



Cape Charles Gazette Special Edition

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We hope that you will enjoy reading the Cape Charles Gazette which is the electronic newsletter published from time to time by the Town Manager on behalf of the municipal government of the Town of Cape Charles. The Gazette provides a variety of information that we believe will be useful to the citizens and businesses of Cape Charles as well as those who plan to travel to Cape Charles or have any interest in our Town or the Town's government. The Gazette provides information on actions being undertaken or being considered by the Town government, upcoming activities in the Town, important public safety and security issues and emergency announcements.

We welcome your responses which may be sent to gazette@capecharles.org, by regular mail to 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310 or by calling (757) 331-3259.

We also encourage you to visit the Town's website at www.capecharles.org where you will find up-to-date information about the operation of the Town government.



This is a Special Edition of the Gazette to remind citizens of certain responsibilities that are intended to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the Cape Charles Community.



Water, Water, Everywhere ...

Storm sewers, sanitary sewers, what's the difference and why does it matter? The **storm sewer** system is intended to remove surface water from the streets. Street gutters carry rain water to the storm drains, where it then enters the underground storm sewer pipes that flow either to retention ponds or to the bay. The **sanitary sewer** system is intended to transfer wastewater from residential and commercial properties to the treatment plant for processing. Drain pipes carry wastewater from buildings to the sanitary sewer mains, where it is then pumped to the treatment plant. The processed effluent is then discharged into the bay. **These two systems should not mix!**

We are in the process of correcting two interrelated problems – street flooding and sanitary sewer overflows. The overflows can be caused by several problems, including street flooding that allows fresh water to enter the sanitary sewer through the manholes.

Street flooding can be prevented by proper maintenance of our street gutters, storm drains and storm sewer pipes to allow adequate flow of water through the system. The major culprit is litter – cans, bottles, grass clippings, etc. **It's simple, if the system is blocked the water does not flow!** All citizens need to do their part to keep the street gutters clean. In fact, there are laws that require this – Sections 58-9 and 62-5 of the Town Code. **Please help by not littering, picking up trash in the gutters in front of your residence or building, and sweeping up grass clippings (if you have a lawn service, let them know that this is required).**

A major cause of sanitary system overflow is inflow and infiltration of fresh water into the system. This overloads the sanitary sewer system – the sewer mains, pump stations and treatment plant. **It's simple, wastewater belongs in the sanitary sewer system, and fresh water does not!** In addition to overloading the current system, fresh water inflow and infiltration unnecessarily increases the flow that our new system needs to be designed to handle. All citizens need to help solve this problem. Keeping the street gutters clean to prevent street flooding (discussed above) is a major help. But, there are more things that citizens can do. In fact, there is a law that requires this – Section 70-97 of the Town Code. **Please help by:**

- **Fixing any broken or missing clean-out caps on your property.**
- **Disconnecting any roof gutter down spouts that now enter the system.**
- **Disconnecting any surface drains that now enter the system.**
- **Disconnecting any sump pump discharges that now enter the system.**

Another cause of sanitary system overflow is excessive grease that creates blockages in the system. Again, there are laws that prohibit the introduction of excessive amounts of grease into the sanitary sewer system – Section 70-95 for residential properties, Section 70-98 for commercial properties. **Please help by complying with these requirements!** In fact, let's try to keep it all out of the system – let that bacon grease congeal and put it in the trash.

EMAIL CONTACTS:

[Mayor](#)
[Town Council](#)
[Town Manager](#)
[Treasurer](#)
[Town Clerk](#)
[Code Enforcement](#)
[Town Planner](#)
[Public Works/Utilities](#)
[Harbor](#)
[Library](#)
[Police](#)
[Recreation](#)
[Newsletter Feedback](#)





Don't Flush Trouble!

Disposable wipes and other Products are clogging our sewer lines, and damaging pumps and other equipment.

Not only are these problems expensive to fix, they can also cause raw sewage overflows into homes, businesses and the Chesapeake Bay.



Think Trash, Not Toilets!

These belong in the TRASH:

Cleaning Wipes · Grease · Condoms · Disposable Diapers · Nursing Pads · Baby Wipes · Hair · Facial Wipes · Tampons & Pads · Dental Floss



To learn more, visit www.capecharles.org or call (757) 331-3259

Photo courtesy of the City of Pacific Grove, CA



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FROM JEB BRADY, CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTOR:

Code Enforcement has received complaints regarding items stored in back yards of property within the Town, many regarding stagnant water which is a haven for mosquitoes and causes an extreme health hazard to the residents of Town. This is also a violation of the Cape Charles Town Code.

Section 46-2:

The Town Council shall compel abatement or removal of all nuisances, including but not limited to, the removal of snow from sidewalks, the covering or removal of offensive, unwholesome, unsanitary or unhealthy substances allowed to accumulate in or on any place or premises, the filling in to the street level, fencing or protection by other means of the portion of any lot adjacent to a street where the difference in level between the lot and the street constitutes a danger to life and limb and the raising or draining of grounds subject to be covered by stagnant water. If, after such reasonable notice as the Council may prescribe, the owner or occupant of the property or premises affected by the provisions of this section shall fail to abate or obviate the condition or nuisance, the Town may do so and charge and collect the cost thereof from the owner or occupant of the property affected in any manner provided by law for the collection of state or local taxes.

Section 46-16:

No putrescible waste shall be permitted to remain on any premises in the Town for a period exceeding one week. It shall be the duty of each owner, occupant or person in charge of any real property in the Town to maintain such property at all times free from any accumulation of trash, litter, refuse, rubbish or other waste matter, whether liquid or solid, which might endanger the health or safety of residents of the Town or otherwise constitute a nuisance, and shall cut or remove grass, weeds and other foreign growth on such property as often as may be necessary to prevent breeding and harboring places for insects, reptiles and rodents and prevent nuisances and other hazards to the health or safety of residents of the Town.

The Town asks all residents to do their part in remedying this situation as we strive to make Cape Charles a safe place for our residents. If you have any questions, please contact Jeb at 757-331-3259 x22.



Trash Receptacles

It has also been brought to the Town’s attention that some residents are not abiding by the Town Code in regards to the removal of their trash receptacles from the street curbs following garbage pickup.

Section 58-27 (a) states the following:

Privately owned residential refuse receptacles to be collected by the Town shall be placed on the alley-way or curb line of the Town right-of-way at the customary point of pick up no **earlier than 5:00 PM on the day before collection and by 7:00 AM on the day of collection**. All receptacles must be out of view after collection **on the day of collection**, except as otherwise designated by necessity by the Town Manager or her designee.

Please abide by these regulations and remove your receptacles promptly. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- **The Third Annual Fall Tomato Festival** – 9/25-9/26 along Mason Avenue and throughout the Town.
- **American Kennel Club Variable Tracking Seminar** – 9/25-9/26 at Central Park
- **Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival** – 10/8 – 10/10 in Cape Charles.

Any reference to an external website is for public information only and does not constitute an endorsement of that website.

Municipal Corporation of Cape Charles
 2 Plum Street
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www.capecharles.org
 757-331-3259