

A busy Fall,

Late August and early September had us consumed with Dorian and making sure that the city and its residents were prepared if yet another hurricane decided to descend upon us. Fortunately, we were bypassed. Our friends and neighbors in the Carolinas did not fare so well and the residents of the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas were devastated with one of the worst hurricanes in history. It reminds us of what could have been our misfortune and that preparation and evacuation remain the best precautions.

October is always a busy month of activities in St. Marys as we anticipate a bit cooler weather. Our famous Rock Shrimp Festival is slated for this weekend, October 5. The Scarecrow Stroll that attracts children from miles around is scheduled for Sunday October 20 with a change to afternoon instead of evening hours and a move away from Tuesdays. As always, check the Visitors Center website for additional events and details.

An October 18 ribbon cutting will mark the completion of the Wheeler Street Boat Ramp improvements and the completion of the enhancements to the downtown waterfront streetscape (known as the SHRIMP project) designed to make popular St. Marys Street more appealing and accessible to visitors and residents. The projects improved drainage system designs are already proving successful. These projects have been long underway and everyone, especially boaters and downtown merchants, are excited about the completions.

At the same event we are expecting the proposed developer for the former mill site to present his concepts for that location including a new look for the planned Marina project. We also expect the proposed developer for the Gateway property to present plans for a new hotel on that prized waterfront location. In addition, the new owners of the Riverview Hotel plan to give us a glimpse of their renovation plans for that historic building on the waterfront. The updated city marina project concept will also be shared.

The much anticipated opening of the restaurant 401 West has been drawing both visitors and locals, another great addition to our waterfront. In midtown, the Verizon Store is now open at the Kings Bay Shopping Plaza with great landscaping that enhances the entire area. These are only a few of many things happening in St. Marys with a hint of autumn in the air.

There is a lot going on in Kingsland and Woodbine as well. The cities of Camden are alive with new businesses, new housing and a positive vibe of activity as we all move forward. This is all an indication of good news for our local economy, home values and a rise in our collective confidence level about the health of Camden County and each of its cities. It's a great way to start a new season!