



**Keeping Citizens Informed and Involved
July 15, 2009**

Saving Green by Being Green

We've been working hard to save money by saving energy.

Last year, the city spent \$44 million on energy. That covers such necessities as fuel for police cars and garbage trucks, electricity for libraries and recreation centers, and power to pump water from Lake Gaston to your shower.

We can do better. And we are.

One year ago, we made a commitment to burn less gas and buy less electricity. We made several changes – some big, some small. For example:

- We audited three recreation centers – Bayside, Great Neck and Princess Anne. Now we're designing better lighting, heating and air conditioning systems. This will reduce electrical consumption by 30 percent.
- We changed the fluorescent lights in City Hall. This will pay for itself in three years.
- We converted the jail's heating and air conditioning system so it doesn't use so much outside air when it is hot or cold outside. This saves \$100 an hour on hot, humid summer days.
- We converted all traffic signals to LED lights, and we're using LED street lights on Atlantic Avenue and the Pungo Ferry Bridge. If these work well, we will spread the program citywide.
- We calculated the maximum efficient load for the Lake Gaston pipeline. Turns out it costs 26 percent less to drop the peak load a little from 60 million gallons a day to 55 million gallons.
- We're using tarps instead of dirt to cover landfill waste at the end of each day.
- We're packing more information on fewer computer servers, cutting down on electrical usage.

Top 10 Ocean Swimming Safety Tips

There's nothing like a day at the beach. Lots of fun, sun, surf and sand. But, swimming in the ocean isn't the same as swimming in a pool. You've got marine life swimming all around you, shifting sand under your feet and waves that can sometimes knock you down. We want you to enjoy your time at the beach, but we want you to be safe. The City of Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services offers the following tips for ocean swimming:

1. Always swim in groups and avoid secluded beaches.
2. NEVER leave children unattended.
3. Swim in an area monitored by lifeguards and obey all signal flags.
Red Flags = WATER IS DANGEROUS
4. Be aware of the tidal cycles and marine life in the area where you are swimming.
5. Know basic water safety and how to avoid and survive dangerous situations like rip currents.
6. Avoid the water at night, dawn or dusk.

7. Avoid wearing shiny jewelry in the water.
8. Don't swim in waters being fished or around fishing piers.
9. Don't dive. Go feet first.
10. Swim with care near sandbars or steep drop-offs.

Please remember that flotation devices and boogie boards are NOT substitutes for swimming ability. Know your swimming ability and stay close to shore. These and dozens of other important summer safety tip lists are available online at www.VBgov.com/dept/ems/safety.

**Army Corps of Engineers and City Collaborate On
Lynnhaven River Ecosystem Restoration Project**

The City of Virginia Beach and the Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers are collaborating to develop a plan to restore and protect the Lynnhaven River.

The agencies have been working together for the past five years to better understand how the watershed functions and to determine what should be done to restore its environmental quality. The Lynnhaven River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Study has identified four areas of concern: water quality, tidal wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation and siltation.

About 500 citizens attended three community meetings in June and July to discuss opportunities to restore the watershed. City staff advised the audience that people could opt out if they do not want their lakefront property included in the project. Results of the community meetings will be integrated into final recommendations, which will be presented to the City Council in the fall for consideration and action.

In addition to the city and corps, other partners in the project are Lynnhaven River NOW, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, First Landing State Park, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Old Dominion University and a variety of federal and state agencies.

More information can be found at www.armyengineersnorfolk.com.

**Want a Good Read? Try "Recommended Reads"
Podcast**

Summer's here – time for a good read! Try our weekly Recommended Reads podcast. It's updated every Monday with suggestions from the Virginia Beach Public Library staff. Go to www.VBgov.com/podcast and select Libraries, then Recommended Reads.

While you're there, check out the city's other podcasts – the mayor's State of the City address, crime prevention tips, economic development news, and a discussion of what's in your drinking water. It's all at www.VBgov.com/podcast.

Alternative Energy Task Force to Meet on July 27

A range of alternative energy sources – solar, tidal, biofuels and more – are on the agenda for the next meeting of the Mayor's Alternative Energy Task Force. Representatives from the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium will speak.

The meeting will be held July 27 at 6 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 3A-B. The group will meet every three or four weeks, usually at 6 p.m. at the Convention Center.

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be Sept. 3. For more information, call 385-8267.

Vote for the Virginia Beach Farmers Market!

For 33 years, the Virginia Beach Farmers Market has been a city jewel, appealing to citizens throughout the community. With more than 15 vendors, a butcher shop and a full-service restaurant, the rural venue attracts shoppers and cooks from all corners of Virginia Beach. Now we can tell others about this treasure.

The American Farmland Trust is sponsoring a contest for America's Favorite Farmers Market – a nationwide challenge to America's 4,685 farmers markets. The goal is to promote fresh, local food and the local farms that supply it.

Tell the nation why our farmers market is the best! Vote for the Virginia Beach Farmers Market at www.farmland.org/vote. Results will be announced during Farmers Market Week, August 2 to 8.

Events

Why NOT Wednesdays?

On warm summer evenings, check out the Sandler Center's "Why Not Wednesdays?" Every Wednesday until September 9, from 5 to 8 p.m., the center will sponsor live music and outdoor fun, featuring hot local bands and serving ice cold drinks. It is free and open to the public at the Sandler Center's outdoor plaza. Food and beverages are courtesy of Keagan's. For more information, go to www.sandlercenter.org.

Chalk the Walk ARTsplosion and Art Show

On July 25, at the 17th Street Park, the fifth annual Chalk the Walk ARTsplosion will be held, along with the annual 17th Street Art Show. The chalk contest is a competition in which participants of all ages draw chalk drawings on the Boardwalk.

Two blocks of the Boardwalk will be closed off to allow 200 competitors to complete drawings in 4-foot-by-4-foot squares. The theme will be "Under the Sea." Judges will select the top chalk art in amateur, professional and youth divisions. Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to the top three pieces in each division.

Chalk the Walk will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All participants must register by 1 p.m. All drawings must be completed by 3:30. For more information, visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

"Access Virginia Beach" Each Week on VBTv

Information about the city and schools has never been easier to "Access."

Each week, "Access Virginia Beach" presents the latest news and events from the city and schools, featuring issues, news, initiatives and helpful tips on public safety and emergency preparation. "Access Virginia Beach" also directs viewers to other resources, like Web sites, for more detailed information. Upcoming events are promoted on a Community Calendar.

Each edition is available and indexed online for a month via VBTv's E-Stream at www.VBgov.com/vbtv

Virginia Beach Television -- VBTv

Cox Channel 48, Verizon Channel 45, Cavalier Channel 119

Cox Channel 47, Verizon Channel 47, Cavalier Channel 118

Monday, 7:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 2:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 p.m.

Thursday, 2:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Friday, 2:30 a.m. & 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Sunday, 9 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.VBgov.com/vbtv.

City Council

Formal sessions: 6 p.m.

Preceded by informal sessions

(Times to be determined)

August 11 and 25

Building 1, Second Floor, Council Chamber
Municipal Center

Workshop

(Time to be determined)

August 18

City Council Conference Room

City Council Summer Break

July 15 to August 2

City Council Goal-Setting Workshop

August 3 and 4

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Virginia Beach Convention Center

National Night Out

August 4

Various events throughout the city

Public Meeting

August 13

Virginia Beach Convention Center

Discussion of 2010 Legislative Agenda

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Need more information about City Council?

Call the City Clerk's Office at 385-4303

or visit www.VBgov.com/city_hall



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