



Keeping Citizens Informed and Involved September 23, 2009

View Plans to Enhance Kids Cove

In the spring of 1993, a huge children's play area was constructed and funded by thousands of volunteers at Mount Trashmore Park. After 16 years, this playground – Kids Cove – still brings joy to many children and their families.

Now, we are planning for a long-term modernization of Kids Cove to make it safer and much more accessible to children with disabilities. You are invited to see plans for the first phase of this improvement.

In Phase 1, we plan to build three distinct new play areas with rubber surfaces – a general play area, a swing area and a climber area. These new play areas will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Kids Cove also will be enhanced with four new picnic shelters, landscaping and walkways. The original Kids Cove playground will remain available for use during this construction.

While construction is under way, we will evaluate the future of the original wooden Kids Cove. We plan to fully meet today's national guidelines for the operation and management of public playgrounds. Currently, Kids Cove is not fully accessible and cannot be improved to meet those guidelines. One of the many options is to build anew. Before we make any decision regarding the future, you will have a chance to weigh in.

In the 1990s, during construction of the original Kids Cove, many families' names were incorporated into the park. Maybe the Kids Cove of tomorrow, with its state-of-the-art amenities, will bear your family's name, too.

Meanwhile, please join us as we unveil the new phase.
Kids Cove Public Information Meeting
Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m.
Kempsville Recreation Center Theater
For more information, call 385-1120 or 385-0415

Renovated Kempsville Library to Re-Open Sept. 30

Library fans have been patient for nine months. Now their patience will be rewarded.

The newly renovated Kempsville Library will re-open Sept 30. From the outside, it looks the same. Inside, many things are new.

First, it *looks* new – new carpeting, new furniture, new paint on the walls. More important, there are new features everywhere.

For teens, there is a dedicated room with a flat-screen TV on the wall for a variety of purposes, including gaming. There is new retro-style furniture, including a lounge chair, rocker and tables that can be moved, as needed. There are two computer stations and outlets on tables for laptops.

For everyone, there is a new computer room with 16 terminals and work stations, offering free Internet access.

There's also a large flat-screen TV on the wall for instructional purposes.

In the middle of the library, there is a new lounge, with a (faux) fireplace, a television and relaxing chairs.

For years, patrons have asked for additional study rooms. So we added two new ones. Also, there is an entirely new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system that can easily and quickly bring outside air into the library on cool spring and fall days.

Finally the old light fixtures were replaced with new energy-efficient lights. As a result, the electrical load for lighting is 37 percent less than before, allowing us to add more computers, flat-screen monitors and other technology without exceeding the existing power service.

Kempsville is the second-busiest library in the city, exceeded only by the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library. Even while the library was closed, the "Kempsville Express" library, in the City Treasurer's office, handled 6,800 "hold" items a month – behind only the Central and Princess Anne Libraries.

Please join us. We'll have a **Family Story Time** every Monday in October at 11 a.m., plus a **Fall Family Festival** on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.VBgov.com/libraries.

Sand Replenishment at Cape Henry Beach

For the first time ever, the City of Virginia Beach will be placing sand from Lynnhaven Inlet directly onto Cape Henry Beach. The new beach will be wider and higher – providing better storm protection and a more attractive and enjoyable beach for Virginia Beach residents.

After working with property owners to document public interests, the city recently received the go-ahead to place sand along Cape Henry from the inlet to First Landing State Park.

The Army Corps of Engineers has issued a contract to dredge the channel and place the sand on Cape Henry Beach. Work is expected to begin by Sept. 30 and should be completed by Nov. 15. As the contractor dredges the channel, sand will be placed first on the west end of the beach, closest to Lynnhaven Inlet, then move east.

Since 1965, the Corps of Engineers has dredging the channel every three or four years. As part of that project, the city has used all the dredged sand to replenish public beaches. Until 2000, most of that sand was hauled by trucks to the Oceanfront. Since 2000, sand from the inlet has been used to replenish Ocean Park Beach.

Temporary work zones will be established and closed to the public, but the beaches on either side will be open to beachgoers. As each section is replenished, it will be reopened. A pipeline will be placed on the beach throughout the replenishment. Sand ramps will be used to allow pedestrian access to the shoreline during the process.

Work will be performed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This may not be convenient for everyone, but it is essential for a navigation dredging project and it is standard for all beach replenishment projects involving hydraulic dredging.

While there may be temporary inconveniences during the project, the city is pleased to be able to provide beach replenishment to Cape Henry Beach. It's part of the process that allows us to have some of the greatest beaches in the country.

Neptune Festival Boardwalk Weekend **Friday, Sept. 25 to Sunday, Sept. 27**

The weekend you've been waiting for has arrived. It's time for the Neptune Festival Boardwalk Weekend. Here's a summary of what's happening at the beach this weekend:

- North American Sandsculpting Championships – 6th to 10th Streets
 - Solo and team masters division – Wednesday to Friday – Judging starts at 2 p.m. Friday
 - School division – Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Business division – Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Neptune Festival Art and Craft Show – 18th to 32nd Streets
 - Friday, noon to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Grand Parade - 16th to 32nd Street
 - Saturday, 11:30 a.m.
- Fireworks Extravaganza – 14th Street Pier
 - Saturday, 9 p.m.
- Food and Exhibitors – 2nd to 31st Street
 - Friday, noon to 11 p.m.
 - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 - Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Neptune's Atlantic Regatta – Virginia Beach Oceanfront
 - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Neptune's 8K and 5K Run – 24th Street
 - Saturday, 8 a.m.
- Neptune's Surfing Classic – 8th Street
 - Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Neptune Volleyball Tournament – 10th to 13th Streets
 - Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.
- Radio Disney's Rockin' Block – 13th to 15th Streets
 - Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.
- Youth Art Show – 27th to 28th Streets
 - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Cornhole Tournament – 17th Street
 - Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
 - Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
- Three stages of music – 17th, 24th and 31st Streets
 - Friday 5:30 to 11 p.m.
 - Saturday, 1 to 11 p.m.
 - Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.neptunefestival.com or call 498-0215.

Newtown Strategic Growth Area **Public Meetings Oct. 1**

Several important issues face the Newtown Strategic Growth Area, including the proposed Cleveland Street flyover, plans for the Norfolk Southern right-of-way and the upcoming light rail station in Norfolk.

Residents, property owners and business owners can help define a vision for this area and a strategy for making it a reality by attending public meetings on **Thursday, Oct. 1**. A community input meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd. Small focus group sessions will be held earlier in the day, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is the first step in an ongoing process to seek direction from the public on the Newtown Strategic Growth Area. For more information or focus group scheduling, contact Karen Lasley or Carolyn Smith at 385-4621, klasley@VBgov.com or caksmith@VBgov.com.

Upcoming event: Wild Wheels Weekend

Saturday, Oct. 3 – Indoors, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Outdoors, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4 – Indoors and outdoors, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Virginia Beach Convention Center

1000 19th Street

Two shows in one – for classic hot rod enthusiasts *and* the younger generation of import car owners. Meet the host of Speed TV's "My Classic Car," Dennis Gage, as well as Candy Clark from the movie "American Graffiti" and legendary car builder Darryl Starbird. Plus a live collector car auction, starting 2 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

Visit www.virginiabeachcarshows.com, e-mail infoevent@aol.com or call 410-798-6304.

Upcoming event: SK8R Bash

Saturday, Oct. 10

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mount Trashmore Skate Park

Entrance on South Boulevard

Roll out for some nose-grinding action, complete with big airs, board grabs and other raw tricks. The contest runs alongside fun activities and rockin' live music. Free admission for spectators. Nominal cost for competitors. Free parking.

City Council Meetings

Community Summit

Oct. 5 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 5-ABC

City Council Review of Community Summit

Oct. 6 at 8:30 a.m.

Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 4-DE

Formal Sessions

Oct. 13 and 27 – 6 p.m.

City Council Chamber, City Hall, 2nd Floor

Preceded by informal session, Time to be determined

Citizens are invited to speak at the end of the first formal session of the month (Oct. 13). Each citizen may speak for 3 minutes about items that are not on the agenda.

Workshop

Oct. 20 – 4 p.m.

Council Conference Room, City Hall, 2nd Floor

For more information, call 385-4303 or visit

www.VBgov.com/city_hall.



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