



Town of Highland Beach Newsletter

Greetings from Mayor Bill Sanders

Spring and Summer in Highland Beach have been great, and I hope that you and your guests have had the opportunity on several occasions during the seasons to enjoy our life here at "The Beach." I am pleased to share this newsletter with you to relate a few of the happening here. There are two inserts this time around, on the historical book about Highland Beach, and about our more recent addition to the community, our Town Hall.

We also hear from former Mayor Chissell, about saving money in energy by producing our own, and about award recognition for Ray Langston, as well as other information of use to our residents and friends.

My greetings to you, and I hope you enjoy reading your newsletter.

*Please note that a Town Meeting
is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th.*

VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Several vacancies on boards and commissions provide opportunities to maintain the vitality of our community. If you are interested in volunteering to serve, please contact the mayor. Current and upcoming vacancies are on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Appeals, and the Public Ethics Commission.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER MAYOR CHISSELL



Former mayor and long time Highland Beach resident Crystal Chissell sends her greetings to the residents and friends of Highland Beach. She is doing well in San Francisco, greatly enjoying life and her pursuit of a career in aerial acrobatics. From this picture of Crystal during a practice session, we can tell that she is in great form and prepared for the big time.

RAY LANGSTON RECEIVES PIONEER AWARD

We are delighted to note that the significant contributions of our own Raymond Langston continues to be recognized, not only within Highland Beach, but in the wider community. Ray, current Commissioner and former Mayor, was one of five awardees recognized at the Black Chamber of Commerce of Anne Arundel County's Third Annual Carroll H. Hynson Sr. Awards Luncheon on June 12th. Ray was presented the Pioneer Award, recognizing Ray's leadership in successfully lobbying for funds to purchase Twin Oaks, now the Frederick Douglass Museum; leading the committee for the city's new

**TOWN MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
10:30 AM**

ALL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

town hall, awarded platinum status from the US Green Building Council; and for conveying the Historical Commission in 1992, among other accomplishments. Congratulations, Ray!

HIGHLAND BEACH ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

The Highland Beach Historical Commission is now taking pre-orders for “Highland Beach on the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland’s First African-African Incorporated Town. The volume relates the history of The Beach, and is a tribute to the 115th anniversary of the founding of the Town.” For a limited time only, pre-orders for a paper bound or a special leather bound edition, are being taken. Please refer to the insert to this newsletter for more information and an ordering form.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR HERITAGE: PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, WORKS BY PAUL FOSTER

Residents and guests were awarded a rare treat on Sunday, June 15th, at the Frederick Douglass Museum and Cultural Center, presented by the Highland Beach Historical Commission. Paul was not only a long time resident, but also an accomplished and celebrated photographer. As noted “Paul Foster’s connection to the Highland Beach community dates back to the 1930’s when he and his family began spending their summers at “the beach.” In 1989, Paul along with his wife Marsha became year-round residents settling into a summer home built by his father in 1951. Paul’s photographic contributions are many. In 1993, Paul’s photos were included in an exhibit at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis commemorat-

ing the Highland Beach centennial celebration. To honor the centennial, he also produced a calendar displaying photos spanning decades, which were taken at “the beach.” In the early 1990’s, Paul taught an adult education course in photography at an Annapolis high school allowing him to share his many talents. Several of Paul’s photos are featured at the Washington Convention Center in a permanent display known as the “Shaw Wall”—a mural commemorating the history of the Shaw community—one of Washington’s oldest African American neighborhoods.”

The exhibit was a smashing success, and we were pleased to share the exhibit with Highland Beach residents, and friends and, as a very special treat, Paul’s two daughters and other relatives.

HOW A GREEN ROOF BECAME A GREEN BUILDING: THE HIGHLAND BEACH LEED PLATINUM CERTIFIED TOWN HALL

The story of our town hall was shared with municipalities throughout the State via an article, title above, in the April issue of Municipal Maryland, the official publication of the Maryland Municipal League. The theme of the issue was “green”, and the Highland Beach story featured prominently as a center piece of the magazine. That article is also included as an insert to this newsletter. It is instructive not only for what is possible in municipal construction, but because of the small scale of our facility, it also represents the possibilities for residential construction to be accomplished in a sustainable way.

Speaking of which, I am pleased to report the results of electrical energy consumption at the Town Hall for the first two years of service. As reported before, in our first year we used 1993 KWh of electrical energy, on par with many monthly residential bills. For our second year, our usage was even less, at 1894 KWh, even though use of the facility has increased. We believe this is due to the care taken by all in using the facility to minimize

energy use, as well as increased production of energy via our solar panels on the roof. Good news for the taxpayer.

JULY 4TH PARADE AND WEEKEND

Congratulations and thanks to our Community Association, and especially to association member Sheila Caldwell for leadership of a series of very successful events over the July 4th holiday. Although rain threatened to curtail activities during the parade and picnic that followed, it held off long enough for all to enjoy the annual event. This was followed by a breakfast on the beach event on Saturday, and a widely acclaimed movie night on the beach on Sunday. Well done to all that contributed to making these events happen, and to all able to attend.

In addition, residents and guests were able to enjoy new seating and beach umbrellas, stored in our new storage shed near the beach. Many thanks to Commissioner Ben Secundy for selecting and arranging for purchase of the equipment.

COMMUNICATIONS & TRANSPARENCY OF GOVERNMENT: TOWN MEETING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, AT 10:30 AM

Our second town meeting of the year will be held at the town hall on Saturday, October 18th. Our town hall sessions are principally listening sessions for the Board of Commissioners to hear directly from citizens on concerns and recommendations for town business. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

We will begin this meeting with two agenda items. We have invited representatives from Aurora Energy to present a community-based program for the installation of photovoltaics (solar panels) on our homes, at discount prices (see next article). Representatives from Venice Beach and Bay Highlands will also be invited to attend.

Our second agenda item concerns use of our piers by those outside of our community. We will discuss options that might be effective in addressing the concerns.

SUNPOWER COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM

Isaac Opalinsky, a representative of Aurora Energy, will be our guest speaker at our Town Hall meeting, on the Sunpower Community Events Program. This is essentially a bulk purchase program for the purchase and installation of residential photovoltaics. Isaac will explain the program, which presents a window of opportunity for homeowners to participate and receive a discounted rate for installation of solar panels on the home.

With the recent so-called “\$700B Bailout” vote, came other provisions, including new incentives for renewable energy. In particular, the cap on the federal tax credit for installation of PVs was lifted, and there is now a 30 percent federal tax credit. In addition, the Maryland Energy Administration grant program offers up to \$10,000 to residents for purchase of PV systems. Indeed, this is an opportune time to consider installation of a PV system that will protect against future energy price increases, while contributing to lowering our personal carbon footprint, reducing contributions to green house gas emissions, and saving money to boot!

DATES FOR COMMUNITY DUMPSTER

The community dumpster will be in town at noon on October 27th, until 8 a.m. on October 29th. This again provides an excellent opportunity to avoid individual trips to the county dump, as well as to toss unwanted material.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR

William H. Sanders III

COMMISSIONERS

Linda A. Aikens, Treasurer
Raymond L. Langston
Sterling Perry Seay
Benjamin Secundy

CLERK/SECRETARY

Nikki West

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web Site (hosted by the Maryland
Municipal League):
[http://www.mdmunicipal.org/cities/index.cfm?
townname=HighlandBeach&page=home](http://www.mdmunicipal.org/cities/index.cfm?townname=HighlandBeach&page=home)

Quotable Quote

“What people don’t understand, they won’t value.
And what they don’t value, they won’t protect;
what they don’t protect they will lose.”

—Charles R. Jordan, The Conservation Fund



Town of Highland Beach
3243 Walnut Drive
Highland Beach, MD 21403