

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE



www.townofwaynesville.org

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Town of Waynesville - Incorporated 1871

JANUARY 2009

Message from the Mayor

To the Citizens of Waynesville:

Today as I write, we are enduring changes and situations in our world, national and local economies unparallel in my lifetime. Unemployment continues to increase. President elect Barack Obama predicts that the economic situation could worsen on Wall Street and Main Street before it improves. World acclaimed economists and political leaders struggle daily to find and implement policies and solutions.

Elected officials in Raleigh are seeing impacts to the North Carolina budget. The State is suffering a reduction in revenues from income taxes and sales taxes. Governor Easley predicted in September a \$230 million shortfall which grew to \$320 million in October. Recent predictions estimate that the state budget shortfall could reach a staggering two billion dollars.

Your town's revenues are also being affected. The Town does not impose an income tax, but we do receive a portion of sales taxes. It is difficult at best to predict an exact figure for the amount of the decline in future sales tax receipts, but during July and August (the first two months of our budget year) we have seen a menacing decline. Nothing in the following months indicated anything other than a worsening economic situation resulting in further revenue losses.

During the summer your Board requested the Town Manager and Finance Director to monitor the Town's situation closely. Recently they strongly recommended to the Board that Town departments place 3% of their individual budgets into reserve for the balance of the 08-09 fiscal year as a precautionary first step. They further advised the Board that if the financial future for the Town improved, they would possibly recommend the release of all or a portion of the 3% reserve. The Town's budget as passed last June was \$26,278,270. The Town Board wholeheartedly agreed with them and Mr. Galloway and Mr. Caldwell instructed each Department to recommend areas in which reserves could be made. After careful review of their operations the department heads reported back

to the Town Manager and Finance Director a total possible reduction of \$580,896 to be placed into reserve. Although this amount does not equal 3% of the total budget, certain limitations exist that cannot be changed. For example, the amount we pay Progress Energy to purchase and then re-sell electricity cannot be reduced as this figure is driven by electrical consumption which has continued to rise in what has been a colder than normal fall.

Early in December the Town Board was provided with the particulars of the proposed reserve fund. Over the next several days, each Board Member carefully and painstakingly reviewed these recommendations. At the December 9 meeting the Town Board approved the recommendations of Town staff. Our goal in making this decision is to prepare now for the more than likely scenario in which revenues do not reach the projections made when the budget was adopted. The Board's decision was a proactive effort to avoid crisis management of your money. We didn't want to enter the spring with our collective heads in "economic quick sand." Waiting to see what might happen would be a failure on our part of good stewardship of Town monies.

We do not anticipate any major decline in the level of service to Waynesville's citizens with this action. While we are currently leaving five vacant positions unfilled, we have not declared a hiring freeze. These unfilled positions are in the following departments: building inspections, cemetery, public works and sewer. Historically these departments have lower workloads in the winter months. The Manager has advised the Board that he will evaluate each additional vacancy as it occurs. If the position can remain unfilled for the balance of the fiscal year without negatively impacting services, he will likely leave it vacant. However, if the position is critical to the public safety or welfare the position will be filled expeditiously.

The Town is fortunate in having quality employees currently serving it. I am certain they will work

(continued on next page)

diligently to weather the rocky waters created by the current economic situation while continuing to strive to provide the high level of services to which you have become accustomed. Waynesville continues to be a community of amazing citizens. Along with the other Board Members, I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in these difficult times. Please be patient and understanding if you encounter some temporary delay in the response to a request or problem. At the end of the day, Waynesville will be a better town as a result of our pulling together during these economic difficulties.

Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

Online Credit Card Payments Coming Soon!!

Beginning March 1st, customers will be able to make online utility and tax bill payments using their MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or Discover credit card or debit card with MasterCard or Visa logos, or by electronic check. Online bill payment offers several benefits including:



1. Ease of use - No more hassles with paperwork, postage or different payment methods for different statements.
2. Security and Privacy - Personal information remains confidential and secure.
3. Flexibility - No more postage or time spent handwriting a check.
4. Accessibility – Customers can pay bills any time, from anywhere, as long as they have Internet access.

A small convenience fee does apply to all online transactions: Utility bills will be charged \$3.95 and tax payments will be charged a fee of 3% of the tax bill. If a customer pays online by check, the fee is \$.50. These fees do not go to the Town, but rather to the online payment vendor.

Once this system is operational, additional information and instructions for use will be available on the Town website and at Town Hall. Credit cards will not be accepted for payment at Town Hall or the Hazelwood Office. For customer convenience, a computer kiosk for online payment will be set up in Town Hall for those customers who desire to pay by credit card but do not otherwise have internet access. Customers with questions concerning the new online bill payment service or our other payment options should contact Utilities at 456-3515 or visit www.townofwaynesville.org.

Other Payment Options

In addition to online bill pay, the Town of Waynesville offers many other ways for customers to pay their monthly utility bill:

Automatic bank draft – Utility bill payment is made easy with automatic bank draft service. This free service saves you time and stamps and ensures that your bill is always paid on time. You will receive your normal monthly utility bill, and several weeks later your bank account will be drafted for the amount due. It's that simple! And if after receiving your bill, you feel there is a problem with the amount due, all you have to do is contact our office before the draft date to discuss the issue. An enrollment form can be printed from the town website or picked up at Town Hall. For more information contact Utilities at 456-3515

Cash and checks – accepted in person at Town Hall 9 am – 5 pm and at the drive through at the Hazelwood Office 8:30 am – noon.

Drop boxes for check payments are available at the Hazelwood Office, 280 Georgia Ave and at Town Hall.

Email Updates

Interested in knowing more about what's going on in the Town? Want to know about upcoming meetings without having to come to Town Hall or check the website? Then sign up for the new e-newsletter on www.townofwaynesville.org. A new information service, it will provide alerts on upcoming public meetings, road closures, and more.



Fourth Street Park Needs Your Help!

Over the past two years the Street Department and Horticulturalist Jonathan Yates have worked diligently at making this small neighborhood park an inviting



destination. It was even the site of the Arbor Day celebration in March 2008. However, while the concrete pads are in place, the two planned picnic tables have not been placed. Due to budget pressure, these tables were not funded in the current budget, so we are asking for community help in purchasing high-quality, long-lasting tables. They are currently priced at approximately \$900, plus shipping. This table can be purchased in honor of someone special in your life or as a memorial. This purchase includes a plaque containing this information. For more information, or to purchase a table, please contact Town Clerk Phyllis McClure at 452-2491.

Community Food Drive

The Town of Waynesville held its first community food drive between Thanksgiving and Christmas at all town offices. Although the drive was not finished at the time this newsletter was printed, the early results have been exciting to see. All of the food collected will be given to Haywood Christian Ministry for distribution. Collection boxes were placed at the following locations and citizens and employees could drop off donations during regular business hours: Town Hall, Hazelwood Office, Fire Department, Police Department, Recreation Center, Old Armory and Public Works.



A food drive has been an annual event for Wastewater Treatment Plant employees and the food they collected was delivered to Haywood Christian Ministry in early December.

If you missed this food drive but would still like to donate, contact Haywood Christian Ministry at 456-4838 as they are always in need of donations. Items must be nonperishable, and can include: flour, sugar, cornmeal, cooking oil, soups, peanut butter, rice, beans, mayonnaise, canned meat or tuna, canned vegetables and fruit, coffee, tea, and cereal.

If you or someone you know needs food assistance, please contact Haywood Christian Ministry at (828) 456-4838.

Or - if you have items that you no longer need that others could use, consider donating those items. Donations are accepted by the following organizations:

- Salvation Army Thrift Store and Truck Call,
330 Pigeon St., 452-9728
- Haywood Christian Ministry,
150 Branner Ave., 456-4838
- Second Blessing Thrift Shop,
32 Commerce St., 456-9069
- Within Reach Resale Shop,
456 Hazelwood Ave., 454-5998
- Haywood Animal Welfare Association,
145 Wall St., 452-1329
- Open Door Soup Kitchen,
32 Commerce St., 452-3846
- Goodwill (trailer in KMart parking lot)
648-6522

Appreciation Luncheon

The Town of Waynesville held their annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, December 5.



Employees of the Year - Waynesville recognized two employees of the year. David Smith, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, is a twenty-nine year employee and Donna White has been an employee of Parks and Recreation since June 2005. David and Donna were nominated by their co-workers for this award.

Wellness Awards - Two employees made significant progress in their wellness and fitness initiatives in 2008. Dee Massey (Fire Dept.) began a fitness program 2 1/2 years ago. He works out an average of 40 minutes per day, running almost every day. Dee lost 75 pounds during this time.

Doug Grasty (Water and Sewer Maintenance Superintendent) began his weight loss program May 14, 2008. He changed his eating habits with the support of his wife Joann and his physician. With this team effort Doug lost over 75 pounds and so did his wife Joann.

Congratulations to David, Donna, Dee and Doug!

2008 Retirees - Wayne Birchfield, Bill Fowler and Eddie Singleton.

Years of Service - The following employees were recognized for their years of service:

5 years - Matthew Price, Gary Rogers and John Massie

10 years - Robert Hyatt, Michael Lentz, Steve Reece, Edwin Fish, Larry Brookshire, Billy Goodson and Mark Jones

15 years - Eddie Lowe and Roger Patterson

20 years - Tim Brooks, Sylvia McMahan and Ralph Hannah

25 years - Bo Messer

Perfect Attendance - Fifty-nine employees had perfect attendance during 2008. Twenty-one of those employees work in the Police Department. Twelve of those employees have had perfect attendance for five or more years. The Town's work force consists of 217 employees.

PLEASE - DO NOT BLOCK SIDEWALKS

Improvements have been made to sidewalks throughout Waynesville in an effort to accommodate pedestrians. It is important that the sidewalks remain clear for pedestrian traffic. Signs should not be placed on sidewalks and parking on sidewalks is prohibited. Property owners should keep trees and shrubs trimmed so they do not protrude into the sidewalk area and so they do not obscure sight at intersections. Please do not place piles of brush and leaves so that they block pedestrians on sidewalks. Thanks for your help in keeping our sidewalks clear!

Town of Waynesville Observes Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

The Waynesville Board of Aldermen added an additional holiday to the holiday schedule. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be observed on Monday, January 19, 2009. Town offices will be closed. Residential garbage normally collected on Monday will be collected on Tuesday, January 20.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN RETREAT

The Board of Aldermen has scheduled their annual retreat for January 23, 2009. During this time the Board discusses current and long range plans of the Town and sets goals for the upcoming year.

YARD WASTE & JUNK SCHEDULE CHANGE

In October, in response to the recent fuel shortages and rising fuel costs, the Town of Waynesville changed the collection schedule for both Yard Waste and Bulky (Junk) items. Due to the consistently rising costs for fuel, this is to be a permanent schedule change. Expenditures for fuel this year are four times what they were five years ago, and although prices have dropped in recent months, we have no reason to view this as anything more than a temporary drop.

Yard waste and bulky items are now picked up on alternating weeks, beginning with yard waste the first full week of every month. Items should be placed outside on the Monday of the appropriate week to ensure pickup.

Yard waste that is collected includes hedge trimmings, brush, small limbs, grass and vines. Bulky items that are collected by the Town include furniture, appliances and household junk such as lawnmowers or bicycles. We encourage you to clip and save the calendar below for future reference. Household waste is still collected on a weekly basis.



Leaf Season

Beginning Tuesday, January leaves will need to be placed in bags for pickup. **Please do not mix residential garbage or recycling with the leaves.** The vacuum truck will be placed in service again next October.

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.

Add valuable organic matter and nutrients to your gardens and around trees and shrubbery. Keep these wastes out of the landfill.

Get Involved in Waynesville

Do you have experience in planning, public art, community appearance, historic preservation or recreation? Then you may be interested in serving on one of Waynesville's boards or commissions. Call 452-2491 or visit townofwaynesville.org for more information. Applications are available on line or at Town Hall. When vacancies occur, applicants will be considered for appointment.

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Yard Waste						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Bulky Items						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Yard Waste						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Bulky Items						

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Yard Waste						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bulky Items						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Yard Waste						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bulky Items						

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Yard Waste						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bulky Items						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Yard Waste						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bulky Items						
29	30	31				

HEAT

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 Ministry 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.

Arbor Day Celebration

March 20, 2009 is Arbor Day! Last year we celebrated with a tree planting at the Fourth Street Park.



In 2007 Waynesville became a Tree City USA, and Horticulturist Jonathan Yates works hard all year to ensure we continue to meet all of the program requirements. While the location for this year's celebration hasn't been chosen yet, be assured that we will once again have a tree planting and educational opportunities. As we get closer to March 20th, check the Town's website and local newspapers for information on the location and time. If you have questions about the Tree City USA program, the tree identification signs seen around town, or other horticulture related questions, contact Jonathan Yates at 456-3507.

HISTORIC FROG LEVEL



Several new business have opened in the National Historic Frog Level District along Depot and Commerce Streets. You will find a pottery studio, a physical fitness center, and a restoration shop. Of course, you can always take time for a cup of coffee, find visitor information, visit the cabinetry shop, have your printing and design work done, get your car washed, take time for a massage and lots more in Frog Level. Take time to visit the shops in this historic district.

Greenhill Cemetery Columbarium



The Town of Waynesville is now selling spaces in the columbarium units located in Greenhill Cemetery off Shelton Street. Each unit contains forty-eight niches. Each niche can hold two cremation urns. The price per niche is \$800. When an urn is placed in the niche there is an additional \$200 opening/closing fee which includes engraving on the front plate of the niche. If the niche is for two cremains, this information is needed at the time of purchase and if a second opening/closing is required there is an additional \$200 fee. For more information contact Streets/Sanitation Superintendent Daryl Hannah at 456-3706.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Board of Aldermen amended the Christmas Holiday Schedule for Town employees. Town offices will be closed beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24 and will remain closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26. Town offices will reopen on Monday, December 29. The Town of Waynesville Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Town Manager and Town Staff would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and best wishes in the New Year.

MAYOR:

Gavin A. Brown

ALDERMEN:

Gary Caldwell
Elizabeth Feichter
Kenneth Moore
LeRoy Roberson

MANAGER:

A. Lee Galloway

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas – Offices closed beginning at 1:00 pm December 24, 25 & 26. (Garbage will be picked up Friday, December 26 for 25th and 26th)

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)

Good Friday – Offices closed April 10. (Garbage will be picked up one day early, Thursday, April 9)

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

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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TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
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WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786