

Welcome to our New Look!

Colonial Beach Connector is the Town's official newsletter, produced quarterly (soon to be changed to monthly) 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 allow.



From the Mayor

Robin Schick, Administration Liaison

The accomplishments of 2022 have laid the groundwork for a successful new year. 2023 will be a year of progress and physical improvements for Colonial Beach. The long-awaited Central Drainage Area will break ground in our downtown core and will be under construction for approximately nine months. The Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) program, now known as Sip N' Stroll, had a successful start in December and continues with the organizational support of Downtown Colonial Beach. The next Sip N' Stroll events will be held on March 10th and March 17th and 18th, featuring the Irish band, Blackthorn Shillelagh, for St. Patrick's Day weekend. Several new restaurants and downtown retailers are making their homes in town, and economic development is in full swing. As is often the case, infrastructure changes will require flexibility and patience on the part of residents and tourists alike.



From the Vice Mayor

Kenny Allison, Parks & Rec and Finance Liaison

Parks and Recreation Update

As we welcome 2023, we also welcome the BerryDunn consulting firm. The Town of Colonial Beach has retained the services of BerryDunn, a national parks, recreation, and open space consulting firm to assist us with developing our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. James Mickle and his associate conducted an online survey as well as a three day workshop (Jan 23-25) soliciting feedback from town staff, residents and focus groups. The overall feedback from the public has been overwhelmingly positive and inspiring. It has been wonderful to see everyone coming together to provide their input for the betterment of the community. The results of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be delivered to the Town of Colonial Beach sometime in late Spring or early Summer. We look forward to sharing that information with the public.



From the Town Manager
India Adams-Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM (candidate)

Our town staff encourages you to look at our 2022 annual report, which includes the significant accomplishments of our town departments over the past year. Last year alone, we secured \$5.7 million in infrastructure funding for water and sewer projects through our legislative affairs efforts, \$50,000 in federal funding for the scoping page of the North Beach Shoreline Erosion project and were awarded \$1.85 million from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Dwight Ave Extension project. We also secured \$60,000 from the state agencies to improve our wayfinding and gateway signage and secure ADA-accessible equipment in our open spaces. Working with our community partners, we adopted the Town's 1st Economic Development Strategic Plan. Finally, the Town completed the first phase of improvements to the bike/golf cart path, and final upgrades will be completed this Spring. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at townmanager@colonialbeachva.gov.



Council Corner



Update on Colonial Beach Stormwater + Resiliency Plan
Town Council Member | Caryn Self Sullivan, PhD, Planning & Housing Authority Liaison

The Town held an initial meeting with consultants from the Berkley Group & Tetra Tech for our first-ever Stormwater Management & Resiliency Plan this month. Community engagement is planned for the spring & fall of 2023. Once completed, the plan will identify and prioritize stormwater and resiliency projects to address critical issues in our waterfront community. The planning project is funded by a grant from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund and local ARPA funds and will be a collaborative effort between the Town Manager's Office, Departments of Public Works and Community Development & Zoning.



Town Pier Project
Town Council Member | Rick Wood, Infrastructure Liaison

The Town Pier project began the week on Monday, February 13th. The weather cooperated and work was completed on Thursday, February 16th. Several pilings were replaced that had become damaged by wind, water and time as well as the deck boards in the areas of the piling replacements. The project was delivered on time and on budget. These repairs allowed us to extend the life by several more years and avoid an expensive and unnecessary replacement of the existing structure. The Town Pier is the crown jewel of Colonial Beach. Our residents and visitors can now continue to enjoy our amazing scenery as well as fish and soak up the sunshine for many years to come from this iconic location.



Council Corner



Economic Development

Town Council Member | David Williams, Economic Development Liaison

As the newly appointed Economic Development Liaison I am excited to see what we can do to grow our town's tax base by expanding our businesses in Colonial Beach. As many of you know, in 2021 the Chamber of Commerce started the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and along with Ms. Kelly Evko the town's Economic Development Manager they are working to attract new businesses. We have assets in this town like our marinas and beaches, which many believe are not used to their full potential so we are exploring ways to expand marine oriented business and increase tourism. Some current economic development projects include: Marina outreach, improved signage, town beautification, streamlining new business processes, added focus on tourism and working towards Main Street status. I'd like to welcome our recent business additions to Colonial Beach including: Orchid Thai, Pink Poodle Ice Cream, Beach Paws and COBE Workspace.



Education

Town Council Member | Vicky Roberson, Schools Liaison

The Colonial Beach School Board met on February 8, 2023, for their regular monthly meeting. If you're new to the community, they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. in Town Center (next to the town library). Many of our high school seniors have been accepted to college, and others have joined a branch of our armed services. Congratulations to all! The school board is also working on the school budget for the 2023-2024 school year. In this budget as well, there will be a much needed "face lift" for the high school. It's hard to believe it is almost 35 years old!

The Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce has posted its 2023 Events. The first event will be the Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th; followed by the 72nd Annual Potomac River Festival on June 10th and 11th; our favorite event of the year!



Public Safety

Town Council Member | Tom Moncure, Public Safety Liaison

With the help of Mead & Hunt engineering consultants, we have spent time and effort to craft workable parking solutions. With over 300 parking survey respondents, we had data to craft a feasible plan. Here are the new policies regarding in-town parking: All town residents with vehicles registered and garaged in the Town of Colonial Beach can still park for free in our downtown parking areas. Golf Cart parking with valid decals is still free. The Wilder Avenue parking lot will continue to be in use for another season. The Town has approved parking changes as follows for visitors:

1. Refining times to 7am-8pm
2. Golf cart parking for the pilot program
3. Relocation of three existing pay stations
4. Potential Rate Changes -
 - a. \$2 per hour - in business zone
 - b. \$3 per hour - in the beach zone or \$25 per day
 - c. Oversized/Trailer Parking - \$35 per day



News + Notes



COMING SOON - New Businesses to Colonial Beach

Fire Escape American Grille - Opening May 2023

Fire Escape American Grille will be a new addition to Colonial Beach debuting later this Spring opening in the former Ola's

location across from Atlantic Union Bank. The popular food truck purveyors (now newly minted restaurant owners) are known for their out of this world burgers and food. Every item on the menu is fresh and made to order. Their business focuses on supporting local fire fighters and first responders giving back to several stations. Follow them on social media for Grand Opening details @fireescapeamericangrille.

Happy Retirement Curtis Coleman!



Curtis Coleman, Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant retired in February after 27 years of service to the Town. Curtis has been an integral part of Public Works and the Town team and will be missed. His dedication exceeded expectations, as he agreed to remain long after his initial retirement declaration until the Town could secure a replacement Superintendent. Curtis, you will be missed!

Golf cart decals are available!

Individuals will need to provide a safety inspection and proof of insurance to purchase a decal for your golf cart. The cost is \$30.00. Inspection options are located at Potomac Alternator & Battery, T and T Cart Rentals, Custom Cartz, Beach Auto, or Carter Automotive. Please refer to the Town of Colonial Beach Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Article V. for all information on operating a golf cart in Town.

Scan here!



2023 Yard Debris Pick up Schedule

- March 6, 2023 to March 10, 2023
- April 24, 2023 to April 28, 2023
- May 22, 2023 to May 26, 2023
- June 26, 2023 to June 30, 2023
- August 7, 2023 to August 11, 2023
- 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.

Upcoming Spring Events



SIP N' STROLL Colonial Beach

March Sip N' Stroll Dates Announced!

Downtown Colonial Beach is gearing up for the March 2023 Sip N' Stroll events! During the designated times, those of legal drinking age may purchase "to-go" beverages and stroll with them throughout the designated downtown area and in participating retail businesses and art galleries.

Friday, March 10 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

In partnership with the Colonial Beach Artist Guild's 2nd Friday Art Walk.

Friday, March 17 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 18 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Sip N' Stroll! Green will be the color of choice but gold might also make an appearance as you meander through participating shops and galleries with your beverage of choice. On Saturday, the Blackthorn Shillelagh band will be playing on Town Hill from 6:00-9:00pm. Enjoy Downtown Colonial Beach for an evening of Irish Enchantment.

Virginia Osprey Festival

Saturday, April 15
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Virginia Osprey Festival is one of the largest festivals of its kind celebrating the osprey's annual return to Colonial Beach, birdwatching and the area's abundant natural resources. For schedule of events and tickets visit <https://www.virginiaospreyfestival.org/>.

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OSPREY
LOVERS**



Family Game Night on March 21 from 6:00 – 8:00pm

at the Colonial Beach Community Center (717 Marshall Avenue) brings fun and laughter as any family, visitors or residents, can bring their own games or play games supplied by Colonial Beach Parks & Rec. Free popcorn and family fun can all be found at the CB Community Center. Kids under 12 need a chaperone.

Grow RVA and Colonial Beach Parks & Rec bring back the **Farmer's Market at the Colonial Buzz** (234 Colonial Ave.) on **Thursdays from 8:30 – 11:30am** starting April 6. Flowers, fresh eggs, and locally grown produce all where you can meet friends and swap recipes.

Grown up Game Night is Tuesday, April 25 from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Colonial Beach Community Centre (717 Marshall Ave). The local Mahjong club will come teach folks how to play before breaking up into several tables for some lively Mahjong!

Saturday, April 29 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Park Day




Adopt-a-Park Day at Robin Grove Dog Park is a chance to bring your socialized dog to meet with other dog people and learn about the park. Dr. Caryn will be on hand and Parks & Rec will be there with dog treats and information about the Adopt-a-Park program.

Colonial Beach
VIRGINIA

Contact Info

Town of Colonial Beach
315 Douglas Ave
Colonial Beach, VA 22443
(804) 224-7181

Follow Us On Social!

 @TownofCBVA
 @VisitCBVa
 @townofcbva