



Happy New Year to All

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all of you from Coconut Grove, Florida!

I would like to thank Gerri Smith for her hard work and dedication to our community for the past four years as President of the Board of Directors. Since her resignation, we have managed to fill our Board positions with the addition of Carleen Petterson and Phil Meredith.

Following the November 5, 2012 Board Meeting, with the full slate of Board members present, we elected our new officers. As your new President, please know I will do my best to maintain Shearwater's reputation as the best place to live on Spa Creek. Your Board members' contact information is on the last page of this and every Newsletter.

Even though I am cruising with my husband this winter and we will be away until Spring, I will always be in contact via email and cell phone. I even attended the November 5 and December 17 Board meetings via cell phone. Rest assured that even though I am not physically around this winter, I will stay on top of issues and business will be conducted as usual. I am very happy that we have a full Board to back me up, and I am especially thankful for Linda Lawrence, Treasurer, and Jonathan Lewis, Vice President, who are both worth more than their weight in gold and will manage any situation that requires immediate response.

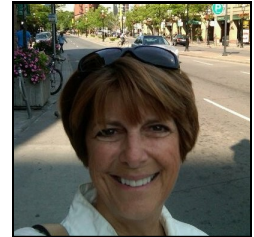
To keep you informed of the status of the Engineer's RFP for our deck replacement project, it has been received by the Task Team and is being reviewed for accuracy and content. It should be in the hands of the Board of Directors for review prior to the February Board Meeting, where it will be discussed and voted on. When approved by the Board, it will then be sent to contractors for bids.

Please read this entire issue of your Newsletter to learn about ongoing projects and issues that you need to be aware of. Thank you, and I wish each and every one a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2013.

Frances Higgins

Shearwater Board President

P.S. I hope to see you at the February 18, 2013 Board of Directors meeting.



Frances Higgins



## Board News

The Board held regular meetings on Monday, November 5, 2012 and on Monday, December 17, 2012. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 18, 2013. Full, approved minutes and reports are posted on our website, [www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com).

### **Treasurer's Report— Linda Lawrence**

A summary of our finances which is posted on the Shearwater web site every month shows how we are doing relative to our General Operating Budget for the fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>), as well as the amount spent and remaining in the Reserve Fund. The November 30, 2012 Budget Report indicates that our General Operating expenses are slightly below the budgeted amount by about 3% which is a good thing. The General Operating income is also about the same percentage below the budgeted amount though this will be corrected in January when the annual marina fees are received. In other words, so far so good in FY 2013!

There's also good news regarding the Replacement Reserve Fund which, for the first time in quite a while exceeds \$315,000. Other members of the Board will probably tell you that that's due to my continual nagging about approving unbudgeted expenses. Although true in part, we now have extremely good looking tennis courts thanks to the very professional resurfacing job by All Pro Courts – in addition to a newly installed bench on these courts thanks to the generous donations of three Shearwater owners. We have also contracted with an engineering firm (ETC, Inc.) which has recently submitted recommendations for deck replacements and a draft Request for Proposal to be used to solicit contractor bids based on these specifications. And now, to quote Phil Hatchard's report from a year ago: "the BOD is considering various ways to raise enough money to complete the balance of the [deck] work ... in order to put this project behind us."

Best wishes to you all for a healthy and happy 2013!

**Pool—Julie Kane** No report submitted—waiting for Summer!

**Architecture—Rainette Bannon** No report submitted

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### **Marina—Eric Petterson**

On January 4, Skip Smith announced his resignation as co-dockmaster. He has served the community very well during his tenure and the association will miss his contributions. During the last two-plus years, he and Eric Petterson have made significant contributions to the community as co-dockmasters in their management of the marina facility. Eric will continue as the sole dockmaster at this time and will be meeting with the marina committee to decide upon future plans.

Currently the marina has seven available GCE slips, but zero kayak or dinghy spaces available. There are wait lists in place for both kayak and dinghy spaces, with two folks on the list waiting for a kayak space and six folks on the dinghy list. The dockmaster is still working to resolve the issue of size and/or weight restrictions on the dinghy floats in an equitable and fair manner to all involved.

The marina systems were winterized on schedule, with no issues discovered, other than the need to replace the water shut-off valves at several slips. There are no significant marina maintenance issues outstanding at this time. Future projects being explored include improving the kayak launching facility, as well as investigating the affordability of power washing and sealing of the docks every other year.

### **Landscape Committee—Ron Faulkner**

The winter tree trimming is being scheduled and will take place soon. All other winter pruning has been done. The oyster shell paths have been tidied up, and plans are being worked on for new Spring planting. The Landscape Committee is pleased with the look of the grounds and we appreciate all the compliments we have received. We are still looking for a volunteer or two to help out, so if you are interested in working with the Landscape Committee, please let us know.

## **Important Reminders from your Board**

It has come to our attention that some folks in Shearwater may be paying too much for Comcast cable. We would like to remind all residents that the condo fee pays for basic cable service through Comcast, so you should not be charged for basic service on your bill. If you have added Premium Channels, HiDef TV, or other services, you would pay for those services only. Please check your Comcast bill and if you are paying for basic service, call Comcast Customer Service.

**Attention Pet Owners**—Please be a responsible dog owner and ***pick up*** after your dog. Always walk your dog on a leash and carry extra bags. Please be a responsible cat owner and keep your cat inside your unit. Cats are not allowed to roam the property and use the landscaping as a litter box. Thank you!!!

## What is your DOG trying to tell YOU

By: John Wadsworth, MS

This time of year brings short, dark, cold days. Add some snow and freezing rain and you pretty much just want to stay inside by the fire. However, your dog has a different idea. He still has the need to smell, run, play, and work and when those activities slow down or even stop, your dog will find ways to get you engaged.

This time of year always brings cases to the behavioral center of owners going mad with their dog's "attention seeking behavior". Now all of us engage in some attention seeking behavior whether it is to be given hot soup when we do not feel good or to bark at our owners as if to say "hey, haven't talked with you for awhile, is everything still good?" Both are perfectly acceptable forms of communication when kept within reason. A stark contrast would be to demand that your spouse leave work to make you soup or your dog pawing and biting at your leg to be petted when you are engrossed in a conversation. Both behaviors can be tempered with a little planning and understanding.

When your dog gets bored from lack of exercise and stimulation they will quickly take matters into their own hands (paws) so to speak. But what you have to remember is that your dog will quickly learn what works and what does not work according to how you respond to their actions. If, because it is cold and you rather not go out to work with your dog, you give into behaviors that were once considered unreasonable, then you will get even more of the unwanted obnoxious behavior. Consider this example: It is a cold and rainy night, what would it hurt to allow your dog to come up on your new couch? "Just this once". I think we all know the answer to this one. Tomorrow, when the sun is out and a bit warmer, guess where your dog will be. You will tell him off, he will act out, and we are off to the land of bad behavior. Some dogs will start to look you right in the eye and bark continually, while some will steal things and swallow them to get that attention back. What we have done is used "positive reinforcement" to create unwanted attention seeking behavior. Even your reprimands are giving your dog the attention he got when you allowed him up on the couch.

Attention seeking behaviors can reach serious and clinical proportions but that is not the purpose of this discussion. We are talking about episodic behavioral changes brought on by seasonally reduced exercise and stimulation.

### Common Types of Attention Seeking Behaviors

- \*Barking more than usual or reactively barking at every noise they hear outside
- \*Whining. Some dogs will just stand in the middle of the room and whine for no apparent reason.
- \*Vomiting. This generally occurs when the dog is experiencing associated anxiety secondary to the attention seeking behavior.
- \*Feigning Lameness. What better way to get you attention than faking injury
- \*Chasing lights or shadows. We see this particularly in dogs that have experienced laser stimulation when they were Puppies
- \*Snapping at "imaginary flies"

### What do we do about it

The main principle behind treating attention seeking behavior is to ignore the behavior, remembering that any attention (negative or positive) will be rewarding the dog for said behavior. Now I know this is tough, and it will probably intensify before it gets better, but your dog will eventually lose interest and stop the behavior.

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We often use a “bridging stimulus” to hasten our results. A bridging stimulus is a signal or cue that announces a particular consequence. The actual stimulus could be a clicker, a piano key, or even a clap. The noise is used when the dog is engaging in the unwanted behavior, to signal that you are about to completely withdraw your attention, perhaps even leave the room. You must then follow up after issuing the cue. It must always signal the withdrawal of your attention or your dog will fail to make the association. What bridging stimulus does is focus your dog’s attention on what is to follow as a result of his behavior, exactly the opposite of what he had planned. Attention behavior will mitigate more rapidly if a bridging stimulus is used rather than if just the withdrawal of your attention is employed on its own without such a signal.

There are many reasons why dogs develop attention seeking behaviors but we are focusing on seasonal changes that restrict activity and stimulation. So in addition to preventing the unwanted behaviors we have to ensure that our dog’s lifestyle is meeting all their needs. Some suggestions:

\*Is your dog getting enough exercise? A minimum is about 20-30 minutes of aerobic exercise per day. You may try speed walking with your dog to maximize the 20 minute walk.

\*Is your dog eating a sensible diet? Do not feed your dog high performance food if his activity has decreased for the winter. Talk with your attending veterinarian before changing your dog’s food.

\*Is your level of communication with your dog adequate? You should be reviewing your Foundation Obedience work a few times per week. Try keeping your dog’s attention on you for increasing amounts of time. Aim for about an 80% obedience compliance rate.

\*Is your dog being rewarded with your attention, petting, praise, whatever, by doing something that you like? If not readjust your strategy.

Does your dog have a job? If not try to develop breed specific activities. Examples: You could hide treats so that hunting dogs could “hunt” them down. Small terrier type dogs can chase a toy or ball into a box as if it were a rodent in a hole. A working breed dog could enjoy a rousing game of hide and seek in the house.

## **Conclusion**

Dogs that display attention seeking behaviors are generally needy and sensitive individuals and are probably in some emotional conflict. Quite often just ignoring the behavior and filling the time with stimulating and tiring activity is enough to get your dog to relax and await the coming of SPRING.

Editor’s Note: John Wadsworth is a Dog Behaviorist and owner of Companion Dog Behavioral Center, which is a veterinary specialty practice where he treats every kind of behavioral disorder as well as Foundation Obedience and other programs to interact with your dog. He has offices in Skippack Pa., and soon to come, Annapolis Md. Visit his website at [www.companiondogtc.com](http://www.companiondogtc.com)

John and his wife and dog are new owners in Shearwater (5-A3).

## Shearwater Book Club

The Shearwater Book Club is always reading a variety of interesting books. We enjoy lively book discussions along with great food and other conversation. The Book Club meets the last Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm at a different member's home. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact Shirl Gauthier at [eastport.rower@gmail.com](mailto:eastport.rower@gmail.com) to find out where the next meeting is being held. The book selections for 2013 are:

January—Movie Night! We will discuss *Anna Karenina*, *Les Miserables*, & *Lincoln*

February—***Gone Girl*** by Gillian Flynn

March—***The Kitchen House*** by Kathleen Grissom

April—***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury

May—TBD

June —***Life of Pi*** by Yann Martel

July—***Defending Jacob*** by William Landay

August—***End of Your Life Book Club*** by Will Schwalbe

September—***The Presidents Club*** by Gibbs/Duffy

October—TBD

November—TBD

December—No meeting this month—Merry Christmas!

## New Annapolitans

If you are new to Annapolis, consider joining New Annapolitans. It's a vibrant social club formed to welcome new residents to the Annapolis area and to help them assimilate into the social, cultural and civic activities of the community. We hold regular meetings, each encompassing an informative, entertaining program of interest to the general membership. Members also organize and participate in a wide array of smaller groups centered on their special interests. These "Interest Groups" may change over time, but typically include book discussion groups; bridge and other games; couples gatherings; lunch, happy hour, wine tasting and dinner events; art, music, writing and needlework; walking, boating, golf, tennis and biking; cultural excursions; and charitable endeavors.

New Annapolitans is open to residents who have moved to the greater Annapolis area within two years of applying for membership, but then you may remain a member for as long as you remain current with dues. If you want to know more, call Shearwater residents Pat Duvall ([410-295-6589](tel:410-295-6589)) or Charlotte Featherstone ([410-280-5173](tel:410-280-5173)). View our website at [www.annapolitans.org](http://www.annapolitans.org).

## Resident News & Announcements

The winning boat for the Shearwater "Up the Creek" award was the TRAIN, which received three votes (we don't have the official name because it was a late entry into the parade). Receiving two votes was the LIGHT HOUSE. Receiving one vote each were the CHRISTMAS STORY, the CHRISTMAS TREE (the one with the marriage proposal), and MY WAY (Frank Sinatra theme).

Photo by Connie Cadwell



As you can tell, we only had 8 voting condos. Any ideas as to how to increase the participation for next year would be appreciated.



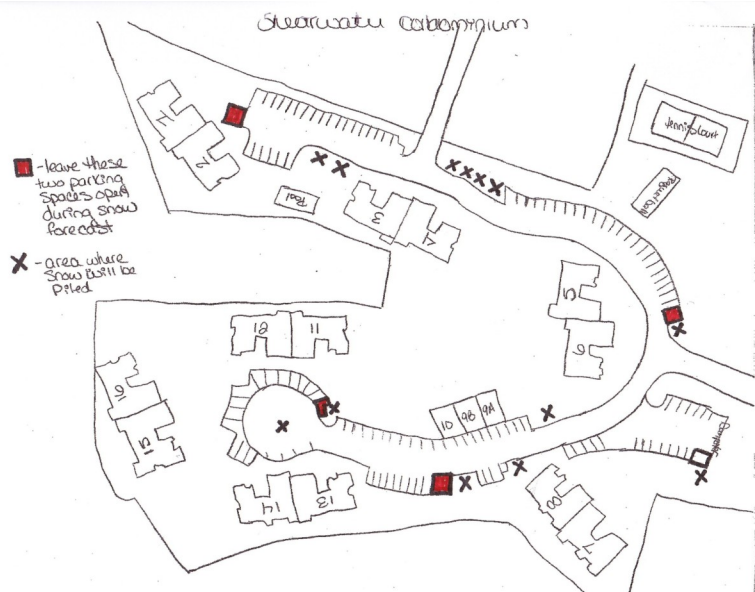
Dave and Julie Kane are very happy to report that their granddaughter, Emma, came home from the hospital on November 21. It was indeed a wonderful Thanksgiving for the Kane's!

Baby Emma on the way home from the hospital on November 21—

Has anyone lost a ring in the 14/15 building parking lot? Please email Christine de los Reyes at [delos-reyes.christine@gmail.com](mailto:delos-reyes.christine@gmail.com) The ring was found in September.

I will be appearing as John Hancock in Colonial Players' production of "1776" opening March 22. Details at [thecolonialplayers.org](http://thecolonialplayers.org). Danny Brooks, 5B3

The map to the right has been posted at all mailboxes, but it is included here for your easy reference. The four areas marked in red need to be kept clear in the event of heavy snow so that the plows can use these spaces to deposit the plowed snow.



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
EXECUTIVE SEMINARS  
2012-2013

**ANNAPOLIS**  
**Morning Session**

Theme: CIVILITY  
SYLLABUS

<b>January 22:</b>	Shakespeare	The Tempest, New Folger Library
<b>February 26:</b>	Chekhov	3 Stories: "The Man in a Case," "Gooseberries," & "About Love," Norton Critical Ed.
<b>March 19:</b>	Madison	The Federalist Papers #10 and #51, Signet Classic
<b>April 23:</b>	Lincoln	"Address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois, January 27, 1838" Dover
<b>May 21*:</b>	O'Connor	"Good Country People," Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, A Good Man is Hard to Find & Other Stories.

**Location:** McDowell Hall, St. John's College  
Rooms 12, 13, 14

**Time** 7:30 am. Continental breakfast  
8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Seminar

**Tutors:** Capozzoli, Russell, Salem, Tomarchio

**Program Manager:** Alice Chambers, 410 295-5544, [alice.chambers@sjca.edu](mailto:alice.chambers@sjca.edu)

**For more information on Executive Seminars:** [www.stjohnscollege.edu/Outreach/Executive seminars](http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/Outreach/Executive%20seminars)

*\*The final seminar of the session is on the Annapolis campus of St. John's College at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at President Christopher B. Nelson's home.*

**IN ADDITION.....Looking for a break this winter without leaving town? Enjoy an intellectual vacation (oxymoron??) at St. John's College's Saturday Seminars on February 16, 9-11:45 am.**

**Just click on** <http://www.sjca.edu/outreach/AN/satsem.shtml>



# Annapolis Calendar

[The Annapolis Bookstore](#)- Jan 01, 2013 to Jan 31, 2013. The Annapolis Bookstore will be host to a number of wonderful events during the month of January. Enjoy a good book, and something sweet or savory in the cafe. Come browse through the great selection of new, used, rare and always remarkable books in a unique and relaxing atmosphere located at 35 Maryland Avenue. For a detailed list of upcoming events please visit [www.annapolisbookstore.com](http://www.annapolisbookstore.com) or call 410.280.2339.

[Historic London Town and Gardens](#)- Jan 01, 2013 to Jan 31, 2013. Welcome to Historic London Town and Gardens where discovery and learning are daily experiences. Owned by Anne Arundel County and operated by the London Town Foundation, the 23-acre museum and park features history, archaeology, and horticulture. Explore the Historic Area, which includes the circa 1760 William Brown House, a National Historic Landmark, reconstructed colonial buildings, and an-going archaeological investigation in search of the "lost town" of London. Wander the eight-acre Woodland Garden of native plants and exotic species arranged along a one-mile trail before enjoying the seasonal Ornamental Gardens overlooking the South River. Please visit their website for a detailed list and description of the workshops and other exciting programs they will be offering throughout the month at [www.historiclondontown.org](http://www.historiclondontown.org)

[Sculptor David Hayes Exhibit](#)—Jan 11, 2013 to Feb 17, 2013. Sculptor David Hayes Exhibit at St John's Mitchell Gallery "A Sculptor of Space and Nature" exhibition will be featured at the Mitchell Gallery from January 11 through February 17. For more information please visit [www.stjohnscollege.edu/events](http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/events) or call 410-626-2556.

[St. John's College](#)—Jan 12, 2013 to Jan 13, 2013. Donna Hill Staton, member of the Maryland State Board of Education, will give a keynote address as part of a weekend of events honoring the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. For more information please visit [www.stjohnscollege.edu/events](http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/events) or call 410-626-2530.

[Queen Anne Birthday and Princess Tea Party](#)—Jan 26, 2013. Queen Anne Birthday and Princess Tea Party - The Princess Party will take place at the William Paca House, located at 186 Prince George St in downtown Annapolis, and is recommended for children between the ages of 3 and 10. Reservations are required and guests are encouraged to sign up early as the event has sold out the last two years. For reservations and additional information please call 410-267-7619 or visit [www.annapolis.org](http://www.annapolis.org).

[Barefoot in the Park](#)—Jan 27, 2013 to Mar 03, 2013. Neil Simon's classic 1960s romantic comedy Barefoot in the Park finds joy and laughter in young love as it follows a newlywed couple beginning life together in a 5th floor Manhattan apartment. Whimsical, free-spirited Corie and strait-laced Paul begin their marriage to numerous challenges in life, and love. The young couple must contend with a broken heater, a leaky skylight, a daily climb up several flights of stairs, an eccentric neighbor, and a mother-in-law who drops in often to 'help.' This play will delight singles and couples alike with a comedic look at the ups and downs of married life, and the ties of love and commitment that unite us all. For more information and show times please visit [compassrosetheater.org](http://compassrosetheater.org) or call 410-980-6662.

[Aaron Weinstein](#) - Feb 06, 2013. Aaron Weinstein: An Evening of Jazz Violin: "Live and on Film". This event features New York City-based rising star jazz violinist, Aaron Weinstein, with a night of live performance and film narration of rare film footage of jazz violin pioneers. For more information visit [www.mdhall.org](http://www.mdhall.org) or call 410-263-5544.

**For More**—Visit <http://www.visitannapolis.org/event-calendar/> for more activities this Winter in Annapolis!

**THEATER**-Check out Annapolis' community theater schedules:

**Compass Rose Studio Theater**, 1011 Bay Ridge Avenue (Eastport Shopping Center), Annapolis, 410-980-6662, [www.compassrosetheater.org](http://www.compassrosetheater.org)

**Colonial Players of Annapolis**, 108 East Street, Annapolis, 410-268-7373 [www.thecolonialplayers.org](http://www.thecolonialplayers.org)

**Annapolis Summer Garden Theater**, 143 Compromise Street, Annapolis, <http://www.summergarden.com>

**King William's Players, St. John's College's Theater Troupe**, Francis Scott Key Auditorium, <http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/events/AN/theater>

**Bay Theatre Company**, 275 West Street, Annapolis, <http://www.baytheatre.org/>

**Children's Theatre of Annapolis**, 1661 Bay Head Road, Annapolis, 410-757-2281, <http://childrenstheatreofannapolis.org>

# Celebrating the ANNAPOLIS LIFESTYLE

**January 2013**

Happy New Year Neighbors!

As we start the New Year and make resolutions, one thought is still at the forefront of many minds. Is this a good time to buy or sell a home. The housing market showed great improvement in 2012 and I am hopeful that the new year will bring an even better economy and housing market.

## Shearwater Activity for 2012

Active	List Price	DOM
2A1 Wonderful 1Bdrm/1.5Bath	\$425,000	55
7A1 2Bdrm/2Bath	\$500,000	244

Sold	List Price	Sold Price	DOM
5A3 - 2Bdrm/2.5Bath	\$419,000	\$360,000	125
15B1 - 2Bdrm/2Bath with great views	\$450,000	\$415,000	121
6B1 - 2Bdrm/2Bath	\$325,000	\$315,000	15
5A2 - 1Bdrm/1.5Bath	\$355,500	\$290,000	222

Rented	
14 A3 - 2Bdrm/2Bath Loft	\$2,250/month
3A1 - 1Bdrm/1.5Bath	\$1,700
8B3 - 2 Bdrm/2Bath	\$1,700
8B2 - 2 Bdrm/2Bath	\$1,650
8A3 - 2 Bdrm/2.5Bath Loft	\$2,500

Everyone has an ideal home waiting to become a reality. Why wait....love where you live!

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## Shearwater Community

*A great place to live!*



*Shearwater Mark* is a quarterly publication for the Shearwater Condo Association.

All residents are welcome to submit articles and photos for publication.

Please contact the Editor to receive your newsletter by email. Printed copies are available only on request.

*Did you know .....*

There's a residents' directory on our website? Check it out and be sure to send us your updates!

[www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com)

## Editor's Note

As you may have noticed on the first page of this Newsletter, I am now serving as President of your Board of Directors. While I really enjoying writing this Newsletter for you, I feel as though I am doing a little more than my share. Would someone step up and take over the publishing of the Newsletter for the Shearwater community, please? It's really not that hard and I will be happy to help you get started. It is only published four times a year. Please contact me if you would like to take over this job.

Thanks!!!

Frances Higgins  
Editor, *Shearwater Mark*  
[frances458@gmail.com](mailto:frances458@gmail.com)

## Shearwater Board Officers:

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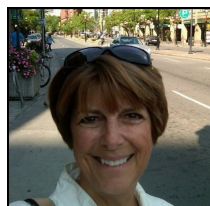
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## Your Newsletter Editor



The *Shearwater Mark* is produced for you by your neighbor, Frances Higgins. All residents are welcome to submit articles or photos for publication to:

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