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VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
PERMIT #30

LYNNHAVEN River NOW

11TH ANNUAL *Oyster Roast*

Saturday, April 20
Noon - 3 p.m.

ART AUCTION

Wonderful river-themed art by local artists

CELEBRATE LYNNHAVEN RIVER HISTORY

Bring your old photos and memorabilia
so we can all reminisce

OYSTER SHUCKING CONTEST

Test your oyster shucking skills

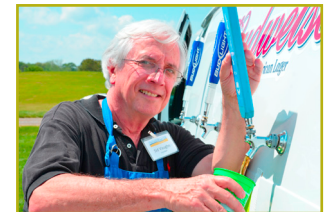
STORY CORPS

Share your memories with our team dedicated
to recording stories of the Lynnhaven River
through your words

ZERO TRASH EVENT

Last year we had only 4 bags of trash.
Help us make this a Zero Trash Event

Tickets are \$60 per person and are available in our
office, on our website, www.LRNow.org or by
calling our office at 757-962-5398



FIFTY DAYS OF FUN

Virginia Beach is 50 years old. On January 1, 1963, the Virginia Beach resort area, a small seaside community, and Princess Anne County, a sprawling rural and suburban area, merged to become the 310-square-mile City of Virginia Beach. The City will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary throughout 2013 culminating in a street festival, the Golden Age Beach Party, on October 12th. LRNow is excited that our 2013 Fall Festival will be a part of the Golden Age Beach Party!

In addition, the city will celebrate "50 Days of Fun" every weekend on Saturdays and Sundays from May 4 to October 12. Watch for LRNow events that are a part of the 50 Days of Fun: Bird Watching Walks on May 11, June 14, and July 14; a Paddling Expedition (August 1) and a Night Hike (September 20) for children; two Bicycle Tours of our Watershed on May 18 and September 7; Kayak Tours on June 8 and July 13 and our regular monthly river cleanups

on July 20, August 17 and September 21. In addition, three other LRNow programs, Discovering Wetlands (June 15), Exploring Children's Nature Books (June 25) and a Pearl Homes Backyard Tour (September 22) are part of our 50 Days of Fun.

More information about each of these events will be available in our E-News, on our website and in the City's 50 Days of Fun publications. Come and have fun with us and celebrate 50 years of Virginia Beach History.

Spring Events:

- Birdwatching Walks at Pleasure House Point – May 11 and June 14
- Bayside History Bike Tour – May 18
- Kayak Eco-Tour – June 8
- Exploring Children's Nature Books – June 25

ART AUCTION

Through the creativity, support and generosity of our local artists, we are going to have a wonderful art auction at the Oyster Roast. One of a kind sculpture and pottery items, beautiful paintings and photography, jewelry and glass art, other crafts and the "Oyster Chicks".

And look for our new Art of Saving the River tee shirt.

STORY CORPS BOOTH

In addition to sharing your photos of life in the past in Virginia Beach, we want to capture your stories. We will have a special booth set up at the Oyster Roast with volunteers who will record your stories of what life was like in Virginia Beach and especially on and around the Lynnhaven in the past. There are so many good stories of the beauty and bounty of the river and the ways that the river has shaped our lives in Virginia Beach. We do not want these tales to be lost. We hope many of you will share your personal stories about what is special about living in Virginia Beach.

BRING YOUR OLD PHOTOS TO SHARE

Help us kick off the City's 50th Anniversary Celebration by bringing your old photos of life on and around the Lynnhaven River to our Oyster Roast to share. We will have a special area where your photos will be displayed during the Oyster Roast for others to enjoy. Then you can take them home with you at the end of the day. LRNow is also borrowing some historic photos from the City's collection for you to enjoy at the Oyster Roast.

ZERO TRASH

For the past few years, LRNow has worked hard to reduce trash at the Oyster Roast. Last year we served lunch to 500 people and had only four bags of trash. This year, we are planning for a Zero Trash event. We will use wine glasses, cloth table clothes and reusable plastic cups for soda, beer and water. We recycle all of the soda cans and wine bottles. We also collect and recycle the oyster shells. All plates and utensils are compostable and we are working with a commercial composting company to handle all food scraps and compostable items. We think we can have a Zero Trash Oyster Roast!

LAWN CARE TIPS



Spring is coming and we will soon be wanting to spend more time out in our yards and get back in our gardens.

Here are some things to keep in mind before you put down fertilizer or fire up the mower.

Reduce Your Lawn Area

Minimize the use of turf in your landscape design by converting part of your lawn to planted beds and riparian buffers. Select plants that do not require significant fertilizers and pesticides; native plants are ideal.

Use the Correct Turfgrass Species

In full sun, use bermudagrass for your lawn area; in light shade, tall fescue, St. Augustinegrass or zoysiagrass. Adjust your care to the turfgrass species you are growing.

Mow at the Correct Height

Mowing turf too low makes it susceptible to weed, insect and disease invasion. Bermudagrass will perform best at a height of 2" to 2 1/2"; tall fescue, St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass at 3" to 4".

Irrigate Only as Needed

Unneeded irrigation promotes disease, weed infestations, wasted power and water and increases stormwater runoff from your property. Install a rain sensor on your automatic sprinkler system or set it to manual. Check the soil moisture level, not all brown turf is drought stricken. Early morning irrigation minimizes water loss and diseases. Water deeply and infrequently.

Get a Soil Test

If you fertilize, have your soil tested for nutrient availability before applying any fertilizer. Soil test kits are available from the LRNow office.

DEAR MEMBERS,

This year, our city is turning 50. The City of Virginia Beach was formed in 1963 with the merger of the two square mile resort town of Virginia Beach and the much larger suburbs and farms of Princess Anne County. Fifty years ago, fewer than 100,000 of us shared this land and water. Today, 447,000 of us live in Virginia Beach making it the largest city in the state.

We are fortunate that those who came before us made some really good decisions that continue to benefit us today. We have a first rate school system and a network of parks throughout our city that would be the envy of any urban/suburban community. Who can rival two state parks and a national wildlife area plus over 7,000 acres of city parks and natural areas and all within our city limits?

We have miles and miles of beautiful beaches all open to the public. And good strategic planning, the Green Line, has protected the rural nature of the southern part of our city giving us wonderful land use diversity and terrific local farms that provide us with fresh healthy food year round.

But not all decisions have served us well over time. We got away with some things in the past that just don't work for us anymore. For several decades, we were able to develop the land just about any way we wanted with no concern for stormwater pollution and its effect on the health of our waterways. We paid a big price for that in many, many miles of degraded and impaired waters. For the past decade, we have been working hard to correct some of those problems, but we have a long way to go. Today, development is done more carefully. We better understand the cost of trying to restore water quality and air quality and we are trying to do a better job of preventing further degradation. The cost of cleanup is expensive and is borne by all of us.

We also neglected to consider that the car might not always serve a modern city of a half million people well, that traffic congestion and all of the impervious surface required to serve the car would cost us too much in lost time and productivity and cost us too much in air and water pollution. We are starting to work on solutions to that problem which will also benefit those who come after us.

Like the last fifty years, the next fifty years in Virginia Beach are going to hold challenges. Sea levels rise and the recurrent flooding that we are already beginning to see in many of our lowest elevation areas is going to become an issue that we can no longer ignore or put off to later.

On our 100th birthday in 2063, how will future Virginia Beach residents look back at the decisions that we are making now, in 2013? Will they thank us for thinking ahead and laying plans and making decisions that will serve the city well for the next fifty years and beyond? I hope that they will. The citizens' vote to move ahead with plans for light rail in Virginia Beach; the City Council's adoption of the new Virginia Beach Sustainability Plan; the planning around the Strategic Growth Areas; and the commitment that the City and the residents have shown to restoring and protecting our rivers and other natural resources are all steps in the right direction for our future.

We know what we value and appreciate in this great city and we want to make the kind of decisions that our children and grandchildren will appreciate. The decisions we make today as a city and as individuals are our legacy.

Thank you for everything you do for our city and the Lynnhaven River.

Karen

KAREN FORGET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diamondback Terrapin



The diamondback terrapin is named for the diamond-shaped growth rings on its top shell and can be found along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. from Cape Cod to the Florida Keys and west along the Gulf Coast to Texas. And this beautiful amphibian can be found in the marshes in the Lynnhaven River.

Diamondback terrapins eat fish, snails, worms, clams, crabs and marsh plants. They are believed to be the only turtle in the world that lives exclusively in brackish water. Most terrapin hibernate during the winter by burrowing into the mud of marshes. Although the diamondback terrapins live in tidal marshes, their preferred nesting sites are sandy beaches. Pleasure House point and other areas along the Lynnhaven are important diamondback terrapin nesting sites.

The hatchlings emerge from August to October and are completely on their own. Only 1% to 3% of the eggs laid produce a hatchling, and the number of hatchlings that survive to adulthood is believed to be similarly low. This is one reason why it is so important that we protect their nesting sites and protect the ones that survive.

One way that you can help protect the terrapin is to keep them from being inadvertently trapped in your crab pot. Like all amphibians, diamondback terrapin breathe air and can only stay under water for short periods of time. If a terrapin gets into your crab pot looking for dinner, it is unlikely that it will be able to get out and it will drown.

You can solve this problem by installing "by-catch reduction devices" on your crab pot. Simply zip tie them on the four openings in the pot. They do not restrict the crabs, but do keep the terrapin from being able to go into the pot. This is especially important for recreational crabbers who generally have pots closer to shoreline and marsh areas where the diamondback terrapin are more likely to be hanging out.

Lynnhaven River NOW has 500 of the by-catch reduction devices (BRDs) and is happy to give you four for your crab pot. Come by our office at 1608 Pleasure House Road, Suite 108 and you can get your BRDs and take a look at our crab pot to see how to attach them.

Thank you for helping to protect our beautiful Diamondback Terrapin.



Come by our office to get free by-catch reduction devices for your crab pot.

LAWN CARE TIPS

(Continued)



Consider Alternative Control Measures before Applying Pesticides

Be careful to identify pests and consider alternative control measures before applying any pesticides. Help is available from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, 757-385-8156.

Maintain Sharp Mower Blades

Maintain sharp mower blades and never remove more than 25% of turf with any one mowing.

Recycle Grass Clippings

Recycle grass clippings by leaving mulched cuttings on your lawn or composting them.

Reduce More Emissions

The pollution emitted from a power mower in one hour is equal to the amount from the average car being driven 350 miles.

Reduce Fertilizer Use

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to lawns each year. That is ten times more per acre than the pesticides that are applied to agricultural crops.

Between 40-60% of the nitrogen fertilizer applied to lawns ends up in our surface and groundwater.

Largest Crop

NASA photographs indicate 32 million acres of U.S. land are covered in lawns. This makes turf grass the nation's largest irrigated crop.