

Susan Phillips  
Village Manager

Stacy C. Eggers IV  
Village Attorney

(828) 898-9292  
www.seesugar.com



Gunther Jochl  
Mayor

Scott Brown  
Mayor Pro Tem

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David Ammann  
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**THE VILLAGE OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN**  
251 Dick Trundy Lane  
Sugar Mountain, NC 28604

## **Manager's Monthly Report** **February 18, 2025**

**Hurricane Helene:** Work continues, as it will for some time, throughout the Village on assessing damage from Hurricane Helene. FEMA Inspectors have been here this week and will continue for some time, with the schedule dependent on the weather. The process of the debris removal and repairs to our infrastructure has begun as previously reported, with a considerable slow down with the inclement weather we had throughout January. The contractors for debris removal have been working in Avery County, with little being picked up in the Village since before the holidays. A report from Avery County showed there have been 10,292.4 cubic yards or 335 loads removed from Sugar Mountain as of February 10, 2025. There have been 257,200.3 cubic yards or 6,744 loads removed as of this date in Avery County. Attached is a Press Release from Avery County regarding a conclusion of Helene debris being placed along "State Right-of-Ways" as of Sunday, February 23, 2025.

The weekly FEMA Assistance data points for Avery County reported that more than \$12,000,000 has been awarded in Individual Assistance (IA) to residents of Avery County as of February 10<sup>th</sup>. Of the 4,183 valid registrations, 3,708 were referred to IA where 2,694 were found eligible for Housing Assistance and/or Other Needs Assistance. Currently, twenty-six (26) households from Avery County are checked into hotels through the Transitional Sheltering Assistance program.

**Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board Meeting:** The P&Z Board held their regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd. The Board continued review of a draft Telecommunication Tower ordinance, prepared by Four Eggers, following inquiries from companies regarding erection of telecommunications towers in the Village. Following discussion, the Board unanimously decided to send it to the Council for their consideration with no recommendation from the Planning Board. The Board also reviewed a resolution to require all necessary water, sewer or septic permits be obtained before a zoning permit may be issued from the Village. The Board recommended approval and to forward it to the Council for their consideration of calling a Public Hearing and adoption. Their last item of business was the review of a Resolution to disallow small scale and utility use of solar panels within retail and service districts of the Village. They also recommended approval of this Resolution and to forward it to the Council for consideration of calling for a Public Hearing and adoption.

**Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Board Meeting:** The TDA Board met on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Following tabling a High Country Press publications proposal at their January

meeting, the Board further discussed the proposal and voted not to move forward with advertising in the 2025 High Country Press magazines. The Board received and approved a request for the 2025 Summer cooperative promotions with Sugar Mountain Resort in the amount of \$23,500. The funding includes \$8,250 for the current budget year and \$15,250 for the FY 2025-26 Budget. The Board also approved an expenditure of \$2,413 to Todd Bush Photography for a January photo shoot at the ski slopes, ice skating and tubing for promotional purposes. The Board then approved the expenditure of \$9,000 to Nowsay Video for video content to create a TDA Winter video. The Board asked Dalton Kilby to look into effective media publications to target visitors that are not on social media in other States to spread the word that the Village is open for business and welcomes guests to Sugar Mountain following Hurricane Helene. Dalton Kilby of Bramble Marketing submitted the attached January 2025 marketing update.

The December 2024 collections of the occupancy tax showed a decrease of 2% in comparison to December 2023. The occupancy tax collections for the period January 2024 through December 2024 (\$740,040) have shown a \$124,155 or 14.37% decrease in comparison to the same period of 2023 (\$864,195).

**Village Decorative Street Lights:** In two separate incidents over the past two weeks, two of the Village's decorative streetlights have been damaged as well as a guardrail from vehicles in both incidents leaving the roadway and hitting the lamp posts. The first incident occurred at the entrance of Grouse Moor Drive, with the streetlight and the guardrail needing to be replaced. A claim has been filed with the driver's insurance company in the amount of \$7,163. The second incident occurred along Sugar Mountain Drive in which a vehicle left the roadway and hit the lamp post at the entrance to the Linksider Condominiums. A claim has also been filed with the driver's insurance company in the amount of \$6,165.

**Homewood Suites by Hilton:** The developer of the hotel on Tynecastle Hwy (across from New River Supply) received a special use permit with conditions from the Board of Adjustment last March. Since that time, they have met the conditions of the BOA and were issued a zoning permit this month. This week, they have again applied for an amendment to their special use permit; requesting to divide the parcel that the hotel would be constructed on. Four Eggers and I have determined the documents submitted on this application are incomplete and will not be forwarded to the BOA for consideration at this time.

**Property Tax Collections:** Of the \$1,435,840 total 2024 levy, \$1,385,322 or 96.48% has been collected with a balance of \$50,518 uncollected through February 13, 2025. A balance of \$2,640 is still uncollected for the 2015-2023 tax years. Taxes were due by Monday, January 6, 2025 and now any unpaid taxes have begun to accrue interest and penalties.

The Village has received payment in the amount of \$958.86 for the three foreclosure lots in Sugar Pointe. This amount was for four years of tax, interest and advertising fees paid to the Village.

NC Department of Transportation Biannual Cleanup Drive:



The graphic is a black and white illustration. At the top, a banner reads "SPRING LITTER SWEEP" with a broom and a trash can. Below, a character shaped like a trash bag hangs from a scale. To the right, a trash can with a grumpy face and two smaller characters with grumpy faces are shown. The background features a stylized landscape with hills and a sun.

**N.C. Department of Transportation**  
Biannual Cleanup Drive

**April 12-26, 2025**

[ncdot.gov/littersweep](http://ncdot.gov/littersweep)  
Share your clean-up photos at #LitterSweepNC

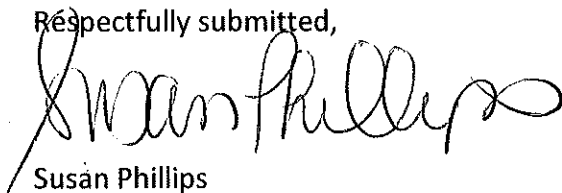
**→ Volunteer Locally!**

Forms, posters, and telephone listings are available on our website.

**Administrative Matters:** Following the resignation of Kyle Osborne in November, Chief Turbyfill has been working the scheduled shifts of Osborne as well as being in the Village on the weekends for additional coverage during ski season. Up until this past week, we have not received any applications for the position. This week, Chief Turbyfill received an application from an individual that has 14 years of law enforcement experience but has let his certification expire. The applicant is eligible to be re-certified by NC State if he completes his annual in-service requirements for the past four years he has not fulfilled and re-takes the certification examination. A conditional offer of employment will be made to the applicant upon completion of these requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Phillips  
Village Manager