



# ST. MARYS HIGHLIGHT

A Newsletter for the City of St. Marys Employees

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Special Points of Interest

- Employee Cookie Contest
- City Trivia
- St. Marys Volunteer Fire Fighters Fund-raising

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## Manager's Corner

**Rindy Howell**  
Senior Center Director



### What a Senior Center means to a community.

Some people may not fully understand the importance of a senior center to its surrounding area or community, but the fact is without one we have a group of very important people who have dedicated their lives to us without a place to fellowship with one another. Everyone has heard the clichés "if you don't use it you lose it" or "the mind is a terrible thing to waste". These are far more than everyday meaningless sayings, they are the truth.

The Senior Center gives us a place for older adults to share a part of their life with others that can relate to their stories and memories of earlier life events. We hold a valuable key within these walls that no book could ever contain, a gem that no jeweler could ever hope to find, and wisdom far above any scholar's hopes to reach; yes it is in the Aged. Within each grey hair these seniors possess a treasure worth far more than money could ever hope to purchase. These seniors have endured the Great Depression, wars, tragedies, rulers, leaders, struggles, wins, losses, sickness, almost everything you and I can imagine at one time or another, they have already experienced it. Some have even faced death and won.

A community with seniors is a blessed community and to share and give back to them is not merely a deed, but a privilege. St. Marys has decided to put this need above the cost and provide a center and activities for our senior citizens. For this we are grateful and will continue to grow into a positive and inviting community full of active and thriving seniors.

Always Remember: Never regret growing older, it is a PRIVILEGE denied to many!



## Employee Cookie Contest

Do you have a favorite cookie recipe? Do you know how to bake? Well, then you should fill out an application for the City of St. Marys Annual Employee Cookie Contest. You could be the next winner of the best tasting cookies around! So, go ahead and mark your calendar for May 5th, 2009 at 12:00 Noon for the yummiest contest in St. Marys. Don't forget to turn in your application to your Department Head by April 24th, 2009. You will find a copy of the application on the back of this newsletter and you can also ask your supervisor for a copy. Please keep in mind, this is your chance to compete against any City employee, including Department Heads, the City Manager and possibly Council Members. This event will allow all employees the opportunity to showcase their cooking talents, "so ...are you up to the challenge?"



## City Trivia



The City of St. Marys is a wonderful and interesting place. It is full of history and lots of details that you may or may not know. So, this month I am wondering if any of you know where the first telephone company was operated out of and who owned the business. In order to answer this trivia correctly, you must answer both parts of the question. So, go look up your local history and let's see just how much you know! Send answers to [lori.whitlow@tds.net](mailto:lori.whitlow@tds.net) or you may call 510-4041. Good luck!



## Planning and History Corner Did You Know ?

- ◆ That the St. Marys River is a black water river, which means it has God's pollutants from the swamp in it!
- ◆ That there is a dead zone on the river where the salt water meets the fresh water, and it shifts with the tide, and plants of either temperament cannot survive.
- ◆ That the buoys in the St. Marys River that the City owns were installed under a permit with the Florida Department of Natural Resources and are located in Florida.
- ◆ That the 1977 Environmental Impact Statement for the location of the US Navy in St. Marys predicted the population would grow in 2000 to a whopping 3855 citizens! The 2000 Census listed us at 13,761 actual counted citizens.

## St. Marys Volunteer Fire Fighters Kick Off Fundraising Efforts

The St. Marys Fire Department Volunteer Division has begun its efforts for fundraising recently. In the past they have partnered with an outside company to assist them with their Photo Fundraising Drive and they would go door to door to collect donations on behalf of the volunteer fire fighters. They have decided to take a different approach this year though and are sending out letters with a donation card. As a way to say thank you, arrangements have been made with a local photographer to provide a free family photo sitting and a free 10x13 portrait. To receive your free portrait, simply mail in your donation card and the enclosed certificate and you will be contacted to schedule your photo session. If you do not want to receive the portrait, simply write "no photo" on the certificate.

To achieve their goal, they are asking that each household in our service area donate \$25.00. They are hoping for 100% participation by all residents in our area and they guarantee that all proceeds made during the fundraising drive will stay in our community. Please remember that these volunteers are providing the emergency services that are needed and wanted in this area.



So, donate to your local volunteer fire fighters and smile then say cheeeeeeeese!

## Vacation Savings Offer for City of St. Marys Employees

To take advantage of the below offer, please contact Donna or Connie in the Human Resources Department at 510-4030.

**Six Flags OVER GEORGIA**

*New for 2009!*  
**MANSION**

**Incredible Family Savings at Two Great Parks**

**PAY ONLY \$24.99**  
Limited Time  
February 28 through June 28, 2009

**\$9 OFF**  
Any Day All Season

See back for details

## Benefits 101

The City of St. Marys provides Short Term Disability benefits for all full-time employees, at no cost to the employee. This plan protects you by providing you with disability benefits to replace a portion of your lost income, in the event of an injury or illness (non work-related), which prevents you from working. These benefits are in addition to the paid leave provided. Here are some helpful short term disability plan facts that all employees need to know:

- Benefits are 67% of your base weekly earnings, up to a maximum of \$1350.00 per week.
- Benefits begin at day 1 for accidents or day 8 for illness.
- Benefits last for up to 26 weeks.

If you have questions regarding the short term disability policy, please feel free to contact Donna or Connie in the Human Resources Department at 510-4030.



## Employee of the Month

The City of St. Marys would like to congratulate Roxana Bordenkircher on being recognized as the Employee of the Month for the month of February, 2009. She is noted as an employee with a cheerful attitude and a professional manner. She is flexible with an ever changing pace and environment. The City is happy to have her as an employee and proud to recognize her efforts. Congratulations Roxana and keep up the good work!

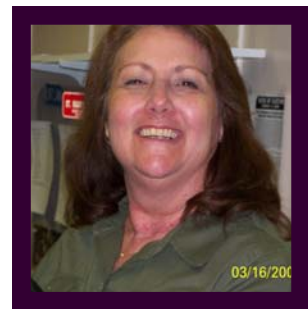
## Tip of the Day



Protecting your home while you're away on vacation or for any extended periods of time:

- Use random access timers that automatically change what time your lights go on or off each night. Lighting patterns that vary appear more natural.
- Ask a neighbor to park his or her car in your driveway.
- Keep expensive items out of view from the yard or the street.
- Have your mail and newspapers picked up by a neighbor or held at the post office.
- Ask your neighbors to call the police if they notice any suspicious activity. And leave a phone number with your neighbor where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Request the police department to conduct residence checks by calling the non emergency 911 number, which is 729-1442.

For more information, you may contact your local police department at 882-4488.



All City employees are eligible to be nominated based on performance and determination. We are always on the look out for an employee who is going that extra mile and continues to achieve above and beyond. Who knows, maybe you'll be next!!!

## 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)

