

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM

It would be very difficult to be anywhere in the United States this fall and not know that there is an election happening in November. But you may not know much about the candidates running for Mayor and City Council seats in Virginia Beach. There are three candidates for the position of Mayor and nine candidates running for four seats on the City Council.

On Wednesday, October 17, you can learn about our local candidates at LRNow's Candidates Forum. It will be held in the Dreyfus Auditorium at Cape Henry Collegiate School, 1320 Mill Dam Road. The doors will open at 6:30 pm and we will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Candidates will respond to questions from our panelists and from you, the audience members. The forum will end at 9:00 pm and we are asking the candidates to plan to stay until 9:30 pm for individual questions. All 12 candidates have confirmed that they will be participating in the forum.

Many important challenges face our city and our mayor and council members will be making decisions that will set a course for our city. It is important that we are informed about the issues and understand our candidates' positions.

Our Candidates' Forum is being co-sponsored by the Shore Drive Community Coalition, the Council of Garden Clubs, the Princess Anne Garden Club, Virginia Beach Garden Club and the Back Bay Restoration Foundation.

Advance registration is not necessary. See you there!



LYNNHAVEN *River* NOW



YOU ARE INVITED

Pleasure House Point Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Friday, October 12, 2012
11 AM

Kindly RSVP by October 1 to fun@vbgov.com or 757-385-8235.



LRNOW'S FALL FESTIVAL AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 13, 2012
11 AM TO 4 PM

Join us for guided nature walks and kayak tours of Pleasure House Creek. Educational opportunities and fun for the whole family. Seafood Market, Farmers Market and eco-friendly crafts. Great local food!



For more information: www.LRNow.org,
kris@LRNow.org or 757-962-5398.
You don't want to miss the Fall Festival!

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
PERMIT #30

1608 PLEASURE HOUSE ROAD SUITE 108
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23455 • 757-962-5398





Thank You!

June 1, 2012 – August 21, 2012

INDIVIDUALS

REEF MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wisoff
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks Stephan
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ackiss

GENERAL MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Denny Wance
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Lakin
Mr. Brian Pendergast
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Imrich
Mr. & Mrs. Huib Keizer
Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Nemo
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Marroni
Ms. Donna Slack
Mr. & Mrs. George Lyon

BUSINESSES & GROUPS

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Runnymede Corporation
DIA, Inc.

REEF MEMBERS

Landstown High School
The Meridian Group

GENERAL MEMBERS

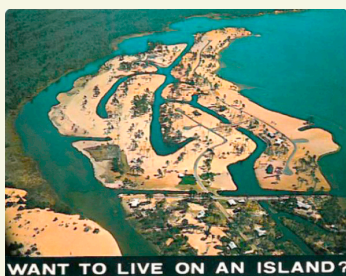
HLD Landscaping, Inc.
Virginia Beach Garden Club

MEMORIAL & HONOR DONATIONS

In Honor of Anne Jett
Mr. & Mrs. Huib Keizer

In Honor of Bill Wells
Mr. & Mrs. George Lyon

BROAD BAY ISLAND



This ad ran in a magazine in the 1960's advertising residential lots on the undeveloped eastern half of Broad Bay Island.

DEAR MEMBERS,

In 1960, the population of Virginia Beach was 84,000. In 2011, the most recent number I could find, the population of Virginia Beach was 442,707. That is phenomenal population growth and each new family who moved into Virginia Beach needed a home with a driveway, roads to navigate around the city, a convenient shopping center, schools for their children, and a green lawn – all the infrastructure for a good life. During the years when our city was growing the most rapidly, the 60's, 70's and 80's, the predominate pattern of development was the suburban model – individual homes on large lots with spacious lawns, neighborhoods designed around cul-de-sacs and a clear geographic separation between business, retail and residential areas. When we had lots of undeveloped land and gas was 30 cents a gallon, this seemed like a good model. Plus, we did not really understand the air and water quality results of this model of development.

Today, we have a city designed in the era of suburbia that is facing the environmental and sustainability issues of the 21st century. Gas is now \$3.50 or more a gallon, undeveloped land is precious and we all drive too much just to do the simplest things like go to work and shop for groceries. We have regional air quality problems. We have had serious water quality problems for decades and are faced today with the high cost of trying to correct the problems created in the past.

One thing is clear. We cannot continue to do things the way we used to do them. We have to abandon the suburban development model and embrace newer thinking about city planning. We need neighborhoods where people can work, shop, play and live in the same neighborhood. And we desperately need alternatives to the car. The good news about these newer models of city planning is that they create less impervious surface (a number one water quality issue), they reduce the miles one must drive (an air and water quality issue), and they are the preferred choice for many young professionals and the businesses in which they work, bringing economic vitality to our city.

This fall, we will have the opportunity to let our city leaders know what we think about bringing light rail to Virginia Beach. Mass transit is an integral part of moving Virginia Beach away from the suburban development model of the past. Lynnhaven River NOW is supporting light rail for Virginia Beach.

Why would an organization focused on restoring and protecting the Lynnhaven River take a stand on light rail? There are several compelling reasons:

- Much of the excess nitrogen, a key pollutant, in the Lynnhaven River is air deposited and the largest source is car exhaust. Reducing vehicle miles driven and the amount of time cars idle in traffic can significantly reduce the excess nitrogen in our waterways.
- Water quality is directly tied to the level of impervious surface and roadways, parking lots, driveways and other infrastructure to serve the car are major sources of impervious surface.
- We know much more today about how to incorporate storm water management into our new buildings and land development. Redevelopment of older areas of our city, stimulated by mass transit, can bring much better storm water management and improved water quality in all our waterways.
- The type of development that occurs around mass transit tends to be the newer mixed use development where you can live, work, shop and play in the same neighborhood, thus further reducing our dependence on cars.

Our green infrastructure, our open spaces, beaches and waterways are so important to our way of life in Virginia Beach. We can accommodate a half million people in Virginia Beach, have a growing, vibrant economy, and protect the natural resources that we cherish if we make wise, future oriented decisions.

Thank you for all you do for our community,

Karen

Karen W. Forget

Executive Director

Friends Don't Let Friends Build Bulkheads

Our Living Shorelines Initiative gained great momentum this summer when a Little Neck couple installed the first living shoreline of its kind in the Lynnhaven watershed. In August, Darcy and Brooks Stephan completed construction on a shoreline treatment composed entirely of native marsh vegetation, sand and a coir log. A coir log is a biodegradable log made of coconut fiber, designed to last a few years – just long enough to hold sand in place while newly planted marsh grasses get established. It's actually the vegetation in this treatment that will protect the Stephan's property from erosion.

As with many neighborhoods in the Lynnhaven, the Stephan's property has some relatively steep, shaded banks. They appreciate the natural trees, shrubs and other plants growing all around the borders of their property. When they began noticing some bank erosion fairly close to the location of their home, they reached out for assistance. The conventional shoreline treatments with riprap or stone armoring would have required them to strip their banks of the beautiful natural plant life that really helps to keep our river clean and provide habitat, and that which they treasure as an important part of their property. That option just didn't seem right to them. They learned about living shoreline treatments when they met a member of LRNOW's Wetlands Committee and then called our Restoration Project Coordinator for a free consultation.

The project involved getting an appropriate design approved by the Virginia Beach Wetlands Board and other permit reviewers, installing a coir log, backfilling with clean sand, cutting back tree branches to allow more sunlight in, planting native wetlands and buffer plants, and then installing temporary goose fencing. They hired an environmental consultant and a marine contractor to design, permit and install most of the project, but chose to do the planting and fencing themselves. Lynnhaven River Now's Restoration Project Coordinator, Joe Scalf, provided expertise, support and encouragement throughout the process.

The Stephans are very excited to watch their new marsh grow, feel satisfied that they've done the best thing for their property, and they've given us a genuine example of good land and water stewardship.

Tell your neighbors about Living Shorelines, and find out more on our website.



A living shoreline treatment is a management practice that addresses erosion by providing for long-term protection, restoration or enhancement of vegetated shoreline habitats. This is accomplished through the strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill and other structural and organic materials. Living shoreline treatments do not include hard structures that sever the natural processes & connections between the upland and the intertidal and aquatic areas such as tidal exchange, sediment movement, plant community transitions & groundwater flow.



VIRGINIA BEACH SUSTAINABILITY EXPO

Join us! Be a part of the sustainable movement in Hampton Roads!

If you are interested in recycling, energy conservation, locally grown produce, green living, and other sustainable practices, then the Hampton Roads Sustainable Living Expo is right for you.

The purpose of the Expo is to help educate the Hampton Roads public about the Environment, social, and economic challenges we are facing today, to share ideas, resources, and information with individuals, business, and communities, and to promote more sustainable practices.

Where – Virginia Beach Convention Center

When – Friday, September 28th – will explore how local businesses can reduce their impact on our natural resources, operate more sustainably, and perhaps even save a little money while providing a better workplace. Topics will include the environmental impact of the built environment, transportation, purchasing, and waste management. The registration fee will include a luncheon with a nationally recognized speaker.

Saturday, September 29th – will be open to the public and is designed to answer many questions that local residents may have regarding sustainability. Learning venues will range from edible landscapes and urban gardening to bee keeping and alternative energy opportunities for your home.

For more information, to register for Friday's Business Leaders Luncheon or to volunteer, go to <http://www.vbgov.com/government/offices/green/sustainable-expo/pages/default.aspx> or google Virginia Beach Sustainable Living Expo.