



# Summer 2015 Newsletter

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC P.O. BOX 556, STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

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## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

*By Dan Mathein*

Artist or critic – a choice we make every day. Do we look for what is wrong or celebrate what is right?

We all go to galleries, craft fairs, and art exhibits. Those events involve the work of many artisans and artists working in many different media. Consider, if you will, that every time you go out to dinner, or hire a professional to do a job that they might also be considered an

artist. Wow, now that's a stretch. Perhaps, but the people who don't have paint on their shirt or clay under their nails are also contributing to our quality of life.

The waiter, their job well done, enhances the experience of dining out. The tree trimmer beautifies the yard as does the person mowing the lawn. The people who seal black top drives

*(continued on next page)*



2015 BSPOA Board of Directors

*(President's, continued)*

or install a new faucet in the kitchen sink use their skill to improve our environment.

All too often I read editorial comments complaining about something. Seldom do I see a column that says – job well done. People who gain my respect by doing an excellent job include: the mail man (or is it the politically correct person-person), snow plow driver, bartender, plumber, police officer, firemen, EMT, nurses, tree trimmer, waiters and waitresses, carpet installer, septic people, handyman, electrician, landscape person, and even, just perhaps, the building inspector. I am sure that I've omitted many artists, but, you get my drift. There are hundreds of people who through their efforts to do their best make living in Door County such a pleasure.

And of course, thanks to the BSPOA Board of Directors and Volunteers. Their enthusiasm and dedication is the icing on the cake! While I may not always agree with what they are trying to sculpt, or paint, or create, I do appreciate their sincerity and personal commitment to improving our Quality-of-Life here on the bay shore.

## SPRING CLEANUP

*By Jim and Mary Fravert*

A Big Thanks to the volunteers who helped clean up the 13 miles of roadside from Sturgeon Bay to Murphy Park on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Following are those who helped: Don & Linda Berns, Jill Cavanaugh, Neil & Sharon Du Jardin, Claudia Elsner, Jim & Mary Fravert, Mike and Carolyn Friedl, Denise Haen, Mary & Ken Hartenian, Doug & Barb Henderson, Denise & Ken Hubbard, Randy & Mary Kenny, Allen & Sherry Koenig, Brenda & Jeff Lange, Barbara Morgan & Deanna D'Abbraccio, Jim & Elaine Pasqualucci, Al & Teri Searing, Clyde (Hap) Smith, Phyllis Taylor & Gary Lagon.

Even though the day was cloudy, conversation was lively with the post cleanup celebration at Birmingham's. A big thanks also to the Door County Highway Department for collecting the filled trash bags. Bay Shore Drive looks a little cleaner because of everyone's effort. Mark your calendar for next year's cleanup on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## Note Date Change

# BSPOA ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

*By Deborah Mancuso, Annual Meeting Chair*

BSPOA's 19th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Horse-shoe Bay Golf Club, located in a beautiful Door County setting, overlooking the Bay of Green Bay. This year's speaker is Dick Purinton, Washington Island resident and CEO of the family owned Washington Island Ferry Line, which is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year. A world class racing sailor, past president of the national Passenger Vessel Association and author of four regionally based books, we are fortunate Captain Dick will give us the opportunity to learn about the island's vessels that transport people, pets, vehicles, equipment and various other items to and from the island. If you've read any of Dick's books, you know he has a way with words, so we expect you'll find this program fascinating. And as you might imagine, being Washington Island's lifeline, the ferry history is wide ranging and colorful.

Come join us! Meet other BSPOA members, officers and friends. Learn more about BSPOA and enjoy a fabulous luncheon. Detailed information will be sent to you in a separate mailing. So mark your calendars. We hope to see you in September!

## In Memoriam

Helen Collins

March 16, 2015

## EXPANSION OF OUR INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT PROGRAM

*By Denice & Ken Hubbard*

We are pleased to announce to our members the addition of 4 new invasive species to the 50/50 Program. The program now covers the following SIX Invasive Species:

Buckthorn	Honeysuckle
Phragmites	Japanese Knotweed
Autumn Olive	Reed Canary Grass

A listing of the most serious threats to the integrity of Door County ecosystems can be found, along with color photos and descriptions, on the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) website: <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/>

If you are uncertain your property has invasive plants, there are several free options available to help you identify and locate them if on your property:

1. Visit the DCIST website listed above to view color photos and descriptions.
2. Schedule a free site visit by DCIST staff coordinator, Keri Hagenow. Keri can be reached at 920-746-5955.
3. Our BSPOA President, Dan Mathein, is available to walk through your property and identify invasive species. Dan can be reached at 715-923-5000.

If you have invasive species on your property that are not currently covered by the 50-50 program, please submit them to Denice/Ken Hubbard for consideration for inclusion into the program.

If you would like additional information on the 50-50 program, call Denice or Ken Hubbard at 920-559-0079 or visit the website (BSPOA.org) for an application or additional information.



Denice Hubbard inspects invasive honeysuckle



Invasive removal crew at work



Ken & Denice Hubbard view results of invasive removal

## MEMBER SURVEY: NEED BETTER INTERNET SERVICE

*By Jim Schultz*

A survey was emailed to BSPOA members in April for the purpose of quantifying the demand for high speed internet service. The response was exceptional and we would like to thank everyone who participated. A total of 155 responses were received out of 299 member emails on file, which is a 52% response rate. Of the respondents, 64% live in Sevastopol and 34% in Egg Harbor Townships.

Here are some of the key findings from the survey:

- ◆ A large majority of members (79%) have internet service.

- ◆ A significant number of members (44%) are not satisfied with their internet service. Their primary complaints were browsing is too slow, streaming video quality is poor, quality of service varies based on weather, and video and photo downloads/uploads take too long.

- ◆ Of the members who said they are satisfied with their internet service they listed adequate speed, responsive customer service, and reliable connection.

- ◆ The predominant internet connection is wireless (41%) followed by satellite (23%), cable (23%), DSL (12%), mobile (8%), dialup (4%), and other (10%).

- ◆ The leading internet provider is Door County Broadband (41%), followed by Charter Communications (18%), Wildblue by Exede (10%), DishNet (9%), Frontier (7%), Cellcom (6%), HughesNet (4%), and other (4%).

- ◆ Many members don't know what their current internet speed is. Of those who do, 21% said they had speeds of more than 4 mbps while 41% said they had speeds of 4 mbps or less. There is a strong demand for the higher internet speeds.

- ◆ Not surprisingly, the primary users of the internet are adults ages 46-65 (41%) and 66 and older (49%).

- ◆ Surprisingly, a large number of members telecommute or work from home (34%).

- ◆ In terms of cost, 67% of members currently pay between \$40 and \$70 per month for internet service, and 19% pay more than \$70 per month.

The information received from this survey should be useful in any future contacts with internet providers. Recently, we have had discussions with Kevin Voss and Nate Bell, owners of Door County Broadband (DCB) and shared data obtained from the survey. They are the leading internet provider along the bay shore and in outlying areas of the county. They have indicated an interest in expanding coverage and capacity to the bay shore and now they have metrics to support it. They recently built a new communication tower across Sturgeon Bay at Sherwood Point in the Town of Nasewaupee which is now operational. According to Nate Bell, "While this tower is not in the BSPOA area it does facilitate greater speeds for many customers in the DCB area as well as the option to feed new additional towers along the bay shore, to further improve coverage and capacity". Nate noted that their "flagship" broadband service is generally available north to Sunset Lane. If you have any questions or concerns about new or existing service please contact DCB at 920-868-9100.

Another option for persons living below the bluff is Frontier Communications. Since last year they are offering DSL service capable of streaming video to homes located along Bay Shore Drive south of Murphy Park to Birch Lane. Coverage also extends into Birch Lane, Spring Lane and Horseshoe Bay Farms (above the bluff).

Progress toward obtaining adequate internet service for the bay shore area is a slow process but the future holds some promise. BSPOA will continue to do what it can to facilitate its growth.

## PROPANE CONTRACT UPDATE

*By Bryan Troutman*

As you are aware, we are entering the second year with Lakes Gas as our propane supplier. We remain convinced that they will have the gas and the service to comply with our agreement this coming winter. Last season the program ran smoothly with very few instances.

Lakes may do a leak test on any customer tanks which have not been tested for 5 years, or anyone that have not been using Lakes in the last year. It has to be done for their insurance; there is no cost to homeowner. You can start calling now for appointments, it should take less than 30 minutes.

Each individual will get a contract in the mail from Lakes, with a cover letter explaining the items that will vary from the standard Lakes contract. The letter will reflect changes such as eliminating a limit on gallons used, etc. Please return the contracts as soon as possible, so they may begin scheduling us.

As we have done in the past, you are either in or out of our group. We will accept new members. You are encouraged to be on auto-fill, they take priority over will call. There are no delivery charges, or hazmat fees.

The contract runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31, 2016, with a favorable rate of less than one dollar per gallon. For those of you who do not own their tank, call Lakes Gas and they will make arrangements to switch tanks as needed, and transfer the propane.

Call now if you need gas or want to schedule an appointment. **(920) 743-5704**

Lakes recently had a nice mailing which you should have received. Read it over and take advantage of the \$10 off coupon for a BBQ cylinder tank refill.

If there are questions, please feel free to call me at 743-9088 or email [bdtroutman@aol.com](mailto:bdtroutman@aol.com). Thanks for your support. Stay tuned for additional information.

## WATER TESTING

This year we will continue to work with UW Oshkosh to monitor the quality of the water in Green Bay. Samples are taken by BSPOA volunteers during the months of June, July, and August at six different location covering the town of Sevastopol and the town of Egg Harbor waters. The collected samples are put on ice and transported to Oshkosh where they are tested for *E. coli* and phosphorus.

This ongoing research project provides valuable information to evaluate trends. Taking one sample or only using data from one year will only provide a snapshot. A single picture can not tell us if we are getting better or worse. Results of the 2015 effort will be presented in the winter newsletter.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*By Nancy Buhl, Membership Chair*

Please welcome our new members and encourage other neighbors to join in supporting BSPOA.

Leland & Inge Bacon  
Laura DeCamp  
Janet Gale  
Janet Golden  
Greg Macola & Mary McEnerney  
Michael & Jill Wildenberg  
Jerry & Betty Waite

## TV AWARDS WON

*By Laddie Chapman*

Sevastopol TV, Charter Channel 986, was the recipient of 3 awards at this year's Wisconsin Community Media Videofest. Access Door County: Stage Kids/Columbinus, Sevastopol School Salutes Carl Scholz, and Huehns Funeral Home Service of Remembrance were all cited in the Merit category. ADC was produced by Sevastopol resident Victoria Cerenich and the others by Laddie Chapman.

These award-winning shows can now be seen on YouTube. For links, access [www.doorbell.net/video](http://www.doorbell.net/video).

## MARION HISLOP ANECDOTAL HISTORY

*As told to Barb Bunning*

*Since anecdotal histories have been written over a number of years, it was decided that we would occasionally reprint one. The article is presented with minor editorial adjustments.*

Were there Scottish settlers in 19<sup>th</sup> century Door County? Yes, indeed. The Lauries were one of the early settler families along Bay Shore Drive, and Marion Hislop kindly took time to recall for us some of her family history.

Robert Laurie and his brother, Alexander, left Glasgow, Scotland in 1852. During a storm they were forced into Sturgeon Bay and purchased a large parcel of land on which Laurie Lane now stands and running along the shore from Hatch's property north to Leo's tavern. Laurie Lane was originally an old Indian trail. When Marion's great grandfather and his brother walked all the way to Buffalo in winter (they missed the last boat of the season), Indians left buffalo meat for her great grandmother living in the log cabin. The trip was made to gather supplies and belongings.

To build a more permanent stone house in 1870, Robert, heretofore a sailor, opened a stone quarry with his brother. The quarry railroad track ran under Bay Shore Drive and down to a loading dock. The cut stone was loaded onto a flat car. Gravity pulled the loaded car down to a loading dock, and workers pulled the empty car back up the hill to the quarry. The natural lagoon was deep enough for a vessel to be loaded and stone could be shipped by schooner to various lake ports. A boarding house was built on Laurie Lane for the quarry workers. Jessie Chase, the artist and mural painter, rented the house for several years and

had a studio on the second floor.

The enterprising brothers also built a schooner to haul groceries from Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay. They would fire a canon to announce the arrival of the grocery supplies. A newspaper article stated that Capt. Laurie had a streak of ill luck. First one of his cows "got her neck caught in a crotch of a tree and died," and a "second bovine ran into a fence from the effects of which she died soon after." About the same time one of his horses "shuffled off this mortal roll."

In 1870 Robert took two years to beautifully build the first stone house in Door County, later owned by Hester and Emil Hansen, among others, and currently by Margaret Hansen. A lime kiln remains where the stone was stacked during construction. The home phone was under the Laurie name for over 100 years. Robert and Margaret Hansen added the present "wings" of the house in



The 1870 home of Robert Laurie

the 1980's. The carriage house now stands north of the main house. Elder Robert's son, Alex, built his lovely family stone house at 4369 (Sheila Turner). John Laurie, highway commissioner for many years, lived in a house on the curve that enters Laurie Lane.

People "neighbored" so much in earlier days. They would drop by and stay all day long. The Bay Shore Club, also mentioned by others, thrived from 1935 to early 40's. Neighbors got together for potluck dinners and often stopped by for coffee. People went fishing, sailing, to parks, and just driving around the county. According to Marion, Sevastopol was originally known as Laurieville, but early on other local residents changed the name.

## STAYING CONNECTED

BSPOA Inc. has expanded its ability to stay connected with its many members. This past spring the Board approved the addition of a software package called “constant contact”. This addition allows us to send a single email to all of our members. Prior to having this convenience, it was necessary to break the membership list into groups of less than 50 to prevent our internet provider from blocking the email as spam.

Your Board is committed to provide information via the internet. Don't worry, we will make every effort to only send the essentials and not fill up your inbox.

The first use of this software was the “internet survey”, the results of which appear in Jim Schultz's article. Other communications to date included the free well water testing opportunity, the west side hotel issue, and the option of receiving your newsletter via email rather than hard copy. In this last issue, 119 members elected to receive the newsletter by email only. This reduction in printing and postage costs will pay for the new software.

We also sent out information on the issue of shore land zoning. Five of our members responded. Two members were in favor of pulling the item from the budget bill and two were in favor of leaving it in. The fifth response was from an individual who was concerned that we should tell our members how to vote. We thought the contact information for state legislators would facilitate the ability of our members to tell their elected officials how they personally felt – pro or con.

If you appreciate the information, let us know. If you disagree with the information, let us know. Through your active participation in two way communication we can continue to improve the level of service to our members.

## TRIATHLON

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Door County Triathlon took place on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The Saturday Sprint Distance Triathlon and the Sunday Half Iron Distance events were at their full capacity of 1,000 athletes each day. The events have become so popular that they fill-up often times in weeks. New this year, the event launched the Ministry Kid's Triathlon on Saturday afternoon for children ages 6 to 14. There were several families with 3 generations participating.

BSPOA has been assisting with the bicycle water bottle exchange at George Pinney Quarry Park since the event started in 2004 and the bicycle water bottle exchange for the Half Iron at the base of Carlsville Road since its inception. This year we had 22 volunteers to assist. Everyone got a nice T-shirt and enjoyed the festivities at Murphy Park.

This event has a significant economic impact on the community and the county and adds significantly to our tourism dollars. In addition, the event will have raised close to \$100,000 for local charities.



Bryan Troutman at the water bottle exchange

## BAY SHORE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this association is to maintain the safe, natural and aesthetic character of the Bay Shore Drive area.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Bay Shore Property Owners Association is a voluntary, nonprofit association. Its mission is to provide for discussion and action on issues that impact the residential character of the neighborhood and those that affect the character of Door County.

**GOALS:**

❁ To monitor proposals for development of recreational/commercial properties that relates to and affects residential character of the neighborhood.

❁ To keep members informed of development proposals and issues that impact the residential character of the neighborhood.

❁ To educate and motivate members and non-members to preserve and enhance the natural, visual and historic resources of the area.

❁ To encourage management of growth through effective town, city and county land use planning and zoning.

❁ To form an alliance with other existing property owner associations.

❁ To address other issues that affect Bay Shore Drive indirectly but affect the quality of life in Door County.

**Bay Shore Property Owners, Inc. Newsletter,** Summer 2015 issue

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