

Colonial Beach Summer 2023 Newsletter

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 allows.



From the Mayor

Robin Schick, Administration Liaison

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, 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 in early June and will be under construction for approximately nine months. Our Town staff has completed the updates on the Bike/Golf cart path with the installation of the solar lighting at the end of May. In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has completed much-needed repaving on 205 and 205Y. As is often the case, infrastructure changes will require flexibility and patience from residents and tourists alike. On behalf of the town, we encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful beaches, parks, and waterfront!

As a proud Drifter, I was excited to give the speech at the 7th-grade graduation ceremony this year and wish all of 2023 Colonial Beach Public School graduates the best of luck on their next steps!



From the Vice Mayor

Kenny Allison, Parks & Recreation 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. Funding for this project and the resurfacing of all town playgrounds comes from a Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) grant awarded to the Town for the preservation of Eleanor Park. 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)

In May, the Town hosted the Dahlgren South Potomac Community Relations Council (COMREL) meeting at Icehouse Marina, where we learned about updates to the base, including the decision not to expand range testing at this time and a change of command from Capt. Todd Copeland and Capt. David Wilson Jr. We thank Capt. Copeland for his years of support to the Town of Colonial Beach community! This month, Town leadership also participated in the Strategy to Action strategic planning session to assist the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Services with multi-year planning.

In Town, we have been preparing for the beginning of the Central Drainage Area project with an open house, a new webpage dedicated to the project, an in-depth interview on WWER radio 88.1, and a frequently asked questions document available on the Town's website and in the town hall. Information about the new trash totter program roll-out is also enclosed in this month's utility bill.

Finally, the Town completed the final improvements to the bike/golf cart path, resurfacing all our town parks and making much-needed improvements to the Beaches. Should you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with me at townmanager@colonialbeachva.gov.



Council Corner



Planning Commission & CBRHA

Town Council Member | Caryn Self Sullivan, PhD

The Colonial Beach Redevelopment & Housing Authority is finalizing a four-year Strategic Plan to increase work-force housing in Town. According to their research, short-term rental expansion has contributed to the lack of work-force housing for our residents. CBRHA supports increased efforts to ensure all short-term rentals are registered with the Town, and that owners are collecting required sales & use taxes (which is already required similar to Hotel/Motel Accommodations Tax). Any application for grants to help address housing shortages requires such data. Recognizing both the positive & negative impacts of short-term rentals on the Town, the Planning Commission has formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to draft a short-term rental housing ordinance to be presented to the full Planning Commission for review prior to submission to the Town Council.



Public Safety

Town Council Member | Tom Moncure

Recruiting and retention of police officers present challenges everywhere. This is exasperated by the size of our Police Department and local competition. We are fortunate – at least temporarily – to have a full contingent of patrol officers (one Sergeant position remains vacant). However, two of these patrol officers are still in the Academy and will not be on the street until late August. In better times, beach towns could supplement summers with auxiliary police officers, but auxiliaries have gone the way of the dinosaurs. The Town Manager and I had a valuable meeting with Westmoreland County Sheriff Balderson, and confident his department will assist us to the extent possible. But we acknowledge that we are part of a large County with unique considerations for the Sheriff. We expect our Police Department to perform in an exemplary manner as time and resources permit. The people of Colonial Beach should expect no less.



Council Corner



Economic Development

Town Council Member | David Williams

The Economic Development Office (EDO) and Economic Development Committee (EDC) have been working hard to find ways to bring new businesses to the Town of Colonial Beach. The EDO has been working to promote business in town including: hosting leadership from the Virginia Film Office, organizing a strategic planning session with Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), attending Main Street conferences and working closely with the EDC. Some of the projects the EDC has been working on include: providing feedback from local businesses on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, discussing legislative and policy changes that impact local businesses and outreach to the community by helping prepare students for job interviews for example. A number of new businesses are set open in CB soon including: Fire Escape American Grill on McKinney Blvd in May, The Train Store on Colonial Ave in May, Circa 1892 on Hawthorne in June and Eugene's Sausage and Fries at the Ice House, now open.



Education

Town Council Member | Vicky Roberson

First and foremost, congratulations go to both Colonial Beach Elementary and Colonial Beach High School for being fully accredited by the state's Standards of Learning for the 21-22 school year! Way to go! The Virginia Dept. of Education has not released the 22-23 SOL results as of this date. Kindergarten and 7th grade students graduated on May 18th and our seniors graduated on May 20th. All three ceremonies showed true Drifter Pride! We are very proud of all of you! You can find the school's calendar for the coming year on their website which is CBSchools.net. New faculty will report on August 1st, and the rest will be returning on August 7th. Students return on August 14th. For those of you who may not know, summer is a time for teachers to take classes for recertification of their teaching license. They also start preparing for the coming new year. We wish everyone a fantastic summer!



Central Drainage Project

Town Council Member | Rick Wood

Public Works has begun the beach replenishment project which includes new sand and a substantial increase in the height of the rip rap barriers to provide a more effective breakwater. The Central Drainage project will begin on June 1. Please be prepared for disruptions as this vital improvement is underway. Trash totes will arrive late summer and the first billing will occur on your October utility bill. The Sip N' Stroll, made possible by a successful partnership between the Town and Downtown Colonial Beach, have been tremendously successful with a positive impact on our local merchants. The Chamber of Commerce, in accordance with the Economic Development Council, was awarded \$40,000.00 dollars in grants for the Potomac River Festival, Bike Fest and Labor Day festivities from the Virginia Tourism Commission, Virginia Special Events & Festivals Program. The Colonial Beach High School Summer Job/Internship Fair, sponsored by Colonial Beach Economic Development Committee, was held on April 23. Ten tables of employers and over 75 students participated. Thanks to: Riverview Inn, Raven's Point, Drift and Muse Restaurants, Town of Colonial Beach, Westmoreland Rehabilitation Center, CB Outfitters, Custom T's Motorsports Park.



Upcoming Community Events on Town Properties

June 10-11, 2023

72nd Annual Potomac River Festival and Parades

6/11 10 a.m.-5p.m., 6/12 10 a.m.-3p.m. | Town Hill

Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce

June 17, 2023

Coming 2 the Table, Juneteenth Event

10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Town Hill

In Partnership with NAACP | Hosted by the Town of Colonial Beach

June 18, 2023

Father's Day Classic Car Show

7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. | Town Hill, Beachfront, Boardwalk

Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce

July 29, 2023

BAMM JAMM (Beach Arts, Music and Mentoring)

11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. | Town Hill

Hosted by BAMM (ticketed event)

August 1, 2023

National Night Out

Details Forthcoming

August 19-20, 2023

8th Annual Water Fest

8/19 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

8/20 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Town Hill, Beachfront, Boardwalk

Hosted by Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce

August 19-20, 2023

44th Rod Run to the Beach

8/19 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

8/20 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Town Hill, Beachfront, Boardwalk

Hosted by the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce



Sip N' Stroll



- June 10, 2023 Potomac River Festival-Dance Block Party 6:00-9:00 pm
- June 17, 2023 Juneteenth - TBD
- June 18, 2023 Father's Day Car Show - 11:00-2:00 pm
- July 01, 2023 Independence Day - 6:00-9:00 pm





Solar Lights Installation



Solar lights along the Bike/Golf cart path are being installed! Twelve of the lights have been installed and the Town is working to light the path from dusk to dawn. Check it out! The second half of the lights were installed the week of May 22.

- The Community Development Department is currently recruiting for the full-time position of “Planner.” For more information visit the Colonial Beach Town website.
- Applications for appointment to fill two vacancies on the Colonial Beach Board of Zoning Appeals are still being taken. Residents of Colonial Beach are encouraged to apply and can visit the Colonial Beach Town website for additional information.
- Due to current staffing shortages, the Community Development Department will be closed on Mondays and Wednesdays until further notice. Our interim office hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Parks & Rec Highlights

Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, and Events hosted a BerryDunn presentation for the Eleanor Park survey! The evening was an insightful session where Parks & Rec consultants from BerryDunn shared their findings based on community survey responses. Your valuable input will shape the future of Eleanor Park and enhance the community experience. Stay tuned for upcoming developments as we work together to create a vibrant and inclusive park for all to enjoy!

Central Drainage Project Begins June 1

The Central Drainage Area project in the Town of Colonial Beach begins this summer and includes the removal, replacement and installation of sanitary gravity sewer, reconnection and reinstatement of active laterals, replacement, and repair of existing maintenance holes, installation of new water service lines and meter assemblies, installation of new fire hydrants, and surface restoration in the project area. The project was identified in 2020 and the Town has been planning for the project since 2021. This improvement project is critical in addressing the Town’s current water and sewer infrastructure that has been failing and is outdated. The existing infrastructure has been in place for over 50+ years. The current utility infrastructure within this area is aging and failing. For example, in February a sinkhole occurred on Washington Avenue. In its existing state, the inflow and infiltration could result in regulatory penalties and fines by state/federal entities if not addressed.

This significant and necessary enhancement to the Town’s vital water and sewer infrastructure was made possible due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal Funding. This \$2.5M project is being funded exclusively by ARPA Federal Funding. This project furthers the Town’s commitment to addressing inflow and infiltration issues and aging infrastructure throughout the downtown area.

With any construction project or endeavor, there is never a perfect time to start. Due to federal and state timelines linked to the ARPA funding this project received, the construction must commence this summer.

Construction will officially start on June 1, 2023. The Central Drainage Project will be conducted in four phases with the following areas impacted:

Phase 1 - June-July

Sewer - Work on Beach Terrace and Hawthorn Street, near Taylor Ave

Phase 2- July- August

Sewer - Work on Taylor Street

Phase 3- July - August

Sewer - Work on Dennison Street

Phase 4- August-September

Sewer - Work on Washington Ave

Phase 5 - September-October

Sewer - Colonial Ave

News & Notes



Water – Work on Beach Terrace, Taylor St, Dennison St. and Hawthorn St.

For more information on the project, please visit the Town of Colonial Beach's website.

Economic Development



Stephen Versen with VEDP – visits CoBe workspaces – pictured Kelly Evko, Economic Development Manager-Colonial Beach, Mike Fitzpatrick, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, Susan Mack - Downtown Colonial Beach, Lori Gore - Manager of the CoBe Workspaces and Stephen Versen - Talent Team - VEDP

We had the incredible honor of hosting a special guest, Mr. Stephen Versen, from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) in May. Stephen Versen, a member of the Talent Team at VEDP, visited our organization to explore potential collaborations and discuss the thriving business landscape in Virginia. As a representative of the VEDP, Mr. Versen's visit showcased the strong commitment Virginia has towards fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. During his visit, Mr. Versen engaged in fruitful discussions with our community stakeholders, sharing valuable insights on the various business opportunities and incentives available in Virginia. He emphasized the state's dedication to supporting emerging industries, attracting investment, and promoting job creation.

We also had the privilege of showcasing our own contributions and achievements in our respective field to Mr. Versen. We highlighted our commitment to innovation, community engagement, and creating a positive impact on the local economy. The discussions were enlightening, and we are grateful for Mr. Versen's interest in our organization. This visit was an excellent opportunity to strengthen ties between our organization and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. We look forward to exploring potential partnerships, leveraging Virginia's business-friendly environment, and collaborating on mutually beneficial initiatives in the future. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Stephen Versen for taking the time to visit us

and sharing his invaluable insights. His visit further solidified our belief in the power of collaboration and the immense potential that exists within Virginia's thriving economic ecosystem. Stay tuned for updates on the exciting developments that may arise from this visit. Together, we can foster growth, innovation, and prosperity.

Talking Trash - New Toters

The Town of Colonial Beach is working on improving its trash program, including unified trash totes. Please reference the Trash Toter FAQ for additional information on delivery and how to obtain a new branded toter.

2023 Yard Debris Pick up Schedule

- 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 Route 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.**

New Openings



Now Open Fire Escape American Grille

Fire Escape American Grille is now open in Colonial Beach in their new location across from Atlantic Union Bank. The food truck purveyors (now newly minted restaurant owners) are known for their burgers and fresh made to order items. Their business focuses on supporting local firefighters and first responders by giving back to several area stations.

www.fireescapeamericangrille.com



Circa 1892 – Opening June 2023

Circa 1892 will offer wine, cheese, gourmet foods, chocolate, and cigars. Part of the Hawthorn Avenue corridor, the shop is named in honor of the town's date of incorporation and is operated by local Colonial Beach neighbors. This space, to open in June, will be a welcoming place to enjoy a sandwich and a bottle of wine or to pick up a picnic on your way to the beach.




circa1892.com



Contact Info

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

Follow Us On Social!

 @TownofCBVA
 @VisitCBVA
 @townofcbva