



THE

State of the Town

2023



Photo by Josh Stinnett



Serving

the

INTEREST OF TOWN CITIZENS



The Chesapeake Beach Town Council, left to right

Councilwoman Dr. Valerie Beaudin, Councilman Larry Jaworski, Council Vice President Charlie Fink, Mayor Patrick J. "Irish" Mahoney, Councilman Keith Pardieck, Councilwoman Peggy Hartman, Councilman Greg Morris



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR PAT



As the President of the Town Council and Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, it has been my priority over the last 7 years to prioritize the Town citizen's interest; therefore, I felt the theme of **"Serving the Interest of Town Citizens"** was fitting for this year's State of the Town Mayoral address.

In closing out my second term as *your Mayor* working alongside a Town Council that has maintained a focus on conserving the small town values of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, we do not take for granted what that often used phrase "Small Town Charm" actually means. While the meaning of the phrase is experienced differently by each of us it is truly what makes Chesapeake Beach so special. We see how special Chesapeake Beach is during our community events, in our volunteer boards and Commissions and while dining in our local restaurants. Your neighbors work on your behalf as appointed officials of the Town serving as volunteers on Boards and Commissions working into the evening hours to ensure that we are protecting our natural resources, that the Town does not experience unsustainable growth and that we are focused on increasing and improving our green spaces for recreation and enjoyment. I have enjoyed experiencing the shift in focus on preserving our small Town and what that means for our residents and our businesses. When we prioritize what is best for our residents, we prioritize our businesses and our local economy.

As your Mayor, I recognize my great responsibility in providing the resources necessary to ensure the administrative processes are in place for an effective and responsive town government. It requires transparency of governmental operations, qualified and responsive Town staff, present and visible community policing, continual improvement and redundancies of critical infrastructure, clean recreational amenities for citizens to enjoy with their neighbors, families, and friends, and a Mayor that hears your concerns. We continue to be positioned well to provide the foundation necessary for **"Serving the Interest of Town Citizens"**. We look forward to what 2024 has to bring!

Your Mayor,

Patrick J. "Irish" Mahoney
Mayor

Serving the Interest of Town Citizens

a Message from Holly K. Wahl, Town Administrator

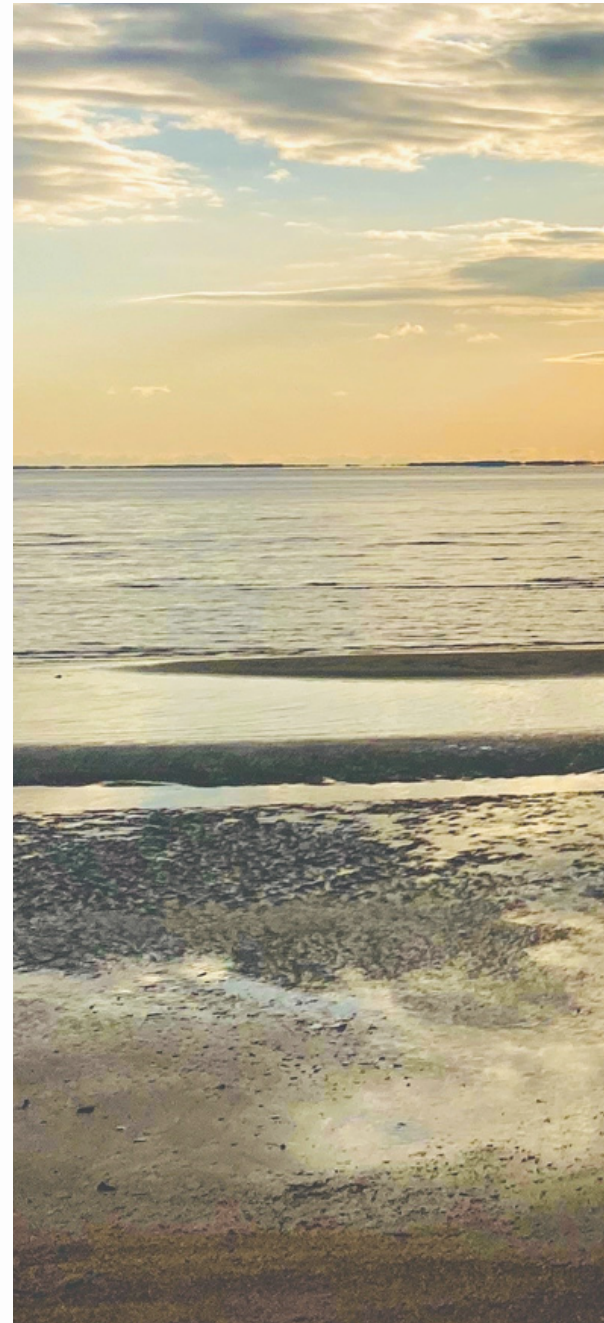


HOLLY K. WAHL, MBA
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As we recap 2023 with a focus on serving the interest of Town citizens, Town staff continues to prepare for the measures necessary to reduce general tax payer liability and ensure resources are leveraged to improve infrastructure and expand amenities. Town staff looks forward to continuing to implement the Town Councils legislative actions to make significant improvements to infrastructure through both short and long range plans and is committed to providing the support necessary to ensure that improvements benefit Town citizens in support of our Town businesses and local economy.

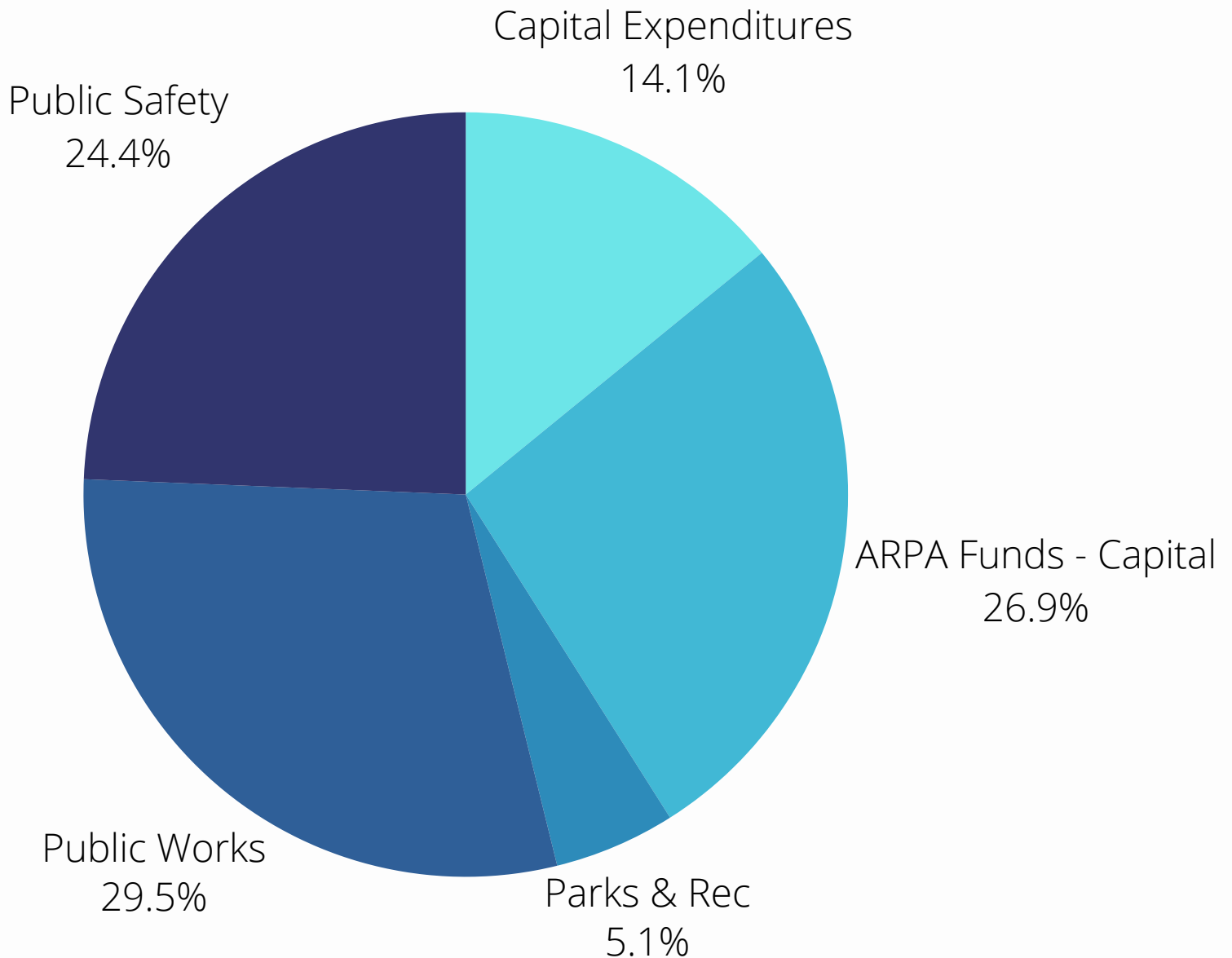
Town Finances

- General Fund operating expense reduction of **\$782,612** in FY23.
- Reduction of property taxes totaling **\$516,765** during this Administration.
- Total assets exceed liabilities at the close of FY23 by **\$50.8M**, with \$22.3 in unrestricted funds of which \$10.2M is general fund unassigned.
- Total net position increased by **\$2.9M** in FY23
- Debt reduction in FY23 of **\$514,086** with total debt reduction of approximately **\$7,588,624** during this Administration.
- Additional \$1.6M in capital assets acquired in FY23.
- Town's total investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, as of June 30, 2023 amounts to \$32.4M.
- **Taxable property valuations in Chesapeake Beach increased by 6.2% in 2023**, as assessed by the State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation.



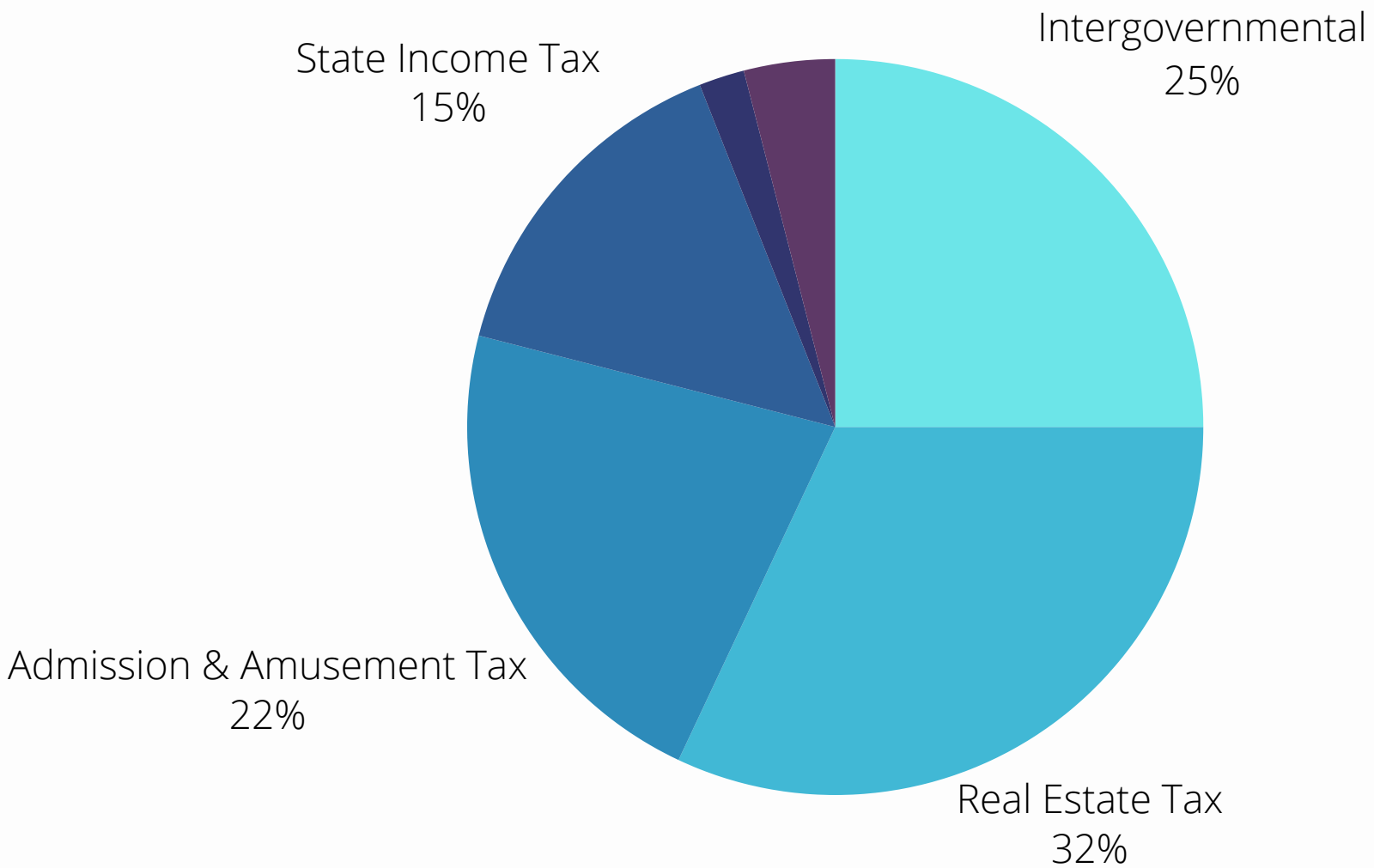
Expenditures by Function

FY23 GENERAL FUND



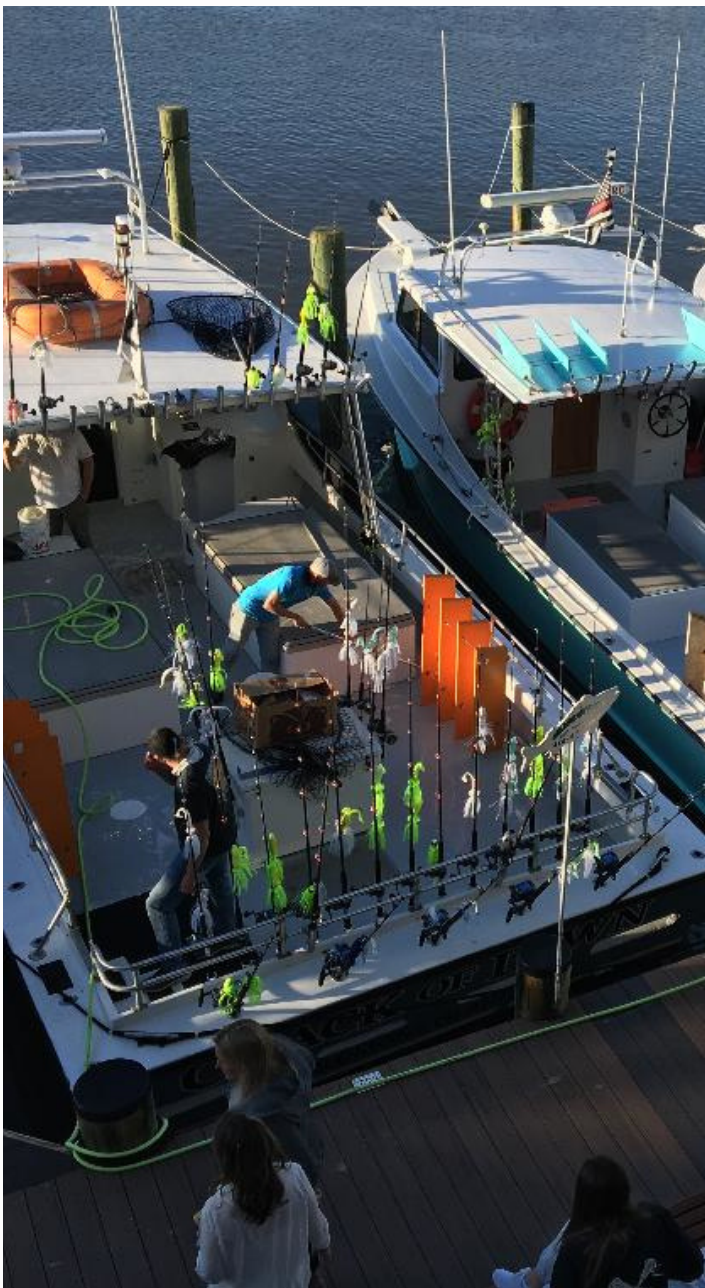
Revenue Sources

FY23 GENERAL FUND



Administrative

The Town of Chesapeake Beach administration remains focused on ensuring that general Town tax payer funds are not off setting user costs through the Towns enterprise funds. Enterprise funds are created to ensure users cover the cost of service. The Town's enterprise funds include the Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation Treatment Plant, Water Park and the Utility Fund. In addition, the Town maintains a focus on cost efficiencies by obtaining grant funding to limit Town citizen costs and aligning staff roles and responsibilities to maximize efficiencies.



- *Public engagement focused on Coastal Resiliency Planning, Water Park Infrastructure Upgrades and providing staff led informational sessions on Utility Fund Water & Sewer Rate Structures that limit general tax payer liability*
- *Established a sewer fixed fee per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) to ensure stability of critical infrastructure with large commercial users costs scaled to the demand placed on infrastructure thereby reducing general tax payer liability for commercial use.*
- *A focus on infrastructure upgrades through the use of short and long range planning utilizing funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to cover large capital projects such as the saddle replacements in Richfield Station improving the reliability of critical services.*

Administrative

- Passed ordinance O-23-22 restricting the use of cannabis smoking or ingesting on Town property and in any business establishment in Town.
- Passed ordinance O-23-1 to amend the Town's ethics ordinance ensuring adherence to the States Ethics Commission guidelines.
- Acquired a property located at 3915 26th Street to provide open space and long term opportunity for Town government via an adjoining four (4) parcels to Town Hall.



Property Acquired in red, Town Hall property in purple

Town Staff Highlight

SHARON HUMM, TOWN CLERK,
CELBbrates 27 YEARS WITH THE
TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH



Town Hall Staff

RETIRING STAFF & WELCOMING NEW STAFF



Marti Gilpin retired in 2023 after 9 years with the Town of Chesapeake Beach! Marti is still close by working part time at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum!



The Town welcomed Kiley Grogard to the team in 2023, a Town resident who brings a wealth of customer service experience and the positive, upbeat energy to support it! Kiley holds a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Communication and will be using her education to assist the Town in furthering our communication efforts through multiple platforms including [@chesapeakebeachmd](https://www.instagram.com/chesapeakebeachmd) and [@tocbevents](https://www.instagram.com/tocbevents).

Critical Infrastructure

A FOCUS ON SERVICES
RELIED UPON DAILY



Public Works:

- Maintained over 50 miles of water and sewer lines with over 35 pumps required to be on-line 24/7, 365 days.
- Maintained over 2,380 water laterals, meters, pit, MXU's and over 2,380 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.

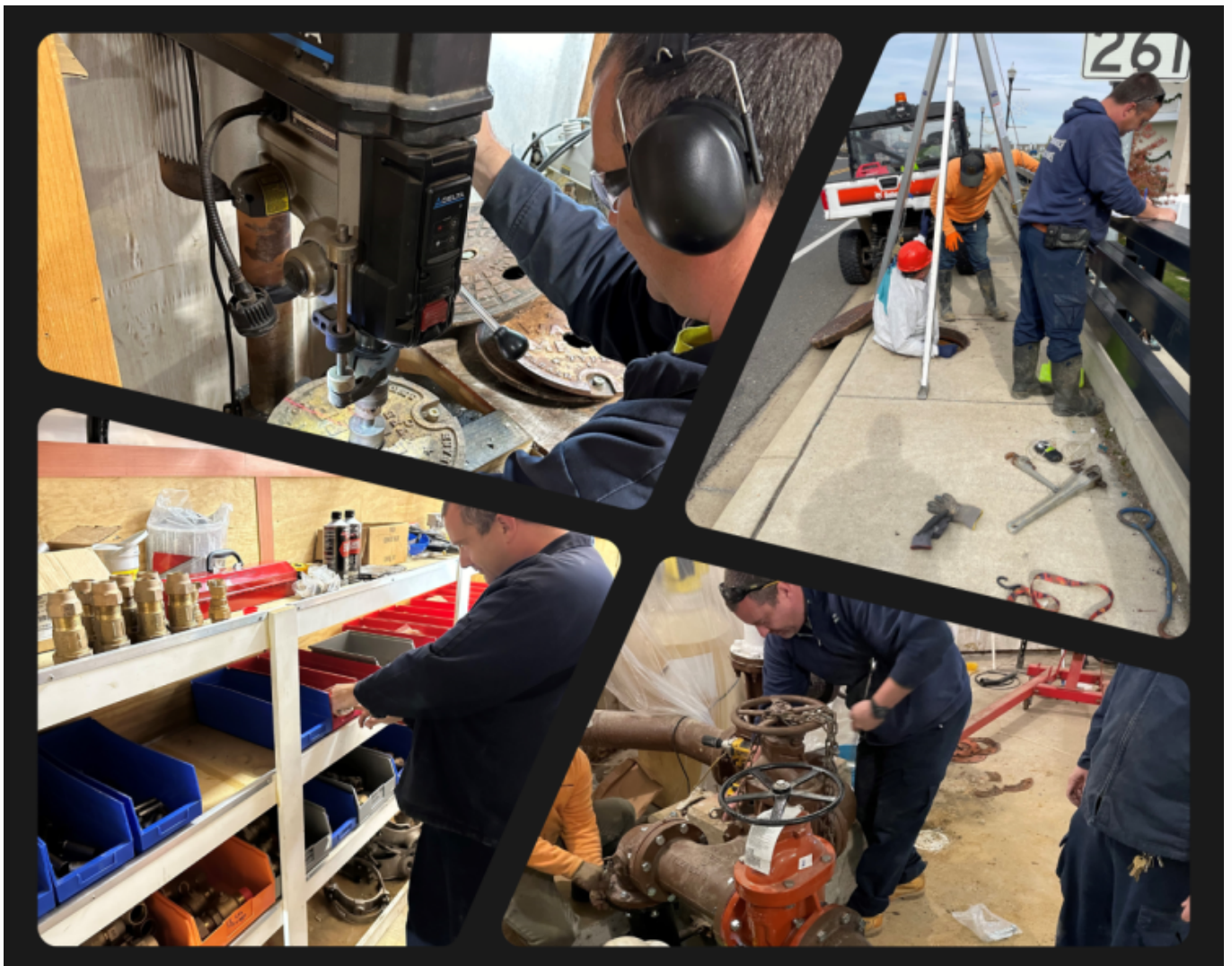
William Varner, Town of Chesapeake Beach Public Works staff working on the replacement of the well pump and valves at Richfield Station Water Tower

- Completed over 78 recorded public work orders
- Installed a new well pump, wires and foot valves at the Richfield Station Water Tower
- Inspected the Chesapeake Village, Richfield Station, & Old Bayside Road water towers
- Located and repaired 7 blow offs that were buried under asphalt
- Installed 4 new blow offs and a fire hydrant to improve unidirectional water flushing program
- Performed smoke tests for 80% of the Towns gravity sewer system to reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I)
- Replaced 100 + Traffic, Street, and Chemical Warning Signs
- Installed a new entryway to the Richfield Station Tower for supply deliveries
- Replaced several handicap ramps and sidewalk sections in Richfield Station

Public Works

ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS
IMPROVING

The Town continues to focus on the importance of retaining in house staff capable of overseeing and completing complicated projects to reduce the need to outsource critical services. With this continued focus, the Town prioritizes on the job training. This investment from the Town in continued education led to Public Works employee, Dennis Burger, obtaining the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Class T2 Water System Operators Licensure in 2023. Dennis now joins Jay Berry (Public Works Administrator) and DJ Richardson (Assistant Superintendent of Public Works) in holding the Class T2 Water System Operators Licensure—a license known throughout the State for its meager pass rate.



Pictured Above Dennis Burger, Town of Chesapeake Beach Public Works Employee

Critical Infrastructure

A FOCUS ON SERVICES RELIED UPON DAILY

Safety continues to be a priority for the Town. For this reason, the Town has implemented a safety program with regular mandatory OSHA training for employees. The training program is regularly updated based on the current work program and is specific to the conditions that crews encounter that can prove to be life threatening. Public Works employees and Treatment Plant employees are regularly exposed to conditions that can be life threatening if employees are not properly prepared and trained. This focus has initiated the purchase of items that aid in safety while working in emergency situations where soils and conditions can degrade around staff when making necessary repairs.



In 2023 the Town's Public Works staff purchased and assembled a new multi-use trench box to ensure safety of crews working on critical infrastructure. The trench box will provide the stability to a trench while keeping public works staff safe while they carry out their duties. It is a two sided support system used in a mechanical excavation to stabilize soils from caving in and potentially fatally harming staff.

Critical Infrastructure

A FOCUS ON SERVICES
RELIED UPON DAILY



Generator roof construction to improve the longevity and reliability of assets

- Public Works constructed roofs over generators and DRI-primers at the Richfield Station Water Tower, the Heritage Wet Well, Chesapeake Village Wet Well, Harbor Rd Well House prolonging their useful life
- Corrected infiltration issues at the Chesapeake Village wet well reducing utility fund expenses
- Proper preparation prevented supply issues by stocking and managing inventory
- Maintain, control and stock inventory in preparation of future needs and demands
- Renovations / Upgrades at the Fishing Creek wet well underway

Critical Infrastructure

A FOCUS ON SERVICES
RELIED UPON DAILY

175

To improve the reliability of utility readings for users

METERS REPLACED

35

To update with new materials that provide longevity and reliability

METER PITS REPLACED

255

To provide remote reading of meters to provide real time readers for users to monitor usage

RETROFIT METER LIDS TO
ACCEPT MXU ANTENNAS

251

REPLACED TOWN HOUSE /
HOUSE CONNECTIONS WITH
PROACTIVE SADDLE
REPLACEMENTS

To upgrade materials to decrease the risk of failure of utility services due to failing materials that require replacement to more reliable materials



Saddle Replacements

Reactive vs. Planned

- Failed infrastructure
- Unplanned interruptions to water service
- Hazards to Town staff

\$1,978,000

Direct Cost Savings

As a result of planning this project rather than addressing concerns under a reactionary response

A breakdown

OF COST SAVINGS

\$2,278,000

Emergency Repair Cost

Calculated at 248 failed saddles

\$750,000

Planned Repair Cost

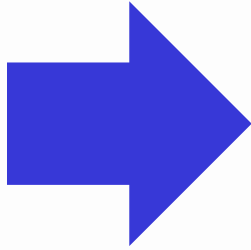
Calculated at 248 failed saddles

\$1,978,000

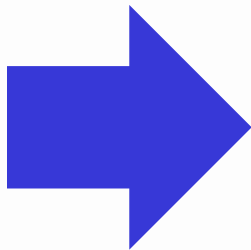
In direct cost savings, additional indirect cost savings not included

Critical Infrastructure

A FOCUS ON SERVICES
RELIED UPON DAILY



Prepped and painted fire hydrants and street lights throughout Town



Installed new panels, controls and upgraded all above the ground components at the Fishing Creek wet well



Re-lined 650 feet of failing storm drain in Richfield Station

Critical Infrastructure

A FOCUS ON SERVICES
RELIED UPON DAILY

338

**CALLS FOR EMERGENCY WATER /
SEWER SERVICES BY TOWN CITIZENS**

64

**PUBLIC WORKS STAFF EMERGENCY
RESPONSES TO AFTER HOURS CITIZEN
EMERGENCY SERVICE REQUESTS**

Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation

TREATMENT PLANT (CBWRTP)



Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation

TREATMENT PLANT (CBWRTP)

- The Town continues to operate the CBWRTP in service of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, the Town of North Beach, portions of Anne Arundel County and portions of Calvert County Government, serving approximately 15,000 users.
- No spills, one violation of the maximum monthly average for (Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)), and two filter bypass incidents. Both the violation and bypass events were a result of equipment failure and were corrected within 2 hours of identification. The proper notification was provided to the State.
- The Plant qualified for the Bay Restoration Fund Annual O&M Grant for Wastewater Treatment Plants for 2023. MDE disseminates these awards based on each wastewater facility's ability to achieve enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) performance levels of 3 mg/l total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorus in wastewater effluent concentration. The Plant qualified for additional funding as a result of the outperformance of the 3 mg/L goal for total nitrogen. It has been identified that the Plant should be qualified for a third consecutive year for the Bay Restoration Fund Annual O&M Grant for Wastewater Treatment Plants. The WRTP added a total of 2,999 lbs. of Total Nitrogen and 203 lbs. of Total Phosphorus for 2023, which is an improvement over the 3,511 lbs. of Total Nitrogen and 240 lbs. of Total Phosphorus in 2022.
- The Plant is working towards energy conservation methods through the reduction of water and electrical usage. Reworking of Plant systems is being performed to address high water-consuming equipment and investigating options for the implementation of solar power to further reduce the carbon footprint of the Plant.
- The CBWRTP continues to seek and retain qualified employees and hired (1) one new Operator Trainee in 2023.

Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation

TREATMENT PLANT (CBWRTP)

The Capital Project for covering the two clarifiers and the denitrification filters was completed in October 2023. This work will improve the operation of the filters by reducing algae growth in the clarifiers and individual filter units. The filter operation will improve through the reduction of algae growth which can reduce the filters' efficiency through "blinding" or clogging.



Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation

TREATMENT PLANT (CBWRTP)



Law Enforcement

& SAFETY

- Twin Beach Deputies responded to 2,500+ calls for service in the Town of Chesapeake Beach.
- Twin Beach Deputies initiated 7,600+ patrol checks in the Town of Chesapeake Beach.
- Coverage of (7) seven deputies and (1) one Lt. and (1) Sergeant shared at 65% (Town of Chesapeake Beach) and 35% (Town of North Beach).
- Coverage of (2) two deputies 100% paid for and allocated to the Town of Chesapeake Beach to improve police presence and coverage within the Town limits.
- Lt. Hollinger returned to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Investigation Department and Lt. Tilley took leadership of the Twin Beach Deputies at the close of 2023.
- A continued focus on community policing and maintaining a strong visible presence are a maintained priority for Chesapeake Beach.



Lt. Hollinger pictured at Town Hall



Lt. Tilley pictured with the Mayor and Town Council in the December 2023 Town Council meeting

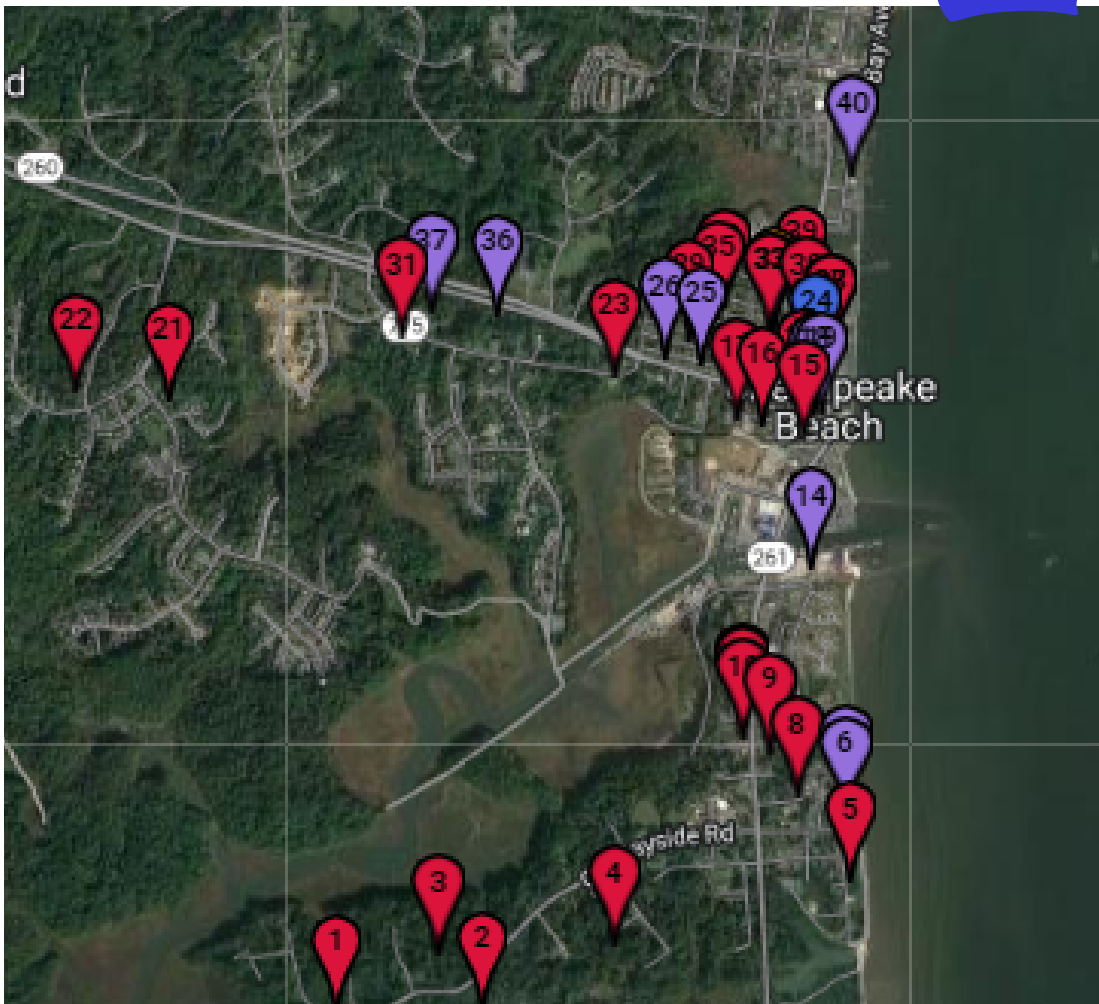
Keeping the Town Beautiful

ENFORCEMENT OF TOWN CODE

Code Enforcement continues to be a priority for the Town. In 2022 the Town integrated Code Enforcement with Public Works. This integration has proven to be efficient as the Public Works team is the most visible of all of the Town staff canvassing many areas of Town on a daily basis. William Varner, a long time Town employee is serving as the Code Enforcement Officer providing a steady and balanced approach to violations.

**41 CASES
OPENED**

**26 CASES
CLOSED**



A GIS map of code enforcement cases opened in 2023. The status of cases are reported in the monthly Town Administrators report for public view.

Housing & Livability

RENTAL LICENSING PROGRAM

RENTAL PERMITTING

The Town continues to implement the Housing and Livability Code ensuring compliance of investment properties in Town. Rentals are required to be permitted through the Town of Chesapeake Beach. If you have a question regarding if a property is permitted as a rental or to understand the requirements for the Housing and Livability Code please call Town Hall at (410)257-2230.

The Housing and Livability code is established to set standards for rental properties in Town. These standards require owners of properties to make repairs based on third party inspections conducted by the Town.



**97 RENTAL
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED**

**523
RENTALS**

Planning & Zoning



Image by Jessica Riffe

- Issued **92** Town zoning permits in 2023.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission adopted design standards for Townhouses.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission adopted “Standards of Compatibility”.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission provided input on the Town’s Coastal Resiliency planning .
- The Town hired a new Town Planner, Sarah Franklin working closely with the Planning Commission to make recommendations to Town Council on new policy directives.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission continues to work through Critical Area updates.

Coastal Resiliency

PLAN COMPLETION

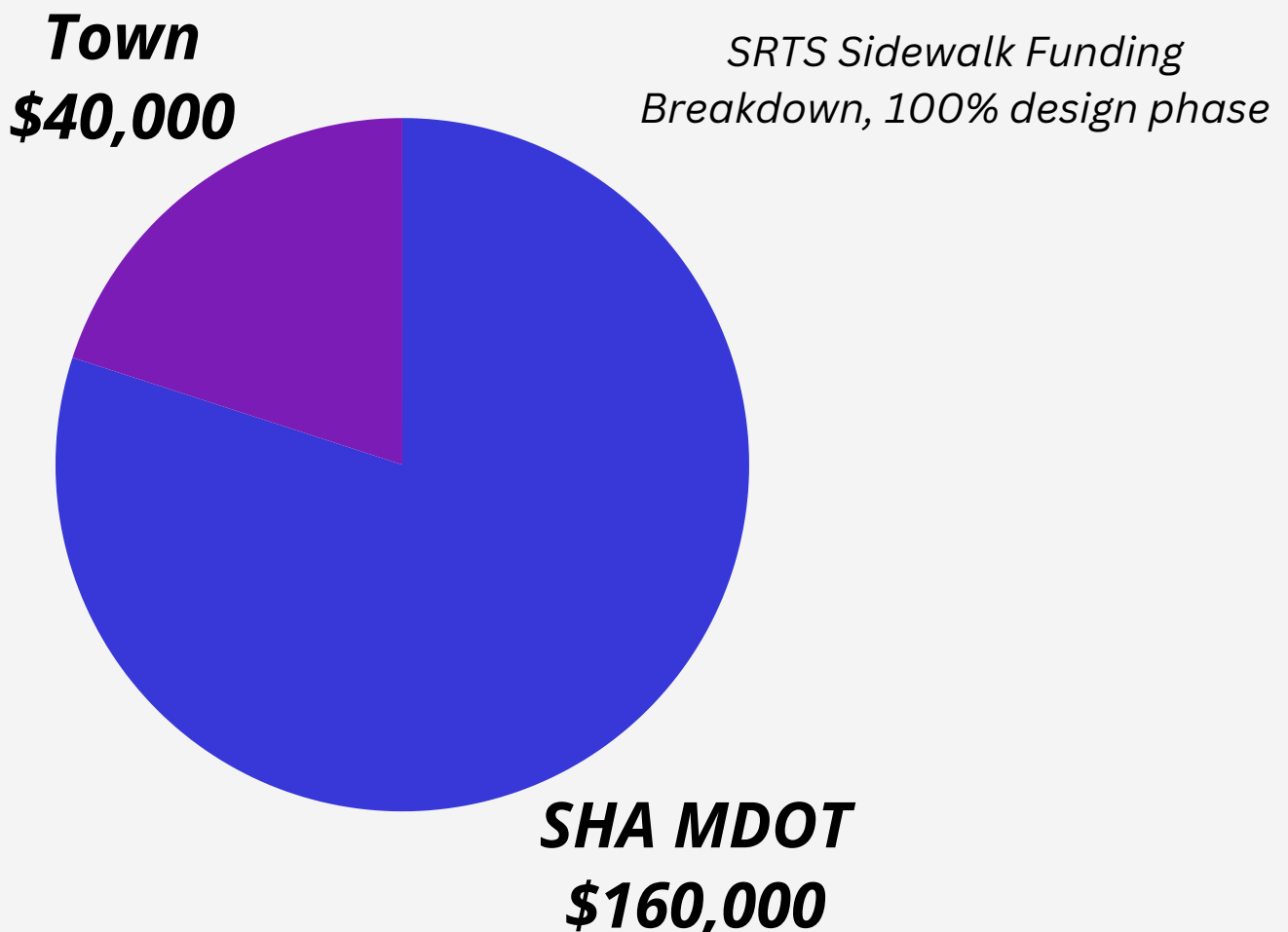
Through a grant funded by the State of Maryland, the Town formed a Steering Committee of Town residents completed a plan to prepare for rising water levels. Water levels have been rising in coastal Maryland over time. By 2050, the Bay's mean high tide is projected to be 2.1 feet higher than levels measured in 2000. Beyond 2050, water levels are projected to rise further.

Several public outreach sessions were conducted, public comment received and input implemented into the final Coastal Resiliency Plan that was adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Chesapeake Beach. The Town is now setting a course to prioritize projects through guidance from the Coastal Resiliency Steering Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission for Town Council consideration. Projects will be submitted for grant funding in coordination with State, County and Federal agencies.



Streets, Sidewalks, Safe Access

State Highway Administration (SHA) Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project the Town continues to coordinate with Maryland State Highway Administration to complete the 100% design to incorporate sidewalks along MD261 from Chesapeake Village to Beach Elementary School and Old Bayside Rd. Grant funding provides that the State pays 80% of the project costs, the Town pays 20% of the project costs. It is projected that the construction costs will total \$6,000,000.



Streets, Sidewalks, Safe Access

Coordination with State Highway the Town continues to coordinate with Maryland State Highway Administration to make safety improvements in the Town.

These improvements include:

- Repaving RT260 and RT261
- Re-striping RT260 and RT261
- Safety improvements to the crosswalks, which included updating crosswalks to Continental Style. Continental style crosswalks have been shown to be more visible to approaching vehicles and improve yielding behavior. Continental crosswalk markings use thick striping oriented parallel to the approach travel lanes to increase the visibility of pedestrian crossings for both pedestrians and motorists. Motorists are warned to expect pedestrian crossings while approaching the intersection and to stop for crossing pedestrians because these pavement markings can be detected sooner than traditional parallel line crosswalk markings.
- Safety improvements to the curb entrances to reflect current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- The addition of new signage on the cross bars to alert drivers to watch for pedestrians.



THANK YOU



**STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION**



State Highway Administration



Safe Crossings and Markings

MD ROUTE 261 / 260

State Highway Administration (MDOT)(SHA) installed continental crossings and pedestrian overhead signage.



Safe Crossings and Markings

MD ROUTE 261 CONTINENTAL CROSSING

State Highway Administration (MDOT)(SHA) installed a new continental crosswalk on RT261.



Increased Walkability

SAFE WALKING AREAS MARKED

State Highway Administration (MDOT) (SHA) installed safe walking areas with markings throughout Town.



ADA Access

SAFE ACCESS TO WALKWAY

State Highway Administration (MDOT) (SHA) installed safe American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps throughout Town.

"We are aware there are many, many miles of roads maintained in the State by MDOT SHA; therefore we are truly grateful for the attention paid to the Town of Chesapeake Beach to improve pedestrian safety, the condition of our main roads and our main exit routes in case of need", **stated Town of Chesapeake Beach Councilwoman Peggy Hartman.**

Connecting Chesapeake Beach

SAFE ACCESS FOR PEDESTRIANS

The Town is reviewing Sidewalk Art concepts for implementation on Town roadways as traffic calming. The implementation of a pilot project is currently underway to connect the 29th street pocket park and the Gordon Stinnett crosswalk.



Pocket Parks

ACCESS POINTS & SMALL PARKS

The Town completed the installation of two new pocket parks and an access point to the Northern side of Kellam's field. A new pocket park on 29th street provides a bayfront access point and the new overlook park along the waterfront at B street provide resting points for pedestrians enjoying our sidewalks, trails and pathways. These projects were completed as part of the Town's Master Walkability Plan.

Funding for these projects totaled \$192,500 as was provided by the Town of Chesapeake Beach with \$150,000 refunded through a grant from the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Local Parks & Playground Infrastructure.



NEW POCKET PARK ON THE
B STREET
OVERLOOK



NORTHERN KELLAM'S ACCESS POINT



29TH STREET POCKET
PARK

Kellam's Complex Improvements

RECREATION AT THE CENTER OF
TOWN



Miller-Loveless Park at Kellam's Field rendering

The Town released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Kellam's field storm drain work and Miller Loveless Park at Kellam's field. The proposed work incorporates citizen feedback on play equipment making improvements to the current play area that does not have adequate drainage. The installation of the new storm drain will provide drainage of the Kellam's recreational field as well as the tot lot play area and future low impact work out area.

Work is expected to start in the Spring of 2024. The Town expects to fund \$500,000 in repairs with \$150,000 of the project being refunded from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Parks and Playground Infrastructure grant funding.

Youth RECREATION

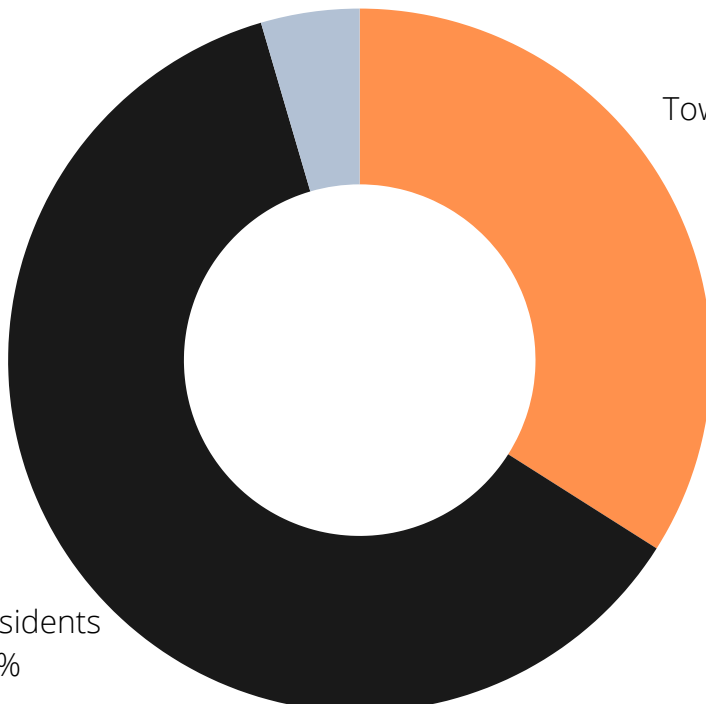


The Town continues to provide youth recreational opportunities in partnership with the Beach Buccaneers Youth Sports League. The opportunities offer recreational amenities to Town and County youth.

Support from the Town includes staffing and maintaining the field for practices and games, making improvements to facilities to ensure safe play areas and funding the teams 2023 end of the year trophies for all players. Support is provided at no cost to the youth organization.

BEACH BUCS 2023 ROSTER OF PLAYERS

Out of County Residents
4.5%



Town Residents
34%

Includes registrants from Tackle Football, Flag Football, and Cheerleading

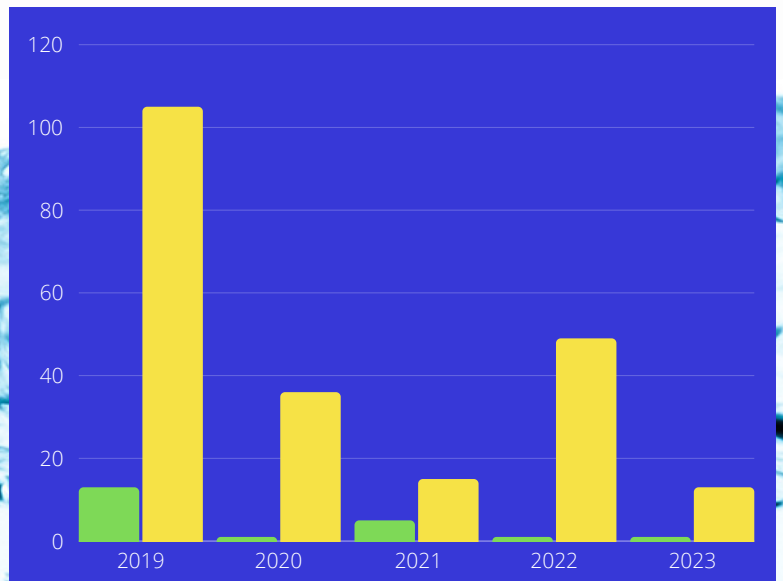


County Residents
61.5%



2023 Accomplishments

Listed as a Calvert County Major Employer, the Water Park employed close to 200 local youth, providing invaluable lessons to prepare for future careers in a variety of fields.



1

The 2023 Season saw the lowest number of recorded major safety incidents and water rescue reports in Water Park history.

2

Our Aquatics department, led by Savannah Richardson, achieved a prestigious SILVER level award from Ellis & Associates, our licensing company who conducts safety audits on our team.

3

Lifeguard Nick Vento was given the international recognition of "Golden Guard" during an unannounced audit.

Water Park IMPROVEMENTS



The Town is working with Design/Build Firms to begin the process of rebuilding the Park due to aging infrastructure.



The Town continues to engage seasonal staff to provide opportunities for employment during re-design.



Our dedicated employees, have put their heart & soul into maintaining our aging Water Park during the season as best they could, and are excited at the prospect of a sparkling new facility to host future generations of swimmers.



Town staff, seasonal staff, and our guests believe an Aquatics facility is an important asset to our small Town and look forward with excitement on the future possibilities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Listed again among the Major Employers in Calvert County:** The Rod N Reel Resort and the Chesapeake Beach Water Park make the top list of Major Employers in Calvert County
- Hosted over 6,500 recreational boaters at our public boat ramps providing ramp access for free bringing state residents to the Town to frequent our local businesses.
- Funded \$1,000 in gift cards to local businesses as awards for Brightest Beacon on the Bay winners.
- Held the third annual Christmas Market at the Town's annual Light up the Town display offering free spaces for local vendors of the Twin Beaches.
- Hosted the Holiday Lights Tour providing a front row seat to the Town's Christmas display, resident displays and local businesses displays.
- Promotion of local businesses through the Town website.

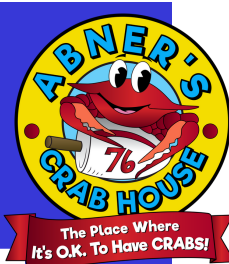


Chesapeake Beach Candle Company participating in the Light up the Town and Christmas Market event



Councilwoman Hartman and Council Vice President Fink joining local businesses at the Light up the Town

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



TASTE the beaches



Hosted the annual Taste the Beaches event attracting over 2,500 guests at a longstanding local business, Abner's Crab House. Taste the Beaches is an annual event founded and supported by Councilman Larry Jaworski to connect community and Town businesses at the center of Town.



Wellness Outreach



Twin Beach Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition, Chaired by Councilman Keith Pardieck:

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.

TBOAAC in collaboration with partners from PositiveVibes, Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, the Calvert County Health Department, and Emmanuel Church Celebrate Recovery continued efforts to raise awareness about Opioid Use Disorder, reduce the shame surrounding the disorder, and connect those in need with recovery and support resources. In 2021, TBOAAC and partners sponsored an International Overdose Awareness Day Glow Vigil event on each year in August to raise awareness that overdose deaths are preventable and to honor the memory of our loved ones lost to overdose deaths. TBOAAC and partner organizations have give away purple LED bulbs to residents and businesses to help raise awareness about the opioid abuse epidemic gripping our region and nation. The committee developed and installed two roadside signs to promote the county's Calvert Crisis Response team. If you or someone you know needs help with addiction or mental health issues (depression, anxiety, etc.), please contact Calvert Crisis Response team anytime at 877-467-5682 (www.CCBHCrisisResponse.org). They can help provide: rapid access to substance use or mental health treatment, medication assisted treatment, peer support, free narcan kit.



It is all about Community

FINDING WAYS TO CONNECT CITIZENS

- Engagement efforts reached approximately 1,500 citizens through online voting tools to select items such as the 2023 Town calendar images and Brightest Beacon on the Bay awards.
- Maintained a Town events Facebook page with 2,000+ total followers with 22.9% of those followers from Chesapeake Beach.
- National Night Out at Kellam's Field in coordination with Calvert County Parks and Recreation and our local emergency responders.
- Hosted over 100 practices and over 25 games for our local youth at Kellam's field.
- Partnered with the Calvert County Parks and Recreation and the Northeast Community Center to provide space at Kellam's field for the summer camp activities.
- Held the third annual Halloween Family Fun Night at Kellam's Field.
- Partnered with Beach Elementary School to share children's thoughts on kindness bringing joy to all.





The Green Team



- Obtained Recertification for the Sustainable Maryland Certification.
- The Green Team kicked off 2023 with a wildly popular talk on Invasives with Naturalist Kerry Wixted at the Northeast Community Center.
- In April the Team joined community members for a spring cleanup, gathering many bags of trash from the Rail Trail, Kellam's Field and the entrance to Town along Route 260.
- Summer found the Green team maintaining the successful Pollinator Gardens along the Rail Trail.
- Joined the Master Gardeners and Naturalists for a Critters and Creatures Walk in Bayfront Park.
- In the fall the Team joined with a local Scout Troop to plant 15 native trees and shrubs at Bayfront Park and Darkstar Lane.
- The Team coordinated with Town staff and the Town Council to facilitate the adoption of the Urban Forest Ordinance.
- Received regional approval of the Tree City USA designation awaiting State approval, which is forthcoming.





CBOCS



CHESAPEAKE BEACH OYSTER CULTIVATION SOCIETY

The Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society continues its vibrant role in promoting oyster restoration projects and educational opportunities for Calvert County elementary school students, residents and visitors to Chesapeake Beach and Calvert County. Our membership increased 10% to 115 members and we continue to encourage enthusiastic participation in our mission and events!

Some key highlights for 2023, are:



CBOCS volunteers in conjunction with the Coastal Conservation Association travelled to six northern Calvert County elementary schools (Beach, Windy Hill, Mt. Harmony, Sunderland, Huntingtown and Plum Point) to support the 5th grade Oyster Reef Ball Build project. The students built the reef balls by constructing molds, mixing and pouring concrete, and then “Hatching” the reef balls on the second day of the event. 400 students participated in building 120 reef balls to be distributed in the Bay, the Patuxent River and the St. Mary’s River.



CBOCS volunteers also supported an Oyster Reef Ball Build at Broadneck High School in Annapolis. Unfortunately, the students missed out on the second day “hatch” as the smoke from the Canadian wildfires prevented outdoor participation. 12 adult volunteers scrambled to open the molds and remove the reef balls early in the morning to avoid the worst of the air conditions.



In April, CBOCS was contacted by the American Chestnut Land Trust to participate in their annual one-day Water Quality Blitz. The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons along with ACLT obtains water samples from non-tidal sections of the major creeks and streams in Calvert County. The CBL tracks the results for historical analysis and submits the report to ACLT. The CBOCS Chair is happy to report that the non-tidal sections of Fishing Creek were rated Good for Nitrogen Levels.



CBOCS contributed to the Town of North Beach via their nature center at Wetlands Overlook Park by providing live oyster reef inhabitants for their oyster aquarium, as well as additional informational materials to be distributed at the center. If you have not visited it yet, the nature center is a wonderful asset to our twin beaches’ community.



CBOCS



CHESAPEAKE BEACH OYSTER CULTIVATION SOCIETY



Several CBOCS volunteers travelled to the University of Maryland Environmental Science laboratory in Cambridge for a tour of the oyster growth facility. This is a tremendous program, and the tour was truly fascinating.



September saw the return of CBOCS Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) 5th grade oyster field trip program encompassing all elementary schools in Calvert County. This is a hugely successful and popular event in the CCPS calendar. 12 CBOCS volunteers supported the Dept. of Parks and Recreation Naturalists over the course of 10 weeks with logistical support, setting up and taking down teaching stations, driving the ever-popular golf cart and providing storage facilities for the equipment. At program completion, over 1,146 students and 266 teachers/chaperones were educated on requirements for a healthy oyster environment and the vital role oysters play in the health of Chesapeake Bay. 207 volunteer hours were recorded for this program. Many thanks go out to the volunteers as well as Jay Berry and his terrific staff at CB DPW who came out in heat, cold, rain and sunshine to support this major effort.



Several CBOCS volunteers participated in the Maryland Grows Oysters program to over-winter spat-on-shell in cages on their own property. This small but enthusiastic group of volunteers are tracking the oyster spat growth over the winter. The shells will be collected in the spring and deposited on reefs in the bay. We are actively planning on increasing the number of volunteers who are willing to participate in 2024 and notice will be sent out in the spring.



CBOCS



CHESAPEAKE BEACH OYSTER CULTIVATION SOCIETY



Sue Alexander, Director of CBOCS, along with Mayor Pat Mahoney, attended the annual Chesapeake Oyster Alliance Science Symposium for two days in Cambridge, MD. This was an exciting event that promoted All Things Oyster. There were 24 speakers covering a range of topics including Increasing Returns in Restoration and Aquaculture; Presentations from Emerging Scientists – 4 students from area colleges and one high school student; New Developments in Monitoring Oyster Reefs and Hatcheries; New World Advances in Oyster Technology; and Forecasting the Future of Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture. The highlight of the trip for Sue was a chance to sail a Skipjack on the Choptank River. Many connections were made to provide future opportunities for CBOCS to promote Oyster growth and restoration.



A new initiative started in the fall with a proposal from the ACLT to create a Friends of Fishing Creek group. They have established three other “Friends of” groups in Calvert County – Mill Creek, Hunting Creek and St. Leonard Creek. Fishing Creek is the third largest creek in Calvert County and deserves equal attention. The mission of the “Friends of” groups is to promote maintenance of the overall health of Fishing Creek as well as educate local citizenry on good environmental practices impacting the creek. Creating a third group, in addition to CBOCS and the CB Green Team, would likely draw on the same citizen population and therefore be redundant. Too many committees are never a popular idea. After discussion, CBOCS and the CB Green Team will support the mission of the Friends group with any proposed project being absorbed by one of the two existing teams (CBOCS – oyster/water related projects; Green Team land related projects). More to come on this effort in 2024.



Greg Bowen and Mary Hoover of the ACLT also contacted CBOCS to discuss another major initiative they are promoting. This effort will entail designating Fishing Creek a Rural Legacy Area. This program, run by the ACLT and a Maryland State Trust, is a voluntary program to preserve land along the creek. The program applies to any land bordering Fishing Creek outside of the Chesapeake Beach town limits. ACLT has asked for support from CBOCS for this program. More information to follow in 2024.



CBOCS



CHESAPEAKE BEACH OYSTER CULTIVATION SOCIETY



CBOCS members Sue Alexander and Melanie Crowder met with the Twin Beach library Director and Assistant Director along with local artist Parran Coltery to begin planning for an exterior tile mural for the new North Beach Library. The tile mural will be designed around the flora and fauna of the Chesapeake Bay. Installation is planned for spring/summer 2024. An Oyster Celebration Day is being planned to involve the community in arts and informational events to celebrate this mural, the bay and our Calvert County environment, with a tentative date in early 2025.



CBOCS reports that the Chesapeake Beach Town Administrator has worked diligently with several CBOCS members to update our web page on the town's website. Yea!



CBOCS sponsored tables at three events in our community this year. Volunteers distributed 500 pieces of candy, 200 pencils and 240 glow stick bracelets at the annual Halloween Fun Night – another hugely popular event in town. Volunteers also manned a table at the Light Up the Town event in December where over 50 children (and a few adults) painted oyster shell ornaments for their Christmas decorations. Lastly, a table was manned at the Taste of the Beaches event in September handing out informational brochures and reusable tote bags. Volunteers were amazingly spry in closing down the table and quickly packing up all materials as a heavy thunderstorm rolled through.

Town Events



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA



HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN NIGHT



STARS & STRIPES



LIGHT UP THE TOWN & CHRISTMAS MARKET



INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS



HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR



TASTE THE BEACHES



ICE SKATING & HOLIDAY BOOK READING



Key Opportunities in 2024

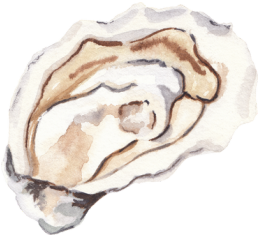
FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



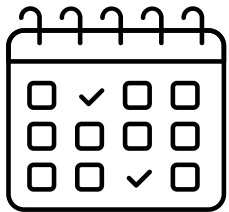
Further opportunities for citizens to access open green space at Kellam's field.



Sea level rise community engagement: capture images and upload them to the MyCoast App, join a public meeting, engage with the Town as we make plans to address flooding.



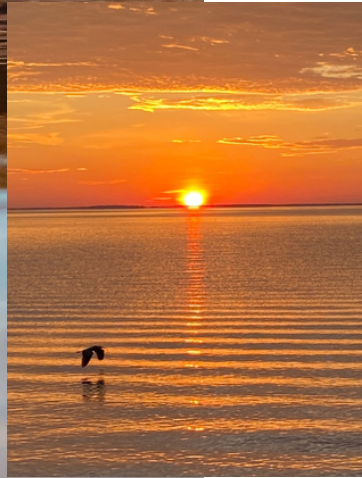
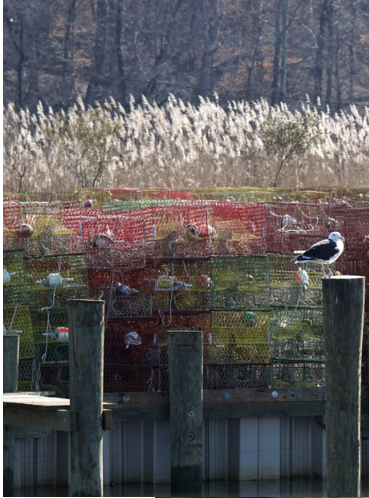
Join the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society by building reef balls to improve the quality of our waterways!



Mark your calendars and attend one of our fun community events such as the Stars & Stripes Festival, Taste the Beaches, Easter Eggstravaganza, Halloween Family movie night, 4th of July celebration, look for our new pop up events "cars and coffee" *and so much more!*



Join us as a partner at one of our Town events. The Town is seeking partnerships with local businesses to improve community offerings.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED TRUST

*The Mayor, Town Council and Town Staff
look forward to serving you in 2024!*



TOWN HALL