

August Commissioners' Meeting

By Yvette Bannen

Before the official meeting agenda began, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Wayne Dean, who is retiring from the planning board. During the comments portion of the agenda a citizen asked if paid parking at the public beach access sites was cost effective considering the expenses associated with collecting parking fees. Then Dare County Manager Bobby Outten reported on the status of the beach plan insurance. The matter is pending in the court of appeals.

Finance Officer Julie Anderson said that a draft report of the town's audit has been received, and no problems were evident. The end of the year 2008-2009 tax report was given. It was noted that collection is lagging compared with last year. Connie Shelton was reappointed as the tax collector for 2009-2010.

Town Manager Brian Kramer met with residents of Dogwood Circle regarding parking associated with the public beach access. He described the issue as emotionally charged and noted that various options are being explored.

An application was received to permit a church to relocate in a commercial district of Pine Knoll Shores. A public hearing on the matter will be held on September 8.

A budget amendment was approved in the amount of \$10,000 to purchase a new personal watercraft for water rescues. The current one is unreliable and failed to start during two emergencies, one at the beach and one in the Sound. Since a new one was not in the 2009-2010 budget, the amount will come from the EMS vehicle-designated reserve fund.

A meeting to consider bids for canal dredging was scheduled for August 12. The Department of Transportation continues the review process regarding the Mimosa bridge replacement.

August 26 was the date set for Commissioners Larson and Edwards to meet with the town manager to review the cost comparison report on yard waste collection and consider using inmate labor.

Barbara Lemons, Roger Middlesteadt and Doug Browne were reappointed to the planning board, and Dominic Baccollo was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Wayne Dean. Ken Jones was reappointed as chairperson of the planning board. Harold Brown and Mary McDonald were reappointed to the community appearance commission, and Bob Curry was reappointed as chairperson.

SCORE offers one-on-one counseling to small businesses free of any cost. In addition, the local SCORE chapter is a member of the Small Business Resource Alliance, which also includes the Small Business Center of Carteret Community College, Carteret County Chamber of Commerce and Carteret County Economic Development Council. This Alliance sponsors the Small Business Roundtables. Three of the Roundtables meet weekly and another meets twice a month. The Roundtables have been meeting for over 10 years. Through July of this year, 198 Roundtables have been held with 1703 participants. No other SCORE chapter in the country provides Roundtables.

At the conference Joan Lamson gave a

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Fall Food-a-thon

By Phyllis Makuck

This month, Martha's Mission Cupboard, at 901 Bay Street in Morehead City, is once again having its fall food-a-thon. Food and money donations are welcome at the Bay Street location and at area churches whose outreach programs help support the Mission Cupboard. Churches will be collecting for the food-a-thon on the first and second Sundays of the month—September 6 and September 13.

A totally volunteer organization, Martha's Mission Cupboard, provides the needy of Carteret County with a variety of food items and household necessities including cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, dried beans, rice, grits, saltines, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil, eggs, margarine, orange juice, hot dogs, chicken, bread, soap, laundry detergent and toilet paper plus other extras that

are donated.

Martha's Mission operates entirely on donations. State and federal social service agencies in Carteret County screen the individuals and families who come to Martha's Mission Cupboard for food. A recent Mission brochure indicates that an average of 300 to 350 families every month benefit from this program, which operates as "a non-profit, tax exempt corporation, not affiliated with any church or religious organization."

The guiding principle of Martha's Mission is stated as follows: "We believe it makes a difference when people help and share; that when somebody reaches out, it matters to be there."

The Mission Cupboard is open 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

A New Use For Disposables

by Lynn Krielow Chamberlain

The Wine Diaper is a new product being launched by Idea Mia, but was actually conceived years ago by one of the founders—Angie Cucco. In her younger years, Angie did a lot of Trans-Atlantic traveling between Italy and the United States. As a young globetrotter, she couldn't afford to bring back much in the way of souvenirs—but she brought back a lot of wine.

The problem was that despite her best efforts, the wine didn't always survive the flight home. Whether it was the rough handling of the bags, or the pressure in the flight, bottles were often sadly discovered smashed when the bags were opened up. Then one day when flipping through travel magazines, she came across a letter from a woman who said that she always wrapped her breakables in baby diapers to help protect them. One rainy night many years later, she was sitting around the table with her husband and some friends, and brought up her failed attempts at creating the Wine Diaper.

The Wine Diaper is basically a reusable air-tight zip-locked bag that is lined with the same material found in baby

diapers. The bag cushions and protects your wine, but in case of accidental breakage while in-flight, the diaper material will rapidly absorb up any liquids so that none of your clothing or valuables are ruined.

