



Town of Fairmont  
**Town Talk**

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 With assistance and support of the town staff



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*Special points of interest:*

- Mayor's Column
- Calendar of Events
- Fireworks Sponsors
- Sewer & Trash Rate increase
- National Night Out

**THE HEAT IS ON! BY MAYOR CHARLES KEMP**

Have you ever stood and watched your body weight shrink right in front of your eyes from sweating? No. Then you've never worked in a tobacco barn, warehouse, asphalted a roof or paved a highway. I've only been involved in the second of this list and I can only imagine your fate with the other three. When I was a kid playing baseball in the dead of summer I don't recall it ever being this hot. We played all day up at the old high school ball diamond and nobody ever collapsed in the heat. I just don't understand it. By the way, you do know that heat reduces people's ability to think rationally and communicate with others during heat waves. All vocabulary shrinks to basically two phrases during these dreaded periods. It's either "how you like this weather?" or "is it hot enough for you?" Not one word about how nice your newly pressed blouse or shirt is. Not even a how you do for the bushel of corn you just gave your neighbor. Just a sweat induced weather inquiry which allows for only one sane answer.

I worked for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in the mid and late 60's during the summers from college at their prize house located right behind where Fairmont Medical Clinic is now. My job was to follow the sales in the warehouse and mark our purchases with a blue ribbon stapled to the sales ticket. The only day in four summers I regretted working there was the day the head buyer told the floor buyers that if it was brown buy it that day and the buyer I followed bought every pile in Twin State Warehouse. It was such a big place that from the front doors the back doors looked like match boxes. I was there tagging all day and lost my entire body weight. I actually disappeared and finally reemerged from a big puddle at 4:30 that day. So I know hot when I see it.

Let me change "hot" topics on you now. Staying with the same basic concept we have started with let me spin the term a little and spend a little time on some more "heat". Are you familiar with the first Beverly Hills Cop? Great movie, huh? Do you remember the theme song? It was, "The Heat is On" and Detective Axel Foley really brought his version to L.A. In this case we're talking about the police not sweating although if the cops get in behind a criminal they sweat plenty. So let's talk about the "heat" in Fairmont a little.

Do you know our police chief? The officers? Dispatchers? You really should. If you did you'd be absolutely amazed at their dedication and resolve to fight crime, lock up criminals, and protect us all. Chief Danny Parker started as a 17 year old Fairmont dispatcher and now 17 years later he has risen up through the ranks to be our chief. What a heart warming story. The officers? Every one of them are young, robust, sincere, and extremely aggressive about crime. Every one. I haven't actually heard it but I think they must take a vow at the start of every shift that no crime will go unsolved on their shift. I do know that one of our shift supervisors takes it personally if a crime occurs when he's working and he can make an arrest. These men are focused and alert on duty. We're in very good hands. The dispatchers are in the same category. Highly professional and very well trained to handle every call which comes in. And don't get me started on the fire division. When they are dispatched they're right there in a flash. Been to many with them and watched 'em work. Outstanding.

So Fairmont's got some crime right? Sure. All towns and cities do. How that's handled is the next topic. First, we don't have either lots of money or lots of cops but what we do have is a very tight knit group of cops who love doing the job over trying to get rich so when the call comes they respond. Burglaries, b & e's, assaults, drugs, and other types of violence are typical town crimes and our men bring the "heat" to those who are criminals. They usually get their man and bring them to justice. Many times they need and get help from law abiding citizens who pass along some friendly advice. Our cops really appreciate it too.

That is why Community Watch is so very important. Thousands of eyes are better than the four of two officers on duty. We now have a newly re-organized watch organization and are looking forward to our August 3<sup>rd</sup> National Night Out program. This year it'll be inside the comfortable Heritage Center instead of being in the "hot" community park where people have melted and disappeared right on the spot. In addition to speaker of the evening D. A. Johnson Britt, Chief Parker is going to have all the police officers, dispatchers, and fire officers there. They will each introduce themselves and tell the audience a little of their biography. It will be a great night. Time to get to know our protectors, hear a little about why we need to stand together against crime, and time to let the criminals among us know that, "the heat is on", winter or summer.



**2010 Fairmont Fireworks Sponsors**

- Hannah Mini Storage, Inc.
- Roger's Screenprinting
- Advanced Recovery, Inc.
- Brady's Pharmacy (Webster's)
- Robeson Insurance Agency
- Lumbee Bank
- BB&T
- First Bank
- Fairmont/Rowland Propane
- Fairmont Department Store
- Mayberry & Company
- Thomas Auto Repair
- Arthur & Carol King
- Ramond Manning, Jr. Family
- Al Lewis Family
- Denny F. Walters
- Mr. G's
- L & M Convenient Mart & Grill
- Bill's BBQ
- Johnny's Hot Dogs
- Boo Doodle & Company
- Nancy Biggs
- Dream Land Rentals
- Sandy Floyd
- Wayland Lennon Family
- Woodmen of the World Youth
- Floyd Funeral Service
- Harger Lightning and Grounding
- China Garden
- Fairmont Woman's Club
- Fairmont Chamber of Commerce
- Fairmont Civitans
- Fairmont Public Safety
- Fairmont Public Works
- Fairmont Recreation

## TOWN OF FAIRMONT

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### Why Some Rates Are Increasing a Bit by Blake Proctor, Town Manager

As you are probably aware, the Town lowered combined water and sewer rates by \$3.50 per month back in 2005, reducing utility revenues \$45,000 annually; at the same time, we lowered the garbage rate by \$2.00 a month, for yet another \$26,600 annual reduction. That's an 8.7% decrease in utilities and a 11.3% decrease in sanitation from the previous rates, a total loss to the Town of \$71,600 each year – that's almost \$400,000 over five years that the town has not had for operations! Unfortunately, in the ensuing years, operating expenses have risen tremendously, and the cost of doing business has been driven ever upward.

For example, even though the Town's employees have not received a pay raise for two straight years, personnel costs have skyrocketed anywhere from 11% to 30%, due mainly to State mandates. The operating costs of running the sewer plant have also risen steeply with, for example, property liability insurance increasing by over 13% last year alone, and electricity rising a whopping 37.6% in three years. Due to a lack of funds, a State-mandated minimum sewer reserve has not been met in many years.

In addition, the sanitation contract with Waste Management calls for annual billing increases to the Town equal to the increase in the Urban Consumer Price Index (CPI). This Index has risen 13.0% in the last three years, with the Town absorbing these rate increases rather than passing them along to you each year. Now, however, sanitation services are not even breaking even.

For these reasons, as well as to provide a fund to rehab our ancient sewer lines, the Town is having to increase sewer rates (but *not* water rates) by \$2.00 per month effective with the July 2010 billing. We are also upping sanitation rates by 50¢ a month at the same time. We are sorry we have to put these raises in place, but as we can all agree, these are two services we absolutely cannot cut back on.



## Calendar of Events



- Monday and Thursday** - Jazzercise classes taught by Resa Pittman, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall, Cost \$15.00 a month.
- Friday, July 16** - Fairmont Job Fair, sponsored by the Employment Security Commission, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center. Bring your resume! For more info, contact the JobLink Care Center in Lumberton at 618-5500.
- Saturday, July 17** - Celebrate Lumber River Day, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Lumber River State Park, 2819 Princess Ann Road, Orrum, NC. There will be canoe rides and races, booths and exhibits, kid's fishing contest, casting contest and other fun activities. Come celebrate Lumber River being voted by Land of Tomorrow as one of North Carolina's Top Ten Natural Wonders!
- Tuesday, July 20** - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.
- Thursday, July 22** - Children's Movie - The Princess and the Frog, 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center, FREE. Sponsored by the Robeson County Public Library.
- Friday, July 23 and Saturday, July 24** - "V Train" variety show hosted by Val Humphrey at the Carolina Civic Center, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 29** - Children's Story/Craft/Games, 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center, FREE. Sponsored by the Robeson County Public Library.
- Tuesday, August 3** - National Night Out, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Heritage Center. Guest Speaker is Robeson County D.A. Johnson Britt.
- Thursday, August 5** - Children's Movie - Surf's Up, 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center, FREE. Sponsored by the Robeson County Public Library.
- Saturday, August 7** - Senior Bingo, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.
- Tuesday, August 10** - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.
- Thursday, August 12** - Children's End of Summer Pirate Party, 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center, FREE. Sponsored by the Robeson County Public Library.
- Tuesday, August 17** - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.
- Wednesday, August 25** - First Day of School.



### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - AUGUST 3

The only people sweating during this year's National Night Out event will be the criminals in Fairmont because the event is finally moving indoors for more comfort. The Heritage Center will be the scene of this year's event on Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Although the park provided more space the August heat made it impossible to have a successful event and the planners of Community Watch have decided to move the event to a more comfortable setting. National Night Out is a national event centering on crime prevention and citizen awareness. The featured speaker at this year's event is Robeson County D. A. Johnson Britt who will offer a history of the rise in various crimes in our county. Also featured in the program will be Michael Jackson impersonator Val Humphrey from Lumberton plus the introduction of the officers of the police and fire departments as well as the dispatchers by Chief Danny Parker. There will be food and drawings for prizes. All citizens are encouraged to attend this very important event.