



Town of Fairmont

# Town Talk

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



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

January/February 2010

*Special points of interest:*

- Mayor's Column
- Calendar of Events
- February - Spreading Love
- Citizen Comment Box
- Face to Face Fridays
- Little League Schedule

### **BIG HEARTS - SPREADING LOVE!**

February is the month for love and caring so the Town of Fairmont is planning to show several groups just that. First it's the Senior Citizens who'll get their VIP treatment on the 6<sup>th</sup> with bingo and a special Valentine party. Then it's those who contributed money, time, or both during the past year to improve our community. Those who will be invited will get some special treatment on the 9<sup>th</sup> in the Heritage Center during the 4th annual Pride in Fairmont ceremony. They'll receive "Big Heart" certificates and songs to honor their unselfishness. Finally it's the residents of Greenbriar who'll get the love as Mayor Kemp and the Farmers Festival Queens pay them a visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> with good cheer, some refreshments, and lots of hugs. Fairmont is a loving, caring community and we plan to show it in February.

*Be My Valentine*

### **WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN BY MAYOR CHARLES KEMP**

I can't remember if it was "The Way We Were" or another love story movie which boasted the song in my columns title today but it was most definitely a love story. It might have even been sung by Barbara Streisand but I know I'll be told if I'm wrong. That's ok. I've been wrong before but not about this topic. You see, we have only just begun to remake and improve Fairmont and what I propose today is to prove that to you the reader. The proof is in the pudding or so they say so here's the proof.

Four years ago we started our journey by tearing down the old Capitol Theater and replacing its space with Heritage Park. Then we filed for a \$504,000 grant and began building the Heritage Center. Next we paved Main and some side streets, painted the light poles, and got some owners to refurbish the fronts of their stores. After that we created Memory Lane and the Wall of Honor in addition to opening a brand new parking lot behind the Heritage Center. In between all this, we welcomed two new manufacturing type businesses, an expansion in another, secured housing rehabilitation grants for several neighborhoods, started a senior citizens networking and social organization, sponsored heavily attended events like July 4<sup>th</sup>, Farmers Day, and Holiday on Main, and to top it all off secured the services of a professional grant writer to help us apply for our downtown to be included on the national register of historic places. Now that you've caught your breath those were just the high spots of the past four years. So you want to say it now or should I? What's next? Read on cause WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN.

During the next four years there will be more changes coming our way and they'll make Fairmont a town to be envied. It's gonna take some work but it'll be worth it so let's get started. First up comes the letter I'll receive in the spring informing us that Fairmont's downtown has been placed on the very prestigious register of historic places. With that, is going to come a very high profile community get together and some much deserved newspaper publicity. Store owners will qualify for very large federal tax credits if they wish to rework their store fronts. Outsiders will know of our good news by reading the colorful brochures paid for by a \$1,000 grant from the Lumberton Visitors Bureau which we received several months ago for this very purpose. Visitors will come, drawn to our special designation, our museum, our history and culture. Some may choose to live here as dozens of others have chosen to do already, some may open businesses in our historic downtown and Fairmont will get better. There will continue to be customers and traffic in downtown and our town will prosper.

Just when you thought beach bands at the golf course, a huge July 4<sup>th</sup> extravaganza, Farmers Day, and a twilight Christmas parade had captured all the year's attention along comes MAYFEST to dazzle our folks even more. This brand new spring event is still being planned but it does involve airplanes, a famous beach DJ, a southern rock music band, and lots of food. You probably trying to figure out how all these things combine into the perfect outdoor event aren't you? You'll just have to wait a little longer to get all the details. They're coming.

This year's Farmers Festival has two, not one chairperson. Tony and Jan Tedder Rogers have agreed to head up this huge event and with their creativity and numerous contacts Farmers Day '10 ought to be quite an event. And there's plenty more to grab your social attention as well. July 4<sup>th</sup> this year has a few added attractions which might just take your breath away, you know we're gonna have fun at the Labor Day Sidewalk Sale, Farmers Day will be huge, and when it comes to Christmas parades you just can't top the famous Fairmont Twilight parade. Kinda leaves you all tired out and the year's just got started good, huh?

Don't forget we've got people needing jobs and we're on the hunt right now finding them. The town manager, Senator Michael Walters, and myself are working with the N. C. Commerce Dept. and a local business on expansion plans that, if achieved, will mean dozens of jobs for our citizens. There'll be more job fairs this year as there have been for the past four years. Houses in several neighborhoods are going to get fixed, drainage issues will be addressed, and all of what we're going to be doing will be known about through a brand new newspaper, on line that is, called The Fairmont Bugle. Only several months old this cutting edge technological device has got the town buzzing with excitement about what's happening in town. A lot is happening and a lot more will because WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN! Just watch and see what I tell ya.

## 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



The Fairmont Recreation Department is sponsoring

### AARP Driver Safety Program



Cost \$14  
(AARP Member \$12)  
Thursday, February 18  
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Fire Hall

Some insurance companies will give you a discount with program certificate.

For more information or to sign up  
Instructor Acenath Herring 628-8978  
or Mickey Williamson 628-9883

### 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 Town Hall Courtroom  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, & 27  
MARCH 6 IS THE ABSOLUTELY LAST DAY!  
Fees & Birth Certificate must be turned in by this day.

For more information contact  
Mickey Williamson at 628-9883

## Calendar of Events



**Thursday, January 21** - Community Watch, 7:00 p.m., Courtroom.

**Monday, January 25 and Tuesday January 26** - Schools closed for teacher workdays.

**Tuesday, February 2** - Census Forum, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center

**Saturday, February 6** - Senior Bingo/Sweetheart Party, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

**Monday, February 8** - Chamber of Commerce, 6:00 p.m., Border Belt Museum.

**Tuesday, February 9** - Pride in Fairmont Ceremony, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

**Friday, February 12** - Sweetheart Party for the residents of Greenbriar with Mayor Kemp and the Festival Queens, 3:30 p.m.

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

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

### CITIZEN COMMENT BOX

Mayor Kemp has had a very attractive locked citizen comment box built. It has been placed on the water department shelf next to the window where customers pay their bill and has been in use since January 4th. There is paper and pen available for citizens to use in offering their comments, input, suggestions, criticisms, and ideas. Mayor Kemp has the one and only key and he encourages citizens to use this box. Feel free to sign your name or not, put your email address if you want to be added to his email update list, or offer ideas which may be helpful in improving our community. All comments will be removed on a regular weekly basis and each will be addressed. No one other than Mayor Kemp will read the comments. If a citizen wants a personal conversation with Mayor Kemp regarding his or her comment just add your phone contact.

### FACE TO FACE FRIDAYS

Starting on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> Mayor Kemp will be instituting a very personal way for citizens to connect with their government. Each Friday from 4:00-5:00 p.m. he will be in the town hall courtroom on the first floor to receive citizens who wish to have a face to face conversation with him on any topic. This program will replace "Park it with the Mayor" and since it will be held inside and be offered throughout all of 2010 it is hoped that many citizens can have their voices heard.