

Your Cameron Connection

October 2025

Methodist Church Re-Opens Under Local Leadership

October 26 will be a very special day for Cameron native Carroll Thomas. It's his birthday, and it's planned to be the First Homecoming Sunday at the Cameron Methodist Church since he purchased the historic property from the United Methodist Conference in August.

Mr. Thomas's family has been involved with the church for at least four generations, he says, citing a connection that begins with Abner Thomas, his great-great grandfather.

The Duncan Campbell-designed church was built in 1887. Carroll Thomas's father and grandfather helped to lay the brick



Carroll Thomas and Joanne Atkins

pavers that still decorate the area in front of the building. Joanne Atkins, a long-time member who is helping Carroll reactivate the church, recalls that Abner Thomas was also involved. "He used to be responsible for lighting the pot-bellied stove that provided winter heat for Sunday services."

Church attendance had dwindled in recent years and word came this year from the United Methodist Conference that the church might be closed. In May, the small Mother's Day congregation was told that would be the final service; the Conference planned to close the church and sell it.

"I said, 'We can't let that happen.' I immediately began planning to save it," says Thomas. His Fayetteville-area development, construction and rental management business has been built on a lifetime of getting things done "real quick," he says (the reason his sport fishing boat is named 'Reel Quick'), and he was soon in touch with a Southern Pines attorney who conveyed a formal written offer to the Conference.

Since the August closing on the property, his focus has been to "get re-organized, get going again" as an independent Methodist Church with the help of Joanne and her family. The search is on for a "strong full-time pastor" who will lead a growing congregation. Meanwhile guest pastors will conduct services at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Rock 'n Roll Cruise-In to Mark Cameron's 150th

Phillips Memorial Park will host a free event Saturday, October 11, in honor of the town's 150th birthday. The "Rock 'n Roll Cruise-In" will feature classic cars and trucks and a disc jockey playing "oldies but goodies" music. Vendors will offer food, drinks and ice cream and the afternoon will include a search for hand-blown glass dewberries.

"Historic Cameron" merchandise will also be available. There will be a door prize and a 50/50 raffle. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed in the style of an earlier era and even wear their dancing shoes.

Participation vehicles will begin parking at 1 Open to the public 2 until 4 p.m. For questions call 910-263-9366.

A New Home for the Old Jail



Oakley's Towing owner Jamie Oakley measures for the placement of Cameron's old jail, which Oakley's moved from its former location behind the old Muse Bros. store. After placement on cement block pillars and some further work, the jail will be open to the public as a tangible reminder of the town's history.

A Bench for Jenessa



Have you noticed the red bench at Phillips Memorial Park? It was donated in memory of Jenessa Kramer (October 2, 2013 - June 3, 2025). Jenessa inquired with her parents, what did it mean to be an organ donor, and made the decision she wanted to be a donor.

Applications for Historic Plaque Discount Start Oct. 6

The non-profit Cameron Historic Preservation Inc (CHP) expands its plaque program (launched with an initial set of 10 last year) this fall. The 8x10-inch cast bronze markers have a raised inscription honoring each of our town's historic structures. (At right is a plaque currently identifying a commercial building.)

In addition to markers for Cameron's five historic churches, this round opens the program to residential structures for the first time. Beginning Monday, October 6, Historic District homeowners who would like a plaque can obtain a simple application form at Town Hall or via email at cameronnc@townofcameron.com.

The first five applicants will be entered into a drawing for one free plaque in this cycle, while the remaining four will receive a 50 percent discount on the \$465 cost of the bronze marker, a reduced price of \$230. Thanks for helping us highlight Cameron's history!



Boo! Town Trunk or Treat!

The Town of Cameron's Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 31 at Town Hall will include a costume contest for children as well as trunk or treating. Ghostly festivities will take place from 5 until 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate by setting up a trunk, please contact Town Hall 910-245-3212.

Cool Treats for Returning Students

The Town welcomed Cameron Elementary School students and staff back to school on August 25 with popsicles. Commissioner Lisa Paschal helped distribute the treats.



Cameron's Planning Board welcomes Krista Elliot (here being sworn in by Town Clerk and Finance Officer Wendy Butner) to fill the board's in-town vacancy, and thanks her for her willingness to serve.

The Town has hired Thomas Blue as the engineer to prepare the site design plans for the Dewberry Barn event venue planned for the corner of Rte. 24/27 and Pineywood Church Rd. Currently work is in progress with NCDOT for driveways and NCDEQ for erosion control and sediment permits.

Hunter Ayers (at right) offered pumpkins, gourds and a variety of hot and sweet peppers at a recent Cameron Farmers' Market. The market is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Phillips Memorial Park from 2-6 p.m.



Mark Your Calendar.....

October 3- 4, Fall Antique Street Fair
9am-5pm, both days
October 7, Historic Preservation Commission meeting, 6 pm, Town Hall
October 14, Planning Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Town Hall
October 25, Farmer's Market, 2 pm-until, Phillips Memorial Park
October 28, Town Board meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall
November 4, Historic Preservation Commission meeting, 6 pm, Town Hall
Planning Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Town Hall
November 8 - Farmer's Market 2pm-until, Phillips Memorial Park
November 18- Town Board Meeting, 7pm, Town Hall
November 22 - Farmer's Market 2pm-until, Phillips Memorial Park
November 26-28 – Town Hall Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
November 29 – Annual Tree Lighting, 5pm, 325 McNeill Street (Vacant Lot Beside Post Office)

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to assist in locking the gate to the park each evening. If interested, please contact Town Hall at 10-245-3212 or cameronnc@townofcameron.com.

You can now register to monitor your water usage through Eye on Water with the recent change to new water meters. This system can check for leaks and help keep your utility costs down. See the enclosed notice for registering instructions. Note: You'll need your account number from your bill to register.

150th Celebration November 8th to Include Time Capsule

It's not too soon to plan for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Cameron's founding on November 8. Festivities will include burial of a time capsule—scheduled to be unearthed in 2075—near Town Hall. Residents are invited to suggest items that might be included in the container and to contribute things they think would be appropriate. Possibilities could include photographs, recipes, commemorative coins and other mementos.

The fall Antique Street Fair, October 3 and 4, will be the biennial fair's 40th anniversary! If you have photos of earlier street fairs, please share with Town Hall for a special exhibit on the fair's history.

New Voting Place for Town Election November 4

Voting for the upcoming election of town officials will take place at the Cypress Pointe Fire Dept., 170 Red Hill Rd. in Cameron.

There are no contested seats on the ballot. Candidates are:
Mayor—Lisa Paschal
Board of Commissioners (two vacant seats)
—John (Joey) Frutchey, Kane Parsons
Board of Commissioners (unexpired term ending in 2027)—Marcia Korver

Yard Debris Pickup Suspended

Yard debris pickup is suspended annually October 1-April 1 to allow residents to burn. Elderly and disabled residents please contact Town Hall to request an exemption.