



# Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: December 12, 2014

We hope that you will enjoy reading the Cape Charles Gazette which is the electronic newsletter published from time to time 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.



## 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)

## HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

Santa Claus arrived at Central Park by golf cart on Saturday evening, December 6, 2014!

Unfortunately, the Lighted Boat Parade was cancelled due to the foul weather, but the Golf Cart Parade and Grand Illumination of Central Park were held. Afterwards, Santa met with some of the children in the Central Park Gazebo!



## WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES

The Cape Charles Town Code specifies that water and sewer connection charges are payable to the Building Department at the time of building permit issuance, or to the Town Treasurer pursuant to any payment programs authorized by Town Council. Town staff has received inquiries concerning the desire of current and prospective property owners to prepay these connection charges, i.e. prior to building permit issuance, for a variety of reasons. At the November 20, 2014 meeting, Council authorized a payment program to allow both new purchasers and current owners of property to prepay in full utility connection charges, subject to Town Manager approval. The option to pay the charges at the time of building permit issuance remains intact. If you would like to take advantage of the prepay option and lock in the current connection charge amount, please contact Dave Fauber, Director of Public Utilities.

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## TOWN PLANNER SEARCH

The number of applicants has been narrowed down to 3 and interviews will be held on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful that a new planner can be hired and able to start in early January 2015!

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## TOWN MANAGER SEARCH

The Town Council has been working with Springsted, Inc. for the Town Manager search. Mr. John Anzivino of Springsted, Inc. met with the Mayor and Council on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, to present the slate of candidates recommended for interviews. 68 applications were received and the "short list" of candidates was narrowed down to 8. The Mayor and Council are reviewing the information on the 8 candidates and we are hopeful that interviews will begin soon.

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## TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX TO INCREASE IN JANUARY 2015

On April 24, 2014, the Town Council adopted an Ordinance revising Chapter 66, Article IV, Sections 66-55 through 66-76 regarding the collections of Transient Occupancy Tax. As part of the changes, the amount of levy was increased from 3.0% to 3.7% effective January 1, 2015. This can be found in [Section 66-57](#) of the Cape Charles Town Code.

Transient Occupancy Tax is a tax levied for accommodations at any lodging facility within the Town of Cape Charles. This applies to any public or private hotel, inn, hostelry, tourist home or house, bed and breakfast, motel, rooming house, rental home or other lodging place within the Town offering lodging for compensation to any transient. A transient is considered to be any person who obtains lodging at their expense or the expense of another for any period of not more than 30 consecutive days.

Any person or business paying Transient Occupancy Tax must also apply for a Business License with the Town under the Repair / Personal / Business Service category. Payment of \$30.00 minimum or .0036 or \$3.60 per thousand of **gross receipts**, whichever is higher, is due each year by April 15<sup>th</sup> along with the Business and Professional License Application.

Every person or business receiving any payment for lodging shall collect Transient Occupancy Tax at the time payment is made for lodging. A Transient Occupancy Tax form shall be completed monthly and payment of tax shall be remitted to the Treasurer. Reports and remittance shall be submitted on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, covering the amount of tax collected during the preceding month, or reporting zero tax due if none has been collected.

The revenue collected from the Transient Occupancy Tax is designated to fund tourism-related initiatives. A portion of the revenue goes to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission to help fund the Welcome Center at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The remainder of the revenue is used for advertising, events, and assistance for the Cape Charles by the Bay website. All initiatives bring in visitors to the Town who stay at the Town's hotel, bed & breakfasts, or other vacation rental homes. They eat in the restaurants and shop in the retail stores in Town.

This notice is to inform any homeowners or businesses who may be renting homes in Cape Charles that you must be collecting and remitting Transient Occupancy Tax for all rentals. The Town accepts credit card payments in person or by phone. If you need any of the applications or more information, please contact Treasurer Debbie Pocock at [treasurer@capecharles.org](mailto:treasurer@capecharles.org) or call 757-331-3259 ext. 23.

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## VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

The Town currently has vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Wetlands/Coastal Dunes Board. If you live in the Town and are interested in serving on either 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](mailto:clerk@capecharles.org). Once applications are collected, interviews will be scheduled with the Town Council to fill the vacancies.

## WINNERS FOR THE "IF I WERE MAYOR" CONTEST

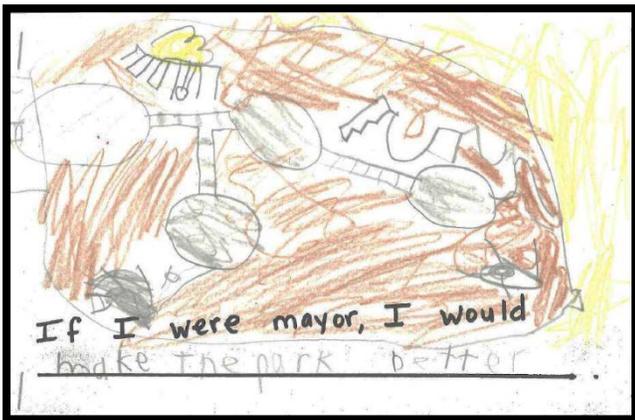
The Town recently held an "If I Were Mayor" Essay and Drawing Contest, in conjunction with the Virginia Municipal League. Students were invited to explain what they would do as Mayor to make their Town a great place to live. Preschoolers through 1<sup>st</sup> grade students were asked to submit a drawing of the Mayor. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were asked to submit a 100-250 word essay and 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders were asked to submit a 200-500 word essay. 12 drawings and 29 essays were submitted.

Mayor Proto chose the winners which were announced on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Awards were presented to the top two finalists in each age group and the children were invited into the Civic Center and sat at the Council dais and were able to bang the gavel and pretend to hold a meeting.

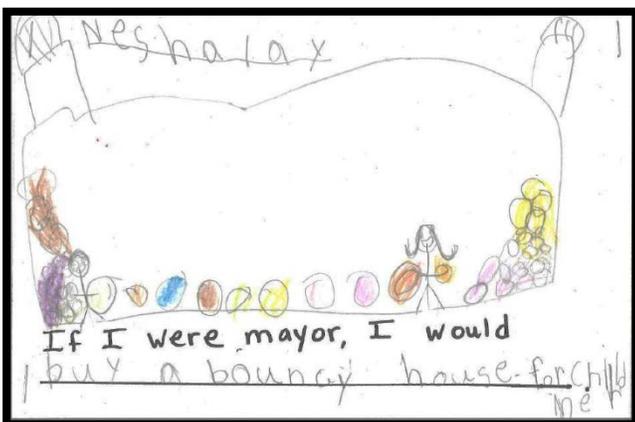
This issue of the Gazette will focus on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners of each group. All entries will be posted on the Town's website, under the Recreation Department, for all to see.

### Kindergarten & 1st Grade Winners

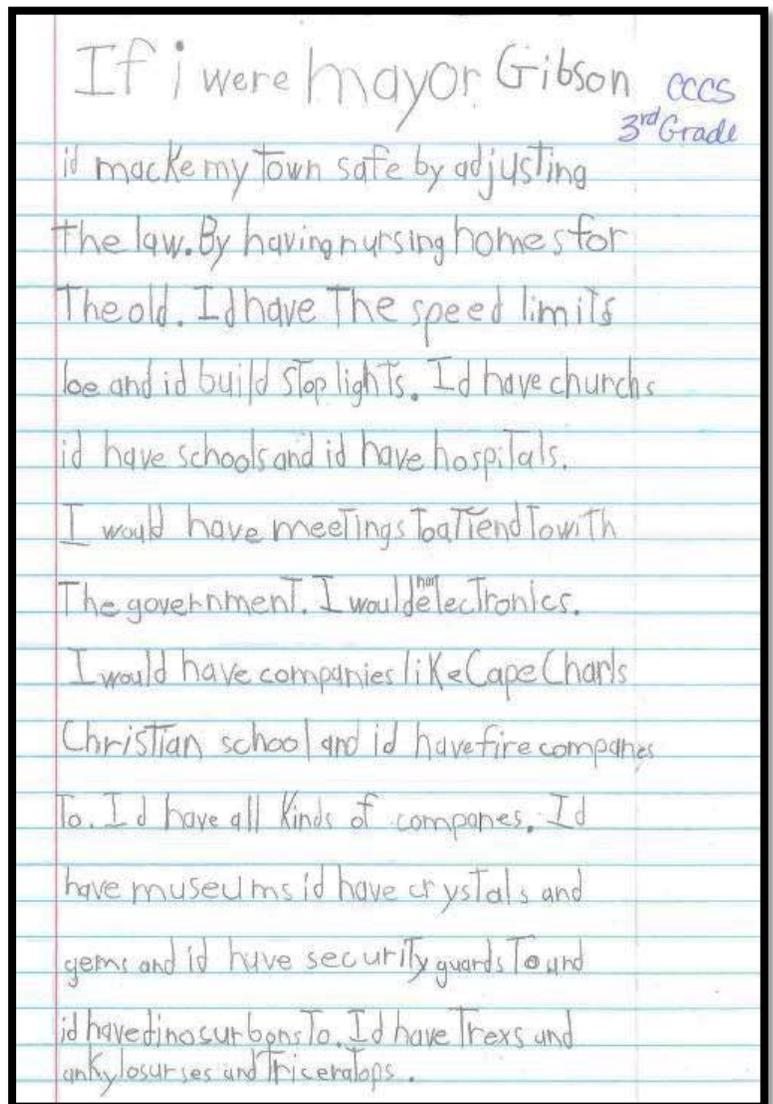
### 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Winners



**First Place:**  
Grayson Brown - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
"If I were mayor, I would make the park better."



**Second Place:**  
Neshalay Owens - Kindergarten  
"If I were mayor, I would buy a bouncy house for children."



**First Place Overall**  
Gibson Hubbard – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Winners (continued)

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
CCCS

By: Summer Meya Charnock

If I were Mayor I'd make shure the Operatoin Christmas Child boxs would get were the boxs needed to go to get to the child it needed to get to and I'd make shure the trafio lights are not broken so there would be rarely be eney accidents and I'd make shure the store locks are very very strong so the stores would not get robed and I'd make shure there was enough landscaping and not a single plant cut down or burnt and the taxes are the same for every one and every one would get a chance to be citizen of the month and every one will a chance to come and tell me what they don't like

Second Place  
Summer Meya Charnock – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



and I'd figure something out and I'd visit every school in town and let the kids talk to me and let the kid see me in actoin and everyone in town gets a picture with me and the paronts will be in a meeting with me and I would tell them if there children are good or not so good and if the children are listing to there teacher and how they are behaving and If I were Mayor my name would be Mayor Meya and I'd my two best freinds as my asentins and evrery time they helped me figure something out they got a reward and I'd tell the paronts how good the kids grades are.

4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WINNERS

Today you are going to read about how I would make the town of Cape Charles better!!!!!!

Do you want to help me make the town more careful by driving around children slowly? Or would you help by having food trucks or stands? But the one thing I really need help with is keeping the town hydrated.

Hey Man Go slow

I think that the town of Cape Charles would be much safer if there were go slow watch for children signs. Because there are a lot of people in the summer and kids running around, it just worries me. I just don't want anyone to get hurt when there just playing around in the sun.

Food Trucks and Stands

I love to be in the hot sun and stop at a food truck or stand. I think the town should have food truck or stand. Because everyone gets hungry. So yea I do think the town is a good place to have trucks and stands. Because everyone loves to go grab a hot chili dog or burger at the volunteers stands on the beach.

Water Fountains and Feet Showers

town of Cape Charles desperately needs water fountains and especially feet showers when you come up from the beach. So that when we get in are cars they don't get all sandy and dirty so save that drama for ya mama.

NO OYSTER SHELS AND BRICKS

There should not be any oyster shells or bricks in shallow water. I am and every one else is tired of them or loved ones getting cut on oyster shells or bricks' love cape Charles beach but it's just too many shells and again bricks. So volunteers can come pick them up. And we would be able to display them all around the town.

So that would be the town if I were mayor.

By Jordyn Jones

Grade 4



First Place  
Jordyn Jones – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Second Place  
Jason Silvey – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Hello. My name is Jason Silvey and I am 10 years old. These are some of the things I would do if I was mayor of Cape Charles.

One thing that parents don't like that happens at the beach is that they get sand in their cars. So, I think that there should be a hose so the parents could wash their kids feet off so they don't have to clean their cars out.

Some of the houses in this wonderful town are old or falling apart. So, I think we should get some people to fix up the houses so that our town could be a happier and more loving town.

In our town, we have stop signs and speed limit signs but I think there should be a few more of them. One day I saw a man driving his car way too fast. So that is why I think we need more stop signs in this town because I don't want anyone to get hurt in Cape Charles.

I think the things that I put in here you might like. Like the house or the people to repair houses and last but not least, safety.

Jason Silvey  
Grade 5

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WINNERSBy: Elan Hess *Grade 7*

Before I did too much for mayor I would buy myself a top hat, but I would start working after that. My first task as mayor would be making Cape Charles water NOT taste like eggs. I would bleach out the town well, that will help a little over time. The people of Cape Charles are spending good money on not good water.

My second task would be destroying old unusable buildings in Cape Charles. To make the town look less empty. Another part of this task would be to help the people in the town who want to sell or rent a building. Over awhile of this there would be less "For Sale," signs in Cape Charles. By doing this, the town wouldn't look so desperate to tourists.

My third task would be to bring back the soccer goals to the park and the basketball hoops. It would bring more visitors to the park.

After awhile I would start growing a mustache. I would bring joy to the town. When my time as mayor would be over I would settle in a beach house that I bought in Cape Charles. I would sit on the porch with a cup of non-smelly well water in my hand.

That would be a few things I would do if I were mayor.



First Place  
Elan Hess – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



Second Place  
Jose Terron Santos – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## IF I WERE MAYOR

If I were the mayor of my own town, I would be the best of the best. I would let my town have a little bit more freedom. Such as let chickens in back yards. Also I would let people ride their bikes on the sidewalk. I would think about having a kid mayor. But it wouldn't be a good idea. There would be something kids could do. I would let them elect (vote) for the governor. That is all the freedom I would let my town have.

If I were mayor I would get more people or tourist to come to my town. Something that might attract people like a soccer stadium where the pros would play that would bring thousands of people. I would have some of the best restaurants with great food that would get more people to come to my town. Also I would want a kind of theme park with the coolest rides ever. That's the fun my town would have.

There is nothing better than keeping the people in my town safe. So for the safety of my town I would want a life guard at my beach in case of any one was drowning or something like that. There would be a certain limit to go into the water just to make sure no one drowns. Also I would get the snow shoveled out of the way then it snows.

So as you can see if I were the mayor of my own town everybody would like me. Because in my town I would let chickens in back yards. Also I would have a soccer stadium. I would have my town safe and have life guards at the beach. So for all those reasons I would be an awesome mayor.

*Jose Terron Santos  
Grade 7*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Tuesday, December 16, 2014:  
**Historic District Review Board Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center. [AGENDA](#)
- Thursday, December 18, 2014:  
**Town Council Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center. [AGENDA](#)
- **Friday, December 19, 2014: Town Offices closed from Noon – 2:00 PM for the Town Employees' Christmas Luncheon.**
- **Wednesday, December 24, 2014: Town Offices closing at noon for Christmas holiday.**
- **Thursday, December 25, 2014 – Friday, December 26, 2014: Town Offices closed for Christmas holiday.**
- **Thursday, January 1, 2015, & Friday, January 2, 2015: Town Offices closed for New Year's holiday.**
- Tuesday, January 6, 2015:  
**Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan Work Session** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Wednesday, January 7, 2015:  
**Board of Zoning Appeals Public Hearing & Meeting** starting at 4:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Thursday, January 8, 2015  
**Town Council Work Session** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Monday, January 12, 2015:  
**Planning Commission Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Thursday, January 15, 2015:  
**Town Council Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- **Friday, January 16, 2015: Town Offices closed in observance of Lee-Jackson Day.**
- **Monday, January 19, 2015: Town Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday.**
- Tuesday, January 20, 2015:  
**Historic District Review Board Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.



The Cape Charles Memorial Library is seeking volunteers to help in our computer lab. Our computer lab offers 10 computers (with printing capability) to the general public. The lab is busy throughout the day, with two to five people at all times. People use the lab for many purposes and it has proven to be an important library service as many people do not have computers or internet access in their homes. Often, a computer is necessary when applying for a job, to complete a college course, take a driver's test, and many other tasks.

We are looking for a computer savvy person to volunteer for a few hours each month to assist with basic computer and keyboarding skills. Many of our patrons have no computer skills and would like to learn, while others have limited computer knowledge.

You can make a difference!

Please call the Library at 331-1300 for more information.



# Town of Cape Charles Recreation Department 2014/2015 Winter Programs

All programs will take place at the Cape Charles Civic Center, 500 Tazewell Ave unless otherwise noted.  
For more information on these programs, please visit [www.capecharles.org](http://www.capecharles.org) or call Jen Lewis at 757-331-3259 x18.

### Arts & Crafts

4:00 PM

- Dec 3 - Christmas Craft
- Dec 10 - Christmas Craft
- Dec 17 - Christmas Craft
- Jan 7 - Latch Hook
- Jan 14 - Latch Hook
- Jan 21 - Latch Hook
- Jan 28 - Latch Hook
- Feb 4 - Craft
- Feb 11 - Craft
- Feb 18 - Craft
- Feb 25 - Craft



### Adult Book Club

5:30 PM

- Dec 1 - The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion
- Dec 15 - The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion
- Jan 5 - The Husband's Secret
- Jan 26 - The Husband's Secret
- Feb 2 - Water for Elephants
- Feb 23 - Water for Elephants

### Mommy & Me

10:30 AM

- Dec 9
- Jan 13
- Jan 27
- Feb 10
- Feb 24



### Line Dancing

7:00 PM

**\$5 per person**

- Dec 1
- Dec 15
- Jan 5
- Jan 26
- Feb 2
- Feb 23



### Cornhole

7:00 PM

Cape Charles Fire House

**\$20 Registration per person & \$5 weekly fee. 3 person teams.**

Dec 4 & Dec 11

### Scrapbooking

10:30 AM

- Dec 1
- Dec 8
- Dec 15
- Jan 5
- Jan 12
- Jan 26
- Feb 2
- Feb 9
- Feb 23



### Bingo

10:30 AM

**\$1 fee or bring item worth \$1**

- Dec 5
- Dec 19
- Jan 9
- Jan 23
- Feb 6
- Feb 20

### Christmas Crafts

6:00 PM

Drop off the kids & shop local tonight!

Dec 12

### Christmas

#### Caroling

6:00 PM

Town Wide

Dec 19





**The Town offices will be closed on Friday, December 19, 2014, from Noon – 2:00 PM for the Town Employees' Christmas Luncheon.**

**The Town offices will be closing at noon on Wednesday, December 24, 2014, and will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2014, and Friday, December 26, 2014, in observance of the Christmas Holiday and on Thursday, January 1, 2015, and Friday, January 2, 2015, for the New Year's Holiday.**

### SIGN UP FOR THE GAZETTE & E-NOTIFICATIONS!

The Cape Charles Gazette is now available only by subscribing to [e-Notifications](#). With [e-Notifications](#) you can sign up to get the Gazette and regular updates on Agendas & Minutes, Alerts, Bids, Calendar Items, Job Postings and other News & Information.

With [e-Notifications](#), you control the information you receive and can cancel the notifications at any time.

We encourage you to browse the new website and if there is something that you would like to see added to the site, please submit your comments in writing by sending us an email at [info@capecharles.org](mailto: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.

We hope you are enjoying our new site and we welcome your comments! We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send comments to [info@capecharles.org](mailto:info@capecharles.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 12/13/14:
  - Santa's House – Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and shop at his workshop, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Cape Charles Christian School
  - [Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company's ToolMania](#), 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
  - A Christmas Carol, 7:00 PM, Palace Theatre. \$10 adults, \$5 children/students.
- 12/14/14:
  - Santa's House, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Cape Charles Christian School
  - [Cape Charles B&B Cookie Trail](#), 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. This event benefits the Cape Charles Memorial Library.
  - A Christmas Carol, 3:00 PM, Palace Theatre, \$10 adults, \$5 children/students
  - Aqua's Chowder Cook-Off, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Aqua at Kings Creek Marina, \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 & under.
- 12/19/14:
  - Model Train Display – Fun for kids of all ages! Watson's Hardware.
  - Progressive Caroling – Stroll through town and sing carols with friends and family. 7:00 PM
- 12/21/14: Christmas in Black & White, 3:00 PM, Palace Theatre.
- 12/31/14: Inaugural Dropping of the Crab Pot followed by Fireworks, 9:45 PM at the Town Harbor.
- Save the Date:
  - 4/24/14: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Fleet
  - 7/31/15 – 8/2/15: Clam Slam 2015 & 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Boat Docking Contest

For more information regarding events, please visit our website and take a look at the [Calendar](#)!

You can also visit [www.CapeCharlesbytheBay.com](http://www.CapeCharlesbytheBay.com) for other events in the Town!

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

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](http://www.capecharles.org)

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