

Town of Sawmills

Fall Newsletter

"Biggest Little Town in the Foothills"

October 2011

Welcome

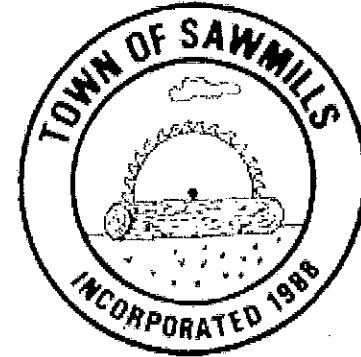
Message from the Town Administrator

Seth Eckard

Town Administrator

The 2011 Sawmills Fall Festival was a fantastic time! The sun came out, the smell of BBQ filled the air and the band rocked out. If you stuck around to the end you even got to see Mayor Bob play the drums! I want to thank the Town employees, the Sawmills Community Optimist Club, and all the vendors for all their hard work and making this year's festival a truly memorable experience. The time to start planning next year's festival begins now, so please contact me, or staff, with any feedback, both good and bad so we can make your festival that much better next year! Contact us by calling (828) 396-7903. Check out photos from the event on the Town's Facebook page.

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Town of Sawmills Veteran's Day Observance

Saturday, November 12th, 2011, 10:30am

The Town of Sawmills is pleased to invite you to our sixth annual Veteran's Day Observance at the Sawmills Veteran's Park. There will be a brief ceremony honoring our armed service men and women. It is a privilege to have as many veterans as we do right here in Sawmills and surrounding communities; this is our small way of saying thank you for the service and sacrifice you made for our country. There will be guest speakers, special music and light refreshments during the event. In case of inclement weather, the event will take place the following Saturday, November 19th. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Kim Trivette, Office Manager at (828) 396-7903.

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Recycling Rewards

Sawmills now offers a recycling reward program! The goal of this program is to encourage the citizens of Sawmills to recycle more and then be rewarded for their efforts! The more we as a community recycle, the more money we save in our landfill tipping fees. This makes the entire cost of sanitation go down for the Town and in the end helps prevent future tax and user fee increases. Plus, you help save the world! To participate, simply recycle each week using your recycling bin. A sanitation customer is chosen at random each month and is physically verified by staff to see if the citizen is recycling. If you are found recycling then you will have \$25 credit towards your Sawmills utility bill, and will be automatically put into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize in June 2012. Help the Town save money and the environment, start recycling today! Recycling bins are available at Town Hall if you need one. For more information please visit our website at www.townofsawmills.com.

Christmas Parade

This year's Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, December 3rd, and is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Line up for Sawmills Christmas Parade participants begins at 9:30 a.m. on Helena St. Anyone interested in participating in this year's parade can obtain an application from Town Hall. There is no charge to participate in our parade!

Engineering Update

Road resurfacing and waterline replacement is underway now on Loye Ln. The Loye Ln. project

should be completed by the end of October.

Storm water drainage problems on Bucks Dr. will be fixed by early November. Engineering work to address drainage problems on Baird Dr. will begin shortly.

Parks

Your parks have been a buzz lately. Parks and Recreation Director Benny Townsend reports that over 10,000 people have visited both parks during the months of March through August. At Baird Park this translates into 36 teams playing over 105 games for the Sawmills Community Optimist Club. Baird and Veteran's Parks have also become the premier place in the County for ISA Church Softball. The ISA Church Softball league had over 21 teams that played over 144 games at Baird Park alone, with an additional 92 games being played at Veteran's Park between regular season and postseason play. These parks have become a great place for our children and families to play and have fun!

Food Drive

Mayor Bob Gibbs is leading up a community wide food drive to help replenish several local church food banks. Please join us in supporting this great cause! We encourage everyone who can to stop by the Sawmills Farmers Market on Tuesday evenings, between 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., to drop off nonperishable food items at the designated vendor tent. You can also drop off food items at Town Hall Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Mayor Bob Gibbs at (828) 612-8790.

Message from the Town Planner Emily Hines!

In order to help the public become more familiar with how planning and zoning works in our community, I have asked our Town Planner Emily Hines to write a page summary of how some of our frequently asked planning procedures and regulations work here in the Town of Sawmills. Below is her summary. Planning and zoning is complicated for everyone involved so I welcome citizens if they have questions to come in and speak to myself or the Town Planner anytime to learn more about land use in our community. My hope is together we can all come up with the minimum amount of regulation possible to make Sawmills a great place to live, work and play!

~Seth Eckard, Town Administrator

The Town of Sawmills has ordinances in place to establish procedures and standards for development in the Town and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). These rules are known as the Subdivision and Zoning regulations.

The Zoning Ordinance states: "No building, sign, or other structure shall be erected, moved or enlarged, or structurally altered, nor shall any excavating or filling of any lot of record for the construction of any building be commenced until the Zoning Enforcement Officer has issued a zoning permit for work."

An application for a zoning permit is available at Town Hall. The application lists the minimum information needed for submittal. Most zoning permits for residential uses can be reviewed and approved administratively.

Subdivisions are any divisions of a property into two or more lots. There are three types of subdivisions which go through different processes of approval. Exempt subdivisions are reviewed and approved administratively. Minor subdivisions must be reviewed and approved by the Subdivision Review Board and the Town Council. Major subdivisions must be reviewed and approved by the Subdivision Review Board. ***[For clarification on what the terms Exempt, Minor and Major are please contact Town Hall at (828) 396-7903]***

Site Plan Review is required for any development requesting a nonresidential use or any multifamily dwelling unit(s). This includes changes of use and additions/expansions to existing nonresidential development or multifamily units. If you are not sure if your project will require a site plan, please contact the Town Planner at 828-396-7903.

In addition to the Town Staff, the Town Council, the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustment, and the Subdivision Review Board are involved in the Zoning and Subdivision review processes.

The Town Council hears requests for text amendments, rezoning, and conditional use permits based on their interpretation of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances and the Town of Sawmills Zoning Map.

The Sawmills Planning Board is comprised of 5 members, 3 who are residents of the Town and 2 who are residences of the Town's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Board advises the Town Council on various issues related to the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

The Board of Adjustment hears appeals based on their interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance and the Sawmills Zoning Map. They also hear variance requests. Variance requests are necessary when certain factors limit an applicant from complying with a section(s) of the Zoning Ordinance. Variances may be granted only if the applicant establishes that a hardship exists. The Board of Adjustment hears appeal cases when an applicant believes the zoning administrator has not properly interpreted the Zoning Ordinance.

The Subdivision review Board consists of the Mayor, the Chairperson of the Planning Board, and one other Planning Board member. The Board role is to review major and minor subdivisions in the Town's jurisdiction.

The Town Planner is at Town Hall on Thursdays. Emily can also be reached at ejhines@benchmarkplanning.com.

Recreational Opportunities
Numerous types of recreational services are available for seniors.

Senior Center Programs
The Satie and J. E. Broyhill Caldwell Senior Center provides many services.

SOCIAL GROUPS
Caldwell County has many social groups focusing on seniors. Churches often have senior adult groups, and many communities sponsor special events for seniors. Senior activities are often planned in conjunction with the nutrition/food service sites. Retirees often continue to meet with former coworkers.

Social Security
This is a federal program helping those of retirement age and beyond. It usually refers to retirement benefits, but also includes disability income and survivorship benefits.

Support Groups
Many local organizations sponsor support groups that focus on senior adult interests.

Transportation Service
Several transportation services are available – many at very low rates.

Veteran Services
The local veteran's office provides help to military veterans and their dependents with information, counsel, and assistance with entitlement to benefits and other matters relating to service in the armed forces of the United States.

Volunteer Services
Volunteer opportunities for older adults who want to donate their skills and time to others are plentiful in Caldwell County.

Additional Information

Caldwell County has many services for senior adults, their families, and caregivers. This flyer outlines the many services available. A detailed booklet has been created detailing these services. It can be found at "senior locations" around the county. In addition, the booklet, *Senior Adult Resources in Caldwell County*, can be downloaded (in regular and large print size) through the county's website. For the printable version, go to:

<http://www.caldwellcountync.org/senior-adults>

In addition to the printed resources, an information and referral phone service has been established to assist seniors. Call the Senior Adult Referral Center at 828-426-8282 Tuesdays – Thursdays for detailed information about area resources.

Caldwell County is fortunate to have hundreds of resources and opportunities available. The larger booklet contains around a hundred services available for senior adults in Caldwell County Along with addresses, phone numbers, and websites.

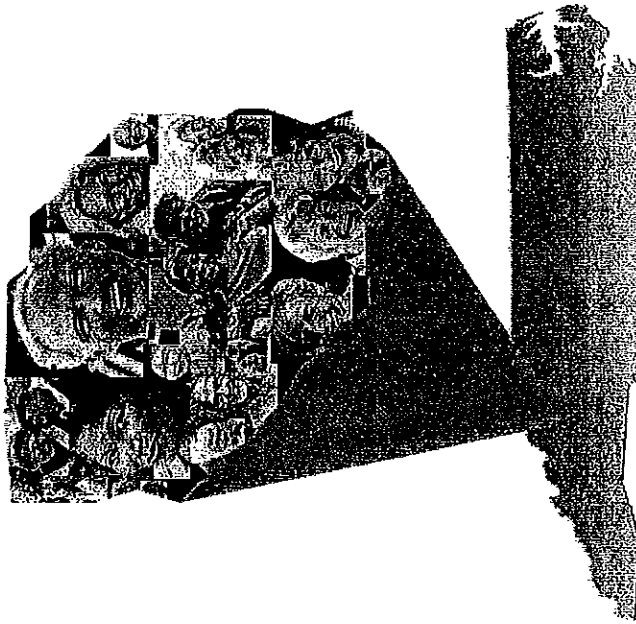
We hope you and your family members find these resources helpful.

A group representing retirees, as well as the many area agencies and organizations serving senior adults, collected the resources for this flyer and the larger booklet. They also created the Senior Adult Referral Center phone service to provide help on a person-to-person basis.

Printing was provided by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) Area Agency on Aging, utilizing Older Americans Act Funding, and by Caldwell County government.



Senior Adult Resources In Caldwell County



Need information?

**Call Senior Adult Referral Center
828-426-8282**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am – 5pm
Wednesdays 9am – 1pm**

To search or download a copy of this flyer or the larger booklet, go to
<http://www.caldwellcountync.org/senior-adults>

Adult Day Care

A protective setting is available for those individuals who cannot be left alone due to health care or social needs and provides respite for their caregivers.

Caregiver & Personal Care Programs

Various programs are available that address care-giving and personal care in the home as well as services for grandparents raising grandchildren. Respite care provides short-term or temporary relief to caregivers of the elderly, sick or disabled.

Educational Opportunities

Many organizations in the county offer educational opportunities for senior adults. Most are free, but some carry a small fee.

Elder Abuse

Resources are available that address elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or offer help protecting disabled or vulnerable adults.

Emergency Access

Systems

Phone services are available that provide seniors with the ability to signal for help when needed.

Employment Services

Numerous opportunities are available for older adults to explore employment options.

End-of-Life Planning

Help with end-of-life issues includes declining health, wills, power-of-attorney (both regular and health), estate planning, and funeral homes.

Financial Assistance

Programs

Financial assistance, banking information, and financial counseling is available for seniors.

Health and Dental Services

Health services are offered through numerous doctors and dentists, plus clinics and a local hospital. Many physicians and dentists are currently accepting new patients. Some accept Medicaid as well as Medicare, or other third party payers.

Home Health Services

As a licensed "home health service," various county organizations provides skilled nursing services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and infusion services (such as IVs, feeding tubes) in the home setting to qualifying individuals.

Home Modification & Repair

Various county programs assist with keeping homes in good repair. A list of agencies that provide simple home repair (such a window repair, holes in roof or floor) and modifications including ramps, grab bars, and handrails is available. Some do not charge for their services.

Housing Options

Assisted Living retirement communities, nursing facilities, government assisted housing, and shared housing is available in the county. Besides facilities designated for senior adults, other complexes in Caldwell County also provide handicapped accessible units.

Information & Referral

Help in locating services for senior adults is available from several resources in the county.

Legal Assistance

Advice and representation for certain legal matters such as civil (non-criminal) matters and consumer problems is available.

Medical Equipment

Special equipment needed for a medical purpose is available. This equipment can be owned, rented, or obtained free of charge and is used in the home to facilitate treatment and/or rehabilitation.

Medicaid Resources

Medicaid pays for bills of eligible low-income people who can't afford the cost of health care. This service is for persons 65 years of age or disabled according to Social Security standards who meet income and reserve guidelines.

Medicare Services

This is a federally administered system of health insurance available for persons aged 65 and over. Benefits may include hospital expenses, medical insurance, and prescription drug coverage.

Mental Health

Mental health services are available in the county, including help for addiction, such as substance abuse (alcohol or drugs), depression, obsessive behaviors (such as gambling, controlling others, sexual demands, codependency), and other diagnosed illnesses.

Nutrition/Food Services

Agencies in the county provide meals to senior citizens in a senior center or other site or will deliver meals to senior citizens who are homebound (meals-on-wheels).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAWMILLS FARMERS MARKET

EVERY TUESDAY 3:00PM - 7:30PM

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 18TH 6:00PM

TOWN HALL

HAM DAY

NOVEMBER 5TH 6:00AM - 3:00PM

SAWMILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 8TH 6:00AM - 7:00PM

TOWN HALL & SAWMILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCE

NOVEMBER 12TH 10:30AM

VETERAN'S PARK

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 15TH 6:00PM

TOWN HALL

SAWMILLS CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 3RD 10:00AM

HWY 321-A

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 20TH 6:00PM

TOWN HALL

Sawmills Officials

Town Council

Bob Gibbs, *Mayor* (828) 612-8790

Gerelene Blevins, *Mayor Pro Tem* (828) 313-0530

Joe Norman, *Councilman* (828) 381-2185

Beverly Fry, *Councilwoman* (828) 396-4422

Donnie Potter, *Councilman* (828) 302-8245

Joe Wesson, *Councilman* (828) 496-7475

Sawmills Town Staff

Administration

(828) 396-7903

Town Administrator Seth Eckard

Town Clerk Susan Nagle

Finance Officer Karen Clontz

Office Manager Kim Trivette

Administrative Assistant Julie Good

Public Works

(828) 396-2300

Public Works Director Ronnie Coffey

Assistant Public Works Director Steve Coonse

Parks and Rec Director Benny Townsend

Charlie Cannon

Rex Arrowood

Chad Duncan

Kenneth Wade

Matt Nagle

Joel Hart

Philip Hamby

Contact - Please feel free to contact us at (828) 396 - 7903 if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.