



# Baylines

*Newsletter of the City Council-appointed*

## ***Bayfront Advisory Commission***

### **Members**

- **Kal Kassir, Chairman**
- **Scott Ayers**
- **Joseph Bovee**
- **Faith Christie**
- **Wally Damon**
- **Phillip A. Davenport**
- **Charles G. Faison, Jr.**
- **Capt. Joey L. Frantzen**
- **Walter Graham, Planning Commissioner**
- **Louis R. Jones, Councilman**
- **Charles R. Malbon, Jr., vice chairman**
- **David Redmond, Planning Commissioner**
- **Stacey W. Shiflet**
- **Martin A. Thomas**
- **James L. Wood, Councilman**

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Bayside Community Recreation Center**

**4500 First Court Road**

**\*\*\*NOTE NEW LOCATION\*\***

### **Tentative Agenda**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and Introductions - Kal Kassir, Chair  
Comments from Kal Kassir, Chair  
Review and Approval of Minutes

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Design Review – Joseph Bovee  
Communications – Scott Ayers  
Public Safety, Transit, Parking & Pedestrian Access- Charles Malbon

#### **STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Recommendation to City Council re: scooter regulation
- Strategic Plan 2019-20 update

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ADJOURN**

*\*Next meeting: Oct. 17, 2019*

## CITY SWITCHES EMERGENCY ALERT

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The city is switching platforms for its free, subscription-based, emergency notification service starting Oct. 1. About 15,000 subscribers to the current notice system will have to re-enroll with the new provider to continue receiving messages after Oct. 1.

"This is such an important community service, we hope everyone will register," said Stephen Williams, director of Emergency Communications and Citizens Services. Current subscribers can switch to the new platform the same way new subscribers can sign up: by texting VBAalert to 67283 or going online to [www.vbgov.com/vbalert](http://www.vbgov.com/vbalert)

The new platform, powered by [Rave Mobile Safety](#), allows for different services, including [Smart911](#), which will be deployed in the future. Williams said citizens can sign up for Smart911 when they register with VBAalert. Smart911 allows subscribers to provide other information to their profile, like the neighbor with a key, that could help 911 call-takers save them or that of a family member or pet.

The new sign-up is necessary because the current contract is expiring and personal information and passwords are not transferable.

During the transition, current subscribers will receive messages from both systems through Sept. 30, unless they unsubscribe from the old platform at: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725673#/login>.

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## Dorian debris pickup services set

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Yard debris from Hurricane Dorian may be placed at curbside for city collection as follows:

--Limbs up to 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter will be collected in a pile not to exceed 4 x 4 x 4 feet. No more than two piles from each house will be collected on each trash day.

--Smaller yard debris, such as grass and leaves (no dirt, rocks, mulch or root balls) in up to 25 clear plastic bags, not more than 25 lbs. per bag, may be placed curbside as well. Note: Only **CLEAR** plastic bags will be accepted.

Tree-removal debris is not collected curbside. However, residents may call 385-4650 for a yard-debris container. Each log or branch must be no larger than 6 inches in diameter.

# E-scooter studies continue this fall



Following the City Council's 6-5 vote to halt electric scooters' use east of Arctic Avenue at the Oceanfront (from Rudee Loop to 42<sup>nd</sup> St.) -- and citywide on any other street with speed limits above 25 mph -- city officials are taking advantage of this moratorium to continue to study and make more permanent recommendations controlling e-scooters.

Brian Solis, assistant to the city manager for special projects, told *Baylines* last week that information-gathering is continuing as police and city attorneys, working with the Shared Mobility Services Task Force are collaborating to provide a briefing to the City Council in coming weeks. This will be followed by proposing and enacting regulations, advertising for franchise operators later this fall with an eye toward issuing licenses early next year, Solis said in an interview.

These groups are looking at a variety of regulation topics including maximum speeds, where they may be parked, reinforcing existing state and local safety laws involving minimum age and helmet requirements fee schedules to defray city costs on enforcing and policing regulations.

It is clear, because of Virginia's Dillon's Rule law and other court cases, that Virginia Beach has the authority to regulate, but not ban, this activity, Solis explained at the BAC meeting. Dillon's Rule allows cities and counties only those actions that, absent written constitutional power, the General Assembly specifically permits.

In one of a number of feedback presentations on this issue, Solis told the BAC last month that "we're in a shared community" and that e-scooters are operating a "disruptive business model" with which leaders are trying to deal to allow changes in transportation technology to take place, but safely. Commission members, like other city groups, had differing opinions about the e-scooters.

"This is a real nightmare for the police department," said commissioner Wally Damon at the meeting.

Charles G. Faison Jr. noted at the meeting that he had seen Oceanfront hospitality workers using the scooters to commute to work there, potentially reducing traffic -- and parking -- problems during the busy tourist season. Riders who have signed up for the scooters' service can pick up the scooter, ride it to their destination and leave it there for another rider to use.

Reacting to how Lime and Bird scooters had been abandoned in neighborhoods and on beaches where no next rider would likely ever look for one, commissioner Martin A. Thomas said at the meeting, "they are pretty much litter."

Solis said that, no matter what government enacts, it is clear that “the market will dictate” whether this a permanent change in shared transportation.

A BAC committee met earlier this month to work up a draft letter for a full commission vote Sept. 19. Plans are to send that action in the form of an advisory letter to the City Council.

## *Route 35 shuttle ridership up in July*

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Route 35, the Bayfront-Oceanfront shuttle, posted a 15-percent gain in ridership this July versus July a year ago. Hampton Roads Transit reported that ridership rose to 7,357 in July vs. 6,375 July 2018. This June, ridership was posted at 6,657.

Two summers ago, July 2017, ridership was 3,741.

The Route 35 ran daily, every 30 minutes, until Labor Day and will continue Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to midnight, every 30 minutes until Sep. 29.

## **Dredging ran out of Cape Henry sand, officials studying options**

The sand replenishment project on Cape Henry Beach wrapped up short of reaching Oak Street because the contractor ran out of sand from dredging out the Lynnhaven Inlet, BAC commission member Phillip A. Davenport reported to the commission. “Nourishment is complete.”

Army Corps of Engineers’ contractors are still dredging in Long Creek and the spoils are being taken to the storage site off Maple Street. Dredging and replenishment projects involve specific sources for sand and destinations. The contract for the Cape Henry project ended Aug. 30., although city officials are looking at whether the stored sand on Maple Street can be used on eroded areas of Ocean Park or to add to the Cape Henry beach.

Decisions on that will depend on how Bay beaches fared during Hurricane Dorian.

## *Oceana command change during air show*

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Capt. Chad Vincelette, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Oceana will be relieved Saturday, Sept. 21, by Capt. John Hewitt during an in-flight ceremony at the NAS Oceana Air Show.

Vincelette, a Virginia Beach native, became the 45th commanding officer of NAS Oceana on March 9, 2018, after serving as the executive officer for 18 months. He will be retiring after 26 years in the Navy.

Hewitt, of Smithtown, NY, and current executive officer, will be the 46th CO at Oceana.

Hewitt graduated with distinction from New York Maritime College with a bachelor of science degree in Marine Business and Commerce and earned a U.S. Merchant Marine Third Officer’s License. He is a graduate of both the United States Naval War College, where he earned a master’s degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, and the Joint Forces Staff College.