

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 Website: www.fletchernc.org

September 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

District #4.....(828)338-9338 **Town Phone Numbers**

Trevor Lance, Council Member

Town Manager(828)687-3985
Town Fax(828)687-7133
Police/Fire Emergency911
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

Parks & Rec Advisory Board 1st Thursday of month at 6:00 pm All meetings are held at Fletcher 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 comments by emailing them to info@fletchernc.org. For additional Town information, please visit our website at www.fletchernc.org or visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ FletcherNC.Gov/.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

News from the August 14th Fletcher Town Council Meeting

- During Public Comments, several Windsor Forest residents spoke in opposition to the possible installation of small cell wireless phone towers in their neighborhood by Crown Castle. Also, several residents from Sycamore Cottages spoke about builder performance issues on infrastructure items in their subdivision.
- By Consent Agenda, Town Council approved an improvement guarantee with a performance bond for infrastructure improvements in the Heritage Park Subdivision being built by Jackson Family Developers, LLC on Rutledge Road.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, discussed potential public engagement efforts to open additional avenues of communication between Fletcher residents and the Town. Several possible communication avenues mentioned were conducting neighborhood meetings (similar to the concept used by the City of Hendersonville), utilizing Polco individualized short surveys, and Town Council members attending various Parks and Recreation events.
- Mark Biberdorf provided an update on several ongoing matters:
 - The installation of the sound wall along I-26 near the Wildwood Subdivision is still moving forward for approval by NC DOT. The homeowners identified by DOT should receive a ballot from DOT in early September. A simple majority approval vote by these homeowners is required for DOT to approve and install the sound wall.
 - NC DOT slightly reconfigured the traffic signals and turning lanes at the intersection of Hendersonville Road and Old Airport Road about two years ago. Since that time, the non-arrow-protected left turn at the stoplight from Hendersonville Road into Ingles has created a dangerous situation for drivers due to the oncoming traffic sight distance being poor. Fletcher Police Department has gathered 2.5 years of accident data for this intersection, both before and after the design change, and the results were somewhat shocking. DOT is now reviewing this data and our Police Department will follow-up with them on this matter.
 - The Fletcher First Citizens Bank will be holding a community shredding event in early October. Further information will be shared once the details are confirmed.
 - A one-page insert will be included with the 2023 Fletcher tax bills sharing communication methods residents can use to stay connected with the Town.
 - The Blue Ridge Community College recent facilities master plan does not indicate any funding for a community college facility on the Fletcher Town Center property for which we had previously allocated space. BRCC continues to utilize our meeting facilities at Town Hall for their classes, indicating they have a need for space in this area, but no progress has been made toward discussing a facility. It was suggested by Council that if there is another need for the BRCC designated space in the Town Center, we should consider the other need.
 - The finishing touches are being completed on the multi-use courts at Bill Moore Community Park and we look forward to a grand opening event being scheduled in the very near future.

Property Tax Bill Q & A

I did not receive a tax bill, why?

If you have real or personal property, you should have received your Town of Fletcher 2023 tax bill by now. **However** if you have a mortgage on your real property and your taxes are being escrowed, you probably did not receive a tax bill -- your mortgage company received it. But, you may view or print a copy of your tax bill on our website at https://www.fletchernc.org/ departments/finance/property-taxes/ by choosing the "View Tax Notices" option and entering your "roll number". It can be obtained by contacting us at 828-687-3985 or it is the same as the "parcel number" on your Henderson County tax bill. If you have personal or business property and did not receive a tax bill, you may also obtain it from our website or contact us. If you do not know your "roll number" the easiest way to obtain it is by calling our Tax Office at 828-687-3985. Just remember... tax payments are still due in January 2024 even if you did not receive an actual bill.

I sold this property so why did I get a tax bill?

If you sold your real estate in 2023, please contact your closing attorney or check your closing statement to see if you, or the buyer, are responsible for paying the taxes. If you received a bill for personal property you sold **before** January 1, 2023, please contact the Henderson County Tax Assessor at 828-697-4870 to provide the appropriate documentation to have the bill released. Please do not ignore the bill -- the bill is still due <u>unless</u> it is released by the County, who will notify us of the release. If you sold the personal property during 2023, then the 2023 tax bill is your responsibility and the new owner will be responsible for 2024 taxes.

Why did my bill go up when tax rates went down?

Our tax rate was reduced from 34¢ to 28¢ per \$100 in value, with 27.7¢ being the revenue neutral rate. However, the value of your real property likely increased due to the County wide property revaluation this year.

Can I make partial payments on my tax bill?

Sure, if that works better for you. You can make partial payments, of any amount you choose, toward your tax bill rather than paying it in one lump sum. You have until January 6, 2024 to make full payment before your account is considered past due and interest is added.

Can I send one check to pay multiple bills?

Definitely. If you have multiple tax bills and wish to pay by check, you may send one check for all the bills as long as you include the roll numbers you are paying so we can apply your payment correctly.

How can I pay my tax bill?

You can pay online at https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/finance/property-taxes/; by cash, check, or money order at Town Hall; or by mail to Town Hall.

Yet Another Scam to Be Cautious Of

According to an article by Sydney Watson in *Reader's Digest.com*, "experts are warning about a robocall that starts with the simple four-word phrase "Can you hear me?" in hopes of recording your response and using it to commit fraud. The phrase is designed to trick the victim into quickly responding "yes," while the person or computer on the other end is recording. From there, the scammer can use the recording to access important online accounts, make purchases and commit fraud like identity theft. All they have to do is play the recording of your voice saying "yes" when asked to authorize a log-in or agree to a major purchase." So if you hear that phrase initially, just hang up.

From the Office of the Chief:

On August 21st, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) observed National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day. This day was established to remember the many who have lost their lives to fentanyl and other drug overdoses. Unfortunately, we continue to see overdoses occurring frequently in our community. I want to ensure all members of our community have access to appropriate resources, some of which are highlighted below.

Learn more about the danger of illicit fentanyl at:

https://facingfentanylnow.org, https://www.dea.gov/onepill, or https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness.

Vaya Health provides services, to include treatment options and crisis assistance, to those suffering from mental health crisis, disabilities, and substance use disorder. Vaya Health services can be requested confidentially at 1-800-849-6127.

The Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT) are peer-support specialists who have lived experience, having themselves been in similar situations. They are there to advocate and provide support to those struggling with addiction. Information regarding PORT can be found by calling 828-697-8422 ext. 132 and/or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/PORTHendersonville/.

Whether you can personally benefit from these services or know someone who can, the police department wants you to get any help that has the potential to improve your quality of life. If additional resources are desired, please

don't hesitate to call the police department at 828-687-7922. We will do what we can to connect you with appropriate services.

Also remember if you have medications you need to dispose of, you can bring them to our police department for safe disposal. We will assist you in disposing of prescription pills, vitamins, ointments, liquids and powders in original containers, inhalers, etc. We do not accept hazardous items such as needles, sharps, radioactive chemotherapy medications, biological waste, items containing mercury, etc.



Almost Leaf Season – Tips for Managing the Piles and Piles

Option 1: Collect leaves curbside in bags

Bagged leaves will be picked up starting on the **1**st **Monday in October** until the last Monday in December, as well as on the **1**st and **2**nd Mondays in April. **To schedule your pickup:** 1. Use the <u>online request form</u> or 2. Call Fletcher Town Hall at 828-687-3985.

Please keep the leaves off of the roads, sidewalks and drainage. Bicyclists and drivers risk accidents and injury because of leaves blocking traffic lanes. Leaves washed into storm drains can lead to clogging and flooding and add excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) to our waterways.

Option 2: Leave the leaves

Leaves provide food and shelter for butterflies, bees, beetles, moths and more over the winter season. Leave the leaves where they fall to support pollinators and biodiversity in your yard. A thin layer of leaves also protects and nourishes your lawn. Rake the rest around your trees, shrubs and beds for free mulch.



Please Welcome these Businesses to Fletcher!





Fletcher Library Opportunities in September

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

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

CLOSING: We will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

DELAYED OPENING: We will open at 10:00 am on Friday, September 8th 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, September 7th (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! <u>Please be aware that all children under 11 must have an adult stay with them.</u>

Knitting for a Cause Group (All Ages) Saturday, September 9th (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, September 9th (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, September 11th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Come and discuss our September selection. (The September selection is still to be determined. Please call the library for more details)

Craft Day (All ages) Tuesday, September 12th (10:00am-4:00pm)

Come and do a fun craft with us!

Book Review Book Club (Adults) Thursday, September 14th (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, September 14th (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, September 16th (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

Dining with Diabetes (Adults) Monday, September 18th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Dining with Diabetes is a program for adults with type 2 Diabetes or Prediabetes and their families. These 4 classes will help you understand some of the more important things you need to know about managing your diabetes including: important numbers





FLETCHER PARKS & RECREATION - 828-687-0751

HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FLETCHERPARKSANDRECREATION/

Part-Time Park Maintenance Vacancy

Fletcher Parks & Recreation is accepting job applications for a permanent part-time Park Maintenance position to work 16 hours/week. The position is responsible for various maintenance and repair tasks including mowing, trimming, ball field preparation, landscape maintenance, etc. Pay is \$16.00/hour.

A pre-employment drug screen and background screen will be required before being hired. A job application can be found online at https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/ human-resources/job-openings/ or may be obtained from Town Hall.

Save the Date		
9/7/23	Fall Yoga - registration required	
5:30 pm	Town Hall Multipurpose Room	
9/23/23	Fletcher Family Festival	
4:30 pm	Bill Moore Community Park	
10/28/23	Halloween Carnival	
12:00 pm	Bill Moore Community Park	
11/4/23	Veterans Salute Breakfast	
9:00 am	Fletcher Town Hall	
12/9/23	Christmas in the Park	
Time TBD	Bill Moore Community Park	

Bill Moore Park Court Usage

Basketball courts will be available for open use. Pickleball and tennis courts may be reserved for a 1-1/2 hour time slot, for a small reservation fee at https://fletcherparks.recdesk.com/
Community/Home, OR will be open for use

<u>Community/Home</u>, **OR** will be open for use at other times when not reserved.





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

Holiday Closing

Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 4th for the Labor Day holiday. Trash and recycling pickup schedules will not be impacted by this closing. Brush pickup in September will begin on Tuesday, September 5th.



Get Ready for Fall with a Mulch Giveaway

Public Works staff will be available September 9th from 8am - 12pm to load your truck and/or trailers with free mulch to assist with your fall landscaping efforts. After turning off Howard Gap Road onto Parrish Municipal Drive, the mulch pile is on the left beside the metal building. For more information, call Public Works at 828-654-9208.

Help with Federal Government Issues

The Congressional Staff of Chuck Edwards and their "Carolina Cruiser" mobile office will be in the Fletcher Town Hall side parking lot on Tuesday, September 19th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm to meet with western NC residents who need help with casework involving any federal government agency (including the Veterans Administration, Social Security, the IRS, etc.) and assist with passport and immigration matters. If you are having trouble with government delays and "red tape", they will be available to help you one-on-one with your issue.

Fletcher Area Business Association Coffee Club

Meet local leaders and join us for a cup of coffee September 5th from 8:00 am - 9:00 am September 19th from 8:00 am - 9:00 am Lutheridge Conference Center



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