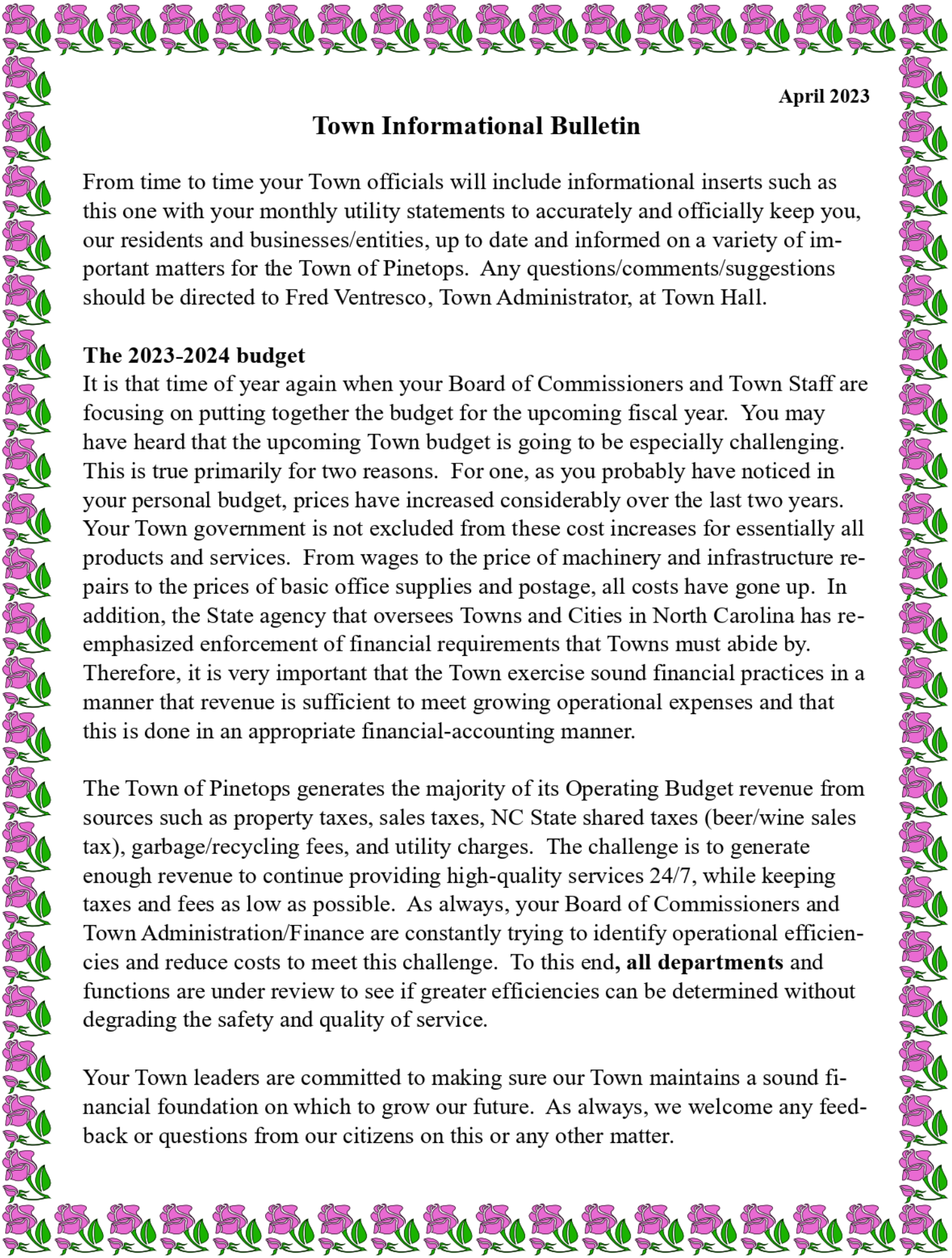




April 2023

Town Informational Bulletin

From time to time your Town officials will include informational inserts such as this one with your monthly utility statements to accurately and officially keep you, our residents and businesses/entities, up to date and informed on a variety of important matters for the Town of Pinetops. Any questions/comments/suggestions should be directed to Fred Ventresco, Town Administrator, at Town Hall.

The 2023-2024 budget

It is that time of year again when your Board of Commissioners and Town Staff are focusing on putting together the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. You may have heard that the upcoming Town budget is going to be especially challenging. This is true primarily for two reasons. For one, as you probably have noticed in your personal budget, prices have increased considerably over the last two years. Your Town government is not excluded from these cost increases for essentially all products and services. From wages to the price of machinery and infrastructure repairs to the prices of basic office supplies and postage, all costs have gone up. In addition, the State agency that oversees Towns and Cities in North Carolina has re-emphasized enforcement of financial requirements that Towns must abide by. Therefore, it is very important that the Town exercise sound financial practices in a manner that revenue is sufficient to meet growing operational expenses and that this is done in an appropriate financial-accounting manner.

The Town of Pinetops generates the majority of its Operating Budget revenue from sources such as property taxes, sales taxes, NC State shared taxes (beer/wine sales tax), garbage/recycling fees, and utility charges. The challenge is to generate enough revenue to continue providing high-quality services 24/7, while keeping taxes and fees as low as possible. As always, your Board of Commissioners and Town Administration/Finance are constantly trying to identify operational efficiencies and reduce costs to meet this challenge. To this end, **all departments** and functions are under review to see if greater efficiencies can be determined without degrading the safety and quality of service.

Your Town leaders are committed to making sure our Town maintains a sound financial foundation on which to grow our future. As always, we welcome any feedback or questions from our citizens on this or any other matter.