

May / June 2017

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Issue Three

Beginning our 11th year

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Fisher Cemetery related issues
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Stedman Community Development Club NEWS

GET READY TO PARTY IN THE PARK!

By: Valerie Whitehurst

Mark your calendars for the evening of Friday, May 19th from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm and Saturday May 20th from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Bring the entire family to enjoy the annual Party In The Park organized by Stedman Historical Promotions.

Friday will feature live entertainment on stage. The Band Of Oz will be our featured band Friday night from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. All of our food vendors will also be serving Friday night so please come out and support them. Leave the cooking to us!

Saturday night our feature band will be The Holiday Band from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. We will have live entertainment on stage all day including Bluegrass, Gospel, R&B and Country. Our food vendors will be serving all day. We will also have a lot of Arts & Crafts vendors on Saturday from 10-5. Our park will be full of kid's activities and the Stedman Museum will be open for tours on Saturday.

If you have a craft that you would like to sell, please call Valerie Whitehurst @910-366-6672.

Please visit our Facebook page @ (Party In The Park Stedman, NC) and share with all your friends. See you May 19 & 20.

STEDMAN NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE

By: Joyce Hodges

In observance of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4, the Stedman Community is sponsoring the following events:

A 24-Hour Prayer Vigil at the Stedman Community Building beginning on Wednesday, May 3, at midnight and ending on Thursday, May 4, at midnight;

A Prayer in the Park on Thursday, May 4, from 12:00 Noon until 12:45 p.m.;

At the Prayer Vigil, prayer stations will be set up throughout the Community Building to focus our praying on personal, local, state, and national needs. Please plan to come and to pray some time during the 24-hour period.

For more information, please contact me, Joyce Hodges at 910-309-9460 or e-mail me at joysho@earthlink.net.

Editor's Note: As we work to get this edition ready, it is probable that we will not have it to you before this event. We hope all who wished to attend were reminded by other means.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Kathryn Weaver informs us that she has opened a thrift store called **Gotta Lil Everything Resale Shop** in Bethany Crossroads, next to **Strickland's Gas and Grocery**, at 7064 Maxwell Road. She has been in business for three and a half years in Spring Lake but just relocated to be closer to home. Like on TV, they purchase storage bins that go up for auction so you never know what you might find in the shop. They sell appliances with a 30 day guarantee. They also sell clothes for \$5.00 per bag, furniture, household goods, etc. If you are looking for unique one of a kind pieces for your home come by and check them out! Or you can always visit their Facebook page at Gotta Lil Everything Resale Shop. Kathryn extends her "thanks" to all of the people in the community who have come by to visit, and to buy, appreciates all of the community's support in the future.

Repair Cafe ... have you ever heard of them? The SCDC News had not, but just did and there is a location in development in Cary, N. C. If you have a special repair talent that you are willing to volunteer, please check into the concept, there is a web site ... <https://repaircafe.org/en/> ... and while you're volunteering in Cary, learn enough about the program to help the SCDC decide if such a program can work here. Thanks ...

Stedman Community resident **Michele Ellis**, a Cumberland County Agent for North Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company was named among the Top 75 Agents for 2016. A press release noted that Michele was selected for this honor based on her outstanding sales and service record for multi lines of insurance during 2016. N. C. Farm Bureau Insurance Company has more than 785 agents across the state. The announcement was made at the Annual Sales Conference of the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies held in Greensboro in March. *Congratulation Miss Michele!*

How do we encourage more business in **Down Town Stedman**? Well, consider this ... most of us have automobiles and they need fuel, washing, parts and repairs from time to time. Consider, please, that Stedman now has a business area on Clinton Road that is very supportive of your car or truck. It begins on the north side of Clinton Road with Crumpler's Automotive (and Crumpler's Custom Cycles) and then continues to High-Tech Transmission Service, to the Auto Zone and then to the Car Wash facility. Across the road from Auto Zone is a full gasoline and diesel supply service facility

operated by Dollar General. By the way, the Crumpler's business also includes automobile sales. There really is a lot going on in down town Stedman!

Photo Business returns to Front Street in Stedman ... it has been a while, but **Shutterbugs by Gene and Ann** has returned to Front Street in Stedman, but to a different location ... the old bakery and ice cream shop ... and there is more here now than just photography. Call 910 484 6212 for more details!

Hey ... it may be mid April as we write this, but it is time to get the **Fourth of July Celebration** on your calendar ... The location is **Camp Sandy Creek** on Hillsboro Street and there are lots of fun activities for the entire family and absolutely great fireworks ... Sunday Evening, June 25th ... *Enjoy!*

The SCDC received an email enquiry recently. David Thompson is searching for extended family members. His email said (in part): ... my family is from Cumberland County and the Stedman area. One of my ancestors was Reuben Fischer. Also the Williamsons in this area are my relatives. I have been trying to locate what was known as the Williamson Cemetery near Stedman. Joseph Williamson and others are buried there. Do you have any idea where this could be? Any help is appreciated ... We checked the data we have for the Fisher Cemetery and did not find any Williamson people there. Does anyone know where the cemetery Mr. Thompson is seeking is located?

We regret to inform you that this edition does not have a Crime Report article. We understand that Bob Kater's research and reporting has been of value to our readers. The rest of this story is actually worse for the Community ... Bob and his wife Linda are moving away ... to Burlington, N. C. where they will be closer to children and to grandchildren. With all the related house selling, packing and organizing activities, Bob has not had time to do the crime report research for this edition. Bob is willing to coach someone in his research methods and processes, so if you're interested in taking on this task, please let us know. Thank You, Mr. Kater ... a Great Job, Well Done! ... and we will miss you and your volunteer work in the community.

The SCDC's website ... www.StedmanCDC.org ... has a background story about the founding of the **Fisher Cemetery** and we recently received a letter from Ms. Doris Dees expressing concern about the accuracy of some portions of that story. Unfortunately, the people who researched the story for us are no longer available to discuss with us Ms. Dees' concerns. We have reached out to some others in the community to read the letter and to assist us in making sure we get our facts right ... *Thank You Miss Doris!*

STEDMAN TOWN CLERK AND FINANCE OFFICER RETIRES

Jennifer L. Wilson-Kersh, NC CMC, Stedman Town Clerk / Finance Officer has announced her retirement effective April 1, 2017. In a telephone conversation with the SCDC News, Mrs. Wilson-Kersh said it has been a pleasure to work for the Town of Stedman for sixteen plus years; however, medical issues result in her being unable to continue her duties.

She said that working for the Town has been a great learning experience and it has been both challenging and rewarding for her. The Town has grown so much over her time and she has enjoyed being a part of the Town's growth and development.

She said: "As I close this chapter in my life, I want to thank the people of Stedman, the Town Board and the Mayor for the opportunity to serve the Stedman Community."

The SCDC News wishes to express our "Thank You" to Jennifer for her service to the Town and to her volunteer assistance to this publication to help us get the facts correctly reported to you.

Plans to fill her position with the Town of Stedman are not known to us.

ARE YOU RESOLVED?

Surely nearly all of us have been inconvenienced by the

highway construction process and progress in our community. Ronald Gentry informs us that there are more transitional and temporary changes in store for us before the final plan is made operational and we get the chance to experience how we will navigate from then on. Through this traffic conversion process, local business owners have been doubly inconvenienced; not only do they experience the traffic and travel challenges personally, but their business is inconvenienced as well! Think of the challenges Wee Wonders Christian Child Care owners Wanda and Bruce Teets and their customers have experienced; and, be assured that they are not the only business in the Stedman Community that has been and continues to be impacted. Much larger customer base business owners and managers have commented about the business decline that the initial opening of a portion of the "by-pass" caused them. In a recent conversation, a small franchise business employee at the Food Lion Plaza commented about the business decline there after the traffic was diverted to behind the business.

It is our opportunity, perhaps responsibility as local customers to Be Resolved to support our local businesses, most especially those which are locally owned and operated. These people are our neighbors and possibly our relatives. Please consider that you are unlikely to deny yourself something you need because it is now inconvenient to get to the place you once purchased it. It is much more likely that you will just purchase it someplace else. How many such business "transfers" are required before an established local business can no longer survive? We do not know the answer, but we know there is such a lower business level that can (and perhaps, will) be reached if we allow it to happen.

Two considerations for you:

Have I reduced how much I am buying from local Stedman businesses?

How much am I buying in Fayetteville (or another place) that I can transfer to a local Stedman business?

If all of us Resolve to consider these two questions, and Resolve to respond to them in a manner that is good for Stedman business, we can collectively grow the Stedman business volume. Remember also that the more business that is done in Stedman, the more businesses which will want to locate in Stedman. **We can make it happen!**



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SCDC NEWS STATUS REPORT

By: J.W. Hall, Jr. for the SCDC

If you regularly read this communications project of ours, then there is little you are about to read right now that will be a surprise. It is mostly old news, frequently stated.

This is edition number sixty one ... 61 ... and at six editions per year, this begins our eleventh year of producing and distributing this Stedman Community focused "newsletter". The point we wish to make is that it is time for some new perspectives from some additional contributors ... some volunteers!

Please consider what contribution you could make:

*Are you willing to participate in a review of the original "ground rules" for the project and which of them should be changed? ... which should be deleted? ... which added?

*Are you of the opinion that we need some new "categories" of reporting ... or the deletion of some?

*Are you willing to take responsibility for writing or reporting one of the recurring article categories?

*Is there a onetime Stedman Community article that you've always wanted to write and to submit?

*Are you willing to consider a regular administrative duty?

*Are there projects you would like the newsletter to undertake, and are you willing to work on them?

We have a small staff; we wish to have a larger one ... and we welcome your interest.

We do have very loyal advertisers, mostly local as you would expect, but some from farther away. This publication could not exist without their financial support. There are no overhead expenses or salaries to pay, so the costs are essentially all printing and mailing ... but they add up. In 2010, these direct production and mailing expenses were \$10,700.00; in 2013 they totaled \$13,000.00; and in 2016, \$13,900.00. So, if you find value in this publication, please make sure the businesses who make it financially possible know it ... please do as much business with them as possible! And, tell them that you see and read their SCDC News ads!

If you're willing to participate in creating and publishing this Stedman Community Newsletter ... join us at a future SCDC Monthly Meeting ... the second Monday evening of each month at the Stedman Community Building, 335 First Street,

7:00 PM ... or contact me at 910 584 3131. Thank You!

HIGHWAY 24 UPDATE # 23

By: Ronald Gentry

Time is growing short for the A & B projects. The completion date is listed as May 24th. Will they make it? Not likely, is what I've been told. I rode the project today (Sunday April 9th 2017), and I would have to agree. Barnhill just has more to finish up than time will allow. I travel the section between Autryville and Maxwell road all of the time and things have been looking real good. Today I traveled the section going to Roseboro and saw that they have a pretty good amount of work to complete. Even if Barnhill really turned it on paving at night and working on weekends I don't think that they would make it by the end of May. Best bets are for July or August..

I had thought with all of the early spring weather they would be ahead of schedule but that didn't work out. It is hard to set a time table because if they really want to Barnhill can bring in the man-power and equipment to move things along. Unfortunately they have so much work going on in other places that they would be jeopardizing completing other projects on time to make the completion date on this one. I mentioned liquidated damages in one of my earlier articles and that could still happen. I mentioned liquidated damages to Robert Barnhill at a meeting many years ago and he just grinned and stated that "they are tax deductible". In other words he didn't panic an obviously they would not hurt the company too seriously.

Let's get off that subject and hit on a couple more. I have been told that there are some revisions in the works and that there will be some changes to the Maxwell Road intersection. All of them revolve around improving safety and traffic flow. Some will be as simple as changing some of the pavement markings that are in place now. Some will be more complicated and involve changing some pavement widths and altering the concrete islands.

I have also been asked to explain why they have traffic lights near the Mary McCall Road intersection. That's pretty complicated but I will try. There are two overhead stop lights facing the East bound travel lanes. There are two pole mounted lights facing the old highway 24 coming out of Stedman. There

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is one pole mounted light facing the left turn lane of the West bound travel lanes. SOOO if you are coming out of Stedman on the old 24 there will be two lanes for a right turn to go toward Autryville. The two pole mounted lights will control that right hand turn if needed. If you coming from Autryville westbound and want to go into Stedman on the old 24 you will have a left turn lane that begins way back where Mary McCall road intersects that will be controlled by a single pole mounted light. The single light will have four lights with one of them being a blinking left turn on yellow. If traffic was to back up in the turn lane far enough the two overhead lights facing the East Bound will go to red stopping all East Bound traffic and the single pole mounted light will go green for the left turn onto old 24 into Stedman. And if that is not complicated enough there could be loops on old 24 that if traffic backed up not being able to make the right hand turn toward Autryville that would trip the overhead lights stopping East Bound traffic to allow the right turn traffic coming out of Stedman to go East. A point to remember is that if you are coming out of Stedman on old 24 you will still have to go past Mary McCall road and make a U-turn on turn onto May McCall off of West Bound 24. WOW, I re-read all that and think I have it right. Just remember, I don't have the signal plans for the project and am just guessing from what I have been told and see in the field.

One more thing, I have been told that the most likely scenario for the final paving is that Barnhill will pave the East Bound lanes first with no traffic on them. Pavement marking will then be applied and then the existing traffic on the West Bound lane will be split. The West Bound lanes will be paved one at a time, with one lane traffic being maintained on them. The East Bound traffic lanes will be complete and East Bound traffic should be able to ride in the final configuration.

Good Luck!

FISHER CEMETERY UPDATE # 7

By: Ronald Gentry

Ok folks, I'm not giving up although it may look like it. I visited Fisher Cemetery last week and it actually looked pretty good. Freshly mowed and pretty much green all over. Unfortunately all the green was not enhanced by all the Bermuda grass seed that I had put out last year. In fact I can't say that I could find

any evidence of Bermuda grass taking off in new areas where it hadn't already been.

Hopefully my weed treatments and fire ant treatment have helped it. My plans for this year are to till several strips across the cemetery thereby preparing a proper seed bed, then till in a healthy amount of Bermuda grass seed, and then hope for enough rains to help get it established. If I can get a chance and time will allow I may try to install some sod panels at various locations as well. Any sod farms in the area are welcome to help me in this endeavor and any help at all would be greatly appreciated. As I will be trying to seed again, the weed treatment will be minimal so as to not impact the new seeds' germination. In other words there will still be plenty of weeds. We do have a new maintenance company, Wayne Mosley's Green Outlook, and the grounds are looking much better as a result.

Some cemetery work days are going to be planned and with a little good weather and lots of luck we can get the Fisher Cemetery looking good and healthy again.

Fisher Cemetery, While We Are On The Subject

By: J.W. Hall, Jr.

We SCDC Volunteers who administer the Fisher Cemetery find ourselves in a challenging diplomatic situation. When we took over about fifteen years ago, there was an established cemetery section which was essentially self-managed. There were no written records of ownership within the existing cemetery, no one knew what parcels, if any, were available for sale and there were no written rules and regulations for the grounds or for its maintenance. The one thing that did exist was money to maintain the grounds, and we remain very appreciative of that! We decided that we should establish reasonable R's & R's for the new parcels we offered to the Community, but that applying those to the existing section was not appropriate for us to do. All parcel sales since the new section opened were made with the buyer's commitment to follow the new rules and regulations. However these rules have not been uniformly observed, and I accept responsibility for not being as assertive as necessary at enforcing them. I have no wish to irritate a grieving family about grave site rules ... yet, professional cemetery managers do enforce their rules.

The question is: What do we do now?

The easy answer is to tolerate the violations and avoid the personal conflicts and tensions which result from any enforcement activity. But, that does generate resentment among those who follow the rules, and rightly so.

The simple answer is to enforce the new (15 years ago) written and accepted R's and R's assertively and to frequently call and remind parcel owners that their memorials or other activities violate the rules. Where that will eventually lead is to volunteers periodically removing grave site items and memorials that are in violation of the rules, a process I personally prefer to avoid if possible.

Fisher Cemetery is a Community Cemetery. The SCDC does not own it ... we own the newly surveyed unsold parcels. I seek opinions and comments from the families who have family members in Fisher Cemetery.

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Should we have R's and R's for the entire Fisher Cemetery?
Should there be different rules based on where a parcel is located?
What are reasonable R's and R's?
What should there be a sign someplace which lists the rules?
What are reasonable enforcement activities?
Should we have a rules enforcement committee which "sweeps" the cemetery periodically?

On May 9, and again on June 13th, at 7:00 pm, I will be in the Stedman Community Building to discuss these questions and any others that you may have about the Fisher Cemetery. If you prefer to send written comments, the contact information is on page 1.
Please let me hear from you. Thank You!

Town of Stedman Board of Commissioners (BoC) Meetings:

The Stedman BoC met Thursday evening March 2nd and this reporter could not attend. The below notes are taken from the approved Minutes of the meeting.

Representatives of the Stedman Historical Society discussed issues related to the Party in the Park with the Board. Specific points made included the fact that the Society has purchased a new sound system to allow for quicker band change over times; insurance that covers all Society events each year has been established; and that one major performing band, Band of Oz, will be sponsored by State Farm this year. After reviewing several financial specifics, the BoC approved a contribution of \$2,000.00 to the Society to help with expenses.

The BoC then discussed with Stedman Historical Society representatives issues related the Stedman Museum. It is estimated, based on two proposals already received, that the new roof will cost approximately \$7,500.00 including some repairs and structural materials. The Society has raised nearly \$5,500.00 towards this expense. An issue to resolve is the process to be followed since the Town owns the Museum. After discussion and legal comment, the decision was made to seek additional bids, but that the Town will likely accept a donation from the Society and then contract the roof repair work. A final decision will be made at a future meeting after reviewing the additional proposals.

The issue of drainage on Harvey Cain's Front Street (west of

Hillsboro Street) property was next on the agenda. Mr. Cain expressed frustration with how long resolution is taking, that he has had engineers look at the situation, that water will not flow up-hill and that there is a bond related to the development across Front Street from his property which should cover the expense. The Mayor and two Commissioners engaged in the discussion with Mr. Cain. The conclusion was that the issue was tabled for more assessment by BoC members.

Commissioner George led a discussion of areas within the Town which need drainage improvement. The Town Hall parking lot was mentioned as an example. Mr. George noted three places where streets cross over drainage pipe and the potential for one of them to collapse is a serious concern. A collapse is much more expensive to repair than it is to fix the concern before it collapses. The N. C. DoT has work on the Sandy Creek crossing under Hillsboro Street on its project list. The FY 2018 Budget process should consider those which are the Town's responsibility. More work on this subject will be on the meeting agenda for April.

Commissioner Blake led a discussion of plans to honor Commissioner John Pat McCall who recently died.

Commissioner Blake nominated Peggy Raymes to replace Commissioner McCall for the remainder of his term. The BoC approved the nomination.

Zoning Case #17-011 was considered. It is a request to approve a religious worship facility to be located at 6345 Clinton Road. Several questions and concerns were raised, especially regarding water and sewer service, and as many of these could not be answered, the issue was tabled.

Chief Stocks noted that Fayetteville Cumberland County Parks and Recreation has agreed to put a camera system in the Park. Details of how the cameras will be mounted and the type of pole were discussed.

The DoT project to change the Clinton Road lanes within Stedman was been awarded to Highland Paving and the work should begin in May.

Commissioners discussed signage and lighting related to the new highway and routes from it into the Stedman Business District.

A closed session was held. No announcement was made. The Stedman Board of Commissioners (BoC) met Thursday evening, April 6th, and our notes are:

Peggy Raymes was sworn in as a Commissioner to serve the

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remaining time of Commissioner John Pat McCall.

Bill Bullard asked the BoC to consider acting on an abandoned mobile home and vehicle close by his residence. He also asked that some actions be considered to control the feral cat population on the east side of residential Stedman. Discussion noted that a ditch at the area of Carol Street, Jefferson Street and Front Street is easily clogged, and the clean out process used by the Town is actually increasing the size of the ditch. Some discussion related to help from C. C. Animal Control and from N. C. DoT resulted.

The Stedman Museum roof issue carried over from March noted that no additional bids have been received, so no decision will be made at this meeting.

The issue of Planning and Zoning Case #17-011 carried over from March was discussed, but not resolved. The primary issue which remains to be addressed is whether well and septic is an option for the site? The Town's water and sewage system is located across the new divided four lane highway from the potential building site.

Additional discussion of honoring Pat McCall was held, but final decisions were not made.

The BoC declared that the work it was willing to do regarding Harvey Cain's property drainage issue on Front Street is now done, that the work is affective and approved. Comment was made that an additional one half acre of Mr. Cain's property has now dried sufficiently to be considered usable, whereas in 2015/16 it was considered too wet for use. Additional comment was made about improvements made to another of Mr. Cain's properties creating an obstacle to drainage that did not previously exist.

Discussion of street lighting specifically for Wade Stedman Road and for Magnolia Church Road in the access to Stedman areas noted that the decisions are complex. The type of lights to be used has options, the type of poles used has options and the number and location of each has options. It may be too early for the BoC to address these decisions, as it is still not clear what the DoT project includes for lighting on these two access streets. Additional discussion noted 108 of the existing Town street lights are out of contract with Duke Progress and that a new contract is available. Some decisions for more efficient lights can result in actual savings fairly quickly. More analysis is needed before a decision is made.

Recently the Fayetteville Public Works Commission needed to do some work to restore water service to two houses on Clinton Road. The two houses were located across the street from the primary water main source, so a street excavation on both sides of Clinton Road was required. Following the water being restored to the houses, PWC notified the Town that their work revealed that additional work is required to properly complete the repairs and to provide for the street to be repaired as well. Discussion covered the two quotations made by PWC and identified additional information required to make a good decision. The issue was held over.

Chief Stock's comments are covered in a separate article we have included in this edition.

The open meeting adjourned to a closed meeting. No Announcements were made.

An Additional Note: While preparations were being made to swear in Ms. Raymes, Cumberland County District Court Judge Robert J. Stiehl, III, who administered the oath, made the following observations:

*Over 60,000 citizens per month come to the Cumberland County Court House as part of over 20,000 hearings;

*Over 900 Cumberland County children are in Department of Social Services custody;

*1,858 civil domestic violence protective lawsuits per year in C. C.;

*Over 2,500 domestic violence criminal cases are filed per year in C. C.;

*there are 10 District Court Judges in Cumberland County who handle the equivalent number of cases that 14 Judges handle in the Triad Area of North Carolina;

*Our city /county has over 5,000 911 calls per year for domestic violence law enforcement assistance;

*Cape Fear Valley Medical Center estimates that domestic violence cost \$1,200,000.00 per year in medical expense in C. C.

SOME THOUGHTS TO SHARE

By: Bob Stocks, Stedman Police Chief

I remember my first car, a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro. No power steering, power windows or air conditioning, just a V-8 engine, four in the floor and an AM radio. I remember driving the back roads in Green County with the windows down, listening to the rumble of the engine while driving 60 mph (the speed limit at the time) of course. There was nothing to think about but driving the car. In comparison, today's cars are filled with all sorts of gadgets such as power windows, stereo, power locks, blue tooth, navigation, DVD players, heated and cooled seats, just to name a few. There are so many distractions; it's difficult to even think about driving the car. Let's not forget the biggest distraction of all, the cell phone. While cars today are very different from the cars of 1968, one thing remains the same. It is absolutely critical that you still focus on driving the car. The cell phone can wait, along with all of the other gadgets in the car. Remember, we need to drive to arrive alive.

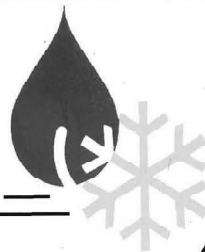
The weather is nice now and many of you have taken to the streets. Walking, running and bicycling, but we need to be safe. If you walk or run on the Stedman area streets please

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wear bright colored clothing (reflective clothing early in the morning or late evening) and run or walk **FACING** traffic. If the bicycle suits you better, please ride **WITH** traffic. On a bicycle you are required to comply with the same traffic laws as a motor vehicle. The bright colored reflective clothing is recommended. The town's speed limit is 25 MPH unless otherwise posted. As we drive around the Stedman area, please watch out for pedestrians and bicycle traffic.

DRUGS: On March 24, 2017 a search warrant was executed at 6820 North Street in Stedman. Three people were arrested for possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and maintaining a dwelling for the sell and delivery of cocaine. This was an operation that had been ongoing for several months, but with very few resources at my disposal, it was not something I could handle alone. I would like to thank the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office for their assistance with this problem in our community. Many of you have said, "I'm glad you got them". Well so am I, and I wish I could tell you that the drug problem in Stedman was over, but that wouldn't be true. During more than four months of surveillance at this location, many people were observed going to this house to purchase drugs. Yes, people that live and or work here in Stedman. It was very disappointing and disturbing to say the least. Our NC Attorney General, Josh Stein, recently described the opioid epidemic as being at the crisis level. Many people on these drugs got started with an opioid drug that was prescribed by a doctor to treat some condition they were dealing with. The problem with the opioid based pain killers is that they are highly addictive. In just a few days, some patients' brain chemistry begins changing to create an addiction. When the prescription drugs are no longer available, some of these people turn to heroin to feed the addiction. Heroin is cheaper and more available than the prescription opioids. Whether your drug of choice is an opioid product, cocaine or methamphetamine, please get some help. You can start by contacting the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. If you are selling any of these products in our area, this is your notice. We are coming for you with every legal tool and resource at our disposal.

STEDMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Stedman VFD Board met Tuesday evening, March 21st and this reporter was not able to attend.

The regularly scheduled meeting for April was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum, so the official Minutes from the March meeting have not been approved. Below is the Draft Minutes from the March 21st Board Meeting:

Location: Stedman Volunteer Fire Department
 Date & Time: March 21, 2017 7:05 pm, Time Adjourned: 7:51 pm
 Prepared by: Thimi Kollar Board Member
 Board members present: Dan Hayes, Jerry McCall, Kevin Carroll, Thimi Kollar, Peggy Currie & Sonny Fogle
 Approved Absent = Paul Pirro & Andrew Maykovich were away because of his work.

Fire Personnel present: Chief Nobles, Dept. Chief Mitchell, Asst. Brian Cashwell. Open Regular Meeting, Time: 7:05pm

Additions or Deletions to agenda - None.
 Minutes Reviewed - Motion by Peggy, 2nd by Sonny, motion carried.
 Approval of Financial Report Motion by Thimi, 2nd by Sonny, motion carried., Public Forum - N/A., Chief's Report -

There were 39 total calls 4 fire (1 vehicle total loss approx. \$2000.00), 26 EMS & 9 good intent calls from 2/1/17 - 2/28/17. February Fire / EMS reports have been exported to the state.

Monthly training and call response reports were reviewed. Pictures and information were provided to Duke Energy for their outreach program.

Staff is continuing work on the 2017/2018 budget. Reevaluating paid staffing and scheduling to have a contingency plan in place, in the event of a budget cut. Labor dollars represent the largest portion of the budget that is controllable.

Preparing for Party in the Park, May 19th & 20th, including staffing the Chief Associations' Smoke House.

The BBQ Fundraiser sold 5,401 plates and raised \$3,487.74.

Old Business - We should be notified May 15th of the decision in regards to the 50/50 grant. Awaiting quotes for a copying machine.

New Business - The Department has implemented the use of Wex fuel cards for purchasing fuel. This will allow better control and accountability for fuel purchases. Cards can be used at the Dollar Store which will eliminate the need to drive to Strickland's to purchase fuel on account.

An application was submitted to Walmart for a \$2,500.00 grant.

Motion of Adjournment - A Motion to close the regular meeting by Sonny, 2nd by Peggy, Motion carried at 7:51pm

STEDMAN RECREATION CENTER ACTIVITIES

By: Jon Rae, Center Supervisor
 175 Circle Drive, 433-1440 - Hours: Mon-Fri. 1-9 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Sun. 2-5 pm

COOL KIDS COOK!

Aspiring young cooks will love this class! Young Chefs will join us in preparing a variety of foods. Participants will then enjoy their family-style meal. Pre-registration is required.

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high school cheerleading. This class will concentrate on cheer, motion technique, dance, jumps, tumbling and stunts.

4-12 yrs; Mon.; 6-7 pm; \$25/month

SENIOR FITNESS

Are you above the age of 55 and looking to get healthy? The Stedman Recreation center will be offering a FREE workout class twice a week to help you achieve your fitness goals. We will be showing a variety of senior workout videos that you can follow along with! 55+; Tues. and Thurs.; 1 pm; Free

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Self-defense offers a physical fitness, self-discipline, academic achievement, fun and excitement in a non-violent atmosphere.

5+; Tues. and Thurs.; Beg. 6-7 pm; Inter. 7-8 pm; \$40/month

CAPE FEAR REGIONAL SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

We will be partnering with Cape Fear High School to host several sports camps throughout the summer. Don't miss out on a great opportunity! Stop by or call the recreation center for more details.

LITTLE KICKERS SOCCER

If your little one is interested in playing soccer, then this program is for you. Registration is June 1-Aug. 1. Season will start in Sept. League age is the age attained by a player prior to Dec. 1 of the current playing year. 3-4 yrs; \$20

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Join us for a night of Bingo for the entire family to enjoy. We will play several styles and several games! Call to pre-register by May 10. All Ages; Fri., May 12; 6:30 pm

CHILDREN'S BOOK EXCHANGE

Need some new books for your child to read over the summer? Join us for a Book Exchange to kick off Cumberland County Library's Summer Reading Program. Bring your gently used books to the Stedman Recreation Center for a Book Exchange. Books will be organized by reading levels for everyone. Drop off books and register 1 week prior to the event.

All Ages; Sat., May 6; 11 am-1 pm; Free

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Stop by and see us!

TEEN SWAP

Do you have video games or books that are in good condition but you don't use anymore? Teen Swap will give you the opportunity to exchange those used items for different ones at no charge. 13-18 yrs.; Sat., Jun. 3; 12 pm; Free

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CHILI ... DO YOU LIKE IT? ... DO YOU COOK IT?

Chili is a cool or cold weather comfort food in many families, and it is cooked, served and enjoyed all over this country. If you look up the history of Chili, you will first learn that it has no Hispanic or Mexican heritage, it is a USA dish all the way, and most writers agree that the original Chili was primarily two ingredients: meat and peppers. Today, the recipes for it vary all over the culinary spectrum, and many are traditional and unique to one family.

OK ... perhaps interesting, but what is the point?

The Stedman Community Development Club has not had a meal fund-raiser in some time, and we did spend nearly \$5,000.00 last year in Community Building improvements, and we do have some other improvements we need to make, and ... he does prattle on, doesn't he?

The Bottom Line is, we SCDC Members are discussing a fund-raiser concept of a Chili competition to be held in early November of this year. The purpose of this article is to stimulate you to think about it ...

For it to work and to be fun, we will need ten (10) to fifteen (15) "folks" to cook up a couple gallons of their favorite Chili recipe and to enter the competition. "Folks" is not just individuals and families; it also includes local businesses or clubs or classes, or ...

We are eager to do something different ... will you participate?

Talk to us ... we meet at the Stedman Community Building at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month ... May 8th, June 12th and July 10th.

Thanks!

By the way, an interesting history of Chili can be found at <https://whatscookingamerica.net/History/Chili/ChiliHistory.htm>

CARPENTER BEES

By: JW Hall, with a lot of help ...

Several years ago I began to notice a slight buzzing sound around some wooden barns on my family property. I came to associate them with large bees that sometimes hung in place for multiple seconds, and then darted off as if chased by a vicious and feared predator. Today, the buzz is irritatingly loud, the residue of their boring into wood portions of the barns is obvious, and I know that they are carpenter bees and both destructive and seemingly exploding in population.

I can share with you information from North Carolina State University, authored by Stephen Bambara and Michael Waldvogel from the Entomology Extension ... "Carpenter bees are large, black and yellow bees frequently seen in spring hovering around the eaves of a house or the underside of a deck or porch rail. They are most often mistaken for bumble bees, but differ in that they have a black shiny tail section. The carpenter bee is so-called because of its habit of excavating tunnels in wood with its strong jaws. The round half-inch diameter entrance holes are usually found on the underside of a board. A tell-tale trace of coarse sawdust is often found on the surface beneath the hole. Wooden decks, overhangs and other exposed wood on houses are prime targets. Painted and treated woods are less preferred, but they are by no means immune to attack.

Unpainted or stained cedar, cypress and redwood shingles and siding are also attacked despite their pest-resistant reputations. Carpenter bees, like their distant relatives, the carpenter ants, differ from termites in that they do not consume the wood as food. They simply excavate tunnels for nesting sites.

Carpenter bees overwinter as adults, often inside old nest tunnels. They emerge in April and May with the males usually the first to appear. Males can be distinguished from females by a whitish spot on the front of the face. The males do not have stingers, but they are territorial and will harass other bees and people who venture near their protected areas. Females can sting, but rarely do so unless confined in your hand or are highly agitated. They feed on plant nectar, then begin constructing new tunnels in a few weeks. The entrance holes start upward (or inward) for about one-half inch or more, then turn horizontally and follow the wood grain. The galleries typically run six to seven inches, but may exceed one foot. Occasionally, several bees use the same entrance hole, but they have individual galleries branching off of the main tunnel.

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If the same entrance hole is used for several years, tunnels may extend several feet in the wood. Inside her gallery, the female bee gradually builds a large pollen ball which serves as food for her offspring. She deposits an egg near this pollen ball and then seals off this section of tunnel with a partition made of chewed wood. She constructs additional cells in this manner until the tunnel is completely filled, usually with six to seven cells (depending on length of the tunnel). These adult bees die in a matter of weeks. The eggs hatch in a few days and the offspring complete their development in about 5 to 7 weeks. Adults begin to emerge in later summer. Although the bees remain active, feeding on pollen the general area, they do not construct new tunnels, but may be seen cleaning out old tunnels which they will use as overwintering sites when the weather turns cold.

Typically, carpenter bees do not cause serious structural damage to wood unless large numbers of bees are allowed to drill many tunnels over successive years. The bees often eliminate their wastes before entering the tunnel. Yellowish-brown staining from voided fecal matter may be visible on the wood beneath the hole. Woodpeckers may damage infested wood in search of bee larvae in the tunnels. In the case of thin wood, such as siding, this damage can be severe. Holes on exposed surfaces may lead to damage by wood-decaying fungi or attack by other insects, such as carpenter ants.

Preventing carpenter bee damage is difficult (or nearly impossible) for several reasons. Protective insecticide sprays applied to wood surfaces are effective for only a short period even when repeated every few weeks. Since the bees are not actually eating the wood and they are active over several weeks, they are rarely exposed to lethal doses of the pesticide. Second, since virtually any exposed wood on the house could be attacked, it is difficult and usually impractical and unsafe to try applying a pesticide to all possible sites where the bees might tunnel. Trying to spray bees that are seen hovering about is not a sensible (or particularly safe) use of pesticides either. Swatting hovering bees will often prove to be just as effective.

Although it is a time-consuming and seemingly endless task, treating the entrance holes with an insecticidal spray or dust can reduce future nesting activity. Products containing carbaryl (Sevin), cyfluthrin or resmethrin among other chemicals are

suitable. A list of chemicals for use against carpenter bees can be found in the North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual. Avoid inhaling the insecticide or contaminating your clothing with the spray. Always stand upwind from the surface you're treating. Treated tunnels should be sealed with a small ball of aluminum foil and caulked after 24-36 hours. Since active or abandoned tunnels may be used as overwintering sites or can be re-used next spring for nesting, it is important that they be sealed. The insecticide treatment is important because it kills both the adult bee as well as any offspring as they attempt to emerge later. Simply plugging untreated tunnels with wire mesh or similar material might trap bees inside, but more resourceful bees will simply chew another exit hole."

Pennsylvania State University's Steve Jacobs, Sr. an Extension Associate notes the following "Locate the wood in which the bees are active and apply an insecticidal dust directly into nest openings. This is best accomplished by using a duster that will puff the dust up into the tunnel and coat the sides. To avoid possible stings, treat the area at night. Use a flashlight, over which a piece of red cellophane has been taped. The bees cannot see the red light, but you should be able to see the openings. If you must treat during the daytime, use a pyrethrum spray or wasp and hornet spray to knock down any bees flying about. It is advisable to wear protective clothing, gloves, goggles and a respirator or dust mask because the insecticidal dust will frequently become airborne and may drop down onto you as you dust the tunnel. Launder any contaminated clothing immediately (do not mix with other household laundry items) and take a shower to remove and insecticidal dust. Because of the obvious risks associated with treating carpenter bee holes in eaves or soffits, many homeowners will contract with a licensed pest control company to provide this service.

Do not plug the holes immediately! The bees should be able to pass freely through the nest entrance where they will contact the dust and distribute it inside the tunnels. Also any new matured bees will emerge through the openings and contact the dust placed there. It is a good idea to treat in the spring, when bees are first observed, again in mid-summer to kill any bees which may not have acquired a sufficient treatment when they emerged, and a third time in early fall to contact any over-wintering bees

occupying the tunnels. In the fall, the holes should be filled with wood putty or wooden dowels and the entire wood surface painted or varnished. Stained wood is not usually protected from attack. Pesticides are poisonous. Read and follow directions and safety precautions on labels. Handle carefully and store in original labeled containers out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock. Dispose of empty containers right away, in a safe manner and place. Do not contaminate forage, streams, or ponds.”

Neither article explains the massive increase in carpenter bee populations recently.

I have purchased several bird-house looking traps with clear plastic bottles that collect those bees which enter the trap, but while it is comforting to see how many of these bees were trapped, it is not obvious to me that it is slowing the population growth.

A call to action ... what are you doing to control the carpenter bees around your buildings, and is it working?

Please let us hear from you ...

Calendar of Events

Stedman Masonic Lodge

meets the first Monday evening at 7:30 PM at the Lodge on Carol Street, May 1st, June 5th and July 3rd

Bethany Historical Society

meets the first Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM at the Bethany Community Building / March 7th, April 4th, and May 2nd

Senior Citizens Club

meets the first Thursday at Stedman Recreation Center, 10:00 AM

Stedman Board of Commissioners Meeting

meets the first Thursday evening at the Stedman Town Hall on Front Street, 7:00 PM

Stedman Antique Tractor Club

meets the first Thursday evening at 7:00 PM
729 Hollow Bridge Road - May 4th, June 1st and July 6th

Stedman Community Development Club

meets the second Monday at 335 First Street, 7:00 PM
May 8th, June 12th and July 10th

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9925

meets 2nd Tuesday at the Post in Bethany, 7:00 PM
May 9th, June 13th and July 11th

Stedman Historical Promotions

meets the third Monday at 7:00 PM at the Stedman VFD Station
May 15th, June 19th and July 17th

Stedman Fire Department Board

meets the third Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station
May 16th, June 20th and July 18th

Bethany Fire Department Board

meets the fourth Tuesday evening at the Fire Station, 7:00 PM
May 23rd, June 27th and July 25th

every Sunday afternoon Bethany VFD Station,
Cub Scout Pack 710 meets

every Monday evening at Cokesbury
Boy Scouts meet at 7:00 PM

every Tuesday evening at Cokesbury
Cub Scout Pack 701 meets at 7:00 PM

every Thursday afternoon at the Stedman Community Building
Brownies meet at 6:30 PM * during the school year

The Stedman Museum at the Old SCL Depot

is open by appointment

Call the Stedman Town Hall 910-323-1892 for information

Calendar of Special Events

- Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th
- Party in the Park, is Friday evening May 19th and all day Saturday, May 20th
- Memorial Day is Monday, May 29th
- Father's Day is Sunday, June 18th
- Camp Sandy Creek July 4th Celebration is Sunday evening, June 25th



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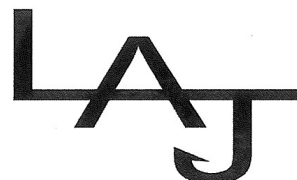
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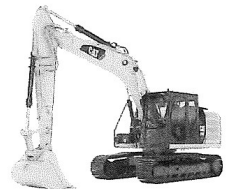
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