

TOWN OF PINETOPS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

TRASH, RECYCLING, AND BULKY ITEMS REMINDERS

Please make certain **not** to place any trash/garbage into the **BLUE** bins, which are **only for clean recyclable items!** Only the **GREEN** bins are meant for trash and garbage! **Blue bins with any trash in them will not be collected** and will be cited. Non-recyclable items in the recycling bins can cause the whole load to be rejected and result in fines/costs to the Town. You may request an extra trash bin, if needed, for an additional charge.

Also, we ask that you please become familiar with the new rules introduced last fall regarding what is collected for items other than basic trash and recycling that fits in the bins. We have reprinted the policy on the back of this newsletter for your convenience. **Of special importance, please note that the Town no longer picks up any construction/demolition debris, whether created by the owner or contractors.** Also, for yard debris, please separate the limbs from all loose yard debris. Your cooperation is appreciated and needed to keep costs down and our community looking great!

NEW ELECTRIC RATE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 2023

Beginning with the July bill, the Town implemented a single/flat-rate system for Residential Customers. This fulfills a commitment your current Board of Commissioners made in 2022. Previously, the Town billed according to a two-tiered rate structure with one rate for up to 750 kilowatt hours (kwh) and a lower rate for all usage above 750 kwh for the monthly billing period. Effective with the July 2023 billing, the residential electric rate has changed to \$0.1360 for all kwh usage, and there was also a slight increase in the base charge to \$13.66 per month. The most-previous rates were \$0.1429/kwh for up to 750 kwh, \$0.1298 for usage above 750 kwh, with a base charge of \$11.66/month.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

The Board of Commissioners would like to thank all who came to the open forum on July 27, 2023, at the Pinetops Old Sparta Community Center. We appreciate all of your questions, concerns, and other input. We would also like to thank the great folks at the Community Center for providing the excellent venue space! Please be assured that we have taken note of all the topics you brought forth and are looking into them. Also, remember that you don't have to wait for a special forum like this to give input and ask questions of your Town. The Board of Commissioners meets the first Tuesday of each month (except for July) at 6:00 PM, and the agenda always allows for brief, limited public comments. Also, the Town Administrator and your Town Hall Staff are always available every Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to serve you in person or by phone. Town staff should be your first point of contact for all requests, questions, and issues.

SCHOOL OPENS SOON

This is a reminder that school opens the last week in August, and as usual traffic can be heavy around 7:30-8:30 am and 2-3:30 pm Monday through Friday; this is especially true during the first two weeks of school as schedules and routines are formed. Please keep this in mind, and as always put safety first!

As always, if you have any questions or feedback on these topics or anything else, do not hesitate to contact Town Hall.

TOWN HALL- 252-827-4435

POLICE DEPARTMENT- 252-827-5014

TOWN OF PINETOPS RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND COLLECTION POLICY

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-192 and Pinetops Town Code Chapter 7, Sec. 7-1: "It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to deposit or otherwise dispose of any garbage, trash or refuse of any kind upon any street, sidewalk, public place or vacant lot, or in any gutter or drain, or in any cistern, well, pond or water-course which is a source of water supply for any person of the town." The following guidelines are to remind and educate the community to aid in the enhancement of the Town of Pinetops Solid Waste Program.

1. **Household waste is collected weekly in GREEN totes on Monday** (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday). Place household waste in bags before placing it in the tote, especially loose items such as charcoal, food, or other wet items.
2. **Household recyclables are collected bi-weekly in BLUE totes on every other Tuesday** (Wednesday if Monday is a holiday). **NO HOUSEHOLD WASTE (TRASH/GARBAGE) OF ANY KIND CAN BE PLACED IN THESE BINS!**
3. **Yard Waste** (leaves, shrubs, pine straw, grass clipping, tree limbs) **is collected once a week, on Wednesdays**. Please place it at the curbside but not in the road, and do not mix with other items to be picked up. Please separate the leaves from the branches and other debris. Limbs can be no longer than 5 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter. Please limit the amount of material per pickup to a pile approximately 5 ft. wide, by 10 ft. in length, by 4 ft. high. The Town will not pick up any trees cut down by contractors/landscapers and/or from large land-clearing type projects; these debris must be disposed of by contractors or residents.
4. **Construction/demolition/building debris will not be collected by the Town**. Residents will be responsible for the removal of these items from property whether generated via a contractor or resident themselves. Contact the Edgecombe County landfill at 252-827-4253 for advice on how to dispose of such items.
6. **Bulk items** (e.g., furniture, mattresses) are collected on **Thursdays**. Lawn mowers must have the battery removed and fluids drained, gas grills must have the tanks removed.
7. **Other items the Town does not collect:** Appliances (e.g., washers, dryers, refrigerators...), electronic item (e.g., televisions, laptops, desktops, monitors, video displays, printers, scanners, and other computer equipment), fluorescent lights, thermostats that contain mercury, batteries, car parts, canisters that contain fuel, or other household hazardous waste. Please contact the Edgecombe County landfill at 252-827-4253 for disposal options for these items or visit https://www.edgecombecountync.gov/departments/solid_waste_landfill/index.php. The Town does not pick up cleanouts of houses or rental units.

PLEASE NOTE: If any of the items the Town does not collect are left by the roadway for more than seven (7) days, there will be a fine of \$125.00, plus all costs associated with disposal, in addition to any other ordinance violations that may apply.

As always, please contact the Town Office at 252-827-4435 with any questions.