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# TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

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

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VOL 4. NO. 1

JANUARY 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Happy New Year to all of our Waynesville citizens and may it be an exciting one as well!!! We are starting the New Year with issued building permits for at least 300 new apartment units. These include 161 units for Vantage Point (adjacent to the Autumn Care Nursing Home); 100 units for Great Laurels (on Highway 19A near the Lake Junaluska entrance); and two 15 unit complexes along with a number of lesser size units. Add the Waynesville Commons (Dayco property) projects and our new Fire Station and you get an idea of what I mean. The foregoing projects are those that are ready to go within the next 30 - 45 days and do not include the numerous projects on the "drawing boards" which will appear next spring, summer and the rest of 2007. This represents some \$60 million construction cost ready to go right away, largely in our business areas. This also represents more business for our economy, but there are some downsides such as traffic inconvenience and an overstressed construction labor market for the next 18-24 months at least. The growth in housing is a positive, and the good certainly outweighs the bad. We'll happily accept the occurring problems for the forward development of our community. All new businesses will breed more new business and growth, and we will face the challenges by being diligent in making all our services respond accordingly. We are indeed a growing community.

## SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN DOWNTOWN



Downtown Waynesville Association Director Ron Huelster reported that downtown Waynesville has completed another successful year of promotions, bringing lots of people downtown to experience the sights and sounds of the Christmas Season. The annual Christmas Parade opened the season with more than 100 entries and several thousand people lining Main Street. This was followed by a very successful Art After Dark gallery stroll

and the two Nights Before Christmas, featuring many community choral groups, Pisgah and Tuscola band ensembles, wagon rides, storytelling, poets, a nativity scene and several musical groups. All this was possible through the support and participation of the community.

## H.E.A.T. NEEDS YOUR HELP!



As this newsletter is being prepared, the temperatures have dropped to new lows for the winter. One morning I saw that the thermometer was showing an outside temperature of seven degrees and the next it was eight degrees. I felt fortunate to be in a nice warm home with heating fuel in the tank. Others in Waynesville and Haywood County are not so fortunate, and I am sure they struggled on those single digit mornings.

Last year, the Town Board created the Heat and Energy Assistance Team (HEAT). The idea behind this program was that those who have electric, water or sewer service with the Town could add a contribution to their payment for HEAT. That contribution would be equally divided between the Salvation Army and Haywood Christian Ministries for the use of those agencies in assisting residents of Waynesville or Haywood County in meeting heating bills. It might be used for some fuel oil or for kerosene or for electric bills or even a load of firewood, but the money would go toward helping people right here in our own area to stay warm on these cold winter days. HEAT needs your assistance now, and so do a lot of people in the community.

All donations to the HEAT Program are tax deductible and the Town provides donors with a report at year's end. Even those who have their utility bill paid by bank draft can authorize the Finance Department to add a contribution to their monthly bill. And every cent of that donation goes to the two agencies mentioned and helps people here at home. This is a season when we think of helping others, and the HEAT Program is a wonderful way to help others. For more information or to have a donation added to your bank draft, please contact the Town's Finance Department at 456-3515.

If you decide against becoming involved in the H.E.A.T. Program, please give some consideration to donating directly

to the Salvation Army, Haywood Christian Ministries or other agencies for use in their programs to help pay for their heating costs.



## FIRE STATION PROGRESS REPORT

If you have driven out North Main Street in recent weeks, you will realize that the Brookmont Motor Court, an institution since 1946, is no more. Invest Secure, the contractor for the Town, leveled and removed the motel units and the office of that facility as well as an old florist shop, and have now begun preparing the land for the construction of the new fire station. If the weather cooperates, the work on this site is expected to be completed by the end of December, and then the site must sit and settle for sixty days before construction may begin.



The Town is currently advertising for bids on the construction of the new fire station, and these were to be opened on December 19. The present schedule calls for the architect to make a recommendation to the Town Board at a special meeting on December 28, and the financing for the fire station should also be approved on that date.

This schedule has to be orchestrated and leads up to the most important step, the approval of the project by the State's Local Government Commission. On February 6, 2007, the Town's project and financing plan will be heard by that group which must approve almost all instances where municipal and county governments apply to finance facilities such as this. With the approval of the Local Government Commission, construction on the station should begin in late February, and the new station should be operational by February, 2008.

## DEATH OF FORMER FIRE CHIEF

Town employees were saddened to learn of the death of former Fire Chief Leonard Messer on December 11. Leonard was hired as Waynesville's Fire Chief in 1979, and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1990. A Waynesville native, Leonard left the area after high school graduation to spend three years in the Marine Corps. He then spent 20 years in Ohio with General Motors. In 1970 he became fire chief in Madison Township in Ohio where he remained until returning to Waynesville in 1976. Our sympathy goes out to his wife,



Jackie, his daughters Susan and Beth, son David and other family members and friends.

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



The Town of Waynesville held its annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, December 15. Approximately 220 people attended including full time and part time employees, retirees, Mayor and Board of Aldermen and members of the various boards and commissions. Several awards were presented. The following employees were recognized for years of service.

5 Years - Roy Ballew, David Snyder, Sabrina Caldwell and David Hyatt.

10 Years - Donald Hummel, Joel Brookshire and Kenneth Buchanan.

15 Years - Brian Beck, James Smith and Johnny Reece.

20 Years - Fred Baker, David Grooms and Alex Hall.

25 Years - Chuck Way

This year the Town honored two "Employees of The Year". Police Lieutenant Brian Beck and Streets and Sanitation Supervisor Daryl Hannah. Congratulations to both these employees!

## ELECTRICAL RATES

For the past few years, the fuel adjustment charges assessed by Progress Energy have caused the Town a lot of headaches. We do not fault Progress Energy for this, as they receive higher bills for coal and natural gas or fuel oil to operate their facilities and must pass along those costs to their customers. The Town of Waynesville is a wholesale customer of Progress Energy, and we have seen the bills we pay rise by very high percentages the past three years.

In 2004-2005, the Town saw the Electric Fund decline by almost \$600,000 due to these higher charges as we tried to absorb the increases. Realizing that it was impossible to absorb these, we began to raise our rates, passing along the higher fuel charges to our own customers. In 2005-2006, the financial position of the Electric Fund dropped again, but only by \$62,000; so, we were making progress.

During the first five months of the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the financial position of the Electric Fund has declined by \$3,406.46. While we are still seeing a decline, that small sum is much better than the first five months of 2005-2006 when we saw a decline of \$216,027.88. Typically, it is during the late winter and early spring when we start to see the Electric Fund turn around, so we are hopeful that by the

end of the fiscal year, we will be building the reserves of the Electric Fund once again. This is critical, for the Town is reaching the capacity of our present substation on Smathers Street and planning for the construction of an additional substation off Howell Mill Road behind the Ingle's Shopping Center. For now, we are keeping our fingers crossed that we have peaked on electric rate increases as it appears that we have reached the point that we are not seeing as large a decline in the financial position as in prior years.



### **BAG LEAVES BEGINNING MID-JANUARY**

Beginning Monday, January 15, and until next October leaves must be placed in plastic bags for collection. Do not mix residential garbage or recycling with the leaves. Leaves cannot be burned inside the corporate limits.

### **TAX REMINDER**

The deadline for payment of real estate and personal property taxes is January 5, 2007. After this date there will be a 2% late penalty assessed for the first month and then 3/4% assessed on taxes each month thereafter until paid. Take advantage of paying your taxes before this date in order to avoid penalties that could apply.

### **RECREATION RESOLUTION**

Make your "Recreation Resolution" at the Waynesville Recreation Center! Visit us between January 2 - 31, 2007 and receive a 2 week FREE membership! Our finest offer of the year - brought to you by the Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department.



Some of the classes being offered include: Stretch and Pysio Ball; Jazzercise; Cheer America; Silver Sneakers; Step Aerobics; Bellydancing; Senior Balance; Exercise with Lewis; Aquatic Classes; Private Swim Lessons. Call 456-2030 for more information.

Special Events - Call 456-2030 for more information.  
School Dances 7-10 pm \$5 per student  
Grades 6-8 January 5 & March 2.  
Grades 3 - 5 February 2.

Easter Egg Hunt - March 31. 11 am - 12 noon. Free

Old Armory Classes - Call 456-9207 for more information  
Stretch and Walk; Shotokan Karate; Judo; Shag Lessons; Spotlights

Old Armory Special Events - Call 456-9207 for more information  
Ballroom Dance; Square Dance; Bridge; Open Play Ball; Greenhouse

### **WAYNESVILLE ROCKS!**



Not next week's concert, but rocks, real rocks, the stones and hunks of stone that surround your property in the form of man-made walls!

The rock walls of Waynesville are beautiful, and add a lot of visual interest to the community. The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission is attempting to obtain as much history and documentation on these walls as possible and they need your help. Their slogan for this campaign is "Waynesville is Enjoying a New Stone Age". Just how much do you know about the rock walls that surround you? How old are the walls? Who caused them to be constructed? Who actually built the walls? What was their purpose, decorative or for some useful reason? Where did the included stones come from?

Any information you could provide will be helpful and welcome. Call Historic Preservation Commission Members Dave Felmet at 456-4683 or Peter Sterling at 454-9267 to arrange collection of your information.

### **AUDIT REPORT PRESENTED**

At the meeting of December 12, Bruce Kingshill of Ray, Bumgarner, Kingshill and Associates presented the audit of Town records for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Mr. Kingshill was very complimentary of the Town's financial position, noting that the total assets of the Town government exceeded liabilities by more than \$47 million. Revenues for the water, sewer and electric funds exceeded expenditures. The General Fund also did well, and funds were transferred to a Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$1,055,000 for the down payment on the Fire Station Project.

MAYOR Henry B. Foy

ALDERMEN:

Gavin Brown  
Gary Caldwell  
Elizabeth Feichter  
Kenneth Moore

MANAGER A. Lee Galloway

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**  
*New Year's Day* - Offices closed Monday, January 1. Garbage will be picked up Tuesday, January 2.  
  
*Easter* - Offices closed Friday, April 6. Garbage pickup will be on a regular schedule.



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

**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](http://www.downtownwaynesville.com)

**MEETING SCHEDULES**

**Board of Aldermen**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm - Town Hall

**ABC Board**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 11 am - 373 Walnut St.

**Board of Adjustment**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays at 5:30 pm - Town Hall

**Community Appearance Commission**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays at 9 am - Town Hall

**Firemen's Relief Fund Board**  
On Call

**Historic Preservation Commission**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays at 2 pm - Town Hall

**Planning Board**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 5:30 pm - Town Hall

**Public Art Commission**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 5:30 pm - Town Hall

**Recreation & Parks Advisory Comm**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 550 Vance St

**Waynesville Housing Authority**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays 5:30 pm-65 Church St.

**TELEPHONE REFERENCE**