



The Pinnacle

Letter from Mayor Lynch

Dear Fellow Residents and Business Owners :

“As we move right along in 2017, we continue looking to the future. Road improvement projects, completion of the Mountain Harvest Kitchen, addition of parking at Jack Snider Park, and other projects of service are all part of the strategic plan for the year. If you have suggestions or concerns, please relay them to us. We are always looking for your input. A copy of the Town of Unicoi Strategic Plan can be found on our website www.unicoitn.net.

As we head into Spring, the staff is hard at work planning several events and festivals for the community. Old Fashioned Easter, Fiddlers and Fiddleheads Festival, and the Wayne Scott Strawberry Festival and Parade are just a few of the things that the Town has in store for the new year. We hope everyone in the community will participate in all of the events and projects we have planned for this year. We look forward to seeing you“

-Mayor Johnny Lynch

In The Beautiful Buffalo Valley



Town of Unicoi —Upcoming Events— January-May

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

April 14th – Old Fashioned
Easter & Egg Hunt, 1 to 3
p.m., Bogart- Bowman
Cabin

April 28th – Model A Hill
Climb, 9 a.m., Bill Garland
Road

April 29th – Fiddlers and
Fiddleheads Festival, 10
a.m. to 7 p.m., Farmhouse
Gallery and Gardens

May 5th & 6th –
Community Yard Sale,
Tourist Information Cen-
ter, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 20th – Strawberry Pa-
rade, 9 a.m., Unicoi Dr.

May 20th – Wayne Scott
Strawberry Festival, 10
a.m. to 5 p.m., Unicoi Ele-
mentary School

[www.facebook.com/
townofunicoitn](http://www.facebook.com/townofunicoitn)

2016 Sam Leedy Good Neighbor



Mark Ramsey

The Samuel Edmond Leedy "Good Neighbor" Award is given annually to a citizen of the Town of Unicoi by the Town of Unicoi in honor of the late Sam Leedy. Ballots were cast in October, and the citizens chose their "Good Neighbor," Mark Ramsey. Congratulations to Mark for receiving this award.

TN Yellow Dot Program

Tennessee Yellow Dot packets are available for FREE at Unicoi Town Hall or the Tourist Information Center. The TN Yellow DOT Program is designed to provide first responders with an individual's medical information in the event of an emergency on Tennessee's roadways. The information can mean the difference between life and death in the "Golden Hour" immediately following a serious incident.

Town of Unicoi Updates

Unicoi Heritage event brings large crowd to cabin

Hundreds gathered at the Bogart-Bowman cabin this past October to celebrate the heritage of the Town of Unicoi. As participants took a step back in time, they were able to see what life was like during the late 1700's/early 1800's. Rope making, basket weaving, hearthside cooking, and blacksmithing were just a few of the demonstrations that took place during the event. On Friday, Unicoi Elementary School students were able to attend the event, and on Saturday, the event was open to everyone. Thank you to the Town of Unicoi History Group for your commitment to the preserving and showcasing the history of Unicoi.

Over one hundred Veterans honored

On November 11th the Town of Unicoi History Group hosted a Veteran's Lunch to honor veteran's and active military for their service. Over 100 people were served lunch, including around 70 service men and women. Thank you to everyone who has served or is currently serving our country!

Holiday events draw record numbers

The holidays are always a busy time within the Town of Unicoi and this year was no exception. On Saturday, November 26, local business, churches, and civic groups lined up all along Unicoi drive to participate in the annual Christmas Parade. Hundreds of children and adults waited in parking lots of local business and on street corners to spectate, collect candy, and see Santa. Thank you to all of the organizations that participated in making this one of the best Christmas parades yet! Christmas at the Cabin was held on Saturday, December 10 at the Bogart-Bowman Cabin. Participants enjoyed visiting with Santa, a candy cane hunt, listening to Christmas stories, and much more. Town Recorder Mike Housewright conducted the lighting of the Christmas tree to end the festivities for the evening.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and assisted with all of the holiday events this past year!

Citizens input requested

If there is something that you would like to see featured in the newsletter, please contact Sarah Jennings by phone (423) 735-0317 or email sjennings@unicoitn.net.

Spotlight on Local Businesses-

Mountain Commerce Bank

Acquired from Erwin National Bank in 2006, Mountain Commerce Bank has made it their mission to “grow and prosper, build long-term relationships based on top quality service, high ethical standards and core-funded, safe and sound assets.” Since opening in 2006 the bank has grown what was once 80 million dollars in assets to more than 620 million dollars in assets as of December 2016.

Kevin Horne, Chief Communications Officer of Mountain Commerce Bank, said the success of the bank is due to the loyal clients of Unicoi County. “Our customers are the backbone of the bank, their loyalty is phenomenal.” he stated.

MCB has 4 employees at the Town of Unicoi branch and a total of 11 employees across the county.

Mountain Commerce Bank is open Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Meet the Board of Mayor and Aldermen

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) are dedicated to serving the best interests of the people within the Town of Unicoi. Get to know your board members!



Mayor, Johnny Lynch



Vice Mayor, Doug Hopson



Alderman, Kathy Bullen



Alderman, Roger Cooper



Alderman, Jeff Linville

Ronnie Lail 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 Ronnie Lail as our Volunteer of the Quarter.

Serving as a volunteer for several years, Ronnie has generously given his time to the Town, specifically volunteering with the History Group. Through the History Group Ronnie attends regular meetings and assists with event preparation and execution. Thank you for everything that you do to support the Town, Ronnie!

Volunteers are an essential resource for the Town. Our programs and events would not be made possible without the dedication of all our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in YOUR town, please let us know!

Volunteer Fire Department

The Unicoi Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank all of the residents and businesses for their donations. These donations help the daily operations and to train Fire personnel. This year alone the members of the Fire Department put in over 1,240 volunteer hours, installed over 300 smoke alarms, and responded to over 160 fire, medical, and auto accidents.

Save the Date

Wayne Scott

Strawberry Festival

Saturday, May 20 the Town of Unicoi will hold their Annual Wayne Scott Strawberry Festival at Unicoi Elementary School. We are now accepting vendor applications for craft and food vendors. A copy of the application can be picked up at Unicoi Town Hall, the Tourist Information Center, or online at:

www.unicoitn.net/events

HERBalachia

New Herbalist Training School in Unicoi

Have you committed to learning new skills this year? HERBalachia Herb School teaches about Appalachian medicinal plants and hands-on herbal medicine-making featuring both wild-crafted and propagated species. The 7-week course begins March 17. To register go online to www.HERBalachia.com

Mountain Harvest Kitchen

POWER Grant Awarded to Town of Unicoi

On Wednesday, October 26 the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) held a press conference at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, Virginia to announce 42 grant awards across 13 states as part of the Federal Government's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. The POWER Initiative is a multi-agency effort to strengthen the economy by attracting new industry and investment in the region and creating job opportunities where they did not previously exist.

The Town of Unicoi was awarded \$353,086 through the POWER Initiative for the Mountain Harvest Kitchen. ARC funds will purchase equipment and provide funding for entrepreneurial training offered in partnership with AccelNow and the Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council for start-ups and established businesses in the agricultural sector. The Kitchen program is expected to serve a nine-county region in northeast Tennessee and northwest North Carolina, create 30 new businesses and 60 new jobs, serve 91 trainees, and leverage \$1,200,000 in private investment.

Construction moves forward

We are far along in the construction of the Mountain Harvest Kitchen and progress is right on track for a spring completion. Photos reflect progress as of February 27th. Additional construction progress photos can be found at www.facebook.com/MHK.UnicoiTN



Kitchen Incubator Manager search continues

The Town of Unicoi and the Mountain Harvest Kitchen board members are currently searching for qualified applicants to apply for the Kitchen Incubator Manager position. Education in food and nutrition-related topics, entrepreneurial training, and food safety procedures are included in core services provided by the MHK. The Manager will support the MHK through management of the kitchen/food processing facility and will direct facility operations to support fulfillment of client production and business resource needs. A full description of the position is at www.unicoitn.net/mountain-harvest-kitchen

Town Updates Continued

Open Door Sessions to begin on monthly basis

As part of an effort to keep citizens informed, the Town of Unicoi will begin holding a monthly Open Door Session on the 4th Monday of each month at the Tourist Information Center from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This session, led by the Mayor or his board designee, will allow citizens to ask questions or address any concerns pertaining to the Town. Everyone is invited.

Unicoi Business Alliance takes on Fiddle Festival

After much discussion, the Unicoi Business Alliance (UBA) has decided to take on the 22nd Annual Fiddlers and Fiddleheads Festival. With assistance from the Town of Unicoi, the UBA plans to take this established festival and grow it with hopes of strengthening the Business Alliance and encouraging new members. In addition to the regular car show and pickin', hand crafted vendors, processed food vendors, and commercial food vendors are going to be selling products at the festival. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, contact Sarah Jennings at (423) 735-0317. If your band is interested in playing at the festival, contact Trish Bennett at (423) 735-0517. Save the date, April 29 from 10am-7pm, and be sure to attend this exciting event!

Town purchases replacement snow truck

On Wednesday, January 26th during a called BMA Meeting, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the purchase of a snow truck for the Town of Unicoi. The truck was purchased and delivered to the Town of Unicoi on Wednesday, February 15. This vehicle was purchased to replace the Town's existing snow truck and assist Terry Haynes and his crew with snow removal from the roads as it has in the past.

Thank You To the Vol. Fire Dept.

We would like to thank the Volunteer Fire Department for hanging the Town of Unicoi seasonal banners throughout the Town. Each season, they assist the Town by hanging the banners at no charge to the Town. Along with hanging the banners, the Volunteer Fire Department hosed off the logging debris and mud on Lakeview Drive.

Decorating Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Home Decorating Contest and congratulations to the winners:

Best use of lights:

Spears Family

Best theme:

Ira Hodge and Family

Best overall appearance:

Phillip and Margie Hensley

Also, a big thank-you to the volunteer judges: Billy Harkins, Maryanna White, and Kenneth White.

We want to hear from you

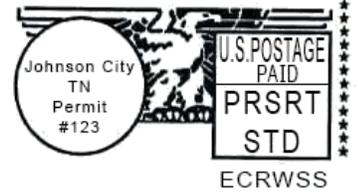
As a Town, it is our responsibility to make sure we are providing citizens with exceptional services and experiences. Please call Town Hall, (423) 743-7162, to report problems or to make suggestions. We appreciate your feedback.

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 at Town Hall 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
Roger Cooper	Alderman	423-743-7162
Jeff Linville	Alderman	423-220-9821
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	Recreation Aide	423-735-0517
Suzan Harkins	Housekeeping	423-735-0426

