

# COOLEEMEE TIMES

SPRING 2010

## *They'll Be Here in June*



Cooleemee made the big time in the January 2010 issue of "Our State: Down Home in North Carolina."

The magazine highlights twelve places to vacation throughout the state from Asheville to Hatteras. Cooleemee picked up the June spot, and with much fanfare to boot! Many people who visit North Carolina every year have heard of the Biltmore House and its famous lighthouses on our coastline, but few have heard of the swimming hole at RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls. But now this highly

acclaimed magazine told tourists and local travelers that we stand alongside many of North Carolina's unique vacation destinations.

So, this June, look for the tourists to arrive. Let's affirm their expectations and show them just how lovely a gem of a town Cooleemee truly is. Special thanks to Lynn Rumley and the RiverPark board for helping to get our little park in this magazine.

## *Where is our Doctor?*



Cooleemee's citizens are asking the question about whether or not the town will again have a local physician. This reasonable concern is certainly held by many who once visited Dr. Zastro at the local office, but now are traveling to Mocksville, Salisbury, or even farther to seek their healthcare needs.

"The Town is working hard to chase down the most effective solution for our citizens who need local healthcare," said Chuck Taylor, Commissioner of Community Affairs.

John Chandler, Cooleemee's town clerk has been in contact with Novant to determine whether they will allow their office building to be leased out to a doctor who is willing to serve the needs of our citizens. "Our greatest hurdle at the moment is that Novant has the medical office tied up. They say they want to keep it in case they are able to place another doctor down here, or use it in the future, but right now they are simply keeping healthcare out of Cooleemee," said Taylor.

Chandler said that Dr. Joel Edwards of Mocksville has looked into running his practice out of Cooleemee

at least one day a week, but it appears that Novant will not support this option. The town is talking to county representatives, other doctors, and Novant to find some kind of deal that will best benefit the people of Cooleemee. Their Mission Statement reads, "Novant Health exists to improve the health of our communities one person at a time." "We are simply asking Novant to take seriously their own mission here in Cooleemee," said Taylor.

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## Helping Our Neighbors

*With the recent snow storms and the upcoming spring storms, a concern for our aging citizens needing extra care in the event of a power outage has arisen. Some of our citizens need power for medical purposes and others simply must avoid the risk of falling in the dark. The town is collecting a list of people who wish to be looked in on when the power fails by town representatives, emergency personnel, or their neighbors. To be placed on this list or for more information, please stop by, call, or email the town hall and ask to speak with our town clerk, John Chandler.*



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### **Town Board to Expand Park**



In the spring of 2009 the town board approved funds to build a picnic shelter with adjoining bathrooms in place of the now defunct basketball courts adjacent to Marginal Street. This shelter will follow the brick style of the

existing shelter by the cook shack behind the Zachary House. The plans allow that parents can utilize the shelter while watching their children in the playground. The board hopes this is only the first of many improvements to the local park and that citizens will begin using the park more and more. "Bathrooms may actually create healthier lifestyles for our citizens," said John Chandler. "Right now parents are driving to the park because there are no bathrooms. But, with

these new bathrooms, our hope is that more people will walk to the park and stay longer."

The town approved a motion to take bids from contractors at their March 15th meeting. The new shelter is expected to be built in two phases. The first phase will build our shelter and the second will add bathrooms. The shelter will follow the design of the one by the cookshack, cover the entire space of the existing basketball court, and will have electricity.

### **Town Applies for STEP Grant**

At the December 2009 board meeting the town approved unanimously to apply for the North Carolina Small Towns Economic Prosperity (STEP) grant.

This grant is designed to "spur economic activity, innovation, and job creation in selected small town sites

through a program of strategic resource investments." If the town is approved for this grant the town will receive an initial sum of \$25,000 which is to be used for developing a comprehensive, economic development strategic planning process. Once a comprehensive plan has been developed, the town will then

receive \$100,000 from the STEP grant to use toward project development. The town is very excited about this opportunity. Please share any ideas you may have with your town board about how to use funds, should we be approved for the funding.

### **New Partnership Supports the Continuation of Softball in Cooleeemee**

Last summer many residents saw the lights at the softball field behind the elementary school sparkle and light up the Cooleeemee skyline as people from all over the southeast came in to our little town to play softball. This effort was coordinated by Larry Thies, who has done an excellent job of connecting people who have a love of

softball and our community. As we enter into a new year, the prospect of using this opportunity to help the children of our town has come to life. With the help of Chuck Taylor (Community Affairs Commissioner), Bill Campbell (Public Information Officer for Davie County Schools), Randi Harris (Board Chair of the Cooleeemee Kids'

Recreation Association: CKRA), and Mr. Thies, a plan has been crafted to help these teams play right here in Cooleeemee. Mr. Thies has been generous in saying that any proceeds from the teams and players will go directly to help Cooleeemee's children and adolescents through the construction of recreational activities within the town

limits. These proceeds will be directed by the CKRA board of directors. Open League will be Mondays & Wednesdays, Church League will be Tuesdays & Thursdays, and Co-ed Leagues will play on Saturdays. Please come out and support these teams from this spring through the fall.



## Town Board Hosts Strategic Planning Meeting

On Thursday, February 11th, the town board held a strategic planning workshop. The goal of this workshop was to invite in members of the local and broader community to better understand the needs and investments of people in our town and of those who serve our town. As follows are the groups who attended and some of the highlights of their communication.

**1. Benchmark:** This is the company who helped the town develop the strategic plan, and they gave us a well defined understanding of our progress in fulfilling the mission we have laid out.

**2. Cooleemee Historical Assoc.:** This group shared so much of how they help and instruct in the community, but also shared ways that we can utilize our history to build a better future.

**3. Economic Development:** Led by Terry Bralley, they brought one of the most exciting presentations of the evening, by highlighting the viability our town still possesses, and the abilities that the county has in helping Cooleemee grow into a premier town in the region.

**4. Davie Domestic Violence:** Reminded us of the needs of citizens in our community who need their aid and assistance. They shared that they could use help with transportation of individuals from Cooleemee to their offices in Mocksville, and a local safe place to visit with clients.

**5. Davie Social Services:** Shared many of the resources they offer to our citizens, and ways they help to make Davie County a better place to live for those who are struggling to get by with their means.

**6. RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls:** Explained that they understand that the RiverPark has been slow in coming, but the foundation for a bright future is on the way. For the last two years effort has been concentrated on making sure the park is safe and clean for families.

**7. Civitan Women:** Cooleemee is always thankful for the local talent that helps so many of our residents right here and on the ground. The Civitans Women do an excellent job of serving, and they highlighted some of that service in this meeting.

The town board is thankful to the time and energy these groups put into planning for this meeting and helping us serve the town well.

## Town Officials

**Mayor**  
*Lynn Rumley*

**Commissioners**  
**Community Affairs**  
*Chuck Taylor*

**Public Safety**  
*Chris Branham*

**Public Works**  
*Tommy Daywalt*

**Zoning & Planning**  
*Jean Snead*

**Town Staff**  
**Town Clerk**  
*John Chandler*

**Town Advisor**  
*Tyler Beardsley*

**Police Chief**  
*Bobby West*

## Free Upgrades: Completing the Census, Will Help the Town

Most people know the census comes around every 10 years. What most people do not know, is why it is so important to complete the census. By completing the census we all help the government know where to better allocate funds based on population density and needs for each community. Here are ideas to consider once you receive your census form, and some reasons to complete it.

1. Every year the federal government gives over \$400 Billion to state, local, and tribal governments. It is clear that the government is going to give this money away, so why not have some of it come back to Cooleemee to benefit our town and our needs?

2. The changes in population across the state will redefine the representatives we have in the state and federal government.

The more accurate the census results are, the more accurate a representation we will have from our legislators locally and at the state and federal level.

3. This is one of the shortest census forms in history. There are only 10 questions and it is estimated it will only take 10 minutes to complete.

As you may guess, the first idea is the most important to our community. With added

funds to our town base, we can help Cooleemee with any number of opportunities. So, complete the census and then contact your town council and tell them what you would like to see here in Cooleemee. Then your commissioners can apply that information to create the town that best fits our community. For more information on the 2010 census visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

**The US Census is NOT mailing forms to PO Boxes. Free census forms are available at Town Hall.**



## ***A Constant in the Midst of Change***

### **Community Calendar**

#### **Chicken & Dumplings Supper:**

*On March 27th, from 4pm until the food runs out, Cooleemee Women's Civitans and the Mocksville Rotary Club are hosting a Chicken & Dumplings supper to send WWII veterans to the memorials in Washington D.C. The men and women of the VFW Post #1119 and the American Legion Post #52 sent three veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial a few years ago. This meal is another opportunity to expand on that cause and again send an esteemed veteran from our community on the same trip. Donations will be accepted in lieu of a charge for meals. As well, donations may be made to a fund in the name, "Flight of Honor" which has been set up at Suntrust Bank for this wonderful cause.*

#### **Easter Egg Hunt:**

*On April 3rd, starting at EXACTLY 2pm the Cooleemee Women's Civitans in conjunction with the Town of Cooleemee are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the Zachary House. Show up and share a fun afternoon with your children. Be sure to bring your cameras to take pictures of your children with the Easter Bunny.*

#### **Kids' Fun Day at RiverPark:**

*On May 15th, from 10am-2pm, staff will lead a creepy crawly walk looking for salamanders, turtles and snakes. This event promises to be fun for children of all ages! Special thanks to the Land & Trust of Central Carolina for sponsoring this event.*

#### **Volunteerism in Cooleemee:**

*There are many community events in Cooleemee each year, and they are done well when they are supported by local volunteers. We need volunteers for the July 4th Parade, the Fall Festival, and the Christmas celebration. Please call or stop by the town hall to sign up today!*

Since the fall of 2009, citizens in Cooleemee have seen changes in the Town Hall. It began with the resignation of Freddie Carter due to health reasons, then Dolly Urdanick resigned after a lengthy service with the town. Then the elections in November brought on two new commissioners, Chris Branham and Chuck Taylor who replaced Earl Lester and Fran Parker. At the following board meeting Jean Snead was appointed to Freddie Carter's position. Then in a unique turn of events, the current board of commissioners offered the town clerk position to then Mayor John Chandler, upon his resignation. John Chandler resigned as mayor and began work as the town clerk on January 25th. The board of

commissioners then appointed Lynn Rumley to complete John Chandler's term at the February board meeting.

But, in the midst of all this change has been one constant, Tommy Daywalt. Elected in 2007, Tommy has served as the Public Works Commissioner. He has been the strength for so many in our town who need help. Daywalt is the resource to go to when you have drainage problems, water or sewage concerns, road maintenance, or sidewalk repair. Daywalt's work is a job that often goes unnoticed. "We are so thankful for the skills and expertise that Tommy brings to the board," said commissioner Chuck Taylor. Daywalt's current term runs through 2011.

#### **Social News:**

*Does your family have a new baby? How about a 50th anniversary? Just as other Davie County communities share their news in the Enterprise, Cooleemee will begin doing the same. Drop short items off by the 20th of each month at the Town Hall to be included.*



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