



Town of Fairmont

Town Talk

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



Volume XIII, Issue I

www.fairmontnc.com

January/February 2012

Special points of interest:

- Mayor's Column
- Calendar of Events
- Jobs Summit
- Pride in Fairmont Ceremony
- Baseball Sign-ups
- Book 'Em NC

PRIDE IN FAIRMONT CEREMONY

The Heritage Center will serve as the site for the 6th annual Pride in Fairmont Ceremony Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. The ceremony gives Mayor Charles Kemp the opportunity to award certificates of appreciation to individuals, groups, or businesses that have provided financial assistance or support to the town in its activities during 2011. Mayor Kemp also uses the occasion to offer remarks on the state of the community. A slide show featuring special music, especially prepared by Town Clerk Jenny Larson, is a focal point of the event by highlighting people and images of the past year. There will also be musical entertainment.

Be My Valentine

Yes, We're Open For Business by Mayor Charles Kemp

Don't you just hate it when you beat a hasty path to a store in a last minute rush to get an item only to find it closed for some mysterious reason or, worse yet, see a note on the front door saying "back in 15 minutes". The main problem there is not knowing when the 15 minutes started. So you dejectedly hang your head and return to your car muttering under your breath words not printable here. A similar situation occurred in the early 1930's during "the run on the banks" when banks closed prematurely to avoid depositor anger. We Americans like to see our stores and businesses open during regular hours and get a little frustrated if that's not the case.

What if an entire town did what I described above? Put up a big flashing neon sign that said "back in a while". That would definitely not go over well. How about if said town closed due to lack of interest? I know that would be a hot topic of discussion too. No, towns must remain open and that is what my topic is today. I want to show you a parallel between premature store closings or business interruptions and what we're doing in our town.

Let's start with the physical invitation to a town. Usually there are entrance signs which let all know the name of the town and offer a form of welcome to the traveler. Stores and businesses which line the thoroughfares come next advertising pizza, chicken, groceries, auto parts and the like. As the traveler ventures further into the town the central business district beckons with its quaint shops and busy sidewalks. Such is the typical town or city and Fairmont fits very well into that description. We certainly offer all these factors but there's more.

A town has to have more than just bricks and paint. Its people and activities count for something as well as the commercial output. The way folks live is also a mark of a town. The residential areas speak volumes about a town. The history and tradition of a community tells outsiders a lot too. So for a town to be "open for business" means more than just bagging groceries, pumping gas, or wrapping a burger.

Fairmont is definitely open for business. Always has been and always will be. We've changed a lot since 1899. Kinda gone through stages. Timber then tobacco then textiles and in turn each one of these economic pursuits have waned. All have ebbed and flowed but the town continues to move forward. There was a time that all of north Fairmont revolved around the Bufort Lumber Company. Big lumber business. Lots of employees. It died out. Tobacco ascended the economic throne next and we became "the biggest little tobacco market in the world" in the 50's. Now it's gone. Next came textiles with hundreds of jobs but NAFTA ruined all that. Each time an enterprise caved in we shuddered but did not collapse. Fairmont doesn't quit. We stay open. Even this unsettled economy has not dampened the Fairmont spirit.

What has happened in the past six years here is remarkable. Just look around. A historic downtown with bright banners, new street lights, colorful street signs, and neat appearances. Stores which have added colorful new awnings to enhance their appearance. Two parks, an announcement sign, and a half million dollar community building. New businesses being added every day with the future promise of a restaurant offering outdoor dining in the future. A new electrical contracting and children's amusement rental business is also locating in the downtown core. And that's just downtown. On the fringes there is business activity all around. We have a new barbeque and seafood restaurant plus the only full service shoe shop in our county. More cars with out of state license plates drive through every day. Trucks carrying commerce navigate our streets, shoppers fill our grocery store and strip mall parking lots. Three industrial businesses offer jobs to our citizens and will certainly expand when the economy becomes less anemic.

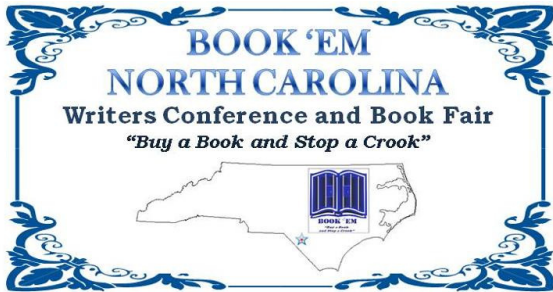
In addition to all this business activity and commercial enhancement there is a lot of activity among the population. In the past few years consider the array of great events and activities the citizens here have enjoyed. Farmers Festivals, July 4ths, Christmas parade, sidewalk sales, Veterans and Memorial Day ceremonies, Easter Egg hunts, the building of a performance stage for outdoor concerts, a flea market, Martin Luther King tribute, Halloween fun, and Santa Claus visiting kids at Christmas Eve. These keep the citizens happy and together.

Now we're starting to reach out to other parts of our great nation. My "community outreach" initiative began last year and will attempt to have dozens of our citizens who used to live elsewhere contact their old friends and businesses to take a look at us. If this is successful we'll get some more great folks and maybe new businesses.

So yes Fairmont is "open for business" and I highly encourage every citizen to take advantage of our businesses, stores, churches, activities throughout all of 2012 and use them to their hearts content. Cause we are not closing any time soon. I promise.

TOWN OF FAIRMONT

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Please make plans now to join more than 75 authors and more than half a dozen publishers at the First Annual Book 'Em North Carolina event!

February 25, 2012
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Robeson Community College
A.D. Lewis Auditorium
Lumberton, North Carolina

It's FREE and open to the public!

Fairmont Recreation Fairmont Civitans

BASEBALL SIGN UPS



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

Fairmont Town Hall Courtroom

Saturdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

or contact Mickey Williamson at 628-9883

Calendar of Events



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.

Monday, January 23 - Teacher workday, no school.

Tuesday, January 24 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. St. Pauls, 4:00 p.m., HOME.

Tuesday, January 31 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. West Columbus, 4:00 p.m., HOME.

Saturday, February 4 - Senior Bingo, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, February 7 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. East Columbus, 4:00 p.m., HOME.

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

Saturday, February 18 - Greenbrier Valentine Social with Mayor Kemp and the queens, 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Friday, February 24 - Teacher workday, no school.

Saturday, February 25 - Book 'Em North Carolina, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., A.D. Lewis Auditorium, RCC.

YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS

In Fairmont we look after each other and that is the main reason that we will be holding a business and job summit on Tuesday January 31st at 7:00 in the Heritage Center. For the past three months the J. O. B. S. team (job opportunities and business support) which I created has been discussing ways to improve the job picture and support local businesses here in town. The team is made up of Bob Moore of RCC, Beth Wilkerson and Johnny Marshburn business support specialists with the state, Michael Ramey and Jan Maynor of the LRCOG, Greg Cummings, County Industrial Director, Town Manager Linda Vause and Mayor Charles Kemp. We are presently working on a strategic plan for the town and developing creative ways to better support local businesses and create jobs .

All Fairmont businesses will be invited to the summit at which the team will give a short overview of their jobs and the way they can assist business owners. Following that will be an open comment period where any business operator present can offer comments or ask questions of the panel. At the conclusion of the program refreshments will be served. All businesses in Fairmont are urged to have a representative present for this first ever event.