



**WINTER 2005**

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - Al Rae**

I hope you were all able to take advantage of the warm fall we had this year. It has been wonderful weather in South Bethany and I believe has helped pay us back for the cool spring we had this year. Today, at the end of November, the temperature is in the high 60's and I still have on my shorts.

Good news! The Bethany – South Bethany Beach, beach replenishment project, contained in the Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water appropriations bill, has been approved with the U.S. Congress allocating \$3 million for the project. This funding will be coupled with matching funds from the State of Delaware and will provide our communities with strong protection from hurricanes and other weather events. Many residents from Bethany and South Bethany contacted Members of Congress from across the country urging their support. The next phase of the project is the real estate acquisition phase now under way. This phase requires 67 oceanfront property owners, in Bethany and South Bethany, to approve easements on beach property in front of their property for the project to proceed. All of these property owners have been contacted and to date 26 property owners have donated the necessary easements. The Towns of Bethany and South Bethany are hoping to have all 67 easements by January 2006.

A new issue that many SBPOA members have contacted me about is the request by Sea Colony to have the Delaware Department of Transportation eliminate the triangular shaped intersection at Route #1 and Pennsylvania Ave. This exit off of Route #1 going north is used by most South Bethany residents to enter Bethany Beach. We have just learned that this request has been withdrawn and that this issue has gone away. Perhaps this was because of the many complaints submitted to DELDOT.

Congratulations to Erin Butler for being voted the best lifeguard for 2005. He received \$200 from the SBPOA, and his name has been added to the plaque, in memory of Ian Saylor, that is displayed in the Town Hall.

We are in need of a volunteer who can head up the Bull Roast for next June. The task involves coordinating activities; with the caterer, set up crew, clean up crew and other activities. Please call Al Rae if you would be willing to serve.

The canal dredging project is still slowly moving forward. The Town of South Bethany has applied for a permit to dredge the canals and is awaiting approval from DENREC. A decision is expected soon. Once approved by DENREC the Town will prepare for bidding on the contract. South Bethany has received approval to place the dredged material in an existing disposal site located in the Assawoman Wildlife area.

Please have a great and safe year end holiday, and should you want to contact me regarding some issue please send an e-mail to [al.rae@verizon.net](mailto:al.rae@verizon.net) or call 537-9440.

Respectfully,  
Al Rae

## SURVEY RESULTS

Last spring a “Survey” questionnaire was sent to all South Bethany property owners. The Survey was a success and we thank everyone who participated for their help in sharing their opinions on the various South Bethany issues. As we stated in the Survey letter we have provided the South Bethany Town government with the survey results for their information and use. Additionally, your SBPOA officers are using the results of the Survey to take into consideration your comments in the operation of your SBPOA organization.

We would need to add an additional 20 pages to SHORE LINES to list all 24 questions (some of which had 30 possible sub answers) and a summary of the responses for each. Therefore we have elected to provide you with this summary of the key results.

### ➤ Numbers:

- Just over 1000 surveys mailed
- 316 responses were received back (32%)
- 84% of the responses were from members (266) of the SBPOA and 15% were from non members (50).
- 43% Of the 615 members of SBPOA this year responded (264).
- 16% from Full time residents and 84 % from Part Time residents

### ➤ General Results:

- Overall people liked the survey and thought it well intended.
- Many responders were not clear on the difference between the South Bethany Town government and our Association – SBPOA, with many thinking the SBPOA was a Town government function. Note – The SBPOA is not part of the South Bethany Town government but is an independent association of property owners and residents of South Bethany.
- Many responders thought the South Bethany Town government runs our Neighborhood Watch program. Note – The SBPOA began and runs the Neighborhood Watch program -although we coordinate closely with the Town police and elected officials for everyone’s benefit.

### ➤ SBPOA Performance:

- The responders felt that the SBPOA performed very well on Neighborhood watch, Telephone Book and Newsletter. They felt that we did average on Bull Roast, Town government information and activities, Assistance in Town Beautification, and the performance of the SBPOA officers. The responders felt that the SBPOA could do better on Meaningful programs and exchanges at meetings, Charities (many did not know what we did and some did not think we should do anything), and Social activities.
- Property owners want more information about South Bethany issues. Note - We will include more information of this type in issues of SHORE LINES. Note - You can get up to date information on many South Bethany issues at the South Bethany web site -<http://southbethany.org/bulletinboard.php>.
- Many people suggested that we send SHORE LINES and other communications by e-mail.
- Note - This issue of SHORE LINES is being mailed to members with no e-mail addresses, and by e-mail only to the 400 + members we do have an e-mail address for. This will save us a lot of money.
- For everyone receiving any e-mail communication from SBPOA. Please remember to share these mailings with your other co-owners and family. Forward the SHORE LINES newsletter to others.
- We learned that we could have done a better job in drafting the Survey questions:
  - Some were not clear resulting in a variety of answers which did not correspond to the same understanding of the question being asked.
  - Because of the way a few questions were asked it made the assessment of the resulting answers difficult to draw a conclusion. Such as in question 23, many questioned what definition of “aggressiveness in enforcement of town ordinances.” Is aggressiveness good or bad?

➤ Town Government issues:

- The biggest complaints about the Town government were relative to the lack of dredging of the canals, concern about beach erosion, the do not enter between 7 and 10 AM onto Black Gum and lack of play areas for children (there were however a lot of people who asked what the beach was for relative to the children play area).
- The most satisfaction in town performance came in the police department, the trash collection, property taxes, and emergency service.
- Average town performance was in getting information to home owners, services from the Admin side of town hall, follow up on requests for action, fair enforcement and aggressive enforcement of ordinances, providing owners with a voice in important matters, budgeting and finances, frequency and content of the Zephyr, code enforcement, traffic, parking, beach crowding, appearance of properties, rental taxes, road maintenance, dog litter, abuse of single family theme.

➤ On the yes – no questions the responders felt:

- Most responders felt that there should be a survey particularly on issues but also for skills. They were about 50 – 50 on an advisory group and on rating of the town government.
- They felt that the “Shoreline” should provide editorial space for both SBPOA and Town Issues.
- They were interested in developing a town history, however only 14 responders had data for a history.
- 60% of the responders felt that the SBPOA should attempt to develop and conduct a voluntary program to which it would invite owners who rent, realtors and new homeowners to learn about the town single family theme and South Bethany culture. It was about 50 – 50 on the development of a preferred realtor/renter list.

➤ Full time and Part time residents:

- Questions showed an insignificant difference of feeling between full time residents and part time residents. For example, summary scores for two questions are:
- Question #23 – “How would you rank the performance of the South Bethany town government over the past 3 years? Use a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest rating.”
  - Full time residents average score = 3.3
  - Part time residents average score = 3.2
  - All responses average score = 3.25
- Question #24 – “What do you feel are the most important problems facing the town and how would you rate the town’s handling of them? Use a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important and also best score for handling it.”
  - Full time residents average score = 3.44
  - Part time residents average score = 3.51
  - All responses average score = 3.46

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY NEWS, FROM THEIR WEB SITE <http://southbethany.org/> AND FROM LOCAL NEWS PAPERS**

- Beach Replenishment and South Bethany Canal Dredging – See Letter from President
- Assawoman Canal Dredging – UPDATE AS OF SEPT. 22, 2005. An onsite pre-construction meeting was held, September 21 with the Corp of Engineers and the various DNREC Divisions involved with the project to go over preparations required prior to actual dredging. Various trees and vegetation were identified for trimming and/or removal. This removal is planned for this winter. Spoil site preparations were reviewed with machine operators and should begin in October. Since actual dredging is limited to September 1 thru December 31 for environmental reasons, it won’t start until fall of 2006. UPDATE Dec. 2, 2005. Court rules in favor of DNREC and denies appeal by the Sierra Club.

- Special Election Sept. 24, 2005 - Election Results for the purpose of the proposed expenditure “ Not to Exceed” \$970,000.00 for building a new Town Hall and Police Station:  
For the Proposed Expenditure: 233  
Against the Expenditure: 44
- Beautification Committee – The town is negotiating with Ms. Chantelle Bouchard (was in charge of Bethany’s beautification program, now has her own consulting business) to prepare a layout to coordinate South Bethany’s flower beds and periodically tell the town if the beds are being maintained correctly.
- Donation to Waveland, MS – South Bethany has joined with other Sussex County Towns in donating to Waveland, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. As of Oct 14,2005 the total donation from all the towns had reached \$53,000.
- Other Topics of Interest – Visit the South Bethany Web Site, <http://southbethany.org/> , for information on topics such as; Underground Utility Studies, Realty Transfer Tax, Verizon’s Cell Phone Tower Proposal was not accepted, Tidal Flush Program, Offshore Windmill Project and presentation from Sharp Energy relative to running gas lines in new areas.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM 2005-2006** George Junkin, Chairperson

The Neighborhood Watch Volunteers have been very active this fall. There was a storm the end of October and high winds one day early in November that caused minor wind damage (loss of shingles, siding damage, screen damage) to a few houses, nothing serious was identified. The screens on at least one house were damaged by shingles from another house. Some houses had some erosion due to the high water, in one case enough so that they would have to jump over the chasm to enter their house. A replica lighthouse was rescued from the canal by one of the volunteers. If you have lost your lighthouse please call George at 302-541-5340. We had some very cold weather (about 20 degrees) for a few days at the end of November. One house was found with broken pipes. They had not turned off their water at the street and water was streaming from the broken pipe. After communicating with the owner, the Neighborhood Watch Chairperson turned the water off at the street connection, stopping further water lose.



### **DNREC ANNUAL COASTAL CLEANUP – SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17**

About 20 volunteers from South Bethany participated with more than 1,500 other volunteers to cleanup Delaware’s 97 mile coastline. The South Bethany volunteers cleaned up about 100 cigarette butts per volunteer and miscellaneous other trash along the South Bethany Beach. Each received a T-shirt for their participation. Pictured to the right are six of the volunteers from Neighborhood watch, who participated



**SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY BUILDING CAMPAIGN BEGINS:**

Just as the Bethany Beach area is changing, the South Coastal Library/Cultural Center is in the midst of change also. The growing number of residents who make Bethany and the surrounding area their year-round home has made it necessary to expand the many educational and recreational programs available to our community.

For the past 11 years, the mission of the South Coastal Library has been to function as a resource to the community, by providing current materials that fulfill both recreational needs and address topics of interest that support lifelong learning, an essential part of promoting personal growth.

Generous donations from community residents have allowed the Library to sponsor a variety of vital programs, including youth activities for toddlers to teens, concerts, artistic displays, book discussions, history lecture series, and writers' programs. Additionally, they have been able to provide equipment for the blind, purchase new computers, and deliver books to homebound residents. In order to continue with these programs and to increase their capacity to develop new ones, such as offering much-needed community meeting space, the plan is to expand the building space that is now available.

This year, the Friends of the South Coastal Library/Cultural Center are leading a campaign in support of the exciting change that will be taking place through the expansion of this facility. It is one change that will bring new energy and vitality to a region that continues to grow exponentially. How can we argue with that?

Your (tax deductible) gifts for the new library are needed. Contributions can be sent to:  
 Friends of the South Coastal Library, P.O. Box 1617, Bethany Beach, DE 19930-1617.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 12-14-05 SBPOA Membership meeting & Neighborhood Watch Luncheon
- 02-10-06 Town Council Regular Meeting
- 02-24-06 Nominating Committee for new officers
- 03-09-06 Town Council Regular Meeting
- 04-09-06 Town Council Regular Meeting
- 05-04-06 Neighborhood Watch Thank You Dinner
- 05-12-06 Town Council Regular Meeting
- 05-27-06 Town Election
- 06-10-06 Bull Roast
- 06-10-06 SBPOA Election/Installation of Officers - Approve SBPOA Annual Operating Budget

**SBPOA IS USING E-MAIL**

If you have not receive information from SBPOA by E-mail, please send an E-mail to [SBPOA2005@aol.com](mailto:SBPOA2005@aol.com) from the E-mail address that you would like us to use for sending mail to you. In the E-mail please include your name and South Bethany property address so that we can get your E-mail address connected to the correct person. Also tell your computer to accept E-mail from [SBPOA2005@aol.com](mailto:SBPOA2005@aol.com).

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Kathy Connor -**

<b>Balance – August 23, 2005</b>	<b>\$20,026</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
• Late Dues	260
• Misc.	10
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
• Storage Shed	995
• Neighborhood Watch Mugs	585
• September News Letter	552
• IRHS Dictionaries	250
• Life Guard Award	200
• Neighborhood Watch	149
• PO BOX Rental	36
• Misc.	10
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>2,777</b>
<b>Balance – November 29, 2005</b>	<b>\$17,519</b>

**Evacuation Route – South Bethany Area** – The Town’s Hurricane Evacuation route has been established by the county and verified by Chief Joe DeLoach who has driven the route. After getting to Kent Ave. (either through Cat Hill or from Jefferson Bridge Rd.) the route is well marked with the evacuation signs. It is tricky with all the turns; however it will avoid the congestion that is to be expected on alternate routes (route 26 from Bethany or 54 from Fenwick Island). It may be a route you would want to use during summertime congestion also.

	Distance
Start - State Route 1 and Evergreen Road. (McDonalds)	
1: Drive Northbound RT 1 to Jefferson Bridge Road	0.8 miles
2: Turn Left onto Jefferson Bridge Road and continue to Kent Avenue	0.3 miles
3: Turn Left onto Kent Avenue and continue to Beaver Dam Road	1.6 miles
4: Turn Left onto Beaver Dam Road and continue to Parker House Road	0.6 miles
5: Turn Left onto Parker House Road and continue to Beaver Dam Road ( <b>QUICK RIGHT TURN</b> onto Beaver Dam Rd.)	0.1 miles
6: Follow Beaver Dam Road to Peppers Corner Road (Powell Farm Rd. – Rt. 365) (Crossing Central Avenue and then Substation Road at Stop Signs)	2.6 miles
7: Turn Right onto Peppers Corner Road and continue to Roxana Road (Roxana Road – Rt. 17) (There is no street sign for Peppers Corner Road)	0.6 miles
8: Turn Left onto Roxana Road and continue to Daisy Road	1.1 miles
9: Turn Right onto Daisy Road and continue to Pyle Center Road (Pyle Center Road – Rt. 20)	1.4 miles
10: Turn Right onto Pyle Center Road and continue to Vines Creek Road (Pyle Center Road becomes Armory Road at stop sign. Cross Omar Road at stop sign)	4.1 miles
11: Turn Left onto Vines Creek Road (Vines Creed Road – Rt. 26)	
<b>Total Est. Distance: 13.2 miles</b>	

## **Shore Lines**

is the newsletter for SBPOA

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