Written by Debbie Gregory
Tuesday, October 23, 2012

The Eastern Star Chapter #379 is hosting a Spaghetti Supper fundraiser at Lafayette Elementary School, 401 Meador Drive, on Friday night, October 26, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with all proceeds going toward the building fund for the Masonic Lodge #543 and Eastern Star.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, May 2nd flames lit up the sky as a ferocious fire engulfed the building at 122 Main Street that housed the Lafayette Laundry and Lafayette Masonic Lodge & Eastern Star. The laundry was completely destroyed and the Lodge was heavily damaged.

Disheartened, the members searched through the debris and salvaged what little they could. There was so much damage to the structure, that after looking at every available option they decided to rebuild the Lodge at another location. With some advice from experts, careful planning and land donated by the county, the building project is underway on Mag-a-Mor Drive, directly behind the Macon County Health Department on Highway 52 By Pass East. The Lodge members don't have enough insurance to completely cover the cost of rebuilding, so this spaghetti fundraiser is very important to the future of the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star charitable organizations.

There is a lot of amazing history surrounding these two groups of dedicated men and women. The Lafayette Masonic Lodge was granted a charter in 1890 and they met in the building located at 114 Main Street. The current membership is 122, and in order to be a member you must be 21 years old, having a belief in a Supreme Being and of good moral character. A very

interesting aspect of the Masonic Lodge that I didn't know myself, is the fact that anyone wanting to join will not be invited. They must come in of their own free will and asked a standing Mason for a petition.

The Lafayette Chapter #33 Order of the Eastern Star was originally organized in 1905 but lack of interest led to the organization dissolving. It was re-organized in 1939 and later renamed Chapter #379. The Eastern Star must have at least two Masons in the group to keep their charter. The current membership is 140.

These two organizations, whose focus is on charitable work, are very secretive in providing help to those in need and they graciously donate their time, money and effort. However, they do not publicize their actions.

The Masons and Eastern Star members would like to thank the Red Boiling Springs Masons for allowing them to use their facility for their regular meetings.

The projected completion date for the new Lafayette Lodge is spring of 2013. Everyone please remember to come out this Friday night and support the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter.

They will also be serving salad, dessert and drinks. The price is $8.00 for adults and children 7 and young can eat for $5.00.