

WAYNESVILLE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

BE BEARWISE!

Part of what draws people to Western North Carolina is the unique and diverse wildlife that call these mountains home. As humans infiltrate wild spaces, run-ins with wildlife can become more common. One such iconic Appalachian species is the American Black Bear. Black bears are not true hibernators, so they can remain fairly



active in the winter. Food is scarce in the winter time, so they will occasionally look for food in unusual places, such as trash cans. Bears can smell food up to a mile away, so even if you live far from a bear's natural habitat, they may still be able to locate your trash cans using their sense of smell.

Here are 6 things you can do at home to be more "BearWise":

1. Never feed or approach bears. While black bears usually have a natural fear of humans, they can feel threatened by human presence and will defend themselves if provoked.
2. Secure food, garbage, and recycling. Consider placing trash to the curb the morning of your collection day, as opposed to the night before.
3. Remove bird feeders when there is bear activity. Bears see bird feeders as high calorie bear feeders come fall and winter then they're trying to pack on the pounds!
4. Never leave pet food outdoors. Try to feed single portions and bring pet food in at night.
5. Clean and store grills and smokers. The grease traps and grills themselves smell irresistible to bears!
6. Let your neighbors know if you see a bear and share with them how they can be "BearWise".

The BearWise® program was developed by black bear biologists and is supported by State wildlife agencies. BearWise shares ways to prevent conflicts, provides resources to resolve problems, and encourages community initiatives to keep bears wild. Visit bearwise.org for more info.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: EXEMPLARY BIORETENTION CELLS AT MOUNTAIN CREDIT UNION

Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) are devices that are designed, constructed, and maintained to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff before the water reaches our streams and drinking water supply reservoirs. Examples include dry ponds, wet ponds, permeable pavers, bioretention cells, raingardens, underground detention systems, and sand filters.

Bioretention cells at Mountain Credit Union stand out as an exemplary use of nature-based stormwater management. A bioretention cell is an excavated area that is filled with a specialized soil media, plants, or grass. It is designed to temporarily hold and filter stormwater. As one the most effective stormwater management practices, bioretention areas also contribute to the reduction of the heat coming from the parking lot.

The Credit Union incorporated bioretention cells into their landscape and created effective stormwater management by capturing and managing runoff. These cells mimic natural processes that allow water to slowly penetrate the ground, filter pollutants, and reduce runoff from the property. The Credit Union's bioretention cells feature attractive shrubbery, resilient plants, thorough grass cover, carefully placed rip-rap, and vegetative swales. By adopting and maintaining these natural solutions, Mountain Credit Union is an inspiring example of responsible stormwater management and environmental sustainability.



WINTER BLUES ARE OVER WITH INDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES!

Cold weather and gray skies can make it easy to want to say inside. The Waynesville Recreation Department offers lots of opportunities to help you meet your New Year resolution of getting healthy and beat those winter time blues!

The Old Armory located at 44 Boundary Street has indoor pickle ball courts available for use on Saturdays. 8am-12pm is expert play and 12pm-5pm is for open/novice skill levels. Don't know how to play Pickleball? Sign up for lessons at the Rec Center on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9am to noon. Members get free lessons, but you must register in advance by calling 828-456-2030.

The Recreation Center recently received new Keiser M3i spin bikes and offers spin classes Monday through Thursday, 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This class offers climbs and intervals set to music with customizable intensity so everyone can enjoy a great workout. Just because it's cold out doesn't mean you can't enjoy a swim!



The Rec Center boasts a waterpark for the kids, as well as an eight lane lap pool. After a swim, guests can utilize the sauna located on the pool deck. Be sure to call the rec center to confirm pool and waterpark hours before visiting (828-456-2030).

The Rec Center offers many other workout classes. You can see the calendar of classes by visiting waynesvillenc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/fitness-classes

LET IT SNOW!

Winter time brings chilly weather and potential snow showers. The Town of Waynesville Public Services Department has the equipment to make snow a little more manageable.

If the forecast calls for snow, staff will spray local roads with a brine mixture to help prevent icy conditions. Waynesville also has snow plows in its fleet. Staff will prioritize plowing roads that are emergency vehicle routes and that are the most heavily travelled. To make snow plowing easier for staff, please move vehicles and trash cans from the streets.

2024 HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Martin Luther King Jr Day- Town offices will be closed on Monday, January 15 No garbage pickup on Monday-January 15 (Will be picked up on Tuesday January 16)

Good Friday- Town offices will be closed on Friday- March 29 No garbage pickup on Friday- March 29 (Will be picked up on Thursday-March 28)

Memorial Day- Town offices will be closed on Monday-May 27 No garbage pickup on Monday-May 27 (Will be picked on Tuesday-May 28)

Independence Day- Town offices will be closed on Thursday-July 4 No garbage pickup on Thursday-July 4 (Will be picked up on Friday-July 5)

Labor Day- Town offices will be closed on Monday-September 2 No garbage pickup on Monday September 2 (Will be picked up on Tuesday September 3)

Veterans Day- Town offices will be closed on Monday-November 11 No garbage pickup on Monday-November 11 (Will be picked on Friday November 8)

Thanksgiving- Town offices will be closed on Thursday-November 28 and Friday-November 29 No garbage pickup on Thursday-November 28 (Will be picked up on Wednesday 27 for Thursday's residential trash route Oakdale-Country Club Auburn- Hendrix park area. Hazelwood-Eagles Nest Route and commercial trash will be picked on Friday-November 29)

Christmas- Town offices will be closed on Tuesday -December 24, Wednesday December 25, Thursday-December 26 No garbage pickup on December 24,25,26 (Garbage for Dec 24 will be picked up on Monday Dec 23 Trash for Dec 25,26 will be picked up on Friday Dec 27.)

More information on trash pick up, as well as the schedule for bulk and yard waste pick up can be found at waynesvillenc.gov/services/trash-pickup



Waynesville to Hold Public Input Meeting for Stormwater Master Plan

The Town of Waynesville is hosting a public input meeting as part of the stormwater master plan study on **Thursday, February 22, from 4-7 p.m. at the Waynesville Recreation Center (550 Vance Street).**

In October, the Town contracted with WithersRavenel, Inc. to launch a stormwater master plan study. The 32-month project will develop a stormwater master plan the Town can use as a guiding document. The plan will identify flooding problems, propose solutions, and create a strategy for putting those solutions into action to improve the infrastructure capacity. The stormwater master plan will focus on key study areas and prioritize a list of projects that can become part of the Town's capital improvement plan.

Public input is an important component of the stormwater study. The feedback received during the public input meeting, in conjunction with the community survey data and field work by the contractor, will be used to create the stormwater master plan. All residents are invited to attend the meeting and provide their input. Topics discussed during the public input meeting will include water quality concerns, flooding issues, and possible solutions for mitigating stormwater issues.