**Town Weather Update - HIGHLANDS, NC**

**﻿**Macon County and the Town of Highlands are both under an emergency following the winter storm warning that is in effect. This major winter storm will cause loss of power and dangerous road conditions. Town crews are prepared, on standby, and ready to respond to any disruption of services.

The National Weather Service predicts snow between 10 to 16 inches and some ice formations in high elevations in Western Carolina. Severe winter conditions could begin Saturday evening and continue through Sunday.

Ice accumulations could trigger major power outages. Residents are requested not to call 911 to report power outages since those lines must be open for life-threatening emergencies. The Highlands electric crews will monitor power outages and work to restore power as safely as possible.

I respectfully ask our customers to be patient. Highlands’ electric crews will be responding to major outages impacting large sections of the town. If power is not restored after several hours on Sunday, call 526-2118, Town Hall. If there is no answer call 526-4131. Duke Energy customers must contact Duke's call center at 800-777-9898.

Town road crews will first plow town-owned streets and then work with state crews to clear state roads within town limits. Crews will then assist owners of private roads in clearing those roads after all public roads are cleared.

Town Hall is closed on Saturday and Sunday. Administrative staff will have computers at home that are connected to the town network system to manage operations during the storm. If possible, limited staff will be at town hall on Monday, the King Holiday.

Garbage service will be suspended during the winter storm and resume once conditions are safe for personnel and equipment.

I will continue issuing updates and taking questions at this website (AskMayorPat.com). I will respond individually and through eBlasts provided that the internet is operative.

Pat Taylor