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# The Greensboro Association Newsletter

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Spring 2015

## **Officers of the Greensboro Association**

### **President:**

John C. Stone, III

### **Vice Presidents:**

Andy Dales

Linda Ely

Niall Kirkwood

### **Secretary:**

Sara Dillon

### **Treasurer:**

Richard Lovett

### **Asst. Treasurer:**

Andy Dales

### **Auditor:**

TBD

### **Committees:**

Barr Hill & Long Pond

Nature Preserve

Communications

Events

Finance

Grants & Endowment

Greensboro Initiatives

Lake Protection

●Water Quality

●Public Beach

●Aquatic  
Nuisances

●Federation of  
Vermont Lakes  
and Ponds

●Boating and  
Water Safety

Membership

Music (Sunday eve.)

Nominating

Swimming

Zoning By-laws

Non GA Liason Com-  
mittees

Newsletter Editor:

Niall Kirkwood

## **All the World's a Stage**

All the world's a stage— or at least it's looking like a small piece of land in Greensboro will soon be! The Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR) is honored to have had the opportunity to develop the Mirror Theater, a state-of-the-art, Elizabethan inspired building designed by the distinguished architect Hugh Hardy. We'd like to take this opportunity to share our favorite aspect of the building: its energy.

The first form of energy is in the proposed building's environment. It will use ground source heat pumps (GSHP) to heat and cool the building. Beyond the enormous savings in annual operating costs, GAAR is extremely pleased that we're able to take another step to make the Mirror a very environmentally friendly place to spend time.

The next form of energy is in the beauty of the building. GAAR has been working with the architect to make the building as beautiful as possible, with delicate wood windows and emotive slate accents. We're also incorporating local artisans into the building's creation, with cushioned handmade seating by Dernavich Construction Inc, custom copper and mica light fixtures by High Beams Lighting of Lyndonville and murals by celebrated painter Adelaide Tyrol.

The last form of energy is in the life of the building. The list of local organizations who have reached out

to GAAR in the hope of using the building is long and wonderful. Ballet Wolcott, Wonder & Wisdom, Summer Music from Greensboro and so many more have reached out to collaborate and dream. In the Summer of 2017, we hope you will come and take part.

*Charles McAteer, Associate Artistic Director, The Mirror Theater*

## **Circus Smirkus Camp News**

The new camp on Breezy Ave is scheduled to open this summer. The first group of campers arrives on June 12th! All of Greensboro is invited to a number of kickoff events: a circus-style Work Weekend on May 30-31, Ribbon Cutting on June 9th, a Camp Warming evening event on July 11th. Greensboro residents are invited to sign up to attend camper showcases on July 10th and July 31st with tours to follow. Private tours can also be arranged. The 2015 Smirkus Big Top Tour 'Bon Appetit!'; opens in Greensboro on June 28th, and concludes in Greensboro on August 14-15th. Tickets go on sale on May 1st.

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The Greensboro Association mission is to conceive, advance, and support village initiatives and organizations that enhance our community and to protect Caspian Lake and its surrounding environment for both full and part-time residents of Greensboro.

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The Greensboro Association has moved toward more electronic communications to allow us to spend valuable membership dues on priorities like keeping Caspian Lake and surrounding areas pristine, supporting non-profits and community activities, and addressing key issues that concern our members. See our website for further information on membership (including opting out of paper mailings) and to stay current with local news at: [www.greensboroassociation.org](http://www.greensboroassociation.org)

## Update on Community Initiatives



### Willey Beach Park

A 3.7 acre parcel of land that was purchased by the Town of Greensboro in the 1970s with a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and which has remained largely untouched since is now set to be converted into a recreation park. After several proposals, Selectboard meetings, and DRB hearings, it was determined that the gravel will be removed from the property with the exception of the 50x35 foot area along Wilson Street which will be designated as a parking area for 5 cars. The remainder of the gravel area will be returned to grass, and shrubs will be added along the parking area as a screen. A sign, that has already been approved, will be placed on the property announcing the Willey Beach Park as a space open to the public.

### Pedestrian and Recreation Paths

The Community Initiatives Committee is also helping the Town encourage pedestrian and bicycle transportation for both the Greensboro and Greensboro Bend villages, as is stipulated in the current Town Plan. The current conditions of sidewalks in both village areas has been documented and the roadsides extending from the village centers has been examined. A multi-stage proposal to first repair existing sidewalks, extend sidewalks in high pedestrian traffic areas, and ultimately build recreation paths connecting the village centers and other recreation networks has been made. The Committee is in the process of applying for grant funding from the Vermont Agency of Transportation that would cover the majority of the costs along with a small percentage local match. In parallel to this project, the Town is seeking Village Center Designation from the State, which would not only provide access to funding for building restoration but increase our opportunities to receive funds for projects.

*Naomi Ranz-Schleifer*  
*Community Initiatives Committee*

## Caspian Swim

Caspian Lake is naturally once again a part of the Swim the Kingdom series, sponsored by Kingdom Games. This year's swim will be on Sunday, August 16 at 9:00 AM. Orleans County and lake residents can register for the discounted fee of \$50. Registration information is available at [www.kingdomswim.org](http://www.kingdomswim.org) or [www.kingdomgames.co](http://www.kingdomgames.co). The Association will once again host a lunch, as well as provide van transport back from the Lodge beach to the public beach for those ending their swim at Bathtub Rocks.



### Advisory Committee formed to support Greensboro Association Endowment

Alan W. Lukens is serving as Chairman of the new Advisory Committee, which will guide the future development and grant-making for the Greensboro Association Endowment managed at the Vermont Community Foundation. This restricted fund now totals \$60,000 and is expected to grow in the coming years from your tax-deductible gifts and bequests of all sizes. The Endowment is an important step for the Association and it is designed to provide capital support for both Greensboro's longer-term infrastructure and community needs as well as the protection of Caspian Lake and its surrounding environment. Other small lakes in Vermont have required a starting investment of \$250,000 for programs to eradicate invasive species. Greensboro's community and infrastructure needs along with lake environment protection are vital for Greensboro. Amb. Lukens announced that 46 summer and full-time residents of Greensboro are founding members of the committee. Tom Kehler will co-chair the Advisory Committee. Members of the Greensboro Association's Board will provide support.

*Clay Simpson*  
*Endowment Advisory Committee*

## Caspian Lake Report

The Lake froze December 14, 2014, thawed over Christmas week, and refroze for the duration on December 30. Ice out normally comes late April/early May.

Water quality was better than average for Caspian all summer and fall. Water clarity was very good, # 3/88 lakes in Vermont. Phosphorus and chlorophyll A levels were low and stable. There were no signs of Milfoil, zebra mussels, or water chestnuts.

Greensboro Association Inspectors checked 404 boats and trailers at the boat ramp last summer and found NONE carrying milfoil fragments. We have again applied for State of VT grants to support the cash costs of our Milfoil Prevention Program this year. The Town of Greensboro voted at Town Meeting to provide supplemental funding as well.

We are looking for new and returning volunteers to join our annual summer lakeshore "milfoil watch" activity and the new GLT Lake Feeder Stream studies. Contact Andy Dales or Rick Yeiser.

Finally, a reminder that personal watercraft are prohibited on Caspian Lake by State Law.

*Andy Dales, Chair, Lake Protection Committee*

## Support the Local Schools

Sometimes the challenges we face as a school board seem overwhelming. The free and reduced lunch rate at Lakeview this year has been hovering at around 70%, which is one of the highest in the state. In addition to rising poverty rates, we know that the number of children who have experienced trauma is also dramatically increasing. How do we best prepare all of our young learners with skills that aren't always addressed in traditional curriculum, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, self-directed learning, and social-emotional skills?

In families and schools alike, stress, isolation, and burnout are robbing society of what's possible. And yet there is hope. I recently asked a group of 4th-6th grade Lakeview students what their goals for the world are. Their responses, each written carefully on individual index cards, blew me away. These kids want to end world hunger, stop child abuse, give free Christmas trees to every nursing home, and have the world have "more teamwork". One of the board's global ends (goals) for students is for them to become successful, responsible, contributing members of their local and global societies in the 21st century. There are many reasons to celebrate successes at Lakeview, and yet, we must be vigilant in providing the best environment for today's students to continue to

develop the skills needed to thrive in an innovation economy and diverse society. In the words of educator and activist, Parker Palmer, "We must 'speak truth to power', truth that's rooted in a deep understanding of what teachers need to succeed on behalf of kids. We need to remind our political leaders that poverty is the real driver of many "educational failures"; that punitive testing programs are not the answer; and that we want our politicians to give teachers the support they deserve while they seek to solve America's growing poverty problem." As Act 77, new statewide legislation begins to unfold we will hopefully see changes to make education in Vermont more modern and more efficient. This legislation, also known as "Flexible Pathways", provides for increased virtual/blended learning opportunities and the implementation of personalized learning plans (PLPs). I am proud to say that Lakeview board members have been active in supporting the development of an OSSU wide Communications team to keep our stakeholders in the loop of what is going on in our local education system and around the state. The Central Office has also organized a series of community forums each month during the 2014-2015 school-year to share important information and promote discussion on education issues that affect us all. See link at <http://www.ossu.org/resources/communityforums>

We welcome your input on how to make our schools stronger and how to best invest in our students who are the future workforce of our state. Thank you for your support of Lakeview Elementary.

*Tara Reynolds, Lakeview Board Chair*

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## Key Dates for your Calendar

### Independence Day Celebrations

Fireworks: Friday July 3  
Parade: Saturday 4th July

### GA Annual Meeting

Thursday July 30, 5.00pm

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***For Emergency Services know your 911 number  
Don't know your 911 number ? see the GA website***

## Sail Day

Join us on Saturday, July 25 and Saturday, August 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM for an informal group sailing afternoon. All classes of sailboat are welcome. The unofficial sailboat count (tallied from the south side of Black's Point) for last July's event was close to 20 boats!

## Caspian Challenge Race and Walk

This year's Caspian Challenge is tentatively set for Sunday, July 26, pending approval from the Greensboro Select Board. Online registration is tentatively scheduled to begin June 1 and will remain open until Friday, July 24. We will continue to offer race day registration, but we strongly encourage interested participants to register online in advance. Fees will remain \$15 per entrant. This fee is waived for those under age 13. The minimum registration age for the 5-K and the lake run is 8. Kids under 10 are also welcome to participate in our free Fun Run. Look for information on the Greensboro Association's website later this spring. As always, volunteers help make this event a success. Please contact: Victoria Von Hessert at [victoriavonhessert@gmail.com](mailto:victoriavonhessert@gmail.com).

## Trustees of the Greensboro Association

**Class of 2015:** Victoria VonHessert, Margaret Daniels, Chris King, Niall Kirkwood Sara Slater, Clay Simpson, John Stone III

**Class of 2016:** Andy Dales, Linda Ely, Betsy Hunt, Don Jenkins, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Lorelei Wheeler, Alison Stegner

**Class of 2017:** Rick Lovett, Sara Dillon, John Schweizer, Whitney Sowles, Mary Parker, Charlie McAteer, Devin Burgess

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Membership in the Greensboro Association is open to all residents of voting age who either own real estate or who have resided in the Greensboro community for one season. Residence at an inn or the guest or as tenant of a house owner is sufficient to qualify. Grown children of members are especially welcome. Members absent from Greensboro may continue their membership.

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