

# TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE



[www.townofwaynesville.org](http://www.townofwaynesville.org)

VOL. 5 NO. 4

*Town of Waynesville - Incorporated 1871*

OCTOBER 2008

## *Message from the Mayor*

To the Citizens of Waynesville:



The drought which plagues our region has been a frequent topic recently. The Town is blessed with a 50 acre reservoir collecting water from an 8,400 acre watershed, but even that resource has been challenged in the recent dry spell. Our reservoir stores millions of gallons of water and could provide up to twelve million gallons a day. The Town's water plant could treat eight million gallons a day, so to reach that twelve million gallons, we would have to expand our water plant. The average demand on the plant's 8 million gallon capacity is about 3.7 million gallons daily, so we have some excess capacity.

The Town has adopted a Water Shortage Response Plan, with different measures imposed depending on the level of the reservoir. As the level drops, more severe steps must be taken to save water. If the water level drops 48 inches, the Mayor may issue a Water Shortage Advisory with voluntary conservation measures to cut use. Should the level drop 96 inches, the Mayor may declare a Water Shortage Alert with mandatory water restrictions and a goal to cut use 25%. In mandatory restrictions, there are small fines for violations and increasing fines for repeated violations. If the water level drops by 14 feet, the Mayor may declare a Water Shortage Emergency, with more stringent conservation measures and severe fines for violations of the emergency restrictions.

On August 22, the reservoir level was down 37 inches, and the Town Board was scheduled to discuss a Water Shortage Advisory at its August 26 meeting. The

Board was concerned about water availability for the Waynesville system, but there was also concern about preserving water in our reservoir to assist neighboring communities where the water supply was short. The Maggie Valley Sanitary District was experiencing problems and Canton was seeing a drop in the Pigeon River and investigating alternative sources.

In addition to Waynesville and adjacent areas, the Town provides water to Lake Junaluska Assembly and the Junaluska Sanitary District systems. The Town Board feels that there is more than enough water to meet the needs of our citizens and the two systems we serve. The Board also feels that if our neighbors in Maggie Valley, Canton and Clyde were in need of water, the Town of Waynesville wants to be in a position to assist. We believe that sharing with our neighbors in Haywood County is the right thing to do and trust our citizens hold this same sense of a duty to share.

On August 26, Hurricane Fay delivered six inches of rain to the watershed, so the Town did not need to implement a Water Shortage Advisory. The level in the reservoir went up six feet in three days, but in the dry weeks since then, the reservoir has again begun to fall. On September 16, it is at full pond and dropping slightly. We received rain recently, and the reservoir is holding its own. If the drought persists, the Town may have to call for voluntary or mandatory conservation measures.

Because the drought has been in the news so much, I wanted to let our citizens know about the Town policies. Elsewhere in the newsletter, there are suggestions for ways you can reduce your water consumption. Please be assured that the Town will continue to safeguard our water reservoir and this very valuable resource of our water supply. Your help and cooperation will be deeply appreciated.

Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 11 - Church Street Art and Craft Show** 10 am - 5 pm. Live music, entertainment and food.

**Oct. 18 - Apple Harvest Festival** - Apples, music, food, crafts, cider, fried pies and more! 10 am - 5 pm.

**Nov. 10 - Tribute to Haywood County Veterans** - 7 pm @ Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, contact Richard Miller 452-6000.

**Nov. 23 - "Holiday Open House"** Enjoy the sights, scents and sounds of the holiday season - 12 noon-5pm.

**Dec. 8 - Evening Christmas Parade @ 6 pm** - Main Street.

**Dec. 6 & 13 - "A Night Before Christmas"** Main St. until 9 pm.

### Waynesville Watershed Hike – October 25<sup>th</sup>



On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the public will once again be allowed to visit the Waynesville Watershed on a guided hike. Led by Dr. Peter Bates of Western Carolina University, hikers will learn about the Waynesville watershed management plan as well as current conditions within the watershed. Naturalist Don Hendershot will be joining the hike to discuss the wildlife found in the watershed. The plan is available online and a copy is available for review at Town Hall.

The hike will be between four and six miles long, across moderately strenuous terrain. Hikers should bring their own lunch, water, hat, rain gear, and wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing. Birders should bring their binoculars. The group will leave from the Waynesville Water Plant at 9 am and return by 2 pm. Advanced registration is required and can be done online at [www.townofwaynesville.org](http://www.townofwaynesville.org) or by calling 452-2491 after October 6.

### Fundraising begins for the Waynesville Skate Park!

Fundraising is underway for the Waynesville Skate Park! The Skate Park is to be a free outdoor facility, located at the current site of the horse ring in the recreation park. The next fundraising meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 6 pm at the Recreation Center.

In addition to accepting individual and corporate donations, the fundraising group is also selling personalized 4" x 8" bricks for \$50 each or \$75 for two. Each brick can contain up to 3 lines of text with 20 characters per line per brick. The bricks will make a walkway leading to the entrance of the skatepark.

There is also a corporate sponsorship plan for the skate park. The name of any business that participates in this plan will be placed on the dedication sign permanently! If



you are interested in purchasing a brick, making a donation, or volunteering for the fundraising committee, contact Rhett Langston at [recdirector@townofwaynesville.org](mailto:recdirector@townofwaynesville.org) or 456-2030.

### Firefighter Memorial Bricks Available



Planning is underway for the construction of a new Firefighters Memorial at the new Fire Station on North Main Street. The design is to be finalized in the next few months and will include a granite memorial surrounded by a brick pathway. The construction of the memorial will be supported through community donations and the selling of personalized 4" x 8" bricks which can contain up to 3 lines of text with 20 characters per line per brick. If you are interested in purchasing a brick, making a donation, or have any questions, contact Fire Chief Joey Webb, Sr. at 456-8646 or [chiefwebb@waynesvillefire.org](mailto:chiefwebb@waynesvillefire.org)

### Can't Decide Which Brick to Buy?

If you would like to support both the Firefighters Memorial and the Skate Park, you can select the two brick option and designate one brick for each project! For more information, contact Rhett Langston with the Recreation Department or Joey Webb at the Fire Department.



### OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 59 seconds, and in particular a residential fire occurs every 76 seconds. Fires occur in vehicles at the rate of 1 every 122 seconds, and there's a fire in an outside property every 41 seconds.

An estimated \$14.6 billion in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2007, a highly significant increase of 29.5% from last year. This total figure includes the California Fire Storm 2007 with an estimated property damage of \$1,800,000,000.

Excluding the California Fire Storm, total property loss still increased a significant 13.5%. *NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA*

It is important to **BE PREPARED!** Change the batteries in your smoke detector when you set back your clocks for daylight savings time. Have working smoke detectors on every level of your home. Clean your chimneys and maintain your home heating appliances before winter arrives. Contact Waynesville Fire Department for any questions regarding fire safety or a free home fire inspection. 456-6151.

## Join H.E.A.T.

In 2006, the Board of Aldermen created the Heat and Energy Assistance Team (H.E.A.T.) This program allows utility customers to add a contribution to their monthly bill to aid other customers who are struggling with rising heating and cooling costs. The full amount contributed is divided evenly between the Salvation Army and Haywood Christian Ministries for use in assisting residents of Waynesville and Haywood County. These agencies provide year-round assistance with energy bills, and need year-round support.

All donations to the H.E.A.T. Program are tax deductible and the Town provides donors with a report at year's end. If you prefer to make a one-time donation by cash or check, simply stop by Town Hall. For more information contact Utilities at 456-3515.

## Share the Warmth

In addition to assisting residents in paying their winter energy bills, Mountain Projects and Haywood Christian Ministries have partnered with the Salvation Army, the United Way, *The Mountaineer*, and *Smoky Mountain News* to create a new winterization program to help people in need make their homes more energy efficient. This program, Share the Warmth, also helps people stock up on blankets, warm robes and slippers. You can help support Share the Warmth by purchasing a \$1 card at Town Hall; all of the funds collected at Town Hall will go directly to Mountain Projects for this program. If you can give more, you may do so at Town Hall or mail your contribution directly to Mountain Projects at 2251 Old Balsam Road, Waynesville, NC 28786. Volunteers are needed to help with the winterization of homes; contact Mountain Projects at 452-1447 for more information.

## Residents with Special Needs Can Register with 911 System

Do you, a relative, or a neighbor have a physical, mental, or cognitive condition that would require special assistance during an emergency? This can include situations where someone is on oxygen, has limited mobility, or suffers from mood disorders or extreme obesity. Any resident with special needs can register with the Haywood County 911 Communications Center so that emergency responders will know of your situation and be able to respond appropriately during a medical emergency, a natural disaster, or evacuation.

If you have previously registered and need to update your information or remove yourself from the registry due to a change in your condition, now is a great time to do so. For more information call 456-2391 or [jwebb@haywoodnc.net](mailto:jwebb@haywoodnc.net). (Do not call 911 to register)

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

### In the Bathroom

- Turn off water while lathering, shampooing, shaving and brushing your teeth.
- Take showers instead of baths and keep your shower under 5 minutes.
- Plug the bathtub for a bath before turning the water on and adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- Collect the water from the shower while waiting for it to heat up and use to water plants.
- Replace older plumbing fixtures with newer, low-flow models or install water-saving devices, such as faucet aerators.
- If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. (Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.)
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank and watch if the coloring shows up in the toilet bowl before flushing. If so, replace the leaking flap.
- Check tub and sink faucets for drips and replace washers and "O-rings" as necessary.



### In The Kitchen

- Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads.
- Avoid using sink disposals for food scraps. Compost instead.
- Don't rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher, or use a pan of water in the sink and re-use the water as long as possible.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible minimizing rinse water.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.
- Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Place frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave.



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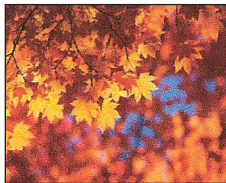


## Outdoors

- Water during the cool parts of the day to avoid evaporation.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
- Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Higher grass has deeper roots and shades other grass, helping fight off heat and moisture loss.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees & plants to slow down evaporation.
- Do not allow children to play with sprinklers and/or garden hoses.
- Plant drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, plants, and ground cover that need little if any water or fertilizer once established.
- Catch rainwater from your gutters with a rain barrel and use it to water your flowers and vegetables.
- Turn off all water to your home and look at the readout dial on your water meter. If the dial moves, you have a leak.
- Check pipes coming into the house for leaks and have them repaired immediately. Don't forget to check outside faucets and garden hoses.

## Leaf Season

Beginning Monday, October 13 until mid January, the Town will collect leaves by vacuum machine. Residents should rake leaves to curbside but not in the ditches, gutter lines or in a manner that would obstruct the street or sidewalk. Leaves must be free of sticks or other debris and will be left if improperly prepared. Chipping will be curtailed during leaf season. The leaf collection schedule will vary due to volume and weather.



### Tips for composting leaves

- Compost leaves in a pile in a corner of your yard where there is some protection from the wind.
- Use leaves as mulch around plants for weed control.
- Dig some leaves into the garden to ready soil for spring planting.
- Shred leaves first to reduce their volume.
- Save some leaves in plastic bags for the spring.

Leaves are "gardener's gold." Add valuable organic matter and nutrients to your gardens and around trees and shrubbery. Keep these wastes out of the landfill.

## Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan Survey Available

The Town of Waynesville, like communities throughout North Carolina, has begun to place more emphasis on providing pedestrian facilities. The desire from citizens for better transportation choices, the



demand for more walkable communities and a focus on smart growth initiatives have combined to highlight the need for better, more complete pedestrian transportation systems. A comprehensive plan can guide both local and state efforts to improve conditions for pedestrians.

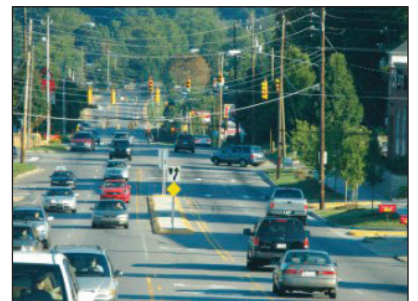
In early summer of 2007 the Town of Waynesville received a \$16,000 Pedestrian Planning Grant from the NCDOT and provided \$4,000 in matching funds. This funding is being used to employ the services of Wilbur Smith Associates - a planning and engineering firm based in High Point, NC. A steering committee has been working with the consultant to provide input and guidance to the planning process. To date the steering committee has met twice and held a public workshop.

At this point, public input is being sought into the pedestrian needs and issues of the town. A survey questionnaire has been developed and is available at Town offices or online at [townofwaynesville.org](http://townofwaynesville.org). Be on the lookout for upcoming public workshops on this plan.

## Russ Avenue Corridor Study

The Town of Waynesville and the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization have initiated a study of the Russ Avenue / US 276 corridor in Waynesville extending from the Smoky Mountain Expressway (US 23-74) southward to its intersection with Walnut Street, a distance of approximately 0.8 mile.

Russ Avenue serves as the major eastern gateway into Waynesville from the Smoky Mountains Expressway (US 23-74). The efficiency and attractiveness of this road shapes both the first impression of visitors and the quality of life for many residents.



The purpose of the corridor study is to plan future travel demand, intersection improvements, access configuration and management, median and edge landscaping and pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation facilities. The resulting improvement plan will enhance vehicular, pedestrian mobility and safety while providing an aesthetically pleasing gateway into town.

The consultant hired to develop the study, Wilbur Smith Associates of High Point, NC, has begun to collect data, meet with local stakeholders, and held a public workshop. Currently the consultant is preparing a draft plan which will be presented in an upcoming public workshop.

## Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Ordinance Update

In recognition of the importance of good land use planning and high-quality urban design, the Board of Aldermen adopted an award-winning comprehensive land use plan and unified development ordinance in 2001, and 2003 respectively. The keystone of both documents is the conversion of the existing suburban residential/commercial strip development pattern into a more traditional, sustainable pattern with higher densities and mixed uses to promote walkability, along with strong environmental protections and high quality urban design to promote a high quality of living. Now the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it is time to review both of these documents for the purpose of updating data, reviewing goals, implementing strategies, and improving graphics and user-friendliness.

A steering committee has been appointed by the Board of Aldermen to work with interested citizens, a professional planning consultant and Town staff to update and improve these documents.



The committee has held an organizational meeting and the Town is now soliciting proposals for consulting services. Drafts of both documents should be ready for public hearings in Spring 2009.

Your input on these issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information on the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan, Russ Avenue Corridor Study and Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Ordinance Update contact: Paul Benson, Planning Director, PO Box 100, Waynesville 28786, 456-2004 or [planning@townofwaynesville.org](mailto:planning@townofwaynesville.org).

## Help Control Stormwater and Keep Our Water Clean

Stormwater is the number one cause of pollution in our streams and rivers. When it rains, the water flowing over the land picks up and transports pollutants, such as sediment, animal waste, trash, oil, fertilizers, and pesticides, directly to our waterways. Think of all the ways we use water - drinking, cooking, cleaning, fishing, boating, swimming, irrigation - now think of how pollution can limit our ability to use water. It affects our pocketbooks, the local economy, and recreation. It can also affect our food supply and health.

The Town of Waynesville is working on controlling stormwater. Examples of these public projects include a rain garden at the Hazelwood Elementary School, a bioretention system at the new fire station, permeable pavement at the new police station, and a rain garden on Academy Street. Rain gardens and bioretention systems capture and temporarily hold stormwater. The rain water slowly filters through the system and is cleansed in the process before it is released to a stream. By slowly releasing the water, these stormwater control devices

help prevent floods. Permeable pavement acts in the same way, capturing the rain water where it either enters the groundwater or is slowly released to a stream. That means less pollution and less chance of flooding when the stream channels are overwhelmed with a sudden flush of water.

The town can't control stormwater on its own. There are many actions we as individual citizens can do to help, here are a few examples:

- Don't litter. Trash can clog storm drains and cause flooding, which can destroy the town's infrastructure.
- If you're building a new home, road, or clearing any land, make sure to control erosion and possibly construct sediment capture devices to keep pollutants out of the stream.
- Don't leave dirt exposed to rain. Cover it with tarps if it's only temporary, or even better, grass.
- Consider constructing personal rain gardens or other devices to capture stormwater from your driveway, sidewalks, and rooftop. This could also help keep your garden and flowers growing during drought conditions.
- If you live next to a stream, don't mow to the edge of the streambank. Keep natural vegetation, such as trees and shrubs, along the stream banks. The deep roots help keep the streambank from eroding away. Taller vegetation also shades the stream thus keeping it cool for trout and many other species that inhabit our cold-water mountain streams.
- Don't dump anything down stormdrains. They carry pollutants directly to streams.
- Help keep harmful bacteria out of our streams. Clean up pet waste in your yard and when on walks.
- Follow the directions and don't overuse fertilizers and pesticides.



Some of these actions are easy to do on your own. Others may require help. Haywood County has technical and financial resources to help its residents - NC Cooperative Extension Service 456-3575, Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District 452-2741 x3, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service 456-5132, Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development Council 452-2519, Haywood County Department of Erosion and Sediment Control 452-6706 and Haywood Waterways Association 452-9077.

The actions you take in your daily life and own backyard will prevent and reduce harmful pollutants entering our streams. For the benefit of the entire community, it is imperative that we all adopt healthy, environmentally conscious practices.

**MAYOR:**

**Gavin A. Brown**

**ALDERMEN:**

**Gary Caldwell  
Elizabeth Feichter  
Kenneth Moore  
LeRoy Roberson**

**MANAGER:**

**A. Lee Galloway**

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**Thanksgiving** – Offices closed November 27 & 28. (Garbage will be picked up Friday)

**Christmas** – Offices closed December 25 & 26. (Garbage will be picked up Friday)

**New Year's Day** – Offices closed January 1. (Garbage will be picked up Friday)

**Martin Luther King Day** – Offices will be closed January 19. (Garbage will be picked up Tuesday)

**TELEPHONE REFERENCE**

Police Administration	456-5363
Fire Administration	456-6151
Building Inspections	456-8647
Code Enforcement	456-2010
Utilities	456-3515
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	456-3706
Water/Sewer/Electric	456-3706
After Hours/Emergency	456-5363
Water Treatment Plant	456-8497
Waste Treatment Plant	452-4685
Parks and Recreation	456-2030
Armory	456-9207

**DOWNTOWN WAYNESVILLE**

**ASSOCIATION** 456-3517  
[www.downtownwaynesville.com](http://www.downtownwaynesville.com)

**MEETING SCHEDULES****Board of Aldermen**

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

**ABC Board**

3rd Tuesday at 10 am - 373 Walnut St.

**Board of Adjustment**

1st Tuesdays at 5:30 pm - 280 Georgia Ave.

**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

**Public Art Commission**

2nd Thursdays 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.

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