



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: March 14, 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.



BONDS AND GRANTS

Concerns about the Town's debt have been expressed at recent Council meetings, particularly regarding the need for a plan to pay it off. The following provides a perspective on the nature of our long term bonds, and the capital projects accomplished through bond proceeds combined with grants.

1. Bonds

Amount and Interest Rate

The original principal amount of our 6 current bonds is \$11.79 million. Of that, \$5.15 million (**43.7%**) is at an interest rate of **0%**. The weighted average interest rate is about **2.4%**.

Distribution by Fund

The Town's budget is managed through a General Fund supported principally by taxes, and three Enterprise Funds supported by user fees. The bonds are allocated to the appropriate Fund based on the specific projects financed:

- \$1.83 million (15.5%) is in the General Fund. The debt service is paid via taxes.
- \$1.78 million (15.1%) is in the Harbor Fund. The debt service is paid via harbor user fees.
- \$8.18 million (69.4%) is in the Water & Sewer Fund. As noted above, \$5.15 million of that is at 0% interest. The debt service is paid via water and sewer fees.

Pay Off Plan

The bonds were issued over the last 8 years. The principal is scheduled to be paid off as follows:

- 9.8% was paid off by 2013.
- 3.9% will be paid off during 2014, for a cumulative total of 13.7%.
- Another 22.5% will be paid off by the end of 2019, for a cumulative total of 36.2%.
- Another 25.5% will be paid off by the end of 2024, for a cumulative total of 61.7%.
- Another 25.9% will be paid off by the end of 2025, for a cumulative total of 87.6%.
- The remaining 12.4% will be paid off by the end of 2034.

By the end of the next 10 years **nearly 62% will be paid off.**

2. Grants

Amount

The Town has been awarded \$19.3 million of grants for various capital projects from several funding sources: Department of Transportation (VDOT), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Health (VDH), and Virginia Port Authority (VPA).

Distribution by Fund

	(thousands)
<u>General Fund</u>	
VDOT TAP – Community Trail	\$2,092
<u>Wastewater</u>	
DEQ WQIF – New WWTP, nutrient removal	7,961
DEQ ARRA – New WWTP	6,076
EPA STAG – Mason Ave. Force Mains & Sewer	663
<u>Water</u>	
VDH – TTHM reduction	30
<u>Harbor</u>	
VPA – Breakwaters, slips, bath house	1,477
VDH BIG – Slips, bath house	395
VPA – Breakwater, docking	<u>575</u>
Total	*\$19,269

*Of the \$19.3 million awarded, about \$1.3 million of the VDOT TAP grant and \$575K of the VPA grants have not yet been expended.

3. Capital Projects

The Town has funded a variety of long-lived capital projects from bond proceeds and grants.

Projects Completed

- Breakwaters to regrow and protect the beach.
- Fishing pier.
- Off-shore breakwaters to protect the harbor.
- Walkway and safety equipment around the inner harbor.
- Floating slips in the harbor, doubling docking capacity.
- Extensive site improvements at the harbor, including a perimeter walkway.
- Bath House at the harbor.
- Phase 1 of multi-use trail, including development of Central Park.
- New building for the Library, with additional parking space.
- New water tower.
- Rehabilitation of Mason Avenue Pump Station, force mains and sewer to prevent sewage overflows.
- New wastewater treatment plant for nutrient removal and replacement of failing plant.

Projects in Process

- Additional harbor protection and docking.
- Phase 2 of multi-use trail along north Peach St. and Washington Ave.
- Rehabilitation of sewer manholes to reduce infiltration of water into the sewer system.
- Rehabilitation of Plum St. and Pine St. pump stations.
- Connection of two additional wells to the water treatment plant.

The Town has accomplished much through the use of bonds and grants. These projects are investments in public infrastructure to:

- Protect the environment, public health and public assets.
- Provide for the enjoyment of residents.
- Enable economic development.

Our level of debt is well within the legal limitation and our financial advisors have indicated that it is quite reasonable among our peer group. The average interest rate is low and we continue to look for opportunities to refinance at more favorable rates. Much of the principal will be paid off at the end of the next ten years. We have not relied solely on borrowing for these improvements. We have aggressively pursued grants and have achieved a grant to loan ratio of better than 1.6 to 1.

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICE

As has been reported, the Planning Commission and staff have been researching the feasibility of an ordinance that would allow the keeping of a limited number of chickens on residential lots in town. In an effort to gauge community interest and opinions, staff is developing a community survey. Results of the survey will be presented to the Planning Commission and Town Council to help guide the discussion and decision making process. When the survey becomes available, please take the time to respond.

For questions, please contact Rob Testerman at 331-3259, ext. 15 or email planner@capecharles.org.

IF YOU HAVE A GARDEN AND A LIBRARY, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED

Cicero

March is here and everyone is well rested from the holiday activities. You've received your W-2 and other tax information so it's time to grab a pencil and paper and start planning your spring garden, (taxes will keep till April 14th). The **Cape Charles Memorial Library** is a good place to start.

If you're looking for fresh vegetables start with **Planning a Kitchen Garden: A Practical Design Manual for Growing Fruits, Herbs and Vegetables** by Richard Bird. Decide if you want raised beds, blocks or rows, learn about the design, the equipment needed, the soil and the techniques. Once you've selected your design it's time to choose what to plant and when. **The Year Round Vegetable Gardener: How to Grow Your Own Food 365 Days a Year No Matter Where You Live**, by Niki Jabbour, has many varieties of vegetables as well as what is best for your garden and shows you more than just tomatoes and peppers. To get a jump start, **Four-Season Harvest: Organic Vegetable From Your Home Garden All Year Long**, by Eliot Coleman (donated to the library by The Master Gardeners of the Eastern Shore) will teach you how to use cold frames and green houses to start planting early. These and many other books will help in your execution of the perfect garden.

Start your children in the garden with **The Vegetables We Eat**, by Gail Gibbons, an introduction to what they are eating and where it comes from. For older children, look for **Kids in the Garden: Growing Plants for Fun and Food** by Elizabeth McCorquodale. Children who grow their own vegetables and understand where they come from are more likely to eat what they grow.

While at the Library, take advantage of our reading area and browse through a magazine from our collection, which include **Organic Gardening** and **Country Gardening**.

Stop by the Library today and start your planning your garden; winter will be soon be over and it will be time to get outdoors. (But remember, no matter how much you dream of spring, taxes are still due by April 15th. And the library also has books to help you with taxes!

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The **2014 Business License Applications** have been mailed to existing license holders and are available on the Town's website. Just click "Forms & Publications" then Treasurer.

The **2014 Golf Cart Registration Forms** are available on our website. The 2013 decals will expire April 14, 2014, so all golf carts operated in the Town will need to have the new 2014 decal by April 15, 2014.

Budget preparations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014/2015 are underway. Town Council started their budget process for FY 2014/2015 on March 6th and will be holding frequent work sessions between now and June.

2014 IS AN ELECTION YEAR

On May 6, 2014, the Town of Cape Charles will hold elections for the positions of Mayor and 3 Town Council seats. Two candidates are running for Mayor – George Proto and Frank Wendell.

The Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore is planning to conduct a Meet the Candidates Forum. When their schedule has been finalized, we will pass along the information to the residents of Town.



MEET JAKE LEUER, POLICE OFFICER

Please join us in welcoming our newest police officer, Jake Leuer. Jake joined the Cape Charles Police Department on February 20, 2014.

Jake lives in town and previously worked for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and in carpentry. He has worked with Habitat for Humanity helping to restore homes for the underprivileged. He enjoys hunting, fishing and working out.

FROM THE HARBOR MASTER

The Town is seeking applications for two part-time seasonal Harbor Assistants. \$8 per hour up to 40 hours per week from May through September. Applicants must be able to lift 50 lbs., have a valid Virginia driver's license, be available to work early mornings, late evenings, weekends and holidays, and must have a flexible schedule.

[Click here](#) to download the Town Employment Application. Submit complete application package to Town Clerk, 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310 or via email to clerk@capecharles.org no later than **March 21, 2014**. Packages without a Town Employment Application will not be considered.

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.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING DUMPSTER

A **cardboard recycling dumpster** is located in the west parking lot beside the old Fresh Pride Grocery Store on Mason Avenue. All cardboard boxes must be broken down and placed through the slot in the front of the dumpster. Please do not place any items other than cardboard into this dumpster.

If you need pick up services, please contact Pete Leontieff in the Public Works Department to make arrangements. There is a \$25 fee for pick up.

SIGN UP FOR THE GAZETTE & E-NOTIFICATIONS!

As announced last month, the Town's website, www.capecharles.org, has a new look! Staff is still working to get as much information on the website as possible. 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.

The new website allows citizens to sign up for [e-Notifications](#) to get regular updates on Agendas & Minutes, Alerts, Bids, Calendar Items, Job Postings and other News & Information, including the Cape Charles Gazette.

The Gazette will no longer be emailed to recipients after the April edition since many of the subscribers are not able to receive the Gazette due to Spam blockers, etc. To keep getting the Cape Charles Gazette, please sign up for [e-Notifications](#)!

With e-Notifications, you control the information you receive and can cancel the notifications at any time.

We hope you are enjoy our new site and we welcome your comments! Please send comments to info@capecharles.org.

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Tuesday, March 18, 2014:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. [AGENDA](#)
 - Thursday, March 20, 2014:
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#)
 - Thursday, March 27, 2014:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Tuesday, April 1, 2014:
Planning Commission Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Thursday, April 3, 2014:
Town Council Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Thursday, April 10, 2014:
Town Council Budget Work Session starting at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Tuesday, April 15, 2014:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
 - Thursday, April 17, 2014:
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall.
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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 4/25/14 – 4/26/14: [7th Annual Blessing of the Fleet](#), 5:30 PM at the Town Harbor.
- 4/27/14: [New Roots Youth Garden Blessing of the Worms](#), 1:30 PM at the New Roots Youth Garden. Rain date 5/4/14.
- Save the Date:
 - 5/17/14: Crabby Blues Festival
 - 6/14/14-6/15/14: Tall Ships at Cape Charles
 - 7/4/14: July 4th Fireworks and Celebration
 - 8/1/14-8/3/14: Clam Slam 2014

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