

# 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*

**January 2007**

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## 1 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

by Jim Proctor

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

by H.M. "Chuck" Place III, AICP

#### 1 THE YEAR THAT WAS

2006 was another eventful year for us here at Town Hall. Here are some brief highlights.

The long delayed water system expansion was completed in all but the last administrative details.

After six years of bureaucratic delays, the funds for the wastewater system improvements authorized by the federal government were finally approved (only to find that costs had escalated to the point that we had to pare the project in half) - this project will actually be constructed in early 2007. There was a lot of concern with the lack of remaining capacity at the sewer plant due to the amount of water infiltrating the system (over 3/4 of the effluent running through the plant is clean lake water). Council approved an "inflow and infiltration" (I&I) study to find the source(s) if this inflow which has begun, but will be completed in 2007.

We continued with projects to improve the operation and safety of the hydro plant, including the relocation of the main control panel to a new building away from the generators. We also negotiated a new contract with Duke Power and were successful in petitioning the NC Utilities Commission to declare that we are eligible for additional credits from Duke which will increase our future revenue. And while on the topic of the dam (more or less), we received a cautionary note from the state that their inspector had found a couple of items which would require a further inspection by a qualified dam engineer. That inspection was completed in December and, except for some minor recommendations for inspection procedures, the engineer stated that our dam is in very good condition.

Dredging seems to be a never ending project and 2006 was no exception. As the year ended, our contract dredger was digging a "sump" (hole) in the riverbed to trap sand coming down the river. Much of this effort was in response to another summer "no-name" storm that pushed thousands of cubic yards of silt and sand into the lake from the watershed above us. That storm also caused the closing of the lake during the week before the busy July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday due to acres of floating debris that also came down the river.

2006 was the year of the Dream House. The HGTV network sponsored a give-away home just outside of the town and from January until April, the developers had a huge tent in the Morse Park Meadows from which they ferried thousands of visitors up the mountain to see the house. Those visitors contributed to a great winter season for local businesses!

We embarked on a project very close to my old city planner's heart with the commencement of a true comprehensive plan for the town. The plan is nearly complete and is based heavily on the results of a detailed survey sent to all property owners and residents (with a return rate of over 30% - 10% is considered a very good return) and the efforts of a huge number of local folk who were on the steering committee or were interviewed as stakeholders. In advance of the plan's completion, the council adopted new regulation controlling the removal of trees in new subdivisions and limiting development on steep slopes.

Recreation in town got a big boost last year with the reformation of the Parks and Recreation Board who hit the ground running at full speed. Work was begun on Gateway Parl (the "pocket park" previously know as Kiwanis Park at the intersection of US 64/74A and NC 9) and the board is currently clearing the first of several trails and paths in the woods above the golf course. There were major improvements at the golf course, too. The new irrigation system was installed, cart paths resurfaced and a bid was let for construction of a new restroom addition to the clubhouse. The town center walkway finally received approval from the state (another project which went through interminable delays), and we hope it will begin soon. The youth center was resurrected after being discontinued for a year. It got off to a great start with a new summer program and has been going strong ever since - including a wonderful performance given by the kids under the direction and sponsorship of the Rutherford County Arts Council.

And finally, the year was capped with a gala benefit dinner hosted by Larkin's on the Lake in honor of our great police department. This event,

entitled "An Evening of Honor" included testimonials and awards and was very well attended.

Within our town hall family, there were lots of changes. There were several departures, most notably the retirement of our popular police chief, Mike Bustle, after eight years "on the job" (as the police like to say). Mike's retirement sparked an internal shift through the promotions of Lt. Eric Hester to Chief, Tommy Lytle to Detective Sgt., Sean Humphries and Robert Owens to Sergeant, and Windy Hobson and Dallas Draper to Corporal. Sgt. Janie Schutz left to become an instructor at the NC Justice Academy and reservists Mark Alexander and Dean Givens were hired full time as patrolmen. The husband and wife team of Dot and Sid Shelton returned after an absence of a couple of years to take over the operation of the youth center.

The community development "division" became a "department" and Shannon Baldwin was named the Community Development Director. Assistant Zoning Administrator Teresa Reed was promoted to Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Clerk Susan Lynch resigned to be replaced by Sheila Spicer, who had been serving as the pro shop manager at the golf course.

Replacing Sheila at the golf course for a brief time was Greg Long who was replaced, in turn, by Matt Griffin. Pro Shop Clerk Nancy Ledford left and was replaced by Claudia Ogle, who had been a part time worked at the course.

In the public works department, Terry Roper left and his place was taken by part-time employee Melodie Potter

As I indicated, it's been another eventful year. I've said it before, but it bears repeating - this is a great place to be and it is truly a privilege to work with each and every one of our loyal and hard working employees. They make my job the best in the world.

### ***HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU!***

Lynn and I wish to all of you the blessings and happiness that have come to us. May your new year be healthy, happy and prosperous.

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

**REGULAR MEETING:** The regular town council meeting was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center.

***Under the "consent agenda," Town Council:***

- \* approved minutes of the November 14, 2006 (regular meeting), and November 15, 2006 (recessed meeting and closed session);
- \* approved a request from Jackie Grimes and Vicki Coggins to suspend the town's alcohol ordinance to serve beer and wine during a New Year's Eve party inside the community hall of the Lake Lure Municipal Center on December 31, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. until midnight;
- \* approved a budget amendment of \$5,000 as submitted by the finance director for a recreation planning study to be done by Isothermal Planning and Development Commission;
- \* approved a budget amendment of \$10,000 as submitted by the finance director to cover unemployment cost requested by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina;
- \* approved a request from Terrence Duffy for the town to accept and maintain roads in Lurewoods Manor Phase II (Lurewoods Manor Drive and Lurewoods Forest Drive);
- \* approved the town meeting schedule for year 2007; and
- \* approved a request from the personnel director as submitted on behalf of the town employees to amend the holiday schedule to include an extra day for the Christmas holiday, consistent with the state and many other local governments.

***Town Council actions:***

- \* held a public hearing and tabled the adoption of Ordinance No. 06-12-12 (amending Chapter 92, The Zoning Regulations of the Town of Lake Lure, relating to setbacks from the shoreline for commercial structures in the R-3 Resort Residential Zoning District); Council members referred this

ordinance back to the zoning and planning board for further revisions; Council members will reconsider this ordinance at the next regular council meeting being held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007;

\* approved a revised performance agreement between the Town of Lake Lure and J.D. Harrison Investments, LLC for "Blue Heron Point";

\* approved a request from J. Edward Kale, III to waive portions of Section 91.17, Preliminary Plat, Subsection (B)(14) of the Town of Lake Lure Subdivision Regulations requiring state permits in advance of a preliminary plat approval for Bald Mountain Farm;

\* approved a request from John Cloud to remove silt from the lake that has accumulated at the mouth of Rock Creek and un-named tributary that enters Firefly Cove (formerly known as "Dirty Dancing Cove");

\* approved a request from Bo Williams, Beach Manager of Lake Lure Tours, Inc., regarding beach admission fees for 2007 and a rental fee for the entire beach; approved free admission to all Lake Lure residents; amended the lease agreement between the Town of Lake Lure and Lake Lure Tours, Inc. for the beach and directed the town manager to revise this agreement;

\* reappointed Chris Braund, Robert M. Keith, and Robert "Bob" Washburn to serve as regular members on the Lake Advisory Committee with terms expiring on December 31, 2008; Blaine Cox was appointed as a regular member to serve on this committee to fill Genevieve Helms's remaining term expiring on December 31, 2007;

\* reappointed Mary Ann Dotson to serve as a regular member on the Board of Adjustment/Lake Structures Appeals Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2009; appointed Vicki Smith to serve as an alternate member on this board with a term expiring on December 31, 2009;

\* reappointed Anthony Brodfuhrer and Jack Lawrence to serve as regular members on the Lake Lure Zoning/Planning Board with terms expiring on December 31, 2009;

\* appointed Edwin C. Haskell, III, Robert "Mac" McKenzie, and Melvin Owensby to serve as regular

members on the Lake Lure Golf Course Advisory Committee with terms expiring on December 31, 2008;

\* appointed Karla C. Brodfuhrer to serve as a regular member on the Lake Lure ABC board with a term expiring on December 31, 2009;

\* reappointed Martyn Watts to serve as a regular member on the Parks and Recreation Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2009; appointed James Dunn as a regular member on this board with

a term expiring on December 31, 2009; appointed Carole McKay to serve as an alternate member on this board filling James Dunn's remaining term expiring on December 31, 2007;

\* approved a budget amendment of \$3,600 for the construction of four speed tables on Boys Camp Road and authorized the town manager to install these speed tables; and

\* approved a budget transfer of FEMA reimbursement funds from the reserve fund to the silt fund.

***In other activities:***

\* heard reports from council liaisons on the activities of various boards and committees.

*Note: Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., in the council meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center, unless otherwise posted. Town Council meeting agendas are available at town hall, posted on the town hall bulletin board located outside in front of the Lake Lure Municipal Center, and may be viewed on the town's website at [www.TownofLakeLure.com](http://www.TownofLakeLure.com). You may subscribe to receive a Town Council meeting agenda in the mail or fax by making a request in writing to the town clerk and paying an annual fee of \$10.*

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE:** Town council held a workshop meeting with the Comprehensive Plan

Steering Committee on Friday, December 15, 2006, 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. Council members plan to schedule another joint meeting (to be announced) with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to continue reviewing the draft comprehensive plan.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE MARINE COMMISSION:** The Lake Lure Marine Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at 4:00 p.m., in the council meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center.

***The Marine Commission:***

\* authorized the funds allocated for fish stocking of the lake to be used for a fish eco-study; and

\* approved all commercial boat license applications submitted for 2007 as recommended by the Lake Advisory Committee.

***Note: Regular Marine Commission meetings are held quarterly during the months of January, April, July, and October on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., in the council meeting room of the Lake Lure Municipal Center, unless otherwise posted. Marine Commission meeting agendas are available at town hall, posted on the town hall bulletin board located outside in front of the Lake Lure Municipal Center, and may be viewed on the town's website at [www.TownofLakeLure.com](http://www.TownofLakeLure.com). You may subscribe to receive a Marine Commission meeting agenda in the mail or fax by making a request in writing to the town clerk and paying an annual fee of \$10.***

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**COMMUNITY POLICING NEWS**

**by Chief Eric Hester**

The Lake Lure Police Department has had a very busy month. We held our First Annual

**EVENING OF HONOR** Benefit Dinner and Awards Ceremony. This Ceremony was presented by Larkin's On The Lake. The evening began with hors d'oeuvres then the Welcome and Announcements followed by the invocation and a wonderful dinner. After dinner there was an Awards Banquet held in honor of the Lake Lure Police Department. There were approximately 60 people within the Town of Lake Lure who had reserved seats and participated in this special event. This entire evening was very special to all the officers and their families who mingled with all that were present, getting to know a lot of people in our community on a first name basis.

A couple of months ago Mark and Larkin Hammond, owners of Larkin's On The Lake, along with their General Manager Kyle Pertuis came to me and presented the idea of wanting to do something special for the Lake Lure Police Department. I thought it would be a great idea but did not know how everything would turn out; I wasn't aware of this ever being accomplished before in Lake Lure. Kyle and I talked on several occasions and he had some great ideas that we tossed about, and with all their hard work they made this **EVENING OF HONOR** happen. They contacted sponsors for the awards ceremony, the dinner, and also for a contribution that was given to the Lake Lure Police Department at the end of the awards ceremony. The entire staff at Larkin's put on a wonderful evening with great service, food and desserts.

Kyle and his wife April began the ceremony by giving out awards for **Rookie of the Year** to Patrol Officer Brandon Ellenburg, the **Distinguished Service Award** to Sgt. Sean Humphries and the **Community Service Award** to Cpl. Windy Hobson. The next award was considered the **Chief's Award** which I presented to Detective Sgt. Thomas Lytle, **Larkin's Officer of the Year**. Then the **Citation of Bravery Award** was given to the Lake Lure Police Department as a whole. Kyle and April Pertuis presented the last award to myself, Chief Eric Hester, for **Integrity and Leadership**.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mark and Larkin Hammond and all their staff for making this Evening of Honor so very special. I would also like to thank all the sponsors and all the people in our community that were able to participate in our **First Annual Evening of Honor**.

Congratulations Mark Alexander for winning the Lake Lure Police Department's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Top Gun Award.

### YOUTH CENTER

The Lake Lure Youth Center along with Rutherford County Arts Council Director Matthew McEnnerney held its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Drama/Play December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lake Lure Municipal Hall. The drama consisted of about 30 children participating in "**Esop's Fables**". It was exciting and a lot of fun for the children that participated and the audience. I would like to say a special thanks to Matthew McEnnerney and his wife for taking the time to make this drama happen. I would also like to thank Dot and Sid Shelton and all the parents that made sure their children were able to be present during all the practices that took place to prepare for this drama. We are looking forward to hosting another drama sometime early next year.

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### 1CUSTOMER SERVICES by Linda Ward

The 2007 boat permits will be available for sale February 15, 2007. The boat permits issued for 2006 will be good through March 1<sup>st</sup> when the lake is raised.

The town will begin raising the lake the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in February with hope of having it as close to full pond as possible March 1<sup>st</sup>.

You must have your current state registration and proof of insurance of \$300,000.00 for all motorized boats with you when coming in for your 2007 boat permits. **This is required each and every year.**

**SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL NEWS**  
**by Clint Calhoun, Erosion Control Officer**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. If everyone else is like me, you probably ate way too much and exercised way too little. Among my New Year's resolutions, exercising is a top priority as I am now about 25 pounds heavier than I want to be and two to three waist sizes above where I need to be. But I digress...

We are finally moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for real now as we have purchased brand new GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software through a grant from the NC Division of Land Resources. This technology will allow us to do our own mapping and planning activities, and will allow us to analyze different factors that influence erosion and project these onto maps. It will also allow us to conduct other projects by collecting real-time data through GPS and applying it to project planning. We are currently in the data collection phase and trying to build up our database of layers and shape files that are necessary in order to do create our own datasets. This tool will be very handy and will hopefully revolutionize the way we plan projects and track existing ones. I am also looking forward to the challenge of learning how to use the software and doing the data collecting.

In other news, many of our citizens and visitors have seen the bald eagles on the lake. The eagles presently nest in a tall, skinny pine tree over on Blue Heron Point. The developers of Blue Heron Point are aware of the nest and are working with various agencies to minimize disturbance to the nest area. Because of the presence of the eagles, however, I have been asked by the NC Division of Water Quality to report all bald eagle activity on the lake, especially in the vicinity of Blue Heron Point.

These particular eagles, may be fairly young and inexperienced in that the tree they chose for a nest tree is not ideal for a sustainable nest site. Eagles typically use the same nest tree year after year, building onto the existing material. Eagles' nests can reach several feet in height and width and can become quite heavy, which is why having a good tree to build in is essential. So far we do not

have enough data to be able to make too many assumptions about this particular pair of eagles. No one knows exactly how long these particular eagles have been using the site or even if they will be permanent residents to the area. There are records of past eagle sightings in Lake Lure, but no records of any permanent nesting pairs.

In order to conduct the data collection that needs to be done, I have put together a data sheet which asks a series of questions to provide key information about the eagles and their activities. The data that is collected will be put into GIS so that we can track it and make assumptions. The information gathered will be used for planning purposes and shared with various agencies so that proper wildlife management practices can be applied. If you would like to be a volunteer observer, please contact me and I can provide you with the data sheets and instructions for how to collect the data. This is a very important task and the data collected could be invaluable for determining the likelihood of a continued resident eagle presence. Bald eagles are a federally listed threatened species and a state listed endangered species. Habitat availability is a key factor in determining success and productivity. Lake Lure is not an ideal location for a large number of eagles, but we certainly don't want to run off the ones that we have and proper habitat management is the key to keeping them here.

If you have an erosion problem or you know someone else who does, please contact me at (828)625-9983 ext. 123 or [cco@TownofLakeLure.com](mailto:cco@TownofLakeLure.com).

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**GOLF COURSE NEWS**  
**by Matt Griffin**

I want to start out by saying that I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that everyone got what they were hoping for this Christmas and enjoyed being with their families through Christmas and into the New Year. Speaking of the New Year, it brings with it

the opportunity for a fresh start and a new beginning.

We here at the golf course are going to make our fresh start with a fresh new look, we are remodeling the inside of our pro shop, a much anticipated "dream" for both us and our Town Manager, Mr. Chuck Place. The remodeling project is being handled by Rick Barnes and his crew. Those of you who don't know them; they do an outstanding job, at a price well below what others would charge for the same job.

I would like to announce that we have a new group of people heading our golf course advisory board. After all the applications were looked over, Edwin Haskell, Robert "Mac" McKenzie, and Melvin Owensby join Jerry Wright, John Thompson, Woody Price, and Jeanine Noble on the committee.

I would like to remind everyone that we are still having our Captain's Choice Tournaments on Sunday at 2:00pm through the winter months. And as always you can call or come by and see me here at the golf course. Until next month God bless and good golfing.

*Quote of the Month: "As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round." -Ben Hogan*

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

Many residents of Lake Lure will take advantage of a nice winter afternoon by hiking in the woods. While enjoying your time outdoors you may notice that many local Hemlock trees have a white, woolly substance that resembles minute cotton balls on the underside of the needles. These cotton balls are indicators of a growing problem in western North Carolina-the presence of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an aphid insect that was introduced to the United States in the 1920's and has quickly become a pest for our

native Eastern Hemlock trees. The HWA feeds exclusively on coniferous trees and there are currently no native pests to combat the growing populations of aphids. Female HWAs will reproduce asexually in the fall and lay an ovisac that contains 100-300 eggs on the underside of the Hemlock branches. These egg sacs are the white cotton balls that are obvious to hikers in the winter months. The larvae will emerge in the spring and settle at the base of the needles. At this point the larvae will begin to feed on fluid from the tree. This action disrupts nutrient flow within the tree, retards growth and causes the tree to permanently drop the needles. The trees are left in a weakened state and will die within a few years.

Infestation of HWA has affected most of the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. There are currently two methods of treating trees to prevent a HWA infestation. The most practiced method involves using chemical control via soil injection or applying chemical to roots. However, additional research is being conducted on the use of biological control by introducing beetles, a natural predator of the HWA, into the environment.

If you suspect that several of your Hemlock trees could be prone to a HWA infestation or want to learn more please consider attending our free workshop on January 13 at Lake Lure Municipal Center. Tom Remaley, a forester with Great Smoky national Park, will be discussing their HWA management practices. Additional information is also available on the website at [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/hwa.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/hwa.shtml).

Information on the workshop can be found at [www.upperbroadriver.org/winter\\_workshop1.htm](http://www.upperbroadriver.org/winter_workshop1.htm) or call 625.9983 ext 123.

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**LAKE LURE FISH &  
ECO SYSTEM  
by Ross Worden**

Trout stocking has been delayed due to many complaints about the poor fishing during 2006 in general.

At this point I have to agree that it's not been a banner year for any species. My logs from years past indicate that trout fishing has been productive in October, November and December and in many outings I have yet to catch a single trout.

Sunday, December 3, did produce 2 largemouth bass with one of those going 2 ½ lbs. and seventeen inches. This bass was as fat as butter and very healthy.

We have surveyed the lake extensively with high power sonar and have detected an abundance of fish plus schools of bait. I recently counted twelve blue heron on the lake indicating that there is a good bait food supply for them.

I have discussed all of this with our local wildlife fish biologist and we have come to a conclusion that our sports fish are just too well fed. We feel that trout stocking would help reduce the bait fish population and possibly help balance things out but our stocking only provides approximately 2 ½ fish per acre, so their impact is relatively unknown. Extremely cold weather can cause a thread-fin shad die off but that's unpredictable and usually indicated by an invasion of seagulls.

Presently the town is attempting to engage an independent fish biologist to solve the puzzle. In the meantime expect lousy winter fishing.

## Happy New Year

### NEWS AROUND LAKE LURE

**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.

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

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**Be a Hospice Volunteer and discover the many ways to serve!** The next classes will be Tuesday through Thursday, January 16, 17, and 18, from 10am to 3pm at the Hickory Nut Gorge Hospice Office in the Lake Lure Arcade Building. Please call the Hickory Nut Gorge Office to register at 625-0365.

**Rutherford County Arts Council** and the Town of Lake Lure will host a meeting to discuss arts and cultural programs for the Lake Lure/Hickory Nut Gorge area. The meeting will be held from 2 – 4 pm on Sunday, January 7 in the Community Hall.

Topics to be covered will include plans for youth programming, community and professional theatre, musical presentations, and other areas of

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interest. All individuals interested in cultural programs are invited to attend and share in the discussion.

## **NOTICE**

**Lake Lure Tours is closed for the season and will re-open in March. If you have a special need concerning Lake Lure Tours during the off season please contact Manager Bo Williams at 828-625-2009.**

*The deadline for newsletter articles to be received at Town Hall for the February issue is January 24, 2006.*