



# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010  
Volume 7, Issue 2

## News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

### Town Budget

The Council has approved the 2010-2011 budget. It contains no tax increase (we are still at the 1 cent per at \$100.00 valuation since incorporation) and "holds the line" on most expenses. The Council and Staff are proud that we have kept this same tax rate since our incorporation in 2003.

### Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market is up and running for its second season. This is a great way for the area vendors to get their products out to the public. Please come out and support these folks. Interested in becoming a vendor – call us at Town Hall and we will get you in touch with the proper folks or visit our website at [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org).

### Hooper Property

We are moving forward with our new building on the Hooper Property. This 50+ acre tract of land was purchased a couple of years ago for the purpose of building a Town Hall/Library and to have our recreation facilities all together.

**The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be July 22, 2010 and will start at 3:00. We hope that you will make plans to attend.**

In constructing this new building, it will bring several things under one roof: the Library, the Town Hall and will provide some much needed storage space. Our goal is for you to visit Town Hall, check out a couple of books at the Library and enjoy the recreation facilities – all without moving your vehicle.

### Local Businesses

During these tough economic times, I would encourage you to support our local businesses here in Mills River when at all possible. Stop by and see what they have to offer. I know that they would appreciate seeing you.

### Boylston Creek Reclassification

Our thanks to our local State Representatives, both in the House and Senate, for introducing bills in the General Assembly to void any reclassification of Boylston Creek.

### Mills River Library

Many thanks to the Henderson County Commissioners for approving a paid staff position for our branch library here in Mills River. The volunteers do an outstanding job and continue to be an asset to the Library.

### Volunteers

The Town is always looking for volunteers to serve on committees, to volunteer at the Library or to assist with other projects. Interested in Planning, Finance, Recreation or other areas, contact us at the Town Hall and we will get you the information.

And, as always, if we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact the Staff or the Council.

### **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](mailto:info@millsriver.org)

[www.millsriver.org](http://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 Laughter

[jaime.laughter@millsriver.org](mailto:jaime.laughter@millsriver.org)

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Susan L. Powell

[susan.powell@millsriver.org](mailto:susan.powell@millsriver.org)

Administrative Assistant: Aurelie Taylor

[aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org](mailto:aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org)

Zoning Enforcement Officer: Pat Christie

[pat.christie@millsriver.org](mailto:pat.christie@millsriver.org)

**Email for Free Newsletter Subscription:**

[newsletter@millsriver.org](mailto:newsletter@millsriver.org)

**Website:** [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org)



## HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

Mills River cleared its final hurdle to become an incorporated town on June 23, 2003 when the North Carolina State Senate approved the enabling legislation. Viewed from an historical perspective, the event was something of a sequel to an earlier effort by the residents of Mills River to secede from Henderson County, an effort which the state legislature failed to approve, by a narrow margin, in 1927.

The secessionist movement of the 1920s grew out of what many in Mills River perceived as neglect of the road system in the section of the county west of the French Broad River. The county initiated a major road improvement program in 1921 which was characterized as the largest such undertaking in the history of Henderson County. It included funding to pave streets in Hendersonville and paving the highway from the Greenville County line through Hendersonville to the Buncombe County line.

In March 1922, the Hendersonville News reported that W.F. Cathey of Mills River had urged the county road commissioners to devote a portion of the road-building funds to improving access to Mills River. A few months later, the newspaper stated that the citizens of Mills River had lobbied to get a hard-surface road built to that "progressive agricultural district" without success. The cancellation of plans to build a new two-lane bridge across Mills River in September 1923 and delays in opening a bridge over the French Broad on the road toward Mills River caused further frustration. The newspaper quoted a resident who had complained that the French Broad served as a virtual divide with the county doing little to benefit those living west of the river.

Public meetings were held in Mills River during the summer of 1924 to discuss the potential benefit to the community of a hard-surface road connecting Brevard to West Asheville by way of Mills River. A local committee was selected, including W.F. Cathey and Dr., S.E. Greenwood, to consider the community's options such as whether the project might be done without county assistance. The possibility of secession was raised by Tom E. Osborne, a long-time community leader in Mills River, in a letter published by the Hendersonville News in March 1926. He noted that Mills River had failed to benefit from the extensive road building program elsewhere in the county. He continued that, when they read "glaring headlines" about county road improvements, Mills River residents felt "like a red-headed step-child standing off in the corner forced to help prepare the meal, but not permitted to share it with the rest of the family." He asked whether Mills River might not be better off if it joined Buncombe County which constructed roads to all sections. Osborne concluded that the French Broad would make a suitable boundary between the two counties if Mills River were to secede.

By early in 1927, the Mills River community was ready to show that it was serious about secession from Henderson County. In its edition of February 8, 1927, the Hendersonville Times-News ran the headline "Mills River Wishes to Secede." The newspaper stated that the principal grievance was that Mills River residents paid taxes but had found little consideration being given to road needs in the area. The article noted that a majority of the approximately 700 voters in the Mills River Township were in favor of secession and an affiliation with Buncombe County. On February 17, the newspaper disclosed that the "Mills River Bill" would be considered by the state legislature. A few days later, it was reported that a delegation of about 75 people had gone to Raleigh to present Mills River's case to a House committee.

The newspaper headline on February 24, 1927 read that "Mills River Bill is Reported Favorably." The accompanying story in the Times-News explained that the House committee had recommended approval of the Mills River secession bill by the full House. It continued that Mills River residents had built up their resentment over several decades and that the only road between Hendersonville and Mills River was a poorly maintained county road. The newspaper report added that the community also wanted a paved highway linking Brevard and Asheville by way of Mills River. They were convinced that Hendersonville opposed such a road and were willing to "sacrifice the Mills River populace to their own interests." On February 28, 1927, the Times-News reported that the secession bill had been defeated in the full House by a vote of 48 to 41. However, some who had voted against the bill had warned that a favorable vote was likely in the next session if Mills River continued to suffer neglect.

In an editorial on "The Mills River Matter" in early March, the editor admitted that needed road improvements in Mills River had not been made. He suggested that Mills River should be allowed to join Buncombe County if the situation failed to change within the next two years. Tom Osborne contributed a letter to the newspaper urging that Mills River not harbor "animosity" because of the defeat. He anticipated that Mills River probably would continue to suffer from discrimination unless public sentiment changed in Hendersonville.

The secessionist movement did apparently convince county officials that they needed to undertake road improvements in the Mills River section. In early March 1927, the county commissioners arranged to meet with a delegation from Mills River to address the road issue. Later the same month, the newspaper reported that a survey of the road from Hendersonville to Mills River was planned, and that it was expected to result in improvements to a seven-mile section of the road to Davenport's Store at Mills River. In June 1927, bids were

solicited for the paving of 11 miles of the Haywood Road from Hendersonville through Mills River at an estimated cost of \$200,000. The project was reported to have been completed by September 1928.

Although the primary road linking Hendersonville and Mills River finally had been upgraded, the secondary roads of Mills River continued to suffer neglect. Perry Williamson, who lived on a farm near South Mills River Road, addressed the issue in a letter to the Times-News in February 1928. He asserted that "it is not possible to create any more dissatisfaction than now exists in upper Mills River." He characterized the road up South Mills River as being little more than a "pig trail" even though it was used by school buses, doctors, ministers, and mail carriers. He wrote that he and his neighbors did not expect a paved road but that they should have a crushed-stone road suitable for all-weather use. He added that those who lived on or near the road would be willing to supply labor if the county road authorities would furnish the needed materials.



## MEETING & OTHER DATES

Jul 5	Independence Day Observance	Town Hall Closed
Jul 6	Planning Board	7:00 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 22	Town Hall Groundbreaking	3:00 PM
Jul 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jul 27	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Aug 3	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Aug 10	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Aug 11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Aug 12	Town Council	7:00 PM
Aug 20	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Aug 24	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Aug 26	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sept 6	Labor Day	Town Hall Closed
Sept 7	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Sept 8	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Sept 9	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sept 17	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Sept 23	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sept 28	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM

## RECIPE CORNER



### Egg Casserole from Paula DeLorenzo

- 4 eggs beaten
- ¼ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese (or a cheese of your choice)
- 1 cup creamy cottage cheese
- 2 medium white onions, chopped
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Beat the eggs well then combine with the other ingredients. (You can fold in well-drained spinach or whatever else you might wish to include.)

Bake in a buttered casserole dish at 350 to 375 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes until firm.

**Enjoy!**



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## 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.

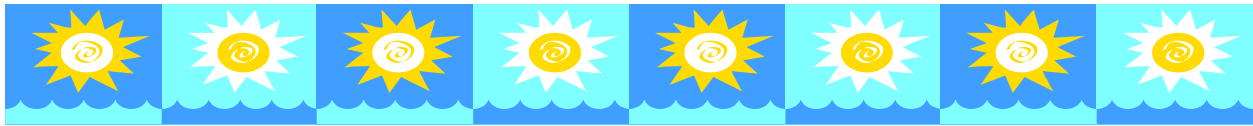
Thank you for your support.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



### Prudential

**PAULA DELORENZO**

Broker / REALTOR® / CPA  
[paulad@prulifestylerealty.com](mailto:paulad@prulifestylerealty.com)

**Prudential Lifestyle Realty**

84 Peachtree Road, Suite 200, Asheville, NC 28803

Call 828-691-8131

Toll Free 877 271-1091 Fax 828 274-1058

[www.paulad.us](http://www.paulad.us)

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Suite 5, Mills River Commons

5046 Boylston Highway  
Mills River, NC 28759

Bus. 828-890-2791 Fax 828-890-2435

Cell 828-699-7575 Hm. 828-891-6630

[jollene.austin@edwardjones.com](mailto:jollene.austin@edwardjones.com)

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

## PARKS COMMITTEE UPDATE SUMMER 2010

by Pat Christie

After the public input sessions were held last August and September, the results of those sessions were presented to Town Council at their meeting in October. The next step for the committee was to decide what facilities would be part of Phase I so that the grant application process could begin in earnest. After some back and forth and working with the town engineer, it was decided that Phase I would include the following facilities: the multi-use trail in its entirety, the dog park, a playground, a picnic shelter, restrooms and parking to service all these amenities. All of these proposed facilities are located towards the southern end of the property in the vicinity of the town hall/library building with the exception of the multi-use trail which will basically encircle the majority of the park property. A copy of the park plan is available for viewing on our website at [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org).

After the Phase I decision was finalized, Town Staff began the process of preparing for the submittal of the grant application. The Town submitted its grant application at the end of January, and in May we found out that we had been selected to receive a grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). This grant, with matching funds from the town, will enable the Town to build Phase I of the park. At this time, we are waiting for further details about the grant process. Once the paperwork is done, work on the park will need to start within one year and be completed within three years.

The nonprofit board incorporated last October and is known as the Mills River Recreation Foundation, Inc. They are a 501(c) (3) organization that was formed to help raise funds for the park. If you would like to become a Sponsor or get more information call Jollene at 828-699-7575 or visit [www.MillsRiverPark.org](http://www.MillsRiverPark.org).

# Mills River Farmer Market

Open Saturdays  
8:00 - 12:00 noon



**SUPPORT OUR WESTERN CAROLINA PRODUCERS!!**

**Farm Market Every Saturday Morning at the Town Hall Parking Lot from 8am to Noon**

**Pictures by Paula DeLorenzo**

## 2010 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARDS

On June 11, 2010 the Town of Mills River presented its Outstanding Citizen awards to three fifth grade elementary school students. Mayor Roger Snyder presented these awards at the awards ceremonies held at Mills River Elementary School and Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School.

***Congratulations to these outstanding students!***



**Gracie Fender & Jwalant Panthee**  
Glenn C. Marlow Elementary



**Sam Staton**  
Mills River Elementary

## COMMITTEE AND BOARD VACANCIES

by Sue Powell

The Mills River Town Council hereby announces vacancies on the following Committees and Boards, and is soliciting applications from interested citizens who wish to serve their community.

### **MILLS RIVER VALUES VOLUNTEERS!**

**PLANNING BOARD** - The Planning Board has 9 members. It is a state-regulated board that makes recommendations and advises Council on matters relating to land use regulations. The Planning Board also hears rezoning requests and requests for text amendments to the zoning ordinance. Various other matters regarding land use development must also be reviewed by the Planning Board before being heard by the Town Council. The Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Members serve two-year terms.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** - The Board of Adjustment consists of 5 voting members and 2 alternates. It is state-regulated, meets in quasi-judicial hearings and applies the Town Zoning Ordinance in appeals from decisions of the Zoning Administrator or when a property owner requests a variance or conditional use permit. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each even numbered month at 7:00 PM, or when caseload deems it necessary. Members serve three-year terms.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** - The Finance Committee consists of 7 seats. Members serve two-year terms and are charged with advising Council on financial decisions affecting the Town. In addition, the committee reviews revenue and expenditures on a monthly basis, and previews the upcoming fiscal year budget. The committee meets every month on the second Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

**APPLICATIONS** are available at Town Hall, on our website at [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org). You may also request an application by contacting Town Clerk Sue Powell at 828-890-2901 or [susan.powell@millsriver.org](mailto:susan.powell@millsriver.org).

## NEWS FROM THE MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

by Roz Ledford, Volunteer Coordinator



**5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** The Mills River Branch Library celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, May 1, 2010, with an open house and fun for local residents. It has been a wonderful five years due in no small part to the patrons in our community and the surrounding area who have supported and utilized the services provided by the Branch. "Danni" the face painting clown, stopped by to entertain the children; the Henderson County Sheriff's Dept. provided two deputies who presented a Children's Safety Program and gave stuffed animals and other gifts to the children. They also set up their patrol vehicles for the community to view. Our Henderson County Sheriff was also in attendance. The Mills River Fire Department provided an on-site display as well.

**We wish to thank** the following agencies and businesses who contributed services, food, tents, etc. for the event: **Carland Tractor, Carolina First, Dr. Bob Webb, First Citizens, Food Lion, Henderson County Sheriff's Dept., MLD Properties, MRM Outdoor Design, Milkco, Mills River Fire Dept., Mills River Methodist Church, Mills River Town Hall, Pepsi, Real Estate Professionals, Valley Ag, Waycaster Tire.**

Our volunteers are extremely pleased that the Henderson County Commissioners have approved funding to support a paid staff position at the Mills River Branch beginning in July 2010 (the beginning of the 2010-2011 fiscal budget year). The Henderson County Public Library is currently working through the hiring process for this position. We know that our hours will increase; however, this information has not been provided to us as yet and may not be available until the paid staff position is filled and the individual is on-site.



We are looking forward to the upcoming construction of the new Mills River Town Hall and Library facility being built off Hooper Lane in Mills River. The plans for this new facility can be found on the Town of Mills River website [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org). The ground breaking is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., July 22, 2010. Hopefully, we'll see you there. We look forward to being in our new location by Spring 2011.

## MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTED IN MILLS RIVER

by Sandy Shigeno



On May 4, my husband and I were sitting on our porch at dusk when we saw a tawny, deer-colored animal creeping along the tree line toward our house. At dusk it's hard to see clearly, and I thought it was a deer at first, but it was too low to the ground. It was getting closer to the house, coming toward us but still under the trees, when my husband stood up to see it better. Then the animal turned and ran down the hill right in front of us -- and it was a HUGE CAT!! It was definitely a mountain lion (or cougar/panther - other names for them) - its long tail - about the length of its body - streamed out behind it as it ran. We were both so shocked! I thought that these animals were long gone from the mountains, and my husband even asked if a lion had escaped from somewhere. It was not a bobcat, which another neighbor across the ridge saw in his yard this spring. (And there was definitely no alcohol involved in our sighting!)

I emailed the neighbors to be on the lookout for the "lion" (especially with their pets going out at night), and the folks across the stream from us wrote the next day to say that their house cat had been yowling like crazy at night. The husband went outside to look around, and saw a pair of eyes shining in the dark, but didn't investigate further that night. They later found huge tracks outside - three inches across. I looked up cougars on the Internet, and the drawing was exactly the animal we saw. The tracks also seemed to match what our neighbor photographed. Details at various websites said that a cougar's hunting area could be 175 square miles, so maybe he was just passing through (hopefully).

I went to the ranger station at Pisgah Forest and told the folks at the desk what we'd seen. The ranger wasn't there, and the volunteers didn't know if any other cougars have been sighted around here. But if you know of anyone who is counting cougar/panther/mountain lion sightings, then the month of May has had "one" for Mills River!

(Photographs courtesy of Catherine and Richard Webb.)



**SHERIFF**



**HENDERSON COUNTY  
NC**

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

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

Please check the Henderson County Sheriff's Office website at [www.henderson.lib.nc.us/county/sheriff](http://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 Summer 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**