

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

www.townofwaynesville.org

VOL 3. NO. 3 JULY 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

A good way to gauge summer's arrival is the waiting time for a table in Waynesville' good restaurants, although this is rapidly becoming a year round problem for many of them. It is quite obvious that people enjoy coming here to shop, but visitors and locals alike noticeably enjoy a good eating experience as well. Dining is becoming a major industry here and the public is being well accommodated.

Our major movers (Dayco site project, Vantage Point, Laurels of Junaluska, location of a major Retirement Home and our new fire station) are proceeding on schedule. Walgreen has expressed interest in locating in Waynesville. In fact, a large amount of major construction for our town will be taking place here during 2007. Two years from now major changes will be seen in our landscape. I' also happy to report that our prospect for locating a quality retirement home here looks quite promising, even exciting.

We continue to appreciate the tireless effort of our Land Use Planning Committee members who rendered a great service to our town and its future. Their two and a half year effort to adopt and implement a create Land use Plan and ordinance for Waynesville is now paying off. Our town has a promising future.

NEW FIRE STATION

The preliminary design for the new fire station to be located in the 1000 block of North Main Street was presented at the Town Board Meeting on June 13. Over the next few months, preliminary work on the site will begin, with the removal of asbestos and other contaminants during late July and August. In September and October, buildings will be demolished or sold as the site is being prepared for the contractor on the building. In October and November the poor soil beneath the building site will be removed and replaced with better, more stable soil and rock, which will be compacted to have a solid site for the station. The architects are aiming for a construction start in January 2007, with a one year completion date. At the June 13 Board Meeting approval was given for a joint project with the State which will save the Town approximately \$24,000. The Town is grateful to the local Extension Office and N. C. State University for selecting the fire station as a potential site for a storm water grant proposal. Finance Director Eddie Caldwell and Town Manager Lee Galloway are completing the loan application package for the Rural Development office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for a \$2 million loan for the construction of this fire station.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 - Stars and Stripes on Main Street

July 7 - Friday Night Street Dance
July 21 - Folkmoot Parade
Friday Night Street Dance
July 29 - International Festival Day
Every Wednesday & Saturday Through October - Tailgate Farmer's Market
August 4 - Friday Night Street Dance
Sept. 1 & 2 - Smoky Mtn. Folk Festival
Sept. 1, 2 & 4 - Sidewalk Sales
Sept. 2 - Block Party - Main Street

COMING SOON!

AUTOMATIC DRAFT PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY BILLS. Are you interested in automatic draft payments for your utility bill? If so, call the Finance Department at 456-3515 or stop by Town Hall to pick up an application. We hope to implement this program in August or September.

WAYNESVILLE' WEB SITE www.townofwaynesville.org will soon include a work order form on line for citizens and employees. A tracking number will be assigned for all requests. This system will provide an improved level of service to Waynesville' citizens.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

There will be an informational workshop on Thursday, August 10 at 7 pm at the Haywood County Library regarding tax credits for National Register Properties. The public is invited to attend.

NO SIGNS ON UTILITY POLES!!

Please do not place signs on utility poles. This is not only unsightly, but is in violation of the Town' Ordinances. If you have questions regarding the sign ordinance contact Land Use Manager Byron Hickox at 452-0401.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

Assistant Fire Chief - Joey Webb, former Chief of the Clyde Volunteer Fire Department, has been hired as Assistant Fire Chief, to fill the position left with the death of Fire Captain Mike Warren. Recreation Director - Rhett Langston has been hired to replace Mike Smith upon his retirement on November 1. Mr. Langston began July 3, allowing him several months to work with Mr. Smith before his retirement.

During the spring, Codes Administrator Alex Corbin retired and Jason Rogers has been promoted to that position. Gary Sanders has been hired to fill the position left by the promotion of Mr. Rogers.

OPERATIONAL REORGANIZATION

The Town will experience some shifting of personnel and responsibilities early in the new fiscal

year. Most of these changes came out of the recommendations made by MGT Consulting which performed a Staffing Study for the Town in 2004 in order to better serve the public.

The Financial Office at the former Hazelwood Town Hall, 280 Georgia Avenue, will close and those two employees will move to Town Hall where all the Finance Department will be under one roof. To make room for them, a one stop permitting office will be created at the Hazelwood Office, with the Planning Director, Land Use Manager and Administrative Assistant. The long range plan for this one stop permitting office is to be located in a new structure in front of the existing police/fire departments, but that facility is not scheduled to be completed until early 2009. Since the administrative assistant will move from Town Hall, a part-time clerical position will be added to work under the Town Clerk.

In merging the finance department at Town Hall, one customer service representative position will be eliminated and an administrative assistant will be added for the Police Department.

PUBLIC WORKS

Work on sidewalks and tree planting wells was done on Commerce Street in Frog Level and the Town received many nice compliments about that work.

Sidewalks and handicap access ramps have been installed at and near the intersection of Oakdale Road and Country Club Drive.

Work is now underway on a neighborhood area at the intersection of Smathers Street and Fourth Street. At the present time, public works crews are installing sidewalks, and in the new fiscal year, some benches and picnic tables will be placed at the site.

WATER TANK COMPLETED

A new, two million gallon above ground water storage tank is now complete and in service on Reservoir Drive, replacing a one million gallon tank constructed around 1925. The cost of the new tank will be around \$950,000. This tank will provide a greater storage capacity for the Town and should prevent reduced pressures and flows during strong demands for water from Blue Ridge Paper.

OTHER PROJECTS

Electric Department - several utility poles have been replaced along East Street and in the Assembly/Howell/Oak Street neighborhoods. Crews have been working on Killian Street replacing poles and trimming trees. Removing the tree limbs from the electrical wires will reduce the blinks and outages.

Asset Management Plan - In 2005, the NC Rural Center awarded Waynesville a grant of \$43,000 for the evaluation of our existing water and sewer system and for recommendations for the most needed future improvements on the two systems. McGill Associates has recently completed the first draft of this document and it is being reviewed for comments and changes.

Hazelwood Traffic Signal - About two years ago, problems were experienced with the traffic signal at Hazelwood and Brown Avenues. New lights and controller box are in place and should be in operation soon. The sensor wires must be cut into the pavement so that the light will change on demand from approaching traffic.

Hendrix Street Bridge - The engineering firm of Vaughn and Melton will be finalizing construction plans for the replacement of the Hendrix Street Bridge during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The federal government pays 80% of the cost and the Town must bear the remaining 20% share under an agreement with the State of NC.

Lab at Water Plant - McGill Associates has been working for more than one year on the plans for an addition to the lab at the water plant. These plans will be reviewed during the next fiscal year. This is a need that was identified to the Board during a tour of that facility approximately 4 years ago, but it has taken some time to reach the point of funding.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is the water that runs off streets, parking lots, rooftops, and other hard surfaces whenever it rains. Storm drains or ditches carry run-off directly to nearby streams, without passing through a water treatment plant.

Stormwater run-off is a problem because it carries pollutants from the surrounding landscape into our waterways. Metals, salts, oil, etc., from roads and parking lots; fertilizers and other products from golf courses and landscaping; pet waste; grease, soap and chemicals that may get dumped out the back door; anything that gets deposited on the pavement or sidewalk eventually ends up in a nearby stream.

In addition to chemical and organic wastes, tons of dirt gets carried by stormwater run-off. In fact, sediment in streams is the #1 water pollutant in Western North Carolina today.

Finally, many pollutants get into our creeks through unofficial connections to the stormwater system. All drains in homes and businesses should be connected to a municipal sewer system or a septic system. But many are connected instead to the storm drain pipes. These connections are called illicit discharges. They may be unintended, and can be easily fixed, once they are identified.

All these pollutants that get carried by stormwater run-off are called non-point source pollutants, because they don't come from any single point of origin. Non-point source pollution is the greatest threat today to our nation's waters.

In an effort to address this prevalent source of water pollution, the Federal Clean Water Act requires local communities to manage stormwater run-off and to control non-point source pollutants. This is done through creation and implementation of local Stormwater Management Plans. Phase II of the law covers smaller cities and towns such as Waynesville. As such, we have been dubbed a "Phase II Community."

The law requires us to submit a plan and receive a state permit to manage stormwater run-off, and to report regularly to the state on our adherence to the plan. Accordingly, we developed a plan, and received our stormwater permit effective December 1, 2005.

In compliance with the law, our plan includes a variety of strategies for managing stormwater run-off. These include:

- * Reducing run-off volume by adopting a post-construction run-off ordinance. This will encourage builders to include stormwater controls such as wetlands, grassed swales, porous pavement, cisterns, etc., in all new construction and redevelopment. These controls help direct rainwater into the ground, rather than running off the site and carrying pollutants. They are cost effective when included in the original construction design.
- * Controlling erosion and sediment run-off from construction sites.
- * Mapping the stormwater drainage system and developing a program to identify and correct illicit discharges.
- * Practicing what we preach by training Waynesville staff to use pollution prevention measures in all our local government operations.

In addition to these strategies, a critical part of the plan includes public involvement - making information available to the public, offering opportunities for public participation in practical ways, and for public comment on the process of policy enactment and implementation.

Finally, we need everyone to do his or her part in reducing non-point source pollutants and minimizing stormwater run-off from their home or business. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- * Scoop up after your pet, even on the grass.
- * Make sure your septic system is in good condition, and have it maintained regularly.
- * Apply fertilizers and other garden products sparingly. If anything ends up on a hard surface, sweep it back into the grass or dirt.
- * Plant, mulch, or contain any areas of bare soil.
- * Never dump anything down a storm drain. "Only rain down the drain."
- * Consider installing a rain garden, rain barrel, porous pavement, or other landscape feature to capture run-off from your roof or driveway.
- * Make sure your business disposes of all liquid and solid waste appropriately. Make sure dumpsters are covered and never dump anything liquid or trash on the ground or pavement.
- * If you use chemicals, oil, solvents, etc., store them in good quality containers. Only pour them in an area that has containment structures, such as a berm around the area, to catch spills.
- * If you notice an illicit discharge - something entering or draining from a storm drain that isn't rainwater contact Public Works Director Fred Baker at (828) 456-4410.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 BUDGET

Tax Rate .40 per \$100 valuation
DWA Tax .23 per \$100 valuation
Water - 10% increase

Sewer - 10% increase
Electric - no increase this quarter.
Slight increase in Area Lighting
Residential garbage collection - \$4/month (was \$3/month)
Dumpsters \$45/month (was \$43/month)
Commercial without dumpsters \$11/month (was \$10.50/month)
Increases in some permits and inspection fees.

The Budget Ordinance is available for review at Town Hall.

MAYOR Henry B. Foy

ALDERMEN:

Gavin Brown
Gary Caldwell
Elizabeth Feichter
Kenneth Moore

MANAGER A. Lee Galloway

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Independence Day - July 4

Offices closed - commercial & residential garbage and blue bags picked up next day.

Labor Day - September 4

Offices closed - garbage pickup on regular schedule. Blue bags will be picked up the following Monday.

TELEPHONE REFERENCE

Police Administration 456-5363
Fire Administration 456-6151
Building Inspections 456-8647
Code Enforcement 456-2010
Utilities 456-3515 or 456-5057
Tax Collections 452-3588
Town Manager 452-2491
Town Clerk 452-2491
Human Resources 456-2028
Planning 456-2004
Zoning 452-0401
Public Works Director 456-4410
Streets/Sanitation/Water/
Sewer/Electric 456-3706

After Hours/Emergency 456-5363
Water Treatment Plant 456-8497
Waste Treatment Plant 456-4685
Parks and Recreation 456-2030
Armory 456-9207

DOWNTOWN WAYNESVILLE
ASSOCIATION 456-3517
www.downtownwaynesville.com

MEETING SCHEDULES

Board of Aldermen
2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7 pm - Town Hall

ABC Board
2nd Tuesday at 11 am - 373 Walnut St.

Board of Adjustment
1st Tuesdays at 5:30 pm - Town Hall

Community Appearance Commission
1st Wednesdays at 9 am - Town Hall

Firemen's Relief Fund Board
On Call

Historic Preservation Commission
1st Wednesdays at 2 pm - Town Hall

Planning Board
3rd Mondays at 5:30 pm - Town Hall

Recreation & Parks Advisory Comm
2nd Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 550 Vance St

Waynesville Housing Authority
1st Wednesdays 5:30 pm-65 Church St.