

# TALK of the TOWN

A Newsletter of the Town of St. Michaels, Maryland August 2009



## NEW ENGINE 49

After a combined 55 years of service to our community, two of St. Michaels Volunteer Fire Department fire trucks, Engines 45 and 46, were recently retired to the Eagletown VFD, a small town in Oklahoma. It had become virtually impossible to get replacement parts for the older vehicles that were built on a truck

bed that had gone out of manufacture in 1994.

The new vehicle, Engine 49, was placed in service on June 12, 2009, and brought with it an increase of 25 percent pumping capability over the older model. Members of the Fire Department created a new paint scheme that was used on the new truck and will be used on any future new equipment. Fully equipped with a 6-man cab, Engine 49 saw its first working fire on June 26 when called to a residential fire at 116 North Talbot Street. The total cost of the new engine was approximately \$400,000.00 and, while most of the truck equipment came from the old trucks, some additional equipment was included in the purchase price. The safety of our residents and their property, and the department's ability to quickly respond, is priceless.

The St. Michaels Volunteer Fire Department survives on donations and grants. All of the fire fighters are volunteers. With state cutbacks in funding, fewer grant dollars are available. All of us can help through donations mailed to the Fire Department at 1001 South Talbot Street, or, better yet, stop by the fire house to drop off a donation and take a look at new Engine 49.

## Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Summer means high electric bills, but there are ways to reduce costs without running out to buy Energy Star appliances or SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating) 14 central air conditioning. Replace air filters every month for more efficient cooling. Turn off lights when you leave a room. Do full loads of laundry and dishes to make the most of each cycle, and run the dishwasher at night to reduce heat. Use fans so you can raise your thermostat. And Grandmother closed her drapes during the day -- try it!

## Commissioners' Meetings:

August 12– 5:00 p.m. at Town Office:  
Regular Session

August 26 – 6:30 p.m. at Town Office:  
Legislative Session

For details on other upcoming meetings, please call the Town Office or visit the website at  
[www.townofstmichaels.org](http://www.townofstmichaels.org)

## The Commissioners of St. Michaels

Joanne R. Clark, President  
Michael W. Brady, Vice-Pres.  
Robert T. Snyder, Treasurer  
Donna P. Hunt  
A. Philip Dinkel

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## A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

*Chief Miguel Dennis*

### S.M.Y.L.E.

No, we didn't forget how to spell! S.M.Y.L.E., pronounced 'smile', stands for St. Michaels Youth and Law Enforcement, a youth program sponsored by the St. Michaels Police Department and supported by the Commissioners of St. Michaels, Talbot County service organizations and caring volunteers. The program is designed to offer our youth an environment that would deter them from becoming involved in anti-social behavior.

The goal of S.M.Y.L.E. is to assess the needs of our local youth and provide an opportunity for young people to interact with police officers in a positive setting that offers an outlet for educational and recreational activities. The success of S.M.Y.L.E. will be built upon our collaboration with the community and its volunteers.

I recently traveled to Salisbury to attend a Shorebirds baseball game along with seven (7) St. Michaels' youth and three adult chaperones. The young people enjoyed chicken tenders, fries, soda, popcorn, ice cream, cotton candy, all that wonderful food associated with a baseball game, and also watched the fireworks display after the game. Even though the Shorebirds lost, a good time was had by all. Additional activities are planned in the future including a block party tentatively scheduled for August 7th on the North Street side of the St. Michaels Housing Authority.

If anyone is interested in making a contribution to the program or to volunteer some time to assist with the program, please give me a call at the station – (410) 745-9500. So c'mon St. Michaels, let's keep a 'S.M.Y.L.E.' on the face of our youth.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**IN MUSKRAT PARK?** Curbs are in place, and walkways are laid out waiting to be bricked over. Lighting has been delivered and will be installed soon. All electrical work for this phase is complete. Areas that are to have grass will be seeded and covered with straw. Holes have been filled. It is beginning to look like our park once again.

**AT THE SKATEBOARD PARK?** The Skateboard Park is again OPEN! New rules have been posted specifically noting that registration for the user is no longer required. The door will no longer be locked and has been chained open. Hours of use are 8:00 a.m. till dusk. Proper safety equipment should be used.

**ON THE NATURE TRAIL?** The north half of the trail has been staked and construction has begun. Weather and construction delays permitting, we are planning the Grand Opening of the trail for the end of September. Details in the next Talk of the Town!

**STREET REHAB?** On West Harbor Road the storm drain pipe and gutter pan have been completed, and new base for the road has been installed for the next step, surface coat. On St. Mary's Square the subgrade passed the proof-roll test and has been surfaced with a base coat of asphalt. Next step will be the surface coat for St. Mary's Square as well as Tilden and Fremont.

**RECENTLY ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Resolution 2009-06 - Adopted 5/27/09 - A Resolution to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

Resolution 2009-07 - Adopted 5/27/09 - A Resolution to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and to set the tax rates for personal property and corporations and to set the tax rate for personal property of public utilities.

Resolution 2009-15 - Adopted 5/27/09 - A Resolution adopting an Identity Theft Prevention Program.

Ordinance 404 - Adopted 07/15/09 - An Ordinance to amend Conditions 23-32 of the Growth Allocation Findings of Fact, Decision and Conditions relative to the project known as Miles Point III-150 which the Commissioners of St. Michaels adopted on the 22nd day of March 2006.

Resolution 2009-16 - Adopted 07/22/09 - A Resolution pursuant to Ordinance 401 to establish a consolidated schedule of fees and charges.

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Do you have an interest in the town parks and recreational facilities, like to interact with community agencies and citizen groups who likewise have an interest in the planning, design, development and enhancement of the parks and facilities? Please consider serving on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board? Send a letter of interest to the Commissioners of St. Michaels for their consideration.



.....Fireworks photo by: C. Bowie Rose

**KID CREW**

Have you seen this group of St. Michaels youth in blue tee-shirts around town this past month? Hard at work typically with a shovel in hand, removing every unruly weed in their path? Or at the Police Department with hose, buckets and brushes, giving a shine to the front porch and the police cars? Let's introduce them: Alicia Dodd, Erica Williams, Brandy Barnett, Tiffany Chester (crew leader), Ritell Dodd and Ever Velasquez (two others missing the photo shoot are Lavasha Harding and Alicia Hopkins).

They are part of the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board program which employs youth in a 6 week workforce training curriculum. They are paid from a grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Town's part in all of this was to find the improvement projects for the crew. They have done a wonderful job! So if you should see them around town, please say 'Hello' and let them know what a find job they have done. Perhaps one day they might be your employee!

