

THE KEEPER



A publication of the Virginia Beach Maritime Museum Inc., t/a The Old Coast Guard Station, a private non-profit organization dedicated to

"Preserving Our Maritime Heritage"

SCRATCH ANOTHER HISTORIC BUILDING. FOR A WALGREENS?



Linen border post card, c.1930s, from the collection of The Old Coast Guard Station Museum.

On the chopping block and ready for demolition. That is the fate facing our Atlantic Station Post Office building across from the Museum on 24th Street. The U.S. Postal Service declared the building "underutilized" and set the wheels in motion around 2005 to dispose of the facility. It finally happened on 24 October 2008 and our "Box 24" was closed.

From all indications Walgreens, a national drugstore chain, has purchased the buildings on the site and will scrap them in preparation for a new structure. But the 1937 brick building is not the only structure on the site scheduled for demolition. The former Coast Guard Electronics Shop and garage which closed in 1970 will also be torn down.

The earliest Post Office in the Town of Virginia Beach was located on Atlantic Avenue. In the late 1920s it moved to 17th Street which was the "Town Center" of the day. Around 1929 it was moved again, this time to Atlantic Avenue on the west side between 20th and 21st Street. The Post Office remained at that location when the 24th Street facility opened for business on 15 March 1937. That building occupies the footprint of the first generation 1878 Seatack Life-Saving Station.

A ceremonial masonry stone on the facade reads in part "Henry Morgantheau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury . 1936." The brick structure with English bond served the resort community for years and many locals held conversations in the lobby as they picked up their mail. Above their heads on the north wall hung the 1939 oil on canvas painting "Old Dominion Conversation Piece" which had been commissioned by the Treasury Department.

The City of Virginia Beach recently appointed a Historic Preservation Commission to look at a number of historic buildings in the city which are staring at demolition. The Roland Court Building on 17th Street and the former Atlantic Station Post Office are both on the plate. We shall see.

Fielding Lewis Tyler

PROGRAMS

The Old Coast Guard Station is proud to feature Songs & Tales of the Sea with Bob Zentz as a part of the Family Fun Day program this summer. For five decades in many parts of the globe, local folk musician Bob Zentz has presented thematic programs that both educate and entertain. His sense of history, humanity, and humor complement his musical proficiency in several dozen instruments featuring a repertoire of more than 2000 songs. Songs & Tales of the Sea will feature Bob performing sea songs and chanteys, providing commentary and yarns about sailor's life, and a display of sailor's bag and traditional musical instruments.



Bob Zentz with USCGC Sebago. Image courtesy of Bob Zentz. BobZentz.com

Other Family Fun Day themes include the

Golden Age of Piracy

featuring the **Moody Crewe**
and WW II era U. S. Coast Guard
featuring the **BlueJackets.**

Family Fun Day is
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Please call (757) 422-1587 for dates
and information.

HEROES OF THE SURF: TRAGIC TALES OF SHIPWRECKS

Wednesdays at 8 p.m. during June, July, & August

Take a stroll down the boardwalk as you hear tales of tragedy and heroics to bring a tear to your eye or send shivers down your spine.

Program Fee: \$10 adult, \$5 children ages 6-12.

Call for group bookings.

STORY TIME WITH CAPTAIN FISHBONES

Wednesdays at 11 am during June, July, & August

Join **Captain Fishbones** for a storybook reading, activities, and fun! For children ages 3 – 9. Must be accompanied by an adult.

Program included in Museum Admission and **FREE FOR MEMBERS.**

Call 422-1587 to confirm time and date.



SPRING BOOK SALE

Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Museum. Join us and find a treasure of your own at the **BOOK SALE** to benefit the Old Coast Guard Station. Gently used books, CDs and DVDs will be available for purchase at one low price.

If you have books, CDs or DVDs that you would like to donate to the sale, please call the museum at

422-1587 or e-mail
stationstore@macs.net

We will be glad to provide pick-up service at your convenience.

Come down to the Boardwalk and find great summer reading material - the perfect partner for the lazy summer days to come. . .

UP-COMING EVENTS 2009

Event dates and times are subject to change.

FAMILY FUN DAY

April 25, 10 am – 4 pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Pirates, Ahoy! Featuring the Moody Crew

FAMILY FUN DAY

June 20, 10 am – 4 pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

WWII era Coast Guard featuring the BlueJackets and Songs & Tales of the Sea with Bob Zentz.

BEACH ART PARTNERS

April 28 – May 25

Exhibit featuring student art from our Partner in Education schools Virginia Beach Middle and W. T. Cooke Elementary. Museum Lower Gallery.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE

June 30 – September 13

An exhibit featuring the ships, men, and missions of the US Revenue Cutter Service, a predecessor of the Coast Guard, from 1790 to 1915.

SURF'S UP!

May 27 - June 28

This new exhibit pays homage to surfing in Virginia Beach, both past and present. Museum Lower Gallery.

FAMILY FUN DAY

July 25, 10 am – 4 pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Civil War era Coast Guard and Songs & Tales of the Sea with Bob Zentz.

BOOK SALE

May 30, 10 am – 4 pm

All books one price. Find the perfect books for your summer at the beach. Museum porch and grounds.

FAMILY FUN DAY

August 8, 10 am – 4 pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Pirates, Ahoy! Featuring the Moody Crew

SURF'S UP! EXHIBIT RECEPTION

June 4, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Meet some of Virginia Beach's surfing icons of the past and present.

Museum MEMBERS & GUESTS please R.S.V.P. 422-1587.

FAMILY FUN DAY

August 22, 10 am – 4 pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Civil War era Coast Guard and Songs & Tales of the Sea with Bob Zentz.

MUSEUM HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
SUNDAY Noon - 5 P.M.
CLOSED MONDAYS IN THE WINTER
(OCT 1 - MEMORIAL DAY)

ADMISSION :
MUSEUM MEMBERS RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION.
ADULTS \$4.00; SENIOR CITIZENS &
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY \$3.00;
YOUNG PEOPLE 6-18 \$2.00; UNDER SIX ARE FREE.
EXHIBITS ARE INCLUDED IN MUSEUM ADMISSION.
THE MUSEUM STORE MAY BE VISITED WITHOUT CHARGE.

THE OLD COAST GUARD STATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Sue Bowser
J. Blaine Denny
RAdm. Wm. J. Ecker, USCG(Ret.)
William Ennis, Jr.
William E. Gambrell IV
J. Brett Kassir
Michael A. LaGiglia, Jr.
H. Frank Malbon
Richard A. Pouliot
Richard Welton

J. Kimberly Goold
Bruce M. Sedel
L. Clay Camp, Jr.
Jack Drescher

Jack L. Brown
Robert Dunnington
Doug Ellis, Jr.
Thomas M. Fisher
Louis E. Hubbard III
Edward M. Keiger
Steven P. Letourneau
Ann Tate Onhaizer
Susan Deary Sheets
William C. Zobel

ADVISORY BOARD

John M. Baillio
Alpheus James Chewning IV
Virginia G. Ferguson
James L. Kitchin, Jr.
Fannie F. Molello
Alfred M. Randolph, Jr.
John Uhrin

Dr. John D. Broadwater
Richard D. Dunnington
R. L. Kent Hinnant
R. Preston Midgett
E. Randolph Pugh
Frank Shield

STAFF

Fielding Lewis Tyler
Julie J. Pouliot

Kathryn A. Fisher

Daneille E. Rhoads
Carol A. McCarthy
Dorothy B. Cranfill

Executive Director
Administrative Director,
Museum Store Manager
Director of Education,
Programs and Volunteers
Museum Store Sales Associate
Museum Store Sales Associate
Museum Store Sales Associate

BOOK SALE

MAY 30, 2009

10AM - 4PM

Volunteer opportunities abound at the Old Coast Guard Station. Call Kathryn Fisher at 422-1587 or e-mail ocgsedu@macs.net We have positions available as Gallery Docents and Museum Store Assistants. We especially need help on the weekends!

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Virginia Beach, VA
Permit No. 157

Virginia Beach Maritime Museum Inc, t/a
THE OLD COAST GUARD STATION
Post Office Box 1035
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

