

## C.I.C.A. Newsletter April 20, 2004

### President's Message

#### No Complaints:

It's always great to be in Chesapeake Isle, but the best time of the year is just around the corner. There are boats in our harbor again, the grass is green, and it actually hit 70 degrees recently. I'm sure you share my hope and anticipation that this spring and summer will be the best ever for our families, Chesapeake Isle and our nation.

#### Complaint Filed:

It is my duty to tell you that the CICA, Inc. is being sued. The complaint was filed in March by a number of property owners who are asking the court to "enter a judgement declaring that they are not subject to a mandatory homeowners association". The CICA is responding through its counsel.

The Board intends to handle this expeditiously and amicably. We have little doubt that the ultimate decision will fairly, equitably, and inevitably support the long-term good of Chesapeake Isle. Members may request a copy of the complaint by writing to the CICA Secretary, P. O. Box 150, North East, MD 21901. The Board will keep the membership informed of developments. We urge everyone to focus on keeping Chesapeake Isle a place known for friendliness, volunteerism, and a strong sense of community as it has grown to be over its first forty years.

#### Not Exactly Complaints:

- **Item:** A few property owners have expressed interest in gaining a better understanding of Association rules, restrictive covenants, and other documents. **Response:** *The Board will reissue Guidebook / Directories within a couple of weeks.. The Board also expects many of these questions to be resolved in the court decision and on-going attempts to communicate.*
- **Item:** A few complaints have been received that the Association doesn't adequately enforce the rules it has. **Response:** *It's not for lack of trying. Things that affect public safety and security, quiet enjoyment, and property values get priority from the volunteers that comprise the Board.*
- **Item:** Recently distributed printed material implied that the Board wants to make a whole bunch of new rules. **Response:** *Oh, good grief!*
- **Item:** A few requests have been made to the Board to bring violations of county, state, and federal regulations and laws to the attention of the appropriate agencies. **Response:** *Members sometimes ask for CICA help when neighbor to neighbor contact doesn't work. The CICA can help in this way: we will look into the situation to discern the facts, including what the applicable agency and regulation or law is. Then, we will inform the member who has the concern regarding what we have*

*learned. If the situation is not addressed, the CICA would be forced to contact the authorities. ( See the related article in this issue on dogs and vehicles. )*

**Last Word:**

As always, I encourage you to write or e-mail, to check out the Chesapeakeisle.org website, to read the minutes from Board of Director meetings and to pitch in where you can. And, of course, take a minute to be a good neighbor. Hope to see you in the Isle or on the Elk. Until the July newsletter....

Mike Szep

**C.I.C.A. Directory Up-Date**

We are in receipt of so many changes and up-dates as a result of our request in this year's dues letter that it became unwieldy to attempt to list them all in this newsletter. All efforts have gone into updating the master file in our data base so that we can get the new Directory and Guidebooks in print and distributed to our members as soon as possible.

The new edition will go for duplication within the next two weeks. I thank all of you who took the trouble to inform me of any changes. **YOU STILL HAVE ABOUT A WEEK TO TEN DAYS IF ANY OTHER CHANGES SHOULD BE PUT IN PLACE.**

**Membership Dues Report**

The membership dues have been coming in at a steady rate. We thank all those who have responded thus far. As we "went to press" with this newsletter, our number of paid member families stood at 196, which was about 8 to 10 behind the return rates of the last two years. If you have not yet paid your dues for the year, won't you please do so now? If you have misplaced your dues invoice, a copy is available on our web-site at [www.chesapeakeisle.org](http://www.chesapeakeisle.org) (or you can just send your check by itself to the membership chairman) Thank you !!

**The Mind of Abner Yocum**

These are the thoughts of Abner Yocum, a property owner in Chesapeake Isle who has not paid his membership dues for years. "This community is getting along fine without my dues and has for many years, so why should I pay now?" But then I had a thought... What would this community be like if all the property owners over the years did as I do ?

If all the property owners refused to pay, there would be no pavilion, no bath house, no playground equipment and no maintenance building. Of course, we would not need a maintenance building because we would not have a community tractor or mower or road roller. We might be critical of our present roads and they do get potholes when it rains, but if all property owners refused to pay as I do now, the roads would be dirt and barely passable after hard rains and not passable at all after we get eight inches of snow. The

swim beach would have no jetties and very little sand. We would have no buoys to mark a safe swim area and no swim floats for our young folks to play on. The beach would be littered with all sorts of trash, old tires, bottles, etc. because we would have no trash pick-up.

If all property owners refused to pay their dues, our harbor would have no piers, no launch ramp, no dinghy racks or mooring barge. Of course, we could launch our boats at the State Park at \$10.00 per use. The park ramps really are very good, but if you use them just ten times in a season, that's \$100.00 ..... as compared to our dues of \$85.00

Without the tractor to keep the common lands and undeveloped lots mowed, these areas would be overgrown with tall grass and weeds. As unsightly and unattractive as that would be, the real problem would be the additional cover and breeding areas for ticks, mosquitoes and chiggers to thrive. Then I thought, in a community like this, what would my property value be like? Maybe \$10,000 less... perhaps even more than that. At the \$85.00 dues rate, that would be equal to 117 years of dues. When I think of that, \$85.00 seems like a bargain.

The reason I bought in Chesapeake Isle was because of the amenities available in this waterfront community and the beauty of the area. I have changed my mind and will now begin paying my dues. The names in this story have been changed to protect the guilty.

### **The Sad Passing of Some Honored Members**

Within a few days of the printing of the last newsletter, we learned of the deaths of two CICA members who had been honored in past years for substantial and meaningful contributions to our association and to this community. Just a few weeks ago, we heard of the passing of two more Chesapeake Isle friends and neighbors.

Ken Smith's passing was reported to us on the day the January newsletter was being "printed" ... too late to be reported in that edition. Ken and Renee Smith have lived on Mason Lane since the early 80's and he was so moved by the beauty and tranquility of Chesapeake Isle that he wrote a poem about it a short time after their arrival here. His poem, entitled "That Little Slice of Heaven", is being reproduced in this edition in tribute to him. Ken eventually was a director on our Board, president of the association in 1984 – 1985, and he and Renee established and maintained the community bulletin board at the entrance to our neighborhood, as well as the bulletin boards at the pavilion and the harbor for many years. Ken was honored with a special award plaque at an Annual Spring Dinner in the early 90's. Avid power-boaters (The Renee B) at the time of their arrival on our shores, they were also very active in the Delaware River Power Squadron, which he also served as Commander. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Renee.

Just a few days later, we learned that Jeanne Tepe had passed away in December. Jeanne and Jack Tepe resided in Greenville, Delaware, but were long-time weekend and summer residents of the property known as "Turkey Bluff" on Cliffview Drive on top of Jacobs Nose. Like the Smith's, they were also avid boaters, but of the sailing variety, during

their earlier years in the Isle. On behalf of our community, Jeanne and Jack led the project to get the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rip-rap the shoreline at the base of Jacobs Nose from the dinghy racks at the harbor to the beginning of our bathing beach to reduce the devastating erosion that was taking place there. They were honored together on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of this \$200,000 project with the presentation of an award at the Annual Spring Dinner in 1995. Jack has informed me of the recent sale of "Turkey Bluff". In his words, "It would be no fun for me without Jeanne." Kindest regards to you, Jack, for all you and Jeanne did for us over the years.

Howard Hite passed away last month after a lengthy battle with a tough medical condition. Howard and Cheryl Hite were long time residents here until they sold the family home to their daughter, Dawn, who continues to reside here with her son. Howard was a very active sailor most of his life and had many sailing adventures out of the Chesapeake Isle harbor over the years he lived here. He was active on the Board of Directors, served as president for one year, and was honored as the Man of the Year in 1998. We are sorry for your loss, Cheryl and Dawn.

Jerry Long experienced a serious medical emergency just three weeks ago while doing some yard work on his property on Cliffview Drive. He and Verna were visiting for the day from their full time home near Lancaster, Pa. The Maryland State Police helicopter flew him to University Hospital in Baltimore, but he continued to decline neurologically and died almost a week later. In a way, Jerry was a relative newcomer to the community being here for about the last four years. However, he also qualified as an "old timer", often visiting his friends Ed and Mildred Lilly when they vacationed at their week-end home here forty years ago. It was the first home the developer built in the Isle. To Verna and the whole family, we hope your loss will be eased somewhat whenever you visit the Isle knowing how much he always loved it here.

### **2004 Bath House Keys & Shuffleboard Cabinet Keys**

If you paid for a bath house key or shuffleboard cabinet key for this coming season when you sent in your annual dues, you will find your key (keys) taped to this newsletter and the newsletter will have been delivered to you in an envelope. Please remember that the bath house key will not work on the locks currently on the doors to the restrooms. As soon as the water is turned on at Spring Work Day and the bath house is cleaned and in operating order, we will put the locks on for the 2003 season. This key will work on those locks. The new lock to the shuffleboard equipment closet is already in place and your key will work immediately.

We are currently advertising for a responsible teen-ager or adult who would like to clean the bathhouse weekly for some summer income. Please see the related story on Pavilion Rentals for more details.

### **Guest Passes for 2004**

In this newsletter, you will find two Guest Passes for the use of your friends and family visiting Chesapeake Isle's harbor or bathing beach areas. Please have your visitors display them on the top of the dashboard or in the front windshield to avoid being "challenged" needlessly by others. We would remind you that "blanket" invitations to others to use the recreational areas of our community should never be extended. Your visitors and guests should only be using our common areas when you are present in the Isle and aware of their presence. We have found the passes hold up better if glued to a cardboard backing.

### **Pavilion Reservations For 2004**

Folks are already calling in their reservations for the pavilion for the approaching beach season. If you have been thinking about a family re-union or other gathering, we would advise you to contact our new pavilion co-ordinator, Nancy Duvall (410-287-0177) as soon as possible for available dates. The donation for use by a paid member of the association is \$25.00 and the date is not reserved until the donation is received and the 2004 dues have been paid. The pavilion is not available to members in arrears on dues. If anyone is interested in cleaning and re-stocking the bathhouse rest rooms/changing rooms on a weekly basis, please call Nancy to learn what is involved in this activity and the current pay rate.

### **Progressive Dinner**

This year's Progressive Dinner became one of the best-attended that we have had, with sixty-six taking part. The committee found it necessary to accept the generous offer of eight entrée hosts in order to seat all participants for the main course of the evening. The event was held on Saturday evening, March 13<sup>th</sup> and got underway with an appetizer course at the home of Norm and Marie Robinson, where we enjoyed a glorious sunset over the Susquehanna Flats as we sipped our wine and got re-acquainted following a long, cold and snowy winter.

The creative and delicious entrees were hosted by Neil and Barbara Barr, Bob and Bonnie Boyer, Sonny and Sara Hayes, Jay and Diane Gilfillan, Carl and Ruth Killian, Ken and Rosie Knapp, Art and Carol Wood and Dick and Erika Ullman.

The group was re-united at the home of Gordon and Jorja Osborne to enjoy a terrific desert course with after dinner libations. A vote of thanks to Karen Dryden and her committee and to Jorja Osborne for making the name-tags for the evening.

### **CICA's Fourth of July Celebration**

The Independence Day Celebration Committee will have its first meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2004, starting at 7:00 PM at the home of the Committee Chairperson, Ginny Cogley. Please let Ginny know if you are interested in volunteering to help with this year's community celebration. Just call her at (410) 287- 6358

## **News From The Harbor**

Spring is here and before we know it the Harbor will be active again. As the Isle grows with more people and more boaters, it puts a strain on the Harbor Area and it would be a lot easier on everyone if a little courtesy and common sense were shown.

1. Please have your boat ready to launch when you arrive at the boat ramp. It would help if the vessel is already loaded when you arrive at the Harbor.
2. When the vessel is launched and the trailer is being parked, please have someone move your boat to the other side of the floating dock leaving the ramp clear for the next person to use.
3. Please park vehicles with trailers on the higher ground.
4. Golf carts are to be parked with the other vehicles and not against the pier.

Please remember that all boaters born after July 1, 1972 must carry a certificate of safe boating education when operating a boat in Maryland waters.

Personal watercraft (PWC) operators in Maryland must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid certificate of boating education. Please have a safe boating season.

## **The Swimming Season Is Almost Afloat**

As we approach another wonderful swim season at the Chesapeake Isle swim beach, may we remind you of a few simple rules and suggestions that will make everybody's beach experience infinitely better and more enjoyable.

- Please do not bring dogs to the beach and picnic area at any time. Even leashed.
- Bottles and other glass containers should be kept off the sand and out of the water.
- Younger family members should not be allowed to swim unsupervised.
- Please stay off the jetties for your own safety. They are slippery and unstable.
- Please stay out of the areas where we are trying to establish dune grasses.
- No vehicles are to be parked beyond the parking lot. This includes golf carts.
- Please keep beach party fires small and only in the concrete fire ring.
- Take your trash with you. It's a very short walk to the parking lot trash cans.

## **Community Emergency Response Training**

The association has received a letter from the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services offering Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) if we have any interest. They are offering training to communities based on what happened on 9/11.

Quoting from the letter: "CER-T is designed to train citizens in disaster preparedness, basic fire safety and suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue techniques, information on terrorism and more. The idea behind the program is simple. In the event of a major disaster, communications failures, road blockages or other factors, may prevent first responders from reaching all citizens immediately. CER-T will provide you with the basic skills required to handle all of your own needs and then be able to respond and assist your neighbors following a disaster, until the professional arrive."

Harry Hite has volunteered to organize CICA's efforts assisted by John Reber and Sonny Hayes. Cecil County's Skip Mahan told him that the CICA would need 12 to 20 people to volunteer for the training to go forward. The training totals about 21 hours, and could be held on a combination of a Saturday and weeknights. If you are interested in additional information or want to commit to the training, please call Harry Hite at 410-287- 1246 or e-mail: [harryfjojo@aol.com](mailto:harryfjojo@aol.com).

## **Snow Plowing and Grass Mowing**

As we put the snow plow into summer storage, a note in passing to clear up a misconception that surfaced late in the winter snow plowing season. A rumor reached us that we were at the maximum number we had decided to handle and that there was some kind of "trick" in getting your contract in under the allotted number. However, in point of fact, the civic association did not fill the number of contracts it had determined to be the number of driveways it felt they could do justice in handling. We could have handled seven more driveways than we did during this past winter, so next year ... don't listen to rumors; call the snow-plowing chairman and get the facts straight from the source before the snow starts to fall.

Now we are about to embark on the grass mowing season. Contracts have gone out to people we have performed this service for in the past. Your lot must be un-improved to qualify. We can not mow properties that have a building on them. As in the past the civic association will accept contracts from lot owners to mow the grass on their vacant lots. Restrictive covenant #3 requires that lot owners provide for the care of their grass and to keep it from exceeding six inches in length. If you can not commit to do this, you should return the contract that was recently mailed out to you and have the association's mowing crew do it for you. Please return the contract and fee by May 1st.

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR**

A number of complaints have been received lately about dogs running loose and about unlicensed or unlawfully licensed or improperly operated vehicles in our community. At the beginning of this month the State Police and Park Rangers actually confiscated an unlicensed All Terrain Vehicle that was being operated in an unsafe manner in Chesapeake Isle. Cecil County codes (ordinances) state that there can be no more than one (1) unlicensed car or truck parked on a property and that it must be in an ACTIVE state of repair or restoration.

Cecil County codes #209-1 to #209-15 state that all dogs and cats four (4) months of age or older must be licensed and when off the owner's property, must be on a leash. Please be a good neighbor!! When walking your dog, carry a plastic bag to pick up what the county refers to as your dog's excretory matter.

If a neighbor's violation of these county codes create a problem for you, the best procedure would be to first speak to the neighbor requesting their cooperation on the matter. If this fails, a report can be made to the county office responsible for enforcing the particular code. Car and truck licensing comes under the Civil Law Department at (410) 996-5369. For any dog problems, call the SPCA (ask for John) at (410) 398-9555.

## **CICA CLOTHING ITEMS**

We have some new CICA "logo" clothing items at the "members only" store. Newest additions to our clothing inventory are embroidered items that are really classy. These are for wearing to the yacht club or a Harbor Nights get-together. Definitely too nice for putting in moorings. You can see these on line at our Chesapeake Isle website and we will have some on display and for sale at Spring Work Day. Of course, we still have all the old favorites, T-shirts, sweatshirts, burgees for the new boating season etc. Just call Dotty Fritz (410-287-9010) to order any of these items, which make wonderful Mothers Day and Fathers Day surprises, as well.

## **A Word About Summer Bingo At The Pavilion**

We are in need of a chairperson for this activity if it is going to continue. For various reasons, those who have coordinated this wholesome, fun, family activity for the past couple of years are unable to do so this year. It is an easy and enjoyable community activity to lead, so please think about doing it and contact the president or any board member if you want further details.

In the past, Bingo has been held on alternate Wednesday evenings during the summer months. That's 5 Bingo nights !! It runs from 6:30 p.m. until dark or until our schedule of approximately 10 games is completed. We can supply you with the bingo cards, the tumbler and numbered balls and assorted prizes that have been donated for this activity.

## **Community Library Just Keeps Getting Better**

Our CICA library will be open every Saturday from 10:00am to 11:30am for your convenience and reading pleasure. There is no signing in or signing out books ... just choose the books or videos you would like and enjoy them. Donations of books or movies can be brought down any Saturday or we can come to your home to pick up donated items. We are always looking forward to receiving children's books. Volunteers are needed to staff the library from April 18<sup>th</sup> to October 18<sup>th</sup> so if you can take an hour and a half watch on one or more Saturday mornings, please call Joan Ferrick (287-8595) or Susan Clare (287-5372) and we will fit you into our schedule.

Story Time \_\_ \_ As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, we are initiating a new activity for children (ages 3 – 12) of reading to them for a half hour every Saturday morning. We have been blessed with 4 ready, willing and capable storytellers. Judy Brinton, Claire Byler and Peggy Graef will enrich them with interesting and age appropriate stories they have chosen. The readings will start promptly at 10:15am and end at 10:45am. Please have the children there ten minutes early to allow for nametags, jacket removal, setting up of chairs, etc. as we must start our "Storytime" promptly and complete it by 10:45. Arrangements must be made for timely pick-up at 10:45 as we can not baby sit the children at all.

Jennifer Scott Greenfield has graciously volunteered to handle "Storytime for Babies" (2 years old and younger) and this age group will meet on the first Saturday of each month beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>. These will be only 15 minutes sessions and the babies and toddlers must be accompanied by a parent who will remain with them at all times. These sessions will start promptly at 11:00am and end at 11:15am. Utilizing this time schedule allows us to accommodate all of our children's age groups while adhering to the normal Saturday morning library hours. The success of the new activity program depends on the enthusiasm and cooperation of all. For additional information or questions contact Joan Ferrick or Sue Clare at the phone numbers listed in the first paragraph of this article.

## **Annual Spring Dinner**

This year's annual dinner returned to the warm and pleasant confines of the North East River Yacht Club, the location of quite a few former Spring affairs. In attendance on April 17<sup>th</sup> were 87 friends and neighbors, who enjoyed the program and planning of the committee of Charlotte Hallett and Ruth Killian. As always, a highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Man and Woman of the Year Awards. The honorees this year were Andrea Gilde and Art Wood, two folks who all would agree, deserved to be recognized for all their past service to our association and our community.

## **Nominating Committee**

We are running a little late in naming a nominating committee to select a slate of people to run for the Board at the annual meeting in August. The committee will be formed at the next regular board meeting. In the meantime, if you are interested in serving on our board of directors, or if you would like to suggest someone you think would be a good candidate, please call our president, Mike Szep at 410-287-5618 at your earliest opportunity.

## Community Bulletin Board

As a service to our members in good standing, the Chesapeake Isle newsletter includes this free site to advertise sale items, services, etc. Please keep this in mind if you are new to the neighborhood ( or an old-timer who may have forgotten ) Simply send your notice to Les Fritz or Janet McKenna at any time to be listed in the next newsletter.

For Sale – 28’11” 1994 Rinker Fiesta-Vee 265 5.7L 250 mercruiser, clean, aft cabin, full galley, A/C, full head w/shower, full camper canvas, two mooring covers, one full winter storage cover, trailer with new rollers and tires. Also, microwave, stove, frig, VHF, AM/FM cassette player, 2 anchors, all safety equipment and more. \$23,500 obo  
Call Eddie Earle ... (410) 287-7268

Skidsteer Service: Tree stump removal, Top-soil delivery and spread, Driveway stone delivery and spread, grading, snow removal, trenching, lot clearing. Call Ed Earle.

For Sale ... Bose AM 15 Speakers. Paid \$1,300 just two years ago. Will sell for \$750. Up-grading my system. Call Ed Earle at (410) 287-7268

For Sale .... Lazy-Boy recliner .. Blue, good condition ... \$35.00  
Is there a philatelist in the Isle ? Tom was one and his collection includes American plate blocks and more. Call Ginny Cobley (410) 287-6358

FOR SALE – Dufore 24 Sailboat (24’11”) 4 sails including Harken furling jib, new main used one year. 9.9 h.p. Johnson outboard motor. Roomy salon with sink, 2-burner alcohol stove, V-birth and large cockpit. Excellent boat for the single hander. \$3,500 OBO. Call Gordon 287-8290.

*For Sale ... 7-foot dinghy with oars \$75.00 Call Rob Green (410) 287-7436*

For Sale --- 15-foot Grumman aluminum canoe. A new one would cost about \$815.00  
This one is not new and Hurricane Isabel put a tree on top of it. It needs some Banging out and some riveting work on seats, but if you can do the work it's Yours for \$150.00 Call Rob Green (410) 287-7436

HELPING HANDS LAWNS ..... Lawn mowing, Aerating and Fertilizing. (Sorry, but I can not provide edging of walkways or gardens.) Let me mow your lawn during the week so you will have more week- end time free to enjoy your leisure and the bay.  
**\$25.00 per cut Call Regan at (410) 287-7024 .....or stop by 34 Mowbray Lane**

### **SOCIAL NOTES AND REMINDERS OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Special thanks to Karen Dryden and her committee for another great Progressive Dinner. Thanks, also, to Chris Ann Szep for organizing another fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt. And, indeed, Charlotte Hallett, Ruth Killian and their committee is to be commended for an outstanding effort in planning and executing the Annual Dinner at the North East River Yacht Club.

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The next Social Committee meeting is Monday 5/3/04 at 7:15 p.m. in the pavilion. The social meetings are open to all CICA members, so come and join us if you have any ideas for new social activities or just want to join in on other planning. We would love to hear from you. Call Sue Seeley at (410) 287- 0025 or e-mail her at [sueseeley@earthlink.net](mailto:sueseeley@earthlink.net)

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**SPRING CLEAN-UP**

Date: 5/15/04  
Time: 8:30 AM  
Place: Pavilion

It's time to get our community ready for summer. Bring your tools (marked with your name) and help pitch in to make Chesapeake Isle a great place to live and play. Our contact person is Sue Seeley. \*\* (410) 287-0025 \*\* Call her with any questions.

A covered dish social will immediately follow our clean-up efforts at 1:00 PM. Meat, beverages and paper goods are provided by the social committee. Please bring a covered side dish or dessert - - enough to feed 8 – 10 people. Come meet your neighbors and be an important part of our community.

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**ANNUAL LADIES BRUNCH**

Date: 6/5/04 – Saturday  
Time: 10:00 AM to Noon  
Place: Pavilion

The CICA social committee would like to welcome all the ladies new to our neighborhood since last year's brunch. Come and join us in this fun event. Coffee, tea, juice and paper goods are provided by the committee. Please bring your favorite brunch item, fruit or dessert – enough to feed 6 – 8 people -- It's a great time, so don't miss it. Once again, Sue Seeley is the contact person .... (410) 287-0025

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**HARBOR SOCIALS**

Dates: 5/28 - 6/25 - 7/30 - 9/3 - 10/1 (Fridays)  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Harbor (In case of rain we move to the pavilion)  
Contact: Sue Seeley 410-287-0025

Come and join us for our most popular and relaxing get-together. Bring your favorite wine with a snack or finger food. We provide soda, beer, ice and paper goods. Please ... this activity is for ADULTS ONLY. No children; no dogs.

Note: We need some strong helpers around 6:30 pm at the pavilion to move tables, beer, soda, etc. down to the harbor area for set-up. Thanks !!

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