



# The Community Advocate

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

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

<http://vbcco.org>

May 2009 Volume 50 - Number 5

## May's General

### Meeting Topic:

## *Did Richmond Hear Me?*

The annual legislative update from members of the General Assembly. Learn about the state's current budget shortfalls, updates on the state transportation plan, and new laws that will affect you - and your neighbors - beginning July 1.

### **May 13, 7pm to 8:30pm**

*Meyera Oberndorf Central Library  
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd*

### **Other Important Dates:**

#### **CCO's Executive Committee:**

**May 27, 7 pm to 9 pm**

*Strayer University  
Town Center*

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming meetings:

June 10 Staying After School with the VB School Board  
Which school programs will survive with the current budget cuts?

July 8 Party in the Park- VBCCO Celebrates 50 Years!  
Family-friendly cookout at Mount Trashmore. Mingle with city Officials and other civic league leaders.

All VBCCO meetings will begin at 7pm at the Meyera Oberndorf Central Library

## *Party in the Park*

In 2009, VBCCO Celebrates 50 Years of service to the citizens of Virginia Beach. Please join us to celebrate on July 8th at Mount Trashmore for a free family-friendly cookout. Mingle with local and state officials, as well as, your neighboring civic league officers and members.

Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. in Shelter 1. Pre-register online at:

<http://www.vbcco.org/UpcomingEvents.aspx>.

We hope to see you there!

## **Animal Control Grand Re-Opening**

The Virginia Beach Animal Control Kennel is extremely pleased to announce that the facility has re-opened and is operating under normal adoption procedures. Thanks to the new Parvovirus vaccination program in partnership with the Virginia Beach SPCA and the implementation of recommendations made by the State Veterinarian's Office, the kennel has not had a new Parvo case in over two weeks.

The facility was originally closed to the public for adoptions and viewing on March 16, 2009 due to the outbreak of Parvo in the dog kennels. Since that time, the VBSPCA and Animal Control have entered into an agreement where the SPCA is now vaccinating dogs that are being housed at the facility. Animal Control has also implemented State Vet recommended procedures concerning how the kennel is cleaned, where animal caretakers are assigned, impoundment and quarantining procedures, and a kennel dedicated to adoptable animals.

Additionally, the building is undergoing various construction projects, including some planned prior to the Parvo outbreak that will improve animal husbandry practices at the facility. These projects include two new intake areas for dogs and cats, an improved veterinarian examining room, and a separate building for Animal Control Officers and field operations.

Animal Control remains committed to finding the best practices to protect the community's animals and will continue to work with the Virginia Beach SPCA and the State Veterinarian's Office in order to accomplish this mission.

## VBCCO Committee Meetings



### Community Advocacy Taskforce

Saturday, May 9th, 10 a.m.

Panera Bread

Town Center (across from Barnes & Noble)

*Meets 2nd Saturday of every month*

### Programs Committee

Teleconference—Please contact Jermaine Hannah at [jhannah@vbcco.org](mailto:jhannah@vbcco.org) if you are interested in participating

### Communications Committee

Tuesday, May 26; 8 p.m.

Teleconference—Please contact Julie Strader at [jstrader@vbcco.org](mailto:jstrader@vbcco.org) if you are interested in participating

### Help Shape the Future

VBCCO needs you!

This is a chance for you to have a positive impact on your neighborhood, CCO's future direction and to ensure that CCO is meeting the needs of our members. We encourage all members to consider being a committee volunteer.

For more information, contact any board member or email us at [committees@vbcco.org](mailto:committees@vbcco.org).

## RAC Report

By Henry Ryto

### PEDICABS

The RAC approved a one-year pilot program for pedicabs operating along the bike path parallel to the boardwalk *only*. The provider could operate a maximum of 4 pedicabs.

### DOME SITE

Dome site developer Michael Jenkins was given an extension until July to bring back a final design for an entertainment venue for the Dome Site. He had asked for 2 months, but the Virginia Beach Development Authority (VBDA) granted 4 months.

### 24th STREET

Walgreens has purchased the former post office at Atlantic Avenue and 24th Street, with plans to build a pharmacy. Some want to preserve the old post office building; others have issues with the preliminary design sketch submitted for the new building. The design is intended to blend in with neighboring buildings.

## "Flu" Precautions

### What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against swine flu. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you are sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

## *Joe Yurso Honored by The American Society Of Naval Engineers*

CAPT Joseph F. Yurso, USN (Ret.) received the "Harold E. Saunders Award" for the year 2008. He was recognized for his significant contribution to naval engineering as set forth in the following:

### CITATION:

Since the beginning of his career as an engineer at the U.S. Navy Bureau of Ships prior to entering the Navy as an Engineering Duty Officer, Captain Joseph Yurso has spent over fifty years dedicated to naval engineering.

In the course of over thirty years of active duty in the Navy, Captain Yurso had a number of significant assignments including Chief Engineer on a surface combatant as well as many tours at naval shipyards. His major commands included Commanding Officer at both SUPSHIP Groton and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. For each of those assignments he was awarded the Legion of Merit. During his career Captain Yurso made lasting impressions on the Navy and the field of Naval Engineering. From the creation of submarine safety programs to the development of testing protocols which are still in use in the Navy today, Captain Yurso has demonstrated a passion for process control and improvement driving him to define critical elements, identify strengths and weakness and then develop and implement meaningful change to ensure process quality.



His passion for the Engineering Profession has extended far beyond his professional career to include active participation in many professional organizations, including his tenure as President of the Society from 1997 to 1999. He continues to serve on industry panels in assisting the Navy in solving critical issues associated with Naval Engineering. Captain Yurso has left his mark, not only on the Navy and in the field of Naval Engineering, but also on the next generation of engineers by mentoring middle school students in math and science, working closely with Old Dominion University. Captain Yurso is a true professional and an excellent role model for many. His lifetime of service and achievement both to the US Navy and ASNE make him a truly worthy recipient of ASNE's 2008 Harold E. Saunders Award.

### **Calling all City Council Questions....**

Thank you for attending April's General Membership meeting. Due to the high attendance and participation by membership, City Council did not have an opportunity to hear all your questions. If you have a question you would like to direct to City Council, please feel free to submit them via email to the programs committee at [programs@vbcco.org](mailto:programs@vbcco.org). Mention "City Council question" in the subject line and we will be happy to include these questions with our remaining inquiries.

Again, thank you for showing your support and we will see you at the May meeting when the General Assembly discuss Richmond's plans for our city.

# Community Calendar

## City Council Meetings:

Tuesday, May 12, 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 26, 6 p.m.  
Council Chambers,  
Building 1

## May 16th

**6th Annual Neptune's  
Spring Wine Tasting**  
24th Street Park at  
The Oceanfront  
12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.  
[www.neptunefestival.com](http://www.neptunefestival.com)

## May 23rd and 24th

**Pungo Strawberry  
Festival**  
[www.pungostrawberryfestival.com](http://www.pungostrawberryfestival.com)

## Don't Forget:

## June 5th

**2009 Personal Property  
Tax Due**  
Appeal your assessment  
for high mileage or  
condition, call:  
Commissioner's office  
385-4487

## Mark your calendars:

## July 8th

**"Party in the Park"  
2nd Annual VBCCO  
Cook-Out  
Mount Trashmore**  
6:30 p.m. to dusk  
\*more information to  
come\*

To purchase pictures from the  
VBCCO Banquet, please con-  
tact:

**Photography by Derrick  
Derrick Smith  
757.928.0666  
[jjackson757@aol.com](mailto:jjackson757@aol.com)**

## Residential Crime Prevention Starts With Taking The Proper Steps To Secure The Outside Of Your Home.

Common sense dictates us to lock our doors at night and when we are away from home, but residential crime prevention comes in many other shapes and sizes. Effective residential crime prevention depends on everything from properly fitted doors to stopping your mail delivery when away on vacation.

### The Basics

Residential crime prevention starts with taking the proper steps to secure the outside of your home. Basic residential crime prevention measures include installing outside floodlights, keeping your yard clutter free, pruning shrubbery so it doesn't hide windows and doors and cutting tree limbs back from upper-level windows.

Not every intrusion can be prevented. Knowing what to do when faced with different situations not only protects your possessions but can save your life. Ask all service and delivery people for proper photo identification, do not enter your home if something looks questionable, such as a broken window, opened door, or slit screen and leave your home immediately if you suspect someone is breaking into your home, and if you can't leave safely, lock yourself in a room and call 911.

### Doors and Locks

Burglars, on average, spend no more than 60 seconds trying to gain access to a home. Installing proper doors and locks on your home makes breaking in more difficult and often deters burglars. The following guidelines for doors and locks significantly improve residential crime prevention: install solid wood or metal doors, fit each exterior door with properly fitted dead bolts, do not rely on knob locks or door chains; they are easily broken, secure sliding glass doors with commercial grade locks or place a sturdy dowel in the door track and never hide keys around the outside of your home; instead give a spare to a trustworthy neighbor.

### Alarm Systems

An alarm system installed in your home, especially if you live in a secluded area or high-crime neighborhood can provide needed residential crime prevention. To achieve effective residential crime prevention, you first need to evaluate your home's needs. Your home's location and surroundings determine the level of residential crime prevention you need.

## Build Your Civic Muscle!

By Melinda Luchun

On Thursday, April 30, the Project Inclusion Board Governance Leadership Development Program Class of 2009 held a public forum at 6:00pm at the Norfolk Workforce Development Center. The topic of the forum, "Learn How to Serve on City Boards and Commissions," was paneled by Ruth Hodges Frazier, City Clerk of Virginia Beach, as well as City Clerks from neighboring cities. The City of Virginia Beach has over 30 boards and commissions to which Virginia Beach residents may be appointed. Examples of such boards and commissions are:

Virginia Beach Health Services Advisory Board  
Towing Advisory Board  
Wetlands Board  
Arts and Humanities Commission  
Military Liaison Commission

The function and purpose of each board and commission can be found in the City's municipal code. The City boards and commissions represent a variety of interests. Why not use your talents and expertise in this way to make Virginia Beach an even better place to live?!

To apply to serve on City boards and commissions, residents may access the Talent Bank Application on the City website: [http://www.vbgov.com/file\\_source/dept/clerk/Document/talentbank\\_application.pdf](http://www.vbgov.com/file_source/dept/clerk/Document/talentbank_application.pdf), or request an application at the Office of the City Clerk located in City Hall.

Because the City's Talent Bank, the list of people who have already submitted the Talent Bank Application to serve on a City board or commission, can be extensive, the panel encouraged applicants to:

Be patient—appointments happen when term limits have expired for current board or commission members. Term limits for some are 2 years but others are more. Remember—your application is only good for 5 years.

Get to know City Council Members (they make appointments to boards and commissions) and build a positive relationship. (e.g. thank them for something they've done well during a council meeting)

Find ways to share with Council Members how committed you are to the cause. (e.g. invite one of them to lunch—it doesn't have to be an upscale, expensive restaurant!)

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## Join VBCCO on Facebook!

Meet and collaborate with fellow VBCCO members,  
and receive the latest news about upcoming  
VBCCO events.

<http://go.vbcco.info/facebook>

## Virginia Beach Launches Premier Program for Housing and Neighborhood Preservation -- Solicits Citizen Participation on Pattern Book Project --

The City of Virginia Beach Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation (DHNP) will kick off a new housing and neighborhood preservation program with the start of a community-wide project to develop the city's first pattern book. The program, PREmier Homes and Neighborhoods, will provide and connect citizens to various resources and tools to help them preserve, renew and enhance ("PRE") their homes and neighborhoods.

The first phase of PREmier Homes and Neighborhoods is the development of a pattern book. This book will illustrate the various architectural housing styles and patterns found in the city's neighborhoods. It will be a tool that provides citizens with design guidelines consistent with the character and style of their neighborhood. Eventually the program also might include tax abatements, financial resources, and professional advice to assist citizens in home maintenance and improvement.

"We want the homes and neighborhoods in Virginia Beach to be places of choice, premier places to live," says Lanitha Hudson, the program's coordinator. "In order to do this, we must all work together in preserving, renewing and enhancing our homes and neighborhoods. This is the goal of the program."

To develop the pattern book, DHNP is soliciting the help of Virginia Beach citizens in taking and submitting photos of the homes in their neighborhoods. The pictures will help DHNP identify the city's different housing styles and neighborhood patterns and provide examples for the pattern book.

"The pattern book project is an exciting opportunity to engage citizens and to give them ownership of the PREmier Homes and Neighborhoods program," says Hudson. "By working with our citizens and using the resources we have here at the city, we'll be able to produce a cost-effective, professional and community-inspired product."

DHNP will be offering training throughout the city for civic leagues and citizens who are interested in participating in this project.

Details about PREmier Homes and Neighborhoods, the pattern book project and future training sessions are available at [www.VBgov.com/PREmier](http://www.VBgov.com/PREmier).

In 2008, City Council made the revitalization of neighborhoods one of its prioritized goals for the city over the next five years and on September 23, adopted a resolution to endorse the City of Virginia Beach Housing and Neighborhood Preservation Plan. The plan provides recommendations that address a collaborative process for neighborhood preservation and improvement on an ongoing, sustainable basis. It also addresses the types of tools that could be implemented to promote and provide incentives for the voluntary improvement of housing. PREmier Homes and Neighborhoods is the program developed from the plan's recommendations.

For more information, please call Housing Program Coordinator Lanitha Hudson at 385-5734.

### WIN \$25 Gift Card

Attendees that pre-register for meetings and events using the eventbrite website will automatically be entered into the quarterly gift card drawing.

Go to <http://vbcco.eventbrite.com>

Attend the board or commission meetings for which you are interested in joining.

Start with a less-popular, lower-profile board or commission. Here you can gain experience and make a name for yourself.

Be involved in your community! There are tons of ways—civic leagues, PTAs, churches, etc.

The City Clerks agreed that great care is taken in our localities to build boards and commissions that are diverse and representative but oftentimes localities have difficulty getting representation from people in their 20s and 30s. Encourage a young person you know to get involved as well!

Project Inclusion is a program of the United Way of South Hampton Roads. It aims to serve as an advocate for inclusion within the community and to build and promote cultural diversity among the United Way member agencies as well as other non-profit organizations to positively impact the quality of life for others. For more information about Project Inclusion contact the United Way of South Hampton Roads at 757-853-8500.

**Several State and city offices now have an easy way to access information. Simply dial a 3 digit number, and you will be connected!**

211 State of Virginia Department of Social Services  
311 City of Virginia Beach Citizens Services Center  
411 Directory Assistance (fee)

511 Virginia Department of Transportation  
711 Virginia Relay for the hearing/speech impaired  
811 Miss Utility of Virginia

**Membership Update**

As of April 8, 2009: there are 85 member organizations in good standing as shown in the adjacent list; members that were not in good standing automatically become in good standing upon report of receipt of payment of the 2009 membership fee; fee payments from 43 member organizations have been reported as received so far this year. Those member organizations that have not already done so may sent a fee check for \$25 payable to VBCCO to:

**VBCCO Treasurer  
P.O. Box 9252  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
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 Members In Good Standing**

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



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

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

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