



# **DOWNTOWN UPDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014**

## **CLEANLINESS**

### **Sidewalk Cleaning Contract**

The new downtown cleaning contractor is on board and working with Public Works to clarify the schedule which will continue to focus on the most used, central area from 6 to 10 am and then the outer edges of downtown during the busier part of the day. Workers will wear T-shirts that identify them as crew members.

### **Trash and Recycling Stations**

Installation of the units has been completed. Trash and recycling pick up is done by the night crews. City staff is working with the vendors to more firmly secure smoking oasis to the stations so they cannot be removed except by city crews. It has been reported that the Dog Waste stations are often empty and staff are developing strategies to encourage people to only remove bags for immediate use.

### **Street cleaning**

Street sweeping occurs nightly in Downtown. The schedule rotates and cleaning is done more frequently in the central areas.

### **Graffiti**

The 90-day assistance program is underway. Council will receive an update at their September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## **SAFETY/ADDRESSING NUISANCE BEHAVIORS**

### **Drug Activity in Pritchard Park**

In an effort to support the reduction of criminal activity in the area, the APD/DT Unit is continuing to monitor and make arrests as needed. In addition, officer presence will be enhanced as the fall season approaches. Park Ranger supervision has been transferred to the Downtown Unit.

### **Panhandling**

Enforcement and educational efforts to encourage a higher level of reporting from downtown visitors remains a focus of the APD/ DT Unit. The Downtown Association is exploring ways to partner with the City to accomplish this.

### **Busking/Peddling**

A team of City staff is completing research on best practices in effectively managing busking/street performers and peddling/panhandling. Information and recommendations will be presented to Council Committees for policy guidance. Materials will be prepared and made available regarding what is currently permitted and recommended changes.

## **CITY-INITIATED PROJECTS and PROGRAMS**

### **Thomas Wolfe Renovations**

A request for an engineering study for this project will be issued in the next six months. The study is anticipated to take several months to complete once started, and will be the first step in the process of establishing a renovation program for Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

### **Downtown Sidewalk Maintenance Projects**

Public Works crews will start a sidewalk maintenance project on Patton Avenue the week of September 2 that will involve 2 areas: Clingman Avenue to Ashland Avenue on the south side of the street and N. Ann Street to N. French Broad Street on the north side. Crews will be repairing existing sidewalk with the Asheville running bond pattern and replacing nine trees. Weather permitting, the project will take approximately 2 weeks.

## OTHER

### **City Owned Property: 68-76 Haywood Street**

The City is continuing the process to engage a consultant to assist with RFQ/RFP process. More information can be found at: [www.ashevillenc.gov/projects](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/projects). The gravel area on site will be available for temporary uses such as parking for permitted special events at the US Cellular Center.

For more information, visit [www.ashevillenc.gov/projects](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/projects) or contact Marsha Stickford, Neighborhood Coordinator at [mstickford@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:mstickford@ashevillenc.gov) or 259-5506.