

## WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET MORE PARKING?

Highlands has over 950 public parking spaces in the business district. The town has more public parking for its size than most towns in Western Carolina including Franklin, Sylva, Bryson City and Blowing Rock. If we had more parking, could the business district accommodate the increased numbers of visitors on the sidewalks, an increase in traffic, and an increased volume using the public restrooms and eating in restaurants? A Parking garage is an option. But where would it be built so as to not change the visual appearance of the town. And it have to be very close to the business district for people to actually use it. Parking garages cost anywhere from \$1.6 million for a 65-space garage to over \$20 million for 1000 spaces. Or we can meter the parking in the downtown area so people would move their cars more frequently to allow more of a rotation of available parking spots. There isn't really a "magic bullet" on the horizon that will solve our parking issues but when we work together, we can find the way. The parking recommendations in the Highlands Community Plan should be carefully studied and considered.

