



the COLLARD CHRONICLES

“One of America’s Best Small Communities to Raise a Family”~ U.S. Media Group, 2013

For more information, visit our website at www.ayden.com

Vision Statement

Vision to
Improve the
Lifestyle and
Landscape of
Ayden through
Growth and
Enrichment

A clean, safe, and attractive community that encompasses characteristics of a village; consisting of an economically thriving retail and service Historic downtown district that is abutted by residential neighborhoods providing a good mix of housing options and that are within walking distance to downtown and recreational opportunities; and that are all surrounded by a flourishing and prosperous commercial and industrial corridor. Ayden is a vibrant community with hometown charm.



Highlights of Ayden’s New Budget

FEATURED NEWS: Town Manager Brandon Holland

If you have been keeping up with the news lately, you know that there has been much discussion about both rising water and sewer rates and the promise of an electric rate reduction. The Town of Ayden purchases the electricity and water and pays for sewer services for its citizens and then bills you. So if our suppliers charge more, then we have to recover those costs in order to continue offering high-quality services to you.

I’m pleased to tell you that there will be no increase in property taxes this year. As you may have heard, the NCEMPA/Duke Energy Progress assets sale has been temporarily postponed. While we wait on final regulatory approval, the Town of Ayden will commission an electric rate study to help us determine what to charge our customers for electricity. It has been 20 years since we did a rate study, and we look forward to the good news of bringing a rate reduction to our citizens! As soon as we know what that is, we will let you know when it will be reflected in your utility bills.

CMSD, who receives and treats all Ayden’s wastewater, increased Ayden’s rate by 17% this year. Since we knew last year about CMSD’s plant expansion, we increased your sewer rate so that we would not have to pass on a double-digit increase to you. That said, you will see your sewer rate go up by 7.5% this year to absorb our sewer costs. The Town is in the process of initiating an inflow and infiltration study that will determine how we spend the \$980,000 we have committed to a “find and fix” sewer project. Using these funds to upgrade our sewer lines will decrease the high rate that CMSD charges the Town to treat its wastewater. Once the sewer lines are improved, we can pass these cost savings on to you!

As we informed our citizens last summer, the Town has prioritized drainage way projects that will help to alleviate temporary flooding that occurs when we experience unusually heavy rain events. I am pleased to tell you that we have completed drainage improvements in the Hines Drive/Montclair Estates; McCary Street/Masonic Lodge, and Kennedy Estates areas. In order to ensure we continue to tackle problem areas, we are charging a stormwater utility fee of \$3.50/month per customer to allow us to collect enough funds to tackle the next areas on our priority list: Westhaven/Verna and Snow Hill and Planters Streets.

Our budget continues to provide financial assistance to all three Ayden Schools, the Ayden Chamber, the Small Town Main Street program, and the Collard Festival. We are also making financial preparations so that we have the infrastructure in place when the SW Bypass is completed. We are excited about bringing new business to Ayden!

We know you and your families have been enjoying our most popular summer destination: Ayden’s District Park and the splash pad. We made improvements to the splash pad drain system and will also offer a large shelter for your events before the summer ends.

For detailed information about Ayden’s new budget as well as a host of other information, please visit: www.ayden.com. If you do not have a computer and want to use one, Ayden’s Library provides them. On the other hand, if you want a hard copy of our budget or other information, you can stop by our office and make a request.

See you at the Collard Festival!

Ayden’s Collard Festival
September 10-13, 2015
www.aydencollardfestival.com

AUGUST & SEPT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2015

- Aug. 10th: 7 pm—Governing Board Meeting*
- Aug. 11th: 6:30 pm Small Town Main Street Committee Meeting
- Aug. 13th: 5:30 pm— Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Aug. 17th: 7 pm—Planning Board Meeting*
- Aug. 20th: 7 pm—Collard Festival Committee Meeting
- Aug. 24th: First Day of New School Yr.
- Aug. 25th: 7 pm—Community Policing Council Meeting
- Aug. 27th: 6:30 pm—Arts & Recreation Commission Meeting

September 2015

- Sept. 7th: Labor Day—Town offices, Library, Rec Center closed
- Sept. 8th: 6:30—Small Town Main Street Meeting
- Sept 10-12: Collard Festival
- Sept. 14th: 7 pm—Governing Board Meeting*
- Sept. 21st: 7 pm—Planning Board Meeting*
- Sept. 22nd: 7 pm—Community Policing Council Meeting
- Sept. 24th: 6:30 pm—Arts & Recreation Commission Meeting

Water Tip of the Month

Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl *without* flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month and save \$\$ for you!



Set it and Forget it!

Set your thermostat for 78° in warmer months. Each additional degree above that will add about 3% to your energy costs.

*Please call 481-5826 three(3) days prior to meeting time if you need special accommodations to attend.

Customer Hot List Need to Know Items

No More Door Hangers!

Starting July 1st, you will automatically be notified by phone when your payment is past due as a reminder to pay your bill before electric service is scheduled for disconnection. If you want to get a courtesy call before a service cut-off, please call 481-5823 to provide Ayden Customer Service with a valid phone number. Thank you for helping us help you!

Ayden Art Show

The 7th Annual Ayden Collard Festival Indoor Art Show is on display at the Second St. Community Building on September 4 and from September 8th through 13th. We invite local children, youth and adult artists to submit up to 3 pieces on August 30th and 31st. We invite EVERYONE to come view the wonderful artwork For more info, please visit the Collard Festival website: aydencollardfestival.com

Pitt County Summer Meals Program

The Ayden Elementary School on Third St. is one of many sites hosting a summer foodservice program for children via the Pitt County Schools Child Nutrition Department. The Ayden site will open June 22nd and remain open through the summer (except July 3rd). Most school cafeterias will serve breakfast from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Questions? Call (252) 830-4226.



Sports Registration

If your kids are interested in either volleyball or football, Ayden's Arts & Rec Department is accepting registrations from Aug. 10th through Sept. 4th. For more information and to register visit: aydenartsandrec.recdesk.com, call 481-5838 or stop by the office M-F between 8:30-5:00

Town of Ayden

Inc. in 1891 - 2013 Population 5,014
Council - Manager Form of Government

A Full Service Municipal Government Offering
Electric, Water, Sewer, Solid Waste,
Recreation, Police, Fire and EMS Services
to the Ayden community.

Governing Body

Stephen W. Tripp, Mayor
Ivory Mewborn, Mayor Pro Tem/
Commissioner 1st Ward
Mary Alice Davenport, Commissioner 2nd Ward
Michael Harris, Commissioner 3rd Ward
Donnie Skinner, Commissioner 4th Ward
Phyllis Ross, Commissioner 5th Ward

Management Staff

Brandon Holland, Town Manager
Alicia Simpson, Finance Director
Robert Sutton, Public Works & Utilities Director
Tommy Duncan, Arts & Recreation Director
Stephen Smith, Community & Economic Planner

CONTACT INFORMATION

Town of Ayden
4144 West Avenue/
P.O. Box 219
Ayden, NC 28513-0219
(252) 481-5817
<http://www.ayden.com>

Contact #'s for Ayden Public Works & Utilities Emergencies

Ayden Customer Service at Town Hall
Call During Normal Business Hrs.
(252) 481-5823/481-5821

Ayden Police Dept.
Call Nights/Weekends/Holidays
(252) 481-5844



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE COASTAL PLAIN

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain will host the 10th Annual Ayden Reverse Raffle on Monday, August 17th, 2015 at 6PM with dinner by Texas Roadhouse. The event will be held at the Dr. Ledyard E. Ross Unit, located at 108 Second Street in Ayden. For tickets/information, contact Theresa Gilmore at theresa@bgcpitt.org or [252-355-2345 ext. 205](tel:252-355-2345).

Free Legal Aid

If you need help with health insurance via the Affordable Care Act, mortgage foreclosure, or domestic violence issues call 1-866-219-5262 or 252-758-0113.