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Council approves meeting time change

BY SCOTT HARPER
INFO@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Have you ever wanted to attend a Loris City Council meeting but felt that you would get home too late? Starting in February, the meetings will begin one-hour earlier after Loris City Council passed a change to an ordinance which now states the meetings will

begin at 6 p.m. rather than at 7 p.m.

Mayor Henry Nichols was absent during the Jan. 14 meeting when second reading on the matter took place. The motion for the time change passed with councilmembers Lewis Hardee and Michael Suggs voting "no."

Suggs told The Loris Scene the main reason he

voted against the time change is because 7 p.m. has always worked well for those who attend the meetings.

He said there are many times when public hearings are held an hour prior to the meetings. The change in time will mean such special meetings will have to be held on a different night than the regular

council meetings -- or they will have to begin at 5 p.m. Suggs said that will make it very hard for some members of the public, and some councilmembers, to attend.

"Nobody gave a reason for the change, except to say it needed to change."

Change on the Election Board

One other matter during the short meeting concerned the city Election Commission.

Council agreed to accept the resignation of Chairman Ronald Fowler who has held the position for many years.

He said other obligations he has made it necessary to leave the board. The Election

Commission is a three-person panel. Members serve six-year terms. They are responsible for conducting all general and special municipal election in Loris.

They meet when needed to plan for the elections.

Anyone who would like to serve on the Election Commission can call City Hall at 843-756-4004.



COURTESY

Dr. Teal, left, of Carolina Dental sells out to Dr. Andrew Spiguzza and his wife, Lacey. Dr. Teal will remain a part of the business.

Carolina Dental Care sold but Dr. Teal remains

BY SCOTT HARPER
INFO@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Dr. Wesley Teal and his wife, Hazel, opened Carolina Dental Care in August 1987 -- two years after they got married.

Recently, Dr. Teal sold his business, although he continues to work alongside the new owners -- Dr. Andrew Spiguzza and his wife, Lacey.

The couple took over the practice after moving to the area from northern Indiana. And, they were not alone. Lacey Spiguzza's parents and her 90-year-old grandmother relocated with them.

Right now, they are living in the

Carolina Forest area while they look for property to build a home near Loris.

Mrs. Spiguzza said when making the decision to purchase the business, they knew they wanted Dr. Teal to continue to practice dentistry. However, now that he is no longer the owner, Dr. Teal will have more time to devote to his true passion -- mission work.

The Teals have been doing missions work since 2008.

"My vacation is missions work," Dr. Teal told the Loris Scene during an interview in 2017. "I love going to places where people do not have the same opportunities we have here in America."

Mrs. Teal said she and her husband go on a mission trip annually to perform dentistry in places where such a thing is very rare. Most years it is to Ecuador where they are joined by dental students and support staff from MUSC.

"He is such an important and iconic dentist here in Loris," Mrs. Spiguzza said of the decision to keep Dr. Teal on the team. "He has a great following and is a wonderful dentist."

Looking for a change

Dr. Spiguzza was an associate for a large dental firm in Indiana but both he and his wife were craving warmer weather.

"We always wanted our own practice and so we started looking. We knew wherever we went would be a long-term commitment," Mrs. Spiguzza said.

They saw an ad announcing Dr. Teal was looking to sell his business and knew they were very interested.

"We met the Teals and thought they were great people, so we began the process of buying it," she said.

Mrs. Spiguzza said the name of the practice has not changed and they have retained all of the workers who were employed by Dr. Teal.

CAROLINA DENTAL, A2

Horry vehicle tax notices go out late

BY CHARLES D. PERRY
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Thousands of Horry County residents did not get their vehicle tax bills on time this month.

Horry County Auditor Lois Eargle said 32,785 tax notices should have been sent no later than Jan. 2, but the notices were just mailed Monday.

"I hate that," said Eargle, who apologized for the delay. "It's tough paying taxes anyhow and it's aggravating whenever you come in and you can't pay your taxes because the computer didn't have it."

The auditor's office handles the county's tax billing. The S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles provides a list of vehicles to the auditor via a software system called QS1, Eargle said. She blamed the system for the late notices.

"That is very complicated," the auditor said of QS1, adding that the system "messes up a lot."

A representative from QS1 could not be reached for comment on Tuesday.

The delay marks the second time in six months that the county has had a major problem with vehicle tax bills.

In August, the county began sending out letters to residents informing them of a billing error that dated back to 2014.

That was the same year the county switched to QS1, which allowed some vehicle records to be submitted to the county digitally rather than in the traditional paper form.

County staff had difficulty understanding the system and they did not process thousands of digital records, Eargle said. That meant some residents didn't receive an initial tax bill after buying a new vehicle. The audi-

TAX NOTICES, A2

OUTSIDE



Weather

High 66, mostly cloudy

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Low 56, showers

THURSDAY

High 66, showers

FRIDAY

High 50, sunny

SATURDAY

High 46, sunny

Come join a group of friends on a Holiday Trip to New York City, "The Big Apple". Incredible price of \$595 for six days and five nights, Dec. 6-11. Contact Alvin Jackson to make your reservations at 843-902-3366.

A five day, four night trip for a Holy Land USA experience to Orlando and Cocoa Beach, Florida will be Feb. 18-22, 2019 at a cost of \$475. Call Alvin Jackson at 843-902-3366. Visit grouptrips.com

(password - CherryHill) for a listing of trips.

The Cedar Branch Community Center presents a trip to the Ark Encounter located in Kentucky (Noah's Ark reconstructed) May 13-18, 2019. The trip is six days, five nights and cost is \$585. To make arrangements call Linda Hemingway at 843-455-7242.

Dogwood Hill Baptist Church Food Pantry, 1040 Mt. Zion

HAPPENINGS

Rd., Loris, has a food pantry the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Master's Table has its monthly food giveaway every fourth Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. until noon. Must present proper ID and is an equal opportunity provider. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Any group that would like to help with the

pass out, call Barry Long at 843-902-9078.

The Loris Civitan Club meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month (except December) at Backyard BBQ, 5107 Main St., Loris. For more information call club president Charles Webster at 756-4300.

The Loris Area Lions Club meets the first and third Tuesday evenings of each

month from 7-8 p.m. at Dale's Seafood, 100 South US Highway 701 Bypass, Tabor City, N.C. For additional information on our meetings and or the Lions Club's organization, call Lion Jim Murph at 756-7900.

