



The Community Advocate

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

P.O. Box 9252 Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9252

<http://vbcco.org>

March 2008 Volume 49 - Number 3

Aging Neighborhoods: Revitalize or Redevelop

March 12, 7pm to 8:30pm

Virginia Beach Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd

NOTE: The Central Library is closed on March 12, but the auditorium can still be accessed using the rear library entrance.

Share Your Light Night will be providing cocoa and cookies, so arrive early!

Join us for an overview of zoning and code enforcement and panel discussion on neighborhood revitalization with Andy Friedman from the Department of Housing and Karen Lasley from Zoning.

VBCCO will highlight a community at each general meeting. March's community spotlight is Green Run.

CCO will hold a 50/50 raffle to raise funds for operating expenses, so bring a few dollars with you for a chance to help CCO and to win half of the night's wager.

CCO's Executive Committee Meets

March 26, 2008, 7pm to 9pm

Glenwood Community Center

Upcoming Program Topics

The schedule below is tentative and is subject to change.

Apr 9 Did Richmond Hear You?
Moderated by Joel Rubin
Community Focus:
Carolanne Farm Civic League

May 14 Strategic Growth: City's
12 Strategic Growth Areas
Community Focus:
Pocahontas Village

Jun 11 Comprehensive Plan

All VBCCO meetings will begin at 7pm at Virginia Beach Central Library

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

CCO's Community Empowerment Taskforce wants to help you. To accomplish this it needs to identify what kind of help you need.

Please complete the survey below by checking the topics with which you would like help. Then bring it to the March 12th general meeting, mail it to

Brenda Armitage
PO Box 61441
Virginia Beach, VA 23466

or email responses to shareyourlightnight@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT TASKFORCE SURVEY

I would like help with:

<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working with City Departments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruitment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Events
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parliamentary Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs/speakers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aging neighborhoods
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Other: _____

Name: _____

Community: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Community Spotlight: Green Run

There's More To Green Run Than You Might Think

The Green Run community is comprised of 37 smaller neighborhoods, with an eclectic mix of 4,201 single-family homes, townhomes, and condominiums, approximately 600 apartments, and numerous commercial properties and businesses. 2005 census figures place its population at nearly 16,000.

Green Run covers nearly six square miles in the center of Virginia Beach. Its boundaries include Buckner Blvd. and Tidewater Community College to the south, Chimney Hill and Holland Road to the North and East, and Princess Anne Road to the West. Major sections of Lynnhaven Parkway, South Independence Blvd., and Rosemont Road run through the neighborhood. Its central location is one of the many reasons its residents refer to it as "The Heart of Virginia Beach."

Green Run's History

Developed by GSH Real Estate, Green Run was the first Planned Unit Development ("PUD") in Hampton Roads, and Oscar B. Ferebee, Jr., was the first President. Construction on Phase 1 began in 1970. By May of 1972, homes were selling faster than they could be constructed.

As originally envisioned, there were to be four large living circles all with single-family homes. However, development plans were modified several times in the late 1970s and 1980s, resulting in significant numbers of townhouses, condominiums, and apartments. Building continued for nearly 20 years, and the last residential construction was completed in 1989.

The Association

Homeowners automatically become members of the Green Run Homes Association. The Association's mission is to promote the recreation, health, safety and welfare of residents. Green Run's nine-member Board of Directors set policy and appoint the Executive Director who supervises the Association's day-to-day operations and its 47 employees.

The Association sponsors over a dozen youth recreational sports programs in

swimming, tackle and flag football, and basketball as well as a senior citizens group and numerous scouting-type activities. In addition, the Green Run Athletic Complex has been home, for over 27 years, to Green Run Little League.

Beginning with a 2005 change to its governing documents, Green Run Homes Association also assumed responsibility for enforcing building maintenance codes within the community to ensure that properties are properly maintained by owners.

The Association maintains a Community Center, four recreation centers with swimming pools and tennis courts, 14 parks and playgrounds, an athletic complex, and roughly 200 acres of common area or "green belt" including 5.5 miles of canals with 11 miles of shoreline.

Building a Community

Green Run has a wide array of programs and events for residents of all ages. These include quarterly seniors dinners, youth sports programs, annual Easter Egg Hunt, and pool parties. In 2006, the Association partnered with State Delegate Sal Iaquinto and Attorney General Bob McDonnell to create Safe Kids Day, an annual event that promotes child safety for residents. A Teen Council was started in 2006 to enable youths to participate in community volunteer activities, and Green Run has the largest Neighborhood Watch program in Virginia Beach.

The Fall Cook-Out, begun in 2005, has an annual attendance of nearly 800 residents. The annual event gives residents an opportunity to eat, listen to great local music, and connect with neighbors from across the community. Residents are also able to network with Association leaders and staff along with city, state, and federal officials. Attendees often include the Mayor, members of City Council, Fire Chief, Chief of Police, representatives from city departments, members of the General Assembly, Attorney General Bob McDonnell, and Congresswoman Thelma Drake.

Getting Residents Involved

Three years ago, the Board created a

vision for transforming Green Run into a more modern neighborhood with a true sense of community where residents are proud to live. They began by holding a Town Hall Meeting and inviting residents to share their goals and vision for the community. Then the Board, with help from volunteers and staff, crafted a five-year strategic plan.

To encourage civic involvement, the Association holds periodic Town Hall Meetings with city and state officials on topics of interest to residents, and has begun sponsoring a voter registration initiative.

Green Run's Board regularly meets with residents to determine how to better meet their needs, and it actively recruits volunteers with diverse points of view, to ensure that minority opinions are represented.

Green Run has a thriving volunteer community. In 2007, volunteers planted over 50 trees throughout the community on Arbor Day. Green Run has adopted several streets and parks within the community through the city's adopt-a-street and adopt-a-spot programs. Volunteers clean these areas at least once every month, rather than once-every-six-months as required by the program. Green Run also serves as Partners in Education with three local elementary schools and regularly sends volunteers to assist the schools.

Green Run has received positive attention to its many programs, both from residents and the press. During 2006, WTKR-TV 3 ran a series of stories on Green Run, and during 2007, the Virginian-Pilot's "At Home Section" ran a very positive profile on the neighborhood.

What The Future Holds

In the coming year, the Association will begin to replace its dated entry signs with new, modern signs and electronic message boards to better communicate with residents; continue to refine its strategic planning and goal-setting process to better serve members; and develop a pilot program to provide training and orientation to owners of rental property so that they and their tenants can be good neighbors and productive members of the community.

Pembroke Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The community is invited to attend a Citizen Information Meeting on Monday, March 17, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, 201 Market St., on the Pembroke Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CIP Project 2-238). The project is developing short-, mid- and long-term alternatives to improve the traffic flow in Virginia Beach's Central Business District.

Alternative transit methods, arterial improvements, pedestrian access and aesthetic design elements have been evaluated, and representatives from the City of Virginia Beach will be available at the meeting to provide information on roadway and aesthetic improvements associated with the plan, which was coordinated with the Virginia Department of Transportation I-264 Study.

For additional information, contact Heather Ham at 385-4131 or visit www.downtownvb.com.

Proposal to Change City's Current Legislative Agenda Process

by Chandler Scarborough, VBCCO Past President

At the March 12 meeting, members will be asked to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the City of Virginia Beach holds an annual community forum to solicit input from citizens regarding items to include in the city's legislative package to the General Assembly, and

Whereas both the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations and the City's Blue Ribbon Tax, Fee, and Spending Taskforce has recommended that City Council seek greater input from stakeholders when drafting city policy and determining priorities, and

Whereas the determination about which items from the citizens' input merit inclusion in the city's annual legislative package and the level and weight of city support given to these items has, at times, been a source of confusion for members of Council and a source of frustration and contention for citizens,

The Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations does hereby request that City Council:

- direct staff, no later than April 30, 2008 to set a time, date, and location for the 2008 Community Legislative Forum,
- that the format for such legislative forum be similar to the city's Town Meetings, that it be held during the evening as other Town Meetings have been held, and that all members of Council strive to attend the meetings so they can hear citizen input firsthand and unfiltered by city staff, so that members of Council may be able to judge each citizen recommendation on its own merit when determining whether to include such recommendation in the city's legislative package and when determining the appropriate level and weight of the city's support for such recommendation,
- that the time, date, and location be communicated to citizens and other stakeholders in writing no later than May 31, 2008 and be included on the city website, in future editions of City Page and by other customary means of communications for Town Meetings, and
- that such meeting include a written briefing by city staff on all staff recommendations which staff propose that City Council include in the city's legislative package, so that members of Council may hear feedback from citizens and other stakeholders before voting to support or reject staff's recommendations.

VBCCO 2008 Budget

Below is the VBCCO 2008 Budget to be voted on at the March 12, 2008 VBCCO General Meeting.

2008 Revenue and Expenses	Budget Amt
Income	
Banquet income	
Banquet program advertisement	\$160.00
Banquet tickets	\$4,000.00
Community contributions	\$500.00
Total Banquet income	\$4,660.00
Connections Conference income	
Community contributions	
Notebook advertisements	\$500.00
Total Connections Conference income	\$500.00
General income	
50/50	\$100.00
Membership dues	\$2,175.00
Total General income	\$2,275.00
Total Income	\$7,435.00
Expense	
Banquet Expense	
Banquet awards	\$75.00
Banquet decorations	\$200.00
Banquet entertainment	\$200.00
Banquet facility & food	\$4,200.00
Banquet misc supplies	\$10.00
Banquet Program printing	\$200.00
Banquet reserve form printing	\$20.00
Total Banquet Expense	\$4,905.00
Connections Conference expense	
Notebooks	\$550.00
Office supplies	\$50.00
Total Connections Conference expense	\$600.00
General Expense	
Bank account forms	\$10.00
Contingency fund	\$100.00
General meeting room	\$100.00
Newsletter print and mail	\$500.00
Office supplies	\$50.00
Post Office box	\$100.00
Postage	\$100.00
Speakers	\$200.00
State corporation fee	\$25.00
Website expense	\$25.00
Total General expense	\$1,210.00
Total Expense	\$6,715.00
=====	
Net Income	\$720.00



VBCCO Committee Meetings

Community Empowerment Taskforce Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2008

10:00 AM

**BEACH PUB
1001 Laskin Rd
Virginia Beach**

VBCCO Committees in Action

CCO REACHES OUT TO STRUGGLING CIVIC LEAGUES

By Brenda Armitage, CET Committee Chairperson

On February 23rd, thirteen people attended the second Civic Revitalization Workshop, the brainchild of CCO's Community Empowerment Taskforce. The goal was to help put struggling civic leagues on the road to success.

Discussion topics included a success story, communications and newsletters, generational considerations, basics of holding a meeting, event planning, recruitment, and Neighborhood Watch. Results from the opinion survey afterwards reflected that 100% of the participants thought the workshop gave them the resources and contacts they needed.

Now, we are looking to better every organization. Please help us by filling out the survey located in this newsletter. If you are not in need, please share with us all that is right with your organization so we may share your wisdom with others. We want to hear from you.

Neighborhood Institute Course Now Open for Registration

The Virginia Beach Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation invites city residents to enroll in the next session of the city's Neighborhood Institute. This 11-week course provides residents and community leaders with an opportunity to learn from city officials, network with other residents and leaders, and gain skills in community leadership. The course is entitled "Neighborhood Leadership and Development," and involves presentations by city leaders, tours of the city and its neighborhoods, and a simulated City Council session in order to provide a wide range of both hands-on and classroom learning opportunities.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., from April 3 through June 12, including one Monday in City Council Chambers and three Saturday tours. Thursday night classes are held at the Advanced Technology Center, located off Princess Anne Road at 1800 College Crescent.

A fee of \$35 per participant is charged to help defray the cost of the class. The fee includes course materials, tour transportation and lunches. Registration is due along with an application by March 31 to reserve a seat. All Virginia Beach residents interested in registering should call the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation at 385-8132.

The Neighborhood Institute has been offered for more than a decade and over 300 people have graduated, including current City Councilmember Bob Dyer. Past participants have said that it provided invaluable information about city services and government that they can use to help their civic leagues and other community groups.

VIRGINIA BEACH COUNCIL OF CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS 2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION

Membership Annual Dues \$25.00. Send to VBCCO, P O Box 9252 Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9252

Date _____ Number of members _____ Zip Code _____

Name of Organization: _____

Month Elections are held _____ Month day meetings held _____

Time meetings begin _____ Location of meetings _____

Number of residences in community served by your organization. _____

Name of newsletter _____

Web Site _____

Signature of authorizing officer _____ Title _____

Write information about key officials below. Generally it is desirable to have as a minimum the president, secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor. Write in the first four lines the persons who are authorized to act as voting representatives (primary [1 & 2] and alternate [3 & 4]). It is recommended that the president [chief executive officer] be designated as a representative. The City, media and other agencies prefer this person as the contact person for liaison. Unless otherwise advised, the CEO will be listed on the VBCCO web site as the primary contact person. If other than the CEO is desired to be listed as the primary contact person, write (PC) as the end of the person's name below. If more than four officers, use two forms to list additional officers information.

Office Title 1	
Name	
Street Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Office Title 2	
Name	
Street Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Office Title 3	
Name	
Street Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Office Title 4	
Name	
Street Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Code Enforcement Promotes Vibrant Well-Maintained Neighborhoods

Most Virginia Beach residents have seen them. Those white pickup trucks that slowly advance down each street of a neighborhood, prominently displaying across their doors the City seal and in bold block letters: Housing & Neighborhood Preservation. But while Code Enforcement, a division of the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation (DHNP), is such a visible symbol in Virginia Beach communities, most residents are probably unaware of the scope of what the division does exactly and why. By understanding what Code Enforcement's objectives are and how it achieves them residents can also understand why the division is needed to promote a vibrant, well-maintained neighborhood.

Code Enforcement has three main objectives:

- Maintain the safety and ap-

pearance of Virginia Beach's existing structures and properties through the inspection of properties throughout the City

- Protect the health, safety and welfare of Virginia Beach residents
- Enforce maintenance provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code and City Property Maintenance Codes.

"Our ultimate goal is not to prosecute or give fines, but to gain code compliance in order to help maintain and preserve the quality of life for citizens in their communities," said Code Enforcement Administrator Lynn Rountree.

For the division and its staff, achieving this means spending lots of man hours patrolling and inspecting neighborhoods, responding to citizen complaints and working with citizens to correct

code violations. Last year alone, the division handled nearly 30,000 separate cases. About two-thirds were the result of inspector patrols and the remainder from citizen complaints. The most common case type involved property maintenance violations, followed by building maintenance and inoperable vehicle violations. In addition to these types of activities, the division also conducts inspections of rental property; overgrown grass, litter and junk; waste management and unsafe gas appliances, and abates graffiti on private property.

While these activities are the main functions of Code Enforcement, the division actively participates in other citywide programs and activities. For example, the division collaborates with the Fire Marshal's Office and the Department of Human Services to address the issue of hoarding in the commu-

Continued on next page...

More about Code Enforcement:

The division is made up of 21 Code Enforcement inspectors, four supervisors and one administrator. It consists of four teams; each team is assigned to one of four precincts, which mirror the four Police Precincts.

Code Enforcement Contact Information

Division Phone Number: 757-385-4421

1st Precinct Supervisor: Joel Sanders, 757-385-1278

2nd Precinct Supervisor: Randy Blake, 757-385-1276

3rd Precinct Supervisor: Fred Relis, 757-385-5721

4th Precinct Supervisor: Wells Freed, 757-385-5722

Code Enforcement does not regulate land-use issues; boat, trailer, and RV parking; and commercial vehicle parking. These issues fall under Zoning regulations. For more information, contact Zoning Administration at (757) 385-8074. Code Enforcement regulates inoperable vehicles on private property only. To report inoperable or unattended vehicles parked on a public street or on public property, contact the City Police Department at 757-385-5000.

Also of interest:

DHNP has Façade and Home Repair Programs, administered by its Housing Development Division, which can assist eligible owners with the correction of code violations. Funds are provided in the form of a no-interest deferred loan secured by a Deed of Trust for eligible home repairs. Qualified applicants make no payments and do not accumulate interest as long as they own and occupy their home. For more information about these programs contact the department at 757-385-5750.

Continued from previous page...

nity. The division offers its expertise and services as a member of the Hotel Motel Taskforce by inspecting every hotel and motel in the city each year to ensure they are safe for visitors. Code Enforcement also enhances its involvement in the community through its interaction with civic leagues, Citizen's Advisory Committees and homeowner's associations.

All of these activities combined are how Code Enforcement helps promote vibrant, well-maintained neighborhoods. But the division cannot do this alone. Residents should also keep in mind that how each home is maintained impacts the entire community. Together, citizens and Code Enforcement preserve a neighborhood's vitality.

"The way a person maintains his or her property not only affects that one property but it also affects how others perceive that neighborhood as well," says Rountree. "How everyone takes care of their property contributes to citizens' perceptions that where they live is a safe, vibrant and well-maintained neighborhood."

The job of Code Enforcement, however, is to help insure that the neighborhoods where residents live actually are that way.

For more information about Code Enforcement and DHNP's programs and services, call 757-385-5750 or visit www.VBgov.com/housing.

Any CCO member-in-good-standing may reprint any article from the CCO newsletter or website provided that no changes are made to the article and that CCO is cited as the original source. Non-members may request permission to reprint CCO articles.

VBCCO Member Civic Organizations

Aeries on the Bay*
Alanton*
Alexandria
Aragona Village*
Avalon Hills*
Avalon Terrace/Woods of Avalon*
Back Bay / Pungo*
Bay Breeze Villas*
Baycliff*
Baylake Pines*
Bayville Park
Bellamy Plantation*
Bellamy Woods*
Bellwood Estates*
Birchwood*
Birdneck Lake Homes*
Birdneck Point*
Blackwater*
Brigadoon*
Brighton on the Bay*
Broad Bay Island
Broad Bay Pt. Gr.
Cambridge Courts*
Cape Henry Shores*
Cape Story By The Sea*
Carolanne Farm*
Cavalier Park/Bay Colony*
Chancellor Walk
Charlestowne Lakes S.
Charlestowne Woods*
Chelsea-Green Hill Fms-Mead.*
Chesapeake Beach*
Cheshire*
Chesapeake Colony*
Columbus Station*
Croatan*
Cypress Point*
Deerwood Trace
Diamond Lake Estates
Fairfield*
Glenwood*
Great Neck Estates*
Great Neck Point
Green Run*
Groveland Park
Hidden Oaks
Holland Pines
Homestead*
Hunt Club Forest*
Inlynnview
Kempsville Greens*
King's Grant*
King's Point
Lago Mar
Lake Edward
Lake Holly North
Lake Shores*
Lake Smith*
Lakeview Park*
Lakeville Estates*
Lamplight Manor*
Larkspur*
Laurel Cove*
Level Green*
Linkhorn Cove*
Linlier*
Little Haven*
Little Neck Cove*
Lynbrook Landing
Lynnhaven Colony*
Lynnhaven Woods
Manchester Village*
Mediterranean Avenue S.*
New Light*
Newcastle - Princeton*
North Alanton*
North Virginia Beach*
Ocean Park*
Oceana Gardens*
Park Place*
Pembroke Manor*
Pine Meadows
Princess Anne Crossing*
Princess Anne Plaza*
Red Mill Farms
Ridglea*
River Haven*
Riverton on the Elizabeth
Rudee Heights*
Salt Marsh Point*
Salem Woods*
Sandbridge Beach*
Scarborough Square*
Sea Breeze Farm*
Seagate Colony
Seatack*
Shadowlawn*
Sherry Park*
Shore Acres*
Southall Quarter*
Stratford Chase
Thalia*
The Villages*
Thoroughgood Colony*
Three Oaks*
Trantwood Lake*
Washington Square
Wellington Woods*
Witchduck*
Wolfsnare Plantation*
Wood-hurst
Wood-

*Denotes members in good standing with 2007 dues paid.



VBCCO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
4604 Williamsburg Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-2241
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For all except "Temporarily Away"

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