



Town of Fairmont

# Town Talk

A monthly newsletter provided by the  
**Fairmont Board of Commissioners**  
With assistance and support of the town staff



Volume XI, Issue II

[www.fairmontnc.com](http://www.fairmontnc.com)

February/March 2010

*Special points of interest:*

- Mayor's Column
- Calendar of Events
- Fairmont Bugle
- Chamber Boil
- Meet the Mayor

**Fairmont Recreation  
Fairmont Civitans  
BASEBALL  
SIGN UPS**



- T-Ball Ages 4-5
- Coach Pitch Ages 6-8
- Dixie Youth
- Little Leagues
- Minor League 9-10
- Major League 11-12 (13)\*
- \*Age you are on May 1st

Fairmont Courtroom  
Saturdays, February 20,  
27 and March 6  
MARCH 6 IS THE  
ABSOLUTELY LAST DAY!  
Fees & Birth Certificate must  
be turned in by this day.  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
or contact Mickey  
Williamson at 628-9883

## AM I MY BROTHERS KEEPER? BY MAYOR CHARLES KEMP

The answer to my title's question today should be instantaneous and without reflection. Certainly we should look out for each other or as our youth say "have each other's back" but in our very real and impersonal world that is not always the case. We are busy with life's chores, trying to keep or get a job, dealing with family issues, and paying bills. A comet could fall into our neighbor's back yard sometimes and we'd be surprised to find out it happened. Many today are raised in an atmosphere of self-protection and privacy so we tend to our business and ignore much of what's happening around us. John Donne, the British poet, once said "No man is an island" and that verse rings true today. We are not isolated but intertwined in the society in which we live. Therefore by definition we must be our brother's keeper.

For proof let's take a look at our early history. When a rural farmer needed a barn built the neighbors came over for a "barn raisin". Went up in no time with lots of food on site courtesy of the ladies. Need a quilt. All the ladies had a "quiltin' bee". Great workmanship and a little gossip thrown together. Result, beautiful hand made bed coverings. Fire breaks out in old NYC everyone turned out for the "bucket brigade". Even in prehistoric times our relatives, the cave people, hunted their food in cooperative teams. All worked together, all ate good. Several years ago a serial murderer in L.A. Richard Ramirez, was spotted in a neighborhood and before the LAPD could catch him a huge crowd of citizens ran him down and held him for the cops. I'm pretty sure he was glad to see the boys in blue because he wasn't being treated to kindly before their arrival.

Do these same examples exist in Fairmont? Yes, most definitely. Friends and neighbors rally around during sickness and joyful events. Neighbors watch each other's property when one vacations. There are neighborhood gatherings and concern for each other. That is, after all, the southern way, the Fairmont way. However, there are cracks in this façade. Lying just beneath the surface is crime and those who wish to engage in it. These predators look for signs of weakness. Unattended property, lots of newspapers on the lawn, darkened homes, unvigilant neighbors. Then they strike. The result is theft, robbery, or worse. Then the whole neighborhood is upset and asking "where were the cops"?

I offer a suggestion today. If we are our brother's keeper and we do care about our neighbors and town shouldn't we then organize ourselves against those who would harm us? Of course we should but how. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH OR COMMUNITY WATCH that's how. The problem is that right now we do not have a very strong or active organization in our community. We do have meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at town hall and we have informational programs from various law enforcement officials but only a trickle of citizens attend. I have not missed a meeting in 4 years and have seen as few as 2 at a meeting. Refreshments don't seem to work either. Recently our representative in the General Assembly spoke on his texting bill to only a handful of citizens in our fire hall. We have to do better than this in order to be our brothers keeper.

My solution to problem solving is the same in every situation. TAKE ACTION. That's the definition of leadership. With regards to this problem I feel that we should admit we have an attendance and participation problem with our Community Watch organization and make a concerted effort to reverse that course. How to do that will require various strategies. It will be my future mission to address this issue at the February meeting of the Watch and offer my remedies to correcting the problem. Prior to that meeting I intend to discuss possible remedies with Chief Parker and Watch officials. I urge you, the citizen, to get involved and channel your input, suggestions, and ideas directly to me. If you think we need reorganization then let us know. If a better meeting date or time is more suitable let us know. If you want to make policing recommendations I am positive Chief Parker will listen. If you want to take a town map and help construct a Community Watch neighborhood organizational plan go for it. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THIS:** This is our community. We own this. Criminals don't and won't. We must take charge of what is ours and must do it quickly. I am simply asking you this question-ARE YOU YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER? If your answer is yes then let's work together to make sure he and she is "covered".

## TOWN OF FAIRMONT

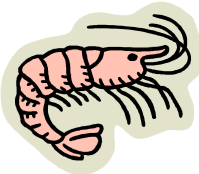
421 South Main St. Phone: 910-628-9766  
P.O. Box 248 Fax: 910-628-6025  
Fairmont, NC 28340 E-mail: fairmontnc@bellsouth.net



### TOOTING OUR HORN

Our online newspaper, the Fairmont Bugle, has been up and running for a couple of months and covers important activities and events in Fairmont. It features pictorial slideshows and a weekly column entitled "From the Mayor's desk." An interesting feature is the calendar. Any citizen can post events on it by simply creating a user name and password. Citizens wanting to offer their events should feel free to use this important feature. Many thanks go out to the Robesonian for their sponsorship and support of this valuable news tool.

### Fairmont Chamber of Commerce



### **SECOND ANNUAL CHAMBER BOIL**

**Monday, March 8, 2010  
6:00 p.m.**

**Fairmont Civitan Hut**

**Tickets: \$20 non-members  
\$15 members**

Anyone joining the Chamber can purchase a ticket for \$15  
Individual Membership Dues \$25  
Business Membership Dues \$65

Please contact any of the 3 Banks in town or call Kelly Johnson at 910-770-1967 to reserve a spot as only 50 tickets will be sold.

## Calendar of Events



**Friday, February 26** - Schools closed for teacher workday.

**Saturday, February 27** - Baseball sign-up, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

**Tuesday, March 2** - NC Small Town Main Street meeting, 6:00 p.m., Courtroom.

**Wednesday, March 3** - Fairmont Youth Council, 5:15 p.m., Courtroom.

**Saturday, March 6** - ABSOLUTELY LAST DAY FOR Baseball sign-up, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom. All fees must be paid and birth certificate copies turned in by this date.

**Saturday, March 6** - Senior Citizens Bingo, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

**Monday, March 8** - Second Annual Chamber Boil, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont Civitan Hut. Tickets are \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-Chamber members.

**Tuesday, March 16** - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

**Wednesday, March 17** - Fairmont Youth Council, 5:15 p.m., Courtroom.

**Saturday, March 27** - Fairmont Presbyterian Springfest, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

**Saturday, March 27** - Fairmont Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Community Park. Sponsored by the Fairmont Recreation Department.

### MEET THE MAYOR

In an attempt to address the concerns and questions of all citizens Mayor Charles Kemp has changed the time of his "Meet the Mayor" meetings from Fridays at 4:00 to Saturdays at 11:00. Any town citizen is invited to drop by the town hall courtroom and chat with Mayor Kemp on town issues and their concerns. The first such meeting will be Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**ROGERS' SCREEN PRINTING  
& SPORTING GOODS  
Golf Tournament**

**May 22, 2010 @ 12:00**  
**Location: Fairmont Golf Club**  
**Contact: David Rogers • 910-628-1983**