



TOWN OF WARSAW

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TOWN MANAGER

Shawn Condon

May 2016 Newsletter

Greetings from the Town of Warsaw! This newsletter contains important news, information, and reminders for our community.

NEW UTILITY BILL POLICY

Effective July 1st, 2016, the Town of Warsaw will have a new Utility Policy which will change our billing process. The new policy will allow additional time to pay your monthly Town utility bill. Under the new policy, bills will be sent out by the 1st of the month, and will be due on the 15th of that month. If that month's bill is not paid by the 15th of the following month, then service will be disconnected. The customer would then have to pay the previous month's balance, the current month's balance, and the disconnect/reconnect fee to have service restored.

Other key parts of the policy are as follows:

- Payment agreements will be considered up to the business day before cutoff day. **No payment agreements will be considered on cutoff day.** Only 1 payment agreement will be allowed in a 12 month period.
- Customers can request an extension if unable to pay by cutoff day. **No extension requests will be considered on cutoff day.** Only 1 extension will be allowed in a 12 month period. Extension would be granted for a maximum of 3 business days past the cutoff date.

Remember, this policy and new billing procedures become effective July 1st!

CREDIT CARD/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY BILLS

Citizens can pay their monthly utility bills with their credit card or debit card online or by phone. For online payments visit the Town's website at www.townofwarsawnc.com, and click online payments on the left side of the screen. Phone payments can be made by calling 1-866-363-7958. You must have your account number to make payments, which can be found on your utility bill. There is a separate convenience fee of \$2.60 for making online or phone payments, which is charged by the payment service provider and not the Town.

WEEKLY BULK ITEM PICKUP SERVICE ENDING MAY 31ST

May 2016 will be the last month that the Town will provide weekly bulk item pick up service. Recently, the Board of Commissioners approved ending the weekly service in an effort to reduce costs and to improve the appearance of the community. The weekly bulk item pickup service, while a convenience for citizens, simply creates an ongoing accumulation of junk, debris, furniture, and appliances along the street that creates an unsightly image for the Town.

After May 31st, citizens will need to dispose of any bulk items at the Duplin County landfill at 325 Landfill

Road, Rose Hill, NC. Hours for the landfill are 7:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Thursday. Please contact the Duplin County Landfill at (910) 289-3091 for information regarding disposal fees, and any other questions related to disposal requirements.

The Town of Warsaw will be scheduling two community clean up days per year, which will provide picking up white goods (appliances) free of charge for citizens. These dates will be publicized once they have been scheduled. For any questions related to bulk item pickup, please contact the Warsaw Public Works Department at (910) 293-4660.

Please note, after May 31st, 2016 if any resident or business places bulk items beside the road, they will be notified that the Town will not pick up items. Items not removed can subject the resident or business to a penalty under Town ordinance.

NEW FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE

The Town of Warsaw recently adopted a False Alarm Ordinance pertaining to fire and security alarms. The Warsaw Fire Department and Warsaw Police Department spend a considerable amount of time and resources each year responding to false alarms. This wastes time, resources, and detracts from the Town's ability to respond to bona fide emergency situations. In order to allow the Fire Department and Police Department to effectively respond to emergencies, and to encourage business and property owners who use alarm systems to better construct and maintain their alarm systems, the False Alarm Ordinance was adopted. This ordinance does not recover the total cost associated with responding to false alarms, but is intended to encourage responsible use of alarms, thereby reducing the number of false activations. Under the ordinance, alarm users will be provided a maximum of three (3) free responses to false alarms within a calendar year (January 1st – December 31st). After the third false alarm, a user fee will be charged for any false alarm within the calendar year. The 4th false alarm will result in a \$100.00 fine, the 5th false alarm will result in a \$200.00 fine, and the sixth and additional false alarms will result in a \$300.00 fine. To view the complete False Alarm Ordinance, go to www.townofwarsawnc.com or contact the Warsaw Town Hall at (910) 293-7814.

TOWN OF WARSAW 2015 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

The 2015 Warsaw Annual Water Quality Report is now available. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The report can be viewed at www.townofwarsawnc.com or by obtaining a copy at the Warsaw Town Hall.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The threat of hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, snowstorms, wildfires, and other natural disasters are very real in North Carolina. Such events can cause injuries, deaths, and damage housing, infrastructure, businesses, and the environment. Through a Hazard Mitigation Plan, local governments assess current vulnerabilities relating to development design and location in an effort to reduce the harmful impacts of natural, and in some cases, man-made hazards.

The Town of Warsaw participates in the Sampson-Duplin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan has received preliminary approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and is currently in the process of being formally adopted. A copy of the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan can be accessed via the website <http://www.sampsonduplinrhmp.org>. A Public Hearing will be held at the Warsaw Town Hall on Monday, May 9th 2016 to receive public comment before the Town approves adoption of the plan.

WARSAW POLICE DEPARTMENT “ARE YOU OK?” PROGRAM

Warsaw Police Department’s “Are you Ok?” program is designed with Seniors and Shut-ins primarily that live alone (however not a requirement). Each morning the Warsaw Police Department calls to check on those individuals on the call list to make sure they are ok. If you are a Senior/Shut-in or know someone that might benefit from this service please contact Warsaw Police Department at 910-293-7816 Monday through Friday between 7am & 11pm to be added to our list.

RECREATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers help make it possible for the Town to provide programs and services to the citizens of Warsaw. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the Town’s Recreation Department. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community. For more information on volunteering with the Recreation Department, please contact Recreation Director Betty Smith at (910) 293-2010.

KEEP WARSAW BEAUTIFUL!

The Town of Warsaw encourages all citizens and business owners to help make and keep our community beautiful. While town officials and volunteer organizations work hard to make the town visually appealing, all citizens need to work together to keep our community attractive and safe. Please take steps to regularly mow and maintain yards, vacant lots, and all other property. Take steps to ensure that trash, debris, and other refuse does not accumulate on the property. Overgrown grass and debris on property is not only a violation of town ordinance, but it is a public health nuisance that serves to harbor rodents and other vermin. By working together, we can all create and maintain a beautiful community!

BUSY TIME FOR WARSAW!

It’s been a busy and productive time for the Town of Warsaw over the last couple of months. Work is nearing completion on the new gymnasium at Memorial Park; and soon work will begin on the new playground area at Memorial Park. Also, the Town is currently undertaking drainage improvement projects throughout Town to help alleviate flooding issues. The Town is undertaking these drainage projects step by step, based on a priority listing of areas that involve town right of ways, streets, and town drainage ditches.

Other recent events include the following:

- The Town has gotten a Tesla Supercharger station at the Quality Inn near the Interstate 40 interchange. This will bring additional traffic and business off the interstate into our community.
- We have two major company expansions underway which will provide additional jobs and tax base to the Town.
- The Duke Energy Warsaw Solar Facility began producing electricity in April, and a separate Town solar farm project is complete and producing revenue to assist in providing Town services.
- The James Sprunt Diesel Mechanic School had its ribbon cutting in April, and will provide vocational training for students in this area.
- We’ve also had new businesses recently open in Town; the Sign Shop and Boost Mobile. The Town would like to welcome these new businesses to our community!

For more information, please visit the Town of Warsaw website at www.townofwarsawnc.com. If you have any questions or comments about Town services, please contact the Warsaw Town Hall at (910) 293-7814.

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Local Postal Customer

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Visit us on the web at:
www.townofwarsawnc.com