



The Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

AHLOA NEWS

Published quarterly as a service of The Avalon Home & Land Owners Association – January 2011

Michael Matt, President Edited by B. Reynolds

Emergency Numbers

Avalon's official website, www.avalonboro.org, now has a list of emergency contact numbers for the major utilities that service the Borough. Click on the "*Frequently Called Numbers*" link on the left hand side of the website for emergency numbers for Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, Verizon, New Jersey American Water Company, and Comcast. Other frequently called numbers in the Borough also appear on that page.

AHLOA Annual Meeting

AHLOA has invited Mr. Bob Martin, Commissioner of the NJ DEP to be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting on August 13, 2011. Watch the AHLOA website and Newsletter for additional details.

AHLOA Web Survey

The presence of signs on Avalon Boulevard west of the 30th Street Bridge has been a subject of debate. Critics claim that the signs give a negative appearance to the entrance to town. Proponents say they need some way to communicate their events.

Avalon Planning Board is considering the issues. AHLOA is part of an advisory group to Planning Board. AHLOA has gathered the opinions of members to formulate a position to present to Planning Board. Over 300 members completed the survey, which was conducted on our web site, AHLOA.com.

The results are shown here without comment. AHLOA has not considered what position it will take at this time. Thanks to those who took the time to take the survey. Please watch the site for a future member poll.

STRONGLY AGREE (70+%)	Agree	Disagree
11. Set and enforce standards for size and appearance	96%	4%
10. Do not allow the small signs (similar to election campaign signs)	91%	9%
6. Allow Avalon non-profit groups to advertise their events	83%	17%
2. The signs create a negative appearance issue	75%	25%
STRONGLY DISAGREE (70+%)		
9. Allow signs advertising events NOT being held in Avalon or Stone Harbor	4%	96%
4. This is a non issue. Don't waste time trying to fix it.	20%	80%
NEUTRAL (<70% EITHER SIDE)		
1. The signs are informative :	69%	31%
8. Allow signs for events held in Avalon OR Stone Harbor	66%	34%
7. Allow signs advertising Avalon recreational events, even if they are commercial activities	49%	51%
5. Allow other Borough signage for public safety purposes only	52%	48%
3. Prohibit ALL signs except legal traffic signs	38%	62%



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Property Reassessment

The Borough has recently conducted a property reassessment in the community. Avalon Tax Assessor Jeffrey Hesley and his staff conducted an in-house reassessment to reflect true market values. By statute, new property assessments must be filed no later than January 20, 2011. Final value notices will be mailed to all Avalon property owners no later than February 1, 2011. The deadline to file an appeal with the Cape May County Board of Taxation is May 1, 2011.

Public Safety

Within the last couple of months there have been a number of burglaries in Avalon, Stone Harbor, Ocean City and Middle Township. Most robberies occur at night. Flat screen TVs and electronics have been stolen most frequently. In many cases the alarm systems in the affected properties had been left turned off. Homeowners are urged to ensure that alarm systems are turned on, especially if the property will be unoccupied for some time. Police Chief, David Dean, has also requested that if anybody notices anything unusual to report it to the police immediately. It was also recommended that automobiles be kept locked.

Green Team Initiatives

Following the successful Green Fair, the team has focused on working with Borough Management in implementing the suggestions from the Borough Facilities Energy Audit that was sponsored and paid for by the State.

The Borough has applied for grant funding to finance various upgrades to Borough buildings that will result in energy conservation and reduced energy costs. Avalon is making an application through the State of New Jersey's Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program. The program affords local communities the opportunity to secure up to a total of \$50,000 worth of various energy efficiency upgrades that are implemented at zero cost to the municipality. The program makes \$20,000 available to New Jersey communities. Avalon will pair this effort with the New Jersey Clean Energy Program's "Direct Install" initiative. Together, the Borough will receive \$50,000 worth of various energy conservation upgrades in Borough buildings at zero cost to the taxpayer. The volunteer Green Team has prioritized the list of improvements into immediate, short term, and long term payback and benefit to the community. Many of the short term improvements will be financed with this grant funding. The improvements may include but are not limited to thermostats, exit signs, incandescent lighting, occupancy sensors and other energy conservation initiatives. Much of the work will be done during the first two months of 2011.



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In addition, the Green Team has planned and is preparing to start a water-saving trial program in 2011. This program will compare water usage on three adjacent and very similar Dune Drive Islands between 39th and 43rd Streets during the spring and summer months. One island will use the current grandfathered old sprinkler-head system; a second will be fitted with an under the soil drip irrigation system, and the third island will be fitted with a smart, weather-sensitive controller and advanced technology sprinkler heads. Each of the three islands will be covered with new sod and water use will be methodically measured by Borough employees. The Borough has received generous participation from private companies who will finance a majority of the project. This trial will be the first of its kind at the Jersey Shore and is already getting the interest of various organizations, including the New Jersey Irrigation Association. The project will enable the Borough to conduct a real time water use experiment under real weather conditions. The results of this trial will be available at the end of the summer and should provide valuable water saving information for the Borough as well as its residents.

AHLOA Community Connections Program

The first Community Connections Program was held in April 2008 and proved to be very successful. A Fourth Annual Program is planned for April 9, 2011 in the Community Hall, 30th and First Avenue from 10 :00 a.m. until noon. A list of "hot topics" is being developed and presentations will be made. Various non-profit organizations will have information tables. Look for details in future on the Borough and AHLOA websites and in the next AHLOA Newsletter.

Dates to note on your calendar:

January 8 - Trustees Meeting 10:00 a.m. Avalon Senior Center, Guest Speaker is David Rauenzahn, Superintendent, Avalon and Stone Harbor Schools. He will discuss the joint school operation.

February 12 - Trustees Meeting 10:00 a.m., Avalon Senior Center, Guest Speaker is Sue Keene.

March 12 - Trustees Meeting. Guest Speaker is Murray Wolf, Avalon Beach Patrol.

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

Saturday, April 9 - AHLOA Fourth Annual Community Connections Program, Community Hall, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, May 14 - All - Avalon Yard Sale

Membership dues of \$15 for calendar 2011 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



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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