



# ST. MARYS HIGHLIGHT

A Newsletter for the City of St. Marys Employees

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 2009

**Special Points of**

**Interest**

- Shopping Tips
- Quilt Show
- War Heroes Reunion
- Vacation Safety Tips

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**Manager's Corner**

**Gene Rudy**  
IT Director



**Technology in Today's World**

It's amazing how far we've come every 5 years. Technology is increasing at an unbelievable rate. We look at the newspaper and it gets thinner and thinner. Is the Internet replacing print? Is printing getting electronic life? I can remember my grandfather having breakfast and coffee in the morning while reading the morning paper. Twenty years later, I find myself at a coffee shop waiting for my iced latte, reading my email, and getting updates on the world events, all on a little machine that fits in my hand. Amazingly everything starts with a simple, idea. A spark of innovation comes from a visionary individual who wants to be an agent for change. When Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard set up a workshop inside Packard's garage in Palo Alto, California, they had no idea that they were going to revolutionize the personal computer. They simply wanted to make a computer for the family, not just industry.

Change is all around us. From the autumn foliage and our environment to how we communicate with one another. We are frequently used to things staying static, then out of the blue comes a revolutionary thought that changes the world every so often. When the first radio broadcast was made, people didn't know what to think. What was this strange voice coming from the box. However, when people would follow news, sports and "fireside chats" during one of our darkest hours, they tuned in. Television allowed us to actually see a man walk on the moon, but to communicate on radio or TV, you had to be at the studio or on scene where they were broadcasting. Then, after over sixty years of voice and picture being transmitted into our homes, a new innovation came about.

The internet allows the individual to have a voice. We have done remarkable things with the Internet. Using the web, we are able to put voice and data traffic together and have video calls to family continents away. We, the individual, can broadcast ourselves at community events, such as festivals, and parades.

**Story Continued on page 5**

## The Real Senior Prom

**Location:** New Senior Center Building  
(Behind Heritage Bank)

**Date:** May 29th

**Time:** 6:00 PM—8:00 PM

**This Year's Theme:**  
Time in a Bottle

Please come out and show your support!  
There will be food, live music, dancing, games, door prizes and more!

## Employee Appreciation Day

**When:** Friday, June 19, 2009

**Where:** St. Marys Aquatic Center

**Time:** 6:30—8:30 PM

**Food, Fun and Friends!!!**

## Planning and History Corner Did You Know ?

- ◆ That half of the original City layout is now part of the eastern marsh?
- ◆ That the City was laid out with two large Public Squares, much like Savannah or even Philadelphia, but these have been lost to growth over the centuries.
- ◆ That vacant lots touching the marsh are in danger of encroachment from the marsh? And, if the marsh encroaches across the entire lot, the lot may become unbuildable. This is State and Federal Law.
- ◆ That if you already live in a house located on the marsh, and the marsh encroaches on the structure of the house, you are permitted to protect your house from the marsh.

## Vacation Safety Tips

- Always stay with people you trust.
- Do not go anywhere with a stranger, even during the day.
- Carry a cell phone at all times in case of an emergency.
- Call home periodically to let family members know you are safe.
- Keep your identification with you.
- Be aware of local laws regarding alcohol.
- Do not drink and drive.
- Always lock and bolt your hotel room when you are inside it.
- Try to leave valuables at home.
- Lock any valuables you do take in the hotel safe.
- Beware of scam artists or pick pockets.
- If your cell phone or credit card are stolen, report it immediately and cancel the service.
- Do not carry or accept packages from strangers.
- Never swim alone.
- Do not consume alcohol when swimming or operating boating equipment.



This article was submitted by the St. Marys Police Department.



## Save Money With These Food Shopping Tips



- **Special foods** for people with diabetes or diet foods cost more and for the most part are not needed.
- **Boneless cuts of meat** may be a better buy – since you don't pay for the bone.
- **White eggs cost less than brown eggs** but both have the same food value.
- **Buy plain frozen vegetables** instead of those packaged in butter or other sauces.
- **Buy large sizes of nonfat yogurt** and break it down into single servings.
- **Think about the cost per serving** when you buy fresh fruits and vegetables. If you pay by the pound, you'll be paying for seeds and rinds that you don't eat.
- **Put vegetable oil in a spray bottle** to make your own cooking spray.
- **Use nonfat milk** to cook and bake.
- **Regular or quick-cooking oats** cost less than instant oats.
- **Make your own small bags of snacks** instead of buying single-serving bags.
- **Shake fresh greens well** before you put them in a grocery bag. Leaves hold lots of water and weight.

### Upcoming Quilt Show

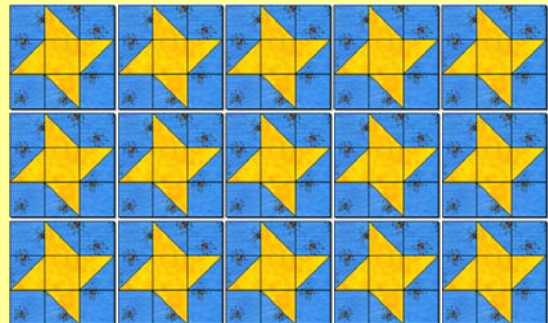
Camden Quilt Guild Presents: **Everyday Heirlooms "History in the Making"**

May 23rd, 2009

10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Orange Hall, Downtown St. Marys

For More Information, contact Economic Development at 882-8111 or Tourism at 882-4000



## Senior Center Plays a Part in Reunion of War Heroes

Little did Mr. Joe Crawford and Mr. Ray DeBrunner know who they would meet up with Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at the St. Marys Senior Center. Mr. Ray DeBrunner came to the center to ask for directions and got a little more than he asked for. Mr. Crawford and Mr. DeBrunner both served in the U.S. Army in World War II together through every major battle in Europe and were not even aware of it. Both rode over to Europe together on Queen Mary along with 18,000 others. The men shared stories with each other about when they landed on the beach and the horrible conditions in which they landed. Mr. DeBrunner was deployed on Utah Beach where he dodged snipers and land mines. Mr. Crawford was deployed on Omaha Beach where he barely kept his head above water and dodged bodies everywhere carrying his supplies and gun. These two men have earned 5 Battle Stars and Mr. Crawford received a Purple Heart for wounds he received when an 88 shell burst and shrapnel from the German artillery hit him. Mr. DeBrunner said he was blessed to have survived the war. Both men agreed that it was an honor to have met each other during this stage of life and will keep in touch with each other. Our gratitude and sincere thanks go out to both of these men and their families for serving our country and for protecting our freedom.



## Employee of the Month

The City of St. Marys is proud to present Mr. Michael Taylor of Public Works as Employee of the Month for the month of April, 2009. Mr. Taylor does an outstanding job as part of the grounds maintenance crew. He is motivated and takes great pride in doing his job well and looking for other ways to improve the appearance of the City of St. Marys. He has received many compliments from citizens, as well as his supervisors. Congratulations Michael and thank you for your commitment to make the City of St. Marys the best it can be!

## How to be a Perfect 10....

- Walk 10,000 steps a day or take three 10-minute walks.
- Count to 10 before you say or do anything in anger.
- Eat the top 10 antioxidant foods (artichokes, blackberries, beans, plums, apples, cranberries, pecans, raspberries and blueberries).
- Talk to each of your children alone for 10 minutes every day.
- Pay an extra \$10 on your monthly credit card bill every month.
- Help out at your favorite charity for 10 hours a month.
- Take 10 minutes to enjoy some alone time every day.
- Focus on the 10 most important things that you need to get done.
- Make a 10-year plan for your finances.
- Write down the 10 people or things for which you are the most thankful for. Keep the list handy and look at it often.



*Congratulations!*



## St. Marys Community Market



Visit the market every Saturday from 9am -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 & Georgian Parking Lot ) For more information go to: [www.stmcmarket.wordpress.com](http://www.stmcmarket.wordpress.com)

### Employee Appreciation Day

**When: Friday, June 19, 2009**  
**Where: St. Marys Aquatic Center**  
**Time: 6:30—8:30 PM**  
**Food, Fun and Friends!!!**



### New Deputy Clerk

Congratulation to the New Deputy Clerk of Council!

The City Clerk's Department welcomes former Municipal Court Technician Deborah Walker-Reed as the new Executive Administrative Assistant. Deborah was recently appointed Deputy Clerk of Council. As Deputy Clerk, she is now in a training path to provide back-up to the City Clerk, assume many of the daily functions and acquiring the ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Clerk. Deborah will be attending the Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Municipal Clerk's training for the next three years to become a Certified Municipal Clerk.



### 2009 Camden County Relay



### Relay for Life Update

Relay for Life 2009 was a great event. The City of St. Marys was represented well by its employees. This year's goal was to raise at least \$500.00 and I am happy to say that we exceeded our goal. The grand total of funds raised will be posted in next month's newsletter. We still have one more fund raising event going on. Connie Miller from the Human Resources Department made a beautiful Georgia Bulldog quilt

that she is raffling off on May 23rd at the Quilt Show in Orange Hall. You may purchase tickets for \$1.00 each or six tickets for \$5.00. Just contact Connie Miller at 510-4030. Currently, the committee members are estimating that over all the Camden County Relay, as a whole, has made around \$104,000.00 with funds still coming in. The important thing to remember is that every donation counts. Each

time one of you made a donation, whether it was for a brownie, cookie or even cheese and nachos at the Relay, every little bit adds up. So, to all City of St. Marys Employees, thank you for supporting the fight against cancer! Each one of you have helped to make this a success!

### The Cost of Smoking



**It's hard to quit smoking.**

But thinking about how much money you'll save and what else you could buy with that money might make it easier. How many tanks of gas could you buy, for instance, if you gave up smoking?

No. of packs per day	Cost per year*	Gas it could buy*
1	\$1,642.50	938 gallons
1 1/2	\$2,461.00	1406 gallons
2	\$3,285.00	1877 gallons

\*Costs based on \$4.50 for a pack of cigarettes and gas at \$1.75 per gallon.

When you quit smoking, the savings start to pile up right away. If a one-pack-a-day smoker quit and put the \$1,642.50 in a savings account earning 5% every year for 25 years, he or she would have an extra \$81,483 without any effort. That's better than sending it up in smoke, for sure.

## Manager's Corner

## Continued from Page 1

We showcase local artists or hidden talents. With social websites, we are able to find friends we may not have heard from in years, share our family's pictures with others or even message about where we are in the world to an audience on the far side of the globe. Ashton Kutcher said it best when we told Larry King, "We now live in an age in media that a single voice can have as much power and relevance on the Web, that is, as an entire media network, and I think that to me was shocking." This was said after he surpassed CNN to the million Twitter subscriber mark. So, that means that one person has the potential to be seen and heard by millions around the world. The underlying thought is this: It is change that is within each of us. We are inherently able to effectively make some aspect of change every day. From as simple as what time we wake up, which roads we take to work or to a radical way in which we communicate with one another.

When Bill first created this newsletter, specifically the Manager's Corner, it was a way in which to broadcast information to employees and Council members. Then we posted them on the internet, for the world to see what we are doing. After over a year, it is now my turn to write an article, and I'm still not prepared for it. How does one explain a field that is ever changing, ever evolving with new innovations almost yearly? Very simply, like this. The Information Technology field is binary, old, or new. And ten minutes after it is new, it becomes old. Information and technology are constantly changing. We don't strive to keep up with the innovations or gadgets, but to find the best solution to our problems, to provide a means for continuous improvement, provide voice and data service and to disseminate information to our customers, both internal and external. That is the basis behind information technology. It's not to have the latest Blackberry, or get the most mobile, secure laptop or even to have the largest bandwidth in town. We are a resource to help provide the best cost effective technology that will do the job right.

Most people assume we just work on computers. In the FY2009 budget, we saved the City over \$11,000 per year in renewing and negotiating our voice and data communications. At the beginning of the fiscal year, we helped Georgia Forestry set up communications in their command post for the Cumberland Island wildfire, before their communications division was even there. We brought wireless internet to the DDA, Tourism and Library locations and then advertised them with the help of the Wifi Alliance, an organization that certifies wireless communications equipment. We are helping to move towards a new finance software solution that will help drive down costs and revolutionize the way we work with our customers. We are working on helping to create one unified network, eventually both voice and data together. The need is there to work together as one unit. St. Marys is a City that has been accustomed to change, and we, its people, welcome it. Looking at the trees, houses, buildings and our residents is evidence of that change.

## Starry Nights 2009 Line Up

**May 16, 2009 - New Horizons Band**  
Enjoy country and gospel music with performers from the Woodbine Opry.

**June 13, 2009 - The Dee Bees**  
Fun and upbeat music from the 60's, 70's and 80's- request your favorite song.

**July 11, 2009 - Lisa Allen's Dance Works**  
Magical dance performance from Lisa Allen's cuties.

**August 15, 2009 - Ignite**  
A modern inspirational band with Christian based music.

**September 19, 2009 - Feebus Pruett**  
An acoustic band with a wide range of music & original music written by the band leader.

**All performances begin at 7 P.M. - 9 P.M. (Events will be cancelled if weather is inclement.)**

**For more information: Contact St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau @ 912-882-4000 or email: [info@stmaryswelcome.com](mailto:info@stmaryswelcome.com)**





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**ST. MARYS HIGHLIGHT**

**St. Marys Employee Puzzle**

Words associated with the City of St. Marys local government.

U I R N C O Y A C S I G A L O E A R N  
T U C I A C G T C R I S A R S E E T A  
R E B N P E R U R E I N T T D L N T I  
U I E C L E R K O G P M C S Y I N T C  
O T R C A D C P P C I L T L A U I I I  
C T I S N Q O I U C E Y O E S T M Y S  
V O F L N L U E I S T R A E O I A R E  
T R L U I U N A I E Y A C L R L Y U E  
E N N C N T C M T N Y R O Y A M T T N  
R A E T G N I D L I U B A G I D Y Y M  
R R E F P R L E S O C I E M M I S N V  
A O O K G E T R S R N L M I T T O F N  
M M U B U D G E T C C R S N A N T I R  
N N C T I U R N L E A N Q L C O I N F  
R C Y O I N E Y N N L A Y P U T E A C  
N R E G A N A M Y T I C A R I E O N S  
T N E M P O L E V E D C I M O N O C E  
M P U B L I C W O R K S I I I N N E S  
I H N E I E L L E T M C A M W I I E P

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Aquatic         | Budget               |
| Building        | City Manager         |
| Clerk           | Council              |
| Court           | Economic Development |
| Finance         | Fire                 |
| Human Resources | IT                   |
| Legal           | Library              |
| Mayor           | Planning             |
| Police          | Public Works         |
| Saint Marys     | Senior Center        |
| Tourism         | Utilities            |

**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.