

ECA News www.eastportcivic.org

Newsletter of the Eastport Civic Association

September 2007

2007 ECA Board

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Message from ECA President Vic Pascoe

Well, the summer is winding down, the days are getting shorter and the town is settling back into being more like a neighborhood and less of a destination. It has been a great summer and I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy our waterfront community and all it has to offer at this time of year.

This is also the time of year when we start getting back into the routines of school, work, and meetings.

Speaking of meetings, a group of some 35 people met in late August to discuss ways that we as a community can harness our energy, creativity, and ideas to make Eastport a safer place to live and work. The first meeting was a huge success with many great ideas being touted and several new subcommittees formed with specific timelines and goals. I encourage anyone who is interested in becoming involved to get in touch with Lee Finney who is chairing this task force.

We are a community. We need to look out for each other. We need to help our Police to better identify and catch criminals. The number one thing we can all do is to call the Police whenever we see something that looks out of place in our community. And who knows our streets better than we do?? **It is incumbent on all of us to report suspicious activity anywhere we see it. The number to call is 410-268-4141. This puts you directly in touch with the Annapolis Police dispatcher.** It's important to know that you can remain completely anonymous and that the Police will act on your call immediately. Try to note factual information like a description of the person(s), clothing, etc. and direction of travel. If everyone is looking out, we can make a difference.

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Pascoe, cont'd

Recent events have us all a little on edge. I think this has “stirred up the hornet’s nest.” We, as a community, have got to get out the message that our level of tolerance is very low and we will not accept any level of crime in our community. If crime comes our way, we will fight back, and fight back hard.

So let’s all join together and make Eastport safer. Get to know your neighbors, inform them of what’s going on, invite them to meetings, and let’s work together to make our neighborhood even safer.

Annapolis Police Chief to Speak at Sept. 27th Meeting

To provide Eastport residents with information on issues, ECA has been trying to schedule speakers for its meetings. Last spring, we invited Lt. Brian Della of the Annapolis PD and Trudy McFall, then chair of the Annapolis Housing Authority. Earlier this summer we invited Police Chief Joe Johnson to speak and take questions at the Sept. meeting. If you have a question you would like to ask the Chief, please e-mail it to Jane Lawrence at jlawrence2@verizon.net.

**Thurs., Sept. 27th at Eastport Elem.,
7:30 p.m.**

**Save the Date:
Next year’s Home &
Garden Tour will be
Sunday, June
22nd.**

ECA Safety Task Force Gets Down To Work

The 35 people attending the initial meeting of the Safety Task Force moved quickly to organize into committees with specific tasks designed to make our Eastport community safer. Anyone eager to put their energy into one of the committees should contact the committee chairs:

- Walk About Committee – Desiree Bell, desiree@mearsannapolis.com
Organizing groups of neighbors to walk about their neighborhood at night to identify dark spots and other safety hazards and working with the City to initiate corrective action.
- Communications Committee – Rick Slifer, raslifer@verizon.net
Setting up a communications and emergency alert system for each neighborhood.
- Neighborhood Watch Committee – Jeanne Slawson, slawsonrj@comcast.net
Re-establishing a viable Neighborhood Watch program for Eastport in conjunction with Annapolis Police Department.
- City Liaison Committee – Lee Finney, lee.finney@att.net
Maintaining contacts with City agencies to stay informed and advocate as-needed.

Anyone who would like to be on the Task Force distribution list, please send an email to lee.finney@att.net. The next Safety Task Force meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 18th at the Eastport Elementary School—all are welcome. Bring your energy and your ideas and join your neighbors in keeping Eastport a great place to live.

**Lee Finney
ECA Vice-President/Safety Chair**

The Alderman's Notebook

First, congratulations to Eastport and the Civic Association for rising to the occasion during our recent crime scares. The citizen e-mails, reward posters, and the Association's Safety Task Force have made the point that Eastport is not crime tolerant. I can assure you that in City Hall and police headquarters the message has been heard.

The City Council Public Safety Committee, of which I'm a member, is working with the Mayor and the Annapolis Police Department (APD) to come up with ways we can get the numbers of police officers up to the authorized strength. We are also looking at ways to make policing practices more effective. Community policing, strategic foot patrols, and more technology are a few of the areas we are exploring.

We are making some progress in getting crime down, but the real change is going to take some time. Thirty-seven candidates passed the recent testing for new officers. They must now pass security and background checks and spend ten months in the police academy before they can get on the streets. The Chief has promised that the new officers will start on foot patrols as soon as they arrive on duty.

We have been able to attract some officers from other forces in the area. Unfortunately, we also keep losing officers as well. So the Council is going to have to help in other ways. The new cameras that businesses have put in place have already helped to capture some crime activity. You may have read about the initiative to change the shift schedules to put more officers on the street and the idea of getting a few more officers out of patrol cars and onto bicycles.

These changes, along with your voices, are letting the bad guys know that they are not welcome in Eastport and Annapolis. Now we need to make sure that we all keep up the good work.

Ross Arnett, Ward 8 Alderman
EastportRoss@aol.com

Washington Sq. Hearing

The Washington Square development planned for site of the motel at Bay Ridge and Washington Street will be before the Planning Commission for approval on Thurs. Sept. 20th at 7 p.m. Planning Commission hearings are held in the City Council chambers at City Hall, 160 Duke of Gloucester.

BOA Ruling on 225 Severn

Earlier this month the Board of Appeals voted unanimously to uphold their 2004 decision to overturn the City's Dept. of Planning & Zoning approval of four townhouses at 225 Severn.

Park at 4th and Spa Creek

The new environmentally sensitive street-end will be dedicated on Sat., September 29th at 11:00 a.m. The Mayor and other invited guests will be attending. Residents are encouraged to come out and participate in a community planting effort at 9:00am that day. For info, call 410-263-7958.

Help Make Eastport Safer

Enter **410-268-4141** in your cell and call the Police to report any suspicious activity!



Next ECA Meeting—Sept. 27th

Speaker: Annapolis Police Chief Johnson

7:30 p.m. at Eastport Elementary School

Bring your friends and neighbors. If you have a question you would like to ask the Chief, please e-mail it to jwlawrence2@verizon.net

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