

March / April 2017

Vol. Eleven

Issue Two

Concluding our 10th year

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Stedman Community Development Club NEWS

FOOD DRIVE STATUS

The 2017 Food Bank Replenishment Drive officially closed Sunday evening February 19th. At that time, the registers at Carroll's IGA in Stedman recorded specific food contributions totaling \$2,268.00 and cash contributions totaling \$3,164.00 ... \$5,432.00 in total. The result was the ability to purchase 52 cases of each of the six food items selected this year. During the day Monday, additional contributions were received and Karen Campbell informed us that her contribution was to be the money required to purchase six cases of each of the six food items. The Carroll family then used special "sale" costs and contributed additional funds, and the final tally was 68 cases of each food item for a total menu value of \$7,100.00 ... and a total case count of 408 cases. These foods will have been received and delivered before you read this article.

A quick summary: each year in mid January through mid February, the Folks at Carroll's IGA host a contribution event to restock two local Food Banks ... Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Stedman and The Church of God of Prophecy in Bethany. To our knowledge, these are the only Food Banks in our community. The program selects six food items which would make a balanced meal for a family and offers Carroll's IGA customers and the Community the opportunity to donate a half case or a full case of any of them or a cash amount to be used to purchase additional quantities of the six food items. At the end of the program, Carroll's IGA makes a one-time purchase of the foods and volunteers deliver the food in equal portions to the two food banks. It is an efficient way to stock the food banks with a balanced menu of newly processed food items.

The program cannot function without the support of Carroll's IGA, and their customers and it is to them that the community owes a sincere Thank You.

It is also well documented that a reminder of the program delivered to Carroll's customers as they enter the store helps increase the contributions. This (we hope) very gentle reminder is delivered by volunteer greeters, and this year we had more volunteers than any other previous year, and the total donation value reflects their help. A sincere Thank You is extended to the "greeters" and, again, to the many regular Carroll's IGA customers who were greeted (and probably responded by donating) multiple times.

It really is a special project to start each year.

In addition to the substantial contribution made by the Allen and Kevin Carroll families and by Karen Campbell of Cape Fear Crematory in Bethany, we are informed that donations were made by The Stedman Gun Club, First Citizens Bank, Magnolia Baptist Church, and by The Stedman Masonic Lodge. We are sure there were many more very significant individual and business contributions, but they have not been declared to us. Regardless of donation size, we greatly appreciate them all ... and they add up to a very important total.

Thank You Stedman Community ... Great Job, Well Done!

SCDC NEWS STATUS REPORT

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

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

This is edition number sixty ... 60 ... and at six editions per year, this concludes our first ten years of producing and distributing this Stedman Community focused "newsletter". The May June edition will begin year eleven, and 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 large one ... and we welcome your interest.

No notice of ten years work is complete without saying "Thank You" to the contributors.

First of all, we recognize Cheryl Mitchell, the originator of the concept and our resident graphic artist and window to the world of printing ... Many Thanks Cheryl!

The Stedman Recreation Center programs have been a regular feature, and for several years John Rea has been providing them for us ... Many Thanks John!

Recently the articles by Ronald Gentry about the Highway 24 By-Pass have kept us well informed about the progress and the behind the scenes issues involved ... Many Thanks Ronald!

Bob Kater is a volunteer's volunteer and greatly appreciated ... especially recently as he collected, organized and reported on "calls for service" received by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department from our community ... Many Thanks Bob!

There are many others to thank ... Ken Freeman for getting our initial advertising support established; Heidi Maxwell for her many Hints; Wanda Kubiak for her SCDC updates; Ronald Gentry for his Fisher Cemetery updates; Bob Stocks' words of wisdom; Loretta Gentry for her administrative help and other writers for the "reporting" and articles they have contributed. Very early on, Betty Carr told us about the Vander Lights and how the story / legend has some flaws ... Thanks Betty! Is it time to tell the story again?

Thank You All ... especially those not named ... there are so many of you!

The last few editions have been later arriving than we originally planned. There is a practical reason for this ... we are trying to coordinate the entire process to deliver the newsletter and the Carroll's IGA special advertising insert on a Monday. The grocery specials featured are for that week, and we want you to have all week to take advantage of them. This edition we will begin compensating in the Calendar of Events by changing the format ... please let us know if the new format is helpful to you.

Speaking of advertising ... this publication could not exist without the financial support of the businesses who advertise in it. 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 ... join us at a future SCDC Monthly Meeting ... the second Monday of each month at the Stedman Community Building, 7:00 PM ... or contact me at 910 584 3131.

Thank You!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

To all the customers of **Wee Wonders Christian Day Care**, we say a hearty "Thank You" for continuing to support their business despite the challenges of getting into and out of their location. The new highway construction has really made that quite an adventure for you. There is not a doubt in our minds that the quality of the care and attention your children receive at Wee Wonders makes the frustration of the highway construction insignificant. Please see Ronald Gentry's article in this edition ... we are getting down to the short rows! Wee Wonders access will be much more convenient shortly! Thanks again!

The "story" from last edition is confirmed ... the original Stedman Dollar General facility on Clinton Road, in "East Stedman" is in the process of being renovated to re-open

as an **Auto Zone** store. None of the workers there have been able to tell this inquiring mind what the planned opening is and the WWW does not have any information to share. Likely it will be open, up and running before our next edition. Keep your eyes alert. **Levi Johnson** wants us to know that while Johnson's Gas and Groceries is gone to the new highway, **Johnson's Tire and Auto Service** is now open. The business is located at 8843 Clinton Road, just west of the intersection with John Nunnery Road. The sign on the building list the phone number as 910 483 1919, but Levi's cell phone number is 910 578 4167. It is nice to have Levi back in business!

We had a call from Robby James of **James Trading Company** in Roseboro. He noted that several Stedman folks have recently come to his business and commented about how convenient it is to get to him from here. You are very clever people!

Gary Ayers has purchased a local saw mill operation and temporarily moved it to 7953 Clinton Road. His plans are to eventually move it to his residence on Magnolia Church Road, just north of Fisher Cemetery. You may reach Gary at 910 818 1223 and schedule a time to work on your saw mill project.

If you drive past the old South River E M C facility on Wade Stedman Road, you will notice that it is back in business as **Piedmont Land Management**. The business does some really serious land clearing work and is managed by Joe Bullard. You may reach Joe at (704) 363 6863 to discuss your needs.

Her name is **Colleen Shannon**, and she introduces herself as Doctor. Her list of degrees is impressive. Her business is **Natures Wealth**, a naturopathic medicine shoppe, and it is located in the Peddler's Village at the intersection of Front Street and East First Street in Stedman. The shoppe's hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Phone 910 423 1009

Joseph Manuel has a business locally ... **Joseph's Tree Removal and Yard Care**. His card says he specializes in tree climbing and tractor work. His web site is www.JosephsTreeRemoval.com and the site lists two telephone numbers: office 910 483 1864 and cell 910 728 0494.



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TOWN OF AUTRYVILLE ACTIVITIES

By: Kathleen C. Squibb
The Town of Autryville will hold our Annual Easter Parade, Saturday, April 15, 2017.

There will be classic and antique cars, floats, dignitaries, and others.

For information about joining the parade please contact Jessica Faircloth, Autryville Town Clerk, at 910-525-4567.

There is no fee to enter. Line up for the parade will begin at 10:00 am at the Autryville Baptist Church, on William Street (old HWY 24). Everyone is encouraged to participate or to come and watch.

The Ol' School Classic and Antique Car Cruz'in will also be held April 15, 2017 from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm, at the Autryville Town Hall on South Gray Street, in Autryville. Again, there is no fee to participate. Please arrive early and participate in the Easter Parade.

Concessions will be sold to benefit the renovation of the Vinson Memorial Amphitheater located at the Town Hall. Clubs are encouraged to participate. For more information please contact George Tyndall, 910-797-7600 or Tommy Lee, 910-850-7270.

An Easter Egg Hunt for kids up to age 13 will be held in the afternoon of Saturday, April 15, 2017 at the Autryville town Hall at 2:30 pm. For additional information please contact Jessica Faircloth, Town Clerk, 910-525-4567.

We in Autryville hope that all our Stedman friends will join us and have a great time! Thanks a million!

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.

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.

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V.F.W. POST 9925 WE'RE STILL HERE

By: Bill Bullard

There seems to be some confusion and misunderstandings about the status of the Stedman Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Post 9925 is here and meeting in the same building as always. But, being a post with a small membership, it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with the demands of the building. When the opportunity arose for the Bethany Historical Society to assume control of the building, we felt this would be beneficial to both parties. Nonetheless, we still meet every 2nd Tuesday of each month and invite all veterans to come out and join our V.F.W.

So Who Are We and What DO We Do

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans' service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service: Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at nearly 1.7 million members of the VFW and it's Auxiliary.

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, we won a long-fought campaign with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active duty service members and members of the guard and reserves fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical centers services for women veterans.

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, we became the first supporter of the National Desert Storm War Memorial which is planned for construction at our nation's capital.



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STEDMAN CRIME REPORT

By: Bob Kater

Crime Report For Stedman Zip Code 28391 for December 1, 2016 thru January 31, 2017

As Reported By The Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Names Of Victims and Addresses Have Been Omitted
Reports By School Resource Officers involving Juveniles Are Also Not Included.

More Details and Copies of Report are Available at <http://ccsonc.org/> click on Police Reports.

December 2016

12/04	Stolen Medication/Fraud	Shad Court
12/06	Shoplifting/Dollar General	Wade Stedman Rd.
12/08	Damage to Property	Clinton Rd.
12/09	Civil incident	Maxwell Rd.
12/12	Threats	Dogwood Court
12/14	Incident	Alaska Court
12/14	Breaking and Entering	North Street
12/17	Assault	Clinton Road
12/19	Child Abuse	Wade Stedman Rd
12/20	B&E/Larceny	Sandy Creek Rd.
12/25	Assault	Blawell Street
12/27	Larceny from a MV	Clinton Road
12/28	Larceny from Building	Raspberry Road
12/29	Damage to Property	Maxwell Road
12/31	Damage to Property	Stricklands, Maxwell Rd

January 2017

01/01	Larceny	Raspberry Rd
01/05	B&E Larceny	Wade Stedman Rd
01/05	B&E Larceny	NC Hwy 210 S
01/05	B&E Larceny	Wade Stedman Rd
01/06	MV Theft	Lina Drive
01/17	Burglary/ Damage to Property	Morning Glory Dr
01/20	Damage to Property	NC Hwy 210 S
01/21	Missing Person	Mary McCall Rd
01/21	Simple Assault	Carl Freeman Rd
01/22	Incident	Bird Nest Court
01/25	Fire Investigation	Fred Hall Rd

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Always put the interests of our members first, Treat donors as partners in our cause, Promote patriotism, Honor military service, Ensure the care of veterans and their families, Serve our communities, Promote a positive image of the VFW, Respect the diversity of veteran opinions, Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; To serve our veterans, the military and our communities; To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country

Membership in the VFW is restricted to United States citizens who are active in or honorably discharged from a branch of the armed services and who have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service has been recognized by the authorization or the issuance of a military campaign medal.

We gladly welcome new members! If you're interested in joining, please call 910-988-4060, or email vfwpost9925@aol.com or come by the second Tuesday of every month and we'll show you around! VFW Post 9925 is located at 2105 Wade-Stedman Road near the Bethany Crossroads, across from the Bethany Fire Department.

EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION PROJECT BY BOY SCOUT TROOP 701

By: Vicki Griffith

Boy Scout Troop 701 is exploring the possibility of hosting a banquet/fund-raising event to honor all Eagle Scouts in the Stedman community. Thirty seven young men in Troop 701 have earned their Eagle since 2004. We are positive many more are in our area from other Troops, perhaps even from 701 in years prior to 2004. In order to proceed with this event, we

would like to see what interest in attending would be.

If you are an Eagle Scout, family member of an Eagle Scout, a recipient of an Eagle Scout project, donated to an Eagle Project, etc. and would be interested in attending an Eagle Banquet/ Fund-raising event, please leave a voice mail or text message with your name, phone number, and address at (910) 489-5876.

A Cape Fear High School Beautification Project

By: LeCarla Royal

The Cape Fear High School Parent Teachers Association is doing an engraved brick fund-raiser to create a wall around the outside eating area of the cafeteria. The Bricks can be engraved to honor an upcoming graduate, alumni, teacher, sport team; or in memory of a departed classmate. Businesses are also welcome to purchase bricks.

This will be an on-going project for the school until May 31st. Orders will be accepted until that date. Please don't wait until the last minute to place your order!

For more information, you can contact us through our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/capefearhighschoolpta or email at cfspta2@gmail.com.

Bricks can be ordered online at <http://www.brickmarkers.com/donors/cfhs.html>

Please support our PTA in this project to help beautify our school.

Thank you!! We appreciate your support!!

SV FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING NOTES

The Stedman VFD Board of Directors met Tuesday evening January 17, but this reporter missed the meeting. Notes taken from the Minutes are:

The Board discussed several vehicle, equipment and building repairs and the related expenses.

Two new sets of firefighter's working clothes ... called "turn-out gear" were purchased at a cost of \$3,600.00+.

A surprise Black Friday advertised special allowed the department to buy a new infrared camera (FLIR) for \$1,000.00, a substantial savings over that offered through regular fire

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fighting supply channels.

Training rosters for the year have been established and submitted to the State, and a fee paid. Other required reports are ready for submission as well.

The Christmas Trees sale netted a profit of \$6,000.00 but did not sell all the trees; 20 were left.

The interest on the WoodmenLife investment was \$1,738.87 during 2016.

Duke Energy has replaced the station lights at a cost of \$2,600 and selected lights have been converted to full time. The goal is long term energy (and expense) savings.

The Department is still seeking funds to purchase 15 air bottles (\$12,150) and 5 sets of turn out gear (\$9,653). The Board approved an application for a 50/50 grant. The air bottles "expire" at certain times and must be removed from service and replaced. Eight (8) department air bottles will expire in 2018.

The department's financial tracking for the 2017 Fiscal Year to date (July 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017) notes that income was budgeted to be \$183,564.45 and actually was \$185,895.78, so slightly over budget; expenses (less the annual truck payment category) are budgeted to be \$161,639.45 and are actually \$154,577.55, essentially \$7,000.00 below budget.

The Board met Tuesday evening February 21st, and our notes are:

January call responses included 3 fires and 20 Emergency Medical calls; the total of all calls was 30.

All State required annual reports have been submitted and substantial time has been invested in organizing the reporting systems to make tracking, monitoring of status and reporting pertinent information more efficient.

Repairs to the equipment, trucks and station were reviewed. The recent station electric bill was noted to be \$330 (some past bills have been as high as \$700+) and the expectation is that the recent lighting work done by Duke Energy will allow for future energy savings. Discussion noted that the donated copier was requiring frequent repair visits at \$90.00 each, plus, and it is time to begin considering alternatives.

The Fiscal Year 2018 (July 2017 through June 2018) budget proposal was the subject of a long discussion. The policy of the Department has been to budget based on what the Board calculated was essential to operate the department considering the tax revenue available. A consequence is that Cumberland County and the Town of Stedman are not formally informed of the real financial needs of the department. The Board decided to have Chief Nobles submit a proposed budget that includes all the identified staffing needs of the department and to have the budget submission accompanied by a letter from the Board supporting the totals and the rationale behind them. Specifically included in this proposed budget will be four qualified firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Such a budget would total nearly \$650,000.00 vs the estimated actual FY 2017 expense of \$315,318.88.

Excluded from the proposed budget will be the several hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been discussed in previous meetings as required to replace existing equipment, trucks, air packs and turn out gear.

The department will host a meal fund-raiser Saturday, March 18th at the Department ... great BBQ and Chicken will be served.

The department received a positive response to the 2016 Audit recently completed.

The firefighters have used their funds to acquire a new storage capability for the department.

The Board reviewed videos being prepared for on-line recruiting and structure fire incidence reporting. In conjunction with FaceBook and website work, the videos are to make the work, the staff and selected situations the department faces better known within the community. The website is scheduled to be on-line April 1st.

CRUMPLER'S CUSTOM CYCLES OPEN HOUSE

Richie Crumpler has informed us that all we motorcycle enthusiasts are invited to his business Saturday, April 1st (no fooling, honest) from 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM to enjoy his hospitality. The event will include lots of motorcycle displays, DYNO testing and information, as we would expect, but it will also provide live music by The Open Road Band (from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM) and a Pig Pickin lunch with all the fixings. Did we mention that lunch is on Richie?

There will also be bikes on display and some for sale.

Crumpler's Custom Cycles is located at 7611 Clinton Road in Stedman. For more information you have several options: the website is www.crumplersautomotive.com or visit Crumpler's on Facebook or call 910 483 2958. Enjoy!



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FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2016

At the January 5th Stedman Board of Commissioners Meeting, David Maxwell a CPA and Vice President of McFadyen and Sumner CPAs PA presented the audit of the Town's financial status as of the end of Fiscal Year 2016 (June 30, 2016).

Mr. Maxwell defined the audit as "clean" and reported:

Cash Balances are \$816,531.00 in savings, up from \$813,666.00 the previous year; the checking balance was \$314,643.00, up from \$302,853 at the end of FY2015.

Note: All the following numbers are rounded ...

Revenue for the year totaled \$1,112,000. Major categories were: property taxes were 28% of the revenue or \$311,000; sales taxes were 19% or \$207,000; sewer charges were 23% or \$256,000; water charges were 19%. All other revenue sources were 11% of the total.

Expenses for the year totaled \$1,129,000. Major categories were: general government 16%, or \$177,000; public safety was 27% or \$307,000; water treatment, waste water, etc was 32% or \$362,000; transportation was 13% or \$141,000. All other expenses were 12% of the total.

Expenses by Department were: public safety \$307,400; general government \$176,800; transportation \$141,000; and sanitation \$31,900.

Water & Sewer (operating revenue and expenses) were: \$489,000 in revenue and \$409,200 in expenses. Depreciation is excluded from these numbers; when included, the enterprise yields a loss of \$106,000 for the year.

Debt (sewer bond, water bond and police car) totaled \$742,100 at the end of the fiscal year, down from \$759,900 the previous year.

Again this year, Mr. Maxwell praised the quality of the record keeping and the cooperation of the administrative staff in preparing the audit. Mr. Maxwell has regularly noted that the limited staff number for the town does not provide the separation of duties that is preferred by the State of N. C., but that the work is done accurately and well. He also noted that the State expects enterprises such as water and sewer programs to be profitable at the fully burdened level, and Stedman's is not.

TOWN OF STEDMAN BoC MEETINGS

The Stedman Board of Commissioners (BoC) met Thursday evening, January 5th, and our notes are:

Representatives of the Cumberland County Community Development were there and informed the BoC that they are developing their annual action plan. They were seeking feedback and comments (by February 6th) related to housing rehabilitation, infrastructure and Matthew assistance needed in the Stedman Community. The presented a brochure and ask for a response ... telephone 910 323 6112.

A report noted that storm drainage repairs have been made on Front Street, but some finish dressing of the grounds may be necessary.

David Maxwell, CPA reported of the Town of Stedman FY2016 audit, and this is the subject of a separate article in this edition.

It was noted that a technical term issue ... "town home" vs. "apartment" used in relation to a project on Euclid Street has been approved by the Cumberland County Planning.

Commissioner George noted the frustration with poor lighting and signage on Wade Stedman Road near the intersection with the new highway by-pass. He is seeking help to obtain more lighting available.

It was noted that plans for a sidewalk on the east side of Hillsboro Street to connect the Elementary School to the park are to be submitted to Cumberland County Planning Department.

Chief Stocks again referenced issues with parking in Long Branch Village and a walk through inspection held in late December; no written reports were filed.

Chief Stocks reviewed highway 24 construction issues and schedules. He noted that, based on what he is being told, he expects final local construction to be complete in May.

Warnings were issued about expected very severe winter weather and preparations that were being made.

The meeting adjourned to a closed session to address an employee issue and no statement of results was to result.

The Board of Commissioner's meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 2 was cancelled.

HIGHWAY 24 UPDATE #22

By: Ronald Gentry

OK folks I am going to be lazy again this month. I am really impressed with the work that Barnhill has been performing. This unbelievable weather we have had for February has allowed Barnhill to really get a jump on the completion phase of the A & B projects. In all my 30 years with the Highway Dept. I cannot remember a year with such a work friendly early spring; it more than makes up for the damage caused by hurricane Matthew back in October of last year.

I have to admit that Barnhill is really pouring the equipment and man power into getting everything completed. Hauling borrow material, milling up the old hwy 24 where needed, placing and compacting sub-grade, and getting it all covered with asphalt. With three months or so to go in the project they

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should have no problem meeting their completion deadline.

I'm not sure which route they will take when they do the final paving and last traffic shift and there are several options so I will not try to guess which one they will use. I hope it works out better than the last traffic shift and see no reasons why it shouldn't. Everybody just keep in mind that the entire project will receive one more coat of asphalt and then the final traffic marking should be installed. Everything should be as a finished product except a small transition area where Barnhills' A & B projects tie into Fred Smith & Co. C & D projects on the West side of Roseboro.

Speaking of Fred Smith & Co. they are not sitting idle spinning their wheels in this great weather. They have really impressed me with the work that they are getting accomplished overall and they are certainly taking advantage of this early spring weather as well. If I had to make a prediction I would bet that they should be able to finish their projects ahead of their scheduled completion date. The only thing I am not sure about is exactly what is going on with the Hwy 242 Bridge / Intersection changes and how that might affect their completion date.

I haven't looked it up but I bet there are plans and money being allocated for the last two sections that will advance the project to I-40 from Clinton.

In retrospect it hasn't seemed to me to take so awful long for all the work that has been accomplished. Of course I don't live along any of the sections under construction although I do drive them almost daily. Just remember that there will be one more big traffic shift and when it is all done it WILL be different. Just keep in mind that after a couple of weeks or so it will seem easy and be way more efficient for traffic flow.

Remember to keep all of the businesses in mind that have helped you all these years and they are only a hop and a skip away from the new route.

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Dental Health Assoc. 910-486-4180

STEDMAN RECREATION CENTER

By: John Rea 910-433-1440

Friday Night Food, Fun & Fellowship

Looking for a night out with friends? Come to the Stedman Recreation Center for a grand ole' time! All participants must register and registration ends three days before the date of the program! Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

April 7: Chicken Dinner;

55+; Fri.; 6:30 pm; \$5

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.

5-12 yrs; Fri.; March 17, 6:30-8 pm; \$10/child

Cheer & Tumble Class

Cheer leading promotes coordination, fitness and confidence. Learn all you need to know to prepare for middle school and high school cheer leading. 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

Tae Kwon Do

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

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

Fitness Fun

It's never too early to get started working on a healthier you. Smarter choices result in a happier and healthier YOU! The Stedman Recreation Center will be offering FREE workout classes to help you achieve your fitness goals. We will be showing a variety of workout videos that you can follow along with!

16+; Mon.; 8-9 pm; Wed. and Fri.; 7-8 pm; Free

SPECIAL EVENTS

Easter Eggravaganza and Pictures with the Easter Bunny

This is your chance to get a photo with the Easter Bunny and find some of his eggs! Don't forget to bring your own basket. Refreshments will be offered after the egg hunt.

All ages; Sat., April 15; 10:00 am; Free

Parking Lot Picassos

Gather the family and let your imagination run wild on the biggest canvas yet-the parking lot! With unlimited space and chalk, you bring your ideas and we will turn the blacktop into a masterpiece. Pre-registration is required by April 17.

6-12 yrs; Sat., April 28; 10 am-noon; Free

Self-Defense for Women

Anticipating an attack is the best type of self-defense. Learn safety tips needed for handling various attacks; practice using pressure points, getting out of holds, basic countering, and self-defense.

14+; Sat., Apr. 29; 10 am; \$25



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Colton Strickland

Born to Rock and Bonnie Strickland on August of 1988 and raised in Bamberg, South Carolina, Colton knew at a very young age that there was something about fire service that caught his eye. After graduating from Bamberg Ehrhard High School, Colton moved to Cumberland County, North Carolina where he joined Stedman Volunteer Fire Department in April of 2015. Prior to Stedman, Colton was a member of Bamberg Fire Department since the age of 18. Supporting his commitment and dedication to the fire service is his wife, Leigh-Anne and son Warren. Colton's interest in the automotive industry has lead him to be a Automotive Technician with a reputable car dealership in Fayetteville. Colton joined the Stedman Volunteer Fire Department to be a part of the brotherhood that he grew to love.



18.



On behalf of the Chiefs and Officers of the Stedman Volunteer Fire Department, we would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication to our organization and the community that you serve. Without members like you, that volunteer your time our organization would not succeed . We are forever grateful to have you as a member and even more so to call you family.

Calendar of Events

Stedman Masonic Lodge

meets the first Monday evening at 7:30 PM at the Lodge on Carol Street / March 6th, April 3rd, and May 1st

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 March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th

Stedman Board of Commissioners Meeting

meets the first Thursday evening at the Stedman Town Hall on Front Street, 7:00 PM March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th

Stedman Antique Tractor Club

meets the first Thursday evening at 7:00 PM 729 Hollow Bridge Road March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th

Stedman Community Development Club

meets the second Monday at 335 First Street, 7:00 PM March 13th, April 10th, May 8th

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9925

meets 2nd Tuesday at the Post in Bethany, 7:00 PM March 14th, April 11th, May 9th

Stedman Historical Promotions

meets the third Monday at 7:00 PM at the Stedman VFD Station March 20th, April 17th, May 15th

Stedman Fire Department Board

meets the third Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station March 21st, April 18th, May 16th

Bethany Fire Department Board

meets the fourth Tuesday evening at the Fire Station, 7:00 PM March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd

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

- Day Light Saving Time Starts Sunday, March 12th
- Saint Patrick's Day Friday, March 17th
- Stedman V F D Fund-Raising Lunch, Saturday, March 18th
- Crumpler's Custom Cycles Open House, April 1st, 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM
- The April 8th athletic open season Youth Parade, 9:00 AM Front Street in Stedman
- Passover is April 11th
- Good Friday is April 14th
- Town of Autryville Annual Easter Parade, Saturday, April 15, 2017
- Autryville Ol' School Classic and Antique Car Cruz' April 15, 2017 from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm,
- Easter is April 16th



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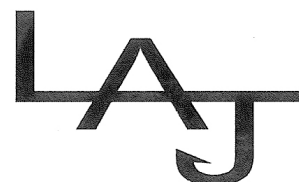
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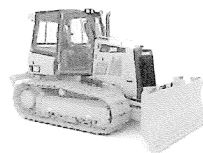
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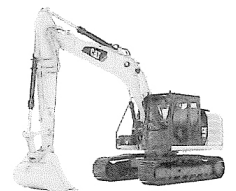
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