



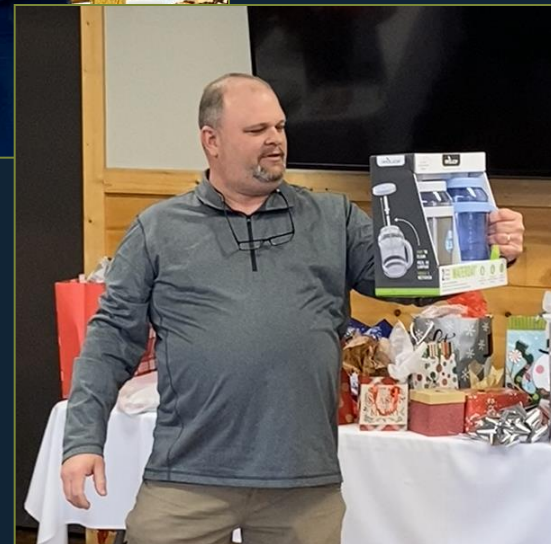
Reflections from 2025
Town of Lake Lure
A Year of Immense Progress!



One Year Ago!



One Year Ago!



One Year Ago!



One Year Ago!



January 2025



January 2025
Mud Slide Repair – Burnt Ridge Road



January 2025
We Found Em!



January 2025

Let It Snow



January 2025
Making the Green Space Green!



January 2025
Yet Another Meeting!



January 2025
Luau in January!



January 2025
Smile – You are on Camera!



January 2025
Well Deserved Promotion!



January 2025
Town Council at Rumbling Bald



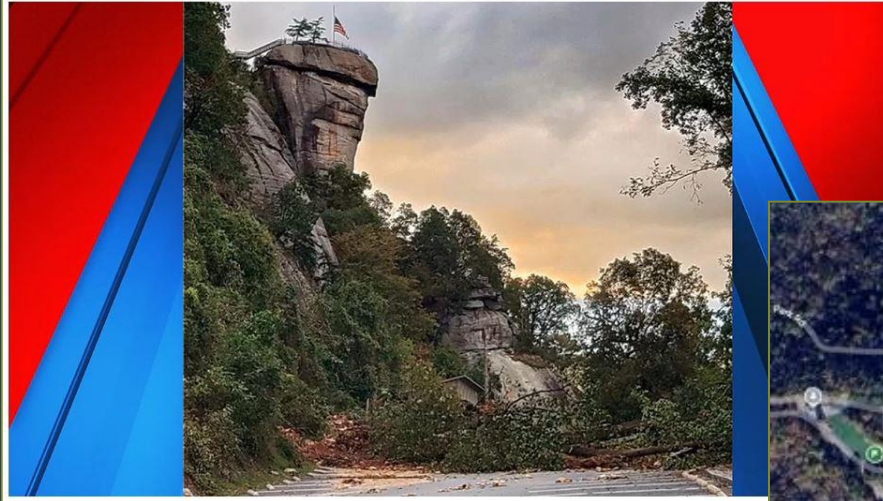
January 2025

Lake View From Lake House Restaurant - 1/22/24



January 2025
Silt and Debris Removal

Town of Lake Lure working to re-open Chimney Rock State Park



January 2025

Campaign to Open Chimney Rock State Park & Complete Lago Vista Rd



February 2025
Buffalo Creek Trail Workday



February 2025

Let's Fix This Before We Fall Through!



February 2025

Lake Lure 2/28/25



February 2025
,Restoring Morse Park!



February 2025
Restoring Morse Park!



February 2025
Fire Prevention in Action!



March 2025
Morse Park Landscaping by Public Works



March 2025

USACE New Mission Assignment for Silt/Sedimentation Removal



March 2025

Round Table Meeting



March 2025

\$50,000 Donation from United Way of Rutherfordton to the Fire Department



March 2025

Congressman Tim Moore, the USACE and FEMA



March 2025

PBS Film Crew Covering Lake Lure's Recovery



March 2025
Lake Lure 3/24/25



March 2025

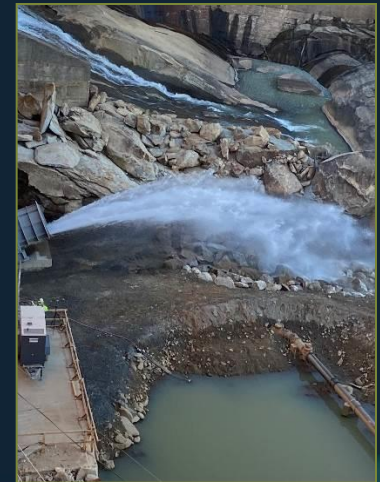
Lake Lure/Chimney Rock VFD crews in Polk County for Wood Fire



March 2025
Staying Strong!



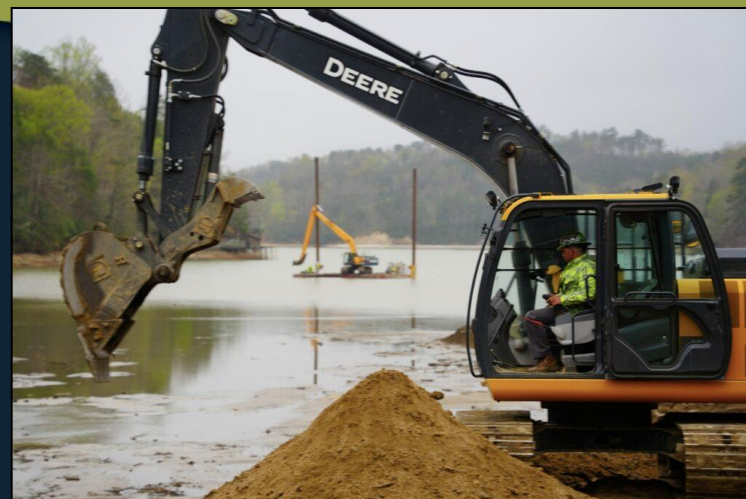
March 2025
Congrats Tommy!



March 2025
Reservoir Drain Test – 3/28/25



March 2025
Lordy, Lordy...



April 2025

Lake Lure Restoration Continues



April 2025
Representing Lake Lure in DC



April 2025

Morse Park in Bloom thanks to Public Works!

 A Long Way to Go: Conversations on North Carolina's Helene...  Watch later  Share

A Long Way to Go

Conversations on North Carolina's Helene Recovery

PANELISTS



Tim Anderson, P.E.
Regional Engineer,
N.C. Department of
Transportation



Nora O'Neill
Accountability Reporter,
The Charlotte Observer



Lance Mills
Helene survivor



Nathan Ramsey
Executive Director, Land of
Sky Regional Council



Richard Stradling
Transportation Reporter,
The News & Observer

Watch on  YouTube PRESENTED BY  

April 2025

Representing Lake Lure throughout the State



April 2025
Lake Lure's Restoration Continues



April 2025

Lake Lure's Mayor – Makes The Case!



April 2025
Lake Lure's Restoration Continues



April 2025
Public Works to the Rescue



April 2025

Arbor Day and Morse Park Ribbon Cutting



April 2025

Public Works Making it Right!



April 2025

Silt/Sedimentation Removal Continues



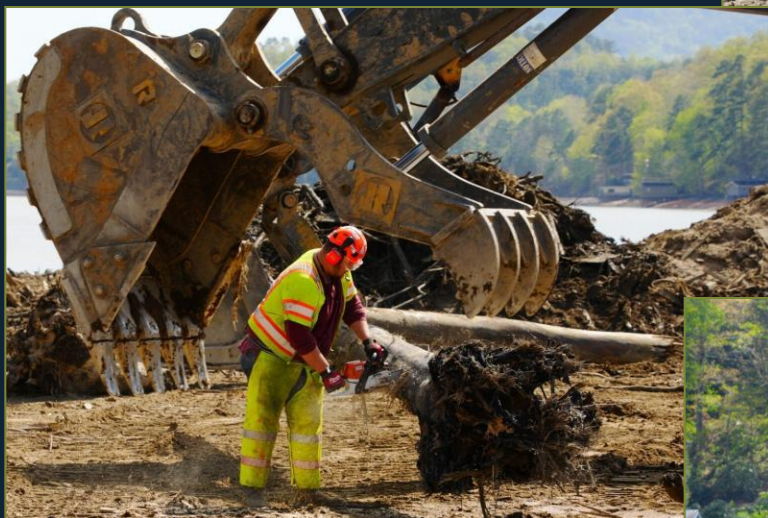
April 2025

Citizens Ban Together to Clear Debris from the River



May 2025

Before and After – From Mike's House



May 2025
Debris Removal Continues

- 260,570 tons of silt/sediment removal (+29,950 Tons).
- 42,301 cubic yards of debris from the water-way (+3,026 CY)



May 2025

Silt/Sedimentation Removal Continues



May 2025
Bird's Eye View of Morse Park



May 2025

Dogwood Health Trust Visits Lake Lure



May 2025
Sharing Lake Lure's Journey of Recovery



May 2025
Recovery Continues



May 2025

Public Works – Waterline Repairs Overnight – That's Dedication!



May 2025
Personal Property Debris Removal Begins

- 186,337 tons of silt/sediment removed
- 39,275 cubic yards of debris removed from the water-way



May 2025

Personal Property Debris Removal Begins

- 186,337 tons of silt/sediment removed
- 39,275 cubic yards of debris removed from the water-way



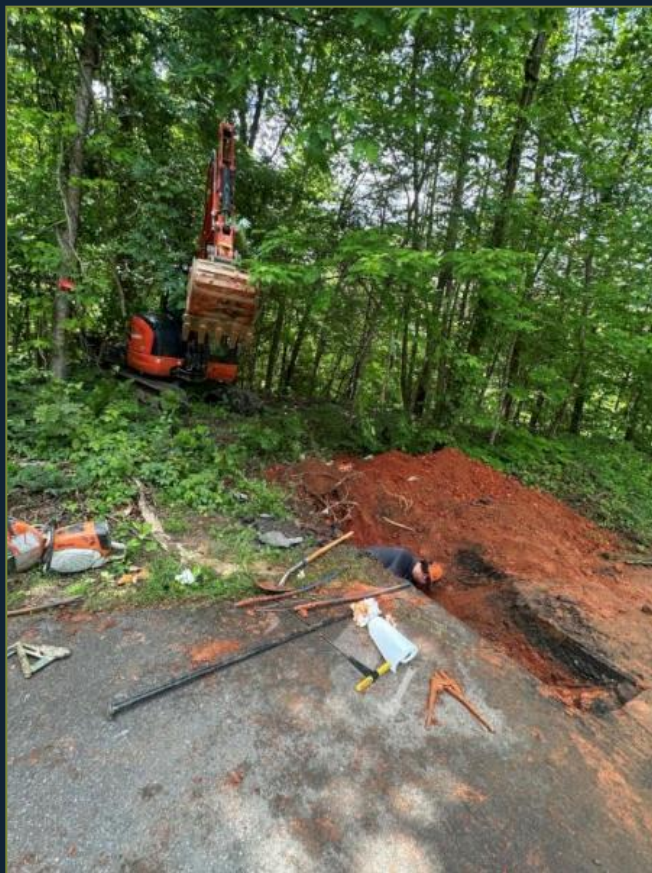
May 2025

Lake Lure Water Quality Improves

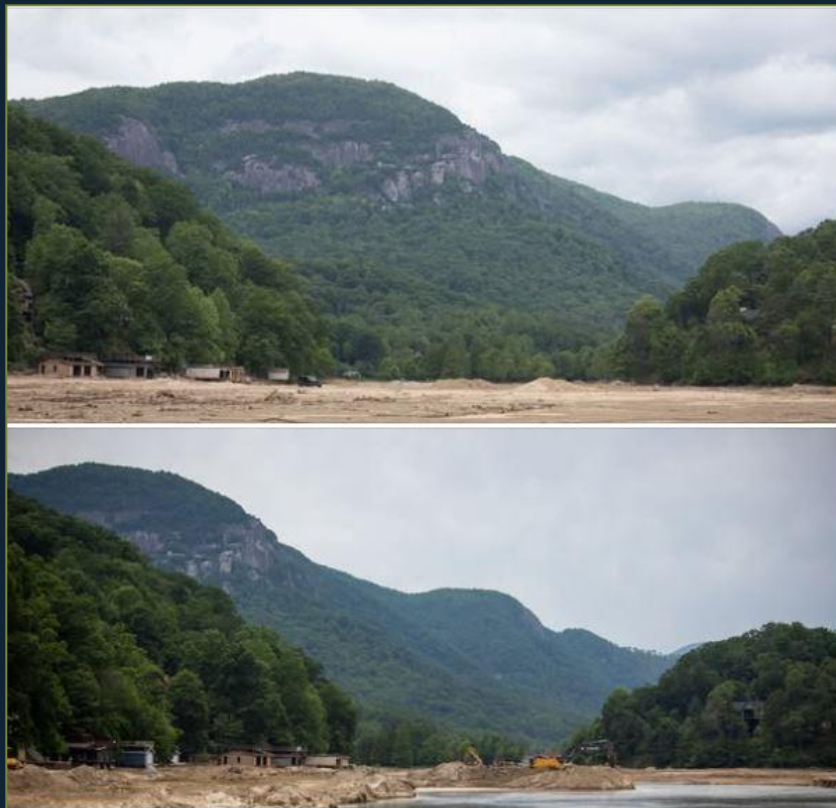


May 2025

Telling Lake Lure's Story Through Ongoing Media Coverage



May 2025
Public Works is on the Case!



May 2025
Improvement Continues!

 *Join Us* 

Lake Lure Memorial Day Program



Date:
Monday
May 26, 2025

Time
9:00AM

Location
SHIFTING to
ROOSEVELT HALL
Due to Rain Forecast

Contingency Plan for Rain:
Roosevelt Hall (behind the
Lake Lure Inn) 2771 Memorial Hwy.

Featuring

Special Guest Speaker Colonel Brad Morgan
US Army Corps of Engineers
Lead for Western North Carolina Storm Recovery Mission



Please enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast following the program.

May 2025

Memorial Day



May 2025
Proctor Road Repairs



June 2025

View of Main Channel Facig Morse Park



June 2025
Chimney Rock State Park Reopens



June 2025
Reuters Interviews



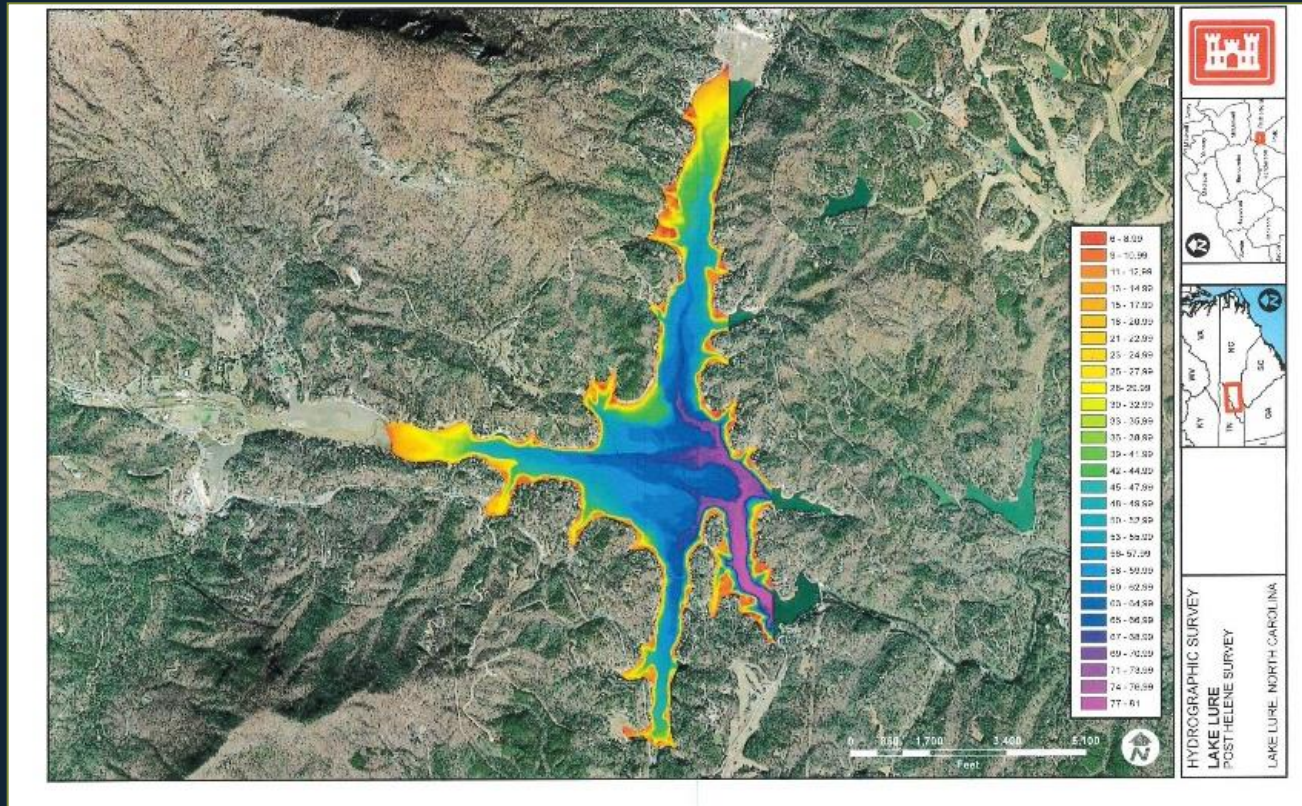
June 2025
Lake Lure at 963 MSL



June 2025
New Sea Wall at the Lake Lure Gazebo



June 2025
Lake Lure Beach



June 2025
Hydrographic Survey



LIVE

CAROL C. PRITCHETT | LAKE LURE MAYOR
CLEAN-UP EFFORTS UNDERWAY NINE MONTHS AFTER HELENE

✕ NEWARK EWR

DEPARTURES DELAY

EXTREME HEAT
FORECAST RECORD HIGHS
72
MONDAY

AVG DELAY: 45 MIN

June 2025
National Fox News Spot on Lake Lure



June 2025

Lake Lure Dam by Reuters Photographer Evelyn Hockstein



June 2025
60 Minutes Team Visits Lake Lure



June 2025

Lake Lure Recovery 6/27/25 - Facing Back of Town Hall



June 2025
Public Works Road Repairs - Amazing!



June 2025
Media Tour Continues



June 2025

Staff Move to Temporary Town Hall at The Landings



June 2025
Chillin...



June 2025
USACE Work Continues...



Town of

Lake Lure

est. 1927

North Carolina



July 2025

Celebrating Despite the Challenges!



July 2025
Celebrating Despite the Challenges!



July 2025

Public Works – Boys Camp Road Repairs – Great Job!



July 2025
Debris Removal Firefly Cove



July 2025
Aerial View – Morse Park



Town of

Lake Lure

est. 1927

North Carolina



July 2025

Lake Lure Wins Dam Safety Award! Wooahoo!



August 2025
Congrats Kourtney!



Source: Contributed Photographer: Maggie Ullman | From left, Marshall Mayor Aaron Haynie, Portland, Texas, Mayor Pro Tem Green, Asheville City Councilwoman Maggie Ullman, Kerrville, Texas, Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Hughes, Avery County Commission Vice Chairman Dennis Aldridge, Kerrville, Texas, Mayor Joe Herring, Lake Lure Mayor Susan Pritchett and Portland, Texas Mayor Skurow.

August 2025

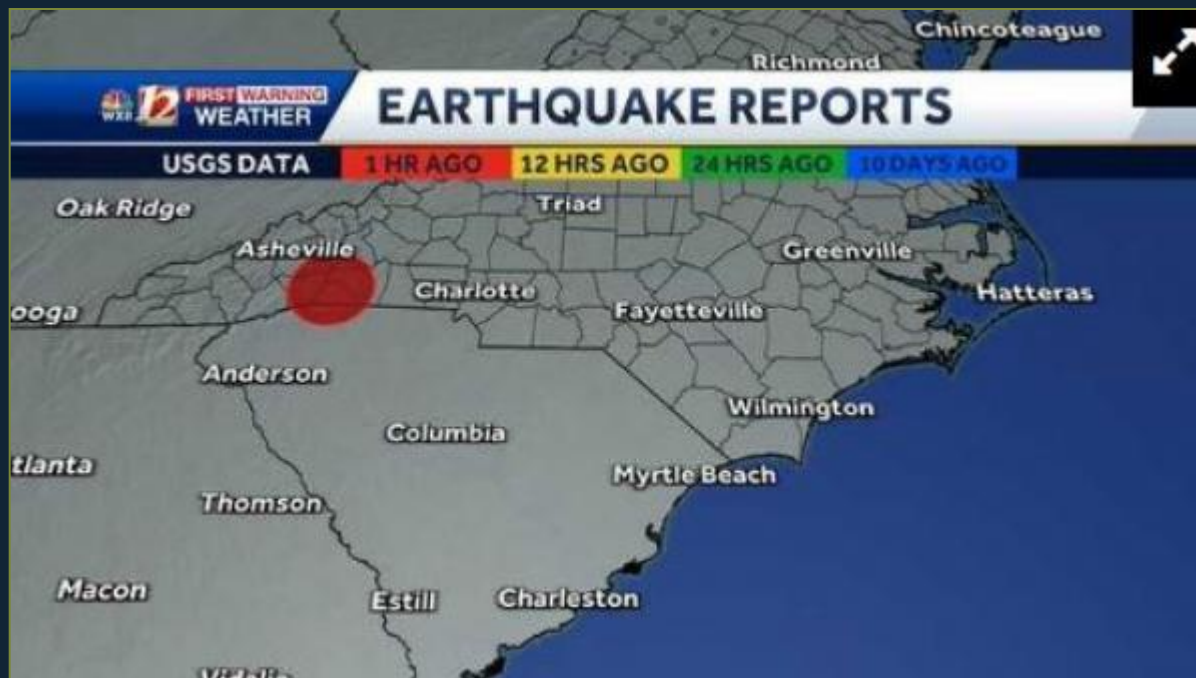
Lake Lure and the American Flood Coalition



August 2025

Two newest paid firefighters Completing the Fire Academy.

Way to go, gentlemen!



August 2025
Earthquake in Lake Lure!



August 2025
Town Council at The Landings



September 2025

Ahhhh - Breaking Ground on the Cell Tower – Yay Mike!

- 1,002,772 tons of silt/sediment have been removed from Lake Lure
- 98,780 98,288 cubic yards of debris has been removed from waterway



September 2025

Day 340! – Marina Bay Sediment Removal Begins!

- 1,002,772 tons of silt/sediment have been removed from Lake Lure
- 98,780 98,288 cubic yards of debris has been removed from waterway



September 2025

Marina Bay Sediment Removal Begins!



September 2025

Dustin Interviewed by 60 Minutes - Leslie Stahl

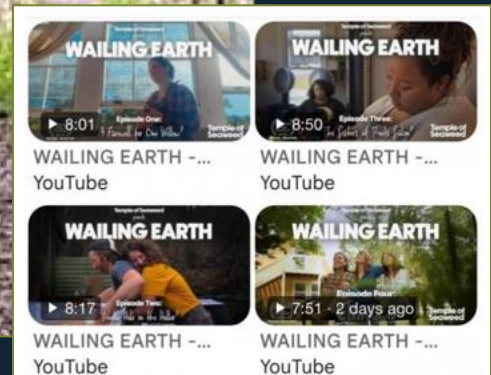


Town of

Lake Lure

est. 1927

North Carolina



September 2025

Lake Lure Featured in Wailing Earth Documentary



Town of

Lake Lure

est. 1927

North Carolina



September 2025

Buffalo Creek Park – Remains Closed for Repairs



September 2025

Pump Station: Before – Immediately After – Now – Thank you LaBella!



October 2025
Progress in Marina Cove



September 2025

DOT Road Repairs After All Those Trucks!



September 2025
EPA Visit



September 2025
Commemoration Ceremony



Town of

Lake Lure

est. 1927

North Carolina

www.recordandsentinel.com | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025 | 3A

Lake Lure 'refused to be broken' after Helene

Waycaster and Morgan recognized for efforts

Ryley Ober
Asheville Citizen Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

LAKE LURE - Families, friends and first responders spilled out of Roosevelt Hall in Lake Lure Sept. 27. A crowd was packed inside, shoulder to shoulder, just as they'd carried each other through unthinkable tragedy a year ago.

Nearby, Mack trucks carrying silt and mud curved down Memorial Highway in Rutherford County, past Lake Lure Inn and the now-shallow body of water it's named after. The nearly century-old hotel boasted full occupancy for the first weekend since Tropical Storm Helene.

The lakeside community is healing. "Today, we gather not only to remember Hurricane Helene but to reflect on all that's left behind: the silence after the storm, the courage that rose from the rubble and the unshakeable bond of a community that refused to be broken," Mayor Carol Pritchett said to the crowd. More than 100 people were killed across the state as a result of Helene. Four died in Rutherford County.

The heartfelt, thankful and laughter-filled commemoration was intimate, punctuated by musical performances by the town's students. Pritchett thanked people from local public servants to state and federal partners for their help in the monumental tasks of recovering and rebuilding from the storm.

Lake Lure Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Dustin Waycaster and United States Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Brad Morgan received a special town proclamation and a standing ovation.

In Helene's immediate aftermath, Waycaster previously told the Citizen Times that he lost count of the number of rescues performed by his team and others, like the Helo-Aquatic Search & Rescue teams from the Carolinas and U.S. Coast Guard. They went up and down the gorge, "plucking people off the side of the mountain."

The town, with a population of about 1,300, became an island. No way in or out, except by helicopter. Communication was cut off.



Lake Lure Fire Chief Dustin Waycaster (far right) stands with his family, Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Brad Morgan (center left) and Mayor Carol Pritchett (far left) after accepting a town proclamation for his efforts during and after Helene. RYLEY OBER/ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES

"Let it be known that (Waycaster's) actions reflect the highest standards of public service, and they've made a lasting impact on us for the safety and readiness of the town," Pritchett said as the crowd lifted to its feet.

Honoring those working to restore Lake Lure

When Tropical Storm Helene ravaged areas of Western North Carolina last September, Lake Lure became the dumping ground for debris that flowed down the Rocky Broad River. Since then, Lake Lure residents have come to know Col. Morgan as a familiar face, Pritchett said.

Under Morgan's leadership, the Corps of Engineers removed over 1.1 million tons of silt and sedimentation and over 100,000 cubic yards of debris from the lake's floor, Pritchett said. She thanked Morgan and his team for helping restore the lake's natural beauty, ecological balance and recreational value.

Calling the town of Lake Lure his "adopted home" over the past year, Morgan said it's been an honor to lead USACE's team in WNC and thanked the town for its hospitality and grace along the way.

"We're working to finish so recovery can continue, and normalcy can be returned," Morgan said.

Morgan's goal is to finish the lake's restoration by Thanksgiving, he told the Citizen Times. The lake is scheduled to open in May 2026. For Lake Lure's tourism-based economy, Pritchett said the date gives the town's businesses some hope after enduring the summer season without any revenue from the lake.

Future brides can start booking Morse Park's iconic lakeside gazebo for their wedding venue, as temporary debris staging sites at the park begin to wane and its scenic beauty rebounds. The town's chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society can now say they will hold their annual historic boat show in May, Pritchett said.

Lingering needs, frustrations

The quaint, romantic town of Lake Lure, about 30 miles southeast of Asheville, is about to turn 100. Founded in 1927, much of its critical infrastructure was built in that era. The 124-foot hydroelectric dam was completed in 1927, the town's sewer and wastewater treatment plant soon after, Pritchett said.

Long before Helene, Pritchett said staff began seeking ways to make the town more resilient.

"Little did we know we'd be hit with something like this," Pritchett said. There will always be another storm, and it's

"good to realize that we need to take advantage of every modern technology."

That dam held during the storm but suffered damage. Stabilization and emergency repairs have been completed, but Pritchett said they are looking to build a more modernized dam. She said it's the last means of flood control for the Broad River down to South Carolina, which could put people downstream at risk if it were to break.

The town has applied under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program for all three projects: the sewer, dam and wastewater treatment facilities. But the projects are still in the evaluation process.

Pritchett said she doesn't mean to criticize FEMA because she's had productive conversations with staff like Director of the Public Assistance Robert Pepsapane in Washington D.C. Yet, she feels the process is "too long and too slow of a path."

Fate of Flowering Bridge?

The town is directing all funds to address the most critical infrastructure needs. That means a beloved 1925 stone arch bridge, transformed into a community garden, will not be replaced, despite a recent announcement from FEMA that Lake Lure's Flowering Bridge would make a comeback.

"The beloved Flowering Bridge will forever remain an important part of Lake Lure's history," Town Manager Olivia Stewman wrote in a recent news release. "Regrettably, replacing the bridge would be cost prohibitive at this time."

Despite delays, Pritchett said she is most proud of the courage, resilience and patience of the town's residents, who tend to be older or retirees who have "been through hard things before."

Slowly, Lake Lure's trees are being replanted by town arborist Rick Carpenter. The week after Helene's one-year mark, Carpenter will plant a maple tree at Morse Park, just downstream from where the Flowering Bridge once stood. It will stand in commemoration and in honor of the town's strength.

Ryley Ober is the Public Safety Reporter for Asheville Citizen Times, part of the USA Today Network. Email her at rober@gannett.com and follow her on Twitter @ryleyober

September 2025
Commemoration Ceremony



October 2025

Progress with Cell Tower Construction – Thank you Mike!



October 2025
Mrs. Pritchett Goes to Washington!



October 2025
Cylce NC at Rumbling Bald!

- 1,254,230 tons of sand/silt and sediment removed from Lake
- 100,374 cubic yards of debris removed from the waterway.



October 2025

A Real Sign of Normalcy – The Arts and Crafts Festival Returns!



October 2025

KABOOM Playground Installed! – Thank you, Dana, Corbie and BCBS!



October 2025

Falling in Love with Lake Lure – Thank you Wendy and Public Works!



October 2025

Newsmax Interview



October 2025

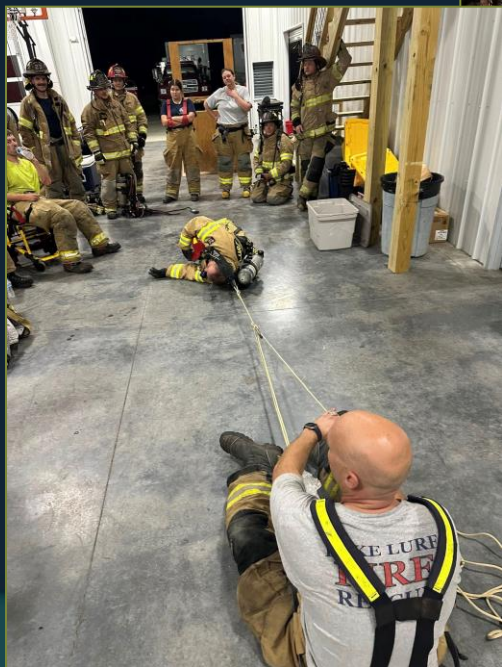
Falling in Love with Lake Lure – Thank you Wendy and Public Works!



October 2025
Cell Tower Progress! Way To Go Mike!



October 2025
LLCA Helps Clear the Trails!



October 2025

**Multi- Department Training: Shingle Hollow, Green Hill,
& Lake Lure Fire & Rescue Department**



November 2025
NC DEQ Tour



November 2025
Honoring Veterans!

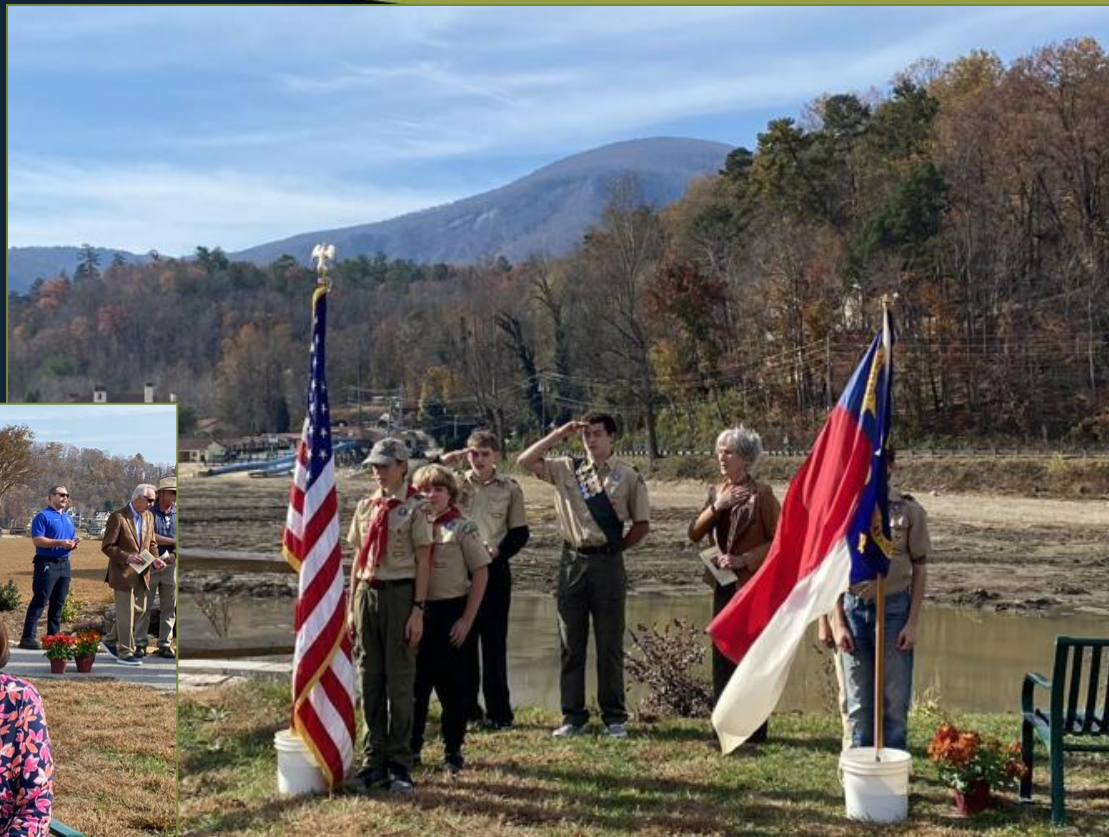


November 2025

Flowering Bridge Volunteers Begin Replanting Gardens



November
Shake Those Turkey Feathers!



November 2025

**Bench Dedication for Former Mayor Kevin Cooley
from Cole Pritchett to Mrs. Cooley**



November 2025

USACE Completes Their Mission in Lake Lure!



November 2025

Lake Lure Fire Department – Covering Land and Water!



November 2025

Lake Lure Fire Department Fighting Fires at Jude's Gap Fire!!



December 2025

Lake Lure Public Works Department – Lighting It Up!



December 2025

Lake Lure Finance Department – Keeping Us in the Green!



December 2025
Lighting Up Lake Lure



December 2025
Lighting Up Lake Lure



December 2025

Lake Lure Police Department – Raptor Round-up!



Lake Lure Public Input Sessions



**Thank Each and Everyone
For Your Dedication and
Support!**

What A Year!