



Keeping Citizens Informed and Involved
October 14, 2009

Declaration of Independence to Visit
Virginia Beach Central Library on Oct. 22

You know the first few words by heart: "When in the course of human events..." Now see the whole document – just the way colonists saw it after that historic day on July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence is coming to the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library for one day only: Thursday, Oct. 22. It is one of only 25 known copies of the Declaration printed on July 4, 1776, and the only one that tours the country.

About 500 students from eight Virginia Beach schools will see the document up-close from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. No other school tours are available. Public viewing will be from 2 to 6 p.m.

Pearson Education, a national company that specializes in education technology and publishing, is underwriting the document's visit, along with Declare Yourself, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign that encourages young people over 18 to register and vote.

"We are thrilled and honored to host one of the most famous documents in world history," said Marcy Sims, director of the Virginia Beach Public Library. "It's especially appropriate here in Virginia, Thomas Jefferson's home. I can't think of a more appropriate historic document to kick off a discussion about democracy in America – especially two weeks before Election Day."

This copy of the Declaration of Independence has a unique history. On July 4, 1776, Thomas Jefferson completed the final draft of the Declaration and rushed it to the local print shop of John Dunlap in Philadelphia. Dunlap printed about 200 copies on large poster-size sheets of paper called broadsides, which were immediately sent to the colonies and King George to officially declare American independence from England.

In 1989, a flea market shopper bought a frame he admired for \$4. Later, he removed a piece of paper wedged between the frame and the painting and found this copy of the Declaration of Independence. It was later authenticated by the Getty Museum as the 25th remaining copy of the Declaration from July 4, 1776.

TV producer and Declare Yourself founder Norman Lear and his wife Lyn bought the copy in 2000 for \$8.1 million, with the goal of bringing "the people's document" directly to the American people.

Laskin Gateway construction begins;
Check for road closures online

The Oceanfront is the crown jewel of Virginia Beach, and has been a popular vacation spot for more than 100 years.

Steeped in history since the days of the old Princess Anne Hotel, it has taken on greater importance over the years. It is our downtown. After the Navy, it is the biggest economic engine driving the city's economy. And, of course, it is the very definition of Virginia Beach's public image. When visitors come to our city, what they remember best is our beach, our Boardwalk and our resort area.

So now we're sprucing up a little part of the resort around Laskin Road and 31st Street.

Our job is to maintain this precious asset and constantly improve it because:

- Resort businesses provide thousands of jobs for our residents and millions of dollars in taxes that help keep the tax rate low for homeowners.
- The public's perception of Virginia Beach depends on the quality of our resort area.
- Water, sewer and traffic services in the area must be improved.
- It is part of the rich quality of life that Virginia Beach residents enjoy.

The Laskin Road Gateway project is part of our long-term plan to enhance the resort area – economically and aesthetically. It ties into our other efforts to rejuvenate the aging Oceanfront neighborhood, to redevelop the Dome site and Rudee Loop, to bring a headquarters hotel to the Convention Center, and to beautify key corridors into the resort area.

Construction has begun. We know it will be inconvenient at times. We promise to minimize the disruption as much as possible. Meanwhile, check on the latest construction schedule and road closings at www.VBgov.com/laskingateway. You'll also find Frequently Asked Questions, a timeline, design plans and renderings of what it will look like.

Questions? Contact Barry Frankenfield at 385-4876 or bfranken@vb.gov.

Groundbreaking soon for Field House;
New artificial turf at Sportsplex

Athletes, pay attention. This is about you.

The Virginia Beach Field House is about to become a reality. It will feature 15 indoor artificial-turf fields and hard-surface courts to support recreational players and competitive leagues in soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, volleyball and basketball.

At 150,800 square feet, it will be twice as large as most city recreation centers. It is patterned after a similar – but smaller – facility in Fredericksburg.

Ground will be broken later this fall, with an anticipated opening in about one year, in fall 2010. The building will be built on city property next to the Sportsplex by a private company – Virginia Beach Field House LLC, based in Fredericksburg – for about \$13 million. The company has a 20-year lease on the property, with two 10-year extension options.

At the same time, another private company – Hometown Sports Management LLC, based in Virginia Beach – has taken over management of the Sportsplex and the adjacent U.S. Field Hockey National Training Center. In August, the company replaced the Sportsplex's Bermuda grass field with artificial turf. As a result, the field can be used much more often. It is already booked with frequent games and practices for the Virginia Rush soccer club, local high schools and leagues.

The renovation achieves two goals set by the City Council when it approved the management contract in March:

- It saves the city about \$400,000 a year in operating expenses for the Sportsplex and field hockey center.
- The Sportsplex now is available seven days a week, with no concerns about how frequent use will affect the grass field.

The Sportsplex management deal began in May and runs for 16 years. Stay tuned as the management team books new events for the refurbished stadium. We'll keep you posted. For more information, call the city Parks and Recreation Department at 385-1120.

**It's Our Future:
Three informational meetings set
for Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan**

Last fall, the city held 12 public open houses to learn what planning issues and goals are most important to you. Now we are ready to unveil the final draft of the city's updated Comprehensive Plan.

You can read the plan at www.VBgov.com/compplanupdate, or visit any Virginia Beach Public Library location. Three public informational meetings are scheduled so you can review the plan and discuss issues with city staff. Each meeting will be 7 to 9 p.m.

- Thursday, Oct. 22 at Bayside Recreation Center, 4500 First Court Road
- Monday, Oct. 26 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th St.
- Thursday, Oct. 29 at Creeds Elementary School, 920 Princess Anne Road

Questions? Contact the Planning Department at 385-4621 or cpupdate@vb.gov.

Flu season is here: Protect yourself and others

Flu season is upon us, but this year is slightly different from years past. Individuals should receive two flu shots this year: one for seasonal influenza and another for H1N1 influenza (previously referred to as "swine flu").

At this time, the H1N1 virus is categorized as mild to moderate in nature, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The virus can, however, spread quickly. You can take steps to avoid catching and spreading H1N1 and seasonal influenza. Protect yourself with these easy steps.

Ward off germs:

- The flu and common cold are usually spread through tiny droplets sprayed into the air when you cough or sneeze. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, or sneeze and cough into your upper sleeve to prevent the spread of germs. Throw away used tissues immediately and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often. You must use soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when hand washing is not possible.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs can live for two hours or more on surfaces like doorknobs, desks or chairs. They can easily be spread when you touch a contaminated surface and then your face.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.

If you do get sick, follow these steps to get well:

- Wash your hands often.
- Stay home and keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink lots of fluids like water, tea, broth or juice.
- Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen as needed for pain or fever.
- Use a vaporizer or saline drops to relieve congestion.

Stay informed by visiting these online resources:

www.flu.gov (Centers for Disease Control)
www.vdh.virginia.gov (Virginia Department of Health)
www.VBgov.com/H1N1 (City of Virginia Beach)

The key is not to panic and to be prepared. Follow the recommendations above to reduce the spread of H1N1 and seasonal flu locally.

**Download audio books to your MP3 player;
Learn more Oct. 21 at the Overdrive Bookmobile.**

No time to read? Download a good book to your iPod or MP3 player and listen in the car, at the gym or anywhere in between. The Virginia Beach Public Library offers audio books through Overdrive's digital media services. It's simple, fast and easy. All you need is a library card. Check out up to three titles for 7, 14 or 21 days – your choice.

Find out how fun and easy it is by visiting the Overdrive Bookmobile at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or get the details online at <http://vbpl.lib.overdrive.com>

Two public hearings for Pembroke master plan

The final draft of the Pembroke Strategic Growth Area 4 Implementation Plan is available for review at city libraries and at www.VBgov.com/pembrokeplan.

The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, Oct. 14, at noon in the City Council Chamber. The commission will make a recommendation regarding this plan to the City Council.

The City Council has scheduled its own hearing on the plan for Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m. in the council chamber. The council is scheduled to vote on adopting the plan on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

For more information, visit www.VBgov.com/pembrokeplan or contact the city Planning Department at 385-4621 or pembrokeplan@VBgov.com.

City Council Meetings

Formal Sessions – 6 p.m.

Oct. 27 and Nov. 10
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 (Nov. 10). Each citizen may speak for three minutes about items that are not on the agenda.

Workshops – 4 p.m.

Oct. 20 and Nov. 3
Council Conference Room
City Hall, 2nd Floor

For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 385-4303 or visit www.VBgov.com/city_hall.



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