

will run until February when the members will have completed 170 hours of training. Many of our emergency medical personnel are also trained fire fighters. They do double duty and take training classes continuously.

In the last 12 months, members of BMVFD have responded to 154 calls for medical or fire emergencies. The average time for all calls is 8.19 minutes, a very short response time which is necessary in many cases to saving lives. The ongoing training and dedication and leadership of the Department make this possible. Calls are answered at any hour of the day or night. The Department is in the business of saving lives and property.



BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Rick Owen
 Vice Mayor Paul Piquet
 Alan Holcombe
 Cindy Keller
 Rick Miller

TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULES

The Beech Mountain Town Council meets at 4 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month: November 10, December 8, 2016 meeting schedule to be decided.
 The Planning Board meets at 9 a.m. the last Tuesday of each month: November 24, December 29, January 26, February 23.
 The Tourism Development Authority meets at 9:30 a.m. the last Wednesday of each month: November 25, December 30, January 27, February 24.
 The Recreation Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month: November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4.
 The Board of Adjustment meets, as needed, at 6 pm on the first Tuesday of each month: November 3, December 2, January 5, February 2.
 The Tree Committee meets as needed at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month: November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1.

STAFF

Town Manager: Ed Evans (828) 387-4236 ext. 226
 Finance Officer: Steve Smith (828) 387-4236 ext. 225
 Town Clerk/HR: Jennifer Broderick (828) 387-4236 ext. 224
 Tax Collector: Rebecca Ward (828) 387-4236 ext. 223
 Utility Billing Clerk: Mary Riley (828) 387-4236 ext. 221
 Building Inspector: John Merritt (828) 387-4236 ext. 227
 Public Works Director: Riley Hatch (828) 387-9282
 Police Chief: Shawn Freeman (828) 387-2342 ext. 233
 Parks and Recreation Director: Sean Royal (828) 387-3003
 Planning Director: James "Jes" Scott (828) 387-4236 ext. 237
 Utilities Director: Robert Heaton (828) 387-9282
 Fire Chief: Robert "Bob" Pudney (828) 387-4612
 Tourism and Economic Development: Kate Gavenus (828) 387-9283



**BEECH MOUNTAIN
 2015 CALENDAR**

"Eastern American's Highest Town"

- JULY**
 - 4th Independence Day Picnic
 - 47th Annual Roasting of the Hog
 - 12th Veterans' Celebration
 - 17-19th Bikes, Brews and Views Fest
 - 18th Town Hall Street Dance
 - 25th Buckeye Regatta, Bonfire & Dance
- AUGUST**
 - 1st Crafts on the Green & Street Dance
 - 1-2nd Fire Department Tennis & Golf Tournaments
 - 15th Town Hall Street Dance
- SEPTEMBER**
 - 5-6th Mile High Kite & Craft Fest
- OCTOBER**
 - 3rd Munchkinland Family Adventure
 - 3rd-4th Autumn at Oz
 - 10th Leaf-Lookers Hayride
 - 30th Halloween Celebration
- NOVEMBER**
 - 28th Holiday Market & Buckeye Bakeoff
- DECEMBER**
 - 12th Santa Comes to Beech Mountain
 - 19th Breakfast with Ms. Claus
 - 19th Yule Log Bonfire & Hayride
 - 31st New Year's Eve Celebrations
- ALL YEAR:** Buckeye Recreation Center Guided Hikes
- ALL SUMMER:** Concerts, Scenic Lift Rides, Disc Golf, Fishing, Hiking, Mountain Biking, Canoeing
- ALL WINTER:** Ski Report: 800-438-2093 Sledding Hill: 800-468-5506 Ski/Snowboard Races & Snowshoe Hikes

**More info on shopping, lodging, and dining:
 800.468.5506 • BeechMtn.com**

BEECH MOUNTAIN EAR



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN



Fall
 2015

**Beech Mountain New Town Manager
 Ed Evans**

Beech Mountain's Town Council voted unanimously Friday, Sept. 18, 2015 to hire Ed Evans, who has worked as Seven Devils Town Manager since April 2009, to take the helm as their new Town Manager. In their search for a qualified candidate, the Town Council recognized the positive momentum that the Town has gained in moving towards its goals and sought a leader capable of sustaining and leveraging this momentum to continue making Beech Mountain a wonderful place to be in the High Country.



Ed Evans stood out among candidates with his extensive education, experience, and character. Ed holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Planning and a Master's degree in Public Administration, both from Appalachian State University. In addition to these degrees, Ed has furthered his education in the field of Local Government development and administration by earning a Certified Zoning Official (CZO) designation and pursuing a certification as a Certified Economic

Developer (CECD).

As the Town Manager for Seven Devils, Ed has hands-on experience in managing a resort town and tourist destination in the mountains of Western North Carolina. He is familiar with the numerous unique challenges faced in such communities and has succeeded in many of the same roles he will play in Beech Mountain. His work included extensive involvement with areas such as public relations, grant writing, and project management. These strengths will be advantageous to Beech Mountain as the Town continues to implement its long-range Comprehensive Plan and the recommendations of the Beech Mountain Water and Sewer Study.

Perhaps most importantly, Ed has demonstrated character and the ability to lead others through his distinguished service in the U.S. Marine Corps and his leadership of the Town of Seven Devils. In his role with Seven Devils, Ed successfully cultivated productive working relationships with his staff, elected officials, and the community which enabled the Town to improve services while maintaining sound fiscal policies.

Ed's diverse and extensive background and experiences make him exceptionally qualified to lead Beech Mountain as the Town continues to move onward with its current and future projects and programs. He will assume his duties as Beech Mountain's Town Manager beginning Monday, October 19, 2015.

Town of Beech Mountain Breaks Ground on New Water Treatment Plant



On Friday, September 18, 2015 the Town of Beech Mountain held a ground breaking ceremony for our new Water Treatment Plant. Frizzell Construction has laid out an 18-month timeline to complete the new plant. This state-of-the-art plant will enable the town to be responsive to changes in water conditions due to snow melt and heavy rains; and, will meet Public Water Supply standards and EPA goals.

Mayor Rick Owen said, "We are pleased to be able to improve our services to our residents and visitors. The new plant will have a 40 year life expectancy and will be capable of processing 1.5 million gallons per day. The plant will replace the current treatment plant, which has been in operation since 1986."

When the plant is ready to go online, it will be operated simultaneously with the current Water Plant for a period of time while local and state staff conduct quality assurance testing so that there will be no break in providing water service to the community.



Pictured L to R: Town Council Members Alan Holcombe, Cindy Keller, Rick Miller, Mayor Rick Owen, Vice-Mayor Paul Piquet.

BEECH MOUNTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

403 Beech Mountain Parkway, Beech Mountain, NC 28604
Phone 828-387-2342 Fax 828-387-4181



With winter weather quickly approaching, the Beech Mountain Police Department would like to emphasize the importance of winter driving preparedness. Prior to the onset of winter weather, ensure your battery and ignition systems are in top shape. Check your belts and hoses for cracks or fraying. Ensure your fluids levels are proper to include anti-freeze, oil, de-icing washer fluid, etc. Ensure you have wiper blades that are in good shape and make sure all of your vehicle lighting is operational. This includes headlights, taillights and emergency flashers. Finally, properly lubricate door locks to help prevent freezing.

The key to winter driving is to always be aware of the ever changing weather conditions on Beech Mountain. The National Weather Service will issue watches and warnings. A **winter storm watch** means there is potential for snow and ice within 24 to 36 hours. A **winter storm warning** is when a storm is producing or forecast to produce heavy snow and ice. A **blizzard warning** is issued for winter storms with sustained or frequent winds of 35 mph or higher with considerable falling and/or blowing snow that reduces visibility to ¼ of a mile or less.

Please go to the department's website <http://beechmtnpolice.org/> and friend us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. When we receive any weather reports we post them as soon as they are received so that everyone can be informed as it pertains to winter weather and safety issues.

Chief Shawn Freeman



Notice- New Litter Policy

In an effort to better handle litter problems, the Town is implementing a new method for dealing with garbage and litter beginning November 1st. Bears and other animals are attracted to garbage, especially food items, and throw the contents of the garbage bins, the bins and other containers all around—often breaking the bins—creating unsightly areas.

Upon noticing overturned garbage bins, or other issues where trash has been scattered about, Town employees will clean up the litter and the homeowner will be billed for this service at a rate of \$60/hour or major fraction thereof. Cleanups taking thirty (30) minutes or less will be billed \$30. These service fees will be in addition to any penalties that may be applicable.

Thank you for using precautions when dealing with your garbage and helping to keep Beech Mountain clean and beautiful!



Planned Improvements to Buckeye Creek Road

Known as the "back gate", Buckeye Creek Road provides the only alternative to Highway 184/ Beech Mountain Parkway for accessing the Town of Beech Mountain. Currently this 2.5 mile gravel road is unpaved, and not suitable for a significant amount of traffic. The Beech Mountain Planning Board and the Beech Mountain Tourism Development Authority, as well as the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Beech Mountain, have recognized the importance of improving Buckeye Creek Road and have made doing so a major goal.

This summer, the Town applied for a federal grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission to

fund the paving and improvement of Buckeye Creek Road. The Appalachian Regional Commission has notified applicants that final funding decisions will be made during the month of October. Preliminary feedback has been very favorable for the Town. If awarded, this grant would cover 100% of the cost of these improvements.

Improving accessibility via Buckeye Creek Road will carry significant strategic benefits to the Town and its residents. For many, an improved and viable Buckeye Creek Road will offer a shorter travel time to Boone. This improved convenience will carry many economic benefits by tying Beech Mountain to the larger economic community. It will bring more tourists to Beech Mountain and facilitate commuting for a number of workers.

An improved northern route from the Town of Beech Mountain will also increase interaction with the recreational amenities of the Watauga Lake area of Tennessee opening new marketing opportunities.

Beyond convenience and economic benefits, an improved Buckeye Creek Road will also provide an important second route of ingress and egress to Beech Mountain in the event of an emergency.



Beech Mountain
Volunteer Fire Department



Membership News

The Beech Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (BMVFD) currently has 42 members. Although we lose some members due to moving, new people join so that we are able to maintain our membership at the 40 to 45 level. Training and providing gear for new members is an ongoing process.

Of these members currently we have 12 EMT's and 1 Paramedic in the emergency medical area. We also have 2 nurses who are members of the Department. A new training course for EMT's began in September and five of our members are in it. This course requires attendance two nights a week from 6 to 10 p.m. and