



CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MD

State of the Town

February 18, 2021



PROTECT ° PRESERVE ° PROCEED



A message from your Mayor Patrick J. “Irish” Mahoney



As we begin 2021, it is important to reflect on the events of the previous year. The year 2020, provided the opportunity for us to observe and demonstrate acts of kindness and courage while persevering through a tough year together.

Community is more important than ever, and community is what sets Chesapeake Beach apart. Thank you for checking on your neighbors and taking the measures necessary to stay safe.

Our theme for this year's State of the Town is **Protect, Preserve and Proceed**. The Town Council unanimously took the necessary measures to **protect** the health and wellbeing of residents by restricting access to Town amenities, while continuing to expand service levels. The Town Council continues to review and implement legislation to **preserve** our small-Town charm and **proceed** forward with innovative ideas to improve the quality of life for citizens while making a positive impact on our natural resources.

The Town Council, staff and I welcome you to the 2021 State of the Town address for Chesapeake Beach Maryland.

Before we share the progress of the Town over the last year, I want to share that these efforts would not be possible without hard work and perseverance of our Town staff.

We are positioned well and look forward to continuing to serve the great citizens of Chesapeake Beach in 2021



FINANCES:

- Reduction of property taxes for the fourth year in a row during this Administration.
- Debt reduction of approximately \$575,000 with total debt reduction of \$4.1M during this Administration.
- Reduction of expenses by \$1.9M.
- Balanced budgets with sufficient reserves.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Increased Trash services: expanded yard waste collection and expanded bulk collection at no additional cost to the Town.
- Eliminated online utility billing fees.
- Completed the second maintenance dredge of Fishing Creek, during this administration, at no cost to the Town.
- Coordination of the Federal dredge and jetty wall improvements scheduled to be bid in the Fall of 2021.
- Implementation of the recently adopted Housing Code, inspecting 57 residential dwellings and issuing 37 rental licenses.
- Initiated 85 code enforcement violations, with 91 cases successfully closed.

Average time to close Code Enforcement cases in 2020, are as follows:

Type of infraction	Average time to close case
Prohibited Parking	47 days
Sign Ordinance	14 days
Sanitary Maintenance	71 days
Zoning infraction	69 days

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / TRANSPARENCY:

- Expanded live stream video capability during public meetings to improve transparency and safe public participation.
- Implementation of weekly electronic newsletter disseminating important COVID 19 related information from state and local agencies.
- Implementation of an interactive website managed in-house at a cost reduction to the Town, with 89,938 new users and 259,073-page views in 2020.
- Dissemination of quick video clips from the [Mayor](#) with key topics for residents awareness.
- Improved outreach efforts for Census2020 resulting in a higher self-participation rating for the Town, through grant funded efforts of the Maryland Historical Trust.



- Engaged citizens with online voting for the Town calendar images and Brightest Beacon on the Bay awards.
- Outreach to residents through multiple channels related to key topics before Town Council using new electronic engagements.
- Support of our local food pantries providing logistical support and communication of events.
- Virtual 2020 [Town Election Candidate](#) forum.
- Production of a virtual [Stars and Stripes Memorial Day](#) presentation in coordination with State and Local contacts.
- Virtual [Chesapeake Beach High School graduate](#) recognition.
- Virtual [Light up the Town](#) in coordination with [Beach Elementary School](#) students string performers and their families.
- Virtual Story time with Santa.
- Virtual aerial video tour of the [Town's Lighting display](#).
- Coordination with the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum for a [virtual Tour of the Town's Lighting Display](#) with the Town's history included.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Replaced aging storm water infrastructure.
- Adoption of revised Water & Sewer manual.
- Maintained over 50 miles of water and sewer lines with over 35 pumps required to be on-line 24/7, 365 days.
- Maintained over 2,300 water laterals, meters, pit, MXU's and over 2,300 sewers clean out and laterals;
- Maintained 3 water towers, 13 sewer pump stations, 1 storm water pump station, 17 generators, and 4 back up pumps.
- Implementation of remote water reading software with the ability to identify water leaks on the Homeowners side in real time, reducing waste and resident costs.

WATER RECLAMATION TREATMENT PLANT:

- **No spills, No violations, No incidents.**
- WRTP achieved plant required permit limits with zero violations.
- Hired an experienced Assistant Superintendent.
- Allocation of partner (Anne Arundel County, Calvert County and North Beach) responsibility by actual flow, steadily improving information of the costs associated with use of the Plant.
- COVID-19 procedures were established at the WRTP with contingency plans developed to ensure maintained operation.



- WRTP added a total of 7,210 lbs. of Total Nitrogen and 563 lbs. of Total Phosphorus in 2020 into MDE's Trade-E Nutrient Program.
- Installed a new Alarm system for monitoring all Plant Operations.
- Completed new blowers program to operate the blowers in variable frequency drive mode to always maintain a constant dissolved oxygen level. This will improve the Bio-Solids Process for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Removal.
- Installed new clarifier sensors to measure the solids blanket levels to improve daily plant operations and monitor operations from offsite. The Sensors also improves the alarm monitoring to add a backup alarm to prevent spills.
- Received new Plant permit effective January 1, 2020 with the Water Reuse Permit expected in 2021.

Projects ongoing in 2020:

- Cleaned #1 Denitrification Filter and evaluating progress and lab work with verification expected in February 2021.
- Improvements to enclose Denitrification Filters and Algae Control.
- Installing 3 new Influent 3 position valves with controllers on influent pumps replacing old valves and improving operation at the Plant.
- The PACL (Poly- aluminum Chloride) Chemical Storage area is moving to completion.

SAFETY:

- Facilitated the [2020 Town election](#) with expanded outreach to citizens offering multiple safe options to vote.
- RT 260, Harrison Blvd., Limerick Lane traffic light installation at no cost to the Town.

New geometric improvements include: Changing the northbound Harrison Boulevard lane configuration to provide a through travel lane and a shared through/right turn lane. Changing the lane configurations in the MD 260 median to provide a dedicated left-turn lane and a shared left turn/through lane on northbound Harrison Boulevard and a shared left turn/through lane on southbound Harrison Boulevard.

- Chesapeake Beach Water Park Aquatics Team received the highest score obtainable "Exceeds" on all unannounced audits. The Park staff were graded on skills such as CPR, rescue techniques, and review of all safety reporting documentation.
- [Public Safety Announcement](#) regarding dangers of cliff collapse in coordination with Calvert County Office of Emergency Management.
- [Public Safety Announcement](#) regarding Fire Safety in coordination with Chief Chris Mills of the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department.
- Distribution of free hard-wired smoke detectors in coordination with the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department.



STREETS/SIDEWALKS:

- Sidewalk master plan public outreach conducted receiving over 1,500 interactions with the public through surveys, public meetings and the Town website.
- State Highway Administration (SHA) Safe Routes to School 30% sidewalk design completion with 100% design in progress to incorporate sidewalks along MD261 from Chesapeake Village to Beach Elementary School and Old Bayside Rd.

TOWN ASSETS:

Boardwalk:

- Continued repairs of the Bay Front Park boardwalk to address stormwater management to retain the public walkway along the waterfront and decrease private and public property damage.

Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail:

- Established internet connection for the improvement of reliable railway trail cameras.

Public Boat Ramps:

- Completed improvements adding an ADA accessible floating dock at the Town owned boat ramps through grant funding of \$90,000 by Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund.

Kellam's Field Complex:

- Calvert County Government Board of County Commissioner conveyance of the Kellam's Field Complex ball field and public parking lot to the Town, over 7 acres valued at over \$2M at no cost to the Town.
- Obtained a \$50,000 grant through a Senate Bond Bill for renovations / improvements.
- Named the "Miller-Loveless Park at Kellam's Field" with renovations and improvements planned to include low impact work out equipment for senior citizens.
- Survey of existing topography / elevations to aid in future planning.
- Updated directional signage to a clean, maintenance friendly material.

Bayfront Park:

- Restricted to resident only access in 2020 to address public health concerns.
- Increased patrolling.
- ADA accessible portable restrooms.



Water Park:

- Restricted access to Town and County guests only in 2020 operating at less than 25% of the legal capacity.
- Hosted over 14,900 Town and County residents.
- Employed 180 local employees, 44% from Chesapeake Beach and 55% from Calvert County.
- Provided local employment training for youth with 88% of employees being under the age of 18.
- Zero (0) reported COVID instances.
- Registered every guest for Health Department contact tracing.
- Effectively implemented virtual training and orientations for all staff, except Lifeguards whereas training is required to be conducted in person.
- Implemented an electronic reservation registration to monitor attendance expectations.
- Implemented online food ordering to decrease lines and improve social distancing.
- Enforced masks requirements for all guests over the age of (5) five.
- Provided swim lessons to 56 children.
- Improvements to over 3,500 SQFT of concrete at the Park.
- Improvements to the roofing of the administrative building.
- Beachcomber Grill improvements.

Here's what citizens are saying after the 2020 Season at the Chesapeake Beach Water Park:

Customer Reviews say that this has been our "best season yet!"

Took my granddaughter yesterday and we had a great time!!! Loved seeing the hand sanitizers stations everywhere!!! Love Chesapeake Water Park!! 🍌🍌❤️ -Norma

"I LOVE that it's Calvert only. It was so nice. Not crowded no issues getting in. Food was great and no wait. Keeping social distance really wasn't an issue. I'm so happy we bought season passes this year. It's been so pleasant and worth it" - Ashley

Veterans Memorial Park:

- Mayoral dedication of [SGT. CHRISTOPHER SWANSON Way.](#)

PLANNING, ZONING, DEVELOPMENT:

- Issued 90 Town zoning permits.
- 2040 Comprehensive Plan is well underway with documented interactions with over 2,000 residents through surveys and community forums.
- Master Walkability Plan development with over 1,500 public engagements under the advisement of the Town resident led Walkable Community Advisory Committee.



- Sea- level rise mapping updates completed and incorporated into the 2040 Comprehensive plan drafts.
- Expanded knowledge of climate change and impacts to the Town.
- Participated in planning for the new Twin Beaches library with construction scheduled to start in the Fall of 2021.
- Processed Town Zoning permit approval for the new Beach Elementary School with scheduled completion estimated in 2023. Coordinated with Beach Elementary School to facilitate integrated planning with community needs.
- Awarded the Coastal Resiliency Grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimated at close to \$150,000, in partnership with the Town of North Beach.

SUSTAINABILITY, OUTREACH, ENVIRONMENT:

- Awarded Sustainable Maryland Re-Designation for the years 2020-2023.
- Installed buffer gardens and rain gardens throughout public spaces to reduce impacts of stormwater runoff and provide an educational opportunity for the community.
- Updated Exterior lighting fixtures to LED in public spaces.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station installed at no cost to the Town.
- Recycled approximately 450 Christmas trees.
- Salvaged 5 tons of recyclable metals / materials through Department of Public Works infrastructure improvements.
- Recycled approximately 500 Tons of Household Material.
- Recycled approximately 2 tons of oyster shells.
- Publicly accessible annual [Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation annual meeting](#).
- Movement of 150,000 oysters directly to the bay.
- Added 15 + new large reef balls to assist oyster growing on the Old Rock Reef.
- Recovered a long-lost buoy that has been wandering around the bay for 6 years.
- Hosted the 3rd annual [Sea Life Mural painting](#) by Beach Elementary and Windy Hill Elementary school students.
- CBOCS observed the creation of the new Chesapeake Beach Oyster Hatchery at Abners Boat Yard, providing the opportunity for CBOCS to access oyster larva to create spat on the shell.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Opening of the new 1936 Bar and Grill.
- Implementation of a [Temporary Outdoor Seating Application \(TOSA\)](#) process to assist businesses with expanding their footprint to safely offer additional outdoor seating.
- Coordinated with County, State and Federal agencies to share information related to grants and reopening guidance.
- Facilitated [virtual resource sessions](#) on various assistance programs available to support town businesses.



- Funded gift cards to local businesses as awards for Brightest Beacon on the Bay winners.
- Coordination with Calvert County Economic Development Advisory Commission and the Town of North Beach in support of local businesses.
- Looking ahead for safe ways to hold various town events including Stars & Stripes Festival, 4th of July fireworks, Taste the Beaches and others.

OPIOID ABUSE AWARENESS:

TBOAAC was formed in January 2017 as a joint committee of the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach, with funding provided by the Town of Chesapeake Beach, to help save lives by:

1. Raising awareness about the opioid crisis and educating residents about Substance Abuse Disorders,
2. Removing the shame surrounding this health crisis so people seek help and get support from the community, and
3. Connecting people in need and their families with available prevention, recovery, and support services.

The coalition is comprised of concerned residents and representatives from various county agencies and private organizations, who are all committed to ending the devastating effects of Opioid Use Disorder. The participating groups include the Calvert County Health Department, Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Chase B. Mattingly for the Fight (PositiveVibes), Emmanuel Church Celebrate Recovery, Circle of Angels Initiative, and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

Covid-19 overshadowed many aspects of our lives in 2020 including our coalition's opioid use disorder awareness and prevention efforts. Most TBOAAC meetings and events were cancelled or postponed for the safety and wellbeing of members and residents. Nevertheless, we were able to sponsor two events in 2020; a Health and Wellness Fair on March 1, 2020 and a purple light event on August 31, 2020 which lasted through September. Both events were well received by residents.

Health and Wellness Fair (March 2020)

TBOAAC partnered with the North Beach volunteer Fire Department to sponsor the first ever health and wellness fair in the Town of Chesapeake Beach. The event attracted the participation of twenty-eight health-related organizations, eleven sponsors, and over one hundred residents, providing an opportunity for the families of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach to learn more about locally available wellness resources, and how to improve health outcomes. In recognition of the fair's success and the importance of promoting healthy lifestyles among our residents, the



Town of Chesapeake Beach will make the Health and Wellness Fair an annual event once Covid-19 no longer prevents gatherings.

Light Up the Beaches Purple Event (August/September 2020)

TBOAAC partnered with Sneade’s Ace Home Center and the Calvert County Behavioral Health office (CCBH) to light up Chesapeake Beach and North Beach with purple lights. This COVID-friendly event was held in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Awareness month (September). In support of the outreach effort, the Town of Chesapeake Beach purchased 300 purple LED light bulbs for residents to burn bright on August 31st and to keep them lit through the month of September, as did both town halls! The purple lights were beacons indicating our support for family, friends, and neighbors who have been affected by Opioid Use Disorder, and to remember the loved ones we have lost to this epidemic. Dr. Fuller, CCBH, kicked off the event with a Zoom presentation entitled, [“Community Engagement and Treatment Success for Opioid Addiction: Calvert County Leading the Way”](#).

*Thank you for your trust, we look forward
to serving you in 2021.*

