

Vol. 2 Issue 1 • February 2023



TRACKS QUARTERLY

Official Newsletter of the Town of Selma

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6th Annual

SOUL *food* FEAST

Free Admission

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 18TH
3:00PM - 6:30PM
RICHARD B.
HARRISON GYM**

**ENTERTAINMENT
VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS**

**SELMA
NC**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

STATE OF SELMA ADDRESS

Selma Mayor Byron J. McAllister recently delivered a State of Selma address.

His remarks are as follows:

I remember a simpler time in Selma when there were no concerns about Historic Downtown District parking whatsoever. Let us talk about how times have changed. Allow me to take a moment to thank our Selma Town Council for being amazing partners through this first year of aggressive improvement. The guidance and wisdom of our four council members has been invaluable as we navigate a rapidly changing environment. Our town is better in part because of the efforts of our Johnston County commissioners, our North Carolina General Assembly representatives and our United States Congressional representatives and we thank them for their support. We have been blessed with and are thankful for a host of churches, civic organizations and businesses in Selma that are using their resources to reinvigorate our community. The financial and sweat equity investments these groups are making in Selma have gone a long way to activating our town. We are most thankful for the residents of the Town of Selma.

Frankly, without you, none of this is possible. The foundation of this community is the people that call Selma “home.”

I am proud to report this to you: The Town of Selma is rapidly improving. Selma’s priorities have changed to face the challenges of growth and fulfill the needs of our taxpayers. Our town is focused on serving our current and future residents. We are building a culture of excellence.

Our Mission: The Town of Selma strives to provide an outstanding small-town experience coupled with the amenities of an economic hub for industry, technology, and commerce by delivering exceptional services to our citizens and community stakeholders.

Our operations are improving to prepare for an increased population. Funding for safety has been this council’s top priority. We have secured eight new Selma police vehicles. We anticipate the arrival of a new Selma Fire Department fire engine and we have increased the salaries of our Selma first responders and public works employees. Plans for a second police and fire station are in the works. Public works is increasing operations to better serve our citizens. These departments must continue to be properly funded and improved to ensure a safe and secure Selma.

Selma has experienced a substantial financial improvement that started in fiscal year 2020. The years prior had seen decreases in our overall fund balance, a central indicator of a municipality’s fiscal health, as our town regularly spent more money than it took

in from fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019. Between fiscal years 2020 and 2022, the Town of Selma’s fund balance has increased by \$2,641,778, with the greatest fund balance gain of \$1,378,536 in fiscal year 2022. This is the greatest fund balance gain in the

history of our town. This result is a testament to having the right people in place to get the job done. We are making significant strides with improvements to our infrastructure. The Town of Selma secured funding for water and sewer improvements throughout the town over the last year.

Our plan is to make sure the infrastructure underneath our roads and properties is strong before we move forward with major improvements above ground. We have received \$8.25 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to take care of most of our Brack Wilson Pump Station relocation project. This project will help our sewer operations significantly while rehabilitating sewer lines and manholes. We have started a major water expansion project with \$6.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act Funds. These funds will help locate and acquire additional well sites to expand our water plant operations and increase our overall water capacity. Our increased water capacity will ensure we can serve Selma customers for the near future and provide water capacity options for the region. The Golden Leaf Funds we have received for a stormwater study to assist us in identifying where drainage improvements are needed. Our relationship with our local organizations and surrounding communities has improved in the last year. We have had better communication and better cooperation with many of our community partners. Our neighboring towns and our Johnston County government are building a working relationship. We have made gains in the acknowledgment that, through this time of unprecedented growth, we must rise together to meet the challenges we face head-on.

The quality of life in Selma is improving. Thanks to the many stakeholders, business owners and residents of Selma, our town has sprung to life over the last two years. Their drive to do more and do better has prompted our government to do more and do better.

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Selma Mayor Byron J. McAllister recently delivered a State of Selma address.



STATE OF SELMA ADDRESS

The Town of Selma has worked hard to advance its procedures and operations to meet the needs of an invigorated population. Excitement has come back to the Town of Selma with our Selma Railroad Days festival and our Selma Christmas Parade.

We have been proud to participate in the Rockin' on Raiford concert series sponsored by our local business owners. We are building a great tradition by hosting the JoCo Latino Festival.

As the Town of Selma moves into the near future, we will go from a state of improving to a state of excelling. Our capital improvement plan is being redeveloped to create a town that will go beyond meeting the needs of our citizens. We are working to ensure our revenues outpace our expenditures going forward by creating a revenue-focused strategic plan. Our town will provide a solid foundation for those that seek the best to build on at the "Crossroads of Tradition and Innovation." Our Vision: The Town of Selma pursues a first-class quality of life by being an innovative, proactive, and inviting community that is building on our tradition as a transportation crossroads and railroad town.

We are quickly becoming the Town that Selma was meant to be. We are preparing for our future.

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

In December, the commencement ceremony for the 72nd Johnston Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training class took place in front of a crowded room of family and law enforcement personnel.

For two cadets, it was the end of one chapter and the start of their law enforcement career with the Selma Police Department. After a grueling 18 weeks of instruction and practical exercises, Cadets Henninger and Donaldson, along with 16 other cadets, walked across the stage to accept their certificate of completion.

Also, the Mayor and Town Council approved four new police vehicles in both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 budgets. The eight vehicles are 2022 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors and have all new equipment.

The vehicles will be assigned to the Patrol Division. New graphics were designed for these vehicles to give the town and the Selma Police Department vehicles a fresh, new image.

THIRD ANNUAL DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Selma Parks and Recreation is hosting its Third Annual Daddy Daughter Dance at the Selma Civic Center, 300 N. Webb St., Friday, Feb. 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration includes a delicious meal, beverages, dessert, DJ and a photo booth with printouts. Registration is \$15 per adult and \$12 per child. Go to <https://selma.recdesk.com/Community/Program> to reserve your spot or call Selma Parks and Recreation at 919-975-1411. Pre-registration is required.

Selma is looking forward to hosting a magical night all dads and daughters can enjoy. Our theme this year is “One Magical Evening,” and the dress code is semi-formal.

We are anticipating about 150-200 dads and daughters to come to enjoy this magical and special night in our historic town. “We are so excited to hold the Third Annual Daddy Daughter Dance on Feb. 10 at the Selma Civic Center. It will be a night that many dads and daughters hold on to for many years to come!” said Parks and Recreation Director Alyssa Fox.

Selma Parks and Recreation is excited to see you there. The Daddy Daughter Dance is a special and memorable memory for all dads and daughters. Register now!

For more information, contact Kelsey Stocks, recreation program manager, at kstocks@selma-nc.com or at 919-975-1411.



SELMA SPRING WINE WALK

Selma’s first Spring Wine Walk will be held downtown April 14 from 5-9 p.m.

Come and stroll the streets of Downtown Selma! There will be many local businesses, up and down Raiford, Anderson and Waddell streets, providing a tasting of local wines provided by Hinnant Family Vineyards!

Tickets are \$25 pre-sale and will be \$30 the day of the event if any are available. Sales tax and processing fees are not included in the ticket price. General admission includes a wine glass, map, wine and entertainment. The wine walk is a rain or shine event. No refunds, all sales are final.

The only event check-in location will be at the Selma Town Hall at 114 North Raiford Street. Attendees must be 21 years or older and show valid identification at check in and throughout the walk at the discretion of our participating locations. Street parking will be available.

Proceeds from this event, along with Selma Railroad Days and the JoCo Latino Festival, go to fund free family-friendly events held in Selma along with administration costs. These events benefit our community and support the small local retailers. Thank you for your support!

SELMA LIBRARY EVENTS

Library Card Raffle - Get entered to win a prize every time you use your library card!

Preschool Story Time

February 1, 8, 15, 22 • 10 a.m.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • 10 a.m.

April 5, 12, 19, and 26 • 10 a.m.

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • 10 a.m.

Valentine's Day Movie Special

February 8 • 10 a.m.

Black History Month Story Time

February 15 • 10 a.m.

Family Game Night

February 28 • 6-8 p.m.

March 28 • 6-8 p.m.

April 25 • 6-8 p.m.

Cat in the Hat Picture and Story Time for Dr. Seuss' Birthday

March 1 • 10 a.m.

Caterpillar Story Time and Craft

March 15 • 10 a.m.

Kids Bingo

March 29 • 10 a.m.

Easter Egg-stravaganza! Join us for games, Storytime, and pictures with the Easter Bunny

April 1 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Easter Movie Special

April 5 • 10 a.m.

Earth Day Spectacular

April 19 • 10 a.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

2023 Youth Indoor Soccer Registration

Register now for youth indoor soccer. Registration runs through Feb. 17. Ages 5 to 13 for boys and girls. The fee is \$25 per child for town residents and \$40 per child for non-residents. Games will be played at Harrison Gym starting in March. If you have questions, contact parks and recreation at 919-965-9841.

2023 Daddy Daughter Dance

The 2023 Daddy Daughter Dance will be held Friday, Feb. 10 at the Selma Civic Center, 300 N. Webb St. from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. Dinner will be provided.

2023 Soul Food Feast

The 2023 Soul Food Feast is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 18 from 3-6:30 p.m. at the Richard B. Harrison Gym. The event will feature speakers, food and entertainment celebrating Black History Month and Selma's pioneers.

2023 T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Baseball, and Softball Registration

Register now for t-ball, coach pitch, baseball and softball. Registration runs from Feb. 1 to March 17. The registration fee is \$25 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. Coed t-ball is for ages 4-6, coed coach pitch/machine pitch is for ages 7-8, baseball is for ages 9-10 and ages 11-12 and softball is for ages 10 and under and 12 and under.



JOCO LATINO FESTIVAL

Join the Town of Selma as it hosts the Sixth Annual JoCo Latino Festival Sunday, May 7 from 2-6 p.m. downtown. The event kicks off with a parade at 2 p.m. The festival is free. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy live entertainment at North Raiford and Waddell streets. There will be live music, vendors, children's activities and more. The town is seeking sponsors, parade entries and vendors. For more information, please call 919-965-9841 or email kstocks@selma-nc.com.



WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT UPDATE

- The Town has the advanced meter infrastructure installed. It consists of one main antenna on the tank on Griswold St. and two repeater antennas on the tanks on Raiford St. and Oak St. This automated system will transmit water usage data from the meter to town hall and will provide more accurate meter readings while reducing the need for meter readers.
- What are the most common types of repairs for the water and sewer department? Service leaks and water main breaks.



SELMA FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN RIGOROUSLY

Selma Firefighters train rigorously to master expertise in their field. The Town of Selma devotes 240 hours of training per firefighter each year. Firefighters use these skills when responding to live fires, rescue and pump operations. In December, all three shifts practiced vehicle extrication on old police cars. Firefighters underwent training on specialty tools such as the “Jaws of Life.” The Selma Fire Department responds to more than 100 vehicle accidents a year, and 30 percent of the incidents involve patients pinned or trapped in a vehicle. Your Selma Firefighters are ready to “MAKE YOUR BAD DAY BETTER!”



NEWS FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Did you know you can receive your utility bill the same day it posts to your account? All you need to do is contact customer service at 919-202-8315 and ask to receive your utility bill by email. You no longer have to wait for the regular mail. Don't forget to update your phone number with customer service in case we need to reach you. As a reminder, late fees are posted to your account if the balance is not paid by the due date as shown on your bill. If your bill is not paid by the cutoff date, which is also on the bill, then the cutoff processing charge is added to your account. The town does not mail any additional late notices or cutoff notices.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT NEWS



Josue Carrasquillo,
Customer Service
Representative



Leigh Ann Blanton,
Human Resources Director



James Sullivan,
Planning Director



Kevin Petticoffer,
Senior Maintenance Worker



**Please help us give a warm
welcome to the newest
group of Town of Selma
employees.**



Kelsey Peedin Stocks,
Recreation Program
Manager



Jason Holloman,
Senior Maintenance Worker



Joshua Eisbrenner,
Police Officer



George Shook,
Electric Superintendent

TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Town Council

February 14 • 6 p.m.
March 14 • 6 p.m.
April 11 • 6 p.m.

Recreation Advisory Board

February 21 • 6 p.m.
March 21 • 6 p.m.
April 18 • 6 p.m.

Tourism Committee

February 9 • 8:30 a.m.
May 11 • 8:30 a.m.

Appearance Commission

February 16 • 6 p.m.
March 16 • 6 p.m.
April 13 • 6 p.m.

Planning Board

February 27 • 6 p.m.
March 27 • 6 p.m.
April 24 • 6 p.m.

Historic Properties Commission

February 13 • 6 p.m.
March 13 • 6 p.m.
April 10 • 6 p.m.

Tourism Committee

February 9 • 8:30 a.m.
May 11 • 8:30 a.m.

Community Open Forum

February 11 • 1 p.m.
May 13 • 1 p.m.

All meetings are held at Jernigan Building – 110 E. Anderson Street. Meetings, except those designated as closed sessions, are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Town of Selma

Town Hall

114 N. Raiford Street
919-965-9841

Selma-NC.com

MAYOR

Byron James McAllister

MAYOR PRO-TEM

Joseph Scarboro

COUNCILMEMBERS

Bruce McKay, PA

William Overby

Amy West Whitley

INTERIM TOWN

MANAGER

Rhonda Sommer, CPA

TOWN CLERK

Sarai Byrd Allen

TOWN ATTORNEY

Alan "Chip" Hewett



Contacts

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Utilities, Police & Fire Non-Emergency: 919-934-9411

Town Hall: 919-965-9841

Utilities/Customer Service: 919-202-8315

Cemetery Sales: 919-202-8315

Planning: 919-965-3278

Human Resources: 919-965-7142

Public Works: 919-965-2244

Water Treatment Plant: 919-934-9411

Police Department: 919-965-8189

Fire Department: 919-965-2697

Parks and Recreation: 919-975-1411

Selma Public Library: 919-965-8613

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

April 7

Good Friday

May 29

Memorial Day

