

Town of Elizabethtown's Municipal News

A quarterly update of the events in and around Elizabethtown



The Mayor's Corner

Kenneth Kornegay

It's an honor to be chatting with you all from the "Mayor's Corner," and I can't think of a better way to begin than with sincere thanks to our previous mayor, Wallace Leinwand and to our two retiring Councilmen, Henry Bostic and Ash Carper, for a job very well done.

Also, Chairman Mark Gillespie and the Recreation Commission have earned our recognition and thanks for their work toward improving Leinwand Park convincing Council of the importance of quality recreation facilities.

As for the future, your new Council is eager to make a difference, and are considering several changes in hopes of making our organization a more efficient and responsive government. For example, all Council members are looking at cutting taxes and considering the reduction of user fee rates in this upcoming FY 00-01 budget.

Also, building on the foundation laid during 1999, we are beginning negotiations with the County Commissioner for a fair and equitable fire service contract for the Tory Hole Fire District.

Thank you all for the confidence you have shown in electing us to Town Council. We hope that 2000 will be a prosperous year for the Town and all its citizens.

It's your future: Don't leave it blank.

The Census is coming.

For two hundred years, the US Census Bureau has gathered data on people through out North Carolina and across the United States to use in allocating North Carolina's Shared Revenue and federal funds, to help businesses in market research, to draw political districts, and to accomplish many more necessary tasks. The Census, for example, will help determine if new schools are needed in your neighborhood, or a new water plant in Elizabethtown. It may also help to determine if there is a need for more services for elderly and handicapped, and to support funding requests made by Elizabethtown for those facilities.

United States
Census
2000

Here's how it works. To start with, every ten years, the forms are sent out.

Just before Census Day, April 1, 2000, most households will receive a short survey form in the mail (about 5 out of 6). This survey will only cover basic subjects: name, sex, age, relationship with others in the household, race, and whether the home is owned or rented. It should only take you a few minutes to fill out and could mean the difference between a blank future and an exciting one. The rest of the households will receive a slightly longer, more detailed form delivered by a Census taker. This form will delve into areas like education, ancestry, employment, disability, etc.

Then the information you provide is compiled and processed. Individual responses are turned into the statistics which are used by government, businesses, and even individuals.

No matter which form you end up with, your information will be kept confidential. Only generalized statistics will be made available to the public. So, for example, you (a member of the public) could find out roughly how many of the people in your town have college degrees, but you could not discover if the man living next door to you went to law school. (For that, you should ask *him*.)

Unfortunately, with each decade, it has become increasingly difficult to count everyone in the Census. The percentage of people who mailed back their census forms declined from 78 percent in 1970 to 65 percent in 1990. Also, the percentage of people who were missed altogether increased. Don't let this happen to us: do you part to be sure that Elizabethtown gets its share of federal and state revenue. Fill out your form, send it in, and *be counted*.

For more information, visit the US Census Bureau website at "www.census.gov".

www.elizabethtownnc.org

Elizabethtown
Crossroads to Southeastern
North Carolina

Meet Hurshel (Sam) Wells...



Sam Wells became Elizabethtown's Water/Wastewater Superintendent in May of 1988. Mr. Wells was raised in Bladen County. He and his wife, Judy, have been married for 40 years.

Wells spent the first 25 years of his career in Florida working for the City of Tarpon Springs, the Town of Largo, and Pinellas County.

Some of his hobbies are caring for 8 dogs, raising goats with his grandson Scooter, and, for three years now, showing his goats competitively. One of his goats was Grand Champion at the State Fair.

Thanks for all your hard work over the past 12 years!

Your Town Officials

Town Manager

Jim Freeman: (910) 862-2066
jfreeman@elizabethtownnc.org

Assistant Town Manager

David Smitherman: 862-6385
dsmither@elizabethtownnc.org

Town Clerk

Marion Morrissey: 862-3979
mmorris@elizabethtownnc.org

Planning Director

Matthew Livingston: 862-6651
mliving@elizabethtownnc.org

Public Services

Mike Prostinak: 862-2035
mprost@elizabethtownnc.org

Fire Chief

Mark Haraway: 862-4586
mharaway@elizabethtownnc.org

Town Council Actions

The Elizabethtown Town Council has met several times during the past few months. The Council's main actions were as follows:

- To fill the Planning Board vacancies left by Mr. Jimmy Gaylord and Ms. Eunice Kinlaw, Council appointed Kathy Page ('til 6/2001) and Mark Payne (6/2000). (11/1/99)
- The terms of Zoning Board of Adjustment members Charlie Hilton and J.C. Batchelor expire on November 30th. Council reappointed both to serve another term until November 30, 2001. (11/1/99)
- Murchinson Day Care's Special Use Permit Application was approved, allowing the day-care facility to be located in a residential area on Martin Luther King Dr. A Public Hearing was previously held, and certified letters were mailed to adjoining property owners; no protest petitions were received. (12/6/99)
- PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAT: Tanglewood Acres - Developer Bryon Scott proposes to build a home and sell lots as he sees fit on property located in the Forest Hills area off Third Street. There is an 1800 square-foot minimum on the homes to be built. Since this subdivision is outside the city limits, Town Policy would require voluntary annexation before Town water/sewer service could be provided. Council conditionally approved the presented subdivision plat with the condition that a voluntary annexation agreement be received. (12/6/99)
- Council approved Budget Ordinance Amendment #1 which allows expenditure increases totaling \$161,170; this includes \$116,653 of General Fund and \$44,517 of Utility Fund expenditures, most of which stemmed from Hurricane Floyd. Staff also informed Council that \$80,796 had been received from FEMA funds (to date over \$220,000 has been received from FEMA). (11/1/99)
- Council & Recreation Commission approved naming the King Street Recreation Facility "Wallace S. Leinwand Park" in honor of former Mayor Wallace Leinwand. (12/6/99)
- Council awarded the police vehicle purchase contract to David Shaw Ford, contingent upon securing a three-year lease/purchase financing agreement. Bid packages for four police vehicles had been submitted to both Elizabethtown dealers and mailed to Freeman Motors in Lumberton. Only one local dealership submitted a bid by the deadline: David Shaw Ford, for \$19,865 not including tax and tags. The State Contract bid on a police vehicle was \$77.25 above the David Shaw bid. Asst. Police Chief Kinlaw recommended David Shaw Ford because they are local, they submitted the only bid, and service is easier to obtain. At Council's Regular Meeting, December 6, 1999, a financing agreement with BB&T was approved. (11/1/99)
- The Town and the Wooten Company has met with all industrial high water use customers to obtain future water use projections and concerns for a potential surface water plant. (10/4/99)
- King Street/Leinwand Park Update: the lights, concession stand with restroom, and press box are complete. Fencing around the whole park is underway. The Commission is looking at installing a playground, walking trail, picnic tables, and shrubbery: cost estimate is \$42,588. Council approved a motion to give the Recreation Commission additional revenue of \$13,000 from reserve accounts to finish the playground and the fencing, asking that the trail, tables, etc., be postponed until later. (12/6/99)

Frosty visits E'town!

Yet another storm comes to Elizabethtown as the entire East Coast is blanketed with several inches of the cold, white stuff. But this storm has a happy side, as this magnificent, mega-sized snowman and his small human friends can tell you. (Pictured, from left to right: Kylie Guy, Casey Savage, and Hunter Guy.)



Town Spotlight on: Changing Chiefs

Welcome to Mark Haraway, Elizabethtown's new Fire Chief. Mark comes to us from Wilmington, where he was the Captain of Special Operations and where he was involved in several fire fighter training programs.

Haraway is no stranger to fire service, nor is his family: both his father and grandfather were also involved in fire and rescue in Virginia.

While Chief of the Elizabethtown fire department, Haraway wants to make the Department "the best that it can be." He plans to continue the Town's First Responder Program, and also to encourage more fire inspections in the business district. These inspections would provide the opportunity for the members of the Business district to meet the fire fighters and for them to see and prepare for hazards they might encounter while working in Business-district buildings. Haraway also plans to step up the Department's efforts to educate the public about fire procedures, safety, and prevention.

Haraway brings his wife Sheila and two children to Elizabethtown.



New Fire Chief, Mark Haraway

Farewell and best wishes to Mike Royston, who retired from the position of Elizabethtown's Chief of Police on December 31, 1999. Mike is retiring after serving Elizabethtown for 12 years and Orangeburg, SC, for many years before that.

Though Royston will miss working with the Police Department, he says that he is looking forward to spending time with his two grandsons and doing "something new." What that something is, he is still discovering, but he feels sure that he will enjoy the change.

Royston also says that he and his family will be staying in Elizabethtown, saying, "This is our Home."

Council has decided to advertise the Police Chief vacancy and hopes to have a new Chief on board by March. Assistant Chief Bobby Kinlaw is in charge of the department during the interim.

Town Beautification

Committee

The Elizabethtown Beautification Committee was recently awarded \$3,000 in state grant money to support a beautification project on Swanzy Street, adjacent to the Town's Public Works Department. The area is being planted with at least thirty new trees and over twenty-six new shrubs of various kinds. In addition, benches and trash receptacles will be provided for the public to use. Future plans include a paved sidewalk; however, in the mean time, a walking path will be constructed from natural materials.

The Swanzy Street project is designed to meet several objectives. First, the tree and shrub planting will screen out the Public Works Storage yard. Second, the project will enhance the beauty of the area, especially in the Fall and Spring seasons. And finally, the area will serve Elizabethtown as a public park and open space area. The project should be complete by the end of February.

The Elizabethtown Beautification Committee (volunteer citizen group) evaluates, analyzes and makes recommendations to Town Council and staff concerning beautification issues. The Committee believes in the importance of a healthy and aesthetically appealing

**Elizabethtown
Beautification
Committee:**
Finley Ann Bryan
Diana Bucklew
Ted Duncan
Heather McGhee
Scott McGhee
Dorothy Peterson
Neill Westerbeek

environment and addresses such issues as the amount of open green space, litter-free parking lots, and overall developmental character of the community.

The Beautification Committee comprises eight individuals, including one Town Staff member. The Committee is fortunate to have members with expertise in landscaping, forestry, and botany.

Some of the goals that the Committee has set for this year include drafting a Tree Ordinance, creating an official "Arbor Day," working toward making Elizabethtown a "Tree City U.S.A." community, completing the Swanzy Street Beautification Project, and organizing a town-wide cleanup. With this much to do, we are sure to be busy throughout the year.

Committee meetings are open to the public and to all who would like to become involved. Anyone interested in helping should contact the Elizabethtown Planning Department at 862-6385.

Event Calendar

February

- 8 Airport Commission Meeting, 7:30am
- 8 Planning Board Subdivision Workshop, 6:30pm
- 11 Departments receive FY 00-01 budget workbooks
- 18 Town Council/Airport Commission Joint Meeting, 12:00pm
- 21 Recreation Commission Meeting, 5:30pm

March

- 6 Planning Board, 5:30pm/Town Council, 7pm
- 14 Airport Commission Meeting, 7:30am
- 20 Recreation Commission Meeting, 5:30pm

April

- 3 Departmental Budget Meetings with Town Council, 10am
- 3 Planning Board, 5:30pm/Town Council, 7pm
- 11 Airport Commission Meeting, 7:30am
- 17 Recreation Commission Meeting, 5:30pm
- 24 Easter Monday (Offices Closed)

About Town

New Officials Sworn In

Newly Elected Mayor Kenneth Kornegay resigned from his Town Council seat and took his Oath of Office as Mayor. Pat Devane was chosen to fill Kornegay's seat on Council. Then Devane, newly elected Council members Dicky Glenn and Russell Priest, and reelected member Rufus Lloyd all took their oaths of office. In addition, Sylvia Campbell was appointed Mayor Pro Tempore.

Playground Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help construct a new playground at Leinwand Park. The playground will have picnic tables, a climbing wall, crawl tunnels, swings, and slides. Construction will begin soon. Any interested parties should contact Recreation Commission Member Debbie Campbell or the Town by calling 862-6385.

School Waste Water Contract Agreed On

Town Council and the Board of Education made the following agreements in respect to a new high school to be built just east of the town limits on HWY 87: the Town will accept for disposal sewage from the school and provide the school with potable water; the Town will dedicate a \$200,000 grant from the Rural Development Center to construction of the required facilities and may loan the School Board \$100,000 to cover additional costs.



Municipal News
Town of Elizabethtown
P.O. Box 716
805 W. Broad Street
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elizabethtown, NC
Permit #2

*The Town of Elizabethtown hopes that you enjoy reading the Municipal News.
If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us.
We are continually improving the newsletter and all town services to better serve you.*