



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: May 14, 2013

We hope that you will enjoy reading the Cape Charles Gazette which is the electronic newsletter published from time to time by the Town Manager on behalf of the municipal government of the Town of Cape Charles. The Gazette provides a variety of information that we believe will be useful to the citizens and businesses of Cape Charles as well as those who plan to travel to Cape Charles or have any interest in our Town or the Town's government. The Gazette provides information on actions being undertaken or being considered by the Town government, upcoming activities in the Town, important public safety and security issues and emergency announcements.

We welcome your responses which may be sent to gazette@capecharles.org, by regular mail to 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310 or by calling (757) 331-3259.

We also encourage you to visit the Town's website at www.capecharles.org where you will find up-to-date information about the operation of the Town government.



CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY REOPENS AT NEW LOCATION

The Cape Charles Memorial Library is officially in its new home at 201 Mason Avenue and reopened on Wednesday, May 8th, in the new facility! With the relocation of the library to its new home, the computer lab is now open Monday through Saturday during the Library's regular operating hours! 52 visitors came in on the first day! 1,688 people viewed one of the photographs of the completed move on the Library's Facebook page.

On Thursday, May 2, the Cape Charles Christian School children participated in the Parade of Books with each child carrying 2 books from the old library to the new library. Miriam Elton, of Brown Dog Ice Cream, led the parade in her golf cart with Foster, the Brown Dog, beside her. Also, on Thursday, the Northampton County Sheriff's Office provided 5 inmates from the Eastern Shore Regional Jail. They spent the afternoon boxing up books in preparation for the move on Friday.

Volunteers, working in 2-hour blocks, helped with the move beginning Friday, May 3rd, through Sunday, May 6th. Some of them brought their pickups and trailers to move the boxes of books from one building to the other. Other volunteers packed, unpacked, replaced the books on the new shelves and even painted. Over 100 people helped with the move, including volunteers from Bayshore Concrete, Cape Charles Christian School, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Broadwater Academy, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton High School, Cape Charles Town employees, the Library Board, Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library and many, many residents of the Town and surrounding areas.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make this dream a reality!



EMAIL CONTACTS:

[Mayor](#)
[Town Council](#)
[Town Manager](#)
[Treasurer](#)
[Town Clerk](#)
[Code Enforcement](#)
[Town Planner](#)
[Public Works/Utilities](#)
[Harbor](#)
[Library](#)
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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PROPERTY REASSESSMENTS

In April, the Northampton County Commissioner of Revenue sent out notices of reassessment to all property owners in the County, including the Town of Cape Charles. The property values in Northampton County, as a whole, decreased on average approximately 20%, but the property values in the Town decreased an average of approximately 35%.

Again, as a reminder, if you have any questions regarding your property assessment, you will need to contact the Commissioner of Revenue's office in Eastville at 757-678-0446.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Jen Lewis, Community Events / Recreational Coordinator, has been gearing up for the busy summer season and reported the following:

- **Committee/Organization Updates:**
 - **New Roots Youth Garden:** The Spring Gardening Camp continues through 5/16. The Event Committee will be meeting on 5/15 to discuss the summer programs. The children will be working in the gardens on Tuesdays and run a vegetable stand on Thursdays. A wormery and a compost bin were purchased using funds from a litter and recycle prevention grant.
 - **Clam Slam:** Jen met with Marie Brady on 4/17 to plan this year's Shriners' parade. The committee will resume their normal meetings in May. The tickets for the event are in and can be purchased at the Town Harbor.
 - **Citizens' Needs Advisory Committee:** The committee has distributed their survey asking for input by 5/15. Copies of the survey have been included in church bulletins and sent out in a special edition of the *Gazette*. Copies are also available at the Cape Charles Christian School, the Cape Charles Memorial Library, the Town Hall and Sea Breeze Apartments. Jen will be going to Heritage Acres to help the residents complete them.
- **Programs:**
 - **Arts & Crafts** continue every Wednesday afternoon with a total of 35 participants in April who made rainbows, decorated fish and did a little painting. The attendance has been low so far in May with many of the kids being busy with dance recitals and Little League. The numbers should pick back up in June.
 - There were 18 participants in the **Rain Barrel Workshop** sponsored by the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Department. The event was so well received that another workshop will be held in June!
 - Jen judged the science fair at Cape Charles Christian School on 4/17. Judging was tough as every child did a great job on their project.
 - The **New Roots Youth Garden Blessing of the Worms** was held on 4/28 with another great turnout!
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - 5/17 – Black Drum Tournament sponsored by the Northampton County Chamber of Commerce.
 - 5/18 & 5/19 – Rhythms of the Shore at the Palace Theatre.
 - 5/25 – Cape Charles Community Band performance in Central Park.
 - 6/1 – 17th Annual Benefit by the Bay on Strawberry Street.
 - For a complete listing of events, please check the [Town's website](#) frequently for updates to our quickly growing Schedule of Events.
- Jen is looking for volunteers for the **4th of July** activities. Please contact her if you are able to help. A variety of time slots are available so you can still enjoy your day.
- Just a reminder that dogs are not permitted on the Cape Charles Public Beach between the hours of 9 AM – 9PM from 4/1 through Labor Day. All dogs in the Town and in Northampton County must be on a leash at all times.
- **Please drop off your old printer ink cartridges and old cell phones to Jen so she can submit them to The Funding Factory for recreational equipment!** Using points from The Funding Factory, Jen can order equipment at no cost to the Town. Please [click here](#) for more information.
- If you are planning an event in Cape Charles, please contact Jen Lewis at reccordinator@capecharles.org or at 757-331-3259, ext. 18. Also, please complete the appropriate Use of Facility Application and submit it to Jen.
[Use of Facility Application – Central Park](#) / [Use of Facility Application – Other Areas](#).
 - If you are interested in holding your event at the Cape Charles Harbor, please complete the [Use of Facility Application – Cape Charles Harbor](#) and submit it to [Harbor Master Smitty Dize](#).
- If you are planning a yard sale in Cape Charles, please complete [Yard Sale Permit Application](#) and submit it to Jen. There is no charge for the permit.

CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Ann Rutledge, Librarian, reported the following:

- During the month of April, a total of 21 children and caregivers attended the **Toddler/Preschool Storytime** which is held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM.
- **World Book Night** was held on 4/23. World Book Night is a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading the love of reading and community-based literacy outreach. The Library and Recreation Department were awarded 20 books which Sharon Silvey will distribute to encourage light or non-readers to pick up a book to read.
- **Stop by the new Cape Charles Memorial Library located at 201 Mason Avenue to see the new facility!**
- For additional information about Library programs and library-related information, check out the Cape Charles Memorial Library on Facebook by [clicking here!](#)
- The **Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library** also has a Facebook page. You can follow them by [clicking here](#).
- The **Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library** now has their own website where you can find information about the Library and the Friends' efforts to support the Library programs. Please visit the site to learn how you can also help the Friends in their mission!
<http://friendscapecharleslibrary.com/>



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CODE ENFORCEMENT

Jeb Brady, Code Official, reported the following:

- 28 Erosion & Sedimentation (E&S) Control inspections, 34 building inspections, 1 courtesy residential inspection and 2 courtesy commercial inspections were performed in April. 1 commercial plan review for E&S and 2 residential plan reviews were performed.
- Construction is picking up in all areas of Town. New homes in Bay Creek, along with the Beach Club, are underway. In the Commercial District, a structure is getting a facelift along with the addition of 2 stories to the building. In the Harbor District, plans are under review for South Port Investors.
- Grass Cutting Enforcement is in full force. 35 notices were mailed out to property owners during the month of April.

TOWN HARBOR—VA CLEAN MARINA

Smitty Dize, Harbor Master, reported the following:

- The current office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Friday through Sunday and holidays from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. As always, customers with fuel cards can access the fuel dock at any time, day or night.
- Smitty is happy to welcome Kristin Lewis back as a seasonal harbor assistant along with 2 new hires – James Jones and Josh Outten.
- Smitty has negotiated a deal with **Eastern Shore Custom Carts** to provide the Town Harbor with 5 golf carts for rent this season to customers coming into the Harbor.
- Staff is again putting together about 1,200 Welcome Packages for transient boaters. Any business that would like to include something in the package should contact Smitty as soon as possible. In the past, these Welcome Packages have been very well received by the transient boaters who will frequent the businesses in Town. It is a nice, inexpensive way to advertise your business!
- **Eastern Shore Signs** is working on the new Harbor entrance and way-finding signs which should be installed soon.
- Staff is working on general maintenance around the Harbor in preparation for the summer season.
- **Upcoming Events at the Town Harbor:**
 - The **Annual Lower Chesapeake Bay Black Drum Classic** – 5/17 – 5/19. Contact Renee at the Northampton County Chamber of Commerce, 757-678-0010, for more information.
 - The **2nd Annual Tall Ships at Cape Charles** – 6/8 – 6/10.
 - **2013 Clam Slam & 3rd Annual Boat Docking Contest** – 8/3 – 8/4. [Click here](#) to be a sponsor for the Cape Charles Clam Slam.
- Follow the **Cape Charles Town Harbor** on Facebook by [clicking here!](#)

TOWN CLERK

Libby Hume, Town Clerk, reported the following information:

- **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Thursday, May 16, 2013:
Citizens' Needs Advisory Committee starting at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.
Town Council Public Hearing starting at 6:00 PM at St Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#) / [Ad & Information](#) / Please [click here](#) to review the full text of the updated Northampton County Solid Waste Management Plan.
Town Council Regular Meeting immediately following the public hearing. [AGENDA-pt1](#) / [AGENDA-pt 2](#)
 - Monday, May 20, 2013:
Joint Work Session with Town Council and Planning Commission starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Tuesday, May 21, 2013:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Thursday, May 23, 2013:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Thursday, May 30, 2013:
Town Council Public Hearing starting at 6:00 PM at St Charles Parish Hall. Regarding proposed FY 2014 tax rate.
 - Monday, June 3, 2013:
Town Council Special Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. Review comments from 5/30 public hearing and vote.
 - Tuesday, June 4, 2013:
Planning Commission Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Wednesday, June 5, 2013:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Tuesday, June 18, 2013:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Thursday, June 20, 2013:
Town Council Public Hearing starting at 6:00 PM at the St Charles Parish Hall. Regarding proposed FY 2014 budget.
Town Council Regular Meeting immediately following the public hearing.
 - Thursday, June 27, 2013:
Town Council Special Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. Review comments from 6/20 public hearing and vote.



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TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

- The Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2013, in observance of Memorial Day.
- If you are interested in serving on any of the Town's boards or Planning Commission, please complete the [Cape Charles Boards & Commission Application](#) and return it to Libby Hume at the Town Hall or send by email to clerk@capecharles.org. Please [click here](#) for information on the various Boards and Commission.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sambo Brown, Chief of Police, reported the following information:

- Chelsea Pfeiffer, who currently works as a probation officer for Northampton County, has been hired as a new police officer. Her start date is 6/16.
- The law enforcement statistics for the month of April:
 - 36 calls for service within Cape Charles were received.
 - 7 calls for service outside of Cape Charles were received.
 - 0 felony arrests were made.
 - 1 misdemeanor arrest was made.
 - 12 traffic summonses and 2 traffic warnings were issued.
 - 0 parking tickets were issued.
 - 8 calls were received to assist Fire & Rescue.
 - 7 calls were received to assist the Northampton County Sheriff's Office.
 - 1 call was received to assist another local police department and 1 call was received to assist a Federal agency.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Tom Bonadeo, Town Planner, reported the following:

- The **Planning Commission** met on 5/7 and reviewed the following:
 - The Commissioners held a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit application for 712 Randolph Avenue to allow 1 apartment over the commercial space. The applicant's representative described the modification to the existing space. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the application and voted to forward the application to Town Council with their recommendation to approve.
 - The Commission continued their review on the Density changes for the Harbor District Zone reviewing the proposed modifications to the current zoning ordinance. A joint work session with the Town Council will be held on Monday, 5/20, for Council to review the information regarding the Floor Area Ratio concept.
- The **Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board** met on 4/22 to review an application from Bay Creek South to install 600' of rock revetment to protect the 5th hole of the Nicklaus Golf Course which was damaged by Hurricane Sandy. A public hearing was held and the Board reviewed and discussed all the options and alternatives as well as the economic impact of each option or alternative. The Board voted to approve the plan with the addition of beach grass planting at the tow of the rock revetment.
- The new members of the **Historic District Review Board** have been appointed and the next meeting is scheduled for 5/21 at 4:30 PM.
- Tom has announced his retirement effective 5/31. His last day of work will be 5/28 so please be sure to wish him well in his retirement when you see him.
 - 3 candidates for the Town Planner position were interviewed in early May. We are pleased to announce that Robert Testerman, currently the Land Use Planner for Accomack County with 6+ years of experience in planning and zoning, will be joining the Town staff on 5/31.
- Tom is also working on the following:
 - The group working on the VDOT and County 6-year road plan project met in Cape Charles to discuss the projects. The Town's stakeholders and representatives were in attendance as well as Charles McSwain, Northampton County Economic Development Director, and representatives from the Suffolk VDOT office. There is hope to move the project along a fast track.
 - The Wireless Internet Service proposals have been received and are currently being reviewed.
 - The 2nd draft of plans for the area around Aqua and the shops has been reviewed. The engineer is moving forward with the final plans. The completion of this project would greatly enhance the wedding capability at Aqua.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Dave Fauber, Director of Public Utilities, reported the following information:

- Production Summary:
 - 18 Miss Utility Tickets were issued.
 - There were 7 emergency call-outs after hours and over weekend amounting to a total of 26 man hours.
 - 8 tons of sludge were processed.
- Completed projects include:
 - The new media for the water softener was installed on 5/7 and 5/8.



PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Projects in progress include:
 - The final approval from the DEQ for the Keck Wells Aquifer Test has been received. Testing has been scheduled for 5/14 through 5/16.
 - One proposal was received in response to the Town's Request for Proposal for the Utilities Asset Management Program. The proposal has been reviewed and the contract should be awarded at the 5/16 Town Council meeting.
- Upcoming projects include:
 - A new mulch formula, which will be a blend of pine chunks and peat moss, for the vacuum pump stations will be installed.
 - An automatic flush valve will be installed in Heron Point to introduce water into that vacuum sewer system to increase the flow through the pump station in an effort to reduce the septic odors created when sewage water resides in the system for extended periods of time.
- **New Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP):**
 - Staff continues to work to correct some issues under the warranty period.
 - The final grading and seeding of the polishing pond has been completed.
 - The engineered site plan for the stock pile site west of the new WWTP has been received.
- **Water System Flush:**
 - The Town of Cape Charles will be conducting a water system flush in all districts of the Town beginning Wednesday, May 22nd through Thursday, May 23rd, from 9:00 PM and continuing until 2:00 AM. You are cautioned not to use water at that time as sediment could be drawn into the residence water lines. When done, the system should rectify itself fairly quickly. For questions, please call Ron Bailey at 331-1018.

PUBLIC WORKS

Pete Leontieff, Public Works Foreman, reported the following information:

- Personnel:
 - Pete and crew member, Mike Mullner, attended a VDOT Safety Recertification Class.
- Completed projects include:
 - The crew continues to help the utilities department with monthly water meter reading.
 - The benches along Bay Avenue have been repainted.
 - New touchless hand dryers have been installed in the beach bathrooms.
 - New garbage receptacles on pivoting stands have been installed at the beach.
 - The playground entrance has been relocated, the Cape Kids sign replaced, all rides have been repaired, and all wooden areas have been stained.
 - An updated list of street light issues has been sent to the ANEC for repair.
 - Monthly vehicle and equipment maintenance reports were completed.
 - Electrical repairs have been completed at the fishing pier.
 - The Central Park water fountain pump has been repaired.
- Projects in progress include:
 - The crew continues their work to clean the streets and drains.
 - The trees and beds around Town are being mulched.
 - Alley maintenance continues.
- Upcoming projects include:
 - Beach Replenishment is scheduled to begin this week.
 - Landscaping of the south side of Mason Avenue.

TOWN MANAGER

Heather Arcos, Town Manager, reported the following:

- A **Town Council Public Hearing** will be held on Thursday, 5/16, beginning at 6PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall, to hear comments regarding the following:
 - Pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Code, Section 9VAC20-130-175.F., Northampton County has updated the Solid Waste Management Plan. As an incorporated Town within Northampton County, the Cape Charles Town Council must hear comments regarding the County's updated Solid Waste Management Plan and adopt the plan authorizing its submittal to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Please [click here](#) to review the full text of the County's updated Solid Waste Management Plan.
 - Proposed modifications to the Cape Charles Town Code, Chapter 54 – Public Procurement to bring the Town of Cape Charles Public Procurement Policy in line with the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-4300, et seq.
 - Please [click here](#) for details regarding the topics included in the public hearing.



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TOWN MANAGER (CONTINUED)

- The **Town Council Regular Meeting** will be held on Thursday, 5/16, immediately following the public hearing. Agenda items include:
 - PSA/Regional Wastewater System Update.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant Update.
 - FY2012-2013 Budget Supplemental Appropriations.
 - Northampton County Solid Waste Management Plan Update.
 - Procurement Policy – Town Code Modification.
 - Asset Management Program Contract Award.
 - Wireless Internet Service Provider Designation.
 - Conditional Use Permit Application for 721 Randolph Avenue.
 - Byrne Justice Assistance Grant.
 - FY2012 Audit Report.
 - Computer Lab Update.
- **Proposed FY2014 Budget:** The Town Council and management have been working to finalize the FY2014 budget. The overall impact of the reassessment for Cape Charles property owners is about a 30% decrease in property values. A Public Hearing on the equalization of the tax rate, with a potential increase of 2¢ will be held on Thursday, 5/30, at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. The Council will vote to set the tax rate at a Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, 6/3, at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. A Public Hearing to hear comments regarding the proposed FY2014 budget has been scheduled for Thursday, 6/20, at 6:00 PM, immediately preceding the regular meeting, at the St. Charles Parish Hall.
- The **VDOT Sidewalk Project** continues to move along Mason Avenue.
- **Old School Cape Charles** submitted notification of their plans to appeal Northampton County Circuit Court Judge Revell Lewis' decision on the lawsuits to the Virginia Supreme Court.
- The lawsuit against the Town regarding the **Central Park Restrooms** was heard in Northampton County Circuit Court on 5/8. Judge Lewis ruled that the plaintive had no standing to file a suit regarding this matter.
- The Planning Department will be in transition mode the week of 6/3 as the new Planner, Robert Testerman, will be in training this week. If you need immediate attention during this week, please contact Amanda Hurley in the Clerk's office.
- The **South Port Investors'** project is underway. Pilings will be drilled and the floating slips put in place on the south side of the Harbor.
- A landscaping plan is under review for the south side of Mason Avenue. The entrance to Town at Route 13 will also see a face list with new plantings.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 5/18: **Rhythms of the Shore** at the Palace Theatre. Arts Enter School of Dance final performance. 7:00 PM, \$15 adults/\$5 students.
- 5/19: **Rhythms of the Shore** at the Palace Theatre. Arts Enter School of Dance final performance. 3:00 PM, \$15 adults/\$5 students.
- 5/27: **Cape Charles War Memorial Service**, Mason Avenue, 11:00 AM.
- 6/1 – 6/2: **Bike MS: Virginia's Ocean to Bay Ride**. Please [click here](#) for details.
- 6/1: **17th Annual Benefit by the Bay**, Strawberry Street, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM, \$75 per person. Please [click here](#) for details.
- 6/14 – 6/16: **Tall Ships at Cape Charles**. Please [click here](#) for more details.
- 6/15: **Pirates & Wenches Festival and Ball**, Mason Avenue & Strawberry Street. Please [click here](#) for details.
- 6/17-6/28: **Musical Theatre Summer Camp** at the Palace Theatre. Please contact the Arts Enter Cape Charles for details.
- **Save the Dates:**
 - 7/4: July 4th Celebration.
 - 7/8 – 7/19: Musical Theatre Summer Camp at the Palace Theatre.
 - 8/3 – 8/4: 2nd Annual Clam Slam & 3rd Annual Boat Docking Contest.
 - 8/3 – 8/18: Harbor for the Arts Festival – Music, art, dance in public spaces. Free and ticketed events.
 - 9/1: Labor Day Picnic in the Park.
 - 10/11 – 10/13: 21st Annual Birding and Wildlife Festival.
 - 11/30: Cape Charles Historical Society 16th Annual Oyster Roast.
 - 12/7: Cape Charles Central Park Grand Illumination.

Any reference to an external website is for public information only and does not constitute an endorsement of that website.

Municipal Corporation of Cape Charles
2 Plum Street
Cape Charles, VA 23310
www.capecharles.org
757-331-3259

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