



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: January 10, 2019

We hope that you will enjoy reading the Cape Charles Gazette which is the electronic newsletter published monthly 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, or by regular mail to 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310.

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 2019!

5TH ANNUAL DROPPING OF THE CRAB POT



The Town of Cape Charles hosted the 5th annual Dropping of the Crab Pot at 10:00 p.m. with over 500 attendees gathering on Mason Avenue to celebrate the new year!

The town has been asked "Why 10 p.m.?" By dropping the Crab Pot at 10:00 p.m., we can hold an event that can be celebrated by adults and children alike, allowing for a fun, family event. For those attendees without children, they were able to continue on to Kelly's Gingernut Pub, The Shanty or the Oyster Farm Seafood Eatery for the countdown to midnight.

A great effort by everyone involved made this New Year's event one to remember by all who attended. Thank you also to the Master of Ceremonies, Mayor Smitty Dize, for leading the countdown, Barry and Barron Downing for helping us drop the crab pot, Miriam Elton for opening Brown Dog Ice Cream to serve her delicious hot chocolate, Jen Lewis for organizing the event and the biggest shout out goes to our Public Works Foreman John Lockwood and his crew who always make sure everything goes off without a hitch!

It was a great event to bring in 2019!

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Over the next few weeks, the Public Works Department will be picking up discarded live Christmas trees. Please remove all ornaments, lights, garland, etc. and place the trees on the curb for pick up. You can also bring the trees to the Public Works Maintenance Building behind Rayfield's if you prefer. The trees will be composted or chipped for mulch.

If you have any questions, please contact Public Works Director Dave Fauber at 757-695-3839.

Thank you!



MEETINGS WITH TOWN MANAGER LARRY DiRE



Comments and concerns from the citizens of Cape Charles are important to Town Manager Larry DiRe and he is open to meeting with citizens regarding their concerns. In order to ensure his availability, we recommend scheduling an appointment to meet with Larry.

Please contact Deputy Clerk Tracy Outten, at 757-331-3259 ext. 24 or via email at tracy.outten@capecharles.org, to schedule an appointment so that adequate time can be allocated for your meeting.

PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING

Most drivers understand the importance of keeping their vehicle in good mechanical condition at any time of year. When winter comes, the condition of your vehicle is even more important than at other times of year.

This means that brakes, wipers/wiper fluid, brake lights, tires, mirrors, headlights and running lights, tire pressure, turn signals, oil, etc. should all be checked at appropriate intervals.

Don't try to get those last few miles from a set of tires. Make certain that tread depth is above the minimum recommendation for your vehicle. To provide maximum visibility, headlights, taillights, mirrors, windshield and all windows should be kept clean at all times - all year round. When clearing snow/ice off your vehicle, don't take shortcuts.

When you are approaching a curve or intersection, start braking early to avoid sliding into another lane or into the intersection should you need to stop. If your vehicle is equipped with ABS, a steady, firm pressure on the brake pedal is suggested. Without ABS on your vehicle, use the "squeeze braking" technique. This is where you gradually increase pedal pressure until you reach the point where the vehicle almost starts slipping.

Winter driving conditions accentuate every mechanical problem and driver mistake. Increase your following distance by adding a second or two to your vehicle's current recommended following distance. Scan farther ahead than usual to allow you time to respond to problems. Use your low-beam headlights and running lights any time there is reduced visibility or when you are using your windshield wipers. If you are familiar with the road or route, use this to your advantage to anticipate upcoming hills or curves. Otherwise, extra caution is necessary to react to the unexpected.

When you are driving on an icy road, there is no such thing as a safe speed. On icy roads, four wheel drive vehicles will skid/slide just as easily as any other vehicle.

Key points

- Before freezing weather arrives, have your vehicle serviced and inspected.
- Get an earlier start so that you will have time to clear ice and snow from your vehicle.
- Accelerate and apply brakes gradually to avoid skidding and maintain steering control.
- Start by going no faster than half the posted speed limit. If you encounter extremely slippery conditions, cut your speed in half again.
- Plan as though you will have to come to a complete stop at every intersection and make sure you have time to get completely through the intersection before you begin to cross.
- Suggested emergency equipment: flashlight, blanket, flares/reflectors, spare tire, shovel, sand, cell phone and emergency numbers, water.



Information courtesy of Virginia Municipal League Insurance Programs



ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT UPDATE

Effective February 1, 2019 accessory dwelling units are allowed by conditional use permit in certain residential districts of the historic district. The new regulations state the following: 1) accessory dwelling units are a conditional use, not a by right use; 2) accessory dwelling units must be part of an accessory building; 3) accessory dwelling units may have a separate water/sewer/trash account from the main structure and are billed accordingly; 4) accessory dwelling units have a separate entrance from the accessory building's entrance; 5) accessory dwelling units must meet all building, fire, and residential code requirements. The following specifics should be remembered as well:

- Accessory dwelling units are not synonymous with tiny houses, all dwelling units are still by way of "accessory" use to a garage, workshop, or other secondary use of the main structure residential dwelling.
- Accessory dwelling units are by conditional use only and need to meet all zoning ordinance requirements of a conditional use.
- Accessory dwelling units must conform to all relevant building, fire, and property maintenance code regulations.
- Accessory dwelling units are not short-term rentals and length of stay period for occupants aligns with the terms identified in the Town's current transient occupancy tax and building code regulations.
- Water/sewer monthly fee – All accessory dwelling units shall be billed as a water/sewer account separate from the account for the main structure and shall pay half the minimum monthly account fee as set by Town Council for units with rent-paying tenants. Units occupied by non-rent paying tenants would not have to pay additional water/sewer fees but must provide a signed affidavit stating such. Falsifying this information will result in action to revoke the conditional use permit.
- Trash can – All accessory dwelling units shall have a separate trash can provided by the contract waste disposal company.
- Inspections – All accessory dwelling units shall be inspected annually not later than fifteen (15) business days from the anniversary date of the conditional use permit being approved by Town Council.



Please contact the town building\zoning\planning office for additional information.

AROUND TOWN HALL



Town staff is implementing a new, more integrated communications approach to keep residents, visitors, and business owners informed of local government actions and priorities. Beginning February 1, 2019, the town government will launch a Facebook page ([Cape Charles Memorial Library](#), the [Cape Charles Town Harbor](#), and the [Cape Charles Police Department](#) already have pages) for official news, events, and information. In addition, the town is implementing a series of high and low-tech communications strategies ranging from [twitter](#) to refrigerator magnets. Staff is especially interested in reaching summer visitors and part-year residents. And, of course, we encourage everyone to [sign up for Nixle and e-Notifications](#). For more information please contact Recreation and Community Events Coordinator Jen Lewis at 757-331-3259 ext. 18.

If you experience a water leak on your property, the Town Code allows for an adjustment to your utility bill. [Section 72-5](#) of the Town Code allows for the adjustment of the sewage portion of the utility bill because none of the leaked water passes through the wastewater collection and treatment system. Please contact Utility Clerk Kathy Fraas at 757-331-3259 ext. 14 for more information.

In 1996 the town adopted a preservation plan for the historic district. The 1999 town comprehensive plan includes language setting those two plans on equal status. The Code of Virginia requires localities to review comprehensive plans every five years. The town meets this obligation and adopted [the current plan](#) on December 15, 2016. There is no such requirement for preservation plans, so the town is beginning the process to develop a new preservation plan reflective of the current conditions in the historic district and informed by contemporary preservation practices. For more information please contact Town Manager Larry DiRe or Town Planner Zach Ponds at 757-331-3259 ext. 12 or 15 respectively.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Tuesday, January 15, 2019:
Historic District Review Meeting, 6:00 PM, at the Civic Center. [AGENDA](#)
- Wednesday, January 16, 2019:
Mayor's Office Hours, 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, January 17, 2019:
Town Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 PM at the Civic Center. [AGENDA](#)
- **Friday, January 18, 2019:**
Town offices closed for Lee-Jackson Day.
- **Monday, January 21, 2019:**
Town offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day.
- Wednesday, January 23, 2019:
Mayor's Office Hours, 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, January 24, 2019:
Virginia Municipal League Legislative Day, Richmond, VA.
- Saturday, January 26, 2019:
Town Council Strategic Planning Session, 9:00 AM-1:00PM, Bay Creek Welcome Center on Stone Road. [AGENDA](#)
- Wednesday, January 30, 2019:
Mayor's Office Hours, 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, January 31, 2019:
Town Council Special Meeting, 6:30 PM, at the Civic Center.
- Monday, February 5, 2019:
Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM, at the Civic Center.
- Thursday, February 7, 2019:
Town Council Work Session & Executive Session, 6:30 PM, at the Civic Center.
- Wednesday, February 13, 2019:
Mayor's Office Hours, 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Town Hall.
Library Board Meeting, 5:00 PM, at the Cape Charles Memorial Library
- **Monday, February 18, 2019:**
Town offices closed for Presidents' Day.
- Tuesday, February 19, 2019:
Historic District Review Meeting, 6:00 PM, at the Civic Center
- Wednesday, February 20, 2019:
Mayor's Office Hours, 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Town Hall.

TEMPORARY DISCONTINUANCE OF WATER SERVICE FOR UNOCCUPIED HOMES

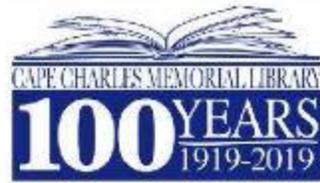
The Town has a number of out-of-town property owners who use their Cape Charles houses as second homes. With the freezing temperatures during the winter months, property owners may opt to have their water service temporarily disconnected as a safeguard to freezing pipes and potential water leaks which could cause severe property damage.



Many of the newer homes in Town and some of the older, remodeled homes, have interior water shut-off valves installed. If your home has a shut-off-valve, we urge you to shut off the water to your home if you are planning to be away for any length of time during the winter months. We also recommend draining the lines to any exterior faucets to prevent them from freezing.

If your home does not have an interior shut-off valve, you can contact the Utility Billing Department at 757-331-6901 to arrange to have your water service temporarily discontinued while you are away. There is a \$25 fee for discontinuing the service and a \$25 fee for reactivating the service. This is a small price to pay for the ease of mind that your pipes will not freeze and burst. (Town Code § 70-45)

Please note that unless you have an interior water shut-off valve, it is unlawful for any person to turn the water service off at the street. There have been several instances where homeowners have attempted to turn off the water at the street and have damaged the valves which can cause serious leaks in the system. In order for the damages to be repaired, the water must be shut off for the entire street/block until the repairs can be made. The cost of repairs may be charged to the property owner causing the damage.



What a Library Means to Me

Essay Contest



Students from Grades 3 & 4 and Grade 5 & 6 are invited to write about what a library means to them.

Entries are due to Recreation Coordinator Jen Lewis no later than February 1, 2019. The 100th Anniversary Committee will present awards to the winners of both grade divisions at the Historic Palace Theatre on February 17, 2019.

GOOD LUCK & HAPPY WRITING!

**U.S. COAST GUARD FIFTH DISTRICT BROADCAST
LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS**

Dates to Run Item: FROM: November 11, 2018 TO: February 4, 2019

Title of Article: Changes to the Aids To Navigation marking Cape Charles City channel

Category (Circle One)

Special Notice	Discrepancy	Temporary Changes
Chart Correction	Advance Notice	<u>Proposed Changes</u>
Dredging	General Articles	Light List Corrections

Text for Article: The Coast Guard is proposing making the following changes to the Aids to Navigation marking Cape Charles City Channel.

Change Cape Charles City Lighted Buoy 1CC (LLNR 21450) to Cape Charles City Light 1CC (LLNR 21450) and relocate to approximate position: 37 13 58.700N—76 02 58.010 W, with SG's on multi-pile structure.

Discontinue Cape Charles City Lighted Buoy 2 (LLNR 21455)

Establish Cape Charles City Light 3 (LLNR 21455*) in approximate position: 37 14 18.340N—76 02 23.960W, with a Quick flashing green light and SG's on multi-pile structure.

Relocate Cape Charles City Light 4 (LL 21470) in approximate position: 37 14 56.690N—76 02 00.050W

Rename Cape Charles City Approach Light C (LLNR 21475) to Cape Charles City Light A (LLNR 21475) and change dayboards to NW's.

Change Cape Charles City Buoy 5 (LLNR 21480) to Cape Charles City Light 5 (LLNR 21480) and relocate to approximate position: 37 15 22.780N—76 01 53.540W, with a flashing 4s green light and SG's on pile.

Discontinue Cape Charles City Buoy 6 (LLNR 21485).

Rename/Renumber Cape Charles City Range B Front Light 8 (LLNR 21460) to Cape Charles City Range B Front Light (LLNR 21460). Remove TR on multi-pile structure.

Change Cape Charles City Wreck Light WR7 (LLNR 21490) to Cape Charles City Warning Daybeacon B with NW dayboards.

Establish Cape Charles City Light 7 in approximate position: 37 15 48.009N—76 01 48.830W, with flashing 2.5s green light and SG's on pile.

Change Cape Charles City Jetty Light (LLNR 21495) to a flashing 2.5s white light and NW dayboards.

Change Cape Charles City Light 11 (LLNR 21500) to Cape Charles City Daybeacon 9 (LLNR 21500) in approximate position: 37 15 57.740N—76 01 37.300W with SG's on pile.

Interested Mariners and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to comment on the potential impacts this proposal would have on navigational safety. You may provide feedback using the U. S. Coast Guard Fifth District Waterway Data Sheet, available online at

http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/Inms/D05%20LNM%202015%20Special%20Notice_Waterway_Proposal%20Feedback%20Form.pdf .

All comments will be carefully considered and are requested prior to February 4, 2019 to be considered in the analysis. Please reference project 05-18-067(D).

Send comments to CGD5Waterways@uscg.mil or mailed to:

U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District
Waterways Management (dpw) 431
Crawford Street, Room 100
Portsmouth, VA 23704
Attn: Albert Grimes

Charts Affected: 12221 and 12224

CAPE CHARLES BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

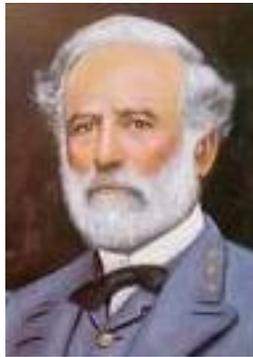


The Town’s Historic District Review Board will have a vacancy coming up in the spring. The Historic District Review Board oversees the Town’s Historic District. The local [Historic District is an overlay](#) in the Town’s Zoning Ordinance. When reviewing applications, the Historic District Review Board refers to the [Historic District Guidelines](#).

The Historic District Review Board currently consists of five members each serving five-year terms. The board meets monthly on the third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

If you live in the Town and are interested in serving on this board, or any other board, 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.



General Robert E. Lee



General Stonewall Jackson



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Town offices will be closed on Friday, January 18, 2019, in observance of Lee-Jackson Day, and Monday, January 21, 2019, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

*Photo courtesy of
Jim Granger*

Sunset – January 5, 2019



Jim Granger

SIGN UP FOR NIXLE ALERTS!

In 2015, the town of Cape Charles partnered with Nixle to implement its Community Notification System to alert residents in real-time for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories via text, email, web, social media and voice messages.

There are several ways for you to register:

1. Text "23310" or "CAPECHARLES" to 888777 from your mobile phone. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation text to your mobile device.
2. Go to www.capecharles.org and sign up via the Nixle Widget which is located on our home page.

We urge you to sign up to receive these alerts.

SIGN UP FOR THE CAPE CHARLES GAZETTE & E-NOTIFICATIONS!

The Cape Charles Gazette is available 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 Town's 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 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 site and we welcome your comments! We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send comments to info@capecharles.org.

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES**

- Save the Dates! More details to come!
 - 3/2/19: Inaugural Cape Charles Day Celebration
 - May 2019: Blessing of the Fleet (Exact date to be determined)
 - 5/27/19: Memorial Day Ceremony
 - 7/4/19: July 4th Celebrations
 - 9/11/19: 9-11 Memorial Ceremony
 - 11/11/19: Veterans Day Ceremony
 - 12/7/19: Grand Illumination of Central Park
 - 12/31/19: 7th Annual Dropping of the Crab Pot



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

We welcome your feedback. Please send your comments to 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
 Email: gazette@capecharles.org
www.capecharles.org