



# BUTNER BUGLE

A look at what's happening in the Town of Butner  
Winter 2023 - 2024 • VOLUME XXI



## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Greetings,

Ah! Winter is a time of good cheer and to spread peace, love, and joy. In doing so, we reap an abundance of rewards. Butner's good cheer becomes apparent with the decorations and the enjoyable events. The Town shows its appreciation to our Sport Arena walkers with its annual Christmas Breakfast Social. Teaming up with the Butner Community Association (BCA) guarantees a delightful Christmas in the Park, plus a spectacular Christmas parade.

The New Year promises many prospects and challenges for our Town. We have new staff, and will soon have new Council members who will assist in overcoming any obstacle to creating the best possible Town for the current and future generations. By working hard, planning carefully, and implementing accurately, together we can ensure an exciting and thriving community for those who live, work, and visit Butner.

May the spirit of peace, love, and joy follow you throughout the year.

— Mayor Terry Turner

## Planning Department



The face of America is changing. 40% of young adults 18-24 are enrolled in college or graduate school. The United States also has the lowest number of births since 1979. There are fewer

families, more single people with college debt, and a large demographic of people who are aging. By 2025, up to 85% of households will not have children at home and by 2030, one in five people will be over the age of 65.

The 2022 American Community Survey lists the median price for a home with a mortgage in the United States at \$354,100, while the median household income is \$104,421. As empty nesters age, they may want to downsize, and a young adult fresh out of college may not be ready to afford a mortgage but would like to have the option to live on their own. Yet for decades, zoning regulations have prioritized single-family homes, which have grown larger over time. According to *The New York Times*, the average square footage of new housing in the southern United States in 2022 was 2,608 square feet compared to the average 1,500 square feet of homes from the 1960s.

Butner is fortunate. In our historic Town Center, we have a variety of housing types that still exist today. For example, along 12th Street, there are duplexes and townhomes that are in character with the existing smaller single-family homes. In-fill development is placing some larger homes into these neighborhoods, which adds variety.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) were traditionally called mother-in-law suites and allow for a second, smaller home to be built on any property with a single-family dwelling unit. The Town of Butner has been allowing ADUs since its incorporation in 2007. We value the variety we offer our citizens and have planned for it to continue with our 2040 Future Land Use Plan.

### Accessory Structures

What do swimming pools, storage sheds, chicken coops, ground-mounted solar arrays, hot tubs, carports, and fences have in common? They all require a zoning permit! If you are planning on adding any of these to your property, please visit the Town of Butner Planning website to get an application or contact the planning office at [planning@butnernc.org](mailto:planning@butnernc.org).

### BUTNER QUARTERLY DEVELOPMENT DATA

The Town of Butner has issued 19 permits from July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023, for a total value of \$468,176.72.

## Meet the Planning Director

Jennifer Ganser, AICP, recently assumed the role of Planning Director for the Town of Butner. Having relocated to Butner and the state of North Carolina, she is excited about continuing her planning career in this new setting.



Prior to this role, Jennifer served as the Assistant Director of Community Development at the Village of Lombard for ten years. During that time, she worked on traditional zoning cases, small business grants, and downtown development. Jennifer has over 20 years of experience in planning and economic development in the Chicago region. She received a bachelor's degree from DePaul University and a master's degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"I am excited to utilize my planning experience in Butner as I continue my career," Jennifer said.

## TOWN UPDATES



### Pickleball

The Town of Butner recently acquired a pickleball set featuring a net, four paddles, balls, and magnetic boundary lines. Pricing adjustments are currently being discussed for court usage, and further details will be provided soon.

The court availability is scheduled from Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Soldiers Memorial Sports Arena. Please contact Town Hall at 919-575-3032 for more information.

### Public Internet Access (Wi-Fi)

The public internet access (Wi-Fi) is now up and running at the Soldiers Memorial Sports Arena. Those who visit the facility can now stay connected and informed without worrying about mobile data limits during events. The Town recognizes the importance of connectivity in today's digital age and is committed to providing an enhanced experience for all visitors at the Sports Arena. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Town Hall at 919-575-3032.

## - TAKE NOTE -

A permit is required in order to host yard sales at Gazebo Park on Saturdays. The fee for each yard sale is \$10.00 for Butner residents and \$20.00 for non-residents. Permits can be obtained at Town Hall during regular business hours.

Terry Turner, Mayor

Jordan McMillen, Town Manager

Bill McKellar, Mayor Pro Tem

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## Butner Public Safety

### Cooking Safety Starts with YOU

The 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme for this year is focusing on cooking safety to educate the public about simple but important steps they can take to help reduce the risk of fire when cooking in order to keep themselves and those around them safe.



According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with nearly half (49%) of all home fires involving cooking equipment. Cooking is also the leading cause of home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires and related deaths.

Following are cooking safety messages that support this year's theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention":

- Always keep a close eye on what you're cooking. For foods with longer cooking times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.
- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.
- Turn the pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

Create a "kid and pet-free zone" of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Most home fires start out very small and then grow as it consumes more fuel and creates more heat. Arm yourself with a fire extinguisher to help extinguish small self-contained fires from spreading out of control. It is recommended to have a dedicated extinguisher for the kitchen due to the higher likelihood of a fire.

#### How to use a fire extinguisher:

Using a fire extinguisher is as easy as remembering the word PASS.

**P** - Pull the pin and hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you.

**A** - Aim low at the base of the fire.

**S** - Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly to discharge the extinguishing agent. (When the agent first hits the fire, the fire may briefly flare up. This should be expected.)

**S** - Sweep the nozzle from side to side, moving carefully toward the fire. Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire.

#### When to use a fire extinguisher

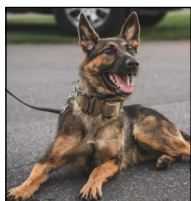
It's important to remember that fire extinguishers are only one element of a complete fire survival plan. Only use your extinguisher after making sure:

- All residents of the home have been evacuated to safety.
- The fire department has been notified.
- There is a clear exit behind the person using the extinguisher.

## Meet Butner Public Safety's Newest Employees



Please welcome Butner Public Safety's newest Public Safety Officer, **Zachary Hawthorne!** Zachary was sworn in by Mayor Terry Turner on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023. Prior to this role, he served as a Deputy Sheriff at the Granville County Sheriff's Department and successfully finished Basic Law Enforcement training at Vance-Granville Community College.



Please welcome Butner Public Safety's newest K-9, **Salsa!** Salsa is a 16-month-old German Shepherd imported from Poland. She completed her training at Ventosa Kennels and specializes in narcotics detection, human scent tracking, and finding articles left behind at crime scenes for evidence.

#### TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED

Thanksgiving: November 23rd & 24th, 2023  
Christmas: December 25th, 26th, & 27th, 2023  
New Years: January 1st, 2024  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 15th, 2024

## HEALTH BEAT



Neurodiversity relates to all of us. Simply put, people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways. There is no one right way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. This applies to adults, but especially to children. It includes people with autism, ADHD, Tourette's, dyslexia, and a range of other neurodiverse conditions. 15-20% of the world's population is neurodiverse.

Many children and adults are neurodiverse.

Children and adults can be tested to find out how they think and learn. Doing this can save many children and adults from the misunderstandings people may impose on them due to how they perceive the world.

The result will be a more robust, creative population, and workforce that will promote positive productivity in our communities.

For further information, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/what-is-neurodiversity-202111232645>.

— Your Public Health Guru, Michel Branch

## Community Events

### Christmas in the Park

Christmas in the Park will be held on **Friday, December 1st, 2023**, at Gazebo Park in Butner. The evening will include pictures with Santa, Christmas music and entertainment, and the official lighting of the town's Christmas tree. Children can visit with Santa from **5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m.** The program begins at **7:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be available.



### Christmas Parade

The Butner Christmas Parade will be held on **Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.** on Central Avenue. Come join us in this joyous annual tradition as Butner celebrates the beginning of the Christmas season. There are many things to see – firetrucks, bands, beautiful floats, dance groups, elected officials, local businesses and churches, the Amran Shriners Hillbillies, horses, and of course, Santa Claus!

### Christmas Social for Walkers

The annual Christmas Social for Walkers will be held on **Thursday, December 14th, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.** at the Soldiers Memorial Sports Arena. This event is held in appreciation for the walkers who are committed to a healthy lifestyle and care for the facility on a daily basis. Please note that this event is reserved only for those who regularly walk at the Sports Arena.



### Charcuterie Board Workshop

The Town of Butner, in collaboration with Plumpeez Deli, is excited to host a Charcuterie Board Workshop on **Saturday, January 6th, 2024**, at Butner Town Hall, starting at **1:00 p.m.** Join us to discover the art of crafting a beautiful and delectable charcuterie board that will leave your guests impressed! This workshop is ideal for a fun girls' night out, a special birthday celebration, a cozy date night, or simply to acquire a new culinary skill. You'll get to take home your own creation, perfect to serve 1-2 people. Details regarding registration and pricing are still forthcoming. Please visit our website at [www.butnernc.org](http://www.butnernc.org) and follow us on social media platforms (@townofbutner) for upcoming updates.

#### All Meetings Held At Town Hall Unless Otherwise Noted

Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Thursday. Contact the Town Clerk for more information at 919.575.3109.

Planning Board meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday, as needed.

Board of Adjustment meets monthly on the 4th Thursday, as needed. Contact the Planning Department for more information at 919.283.6983.

South Granville Water and Sewer Authority (SGWASA) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. Contact SGWASA for info at 919.575.3367.



TOWN OF BUTNER  
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