

# What's NEWS in Star City?

Volume IV, Issue I

January 24, 2008

## Mark Your Calendar!

### • Upcoming Council Meetings:

Tuesday, Jan 29

7:00 PM

Tuesday, Feb 12

7:00 PM

Tuesday, Feb 26

7:00 PM

Tuesday, Mar 11

7:00 PM



Patrolman Thomas M. Varndell II and his new partner, Kaso

## Four-Pawed Officer On The Job In Star City

by Mary Hinchliffe, Dominion Post

Star City Police Officer Tom Varndell's new partner has a nose for crime. Kaso, a six-year-old black and tan German Shepard is the newest member of the Star City Police Department. Kathy Holbert, of Chiodo Kennels in Philippi donated Kaso to the Star City PD when his former partner, Mark McCullough of Grafton PD, took a job with the Bureau of Prisons.

Kaso has been trained for patrol, drug/narcotic detection, and people/evidence searches. He was trained by Ms. Holbert at Chiodo Kennels. "When he's in a police vehicle, he's all business, but when he's out, he's in play mode." says Varndell. Kaso plays fetch with Varndell's son and daughter and has become a cherished member of the family.

Kaso, a high-energy dog, needed someone to work and play with after McCullough took the new job. After a background check, Holbert felt Star City was a suitable match. Without her generous donation, the department would have been unable to afford a new canine. The previous canine officer, Thor, died of natural causes in 2005. Varndell is happy to again have a canine partner. Welcome, Officer Kaso!!

## SPECIAL ELECTION- Mon County User Fee

February 2, 2008

Star City Polling Place:  
St. Mary's Church Peace Hall

Details can be found at:  
[www.monservicefee.com](http://www.monservicefee.com)





## ALL OUR DUCKS IN A ROW!



For the third year in a row, The Shack Neighborhood House will host its annual “Shack Quack” Duck Race in conjunction with the Star City Trail & River Festival. The event is scheduled to take place at the boat launch area of Star City Riverfront Park on Saturday, June 7, 2008. There will be food, games, karaoke, and special events along with the launch of hundreds of ducks from the Star City Bridge.

Last year, this event raised \$9289.00 to support youth and family programming at The Shack. Please join us for another successful fundraiser!

### How Can I Participate?

Adopt a Duck (or Ducks!) 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes will be awarded.

Adopt our Ducks from your place of business

Display a poster

Donate a Prize

For more information, contact The Shack Neighborhood House at 599-5466.

### Star City residents can obtain “Adopt A Duck” forms at city hall.



At left: The John F. Kennedy Father's Memorial at Star City's Riverfront Park was dedicated on June 18, 2007.

At Right: City Place townhomes under construction in the fall of 2007. A total of seventeen townhomes were erected on Frontier Avenue, facing Riverfront Park. The developer on this project was Everest Properties.



# Weigh The Benefits

Star City recently became the first Class IV city in West Virginia granted a Tax Increment Financing package that could make available up to a maximum of 7.5 million dollars (\$7,500,000) for use in developing or redeveloping the business district along the Monongahela River front. The impact of the improvement in the infrastructure to support new economic growth is phenomenal.

The needs for our community and all of Monongalia County go far beyond what we can accomplish by use of future tax dollars within our own township. Roads and other transportation needs have reached critical status with the congestion being felt on practically every street in and around Morgantown. Look at the number of cars traveling across Fenwick, Fairfield and Stafford streets every afternoon. There are times when it is almost impossible to merge onto University Avenue

Below: Who hasn't sat in traffic in Star City, waiting to cross the bridge or get to Texas Roadhouse?



because of heavy traffic.

We can be excited, should the citizens of Monongalia County pass the referendum to collect a \$2.00 a week service fee from persons employed in Monongalia County. For the first time in a long while, we the people of Monongalia County can determine where we want money spent on roads. The planners of our MPO have been told, by the WV Department of Highways, present and projected funding will be too limited to achieve completion of the critically needed roads in Monongalia County for the foreseeable future. We cannot continue to grow and prosper if we do not fix our roads. We could even lose most everything we have gained over the past decade.

With the approval of the service fee, we can officially turn toward approving road-building bonds. This will allow us to take the first important step toward addressing our area's

number one problem-traffic congestion. With this commitment by the citizens of Monongalia County, we do not have to wait for Charleston or Washington to tell us what they may be able to do for us. We can do it ourselves. The approval of the service fee will allow construction to begin within the year, not 15 years from now. We are a part of the strong fabric of true Mountaineers that live by the historic creed, *Montani Semper Liberi*.

Citizens of Star City, **your vote counts** and it is very important to ensure the quality of life we have planned for our community. Your priority on February 2, 2008 should be to visit the polling location at St. Mary's Church and your vote could mean better roads for a more prosperous future.

Visioning & Development Task Force

Delbert Royce, Co-Chair  
Jim Gaston, Co-Chair

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*Star City-Where Our Citizens And  
Guests are STARS!*



For information about emergencies such as water main breaks, please listen to radio station **97.9 WKKW**.



At Left: Winter on the Monongahela River,  
as seen from Star City Riverfront Park

At Right: Completed townhomes at City  
Place on Frontier Avenue.

