

Dear Friends

It is with a great deal of mixed emotions that I write this final column as Mayor. For the past twenty five years I have been involved in local government and those years have been filled with many highs and lows. It has always been my intent to represent the people fairly and to lead with humbleness and vision. Someone told me once during a discussion they had never made a decision they would change, even if they could. I know that I have made decisions that, upon reflection, were probably not the best ones that could have been made, but I stand by the fact that I never made a decision without considering the information as presented and possible outcomes first. All of you know that decisions are only as good as the information you have before you make them, so it is always imperative to get the best possible information first. I intend to use this approach in this new job which you have chosen me to do. Chadbourn has many desirable traits which seem to be forgotten in all the negative press it sometimes receives. One of those is caring and friendly people who want to see Chadbourn improve and prosper as it once did. This can only be done if all the citizens work together to effect change with action not reaction. We have an old saying in the South; you can catch more flies with sugar than @\$&! When everyone realizes that cooperation not chaos is the root of progress then I believe we will be on the road to prosperity and respect. Remember, what we do in life echoes in eternity.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please pray for our troops and first responders since their outlooks are often more positive than most. I promise to remember Newton's Law as it applies to life in my neck of the woods. For every action there seems to be an equal and sometimes negative reaction. Maybe I could bottle, or should I say throttle, some of those reactions so life will be like I envision it instead of like I experience it.