



Your newsletter is available by email (be sure the editor has your correct email address) and it is also published on our website, [www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com).

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Peace, joy, love, prosperity...my hopes for all as we welcome the New Year. Shearwater will be celebrating 30 years in 2012 and I must say "she looks pretty good considering her age". However, it does take a little longer and cost a lot more to "keep her in the style in which she is accustomed".

As with everyone else in this difficult economy, your Board members have been wrestling with figures, projections, necessary repairs, and budgets -- both current and long-term. In the coming months you will be hearing more and be encouraged to enter into discussions as to how we can best accomplish the task of keeping Shearwater a valuable investment. Unlike other condominiums in Annapolis, we have been blessed with not having to face assessments. The only one I can remember involved the lift pump. Now, in order to complete the deck replacements in a timely fashion, after just completing the painting project, an assessment now must be considered. Alternatives would be a loan or a line of credit, both of which would incur additional expense with the interest added and both of which would bring an increase in monthly fees.

As your Board makes decisions and presents solutions, I hope you will make an effort to enter into the discussions as well as understand the reasons these steps are necessary. Also, election of Board members happens at the annual meeting in April – please consider volunteering your time and your talents.

Blessing to all in 2012.



Gerri Smith

Gerri Smith,  
Shearwater Board President



Back copies of the Shearwater Community Quarterly Newsletter available at  
[www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com) !!!

## Board News

There were Board meetings on October 17, 2011 and December 19, 2011. The next Board meeting will be held on February 20, 2012 and the Annual Meeting on April 16, 2012. All owners are encouraged to attend every Board Meeting. Full minutes and reports are posted on our website, [www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com). Following are updated Committee reports:

### **Treasurer's Report– Phil Hatchard**

A monthly Treasurer's report giving the status of both the operating and reserve accounts relative to budget is posted on the Shearwater web site.

As of December 31, 2011 we are half way through the Shearwater 2012 fiscal year. The major reserve fund project undertaken in the first half of the year was painting our buildings along with siding repair and replacement. The work was done by Palmer Brothers, who by most accounts did a fine job. While this was a major expense from the reserve fund, the balance will recover over the rest of the of the fiscal year, since the only other project planned for the balance of the fiscal year is the replacement of building entrance and pool building awnings.

The next major project for Shearwater is the completion of the deck surface and storage closet door replacements. The approach taken four years ago was to accomplish the project by doing it little-by-little over a series of years in order to lessen the strain on our budgets. The work was started four years ago, and we are now less than half finished and falling behind. As was communicated in a letter dated December 6, 2011, the BOD is considering various ways to raise enough money to complete the balance of the work in one more contract, in order to put this project behind us.

### **Architecture—Rainette Bannon**

No report submitted.

### **Landscaping– Ron Faulkner**

Landscape work will continue this month with the winter pruning and continuation of removal of old, unattractive plantings. The Committee is working on several projects which will be completed in the spring. We would like to thank you for the positive comments and the suggestions; keep them coming! With everyone's cooperation we can keep Shearwater a great place to live, and where we can enjoy our beautiful setting on the water.

We are still looking for a Committee member who will take the lead concerning the care of the trees on our property. Thanks to Eric's work the last couple of years, our trees are in the best shape ever. However, maintenance is necessary to keep them attractive, healthy, and safe. Won't you please step forward and volunteer for this important job on our Committee?

### **Pool—Tina Ligon**

Nothing to submit at this time. See you in the summer! Tina Ligon

### **Marina—Eric Pettersen & Skip Smith**

Marina Report for October includes: improved kayak storage to allow for more kayaks and the wait list is now fulfilled; renumbering the kayak racks; guest occupancy for October numbered 26 nights; we provided reciprocity slips to Eastport Yacht Club's Santa Maria Cup activity for 1 week for 3 boats; 1 boat in an LCE slip was removed by the slip owner because of a live-aboard occupant; completed designation/installation of marked emergency safety ladders; information was submitted for the procurement of pump out equipment

Marina Report for December includes: plumbing has been winterized and bubblers will soon be in place; the winner of our Up the Creek Award in the Eastport Yacht Club boat parade was "MRE Christmas", user letters, invoices, and up-to-date information requests will be mailed by Brodie Management in mid-January; 7 GCE slips are available; 1 kayak space is available.

## Meet our Building Captains

We are pleased to list our current Building Captains. Your Building Captain has volunteered to work on your behalf to make sure your building's maintenance is kept up to par. They keep an eye on the building exteriors and landscaping, and they report maintenance and repair needs to the management company. They also distribute notices to their building's residents either by placing them on individual doors or at the mailboxes.

Building 1—Linda Lawrence & Milton McMahan

Building 8, 9, & 10—Marcia Sandground

Building 2—Linda Lawrence

Building 11—Cordelia Richards

Building 3—Scott Ligon

Building 12—Ron Faulkner

Building 4—Rainette Bannon

Building 13—Phil Hatchard

Building 5—Skip Smith

Building 14—Maryan Cummins

Building 6—Mo Leinhard

Building 15—Shirl Nelson

Building 7—Pat Duvall

Building 16—Connie Cadwell

## Important Information from your Board

- **A reminder—** If you have a **true** emergency (i.e. water is flowing through the ceiling) when Brodie Management office is closed, there is a procedure to follow. The number to call is 410-377-1605. If you cannot remember this number, just call the regular Brodie number, 410-571-1400, and you will be directed to the emergency number. You will also find this information on the website. Brodie Management office hours are 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday.
- The recent building painting is now complete. Please call Brodie Management, 410-571-1400, if you see any issues such as paint bubbling, or if you were not at home when the doors were painted and want the 1/4" strip around your door painted. Please call as soon as you see any problem with our paint job.
- In 7 years, we will again be facing painting and siding repair on all of our buildings. It has been suggested that we investigate replacing the siding with Hardi Plank. Because this would be a very costly project, an assessment would be necessary. It would be necessary that a committee be formed to look into the costs for such a project so that we can be prepared for it prior to the next painting cycle. Please volunteer to head and/or serve on this committee. Please contact any Board Member if you are interested in working on this project.
- It has been suggested that two new committees be formed. The Quality Control Committee would oversee the work done on our buildings in conjunction with Brodie Management. The Nominating Committee would seek out potential candidates to serve as Board Members. If you are interested in doing your part to help keep Shearwater the best place to live on Spa Creek, please volunteer to head and/or serve on one of these committee.
- **Attention Pet Owners—** Please be aware that by our rules and regulations, pets are never permitted in the pool area or on the tennis or racquetball courts.
- Everything you ever wanted to know regarding Shearwater Condos is on our website: [www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com). Please take the time to look at the website frequently so that you stay informed as to what is happening in your community.
- *Shearwater Mark* is only available by email and on our website. We are saving the cost of printing, as well as the cost of postage to mail the newsletter to absent owners.

## 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 a different member's home. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact Shirl Nelson at [eastport.rower@gmail.com](mailto:eastport.rower@gmail.com) to find out where the next meeting is being held. Following are the book selections for 2012 so far:

January: *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris

February: *Three Weeks with my Brother* by Nicholas Sparks

March: *A Worn Path & The Whistle* (short stories) by Eudora Welty

April: *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

May: *Persian Girls* by Nahid Rachlin

June: *The Kennedy Detail* by Gerald Blaine

July: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

August: *In the Garden of the Beast* by Eric Lawson

September: *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson

## Meet your Neighbors

I am adding a new feature this quarter to your newsletter, Meet your Neighbors. I would like for you to submit a brief write-up to introduce yourself. Introductions will be published on a first-come first-served basis. Please send your write-up to me at [frances.higgins@comcast.net](mailto:frances.higgins@comcast.net). I will begin with "me".

My name is Frances Higgins. We moved full-time to Shearwater in July 2011 from Alexandria, VA, after being here part-time since March 2009. I have been married to Greg Balestrero, recently retired CEO of the Project Management Institute, since 1978. We have a daughter, Teresa Knox, who lives in Atlanta, GA; she is an independent CPA. We enjoy sailing (of course), reading, traveling, dining out, and making new friends while cherishing old friendships. I have followed three career paths in my working life. The first was Executive Assistant for several CEO's in a variety of industries, the second was the rewarding experience of full-time mother to Teresa, and the third was turning my passion, gardening, into a career...I studied horticulture and landscape design and worked my way up to Associate Designer for Scott Brinitzer Design Associates, an award-winning residential landscape design and architectural firm in Arlington, VA. Here at Shearwater, I have turned my spare time into what I hope is rewarding to everyone, not just myself, by working on the Landscape Committee, joining the Board of Directors, and publishing your Newsletter.

Please send me a little something about yourself for publication in upcoming issues. Thank you!

## Classified Ads

Classified ads placed by residents are free, so if you have something to sell, want to buy something your neighbor might have, or have an announcement, send your ad to your *Shearwater Mark* Editor, Frances Higgins, at [frances.higgins@comcast.net](mailto:frances.higgins@comcast.net)

**Know anyone looking for a nice sailboat:** Frances Higgins & Greg Balestrero have their 36' Catalina Sloop on the market! Go to:

<http://www.yachtworld.com/boats/1989/Catalina-36-2416570/Annapolis/MD/United-States> for details.

## Resident News

Pat Duval (7-A1) would like to refer her painter. Pat's friend, an interior decorator, referred Tony Miglazzo to her. He was neat, clean and did a wonderful job. He even did some extra things, and his price was considerably less than her other estimates. His number is 410-266-1190.

Welcome new neighbors: Aurore Trotignon-Thenes in 2-B1 and Christin Goodell in 15-B1

Connie Cadwell, 16-A1, submitted this photo of a glorious Fall sunrise taken from her deck:



## New Annapolitans

If any new residents are interested in joining a new comer's club, please look into the New Annapolitans. It is a women's 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 Greater Annapolis community.

New Annapolitans holds a general meeting once a month. There are numerous special interest groups, such as book clubs, golf, sailing, gardening, walking, biking, music, etc. The only requirement is that you must join within two years of moving to Annapolis, but then you can remain a member for as long as you remain current with dues. If you want to know more, call or email Shearwater resident Pat Duvall, 410-295-6589 or [PatCD0917@verizon.net](mailto:PatCD0917@verizon.net), or visit <http://www.annapolitans.org/>.



## Water Conservation

As many of you already know, we are facing a doubling of our water bill due to a huge rate hike by Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works. In an effort to keep our water bills as low as possible, the Landscape Committee had cut back on watering with the sprinkler system this past Fall and the sprinkler system has been shut down for the winter. The Landscape Committee is also looking into having a separate meter for the sprinkler system so that we are not billed sewage rates on water used for irrigation. And, as happens every winter, the marina water is also shut off.

In addition, we can all consider the following measures to reduce our collective water use in Shearwater. By cutting back on the amount of water we use by simply changing a few habits, we can reduce the amount of dollars used to pay for water. Remember, the water we use is billed through the Association. While we don't individually see or pay the water bill, it is included in our monthly association fee. It benefits us all if we conserve our water.

### In General:

- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
- Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- Report broken pipes and leaking outdoor faucets to the property management.
- When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your houseplants.

### In the Kitchen:

- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Instead, rinse when all of the dishes have been scrubbed.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly and save gallons every time.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap, then reuse it to water houseplants.
- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle to cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave for water efficiency.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up.
- If your dishwasher is new, set it to cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- Run your dishwasher only when full. You can save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Re-use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods to start a scrumptious and nutritious soup.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, put them in a houseplant instead of the sink.

### In the Bathroom:

- Replace your showerheads with a water-efficient models and save up to 750 gallons of water per month.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Replace older toilets with models that use less water. Or, insert a displacement device in the tank of your older toilet.
- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save water every time.
- Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
- Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
- When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.

### In the Laundry:

- Run your clothes washer only when full. You can save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Consider buying a new clothes washer that offer cycle and load size adjustments. Match the water level to the size of the load.



CONTINUING EDUCATION  
AND FINE ARTS PROGRAMS

St. John's College

SPRING 2012

## Register for seminars and fine arts classes at St. John's College.

For information on these classes—including weekend workshops, fine arts workshops, and seminars on classic works of literature, history, poetry—and more go to:

<http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/outreach/AN/cefa.shtml>

## St. John's College Executive Seminar Program

**Schedule of Readings, Executive Seminar Program, 2011-2012, Theme: HAPPINESS**

**September 2011 through June 2012**

Seminars in Annapolis run from 8-9:30 on fourth Tuesday mornings, preceded by a cold breakfast from 7:30.

An evening seminar is also available on the Wednesday before. All seminars doing the same readings in the same month.

Seminars at St. John's College are conversations inquiring into the meanings and wisdom to be found in the works at hand. The conversation begins with an opening question posed by a college faculty member, called tutor, not professor, as they don't profess, they inquire as a student along with their students (usually 15-18 per classroom). Although there is a theme, each seminar stands on its own, so missing one does not impede deriving meanings from the others.

The final seminar of the series is in the late afternoon and is followed by dinner with the College President at his home.

For more Information: [Alice.Chambers@sjca.edu](mailto:Alice.Chambers@sjca.edu) and say you were recommended by Chuck Trefrey.

# Annapolis Calendar

**Compass Rose Studio Theater**—Upcoming performances are *The Miracle Worker* (Feb. 10—Mar. 18), *Oliver!* (Apr. 27—May 27). Summer classes and workshops for students run June-August. Visit [www.compassrosetheater.org](http://www.compassrosetheater.org) or call 410-980-6662 for more information. Compass Rose Theater is located in the Eastport Shopping Center, next to Ah! Coffee.

**Black History Month**—Annapolis-wide, 410-267-8146, [www.annapolis.org](http://www.annapolis.org). African Americans have played a significant role in the history of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County for more than 350 years. What better time to explore their legacy and contributions than during Black History Month? Stop by Historic Annapolis Museum at 99 Main Street for an African-American audio tour, or trace the rich history of African Americans in Annapolis and explore their national and international impact with a guided walking tour. These are among the many events and activities that salute African-American heritage throughout the month.



**Annapolis Restaurant Week**—Monday, February 20 through Sunday, February 26. Participating restaurants in Historic and Greater Annapolis—[www.AnnapolisRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AnnapolisRestaurantWeek.com). Food lovers won't want to miss this seven-day dining extravaganza featuring two-course, fixed-price luncheon menus for \$15.95 and three-course fixed-price dinners for \$32.95 at some of the most popular restaurants in Annapolis. Nearly 40 restaurants are expected to participate in the annual culinary event that provides the perfect opportunity to sample new restaurants and enjoy old favorites in the heart of Maryland's capital city. Sponsored by the Annapolis Business Association, the fourth annual event provides a welcome opportunity for area residents and visitors to treat themselves to the award-winning cuisine that Annapolis is famous for -- all at a very affordable price.

**Capital Steps to Perform at St. John's College**—Mar 03, 2012. The Capital Steps, an irreverent musical-theater troupe from Washington, D.C., will perform in a fundraiser at St. John's College to benefit student aid. The show will include a lively review of songs and spoofs that ridicule public figures across all party lines. The performance, which will be followed by a reception with the performers, will be held in the Francis Scott Key Auditorium on Sat., March 3th. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Show time 8 p.m. For more information please visit [www.stjohnscollege.edu](http://www.stjohnscollege.edu) or call 410-972-4505.

**Ballet Theatre of Maryland Dancers' Gala**—Sunday, March 18, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Annapolis Waterfront Marriott, 80 Compromise Street, Annapolis, Admission: \$125/person or \$1000/table of 10. A popular event for the past ten years, the 2012 annual benefit dinner will feature a short performance by company dancers, music and a live and silent auction. For information, 410-224-5644, or [www.balletmaryland.org](http://www.balletmaryland.org)



**Maryland Day Celebration**—Friday through Sunday, March 23-25. Sites throughout the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Admission: free or nominal \$1 entry fee. 410-222-1805 or [www.marylandday.org](http://www.marylandday.org). Rediscover Maryland history with family and friends during a fun-filled festival highlighting the uniqueness of the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Local cultural and heritage sites open their doors to offer special activities and tours. Stroll through downtown Annapolis or visit Historic London Town and South County for educational tours, costumed re-enactors, art exhibits, kids' activities and more. Check out the website for a more complete list of participating venues.



**2nd Annual Annapolis Oyster Roast & Sock Burning**—Saturday, March 24, Noon to 4 p.m., Annapolis Maritime Museum, 723 Second Street, Annapolis. Admission: \$25/person; children under 12 free. 410-295-0104, or [www.amaritime.org](http://www.amaritime.org). Celebrate spring with a family-friendly feast of the Chesapeake's most cherished bivalve. Festivities begin with the annual sock burning and go on to include live music, shucking and cooking demonstrations, an oyster shucking contest and exhibits that highlight the importance of oysters to the health of the Bay and the area's unique maritime heritage. Enjoy plenty of oysters – raw, steamed, fried and grilled.

**Merle Haggard in Concert**—Monday, April 16, 7:30 p.m., Maryland Hall, 801 Chase Street, Annapolis. Admission: Tickets are \$73 and \$68 for MHCA members. 410-263-5544 or [www.marylandhall.org](http://www.marylandhall.org). Maryland Hall presents country music legend, Country Hall of Famer and Kennedy Center Honoree, Merle Haggard.

**Annapolis Book Festival at The Key School**—Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Key School, 534 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis. Admission: Free. 410-263-9231 or [www.keyschool.org/annapolisbookfestival](http://www.keyschool.org/annapolisbookfestival). The 10th annual Annapolis Book Festival at The Key School features nationally renowned authors including Daniel H. Pink, Evan Thomas, Kathryn Erskine, Iris Krasnow, Bing West and Tupelo Hassman. Celebrate reading among all ages with new and used book sales, panel conversations with featured authors, book signings, educational children's activities and family friendly performances by musicians and storytellers.



# Celebrating the ANNAPOLIS LIFESTYLE

**January 2012**

Happy New Year Neighbors!

As we start the New Year and make resolutions to keep our resolutions, one question is still at the forefront of many minds. Will the housing market and the economy overall improve in 2012? Now might be the Best Time Ever to Buy a Home .

## Shearwater Sales for 2011

<b>Active</b>	<b>List Price</b>	<b>DOM</b>
5A2 Wonderful 1 Bdrm/1.5 Bath	\$335,500	98

<b>Sold</b>	<b>List Price</b>	<b>Sold Price</b>	<b>DOM</b>
4B3 2Bdrm/2Bath with deeded slip	\$429,900	\$395,000	48
7B3 2Bdrm/2Bath with great views	\$399,500	\$385,500	48
1A Terrance Fabulous Views		\$962,500	

<b>Rented</b>	
12A2 - 1Bdrm/1.5Bath	\$1,725/month
3A2 - 3 Bdrm/2.5 Bath	\$2,650/month
14A3 - 2Bdrm/2.5 Bath	\$2,300/month
15B1 - 2Bdrm/2Bath	\$1,995/month



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If your property is currently listed with another broker, please disregard. This is not a solicitation.

## 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!

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

## Editor's Note

With the New Year comes new challenges. We are facing two major challenges: (1) possible assessment, and (2) upcoming Board vacancies which need to be filled.

Information regarding the assessment will come to you in the mail from Brodie Management. Please read this important information as soon as you receive it, and if you have any questions, please direct them to your Board. Please make a commitment to do your part in keeping Shearwater the best place to live on Spa Creek. Volunteer for a position on the Board of Directors or on one of the Committees. Whether you are new to the community or have lived here 30 years and served in the past, we need you and your expertise! Your Board has one goal in mind and that is to keep living at Shearwater at the level and quality we all expect.

Frances Higgins  
Editor, *Shearwater Mark*

### Shearwater Board Officers:

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### Committee Chairs:

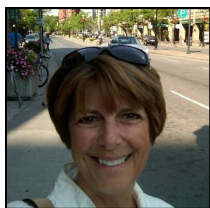
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### Your Newsletter Editor



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

[frances.higgins@comcast.net](mailto:frances.higgins@comcast.net).