RECEIVE CITY ALERTS BY TEXT

It’s not too late to sign up to receive Nixle alerts from the City of Salisbury! The alerts are a community-wide notification system to inform residents about emergency situations and community advisories right at their fingertips.

Nixle alerts can be sent via text, email, voice, web, social media, and its mobile app, OneBridge, in an instant.

All alerts are targeted geographically, allowing residents to receive localized, relevant information from the City. The Nixle system, available at no cost to citizens, will be most effective when a large number of Salisbury citizens subscribe. Standard messaging rates will apply.

Salisbury residents can register with any of these methods:
1. Text their Zip Code or SALISBURY to 888777
2. Visit www.nixle.com
3. Go to City of Salisbury website: www.salisburync.gov/Nixle and sign up
4. Download the OneBridge app

City Council

Mayor Karen K. Alexander
Mayor Pro Tem Maggie Blackwell
Council Member Brian Miller
Council Member Kenneth Hardin
Council Member David Post
City Manager W. Lane Bailey

The Lamplighter
City of Salisbury Newsletter
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The City’s cemetery now offers columbarium niches as a new option.
New Cost-Effective Solution in City Cemeteries: Columbaria

There is now an alternative burial option available to Salisbury residents who wish to be cremated and placed in a City Cemetery. First of its kind in a City Cemetery, two 48 niche columbaria were installed in Memorial Park Cemetery located at 1330 W. Jones Street earlier this year. The doors are engravable like a headstone, and the owner will be referred to one of the local monument companies to perform the engraving. The columbaria takes up less space than regular graves and are cost-effective in that they are less expensive than a traditional burial. The cost of each niche is $1,350 for City residents and $1,500 for non-City residents. Each niche can accommodate up to two urns. There is also a fee to open a niche: $150 on weekdays before 3 p.m., $200 on weekdays after 3 p.m., $300 on weekends, and $450 on holidays.

Linda Davis, cemetery manager, explained that this purchase came after years of inquiries from citizens who were interested in their final resting place in a columbarium located in a City Cemetery. Before the City’s installation, only area churches, the National Cemetery and private cemeteries offered columbaria. The Columbarium Association of North America states that the projected cremation rate in the United States will be 58% by the year 2020. “Looking towards the future with that statistic in mind, it appears the City made the right decision in purchasing and installing these columbaria in Memorial Park Cemetery,” said Davis.

For more information, please contact Linda Davis, City of Salisbury Cemetery Division at (704) 638-9250 or by email at ldavis@salisburync.gov.

The City of Salisbury is partnering with W&M (Waste Management) to continue its recycling program.

City of Salisbury Approves FY18 Budget

At its Tuesday, June 6 meeting, City Council held a public hearing on and adopted the fiscal year 2017-2018 (FY18) budget. A fiscal year is the period that financial budget year begins and ends. The City’s fiscal year begins July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year.

To fund the $83,749,757 budget, City Council adopted a property tax rate increase of $0.0376 cents. The proposed tax rate equals approximately $51 per year, or less than $1 per week, for the average homeowner in Salisbury. Two and one quarter cents ($0.0250) of the increase will be used to raise Salisbury Police Department officers’ salaries, and the remaining 0.51 cents ($0.0305) will fund related public safety equipment.

The 2018 budget highlight includes:

- $875,000 for street repairs and land acquisition for fire stations 3 and 6 (reimbursable with future debt issuance)
- $850,000 Newcomer road extension (reimbursable from Transportation Improvement Funds by 2029)
- $20,300 Pre-emption System fee for Fire Department
- $192,900 Increase in Fringe Transfer
- $59,000 Increase in Rowan-Salisbury School System
- $865,920 Pumper Fire Truck
- $1,302,885 Platform Fire Truck
- $481,122 for 3 Swappables for Public Services
- $247,406 Automated Garbage Truck

The budget also included a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 1.5% for all employees, and a 1% average merit increase for employees whose evaluations reflect their commitment to exceptional service.

A recommended 2.60% water and sewer increase based on the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers for the South Region (CPI-U) was approved.

“The budget process is perhaps one of the most important tasks we undertake each year as a city,” said City Manager W. Lane Bailey. “This year we have budgeted for some important projects in Salisbury, including land for two new fire stations and new equipment to help our public services department function more efficiently. We’re excited for what’s to come over the next fiscal year for the City.”

A public budget work session took place on Wednesday, May 24, at City Hall.