

TOWN CRIER

This is the 8th 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 (December 12, 2007) are:

1. Significant development proposed in the harbor area
2. Merry Christmas and other happy thoughts
3. Constituents are invited

Significant development proposed in the harbor area

In the future, Council will be considering the zoning change and prospective conditional use permit for property owned by Harbor Development Group (HDG) – about 20 acres – that fronts on the south side of the Town Harbor. Among other things Council should take the necessary time to make a reasonable analyses and appropriate evaluation of:

- the recommendations of the Planning Commission;
- the anticipated requested changes to those recommendations that were outlined by HDG in the Council meeting;
- the comprehensive development plan laid out in the harbor master plan;
- the means to balance the equities of the constituent property owners like HDG and its neighbor, Bay Shore Concrete; and,
- the prospective efficacy of the controls that will be affected by the work and ultimate recommendations regarding a certificate of appropriateness from the Historic Harbor Review Board. This board (to be appointed soon by Council) will include 2 Planning Commission members, 1 member of the Historic District Review Board, 1 member of Council and 3 members from the public at large.

My compliments to the large turnout of employees from Bayshore Concrete; thanks for your exemplary deportment in light of the fact that your views that were contrary to HDG's proposal. Also, the individuals who spoke did so articulately, rationally and in a gentlemanly manner while conveying their objections to the HDG proposal.

Similarly, thanks to HDG's representative for a lucid and informative presentation regarding HDG's plans and its expressed desire for the continuity of Bayshore, while announcing HDG's intention to ask for modifications to the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that HDG believes are important to its proposed project.

As cited in last month's Crier, HDG's project portends enormous impact to the Town and Council must do its best work to achieve the best results possible. Council should act with reasonable speed, but with careful and thoughtful diligence to address the issues voiced in the public comments and all of the parties represented. HDG offered to conduct a workshop on their proposed project; this may be helpful in assisting Council to further flesh out and weigh the possible benefits, impacts and impediments that

revolve around the desires of all interested parties and aid an orderly process toward the formulation of a solution that will ultimately serve the best interests of the Town.

Note: In last month's Crier, in addition to alluding to the potential impact of the HDG project, I offered my opinion that the impact of the Southport project "could very well rival the establishment of the railroad over 100 years ago!"

I stand by that comment, however I realized that in saying that I may have been seen to overlook the huge impact that has occurred under the auspices of Baymark Construction. No slight was intended and it is very important to remember that Bay Creek and Marina Village (while "new") are part of the Town of Cape Charles. Their collective impact on the taxable value of property, among many other things in Cape Charles in the recent years has been nothing short of staggering! These high quality developments have literally put Cape Charles back on the "map", spurring other development and large scale rehabilitations of properties, helping make our town a more attractive place to visit and to call home. That was far from true when I first visited here in the summer of 1996 and even when I moved here two years later.

Merry Christmas and other happy thoughts ☺

- Thanks to CCVFC president Frank Collins for his expression of their gratitude to the Town for its support on the \$145k fire truck and the new lease terms, and for their expressed intention to work closely and cooperatively with the Town in the future.
- Last night we had our first meeting of Council at the Cape Charles Hotel's banquet room and even with the large crowd, it worked very well. The new location proved to be a more accessible and it was a far more functional public meeting space; plus as previously noted it allows for better use of the "old" meeting room at the Town Hall.

On the 25th we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. So often we get caught up in many things we feel we must do and we fail to recognize the significance of Christmas. It is my prayer that each of us will find some unhurried time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas; in so doing may we be better prepared to live in the present and in the "new year" as good stewards, thankful for our many blessings and abiding by the Golden Rule.

To each of you and all of your families may this be a most special, Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you many blessings!

You are invited!

My office is at 117 Mason Ave., Suite E (next to Kelly's Pub) - 5:15 – 6:15 PM on Tuesday, December 18th. This is your opportunity to 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. *Please come; we will all benefit.* Your responses and/or inquiries to anything in the Town Crier or about "Town" business are welcome at johnburdiss@baycrk.net