



# Lake Park Villager



The official village newsletter of Lake Park, North Carolina

Population 3,482

Volume 10, Issue 11

November 2013

## GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

Village government meetings and elections are held at the Community Center and are open to the public.

- Nov 28-29** – Thanksgiving - Village Office Closed
- Dec 10** 7:00 PM Village Council Meeting
- Dec 24-27** – Christmas - Village Office Closed
- Jan 16** 6:30 PM Economic Development Commission
- Jan 21** 7:00 PM Planning Board Meeting
- Jan 27** 6:30 PM Parks & Recreation Commission

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**LAKE PARK PUBLIC PARKS** OPEN DAWN TO DUSK YEAR ROUND  
**LAKE PARK TENNIS COURTS** LIMIT USE TO 1 HOUR – ALL USERS  
 PAUL WOLFFCALE RECREATION COMPLEX

**LAKE PARK LIGHTS** PARK, WATCH & LISTEN: 6 SHOWS/NIGHT  
 NOV 30 – DEC 31 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM 4019 LAKE CHARLES WAY

**WOMEN'S BUSINESS NETWORK**  
 DEC 5 – 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM DINNER BABETTE CAUBLE: 451-2749  
 JAN 4 – 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM LUNCH LAKE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

**LAKE PARK SINGLES – AGES 55+** JEAN FOSTER: 882-3107  
 DEC 5 – 7:00 PM LAKE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

**SAGES** RSVP: 882-4527, 882-6906  
 DEC 3 – 5:30 PM CHRISTMAS PARTY LOGAN'S, MONROE NC  
 DEC 9 – 1:00 PM CARDS & GAMES LAKE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER  
 DEC 16 – 11:15 AM LUNCH

**GARDEN CLUB** DARLENE LECLAIR: 882-8259  
 DEC 8 – 2:00 - 5:00 PM HOLIDAY HOME TOURS  
 DEC 16 – 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS PARTY LAKE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC & COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING**  
 DEC 8 – 5:30 – 6:30 PM TOWN CENTER PARK

**CARRIAGE RIDES** SPONSORED BY HOA  
 DEC 8 – 6:00 – 8:00 PM TOWN CENTER PARK

**LAKE PARK VILLAGER NEWSLETTER** IN-HOME BY DEC 24  
 DEC 13 - DEADLINE E-MAIL OR PHONE ITEMS TO SANDY COUGHLIN

## Holiday Events December 8

Activities begin with the Garden Club's Annual Holiday Home Tours. The event raises funds for the club and welcomes ticket holders to refreshments, tour maps and to five seasonally decorated private homes that Sunday afternoon. Tour maps and refreshments are available at the Community Center. See details in the enclosed flyer for the home tours, the Annual Christmas tree lighting on Meeting Street with our 2013 hometown heroes, Lisa & Greg Crosby, and more: old-fashioned horse drawn carriage rides and a musical celebration led by Faith United Methodist Church and the Salvation Army Brass Band in Town Center Park.

## Council Appoints Szarko

Resident Fabian Szarko received the majority of Council votes needed to win appointment to the vacant Council position which had been announced in the September *Villager*. Fabian is a registered voter. He and his family have lived here for two years. He is active in the Garden Club and takes pride in protecting and promoting safety, friendly relationships, family activities and attractive landscaping features unique to our small town.

## Village Election Results

Lake Park's registered voters re-elected Kendall Spence for his fourth 2-year term as Village Mayor on November 5. Incumbent David Cleveland was re-elected for his second 4-year term. Sandy Coughlin was re-elected for her third 4-year term. All three will renew their oaths of office at the December 10 Council meeting. Mr. Szarko will take his oath of office at the same meeting. The Council will also choose Mayor ProTem. David Cleveland and Sandy Coughlin have each served in that assisting role in separate years.

## Scofflaws Alert

North Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR) cooperates in identifying those who are due refunds from the DOR but who have outstanding debts to their local government. Lake Park qualifies for this NC Debt Setoff Program. If a NC taxpayer's local taxes, fines or fees are delinquent, the village tax collector may report the delinquency to the DOR. In turn, the DOR will pay the debtor's delinquent amount to the village before sending

## Property Taxes Due Jan 6

Lake Park Property Tax and Stormwater Fee invoices were mailed in September. If yet unpaid, mail or deliver payments to Tax Collector, 3801 Lake Park Road. Lake Park NC 28079 .

## Lake Park Village Government Call List

Website: [www.lakeparknc.gov](http://www.lakeparknc.gov)

Year = term expires

### Kendall Spence - Mayor

(704) 882-6649 2013

[kendall.spence@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:kendall.spence@lakeparknc.gov)

### David Cleveland- Council, Mayor ProTem 2013

(704) 882-6834 2013

[david.cleveland@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:david.cleveland@lakeparknc.gov)

### John Barnes - Council

(704) 882-9628 2015

[john.barnes@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:john.barnes@lakeparknc.gov)

### Sandra Coughlin – Council

(704) 882-9692 2013

[sandy.coughlin@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:sandy.coughlin@lakeparknc.gov)

### Mark Phillips - Council

(704) 882-9006 2015

[mark.phillips@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:mark.phillips@lakeparknc.gov)

### Appointment Pending

2015

### Cheri Clark – Clerk/Tax Collector

(704) 882-8657

[cheri.clark@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:cheri.clark@lakeparknc.gov)

### Cheryl Bennett, Finance Officer

(704) 882-8657

[cheryl.bennett@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:cheryl.bennett@lakeparknc.gov)

### Deputy Richard Haywood

Call 911 to report emergency or any suspicious behavior.

For non-emergency: (704) 289-1591

[officer@lakeparknc.gov](mailto:officer@lakeparknc.gov)

any remaining refund to the debtor. The good news is that Lake Park has a 99% collection record so very few village taxpayers would have their NC tax refunds reduced due to unpaid local fines, fees or local tax.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off

Over 50 residents attended to enjoy and evaluate the cooking of nine chili contestants. Council thanks all who entered the cook-off and all who tasted and voted. The 2013 winners are #1: Jean Elnajjar's "French Twist Chili", #2: Terry McBroom's "Chili Con Corny" and #3: Margaret Phillips' "Duck Dynasty Chili". Special thanks to Wayne Daniels and Cathy MacArthur, Park & Recreation Commissioners who organized this year's event.

## Parking Tip

Lake Park deputies enforce the Village Parking Ordinance. Citations and fines may be avoided by making sure our vehicles never park within 30 feet of an intersection, 20 feet of a crosswalk, or 15 feet of a fire hydrant. Also prohibited: parking on the space between a sidewalk and a public street or within 6 feet of grass where there is no sidewalk. Alleys are public streets.

## Reservation Refunds

N.C. guidance to municipalities now requires that all funds, including checks, given to the Village Clerk be put in the bank promptly. This means that the Village Clerk may no longer hold a check given to the village as a security deposit for a park or facility reservation; the clerk must put the check in the bank. In the past, if the security deposit was not applied to damages, the held check could be returned, uncashed, to the group or individual. What is new: the village financial officer will write a new refund check to the individual or group that is due a refund after their meeting or event.

## Waste Collection

Recycle bins and rolling trash carts are the property of Covenant Waste, the service that has the village contract through 2015. If the Covenant cart or bin at your property is badly damaged, or if you have any service questions or comments, contact Sandy Coughlin. Be sure to provide your name and street address.

## Annual Audit Favorable

Robert Burns, CPA completed the Village audit for 2012-2013 confirming staff and council records and procedures, positive asset value and debt free status.

## Pavement Condition Survey

Eagle Engineering submitted an updated review of all village walks, streets and alleys and recommended Council schedule an annual recurring budget of \$8,000-10,000 per year to address isolated roadway issues such as potholes and cracks.

## Economic Development

► **Gray's Insurance** now offers a program for senior citizens through North American Senior Benefits. Owners Jessica and Andy Gray announced that Keith Hartke is heading the new effort to offer information about free NC programs to help seniors to manage medical costs and to guarantee final expense insurance at discount rates. Gray's is at 3800 Meeting Street.

► **Skeeter's Bakery** invites families to visit on Sunday December 8, 11am – 8pm to make ornaments to decorate the bakery, to decorate cupcakes and sing carols. John Bouchard will share how to make Christmas card balls, so bring old and new Christmas cards December 8, 3 to 8pm to 3808 Meeting Street. Bakery hours are 11-3 Sun., 7-3:30 Tues-Fri, 8-4 Sat.

► **Miss Dee Dee's After School & Summer Care Program** at 6810 Creft Circle is celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> year 'doing what we love most, taking care of children 9 months to 14 years old while parents are away' reports owners Diana and Mark Detomaso. New families are offered free registration and a tuition discount.

## Parks & Recreation

► Cheryl Bennett completed the **2013 Swimming Pool Operating Report** with \$55,771 revenue and \$89,998 expenses. Of the expenses, \$21,800 was for major repairs to decking and coping, \$17,391 is depreciation for a total cost of \$51,618.

► **Lucas Landscaping** replenished hardwood mulch and planted fall flowers. Council approved \$2500 for new and replacement shrubs and trees in public areas as budgeted in Parks Maintenance.