



Woodfin Journal

A publication of the
Town of Woodfin

Autumn 2018



From Your Mayor...

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Spring and has had a very nice Summer. Even with some of the weather problems, I think Woodfin has pretty well dodged some bullets -like Hurricane Florence which thankfully passed around us recently.

While stormwater remains a significant issue, the Town is working to eliminate some of the problems along Weaverville Road and other places concerning flooding. Some of the problems involve private property and some involve DOT. Hopefully, progress will be forthcoming soon.

I want to emphasize once again the efforts being made by the Town regarding cars which have no insurance and no current tag on them. If you have such a vehicle or vehicles, you must, at least, have them covered with either a car cover or a tarp, otherwise the Town will cite you for having a junk vehicle and possible tow it from your property. Your cooperation with this project will be greatly appreciated. If you need assistance in determining how to deal with your untagged, uninsured, or inoperable vehicle please contact Town staff which will be happy to help.

I want to thank our Public Works crew and Police Department for their hard work. As you can imagine, at times their jobs can be very difficult. As always, should you have input for me, the Board or the Town, please feel free to contact us. After all, we are working for you.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer-like weather as we head into fall and get your home prepared for the fast approaching winter months.

Jerry

M. Jerry VeHaun, Mayor of Woodfin

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Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 9-1-1

- Woodfin Police 253-4889
- Woodfin Town Hall 253-4887
- Woodfin Public Works 645-7063
- Curbside Management- 252-2532
- Woodfin Fire District 255-7561
- Woodfin Water District 253-5551
- Woodfin Community Center 253-4888.
- Woodfin ABC 658-9300
- Woodfin Elementary School 232-4287
- Metropolitan Sewerage District 254-9646



Rent the Community Center

Looking for a great place to host your next big event? Then look no farther, the Woodfin Community Center can accommodate more than 200 of your closest friends, it comes complete with chairs, tables, a stage and a full kitchen. You can rent the building for 24 hours for only \$200 plus a \$200 refundable* security deposit. Make your reservations today by calling 253-4887.

**security deposit refund is contingent upon condition of building after use.*

What's Happening Along the River?

In 2016 the voters of Woodfin overwhelmingly passed a bond referendum to invest \$4.5 million dollars into redeveloping the French Broad River into a major recreational asset for the Town as well as a means of enhancing development and encouraging sustainable growth along the river.

Since the passage of the Woodfin Greenway Bond municipal staff has been busy working with other governments, non-profits, private organi-

zations and volunteers to put together a plan that will make the people of Woodfin happy with their investment—a process that sometimes seems to take much longer than it should, but good development requires solid planning.

While the people of Woodfin have agreed to tax themselves for \$4.5 million dollars, the Town has been able to leverage that investment to secure additional funding sources accruing more than \$13 million dollars in commitments from outside agencies

and groups towards the project. In total the proposed budget for the Woodfin Greenway-Blueway project has risen to a little over \$18 million dollars and we intend to start raising private donations from businesses and individuals in the very near future.

Our plan is to offer ways for almost anyone to participate in helping name certain aspects of the park whether they have \$100 dollars or a \$100,000 to contribute to the process. Stay tuned for more details to be released shortly!

Animal Waste Disposal Law

Many of us have pets that we love and cherish, but all animals produce at least one thing that none of us particularly care for waste.

Recently the Town has noticed a problem with people disposing of cat litter and other animal waste by pouring it directly into a trash can. This practice is dangerous for our employees who must handle the garbage and leads to longer term opportunities for the spread of disease. All animal waste must be disposed of in tightly closed plas-



tic bags. Using old grocery bags is acceptable, but the bags must be sealed or tied and free of leaks. This is a matter of safety and general courtesy to the men and women who collect our garbage.

In the event that animal

waste is deposited into a garbage can without being sealed in a plastic bag the offending address will receive a written warning. After the initial written warning municipal staff will begin issuing fines in order to gain compliance with the law.

The Town appreciates our pet owners and their desire to enrich their lives with companion animals, by taking a few extra minutes to ensure that we are all disposing of our animal waste correctly and safely we can make sure that our community is cleaner and that our employees are safe.

Winter is Coming! - And this has nothing to do with Game of Thrones!

Most years snowy, cold weather arrives in the mountains of Western North Carolina—many recent years have been worse than usual and this year is expected to be especially cold—every year calls for assistance come into Town Hall that sound familiar refrains:

“My pipes are frozen!”

“I can’t get out of my driveway or down off the mountain!”

“The power’s out and we’re freezing!”

“The power’s out and we don’t have any lights!”

These problems can really impact your family’s quality of life during a severe winter storm and in some cases it can impact your very survival. The good news is that a lot of these problems are easily overcome with a little bit of planning and preparation. Many people who have recently moved to Town may not be familiar with some of the tried and true techniques that will help you make the best of even the trickiest winter weather and all of us could do with a refresher course now and again.

Problem one: *“My pipes are frozen!”*

When renting or buying a home make sure that any exposed pipes



whether under the house or on the exterior are well insulated. If they aren’t, now is the time to make sure that they are appropriately wrapped. Even with well insulated pipes it’s a good idea to keep a few water taps dribbling in the sinks to reduce the chance that water can freeze in the pipes. Not only can frozen pipes be an inconvenience, they can be an expensive mess to clean up.

Problem two: *“I can’t get out of my driveway or down off the mountain!”*

Plan ahead. If you live on top of a mountain or have a steep driveway make arrangements to park your car somewhere that it can more easily get out. Make sure that you are not parked in the street, however, because snowplows may not be able to clear your street if you park or abandon your car in the road. During severe weather a car parked in the street is subject to immediate towing if necessary to clear the street.

Speaking of clearing the streets, it’s important to

recognize the limitations of snow plows and salt spreading. While the Town of Woodfin consistently earns high marks for its snow clearance efforts, it is impossible to entirely remove ice and snow during certain weather conditions. If the temperature is substantially below freezing salt cannot melt ice. Likewise if snow is falling at a very fast rate it is impossible for our crews to keep all streets clear of snow at all times. The Town of Woodfin manages more than 30 miles of roads and contains another 30 miles of state maintained roads. Keeping these roads passable is an operation that often requires 24 hour shifts from our public works crew. Streets are cleared on the basis of the following criteria: 1. major traffic arteries, 2. streets that are deemed treacherous, 3. major side streets, 4. secondary side streets. This system is designed to maximize the flow of traffic and maximize public safety. If your street is not clear please call Town Hall at

828.253.4887 or email jasonyoung@woodfin-nc.gov, but also please understand that there is a method to how streets will be cleared and in what order. Also note that the Town cannot plow a private driveway.

Problems three and four: *“The power’s out and we’re freezing!”*

“The power’s out and we don’t have any lights!”

We put these two problems together because they have a common solution, prepare an emergency kit. Winter weather is coming and power outages are a fact of life in this region when snow and ice arrive. Prepare now to ensure that your winter is one of happy memories rather than teeth chattering, darkness and hunger. At a minimum your winter survival kit should include: flashlights, ample supply of prescription medicines, bottled water, ready to eat foods such as crackers, energy bars or ready to eat meals that don’t require cooking, books and/or board games, a battery operated radio, blankets, and an alternative source of heat that doesn’t rely on electricity. *Follow these tips and your winter storm experience will be significantly better.*





Town of Woodfin

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Email: jasonyoung@woodfin-nc.gov

“Where Community Matters!”



How Would You Like the Chance to Start Taking Your Own Garbage to the Landfill?

In order to earn the opportunity to become your very own sanitation department all you have to do is place hypodermic needles in your garbage without placing them in a Sharps container or other hard wall plastic container like a laundry detergent bottle.

It is against the law to dispose of needles improperly and it places our employees at risk of injury, infection or even death. Obviously this level of risk is unacceptable and the Town of Woodfin will suspend garbage pickup to any home found in violation until an action plan to prevent its reoccurrence can be developed. Repeat violators risk termination of service, civil and or criminal charges.



Community Yard Sale - Get Signed Up Today!

How many times have you looked around your basement or garage and thought I need to have a yard sale? A yard sale is a great way to clear out some stuff you don't use anymore while putting a little bit of extra cash in your pocket. What's not to like, right? While a yard sale is a great way to turn your junk into cash it does come with a few problems.

Parking & Traffic—most of us don't have lots of extra parking spots and parking on the street can create traffic trouble for

your neighbors. **Early Birds & Late Arrivals**—Even when you've posted the hours of your yard sale clearly there's always someone who wants to get there early to rifle through everything before the crowds show up. Then there's the guy who pulls up while you're trying to clean things up wanting to see what you've got left.

Advertising & Signs—Putting the word out about your sale can be a costly endeavor —not to mention time consuming putting up signs and taking

them down.

Why not let us help you host your yard sale and remove some of the headaches. For \$15 you can rent a spot at the Town's first ever community yard sale to be held at the Woodfin Community Center, Saturday November 3rd. We've got plenty of parking, we will be enforcing the hours of operation and we'll handle the advertising..

To learn more about signing up for the Woodfin Community

Yard Sale check out our Facebook page to get the details or call Jody at 253.4887 ext. 1000.

