

## Short Bio

### Charles “Chuck” DiNenna

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Married to Victoria “Vicky” DiNenna, (former CBPS High school secretary & Clerk of the School Board). Father to five children and six grandchildren. I moved to Colonial Beach 20 years ago working for Virginia Farm Bureau as an Insurance Agent in Colonial Beach. I worked for Three separate Government Contractors for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico for twelve years as a Security Project Manager. Currently working as a contractor part time from home as a Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Compliance Agent for the same Quantico site. Volunteered for the Colonial Beach Schools. I served on the Colonial Beach Education Foundation and on the Colonial Beach School 100th anniversary committee and several Homecoming Committees. I was a member of the Board of the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce, volunteering and later Chairing the Rockfish Tournament and organized the Captain’s Dinners. Helped start the Father’s Day car show and later Co-Chairing and finally Chairing it. I Volunteered for the Potomac River Festival, Sold Christmas Trees on Town Hill, Organized the Colonial Beach Cruisers whenever we needed cars for any of the Colonial Beach events. I am also a past member of the Moose, Eagles and American Legion.

### Questions

1. One area I feel strongly enough to champion during my term is our future development. I am not against progress and development however, in my opinion, there has been too much development too quickly taking away from our town charm. This put us at risk of losing who and what we are. We are all neighbors, and we live and thrive in this community, we need to work together to make a great place even better. If not, we will just become another tourist destination. This idea I have, is not popular and may come at the expense of the developers, real estate agents, and any form of short-term rentals like Air B&B’s. Investors are buying up homes in our town to rent them out leaving houses unoccupied for long times. In many instances, some of the business taxes owed to Colonial Beach are not being paid. Colonial Beach is turning into the likes of Ocean City, MD, Virginia Beach, and other vacation spots up and down the east coast. This change is making us lose our sense of community. I like knowing who my next-door neighbors are. We must be more involved in the community and know what is happening, or about to happen in our town for our own well-being. While campaigning and talking to residents, some were surprised about what they did not know had or has happened in and to the town. For instance, the Lennar property off RT 205. A lot of residents thought the golf course was going to still go through. The Town must do a better job of clearly communicating to residents as they did years ago. The Town used to put out a newsletter talking about everything from water quality to vehicles needed for the town each quarter.

2a. My assessment of the infrastructure in town is that I believe it needs a lot of improvement. I can only answer this question as a 20-year resident and based on my observations of the condition of our roads, sidewalks, drainage golf cart path and other town infrastructure. I don’t know the behind-the-scenes problems Town council has had to deal with but I do know this is a top priority of our residents.

2b. While I do not claim to have all the answers, I believe the next steps to improve our infrastructure should include a full assessment and a plan to address the infrastructure concerns citizens continually raise. Reliable Internet is a real concern for me. I spoke to a Breezeline repair manager who stated, “our lines in Colonial Beach are based on a 25-year-old system which they are patching and are in need of

replacement". Nowadays we need internet to work and ensure people have reliable service in the area. At the very least I think we need a plan and funding to execute that plan.

I am concerned that our town is making decisions without all the facts. The town property at Stratford and Azalea where they are considering placing a park may have a capped well on it. The town should have some sort of records to rely on, to understand what they had done to their own property so mistakes like these don't happen a third time. However, there is opportunity for improvement that I hope to bring.

3a. In my opinion, the major growth, we have seen in the past two years is because of the COVID Crisis. I am not in favor of uncontrolled growth. I believe growth can be slowed when the development requested is constrained by the town guidelines. The Town should be able to put conditions on the development. I am in favor of more stringent guidelines of construction and holding the developer to the contract they signed. I would suggest the Historical Society, partnering with planning and zoning to set the standards for new construction and renovations.

3b. In the future, a city will bring pluses and minuses with it depending on the benefits. Tax rates are a serious concern when talking growth, especially when we have an additional "Market Adjustment" as well as a tax increase on top. Revenue is obviously what the town and County are looking for (justified or not). It all comes down to being financially responsible. We must all do what is best for all concerned.

4a. One key initiative I'd like to take on if am voted on council is our Colonial Beach Schools. My greatest fear for the schools would be the Lennar properties which have the potential to overflow our school system over the next five to ten years forcing us to lose our school system as we know it. In the past, I have witnessed many teachers and students in Elementary and High School do amazing things. Our School Board did an exemplary job supporting the needs of our Schools.

When visiting the High Schools after school hours are over, I noticed that the students would sit in the cafeteria and do their homework. Teachers will randomly make themselves accessible on their own time in the event they were needed. There were no conflicts or arguments. Our children were a family and our parents, teachers and administrators did a great job of setting this wonderful example. In the past, after school the gym remained open allowing kids to play pickup games of basketball. I watched as Students cheered each other on no matter what side they happened to be on. The teachers and administrators were always there after work hours to help in any way they could. Some students would go out to the ball field or football field for pickup games or practice. I would like to see the school opened later again to promote this kind of activity and mindset once again. We need this outlet for our children.

5. Absolutely, Yes. We have been lucky enough to have had several Graduates over the many years, come back. These graduates of the Colonial Beach School system have come back to Colonial Beach and are successful. There are too many to name, because of time, space and privacy reasons, I will not mention them. However, we can be proud of every one of them who are doing the very best our schools have taught them, no matter what their personal and political preferences are. David and Lisette hold these same values. How ever, this election turns out, I know we will all will come together as we always have to protect and preserve Colonial Beach and our way of life.