

Your Cameron Connection

August 2023

Commissioners Address Revitalization Concerns

In an initiative designed to make Cameron more pleasing to current residents as well as more appealing to potential new businesses and residents, the town Board of Commissioners is (among other actions) throwing support behind the Beautification Committee's "Clean Up Cameron" campaign, choosing "Welcome to Cameron" banners to fly from light poles, and taking a fresh look at enforcing or modifying ordinances that have sometimes been overlooked. The Board "will work to identify the community's most pressing revitalization concerns," according to Commissioner Joey Frutchey.

Current town ordinances that address problems such as unlawful junk storage, abandoned vehicles, noise, open burning and animals could be enforced "through the use of a third party enforcement agency or notice from the town," he said.



Upcoming Fall Antique Street Fair Is October 6-7

"We encourage community members to share their concerns and wants...for example, issues such as abandoned structures, signage, and permit violations could be addressed and discussed in upcoming meetings with community input."

Cameron's "Nuisance Ordinances" are available at Town Hall.

Cameron is still accepting applications for a full time Maintenance/Utility Tech as well as a full time Police Officer. If interested, please contact Town Hall.

Get Involved in Clean Up Cameron Week

The first week of August will be Clean Up Cameron Week and Sylvia Caddell, chair of the town Beautification Committee, encourages everyone to pick up trash in their neighborhoods and to call her at 910-638-8068 about other areas that need attention. Meet her at Town Hall for a town-wide effort Saturday August 5 at 9 a.m., and consider joining her committee to help with activities like American flag placement on holidays and maintenance of flower planters.

Flags of Honor

You can sponsor an American Flag in honor or memory of an active or retired veteran of any branch of the U.S. military for \$50/flag. Flags will be placed along NC 24/27 on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, 9/11, Flag Day, Antique Street Fairs, and Summer Sizzler Event. Sponsorship forms are available at Town Hall.

Dates to Remember

Aug. 1-HPC 5:30 PM Town Hall
Aug. 8-Planning Board 6 PM Town Hall
Aug. 22-Commissioners 7 PM Town Hall

Sept. 4-Labor Day, Town Hall closed
Sept. 5-HPC 5:30 PM Town Hall
Sept. 1-Planning Board 6 PM Town Hall
Sept. 26-Commissioners 7 PM Town Hall

Oct. 3-HPC 5:30 PM Town Hall
Oct. 6 and 7-Fall Antique Street Fair
October 10-Planning Board 6 PM Town Hall

Planning Board Tables Subdivision Decision

Cameron's Planning Board voted on July 20 to continue the discussion of a proposed 86-acre subdivision on NC 24/27 at its next meeting on August 8. The developers, Bobby Branch of Bobby Branch Tree Removal & Sons and Michael Blakely of Drafting & Design LLC, would build 57 homes on 40,000-square-foot lots. The estimated cost of the homes is \$400,000. About 20 acres of wetlands on the parcel, which is now farmland, would remain open. The plan has sparked local opposition due to its density and the potential impact of so many new homes on such a small town.

As the town planner was unable to attend the July 20 meeting, the Board decided to defer making a recommendation.

The Planning Board is seeking an in-town member. Anyone interested, please contact Town Hall.

YARD DEBRIS PICKUP RULES

The town picks up yard debris on Tuesday and Thursday. Please check the town website to be sure you are meeting the requirements for pickup, e.g. loose leaves must be bagged or in a container and limbs can be no longer than 6 feet and no greater than 3 inches in diameter. The town maintenance technician will not pick up any yard debris that has been hauled in from out of town. Yard debris pickup will be suspended October 1-April 1 to allow residents to burn.

Event Venue Possible with State Grant Funds

Cameron was recently awarded a \$400,000 grant from the state's Rural Transformation Grant Fund for the purpose of acquiring land beside the Phillips Memorial Park for additional parking for the Park and construction of an event venue.

The grant was written by Lindsay Whitson, a grant writer with Triangle J Regional Council. Cameron participates in the Council's Grant Assistance Program. The amount originally applied for was \$650,000.

The idea was to purchase six acres on the corner of Pineywood Church Road and NC HWY 24-27 adjacent to the Park from Ann McCracken and construct a "Dewberry Barn" (similar to the Fair Barn in Pinehurst) which could be rented out for events such as weddings, generating revenue for the town. As the grant on offer is significantly lower, the discussion now is how the town can create an attractive venue that provides revenue...funds that would be used to maintain the venue and to help with groundskeeping in the Park.

The town must have a signed contract with the state, setting forth in detail what the town intends to do with the grant, by August 31 in order to proceed with the grant. Construction bids would then go out in late summer/ early fall.

Historic District

After months of work by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), including an inventory of the town's surviving historic structures, Cameron's Historic District was officially designated as such by the state on May 22. Following a May 23 public hearing at which the Board of Commissioners voted to adopt the designation, it is now registered as a local district at the county, state, and national level. Property owners must now file an application at Town Hall before changing the exterior appearance of any building in the district. The HPC will determine on the proposed changes' appropriateness based on published standards.

The district currently extends from the railroad tracks to the Business Rte. 1 overpass. A map showing the district and the structures it includes, as well as information about HPC guidelines, are available at Town Hall.

Commissioners Want to Hear from You

The Town Board of Commissioners is looking for feedback from members of the community regarding what they want for the town going forward. To this end, there is now a suggestion box at Town Hall where if anyone can drop in a comment, thought, idea or suggestion—anonynously, if you choose.

PLEASE NOTE: The monthly Solid Waste fee for trash pickup by GFL has increased from \$11 to \$12.

A Busy Summer at Phillips Memorial Park

The Summer Reading Program returns to the park July 17-22 for young readers from preschool through eighth grade. Drop in at the picnic shelter between noon and 4:30 PM—free snack and book included! A daily average of 21 children enjoyed the program in June. Many thanks to the sponsors, The C.A.R.E. Group and Growing Moore Readers.

After town maintenance technician Herald Dowdy rescued an opossum entangled in fishing line and trapped in a garbage can, Clark Ethridge built a Fishing Line Disposal (by the trashcan at the picnic table in front of the pond) to ensure the future safety of the park's wildlife.

A message board has been installed at the parking lot entrance to the walking path and the Park Committee is working on a park map and flyers to be displayed there. Submit flyers for community events to Town Hall for posting, but please refrain from business ads, political messages and controversial issues.

Fundraising for a train-themed commercial playground structure in the park has so far realized \$17,481 towards the \$60,000 goal. The effort includes the sale of tee shirts and hats with a historic design as well as frame-able prints of historic Cameron. These items can be purchased at Town Hall or from Laura Younts at 910-263-9363. Forty bricks are available in the "Walk of Fame" display beside the flagpole. You can donate a brick for \$125 in memory or in honor of

Wendy Butner Receives Award for Service

Cameron Town Clerk Wendy Butner has received recognition for her work to improve town water quality.

Matt Casto of the North Carolina Rural Water Association presented the Administrative Excellence Award to Wendy at a recent Cameron Commissioners meeting, citing her "outstanding service to the water and wastewater industry."

Casto provides technical assistance to water systems in need, a service Cameron benefited from last year when one of the two town well had higher concentrations of manganese and iron than the allowed EPA standard.

When the issue was addressed this past fall, daily testing of the well was needed to monitor the water quality. Wendy did this every morning.

She has also taken a water class to further her education and skill set in order to serve the town's various needs.

Park (cont'd)

whomever you choose and engraved as you direct. See Wendy at Town Hall for the form. Mark your calendar for the "Horse Patty Bingo" unique fundraising event at Flint Rock Farm on South Plank Road on Saturday, September 23 with crafts and yard sale spots available to rent, tractor pulled wagon rides and drinks and snacks. Call Laura if you want to reserve a vendor spot.

Patrons of Phillips Memorial Park and/or individuals interested in a worthy tax deductible cause can also donate to the project if they are so inclined.