

CROSSROADS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3
NOVEMBER 2023

Town Council Meeting
November 9 • 6 p.m.
316 E. Murray St.

Election Day • November 7

There are four Wallace Town Council seats on the ballot on November 7. Three town council members are up for re-election. Mayor Pro-Tem Francisco Rivas-Diaz, Councilman Jeff Carter, and Councilman Frank Brinkley are all on the ballot to retain their seats. In addition, Penny Thorne is also running for a town council position.

Additionally, there is a ballot line to elect Tasha Herring-Redd to finish the term she was appointed to by council. This was the seat vacated by the passing of Wanetta Carlton.

Candidates were invited to submit their reason for running for office, and their responses can be found online at www.wallacencweekly.com/

Early voting started October 19, and continues through November 4 at the Lois G. Britt Building • 165 Agriculture Dr. • Kenansville. Voting on Election Day, November 7 will be at the American Legion Post #156 • 529 E. Southerland St. • Wallace.

For the 2023 election, Voter Photo ID will be required. For a full list of acceptable ID visit www.duplincountync.com/wp-content/uploads/2023-Voter-ID-Requirement-Infosheet.pdf



Month at a Glance



Thelma Dingus Bryant Library
409 West Main Street • Wallace
November Storytime

Thursday at 10:30 am
November 2- Trains
November 9 - Turkeys
November 16 - Thanksgiving
November 30 - Stuffed Sleepover

Libby - Your Online Library!

To use Libby, download the Libby app to your device and sign in using your Thelma Dingus Bryant Library card. Browse the available items, borrow them and enjoy them on Phones, tablets, and Kindles can be used and audio books can play in the car if you have Bluetooth capability.



Second Saturday at the Wallace Depot

206 SW Railroad St. • Wallace

The Wallace Train Depot will be open on the **second** Saturday of the month from 10 am-Noon! The Model Train Room will be open with an interactive layout that allows children to help run the trains, and the new outdoor Garden Railroad will also be running- weather permitting.

The Learning Station at the Depot will be open with lots of activities, including the ride'em Thomas the Train and interactive train table. There are books and activity sheets and more every month at this event!



The Wallace Train Depot is available to rent for birthday parties, weddings and wedding events. For information on prices and availability, please contact the Wallace Area Chamber of Commerce at info@wallacechamber.org or (910) 665-9535.

Christmas at Twilight is November 18 • 4pm - 8pm

Christmas
@ TWILIGHT
NOVEMBER 18TH 4PM-8PM
DOWNTOWN WALLACE NC

FOOD
FOOD VENDORS
MEXICAN, PIZZA, SEAFOOD AND MORE

SHOPPING
CRAFTS
CANDLES
AND MORE

KIDS
SANTA AND MRS CLAU
TREE LIGHTING, ENTERTAINMENT
TRAIN RIDES

26 FOOT MOVIE
SCREEN PLAYING
CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Your paragraph text

The holiday season officially kicks off in Downtown Wallace November 18 with the 20th celebration of Christmas at Twilight.

Traditionally held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the event gives residents an opportunity to celebrate local talent and meet with friends and family in a small town environment before the hustle and bustle of the season kicks in.

The event will also give the local downtown merchants the chance to get the attention of shoppers with stores that will be decorated for the holidays and full of gifting and decor options!

Wallace Public Services will begin putting up snowflakes and banners during the first week of November, and the Town Christmas Tree and the Santa House will be in place for the event.

Local dance and cheer groups will be on hand to entertain, and there will be a performance of Christmas music given by a professional orchestra whose performance is being sponsored by the Wallace-Rose Hill Friends of the Arts. The Friends of the Arts sponsors performances throughout the year at the local schools.

Mayor Jason Wells will read *The Night Before Christmas* and Santa will arrive in time for the lighting of the Christmas Tree! There will also be craft vendors and food vendors.

New this year is the addition of a 26 foot movie screen that will be playing Christmas movies- including *The Polar Express!* Look for train rides to be close by as well!

Don't miss this Downtown Wallace Tradition, sponsored by the Wallace Area Chamber of Commerce, and supported by the Town, and local merchants!

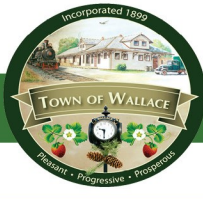
TOWN OFFICES HOLIDAY HOURS

Wallace Town Offices will be closed
November 10 in honor of Veterans Day
and November 23 & 24 for Thanksgiving.

Wallace Volunteer Fire Department is recruiting new members

The Wallace Volunteer Fire Department is actively recruiting new members. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 PM at the fire station.

Please reach out to Fire Chief Taylor Johnson at 910-289-5149 or stop by the station on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM to learn more about being a member of our team.



Clement Park Plans

With the second phase of Farior Park at Boney Mill approaching completion, the Parks and Recreation team is gearing up to initiate a fresh PARTF grant application for improvements to Clement Park.

At present, the Clement Park Community Center is in the midst of renovations, which will provide modernized meeting spaces for nonprofit organizations and a venue for future park and town events. This project will serve as a catalyst for the realization of other upgrades planned for the park.

The town is consolidating various initiatives, including an inclusive playground, essential improvements to the tennis courts, and other ideas like additions of pickle ball courts and a splash pad, into a comprehensive master plan for Clement Park.

Community input will be actively sought, allowing residents to contribute their preferences for the park's development. The preliminary budget for these endeavors is set at \$750,000.

The planning phase has already commenced, with an application to the state Parks and Recreation Trust Fund expected to be submitted in the spring.

Existing playground equipment Clement Park that will be replaced by the inclusive playground, will find new life, and reinstalled at Dobbins Park.

Wallace Police personnel will be attending "The Intersection of the First and Fourth Amendments" training at Wake Technical College in Raleigh on November 14th. The Fourth Amendment deals with the use of search warrants and has been at the heart of many court cases as technology has evolved.

In the Plans?

Planning Director Rod Fritz addressed Town Council on the question of allowing ground floor residential apartments in the Downtown Business District. The subject is being pursued in response to a request by the developer who purchased the 2 story former Market Furniture building on East Main St.

The building is a shell, and will require almost a total re-build. This would allow for the sprinkler systems needed for residential use to be installed both upstairs and downstairs easily and cost effectively, which is not the case with some other downtown buildings.

Because of the size of the building it will be difficult to find a tenant to take all of the ground floor space, so being able to utilize some of the space as apartments may be a way to better utilize the space.

In researching the proposal, Fritz reached out to surrounding towns and the Cape Fear Council for Government. Burgaw, Elizabethtown and Wilmington do not allow ground level apartments. Dunn allows them above or behind - but not with street facing access. Carolina Beach has a mixed-use plan that was frowned upon by the Cape Fear Council of Government.

Things that were considered by the Wallace Planning Board were insurance costs, fire hazards, utilities that would need to be built for water, sewer and trash and the need for parking.

After hearing from the developer and Fritz, Town Council decided to send the question back to the planning board, for additional discussion and final determination from them before voting on the proposal.

In the Works!

Public Services Director Brent Dean updated Town Council on the projects his department has been working on.

• Since the town re-instituted Animal Control, they have captured 19 cats and 2 dogs. Animals are transported to the Duplin County Animal Shelter.

• The department set up road control for "Downtown Get Down" and will again for "Christmas at Twilight".

• The department will put up snowflakes and flags both downtown and on 117 in early November and install the town Christmas Tree and Santa House closer to "Christmas at Twilight".

• Water wells 15 & 16 are on schedule.

• Sloan St. is next up for utility repair and re-paving. Work on Raleigh St. cannot begin until after a slipline project is complete.

• The Rockfish Creek clean out project is complete and will assist water flow.

• The project to map the town's storm water system is 80% complete.

• There is a weekly schedule for filling pot holes and trimming trees.

• The storm drain on Cliff St. is being repaired.

• The owner of the Ollie's Shopping Center has contracted to have the street cleaner clean their parking lot.

Political Yard Signs

Political campaign signs are permitted in the right of way for 30 days prior to election day, and must be removed by 10 days after the election.

From Wallace Mayor Jason Wells

The town was thrilled to recently receive notice that we were awarded a total of \$15 million in the state budget that just passed for 2023/2024.

Of the \$15 million total, \$10 million was awarded for continued airport expansion. The additional \$5 million was granted for building the new public safety facilities.

We are thankful to our state officials, Senator Brent Jackson and Representative Jimmy Dixon for assisting us in obtaining this much needed funding.

Town Council and I will be discussing how best to utilize these funds for these projects in the coming months.



Wallace Town Mayor
Jason Wells

Who To Call

TOWN OFFICIALS CONTACT INFORMATION

316 East Murray Street • Wallace, NC 28466

910-285-4136 • mail@wallacenc.gov • www.wallacenc.gov

Mayor

Jason Wells
jwells@wallacenc.gov

Mayor Pro Tem
Francisco Rivas-Diaz
frivas-diaz@wallacenc.gov

Town Council Members

Frank Brinkley
fbrinkley@wallacenc.gov

Jeff Carter
jcarter@wallacenc.gov

Jason Davis
jdavis@wallacenc.gov

Tasha Herring-Redd
therringredd@wallacenc.gov

Town Manager

Rob Taylor

Town Clerk

Jackie Nicholson

Public Services Director

Brent Dean

Planning & Zoning Director

Rod Fritz

Chief of Police

James Crayton

Fire Chief

Taylor Johnson

Parks & Recreation Director

David Bizzell

Librarian

Thelma Dingus Bryant Library

Jennifer Raynor

FOR PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITY EMERGENCIES

During Normal Business Hours
910-285-4136

After Hours/Nights/Weekends/Holidays
910-285-5927

All Best Wishes for a

Happy
Thanksgiving

