



# Town of Fletcher

PRIDE IN OUR PAST ~ FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

300 Old Cane Creek Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732  
Telephone: 828-687-3985  
Email: [info@fletchernc.org](mailto:info@fletchernc.org)  
Website: [www.fletchernc.org](http://www.fletchernc.org)

## May 2020

### Town Council

Rod Whiteside, Mayor  
Phone: (828)545-8913

Sheila Franklin, Councilwoman  
District #1 (828)684-5676

Preston Blakely, Councilman  
District #2 (828)230-2838

Bob Davy, Mayor Pro-Tem  
District #3 (828)687-0313

Eddie Henderson, Councilman  
District #4 (828)231-4811

### Town Phone Numbers

Town Manager: (828)687-3985  
Town Fax: (828)687-7133  
Police/Fire Emergency: 911  
Police Dispatch: (828)697-4911  
Police Non-emerg.: (828)687-7922  
Parks & Rec.: (828)687-0751  
Public Works: (828)654-9208

### Town Meetings

**Town Council Agenda Meeting**  
1st Monday of month at 6:00 pm

**Town Council Regular Meeting**  
2nd Monday of month at 6:00 pm

**Planning Board Meeting**  
3rd Tuesday of month at 6:00 pm  
All meetings are held at the  
Town Hall located at 300 Old  
Cane Creek Road in Fletcher.

The Town of Fletcher Newsletter is published for residents of the Town and reports on issues and events that affect our community. Past issues of our newsletter can be found on our website at <https://www.fletchernc.org/about-us/newsletter/>.

You are encouraged to contact us with your questions and comments by e-mailing [info@fletchernc.org](mailto:info@fletchernc.org). Also, please visit our web site at [www.fletchernc.org](http://www.fletchernc.org) for additional Town information.

If you would prefer to receive an online version of our newsletter rather than a hard copy, please contact us at [info@fletchernc.org](mailto:info@fletchernc.org).

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opportunity provider.

### **News from the April Town Council Meeting**

*This meeting was held electronically due to the current COVID-19 social distancing and 10-person gathering requirement as implemented by the Henderson County Emergency Order Supplemental Proclamation.*

- A two-year extension was approved for BSC Holdings, Inc. to complete the infrastructure at 150 Cane Creek Road.
- Eric Rufa, Planning & Zoning Director, discussed a proposed amendment to the rules of procedure for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment which addressed meeting cancellations during a declared emergency. The amendments were approved.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, provided an update on COVID-19 response efforts by the Town noting that to date we have had minimal impacts upon our services.
- Rebekah Robinson, of Conserving Carolina, and Michael Luplow, of Fern Leaf Charter School, presented a request to submit a PARTF application for the Summit Park project. The application was not approved last year so they would like to resubmit it this year. The Town Council approved the resubmission of the application.
- Councilman Preston Blakely proposed adding a social media avenue to our current Town of Fletcher communication platform. He recommended using Facebook as an additional way of engaging with the public. Town Council approved the creation of a Town Facebook page and Town Manager, Mark Biberdorf, will determine how it will be maintained.
- Councilman Preston Blakely proposed creating an ongoing unpaid 20 hours/week intern program with a local higher learning institution. After discussion, it was suggested that we establish and formalize a program and policy for an unpaid internship to work with the Town Council and Town Staff. Mark Biberdorf will direct this formalized process.

### Town Meetings

Upcoming Town Council Agenda Meetings and Town Council Regular Meetings will continue to be held electronically until the social distancing and mass gathering restrictions have been lifted or modified to accommodate in-person meetings. Watch our website at [www.fletchernc.org](http://www.fletchernc.org) for additional information and updates regarding our monthly Town Council and Board meetings.



### Memorial Day Holiday

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020 in observance of Memorial Day. Trash and recycling routes will not be impacted, but will remain as scheduled. Brush pickup that week will begin on Tuesday, May 26th.

## Have you completed your 2020 Census?

You should have received your 2020 Census questionnaire by now. Although we continue to battle the COVID-19 virus, your response to the Census, even though required by law due to the US Constitution mandate, is still very important. The Census results directly impact federal funding for our Town and County and the number of voices North Carolina has in the US House of Representatives.

So take a few moments and complete your Census form online at <https://my2020census.gov/>. It will take less than 10 minutes to complete if you know everyone's birthdate that was living in your house on 4/1/2020. Rather than having a Census Taker visit your home in June, or after depending upon the COVID situation, gather your information and take a few moments to complete your form today.

Their goal is to count everyone only once, and in the right place. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects. Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/census-data.html> for more information.

### Water Quality Corner



### Things You Can Do to Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

- 1) Scoop up after your pet, even on the grass.
- 2) Make sure your septic system is in good condition, and have it maintained regularly.
- 3) Apply fertilizers and other garden products sparingly. If anything ends up on a hard surface, sweep it back into the grass or dirt.
- 4) Plant, mulch, or contain any areas of bare soil.
- 5) Never dump anything down a storm drain. **"Only rain down the drain!"**
- 6) Consider installing a rain garden, rain barrel, porous pavement, or other landscape feature to capture run-off from your roof and driveway.
- 7) Make sure your business disposes of all liquid and solid waste appropriately. Make sure dumpsters are covered, and never dump anything, liquid or trash, on the ground or pavement.
- 8) If you use chemicals, oil, solvents, etc., store them in good quality containers. Only pour them in an area that has containment structures, such as a berm around the area, to catch spills.

The Town has an ordinance to prevent "illicit discharges" into the stormwater system. To learn more about stormwater pollution prevention, please visit our website at <https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/storm-water-management/> or visit [www.wncstormwater.org](http://www.wncstormwater.org) for more information.

## PUBLIC WORKS (828) 654-9208

### Recycling Oops Tag

In mid-April our recycling contractor, Curbie, began using "Recycling Oops" tags. The tag is bright yellow and will be attached to any recycling cart that Curbie does not empty because it contains excessive non-recyclable material. The reverse side of the tag contains a visual reminder of what is accepted as recyclable material. The goal of this tag usage is to help educate residents on what can and cannot be accepted as recycling so your recycling cart will be emptied as scheduled. If you would like a reminder of what is recyclable, you may also visit <https://www.fletchernc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/What-may-I-Recycle-2019-rev.pdf>.



### Leaf Pickup

We have completed our spring leaf pickup so our next leaf pickup will be in the fall. If you have additional leaves you are still cleaning up and need to dispose of, they may be taken to the Henderson County Transfer Station at 191 Transfer Station Drive in Hendersonville.

### Spring Clean Up

Since many residents are at home and may be focused on cleaning the garage since the yard has probably been cleaned up and planted by now, remember that the Hendersonville County Transfer & Convenience Center accepts paint and other hazardous household waste that we do not. Visit <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/engineering/page/convenience-center-recycling> for more information.



Work continues on the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Our consultants from Traffic Planning & Design have been diligently compiling all the information and input received from the recent survey and community engagement session. The Town was originally going to host another public meeting in May so the consultants could present this material, however, due to the situation with the Covid-19 virus, this meeting will need to be **postponed** until the ban on public gatherings is lifted. Please keep an eye on the Town's website found at [www.fletchernc.org](http://www.fletchernc.org) or watch future Town newsletters for updates and information regarding the next meeting.

# Responding to COVID-19 - April 28, 2020

To Our Residents:

I hope that this letter finds you well. This has certainly been an unsettling time for all of us. It however has been harder for some as they have been laid off from their jobs or been confined to home due to quarantine or child care issues. Some people have dealt with a combination of all of the above. Our thoughts are certainly with you as we battle through this together.

The Town of Fletcher has been fortunate in that we have not seen a major disruption in our services. With the exception of limiting Parks & Recreation programs and access to some park facilities, we have largely been able to continue with business as normal even though things have not been normal for anyone. Our hope is that the services that have been limited will open back up again soon.

I would also like to thank our residents for doing your part to act as responsible citizens. Your cooperation with the orders issued by our Governor and County officials have helped to improve public health. It has also allowed us as a community to start opening businesses and activities that we sorely miss as a part of lives.

If there is anything that the Town of Fletcher can do to help as we transition back to the new normal, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Biberdorf  
Town Manager

## **Governor Cooper's State Reopening Plan**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Roy Cooper issued [Executive Order No. 135](#) extending, through May 8th, the Stay At Home order and orders limiting mass gatherings to 10 persons, requiring social distancing, restricting visitation at long term care facilities, extending closure of restaurants for dine-in service, and closure of other close-contact businesses. The Governor said NC has not yet seen a downward trend of those metrics needed to gradually begin lifting restrictions. He shared details about the plan to lift NC restrictions in three gradual phases once the data shows that testing, tracing, and trends metrics are headed in the right direction. The 4 main trend metrics being tracked include COVID-like syndromic cases over 14 days, lab-confirmed cases over 14 days, positive tests as a percentage of total tests over 14 days, and hospitalizations over 14 days. As of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the last 3 metrics continue to trend upward in North Carolina. Testing and tracing are also a part of the equation to ensure that we continue to identify who has the virus, who has been exposed, and to help ensure we keep a 30 day supply of personal protective equipment on-hand for our critical healthcare and frontline workers.

The reopening process is projected to take several weeks using the phased-in approach. Highlights of Phase 1 include continuing a Stay At Home order but people can leave home for commercial activity with those retailers and services implementing social distancing, cleaning and other protocols; gatherings limited to no more than 10 people; and face masks recommended in public. Phase 2 is proposed to begin at least 2 - 3 weeks after Phase 1 and would include lifting the Stay At Home order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home; allowing limited opening of restaurants, bars and other businesses that can follow strict safety protocols with reduced capacity; allow gathering at houses of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity; and increasing the number of people allowed at gatherings. Phase 3 is projected to occur 4 - 6 weeks after Phase 2 and would lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing; allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worship and entertainment venues; and further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings. Governor Cooper indicated that if there is a spike in infections, tightening of restrictions may be needed temporarily. Visit <https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/NC-3-PHASE-PLAN.pdf> for more information on the metrics and the proposed reopening process.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Governor announced that public schools will remain closed for the remainder of this school year but will continue with remote learning. He also proposed a budget for the State's \$1.4 billion in Federal funds from the CARES Act addressing three immediate needs, including assistance for small businesses with applications beginning 4/27/20.

## **Henderson County Post COVID-19 Task Force**

Henderson County has established a Post COVID-19 Task Force led by County Commissioners Bill Lapsley and Rebecca McCall and consisting of representatives from restaurants, retail stores, hair salons, real estate, breweries, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, schools, churches, lodging and the camp industry to make recommendations for opening the Henderson County economy after the Governor begins reopening NC. The Task Force also recently sought input from Henderson County businesses via a survey, to which approximately 250 responded, with the survey being open until May 1st. The April 24th online meeting of the Task Force with their preliminary recommendations can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZrAN6AyFA>.

## **COVID Impact on Henderson County**

Henderson County has shared some specific information about the impact of COVID-19 in our county. As of 4/28/20, here are our statistics:

- 1,501 COVID tests administered in Henderson County
- 158 cases in Henderson County
- Ages: 0 - 19 = 2%, 20 - 39 = 6%, 40 - 59 = 21%, 60 - 79 = 35%, 80+ = 37%
- 134 cases associated with long-term care
- 1 case in Fletcher
- 16 deaths, 44% were age 60-79, 56% were 80+

To see more data, go to their website at <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/health/page/public-health-advisory-coronavirus-covid-19> and click on the "Henderson County COVID-19 Dashboard".

## **No Shortage of COVID-19 Scams**

The US Postal Inspection Service has some very informative videos found at <https://www.uspis.gov/coronavirus/> discussing some of the ways using mail, e-mail, and telephone that unscrupulous people are utilizing to try to steal your stimulus check. Watch the videos today so you won't become the next scam victim.

## **IRS Get My Payment Tool**

Don't give up on using the IRS "Get My Payment" tool at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>. Their site is only updated once daily, during the night, so you only need to check once per day. Some users are getting a "Payment Status Not Available" message, which will go away unless you are not qualified to receive a stimulus check, so keep checking. The IRS is using that tool to indicate your payment status, your payment type, and whether they need more information from you, including your direct deposit bank account information.

## **Caution Still Advised**

With our Governor's proposed plan to reopen our state in phases, everyone is getting anxious to get out of the house. Please keep in mind however, that the CDC still cautions that 3 main groups of people remain at high-risk for severe illness from this virus: (1) those 65 years and older; (2) people living in a nursing home or long-term care facility; and (3) people of any age with underlying medical conditions that are not well controlled. Those include people with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, people who are immunocompromised (many conditions can cause that such as cancer treatments, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications), severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher), diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease. So when you start to get out and about, if you know of anyone within these 3 categories or encounter someone who may be within one of these high-risk groups at the park or the grocery store, etc. please be courteous to your neighbors and practice social distancing. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html> for more information.

## **COVID-19 Updated Symptoms**

The CDC has updated its list of possible COVID-19 symptoms which may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and may range from mild to severe:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ▸ Fever                                       | ▸ Cough                        |
| ▸ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing |                                |
| ▸ Chills                                      | ▸ Repeated shaking with chills |
| ▸ Muscle pain                                 | ▸ Headache                     |
| ▸ Sore throat                                 | ▸ New loss of taste or smell   |

The CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> offers a self-checker guide to help you make decisions about seeking medical care.

## **NC 2-1-1 Help Starts Here**

NC211 maintains information about various community resources available and continues to offer updated information during COVID-19. For detailed info on resources such as food/meals, rent/mortgage/utility help, and any other programs as they become available, call them at 2-1-1, 888-892-1162, or go to <https://www.nc211.org/coronavirus-covid-19>. You can also search their [NC211 Community Resources Database](#) by specific need.





### Save the Date

These events are subject to cancellation or rescheduling

Monday, June 15th	<b>Summer Camp Begins</b>	7:30 am
Friday, June 19th	<b>Concert in the Park Tuxedo Junction</b>	6:30 - 8:30 pm
Friday, July 17th	<b>Concert in the Park Flashback Band</b>	6:30 - 8:30 pm

### Virtual Recreation

Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram!

- FletcherParksandRecreation -

We will continue to post great ideas to help you stay active while you are staying home:

- Storytime
- Tips for staying home with pets
- Virtual Exercise
- Photography Tips

**#STAY HOME STAY ACTIVE**

For Parks & Rec updates on planned events and activities and Bill Moore Community Park updates, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FletcherParksandRecreation/](http://www.facebook.com/FletcherParksandRecreation/).

**Fletcher Summer Day Camp**, for rising 1st - 5th graders, still has a few slots left in 3 different weeks. Register your child today. You may also add your name to the waiting list in case someone cancels.

**Fletcher Middle School Adventure Camp** is **FULL**. You may add your name to the waiting list to be contacted if someone cancels.

### Best Practices for Using the Park

- Bikes and skateboards = Helmets needed
- Dogs = Leashed everywhere
- Picnic areas = No groups larger than 10
- Walking or running = Social distance @ 6 feet
- At the back of the park = stay on the path, crops are now planted in the fields
- Restrooms = Closed, but Porta Johns available
- Trash = Take it back home with you
- Hands = Wash, before coming & leaving park
- Time = Visit, don't spend the day so the park won't become too crowded
- Team sports = Not yet in the park

The **Fletcher Library** is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19. For more information, please visit [www.hendersoncountync.gov/library](http://www.hendersoncountync.gov/library) or call 828-687-1218.



TOWN OF FLETCHER  
300 OLD CANE CREEK ROAD  
FLETCHER, NC 28732

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### **2020 Property Tax Relief Applications Must be Received by June 1, 2020**

NC provides 3 types of tax relief based upon age and/or disability which an owner can receive the benefit from one:

**Elderly or Disabled Exclusion:** Excludes the greater of the first \$25,000 or 50% of the appraised value of the permanent residence of a qualifying owner who is at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled. The owner cannot have an income amount for the previous year that exceeds the 2020 tax year income eligibility limit of \$31,000. Benefit limitations may apply when there are multiple owners.

**Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment:** Taxes for each year are limited to a percentage of the qualifying owner's income who is at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled. For an owner whose income amount for the previous year does not exceed the income eligibility limit for the 2020 tax year of \$31,000, the owner's taxes will be limited to 4% of the owner's income. For an owner whose income exceeds the income eligibility limit (\$31,000) but does not exceed 150% of the income eligibility limit, which for the 2020 tax year is \$46,500, the owner's taxes will be limited to 5% of the owner's income. However, the taxes over the limitation amount are deferred and remain a lien on the property. The last 3 years of deferred taxes prior to a disqualifying event will become due and payable, with interest, on the date of the disqualifying event. Interest accrues on the deferred taxes as if they had been payable on the dates on which they would have originally become due. Disqualifying events are death of the owner, transfer of the property, and failure to use the property as the owner's permanent residence. Exceptions and special provisions apply. You must file a new application for this program every year.

**Disabled Veterans Exclusion:** Excludes up to the first \$45,000 of the appraised value of the permanent residence of a disabled veteran whose character of service at separation was honorable or under honorable conditions and who has a total and permanent service-connected disability or who received benefits for specially adapted housing under 38 U.S.C. 2101. There is no age or income limitation for this program. This benefit is also available to a surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of either (1) a disabled veteran as defined above, (2) a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected condition whose character of service at separation was honorable or under honorable conditions, or (3) a service member who died from a service connected condition in the line of duty and not as a result of willful misconduct. Benefit limitations may apply when there are multiple owners.

For more information on any of these programs, contact the Henderson County Tax Department at 828-697-4870 or visit their website at <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/tax/page/>.