

Colonial Beach Fall 2023 Newsletter

Colonial Beach Connector is the Town's official newsletter, produced quarterly to homes and businesses throughout the community. It is filled with important updates and interesting stories from across the community to provide residents and business owners with recent and reliable information about what's happening in their hometown.

Have a news tip? Do you have an idea for a good community story or information about an event that you want to share? The Happenings Around Town section of the newsletter allows for brief community information-sharing. Send community news and high-resolution photographs to communications@colonialbeachva.gov. All material provided is subject to editorial review and revision and will be used as space and timing allows.



From the Mayor

Robin Schick, Administration Liaison

Colonial Beach has had an eventful summer, and the fun isn't over yet! Labor Day brings the Boardwalk Arts and Crafts festival along with many fall events including the 9th Annual Bikefest September 21st-24th. Please be mindful, the construction to replace primary water and sewer lines downtown continues for the coming months. Traffic will be impeded during the workday, but streets reopen for evenings and weekends. Stay informed by signing up for text and email alerts on the Town website www.colonialbeachva.gov.

Have you ever wanted to ask the Mayor a question about town business? Town Matters on WWER is interviewing me, and you write the questions. Submit a question then listen to Town Matters on 88.1FM on the second Thursday of the month at 8PM or the second Saturday at 9AM. For details about Town Matters, or to submit questions, go to the WWER website at www.wwer.org/shows/townmatters. WWER plans to make this an ongoing feature every month on Town Matters. The first Q&A aired in June. Prior recordings are also online.

Town Council is currently working on emergency communications, short-term rental policies, and continued infrastructure improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. A lot of work still to come as we approved funding to replace the software and alarm systems that malfunctioned which had caused the latest unfortunate spill. Tune into the Council meetings which are streamed live and video available on the Town website for more details.

There are improvements at the school, the trash totes are being delivered, and there's a new building on the boardwalk. This has proved to be an accomplished year already! Enjoy each moment with family and friends as summer winds down and the kids are back in school. Fall fishing season is almost here, there's still lots to look forward to!



From the Vice Mayor

Kenny Allison, Parks & Recreation and Finance Liaison

Parks and Recreation Update

The Parks and Recreation Department’s initiative to develop a new Parks Master Plan aims to outline our vision for the future of our parks and recreational facilities, ensuring they continue to serve our community effectively. The Parks Master Plan will encompass various aspects, including:

1. **Facility Upgrades:** Identifying opportunities to renovate and enhance existing park facilities to meet modern standards and cater to the evolving needs of our residents.
2. **Green Spaces:** Expanding and preserving green spaces within our community, encouraging outdoor activities, and promoting a healthier lifestyle.
3. **Community Engagement:** Incorporating input from residents, stakeholders, and local organizations to ensure that the plan aligns with the desires and needs of our community.
4. **Environmental Sustainability:** Integrating sustainable practices into park design, maintenance, and operation to minimize our ecological footprint.
5. **Recreational Programming:** Developing a diverse range of recreational programs that cater to people of all ages and interests, promoting an active and engaged community.
6. **Accessibility:** Ensuring that our parks are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of age or ability, by implementing inclusive design principles.

This plan will guide our decisions and investments for the next several years to create vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable parks that enhance the quality of life for our residents.

We look forward to sharing more details about the Parks Master Plan as it progresses and encourage everyone’s participation to shape the future of our community’s recreational spaces.



From the Acting Town Manager

Natasha Tucker, J.D.

This summer, the Town welcomed several new businesses with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Community support for these businesses has been outstanding, and the Town is working in tandem with our NGOs and local businesses to increase economic activity. One example is Sip N Stroll, where the Town obtained a new ABC license allowing alcoholic beverages to be consumed outdoors. The Town partnered with Downtown Colonial Beach, our local Main Street affiliate, to execute this exciting initiative. Data indicates that economic activity in the downtown core greatly increased during Sip N’ Stroll events.

Other major projects include the Central Drainage Area (CDA) and the overhaul of the Town’s refuse collection system. The CDA project seeks to remedy decades of delayed maintenance of Town infrastructure to ensure system capacity for current and future development in the downtown core. The refuse system changes include uniform town totes, which contribute to a uniform and attractive image and enhanced efficiency.

Additionally, the Town continues to work to make improvements to our municipal park system. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan is currently being developed, which includes designs for a north side park and Eleanor Park. These efforts have been highlighted twice in Virginia Town and City magazine- most recently in the June issue. Furthermore, Colonial Beach’s allure captured Thrillist’s attention, earning it a spot on the list of “The Best Beaches Near DC for a Quick Summer Getaway.” Southern Living Magazine will also showcase the Town with a feature about Colonial Beach for a “things to do” article on SouthernLiving.com, cementing the Town’s status as a must visit destination. Amid these developments, Colonial Beach emerges as a gem of a community, progressing and thriving in the summer spotlight.



Council Corner



Planning Commission & CBRHA

Town Council Member | Caryn Self Sullivan, PhD

The Colonial Beach Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CBRHA) facilitated the installation of a new roof for a local low-income senior homeowner. CBRHA's commitment to enhancing living conditions is a testament to the power of local initiatives in fostering positive change. CBRHA representatives attended the Virginia Housing meeting in Richmond on August 22nd. CBRHA continues to work toward ensuring availability of affordable rentals and homes within the town. Concurrently, the Planning Commission is engaged in refining the regulatory landscape to accommodate the needs of the community. Specifically, their work on text amendments to Article 16 (Conditional Use Permits) and Article 14 (Site Plan) focus on streamlining site plan submissions for Conditional Use Permits. Efforts are underway to modernize the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) within Article 6 (General Residential (R-2) District), aligning zoning regulations with urban planning principles. Through dedication, and innovation, these bodies continue to pave the way for improvement, one roof and one regulation at a time.



Central Drainage Project

Town Council Member | Rick Wood

The Police Dept and Public Works are working with Dominion Power to gather cost information for replacing sodium street lights at intersections along Jackson Street with brighter LED lighting. The brighter lights will only be at intersections and should not impact residential lots. Monies have been approved by the Town Council for a new SCADA software and hardware system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Public Works is working with vendors to order the materials and schedule installs. Materials have a 4-6 week production lag time currently. The Central Drainage Area utility project continues to run on schedule. Work has begun on Washington Ave. and will continue along this route until mid-late September. A second crew will be brought in soon to install a new water line from Dennison to Beach Terrace. Please sign up for the CDA updates on our website.



Economic Development

Town Council Member | David Williams

The Town's Economic Development Manager Kelly Evko along with the Chamber's Economic Development Committee continue to work to bring new businesses to town. One theme we've heard over the years is that our town is not business friendly so we continue to look for ways to cut red tape. Colonial Beach had a number of businesses open this year including: several restaurants, ice cream stand, shaved ice truck, model train store, the old custard stand by the boardwalk re-opened and added a food truck (This is the first location to get a conditional use permit to operate a food truck on private property) and more to come soon.

Recently, we had nearly 60 stakeholder/business owners participate in a first ever Business Appreciation event. We had nearly 60 stakeholders/business owners participate in the event. The economic development office/town organized the event with support from the CB Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Colonial Beach. The Ice House was extremely helpful providing the location and breakfast.



Council Corner



Education

Town Council Member | Vicky Roberson

The '23-'24 school year for Colonial Beach Elementary and Colonial High School had great openings! As of now, the following numbers represent the schools' population: PK-25, Elementary (K-7) 380, and High School (8-12) 224.

The state takes their first count of students on September 30th. For those of you who don't know, Virginia provides approximately \$10,000 per pupil. Our school, as well as all public schools, receive federal, state, and local money. At this time, entry to Colonial Beach Schools from outside the town limits is on hold for classes which are at capacity.

With capital improvement money, new heat pumps have been installed at the high school. There is still work that needs to be done on this project as well as others. The Board is also working on the 5-year Strategic Plan ('23-'28). Finally, please look at the school's website (cbschools.net) to find more information. There's always something going on!



Public Safety

Town Council Member | Tom Moncure

Mark your calendars for the evening of Tuesday October 3, to participate in Colonial Beach's National Night Out at Town Hill from 5:00 to 7:00pm. This is your opportunity to meet with our Police Chief and our Police Officers, and other first responders and exhibitors, in a casual community-friendly get together.



Upcoming Community Events on Town Properties

Sip N' Stroll / Art Walk

September 8, 6-9 pm

Downtown Colonial Beach

The Colonial Beach Artists' Guild hosts 2nd Friday Art Walks. On September 8, Downtown Colonial Beach collaborates with the Town of Colonial Beach to add the popular Sip N' Stroll to this month's Art Walk. From 6-9pm, the entire downtown area will be open to art lovers who enjoy walking outdoors or doing some shopping indoors while enjoying a favorite beverage from a local restaurant, pub, or wine bar.

Northern Neck Beach Music Festival

September 9th, 11am-7pm

Town Hill

This annual event sponsored by the Colonial Beach Community Foundation features live "shag" music, canopy decorating, and food and wine on Town Hill at the corner of Washington and Colonial Avenues. The fundraiser is a ticketed event where shag music lovers can dance the night away.

Family Game Night

September 12th, 6pm-8pm

Community Center 717 Marshall Ave

The Town of Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, and Events department is once again sponsoring Family Game Night. Families are invited to come to the Colonial Beach

Community Center at 717 Marshall Ave. to play games, enjoy snacks, and make new friends.

9th Annual Colonial Beach Bike Fest

September 21-24, 10am-11pm each day

Town Hill

Bikefest, sponsored by the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce, will have four days of activities, vendors, food, wine, beer, and bikes everywhere you look. Live music,

motorcycle-themed art shows, motorcycle experts and bikes all over town will make folks want to wear their leathers and roll into town. You'll meet friends and fans on Town hill or on the Boardwalk for four days of motorbike fun.



10th Annual Alexander Graham Bell Croquet Tournament

September 30th, Time: 9am-3pm

Town Hill

This annual event on Town Hill features 30-40 croquet players in their competition whites. The event allows spectators to watch local enthusiasts play the game as it might have been played in 1892.

News & Notes



Colonial Beach Community Meet UP

Town Grant Writer, J.C. LaRiviere, spoke at a Colonial Beach Community Meet up at the Riverboat on the Potomac, Thursday evening August 17. The packed room was eager to hear about the Town's grant writing successes. J.C. spoke about several grants the Town has recently won and answered everyone's questions afterward.



Saying Goodbye to the Summer Interns

Brennan Dillard, Jadyn McGinniss, and Tucker Duke joined the Town staff as summer interns and, sadly, we had to say goodbye as they all head off to their respective colleges. Brennan returns to William & Mary as a sophomore, Jadyn starts at Mary Baldwin as a freshman, and Tucker crosses the state line to play baseball at the College of Southern Maryland. The three interns could be seen posting flyers around town, assisting with the baseball Skills and Drills, and doing everything from building spreadsheets and designing social media tiles to analyzing event reports.



Parks & Rec Highlights



Game Nights

Parks & Rec hosted another Grown-Up Game Night on Tuesday, August 15 with a Texas Hold 'Em tutorial. After that, players got to test their bluffing skills and rack up the chips. Family Game Night on September 12 from 6-8pm will be at the CB Community Center. Family night is kid friendly with lots of games to choose from. The next Grown-Up Game Night will be at the Center in October. If you want more information about events through the Parks, Recreation, and Events department, email sadams@colonialbeachva.gov to receive the monthly newsletter.



Colonial Beach Master Plan Powerpoint

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan PowerPoint, spotlighting crucial findings, is live on the town's website. Dive into the future of Colonial Beach's recreational landscape through this insightful presentation. Discover visions, strategies, and community-driven insights that shape our town's recreational tapestry. A special thanks to our project consultant BerryDunn for helping the Town to foster a vibrant future for Colonial Beach.

First Ever Colonial Beach Yard Sale - Scheduled for Fall (How to participate)

Do you know that saying "One man's trash is another man's treasure?" That saying is about to come to life in the Town of Colonial Beach as our first town-wide yard sale happens this fall. On October 7th to October 14th, the Town of Colonial Beach waives all yard sale fees for the day and will put your garage sale on the map for interested customers! You'll have the chance to exchange old stories and explore new friendships all day as you travel from yard sale to garage sale to porch sale. Or you may prefer to recline under a tree in front of your house in an old La-Z-Boy, until you sell it, of course.

Colonial Beach is about to be transformed into a bustling marketplace, offering a tapestry of possibilities to eager shoppers. Get prepared to sift through that dusty attic, explore that basement, and uncover forgotten corners! Your old belongings are awaiting new homes, each carrying whispers of the past. Your family will bond over exciting relics that spark nostalgia. Laughter will ring out as your children explore treasures from their childhood. We encourage you to participate, and experience these joyous moments for yourself. Beyond the exchanged goods, it's the new bonds forged, the stories swapped, and the unity that's celebrated that will mark the day.

We want to include you in the Town Yard Sale map. If you plan to join us, please send the address of your yard sale, and the hours that you plan to operate on October 14th. Send your information to: sadams@colonialbeachva.gov



Talking Trash - New Toters

The Town of Colonial Beach launched its improved trash program, including unified trash totes. Please reference the Trash Toter FAQ for additional information.



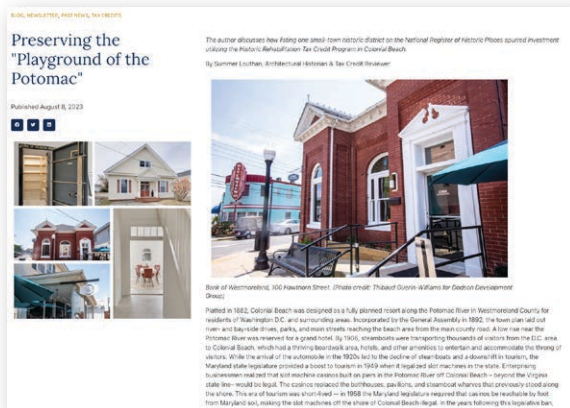
2023 Yard Debris Pick up Schedule

October 2, 2023 to October 6, 2023
November 13, 2023 to November 17, 2023
December 11, 2023 to December 15, 2023

The Town of Colonial Beach will only pick up paper bagged or bundled yard debris. These pickups will be on your normal trash day only. Please make sure that the yard debris is separated from your normal trash. Please be advised that household refuse (of animal or vegetable origin) should be in an approved

container with lid (we recommend the 96 gallon totes available at any hardware store). We do NOT take electronics, hazardous materials, furniture, mattresses, lamps, etc. It is homeowner/resident responsibility to dispose of these items at the transfer station on New Monrovia Road off 205 or at the Westmoreland County Dump. **Yard debris must be either paper bagged or tied in bundles no longer than 4 feet in length, with branches no larger than 4 inches in diameter, and weigh no more than 40 lbs.**

COLONIAL BEACH IN THE NEWS



Virginia Dept of Historic Resources

The article discussed how listing one small-town historic district on the National Register of Historic Places spurred investment utilizing the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program in Colonial Beach.



Richmond Times Dispatch featured Colonial Beach highlighting the town's growth and economic revival and a look at what's ahead for the area.

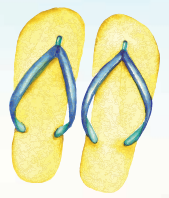


Virginia Business Magazine featured Colonial Beach and the Dodson Development Group highlighting some of current development projects in motion in the Town.



National outlet Thrillist featured Colonial Beach as one of the Best Beaches Near DC for a Quick Summer Getaway.

Colonial Beach Around Town



World Photography Day, August 19

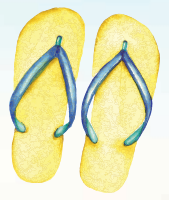


Steel Drum From Trinidad

The Celebrated Steel Drum from Trinidad visited CB on August 5th at the Community Center. The audience was mesmerized by everything from classical to jazz to the Theme from Mission Impossible. This was a collaboration between the Parks, Recreation, & Events department of the Town and Beach, Arts, Music, and Mentoring (BAMM).



Colonial Beach Around Town



Photos from Circa 1892






Photos of the Fire Escape Grill Ribbon Cutting



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