



The Community Advocate

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

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

<http://vbcco.org>

September 2008 Volume 49 - Number 8

September's Topic : Are we winning the war on Gangs?

A open discussion about actions we can take as community leaders to stop gang violence.

September 10th, 7pm to 8:30pm
Virginia Beach Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd

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.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

Budget 101—Facts and Figures

CCO's Executive Committee:
September 25, 2008, 7 pm to 9 pm
Bon Secours Community Room
828 Healthy Way

"Everyone wants to eat at the governments table, but nobody wants to do the dishes"

-Warner Finck

Upcoming Program Topics:

The schedule below is tentative and is subject to change.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 8 | Legislative Package |
| Nov 12 | Stake Holder's Meeting & Canned Food Drive |
| Dec 10 | Senior's Social |

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

How far we've come..

Hello to all

This has been a very busy year! We, your Executive Committee, have worked hard to help inform, educate, and empower everyone this year. You are the folks that make our neighborhoods and City the best place in Tidewater to live. The old saying "an informed citizen is basic to a working Democracy" holds true. I felt like this would be a good time to highlight some topics covered, goals, and accomplishments.

We started the year of with our February meeting "Does Richmond Love Me?" Our House of Delegates members came out to discuss the upcoming Legislative session. We learned from their input and views on Bills that were to be presented. They learned from us; they listened to our concerns on what is important to our community.

In March we turned toward learning how our City is put together and run. The meeting was an "Overview of Zoning and Code Enforcement". This was the everyday, neighborhood-centered information to help improve where we live. Also, we discussed ways to revitalize some of our older neighborhoods and encourage others to keep up their homes and thereby improve where we all live.

April, we learned which Bills became law with "Did Richmond Hear You?" Our State Legislators, from both the House of Delegates and the Senate, joined us to discuss which bills passed, which did not, and why. As for myself, I was glad to hear the Eminent Domain Legislation of 2007 was not weakened in 2008.

In May, we picked back up with learning how our City is developing. Mr. Thomas Pauls and staff with the City explained Strategic Growth Areas. He explained how commercial centers would be developed to support and enhance residential neighborhoods, but not intrude into them. Urban Open Spaces and Mass Transit were also talked about as needed to help create a better City. The 12 Strategic Growth Areas will affect every neighborhood in the City, including you and your family and how each of you interacts with restaurants, doctors, the grocery store, really any business.

With the understating of how our City is organized and the planned development for the future, we went to the next level. In June, Mr. Thomas Pauls and staff came back and we learned how our City is in the process of improving and reassessing the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan includes: all land use, transportation, economic health, housing issues, open space, and planning related items -- The Big Picture.

July was a landmark month for us. We held our first Annual Community Social Event. I am certain everyone that attended will remember how nice it was. To be able to talk with our City and Federal representatives and candidates one on one, as neighbors. A great experience to meet everyone and exchange ideas and information.

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VBCCO Committee Meetings



Community Advocacy Taskforce

Saturday, September 13; 10 a.m.
Daily Grind Coffee
Town Center
Meets 2nd Saturday of every month

Banquet Committee

Saturday, September 13; 11 a.m.
Daily Grind Coffee
Town Center
Meets 2nd Saturday of every month

Programs Committee

Monday, September 22; 7 p.m.
Bayside Library
Meets 4th Monday of every month

Communications Committee

Monday, September 22; 8 p.m.
Bayside Library
Meets 4th Monday of every month

Word of the Month:

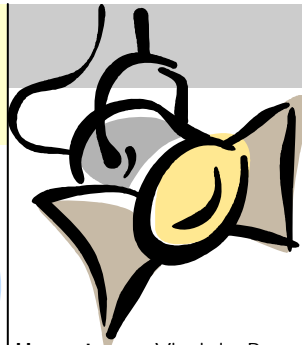
proffer :

Pronunciation: \ˈprā-fər\

Function: *transitive verb*

: to present for acceptance

Board Member Spotlights



Sam Reid—President



Hometown: Virginia Beach

Civic League: Oceana Gardens Coalition C.L.

Family: Married to Terrie, 3 sons all grown & 2 grandsons

Pet Projects: Family, House and Yard Maintenance, Improving our City

Pet Peeves: Rude people and bad drivers

Favorite Local Restaurant: Mary's on 17th Street & a secret spot I can't tell you.

Last movie: Home Alone, 1994 (I think) w/ our youngest son

Beach Preference: Rudee (the old steel pier) and the Jetty, Best surf in the world of memories.

Motto: "Seize the day!" This says it all. There are several other great quotes and I have my own, but it's personal. To reach out and grab the life of each day with both hands and live the life! That's what it "seize the day" means to me.

Joe Yurso—Treasurer



Hometown: Hazleton, Pennsylvania In the jargon of the town I was a Coal Cracker.

Civic Association: Larkspur Civic League President

Family: Barbara and I have four children, 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild

Pet project: I dabble on the piano for my own enjoyment and no one else.

Peeves: Organizations including the government that do not follow their own rules. This includes politicians and elected official.

Favorite Local restaurant: Do not have a favorite. Golden Corral is great for breakfast.

Last Movie: Passion of the Christ

Motto: Do not hesitate to tell it like it really is. Do not give up, keep trying.

Position: All government is a drain on the economy. Most governments are out of control.

We've come so far... cont. from page 1

Quite a few of Virginia Beach's finest Police Officers were on hand to talk with everyone about their concerns. A great time was had by all. For those of you that didn't make it this year, next year will be bigger and better (07/08/09)

In August, we were back tackling one of the BIGGEST issues of the day, TRANSPORTATION. Mr. John Fowler and City staff came out and gave us a very informative program concerning the process of bringing a road on line: planning, design, environmental, right of way access, and construction, at least 3.5 years. They covered state and local funding and the stages of developing a road. The most informative part of the program for me was which local road projects have funding and are being done/ improved. There are currently 30 major projects, all over the city, in different stages, but on the books.

These transportation projects tie back into the five-year re-assessment of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan re-assessment is key to the development of the Strategic Growth Areas. The SGA's are essential to our quality of life and sustainability of our neighborhoods and homes. We've gone from what happens on your street to the Big Picture and back again.

We've also been working hard to create a venue by which our concerns as citizens are addressed with the Citizens Input to the City's Legislative Package. For the first time, the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations co-sponsored with the City, the Citizens Input meeting at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. As far as I could tell every State Legislator and City Council Member was there to listen, except for one or two. I've been going to these Input meetings for years and it was rare to see 10 people, but with our membership support there were approximately 90 in attendance. I know some of us would like to have seen more progress made on the issues, but this was a great start. Next year we will improve on the process and thereby improve on the results. As with all things in government, it takes time and effort. We, your Executive Committee have put together a short list of concerns we as the VBCCO would like addressed by our State Legislators to help improve our City. The concerns have been developed during the year with input and feedback from everyone. Please take a few minutes to review the items, we will be voting on them during our September general meeting so we can move forward in unity.

The busy year is far from over. The VBCCO is co-sponsoring a City Council Candidate forum with the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and the Hampton Roads Realtors Association. Also, we are co-sponsoring a School Board Candidate forum. Our questions will concern our neighborhoods and quality of life in our City. If you have questions for any of the Candidates get them to one of us on the EXCOM committee.

This year we have changed the name of the Community Connection Program to the Virginia Beach Neighborhood Conference. This event is going to be held the morning of October 4th at the Virginia Beach Central Library. Based on Surveys returned and everyone's input, we will be addressing issues relevant to helping make your Civic League better. This year we want to enable you to move forward on real life issues your Civic League faces every day.

I do want everyone to know, when I say we, I mean every member of the Executive Committee. Each member has devoted time and effort to provide our organization with professional, top-notch service. Companies and businesses measure their success by monetary profits. We the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations measure our success by:

1. The SUCCESS and WELL BEING of your Civic Leagues and your neighborhoods.
2. What you, our members say.
3. What others say, State/City/ other organizations

I'll see you at our September meeting on the 10th. We will be voting on the Legislative Input issues and the program will be covering the growing problem of Gangs in our city. See you there.

Sam Reid
President

**Don't forget to register
to vote!**

Registration is closed 29 days before an election as required by Commonwealth law. Residents must register in the precinct in which they reside.

For more information email
voter@vbgov.com.

Legislative Positions

The following positions will be submitted to members for approval at the September 10 General Meeting.

Modify Existing TIF Statute to Allow Greater Flexibility to Municipality

VBCCO encourages the City to seek an expanded Economic Development Toolbox by asking the General Assembly to provide greater flexibility in the way TIFs are implemented. Under the current system, general fund tax revenue within a TIF district is capped at the base year for the life of the TIF; any real estate tax revenue that results from increased assessed value is paid into a special fund to service debt for the TIF district. Under this scenario, tax revenue may actually decrease if the tax rate declines.



An alternative would be to provide Council with the ability to index the base year to CPI increases or to the overall rate of appreciation of city real estate so that General Fund revenue will keep pace with inflation and the growing cost of city services.

A second option would be to provide Council with the flexibility to dedicate a portion of revenue growth to the TIF and retain a portion of revenue growth for the General Fund. This could be used to offset any increased city services, such as police, fire, or schools, that result from the new development and would provide taxpayers with an immediate, tangible return on the city's investment rather than waiting until all debt is retired.

Having the option to enact such a modified TIF would enable localities to obtain greater support for economic development projects from taxpayers.

Background:

The current state statute (§ 58.1-3245.2) is a one-size-fits-all approach that provides for real estate taxes on the increased value of a property be paid into a special fund.

The goal of Tax Increment Financing is to use the increased real estate tax that results from a property's increased value to pay for improvements. However, this approach fails to take into account two important factors. First, that the assessed value of any property - even vacant land - will likely have some increase in value over time even without the TIF-funded improvements. Second, the TIF-funded improvements, if successful, will tend to create greater demand for city services that must then be paid with General Fund revenue.

CCO Mass Transit

The CCO supports increased mass transit funding as a means of reducing traffic congestion and the need to build an ever-increasing number of roads. Such funding should include a dedicated funding source for Hampton Roads Transit (HRT). Until one is established, marked improvement in mass transit will be extremely difficult and Virginia Beach will continue to rely on Property Taxes to cover the local share for bus service.

Buses should operate not only more hours, including evenings and Sundays, but should try to provide cost-effective service to neighborhoods. While prominent locations (such as the Central Business District, Resort Area, TCC, etc.) make for great transfer centers, they should not be served exclusively or at the expense of neighborhoods.

Proffers

While the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations recognizes the need to balance the rights of landowners and developers and desire to create and maintain affordable housing with the need to ensure that infrastructure, public facilities, and public services are sufficient to meet both existing needs and the increased demands caused by such new development. Therefore, VBCCO encourages the City to seek expanded authority to use proffers and impact fees to offset the impact on public facilities resulting from residential and commercial development, whether such development is part of a rezoning or by-right.

VBCCO supports such authority to use of these powers to the extent the proffers or impact fees are sufficient to mitigate the impact of new development.

The legislation providing for the City's expanded use of proffers and impact fees to offset the impact on public facilities resulting from residential and commercial development should define public facilities to include: (1) roads, streets, and bridges, including rights-of-way, traffic signals, landscaping, and any local components of federal or state highways; (2) stormwater collection, retention, detention, treatment, and disposal facilities, flood control facilities, and bank and shore protection and enhancement improvements; (3) parks, open space, and recreation areas and related facilities; (4) public safety facilities, including police, fire, emergency medical, and rescue facilities; (5) primary and secondary schools and related facilities; and (6) libraries and related facilities.

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

Calling All Future Leaders

Do you have a vision for CCO's future? Would you like to help guide and shape the organization? The Nominating Committee will soon begin meeting to interview candidates and to propose a slate of officers and directors for 2009. If you are interested, or know someone who you believe would be a good candidate, contact Chandler Scarborough at 757-621-4919 or visit the VBCCO website at vbcco.org/nominate

Community Calendar

City Council Meetings:

Tuesday, September 2, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, September 23, 6 p.m.
Council Chambers, Building 1

Saturday, September 6

SK8R Bash
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Skateboard competition
Mount Trashmore

Saturday, September 13th

Virginia Beach Master Gardener Association 9th Annual Community Gardening Festival
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
HR Agricultural Research & Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Rd
757-385-4769

Tuesday, September 16th

Transit Meeting
7 p.m., VB Convention Center

September 17th & 18th

City Council Candidate Forum
7pm, City Council Chambers

Saturday, September 20

STIHL Lumberjack Championships
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Mount Trashmore

September 24th

School Board Candidate Forum
7 p.m., City Council Chambers

September 26th—28th

35th Annual Neptune Festival
Oceanfront Boardwalk
www.neptunefestival.com

Have You Registered Yet?:

October 4th

Virginia Beach Neighborhood Conference
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Virginia Beach Central Library
Enter at the side door!

Walk With the Animals

-Mary Grace Katherman Events Director

The Virginia Beach SPCA is gearing up for its 30th annual Walk for the Animals, to be held October 26 at 1:00 at the 31st Street Park. This will be a fun-filled day for the entire family (including the furry members!) with games, contests, food, demonstrations and, of course, the one-mile pledge walk to benefit the animals. On behalf of the thousands of animals we serve each year, we would like to invite the homeowners in your neighborhood to come together and participate for a tail-wagging good time! Your members may not know that the Virginia Beach SPCA receives no taxpayer funding and, therefore, relies on events like this and folks like you to raise the \$2.5 million annual budget we require each year.

Would you consider running an ad or a mention of this great family-friendly event in your next newsletter or other publication? Residents could be encouraged to start their own fundraising "pack" by visiting www.FirstGiving.com/VBSPCA - this is a great way to build camaraderie in the neighborhood and perhaps even generate a little friendly competition.

Those interested may register for the walk by visiting www.VBSPCA.com or by calling me at 427-0070 x20. I have a logo as well as additional information about the Walk which I would be happy to provide if you would like it for your newsletter.

Or, if you would like for us to attend a meeting as a speaker to talk about this event and all the other wonderful things we do in the community, just let me know. We love to meet our neighbors.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan, required by state law and adopted by City Council, is the official land use planning guide for Virginia Beach and used to help channel growth, protect neighborhoods, improve our economy, help manage our limited resources and, ultimately, advance the overall quality of life for citizens.

The last two plans, one adopted in 1997 and the other in 2003, received the highest award from the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association for a professional planning document. Your input is important to ensure we have a shared vision for the future of Virginia Beach. With your participation we can make our next plan even better than the one it replaces. All public open houses will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. The 2008 Public Information Comment Form may also be accessed and submitted on-line by clicking the link to the right under "Related Documents". We encourage CCO members to attend these meetings.

Public Invitations - 12 Open Houses

Monday, Sept. 15 Tallwood Elementary School 2025 Kempsville Road	Thursday, Sept. 18 Fairfield Elementary School 5428 Providence Road	Monday, Sept. 22 Red Mill Elementary School 1860 Sandbridge Road
Monday, Sept. 29 Creeds Elementary School 920 Princess Anne Road	Thursday, Oct. 2 Landstown High School 2001 Concert Drive	Monday, Oct. 6 Bow Creek Recreation Center 3427 Clubhouse Road
Thursday, Oct. 9 White Oaks Elementary School 960 Windsor Oaks Blvd.	Monday, Oct. 13 Virginia Beach Convention Center 1000 19th Street, Room 1D	Thursday, Oct. 16 Association for Research & Enlightenment (A.R.E.) 215 67th St.
Monday, Oct. 20 Princess Anne High School 4400 Virginia Beach Blvd.	Thursday, Oct. 23 Bayside Recreation Center 4500 First Court Road	Monday, Oct. 27 Cox High School 2425 Shorehave Drive

You learned about what and how important the Comp Plan is to our City. Come out and participate in making our city better!

RAC Report *by Henry Ryto*

SAP & Ocean Center

There's been a delay in sending the Resort Area Strategic Action Plan to the Planning Commission. It is now slated for September.

At it's August 7 meeting, the RAC was told there had been no major changes to the SAP. On August 8 *The Virginian-Pilot* reported that the City had slipped in Ocean Center, a mixed-use development. As described, Ocean Center would be in violation of Virginia Beach's December, 2005, BRAC Ordinance, given that the property falls inside the 70 decibel line.

Should the SAP be reported out of the Planning Commission with Ocean Center included, it is my intention to ask the CCO to take a position against it.

BEHAVIOR OVERSPILL

The Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC) is writing up proposals for dealing with behavior problems that are spilling into adjacent neighborhoods. The OEC is scheduled to report to the full RAC in September.

BOBBY MELATTI

The franchise player in Oceanfront entertainment has been fired by Live Nation, which has the contract with the City to provide it. The RAC had about a 10 minute discussion on this issue.

With four major events left this Summer, the consensus seems to be that Live Nation is on probation. Can they execute the contract without Melatti? If not, the contract expires January 31, 2009, with a single one year option remaining. The City can simply refuse to exercise the option.

LOCALS CAMPAIGN

It's now underway, with the website (www.giftoftourism.com) launched. The campaign will cost \$150,000, to be paid for out of the Tourism Growth Investment Fund (TGIF).

The RAC has long wanted to do something like this; the question was always how to pay for it. Some debt being retired that was being serviced out of the TGIF provided the capacity to do so.

Membership Update

As of August 15, 2008, 73 membership payments from member or organization have been received and deposited; those members are in good standing and their representatives are eligible to vote at general meetings. Those members that have not already done so, please send the fee payment for \$25 payable to VBCCO to:

VBCCO Treasurer
P.O. Box 9252
Virginia Beach, Virginia

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
Aragona Village	Lake Shores
Avalon Hills	Lake Smith
Avalon Terrace/Woods	Lakeview Park
Back Bay / Pungo	Lakeville Estates
Baycliff	Lamplight Manor
Baylake Pines	Larkspur
Bellamy Plantation	Laurel Cove
Bellamy Woods	Level Green
Bellwood Estates	Linkhorn Cove
Birdneck Lake Homes	Little Neck Cove
Birdneck Point	Manchester Village
Blackwater	Newcastle - Princeton
Brigadoon	North Virginia Beach
Brighton on the Bay	Ocean Park
Cambridge Courts	Oceana Gardens
Cape Henry Shores	Park Place
Cape Story By The Sea	Pembroke Manor
Carolanne Farm	Princess Anne Crossing
Cavalier Park/Bay Colony	Princess Anne Plaza
Charlestowne Woods	River Haven
Chelsea-Green Hill Farms/ Meadows	Rudee Heights
Chesapeake Beach	Sandbridge Beach
Chesapeake Colony	Sea Breeze Farm
Croatan	Seatack
Cypress Point	Southall Quarter
Fairfield	Stratford Chase
Glenwood	Thalia
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@infonline.net



VBCCO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
4604 Williamsburg Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-2241
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