



# The Community Advocate

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

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

<http://vbcco.org>

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## ***Do you have something to say?***

The Advocate encourages members to include their thoughts, interests and concerns. If you have a gripe, solution or an accolade, let us know.

Email us at [vbcco@cox.net](mailto:vbcco@cox.net).

This is your opportunity to make a difference!

## ***Having problems uploading the VBCCO newsletter?***

Try upgrading Adobe Reader. Go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and select the text box "Get ADOBE READER". This will give you instructions on how to upgrade to 8.1.2.

CCO's Executive Committee:  
July 30, 2008, 7pm to 9pm  
Glenwood Community Center  
2097 Round Hill Drive

*"I will not fret over being unknown to others; I will fret that I do not know them."  
—Confucius*

Upcoming Program Topics:  
The schedule below is tentative and is subject to change.

Aug 13	Transportation
Sept 10	Gangs
October 4	Neighborhood Leadership Conference

# VBCCO's First Annual Community Social

- **Meet and mingle with:**
  - **Fellow neighborhood leaders**
  - **City and state officials**
  - **Candidates for City Council and School Board**



**... and Win Cool Door Prizes!**

When: July 9, 2008  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Where: Mount Trashmore

## VBCCO Committee Meetings



### **Community Empowerment Taskforce**

Monday, July 7; 7 p.m.  
Daily Grind Coffee  
Town Center

### **Community Advocacy Taskforce**

Saturday, July 12; 10 a.m.  
Daily Grind Coffee  
Town Center  
*Meets 2nd Saturday of every month*

### **Banquet Committee**

Saturday, July 12; 11 a.m.  
Daily Grind Coffee  
Town Center  
*Meets 2nd Saturday of every month*

### **Programs Committee**

Monday, July 28; 7 p.m.  
Bayside Library  
*Meets 4th Monday of every month*

### **Communications Committee**

Monday, July 28; 8 p.m.  
Bayside Library  
*Meets 4th Monday of every month*

## June, 2008 RAC Report

by Henry Ryto

### ***Tourism Growth Investment Fund (TGIF)***

City Finance Director Patti Phillips made a Presentation on the TGIF. The big thing for the Resort Area is that within two-three years the TGIF will have the capacity to service more major projects.

The shocker she dropped: the City has a policy of a maximum debt of \$2,400 per capita, and we're now at about \$2,250.

### ***Resort Area Strategic Action Plan***

The document will now be tweaked in private before going to the Planning Commission in August. It probably won't go to Council until after the November election. (That brought laughs from the RAC.)

*This private tweaking has me at General Quarters. I fear what might happen to it, ruining the intent of the SAP.*

### ***Comprehensive Plan***

On June 18 the various RAC committee Chairs were scheduled to meet with Planning Department Staff on the upcoming new Comprehensive Plan.

## Natural Pesticides

ANTS: Cinnamon, Bay Leaves, Cayenne Pepper or Baby Powder

COCKROACHES: Equal parts Baking Soda and Confectioner's Sugar

MICE: Peppermint Oil soaked Cotton Balls

MOSQUITOES: 2 teaspoons of Apple Cider Vinegar in a glass of water

FLIES: Small sachets of crushed mint or sweet basil plants

## Safe Kids Day



The City of Virginia Beach and its community partners proclaimed June 14th Safe Kids Day to raise awareness of health and safety programs for children. Mayor Meyera Oberndorf delivered a proclamation at Safe Kids Day, part of a first anniversary celebration at Bon Secours Health Center Virginia Beach. Bon Secours Virginia Beach Health Center opened in June 2007. It provides Beach residents with convenient access to physician offices, advanced diagnostics, In Motion Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, and community health education programs. Pictured left to right:

Chandler Scarborough, Immediate Past President, VBCCO  
Delegate Sal Iaquinto, 84<sup>th</sup> District of Virginia  
Honorable Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor, City of Virginia Beach  
Nicholas Iaquinto,  
Alex Iaquinto,  
James Mosure, MD, Director of Imaging Center, Bon Secours  
Jennifer Acey, Community Relations Mgr, Bon Secours  
Sam Reid, President, VBCCO



## Save The Bay Day

Thousands of Virginia Beach residents participated in the 2008 Save the Bay Day activities. Above is a photograph from one of the many locations that received some TLC. Go to page 5 for more information about the day's events.

## Community Calendar

### City Council Meetings:

Tuesday, July 1st, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 8th 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22nd 6 p.m.

Council Chambers, Building 1

### July 4

#### Fourth of July Celebration

9:30 p.m.

Mount Trashmore

### July 18

#### Movie Night

Starting @ 7:30 p.m.

"The Water Horse"

Mount Trashmore

### Mark Your Calendars:

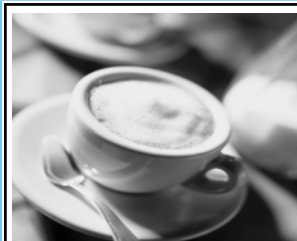
### August 22 and 23

#### City Council Two-Day Retreat

8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Economic Development Conference Room

Town Center



We're brewing something that has never been tasted before.

We are reinventing the formerly known *Community Connections* to be held this October. Energize us with your flavorful stories

### Community Empowerment Taskforce

Come join us at the Daily Grind—July 7th, 7PM  
168 Central Park Avenue, Town Center

We are looking for not only your ideas, but more importantly, your stories. Have you worked with city departments to effect change in your neighborhood? If so, please share with us your story. We want to learn from you so we can help others help themselves.

Brenda Armitage  
Committee Chairperson

Tel: 714-2772

## Watch the Resort Area Strategic Action Plan Closely

by Henry Ryto

CCO Resort Advisory Commission (RAC) voting representative

The City of Virginia Beach is now engaged in drafting a Strategic Action Plan for the Resort Area. The SAP would set the template for redevelopment of the Resort Area, a guide that would allow for planned improvements without a Redevelopment Authority.

What threatens the process, and the future of the Resort Area itself, are attempts by some of the more radical innkeepers to politicize the SAP. They are putting their own short-term self-interest before the long-term interest of the Resort Area and the city as a whole. I can give you two examples of what is going on.

First, coming out of the February Charrette, the east side of Atlantic Avenue in the north beach district was slated for hotel improvements. Bigger and better quality properties than the current "fun-n-sun" hotels that dominate. When the SAP was unveiled in June, those improvements had disappeared.

Second, all previous drafts had the long-planned convention hotel at Rudee Loop as a given. In June, Sasaki (the consultants) came back with a *five star* hotel for Rudee Loop. The radicals have now begun a campaign to dump a hotel from Rudee Loop and to put an entertainment venue there instead. An entertainment venue can be put almost anywhere; a hotel can only draw top dollar if it's on the ocean.

What the two examples have in common: trying to protect their own hotels from competition by more upscale properties. Never mind the future of the Resort Area or Virginia Beach, they can't see beyond their own self-interest.

Here's the kicker: there's to be a closed-doors tweaking of the SAP before it goes to the Planning Commission in August. So closed door that even I, as a RAC Commissioner, have not been invited into the process. Anyone want to guess who will be?

### The Planning Commission Needs your help!

Visit [www.vbgov.com/compplan](http://www.vbgov.com/compplan) to include your comments and concerns regarding the city's Comprehensive Plan. This is your opportunity to voice your thoughts and make suggestions.

I've been your CCO RAC representative since February, 2004 and have never come to you through the newsletter like this. A quality SAP would be a huge step forward for the full city. However, a redrawing of the SAP by the radicals would stymie the future redevelopment of Resort Area and be a waste of millions of your tax dollars. Watch the ongoing process *very* closely!

# Clean the Bay Day 2008

**Blistering Heat didn't stop the volunteers from their task.**

**By**

**Ruby Arredondo and Dan Baxter**

Even the blistering heat didn't discourage the 2,234 volunteers from cleaning 93,081 pounds of debris from 182 miles of waters and shoreline on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> during the annual Clean the Bay Day. Plastic and cigarette butts remain the top items collected in Virginia Beach during the cleanup. This was the 20th annual event which began in Virginia Beach in 1988. Efforts of the volunteers in Virginia Beach resulted in a savings of 11,170 man hours of labor which translates to a cost savings of nearly \$117,000.00.

Clean the Bay Day is a three-hour cleanup that combines public involvement with ongoing data collection and dissemination of results to educate and inspire people to become better stewards of the Chesapeake Bay. The most beneficial impact is the hands-on education of volunteers who participate and the environmental stewardship that results from the cleanup. A big 'Thank You' to the following city agencies that provided support: Landscape Management, Waste Management, Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Medical Services and Great Neck Park staff.

Volunteers were assigned to beaches and in-land waters throughout Virginia Beach. There was participation from 15 civic leagues/Condo/Home Owners Associations, two state parks (First Landing State Park, False Cape State Park), Back Bay Wildlife Refuge and four military bases (Oceana, Dam Neck, Fort Story, and NAB Little Creek Amphibious Base). Active military participation comprised 36% of the total volunteers in Virginia Beach. According to Ruby Arredondo, Clean Community Coordinator, "We had a successful Clean the Bay Day 2008 with some very encouraging news. Zone Captains reported that their areas were cleaner than last year."

Clean Community Chairman Daniel Baxter provided a brief history of the event. Chairman Baxter along with Mayor Meyera Oberndorf and Delegate Joseph Bouchard expressed their appreciation for a job well done to the 500 volunteers at Great Neck Park that attended the 'Volunteer Appreciation Picnic' after the cleanup. Delegate Bouchard presented a Joint Resolution recognizing the work of Clean the Bay Day volunteers and their contributions to a clean and beautiful bay.

The event and the picnic were coordinated by Clean Community Coordinator, Ruby Arredondo and VBClean Treasurer Nancy Degges. Food, refreshments and other support were provided by Clean Community commissioners, Frankie's Place for Ribs, Pepsi, Fast Ice Company, Kroger, and Starbucks. Everyone at the picnic enjoyed music from the Never Ending Tire Fire band. Guests were treated to door prizes that were given every twenty minutes.

This regional project, managed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and their municipal partners, is designed to engage and involve citizens in efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay by removing marine debris and raise awareness of associated pollution. Clean Community is part of the Virginia Beach Department of Parks & Recreation.

## 2008 Clean the Bay Day Stats

	Regional Figures	Virginia Beach Figures	Percentage of Total
<b>Volunteers</b>	5,869	2,234	38.1%
<b>Pounds Collected</b>	174,948	93,081	53.2%
<b>Miles Cleaned</b>	429	182	42.4%

## Candidate Forum—Some Things to Think About

The VBCCO is in the process of planning the 2008 Candidate Forum. In an effort to address concerns of our members, we would like to give you the opportunity to comment on some of the hot button topics. Please review the list below and let us know how you feel.

You can send your questions/concerns/comments to [VBCCO@cox.net](mailto:VBCCO@cox.net) or VBCCO (mailing address).

We would like to have all the items no later than July 31st.

Thank you in advance for all of your help in making this year's forum a success.

### Strengthening and Preserving Healthy Neighborhoods

- ◆ Neighborhood preservation initiatives
- ◆ Neighborhood services
- ◆ Workforce Housing
- ◆ Revitalization of aging infrastructure in neighborhoods
- ◆ Proffers, impact fees
- ◆ Impact of future growth on city services and infrastructure
- ◆ Spot Zoning [*i.e.* the rezoning of individual properties within a neighborhood without the support of neighboring property owners and adjacent communities]

### Taxation/Spending

- ◆ *Blue Ribbon Tax, Fee and Spending Task Force* recommendations
- ◆ Citywide Strategic Plan
- ◆ Increasing the City's operating efficiency
- ◆ Creation of a Budget Commission

### Transportation

- ◆ Public transportation and road congestion

### Tourism and Economic Development

- ◆ "The Gift of Tourism" marketing campaign
- ◆ Rate of return on City's economic development initiatives
- ◆ Public/Private partnerships

*Continued on next page*

### September Meeting Announcement

We encourage all members to contribute \$25.00 to help offset the cost of September's program featuring a nationally recognized speaker on gangs who will talk about what we, as civic leaders, can do to reduce the threat of gang violence in our community.

Invite your members

**Don't Miss This!**

The Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations is pleased to present:

**Community Social**

**July 9, 2008 7 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.**

**Mount Trashmore**

Please come and bring a friend and your family!

### **Citizen Engagement, Government Openness and Accountability**

- ◆ Involving stakeholders in the development of major strategies
- ◆ Collection and use of feedback from stakeholders
- ◆ Appointments to City Boards and Commissions
- ◆ *City Page* and other communications tools

### **Oceana/BRAC**

#### **Education**

- ◆ School funding formula
- ◆ Promoting public education

#### **Public Safety**

- ◆ Gangs and youth violence
- ◆ After school, recreation, and other youth programs
- ◆ Increasing police presence in neighborhoods
- ◆ Transfer of School Resource Officers and other police to Oceanfront during summer
- ◆ Proactive (vs. reactive) efforts to increase safety
- ◆ Funding for aging infrastructure, such as street lighting

## **Membership Update**

As of June 11, 2008, 91 member organizations have paid their 2008 membership fee—*has your organization paid?*

All have been advised by email at the address on record. According to VBCCO Bylaws, organizations that do not pay their membership fee by June 30 will no longer be members in good standing and will become ineligible to vote.

If you have not yet paid your 2008 fee, please send a payment check for \$25 payable to VBCCO to:

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

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	King's Point
Alanton	Lake Edward
Avalon Hills	Lake Shores
Avalon Terrace/Woods	Lake Smith
Back Bay / Pungo	Lakeview Park
Baycliff	Lakeville Estates
Baylake Pines	Lamplight Manor
Bellamy Plantation	Larkspur
Bellamy Woods	Laurel Cove
Bellwood Estates	Level Green
Birdneck Lake Homes	Linkhorn Cove
Birdneck Point	Little Neck Cove
Blackwater	Manchester Village
Brigadoon	Newcastle - Princeton
Brighton on the Bay	North Virginia Beach
Cambridge Courts	Ocean Park
Cape Henry Shores	Oceana Gardens
Cape Story By The Sea	Park Place
Carolanne Farm	Pembroke Manor
Cavalier Park/Bay Colony	Princess Anne Crossing
Charlestowne Woods	Princess Anne Plaza
Chelsea-Green Hill Farms/Meadows	River Haven
Chesapeake Beach	Rudee Heights
Chesapeake Colony	Sandbridge Beach
Croatan	Sea Breeze Farm
Cypress Point	Seatack
Fairfield	Southall Quarter
Glenwood	Stratford Chase
Great Neck Estates	Thoroughgood Colony
Great Neck Meadow	Three Oaks
Green Run	The Villages
Homestead	Wellington Woods
Hunt Club Forest	Witchduck
Kempsville Greens	Wolfsnare Plantation
King's Grant	Woodstock

These Organizations have paid their 2008 membership fee. Don't see your neighborhood listed? Contact Gene Moore at [moore252@infionline.net](mailto:moore252@infionline.net)



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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NORFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 2135

## 2008 Officers and Directors

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