

Denton Town News

A bi-monthly newsletter published by the Denton Town Council

Vol. 16, No. 2

March - April 2008

Free

Avoid Water Disconnections

Utility Bills are mailed out quarterly around the 1st of the month in January, April, July, and October, and are due to be paid by the 25th of the month in which they are issued. Interest at the rate of 1% is added on the 26th.

Past due notices (red cards) will be mailed on the 26th for any account that has an overdue balance, this is the **FINAL REMINDER** prior to having the water service shut off.

Payments can be made during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m., or after hours by placing the payment in an envelope in the night deposit box located to the right of the front door outside the Town Office building.

Water service will be turned off for accounts that are not paid on time.

Once the water has been turned off for non-payment those accounts will be assessed a service charge in

order to have the water turned back on. The water turn-on service charge is \$50.00 if turned back on before 3:30p.m. and \$100.00 for after hours. This fee is subject to change.

As always, it is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that payments are made in a timely manner.

Landlords and property managers who have arrangements for the tenants to pay the bills, please be sure to forward the bills to the tenants immediately upon receiving them to ensure prompt payment and to avoid shut off issues. In the past several tenants have stated that they do not receive the bill until the day it is due or when late notices have been sent.

Failure to receive the bill does not relieve the responsibility of the payment that is due. If a citizen is unable to make their payment by the due date, please contact the Finance Department at 410-479-2050 prior to the due date.

Commonly Asked Questions on the Homestead Tax Credit Application

1. What is this new law that requires homeowners to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit? Why is it needed?

Legislation enacted by the 2007 session of the General Assembly will require homeowners to submit a one-time application in order to continue their eligibility for the homestead tax credit. The homestead credit limits the amount of assessment increase on which a homeowner will pay property taxes in that tax year on the one property actually used as the owner's principal residence. The reason why the application process was needed is because some property owners were improperly receiving the credit on vacation homes and rented properties. County and municipal governments were losing

tax revenues needed to provide important services to their residents. The only way to verify residency of the homeowner is to require an application and have the filer provide his or her Social Security number.

2. Why should I want to submit the homestead application?

Because of assessment increases and because of the low assessment caps adopted by the county governments, most homeowners in the State have been receiving substantial homestead credits each year on their property tax bills. Anne Arundel County has been limiting taxable assessment increases to 2%. The homestead caps in Baltimore City and Baltimore County have been limiting the taxable assessment increases to 4%. Prince George's County government has been

Homestead Tax Credit Application

Effective October 1, 2007, a new law enacted by the 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly requires all homeowners to make a one-time application in order to be eligible to receive or continue receiving the Homestead Tax Credit. The Homestead Tax Credit law limits each year the amount of assessment increase on which an eligible resident homeowner actually pays County, Municipal and State property taxes. The application is required to insure that all property owners receive the credit on the one property used as their principal residence and not on properties used for other purposes, such as a rental or vacation home.

In order to submit a Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility Application

through this website you must have been issued, from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, an application form containing your Real Property Account Number and an Access Number. You will be required to enter the Account and Access Numbers as part of the submission process.

If you have not received an application, you may obtain one by visiting http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/Homestead_app.htm to access a PDF version of the form which can be completed and mailed to the Department of Assessments and Taxation, Homestead Tax Credit Division, 301 W Preston St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201.

NOTE FROM THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION:

Property owners who use a property as their principal residence will receive an assessment notice containing a Homestead Tax Credit Application for the first time this year beginning January 1, 2008. This one-time application must be submitted in order to ensure that the credit is granted only on eligible properties and not on properties that are rented or used as vacation homes. The applications can be filed on-line at the Department's website by April 1, 2008 or after April 1st by mailing the paper form in the postage paid envelope included in the assessment notice. Homeowners not reassessed until 2009 or 2010 can wait until then to submit a Homestead Tax Credit application. Homeowners failing to apply by December 31, 2012 will lose their homestead tax credit.

limiting assessment increases to 4%. If a homeowner is later made ineligible for the credit for failure to submit an application, he or she may receive a substantial increase in the property tax bill without the credit.

3. What government agency is sending out these applications?

The Department of Assessments and Taxation will include the application in the Assessment Notices mailed to one-third of the property owners on December 28, 2007. **Homeowners whose properties are not in that one-third of the county being**

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Town Calendar

All meetings are held in the Denton Town Office Conference Room at 13 North Third Street, unless otherwise noted.

Town Council Meeting at 7 p.m. Police Department

March 13
April 7

Planning Commission Meeting at 6 p.m.

March 25
April 29

Historic Review Meeting at 6 p.m.

March 19
April 16

Utility Commission Meeting 7 p.m. Wastewater Treatment Plant on Legion Road

March 13
April 10

Town Holidays

The Town Office will be closed on the following days:

March 21

Trash Pickup
Collection day will be on every Tuesday, unless otherwise noted in the Times Record. Trash must be outside for pickup by 6 a.m.

Web Page Address:
www.dentonmaryland.com

QUESTIONS from page 1

reassessed this year can wait until their properties are assessed in the next two years to submit an application. New purchasers of properties also will be mailed a homestead application by the Department.

4. What is the Department of Assessments and Taxation doing to assist homeowners with filing their applications?

First, the homestead application form included in the Assessment Notice advises the homeowner that he or she can file the application electronically by going to the Department's website at www.dat.state.md.us. Each property owner's application form has a unique 8-digit security "Access Number" for submitting the application on the internet. Second, the Department also provides in the Assessment Notice a postage paid return envelope for homeowners who want to submit the paper homestead application form. Third, you may contact the Homestead Tax Credit Division at (410) 767-2165 or toll free outside the Baltimore Metro area at (866) 650-8783 for individual questions.

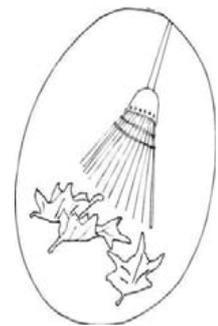
5. What is the Department of Assessments and Taxation doing to ensure the confidentiality of my Social Security number that I am required to provide on the homestead tax credit application form?

The Department has a 29-year history of receiving and absolutely protecting confidential Social Security numbers and income tax return information received from hundreds of thousands of homeowners applying for the Homeowners' Tax Credit Program based on income. These same protections and additional protections will be provided to protect the confidentiality of Social Security numbers supplied on homestead tax credit applications. For those homeowners who submit applications electronically, the Department's website is an "encrypted" protected site that uses the unique 8-digit security "Access Number" and scrambles the individual Social Security numbers. For those homeowners who submit a paper application, there is a series of administrative procedures and protections under federal law that the Department follows in accordance with the strict non-disclosure and safeguard activities required of the agency because of our receipt of

federal income tax information. If you receive a reassessment notice dated December 28, 2007 you may file the Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility application three ways:

1. Mail the paper application included with your reassessment notice.
2. Use the online Homestead Eligibility Application.
3. Print and mail the pdf application available on their site.

SPRING LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION



SEE PAGE 6 FOR
MORE INFO

What is the Homestead Credit?

What is the Homestead Credit?

To help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence, state law has established the Homestead Property Tax Credit. The Homestead Credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage. Every county

and municipality in Maryland is required to limit taxable assessment increases to 10% or less each year.

Technically, the Homestead Credit does not limit the market value of the property as determined by the Department of Assessments and Taxation. Instead, it is actually a credit calculated on any assessment increase exceeding 10% (or the

lower cap enacted by the local governments) from one year to the next. The credit is calculated based on the 10% limit for purposes of the State property tax, and 10% or less (as determined by local governments) for purposes of local taxation. In other words, the homeowner pays no property tax on the market value increase which is above the limit.

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REMINDER...

*It's Daylight Savings
Time Again.*



Set your clocks **FORWARD**
one hour before you go to
bed Saturday night
March 8th!

May/June Issue Deadline

April 4th, 2008

email articles of interest to: lorendorf@dentonmaryland.com



**High Water Bills?
Check your
faucets and toilets
for leaks!**

*Denton Public Works
410-479-2050*

Calendar of Events

March

7 - Capitol Brass Quintet

7p.m. *FREE Concert. Second Story Live Stage, Central Library in Denton.* Classical and memorable. A longtime favorite from Delaware directed by Donald Banschbach.

8 - 2nd Story Live Concert: Dave Potts

7:30p.m. *Central Library, Denton* Vivid story-teller, accomplished guitarist, and gripping entertainer with a smooth, flannel voice, Dave Potts is indeed many things. As his t-shirts wryly proclaim, Dave is "Always in style, breathtakingly handsome, He's good folk."



9 - Daylight Savings time begins

9 - Caroline Co. Historic Society - John Wilson Furniture & Portrait Discussions, 2:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Museum of Rural Life, 2nd and Gay St. John Wilson discusses furniture and portraits at the Museum of Rural Life. Contact Carol Stockley 410-479-1750 for more info.

14 - Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt.

7:30p.m.-9:00p.m. *Small fee. Preston Elementary Playground/field.*

Sponsored by Caroline Parks & Rec.

When the sun goes down, the fun begins. This variation of the traditional Easter Egg Hunt will provide new fun and excitement for all. Kids ages 3-10 years old will hunt eggs in the dark using only a flashlight and their own night vision. Plenty of prizes, games and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Each participant needs to bring a flashlight (size is limited to size 2 D batteries). Parent/guardian must attend. Contact Linda Rees 410-479-8120

14 - NCHS Thespians, Scenes from "The Ash Girl" 7:00p.m. *FREE Admission, Central Library, Denton*

15 - Irish Party w/LIVE band, Gypsy Wind & Dinner Buffet, 6:30 p.m. \$25 per person includes dinner buffet and music. *Museum of Rural Life, 2nd St and Gay, Denton, Sponsored by Caroline Co. Historic Society.*

Joke-telling, bag-piping and terrific Irish food and drink, will be a call for 'party pieces' in the great Irish tradition of allowing local talent to perform their songs or jigs! Enjoy LIVE music

with Gypsy Wind performing Celtic/American music featuring fiddle, banjo, pennywhistle and guitar. A lovely evening for the wearing of the green where everyone is 'Irish' for a day. Call 410-479-1750 for more information.

15 - Soup'n Walk

11:00a.m.-1:30p.m. *Adkins Arboretum \$18 for member, \$20 general public.*

The themed guided walk will focus on birds and butterflies of the meadow, seasonal colors, and nuts and berries. The menus and nutrition talk will focus on the vegetables, fruits, beans, whole grains and fats recommended for a healthy diet. Copies of recipes are provided. Call 410-634-2847 for more info.

17 - Books Plus / Down & Out in London & Paris by George Orwell, 7p.m.-9p.m. *Central Library, Denton*

23 - Happy Easter!

28 - SSUUNA

7p.m. *FREE Admission, Central Library, Denton.* Dance, songs & stories from Uganda.

April

4 - Robin Spielberg performs

7p.m. *FREE Admission. Central Library, Denton.* Concert pianist/composer.

10 - Youth Art Exhibit Awards Reception

6:30p.m. *FREE Admission. Central Library, Denton.*

Exhibit open April 10 through May 25

Monday & Friday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The Caroline County Council of Arts in conjunction with the Women's Club of Denton and the Caroline County Public Library is pleased to host the annual Youth Art Exhibit. Open to all Caroline County students in grades 4 through 12, help encourage, celebrate, and share the spirit of art within Caroline's youth! Log on to www.carolinearts.org for more info.

12 - Arbor Day Run and family fun run/dash.

Adkins Arboretum, registration 8a.m. - 8:45a.m. Start time 9:00a.m.

Join fellow runners and nature enthusiasts for the third annual Arbor Day Run. The event will feature a 5K run and a Family Fun Run/Dash. Participants will catch glimpses of spring as they

traverse the cross-country course plotted along the Arboretum's network of scenic forest and meadow paths. Prizes will be awarded. To register, call 410-634-2847

12 - 2nd Story Live Concert: Bill Stains

7:30p.m. *FREE Admission. Central Library, Denton.* One of the most admired and imitated writers on the contemporary folk circuit; although his third appearance at 2nd Story, his admirers claim that "he is a storyteller with a gift for transporting the listener into the body of his songs."

12 - Historic Society Mason/Dixon Stones

2:00 p.m. *Location to be determined.*

The Greensboro Historical Society will host this informative event. For more info. call 410-479-1750.

12 - Little League Parade

14 - Books Plus / The Wished-For Country by Wayne Karlin, 7p.m.-9p.m. *Central Library, Denton*

26 - Soup'n Walk

11:00a.m.-1:30p.m. *Adkins Arboretum \$18 for member, \$20 general public.*

The themed guided walk will focus on birds and butterflies of the meadow, seasonal colors, and nuts and berries. The menus and nutrition talk will focus on the vegetables, fruits, beans, whole grains and fats recommended for a healthy diet. Copies of recipes are provided. Call 410-634-2847 for more info.

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- *Caroline Co. Public Library*
410-479-1343
www.caro.lib.md.us/library

- *Caroline Co. Recreation and Parks*
#410-479- 8120
www.carolinerecreation.org

- *Caroline Co. Council of Arts*
#410-479-1009
www.carolinearts.org

- *Adkins Arboretum*
#410-634-2847
www.adkinsarboretum.org

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Denton Police Department...

Upcoming CERT Training

Denton Police Department invites you to be a part of the upcoming CERT training.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family and your neighbors in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting training in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property.

As a member of a CERT team, you can respond to disasters, participate in drills and exercises, and take additional training. CERT teams are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities.

Under the directions of local emergency responders, CERT teams help provide critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims, providing damage assessment information, and organizing other volunteers at a disaster site. Volunteers trained in CERT also offer a potential workforce for performing duties such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuation. The roll of a CERT volunteer is to help others until trained emergency personnel arrive.

In addition to supporting emergency responders during a disaster, the CERT program builds strong working relationships between emergency responders and the people they serve. CERT teams also help the community year-round by helping with community emergency plans, neighborhood exercises, preparedness outreach,

fire safety education, and workplace safety.

CERT training takes about 20 hours to complete and provides critical skills in emergency preparedness and response.

Participants learn how to:

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- Extinguish small fires
- Assist emergency responders
- Conduct light search and rescue
- Set up medical treatment areas
- Apply basic medical techniques
- Help reduce survivor stress

Who should take CERT training?

- People interested in taking an active role in hometown preparedness
- Neighborhood Watch groups
- Community leaders
- Parents
- Communities of faith
- Students, teachers, and administrators
- Members of clubs and civic organizations.

If you are interested in taking this training or have any questions regarding upcoming classes, please contact the Denton Police Department at (410) 479-1414 <mailto:rcox@dentonmaryland.com>.

Shelter in Place

On Thursday, Feb. 7th, the film "Shelter In Place" was shown at the Denton Police Department. The film, produced by the Homeland Responders Distance Learning Center, introduced ways that we can properly prepare by putting a "Shelter in Place" in the event of a disaster. It gave insight on how to develop a plan for public buildings and residences giving key components and issues like knowing your population and performing a risk assessment. It showed ways to make your plan efficient by evaluating and pre-selecting a location, assign responsibilities, plan steps to implement and execute plan, and how to prepare a shelter in place kit.

The film also gave insight on following instructions from emergency response organizations like the Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency,

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Chemical Studies and your local Fire and Police Departments.

The film gave insight on the psychological effects and impact that can affect how you implement your plan.

Shelter in Place is NOT evacuation. It's not a system to evacuate people out of a building or move them to a place of safety. It is not for long term emergencies.

The film shows how to cover your HVAC systems to reduce filtrations and how to put together a Shelter In Place kit.

Visit the following websites for more information on how to keep you and your community safe.

- www.redcross.org
- www.fema.gov
- www.cdc.gov
- www.nicsinfo.org

Address Numbers Required on all Properties

The Denton Town Code requires that all Residential Housing units and Commercial Buildings have address numbers posted on the front of the building. Multi-family units should have the main address number posted on the front of the building and apartment or suites numbers should be posted on or near the entrance door to each individual unit.

Address numbers must be at least 3 inches high and should be posted on the house/building near the door in a location that is visible from the public right of way. Additionally, property owners are encouraged to place numbers on both sides of mailboxes at the street.

Staff will be giving a gentle reminder in the form of a red door tag notifying property owners of this requirement. Please get the numbers posted by March 15th.

House numbers are readily available at hardware, lumber and variety stores, they are inexpensive and assist emergency personnel in locating your home.

Don't let your family members experience the trauma of a delay in getting emergency assistance because you failed to post the address number on the outside of your building. **This will be strictly enforced and non-complying property owners may be fined.**

Denton Town News Subscription

If you would like to receive the bi-monthly town paper and are not currently on our mailing list, please complete the information below and drop it off at the town office or mail to: Town Office, 13 N. 3rd St., Denton, MD 21629

Name _____
 Address _____

Denton Police Department
410-479-1414

Police Department Press Releases

Date: 11/25/2007

Classification: Theft less than \$100

Location: 700 block N. Sixth St.

Denton Police are investigating a theft. Employees of Goose Creek contacted police after an unknown white male attempted to purchase merchandise valuing approximately \$75.00, using a Visa gift card. When the clerk processed the card, it was declined. The suspect then left the store with the merchandise. The suspect is further described as a white male, approximately 6 feet tall with a very thin build and wearing glasses.

Employees of the High's Store also reported that a male, matching the description as the suspect at Goose Creek, had also taken merchandise from their store after a Visa gift card was declined as a method of payment. The merchandise taken from High's was valued at approximately \$50.00.

Anyone with information regarding these matters is asked to contact the Denton Police Department at 410-479-1414.

Date: 11/29/2007

Classification: MDOP Under \$500

The Denton Police are investigating an MDOP. Robert Garrett reported that person(s) unknown, using an unknown object caused damage to his 2002 Dodge pick-up. The truck was parked at the town lot on Third St. Estimated damage is \$300.00. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 11/29/2007

Classification: CDS Paraphernalia 1st Offense

Location: Lincoln St.

Denton Police arrested Marvin Nichols, 59 year old male of Cambridge, for possession of drug paraphernalia. Police were following up on an unrelated matter and had the occasion to seek Nichols' identification. A warrant check revealed that Nichols was wanted by the Cambridge Police Department.

Nichols was arrested on that warrant and a search of Nichols' person incident to the arrest revealed a pipe believed to be used as a smoking device for ingesting illegal drugs. Nichols was held at the detention center on \$250 bail.

Date: 11/30/2007

Classification: Deadly Weapon on School Property

Location: 400 block Lockerman St.

Denton Police referred a 13 year old male of Greensboro to the Department of Juvenile Justice for weapons violations. Police were called to Lockerman Middle School by staff after a teacher observed a student with a knife. The knife, a 4-inch fixed blade, and a 9mm bullet were taken from the boy by staff. The youth was transported to Denton P.D. where he was processed and referred to DJJ, charged with carrying a dangerous weapon concealed and carrying a dangerous weapon on school property. The boy was released to a guardian.

Date: 12/1/2007

Classification: Theft: \$500 plus value

Location: 300 block Carter Ave.

Denton Police are investigating a theft from a motor vehicle. Roger Layton reported that person(s) unknown entered his 2006 Toyota pickup that was parked unlocked and removed several items of clothing and various hunting items having a total value of approximately \$819.00. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 12/06/2007

Classification: MDOP over \$500

Location: 300 block Kerr Ave.

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP. Harry Kirkwood reported that person(s) unknown caused damage to his 2001 Chevrolet car by denting three of the four doors and cutting one tire. The vehicle was parked at Kirkwood's residence when that damage occurred. Damage is estimated at over \$500. Anyone with information regarding this

matter is asked to contact Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 12/15/2007

Classification: Disorderly Conduct

Location: 500 block Market St.

Charges are pending on a 16 year old male from Ridgely. Police were called to 502 Market Street in reference to a disorderly and possibly intoxicated subject. Police observed that the subject was very unsteady on his feet, had an odor of alcoholic beverage about his breath and person and was argumentative towards police. The subject was transported to Denton P.D. to attempt to locate a parent or guardian. Police were able to make contact with the youth's grandfather who responded to pick the subject up. Due to the youth's apparent extreme intoxicated condition it was decided to allow him to leave with his grandfather. The youth will be charged at a later date with disorderly conduct and possession of an alcoholic beverage while under the age of 21.

Date: 12/19/2007

Classification: MDOP Under \$500

Location: 0 block N Fourth St.

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP. Michael Daniels reported that person(s) unknown broke out the glass of Daniels front storm door. It appeared that the suspect(s) threw a flower pot at the door, striking the door and causing the glass to break. The door is valued at \$300.00. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police Dept. at 410-479-1414.

Date: 12/21/2007

Classification: Driving w/o license

Location: 700 block N. Sixth St.

Denton Police arrested Dominic Savage, 18 year old male of Denton, for driving without a license. Police were traveling west on Shore Highway in the area of Market Street when they observed a vehicle, later identified as a 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier, that appeared to

be traveling over the posted 55 mph speed limit. A pace of the vehicle was obtained at 65 mph and the vehicle was stopped. The operator was identified as Dominic Savage, 18 year old male of Denton, who stated to police that he did not have a driver's license. This was confirmed through Caroline Communications. Savage was taken into custody without incident and issued a citation for driving without a license. Savage was processed and released on his signature.

Date: 12/26/2007

Classification: Driving on revoked license

Location: 700 block N Sixth St.

Denton Police charged Dennis Proffitt, 29 year old male of Denton, with operating a motor vehicle on a revoked license. Police observed Proffitt fail to stop at a stop sign when exiting Goose Creek. A check of Proffitt's driving status revealed he was suspended or revoked. Police also determined that the tags on the Blazer did not belong on it. Proffitt was issued citations for driving revoked, driving an unregistered motor vehicle and failing to stop at a stop sign and released on his signature.

Date: 12/27/2007

Classification: MDOP Under \$500

Location: Denton Plaza

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP to a vehicle. It was reported to Police that person(s) unknown broke out two windows on a 2004 Chevrolet work van that was parked at Denton Plaza. Damage is estimated at \$473.00 and nothing was taken from the vehicle. Anyone with information is asked to contact Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 12/27/2007

Classification: Theft less than \$100

Location: 400 block S. Seventh St.

Denton Police arrested Keith Briscoe, 18 year old male, and a 17 year old male, both of Denton,

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Housing and Community Development...

Historic Review Vacancy

The Denton Historic Review Commission is accepting letters of interest from Denton residents that are interested in serving on their board. The Historic Review Commission reviews Historic District building permit applications as regulated by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Interested applicants are required to have professional qualifications by special



interest, knowledge, or training in history, architecture, archaeology, preservation, construction, or urban design.

The Historic Review Commission meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Letters of interest should be submitted to the Denton Town Council, 13 N. Third Street, Denton, MD 21629.

Call 410-479-3625 for additional information.

Choptank Athletic Association



Choptank Athletic Association is a board of Caroline County Citizens that are developing a sports complex behind the Food Lion plaza in Denton. This complex will consist of softball fields, a football field, soccer fields, a skateboard park, and possibly more. To date, this area of the County is the only area in surrounding counties that does not have a sports complex. CAA's goal is to change that and provide a place for children to play on brand new, fully manicured fields. Currently, softball and soccer fields are located behind Denton Elementary School, and will be eventually done away with, requiring teams to relocate. Currently, Pop Warner Football is being played on a makeshift field behind the Health Department in Denton. Before that, football teams were able to play at the high school, but were eventually asked to relocate their games. Having a football field, softball fields, and soccer fields at this complex, teams will have a place to call their own. To date, skaters don't have a designated area to ride, and once the complex is completed, Denton will have its very own skate park.

CAA is seeking funding from

various businesses and organizations to help this project become a reality. To date, the Denton American Legion has pledged to construct a flag court memorial in the center of the complex. The board will continue to seek pledges and funding before, during, and after the project is completed. There is no set completion date; however the first construction phase of the project will be forestation (the required planting of trees on the property). The board members are Troy Mentecki (President), Phil Clark (Vice President), Mindy Williams (Secretary/Treasurer), Gene Robbins, Dean Danielson, Mark Chandler, Jeff Eigenbrode, and Brandon Nier.

In addition to seeking funding for this project, CAA also participates in various fund raisers (i.e. dances, raffles, Summerfest, golf tournaments etc). The next event will be the annual CAA



Golf Tournament at Caroline Country Club on May 16th, 2008. Choptank Athletic Association welcomes volunteers and contributors to help with this community project. For further information, updates, and e-mail addresses, please visit www.choptankathletic.org.

Building Permits

The following is a list of permits issued by the Town of Denton between December 1, 2007 and January 31, 2008:

Choptank Supply, 802 Crystal Ave., Mechanical
Garland & Hobbs, 1400 Cattail Commons Way, Single Family Dwelling
Crew, 101 S. 8th St., Fence
Maywood, 1112 Market St., Roof
Caroline County Council of Arts, 401 Market St., Roof
Peterson, 209 S. 5th Ave., Mechanical

Phillips, 1124 Market St., Rehab
Judge Yachts, 9531 Legion Rd., Accessory Building
Dadds, 116 Caroline Drive, Deck
Griffith, 110 Franklin St., Stairway
Cook, 9691 Foy Rd., Addition
Buckler, 1606 Cattail Commons Way, Fence
Wright, 9994 Pearson Rd., Accessory Building
Durham, 314 S. 5th Ave., Windows
Dansker, 1104 Canvasback Lane, Fence
Town of Denton, 15 S. Third St., Sign

Special Spring Loose Leaf Collection

that are scheduling



The Town of Denton will be providing a special spring loose leaf collection service to vacuum up leaves left over from the fall. The Denton Public Works Department is scheduling their loose leaf removal service to occur on **Friday April 18, Monday April 21, Friday April 25, and Monday April 28, 2008**. Leaves must be bagged for pickup the remaining months of the year.

Leaf pickups will occur on Friday or Monday pending work load. It will be necessary to call in your leaf pick up request by 12 NOON on Thursday to guarantee pickup by Monday.

Bagged leaf collection will still take place on Wednesdays and must be called in to the town office by 12 NOON on Tuesdays.

Citizens are encouraged to call the Town Office at 410-479-2050 during regular business hours or during non-business hours to leave their requests on the Town Office answering machine, ext. 25.

Please follow these guidelines for leaf removal:

- Rake leaves to the curbside or alley
- DO NOT rake leaves into the street
- DO NOT rake leaves onto the sidewalk
- Make sure all sticks and limbs are removed from the pile of leaves
- Make sure there are no other objects or debris mixed with the leaves (like bottles or other trash)
- Piles of leaves with sticks, limbs or other debris will not be picked up
- Phone in your pickup request to the Town Office at 410-479-2050 by Thursday to guarantee pickup by Monday
- All pickups will be done by request/appointment only
- Loose leaf pickups will occur from April 18 through April 28, on Mondays and Fridays only. Leaves must be bagged any other time.

Housing and Community Development
410-479-3625

Caroline Co. Arts Council Offers Arts Scholarship

A scholarship fund has been established by the Caroline County Council of Arts in honor of Mark Grande, who was the CCCA Executive Director before his death in 2005. Mark was an extremely talented man who gave freely of his time in a number of areas. In addition to his duties with the CCCA, he was a musician and photographer.

His daughter, Lauren Y. Grande says her father was "a very giving and generous person. He was a kind, loving and great father." At Lauren's request, the CCCA has established a scholarship fund for graduating Caroline County students who are pursuing studies in the performing & visual arts.

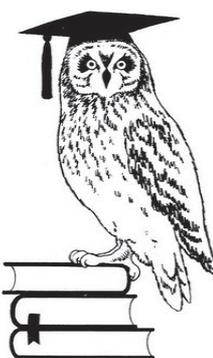
This year the CCCA will award

two (2) \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors planning to attend college in the Fall of 2008. Students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The submission deadline is March 15, 2008. Scholarship recipients will be notified by the end of May 2008 and award certificates will be presented at the high school's Awards Ceremony.

To obtain an application and more information, please visit the CCCA website at www.carolinearts.org and click on Scholarships.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please send donations to:

CCCA
P O Box 292
Denton MD 21629



13th Annual Eastern Shore Regional Poetry Contest



The 13th Annual Eastern Shore Regional Poetry Contest is open to all Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot County residents, students, or employees.

Poems must be unpublished work, awarded no prizes or public acknowledgement.

All entries must be typed with a maximum length of 20 stanzas or 3 pages per entry. Rhyming poems are not required.

Participants are limited to two entries. Each entry must be submitted in duplicate without any personal information. For more detailed entry information and an application form, log on to the Caroline Co. Council of Arts website www.carolinearts.org and click on Programs.

Deadline for entry submission: March 1, 2008 Entries can be mailed to: Queen Anne's County Arts Council Poetry Contest

P.O. Box 218
Centreville, MD 21617

Judging categories include:

- Seniors - 60+
- Adults - 18 - 59
- Students - grades 9-12
- Children and youth - grades 1-8

All entrants are invited to join us at the O'Neill Literary House at Washington College in Chestertown for the April 19th announcement and public reading of award winning entries at 6:30pm. Winners will be notified in early April and asked to give a reading of their winning entry at the awards event April 19th.

Prizes:

- First place - \$100 per division
- Second place - \$50 per division
- Third place - \$25 per division

For more information and an application form contact the Caroline Co. Council of Arts online at www.carolinearts.org and click on Programs or call 410-479-1009.

Grass Cutting Time Is Here Again

Please take a moment to assess the need for mowing on your property. The Town of Denton would like to have all grass and weeds at ten inches in height or below to prevent insect and rodent infestation

and to control growth of plants.

Avoid discharging grass clippings from mowers into the street. Grass clippings contribute to storm drain clogs. Thank you.

Short Story Contest

The Caroline Co. Council of Arts invites you to participate in the 6th Annual Short Story Contest.

All residents of Caroline County, except members of the Board of Directors of the Council and their immediate family members, may enter the contest.

Only one story per person may be submitted. Stories should be less than 2500 words and each story must be the original and unpublished work of the entrant. Adults may assist children in the 8th grade or lower with spelling, punctuation, and typing or word processing.

Prize Categories: 1st prize 2nd prize 3rd prize

Kindergarten through third grade \$15.00 \$10.00 \$5.00

Fourth through sixth grade \$15.00 \$10.00 \$5.00

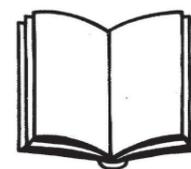
Seventh through ninth grade \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00

Tenth through twelfth grade \$50.00 \$35.00 \$20.00

Adult \$100.00 \$75.00 \$50.00

All manuscripts become the

property of the Caroline County Council of Arts, Inc. The authors retain all other rights. The authors agree to allow publication of their stories by the Caroline County Council of Arts, Inc.



Winners will be notified as soon as judging is completed. All entrants will be invited to attend a reception in their honor at the Central Branch of the Caroline County Public Library in Denton.

First prize winners will be asked to read their stories aloud.

Entries must be received at a branch of the Caroline County Public Library no later than 5:00p.m. on Saturday, April 19, 2008.

For more information and an application form contact the Caroline Co. Council of Arts online at www.carolinearts.org and click on Programs or call 410-479-1009.



Denton Public Works...

Preventing Sewer Backups



Have you ever stopped to think about what happens after you flush? All of the “used” water from your toilets, tubs, sinks, washers, etc. flows into a hidden world of underground sewer pipes. Putting items down the drain that should be put into your garbage is a frequent cause of sewer backups and damage to the sewage treatment plant and equipment.

Wastewater flows through the small sewer lateral on your property to the larger sewer main in the street. These pipes become clogged from grease, rags, roots, toys, plastics, paper dishes, etc, eventually leading to a sewer backup into your home or business. Solid or viscous substances discharged into the sewer pipes may also damage equipment at the pumping stations.

Besides violating the sewer code of the Town of Denton, blockages can be expensive. When blockages occur, extra manpower is required to remedy the situation. Continued clogging of the equipment also leads to costly repair bills.

What can you do to help avoid problems in the sewer system?

- Do not put grease, oil, or egg

shells down your sink. Oil sticks to the pipe at the waterline and grease and egg shells combine to create a mixture similar to concrete. Leftover grease should be poured into an open container, allowed to cool, and disposed of in your garbage.

- Do not place paper towels, baby wipes, diapers, coffee grounds, dental floss, sanitary napkins, wood, plastic, feathers,



metal, glass, or other non-organic materials into the bathroom toilet or kitchen sink. Place them in an empty container or plastic bag and dispose of in your garbage.

- Avoid planting trees with shallow, spreading root systems near pipes. Tree roots enter the sewer lateral or main through small cracks in the pipes and small openings in the joints of the pipe. If you experience blockages because of roots, your lateral should be repaired or placed on a routine maintenance cleaning schedule to keep the roots out of the pipe.

For information on how a wastewater treatment plant works, visit <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu>.

Under Construction

Proposed projects for Public Works include the Lockerman Pump Station upgrade, reconstruction of 5th Avenue, and the North Denton Rehabilitation. The design is completed and funding is in place for the Lockerman Pump Station upgrade. The goal is to have this project completed in 2008. The design phase for the 5th Avenue reconstruction is completed



and the Town is in the process of seeking funding. The North Denton Rehabilitation project is in the design phase. The project includes road reconstruction, sidewalk improvements, and sewer and water upgrades on High Street, North 3rd Street, Lockerman, and Caroline. Read the *Denton Town News* for updates.

How Does Denton’s Wastewater Treatment Plant Work?

First of all, just in case you don’t know what a wastewater treatment plant is, the other term is a Sewage Treatment Facility. Simply put, what goes down your drains and toilets travels through miles of underground piping and eventually ends up at our plant. Some cities also receive storm water into their wastewater plant; however, Denton does not.

The Town’s facility, designed to take up to 800,000 gallons of flow per day, takes in a daily flow of approximately 350,000 gallons. This plant is designed to remove solids from the water, reduce organic matter, pollutants, and nutrients, and recycle it back to the Choptank River. Sounds simple, right? Actually, this process is quite intricate from start to finish. When the flow enters the plant, solids are screened out (paper, rags, plastic, etc), then grit is removed from the flow stream (egg shells, coffee grounds, sand, etc). The next step is biological aeration treatment. This phase of treatment removes Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), total suspended solids, ammonia, and nitrogen. Next, phosphorous is removed by means of chemical precipitation. After that, the water is clarified and chlorinated. As the flow approaches the end of the plant, the water is dechlorinated, and then

safely discharged into the Choptank River. The finished product is a crystal clear, significantly reduced pollutants, oxygen enriched water that will help to promote a safe and healthy ecosystem for fish, animals, birds, and people. The solids removed from the flow stream are pumped in a liquid form (sludge) on to reed drying beds. The reeds absorb moisture from the sludge, and assist in breaking it down.

All treated wastewater (effluent) returned to natural bodies of water are required to meet stringent requirements set forth by the National Discharge Pollution Elimination System (NPDES). To achieve this, Denton’s facility has a laboratory in which most required tests are done in house (dissolved oxygen, pH, total chlorine residual, BOD, total suspended solids, ammonia, nitrogen, total phosphorus, and fecal coliform). Many tests are required to be performed daily and weekly to meet our NPDES discharge permit. Plant operators are required to be state certified and are required to maintain continuing education credits to sustain certification. For any further questions on how Denton’s plant works, contact Mark Chandler, Water/Wastewater Operations Team Leader, at 410-479-5446.

Work Zone Driving Safety



Across the nation, nearly 1,000 people die and more than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones. The following tips are offered for driving safely in work zone areas:

- **Slow down.** Speeding and aggressive driving are major contributors to work zone crashes.
- **Expect the unexpected.** Normal speed limits are often reduced, traffic lanes are often changed, and people are often

working on or near the road.

- **Don’t tailgate.** Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you (use the 3-second rule). The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear-end collision.

- **Obey road crew flaggers.** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely through the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.

Continue to next page



NOONTUNES
COMING IN MAY

Continued from previous page

- **Keep a safe distance** between you and the construction workers and their equipment.
- **Pay attention to the signs.** The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you have left the work zone.
- **Stay alert and minimize distractions.** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving.
- **Schedule enough time** to drive safely to and from your destination. Check radio, TV, or the web (www.traffic.com, www.marylandroads.com, or [- state.md.us/\) for traffic information before you leave. Expect delays when roadwork is ongoing, and leave early so you can reach your destination safely and on time.
 - **Keep up with the flow of traffic.** Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging as soon as possible. Don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try to cut in line.
 - **Be patient and stay calm.** Work zones are not in place to inconvenience you. Please remember that the work zone crews are working to improve road conditions for you and make your future drive time safer and easier.

For more highway safety information go online to \[www.safety.fwa.gov/gov/\]\(http://www.safety.fwa.gov/gov/\) or \[www.sha.state.md.us\]\(http://www.sha.state.md.us\).](http://www.chart/

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Delmarva BIRDING Weekend



The Delmarva Birding Weekend celebrates the migration of hundreds of warblers, shorebirds, and waterfowl as well as many nesting birds and raptors. The region possesses an extensive variety of environments including barrier islands, coastal bays, tidal wetlands, cypress swamps, upland fields and primeval forests.

April 23 - 27 2008

The weekend combines boat trips, canoe treks and expeditions by foot throughout the County. Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of nature-based tourism and their habitat conservation through participation in the Delmarva Birding Weekend.

For locations and daily presentations, go to www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org or contact Jim Rapp 443-944-8097.



Come Celebrate Summerfest's 20th Year!

August 15th & 16th
Downtown Denton

Keep our city TRASH FREE

If I were Mayor, I would...

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association (MMA) invite 4th grade students throughout Maryland to participate in a statewide essay contest: "If I Were Mayor, I Would..."

The contest gives students a chance to creatively use cognitive and grade-specific language arts skills and civics/social studies knowledge.

Essay Contest Topic:

City and town governments can choose to provide many services to their citizens such as trash collection, leaf collection, recycling, snow removal, police protection, water, waste water treatment, planning for how land can be used and inspecting the safety of buildings, parks and playgrounds. Many cities and towns do not provide all of these services. The mayor and council decide what services can be provided based on what citizens want and the amount of money in the budget to pay for services. Cities and Towns may also hold special activities or festivals and partner with other community groups to help pay for these special events.

Cities and towns in Maryland are not responsible for schools. Decisions about schools are made by State and County government and each county's school board.

If you were the mayor, what types of services and community activities would you plan to offer your citizens? How would you promote your community to attract more visitors?

The Maryland Municipal League wants to hear your ideas!

Our statewide essay contest for 4th graders—"If I Were Mayor, I Would..."—lets you tell others about the services you would provide to citizens, special activities or events you would plan for citizens to enjoy and how you would attract more visitors to your city or town. Be creative with your ideas!

The 11 winners, along with their parents and a teacher, will also be recognized at the statewide Municipal Government Celebration event in May.

Contest Rules

- ✦ The contest is open to all Maryland students enrolled in the 4th grade during the 2007-2008 school year.
- ✦ Essays must address the subject with the opening line beginning: "If I Were Mayor, I Would..."
- ✦ Essays may not exceed 275 words.
- ✦ Only one essay may be submitted per student.
- ✦ Essays will be judged by contest sponsors in the following areas: essay relation to contest topic; displayed knowledge about municipal government and the role of a mayor; creativity; and proper use of grammar.
- ✦ Students must include their first and last names, school and teacher's name at the top of their essays.
- ✦ Essays must be received no later than April 1, 2008. Winners will be notified by the end of April 2008.



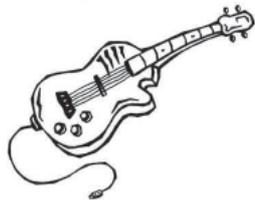
Official Entry Form

School: _____ Zip: _____
 School Address: _____ Phone #: _____
 City: _____
 County: _____
 Name of Sponsoring Teacher: _____
 Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____
 (For teachers' use only)

Denton Main Street...

Black Anchor Hosts Mike Owings for Tattoos & Blues Night

Black Anchor Tattoo and Gallery is proud to announce Tattoos and Blues Night on Saturday, March 15th at 6p.m. with legendary blues guitarist Mike Owings. Mike Owings is the former guitarist with the Allen Collins Band as well as the Molly Hatchet Band.

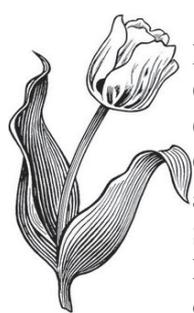


Come by and enjoy a night of Tattoos and Blues at Black Anchor Tattoo located at 211 Market Street in Denton,

Maryland. Browse their gallery of paintings for sale from local artists as well as artists from across the globe. View the artist portfolios, tattoo museum, and thousands of tattoo designs, all while enjoying the blues. Admission is free.

For more information please call 410-479-9316 or visit www.blackanchortattoo.com.

Second Annual Denton Spring Gala



The Denton Development Corporation and Caroline County Council of Arts are sponsoring the Second Annual Denton Spring Gala on Saturday, May 17th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in downtown Denton. This fund-raising event, which features local artists, restaurants, and musicians, will help fund the Denton Main Street Program, as well as create renewed interest in and visitors to historic downtown Denton. Tickets are \$15 if purchased in advance and \$20 at the door.

Denton Development Corporation works with the Denton Main Street Program, which is part of Main Street Maryland, a comprehensive downtown revitalization program created in 1998 by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The program strives to strengthen the economic potential of Maryland's traditional main streets and neighborhoods by helping selected communities improve the economy, appearance, and image of their traditional downtown business districts.

This year's gala is a progressive semi-formal event, where guests

can start at any of the participating locations within the downtown area. Guests can leisurely walk or take a horse and carriage ride between each location to enjoy local artists, restaurant and wine tastings, and musicians. Local artists will display their art in such mediums as oil, watercolor, and acrylics, as well as print-making, photography, ceramics, stained glass, basketry, and jewelry products will be available for purchase. Enjoy a street party with the band Comfort Zone, a well known band playing smooth jazz, blues, and R&B. Additional music will be provided by The Boys of Bay 100 who feature traditional Irish music. Take a chance at winning a number of wonderful gifts from an extensive silent auction and a door prize drawing.

Make sure to mark May 17th on your calendar to enjoy the best of Downtown Denton as you eat, drink, enjoy art, and dance the night away.

More details to come in the Denton town news. If you are interested in featuring your art, restaurant, musical talents, or would like to promote your business through a corporate sponsorship, please contact Jessica Perez, Denton Main Street Manager, by phone at 410-479-4315 or by e-mail at jperez@downtowndenton.com.

Get Healthy and Support Local Farms

The Eastern Shore has some of the most fertile farmland and the best farmers and producers in Maryland. Come and enjoy the fresh produce that comes from these growers at the 2008 Denton Farmers Market. Enjoy the freshest and best-tasting produce available, at this season's market on Wednesday afternoons from 3p.m. to 6p.m. during the months of Mid May through October along North 2nd Street, next to the Courthouse.

Enjoy the afternoon walking through the market to enjoy Denton's Downtown area, talk with your fellow neighbors and learn why locally grown produce is best for you and for the environment. Make this a weekly meeting place for friends and family. Or if you don't have the time, grab and go by parking in one of our convenient and free parking spots right near the market. We are very excited about this season's farmers

market; there will be a lot to see and lot to savor.

We are seeking participation from commercial farmers, cheese producers, meat producers, cut flower growers, and prepared food vendors. We are also seeking the participation of musicians who would like to create a relaxing atmosphere for our market experience. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Perez, Denton Main Street Manager, by calling 410-479-4315 or by e-mailing jperez@downtowndenton.com.

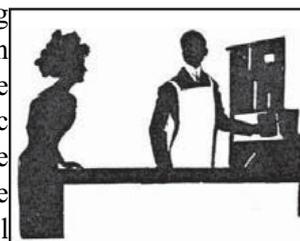
Let's bridge the gap of produce traveling an average of 1,500 miles to get to your table by supporting your local farmers and helping them sustain their farm land and their business. It's good for your neighbor, your environment, and you!

Downtown Denton Actively Seeking Businesses

Denton's Main Street Program is actively seeking businesses to call Denton's Main Street their home. Denton is ready and prepared to help retail businesses expand, relocate, or begin their journey on our Main Street. Denton is a beautiful backdrop for creating a successful downtown experience for the strong demographic that resides on the Delmarva or makes the Delmarva their travel destination. We are seeking businesses that feature such items as:

- Jewelry
- Baked Goods
- Gifts
- Make Your Own Pottery
- Home Accents
- Antiques
- Indoor/Outdoor Furniture

- Souvenirs
- Adult, Child, and Infant Clothing
- Shoes
- Ice Cream
- Art
- Books



If you are patronizing a store that you believe would be perfect for Denton's Main Street, please help promote our efforts by inquiring whether that store would like to expand or relocate.

Let's help increase the economic stability of our town by keeping our money circulating where we all can feel the impact. For more information, please contact Jessica Perez, Denton Main Street Manager, by calling 410-479-4315 or by e-mailing jperez@downtowndenton.com.

Main Street Committees Getting Stronger

The call for participation on the Main Street Program's four committees is steadily increasing. People are seeing the potential of Denton's Main Street and they want to become actively involved. They either have a vested interest from a business standpoint or they want to create the environment that they would like to enjoy in their town. We have a strong group of talented, progressive people working on our initiatives.

These committees are meeting monthly in order to move ahead on the revitalization efforts put in place for 2008.

The Design Committee is working to improve the downtown's physical appearance, which includes buildings, sidewalks, signage, window displays, parking, and more.

The Promotion Committee is working on image development through business & community events, drawing the community to the downtown area.

The Economic Restructuring Committee is working to find out what consumers want and like in

downtown Denton through market studies and surveys. They are also recruiting businesses to relocate and expand.

The Organization Committee is working to create a Main Street Association that will do such things as organize and conduct an annual nomination program for the board of directors, organize and conduct a membership drive, recruit members for the four committees, and provide education and advertising opportunities for the businesses on Main Street.

If you live or work in Denton and are interested in the revitalization efforts of the Main Street Program, we would love to have you participate. Just contact Jessica Perez, Denton Main Street Manager at 410-479-4315 or by email at jperez@downtowndenton.com.

"The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream." – James Allen We all dream of more for Denton's Main Street, let's get together to make our dreams a reality, so we can enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Local Artists Make Big Impact at Baltimore Convention

Local Denton artists Ken Motter and Mike Stevens of Black Anchor Tattoo and Gallery attended the 2008 Baltimore Tattoo Convention the weekend of February 8th, 9th and 10th. Artist Ken Motter competed with tattooists from around the world with his traditional style tattooing and was the winner of both first and third place best traditional tattoo. Mike and Ken attend several national conventions around the United States, giving hundreds of tattoo collectors a chance to proudly wear one of their award winning

tattoos. In the next few months to come they will be attending national conventions in Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley Pennsylvania as well as Columbus Ohio.

Ken and Mike frequently have customers from across America visit their Denton Maryland Studio to collect their prize winning art while they enjoy the small town charm of Denton.

Black Anchor Tattoo & Gallery is located at 211 Market Street in Denton. Visit their web site at www.blackanchortattoo.com.

Calling All Artists

The Caroline County Council of Arts has set up an Artist Registry to help support our Caroline County artists. If you are an artist and reside or work in Caroline County, please complete a registration form with the CCCA.

Registered Artists will receive routine e-mails regarding

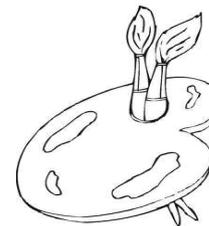
- * Calls for artists.
- * Available artist grants and grant workshops.
- * Other important artist related

information.

Working with our registered artists, we will address the artistic needs of our community.

A directory of our registered artists will be available to the public via our website and by request through our office.

For more information and to register for the Artist Registry log on to www.carolinearts.org and click on Artist Corner, Artist Registry, and our form, or call 410-479-1009.





Community Arts Center Project

Lend a Helping Hand!

...to the renovation of the historic *Wilson's Foundry Dwelling*, future home of your new Arts Center and Community Art Gallery!



Paint a Tile!

...that will become a permanent part of the Community Arts Center at 401 Market St., located in the *Artsway*, Denton's new arts and entertainment district.

Represent your family or group through art, pay tribute to some one special or design your favorite artistic feeling in paint. We encourage you to be creative!

For \$25, these tiles offer a unique opportunity for expression while supporting a worthy cause. Get involved in this great community project – hands on – with your contribution.

Tiles can be purchased and painted at Clay Bakers, 1 S. Washington St, Easton or call 410-479-1009 for more information.

All tiles will become a permanent part of the 401 Market St. Community Arts Center – the first building to be renovated in the *Artsway* – at the corner of 4th St. and Market St. in Denton.



Market Street Public House will host a Grand Opening Celebration on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, 2008.

Brian Tyler and Brendan Kelly, owners of the Irish themed pub, are excited to celebrate the opening on Ireland's famed holiday. Be Irish for a day! Put on your green and come down to the Public House for cocktails and traditional Irish fare.

Market Street Public House is located at 200 Market Street, Denton,

PRESS RELEASES from page 5
for theft under \$100.00 Paul Baker reported that person(s) unknown had removed a cell phone and his wallet, which contained \$40.00 in cash, from Baker's 2004 Honda Civic while it was parked at the HAPS building. Police were able to identify the suspects through witnesses. The juvenile was referred to the Department of Juvenile Services and Briscoe was issued a citation, charged with theft under \$100. The juvenile was released to a parent and Briscoe was released on his signature.

Date: 12/27/2007

Classification: CDS: Possession-Marihuana

Location:

Denton Police arrested Brad Smith, 36 year old male of Hurlock, Tromayne Robinson, 35 year old male of Salisbury, for possession of suspected marihuana. Police stopped a 1998 Mazda 626 for speeding (60 mph in a 50 mph zone) and identified the operator as Smith. Police immediately noted the odor of suspected burnt marihuana upon making contact. After confronting Smith with the observation Smith admitted to having a small amount of marihuana on his person. Smith was taken into custody without incident. Police then contacted Robinson who was also found to be in possession of a small quantity of suspected marihuana. Robinson was also arrested without incident. Both suspects were charged with possession of CD's. Both were released on personal recognizance by a district court commissioner.

Date: 12/29/2007

Classification: Robbery

Location: Lockerman St.

Denton Police are investigating an armed robbery. Nicholas Killen, 20 year old male of Denton, reported that he was walking on Lockerman St. when he was robbed at gunpoint of \$51.00 in cash. Killen described the suspect as an African-American male wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans. Police observed a person in the area that matched the description provided but the person fled on foot when police approached him and police were

unable to relocate that person. Killen stated the suspect held a handgun to Killen's head and took the money. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police Department at 410-479-1414.

Date: 12/31/2008

Classification: Driving on a Suspended License

Location: Shore Highway

Denton Police charged Joseph Nason, 27 year old male of Seaford, with driving on a suspended license. Police stopped a 2005 GMC pickup for speeding (71mph in a 55 mph zone) and identified the operator as Nason. A check of MVA records revealed that Nason's privilege to drive was suspended. Nason was issued citations at the scene for both offences and released on his signature.

Date: 01/01/2008

Classification: Assault 2nd Degree

Location: 500 block High St.

Denton Police arrested Larry Robinson, 21 year old male of Federalsburg, for assault. Tina Vitek reported that Robinson, her brother, had pushed her into a door frame after an argument, causing her very slight injury. Robinson was taken into custody without incident and charged with one count of second degree assault. Robinson was released on personal recognizance by a District Court Commissioner.

Date: 01/03/2008

Classification: MDOP Under \$500

Location: 400 block S Seventh St.

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP. Employees of the Caroline County Health Department reported that person(s) unknown by unknown means damaged a gate that leads to a rear patio of the Senior Center at the HAPS building. Estimated damage is \$200.00. Anyone with information concerning this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/03/2008

Classification: Driving on a Suspended License

Location: Shore Highway

Denton Police charged

Christopher Mills with driving on a suspended license. Police stopped a 2007 Honda Element for traveling 65 mph in a 55 mph zone and found the operator to be Mills. A check of MVA records revealed that Mills' privilege to drive in MD was suspended for failing to complete a driver improvement program. Mills was issued a warning for the speed and a citation for driving suspended and released on his signature.

Date: 01/07/2008

Classification: Burglary 2nd Degree/General

Location: 0 block S First St.

Denton Police are investigating a burglary. Employees of the Emerson House Restaurant reported that person(s) unknown forced open an outside storage cooler, damaging a lock valued at \$1,500, and removed approximately \$235.00 in food items and a mop valued at \$19.00. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/08/2008

Classification: Driving on a revoked license

Denton Police charged William Murray, 42 year old male of Dover, with driving on a revoked license. Police observed a 1991 Chevrolet Beretta fail to stop at a stop sign. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was found to be Murray. A check of MVA records revealed that Murray's privilege to drive in MD was revoked. Murray was issued a warning for not stopping at a stop sign and a citation for driving revoked and released on his signature.

Date: 01/08/2008

Classification: Theft Under \$500

Location: 500 block Kerr Ave.

Denton Police are investigating a theft. Evelyn Towers reported that person(s) unknown removed \$140.00 in cash from her purse while she was working at Caroline Nursing Home. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/09/2008

Classification: Burglary 1st Degree

Location: 1300 block Fairfield Ct.

Denton Police are investigating a burglary. Police responded to 1306 Fairfield Court after the resident heard what she believed to be someone coughing in her residence. On arrival police found the rear door to the residence ajar. Further investigation determined that items had been disturbed inside the residence but nothing was taken. Denton Police K-9 was able to obtain a track from the rear door to a wooded area however the trail was lost at that point. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/10/2008

Classification: Assault 2nd Degree

Location: 1200 block Fairfield Ct.

Denton Police arrested Donald Boyd, 36 year old male of Denton, for assault. Kimberly Boyd, 35 of Denton, reported that she and the suspect, her estranged husband, got into a physical altercation when Kimberly was leaving the residence after watching her and the suspect's children. Police observed slight injuries to Kimberly and placed the suspect under arrest without incident. The suspect was later incarcerated at the Caroline County Detention Center on \$5,000 bail.

Date: 01/10/2008

Classification: Theft Under \$500

Location: 1600 block Blue Heron Dr.

Denton Police charged a 17 year old male of Ridgely with tampering with a motor vehicle. Police were called to the 1600 block of Blue Heron Dr. in reference to two suspects entering vehicles. The caller provided police with a description of the suspects. Police were able to locate one suspect in the area a short time after the incident. That suspect was taken into custody without incident. Further investigation revealed the identity of the second suspect, another 17 year old male of Ridgely. Nothing was removed from the vehicles that were

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PRESS RELEASES from page 12 identified as being entered.

Suspect #1 has been referred to Juvenile Justice and charges are pending on the second suspect. On 1/15/2008 one of the owners of the vehicles entered, reported that a V-Smile games system, 10 games for the system and a pair of Oakly sunglasses were missing from the vehicle. Total loss value is estimated at \$350.00.

Anyone having information regarding this matter is asked to contact Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/11/2008

Classification: Assault 2nd Degree

Location: High St.

Denton Police referred a 13 year old female of Denton to Juvenile Services for disorderly conduct. Police were on foot in the area of High and Lockerman Streets when they observed the above suspect making aggressive moves towards another female juvenile. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. Further investigation revealed that the other female juvenile has assaulted the suspect in this case. Charges are pending on the second juvenile.

Date: 01/11/2008

Classification: Driving w/o license

Location: N Sixth St.

Denton Police charged Kinyock Matthews with driving without a license.

Police stopped a 2006 Chevrolet Impala for an equipment violation and found Matthews to be the operator. An MVA check revealed that Matthews did not possess a valid driver's license. Matthews was released at the scene after signing citations.

Date: 01/12/2008

Classification: CDS: Possession-Marihuana

Location: Shore Highway

Charges are pending on William Presnell, 26 of Seaford, DE, for possession of suspected CDS and driving suspended. Policed stopped a 2002 Chrysler Sebring for speeding (65 mph in a 55 mph zone) on Shore Highway and found the operator to

be Presnell. Police also noted an odor of suspected burnt marihuana coming from the interior of the car. A small amount of suspected marihuana was located in the console of the car after consent search was conducted. Presnell admitted that the suspected marihuana was his. A check of MVA records revealed that Presnell's privilege to drive in MD was suspended. Police will be applying for charges in this matter against Presnell.

Date: 01/13/2008

Classification: MDOP under \$500

Location: 200 block S. Seventh St.

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP to a vehicle. Shannon Makovsky reported that person(s) unknown threw a rock at her 2006 Ford Taurus causing the passenger side rear window to shatter. Damage is estimated at \$200.00. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/14/2008

Classification: Misc.

Location: Sixth St.

On January 14, 2008, at 7:10 a.m. Denton Police were dispatched to Sixth Street and Market Street for a report on a motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian. Preliminary investigation revealed that Wesley Jones, 33, of Preston, was traveling north on Sixth Street in the area of Market Street, operating a 2006 Ford F250 pickup. Sinjin Coen, 11, of Denton, was in the area with some other juveniles, apparently playing. Coen ran into the street and into the path of the pickup and was struck. Caroline County EMS and Denton Volunteer Fire personnel responded and attempted to render aide but Coen's injuries were too severe and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Denton Police were assisted at the scene by Maryland State Police and Caroline County Sheriff's Office. The Denton Police continue to investigate this collision and are being assisted by the Maryland State Police C.R.A.S.H. team. Charges are not pending at this time.

Date: 01/15/2008

Classification: Theft less than

\$100

Location: 1600 block Blue Heron Dr.

Denton Police are investigating the theft of motor vehicle tags. Woody Murphy reported that person(s) unknown removed the rear registration plate, Delaware 166018, from his 2007 Mazda while it was parked in the 1600 block of Blue Heron Dr. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/15/2008

Classification: Driving on revoked license

Denton Police charged Jamie Simms, 27 year old female of Hurlock, MD, with driving on a revoked license. Police stopped a 2004 Ford Explorer for making an illegal turn (left hand turn from the right hand lane) and found the operator to be Simms. Simms advised police she did not have a license. A check of MVA records revealed that Simms' privilege to drive in MD had been revoked for point accumulation. Simms was issued citations for driving revoked and improper turn and released on her signature at the scene.

Date: 01/15/2008

Classification: Assault 1st Degree

Location: 0 block Village Circle

Charges are pending on Dennis Webb, Jr. 35 year old male of Ridgely. Alton Brown, 53 of Grasonville, MD, went to Village Circle Apartments, where Shawnise Meekins, 27 years old, resides to speak with Webb about problems he is having with Brown's daughter. At some point in the conversation Brown alleges that Webb swings a knife at Brown. Brown was not injured. Webb was not at the residence when Police responded to the location. Charges are pending in this matter.

Date: 01/16/2008

Classification: bdck/utter/nsf/\$500 & up

Location: 1900 block Blue Heron Dr.

Denton Police served a criminal summons on Jerome Escoe, 34 year old male of Denton, charging

him with one count of bad check over \$500 and one count of theft over \$500. An employee of Bill's Truck repair applied for the charges alleging that on December 16, 2007 Escoe wrote a check for services received at N. Sixth St. at Crystal Ave in the amount of \$529.00.

That check was returned by the bank marked non-sufficient funds. The summons was served without incident.

Date: 01/17/2008

Classification: Violate Exparte/Protective order Subsequent Offens
Location: 400 block Lincoln St.

Charges are pending on Daryl Brown, 53 year old male of Denton, for a protective order violation. Marlene Blake alleges that Brown attempted to speak to her several different times during the course of the evening while Blake was visiting friends. There is a final protective order in place ordering Brown to have no contact with Blake. Police were unable to locate Brown and have made application for charges in this matter.

Date: 01/17/2008

Classification: MDOP under \$500

Location: 400 block N Sixth St.

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP to a vehicle. Vanda Simpkins reported that person(s) unknown by unknown means punctured the right front tire of her 1992 Ford Escort while it was parked at her residence. The tire is valued at \$52.00. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/17/2008

Classification: Driving on a Suspended License

Location: Foy Rd.

Denton Police charged Tavon Sorrell, 23 year old male of Denton with driving on a suspended license. Police observed a 2003 Mitsubishi traveling south on Foy Rd. in the area of Legion Rd. being operated with an equipment violation (tag light not working). Police stopped the vehicle

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Town of Denton FY-2008 Tax Differential Request

Below is an overview of the annual submission to the Caroline County Commissioners, for consideration of maintaining the same tax differential rate presently provided to the property owners of Denton.

- A property tax set-off enables county governments to compensate municipalities for governmental services or programs that municipalities provide in lieu of similar county services or programs. These set-offs can take the form of either property tax rate differential or tax rebates. The major governmental services performed by municipalities that may result in tax set-offs include police protection, highway and street maintenance, sanitation and waste collection, planning zoning services, and recreation and parks services.

- Municipalities were created to meet the needs of closely settled areas. Denton presently provides both services which parallel County services, such as public safety, zoning, codes/inspections, street sanitation, trash landfill fees, and parks, and ones which are specific to our community's needs, such as trash collection, street sweeping, yard waste collection etc.

- Caroline County has on average 93 persons per square mile. Denton has 1,205. The costs to county taxpayers are reduced when a municipality supplants a county service with its own municipal service. Municipalities generally encompass the county's population centers where there is a greater need for urban services and often a greater unit cost of delivering services. By providing a service within its boundaries, a municipality enables the county to provide only those services that are appropriate to less urbanized areas and, consequently, alleviates a portion of the tax burden that would otherwise be imposed upon county taxpayers.

- Each municipality in Caroline County provides a service center to not only its residents but also to the surrounding communities and the County as a whole. These service centers provide a source for employment as well as retail and service establishments.

- Residents and property owners in municipalities are also residents and property owners in Caroline County.

- municipalities make up approximately 31% of the assessable base for the county.

- Services presently provided by the Town of Denton instead of the services or programs being provided by the County include Public Safety, Zoning, Codes and Inspections, Street Sanitation, Trash Collection, and Parks.

- Public Safety - The Town of Denton presently has an 11 man force which provides law enforcement services within the town to provide 24 hour 7 day a week coverage. 90% of the funding is through General Fund property tax revenue. Additionally, the Town has entered into a mutual aid agreement which provides assistance to the County on an as-needed-basis. The FY2007 cost for Public Safety in Denton is \$1,006,877

- Zoning, Codes & Inspections - Storm water management, critical area, forestation. The only component of the County permits office that we utilize is for plumbing and electrical code enforcement. The Town handles all aspects of planning, zoning, codes enforcement for Denton.

Additionally Denton provides its own storm water management review and enforcement program, critical area program and forestation plan. The FY-2007 cost for Zoning, Codes & Inspections is \$329,618.

- Street Sanitation - The Town of Denton provides a street sanitation program, which collects trash from public areas, i.e. along the Market Street area and other public areas in town that are prone to generate trash. This also includes cleaning out and maintaining storm drains and trash removal on roads. Since street sweeping is not a service that is presently offered in Caroline County, only 50% of the budget for Street Sanitation is being proposed as a duplication of services. The FY-2007 cost for this portion is \$31,948.

- Trash Collection - The Town of Denton presently offers a residential level of trash collection. This service includes the cost for curbside collection and the landfill tipping fees. The only parallel service would be the tipping fees. This represents a cost of \$49,000 annually.

- Parks - Maintenance and development of municipal parks in Denton is the responsibility of the Town. Although Program Open Space, under the auspices of the County, provides means for development and acquisition of municipal parks, FY-2007 does not include POS funding. The FY-2007 cost for Parks is \$38,238.

The total cost of these services provided by the Town of Denton is \$1,455,681. The total differential provided at a rate of .12 cents provides an offset to tax payers in the municipal incorporated boundaries of Denton by \$288,711.42. This differential includes real property only. This represents 20% of the cost of services being provided by the Town of Denton that is presently not being paid for by the County, but are services provided by the County to residents in the unincorporated areas. Therefore, the taxpayers of Denton are saving the County \$1,166,969.58 a year by not placing the demand on the County for these services.

In 1995, Bill No. 95-3, the County Commissioners established a Municipal Real Property Tax Differential for the purpose of establishing a municipal real property tax differential system and defining certain parameters of the system. The bill identified that the current tax structure may contribute to excessively high property taxes in towns; and the establishment of a municipal real property tax differential:

- eliminates or minimizes double taxation of municipal taxpayers for services provided.
- provides benefit directly to the municipal taxpayer
- clarifies the actual cost of town services
- does not pre-empt towns from raising taxes
- encourages growth in and around towns, in accordance with the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan.

We are therefore requesting that the differential remain at a minimum of .12 cents.

Additionally, \$54,167,980 (22%) of the assessment base in Denton is presently tax exempt. Attached is a copy of those individual properties. Caroline County Governmental buildings comprise almost half of those properties.

1997 Report on County-Municipal Tax Differentials, Department of Legislative Services Office of Policy Analysis, Executive Summary. p. vii.

2Managing Small Cities and Counties, ICMA, The Legal Aspects of Community Government, p. 29.

3U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration Bureau of the Census, State and County QuickFacts.

4The Institute for Governmental Service, A Tax Differential Study for the Town of Oakland, Maryland, p. A-2.

Shop Downtown Denton

Denton Town Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2007

Executive Session

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion at 6:02 PM to hold an executive session to discuss some private and personnel issues within the Police Dept., private negotiations and letters of interest received for appointment to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Foster, Councilman Gregory & Councilman Clendaniel were present during this session, along with the staff members Terry Fearins, Rodney Cox & Karen Monteith.

No action was taken during this session.

At 7:00 PM Mayor Foster closed the executive session to begin the regular meeting.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Foster called the regular meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:05 PM on this date leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Foster asked that the record reflect that all Council members were present.

Mayor Foster announced that the Town Council had just held an executive session to discuss some private and personnel issues within the Police Dept, some private negotiations and Planning Commission letters of interest.

Councilman Porter made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2007 regular meeting and the November 19, 2007 working session meeting, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Resolution #698- Sharp Road Annexation Mayor Foster opened a public hearing at 7:08PM to receive public comments on Resolution #698. A resolution of the Denton Town Council to annex certain lands located on the south side of the Town of Denton on the south side of Sharp Road, and including portions of Sharp Road and Lupine Lane, in the Third Election District, Caroline County, Maryland, and consisting of 17.127 acres of land, more or less

and to provide for the terms and conditions of the annexation to the Town of Denton.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the State – there were none

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the Public –

Ms. Cynthia McCann, attorney representing Chris Coile Development LLC and the petitioners, provided an overview of the annexation.

Mr. Coile added that the annexation will help with some storm water management issues and provide for the ability to relocate the pump station out of Denton Elementary School. Mr. Coile also advised that there is no new development proposed on the properties being considered for annexation.

Ms. Brynja Booth, Town Attorney mentioned that the Attorney for Caroline County, Mr. Ernie Crowfoot, had advised early this date in a phone conversation that the County had no position on this annexation.

A letter received from the Maryland Department of Planning was submitted to the Council for the record.

Councilman Clendaniel asked questions about the existing zoning on these properties and if extra lots were possible. Also questioned tax abatements.

Mr. Dave Wolcott – Engineer from McCrone advised the Council that the existing town boundary is in the middle of the river up to the area of Sunset Drive, shortly there - after the boundary moves to the river bank, explaining the contiguity and how the lands west of Denton were previously annexed.

Ms. McCann advised that this is a selective annexation, no present water and sewer is necessary and that no new development is planned for these parcels. Ms. McCann advised that the annexation agreement does provide for a waiver of town taxes to these property owners until services are required or the property has a change of ownership. Ms. McCann provided a letter of support from the Caroline County Board

of Education for the record. The annexation potentially creates new improvements and services to be provided and asked the Council to vote to approve the annexation.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the County – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any other comments – there were none

With no further comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:43PM.

Ordinance #548 – Residential Sprinkler Ord. Amendment

At 7:44 PM Mayor Foster opened a public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance #548. An ordinance of the Town of Denton Town Code, to provide that, the residential sprinkler requirement shall not apply to seasonal cottages or recreational structures that do not exceed 780 square feet.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the State – there were none

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the County – there were none

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Council –

Councilman Gregory asked if the Fire Company had any input on this amendment. Both Councilman Porter and Branson spoke on behalf of the Fire Dept. advising that the fire dept. did not have any problem with the adoption of this ordinance.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Public –

Pastor Lecates expressed that he positively appreciated working with the Council on this ordinance and asked for their support in adopting it.

With no further comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:46 PM.

Ordinance #549 – Ind. Park – Contract of Sale Lot 2 Expansion III

At 7:46 PM Mayor Foster opened a public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance #549. An ordinance that provides authorization to proceed with the sale of Lot #2 in the Expansion Area III of the Denton Industrial Park.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the State – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the County – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Council – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Public – there were none.

With no comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:47PM.

Ordinance #550 – Ind. Park – Contract of Sale Lot 3 Expansion III

At 7:47 PM Mayor Foster opened a public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance #550. An ordinance that authorizes the Town to proceed with the sale of Lot #3 in the Expansion Area III of the Denton Industrial Park.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the State – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the County – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Council – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Public – there were none.

With no comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:48 PM.

Ordinance #551 – Conveyance of Button Factory Property

At 7:48 PM Mayor Foster opened a public hearing to receive public comments on ordinance #551. An ordinance authorizing the sale and conveyance of the Button Factory Facility as more fully described in a deed recorded among the land records of Caroline County at Liber 340, Folio 474.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the State – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the County – there

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were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Council – there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for any comments from the Public – there were none.

With no comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:49 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrances and Communication

Caroline County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is holding its first Annual Membership Dinner Meeting and extended an invitation to the Council.

Councilman Porter is planning to attend.

Caroline Economic Development Corporation

Mr. JOK Walsh, Executive Director for the Caroline Economic Development Corporation, provided a written request seeking input from the Town Council on filling an existing vacancy.

The Council will consider submitting a nomination.

Maryland Department of Transportation – Long Range Transportation Update

An invitation from MDOT to participate in updating the State’s long range transportation plan was provided to the Council.

Informational only no action was required.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #698 – Sharp Road Annexation

At the September 10, 2007 meeting the Town Council directed the Town Attorney to prepare an annexation resolution for properties along Sharp and Lupine. This was introduced at the October 1, 2007 meeting and was presented for consideration of adoption.

Councilman Porter made a motion to adopt resolution #698, authorizing the Mayor to sign any agreements associated with it, seconded by Councilman Gregory.

In discussion the Town Attorney clarified the agreements. Councilman Branson advised that upon adoption it is the discretion of the Council to

vote yes or no in any agreements.

Ms. McCann provided an overview of the annexation agreements, and advised that the project offers very little impact to the Town.

Mr. Coile explained the Glenfield project and advised the Council that if they did not want this project to not adopt the annexation resolution.

Councilman Gregory asked to clarify that the property owners would not be required to connect to the Town services until their system fails or there is a change of ownership and was advised this is correct.

Mr. Coile provided an overview of the cost involved in this annexation.

Councilman Gregory announced that he planned to vote in favor for the annexation, expressing that he has seen what this developer has done and from past experience he recognizes that Mr. Coile honors his word. Councilman Gregory continued stating that this is the type of growth that he would like to see in this town.

The Mayor called for the vote. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Clendaniel voting no.

Councilman Branson added one comment that he does not like the abatement of taxes.

Resolution #700 - MD 313 Ruff Family/Suppo & Wells Annexation

At the November 5th meeting the Town Council directed the Town Attorney to prepare an annexation resolution for the Ruff Family and Suppo & Wells property. This resolution was presented for consideration of introduction.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce resolution #700 as long as it does not include any real estate tax abatements, seconded by Councilman Porter. In discussion Mr. Parker advised that they are not seeking any tax abatement. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #548 –Residential Sprinkler System Amendment

In response to an inquiry from the Wesleyan Camp Director, Rev. Lecates, about the requirement for

fire sprinklers in seasonal cottages, the Council directed the town attorney, Brynja Booth, to research the topic. As a result of that research and at the direction of the Town Council at the October 1st meeting Mrs. Booth prepared an amendment to the ordinance that would exclude seasonal cottages and recreational structures that do not exceed 780 sq ft. The ordinance was presented for consideration of adoption.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt ordinance #548, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Ordinance # 549 Ind. Park Contract of Sale Lot#2 IPExpansion III

The existing option agreement for this lot has expired. The Really Cool Foods Company is now seeking to move forward with acquisition of this lot. Because the option agreement has expired, the Town Attorney is recommending a new ordinance be drafted. If adopted settlement would be scheduled within 90 days of an executed agreement.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt ordinance #549, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Ordinance # 550 Ind. Park Contract of Sale Lot#3 IPExpansion III

The existing option agreement for this lot has expired. The Really Cool Foods Company is now seeking to move forward with acquisition of this lot. Because the option agreement has expired, the Town Attorney is recommending a new ordinance be drafted. If adopted settlement would be scheduled within 90 days of an executed agreement.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt ordinance #550, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Ordinance # 551 – Conveyance of Button Factory Property

The Council reviewed a written request from Mr. Donald Braden, attorney for Mr. Zeb Brodie, exercising the option on the Button Factory. The Town of Denton was given the building, and subsequently leased the facility to Mr. Brodie for

an initial period of two years, with an option to purchase. This two year lease was later amended for a 10

year period – at the request of the County. Funding from the state for lease hold improvements for the Caroline County Economic Development office required the Town maintain ownership for a 10-year period. The ordinance was introduced at the November 5th meeting and was brought before the Council for consideration of adoption.

Councilman Branson asked the Town Attorney if the terms between the County and the State would provide any liability for the Town. Ms. Booth responded that the Town has no responsibility to repay anything and that the County Attorney, Mr. Ernie Crowfoot will coordinate with the State prior to settlement.

Councilman Branson stated that with no financial burden to the citizens of Denton he made a motion to adopt ordinance #551, seconded by Councilman Porter. In discussion Councilman Gregory asked if the Town will incur any cost, and Ms. Booth advised that the option is with Mr. Brodie and he has to exercise it and will cover all cost. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance # 552 Ind. Park Contract of Sale Lot#1 IPExpansion III

Judge Yachts has submitted a letter of interest in purchasing Lot #1 in the third expansion area of the Denton Industrial Park. Brynja Booth prepared an ordinance and contract for the Council’s consideration of introduction.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce ordinance #552, seconded by Councilman Porter. Discussion was held in which Councilman Porter asked that the agreement be amended to require Judge Yachts to cover the cost associated with the transfer. With the amendment the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance # 553 Ind. Park Contract of Sale Lot 10A-2

The Town of Denton had sent Black Oak Properties, LLC, a non-binding Letter of Intent to sell Lot 10 A-2. The Town could not formally enter into a contract of sale until Lot 10A was purchased by the Town. Settlement has taken place and the Town now owns Lot 10A. The Planning Commission has approved the subdivision plat. The Town Attorney drafted Ordinance #533 and a Contract of Sale that was brought before the Council for consideration of introduction. This lot is proposed for the relocation of Hershey Creamery Distribution facility.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce ordinance #553, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Reports of officers, board and committees

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Fortner Letter of Request

At the November 5, 2007 meeting the Town Council had discussion with the Fortners on their request to have their town real estate taxes abated. The Fortners follow up written response was presented to the Council for consideration.

Councilman Gregory questioned the Fortner's flip-flop about de-annexing from the last meeting and asked if they wish to be in town or not. If located in Town why would the Council want to abate the taxes.

The Fortners advised that they wished to keep their property in town and continue working with Mr. Cipretti on the project proposed.

The Town Administrator provided an overview of the conversation with the Fortners and Mr. Cipretti after the last Council meeting.

Councilman Gregory stated that the issue regarding the taxes should really be taken up with Mr. Cipretti and that they should pay the taxes.

Councilman Clendaniel agreed with Councilman Gregory but would like to help the Fortners if possible. He questioned if there was some way to defer the taxes or make Mr. Cipretti pay the taxes as part of the project, but then recognized that if the project does not go through the

Town would be out the funds.

Councilman Gregory recommended to the Fortners to try to work this out with Mr. Cipretti because it really has nothing to do with the Town.

Councilman Branson made a motion to table this item. Motion was withdrawn. No action was taken by the Council.

Agenda #2 - Basketball Court

The Town of Denton had written the County requesting the opportunity to locate a basketball court in the undeveloped area behind the Health and Public Service Building (HAPS.) A copy of the County's response which included recommendations from Sue Simmons was reviewed. Mrs. Simmons recommended retrofitting an existing tennis court at the Fourth Str. Park, or incorporating into the master plan design for the Sharp Road Park or facilitating the purchase of a portion of property located on the corner of Caroline St and MD 313.

Chief Cox suggested Lockerman Ball field since it is already an athletic field.

Mayor Foster asked to send a follow up letter to the County.

Agenda #3 - Director of Housing and Community Development

The Denton Town Council had discussed amending the present class specification for the Director of Housing and Community Development.

Councilman Gregory asked to defer this item for further discussion at the Dec. 17, 2007 workshop.

Councilman Clendaniel suggested that the Town Administrator talk with Stacey Weisner, Caroline County Planning Director and obtain her input as well.

No action was taken on this item.

New Business

Agenda #1 - Main Street Program

Ms. Jessica Perez was introduced as Denton's new Main Street Manager.

Ms. Perez went over a Memorandum of Understanding that was provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development as a requirement of

the National Main Street Program and asked the Council to consider adopting.

Councilman Porter made a motion to empower the Mayor to sign the MOU, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Councilman Clendaniel encouraged Ms. Perez to go out and talk about the Main Street program to existing businesses.

Agenda #2 - Planning Commission and Board of Appeals Re-appointment/Appointment

Presently two Planning Commission members terms expire in December and Mr. David Gray has resigned from the Planning Commission. Mr. Ed Bell has moved and subsequently resigned from the Board of Appeals. The vacancies were advertised and letters of interested that have been received were presented to the Town Council for consideration.

Councilman Branson made a motion to re-appoint Mrs. Valerie Miller to the Planning Commission, appoint Mr. Frank Fluharty to the Board of Appeals, and to appoint Mr. Greg Socks and Mr. William Quick to the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Gregory.

In discussion Councilman Clendaniel advised that there is also a vacancy on the Economic Development Committee and ask Mr. Quick if he would be interested in being appointed to that position instead.

Mr. Quick responded that he was in pursuit of the application to be appointed to the Planning Commission and was not familiar with the Economic Development position.

Councilman Clendaniel stated that he was in favor of appointing Mr. Dean Danielson to the Planning Commission and that if Mr. Quick was interested in the EDC he would support that.

Councilman Gregory supported Councilman Clendaniel's recommendation.

Councilman Porter stated that he was considering appointing Mr. Danielson to replace Mr. Gray due to his construction background, reappointing Mrs. Miller and

appointing Mr. Socks in place of Mr. Fluharty because of his fire background.

Councilman Clendaniel reiterated that he wished to appoint Mr. Danielson and reappoint Mrs. Miller and to hold off on deciding the third person until the January meeting.

Councilman Branson withdrew his motion.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to appoint Mr. Dean Danielson to fulfill Mr. David Gray vacancy and to re-appoint Mrs. Valerie Miller and to appoint and move Mr. Fluharty to the Board of Appeals and decide on the remaining Planning Commission seat in January, seconded by Councilman Porter, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Doris Walls, president of the Planning Commission confirmed that Mr. Fluharty would not transfer boards until the end of the year.

Mr. Quick advised the Council that he would speak with JOK Walsh about the EDC board but would rather serve on the Planning Commission.

Agenda #3 - Maryland Municipal League - Municipal Main Street

The Town of Denton participated last year in the Municipal Main Street at the MML Convention. The Council was asked if they wish to consider having a booth at the 2008 Convention. The cost is \$175. If approved staff will look to have the same booth space as last year.

Councilman Porter made a motion to participate again, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Water and Sewer Allocation

A copy of requests for water and sewer allocation for John Draper/ John W. Logan - Corner of 8th and Gay Street 4 units for a total of 900 gpd. was reviewed by the Council.

Councilman Branson made a motion to allow the allocation request, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - Denton Development Corporation

Continue to next page

Councilman Clendaniel requested the opportunity to discuss participation from the Town Council on the Denton Development Corporation board.

The Council asked to seek Ellis Davidson's opinion on a Council member serving on this board.

The Council held discussion as to whether formal recognition had been done in memory of former Councilman Brad Horsey and the possibility of naming a street after him.

Staff will see what has been done and report back to the Council.

Agenda #6 - County Municipal Joint Planning Resource Element

At the Association of Municipality meeting, Stacy Weisner, Director of Planning for Caroline County, had offered for the County and Towns to work together on a Joint Water and Sewer Resource Element plan. Ms. Weisner is going to provide the Town with a MOU for consideration. Looking for sense of direction from the Council to continue moving forward.

The Council expressed interest. Staff will work with the County on this.

A working session will be held on December 17, 2007 at 6:00, staff was directed to provide food.

With no further discussion Mayor Foster adjourned this meeting at 9:34 PM.

January 14, 2008

Regular Meeting

Mayor Foster called the regular meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:00 PM on this date leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Foster asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the Coen Family.

Mayor Foster asked that the record reflect that all Council members were present, with the exception of Councilman Porter. (Further in the minutes it is reflected when Councilman Porter arrived.)

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2007 regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Branson,

passing unanimously.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 working session, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Swearing in of Council member

Mayor Foster swore Councilman Branson into office.

Elections

Mayor - Councilman Gregory made a motion that John Foster be elected Mayor of the Town of Denton, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

Councilman Gregory moved to make the appointment by acclamation, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

Vice Mayor - Councilman Gregory nominated Councilman Clendaniel to be Vice Mayor, seconded by Mayor Foster, passing unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem - Councilman Gregory nominated Lester Branson to be Mayor Pro-tem, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Town Attorney, Ms. Brynja Booth advised that the Council is preparing to hold public hearings on two ordinances pertaining to the sale of industrial park land. It was clarified that the Council wants the contracts to require the buyer to pay all cost for the settlement including the town's portion of the transfer tax on both proposed Industrial Park lot sales. The Town Attorney will make the corrections to the contracts if adopted.

Ordinance #553- Denton Industrial Park Lot 10A Sale

Mayor Foster opened a public hearing at 7:12PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #553 Industrial Park Contract of Sale Lot 10A-2.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the State - there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for

comments from the County - there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the Council - there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the Public - there were none.

With no further comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:13 PM.

Ordinance #552- Denton Industrial Park III Lot 1 Sale

Mayor Foster opened a public hearing at 7:13 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #552 Industrial Park Contract of Sale Lot #1, Industrial Park Expansion III.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the State - there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the County - there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the Council - there were none.

Mayor Foster asked for comments from the Public - there were none.

With no further comments Mayor Foster closed this public hearing at 7:14 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrances and Communication

None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance # 552 Industrial Park Contract of Sale Lot #1 Ind. Pk Expansion III

Judge Yachts submitted a letter of interest in purchasing Lot #1 in the third expansion of the Denton Industrial Park. Brynja Booth, Town Attorney prepared an ordinance and contract for consideration of adoption.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt Ordinance #552, seconded by Councilman Branson, the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance # 553-Industrial Park Contract of Sale Lot 10A-2

The Town of Denton had sent Black Oak Properties, LLC, a non-binding Letter of Intent to sell Lot 10 A-2. The Town could not formally enter into a contract of sale until Lot 10A was purchased

by the Town. Settlement has taken place and the Town now owns Lot 10A. The Planning Commission has approved the subdivision plat. The Town Attorney drafted an Ordinance #553 and a Contract of Sale that was brought before the Council for consideration of adoption. This is the lot proposed for the relocation of Hershey Creamery Distribution facility.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #553, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Ordinance # 554 - Well Use Ordinance Revision

This ordinance revises the existing language in the water code to permit drilling and using wells for irrigation only in parks and agricultural applications within the Town of Denton. Permitting such use will conserve the Town's potable water supply. Currently the water code only allows the use of wells for outside watering on properties that had wells prior to connecting to the Town's water supply. The proposed ordinance was considered and drafted in response to the request made by the Denton Little League to drill and maintain a well at the Lions Club Park. Currently the park is connected to the Town's water supply and the Town pays the water bill. The Town Attorney approved this proposed ordinance and it was brought before the Council for consideration of introduction.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #554, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Councilman Clendaniel advised that obviously the Council supports this ordinance to provide relief to the Lion Club Park, but asked that the Attorney make sure the Town is not opening itself up to provide an opportunity for a bunch of wells to be installed.

Councilman Porter arrived and took his seat at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Scott Getchell and Ms. Brynja Booth provided an overview about the ordinance and what had been taken into consideration during

the preparation.

Councilman Gregory raised concerns about defining and allowing for agricultural use.

The Town Attorney was directed to review the agricultural section and amend the ordinance to restrict it as it relates to agricultural or any type of shallow wells.

Mr. Getchell advised that the Utility Commissioner could approve all request for wells.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to defer consideration on this ordinance to allow an opportunity to review the amendments at the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Swearing in of Councilmember

Mayor Foster swore Councilman Porter into office at 7:30 PM.

Reports of officers, board and committees

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1 - Planning Commission Appointment

There is presently one vacancy on the Denton Planning Commission and the Council reviewed the remaining letters of interest.

Councilman Clendaniel nominated Mr. Bill Quick for this position and asked about contacting Mr. Socks and see if he would be interested in serving on the Utility Commission, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Mr. Quick has also accepted a position on the County Economic Development board as well.

Agenda #2 - Comprehensive Plan

This item was on the agenda for the Town Council to discuss the revised draft of the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Porter asked if any comments had been received from the County Planning Office on the proposed plan and staff advised nothing has been received yet. The Council would like to know if the County has any comments before moving forward. Staff will follow up with the Director of the Caroline County Planning & Zoning to obtain comments so the Town Council and

the Planning Commission can move forward on the adoption.

Agenda #3 - Pattern Book

The Town of Denton received a grant to provide for the printing of the Pattern Book. Presently, the grant allows for the printing of 6,000 copies. The proposed budget also included postage for direct mailing of the pattern book. A copy of the grant budget was provided.

Councilman Gregory questioned the amount of copies and asked if the town could order a lesser quantity and if necessary give the grant funding back or seek approval to re-allocate the grant funds to another project. Staff will look to see if there is flexibility with the grant and look to see what the cost would be to order a smaller quantity.

Councilman Branson made a motion to direct the Town Attorney to prepare an ordinance for the Council to consider so the pattern book would apply to Planned Neighborhood Developments, seconded by Councilman Porter, the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Basketball Court

The Town of Denton received two offers relative to the potential relocation of the basketball courts. One is off of Caroline Street and the other off of Sixth Street. A map showing the two locations was provided to the Council for consideration.

Mr. Ellis Davison – project manager for the Crouse Park project advised that as the project is moving forward and since some of the funding is coming from the State Highway Administration that he needs to provide a plan or time line for the relocation of the courts by this summer.

Mr. Kenneth Gornic advised the Council that his wife Melissa and he oppose any consideration of relocating the basketball courts to the 4th St. Park if it was an option, and read their twelve reasons why.

The Council agreed to defer discussion on this item and to hold an executive session prior to their February meeting to protect the privacy of those making the proposals.

New Business

Agenda #1 - Water and Sewer Allocation

Walmart is seeking consideration for an extension and the re-allocation for their water and sewer allocation of 4700 gpd. An allocation is good for a two-year period.

Staff advised that the preliminary design is on the agenda for the Planning Commission to review at the January meeting.

Councilman Branson made a motion to extend the allocation for two years, seconded by Councilman Porter, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Clendaniel questioned if the Council has to grant allocations. The Town Attorney advised that Maryland Law states that if there is capacity available and there is not an issue of public health, safety and welfare that the Town is required to grant the allocation if requested.

Agenda #2 - CEDC Group Market Specialist

Mr. JOK Walsh and Natalie Chabot discussed the group tour market and propose a part time temporary specialist position. The CEDC has approved to fund \$5,000 towards the budget of \$10,000. They came before the Council seeking consideration from the Town Council for funding in the same amount - \$5,000.

Councilman Gregory asked how much the Town already contributes. Staff advised that the budget reflects \$10,000 to the CEDC, 90 % of the hotel tax goes to the County Tourism (about \$27,000 a year), and the \$15,000 the Town receives in real estate tax from the Hotel is also allotted to Tourism.

Staff advised that the Town collects \$17,000 a year in the Wesleyan Fund for special projects and that it has about \$12,000 left for this year.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to approve a \$5,000 contribution for a CEDC Group Market Specialist, seconded by Councilman Branson, the motion passed with 4 voting yes, Councilman Clendaniel abstained.

Agenda #3 - Downtown

Banners

Mrs. Abigail McNinch of the Denton Development Corporation came before the Council seeking approval to install banners in the Central Business District. Funding for this endeavor was raised at the Spring Gala.

Councilman Gregory recommended that they check into receiving grant funding from the Underground Railway and also Coastal Zone for additional banners.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

The Council advised that as more funding is obtained to place additional flags in the Town that the DDC can work with the Town Administrator to review the locations and seek approval.

Agenda #4 - Follow up Meeting with County Commissioners

The Town Council directed staff to contact Caroline County to see about setting up a follow up meeting on Tuesday Jan. 29, 2008, to be held prior to the Counties regular meeting.

Agenda #5 - Recognizing Council members

The Council reviewed a proclamation that was prepared to recognize former Councilman Bradford Horsey and a letter received from Judge Owen Wise about considering recognitions for former Councilman Palmer as well. Staff was directed to research dates of service of others.

Mayor Foster suggested that once the research is done that it would be good to have a commemorative wall in the new building that reflected the names of all former Council members.

Councilman Porter asked staff to amend the proclamation for Councilman Horsey to include his years of service and positions with the Fire Department.

Councilman Porter made a motion to approve the proclamation as amended, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing

Continue to next page

unanimously.

Agenda #6 - Personnel Policy Amendment

The Council reviewed a Personnel Policy Amendment that would provide for permanent part time employees working 15 – 24 hours per week to receive 4 hours pay per holiday.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the personnel policy amendment, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Agenda #7 - Choptank Electric Feasibility Period Extension

The Town Attorney prepared a draft letter to Choptank Electric requesting consideration for a one-year extension on the Feasibility Period that was presented along with the background information on the original agreement to the Council for consideration.

Councilman Branson made a motion to ask for a one year extension of the agreement between the Town and Choptank Electric, seconded by Councilman Porter. The Town Attorney provided an overview. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #8 - SHA MD Route 404 Speed Limit Change

The State Highway Administration changed the speed limit on a portion of MD Route 404 in Denton to 50 miles per hour. A copy of the traffic engineering study that was referenced in their press

release has been requested but has not yet been received.

Councilman Gregory expressed the need to send a letter of protest to the SHA and questioned what they based their reasons on to change this speed limit.

Councilman Branson support Councilman Gregory and wanted to request the letter to ask SHA to provide advanced noticed before changing any other speed limits in the Town.

Councilman Branson made a motion for a letter to be drafted for all of the board members to sign to be sent to the State Highway Administration, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Agenda #9 - Crouse Park Conditional Approval Request

Ellis Davison provided an update on the project to the Council and asked for consideration to sign a letter providing conditional approval for the application that is being submitted to the Critical Area Commission for their February 6, 2008 meeting.

Councilman Branson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

In discussion Councilman Gregory asked to go back to the basketball court item to further discuss the time line requirements that Mr. Davison had referenced earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Davison advised that the SHA has a new grant administrator that recently explained that there are restrictions in place for utilizing these funds where recreational activities are involved, so in order to receive the SHA funds there needs to be a plan for replacing the basketball courts submitted.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to send a letter to the State Highway Administration stating the Town's commitment to relocating the basketball courts, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

The Mayor called for the vote on the early motion on the floor "authorizing the Mayor to sign the letter to the Critical Area Commission", the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #10 - DDC Small Business Loan Interest Rate Adjustment Request

The Council reviewed a request from the Denton Development Corp to have their interest rate adjusted from 5% to 3% on the IRP Loan.

Councilman Porter made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Agenda #11 - Denton Police Dept Car Acquisition

Chief Cox asked for approval to purchase a used vehicle in the amount of \$9,100. This vehicle would replace one that the transmission has gone up in. With the age of the vehicle and the amount of mileage it

would cost more to repair the vehicle than it is worth.

Councilman Branson made a motion for Chief Cox to replace the car for \$9,100, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Agenda 12 - Tax Differential

The Town was notified that the Caroline County Commissioners will be discussing the tax differential at their January 22, 2008 meeting.

Councilman Branson made a motion to direct the Town Administrator to prepare a letter to the Caroline County Commissioners expressing their support in keeping the tax differential the same as in prior years, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Agenda #13 - Town Administrator Evaluation

Councilman Gregory asked that the Town Administrators annual evaluation be placed on the February agenda, he is modifying the form will provide a copy of it to the other Council members prior to the meeting for review.

Councilman Clendaniel recognized Caroline County Commissioner Jeff Ghris for coming to the meeting tonight.

With no further discussion Mayor Foster adjourned this meeting at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith
Clerk-Treasurer

TAX ASSISTANCE AT THE LIBRARY



Do you need a hand preparing your taxes? If so the Central Library in Denton will have Tax Assistance available to you. Tax Assistance will be held in the Large Meeting Room. For more information and to make an appointment, please call AARP Tax Assistance, 410-479-1343 ext. 2 for an appointment.

MARCH

12pm-3:30pm

4th, 11th, 18th, or 25th

5pm-7pm

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

APRIL

12pm-3:30pm

1st, 8th, 15th

5pm-7pm

7th, 14th



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working). Police stopped the vehicle and identified the operator as Sorrell. A check of MVA records revealed that Sorrell's privilege to drive in Maryland had been suspended for failing to attend driver improvement. Sorrell was issued citations at the scene and released.

Date: 01/18/2008

Classification: MDOP Under \$500

Location: 700 block Camp Rd.

Denton Police arrested two teenage boys, 16 & 15 years of age, for MDOP. Police responded to the 700 block of Camp Rd. for a report of two people damaging mailboxes. Police were met by Beth Meredith who pointed out the two boys. The boys stated that they were bored and that there was nothing to do in town so they started hitting mailboxes. The youths were taken into custody without incident. A check of the area revealed numerous mailboxes that were either damaged or totally destroyed.

It should be noted that the boy's route of travel was from Crystal Ave. to Gay Street to Market Street to Garland Road to Camp Road. If anyone had a mailbox damaged on this evening they are asked to contact the Denton Police Department at 410-479-1414.

Both boys have been referred to the Department of Juvenile Services charged with numerous counts of MDOP. The teens were released to guardians.

Date: 01/18/2008

Classification: Theft Over \$500

Location: 200 block S. Sixth St.

Denton Police are investigating a theft. Marlin White reported that person(s) unknown, by unknown means, removed a water jug from his residence that contained approximately \$800.00 in coins. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police Department at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/18/2008

Classification: Driving on revoked license

Location: Shore Highway

Denton Police charged Larry Strain, 46 year old male of Lincoln, DE, with driving revoked. Police stopped a 1998 GMC SUV for speeding (62mph in 50 mph zone) and found the operator to be Strain. A check of MVA records revealed that Strain's DE driver's license was revoked. Strain was issued a citation at the scene and released.

Date: 01/20/2008

Classification: MDOP Over \$500

Location: 400 block S. Fifth Ave.

Denton Police responded to the Denton Volunteer Fire Company Hall in reference to a fight in progress. Officers observed a large group of people in the rear parking lot. Officers were advised by Fire Company representatives that the Hall had been rented for a dance but due to the disturbance the rental agreement was violated and the dance was to be shut down. After a brief discussion with the renter, Aaron Rochester, 30 year old male of Centerville, the dance was shut down. Police also learned that a fight occurred between two persons at the dance, a bottle had been broken on the floor and an unknown person discharged a firearm into the air. Two suspected bullet holes were discovered in the ceiling of the Hall. Damage is estimated at \$500. Anyone with information regarding this incident or the identity of the persons involved in the fight is urged to contact the Denton Police Department at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/21/2008

Classification: driver attempt to elude police/fail to stop

Location: 600 block Legion Rd.

On 1-21-08 at 1705 hrs, Police Canine Officer Franklin with K-9 Bart stopped a tan in color Mercury Sable on Legion Rd. in Denton for speeding. As Officer Franklin routinely approached the vehicle on foot, Franklin was struck in the leg by the vehicle as it backed up. The operator, later identified as Tara Cochin, 33 of Stevensville, then fled the scene attempting to get away. Franklin pursued the vehicle

at speeds over 100 MPH until the vehicle crashed at the intersection of Hobbs and Andersontown Rd. The vehicle struck a guide wire causing the top of a utility pole to break off. Cochin fled on foot and was soon apprehended by a State Trooper and a Caroline County Deputy after falling through the ice on a pond. The passenger, Ronald Jackson, 23, of Denton, fled on foot and was pursued by Franklin and K-9 Bart. Jackson was apprehended by a State Trooper in the middle of a wheat field just off Andersontown Rd. Jackson was treated and released at the scene for a medical complaint by Caroline Paramedics. According to MVA records Cochin's drivers license was revoked. Jackson had an outstanding arrest warrant through the Caroline County Sheriff's Office for violation of probation. Jackson was remanded to the custody of the Sheriff's Office. Cochin was charged by Denton Police with numerous traffic violations and held on \$10,000 bond. The Denton Police Department was assisted by the Maryland State Police, Caroline County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Natural Resources Police.

Date: 01/21/2008

Classification: Theft less than \$100

Location: 500 block Lincoln St.

Denton Police are investigating the theft of a bicycle. Kevin Williams reported that person(s) unknown had taken his Dana bicycle without permission. Police were able to locate the bicycle later in the day and returned it to Williams. Anyone with information regarding who may have taken the bicycle is asked to contact Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/22/2008

Classification: MDOP Under \$500

Location: 400 block S. Seventh St.

Denton Police are investigating an MDOP. Employees of the Health Department reported that person(s) unknown threw a large rock through the left rear window of a State owned vehicle, 2006 Ford Taurus, while it was parked at the Health and Public Safety Building. Damage is

estimated at \$400.00. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Denton Police at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/22/2008

Classification: Theft Under \$500

Location: 500 block Market St.

Denton Police are investigating a theft from a motor vehicle. Audra Williams reported that she was visiting a friend on the 500 block of Market Street. Williams stated that she left her purse, a Longaberger basket brand, in her 1998 Ford 4 door. Williams advised that when she returned to the car she noticed that her purse was gone. Total estimated loss is \$150.00. Williams believed she locked the car when she left it but there were no signs of forced entry to the vehicle. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Denton Police Department at 410-479-1414.

Date: 01/23/2008

Classification: Assault 2nd Degree

Location: 400 block Lockerman St.

Denton Police referred a 12 year old male of Denton to the Department of Juvenile Justice for assault. Police responded to Lockerman Middle School for a fight between two students. Police learned that the 12 year old had punched another student after someone in the class took the suspect's books as a joke. The youth was referred and released to a guardian.

Date: 01/28/2008

Classification: CDS: Possession-Marihuana

Location: S Fifth Ave.

Charges are pending for William Smith Jr., 19 year old male of Denton, for possession of suspected CDS. Police stopped a 2002 Acura 2 door for speeding (34 mph in a 25 mph zone) on S. Fifth Ave. in the area of Seventh St. and found the operator and only occupant to be Smith. Police observed that Smith appeared to be very nervous during conversations regarding the speeding violation. Smith was issued a warning for the speed violation and told he

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free to leave but police requested that Smith answer a few questions. During the course of conversation Smith allowed police to search his vehicle where they found a small amount of suspected marihuana. All of Smith's information was obtained and charges will be filed regarding this matter.

Date: 01/29/2008

Classification: Assault 2nd Degree

Location: 400 block Lockerman St.

Denton Police charged a 15 year old male of Ridgely for assault. It was reported to police that a 12 year old male of Greensboro was getting on a bus at Lockerman Middle School to go home when the suspect allegedly punched the victim for being a member of a rival gang. The 15 year old was referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Date: 01/29/2008

Classification: Assault 2nd Degree

Location: 400 block Lockerman St.

Denton Police charged two females, one 13 and one 14, both of Denton, with assault. Police were called to Lockerman Middle School for a fight that occurred between the two suspects in the cafeteria during lunch. It was learned that there had been an ongoing verbal dispute between the two females that ended with a mutual assault. Both females were arrested, processed, referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice and released to a guardian.

Date: 01/29/2008

Classification: Driving on a Suspend License

Location: N Sixth St.

Denton Police charged Benji Cox, 31 year old male of Denton, with driving on a suspended out of state license. Police observed a 1992 Mercury 4 door being operated with an equipment violation (tag light not working). Police stopped the vehicle and found the operator to be Cox. A check of MVA records revealed Cox's privilege to drive in VA had been suspended. Cox was issued citations at the scene and released.

Assessment Reflects Change in Market Since 2004

Assessment notices mailed to 728,185 property owners across the State reflect the change in real estate values since these properties were last valued in 2004. The notice has been redesigned to help property owners understand the actual impact of the reassessment on their taxable assessment. Over the past three years, property values have increased statewide by an average of 33.2% in the reassessed areas. This equates to an average annual increase of 11.1% for each of the next three years. The reassessment increase this year is 26.9% lower than the 2006 increase for residential properties. Property owners who use the property as their principal residence will receive an assessment notice containing a Homestead Tax Credit Application for the first time this year. The application must be submitted in order to ensure that the credit is granted only on eligible properties and not on properties that are rented or used as vacation homes. The applications can be filed on-line by going to the Department's website at www.dat.state.md.us or by mailing the paper form in the enclosed postage paid envelope. For further information about the Homestead Tax Credit Application, one can call (410) 767-2165 in the Baltimore metropolitan area or at 1-866-650-8783 toll-free elsewhere in Maryland

The Homestead Tax Credit is a State law which mandates that all taxable assessment increases for homeowner occupied properties cannot increase by more than 10 percent per year. Baltimore City

and each of the 23 counties are authorized to determine a lower percentage of allowable increase in taxable assessment for their eligible homeowners. The taxable assessment increases are limited to 9 percent per year in Harford County; 8 percent per year in Cecil County; 7 percent per year in Carroll and Charles Counties; 5 percent per year in Caroline, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's and Washington Counties; and 4 percent per year in Baltimore City and Baltimore and Prince George's Counties. Worcester County limits the increase in taxable assessments to 3 percent per year and Anne Arundel County limits the increase in taxable assessments to 2 percent per year. Talbot County continues to limit all taxable assessment increases for homeowners. In Maryland, properties are reassessed, by law, once every three years. Properties are required to be assessed at their current market value so that each property owner pays only their fair share of local property taxes. The properties being reassessed were last revalued for the 2005 tax year. The new assessments are based upon the examination of more than 139,300 sales which have occurred in the reassessment area over the past three years. Emphasis has been placed on sales which occurred in 2006 and the first half of 2007. Any increase in property value is phased-in equally over the next three years. Property values have not changed as much as in recent reassessments. The average percentage increase

for residential properties (32.5%) was approximately the same as commercial properties (36.0%). The largest percentage increase in assessed values was in Baltimore City, followed by St. Mary's and Prince George's counties. The Baltimore City market was driven primarily by new construction and rehabilitation in housing in the areas of Mt. Vernon, Charles Village, and east of The Johns Hopkins Hospital. The commercial market continues to be relatively strong. Statewide, the commercial rate of increase (36.0%) fell slightly from that of last year (39.6%). The assessment only partially determines a property owner's tax bill. Ultimately, next July's tax bill will be calculated with the tax rates which local governments will set in the spring. As part of the budgetary process, the property tax rates are established by the spending needs of each local government. Local governments may offset assessment increases by lowering their tax rates to the "constant yield" tax rate level. The constant yield tax rate provides local governments with a stable level of property taxes from one year to the next.

For further information, contact the State Department of Assessments and Taxation at 410-767-4881. Extensive reassessment data and information is available from the Department's website at www.dat.state.md.us.

The above information was obtained from <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/stats/08rvpr.html>

2008 Utility Billing Schedule

Months of Service	Billing Date	Due Date	1% Interest Added	Shut Off Date
October - December	12/28/2007	1/25/2008	1/28/2008	2/5/2008
January - March	3/28/2008	4/25/2008	4/28/2008	5/6/2008
April - June	6/30/2008	7/25/2008	7/28/2008	8/5/2008
July - September	9/30/2008	10/25/2008	10/27/2008	11/5/2008

**2008 Legal Notice
Mandatory Semiannual Payment
Real Estate Property Taxes**

REAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. Pay Real Property taxes in full by Sept. 30, 2008 with no penalty or interest.
2. **OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAXES**
May pay taxes semi-annually using the coupons on the tax bill.

The first payment is due Sept. 30, 2008 and the second payment is due by December 31, 2008.

The second payment may have a service charge as shown on the tax bill.

3. **PAYMENT FROM ESCROW ACCOUNTS FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

If an escrow account is established for the payment of the property tax, the escrow account servicer (mortgage company) shall pay taxes in semiannual installments unless the escrow account servicer has received written direction from the property owner or borrower to pay property tax in annual payments. This became mandated by the State of Maryland effective July 1, 2000.

If a taxpayer provides written directions to an escrow account servicer at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the tax year (By May 1 of each year) property taxes shall be paid on an annual basis on behalf of the taxpayer.

Denton Town Office
Karen L. Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer

HOMESTEAD from page 2

Example

Assume that your old assessment was \$100,000 and that your new phased-in assessment for the 1st year is \$120,000. An increase of 10% would result in an assessment of \$110,000. The difference between \$120,000 and \$110,000 is \$10,000. The tax credit would apply to the taxes due on the \$10,000. If the tax rate was \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value, the tax credit would be \$104 ($\$10,000 \div 100 \times \1.04).

New Application Requirement

To prevent improper granting of this credit on rented or multiple properties of a single owner, a new law was enacted in 2007 that requires all homeowners to submit a **one-time** application to establish eligibility for the credit. The application form will be included in the assessment notice mailed to one-third of the homeowners at the end of December for the next three years. It also will be mailed to new purchasers of residential property.

Conditions

The tax credit will be granted if the following conditions are met during the previous tax year:

- The property was not transferred to new ownership.
- There was no change in the zoning classification requested by the homeowner resulting in an increased value of the property.

- A substantial change did not occur in the use of the property.

- The previous assessment was not clearly erroneous.

A further condition is that the dwelling must be the owner's principal residence and the owner must have lived in it for at least six months of the year, including July 1 of the year for which the credit is applicable, unless the owner was temporarily unable to do so by reason of illness or need of special care. An owner can receive a credit only on one property---the principal residence.

Appeal Rights

If you have been denied a Homestead Tax Credit and you believe that you are eligible, contact the Central Office for the Homestead Tax Credit Program at the telephone numbers listed below. A final denial of a Homestead Tax Credit by the Central Office may be appealed within 30 days to the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board in the jurisdiction where the property is located.

Further Information

For questions about the Homestead Tax Credit, you may telephone 410-767-2165 in the Baltimore metropolitan area at 1-866-650-8783 toll free elsewhere in Maryland or visit the Department's website at www.dat.state.md.us.

The above information was obtained from <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>.

Attention Settlement Attorneys

Reminder to all settlement attorneys and agencies to please contact the Denton Town Office for fees due to the Town when handling settlements for properties being sold or transferred within the Town limits. There may be water/sewer fees or miscellaneous charges that need to be collected at the time of settlement. This will keep the Town's records up to date and better serve the residents of the Town of Denton. This will also eliminate problems after settlement of any outstanding balances for the new property owner.

Please note: Any property that transfers ownership and the utility fees are not collected at settlement and forwarded to the town that result in the water being turned off for non-payment, the water turn on fee will still be charged. This charged may be passed on to the settlement attorney. Currently the fee to turn water service back on during regular business hours is \$50.00 and after 3:30 p.m., the fee is \$100.00. Forms are available to use when requesting information. Any questions, please call the Town of Denton at (410) 479-2050.

Utility Calls for Service Fees

All calls for utility service for properties located in the Town of Denton are assessed the following service fee. This fee applies for all water shut off/turn ons, and other miscellaneous calls for service. Paying utility bills on time can help the property owner avoid these fees.

Special Attention: Any water that is turned off will be assessed this fee to have the water turned back on. Tenants will need to pay this fee before water service is turned back on. (This may not apply for emergency situations pending the nature of the call.)

\$50.00 fee during normal business hours.

\$100.00 fee after normal business hours.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO TAMPER WITH THE TOWN OF DENTON UTILITIES. DOING SO CARRIES UP TO A \$1,000 FINE AND POSSIBLE ARREST. PLEASE CONTACT THE DENTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. AT 410-479-2050 IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR SERVICE.

Updates on Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #552 - An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the Town Council to execute a contract for the sale of property described as Lot 1, as shown on a plat entitled "Denton Industrial Park III," which is recorded among the land records of the Caroline County, Maryland. Introduced 12/3/07, Adopted 1/14/08, Effective 1/21/08.

Ordinance #553 - An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the Town Council to execute a contract for the sale of property described as lot 10A-1 as shown on a plat entitled "Lot 10A Denton Industrial Park," which is to be recorded among the plat records of Caroline County, Maryland. Introduced 12/3/07, Adopted 1/14/08, Effective 1/21/08.

Ordinance #554 - An ordinance

of the Town of Denton to amend Chapter 124 of the Denton Town Code to prohibit the use of wells for potable water use on all properties, to prohibit the drilling of the new wells on residential property for outdoor use to permit the continued use of existing wells on residential properties for non potable outdoor uses only, and to permit the drilling of wells for irrigation uses on property used for agricultural or recreational purposes. Introduced 2/4/08, a public hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2008.

Ordinance #555 - An ordinance of the Town of Denton amending the Denton comprehensive plan to incorporate the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management plan as the plan relates to those areas of Town located within

the Denton Central Business District and the Denton Historic District. Introduced 2/4/08, a public hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2008.

Ordinance #556 - An ordinance of the Town of Denton amending the Zoning Ordinance to incorporate the Denton Pattern Book as part of the design standards to apply to development in a PN district. Introduced 2/4/08, a public hearing

is scheduled for March 3, 2008. Complete copies of all Resolutions and Ordinances may be viewed at the office of the Town of Denton, 13 North Third Street, Denton, Maryland, during normal working hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To inquire or obtain additional information regarding these amendments please contact the Clerk-Treasurer at (410) 479-2050.

Tax Sale Reminder

The 2007 - 2008 Tax Sale is coming soon. If you have not paid your real property taxes, water and sewer billing or any other miscellaneous service charges to the Town of Denton, please do so immediately to avoid losing your property during the Tax Sale process.

If you want to verify if you have any outstanding bills due to the Town please contact our office at 410-479-2050. Reminder that all real property taxes are to be paid at the Caroline County Treasurer's Office, in the Caroline County Court House. You may reach the County Treasurer's office by calling 410-479-0410.

Special Collection Reminder

Household Items: All special collection items to be picked up on Wednesdays, must be called in by 12 noon on Tues. Effective January 1, 2003, there is a \$5.00 collection fee for each item to be collected. This fee must be paid prior to pick up date.

Yard Waste: All bagged leaf and brush pickup requests must be called in by 12 noon on Tuesday for Wednesday pickup.

Call all requests in to the Town Office at
410-479-2050.

Leave a message after normal business hours.

Denton Town News

Volume 16, Number 2 March - April 2008
A community newsletter, published bimonthly by the
Town of Denton

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