



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: January 10, 2014

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.



Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous 2014!

Dave Sullivan
Mayor



LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Public Works Department will be picking up discarded Christmas trees after the holidays. Please remove all decorations and place the trees on the curb for pick up.

Have a happy, safe and prosperous new year from the Town of Cape Charles!

THE NEW CAPECHARLES.ORG WEBSITE

The Town's website, www.capecharles.org, has a new look! This site is a huge improvement over the former website but is still a work in progress. Our goal is to put as much information on the website as possible. We encourage you to browse the new website and if there is something that you would like to see added to the site, please send us an email at info@capecharles.org or send a note to the Town Clerk at 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310, and we'll see what we can do to get your requested information online.

The new website is much more user-friendly and allows citizens to sign up for [e-Notifications](#) to get regular updates on Agendas & Minutes, Alerts, Bids, Calendar Items, Job Postings and other News & Information, including the Cape Charles Gazette. Over the next couple of months, the Gazette will no longer be emailed to recipients since many of the subscribers are not able to receive the Gazette due to Spam blockers, etc. With e-Notifications, you control the information you receive and can cancel the notifications at any time.

There is also an online form (under the Residents Tab) where you can Report A Concern that you have or see in the Town. When you complete the form, it is automatically forwarded to the appropriate Department Head for action. The site also includes a fully automated mobile system that detects mobile users and reformats the site content for easy viewing on smartphones and other handheld devices. No matter where you are, or what type of device you are using, you should be able to access our website and look up information or Report A Concern.

For the design of the website, the Town partnered with MunicipalCMS, a company with 15+ years of experience in building website solutions for local governments. We contacted a number of their customers who all gave rave reviews about their product, technical support, and ease of use and navigation.

We hope you enjoy the new site and we welcome your comments! Please send comments to info@capecharles.org.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Currently the Cape Charles Planning Commission is working on a draft "Town Entrance Overlay Corridor" to submit to Northampton County for their consideration. Should the County approve of it, it would be included in their zoning ordinance as an overlay zone. There is concern in Town that a commercially developed Route 13 & Route 184 intersection would be damaging to the Town. In this draft ordinance, the Planning Commissioners are proposing that certain uses be limited to a conditional use permit, rather than a use By-Right, which is currently being proposed. Some of these uses include: inns, bed and breakfasts, hotel/motels, and pharmacies. Under the County's proposed zoning ordinance, these uses would all be allowed By-Right. We are in hopes that adoption of this draft overlay district would require these uses, among others, to obtain a conditional use permit, which would allow a more thorough review by County officials, and public hearings by the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Because this would be a part of the County Zoning Ordinances, if approved, the decision will ultimately be that of the Board of Supervisors.

BACKYARD CHICKENS

The practice of raising "backyard chickens" is growing in popularity across the state and the country. Recently, the Cape Charles Planning Commission has been tasked with researching the pros and cons of the practice and developing a draft ordinance to take to public hearing. In the coming months, the Planning Commission and staff will be researching and discussing this topic in an effort to get all of the relevant information so that Town Council can make an informed decision on the matter. As we move along with this matter, we will be encouraging public input to help guide these discussions.

Please send any comments regarding this matter to planner@capecharles.org.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE OFFERED BY COAST GUARD AUXILIARY UNIT, FLOTILLA 12-02

A **Boating Skills and Seamanship Course** will be offered at the **Cape Charles Coast Guard Station** in March of 2014. This course will meet the Virginia requirement for boating safety education laid down by the General Assembly in 2009. As of the summer of 2014, anyone 45 or younger, operating a recreational vessel with a powerplant of 10 HP or higher in the State of Virginia is required to complete such a course. In addition, the course will meet the requirement for anyone from the age of 14 and up to operate a personal watercraft (PWC) in the state. The cost for the class is \$35 which covers the cost of the book. If you have a book from a previous class, you can use that book as well.

The class schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, March 1: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Lunch Break, and 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 5: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday, March 8: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Lunch Break, and 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 12: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The exam will be held on Wednesday, March 19, from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM.

For additional information, please contact Ron West at 757-678-0124 or email at rwest@esva.net.

FROM THE HARBOR MASTER

Over the next couple of months, there will be several moving parts and the Harbor Area will continue to improve. Below is a list of happenings:

1. Staff continues to work on updating the Cape Charles Harbor Conceptual Master Plan. The proposed plan will be presented to the Town Council on January 16 for their review and approval.
2. The Shanty has submitted plans to the Harbor Area Review Board (HARB) for a roof to cover the deck, a larger entrance and a seafood market. The HARB reviewed the plans at their meeting on January 2 and recommended Town Council approval of the Harbor Development Certificate. The Town Council will be reviewing the HARB's recommendation at their January 16 meeting.
3. The Friends of the Virginia Waterman's Memorial of the Eastern Shore was granted an easement by the Town Council to construct the memorial at the turn in front of The Shanty. The plans were reviewed by the HARB on January 2 and they recommended Town Council approval of the Harbor Certificate with a number of conditions. The Town Council will be reviewing the HARB's recommendations at their January 16 meeting.
4. South Port Investors continues to make progress on their haul-out facility and are working on the travel lift area.
5. Staff is continuing their work on harbor protection.

CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2013 was a phenomenal year for the Cape Charles Memorial Library! After 87 years at 500 Tazewell Avenue, the library moved into a new building on 201 Mason Avenue! Check out what the new Library has to offer:

- **Teen Area** with 2 computers, beanbag chairs, floor space for the teens to lounge, and teen books and magazines. New teen magazines include *Action Comics*, *J-14*, *M*, *Seventeen*, and *Twist*.
- **Meeting Room** located on the second floor where we hold Chess Club, Craft Classes, individual tutoring and meetings.
- **Expanded Children's Area** with 3 computers for children, beanbag chairs for cozy reading, books, DVDs and audio CDs. Games and puzzles are available for use in the Library. Children's magazines include *Highlights*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *Ladybug*, *National Geographic for Kids*, and *Ranger Rick*.
- **New DVDs.** Each month, the **Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library** donate 4 new DVDs and each month we are adding newly released DVDs to our collection. Suggestions are welcome. You don't have to depend on those little red packages!
- **Computer Lab** is available for job searching, resumes, and online classes. We offer computer classes and we also have a selection of job-related materials.
- **Additional computers and improved Wi-Fi** are available to all users at no cost.
- **Local History Room** where we keep Cape Charles High School yearbooks, antique books, scrap books, old magazines and other historical information.
- **Kiosk** in the lobby offering information on library activities, town news, local events and local information.
- **Bulletin Board** in the lobby where you can put up your For Sale, Help Wanted, Lost Cat and other signs.
- **Brochure Holders** in the lobby where local businesses are welcome to display their rack cards. We want to help promote our local businesses.
- **A Locked Display Case** is our newest addition where valuable items can be displayed for public viewing. If you have some display items, please let us know.
- **New magazines and a magazine shelf** where the old issues are stored behind the shelf and can be checked out. New titles for adults include *The Atlantic*, *Entertainment*, *Field & Stream*, *Food Network*, *The New Yorker*, and *Outdoor Life*. We also carry the *Eastern Shore News*, *The Eastern Shore Post*, and the *Virginian Pilot*.
- **Casual Reading Area** where you can read the newspaper, flip through a magazine, or use your digital device.
- **Areas** for reading and using Wi-Fi are available in the balcony area and scattered throughout the library.
- **New Programs for Children** include the Chess Club and the Lego Club.

Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the Library. The Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library provided \$20K to furnish the new library and they continue to help through book sales, sponsoring children's events, and many other areas. The Library Board offers support in all areas from assisting with events to formulating policies.

New staff member, **Greg Jones**, works only 15 hours each week but those 15 hours are very productive hours! His knowledge of Excel and computers in general has helped us to provide more professional documents and record keeping. This position has allowed us to offer extra programming and outreach.

Our **Facebook** audience continues to grow with the great input of Library Assistant **Sharon Silvey**.

2014 IS AN ELECTION YEAR

On May 6, 2014, the Town of Cape Charles will hold elections for the positions of Mayor and 3 Town Council seats. To declare candidacy, several forms must be completed and submitted to the Northampton County Registrar's office located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville by March 4, 2014.

Candidacy Requirements for individuals seeking to run for office may be found at the Virginia State Board of Elections website at www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Cidate_Information/Index.html. Step-by-step instructions and the applicable forms can be found on this website. You can also contact the Registrar's office at 757-678-0480.

CHANGE OF COMMAND IN THE CAPE CHARLES POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Charles "Sambo" Brown retired at the end of 2013. The Town Council held a number of interviews and selected Sgt. Jim Pruitt for a promotion to Chief. Sgt. Pruitt took over as the new Chief of Police effective January 7, 2014.

Chief Pruitt has been an officer for the Town of Cape Charles for 6.5 years. He was promoted to Sergeant on July 2, 2010. He has previous experience in law enforcement with the Virginia Marine Police and the Northampton County Sheriff's Office.

Please join us in congratulating Chief Jim Pruitt on his promotion!

FREE MULCH

The Public Works Department has free mulch available to Town residents. If interested, please contact Pete Leontieff at 757-331-3259 x16 or email him at pete.leontieff@capecharles.org. He'll get back to you with details and set up delivery arrangements.

VACANCIES IN TOWN BOARDS

The Town currently has vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Building Code Board of Appeals, Harbor Area Review Board and Wetlands/Coastal Dunes Board. If you live in the Town and are interested in serving on any of these boards, please complete the [Application for Boards and Commission](#) and return it to Town Clerk Libby Hume at 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310 or email it to clerk@capecharles.org. Once applications are collected, interviews will be scheduled with the Town Council to fill the vacancies.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Thursday, January 16, 2014:
Town Council Executive Session starting at 5:15 PM at the Town Hall. [AGENDA](#)
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Friday, January 17, 2014:
Town Offices closed in observance of Lee-Jackson Day.
- Monday, January 20, 2014:
Town Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday, February 4, 2014:
Planning Commission Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, February 13, 2014:
Town Council Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Monday, February 17, 2014:
Town Offices closed in observance of Presidents' Day
- Tuesday, February 18, 2014:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, February 20, 2014:
Town Council Regular 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](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 1/11: **Epiphany Party**, 6:30 PM at the Cape Charles Fire Hall. Bring your LEAST FAVORITE CHRISTMAS GIFT to be auctioned and an appetizer, beverage or dessert. Chili will be served. Auction proceeds will benefit **Arts Enter Cape Charles**. Please RSVP to Chris Bannon (757-331-2206 or chrisban@verizon.net). [FLYER](#)
- Save the Date:
 - 4/26/14-4/27/14: 7th Annual Blessing of the Fleet
 - 6/13/14-6/15/14: 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.

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Municipal Corporation of Cape Charles
2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310
www.capecharles.org

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