

# The Shoreline

Sylvan Shores Community News and Events

Winter 2024



## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

- February 26 @ 7:00 p.m.
  - March 18 @ 7:00 p.m.
  - April 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- At the Clubhouse, all members are welcomed!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President: Rachel Kline  
Vice President: *vacant*  
Secretary: Kathleen Carney  
Treasurer: Cathy Izzi

### Directors

Kristin Buser  
Steve Carney  
Chris Mocella  
Judy Moody  
Will Parraga  
Stephen Winter

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT for WINTER 2024 ~ Kim Hewitt

I'm sure as you are reading this, the holidays have come and gone. I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday and were able to enjoy family and friends. It has been an amazing and very productive year for the Board with many improvements around the community and many more to come in 2024.

It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing that I have stepped down from the Board. I have enjoyed my time serving this community for almost 6 years, it has truly been an honor. I leave the Board knowing I did my absolute best as your President; Chair of the Clubhouse Committee and Chair of the Boating Facilities Committee.

As President, it has been so much fun meeting so many of you, getting to know your families and making so many new friends, as well as, leading a team that is 100% invested in making Sylvan Shores a community that people want to be a part of.

I ask that you all continue to support the very competent and dedicated group of board volunteers as they continue to carry out the business of managing Sylvan Shores properties. It is not an easy job because you cannot please everyone, but this group has

the best interests of Sylvan Shores at heart and genuinely wants to continue to see improvements that are a benefit to all.

Going forward, if you have time to volunteer, it can be very rewarding and such a great way to meet your neighbors. Sylvan Shores is a small community, with a smalltown heart and it takes a village to keep it that way.

In closing, I wish you all a happy and healthy 2024 and years to come. I hope to see you around the community.

Sincerely, Kim Hewitt

## Snow/Ice Storm Information for County Roads in Sylvan Shores

Via <https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/snow-removal>

Storms of 0-6 inches: Your road should be made passable up to 36 hours after the end of the storm.

Storms of 6-14 inches: Your road should be made passable 2-3 days after the end of the storm.

Storms of 14-22 inches: Your road should be made passable 3-4 days after the end of the storm.

Storms of 22+ inches: Your road should be made passable 4-6 days after the end of the storm.

Freezing Rain or Ice: During severe ice storms, your road will receive sanding and/or salting after the storm subsides. This will only be done where public safety is a concern.

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REPORT for WINTER 2024 ~ Rachel Kline

**Happy 2024!**

I'm writing as your interim board President, temporarily filling the very big void left by my predecessor Kim Hewitt. We are grateful to Kim for her multiple years of amazing service as President, guiding us through many tough challenges. Thank you, Kim, and we'll be reaching out to you for advice and perspective in the coming months.

Many of you know me, or recognize me by my big yellow labrador, Jake, who, at 14 years, still joyfully walks with me every day. My husband Ron & I have lived in Sylvan Shores since 2014 and have come to love this quirky, wonderful community. I've been on the Sylvan Shores board of directors most of that time, and prior to that I served on my homeowners' board in Las Vegas for 10 years.

While Sylvan Shores has fewer than 275 homes, we have a large footprint of community property on both sides of Riva Road to maintain, including 2 boat piers (with slips to rent), 2 boat launches, multiple kayak racks, clubhouse with full kitchen and playground, a huge community swim pier, a softball field, boat-trailer parking, and a large undeveloped area affectionately known as the 'back 40'.

All this property is a both a challenge & a joy to manage, as we continually seek to maintain and improve our neighborhood. We do this with an all-volunteer board, and no property management company. Sometimes it takes us a bit longer to accomplish our goals than we might like, but we appreciate your patience, support and your help when we ask!

We have lots of plans for the coming year, including springtime installation of a new combination basketball and pickleball court (under contract, permitting in-process) and additional clubhouse renovations, including paving of clubhouse parking lot and interior updates.

We are also considering more community 'engagement' events. How about summertime movie nights and concerts at the softball field? Family kickball, basketball, softball games? Pickleball tournament? Sunday potluck dinner or garage sale at the clubhouse?

Sound great? We think so, too. Please watch this space, as well as Facebook, email and signage posted at the front of the community. Write to us at [SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com) with questions, concerns and a note about where YOU would like to contribute your time and talent.

In May, you'll have the chance to elect your new President and board members. Until then, I'm honored to serve the community. Thanks!

*Rachel Kline, Interim President*



### **CHANGES TO THE BOARD**

Over the last few months, the Board of Directors for our Sylvan Shores Services Company has seen several changes and new additions, outlined here:

- **Rachel Kline** was elected by the Board to move from Vice President to **Interim President** as Kim Hewitt concluded her tenure in December 2023.

## **CHANGES TO THE BOARD (con'd)**

- **Kathleen Carney** was voted to the Board to fill the seat and the **Secretary** role of Liz Stark who recently moved away with her family.
- **Steve Carney** was voted to the Board to fill the seat vacated by Kim Hewitt.

(By rule, the Board must have a President, Treasurer, and Secretary)

The Board wishes to thank Kim for her dedicated service to our community as Board member, President, Committee Chair, and all-around leader for innumerable projects. Kim is still our neighbor and friend, and will see you around our neighborhood!

## **BOARD and COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Board of Directors has several available spots that can be filled by interested community members at the next election in May. The Board not only manages the Sylvan Shores Services Company, but also administers the Special Community Benefit District (SCBD) that acquires and expends your funding for the good and the benefit of Sylvan Shores and its members.

Anyone with the time and interest to better our community and would like to lead on decision-making and funding expenditure should consider being a member of the Board or join a Committee that directly advises the board on activities and funding. Please attend the next Board meeting or send an email to [SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com). The good work here only happens because of our active volunteers!

## **UPDATES TO THE "BACK 40" and CLUBHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

The "Back 40" is our nickname for the area where the ballfield and adjoining areas are located. This spring, we will need volunteers to help finish the project that was started in 2023.

The ballfield benches and backstop have been completed, but we will need help to complete overhaul and renovation of the concession stand. We will also need help to put finishing touches on the storage shed. Watch your email and the Facebook page for a call for volunteers this spring!

We are hoping for the brand-new basketball/pickleball court to be completed in spring or summer, and will have information on that project as funding is committed to an approved project bid.

For the Clubhouse, the Committee is looking into paving the parking lot to replace the existing gravel lot. Additionally, after a gorgeous replacement of the ceiling, the Committee is looking into replacing the walls and refurbishing the wood floor.

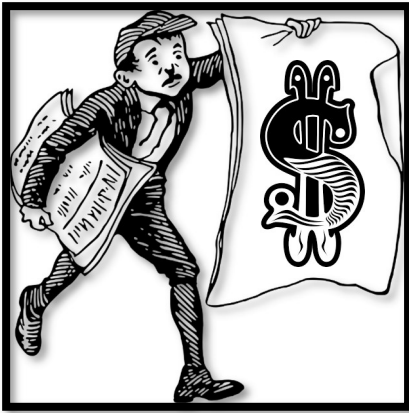
## **LOCAL CONTRACTORS and BUSINESS INFORMATION NEEDED**

Are you a part of a contractor, construction, landscaping, or cleaning company? Sylvan Shores needs your information! For any major Sylvan Shores project, Committees try to obtain three bids for various projects to compare for best-value selection. As always, we like to work with local businesses wherever possible, especially those that are owned by, or include, Sylvan Shores residents.

Please send your business information to [SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com) so we can add it to the list of companies we contact when the many projects come up each year! We would also like to feature your business on our Facebook page or this newsletter so other residents can find your information.

## **GARBAGE and RECYCLING PICKUP**

For the federal holidays that fall on Monday this year (MLK Jr., Presidents, Memorial, Labor, Columbus, and Veterans), our Tuesday garbage, recycling, and yard-waste pickup will generally be moved to Wednesday.



## FINANCE and BUDGET UPDATE

Sylvan Shores Services Company (SSSC) operates under two budgets: SCBD (Special Community Benefit District) and a Non-SCBD (SSSC) budget. The SCBD budget is funded by tax assessments for established purposes, and the SSSC budget is funded by fees from amenity rentals/leases for those expenses not allowed to be paid from tax assessments (such as tax preparation and audits, some legal expenses). Visit [www.sylvanshoresriva.com](http://www.sylvanshoresriva.com) for more information on the purposes of the district.

The fiscal year 2025 (FY2025) SCBD and SSSC budgets were mailed to members (property owners) for vote, which passed on both budgets. The SCBD budget is pending approval by the Anne Arundel County Council as part of their budget process, and will be effective July 1, 2024. Here are summaries of the FY2025 budgets:

SCBD FY2025*	Expense Budget
General maintenance and improvement**	105,954.00
Administrative expenses (Incl. County Admin Fee)	30,078.00
Replacement Reserves (for future use)	45,294.00
Capital Reserves (for future use)	15,00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>196,326.00</b>

SSSC FY2025***	Expense Budget
Legal	4,000.00
Tax Return/Audit	4,000.00
Donation to Riva Volunteer Fire Department	100.00
Misc. Administrative Expenses	800.00
Replacement Reserves (future use)	3,625
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,525.00</b>

\*Funded by annual tax assessment of \$683.05 per tax ID, billed by Anne Arundel County.

\*\*Includes \$16,00 funded from replacement reserves.

\*\*\*This budget is funded by amenity rentals (clubhouse, boat slips, kayak/canoe rack, boat trailer parking etc.).

### RECENT SYLVAN SHORES BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

- October 2023: The Board approved moving an additional \$30,000 of **SSSC funds** from the PNC Bank to a Fidelity Higher-Interest account to accrue interest on community funds.
- October 2023: The Board approved Southern MD Paving's proposal for **paving** the Clubhouse parking lot and the new basketball/pickleball court.
- October 2023: Walnut Hill's proposal for **snow removal** (on "blue sign" roads not handled by the County) was received and approved.
- December 2023: An application was made to the County to approve the **mixed-use court** in the "Back 40" area. The County requires either 15 1.5" diameter (@ 6ft level) *or* 45 total native bushes to remediate the impermeable surface around the area.
- December 2023: The Board discussed renovations to the interior of the **Clubhouse**, to include removing firring, new sheetrock, craftsman window trim, seat and stair painting, floor sanding, staining, and resealing.
- December 2023: Steve Carney became Chair of the **Boating Facilities Committee**, handling trailer parking, boat ramp keys, and boat slip rental activities, along with **Clubhouse Committee**.





**FROM THE ARCHIVES:  
SNOW SWEEPS IN OVERNIGHT**

*“George Brown found a tractor made travel easy on the snow-covered roads this morning. More snow is expected later tonight or early tomorrow.”*

*~January 21, 1982*

(The snowstorms in January 1982 dropped temperatures into the teens around the area. The 3-6” of snow fell on top of previous snowpack in the area, leaving a total of 10-12” of snow in some areas. The heavy snow also forced cancellation of President Reagan's planned visit yesterday to the Park Heights neighborhood in Baltimore. Reagan was to tour an industrial park in the economically depressed community to promote the concept of "enterprise zones" for creation of new jobs.)

**Forest Park Improvement Sub-Committee**

As part of the approved FY2024 budget, Sylvan Shores is budgeted to expend up to \$5,000 on improvements to Forest Park at the head of Hardestys Cove in the Forest section. This can include expansion of kayak/canoe storage, more picnic tables, new benches, pathway maintenance, lightning, and waterside environment improvements. Do you have ideas, want to be a part of the sub-committee, or own a business that could help? Email [SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com).



**HARDESTY'S VIEW**

Hello Sylvan Shores! My name is Hardesty, I am the local Great Blue Heron, making my home along Beards Creek near Forest Park. You know, it's not always easy to go fishing in the cove where I like to hang out. It takes quite a bit of patience, and I sure can get frustrated, or overwhelmed, or even "burned out" as you folks say. Sometimes I just want to huddle down with the ducks and sit on that old tree log and do nothing. But now when I fly in, I've started to think: okay, this is where I have to start. And I know that I have my skills, my patience, and my focus. With all that, I just *do what I can*. And it does seem to work out! Sometimes I get a fish, sometimes I don't, but each time it's fine. Because: I start where I am, use what I have, and do what I can. That's why they call it fishing! *~Hardesty*

**Sylvan Shores Services Company**

P.O. Box 208  
Riva, MD 21140

**CONTACT SYLVAN SHORES**

For questions, comments, suggestions, and other community or membership needs:

- <http://SylvanShoresRiva.com>
- <https://www.facebook.com/SylvanShoresRiva>
- [SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com)
- Google Voice Mailbox: 443-781-4453
- Mail: P.O. Box 208, Riva, MD 21140

**CONTACT ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY:**

Emergency: 9-1-1

Suicide Hotline: 9-8-8

Non-Emergency Police: 410-222-8610

Animal Control: 410-222-8900

Government Services: 3-1-1

Non-Profit/Human Services: 2-1-1

<https://aacounty.org/>

**Sylvan Shores Services Company, Inc.** (SSSC) is a Maryland Corporation operating as a non-profit, which owns and maintains amenities for the benefit of the owners and residents of the Sylvan Shores community. SSSC also administers the Sylvan Shores Special Community Benefit District (SCBD), an Anne Arundel County special taxing district. SSSC is managed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors who are community members.

**The Shoreline** is the periodic publication sent to all Sylvan Shores owners and residents for the good and the benefit of the community. The Shoreline is written by community members and edited by the Communications Committee. For questions, comments, or to add content to The Shoreline, please contact us at [SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanShoresBOD@gmail.com). We welcome your thoughts and input!