



Town of Waco



August 22, 2021

Greetings All,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Town Board members to provide updates on some of our on-going projects and to pass along other Waco related information we wanted to share.

In June the Board voted to continue our curbside recycling program for another year. I personally believe that each of us has a responsibility to do our part to help keep our planet clean and green and recycling is a big factor in doing this. I am proud that we are one of only two municipalities in Cleveland County to continue to offer curbside recycling to its citizens. If you are not interested in participating in the recycling program, please let us know. I have included a 2021-2022 recycling collection schedule with this letter.

We are very happy with the progress we've made with the Community Center renovation project. We have finished most of the larger projects and are down to just a few smaller ones. At this month's meeting we voted to get quotes to replace all the exterior screen doors and to repair the guttering on the building. We're also looking at updating our bathroom exhaust fans and installing a much-needed kitchen vent hood. The feedback on the new Community Center sign has been positive and we're glad you like it. Anyone interested in renting the building for an event can check the availability on the Community Center page at www.townofwaco.com.

We are very pleased with the installation and the appearance of the new windows and garage door in the shop portion of the Town Hall. These changes have made a world of difference in the look and security of the building. We did save some of the old 9 panel over 9 panel windows, so if anyone is interested in having a piece of Waco history, let us know. These windows would make a great art project. We budgeted funds this year to continue with the work on the Town Hall and plan to do some vinyl siding work on the exterior soffit and fascia, gutter repair, and to do some painting on both the interior and exterior of the building.

We are continuing to address overgrown vegetation along the side streets and we were finally able to address the area along the railroad tracks on Cherryville Rd. and Putnam St. earlier this year. Our plan is to keep this cut back annually so it won't get back into the shape it was in this spring. It's taken a few years but the street right-of-ways, curbs and gutters and sidewalks are all looking much better. We hope you are all happy with the progress we've made in this area. When each home owner does his or her part in the upkeep of their property, collectively we all win. We continue to hear positive remarks on the overall appearance of the town and we appreciate each of you doing your part in helping us keep Waco looking great!

Earlier this year the Board committed to developing a long-term plan to evaluate and address street repairs on town-maintained streets on a yearly basis. In the past two years we've paved Mill Ct. and addressed erosion issues on Phillips Dr. and earlier this year we contracted with Gaston Asphalt to repair some damage to a section of Oak St. In July we contracted with Smith Paving to apply a layer of sealcoat to A.W. Black St. which will help to extend the life of the street by protecting it from oxidation, oil and other chemicals. We plan to continue with this process on all town-maintained streets over the next 5 years.

In other street related news, we are working with the Cleveland County Planning Department to replace the street name signs that are missing in town and we will be installing speed limit signs along the town-maintained streets where they are needed.

There is no new information from the NCDOT on the S. Main St. bridge replacement or on the widening of Cherryville Rd. project. We will pass along any new information as we get it.

After the much-anticipated debut of the new pole mounted LED Christmas lights last November, we suffered the big misfortune of a power surge blowing out the lights along Cherryville Rd. between Oak St. and Stroupe Drive. After evaluating the problem, Dedmond Electric determined that the damage was attributed to long term wear of the electrical system made worse by squirrels. We have since had the electrical issues corrected and we are working to repair or replace the holiday light displays that were damaged. Everything will be back

up and working this Christmas season and we are encouraging our local squirrels to please re-locate.

As you are aware we were very displeased that the Cleveland County Board of Elections moved our local polling place to Buffalo Baptist Church for last year's election. We made several direct appeals to the Board of Elections to have the voting moved to the Waco Community Center but were turned down due to "parking concerns".

Well I'm very happy to announce that the Elections Board has voted to move our local polling precinct to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church for the November election cycle. The Town of Waco is the center of the Waco Community and it is extremely important to the Town Board and to me that the actual polling site for the Waco voting district be located within the Town of Waco. I want to offer our most sincere appreciation to Rev. Les Howard and the rest of the church leadership at Macedonia for their willingness to open their doors so each person in our community can exercise the most basic right of our democracy. Each registered voter in our district will be receiving a card from the elections board on this change.

In 2016 the Board and I realized that there were many things that needed to be addressed and that there were other things that we wanted to accomplish that would need money that just wasn't in our tax base. It was then that I started looking for alternative avenues of funding. In 2017 we were awarded a \$24,000.00 grant from the NC Department of Commerce that we have used for renovations to the Community Center, sidewalk repairs and Town Hall renovations. In 2019 we were awarded a \$20,000.00 grant from Cleveland County that we used to complete the Community Center flooring project and for the purchase of the new Christmas lights.

Now in 2021 I'm very happy to announce that the Town of Waco was just awarded a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Covid Relief in the amount of \$73,572.18 which can be used for investments in infrastructure projects, investments in outdoor recreational spaces and for a variety of other projects. The Board and I will be discussing how best to use these funds over the course of the next few months and we encourage you to attend our monthly meetings and join in these discussions with us.

In 2019 the Waco Town Board approached the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners and the NCDOT with a request to honor Waco native Floyd Patterson, World Heavyweight Boxing Champion 1956-59 and 1960-62 by installing new "Welcome to Waco Home of Floyd Patterson" signs at the town limits on Cherryville Rd. The NCDOT presented a rendering of the new sign to the Board at their July meeting and the Board approved it. The signs are now in production. The new signs are being paid for by public donations and if enough funding is raised, we plan to install the new signs at the town limits on North and South Main St. as well. If you would be interested in making a donation to help with the sign purchase, please contact me.

Finally, included with this letter is a new Town of Waco brochure that was developed by local Graphic Designer Jimmy Carpenter. The brochure offers a look back at our history and includes some vintage photos of some of Waco's landmarks. The brochure also highlights information on renting the Community Center and promotes our website www.townofwaco.com. We will be providing these brochures to the Cleveland County Tourism Board and to the Local Chambers of Commerce to call attention to what Waco has to offer. We want to thank Jimmy Carpenter for the beautiful work he did on the design of the brochure and the Waco Stop & Shop for covering the cost of the printing. Jimmy's contact info is on the back of the brochure and we encourage you to reach out to him for any design work you may need. Please support Waco area businesses.

Thank you for taking a moment to read this letter. You can reach us by email at townofwaco@gmail.com or from the Town of Waco Facebook page. Our monthly meetings are on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall and the meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you.

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