



## **Avalon Home and Land Owners Association**

### **AHLOA NEWS**

A service of The Avalon Home & Land Owners Association - Michael Matt, President  
January 2010  
Edited by B. Reynolds

### **AHLOA Website**

For some time the AHLOA website has been out of date and as a result has been under redevelopment. This process is moving along and we hope to resurrect the site early in the year. Members should look for an announcement that the site has been reactivated.

The new site will have links with the sites for other Avalon organizations. In addition we are including a member opinion facility and members will be getting PIN numbers to access this feature. Member surveys have given the Association important information on the opinions of our membership and we hope to continue these surveys electronically.

### **Boat Trailers**

Many complaints have been received in recent years about the number of boat and watercraft trailers on the streets during the busy summer months when parking spaces are at a premium.

As a result Borough Council unanimously passed an ordinance restricting the parking of these trailers on residential streets from June 1 through September 30 each year. This restriction applies to boat or watercraft trailers whether attached or not and regardless of whether a boat or watercraft is on the trailer, on any municipal, state or county roadway during this time frame.

In addition anyone who wants to park a boat or watercraft trailer on the street between October 1 and May 31 must "park in front of, and immediately adjacent to the curb or property line of the property owned by the trailer owner, or occupied by the trailer owner as a tenant under a written lease with the owner of the property."

Signs will be posted at the entrances to the Borough indicating these restrictions and a public awareness campaign will be initiated prior to the tourist season. Information will also appear on the Borough website.

### **Avalon Free Public Library**

The Avalon Library has once again been designated the "5 Star Library" status as one of the country's top libraries in the November 15th edition of *Library Journal*. The 5 Star rating was based on the statistical performance data collected for the year 2008 and is the second consecutive year for this top award recognition. "This rating is a reflection of how much the community values this library, and the hard work by staff members and library board trustees to make the library a cultural focal point in Avalon," said Norman Gluckman, library director.

The Avalon Library continues to exceed all expectations by substantially surpassing previous year circulation and number of patron goals. In 2009, circulation grew to approximately 168,000 check outs (up 22%) with almost 9,000 registered patrons (up 16%). In 2009, the library was able to return \$350,000 to the Borough of Avalon as a tax relief grant.

In 2010, the Bay-Atlantic Symphony will return for its fourth season of Symphony-by-the-Sea with two full concerts. The Bay-Atlantic Symphony has released a CD recorded at the July 18, 2009 concert (*1001 Nights' Entertainment*) and will be available commercially shortly at several locations in Avalon. Also in 2010, *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Scottoline will return to town to speak at The Avalon Library Summer Series. Please check the Website ([www.avalonfreelibrary.org](http://www.avalonfreelibrary.org)) for additional details on upcoming programs as they become available.

### **Avalon Beaches**

The two storms in October and November caused heavy erosion to the beaches between 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets and the beaches are in worse condition now than they were prior to the trucked-in sand beach fill project last spring. Damage also occurred as far south as 26<sup>th</sup> Street

Avalon and Sea Isle City are entering into an interlocal agreement to work together on a joint beach fill project to begin in April or May 2010 and to be completed by the end of June. The project calls for 500,000 cubic yards of sand from the borrow zone in Townsends Inlet to be placed on Avalon's beaches in addition to sand on Sea Isle beaches. A major benefit in the joint project is that the contractor's mobilization costs will be split between the two communities.

Additional permits will be required from both the Army Corps and the New Jersey DEP. Applications for these permits have been filed.

The bid plans and specifications for the two communities have been completed and merged. Bids are to be received in early January and will then be reviewed by the respective Councils.

The coastal areas of New Jersey were recently declared a disaster area by the federal authorities and at the end of 2009 FEMA set up an office in Cape May Court House to develop the cost of the damage that was sustained in these coastal areas. Based on the results of this evaluation a proportion of the cost of this beach work may be paid for by federal authorities.

## **Dune Vegetation**

There are several areas in the Avalon dunes where invasive, non-indigenous plants have developed monocultures to the exclusion of other plant materials. Most notable among this is Japanese Black Pine. At one time this species was looked upon as desirable for anchoring the back dunes. It has been noticed that the species is spreading and can now be found behind the front dunes. Monocultures have developed where desirable plants have been excluded, and there has been a build-up of pine needles and pine cones that could be tinder in case of fire. In addition, pine trees in New Jersey have succumbed to the effects of insects and disease, and if this were to spread rapidly the integrity of the dunes could be compromised. There are a number of areas where dead pines in the dunes will have to be replaced.

A program is being developed to forestall the effects of a loss of this vegetation by replacing Japanese Black Pine with indigenous vegetation that would act as a food source and habitat for wildlife. In 2010 a pilot study will be carried out in the vicinity of the 74<sup>th</sup> Street beach path to test the viability of the plan. Some trees will be removed, others limbed-up to allow newly planted desirable plants to grow. All work will be done by hand and no roots will be removed so that there will be something to hold the dunes together while the new vegetation takes hold.

The Borough feels that a proactive approach is necessary to avoid the need for massive replacement of vegetation should a sudden loss of pine trees occur.

## **Public Safety**

Police Chief David Dean has several things he would like to bring to the attention of Avalon property owners and guests. Statistics show that the majority of crimes in the Borough involve theft. The Chief advises that the public lock their doors when absent and cars when unattended. The major area of theft occurs in the stealing of bicycles and he urges people to put their bikes in a secure area when not in use, or to lock them if they are left unattended for a period of time.

There have been a number of incidents involving cyclists riding bikes on the sidewalk, especially in the business district. Cyclists are reminded that they are to follow the rules of the road and not to ride on the sidewalk. The Chief has indicated that the police will pay close attention to this situation in the future.

## **AHLOA Community Connections Program**

This first Community Connections Program was held out in April 2008 and proved to be very successful. A third annual Program is planned for April 10, 2010 in the Community Hall, 30<sup>th</sup> and First Avenue. The format will be the same as last year with various non-profit organizations having information tables. A list of "hot topics" is being developed and presentations will be made. Look for details in future Newsletters and on the Borough and AHLOA websites.

Dates to note on your calendar:

January 9 - Trustees Meeting 10:00 a.m. Avalon Senior Center, Guest Speaker is Tom Thornton, Borough Engineer on the status of beach replenishment.

February 13-Trustees Meeting 10:00 a.m. Avalon Senior Center, Guest Speaker is Rita Marie Fulginiti, Cape May County Clerk.

March 13 - Trustees Meeting. Guest Speaker is Dutch Dechert on the status of real estate business.

March 15 - Access to the beach by private vehicles ends.

Saturday, April 10 - AHLOA Third Annual Community Connections Program, Community Hall, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 8 - All- Avalon Yard Sale

Membership dues of \$15 for calendar 2010 are now payable. A reminder is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please mail your dues in the envelope provided to AHLOA, P.O. Box 21, Avalon, NJ 08202

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organization	Day	Time	Location
Council Work Sessions	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Regular Council Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays	Following Work Session	Borough Hall
Planning/Zoning Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
Environmental Commission	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Borough Hall
AHLOA General Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Senior Citizen Center
AHLOA Community Connections	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in April		Community Hall
AHLOA Annual Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August	9:30 a.m.	Community Hall
Chamber of Commerce	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	As announced
Community Library Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	4:00 p.m.	Library Meeting Room
Avalon, Lions Club	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays	As announced	As announced
Avalon Civic Club	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday (April-Oct.)	12:30 p.m.	Community Hall
Avalon Garden Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (Sept.-June)	9:30 a.m.	Community Hall
Avalon Senior Citizens	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (Sept.-June)	12 Noon	As announced
American Legion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	8:00 p.m.	Legion Hall (Stone Harbor)
Avalon Board of Education	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	School General Purpose Room