



**Keeping Citizens Informed and Involved**  
**August 12, 2009**

**Pacific Avenue trail under construction**

Joggers and bikers, take note. Your options are about to expand.

If you've been to the Oceanfront lately, you've probably seen pilings sticking up out of Lake Holly. Construction is under way for the Pacific Avenue trail extension.

Work began in late May and is scheduled to be completed in October. The trail will be a 1,400-foot boardwalk along the lake's edge, stretching from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street/Norfolk Avenue, running alongside Pacific Avenue. This will give pedestrians and others a picturesque path where they won't have to compete with traffic along Pacific Avenue. A gazebo halfway down the path will provide shade and rest.

The project costs about \$1.1 million, with most of that money – nearly \$800,000 – coming from a federal grant. The trail will be part of an eight-mile loop walking/biking trail from Pacific Avenue to General Booth Boulevard to Birdneck Road to Norfolk Avenue. The eight mile loop will be complete once Birdneck Road construction is complete in late 2010/early 2011. This will connect the Oceanfront with the Aquarium, the Owl Creek Municipal Tennis Center, the Owl Creek Golf Course and the Seatack Recreation Center.

The trail will accommodate walkers, joggers, bikers, rollerbladers, skateboarders – pretty much anything but cars and motor scooters.

We'd like a catchy name for that eight-mile loop. Got an idea? Contact Barbara Duke at 385-4310 or [bduke@vb.gov](mailto:bduke@vb.gov).

**New Online Service Available from Public Utilities**

If you are one of Virginia Beach's 400,000 Public Utilities customers, you've got a new way to stay connected and manage your account online. *Public Utilities Online Services* offers flexibility and convenience. The new user-friendly application gives customers secure access to real-time account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Account Management**

Get current balance information, view and print past and present billing statements, view consumption history, see that a payment has posted, request a payment extension and more. You can also keep contact information up-to-date by changing an address, updating a phone number or adding a secondary customer in a just few clicks.

**Service Requests**

Submit requests to start, stop or transfer service online, then track the status of those requests through completion. You can send and receive account-related messages without ever having to pick up the phone to speak with a customer service representative.

If you're ready for the freedom from phone calls, long wait times and e-mail requests, account access is just a click away. To start taking advantage of the new self-service options, simply go to [VBgov.com/PUonlineservices](http://VBgov.com/PUonlineservices) and log in today.

For more information, please call 385-4631.

**Summer sun meets clean beach:**  
**How it got that way**

Visitors often comment about how clean, well-maintained and family-friendly our Oceanfront is. It all seems to just happen, right? Not a chance. While most people are grabbing some winks, dedicated employees from Public Works are cleaning and maintaining the resort so visitors and citizens can enjoy it when the sun rises.

Starting at midnight, street sweepers spread out across the Oceanfront and clean 36 miles of streets every night. Meanwhile, six workers pressure wash the Boardwalk, connector parks and sidewalks.

At about 2 a.m., three beach tractors start cleaning and grooming the beach. Using beach cleaners and a blade, they rake and clean the sand of trash and refuse. Five trucks with 15 to 20 workers travel across 18 miles of public beaches, collecting trash on the sand and emptying garbage cans.

Just before sunrise, other crews sweep the Boardwalk, side streets and connector parks and collect trash from the many cans along the Oceanfront. A packer truck collects trash from Atlantic Avenue, the Boardwalk, side streets, the Croatan parking lot and Sandbridge beach. Not a simple task: These crews empty 1,436 trash cans each day! Then crews trim weeds, install sand fencing and signs.

Throughout the summer, six electricians maintain more than 2,700 pedestrian and street lights on the Boardwalk, Atlantic Avenue and in the parks, along with electrical panels that power it all. They also maintain the electrical systems for the 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Street stages and they develop the systems needed to supply power to the vendors that line the beach and Boardwalk.

Some of the most popular features at the Oceanfront are the foot washers and showers. They require constant maintenance, along with the water fountains. Two plumbers pay close attention to these facilities at all times. A contractor provides custodial services to the public restrooms at 24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets. These restrooms are open in the summer from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week.

**West Neck Road Improvements Under Way**

West Neck Road will remain closed between North Landing Road and Signature Drive to complete safety improvements to a section of road with an S-shaped curve. The road, which is located in the city's "Transition Area," has been closed since June 22. Work on it should be completed by Labor Day.

Improvements include widening the travel lanes to 12 feet, adding three-foot-wide paved shoulders, regrading ditches to provide for shallower slopes, removing trees and installing recessed reflectors along a 1,300-foot section of roadway. For more information, please contact Chris Wojtowicz of the Department of Public Works at 385-4131 or [cwojtowi@vb.gov](mailto:cwojtowi@vb.gov).

## **EPA Recognizes Lynnhaven River Success**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized Virginia Beach's success in improving the Lynnhaven River Watershed. These efforts were highlighted on the EPA's Web site for Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program Success Stories, which notes polluted bodies of water that have achieved documented improvements through restoration.

Elevated levels of fecal coliform in Lynnhaven Bay, Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay violated Virginia's water quality standard in shellfish-supporting waters and prompted the state Health Department to condemn shellfish beds for harvest in 1998. The City of Virginia Beach and its partners created programs that reduced fecal coliform bacteria. The bays now met the standard for shellfish waters. As a result, the state proposes to remove these three bays from the 2010 list of impaired waters for fecal coliform.

For more information, visit [http://www.epa.gov/owow/NPS/Success319/state/va\\_3bays.htm](http://www.epa.gov/owow/NPS/Success319/state/va_3bays.htm), or call 385-4131 and ask for Steve McLaughlin.

## **Upcoming event:** **FunkFest**

Aug. 28 – 9:15 to 10:45 p.m.  
Aug. 29 – 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
24<sup>th</sup> Street Park  
Admission FREE

Break out your bellbottoms and shake your booty. Celebrating the music of legends like James Brown, Sly and the Family Stone, George Clinton and the Ohio Players. Music you can dance to, with food, merchandise and dance contests.

For more information, visit [www.beachstreetusa.com/events/FunkFest](http://www.beachstreetusa.com/events/FunkFest)

## **In the Works**

### **Focuses on the Potential of Wind Energy**

Can the wind be harnessed to provide Virginia Beach and the commonwealth with a clean and efficient energy source for the future? See why the city's offshore climate is favorable for taking advantage of this renewable energy resource. Also:

- Learn about the efforts to create affordable housing in Virginia Beach.
- There are 3,500 lane miles of public roads in Virginia Beach. Find out how the city funds, builds and maintains them. (Do you know how many potholes the city patched last year? Find out on the latest edition of *In the Works*.)

## **Virginia Beach VBTv** **Cox Channel 48 – Verizon Channel 45 – Cavalier Channel 119**

Stay on top of the latest news, updates and information concerning ongoing projects, initiatives and proposals in Virginia Beach by watching VBTv's *In the Works*. This edition of *In the Works* will be shown:

Monday 5 a.m., 7:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 9 p.m., 11:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m.  
Friday 11:30 p.m.  
Saturday Midnight, 2:30 a.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.VBgov.com/vbtv](http://www.VBgov.com/vbtv)

## **City Council meetings**

### **Workshop**

August 18 – Time to be determined  
Council conference room  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

### **Formal meeting**

August 25 – 6 p.m.  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Preceded by informal session  
Time to be determined

## **City Council members**

**Mayor William D. Sessoms, Jr.**  
At Large

**Vice Mayor Louis R. Jones**  
Bayside District #4

**Glenn R. Davis, Jr.**  
Rose Hall District #3

**Bill R. DeSteph**  
At Large

**Harry E. Diezel**  
Kempsville District #2

**Bob Dyer**  
Centerville District #1

**Barbara M. Henley**  
Princess Anne District #7

**John E. Uhrin**  
Beach District #6

**Ronald "Ron" A. Villanueva**  
At Large

**Rosemary Wilson**  
At Large

**James L. Wood**  
Lynnhaven District #5



## **Contact Us:**

Media & Communications Group  
2401 Courthouse Dr., Suite 220  
Municipal Center, Bldg. 1  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
Main: (757) 385-4679  
[mcg@vb.gov](mailto:mcg@vb.gov)