

CENTER



POINT

“The Center of the State”

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHEBORO

MARCH 2013

Architectural Tour Reveals Many Secrets About Our Sunset Theatre

Have you ever wondered why there are fake windows inside the auditorium of the Sunset Theatre? Or why, while you're sitting there, you feel like you're on the outside of a house, looking in? On January 31, City Manager **John Ogburn** led us on an architectural tour of the theatre to discuss the renovations that are taking place, and he also explained why the Sunset is decorated in this way.

The Sunset Theatre was designed in 1929. If you try to picture what life was like in Asheboro at that time, Sunset Avenue went all the way down to where it is now, but it was paved only down to the Asheboro Dermatology Office. The rest was dirt. Fayetteville Street was paved down to Academy Street to the south and around Randolph Hospital to the north. Park Street ended at Memorial Park. In 1927, singer/actor Al Jolson made the first talking musical, “The Jazz Singer.” Up until then, theatres had only shown silent movies. In those days, a lot of people still didn't have a radio, and there was no television. You could read the newspaper, if you could afford it, but if you lived out in the county, it had to be mailed to you and you were reading about the news a day or two after it happened. So, for special occasions, you would come to “town” and go to the theatre.

Theatres in those days had a theme, just like the Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. People would go to the theatre to escape reality. The building was part of the show and helped transport you to another place for a little while. Our Sunset Theatre was decorated in the style of “Spanish Colonial Revival.” This was a style that was really popular in Southern California during that time period. It was a style that came out of the popularity of the old “Zorro” movies. Theatres in this style featured stucco walls, fancy decorations, heavy wood eave brackets, and terra cotta tile roofs. There are about 12 theatres built from the 1920s to the 1940s in North Carolina that have been restored and still operate. Only two survive that are decorated in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, ours, and the Carolina Theatre in Charlotte.

There was no marquee over the entrance to the theatre. There was just a small canopy covering the entrance, and the front of the building was decorated with six square limestone

carvings. Some show the head and uniform of an ancient Spanish soldier, others show shields that would have been used in battle. The old, long marquee that most of us remember was added in 1950. When it was removed a couple of years ago, these original carvings were uncovered. The new marquee has been placed over what will now be the entrance/lobby of the theatre. The colors in the new marquee are the Spanish Colonial Revival colors of yellow and orange. The windows above the marquee that looked yellow and dirty when we were growing up were actually built that way to look yellow and aged.

The theatre was decorated to make you feel like you were visiting a huge, Spanish house, or “hacienda.” And again, the colors that have been picked for the inside of the theatre are the same yellow and orange colors that would have been used in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

The Sunset Theatre was one of the first buildings built in North Carolina that was designed to show “talkie” movies, or movies with sound. There is an orchestra pit underneath the stage of the theatre, because when it first opened, it would show silent movies with an orchestra playing music in the background, and then a “talkie” movie.

When the theatre opened on March 6, 1930, it was designed to make you feel, as you stepped into the lobby, that you were walking into the home of a wealthy, Spanish businessman. You would walk through the entrance to the “home” and then through the doors of the auditorium, stepping into an outdoor courtyard, surrounded by the house. That is why the light fixtures hanging on the wall are outdoor type fixtures, and that is also the reason for the huge windows on the wall. It was made to look as if the people who lived in the house could look out into the courtyard to see their visitors. Fake seating boxes were built high above the auditorium, on both sides of the stage. These boxes actually held the vents for the air-conditioning system. It is believed to be the first building in Asheboro that had air-conditioning. One of the original theatre seats has been found and refurbished and will be on display for people to see, along with a movie projector from that time period.

We owe a big thank you to our Planning Department staff for all of the historical research they have done so that we can modernize the theatre, and yet keep the look and feel that we all know and love.

March Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Clark Bell | Michael Mayo |
| Joey Bowman | John Nance |
| Debbie Bradshaw | Andy Nelson |
| Lisa Brady | Claire Ogburn |
| Arnold Cook | John Ogburn |
| Jerry Cox | Bryan Reeder |
| Celia Craven | Brian Richburg |
| Casey Critchfield | Kelly Shaw |
| Keith Garner | Nathan Sheppard |
| Max Hooker | Terry Sheppard |
| Henry Hughes | Sue Slack |
| Steven Hughes | John Smith |
| Brian Hussey | Keli Underwood |
| Travis Joyce | Linda Vuncannon |
| James Lamonds | Jodie Wilson |
| Kenneth Lynthacum | |



March Service Anniversaries

15 Years

Ricci D'Angelo—Police

10 Years

Phillip Hogan—Fleet Maintenance

Joe Terry—Street

5 Years

Celia Craven—Water Meter

Reagan Kindley—Police

AJ Marley—Wastewater Treatment Plant

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Colorectal Cancer is cancer of the colon or rectum. Colon cancer is responsible for killing thousands of people every year. Most cases begin as a benign clump of cells or polyps that become malignant overtime. It is important to be aware of the symptoms and causes so you can do things to prevent this type of cancer from taking your life.

The causes of colon cancer are largely unknown, but drinking and smoking are believed to be two of the biggest causes of this form of cancer. Exposure to occupational chemicals can also cause colon cancer and people with a family history of the condition are more likely to develop colon cancer at some point in life, although, the risk is still very small.

Most people who suffer from colon cancer don't show any signs or symptoms of the condition until their cancers have reached more advanced stages. This is one of the reasons why treating colon cancer is so difficult. By the time symptoms of colon cancer become noticeable, often the point at which the disease can be cured is long gone. There are some common symptoms of colon cancer that everyone should be aware of. Look at the list below and if you have any of these symptoms. If so, you need to report them to your doctor.

The most common symptoms of colon cancer are:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Diarrhea | rectal bleeding |
| runny stool | chalk-colored stools |
| unexplained loss of appetite | anal pain. |
| rectal pain | |
| stomach sickness | |
| constipation | |
| abdominal swelling | |
| jaundice (yellow skin) | |

City of Asheboro Employees Win United Way "Spirit of North Carolina" Award

On February 15, all members of the city's United Way Steering Committee traveled to the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst, NC, to receive the United Way "Spirit of North Carolina" Award on behalf of all city employees. The Spirit Awards provide statewide recognition for outstanding commitment and support to our community through local United Way involvement. The awards were developed to recognize companies and their employees that demonstrate campaign excellence and community commitment.

During the presentation, the following were listed as highlights of the city's 2012 United Way Campaign:

- Highest campaign total ever, despite fewer employees and losing several key donors to retirement.
- Number of donors, percent participation, and per capita gifts set records for the 3rd straight year.
- High expectations from the City Manager set the tone.
- Employee meetings were tailored to the interests of each department.
- Year-round community involvement increased participation.
- Advance promotion and regular updates sustain interest.
- Incentives said "Thank You" and showed management support.
- The Steering Committee celebrates campaign by going out to lunch.
- United Way Campaign success is always included in the End-of-Year Report showing the year's accomplishments.

All city employees should be so proud of this accomplishment. The Randolph County United Way always nominates companies for this award, but this is the first time any company in Randolph County has actually won. This year, both City of Asheboro employees and Randolph Hospital employees were recognized. Thank you to each and every one of you for your support. This award was for each of you. Listed below are the members of the United Way Steering Committee for 2012: Jimmy Cagle (Facilities), Eddie Cockman (Fire), Joan Cockman (City Manager's Office), Celia Craven (Water Meter), Michele Dawes (WW Treatment), John Evans (Planning), Brian Hauk (Water Treatment), Myers Johnson (HR), John Ogburn (City Manager's Office), Steve Paye (HR), Todd Swaney (Police), and Kristen Terry (Recreation).

Easter Holiday

City offices will be closed for Easter on Friday, March 29.



Marriage

Congratulations and best wishes to **Anthony Floyd** (Water Meter), and his new bride, Lisa Davis Floyd. The couple was married on February 14.

Welcome to Our New Employees

Environmental Services

Brian Richburg—Sanitation Equipment Operator I

Operations

Kellie Hollingsworth—Public Works Receptionist