



ST. MARYS HIGHLIGHT

A Newsletter for the City of St. Marys Employees

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2009

Special Points of

Interest

- Relay for Life 2009
- Polar Bear Plunge
- Police Promotions
- Fire Fighter of the Year

Inside this issue:

- Planning History Corner Did You Know? 2
- Employee of the Month 3
- SCORE 3
- Do You Know Your Benefits? 4

Manager's Corner



Jane Drake
Aquatic Center Director

6 more weeks of Winter?

When the groundhog sees his shadow, most folks (including the groundhog), want to crawl back in the burrow and wait until Spring to get up and moving around again. Not so at the St. Marys Aquatic Center (SMAC)! Ground Hog Day is our cue to get moving to get the City's summer playground ready for an April opening date.

I am often asked the question "What do you do in the winter?". Well, outside of watching paint dry and being the lonely Maytag repairman, a lot of planning goes into a successful summer season.

Whether the issue is pool repair and maintenance, employee hiring and training, compliance with state and local regulations, or promotions, all take planning to ensure a greater measure of success.

One of our major successes at SMAC is in the area of safety. From emergency action plans to employee in-service training, safety is one of our major concerns. We expect around 45,000 visitors to the Aquatic Center this summer and the City has an obligation to provide the safest swimming and recreational environment possible for everyone.

Some of the components of our safety program are: water quality, water safety education, food safety and employee and guest safety.

Water quality is most important for a recreational swimming facility. There is a continual threat of disease transmission in recreational waters and we must be extremely diligent in our cleaning and disinfection routines. The Aquatics Center is inspected by the Camden Environmental Health Department to make sure we are in compliance with state and local regulations. Lifeguards and supervisors make sure we monitor and follow all water testing and chemical use requirements. We also make sure we follow required disinfection guidelines when there is an "accident" in one of pools.

Water Safety is another aspect of our programming. We offer swim lessons during June and July and have about 75 participants each summer. According to statistics, approximately 6,000 people drown in the United States each year. Swim safety education is so

important for children as well as families. To help in this effort, we are repeating our Water Safety Fair in May of this year. The fair is set up to teach several aspects of water safety at different stations for about 15 minutes each. Participants go to each station and learn a different skill such as treading water, floating, rescue skills and lifejacket use. This program will be free and open to the public, so be sure to watch for more details. **(Continued on Pg. 3)**

Fire Fighter of the Year

The City of St. Marys Fire Department recently announced the Fire Fighter of the Year and the Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Year. The awards were presented at the Department's annual Christmas Party. The winners are nominated and chosen by votes of their fellow fire fighters, which makes these awards that much more of an honor. This year the Fire Fighter of the Year award went to Greg Jackson, who has since joined the Camden County Sheriff's Department. The Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Year award went to Bruce Martin, who's status with the Fire Department has now become full time.

Fire Chief Robert Horton was recognized by the Tribune and Georgian recently as the Best Fireman for the Reader's Choice Best of Camden 2008.

Congratulations gentlemen!



Pictured above are Chief Robert Horton, Fire Fighter Greg Jackson, Fire Fighter Bruce Martin and Assistant Chief Lackner.

Relay for Life 2009

The City of St. Marys has registered its team for the 2009 Relay for Life and any and all employees who would like to join the team are more than welcome. Team sign up can be done by contacting Lori Whitlow at 510-4041. The team has been raising funds for the past few months by having little contests at City Hall and wearing team shirts on Fridays. We have currently raised about \$50.00!!! This is a great start. You can expect Friday Bake Sales in the break rooms. Keep in mind that if you have other ideas that might help in the team's fund raising efforts, please speak up! We have recently been able to acquire a spot in the Mardi Gras Festival at no cost, thanks to the generosity of the St. Marys Downtown Merchant's Association. Your fellow employees will be volunteering their time to take donations for baked goods, bottles of water, crafts, face painting and balloons at the event. Please stop by to say hello on the 21st of February and hope for sunny skies and warm temperatures.

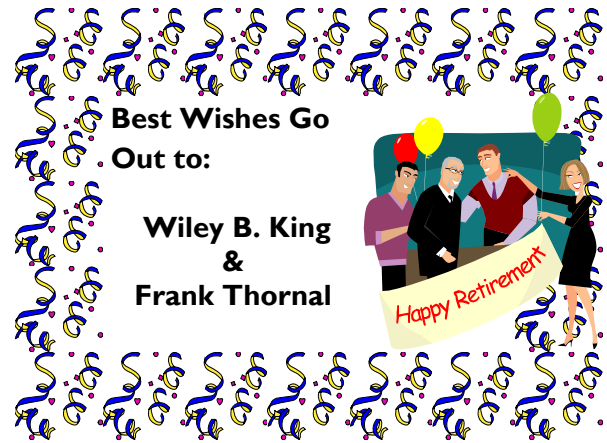
Also, please mark your calendars for May 1st and 2nd, which is the actual Relay for Life Walk! We will be there from 6:00 PM until bright and early at 6:00AM when the event wraps up. There will be all sorts of live entertainment, contests, food and fun!

Remember that Relay for Life helps to raise money for the battle against cancer and helps to allow people to get the care they need and hopefully one day the cure we all pray for.



Planning and History Corner Did You Know ?

- ◆ That on December 16, 2008 revised Flood Maps were issued by FEMA? Copies are available for review in the Planning Office.
- ◆ That there is a British Soldier Cemetery on Point Peter in the Cumberland Harbor Project.
- ◆ That a replica Washington Pump project is underway and looking for volunteers to take on the task of creating the pump body out of a live oak log.
- ◆ That the Starship Farragut is due to take form in our fair city during 2009. This is future history at its best!!



Polar Bear Plunge at the St. Marys Aquatic Center

It was obviously a chilling experience to brave the temperatures of the pools on January 3rd, but there were some takers. To be more specific, there were about forty of those brave souls going down the Orange Crush water slide and for some the slide was still not enough. There were also swimmers enjoying the cool, but refreshing temperatures of the swimming pool. The outdoor temperature was at the warmest part of the day a nice sixty nine degrees. Our fifth annual polar bear plunge was a great success and was lots of fun. The St. Marys Aquatic Center would like to send out a warm thank you to all of those who participated in the event.



The 2009 season for the St. Marys Aquatic Center will begin soon and they are looking forward to a beautiful spring and a warm summer season. Remember that the Aquatic Center is a fun filled place where a family can play and relax together. There will be more to come on the season schedule soon, but for now keep in mind that the opening weekend will be April 25th and 26th!



Manager's Corner Continued

We are also mindful of our guest and employee safety while they are here. During a hot summer day in June, we may have 400-600 people in our park at one time. Issues that come up range from stolen belongings, heat emergencies, sudden illness, lost or abandoned children, irate customers, general complaints, weather emergencies and occasionally, critter removal! Emergency action plans are in place for most of these scenarios. Lifeguards and other staff practice appropriate action to ensure the safety of our employees and guests. Lifeguards are also our first line of defense in preventing accidents both in and out of the water. All Aquatic Center lifeguards are certified through the American Red Cross and practice skills throughout the season.

An additional aspect of park safety involves our concession operations. Again, the Camden County Environmental Health Department has jurisdiction over the food service regulations. Employees must be mindful of proper hygiene practices along with appropriate cooking and holding temperatures as well as the proper way to wash dishes. If you have ever tried to get your teenager to wash dishes correctly, you will know what we are up against! Speaking of teenagers, since the average age of a SMAC worker is 17, we are especially proud of our excellent safety record!

Police Department Promotes

On January 21, 2009, two employees of the Police Department received promotions and new assignments. Kathy Brown was promoted from the rank of Patrol Sergeant to the rank of Lieutenant. Lieutenant Brown's new assignment as the Administrative Division Commander occurred when Lieutenant Frank Thornal retired from the Department after 23 years. Robert Maloney was promoted from the rank of Corporal to the rank of Patrol Sergeant. Sergeant Maloney will assume the duties of Shift Supervisor for the shift that Lt. Brown previously supervised.

Both Lt. Brown and Sgt. Maloney bring a depth of experience to their assignments that will greatly benefit the Police Department, the City and the community. They are to be congratulated for a job well done.



Small Counselors to America's Small Business (SCORE)

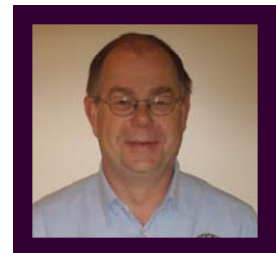
A newly formed Score Branch has been formed to aid small businesses through free mentoring sessions. This service is for current business owners and start-up businesses. Counseling sessions will be held every Wednesday from 10AM until 2 PM at the St. Marys Economic Development Building, located at 400 Osborne Street by appointment only. Please call 912-882-3583 to schedule an appointment. Existing businesses can benefit on advice on cash flow, marketing, and new businesses can be advised on concept feasibility. Score is a national organization with 10,000 volunteers and works closely with the Small Business Development Center and Small Business Administration.

Employee of the Month

The City of St. Marys would like to congratulate Mary Meyers as the Employee of the Month for the month of January. Her efforts have been recognized by her supervisors, but also by citizens and visitors of our community, Great Job Mary and keep up the good work!



The City of St. Marys would also like to congratulate Chris Cox as Employee of the Month for the month of December. Mr. Cox has been recognized for his "can do" attitude and ability to adapt to a variety of tasks. Way to go Chris!



St. Marys Community Market



Visit the market every Saturday from 9-1 pm. Purchase Fresh Seafood, Local Produce, Wild Honey, Baked Goods, Dog Treats, Local Art and Much, Much, More... See you at the Market! The market is located at 206 Osborne Street (Tribune and Georgian Parking Lot) For more information go to: www.stmcmarket.wordpress.com



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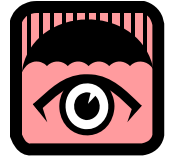
Do You Know the Value of Your Benefits?

Did you know you have a “hidden paycheck” you may not even think about? Benefits such as paid time off, medical and dental plans, disability and life insurance and your retirement can add 20 percent to 50 percent to your annual compensation. For example, below is an example of the “hidden paycheck” for a Public Works employee earning a base salary of \$23,300.



Annual Summary of Benefits Costs

Benefit	Employer Cost	Employee Cost
Medical*	\$7,102.00	\$1,800.00
Dental*	\$ 234.00	\$ 341.00
Life and AD&D	\$ 114.00	\$ 0.00
Short Term	\$ 130.00	\$ 0.00
Disability		
Retirement Base	\$ 932.00	\$ 0.00
Retirement Base**	\$ 700.00	\$ 0.00
Total Benefits Cost	\$ 9,212.00	\$2,141.00
Annual Income	<u>\$23,300.00</u>	
Actual Realized Income	\$32,512.00	



*Based in family coverage

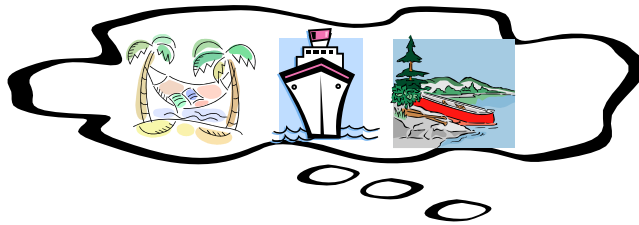
**Based on the employee contributing 6% or more of his/her own money, and the City matching an additional 3% retirement.

As you see from the example above, this employee has a “hidden paycheck” of \$9,212.00. This does not include the compensation for holidays and paid time off (shown below). Individualized Summary of Benefits like the one above will vary for each individual employee. These statements are given during open enrollment in June of each year.

Time-Off Compensation

This amount would vary based on an employee’s current service. For this example, we used fifteen days as the minimum amount earned annually.

Holidays:	13 days	Dollar Value:	\$1,165.00
Paid Time Off:	15 days	Dollar Value:	\$1,344.00



Vision Statement

The City of St. Marys vision is to create a community of excellence governed by the principles of responsibility, fiscal soundness, accessibility and service to the public, in an atmosphere rich in historic and cultural significance, while retaining its natural beauty, charm, resources, and unique appearance; a community that attracts and maintains active and supportive citizens, with an enhanced quality of life and economic opportunity for all.

Mission Statement

The mission of the City of St. Marys is to provide the most responsive and progressive public services, within the resources provided, so that our citizens can enjoy the best possible quality of life.

If you have information for this newsletter, please contact Lori Whitlow, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, at 510-4041.