



The Pinnacle

Letter from Mayor Lynch

Dear Fellow Residents and Business Owners :

“As summer comes to an end and fall begins, we can reflect on a busy and successful summer here in the Town of Unicoi. The Town facilities were alive with people all summer long: from Freedom Festival to Movies in the Park and the Mountain Harvest Metric. The Ice Cream Social, Pickin’ on the Porch, and the Pinnacle Trail Challenge were also great events ran by our Town’s volunteer groups. These volunteer groups work hard to provide the Town with meaningful programs and events that truly reflect on the heritage of this area. There are a number of upcoming events that will take place this fall and we hope that you will be a part of them.

On Monday, September 19 the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the bid documents for the Mountain Harvest Kitchen. Nearly a decade in the making, the Kitchen has gained many partners and a large amount of exposure. For example, Randy Boyd, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, will feature the Kitchen this month at the Governors Conference in Nashville and use it as a model across the state. As we reach the final stretch in this project, I want to thank the Mountain Harvest Kitchen Board for their guidance through this project. Though the work of the board will continue beyond the opening of the facility, it is important to know that their dedication to this project has brought us where we are today. The future of the Kitchen looks very bright and I am excited that our Town can serve our community while creating job opportunities.

Finally, if you have any suggestions on ways to improve the Town please call Town Hall (423) 743-7162. “

-Mayor Johnny Lynch

Town of Unicoi
—Upcoming Events—
October-December

Mondays—Pickin’ on the Porch,
6 to 8 p.m., Bogart-Bowman
Cabin

October 7 & 8 – Community
Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Tourist Information Center

October 14—Heritage Days
(reserved for elementary
schools), 9 to 3 p.m., Bogart-
Bowman Cabin

October 15—Heritage Days
(open to the public), 11 a.m. to 3
p.m., Bogart-Bowman Cabin

November 5—Veterans Day
Meal, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tourist
Information Center

November 26—Town Tradition
Christmas Parade 2:00 p.m.

December—Christmas Decorat-
ing Contest, Deadline December
14, Judging December 15-16,
Awards December 19

December 10—Old Timey
Christmas, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Bogart
-Bowman Cabin

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In The Beautiful Buffalo Valley



What's New?

Grant Awarded Tennessee Arts Commission

In June the Tennessee Arts Commission awarded the Town of Unicoi a \$7,010 Placemaking Grant for the Unicoi Buffalo Project. The state Arts Commission designed this grant program "to help build stronger communities through the arts and enhance the distinctive character of local Tennessee places for positive economic and community outcomes."

The centerpiece of this grant is an artist-in-residence program. The goal of this program is to demonstrate the art of carving, highlight the region's heritage, and create a buffalo relief sculpture to be displayed at the Tourist Information Center. Artist Joe Pilkenton of Painted Horse Studio was selected to take the lead on this project. Mr. Pilkenton recently began sculpting the relief on the front porch of the Tourist Information Center. He stated, "I am sculpting a relief of Tatanka grazing in The Beautiful Buffalo Valley. Tatanka is the Indian word for buffalo."



Mr. Pilkenton will sculpt on-site, at the Tourist Information Center, each Tuesday and Wednesday after 10:00 a.m. where visitors will have the opportunity to view the artist in action.

Town of Unicoi Updates

Freedom Festival draws thousands

Thousands gathered at the Unicoi Elementary School grounds on July 4th to enjoy music by Daisi Rain, Jen Allen & the Tennessee Zip, and The Benny Wilson Band followed by fireworks all provided by the Town. Despite the short rain intermission, the fireworks were enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Town Maintenance staff, Danny Coffie and Tony Street, for your hard work putting the fireworks display together. "The Town works very hard to put on this event and we have a lot of fun doing it. This event is like a homecoming for the citizens of Unicoi and people across the region. We have a lot of out of town guests attend with their local family members and they really enjoy the show," said Vice Mayor, Doug Hopson. A special thank you to Jones and Church Farms, Inc. for sponsoring one of the bands. The event turned out to be the best attended Freedom Festival in history. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Movies in the Park hits record attendance

August 12th concluded the Summer Movies in the Park Series at Buffalo Creek Park. Nearly 100 participants gathered to watch the movie Pixels, hitting a record high for attendance. Michelle Linville expressed her appreciation for events like this on the Town Facebook Page by saying: "Thank you! Loved having something to do with the kids on a Friday night! It is so hard to find anything to do with five kids that didn't cost an arm and a leg, we really appreciated having something like this going on so close to home, in an area that everybody feels safe!" The Town plans to continue these movies again next year.

Mountain Harvest Metric Ride

On September 10, the Town of Unicoi hosted the first annual Mountain Harvest Metric Ride through the beautiful mountains of Unicoi and Carter County. The ride, created to generate awareness about the Mountain Harvest Kitchen, hosted 53 riders choosing to take part in the 32 or 66-mile ride. Throughout the course, riders were able to stop at 3 different farm stops, Jones and Church Farms, Inc., Scott's Strawberry and Tomato Farm, and Farmhouse Gallery and Gardens. Each of these stops were stocked with samples featuring fresh fruit, vegetables, or granola. At the end of the race, riders were provided a "farm to table" pizza with all fresh and local ingredients. This ride proved to be a success, and it will become an annual Town of Unicoi event. Thanks to our great sponsors and farm stops!

Pinnacle Trail Challenge & Hunger Hike

The 4th annual Pinnacle Trail Challenge and Hunger Hike was held on Saturday, October 1 with over 30 participants. All event proceeds were donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, a member of Feeding America. Alderman and Unicoi Business Alliance Treasurer Jeff Linville was excited to spearhead this event again for the second time. Mr. Linville stated, "This event started off as a conversation with the Forest Service, and developed into an event to promote trails in Unicoi County. The quality of runners that attend this event is high considering this event is such a challenge. Everyone had a good time. Sponsorships have been great. Roadrunner Markets, Mountain Commerce Bank, and Los Jalapenos have been supporters of this race since the beginning and we are appreciative of their loyalty to the cause." Without help from sponsors, affiliates, and volunteers, events like this one would not be possible.

Spotlight on Local Businesses-

Food Business in Unicoi

Known locally and throughout the region, Clarence's Drive-In and Maple Grove Restaurant date back to the two oldest restaurants in the Town of Unicoi. On any given day, license plates from all over can be seen in the parking lot at both of these restaurants. It goes without a doubt that the home-cooked food and southern hospitality keeps the customers coming back to these two local restaurants for more.

Clarence's Drive-In

In 1969, Clarence's Drive-In opened as a family business featuring home-cooked food. Originally, the restaurant did not feature breakfast; ironically, the restaurant is now known for their famous made from scratch biscuits and gravy. Over the years, the restaurant has continued ownership within the family. Co-owner, Teresa Collins purchased her half of the restaurant in 1989.

Today, Clarence's employs around 21 people year round with a large array of menu items ranging from breakfast to dinner. Mrs. Collins mentioned that she is constantly trying to have a "balanced menu for different generations." Specials on Fridays, senior and kids specials, gluten-free options, and vegan and vegetarian options are featured on the menu. Mrs. Collins said part of what she enjoys most about co-owning the restaurant is her ability to make decisions as she sees fit in order to cater to the customers.

Mrs. Collins stated, "we are a small place, kind of out in the boonies, but we try to make it worth someone's while for the trip." Be sure to keep your money local and stop by Clarence's for breakfast, lunch, or dinner!

Clarence's is open Monday-Saturday 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday 7 a.m. – 9:p.m.

Maple Grove Restaurant

Family owned and operated, Maple Grove, is a popular place among the locals. In 2005, the parents of Luc Vance took over ownership of Maple Grove Restaurant and a year and a half ago ownership changed to Mr. Vance and his wife.

Employing up to 32 people at a time, Mr. Vance has made it his goal to "provide his employees with life." He mentioned, "I enjoy giving people lifestyles and opportunities to work, I know how hard it is to find a job."

Menu items range from breakfast to dinner at Maple Grove, and there is truly something for everyone on the menu. Fridays feature a fried fish special. Averaging 80-120 pounds of fish sold on Friday alone.

When asked what his favorite part of owning the restaurant Mr. Vance said, "I love the hospitality. I love the people. I love the people I work with. If it weren't for the everyday people we wouldn't be here. I don't know if it is the prices, portions, or the people but somehow it all comes together."

Maple Grove is open Tuesday-Saturday (Summer) 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. and (Winter) 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 pm. Closed Monday.

Billy Markins Volunteer of the Quarter



We're excited to honor our exceptionally talented team of volunteers each quarter by choosing one volunteer to highlight in our newsletter. This time, we would like to recognize Billy Harkins as our Volunteer of the Quarter.

Serving as a volunteer for several years, Billy has generously given his time to the Town in many different capacities, some of which include sitting on boards and assisting with events. Billy has served as an active member of the Town of Unicoi Planning Commission, History Committee, and Unicoi Business Alliance, attending countless meetings and events for each board. Recently, Billy volunteered to sit on the Animal Control Board as a Town representative. Billy also attends the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings to keep up to date with all of the current happenings within the Town. Thank you for everything that you do to support the Town, Billy, your loyalty does not go unnoticed!



** The Town intends to highlight two (Unicoi) businesses in each issue.**

Interested in Volunteering?

There are many ways in which you can volunteer within the Town. If you would like to volunteer at Town events or sit on one of our many volunteer boards, please contact Sarah Jennings for further assistance (423) 735-0317.

New Business

Economic Development

Mayor Lynch stated, "We are always doing things to bring in new business here in the Town of Unicoi. By offering a quality of life here through programs and events we are a more inviting region for economic development."

The Town is pleased to be able to add the Dollar General to our list of new businesses as well as Roadrunner in the coming months.

La Meza Mexican Restaurant

Friday, July 8th marked the Grand Opening celebration for La Meza Mexican Restaurant in the Town of Unicoi. Mayor Johnny Lynch and Alderman Jeff Linville presented owner Anabel Andrade and her husband with a certificate from the Town along with a promise to assist with business promotion. Anabel spoke with passion about the opening of the restaurant and explained that "dreams do really come true."

Open seven days a week, the restaurant offers fresh, authentic Mexican food choices along with a few classic American dishes.

La Meza is open Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Stop in and try one of the many wonderful dishes made from fresh ingredients!

Mountain Harvest Kitchen Update

Mountain Harvest Kitchen moving forward

A ten plus year project in the making is in full swing at the Mountain Harvest Kitchen. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) returned the Mountain Harvest Kitchen architectural drawings with their stamp of approval on Thursday, August 11. This stamp of approval gave the Town a green light to move forward with the bid process. Approval was required from EDA to comply with the EDA Grant which is funding over \$350,000 of the project.

Since approval, the Construction Bid process has been completed. Armstrong Construction was awarded the bid by the Town of Unicoi Board of Mayor and Aldermen on Monday, September 19. Construction will begin in the coming months.

Upon completion, the Mountain Harvest Kitchen in the Town of Unicoi will be a certified commercial kitchen designed and built to support the development and growth local and regional food-related startups. The facility will be available for rent 24/7 to individuals and businesses for food processing. Housed in a 4,000 square foot building, the kitchen will provide two (2) food processing areas with industrial grade equipment, a research and development lab, a receiving area, walk-in freezer and refrigerator, dry storage and office space. The facility will be inspected and hold health and safety certification by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as well as the Tennessee Department of Health. These certifications will enable food prepared in the kitchen to meet the requirements sufficient to ensure that they are able to be sold in markets.

Potential users include bread and pastry bakers, food/candy product entrepreneurs, mobile food cart/truck vendors, canners, caterers, and professional chefs. The Kitchen can be used to create products for resale or simply for personal use.

The Mountain Harvest Kitchen is designed to foster food business development in Unicoi and throughout the surrounding region by offering support resources and services to entrepreneurs interested in the food product and culinary fields. The kitchen will offer physical space, education, common services, and the networking connections necessary for sustainable business development. Among those services will be entrepreneurial trainings that will ensure that users will have the knowledge essential for successful business creation.

Mountain Harvest Kitchen Board

The Mountain Harvest Kitchen Board, made up of 17 members, whom are volunteers, meet on the first Thursday of every month to discuss, advise, and oversee the Mountain Harvest Kitchen project. The dedicated volunteers in this group are from diverse backgrounds, making the Kitchen unique.

To find out more about the Kitchen or join the volunteer board, please call Town Hall at (423) 743-7162.

Thank you to the Mountain Harvest Kitchen Volunteer Board for your dedication!

Cast Your Vote

Good Neighbor & Good Organization Awards



The Town of Unicoi invites the public to submit nominations for the 2016:

8th Year Samuel Edmond Leedy "Good Neighbor" Award

&

3rd Year Samuel Edmond Leedy "Organization Good Neighbor" Award

The Samuel Edmond Leedy "Good Neighbor" and "Organization Good Neighbor" Award is given annually to a citizen of the Town of Unicoi by the Town of Unicoi in honor of the late Samuel Edmond Leedy.

Let us know who your "Good Neighbor" and "Organization Good Neighbor" candidates are. Complete the forms below and submit to Unicoi Town Hall, 3600 Unicoi Drive, P.O. Box 39, Unicoi, TN 37692,

By: Friday, October 14, 2016

The 2016 Samuel Edmond Leedy Awards will be presented

Monday, October 17th

at the Board Mayor and Alderman Meeting at Unicoi Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Good Neighbor Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Reason for Nomination _____

Nominated by _____ Phone _____

(If possible, please include photo of nominee)



Good Organization Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Reason for Nomination _____

Nominated by _____ Phone _____

(If possible, please include photo of nominee)



Adult Education HSE Program

The Washington and Unicoi Counties Adult Education/HSE program, formally known as the 'GED program', is now open and in full swing. For information about earning your High School Equivalency Diploma, call (844) 637-5697. The Washington County Adult Education/HSE program is now located at the downtown Johnson City Campus of Northeast State Community College, 101 E Market Street. Stop in or call (844) 637-5697 for registration information, and get started on the path to earning your High School Equivalency Diploma today. Be on the lookout for Unicoi County Adult Education classes and location. Registration now in progress!

Unicoi Volunteer Fire Department Smoke Detectors Available

The Unicoi Volunteer Fire Department still has a number of smoke detectors available to the residents. If you are interested in having one installed in your home, free of charge, please contact the Volunteer Fire Department at (423) 743-7921 and leave a message. Thank you to our Volunteer Fire Department for all of your hard work and dedication to the people of this Town.

We want to hear from you

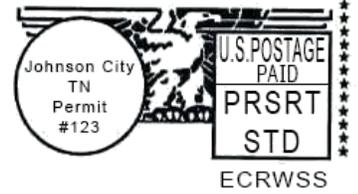
As a Town, it is our responsibility to make sure we are providing citizens with exceptional services and experiences. Please call Town Hall, (423) 743-7162, to report problems or to make suggestions. We appreciate your feedback.

Town of Unicoi - The Pinnacle



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

In The Beautiful Buffalo Valley



ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF UNICOI encourage citizen participation in governing the Town and welcome citizens to attend all Town meetings.

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN MEETINGS are held on the third Monday of each month at 5:30pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS meetings are currently held on the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm.

All meetings are held at Town Hall. Citizens can find notices of meetings and agendas several days prior to each meeting at the following locations: Unicoi Post Office, Unicoi Town Hall, and the Tourist Information Center.

We welcome your attendance and participation in all town meetings. Please come, volunteer and give suggestions.

Town of Unicoi Facilities		
Bogart-Bowman Cabin	5012 Unicoi Drive	423-735-0317
Buffalo Creek Park	5012 Unicoi Drive	423-735-0317
Mountain Harvest Kitchen	105 Unicoi Village Place	423-743-7162
Pinnacle Tower Trail/Jack Snider Park	101 Powder Hollow Rd	423-735-0317
Tanasi Gallery	106 Unicoi Village Place	423-735-0217
Tourist Information Center	106 Unicoi Village Place	423-735-0317
Town Hall	3600 Unicoi Drive	423-743-7162
Town of Unicoi Staff Directory		
Johnny Lynch	Mayor	423-743-5963
Doug Hopson	Vice Mayor	423-747-2219
Kathy Bullen	Alderman	423-220-6862
Jeff Linville	Alderman	423-220-9821
Todd Hopson	Alderman	423-743-7162
Mike Housewright	City Recorder	423-743-7162
Sarah Jennings	Director of Parks and Recreation, Public Relations	423-735-0317
Tina Wilcox	Administrative Assistant	423-743-7162
Tony Street	City Maintenance	423-743-7162
Danny Coffie	City Maintenance	423-743-7162
Dwight Harrell	Building Inspector/Code Enforcement	423-743-7162
Trish Bennett	Appalachia CARES/AmeriCorps Member Volunteer Coordinator	423-735-0517
Suzan Harkins	Housekeeping	423-735-0426