



CITY SHENANIGANS

A Newsletter for the City of St. Marys Employees

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2008

Special Points of

Interest

- Employee of the Month
- Seniors' Safari
- Relay for Life
- HR's Helpful Hints
- Turn your suggestion into Money!

Inside this issue:

- Three Dogs and a Broad** 2
- Welcome New CSR** 2
- The USS Georgia is home!** 3
- Aquatic Center's Grand Opening** 3
- Georgia Cities Week** 3
- Suggestion Program** 4
- Pass the Popcorn** 4

Manager's Corner



Jennifer Brown
Finance Department

Spring is here! We see signs of this with flowers blooming all around, birds singing, people working in their yards, spring cleaning and baseball season is here again. Those of us who have children that play baseball are getting ready for the rigorous schedule of practices and games that will have us in a frenzy until June! Those who love working in the yard have longer daylight hours to do so. And, it's spring-clean out those closets!

Along with the signs of spring being here, it means that it is budget time once again. Already, spreadsheets for departments and the different funds have been changed and changed again, trying to make the lowest operating budget possible for the taxpayers of St. Marys. The budget meetings have begun and the workshops with the Mayor and Council are just around the corner where more changes are inevitable.

You may ask as a regular employee "what does this have to do with me-especially if I am not a citizen of St. Marys?" I will tell you. As an employee of the city, it is very important that we are frugal with every penny the city brings in. There are many different ways that you can make a difference that will have a bearing on the operating budget for the city.

- Always be on time to begin your workday
- Give the city a full 8 hours of work-accomplishing as much as you can
- Make sure your supplies to fulfill your job are not wasted or discarded when it can be used a little longer
- Make sure your office supplies do not disappear and the pens, tablets, etc. are used at work
- If you have equipment that has broken or you realize you need to repair something, don't wait! Waiting can make the problem worse and cost more money in the long run
- Remember safety rules and abide by them-accidents can cause increases in the cost of liability insurance and workman's comp.

- Stay healthy-take care of yourself.
 High medical costs effects the cost of health insurance
 Every employee is important! There are no big "I's" and little "u's" when it is in regard to the operations of the city. From the Mayor and Council to the entry level employee, we all have a responsibility to offer our best to the taxpayers of St. Marys.
 So remember, it is spring. Let us all clear our heads and think of fresh new ideas to utilize for the upcoming budget year.

Cookie Contest Update

The First Annual St. Marys Cookie Contest will be taking place in the City Council Chambers on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2008. Based on the recipes submitted so far, it is going to be a difficult decision for our judges. Please come out and show your support for your fellow employees and let's see who bakes the best cookies. Oh, and don't forget those who attend will get to share in helping to finish off the extra cookies! We'll see you there!

? Of the Month Contest

The March Issue contained the question "What did the teenagers do in St. Marys to make money on a regular basis in the 1950's?" The correct answer to this question was pop the heads off shrimp. The teens were paid \$.25 per 8 quart pail of shrimp. The City would like to say Thanks to L.J. Williams for this bit of trivia., which he managed to stump us with. There were no correct answers for this trivia.
 For the month of April, the question is: What is the name of the Revolutionary War Fort that was located in St. Marys, and where was it located? Please make sure to submit your answer to lori.whitlow@tds.net via email with the subject line of ? of the Month or you may stop by and hand deliver your answer.
 Let's see your wheels turning to figure this one out.
 Good Luck!





Three Broads and A Dog -Biscuits-

Three Broads and A Dog are proud to present "Walk the Dogs", an opportunity for dog lovers to gather and enjoy one another's company. On the first Saturday of each month Three Broads and A Dog will have a fun activity for pets and their people to partake in. At the end of every activity gift bags will be presented to participants. The event for April 5th will be "Paint Your Paws," bring your pampered pooch to the Three Broads and A Dog tent between the times of

10am to 2pm to make a tile keepsake with your pets paw on it that will last a lifetime. Pre-registration for "Walk the Dogs" is \$5.00 monthly and on-site registration is \$8.00 monthly. Please talk to Three Broads and A Dog this Saturday at the market if you have any questions or to purchase your ticket for April or contact them via email at: treats@3broadsandadog.com or check out their web site at www.3broadsandadog.com.

Finance Department Welcomes New CSR

Please take a moment to stop by the Water Department to congratulate Amber Castleberry on being hired as the new permanent Customer Service Representative for the City of St. Marys. Amber had been temping with the City through Satilla Business Temps. We would also like to take a moment to give a belated congratulation to Mindy Andrew who had previously temped with the City in the Water Department and became a permanent employee late in 2007.



Gearing Up for the Big Day

The employees of the City of St. Marys, who have joined the Relay for Life Team, are preparing for the upcoming Relay for Life Event. It will be a fun and exciting night starting at 6:00 PM on April 18, 2008 and ongoing until 6:00 AM the next morning. The team members for the City of St. Marys will be taking turns walking the track. The team would like to thank everyone who helped donate items or baked goods for the Yard Sale/Bake Sale, as well as

those who may have been picking up cookies and brownies for donations in the break room. We appreciate all of the help and support from those who participate in whichever way they choose. We are still fund raising until the Relay is over, which means you can purchase luminaries in memory or in honor of those you know, who may have endured a battle with Cancer. For more info, call Lori Whitlow at 510-4041 or email lori.whitlow@tds.net.

HR's Helpful Hints

Are you a first time home buyer or haven't owned a home in the past 3 years? You may qualify for the Georgia Dream Homeownership Program which provides eligible borrowers with low interest fixed rate mortgages and up to \$5000 Down Payment Assistance. Please see Donna or Connie in Human Resources for more information. It never hurts to check and see what options you may have !



Senior Safari at Jacksonville Zoo

The Seniors decided they needed a change of scenery for the day on Monday, March 17, 2008 and they took a walk on the wild side, while visiting the Jacksonville Zoo. They enjoyed a train ride, picnic lunch and many interesting exhibits. They especially enjoyed the comedy provided by the baboons. Rindy Howell of the Senior Center said that the day was wonderful and that everyone had a good time. She also commented that there were no sand gnats! Rindy would also like to announce that there is a birthday in the Senior Center in the month of April. Becky Whitacre has requested to prepare lunch for the seniors again @ the Presbyterian church Wednesday, April 3rd. Becky will prepare Ham, sweet potatoes, pole beans, congealed salad and Birthday cake in honor of her Daddy.(Sammie Simmons) The Seniors are certainly staying busy and having a good time at the Center.

Helpful Hints from Human Resources

Simplify your life by enrolling in Direct Deposit. What are the advantages of using direct deposit?

- CONVENIENCE**- No more rushing to the bank to deposit your check. Most banks even post your check on Thursday instead of Friday!
- SECURITY**-You do not have to worry about lost, stolen or misplaced checks.
- FLEXIBILITY**-Signing up for Direct Deposit is easy to do. Please see Donna or Connie to sign up for Direct Deposit today!

Aquatic Center's Grand Opening

St. Marys Aquatic Center will be having it's Grand Opening on Saturday, April 26th from 11:00AM—6:00PM. Season passes are on sale at the discounted rate starting April 7 thru May 11. Remember that as a City employee you get an employee discount on your season pass purchase on top of the early bird discount, which is good during this time also.

Georgia Cities Week Celebration

Living It Up DOWNTOWN



THE USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) IS HOME!

After more than 14 years of lobbying, the USS Georgia will be home ported at Naval Submarine Kings Bay, GA. The submarine's future was jeopardized in 1994 when the Nuclear Posture Review determined that the U.S. Navy had a surplus of their 18 TRIDENT submarines (SSBN) – 10 on the East Coast at Kings Bay and 8 on the West Coast at Bangor, Washington. The Nuclear Posture Review Report recommended that the initial four of the 18 Ohio Class SSBN's should be eliminated.

This sparked a vision by the U.S. Navy to keep in service the four submarines and convert them from a strategic deterrence mission to a precision strike and special operations forces capable SSGN submarine.

The four submarines are the USS OHIO (SSGN 726), USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727), USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728) and USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729), which collectively have over 80 years of hull life left. The SSGN (guided missile submarine) was created by redesigning and converting these submarines with the capability to house 154 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles and the ability to carry and deploy from the submarine special operations forces through lockout chambers. USS GEORGIA is 560 feet in length, displaces over 18,000 tons submerged and can carry a crew of 15 officers, 139 enlisted crew members and up to 66 Special Operations Forces for a sustained, long endurance deployment.

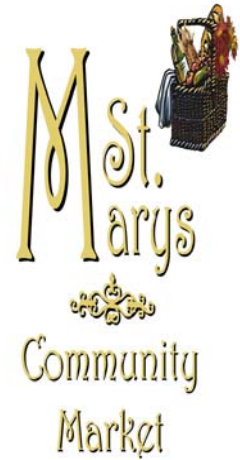
After a more than two year refueling overhaul and conversion at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia, the USS GEORGIA observed it's formal return to service as an SSGN in a ceremony at Kings Bay on March 28th, 2008, thanks to a dedicated and hard working USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) Return to Service Committee that includes citizens from across the state.

Additional information may be found on the committee's website at: www.USSGEORGIA.org.



During the week of April 20-26, St. Marys will join other cities across Georgia in celebrating Georgia Cities Week. This week has been set aside to recognize the many services city governments provide and their contribution to a better quality of life in Georgia. Our theme, "Living it Up Downtown!" pays tribute to the role cities play in contributing to Georgia's quality of life.

The St. Marys celebration will kick off on April 19th with events in the Howard Gilman Waterfront Park with a display of city vehicles and equipment and a city wide clean up. The day will conclude at dusk with an outdoor movie at the stage in the park. Please enjoy the movie entitled "Duma" by using the link below.



**Saturdays from
10:00 AM to 2:00**

**PM
206 Osborne**

**Street
(Tribune and Georgian
Parking Lot)**

For more information
visit

www.smcmarket.com

Employee of the Month

The City of St. Marys would like to take a moment to congratulate Pete Sloan of the Public Works Department for a job well done and being selected as Employee of the Month for February, 2008. Great job and Keep up the good work!





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CITY SHENANIGANS

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

Suggestion Program



The City of St. Marys has just started a new program which will allow employees the opportunity to make suggestions to other departments to help save the City money. Suggestions must show real cash savings and cannot cut services or raise taxes. Now, here is the plus side of things for the employees: If your idea is implemented, you could be awarded 10% of the savings or up to \$3,000.00 after it has shown real savings over a documented six month period. So, if you think you might have a better way of doing something and you would like to make some extra money, engage your brain and make a suggestion. For information on the rules and forms, contact Lori Whitlow and check out next month's newsletter for more details on how this will all work!

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.

Name the Newsletter

The City Newsletter needs a name, but for now we have jovially called it City Shenanigans. In the first edition, the title read "XXXX XXXX News," but we are asking the employees of the City of St. Marys to please take an active role in this newsletter and make a suggestion for the permanent name. You may email your ideas to lori.whitlow@tds.net or you may put it in writing and turn it in to your Department Head. Tell us what you think, we are looking forward to your responses.



Pass the Popcorn Please



BUSINESS NAME

Interested in a little cultural diversion? Come to the library and enjoy some unique films. Each one is outstanding, but a little different from the mainstream culture. So come to one, come to some, or come to all. Showtime's are each Wednesday at 2:00 and 5:45 pm.

April Features:

- Wed., April 2nd "The Prize Winner"
- Wed., April 9th "No Reservations"
- Wed., April 16th "Jane Austin Book Club"
- Wed., April 23rd "Happy Feet"
- Wed., April 30th "World's Fastest Indian"

