



# Cape Charles Gazette Special Edition

Publication Date: March 21, 2011

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](mailto: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](http://www.capecharles.org) where you will find up-to-date information about the operation of the Town government.



## Memo from Northampton County Hospital Task Force:

### Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital

On February 28, 2011, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to oppose Riverside's Certificate of Public Need (COPN) application as currently submitted. We are not attempting to block the construction of a new in-patient facility in Accomack County; rather, we are advocating a comprehensive medical plan that covers both counties.

We believe that Riverside has ignored numerous negative impacts to public health and safety in significant segments of the Eastern Shore. Additionally, they have failed to meet the COPN criteria established in Virginia Code and the rules and regulations set forth by the Virginia Department of Health. Specifically:

- Riverside has not considered or addressed the Virginia Rural Health Plan of 2008 for the entire Eastern Shore community. (See [www.va-srhp.org](http://www.va-srhp.org)) Also see the Northampton County website homepage ([www.co.northampton.va.us](http://www.co.northampton.va.us)), for other information.
- Riverside has not addressed the impact to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) for all communities on the Eastern Shore as shown on maps we have provided to Riverside. A future hospital located at Whispering Pines will not sufficiently allow coverage below Nassawadox. This failure represents an increased threat to loss of life.
- Publicly, Riverside has stated that significant services will remain in Nassawadox. However, in the COPN application, Riverside has not committed to retaining services in Nassawadox such as oncology; i.e., cancer center. In fact, Riverside has not committed to leaving anything in Nassawadox beyond the fixed CAT scan and the pad for mobile MRI.

There are numerous factual errors and omissions in the COPN application. For instance, the COPN declares there are no other hospitals on the Eastern Shore. This ignores the fact that many Eastern Shore residents receive services from Peninsula General in Salisbury and Atlantic General in Berlin.

On behalf of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, the Hospital Task Force encourages that you write to the Director expressing these and any other concerns you may have. We think letters can make a difference and should be addressed to:

Erik O. Bodin, Director  
Div. of Certificate of Public Need  
9960 Maryland Drive, Suite 401  
Richmond, Virginia 23233-1463

[Erik.bodin@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Erik.bodin@vdh.virginia.gov)

And reference: COPN Request Number 7820  
Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital  
Replacement of a Medical Care Facility

**Please attend the COPN public hearing on April 14, 2011, 11:00 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, Virginia, to make your voice heard.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ms. Katherine H. Nunez, County Administrator, at 757/678-0440 ext. 19, or any member of the Hospital Task Force.

Yours for a safer Eastern Shore,

Hospital Task Force:

The Hon. H. Spencer Murray, Supervisor, District 4 [smurray@co.northampton.va.us](mailto:smurray@co.northampton.va.us)  
The Hon. Richard Tankard, Supervisor, District 6 [mail@richardtankard.com](mailto:mail@richardtankard.com)

#### EMAIL CONTACTS:

[Mayor](#)  
[Town Council](#)  
[Town Manager](#)  
[Treasurer](#)  
[Town Clerk](#)  
[Code Enforcement](#)  
[Town Planner](#)  
[Public Works/Utilities](#)  
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The Town Council is in support of Northampton County's stance in opposition to Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital's application for a Certificate of Public Need as written. The County has provided the Town with coverage maps for the hospital in its current location and the proposed location. You may click the following links to view these maps. These maps show a 20-mile radius for Riverside Shore Memorial and other hospitals in Virginia Beach and in Maryland and areas where there is no coverage within the 20-mile radius. If Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital moves to the proposed location, the majority of Northampton County (all areas south of Nassawadox) is in the no coverage zone unless steps are taken to retain emergency medical services in Northampton County either in the Nassawadox location or other suitable location within the County.

[Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital – current location in Nassawadox](#)

[Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital – proposed location by Whispering Pines Motel](#)

The Mayor and Town Council of Cape Charles urges all residents of Northampton County keep themselves informed regarding the decisions being made for the future location of Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. Attendance at the April 14, 2011 Public Hearing is strongly recommended. The citizens of the Town of Cape Charles and Northampton County need to voice their concerns regarding the location of the hospital and the effects on future medical care in southern Northampton County. Lack of emergency medical care will have a major detrimental impact on the future growth of the Town and County!

Please join the Town and County in voicing your concerns at the upcoming Public Hearing which will be held at the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa beginning at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 14, 2011.

## NOTICE TO MASON AVENUE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Construction of the **Mason Avenue Force mains and Sewer Project** will begin early March 2011 and the construction is expected to last until the end of May 2011. The affected area will be the south side of Mason Avenue to the hump and some parking will be blocked on the south side. Heavy equipment will be travelling on Mason Avenue. Please use caution.

Please contact [Bob Panek](#) at 757-331-3259 x19 with any questions or concerns.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN CAPE CHARLES

- The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Fleet:** Ceremony begins at 5:30 PM on 4/8 followed by great food, music and fun. The fun continues on 4/9 beginning with the 5K Walk/Run at 8:00 AM ending in a Harbor Party which begins at 3:30 PM!
- **Cape Charles Historical Society Low Country Shrimp Boil:** 4/24. More details to come.
- **Best Friends Walk Together** – SPCA Fundraiser: 5/7. More details to come. Rain date – 5/14.
- **Citizens for Central Park Pirates & Wenches Ball:** 5/14, 7PM at the Cape Charles Fire Hall.
- **Bike MS – Virginia's Ocean to Bay Ride:** 6/4 – 6/5 – Leaving and ending in Cape Charles. [Click here](#) for details.
- **Cape Charles Fire Company 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Seafood Festival:** 7/2. More details to come.
- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities:** 7/3. Fireworks at Dusk. More details to come.
- The [Chesapeake Bay Buyboat Association](#) will be holding their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at Cape Charles from 8/5/2011 – 8/8/2011. The boats will be open to the public to tour and we are definitely looking forward to hosting their event this year!
- **Cape Charles Annual Fall Festival:** 9/24. More details to come.
- **Annual Birding & Wildlife Festival:** 10/7. More details to come.

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  
Cape Charles, VA 23310  
[www.capecharles.org](http://www.capecharles.org)  
757-331-3259