks in the racks should be secured, covered, & locked if you are going to leave them out for the winter. Please make sure you have an OHCA sticker on them.
- Ultraviolet rays don't stop in the winter & will continue to do their worst to fiberglass, canvas, & sails on your boat.
- A very limited number of small boats can be stored for the winter by the Fishing Creek dingy racks. Please don't block other boats in.
- No boats on trailers may be stored in the parking lots or by the dingy racks. These are for small row boats, sail boats, & kayaks only.
- Don't trust that any ice around the Oyster Harbor community can hold the weight of a person.
- Be careful on docks & walkways as ice forms faster near water, on docks, & on boats than on the ground.

Here are some slip specific notes for all slip holders:

- If you are not planning to renew your slip in April 2012, please let us know as soon as possible.
- If you have not paid for your slip yet, please get your payment in *immediately*. Collection letters will be going out in December. If you have not paid, you will lose your slip in 2012

& any rights to rent another until you are paid up.

- If you tie your boat to a dock or bulkhead without paying for a slip, OHCA will begin enforcing removal of boats, beginning this winter.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you notice damage to a pier, please let Claire or myself know.

We wish everyone a safe & warm winter.

Eric Epstein

Piers & Harbor Committee Chair

## Santa Run 2011

Come on down to the corner of Washington and Shore Drive on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 p.m.** with an unwrapped gift to support the Annapolis Santa Run. Firefighters from the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County will be collecting new toys for those less fortunate. This is an annual event that Oyster Harbor has generously supported in the past. Please join us for this worthy cause & a bit of "holiday cheer".



## Meeting Minutes on OHCA Website

Not able to attend the last community meeting? Interested to know what the Board is addressing at its monthly meetings? Official minutes from both the community meetings and Board meetings are posted on the OHCA website after they are approved. Visit [www.oysterharbor.org](http://www.oysterharbor.org), select the "Our Association" tab at the top of the page, then select "Documents" from the drop down menu. Minutes dating back to 2006 are available.

## OHCA Newsletter & Email Blasts

OHCA newsletters are issued quarterly and email blasts are issued several times per month. Missed an Email Blast? No problem. They are all archived online on this page: [oysterharbor.org/emailarchive.html](http://oysterharbor.org/emailarchive.html)

## OHCA Car Stickers



Show your Oyster Harbor community pride by displaying an OHCA decal on your vehicle. Decals were provided to each resident by mail late last year. The decals are non-permanent and should be placed in the lower left hand side of rear window. They serve a few important purposes:

- To help maintain security at our community beaches and piers by alerting security guards to community vs. non-community cars.
- To help Block Captains monitor community parking lots and alert residents if cars need to be moved.
- To show the rest of Annapolis our Oyster Harbor community pride!

If you did not receive a sticker, contact Claire Dillon at 410-280-8999 or [manager@oysterharbor.org](mailto:manager@oysterharbor.org).

## Our Environment

If you haven't checked out the "Our Environment" tab on the Oyster Harbor website ([www.oysterharbor.org](http://www.oysterharbor.org)) yet, you need to! On this page you will find relevant and useful information on how we can protect our environment with just minor modifications to our daily routines. It is also full of great pictures of our residents doing their part in helping Oyster Harbor be bay-friendly. Learn about the unique initiatives being done right here in Oyster Harbor from planting rain gardens to growing oysters. Many of our residents are working hard to better our environment, if you are interested please visit the web page and see how you can get involved!

## Receive Your Newsletter by Email

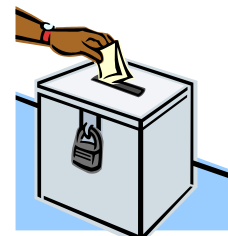
Help us save money and trees. If you would like to have your newsletter emailed to your inbox rather than receive a hard copy in the mail, please email [manager@oysterharbor.org](mailto:manager@oysterharbor.org) with your name, address and email where you would like the newsletter sent.

## Election Results

Thank you to all the community members who came out to the Annual Meeting and Elections held on September 27, 2011 at St. Anne's School of Annapolis. The following residents were elected to serve as Association Officers for a one-year term:

President	Ian MacKinnon
Vice President	Kathy Shaffer
Recording Secretary	Arlene Rankin
Corresponding Secretary	April Kohles
Association Treasurer	Naomi Perry
Financial Secretary	Hank Lobe
Special Tax Treasurer	Patty Jenkins

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The following residents were elected to serve on the Board of Directors for a three year term:

Calvin Kidd  
Jane Miller  
Nancy Plaxico

Thank you to these individuals for dedicating their time and energy to serve the Oyster Harbor Community Association. A big thank you to those residents that came out for the meeting and demonstrated their interest in making Oyster Harbor a wonderful place to live. If you are interested in becoming involved in the community, please contact Claire Dillon at [manager@oysterharbor.org](mailto:manager@oysterharbor.org)



## Natural Christmas Tree Recycling Tips

Once the holidays are over and you are taking down your decorations, please keep the following in mind as requested by Anne Arundel Waste Management Services.

- Natural garland, wreaths, and Christmas trees are yard waste and will be picked up at curbside. They are chipped into mulch, a valuable soil covering.
- Please remove tree stand, tree bags, metal ornament hangers, and all decorations. Cut trees over four feet in half so that the tree will fit into the contractor's truck.
- Natural garland, wreaths, and Christmas trees will be collected on your regular recycling day.
- Put your natural garland, wreaths, and Christmas trees at the curb before 6:00 a.m. on your normal recycling day or bring your items to any of the convenience centers.

## Be a Courteous Neighbor: Slow Down!

Concerned about speeding and traffic patterns on Arundel on the Bay Road? Interested in meeting with Anne Arundel County representatives to address issues and develop solutions? An OHCA traffic committee is being formed to work with the county to make our streets a safer and slower place. Contact Kathy Shaffer at [kathykinney2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kathykinney2000@yahoo.com) if interested in attending upcoming meetings.

Please, for the sake of our children, slow down when traveling on Oyster Harbor Roads, especially Arundel on the Bay Road.



## We Need Your Current Contact Information

In addition to a quarterly newsletter, Oyster Harbor provides updates to residents via email blasts to your inbox. These blasts are only done when necessary to communicate important upcoming events, security alerts, safety concerns with regards to bad weather or other important information that the Board feels residents should be aware of. They are minimal so your inbox is not clogged with unnecessary emails.

If you are interested in receiving these updates, please email [manager@oysterharbor.org](mailto:manager@oysterharbor.org) with the email address where you would like to receive OHCA information. Your privacy will be maintained and your email will not be shared with any outside parties.



*Happy Hanukkah*

## Board of Directors

**Kathy Burk, Chair**  
*Term expires September 2012*  
1354 Washington Drive  
410 280-1359  
[kathycburk@verizon.net](mailto:kathycburk@verizon.net)

**Calvin Kidd, Vice Chair**  
*Term expires September 2014*  
1333 Harbor Road  
410 267-0711  
[calvin.kidd@fms.treas.gov](mailto:calvin.kidd@fms.treas.gov)

**Winston Dunkley**  
*Term expires September 2013*  
1327 Washington Drive  
410 216-9656  
[winstond44@hotmail.com](mailto:winstond44@hotmail.com)

**Bob Eyster**  
*Term expires September 2012*  
1251 Creek Drive  
410 267-6261 H / 410 570-1154 C  
reyster1@comcast.net

**David Ginsburg**  
*Term expires September 2013*  
1335 Fishing Creek Road  
410 268-4310  
[djginsburg@comcast.net](mailto:djginsburg@comcast.net)

**Jane Miller**  
*Term expires September 2014*  
3357 Thomas Point Road  
410 263-5938  
[jills11@verizon.net](mailto:jills11@verizon.net)

**Linda Nivens-Epps**  
*Term expires September 2012*  
1430 Howard Road  
410 263-0717  
lnivens64@aol.com

**Nancy Plaxico**  
*Term expires September 2014*  
3303 Shore Drive  
410 280-1972 H / 615 495-5903 C  
[nancy.plaxic@healthways.com](mailto:nancy.plaxic@healthways.com)

**Kathy Shaffer**  
*Term expires September 2013*  
3364 Arundel on the Bay Road  
443 458-5216  
[kathykinney2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kathykinney2000@yahoo.com)

## Officers

**President**  
**Ian MacKinnon**  
1314 Washington Drive  
410 295-9416  
[incolumis.on.the.bay@gmail.com](mailto:incolumis.on.the.bay@gmail.com)

**Vice President**  
**Kathy Shaffer**  
3364 Arundel on the Bay Road  
443 458-5216  
[kathykinney2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kathykinney2000@yahoo.com)

**Recording Secretary**  
**Arlene Rankin**  
3370 Arundel on the Bay Road  
443 837-6292 H / 301 538-6353 C  
[arankin58@hotmail.com](mailto:arankin58@hotmail.com)

**Corresponding Secretary**  
**April Kohles**  
3273 Arundel on the Bay Road  
410 263-0760  
afkohles@peoplepc.com

**Association Treasurer**  
**Naomi Perry**  
6530 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
202 723-5238 / 410 263-3610  
[josephbutcher@mrisc.com](mailto:josephbutcher@mrisc.com)

**Financial Secretary**  
**Hank Lobe**  
1242 Creek Drive  
410 263-1143 H  
[hanklobe@earthlink.net](mailto:hanklobe@earthlink.net)

**Special Tax Treasurer**  
**Patty Jenkins**  
1349 Washington Drive  
410 626-1766  
[pattyjenkins1@comcast.net](mailto:pattyjenkins1@comcast.net)

## Committee Chairs

**Audit**  
**Hank Lobe**  
1242 Creek Drive  
410 263-1143 H  
[hanklobe@earthlink.net](mailto:hanklobe@earthlink.net)

**Beaches**  
**Dan Craig**  
3301 Shore Drive  
410 268-7929 H / 202-420-8481 C  
[dan.nmn.craig@gmail.com](mailto:dan.nmn.craig@gmail.com)

## Committee Chairs (Con't)

**Benevolence**  
**Winston & Carolyn Dunkley**  
1327 Washington Drive  
410 216-9656  
[Winstond44@hotmail.com](mailto:Winstond44@hotmail.com)

**Communication/Web**  
**Elvia Thompson**  
1346 Washington Drive  
410 990-9025  
[info@stellarpresentations.com](mailto:info@stellarpresentations.com)

**Community Property**  
**Bob Eyster**  
1251 Creek Drive  
410 267-6261 H / 410 570-1154 C  
reyster1@comcast.net

**Compliance**  
**Linda Nivens-Epps**  
1430 Howard Road  
410 263-0717  
lnivens64@aol.com

**Green Committee**  
**Kim Boris**  
1262 Creek Drive  
410 280-0434  
[boris.boris@verizon.net](mailto:boris.boris@verizon.net)

**Piers & Harbors**  
**Eric Epstein**  
1413 Ellis Road  
410 575-4001 H / 703 362-2018 C  
[eric@epstein.bz](mailto:eric@epstein.bz)

**Reclamation**  
TBD

**Recreation**  
**Charlotte Schneider**  
1244 Creek Dr.  
239-298-2445 C / 443-949-8409 H  
[charlotte\\_cs@yahoo.com](mailto:charlotte_cs@yahoo.com)

**Roads**  
**Kathy Burk**  
1354 Washington Drive  
410 280-1359  
[kathycburk@verizon.net](mailto:kathycburk@verizon.net)

**Security**  
**Winston Knight**  
1363 Washington Drive  
410 263-0590 H / 202 744-1815 C  
[Wknight564@verizon.net](mailto:Wknight564@verizon.net)

Post this page in your home for quick reference – or access online:

[www.oysterharbor.org/board&officers.html](http://www.oysterharbor.org/board&officers.html)

Updated: October 3, 2011

**Oyster Harbor Community Association**  
**PO Box 3174**  
**Annapolis, MD 21403**

Prsrt Std  
US Postage Paid  
Annapolis, MD  
Permit 5



**Are you putting out more recycling than trash? You should be.**

**All of us can recycle. More.**

Oyster Harbor resident Robb Fish, a recycling program specialist at Anne Arundel County Waste Management Services, has written us an article all about recycling. See it on our website: [www.oysterharbor.org/recycle.html](http://www.oysterharbor.org/recycle.html)

Recent surveys at the landfill have shown that at least half of what is thrown away COULD be recycled. Recycling makes good environmental and economic sense. Recycling is an easy way to save energy, reduce pollution, save money and take better care of our environment.

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.

**Make the right decision: Recycle!**

*PS – Recycle this newsletter after you read it. It will be posted online.*