

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE



MARCH 4, 2022

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CITY HOSTS ANNUAL READ ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION

Today I joined in the annual **Read Across America** celebration hosted by **Virginia Beach GrowSmart** and Virginia Beach Reads, in partnership with the National Education Association. Read Across America is a community awareness event which highlights the importance

of reading on grade level as a critical milestone in a child's educational and future success.

This year's community celebration included more than 6,000 children, 83 schools and childcare programs and 330 early care and education classrooms. Every child who participated received a copy of the book "All Are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman. A video of the virtual event is [available here](#).

CITY RECRUITS NEW MEMBERS FOR VB COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Emergencies happen quickly and without warning. Fortunately, citizens can make a difference in the community and become better prepared to respond to emergency situations right here in Virginia Beach by joining the **Community Emergency Response Team (VBCERT)**.

The goal of VBCERT is to provide no-cost training and hands-on exercises to empower residents with basic disaster response skills so they can assist themselves, family members, neighbors, or co-workers during an emergency, even before first responders arrive.

A VBCERT awareness and introduction seminar for those interested in learning more about VBCERT will be held at the Virginia Beach Fire & Rescue Training Center on Tuesday, March 8, from 6-8 p.m. Registration is available at VBgov.com/VBCERT.

VBCERT training starts with a basic course. The first course this year will begin on March 15 and conclude on April 23 with a half-day skill proficiency exercise. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. A second basic course will also be offered starting on Monday, Sept. 12.

– CALENDAR REMINDERS –

- **SUNDAY, MARCH 6:** Virginia Beach Public Library is accepting applications from individual artists and groups interested in exhibiting their artwork at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library for the 2022-2023 exhibit season. Applicant portfolios must include a brief letter of application describing their artwork and art experience; contact information; and 10 or more sample digital images with the size of each piece in inches. Email portfolios for consideration to volunteer art gallery coordinator Robert Kennedy, rkennedy@vbgov.com, by midnight on March 6.
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 11:** To promote water conservation among the City's youth, Public Utilities is asking teachers and parents to encourage students in grades K-5 to illustrate different ways to use water wisely for a chance to have their artwork featured in the department's 2023 Water Awareness Calendar. Deadline to submit is March 11. The contest rules and entry form can be found at VBgov.com/calendarcontest.
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 12:** Council Member Sabrina Wooten will host the first Ignite Business Series Pitch competition at the Virginia Beach Convention Center starting at 8:30 a.m. Ten individuals will compete to present new business concepts to a panel of judges for critique and feedback while vying for a customized coaching and mentorship package, courtesy of The Hive business center. It is free and open to the public and will also be livestreamed. For more info and to register to attend, visit VBgov.com/ignite.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 22:** The deadline to apply for the 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is extended to March 22. SYEP is open to Virginia Beach residents, ages 16-21, and runs from June 21 to Aug. 12. Participants will earn at least \$11 per hour, working a minimum of 27-35 hours per week during the eight-week program. Workplace readiness and financial literacy training are also provided during the orientation and throughout the entire program. For more info, visit VBgov.com/SYEP or contact Andrea Holloman, (757) 385-0432.



OPPORTUNITIES

OCEANFRONT LIBRARY TO OPEN DRIVE-UP SERVICE

Virginia Beach Public Library's (VBPL) Oceanfront branch will open for drive-up service on Monday, March 7, while the rest of the building remains closed for renovations. While construction delays have prolonged the project, the branch is expected to open fully later this spring. Customers will be able to pick up holds from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Other drive-up services include materials return and account services.

The Oceanfront Area Library renovation is part of VBPL's second phase of a \$5.8 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to renovate eight of 10 library locations. All libraries except the Wahab Public Law Library (updated in 2018) and the TCC/City Joint-Use Library (built in 2013) have been or will be updated. The Great Neck Area Library is expected to close this summer to prepare for renovations. Updates were completed at Princess Anne, Bayside, Kempsville and Central Libraries in 2019, at Pungo-Blackwater in 2020 and at Windsor Woods in 2021.

FREE COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

The **Virginia Beach Department of Public Health** will host a free **COVID-19 vaccination clinic** from 10 a.m. - noon on Saturday, March 5 at Kingdom Cathedral, 3820 Stoneshore Road. Participants ages 5-17 will be offered the Pfizer vaccine and will need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Adults will have the option of either the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Visit the following links to schedule: [Pfizer – ages 5-11](#) | [Pfizer – ages 12+](#) | [Moderna](#) | [Johnson & Johnson](#)

CITY IMPROVEMENTS/CLOSURES

- **BUTTERNUT DRIVE:** Due to a sanitary sewer repair, Butternut Drive is currently closed between Old Great Neck Road and Big Leaf Circle to safely facilitate this work. Traffic is detoured via Reagan Avenue. Area residents will continue to have access to their properties throughout the repair. Weather permitting, work is expected to be complete by Thursday, March 10. Contact: Michael Lynn, 757-385-8472.

BURTON STATION SANITARY SEWER PUMP STATION CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

Public Utilities recently completed the installation of a new sanitary sewer pump station at 1164 Tolliver Road. The new pump station will provide safe and reliable public sanitary sewer service to the previously unserved part of the Burton Station Strategic Growth Area. Trident Civil completed construction of this \$2.3M project in December 2021.



VB RESCUE HOSTS FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA COURSE FOR MEMBERS

VB Rescue held the system's first-ever Effective Social Media Use in EMS course in February, aiming at empowering VB Rescue members to use social media to grow the volunteer rescue system in the City of Virginia Beach.

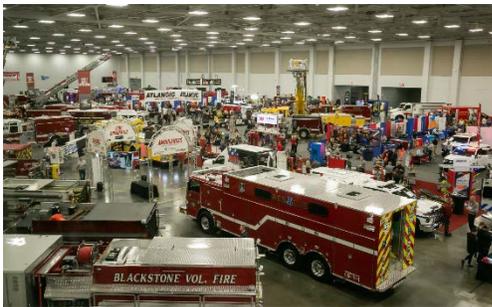


Ricky LaBlue, public affairs officer for **Virginia Beach EMS**, designed and taught the course, which was attended by about 20 VB Rescue members. He stressed the importance of an effective social media presence and demonstrated tactics that work across industries. The course also explained the tools available to VB Rescue members and how VB Rescue members can evaluate their success over the course of time.

VB FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES RETURN OF VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE (VFRC)

After a year off due to COVID-19, the annual Virginia Fire Rescue Conference (VFRC) returned bigger and better than ever. Hosted by the Virginia Fire Chief Association (VFCA), the four-day event was held last week at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. More than 800 students and public safety officials from across the Commonwealth attended, along with more than 150 nationwide vendors, making it one of the largest attended conferences in its 24-year history. This event provides vendors from across the country an opportunity to showcase the next generation of fire apparatus and the latest and greatest fire equipment, technology and fire/public safety gear. Students were also provided with 10,000 hours of training that allowed them to earn and maintain career certifications.

Mayor Bobby Dyer welcomed the attendees and dignitaries to the VFRC 2022 Awards and Recognition Ceremony. **Secretary of Public Safety, Bob Mosier** shared his and Governor Younkin's support and appreciation for Virginia's fire service and the Commonwealth's public safety personnel, volunteer and career alike. **Acting Executive Director of the Virginia**



Department of Fire Programs, Garret Dyer presented the 2021 Governor's Fire Service Awards. In addition, \$32,000 worth of scholarships were presented to families and students that are involved in the fire service and/or public safety. Saturday's closing general session included a presentation by task force leaders from FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Team Virginia Task Force 2 of last year's tragic collapse of the Champlain Towers South building in Surfside Florida.

NINE NEW MEMBERS GRADUATE LATEST 9-1-1 RECRUIT ACADEMY

Emergency Communications and Citizen Services welcomed the nine members of the 52nd 9-1-1 Recruit Academy to the team. The graduates received 12 weeks of classroom training along with onsite observation. They will now begin the hands-on job-training portion of the academy, working alongside staff to develop the skills necessary to be successful Public Safety Telecommunicators.



UPCOMING EVENTS

VB ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION PICKS ITS “TOP 3” ARTS EVENTS FOR MARCH

The Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission celebrates arts and culture each month by highlighting its “Top 3” arts events, all of which receive support from the commission.

- **The Miss Firecracker Contest:** Enjoy Beth Henley’s heartwarming tale of not just second chances to love, but second chances to love yourself. Performances run March 11-April 3 at Little Theater of Virginia Beach.
- **Blastoff: A Symphony in Space:** Boldly go where no concertgoer has gone before when the Virginia Symphony Orchestra travels into hyperspace with the Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra in this side-by-side concert. NASA-provided projections will accompany the music. Join the orchestra in the lobby at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 13 for activities for all ages.
- **Oge Mora Collage Workshop + Author Talk:** Join collage artist and storyteller Oge Mora for a hands-on collage workshop followed by an author talk and book signing. The collage workshop begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the author talk and book signing at 2 p.m. at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library on Saturday, March 12.

For more information about tickets and upcoming arts and cultural events, visit www.vbarts.org.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



ATTACHMENTS

- ◆ March 3, 2022 – Copy of a notice of a Fios® TV programming change.
- ◆ March 4, 2022 – Copy of a notice of a Fios® TV programming change.
- ◆ Virginia Beach Television (VBTV) Program Schedule | March 6 through March 12, 2022.



Fios® TV Programming Change

We are committed to providing you with the best value in entertainment.

Fios TV programming is supplied by various content providers and at this time, one of our content providers has made the decision to cease distribution of certain Russian content. As of March 3, 2022, Channel One Russia SD (C1R) (Channel 1773) is not currently available on Fios TV.



Fios® TV Programming Change

On or after March 31, 2022, Fox Life network (channel 1582) will be discontinued by the content provider. This channel will be removed from the Fios TV channel lineup.



VIRGINIA BEACH TELEVISION

Cox Cable Channels 46, 47 & 48
Verizon Cable Channels 46, 47 & 45

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MARCH 6 – MARCH 12, 2022

VIRGINIA BEACH TELEVISION provides locally produced and other specialty programming to support the mission of the Virginia Beach Municipal Government and the Virginia Beach City Public School System. Program listings reflect expected airtimes but may be preempted by public meetings, hearings, and special events.

 e~Streaming is available at <https://www.vbgov.com/media> for all **LIVE** public sessions of Virginia Beach City Council and Planning Commission meetings, archives of previous meetings, and original VBTV programming. **LIVE** meetings and previous sessions of the Virginia Beach City School Board can be accessed at <http://www.vbschools.com/schoolboard/archive>.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

 **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY COUNCIL MEETING (Cox 48 / Verizon 45)** — *Recablecast of the March 1 meeting:* Sun 9am; Thu 7pm; Fri 9am.

 **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING (Cox 48 / Verizon 45)** — **LIVE:** Wed Noon. *Recablecast:* Thu 9am. *Also recablecast on Cox 47 / Verizon 47, Fri 7pm.*

 **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (Cox 47 / Verizon 47)** — *Recablecast of the March 1 meeting:* Mon 2pm. **LIVE:** Tue, Workshop 4pm; Formal Session 6pm. *Recablecast:* Wed 7pm; Sat 9am.

During the next two weeks, VBTV will upgrade vital infrastructure and be unable to present our usual spectrum of programming. As noted above, live meetings and replays of those meetings will continue unchanged because of their importance, but the remainder of our schedule will be replaced with Community Matters, our text-based information channel featuring current events and late-breaking news of interest to local citizens.

Visit our web site at
www.VBgov.com/VBTV

For more information regarding VBTV programming please contact the Creative Services Division at 385-1868 or multimedia@vbgov.com