

The Selma Insider



Vol. 2, Issue 4

A Quarterly Report From The Selma Town Council

November 2021



This Saturday, November 20th, the Selma downtown businesses will kick off the holiday season with a Village Market on Raiford Street. Stores and special street vendors will be open all day with amazing items for your gift list. Don't miss this great shopping event!!





And the kids in the neighborhoods are saying, "If we aren't at home, check out the new basketball court. It's our favorite place to be!"

THE REGGIE BARNES' BASKETBALL COURT OPENS IN SELMA ON THE HARRISON CAMPUS

Mr. Reggie Barnes began his remarks at the dedication of the new basketball court, a project he donated to the Town of Selma, by quoting Matthew 6:33 – "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." In explaining his lifelong work to give back to communities, he gave great credit to his mother and especially his grandmother who encouraged him at every turn and instilled within him a strong moral compass that caused him to believe he needed to embrace the internal riches that were bestowed to him and be willing to give back to build a better tomorrow for others.

Mr. Barnes, a native of Selma, played basketball for the Spartans at SSS. He was a three-time MVP, Cap-8 Conference and Metro Player of the Year, First Team All Conference, First Team All-East and finished his high school career as the third leading scorer in Cap 8 history. Barnes went on to play in over 100 games at UNC Charlotte including the first round of the NCAA Tournament in 1989. That same year, he was the first member of his family to graduate from college which he did in 3 ½ years with a degree in Human Services and a minor in African American Studies. His non-profit, **Realtime Hope**, has donated thousands of dollars in scholarships to Johnston County and has completed mission projects internationally. "This court would not be possible without the love and support from my God, my family, and my friends," Mr. Barnes said. "I dedicated this court to the memory of my grandmother, Cora Sneed. May she see the love and the dreams this court will bring to many young people from this day forth."

Apostle Addie Rawls, from the New Generation
Christian Church, offered the dedication blessing for the new court by asking children to stand in its four corners as she prayed for this special place to be surrounded with joy, happiness, and safety. Ms. Rawls is also the 11th Judicial District Judge.

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AROUND TOWN...

Hispanic Heritage Month September 15-October 15





Mayor Oliver crowns the queen.

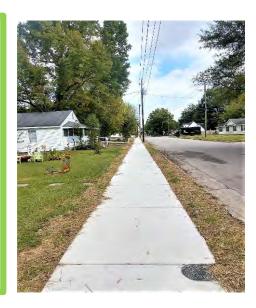
Crowning of the first Miss Hispanic Heritage Queen of Johnston County Kimberly Alaniz Manzaneres

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated throughout the US to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. The 2021 national theme was Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope.

NEW SIDEWALK INSTALLED ON SOUTH RAIFORD

Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people never forget how you made them feel."

For various reasons, it took the Council over a year to bring this project to completion, but there is now a new sidewalk along three blocks of South Raiford and it looks great! It is our sincere hope that this permanent pathway will help make the residents in this neighborhood feel more connected to each other, feel that they have a safer space to walk than going into the street, and generally *feel* that the project has contributed to the overall improvement in the landscape of the area. The Council considers this effort a great success and expects to work on other sidewalk projects in different areas of the town in the near future. Mayor Pro-tem Jackie Lacey spearheaded this project.





CHECK OUT THE NEW LOCATION

You may remember reading in The Insider about Glen Darden opening **D's Seafood** on Raiford near the railroad tracks. Well, he is moving to a new location – to a building that shares the parking lot with IGA where Selma Florist used to be. This location will expose the business to more traffic on Hwy 301 and give him more parking area. We can't wait to visit the new store! We can taste the oysters now!!





Council Incorporates Two Cemeteries Into Town Property

The cemetery behind Selma Memorial Gardens first became the subject of discussion last year when the American Legion was putting out flags for Memorial Day. Some of the graves had markings for veterans, but no one knew who owned the property – as it turns out neither did the Register of Deeds. A year later, Mr. Chris Brown appeared before the Council asking permission to put a historic marker at the site, explaining that it was a black cemetery, giving the earliest dates of burial, including that veterans were buried there.

To make a long story short, after months of investigation and proof that there was no record of ownership, the Council voted to incorporate this cemetery as well as the one near the Moose Lodge into town property.

And Downtown Just Keeps On Moving Forward

Throughout the next several pages, you will see a number of new businesses taking shape in Selma. Buildings are being purchased and renovated. New facilities are being built. Loft apartments are being added. And owners of all of these projects must go through meetings with Mr. Randy Cahoon -Tingle, Selma's Director of Planning and Development. As you will see, his office is alive and well. The Council salutes this department for its work and dedication in assisting with the revitalization of Selma.





The former Ice House Theatre is undergoing renovation. A new roof has been added recently and interior restoration is underway. The new owners, Rob Russotti and Emeric Harvey are considering several possibilities including retail, a restaurant, or back to a theatre.

Derek Chandler Pernell, owner of **Call Pernell, Inc.** in Smithfield (an HVAC dealer and contractor) has purchased Warren McLamb's building at 600 East Anderson Street (just over the railroad tracks.





Bailey Feed Mill is currently constructing a new 75,000 square ft. warehouse to store additional soybeans and grain. The owners believe it will be ready for use in December.

Free Horse and Carriage Rides will be available from 12:30-3:30pm and Free Hayrides will start at 3:30 until 5:30. The route will be across Webb Street on Railroad to the Caboose and back.

We hear Santa will be waving from the Caboose. Don't miss him!!!





OLD TOWN HALL GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE!!!

Last year, the Town Council turned Old Town Hall and the adjacent building (the annex) over to Preservation NC to market both for sale at a price of \$169,000. On the 15th of November, we expect the buildings to be sold to Jerold Jutter, Jr., an attorney with Smith, Anderson Law Firm in Raleigh. and his business partner Cliff Zinner. The plan is to create a restaurant/bar in the downstairs of Town Hall and then create 7 loft apartments on the second and third floors. The annex will be office/retail space. The owners are experienced in restoration work and expect to begin work on the roof later this month.

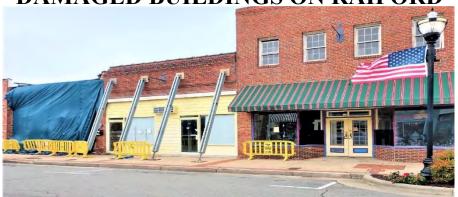
The Council has been very interested in an upscale restaurant being located in Selma which has led to the requirement that food be prepared onsite, customers be seated at a table, and served by wait staff. Food and drinks are not to be served in disposable dinnerware. Fine dining, bistro, casual dining, gastropub, brew pubs and a destination restaurant would quality. Establishments that wouldn't quality would be fast food, diners, coffee houses, drinking establishments, ghost restaurants, and cafeterias. They are to have bar service and an environment that is part of a great dining experience. The Council is very excited to see this project proceed.

A MATTER OF RECORD



Our friend, Jim Beaston, passed away recently leaving A Matter of Record to his daughter, Joy. She has sold the two buildings to Rick Sumner who also purchased and renovated Creech Drug and the building now occupied by Selma Florist, adding loft apartments. Joy has also hired an auction company to sell her father's vintage records and other items on line through Nov 23 (www.JOHNSONPROPERTIES.COM.) Later, there will be a live auction on site.

DAMAGED BUILDINGS ON RAIFORD

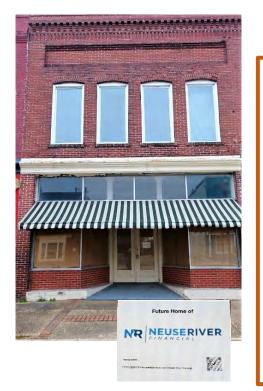


For over a year, the Council has been trying to deal with the owner of three buildings on South Raiford Street regarding serious structural issues. We finally went to court and obtained an order that will allow the town to demolish what cannot be salvaged. But recently, a buyer has come forward and negotiations are underway with the owner, hopefully, for a sale. We appreciate the citizens' patience with this unsightly situation.

New Restaurant?? 103 E. Anderson

Several years ago, this building on Anderson Street was slated to become a Mexican Restaurant. But recently, Nick Ferez, from Clayton has purchased the building with the intention of opening a new restaurant. Stay tuned. This could be a big deal!!!





New Financial Services 105 E. Anderson

Jacob Stewart, a financial consultant, has purchased the building at 105 East Anderson Street. Mr. Stewart hails from Oklahoma and moved to NC after serving as a Marine in the Iraq War. He has a Master's degree in Finance from Campbell University and plans to open his financial business on the first floor with office spaces for rent and a loft apartment on the second floor.

VETERANS TO RECEIVE MAJOR ASSISTANCE ON RIVER ROAD





Located on River Road in Selma, a new facility is being designed to assist veterans with PTSD. The site was, at one time, Day by Day, a drug addiction treatment center, but Eric Edwards, a broker in Clayton purchased the site in a foreclosure and is planning an entirely different architectural design which will include a main building for treatment as well as apartments on the campus for rent. The program will be government funded. The Council has approved a zoning change since the two parcels in the development were not zoned the same. We look forward to seeing this much needed treatment facility.

NEW RETAIL STORE

109 Raiford has been purchased by Robert Walker from Clayton. He intends to open a retail store on the first floor that will carry antiques as well as new items. We are told this store will be called Walker's Treasure Box. On the second floor, Mr. Walker and his wife are designing a 2000 sq. ft. loft apartment. Work will be starting soon. Welcome to Selma!!!!





CHURCH FOR SALE

Around 18 months ago, the owners of "Selma's Cathedral" (as it is called by artist William Strickland) listed the property for sale with Preservation NC. Preservation seeks to match up historic properties with buyers who will restore the facility for a modern useful purpose but maintain the historic character. The Council has been notified that there are now two potential buyers for this building. We sincerely hope this building, one of Selma's most iconic, can be saved.

SUBDIVISION EXPANDS





Woodberry Forest and Cross Creek are New Home Inc.'s newest community of single-family homes & townhomes

Located in Selma between HWY 96 and River Road.

(you can access them from Merriman Street on River Road)

ANOTHER NEW STORE

The Bishop's Emporium, located at 107 N. Raiford Street, originally a section of Reid's Country Sampler has been sold to Nick Ferez.



Although all the plans are not final, we expect a retail situation to be created on the first floor with loft apartments above.



While parents are shopping, the kids can check out The Elves Workshop to play the Reindeer Games and compete for prizes!!! The workshop will be held in Vick Park on Anderson Street.

UPDATE ON THE TOWN'S GRANTS AND AWARDS.

Below, please see the current grants and monetary awards that the Council is working with -

GOLDEN LEAF GRANT - \$826,054 granted to us through application in the fall of 2020. These funds were allocated to the Town to mitigate damage that occurred to the sewer lines during two back to back hurricanes. The work will be complete by the end of December.

ASADRA GRANT - \$3,015,000 granted to us in June of this year for the relocation of the Brack Wilson Park Pump station out of the floodplain which will enable the pup station to operate during a flooding event. We will also be able to replace inflow and infiltration from the Campground Rd. pump station. Over 4600 linear feet of 6-inch line, 3600 linear feet of 8-inch line, and 600 feet of 12 inch line will be replaced or rehabilitated. All sanitary sewers will be cleaned and viewed by camera. Pump Stations 8, 7, 17, and 11 will be improved by this work. Engineers estimate that design, permitting and construction may take as long as three years from now. Design work has begun.

CBDG — 1 GRANT - \$1,999,809 granted to us in June of this year through a federal application. The work will involve rehabilitating or replacing 6,505 linear feet of deteriorated 8" sewer line, replacing associated laterals, and rehabbing 33 manholes. The targeted area is around Preston Street, South Pollock Street, South Sharpe Street, Webb Street, West Noble Street, Watson Street, South Meade Street, Railroad and West Jones Streets. This project is currently under design and will probably take until 2024 to complete.

AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT FUNDS - \$2,263,070 These funds were allocated to the Town of Selma this summer from the \$350 billion voted on by Congress for governments to use "to provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery." Permitted uses for these funds include (but are not limited to) necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The recipients have three years to use the funds and only about half have been made available at this time. The Town Council has authorized \$155,000 from this fund to be spent immediately to repair/replace 15 fire hydrants around the town that are currently not functioning. The Council is also considering an advance metering (wireless) system for water usage, lift station pumps and manhole repair in the Noble Street area, flooding remediation around the Rudy Theatre and the Fire Department, Dixie, Pelham, Pecan and Winston Streets, Engineering for the construction of a town well, as well a number of other tentative projects.

AND FINALLY,

The current draft of the **State Budget** could allocated as much as \$6,500,000 to Selma for infrastructure.

In addition, the amount that may be allocated to Selma from the **Infrastructure Bill** recently passed by Congress is at this moment unknown.

If there are questions about this information, please contact Mr. Brent Taylor, Selma Town Manager.

AND THE GIRLS EXIT STAGE RIGHT!!!!!



FORWARD HO!

What an honor it has been to serve my hometown as an elected official for the past 14 years. I want to say **THANK YOU** to our citizens for the privilege of doing so.

My choice to not seek another term as mayor does not mean that I have quit on Selma. I am not planning on just relaxing and propping up my feet. Quite the opposite is true. I will continue to market and support Selma via a wide variety of avenues. I have always approached the role of mayor from the perspective of a civil servant. My civil servant hat is staying on!

As I said in my State of the Town Address, I believe this is a great time to introduce change into Selma's Leadership Team. "So many things are going so well. It is always optimum to perform transitions in the midst of thriving times. This provides new team members some breathing room to learn basic tenets of municipal government and to become familiar with local operations as opposed to having to immediately concentrate on a crisis situation."

I am proud of what **WE** have accomplished during my tenure as Mayor and Councilmember. This has formed a good foundation on which others can build. Our financials are strong, multi-year plans have been created for our utilities, our Land Use Plan and Unified Development Ordinances are current, new businesses are arriving at a record rate, the variety and quality of our housing stock is improving all over town, the overall reputation of our town has improved, and there are an ever-increasing number of recreational activities and entertainment events in which our citizens and tourists can participate.

We have accomplished much and we have much to accomplish. As excited as I am about how far we have come, I am even more excited about the next chapters in Selma's history.

Forward ho Mayor Cheryl L. Oliver



From the Pen of Jacqueline Lacy:

"I would not take anything for my journey." -- Maya Angelou

There comes a time when one must allow someone else to fulfill your mission and this November is that time for me. My journey started in 2001 with Mr. Herbert Johnson as my campaign manager, my mentor and my confidant. He inspired me to go for a seat on the Selma Town Council. With his encouragement and help, I set out on my journey serving five terms as a member of the council and was the first woman elected to the council.

As I look back on my years of service, I hope that I have lived up to my campaign message – CONCERNED, COMMITTED AND CARING – and that I have made a positive contribution during my years of public service.

During my second term as a council member, I was appointed as Mayor Pro-tem and served in that position until this November. I was the first Black Mayor Pro-tem in all of Johnston County.

I experienced many changes during my tenure as a Council Member. Many new businesses have been added to downtown Selma and Eastfield development is on the drawing board. I was able to attend several elected official conferences enhancing my ability to serve; I attended ribbon cuttings at the newly renovated train station; Blackley Park and the Senior Center both on Harrison's campus. A major change was renaming South Railroad Street in honor of Dr. M.L. King and getting paved sidewalks in south Selma. I attended most of the festivals sponsored by the town. I enjoyed working with all the members of the council and the Mayors that were duly elected by the citizens of Selma.

I would like to encourage the citizens of Selma to get involved and create a positive change you want to see in our town. Participating or attending council meetings will allow you to know who the members are that are representing you. <u>BECOME SELMA STRONG!</u>

I cannot forget the citizens of Selma who voted for me in every election during my tenure. I hope I have lived up to your expectations and thank you for believing in me. God Bless.

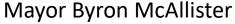


Ann Williams

It has been my great pleasure to work for the citizens of Selma over the past four years. It is my hope that the next four will be even more successful with many opportunities for advancement in all areas. I want to commend the town staff, many of whom are extremely hard working, competent, resourceful, and dedicated to the successful completion of tasks they are given for the benefit of the citizens. For me, I close this chapter. The quote, "You are the author of your own life's story," rings true for me. Looking back, I believe I have about 27 chapters to my life so far, and it is time to write a few more. So the planning, the new work and new dreams have begun. I am proud of the great successes that have come to Selma, my hometown for over 70 years — one of the great small towns in America.

ELECTION RESULTS – FOR SELMA TOWN COUNCIL







Council Member Bruce McKay



Council Member Amy Whitley

At the December Council meeting, the current Council members will take their seats and preside over any old business and then leave their seats. Then each of the new members will be sworn in and take a seat at the Council table. Since Mr. McAllister's term as a council member was not up for a vote, the new council will appoint a person to serve out the remainder of his term.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE TOWN OF SELMA!!!!!!!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20 – SELMA HOLIDAY VILLAGE MARKET 10:30-5:30



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27 – SHOP SMALL SELMA 9:00 – 1:00 (PET PARADE AT 11:00)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – TREE LIGHTING 6:00 PM, PARADE 7:00 PM FIREWORKS TO FOLLOW

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 – CALLS FROM SANTA 6:00 PM-8:00PM (BY APPLICATION ONLY WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN WEBSITE – CALLS FROM SANTA TO KIDS.)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH – SELMA SLAM – PICKLE BALL 9:00 EDGEBROOK PARK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH – BREAKFAST WITH SANTA- 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 (CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION FOR RESERVATIONS)

This Saturday

