



YOUR NONPROFIT, COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1997

The Fairview Town Crier

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FVFD Chief Scott Jones posted on Facebook: "Our staff was completing an end-of-missions debriefing and decided to gather around the flag pole and pray for our community and families, as well as the family of our firefighter who died in the line of duty. Someone looked up and at the same time caught this picture. We have no words!"

Helene Was Strong... BUT WE ARE STRONGER!

On September 26, the rain started. It continued throughout the darkness, accompanied by the unmistakable sound of trees cracking and falling and crashing. Power flickered and went out. County water and wells stopped flowing. Creeks became rivers without banks that grew in width and strength to claim more land. Mountains began to slip away down, down, down. Each of us has a story of the catastrophic event that has forever changed our lives.

We also have stories about the amazing strength, kindness, sacrifice, perseverance, ingenuity, love and hope from others that touched our lives, and changed us forever.

First responders jumped in and stayed in despite their personal needs. We had a massive influx of strong, kind and generous people from all over the state, region and country that came to our rescue, and are still here, still rescuing. Folks with chainsaws. Folks in

helicopters. Folks on horseback, and even folks with mules. Folks with water and food and clothing. Charitable groups and churches of every denomination collecting donations, buying supplies, sorting items and organizing systems of getting much-needed items to the most isolated, farthest away, stranded folks in need. And our government—local, state and national—is also active on the scene.

The devastation of this storm could not have been predicted. And while many are still without power and/or water, and many, many have lost homes and businesses and the tools of their trades, and sadly some have lost loved ones and neighbors, one thing is for certain—all have been touched by this outpouring of simple, undefinable love. And slowly, hope is returning that we will come back even stronger. We already know how to support local. We now know the importance of doing so even more.



Celebrating Helpers and Hope

When we are able to publish and deliver our regular-size format again, we want to feature your stories of hope and heroes. Send photos of those amazing moments when joy and relief took over your loss and fear. Give a shout out to those special people and groups that truly made a difference—first responders, church groups, government workers, linemen, utility workers, neighbors, strangers and others.

Email ralph@fairviewtowncrier.com; text/call 828-808-4830; post on the Crier's Facebook page; or deliver hard copies to the blue dropoff box outside the Crier's office at 1185 Charlotte Highway.

...and Honoring Those We Lost

If you have lost a family member and would like to publish a photo and memorial in the paper, use the contact info listed above. (There is never a charge for memorials.) Note: We can only print obituaries sent or approved by an immediate family member.

HOW TO GET ASSISTANCE FROM FEMA

(excerpted from a post by the Downtown Manager of Hendersonville)

FEMA has declared Individual Assistance (IA) for Hurricane Helene. This means you can apply for assistance to help offset your disaster-related expenses. Apply online at disasterassistance.gov, call 800-621-3362, or download the FEMA weather app and apply for assistance there and upload receipts. Whichever method you choose, the form has a few tricky questions. To avoid delay, follow the following tips.

1 SAVE ALL RECEIPTS!

2 THINK PAST TENSE. One question asked is "Do You Have Emergency Needs?" Think past tense. During your evacuation or while at home during the storm, do/did you need help with gas, medication, food (meals, water, loss of power and food spoilage); shelter (you are staying/stayed with friends, family or in a hotel); clothing; or durable medical equipment (oxygen, walkers, cane, glasses, all major equipment, etc.)? If so, answer "YES." That will result in your receiving Displacement/Critical Needs Assistance, which is \$750.

3 JUST SAY "NO." When asked if your home is/was accessible, answer "NO" if there was debris, tree branches, flooding, loss of power or water, or damage that prevented you from remaining after Helene. This question is asking whether you can stay at your home or apartment and will trigger the ability for you to receive assistance to pay for hotels or provide funding to use while you stay with family or friends.

4 THEN SAY "YES." When asked if utilities are out, say "YES," even if utilities were "only" out for a few days and are now back on. This triggers assistance to buy fuel for a generator or stay at a hotel.

5 ...AND REPEAT. When asked "Are you willing to relocate" say "YES" if you cannot live in your home due to damage, loss of power, etc. This question means you are willing to stay in a hotel or apartment temporarily, and triggers that funding. It is not asking if you are willing to move permanently.

5 SUBMIT RECEIPTS. If you buy or bought a generator, FEMA will reimburse up to \$629, and up to \$219 for a chainsaw—but you must upload/submit receipts.

RECOVERY RESOURCES

Online Info

There are many places to get information about the region and Asheville, but listed below are Facebook pages with timely, local information about Fairview-area efforts.

I Love Fairview

facebook.com/groups/262118001096764

Fairview, NC

facebook.com/fairviewnc

I Love Fairview, NC Community

facebook.com/groups/482826019204247

The Fairview Town Crier

facebook.com/fairviewtc

Local Assistance

Churches, organizations, groups of neighbors and individuals are doing amazing things to help support the greater Fairview community, in addition to county, state and federal efforts. Thank you to everyone who's helping! Below is a partial list of local locations for supplies or assistance. (Due to the overwhelming support from all over the country, some locations are no longer taking donations.) We apologize if we have omitted anyone. Like you, our staff is trying to wade through an incredible amount of emails, messages and social media posts. Check the sites listed above for more information.

All sites should have water and food. Additional services, if still available, are in parentheses.

ArtsAVL (emergency relief grants for artists at artsavl.org/aid)

Blue Ridge Cowboy Church

49 Saxon Hwy (heavy machinery to move large debris)

Cane Creek Middle School

570 Lower Brush Creek Rd, Fletcher

Covenant Community Church

11 Rocket Drive, Asheville (Laundry Tues., Thurs., Sat.; showers Mon., Wed., Fri., Sun.)

Cultivated Cocktails

161 Charlotte Hwy

Emma's Grove Baptist Church

417 Emmas Grove Rd, Fletcher

Fairview Christian Fellowship

596 Old US Hwy

Fairview Elementary School

1355 Charlotte Hwy

Reynolds Baptist Church

520 Rose Hill Rd, Asheville

The Place Fellowship Church

2 Laura Jackson Rd

Trout Lily Market

1297 Charlotte Hwy

Wilderness Muse Creative Community

1538 Cane Creek Road, Fletcher (WiFi)

fairviewstrong.org

As the recovery effort continues, it will be critical to work together to ensure all parts of the Fairview area are supported equally. A new website, Fairview Strong, has been created to organize requests for assistance, those seeking to volunteer, and information on finding support (water, food, showers, shelter, etc.)

Support Local!

Fairview folks love to take care of shopping and services locally. These businesses are part of the fabric that makes Fairview special, and they need our support during this trying time and beyond. Shop the list below, which contains businesses in the Fairview Business Association and those that advertise regularly in the Crier. Or stop at any local business. Let's keep our shopping dollars here! (Call first to make sure they are open.)

828 Printing & Graphics	216-0955	Great Wall Chinese Restaurant	298-1887
AA Diamond Tile	450-3900	Graybeard Realty	778-2630
AVORA Health	505-2664	Heal House Call (Vet)	537-2019
Advanced Education Tutor	628-2232	Heron Healing Arts	808-8234
All Season Heating & AC	651-9998	High Country Truck	222-2308
Americare Pharmacy	628-3121	Hilltop Ice Cream	470-8083
Apex Brain Center	681-0350	Home Fix (Charles Skinner)	301-3882
Appalachian CBD	338-0039	Inc	222-4567
Asheville Stone and Grading	628-ROCK	Jim Buff Team/Keller Williams	771-2310
Bahnsen Lovelace (Dumpster)	242-2410	Kimmel HR Solutions	222-0105
Balken Roofing	628-0390	Koretz Family Health	220-0125
Barn Door Ciderworks	484-1586	Libertree Arbor Care	785-2587
Batley Land Surveying	424-9447	Luxury Loo Rental	658-5667
Beloved Body Spa	989-9894	McCrary Stone	649-2008
Big Sister's Sparkling Clean	423-3886	macWorks	777-8639
Blue Ridge EMF Solutions	628-5003	Magic Rocket Vintage	646-957-6428
Blue Ridge Engravers	619-818-2574	Mike Surrency (handyman)	628-2918
Bob Williamson, CPA	338-0314	Nachos & Beer	298-2280
Bolton Construction	253-3621	Nationwide - McKinney Agency	684-5020
Butch Greene Hemlock Insurance	338-9125	Outside the Box Interactive	848-4072
CC Flooring	255-3532	PhD Weight Loss	552-3333
Cane Creek Animal Clinic	628-9908	Prime Time Solutions Insurance	628-3889
Cane Creek Asparagus	628-1601	Pro Joe's Floor Covering	551-2053
Cane Creek Concrete	230-3022	Purnell Team, eXp Realty	551-3542
Cane Creek Parking	628-4080	Pure Appalachia	491-6444
Carolina Mobile Optician	779-2891	Re.Imagine	773-680-4981
Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital	575-2430	Rising Workplace	214-7827
Clothes Mentor	274-4901	Root Cause Farm	276-1156
Cloud 9 Relaxation Home	628-1758	Rooted in Wine	919-623-7144
Cool Mountain Construction	628-3082	Rush2Fun Inflatables	747-8862
Cool Mountain	628-3088	Rustic Mountain Getaways	450-2324
Cultivated Cocktails	338-9779	Sandy Blair Real Estate	768-4585
Eblen Short Stop	628-9888	Scobie.net (computer repair)	628-2354
Edward Jones	628-1546	Shauna Rae's House/Pet-Sitting	329-3607
Ed's Lawn Mower Repair	778-0496	Signs for Hope	691-2581
Elderflower Adult Day Care	407-0437	Strom & Taylor	296-7550
Elena the Groomer	318-6814	Sow The Magic	253-273-7401
ESCO Insurance Agency	231-6577	Specialized Fitness & Nutrition	335-0196
Fairview Animal Hospital	628-3557	Steam Master Carpet/Upholstery	628-9495
Fairview Boarding	628-1997	Sunset Hollow	768-0120
Fairview Chiropractic Center	628-7800	Take A Load Off	273-9599
Fairview Dental	628-3504	Tammy Murphy Agency	299-4522
Fairview Landscaping	628-4080	The Cove at Fairview	628-4967
Fairview Preschool	338-2073	The Local Joint	338-0459
Fibersong	712-8391	Thomas Dental Care	299-8960
Flesher's Fairview Health Care	628-2800	Thrivent	702-1224
Flying Cloud Farm	768-3348	TP Howard Plumbing	628-1369
Food for Fairview	628-4322	Trout Lily Market & Deli	628-0402
Frame It Asheville	808-0923	Turgua Brewery	338-0218
Galloway Masonry	776-4307	Unified Therapies	414-2368
Generational Grounds Coffee	483-2558	Uptalent Consulting	450-4197
gk, Inc. (business consulting)	222-4567	Vibe Music & Entertainment	708-1998
Grace Farms	222-4567	Wanda McElrath (Notary)	691.6700
Grace Home	222-4567	Whistle Hop Brewery	338-9447
Gratia Botanica	348-5488		

General Election Guide

General election day is November 5. Early voting runs from October 17 to November 2. (See bottom of following page for an update on changes to early voting due to the storm.) **Because of changes in state law, you will need to present an acceptable photo ID to vote (or vote provisionally).**



Are you registered at your current address? If you have moved and not updated your registration, you can do so and vote on the same day only during early voting at any location.

If voting in person on Election Day, you should always vote in your precinct. If you vote in another district on November 5, you'll have to fill out a provisional ballot, which is reviewed by the Board of Elections and could be rejected. See the "Find Your District" section below to find out how to get your correct info.

Has your district changed? Due to redistricting last year by the state's General Assembly and damage from the storm, voting districts may have changed in your area. *Don't assume you'll vote where you always have!* See the "Find Your District"

section below to find out how to get your correct info and then verify by calling 250-4200 or visiting buncombecounty.org/vote. *If you normally vote at the Fairview Fire Station on Election Day*, you will need to vote instead at the Spring Mountain Community Center at 807 Old Fort Road, due to construction at the station.

Study the candidates You can find a sample ballot at the link in the "Find Your District" section below. Then, look up the candidates online to get more information about them.

Amendment You will be able to vote "yes" or "no" on the NC Citizenship Requirement for Voting Amendment.

The constitution's existing text states that "[e]very person born in the US and every person who has been naturalized, 18 years of age...shall be entitled to vote at any

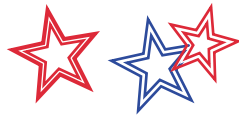
election by the people of the State..."

Proponents of this measure believe amending the language—from "every person" to "only a citizen"—would make it clear that decisions about who can vote are made at the state level.

Opponents believe that existing NC law already makes it illegal for non-citizens to vote and so the proposed amendment is attempting to solve a problem that does not exist.

Get more info about the amendment at tinyurl.com/ncamend24.

Get unbiased, nonpartisan information about registration and voting from the county's Board of Elections. Call 250-4200 or go to buncombecounty.org/vote.



Voting 101



REGISTRATION

To vote in NC, you must be a US citizen and resident of NC who has lived in the county where you intend to vote for at least 30 days. You must also be 18 years of age or older. You must not be currently serving a felony sentence (including any probation, post-release supervision, or parole). You cannot claim the right to vote elsewhere.

The deadline to register was October 11. You can, however, register and vote with same-day registration during early voting, October 17 to November 2.

College students

College students can register and vote in the jurisdiction of their residence. A student who considers their school address their residence may register and vote in the county where the school is located.

PHOTO ID INFO

- All voters will be asked to show a photo ID when voting in NC.
- However, if you do not have an ID, you can still vote with an ID Exception Form and a provisional ballot, or vote with

a provisional ballot and return to the county Board of Elections office with your photo ID by the day before the county canvass.

- The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records.
- There are a few exceptions.

Acceptable forms of ID include a NC driver's license, military or Veterans ID cards issued by the federal government, and college student and public employer ID cards that the State Board approved for use in voting. For a full list of acceptable forms, go to tinyurl.com/ncvoteid.

Registered voters who do not have an acceptable form of identification for voting purposes can get a free photo ID from the county Board of Elections office. Voters will be able to get IDs printed on the spot. ID cards can be issued at any time during regular business hours, except for the period following the last day of early voting through Election Day.

Voters also can get a free ID from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles.

Those who vote by mail will be required to include a photocopy of their ID with their ballot or complete a Photo ID Exception Form for Absentee Voting. The photocopy will be placed in a special envelope to protect the voter's personal information on their ID. Two witnesses or a notary are required to witness the signing of the return envelope.

FIND YOUR DISTRICT

To confirm or find your precinct, go to vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup and enter your name, then click on your name on the next screen. You'll also find a sample ballot. Or call the county Board of Elections at 250-4200.

EARLY VOTING

The one-stop "in-person" process permits voting at any designated location prior to election day. **Early voting is available October 17 to November 2, including weekends, from 9 am to 5 pm (3 pm on Nov. 2).** You may vote at any approved location in Buncombe County. Be sure to check the wait map on the county board of election's

Continued on the next page

Voting 101



Be sure to check the wait map on the county board of election's website to see how many people are in line at a location near you. (See story below for a storm update on early voting.)

County Approves Changes to Early Voting Due to Storm

In response to Tropical Storm Helene, the Buncombe County Board of Elections approved new times and locations for early voting under authority of an emergency resolution by the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE).

On October 7, the NCSBE authorized Buncombe and a dozen other counties that were "severely disrupted" by Tropical Storm Helene to modify election procedures.

The local resolution established daily early voting hours of 9 am to 5 pm, from October 17 through November 1, including weekends. The one exception is that voting will end at 3 pm on November 2. Buncombe County is in the initial stages of assessing the status of its 80 election day polling places and contacting many poll workers.

Early voting requires fewer locations and poll workers, and the County Board of Elections' changes approved on October 8 are intended to maximize voter access. Voters can choose any early voting location that is convenient to them.

DO YOU LIVE IN HENDERSON COUNTY?

For our readers who live in Gerton and Fletcher, visit hendersoncountync.gov/elections for more information.



Fairview Library is an approved early voting site.

Approved locations

Black Mountain Library, 105 N. Dougherty St., Black Mountain
East Asheville Library, 3 Avon Road, Asheville
Enka-Candler Library, 1404 Sand Hill Road, Candler
Fairview Library, 1 Taylor Road, Fairview
Leicester Community Center, 2979 New Leicester Hwy., Leicester
South Buncombe Library, 260 Overlook Road, Asheville
UNCA Health & Counseling Center, 118 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville (new location)
Weaverville Community Center, 60 Lakeshore Drive, Weaverville
Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Center, 285 Livingston St., Asheville (in lieu of Board of Elections location)
West Asheville Library, 942 Haywood Road, Asheville

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website to see how many people are in line at a location near you. (See story below for a storm update on early voting.)

Local early voting site

Fairview Library – 1 Taylor Rd., Fairview.
For other sites, see at bottom.

ABSENTEE / MAIL VOTING

Requesting a Ballot

Anyone may request an absentee ballot for any reason. **The deadline to request and receive an absentee ballot in person, at the county board of election, is November 4.** If requesting by mail, the deadline to request is October 29, 5 pm (request earlier to ensure it's received in time). Complete a request form (find at tinyurl.com/absentnc) and return by mail (PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802) or in person (59 Woodfin Place, Asheville).

Once your form has been received, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

Submitting a Ballot

Absentee ballots must arrive at the Buncombe County Election Services office (59 Woodfin Place, Asheville) on or before November 5, 7:30 pm. You may still vote in person if you have requested an absentee ballot. A voter's near relative may also request and return an absentee ballot. For active duty military, their family members, and US citizens living abroad, please visit FVAP.gov and follow the absentee ballot instructions to receive a ballot. When voting by mail, you must include a photocopy of an acceptable ID or complete an ID Exception Form.

Due to many residents being displaced by the storm, **voters or their near relatives or legal guardians can hand-deliver completed absentee ballots to another county board of elections in NC or the State Board of Elections office**, as long as the ballot is received by 7:30 p.m. on November 5. The county or State Board will ensure that those ballots are delivered to each voter's county board of elections by November 14—the day before county canvass—to be counted.

The Board of Elections has added a direct phone line to call for absentee ballot information: 250-4222.