



The Community Advocate

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

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

<http://vbcco.org>

May 2008 Volume 49 - Number 4

May 14 Meeting: City's 12 Strategic Growth Areas

May 14th, 7pm to 8:30pm
Virginia Beach Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd

Thomas C. Pauls AICP, the
Comprehensive Planning
Coordinator for the City of Virginia
Beach will be discussing the 12
Strategic Growth Areas.

Gary Brittingham will discuss the
importance of the **Pet Oxygen Mask**.

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 collections.

Door Prizes

CCO's Executive Committee Meets
May 28th, 2008, 7pm to 9pm
Glenwood Community Center
2097 Round Hill Drive

Don't tell people how to do things,
tell them what to do and let them
surprise you with their results.
- George S. Patton

Upcoming Program Topics

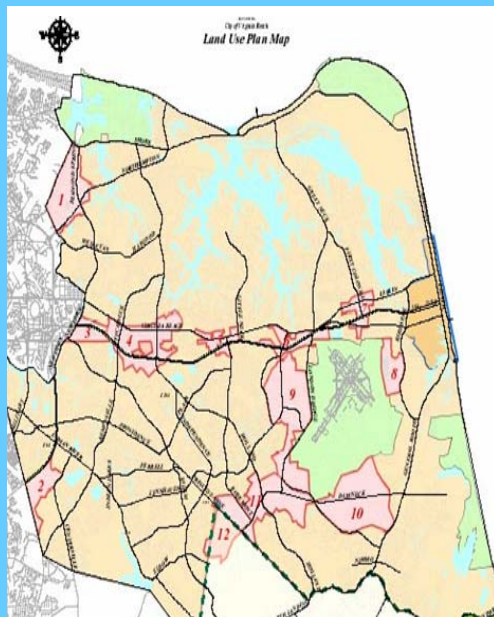
The schedule below is tentative and is
subject to change.

Jun 11 Comprehensive Plan
Jul 9 Neighborhood Social Event
Aug 13 Transportation

If you have ideas for specific topics you
would like to see covered by the programs,
contact Jermaine Hannah at
jayhannah@cox.net.

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

What does the city have planned for your neighborhood?



The key elements of SGA's are:

- Defined growth centers
- Mix of residential and non-residential
- Well-planned arrangement of Uses
- Parking structures
- Alternative transportation systems
- Urban open spaces

Do you live in one of the 12 Strategic Growth Areas? (Highlighted in map above):

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Northampton Blvd Corridor | 7. Hilltop/North Oceana Area |
| 2. I-64 South | 8. East Oceana Area |
| 3. Newtown Area | 9. West Oceana Area |
| 4. Pembroke Area | 10. South Oceana Area |
| 5. North Rosemont Area | 11. West Holland Area |
| 6. North London Bridge Area | 12. North Princess Anne
Commons |

"In an effort to prevent urban sprawl, protect established residential neighborhoods and rural areas, and sustain economic growth and infrastructure, the City has developed planning principles to define appropriate areas for urban and non-urban development. This effort requires a re-evaluation of what it means to grow."

-The City of Virginia Beach, 2003 Comprehensive Plan Policy Document

Community Spotlight: Carolanne Farm

By: Brenda Armitage

During April's general meeting, we learned about the history of the Carolanne Farm/Arrowhead area before the neighborhoods, how the neighborhoods developed, what goals its league had accomplished, the struggles it went through, and how it's doing today.

Carolanne Farm was referred to as early as the 1890's. The current subdivision was developed on land previously owned by Oscar Smith, as well as the Overholt and Yoder families. Today, you can still find a few old farm houses located off of Parliament Drive (formerly Princess Anne Road). The small farms were all originally part of two large plantations as early as the late 1600's; the Greenwich and Newtown. These plantations were owned by the Moseley and Walke families, the two wealthiest families in Princess Anne County history.

The neighborhood of Carolanne Farm was built in the late 1960's. Jumping ahead to 1972, neighbors from the Carolanne Farm Civic League joined together to build a large community pool. The founders put up their own money to finance the project. The pool was opened in August 1972 and it still operating today teaching community children how to swim and offering a place for neighbors to gather and celebrate together.

Shortly after, another project was brought to fruition where the league united with the City of Va. Beach, Boy/Girl Scouts and many other organizations to form the Carolanne Farm Neighborhood Park -Elizabeth River Nature and Canoe Trail. The park, where once stood a water treatment plant, offers a pier and canoe launch feeding into a finger of the River and a fresh water lake known by locals as "Turtle Lake".

After the death of our former league president, the league went into hibernation and consisted of two members for years, one so loyal he continued to attend the CCO meetings during this hibernation. At present, CAFCL umbrellas the neighborhoods of Arrowhead, Carolanne Farm, Carolanne Point, Huntington, Huntington Estates and Plantation Cove neighborhoods in the Kempsville area of the City. United, we represent nearly 2000 homes and an estimated 5000 neighbors.

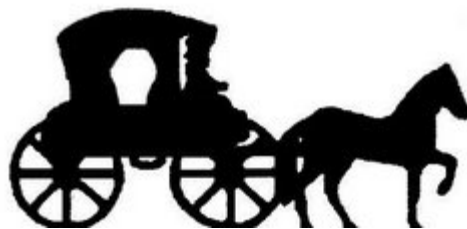
In late fall of 2006, CAFCL started the revitalization process. Within one month of revitalizing, we held our first luminary event where neighbors sat out white bags with lights along their property line. We had neighbors meeting each other for the first time after 15 years living 4 doors down from one another, neighbors weeping tears of pure joy as it made their entire holiday (it's held the second Saturday of December). But most importantly, it created a sense of *true community* where it was lacking in today's busy everyday life.

Today we are strong once again and have reached record highs in membership since it's inception in the early 70s. I believe the luminary event is what catapulted our league to the level of success we enjoy today.

Programs we currently have planned are:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Spring Egg-stravaganza
- Secret Helpers (mini-yard makeover)
- Community Safety Fair
- Yard of the Month
- Seed and plant sharing networks
- Summer's End Gathering

Continued on page 7



Carolanne Farm Civic League
<http://www.cafcivicleague.blogspot.com/>

May 14 Agenda Item: Proposed VBCCO Position on Spot Zoning

By Jay Kerr, Chairman
Community Advocacy Taskforce

CCO's Community Advocacy Taskforce is developing standing positions on a variety of issues that impact Virginia Beach's neighborhoods and civic organizations. This will allow CCO leadership to act more quickly when specific issues develop.

The following position will be submitted to members for approval at the May 14 General Meeting.

[Insert proposed position]

For more information on this or other CCO positions, or to suggest an issue that you would like to see addressed by CCO, contact Jay Kerr at geekerr@gmail.com.

The Community Advocacy Taskforce meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month at Daily Grind, Town Center. Meetings are open to all members, and member participation is welcome.

Editorial: How Important is Safety?

by Chandler Scarborough,

Most people consider safety and quality of schools to be among their top reasons for selecting a neighborhood. Virginia Beach has long been known for its high test scores, and it has often been said that "the worst school in Virginia Beach is still better than the best school in most other cities." Virginia Beach has also promoted itself as the "safest city of its size in the country."

But how long will that be the case? Increased focus has been given over the past year is being given to the growth of youth "gangs" and violence. There is talk of a coming recession, and economic downturns historically lead to increased crime. Plus, over the past ten years, the size of Virginia Beach's police force has not kept pace with its population growth.

The first precinct, for example, stretches from Lynnhaven Parkway near Green Run all the way to the North Carolina border. That is a lot of ground to cover! I often hear from people throughout the city that they would like to see a greater police presence in their neighborhoods. Is it time to reexamine the number of police officers needed and to look for ways to increase their visibility?

The fact that many neighborhoods now have hired, or are considering hiring, off-duty police officers to patrol their streets seems to indicate that residents consider increased police presence a high priority and are willing to pay for that sense of security. But is it appropriate for neighborhoods to have to pay for police protection which most of us used to consider a "core" city service?

Are there REALLY no areas of the proposed budget from which additional funding could be moved to support public safety? If not, perhaps we should consider raising the tax rate to pay for additional police protection. While no one is thrilled by paying more taxes, at least property taxes are deductible. Payments for off-duty police officers and private security firms are not.

Rather than encouraging an ever-increasing number of neighborhoods to hire their own police forces, doesn't it make more sense to set the real estate tax rate at a realistic level so that the city can provide a sufficient level of service needed for its residents to feel safe?

Membership

Following the April 9, 2008 General Meeting of the Council of Civic Organizations, an email was sent to each members primary contact listing the organizations from which the 2008 membership fee had been received and recorded. Fees received since the last meeting will be recorded after the May meeting and will be reported to the members. Those members that have not yet submitted are reminded to send the payment check for \$25 payable to VBCCO to:

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

2009 Annual CCO Banquet

The CCO Banquet Committee has recommended holding the 2009 Banquet in March.

This change moves planning and registration deadlines beyond the holidays, moves the event beyond cold and flu season, and helps our Treasurer because money would come in during the same year as the event.

Let us know your thoughts on moving the event by emailing us at vbcco@cox.net.

Going a Little Green

Clean The Bay Day is coming up on **June 7th!!** If you know of an area on or near a waterway that needs some attention, please consider organizing a cleanup or let us know about it! Or, if you would like to volunteer to clean up in established locations, give us a call at 385-4104. In just 3 hours, you can really make a difference! Plus, there will be an appreciation picnic afterwards for all volunteers!



It's Not What You Know, or Who You Know.... It's Who Knows What You Know!

This is an exciting time and we want you to join us.

Do you remember the CET (Community Empowerment Taskforce) asking you to share your success stories with the rest of us? If not, we're asking you to do so now. We want each and every one of you to start a library network for everyone to reference. The reference book we're currently working on is a speaker's bureau, which was a brainchild of one of our members who emailed us. We are making great progress, but need your input to keep the momentum going.

Consider becoming a part of the CET team and share your knowledge and experience. Only through the sharing of tried and true tactics, combined with fresh new ideas, can we reach the goal of helping every struggling neighborhood and their leaders. Ask yourself: do we have a complete "how-to" book for neighborhood leaders? The answer is no! We want to change that and have you as a co-author.

Let's start talking regularly. Come join the conversation on the first Saturday of the month at various restaurants (posted online at vbcco.org) where we can discuss the tried and true, and the fresh and new.

To help those in need, join in the discussions by contacting Brenda, the CET Chairperson at 714-2772 or by email, shareyourlightnight@yahoo.com.

In Memory

Maurice B. Jackson
Sept. 4, 1919 – April 5, 2008

In 1980's Virginia Beach, when wrecking balls razed the comfy old hotels with their porches and fans and airy rooms, and Virginia Beach politicians could see nothing but dollar signs, Maury Jackson wanted to see something else. He wanted to see the ocean.



When the lot next to the Old Coast Guard Station seemed destined for construction, he wanted the Beach to purchase the parcel and preserve it as a public park. So, Maury - retired Navy commander and WWII veteran turned stockbroker - put the "act" back in "action" and headed to City Hall. The Virginia Beach activist joined forces with others, and despite many challenges, led the successful campaign to save one of the last slivers of open space along the Oceanfront... the 24th Street Park.

Today's 24th Street park is only one example of Maury's unselfish commitment to the welfare of our city and its residents. He also: led the successful effort to reapportion voting districts on an equal population basis when the 1990 census revealed that one district had a population of just under 1,000 while another had 144,000 residents; co-founded Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Hampton Roads, the Virginia Beach Audubon Society and the TaxPayers Alliance; was a past chairman of the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission (a position he held for 11 years), the Virginia Beach Beautification Commission, the Virginia Beach Sports Club, the Virginia Beach Optimist Club, and the Butterfly Society of Virginia.

Maury was an active member of numerous other Virginia Beach community organizations, serving as a director, an officer or a board member, including serving as VBCCO's President in 1991 and 1992.

Fair winds and following seas, Maury.

Help Shape the Future of CCO

CCO's Nominating Committee and Bylaws Committee are each seeking two new committee members. This is a chance for your neighborhood to have a positive impact on CCO's future direction and to ensure that CCO is meeting the needs of our members. We encourage members who have not previously served in a CCO leadership position to come forward and share your perspective.

For more information, contact Chandler Scarborough at 621-4919 or chandler@greenrun.org.

VBCCO Committee Meetings



Community Advocacy Taskforce

Saturday, May 10th,
10:30 a.m.
Daily Grind, Town Center

Community Calendar

May 6th 9:00 a.m.

Budget Reconciliation Workshop

Council Conference Room

May 7th 6:30 p.m.

Transportation Town Hall Hearing

See article on page 7
Council Chambers

May 8th 7:00 p.m.

Norfolk's "The Tide" 2010 Light Rail Discussion

Carolanne Farm Civic League
Arrowhead Elementary School
5549 Susquehanna Drive

May 12th 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

City Council One-Day Retreat

Economic Development
Conference Room
Town Center

May 13th 6:00 p.m.

Adoption of Budget

Council Chambers

Save the Date.....

June 14th

Safe Kids Day

Bon Secours, Virginia Beach
Celebrate Bon Secours' One-Year Anniversary & Learn how to make your family feel a bit safer.

Home Hurricane Protection—The Homeowner's to-do list

By: Ellen Bell

For the millions of people that live along the United States' southern and eastern coast lines, protecting your home from hurricanes is extremely important. One strong storm can leave your home devastated in a matter of hours. If you live along America's hurricane-prone coastlines, home hurricane protection is one area of investment you can't afford to ignore. But where do you begin? The following homeowner's to do list covers five steps to take before a storm hits to make sure your home is protected.

1. Secure your windows

The vast majority of all hurricane damage is caused by high wind speeds. High winds pick up debris and send it flying at incredible speeds. All it takes is one good sized tree branch to hit your window in just the right spot, and now your home has been breached. Shattered glass from window breaks also poses a real danger, particularly if you are inside the home during the storm. Hurricane shutters are one of the best investments you can make to protect your windows. Look for shutters that have received Dade County Product Approval, which is the highest standard in the industry for hurricane protection products. For a less expensive option, consider making your own shutters with 5/8" thick plywood.

2. Secure the garage door

This is particularly important if you have a home with an attached garage. The garage door is a weak point in most homes, and it can be easily blown in by hurricane speed winds. When the garage door is blown in and the wind pressure fills your home, it only take a short time for the windows and doors to blow in, too. In the worst case, the roof follows suit. Some garage doors are advertised as hurricane-resistant, but they can be costly. Securing your garage door doesn't have to be an expensive proposal! Consider boarding your garage door over with plywood, or using 2x4's to brace it from the inside.

3. Install hurricane straps

Galvanized metal hurricane straps are used to secure the roof trusses to wall studs. If you're building a new home, be sure the builder uses hurricane straps, as this is one of the best (and most cost effective) ways to make sure the roof doesn't blow off your home during a hurricane. Note: It is possible to install hurricane straps on an existing home, but you may need to hire a contractor to do the job.

4. Eliminate possible projectiles

When you know a storm is coming, walk all around your home and yard, and consider objects that could potentially be picked up by the wind and turned into flying projectiles. Yard and garden ornaments, bird-baths, grills, patio furniture, potted plants, and children's toys are all things to be secured or brought indoors.

5. Trim your trees

Keeping your trees in good shape is an important step in making sure that limbs won't come down on your house during a hurricane. First, trim any large branches that hang over your house. Second, thin the tree's branches out so it won't catch too much wind in a storm and become uprooted. Finally, consider removing trees that lean toward a building or power lines, trees that are diseased, or that have rotted and/or cracked trunks. These trees are a hazard and should be taken out by you, so that they're not taken out by a storm.

With a little time and forethought, you can minimize, and hopefully prevent, the majority of hurricane damage to your home.

**Don't Forget:
Hurricane season is June 1st through November 30th.**

Continue from page 2...
Carolanne Farms

SHARE YOUR LIGHT NIGHT

There have been many special memories made over the years. Our most heart touching event by far is SHARE YOUR LIGHT NIGHT (named by Va. Beach citizens), formally known in our neighborhoods as "Light the Night".

We look forward to making a difference not only in our neighborhoods, but our City. Last year, we invited others to join in and had over 15 neighborhoods participate. We now invite you all to join in as we hope not only have it be our neighborhoods' tradition, but together make this a signature for our City.

If you've not experienced the beauty and the memorable festivities that go along with it, we're excited for you because hopefully you will. Although the beauty is indeed breath-taking when one sees the continuous ribbon of lights made up of the glowing white bags, the biggest jewel is the bond created between neighbors.

This can seed neighborhood organizations where there is no voice heard. Join the other neighborhoods and come curbside once a year in December to unite the lights. Offer cookies, cocoa and conversation to walkers taking in the beauty. You will be touched by what will grow out of this simple event. Our wish is for your organization to grow and succeed as we have.

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.

Virginia Beach General Assembly Delegation To Hold Town Hall Meeting on Transportation

The Virginia Beach General Assembly Delegation will hold a town hall meeting on transportation Wednesday, May 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Building 1 at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, 2401 Courthouse Drive.

The Delegation is interested in obtaining public input on transportation funding. Discussions will include regional and state-wide issues, the road construction and transit projects needed to reduce congestion in our region and any other transportation issues citizens may wish to provide input on.

Those wishing to address the Delegation may sign in at the beginning of the meeting or in advance. Time limits will be established to accommodate all those wishing to speak. To register in advance, contact Tiffany Cumbo at tcumbo@vbgov.com or call (757) 385-1141. For those unable to register in advance, there will be an opportunity to do so at the door.

The members of the 2008 Virginia Beach General Assembly Delegation are Senators Harry Blevins, Yvonne Miller, Ralph Northam, Kenneth Stolle, Frank Wagner and Delegates Joe Bouchard, John Cosgrove, Algie Howell, Sal Iaquinto, Robert Mathieson, Harry Purkey Terrie Suit and Robert Tata.

Third Annual Safe Kids Day

When: June 14th
Where: Bon Secours Virginia Beach
828 Healthy Way (off S. Plaza Trail between Princess Anne Road and S. Independence Blvd.)

****For more details, visit safekidsday.org**

VBCCO Member Civic Organizations

Alanton	Lake Edward
Aragona Village	Lake Smith
Avalon Hills	Lakeview Park
Back Bay / Pungo	Lakeville Estates
Baycliff	Lamplight Manor
Bellamy Plantation	Larkspur
Bellamy Woods	Level Green
Bellwood Estates	Linkhorn Cove
Birdneck Point	Little Haven
Blackwater	Little Neck Cove
Brighton on the Bay	Manchester Village
Cambridge Courts	Newcastle - Princeton
Cape Henry Shores	North Virginia Beach
Cape Story By The Sea	Ocean Park
Carolanne Farm	Oceana Gardens
Chesapeake Beach	Park Place
Chesapeake Colony	Princess Anne Crossing
Croatan	Princess Anne Plaza
Cypress Point	River Haven
Fairfield	Rudee Heights
Glenwood	Sandbridge Beach
Great Neck Meadow	Seatack
Green Run	Southall Quarter
Homestead	Thoroughgood Colony
Hunt Club Forest	Wellington Woods
King's Grant	Witchduck

These Organizations have paid their 2008 membership fee. Don't see your neighborhood listed? Contact Gene Moore at moore252@infionline.com



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

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