

# THE Bay Ridge Heron

## Bay Ridge Civic Association Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

*BAY RIDGE Celebrating 103 years ...1922-2025*

### TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF JANUARY 27, 2025

	<u>12/9/2024</u>	<u>1/27/2025</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General Checking	\$10,206	\$99,765	\$89,559
Pier Checking	\$69,874	\$69,288	\$(586)
Pier Savings	\$48,803	\$153,617	\$104,814
Pier CDs	\$104,758	0	\$(104,758)
Total Pier Assets	\$223,435	\$222,905	\$(530)
Vanguard Reserve	\$300,000	\$300,000	0
Vanguard General	\$155,047	\$154,223	\$(824)
Total Vanguard	\$455,047	\$454,223	\$(824)
Camp Account	\$69,736	\$68,941	\$(795)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Cheryl Lytle reports 309 paid households, generating \$92,700 in 2025 BRCA dues, \$7,522 in extra donations, for a grand total of \$100,222. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has paid 2025 BRCA dues. **If you haven't yet paid, please note payments options on page 4 of this newsletter, but be sure to check first with your spouse to be sure he/she didn't already pay.** Of course, any extra donation you'd like to include will be put to good use, I promise! Many thanks for your support!

**NEWSLETTER:** Deadline for the March newsletter is February 22.

**BAY RIDGE AT HOME (BR@H)** provides information about "aging in place" to residents and to caregivers helping older adults anywhere. In 2025 we hope to schedule two to three educational sessions on topics such as health, travel, history, education, or home modifications. We also host a pot-luck in November. Last year we had several well-attended events on Aging Services in Anne Arundel County and Maintaining Brain Health. We also sponsored an appraisal evening where residents could bring items to be appraised. Events are free and open to all. Please send any suggestions for topics/events/speakers so we make 2025 our best year ever! We maintain a List-Serv that shares information of interest. BR@H co-chairs are Carol Cronin and Jeanie Vink and a planning committee of volunteers (Bronwyn Belling, Cindy Breloff, Susan Fox, Elia Howser, Liz Osborn, and Deb Schilling). For more information or to join our List-serv: contact Carol ([C.cronin@comcast.net](mailto:C.cronin@comcast.net)) or Jeanie ([jeanievink@gmail.com](mailto:jeanievink@gmail.com))

**EROSION CONTROL:** The committee has been busy with multiple initiatives including controlling the invasives which threaten our slopes. The slopes along Bay Drive are in much better shape thanks to

## CALENDAR 2025

### FEBRUARY

**MON 10 GENERAL MEETING BRCA**  
7:30 pm • Marina Clubhouse

**FRI 21 PUB FRIDAY**  
6-9 pm • Marina Clubhouse

### MARCH

**MON 10 GENERAL MEETING BRCA**  
7:30 pm • Marina Clubhouse

**FRI 21 PUB FRIDAY**  
6-9 pm • Marina Clubhouse

### APRIL

**FRI 11 PUB FRIDAY**  
6-9 pm • Marina Clubhouse

**MON 14 GENERAL MEETING BRCA**  
7:30 pm • Marina Clubhouse



their work. The committee is looking at areas to plant natives to help with erosion control and possibly creating rich pollinator paths by installing native plants on which pollinators feed which could help areas that are becoming barren with Bermuda wiregrass. **Volunteers can reach out to Grace Schneider** [graceschneider@comcast.net](mailto:graceschneider@comcast.net).

**FINANCE:** In 2025, the Committee will focus on Investment management; Insurance; Not-for-profit status; and Budget review process. The first priority in 2025 is retaining a financial advisor.

Committee members are Jamie Gonsalves, Renee Montgomery, Stuart Jones, Rich Mount, John Vogel, Tom Ervin, Mary Wallace.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT:** Thanks to amazing volunteer support from the community, FMC delivered a solid list of accomplishments in 2024 and is looking forward to another productive year. We've got lots of tree planting in our sights for both the spring and fall. For all Bay Ridge families, this is an opportunity to plant a tree or two with the kids and take pictures. It's a great legacy and also counts for community service hours.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING TREE NURSERY PROJECT!** We will establish a tree nursery as a cost effective way to source trees needed for the Big Woods. Volunteers are needed to set up the nursery in time for the delivery of 400 bare root saplings and plant the seedlings.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FIGHT INVASIVE SPECIES:** The wineberry between Kass Park and Farragut is in our sights among others. We will communicate more about this activity as the year unfolds.

**MARINA NEWS: PIER DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 12.** It's a great day for everyone to show up and pitch in to make our Marina and Clubhouse and the grounds around it ready to go for a fun summer - please plan to come down to 80 East Lake Drive on **Saturday April 12** and lend a hand, even if you are not a slip holder in the marina! We always have a great BBQ lunch for the folks who show up!

**WINTER ACTIVITIES:** The bubblers are in and doing a great job, thanks to Jeff Gilbert and Rich Mount! For those staying in, please remember to double your lines to the Northwest, make sure batteries are charged, and check to make sure your bilge pump is fully operational and your through hulls are in good working order.

**SLIP ASSIGNMENTS:** Slip Renewal Forms go out in early March as usual, and will be due back by March 24th. Please renew early and often! Remember, that includes getting in the paperwork and the check! Reminder: all slip holders must be current BRCA members.

**SUBLETS:** If you plan on leaving your slip for good or for a while in 2025, let the Pier Committee know at [BayRidgeMarina@gmail.com](mailto:BayRidgeMarina@gmail.com) so we can get someone on the waitlist assigned a slip or at least into a slip for a while and the slip won't sit empty. There are no "private sublets"; all sublets must go through the Pier Committee, to be fair to your neighbors who are waiting. Remember that boats not assigned to the slips they are in without Pier Committee approval will be removed and stored at the owner's expense

**OUTREACH: We need 2-3 additional volunteers in 2025!** Two stories to share about our committee's work last year: **FOREST DRIVE SAFETY** Project BRCA had a significant role in driving this County safety initiative (pun intended!) Phase 1 is underway and Phase 2 projects are under review by a stakeholder committee (BRCA is a member) **ANNAPOLIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2040** – Largest success was the overturning of County zoning of BRCA-owned community properties. Required significant effort by our Community beginning with on-line surveys and ending with BRCA resident testimony at County Region 7 Commission, County Planning Advisory Board and County Council hearings. Our efforts not only reversed the zoning of our community-owned property but changed the County procedures for the rezoning of privately (and community) owned properties in subsequent Regional Comprehensive zoning phases.

**SOCIAL:** Congratulations and a huge THANK YOU to the following neighbors for volunteering to chair these major community events: **Alec Cronin** (4th of July Parade & Picnic), **Julie Nogueira** (Jamboree), **Jordan Smith with Molly Fishback and Katie Jarboe** (Children's Holiday Party). And another huge THANK YOU to the following chairs who have stepped down after many years of service: **Molly Brant, Rachel Monroe, Cornelia Kelly** (Easter Egg Hunt), **Alex Pare** (Jamboree), and **Mary Snowdon** (Adult Holiday Party).

#### **2025 SOCIAL EVENTS**

Children's Easter Egg Hunt: **New Chair Needed**

Beach Party: Jen Koppels, [jbuckrn@yahoo.com](mailto:jbuckrn@yahoo.com)

July 4th Parade & Picnic: Alec Cronin [aleccronin@gmail.com](mailto:aleccronin@gmail.com)

Jamboree: Julie Nogueira [juliepnoqueira@gmail.com](mailto:juliepnoqueira@gmail.com)

Halloween KickOff: Tracy Patton [tracympatton@gmail.com](mailto:tracympatton@gmail.com)

Adult Holiday Party: **New Chair Needed**

Children's Holiday Party: Jordan Smith [griffithji@yahoo.com](mailto:griffithji@yahoo.com)

Please reach out to the chair if you are interested in joining the committee; we always need volunteers. Bay Ridge stands alone in its community spirit and dedication to volunteerism and we need your help.

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**MEETINGS SCHEDULE:**

**General:** Second Monday each month 7:30 pm: February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8

**BRCA Board:** Last Tuesday each month 7 pm: February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 30, October 28, November 25, December 30

## **Pub Friday February 21**

**6-9 pm Marina Clubhouse**

**Food Truck: AZTK**

Liven up winter doldrums with neighbors  
at the Winter Pub Fridays.

Note these upcoming Pub Fridays!

March 21, April 11, May 16



## **BLUE HERON** FINANCIAL GROUP

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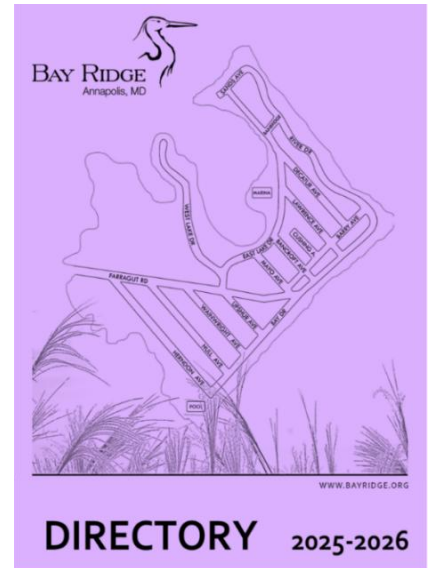
## RESIDENT DIRECTORY IN 2025!

I need everyone's help to be sure all contact information is accurate. Please review your information in the 2023-2024 Directory and let me know if your contact information has changed in the past two years:

- Has your email address changed?
- Want to add cell phone numbers?
- Have you eliminated your land line?
- Has someone moved out or in since 2023?

Email me all new information at [Clytle78@comcast.net](mailto:Clytle78@comcast.net).

Many thanks for this help!



## 2025 BRCA DUES ARE DUE!

Pay dues and extra donations by cash, check, Zelle or credit card.

**TO PAY BY CHECK OR CASH:** Insert cash or your check for \$300 (or more?), payable to BRCA, into any envelope and deposit in the BRCA mailbox on mailbox post at 78 Farragut OR mail to the address on the envelope.

**TO USE ZELLE:** Login to your mobile banking app and use Zelle to make a transfer to [BayRidgeCivic8080@gmail.com](mailto:BayRidgeCivic8080@gmail.com)

Note your Bay Ridge address so we can properly record your payment.

**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD:** Click on this link to the Bay Ridge Website: [PAY DUES BY CREDIT CARD](#) OR this QR code →

Please consider adding an extra \$50, \$150, \$250, or more with your \$300 dues payment. Your contribution will go to good use, I promise!

**Any changes to your contact information for 2025 Resident Directory?**

- Has your email address changed?
- Want to add cell phone numbers or eliminate a land line?
- Has someone moved out or in since 2023?

Send new information with your dues —OR email your changes to [Clytle78@comcast.net](mailto:Clytle78@comcast.net).



*Thank you for your support!*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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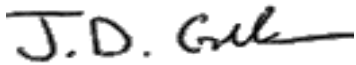
I was recently asked about the process to serve on our BRCA Board. So timely!

We will need four new members this spring. Here are some highlights on the process per our Bylaws:

- We have ten directors who are elected by our membership. They serve a two year term and can be re-elected for an additional term (four years total).
- At our February Board of Directors meeting we will appoint three association members to serve as our nominating committee. If you are interested in being on the nominating committee – please let a Board member know now.
- The nominating committee will nominate at least one association member for each opening. If you want to be considered for nomination – please reach out to the committee.
- The nominated slate of candidates are announced at our BRCA General Meeting in March and we vote in April.
- Finally, before the BRCA General Meeting in May, the directors elect their officers. Over the years, we have been blessed with so many professional and talented volunteers to serve on our Board. We have many long-term challenges (e.g. erosion, rising-waters, encroachment, and more) as a community and the Board plays a critical role to keep us on track and moving forward smartly. We are also blessed with so many volunteers from many professions who help-out on committees as well as ad-hoc help when we need it.

So let the Board Recruitment Season commence! I hope we can get a lot of interest to support our transitions this spring. Reach out anytime if you are interested!

At your service,



Jamie Gonsalves  
President, BRCA Board  
443-603-5117  
[jamesgonsalves89@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgonsalves89@gmail.com)

## **2024-25 BAY RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

PRESIDENT: Jamie Gonsalves, [jamesgonsalves89@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgonsalves89@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT: Stuart Jones [sw.jones@verizon.net](mailto:sw.jones@verizon.net)

TREASURER: Renee Montgomery, [reneemontgomery@comcast.net](mailto:reneemontgomery@comcast.net)

SECRETARY: Jill Whittall, [jwhittall@gmail.com](mailto:jwhittall@gmail.com)

Lida Barniea, [lidabarniea@gmail.com](mailto:lidabarniea@gmail.com)

Alex Cregan, [cregab01@yahoo.com](mailto:cregab01@yahoo.com)

Bill Davidson, [bayridgebill@gmail.com](mailto:bayridgebill@gmail.com)

Norm Farley, [njfarley@aol.com](mailto:njfarley@aol.com)

Meredith Howe, [mellen.howe@gmail.com](mailto:mellen.howe@gmail.com)

Mary Wallace, [walla88@comcast.net](mailto:walla88@comcast.net)

## REPORT ON THE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICTS MEETING January 28, 2025

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Bill Davidson (Chair, Erosion Control Committee) delivered a Slide Presentation on the two tax districts for Bay Ridge: Special Community Benefit District (SCBD) and a Shore Erosion Control District (SECD). He outlined the differences and composition of the two districts and then went through line items in detail including the proposed tax fund budgets and tax rates. Along the way, Bill introduced the following speakers to speak to specific points:

- Greg Conner (Forest Management) on Maintenance & Improvement of Community-Wide Property (SCBD)
- Grace Schneider (Erosion Control) on Vegetation Maintenance on Slopes (SECD)
- Dave Openshaw (Erosion Control) on Marina bulkhead sinkhole repair proposal (SECD)
- Lily Openshaw & Stuart Williams (Outreach) on Sea Level Rise & Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Resiliency Planning (SECD).

At the beginning, throughout, and at the end, questions were invited and welcomed from the audience. The most questions were about sea level rise and resiliency planning and what was the exact purpose behind the resiliency study. Other questions referred to deer culling, the best herbicides, why is the county holding back money? There was lively and civil discussion with everyone appearing pleased with the answers to their questions.

Special thanks and appreciation to Bill Davidson for his amazing work on our tax district requirements for FY 26. Thanks also to Stu Williams, Lily Openshaw, Greg Conner, Dave Openshaw and Grace Schneider for presenting across multiple challenges which will be funded via our tax districts.

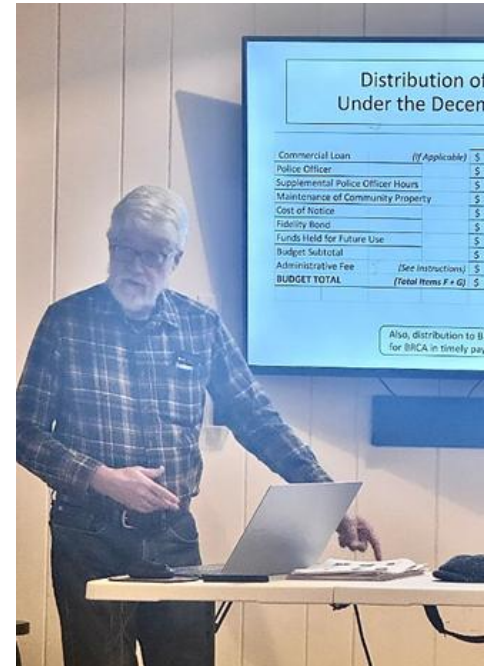
### [CLICK HERE TO VIEW PRESENTATION](#)

**You will need to login to the Bay Ridge website to view the presentation for privacy reasons.** If you have issues logging into our BRCA Website, please call or email Jamie at 443-603-5117 or [jamesgonsalves89@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgonsalves89@gmail.com)

**THANKS ALSO TO EVERYONE WHO ANSWERED OUR ANNUAL SURVEY.** We had 54 responses:

- SCBD: 44 of 54 in favor: 83% approval
- SECD: 49 of 54 in favor: 91% approval
- Common themes on the written responses included: deer control; high costs of police officer; safety; and cameras at the entrance.

After the tax meeting, the BRCA Board met and the Tax Districts budgets were approved as presented.



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## BRCA MARINA CONTACTS:

**Dock Masters:** Dave Russell 703-407-3334 and Jeff Gilbert 301-538-5900

**Pump out training and keys:** Rich Mount 410-349-6205

**Waitlist/Slip Sublets/Slip Assignments:** Kurt Karsten 410-991-3184

**Ramp Keys and Ramp issues:** Shawn Geraghty 410-279-2081

**Marina Cameras access:** Shawn Geraghty 410-279-2081

**Dinghy/Kayak/SUP Stickers for rack/beach:** Mark Schultz 410-279-2832

**Marina Clubhouse Rental:** Besse Rose 202-631-7937



**BAY RIDGE POLICEMAN: CPL. RICH SCOTT**

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**To report a crime: Emergencies: 911; Non-emergencies: 410-222-8610**

**Cpl. Rich Scott: [p91793@aacounty.org](mailto:p91793@aacounty.org)**

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## **DOG SAFETY**

We all love our Bay Ridge dogs and the majority of dog owners are courteous and in control of their dogs. However, there is still a handful of owners who do not practice courtesy or follow the laws.

Please Do Not allow your dog to approach another person or dog without express permission from the other person. You are responsible to maintain total control of your dog at all times, on or off the leash.

Anne Arundel County laws apply to all common areas in Bay Ridge, including the bluff, woods and beaches. The laws require you to control, leash, and clean up after your pet. We expect to post a few signs near them so all dog walkers, including non-Bay Ridge residents, will know the rules.

We were surprised to learn of the many dog attacks that have occurred, including some multiple attacks by the same dog. Please report incidents to Anne Arundel County police (410-222-8610 or 911 if emergency) to help protect your neighbors.



## **PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY**

Everyone is responsible for keeping the roads in Bay Ridge safe!

- If you are walking with a baby stroller, put a reflector on it. Dark baby carriages are very hard to see especially on Farragut and Herndon.
- Remember to walk against traffic so you can see who is approaching you.
- Pedestrians: please move into a single file when a vehicle is approaching.
- If you are cycling, ride with traffic and give a "heads up" to pedestrians on the road ahead of you so they can give you the right of way.
- Remind your contractors that the speed limit is 25 MPH!





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*L-R: Jaime L. Pickett, Senior Registered Associate; Mary B. Fitzpatrick, Client Service Associate; Dan R. Snyder; Tom C. Ervin; Brandon M. Kerrigan, Registered Client Service Associate; Jim R. Snyder; Chad Houser; Lisa M. Kittner; Jonathan W. Steele; Katie M. Eckenrode, Senior Client Service Associate*

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