

THE MUSEUM NEWS

Hello Friends of the Cape Charles Museum!

—Cape Charles Museum—

Message from the President of the Board of Directors

As we enter the 2026 season, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Andy Dunton, and I'm honored to serve as your new president and director of the Cape Charles Museum.

A little background about myself and my family: my eighth great-grandfather was counted in the very first census here on Virginia's Eastern Shore. My second great-grandfather worked on some of the original homes right here in Cape Charles, and my family has lived in town ever since. Other than the time I spent in the Marine Corps, after barely graduating from Cape Charles High School, I've lived on the Shore my entire life. My parents still live in town and in the same house I grew up in.

And that's a good thing—because I am by no means an expert in Cape Charles history. I consider myself a student of it. I lean a lot on my dad, who knows more about the town's history than I probably ever will.

Speaking of experts on town history, New Orleans has the Neville Brothers—but so does Cape Charles. Our Neville brothers are the lifeblood of your museum and true experts in Cape Charles history. They are treasured here just as much as any artifact displayed in our cases.

Looking ahead to this season, we'll be adding the Betty Hall exhibit during Mother's Day weekend. Many of you remember Betty as an all-around wonderful lady, and, of course, for the world-record black drum she caught. The Museum is also lining up a series of history lectures throughout the season, and we're planning some fun community events as well—including films on the lawn. Bring your own chair and join us for an outdoor movie night at the museum.

The Museum will also be holding a membership drive that will last all year. The Cape Charles Museum is a 100% volunteer organization, and you can rest assured that your membership goes further than you can imagine. I recently read the sad news of a museum just up the road closing due to financial difficulties. Like everyone else, we have bills and we need to keep the lights on. We rely on the generosity and support of our community.

This year will be an especially meaningful one. As our country celebrates its 250th birthday, Cape Charles will celebrate its 140th birthday. Additionally, in 1986, a group of dedicated citizens formed the Cape Charles Historical Society—an effort that led to the museum you see today. That means your museum turns 40 this year as well.

You'll notice us using the museum's image more this year. Whether you're coming into town or heading out, I want people to know who we are, what we are, and that you are always welcome here.

Your museum is what I like to call a blue-collar museum. Cape Charles itself came to be because of the railroad. We're not a fine arts' museum—and that's part of our charm. Here you might see a massive engine that once powered this building, still looking like it could spring back to life, and then turn around to see beautiful display cases with fine china from the passenger rail days. You'll find core samples from the largest impact crater in the United States—whose epicenter lies right here near Cape Charles—and many other pieces of the town's working history in between.

Speaking of that large engine, there were originally two of them in this building. One was left here as a reminder of what this place once was: a peaker plant. When the town needed extra electricity, these engines would kick on to supply the power. While that generator no longer powers Cape Charles, your museum stands ready to provide a different kind of energy—bringing history to life for our town and for visitors alike.

The Cape Charles Museum opens for the season on Friday, May 1! The Museum will begin the season by being open on Fridays and Saturdays during the month of May and will expand operating hours after Memorial Day to be Monday through Saturday 10-4.

If you ever have questions, ideas, or simply want to talk about Cape Charles' history, please feel free to reach out. I'm always glad to hear from you. You may reach me at 757-999-0469.

Andy Dunton,
President of Cape Charles Historical Society and Director of the Cape Charles Museum



Join or Renew Museum Membership

Support the Cape Charles Museum

The Museum thrives because of our members — and we are so grateful for you.

Your membership keeps our doors open, supports new exhibits and educational programs, and helps fund the restoration of our beloved railroad exhibits — a true piece of Cape Charles history.

We hope you'll continue to be part of preserving and celebrating our community's story.

Renewing is easy:

⇒ Mail your membership to PO BOX 11 Cape Charles, VA 23310

⇒ Visit us online at capecharlesmuseum.org.

Not yet a member? We'd love to welcome you!

Become a Docent at the Cape Charles Museum!

Love local history and meeting new people?

The Cape Charles Museum is looking for friendly volunteers to serve as docents!

Help welcome visitors, share the stories that make our town special, and keep Cape Charles history alive. No experience needed — training is provided. Even a few hours a month makes a difference.

Interested?

Email Stacy at stacypugliadrake@gmail.com to learn more!

Thank you for supporting local history!

Farmers Market & Yard Sale

FARMERS MARKET: The Museum's Farmers Market features many local vendors focused on produce, prepared food and farm related products grown or made in Virginia and looks forward to serving the community through the season on any given Saturday.

Beginning Saturday, May 23, and each following Saturday, the market will offer a diversity of products, bringing together farmers, bakers, watermen and a variety of prepared food vendors. Join us at our open market each week to share in the celebration of local fresh food and community!

Each week brings new produce, vendors, and fun! (weather permitting) Please contact Amanda for more information at 757-678-2352.

YARD SALE: *Save the Date:* Saturday, April 18, come join us for the Town-Wide Yard Sale that will give sellers the opportunity to do some spring cleaning and yard sale-seeking enthusiasts the chance to find treasures. If you would like to reserve a *prime* spot right on the main road into Town, call Amanda at 757-678-2352 to reserve a spot on our lawn for \$15!

Additionally, follow us on Facebook for a series of dates that the Museum will host Sunday yard sales throughout the summer season.

May Fundraiser



Betty Hall Exhibit Dedication

Something special is pulling into the station! The Museum has been working behind the scenes to bring something special to life. Now, it's time to share it with the community. Please join us this Mother's day weekend, as the Museum will unveil a special new exhibit honoring Betty Hall. Betty holds a place in our local history for the woman's world record holder for catching the largest Black Drum. We look forward to having you join us!

