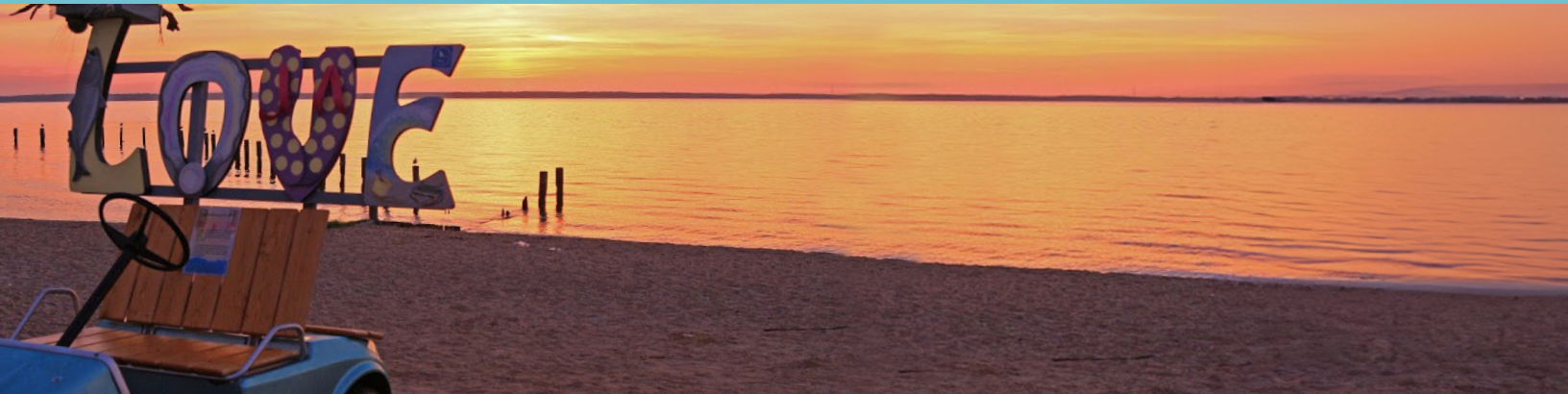


## *Colonial Beach Winter 2023 Newsletter*

Colonial Beach Connector is the Town's official newsletter, produced quarterly and made available 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 our 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](mailto: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**

Wishing you all a joyous Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! As we celebrate, I encourage you to support our local businesses by shopping and dining locally, fostering community spirit. A heartfelt thanks to the dedicated volunteers and Public Works who beautifully decorate our town, spreading the magic of Christmas.

In keeping with our commitment to safety, I want to highlight our focus on maintenance and precautions at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This winter, the plant will undergo multiple equipment replacements to ensure the town's infrastructure operates seamlessly. More information on our many infrastructure improvements and reporting are available the website.

I extend gratitude to the WWTP staff and all our public safety departments for working tirelessly with 24/7 operations, even through the holidays.

May your celebrations be safely enjoyed, and the New Year brings prosperity and joy to us all!



## *From the Vice Mayor*

**Kenny Allison, Parks & Recreation and Finance Liaison**

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### ***Parks and Recreation Update***

Exciting developments are underway as the Parks, Recreation, & Events department gears up for the 2024 Event Season in Colonial Beach! In a commitment to inclusivity, additional swings, including ADA-compliant options, will soon be installed next to the existing beach swings near the Riverboat on the Potomac. Made possible by a grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, these swings cater to various needs, with a molded plastic swing for children up to 45 lbs and a wheelchair platform accommodating over 500 lbs, suitable for motorized wheelchairs. A beach mat will enhance accessibility to the swing set, ensuring everyone can enjoy the waterfront experience.

Looking ahead, the Town Council will convene a strategic meeting in January to discuss future park improvements townwide. Your input matters, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) has one additional seat open. If you're passionate about shaping the recreational landscape, apply at <https://www.colonialbeachva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/769/Commission-Application-?bidId=>. Join us in making Colonial Beach a more inclusive and vibrant community!



## *From the Town Manager*

**India Adams-Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM (candidate)**

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As the holiday season approaches, we want to take this opportunity to extend our warmest greetings to you and your family. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in making our community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

This year, the town has made significant progress in improving our infrastructure with the completion of the Central Drainage Area project in the downtown core, paving and lighting of the bike/golf cart path, improving parking signage, paving numerous streets throughout town, and collaborating with the Virginia Department of Transportation to improve our roads entering town. Our town staff look forward to continuing the great work to enhance our service delivery to our community in the new year.

Thank you for making our community a caring and compassionate place. We wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!





# Council Corner



## *Planning Commission & CBRHA*

**Town Council Member | Caryn Self Sullivan, PhD**

First, please stay informed and engaged with Town Council and our Boards, Commissions, and Authorities by signing up for agenda notifications online at <https://www.colonialbeachva.gov/list.aspx>. Second, attend meetings! All meetings are open to the Public and provide opportunities for Public Comment. Third, if you are interested in serving and are a Colonial Beach resident, you are invited to apply for one of two open positions on the Colonial Beach Redevelopment & Housing Authority at <https://www.colonialbeachva.gov/documentcenter/view/769>. And finally, if you are concerned about possible zoning violations, you may request an investigation (anonymously) online at <https://www.colonialbeachva.gov/formcenter/community-development-and-zoning-11/online-submittable-community-enhancement-67>. Happy Holidays!



## *Infrastructure and NGOs*

**Town Council Member | Rick Wood**

The Central Drainage Area project is finishing on time, just ahead of the holidays. Thanks to everyone for your patience. The results will be well worth it. Geographic Information System mapping of town assets is continuing and will be tremendously helpful for our future planning. The installation of HVAC and roofing repairs to Town Hall are almost complete. The Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for our water and sewer plant should be delivered and installed before the end of the year. Additionally, new pumps to replace failing ones have been ordered.

Our Colonial Beach Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have a few upcoming events:

James Monroe Birthplace's annual Christmastide and Open House is on December 2 from 5 pm to 8 pm at 4460 James Monroe Hwy.

Historical Society Holiday House Tour December 9 and 10. All tours start at Colonial Beach Museum at 128 Hawthorn St. Tickets at [www.tinyurl.com/cbholidayhousetour2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/cbholidayhousetour2023)

Community Foundation monthly MeetUp is December 21 at 6 pm at the Community Center at 717 Marshall Ave. Everyone is welcome.

The Downtown Colonial Beach Mardi Gras gala fundraiser will take place on February 10, 2024. Look for updates on <https://www.facebook.com/downtowncolonialbeach>.

The Osprey Nest Cam will be installed at the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Live streaming will begin in the spring.

WWER is seeking financial support for a studio buildout. Visit [WWER.org/new-studio](http://WWER.org/new-studio) for more information.

The Colonial Beach NGOs thank everyone for their support.



# Council Corner



## *Economic Development* Town Council Member | David Williams

During our busy day to day lives we often don't think about all the ways we as citizens contribute to our local economy so I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some of the ways we as regular citizens contribute to Colonial Beach's economy. Patronizing our local businesses, running or starting a new business in town, supporting volunteer organizations like Fire, Rescue and Chamber of Commerce among many others, hosting events, working for our businesses including local restaurants and government agencies like our schools. I would like to thank Kelly Evko, our Economic Development Manager for working hard to promote our town and bring in new business. She has worked with the Economic Development Committee, hosted many state and local guests, met with the majority of our local businesses and is working to get our Main Street program underway. I wish everyone a safe and Happy Holidays.



## *Education* Town Council Member | Vicki Roberson

The Colonial Beach Economic Development Committee helped sponsor a Career and Apprenticeship Fair on 10/12/23 in the CBES gym. Over 70 students visited 30 tables of career representatives. Career assessments were also available for students to identify areas of interest within career clusters. The GO Virginia Region 6 Entrepreneurship grant project is well underway. Students have had a variety of guest speakers, toured the Big RVA Market in Richmond as well as visited the Colonial Beach Farmers Market. Students have selected two products they will develop and retail in Spring 2024 at the Colonial Beach Farmers Market.



## *Public Safety* Town Council Member | Krista Brown

Happy Holidays to my fellow Colonial Beachians!

I would like to welcome Colonial Beach Police Department Interim Chief Les Parsons and Interim Lieutenant Nate Thompson. They are familiar faces in our town and there is no doubt they will continue to do the great work they have done for not only the department, but for Colonial Beach.

Colonial Beach Public Schools advised Town Council that speeding on First Street during afternoon dismissal has been a problem. Please slow down when passing the school. I will be working with CBPD and Superintendent Mitchell and Dr. Addo on a solution.

Let's get festive! Please support our local kiddos and the Colonial Beach Police Department by dropping off a new, unwrapped toy under the department's Christmas tree, located in their lobby at 416-B Colonial Ave.

Please stop by the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department (CBVFD) at 312 Colonial Ave. to purchase local fire department ornaments, sponsored by the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

CBVFD and the Ladies Auxiliary are sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa at the Fire Department building on December 9th from 8-11AM. Enjoy crafts, breakfast, and SANTA! Have a safe holiday season!

## *Meet our new council member Krista Brown!*

Ms. Brown recently replaced Mr. Moncure for the remainder of his term and is the new Public Safety liaison. We all wish to thank Mr. Moncure for his service. We recently sat down with the Town's newest council member to ask her a few questions. Please join us in giving Ms. Krista Brown a warm welcome as a Colonial Beach Town Council member.



### **1. I understand you are from Northern Virginia. What drew you to Colonial Beach?**

My husband Shane and I moved to Colonial Beach a little over four years ago. We would dock our boat in Colonial Beach while cruising down the Potomac en route to the Chesapeake Bay. We had never driven by car here until we signed a contract on a home! Since, my parents have moved to the beach and my sister did as well. My sister has been a teacher at Colonial Beach Elementary School for two years. Once my family visited, they did not want to leave and we are so fortunate to all be just a few blocks from each other.

### **2. What will be your area focus/passion while on Council?**

As retired law enforcement, I am elated to be the liaison to our Public Safety personnel. Our police department, volunteer fire department, and volunteer rescue squad are essential to Colonial Beach. I support them and am grateful I can build a strong relationship between them and Town Council.

### **3. What makes Colonial Beach special to you?**

To me, Colonial Beach is all about family and friends. Golf cart rides, bike rides, boating, eating our local delicious cuisine and having cocktails by the water with my husband are a few of my favorite things. Our English Labrador, Josey, loves Colonial Beach as much as we do!



# Upcoming Community Events

For a full list of community events visit  
<https://visitchbva.com/all-events/>

## 2nd Friday Artwalk

Friday, December 8

6-9 PM

2nd Friday Art Walks in November and December feature works in galleries, retail establishments, and restaurants & breweries throughout town. Visitors will find paintings, sculpture, photography, jewelry and textile arts. Often, the artists are on hand.

Host: Colonial Beach Artists Guild

## Christmastide Weekend at Stratford Hall

Friday, December 8 – Sunday, December 10

All Day

Location: Stratford Hall Historic Preserve. 483 Great House Rd, Stratford, VA 22558

For the first time, this year's annual Christmastide celebration at Stratford Hall will feature a full weekend of activities. Come enjoy historic Stratford Hall and its grounds while taking in the spirit of the season.

Host: Stratford Hall

## Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail Wineries' Holiday Sip & Shop

Saturday, December 9

Time varies per winery

Location: Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail Participating Wineries

Join the participating wineries of the Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail for holiday refreshments and wine/gift specials during their Holiday Sip & Shop. Check out the @ChesapeakeBayWineTrail Facebook page for more info, participants, times, and updates leading up to the event.

Host: The Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail

## 21st Annual Colonial Beach Christmas House Tour for the Holidays

Saturday, December 9, 4-6 PM and 6-8 PM

Sunday, December 10, 2-4 PM

For over 21 years the Holiday House Tour in Colonial Beach has featured some of the most beautiful homes in the Northern Neck. This year there will be 3 tour times and several tour routes. All tours start at the Colonial Beach History Museum. Visitors can enjoy the trolley for an additional fee or take a self-guided driving tour.

Host: The Colonial Beach Historical Society and Museum

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/21st-annual-colonial-beach-christmas-house-tour-for-the-holidays-tickets-720505781187>

## Parks & Recreation Winter Door Décor Contest

Wednesday, December 13 to Friday, December 22

Location: Homes and businesses around Colonial Beach

The Door Décor contest is happening again! Judging starts December 13th and winners will be announced December 22nd. Prizes include a sign to place in your yard that identifies your door as a Winner!

Host: Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events Department

## Shop Colonial Beach Small Business

Saturday, December 16th

All Day - 8 AM - 6 PM

Location: Colonial Beach Businesses

Give the gift of small business, whether it is a gift certificate from our family owned and operated restaurants or shops or a weekend in one of our Inns or cottages. Walk along our holiday-decorated Hawthorn Street or stroll along the Boardwalk.

Hosts: Local Family Owned and Operated Businesses



# Upcoming Community Events

## 5th Annual “Let’s Light Up the Beach” Light Contest

Saturday, December 16 through Thursday, December 21

Register your home’s holiday decorations by Friday, December 15 by email to:

[townofcolonialbeachchristmas@gmail.com](mailto:townofcolonialbeachchristmas@gmail.com).

Location: Homes around Colonial Beach

@TownofCBVA Facebook voting will be open from Saturday, December 16 – Thursday, December 21 at midnight. First & Second Place Winners will be announced on Friday, December 22. Winners receive bragging rights and yard signs for the best home décor that involves outdoor lighting.

Host: Town of Colonial Beach Christmas

## Music in the Air

Saturday, December 23 and Sunday, December 24  
2-4 PM

Location: Downtown Colonial Beach

Live Music will be performed by the local community band and hometown carolers throughout the downtown area to celebrate the holiday season while shoppers enjoy a grand holiday shopping experience!

Hosts: Downtown Colonial Beach, Colonial Beach Community Foundation, and the Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events

## New Year’s Eve Crab Pot Drop

Sunday, December 31  
6-8 PM

Location: Town Hill at the corner of Washington and Colonial Avenues

This annual family-friendly event features games, music, hot cocoa, and the dropping of an illuminated Crab Pot that counts down to an early New Year.

Hosts: Colonial Beach Outfitters and the Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events Department

## Town of Colonial Beach Announces Two Key Police Department Appointments: Les Parsons as Interim Chief of Police and Nathan Thompson as Interim Lieutenant

The Town of Colonial Beach recently announced the appointment of Les Parsons as its Interim Chief of Police, and Nathan Thompson as Interim Lieutenant.



With more than 23 years of experience and expertise in law enforcement, Interim Chief Les Parsons began his sworn police duty as a police officer in Southern California in 1999, where he served as a patrol officer and detective. He also participated in community policing bureaus,

coordinating and managing community programs. In 2014, Parsons moved across the country to join the Colonial Beach Police Department, where he has spent the past ten years working as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, and patrol lieutenant. As Interim Chief, Parsons pledges to continue to work diligently to grow and strengthen the partnership between the Police Department and the Colonial Beach community.

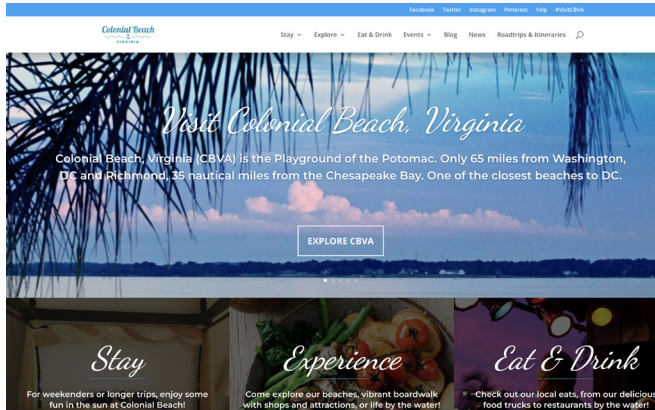


Thompson has been with the department for nearly two years in several capacities and is returning after a brief, self-initiated leave of absence to assume this new role. With twelve years of Law Enforcement Administration, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our town and the

Police Department. In his time with the department thus far, Thompson has been recognized for his positive community engagements and dedication to making our town a safe place to live and visit.



- Check out the new and improved VisitCBVA Calendar!



- The newly refreshed page will be your go-to for happenings around town. <https://visitcbva.com/all-events/>
- The Colonial Beach Economic Development Committee helped sponsor a Career and Apprenticeship Fair on October 12 in the Colonial Beach Elementary School gym. Over 70 students visited 30 tables of career representatives. Career assessments were also available for students to identify areas of interest within career clusters. In addition, the GO VirginiaT Region 6 Entrepreneurship grant project is well underway. Students have had a variety of guest speakers, toured the Big RVA Market in Richmond as well as visited the Colonial Beach Farmers Market. Through this program, students have selected two products they will develop and retail in the Spring of 2024 at the Colonial Beach Farmers Market.
- Many thanks to everyone who came to CoBe Workspaces for the monthly Welcome to Colonial Beach Meet Up! Attendees heard from Kelly Evko and Jeff Crook with Downtown Colonial Beach about work being done toward becoming a Virginia Main Street community. Manager Kelsey Biser and Chef Robyn Carter from Drift Colonial Beach and Muse talked about their visions and opening plans for the new restaurants on the boardwalk. Duke Dodson also gave an update on Dodson Projects.

## Parks & Rec Highlights

December 1st-12th is the exciting Search for Golden


Oyster Shells. Your search could lead to a family adventure! Visit Downtown Colonial Beach and search for golden oyster shells to trade for beautiful artisan shells! When you find a golden shell anywhere outdoors in the downtown area, you can take it to Beach Paws Boutique at 116 Hawthorn St. or Colonial Buzz at 234 Colonial Ave. to trade for a gorgeous artisan shell. There are plenty of shells for visitors and residents alike.


The 2nd Friday Coffee Walk happens on December 8th! Meet at Colonial Buzz at 234 Colonial Avenue and finish at Julie's Coffeehouse at 200 N Irving Avenue. Everyone is welcome to meet for coffee before we enjoy a beautiful walk along the Boardwalk. We always have a great group of walkers (who may or may not drink coffee).


December 29th from 3-8 PM come to the Colonial Beach Community Center at 717 Marshall Ave. for the first Access EXPO! Ring in 2024 by exploring services and support networks designed to accommodate individuals with accessibility issues. The Hard to Tell band, a food truck, kids activities, and organizations with useful information will be on hand. This event is hosted by Colonial Beach Explorers and Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events.


## Winter Prep Time

As the days get shorter and the temperature drops, it's time to get ready for the winter wonderland that's just around the corner. Here are some essential tips to help you stay cozy and safe during the cold season:

 **Check Your Vehicle:** Ensure your car is winter-ready by inspecting tires, brakes, and topping off antifreeze.

 **Home Sweet Home:** Don't forget to winterize your home. Seal any drafts, insulate pipes, and make sure your heating system is in tip-top shape.

 **Safety First:** Equip your home and car with essential winter safety items, including an emergency kit, flashlights, and salt for sidewalks.

 **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye on the weather forecast and stay updated on any winter storm warnings.

Let's make this winter season a cozy and enjoyable one!

## CODE RED INFO



**Uses** The CodeRED® system will be used to send urgent communications from the Town of Colonial Beach.

**Caller ID** When you see the following displayed, you will know the call is from us. If you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

- Emergency Notifications  
1-866-419-5000 or Emergency Comm
- General Notifications  
1-855-969-4636 or General Comm

**Join Our Database** To make sure you receive notifications, please register at Community Notification Enrollment ([codedredweb.com](http://codedredweb.com)) or visit our website at [www.colonialbeachva.gov](http://www.colonialbeachva.gov) and go to How Do I – Sign up For CodeRED

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## 2023 Yard Debris Pick up Schedule

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

### The Best Things To Do In Colonial Beach, Virginia

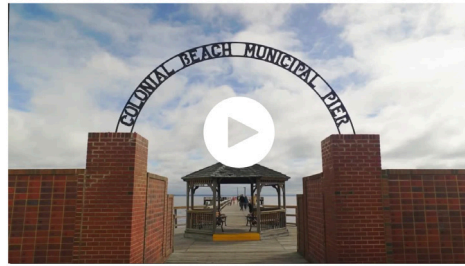
There's more to this coastal town on the Potomac River than its celebrated flip-flop lifestyle, including award-winning wines, family-friendly festivals, and a rich presidential history.

By [Kris Gifford](#) Published on September 1, 2023



Colonial Beach was featured in Southern Living *The Best Things To Do In Colonial Beach, Virginia*. There's more to this coastal town on the Potomac River than being a golf cart community with a celebrated flip-flop lifestyle. There are award-winning wines, family-friendly festivals, a rich presidential history, and, of course, the beach.

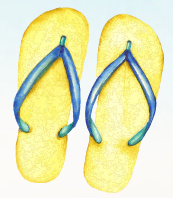
### Have you been to Colonial Beach yet? We'll show you around



Colonial Beach was featured on a show called *Discover* with Dave Parker. The segment plays on CBS affiliates in Virginia. Dave travels around highlighting great food, things to do and see, and the people who make up this amazing state.

The Virginia Osprey Festival in Colonial Beach made an appearance in the global British magazine, *Oceanographic*. The article by Cheryl Lyn Dybas with photographs by Jay Fleming features quotes from Festival Organizer Joanie Millward. Congratulations, Colonial Beach Osprey Foundation!

# Colonial Beach Around Town



Ann Yowell was the winner of this year's Fall Door Decor contest! Thank you Ann, and congratulations! Be sure to send your door's address to [sadams@colonialbeachva.gov](mailto:sadams@colonialbeachva.gov) to participate in the Holiday Door Decor contest in December!



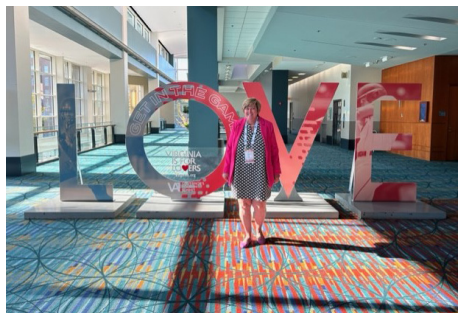
Thank you, Artist Becky Hunt (pictured with wonder dog, Barley), for creating this marvelous LOVE Sign that makes a perfect photo opportunity. Find it at the "bottom" of Town Hill Park in Colonial Beach, along the Boardwalk between River Edge Motel and Riverboat Restaurant.



Jan Swink and her crew spend all of November preparing Town Hill for the holidays. Be sure and drive by the corner of Washington and Colonial Avenues after sunset and get a look at all the lighted decorations!



Parks, Recreation, & Events hosts Oyster Shell Craft Night in preparation for the Golden Oyster Shell Hunt December 1st-12th.



Economic Development Director, Kelly Evko represented Colonial Beach at the VAI- Governor's Tourism Conference.




## Happy Holidays Everyone!



### Contact Info

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Colonial Beach, VA 22443  
(804) 224-7181

### Follow Us On Social!

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