



July - August 2012

HARBOUR HEADLINES

President's Report

Presented by Ken Pagurek at the 2012 Annual Meeting

Good morning, I would like to welcome you to the 2012 Annual Meeting. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Ken Pagurek, President of the Colington Harbour Association.

I'm going to start my President's report by talking about volunteering in your community. Becoming a volunteer in your community is only a phone call or a stop in at the office away. Stop in, or call Deke, I'm sure he can find a committee that needs your help.

At this time, I would like to thank Judy Welsh & her committee, Dolores Norton, Gail Leonard, Gail Michler, Nancy D'andrade, Gloria Porter, Jim Roberts, and the Harbour Maintenance Crew for the beautiful planting arrangements at the front gate. For those of you who don't know, those Snap Dragons, and other flowers need to be dead headed to continue to bloom. It's through their efforts you have that beautiful view as you enter your community. Judy has room on her committee for anyone wishing to volunteer.

I would also like to thank Doug Miller Chairman of your Community Crime Watch Committee. It seems like the recommendation by Doug and the Sheriff Dept. is to lock your car, as it's the leading factor to avoid most thefts that happen in your community. An unlawful entry into an unlocked auto is considered a B&E. Doug might just need another volunteer or two on that committee.

Bob Hopkins, as Chairman, with Bill Snidow and Diana Miller serve on the Architectural Control Committee. I know they would like a few new members. No architectural experience is required, but some knowledge of light construction would be a

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plus. The sitting members would gladly spend time helping a new member get up to speed.

I have mentioned the standing committees that are always in need of help. There are other committees, some forming, others ad-hoc call the office for more information. Leave your name and phone number, get on the list, as new committees form, they will call to see if you're are interested.

I would like to take a moment to thank David Creecy for volunteering his time and machine to grade and dress the sand around the trees in the sound front park. We can always use volunteers to help with projects that can improve your park.

Let's give these folks a round of applause for volunteering their time to help make a better looking and safer community for us to live in, and doing so help your assessments remain low.

New this year, Dare County has informed us, they will no longer provide us with the 40 yard dumpster for free. It will cost the Association \$65.00 per ton of trash they remove in each dumpster. That cost will be passed on to those who use the dumpster at a fee schedule to be determined.



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ALL ADS AND AD PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN WED., AUG. 15, 2012 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SEPT./OCT. 2012 ISSUE OF HARBOUR HEADLINES.

IF THE CHA OFFICE DOES NOT RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR ADS BY THE DUE DATE, THEY WILL NOT BE PRINTED.

Collection of Assessments:

The prompt and complete collection of assessments is the life blood of the community. We are constantly chasing people who know their responsibilities to your community. You know you have to pay your taxes to Dare County, or they will put a lien on the property and then start foreclosure proceedings. You also know your responsibility to pay an annual assessment to your community. The Association is following with similar procedures as the county. A reminder letter is sent to the home owner within 30 days with a notice of a \$25.00 late fee, and interest will start adding up. If there is no response within the next 30 days, a letter is sent informing the homeowner the matter is being sent for legal collection. If the homeowner does not make payment within 15 days, a Lien is placed on the property. Once turned over to the lawyers for collection, it's out of our hands. Legal fees will usually be greater than the original assessment. Foreclosure proceedings will then be started by the lawyers. Some property owners would like to pay the arrears over a period of time. These folks think we are a bank, and would like us to finance them for months or years with payments that

have fallen behind. We are not a bank. It is the fiduciary obligation of each board member to see every assessment, late fee and fine is paid in full. We have started the foreclosure process on a 6-at-a-time plan.

It's expensive, but we hope to recuperate our legal expenses, after the lawyers process the case. This is by no means a money-maker for the Assn. If you are seated here today, you have paid your assessment, making you a member in good standing with a vote on issues that may be brought to the floor. If you have not paid your assessment, you are not a member in good standing, and you will not have a vote.

I will let John Collins comment on the status of assessment collection, fines, liens, and foreclosures in his Treasurer's Report.

Bar Code Access:

Regarding the new guard gate sticker system, most folks have complied, however we did have several who try to buck the system. Deke has arranged with DMV to trace the tag numbers after the third time they violate the system. Those

offenders are then sent a letter informing them if they do not get a bar code they will face a hearing before the board, and be charged an assessment. We have sent letters to several residents, and all have complied before being called in for a hearing.

In the case of a non-resident violating the system, they will be sent a letter informing them the next violation will generate a trespass violation that will be issued by the Dare County Sheriff Dept. An appearance in front of the judge at the county court house will be required. We are trying to make this system work for the protection of the community.

At every annual meeting, someone will ask to eliminate the guard gate to save money. As a reminder, a past survey showed a 76% vote in favor of keeping the guard gate. I have been informed by real estate sales agents, the property value in the Harbour will drop significantly if the Guard Gate is eliminated. After all, that's why most of you folks bought here. Some feel it's an illusion of safety, but those folks working the guard gate do stop a lot of undesirables from entering. Also the word is out that we are using



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*Remodeling Magazine, October, 2010, Mr. Tom Statheber,
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Covenants:

Last year the covenants Committee had provided the Board with its recommendations for the revision of our current covenants. We have been waiting to have the bar code program up and running, so as to have it included in the latest edition. Since Dare County is going to charge us for the dumpster in the yard, this will have to be addressed in the covenants, before they can be turned over to the lawyers for review.

Storm Damage:

I don't have to elaborate on the problems each homeowner endured. I would like to thank Cape Mgt. & Deke for their efforts to get your Harbour back to some sense of normality as quickly as they did.

Sound Front Park & Bath House:

As everyone knows, the damage to the area was extensive. The top priority of the board was to have that area restored for use by our residents as soon as possible. All Swing Sets, Spring Riding Toys, Cooking Grills etc. are in working order.

The bath house could not be rebuilt at its old location. It was recommended we move it to the higher elevation where you see it now. It can now be fully insured against loss. By situating it atop the knoll, the CHY&RC asked if they could partner with the Assn. and split the cost of the building, it's maintenance and insurance. We were expecting to spend \$40,000 dollars to rebuild the bath house, so it worked out financially to take them up on the offer, and we have an esthetically appealing building. It cost a few dollars more in total, but we split the

\$46,000 dollar expense at \$23,000 each - saving the association \$17,000 dollars.

You all have been given a hurricane accounting sheet to see where the special assessment money was spent. As you can see, the money that was put away in the Capital Reserve account provided \$40,290 dollars to offset the damages. May I also point out the \$18,500 dollar cost to stabilize the hill on the sound front side of our property behind the tennis courts. The board was advised of the dangerous condition of the hill a few months before the storm. The board members walked that area and had discussed when and how to pay to eliminate the dangerous condition. Irene just made it necessary to fix it immediately.

With hope of avoiding another special assessment in the future, the board approved a \$100,000 dollar increase to the Capital Reserve, splitting it at \$75K for storm restoration, and \$25K for canal clean-up. This money will accumulate over a 10 year period of time starting with this year's budget. With the extended life expectancy of the vinyl verses wood bulkheads in the marina, the added life to the park equipment, the new bath house along with the combining and funding (currently \$12,000 per year) of the reserve items leased to the CHYRC, we expect that we will be able to cover these additional items with no increase in the funding contribution. We are expecting an updated Capital Reserve study later this month to confirm this.

John can explain how our current Capital Reserve account is funded, and the storm damage accounting when he gives the treasurers report, Deke can answer questions on the way the clean-up was done and the amount of debris that was carted away in his manager's report.

President's Award

The President's Award is presented to **Gary Frazier** for the volunteer work he did on the School Bus Stop shelters he erected. He has built 4 shelters and will complete a fifth this summer. Gary has done this work for the cost of materials and provided his labor on a volunteer basis.

I would like to thank **Frank Hendricks** for serving on your Board for the past 6 years. Per our covenants and by-laws he could not run for a succeeding term.

I don't know how many of you noticed my use of "your" in reference to the community. That was not in error. It is truly your community, and with everyone's efforts, positive thoughts and actions, it will only be a better community.

Thank you!

Colington Harbour would like to recognize **David Creecy / Creecy Enterprises** for his volunteer work in the park. David spent considerable time with his Bobcat moving sand and doing final grading in the park. The park would not look as nice as it does without his help. Thanks David!

Special Thanks

The Colington Harbour Association and the Colington Harbour Yacht & Racquet Club would like to thank the following contributors to the Annual Pig Pickin'

Kelly's Restaurant Baked Beans

High Cotton BBQ Potato Salad

Outer Banks Brewing Station Pasta Salad

BJ's Carolina Café Slaw and Banana Pudding

Western Sizzlin' Mac & Cheese

Jason McNair Rolls

All the food was fantastic, and fun was had by all. Thank you!

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Email: info@colingtonharbour.net

1000 Colington Drive Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

Colington Harbour Pool

The Pool in Colington Harbour is operated and managed by the Colington Harbour Yacht and Racquet Club (CHY&RC) for use by the members and guests of this club who pay a nominal membership fee each year. All Colington Harbour Association (CHA) property owners and long term renters are eligible to become members.

Members of CHY&RC can bring guest to the pool with them. Restrictions for number of guests can be found in the BYLAWS which can be located on the website 'www.CHYRC.org' for your review. These and other restrictions are summarized for you here to facilitate easy reference and avoid any misunderstanding.

- Children under the age of 11 years of age are not permitted to enter the pool area without a parent or adult care person.
- A member must be present with their guests. If this is not possible then please call the pool to identify to the pool manager the names of the guests that will be using the pool without the member being in attendance with them.
- A guest is someone who is not eligible to be a member of CHY&RC. This means the guest does not own property within Colington Harbour, nor reside in Colington Harbour as a long term renter. If you anticipate having many guests using the pool an additional fee of \$50 was identified on the membership/renewal application.
- If you let out your house for a fee for a short period of time during the months the pool is open (day, week, month during the summer months) the occupants are not considered your guests – they are considered Seasonal Renters and a special membership level is applicable in order to enable these renters to use the pool. This fee was identified to you on the membership/renewal application as \$300.
- Any guest or tenant violating pool rules and regulations will be the responsibility of the sponsoring member.
- Pool rules are attached to the Bylaws as an Addenda and are posted at the pool.
- Only children under the age of 5 are allowed in the kiddie pool. They must use swimmies and a parent must be with the child in that area.

WATER AEROBICS is limited in size to the first 40 people who arrive for the class. Classes are provided 5 days a week as follows:

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday – 9:30 to 10:30 AM •
Tuesday & Thursday 7 – 8 PM**

POOL HOURS:

Sunday - Noon to 8PM • Monday thru Saturday - 11 AM to 8PM, (Tuesday and Thursday 7 – 8 PM is reserved for water aerobics) There is a snack bar at the pool open during these hours. If you have any questions or need additional clarification please call the pool manager at 252-441-4938.



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Colington Harbour Yacht & Racquet Club News

WELCOME to all of our new members and welcome back to our renewing members. During May we had many new members sign up as well as most of our 2011-12 membership renew. The count is not completed yet but soon we should know for sure what our membership base consists of and this will enable us to plan our budget for the year. We are confident that you will continue to enjoy the pool and activities in 2012-2013 as we move forward and plan events and improvements.

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in the Annual Memorial **Day Pig Pick'n**. Once again it was a wonderful success. The crowds exceeded previous years attendance and from the sounds of happiness and contentment a good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone that brought a side dish to share – without your generosity we would not have been able to satisfy so many of your friends and neighbors. To those who helped set up, serve, prepare, and clean up – a great big thank you goes out to you too. Without your help this event would not have been such a big success!

We received many donations from Restaurants and food providers in this area. We want to thank and recognize the following providers: **Kelly's Outerbanks Restaurant and Tavern, High Cotton NCBQ, Outerbanks Brewing Station, BJ's Carolina Cafe, Western Sizzlin, and Jason McNair**. Your continued support of these restaurant's throughout the year makes it possible for them to be generous in donating to this event. The winner of the drawing for the free CHY&RC membership for 2012 was won by **Jessica Loose** and family. So congratulations are extended to the Loose family with encouragement to enjoy all the activities that they can.

Speaking of activities, the **Yoga Class** is still going strong. We had more than sufficient students sign up for this current session to insure both the Tuesday and Thursday Classes from 5:30 to 7PM are being held each week. If any one else is still interested in joining these classes kindly call **Dolores Norton** at 441-6620 for details.

The tennis courts have been cleaned up and repainted and just waiting for you to come and play. If you have an old key or need a key please go to the CHA office at the club house to get



a key so that you can use the courts. (A small fee is applicable to members getting a key for the first time. Replacement keys are free to members turning in the old key.)

Currently there is a **Club Dinner** scheduled for July 28 and it will include food in the Mediterranean Cuisine flair. Please sign up at the CHA office, up at the club house, by July 25 so that food quantities can be determined. There is a limit of 59 seats for full occupancy - so please sign up early. The cost of this dinner will be \$12 per person and pre-payment at the time you make your reservation is preferred. On the night of the dinner the doors will open at 6PM for a cocktail hour with set ups provided (BYOB). Dinner will be served at 7PM.

No other dinners, nor socials for July and August are scheduled as of this writing, however, we are encouraging you to volunteer to be a host. Please call **Jane** and **Doug Wirth** at 441-0329 if you are interested in being a host for either event.

As of this writing the new Park/Pool bathrooms are receiving the finishing touches. This new facility was needed after the destruction of most of the park by Hurricane Irene. Both CHA and CHY&RC joined together to insure a new facility would be available for use by pool attendees, as well as park and beach adventurers. Thank you for your patience during the construction stage – we are almost there! It looks wonderful and we encourage everyone to insure that it is kept clean and in good shape - free of vandalism and misuse. – Have a great summer!

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Community Watch

This matrix provides guidance for reporting concerns relating to crime or the community. You are encouraged to use your own judgment in reporting any problem to the proper authorized.

911

- Fire
- Crime in progress
- Clear evidence of breaking and entering
- Vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, or boating accident with injuries
- Swimmers in difficulty
- Discharge of firearms
- Serious injuries or accidents like falls, lacerations, or dog bites
- Clear evidence of a rabid animal like unprovoked aggression, or frothing at the mouth

Dare County Sheriff's office non-emergencies:

Anytime (252) 473-3444

- Suspicious vehicles or persons in the area
- Suspicious or evidence of breaking and entering of homes or boats
- Suspicion of criminal activity like drug use/sales, theft of construction supplies, domestic abuse, vandalism, loud parties, abusive or threatening actions or language.
- Unlicensed (16 or younger) drivers operating automobiles, trucks or motorcycles. Note that the NC Highway Patrol will also be notified through this call.
- This would include unlicensed off-road vehicles like ATVs, go-carts, dirt bikes, or golf carts operating on our roads.

Dare community Crime Line:

(252) 473-3111 or 800 745-2746

- An anonymous, safe way to report suspected crimes and by financially rewarding those tips that lead to an actual arrest.

SPCA Dare County Animal Shelter:

(252) 475-5620

- Dogs or cats without a collar, no license, or no rabies tags
- Dog or dog packs (3 or more) running at large
- Dog(s) exhibiting threatening behavior like barred teeth, growling, or hair on neck/back raised.
- Suspicion of rabid dog, cat or raccoon.
- An injured animal.

NC Wildlife Commission:

1-800-662-7137

- Violation of NO WAKE restrictions
- Blockage of canals by fishing nets
- Unlicensed boat or jet ski
- Boat accidents with/without injuries
- Suspected violations of boating, fish and game laws
- Suspected dumping of sewage or oily bilge water in our waters

Dare County Department of Social Services:

(252) 475-5500

- Report or suspicion of child/adult abuse or neglect

Community Watch Chairman: Doug Miller 252 480-3316

crimewatch@colingtonharbour.net

Contact the CW Chairman if you are not sure whether to report an incident or observation.

Observation of any of the following:

- Mail box over-flowing
- Possible indication of breaking and entering, or vandalism
- Sinking/sunk boats
- Water evidence of broken pipes, blocked/over-flowing septic systems

Continued on next page...

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- Please make a courtesy call as soon as you can after you have called an organization above to the Community Watch Chairman for follow up with Colington Harbour Office and the authorities.

Community Watch - Crime Report

- A mailbox was taken from the 300 block of Harborview Drive
- A suspicious condition was reported on Sir Richard East at a vacation home, nothing found out of the ordinary
- A breaking and entering in the 900 block of Colington Drive, nothing apparently taken it appears the suspect was scared off by something
- Report of kids throwing eggs at cars on Colington Drive near the guard house
- Report of several males in a Red convertible sports car with the top down littering in the area of 1000 Colington Drive.
- A breaking and entering on Seagull Court in the modular section, nothing found missing.
- There were a few noise disturbances reported at various locations throughout the Harbor, from barking dogs, construction work to people being loud.
- A gas can exploded in the Harbour parking lot at 12:18AM on May 8. The can was taken from a work boat in the Harbour. The same night a Sunfish (sailboat) was taken from the rack behind the Youth Sailing Program Shed and later found tied to a piling at the dock in the Harbour.



Community Watch - Activities

Community Watch patrols are being put together to focus on the Harbour area.

- Lt. Duvall or one of his deputies will be in the area on May 26 for the Pig-Pickin' to meet and answer questions for a couple of hours. Crime prevention materials will be passed out. He has been invited to have lunch with us.

2012 Calendar Activities:

- Working with Crime Line toward organizing the various Community Watch 'structures' on the Outer Banks to improve awareness and collaboration of crime prevention programs and activities
- Some type of community 'appreciation' and 'support' activities for our 'first responders'
- An activity for 'National Night Out' in October during Crime Prevention Month



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Mosquito Control Information from Dare County



The information below was reproduced from the Dare County web site.

Spring and summer weather bring countless outdoor recreational activities alive for residents and visitors alike here in Dare County.

Unfortunately, the season also brings mosquitoes. Dare County is concerned about the health and comfort of its residents and visitors. To combat overpopulation of mosquitoes, the Public Works department conducts a mosquito control program. Below is a list of frequently asked questions regarding the Mosquito Control Program. If you have additional questions or concerns please contact the Public Works Department at 252.475.5885.

Q. Is the spray safe to inhale?

A. Very small amounts of permethrin are used during ULV truck spraying. There is virtually no risk of adverse health effects in humans.

Q. Should I close the windows around my house when the spray truck drives through my neighborhood?

A. Yes, we ask residents to avoid outdoor activities for at least 30 minutes when they see our trucks spraying in their area.

Q. How does the spray work to kill mosquitos?

A. It functions as a neurotoxin, affecting nerve cell membranes by prolonging sodium channel activation. It over stimulates the nervous system of the insect causing it to die.

Q. Does the spray kill other insects as well as mosquitos?

A. The spray is highly toxic to bees and goldfish. We do not spray in areas where bees are located.

Q. How do they determine the amount to spray and where and when to spray?

A. We spray at lowest label rates possible allowing for continual spraying for most of the mosquito season. Spraying is conducted at night during the most effective time for most species, on at least a once a week basis. Additional spraying will be conducted when surveillance data indicates a need to control mosquito numbers and/or to lessen the risk of disease.

Q. What chemicals are used and are they safe for children and pets?

A. Yes. The primary pesticides used in the larval control operations have very low human/mammalian toxicity and

most are very environmentally friendly. Most are toxins produced by bacteria and are very specific to mosquitoes while in the larval stage. The pesticides used to control the adult mosquitoes also have very low human/mammalian toxicity and have been used for many years. Most are "synthetic pyrethroids" which are man-made pesticides that mimic a natural product made from chrysanthemum plants. All products and their labels can be found on our website. www.darenc.com/publicworks

Q. Are there plans for aerial spraying this year?

A. At this time there are no plans for aerial spraying. As a result of a catastrophic event, such as a hurricane, it may become necessary at that point. Notification to the public will be made if the need should arise in the future.

Q. Will the spraying schedules be posted on the website, and updated when changes are made?

A. There is no set spraying schedule for the county. Spraying is based on multiple factors--Calls, surveillance, and weather can all play a determining role in when and where we spray.

Q. Can mosquitos bite and hurt my dog or cat?

A. Mosquitos transmit heartworms, which can be fatal to dogs, and sometimes cats if left untreated. Dogs and cats can contract West Nile Virus from mosquitoes as well, however there are very few recorded cases and West Nile Virus is not typically fatal to dogs and cats.

Q. How long can we expect the mosquitos to be a problem?

A. Mosquitos will always be a nuisance for Dare County due to the coastal environment. We can only help by controlling them; they will never be completely eliminated.

Q. Can I get HIV from a mosquito bite?

A. There is no scientific evidence to support this claim. When a mosquito bites someone, it does not inject its own blood or the blood of an animal or person it has bitten into the next person it bites. The mosquito does inject saliva, which acts as a lubricant so it can feed more effectively. Yellow fever and malaria can be transmitted through saliva, but HIV does not reproduce in insects, so the virus does not survive in the mosquito long enough to be transmitted in the saliva.

Q. Can I get any communicable blood diseases (i.e.Hepatitis, etc) from a mosquito?

A. Mosquitos inject saliva, not blood. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are spread by contact with infected blood, it's very tempting to think of mosquitos as flying hypodermic needles. However, the "needle" that mosquitos feed with, called the proboscis, is actually a complex structure that has separate channels. When a mosquito bites, it injects saliva through one channel. The blood it sucks as a meal flows in a completely separate channel and only in one direction: toward the mosquito.

Continued on next page...

Therefore, it is biologically unlikely for infected blood to be spread to another person.

Mosquitos continued

Q. How can I eliminate mosquito breeding locations from around my home?

A. Mosquitoes must have standing water to complete their life cycle. Mosquitoes can hatch from eggs in as little as seven days. It's extremely important to eliminate all stagnant water in areas around your property. Mosquitoes can lay their eggs in as little as a couple of tablespoons of water, so do your part to remove standing water in discarded items, abandoned swimming pools, pails, buckets, animal water dishes, bird baths, recreation vehicles and flower pots

around your property. Additionally, make sure your watering equipment isn't leaking and pooling water around spigots or automatic sprinkler equipment.

Q. The mosquitoes seem worse than ever and they seem to be out earlier this year. Why don't we see more trucks spraying?

A. Hurricane Irene caused flooding which prolonged the season last year. In addition, the unseasonably warm winter did not allow the mosquito population to be adversely affected by freezing temperatures. Dare County is currently spraying at night. GPS trackers allow us to know the date and time that the truck sprayed particular areas. The majority of the spraying occurs during the peak summer season when the mosquito population and county population are at their highest.

Town of Nags Head to Hold 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular

Nags Head will host, in conjunction with the Nags Head Fishing Pier and the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, the annual Independence Day Fireworks Spectacular on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 at 9:25 p.m. on the ocean pier located at Mile Post 11.5 on NC Route 12, S. Virginia Dare Trail in Nags Head.

A rain date has been set for Thursday, July 5. The fireworks display will last approximately 25 minutes.

Parking at and near the fireworks display site will be directed by the Nags Head Police Department. Those attending the show are encouraged to park east of U.S. Highway 158/S. Croatan Highway. Those choosing to park west of U.S. Highway 158/S. Croatan Highway should use extreme caution while attempting to cross this heavily traveled roadway.

All persons attending this event are reminded not to use or block private driveways. Vehicles blocking driveways or presenting a traffic hazard before, during, or immediately following this event will be towed. The Town of Nags Head requests that persons use the public beach accesses as pathways to the oceanfront. Please stay off the environmentally sensitive dune and do not use the private property of others, such as private gazebos or decks, to view the fireworks without the property owner's permission.

No vehicles, with the exception of authorized Town and emergency vehicles, will be allowed on the ocean front beaches.

The following public beach accesses are recommended for access to the beach for fireworks viewing:



South of Nags Head Fishing Pier

- Curlew Street
- Hollowell Street
- Conch Street

North of Nags Head Fishing Pier

- Bladen Street
- Bittern Street
- Bonnett Street
- Barnes Street
- Blackman Street

Jockey's Ridge State Park is another ideal spot for viewing the fireworks. The park will be open late July 4th to accommodate visitors. Please call the park at 252-441-7132 for more information.

At the conclusion of the fireworks, spectator, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic exiting the area will be directed and controlled by Nags Head Police Officers.

The Town of Nags Head wishes to express its gratitude to Andy and Lovie McCann and the entire staff of the Nags Head Fishing Pier for agreeing to co-host this event. ***Please remember that the personal use of fireworks in Nags Head is illegal.***

Firefighters See Increase In Preventable Fires

Recently, Outer Banks area firefighters have seen an increase in fires that are truly preventable. Particularly, fires due to improperly discarded smoking materials have been on the rise. The Colington community has also been affected by smoking related fires, with several incidents in just the last few weeks. Most of these fires have started outside of residences and commercial structures, which firefighters believe is a result of more and more smokers choosing to smoke outside. A major problem with fires that occur outside is depending on the time of day, fires may get a tremendous head start and not be noticed right away causing a much greater risk of death or injuries from fire. Property damage also increases as fires go undiscovered, especially late at night. Cigarette fires can smolder for many hours. We've seen fires start as many as 6 or 7 hours after the last person smoked, especially when cigarette butts fall into mulch or crevices in decks or walls. Sometimes those butts may travel several feet if there is a breeze.



This article is not anti-smoking but simply to give some facts about smoking related fires. Consider these facts:

- Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths in the United States.
- About 1,000 people are killed every year in their homes by fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials.
- According to the USFA, 25% of people killed in smoking related fires are not the actual smokers themselves; 34% of these victims were the children of the smokers; and 25% were neighbors or friends of the smokers.
- Many outdoor smoking related fires are caused due to improperly extinguishing and discarding of cigarettes.

Here are some ways to help prevent fires from smoking materials:

- Using ashtrays with a wide and stable base. If it wobbles, it won't work.
- Put out cigarettes in an ashtray filled with sand or water.
- Make sure your cigarette is fully out, especially if you are drowsy due to medicine or alcohol.
- The cigarette really needs to be completely stubbed out in the ashtray.
- So if you do smoke, whether inside or out, remember, Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.

Thanks! The Colington Harbour Association would like to thank Whit Patterson of Albermarle Bulkheads for removing a sunken boat for us in Brig Inlet. The boat was left as a result of Hurricane Irene and had been abandoned. Thank You Whit for helping us get it out of the water.



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Your Fire Department Needs You

The Colington Volunteer Fire Department has a great need for firefighters as well as folks to help out in non-emergency roles. Did you know that your fire department relies on volunteers? Even though we now have a small force of career firefighters on duty, we are always looking for folks interested in becoming trained as firefighters. We are able to work with you to ensure you get the training you need. If you are at least 18 years old and willing to serve your fellow citizens as a firefighter, the Colington Volunteer Fire Department is looking for you. From folks new to the community, to life-long Colington area residents, if you've got the time to dedicate to your community we'd love to have you. Previous experience is not necessary. Training and equipment are provided free of charge, and all firefighters are covered by Workers Comp insurance. All firefighters must have a valid NC Drivers License, High School Diploma or G.E.D. or be currently enrolled in school.

Volunteer firefighters are tasked with responding to calls for service, helping maintain equipment and attending training regularly. All costs are covered by the department, including insurance and even a state retirement program for 20 years of service. We provide everything you will need, including personal protective equipment and thorough training, to become a competent and safe firefighter.

Our firefighters also respond to non-fire incidents such as medical calls, traffic crashes, extrication, searches, boating incidents, environmental hazards and yes, even an occasional cat in the tree call. Firefighters trained in emergency medical care have even been responsible for saving lives in our community before our colleagues from EMS arrive.

Volunteers receive no pay, but you will enjoy the emotion of being a part of a great community organization. And knowing that you contributed to saving a life or protecting a person's home is a priceless feeling. You may be eligible for a \$250 NC tax deduction by volunteering as a firefighter.

Honestly, fighting fires isn't for everybody, but we truly have a need for able-bodied folks. Firefighters must be able to do the tasks related to firefighting and that work is strenuous at times, including wearing breathing apparatus. More information is available by contacting the fire station at (252) 441-6234, or drop by for a visit and see first-hand how you can fill a valuable role in this community.

What about non-emergency activities? Can I still Help?

If going into burning buildings isn't something you want to try, we still have room for you. The CVFD also has a dedicated Rehab unit that responds to structure fires. These folks are regular department members, but there is no firefighting duty. They attend trainings and operate

alongside of the firefighters, filling a valuable role on the fire ground getting the crews ready to go back into action.

We also have a need in our Support Group. Members help out behind the scenes on non-operational activities like fundraising, such as our weekly BINGO games, annual dinners, preparing our annual fundraising letter and a lot more. Fundraising is the cornerstone of our Support Group. The folks that help us out with these tasks are a big asset to us and the community. Even if you can only help the Support Group a couple of days a month, we are happy to have you. There are no training or attendance requirements for Support. More information is available by contacting the fire station at (252) 441-6234, or drop by for a visit.



252.441.8747
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