

# TOWN CRIER

This is the 5th issue of what will be a periodic communication to the citizens of Cape Charles. John Burdiss is solely responsible for the content.

Topics addressed in this issue (September 12, 2007) are:

1. New town manager
2. Notable agenda items at the 9/11/07 council meeting (SEE NOTE)
3. Not goodbye
4. Constituents are invited

## *Welcome Joe Vacarro!*

A number of excellent candidates from a very strong group of applicants were interviewed by the Mayor and the four non-employee members of council and Joe was the unanimous choice! Joe and his wife, Victoria, have lived in Cape Charles for several years, although Joe has spent a good deal of time on active duty in Iraq and other locales as a Marine Colonel. He also worked recently as a private contractor overseeing construction projects in Afghanistan.

Joe has a very strong resume, enthusiasm and high energy and like many of us, Joe loves Cape Charles and wants to work to make it even better. In addition to his military service, Joe has a lengthy career in police work. He worked as a DEA agent in Norfolk, and served as a policeman in his native New York State.

Joe is highly motivated to provide the Town employees with the tools and the processes necessary to deliver high quality and consistent service in every area. He is particularly keen on providing equal access for all citizens to our government. He also wants to assure equal application of all rules, policies, ordinances and laws to everyone.

Joe's "cheering section" at last night's meeting (including a dozen or more of his Legionnaire buddies and other citizens) was a wonderful start to the meeting and to Joe's assumption of the job as our new Town Manager.

## **Notable agenda items - September 11, 2007 meeting of Town Council**

- I have grouped several items for convenience; all items on last night's agenda passed unanimously, except for Councilman Elliott's abstention on the Assistant Town Manager appointment since that position is one that may provide supervisory control over all Town employees. The agenda contained many important matters, each had been thoroughly examined by Council and consensus had been reached.
- Planning and long term development issues that were addressed after enormous amounts of work by staff, the Planning Commission and others included: Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for the Harbor District; Adoption of the Historic Harbor District Overlay; approval of the Multi-Use Trail Master Plan;

Amendments to the zoning map for the STIP; zoning map amendments/text changes; and modification to the fence ordinance. The background materials for the above items are quite voluminous. I encourage you to obtain copies and read them to get a flavor of the work being done by various staff members and citizens. Many citizens provide critical service to the Town on the various boards, commissions and committees where volunteerism really matters.

- Appointment of Heather Arcos as Assistant Town Manager along with an ordinance revision to accommodate the position. Heather has worked for the Town for several years as the right-hand to three Town Managers. We are pleased to acknowledge her efforts and we look forward to her continued professional growth.
- Appointment of Paul Skolnick at the Treasurer to fill the position vacated by the retirement of Pat Buckley. As with Joe Vacarro, Paul was selected from a field of strong candidates. Paul comes to us from Charlottesville where he served as VP-Finance and CFO of a medical device manufacturer for the last 9 years. He is a native of Connecticut with a BS in accounting and over 35 years experience in accounting and finance. Paul will be living full-time in Cape Charles soon.
- Thanks to Dave Fauber, Director of Public Works & Public Utilities, for his update on various projects completed or being done like Mason Ave. street lights, bio-filter at the Fig St. lift station (for odor), & cleaning curbs & gutters in the historic district.

### **Thanks a million, but not goodbye to Bob Panek!**

Dave Fauber said it very well, although Bob has been the interim Town Manager for only about 6 months, he has been a stabilizing force when one was needed and he has provided excellent leadership to the Town staff. Bob's skills in administration were honed during a long career working for the Navy at the Pentagon in high level positions. He has encouraged staff development, policy driven management, and objective measurements of performance in all areas.

We are very pleased that Bob has agreed to stay on in a consulting capacity. Joe Vacarro will have plenty to do to oversee the day to day management of the Town. Bob will work on various projects that are of major import that need hands on attention and he will provide Joe a tremendous resource for learning about the requirements of Joe's new job.

Bob may work with Council and Town staff on issues like: water and waste water projects; upgrading the personnel policies; reviewing and updating Town ordinances; the annexation agreement; real estate issues involving the harbor, Cape Charles High School, etc. Cape Charles is on the cusp of further development in many areas and there is a dire need for focused, hands on attention to several important matters in which Bob is well qualified to assist us.

### **You are invited!**

Please join me at my office – 117 Mason Ave., Suite E (next to Kelly's Pub) from 5:15 – 6:15 PM on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Come, voice opinions, ask questions and learn more about what your Town government and your Council are doing to honor our duty to you by always striving to

serve the best interests of the Town with each action we take. Your responses and/or inquiries to anything in the Town Crier or about "Town" business are welcome at [johnburdiss@baycrk.net](mailto:johnburdiss@baycrk.net)