



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: February 13, 2015

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, 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.



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS RE: PROPOSED REVISED ZONING ORDINANCE

Northampton County is sponsoring two Public Informational Meetings with regard to the proposed revised Zoning Ordinance and Map. This will provide an informal opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed revised zoning ordinance, to ask questions to staff, and to view the proposed zoning map for the County. The Board of Supervisors is interested in receiving public comment and believes that these informational sessions will provide additional opportunities for the public to become familiar with this important document intended to encourage investment and job growth while protecting natural assets and property rights.

"[Citizen Information Papers](#)" were drafted to assist with the citizenry with this review process. The public is encouraged to read and review these documents.

Sessions will be held as follows:

- Thursday, February 19, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., in the Kiptopeke Elementary School Cafeteria.
- Wednesday, February 25, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., in the Occohannock Elementary School Cafeteria.

CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY

Over the next few months Cape Charles will be the laboratory classroom for a group of urban planning students from the University of Virginia. The course called "Planning for Climate Change" is taught by Dr. Ellen Bassett, and one Cape Charles resident is a student enrolled in that course. Beginning on Saturday February 21st the students will be collecting a variety of data from the Cape Charles area on the effects of climate change and how individuals and communities are planning in response to those changes. As part of this course, the students will be performing a survey of attitudes toward climate change and will be in town again in the following weeks.

If you are interested in keeping up with the students' progress please feel free to contact Town Planner Larry DiRe at 757-331-3259, ext 15 or planner@capecharles.org.

VDOT WORKING TO UPGRADE HANDICAP ACCESS ON SIDEWALKS



Over the past two or three weeks, JIREH Construction Company has been installing handicap curb cuts around town at some of the intersections around town. This is a VDOT project subcontracted out to JIREH aimed at bringing the walkways into compliance with the current VDOT regulations. Originally slated for 26, the project was scaled back to 12 for reasons unknown. The project also included Cheriton, Nassawadox, Exmore, and Accomack. JIREH has made good progress throughout the town even though the weather recently has been less than favorable for this type of work. The work has been completed and JIREH has moved on.

NEW TOWN PLANNER – LARRY DIRE



Larry DiRe started in his position as the new Town Planner on February 2, 2015. Larry has a Master's Degree in Public Administration and has been a Town Administrator/Manager for a number of localities and taught urban planning at the college level.

We are all excited to have Larry join the Cape Charles Town staff and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

Please join us in welcoming Larry to Town!

HARBOR AND CHANNEL DREDGING

The dredging project for the Federal portions of the Cape Charles channel and harbor will occur this spring/summer. This project is being funded and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and is designed to maintain the authorized depth of 18 feet.

Three construction contracts will be utilized, one for the rehabilitation of the Upland Placement Site and two dredging and placement contracts. The Upland Placement Site is the area surrounded by berms on the east edge of town, just south of the railroad tracks that parallel Stone Road (SR 184). This site will be utilized for the muddy material dredged from the harbor. The Upland Placement Site rehabilitation contract was awarded last fall and work will begin shortly as a land disturbance permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality was recently issued. You will see contractor crews clearing some vegetation and doing other work on the berms.

The first dredging contract is for the hydraulic dredging of the Cape Charles Harbor material to be placed upland, and the hydraulic dredging of a portion of the Cape Charles channel with sand to be placed on the Town Beach. This contract was awarded recently and work can commence 90 days prior to the Upland Placement site being ready to receive material. Dredging and placement of sand on the Town Beach will occur first in the order of work. You will see the dredging vessel in the harbor, and contractor crews installing the underwater pipeline to the beach and the surface pipeline to the Upland Placement Site. The latter pipeline will run along the southern boundary of the Bay Coast Railroad property. The Town will be removing a small portion of the Harbor boardwalk to allow placement of the pipeline. Additionally, the pipeline will cross the pedestrian/bike/golf cart access point near The Shanty. The Town will work with the USACE to make provisions to maintain pedestrian and, hopefully, golf cart access during the project.

The second dredging contract involves the mechanical dredging of portions of the Cape Charles channel, with the material to be transported and used towards construction of a portion of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion. This contract is currently out for solicitation. You will see these operations but there will be no activity within the Town.

This dredging project is of great benefit to the Town. Maintaining the authorized depth is critical to increasing maritime commerce through the harbor. The beach will be nourished with over 80,000 cubic yards of sand. The USACE has been coordinating closely with the Town. They are scheduling the placement of sand on the beach prior to the start of the summer season, and the dredging operations will be respectful of the upcoming events in the harbor (Blessing of the Fleet, Tall Ships and Clam Slam).

[Cape Charles City Harbor Federal Navigation Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment](#)

BAGGING OF YARD DEBRIS



Over the past year, the Public Works Department have been taking your yard debris to a recycler and have had to empty the yard bags on site since the bags were not bio-degradable. In an effort to streamline this process, effective March 1, 2015, all bagged yard debris (leaves and grass clippings) must be placed in bio-degradable bags and put on the curb for pickup.

Bio-degradable bags are available at most retailers, including Watson's Hardware in Town.

2015 Real Estate Tax Relief for Elderly & Handicapped Persons

2015 real estate tax relief applications are available for the elderly and/or handicapped. Forms can be obtained for both Northampton County and the Town of Cape Charles by calling Jen Lewis at 757-331-3259 ext. 18.

Application due dates:

Northampton County – February 28, 2015

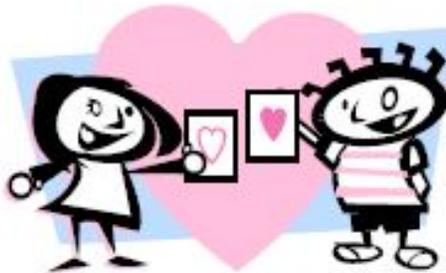
Town of Cape Charles – April 2, 2015

All applications need to be completed with copies of the following supporting documentation:

- ✓ Social Security Statements
- ✓ Bank statements for October, November and December
- ✓ Pension Statement
- ✓ Life Insurance Policies
- ✓ Driver's License/Photo ID
- ✓ Stocks, Bonds, CD Statements
- ✓ Savings Statements

**Please let Jen know if you will require assistance with
your paperwork or if you have any questions.**

Valentine's Day Party!



Come join the fun at the Cape
Charles Civic Center on Saturday,
February 14th from 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Children will create Valentines
and fun crafts!

A Town of Cape Charles Recreation Department Program

FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT ORDINANCE

On February 3, 2015 the Town Council and Planning Commission held a joint public hearing to receive public comments regarding proposed modifications to the Town's Flood Plain Ordinance. No member of the public spoke at the hearing, and no written comments were presented prior to the hearing.

A Joint Special Meeting of the Town Council and Planning Commission immediately followed the public hearing for the purpose of discussion of the proposed ordinance. The Commissioners entertained a motion to recommend the Town Council approve the modifications as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote, and the Planning Commission meeting was adjourned.

Town Council considered the recommendation from the Planning Commission. There was a motion to adopt the Flood Plain Ordinance as presented, which passed by unanimous vote. The adopted Ordinance needs to be reviewed by FEMA, who will notify the Town when the Ordinance receives FEMA approval.

Reviewing the Flood Plain Ordinance was a necessary part of FEMA's update to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. As reported in the October 10th edition of the Gazette, the updated maps, which are scheduled for adoption on May 18, 2015, vary greatly from the existing maps, which could affect what property owners in Cape Charles will be paying for flood insurance. When adopted, a significant amount of property will be located within the "X Zone," which means there is a 0.2% annual chance of flooding (500-year flood). In this zone, FEMA recommends, but does not require flood insurance, however, many lenders will still require mortgage holders to obtain or retain their flood insurance. To determine how your property will be affected by the changes links to two of the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Cape Charles are below and are also available at www.capecharles.org under [Planning and Zoning](#).

[Map #51131C0295F](#)

[Map #51131C0410F](#)

CAPE CHARLES BUSINESS ALERT INFORMATION TEAM (CC BAIT)

What is the Cape Charles B-A-I-T? It is a **Business Emergency Alert Information Team** composed of town business owners and the Cape Charles Police Department (CCPD). This team allows the CCPD and the town businesses to maintain continuous contact for communicating emergency or non-emergency information. This program will be integrated with the upcoming launch of the Cape Charles Neighborhood Watch Program.

Periodically law enforcement may need to convey important and timely "Be-on-the-Lookout" types of information to businesses and citizens in order to bring awareness of potential dangers in the area. Providing such information and tips to the public may also assist police in the apprehension of suspects.

A brief [survey](#) will be distributed to town business owners to complete in order for the CCPD to better serve our community.

Residents of Cape Charles, we haven't forgotten about you! Our first alert has been issued: BE ON THE LOOK-OUT for information regarding the first upcoming Neighborhood Watch Meeting! If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Corporal Chelsea Pfeiffer.

SMOKE ALARMS & SMOKE DETECTORS



Smoke Alarms/Smoke Detectors are one of the most important life safety features that you can have in your home. The presence of these in homes has proven that it can save your life should a fire occur. According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in structures without working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

Please [click here](#) to learn how to keep you and your family safe should that catastrophic event occur.

If you have any questions regarding your smoke detectors or are unsure if they are in proper working condition, you may contact Code Official Jeb Brady at 331-3259 x22.



**The Town offices will be closed on
Monday, February 16, 2015,
in observance of
President' Day.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- **Monday, February 16, 2015:** Town Offices closed in observance of Presidents Day.
- Tuesday, February 17, 2015:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center. [AGENDA](#)
- Wednesday, February 18, 2015:
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center. [AGENDA](#)
- Thursday, February 19, 2015:
Northampton County Public Information Meeting re: Proposed Zoning Ordinance, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at the Kiptopeke Elementary School. [CITIZEN INFORMATION PAPERS](#)
- Tuesday, February 24, 2015:
Mayor's Office Hours, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Tuesday, March 3, 2015:
Planning Commission Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Thursday, March 5, 2015:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Tuesday, March 11, 2015:
Mayor's Office Hours, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Thursday, March 12, 2015:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.
- Tuesday, March 17, 2015:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 2/14/15: [Valentine's Day Party](#), 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, Cape Charles Civic Center
- 2/21/2015: [February Freeze](#), 11:00 AM Registration at Trinity United Methodist Church, Dip at 12:00 PM
- Save the Date:
 - 4/24/15: 8th Annual Blessing of the Fleet
 - 5/16/15: 4th Annual Crabby Blues Festival, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - 5/30/15 – 5/31/15: 2015 [Bike MS – Virginia's Ocean to Bay Ride](#)
 - 6/6/15: 27th Annual Clean the Bay Day
 - 6/13/15 – 6/14/15: Tall Ships Festival
 - 7/14/15: Independence Day Festivities
 - 7/31/15 – 8/2/15: Clam Slam 2015 & 5th 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 for other events in the Town!

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