

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

February 2007

Published by Town of Lake Lure, P.O. Box 255, Lake Lure, NC 28746

Newsletter Editor & Coordinator: Linda Ward

Telephone: (828) 625-9983

Website: www.TownofLakeLure.com

Fax: (828) 625-8371

Email: TownHall@TownofLakeLure.com

May all of your hearts be filled with
love -

♥ Happy Valentine's Day! ♥

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

THE YEAR THAT WAS (Part 2)

Last month, I briefly mentioned the findings of the structural engineer hired to inspect the dam. This is of sufficient importance to all of us that I want to provide more details of that inspection.

The annual state inspection report last summer questioned some seepage and spalling (breaking away of surface concrete) and directed us to have a qualified dam safety engineering consultant do a more thorough inspection. We contracted with a consultant and the inspection was made in December. Since the well being of the dam is essential to every one in town - not to mention those below the dam, I am pleased to quote the conclusion in the inspection report:

"The Lake Lure Dam was determined to be generally in good condition based on visual inspection and evaluation as discussed in this report. The dam is generally well maintained by the Town staff. No items were noted that would suggest the safety of the structure has been compromised, or

that immediate actions to assure project safety are required. Some leakage, near surface concrete deterioration and cracking was observed but these

conditions do not appear to be substantially worse than conditions described in previous inspection reports (DE&S 1999).

The emergency action plan (EAP) is appropriate given the consequences of a dam failure. The commitment to emergency preparedness by Town staff is commendable. The EAP should be kept updated with current communication information. It would be prudent to revise the inundation maps if development downstream has changed significantly since the maps were developed."

The report concludes with four recommendations regarding minor maintenance and record keeping and states that another inspection be conducted in two years to check the condition of the facility and, if there is no further deterioration of the concrete surfaces, at five year intervals thereafter.

A copy of the inspection report and the qualifications of the inspector are available for public review at town hall.

CodeRED!

Several month ago, primarily at the request of a group of citizens – but also after discussions with Fire and Emergency Services Coordinator Ron Morgan, we began looking into a means of

providing notification to citizens and property owners for both emergencies and items of community concern in the form of pre-recorded telephone messages. We enlisted our IT consultants to canvas the available technology and resources and they recommended the CodeRED Emergency Notification System from Emergency Communications Network, Inc.

While the primary purpose of a notification system will be for emergencies (the current system used to notify persons of flooding is very limited in scope and is technologically obsolete), it will have many other uses such as informing property owners in a specific geographic area that the town water lines in their area are to be shut down for repairs, or to lake-front property owners that the lake water level may go up because of flooding or down because we plan to lower the lake, or to folks in town that the lake is closed after a storm due to floating debris (and when it is opened again), or notifying all citizens that an important public hearing will be held (including where and when) and so on.

Considering the immense benefit this will be to the community compared to the relatively low cost of the system, I believe this to be well worthwhile and recommended Council approve this system. In November, council OK'ed the CodeRED contract. The system is now in effect and Ron Morgan is the man in charge. Please read his article in this newsletter for more important information.

TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

by Town Clerk Mary Flack, MMC, CTC

1REGULAR MEETING: The regular town council meeting was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center.

Under the "consent agenda," Town Council:

* approved minutes of the December 12, 2006 (regular meeting), and December 15, 2006 (special meeting);

* approved a budget amendment as submitted by the finance director to cover the cost of repairs to the town's seawall and docks; and

* approved a budget amendment as submitted by the finance director transferring funds allocated for fish stocking of the lake to be used for a fish eco-study.

Town Council actions:

* held a public hearing and adopted Ordinance No. 07-01-09 amending Title IX, Chapter 92, the Zoning Regulations of the Town of Lake Lure, relating to board of adjustment alternate members and conditional use permits in the R-2 and R-3 zoning districts;

* held a public hearing and adopted Ordinance No. 07-01-09A amending Title IX, Chapter 91, the Subdivision Regulations of the Town of Lake Lure, relating to preliminary plat reviews;

* approved a request from Bob Washburn and Anne Hinton to remove silt from the lake that has accumulated at the west point of Gray Logs Cove;

* approved a request from J. D. Harrison Investments, LLC to accept a new performance guarantee for "Blue Heron Point" and release the existing performance guarantee;

* reviewed a proposal from Ryan Blau of Design Workshop regarding amendment to the zoning regulations to allow cluster subdivisions; council members referred this proposed ordinance to the zoning and planning board for further study and recommendations;

* considered recommendations from the zoning and planning board regarding short-term/vacation rentals in the R-1 Residential District;

* held discussion regarding a town planner/subdivision administrator position;

* approved a budget amendment as requested by the town manager transferring funds from the hydro-electric to the account for silt removal from the lake;

* rejected the bid of \$422,382 received from L-J, Inc. for the town center walkway center project; council members authorized the town manager to work together with the town's engineer to negotiate with the lowest bidder a revised proposal for this project;

- * approved a budget amendment as requested by the town manager to cover the cost for a pond and pump at the town's golf course; and
- * approved the expenditure of \$100 for the membership fee to the North Carolina Resort Towns and Convention Cities Association.

In other activities:

- * heard reports from council liaisons on the activities of various boards and committees; and
- * heard a report from community development director on year end activities during 2006.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE: Town council held a workshop meeting with the comprehensive plan steering committee on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in the council meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center to review a draft of the comprehensive plan prepared by LandDesign, Inc.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE MARINE COMMISSION: The Lake Lure Marine Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., in the council meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center.

The Marine Commission:

- * reviewed recommendations from the lake advisory committee relating to boat permit rates for 2007 and proposed changes to the Lake Use Regulations;
- * scheduled a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in the council meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center to hold a public hearing to consider proposed amendments to the lake use regulations as recommended by the lake advisory committee; marine commission members will set the boat permit rates for 2007 during this meeting; and
- * held a discussion pertaining to lake issues.

Public Safety and Awareness

I would like to share with our community some growing concerns that need to be addressed in our nation and our communities. Our nation's crime rate on **Fraud** has continued to rise; some recent studies have shown that older citizens continue to be a target of **Fraud** in the United States and also in North Carolina. I would like to help educate our older citizens in Lake Lure about crimes that target **Fraud** and provide resources to help protect you against these types of crimes.

Consumer Fraud Awareness for Older Adults

Being the victim of any crime is traumatic for that person. Certain factors can add to that trauma, such as having trust in the person that commits the crime against you, especially if you have grown up during an era when a person's word was "as good as gold" or a handshake solidified a deal. Unfortunately, those days are no more. Now we have contracts, agreements, paperwork, that in and of itself, can prove very confusing for the average person!

Add to that, all the new technology, i.e., computers, internet, and identity theft. These crimes were unheard of only ten to fifteen years ago!

How does someone keep up with all of this and more importantly, what are these crimes? Who are the victims? Why are they happening? Where are these crimes occurring? And, how can we protect ourselves from victimization?

With crime being prevalent in society and technology gaining momentum, we need to be aware of how to protect ourselves from victimization in the 21st century. It's no longer as simple as buying the best lock or possibly an alarm system that can help protect us from an outside criminal element. We now have to take guard in a variety of fashions.

Consumer Fraud – What Is It?

In a nutshell, consumer fraud is when someone defrauds a consumer. Who is a consumer? Everyone – we all purchase goods or services from a variety of sources; stores, catalogs, direct sales dealing with people, and now, the Internet.

Who Is a Victim?

Anyone can be a victim. As a matter of fact, research conducted in several statewide surveys around the country suggests that fully 26% of the entire adult population has fallen for a scam and 12% do so each year.

What Types of Scams or Fraud Are Out There and What Can be Done About Them?

What are the crimes that target older adults and what are some resources available to combat these crimes?

Telemarketers

Before you talk to telemarketers, remember that Congress estimates that U.S. consumers lose more than \$40 billion annually to telemarketing fraud. Many legitimate companies and agencies do business by telephone, but as many as one in ten callers may be fraudulent. Consumers need a plan for how to end unwanted telemarketing calls quickly. Some say, "I don't do business over the phone," others say "Send me your material in writing." If you didn't make the call, don't give out any personal information.

There is a national **Do Not Call** registry that restricts telemarketing. You can add your phone number to that list by calling 1-888-382-1222, or by going to www.donotcall.gov. Once your number is on the registry for 31 days, most telemarketers should stop calling you.

Identity Theft

Guard your personal information. Identity thieves will pretend to be you and use your personal information to apply for loans, credit cards, or leases. The thief takes your good credit record and leaves bad credit in your name. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the fastest-growing, white-collar crime in the United States. More than 700,000 people are estimated to become victims each year. The number of older victims grew more than 200% between 2000 and 2001. Consumers lose money and hundreds of hours clearing up their credit reports.

Criminals will go to great lengths to get your information. They may sound very convincing and try to confuse you by suggesting they're from a legitimate organization that you recognize. Consumers have told AARP about callers who said

they are "from the bank" and "need to confirm your bank account number," or offer "credit card protection" and "need to know all your credit card numbers."

The approach also comes by e-mail. You might get an official-looking message from a business, claiming that their system crashed or that your account is expiring. They'll ask you to "re-enter" or "validate" your personal information. This is a scam called "phishing." Here are some ways to protect yourself:

- a) Don't give your credit card or bank account numbers over the phone unless you placed the call to a business you trust.
- b) Before giving out any personal information, be sure you know who's requesting information. Hang up and call your bank or credit card company yourself to check on a caller.
- c) Carefully dispose of all papers that include your personal information. Shred charge receipts and credit card offers.
- d) Give out your Social Security number only when truly required.
- e) Reduce the number of credit cards you carry.
- f) Check your credit report for errors at least once a year.
- g) See who is watching you when you enter your PIN into bank machines.

The Federal Trade Commission has identity theft information at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, including where to report and how to get help if your identity is stolen.

Charities

Before you give to a charity, be an informed donor. We all want to give to worthwhile charities, but some fundraisers are not what they seem. They may keep more of your donation than they turn over to the charity or they may not represent a charity at all. Often, after natural disasters, instant "charities" spring up, but their sole purpose is to make money for the fundraiser, not the victims. Before you donate:

- a) Get the charity's full name, address and telephone number. Beware of similar sounding names; don't assume you know

this group because the name sounds familiar.

- b) Ask how much of your donation will go to the charity, and how much goes to fundraising efforts.
- c) Check with your state attorney general or secretary of state to see if the charity is registered.
- d) Check a charity's rating by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance at www.give.org.

We have addressed different types of scams that are perpetrated against older citizens in North Carolina. The following are three of the most important agencies you can contact if you have further questions or are fearful that you may have been victimized by one of the crimes mentioned.

- 1. AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)
225 Hillsborough Street
Suite 440
Raleigh, NC 27603
www.aarp.org/nc
- 2. Attorney General Roy Cooper
North Carolina Department of Justice
Consumer Protection Division
114 W. Edenton Street
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001
1-877-566-7226
- 3. Lake Lure Police Department
2950 Memorial Highway
Lake Lure, NC 28746

Just a brief statement in closing, you don't have to be a victim, but you do have to be careful and begin to pay closer attention to your accounts and how you conduct your business. Scam artists are getting smarter and we have to be as well. I hope this information will be helpful to you if and when these situations arise, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these issues.

by Ron Morgan

The Town of Lake Lure has recently contracted for a telephone notification service called CodeRED. This will give us the ability to notify people in the event of an emergency within minutes.

The Town purchased a phone dialing system in 1999 with a grant to notify people along the river of flash flooding but this system has proven to be limited in volume, speed and is a maintenance issue. CodeRED is different in that they own and maintain the equipment and phone lines necessary and will maintain the database with public data and data we supply them. This will be a large savings in manpower.

They have the capability to make over 1000 calls per minute and send a recorded message. They can also document who was contacted and recall everyone that wasn't, if necessary. One of the main features of this system is that it allows us to highlight an area on a map and it will contact everyone in their database that lives in that area.

This system can also be used to notify people of utility problems and other urgent information that may not necessarily be an emergency. The key to this system is the data available and that is where we need your help. Through a recent test we discovered the data from the mapping portion is not complete and we are working with the Rutherford County GIS to improve this. The best way to ensure that you are in the system is to go to the Town web site at www.townoflakelure.com and click on the CodeRED link. This will take you to a page where you can enter your information to be placed in the call list database. This will ensure your information is correct so you can be notified in case of an emergency or other urgent information concerning Lake Lure. Note that you can enter more than one number, including cell phone numbers if you want to be notified even when you are away from your home. In fact, you can enter a number at another address, if you live in another location part of the year. The numbers that you list, other than your

Lake Lure address, are strictly optional and for your benefit.

If you have any questions please call me at 828-625-9333.



1CUSTOMER SERVICES

by Linda Ward

The Lake Advisory Committee has proposed to the Lake Lure Marine Commission an increase in fees as follows:

Annual Resident - from \$100.00 to \$150.00 with a limit of 1000 being sold.

Non-Resident - from \$500.00 to \$600.00 with a limit of 50 being sold.

Commercial - will all increase by \$50.00 per boat over last years prices.

A couple of the other proposals are that “No person shall allow or permit a minor who is under the age of 16 to operate a motorized water vessel on the waters of Lake Lure unless accompanied by an adult (age 21 or older)”, and No water vessels shall be operated at a speed greater than “no wake” speed within 75 feet **of another vessel or** of the shoreline of Lake Lure”. These are proposed items and will be discussed at a public hearing on January 30 at 3:00 pm at the town hall.

We will begin selling 2007 permits on February 15. Be sure to bring the current registration and proof of insurance for any motorized boat that you wish to permit. Even if you furnished that information last year we will require it again for the 2007 permit.

You may purchase boat permits by mail after the 15th of February. The new boat permit application will be on the town’s website (www.townoflakelure.com) by the 14th.

SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL NEWS

by Clint Calhoun, Erosion Control Officer

I am very excited to report that the Town now has GIS technology. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, GIS is an acronym for

Geographic Information Systems. Some of you may have used the technology that is available on the Rutherford County Government website to access property data and so forth. This is just one of the many things that GIS will allow you to do.

Last year, thanks to our newly created local erosion control program, the Town was able to get a grant from the NC Division of Land Resources to assist with building our program in such a way that it could perform successfully. The grant provides start-up funds to be used for equipment purchases and other needs so long as it complies with the Division’s requirements. Because GIS is such a useful tool, we felt like this would be a great way to improve the program. Let me explain how.

Just for starters, GIS technology is basically a mapping system, into which you can input data and be able to visually display it. The technology is based on data layers which can be placed over top of each other to show different things and provide varying types of information. For instance, we can take a map of our Town limits and overlay parcel data and roads. We can select a parcel and see who owns the property (just like you do on the internet). We are not limited to just viewing parcel data however. As an erosion control tool I can use an aerial photo layer and overlay it with topographical data to look at elevations on individual properties. Using a slope layer, I can look at slope steepness and even soil types to determine what the soil erodibility might be like on one site as opposed to another. We can also create data using GPS (Global Positioning System) such as locations of landslides or significant geological or natural features. Using the different layers we can generate tables and reports that track site histories. We can have a better understanding of what types of erosion control measures may be necessary for a particular site when folks submit plans. The technology is also capable of importing CADD (Computer Aided Drafting & Design) drawings and overlaying them over properties to look at placement of erosion control measures in relation to features on the site. This is just what we can do as far as erosion control.

We can create maps showing our water and sewer lines, locations of fire hydrants and water

meters, zoning districts, etc. There is really no limit to the types of things that the technology can do. Already, since obtaining the software, we have been able to use it for helping folks with permit applications and permit review. We can print high quality maps of properties on several different paper sizes. I am tremendously excited about the benefits that this technology will provide.

If you are curious about GIS, come by some time and I can show you what it will do. If you have an erosion problem or you know someone who does, give me a call at 625-9983 ext 123 or e-mail me at eco@townoflakelure.com.

**UPPER BROAD RIVER WATERSHED
PROTECTION PROGRAM**

by Jennifer Beck

Over eighty people gathered on January 13th at the Municipal Center to attend a free, informational workshop that was sponsored by the Upper Broad River Watershed Protection Program. The workshops focused on topics such as landscaping for water quality, perennial gardening, managing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and landscaping on steep slopes. Local residents of the watershed, which includes Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, Bat Cave, Gerton and Broad River; that attended the workshop also received ten free tree seedlings. Over three hundred trees were given away to residents of the watershed to plant in their backyards.



Due to the overwhelming response of the winter workshop we are already planning a spring workshop. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of residents that were interested in learning more about landscaping techniques to help benefit water quality and willing to give up most of a Saturday to do so. We would like to once again thank the presenters and all the attendees that joined us for such a successful event.

LAKE LURE TOURS, BEACH & MARINA
by Bo Williams, Manager

All non-motorized boat rentals (canoes, kayaks, pedal boats etc.) from the Lake Lure Marina have been relocated to the beach entrance across from Margarita Grill. This entrance will be open the same hours as the main beach entrance this season to make parking easier for beach patrons.

The tour boats for Lake Lure Tours will have a new boarding area just east of where they were previously located and will have 2 new handicap accessible piers.

There will be a single price for the beach and water works this year. \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 62+, \$6 for children 4 – 12, free to children under the age of 4 as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Lake Lure residents will be admitted free with an official State of North Carolina picture ID showing a Lake Lure address.

We will also have free movie night on the beach under the pavilion from the middle of August through September. When the beach season ends after Labor Day we will have bon fires following the movies. Stay tuned for further information on this and other exciting planned events including an April 28th Crab Boil, May 19th Pig Roast and August 25 End of Summer Luau.

Grills are no longer allowed on the beach but may be used in the Pool Creek Meadows area.

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
UPDATES**

by Ed Dittmer

The boardwalk along Highway 64/74A between the marina and Lake Lure Beach provides wonderful vistas of Lake Lure, Morse Park and the Rumbling Bald Mountain rock face. Over the years a lot of debris and driftwood has floated up under the boardwalk becoming an eyesore.

In January, the Parks and Recreation Board Vice Chairman Jim Dunn rallied volunteers to pick up nine bags of litter and piles of the wood while the lake was down. The volunteers consisted of Jim Dunn, Rod Anderson, Ed Dittmer and Gary Hasenfus along with five employees of Rafael

Moreno of Hendersonville. Rafael who has landscaped and other things for many families in the area said, "The people in the Hickory Nut Gorge have provided work for me and my men. The community has been good to me and I thought I could give something back to say *thank you*."

The Parks and Recreation also installed accent lights along the boardwalk to improve the appearance. This project was headed up by Martyn Watts with the help of electrician Bob Cameron and Public Works Department's Tony Hennessee.

Martyn and Bob are also investigating the cost of burying the power, phone and cable lines from the ABC store to the Broad River Bridge to hopefully remove these eyesores in the town center area.

NEWS AROUND LAKE LURE

Mountains Branch Library will hold an Author Event for Ed Krause who is an attorney with offices in Buncombe and McDowell Counties. He has written his first novel "Our Kinfolks" which is set in the mid 1980's. This book tells the story of two families living next to each other in a small mountain cove called Corn Still. It is a tale of friendship and cultural conflict.

This event will be held on Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 at the Mountains Branch Library.

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.



Lake Lure Lakefront Owners Association (LLLOA). If you are interested in Lake issues and concerns and own lakefront property on the shores of beautiful Lake Lure, the LLLOA invites you to become a regular 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 \$17.00. You may pick up an application for membership at the Municipal Center or call Bob Keith, Pres. at 828-625-2874 for an application or any questions you may have.

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.

Free online newspaper for Lake Lure, Chimney Rock and Rutherford County. This includes local history, comprehensive calendar, groups, preserving the Gorge, fun things to do in the Gorge and local authors. <http://www.hickorynutgorgenews.com>

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.....The newly formed Lake Lure Detachment consist of local area volunteers. Our main missions are to conduct vessel safety checks, educate the public in recreational boating safety, assist the Coast Guard, state and local authorities in operations such as search and rescue missions. We do not perform ANY direct law enforcement functions and many of our safety courses and vessel checks are free to the public. We are currently accepting applications for volunteers in the Lake Lure Detachment. If you are interested in joining our team contact either Jim Boxerman at 828-779-2670 or Clyde Ingersoll at 828-606-8510. Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 4PM at 718 Buffalo Creek Road. We will be doing our **FREE** spring Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) on **April 14th** at both the town and Rumbling Bald Resort boat ramps from 10AM to 3PM.

Love is in the **Wear Valentine Fashion Show and Luncheon** will be held at 12:00 noon, February 8, 2007 at Larkins on the Lake Restaurant. This event is sponsored by The Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber and tickets are on sale for \$25.00. The fashions will be presented by Auten's on Main and The Pink Corset, both of Hendersonville, North Carolina.

The **Friends Of Hickory Nut Gorge** will host its' annual meeting on February 22, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the Lake Lure Municipal Center. Everyone interested in the gorge is welcome to attend. The purpose of the Friends of Hickory Nut Gorge is to advocate for the natural beauty, wildlife habitat, and the ecological health and integrity of the entire Hickory Nut Gorge. Presentations will include: 1. Status of the Hickory Nut Gorge State Park by Tom Jackson, District Superintendent, State Parks, 2. Biodiversity in the Hickory Nut Gorge by James Padgett with the NC Natural Heritage Program, and 3. Our accomplishments for 2006, by Jerry Stensland and Bob Wald. Light Refreshments will be served.

NOTICE

Notice of vacancy - The town council will be appointing one alternate member to serve on the **Board of Adjustment /Lake Structures Appeals Board** at the regular town council meeting on February 13. If you are interested in serving on this board please come by the town hall to fill out an application or visit our website at www.townoflakelure.com for the application. Application deadline will be February 5, 2007.



The deadline for newsletter articles to be received at Town Hall for the March issue is February 21, 2007.