

LAKE LURE NEWS & VIEWS

TOWN OF LAKE LURE
INCORPORATED IN 1927

Mayor: Jim Proctor

Commissioners: Russ Pitts, Jeanine Noble, Dick McCallum, Chuck Watkins

Town Manager: H.M. "Chuck" Place, III

August 2007

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1MAYOR'S COMMENTS

by Jim Proctor

On August 26th the Ride For Kids will once again come to Lake Lure. The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation funds medical research grants to help find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. The Ride for Kids program started in 1984 in Atlanta, Georgia. The PBTF is the largest source of non-governmental funding for pediatric brain tumor research in the world. The PBTF also offers family support programs for families with a child who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Last year more than 450 motorcycle riders raised more than \$100,000!!

If you would like to donate this year please call me at (828) 779-3100 or mail a check made out to "PBTFUS" to PO Box 384, Lake Lure, NC 28746. You may also leave donations at Lake Lure Town Hall. Their website is <http://ride4kids.org>.

LAKE NEWS

The Importance of No-Wake Buoys and their Locations:

Most of you are aware of the no-wake buoys along our lake's shoreline, but what may not be so commonly understood is the importance of these

buoys. The no-wake buoys create a 75 foot buffer between the shoreline and the faster moving, wake generating boat traffic, helping to protect the shore from erosion and lake structures and moored boats from destructive wave action. The buoys also create a 25 foot buffer between swimmers and the fast moving boat traffic, since it is unlawful for swimmers to swim beyond 50 feet from the shoreline without an observer on a boat. In addition, the buoys protect boaters by keeping faster moving boat traffic away from the shoreline where lake structures and/or the shoreline configuration create visual impairments for boaters.

Perhaps the single most important item for no-wake buoys to be effective is their location. Unfortunately we have recently seen an increase in the number of buoys that have been moved, dragged, cut-loose, damaged, or altogether removed from the lake. This has become a very problematic and costly issue to the town, which could lead to the ultimate cost, which is loss of life. Everyone needs to remember that the no-wake buoys are the property of the Town of Lake Lure, and being such should not be moved or disturbed by anyone but town resources. The placement of these buoys is managed by the town with the guidance of the lake advisory committee. Changing a no-wake buoy location without the express permission from a town representative is against local regulations. It

should also be noted that all marker buoys in the lake are classified as uniform waterway marking system buoys, and being such are also protected by state and federal laws. Everyone should also be aware that vessels may not be moored to a bouy.

Please contact the town at 625-9983 and report any buoys which appear to be damaged or out of placement. Also don't hesitate to call the town or the town's police department if you see any suspicious boating activity located near a no-wake buoy. They are in place for your protection.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
by H.M. "Chuck" Place III, AICP

2007-2008 Budget

Every year, the June newsletter includes my report on the upcoming year's budget. Since I was abed with pneumonia in June, I failed to do this. So here it is - two months late.

I am pleased to report that the budget for the coming fiscal year meets the majority of our needs without an increase in ad valorem tax. In fact, due primarily to the reappraisal by the county, council reduced the tax rate by seven cents from \$0.28 to \$0.21 per \$100.

As always, there were many hard decisions associated with the formulation of this budget. The costs submitted by the staff to address the various needs, wants and desires of the town conflicted with the desire of council to reduce the tax rate. The result was a lengthy process of establishing priorities among the many competing good and worthy services and projects in need of funding. Copies of the new budget are available for review at Town Hall, but the following is a synopsis of the budget adopted on June 25:

REVENUES

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Ad Valorem and Vehicle Taxes | \$2,108,929 |
| State Shared Revenues | 1,113,625 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 92,260 |
| Land Use Fees | 31,000 |
| Golf Course | 154,000 |
| Lake | 286,550 |
| Beach | 55,000 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Marina | 35,130 |
| Admin. charge from Wtr/Swr Fund | 25,000 |
| Admin. charge from Electric Fund | 25,000 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 6,798 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | \$3,933,292 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Governing Body | \$43,224 |
| Administration | 637,691 |
| Police | 693,539 |
| Fire Department | 473,739 |
| E.M.S. | 500 |
| Public Works | 599,417 |
| Sanitation | 156,200 |
| Golf Course | 326,802 |
| Lake | 189,551 |
| Beach | 2,500 |
| Community Center | 35,223 |
| Community Development | 479,441 |
| Marina | 18,700 |
| Insurance/Bonds | 122,765 |
| Debt Service | 55,000 |
| Contingency Reserve | 99,000 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | \$3,933,292 |

Revenues and expenditures in the Water/Sewer Fund are as follows:

REVENUES

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Water and Sewer | \$998,050 |
| TOTAL WTR/SWR FUND | \$998,050 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Sewer | \$557,775 |
| Water | 323,032 |
| Transfer to Equity | 97,243 |
| TOTAL WTR/SWR FUND | \$998,050 |

Revenues and expenditures in the Hydro-Electric Fund are as follows:

REVENUES

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Electric Receipts | \$241,033 |
| TOTAL ELECTRIC FUND | \$241,033 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Operations | \$241,033 |
| TOTAL ELECTIC FUND | \$241,033 |

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR ALL FUNDS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>General Fund</i> | \$3,933,292 |
| <i>Water/sewer Fund</i> | 998,050 |
| <i>Hydro-electric</i> | <u>241,033</u> |
| TOTAL ALL FUNDS | \$5,172,375 |

This adopted budget for FY2007-08 is based upon the following:

1. There was an implicit assumption that there will be no annexations or major growth in population served during the subject fiscal year.

2. A decrease in the ad valorem tax rate on property from \$0.28 to \$0.23 is proposed this year. Total estimated valuation on real, personal and utility property for the 2006-2007 tax year is \$980,038,460 and motor vehicle valuation is estimated at \$16,639,540, according to Rutherford County's Tax Administrator. This should generate about \$2,267,097 in tax revenue, assuming a 98.98% collection rate. A transfer of \$22,282 from the General Fund Balance is included to balance the budget at this tax rate.

3. For the eighth year, the Town Council has approved a 6 year Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The first year of the CIP constitutes the Capital Budget and the expenditures listed for the coming year have been incorporated in this FY 2006-07 annual budget. This CIP is expected to be adopted in June. The approved list of general fund projects for FY06-07 totals \$764,614 (\$345,000 of which will be funded by a federal grant). An additional \$70,000 in capital expenditures is related to street construction and maintenance activities funded directly by "Powell Bill" receipts. Total capital expenditures in the General Fund are increased from last years figure of \$698,441.

The federal grant will fund a new pedestrian pathway which will be constructed from Boys

Camp Road to the ABC store and connected to the boardwalk (this project was included in last year's budget, but was delayed until 06-07 due to major cost increases; a supplemental state grant of \$254,680 was approved to help offset those increases). The CIP includes a preliminary

debit service cost for expansion of town hall, the remodeling and expansion of the community center to accommodate the youth center and offices for the Rutherford County Tourist Development Agency (TDA), and a complete replacement of the termite plagued marina office building, all of which will be financed through a commercial loan and leases to the TDA and Lake Lure Tours (these numbers may be subject to revision after architectural studies are completed). The timing is appropriate for this as the construction loan for the town hall was paid in full last year. Replacement patrol vehicles and new vehicle mounted video cameras for the police department, a replacement vehicle for the fire coordinator's office, a replacement storage building for the golf course (to take the place of a dilapidated one demolished last year), elimination of overhead power lines in front of the beach and other beautification projects in the town center area, other park and recreation improvements (including the trail system on the golf course property), annual computer upgrades, renewal of the golf cart lease program at the golf course, and the debit service for a replacement fire boat and addition to Fire Station #2 are also included in the general fund CIP. We will also be seeking additional grant funding where available to offset the costs of capital improvements, thereby reducing the burden on the local taxpayers.

A total of \$615,545 for utilities projects will be funded under the Water/Sewer Fund, of which \$380,000 will be contributed through county, state and federal grants. Included are major equipment replacements at the sewer plant. The sewer plant equipment replacement cost of \$554,545 will be funded, in part, through a \$305,000 federal grant and a \$75,000 county grant so the actual cost to the water/sewer fund

will be \$174,545. In all, the actual outlay from the towns water/sewer fund for capital projects in 07-08 will be \$235,545.

The electric fund capital expenditure of \$200,000 is for lake dredging operations, half of which will be transferred in from revenues derived from the lake account (boat permit fees, concession fees and the like).

4. This budget includes a fair, but modest, 3.3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and an adjustment to certain salaries that were shown by an independent professional consultant to be below the prevailing market rate for town employees. It also includes a 401K contribution of 5% for all employees.

I am proud of the consistent dedication, loyalty and hard work demonstrated by our small work force; however, we must recognize the need to maintain our competitive standing versus the compensation and benefits offered by surrounding localities and the private sector. Failure to be vigilant and equitable in this regard will make it most difficult to continue to attract and retain the talented and dedicated cadre of employees we now have on staff.

5. Two additional full time employees are included in this budget.

- A new police officer will be added to compensate for the growth in the town. This will be the first additional paid police officer to be hired in over ten years.

- A new position to be titled the Lake Management Officer will be added to assume the responsibility of overseeing all aspects of managing the town's most visible and precious asset. This individual will be both an administrator and a sworn police officer, much in the nature of a state park ranger, and the position will be fully funded by revenues derived from the lake (boat permit fees, concession fees and the like).

6. Revenue in the Electric Fund last year was positively impacted by a new contract with Duke Energy for the sale of power which generates greater revenue per k/hr. Even so, we are budgeting a very conservative revenue

estimate for the coming year of \$241,000. A transfer of \$100,000 will be made to the silt removal account this fiscal year and excess revenues, if any, will be transferred to the Electric Equity Fund.

7. Due to current and anticipated growth, the town council intends to adopt a comprehensive plan for the town during the month of June. This plan include many strategies in the form of policies that will prepare us for the impacts of that new growth. Several of these policies require the assistance of professional consultants to prepare, including an *adequate public facilities ordinance* (APFO), design guidelines, a recreation facilities master plan and the start of a complete update of our zoning and other development regulations (the *uniform development regulations*, or UDR). The cost of those services in total will be \$157,000, however it is important to note that the APFO, when adopted, will provide a mechanism for most of the cost created by the impacts of growth to be paid for by those that profit from that growth.

In summary, the adopted town budget is balanced as required by state law. In comparison to last year, revenues are projected to increase by 30% and expenditures in the General Fund are increased by 8%, in the Water/Sewer Fund by 67%, and in the Electric Fund by 20%. The total budget is about 30% greater than last year.

While this budget does not address every need, want, preference, desire, project or program, it will provide for the continuation of the basic municipal services currently provided and at the level expected by our residents, and continues addressing the goal of attending to some basic infrastructure needs and long-deferred maintenance items, although to a lesser extent than desired.

TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES by Town Clerk Mary Flack, MMC, CTC

An overview of July's town council activities will be published in the August issue of the Lake Lure News & Views.

again to everyone that helped with the 2nd Annual Emergency Services Day.

COMMUNITY POLICING NEWS
by Chief Eric Hester

Police Department

Congratulations are in order to Officer Brandon Ellenburg who recently promoted filled a vacant corporal position with the police department. Corporal Ellenburg has been with the police department for about two years and has excelled in his job performance by continuing to help make our town a safer place to live in. Corporal Ellenburg has been a very dedicated employee to the Town of Lake Lure and the police department. When you see Corporal Ellenburg congratulate him on his promotion and for a job well done.

Also in policing news, Robert McIntosh was hired to fill a new patrol position. Officer McIntosh has over 20 years law enforcement experience and he is a criminal justice education and training instructor for the State of North Carolina. Officer McIntosh comes to our police department with a long list of law enforcement certifications.

Youth Center

On July 12, 2007 we had our 2nd Annual Emergency Services Day. All local fire, police, and EMS agencies in the Hickory Nut Gorge area participated in this event. Over 130 children and adults participated in this event. The local youth seemed to have a great time visiting the fire house that was set up on display behind the youth center. They also enjoyed four- wheeler rides with officers and fire personnel. The Hickory Nut Gorge EMS helped in the fire house and had their equipment on display and answered questions from the youth in our area. I would like to give special thanks to all the parents that helped with the cooking of the hamburgers and hotdogs and/or prepared desserts. I would also like to thank Dot and Sid Shelton for their never-ending effort in making sure the 2nd Annual Emergency Services Day went without a hitch. Without Dot and Sid Shelton's experience and time that they spend with our youth, our youth center would not be what it is today. Special thanks

Police Report For June, 2007

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Alarm Calls Received----- | 12 |
| Accidents----- | 11 |
| Arrests----- | 10 |
| Bank Alarms----- | 0 |
| Breaking and Enterings----- | 2 |
| Business Checks----- | 4,683 |
| Citations Issued----- | 53 |
| Community Contacts----- | 722 |
| Extra Patrol----- | 148 |
| Lake – Citations----- | 1 |
| Lake – Cove Checks----- | 587 |
| Lake – Patrol----- | 35 |
| Larceny Reports----- | 9 |
| Requested Residential Checks----- | 134 |
| Road Checks----- | 1,187 |
| Vandalism Reports----- | 1 |
| Written Warnings Issued----- | 4 |

1CUSTOMER SERVICES
by Linda Ward

As the summer starts to come to an end, you may want to think about making a copy of your boat registration to have on file at home. Then, when it is time to purchase next years boat permit you will have that information on hand and can purchase your permit by mail without having to come to the lake to get the registration out of your boat.

**UPPER BROAD RIVER WATERSHED
 PROTECTION PROGRAM**
by Jennifer Beck

The UBRWPP Committee would like to thank Nicholas Provow, the watershed assistant, for his eleven month service with our organization. Nicholas was a member of the AmeriCorps Project Conserve Program. AmeriCorps is a volunteer service program similar to the Peace Corps, however the work is completed in the United States

and the terms of service vary. Project Conserve is an AmeriCorps program that commits to long-term conservation efforts in North Carolina's mountains by increasing community awareness of conservation needs, recruiting new volunteers, providing community education, and assisting with land and water conservation. In a short eleven months Nicholas has assisted the UBRWPP in providing technical advice to landowners, developing conservation plans, organizing two educational workshops, as well as developing and presenting an informative program on our work to several clubs/organizations within the area. Nicholas also took the lead on the application process for the UBRWPP acquiring non-profit status by completing paperwork and writing our bylaws. Thanks to Nicholas for all his hard work and we wish him the best!

If you or your organization is interested in having the UBRWPP conduct an educational presentation such as the one Nicholas developed, please contact our office. We have made presentations to several organizations in the Gorge and would appreciate the opportunity to talk with your group as well.

GOLF COURSE NEWS by Matt Griffin

The "dog days" of summer are here and the golf course is holding up rather well. Our Captain's Choice tournaments on Friday afternoons at 5:30pm are still going strong, we haven't had fewer than 20 players in a month so you should come out and enjoy the fun with us.

We would like to welcome both Rich Lamb and Carl Nelson to our Golf Course Advisory Committee. They had their first meeting on July 26, and both of them are great assets to our ever changing Golf Course.

The new bathrooms are now fully functional, and are a wonderful addition to our Pro-Shop. We are also getting central heat and air, as well as new carpeting, soon for our Pro-Shop, two much needed upgrades to our facility.

Well I guess that should just about do it for this month, and as always if you have any questions or

comments come by and see me at the Pro-Shop, or call me at 625-4472.

Quote of the month:

"Nobody ever looked up and saw a good shot."

By: *Don Herold*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT By Shannon Baldwin

Clemson University faculty and students will work with the Town of Lake Lure to create a set of design guidelines (visual manual) to align future commercial development with Lake Lure's community character. The design guidelines will depict design standards to clearly communicate the desired aesthetics that Lake Lure wishes to accomplish. Architectural styles, building height, building orientation, materials, and landscaping are among the types of features for which standards will be developed.

The town seeks persons from the following categories to serve as on an advisory committee for the duration of the project: 1. Commercial Building Owner, 2. Business Owner, 3. Realtor, 4. Contractor/Builder, 5. Building Designer/Architect, 6. Developer, 7. Landscape Designer/Architect, 8. Landscape Installer, 9. Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber of Commerce, 10. Lake Lure Artists Guild, 11. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, 12. Zoning & Planning Board, and 13. Community Members at Large.

If you have an interest in serving on this committee, which will be in service approximately four months (Sept. – Dec.), please contact Shannon Baldwin for an application at 625-9983, ext 107, or email at cdd@townoflakelure.com

NEWS AROUND LAKE LURE



Army Band Concert - The Lake Lure Parks and Recreation Board is pleased and proud to present a free concert at Morse Park by the 108th Division Band based in Charlotte, NC. The primary mission of the band is to promote the esprit de corps for our fighting forces and to serve as goodwill ambassadors throughout North and South Carolina, as well as an occasional deployment for international community relations in conjunction with military exercises abroad. Whether it is a military function or a civilian performance, the 108th Division Band is prepared to provide concert music, military marches, a stage band, or a jazz combo.

The 108th Division Band will have 30 military band members performing under the gazebo at Morse Park at the concert in Lake Lure on Saturday, September 8th. The concert is free and will begin at 4:30PM, following a full day's activities of the Third Annual Hickory Nut Gorge Olympiad events at Morse Park Meadows, Lake Lure's town beach, and Chimney Rock Park. There will be a concurrent Olympiad food festival ongoing all afternoon until 6:00PM in the Meadows. Come and enjoy the food of local restaurants and bring your lawn chairs or blankets to sit and enjoy a late afternoon musical performance.

Parks and Recreation Board Vacancy – We are looking for someone energetic and resourceful in working to improve the town's appearance and expanding the recreational and cultural amenities available to town residents. A vacancy exists as an alternate member of the parks and recreation board. Anyone interested should fill out an application form at the Lake Lure Municipal Center for consideration for appointment to the board at the next town council meeting.

Lake Lure Newcomers invite those who are new residents in Lake Lure (24 months or less) to join them in various activities which include: potluck, gourmet, out'n about, theater, bridge/poker, book club, and hiking. Anyone interested in

becoming a member, call Chuck and Char Leneschmidt 828-625-5201.

For the convenience of the public, the VFW Post 10473 has placed a receptacle for old and worn out American flags in the covered walkway at the town hall near the entrance to the police department's door. If you would like a replacement flag, for a small fee, or are eligible and wish to join the VFW contact VFW Vice Commander Charles Hicks at 828-625-9278.

Lake Lure Lakefront Owners Association (LLLOA). Are you are interested in lake issues? Are you concerned about local taxes? If you are a Lake Lure lakefront owner and want to receive information about these and other lake concerns, then the LLLOA invites you to become a member. Associate memberships are also encouraged for those who are interested in our Lake. Each year members receive a directory of members, informative Muse Letters, and a first class mailed subscription to the Town of Lake Lure monthly newsletter, Lake Lure News & Views. Members meet at the Town Community Center socially at least annually to meet neighbors and discuss issues. Annual dues are currently a modest **\$20.00**. You may pick up an application for membership at the Municipal Center, via the website at www.townoflakelure.com under Lake Management or call Bob Keith, Pres. at 828-625-2874 for an application or any questions you may have.

OLYMPIAD EVENTS

This year's **athletic event schedule for Olympiad III** has been announced as follows:

Thursday, Sept 6, Venue – Rumbling Bald Resort

8 am - 1 pm - Golf Tournament/Bald Mtn GC
Golf Skills/ Bald Mtn. GC

6 pm - 9 pm - Pontoon Boat Challenge

Friday, Sept 7 Venue – Rumbling Bald Resort

2 pm – 5 pm - Bridge Tournament/ Lakeview

7:15 pm – 7:45 pm - 1 Mile Family Fun Run / Beach

Saturday, Sept 8 Venue – Lake Lure Beach

8 am – 10 am 5K Race to the Rock (run or ride)
@ Chimney Rock Park

9 am – 12 noon Sand Volleyball

- 9 am – 1 pm Rock Climbing @ Chimney Rock Park
Water Obstacle Course (T)
Basketball 3 x 3
Long Distance Kayak
Three Person Canoe (T)
- 12 noon – 3 pm Baseball Throw Speed (T)
50 – Yard Dash (T)
Mountain Bike Sprint (T)
Kids Fun Games
- 1 pm – 4:30 pm Firemen’s Challenge
7 pm – 11 pm Shag Demo/
Dance @ Lake Lure Inn (Hosted by LL Shag Club)

Other Saturday Events: Ping Pong, Swim Meet, Tennis, Horseshoes, Soccer, and Archery

Sunday, September 9 Venue – Rumbling Bald Resort

- 10:15 am – 1 pm Triathlon Sprint
- 10:15 am – 12:30 pm Kayak Sprint Races
Tennis Finals
Miniature Golf
Bocce

11 am – 12:30 pm Long Distance Swim

* (T) – Indicates team participation event

* Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, it may become necessary to cancel or change some events.

Register on-line today @ www.HickoryNutOlympiad.com



NOTICE

Weather permitting, Lake Lure Tours is open 7 days a week from 9 am – 5 pm for gas or your other needs. For questions or comments about the hours or operations of the Lake Lure Tours, call 828-625-1373.

The deadline for newsletter articles to be received at Town Hall for the July issue is August 22, 2007.