

## **RBCN Mission Statement and Editorial Policy**

The mission of the Richmond Beach Community News (RBCN) is to publicize the activities of the Richmond Beach Community Association (RBCA). Insofar as is possible, the newspaper should also provide opportunities for our readers to become engaged with the community. We should strive to make the news published be accurate, balanced, and timely as well as relevant to our readership.

### **Editorial Policy**

The RBCN is dedicated to providing news of local interest including community and political happenings, personal interest articles and upcoming events. We understand the influential role that the media plays in the lives of people and it is our intention to present unbiased, objective and socially responsible news. Our editorial goal is to keep readers informed and engaged, but not to serve as a platform for sensationalism. Letters or articles that are non-topical, inappropriate, vulgar, obscene, defamatory or in any way considered to be insensitive or offensive, as determined by the Editor and Information Officer, will not be published.

At the same time, we welcome dissent and will make every attempt to provide a variety of outlooks on any issue that might be represented by letters to the editor, columnists and other contributors. Personal opinions regarding local issues can be sent to the newspaper for publication as letters to the editor. Such letters will be published at the discretion of the Editor and Information Officer and might be edited for length, although the general content will not be changed.

The Editor of the RBCN is expected to solicit a variety of news materials for an assigned edition. These materials would include, but not be limited to, RBCA news, meeting notices and events; relevant government news and press releases; feature articles; community and school news<sup>7</sup> and events; calendar entries; arts and entertainment news and features; photos; graphics and similar items. Any material submitted is published at the discretion of the Editor and Information Officer and might be edited for length or content (e.g. content irrelevant to Richmond Beach readers might be deleted). The Editor will determine by both content and available space what material will be published in the newspaper, and will confer with the RBCA Information Officer if questions arise. The Information Officer will have an opportunity to review each issue of the newspaper before it is sent to the printer.

Articles that serve as publicity or elicit goodwill for a business (including feature articles or columns) will be published as long as the business also advertises in the newspaper (either a display ad, a listing in the business directory or a newspaper insert) or provides other support to RBCA, such as sponsorships for events. Even if the business is an advertiser, the frequency of publication is limited to space availability and content of such articles must be of general interest to readers. In all cases, the Editor will determine by both content and available space what material will be published in the newspaper, and will confer with the RBCA Information Officer if questions arise.

All material submitted must be copyright-free. Materials downloaded from the Internet must be certified to be copyright free by the person who submits it. All material must be credited with a byline, press release credit, photographer credit or similar source.

### **Disclaimer:**

Letters from readers to the Editor that are published do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Richmond Beach Community News nor the Richmond Beach Community Association, but are published to show a diversity of viewpoints. They may be edited for length at the Editor's discretion, but the general content will not be changed. Items of any sort (news items, articles, letters to the editor, photos, etc.) that are submitted to the Editor that are vulgar, obscene, defamatory or in any way considered to be insensitive or offensive will not be published.