



# Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: December 13, 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](mailto: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](http://www.capecharles.org) where you will find up-to-date information about the operation of the Town government.



*From Our Homes to Yours*  
*Peace Goodwill and Good Health*

*Dave Sullivan*  
Mayor

## CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE SAFETY



'Tis the season to keep your family safe from accidental fires during the Christmas season. Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, one of every 18 reported fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in death. Between 2005-2009, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 240 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 13 deaths, 27 injuries, and \$16.7 million in direct property damage annually. Click on the link below to find safety tips on picking, maintaining, and discarding fresh Christmas trees.

Happy safe holiday and prosperous new year from the Cape Charles Code Enforcement Office.

<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/Safety%20information/Safety%20tip%20sheets/christmastreesafetytips.pdf>

Source: [WWW.NFPA.ORG/EDUCATION](http://WWW.NFPA.ORG/EDUCATION)

## SPECIAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR VIRGINIA SENATE

The special election to fill the 6<sup>th</sup> District Senate seat vacated by Senator Ralph Northam has been scheduled for January 7, 2014. Senator Ralph Northam was elected as the Lieutenant Governor in the November election.

Delegate Lynwood Lewis of Accomac won the Democratic nomination in a primary held in November. The Republicans nominated Norfolk businessman Wayne Coleman as their candidate.

The 6<sup>th</sup> District includes Accomack, Northampton and Mathews Counties and parts of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

The General Assembly convenes January 8, 2014.

## THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON FOR HERITAGE ACRES



On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Town staff, members of the Town Council and Northampton County Sheriff's office worked together to serve the residents of Heritage Acres a Thanksgiving Luncheon. Food and supplies were donated as well as some items purchased ahead of time. Meals were also delivered to those who could not leave their homes.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this event!

## TURKEY FRYING

Turkey frying is becoming an increasingly popular way to prepare the main course for that special Thanksgiving meal. However, what most people do not realize is the dangers that come with turkey frying. Turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at very high temperatures. The fryers pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. Some important points to consider should you choose to fry a turkey this holiday season:

- Hot oil may splash or spill at any point during the cooking process. The fryers are very unstable and could tip very easily. Any contact between the hot oil and skin could result in serious injury or death.
- In deep frying, oil is heated to temperatures of 350 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Cooking oil is combustible, and if it is heated beyond its cooking temperature, its vapors can ignite. Always have a thermometer handy for checking the temperature of the oil. Even if the unit has temperature controls they can fail.
- Propane-fired turkey fryers are designed for outdoor use and should be used away from the house. A deck is not a safe area for use as generally most decks are made of combustible materials.
- Always make sure the turkey is completely thawed. Sticking a partially frozen turkey in hot grease greatly increases the potential for fire.
- Never leave the fryer unattended while it is on.
- Always follow proper instructions on the fryer as to not overfill more than is needed. Most fires start because of overfilling.



Source: NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/cooking/turkey-fryers>

## Remember to "Freeze the Grease" This Holiday Season



Over the next few weeks, many households will be cooking more than usual as they prepare to host family members for the holidays. That's why the Cape Charles Department of Public Utilities is asking residents to avoid sending fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down the drain.

Any FOG that enters the plumbing system, whether through your kitchen sink or bathroom toilet, can thicken and block pipes, causing sewage to back up into homes. Proper disposal can save you an inconvenient (and expensive) visit from your plumber.

Here are some simple tips to protect your home from nasty sewer back-ups and save you money this holiday season:

- Store any used oil in a can and freeze it for reuse (make sure to strain out any food particles first). Oil can be kept for up to 6 months and reused for up to 6 hours of fry time.
- Pour used oil in a can and place it in the fridge. After the grease hardens, plop the can in the trash.

And remember, turkey grease isn't the only thing you have to be mindful of this holiday season. Many other foods, like salad dressings, butter, ice cream and even baked goods contain large amounts of FOG that can wreak havoc on your sewer system. So be sure to dispose of these foods in the trash as well.

*Reprinted with permission from the City of Virginia Beach.*

### FROM THE HARBOR MASTER

As winter approaches here are a few things you may want to know:

1. As temperatures drop below freezing, we will begin shutting off the water at the docks. We will try to wait until January 1, 2014 but weather will dictate the date.
2. The main bath house will be closed from January 1, 2014 through March 15, 2014.
3. The Harbor Master's office will remain open throughout the winter per the schedule below:
  - a. Beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup> the Harbor Master's office will be open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday; closed on weekends and holidays.
  - b. We do offer after hour fueling, for more information contact the Harbor staff at 757-331-2357.
  - c. The restrooms in the Harbor Master's office will be open 24 hours a day during the winter months
4. Please make sure to winterize your boat as appropriate.
  - a. Your electric bill will reflect on how warm you feel you need to keep your engine and/or cabin. Our electricity is metered currently at \$0.15 per/kw/hr. If your cabin heater has two settings, 1500 or 2500 Watts, this means watts per hour or 1.5 or 2.5 Kilowatts per hour or \$0.225 or \$0.375 per hour. Boats are not as well insulated as homes, therefore in colder temperatures most heaters will not shut off, especially during the night hours. Also engine block heaters use a little more electricity. It is suggested that block heaters be placed on timers. Timers can be set to come on at 9 pm or 10 pm and shut off at 4 am or 5 am and the engine blocks will hold heat for a good period of the day. In our region, it is probably not necessary to use block heaters. Unless you plan to use your boat the following day, a 100 watt drop light near the engine will be sufficient with cost around \$0.15 per 10 hours. This is a big difference in cost.
5. The Cape Charles Yacht Club (CCYC) has started a harbor boat watch. If you wish to participate or want to join the CCYC, please contact Captain Dave at 757-678-2331.
6. Winter Maintenance:
  - a. Staff will be working on good weather days to replace dock boards on the inner harbor boardwalk.
  - b. On bad weather days, staff will be painting and performing basic maintenance in the restrooms and showers to prepare them for next season.

### CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The days are short, the weather is miserable, and your holiday decorations are up, so why not check out a book to read from the Cape Charles Memorial Library? The Library has a great selection of fiction titles from bestsellers to classics, but we also have many new nonfiction titles for your enjoyment and interest.

Why not check out a biography and learn about another person's life? We have several new books in this area. The *Book of Ages, The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* by Jill Lepore provides a portrait of the younger sister of Benjamin Franklin who, like Franklin was "a reader, a writer, and a political commentator" but also the mother of twelve children! *Zealot. The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan is a unique and thought-provoking biography. Another interesting title is *Jack London. An American Life* by Earle Labor. In *My Brother, My Sister. Story of a Transformation* by Molly Haskell, the author recounts the story of her brother's transformation, at the age of sixty, from a man to a woman. We follow the author as she moves from shock to acceptance of this controversial subject. *Under the Eagle. Samuel Holiday, Navajo Code Talker* by Samuel Holiday and Robert McPherson is the life story of Holiday, "one of the Navajo men enlisted by the Marine Corps during World War II to use their native language to transmit secret communications on the battlefield."

If you are looking for inspiration, check out *Daily Doses of Wisdom. A Year of Buddhist Inspiration* edited by Josh Bartok. Whatever your beliefs, this book will offer insight and food for thought.

Do you have an adolescent in the house and could use some advice? We have two new titles: *Surviving Your Child's Adolescence. How to Understand and Even Enjoy the Rocky Road to Independence* by Carl Pickhardt and *Growing Up. Limiting Adolescence in a World Desperate for Adults* by Frank C. Strasburger. Although very different, both books will give you useful information. Another book for parents is *Raising Respectful Children in a Disrespectful World* by Jill Rigby.

If a trip is in your future, we have just received *Fodor's Pacific Northwest with Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver* by Fodor's Travel. Many other Fodor titles are available at the library. If we don't have what you want, we will order it for you!

*Free Range Learning. How Homeschooling Changes Everything* by Laura Grace Weldon is a great title for homeschoolers that discusses the philosophy of homeschooling as well as offering examples and methods for the homeschooler.

Two new health titles are the *Immune System, Recovery Plan. A Doctor's 4-Step Program to Treat Autoimmune Disease* by Susan Blum, M.D. and *Schizophrenia. A Brother Finds Answers in Biological Science* by Ronald Chase.

A fascinating title is *Brilliant Blunders. From Darwin to Einstein. Colossal Mistakes by Great Scientists That Changed Our Understanding of Life and the Universe* by Mario Livio.

All of these books can be found on our **New Book Shelf**, located on the right hand side of the library as you enter. New books arrive weekly. Stop by and see what's new! Happy Holidays!

## MEET KATHY FRAAS, UTILITY BILLING/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Kathy Fraas joined the Town staff on November 25, 2013 as the Utility Billing/Administrative Assistant, replacing Carmela Williams who left the Town to move back to her hometown in North Carolina. Kathy initially applied for the Accounting Clerk position earlier this year and interviewed with the Town in August. She definitely left a lasting impression. When Carmela informed the Treasurer of her plans to move, Kathy was called and offered this position.

After purchasing a summer home in Cape Charles more than a decade ago, Kathy made Cape Charles her permanent residence. Prior to moving to Cape Charles, Kathy lived in Ellicott City, Maryland, where she owned and operated a preschool for 23 years. While she is sad to leave her family and friends in Maryland, Kathy happily changes her status from come-here to stay-here as a proud Cape Charles community member.

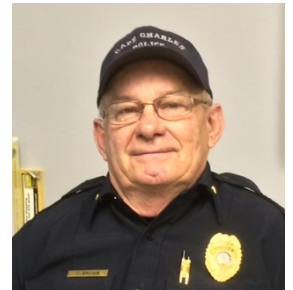
Kathy's office is located on the first floor of the Town Hall. Stop in to introduce yourself and welcome her to the Town!

## CHIEF CHARLES "SAMBO" BROWN RETIRING

Police Chief Charles "Sambo" Brown will be retiring effective December 31, 2013. Sambo began his career with the Town as a police officer on August 1, 2001. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on July 1, 2005 and was named the Interim Chief of Police on July 20, 2009 after the former chief's resignation. Sambo was officially named the Chief of Police on October 20, 2009.

Sambo served the Town for 12 years and will be greatly missed. Please join the Town Council and staff in wishing Sambo the best in his retirement!

Congratulations, Sambo, on your retirement!



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Monday, December 16, 2013:  
**Town Council Executive Session** starting at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Wednesday, December 18, 2013:  
**Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board Public Hearing & Meeting** starting at 4:00 PM at the Town Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Thursday, December 19, 2013:  
**Town Council Public Hearing** starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#)  
**Town Council Regular Meeting** immediately following the public hearing. [AGENDA](#)
- Thursday, January 2, 2014:  
**Harbor Area Review Board Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Tuesday, January 7, 2014:  
**Planning Commission Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, January 9, 2014:  
**Town Council Work Session** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, January 16, 2014:  
**Town Council Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Tuesday, January 21, 2014:  
**Historic District Review Board Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The regular Department Reports are included in the [Town Council Regular Meeting Agenda Packet](#).

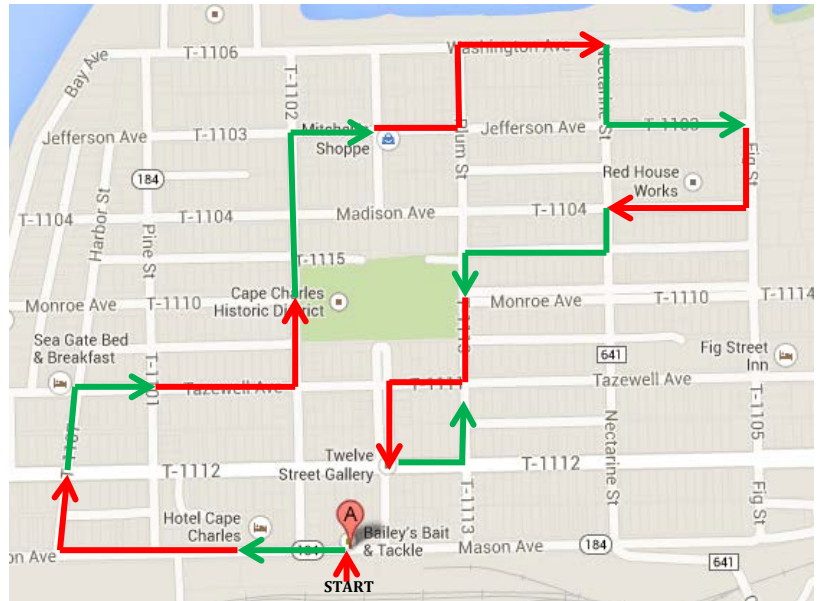


**PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY CAROLING TOUR AND HAYRIDE**

Please join us on December 17, 2013 as we spread Christmas cheer throughout the Town of Cape Charles. There will be 12 stops where we will lift our voices and sing Christmas songs for all to hear. You can start from the beginning or join in at any stop. There will be a trailer for those who do not want to walk.

The Christmas Caroling will begin in the parking lot across from 327 Mason Avenue. Below is the Christmas Caroling route:

- Parking lot across from 327 Mason Avenue
- Watsons Hardware 225 Mason Avenue
- Corner of Harbor and Randolph
- Corner of Pine and Tazewell
- Corner of Strawberry and Monroe
- Corner of Peach and Jefferson
- Corner of Nectarine and Washington
- Corner of Fig and Jefferson
- Corner of Nectarine and Madison
- Corner of Plum and Monroe
- Corner of Peach and Randolph
- Trinity United Methodist Church



Hot chocolate and cookies will be served at the Trinity United Methodist Church!



**The Town offices will be closed on Friday, December 20, 2013, from Noon – 2:00 PM for the Town Employees' Christmas Luncheon.**

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**The Town offices will be closed on Monday, December 23, 2013, Tuesday, December 24, 2013, and Wednesday, December 25, 2013, for the Christmas Holiday and on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, for New Year's Day.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 12/13: **Ugly Holiday Sweater Pub Tour**, Afternoon until Close. Don't be shy! Show off your most special holiday attire!
- 12/13: **Holiday Love Story – Love Actually** at the Historic Palace Theatre, 8:00 PM.
- 12/14: **Shop Local Saturday** sponsored by the Cape Charles Business Association. Shop local. Shop independent. Stroll the streets of Cape Charles and shop in our quaint shops, each decorated for the holidays.
- 12/14: **Model Train Display**. Fun for kids of all ages! Come to Watson's Hardware and enjoy their model train display!
- 12/14: **Christmas Art Workshop** at Arts Enter, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Come make Christmas ornaments and cards with Eden Ertle, artist and instructor. Cost is \$30 per person and includes supplies and light refreshments.
- 12/14: **Holiday Craft Time** at the Cape Charles Memorial Library, 10A00 PM – 12:00 PM. Bring your children to make holiday crafts including Gingerbread Houses.
- 12/14: **A Christmas Carol** at the Historic Palace Theatre, 8:00 PM. The Dickens classic is told through the talent of one actor – John Hardy, who plays over 25 characters. \$15 adults, \$5 students.
- 12/15: **Santa House**, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Heyward Hall (Cape Charles Christian School). Visit with Santa and Shop at Santa's Workshop. \$5 per family / \$5 picture with Santa.
- 12/15: **Holiday Stories and Crafts** with Jen Lewis, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Cape Charles Memorial Library.
- 12/15: **Cape Charles Bed & Breakfasts' Annual Holiday Cookie Trail**, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Take a walking tour through Cape Charles and visit the B&Bs, each decorated for the holidays and offering a seasonal treat to support the Cape Charles Memorial Library. Start your tour at the Library, located at 201 Mason Avenue, to pick up a B&B Holiday Cookie Trail map. Drop off your donation of LEGOs (new or gently used), a new children's DVD, audio book on CD, or consider making a monetary contribution. Enter a drawing to win a one-night stay at one of the B&Bs. [FLYER](#)  
Follow the map for a stroll through our historic town and enjoy holiday specialties at our B&Bs during this festive experience:
  - Chesapeake Bay View, 212 Bay Avenue, Owners: Hank and Sandy Mayer
  - Sea Gate Bed & Breakfast, 9 Tazewell Avenue, Owner: Chris Bannon
  - Bay Haven Inn, 403 Tazewell Avenue, Owners: Jim and Tammy Holloway
  - Cape Charles House, 645 Tazewell Avenue, Owners: Bruce and Carol Evans
  - Fig Street Inn, 711 Tazewell Avenue, Owners: Greg and Donna Olney Kohler
- 12/15: **Open Houses at Area Churches**, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Tour of churches in historic downtown Cape Charles.
- 12/15: **Holly Jolly Christmas Party** at the Historic Palace Theatre, 3:00 PM. The Christmas spirit is in the air! Enjoy the joyous sounds of the season, the festive decorations and exquisite refreshments. Arts Enter will feature the recently formed Cape Charles Chorale a talented local group of vocalists who are currently under the direction of accompanist and Musical Director William Neill. The Chorale will perform at 3:00 PM. At 4:00 PM, the Cape Charles Community Band will perform under the direction of Music Director Brad Ford. Starting at 5:00 PM, the Arts Enter's traditional Christmas Party will complete the evening. This community potluck supper is a lovely occasion to meet friends and neighbors, exchange Christmas greetings and celebrate the season. The Golden Mask Awards will be presented during the party.
- 12/15: **Annual Chowder Cook-Off** at Aqua, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. \$15 per adult, \$5 for children 12 years and under. Local restaurants compete for bragging rights for the best seafood chowder. Live music, chowder and good fun! Please call 757-331-8660 for ticket information.
- 12/16: Children's Holiday Crafts at the Cape Charles Memorial Library, 4:00 PM.
- 12/17: **Progressive Community Caroling Tour and Hayride**, 6:00 PM. Join us as we stroll the Town and sing Christmas Carols with friends and family. Whether you join from the start or at any one of the stopping points, all are welcome!. Hayrides, hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting at our final stop. Starting point is on Mason Avenue across from Art Enter.
- Save the Date:
  - 4/26/14-4/28/14: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Fleet
  - 6/13/14: Tall Ships at Cape Charles,
  - 8/1/14-8/3/14: Clam Slam 2014

We welcome your feedback. Please send your comments to [gazette@capecharles.org](mailto:gazette@capecharles.org).

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