



Cape Charles Gazette

Publication Date: August 9, 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, 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Sometimes an event tells the real story about who we are and what we offer when one comes here for a day or a week. I am not sure that our visitors realize how small we are in number and how strong we are as a community. We are so fortunate to have the Harbor Master that we have and all the Town staff who never stop working. Not a bad team if I do say so myself!

Thank you all!

IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM CAPE CHARLES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bay Coast Rail Road has closed the crossing at the hump to all traffic, golf carts, vehicles, pedestrians, etc. Violators will be prosecuted for trespassing. This closing is a result of a near accident involving their locomotive and a golf cart occupied by adults and 2 children which became stuck on the tracks at night.

The crossing at the Shanty will remain open for pedestrian and golf cart traffic.

NEW TRAFFIC LAWS IN VIRGINIA

There are 2 new traffic laws in the State of Virginia that became effective July 1, 2013:

Code of Virginia [§ 46.2-1078.1](#) makes it unlawful to operate a **moving** motor vehicle while using any handheld device to send or read text or email messages. Texting or emailing while driving is a primary offense and is punishable with a fine of \$125 for a first offense and \$250 for any subsequent offenses. The officers have the option to charge the individual with reckless driving, [§ 46.2-868](#), where the mandatory minimum fine is \$250.



Operating a Moped: Individuals must be at least 16 years of age to drive a moped. It is illegal to drive a moped if your license is suspended or revoked for DUI/drugs or if you are a habitual offender. Every driver and passenger must wear a helmet while driving/riding a moped. Drivers must also wear a face shield, safety glasses or goggles unless the moped has a windshield.

REMINDER RE: ZONING CLEARANCES

As temperatures rise, there is always an increase in activity regarding projects around the house, whether it is putting up a fence, installing a swimming pool, building a new shed or a new addition to the house. 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 visit the Town office and obtain a zoning clearance from Town Planner Rob Testerman. It is important to see Rob before beginning these projects so that you can be sure that your proposal is consistent with the Town Zoning Ordinance. If you are unsure of whether your project will need a zoning clearance, please contact Rob at robert.testerman@capecharles.org, 757-331-3259 x15, or at 2 Plum Street.

PLANNING A PROJECT? HIRING A CONTRACTOR?

Once you decide to have some work done on your property and are ready to select a contractor, here are some things to consider prior to hiring a contractor. By hiring a licensed contractor, you will have peace of mind in knowing that the project will be completed by an individual who has taken the time to acquire the appropriate education and who possesses the necessary experience to properly perform the work. A few other items of note:



- Before you hire a contractor, ask to see a state-issued license and, if required, tradesman card.
- Ask for references. A legitimate contractor will be happy to provide you with the names and contact information of recent customers.
- Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Make sure the estimate includes the work the contractors will do, the materials involved, the completion date and the total cost.
- Beware of contractors who claim to be the fastest or cheapest. Hiring them could result in poor workmanship, inferior materials or unfinished jobs.
- Be wary of a contractor who asks you to obtain the permit. If the contractor is properly licensed in the State, they should have nothing to hide from.

Specialty tradesmen (i.e. Plumber, Electrician, Gas Fitter and Mechanical) are required to obtain both an applicable contractor's license and a Master Tradesman Card(s) in their particular field of expertise. Simply hiring someone by the hour that is proficient in a certain trade is illegal and dangerous. If a person is performing work for the public for monetary gain, that person must possess the applicable license(s).

Often homeowners may feel like performing the work themselves, however, before you make that decision, you should know that obtaining a permit as the homeowner to do work means that you are accepting the responsibility for the work performed and any deficiencies discovered during inspections would be your responsibility. Per Virginia Code Section 54.1-1101 - Exemptions from Licensure, you, as the homeowner, are only permitted to obtain permits on your home only if one of the following applies:

- The work consists of the repair and/or improvement to an existing dwelling which is your PRIMARY residence.
- You are the owner of the property and the structure will be used as your PRIMARY residence when completed.
- You are the owner of the property and the structure will be a gift to a member of your immediate family who will live in it upon completion.

For more information regarding Contractor Regulations please visit the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations at www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/con_main.cfm.

A [Homeowner's Guide to Code Enforcement, Zoning & Historic Review Processes](#) is available for download from the Code Enforcement web page.

NEW ACCOUNTING CLERK – LIBBY LUETTINGER



Please join us in welcoming Libby Luettinger, our new accounting clerk! Libby started on 8/5/13 and is in the Finance Department office located on the second floor of Town Hall. Libby is a Cape Charles native and even served on the Cape Charles Town Council from 1992 – 2000 and was the Vice Mayor from 1994 – 2000.

She was previously employed by Baymark Construction and Bay Creek Resort as the Accounts Payable Manager for 14 years. Prior to that, she was the Office Manager for Brown & Root, Inc. which was the original developer for the property now known as the Bay Creek Resort.

We all look forward to working with Libby. Please stop by and welcome her!

CAPE CHARLES COMPUTER LAB UPDATE

As most of you are aware, the Town received approximately \$18K under the Broadband Grant through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the purchase of 20 computers and stations for the Cape Charles Computer Lab which was temporarily housed in the Cape Charles Christian School until a new location could be secured to the new library facility. In the fall of 2012, a citizen complaint was made to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) stating that the Town's computer lab was not available to the public. The complaint was referred to the DHCD which opened an investigation regarding the complaint. In October 2012, the Town purchased the former Bank of America building with the intent to expand the current library which could house the Computer Lab. The DHCD required the computers to be relocated to the new Library facility by 12/19/12 and made available to the public on a "reasonable, limited schedule." A site visit was made by DHCD representatives who found the 201 Mason Avenue building locked and the Town was notified to repay the \$18K granted for the purchase of the computers. The Town had been communicating with representatives from the DHCD in an effort to resolve this matter and in May 2013 submitted an appeal to HUD on the basis that the computers had been relocated and were available to the public on a "reasonable, limited schedule" as required until the relocation of the Cape Charles Memorial Library. The Library reopened in its new location on 5/8 and the computers are available for public use during the library's regular hours of operation.

On 8/6, the Town received notification from Mr. Ronnie Legette, Director of HUD's Richmond Field Office, informing us that the matter was officially closed and the Town did not have to repay any of the grant funding. [Notification from US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development](#)

STEP INTO OUR VAULT!

THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM AT THE CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Are you interested in researching your family's history? Did you or a family member go to Cape Charles High School? Are you interested in the history of the Eastern Shore or Cape Charles in particular? Then you need to check out our Local History Room, located in the larger of our two vaults. This vault contains two areas: one behind bars where we are keeping delicate and very old items that you will need to ask to see, and the front area where reference books on the Eastern Shore and Virginia are kept. These books do not check out but the vault contains a table and chairs where you can get comfortable and do your research (unless you are claustrophobic!).

We are very excited to have an area that we can devote to local history and we want to continue to improve and expand on this collection. Many of the books that are now in the vault were housed in the antique oak bookcase at the former library and were not easily accessible. Now you can look at these old books and marvel at the ornate binding, yellowed pages, and small print.

Since moving into our new building we have been able to accept several donations such as 5 scrapbooks donated by the Cape Charles Historical Society that were put together by Jim Lewis while he was doing research for his book *Cape Charles: A Railroad Town*. Two other donations from the Cape Charles Historical Society include a canceled check from the *Farmers and Merchants Trust Bank* from W.F. Wilkins, Grower and Shipper of Farm Produce dated July 23, 1927 and a bronze plaque with the profile of Guy Lawrence Webster, a leading organizer and Founder of Northampton County Trust Bank in 1933.

One of our most popular collections are the yearbooks from Cape Charles High School. Children love to come in and look up their parents and grandparents pictures and laugh at the old hair styles. Some of the other titles you will find in the vault are: **Northampton County, Virginia Marriage Reference and Family Relationships 1634-1800** by F. Edward Wright, **Virginia's Eastern Shore** by Ralph T. Whitelaw, and **Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland** by Helen C. Roundtree and Thomas E. Davidson.

The history of the Cape Charles Memorial Library is long and colorful, with its many moves and has been written about numerous times. In the beginning the Library was filled with antique furniture gathered from local homes and today some of those same pieces sit in the current library. The history of the first Presbyterian Church is a part of our library history and we are now incorporating the history of the bank building where we are now located. We would like to preserve all of this history and continue to add to it, learning more about our current home, the Bank of America building. If you have stories or photos you would like to share we would like to add these to our collection. The stories of these buildings are fascinating and make up the history of our community.

As many of you know the Eastern Shore Public Library has an Eastern Shore Room which contains maps, manuscripts, books, fiche and film, and photocopies. This is a good place to do further research. The Eastern Shore Public Library also has digital images of some of the historical Cape Charles documents. Online genealogy resources can be found on the Eastern Shore Public Library web site (www.espl.org).

Submitted by Librarian Ann Rutledge.

CLAM SLAM 2013

Clam Slam 2013 was an absolute hit! There were about 2,500 Cape Charles residents and visitors at the Cape Charles Harbor on Saturday, 8/3, and Sunday, 8/4. The Clam Slam's opening ceremony, featuring entertainment by the Shriners in the parade, was the perfect way to awaken the Town to the weekend's festivities.

Clam Slam's energy could be felt radiating throughout the whole town, especially during the Boat Docking Contest on Sunday afternoon where screaming fans watched watermen battle for the Harbor's record docking time. The *Fabricator*, who set the record originally in 2011 in the Singles competition at 36.0 seconds and Teams competition in 2012 at 42.1 seconds, blew the crowd away when he broke his previously set record by a whopping 5 seconds. Other first place winners include the *Elaina Scott*, with Captain Scott Jones, and the *Elizabeth Joy*, with Captain Alan Parks.

On Saturday, the Smith Island Skiff Race was swept away by operator Sam Currie in his skiff *Fiddler On The Bay*. Second place was taken by Trey Shinault and third place was taken by Karl Nisson.

Town Manager Heather Arcos, Harbor Master Smitty Dize and the Harbor staff would like to issue a special "Thank You" to the numerous volunteers, sponsors, vendors, non-profit organizations, Town staff, Mayor Sullivan, the Cape Charles Town Council, Delegate Lynwood Lewis, Bayshore Concrete, Coast Guard Station Cape Charles, Bay Coast Railroad, Northampton County Sheriff's Dept., Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, Cape Charles Yacht Club, Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company, American Legion Post 56, the Clam Slam Committee and the entire Cape Charles community for helping with this wonderful event. We want to give an extra special "Thank You" to Marie Brady for organizing the Shriners parade again this year! None of the activities would have happened without everyone's help!

CLAM SLAM 2013 PARADE RESULTS

Congratulations to the following winners in the Clam Slam 2013 Parade:

Best Fire Dept/Rescue Squad: Cheriton 14-4	Best Band: Hillbilly Band
Best Equestrian Group: Pfeiffer Riding Stables	Best Commercial Entry: Just Ice – Caldwell Banker
Best Novelty Entry: Smith Island Crab Skiffs	Best Motorcycle Group: Khedive Shriners
Best Antique Vehicle: Hillbilly Model T	Best Classic Vehicle: Yellow VW Convertible
Most Creative Golf Cart: Pooper Scooper	Best Service Club Entry: Girl Scouts

UPCOMING MEETINGS & NOTICES

- Thursday, August 15, 2013:
Town Council Executive Session starting at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall. [AGENDA](#)
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish Hall. [AGENDA](#)
- Monday, August 19, 2013:
Joint Meeting with Cape Charles Planning Commission & Northampton County Planning Commission starting at 7:00 PM at the Social Services Building in Eastville. [AGENDA](#)
- Tuesday, August 20, 2013:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, September 5, 2013:
Town Council Work Session starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Tuesday, September 10, 2013:
Planning Commission-Town Council Joint Public Hearing starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. *Tentative*
Planning Commission Regular Meeting immediately following the Joint Public Hearing or 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Tuesday, September 17, 2013:
Historic District Review Board Meeting starting at 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, September 18, 2013:
Town Council Regular Meeting starting at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Parish 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. Please [click here](#) for information on the various Boards and Commission.



The Town offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2013, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

In an effort to streamline the Gazette and keep things interesting, we have redesigned the Cape Charles Gazette to include a variety of articles that we feel would be of interest to the residents, business owners and visitors to the Town. The regular Department Reports are included in the [Town Council Regular Meeting Agenda Packet](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- 8/3 – 8/18: **Harbor for the Arts Festival** – Music, art, dance in public spaces. Free and ticketed events. www.harborforthearts.com
- 8/9 – 8/10: The **Chesapeake Bay Buy Boats** at Cape Charles Town Harbor. Open to the public on Saturday, 8/10, from 10AM – 4PM.
- 8/31: **Jammin' at the Jetty Party**, Cape Charles Beachfront, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Sponsored by the Northampton County Chamber of Commerce.
- 9/1: **Labor Day Picnic in the Park** – 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. [Food Vendor Form](#) / [Artists, Crafters, Retailers & Non-Profits Registration Form](#)
- **Save the Dates:**
 - 10/11 – 10/13: [21st Annual Birding and Wildlife Festival](#).
 - 11/30: Cape Charles Historical Society 16th Annual Oyster Roast.
 - 12/7: Cape Charles Central Park Grand Illumination.

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

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Municipal Corporation of Cape Charles
2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310
www.capecharles.org

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