



300 Old Cane Creek Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

Town of Fletcher

PRIDE IN OUR PAST ~ FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

Telephone: 828-687-3985
Email: info@fletchernc.org
Facebook: [FletcherNC.Gov](https://www.facebook.com/FletcherNC.Gov)
Website: www.fletchernc.org

December 2024

Town Council

Preston Blakely, Mayor
Phone.....(828)215-7706

Vacant Seat
District #1.....

Keith Reed, Council Member
District #2.....(828)367-7130

Jim Player, Council Member
District #3.....(828-702-4200)

Trevor Lance, Council Member
District #4.....(828)338-9338

Town Phone Numbers

Town Manager.....(828)687-3985

Town Fax.....(828)687-7133

Police/Fire Emergency.....911

Police Dispatch.....(828)697-4911

Police Non-emerg..(828)687-7922

Parks & Rec.....(828)687-0751

Public Works.....(828)654-9208

Town Meetings

Town Council Agenda Meeting

1st Monday of month at 6:00 pm

Town Council Regular Meeting

2nd Monday of month at 6:00 pm

To live stream or view previous
Town Council Meetings, please
visit [https://www.youtube.com/
@TownofFletcherNC/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@TownofFletcherNC/streams).

Planning Board Meeting

3rd Tuesday of month at 6:00 pm

Parks & Rec Advisory Board

1st Thursday of month at 6:00 pm

All meetings are held at Fletcher
Town Hall at 300 Old Cane Creek
Road in Fletcher.

This newsletter is published for
Town residents and reports on
issues and events that affect our
community. Past issues of our
newsletter are found on our web-
site at [https://www.fletchernc.org/
about-us/newsletter/](https://www.fletchernc.org/about-us/newsletter/).

You are encouraged to contact us
with your questions and/or com-
ments by emailing them to
info@fletchernc.org. For addition-
al Town information, please visit
our website at www.fletchernc.org
or visit our Facebook page at
[https://www.facebook.com/
FletcherNC.Gov/](https://www.facebook.com/FletcherNC.Gov/).

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider.

News from the November 4th Town Council Meeting

- By Consent Agenda, Town Council:
 - Approved property tax releases from the Henderson County Tax Office.
 - Approved and recommended James Martin to fill a vacant seat on the Planning Board & Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Fletcher ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction) which will be appointed by the Henderson County Commissioners.
 - Approved Bob Davy to represent the Town of Fletcher on the Henderson County Historic Resources Commission Board.
 - Approved Resolution R-24-04 to establish a 12-month moratorium on any new proposed development within officially designated floodplains subject to the regulations of the Fletcher Land Development Code Floodplain Damage Prevention Ordinance. The moratorium shall not apply to developments with prior Fletcher permits or approvals or to proposed additions to, or accessory dwellings at, existing single-family properties.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, shared an update on Tropical Storm Helene restoration efforts:
 - Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR) is at work in the Town of Fletcher removing brush and other storm debris. Henderson County has created a voluntary self-reporting form to allow residents to inform SDR of their debris location. (see article on the next page for more information)
 - Public Works is making progress cleaning up Bill Moore Community Park. They have removed fencing, sediment, and downed trees but still have more work to do before the remainder of the park can be opened. Mr. Biberdorf estimated that Town repair expenses may approach one million dollars for damage due to the storm. We expect that a large portion of these expenses will be reimbursable by FEMA at a rate of about 75%, with the Town paying the remainder.
 - Town Council made a motion to give each Town of Fletcher employee a \$300 bonus in appreciation and acknowledgement of their extra effort and hard work during the hurricane restoration response.
- Mr. Biberdorf mentioned that our consultant, Retail Strategies, would be sharing our Fletcher Town Center concept at their trade conferences and with local and regional developers to identify retailers of interest in our project.
- Town Council agreed to accept applications, from November 13th - November 27th, to fill the vacant District 1 Council seat created by the election of Councilwoman Sheila Franklin to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners.
- Mr. Biberdorf shared that Fletcher had been approved for the “Connecting Communities to State Trails” matching grant program for the greenway extension. We have a couple of years to determine the route and utilize the money which will allow time for repair of the greenway trail at Bill Moore Community Park and learn if we are also approved for the “Great Trails State” grant program.

Thank You Councilwoman Sheila Franklin

Councilwoman Sheila Franklin stepped down from her Fletcher Town Council seat in late November to accept her newly elected seat on the Henderson County Board of Commissioners.



Sheila began her service to the Town of Fletcher through an appointment to the Fletcher Planning Board. Then in 2009, she was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Town Council. She was ultimately elected three additional times to represent District 1, the east side of Fletcher, serving 15 years as a Councilwoman including most recently as Mayor Pro-Tem. Thank you Sheila for your leadership and service to our Town.

Town of Fletcher Leaf Pickup Resumes

The Town of Fletcher will begin picking up bagged leaves on Monday, December 2nd and continue through the month of December. The leaves must be bagged. To make your leaf pickup request, please visit our website at <https://www.fletchernc.org/leaf-brush-pickup/>; call 828-654-9208 and request a leaf pickup by leaving your name, address, and phone # on Public Works' answering machine; or call Town Hall at 828-687-3985. Pickup requests received after Monday at 7:00 am in the current week will be picked up the following week so we may efficiently schedule our work .

2025 Town Recycling Calendar Available

Contact us by email at info@fletchernc.org with your street address to receive your 2025 recycling calendar by return email. You may also stop by Town Hall to pick up a schedule

Greg Walker, Parks & Rec Director, Retiring

Greg Walker, Parks & Recreation Director, will be retiring in early December following the "Christmas in the Park" event. Greg has been a constant champion of our parks and an event staffer, and sometimes even a participant, in various Parks & Rec events for the past 15 years. It's not unusual to see his hands-on approach being demonstrated by his weekly "outing" on a riding mower in Bill Moore Park. During Greg's time with us, Parks & Rec have seen several changes: the renaming of both parks, new playground equipment at both parks, the addition of basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts at Bill Moore Community Park, survived 4 floods, and the addition of several programs/events such as Yoga, pickleball classes, Middle School Day Camp, the Polar Bear 5K Run, and the Fletcher Family Festival. Thank you Greg for your dedication and we wish you well in your retirement.



Storm Debris & Brush Removal Continues

Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR), the Henderson County storm debris contractor, continues to pick up debris in Fletcher. We ask for your continued patience due to the debris volume they are removing.

- Residents and businesses should place all debris along the road right-of-way for pickup, but in separate piles by debris type. We cannot tell you when SDR will be in your neighborhood, but they are making multiple trips through neighborhoods.
- **You can self-report the location and type of debris you need picked up to ensure SDR is aware of your debris piles by visiting <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/b0c483595fc84c44927c9014f1c26b16>.**

2024 Property Tax Reminder

(We do realize the timing of this reminder is unfortunate for some residents.) 2024 property tax payments are due by January 6th to avoid a 2% interest penalty. You may pay by check or cash in Town Hall, mail your payment to Town Hall at 300 Old Cane Creek Road in Fletcher, utilize our parking lot drop box, or pay online by debit or credit card at <https://secure.amaistech.com/ePAY-ePRINT/First?client=fletcher>.

From the Office of Chief Terry:



Good news to report. The Fletcher crime rate for 2023 was the lowest since 2008. The number, 1473.1 is based upon a population of 100,000. If Fletcher had 100,000 residents, we would expect 1473 of them to have been victimized in 2023. This is how crime numbers are determined so comparisons can be made across different locations. 2024 crime numbers will not be available from the state until mid-2025.

There are a lot of variables that relate to crime causation and trends tend to go up and down for various reasons. However, I do believe, the performance of the Fletcher Police Department does make a difference and has an effect on crime, disorder, traffic safety, and the attitude of the community. I'm thankful for the efforts of our staff and hope we can continue to report low crime numbers.

Year	Index Crime	Year	Index Crime
2008	2367.1	2016	2182.4
2009	2302.8	2017	1524.6
2010	2434.5	2018	1647.2
2011	2411.3	2019	2921.6
2012	2617.6	2020	2237.7
2013	2092.4	2021	2074.5
2014	1701.7	2022	1872.7
2015	1624.0	2023	1473.1

FEMA Application Reminders

FEMA has extended the deadline to apply for **individual assistance** due to Hurricane Helene to **January 7, 2025**. November 27th remains the application deadline for Serious Needs Assistance (i.e. the initial possible \$750 payment). You can apply for FEMA disaster assistance in person at the DRC (see article to the right), by calling 1-800-921-3362, or on their website at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>.

If you need help with FEMA casework, contact Congressman Chuck Edwards' office via their helpline at 223-349-3362 and his staff will assist you.

Hurricane Helene Community Resources

You can dial 2-1-1 or visit the United Way of Henderson County's website at www.liveunitedhc.org/community-resources for a list of various local community resources. This web page lists assistance available for housing repairs, tree cutting and removal, food pantries, utility assistance and more.

Assistance to Repair Private Roads & Bridges

FEMA funding is available to support repairs on private roads and bridges, even if the owner's home is not damaged. These funds are available through the agency's Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs. Visit <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/em/page/fema-homeowner-assistance-repair-private-roads-bridges> for more information.

Rebuilding in Town of Fletcher Floodplain Areas

New construction in designated floodplains must meet current regulations in the Town of Fletcher. If you have been damaged by Hurricane Helene and are located within a FEMA designated floodplain, you must wait until your structure has been assessed to determine if "substantial damage" rules will apply to your repairs and/or reconstruction. In mid-October, representatives from McGill Associates began working within Fletcher on the Town's behalf. They were performing assessments of properties within officially designated floodplains to compile a list of properties damaged beyond 50% of their value. In cases where a structure was damaged beyond 50%, the owner will have to rebuild in compliance with current floodplain guidelines.

Eric Rufa, Fletcher Zoning Director and Stormwater Administrator, will contact homeowners by USPS mail if it is determined that your property has been damaged beyond 50% of its fair market value. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Eric Rufa at 828-687-3985.

Henderson Co. Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

The Henderson County Disaster Recovery Center, located in the Blue Ridge Commons complex at 2111 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville NC 28791, is a one-stop location for residents to meet personally with federal, state, and local resources to apply for or learn about Hurricane Helene assistance.

The following organizations are available at the Henderson County DRC site: FEMA, SBA (Small Business Association), NC Emergency Management, NC Works, NC Employment Security Commission (disaster unemployment applications), Blue Ridge Community College, Pisgah Legal Services, United Way, Council on Aging, Hope Coalition, Smart Start, Safelight, True Ridge, El Centro, and more.

Effective Monday, November 25th the hours for all DRCs are changing. DRCs will be open Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 6:00pm and on Saturdays from 9:00am - 2:00 pm. All DRCs will be now be closed on Sundays. All DRCs will also be closed November 28th - December 1st for the Thanksgiving holiday but reopening Dec. 2nd.

Fletcher homeowners and renters can visit any open DRC, not just the one in Henderson County. To find other DRC locations, visit <https://egateway.fema.gov/ESF6/DRCLocator>.



December Events

COFFEE CLUB

Jewelry by Nadine

December 3rd from 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Lutheridge Conference Center
2049 Upper Laurel Drive Arden, NC 28704

FABA Annual Holiday Party

December 6th at 6:00 pm
Kenmure Country Club
100 Clubhouse Drive Flat Rock, NC 28731

COFFEE CLUB

Sit Step Sing

December 17th from 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Lutheridge Conference Center
2049 Upper Laurel Drive Arden, NC 28704

Find us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/FletcherBusiness>

Fletcher Library Opportunities in December

20 Library Road, Fletcher NC 28732 828-687-1218



HOURS: Monday 9am - 6pm; Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm; Friday & Saturday 9am - 3pm

CLOSINGS: We will close at 5pm on Monday, December 23rd for the Christmas holiday, and will remain closed from Tuesday, December 24th – Thursday, December 26th. We will resume our normal hours on Friday, December 27th.

Tech Time Appointments: Want to learn how to download an e-book or digital audiobook? Watch a movie for free using Hoopla or from NC Digital Library? Learn a new language using Transparent Language? Baffled by your new tablet or smartphone? One-on-one tech time, by appointment, is offered for free at Fletcher Library. Call the library or stop by to schedule an appointment.

Goodwill Career Connections Every Wednesday (10:00am-1:00pm)

Do you need interview practice or help creating a resume, filling out an online job application, or getting started with your job search? Drop in to get help from a Career Connections Coordinator.

Family Story Time Wednesday, December 4th (10:30am-11:00am)

This program is designed for children and their families. Activities include stories, songs, flannel board stories, action rhymes, and more. Each program concludes with a special craft kit.

Pilates Mat Exercise (Adults) Thursday, December 5th (1:30pm-2:30pm) ** Exercise Waiver Required **

Whole body fitness! Strengthen your core and improve your spinal flexibility and balance. Classes are free and open to the public. No registration required. **Contact the Library at 828-687-1218 for more info.** *This program is funded by the Friends of the Library.*

Lego Club (Children) Thursday, December 5th (3:30pm-4:30pm)

All ages are welcome to come out to the Fletcher Library on the 1st Thursday of the month for Lego Club. We will provide Legos to use while you are here. Please do not bring your own. We have Duplo blocks for younger children as well. We can't wait to see what you will create! **** Please be aware that all children under 11 must have an adult stay with them. ****

Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, December 7th (10:30am-12:00pm) ** Registration Required **

Children can sign up to read to a certified therapy dog! Call or come by the Library to sign up for a 10-minute reading session.

Check 'Em Out Book Club (Adults) Monday, December 9th (11:00am-12:00pm)

Join the Fletcher Library Book Club for good books and good conversation! We will meet on the third Monday this month.

Craft Day (All ages) Tuesday, December 10th (10:00am-4:00pm)

Drop by the Fletcher Library for fun crafts for all ages. Everyone is welcome!

Book Review Book Club (Adults) Thursday, December 12th (10:30am-11:30am)

Read what you want and bring it to the table for discussion. This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Writers Guild (Adults) Thursday, December 12th (1:30pm-3:30pm)

All writers are invited to join a lively discussion about the guild's current projects related to publishing and the marketing of your work. Learn tricks and techniques from published authors and aspiring writers and reveal your own convictions. This group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Knitting for a Cause Group (All Ages) Saturday, December 14th (10:00am-12:00pm)

Yarn and patterns are provided. Please bring your size 4, 5, 6, 7, and/or 8 circular or straight knitting needles if you have them OR your crochet hook! Have fun knitting or crocheting to help others

Zaniac: An Earthworm's Life (Children) Monday, December 16th (4:00pm-5:00pm) ** Registration Required **

Let's discover how worms live and grow, comparing their life cycle to that of plants and humans. By observing their habitat, students will unravel the mysteries of life and the curiosity of all living things! *This free program is funded by the Friends of the Library.*

Pilates Mat Exercise (Adults) Thursday, December 19th (1:30pm-2:30pm) ** Exercise Waiver Required **

Whole body fitness! Strengthen your core and improve your spinal flexibility and balance. Classes are free and open to the public. No registration required. **Contact the Library for more information.** *This free program is funded by the Friends of the Library.*

Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, December 21st (10:30am-12:00pm) ** Registration Required **

Children can sign up to read to a certified therapy dog! Call 828-687-1218 or come by the Fletcher Library to sign up for a 10-minute reading session.



TOWN OF FLETCHER

Christmas in the Park

BILL MOORE COMMUNITY PARK
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH
12:00PM-2:00PM

HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDES 12:00-2:00PM
(REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
FLETCHERPARKS.RECDESK.COM

PICTURES WITH SANTA 12:00-2:00PM

CHRISTMAS VENDOR VILLAGE 12:00-2:00PM

LEWENDAHL BAND
CHRISTMAS MUSIC 12:00- 1:30PM

Sponsors:






Tabatha Hamlin

Winter Yoga Class

Online registration will begin December 16th for a 8-week yoga class on Thursdays from January 9th - February 27th at 5:30pm - 6:30pm at Fletcher Town Hall. Lindsay Fox teaches what she practices and enjoys all forms of yoga, so each class is different and incorporates ideas from different traditions and lineages. Cost is \$70 for Fletcher residents and \$80 for non-residents. Visit <https://fletcherparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home> to register for this class.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sat., Dec 7th	Christmas in the Park Bill Moore Community Park	12:00 pm - 2:00pm
Mon., Dec 16th	Winter Yoga Registration Begins	8:00 am
Sat., Feb 8th	Father Daughter Dance Prescott Auto Reserve	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Letters to SANTA!

DECEMBER 2ND-15TH @ FLETCHER TOWN HALL

PLEASE INCLUDE: A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR LETTER

Fletcher Town Hall
300 Old Cane Creek Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

TOWN OF FLETCHER
300 OLD CANE CREEK ROAD
FLETCHER, NC 28732

*The Town of Fletcher wishes you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

Town of Fletcher Holiday Schedule

Fletcher Town Hall will be closed the following days due to holiday observances. Please note these changes in trash and recycling pickup schedules:

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, Dec. 24th
Trash and recycling will be picked up
Monday, December 23rd.

Christmas Day - Wednesday, Dec 25th
Trash and recycling will be picked up
Thursday, December 26th.

New Year's Day - Wednesday, Jan. 1st
Trash and recycling will be picked up
Thursday, January 2nd.



FLETCHER COMMUNITY
CHORUS PRESENTS

"RINGING IN THE SEASON"
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
FLETCHER UMC HANDBELL CHOIR

Thursday, December 12
7:00 PM

Fletcher United Methodist Church
50 Library Road

Concert is Free
Donations Appreciated

