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## Jamestown: A Town United

A recent editorial in the Jamestown News has led me to respond concerning planning efforts in Jamestown. In the January 25, 2012, edition, an editorial seemingly takes the Town governance to task on two issues: 1) the perception that the Town is "divided" and, 2) the idea that the Town fails to act on adopted plans. I hope to offer an alternative view of these issues and point to the fact that our community is indeed working to move forward in a positive manner.

I agree with Ms. Brooks that there is a perception among some residents that there is some disparity between different sections of our town. While that may be true to some, Town staff work diligently to ensure that each area of town receives the attention it deserves when it comes to Town services. Choices on where infrastructure improvements are to be made are evaluated by Public Services staff based upon age and need. The Town's website highlights projects that have been completed, are currently in process, and those that are planned in the Capital Improvements Program. A few of the completed improvements include: sidewalk installation along Guilford Rd (2006), construction of a 12" water line along W. Main St. (2006/2007), installation of new water lines in Ragsdale Rd. and Forestdale Dr. (2008-09), sewer main relining throughout town (2008-09), elimination of the Scientific St. Pump Station (2011), refurbishment of the Mendenhall Pump Station, installation of decorative street signs along Oakdale to Jamestown Oaks Subdivision (2012), and resurfacing of streets - including the Robbins St./Kearns St. and Yorkleigh St. areas, which are slated for this year. As you can see, the Town staff is working hard to ensure that our infrastructure continues to operate in a safe and efficient manner in all parts of our community.

The editorial appears to be somewhat critical of the planning process and leads readers to believe that the Town takes little action on adopted plans. In the 60 years between 1946 (when the Town incorporated) and 2006, there appears to have been two major planning efforts. The first was the completion of a Comprehensive Plan in 1964 and the second was the Urban Design Assistance Team (UDAT) visit in 1996. Both of these documents offer **suggestions** on how Jamestown should grow and what the desires of the public are in regards to community appearance. However, the essential ingredient of regulatory constraint was absent from these plans. The ordinances adopted during that time did little to require compliance with adopted Town plans.

The 1997 UDAT plan was a tremendous planning effort on behalf of the citizens of Jamestown. The plan is the result of a one-week workshop in late 1996 in Jamestown. The UDAT Plan listed three categories for suggested improvements: 1) Specific Projects, 2) General Enhancements, and 3) Instruments. The Town has completed a number of these projects: renovations to the Library grounds, installation of entrance signs, sidewalk installation, new sign ordinances, and plans for the Deep River Trail. Cumulatively, this represents nearly \$1,000,000 in investment by the Town over the past 15 years. The Town staff is continuing to work on other aspects outlined in the plan.

In 2006, Town leadership recognized that planning for the future is a prudent step in the improvement of any community. Without a suitable roadmap, it is difficult to determine when we reach our goals. The Town began a coordinated effort to focus on planning for the future by launching efforts to update the Comprehensive Plan (2007 Land Development Plan - LDP) and the Land Development Ordinances (LDO). In the editorial, Ms. Brooks notes that the Comprehensive Plan, "...addresses future uses of land, but it does not consider how property is currently used." By definition this is exactly what a Comprehensive Plan **should** address. It is an integrated statement of the aspirations of the community, assembled with community input. It is a practical vision of the future, yet capable of shifts in detail and arrangement over time as resources and public preferences change. The Land

**Special points of interest:**

- Feb 21 Town Council
- Mar 11 Daylight Savings Begins
- Mar 16 Arbor Day
- Mar 20 Town Council & CIP Work Session
- Mar 22 Backyard Buffer Program

Development Ordinances adopted in 2009 are structured around the 2007 LDP and are the *regulatory constraint* tool that staff uses to try to implement goals outlined in the LDP.

The editorial leads readers to believe that the Town has shelved these plans and has done little towards implementing the goals outlined in the 2007 LDP. However, much *has* been done in the recent past. Section 5.3 "Action Recommendations" suggested a laundry list of items for the Town's consideration. In the past 5 years, the Town has: expanded its extra-territorial zoning jurisdiction, created and enforce community appearance ordinances along major thoroughfares, created a gateway corridor overlay district to preserve scenic quality of entrance corridors, encouraged new development to adopt green building principles, establish open space dedication requirements, create stormwater management ordinances, establish access management policies, proactively plan for development along the Jamestown Bypass, review and update land development ordinances, establish street design guidelines, and evaluate historic district guidelines (currently in progress).

The Town has also completed a Parks & Recreation Master Plan, a plan for the Deep River Trail, and a Pedestrian Master Plan. These plans were either completed by staff or by consultants with the aid of grant funding. Some have argued that these plans have not yielded any new facilities. The purpose of these plans is to plan for future capital projects and to hopefully use them to obtain future grant funding when it is available. Grant applicants are often disqualified if they have failed to plan for the improvements for which they are requesting funding. Staff continues to seek additional grant funding to complete sidewalks, trails, and park facilities.

In summary, the Town and its citizens have been conscientious in their efforts to plan for the future and to implement those plans. Rather than a "town divided" as the editorial suggests, I would say that Jamestown is a "town united". Jamestown is united in its efforts to grow smartly, provide the highest quality services for its residents, while maintaining the qualities that citizens have come to love about our small town. It is easy to understand the frustration of some who desire additional improvements. The staff continues to identify projects based on citizen input and need. The challenging part to implementing these projects will be to identify funding sources. It is our hope that we can work to acquire the resources necessary to implement those projects that are most desired by our residents in a timely manner.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Matthew Johnson, Planning Director, at 336-454-1138 or [mjohnson@jamestown-nc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@jamestown-nc.gov).



**Coming Soon—  
Online  
Access to Utility  
Accounts!**

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## **Capital Improvement Program**

The Town Manager and Department Directors recently began to review, plan and update the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Jamestown's future capital needs. Department Directors forecast their department capital needs over a five-year period and a six to ten year 'beyond' period. The CIP is a flexible spending tool and thus the need to be reviewed and revised annually during the budget process. Once this preliminary work is completed, the Finance Officer and Manager meet to review the requests and seek additional information where necessary.

Each CIP request is ranked within the department and against relative needs of the Town. Once the initial discussions are concluded and requests prioritized, projects are coordinated in an effort to eliminate duplication/overlap and to take advantage of any available funding opportunities. Finally, priorities are once again reviewed and the projects are then placed into the format that is contained herein. The results of the draft CIP are then shared with the Town Council and the public.

**The draft version of the 2012 – 2017 CIP will be briefly discussed at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Citizens are encouraged to attend and provide input on the draft CIP and other town infrastructure, building, and equipment needs.**

Please contact Chuck Smith, Town Manager, should you wish to discuss the CIP process or any proposed items at 336-454-1138.

## HELLO FROM THE CLERK'S CORNER



Have you ever stopped to think about how our everyday activities affect our water quality?

Clean water begins with you and me. An estimated two-thirds of North Carolina's water pollution is caused by polluted runoff also called Stormwater Pollution. This runoff comes from streets, lawns and rooftops. It carries with it dirt, oil, fertilizer, pet waste and many other pollutants to our streams, lakes and rivers. Our waterways provide drinking water, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat. Even if your house is not near a stream or river, the runoff will flow down the street into a ditch or stormdrain that eventually empties into a stream or lake, taking soil and pollutants along with it.

By making wise decisions in your yard about lawn care and chemical disposal, you can protect our water quality. Better water quality means protected sources of drinking water and a safe environment for you and your family.

There are several things we can do to protect our water quality.

- ◆ **Never dump yard waste in or near streams or ditches**
- ◆ **Don't apply fertilizer near open water and use sparingly. Keep fertilizer off paved surfaces**
- ◆ **Don't fertilize before a rainstorm**
- ◆ **Don't litter (Look for the Town's Spring & fall Litter Sweep Programs to volunteer)**
- ◆ **Don't change the oil from your vehicles in the street**
- ◆ **Use drip pans to capture used oil**
- ◆ **Use a dry absorbent material to soak up oil spills (kitty litter works well)**
- ◆ **Promptly take all fluids and batteries to the proper waste facility for disposal**
- ◆ **Do not wash your vehicles in the street—wash in the grass or go to a commercial car wash**
- ◆ **Always pick up after your pets**

Another helpful practice is to plant and maintain stream buffers. Stream buffers are a strip of trees and other vegetation that improve water quality by filtering

pollutants from stormwater runoff such as oil, fertilizer, pesticide and pet waste. Stream buffers also reduce flooding and erosion by stabilizing stream banks which moderate stream temperature and sunlight keeping fish and other aquatic life healthy. Stream buffers also provide private nesting and foraging habitat from many species of birds and animals.

Stream buffers are most effective at improving water quality when they include native grasses and deep-rooted trees and shrubs along the stream. The Town of Jamestown is a partner in the Piedmont Triad Water Quality Partnership. Last year this Partnership sponsored an event titled "Backyard Buffer Program". If you live near a lake or stream, Riparian Buffers are important to reduce erosion and protect the stream bank. If you are interested there is a Backyard Buffer Program that will be held March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Guilford County Cooperative Extension - 3309 Burlington Rd., Greensboro, NC. The first 50 participants to sign up will receive a free kit of native shrub species with planting instructions. In the near future, Jamestown residents that live along stream banks in Town will be receiving a post card providing them with the date and time of the Backyard Buffers Program. Call Martha Wolfe, Town Clerk, if you have questions. 336-454-1138. Pictured is Emily Harrison of Clemmons and Martha Wolfe of Jamestown preparing the silky dogwood, elderberry, nine bark and black willow live stakes for the Backyard Buffer Program held last March 2011.



The Town of Jamestown will be recognizing Arbor Day on March 16, 2012. Please watch for details of the Town's activities or plant a tree in your yard.

Please visit these websites for more helpful information.

[www.piedmontwaterquality.org](http://www.piedmontwaterquality.org) or  
[Clean Water Education Partnership](http://CleanWaterEducationPartnership.org)

Martha S. Wolfe, CMC

Town Clerk

[mwolfe@jamestown-nc.gov](mailto:mwolfe@jamestown-nc.gov)

## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT – JAMES CONRAD PUBLIC SERVICES



Four years ago, the City of High Point’s loss was Jamestown’s gain. James Conrad joined the Public Services staff on December 31, 2007 as an Equipment Operator. Like all the Public Services staff, James does a variety of duties including water and sewer line repairs, reading meters, grease trap inspections, helping to clear the land for the Wrenn Miller Park and snow removal as necessary.

Quick with a smile and a friendly greeting, James fits in with other staff members. He says his favorite part of his job is it is always something different. When asked his least favorite part of the job, he said with a laugh, it is always something different.

James and his family still live near the area where he grew up in Thomasville. As a boy his family farmed, so James loves to garden and raise his own vegetables. He is an avid hunter and fisherman. His free time often involves activities with his children. James has coached football and baseball for his son’s teams. His daughter is a cheerleader. Just a big kid at heart, James loves to chaperone school field trips for his children’s classes.



## Pineroft Sedgefield Fire Department

On January 13<sup>th</sup> the members of the Pineroft Sedgefield Fire District held their annual awards banquet to honor and recognize PSFD firefighters that had major achievements in 2011.

It was held at the Shrine Club on High Point Rd with a dinner catered by Above and Beyond Catering. Before the dinner everyone enjoyed a new Fire Prevention presentation by Firefighter Steven Bristow. Dinner was served with the awards portion immediately following. Firefighters were honored with awards in different areas such as, Years of service, Education, Medical Life Saving and Rookie and Firefighters of the Year. This year we were honored to have two CPR survivors present to help present awards to those firefighters that were involved with their Medical Life Save.



The Rookie of the Year was presented to Firefighter Ryan Husband. Ryan joined the department in 2011.

Firefighter of the Year was divided into two categories, Career and Volunteer. Volunteer Firefight-



er of the year went to Lieutenant Keith Hayes. Keith joined the department in 1999 and also received the Rookie of the Year award in 2001.

Career Firefighter of the year was awarded to Deputy Chief Jeff Thomas. Jeff joined the department in 1981. Deputy Chief Thomas has risen



through all the ranks and was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2009.

The banquet concluded with Chief Kendall McCarter recognizing and congratulating all those receiving awards and thanking everyone who volunteers their time and service to the department and community.

# JAMESTOWN PARK GOLF COURSE



Give us 5 days and we'll give you FUN for a lifetime.

Jamestown residents – have you ever thought about playing golf? If so, then Get Golf Ready is for you. Whether you are a beginner at golf or returning to the game, the Get Golf Ready Program is designed to teach you in five short lessons, everything you'll need to know to step onto a golf course and get out to play with confidence.

Get Golf Ready with the staff at Jamestown! Class dates will be available shortly and posted on our web-site. Dates will begin in March. We would love bring you the game of a lifetime! Watch our calendar for upcoming dates.

Great news for Jamestown youth! The First Tee of the Triad programming will begin this fall at Jamestown Park Golf Club. We will post dates on our web-site as soon as they are finalized. The guiding mission of The First Tee is to:



*To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.*

We are anticipating great interest in our programming and looking forward to bringing the game of a lifetime to Jamestown youth while providing a healthy lifestyle opportunity!



Jamestown Park Golf Club is working on partnering with the Silver Sneakers Fitness Program on a new pilot golf program. We will post more information as it becomes available.

*Michael Hutcheon  
PGA Professional*



Loose Leaf Collection ends on February 24!

## Annual Sewer Report – Another Terrific Year!

I am pleased to state the Town of Jamestown did not experience reportable sanitary sewer overflows for the year 2011. This is the second consecutive year Jamestown has this distinction. The Public Services staff is extraordinarily dedicated and this is a direct result of their efforts.

Their constant eye of care for our critical infrastructure is evident and appreciated. Our endeavor is to make 2012 just as productive!

Chuck Smith, Town Manager



Town of Jamestown  
301 E Main St  
PO Box 848  
Jamestown, NC 27282

Phone: 336-454-1138  
Fax: 336-886-3504  
E-mail: [webmaster@jamestown-nc.gov](mailto:webmaster@jamestown-nc.gov)

Sharen Apple, Editor



**Walking with History!**

TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall (Utility billing, Planning, Finance)  
(336) 454-1138

Water and Sewer Emergency  
(336) 454-1218

Jamestown Park  
(336) 454-4912

Fire Department  
(336) 454-3473

Sheriff's Department (non-emergency) (336)845-6691

Gibson Park  
(336) 454-0259

Upcoming Events

Feb 13	6:30pm	Planning and Zoning Board Meeting
Feb 21	7:00pm	Town Council Meeting
Mar 5	6:30pm	Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Mar 11		Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 12	6:30pm	Planning and Zoning Board Meeting
Mar 16		Arbor Day Celebration
Mar 20	6:00pm	Town Council—CIP Work Session
Mar 20	7:00pm	Town Council Meeting
Mar 22	6:00pm	Backyard Buffer Program

Check the "[Calendar of Events](#)" section of the website for updates

**Public Services Notes**

**Powell Bill – Street Resurfacing:**

Our existing streets with the greatest need of repair will be resurfaced with Powell Bill Funding beginning in May 2012. We will repair as many streets as possible with the available funding. Only Town of Jamestown streets with the greatest need of repair and those with heavier traffic will be included in the project. We will attempt to repair longer stretches of roads where possible to avoid numerous patches and breaks in the pavement. Patching will be used in areas where the road is generally sound except at small areas.

**Robbins Avenue Water Line Replacement Project:**

The Town of Jamestown will be replacing the existing water line on Robbins Avenue this spring. The water line improvements will provide much needed capacity improvements in addition to allowing the installation of an additional fire hydrant. The Town will open bids on February 16, 2012, and we intend to start construction in March 2012. This project should take approximately 60 days to complete.

**Water Meter Replacement and Radio Read Project:**

The Town will be replacing and upgrading water meters with its recently approved Water Meter Replacement and Radio Read Project in the near future. Adopted as part of the Town's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Town will be upgrading water meters throughout Town with Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) equipment. Water customers may notice a slight interruption in service on the date of installation. The AMR technology will allow for quicker, safer, and more frequent meter reading from a service truck driving in the vicinity of the meters.

The AMR meters will also provide the consumer with: a leak detection feature; backflow detection; high water usage can be logged; billing disputes are more easily evaluated; and other benefits. The Town will benefit by: improving meter reading safety; decreasing manhours required to read meters; integrating AMR into existing Town infrastructure – meters, meter boxes, billing software; not needing access to meters with poor access; and increasing the accuracy of actual water usage Townwide.