



January – February 2013

# HARBOUR HEADLINES

## High Cotton Fundraisers

The Colington Harbour Association would like to thank High Cotton BBQ for their time and energy spent on their annual summer fundraising BBQ dinner events to help benefit the Soundside Park. We would also like to thank all those who supported these events! We greatly appreciate the continued support of High Cotton and our community, in helping to benefit our neighborhood. This year they donated \$1,475, which will be dedicated for maintenance and upkeep of the soundside park.



## Maintenance Yard Fees

Dare County is now charging the Association \$65/a ton for the commercial bins that are in the Maintenance Yard, so unfortunately we have had to change the fees charged. The discretion of maintenance yard staff will determine if fees differ due to weight and load.

- Miscellaneous Materials = \$ 5.00 a load
- Full sized pickup truck load = \$ 10.00 a load
- Materials with trailer, exceeding truck sized load = \$ 15.00 a load

Please don't take any frustrations you may have on this out on our maintenance staff, and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Association office at (252) 441-5886.

## Boat Slips

After reviewing the new capital reserve study, the Colington Harbour Association Board has decided to lower our boat slip costs in 2013, so they are more equivalent to support maintenance costs.

The new costs are:

18 x 40 - \$900	10 x 24 - \$600
12 x 24 - \$750	14 x 24 - \$825.

If you are interested in renting a slip for this upcoming year or have questions/concerns, please call the Association office at (252) 441-5886.



## 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## *Cape Manager's Report:*

Cloudy with a Chance of Technology

We all know about the clouds that shade the sun and carry rain. Now it's time to get to know the other cloud—the one that delivers computing power, handy applications, and the ability to share information with others wherever and whenever you need. Like the atmospheric mass that provides its name, the technological phenomenon impacts our daily lives.

Cloud computing sounds mysterious and untrustworthy, but chances are you're already working, playing and surfing in the cloud. If you've purchased an iPhone, Kindle, or any smartphone, tablet or computer recently, you're probably taking advantage of its benefits. If you've downloaded a song from the Internet, chatted on Skype or purchased something from Amazon.com, you've used the cloud.

So, what does the cloud mean to you, and how can you harness its power?

It means you can work from a remote office without losing a beat. You can collaborate with others on a document without having to e-mail the file back and forth. You can store photos, music and files online without taking up precious space on your computer.

The cloud offers cheaper, stress-free alternatives to expensive hardware and maintenance. All you really need to take advantage of the cloud is reliable Internet access, but you should carefully consider security, privacy, the provider's reliability and contract terms first.

How secure is your data and information on the cloud? What privacy rules are you subject to? Some cloud services include clauses that allow providers to access and use a customer's data—often for marketing purposes—and can retain that data long after you're done using the service.

What if the company providing the cloud service goes out of business? What happens to all your information? Do contact terms lock you into one program or application?

These are important questions to ask. And though the cloud is relatively new, it's here to stay and will become even more prevalent over time. To see a list of cloud computing providers, visit <http://cloud-computing.findthebest.com>.

– Cape Management



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## Colington Harbour Community Watch

### REPORTING A CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Reporting a crime or suspicious activity is the cornerstone of a Community Watch program. Thanks to all of you for your reporting efforts and diligence this past year. You are a key part in keeping our crime rates low in Colington Harbour.

You are important, additional sets of eyes and ears for law enforcement. Reporting incident, suspicious activities, or just observations provides focus for law enforcement activities. As with all activities, we can always do better. So let's welcome the New Year by working to improve the content of our calls.



#### REMEMBER: WHEN IN DOUBT ALWAYS CALL:

- The Sheriff's Department at 252-473-3444 will gladly take your call and proceed appropriately.
- Call 911 if your situation is an emergency.

Here are a few examples of what to report. Provide as much information as you can.

#### WHO WAS IT?

- Name(s) (if known) or physical description(s) (height, weight, age, color of hair/eyes, scars and tattoos)
- Sex, ethnic background
- Clothing worn – shorts, trousers, hat, shoes

#### WHAT WERE THEY DOING?

- Walking, running, bicycle, skate board, driving a vehicle, entering a house or car
- Describe the item they were using – Color, make, model

#### WHEN WERE THEY DOING IT?

- Date and time
- Have you seen them doing this before?

#### WHERE WERE THEY?

- Address or location
- What direction were they going?

You can still make a report even when you don't have specifics, but observe:

- Different patterns like traffic at a home or neighborhood that may only occur a few times a week, or a specific day of the week
- People in the neighborhood who don't seem to belong,
- Cars parked or occupied at unusual hours or where not usually seen.
- Open doors or windows.

Remember that the Dare County Community Crime line (252-473-3111 or 800-745-2746) is a safe way (anonymous) to report suspected crimes. CrimeLine financially rewards those tips that lead to an actual arrest. Check out the web site at <http://www.darecommunitycrimeline.org/>.

Doug Miller, Chairman  
Community Watch, Colington Harbour

[crimewatch@colingtonharbour.net](mailto:crimewatch@colingtonharbour.net)

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#### COLINGTON HARBOUR ASSOCIATION INC.

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1000 Colington Drive Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

## Avoid Silly Mistakes on Your Tax Returns

Tax time is fast approaching. Many of you prepare your own tax returns, so we wanted to remind you of a few common mistakes and offer ways to avoid them.

Let's get the bad news out of the way first: You cannot deduct your association assessment. Although they're used like taxes, assessments aren't taxes. They're payment for products and services delivered to all residents the association—utilities and trash removal, for example.

IRS instructions for preparing tax returns are quite useful and thorough. They can be a big help for do-it-yourselfers. However, it's the little things—silly mistakes—that most often creep into your documents and cause problems. Here are just a few tips to keep in mind:

- Prepare your tax return as early as possible. Waiting until the last minute increases your chances of making mistakes. Give yourself time to gather documents or research details. Better yet, collect these documents throughout the year in a special file so you have them ready at tax time.
- Use the correct tax rates. Tax tables can be dense and difficult to read; use extra care.
- Fill in every line. If a line item on a form doesn't apply to you, put a zero or a strike through where the amounts would be. That indicates you determined it doesn't apply to you.
- Make sure all your documents are complete. Attach forms, schedules, supporting statements and explanations. If you need more space, attach separate sheets that are the same size and format as the printed forms. Transfer the totals onto the printed forms. Put your name, social security number and date on all extra pages.
- Rounding is OK. Round off all amounts on your tax return. Round up to the next dollar all amounts that are 50 cents or more. Round down all amounts that are between one and 49 cents.
- Pay on time. File on time. The quickest way to get the IRS' attention is to pay your taxes late or file your return late.
- Reply promptly to all IRS inquiries. Ignoring the IRS invites trouble—you could be audited or have your assets seized.
- Ask another person to review your tax return to check your math and ensure that all fields are accounted for. Math errors are the most frequent mistake on individual tax returns.
- Sign the return. If you pay someone to prepare your taxes, that person must sign your tax return. But, you must sign and date your own tax return no matter who prepares it.
- Keep copies of your tax return and all supporting documents. You'll need them next year, and you should keep them for another five to seven years after that before destroying them.



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If you're tired of being interrupted by telemarketers who make incessant calls to your home or mobile phones, the National Do Not Call Registry can help. Managed by the Federal Trade Commission, this free service allows you to add your personal phone number to its database, in turn limiting the number of unwanted calls you receive. Once you register your number, telemarketers have 31 days from your registration date to stop calling you; your number also remains on the registry until you remove it or discontinue your phone service.

Adding your number to the registry will stop most telemarketing calls, but not all. Calls from or on behalf of political organizations, charities and surveyors are still permitted, as are calls from companies with which you have an existing business relationship or have given prior written permission.

To add your number to the registry, call toll free (888) 382-1222 from the phone you want to register or visit [www.dontcall.gov](http://www.dontcall.gov).



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\*Remodeling Magazine, October, 2010.  
Mr. Tom Stalheber, Licensed  
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Remodeling Magazine, October, 2010, Mr. Tom Stalheber,  
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## Increase Your Home's Value

A house is one of the biggest purchases a person will ever make, and most want to keep their homes looking beautiful not only for themselves, but also to entice future buyers. From time to time, it's a good idea to invest in some home remodeling to add to its appeal. Of course, before making any major changes to your home, you'll want to be sure you go through the proper channels—such as the association architectural committee for approval and the city for the necessary permits—to make sure that you don't run into any legal issues.

So when it comes time to give your house a facelift, consider these touch-ups and renovations that will not only make your home look better than ever but also help increase its value



**Re-paint Your Rooms:** One of the easiest (and cheapest!) ways to dramatically change the entire look of a room is to add a fresh coat of paint. Not only will it immediately make your walls look crisp and clean, but also, because wall color can greatly dictate the feel of a room, it's a simple way to change the ambiance of your home. Since darker colors seem intense on walls and can make a room look smaller, it's usually best to stick with lighter, warmer hues for your overall color to make your home feel open and welcoming. If you want to paint with darker colors, consider limiting them to an accent wall so that the color isn't overwhelming and pops against the lighter colors.

If you're doing the painting yourself, here are a few tips so your paint job looks professional:

Apply a coat of primer first so that walls won't soak up as much paint. Use two coats of paint to ensure a rich, even coverage.

Use painters' tape along the outside edge of the area you're painting to get sharp, even lines.

**Update Your Kitchen and Bathrooms:** If your kitchen or bathrooms look like they belong in an era long since passed, it

might be time to update them. That can be as simple as retiling the floor and replacing faucets and cabinet hardware or as complex as completely remodeling the rooms. When you remodel, consider avoiding too-trendy decor and instead stick with classic looks that will stand the test of time—this will keep you from redecorating again in five years and also make your home all the more appealing to potential buyers.

**Add a Home Office:** People's work and home lives are drastically merging as more and more workers telecommute from home. Because of this, turning an empty basement, attic or bedroom into a dedicated home office can give you a peaceful place to work and also be a real selling point for potential buyers.



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## Thoughts Entering the New Year

As we begin another year, we members of the association board offer some thoughts about how we all can make our community an even better place to live in the New Year and beyond.

**Responsibility.** We all take responsibility for adhering to rules and meeting our financial obligations to the community so we can avoid the costly and unpleasant task of pursuing legal actions.

**Sharing.** We share our ideas, perspectives and concerns so we can all work together to build an even better community.

**Fellowship.** We actively participate in the recreational, social and cultural activities of the community.

**Involvement.** We attend association meetings and take the time to review important information about our community.

**Inclusiveness.** We actively welcome new residents, making all owners and renters feel part of the community.

**Pride.** We are proud to live in this community and recommend it to others who are looking for a good place to call home.

As members of the elected board, we will certainly strive to do our part. It's our goal to serve as neighborhood facilitators and regard our authority as a temporary stewardship, even as we plan for a future well beyond our tenure on the board.

We wish you a happy and healthy new year!

*-Colington Harbour Association Board of Directors*



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