



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012
Volume 9, Issue 3

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

Town Park

This past summer, we had over 250 people to attend the Grand Opening of the Park. Many thanks to those sponsors that donated time, money, and energy in making the Grand Opening successful.

Our Dog Park is an attraction in and of itself. It seems like every time I go by, dogs are everywhere – small, medium and large.

As you enjoy the Park, please abide by the rules; they are there for everyone's safety and to make your visit more enjoyable. Also, as we add other amenities, areas will be under construction from time to time. For your safety, don't enter any sections of the park where there is construction. We will reopen those areas as soon as possible, so bear with us. We still have many more things to come.

Highway 191 Entrance

Have you noticed our new lighted sign at our main entrance? It includes our logo that a long time Mills River resident, Joyce Lance Barnett, designed, drew, and donated to us while we were going through the NC State incorporation effort to become a Town.

Many thanks to Lowes, both the Airport Road and Pisgah Forest stores for their donation of their employees' time, plants, other materials and hard work to make our entrance more attractive.

Van Wingerden Greenhouses

Every year around this time, Van Wingerden opens up their greenhouses and invites the public to visit. This year, the date is November 10, 2012, starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 3:00 PM. Both facilities on Haywood Road (Highway 191) and the one on Jeffress Road will be open. Come and enjoy a self guided tour or ask a Van Wingerden staff person to assist you.

Safety Tip

Have you changed your smoke or carbon monoxide detector's batteries lately? What about the batteries in your flashlights – all of them. I try to keep several flashlights around the house and one in each vehicle. That way if I lose one, hopefully, I can find another.



THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

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Mills River, NC 28759

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Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Monday-Friday

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www.millsriver.org

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Councilman: Wayne Carland
Councilman: Shanon Gonce
Councilman: Larry Freeman

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HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

The cultivation of gladioli (glads) for the cut-flower market reached the fertile bottom lands of Mills River by 1947. The acreage rented to the flower growers increased rapidly over the next few years and provided summer employment for local residents including high school students. By the time I joined a glad crew, we were paid fifty cents an hour with a bonus if one were willing to work 11 hours instead of the normal 10 on week days or on Sunday during harvesting. Work was available from the time the flower bulbs were planted in early summer until they were dug up in the fall and transported to Florida for a winter crop. The pay was slightly more for the times I used the family horse to pull a cultivator between the rows. The crew engaged in the removal of weeds and crab grass or the removal of undesired "suckers" from the plants prior to the beginning of harvest. Generally, we were not closely supervised and could take breaks to cool off or eat lunch. Occasionally, work was interrupted by a low-flying crop dusting airplane, one of which crashed after a pass over the glad field where I was working at the time. The pilot survived without serious injury and I took some photographs of the downed plane.

When it was time to cut flowers, we were each furnished with a small belt knife which was kept razor sharp with the aid of a pocket whetstone. Each flower stalk needed to be cut carefully using a V-shaped cut near the ground to avoid damage to the remaining part of the plant. Some of the workers were assigned the task of carrying bundles of freshly-cut flowers to a collecting area, an especially unpleasant job at times when there was a heavy dew which soaked clothing. There was a fairly narrow window when the flowers showed color but had not bloomed out too much to be shipped. Cutting on Sunday morning was thought important enough to pay double wages for those willing to skip church services. We soon learned the names of different varieties of glads such as "Picardy" or "Corona".

During dry summers such as the summer of 1948, water was drawn from the river and distributed over the flowers with pipes and sprinklers. I still have a photograph showing the system in operation. Another of my photographs depicts a result of a temporary glut of the market. It shows rows of opened blooms that normally would have been cut sooner. When the market was good, the flowers were transported to a packing house in Hendersonville where they were sorted and packaged for shipment to urban markets.

In the fall of 1952, the local newspaper reported that about 325 acres in Henderson County had been planted in glads during the past season with an estimated gross sale of \$600,000. That year, 12 growers had shipped about 50,000 containers of cut flowers. In 1956, nine producers planted about 350 acres of glads in Henderson County.

Some of the labor force consisted of migrant workers from Florida who worked in Henderson County for a few months in the summer and worked for the same enterprise in Florida in the winter. At the end of the growing season in the mountains, the bulbs were dug from the ground and shipped to Florida. A fair number of bulbs were left in local fields and this enabled at least one local farmer to enter the business himself by gleaning his field for leftover bulbs. My early work experience left me with something of a bias against glads as a garden flower rather than an agricultural commodity requiring long days of hard work before the cut flowers were shipped to distant cities for use as decoration.



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR



Tax bills went in the mail at the beginning of September. If you haven't received yours and your payment isn't paid by your mortgage company, please call us at 828-890-2901 or come by Town Hall. Call us as well if you'd like to check to be certain your mortgage company has paid your tax or requested your bill. The last day to pay your property tax without penalty or interest is January 7, 2013 by 5pm.

The next important activity for taxpayers after paying their tax is listing real property improvements, business personal property and individual personal property. Listing forms generally are mailed in December and are due on or before January 31. They must be filed with the Henderson County Assessor's Office at: Henderson County Assessor, 200 N. Grove Street, Suite 102, Hendersonville, NC 28792. As required by state law, late listings will receive a penalty which will appear on the year's tax bill in September. Detailed instructions on how to list each kind of property can be found on Henderson County's website: www.hendersoncountync.org.

All the information on your bill, except for the tax rate and the amount of tax you owe, is provided to us from the Henderson County Assessor's Office. The Assessor evaluates all property subject to taxation. The Assessor is required by North Carolina law to list, appraise, and assess all property within the county at 100% of market value as of the last reappraisal. Because there is such a volatile real estate market, Henderson County has opted to maintain a four-year reappraisal cycle. If you have an issue with the value of your property, please call the Assessor's Office at 828-697-4870.



Stacey Frady
REALTOR

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

404 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792
CELL: 828-243-5797
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MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

Thursday, October 18th at 3:30 p.m. - We will hold a Kindle Class. Bring your Kindle and learn how to use it with library e-books. There will be different versions of the Kindle on hand for the demonstration.

Tuesday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m. - BrightStar Touring Theatre will present Bluegrass and Tall Tales. Join us at the Branch for a fantastic show! We've combined two of our favorite things: Great

American literature with some toe-tapping bluegrass interludes! Join our musical actors as they bring to life some of the best American Tall Tales in this upbeat production. The program includes stories of Daniel Boone, Johnny Appleseed, and Paul Bunyan, to name a few, while interspersing these tales with some old fashioned southern style bluegrass music.

October 30th at 3:00 p.m. - Winterwind Consort will be at the Mills River Branch. Call the Branch (828-890-1850) for more details.

We encourage everyone to come and see what the Mills River Branch has to offer. We have the latest DVDs and music, a growing digital library and much more.

STORY TIME EVERY MONDAY AT 10 AM.



Cultural • Charitable • Civic • Recreational

Dear Neighbor,

Through the MRRF Memory Tree and Bench, honor the memory of a loved one while doing something constructive to make Mills River Park a nicer place to visit. If you would like more information or to donate to this tax deductible program, please call 828.699.7575 or mail you check to the address below.

MEMORY TREES

A weatherproof metal plaque will be placed at the tree with the name of the person in whose memory the tree has been planted. The cost for the tree, planting and plaque is \$175.

MEMORY BENCHES

You may also purchase memory benches from the Mills River Recreation Foundation. These are very sturdy metal benches with a plaque. The plaque is placed on the top front of the bench. The cost is \$795, and that includes the bench, the plaque and the installation.



911 and YOU

by Jeannie Moore-Payne



Calling a central number “911” for an emergency has improved speed and efficiency. In years past, a separate number was used to call for a fire, a crime, or an ambulance. Can you imagine having to call three places for one emergency? Those delays are what helped us to implement the 911 system.

Everyone needs to know to call 911 in an emergency. Mills River Fire and Rescue work very diligently to educate the residents of our community. When you have a “true emergency” and must call 911, a telecommunicator will answer the line, “Henderson County 911, what is your emergency?” Be aware that other counties are not the same. They may request you to state what your needs are, such as Fire, Police, or Medical (an ambulance.) After you state your emergency, they may have further questions for you.

For medical issues, they may ask you if the patient is breathing, is the patient/person conscious, and other similar questions. If it is a crime, they may have questions about what happened and is the person still nearby that committed the crime. If there is a fire, they may wish to know what you see, such as smoke, flames, etc. While they gather information, someone is already getting help on the way. All the information is important to sending the right type of help to you.

Remember if you are calling from a landline, it is still imperative to know your address and phone number. The information may be visible on the telecommunicators screen, but they will need you to verify it is correct. Be aware that we are unable to see where you are, if you call from a cellular phone or a computer based service, such as Vonage. Most phones now have GPS locators inside, but this can be very limited. **Do not rely on GPS or other capabilities to locate you in an emergency.** Mills River Fire and Rescue encourages all residents to know their address/location as it may save vital time and maybe even a life. Place this information on the back of your telephone, on a note card on your refrigerator, or other information board in your home.

Emergency Personnel understand that if you are dialing 911 something has happened and you may be very upset, but please remain as calm as possible. This is very important for us to get help on the way. If the telecommunicator cannot determine what is wrong, they may dispatch a law enforcement person before the ambulance that is needed. They do this to ensure a safe situation for the other Emergency Personnel. The delay may take several extra minutes a person in critical condition may not have.

For further information on telecommunications in Henderson County, call your local fire department or the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office non-emergency number. Mills River Fire and Rescue offers public education Fire and Life Safety programs free to our community. Please contact Jeannie Moore-Payne at 828-215-4897 to schedule a program.

MEETING & OTHER DATES

October 2012

Oct 18	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Oct 19	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Oct 23	Parks/Recreation Committee	7:00 PM
Oct 25	Town Council	7:00 PM

November 2012

Nov 4	Daylight Savings Time Ends	2:00 AM
Nov 6	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Nov 6	Election Day	6:30 AM – 7:00 PM
Nov 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Nov 12	Veterans Day Observance	
Nov 15	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Nov 16	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Nov 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Nov 22-23	Thanksgiving Observance	
Nov 27	Parks/Recreation Committee	7:00 PM

December 2012

Dec 4	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Dec 11	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Dec 13	Town Council	7:00 PM
Dec 20	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Dec 21	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Dec 25	Christmas Observance	
Dec 27	Town Council	7:00 PM

January 2013

Jan 1	New Year’s Day Observance	
Jan 7	Last Day to Pay Property Tax	5:00 PM

PARKS COMMITTEE UPDATE FALL 2012

Fall is in the air with warm days and cool nights upon us. The park has seen a lot of usage throughout the summer especially in the dog park area. The shelter has been used for birthday parties, anniversaries, church cookouts and ice cream socials. We even had a rabies clinic held there just recently. The playground remains popular, of course, and the multiuse trail has its share of "regulars" that we are happy to see using it.

Since our last update, the Park Rules have been adopted. An abbreviated version of them may be found on the message boards located at the shelter, the dog park and the restrooms. You may also find them online at our website, www.millsriver.org, under the Park button. There you will also find an application for renting out the shelter and a calendar that shows when the shelter is reserved.

If you are a regular visitor to the park, you may have noticed an area between the Town Hall building and the dog park parking lot under construction. No, it's not another parking lot; it is actually the location of 4 new tennis courts! Construction started in August and we are tentatively looking at an October completion of this project. The park committee drafted additional rules for this new facility to be adopted by the Town Council soon.

As I am writing this article, individuals from the local Arden and Brevard Lowes Home Improvement Stores are hard at work landscaping the entrances into the park. This is part of their Hero's Program where they are supplying both the materials and labor to beautify our park. Thank you Lowes!

As always, please feel free to go to www.millsriver.org or call the Town Hall at 828-890-2901 if you have any questions or need information.



**New Landscaped Entrance into the Park
Thanks Arden and Brevard Lowes Home Improvement Stores!**

Military Memorial Dedication

**Friday, November 9, 2012
Mills River Town Hall
3:30 PM**

**Come join us as we honor our
Veterans and active military
servicemen and women**



Clean Streak, Inc. - UHAUL
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Mills River, NC 28759
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828-674-3522
828-891-6221
horace1jr@bellsouth.net

SPOTLIGHT ON MILLS RIVER RESIDENT ADA HENSLEY

by Kathryn Finotti

- ◇ How long have you been a resident of Mills River and how did you come to live here?
We've been here a little over five years. We moved here so that my children could be closer to their father.
- ◇ Do you have a family? I have a daughter who is 20 years old and twin sons who are 17 that attend West Henderson High School.
- ◇ How do you make your living? I work at Hyder's Kountry Kubbard
- ◇ If you could be anyone but yourself, who would you be? Why?
I don't think there is anybody I'd like; I like me pretty darn well.
- ◇ What's your favorite season? I love summer!
- ◇ If you could open a business here in Mills River, what would it be?
I would open a good ole honky tonk. There isn't any place to do some line dancing Mills River.
- ◇ What's the name of your favorite TV show, movie or book?
One of my favorite movies is "Lonesome Dove".
- ◇ If the world was going to end tomorrow, what one food or drink would you stock up on?
Cheesecake!
- ◇ Do you have a favorite outdoor activity...what is it?
Spending time at the lake or around a bonfire with good friends
- ◇ Do you sing? Every day! I love to sing and love music!
- ◇ Where were you born? Branson, Colorado.

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:

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 email.

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

Have a Safe and Happy Fall!

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 fall 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