



The Community Advocate

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

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

<http://vbcco.org>

December 2009 Volume 50 - Number 12

December's General Meeting Topic:

Talkin' Trash In Virginia Beach

Management from SPSA, TFC & Waste Management will be available to discuss the present and future of Virginia Beach's trash issues.

December 9, 7pm to 8:30pm
Meyera Oberndorf Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd

DON'T FORGET:

Remind the incoming treasurer to pay VBCCO dues for 2010!

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming meetings:

Jan 13 Induction of 2010 Board of Directors and Officers by Vice-Mayor Louis Jones; Annual Planning Meeting

We are looking for a civically minded people to volunteer for our various committees. If you are interested, please contact Sam Reid at sreid@vbcco.org.

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

A Message from the President

The Holidays are upon us and we are all very busy. I hope everyone will take some time to come out and learn a little about TRASH IN OUR CITY. Your Board of Directors has put together a very important and timely program.

The Leaders of Virginia Beach Waste Management, SPSA, and TFC Recycling will be on hand. They will each give a short briefing on their part in the TRASH process that we enjoy in our city. Some of the areas that will be touched on will be; transfer station use, the cities special pick up program, and the cost of the recycle program. The idea of Trash Fees is being floated at the Budget Public Town Hall meetings our City sponsored for input on the budget for up coming years. There will be some info on the proposed cost to us the residents. Then we are going to open the program for questions. This will be a great opportunity to get informed.

I would like to take a moment to let everyone know that we are hard at work promoting and protecting our neighborhoods. The neighborhoods of our City are unique because of how they developed over time. The days of endless tracks of land are over and as land to develop becomes non-existent, we will have to guard our neighborhood boundaries and stability. On Nov. 10, 2009, the efforts of the Acredale neighborhood in Kempsville paid off. Acredale asked the VBCCO for help in keeping a business for encroaching into their boundaries and possible affecting perceived stability. With guidance, they were able to create a new civic league, put together a petition expressing the concerns from well over half the residents, and organizing their folks to come down to City Hall and speak. I also attended the City Council meeting and spoke on their behalf and the behalf of all our members and neighborhoods. The VBCCO has a standing position against just this type of Spot Zoning. The folks of Acredale and I were very pleased and appreciative when Councilman Harry Diezel made the motion to deny the application for rezoning. I think we all owe Councilman Diezel our gratitude for protecting one of the Cities finest neighborhoods, Acredale.

I hope to see everyone at the Talkin' Trash meeting on Wednesday, December 9.

Sam Reid

Brighten Your Neighborhood Entrance on Dec. 12th

With hectic work schedules and family activities, we find ourselves in an isolationist society once neighbors reach the confines of their home. Many comment that they are too busy to socialize with their neighbors. The truth of the matter is that there *is* time, but neighbors require a reason. Today, many yearn for the "village-lifestyle" where *communities* help raise our children and neighbors jump into action when they sense other neighbors are in need. However, how to get back to that time was unclear... until now.

Share Your Light Night (SYLNight) is a luminary event where neighbors line their streets with luminaries; bags with a light source within, creating endless ribbons of lights. Neighbors come out at the same time and date and celebrate unity together by offering warm cider, cocoa, cookies, and music to visiting neighbors walking the streets taking in the beauty. Many neighborhood organizations offer other functions to support camaraderie through organizing caroling events, visits from Santa, and other such festivities.

As an individual or a community leader, dedicate yourself to creating unity by getting your neighbors to participate in Share Your Light Night, and encourage your organization to take action. Place an article in your newsletter or on your website about what SYLNight offers your community. Light the entrance of your neighborhood. Inspire a few pods of close



neighbors within your neighborhood to display luminaries and watch the event grow year after year. This event (in its 3rd year) will occur on the second Saturday in December (December 12th) at 6 PM. If inclement weather, please reference the event website below.

Contact Illuminate A Cause, LLC at 714-2772 for more information. Photographs, ideas and archived articles can be viewed at www.shareyourlightnight.blogspot.com.

The Question and Answer Box

This is a new column created to address **QUESTIONS** our members may have. We all face some of the same issues within our league. This will be your opportunity to receive answers and suggestions from the VBCCO and our neighbors.

This month, two questions came to light. The first is:

Q) Can a Civic League have too much money in the Treasury?

A) No. There are no limits on the amount of money a Civic League can have in their treasury, under any law. The amount of money is totally up to the Civic League's members. We should all have this problem.

Q) Where should our mail go? Does it have to go to a P.O. box?

A) A Civic League's mail can go where ever the membership decides to have it sent. Leagues have P.O. boxes (because they voted on it and pay for it), or the designate a Church, VFW hall, or even the secretary's home.

I hope this answers the **QUESTION(s) of the MONTH!**

2009 SEASON

Preliminary figures show that tourism was down slightly in 2009 due to the recession. What drop there was was led by a large drop in motel occupancy in the Northampton Boulevard Corridor. Overall, we weathered the storm much better than our competitors.

OFFSHORE WIND

The RAC endorsed the City of Virginia Beach studying offshore wind as an alternative energy source, including its impact on government installations.

THE HIPPO

A proposal has been floated for a large inflatable water slide *on the beach at the Oceanfront. The slide would be deflated each night.*

There are three issues involved. First, while only 4-5 feet high most of its length, the slide's tower would be 36 feet high. Where do you place it? Second, the possibility that we may be opening a Pandora's Box in allowing such operations onto the beach itself. As a rule, the City has only permitted beach umbrella and chair vendors onto the beach. Third, such new amenities are normally brought in under an one year pilot program before being granted a City franchise. However, given the capital outlay for the slide (\$80,000), the City wants to grant a five year franchise off the bat.

The RAC's Resort Investment Committee (RIC) endorsed looking at The Hippo. The full RAC did with two abstentions. Commissioner Art Webb abstained over the second issue, while I abstained over the first.

What I found appalling was that the two preliminary Staff placement sketches involved putting The Hippo in front of one of our public parks. They were looking at 17th Street or 24th Street. Staff specifically didn't want to block the views from hotel rooms or condos for tourists, but had no problem with blocking the view of a public park. That speaks volumes about where their priorities are.

Membership Update

As of November 17, 2009, the adjacent list shows the VBCCO member organizations in good standing (2009 VBCCO membership fee reported received). As additional payments are received, those members will be added to the good standing list. Members not having made payment may do so by mailing a 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

Aeries on the Bay•Alanton•Aragona Village
Avalon Hills•Avalon Terrace/Woods•Back Bay Pungo•
Bay Breeze Villas •Bay Lake Pines•Baycliff•Bellamy
Plantation•Bellamy Woods•Bellwood Estate• Birchwood
Birdneck Lake•Blackwater •Brigadoon • Brighton on the Bay •
Cambridge Courts•Cape Henry Shores• Cape Story By The Sea•
Carolanne Farm• Cavalier Park/Bay Colony• Charleston Area
•Chelsea• Green Hill Farms/Meadows •Chesapeake Beach•
Chesapeake Colony•Croatan • Cypress Point•Glenwood
Great Neck Estates• Green Run•Homestead•Kempsville Greens
King's Grant•Lagomar•Lake Smith T-HP-GS
Lake Shores•Lakeview Park•Lamplight Manor•Larkspur
Laurel Cove•Level Green•Linkhorn Cove•Linlier
Little Haven•Little Neck Cove•Lynnhaven Woods
Manchester Village• New Castle Princeton• North Alenton
North Virginia Beach•Ocean Park• Oceana Gardens
Park Place•Pembroke Manor•Pembroke Meadows
Princess Anne Crossing•Princess Anne Plaza•Ridgley
River Haven•Rudee Heights•Salem Woods
Southall Quarter•Stratford Chase•Thalia
Thoroughgood Colony•Three Oaks •Trantwood Lakes
The Villages•Wellington Woods
Wildwood Square•Witchduck•Woodstock



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

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2009 Officers and Directors

Thank you to our outgoing 2009 Board Members that worked effortlessly to make our year a success!

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 Jim Glynn
 Henry Ryto
 John McMullen**

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