

Kenneth Allison Jr.

My life and family

I have lived in or near Colonial Beach almost my entire life (40+ years). I attended both Colonial Beach and King George school systems throughout K-12. I graduated from King George High School in 1996. In my spare time I enjoy car shows, drag racing, off-roading, boating and traveling with family and friends.

My youngest child attends Colonial Beach Elementary (Tucker). I also have 3 adult children that have graduated from Colonial Beach High School. My oldest son (Trey) attended James Madison University and is now working locally. My 19-year-old son (Tristan) is a Sophomore at Old Dominion University. My beautiful daughter (Jordan) also works locally. My wife, Laura, is a third-generation alumni of the Colonial Beach School System. She received her Bachelor's degree and MBA from the University of Mary Washington. She is now a Project Manager for an Information Security Consulting Firm and studying Project Management at the Graduate level at the University of Virginia.



Work and Education

Growing up in Colonial Beach I, like most of young adults in town, worked at several local establishments that include Food Lion, Ola's Country Kitchen, Parkers Crab Shore, Reno, Hop's Place and Allison's Floor Service.

Since that time, I have spent 20+ years working as a government contractor supporting the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, and NASA Headquarters. I currently work in Quantico Virginia as the Program Director and Technical Lead for the Northern VA office for SimIS Inc. (www.simisinc.com) supporting the United States Marine Corps.

I received my Bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Washington majoring in Computer Information Systems. I am a Certified Enterprise Architect and have held that certification from the FEAC Institute for more than 10 years.

Community involvement

I have been actively involved in a variety of civic, community, and school activities over the years. These activities include but are not limited to: Town Council (appointed), Colonial Beach Youth Athletic Association (coach), Colonial Beach Boosters Club (volunteer) Colonial Beach High School Football (support), Westmoreland County Little League (coach), Beach Arts Music Mentoring (BAMM) (volunteer), Colonial Beach United Methodist Men's group (member), and the Colonial Beach United Methodist Op Shop (volunteer).

Questions:

1. What is the one area that you feel strongly enough about to champion the effort to address during your term? Please be specific about action items you intend to take and your desired outcome.

One area I am certainly passionate about is the health and safety of our residents. My great-grandfather was a Police Officer for the Town of Colonial Beach until his death in 1969 (Richard Kennedy). Although I never had the opportunity to meet him, I have heard plenty of stories from my grandmother (Mary Bramble) about him and his dedication to serve the community. Our citizens and visitors deserve to feel safe no matter where they are within Town limits. Ensuring we support our Police Department and provide our Officers with the required tools necessary to do their job is extremely important to me. An additional area of concern is the current bike/cart path which extends from 7 Street (Classic Shores) to Forrest Ave (the Meadows). This path should be well maintained and have appropriate lighting for safety. Fencing and/or bollards should be properly placed to deter automobiles from traveling on the path. These path improvements are currently on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and I plan to ensure these upgrades are made for the health and safety of everyone that uses it.

2. What is your assessment of the infrastructure in town? What do you think are the next steps for improvement not only to support the existing population but also to position Colonial Beach for growth?

Before discussing the assessment, let's be clear on what I believe is considered infrastructure. Streets, Water, Sewer, Stormwater Management, Sidewalks, Municipal Buildings (Town, Police, Fire and Rescue) and our Town Pier. Unfortunately, the current infrastructure within our town continues to age and deteriorate. Projects that require infrastructure repair or replacement are usually costly and time consuming. The central drainage replacement project will begin this Oct/Nov and will take approximately 9+ months. The estimated cost for this project is around 2 million dollars. The next steps for improvements are to identify critical areas of concern for replacement/repair, obtain subject matter experts' guidance and planning, develop infrastructure lifecycles, evaluate future development plans, and continue to pursue state/federal grant funds where applicable to lessen the burden on our residents.

3. How do you view the Town's progress over the last several years? Are you in favor of the development that has taken place to date, and will you support further growth going forward? Have you given any thought to Colonial Beach becoming a city as it grows in the future?

I believe the Town has done a great job moving forward with several key items over the past several years. We have dealt with many challenges: COVID-19, Storm Surge, Hiring key personnel (Town Manager, Police Chief, Public Works Director, etc.), and Infrastructure issues (Central Drainage Area, Town Pier updates). Several new business establishments have opened and several more are still being developed. The new development of homes and upgrades to existing homes can be seen throughout the Town.

I am in favor of the development that has taken place. We have some wonderful developers/contractors that have been providing services to our residents for years. (Jett III Contracting Services, Northern Neck Builders, AB Walker Construction, Gray Construction, Stuart E Camp just to name a few). I will support additional growth however we do need to observe trends in the population to ensure that impact on services and schools are well understood and policies are developed to address any additional demands that may occur.

I have researched and reviewed a lot of information pertaining to Colonial Beach becoming a city. In order for the Town of Colonial Beach to become a city it must first have 5k residents. As it stands, we are currently around approx. 3,900 according to the 2020 census. Over the past 30 years the population has increased by roughly 776. If this trend continues it could take another 20-40 years to reach the required amount. I also discovered that several cities (South Boston, Clifton Forge and Bedford) between 1995-2013 have reverted from city to town status due to the financial burden felt by their residents. As a city, Colonial Beach would have to provide their own social, justice, emergency, etc., services. Westmoreland County currently provides these services to our Town. While I have given this thought, I would not support Colonial Beach becoming a city until we have residents to financially support. Even then, this potential transition would need careful consideration.

4. If you currently hold a seat on Town Council what is an initiative or win that you are most proud of? If not on Council, what is your key initiative/win that will be your contribution/win?

Over the past two years while holding a seat on Town Council, there have had many "wins" for this Town. We hired an excellent Town Manager and a great new Police Chief. The Town Council dedicated a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to replace the Central Drainage System (infrastructure). One of the initiatives that I personally brought to the Town of Colonial Beach was the DMV Connect access. I was able to work directly with the Town Manager to establish the DMV Connect service. This service allows individuals to make appointments for REAL ID, drivers licenses, ID cards, vehicle titles & registrations, E-Z Passes, transcripts, and compliance summaries. It's a service I feel that benefits many residents that might not have the time, ability or means to travel to nearby counties for these types of services.

5. Do you support the school system remaining independent?

I absolutely support Colonial Beach Public School system remaining independent. One of Colonial Beach's most precious assets is our school system. Ensuring that our community has access to a great school system is essential to this Town. Many families, including my own, specifically move to the area in order to attend Colonial Beach Public Schools. There are also families that reside outside of Town limits that opt to send their children to CBPS instead of Westmoreland County Schools or King George County Schools. Our small school system is desirable to many due to the excellent education, small classroom sizes, and personal attention each student receives. Alumni stay connected and continue to support CBPS because of their #DrifterPride.