The most challenging issue facing Town Council this spring and summer has been the proposed Duke Energy high voltage transmission line. Several of us were present at the WNC Ag Center this summer when Duke originally revealed their plans, and Council immediately followed up with “one-on-one” informational meetings with Duke Officials.

Council was proud to have taken the lead in opposing Duke’s plans. We called a special meeting and public forum in early August, which allowed a large number of concerned citizens to voice their concerns and express their opposition. We gathered all the available contact addresses for Duke Energy, the Utilities Commission, elected officials, and published them, along with regular updates on the status of Duke’s plans, on the Town’s website. We printed and distributed that contact information at every available opportunity. Town staff collected every comment, even the actual audio of concern expressed at our public meetings. All of it has been placed in the hands of county and state elected officials, Duke Energy, and the N.C. Utilities Commission. We were the first local government body to prepare and pass, unanimously, a formal resolution opposing any route that would be detrimental to the Town of Mills River, our citizens, and property owners. Other local governments then followed our lead. We held a follow-up Town Hall public forum prior to our
late August Council meeting, again giving the public an opportunity to be heard on the issue. Throughout the process, we have been in constant contact with Duke Officials, with the Utilities Commission staff, county and state officials---and with anyone willing to listen---to express the strong feelings of our Mills River citizens.

Duke stated, at our early August Council meeting, that their decision on a route will be announced in early October.

We’ve done a lot, and it’s not over yet. Whatever Duke decides, the FINAL decision on a route will be made by the seven members of the Utilities Commission. All seven members are appointed by Governor McCrory and each appointee is confirmed by the General Assembly. So---PLEASE---let the governor, members of the Commission, county commissioners, State Senator Tom Apodaca, and Representatives Chuck McGrady and Chris Whitmire know your feelings at the addresses in this newsletter and on the Town’s web site.

Let us continue to be diligent---and pray---that our blessed and beautiful community will be spared any harmful, intrusive, and ugly effects from this massive new transmission line.

Hoping for good news to report to you later this fall.

Respectfully,
Mayor Larry Freeman

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Duke Energy
888-238-0373
WCTransmissionEnhancements@duke-energy.com

North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

Governor Pat McCrory
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Henderson County Board of Commissioners
1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite 1
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Senator Tom Apodaca
1504 Fifth Ave West
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Representative Chuck McGrady
N.C. House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 304
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Representative Chris Whitmire
N.C. House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 537
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
One of my pleasant memories of early years at North Mills River was participating in annual spring hikes to the "ramp patch". A small group of local men and boys would agree to convene on a Sunday afternoon when the ramps were expected to be at the eating stage. We would hike up the river to a cove on Big Creek, a short distance upstream from the Hendersonville water intake dam. Once we arrived, we began digging up ramps, usually with sharpened sticks. Some would eat them on site, after washing it in the branch. Others would carry a few home to eat later, perhaps with fresh corn bread. One of my older Sitton cousins decided to transplant some to a location near his home on South Mills River. I learned recently that his patch still survives even though he is no longer living.

The ramp (Allium tricoccum) is a member of the Lily family and is sometimes known as wild leek. The book Great Smokey Mountain Wildflowers (Campbell, Hutson, and Sharp) refers to the ramp as being the "sweetest tasting and foulest smelling plant that grows". It continued that it's "obnoxious garlic-like odor persists for two to three days afterward".

By 1947, I had earned enough from picking beans or other farm labor to enable me to purchase a bicycle. I rode it home from Hendersonville via Highway 191 and North Mills River Road. I soon began using it on roads in the nearby National Forest, often in the company of a few local friends or later my brother, Jere. A favorite road climbed from the North Mills River Recreational Area to Bent Creek Gap. In those days, there was little car traffic on the road. We could leave our bikes near the road and take short walks on trails that intersected the road. On one excursion, we discovered a site where mica had been mined some years before. We explored the trail up Moore Cove and found that we could cross over to Seniard Creek where one of my friends lived. At Bear Branch, we could cross Wash Creek and gain access to the Trace Ridge Trail that went up to Beaverdam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The trail over Trace Ridge also provided easy access to the site of the Big Creek Wilderness Hunt. This was held annually during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

From Bent Creek Gap, it was only a short walk to the fire tower at Ferren Knob. On one trip there, we had an informative visit with Mr. Stamey, who resided in the tower during fire season. He told us about the wildlife he had seen near the tower. He also explained how he used instruments to determine the exact location of a fire in the area he could see from the tower. He used a single wire telephone with an Earth return path to communicate his observations to the other observers or forest officials.
Fall is here and it’s finally cooling off. Football season is underway and beautiful fall foliage is right around the corner. We hope everyone had a great summer!

The canoe/kayak launch officially opened with a Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on July 15th. The access is only for non-motorized watercraft and is a step down type of launch. We have seen steady use this summer including those folks that just want to access the water to cool off.

A bench and trashcan holder were constructed and installed near the fishing pier. These were designed and built as an Eagle Scout project, and we thank Grant McIntyre for these amenities. We now have a beautiful bench looking out onto Mills River for our park patrons to enjoy the river as well as a much needed trash receptacle.

You may have noticed an addition to the landscaping at Town Hall on your way into the Library. (See Page 3) Last February, Lois Pryor, President of the Friends of the Mills River Library, received permission from Town Council to install a statue of a child reading a book onto a rock in front of Town Hall. The statue was donated and the installation was paid for by the non-profit. It certainly enhances the entrance into Town Hall.

The park recently hosted its first 5K race (Mills River 5K) and on the same day hosted a well attended "Party in the Park". Both of these events were sponsored by local churches and we hope both of these will become yearly events.

Upcoming events include the 2nd Let's Move Day on October 11th and the annual Lion's Club Trunk or Treat on October 31st.

Starting in September the park restroom hours will be changed to coincide with sunrise and sunset. Hours will be posted on the bulletin boards throughout the park.

Don’t forget that the Picnic Shelter is available for rent and the online 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.
October 3 at 11 am
“Cold Blooded Critters”

In the mid-1960s, Steve Longenecker became the first person to find a way up the steep sides of Looking Glass Rock (the “Nose” ascent), Linville Gorge and Devil’s Courthouse. These days Steve spends some of his time educating people about Snakes, Reptiles and Birds of Prey.

On October 3rd Steve will be here to present “Cold Blooded Critters”. Steve likes to emphasize is how to teach others about snakes. All of the snakes featured in the program are rescues, with the exception of two. Featured snakes will be copperheads, a rattlesnake, python, boa, and more.

October 28th at 2 pm
“Halloween Hootenanny”

October 31st at 11 am
“Halloween Party”

Children are invited to join us to decorate their own pumpkins. Costumes are encouraged. Snack will be provided. Please call or come by the library to register.

Regular Programming

Mondays: Story Time - 10:00 am
Tuesdays: Yoga with Lynn Edgar - 9:00 am
          Knit and Crochet Group - 1:30 pm
          LEGO Club - 1st Tuesday of the month - 4:00 pm

Thursday: Book Club - 2nd Thursday of the month - 10:00 am
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
Aurelie Taylor

Town of Mills River tax notices were mailed the beginning of September. Because of the Henderson County revaluation of properties and an increase in the Mills River Volunteer Fire Department tax, most property owners will see an increase in their tax bill. The Town of Mills River Tax rate remained the same for 2015.

Homeowners whose property taxes are paid from their escrow account by their mortgage company will not receive a notice – they’re sent directly to the mortgage holder. This is done in order to avoid double payments and the ensuing staff time, postage, etc., in dealing with an overpayment. If you haven’t received a notice and believe your taxes are not escrowed and paid by your mortgage company, please give us a call and we’ll look them up for you. We try as best we can to make sure that notices get to the proper person at the proper address, but this doesn’t always happen. Either way, it is the property owner’s responsibility to make sure their property taxes are paid whether they receive a notice or not.

If you feel you need assistance in meeting your tax obligation, please contact me as early as possible after receiving the notice. If I can, I will work with taxpayers who show true hardship and a willingness to work with the Town in getting the obligation paid. Partial payments are always accepted. Accounts must be paid in full before January 6, 2016 in order to avoid interest on the balance. Interest is 2% for January and ¾% per month for each month thereafter the tax remains unpaid.

Enforced collections (garnishment of wages or rents, attachment of bank accounts, levy of personal property or foreclosure of real property) can legally begin as early as the day after the last day to pay without penalty (January 5, 2016), without any prior notice to the property owner. I would rather not resort to these measures, but if property owners don’t contact me to make arrangements to pay or pay regular small payments, I do find that enforced collections works well to bring in tax revenue.

If you have any questions about your tax bill, please feel free to call me at 828-890-2901 or e-mail at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org.

MILLS RIVER
RECREATION FOUNDATION

The Mills River Recreation Foundation, Inc. was formed to raise funds to expand the Mills River Park facilities. We need more members to help in this endeavor. If you would like to join us or need more information, call Lois at 684-8425.
RECIPE CORNER

Hilda’s Corn Dip

1 lb. frozen corn (heated following microwave instructions)
1 stick margarine
8 oz. cream cheese
Jalapenos

- Put corn in crock pot
- Melt butter and cream cheese in microwave to a consistency easy to stir
- Pour over corn
- Add jalapenos to taste (1/2 jar is about all I use)
- Simmer in crock pot until ready to serve (At least an hour makes the dip easy to mix as well as to serve)
- Serve with Fritos Scoops

ENJOY!

MEETING & OTHER DATES

Oct 6  Planning Board  7:00 PM
Oct 8  Town Council  7:00 PM
Oct 13  Board of Adjustment  7:00 PM
Oct 16  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
Oct 27  Parks and Recreation  7:00 PM
Nov 1  Daylight Savings Time Ends  2:00 AM
Nov 3  Planning Board  7:00 PM
Nov 11  Veterans Day
Nov 12  Town Council  7:00 PM
Nov 20  Agricultural Advisory Committee  9:00 AM
Nov 24  Parks and Recreation Advisory  7:00 PM
Nov 26-27  Thanksgiving
Dec 1  Planning Board  7:00 PM
Dec 8  Board of Adjustment  7:00 PM
Dec 10  Town Council  7:00 PM
Dec 18  Agricultural Advisory Committee  9:00 AM
Dec 22  Parks and Recreation  7:00 PM
Dec 23-25  Christmas Holiday
Jan 5  Planning Board  7:00 PM

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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. All ads must be emailed in JPEG format and MUST be business card size.

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 20th of each of the following months: March, June, September and December. Submit articles in writing to:

Patty Brown
Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to patty.brown@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 Patty at (828) 890-2901 or e-mail her at the above address.
The 2015/2016 school year has begun and some people have questions about when it is safe to pass a stopped school bus. Here is a website that has diagrams to show when it is safe and legal to pass or not pass a stopped school bus:

http://www.ncbussafety.org/SchoolBusSafety/SBSWlaw.html

- Obey posted speed regulations in school zones.
- Remember to watch for children waiting beside the road for the bus in the morning and for children exiting the bus in the afternoon.
- Watch for traffic congestion around schools before and after school.
- As a reminder it is always unlawful to pass a school bus when red lights are flashing.

Have a safe and happy fall!

For Emergencies: 911   Non-emergencies: 828-697-4911
NC Highway Patrol: 828-693-4141

The Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River NC 28759