

Memorial Day observance to be marked with flags, reverence, speakers and refreshments!

Come to Town Hall on Monday, May 25, 2009 – Events begin at 11:00 A.M.

“Memorial Day...celebrates and solemnly reaffirms from year to year a national act of enthusiasm and faith. It embodies in the most impressive form our belief that to act with enthusiasm and faith is the condition of acting greatly.”

–Oliver Wendell Holmes, May 30, 1884

Speeches, singing and prayers, along with floral arrangements and small American flags left reverently on the graves of fallen soldiers, have been a part of the fabric of the observation of Memorial Day since 1868. That year, Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a decree declaring May 30th as the first Decoration Day. The first Decoration Day was observed at Arlington National Cemetery with General Grant presiding. Mary Logan is credited by her husband for the idea of the commemoration. However, as far back as 1864, women had been decorating the graves of Civil War dead. On April 25, 1866 a group of women decorated not only the graves of Confederate soldiers but those of the Union soldiers buried there – and this was viewed as a healing gesture. While the actual “birthplace” of Memorial Day remains unclear, as several cities in the North and the South claim the title, in 1966 Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, NY the official “birthplace” of Memorial Day.

Records show that on May 5, 1866 local Civil War soldiers and sailors were honored with formal community-wide events. Businesses were closed and residents flew flags at half-mast. By the late 1800’s May 30th was accepted as the official day to commemorate Memorial Day. Both the Army and the Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. After World War I the day was expanded to honor all those who had died in all American wars. Memorial Day was declared a national holiday in 1971 by Congress with the last Monday in May the official date.

Join the many organizations and dignitaries as we commemorate those who have given their lives in service to our country. The ceremony will commence at the Calabash Fire Department at 11:00 a.m. with the presentation of the colors by the West Brunswick Senior High School ROTC. Be on hand for the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, and orations (including a featured speaker)! Light refreshments will be served.

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A Message from

MAYOR ANTHONY CLEMMONS

This year is proving to be a very good and productive time for Calabash. I, along with the Commissioners and staff, are diligently working on the 2009-2010 budget. Our goal is to hold the line on taxes – no increase in taxes and no decrease in services to citizens. I can report that the town has applied for \$7,750,000 in grant and federal stimulus funds in order to make the sewer assessment fees more affordable. The county has put the project out for bid. One very bright spot is that the project cost may be lower due, in part, to the current state of the economy. One reason to give the sewer project the opportunity to succeed is that the Calabash River will benefit. With the runoff from over 200 failing septic systems, the Calabash River remains closed to harvesting shellfish.

I am pleased to report that the Ordinance Committee is doing a commendable job reviewing the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and the land use ordinance currently in use. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend the review sessions, which are held on Tuesdays at 5:30 at Town Hall (NOTE: the Committee does not meet on the second Tuesday of the month as that is when the Board of Commissioners convenes). Once the Committee has completed its review, their recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

Just a reminder: Hurricane season starts June 1st – it is not too early to start preparing.

Town Clerk Update

I am frequently asked about the status of the annexation of Bonaparte Retreat, Shady Forest, Oak Ridge Plantation and Landing II. I can report that the annexation is still scheduled to become a reality on July 1, 2009. We are working on creating a master plan for the future development of Town owned property. When it is time, the Town will advertise workshops that will be held so residents can give the Mayor and Commissioners suggestions on what they would like to have access to (for example, parks and play grounds). So please be watching the local paper so you can attend the workshops and tell us what you would like.

Calabash Merchant's Association

The Association, which held its first meeting in September 2008, is being enthusiastically supported by its business owner members. According to Chairperson Michael Abushakra, the mission of the organization is to promote the economic health of town businesses and to provide owners with pertinent information concerning commerce on local, state and national levels. Members are also researching innovative ways of attracting visitors. For more information on the organization, call Michael at 575-5305 or email him at calabashmerchants@gmail.com. Residents are invited to attend meetings.

2009 Tax Relief Legislation

Tax collector, Carolyn Silvers, has some information which might prove helpful – **the deadline for applying is JUNE 1st**. The legislation is General Statute 105-277.1 -*Property Tax Homestead Exclusion for Elderly or Disabled Persons*. Criteria for eligibility includes an income of \$25,600 or less, age is restricted to 65 or a total and permanent disability, and the reduction of \$25,000 or 50% of the value of the home and 1 acre of land, whichever is greater. There is an exclusion for disabled veterans. Criteria includes: an honorable discharge, 100% service related disability and reduction of \$45,000 off the value of the home and 1 acre of land. You must be a permanent resident of Brunswick County to apply. For more information and an application contact the Brunswick County Tax Administration Office at 253-2829.

What is a UDO?

The Town of Calabash's UDO, or Unified Development Ordinance, consolidates all regulations that govern land use into a more compact and user-friendly document. The current land use ordinance is out-of-date by at least six years in terms of local legislation and statutory changes. The last major update was done fourteen years ago. If you read the current land use section of the ordinance you will quickly see that the answer to a question can sometimes only be found by reading multiple paragraphs in multiple sections. The lack of concise organization in the land use section makes it website unfriendly. The UDO, when completed, will prove useful as the town grows.

Calabash Fire Department Gets A“4” Rating

After completing its routine inspection by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Insurance, officials awarded the Calabash Fire Department (CFD) with a 4 rating – an improvement over last year’s 5 rating. This rating can have an impact on insurance rates. The CFD was assisted in the inspection by the Grissetown/Longwood and Waccamaw Fire Departments. A rural water supply evaluation, a first for Brunswick County, was completed. CFD Chief Carl Naecker reported he was proud of the entire department for all the hard work

that had been put forth in obtaining the rating. These routine inspections evaluate staffing levels, equipment, maintenance of equipment, communication capabilities and availability of water supply.

State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin is quoted as saying “The citizens in the Town of Calabash should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property...”

On a sadder note, Bob Crocker and Bobby Thorne recently passed away. Both gentlemen served the CFD for many years and will be missed by all.

Calabash Beautification Month

The month of May is Beautification Month and getting your hands dirty could mean your yard will be singled out for beauty above and beyond the call of duty! There will be a contest with the top three yards selected for special commendation. Call the Town Hall to register your yard by Friday, May 22nd. A panel of judges will view the yards that have been registered and make their selections known by May 30th.

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.

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.

2010 Census Jobs Available

The Charlotte Regional Census Center is seeking qualified applicants to fill such positions as address listers, office clerks, recruiting assistants, crew leaders and field operations supervisors. The jobs are temporary; some are full time and others part-time. If you are interested in applying go to www.2010censusjobs.gov for job descriptions, qualifications and applications or call 1-866-861-2010.

Branch-Brush-Leaf Pick Up

Starting Monday, April 6th and continuing until December 7th, yard debris left curbside will be picked up by Town Service staff. Kindly allow 5 working days for the crew to get to your neighborhood.

Grass clippings, pine needles and leaves will be collected – they must be in **CLEAR plastic bags**.

Tree limbs, not over 4 feet in length or over 4 inches in diameter can also 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 cut.

Residents can continue to utilize the Persimmon Road Town Yard Debris site. If you don’t already have one – stop by the Town Hall to apply for a free decal for your vehicle. Remember – do not put plastic bags into the dumpsters and do not leave any wooden landscape timbers, rubber or plastic edging, flower pots or lawn ornamentations.

Making a Difference—

Calabash Elks Lodge #2679 and VFW Calabash Post #7288

Driving down Carter Drive is not just a short cut to Persimmon Road. Carter Drive is the site of two civic organizations whose support and spirit touches not only town residents but also reaches beyond the bounds of town limits. The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Calabash Post #7288) was chartered in 1985 and is home to over 500 members who served in war zones. Men's and Ladies' Auxiliaries boast many active members. Whether assisting veterans and their families, holding fundraisers to provide scholarships, providing patriotism lessons and supporting active military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the VFW's resumé of activities is long and varied. The Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fayetteville and the Fisher House at Fort Bragg are recipients of the largesse of the VFW.

The Wounded Warrior Project, a nationwide program to assist service men and women and their families who are affected by the physical and emotional trauma of the battlefield, is another organization the VFW supports. And those red poppies that we see Veterans and Memorial Days—with those funds the VFW is able to assist area veterans in need. Many Post activities are open to the public. You can play Bingo on a Thursday evening, or have dinner on Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day or Mother's Day — not to mention breakfast on the first Sunday of the month. Check the local paper—Post activities are advertised well in advance!

“Elks do care and Elks do share” every day and in so many ways. The Calabash Elks Lodge #2679 was founded in a most interesting way — it started with a small group of men seeking a place to enjoy the fellowship of others. It just so happened they shared the same barber and that barber was Dick McLean.

The idea that took root in the barbershop led to a gathering at what was then called the Green Light Restaurant (currently the Grapevine Restaurant). It was abundantly clear from the huge turnout that others shared the same interest.

The Calabash Elks Lodge was instituted on February 12, 1984. In addition to initiating 157 Chartered

Members into the Lodge, there were 124 new Elks and 33 more transferred in from other lodges. There was a small house that shared the same property as the McLean's barber shop—the house was located across from the site of the current lodge. After some major renovations, the house became the first lodge. After amassing sufficient funds, a failed restaurant was purchased. The new location served as both a lodge and a public restaurant. Despite the restaurant's lack of success, and the possibility of losing its Charter, lodge members found a way to start anew. Individual dedication and creative financing plus offering Bingo to the public, helped lodge members pay back their debt and, within a short time, purchase property on Carter Drive and eventually construct the building you see today. The lodge supports a multitude of activities such as a Friday night dinner dance, Tuesday night Bingo, daily lunches, children's parties and on the third Sunday of every month a breakfast.

“Elks do care and Elks do share” is mirrored in many other ways: helping active duty soldiers as well as veterans, comforting senior citizens in assisted living facilities, providing scholarships to financially needy students and, supporting children at Camp Carefree — to name just a few. The lodge has contributed over \$180,000 locally and \$130,000 nationally to various charitable causes.

Inspections Department

The most often asked question posed to staff is whether or not a Building Permit is required. For most work, including installation of a roof and a water heater, a permit is required. If you are new to the area, high winds mandate stricter building codes. The Inspection Department is endeavoring to add updated applications and information regarding permits and inspections on the website. 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.

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

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	Vacant
Alternate Member	Derek Ezzell

Town Hall Holiday Closings

July 3 (Independence Day)
September 7 (Labor Day)
November 11 (Veterans Day)
November 26 & 27 (Thanksgiving)
December 24 & 25 (Christmas)

Town Hall Staff

Town Administrator	Jeremy Cribb
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

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).