I hope that you had a good summer and enjoyed the outdoors when it wasn’t raining. In one of my past articles, I couldn’t wait until summer got here. With the leaves starting to fall and the night air turning cooler, it seems that summer slipped by without my home project list getting completed.

**Town Projects**
Lower Walking Trail – This new walking trail runs along Hooper Lane, beside the river and back up toward Town Hall. People were using this trail while it was still under construction so I know it’s popular.

The Town Hall turning lane has been moved to spring 2014. This new lane will be for motorists making a left turn into Town Hall when traveling from Highway 191/280 intersection toward Hendersonville.

**Safety Tip**
Have you gotten that chimney cleaned and inspected? What about changing the batteries in your flashlights? Are you vehicles serviced and ready for winter?

**Elections**
Mills River has several candidates for Town Council seats. If you are not registered to vote (or just not sure), contact the Henderson County Board of Elections. Everyone needs to get out and vote.

**Local Support**
I think it is important to remember to support our local businesses. They support many of our community projects. So if at all possible, let’s buy local.

**Meetings**
Town Council meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We have various committees that also meet throughout the month. All of these meetings are open to the public to attend.

Are you interested in serving on a committee? We have openings on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee as well as the Board of Adjustment. If you are, we have an application on our web site or call us and we will mail it.
The Field family came to upper Mills River considerably later than some other families such as the Sittons, Gillespies, and Rickmans. However, they soon established ties to the pioneering families through intermarriage and active participation in the local church and other community activities.

Henderson County land transfer records reveal that Nathan M. Field (1824-1899) of Massachusetts purchased a tract of 147 acres on the North side of Forge Mountain in February, 1876. It was at about that time that he moved to Mills River with his wife, Elizabeth Field (1838-1915) and their children. A descendant informed me that Elizabeth was afflicted with an illness and that they had come to seek a better climate for her health.

A daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth, Ruth Field (1863-1945), married Sidney J. Whitaker (1862-1943) of Mills River around 1882. They became the parents of 17 children, 14 of whom survived their parents. The family resided in a large seven bedroom pebbled-ash home which still stands near Whitaker Lane. Many of their descendants still live in the area.

Another connection between the Field family and a local Mills River family took place around 1890 when Nathan’s son, Will Field (1861-1938), married Sarah Jane (Jenny) Gillespie (1871-1949). She was a daughter of Harvey N. Gillespie and Mary Orr Gillespie, who lived a short distance from the home of Nathan and Elizabeth on south Mills River. In 1896, Will and Jenny acquired a 100 acre tract of land just across the river from the Mills River Baptist Church. They became the parents of six children born between 1892 and 1908 and resided in a house built on a small knoll overlooking the bend of the river. I have an old photograph of a gathering of the Field and Gillespie families taken around 1918. The group included Will and Jenny Field and their 6 children. Both families were active in the Mills River Baptist Church and lived close enough for considerable social interaction.

Around 1919, G.C. (Clifford) Field (1892-1955) married Ruth Brittain (1897-1923). She was the daughter of William A. Brittain and Mattie Rickman Brittain of North Mills River. Their marriage established a connection with two other families with deep roots in the Mills River community. Clifford and Ruth became the parents of Freda Field (O’Brien) (1921-2013), and William A. (Bill) Field (1923-2003).

Several members of the Field family, including Nathan, Elizabeth, Will and Jenny are buried in the Whitaker-Moore Cemetery located near the intersection of Hall Road and Whitaker Lane.
SPOTLIGHT ON MILLS RIVER RESIDENT
Paula McLelland, Third Grade Teacher, Mills River Elementary School

♦ How long have you been a teacher at Mills River Elementary School?

I’ve been a teacher at Mills River Elementary School for 16 years, but I’ve been teaching for a total of 26 years. I enjoy teaching at Mills River because it is such a supportive community. It still means something to be a teacher in this community and “schools are a reflection of the community”. Our school slogan is “Mills River – a great place for children to learn.” That’s so true.

♦ Did you always want to be a teacher?

Yes! My poor stuffed animals were subjected to my lessons for years. I got into big trouble as a child for stapling bulletin boards on my walls and bedroom door.

♦ What inspired you to become a teacher?

There wasn’t one thing in particular that inspired me to become a teacher. I just always thought it was really exciting to give someone something, especially knowledge. When you see a child struggle with a concept and finally find success you realize they have not only added a new skill to their skill set but a part of their self-esteem has been strengthened.

♦ How do you like the new school building?

I appreciate being in the new building. I taught in one of the mobiles for 8 years! It’s so nice to have everyone under the same roof now. Also, since we are a green school the children can actually see green practices in action.

♦ Did you grow up in North Carolina? How long have you lived in Mills River?

I grew up in Whiteville, North Carolina, a small town about forty miles from Wilmington on the coast. My family has lived in Mills River for 17 years.

♦ Do you have children of your own?

I have two sons. Scott is 21 he lives in Asheville and attends A-B Tech. Will is 16 and a junior at West Henderson High School.

♦ What do you do for fun?

I love to garden! I am always delighted to spend a day digging in the dirt and enjoying the beautiful mountains. I also enjoy needlework and hunting for treasures at local thrift shops.

♦ Do you have a favorite book?

I don’t have one favorite book. I enjoy reading. My Master’s Degree in education was with a concentration in reading. I like to read books about subjects depending on where I am in my life. Right now I am reading a gardening book by Margot Rochester and I am looking forward to reading a lot of “beach books” over the summer.

♦ Do you have a favorite quote?

I don’t know who originally said, “Children don’t care what you know until they know that you care”, but they were right.

♦ If you could have two superpowers what would they be?

I would love to have the ability to be in two places at one time! My to-do list always seems longer than the day. My other power would be to be able to heal people’s sadness, making people happy and making them treat each other nice.
October 2013

Story Time will be held at 10:00 a.m. each Monday in October.

On Saturday, October 26 the Branch will host a Halloween Party, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. There will be Halloween stories and pumpkin decorating. Costumes are encouraged and registration is required. Call the Branch at 890-1850.

The Knit & Crochet Group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. (October, November, December) in the Commons Room adjacent to the Library. The group welcomes anyone learning or struggling with a project as well as those wanting to meet people who share the same interests.

November 2013

Story Time takes place every Monday at 10:00 a.m. Come for a story and a fun activity.

The Branch will sponsor two workshops during November. These workshops are Wreath Making and creating personal Greeting Cards. Contact the Branch (890-1850) for specific details and signup requirements.

The Branch will be closed on the following dates in November:

November 11 – Veterans Day
November 28 and 29 – Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2013

On December 2nd, in place of the regular Story Time, we will have a Bright Star Children’s Theatre event at the Branch. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. Story Time the remainder of the month will take place on Dec 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 10:00 a.m.

A children’s Christmas “Make and Take an Ornament” class will be held at the Branch in December (date to be announced so check with the staff at the Branch, if interested – 890-1850.)

Adult Yoga in January: An adult yoga class (4 Saturdays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.) is currently being planned for January 2014. Contact the Branch if you have questions or want to sign up.

The Branch will be closed December 24, 25, 26

THE WESTFELDTS OF RUGBY GRANGE

The FRIENDS OF THE MILLS RIVER LIBRARY are selling copies of the newly published hard cover book THE WESTFELDTS OF RUGBY GRANGE

This book explores a family that played an important role in the area in the late 19th Century. The Westfeldts first settled in the area in the 1870s, purchasing a large tract of land where Hoopers Creek joins the French Broad River. Six generations of Westfeldts have visited and/or lived on the property the family knew as Rugby Grange. Cost is $30.
MILLS RIVER FIRE AND RESCUE WANTS YOU TO
STAND BY YOUR PAN

October 2013 — How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking, causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove - until smoke filled the house?

If this sounds familiar, I hope you’ll read on, because you’re running the risk of having a dangerous fire. As Public Fire Educator of the Mills River Fire and Rescue, I often talk to people about the ways they can stay safe in their homes. Too often, we have that talk after they’ve suffered a damaging fire.

It’s my hope that people reading this article won’t have to learn the hard way. If I could give just one fire warning, I’d say “stand by your pan!”

Why? Because cooking is the leading cause of home fires, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Latest statistics from NFPA say that two out of every five home fires started in the kitchen and more than 150,000 fires a year are related to cooking.

And guess why most of these fires occur? If you said it’s leaving cooking unattended, you got it right. Often when we’re called to a cooking-related fire, the residents tell us they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that’s all it takes to go from routine to disaster.

The bottom line is that there’s really no safe period of time for the cook to step away from a hot stove. A few key points to remember:

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of three feet around the stove. Keep pets from underfoot so you do not trip while cooking.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don’t remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Call the fire department and make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again. Food cooked in a microwave can be dangerously hot. Remove the lids or other coverings from microwaved food carefully to prevent steam burns.

A cooking fire can quickly turn deadly. I have seen too many homes destroyed and people killed or injured by fires that could have been easily avoided. Please heed these simple safety rules. We firefighters would like to be in your kitchen, but only when you invite us for dinner!

For more information contact:
JEANNIE MOORE-PAYNE, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator
STATION PHONE: 828-891-7959
PARKS UPDATE FALL 2013

Fall is officially here and it’s time to think about cool weather, leaf peeping, and football. Hopefully everyone had a great summer in spite of all the rain that seemed determined to dampen our spirits.

The rear multi-use trail is now open and we are working to get benches and trash cans installed. It is approximately 1 mile in length and starts and ends at the Town Hall parking lot. You can see the trail’s location on the plan available at our website under the Park button or on one of the bulletin boards in the park.

The benches for the Tennis Courts are in place and were made possible by generous donations from Wayne and Carolyn Carland, Jim and Lisa Smith of Keller Williams Realty on behalf of Wayne and Carolyn Carland and the Henderson County Community Tennis Association. We are working to get trash cans placed just outside the gates of the tennis courts.

Town Council has instructed the staff to move ahead with a Phase II PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) Grant Application. The proposal will include the construction of the three 200’ ball fields in the grassy area next to the current Restroom/Concession building. This size field should accommodate both softball and little league baseball when completed. We are also proposing to build another parking area as parking is already at a premium at the Town Hall Parking Lot and is sure to be needed with the construction of three ball fields. We have posted a plan on our website and on the bulletin boards in the park showing the proposed Phase II. The facilities colored in green are what we are looking to apply for next.

We will be holding several public input sessions as part of the grant application process. They will be held on October 5th from 9:00am-1:00pm, October 8th from 9:00am-7:00pm and October 12th from 9:00am-1:00pm. All of the sessions will be held in the Commons Room at Town Hall. By now I hope you have received your postcards and will drop in to discuss our next phase and offer your comments and anything else park related you wish to share.

Lastly, in order to do some turf repair and maintenance, we are going to temporarily close down the dog parks starting October 11th. They will reopen on November 8th. This is the right time of the year to aerate, put down lime, fertilizer and seed to try and fill in the numerous bare spots found in our dog parks. We apologize for the inconvenience as we try to repair and improve our facility.

Don’t forget that the Picnic Shelter is available for rent and a calendar may be viewed to confirm availability. Please go to www.millsriver.org and click on the Park button or call Town Hall at 828-890-2901 for information.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

There have been changes in our Tax Office this summer. With Sue Powell taking on other responsibilities, the Tax Collector/Town Clerk position was split and Aurelie Taylor has been promoted to Tax Collector. While most staff can help with tax amounts, whether tax has been paid and the pay date, any questions or problems needing to be dealt with by the Tax Collector should be address to Ms. Taylor.

2013 property tax bills were mailed at the beginning of September. Property owners have until 5pm Monday, January 6, 2014 to pay without penalty or interest. This includes United States Post Office postmarked mail (not postage meter postmarks). If you haven’t received a notice and feel that you should, please call Town Hall. In order to reduce payment confusion, we do not send duplicate bills to homeowners if their mortgage companies have requested the notice. Most mortgage companies remit tax payments by the third week in November, so if you’d like to check with us to see if your payment has been made out of an escrow account, you might want to check after that time. At present, tax payment information is not available on our website.

As always, if you think you may have difficulty paying your taxes in one lump sum, please call us to discuss payment options. The sooner this is done the more we can assist you. We have no option exempting taxpayers from interest and penalty after January 6, 2014 except full payment by that date.
RECIPE CORNER

Stewed Butternut Squash with Apples and Smoked Bacon

- 1T olive oil
- 4 strips thick-cut smoked bacon, diced
- 1 ½ cup small diced onions
- 1T minced garlic
- 2T unsalted butter
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and diced
- 1 (2 pound) butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and diced
- ¼t freshly grated nutmeg
- 1T chopped fresh thyme
- 1 ½t salt
- ½t ground black pepper
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 2 cups chicken stock

Set a medium sauté pan over medium heat. Add the olive oil and bacon and render, stirring often, until crispy, 6 to 8 minutes. Add the onions and cook until lightly caramelized, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the garlic, butter and apples and cook, stirring often, until the apples are tender, about 5 minutes. Add the squash and increase the heat to medium-high. Cook the squash, undisturbed, for 3 to 4 minutes. Stir, then add the nutmeg, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook for another 3 to 4 minutes and add the maple syrup and the stock. Bring the liquid to a boil, cover the pan, and reduce the heat to medium. Cook until the squash is tender and most of the liquid has evaporated, about 15 minutes. Remove the lid, stir the squash gently and re-season if necessary.

Serve immediately while hot. Serves 6.

MEETING & OTHER DATES

- Oct 10  Town Council  7:00 PM
- Oct 15  Board of Adjustment  7:00 PM
- Oct 18  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
- Oct 22  Parks and Recreation  7:00 PM
- Oct 24  Town Council  7:00 PM
- Nov 3  Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 5  Planning Board  7:00 PM
- Nov 5  Municipal Election Day Polls Open 6:30 AM-7:30 PM
- Nov 11  Veterans Day
- Nov 14  Town Council  7:00 PM
- Nov 15  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
- Nov 21  Finance Committee  7:00 PM
- Nov 26  Parks and Recreation  7:00 PM
- Nov 28  Town Council  7:00 PM
- Nov 28  Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 3  Planning Board  7:00 PM
- Dec 10  Board of Adjustment  7:00 PM
- Dec 12  Town Council  7:00 PM
- Dec 20  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
- Dec 24  Parks and Recreation  7:00 PM
- Dec 24-26  Christmas Observance
- Dec 26  Town Council  7:00 PM

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Scheduled meetings may be cancelled at any time – please call Town Hall at 890-2901 or check our meetings calendar at www.millsriver.org

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 accepts small business ads. These ads should be business card size (preferably the card itself) and black and white. There is no guarantee of ad or print quality. The company must do business within the town limits, but not necessarily have its location in the town. 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 payment must accompany the ad and 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 editors. The editors reserve 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 by US mail and e-mail link. A copy can also be found at www.millsriver.org. Articles submitted may be edited for brevity, content, and appropriateness. Inclusion of an article is at the editor’s discretion. Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of each of the following months: March, June, September and December. Submit articles in writing to:

Aurelie Taylor
Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org. Articles can also be dropped off at the Mills River Town Hall. If you need assistance, have questions or need more information, feel free to call Aurelie at (828) 890-2901 or e-mail her at the above address.
Hope everyone has a safe and happy fall season. Please remember 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
- Burn your headlights 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: 828-697-4911  
NC Highway Patrol: 828-693-4141