



300 Old Cane Creek Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732

# Town of Fletcher

PRIDE IN OUR PAST ~ FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

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## June 2023

### Town Council

Preston Blakely, Mayor  
Phone.....(828)215-7706

Sheila Franklin, Council Member  
District #1.....(828)684-5676

Keith Reed, Council Member  
District #2.....(828)367-7130

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

Trevor Lance, Council Member  
District #4.....(828)338-9338

### 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/or com-  
ments by emailing [info@fletchernc.org](mailto:info@fletchernc.org). For additional  
Town information, please visit  
[www.fletchernc.org](http://www.fletchernc.org) or visit our  
Facebook page found at  
<https://www.facebook.com/FletcherNC.Gov/>.

This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider.

### **News from the May 8th Fletcher Town Council Meeting**

- By Consent Agenda, Town Council approved property tax releases from the Henderson County Tax Office.
- Lew Bleiweis, with the Asheville Regional Airport, provided an overview of the activities at the Asheville Airport which is now the third busiest airport in NC.
- Ben Cathey, with McGill Associates, recently suggested a possible change to the stormwater layout for the multi-use courts being added at Bill Moore Community Park. This change would help improve the drainage in the areas surrounding the courts. Town Council approved the change at an approximate cost of \$10,000.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, shared a brief overview of the results from the 2023 Fletcher Community Survey conducted by Polco. Approximately 20% of our residents participated in the survey. (See the next page for survey results.)
- Mark Biberdorf shared that Town Staff was currently reviewing several examples of traffic calming policies from multiple jurisdictions as well as a traffic calming policy previously prepared by McGill Associates. A more detailed report and a recommendation for a new traffic calming policy for the Town will be presented at the June Town Council Meeting.
- Mark Biberdorf provided an update on several ongoing matters:
  - A draft of the 2023-2024 Town of Fletcher balanced budget is almost complete with a near revenue neutral proposed property tax rate of \$0.28. The \$0.28 includes 9.5¢ for Fletcher Fire and Rescue, 7.5¢ for our 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and 11¢ for the Town operating budget. The proposed \$0.28 is a 6¢ reduction from the 2022 tax rate of \$0.34.
  - Patton Construction has begun work at the site for the multi-use courts at Bill Moore Community Park. It is anticipated that it will take approximately three months to complete the project.
  - The actuated flasher at the Hoopers Creek and Wildbriar Road T-intersection should be operational within the next week.
  - There has been some discussion with Michael Luplow, of Fernleaf Charter School, about adding an actuated flasher crosswalk on Howard Gap Road which would also serve a future greenway expansion from Bill Moore Community Park. The estimated cost is approximately \$22,000. Lowering the speed limit in this area to 25 mph might also be a matter for future consideration.
  - Will Buie, with McGill Associates, has reviewed NC DOT comments regarding the Traffic Impact Analysis and associated DOT concerns regarding restricted left turn movement into the proposed Fletcher Town Center site. A traffic consultant will also review related data and provide input on the issue.
  - The Town has heard from NC DOT officials and NC House Representative Jennifer Balkcom's office that a new I-26 sound study is being conducted for the area near Wildwood and is expected to be complete by June.
  - C&T Paving has begun the paving work on Hawk's Nest Drive and Sandpiper Court with completion scheduled soon. They will also repave the walking trail at Kate's and Pete's Park.

## 2023 Fletcher Community Survey Results

Thank you to the residents who participated in our 2023 Fletcher Community Survey. 90% of survey participants rated Fletcher as a good or excellent place to live. At least 8 in 10 stated that they would be very or somewhat likely to recommend living in Fletcher to someone who asks. 94% of respondents also indicated that they strongly or at least somewhat supported the proposed development of additional greenway trails to extend from Bill Moore Community Park to Town owned (Meritor) property off Hendersonville Road.

In addition to learning residents' thoughts on the "livability" and desirability of Fletcher, our survey results were compared to over 600 other communities. In 85% of the survey questions, Fletcher was rated similar to the benchmark communities. There were 5 areas in which Fletcher was rated higher than the comparison benchmark communities: yard waste (brush) pick-up, recycling, Town parks, Town government being honest, and Town government treating all residents fairly.

There were some areas however, in which residents rated Fletcher lower than the benchmark communities. Those questions focused on topics such as: ease of walking and travel by bicycle versus driving; overall quality and use of the transportation system; availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool; overall opportunities for adult education/culture/arts; opportunities to participate in social events & activities; preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community; residents volunteering their time; residents watching a local public meeting; vibrancy of downtown/commercial area; availability of affordable quality food; shopping opportunities; and the variety of business and service establishments within Fletcher. The types of businesses survey participants identified as the biggest priorities for Fletcher were dine-in restaurants and bars (73% essential/very important), health services such as doctors, hospitals, or dentists (68%), and arts and entertainment options (55%).

The entire 2023 Fletcher Community Survey results can be found at <https://www.fletchernc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-NCS-Report-Fletcher-NC-2023.pdf>.

### Application for Property Tax Relief

Elderly or Disabled Exclusion (G.S. 105-277.1),  
Disabled Veteran Exclusion (G.S. 105-277.1C), or  
Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment Program (G.S. 105-277.1B)

**Due by  
June 1st**

For information about 2023 tax relief programs, visit <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/tax/page/exemptions-exclusions-deferment> or call the Henderson County Tax Assessor's Office at 828-697-4870. Completed forms should be mailed or taken to the Henderson County Tax Assessor's Office at 200 N. Grove Street, Suite 102 in Hendersonville 28792 by June 1st to be considered timely.

## PUBLIC WORKS (828) 654-9208

### Free Mulch

Public Works still has free mulch available to Town residents. After turning off Howard Gap Road (near the railroad tracks) onto Parrish Municipal Drive, the mulch pile is on the left beside a metal building. For more information or assistance, call us at (828) 654-9208.



### Public Works Reminder

Although our Public Works Department picks up several items including household trash, brush, white goods, Christmas trees, and bagged leaves at certain times of the year, we unfortunately cannot pick up everything our residents may need hauled away. For example, we do not pick up grass clippings, furniture, lumber, carpet, etc. Please call 828-654-9208 if you have a question about a particular item. \*\* See the next page for tips on disposing of your grass clippings. \*\*

### From the Office of the Chief:



May 15<sup>th</sup>, was Peace Officers Memorial Day. I wish to thank those in the community that took the time to show support, in some way to our officers. This may have been a kind word of support, a card, a visit to express your appreciation, or maybe just a quiet thought or prayer on their behalf.

Recently, the Town completed a community survey. I was thrilled to see that 96% of residents feel safe in their neighborhood during the day. Eighty-three percent of the community reported an overall feeling of safety in Fletcher and 85% reported the quality of service they get from their police as good or excellent.

We do have a wonderful community filled with good people. And I believe we have a good police department too. But, we cannot be successful without the support of the community and those good people within. Again, I'm grateful for the positive results obtained from the community survey. However, in looking at those numbers, it also shows room for improvement. There is more work to be done to ensure the highest quality of life for those living and working in Fletcher. Together, with the community's continued support, I think we can get it done. Thank you!

PLEASE WELCOME THIS BUSINESS  
TO FLETCHER!



#### Global Company Emtelle Connects With Fletcher

Emtelle, a successful global manufacturer and provider of full-fiber and network solutions, has come to Fletcher. The company, which has operations in Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and the UAE, has launched its first U.S. factory in Fletcher.

Led by Managing Director Tommy Conner, Emtelle makes and sells "Made in the USA" products and applications for the telecommunications and power industries at its 300,000 square foot factory on Mills Gap Road. These products will transform how the internet is delivered to homes and businesses – the FTTx market – across North and Central America.

To learn more about what we do, please get in touch at <https://www.emtelle.com/contact/>, find Emtelle on LinkedIn, or visit us at <https://www.youtube.com/user/Emtelle1>.



### Fletcher Area Business Association

**Coffee Club** - Meet local leaders and join us for coffee on June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 9:00 am at the Lutheridge Conference Center.

**Focus After 5** - Networking at the Honey Crisps Baseball Field at 69 Balfour Road on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm.

**Resource Recess** - Free professional development workshop on marketing/growing your business, entitled "Building Depth In Your Business", on June 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at the Lutheridge Conference Center.



For more information on Coffee Club, other events and to get connected visit us online at <https://fletcherbusiness.com/>.

### How to Dispose of Grass Clippings

Since grass mowing is now in full swing, the Internet is also blooming with ideas on how to dispose of your grass clippings. Here are a few of the most popular disposal options since Fletcher Public Works does not pick up grass clippings:

1) Practice "grasscycling" by leaving the clippings on your lawn to allow them to decay and enrich the soil. However, to be effective and not hurt your yard follow these suggestions:

- Do not cut your lawn too short. The rule of thumb is avoid cutting more than 1/3 of the grass height at a time.
- Ensure your mower blades are sharp in order to cut the grass instead of tearing it which leaves brown scars and leaf tips for diseases to thrive.
- Allow the clippings to settle on the soil naturally and decompose rather than trying to space them out perfectly with a rake.
- Use a mulching mower, or mulching mower blades, to trim the grass into shorter lengths.
- Change your mowing pattern so you mow over the same grass clippings several times to help reduce the volume and length of the clippings.
- Do not mow when the grass is wet to prevent it from clumping on your yard.
- Mow more frequently if your grass is tall and thick.

2) Use the grass clippings as mulch in your garden. Only use cut grass that is free from herbicides and pesticides and without seed heads to avoid adding weeds to your garden. Spread about a 1/2" layer loosely around the plants in your garden to help keep the soil cool and moist and to allow air to get in and around the clippings. This use will also reduce your garden weeding time. In the fall after your garden has finished producing, turn the ground over and the grass will become part of the compost for the next garden season.

3) Put your clippings in an open trash bag and fluff occasionally. They will turn brown and become very light and then use the dried clippings to cover sprouting seedlings in your garden and potted plants to help hold moisture in the soil.

4) Use the grass clippings for yard composting. Mix dry green grass, free from herbicides and pesticides, with soil, dry leaves, and wood chips to balance the compost material and enhance aeration and decomposition. Turn a few times throughout the year to have your compost ready for use in the fall.

5) Share your fresh clippings with local farmers to feed their animals such as cows, sheep, goats, rabbits, etc. or, share your clippings with friends who compost or have gardens.

6) If none of the above work for you, you can take them to the Henderson County Transfer Station (828-697-4505) at 191 Transfer Station Drive in Hendersonville. They charge \$10 for 420 pounds or less and will empty the grass from your bags onto their brush pile, and return your bags to you.

But regardless of how you choose to dispose of your grass clippings, please do not put them in or near a curb/gutter. This will help prevent grass clippings from getting into storm drains and clogging them and finding their way into nearby streams and negatively impacting water quality.



## **Fletcher Library Opportunities in June**

20 Library Road, Fletcher NC 28732 828-687-1218

**HOURS:** Monday 9am - 6pm; Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm; Friday & Saturday 9am - 3pm

**DELAYED OPENING:** We will open at 10:00 am on Friday, June 9th due to a staff meeting.

**Tech Time Appointments:** Want to learn how to download an e-book or digital audiobook? Watch a movie for free using Hoopla or from NC Digital Library? Learn a new language using Transparent Language? Baffled by your new tablet or smartphone? One-on-one tech time, by appointment, is offered for free at Fletcher Library. Call the library or stop by to schedule an appointment.

**Knitting for a Cause Donations:** If you have donations of yarn, knitting needles, or knitted or crocheted items, please call the library at 828-687-1218, we are always looking for donations. Our group makes hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, and blankets for the Interfaith Assistance Ministry in Hendersonville to give to children and adults. Thank you to all those that have donated.

**Check 'Em Out Book Club:** Call the branch to sign up for next month's selection.

**Family Story Time:** Every Wednesday at 10:30 am.

### ***Lego Club (Children) Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> (3:30pm-4:30pm)***

All ages are welcome to come out to the Fletcher Library on the 1st Thursday of the month for Lego Club. We will provide Legos to use while you are here. Please do not bring your own. We have Duplo blocks for younger children as well. We can't wait to see what you will create! Please be aware that all children under 11 must have an adult stay with them.

### ***Book Review Book Club (Adults) Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> (10:30am-11:30am)***

Read what you want and bring it to the table for discussion. This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.

### ***Writers Guild (Adults) Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> (1:30pm-3:30pm)***

All writers are invited to join a lively discussion about the guild's current projects related to publishing and the marketing of your work. Learn tricks and techniques from published authors and aspiring writers and reveal your own convictions. This group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

### ***Big Bang Boom! (Children) Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> (11:00am-12:00pm)***

Get ready for a high-energy show of parent-friendly children's music!

### ***Knitting for a Cause Group (All Ages) Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> (10:00am-12:00pm)***

Yarn and patterns are provided. Please bring your size 4, 5, 6, 7, and/or 8 circular or straight knitting needles if you have them OR your crochet hook! Have fun knitting or crocheting to help others.

### ***Check 'Em Out Book Club (Adults) Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> (11:00am-12:00pm)***

Come and discuss our June selection, The Lying Game by Ruth Ware. Registration required. Call the Fletcher Library at 828-687-1218. Spaces are limited.

### ***Craft Day (All ages) Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> (10:00am-4:00pm)***

Come and do a fun craft with us!

### ***Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> (10:00am-11:30am)***

Children can sign up to read to a certified therapy dog! Registration Required: Call 828-687-1218 or come by the Fletcher Library to sign up for a 10-minute reading session.

### ***Roper Mountain: Science Magic (Children) Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> (11:00am-12:00pm)***

Sometimes science demonstrations can seem like magic. The difference is scientists love to explain how things work! Your educator will perform several demonstrations that may first seem like magic. Then with the help of volunteers and observations from the audience we will figure out the science behind the trick and learn what is really happening.



**JUNE 24TH, 2023**  
**6:00-8:00 PM**

**Fletcher Parks & Rec. Presents**  
**Concert in the Park**



**FEATURING**

**"Gotcha Groove"**

performs a variety of  
R&B, soul, rock, oldies  
and dance songs

Free Event Sponsored by:



**Bill Moore Community Park**  
**85 Howard Gap**  
**Fletcher, NC 28732**



The repaving of the walking path at Kate's and Pete's Park, beside the Fletcher Library, was completed in early May.

**Save the Date**

6/12/23	Summer Day Camp Begins	7:30 am
6/24/23	Summer Concert in the Park "Gotcha Groove Band"	6:00 pm
7/9/23	Summer Concert in the Park "Flashback Band"	6:00 pm
8/19/23	Family Movie Night in the Park Disney-Pixar "LUCA"	8:00 pm



The construction of the new multi-use courts for pickleball, tennis, and basketball has begun at Bill Moore Community Park. The courts will be located near the Steelcase Shelter and the Fitness Pad. The construction work is scheduled to be completed by late August.



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

### **Sound Walls Coming to I-26 near Wildwood Subdivision**

In large part because Wildwood residents continued to share your concerns regarding the I-26 noise level in your subdivision and the less than desirable results from the sound reducing earth berm, the NC Department of Transportation conducted a second sound study in your area. We are pleased to share that DOT has notified the Town that sound walls have now been approved for the I-26 area near Wildwood.

A meeting will be held with NC DOT representatives and Representative Jennifer Balkcom with the NC General Assembly on June 12th at 9:00 am in the Council Chambers of Fletcher Town Hall to discuss this change of events. The public is invited to attend this meeting to learn of the specifics and timetable for the sound wall installation process.



Students from  
Christ School in Arden

### **Spring Litter Sweep Success**

Thank you to the groups that picked up litter in the Town of Fletcher during the recent NC DOT Spring Litter Sweep 2023. We know of at least three different groups, of approximately 55 people, that worked April 27th and April 29th. They picked up litter from Town Hall to the Cane Creek/Old Airport Road intersection, on Hendersonville Road between St. John and Fanning Bridge Roads, and on Rutledge Road from the Fletcher city limits south to Fanning Bridge Road. If you participated in a trash pickup effort during this campaign and we were unaware of your group, please share it with us at [info@fletchernc.org](mailto:info@fletchernc.org) so we can thank you for your hard work.



The Steve Stay Team