

TAX INCREASE

The Garrett County Commissioners held their annual constant yield tax rate hearing on April 21st. The commissioners are proposing that the county's real property tax rate for fiscal year 2010 remain at \$1 per \$100 of assessed value. Keeping the tax rate at \$1 for fiscal year 2010 would generate an additional \$2.3 million for the county. By lowering the rate to \$.946 (the constant yield tax rate), however, the county would have the same amount of revenue in FY 2010 as it did in 2009. Commission Board Chair, Denny Glotfelty pointed out that the state had cut Garrett County \$2.9 million for the coming year and that was the reason the commissioners were considering leaving the constant yield rate at \$1. At the hearing there was overwhelming opposition to the rate. Many pointed out that in the light of increased property assessments, keeping the rate at \$1 amounted to a tax increase. These opponents pointed to the economic slowdown, rising unemployment, and a stagnant real estate market as reasons for lowering the constant yield rate. Because there was not an actual budget to see where the money would be going, many at the meeting said they had no idea how the county was spending the money.

The POA Board has gone on record as opposing leaving the constant yield rate at \$1. In a letter to the county commissioners, Scott Johnson, POA President pointed out that leaving the rate at \$1 was, in effect, a 5.8% tax hike. Citing the economic situation, he argued that the county should reduce taxes and spending, not raise them; at the very least hold to the constant yield rate of \$.946. He pointed out that District 18 (Deep Creek Lake) bears the heaviest tax burden, especially since many of these people do not live in the county. He also recommended having the meeting at a convenient time so that people who work or do not live here could attend.

The commissioners left the record open on the constant yield tax rate. Persons wanting to provide

written comments on the issue may contact them at Room 207, Frederick Thayer III Courthouse, 203 South Fourth Street, Oakland, MD 21550. The tax rate and budget will be announced on Tuesday, June 16th, at 10 a.m. in the commissioners meeting room.

SOUND BITES FROM THE POLICY AND REVIEW BOARD MEETING

The Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board met on Monday, April 27th. Our thanks to Board member Troy Ellington for supplying this information. The Boat Action Committee (Annapolis) is in the process of changing the boat noise level from 90 dB to 88dB (note that a drop of 3 dB would serve to halve the noise level). Also, the BAC plans to change the measurement process to facilitate measurements on the lake. The Committee is also looking into problems created by boats especially designed to create large wakes for wake boarding.

Shoreline erosion control will **not** incur a \$1500 fee **if** the control is natural, such as encouraging plant growth, etc. Rip Rap and other "imported" materials will incur a \$750 application fee **and** another \$750 if implemented.

The Water Quality Task Force (DNR) presented their plan for testing and reporting on the water quality of the lake at 16 locations from the dam to the headwater and in certain coves. The results will be posted on the internet (site to be developed). Formal reports will take one to two years to be published. The budget for this effort is \$65,725. There was much discussion related to water quality but the consensus was that except for nutrients, the quality is good and that the test program is a good one and should help in managing the water quality of the lake. It was noted that much of the existing sediment was introduced during the heavy logging around the lake in the 1960's.

GARRETT COUNTY TO REVISE ORDINANCES TO COMPLY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners adopted a new Garrett County Comprehensive Plan on October 7, 2008. This Comprehensive Plan established new policy guidelines to manage future growth and development in the County and was prepared with considerable public involvement and assistance. In order to implement the policy changes set forth in the new Comprehensive Plan, the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance, the Garrett County Subdivision Ordinance and the Garrett County Sensitive Areas Ordinance will undergo revisions to ensure healthy and sustained future growth.

A meeting was held on May 5, 2009, in the auditorium of Garrett College to kick-off Garrett County's planning project to revise these three ordinances. The Planning Commission's consultant Environmental Resources Management facilitated the meeting and provided an overview of the major policy changes recommended by the new plan. No specific modifications to the code were presented at the meeting. They will be developed over the next several months and a public presentation of the drafts will be held in September. Many considered the Comprehensive Plan to be just a "wish list" in the past; however recent state legislation and court decisions require that all ordinances be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Public input at the meeting was primarily questions hoping to better understand what actions are to be taken. Over the course of the summer John Nelson, Director, Department of Planning and Land Development for Garrett County, will work with consultants from Environmental Resources Management to rework the ordinances according to the new plan and public comments. For more information and updates go to <http://www.garrettcountry.org/PlanningLand/PlanningZoning/Planning.aspx>.

POA DONATES \$5000.00 TO THE GARRETT LAKES ARTS FESTIVAL

In the past the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake has, from time to time, donated funds to groups that have contributed much to the community. The association is contributing \$2500.00 to the Wildlife Conservation Fund for cell phone use and maintenance for the Natural Resources Police.

The POA members are the largest contributors to the United Way of Garrett County. In 2008, the Association donated \$2000.00 to Garrett county Memorial Hospital's Capital Fund for 2007 and 2008. The POA has made a ten year commitment to this and will pay \$1000.00 per year through 2016. Also, the Association has traditionally supported the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce by donating funds to the Fireworks on the Mountain for the 4th of July celebration. This year, the Property Owners' Association is pleased to announce that the Board voted to give \$5000.00 to the Garrett Lakes Art Festival, in recognition of its contribution to the community and schools. GLAF has brought top quality entertainment to Garrett County for over twenty years and has depended on grants and donations to do this. Unfortunately, much of this funding has dried up in this tough economic climate.

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

Board Meetings: Uno's 8:30 AM

June 13, 2009

August 8, 2009

November 7, 2009

General Membership Meetings:

Garrett 8 Cinemas

June 27, 2009

August 22, 2009

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

Carolyn Mathews will speak at the June 27th General Membership meeting. She will address the Special Permits required for buffer strip alterations and erosion control options, permits and fees.

John Wilson, head of the Water Quality Study will speak at the August Meeting. He will talk about some of the results of this study that the DNR has been conducting, as some of these will be available between July and September.

2009 DUES STATEMENT

Included in this issue of the Dispatch is the 2009 Dues statement. This is for those who have not paid for 2009. After this issue only members paid through 2009 will receive a copy of the Dispatch. If you are not sure if you paid, look at your last copy of the Dispatch. To the right of your name on the mailing label is a year. That year is the current year that your dues have been paid.

2009 LAKE AREA CULTURAL EVENTS

McHenry Highland Festival Go to www.highlandfest.info for information and ticket purchase locations. **June 5th through June 7th: Friday June 5th St. Andrews at Wisp Golf Tournament** (check the web site for information. Reservations are required); **Friday Evening: Concert of Celtic Music.** This concert will feature Bonnie Rideout and Celtic roots band Mac Talla Mor. The Doors and cash bar open at 7:00pm and the Concert begins at 8:00pm. Will O' the Wisp (\$35.00). Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please check the web site for online reservations and purchase locations. **Saturday, June 6th 9am to 5pm Highland Festival** Garrett County Fairgrounds (\$12/\$6). Tickets can be purchased online, at the gate, or at several locations in Garrett County. Please check the web site for these locations. **Sunday, June 7th 9am Kirkin' O' the Tartans** St. John's Episcopal Church, Deer Park, MD.

GLAF (Call 301-387-3082 or www.artsandentertainment.org for Tickets and Information: Cost Adult/Student): **June 27th Beatlemania Now** (7:30pm) The Lodge at Wisp (\$30/\$5); **July 4th Independence Day Concert with the Garrett Community Concert Band and the Garrett Choral Society** (7:30pm) Garrett College Lawn and Tent (\$Donations Appreciated); **July 5th through July 7th Chautauqua: Civil Right Remembered** (5th Woodie Guthrie, 6th Jackie Robinson, 7th Eleanor Roosevelt) Garrett College Lawn and Tent (\$Donations Appreciated); **July 17th Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra: An Evening of Movie Classics** (7:30pm) The Lodge at Wisp (\$35/\$5); **July 18th Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra: Rhapsody In Blue** (7:30pm) The Lodge at Wisp (\$35/\$5).

MUSIC AT PENN ALPS (Tickets \$12.00) Call 443-257-9177 or musicatpennalps@gmail.com for Tickets and Information. A 10 pack of tickets is \$90.00. Please note the price of tickets has been reduced in response to the current economic climate. Concerts are at 7:30pm in the Great Hall at Penn Alps, Grantsville, MD or at Windsor Hall, Cumberland, MD. To assure seats, please arrive by 7:20pm. **Saturday, June 6th ETA-3** (Flute, Clarinet and Piano); **Saturday, June 13th Mark Higgins Trio** (Violin, Clarinet and Piano); **Saturday, June 20th Yuliya Gorenman** (Piano); **Saturday, June 27th The Poulenc Trio** (Oboe, Bassoon and Piano) Windsor Hall, Cumberland; **Saturday, July 11th Barbara Hollinshead and Howard Bass** (Elizabethan songs and lute music); **Saturday, July 18th Dennis Stroughmatt and L'Esprit Creole** (Fiddle, Guitar, Double Bass) Cajun and Creole music; **Saturday, July 25th Caroline Stinson and Molly Morkoski** (Cello and Piano); **Saturday, August 1st Sonya Hayes and John H. McCrary** (Violin and Piano) Windsor Hall, Cumberland, MD; **Saturday, August 15th Critton Hollow String Band** (Mountain Music); **Saturday, August 22nd Larry Snitzler** (Classical guitar); **Saturday, August 29th Covington**

String Quartet (Violin, Violin, Viola, Cello); **Saturday, September 5th Potomac String Quartet** (Violin, Violin, Viola, Cello) Windsor Hall, Cumberland.

Little Yough Music Festival (Friday evenings at Mountain Fresh Pavilion adjacent to the town parking lot in Oakland, MD. The concerts begin at 7pm with food vendors on site at 6pm. Please bring your own chairs. These concerts are free, but donations may be sent to Little Yough, Oakland Town Hall, 15 South Third Street, Oakland, MD 21550. **June 26th Zydeco-a-go-go** (Cajun, Creole, New Orleans rock/rhythm and blues); **July 3rd Brother Short.** The concert will be held at Broadford Lake Park from 5pm to 8pm, prior to the traditional fireworks; **July 10th Kleen-Kut** (Reggae, Caribbean and Steel Drums); **July 17th Dennis McClung Blues Band** (Blues); **July 24th Joe Bonson and Coffee Run** (Honky-Tonk Country); **July 31st Eastman String Band** (Alternative/Bluegrass/Celtic Players); **September 4th The Remedy** (Oldies).

Theatre On The Lake (TOTL) July 9-11th Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 7:30pm, Garrett College; **July 21-26 Steel Magnolias**, 7:30pm, Garrett College; **July 30,31,August 1,2,5,6,7,8 Big River**, 7:30pm The Barn at Ridgeview Valley (located one mile off Route 219 along Gravelly Run Road). Until May 1st, season tickets at \$25.00 will be sold exclusively. After May 1st, patrons may continue to purchase season tickets as well as individual tickets. Ticket prices for musicals are \$10.00, while tickets for **Steel Magnolias** are \$8.00. For information and tickets, call 304-680-1002.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Please do not feed the ducks and geese! Feeding these animals allows them to become too concentrated and more aggressive. Also, most handouts do not provide the proper nutrients that geese require. To keep these birds off your dock, you might try putting tape, fishing line or brightly colored ribbon around your dock. The ducks and geese will not go around these. For more information, go to the following web site: http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/wild/nuisance/w_geese/types.htm Click onto types of control methods.

Early reports indicate that the restaurants have been helped by Sunday Sales. In the tough economy, this is good news. It also appears that vacation rentals for the upcoming season are holding their own or doing a little better.

Do not forget to check the POA web site for breaking news items concerning the lake and up-to-date information on meetings and happenings. The web site is w.w.w.deepcreeklakepoa.com.

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