



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

May 2024

Town Council

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

Sheila Franklin, Mayor Pro-Tem
District #1.....(828)684-5676

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

Jim Player, Council Member
District #3.....(828-702-4200)

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
To live stream or view previous
Town Council Meetings, please
visit [https://www.youtube.com/
@TownofFletcherNC/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@TownofFletcherNC/streams).

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 at 300 Old Cane Creek
Road in Fletcher.

This newsletter is published for
Town residents and reports on
issues and events that affect our
community. Past issues of our
newsletter are found on our web-
site at [https://www.fletchernc.org/
about-us/newsletter/](https://www.fletchernc.org/about-us/newsletter/).

You are encouraged to contact us
with your questions and/or com-
ments by emailing them to
info@fletchernc.org. For addition-
al Town information, please visit
our website at www.fletchernc.org
or visit our Facebook page at
[https://www.facebook.com/
FletcherNC.Gov/](https://www.facebook.com/FletcherNC.Gov/).

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider.

News from the April 8th Town Council Meeting

- By Consent Agenda, Town Council:
 - Approved Budget Amendment # 4 to the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget ordinance to appropriate an additional \$19,000 in Powell Bill funds for the resurfacing of Continuum Drive and Snowball Lane and the guardrail replacement at the corner of Old Cane Creek Road and Cane Creek Road to keep these projects within budget.
 - Approved Budget Amendment # 5 to the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget ordinance to apply \$850,000 of excess reserves, per the Fund Balance Policy, to lower the outstanding principal on two separate Town loans. This action will eliminate one loan, shorten the term on the other, and save \$650,000 in interest payments.
- David Hill, with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, provided a review of his recently completed Town employee pay and classification study. His goal was to determine and recommend a competitive pay structure to assist the Town with recruitment and employee retention initiatives when compared with other nearby government localities. Town Council agreed to consider implementing the study recommendations during the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025 budget process.
- Rebekah Robinson, with Conserving Carolina, shared additional information for potential grant resources which could be used for a Cane Creek greenway extension. Two grants she discussed were the “Connecting Communities to State Trails” and the “Great Trail State Program” grant. Council decided to apply for the “Connecting Communities to State Trails” grant, since the deadline was approaching in May, and consider action on the other grant application in July.
- Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner for Henderson County, shared a recently completed Henderson County Transit Feasibility Study which was designed to assess various aspects of the Apple Country Public Transit. Conclusions from the plan are recommended to be implemented in four phases in an eight-year span and includes the creation of a new downtown shuttle; route realignments; service during the weekend and an increase in operating hours; and coordination with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization in adding an express route to connect to Asheville.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, discussed the possibility of approving a contract with Retail Strategies for consulting services for our Town Center project and shared some comments from other municipal locations that had utilized the services of Retail Strategies. Town Council agreed to sign a contract with Retail Strategies.



Memorial Day Holiday

Town Hall will be closed Monday May 27th in observance of Memorial Day. Trash and recycling routes normally scheduled for Monday will be shifted to Tuesday, May 28th. Brush will also be picked up beginning on Tuesday of that week.

PUBLIC WORKS (828) 654-9208

Update on NC DOT Local Area Projects

- The Henderson County portions of the I-26 project are on schedule to be completed by summer 2024.
- The Buncombe County portions of the I-26 project are slated to be done by the end of 2026.
- The Four Seasons I-26 portion is currently behind schedule.
- The widening of Highway 191 has been delayed by 7 months because of environmental impact changes.
- In July 2024, construction of a roundabout will begin at the Cane Creek Road / Mills Gap Road intersection in Buncombe County. Roundabouts are becoming more popular as a safety and traffic movement tool.

SECOND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION

A statewide second primary will be held for the NC Republican Lt. Governor and Republican Auditor seats. In this second primary, **ONLY** registered Republicans can vote **AND** registered Unaffiliated can vote **IF** you chose the Republican ballot in the First Primary **or** did not vote at all in the First Primary.

Early Voting will be held **only** at Henderson County Board of Elections from April 25th through May 11th, excluding some Saturdays. For exact dates and times of Early Voting, please visit the Board of Elections website found at <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/elections>.

Voting will also be held May 14th from 6:30am - 7:30pm at your **assigned** Fletcher precinct. Please note that for this election only, if your assigned precinct is normally Fletcher Elementary School you will vote at Fletcher Town Hall. Therefore Fletcher residents will vote at Fletcher Town Hall or Fletcher Seventh Day Adventist Church, whichever is your assigned precinct, for this second primary. Voters will be asked to show photo ID when they vote.

A sample ballot is available on the Henderson County Board of Elections website. **For any questions, please visit the Henderson County Board of Elections website shown above or you may contact them at 828-697-4970.**

Leaf Pickup and Mulch Giveaway - Ended

Just a reminder, our spring leaf pickup concluded in April. Our next pickup will be in the fall.

Our mulch giveaway has also concluded thanks to your interest. We loaded 29 loads of mulch during our most recent giveaway event on April 20th. Our excess mulch is now gone and we do not anticipate having any more in the near future.

From the Office of Chief Terry:



The Fletcher Police Department continues to receive reports of various scams being used against our residents. These scams usually start with a simple, but convincing phone call or email. Often, there is little the police department can do, other than educate the public, as these scams often originate outside the U.S. You may feel you are too intelligent to be taken, but anyone can be a victim. The solution is to educate yourself.

Often the elderly are victims of scams due to their polite and trusting nature. The scam artist will make complicated offers to confuse their target and persuade them to go along. Please keep this from happening to you by following some simple rules:

- Do not respond to emails or other messages that ask for personal information even if it appears to come from someone you know and trust.

- Never allow yourself to be pressured into an immediate decision even if promised free prizes, vacations, and great deals, "if you act now." Think it through, look up the number and contact the person or business yourself.

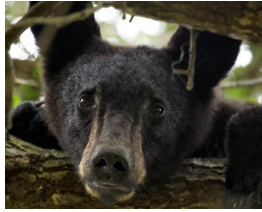
- When called by a phone solicitor requesting a donation, independently verify the company and company address before sending any money. Ask that written information be sent to you so that you can make an informed decision. Legitimate charities will have no problems filling this request.

- Never give your credit card number, checking account number, or Social Security number to unknown callers and/or companies.

And remember, **IF IT SEEMS TO GOOD TO BE TRUE IT PROBABLY IS!**

Most bears are now leaving their dens and coming to an area near you.... maybe.....

We have started receiving some resident calls about bears in Fletcher. Although we do share this area of WNC with black bears, there are some things humans can do to make our shared space safer for us, our pets, our property, and the bears.



Visit <https://bearwise.org/> for some great resources to help people live responsibly with black bears. This website is full of information and tips with ways to help encourage bears to remain as wild animals instead of neighborhood pets. They have bearwise tips for your home and bearwise tips for hiking or camping in the WNC mountains and what to do if you encounter a bear. Check out their website today -- you might be surprised how much a difference some "bearwise advice" can make.

Did you know...
Bears can
smell 7 times
better than a
bloodhound.



BearWise.org

Spring Litter Sweep

Thank you to the Youth Group from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for picking up trash along Hendersonville Road on April 17th during the NC DOT Spring Litter Sweep Campaign.



FABA
FLETCHER AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**MAY
EVENTS**

COFFEE CLUB

Featuring Joel L. Thum, CPA PLLC

May 7th 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Lutheridge Conference Center

2049 Upper Laurel Dr. Arden, NC

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2224611657748547>

Please join us for Coffee Club and bring a guest!

FOCUS AFTER FIVE

**Featuring The Super Signguy,
Lakeview Putt & Play, & LC Logistics**

May 9th 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

2245 Hendersonville Rd. Arden, NC

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1474813976473184>

COFFEE CLUB

Featuring Dynamic Image

May 21st 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Lutheridge Conference Center

2049 Upper Laurel Dr. Arden, NC

<https://www.facebook.com/events/895492831893872>

Please join us for Coffee Club and bring a guest!

**FLETCHER COMMUNITY
CHORUS PRESENTS**

"Together in Song"

Thursday, May 9, 2024 7:00pm

Fletcher United Methodist Church

50 Library Road in Fletcher

Concert is Free

Donations Appreciated

Fletcher Library Opportunities in May

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

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

Delayed Openings and Closures: We will open at 10:00 on Friday, May 10th due to a staff meeting. We will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

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. Thanks to all those that have donated.

Goodwill Career Connections Every Wednesday (10:00pm-1:00pm)

Do you need interview practice or help creating a resume, filling out an online job application, or getting started with your job search? Drop in to get help from a Career Connections Coordinator.

NC Medicaid Managed Care (Adults) Wednesday, May 1st (10:00am-12:00pm)

Drop by for information about the health care options available to you.

Fletcher Family Storytime (Children) Wednesday, May 1st (10:30am-11:00am)

This program is designed for children and their families. Activities include stories, songs, flannel board stories, action rhymes, and more. Each program concludes with a special craft kit.

Lego Club (Children) Thursday, May 2nd (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.

Fletcher Family Storytime (Children) Wednesday, May 8th (10:30am-11:00am)

This program is designed for children and their families. Activities include stories, songs, flannel board stories, action rhymes, and more. Each program concludes with a special craft kit.

Chair Exercises (Adults) Wednesday, May 8th (2:00pm-3:00pm) ** Registration Required **

These classes focus on strength training exercises that support increased strength, increased mobility, and reduced fall risk. They are great for people just getting started with an exercise routine or looking to exercise with others. Hand weights will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. ***Please consult with your medical professional before attending. Class members will be required to sign a waiver before participating.***

Book Review Book Club (Adults) Thursday, May 9th (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, May 9th (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.

Knitting for a Cause Group (All Ages) Saturday, May 11th (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, May 13th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Come and discuss our May selection, *The Gun Seller* by Hugh Laurie.

Craft Day (All ages) Tuesday, May 14th (10:00am-4:00pm) Come and do a fun craft with us!

NC Medicaid Managed Care (Adults) Wednesday, May 15th (10:00am-12:00pm)

Drop by for information about the health care options available to you.

Fletcher Family Storytime (Children) Wednesday, May 15th (10:30am-11:00am)

This program is designed for children and their families. Activities include stories, songs, flannel board stories, action rhymes, and more. Each program concludes with a special craft kit.

Chair Exercises (Adults) Wednesday, May 22nd (2:00pm-3:00pm) ** Registration Required **

These classes focus on strength training exercises that support increased strength, increased mobility, and reduced fall risk. They are great for people just getting started with an exercise routine or looking to exercise with others. Hand weights will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. ***Please consult with your medical professional before attending. Class members will be required to sign a waiver before participating.***

Eating the Mediterranean Way (Adults) Thursday, May 23rd (11:00am-12:00pm) ** Registration Required **

Eating like those who live in the Mediterranean region has been shown to promote health and decrease the risk of many chronic diseases, including certain types of cancers, Alzheimer's disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease. These classes will explore how to incorporate the Mediterranean way of eating into our everyday life. Together we will look at some simple, delicious, and satisfying recipes and make a recipe together that we can taste.

Zaniac: Atoms & Chocolate Bars (Children) Thursday, May 23rd (3:45pm-4:45pm) ** Registration Required **

Now's your chance to combine your sweet tooth with science-- create a molecular model of a chocolate candy bar. Students will design a molecule structure made out of toothpicks and playdough. Next, they will discuss the ingredients they use and how they can better improve their models in the future. *This free children's program is funded by the Friends of the Library.*



TOWN OF FLETCHER
22ND ANNUAL ROBERT G. PARRISH, SR.

Memorial Golf TOURNAMENT

Event proceeds support Park development

May 17th, 2024
AT 11AM



Cummings Cove Golf & Country Club
Etowah, NC

Captain's Choice: 4 person team
Lunch Included

REGISTER ONLINE : April 1st-May 10th
[Fletcherparks.recdesk.com](https://www.fletcherparksandrec.com)

COST:
\$80 Per Player

A special thank you to our
Tournament sponsors!

Title Sponsor:



Hole Sponsors:



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, May 17th	Robert Parish Mem Golf Tournament Cummings Cove Country Club	11:00 am
Monday, June 3rd	Summer Day Camp and Middle School Camp begins	7:30 am
Saturday, July 13th	Summer Concert with "Tuxedo Junction"	6:00 pm
Saturday, August 17th	Summer Concert with "Caribbean Cowboys"	6:00 pm



Mayor Preston Blakely and Councilman Jim Player
at our recent Easter Egg Hunt event

TOWN OF FLETCHER

300 OLD CANE CREEK ROAD

FLETCHER, NC 28732

Property Tax Relief Applications Due June 1st to Henderson County Assessor's Office

Under specific circumstances, property owners may be eligible for reduced taxes. Currently programs exist for property owned by elderly or disabled persons, disabled veterans, non-profit organizations, commercial farms, and for wildlife management. To watch a short video explanation by the Henderson County Tax Administrator, please visit <https://vimeo.com/931102852>. The main homeowner tax relief programs are:

Elderly or Permanently Disabled Exclusion - If you qualify, you may receive an exclusion of either \$25,000 or 50% of the taxable value of your qualifying residence (whichever is greater).

Requirements: The applicant's name must be on the deed or title to the residence as of January 1; it must be their permanent residence; must be a North Carolina resident; must be at least 65 or totally or permanently disabled; and income from all sources must not exceed \$36,700.

Disabled Veteran's Exclusion - Excludes from property taxes the first \$45,000 of assessed value for a permanent residence occupied by a qualifying owner. This exclusion is available to veterans or their surviving spouse.

Requirements: The Veteran must have a total and permanent service-connected disability or receive benefits for specially adapted housing under 38 U.S.C. 2101. Requirements for Veteran spouses vary slightly.

Elderly or Disabled Property Tax Deferral (Circuit Breaker) - If you qualify, you may receive a property tax deferral based on 4% or 5% of the applicant's income. The taxes over the limitation amount are deferred and remain as a lien on the property. The last 3 years of deferred taxes prior to the disqualifying event will become due and payable, with interest, on the date of the disqualifying event.

Requirements: 65 or older or totally and permanently disabled; income from all sources does not exceed \$55,050; must have owned and occupied the property as the owner's permanent residence for at least 5 years as of January 1st; and must be a North Carolina resident.

For more information on any of these programs or assistance with forms, contact the Henderson County Tax Assessor's Office at 828-698-3005 or visit their website at <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/tax/page/exemptions-exclusions-deferment>.