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**Longtime Chair, Peter Fahrney, Passes Baton
*Colonial Beach Community Foundation Transition***

[COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA, January 1, 2020] A new slate of officers takes the helm of the Colonial Beach Community Foundation (CBCF) on January 1, 2020, as founder and longtime Board Chair Dr. Peter Fahrney eases out of the spotlight. Board officer Eric Nelson transitions from Vice President of Member Engagement to Board President. Cathy Cabrey fulfills Nelson's former role as Vice President of Member Engagement. Cathy Bokman continues as Vice President of Organizational Impact and Merrie Crosby as Vice President of Administration. Thomas Savage and Michele Inderrieden both maintain prior roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Marcia Feldman, Kristine Guido, Joyce Gunderson, John Heath, Mitzi Saffos, Ann Swope, and Andrew Walker round out the CBCF board.

According to Nelson the transition has been smooth. "We're not skipping a beat. Peter will continue to be very involved." Nelson's regard for Dr. Fahrney's work is clear, "Peter [Fahrney] has done way beyond anything anyone should be expected to do to launch a foundation." Dr. Fahrney and a long list of volunteers spent 15 years building and growing the CBCF. Over time the group supported, and in many cases began, other local organizations, projects, and events. Beach Arts Music and Mentoring (BAMM), Sher Lee's CB Kids, WWER 88.1 FM, the Torrey Smith recreational facility, the Garden Club, Save the Bay Day, Northern Neck Beach Music Festival, Cinemas on the Green, the Humane Society, college scholarships, banners along Colonial Avenue, and the Colonial Beach Community Center are some of the CBCF's success stories.

Dr. Peter Fahrney began the CBCF as a Chamber of Commerce initiative to do work to improve the Colonial Beach community beyond the Chamber's business interests. Along the way, Dr. Fahrney encouraged other local leaders to become active members of the CBCF. He will remain on the board as Past President and advisor.

The CBCF's plans under Nelson's leadership include supporting a new initiative, CB Green Space, to expand green spaces and parks in Colonial Beach. The CBCF plans a public relations campaign with the Town highlighting recent growth and improvements and continue collaborating with purpose-driven organizations and Town leaders on joint projects. Nelson added, "The Foundation has a lot of worthwhile projects on its plate and is always looking for volunteers to help. Any civic-minded person can participate—no need to be a board member."

Nelson holds Bachelor and Master degrees in Economics and was a business owner and community advocate in the DC area before moving to the Northern Neck where he has been active with Downtown Colonial Beach and the Colonial Beach Planning Commission. In addition to the CBCF, he currently serves on the boards of the Art Guild and the Chamber of Commerce. When asked about his active life at the beach, Nelson admits, "It's a labor of love. I was brought up to leave a place better than I found it." Nelson is also a realtor with Coldwell Banker Elite.

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Colonial Beach Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community corporation established to improve the quality of life in and around Colonial Beach through fundraising. In 2018 the Foundation reorganized as the Colonial Beach Community Foundation and broadened its mission and efforts to have a greater impact both financially and programmatically. Our approach is simple – build a better community by making philanthropy easy. www.cbcommunityfoundation.org