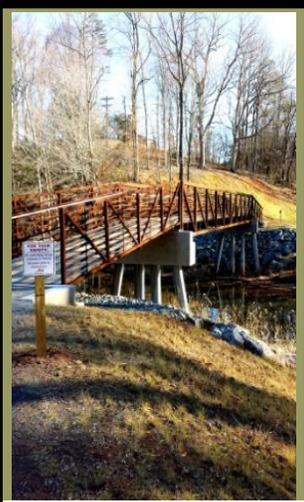




Established 1889



Elkin's E&A rail trails are a great way to enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends.

CONTENTS

Departments / Page #

Mayor's Message	1
Town Manager	2
Economic Development/ Main Street Mgr	2/3
Public Works	4
Police & Fire Depts	5
Recreation & Parks	6
Planning Dept	6

Town of Elkin Newsletter

Now online and tree-friendly

Winter Edition 2016

Message from the Mayor

It's a Bond for Future Generations

When government at any level invests in infrastructure – in the roads, public buildings, public meeting and play spaces, water and sewer lines – it is, to some degree, about the here and now. We need safe roads and bridges to get us to work, to keep us connected, and to get goods to market. A growing population demands new school buildings, and government buildings of all types are required for a government workforce to carry out so many service functions for citizens. Creating and maintaining parks and other cultural amenities is crucial for the quality of life that North Carolinians so cherish. Water and sewer treatment facilities keep water clean and are vital to public health.

We also hope that significant public investments spur quick business activity that benefits everyone with jobs and economic opportunity. Those can all be immediate benefits that citizens see relatively soon after these types of projects are on line. Substantial public investments, though, are often made to last beyond one generation and one lifetime. That is particularly the case when they take place as part of major bond plans.

In that regard, these investments really are one generation's commitment to another. It's a sort of a promise that we will leave the things in our charge in at least as good a shape as we found them. For major investments, it makes sense to every so often borrow money as long as it goes for sound, reasonable purposes that will serve current and future generations.

On March 15, voters across North Carolina will go to the polls to decide a \$2 billion dollar bond package. It will mark the first time that a general obligation bond has gone before statewide voters since 2000. The \$2 billion will be used for a variety of investments, including university and community college building and renovation. For local governments, there will be a needed \$310 million infusion of dollars for local water and sewer projects. Because \$210 million of that money will go into revolving loan pools, it will generate double the investment over two decades.

There is also \$3 million that will go toward upgrading local parks, through competitive grants, to help improve access to park facilities for disabled children and disabled veterans. I am also excited about \$75 million that will help build new facilities or improve existing ones at our state parks. At Stone Mountain State Park near our town of Elkin, \$1.3 million will go to improvements to the visitor center. Our state parks are vital to our quality of life, but also help spur tourism, with those tourism dollars spilling over into the business in nearby towns and cities.

Back in October, I joined Governor McCrory at Stone Mountain State Park for one of the signing ceremonies held around the state for the Connect NC bonds. At that time, I noted that, just like a homeowner who invests in a good roof or fixes a crack in a foundation, we North Carolinians have to invest in our public infrastructure to keep the state as a whole sound and strong for both today and tomorrow. I also told my local newspaper then that I planned to work for the passage of the bond referendum. Since then, the NC League of Municipality's Executive Committee has passed a resolution in support. I hope you will join us in that support.

Lestine Hutchens, Mayor of Elkin, 336-794-6464 or lhutchens@gmail.com

From the desk of the Town Manager

We want to welcome John Holcomb as the new Elkin Town Manager, as of August 2015, replacing Lloyd Payne. Mr Holcomb has worked for the Town of Elkin for the past 14 years as the Director of Finance and has been intrum Town Manager four times. He will begin addressing residents with an article in our next quarterly newsletter.

John W. Holcomb, Town Manager, 336-794-6464 or jwholcomb@elkinnc.org



Above, construction teams remove a portion of the old Smith Phillips structure. (Right) A conceptual image of the future visitor center's interior space.

Town of Elkin begins new downtown Project



Economic Development Director

Redevelopment of the Smith Phillips property

Elkin Town Commissioners voted to approve monies to be spent towards the redevelopment of the property at 257 Standard Street. This phase of construction, totaling approximately \$370,000 will entail selective demolition and items such as asbestos and hazardous materials removal. It will also include the repair and replacement of the existing roof, with a new sloping roof, and repair and construction of footings and foundations -which will support the final plans for the structure.

The final project completion will in all likelihood be completed through three phases of construction, this being the first phase which should be completed in early 2016, with the second and third phases proposed, given adequate funding being raised, commencing in late 2016. Then, a full completion date forecasted currently in 2017.

The Town of Elkin has fully funded this first phase of development in recognition of the need by subsequent granting agencies for the Town to commit 'matching' funds into the project. This shows to the project's funders the town's commitment and value to the community to see this project through, and secondly, it spurs activity and investment interest in other properties in that area. We have undertaken a lengthy due diligence phase, and it really was time to get going on the construction phase of this project if we really were going to pursue this 'Heritage, Trails and Arts Center' concept." Town staff have been successful in securing some grant funds for the next phases of construction and will continue to seek other sources. Successful grant applications were submitted and awarded by both the Hanes Foundation and Canon Foundations.

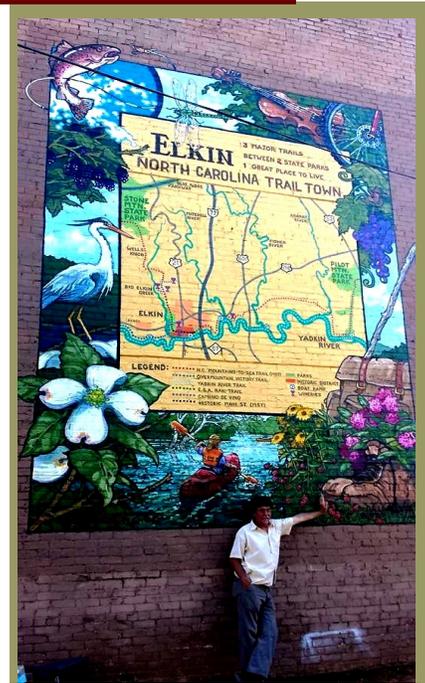
(continued on next page)

The Town will be seeking further funding to complete the next phases, including the exhibition planning and fabrication phase for the interior. Additional grant deadlines are later this month and in the first quarter of 2016, with the hope that efforts will to result in further funding dollars being received for the project.

The Town hopes to attract an additional \$400,000 to \$500,000 towards the project to complete the renovations in a manner in keeping with the master plan. Additional funding strategies and sponsorships will come into play to complete the potential outdoor exhibit and landscaping as well as other project elements that can be phased in over time.

This center will be a place to showcase all this area has to offer – ultimately for the purposes of attracting additional workforce to the area, entrepreneurs and family looking to relocate and invest in the area. It will tell the story of our past and how we came to be, but it will more importantly highlight the potential of the region and its wonderful quality of life.

**Leslie Schlender, Economic Development
Director, 336-794- 6468 or lschlender@elkinnc.org**



The latest Elkin Trail Town mural with artist Michael Brown standing in front of it. This is on Market Street, across from Yadkin Bank.

Main Street and Community Manager

The Main Street Advisory Board was very productive last year, focusing their efforts on creating and funding a Trail Town atmosphere downtown with the trails tree sign & a Trail Town mural. They budgeted for farmers market events/musicians for the community. Focusing on historical preservation, they actively pursued saving the "rock facade" property from dismantlement and held a fund raiser to raise funds towards the restoration of that facade. The Town of Elkin commissioners have now agreed to create a public park with restrooms at this location, and there is a diagram of what the space will look like (attached to the facade on W Main Street) for you to see. The board also helped to fund downtown events (such as Light Up Night) this year.

Business update: Our downtown has had a few changes recently. The owners of Circle of Friends Yarn Shop and Carol's Wedding Shop have decided to retire and have closed their businesses. We are so thankful for all of the years they spent providing great service and specialty items in our downtown. Carol's Wedding Shop's location is now available for purchase, and is on the busiest corner in downtown with exceptional window display space. It offers 3 floors of retail space.

El Matador, a western wear retail store, is the newest shop on Main Street to open. The Reeves Theater is currently under renovation and is scheduled to open this year offering a 300-seat music venue which will include a cafe and lounge. The Old Times store is also under renovation by its new owners. It's exciting to see the new changes on both sides of Main Street! We also have 2 new restaurants in downtown, Roxxi & Lulu's Bistro & Bakery, and Hot Shotz Bar & Grill, both on Standard Street.

In North Elkin, Wildflowers Shop opened next to Big Lots and offers local arts, crafts, gifts and homegoods. Surrey Bank expanded into their brand new location on Hwy 268, near Rite Aid. Their old location on N Bridge St is now available for lease. Label Shoppers clothing store opened in the Belk shopping center offering mens and ladies wear.

Please let me know if you have any other questions about new business opportunities or locations in our town. I am happy to help any way I can.

**Laura Gaylord, Main Street and Community Manager,
336-794-6469 or communitymanager@elkinnc.org**

Calendar of Feature Events for Elkin January to March 2016

Town Hall Meetings:

- Board of Commissioners meeting; Held the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7 pm, Town Hall.
- Main Street Advisory Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce, at 8:30 am.
- Rec & Parks Advisory Board meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Town Hall, 7 pm.
- Planning Board meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month, at the Town Hall, 7 pm.

Check our local wineries for lots of live music and food events. Grassy Creek Vineyard offers a Valentine's Day celebration on February 13th. Brushy Mountain Winery has live music every Friday & Saturday night from 6pm to 8pm. Winter Passports are available to use until early April. See participating Surry County wineries for details.

2016 Foothills Theatre's Dessert Theatre- This year's play is a comedy called "Over the River and Through the Woods" Performances will be at First Baptist Church Elkin fellowship hall on Feb.19, 20 & 21. Dessert served at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday with curtain at 7:30 pm; Sunday dessert at 2 with curtain at 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$12 at the door and includes dessert, coffee, tea.

Hello cooks! Mark your calendars - the Great American Soup Off (and chili) is set for Saturday, Feb. 27 at The Liberty!

For more updates regarding a variety of Elkin events throughout the year, please go to www.whatsupinElkinNC.com

Public Works Department

2016 Trash & Recycle Collection Calendar

Waste Management Services has created a 2016 Trash & Recycle Collection Calendar. The calendar was delivered by Public Works the week after Christmas. This handy calendar allows residents to see the schedule of Recycle dates colored Orange, and their garbage pick-up dates colored Blue. Please have your carts rolled to the curb the night before scheduled collection in order to ensure your waste gets picked up. Pick up times may vary though out the year.

Bulk Item Pick Up

Just in time for Spring Cleaning!! The week of April 17th-23rd has been set for Bulk Item Pick Up. This is the time when residents can put normal household items such as discarded furniture and appliances, including sofas, chairs, beds, carpets, box springs and similar items curbside and the Town of Elkin will haul it off to the dump for you. If you have any questions regarding the Bulk Item Pick Up week please call the Public Works Department at 794-6480.

Winter Weather Brings Downed Branches

As old man winter brings its storms with ice, snow and wind it can wreak havoc on the branches of residents trees. The Public Works department offers brush pile pick up year round. Residents can place brush piles by the road and call the Public Works Department for pick up. This service is limited to debris that does not exceed four (4) cubic yards. Trees and shrubbery must have all protruding branches trimmed. Stumps are not collected. Please call Public Works Department at 794-6480 to schedule a brush pick up.

Robert Fuller, Public Works Director, 336-794-6480 or rfuller@elkinnc.org done

Elkin Police Department

- 1. Get help-** Roadside assistance: Many new cars include a roadside assistance program which will provide towing if your car breaks down. Mobile phone and car charger:..Make sure you have a car charger; nowadays most phones can be charged from your car's USB port. Small battery booster pack: Cold weather makes your battery work harder to start the engine. There is a new-generation of compact jump starters that are small, lightweight and can get you on your way in minutes.
- 2. Stay safe-** Emergency flares and/or hazard triangles: In a snowstorm, other cars may not be able see your car until it's too late. Set out flares or hazard triangles to warn cars and avoid a second collision. First aid kit: Bad weather may delay emergency workers, so it's a good idea to carry a simple first aid kit. Small LED flashlight:..LED flashlights use much less energy than regular incandescent flashlights, making them a great choice for your winter emergency kit
- 3. Stay warm-** Cars use the engine to produce heat, so if the engine conks out, so does the heater. Emergency blankets are small, light and cheap. Extra winter hats and gloves will help in keeping warm.
- 4. Stay occupied-** Children's books or games: Keep a few emergency activities stowed away to fight boredom and keep the kids occupied while you wait for help. Non-perishable snacks: Munchies help pass the time and will keep your energy and morale up while you wait for help.
- 5. Where to carry your emergency kit-** The most logical place to store your emergency kit would be the trunk -- problem is if you're in a collision that damages the rear end of the car, you may not be able to get the trunk open. Instead, carry your emergency kit in a small duffel bag stored in the passenger's footwell, where it can be easily accessed by the driver. If your kit includes flares and you travel with children, store the flares in the trunk and keep a backup hazard triangle in the bag.

Monroe Wagoner, Elkin Police Chief, 336-794-6471 or mwagoner@elkinnc.org

Elkin Fire Department

Chief's Note: For this edition of the town newsletter I have asked one of our busiest firefighters to address the newsletter's readers. Please lend your attention to the following comments from our department's training officer, Captain Theresa Knops.



I moved to Elkin in 2010 and joined the Elkin Fire Department shortly thereafter. 2016 marks my second year as the department's training captain, which makes me responsible for ensuring our firefighters receive the training necessary to serve our community safely and effectively.

I am also active in the fire department's community risk reduction programs, working tirelessly to provide Elkin with the knowledge and resources to lead safe lives. Our installation of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors is one example of these programs, as are our educational sessions for local childcare facilities, schools, and community groups. 2016 will be my third year as chairperson of Safe Kids Surry County. As part of this coalition's efforts, the Elkin Fire Department is a Permanent Checking Station for child safety seats. Since motor vehicles are the number one killer of children ages 1-13, and with three of four children riding in vehicles left endangered because their car seats are not being used correctly, we encourage parents and caregivers to contact our station and to schedule an appointment for child safety seat inspections.

Are you interested in joining in our community risk reduction efforts? Participation in these programs does not require response to fires and medical emergencies. Please contact our fire station at 336-794-6481 to learn more about joining the fire and life safety education team.

Michael Morton, Elkin Fire Chief, 336-794-6481 or mcmorton@elkinnc.org done

Elkin Recreation and Parks Department

Elkin Recreation & Parks is working with the **Elkin Valley Trails Association (EVTA)** on a new trail extension that will include a 170ft bridge and new trail construction. The Department along with the **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7794** will provide trail cart trips for individuals not able to walk the trail. Special thanks to Ken and Patricia Nicks for the generous donation of the golf cart.

Special thanks to landowners that provided easements for the Overmountain Victory Trail. **Landowners include:** Ms. Kim Arnold; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keller; Galloway Memorial Episcopal Church; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thomasson; Ms. Rosa and Ms. Caroline Beverley; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roth; Ms. Holly Gambill; Mr. Michael Neaves; Dr. and Mrs. Skip Whitman and Mr. and Mrs. Rick Chatham. Additional thanks is extend to the Wilkes-Surry Chapter of the Overmountain Victory Trail for project funding.

The Department will update the **Playground** this spring. The new equipment will have a slide, climbing areas and a rope course style of play, designed for ages 5-12.

Applications for Recreation Department spring and summer employment including sports officials, concession stand workers, lifeguards, pool office staff and Summer Day Camp Staff will open in February. Please submit an employment application to the Elkin Recreation Center for consideration. Lastly, we will be accepting Spring Sports registrations through February 19. Registration for softball, baseball and soccer can be done in person at the Elkin Recreation Center, or online at elkin.recdesk.com.

Adam McComb, Recreation & Parks Director, or amccomb@elkinnc.org done

Planning and Zoning Department

Temporary signs, as we all know, are used by each and every business as they try to attract as many customers as possible. Many times this is through using additional signs and banners, but the problem that arises is the location and size of these signs.

According to the town ordinance each business is allowed four "special events" per year. This means four times a year you can get a \$25.00 permit to advertise this event at the location of your business. The time duration is as follows:

Each event can last four two (2) weeks and then another one cannot occur for thirty (30) days.

Sign / banner sizes are restricted and can be discussed when you purchase the permit.

Political signs are under a different set of guidelines, per the town ordinance and are restricted mainly by their location. These signs must be a minimum of ten (10) feet back from the edge of the paved street and thirty five (35) back from any intersection.

These are regulations strictly for public safety and any sign violating these limits will be removed. Driver visibility, I am sure is a safety factor we can all agree on and understand helps everyone.

Remember one other important restriction, that signs of any type cannot be attached to a permanent highway sign or utility pole, for any reason.

George Crater, Planning Director, 336-794-6467 or gcrater@elkinnc.org



During the week, the market shelter at the Town Hall parking lot is a bus stop for the YVEDDI bus routes in Elkin and also for their shuttles to other area towns. Fee is \$1 per ride within Elkin's town route.

elkinnc.org

Whatsupinelkinnc.com