



Garden Spot News

December 2023

Town of Rural Hall

423 Bethania-Rural Hall Rd
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Rural Hall, NC 27045
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townhall@ruralhall.com
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Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
Non-Emergency Number
336-727-2112 (Dispatch)
336-917-7001 (Office)

Check us out on Social media and be sure to follow or like us! Please stay tuned to our social media, website, email alerts, and future publications for events, update, cancellations, etc.



Council Meetings

December 11

Regular Council Meeting
7:00pm Council Chambers



Rural Hall Employee Spotlight



In this edition of our Employee Spotlight, we extend our gratitude to the Town of Rural Hall's Public Works Department. Their hard work and dedication plays a pivotal role in maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of our small town.

At the helm of this team is Public Works Director, Jason Hill. Jason's leadership has contributed greatly toward enhancing the overall appearance of Rural Hall. He has been employed with the town for nearly 20 years.

We also want to recognize the hard work and commitment of the other outstanding individuals who make up the Public Works Department: Brian Jobe, Donnie White, and Dalton Pendry.

Collectively, this team ensures that our town remains a beautiful and clean place to live work, and play. Their hard work often goes unnoticed, but we wanted to give these four a shoutout for their outstanding contributions. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for the positive impact you make on our community!

Council & Staff

- Timothy M. Flinchum
Mayor
- Susan H. Gordon
Mayor Pro Tem
- Janet M. Carithers
Councilwoman
- Eddie Horn
Councilman
- Terry Bennett
Councilman
- Hugh B. Campbell, III
Town Attorney

- Ron Niland
Interim Town Manager
- Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk
- Homer T. Dearmin
Interim Finance Director
- Donna K. Watson
Accounting Clerk
- Alston H. Brown
Public Information Officer

- Dawn Tysor
LPA Supervisor
- Jonathan Collins
Title Clerk
- Lisa Lane
Title Clerk
- Shykerria Moore
Title Clerk

- Jason Hill
Public Works Director
- Donnie White
Maintenance Tech II
- Dalton Pendry
Maintenance Tech II
- Brian Jobe
Maintenance Tech II

- Mike Simone
Fire Chief
- Ryan Hooker
Fire Captain
- Josh Joyce
Fire Captain
- Josh Wright
Fire Captain
- Ryan Key
Career Firefighter
- Thomas Mabe
Career Firefighter
- Chris Nowlin
Career Firefighter
- Chad Stevens
Career Firefighter
- Mark Thorpe
Career Firefighter
- Josh Kiger
Career Firefighter

- Steve May
Code Enforcement

- Michael Collins
Town Deputy
- Trent Thornton
Town Deputy
- Kiam Holley
Town Deputy



Rural Hall Garden Club

December is a quiet month in the garden, but there are more things to take care of than you might think. With limited daylight hours as we approach the shortest day of the year, this month's crisp wintery weather can be strikingly beautiful and bitterly cold in equal measure. While many parts of the garden and allotment are cleared, it might be a good time to use this opportunity to install a permanent network of hard-wearing paths or stone walkways. It is also a time to install boarders or straighten any edging around the existing flower beds. Creating a charming garden path or a border is a delightful endeavor that can enhance the beauty of your outdoor space.

If you haven't already prepared trees and shrubs for winter **there are a few things to keep in mind.** Do not prune trees and shrubs right before winter. Even if they look a little overgrown, wait until next spring. Pruning involves removing tissue and opening wounds without time to heal before the cold arrives. Pruning also stimulates a tree or shrub to attempt to grow, but any new growth produced in the fall will likely be killed because it has not had time to harden off or become woodier. To protect small trees and deciduous shrubs from heavy snows circle them with a cylinder of chicken wire fencing and fill in the space between the tree and the fence with straw or shredded leaves or drive stakes into the ground at four corners around the plant and wrap burlap or heavy plastic around the stakes, securing it at the top, center and bottom with twine. For young fruit trees, it's often a good idea to wrap the trees lower trunk with a pest proof tree wrap, which will prevent mice and voles from gnawing on the tree's bark during the winter. Tree wrap will also help to prevent winter injury caused by premature thawing. In late winter the combination of warm sunny days and still-freezing nights can cause the thin bark of young trees to split. This is especially prevalent in trees with a southern or southwestern exposure. Wrapping their trunks with tree wrap or shading them from the winter sun can prevent bark injury.

If you plan to buy a live Christmas tree this season, dig the hole where you'll plant it before the ground freezes. Store the soil you remove where it won't freeze. Place a board over the hole to protect from possibility of stepping into it.

The Rural Hall Garden Club wants to take this opportunity to thank the many citizens of our community for their support during 2023. It has been a good year with many pleasant memories created from the personal connections from the events held throughout the year. As our club continues to grow, we invite anyone 12 YOA, and up with an interest in gardening to attend one of our monthly meetings. We are always eager to meet new people and help to beautify our community!

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy safe holiday season!

Contact Information: ruralhallgardenclub@gmail.com
Facebook Page search: [RH Garden Club](#)

**Waste Management Recycling
Recycling Dates Highlighted Below**

Recycling every other Tuesday

Garbage every Tuesday

*Holiday-one day delay

| December 2023 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| January 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
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**Rural Hall Historic Train Depot
& Railroad Museum:**



SANTA AT THE CABOOSE

The Rural Hall Historic Train Depot and Railroad

Museum is excited to announce that Santa Claus will be visiting the Depot on **Saturday, December 9, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. (Please note the new event time!)**. Children of all ages will enjoy visiting with Santa in the little red caboose; hearing—and perhaps singing—Christmas songs; partaking in hot cider and train-shaped cookies; frolicking in the “snow;” and exploring the Depot’s updated displays and gallery. **Admission is free; donations are appreciated.** See you at the Depot!



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



Rural Hall Lifespan Center

The Rural Hall Lifespan Center is providing Youth Art classes each **Wednesday** from **4:30 p.m. until 5:15 p.m.** The location is **250 Summit Street in Rural Hall**. These classes are cooperative efforts of the Lifespan Center Inc. and the Lilly Network after-school program. The contact person for classes: is **JoAnne Falls-336-912-1055**.

Nazareth Lutheran Church



WINTER COAT & BLANKET DRIVE



Donations are needed for all ages.

Please drop items off at the Rural Hall Town Hall.

423 Bethania Rural Hall Road 27045

Monday to Friday - 8:30 AM to 4 PM

Accepting donations from

September 17 to December 17, 2023



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



TOWN OF RURAL HALL
 423 Bethania-Rural Hall Road
 Post Office Box 549
 Rural Hall, NC 27045

STD MAIL
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USPS
 PERMIT NO. 9
 RURAL HALL, NC

Rural Hall Holiday Schedule

The Rural Hall Town Hall facilities and License Plate Agency (LPA) will be closed from Monday, December 25th-27th, 2023.

The town wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season!



**Town of Rural Hall's Annual
 Second Harvest Food Bank
 FOOD DRIVE**

Bring your non-perishable donations to the Christmas Parade on 12/3 (donation boxes will be at the line-up locations), the Tree Lighting on 11/30, or the Rural Hall Fire Department by 12/15.

November 30 - December 15

Let's have a record year of donations and help feed those in need!

Rural Hall Seniors Club

The Rural Hall Seniors Club meets the 1st Tuesday of each month. Our monthly meetings are held at Mayflower Restaurant or Rural Hall Little Italy. Come on out and join the fellowship. For questions, please contact Penny Dixon at pennyedixon54@gmail.com or leave a message at 336-934-6523.

Rural Hall Area Business Association

Join us for our last meeting of 2023 at Rural Hall Elementary School on 12/12 at 12:30 p.m.!

| Meeting Date | Speaker |
|--------------|---|
| 12-Dec | Rural Hall Elementary School Program & Luncheon |