



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
Website: www.fletchernc.org

June 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. Also, please visit our web site at 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

News from the May 11th Town Council Meeting

This meeting was held electronically due to the COVID-19 situation

- Bob Davy, Mayor Pro-Tem, shared that NC DOT is stopping all projects that have not been funded yet since DOT is low on funds.
- Town Council approved Robert Hutchison to serve another 3-year term on the ABC Board with his new term ending June 2023.
- Town Council approved Budget Amendment #1 to the fiscal year 2019/2020 Budget Ordinance regarding additional IT support due to COVID-19.
- Town Council approved Resolution R-20-02 to adopt a Hazard Mitigation plan with Henderson County. This is a 5-year plan, which is part of the County's plan, and will need to be updated.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, provided an update on Town COVID-19 response efforts and their related impact on our Town services. Three departments have experienced a noticeable impact. The Public Works' brush pick-up requests almost quadrupled in April as compared to January and February and the amount of trash also increased but they have been able to manage the workload without affecting their other services. Parks and Recreation has seen an approximate doubling of cars visiting Bill Moore Community Park, since we are one of the few local parks which has remained open for walking. Summer Day Camp is still scheduled to start on June 15th. Our Police Department has experienced an approximate 35% decrease in monthly service calls with activities such as arrests, incidents, and citations also down. Mr. Biberdorf mentioned that he was working on a phased approach to ending teleworking among employees and reopening Town facilities to the public that is consistent with the Governor's approach to reopening our economy. Public access to park facilities is a major component left to be opened. Mr. Biberdorf also shared that the Town has incurred approximately \$7,200 in eligible expenses related to COVID response efforts. Henderson County is one of the counties receiving Federal funds, but we are unsure if the County will share any of those funds with its municipalities.
- Mark Biberdorf shared the request for proposals document prepared by Rose Associates for the Town Center project. He recommended that we move forward with the RFP.
- Mark Biberdorf provided an update on several Town issues:
 - The proposed multi-family development on Rutledge Road has elicited a lot of comments from the public including a flyer being distributed among residents. The Planning Board will review this request at their May meeting. Written comments are currently being accepted from the public.
 - Town Center project - The Kenneth Youngblood property closed in April. We still need to close on the Kevin Walker property. We also still need to complete the land swap between the former Dan Gilbert and the Lipe/Cook property.
 - Highway 25 project - We are not entirely pleased with the appearance of the new crosswalks. The various involved parties performed a walk through of this project and created a punch list of items which still need to be addressed.
 - Facebook policy - Christine Thompson is working on this and will have a report by June.
 - 2020-2021 Budget - The Budget retreat was held on 5/2/20 and the associated Public Hearing will be held on 6/8/2020.

Town of Fletcher - COVID Response Update

Town of Fletcher departments discontinued teleworking on May 18th and returned fulltime to working in the Town Hall. The Town Hall was also reopened to the public on May 26th but we do ask that visitors adhere to the displayed social distancing indicators while conducting business and wearing a face covering is appreciated while visiting. The Tax Collection office is also open and accepting in-person payments from those residents who still owe 2019 taxes. More sites are likewise now open at Bill Moore Community Park. For specific information about how Phase 2 has impacted our Town parks, please see page 3 of this newsletter. Also, you may visit <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/Phases-List.pdf> for a helpful chart about "Safer At Home" Phase 2.

Face Mask Availability

With local stores now reopening and residents being "out and about" more, health officials are still encouraging people to wear a face covering of some sort if you cannot social distance. Some stores and doctor/dentist offices are also now asking shoppers and patients to wear them while in their buildings. Although it is somewhat difficult to find disposable non-sterile face masks, the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce is accumulating a vendor list for COVID-19 business supplies from which individuals can also buy. For more information, you may visit their website at <https://www.hendersoncountychamber.org/news/3-newsflash/681-vendor-list-for-covid-19-business-supplies.html>.

So in case you need or want a face mask, locally there are a few places to purchase fabric facemasks such as Silver Plum in Hendersonville. Their website says they are shipping masks and can be contacted by phone at (828)388-2501 or at Silverplum414@gmail.com. WLOS also provided this list, found at <https://wlos.com/news/news-13-investigates/looking-for-locally-sourced-face-masks-heres-a-list-of-where-to-shop>, of western NC stores who are selling fabric facemasks. If you happen to know of somewhere locally where cloth facemasks can be purchased, please let us know at info@fletchernc.org so we can share that information. Some online sites such as www.etsy.com also seem to have a wide variety of cloth masks. If you would rather make your own however, there are numerous websites and Facebook pages sharing different methods. For example, the CDC has shared a sew and non-sew option found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/.diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.



PUBLIC WORKS (828) 654-9208

Workload Update

Public Works has been busier than normal during March and April. The stay at-home order had many residents working in their yards plus heavy winds from a few storms brought down several trees thereby adding to the volume. For comparison during the months of January and February 2020, Public Works had 203 brush order requests for a total of 384 cubic yards of brush. In March and April, the volume soared to 1189 brush orders and 1194 cu yds of brush picked up. Also during the months of March and April, Public Works collected over 40+ tons more of garbage as compared to January and February. Thank you to the residents of Fletcher for your patience during this time. Due to the overwhelming volume of work, brush collection became an all week activity.

Free mulch available...well, not at the moment

Although we have been picking up more brush more regularly and mulching much of it during the last few months, our mulch pile is currently empty. Fletcher residents have been very busy making their yards look good with this free mulch. Thanks for being environmentally conscious.

Shred Event

We are still trying to schedule a shred event...maybe in July or early fall. Keep watching for updates.



Stay current with the Fletcher Police Department's community activities by visiting their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Fletcher-Police-Department-111203708944380/>.

While there, see if you can offer any assistance in keeping our community safe by helping to identify some individuals they are attempting to locate.

We also would like to welcome Juan Gonzalez as an officer in our Police Department.

Update on Rutledge Road Development Proposal

At their May 19th meeting, the Fletcher Planning Board reviewed a submittal from Graycliff Capital for a proposed 198 unit multi-family residential development to be located on Rutledge Road. The current zoning of the property is R-2 which does not allow multi-family residential. The applicant is requesting a conditional zoning district of R-3, which would allow for the proposed development.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Planning Board voted 6-1 to recommend that the Fletcher Town Council deny the application and leave the property zoned R-2.

In June, staff will present Town Council with a brief overview of the developer's application and request that an official public hearing be set for the regular July 13, 2020 Council meeting to formally consider the application.

Please watch our website for updates and/or any schedule changes and meeting information as it gets closer to July 13th.

NC Shifted to Phase 2 on 5/22/2020

The NCHHS website, <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#phase-2-easing-of-restrictions>, offers a tremendous amount of information regarding NC's move to Phase 2. It includes links to the Governor's newest Executive Order 141, a list of frequently asked questions, and guidance as to how Phase 2 impacts numerous types of businesses and activities.

Per that website, basically the Phase 2 order is different from the Phase 1 order in these respects:

- Lifts the Stay at Home Order and moves the state to a "Safer at Home" recommendation;
- Allows restaurants to open for on-premises dining with limits on occupancy, specific requirements for disinfection of common spaces, and 6' between each group of customers sitting at each table;
- Allows child care businesses to open to serve all children, as long as they follow state health guidelines;
- Allows overnight camps to operate, following specific public health requirements and guidance;
- Allows personal care, grooming, massage, and tattoo businesses to open with specific requirements for disinfection of equipment, face coverings for the service providers, 6' distance between customers, and at 50% reduced occupancy;
- Allows indoor and outdoor pools to open with 50% reduced occupancy, following specific public health requirements;
- Allows people to gather together for social purposes, so long as they do not exceed the **mass gathering limit of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors**;
- Allows sporting and entertainment events to occur in large venues for broadcast to the public, if the events occur in large venues and spectators are limited to the mass gathering limit of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

828-687-0751 www.facebook.com/FletcherParksandRecreation/

Town of Fletcher Park Status Effective May 22, 2020

- Kate's Park and Kate's Shelter remained closed at this time.
- Bill Moore Community Park walking trails remain open, plus...
 - The dog park and the Steelcase Shelter are open;
 - The five ballfields and the lacrosse field will be opened for family use, as the weather permits -- no team practices or team games however;
 - The bathrooms will be opened sometime in mid-June;
 - The playground and fitness pad will remain closed until Phase 3 begins, sometime after June 26th.

If you leave home, know your Ws!



PARK SHELTER RENTALS

We have begun accepting Steelcase Shelter rentals with an event date of June 1st or after. At the present time however while NC is still in Phase 2, the mass gathering size is limited to 25 persons in the shelter -- which we will enforce. We do not wish to lose the ability to utilize the shelter by ignoring the Governor's guidelines and we also do not want to ask you to vacate the shelter because your party is above the 25 person limit. So please keep that in mind when reserving your date at <https://fletcherparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home>. Phase 3 is projected to begin after June 26th with an increase in outdoor mass gathering size. If the situation in NC changes and Governor Cooper changes the projected Phased approach dates and your reservation is negatively impacted by outdoor gathering size, we will work with you to reserve a new date or refund your money.

Currently, we are not accepting reservations for the Kate's Park Shelter since the park is still closed.

Save the Date

Monday, June 15	Summer Day Camp Starts	7:30 - 5:30
Monday, June 22	Middle School Camp Starts	7:30 - 5:30
Friday, July 10th	Concert in the Park with Tuxedo Junction	
Friday, July 17th	Concert in the Park with Flashback Band	



The Fletcher Library is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19. For more information, please visit their website at www.hendersoncountync.gov/library or call 828-687-1218

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300 OLD CANE CREEK ROAD
FLETCHER, NC 28732

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New Business Spotlight

Local businesses support our community and the tax base in the Town of Fletcher. Please welcome these businesses to Fletcher.



A local ecommerce business based in Fletcher and offering home decor, apparel & accessories created with their original art.



Find them at
Steadystatefashion.com

Trademark Custom Carpentry



152 American Way
trademark.custom.carpentry 
828-778-2267
Nathan Hare, owner

King Auction & Realty Company, Inc.



3375 Hendersonville Road
www.bidkingauctions.com
828-684-6828

"Professional auctions since 1976"

Small Business Owner Assistance

The Small Business Center of BRCC is offering "Reboot, Recover, Rebuild" (R3) for small businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19. This free service includes access to one-on-one remote counseling, access to industry and content experts on over 50 topics, and is 100% confidential. Availability is limited and is offered on a first come, first serve basis so contact them today at sbc@blueridge.edu or (828) 694-1658. To find out more about the R3 program, visit <https://www.blueridge.edu/programs-courses/business/small-business-center/>.