In Consideration of Trees

I had the pleasure of having a conversation with City Tree Arborist Mark Martin. Our talk drifted into a discussion about tree rot. He explained the difference between a tree that is dead and one that is rotten. Turns out, a rotten tree can still have life. After further research, I found that trees handle rotting differently. For example, oaks do a very good job of compartmentalizing the decay. Whereas an ash tree does not and is usually overtaken by the rot. I began to think about our world, the journey of life and the choices we make. We are bombarded daily with images and news that can cause stress, fear and anxiety. There are those among us who rather than compartmentalize, they let it take over, allowing the toxic to spill from their systems to spread from their fingertips on Facebook or Twitter.

Unlike trees, we have a choice in whether or not the rot takes over. We are divinely designed to reason, to feel with our senses and we have the ability to spread light. Yes, just good old-fashioned love for humanity. For me, this means doing all that I can to create inclusive, compassionate and thriving spaces for all who live and visit our sweet Salisbury. In the words of Joyce Meyer, "Imagine a tree for a moment. Trees must develop deep roots in order to grow strong and produce their beauty. In much the same way, what goes on inside of us is like the roots of a tree. "We are our roots." Withings you peace, light and love for the holiday season and always!" — al higgins

#PositiveGossip

We're sharing the #PositiveGossip that's going on @CitySalisburyNC!

FIRE CREWS TRAIN FOR HAZMAT

Crews continued their week’s Hazardous Materials Team training with some full scale scenarios. Here members are seen in “Level A” suits. These are fully encapsulated suits with respiratory protection that allow members to work and make rescues in the most hazardous of areas.

SALISBURY DEPTS WIN AWARDS

The City of Salisbury, Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department and Salisbury Police Department were all honored this evening at the Salisbury Rowan NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet with two Diamond Sponsorship Awards and a Community Coalition Award, respectively. Thank you so much for this amazing honor.

ANOTHER GREAT BLOCKWORX PROJECT

Thanks to all that came out for a successful BlockWorx weekend!

OFFICERS HELP AT FALL FESTIVAL

RSCA’s Price Head Start in Rowan County invites Officer Scott Robinson to speak to the Head Start Students. This was great for the children learning about the work of a police officer. Awesome!

Correction:

City Council will meet once in December 2018 on December 4 at 5 p.m. in City Hall (217 S. Main St.)

There will not be a meeting on December 18.

We Twitted November 8

www.twitter.com/FireSalisburyNC

We Twitted October 26

www.twitter.com/SalisburyNCPO

City Council

Mayor Al Heggins
Mayor Pro Tem David Post
Council Member Karen K. Alexander
Council Member Brian Miller
Council Member Tamara Sheffield

City Manager W. Lane Bailey

STAY CONNECTED - CITY OF SALISBURY

City of Salisbury Communications | (704) 638-4460 | cocommunications@salisburyncc.gov

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West End Takes Pride

In New Wall

Nearly three years after they first began a discussion about creating a more welcoming entryway into the West End, the members of West End Pride gathered at an early morning ribbon-cutting ceremony, Monday, Oct. 29, to unveil the new brick wall structure at the corner of Brenner Ave. and W. Monroe St.

The wall, featuring a plaque with the names of the organization’s members living and deceased, was a labor of love for the group whose focus is improving the neighborhood in the western section of the City. Salisbury community planning and public services staff worked with the group for a number of years on the type of structure they wanted, as well as securing funding for the project. Once the idea for a feature wall was decided, the Blanchard and Julian Robertson Foundation stepped up to assist financially. The City also contributed funds to the project.

"West End Pride President Shirley McLaughlin, "but the wall is much more than that. Our neighborhood is special and is brimming with Salisbury black history that we want to preserve. I think this wall commemorates some of the good things that have happened in this part of town."

Directly across the street from the wall on W. Monroe St lies an additional, smaller section of the area even more. Pride members are currently in discussions with public services to choose another feature for the space — greenery, floral or another similar structure.

"Our main objective is to make the area more aesthetically pleasing, so that our neighbors have a greater sense of pride in our community," added Pride’s Vice President, Joyce Smyre, "neighbors helping neighbors."

EVENT CALENDAR: JANUARY

City Council Meetings

Attend public council meetings to find out what’s happening in your city.

Wednesday January 2 and Tuesday 15

starts at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 217 S. Main St.

MLK Celebration

Holiday Parade

Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at this free parade through Salisbury.

Downtown Salisbury - January 19

From 12 to noon

FREE Parade Entry: salisburyncc.gov/MLKparade

MLK Celebration Post-Parade Party

Continue the celebration after the parade.

Salisbury Civic Center - January 19

From 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MLK Celebration Breakfast Program

Attend the annual breakfast to recognize the significance of this holiday.

J.F. Hurley YMCA - January 21

From 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Winter Sports Camp

Come try out the fun and enjoy the area this week during this week.

For more information, go to salisburyncc.gov/winter2018.
Citizens Academy Graduates

On Thursday, Nov. 8, a group of 15 Salisbury residents graduated from the 10th annual Salisbury Citizens Academy. Graduates were saluted with applause, a certificate and street sign with their name on it. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Red Under, president and CEO of RowanWorks Economic Development.

Celebrating MLK Day

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, as part of the Human Relations Council, will host its annual weekend celebration to honor the civil rights icon, beginning Saturday, Jan. 19 through Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

The Dr. King celebration weekend kicks off with a festive parade through downtown Salisbury on Saturday, Jan. 19, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The parade, featuring local school bands, dancers and community organizations, begins at the intersection of Main and Liberty Streets and ends on S. MLK Jr. Ave. near the Civic Center. Following the parade, a community event will be held inside the Civic Center from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 21, the committee will host the annual MLK Breakfast at the J.C. Hurley YMCA on Jake Alexander Blvd., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. The featured speaker for the 2019 celebration will be announced at a later date.

Residents who are interested in participating in the parade should call (704) 638-5718 or visit www.salisbury.gov/mlkparade.

Winter Is Coming...

Frigid temperatures wreaked havoc on a number of cities and along the coast earlier this year as water mains broke along major and minor roadways. Salisbury wasn’t excluded from this unfortunate group. Main breaks in Fulton, Statesville and Grove were just a few of the areas that were affected.

In preparation for upcoming winter weather, Salisbury Rowan Utilities (SRU) encourages customers to protect their water pipes from freezing to avoid water loss and significant property damage. Pipes in unheated areas of homes or buildings have the greatest chance of freezing. Therefore, it is important to seal openings and air leaks in crawlspaces and basements, as well as access doors, air vents in foundations and any other cracks.

Some tips to winter-proof your home:
- Insulating water pipes or hoses in an unheated area (such as a crawlspace, attic, basement or utility room/shed) is important.
- Pipes inside or close to an exterior wall (such as pipes that supply water to a sink) can be kept warm by opening the door of the cabinet under the sink.
- Identify and mark the location of the shut-off valve in your plumbing system so you can quickly turn off the water in case of an emergency.
- The Red Cross recommends letting the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe—even at a trickle—helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- It is also wise to know how to properly thaw a frozen pipe as well as planning ahead for winter storms and power outages including building emergency supply kits for your home and car.

Learn more by visiting REDCROSS.org, ReadyROWAN.org and FEMA.gov.

Chit, Chat & Chew

Salisbury City Council and city staff will host the fifth in a series of community town hall meetings titled, Chit, Chat & Chew, Thursday, Dec. 6, with dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Fire Station #4, 2325 Statesville Blvd. This event will be held for residents in the “Northwest” area of the city which encompasses neighborhoods such as Westmore, Rolling Hills, Hendrix Estates, Westwood, West Ridge and Clancy Hills. Chit, Chat & Chew town halls grew out of a request from Council members and residents who desired increased engagement beyond the city council meeting public comment period.

In preparation for the discussions, city staff focused on specific neighborhoods during its weekly Community Engagement Friday walks, gathering community-specific concerns of residents. The town hall will begin at 5:45 p.m. Dinner will begin at 5:15 p.m.

For more information on Chit, Chat & Chew, please email annelittle@salisbury.gov or call (704) 638-5718.

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