



TOWN OF CRAMERTON

Honorable Ronald G. Murphy, Mayor
Ronald Worley, Mayor Pro Tempore

Commissioner Tammy Lawrence ♦ *Commissioner Jeff Ramsey*
Commissioner Jacque Sumner ♦ *Commissioner Sandra Ware*
Michael C. Peoples, Town Manager

MAY 2008

TOWN OF CRAMERTON MISSION STATEMENT

With "Pride in our Past and Faith in our Future", the Town of Cramerton's mission is to earn the respect of all our citizens through our commitment to providing the best possible essential services in the most cost effective and environmentally responsible way, by our conscientious government team devoted to a "citizen first" policy.

MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS AMENDED: The Town of Cramerton Board of Commissioners recently amended the Water Use Restrictions to reflect the following:

Lawn irrigation: Allowed on Mondays between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Vehicle washing: Only with a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off nozzle. Commercial car washes that recycle water may continue to operate with 20 percent conservation goal.

Washing sidewalks, driveways and streets: Remains restricted except for hand washing of exterior surfaces for painting; licensed commercial pressure washers may continue to operate.

Plants, garden irrigation: Allowed with hand-held container or hose with automatic shut-off nozzle between hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. Drip irrigation is encouraged as a more efficient method. Landscape contractors may continue to water plants under written warranty at any time with a 20 percent reduction goal.

Ornamental fountains: Filling and refilling and usage allowed only with those that recirculate water.

Non-residential users: Allowed with a 20 percent reduction goal.

Swimming pools: Customers may fill or refill pools one time.

The revised restrictions begin immediately and will remain in effect through May 31st. However, the amendment, allows the Town to reinstate previous restrictions or instate other revisions at any time that the Town deems necessary.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT TOWN HALL:

Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting	May 6, 2008	7:00pm
Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting	May 15, 2008	7:00pm
Board of Commissioners Special Budget Meeting	May (DATE TBA) 2008	7:00pm
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting	June 3, 2008	7:00pm
Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting	June 19, 2008	7:00pm
Planning and Zoning Board Meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7:00pm at Town Hall		
Beautification Committee Meetings are held every first Monday at 5:30pm at Town Hall		

CONNECT-CTY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM: The Town will begin using this important communication tool to contact every household to inform you of emergency situations, utility outages, community meetings and programs, parks and recreation programming notices, and other valuable information. If you would like the Town to be able to communicate with you by any other means than your household number or if your household number is provided by a provider other than AT&T, please provide us the information by clicking on the following link on the Town of Cramerton website, www.cramerton.org or you can include also include the information in your utility bill.

WASTE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS? Waste Management is contracted by the Town of Cramerton to provide collection of household garbage and recycling collection. If you have concerns **RELATED TO COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE OR RECYCLING ONLY**, please contact Ms. Julie Felton at 704-853-7852 or jfelton@wm.com.

NEW TOWN PARKING UPDATE: After careful review of the recent public opinion concerning parking and traffic flow in the New Town Community, the revised New Town Committee has made the following recommendations to the Cramerton Board of Commissioners:

- Woodlawn Avenue, Eighteenth Street and Thirteenth Street to remain no parking.
- Fourteenth Street, Fifteenth Street, Sixteenth Street and Seventeenth Street to be made into alternating one-way streets with public parking allowed in the non-travel lane.
- No formal decision has been made by the Board of Commissioners. Any change in the parking or traffic flow of the area is likely to become effective on July 1, 2008.

PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

The Town's Public Water Supply Division has been conducting required water line evaluations over the past several weeks. As a result we found problems with the pressure regulating equipment that needed to be repaired. This caused higher than normal water pressures in Town, especially in the Lakewood and Timberlake neighborhoods. We appreciate your patience in this very important matter. If you have questions contact the Public Utilities office at 704-825-7499.

We are preparing a very informative section that will be available on our website soon. It is titled "WATER". Where does our drinking water come from? How is water treated? How does water get to your home? Where does it go when it leaves your home? How much water do you use in one day? Will we always have enough? We hope everyone will visit our site because you will leave it having a better understanding of your role as a water user and a protector of our water resources.

Remember to be aware and report any water leaks or sanitary sewer overflows immediately to Town Hall.

Grease is the leading cause of sewer back ups and overflows. Never pour grease down the drain. Our goal is to reduce sewer spills to zero this year through system maintenance and education. You can help. Call the Public Utilities office for more information at 704-825-7499.

Please keep in mind that our public utilities staff are always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding water distribution or wastewater collection and treatment. The Eagle Road Water Reclamation Center is available for tours. You can contact Jamie Shytle, Public Utilities Director at 704-825-7499 or email jshytle@cramerton.org.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Watch: The Cramerton Police Department is currently working to re-establish Community Watch programs in each area of town. Previously there were active Community Watch programs in each neighborhood. The police department is looking for individuals from each neighborhood of Town that would be interested in assisting with the task of initiating the program near their homes. What is Community Watch? Put simply, it is an organized group of neighborhood residents who watch out for criminal and suspicious behavior and report it to law enforcement to help prevent crime and promote cooperation among residents and police. In essence it is being a nosey neighbor, but in a good way!

Organization of the watch areas is now underway. Persons interested in being involved in the community watch planning process should contact the police department by email at administration@cramertonpd.org or by contacting Officer Corey Debbold at 704.824.7964.

Citizen's Police Academy: The Cramerton Police Department Citizens' Police Academy occurs once each year and meets two Tuesdays per month from May through September in the evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Cramerton Police Department located at 155 North Main Street. The start date for the upcoming Academy is May 13, 2008.

The Citizens' Police Academy is an important component of the Cramerton Police Department's philosophy. Its purpose is to provide a forum whereby you can develop a basic understanding of the Cramerton Police Department's duties and its role in making our city safer. During the nine weeks of the Academy, various personnel within the Cramerton Police Department and other law enforcement agencies will cover a variety of subjects ranging from law enforcement history, basic law enforcement training, patrol, investigations, as well as discussions and demonstrations of specialized units within the Department and the field of law enforcement. Through this experience, you will gain valuable knowledge of the Cramerton Police Department's important role in the community. Each three-hour Academy session covers a variety of subjects and will include hands-on activities such as fingerprinting, high-risk traffic stops, and use of less-than-lethal weapons. During each session, you will be able to ask questions and interact with police officers and Academy instructors.

Upon successful completion of the Citizens' Police Academy, each participant and their family and friends, will be invited to attend the Citizens' Police Academy Graduation Ceremony held in G.M. Michael Council Chambers within Cramerton Town Hall.

An integral component of the Academy is the participation in a police patrol ride-along. This will be scheduled to take place outside of the scheduled class times at mutually convenient times for staff and participants. A three (3) hour time slot will be scheduled for the participant to ride and accompany the patrol officer on service calls. This exclusive experience is important in creating a true understanding of what an officer's job is like and contributes to an exciting, interactive learning experience.

Academy enrollment is limited. The Department accepts applications throughout the year. In the weeks prior to the Academy start date, the Academy Coordinator will contact you to confirm your selection to participate in the next Academy.

Potential candidates must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Live within or work within the Town of Cramerton or live within Gaston County;
- Have no felony convictions;
- Have no misdemeanor convictions within one year of application, other than minor traffic offenses.

Any requirement may be waived or modified upon review and approval by the Police Chief. There is no fee associated with the academy. Academy enrollment is limited. Enrollment is competitive. For an application contact the Cramerton Police Department's Academy Coordinator, C.J. Debbold, at 704.824.7964 or by email at administration@cramertonpd.org. Applications are also available to be picked up at the Cramerton Town Hall or downloaded at www.cramertonpd.org.

Crime-Free Rental Property Workshop: On May 8, 2008 a workshop will be conducted for individuals who own rental property in the Town of Cramerton. This workshop will be held in the G.M. Michael Council Chambers at 7:00 P.M. Presentations will be made on Code Enforcement, policing rental properties (nuisance abatement), and maintaining crime free rental properties. The meeting will last approximately 1-1/2 hours. For more information contact Officer Corey Debbold at 704.824.7964.

Requirement for 911 House and Businesses Addresses: For your safety, the Town of Cramerton Code of Ordinances requires that every house and principal building within the Town limits display the address number assigned to the structure by the post office. The numbers must be a minimum of 3 inches in height and must be visible from the street. Help public safety workers help you by assuring adherence to this important ordinance.

CRAMERTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

If you have questions or comments, or would just like some more information, please feel free to contact me at 704-824-4231. Thank you, Cam Carpenter, Director

SWIMMING POOL TENTATIVE OPENING DATE: Saturday, May 24th at 12 noon

**First couple of weeks until school gets out we will open on a reduced schedule.

NORMAL POOL HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9am-11am (reserved)
Monday-Thursday 12-6pm (open general public)
6:30-7:30 (swim lessons)
Friday & Saturday 12-5pm (general public)
Sundays Closed

Fees are \$3.00 per person per day. Annual passes are available. Parties can be booked at the pool, call for details.

Cramerton Parks and Recreation C.B. Huss Recreation Complex Hours

Administrative: Monday through Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm
Gym and Fitness Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 8:00am-8:00pm
Wednesday and Fridays: 8:00am-5:00pm, Saturday: 10:00am-3:00pm, Sundays: Closed
THESE HOURS WILL BE OBSERVED UNTIL NOVEMBER.

FITNESS ROOM:

Only \$10 per month for residents to join. Call or come by for details.

*** A REMINDER THAT ALL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND GROUNDS ARE SMOKE FREE

Belmont Downtown Merchant's Association FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE SCHEDULE

May 16th- General Johnson and Chairman of the Board Sponsored by BB&T Bank of Belmont
May 30th- Rough Draft, June 13th- Coastline, June 27th- The Tams, July 11th- Swampdawamp, July 25th- Band of Gold,
August 8th- Band of Oz, August 22nd- Coming up Brass

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER AND OTHER TOWN INFORMATION VIA EMAIL??? IF SO, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON YOUR UTILITY PAYMENT OR SIMPLY EMAIL mpeoples@cramerton.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVING INCREASE IN ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

The Cramerton Police Department receives numerous calls weekly regarding complaints on domestic animals within the municipal limits. The majority of the calls are complaints about animals owned by residents and not stray animals as one might think. In 1976 the Town Board of Commissioners adopted the Gaston County Animal Control Ordinances and authorized the Gaston County Police Department, Animal Control Division, to handle animal complaints within the Town. This authorization was in response to new, strict, federal regulations on the handling of animals and animal complaints. "The Town of Cramerton does not maintain facilities or personnel to properly contain and care for animals and attempting to do so would be very costly for taxpayers." Cramerton Police Chief Greg Ratchford said.

However, in addition to the Gaston County Ordinances the Town does maintain a limited number of its own ordinances with regards to the keeping and care of domestic animals. "The majority of the calls we receive concern animals who are not on a leash or barking dogs." Ratchford said.

What Ordinances does Animal Control Enforce?

For a complete listing of all Gaston County Animal Control Ordinances and information on the Gaston County Police Department Animal Control Division visit

<http://www.co.gaston.nc.us/AnimalControl/index.HTM>. In Gaston County, all dogs and cats, four months of age, are required to be vaccinated against rabies. Within 3 days of the rabies vaccination, animal owners must purchase from Animal Control a license tag for their animal. Listed below are the State Laws and Gaston County Ordinances regulating rabies vaccinations, license tags, and the leash law.

North Carolina Rabies Law North Carolina General Statutes 130A-185.

Vaccination of all dogs and cats.

(a) The owner of every dog and cat over four months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccine shall be administered only by a licensed veterinarian or by a certified rabies vaccinator.

Gaston County Code: Section 3-7. Licensing

(a) Individual license requirements.

(1) Upon the effective date of the chapter and thereafter, all owners who obtain a rabies vaccination for a dog or cat are also required to purchase from the animal shelter, within three (3) days, a license for each dog or cat.

Section 3-8. Responsibilities of owner to control dog.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having possession, charge, care, custody or control of any dog to fail to keep such dog exclusively upon his own premises, or on the private premises of another with prior consent provided, however, a dog may leave such premises only if:

(1) A dog is under restraint by virtue of being in the custody of a competent person and held by a leash, chain, or other device of sufficient strength to maintain control of the dog by that person;

(2) A dog is under direct control by virtue of being held within a secure enclosure;

(3) A dog is engaged in organized hunting activities on private property with the consent of the owner of the property.

What Services does Animal Control Offer?

Animal Control has the duty and responsibility to enforce animal-related North Carolina General Statutes and Gaston County Ordinances. The field operation, consisting of both sworn and non-sworn personnel, investigates animal-related complaints including nuisance, leash laws, animals on school grounds, rabies suspects, and reported cases of cruelty, abuse and neglect. Dangerous animal hearings are conducted, with the participation and assistance of the Animal Control Task Force Advisory Board, the Gaston Humane Society, and the Gaston County Veterinarian's Association, to determine whether or not an animal should be declared dangerous. By ordinance, binding confinement requirements may be directed. Animal Control is responsible for investigating animal bites and ensuring that the biting animal(s) are quarantined for rabies observation or processed for rabies testing.

Animal Control impounds and cares for stray, diseased, injured, and unwanted animals at the Animal Shelter. The animals are properly housed and cared for until owners either reclaim their pet, the animal is placed with a new owner through the [adoption-medical program](#), or the animal is humanely disposed of in accordance with State Law and County Ordinance.

Animal Control conducts, promotes, and sponsors educational and training seminars, sometimes through Gaston College, held at the college, the Agricultural Center, various schools and civic buildings, and the shelter itself. These workshops have been attended by personnel nationwide and the Gaston County Animal Control program has been recognized nationally by the National Association of Counties, as being one of the best in the state.

How do I contact animal control?

Hours: Monday - Friday 11:00am-5:00pm
First Saturday of Month 10:00am-2:00pm
Closed other Saturdays and Sundays

Telephone: (During Regular Hours) 704-922-8677 or 704-922-8678

Emergency Calls after normal hours: 704-866-3300

Mailing Address: PO Box 479, Dallas, NC 28034

Email Address: www.co.gaston.nc.us/AnimalControl/index

Directions: The Department of Animal Control is located at 220 Leisure Lane, in Dallas, North Carolina. From I-85, take exit 17, to Hwy 321 North, to Hwy 279 West (Cherryville), turn right at light, go through 3 traffic signals, turn left onto Leisure Lane beside Gaston County Agricultural Center, shelter is located on right, across the street from the tennis courts, inside Biggerstaff Park.