

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

www.townofwaynesville.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Currently, we are awaiting news on a new railroad crossing for a shopping center at the Dayco site. This is being worked out by the developer with Norfolk Southern Railway. The Town Council, however, will be moving forward in other directions as there is much underway this spring.

Many citizens have expressed genuine interest in a retirement home for Waynesville or the surrounding area. The Council also is interested and enthused about the possibility, and has agreed to consider a marketing study for this purpose. Such a development would be by a private enterprise, but I believe the Council will make an all-out effort to pursue this needed and worthwhile industry.

The Planning Board has been reviewing several proposed housing developments. More people are interested in Waynesville. We have had a fine winter season thus far, especially for January and February. Traffic has been busy in the business areas and, it appears that the Town has become a year-round attraction.

ELECTRICAL MATTERS



Rates - In the past 18 months, the Town's Electric Fund has been under severe financial stress due to rising

fuel adjustment charges. During the summer of 2004, Progress Energy began receiving much higher charges for natural gas and coal, and they had no choice but to pass those charges along to their customers. During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Town's net income from the electric fund dropped by \$549,055.

In April 2005 the Town began making quarterly adjustments in electric rates which have continued to be adjusted each quarter. During the first eight months of this fiscal year, the Town's net income in the electric fund dropped another \$289,897. We continue to analyze the situation in hopes of finding a solution that will halt the declining financial position of the electric fund. The next change in the electric rates will come on April meter readings.

Electrical Work - In 2005, electric personnel spent much time trimming trees and limbs adjacent to or overhanging power lines to prevent blinks and outages. Above average precipitation over the past three years has resulted in faster growth for trees and bushes close to the power lines and we must increase efforts to trim back new growth. Although our personnel try to trim in a neat and attractive manner, they are not professional arborists. We commend electrical personnel for their dedication and persistence in the trimming program, and for reducing blinks and outages.

Over the summer months some utility poles and wires will be replaced to upgrade the electric system and may result in some

power outages. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15 - Easter Egg Hunt
April 17- 21 Spring Break Camp Ages 6-14
May 5 - 1st Friday May - December
Art After Dark - Main Street
May 6 - Razzle Dazzle
May 7 - Ramp Festival
May 26 - 29 Sidewalk Sales on Main Street
Mid May through October - Wed. & Sat.
Tailgate Farmer's Market
May 27 - Block Party - Main Street
June 17 -Downtown Studio/Gallery Tour
June 19 - August Summer Camp
Ages 6-10 & 11-14
June 23, July 7&21, August 4 Street Dances
July 4 - Stars & Stripes - Main Street

TREE TRIMMING ISSUES

Tree trimming and yard waste generated by the work of a landscaping firm, private tree company or by individuals who are paid to perform this work, including major yard work, will not be picked up by the Town. The property owner is responsible for disposing of this material.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

We need to again ask your assistance with keeping certain items out of the plastic bags put out with yard wastes. Please do not mix flower pots, plastic containers, empty fertilizer or

potting soil bags or any items of this nature with yard wastes. These items need to go in your regular trash. Plastic bags with yard wastes should include only grass, hedge trimmings, leaves, plants and other decomposable items. Our employees must tear open the bags and remove items which have to go to another landfill. Only yard wastes are permitted in our landfill. The time to do this is increasing our expense for labor, and if it continues, we will have to hire more personnel and pass the cost along through higher garbage fees. We need your cooperation to keep costs down on this matter.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

Much time has been spent this spring in recruiting applicants for key positions with the Town. Interviews have been completed for the position of Assistant Fire Chief to replace Mike Warren who passed away in the fall. Interviews have also been completed for the position of Recreation Director to replace Mike Smith who will retire in May after 21 years with the Town. The Town is currently looking for applicants for the position of Building Codes Administrator to replace Alex Corbin who retired in March. More information on these new employees will be in a future newsletter.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO WAYNE YARBOROUGH

Town of Waynesville employees were saddened over the death of Wayne Yarbrough. Wayne was a 38 year veteran of the Waynesville Fire Department and Town employee for 25 years. His loyalty, dedication and friendship will truly be missed.

WATERSHED

The Town Board approved an agreement with Western Carolina University to prepare a Forestry Management Plan for the Allens Creek Watershed, with this work to begin this spring and summer. In January, Dr. Peter Bates, from the WCU Natural

Resources Department, advised that we need to develop detailed history on water quality in the watershed as noted in the watershed conservation easements. In order to measure levels of silt which may occur in the future in streams in the watershed, some history of the silt that occurred in the past in those same streams is needed. Manager Galloway met with Dr. Jerry Miller, of WCU, who specializes in water quality issues, to discuss a grant application to the Pigeon River Fund for establishing measurements of the silt occurring in the watershed. The Town Board approved \$30,000 to match the grant for water quality monitoring equipment and a plan to use the watershed as an educational tool.

PUBLIC WORKS

It was a fairly mild winter, with little overtime spent on removing ice and snow from Town streets. The favorable weather allowed our crews to undertake construction projects such as the installation of a concrete drainage culvert on Meadow Street and the installation of storm water culvert on Water Street.



Street crews have also assisted Horticulturist Jonathan Yates in the installation of various plants and trees throughout the Town. Plants were added in late December to the Depot-Branner-Haywood Street intersection, giving that area such a refined appearance. The same can be said for the work at the intersection of Wall Street and North Main Street, known as Carolyn's Point. Street crews worked during

2005 installing new curb, sidewalks and traffic islands. The Master Gardener group assisted with the selection and placement of various plants and Jonathan Yates and other town personnel worked with the gardeners to complete the project. We are anxious to see how this area will look in the coming spring and in future years.

We continue to hear many compliments about the attractiveness of our community. In a recent article in The Mountaineer, Jonathan Yates and Fred Baker were interviewed on the projects being completed and those scheduled for the future. We continue to focus on the goal the Board established to make Waynesville a more walkable community, as we replace existing, deteriorated sidewalks and add trees and plants to further the beauty of the area.

Utility crews have worked with private contractors to install larger water lines on Hyatt Street and Tarheel Drive. This project has been planned for a few years, but there are so many demands for the replacement of deteriorated and undersized water lines and not enough revenue available to meet all of those demands. We keep chipping away at the worst of the problems. The Board has been supportive by increasing water rates and providing additional funds to meet the infrastructure needs. We must continue to address this problem for the next several years. With the colder, winter weather, work on the new water tank on Reservoir Drive was slow, but has now resumed.

Other projects planned this Spring include the installation of sidewalk and landscaping at Fourth Street and improvements to the Alley between Main and Wall Streets beside The Mountaineer with new brick sidewalk and paving. Each project should take about 2 - 3 weeks to complete.

Traffic Calming/Speeding

We regularly receive complaints about speeding in various sections of Town. The Police Department and Public Works Director Fred Baker have discussed the need to try new measures to address these problems. It is the impression of the Police Department that the main concerns are on 8 to 10 streets. The solution on one street may not be the most desirable solution for another street. Traffic tables, such as the one on Church Street near Lomo Grill may be used effectively in other areas. These, along with other traffic calming ideas will be considered and hopefully installed during the next few months.

Running radar is beneficial, but with four vehicles on patrol and 90 miles of streets inside the town, other options to control speeding must be considered. On some roads, traffic tables, roundabouts or stop signs are simply not what you want to use. For example, on the U.S. Route 23/74 Bypass, there have been four fatalities in the past 13 months, and all of those were related to speeding. So we have been running more radar on that road to reduce speeding and prevent more deaths. We have to use police personnel in the most productive and efficient ways and consider stop signs, traffic tables, roundabouts, trees or other devices to calm traffic when police cars are not present.



BUDGET SEASON

Once again, we are into budget season. We have some unique challenges this year as the County goes through a revaluation of property.

Sales tax revenues increased during the first several months of the 2005-2006 fiscal year, but receipts dropped some in the most recent report. Tourism has been strong and the economic situation here seems better than in many counties of our region, as our unemployment remains low compared to other counties. We are optimistic that for the year, sales tax revenues will show a good gain.

We will again be dealing with the

health insurance cost issue, for in 2005, our insurance carrier paid out more in claims than the revenues they received from us in premiums. Our employee group continues to be a high risk account, and when the carrier pays more in claims than the revenues received, it is certain that premiums will rise. Without exceptionally good claims experience from January until April, we will likely see another year of double digit increases in health insurance premiums.



During 2005, we experienced problems with some of the Dodge Intrepids police cruisers, resulting in a crisis in having adequate vehicles in the patrol operation. Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Edwin Fish contacted Chrysler Corporation regarding these vehicles, and the company eventually bought back two of the Intrepids with only a small reduction for the mileage on those cars. The Police Department evaluated police package vehicles as they searched for three vehicles budgeted for this fiscal year and to replace the two which Chrysler purchased from us. They still lack confidence in Ford Crown Victoria Police Cars due to the number of incidents when gas tanks exploded during rear end collisions. Chrysler discontinued the Dodge Intrepids after 2004 and now offer a rear wheel drive Dodge Charger with a police package. Based on success stories and positive reports from other law enforcement agencies, we ordered five Chargers. We will look at the SUV police vehicles in the 2006-2007 fiscal year budget.

RECREATION

The Waynesville Recreation Center held a celebration to commemorate its fifth anniversary.

Staff provided tours of the center with explanations about the programs and activities offered.

In 2005, the Haywood County Council of Governments appointed a Committee to review recreational opportunities provided the citizens of the county by the county and the municipalities within the county. The Committee recommended that a consultant be hired to assess the recreational facilities in the county and make recommendations regarding the future of recreation. The Committee sent out a Request for Proposals and selected a firm to do the work. The Town's share of this project will be \$11,813.

ADOPT-A-STREET UPDATE

46 streets have now been adopted! Thank you for your excellent response to create a more attractive community. For more information call Freida Rhinehart at 452-2491.

The NC Department of Transportation Litter Sweep will be April 17 - 30. For more information visit their web site at www.ncdot.org/beautification or call their hotline 1-800-331-5864. Volunteers are needed for this annual spring roadside cleanup.

BANNERS ON RUSS AVENUE AND SOUTH MAIN STREET A THING OF THE PAST

As of April 30, 2006, banners will no longer be displayed across the roadways on Russ Avenue and South Main Street. This decision was made for two reasons. One is to ensure the safety of our town crews and passing motorists. We have had several near misses when motorists came close to hitting our trucks and employees. We have also had broken windshields when items fell from the signs and struck cars. The second is to comply with the Town's sign ordinance. We apologize for any inconvenience

this change may create.

MAYOR Henry B. Foy

ALDERMEN:

Gavin Brown
Gary Caldwell
Elizabeth Feichter
Kenneth Moore

MANAGER A. Lee Galloway

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
No Blue bag pick up on Holidays -
Pick up the following week

Good Friday - Offices closed April
14 - garbage pickup regular schedule

Memorial Day - Offices closed May
29 - garbage pickup regular schedule



Need Help? Want to Help? Call 2-1-1
for information on food, housing,
counseling, health care and
volunteer opportunities. Cell phones
dial 1-888-UW211NC.
A service of your United Way

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
P. O. BOX 100
WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786

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.