

the Calabash *Navigator*

FALL / WINTER 2008

MESSAGE FROM **MAYOR ANTHONY CLEMMONS**

Welcome to the Fall/Winter issue of our Town's revamped "Navigator" newsletter. If you have received the "Navigator" in the past, you will see that we have made significant changes to it so that it is more informative about Town business, and also includes articles from other governments and organizations that serve the Calabash community. I trust you will find the new format informative.

2008 has been a very good year for our Town. During our budget hearings the Board of Commissioners held taxes to the current .7-cent per \$100 valuation, and actually increased services by improving our emergency operations by upgrading our communications equipment, drainage, stormwater management, and Town Services. Town Services (Commissioner William Dixon) and the Town Administrator are currently developing a new Branch/Brush Pick-Up Program for residents, and a new Leaf Pick-Up Program as well. As you will see as you read on to other articles in the issue, the Town is working very closely with Brunswick County, our Calabash Fire Department, the Sheriff's Office, and the Town of Carolina Shores to improve fire protection and police protection in our community. This enhanced public safety emphasis, which also includes emergency management, has been a priority of the Board and myself for some time now.

2009 promises to be another challenging one for our Town in light of all the economic uncertainty around us, however, I am confident that our great Town will emerge better and stronger than ever. We are blessed with wonderful residents who care about our community, a strong business community, hard working elected and appointed officials, and a good staff, all working together for the good of Calabash.

I have enjoyed serving as your Mayor and wish everyone a happy Christmas and holiday season.

Happy Holidays to You!

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Department: Commissioner Herman-Liaison: While we are very proud of the accomplishments of our excellent Calabash Fire Department, due to revenue shortfalls, the Towns of Calabash, Carolina Shores, and Brunswick County, along with the leadership of the Fire Department, have all begun to study options for the future direction of the Department. To that end, Brunswick County Emergency Management Services has retained a consultant to conduct an operations and management review of the Department to begin the change process. We will keep you informed as this collaborative process moves forward. Some of you may not be aware of the fact that the Calabash Fire Department is a volunteer, not for profit, private organization, serving the two towns and the nearby, unincorporated areas, and not a municipal fire department. The towns are customers by contract with the Fire Department. All of the governments served by the Calabash Fire Department and the Department itself will be working together in the months ahead with the sole mission of providing the best fire suppression protection at the most reasonable cost.

Finance: Commissioner King- Finance Officer: At the beginning of the Town's Fiscal Year 2008/2009, the beginning fund balance July 1, 2008 was \$1,320,824.22. The ending fund balance for the quarter ending September 2008 was \$1,412,446.46, an increase of \$ 91,662.00. The Year To Date (YTD) expenditures are \$195,547.06 and revenues are \$288,771.01. The Town has invested most of this fund balance in staggered term certificates of deposit earning more interest while maintaining liquidity to meet daily needs. The Town's financial condition remains strong.

Long Range Planning Committee: Commissioner King-Chairman : On October 21, 2008 the Long Range Planning Committee met with WK Dickson, the Town's landscape architect out of Wilmington. The meeting was to begin the Master Planning of the 10-acre site owned by the Town along the east side of Persimmon Road just south of the town limits. WK Dickson will be working initially with the Committee and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the actual extent of wetlands existing there and how much of the 10-acres can be built upon. The Committee is in the early stages of exploring options for the future development of the site into a community asset. Some possibilities being looked at are a park, a community-meeting place, and a possible site to relocate the Town Hall. The "Navigator" will keep you informed of further developments.

Planning & Zoning: J.W. Brown-Chairman: Calabash continues to move toward adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which once adopted, will replace the current codes governing Land Use (currently Chapter 153 of the Calabash Code of Ordinances). The Calabash Board of Commissioners held numerous workshops in 2008 to review and revise the draft UDO; some interested citizens, who regularly attended these workshops, provided pertinent comments. In late September, the Board of Commissioners forwarded a final set of revisions to the planning company that has assisted the Town with the UDO. The Town anticipates having the final draft of the UDO in hand by the end of November. The Board of Commissioners will then schedule a Special Meeting to review the final draft to ensure all changes are made correctly. If the Board is satisfied with the final draft of the UDO, they will schedule a second Public Hearing (the first Public Hearing was held November 13, 2007) to receive comments pertaining to the document. The goal of the UDO has always been, and continues to be, to formulate and implement an ordinance that is concise and coherent to read for citizens, officials, and staff.



Calabash Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 5, 2008 at 6:00 pm

Callahan's Nautical Gifts (9973 Beach Drive)

Santa Claus - Caroling - Refreshments - Donations for Brunswick Family Assistance

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Continued)

Water/Wastewater Committee: Mayor Clemmons: The Board of Commissioners at its November 11, 2008 meeting voted to request that Brunswick County suspend some activities related to the Calabash Wastewater Collection System for a period of “no less than six months”, in order for the Town to explore additional funding grants and assistance. To date both the county and the Town have submitted separate applications for \$500,000 grants from the Rural Center Supplemental Grant Program. We will hear if the grants will be awarded in December. The engineering design for the project is nearly complete, and project permit applications have been submitted to NC Department of Transportation. The “Navigator” will continue to keep you informed about this project.

Town & Merchant Association: Commissioner King-Liaison: With the economy in a slump, as can be expected, business is not what it should be. One way that the business district is trying to remedy this is by forming a merchant’s association. There have been three meetings of the association thus far and a fourth is to be scheduled soon. We have a great town and we all agree it needs to be marketed better. By joining forces we hope to do a better job of promoting Calabash and all it has to offer. We welcome anyone who owns or does business in Calabash to join use at the next meeting. For further information, just send an email to “calabashmerchants@gmail.com.”

Storm Water Committee: James McCartney-Storm Water Official: In 2008 year, the Town put a lot of effort into correcting a drainage problem on Riverview Drive. While the situation is now manageable, a long-term, permanent solution must be explored. The town has yielded to the State to correct a potentially dangerous situation at the corner of Thomasboro Road and Carter Drive where water is ponding during heavy rainfall. In January, a comprehensive clean-out and maintenance project for all drainage ditches within the town will commence with the assistance of inmate labor.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Calabash Fire Department: Carl A. Naecker, Chief: The CFD is in the process of some very important changes. First, long time Chief Karl Bennett and his wife, Assistant Chief/EMS, Linda decided in the spring to “retire” from the extremely active roles they have played over the last twelve years. Both of these members have been very instrumental in the success this department has enjoyed over the years and the community, as a whole owes them a great deal of thanks. We are not letting them retire fully but they deserve to spend some quality time together enjoying the finer things life has to offer. On behalf of the members of the department, I extend our extreme thanks for the work they have done.

Other changes include the addition of four full time career personnel who were hired under a FEMA SAFER Grant. The additional personnel were assigned to the three shifts the CFD has to provide 24-hour daily coverage. The department also received a new burn trailer, which is used throughout the region to help fire fighters maintain their skills in fire fighting, search and rescue, and other related emergency operations. This unit has been a major asset to the region and we look forward to many years of service from it.

The department is now participating in the N.C Department of Insurance ISO/RRC rating review. This review has required many hours of preparation and research by numerous members of the organization. Deputy Chief Bennett spearheaded the effort and we expect to have a very favorable outcome. We will report the results in a future edition. In closing, I would just like to say this department stands ready to serve with a highly trained and dedicated staff that has proven over the years to be a valuable asset to the community. If we can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact us at 910-579-2355. *(Continued on the next page)*

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

(Continued)

Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School: In September, 2000 the Brunswick County Board of Education voted unanimously to name the then newest school in the county “Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School” in honor of a revered former teacher and principal of the Old La Savannah School. From 1929 to 1951 Ms. Monroe was an accomplished educator who was a role model to students and parents whose lives she touched. Former students have recalled that Ms. Monroe’s classroom was always quiet; while she was disciplined, she was patient and always willing to go to extra lengths to help her students. At that County Board of Education Meeting in 2000, Calabash Mayor Anthony Clemmons, stated “she taught during one of the most difficult times in history... she gained the respect and love of her students...”

The love of education and helping children ran deep in the Monroe family. Today the principal of Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School is none other than Ms. Monroe’s granddaughter, Patricia Rourk. The Town of Calabash remembers Ms. Jessie Mae Monroe, and her eternal contributions to our area youth, parents and the fabric of our community.

Calabash Elks Lodge #2679: This year the Calabash Elks Lodge celebrates 25 years of serving the citizens of Calabash. We are grateful that we live in an area with so many caring people who volunteer their time and energy to make this a better community in which to reside. The Order of Elks and the Calabash Elks Lodge have a proud history of charitable works and look forward to the next 25 years and working to make Calabash an even better place to live. Our major charitable projects are many, with most of them aimed at the youth and our nation’s veterans. On December 20th from 12 noon to 3 pm we will hold our annual Children’s Christmas Party. You are invited to bring your children or grandchildren by for a visit with Santa and possibly the Grinch. We also hold a Children’s Halloween Party, a Drug Awareness Day for students and parents, provide scholarships to area students, and provide support to a camp for kids with disabilities and chronic illness. We also take part in the Elks Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot programs for kids ages 8-13.

Our Veterans Activities Committee is very active in support of Veterans at the Veterans Hospital and NC Veterans Home in Fayetteville as well as veterans at local nursing homes, providing them with a variety of services such as dinners on special occasions and purchasing needed supplies for everyday living. We also have programs to support those who are currently serving our country on active duty. If you are like many of us, you fly the American flag. Should you have an American Flag that is getting worn and shabby and ready to retire, we have a box in our lobby where it can be deposited whenever the lodge is open. We then hold a proper flag burning ceremony a couple of times a year.

If you are considering joining an organization in which you can serve your community please consider the Calabash Elks Lodge. In addition to being a charitable organization we provide our members with a place to meet and socialize with other citizens of this community.

THE CALABASH WEBSITE

www.townofcalabash.net Good news! In June, the Town completely revamped the Town Website. The polished new look of the site is just the tip of the iceberg. Commissioner Melahn has been able to take over the demanding job of maintaining the site’s information. For the most up to date Town information, agendas, minutes, forms, schedules, etc. visit our new website at **www.townofcalabash.net** & email us at towncalabash@atmc.net to share your thoughts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kick-off the Christmas Season at the Calabash Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 5, 2008 at 6:00 pm in the parking lot at Callahan's Nautical Gifts (9973 Beach Drive). Truly a Calabash tradition of community fellowship, this year's tree lighting will feature Christmas caroling by the Calabash Presbyterian Church Choir, a performance from the children of Dance Connection Studio, a special visit from Santa Claus riding in on a very stylish fire truck, and of course, the lighting of the Calabash Christmas tree. Refreshments, including coffee, cookies, and hot cocoa, will be served. The Calabash Merchants Association will furnish gift bags of goodies for the kids and fruit for senior citizens. Donations will be accepted for Brunswick Family Assistance. If you can, please bring canned goods and other non-perishable food items and new/unwrapped toys and clothing. Monetary donations are also accepted. Thank you to everyone that makes this community celebration possible—hope to see you there!

TOWN SERVICES NEWS

Town Services has added two new employees recently. Courtney "Corky" Marshall and Patricia Guziak; Corky is a part-time employee working 20 hours per week, and Patricia is full-time. With this additional staff, Town services has begun to expand its scope and workload, increasing the amount of time the department expends on stormwater drainage ditch maintenance and Town Hall improvements. In the spring new "spot" gardens will be planted around town to add color and beauty. When the newly annexed areas (please see the Town Clerk's Report) are fully incorporated into the Town next June, those areas will also be maintained by the department.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS & INFORMATION OF INTEREST

The size of the Town of Calabash belies just how busy the Inspections Department staff has been. The year started out with inspections being routinely conducted at Kingfish Bay. The developer submitted plans for the construction of condominiums, pool, and pool house. Having expended a vast amount of time reviewing the plans, it came as quite a surprise when we learned the developer had ceased construction. The Town is doing what it can to compel the developer to maintain the site.

Other points of interest:

- Next year the site of the former Calabash Marina on Riverview Drive will be sporting a new restaurant. The Calabash Fish House and Marina has successfully completed its review process and will commence construction soon.
- Recently plans were submitted for the construction of the Meeting Park Residences in Devaun Park. Construction of the townhouse complex will begin in 2009. Thistle and the Pearl update the office from time to time regarding their plans to expand.
- If you pass by the sign at the corner of Old Georgetown and Clariday Roads you probably noticed that Shallotte Partners is beginning the process of constructing a commercial center. In addition to stores, the developer plans to build apartments.

MESSAGE FROM **THE TOWN CLERK**

Some of you may already be aware that the municipal limits of the Town are expanding. The Calabash Board of Commissioners has approved two annexations this year. On June 10, 2008, Ordinance # 2008-A01 was approved, which is an ordinance extending the corporate limits of Calabash to a large portion of the Town's current Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Specifically, the area includes Bonaparte Retreat I, Oak Ridge Plantation, Shady Forest Drive, and Landing II subdivisions. This annexation was an involuntary annexation and therefore, because of N.C State Statute requirements, will take effect June 30, 2009. Second, also in June, some property owners of Devaun Park subdivision presented a Petition for Voluntary Annexation to the Town. After careful investigation and consideration of the petition, this Voluntary Annexation (Ordinance # 2008-A02), which includes 15 acres of Devaun Park located along the Calabash River was approved by the Board of Commissioners and became fully effective on August 13, 2008.

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SEPARATE FROM NEWSLETTER

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CALABASH TOWN OFFICIALS

Board of Commissions

Mayor	Anthony Clemmons
Mayor Pro-Tem	Forrest King
Commissioner	John Melahn
Commissioner	Emily DiStasio
Commissioner	Cecelia Herman
Commissioner	Bill Dixon

Planning and Zoning Board

Chairperson	J.W. Brown
Vice Chairperson	W. Gary Cooper
Town Member	Alinda Meares
Town Member	Martin Keefe
Town Member	John Thomas
ETJ Member	Alton Watts
ETJ Member	Mildred DeMarco

Board of Adjustment

Chairperson	Sonia Climer
Regular Member	Larry Steck
Regular Member	Martin Keefe
Regular Member	J.W. Brown
Regular Member	Charles Daniels
Alternate Member	Patricia Lewellyn
Alternate Member	Wayne Lane
Alternate Member	Derek Ezzell

Town Hall Holiday Closings

November 27 & 28 (Thanksgiving)
 December 24, 25 & 26 (Christmas)
 April 13 (Easter)

Town Hall Staff

Town Administrator	Vincent L. Long III
Tax Collector	Carolyn Silvers
Town Clerk	Kelley Southward
Code Enforcement Official	Stanley W. Dills
Office Assistant	Barbra Bianco Hagan
Town Services/Animal Control	Bill Danford
Town Services/Code Enforcement	James McCartney
Town Services	Patricia Guziak

MEETING SCHEDULES

Board of Commissioners: Regular meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated). Agenda meetings are held the Tuesday prior to the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated). Both meetings are held at Town Hall (Sanborn Hall),

Planning and Zoning Board: Regular meetings are held the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Adjustment: Meet on an as needed basis.



TOWN OF CALABASH

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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Calabash Fire Department (Non-emergency calls.....)	(910) 579-2355
Waste Industries.....	(910) 253-4177
Brunswick County Sheriff	(910) 253-2777
Public Utilities.....	(910) 253-2655
Hickman's Crossing Library.....	(910) 575-0173
Brunswick County Community College	(910) 755-7300
Seaside Recycling (located in Sunset Beach)	(910) 579-9932
Brunswick Community Hospital	(910) 755-8121
BEMC (Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.).....	(910) 754-4391
Brunswick Senior Resources.....	(910) 253-2199
Brunswick County Environmental Health	(910) 253-2250

Town of Calabash • Post Office Box 4967 • 882 Persimmon Road • Calabash, NC 28467
Administration: (910) 579-6747 • Building Inspections: (910) 579-0500 • Fax (910) 579-5495
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