

Meet Vicki Roberson, Vice Mayor of Town of Colonial Beach, Virginia

Vice Mayor Vicki Roberson still loves the close knit, small town that welcomed her over 40 years ago

Town of Colonial Beach, Virginia (CBVA), Vice Mayor Vicki Roberson has dedicated her life to educating the area's children. In fact, her passion for education is one of the primary reasons she ran for Town Council in 2018.

"Education has changed; it's become more expensive. There wasn't a lot of representation for the schools; I thought maybe I could help. So I ran and won," explains Vice Mayor Roberson.

Roberson moved to Colonial Beach from Pittsburgh to take a teaching job in 1978. She spent the next 26 years teaching language arts and social studies to students in grades five through seven (plus an additional eight years teaching in King George) and served as the gifted coordinator for Colonial Beach schools. (Her husband, Larry, also spent his career teaching at Colonial Beach High School.) Vicki spent her first summer here as a lifeguard at the former Colonial Beach Hotel, built around the summer home of General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, father of Robert E. Lee and previously located on what is now Town Hill.

"It was the most boring job; maybe ten people in the pool at the most, at any given time. And the water turned my hair green," laughs Vicki. "Waitressing at the Inn at Montross was worse, however. We wore Colonial-era uniforms, a long dress with aprons that we tripped over all the time."

Living in Colonial Beach for over 40 years, Roberson has had a front row view of the transformation of the Town over the last four decades. The Vice Mayor says she is "floored" by the number of small businesses now open in Colonial Beach and the volume of activities and events that have turned CBVA from a summer retreat to a year-round destination.

"Once the gambling stopped, everything kind of closed down. But now the town is undergoing a resurgence, a rapid growth spurt," notes Mrs. Roberson. "So many new people have come here and put themselves out there: dove in, gotten involved in the community, and overwhelmingly brought good ideas. We've expanded, but remain close knit. People settle here because they appreciate—and are content—with our slower pace and small town atmosphere."

The vice mayor has yet to decide if she will seek re-election to Town Council this November.

"I was on the Colonial Beach School Board from 2009-2018, presently on the Rappahannock Community College board, and recently joined the Chesapeake Bay Governor's Schools Board," announced the vice mayor. "I know education; it's what I've always done and I understand it. Being a member of Town Council is different; it's a lot. There are so many entities, so many more things you have to think about. The stakes are higher because you are representing a population of people—one that has grown exponentially since I moved here. And that's a good thing."