

The Calabash Navigator



FALL 2009/WINTER 2010

A Warm Welcome to our new Commissioners and Citizens:

Shady Forest, Oak Ridge Plantation, Bonaparte Retreat, R.J. Sommersett and Landing II

These five neighborhoods, once a part of the Town's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, are, as of July 1, 2009, a part of the Town's municipal limits. While many of you have been to the Town Hall asking lots of questions, for those of you who haven't, here is some information we hope will be useful: once you obtain a free decal (see more about the decal under the section "Recycling in Calabash") residents are invited to utilize the recycling containers located in the Town Hall parking lot as well as the Town's yard debris dumpsters located on Persimmon Road. For residents who want to be involved in the Town

and serve in some capacity, there are openings on the Board of Adjustment and the Community Service Committee. If your neighbor's dog is running loose or stray cats have made your home their home, the Town's Animal Control Officer can assist you. If the empty and overgrown lot next door to you seems to be a place for snakes and other critters, let us know so the Town can take action.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Town Hall. All Town employees are here to assist you the best way they can.

TOWN CLERK UPDATE

The past several months have been very hectic for the Town Clerk. Kelley assumed the responsibilities of Interim Town Administrator over the summer. Despite the avalanche of paperwork and meetings, Kelley always found, and continues to find, time to meet with residents, providing information and answering questions. In November Kelley will say adieu to her interim role as a new Town Administrator has been hired. There are several large commercial property developments that are in the process of obtaining permits or beginning construction: Calabash Town Center, Thistle, The Pearl and Devaun Park.

ELECTION RESULTS

Following the aftermath of the Tuesday, November 3rd election, we can report that the Town's new commissioners are: Incumbent, William "Bill" Dixon, Joseph "Jody" Nance Jr., and Mary Knight. Commissioners Emily DiStasio and Cecelia Herman are lauded for their hard work and dedicated service to the Town of Calabash.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 4th, 2009
Callahan's Nautical Gift Shop
Parade-Santa-Caroling-Dancers-Raffle-Food

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A Message from MAYOR ANTHONY CLEMMONS

2009 has been a great year for Calabash, a year when visions have become reality. We look forward to the challenges of 2010. On July 1st the Town welcomed approximately 350 citizens to Calabash, bringing our population to 1794. I extend a heartfelt welcome to the citizens of Shady Forest, Oak Ridge Plantation, Bonaparte Retreat, R.J. Sommersett and Landing II. I would like to compliment the Board of Commissioners and the Ordinance Review Committee on their efforts toward completing the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). On October 21st the Town approved a twenty (20) year agreement with The Pearl, located on Old Georgetown Road, for the development of 800 acres. The Town is continuing to work with Devaun Park, which has a fifteen (15) year build out. Final plans are being reviewed for an apartment complex to be built at the corner of Clariday and Old Georgetown Roads. The sewer extension project is on schedule and expected to be completed by this time next year.

After reviewing a vast number of resumes, I am pleased to report that Hiram Marziano has been hired to fill the Town Administrator position. He was the assistant Town Manager and Planning Director in Troy, NC. I would be remiss if I didn't express

sincere thanks to Kelley Southward, our Town Clerk, for her hard work during the time she has been Interim Town Administrator.

I can't say enough about the promotion of the "Spirit of Calabash" by the Town and our Merchant's Association. The July 4th celebration showed off the Town to its fullest. The recent Town Hall Day was another example of Town spirit. That day the Town honored the first town clerk, Miss Vertilee Bennett. I am sure everyone enjoyed the Car Show and Shrimp Festival.

In December that perennial favorite, the lighting of the Christmas tree, will be held Friday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. at Callahan's Nautical Gift Shop. Festivities have been expanded to include a parade (keep an eye out for Santa Claus), live entertainment, caroling, food (hot dogs/popcorn/cookies/hot cocoa/candy), dancers, and the Merchant's Association on-going raffle for the brand new golf cart will be awarded. Don't forget to bring your non-perishable food donations to assist our neighbors.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege in serving as your Mayor and I wish everyone a blessed and happy 2010.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

And a Prosperous & Peaceful

New Year!

TOWN OF CALABASH

Join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 4 at 6pm

Bring a gift of food for one less fortunate.

Calabash Fire Department Gets New Chief

When asked to contribute to the newsletter, the new Fire Chief, Randall Bork provided the following:

“From the new guy in Town I would like to just say thank you to everyone in this area and the members of the Calabash Fire Department for making me feel welcome. When I left my home in Kernersville I was headed for the unknown. When I arrived in Calabash I was greeted with an ice-cream social attended by all the members of the Fire Department. At this event was a beautiful cake baked in the shape of a fire helmet almost too pretty to eat. I was presented with a personalized Fire Chief’s helmet. Citizens living in the district served by the department should be proud of their well-trained and equipped fire department. By the end of September,

the Calabash Fire and Rescue Department had professionally handled over 1200 calls. Please, if you see one of the members of the fire department, give them a big thank you for what they do. And, as Fire Chief, let me remind everyone to check your smoke detector batteries or make sure your system is in compliance with the manufacturer’s or monitoring company’s instructions. Be extra diligent in taking care that portable heating devices are placed safely away from other combustible items (typically at least 3 feet of clearance) and insure that your chimney and fireplace are properly maintained. Thank you again for my warm welcome. I look forward to leading the Calabash Fire Department into the future.”

Recycling in Calabash

The large blue containers located along the fence toward the rear of the Town Hall parking lot are recycling receptacles. Town residents (your vehicle needs to sport a decal – the decal, obtainable at Town Hall, is free) who elect to recycle can drop off the following items: newspapers and inserts (untied – can be in BROWN PAPER BAGS ONLY-NO PLASTIC BAGS), aluminum cans (emptied and rinsed out), glass and plastic (all plastic #1 through #6-see bottom of container for the number-emptied, rinsed out and crushed). Waste Industries (253-4177) will not accept: any glass that is not a food/beverage container, aluminum foil (pie plates or related items), toys, cardboard, pizza boxes or Styrofoam.

Effective October 1st, rigid plastic bottles such as milk jugs, shampoo bottles, dish washing liquid and soda bottles will no longer be accepted in NC landfills. Please recycle these items.

Additional Recycling Sites:

Seaside Convenient Site on Rt. 904 in Sunset Beach (open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Tuesday and Sunday) – 253-2520. Fees vary. Recycling is free and this site accepts cardboard. Brunswick County Landfill, Landfill Road, Bolivia – 253-8101, open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Branch-Brush-Leaf Pick Up

The curbside yard debris pickup program started last April has been very successful. Please continue to follow these steps: Starting the FIRST MONDAY of each month and continuing for the FIRST FIVE (5) DAYS ONLY, put your yard debris out at the curb. Use CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS ONLY. (Black bags are NOT acceptable. And while the black bags have been removed, this practice will stop.) ONLY grass clippings, pine needles and leaves will be collected (NO plastic flower pots or other ornamental debris). Tree limbs, not over 4 feet in length or over 4 inches in diameter, can be left curbside. Please do NOT include vines, tree stumps or vine-covered branches. This is a service for residents only; contractors providing tree and brush trimming and mowing services are responsible for the removal of all materials they remove, cut and/or trim. Residents can utilize the Persimmon Road Town Yard Debris site. If you do not already have one-stop by the Town Hall to apply for a free decal for your vehicle. Remember—do not put any plastic bags into the dumpsters and do not leave any wooden landscape timbers, rubber or plastic edging, flower pots or lawn ornaments.

BURN PERMITS:

According to State Statutes, as long as the Town offers curbside yard debris removal, burn permits WILL NOT BE ISSUED.

General Ordinance Re-codification

Sounds boring, doesn't it? Well, read on, it gets interesting. Re-codification of civil laws and ordinances has been going on since the French Revolution. The reason—to make a system or code more user friendly thus allowing the user greater accessibility and clarity when reading the codes or laws. Re-codification is necessary when the laws/ordinances/codes become outdated. Town Hall staff receive frequent requests for copies of various sections of the Code of Ordinances. Many times readers have found it almost impossible to understand what was written. With re-codification, ordinances become easier to understand. Taking on this Herculean task for the Town is Commissioner John Melahn. He has been hard at work re-codifying all the non-land use sections of the Code of Ordinances. To date the Board of Commissioners has approved the

Winter Weatherization Program

Available under the auspices of Four-County Community Services, an agency that provides services to low-income individuals and families in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson and Scotland counties, the Winter Weatherization Program is designed to help make homes more energy efficient. To find out more about the weatherization program, call 910-880-1953.

Inspections Department

The question most often posed to staff is whether or not a Building Permit is required. For most work, including installation of a roof and possibly a water heater, a permit is required. If you are new to the area, high winds mandate stricter building codes. Department staff continues to be busy reviewing plans, approving permits and inspecting commercial and residential projects. If you are considering removing one or several trees, please come into Town Hall and request a tree removal application. There is no fee associated with the application. If you are exploring the option of opening a business in town, stop by the Town Hall and request a packet of information and forms. The packet includes instructions regarding the scheduling of fire and zoning inspections, a Business Privilege Application and the two forms needed to apply for signage. It is suggested that you allow at least seven work days for the paperwork to be processed and approved.

recommendations submitted by Commissioner Melahn. Future readers of the Code of Ordinances will find the material to be updated, easier to find, and with a larger typeface, kinder on the eyes.

Mobile Home Removal

In response to the questions lodged by property owners regarding the removal of a mobile house, the Inspections Department has a fact sheet available. The sheet contains all the information needed to have a mobile house removed – from contacting the County's Tax Department to names of area contractors. Call the Inspections Department to receive a copy.

Sheriff Sub-Station

At the corner of Beach Drive and County Club Road there is a new Sheriff Sub-Station. This fully functioning satellite station covers the southern end of the county. It is staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Two detectives are based at the site. The new location will be helpful in decreasing response time by officers. The sub-station office number is 579-7030.

2010 Census – It's in Our Hands

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will issue a call to action for every resident to: "Be Counted." Why should we all be counted? Census numbers determine the distribution of \$300 billion annually of government spending for community services. Thousands of jobs are generated across the country and the number of seats in the House of Representatives is determined based on census figures. The process is easy – just 10 questions to be answered. People of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens are to be counted. You will not provide a social security number or any banking/financial information. Your responses are confidential and no information provided will be shared with any other agency. The questions will be in multiple languages. In late February or early March the questionnaires will start to go out in the mail – no questionnaires will be sent to post office boxes. Remember, all the Census Bureau wants is everyone living in each residence to be counted one time.

CALABASH TOWN OFFICIALS

Board of Commissions

Mayor	Anthony Clemmons
Mayor Pro-Tem	Forrest King
Commissioner	John Melahn
Commissioner	Emily DiStasio*
Commissioner	Cecelia Herman*
Commissioner	William“Bill” Dixon
Commissioner Elect	Joseph “Jody” Nance Jr.
Commissioner Elect	Mary Knight

Planning and Zoning Board

Chairperson	J.W. Brown
Vice Chairperson	W. Gary Cooper
Town Member	Alton Watts
Town Member	Martin Keefe
Town Member	John Thomas
<i>(There are openings for ETJ Members)</i>	

Board of Adjustment

Chairperson	Sonia Climer
Regular Member	Larry Steck
Regular Member	Martin Keefe
Regular Member	J.W. Brown
Regular ETJ Member	Derek Ezzell
Alternate Member	Patricia Lewellyn
Alternate Member	Charles Daniels
<i>(There are openings for Regular and ETJ Members)</i>	

Town Hall Holiday Closings

November 26 & 27 (Thanksgiving)
December 24 & 25 (Christmas)
January 1 (New Year’s Day)
April 5 (Easter)
May 31 (Memorial Day)

Town Hall Staff

Town Administrator	Hiram Marziano
Town Clerk	Kelley Southward
Tax Collector	Carolyn Silvers
Code Enforcement Official	Stanley W. Dills
Office/I.D. Assistant/L.P.O.	Barbra Bianco Hagan
Town Services/Animal Control	Bill Danford
Town Services/Code Enforcement	James McCartney
Town Services	Sid Silvers
Town Services	Corky Marshall
Town Services	James Morgan Jr.

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)*.

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.

All meetings are held at Town Hall (Sanborn Hall).

The Calabash Navigator



TOWN OF CALABASH

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CALABASH COMMUNITY NEWS, HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS