

Parks & Recreation

December was a busy month for the Parks and Recreation Department. Youth athletics, fitness classes, and special events highlighted an active month.

Youth basketball and cheerleading started practice in December. The basketball program has 154 boys and girls registered, ranging from ages 4 – 12. The cheerleading program has 30 girls ready to move and cheer at the basketball games. Games and practices are held at the Aberdeen Elementary and Southern Middle schools, and will run through the month of February.

Adult Zumba also started in December. This new program is an opportunity for adults to exercise and sweat, while having fun and showing off their moves. Classes are on Tuesday evenings at the Recreation Center, with the next set of classes are scheduled to start January 6.

Several holiday special events were also held, including the Aberdeen Tree Lighting, Supper with Santa, an Early American Christmas at the Malcolm Blue Farm, and the Aberdeen Christmas Parade. A large thank you to all who helped make these possible, and to those who attended the events. We hope they helped make your holidays that much more special.

Along with Zumba, other classes getting ready to begin are Adult Yoga, Senior Fit, and Youth Art Classes. We are also still seeking instructors interested in helping to offer new programs, and camp counselors interested in working school break and summer camp programs. If you are interested in learning more about upcoming programs, or are interested in becoming an instructor or counselor, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (910) 944-7275.

On the Calendar

January & February

• Zumba

Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20 & 27 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. The cost is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. (910) 944-4574.

• Bingo

Thursday, January 8 at 1:30 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) 944-4574.

• Zumba

Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. The cost is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. (910) 944-4574.

• Bingo

Thursday, February 12 at 1:30 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) 944-4574.

• Zumba

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17 & 24 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Aberdeen Recreation Station. The cost is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. (910) 944-4574.

• Youth Kickball

Registration deadline is March 6th. The league is for boys and girls ages 4 -15. Cost is \$12 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Practices will begin March 24th. (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) 944-4574.

• 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) 944-4574.

• Water Bills

\$5 or 5% late fee added for those bills not paid by 5:00 p.m. on January 20. Accounts with outstanding balance will have a \$25 fee added for those bills not paid by 5:00 p.m. on February 5 and disconnected February 6.

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

Recycle Dates

Monday Dates:

- January 5
- January 21 (Wednesday)
- February 2
- February 16
- March 2

Friday Dates:

- January 2
- January 16
- January 30
- February 13
- February 27



Bon Accord

ISSUE January & February 2015



Appearance & Beautification Commission

Aberdeen's Appearance & Beautification Commission (ABC), working with the Planning and Public Works Departments, NCDOT and Progress Energy has been very active this year with improvement projects. We now have 12 customized benches displaying the Aberdeen brand situated throughout the downtown area with matching trash receptacles. These items are a result of a recent focus on beautifying Aberdeen that includes the "gateway" signs installed earlier this year at three key town limit sites. Also completed this month was the 2nd phase of an improvement project on US 1 between John McQueen and Bonnie Brook Roads that included the planting of a row of Foster Hollies by NCDOT and decorating them with lights for the holiday season by our Public Works Department. That project is expected to be completed next year with the planting of dogwoods to fill in the remaining spaces left when Progress Energy removed the longleaf pines from that stretch of road in 2012. The pines had become disfigured over the years by pruning to avoid conflicts with the overhead power lines. The Hollies, Dogwoods, and Coralbark Maples that are on the replacement plan were selected because they are not expected to reach heights that will necessitate pruning. The Appearance & Beautification Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at noon in the Town Hall Conference Room. We welcome your ideas and comments.



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Message from Town Manager, Bill Zell

In this day and age of instant information right at our finger tips, we still have citizens that don't get the message we send out in a timely manner. In this article we'll discuss two possibilities of communication with the Town and our citizens that are already available, and also ask you if there's any other way that might even work better in giving and receiving our messages.

First, we've had this item on our website (www.townofaberdeen.net) called "Report a Concern" for several years now and it does get a lot of use, but not everyone knows about it. It's located right under the Aberdeen Brand on the first tab where after you click on it, a form will appear that you'll need to fill out and hit send. The form is then sent to the Town Manager and Town Clerk in an email letting us know about the problem or issue you might be having. You can also use this tool to ask a question about anything on which you might need information.

Upon receipt of a "Report a Concern" either the Clerk or the Manager will forward it to the department that will take care of the issue. In the form you will choose how you want to be notified and once an action has occurred you will either receive an email, voice mail or phone call letting you know what transpired or will be done to rectify the situation.

The second tool that we've had in place since July of 2013 is Code Red. This software application allows us to instantly send out all

types of information to you our citizens in whatever manner you want to receive it. If you haven't already signed up for Code Red, I highly recommend it.

You can find it located on the Town Website at the bottom left corner. After you've clicked on "Code Red" a Community Notification Enrollment form will appear asking for your personal contact information letting us know whether you are a resident or a business. Then you can choose how you want to be notified, which is by a text on your cell phone, a voice message on your cell or land line, an email, or all the above.

The great thing about Code Red is we can contact everyone at once or we can select a particular area of Town that only needs the information (e.g., if we have a water main break most likely it won't affect everyone so we can send the information out to only those in the affected area).

Now if there's another technology that you know about that offers the ability to send and receive important and timely information, we are always looking to be better and would love to hear from you. Please contact us at 910-944-1115 to share your ideas.

Our mission statement for the Town Administration is to "create a conduit of communication to promote citizen and employee engagement". It takes all of us working together to become better communicators.

Youth Kickball

Come join Aberdeen's Spring Youth Kickball league. This activity is available for boys and girls ages 4-15, as of August 31, 2015, who are looking to participate in a fun, safe, exciting sport. Practices will begin March 24th. Registration will run through March 6th. Registration forms can be picked up at the Aberdeen Recreation Station. A copy of the child's birth certificate and payment are due at registration. Fees are \$12 for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

Individuals must reside within the city limits of Aberdeen to qualify for resident rates.

Volunteer coaches and sponsors are needed for all athletic leagues! If interested, please call Joseph Keel at (910) 944-4572.

Senior Games In the Pines is Sanctioned

North Carolina Senior Games, Inc. is pleased to announce that Senior Games in the Pines has been sanctioned as an official qualifying site for the 2015 State Finals. Senior Games in the Pines will be held in Moore County between April 16, 2015 and May 14, 2015. Registration deadline is April 3rd and early bird registration ends March 20th. Early bird registration fees are \$10. Registration turned in after March 20th but before April 3rd is a registration fee of \$15.

Senior Games in the Pines will be offering competition in many sports and art activities, such as golf, bowling, team sports, swimming, pickle ball, cornhole, bocce, painting, pottery, and poetry for seniors age 50 or better, as of December 31, 2015.

For volunteer, sponsorship, or registration information, please contact Joseph Keel at (910) 944-7275.



News from the Public Works Department

Citizens can do their part to help the department.

Street Light Upgrade

Duke Energy will be upgrading all of the Town of Aberdeen street lights starting early spring of 2015 and complete the project by June 30, 2015. The new lights that will be installed are the new energy efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). These energy-efficient luminaires deliver the light where it is needed while increasing visibility and reducing spill light to adjoining properties. We are used to the older mercury vapor lighting (purple color) and the sodium vapor lighting (yellow tint), but the new lights will have a white color tint. There will be an upfront cost to the Town for this change out. However, once this project is completed the monthly fee per light for the Town will decrease on average 28%.

We look forward to the new change since 300 lights are over 20 years old and are not producing the amount of light that they were initially designed to produce.



Meters Obstructed Access

The Public Works Department would like to make you aware of an emerging trend we are seeing with regards to your water meters. There are many water meters that are being obstructed by vegetative growth which hinders the ability of the employees to read the meters and furthermore makes identifying leaks at the meters a challenge.

The below picture is an example of overgrowth where the water meter is located under the bushes. We ask all of our residents to please look at the landscaping around your water meter location and trim the vegetation so we can access the meter with ease. We strive to provide the best service to the residents of Aberdeen and feel that this can be accomplished by working together with our customers.



Christmas Tree Disposal

There are a couple of ways to dispose of live Christmas trees. The Town will pick all live trees that are placed at the curb. All business owners need to make

sure to not leave discarded Christmas trees behind their business.

Keep Moore County Beautiful is sponsoring a Christmas tree recycling program to run through January 9th. Citizens can take their Christmas tree Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. to the following locations:

- Moore County Landfill
456 Turning Leaf Way,
Aberdeen, off HWY 5
(910) 295-4202
- Carhage Collection Site
5361 US HWY 15-501 S.,
Carhage
(910) 947-2704

Winterize Your Irrigation System

If you have an RPZ valve installed on your water line, it is your responsibility to make sure that it is properly insulated for extreme low temperatures.

If your valve is tied off of your water line to your house to serve an irrigation system, swimming pool, or other non-sewered service then you should cut the valve off and properly drain it for the winter. A new law became effective July 1, 2010 that all homes are required to have a separate water meter if you have in-ground irrigation, swimming pool,



The Town of Aberdeen along with proud partner Sandhills Community College's Small Business Center, are excited to present the 2015 Spring Seminar Schedule. These training opportunities are targeted not only to small business owners but to all individuals looking to gain valuable information – ranging from finance expertise to communication skills to social media guidance. Seminars are FREE and open to the public. Food and drinks will be provided at each seminar.

All courses will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Department located at 800 Holly Street.

*For more information visit www.townofaberdeen.net.

2015 Spring Seminar Schedule

- January 7th - The Sales Workshop 11a.m – 1 p.m.
- January 8th - Grant Writing 101 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- January 12th - How to Transfer Good Ideas into Strategic Actions 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- January 15th - Grant Writing 102 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- January 21st - How to Start and Operate an Internet Sales Business 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- February 4th - Best Business to Start in 2015 and Why 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- February 5th - Franchising 101 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

- February 12th - Crowdfunding 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- February 16th - What's Your Brand? Why Do I Want What You are Offering? 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- February 18th - Things to Consider Before Starting a Café, Coffee House, Sandwich Shop or Bakery 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- February 24th - The Inner Roadmap 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- March 16th - Creating a Clear Message for Your Customers 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- April 20th - Qualities of a Successful Entrepreneur 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- April 22nd - The Sales Workshop 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Adopt A Highway

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) – Adopt a Highway Program

The Town of Aberdeen is well known around the area not only for its historic significance and family friendly atmosphere but also for its charm and cleanliness. It is important that we take pride in keeping our town trash and litter free and the NCDOT Adopt a Highway program is a great resource and an excellent way to ensure this task is taken care of! Whether it's a church group, a boy/girl scout troop, or family, we all can do our part.

The application process takes only a couple minutes and is 100% free! Please visit the Adopt a Highway website, <http://www.ncdot.gov/programs/aah/>, or contact Joanna Peele at (910) 944-7621 or jpeepe@ncdot.gov for more information. Your hard work will be more than appreciated by not only the fellow citizens of Aberdeen but by the NCDOT as well. NCDOT will donate signs at both ends of the adopted highway, giving well-deserved recognition to the respective group.

Your Government

Board of Commissioners
Work Session

2nd Monday | 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room
January 12th & February 9th

Board of Commissioners
Meeting

4th Monday | 6:00 p.m.
J. Curtis McInnis Board Room
January 26th & February 23rd

Planning Board Meeting

3rd Thursday | 6:00 p.m.
J. Curtis McInnis Board Room
January 15th & February 19th

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

Town Hall Closing

- In observation of New Year's Day, Town Hall and other administrative offices will be closed January 1, 2015.
- In observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Town Hall and other administrative offices will be closed January 19, 2015.

There will be no recycle pick-up on January 19th; the make-up day will be Wednesday, January 21, 2015.