

City Manager's Update



MARCH 3, 2023

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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 Day, which kicks off National Reading Month, is a community awareness event that celebrates a love of reading and highlights the importance of reading on grade level as a critical milestone in a child's educational and future success.

This year's celebration included 6,500 children in over 400 classrooms across 85 early learning environments with more than 80 volunteer readers. Every child who participated took home a copy of the book "The Word Collector" by Peter H. Reynolds. A video of the event will be broadcast on Access VB throughout the month and is available to watch here: youtu.be/B1VlsyXRhKA. Parks and Recreation Director Michael Kirschman and Director of Public Libraries Kimberly Knight are also featured in the video reading to children and showcasing additional places in our community where children can discover new words such as recreation centers and libraries. Councilmembers Michael Berlucchi, Jennifer Rouse, Joash Schulman and Chris Taylor were distinguished readers at early learning programs.



INPUT NEEDED ON 5/31 MEMORIAL DESIGN CONCEPTS

The public is invited to provide feedback on the two design concepts submitted for the **5/31 Memorial**. The survey is open now on SpeakUpVB.com and will remain open through March 23. The 5/31 Memorial Committee will then meet to discuss the results. For additional info about the design process, visit LoveforVB.com or contact 531MemorialPlanning@vbgov.com.



- CALENDAR REMINDERS -

- **FRIDAY, MARCH 10:** 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 2024 Water Awareness Calendar. Deadline to submit is March 10. The contest rules and entry form can be found at viriniabeach.gov/calendarcontest.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

AROUND TOWN: FEBRUARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RECAP

I began February by attending the final listening session with neighborhood association leaders at the Great Neck Recreation Center. It was informative and engaging and received valuable information pertaining to what the City is doing well and what we can improve on in the areas of communications and community engagement.

Later in the month, I met with representatives from Senator Mark Warner's office to familiarize them with City's priority projects and initiatives and to explore opportunities for assistance. I also attended the change of command at NAS Oceana on Feb. 24 and welcomed Capt. Steven V. Djunaedi, the 48th commanding officer of NAS Oceana, to Virginia Beach.

OPPORTUNITIES

FREE COVID-19 BOOSTER CLINIC MARCH 4

The **Virginia Beach Department of Public Health** will host a **free COVID-19 bivalent booster clinic** on Saturday, March 4, at New Light Full Gospel Baptist Church, 5549 Indian River Road, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccines will be available at the clinics. Participants ages 5-17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Visit links to schedule: [Pfizer – Bivalent Booster 12+](#) | [Moderna – Bivalent Booster 6+](#)

CITY IMPROVEMENTS/CLOSURES

- **JEANNE STREET:** An emergency sewer repair resulted in the closure of Jeanne Street between Independence Boulevard and Constitution Drive. The repair is expected to be complete by 9 a.m. Sunday, March 5; weather permitting. Contact: Barron McPherson, 757-510-8128.

WATER TREATMENT PROCESS UNDERGOING CHANGES

On March 8, the City of Virginia Beach will temporarily change the disinfectant used in the water distribution system from chloramines to free chlorine. The switch back to chloramines will take place on March 29. This routine maintenance helps prevent bacteria from forming resistances to the usual chloramine disinfection process, helping ensure continued high-quality drinking water to customers.

Customers may temporarily notice a slight taste and odor change in the water; however, customers do not need to make any changes to their water-use routines. More information is available at virginiabeach.gov/drinking-water-disinfection. Contact: Nicole Payne, 757-385-1400.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF RECEIVE ACCOLADES

American Legion Princess Anne Post 113 hosted its annual “Law and Order Day” ceremony recognizing Virginia Beach public safety officials this past week. The following individuals received recognition during the ceremony: **Emergency Medical Technician Cole Reibel**, **Master Firefighter Vincent Smith, III**, **Sheriff’s Deputy Demarius Lee** and **Police Officer Adam Sinnott** (unable to attend). Mayor Bobby Dyer, Councilmember Barbara Henley and Sheriff Ken Stolle provided remarks.



VBFD STAFF RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICE AWARDS

Two Virginia Beach Fire Department employees received 2022 Governor's Fire Service Awards as part of the annual Virginia Fire Rescue Conference held last week at the Convention Center. Life Safety Education Supervisor Jessica Xenakis was awarded the Excellence In Virginia Community Risk Reduction for her outstanding teaching expertise involved in the creation of a new virtual learning resource: www.vbfdlifesafety.com. She also created the VBFD Safety Squad Program, an interactive station-based fire and injury prevention curriculum.

Public Information Officer Barbara Morrison received an award for Civilian Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Support. She was recognized for building and maintaining interdepartmental relationships and for new and innovative ways to ensure the department's messaging had the greatest amount of reach and impact as possible. In addition to her role as Public Information Officer, she worked closely with the Life Education team to spearhead and advise on countless online fire safety campaigns that helped the team gain over 200% growth on the department's most used social media platforms.



Barb Morrison & Jessica Xenakis

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.

- **"Masterworks III: Earthrise" by Symphonicity:** This Earth, Wind and Fire concert will focus on the earth, our community, and our diverse world with the integration of poetry. Performances start on March 5 at 3 p.m. at the Sandler Center.
- **"Coppelia" by Ballet Virginia:** Join Ballet Virginia for this classic comic ballet for the whole family to enjoy. Performances are March 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Sandler Center.
- **World Culture Festival – Hampton Roads Edition:** The festival features live music and dance, international food vendors, inspired speakers, well-being sessions, and more. Event runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 25 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

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

VBGIGS MUSIC SERIES KICKS OFF MARCH 11

VBGIGS (Virginia Beach Globally Inspired Gatherings) is back for a full series of FREE performances across the city. See below for the full schedule.



- **March 11, 1-2 p.m. at the Sandler Center:** The Rhodes Academy of Irish Dance featuring Sean Heely and Colin McGlynn
- **May 13, 5-7 p.m. at the Sandler Center:** The Sound and Soul of Puerto Rico with Kadencia
- **May 20, 2-3 p.m. at Williams Farm Recreation Center:** Song and Dance of Ghana with Tidewater Cultural Alliance
- **June 17, 9 a.m. to noon at Virginia African American Cultural Center:** Celebrating Juneteenth at the ViBe Creative District Stage

VBGIGS is a series of free and low-cost public performances taking place throughout the City in public spaces and performance venues. In alignment with the City's arts strategic plan, Arts Plan 2030, VBGIGS aims to bring world-class, culturally rooted performing artists to Virginia Beach residents in their neighborhoods and nearby venues.



ATTACHMENTS

- ◆ Virginia Beach Television (VBTV) Program Schedule | March 5 through March 11, 2023.




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

PROGRAM SCHEDULE MARCH 5 – MARCH 11, 2023

VIRGINIA BEACH TELEVISION provides locally produced 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 February 21 meeting:* Sun 9am. **LIVE:** Tue, Informal Session 1pm; Formal Session 6pm. Recablecast: 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 February 28 meeting:* Mon 2pm. **LIVE:** Tue 5pm. Recablecast: Wed 7pm; Sat 9am.

VIRGINIA BEACH TELEVISION – COX 48 / VERIZON 45

DUCK CARVERS OF THE TIDEWATER — Decoys were first made to lure wildfowl within shooting range by market hunters but are now sought after by collectors who pay thousands of dollars for those made by the top names in carving. An art handed down from father to son, hear how some of the prominent decoy carvers of the Virginia Beach and Knott's Island areas have preserved the art and lore of this fascinating skill. Sun & Fri 6pm; Mon & Sat 3pm; Tue Noon; Wed 9am; Thu 6am & 9pm.

HOW IN THE WORLD — Hop aboard the Airship Curiosity and travel the globe for an adventure of fun and discovery. How do leaves change color? What was farming like in colonial days? Why are fingerprints different and how do police use them to solve crime? Also, learn how a submarine works, and discover the causes of wind. Sun & Fri Noon; Mon & Sat 9am; Tue 6am & 9pm; Wed 6pm; Thu 3pm.

UNION KEMPSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MUSEUM VIRTUAL TOUR — Princess Anne County Training School was the first high school for African Americans in what is now known as Virginia Beach. Today the legacy of the school continues with the establishment of a museum to share stories of family, community, sacrifice, and the importance of education. Sun & Fri 3pm; Mon & Sat Noon; Tue 9am; Wed 6am & 9pm; Thu 6pm.

VBPD ACADEMY CLASS #62 PART 1 — Meet members of the Virginia Beach Police Department Training Academy staff and the recruits of Class 62 as they begin their 26-week journey to become sworn officers of the VBPD. Sun & Fri 6am & 9pm; Mon & Sat 6pm; Tue 3pm; Wed Noon; Thu 9am.

VIRGINIA BEACH COLD CASE FILES: *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BARBARA JEAN?* — See if you can help solve perplexing disappearances, tragic murders and unsolved crimes from VBPD's cold case files. Sun & Fri 9am; Mon & Sat 6am & 9pm; Tue 6pm; Wed 3pm; Thu Noon.

VIRGINIA BEACH TELEVISION – COX 47 / VERIZON 47

DUCK CARVERS OF THE TIDEWATER — Sun & Fri 8am; Mon & Sat 5am & 8pm; Tue 5pm; Wed 2pm; Thu 11am.

HOW IN THE WORLD — Sun & Fri 5pm; Tue 11am; Wed 8am; Thu 5am & 8pm; Sat 2pm.

UNION KEMPSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MUSEUM VIRTUAL TOUR — Sun & Fri 5am & 8pm; Mon & Sat 5pm; Tue 2pm; Wed 11am; Thu 8am;

VBPD ACADEMY CLASS #62 PART 2 — Sun & Fri 11am; Mon & Sat 8am; Tue 5am & 8pm; Wed 5pm; Thu 2pm.

VIRGINIA BEACH COLD CASE FILES — Sun & Fri 2pm; Mon & Sat 11am; Tue 8am; Wed 5am; Thu 5pm.

VIRGINIA BEACH TELEVISION – COX 46 / VERIZON 46

General information about the City of Virginia Beach, plus current events and late-breaking news of interest to local citizens, cablecasts 24 hours a day with audio provided by NOAA Weather radio.

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