

## Singer-songwriter hopes her "Tide" will lift Norfolk

By Rashod Ollison  
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### NORFOLK

Skye Zentz sings of cobblestone streets and children getting their hands dirty in a garden.

Among other things, her song "The Tide" celebrates all that's unique and ever-changing about Norfolk. "We're coming home," Zentz croons in the chorus.

She wrote the song last February to escape the winter blues, the melody carrying a mellow sunniness. With local videographer and producer Jon Abrahams and a crew of volunteers, Zentz wrapped up a video shoot for "The Tide" on Friday evening in hopes that it will become the official anthem of Norfolk.

"It gives the community something to connect to, even if the city is fragmented," Zentz said. " 'The Tide' is more about the fact that there's this constant renewal, this moving away and returning."

Filming for the music video began last month in partnership with the Downtown Norfolk Council and includes shots at Nauticus, the Virginia Zoo and more than a dozen other locations.

On Friday, the grand finale was shot at the intersection of Granby and Olney in Norfolk's Art District.

At sundown, a few dozen people gathered in the courtyard, where local artists performed before Zentz. A sparse camera crew captured residents hula-hooping, drawing with street chalk, and eating at a taco food truck parked nearby.

Abrahams, founder of Jpixx, the local digital creative agency that produced the video for "The Tide," immediately heard potential in Zentz's song.

"It's not something you hear in a club or anything. But it may be something people love to hear," said Abrahams, who lives in Virginia Beach. "I can imagine people humming it, up and down the street. I wanted to be a part of that. It had a certain quality that would bring people together."

But the means through which the video will do that haven't been determined.

Lori Crouch, public relations manager for the city of Norfolk, was charmed by "The Tide" when she first heard it during a recent Sunday morning on WHRV-FM.

A few weeks later, she met Zentz at an event, and Crouch soon helped with securing the proper city permission to shoot the video. But as for "The Tide," a rollicking pop tune with subtle folk undercurrents, becoming the city's "official" anthem, the process is unclear.

"When you say 'anthem,' that's Skye's term. That's not any language that we've used. We keep describing it as our 'Happy,'" Crouch said, referring to Pharrell Williams' inescapable feel-good smash hit.

"I really plan on showing it to City Council. We'll see, when it's done. That 'official' sounds very governmental to me. The cool thing about this song and the video is that it's touching on what makes Norfolk so cool. I want to keep it that way."

Once the video is edited, which will be about early fall, it may be featured on the city's website or Facebook page, Crouch said. But that hasn't been confirmed.

Abrahams said he's hoping to premier the clip at Nauticus, but that hasn't been approved, either.

With the video, "we're making a gigantic point to capture as many places and faces of Norfolk," Abrahams said. "I just want people who live here to get a really good taste of what this area is like and the diversity we got - not just in the people, but in the landscape as well."

For Zentz, she wanted to pay homage to her hometown, to lyrically capture all that drew her back to the city - from the Naro Expanded Cinema to Doumar's Cones & Barbecue - after she had spent time in Richmond and California.

"The goal is not to create a tourism video," said Zentz, who works as a nanny when she's not performing.

"It was to inspire the community, to look at what's right here. And there's so much."

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