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The Brunswick News

THE VOICE OF COASTAL GEORGIA

JANUARY 22, 2012

Volume 100, Number 113

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MONDAY

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NEWS

New tactics help bring down Brunswick crime

Police chief calls cooperation with community key

By LOUIE BRIDGON

The number of reported crimes in the city of Brunswick did decrease 13 percent from 2010 to 2011, good news that Police Chief Tobe Green attributes to new strategies, community partnerships and good old-fashioned policing.

There were 2,213 part I crimes last year in the city. That is a decrease of 223 from the 2,354 reported in 2010, according to a recently released Brunswick police report.

Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, other assaults, burglary, theft, vehicle theft and arson.

“Nationwide, there’s a decrease in part I crimes, but we are also deep in issues plaguing our local government,” Green said. “It’s our job as law enforcement to stop these patterns, our partnership with other departments and agencies – and we have made an effort to increase visibility.”

The greatest statistical decrease was seen in property crimes, which dropped 17 percent from 2010, according to the city police report.

There were 40 fewer reported burglaries in the city, with 366 reported in 2011 and 376 in 2010.

The number of reported thefts also decreased by 131, with 869 reported last year compared to 900 in 2010.

Seven fewer vehicles were reported stolen in 2011, with 45 reported last year. The number of reported thefts also decreased by 131, with 869 reported last year compared to 900 in 2010.

“Initiatives like our Force 21 program have had a positive impact on the crime rate,” Green said. “Our officers are on high alert and have been making a great effort to stop these offenses.”

City looks to help businesses

Pursuit of designation would give Altama district an edge

By MEGHAN PITTMAN

The Brunswick City Commission is looking to develop incentives for business owners in the Alta Community Transformation District.

The district encompasses College of Coastal Georgia, Southeast Georgia Technical College and the Golden Isles, with the Golden Isles Community Development Authority for areas that are within or adjacent to census block groups of up to 3,500 people.

The district would include tax breaks for businesses or adjacent to census block groups of up to 3,500 people.

The Brunswick City Commission is looking to develop incentives for business owners in the Alta Community Transformation District.

Chief Tobe Green was one of several officers at the meeting who were Institute for Human Services who give businesses that create jobs major tax incentives could essentially change the city’s economy.

“I think it’s a strategic movement and perfect timing to bring this to the city,” Martin said. The commission hopes the Alta Community Transformation District will be the first of many Opportunity Zones in the city.

“It’s not the city’s fault, though. The city had budgeted to receive $26 million from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, trouble at the city dock

By MEGHAN PITTMAN

Between meetings and other duties, Bill Weeks has been watching his work non-stop since the City Commission narrowly defeated him last week as the city manager position during its meeting Wednesday. Weeks, of course, accepted it, even though he has just six months to prove himself worthy to hold the job. He will be required to have reached at that time certain benchmarks to be set by the commission.

“We don’t want to be anything but the team,” Weeks said about the world decision to give him the title during the commission meeting. “And since then, it’s just been one thing after another.”

Despite the defeat, the full authority of city manager, Weeks was already knee-deep in issues plaguing the city. He said the law requires that the last item on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax bonds, trouble at the city dock at Mary Ross Waterfront Park and budgetary concerns, name just a few.

Now, having the stability and the stability of the commission, Weeks wants to lay out a plan of attack to meet some goals.

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