



# Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: October 11, 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.



## CAPE CHARLES FALL FESTIVAL - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013



It's fun for the whole family on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 10 am to 5 pm at the Cape Charles Fall Festival in downtown Cape Charles. This year's festival celebrates the bounty of the Eastern Shore and includes a Farmer's Market with seasonal fruits and vegetables from local farms, and a Waterman's Market with fresh seafood right from the Chesapeake Bay. Artisans and crafters will be outdoors along Mason Avenue with pottery, jewelry, painting, carvings, and many more handmade creations. Free, live entertainment includes an Oom-Pah band, strolling musicians Carol & Malcolm, and over-sized marionettes by Spectrum Puppets. German-style food and other festival favorites, including beer and wine, will be available for purchase.

This year's festival features a "Best & Biggest Competition". Enter your homemade jam, jelly, pickle, and/or sweet potato pie or bring your biggest, homegrown pumpkin or sweet potato. Download an entry form at <http://www.capecharlesbythebay.com/event/best-biggest-competition/> or pick up a copy in person at brown dog ice cream, Cape Charles Post Office, Rayfield's Pharmacy, Sullivan's Office Supply or Watson's Hardware. Entry forms need to be mailed to PO Box 461, Cape Charles, VA 23310 no later than October 5.

Along with the falling leaves of the season, you'll want to fall in LOVE at the corner of Bay & Mason Avenues. LOVE works, the traveling LOVE sign from the Virginia Tourism Corporation will make its Eastern Shore debut and will be on display from October 11-16. Take your picture, share it out by social media and #LOVEVA to spread the love from Cape Charles across the globe.

The Cape Charles Fall Festival is sponsored by the Cape Charles Business Association in cooperation with Arts Enter Cape Charles, Cape Charles Fire Department, and Citizens for Central Park.

For more information, contact Sandy McFall, [gallery209@gmail.com](mailto:gallery209@gmail.com), 757-331-2433.

## FRIENDS OF THE CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOOK SALE



The Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library will be holding their Fall Book Sale on Saturday, 10/26, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at 500 Tazewell Avenue (the location of the former library building).

The Friends are dedicated to making the Cape Charles Memorial Library a better place for everyone. The Friends is an all-volunteer organization responsible for promoting the library, sponsoring cultural programs for the community, and providing funds to enhance the library collection and visitor experience.

To learn more about the Friends, to join or donate towards their cause, please visit their website at [www.friendscapecharleslibrary.com](http://www.friendscapecharleslibrary.com) or follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/friendscapecharleslibrary)!

## CAPE CHARLES' HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Halloween is right around the corner. Friday, 10/25, will kick off the weekend events with the showing of *Hocus Pocus* in Central Park. The movie is free to the public. Bring your popcorn, drinks and lawn chairs to enjoy this showing. The activities will continue on Saturday, 10/26, at the Cape Charles Harbor with Trunk-or-Treating from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, a pumpkin carving contest at the Shanty from 3:00PM – 6:00 PM, and Haunted Harbor from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM! The Town will observe Halloween trick-or-treating on Thursday, 10/31. The Town curfew that evening is 8:00 PM for all individuals under the age of 18. The curfew will be strictly enforced. Masks are not permitted on youth over the age of 12.



To further explain Trunk-or-Treating, it is a safe and family-friendly community event where children can trick-or-treat from the trunks of cars. It's often called Halloween tail-gating. The general theme is that everyone will come dressed in costumes and the cars will be decorated to show the Halloween spirit and pass out candy.

Pre-register your car:

We are asking that all cars pre-register. If you are interested in participating, please email [Jen Lewis](mailto:Jen.Lewis@capecharlesva.gov) to reserve your spot. Jen will provide you with a car registration number. On Saturday, 10/26, please plan to arrive around 12:30 PM. The children will begin Trunk-or-Treating at 1:00 PM. All cars are responsible for providing their own candy. We anticipate there to be around 100 children participating.

Once darkness settles in the Harbor will transform into a spooky Haunted Harbor! Parents are encouraged to evaluate the area before admitting their children. There will be ghosts and goblins around every corner and may not be enjoyed by little ones. If little ones decide to join the ghosts and goblins, they must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Everyone in the Town of Cape Charles looks forward to your family joining ours for this fun packed weekend. Any questions, please contact Community Events/Recreation Coordinator [Jen Lewis](mailto:Jen.Lewis@capecharlesva.gov) or Harbor Master [Smitty Dize](mailto:Smitty.Dize@capecharlesva.gov).

## CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY PROGRESSIVE DINNER TOUR

The Northampton County Chamber of Commerce Presents

18th Annual Holiday Progressive Dinner Tour

Friday, December 6, 2013

A Victorian Christmas of Yore



*Take a step back in time to have yourself a merry little Christmas in Cape Charles, VA; where hearts are light and troubles are out of sight. Gather near your faithful friends when olden days were golden days as you enjoy a progressive meal and tour historic homes decorated for the holiday season.*

Tickets are \$40 each or \$35 each for groups of 10 or more.

Reserve your tickets today at  
[www.northamptoncountychamber.com](http://www.northamptoncountychamber.com)  
 or call 757-678-0010



Virginia  
 is for Lovers



This has been an exciting year for the Cape Charles Memorial Library with its move from the tiny old Presbyterian Church building at 500 Tazewell Avenue to the former Bank of America building on 201 Mason Avenue and it is only fitting that we end it by again being part of the Annual Holiday Progressive Dinner Tour on Friday, 12/6. This will be the second time the Library has been on the tour. The first time was ten years ago in 2003. The quaint old building with its stained glass window impressed all of the participants, although it was a challenge to fit the tour groups into such a small space! This year we will be able to showcase our new facility, our new furniture, and our new location and I am sure everyone will be equally impressed!

Built in 1921, the former "Bank of America" building is an example of the Neo-classical style of architecture. The building is constructed of limestone and features Ionic columns. The Library will be the final stop on the Holiday Tour where the participants will be served dessert. Our new library is truly beautiful and even more so at night. If you have not been in the library at night, you are in for a treat! The building has 3 chandeliers that hang from the two story lobby, giving the building an elegant glow that is reflected in the 6 giant columns on either side of the lobby.

Many of you attended the Library Gala that was held on February 23, and if you haven't been back since then this is a chance to see it furnished and stocked with our wonderful collection of materials. The building features all new shelving and during the months since we moved we have acquired new tables and chairs, a kiosk, children's furniture, teen furniture, a display case, and a circulation desk. These additions to the library were made possible by your generous donations and the hard work of the Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library and the Library Board. Additional furniture and equipment is being ordered as we continue to improve our library.

If you would like to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Progressive Dinner Tour tickets are available from the [Northampton County Chamber of Commerce](http://www.northamptoncountychamber.com). Holiday tour cards with ticket information are also available at the Library and other locations. For more information, call the Northampton County Chamber at 757-678-0010. Get your tickets soon because the time slots for this annual event fill up very quickly!

## COOKING SAFETY

Cooking Fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The leading cause of kitchen fires is unattended cooking. It is important to be alert to prevent cooking fires.

### SAFETY TIPS

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop
- Keep the stovetop, burners and oven clean.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Check electrical cords for cracks, breaks, or damage.



### IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 after you leave.
- If you do try to fight the fire, be sure others are already getting out and you have a clear path to the exit.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off burner. Do not move the pan.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off heat and keep the door closed. After a fire, the oven should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

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

## FROM THE HARBOR MASTER:

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 marked the beginning of fall Rockfish season, although these large trophy fish will be essentially caught in late November and the month of December. Cape Charles is unique in its location to catch rockfish as there are several fishing reefs in the area and the close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. At certain times you really don't have to leave the harbor channel. These fish can also be caught off the fishing pier located at the corner of Bay and Mason Avenues.

There are a few things that you should know about the fall trophy Rockfish season. Most anglers prefer live eels and a bob to catch these fish but some use a large bucktail with some sort of sassy shad. Umbrella rigs also work well for trolling. Before you head out fishing you should always check the [Virginia Marine Resources Commission \(VMRC\) website](#) for updated regulations as size and limits may change. The Town fishing pier is licensed so anyone can fish from the pier but anyone 16 years of age or older is required to sign up for the [Virginia Fisherman Identification Program](#).

## CENTRAL PARK MEMORIAL BRICK PROGRAM



Here is your opportunity to be part of the ongoing revitalization of the Cape Charles Central Park. Bricks can be purchased from the Citizens for Central Park to honor a friend or family member, memorialize someone special or as a gift in your name. The bricks will be placed around the beautiful and picturesque water fountain in the west node of the park. Dedicating a brick costs \$75.

Please [click here](#) for details to order your personalized brick!

## KID'S PLAYGROUND

Recently, the Town received an inquiry regarding the type of mulch in the Children's Playground. Mulch is a very important safety feature in any playground. The Town purchases mulch that is safe for playgrounds. The Town also ensures there is a thick layer of mulch between 10" to 12" under and around all structures, especially swings and slides and any other heavy impact area. On occasion we will need to close the playground for routine maintenance. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause the public, but safety has to always be priority. For routine maintenance we will always try our best to notify the public in advance, however on occasion there may be little time to prepare the public at which time notices will be placed around the playground. It is important for the public to report any safety issues to the Town by calling 757-331-3259, ext. 16.

## BLUE WAVE PRESS RELEASE

According to Northampton County Sheriff David Doughty and Accomack County Sheriff Todd Godwin, on September 27, 2013, as part of the Virginia Comprehensive Gang Strategy, Accomack and Northampton County Sheriff's Offices, the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Office of Public Safety conducted the Public Safety Agencies' Initiative dubbed Operation Blue Wave.

The name of the operation was derived from the participation of various local, state and federal law enforcement agencies which included: Virginia State Police, Accomack County Sheriff's Office, Northampton County Sheriff's Office, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Law Enforcement Division, Exmore Police Department, Chincoteague Police Department, Parksley Police Department, Cape Charles Police Department, Onancock Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and the Virginia Department of Corrections – Probation and Parole.

These agencies joined forces in Operation Blue Wave in an enforcement effort to target individuals and locations associated with violent drug and gang related crimes. Enforcement activities were focused on "hot" spots throughout the counties identified by local law enforcement.

This combined effort of law enforcement resulted in a total of 21 felony arrests and 4 misdemeanors. Of these arrests, 11 were narcotic related. A total of 364 grams of marijuana, 1.5 grams of cocaine and 2 handguns were seized. 48 traffic summonses were issued for a variety of traffic offenses and 11 outstanding warrants were served.

The Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole and Gang unit conducted home visits and probationer screenings which resulted in multiple probation violations. The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted home visits and curfew checks.

Sheriff Doughty and Sheriff Godwin plan to continue these types of operations in the future in order to strengthen the relationship between the different agencies and curtail criminal activity throughout the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Anyone having information related to any ongoing criminal activity or gang activity is encouraged to contact the Accomack County Sheriff's Office at 757-787-1131, the Northampton County Sheriff's Office at 757-678-0458 or the Eastern Shore Drug Task Force at 757-414-0746. Callers may remain anonymous.



## 2013 THANKSGIVING PIE SALE

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and New Roots Youth Garden will again be selling Thanksgiving pies. This year you can choose from the following:

- 9" Mocha Pecan Pie – Your classic pecan pie enhanced with bittersweet chocolate and espresso.  
OR
- 9" Sweet Potato Cheesecake Pie – A light version of an old favorite, topped with a delicious glaze. Made with Pickett's Harbor Beauregard Sweet Potatoes.

Pies are \$17.50 for 1, or 2 for \$32.00. Additional pies are \$16.00 each. Order deadline is Monday, 11/18/13. You can pick up your pie(s) at Gull Hummock at 115 Mason Avenue, Appleseed Porch and Garden on Route 13 in Eastville, and Taste Unlimited at 4097 Shore Drive in Virginia Beach.

[Thanksgiving Pie Sale Order Form](#)

## REMINDER RE: POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AND REAL ESTATE SIGNAGE

As election season is upon us, we would like to remind citizens that political campaign signs are regulated under the Town's zoning ordinance. Section 4.1.C.5.g. states that political campaign signs, no larger than 4 square feet in area may be displayed in town. Campaign signs may be displayed no more than 45 days prior to an election, and must be removed no later than 7 days after the election. Additionally, political signs are not permitted between the sidewalk and street, or within any public right of way.

Real estate signs are also regulated by the same ordinance. One real estate sign is permitted per lot, advertising the sale, rental, or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the sign is displayed. Real estate signs may be no larger than 4 square feet in area, and must be removed no later than 7 days after the closing of the sale, or the lease of the mentioned property. These signs are also not permitted between the sidewalk and street, or in any public right of way.

## Public Service Authority (PSA)

The Town of Cape Charles received a letter from the PSA requesting a proposal for services with a cost estimate and methodology to treat wastewater, collection system maintenance, meter reading, and customer billing to service the commercial district.

On 9/25, the Town Council held a work session to discuss the cost to provide the services to the PSA. If an agreement was reached, the PSA would be considered a contracted customer and the Town would bill the PSA for the services rendered and the PSA would determine the rate to be charged in the commercial district. The Town would determine what they would charge per gallon to accept the wastewater. The Southern Node Commercial District has 30 existing properties at this time.

Connection charges were discussed (connection fee and a facility fee). The facility fee covers the capital cost of the treatment works capacity. If the 30 existing businesses would pay a connection charge it is estimated to be over \$200K. It was noted that all PSA planning documents have assumed no connection charges for existing properties.

There have been 321 new connections in Town in the last 10 years. There were several projections proposed, but no trend.

The Council reviewed the methodologies used in determining a rate per gallon, cost to check collection systems, meter reading and monthly billing with the basis of our FY 2014 operating cost for the wastewater plant.

The Council requested additional information before they could determine what services the Town was going to propose and before a draft Memorandum of Agreement could be developed.

Mr. George Proto, President of the Cape Charles Businesses Association, spoke on behalf of the association with 3 financial concerns: i) How to pay for expansion as the need arises (connection fee issue); ii) Our own debt service, maintenance and chemical costs for the existing plant (fees charged); and iii) The County's portion and how they would pay for the line.

A work session will be scheduled in order to report back to the Town Council.

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## CAPE CHARLES ROTARY

Thank you to the Cape Charles Rotary for your continued support in adopting Route 184 from U.S. 13 to Fulcher Street through the Adopt-a-Highway. A sign will soon be placed to establish the designation and the Rotarians will soon be picking up trash in an ongoing effort to keep our gateway looking beautiful.

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## VDOT SIDEWALK PROJECT

The VDOT sidewalk project is coming to an end with a number of punch list items left to complete. The Town is thankful for the cooperation with the folks at VDOT throughout this project and for working around our needs during a busy summer season. We will be working to update our map of sidewalk repairs still needed in an effort to look for additional funding to continue repairs and replacement to the sidewalks in town. This ongoing effort includes new sidewalks in the areas where none exist at this time.

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## NOTICE TO SHORT TERM RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS

**Please contact the Town Treasurer's office at 331-3259 ext. 11 to ensure compliance of the mandated 3% Transient Occupancy tax required for every short term (seasonal and vacation) rental. Short term rentals includes all property rentals for a duration up to 90 days.**

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## NURIDE – A NEW PROGRAM SPONSORED BY HAMPTON ROADS TRANSIT

NuRide is the nation's largest commuter rewards program where you can earn rewards for carpooling, vanpooling, biking, walking, telecommuter and using mass transportation (bus, ferry, light rail).

Cape Charles is considered to be in the Hampton Roads region and area residents are eligible to enroll in the NuRide Reward Program. You can sign up online and record your trips on the NuRide website and earn points that can be used for restaurant coupons, retailer discounts and tickets to shows and attractions. Anytime you ride with another person (at least 2 per car), you log your trips to earn extra points. There is also an area where you can search for someone to carpool with you whether it's travelling on the Shore or across the Bay. If you register online, you can immediately earn a \$5 Starbucks Gift Card.

[NuRide Reward Program Brochure](#) / [Sign Up](#)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Tuesday, October 15, 2013:  
**Historic District Review Board Public Hearing & Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Thursday, October 17, 2013:  
**Town Council Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Tuesday, November 5, 2013:  
**Planning Commission Regular Meeting** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, November 7, 2013:  
**Town Council Work Session** starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.

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](mailto:clerk@capecharles.org). Please [click here](#) for information on the various Boards and Commission.



The Town offices will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2013, in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

The Town offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2013, in observance of Veterans' Day.



## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 10/11 – 10/13: [21st Annual Birding and Wildlife Festival](#).
- 10/11 – 10/16: LOVE Artwork debuts in Cape Charles. Artwork displayed at the corner of Mason and Bay Avenues.
- 10/12: **Cape Charles Fall Festival**, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, along Mason Avenue. Sponsored by the Cape Charles Business Association.
- 10/12: **Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Book Sale**, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 500 Tazewell Avenue.
- 10/19: **Cream of the Crop 2013 – Annual Harvest Dinner & Auction**, Arts Enter. Contact the Arts Enter Cape Charles for details. All proceeds benefit the Arts Enter and the Historic Palace Theatre.
- 10/21: **Mystic Whaler** coming to Cape Charles Harbor and will be open to the public from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
- 10/24 – 10/28: [Tall Ship Godspeed](#) in Cape Charles.
- 10/25: Movie in Central Park, 6:30 PM. *Hocus Pocus* will be shown. Rated PG, 96 minutes.
- 10/26: [Trunk-or-Treat](#), 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, at the Cape Charles Harbor.
- 10/26: Pumpkin Carving at the Shanty, 3:00 PM – 6:00 pm.
- 10/26: Haunted Harbor, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, At the Cape Charles Harbor.
- **Save the Dates:**
  - 11/30: Cape Charles Historical Society [16<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Roast](#).
  - 12/6: [18<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Progressive Dinner Tour – A Victorian Christmas of Yore](#)
  - 12/7: Cape Charles Central Park Grand Illumination.

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)