

To all Marvin Residents:

The first quarter of 2011 has been busy for the Village of Marvin. Your Village Council, Staff, Boards, and Committees continue to build the assets of the community, reduce the cost of government, and make your Village government accountable to you. Here are some of the highlights for the first quarter of 2011:

Marvin owns a 28-acre park!

After 17 years, Marvin now owns a major asset. On February 9th, we closed on 27.68 acres on New Town Road. The park will be called Marvin-Efird Park. The land was owned by the Efird family. This park and municipal grounds will be a cornerstone for building the community of Marvin. The park will have pastures, gardens, picnic areas, a playground area and trails for our villagers to enjoy.

Village Council members along with the Parks Recreation & Greenways Board, and staff have incorporated your feedback from the surveys and meetings and have proposed a preliminary comprehensive layout of the park. We will now begin the CUP process and additional citizen comments are welcome.

Planned Volunteer Day-

We scheduled a volunteer work day and park plan review for April 9th, from 9 to 2 at Marvin-Efird Park. Please contact us for more information. Our goal is to have a Grand Opening of the park in the fall.

Investing your tax dollars wisely:

Lowering the cost of occupancy - The Village Council continues to lower the cost of your local government. We currently rent the Town Hall space at an annual cost of about \$12,000 per year. The house on the park property was acquired at no cost. Our plan is to move from our rented Village Hall to the new municipal grounds as soon as the necessary improvements are complete.

More effective Village Staffing - The council prepared performance expectations for every paid Village position. The compensation is becoming consistent with other communities. Our total compensation has been lowered by \$80,000 over the past 2 years. This has helped us become more competitive in our salary structure compared to other towns in Union County.

Putting the skills of our Council and Board Members to work - We have a dedicated staff working for you. Our Council, Planning Board and Parks Committee members are providing their engineering, management, planning skills, and down right sweat equity to develop the park and to prepare our Land Use Plan. Most communities contract these services. We can expect a savings of over \$100,000 through the skills of the people already working for you.

Technology to increase service at a lower cost - On average over 50% of the calls to the Village are requests for tax information. Tax information is now available on our Village web site (www.marvinnc.org). Taxpayers can now check their tax information immediately, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A resolution to revalue our homes for tax purposes - Marvin Council passed a Resolution to request that Union County conduct a property revaluation. Though revaluing our homes would have reduced the village revenue, revaluing was the right thing to do. Your Council believes that the inflated tax valuations of your homes should not be used to balance the Union County Budget. Unfortunately, the majority of County Commissioners did not agree and the revaluation for 2012 will not occur.

Planning for tomorrow - On February 25th and 26th we held our annual retreat locally at Firethorne where we discussed many topics including the 2012 budgeting process and grant funding options. During this retreat, we held our first ever joint Council, Planning Board and Park, Recreation & Greenways Board meeting. The main focus was the Marvin-Efird Park and developing a plan and discussing next steps.

In closing, this Council is committed to providing the most transparent and responsive representation to all our citizens. We welcome your input and suggestions. As a reminder, a council member is available at Village Hall every Wednesday between 11 AM – 2 PM to speak with you in person. HOAs are also welcome to meet with the Council prior to a Council meeting to discuss any topics of concern.

Nick Dispenziere- Mayor, **Ron Salimao**- Mayor-Pro Tem, **Anthony Burman**- Council Member, **Ross Overby**- Council Member