



Bald Head Association

Island Report

Communication, Advocacy and Protection of BHI Property Values

President's Letter: *Year in Review*

~Joe Hawkins

Towards the end of each year, many of us take the opportunity to look back and take stock on what we've accomplished during the past 12 months. It's a chance to see where we've been, where we are and where we're likely to be in the future. I thought it would be interesting to look back at some of the Association's major activities during 2013.

First of all, no list could possibly highlight everything our amazing staff and volunteers accomplish in a year. Investigating the legal aspects of granting easements to our common areas, developing financial recommendations and building budgets, reviewing scores of home design changes, publishing the Email Blast and *Island Report* ... the list is endless.

However, there were a few activities that I believe warrant special mention.

The ARC reviewed about 150 individual architecture changes this year so far, including six new home constructions. This level of activity also corresponds to a sustained level of island-wide property sales.

Also, for the first time ever, BHA and the Stage II Association combined the management and support of our respective architecture review committees into a single office. While 2013 was initially a trial of this structure, we believe the results were very effective and we've agreed to continue this process next year.

This year also saw the start of our "Meet Your Service Providers" program. This program gives our members the opportunity to meet and talk with many different island service companies including rental and real estate agents, landscapers, cleaners, heating and air, painters, handymen and more. We're happy to see this program growing with new service providers and

more property owners attending each event.

Our Association Center complex received some much needed maintenance from "island service providers" as well. Perhaps the most visible part of the job was the long-awaited repair of the building's exterior and a fresh new paint job.



Another critical Association Center issue is our mortgage. This year we refinanced the mortgage and approved a plan to accelerate its repayment. Additionally, we successfully appealed the Center's listed tax-value, thus reducing our tax liability. Both of these actions will result in significant savings to the membership.

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BHA's Annual Meeting: January 25, 2014

Mark your calendar now to attend Bald Head Association's 2014 Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2014. It will begin at 9am and will be held at BHA's Association Center at 111 Lighthouse Wynd.

Traditionally, the annual meeting is an opportunity to hear from BHA representatives on the progress the organization has made during the past year. BHA also allows representatives of the other on-Island organizations to report their challenges and successes at that time. You can expect to hear from BHI Limited, the BHI Club, the Village of BHI, the Old Baldy Foundation, the BHI Conservancy and the BHI Chamber of Commerce.

At the meeting, the membership will also be asked to vote on two Covenants revisions being proposed by the BHA Board of Directors. The first revision aligns the notification period for Architectural Review Committee decisions with the Design Guidelines. The second involves the deletion of language regarding timeshares. More information on these Covenants change recommendations will be available in the annual meeting notice that will be mailed to BHA members by mid-December.

SAVE THE DATE

***Annual Smith Island Social
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014
6-9pm
BHI Club***

Watch for details soon!

Have You Moved?

Make sure you don't miss important information from BHA. If you have recently moved, please make sure we have your current address by calling 910-457-4676 x21 or emailing diane@baldheadassociation.com. Members can expect to receive packets for the 2014 Annual Meeting (being held January 25th) in mid-December and invoices for the 2014 annual assessment will be mailed out by January 15, 2014.

***Village of BHI Election Results***

According to Brunswick County Board of Elections, official results from the November 5th municipal election are as follows:

For Mayor:

Andy Sayre (incumbent) – 113
Larry Lammert – 77

For Councilman:

Joe Ridgeway – 154
Write-ins – 13*

Of the 48,569 Brunswick County voters eligible to vote, only 9,125 cast a ballot – a voter turnout of 19%.

Of the 241 BHI registered voters, 190 voted either early, by absentee ballot or on the day of the election – an impressive voter turnout of 79%.

Mayor Sayre and Councilman Joe Ridgeway were sworn in by Village Clerk Debbie Talbert at the November 15th Village Council meeting. Their terms expire in 2017.

**No individual received more than two votes.*

Letter to the Editor

As my 20 years as a property owner and nearly 6 years as a BHA board member have ended (due to the recent sale of my home) I find myself reflecting on how things have changed on the island over this time.

Of course we have seen growth in homes, infrastructure, and services. I note in particular, however, that in recent years we have witnessed a significant change in the way this community confronts problems and defines its future. We have and will continue to have disagreements and strongly expressed opinions but the dialog on island issues increasingly is controlled by responsible leaders who base decision-making on evidence, engagement, and cooperation.

At the BHA annual meeting last January I was struck by the fact that speakers from almost every organization noted collaboration with other entities as a key factor in their recent success.

In this regard I see the new Chamber of Commerce as a very positive development. This entity brings together the spirit of entrepreneurship both

commercial and social with an agenda to build a sustainable future for BHI. Here is purposeful, organized collaboration with powerful potential if it remains inclusive and broad-based in its membership.

Last winter's beach renourishment reminds us how much hard work underlies significant accomplishment. We owe village leadership a great deal in this regard. More effort lies ahead but we can see once again how much our island depends on and benefits from the contributions of smart volunteers working together, be they in official positions or working largely unnoticed behind the scenes.

Bald Head, with its multiple sources of organizational authority and its abundance of individual leaders, has struggled at times to harmonize all this talent to advance toward shared objectives. I truly hope and believe that you have found the right note and will make beautiful music in the time ahead as one community.

Jerry VanSant



Pick a Tree . . . Any Tree

Once again, the BHI Club will transport Christmas trees to the Island in early December. Simply pick out a tree from Stewart Hardware in Southport (8848 River Road SE) and request that the tree be put on the Club's truck. Trees will be delivered to the Island on Friday, December 6th and Friday, December 13th. Contact the Club at 910-457-7300 with questions.



BHI Club Hosts Toys for Tots Collection Site

The Bald Head Island Club will again this year serve as a collection site for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Help local children experience the joy of Christmas by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the BHI Club by Tuesday, December 20th and the toys will be distributed to Brunswick County children who have been identified by social service agencies, community organizations and local churches. Call the Club at 910-457-7300 for more information.



Village of BHI's Public Works staff work to prepare the transmarsh timber bridge's surface for a protective sealant. The bridge was closed from late October through Thanksgiving for staff to complete the work.

Village Chapel Prepares for Holiday Season

A **Christmas holiday concert** will be held on Sunday, December 15th at 4pm. Carol Sauder will direct the children's choir, "His Kids," as they raise their voices in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The **Angel Tree** will be in the Chapel foyer on Sunday, December 8th. Individuals are encouraged to select cards from the tree and purchase items for the local children.

The Village Chapel will hold **two Christmas Eve services** – one at 5pm and the other at 7pm. The 5pm service is geared toward families and will feature a short children's sermon. The second is a communion and candlelight service that begins at 7pm. There is no Christmas Day service.

Contact Pattie Caban at the Village Chapel at chapebhi@bellsouth.net or 910-457-1183 for more information on any of the Chapel's activities.

Year in Review continued from page 1

Additionally, because of an increase in non-member rental of the Center, the board is reducing the Center rental fee charged to members during 2014.

And last, a special topic ... flood insurance. The consortium formed by the Village, BHA, Stage II, BHI Limited and other island organizations did a great job educating our membership on changes to current regulations and monitoring flood insurance discussions in Washington DC. Although Bald Head's combined constituencies make up a very small part of those affected nationwide by the new law, we took action very early in the process. By urging our membership to contact your elected officials in Washington DC we, along with hundreds of other communities, have had an impact. We will continue to monitor the legislative process and keep you informed.

The list could go on forever. In this short space though, I could only touch on a few of the many events, projects, initiatives and activities our extraordinary staff and committee volunteers put together every year. For a much more detailed look at the "year in review" from all the island organizations, be sure to join us at the BHA annual meeting in January.

Regards,
Joe



A truck is filled with litter picked up by volunteers at BHA's recent Island-wide Litter Sweep.

Annual Litter Sweep a Success!

~Diane Mesaris, Co-Chair, Natural Resources and Beautification Committee

The morning of the October litter sweep was overcast, windy and very cool. The Natural Resources and Beautification Committee members were holding their breath concerning the anticipated turnout since there were other events taking place at the same time on the island. The Operations Building of the Public Safety Department was all set up with signup sheets, Wynd and Beach access maps, trash bags, gloves and grabbers in addition to hot coffee, hot chocolate, candy, cookies and gifts for the participants.

Shortly after nine o'clock volunteers started to arrive and **what a wonderful response** we had! Over 50 individuals came out to clean up the island and the weather cooperated with sunshine and warmer temperatures. The committee gave out flowers (pansies) for trash collected and everyone had a great time. Most of those who cleaned up one area came back and selected yet another area to canvas. School children were provided with "Community Service" certificates for their participation and even the four legged animals were given treats. We extend our thanks and deep appreciation to all who took part in cleaning up the Wynds and beaches. Our next Litter Sweep will be on Easter weekend, April 19, 2014. Mark your calendars and plan to join us to celebrate the holiday weekend.



Property owner Trisha Barnard makes holiday greeting cards during a recent class sponsored by BHA's Communication, Education and Recreation (CER) Committee.



BHA Christmas Tree for Old Baldy Auction

Deer Management Immuno-Contraception Moves to the Field

~Patrick Amico, *Conservation Biologist*

After a successful and impressive fundraising campaign by the *Friends of Bald Head Island Deer*, the white-tailed deer immuno-contraception program will begin field operations on January 6, 2014. This collaborative strategy for deer management is the first of its kind in North Carolina and involves partners: the Bald Head Island Conservancy, *Friends of BHI Deer*, the Village of Bald Head Island, the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, and White Buffalo, Inc.



The maritime forest of Bald Head Island is a globally imperiled ecosystem of extreme importance to the integrity of Bald Head Island. The structure provided by the canopy and understory help to hold the island together, mitigating erosion and protecting from damaging effects of tropical storms and nor'easters. If left unchecked, the deer population could contribute to serious damage to the forest by grazing at a rate the forest is unable to overcome. To preserve the health of the maritime forest, the Bald Head Island white-tailed deer population must be managed.

Immuno-contraception controls reproduction without killing deer. This technique is useful in areas like Bald Head Island, where populations are relatively 'closed off' and hunting is not a viable option. This January, 30 female deer will be vaccinated with a tested and EPA-approved pharmaceutical drug called GonaCon, which is produced by the USDA Wildlife Services.

The drug will be administered at dusk and into the night. Partners, including BHI Conservancy staff, will tranquilize deer along roadsides and at bait stations using anesthesia administered by a quiet, CO²-powered dart gun. Once the deer are immobilized the birth control medication is injected with a syringe.

From January 6th to January 12th, Bald Head residents may observe staff and partners administering GonaCon to deer on Bald Head Island. Safety for people, deer, pets and property is our priority and

no shots will be taken without full consideration of surroundings. White Buffalo, Inc., is the nation's leading expert in darting deer and has over 20 years experience. All animals will be handled according to American Veterinary Medical Association standards. For this first year, the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commissions' own vet will oversee efforts on site and throughout the project. Once the deer are tranquilized, a variety of physical health assessments will be made, including blood samples, to provide a detailed picture of the health of the deer herd on Bald Head Island.

This should be a moment of great pride for the BHI Community. Once again the island is leading the state in conservation that is innovative and effective. Many other communities around the state are carefully monitoring the success of non-lethal deer management. Although the drug is a well-established population control tool in other states, it has never been used in North Carolina. Putting together a partnership that started in the BHI community and involves state and federal agencies is a difficult barrier for success. By finding a consensus of stakeholders on Bald Head our state and federal agencies were eager to have the opportunity to evaluate this drug in North Carolina.

The BHI Conservancy will update the island residents as the project continues, with facts and results of the field efforts, through electronic newsletters, the *Island Report*, the BHI Conservancy's website and Facebook account. Please visit www.bhic.org/wildlife for more information and details about the darting protocol.





Jonathan Peele
Morgen Starnes
Josh Whitaker

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~ December 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 8:30 am Rev. Andi Woodhouse Methodist	2 Garden Club Christmas Greens 10:30 am Yoga 11:45 am (AC)	3 Pilates 9 am (AC)	4 Yoga 11:45 am (AC)	5 Pilates 9 am (AC)	6 Men's Bible Study 8 am ARC Mtg 9:30 am BHA Board Executive Session 1 pm (AC)	7
8 8:30 am Rev. Joseph E Buck, Jr. Baptist	9 Yoga 11:45 am (AC)	10 Pilates 9 am (AC)	11 Yoga 11:45 am (AC)	12 Pilates 9 am (AC) Chamber of Commerce BOD 11 am (AC) Chamber Christmas Party 5 pm	13 No BHA Board Meeting BHA Open House noon - 2pm Village Council 2:30 pm (AC)	14
15 8:30 am Rev. Bryan Wyatt Presbyterian His Kids Choir Holiday Concert 4 pm (VC)	16 Yoga 11:45 am (AC) BHI Club BOG 9 am (Club)	17 Pilates 9 am (AC)	18 Yoga 11:45 am (AC)	19	20 Men's Bible Study 8 am	21
22 8:30 am Rev. Tim Helms Baptist	23 No Yoga ARC Deadline for 1/3/14 mtg.	24 BHA Offices Closed Church Services 5 & 7 pm (VC)	25 BHA Offices Closed	26	27	28
29 8:30 am Maj. Ken LeBon Plans & Ops Chaplain Fort Bragg	30 Yoga 11:45 am (AC)	31	<div>Notes: AC (BHA Association Center) BHIC (BHI Conservancy) Club (BHI Club) VC (Village Chapel) PSD (Public Safety Operations Building)</div> <div>Standing Events: • Alcoholics Anonymous—Mon & Fri, 12 - 1pm, Association Ctr. Contact John B. at 454-9251 or sober.1.day.at.a.time@gmail.com • Knitting—A group of knitting enthusiasts meets every Wed at the Association Ctr., 9:30 - 11:30am</div>			

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