

# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January	February	March
2 City Offices Closed (New Year's)	7 Planning Board, 6 pm, City Hall	7 Planning Board, 6 pm, City Hall
3 Planning Board, 6 pm, City Hall	13 City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall	13 City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall
9 City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall	23 Parks & Rec., 6 pm, Comm. Ctr.	23 Parks & Rec., 6 pm, Comm. Ctr.
16 City Offices Closed (MLK Jr)	27 Master Planning Committee, 6 pm, City Hall	27 Master Planning Committee, 6 pm, City Hall
23 Master Planning Committee, 6 pm, City Hall	28 Lowell Women's Club, 7 pm, Community Center	28 Lowell Women's Club, 7 pm, Community Center
24 Lowell Women's Club, 7 pm, Community Center		
26 Parks & Rec., 6 pm, Comm. Ctr.		

## TECH @ Lowell News

Check out our website for teen, adult and family events at the Lowell Library. Flyers also available at City Hall.

### CITY LOANER TRUCK

If you have more than a pick-up truck load of debris that needs to be disposed of, you can request the use of the City's loaner truck. The City loaner truck is not to be filled with any debris from commercial contractors. A truck request form will need to be completed at City Hall. For more information on pricing and this program, please call City Hall at 704-824-3518.

### NEW PAYMENT OPTION COMING SOON FOR UTILITY BILLS

We are pleased to announce the City of Lowell will soon add another payment option for your utility bills. You will be able to pay with a credit/debit card. Cards can be swiped at the payment counter at City Hall or you can call a number to make your payment over the phone. Please note when paying with a card either at the window or over the phone a service charge of 2.2% of your balance plus \$0.30 will be added for each transaction.

### RECYCLING DROP-OFF POINTS

The City of Lowell offers two recycling drop-off points: Harold Rankin Park & Community Ctr. There are signs letting you know exactly what can be accepted. These services are only for residents who are paying for trash services monthly on their utility bill. Anything outside of the items noted on the sign is considered contamination and any violators of illegal dumping or contamination will be reported to authorities.

## Lowell, NC The Patriotic City



The City of Lowell newsletter is published quarterly to inform the residents of Lowell about their city and related activities. Questions and comments should be directed to the City Clerk's Office, 101 West First, Street, Lowell, NC 28098.

City of Lowell  
101 West First Street  
Lowell, NC 28098

Std. Mail  
Non-profit  
Permit #1  
Lowell 28098



After "30" years of service to the citizens of Lowell, Police Chief Mark Buchanan retired November 30, 2016.

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

# CITY OF LOWELL NEWS & INFORMATION

January, February, & March 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hello Dear Citizens of Lowell! I would just like to say how happy and blessed I am to have been the Mayor of Lowell for a year already. I couldn't have asked for a better Council, City Staff and Citizens to work with. We have accomplished so much by working together as a team and I'm looking forward to another amazing year. Thank you so much for allowing me to be your Mayor. I promise to serve you to the very best of my abilities. Don't forget "*We are building today for a brighter tomorrow*"! - Mayor, Sandy Railey

## HELPFUL TIP FROM PUBLIC WORKS

**DID YOU KNOW?** If your consumption is climbing each month and you don't think you're using more water, it could be your toilet causing the problem. Depending on the extent of the leak, a warped or poorly fitting flapper can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day and may cost you hundreds of dollars a year. A flapper is a rubber mechanism in your toilet tank that is the moving part of the flush valve, sealing water into the tank and allowing water to exit the tank when you flush.

Flappers deteriorate over time as a result of in-tank cleaning products and chemicals used by utilities. That's why they need to be checked every year to make sure they're fitting tightly over the flush tube. To find out if a leak is being caused by the flapper, put a few drops to one teaspoon of food coloring or a dye tablet into your toilet tank. Wait about 15-30 minutes. If you end up with color in the toilet bowl, you probably have a leaky flapper that needs to be replaced. Replacement kits are inexpensive and can be purchased at your local home improvement stores.



Household fires are dangerous, destructive, and all too common. Check out these tips from the Lowell Fire Department and find out how well you score in fire safety and prevention.

- Check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year.
- Keep chimneys clear and vented. 75% of chimney fires are caused by creosote buildup!
- Always rely on a central heating system to heat your home. Space heaters account for 1/3 of home heating fires.
- Clean lint screens before every load on dryers. Avoid overloading the dryer. Motors under strain can overheat easily and start fires. Dryers and washers are involved in 1 out of every 22 house fires.
- Never leave a lit stove or range unattended. Oil splatter and grease account for 37% of kitchen fires, so keep those ranges clean

**CITY MANAGER UPDATES** ...Many Lowell business owners may have lower fire insurance costs following a recent evaluation of the LVFD by the N.C. Department of Insurance [Office of State Fire Marshal](#) and the [Insurance Services Office](#) (ISO). Many retail, commercial, and industrial businesses could see fire insurance rates fall by an average of 5-8%. Fire insurance rates are based on ISO's Public Protection Classification Program. ISO's expert staff collects information about municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a Public Protection Classification — a number from 1 to 10, with Class 1 generally representing superior property fire protection. To obtain an ISO Class 3 with a volunteer fire department is an amazing accomplishment. In the nation only 3.6% of fire departments are an ISO Class 3 and we have the only VFD in Gaston County with a Class 3. Many thanks to the Lowell VFD as well as the Lowell Public Works department who plays an important role in preparing for an ISO inspection.

**ALSO** ... Look for new awnings to be installed at two of our downtown businesses. Vera's Beauty Salon (108 N. Main St) and Sissy's Hair Design (112 N. Main St) were recipients of the City's Downtown Façade Grant Program. This grant offers dollar for dollar up to a maximum of \$1,500 to refurbish the exterior facades of business in the downtown area. The City would like to thank the Master Planning Committee for helping administer the grant process. ***A new grant cycle for the Façade Grant Program begins January 1, 2017. Applications will be available on the city's website.***

– City Manager, Kevin Krouse