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Stedman Community Development Club NEWS

CHILI FUND-RAISER THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH BENEFIT FOR THE STEDMAN COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Stedman Community Development Club is planning a Chili Event for Saturday, November 4th, 2017 at the Stedman Community Building. And ... You are invited! We will be serving Chili prepared by local people and local businesses, locally baked and certifiably delicious corn bread and selling locally baked delicious cakes, pies and cookies ... we do hope you'll stop in and enjoy the food with us.

The Event is a necessary fund-raiser for the Community Building. We replaced appliances in March of 2015, had a major handicap access and parking expense in October of 2016 and another major structure expense in August of this year. We need to replace the nearly \$10,000.00 in funds spent on these three projects.

The Event will also be a friendly competition, as we will allow our guests to judge and to vote for which Chili they liked most. A modest award will be presented to those getting the most votes. Those buying tickets will be able to sample different Chili recipes and to vote for which they like best.

Serving hours are 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Many Thanks in Advance!

BETHANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY THANKSGIVING FUND-RAISER

By: Martha Tyler

The Bethany Historical Society will again be selling slow cooked, on the grill, Boston Butts just in time for your family's Thanksgiving meal!

Whole - \$30.00 each Chopped - \$35.00 each

Pre-order by calling : Martha Tyler at 910 391-2653, or Richie Crumpler at 910 483-2958 or Lyn Autry at 910 483-1575

We ask that you preorder, as we purchase a certain number of Boston Butts. When they are spoken for and picked up that is it for this year. Sorry.

Orders may be picked up and paid for @ the Bethany Historical Society Building (formerly Bethany Community Building) at 2105 Wade-Stedman Road, Stedman, NC, on the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 22nd between 3 – 6 PM.

Call to reserve your delicious Boston Butt ASAP. Thank you so much for your support!

INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTY HORNE, TOWN OF STEDMAN CLERK AND FINANCE OFFICER

Christy Horne sworn in as Town Clerk/Finance Officer for the Town of Stedman at the board meeting on September 14th by Mayor Horne. She has been a resident of Stedman since 2001. Her husband Mark was born and raised here. They have two grown daughters. Christy has an Associate degree in Accounting from FTCC and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from FSU. Her previous position was Senior Accounting Technician in Business and Finance at FTCC. Prior to her work at FTCC, when her daughters were younger, Christy worked as a Teacher Assistant at both Stedman Primary and Stedman Elementary Schools; work she really enjoyed.

Christy says she is looking forward to working in the Stedman Community again.

WORDS OF WISDOM

By: Bob Stocks, Stedman Police Chief

With our holiday season approaching quickly, I would encourage you NOT to post your travel plans on social media. Home break-ins typically increase this time of year and you can never be sure who may see your travel plans when they are shared a few times.

November 11, 2017 is Veterans Day. Please let our veterans know how much we appreciate all that they have done for us and our country. Please drive as if your life depends on it!



STEDMAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER 7TH

On Tuesday, November 7th, registered voters in the Town of Stedman will elect a Mayor and two Commissioners. There are two candidates for Mayor: Mardy Jones and Ralph Vogt. There are three candidates for the two Commissioner positions: Harvey Cain, Jon Wayne Mosley and Paul Pirro.

On Wednesday, September 27, a representative of the SCDC hand delivered an invitation letter to each candidate or to a family member. The letter presented each candidate the opportunity to reply to four questions. The questions and their responses (Mayor first, then Commissioner, in order of receipt) are:

What new strategic or directional “things” would you like the Stedman Board of Commissioners to accomplish in the next two years? Do you plan to promote changes to existing direction, policies or programs? If yes, which ones and why?

Ralph Vogt: As Mayor I would meet with the Commissioners and have a brain storming session to determine what direction we want the town to go in with regard to the existing direction, policies and programs and develop a two-year formal plan. This plan will be transparent, holding the Board accountable for the direction, policies or programs, the board may decide to go in.

Mardy Jones: Fire department and protective services
 Work with the fire department to help with funding to provide better services for fire and health
 Stedman youth athletics programs
 Help the Stedman youth Athletic program by working with county to increase funding in Stedman.
 Business opportunities
 Encourage new business opportunities, develop a committee to help draw new businesses
 Work to keep taxes at low rates

Paul Pirro: I'd like to start my tenure working with the

Board on the current path that has been prepared. Over the next two years my platform has 3 main focuses. First, we need to work towards expanding our Public Safety for the Town and its' Citizens. This will allow our Fire Department and Police Department to protect Residents in todays ever so challenging environment. Secondly, it is important for our Town to improve, add, and expand our Recreation for our Children. Not only will this help keep the kids off the streets, but it will also give families a place to enjoy time together. Lastly, is monitoring the continued growth of our Town. The Board needs to creatively expand our Community while attracting Businesses to open. Keeping our small town atmosphere while intelligently adding new Businesses allows the tax revenue to grow while keeping your taxes down.

Jon Wayne Mosley: As a Stedman Town Commissioner I would like to see the Town become more involved in our Parks and Rec. I feel that our facilities are out dated and are in dire need of improvements. As Town Commissioner I would take necessary steps to implement improvements to the Stedman Recreation Center and Ernest Freeman Park. I believe that children are our future. With that being said sports and social activities are great ways for children to learn essential life skills that will serve them well later in life, such as teamwork and cooperation.

Harvey Cain: The planning and management of the future growth of our Town is a major issue. We need to increase commercial development to balance our tax base, improve our quality of life, add conveniences for our citizens and create job opportunities locally. I will work to insure that every citizen is afforded an opportunity to start a business without the Town of Stedman interfering based on personal preferences or friendships.

The Town of Stedman's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget (which was identical to the FY2017 Budget) requires funds to be

drawn from savings in order to be balanced. Does the Town have a revenue problem or a spending problem? What specific decisions are needed to balance the Budget without drawing from savings?

Ralph Vogt: As Mayor I would meet with the Board of Commissioners and Christy Horne, the Chief Finance Officer, and review all of the town expenses over the past three years to determine if there is a trend in spending by the Board of Commissioners. I would then decide what the best direction to go in to correct the revenue problem. One major item I feel needs attention is the Stedman volunteer fire department, operated by Chief Justin Nobles, who's operating budget is derived from a combination of funding from Cumberland County, the **Town of Stedman** and a county special fire tax. Due to the most recent property reevaluation will result in an almost \$11,000 shortfall from the county. I will donate my salary as Mayor, for my first year as Mayor directly to the SVFD to help defray some of the funds being drawn from the Town savings. I will evaluate at the end of my first year whether to continue the donation to the SVFD or consider another needy organization in Stedman.

Mardy Jones: As having served on the Stedman Town Board as Commissioner for 20 years we have always maintained a strong and positive financial balance. We have had only one tax increase in past 15 years. We have achieved this by setting an aggressive budget each year. If unbudgeted funds are needed these gaps are filled by reserve funds we have in place. We have always tried to keep these funds in interest bearing accounts and transfer over when needed.

We have always been given high praise from our auditing firm McFadyen and Sumner, who by state law audit our books each fiscal year. They also give us ideas of maintaining a

balanced budget and for the accounting of all transactions.

Paul Pirro: The budget is an evolving item that is not usually set in stone, rather a "Break Even" sheet to work off of. From my knowledge while researching the past budgets the Town has not drawn from savings since 2014. Until I get elected "God willing from the Citizens support" I'll have to table the question "does the Town have a revenue problem." I'm confident the Town Board works with their budget in a similar fashion that we do on the Fire Department Board that I was Secretary & President of for more than 9 years. We always shift money from one category to another to move surpluses to level off negatives. This is why the Budget is so important to create. You must do your best to over think the categories and itemize spending. I will make every attempt to contribute tightening of the budget and expansion of Grants to earn more revenue for the Town.

Jon Wayne Mosley: Keeping a balanced budget in todays world is not only a great challenge to The Town Of Stedman but any Local Government big or small! Nobody likes to hear the words of Tax Increase. That is why it is very important to be proactive in finding and exploring new ideas to generate revenue. Also looking at all areas of our budget to really examine what our money is being spent on. Prioritizing and finding new ways to get things done in the same fashion is a must in todays ever so changing economy. Having been working in Local Government for 14 years I have a great understanding in keeping a Balanced Budget. I hope I have the opportunity to utilize some of these skills that I have learned over the years!

Harvey Cain: The Town has a spending problem. Decisions are not routinely made in the best interest of the Town. Approximately four years ago the Board of Commissioners



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spent \$168,000 on a project that was of no benefit to the Town as a whole, but to one individual. The project resulted in a sewer line being run across a piece of property without obtaining an easement from the property owner. To this date the Town has not resolved the liability issue. Money was diverted from cash reserves to cover that project. Board members are currently discussing discontinuing our trash service to cut expenses. Had appropriate spending decisions been made earlier, eliminating services we have all come to rely on would not even be considered.

What should be done by the Board of Commissioners to stimulate and to grow the business segment of the Town of Stedman?

Ralph Vogt: I will approach the agency responsible for installing road signs, on the new route 24, at the entrances leading into Stedman indicating what businesses are located off the exits.

This would inform new as well as old customers about what Stedman has to offer. I would also look into more parks which will bring more people into Stedman which would increase the customer base for our business.

Mardy Jones: We need to encourage the residents of our community to shop at home. We need to have several times during the year where we have "support your local business day".

Also we need a team to help grow the business base for the town of Stedman. Example would be a "Chamber of Commerce".

Paul Pirro: As mentioned earlier, the Board needs to think of creative ways to attract new Businesses to our area. The first step should be to create a "Swot" (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. This will allow our Board to use a white board and create enticing reasons that a New Business would want to be a part of Stedman. Another idea




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would be for the Town to possibly start an official "Chamber of Commerce." Traditionally smaller businesses do better than larger ones in Rural type Towns; however, Stedman does need a few National businesses as anchors to attract the "mom-and-pop" type of businesses we have grown to love and support. The Board can consider a tiered tax incentive for new businesses that decide to setup in our wonderful town. I'd also recommend adjusting zoning codes to reduce business costs. For example: The Soda shop is a business with residential apartments upstairs. This is a great way to add more business by zoning for "mixed-use" buildings.

Jon Wayne Mosley: Since the New Highway 24 has opened I have asked numerous business owners in the Stedman Town Limits if they have felt any effects of the new road opening. Almost all have stated that their business has declined somewhat. Now, how does the Town Of Stedman stimulate growth and help our local businesses stay afloat? As Town Commissioner you should always be looking to find ways to increase Population Density! The New Highway 24 also could be a gateway to the Great Town Of Stedman! There are many steps to increasing Population Density here are a few. Have a Safe Town and accommodating for all! Promote Human Contact and Social Activities! Promote Community Involvement! Reflect on our Local Culture and History! Be well maintained and have a unique or special character! All with are proven methods to help increase Population Density. By increasing Population Density you will intern increase revenue to the Town Of Stedman and our Local Businesses! Like I have stated before a Town Commissioner has to be proactive in finding new ways to promote revenue which will increase business. If I were elected Town Commissioner I would be Proactive and challenge my colleagues on the Town Board as well!

Harvey Cain: Stedman needs to actively solicit new

business and encourage individuals interested in opening a business in our community. The practice of imposing certain businesses to conform to stricter standards must be eliminated. Approximately two years ago an outdoor sports business began renovating an historical building in Stedman. The Town filed a complaint with Cumberland County claiming that the building violated setback rules and that the new sign was not to code. Cumberland County confirmed that there were no violations. Instead of approaching the business owners and working to find a solution to potential issue, the Town blindsided the business owner in an attempt to discourage the opening of the new business.

At several recent Town of Stedman Board of Commissioners' Meetings, discussions have addressed concerns about storm drainage and problems with streets (responsibility for and maintenance of). Does the Town have an infrastructure problem that is beyond annual budget funds to address properly? If yes, what should be done?

Ralph Vogt: As Mayor I will consult with the Town Chief Finance Officer, the Board of Commissioners, and the proper state agency to determine what can be done to resolve storm drainage and problems with the streets in Stedman, and who is responsible for the maintenance of each. This will determine if there is an infrastructure problem beyond which the town annual budget funds can address properly.

When all the facts are known the Town Board will address them and determine what is the best way to resolve the funds to meet these needs.

I would also consider the safety of the Town of Stedman for the people in regard to adding more side walks; street lighting; increasing the size of the police department by adding additional personnel to patrol the town. I would also look into getting the drainage ditch cleaned.

Mardy Jones: We do have some drainage projects that

we are currently addressing. We have also completed some of these during the month of August and September. We are currently looking to secure engineering services to help with some of the other outstanding projects. We will complete these actions on an as needed basis and as funding permits. Concerning the street infrastructure, we have a fund supported by the state called the Powell Bill Fund. These monies are used only for streets and sidewalk repairs.

Paul Pirro: This issue has been talked about within the Community, and it is a difficult situation to address without all of the facts. Nonetheless, I've done a little research and found that over the years the drainage issue has had some problems that were taken care of by our Town workers. As the Town has grown the drainage may or may not have been as much as an issue as it presents today. With that said, the Board will need to take a good look at the problem to see what can be resolved using the Town's resources, and what has to be done externally using contractors. As stated in the budget question, money will have to be shifted between categories to help resolve the drainage problem. However, this will not be an overnight fix to the issue, and it may take months to years to financially support the drainage resolution. I am confident our Town Board can be creative in finding an answer working together as a Team.

John Wayne Mosley: I have not personally heard any discussions about storm drainage problems or streets therefore have no comment. If elected to Town Commissioner I would support and promote finding new and cost effective ways in maintaining Storm Water Drainage and Streets in the Town Of Stedman.

Harvey Cain: Drainage issues have been discussed frequently throughout the years and no action is taken. The west portion of the Town Hall parking lot floods frequently as do other areas throughout the Town. When a subdivision was built on the far end of Front Street a drainage pipe that ran under Front Street was mistakenly terminated. The drainage plan shows the pipe integrated into the drainage plan of the subdivision. Once the Town was notified that the error was causing property on the other side of the street to flood, it took approximately two years for the Board to hire a firm to verify that the pipe was indeed terminated. The Town's solution to the drainage problem, which took another two years to formulate, was not to insure that the pipe was restored as the original plan called for but to clean out the ditch on the other side of the road to facilitate draining. Nothing was improved. Another standing water issue was created. The Town needs to commit to hiring an engineer to assess the situation. Without an assessment a plan of action cannot be formulated.



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Candidate for Mayor of the Town of Stedman

Col Ralph A. Vogt, CAP, N. C. Wing Assistant Inspector General

CIVIL AIR PATROL SERVICE: 1972 to present, Civil Air Patrol, Auxiliary U. S. Air Force (part of US Air Force Total Force).

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: 2009 to present, North Carolina Wing Assistant Inspector General- Complaints.

EXPERIENCE: 1996 to 2000; CAP Maryland Wing Commander; Member of National Board; 1972 to 2008; Group Commander; Squadron Commander; Encampment Vice Commander.

CAP TRAINING: Wing Commander's Course; National and Region Staff College; Inspector General College.

CAP AWARDS and DECORATIONS: Distinguished Service Medal, Exceptional Service Award, Meritorious Service Awards, Commander's Commendation Awards.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SERVICE: 1958 to present

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: 2013 to present, Occoneechee Council, BSA, Cumberland Co., Lafayette District Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner.

EXPERIENCE: 1958 to 1961, Boy Scout; 1961 thru 1964, Assistant Scout Master; 1965 thru 2012, held many adult scouting positions.

BOY SCOUT TRAINING:

- a) Wood Badge
- b) Doctor of Commissioner Science

BOY SCOUT AWARDS and DECORATIONS:

- a) Eagle Scout Award w/ palms
- b) District Award of Merit
- c) Commissioner's Key
- d) Silver Beaver Award

EDUCATION: *BS Degree in Business Administration; US Army Chief Warrant Officer Course; Officer Basic Course; Marine Chief Engineer School (Unlimited Horse Power Course); Occoneechee Scout Council, BSA. Earned Doctor of Commissioner Science.*

U.S. MILITARY: Retired US Army Commissioned Chief Warrant Officer, CW4; Marine Chief Engineer.

PERSONAL:

- a) Married, 1979 to present.
- b) *US Coast Guard Civilian*, 1972 to 2007, Retired, Senior Mechanical Engineering Technician,

Community Service:

- a) President of Stedman Senior Club.
- b) Vice President of Stedman Community Development Club.

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STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETINGS

The meeting was delayed a week such that it could be held in the newly restored Board Room.

The Stedman Board of Commissioners (BoC) met Thursday evening, September 14th and our notes are:

Ms. Christy Horne was sworn in as the Stedman Town Clerk and Financial Officer ... more about her in an article in this edition.

Retired Cumberland County Sheriff Earl Butler and Sheriff's Department attorney Ron Mitchell spoke to recognize the service of Mayor Billy Horne and presented him with a plaque. Ms. Annette Maykovich, a Stedman resident, spoke appreciation for the work and attention of Chief Stocks, but concern for the quality of the enforcement level when he is off duty. She requested consideration of employing additional Stedman police officers or perhaps a process of selecting the Cumberland County deputies assigned to patrol Stedman. Mayor Horne stated that additional cost will result in additional taxes.

Duke Energy has agreed to replace all 174 Stedman street lights with new LED lights for the original price offered to replace those whose contract was expiring. The savings will be approximately \$10,000 and will result in lower power usage. Drainage problems persist and standing water following rain events is a concern. The core question is whether the Town

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has an existing contract with an engineering firm, and if so, can the Town seek additional engineering advice. More discussion was tabled until the status of a contract can be determined and an engineering assessment can be obtained.

The question of responsibility for the streets in Long Branch Village remains unclear. The developer is no longer in control and the DoT states that the Town approved the streets and should assume maintenance responsibility. Mayor Horne stated that the Town engineer should assess the streets to determine if they are up to code before the Town assumes ownership and responsibility. The issue was tabled.

Discussion of the age and capability of the Town computer equipment resulted in a decision to seek quotations for replacement equipment. A specification of needs will be established and three bids solicited.

Administrative Assistant Rebecca Johnson expressed appreciation for remodeling help provided by Peggy Raymes and by Emily Jones. A pending decision in the kitchen is whether to replace the seldom used stove. A cabinet or counter will also be considered.

Chief Stocks led a discussion of speed bumps. Under consideration for the devices are Windwood and Azelia and the options include permanent speed bumps like those on Circle Drive or portable ones.

Arrests on North Street in March and August were related to cocaine and to heroin issues. There is an opioid epidemic in Stedman, and the criminal activity is expanding to include armed robberies and prostitution. Some merchants have expressed concerns about panhandling on their properties and the Town does not have an ordinance which prohibits the practice. The Town attorney was asked to draft an ordinance for consideration next meeting.

The replacement ordinance for the street basketball ordinance will be considered in October as well.

Mayor Billy Horne resigned his position with the Town of Stedman at the close of the meeting ... passing the responsibility to Mayor Pro Tem Mardy Jones.

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

First Baptist Church members Mr. and Mrs. Everett Baggett were present to receive a Proclamation from Mayor Pro Tem Mardy Jones in recognition of the Church's One Hundredth Anniversary. The Church celebrated the anniversary at services Sunday, October 1st.

Discussion of the need for new computers noted that Southern Software Company, of Southern Pines, provides the municipal software has provided the town with a quotation for the appropriate hardware to purchase, but additional quotes are needed before a purchase decision can be made.

The revised ordinance for controlling organized playing in the Town streets was approved. The substance of the ordinance is: "In order to protect the safety of our citizens and, in particular, our children, it shall be unlawful for any person to place any goal, backboard, or net apparatus incidental to ball playing on the streets, sidewalks, or alleys of the Town in a manner that affects or interferes with pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic." Discussion noted that there were no goals presently known to be in violation of these terms.

The Board adopted an ordinance regulating Begging, Panhandling and Soliciting. It was stated that persons behaving

in a manner that the ordinance prohibits will be subject to a citation and fine if the property owner instructs them to cease the activity and they continue. A copy of the ordinance is available at the Town Hall.

The need for a cabinet to organize and to store maps was discussed and the drafting of a specification was approved. The Town of Stedman is not represented on the County Joint Appearance Committee and a volunteer is needed. Ken Freeman offered to help.

There continues to be a question of the status of Code Enforcement within Stedman. Town of Stedman Code Ordinances are considered to be equal to those of Cumberland. The Town Administration believes that an agreement with the County to enforce the Codes within Stedman is in effect, yet the County Administration does not. Lawyers are submitting new documents to the County to clarify the issue and re-establish the County code assessment process.

Lee Spruill, Cape Fear High School Principal and Stedman Community resident is now on the Board of County Parks and Recreation function.

The Town does not have a contract with a consulting engineer. An engineer previously under contract with the Town will visit during the week of October 9 and discuss the Town's needs. Commissioner George will seek information from the League of Municipalities to define expectations of a consulting engineer company.

Christy Horne requested agreement to post BoC Meeting minutes of the Town's web site and the BoC approved.

Discussion noted that some residents have reported receiving letters about water testing services and the need for them to have their water tested. The potential is that these letters are really solicitations for a testing service. The Town's water has been tested and determined to be OK for consumption.

Chief Stocks noted that the County no longer has a rotation system for calling wrecker services. He has been advised to call any local qualified wrecker service when needed. He noted that Crumpler's is the only qualified Town service and he will call them first. The County does have a Heavy Duty Wrecker Service contract with Phillips.

Chief Stocks called the drug abuse and overdose issue within the Town an epidemic ... it is mostly adults ... and there is nearly one a day that requires emergency response attention. He is alert for suspicious activity and recently identified a new drug selling location.

SVFD Chief Nobles discussed several performance details of the Department, the details are in the SVFD report of this edition.



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STEDMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HONORED

The Fayetteville Observer published an article by Myron B. Pitts on October 7th of this year in which he told the survival story of a couple from New York who nearly drowned here locally during Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016. The couple, Scott L. Golden and Mary J. Schall, was diverted off Interstate 95 due to flooding and were working their way north on local highways, in the dark, when their car was swept off Maxwell Road and into the South River.

It is a special story of rescue and assistance from local people, highly trained volunteers, willing to risk their lives to provide assistance to others. It is a story of absolute appreciation and each of you is encouraged to read it sometime.

The reason for noting this story for your consideration is that the Stedman Volunteer Fire Department was honored by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper for (among other things during Hurricane Matthew) the rescue of this couple. SVFD Chief Justin C. Nobles and SVFD Public Fire Educator, Amber Moser, and representatives from other local jurisdictions were invited to the Executive Mansion in Raleigh to meet with the Governor and his executive staff. Chief Nobles was also accompanied by Lieutenant Dillon Matthews from Bethany VFD

The story of the New York couple and our local volunteers is about a car carrying two people at night, ending up in quickly flowing very cold water ... being able to get out of the car before it sank ... holding on to the roof rack for 45 minutes ... a DoT employee coming close-by to mark flooded roads hearing their call for help ... an alert call to the Bethany VFD, and then to Stedman VFD which had a boat ... two VFD Officers getting in the boat ... with help from firefighters and ropes tied to fire trucks, navigating to the couple and getting them safely in the boat.

The Stedman Community Fire Department Officers were Lieutenant Matthews from Bethany VFD and Chief Nobles from Stedman VFD.

Peddler's Village



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The individuals were in shock and hypothermia was setting in. The crew on the shore quickly helped pull the boat and all four people in it back to dry land, where a medic unit was waiting to take the couple to Cape Fear Valley.

The Myron Pitts article went in to details about what happened to them then, their treatment at Cape Fear Valley and the assistance they received from others ... but, as we would expect ... our local volunteer firefighters went back to work in the next rescue situation.

Thank You Dillon ... Thank You Justin ...

FISHER CEMETERY RULES, REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The Fisher Cemetery is administered by the Stedman Community Development Club (SCDC). The SCDC has decided to extend the Rules, Regulations and Guidelines associated with the parcels sold by them since 2005 to the entire cemetery, including those sold from the beginning of the Cemetery in the 1850s. The effective date is January 1, 2018. These rules and regulations have been listed in this publication in previous editions. If you have family in the old portion of the Cemetery and wish to have a copy of the Fisher Cemetery Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, please contact J. W. Hall at 910 483 1902.

Make change happen, volunteer!

STEDMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

On Tuesday, September 19, 2017, The Stedman Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors (BoD) held two meetings; these notes are from the draft minutes compiled by Paul Pirro and shared with us.

Annual Meeting

Officers rotating off Board are: Paul Pirro, Kevin Carroll, Thimi Kollar, Jerry McCall, and Peggy Currie.

Paul Pirro is on the BoD as the Firefighter's representative. He recommended to the Firefighters that Keith Royal take his spot on the BoD. He is retiring from the BoD to run for Town Commissioner. The Firefighters approved and Keith Royal was placed on the BoD. Keith will remain on the Board until September 2019.

Kevin Carroll, Thimi Kollar, and Jerry McCall were nominated and elected to remain on the BoD until September 2019.

The ladies Aux returned Peggy Currie to the BoD as their representative for the next two years. She remains on the Board until September 2019.

Chief Mitchell reviewed the 2016 Budget and a brief public discussion followed.

Chief Mitchell reviewed the 2016-2017 Fire Calls, which equaled a total of 571.

The station staff as a whole has accrued 2,696.75 hours training for the year.

The 30kw generator was mounted to the trailer for it to be a portable unit for emergency responses.

There are currently 31 members on the stations' roster. It went down by 5 members from last year.

Truck 2311 lighting issues were fixed and a new led light bar was installed. The cost came in at about \$6,000 for everything.

The new fuel trailer is now in service.

The 5-ton vehicle contract was accepted for the used truck purchase. It can be purchased and received in June/July 2018 due to the station having to wait out a grant term.

The SVFD Station was used to house people during Hurricane Matthew and we also fed them. The storm was dealt with successfully and the station did many water rescues with the newest boat purchase.

Regular

Chief Mitchell reviewed the firehouse summary/entries. Over 301 calls for the year thus far. 18 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires (43 fire related total), and 125 medical calls.

The water rescue equipment that was ordered has arrived. The order includes 6 PFD's, 6 helmets, 6 mesh bags, 6 knives, and 6 whistles.

Chief Cashwell is still working on the front door project, which includes new shutters on the building.

The 2017 Annual FIT, TB, and PFT tests for all Firefighters has been completed.

The annual ladder testing was completed.

New electrical work and panel box was installed on the mobile generator trailer, and is now ready for use when required. The cost for work performed was \$870.00.

The new 300-gallon fuel trailer is in service. The originally donated trailer was modified for this use.

The total cost to repair the lights for 2311 came in at \$1,300 with a labor cost of \$4,081.00. It took 3 days to fix the burnt up wires.

Chief Cashwell is now the liaison between the ladies auxiliary and Chief Mitchell continues to be the liaison for the Firefighters Fund.

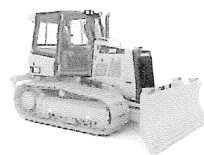
We received a check for \$2,124.18 from the insurance company for the repairs on 2311.

The BoD will meet Tuesday evening, October 17, but notes from that meeting will be included in the next edition.

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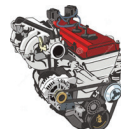


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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

By: Kristen Prater

As I sit here prepared to write my first article for the Around the Community section, I feel I should first introduce myself. I am a native of Stedman, born and raised, and a recent newlywed. My husband, RK Prater, and I own the local State Farm Insurance Office that is "east of the river" located at 1490 Clinton Road. We are both highly involved with the great community of Stedman. We are on the Stedman Historical Society, which organizes the Christmas in the Park and Party in the Park events held annually. We are always looking for more individuals to join our team! If you would like to add "need to know" information about your business or a PSA in a future SCDC News edition, please email me at kristenprater@icloud.com and let's schedule a time to meet or talk.

The annual **Christmas in the Park** event is happening on November 17th from 4pm-5:30pm. As always there will be music, hot chocolate and snacks. Santa will be available for pictures with children and then we will have the annual "lighting of the park". If you would like to purchase a tree in honor of someone special, they are \$75. Please contact Jane Horne if interested or message @PartyInTheParkStedmanNC to reserve yours.

My first stop was to speak with Kevin Carroll at **Carroll's IGA**. Kevin said one thing they look forward to every year is supplying the Stedman, and surrounding communities, with fresh local produce. They have everything you need as you prepare for the upcoming holiday season. From sweet potatoes for pies and yams, to collards for making ham and collard biscuits, something my Grandma Bernece Britt made every year. Kevin is also anticipating the annual food drive coming up in January. He was pleased to let me know that last year they had their best year ever. We as a community donated 442 cases, the equivalent of \$6,000 worth of food!! Let's work together this year and see if we can't beat those numbers. If you would like to volunteer to help this great cause, please contact Kevin or Jesse Hall.

Have you noticed anything different when you enter **Stedman Drug Center**? Zack Hayes said there have been many improvements inside to include all new laminate wood flooring and a generator. Since hurricane Matthew hit our area last year, they wanted to be prepared for any other disasters we may face. With the installation of this new generator, they will be able to run the entire drugstore! They want to be able to still service patients and customers in the event of a disaster. Flu shots are also now available at the drug store, so stop by to get yours today! When asked about tradition, Zack said they hold an annual Christmas party for both Stedman and Eastover Drug. All spouses and significant others are invited to the celebration, which will include live music, food, and games. It's a way to bring both stores together as one big family to celebrate and fellowship. This is a tradition that's been passed down from his father Dan Hayes. The Hayes family, and Stedman Drug have long been a vital part of our community and we are happy to have them!

Johnson's Florist has started getting into the Christmas spirit early this year. When I talked to Mrs. Johnson, she said they were preparing to start decorating homes for Christmas in October this year. The Johnson's decorate for people locally in

Stedman, Fayetteville, Cumberland County, Sampson County, and as far away as Myrtle Beach, SC! Although their main daily tasks are floral arrangements and casket sprays for funerals, they also enjoy helping last minute brides prepare for their special day. In addition to flowers, the florist is also expanding their home accent and decor selection. You can always find seasonal items, but now they will have mirrors and other accessories. Stop by soon to see their selection, and maybe get some early Christmas shopping done! They plan to have their open house sometime in Mid November. Check out their Facebook page for exact date and times.

Hayes Chiropractic Care has a lot to celebrate this holiday season. They will have their 1 year anniversary this November 7th for their "growing" business! In addition to winning the Readers' Choice Award for Best Chiropractic Office this year, they sell doTerra Essential Oils. Crystal Hayes said they will be offering a buy 1 get 1 for 50% off of current stock only for November. They also offer walk in appointments for DOT physicals for only \$95! This holiday season, stop by with your gently used or new toy and it will go to a child within our community. Jared and Crystal both were excited about being able to give back to the community and a child in need this Christmas. They are also happy to announce an addition to the Hayes family, with a new "Chiropractor in the making", due March 2018!! Congratulations Jared and Crystal!

Wildwood and Main Boutique will soon be moving to a new location. Don't worry; they will still be in Stedman. They will be relocating from 7414 Clinton Road to 7446 Clinton Road, beside Cuttin Up Salon.

Jay Johnson and his crew had the **Stedman Soda Shop** smelling great today! One of his regulars was back today for a second helping of Chili. "It was so good yesterday I came back today for more!" Jay said he is very happy to have the support of the community and hopes they enjoy the fresh, homemade menu he offers daily. Jay proudly shops locally everyday for the freshest ingredients for his dishes. You can get anything from a cheeseburger to a steak, and know it will be great! Jay offers daily specials, as well as items from the regular menu. Jay's offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. They are open nightly until 9:00 pm, and late on Friday during football season, after our Cape Fear Colts home games! Did you know they cater? Just give them a few days notice, and they will have a great meal ready for your next meeting or gathering. Jay said they have a tradition every year of putting up the Christmas tree on Thanksgiving in anticipation of the community dropping off gently used and new toys, clothes, shoes, coats, etc. for children in our community. He said the items are placed under the tree, and are then donated to local children for Christmas. Anyone willing to donate is asked to please stop by before or after Thanksgiving with your donations. It's just another way he likes to give back to the community that has supported him.

Randy Sessoms and Ken Eason, Owners of **Sandhills Outdoor Sports (SOS)** here in Stedman are happy to announce that they are now open on a regular basis. Their hours are Tuesday -Thursday 5-9, Friday 12-6 and Saturday 9-6. They are closed on Sunday and Monday. They offering gunsmith services, cleaning services and custom builds for firearms. They also offer regular Concealed Handgun courses. Stop by and visit them across from the park in Stedman or check out their Facebook page for events and updates.

NEW HIGHWAY NOTES

The new Highway 24 ... Stedman By-Pass ... is now operational here in the Stedman Community, and we are learning how to live with it and how to use it. The concept of this set of notes is to stimulate your creative thinking a little.

For decades, those of us close around the Town of Stedman have known that if we want to go someplace north on Interstate 95, for example Dunn or farther, the quickest way to get there was to go north on Wade Stedman Road, through Bethany Crossroads north to Exit 61 near Wade. The savings was both in distance (about seven miles) and in time (a function of how fast you drive on rural two lane roads, but multiple minutes). Is this still correct ... is it still closer / quicker to go north to Exit 61 to intersect I95 to go north?

This old man, conscious of speed limits and full stops at stop signs has this to share: the distance savings is still about seven miles. The time savings for me is now about a minute ... 14.5 minutes driving north on Wade Stedman Road vs. 15.5 minutes following the new highway west to Exit 51 (I had to come to a complete stop at the traffic light at Maxwell Road) and then turning north on I95 and going north until I reached Exit 61. Conclusion, it is still closer and quicker to drive north on Wade Stedman Road, but the difference in time is now smaller and will vary with traffic and how fast you drive. Your driving comfort may be the critical factor in deciding which route to take.


Speaking of driving comfort ... how are you doing with the U Turns? If you are very comfortable with them, great ... if, perhaps not so much, you can potentially reduce the number you need to make with a little planning. Let's say that you are in the Carroll's IGA / Stedman Drug Center parking lot, and you need to go north on Wade Stedman Road, or on Magnolia Church Road, and, you wish to avoid U Turns when possible. Your option is to "go west" on Clinton Road to the next road past the one you need ... if you wish to go north on Wade Stedman, then go to Magnolia Church Road and turn north to the by-pass ... if you need Magnolia Church, go to Blake Road ... get on the New 24, and then you can turn left onto the road you want ... no U Turn is required. You cannot do this for Bainbridge Road or for Mary McCall Road, as neither can be accessed by a left turn.

Back to the Carroll's IGA / Stedman Drug Center parking lot ... if you are headed east or west on the By-Pass, or north across it, the quickest and shortest way to get to the new highway is north on Bainbridge and the U Turn location is just east of the intersection with Bainbridge Road.

Now ... for those of you who miss driving into Stedman the "old ways" from the east or the west, you can still do so ... if you're coming from Fayetteville, use the Blake Road exit right by the First Baptist Church and follow it into Stedman like you did "back when" and ... by the way ... it may be quicker to do that as well. From Autryville and east, turn left onto Clinton Road (essentially) at the intersection with Mary McCall Road ... there is a traffic light system there to help.

As we are leaning new "tricks", let's make sure we know all the options ...

By the way ... it certainly appears that the DoT is "revising" the old Highway 24 east bound access to the Food Lion Plaza by creating an exit ramp onto the old right-of-way ... and also to create a new entrance to the east bound lane there. If our observation is correct, it will reduce the congestion at Maxwell Road and the By-Pass and reduce the traffic at the U Turn light east of the intersection.




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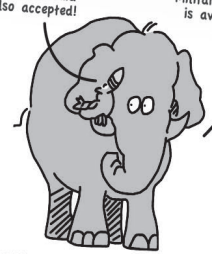
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STEDMAN MUNICIPAL ELECTION POLLING PLACE AND SOME HISTORY


For those of you who plan to vote in the Stedman Municipal Elections, scheduled for Tuesday, November 7th, please remember that there are also early voting options available to you. The Stedman Polling location is the Stedman Community Building located at the intersection of Jaycee Street and First Street. Jaycee Street intersects with Carol Street close by Sandy Creek. First Street intersects with Front Street just east of the Town Hall ... and note that there is some potential for confusion with East First Street (where Stedman Primary School is located) as they both intersect Front Street very close to each other.

Voter turn-out is a statistic that is often used to evaluate voter interest in an election. The Cumberland Board of Elections tracks the number of votes cast in each election and posts the numbers on their website. The data for recent Municipal Elections in Stedman is:

Year	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Registered Voters	414	444	?	605	664	778	846
Actually Voted	31	61	207	69	37	124	124
Votes Received Mayor	n/a	57	n/a	56	n/a	100	n/a
Votes Received Commissioner	26	52	62	46	33	77	69

Note: In each of the years above that the Mayor's Office was on the ballot, Billy Horne ran un-opposed and received the highest vote count of all candidates. The only Commissioner count listed in this table is the highest vote count of all the candidates for Commissioner.

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Proverbs 22:6

Your comments are solicited.
You may reach
SCDC President J. W. Hall, Jr. at
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SCDC
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KIDS MOVIE NIGHT

Register your child for an exciting night including dinner and a movie. That's right...it's a night out for Mom and Dad! Pre-registration is required one week in advance and late registrations will not be accepted. (Early drop-offs/ late pick-ups are not accepted.)

5-12 yrs; Fri., Nov. 3; 6:30-8:30 pm; \$5/child

HOLIDAY HELPERS

Calling all of Santa's Helpers! We will begin by creating our very own make and take Christmas Ornaments. We will then take a break for milk & cookies and then we will begin decorating the Recreation Center Christmas Tree. When we are done, what a Winter Wonderland the center will be! Pre-registration is required by Nov. 14.

5-14 yrs; Sat., Nov. 18; 1-4 pm; 5\$

CAPE FEAR REGIONAL BASKETBALL CAMP

Join us for our 4th annual Cape Fear Regional Basketball Camp and learn the important fundamentals of the game from our great staff of experienced coaches and players! We will be focusing on shooting, dribbling, defense, rebounding and team play by using drills and exercises. Camp will be held at Cape Fear High School and will feature a variety of experts. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 5.

7-14 yrs; Sat., Dec. 9; 9:30 am-noon; \$5

BASKETBALL (WINTER)

Registration is Oct. 1-Dec. 1. Ages 5 and 6 will participate in a 6-week instructional program on Sat. mornings. Ages 7-17 will participate in league play. Season starts in Jan. League age is the age attained by a player prior to April 1 of the current playing year. Boys and Girls; 5-17 yrs; \$20 residents; \$40 non-residents; \$5 late fee

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Halloween is October 31st ... please drive carefully

Community Building Chili Event is November 4th

Daylight Saving Time ... Fall Back Sunday, November 5th

Election Day is November 7th

Veteran's Day is Saturday, November 11th

Christmas in the Park is Saturday, November 17th from 4:00 to 5:30

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 23rd

Chanukah is Wednesday, December 13th

Christmas is Monday, December 25th

New Year's Day is Monday, January 1st

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS

Stedman Masonic Lodge

meets the first Monday evening
at 7:30 PM at the Lodge on Carol Street
November 6th, December 4th and January 1st

Bethany Historical Society

meets the first Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM
at the Bethany Community Building
November 7th, December 5th and January 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
November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th

Stedman Community Development Club

meets the second Monday
at 335 First Street, 7:00 PM
November 13th, December 11th and January 8th

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9925

meets 2nd Tuesday at the Post
in Bethany, 7:00 PM
November 14th, December 12th and January 9th

Stedman Historical Promotions

meets the third Monday at 7:00 PM
at the Stedman VFD Station
November 20th, December 18th & January 15th

Stedman Fire Department Board

meets the third Tuesday evening
at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station
November 21st, December 19th and January 16th

Bethany Fire Department Board

meets the fourth Tuesday evening
at the Fire Station, 7:00 PM
November 28th, December 26th & January 23rd

MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS

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

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