

THE ESTILL TIMES

December 23, 2015

THE TOWN OF ESTILL by Anderson Taylor

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Due to the weather, the fall festival committee had a difficult time putting on the festival. It was during the time when flooding and rain camped over most of South Carolina. Compared with residents in the upper part of the state, Estill and surrounding areas were truly blessed. With rain in the forecast, we finally completed our festival October 17, 2015. We would like to thank merchants, citizens, vendors and especially members of the fall festival committee for working so diligently to make our festival a success. Through the dynamic leadership in Mrs. Jessie M. Taylor and Mrs. Egeria Bryant Bostick, the festival soared to greater heights. A committee such as the Eighteenth Annual Fall Festival Committee must have been made in Heaven. Other than the Beautification Committee, I have never worked with a more caring and dedicated group. Those two committees have truly earned my respect and admiration. When I think the festival cannot improve anymore, members always come up with another twist to make the festival even better. I am truly proud to have been given the opportunity to work with such a dynamic group. Our Nineteenth Annual Fall Festival will be held September 23, 2016 through October 1, 2016. If you would like to join this committee, please call Town Hall at (803) 625-3243 and give Ms. Woods, Mrs. Beckett, Ms. Wiley, or Mrs. Strong your name and phone number. We would love to have you join us!

DURING MY ILLNESS

I would like to thank everyone individually and collectively for your prayers, phone calls, visits, and food that were rendered to me during my heart surgery. Through your prayers and other measures, I was able to overcome overwhelming odds. Thanks for caring so much! A special vote of thanks to Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Councilmembers, Mr. Lucas and Mr. Evans for the leadership they exemplified during my absence.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Mr. Wiggins and Son, Mr. Gary Mole and Mrs. Elizabeth Busby for the improvements that they have made to their businesses.

These improvements will entice travelers to stop and shop in our "Great Town."

ESTILL RECEIVES SECOND SOUTH CAROLINA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The Town of Estill is extremely fortunate to receive a second Rural Infrastructure Grant. The first grant was for \$347,000. This money was used to replace a lift station at the federal prison. The previous lift station had out-served its usefulness in pumping water and waste water to our treatment plant lagoon.

On November 10, 2015, we received another grant from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority. This grant totaled \$500,000. This grant will be used to replace the liner in one of our waste water lagoons and replace/repair its line application system. Please be cognizant of the fact that this maintenance is mandated by DHEC and funds can only be spent for the purpose it was intended. Presently, we have received \$847,000 from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority.

After much delay, we finally completed the Wyman Blvd. and Ruth Street Project. The total cost of this project was \$825,640. EPA provided \$241,100; CDBG provided \$422,500 and the Town provided \$162,040. The Town is responsible for matching all grant funds received when necessary.

EPA, CDBG, and Town funds were utilized to complete this project. When the project was completed, we had an \$80,000 surplus. We had two choices to make; return the \$80,000 to CDBG or do more infrastructure work. After discovering recently that a portion of Ruth Street sewage line had collapsed, we decided the latter. That \$80,000 will be used to replace 500 linear feet of the Ruth Street sewer line. Work on this project will begin soon!

IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF PERSON TO LEAD

To be an effective leader, one must have the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon tempered with mercy and understanding. One must be able to listen tentatively to the wishes of others and yet make a decision that is going to benefit the masses. Personalities should never enter into decision-making. Never be afraid to admit when you are on the wrong side of an issue. Education, training, and common sense are key ingredients to being successful. The Municipal Association of South Carolina is well aware of the importance of elected officials being trained. It sponsors the Strom Thurmond Institute through the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government.

which offers specialized training for elected officials to increase their understanding of local government operations. To graduate, the elected official must complete seven courses. So far, the Town of Estill has four graduates of the Municipal Institute and one presently enrolled. There is also the Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute. This institute is offered for those who have graduated from the MEO Institute of Government and seek to advance knowledge of municipal operations and structure. These trainings also provide studies of new trends and innovative methodologies used by municipalities throughout the US. To complete the institute, officials must take four of the six courses in the cluster. Three of your five elected officials, James A. Williams, Frankie Bennett and Anderson Taylor, are currently enrolled in the Advanced Institute. As you can see, the administration is making every effort to be informed in reference to matters that affect our Town and citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD TO POSSIBLY REZONE APPROXIMATELY 130 ACRES FROM R-9 TO HC

The purpose of the public hearing was to decide whether or not the administration would allow Cypress Creek Renewables, LLC to construct a solar energy farm on said acres. Public announcement of the hearing was made on the radio, in the newspaper, and posted on the door at Town Hall. Ms. Williams, the Presenter, stated that there would be no health risks, noise, or devaluation of property in that area. She further stated that there will be no commercial traffic coming through the Apollo Home Subdivision. The area would be fenced in and have a vegetative buffer making it hardly noticeable to the general public. The company will generate electricity and sell it to South Carolina Electric and Gas. The first reading of the ordinance was held December 12, 2015. A second public hearing was held December 16, 2015. The construction of this farm will bring additional revenue to the Town.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS AROUND TOWN

The Administration of the Town of Estill would like to thank and commend the Public Works Department for repairing and installing Christmas decorations around Town. We would also like to thank the Administrative Team for decorating Town Hall. Special thanks to Mrs. Bettie Manuel, Mrs. Jacqueline Maxwell, Mrs. Rozia L. Burison and Mr. Jimmie L. Gordon for decorating the area between Third and Fourth Streets. If you would really like to get in to the Christmas spirit, please take a few minutes to ride through the various communities. You will see some fantastic home and yard decorations!

RECOGNIZING OUR FUTURE LEADERS, STUDENTS

Just as education is the key to success, our students are actually our future and they deserve every recognition for excellence possible. During our regular council meeting, December 9, 2015, three students from Patrick Henry Academy were recognized for outstanding achievements in various areas. Telie McCoy excelled in athletics. She placed 6th in the state golf tournament and made the All-State team. She was only four strokes off from the person who placed first. The entire community is extremely proud of Telie's accomplishment and her talent in golf.

We would like to congratulate Alex Jones for his academic achievement. He was nominated by his history teacher, Mrs. Julia Lucas, for always being prepared and ready to work, having a great attitude, being kind to those around him, and just being an all-around good student. It is refreshing to know a student who has all of those attributes! Alex, please continue the good work.

In today's society, it is rare to find a young person who is so giving. Jake Boswell is recognized for his community service. Over the course of his high school career, he has earned 251 community service hours with the Hampton County Fire and Rescue squad. He is truly a gift to his community. On behalf of the Administration of the Town of Estill, we wish these students continued success in all of their endeavors! Special thanks to Ms. Mary Braddock, School Counselor, for providing the information on these students and accompanying them to the council meeting. The invitation was extended to all schools in the district to give us names of outstanding student achievers for Town recognition during council meetings.

PARRISH GREENE TOWNHOMES

The Wondo Group, from Westville, Ohio is still interested in constructing a 28-unit townhome complex in Estill. The company plans to invest approximately \$5,700,000 in the project. The townhomes will be constructed north of Nixville Road. Additional information will be given to you as we receive it.

ESTILL'S WEBSITE

The Administration of the Town of Estill has contracted with an individual to update our website. The website should be up and running by December 31, 2015.

MR. DEZIAL TAYLOR, Eighteenth Annual Fall Festival Grand Marshal

Mr. Dezial Taylor was elected as the Grand Marshal of this year's Fall Festival. Mr. Taylor is a graduate of Allen and Georgia Southern Universities, Cambridge College and Charleston Southern University. He taught in the Estill School system for 34 years. He is and has been

always admired and respected by students, faculty, staff, parents, members of the community and the administration. His band performances and appearances were second to none. The Estill High School Band, under the direction of Mr. D. Taylor, was known throughout South Carolina and Georgia. The band even performed at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The Fall Festival committee was extremely fortunate to get a person of Mr. Taylor's caliber to be their grand marshal. Although he retired in 2014, his legacy still remains at Estill High School.

A POEM, AUTHOR UNKNOWN

This poem was given to me by Mrs. Lawton O'Cain a few years ago. In fact, I printed a portion of the poem in the first edition of the "Estill Times":

*If you think you are beaten, you are,
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you would like to win, but think you can't
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost,
For out of the world you'll find,
Success begins with a fellows will;
It's all in the state of mind.*

*For many a race is lost
Ere even a step is run;
And many a coward fails
Ere even his work's begun.
Think big, and your deeds will grow;
Think small and you'll fall behind.
Think that you can, and you will,
It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you're outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you're outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You even win the prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late the man who wins
Is the one who thinks he can.*

\$2.9 MILLION AWARD

In February 2015, the Town of Estill was awarded a \$2.9 million mortgage loan to purchase up to 83 abandoned properties. These 83 residential properties can be mobile homes or houses on a lot. The purpose of the program is to maintain and increase property values to make the Town more inviting for residential, commercial, and industrial investment. The program does not allow the purchase of vacant lots.

ANDERSON TAYLOR RECEIVED THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE ARNOLD FIELDS COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION.

More details will be given to you in the next edition.

FIRE CHIEF M. EUGENE RUSHING RETIRES AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO ESTILL AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

During his tenure with the fire department, Chief Rushing integrated the 911 system, improved alerting systems for volunteers by implementing a new paging system, re-purposed a Coca-Cola truck to be used as an equipment truck, worked with the county administration to house county equipment in the town fire station, with the understanding that the town could use it if needed, started physical screening for Volunteer Firemen, became one of the first SC Fire Academy Instructors in the county, started teaching firefighters for the entire county in Estill, purchased a new fire truck and built a new fire station in 1997, completed the inside of the station through donations and volunteer firemen labor, acquired a standby generator for the fire station at no charge, completed the re-addressing of the town, received a FEMA grant in 2007 for the Turnout Gear, SCBA, Air Compressor, and Cascade Systems worth \$134,000, purchased a new fire truck in 2007, lowered the ISO rating to a Class 4 in 2012, received a FEMA grant for extrication equipment in 2014 valued at \$60,000, purchased a pick-up truck for operations in 2015 and received numerous SCMCAS and SC Forestry grants. The administration would like to personally thank Chief Rushing for his many years of service to the Town of Estill. He will be thoroughly missed!

TO OUR CITIZENS

The Administration of the Town of Estill would like to thank citizens for your support during the past several years. Although we have accomplished many things, there are still many more that deserve our immediate attention. We are still in the process of improving our water and waste water system and bringing businesses to our Town. We would like to dedicate this poem by M. E. Miro to you:

CHRISTMAS

*Christmas is more than a day in December
It's all those things that we love to remember
It's carolers singing familiar refrains
Bright colored stockings and shiny toy trains
Streamers and tinsel and glass satin balls
Laughter that rings through the house and its halls
Christmas is more than a day in December
It's the magic and the love
That we'll always remember.*

Merry Christmas!

Mayor Anderson Taylor, Mayor Pro-Tem James A. Williams, Councilman Frankie Bennett, Councilman Corrin F. Bowers, III, and Councilwoman Tammy Solomon