



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010
Volume 7, Issue 1

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

I hope everybody has had a chance to get outside and enjoy these past warm days. It has been a pretty harsh winter with all of the snow and cold weather.

Here at the house, I've surveyed all of the outside chores that need to be done – clean those gutters, re-plant some grass in the yard and clean out the garage just to name a few. (I think these items were on my list for last summer?) There never seems to be enough time in the day.

Just a quick note to thank the NC DOT and all of the utilities for working so hard to keep our lives as comfortable and normal as possible. We don't think about the jobs that they do until something isn't right.

We have several Town committees that are looking for members, and the Library is always looking for volunteers. Our Library continues to grow and our volunteers are doing an excellent job. Want to volunteer for a Town Committee or volunteer at the Library? Let us know and we will get you in touch with the proper people.

The Farmers Market committee has already met and looking forward to another successful year. The Market will continue to be on Saturdays in the Town Hall parking lot. Come out and support our local farm vendors.

Be careful while working outside – drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks....in the shade.

Also, while driving, you will start to notice big trucks and tractors pulling equipment. They are trying to get from one field to another and want to get off of the highways as soon as possible. So please be a little more careful and give them a lot of room and consideration.

THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3
Mills River, NC 28759

OFFICE: 828-890-2901 FAX: 828-890-2903

Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Monday-Friday

info@millsriver.org

www.millsriver.org



Council Members:

Mayor: Roger Snyder
Mayor Pro Tem: Lois Pryor
Councilman: Wayne Carland
Councilman: Shanon Gonce
Councilman: Larry Freeman

Staff:

Town Manager: Jaime Adrignola
jaime.adrignola@millsriver.org
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Susan L. Powell
susan.powell@millsriver.org
Administrative Assistant: Aurelie Taylor
aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org
Zoning Enforcement Officer: Pat Christie
pat.christie@millsriver.org

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HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

Prior to World War II, some women who lived on small family farms in Mills River managed to supplement the family's meager income by making and marketing quilts and bedspreads. They established what might aptly be called "cottage industries." My maternal grandmother, Minnie Sitton Gillespie (1879-1965), was one of these extraordinary entrepreneurial women. She kept detailed records of her sales and cost of materials which fortunately have survived. These enable us to gain a better understanding of household economics in Mills River during the Great Depression.

Minnie Naomi Sitton was the 6th of 11 children of Silas Sitton (1848-1912) and Martha Sitton (1850-1910), although only 8 of the 11 lived to adulthood. Silas operated a sawmill and grain mill near the Sitton home on South Mills River and also served as a Justice of the Peace and Postmaster of the Sitton Post Office. Minnie attended a one-room school on North Mills River and acquired cooking and sewing skills from her mother. At age 19, Minnie married a neighbor, John Gillespie (1873-1928). They lived for the first years of their marriage in the house of John's parents, located a short distance up the river from the Sitton house. John and Minnie soon became the parents of three children: Albert (July 1899), Lola (January 1901), and Velma (June 1903). In 1907, the family moved to a house located in the Pink Beds on the headwaters of South Mills River, where John worked as a ranger and trapper for George Vanderbilt. While they lived there, Minnie cooked for resident students in the forestry school run by Carl Schenck.

Sometime in 1908, the Gillespies moved into a new house located on the South side of South Mills River at the foot of Forge Mountain. John supplemented the family income by trapping fur-bearing animals during the winter months. He maintained trap lines for several miles along the river. Minnie spent much of her time cooking and quilting, with the assistance of her daughters. John suffered his first epilepsy attack in 1909, and they gradually became more frequent over the next several years. The progressive nature of the illness began to hinder his pruning of apple trees and other farm activities. After a long interval, John and Minnie again became parents when their 3rd daughter, Ruth, was born in May 1919. Nearly four years later, their 5th and last child, Robert, was born in January 1924.

Minnie made the first entries in her "home account book" in 1926 at a time when John was in the final stages of his debilitating illness. She recorded that she sold 12 bedspreads during 1926 for a total sum of \$190. The following year, she sold 24 spreads for a total of \$326.50. An entry in February 1928 indicates that she had paid \$7.22 for materials including lining, thread, 8 yards of cotton cloth and 3.5 yards of "long cloth." She calculated that the cost of material used for one bedspread had been \$1.10. Minnie recorded in April 1928 that a wild-rose quilt, a sunflower spread, and a tufted spread had been completed and that one bedspread had been sold to the "Pussy Willow Shop" for \$18.00. She received \$30.00 for a wild-rose quilt in June 1928 and sold an "old maid's puzzle" quilt for \$25.00 in July 1928. John Gillespie died in July 1928 at age 54 and was buried at the Sitton-Gillespie family cemetery which overlooked Forge Mountain and the farm where he had spent most of his life.

The final tally in Minnie's account book for the year 1928 showed total sales for the year of \$270 with expenses for materials of \$40.00. She recorded that she had \$100 in cash on hand and an unsold inventory of 8 bedspreads and 2 quilts. Between January and July 1929, six wild-rose quilts were completed along with several tufted and knotted spreads. In October 1929, she mentioned having done some quilts for the "Spinning Wheel," apparently an outlet store which commissioned quilts. Minnie's total sales for the year 1929 came to \$405, a new record for her cottage industry.

Minnie's gross income for 1930 was \$242 which included 13 spreads sold for \$171 and 3 quilts for \$60. She had purchased a milk cow in June and had sold \$17.95 worth of milk, butter, and buttermilk by the end of July. During the summer of 1930, she also had collected \$95 from the local sale of garden vegetables and other farm products. Items mentioned included cabbage, beans, mustard, spinach, turnips, lettuce, beets, onions, rhubarb, corn, chicken, eggs, and sausage. She also had spent \$6.30 for fertilizer and had hired neighborhood men to plow, harrow, plant, and spread manure.

During the year 1931, Minnie recorded that 22 bedspreads had been made in a variety of designs. Among the designs mentioned were blue tufted, cream tufted, green tufted, grape cluster, tufted star, tufted ring, knotted sunflower, and knotted wreath. Total sales for the year came to \$207 for 13 spreads and 4 quilts. The following year proved to be a down year with total sales of only \$111.50 received for 10 spreads and 2 quilts. Her total sales of handcrafted items in 1933 came to \$145.65 which included two "everyday quilts," a Dresden-plate quilt, a wild-rose quilt and an iris pattern quilt. She also sold 4 "doll spreads" and 5 tufted bags that year. Her annual total sales for 1934 increased to \$212 with an unsold inventory valued at \$70.75.

Minnie's annual income from selling quilts and spreads apparently never exceeded \$500 and often was considerably less. It is probably difficult for those born since the War to believe that a farm family could survive with such a low income. Minnie managed to support herself and her two young children during the years after John died by combining the income from the cottage industry with growing most of the food they needed and even selling surplus dairy products and garden produce. Of course, one needs to realize that producing quilts and spreads was a very labor-intensive enterprise and that the effective income per hour for the work was extremely low. At least the quilters could work in their homes during times when they were not busy cooking, washing clothes, tending their chickens and cows, and working in their garden. Their success despite such adversity can only leave us to feel a sense of admiration that they were able to do so much with so little for so long.





RECIPE CORNER

Moravian Slaw by Sue Powell

- 2 cups water
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 cups white vinegar
- 2 medium white onions, chopped
- 1 tablespoon mustard seed (optional)
- 3 lbs. cabbage, grated
- 2 green peppers, chopped fine
- 1 tablespoon salt

Boil top 3 ingredients and set aside to cool.

When dressing is cool, pour over all other ingredients.

Mix well and refrigerate at least 24 hours before serving. Drain before serving.

Makes 8 servings and keeps well in the refrigerator.

Enjoy!



Henderson County was recently approved for a grant contract that allows the **removal of Abandoned Manufactured Homes**. The grant reimburses the County up to \$1,000 per unit for removal and disposal of the home. Any costs exceeding \$1,000 would be the responsibility of the property owner.

If you have an abandoned mobile home on your property that may be a candidate for clean up, contact Town Hall to be added to a list for consideration to be eligible for this program.

MEETING & OTHER DATES

Apr 2	Good Friday	Town Hall Closed
Apr 6	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 13	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Apr 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Apr 16	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Apr 20	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Apr 22	LGCCA-Mills River	3:00 PM
Apr 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 27	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
May 4	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 12	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
May 13	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 15	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
May 18	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 25	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
May 27	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 31	Memorial Day	Town Hall Closed
Jun 1	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jun 8	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Jun 9	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jun 10	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jun 15	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jun 19	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Jun 22	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Jun 24	Town Council	7:00 PM
July 5	Independence Day Observance	Town Hall Closed
Jul 6	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jul 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jul 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jul 17	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Jul 20	LGCCA – Hendersonville	3:00 PM
Jul 20	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jul 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jul 27	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Family

Welcomes You!

Sunday Worship 10 AM



**419 Turnpike Road
Mills River, NC 28759
828 890 8196
www.ourhollyfamily.org**

The Rev. Robert Lundquist Rector

LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS ADS

The Mills River Town Newsletter is printed quarterly: at the end of March, June, September, and December. In order to defray the cost of publishing, the newsletter will be taking small business ads. These ads will be business card size and black and white. The business must be located within the town limits. There is a \$50 fee for each quarterly advertisement and since there is a limited amount of space, ads will be taken on a first come, first served basis. The ad must accompany payment and checks should be labeled for the newsletter. The fee collected goes directly for newsletter costs. Site selection within the newsletter is to be determined by the newsletter committee. The committee reserves the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs.

Thank you for your support.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The Town of Mills River newsletter is published and distributed quarterly. Articles submitted may be edited for brevity. Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of each of the following months: March, June, September and December. Submit articles in writing to:

Paula DeLorenzo
9 White Birch Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to p828@bellsouth.net. Articles can also be dropped off at Mills River Town Hall. If you need assistance, have questions or need more information, feel free to call Paula at (828) 890-8131 or email.

HELP US CELEBRATE THE MILLS RIVER LIBRARY'S 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!

Join us on Saturday, May 1, 2010, between 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. for our 5 Year anniversary celebration at Mills River Branch Library (4683 Boylston Hwy (Rte 280)). We want you to help us celebrate this milestone. The Branch will be open for business during these hours (no Internet available, however).

Free hot dogs, drinks, and cake
Free Face Painting by "Danni" the Clown
Children's Safety presentation by Henderson County Sheriff's Department
Mills River Fire Department Display
Story Time for Children

Parking will be available at Waycaster Tire, Food Lion and CVS parking lot (please park at end nearest Crossroads Dr.) as well as the parking lot at Dr. Bob Webb's office. **NOTE: The Mills River Fire Dept. will run a bus from the Food Lion and CVS parking lot to the Library so you will not have to cross Boylston Hwy (Rte 280) on foot.**

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER for Town Board or Committee

Volunteers are an invaluable asset to the Town. Opportunities to serve include the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Finance Committee, or Agricultural Advisory Committee. If you are interested in becoming more involved in your community, fill out an application (one per committee of interest) and return it to the address below. Applications can be found at www.millsriver.org or are available at the Town Hall.

Town of Mills River
ATTN: Town Clerk
5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3
Mills River, NC 28759

Forms will be kept on file for two (2) years. As openings occur, applications on file are reviewed, and appointments are made by Council.

NEWS FROM YOUR MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

by Roz Ledford

Congratulations to the Mills River Branch Library on its Five Year Anniversary



HELP US CELEBRATE!!

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On May 1, 2010, the Mills River Branch Library will celebrate its five year anniversary. The Branch has been continuously growing in these years with the number of patrons it serves and in its circulation growth. Patrons utilizing the Mills River Branch facility have access to the Branch 36 hours per week as the Branch is open Monday – Thursday 9:30 am – 5:30 p.m. and Friday 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. There is no paid staff at the Branch and it is run solely with a volunteer staff and has been since it opened in late April 2005. In addition to keeping the Branch open, volunteers provide an 11:00 a.m. Story Time for young children on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The Story Time volunteers also read to the kindergarten children at the elementary schools in Mills River on a monthly basis.

Mills River Branch is part of the Henderson County Public Library (HCPL) and is supported with books, public computers, etc. and receives materials delivered to the Branch three times per week to ensure that the Branch is a vital part of the HCPL system. The Town of Mills River provides the space and utilities.

Your Mills River volunteer staff is excited about the upcoming construction of the new Mills River Town Hall / Library facility to be built on town owned property on Rte 191 and Hooper Lane in Mills River. There is a current delay in getting the construction started due to the extremely wet and snowy weather the area has experienced during the 2009 – 2010 winter months. Upon completion of this new facility, the Mills River Branch Library will have approximately triple the space of the current location and will be able to better serve individuals from Mills River and the surrounding area who utilize the Branch.

As the Volunteer Coordinator for the Mills River Branch Library, I want to say to Henderson County residents that the 32 volunteers (23 who run the Branch and the 9 who read to the children) have made this 5 year anniversary possible. Their dedication and support to this Branch Library is something to behold.

Let me share with you a recent email from a regular user of our Mills River Branch:

"Rosalind, I wanted to share with you how much the Mills River Library has meant to my family and myself. As a Home School Mom your library has truly been invaluable. From the professionalism of your staff to your wide variety of texts your library has made my life easier.

It is hard to measure the ease-of-use of a library, so to simply come in and quickly find the appropriate books is what we like about your branch. That's why you see us so often; we love our Mills River Library! I thank you for all you have done for our community. See you next week! Thanks again, Lisa Haire"

Please join us on Saturday, May 1st and help us celebrate this major milestone. See details above.

Roz Ledford
Volunteer Coordinator
Mills River Branch Library

Library Hours of Operation
Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Story Time each Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday



GET TO KNOW YOUR CIVIL SERVANTS

by Paula DeLorenzo



Sue Powell, born Susan Luppino, is originally from Addison, Illinois where she was one of 3 sisters and 3 brothers. After moving to North Carolina and graduating from Brevard High School, Sue graduated from High Point College with a Bachelor's in History/Political Science. She then received her Master's in Public Affairs from Western Carolina University.

After college, Sue worked as a paralegal for four years before her ten years at First Commercial Bank working in Operations. During this time she married Mark Powell, a Superior Court Judge, to whom she has been happily married for 22 years.

Then for three years Sue worked in mortgage processing at various banks.

After taking some time off for family purposes, Sue joined the Mills River incorporation effort as Secretary-Treasurer of the incorporation committee. Throughout this time Sue volunteered with the Interfaith Assistance Ministry, a non-profit organization supported in part by area churches.

Following the Town's incorporation, Sue was asked to be its first part-time employee. Almost six years later, Sue's current position is Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Since the job of Tax Collector is self-explanatory, what does a Town Clerk do? In explaining I'd like to borrow from a 2008 article in "Southern City Magazine."

"A city clerk is an archivist, a historian, a translator of half-formed council/mayor utterances into streamlined, business narratives. A city clerk is a satisfier of state regulations, a drafter of proclamations and a diviner of council intentions. A city clerk is often the first person a citizen asks for help, and in an admirable number of instances, the person who sends that citizen away happy. A city clerk is part psychologist, part public relations counselor, part den mother and part quality-control officer."

And Sue loves her job...most days!!! Thank you for your dedication to Mills River and its citizens, Sue!



Jollene J. Austin, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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The **Mills River Farmer Tailgate Market** is seeking tailgate vendors and farmers. This second year market is growing and expanding to include farmers within a 50 mile radius of Mills River, NC.

Market opens May 8 and market hours are Saturdays from 8am-noon. The Market Plaza is the Mills River Commons located on Hwy. 280, 5 minutes from the Asheville Regional Airport.

Seasonal and Day Vendors are welcome to apply. For your vendor application contact millsriverfarm@yahoo.com or call Jim at 828-890-4105.



Hiking Safety Tips

by Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer

As warm weather approaches, the outdoor activities are increasing. It is a good time to get outdoors, and to do a little hiking, biking, and other fun activities. However with these activities, we need to exercise some caution and remember to be safe. Hiking seems to be a great way to get out and relax and enjoy our beautiful mountains, but during this particular activity we need to use some common sense and hiking safety tips.

- **Don't hike alone!** Hiking with a buddy is much safer, that way if you encounter any trouble you have someone to assist you. If you get lost, then you are less likely to panic with a buddy. Also, if you need medical assistance, your hiking partner may be able to administer help, or hike out for help.
- **Know where you're going!** Let someone know exactly where you will be leaving from and what time you will check back in. Leave a contact number of the local fire department or local sheriff's office (in their jurisdiction that you will be hiking.), especially if you have a family member with a pending medical issue, such as pregnancy, or a chronic/terminal illness. Your family may need to reach you with important information. It is important to know the trails you will be hiking on and convey that information. Even if you are experienced, you may end up getting lost. It is a good idea to carry a map, a compass and or a GPS unit. Make sure that whatever device you use will work in the area you will be hiking in. Not all units function in all areas.
- **Take some basic gear.** You don't need a lot of gear for a simple hike on easy terrain. Don't go overboard on gear. Carry matches or lighters. Remember that matches can get wet and lighters may run out of fuel. Take a knife along. A Swiss Army type knife with lots of gadgets may be very useful on your trek. Don't forget your first aid kit. It may be simply a Ziploc bag with essential items, like sunscreen and sunburn reliever. Aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen, gauze and bandages, band-aids, gloves, a flashlight and toilet paper can come in very handy.
- **Take basic provisions.** Water or other fluids like sports drinks are an obvious essential. You can lose a lot of fluid even over a two-hour period on a hot day. Heat stroke can kill, but is easily preventable. Even dehydration can radically reduce physical performance. Just remember water weighs about 8 lbs per gallon. Take what you need, not much more. Take enough food to last you the anticipated hike time. About 1 lb per day (depending on what you bring) is average for a medium-sized male. You can last longer without food than water, so trade off when you have to.
- **Exercise common sense.** Despite what you have read about an area, remember that you are not invincible and Mother Nature is not always kind. Use your common sense and know that if something seems like a bad idea, then it probably is, so don't try it.

If you need a smoke alarm for your home, or if you or your group would like a Fire or Life Safety program, please contact Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, Public Fire Educator, at 828-215-4897.

SHERIFF



**HENDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
MILLS RIVER DIVISION**

by Corporal Ken C. McCraw—Have a Safe and Happy Spring!

Please check the Henderson County Sheriff's Office website at www.henderson.lib.nc.us/county/sheriff for links and information regarding identity theft, Community Watch programs, and crime prevention.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Spring season. I want to remind everyone to drive safely. Below are a few driving reminders:

- Obey all posted speed limits
- Observe speed regulations in school zones
- Slow down and use caution during times of inclement weather
- Wear your seat belt
- Watch out for children around schools and near school buses
- Come to complete stops at all stop signs
- Turn your headlights on when operating your windshield wipers in the rain
- Please properly secure children in the correct child seats for their weight and age
- Increase your following distance in traffic
- Make sure your vehicle is in safe operating condition (tires, lights, signals, wiper blades, brakes, etc.)

For Emergencies—911 Non-Emergencies—697-4911 NC Highway Patrol—693-4141

**The Town of Mills River
5046 Boylston Highway
Suite 3
Mills River NC 28759**