

RPZ/Backflow Testing

If you have a RPZ valve installed on your water line, it is your responsibility to make sure that it is tested each year. An advantage to having your RPZ tested yearly is any leaks that may have occurred during the cold weather will be detected.

If you are not sure if you have a RPZ valve, look for a tan colored box at or near the water meter box.

Yard Sale Permits

Getting rid of old stuff? Many members of the community will want to hold a yard sale to get rid of old stuff. Yard Sale Permits must be obtained at the Water Department. Each Town of Aberdeen resident is allowed 2 yard sales per year and must fill out a Yard Sale Permit and pay a \$5.00 fee.

Information Channel 99 Has Changed to Channel 1

Time Warner Cable has changed the Community Programming channel for Aberdeen viewers. The Community Programming channel will no longer be available on channel 99. However, the programming will continue to be available on digital channel 1 for those that have a digital cable box. Citizens without a digital cable box can view the events on channel 97-1.

On the Calendar

March & April

• Bingo

Thursday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. The cost is \$1 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Refreshments provided and participants are asked to bring a wrapped prize of \$5 or less. (910) 944-PARK.

• Youth Kickball

Registration will end March 7. The league is for boys and girls ages 4 -15. Cost is \$12 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Practices will begin in March 24th. (910) 944-4572.

• Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 a.m. Set clocks forward one hour.

• Aberdeen Fire Department's Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Aberdeen Fire Station. Plates are \$7 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, and drink. Dine in or carryout. (910) 944-7888.

• Bingo

Thursday, April 10 at 1:00 p.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. The cost is \$1 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Refreshments provided and participants are asked to bring a wrapped prize of \$5 or less. (910) 944-PARK.

• Women's Softball Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Colonial Heights Park. Rules, regulations, and fees will be discussed. Games start May 27. (910) 944-4572

• Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit, and Run

Saturday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. at Memorial Park Field C in Southern Pines. This is a FREE event for ages 7 – 14. Registration is the day of the event. (910) 944-4572.

• Senior Chair Exercises

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. Cost is \$2 per month for residents and \$5 per month for non-residents. Classes are on-going. (910) 944-PARK.

• Senior Art Classes

Every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. Cost is \$2 per month for residents and \$5 per month for non-residents. Participants must supply own materials. Classes are on-going. (910) 944-PARK.

• Water Bills

\$5 or 5% late fee added for those bills not paid by 5:00 p.m. on March 20. \$25 penalty added for those bills not paid by 5:00 p.m. on April 7 and disconnected April 8.

For a full listing of community events, visit www.townofaberdeen.net/calendar.aspx.

Recycle Dates

Monday Dates: Friday Dates:

- March 3
- March 17
- April 14
- April 28
- March 14
- March 28
- April 11
- April 25



Bon Accord

ISSUE March & April 2014



Sign Up For Nixle - A Community Notification System

The Aberdeen Police Department will be utilizing the community notification system known as "Nixle". "Nixle" is a free service for towns and does not require citizens to pay anything to sign up. All residents interested in receiving notifications by text on their cell phone, email, or both can simply:

- 1) Send a text message to 888777. In the body of the message, enter the Aberdeen zip code, 28315, and hit send. You will receive a confirmation text that you have signed up for "Nixle".
- 2) You can go to www.nixle.com and enter your email address to receive email notifications.

The Police Department will be utilizing "Nixle" to notify citizens of emergencies such as serious accidents, road closures, missing person, and police activity in your area, just to name a few. "Nixle" will also be used to send out community event information and notices. "Nixle" is particularly useful because you will still be able to receive notifications during a power outage as long as your cell phone has battery life.

Police Chief Wenzel encourages citizens to sign up for this service to stay informed.



Message from Town Manager, Bill Zell

By the time you'll be reading this it'll be the first of March and hopefully we'll be dealing with six inches of sunshine and low to middle 60's for temperatures instead of what we just went through the middle of February.

We were very blessed though by not getting the ½ inch to ¾ inch of ice they were calling for, and because of that we had very few power outages and very little tree damage. Of course, the six inches of snow and the ice we did get caused enough mess with local travel that we're thankful we didn't get any more. Overall, as winter storms go, this one doesn't even come close to the severity of the ice storm of 2002, or the snow storm of 2000.

When we have storms like this with the potential to become very dangerous with ice and snow hazards, power outages and the like, we have a protocol to follow if we want to receive federal dollars to help the Town with the clean-up costs.

It starts with the Governor declaring a "State of Emergency" and if the storm actually comes and causes some of the above issues a "Declaration of Disaster" is later issued by the President after FEMA has assessed the damages. Of course in this case we didn't have the disaster so the "Declaration of Disaster" was never declared. You can have a State of Emergency without the disaster, but you can't have a disaster and collect monies from the feds without the state of emergency being declared first. Moore County also declared a "State of Emergency" and I know the three largest municipalities all followed suit with each of our Mayors respectively declaring a "State of Emergency".

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In Aberdeen, we were prepared as best we could by our Public Works Department applying liquid brine on all the Town streets in an effort to keep the snow and ice from sticking and helping it to melt quicker. Also, the Fire Department (including paid and volunteer personnel), along with Public Works, sharpened all chain saws in preparation of removing fallen limbs and debris. The Town's three snow plows were all set in place and ready for action and the police were out and helping citizens wherever needed.

During these types of events we try to keep only necessary public safety type employees as mentioned above (i.e., Police, Fire and Public Works) on duty and out in the elements. Our new Fire Station has an emergency operations center (EOC) that we used to follow the storm and see where hazards may develop. We can receive national, state, and local updates at the EOC and can communicate with Moore County Emergency Services, all other municipalities, as well as our own departments.

We try to man the phone at the Town Hall, but it's usually a Public Works employee who will give you a real person to talk with, but is mainly there to offer non-emergency type help. So if you want to find out about your latest water bill or other utility business you'll need to wait until the Town Hall staff returns after the storm, or if you have a real emergency please call 911.

Our public safety personnel did a tremendous job here in Aberdeen during this last bout with Mother Nature and I hope that if you get an opportunity you'll tell them how much you appreciate what they do for all of us without a second thought.

Youth Kickball

Join Aberdeen's Spring Kickball League. This activity is available for children ages 4 to 15, as of April 30th, who are looking to participate in a fun, safe, exciting sport. Registration ends March 7th. Practices will begin March 24th. Fees are \$12 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Registration forms are available at the Aberdeen Recreation Station or www.townofaberdeen.net.

If anyone is interested in coaching or sponsoring a team please contact the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department at 944-PARK.

MLB Pitch, Hit & Run

The Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Southern Pines and Pinehurst Recreation Departments, is sponsoring the 2014 local qualifying Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run competition to be held on Saturday, May 10th. This event is for children ages 7 - 14, as of July 17th. The event will take place at Memorial Park Field C in Southern Pines at 10:00 a.m. This is a FREE event and winners will qualify to compete at the regional, state, and possibly national level in Atlanta at the Braves stadium. Minimum participation required to hold the event is 15. A copy of your child's birth certificate is required on the day of competition. NO metal spikes are allowed during any portion of the competition.

Women's Softball

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department wants to invite all women, ages 16 and up, to participate in the Women's Softball League. There will be an organizational meeting at Colonial Heights Park in Aberdeen on April 8th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss rules, regulations, and fees. The first game is scheduled for May 27th. Games are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact Joseph Keel, Athletic Coordinator, at 944-4572 or jkeel@townofaberdeen.net if you have any questions concerning this league.



2014 Spring Spree Festival

The Town of Aberdeen, in partnership with the Aberdeen Business Guild, is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Spring Spree Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Historic Downtown Aberdeen. The festival is open and free to the public for a fun and enjoyable afternoon with family-friendly entertainment, food, arts and crafts.

The festival began in 2011 as collaboration between the merchants from downtown Aberdeen and its local business guild. As the event continues to build each year, the Town feels that it's an important event to promote and provide for the citizens of Aberdeen. Spring Spree celebrates and showcases the eclectic mixture of businesses and talent that give Aberdeen a unique atmosphere. As more people are moving into the area, the Town wishes for the residents to see and experience our beautiful and charming downtown.

A children's entertainment area will be located in the grassy area between Main and South Streets known to locals as the "Y" area. Bouncing castles and other games and events will be provided.

Arts and crafts merchants will be set up side by side with local nonprofit organizations from the area. You can find an assortment of vendors

from beaded jewelers, potters, photographers, to someone who makes homemade dog treats. An array of food vendors will also be present for the festival. Nonprofit organizations will be educating people about their organization's mission and elicit volunteers for their foundation.

Live music from local artists and bands will be playing throughout the day of the event. Please check the Spring Spree Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenBusinessGuildSpringSpree>, as well as the Town's website for updates on who will be playing the day of the festival.

We hope that citizens will come and enjoy themselves and celebrate what the Town has to offer.

The cost to setup as a vendor will be \$25.00 for returning vendors and \$45.00 for new vendors. Guidelines and applications can be found under News and Announcements at www.townofaberdeen.net. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jae Kim or Pam Graham, Planning Department, at (910) 944-7024 or the Aberdeen Business Guild President, Molly Menard at (910) 944-1212.

Aberdeen's Historic District and Preservation Commission

What does the Planning Department offer for citizens?

Spring Spree, Historic Preservation Commission, and more!

Aberdeen's Historic Preservation Commission is currently involved in a project to update the Historic District Design Guidelines. This process will run through the spring and the Commission needs your input. A map of the Historic District is available on the town's website: www.townofaberdeen.net.

The Historic District helps to keep our local economy healthy. Studies have demonstrated that property values are increased with historic designation, and work done to maintain and repair our historic

structures is more likely to employ local tradespeople. If you own or lease property in the District you should be aware that a Certificate of Appropriateness is

required for most exterior changes to the property. For some minor items a certificate may be issued by staff, for other projects the Commission will review the application. This process helps to protect our historic properties and provides you with access to resources that can help guide your project. In some cases federal and/or state tax credits are available to offset the cost of your project. Aberdeen is proud of its history and wishes to work with property owners to make sure that future generations can also enjoy the historic resources that help to define our community. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (910) 944-7024.



Business Guild

So what is this business guild thing about? The purpose of the Aberdeen Business Guild was established by local downtown business merchants to encourage and enrich the commercial environment while supporting a growing variety of available services and shopping opportunities for all local residents. Members work towards cooperative efforts to promote each other's business success. Networking and building professional relationships helps foster opportunities to learn about each other's business, share tips, create fellowship and support among business, professional and charitable pursuits.

While many of the current members are from within the downtown district, this guild is intended for ALL Aberdeen businesses. This includes those businesses along Highway 5, 211, 15-501, US-1 and elsewhere. Whether you are a mom & pop business or a Fortune 500 company, we'd like to ask all those who are

interested to please come to the next meeting, Wednesday, March 5th at 8:30 a.m. at the Aberdeen Bead Company located at 105 W. South Street, downtown Aberdeen.

So what have we done lately and what's next? Recently, the Aberdeen Business Guild sponsored the 4th annual Holiday Open House weekend including the 2nd annual Bread Bowl Walking Tour. Participating businesses in historic downtown Aberdeen opened with sales and specials during Veteran's Day weekend to kick-off the holiday season. La Poblanita, a local downtown Mexican café, won first place in the professional division of the Bread Bowl competition and Brooke Storz, a local high school student from Pinecrest, won the amateur division. The Holiday Open House is one of the activities marketed and promoted by our downtown merchants to draw customers to Aberdeen.

Currently, the guild members are

collaborating with the Town's Planning Department staff on preparing for the upcoming 2014 Spring Spree Festival. The festival, in its 3rd year, is an arts and crafts affair that provides a warm and family friendly event including music and food. A number of local nonprofit organizations will be there to educate and possibly recruit new volunteers to their causes.

The guild welcomes any businesses located within the Town's limits to contact us and become a member this year. However, you do not have to own a business to be a member. While many members own their own businesses, the Aberdeen Business Guild also welcomes groups of professionals, business owners, and other professionals in the area.

For more information or questions, contact Jae Kim at (910) 944-4514 or Aberdeen Business Guild President, Molly Menard at (910) 944-1212.

Your Government

Board of Commissioners Work Session

2nd Thursday before Board Meeting | 5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room
April 3rd & May 1st

Board of Commissioners Meeting

2nd Monday | 6:00 p.m.
J. Curtis McInnis Board Room
March 10th & April 14th

Budget Retreat

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. | EOC at the Fire Department
March 8th

Planning Board Meeting

3rd Thursday | 6:00 p.m.
J. Curtis McInnis Board Room
March 20th & April 17th

Have agendas delivered directly to your inbox. Sign up for E-news at: www.townofaberdeen.net.

Town Hall Closing

- In observation of Good Friday, Town Hall and other administrative offices will be closed April 18, 2014

Shed Permit

If you are planning to build a shed or put one in your yard, or have already done so, please be aware that at a minimum, a Zoning Compliance Permit is required. A separate building permit will be required if any dimension of the shed is 12' or longer. The permitting process will insure that the installation is compliant with the town's requirements and can help to prevent complications that may result from unpermitted work.

The fee for a Zoning Compliance Permit is \$50. If a building permit is required, it will be an additional \$50 fee.

Applications and information are available on the town website at www.townofaberdeen.net or you may stop by the Planning Department office at Town Hall at 115 N. Poplar Street to pick up an application. Please contact the Planning Department at (910) 944-7024 if you have any questions or need more information.