



Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations

The Community Advocate

<http://vbcco.org>

May 2010

Volume 51 - Number 5

Wednesday, May 12

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meyera Oberndorf Central Library

***On May 12, learn about
the proposal to allow
ELECTRONIC
BILLBOARDS.***

***Whichever side of this
issue you are on, or
even if you don't know
what the buzz is all
about, you won't want
to miss this meeting.***

***Plus, come say farewell
to departing President,
Sam Reid, and watch
the swearing in of
our new President,
Jay Kerr.***

Next General Meeting:

Wednesday, June 9

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meyera Oberndorf Central Library

A Message from the President

Hello to All,

I consider everyone in the VBCCO my friend. We have worked together for many years to improve our neighborhoods and City, and I believe our efforts have produced results. I want to let all of you know first, that I am stepping down as the President of Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations.

I have decided to run for the office of School Board Member for the Beach District. After a lot of thought, I believe I'll best be able to serve the folks and children of our city as a School Board member. I worked in the School system for eight years, and I have been in every school and worked with many people throughout the School System. I believe our Schools are great, but over the next few years there are going to be many challenges and obstacles. Our children and grandchildren are the future of our City. I believe we must expand the education and training opportunities for our children in order to insure a viable and needed work force for the future of Virginia Beach. We would all like to see our children and grand children grow up and achieve successful careers in our great City.

I would like to thank all the Executive Committee and Board of Directors members that have served with me over the years. Our Organization really does run on VOLUNTEER power. It takes dedication and a will to want to help improve our neighborhoods. I am still going to help out and stay involved with the VBCCO.

Our First Vice President Jay Kerr will be taking over as your new President. I hope all of you will give him the same support and effort you've given me during my time serving you as VBCCO President.

I believe the VBCCO has come a long way in helping make our City better. We, as an organization have built a credible reputation throughout the City. The VBCCO represents the largest number of homeowners in the City. We have done a lot of work to advocate and educate our members and our City Council and City Staff on our neighborhoods and City issues that affect us all. I look forward to a great future for the VBCCO, our neighborhoods, and our City.

Sam Reid
President

Community Calendar

Mark your calendars now!

May 12

General Meeting,

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meyera Oberndorf Central
Library

May 16

K-9 Carnival, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Red Wing Park

May 21

Jazz Festival, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Great Neck Park

May 25

City Council Meets, 6 p.m.
Council Chambers, Bldg 1

July 14

Party in the Park

Mark your calendars for this annual event to be held at Mount Trashmore. Check the newsletter in the upcoming months for more information!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

*Contact Sam Reid or
Jay Kerr for details.*

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.

People and Places

People and Places is a new, recurring feature of the *Community Advocate*. Members are encouraged to share news about people and events in your community. We will publish as space permits. Send announcements to MemberNews@vbcco.org, and include a photo if possible.

The **Shore Drive Community Coalition** has joined VBCCO. **Grace Moran** is President.

Robert B. Kugler, Jr. has been elected President of **South Shore Estates Civic League**.

Edward Hollinger has been elected President of **Rudee Heights Civic League**.

VBCCO board member **Ed Fissinger** has resigned to run for School Board.

This space is reserved for your announcement.

Have you elected new officers? Have one of your members received an award or special recognition? Are you holding a community event that is open to the public? Let us know!

Send an email to MemberNews@vbcco.org.



On May 12, VBCCO members will be asked to vote on an official position either supporting or opposing Electronic Billboards.

Guest Commentary

The opinions expressed in the following commentary are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations. To share your views on this or other topics, send an email to opinions@vbcco.org.

Electronic Billboards Add Bling and Glitz— But Do They Enhance Our Community?

By Nancy Parker

The relevance of billboards in Virginia Beach is a community value issue. Back in the mid 1980's it was determined they detracted from our visual attractiveness and did not enhance our sense of community. As roadways were widened and new development occurred, the gradual removal of billboards was seen as a major step toward the beautification of the city.

The city faced many court challenges by the industry and won each time. Remember, it was the billboard industry that forced the removal of the crape myrtles along Virginia Beach Blvd. Billboards have been called visual pollution on a stick.

Now the billboard industry wants to add bling and glitz by making them digital so we can have brighter and more advertisements. There is the potential for up to 20 boards going digital throughout the city. This request is being cloaked with the concept of public service messages, trying to cloud the real issue. Digitalized billboards will bring us a bit of Las Vegas and Times Square.

Recently the Planning Commission voted NO to any changes to our billboard regulations. They validated the past decisions to reduce the impact of billboards in our city. On Tuesday, May 25, the issue will be heard by City Council. Your voice is needed to protect the beautification strides the city has made. Write ctycncl@vbgov.com.

Nancy Parker was a member of Virginia Beach City Council from 1986 to 2002 and a member of the Virginia Beach Planning Commission from 1983 to 1986.



Billboards

I think that I shall never see,
A billboard as lovely as a tree.
Its hulking face glares down at me,
Nature's beauty I wish to see.
It advertises things each day,
Begging all to pay, pay, pay.
And now those boards wish to wear,
Bright lights, more ads to fill the air.
Las Vegas, Times Square we are not,
Take those lighted boards to another spot.
I only wish a safe drive home,
I wish those billboards would leave us alone.
On May 25th the vote will be seen,
Your presence is needed to keep Va. Beach serene.
So if billboards really make you groan,
Call or write your City Council and make it known!

ctycncl@vbgov.com

Apologies to Joyce Kilmer

VBPD NEEDS YOUR HELP

Since mid January there has been a rash of property crimes occurring in the Princess Anne Plaza and Windsor Woods areas. At least sixteen residential burglaries, one commercial burglary, one robbery, three stolen vehicles, and eleven larcenies from automobiles were reported in those sections of Virginia Beach.

Officers are making contact with residents to make them aware of the crimes happening in their neighborhood and are hoping that residents may have information that will lead to the arrest of those responsible for these crimes. A flyer has been distributed to the residents of this area that highlights some of the burglaries that have occurred. A copy of the flyer accompanies this release and is attached below. The VB Alert system (sometimes referred to as reverse 911) was also utilized today as 4000 residents in the area received a call informing them of these crimes.

Anyone with information on these cases is encouraged to call the Virginia Beach Crime Solvers Office at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP (1-888-562-5887). Callers remain anonymous and could be eligible for up to a \$1,000 reward if their information leads to an arrest.

This case remains under investigation by the Virginia Beach Police Department's First Precinct Property Crimes Unit.

MPO Adam L. Bernstein
Public Information Officer
abernste@vbgov.com
757-385-4097

3 Basic Safety Rules

DO Stay Alert. Keep your mind on your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you.

DO Stand Tall. Walk purposefully, and make quick eye contact with people around you.

DO Trust Your Instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

Calling for Sponsorship and Donations

This year's Party in the Park will be held on Wednesday, July 14. If you or someone you know are interested in sponsoring or donating food, please contact the programs committee at programs@vbcco.org. This is a great opportunity to introduce yourself and your company to the community.

FEMA FLOOD PROGRAM

Residential Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL)

The City of Virginia Beach is currently working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to pre-qualify homeowners for the Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL). The SRL program is designed to mitigate (i.e. elevate) homes that have received multiple payments from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This program is meant to reduce or eliminate further claims under the NFIP through project activities that will result in the greatest savings to the National Flood Insurance Fund (NFIF).

The City has hired [Beck Disaster Recovery, Inc.](#) (BDR) to consult and manage the program on behalf of the City. BDR is a leading provider of program management for hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness/planning, response and recovery.

The cost of the program is shared with 75% being paid for by FEMA and 25% being paid by the homeowner. Homeowners who are interested in this program and meet the program requirements should fill out the [Pre-Qualify SLR Survey](#). The deadline for pre-qualifying is May 15, 2010.

For further information, please contact Beck Disaster Recovery, Inc., at 1-866-540-2325 or visit their Web site at: www.beckdr.com. Questions may also be directed to the Contracting Officer, Mark B. Gemender P. E., Department of Public Works, Operations Engineer at (757) 385-1470 or Mgemende@vbgov.com

VBCCO MEMBERS VOTE TO SUPPORT TAX INCREASES

At the April 14 general meeting, VBCCO members voted to support a local tax increase rather than face further cuts in city services.

The meeting began with a presentation from City Manager Jim Spore outlining his proposed 2010 city budget which included numerous spending cuts that included reductions in police staffing, elimination of the crime prevention program, and changing the mowing cycle for medians from once every 17 days to once every 23 days.

Afterward, VBCCO members voted on several proposals that had been presented at the March meeting. These included:

- Support for a request the City to reconvene the Blue Ribbon Tax Fee and Spending Task Force to gather public input regarding the budget and make recommendations to City Council.
- Support for increased user fees for the Recreation Centers.
- Support for either a tax rate increase or new fees in order to avoid further spending cuts.

The Neptune Festival Kicks off its 2010 Season of Events with the 7th Annual Neptune's International Spring Wine Festival!

It's wine from around the world at the Neptune Festival's 7th Annual International Spring Wine Festival. A seasonal favorite among the wine lovers of the Commonwealth, the 7th annual International Spring Wine Festival will be uncorking vintages from around the world on Saturday, May 15, 2010 in its new location, Neptune's Park at 31st Street at the oceanfront.

An assortment of over 75 wines from vintners around the globe will be available for sample and sale. Under the watchful eye of the imposing statue of King Neptune, stroll the beautiful oceanfront park and sample the latest vintages and flavors from France, Chile, New Zealand, Italy, Australia, Germany, and Argentina. In addition, two Virginia vineyards, Chateau Morrisette and Rockbridge, will also be at the festivities. To accompany the wine, gourmet food samplings and other specialty foods will be available for sale while live music by B3 Fusion and Borderline Crazy provides the ambiance for an afternoon of tastings by the sea.

Advance tickets for the festival are \$25 or \$30 at the gate. Wine tasters must be 21 years of age to purchase a ticket or any wine, and proof of age is required. In the event of inclement weather, the festival will be moved to Sunday, May 16, 2010, from noon to 5 p.m.

Tables of 8 may be purchased in advance for \$350 and a \$2 discount will be given for ticket orders of 10+. Tickets for the festival include a commemorative wine to sample the wines. Attractive rates at oceanfront resort hotels also make this an ideal opportunity for a weekend getaway.

About the Neptune Festival:

Each year, the Neptune Festival attracts hundreds of thousands of people to the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Attendance in 2009 generated approximately \$18 million in economic impact for the City of Virginia Beach. Now in its 37th year, the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival is produced by a private non-profit organization and directed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Support and funding for the event comes from the community at large and corporate sponsorships. For more information on the 37th Annual Neptune Festival, please call the Festival office at 1-866-NEP-FEST or visit www.neptunefestival.com.

If You Receive a Mailed Copy of This Newsletter, Please Verify Your Mailing Address

If you receive a *mailed* copy of this newsletter but no longer serve as an officer, director, or voting representative for your civic organization, please let us know so we can update our records. If you are NOT receiving a *mailed* copy of this newsletter because you've recently moved and forgot to provide us with a new address, we need to know that too. Please contact VBCCO Membership Committee Chair, Gene Moore at 757-497-5174.

JT'S GROMMET ISLAND PARK

The park on the beach at Rudee Inlet is under construction. Designed primarily for those in wheelchairs and their families, it is slated to open in May.

ROLAND COURT THEATER

At it's April 1 meeting, the RAC was told of the poor condition of the Roland Court Theater and that urgent measures would be needed to save it. *The Virginian-Pilot* has since reported that the building has been ordered demolished as unsafe.

There was a plan in the works to make the 17th Street area a historic area. Razing Roland Court probably kills the plan.

RESORT AREA ENTERTAINMENT

Bobby Melatti is scheduled to give a briefing to the RAC at it's May 6 meeting on this year's entertainment offerings and changes.

"IT'S AN AMENITY" (INSIGHT)

How do Resort Area projects get into the process? Why do things get traction that are laughed or scoffed at west of Birdneck Road? The mentality is that it's another amenity that will give tourists something else to do here, making Virginia Beach more attractive as a destination.

Yes, at times I've seen common sense and logic suspended in pursuit of such. However, the process is nowhere near as corrupted or self-serving as some try to portray it.

MEMBERSHIP FEE IS DUE

Have you paid your 2010 Membership Fee?

VBCCO member organizations are reminded that the 2010 membership fee was due January 1. Those member organizations not listed on the adjacent VBCCO Members In Good Standing list will be in good standing upon report of receipt of the 2010 membership fee payment. Those members that have not done so are requested to mail a check for \$25 payable to VBCCO to:

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

VBCCO Members In Good Standing

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 Homes•Birdneck Point •Blackwater
Brigadoon•Brighton on the Bay• Broad Bay Island
Broad Bay Point Green •Cambridge Courts• Cape Henry Shores
Cape Story By The Sea •Carolanne Farm• Cavalier Park/Bay
Colony Charlestowne Area •Chelsea-Green Hill Farms/Meadows
Chesapeake Beach•Chesapeake Colony•Columbus Station
Columbus Station East•Croatan • Cypress Point
Framingham Village •Glenwood •Great Neck Estates
Great Neck Meadows• Green Run•Homestead
Kempsville Greens•King's Grant•Lago Mar•Lake Shores
Lake Smith T-HP-GS•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 Alanton
North Virginia Beach•Ocean Park• Oceana Gardens
Park Place•Pembroke Manor•Pembroke Meadows•
Princess Anne Crossing•Princess Anne Plaza•Ridglea
River Haven•Rudee Heights•Salem Woods•Sandbridge Beach



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Inside this issue:

<i>Message from The President</i>	1
<i>Community Calendar</i>	2
<i>Billboards</i>	2
<i>VBPD Needs Your Help</i>	4
<i>FEMA Flood Programs</i>	5
<i>Neptune Festival Information</i>	6
<i>Mail List Verification</i>	6
<i>RAC Report</i>	7
<i>Members in Good Standing</i>	7

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