



300 Old Cane Creek Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

Town of Fletcher

PRIDE IN OUR PAST ~ FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

Telephone: 828-687-3985
Email: info@fletchernc.org
Facebook: [FletcherNC.Gov](https://www.facebook.com/FletcherNC.Gov)
Website: www.fletchernc.org

July 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. For additional
Town information, please visit
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 June 12th Fletcher Town Council Meeting

- By Consent Agenda, Town Council:
 - Approved a resolution to establish a 180 day moratorium for any new proposed development or tenant change involving the use of “Cryptocurrency Mining” within Fletcher. This moratorium will terminate on 12/9/23 or upon approval of an amendment to the Town of Fletcher Land Development code which contains new regulations for “cryptocurrency mining”, whichever event occurs first.
 - Established a Public Hearing for July 10, 2023 to consider possible amendments to the Fletcher Land Development Code regarding “cryptocurrency mining operations”.
 - Approved the purchase of a SMART 12 Radar Speed Trailer for \$7,993 from Kustom Signals, Inc. with Powell Bill funds during the upcoming budget year. Our Police Department will place the trailer throughout the Town as needed.
 - Approved Budget Amendment # 8 to the fiscal year 2022-2023 capital budget for \$45,500 for a 10-year licensing term for the purchase of new security cameras and cloud video storage (instead of onsite video storage). The current budget contained \$42,000 to cover the replacement of the security camera systems at Town Hall and Bill Moore Community Park. However due to an unexpected vendor change and an upgrade in technology, the type of new cameras being proposed also necessitated a change in video storage. This budget amendment will complete the total replacement of the security cameras and camera systems, a 10-year service warranty on the hardware, and a 10-year licensing term for video storage by a cloud provider.
- Town Council selected John Brandon Olsen to fill the 3-year term vacancy on the Fletcher A.B.C. Board.
- A Public Hearing was held and a presentation given by Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, of fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance # 0-23-07. Council adopted a balanced budget of \$9,437,334, which is a 9% increase over the previous year. The proposed property tax rate will be 28¢ per \$100 of assessed property, which is a 6¢ decrease from the previous year. (See the next page for more budget information.)
- Mark Biberdorf shared a draft traffic calming policy for the Town of Fletcher. Traffic calming policies provide a defined process for the Town to address concerns from residents about traffic movement issues primarily on residential streets. These policies also provide a process by which residents can give input into any potential improvements that are made. Town Staff considered two policies from nearby cities and a policy previously prepared for the Town but had not been adopted. Mr. Biberdorf recommended approving the policy previously prepared by McGill Associates but remove the reference requiring neighborhood groups to pay 50% of the installation costs of changes. Town Council approved the recommended traffic calming policy which can be viewed at <https://www.fletchernc.org/town-government/town-council/forms-applications-policies/>.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Town Budget Approved

Town Council approved the new fiscal year budget on June 12th with a balanced budget slightly above the 2022-2023 budget. The increase in this spending plan is occurring primarily through an increase in projected sales tax and property tax revenues. Although Fletcher experienced an overall increase in property values of 43% due to the recent Henderson County revaluation, our 2023 property tax rate will decrease 6¢ to 28¢. The 28¢ tax levy is broken down to 11¢ for the Town operating budget, 7¢ to our annual Capital Improvement Plan, and 10¢ for contracted fire protection. The revenue neutral tax rate was calculated at 27.7¢ so we were able to remain close to revenue neutral without reducing any Town provided services.

This budget includes the addition of a few part-time positions; a 4% cost of living adjustment and performance based merit pay adjustments for eligible employees; and capital expenditures for four departments.

Our largest anticipated revenue sources are property taxes, local sales tax, utility sales tax, ABC Store profits, and motor vehicle tax.

The fiscal year 2023-2024 budget message and budget ordinance can be found at <https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/finance/budget/>.

To calculate your Fletcher 2023 real property taxes, follow this example using a property value of \$250,000:

$\$250,000 \text{ property value} \div 100 = \$2,500$

$\$2,500 \times 28\% \text{ tax rate} = \$700 \text{ property tax bill}$

Using this example with your actual new assessed tax value should calculate your 2023 real property tax amount, unless you receive an exemption or exclusion. For those who also have personal property or business personal property, such as mobile homes, boats, utility trailers, unlicensed vehicles, etc., you will need to wait until taxes are billed in August to learn the assessed value and tax for your personal property.

Assistance with Federal Government Issues

To give you greater access to our federal government, Congressman Chuck Edwards' mobile office, the "Carolina Cruiser", will be at Fletcher Town Hall on Tuesday, July 18th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 p.m. in the southside parking lot. Edwards' staff will be available to meet with District 11 constituents, which includes Henderson County and 14 other WNC counties, who may need help or assistance with casework involving any federal government agency -- such as the Veterans Administration, Social Security, the IRS, as well as with passport and immigration matters.

If you wish to share a concern or are having trouble with "red tape" involving a federal government agency, this is a great opportunity to get some free one-on-one help.

PUBLIC WORKS (828) 654-9208

Leaf Pickup Requests

Reminder... we offer leaf pickup in October through early December and the first two Monday's in April. You may still see that option on our online request form, but we do not work leaf requests presently.

However, finely chopped leaves can make an excellent mulch, can be used to make compost, or if you need to dispose of your leaves quickly you may take them to the Henderson County Transfer Station (fee of \$10 for 420 pounds or less) at 191 Transfer Station Drive in Hendersonville (828-697-4505).

If your mulch was washed away by rain...

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 the metal building. For more information or assistance, call us at (828) 654-9208.

From the Office of the Chief:



The police department is excited about the opportunity to purchase Body Worn Cameras (BWC's) for the department. Recently a couple news outlets have run stories on the recent budget approval to include the tentative purchase of BWC's. It doesn't sound like a very exciting story except these news agencies took the opportunity to connect our decision to obtain BWC's to last year's unfortunate event involving an in-custody death of a resident. The story inferred this event was the catalyst behind our decision to move forward with a BWC purchase.

The fact is, this is not true. The present recording equipment we have is outdated and in dire need of replacement. It only makes sense, if we are to utilize significant tax dollars for the replacement of our outdated in-car recording equipment, that we simultaneously incorporate a BWC program. BWC's are standard today and considered best practice in the policing industry and our officers are in favor of utilizing this equipment. This enhancement will help us provide a more effective and professional service.

Contrary to what some have reported, the department has recordings of last year's tragedy. They have been shared with those responsible for the investigation and decisions related to this event. The Town looks forward to the conclusion of that investigation and hopes it comes soon. In the meantime, we continue to commit ourselves to better serve our community, and the procurement of BWC's will further help us do that.

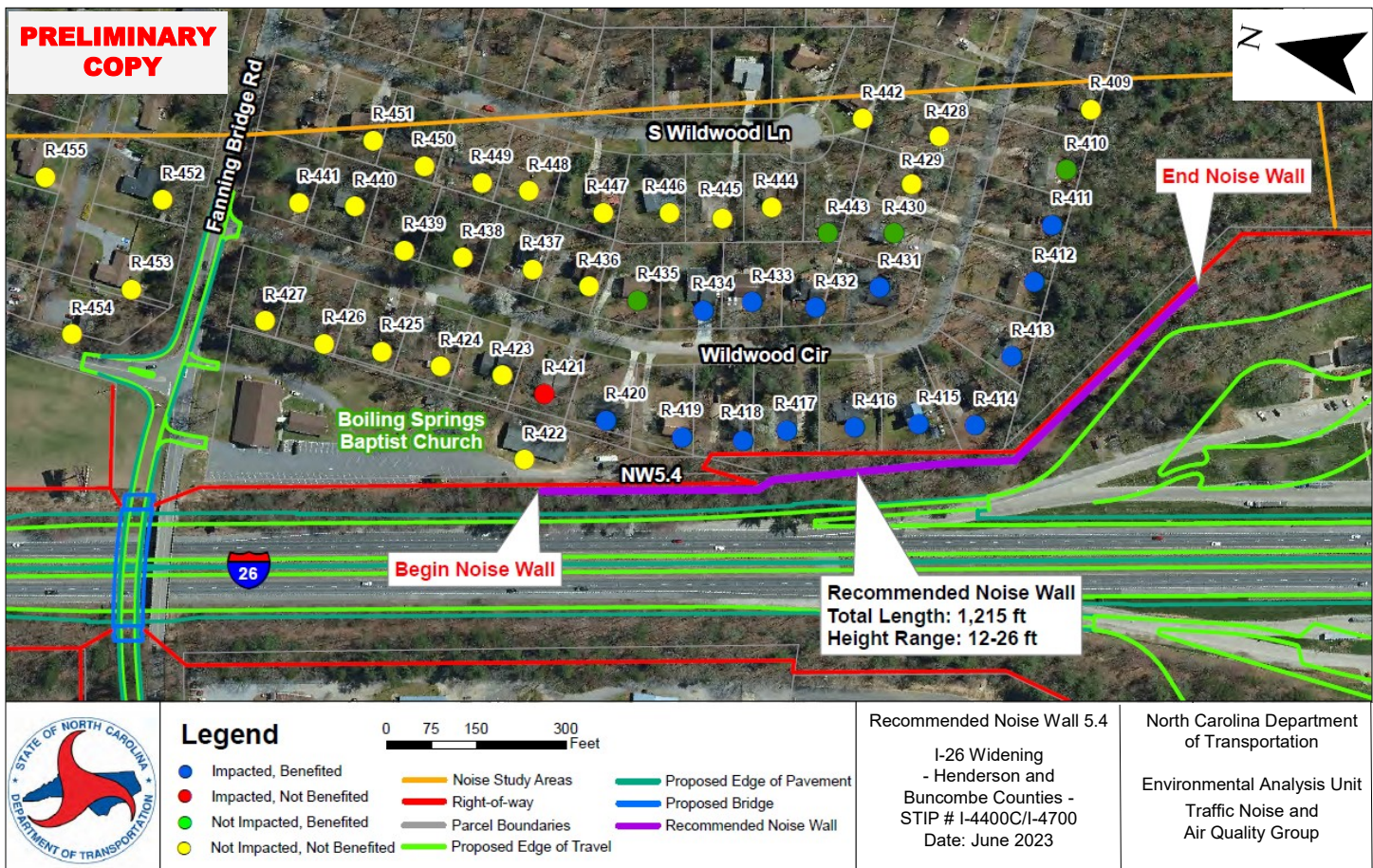
Job Opening: The Town of Fletcher is now accepting job applications for an Administrative Support Specialist to the Police Department. For more information or to obtain an online application, visit <https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/human-resources/job-openings/>.

Resident Vote Still Needed for Wildwood Sound Wall

A sound wall informational meeting was held by the NC Department of Transportation and Representative Jennifer Balkcom of the NC General Assembly on June 12th at 9:00 am at Town Hall. The Fletcher residents in attendance were able to learn about the proposed noise wall for I-26 near the Wildwood area, ask questions about the sound study, and learn about the next steps in this project.

It was explained that the original DOT sound study was conducted in 2019 and included the properties identified on the map below. The study included a cost to benefit ratio analysis using specific regulatory parameters to determine how many residents would receive a specified sound reduction level if a wall were constructed versus the projected cost of the wall. The study considered elements such as the volume of I-26 traffic driving at highway speeds at their loudest noise levels, using projected 2040 vehicle traffic numbers. Also considered was the noise from semi-trucks accelerating from the nearby rest stop. Intermittent additional loud noises such as motorcycles, the use of enhanced performance exhaust systems, and the use of compression release engine brakes (a.k.a. "jake brakes") were not considered in the study. However, the sound reduction impact of existing trees was not included in the study, but the sound reduction impact of existing buildings and existing natural terrain was included in the study. The proposed 1,215 foot wall will be in sections of differing heights from 12' - 26', made of concrete posts and panels, installed in the existing NC DOT right-of-way, with as few trees as possible being removed from the right-of-way. However, DOT may have to ask some property owners to initially access the DOT right-of-way work area by entering your property with their equipment.

Although all properties in the study may be experiencing noise and will receive some benefit from sound walls, there were 18 properties in Wildwood which were initially identified as meeting the mandatory regulatory definition for being "Impacted" by a noise level of at least 66 decibels or higher and "Benefiting" by a reduction of at least 5 decibels if a sound wall were constructed. After DOT completes some further analysis to confirm these findings but prior to moving forward with the project, these identified residents, as currently denoted by a [blue](#) or [green](#) dot on the below map, must vote "yes" or "no" to install the sound wall. If DOT receives enough "yes" votes, DOT will move to the design and construction phase which would likely occur in the September - November timeframe with estimated completed construction in December. DOT will mail a packet to the eligible voting property owners sometime in mid- to late-August containing a project explanation and a self-addressed stamped ballot for you to mark "yes" or "no" and return to DOT. If you receive a ballot, **please** take the time to vote. If you do not receive one and think you should have according to this initial map, please contact Town Hall at 828-687-3985.



Fletcher Library Opportunities in July

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

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

CLOSINGS: We will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

DELAYED OPENING: We will open at 10:00 am on Friday, July 14th 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.



Zaniac: It's Electric! (Children) Thursday, July 6th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Ever wondered why you get a shock putting on a sweater or getting out of the car? In this workshop, students will conduct experiments involving static electricity and make a human electrical circuit! Can you complete an electric circuit to light up a bulb? Intended for Grades K-5. Registration Required - Call the Fletcher Library at 828-687-1218 to register.

Lego Club (Children) Thursday, July 6th (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.

Knitting for a Cause Group (All Ages) Saturday, July 8th (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.

Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, July 8th (10:30am-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.

Check 'Em Out Book Club (Adults) Monday, July 10th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Come and discuss our July selection, The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

Craft Day (All ages) Tuesday, July 11th (10:00am-4:00pm) Come and do a fun craft with us!

Book Review Book Club (Adults) Thursday, July 13th (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, July 13th (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.

Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, July 15th (10:30am-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.

Porkchop Productions (Children) Monday, July 17th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Join us for the always hilarious Porkchop Productions as they present the tale "Imperfect Strangers: The Ant & The Grasshopper"! Personalities collide when a hard-working ant, and a lazy grasshopper find themselves in a living situation that is too close for comfort! While the ant spends her days preparing for the winter months ahead, the grasshopper is too busy playing video games and trying to become the next social media influencer! Will the grasshopper find himself out in the cold, and out of luck? Find out in our brand new, reimagined adaptation that teaches the important lessons that hard work pays off...and teamwork makes the dream work!

The Abells with Silver Trout Arts (Children) Thursday, July 27th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Join us for singing and storytelling with the Abell Family!

Zaniac: Crazy Chemistry II - Chemical Reactions On Your Tongue! Monday, July 31st (10:30am-11:30am)

Students will learn that chemicals react to each other. When acids and bases are mixed, a chemical reaction usually follows. This time, it's a fizzy sensation on your tongue! Students will make their own fun dip and understand that all liquids have an ionic makeup that decides whether they are an acid or a base. The students get to take their fun dip home with them! Registration Required - Call the Fletcher Library at 828-687-1218 to register.



July 8th, 2023
6:00-8:00 PM
Fletcher Parks and Rec. Presents
Concert in the Park

FLASHBACK

FEATURING
"FLASHBACK BAND"
performs a variety of 80's
arena rock songs

FREE EVENT
SPONSORED BY:

Bill Moore Community Park
85 Howard Gap Rd.
Fletcher, NC 28732



Ball Field Rentals

- Ball fields at Bill Moore Community Park will be available for rent starting in July.
- Rental fees are \$10 per hour for residents and \$20 per hour for non-residents with a 2 hour rental maximum.
- Field lighting will not be available during these rentals since the park closes at dusk.
- Contact Greg Walker at 828-687-3985 to set up dates and times for your ball field rental.

See Something, Please Say Something

With it staying lighter longer now, more people are using our parks. If you are at the park and notice something that seems to need repair or maintenance attention, please let us know so we can address it by seeing a Park Ranger or contacting us at 828-687-0751 or info@fletchernc.org.



Also, we have had several acts of vandalism lately, namely "tagging", at Bill Moore Park. If you see someone damaging park property, please call our Police Dispatch number at 828-697-4911 and report the incident. Remember, it's your park too and vandalism costs everyone.

Save the Date

7/8/23 6:00 pm	Summer Concert in the Park "Flashback Band"
8/19/23 8:00 pm	Family Movie Night in the Park Disney-Pixar "LUCA"
9/23/23 5:00 pm	Fletcher Family Festival



Concession Stand Hours at Bill Moore Park

Open Saturday & Sunday
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm and
special park events

Permanent Part-Time Park Maintenance Position

Like working outside? Need some additional spending money? If so, Fletcher Parks and Recreation is currently taking applications for a permanent part-time Park Maintenance position which works 16 hours per week. Work hours will be varied and might include weekend work.

The position is responsible for performing a variety of maintenance and repair tasks. Job duties include mowing, trimming, ball field preparation, landscape maintenance of park facilities, as well as other duties as assigned. Salary is \$16.00/per hour. The Town of Fletcher is an equal opportunity employer, and a pre-employment drug screen and background screening will be required for the successful applicant. A job application can be obtained from Town Hall or is available online at <https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/human-resources/job-openings/>.

TOWN OF FLETCHER

300 OLD CANE CREEK ROAD

FLETCHER, NC 28732

Holiday Observance

Fletcher Town Hall will be closed Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. All trash and recycling routes scheduled for Tuesday will be picked up on Wednesday, July 5th.

Please have a safe and fun holiday as you celebrate this special day in our nation's history.



We celebrate the Declaration of Independence on July 4th for two reasons: (1) It represents an official severing of ties between the original 13 colonies and the rule of Great Britain; (2) It represents the core of our beliefs, the very makeup of our identity as citizens of the USA (borrowed from Military.com).



New Fletcher sign at the south end of town on Hendersonville Road

Fletcher Area Business Association

Coffee Club

Meet local leaders and join us for a cup of coffee on July 18th from 8:00 am to 9:00 am at the Lutheridge Conference Center.

Focus After 5

Big Outdoor Parking Lot Party at 336 Rockwood Road #105 Arden, NC 28704 on July 13th from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm.

For more information on FABA, visit us online at <https://fletcherbusiness.com/>.