



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

300 Old Cane Creek Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

January 2025

Town Council

Preston Blakely, Mayor
Phone..... 828-215-7706
p.blakely@fletchernc.org

Amber McKinney, Councilwoman
District 1 828-699-2954
ambermckinney128@gmail.com

Keith Reed, Councilman
District 2..... 828-367-7130
k.reed@fletchernc.org

Jim Player, Councilman
District 3 828-702-4200
j.player@fletchernc.org

Trevor Lance, Mayor Pro-Tem
District 4..... 828-338-9338
trevorlance@gmail.com

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>.

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.

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 website at <https://www.fletchernc.org/about-us/newsletter/>.

Contact us with your questions and/or comments by emailing them to info@fletchernc.org. For additional Town info, please visit our website at www.fletchernc.org or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FletcherNC.Gov/>.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

News from the December 9th Town Council Meeting

- By Consent Agenda, Town Council:
 - Set a Public Hearing for the upcoming January 13, 2025 Council Meeting to consider several minor amendments to the Fletcher Land Development Code.
 - Approved Resolution R-24-05 to declare and dispose of surplus Town property by an electronic auction conducted by Auctions International via their website at www.Auctionsinternational.com beginning 1/6/2025.
 - Approved Budget Amendment 1 for fiscal year '24/'25 to increase the professional services budget line by \$60,000 for outside engineering assistance needed for damage assessment on flooded property within the town and in Bill Moore Park.
 - Approved grant project ordinance O-24-06 for \$1,000,000,000 for the Town's FEMA Public Assistance Disaster Recovery Project for our Hurricane Helene Recovery Park Projects. It is projected about 75% of these costs will be reimbursed by the FEMA Public Assistance Program.
 - Councilmember Trevor Lance was elected as Mayor Pro-Tem for the Council.
 - Carol Avery, of Lowdermilk Church & Company, presented the annual year-end audit results for fiscal year 2023-2024. She reported acceptance by the Local Government Commission (LGC) with an unqualified opinion.
- A Public Hearing was held to approve Resolution R-24-04 to establish a 12-month moratorium for 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.
- Ben Cathey, of McGill Associates, recommended the resurfacing of three Livingston Farms roads as 2025 Powell Bill projects, North Sunberry Trail, South Sunberry Trail, and Wild Meadow Road, at an estimated cost of \$276,000. This is somewhat above our approved budget, but it is anticipated the budgeted amount will be adequate once a final bid on the projects is received.
- Town Council considered multiple applicants for the District 1 seat vacated by Sheila Franklin. Amber McKinney was unanimously appointed by Council.
- Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager, shared upcoming scheduled budget meetings: Budget Work session on January 13th at 4pm for Department Heads to share significant departmental requests; March 18th from 8:30am - 3pm for complete budget requests by Staff & Department Heads; and May 8th at 9:00am for the presentation of the 2025-2026 recommended budget to Town Council by Mr. Biberdorf.
- Mark Biberdorf discussed an easement request from Enbridge Gas North Carolina to install a below ground gas line on Town park property under the outer greenway trail near the bridge at Mills Gaps Road. The original gas line was damaged during Hurricane Helene. Council approved the perpetual easement request.
- Mark Biberdorf gave an update on Hurricane Helene recovery for the Town:
 - Meetings have been held with FEMA to complete funding project requests.
 - The Henderson County contractor picking up debris has now started picking up construction and demolition debris. Henderson County continues to encourage resident self-reporting of debris locations (see the article on the next page).

2024 Property Tax Payments are Due

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, put your payment in our Town Hall southside parking lot drop box, or pay by debit or credit card at <https://www.fletchernc.org/departments/finance/property-taxes/>.

Town of Fletcher Christmas Tree Pickup

Public Works will pick up your live undecorated Christmas trees for disposal through the month of January. To make your pickup request, please visit our website at <https://www.fletchernc.org/leaf-brush-pickup/>; call 828-654-9208 and request a tree pickup by leaving your name, address, and phone # on Public Works' answering machine; or call Town Hall at 828-687-3985.

NOTE: Bagged leaf pickup has now ended until April.

Accepting Applications for Planning Board/ZBA

The Fletcher Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment has three seats with terms set to expire on February 13, 2025. As per Town policy, there will now be an application period for all seats regardless of whether existing members wish to seek reappointment.

If you reside in Fletcher Voting Districts 1, 2, or 3, and are interested in being considered for appointment to the Planning Board/ZBA, you may fill out an application and submit it to the Town Clerk no later than Wednesday, January 22, 2025 by 5:00 pm. The District 1 seat will be vacant, and current members from Districts 2 and 3 do intend to seek reappointment. You may access the application at the following link, OR contact our Town Clerk at (828) 687-3985 if you need to pick up an application or have one emailed. <https://www.fletchernc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Application-for-Appointed-Boards-Revised-3-12-24-002.pdf>

Functions of the Planning Board include recommendations to the Town Council on applications related to Rezoning, Conditional Rezoning, Special Use Permits, and text amendments to the Town's Land Development Code. The Board also reviews preliminary plats for major subdivisions as well as design review for projects in the "Heart of Fletcher" Overlay. Functions of the ZBA include quasi-judicial hearings regarding applications for variances and appeals on zoning matters. The Board typically meets once per month, on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 PM.

Applicants would need to be able to attend the Feb. 3 Council agenda meeting in order to introduce themselves and answer any questions that Council may have. We anticipate that appointments would be made at the Feb. 10 regular Council meeting. If you have any questions about Board roles and responsibilities, please contact Eric Rufa, Planning Director, at (828) 687-3985.

Storm Debris & Brush Removal Continues

Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR), the Henderson County storm debris contractor, continues to pick up debris in Fletcher.

- Residents and businesses should place all debris along the road right-of-way for pickup, but in separate piles by debris type.
- SDR is now starting to pickup construction debris.
- **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>.**

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.

From the Office of Chief Terry:



As another year comes to an end and we begin to prepare and set goals for 2025, I thought I'd take some time to reflect on the department's past and ongoing activities.

Certainly, we recognize that there were challenges that faced us in 2024. None more obvious than the damage and subsequent ongoing recovery of Hurricane Helene. Even among such devastation, we saw resilience, positive will and attitude, and cooperative spirit throughout our community. Grace was observed in abundance. I personally was the recipient of much grace that served as a reminder of the wonderful community we have in Fletcher and the greater WNC region.

The police department served admirably during the storm and recovery and I am proud of their efforts, however, I am proud of the service they provided throughout the year. Crime rates in Fletcher are the lowest they have been in years. The support of the community is strong. We have increased the amount of training our staff receive and will continue to look to increase training opportunities in 2025.

Our staffing levels have improved as we've added additional officers and civilian staff which greatly increases our ability to provide the right level of professional services and keep crime low. In 2025, we will continue to look for additional staff with a heart for service to further strengthen our ability to be responsive to the needs of the community.

As the new year arrives, we continuously evaluate the needs and challenges of the community so we can make any necessary adjustments to ensure the strong community we have today remains the strong community we have tomorrow. We welcome 2025 with optimism and wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Please welcome this new business to Fletcher !



TK USA provides industrial cables and connectors for motion control and robotic applications. TK has been in business since 1978 and is one of the leading manufacturers of servo, motor supply and motion control cables for automation. Advanced manufacturing technologies and a strong focus on engineering enable TK to supply specialty and custom cables suitable for many applications. TK will be making cable assemblies at their facility in Fletcher once they are fully settled in here.



TK USA is the US headquarter of Italian/German TK Group. The parent company TecniKabel (TK) is located in Volpiano, near Turin Italy.

<https://www.tecnikabel.us/>

Navigating FEMA Assistance

If you are having trouble navigating FEMA assistance, SBP (St. Bernard Project which started in New Orleans) is a non-profit national social impact organization dedicated to helping communities shrink the time between disaster and recovery.

SBP's Disaster Assistance Program helps disaster survivors to secure the maximum amount of FEMA funding for which they are eligible to meet their immediate and long-term recovery needs. Their primary focus is on helping survivors who may have received an inadequate FEMA award by guiding them through the appeals process to potentially secure more funding for repairs.

More information about the free SBP Disaster Assistance Program, visit <https://www.sbpusa.org/disaster-assistance-program/>.

Private Property Debris Removal Program

Henderson Co. property owners impacted by Hurricane Helene, who do not have debris removal insurance, may apply to have qualified disaster debris removed from their property **at no cost** through the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Program. The program also covers the demolition of eligible unsafe structures. Visit <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/em/page/private-property-debris-removal-program> for more information.

FABA
FLETCHER AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**January
Events**

COFFEE CLUB

Michelle Sullivan, The Clarity Journey
January 7th from 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Lutheridge Conference Center
2049 Upper Laurel Drive Arden, NC 28704

Focus After Five

January 16th at 5:30 pm
A-American Electric
25 Sheehan Road Fletcher, NC 28731

COFFEE CLUB

College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk and Moving
January 21st 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>

Update: Rebuilding in Floodplain Areas

The Town of Fletcher has now completed "substantial damage assessments" of structures located within designated floodplains within the Town limits and ETJ. Our consulting engineering firm, McGill Associates, found that a total of 16 structures were damaged beyond 50% of their fair market value. These structures will be required to be brought into compliance with the Town's current floodplain development regulations. (Structures in floodplains NOT deemed substantially damaged may be repaired or rebuilt to previous condition.)

Property owners of these substantially damaged structures have been notified by mail of this determination. If you are unsure as to whether your structure was determined to be "substantially damaged," please contact Eric Rufa, Planning Director, at 828-687-3985, to ask about your property and any requirements or permitting that might be needed in your specific situation. In many cases, there will not be any additional zoning or floodplain review, and we will likely just refer you to Henderson County for any needed building permits. But, it would be a good idea to double check with us just to make sure your structure wasn't deemed "substantially damaged".

It is also a good time to remind you that the Town is a participating community in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This enables any property owner in Fletcher, regardless of whether your property is in a designated floodplain, to be able to purchase flood insurance through the NFIP. If your insurance provider says "you cannot buy flood insurance," we would recommend you find a reputable insurance agent that can talk through your options about NFIP insurance.

Fletcher Library Opportunities in January

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



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

CLOSINGS: We will be closed Wednesday, January 1st for the New Year's Holiday, and will resume normal hours on Thursday, January 2nd. We will also close Monday January 20th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and will resume normal hours on Tuesday, January 21st.

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.

Family Story Time: Every Wednesday at 10:30 am

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.

Lego Club (Children) Thursday, January 2nd (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, January 4th (10:30pm-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

Book Review Book Club (Adults) Thursday, January 9th (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, January 9th (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, January 11th (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

Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, January 11th (12:30pm-2:00pm) ** 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

Check 'Em Out Book Club (Adults) Monday, January 13th (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, January 14th (10:00am-4:00pm)

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

Zaniac: Is Oobleck a Solid or a Liquid? (Children) Monday, January 16th (3:45pm-4:45pm) ** Registration required **

Use the scientific method to investigate non-Newtonian fluids. Non-Newtonian fluids may act as a solid or liquid depending on the force applied to them. Experiment with different states of matter and classify the matter as a solid or a liquid based on its physical properties. *This free program is funded by the Friends of the Library.*

Paws for Reading (Children) Saturday, January 18th (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

New Parks & Recreation Director

Josh Queen has been named the new Parks & Recreation Director, replacing Greg Walker upon his retirement in early December. Many residents may already know Josh since he has served as the Town's Recreation Program Supervisor since June 2022. You may recognize him from organizing and coordinating the Fletcher Summer Day Camp and the monthly activities/events in the park. Prior to joining the Town, Josh worked with the Hendersonville Boys and Girls Club as Operations Director.



**FLETCHER
COMMUNITY
8 WEEK WINTER
YOGA CLASS**

With Lindsay Fox

THURSDAYS
JANUARY 9TH-FEBRUARY 27TH
5:30-6:30 PM

\$70 FLETCHER RESIDENTS
\$80 NON FLETCHER RESIDENTS

REGISTRATION OPENS DEC.16TH
FLETCHERPARKS.RECDESK.COM



The outer greenway trail remains closed at Bill Moore Community Park due to this large hole requiring engineering expertise and additional assistance for its safe repair.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thurs., Jan 9th	Winter Yoga Begins Fletcher Town Hall	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Sat., Feb 8th	Father Daughter Dance Prescott Auto Reserve	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tickets go on sale January 6th for this event at <https://fletcherparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home>.



The carriage rides and Santa Claus were a hit at the December 7th Christmas in the Park event.

TOWN OF FLETCHER

300 OLD CANE CREEK ROAD

FLETCHER, NC 28732

Town of Fletcher Holiday Closing

Fletcher Town Hall will be closed Wednesday, January 1st in celebration of New Year's Day. Trash and recycling pickup scheduled for the 1st will be picked up Thursday, the 2nd.



FEMA Application Reminders

The deadline to apply for FEMA individual assistance due to Hurricane Helene is **January 7, 2025**. The quickest way to apply is on the FEMA website at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>. You can also apply in person at the Henderson County Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located in the Blue Ridge Commons complex at 2111 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville NC 28791. They are open Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 6:00pm and on Saturdays from 9:00am - 2:00 pm. They are closed on Sunday. Fletcher homeowners and renters can visit any open DRC, not just the one in Henderson County. You can also apply by using the [FEMA App](#) or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-921-3362.

CALLING ALL PRESCHOOL PARENTS

Are you a parent or do you know a parent of a 4-5 year old in Henderson County who will go to Kindergarten next year?

WNCSource has a few open enrollment slots left at Clear Creek Children's Center through the NC Pre-Kindergarten program which offers FREE high-quality child care and educational experiences throughout the school year to enhance school readiness for your children. The classroom schedule is 8:00 am - 2:30 pm, and breakfast and lunch are provided.

Please call (828) 693-1711 and ask to speak with Enrollment to see if your family is eligible or visit <https://wncsource.org/> to find the Children's Services page and start your application today!

Your child must have been 4 years old on or before August 31, 2024 to qualify for this current school year.

