

THE

# SEDALIAN

SOUND  
SUMMER  
2024

THE  
FUTURE  
OF  
SEDALIA

CITIZENS OF  
SEDALIA SPEAKS  
OUT

SUMMER  
GARDENING  
TIPS ON KEEPING  
YOUR YARD  
BEAUTIFUL

PLUS: SUMMER RECIPE!

MRS. RUTH E. SMITH

A testament to resilience, leadership, and the  
enduring spirit of community.

A QUARTERLY LIFESTYLE INSERT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEDALIA BUZZ NEWSLETTER, HIGHLIGHTING  
THE VOICE OF THE CITIZENS IN THE TOWN OF SEDALIA.



## The Green Thumbs Behind the Welcome Sign

The promise of making Sedalia the *Most Beautiful Small Town in America* lies within a couple of citizens.

The "Welcome to Sedalia" sign, prominently located across from Zaxby's, has become a beloved photo spot for commuters on Highway 70. What captures the interest of many is not the town seal, per se, but rather the vibrant array of summer blooms, including begonias and rose bushes, nestled below. The credit for this picturesque scene goes to two dedicated citizens. Meet Jessie Walker and Samuel Martin.

Both Walker and Martin have impeccably maintained yards, with Martin boasting about his experience landscaping for the late Maya Angelou's North Carolina home. As the summer months heat up, these two share their best tips for beautifying Sedalia and maintaining a lush yard:

- **Keep the Trash Off the Road** "If you see it, pick it up," Walker advises, emphasizing the importance of keeping trash from littering our lawns.
- **Know Which Type of Flowers to Plant** "You have flowers for the heat, like begonias, roses, and evergreens," Martin adds, highlighting the importance of selecting heat-resistant plants.
- **Keep Your Grass Green** Walker, who keeps a verdant yard year-round, suggests, "Because we are in a hot spell, you might want to hold off on cutting your grass, as the blade, along with the heat, will burn it. If you have kept up your yard, missing a week will not be unsightly." Martin also adds, "Water your lawn, even using a water hose. Where the most heat is, that's where you water." He also recommends fertilizing your grass to maintain its lush green color.
- **Spray Your Weeds** Regular weed control is essential for maintaining a tidy yard.
- **Keep Your Flowers Watered** "If you want your flowers to look pretty for the whole summer, water them regularly," Martin advises. Walker adds, "Once your roses are blooming, you can take a pair of scissors and cut—" Martin interjects, "Just the bloom." They both agree that this will encourage more roses to grow.
- **Keep a Trench Around Your Flowers** "This allows the water not to run off," Martin explains. Walker adds, "Mulch around the flowers will also trap moisture."

Despite their hard work, Martin admits he is not entirely satisfied with the current flower bed. Both he and Walker have plans to continue enhancing the display with more eye-catching flowers. "That's when visitors realize they're in another town," Walker says of the sign. "If commuters see flowers blooming, it will catch their eye."

## Timeless Beauty

The Webb house may sit quiet but its grounds still yield the most beautiful blooms. In late Spring, the fragrant whispers of wisteria flowers could be seen growing in abundance in its front yard. The Webb house - named after the late former owners Haywood and Vina Webb, parents of the revered

educator, the late Dr. Burleigh C. Webb - hosted some of the most lavish dinner parties in the town. If the lavender beauties budding from the trees are any indication of what was growing in the mid 1900s, one can only imagine the floral centerpiece in Mrs. Vina's home was nothing short of exquisite.

The bountiful wisteria, cascading elegantly over the front yard, serves as a testament to the enduring charm of the Webb House. It truly goes to show that beauty is all around, even in the quiet corners of history.



BOUQUET SNIPPED FROM THE WEBB HOUSE



## THE QUEEN OF SEDALIA

# RUTH SMITH'S ENDURING LEGACY

*From having lunch with Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, to implementing an active guidance counseling program for K-3rd grades in Guilford County, Mrs. Smith opens up to YC Broadie about her legacy on the Town of Sedalia. Photographed by YC.*



Mrs. Smith and her daughters (Seated: Priscilla Smith, Standing beside Mrs. Smith, Felicia Smith Parks)



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*"I consider myself a well-respected lady."  
Mrs. Smith*

ON A SUNNY THURSDAY MORNING in mid-June, I arrived at the Smith Manor with eager anticipation. Upon entering the home, I noticed two periwinkle hydrangeas that survived the blistering North Carolina heat, beautifully nestled amongst the front bushes aligning the brick porch. The curtains are closed, casting an air of mystery over the home. Within a few seconds of ringing the doorbell, I was ushered into a dim, grand room, but not before a generous hug from the woman of the house, welcoming me into her abode. A charcuterie board with an assortment of cheeses, fig cookies, donuts, and mini cans of Coca-Cola awaits, however, my vegan lifestyle politely declined. "My mom always has things like this." Priscilla boasted as we both admired the spread. Southern hospitality was on full display, as one would expect when visiting Mrs. Ruth Smith.

Mrs. Smith, donning in a cream-colored, ribbed summer sweater, cleverly accented with layers of beaded red stoned jewels draped around her neck, exuded elegance. A thin red belt cinched her waist, juxtaposed against a flowing color-blocked skirt with a sheer overlay. Seated upright on a cozy leather couch with throw pillows, she radiated poise and grace. Within arm's reach, a remote control, magazines - one being Sports Illustrated with Gail King on the cover in a one-piece bathing suit - and books, along with an illuminated reading lamp. She asked for us to begin.

"I consider myself a well-respected lady," Mrs. Smith announced. She shies away from the queen title with a coy chuckle. Behind those closed curtains is a bright woman, basking in legacy. Her sharp demeanor and rich southern elocution, paints her as nothing short of queen.

As a "young as she feels," widow (she doesn't disclose her age), Mrs. Smith lit up with youthful exuberance when recounting her father's influence. Raised on a farm in Williamsboro, North Carolina, she was her father's trusted advisor on business decisions, as early as a child. Smith watched her father acquire nearly half of the town, land that she still owns today. Her farm girl rearing extended beyond growing elaborate gardens (Mrs. Smith, along with her late husband, Prince Smith often gifted fresh produce to the residents of Sedalia), she, too, began acquiring land (along with her husband) of her own.

Mrs. Smith is quick to note her admiration for the late Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, founder of Palmer Memorial Institute (now Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum). Smith recalls getting invitations for a lunch date with the renowned educator, admittedly unfamiliar with what some of the foods

were that Dr. Brown served yet eating it as if she enjoyed it. "She [Dr. Brown] expected so much of people... and she wanted what she wanted, and she got what she wanted," Mrs. Smith reminisced, drawing a parallel to her own achievements. As the owner of the 100 acres that hosts a "For Sale" sign on Burlington Road, as well as numerous rental properties, Mrs. Smith's legacy is deeply woven into Sedalia's history and future.

In 1997, along with ten other citizens, Mrs. Smith was instrumental in incorporating Sedalia as an official town. The now retired educator, principal, and postmaster proudly became the Town's first mayor. Though she no longer holds the title, she still has big plans for Sedalia. "I want to see more from Sedalia. We want to make it a beautiful town with stores, new homes, a new post office with our own mail route." She expressed passionately. Mrs. Smith believes in the power of community collaboration to achieve these goals. "Put your mind to work and never talk bad about Sedalia," she urged, confident that unity could garner transformative change. "Don't just think about self but think about the entire town. Once we do that, things will start working." Without raising her voice, she calls one to act.

While she continues to share her life's wisdom, it becomes obvious that Mrs. Smith's relatability transcends generations and genres. She is relevant and of the times. A member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and her late husband being a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., she shared there are moments when she gets sad that he is no longer here, but finds solace in the book *Adventures in Prayer* by Catherine Marshall.

As the conversation shifted, she shared a delightful fun fact of her audacious breakfast choice that morning: "I had an ice cream sundae for breakfast." Her fondness of a red, plump lip, (her favorite is by Merle Norman), and her chosen fragrance *Beautiful* by Estée Lauder revealed a charming side to her personality.

As we concluded our conversation and strolled the grounds, I asked if she believed a woman would one day lead the United States as president. "I definitely do. We are already leading," she affirmed with unwavering confidence. Respectively, like a queen.

# THE FUTURE OF *Sedalia...*

We asked a few of our citizens to share their take on the future of Sedalia.

“Improvement, and our youth, they are our future.”

~Fred Williamson  
607 Morgan-Summers Rd.

“A walkable town with sidewalks and trails, as well as more streetlights.”

~Helen Quick-Brooks  
212 Grand Oaks Rd.

“Growth, building up.”

~Annie Williams  
334 Sedalia Rd.

“An improved quality of life that leads to an explosion of growth.”

~Duane Bryant  
627 Morgan-Summers Rd.

What is your take on the future of Sedalia? Email us your thoughts at [TheSedalianSound@gmail.com](mailto:TheSedalianSound@gmail.com)

## Protection From the Sun

Maintaining good skin care means using a daily sunscreen. Here are a few SPF Must Haves.



Glow Screen SPF 40 by Supergoop!  
[\\$38 Sephora](#)



CHANEL UV Essentiel Complete UV Protection Sunscreen SPF 50  
[\\$60, CHANEL](#)



Vacation Super Stick SPF 45  
[\\$24, Ulta](#)



Black Girl Sunscreen SPF 30  
[\\$16, Target](#)

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## Social Sedalia

Local event held at Massachusetts Cottage on the campus of Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum brought out News 2 Morning Show anchor, Lauren Coleman, and *Miss North Carolina A&T State University*, Torree Theodore. Here shown with Serita Faison, Mayor Pro Tempore, for the Town of Sedalia.

If you have an event or social outing you would like to feature in our upcoming Issues, email us at [TheSedalianSound@gmail.com](mailto:TheSedalianSound@gmail.com).



(L-R) LAUREN COLEMAN, SERITA FAISON, TORREE THEODORE

## Summer Pasta Salad

This flavor-filled recipe, by Charlotte W. Roddy (612 Morgan-Summers Rd.) is a party in your mouth, and the perfect suggestion for your next summer dish.

- 1 lb Rotini Pasta
- 1-2 English Cucumber (Chopped)
- 1 Red Bell Pepper
- 1 Orange Bell Pepper
- 1/2 Red Onion (Chopped)
- 1 cup Cherry Tomatoes (Halved)
- 1/2 cup Black Olives (Sliced)
- 1 cup Mozzarella Cheese
- Olive Garden Italian Dressing
- 2-3 tbsp Salad Supreme Seasoning
- Fresh chopped flat Parsley

Cook pasta according to package directions. Rinse noodles well under cold water and strain. Transfer noodles to a large bowl. Add the remaining ingredients to the same bowl. Toss to combine. Top with fresh parsley. Refrigerate at least two hours before serving and enjoy.



IMAGE COURTESY OF PINCH OF YUM