



Bridgeton North Carolina

Town Monthly Newsletter, November 2017

Special Election Edition

Wings Over Bridgeton Returns



One of the most unusual seaplanes designs in the world, the Air Cam, visited us this weekend.

It came, it flew, it thrilled just as advertised. The second annual Wings Over Bridgeton officially opened right on time Saturday

morning with the national anthem and a perfectly coordinated color guard of Marines from Cherry Point which led off the program.

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Assault in Nearby New Bern Spills Over Into Bridgeton

A home invasion and attempted robbery off of Purifoy Street in adjoining area of New Bern developed into a crime drama which saw our police force working in conjunction with New Bern's police and other law enforcement departments to quickly solve the case.

An attempted home invasion and robbery at the house of Mr. Robert Rowe, 100 Block of Purifoy Street was foiled by the home owner after he was beaten and threatened by the assailant, later identified as Jimmie Dunn, Jr., 42 years old.

Recovering from the assault Rowe quickly defended himself, shooting and wounding Dunn who then fled the scene. Police followed a blood trail to where Dunn fled in a vehicle. Quick and efficient work by all law enforcement departments resulted in a quick arrest of the felon and his female accomplice within hours of the event.

Dunn was placed in the Craven County Jail under a one million dollar bond.

Hopes are for a speedy and complete recovery for Mr. Rowe.

POLL LOCATION CHANGE NOV. 7

Just a reminder that November 7th is election day for your town government and for this election only the polls are located in Bridgeton Town Hall.

This is the time when you get to select the Mayor and Council members that work for you in Town Hall. These are your tax dollars at work in the streets and services that make your living space what it is.

Remember also that the polling place has changed for this election and **Town Hall** will be closed for regular town business but open as your temporary poll. This election will be even more significant than most as there are 6 candidates for the four council seats so please cast your vote.

Especially in a town the size of Bridgeton every vote counts.

Town Hall Schedule

Town Hall will be closed for regular business Nov. 7 (election day) but will reopen as normal Nov. 8. Town Hall will be closed November 10 for Veterans Day and Nov. 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving.

The Bridgeton Board of Commissioners meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2017 The Bridgeton Planning Board Meeting will be Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

The public is invited so please consider becoming involved. ■

Police Report

In August Bridgeton Police Officers investigated theft of two bicycles, a golf cart valued at \$4,900 and a stolen shotgun. All were recovered. The bicycles and golf cart were stolen by juveniles who do not live in our town limits. Juvenile petitions have been processed for them. That gun was reported as stolen from a home on B Street. It involves a domestic issue. We seized the gun, charges may be pending.

We are investigating the theft from a local business by an employee. That investigation has been going slow as we are waiting on information from the management of that business. As many as 20 felony charges from that case. I will draw warrants on September 12, 2017.

Lt. Johnson and I attended mandatory training from the North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. Since we also teach for Craven Community College the college paid for the training.

Reserve Officer Victor Moore is no longer with our department. Officer Moore moved out of state.

We are involved with an investigation with the Federal Probation Office in reference to a subject arrested in a traffic stop. Reports and possible testimony will be needed in Federal Court in Greenville. ■



Bridgeton's Feral Cat Issue!

Bridgeton has a feral cat issue. We all know this and we have to face the fact there is no quick and easy fix for this.

Street cats CAN benefit an area by curtailing other pests. Cats are natural predators and can limit the mouse and rat populations. With exceptions, most people like cats but even the most ardent cat fanciers can see that too many cats can raise health problems we do not want to deal with.

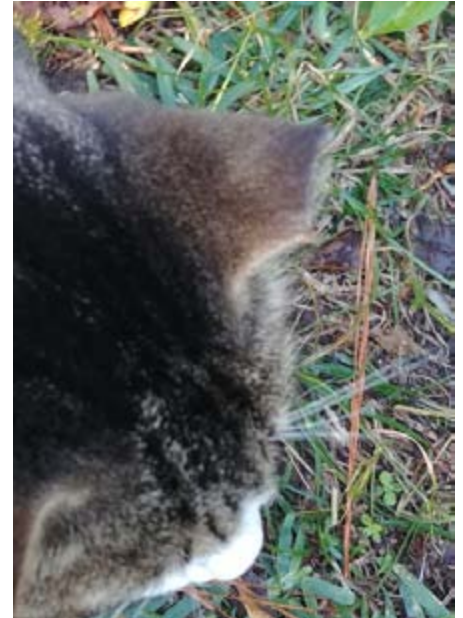
And we now have more cats than we actually need on the streets.

Few people would support killing of the excess cats and that course of action is not only illegal but dangerous. Beloved family pets are likely to be destroyed along with stray animals so this is not a course of action we wish to follow.

The only choice of action we can see is to aggressively spay and neuter the current cat herds and let nature take its course to decrease the population. Is it going to work? Yes, but it will not work fast but if Bridgeton residents pitch in the help the process can be speeded up. First, please stop feeding stray cats. Cats will stay in an area where food is abundant. A steady food supply will also attract other felines to the area so although you might be trying to be kind to the animals you are actually increasing the problem.

One responsible Bridgeton resident is already doing more than her part. Peggie Wilson has started her own spay and neuter program more than her part. I'll just let Peggie explain it in her own words from here:

"There are a few of us that are putting a team or committee (if you want to call it that) together to see if we can raise funds to spay, neuter and vaccinate the community cats. After the first meeting we will make it public for anyone to attend the second



The clipped ear identifies this cat as already "fixed" and no longer a reproduction threat.

and any other meetings. Anyone that would like to be part of the team or committee can certainly contact me at vpeggie@gmail.com. Please, no inquiries about taking cats off anyone's hands or requesting information about when we will be spaying or neutering at this time. We will come up with a plan and make it public once all details are settled.

I am very happy that we are moving forward with the care of these animals and I plan to do my best. However; this will take a couple summers and a lot of volunteers to complete so I ask everyone to be patient. I have faith that our town can come together and accomplish this and we can be a better town because of it. I am not the type of person that goes around and rallies for different causes. This is a first for me. I feel very strongly that these cats deserve a chance to a full healthy life just as we do. I will do my best to keep the town up to date with any information that comes about." ■

Join The Newsletter

If you have any civic events you wish to be publicized contact Elaine Bryan at Town Hall or go directly to our website:

<http://www.bridgetonnc.net/> and follow the link there. Let the citizens know what they can become involved with. ■

The Rotary Circle

When our club is not doing a service project to make Bridgeton and the world a better place we have a weekly meeting at 7:30AM, most Wednesdays at the Bridgeton United Methodist Church (UMC) at 501 "B" St. President Linda ask the members and guests to share any concerns they have so we may keep them in our prayers during the week. We have our treasurer, Patti Mason collect "happy dollars" among the club. Patti may collect a dollar or two from most members and guest. Most contributors have a quick funny story to go along with the dollar of two donation—resulting many times in lots of laughs. After all, Rotary is fun! Many of the "Happy Dollars" goes towards a myriad of club service projects such as purchasing school supplies for a needy kid at BES or perhaps a scholarship for a women returning to the work place.

We also collect "Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust" (CARTS). We place our pocket change in the blue bucket that when added to other Rotary club's contributions provides research grants that gets us closer in conquering this serious medical problem. That is the first ten minutes of the meeting! Wow it comes at you fast but with lots of love, fun and opportunity to help our fellow man. Then we con-



tinue with that second cup of coffee and a very nice hot breakfast provided by the good people of UMC—always tasty and a great way to start your day. Now it about 8AM and we have about 20 minute for our guest speaker. For a small club, we always have a talented line-up of speakers addressing concerns of the day and future. We finish with the club reciting Rotary's, "The Four Way Test." Great way to spend 60 minutes "Doing Good in The World." Call Chip Chagnon to arrange for you to see the magic of our small club. Remember to mark the date of 11 November (Veterans Day) and our second annual Italian Spaghetti Fund Raiser Dinner at the UMC, 4:30-8PM. Only \$8 for adults, \$7 for all veterans; and \$4 for kids 4-10. Free plate for little ones up to four years old. Great value for a salad, bread, a generous plate of spaghetti & home-made meatballs, desert and drink. Take-outs available. Everybody in Bridgeton has asked us for Patti Mason's homemade meatball recipe—but it is a secret. Please support this great event as the proceeds go to support our club's Bridgeton and local charities. Check out our Facebook Page and website www.neusesunriserotary.org for more information on membership and what we do in the community and the world. Be a part of the best small Rotary Club in NC, the Rotary Club of Neuse Sunrise (Bridgeton). Ask us about our Corporate Membership Plan. Call Chip Chagnon @ 636-2961 for more info. ■

Wings Over Bridgeton Continued from page 1

As soon as the Marines furled their flag, engines cranked and flying excitement started.

This year the number of aircraft increased from 5 to 7 and many more vendor booths were on site. The local JROTC battalion provided much needed security and crowd control and Chapter 1171 of the Experimental Aircraft Association was also on hand both on the festival grounds and in the air. One of the seaplanes participating flew in from Rome, New York setting a new record for longest distance covered.

A new addition was a Food Truck Roundup where participating food truck went head to head with the seaplane pilots judging. Nest Cafe edged ot tough rivals Seas Tha Moment and La Cocina del Coqui for top honors. Next year's competition promises to be even more competitive.

This growth was welcome but also daunting and the Bridgeton Improvement Committee had its hands full dealing with the organization and staging.

Even so things went well. Many people bought raffle tickets for rides over the Neuse and there were lots of happy faces of winners and family members. One family even drove in from Greensboro for the event!

Many thanks are due to the New Bern High School JNROTC class which provided superb crowd control and the Bridgeton PD who handled overnight security for vendor booths and aircraft. And both area Rotary Clubs and associates handled the parking in a polite and capable manner. ■

Bridgeton Yard Sale

Saturday, Oct 28, brought together buyers and sellers in Bridgeton to enjoy a morning of yard sales. Debi Cuthrell of Bridgeton Community Watch, coordinated the gathering. This is the second successful sale, sponsored by BCW, which will be

used to help BCW support safety in our town. There have been at least 400 people each time enjoying treasures of others. Tom Wynn, Dock Master of Bridgeton Harbor Marina, has been a gracious host and a huge supporter of town events If you would like to participate as a yard sale vendor, contact Debi Cuthrell at 910-880-2022. ■

In case you missed it, this was what Wings Over Bridgeton was like this year.



photo by Bob Schrader



photo by Bob Schrader



photo by Alan Welch



photo by Rick Meyer



photo by Rick Meyer



photo by Alan Welch

Names To Know

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|--------------------------|--|
| Rodman Williams | <i>Mayor</i> |
| Elizabeth "Boots" Parker | <i>Mayor Pro-Tem</i> |
| John R. Chittick | <i>Commissioner (Abatement Concerns)</i> |
| Keith L. Tyndall | <i>Commissioner (Police Commissioner)</i> |
| Alan Welch | <i>Commissioner (Parks & Recreation)</i> |
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| Rick Barney | <i>Police Chief</i> |
| Elaine Bryan | <i>Town Clerk/Finance Officer</i> |
| Melba Banks | <i>Assistant Clerk</i> |
| Alton Wilson | <i>Building Inspector</i> |
| David Fort | <i>Zoning Administrator</i> |
| Kevin Mullineaux | <i>Sewer Plant Operator</i> |
| Henry Watson | <i>Fire Inspector</i> |

Give The Town A Piece Of Your Mind!

The Town of Bridgeton wants your feedback. Until now sewer bills could only be paid by cash or check. Would you be interested in the ability to pay by credit or debit card?

Before we make this change we would like to know so please tell us. The survey is on the town web-site here:

<http://www.bridgetonnc.net/survey-page.html>