

Your Cameron Connection

December 2024

Cultivating a Community

Step inside Rhizome at 403 Carthage St. and explore a Green Planet. There's foliage everywhere, glowing green and healthy under overhead grow-lights. Take a deep breath of soothing plant-scented humidity at a just-right temperature. Press on and discover—in addition to plants—unusual gift ideas (e.g. crystals and incense burners), coffee and teas, snacks including wraps, baked treats and fruit smoothies, and an array of comic books and comics-themed merch.

Rhizome is the creation of Seven Lakes residents Chelsea and Brian Fields. “The idea developed from our having a coffee shop in Sanford earlier. I had been a florist, was selling cut flowers in the coffee shop and then added plants,” says Chelsea. A self-described “house plant specialist,” she will help customers who have issues with their existing plants...or also help you select appropriate plants for a particular space and advise on keeping them happy. “People often ask, ‘How many times a week should I water it?’ when a more important issue is the location of heat registers or AC outlets in a room,” she said.

After the Sanford shop came a couple of moves, and Rhizome was located in Carthage when the historic Cameron building that formerly housed Sullivan's Antiques became available. Chelsea and Brian were drawn to this town because “we want to help revive a place that has bones and heart,” Chelsea says. “People here are supportive and genuine.”

(Continued on page 2)



Cameron Will Have Farmer's Market

Cameron was recently awarded \$25,000 through the NC Tobacco Trust Commission to assist in starting a farmer's market in town. The market's location will be Phillips Memorial Park. Watch for more information soon!

Seeking Dewberry Barn Site Prep Proposals

The Town of Cameron is seeking a qualified individual or firm to provide site preparation services for the future Dewberry Barn events venue, to be located at the corner of Pinewood Church Rd. and NC HWY 24/27 adjoining Phillips Memorial Park. The venue will be available to rent for concerts, weddings, and other gatherings.

Interested parties should contact Town Hall for more information.

Beautification Committee Announces Award



The home of Mike and Donna Thomason on Carter Street (at left) received the Cameron Beautification Committee's Beautification Award for November.

Mark Your Calendar.....

November 28-29, Town Hall Closed
November 28- Happy Thanksgiving
November 30- Christmas Tree Lighting, 5pm,
under the Magnolia next to the Post Office
December 5- Public Hearing for public comments
regarding consideration of adoption of
proposed Land Use Plan, Cypress Pointe
December 7- Christmas Parade, 10 am
December 24-27- Town Hall closed

2025

January 1- Town Hall closed
January 7- Historic Preservation Committee, 5:30
pm, Town Hall
January 9- Park Committee, 7 pm, Town Hall
January 14- Planning Board, 6:30 pm, Town Hall
January 20- Town Hall closed for Martin Luther
King Jr. holiday
January 28- Town Board, 7 pm, Town Hall

Upcoming Events

- * November 30, 5 pm: **Annual Tree Lighting** in vacant lot beside post office. Join us for caroling, refreshments, The Christmas Story, Santa and more as we light the tree for the Christmas holiday.
- * December 7, 10 am: **Cameron Christmas Parade** .Participants are welcome! Rhizome will host Santa at 1 p.m.
- * January 18: **Dewberry Search** begins at Phillips Memorial Park
- * April 12, 1-7 pm: **Cameron Historic Preservation Commission Annual Fundraiser**. More information coming soon.

Planning Board Recommends Adoption of Land Use Plan

Cameron's Planning Board voted unanimously at its November 12 meeting to recommend the final draft of the Land Use Plan to the Town Board, which will hold a public hearing for consideration of adoption of the plan on December 5 . Copies of the plan are available at Town Hall or by email request: cameronnc@townofcameron.com.

Rhizome (cont'd from page 1)

Brian has done most of the considerable renovation and remodeling work on the building himself, removing a dropped ceiling to expose the old pressed tin ceiling and stripping pegboard-covered walls back to concrete block, now freshly painted. A new food prep and serving area features a bar Brian built of recycled lumber from pallets... the same material he used to build the tables that hold the plants out front.

While Chelsea is largely responsible for the plants and stock of gifts, the comics are Brian's area of expertise. "I didn't want a comic shop that followed trends; I wanted to cultivate *readers* vs. the comics' collectability," he said.

"We want to become a community center," said Chelsea. "We're trying to cultivate a community around plants." Brian is currently hosting a short story club whose regulars meet to discuss a story they've all just read. There are plans for a jewelry workshop before Christmas as well as a visit with Santa at the store after the December 7 Christmas parade. Plant workshops will begin after the holidays.

Looking for an unusual plant? In addition to a host of familiar favorites such as Pothos and snake and prayer plants, Rhizome specializes in rare aroids including Scindapsus from Thailand and Indonesia, Anthuriums, Philodendron, Monstera and rare cactus.

Cameron Becomes a Purple Heart City



Veterans attending the Purple Heart ceremony after a Veteran's Day lunch at the Dewberry Café were (from left) Elizabeth Nhambure, Sean Long, Master Sergeant (Ret.) Clint Mack, Gisel Long, Commissioner Tanya Nicely and Jane Schroen.

Cameron has become only the second municipality in Moore County with the "Purple Heart City" designation. The town held a small ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11, to finalize its Purple Heart status and invited Robbins Town Manager Clint Mack to lead it. He served 21 years in the U.S. Army and has awarded over 50 paratroopers with the Purple Heart, given to honor soldiers killed or wounded in combat.

"It's an honor to stand before you to reflect on the significance of a symbol that embodies not only bravery and sacrifice, but also the enduring spirit of our nation's and our community's heroes," Mack said.

The Purple Heart decoration was established by George Washington during the American Revolution. At the time, it was a purple heart-shaped cloth badge. The decoration was revived in the 1930s, transforming the badge into the distinct medal known today.

Fall Street Fair a Success

Beautiful early October weather brought crowds of shoppers to the fall street fair, where some vendors sold out of merchandise before Saturday's closing.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Antique Street Fair May 2-3, 2025. Invite your friends and neighbors and tell anyone interested in becoming a vendor to please contact Town Hall for specifics.

Christmas Week Trash Pickup

Due to the Christmas holiday, GFL will pick up trash on Thursday, December 26.

Join the Sunshine List!

To stay connected and informed about town happenings, provide your email to Town Hall. You will automatically receive meeting agendas and other information.

We Love a Parade!

The annual Christmas parade, organized by Cameron Baptist Church, is all-inclusive. Decorated golf carts, walking carolers, vintage vehicles, pets and livestock, marching bands and more...all are welcome. Join us on McNeil St. before 10 a.m. December 7 to line up!

Yard Debris Pickup Reminder

Yard debris that meets these requirements is still being picked up on Tuesdays and Thursdays:

—Limbs no more than 6 feet long and 3 inches in diameter

—All leaves (including pine cones) to be bagged or in a container...loose leaves will NOT be picked up. Trash cans are available for loan through Town Hall for collection of loose yard debris items.

—There can be one pile (no larger than 6 feet long, 3 feet wide and 3 feet high) per pickup per week for each residence.

Please note that no burying of yard debris or garbage is allowed.

Old Cameron Jail Will Be Returned to Town



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According to Town Clerk Wendy Butner, the jail (including any available historic artifacts) will be moved back to town owned property “where it can be opened daily for visitors to reminisce about when things were simple — and enjoy part of the Town’s remaining history!”

The circa 1880 Cameron jail, currently located on private property behind the historic Muse Bros. building on Rte 24/27, will be donated back to the town by the property’s new owners. The jail was originally located on Goodman St. Cameron’s Historic Preservation Committee has been seeking the restoration of the jail to the Town for some time. Below is a view of the jail’s no-frills interior.



When Cameron was booming (from the late 1870s into the early 1880s), with three hotels and seven saloons operating, the jail was used basically to dry out folks who had drunk too much whiskey. Usually after fights, shooting craps, etc. the rougher men would have been transferred to Carthage or Raleigh, depending on their offenses.

Legend has suggested the original jail had an underground cell for especially recalcitrant detainees.

Cameron’s Creepy Crawl

Our downtown businesses hosted their first Creepy Crawl this fall on the Saturday before Hallowe’en. Streets were filled with costumed trick or treaters as businesses handed out treats. When darkness fell, the movie “Hocus Pocus” was screened in the lot beside the post office. Below, trick or treater Parker Leigh Ferguson, daughter of Adam and Ginny Ferguson, with Moonie, whose owner is Sarah Queen.



The Plank Road

It was an ambitious idea: a plank road from Fayetteville northwestward to the Salem area, linking important trading points along the way. The road was planned in 1848 as a solution to the lack of transport for cotton, tobacco, turpentine and grain produced in this part of North Carolina. The elevated roadbed was built of heavy planks laid at right angles to sills along the sides; ditches provided drainage. Maintenance was financed by tolls, collected every 11 miles.

As the road came by what is now Cameron, farmers and businessmen attracted by the easy marketability of crops and access to merchandise tended to settle near it. In 1854 the plank road was traveled by 20,000 wagons and generated \$27,419.77 in tolls.

Poor economic conditions, poor crops and the outbreak of the Civil War contributed to the plank road’s decline in the 1860s. After the war, there was general recognition that the era of the plank road had passed. Those seeking a dependable means of conveying local products to market from this area (then known as the “Crain’s Creek Community”) looked hopefully toward the north, for there was news that a railroad was moving in their direction.

—from *“Historic Cameron: A Small Town Reborn”*