



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: May 16, 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.



2014 ELECTION RESULTS

On May 6, 2014, the Town of Cape Charles held elections for the positions of Mayor and 3 Town Council seats.

Congratulations to Mayor-elect George Proto and Councilman-elect Charles "Sambo" Brown. Chris Bannon and Joan Natali were re-elected to Council. Their terms run from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018.

WATER SYSTEM FLUSH



Tuesday, May 20, 2014, through Thursday, May 22, 2014, beginning at 9:00 PM and continuing until 2:00 AM, the Town of Cape Charles Utility Department will be conducting a system flush of the water system in all districts of the Town.

You are cautioned not to use water at that time. Sediment could be drawn into the residence water lines. When done, the system should rectify itself fairly quickly.

For questions, please call Ron Bailey at 331-1018.

A REMINDER FROM THE TOWN PLANNER

As summer approaches, folks are getting their to-do lists ready. As you begin planning these projects, whether it is putting up a fence, installing a swimming pool, building a new shed, or a new addition to the house, you will likely need to obtain a zoning clearance. Although some of these projects do not require a building permit, they do require a zoning clearance. Before beginning any projects of this nature, please go to the Town Offices and obtain a zoning clearance from the Town Planner.

Additionally, if you are planning to open a business in town, even if no work is to be done to an existing building, you will still need to obtain a zoning clearance to ensure that your business is an acceptable use in your zoning district. There is no fee for a zoning clearance, and it can be obtained with a quick visit to the Town Planner's office.

URBAN CHICKENS COMMUNITY SURVEY

Based on the direction of Town Council, Planning staff and the Planning Commission are currently studying the feasibility of an ordinance that would allow the keeping of chickens inside Town limits. Please participate in the [Urban Chickens Community Survey](#), to allow staff, the Planning Commission and Town Council to better gauge the level of community interest and other details on this subject. The information compiled from this survey will be shared with the Planning Commission and Town Council to supplement the research thus far.

In order to obtain as much feedback as possible, the survey deadline has been extended to May 30, 2014. Please provide your input!

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



CAPE CHARLES FISHING PIER

The Cape Charles Fishing Pier is temporarily closed for renovations/repairs as a result of damages caused by Hurricane Sandy. The construction is moving along nicely and a portion of the fishing pier will be open to the public for the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

We apologize for any inconvenience this closure may cause.

For questions, please contact Dave Fauber at 331-3259, ext. 17.

FROM THE CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

"But with the library, it's like catnip, I suppose: you begin to run in circles because there's so much to look at and read."

- Ray Bradbury -

Like a library, a garden can be a daunting place, with so much to do and even more you want to do. And this year Mother Nature took her sweet time letting spring arrive, so there's much more to do in a shorter period of time!

Hopefully you planted your peas early and they're starting to show some signs of growth and are supported with a sturdy trellis. "**RODALE'S VEGETABLE GARDEN PROBLEM SOLVER**" by Fern Marshal Bradley, suggests "warm season crops such as tomatoes will get a good start at the base of a pea trellis. The young transplants will grow up to fill the space after the spring pea harvest ends."

Tomatoes are the fruit of the summer, but if you don't have the room you want for your tomatoes, the "**ALL NEW SQUARE FOOT GARDENING**" 2nd Edition by Mel Bartholomew suggests vertical gardening to increase your yield. In this book Bartholomew explains how to build your vertical supports and what can be planted at the base of the tomatoes for the greatest yield. Just think of the first fresh tomatoes and that BLT sandwich.

Another high yield crop that is easy to grow is peppers; whether you like bell peppers (green, yellow or red), or a hotter taste like jalapeno or chili. Transplants can be set out in late spring. (It's too late to start plants from seeds, so purchase transplants of your favorite peppers from your local garden center.)

Peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants are considered "tender crops" according to the "**AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDENING MANUAL**." This book will take you beyond just vegetables and through all types of gardening whether it is with flowers, water or trees. The four parts of this helpful book are "Planning Your Garden," "Making and Looking after Your Garden", "What Looks Good When" and "What to Do When."

As stated in "**THE BUDDING GARDENER**" edited by Mary B. Rein, "Gardening cultivates observation, patience, and responsibility, and offers rewards beyond measure." Get the kids out in the garden, let them dig for worms and watch how plants flower and then replace the flower with a vegetable. Plant a few sunflowers; children will be amazed at how tall they can get. For an older child ready to learn more about gardening "**MY BACKYARD GARDEN**" by Carol Lerner takes the reader month by month and lets the reader know that "There's more to making a garden than just putting seeds into the ground."

FROM THE HARBOR MASTER

It's the moment we've all been waiting for: Warm weather in Cape Charles, Virginia! After a long, cold, and exhausting winter, it is finally time for bonfires, cookouts, visits from "outta town" friends, sunset dinners, and boat rides on the incredible Eastern Shore of Virginia.

When looking for places to go with friends or family visiting from afar, the Cape Charles Town Harbor has a lot in store for everyone! Events are scheduled all summer long, starting with the Schooner Virginia visit on May 29th, Tall Ships at Cape Charles weekend June 14th and 15th, Fourth of July Weekend festivities, and the annual Clam Slam event from August 1st to 3rd, which includes the very popular Boat Docking Contest on the 3rd. Every weekend will be a blast without a doubt.

Whether on the boat with family and friends, or sitting on the beautiful Cape Charles Harbor floating docks to watch the pastel sunset, it is easy to say that the summer of 2014 has a lot in store for everyone. When out on the boat this summer, come fill up at our Regular, Non-Ethanol, or Diesel pumps, or just come in and say "hello." Let's kick off summer 2014 the right way and make this year's events some of our best yet!

For more information about upcoming events, hours, prices, or registration, you can visit the Cape Charles Town Harbor Facebook page or contact Harbormaster Smitty Dize and staff at (757)-331-2357.

CAPE CHARLES YACHT CENTER LAUNCH PARTY

The Cape Charles Yacht Center held its Launch Party on 5/16 at their facility in the Cape Charles Town Harbor. A crowd of over 500 people were in attendance and speakers included Congressman Scott Rigell, Eyre Baldwin and Ms. Kitty McGowan of the U.S. Superyacht Association.

The Cape Charles Yacht Center is making a large investment in the Town with this project which will promote economic development, support the growth of the Town and add much-needed jobs!

The Town is excited about the opening of Cape Charles Yacht Center and is looking forward to the future of this enterprise!

USE OF TOWN FACILITIES

Cape Charles has several locations to choose from for your upcoming event. You can rent space at the beach, Cape Charles Harbor or Central Park for weddings, birthday parties, family reunions or any other celebration with family or friends. To hold an event on the beach or in Central Park simply fill out a Use of Facility form which can be located at www.capecharles.org under Forms & Publications/Recreation and return it to Community Events/Recreation Coordinator Jen Lewis. To hold an event at the Harbor fill out a Harbor Use of Facility form which can also be located at www.capecharles.org under Forms & Publications/Harbor and return to Harbor Master Smitty Dize.

For most events you will need to pay a small fee and obtain proof of liability insurance. Larger events may require an extra charge for trash cans or security. Permits may be required if your event will be using tents, vendors or alcohol. An additional deposit may be required based on your event.

If you have any further questions or to schedule your event please contact Jen Lewis at 757-331-3259 ext. 18 or via email at reccoordinator@capecharles.org.

[Use of Facility Application – Central Park](#) / [Use of Facility Application – Harbor](#) / [Use of Facility Application – Other Areas](#)

EASTERN SHORE SPAY ORGANIZATION

The Eastern Shore Spay Organization (ESSO) received its state certificate of incorporation in November 2013 and has applied for 501(c)3 status. Their purpose is the prevention of cruelty to animals by providing funds and subsidies to pet owners for spay and neuter services for cats and dogs to prevent over population. They provide a trap, spay/neuter, release (TNR) service for feral cats and maintenance of colonies locally. They also offer information to educate the local community of the benefits of spay and neuter for pets and outdoor domestic animals.

For appointments for spay/neuter surgery, please contact Sharyl Cline at 757-331-3037. For information on fund raisers and donations, please contact Sandy Mayer at 757-331-2087. You can also email the ESSO at easternshorespayorg@yahoo.com.

SNIP VAN

PETA's SNIP van was in Cape Charles on Monday, 5/12. 25 cats and dogs were checked in. The Eastern Shore Spay Organization paid for 1 dog and assisted with the cost of 2 other dogs and 2 cats. 1 dog and 1 cat got their shots.

Year-to-date, these spay and neuter surgeries will prevent the birth of 100 dogs and 468 cats per year!

The next visit by the SNIP van will be in July.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR TALL SHIPS WEEKEND

Jen Lewis is currently looking for a volunteer to oversee the Children's' Activities on 6/14 for the Tall Ships celebration.

If you are interested in helping or need further information, please contact Jen at 757-331-3259 ext. 18 or by email at reccoordinator@capecharles.org. Thank you!

RECYCLING FACILITIES



Northampton County provides several **Recycling Facilities** that accept plastic, glass, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, waste oil and batteries. Waste oil and batteries are also collected. Large or bulky household items occasionally needing disposal by a resident will also be accepted and transported to a disposal site.

There are 5 locations throughout the County. The closest location to the Town is in Bayview at 22564 Bayview Circle.

The hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 7:30 AM – 6 PM; Sunday 1 PM – 6 PM.

More information can be located on the Northampton County website at www.co.northampton.va.us/departments/landfill.html.

NOTICE TO ALL HOMEOWNERS AND BUSINESSES RE: TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

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, tourist camp, tourist cabin, camping grounds, 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 4/15 along with the Business and Professional License Application.

The Transient Occupancy Tax of 3% of the total amount paid for lodging shall be imposed on all lodging within the Town as described above. Every person or business receiving any payment for lodging shall collect 3% 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 20th of each month, covering the amount of tax collected during the preceding month.

The Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance in the Town Code, Sections 66-55 to 66-65 was reviewed by the Town Council in April and the Transient Occupancy Tax rate was increased to 3.7% effective January 1, 2015. These sections have not yet been updated online but if you would like to see a copy of the revised sections, please contact the Town Clerk's office at info@capecharles.org or call 757-331-3259 ext. 10 or 24. The updated information has been submitted to MuniCode, the Town's vendor for Town Code updates, and should be updated on the website shortly.

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 or call 757-331-3259 ext. 23.

FEMA INFORMATIONAL MEETING HELD IN EASTVILLE

On Monday, May 12, 2014, FEMA held an informational meeting regarding the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that are currently proposed. The latest timeline indicates that the Letter of Final Determination will be issued to localities in early September 2014, and the new FIRMs will go into effect in March 2015. Much of Cape Charles is proposed to be removed from the AE flood zone (high risk), and placed in either the X zone or outside of a flood zone (low risk). While homes located in the X zone and outside of a flood zone are not required by FEMA to have flood insurance, mortgage lenders may still require it, and it should be available at a significantly lower rate. If you have any questions regarding your property and the FIRMs, please contact the Town Planner, Rob Testerman, at planner@capecharles.org.

OLLY, OLLY OXEN FREE! BPOL TAX LATE FILING PENALTY WAIVED!

2014 Business, Professional & Occupational License Applications and Taxes were due to the Town of Cape Charles on April 15th, 2014, however the Town will waive late filing fees and penalties for anyone who files their application and pays the tax no later than June 7th, 2014. Please be aware that it is unlawful to operate a business in the Town without a Business License.

The tax amount is based on gross receipts and the tax rate applicable to each business is as follows:

- Contractor - .0016 (\$1.60 per thousand)
- Financial/Real Estate - .0058 (\$5.80 per thousand)
- Professional - .0058 (\$5.80 per thousand)
- Repair/Personal/Business Service (includes vacation home rentals and B&B's) - .0036 (\$3.60 per thousand)
- Retail - .002 (\$2.00 per thousand)
- Wholesale Merchants - .0005 (\$.50 per thousand)

Instructions and Application Forms can be found on the Town's website, under Forms and Publications, Treasurer. The Finance office will be happy to assist you with preparation.

Cape Charles Community Art Walk

Public Input Meeting
 Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014
 6:00 PM
 Palace Theatre

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain input on the following:

Overall concept
 Areas of emphasis
 Priorities for project phasing
 Design elements

As part of the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town project, the Town is planning an "Art Walk" to link our primary outdoor performance venues. This would be incorporated as a revision to the Community Trail Master Plan if approved by Town Council.

The Community Trail Master Plan can be viewed at www.capecharles.org

CAPE CHARLES COMMUNITY ART WALK MASTER PLAN

A Steering Committee consisting of residents, business owners, property owners and the Cape Charles Business Association has worked with the Town's consulting firm, Land Studio, to exchange ideas. The public was invited to attend the last Steering Committee meeting to provide additional input to our consultants.

[Cape Charles Community Art Walk Master Plan - DRAFT](#)

We hope you will be able to attend the Public Input Meeting on June 3rd.

Please take a few moments to complete our [questionnaire](#). You can turn it in at the meeting or, if you can't attend, drop it off at the Town Hall or email it to bob.panek@capecharles.org.

Your input is greatly appreciated!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Tuesday, May 20, 2014:
Historic District Review Board Meeting has been cancelled since there are no applications to review this month.
- Thursday, May 22, 2014:
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Monday, May 26, 2014:
 Town offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.
- Monday, June 2, 2014:
Planning Commission Meeting with the A-NPDC regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update, starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Tuesday, June 3, 2014:
Planning Commission Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, June 5, 2014:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, June 12, 2014:
Town Council Budget Public Hearing starting at 6:00 PM, Location to be determined.
- Tuesday, June 17, 2014:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, June 19, 2014:
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall.
- Tuesday, June 20, 2014:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.

VACANCIES ON 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.

SIGN UP FOR THE GAZETTE & E-NOTIFICATIONS!

As announced over the last several months, 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 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 5/16/14 – 5/18/14: [Curiosity Cat](#) (a Children's Musical Theatre and Dance Production) at the Historic Palace Theatre. 5/16 & 5/17 at 7:00 PM. 5/18 at 3:00 PM. Admission \$10/adults, \$5/students.
- 5/17/14: [Crabby Blues Festival](#), 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM, at Central Park. Advanced tickets Adults \$10, Child \$5. Day of Event Adult \$15, Child \$5. Tickets available at Rayfields Pharmacies, Kings Creek Marina, Sullivan's Office Supply, Northampton Lumber, Little Italy, Cape Charles Christian School
- 5/26/14: Veterans' Memorial Day Ceremony, 11:00 AM, at the Veterans' Memorial on Mason Avenue
- 5/26/14: [Cape Charles Memorial Library Rededication Ceremony](#), 11:30 AM
- 5/29/14 – 6/2/14: [Schooner Virginia](#) will be at the Cape Charles Harbor.
- 5/31/14 – 6/1/14: [Bike MS – Virginia's Ocean to Bay Ride](#)
- 5/31/14: [Benefit By the Bay](#), 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, on Strawberry Street. \$75 per person / \$675 for Table of 10. Call 331-2787 for details.
- 6/3/14: Cape Charles Community Art Walk Public Input Meeting, 6:00 PM, Palace Theatre.
- 6/7/14: Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Book Sale, 10AM – 2PM
- 6/14/14-6/15/14: [Tall Ships at Cape Charles](#)
- 6/21/14: [Great Bay Run](#)
- Save the Date:
 - 7/4/14: [July 4th Fireworks and Celebration](#)
 - 7/5/14: Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company Seafood Festival
 - 7/12/14: Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Book Sale, 10AM – 2PM
 - 7/12/14: Summer Love – Cape Charles Community Band Fundraiser
 - 8/1/14-8/3/14: [Clam Slam 2014](#)
 - 8/9/14: Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Book Sale, 10AM – 2PM
 - 10/11/14: Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Book Sale, 10AM – 2PM

For more information regarding these 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
www.capecharles.org

Copyright © 2014. All rights reserved.