

Your Cameron Connection

April 2024

Cameron Will Adopt Town Manager/Council Form of Government

Cameron Town Clerk Wendy Butner will become the town's first Town Manager, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Commissioners at its February 27 meeting.

The change will make it necessary to first amend the town charter. A draft of the amended charter will then be submitted to the North Carolina Secretary of State for approval. The entire process may take several months. Several residents who spoke in favor pointed out that Wendy already performs many of the functions that are typically a town manager's responsibility.

"I think it's best for the town, given the way it's growing," said Wendy. "I'm humbled that the Board sees qualities in me to do the job."



Happy 150th Cameron!

Please share your thoughts and ideas on plans for the town's upcoming celebration with the Sesquicentennial Committee and the Town Board. Submit to Town Hall or email cameronnc@townofcameron.com



"A Part of My Life"

Joyce Mehring of Sullivan's Antiques received a plaque recognizing her long prominence in the town's antique business from Cameron Mayor Jane Ethridge on February 27. Sullivan's closes at the end of March; the building it occupies is for sale.

Joyce was one of the handful of antiques vendors who helped the late Isabel Thomas start Cameron's annual Street Fair in 1979. "Cameron is a part of my life," she said, Joyce is 94.

Planning Board to Address Abandoned Structures

Following a public hearing on February 27, Commissioners voted to adopt an ordinance enabling the town Planning Board to pursue remediation of abandoned and deteriorating dwellings within town limits. The ordinance would currently apply to a dozen or fewer structures, estimated town planner Kathy Liles.

“The goal is not, ‘Is your yard nice?’” she explained. The ordinance targets issues such as “holes in the roof, missing windows, standing water”—structural damage that affects public safety and welfare, and which might be the result of fire, or a storm. Some towns develop an explanatory brochure, she said. Once the Planning Board investigates the condition of the building, it opens a dialogue with the owner via written notice with photos, followed by a hearing with a code administrator.

There are enforcement steps if the owner ignores the notice, she said, “but the goal is to get action started.”

“The goal is to preserve what we’ve got,” said Planning Board Chair Joey Frutchey.

Code enforcement proceedings would be delegated to a paid company, Alliance Code Enforcement.

The Planning Board seeks volunteers to serve on a Steering Committee that will assist in updating the town’s Land Use Plan. Commissioners have voted to budget for a plan developed by Michael Parker and Nick LaSala, with Town Planner Kathy Liles guiding public input to the process. The goal is for the plan to be completed by November 12.



Beautification Committee Announces Awards

Community members who contribute positively to Cameron’s overall appearance through superior effort in maintaining their property will be eligible for recognition and gift certificates beginning in May.

The Beautification Committee’s new program will select monthly winners in May, June, August and September for landscaping. Awards for July, October and December will be based on decoration for a holiday or season. The winner will be announced on the fourth Friday of the month and receives the Beautification Award lawn sign for display as well as a \$25 gift certificate to a local nursery.

Contact Beautification Chair Lisa Paschal (lisapaschal1875@gmail.com) for judging criteria and entry forms. Winners can include homeowners, businesses and churches within the town limits.



Please join us at the town maintenance building this Saturday to help spruce up our town by washing street signs, picking up trash and more. Any amount of time you can give is appreciated!

Mark Your Calendar.....

At Town Hall

April:

- 2- Historic Preservation Commission Meeting 5:30pm
- 9- Antique Street Fair Meeting 2pm
Planning Board 6:30pm
- 11- Park Meeting 7pm
- 23- Town Board Meeting 7pm
- 25- Beautification Meeting 5:30pm

May:

- 2- Historic Preservation Commission Meeting 5:30pm
- 9- Antique Street Fair Meeting 2pm
Planning Board 6:30pm
- 11- Park Meeting 7pm
- 23- Town Board Meeting 7pm
- 25- Beautification Meeting 5:30pm

**Spring Antique Street Fair:
May 3-4, 9am-5pm both days,
rain or shine!**

Preparing for the Train



Thanks to the 15 volunteers who removed old landscape timbers and shredded rubber mulch March 16 in preparation for the new train playground to be installed at Phillips Memorial Park the week of April 8.

Playground dedication will take place April 27 at 11 a.m. Ribbon cutting and special activities for the Winnie the Pooh trail, rescheduled from March 19 due to bad weather, will take place an hour earlier at 10 a.m. Meanwhile the trail is open for fun and adventure.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our Beautification Committee; if interested, please contact Town Hall.

Yard Debris Pickup Resumes

Yard debris pickup resumes Monday, April 1. Please follow these guidelines when putting material out for collection:

- * Limbs must be no more than 6 feet long and 3 inches in diameter.
 - * Loose leaves will NOT be picked up unless in a container or bagged.
 - * There is a pickup limit of one pile per residence. The pile can be a maximum of 6 feet long, 5 feet wide and 3 feet high.
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When Do You Need a Zoning Permit?

Any time that you plan to do anything outside of your home (for instance, placing a new outbuilding or structure on your property), please check with Town Hall whether the change requires a permit.

Does the 15th of the month slip up on you? *Avoid worrying about a late water bill payment by setting up a bank draft for your monthly payment. Just complete a draft authorization at town hall and bring in a voided check from your account. Wendy will do the rest!*

**Anyone wishing to be added to the email list to receive upcoming meeting agendas, please email your request to Cameron Town Hall:
cameronnc@townofcameron.com.**

Notice from GFL Trash Pickup:

- * We will not pick up trash placed on the ground beside your bin. It will only attract wildlife.
- * Place your bin on the shoulder, not on the asphalt. Our large trucks need the entire width of the street.



Plaques Will Identify Historic Businesses

The first 10 plaques identifying significant buildings in Cameron's Historic Business District were unveiled by the non-profit Cameron Historic Preservation Inc. at its March 23 fundraiser. This initial batch in the non-profit's Historic Plaques Program was funded by a grant from the Moore County Chamber of Commerce and Duke Energy Foundation. The proposal to start with buildings in our Historic Business District met the grant requirement to concentrate on projects promoting commercial activity.

Constructed between the 1870s and 1950s, the buildings recognized by the markers make up an indispensable part of our Carthage Street corridor and are home to many of our best-known businesses. With permission from the property owners, the non-profit applied for beforehand, and received, a Certificate of Appropriateness from the town's Historic Preservation Commission.

The balance of grant funding for this cycle will be used to generate a pamphlet describing the significance of each building in more detail. A primary objective in the non-

profit's ongoing fundraising efforts is expanding the plaque program to other historic structures. Cameron Historic Preservation Inc. hopes to unveil a new batch of plaques reaching into the residential section of Carthage Street at its annual fundraiser next year. For more information, please email cameronhistoricpreservation@gmail.com

—Nicholas Cameron Levy

Thinking About a Mural? —Check with Town Hall!

Town Commissioners' recent decision to approve installation of a mural (its design not yet determined) on the west side of the Sullivan building reflects a policy on the part of the Board of Commissioners and the town Historical Preservation Commission to encourage murals in downtown Cameron. Any property owner considering a mural on their building will find detailed guidelines in the town's Mural Ordinance, available at Town Hall.

THE TOWN CRIER KIOSK ACROSS FROM THE POST OFFICE WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR POSTING YOUR NOTICES AND OTHER INFORMATION. CHECK IT OUT!



You can sponsor a 3x5-foot American flag in honor or memory of an active, retired or deceased member of our military service. It will fly along Cameron's main street on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day, and other special occasions. Our goal is to extend the avenue of flags from the Historic District until it stretches from the railroad tracks to beyond the overpass. Flags are \$50 each. Town Hall will provide information and purchase/dedication forms.

Please Leash Your Dog

It is unlawful for your dog, or any dog for which you are responsible, to run loose on the public streets or on private property without the property owner's (or occupant's) permission. This is also the case at Phillips Park. As tempting as the open space may be, please don't let your dog off the leash. Some visitors have reported being discouraged from using the park because of fear of loose dogs. 4