

## Selma's My Kids Club Awarded \$500,000 Challenge Grant !!!



Pictured left to right: Ana Milazzo, Advisory Board Member for the SECU Smithfield – Buffalo Road Branch; Billy Brewer, Mike Davis, Alison Gammage, Executive Director of My Kinds Club, Frank Knott, Advisory Board Chair, SECU Smithfield -Buffalo Road Branch; Tammy Holt, Senior Vice President SECU Smithfield – Buffalo Road Branch; Alice Garland, Member SECU Foundation Board of Directors; Jo Anne Sanford, Chairman SECU Foundation Board of Directors; Jean Kelly, MKC Founder; Wendy Kelly, MKC President; Casey Breit, MKC ex Assistant; John Lopp, MKC Director of Clubs.

**The State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation** recently announced that it has awarded Selma's My Kid's Club (MKC) a \$500,000 challenge grant towards its Capital Campaign to build the new MKC SECU Community Clubhouse at 609 N. Pollock Street in Selma. Once completed, the new, creatively-spaced 5,000-square foot building will be the organization's flagship clubhouse, allowing MKC to expand its reach to more underserved children, and to the Johnston County community as a whole.

"We are humbled by the State Employees' Credit Union's generous support for this project," said Alison Gammage, Executive Director of My Kid's Club. "This is more than a building - it represents a truly transformative opportunity for My Kid's Club and the children and families served by the Club in Johnston County. SECU's investment will expand our capacity to meet the needs of the kids in our program, and will serve as a much-needed community space for the people of Selma for many years to come."

### New K-9 Arrives For Selma Police Department

Last month, the Selma Police Department acquired its new K-9, a German Shepard named Samu which means "Word of God." Samu was born in Hungary, but is now training in Selma with his handler, Officer Justin Vause. Samu began with obedience and command work but ultimately will be nationally certified in Narcotics and Criminal Apprehension.



Selma Town Council

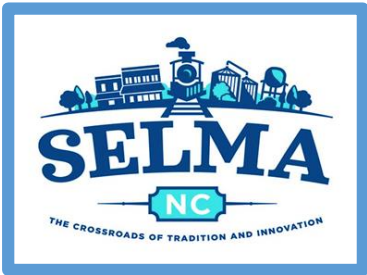
Local Postal Customer

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail



The Town Council Commemorates Black History Month

Dr. Mack Sowell



Mr. Buddy Whitley



Council Member Byron McAllister addresses Dr. Sowell’s many historic contributions to the Town of Selma.

Mayor Cheryl Oliver presents a plaque posthumously to Mr. Whitley’s family commemorating his distinguished service to the Town of Selma.

*At the regular Council meeting in February, Councilman Byron McAllister, on behalf of the entire Council, recognized two outstanding citizens in Selma. Please see excerpts from his remarks listed below. Mayor Cheryl Oliver presented each family with a commemorative plaque.*

In 1965 the Richard B. Harrison School added a bricklaying shop to its agriculture building. Johnston County Public Schools began the process of desegregation, the Watts riots rocked Los Angeles, California and The United States was already deeply mired in the Vietnam War.

Johnston County was close to completing the process of integrating schools and Mack Sowell, still a teacher at Richard B. Harrison School, is elected to the Selma Town Council in 1969. At the age of 25 he is the first black person elected to political office in Selma and Johnston County after the Reconstruction era that ended in 1877.

Mack Sowell, at 25 years old, ran for political office and won a political seat in Johnston County, Selma, NC knowing all that had happened through the 1960’s. He not only ran for office, but he had taken the initiative in 1968 to organize voter registration drives in the Black community.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Lacy remembers a magnificent teacher at the Richard B. Harrison School that was the ideal leader for their students. She says Mack Sowell was a community man that mentored students and the youth in the Town of Selma.

He was instrumental in helping African Americans get jobs at Selma businesses throughout his time in office. It says a lot about Selma knowing the Town’s leaders and business owners were willing to work with him at the time.

Mayor Cheryl Oliver had these remarks when she introduced Dr. Mack Sowell as the 2019 Railroad Days Parade Grand Marshall. “I requested his participation because he is a great listener and a circumspect thinker. Some of you may remember the ‘When E.F. Hutton speaks, people listen’ commercial. When Dr. Sowell speaks, I with many others listen.” Mayor Oliver’s words ring true. His work and wisdom continue to shape Selma today.

Born in 1936, Mr. Winston Whitley, or Buddy as he was called in the community, joined Selma Public Works and worked as a Selma Firefighter in 1957.

He took care of the citizens of Selma for 34 years before he decided to officially retire in 1991.

In “retirement” Mr. Whitley continued working with the Selma Fire Department until 2007.

He then truly retired from Selma public service after a half-century of watching over Selma.

Buddy is universally described as caring, jovial, and always willing to help. He was the definition of a good guy.

The people that grew up with and worked with him say they never saw him angry. His amazing smiling, outgoing personality, and constant optimism were infectious.

His knowledge of the inner workings of our Town was unmatched.

On January 17, 2021 Mr. Whitley went home to be with Lord at the age of 84.

It is a well deserved rest for a man that worked for so long and so hard to take care of his family, his neighbors, and his Town.

Thank you, Mr. Whitley, for your invaluable service to Selma.

Also in February, the Council announced, during their meeting and also on the website, the opportunity for citizens to nominate a person as a **LOCAL HERO** for service to the community during the months of Covid. Mrs. Lacey made the following nomination:

**Coach Cleades Sanders** has served as a volunteer football coach for the Town of Selma for the last 21 years. In addition to his coaching, he offers a free 3-day football camp each summer. Although the 2020 football search was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic; Coach Sanders still served his community by assisting the Parks and Recreation Department with producing a virtual football skills and drills video. ❤️



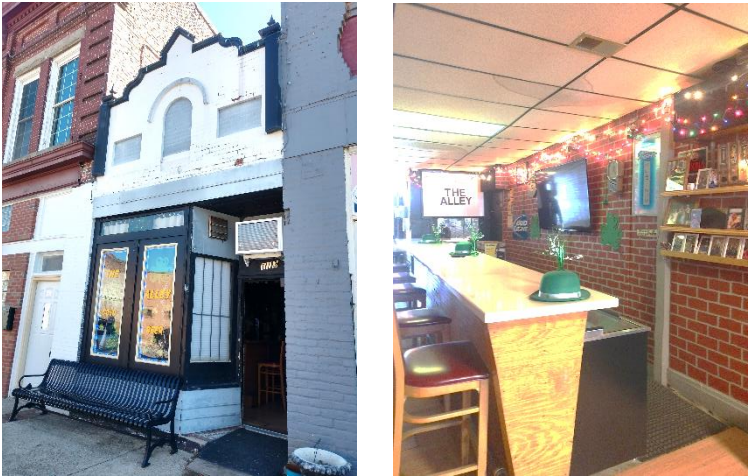
# Selma's Downtown – Better and Better!!!!



For years, **A Matter of Record** at 112 S. Raiford Street has been Selma's premier music store with over 200,000 vinyl record albums, 45's, and 78's in categories ranging from Country, Rock & Roll, Bluegrass and more! They also offer sales and repair services of players, duplicating and converting services, and model train sales.

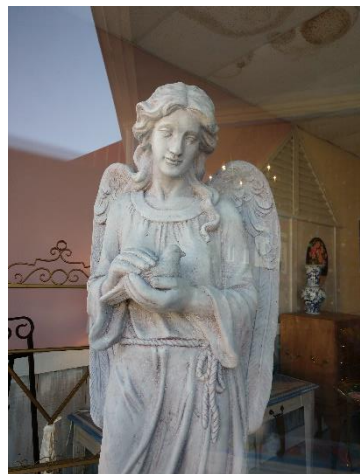
So folks in Selma were stunned last summer when the façade of A Matter of Record's second storefront, which houses the model trains, collapsed. Everyone wondered what the fate of the building would be. But Jim Beaston, the owner, contacted his insurance company, found a contractor, presented a plan, received his permits, went to work, and has notified us that the renovation is complete at a cost of around \$50,000. This annex will continue to be the home of Mr. Beaston's Lionel train sales. Great Job!!!

**The Alley** at 113 S. Raiford Street has a new owner - Kristina Miklush. She purchased the bar last June and has made a number of changes including additional flat screen tv's and another bar top to enhance sport night celebrations. Ms. Miklush has also added four different wines (both white and red) to the beverage list. But for the true beer connoisseurs, she wants everyone to know that she has lowered the beer temperatures so that customers will be able to purchase the coldest beer being served from Raleigh to the Coast. In addition, beer prices have NOT gone up – domestic is still \$2.50, imported \$3.00. From time to time some free food will be served on the weekends! Ms. Miklush invites everyone to stop by. *Welcome to Selma!*



**Hometowne Realty** has offices in Garner and Clayton and now has opened a new home at 110 N. Raiford Street in Selma. Barry Woodard and James Lipscomb purchased the building formerly occupied by Keepsake Corner and recently completely renovated it for their new business.

Many of the historic characteristics of the original building have been saved and restored including the original wood floors, the interior brick walls including a large original CarHartt logo painted decades ago, as well as the decorative tin ceiling. The interior has also been enhanced with reclaimed wood used in the construction of the custom conference table and other desks throughout the building. Even the windows used within the interior are reclaimed from other sources. The light fixture suspended over the conference table is also a custom design. A great addition to our Historic District. *Welcome to Selma!!*



**Watch This Space**  
Has anyone seen this beautiful statue standing somewhere downtown? Look around. A very special new business is on the way!!



The Town Council recently voted to allow Preservation NC to market the old town hall complex in an effort to find a buyer dedicated to restoring the facility, especially the iconic bank building. Preservation NC is also currently marketing the church located at the corner of Waddell and Pollock.



# Glancing Back As We Move Forward

According to local news reports, February 4, 1964 was a very exciting day in Selma. The first transport truckload of gasoline was hauled away from the new \$2.6 million oil terminal that Monday morning. By 2 PM, a dozen huge transports had been loaded at the Cities Services terminal and were also on their way. The first load went to Rogers Oil Company in Raleigh.

The Selma terminal was at the end of an eight-inch line from Greensboro, which received fuel through a 36 inch line from Houston, Texas. The line, which was estimated to have cost \$370 Million, was to extend from Houston, Texas to Linden, NJ when completed.

Constructing the Colonial Pipeline required 600,000 tons of steel and the trenching of 16.7 million cubic yards of earth in order to bury the pipeline. It initially included 27 pumping stations to move refined product between Houston, Texas and Linden, New Jersey. The purpose of the project was to build a line from Houston to the Baltimore-Washington area capable of delivering 300,000 barrels of refined products a day (far more and faster than trucks could deliver).

In February 1964, in addition to Cities Service, American Oil Company and Phillips Petroleum Co also received petroleum products through the Colonial Pipeline artery in Selma. Four tanks were up and others were being constructed.

Now we fast-forward 57 years – February 2021 – to Selma's Tank City! The area continues to expand its booming business in Selma. Today the Colonial line, still originating in Houston, consists of over 5,500 miles of pipe and delivers a daily average of 100,000,000 gallons of gasoline, home heating oil, aviation fuel and other refined petroleum products to communities and businesses throughout the South and Eastern United States. Selma is one of only three terminals in all of North Carolina.

The terminal area is often call **Tank City** and used by the US Airforce as a point of reference from high altitudes as illustrated by this satellite photo. The tanks are even visible at night. The companies continue to add more and larger tanks. Speedway is currently expanding in the area in the upper left hand corner of the photo.



# Work Around Town

**NEW SIDEWALKS** - In this current year's town budget, there is funding to create **a new sidewalk** on the west side of South Raiford Street. The Council and staff are actively seeking to complete this project in the very near future.



**STREET REPAIR** - For over two years, the two blocks of East Noble Street from 301 to Webb Street have seemed like a section of the Conestoga Wagon Train with all the potholes and broken pavement, but the Council funded repair of area in this years' budget. This week it is finally being fixed.



**SEWER LINE BREAK**- And then there was the serious sewer line issue at the intersection of 301 and Noble Street. Took a while, but we got it fixed! The weather did not help and caused us to have to keep 301 closed for almost two weeks. But this, too, is now fixed.



More paving on Waddell and Massey after cuts were made for sewer lines replacement through the Golden Leaf Grant.

## Watch This Space



Activate Selma has asked permission to plant new flowers and dress up the front of Town Hall. Thank you!!





The Vick Building Gets New Life

The Person-Vick building, one of the most iconic structures in this part of the state, is located at the corner of South Raiford and West Anderson Streets. It was constructed in 1916 by Dr. George D Vick and Dr. James H. Person to house their medical practice. The Person-Vick Building was described in 1980 by Thomas A. Greco in his book, **Historic Architecture of Selma, NC**, as an “eclectic two-story structure with fine brick and stone details, with a mock mansard roof supported by pairs of stone carved brackets. On the corner of the building is a large stone cartouche at the second story level which bears the date - 1916.” Over the past 105 years, the “Vick Building” has had numerous owners, hosted a wide range of businesses, and been a witness to a century of events in watching over the progress of Selma.

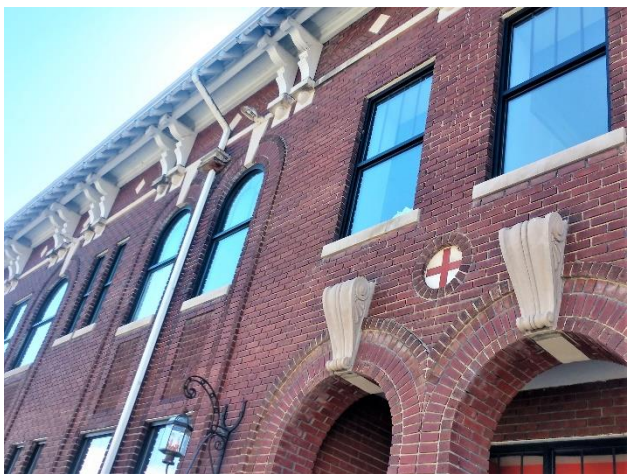
Two years ago, Adventure Development LLC purchased the building in order to renovate it as their central business location as they work to develop Eastfield Crossing - a 400-plus acre mixed-use development in Selma that will include a business park, retail, medical, and entertainment options and both single- and multi-family living options.

In the renovated Vick Building, the group’s 3,000 sq. ft. office space is located on the second floor with 1500 sq. ft. on first floor being reserved for rental retail or office space as well as 1500 sq. ft. set aside for a restaurant.

The second floor renovation features the restoration of most of the original flooring, the addition of crown molding, custom-made energy efficient windows chosen for their historic similarity to the originals, four large office spaces flanking a wide central hallway, two conference areas, two restrooms, a wide back entrance stairway, and an open reception area.

One of their most expensive additions was a new HVAC system designed for the entire building powered by natural gas delivered through a new line that was installed through the alley in the rear of the building. The group estimates that the entire renovation cost nearly \$400,000.

Mark McDonald, Chief Operating Officer at Adventure, commented that they were very impressed the first time they looked at the Vick Building and were excited about a possible renovation because they really wanted be part of the downtown Selma Historic District. And yes, the original red crosses, indicating the medical facility, are still there.



ANOTHER NEW BUSINESS OPENS IN SELMA!

On Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, a ribbon cutting was held at **Fresenius Kidney Care’s** new facility located in Selma at the JR shopping complex on Hwy 70A. According to their website, Fresenius is the worldwide leader in the treatment of renal disease and an innovative leader in kidney disease research.

Serving over 190,000 patients in over 2,400 facilities nationwide, their care teams are dedicated to helping people thrive on dialysis and live longer, healthier lives. *Welcome to Selma!!*



# Selma CommUNITY Day



A Festival for the "Soul"

SATURDAY, MARCH 13  
10A-2P



MUSIC  
VENDORS  
SPEAKERS  
FOOD TRUCK



N. RAIFORD  
STREET  
SELMA, NC

Come to N. Raiford Street to listen, see, feel and taste what your soul is craving!

This inaugural CommUNITY Day will fill you up!!

Mama Nem's Food Truck

On Beat Drum Ministry

Angel George

Eric Jackson

Vendors selling produce, plants, hand crafted items such as jewelry, scarves, bags, signs and MORE !!

Other Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

JR Cigar Store Ribbon Cutting – March 17<sup>th</sup>

Shield Republic (at JR's) Ribbon Cutting – March 31

Selma Around Town Egg-cellent Adventure – April 13

(Start the Scavenger Hunt anytime between 9am & 10:30 at the downtown gazebo.)