



Town of Fairmont

Town Talk

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Special points of interest:

- Mayor's Column
- Calendar of Events
- Santa Visits the Kids
- Tax Department
- Human & Civil Rights Month
- CodeRED notification system



TAX DEPARTMENT

IMPORTANT!!!

Two percent (2%) penalty interest will accrue on current taxes on January 6, 2012. Garnishments will also begin as of that date on current taxes. A reminder to all senior citizens - the county accepts applications for senior exemptions between January 1 and June 1. June 1 is the deadline. Please contact the Robeson County Tax office at 671-3061 to see if you qualify for an exemption.

Rebecca Andrews
Tax Collector



OH YES THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS BY MAYOR CHARLES KEMP

In this harsh economic environment there are, no doubt, many skeptical and cynical people whose hard bitten view of life is realistic from their stand point but very pessimistic to say the least. Even a magical time like Christmas doesn't seem to budge them. Well it's not my job to re-invent their thinking patterns but if I had a few minutes I believe I could create at least a spider web crack in their hard façade. It would take some touching holiday stories I'll bet before the chill they were projecting melted away and a smile would cover their face. Might even get an AWWWWWWW! or two. You see, Christmas is about warmth and cheer and there's plenty of it around especially in Fairmont.

For our "scrooge" therapy session I'll start with our many heartwarming church services all involving cute little cherubic children. Most of them have no idea what the words are they are trying to mouth. They don't have to know them. Their job is just to stand up front with other equally cute kids and just be. That's their job. Hearts begin to melt then and our "scrooge" would lose theirs too. If you don't believe me go to your Christmas church service. The one coming up which involves children and watch them stand perfectly still while they magically rip your heart out of your chest. They know what they're doing too. They have a secret pact with SANTA. They melt old hard bitten "scrooges" hearts and Santa hooks them up with toys and stuff.

If this is not enough proof for you let me take you on a trip to a local mall and watch 5,000 children wait for 2 weeks in line to sit on Santa's lap just to look up at him with baby blue eyes and dimples and tell him they want a puppy. You tell me you can stand there and watch this scene and not be moved. If you can then you belong in a museum because you're made of stone. Each one of those 5,000 children knows exactly what they're doing. They made A's in heart melting class and can liquefy the most embittered person. Old Santa has blood running through his veins and a big old thumping heart too. Plus he's got a reputation to uphold. Of course a puppy is on the way along with all the other requests too.

I'd like to carry our imaginary "scrooge" out with the fire department on Christmas Eve when we do the Santa Visits the Kids program. This Christmas Eve will be year number 9 and it gets better each year. A friend whose brother lives in a New Jersey town told me about their program and Chief James Thompson and I started a similar program here in 2003. It is pure magic. I really mean it is the highlight of my Mayoral duties each year. Simply put, parents bring us wrapped gifts for their child/ren and on Christmas Eve Santa delivers them riding on the town fire truck with red lights flashing. This event has brought tears to my eyes and many smiles to my face over the past seven years. I can't wait for Christmas Eve to do it again.

I can imagine our "scrooge" now standing with me in our first year of the Santa visits at the wooden fence in front of one our stops. I was patiently waiting for Santa to exit the house he was delivering gifts to when out of the corner of my eye I saw a shadow approaching me. It turned out to be a young boy about 10 or 11 years old and he came up and stood beside me for a few minutes without speaking. After a few moments he said to me, "Mister is that Santa Claus inside that house?" "Yes son", I replied. "The real one?" he shot back. I said, "There's only one Santa and that's him." A few more minutes passed in silence and then this little slip of a boy touched my side with his hand and said, "do you think it'll be ok if I go give Santa a hug when he comes out?" Without hesitating I put my hand on this lad's shoulder and together we walked to the foot of the steps and waited. Soon Santa emerged, descended the steps and received the biggest hug he's ever gotten. There were tears in my eyes as I watched this heartwarming scene which seemed better fitted for a movie than in a small town front yard. It is the signature cherished moment of my life. The young boy, his mission complete, looked at me with a big smile, turned, and walked back to the apartment complex from which he had emerged. What a story he had to share and what a feeling he gave us all standing in that front yard.

So Mr. "Scrooge" you drop by the town hall on Christmas Eve around 5:00 and ride with me as we visit dozens of homes and watch wide eyed children and grateful parents be mesmerized by Santa Claus standing in their living rooms giving them a gift personally. You watch the joy and excitement this simple act brings and you tell me you're still hard hearted. You might say it but no ones gonna believe it. We'll all know better cause we've see the smiles before. For eight years. So for those who need a reason to get in the Christmas spirit let me just say it simply "Oh yes there is a Santa Claus."

TOWN OF FAIRMONT

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Santa Visits the Kids!

With Christmas just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about Santa Claus and gifts. For the 9th year the Town will sponsor "SANTA VISITS THE KIDS" on Christmas Eve. Any in-town parent may participate in this free activity, which is conducted by the Department of Public Safety. Interested parents may bring a pre-wrapped gift for their children to Town Hall and drop it off at dispatch with the child's name, address and best time to deliver the gift on Christmas Eve. Santa Claus, with assistance from town fire department personnel, will deliver the present in person on Saturday, December 24 between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. The deadline to participate is Monday, December 19. Interested persons may call Mayor Charles Kemp at 628-9766, ext. 15 or Chief Danny Parker at 628-9766, ext. 24 for more info.



PROCLAMATION

HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS MONTH

WHEREAS, The Town of Fairmont wishes to promote and advance the cause of human and civil rights and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. strived valiantly to achieve the aforementioned rights for all citizens and;

WHEREAS, Treating all citizens equally with dignity and respect is a noble cause and;

WHEREAS, All citizens in Fairmont should place a high value on the human and civil rights of others and;

WHEREAS, January 16, 2012 is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles Kemp, Mayor of the Town of Fairmont, do hereby proclaim January 2012 as

"HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS MONTH"

In the Town of Fairmont and encourage all citizens to promote fellowship and good will to each other and, in the name and spirit of Dr. King, advance the cause of human and civil rights to all.

PROCLAIMED this the 20th day of December 2011.

Charles Kemp, Mayor

Calendar of Events



Wednesday, December 21 - Monday, January 2 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Friday, December 23 - Tuesday, December 27 - Town Offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Saturday, December 24 - Santa Visits the Kids, 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21 - Monday, January 2 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Thursday, December 22 - Town Employees Christmas Luncheon, 12:00 noon, Heritage Center. *Town Offices will close at noon.*

Friday, December 23 - Tuesday, December 27 - Town Offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Saturday, December 24 - Santa Visits the Kids, 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Town of Fairmont and the Fairmont Fire Department.

Monday, January 2 - Town Offices closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Tuesday, January 3 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Flora McDonald, 4:30 p.m., HOME.

Thursday, January 5 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Dillon, 6:00 p.m., HOME.

Saturday, January 7 - Senior Bingo, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m, Heritage Center.

Friday, January 13 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Red Springs, 4:00 p.m., HOME.

Monday, January 16 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 16 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, 1:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center. Recognition of FHS Football Team.

CODERED

CodeRED



SECONDS COUNT IN AN EMERGENCY

Robeson County is now using CodeRED Emergency Notification System. It is an ultra high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications and the distribution of information considered to be important.

The system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of Robeson County in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action, such as an evacuation, contaminated water, hazardous chemical spill, severe thunderstorm, flash flood, tornado warning, etc. If you would like to receive CodeRED emergency messages you may sign up by visiting the county's website at <http://www.co.roberson.nc.us/codered.htm>.