



Town Manager's Report

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING | OCTOBER 16, 2023

HOPE MILLS HERITAGE

Ole Mill Days: The Town of Hope Mills would like to clarify information tied to the Ole Mill Days Festival Event. Traditionally, the Ole Mill Days Festival Event was organized and facilitated by the Parks and Recreation Department as a full-scale festival in October with an associated event called The Ole Mill Days Reunion which is organized and facilitated by the Hope Mills Historic Preservation Committee as a way to bring families and friends together in remembrance of the rich history of mill workers. With the Ole Mill Days Reunion, town staff would assist the Historic Preservation Committee by staffing the event and coordinating food while providing the location at Town Hall. In recent years, the Ole Mill Days Festival event was rebranded to “Bites, Boos, and Brews” in an effort to garner more wide ranging participation from the general public but the Ole Mills Days Reunion event remained a staple in the Town of Hope Mills.

Due to the budget outlook of the current fiscal year, the Bites, Boos, and Brews event was cancelled by the Parks and Recreation Department with reductions in funding to Christmas light decorations and candy for our annual Trunk or Treat event due to budget cuts. With expenses ranging in upwards of \$20,000 for Bites, Boos, and Brews, staff felt that this event could not be funded this fiscal year, however, the typical \$300 allocation for the Ole Mill Days Reunion remained in the budget. In regards to this years Ole Mills Days Reunion, the Hope Mills Historic Preservation Committee opted not to facilitate the event this year in an effort to rebrand it in March of 2024 as a Charter Day Event.

The Town of Hope Mills will always continue to recognize the rich tradition of our Mill history and will support any endeavor tied to the preservation of its heritage.

AROUND TOWN

Domestic Violence Awareness - *Suffering in Silence: “The #1079 Initiative”*: October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and this year the Town of Hope Mills has created a new initiative to support local victims of domestic violence. In partnership with the Hope Mills Police Department’s Victim Advocate, the Town will be placing collection boxes in various public buildings to collect new and used cell phones.



Our goal is to collect a total of 79 cell phones. Many law enforcement agencies use the code “10-79” for domestic calls. We hope to exceed this goal to assist as many victims as possible. The goal of this program is to end the “Suffering in Silence” experienced by many victims of domestic violence. The collected cell phones will be distributed by the Hope Mills Police Department’s Victim Advocate to victims of domestic violence on a case-by-case basis as part of safety planning. Collection boxes will be located in the public lobbies of Town Hall, Parks & Recreation, and the John W. Hodges Public Safety Center. Please remove any personal data/pictures from used cell phones, conduct a factory reset of the phone prior to drop-off, and include a cell phone charger if possible.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please reach out to one of the local or national resources available. No one should have to suffer in silence.

- *National Domestic Violence Hotline:* 1-800-799-7233 / www.thehotline.org
- *Care Center 24-hour Hotline:* (910) 677-2532
- *Phoenix Center 24-hour Hotline:* (910) 485-7273
- *Hope Mills Police Department Victim Services:* (910) 705-3560

Trunk or Treat: REMINDER! -Trunk or Treat will take place on Friday, October 27, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Rockfish Elementary School located at 5763 Rockfish Road. Setup and check-in for anyone who has registered their trunk to participate begins at 4:00 p.m.



Heritage Park Groundbreaking

On Friday, October 6th the Town of Hope Mills held a groundbreaking to signify the beginning of the construction of Heritage Park Phase I. The site of Historic Mill #1 which is situated across from Hope Mills Lake will be redesigned into a passive park that will utilize elements of the history Mill that include the repurposing of the old dam gates and flume. Staff will continue to update the community as the project will now proceed to bidding and construction.

