



Town of Fairmont

Town Talk

A monthly newsletter provided by the
Fairmont Board of Commissioners
With assistance and support of the town staff



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September/October 2017

Special points of interest:

- Calendar of Events
- Farmers Festival
- Fairmont Rescue
- Shriner Dinner
- Festival Memories



Back in the Rescue Business

Farmers Festival Parade Entry Forms and Vendor Applications Now Available!

The 31st annual Fairmont Farmers Festival is Saturday, October 21. Pageant and Parade Entry forms as well as food and craft vendor applications are available in the Water Department, as well as at the town website:

www.fairmontnc.com/farmersfestival.htm.

For more information, contact Festival Chairman Kelly Johnson at 910-770-1967.

Resident of Fairmont will be pleased to know that your hometown EMS (Ambulance) and Rescue Squad is alive and well and prepared to answer the call if you need help and dial 911.

The unit is undergoing a complete new overhaul including the changing of the name to "Fairmont Area EMS & Rescue." Formerly known as the South Robeson Rescue Unit, the group is in the midst of a complete overhaul to give the unit a new identity and upgrade the equipment as well as increase the membership. Membership has increased to 34 members with 24 of those members already holding state certification as EMT's and or Paramedics.

The rescue base headquarters is located at 1001 S. Walnut Street in Fairmont and covers a 170 square mile radius in Robeson County.

The Fairmont Area EMS & Rescue Squad not only provides EMS ambulance service but also has one light duty rescue trucks as well as one heavy duty rescue truck. These vehicles respond to all traffic accidents as well as structure fires to assist the local fire departments. The mobile command center is also utilized in county efforts involving all search & rescue operations. Every member must be properly trained and state certified in all of the areas in which these trucks respond. Your Fairmont Area EMS and Rescue squad also maintains a water search and rescue trailer as well as two boats that are used for water related search and rescue operations.

It takes hundreds of hours of training to maintain the status that the state of North Carolina requires for each category involved in EMS service as well as all the different types of rescue that could occur.

Please remember that when you have an emergency and dial 911 that the Fairmont Area EMS & Rescue squad will be there as quickly as possible with the best trained personnel available offering top notch Emergency Medical Services to the citizens of Fairmont.

TOWN OF FAIRMONT

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FAIRMONT SHRINE CLUB

CHICKEN 'N FIXIN'S DINNER

FAIRMONT FIRE HALL

FROM 11 AM - 2 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017



Calendar of Events



Friday, September 15 - Fairmont High School Football vs. West Columbus, 7:00 p.m. HOME.

Tuesday, September 19 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Wednesday, September 27 - Half Day of School released at 11:30 a.m.

Friday, September 29 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Whiteville, 7:00 p.m. HOME.

Saturday, September 30 - Baltimore Baptist Church Fall Festival, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Sunday, October 1 - Shriner Chicken 'N Fixin's Plate Sale, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Fairmont Fire Hall.

Tuesday, October 10 - NCDMV, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Courtroom.

Saturday, October 14 - Fairmont Farmers Festival Scholarship Pageant, 3:00 p.m., Rosenwald Elementary.

Tuesday, October 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Friday, October 20 - Chamber of Commerce 2nd annual SFC Matthew McClintock Memorial Golf Tournament, 12:00 noon.

Friday, October 20 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Red Springs, 7:00 p.m. HOMECOMING.

Saturday, October 21 - 31st annual Fairmont Farmers Festival, Parade at 10:00 a.m. followed by food/craft vendors and performance by the Holiday Band in the park at 12 noon.

FROM RED TO REAGAN, A FARMERS DAY MEMORY BY CHARLES KEMP

What was my most favorite Farmers Day Parade? I'm glad you asked. It's an easy answer. 1988. Now, we've had a bunch of them since they were begun by the Civitans in 1950, then a couple in the mid 70's, and a restart in 1987 so I guess there's a great big choice list. But my choice is 1988 because of two reasons: a mule and a President. That's right. A big old, 4 legged, tail a-swishing, land plowing mule and a President as in the "of U.S.A." type. Now you're just being silly you're saying right about now but as you read further I might convince you I'm really very serious. So, travel back a few years, 29 to be exact, and join me downtown for the annual Fairmont Farmers Festival parade on the last Saturday in September 1988.

Actually, since I couldn't possibly have been in two different places at the same time, you would have had to join me at the parades start better known in parade lingo as ground zero to borrow a military term. It's at this point where chaos and order meet. Where hair is pulled out, nerves unravel, and Christian values are put to the test. And it is where I was standing, as parade director, with a grin on my face. I knew a secret that no one else knew and my funny bone was twanging loudly against my ribs. But we'll come back to our anatomy lesson a little later. First let's get the parade underway.

Traditionally parades, especially Farmers Festival ones, have lots of queens like Greater Little Miss Teen True Blue Walnut Promenade Festival, or Super Junior Miss Pimento and Swiss Cheese Gala Queen in addition to Miss N.C. There's also the required number of Shriner units or, more aptly put, grown men dressed up in comical costumes and funny hats behaving like little boys and having a whale of a time. We, in Fairmont even throw in a crowd of tractors, a bunch of floats carrying Little League teams, 800 kids who've read 10,000 books since school started, a few politicians appealing for votes in an election year, and spirited music from high school bands. Usually it totals right around 100 units, lasts a little over an hour and causes those standing up to get a tingling feeling in the lower legs. But 1988 was different. We had a tobacco drag. We had the entire Blue Family. We had Mrs. Tessie. She had a switch. We had Red the mule. And we had President Reagan.

As I was scanning the parade roster early that morning, between giggles, (I'm coming back to that later) I noticed "THE BLUE FAMILY" on the sheet. I asked a parade assistant familiar with this group what they were going to do and was told, "recreate a farm scene in motion". They did not tell me that the Blue Family including James, Tessie, and their children and grands along with Red the mule were going to be in the parade 3 times. They were. Upon completing their first pass down main street doing a cotton-picking scene they returned by the alley and re-entered the parade for skit #2 featuring Mrs. Tessie "play switching" the kids for straying from her watchful eye, and repeating their quick-change artist trickery re-appeared once again featuring Red pulling a tobacco drag, Mr. James in overalls, and Mrs. Tessie handing off 'baccar to the kids in the drag on the way to the barn. One parade. 3 trips. 3 heartwarming and real-life farming skits from a real-life farming family. Red, I was told later, was very satisfied with his performance and was especially grateful for the extra hay he got for supper. The Blues were a real crowd hit that hot and humid September morning but there was still a big surprise right around the bend.

Anyone who knows the real me will tell you how shy I am and it took a lot of soul searching to act on my secret parade idea. But I did. And let me tell you it was a life highlight for sure. Rather than get turned down by the President I decided he should still be represented at our big event. So, with the aid of a realistic rubber mask, the loan of a Lincoln sun roofed limo from a dear friend, the attachments of proper car flags, and the presence of my 4 Secret Service agents led by Stuart Freeman and his 3 friends from UNCP President Ronald Reagan joined us for the parade. Rather than lead it off he choose to bring up the rear and was a hit among the huge crowd. He even bestowed a beautiful red rose on WECT anchor Lisa Stanley Smith and, at the reviewing stand, invited parade emcee Jeff Lewis to join him for a little ride. But he was searched first. Really, really well. The thought did, however, cross my mind about snipers on top of the buildings but I keep a secret really well so no harm came my way but I did hear several "Look Mom, it's the President" comments. I don't know if it was the day's heat, the rubber mask, or the adrenaline but when the parade ended I was soaked in sweat. But what a blast it was. Got it on video, sent photos to President Reagan and got an autographed photo back. Proofs right here.