

Bryon L. "Tree" Mack for Town Council
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My wife Susan and I have had a home in Colonial Beach since 2008. We started as weekenders who spent our time renovating our home, riding our bikes to local shops and restaurants, and enjoying live music. Over the years, we made many friends who have become like family, fallen more in love with our town, and have come to call Colonial Beach our full-time, permanent home. Both of our children, Katherine and Gill, have worked at Dockside. Many will remember Katherine as the all-knowing trivia hostess with the most-est, and everyone knows Gill as the waiter/ bartender and all around friendly guy who gives great hugs. And my awesome mother-in-law, Linda, graciously accepted our offer to move to this magnificent town and now has honorary Drifter bragging rights too!

I am a 20-year, disabled, Army, combat veteran. I retired in 2010 after multiple deployments to Iraq and Kuwait as well as other assignments around the country and the world. I spent the last 12 years as a government contractor at both Fort Eustis and Dahlgren. I managed multi-million-dollar contracts providing services and products around the world. I am currently a Program Manager with Bowhead Program Management and Operations, LLC providing IT services worth over \$45 million. Managing expectations, people and funding has been a part of my life for over 27 years. I have an MBA (Master's degree in Business Administration) with a focus in Project Management.

It has been a great pleasure to have volunteered with multiple organizations in town, to include the Chamber of Commerce, the Colonial Beach Community Foundation, BMM, the Colonial Yacht Club, and Saint Mary's Episcopal Church. I've helped at events including Fall Festival, Winter Festival, the Potomac River Festival, Bike Fest, Northern Neck Beach Music Festival, and others. I volunteered with the St. Mary's food pantry and St. Mary's community lunch and worked with Bay Aging delivering meals to those in need during COVID. Smiling and waving to friends and soon-to-be-friends and lending a helping hand when needed are some of the things that make Colonial Beach so special. Our town calls on us to be the best form of ourselves, and our welcoming and friendly nature seems to resonate when we are at our best.

I have been a regular at Town Council meetings since 2017 and have been on the Planning Commission since January of 2021. I know how our town functions and what is being done to address our identified needs. Our independent school system is a great asset, events and venues bring visitors to our town, and our real estate market has been booming...Colonial Beach is moving forward with respect and reverence for her history. In order to ensure thoughtful and inclusive growth that honors both our past and our future, there is a need for oversight and planning. I am a data-driven person who makes decisions based on best practices and outcome-driven processes with quantifiable results. But listening to the needs and wants of all citizens and opening dialogue channels, especially for hard issues, is key to moving forward in a non-partisan, town-focused, way that is respectful of all opinions. I will listen to all and do my research to guide my decision making. As a member of Town Council, I would utilize my experience and knowledge to serve our town and her citizens. By focusing on managed growth/economic development, advocating for our school system, continuing our infrastructure efforts, and embracing and sharing the love and pride we have for our town, we can all work together to be the best form of ourselves for the town that is so dear to us.

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.

Managed growth/economic development is an important priority for our town. We need to continue to grow in a planned and calculated manner and encourage more great businesses to come to our town. Increasing businesses will help increase funding for our priorities and will provide needed services to our citizens. A focus on our history and culture and being inclusive are important to how we grow so we maintain the charm that we all love.

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?

We have been making great progress and have plans for in place for continued improvements in our infrastructure. This takes time and money. We started by mapping our storm water and waste water systems as well as the topography of the town. We are participating with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation through our Planning Commission's Resiliency Committee to continue improving our town's ability to deal with flood and storm water. We have received grants that are funding a major improvement to our Central Drainage corridor that will happen this fall. Continuing these efforts will not only improve our current situation but also set us up for success in the future.

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 have seen the town have a steady rise over the past 14 years. Improvements in neighborhoods, streets, as well as actions of the Town Council and Planning Commission have been quite visible. Hiring a professional Town Manager, Police Chief, Grant Writer and professional Director of Public Works is clear evidence that we are moving in a direction of overall better management of the town. I am in favor of our town continuing to grow in a managed fashion while continuing to maintain our small town feel. In order to become a city we would need to have 5 thousand residents and we are not there. The only advantages to becoming a city are 1) being independent from the county and 2) not being susceptible to being incorporated by another growing locality. There is no other locality in the area that has the potential to incorporate us. If we were independent from the county we would lose 911 and dispatch services, and would need to provide all of our own emergency services, increase the capability of our schools, etc.

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?

I will work to continue the economic development of our town. Bringing business and cottage industry to Colonial Beach would provide an influx of funds that would help us continue to do great things. As our businesses thrive, so will our community.

5. Do you support the school system remaining independent?

Yes, I fully support our independent school system. Our schools are a great source of pride for our students and town. We have an 11:1 student/teacher ratio compared to the state average of 14:1 and Westmoreland County's 12:1. We also have a 97% graduation rate which exceeds the state average of 93% in 2021. As the data shows, our schools are doing a good job. As a member of Town Council, I would continue to support our independent schools. #DrifterPride