News from the Mayor
Larry Freeman

One of the most beautiful times of the year is settling into Mills River, so get outdoors, enjoy this community, and come visit the Park, Library, and Town Hall this fall!

A special THANK YOU to the hundreds who participated in our park survey this summer!

Town Council recently gave recognition and appreciation to Tom Apodaca and Chris Whitmire for representing us so well in the NC General Assembly and to Dr. Bob Webb for providing such great medical care for so many in our community for many years.

On July 1st, we began our three-year contract with the county for enhanced sheriff’s services in the Town that will eventually lead to five deputies designated for Mills River. Town Council hopes this will make us, our families, and our property safer and more secure.

With above average rainfall this summer, airport officials have reported to Council that issues with their new wall on Ferncliff Drive have been resolved.

GF Linamar is building, Sierra Nevada is brewing, Van Wingerden is growing (plants and flowers), crops are coming in, and hay is baling. There could not be a better time to live and work in and to enjoy what one writer a long time ago called “this fertile crescent” that is Mills River!

Sincerely and respectfully,

Mayor Larry Freeman
The Rickman family became community leaders in Mills River in the early 19th century. They were direct descendants of William R. Rickman (ca. 1720-1783). He was a physician who lived in Hampshire, England, before he came to colonial America in 1766. He served with British forces during the French and Indian War. He established his home at what became known as the Kittiewan Plantation on the James River not far from Williamsburg, VA. During the Revolutionary War, he became Chief Physician of Continental Hospitals in Virginia and served from May 1776 to October 1780. The Manor House at Kittiewan still exists and is maintained as a historic site. A mahogany chair from his medical office was presented to the Mills River Baptist Church in 1942 to serve as a pulpit chair.

Jesse Rickman, a son of William, was born in May 1770. After his father’s death, he moved to North Carolina and served briefly in the Continental Army in the Wilmington district during 1783-84. In 1791, he married Mary Trantham. They became parents of seven children and moved to western North Carolina where Jesse purchased a tract of land on South Mills River. Their new home became known as “Sycamore”. A family cemetery was established on the property by 1832 and a Baptist meeting house was built near the river by 1833. A deep pool near the church was used to baptize new members. In 1834, Jesse donated about three acres of land including the site of the church to trustees. Jesse’s son, Merit was ordained in August 1837 and served as pastor of the Mills River church until 1855. He married Sarah Sitton, a daughter of Philip Sitton, who established an iron forge on South Mills River.

Jesse Rickman died in 1860 and was buried in the family cemetery. Most of his surviving children moved away, but one son, Martin, continued to reside on the family farm at Sycamore. In 1820, Martin married Sarah Williams, and they became parents of 11 children. Seven of their sons served in the Confederate Army, and five of them died during the war. One son, John B. Rickman (1821-1892) survived the war. He acquired considerable farm land on North Mills River by the 1870s. He made numerous improvements including an apple orchard and barns for his livestock. His home was the site of the so-called Pink Bed post office during 1881-82. Neighbors could go there to pick up mail delivered from lower Mills River. His children attended a one room school known as Shanghai.

One of John Rickman’s sons, Thomas J. Rickman, became a lawyer in Hendersonville and served as its mayor in 1885. Another son, Jim Rickman, operated a mercantile business in Hendersonville. He also served as the town mayor during 1887-88. John Rickman’s daughter, Mattie Rickman (1817-1916), attended Judson College in Hendersonville during 1883-85. In December 1895, she married my grandfather, William A. Brittain (1857-1930), who owned a farm about two miles down the river from the John Rickman farm. After John Rickman died, most of his land was sold to George W. Vanderbilt and later became part of the Pisgah National Forest. The Mills River Recreational area was part of the property.
MILLS RIVER LIBRARY

Weekly Programming:

Mondays 10:00 am  Storytime (with exception of December)
Tuesdays 9:00 am  Yoga*
Tuesdays 1:30 pm  Knit and Crochet Group
Thursdays 9:00 am  Yoga*

Specials:

October 4 4:00 pm  LEGO Club
October 5 4:00 pm  Hands on Museum presents Spooky Science*
October 10 4:00 pm  Library Closed - Columbus Day
October 11 4:00 pm  Bright Star Theatre presents The Story of Anne Frank
October 13 11:00 am  Book Club
(Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Jacobs)
October 26 4:00 pm  Bright Star Theatre presents Alice in Wonderland
October 29 11:00 am  Halloween Party!!*

November 1 4:00 pm  LEGO Club
November 2 4:00 pm  Hands on Museum presents Grossology*
November 10 11:00 am  Book Club
November 11  Library Closed - Veterans Day
November 23  Library Closes at 5:00 pm
November 24 & 25  Library Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
November 30 10:00 am  Card Making with Gail*

December 5 2:00 pm  Golden Ringer
December 6 4:00 pm  LEGO Club
December 7 4:00 pm  Hands on Museum presents One Inch at a Time
December 19 11:00 am  Bright Star Theatre presents Christmas with Santa!!
December 23-26  Library Closed - Christmas Holiday

*Registration is required

Please call the library for additional information or to sign up for programs. We look forward to seeing you!
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

Aurelie Taylor

Town of Mills River tax notices were mailed at the end of August. Property owners have until January 5, 2017, to pay without penalty or interest. If you're walking in your payment, you need to be at our office before 5pm on the 5th to be considered on time. If mailed, a legible USPS postmark of the 5th of January is accepted; if we can't read the date or its dated by a postage machine, it will be considered late. It's always best to be safe rather than sorry – mail your payment in with some time to spare!

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.

We're happy to talk with property owners; we know it would be more convenient to have our taxes online, but the software is expensive and we would lose the small town feel of being able to talk to folks. Never hesitate to call if you want information.

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, 2017 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, 2017), 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 feel you might qualify for tax relief as an elderly, disabled, or disabled veteran, please call the Henderson County Tax Assessors' office at 828-697-4870 to apply. It may cut your tax bill in half.

In order to avoid duplication in services and manage our taxpayers' funds wisely, we do not have assessing personnel in our office. All property valuation, as well as addressing and ownership validation is done by Henderson County.

If you have any questions about your tax bill, please feel free to call me at 828-890-2901 or email at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org.
For the convenience of our Mills River citizens, the Town, in conjunction with the US Postal service, installed a mail drop box at the entrance to Mills River Town complex.

These dog agility pieces of equipment have been installed in both dog parks. This was Christina Babor's Girl Scout silver award project.

These photos are from Mills River United Methodist Church "Party in the Park" event.

In addition to food, music, and bounce houses, school supplies were given away in brand new backpacks!
Fall is here and soon it will be cooling off. Football season is underway and beautiful fall foliage is right around the corner. We hope everyone had a great summer!

A new addition to the canoe/kayak launch area is a beautiful kiosk built and installed under the supervision of Colt Stephens as his Eagle Scout project. It contains a map showing river accesses along Mills River and the French Broad River. Thank you Colt! The launch area was very popular this summer as many folks just came to hang out and cool off there.

You may have noticed a couple of new amenities at the dog parks recently. As part of a Girl Scout Silver award program, dog agility equipment was constructed and installed in both parks. We have seen the dog walks and tunnels being used by our dog park patrons and want to thank Christina Babor and her family for approaching the town with this idea and for seeing it through.

The park recently hosted the second annual “Party in the Park”. This event was well attended and we estimated that nearly 800 people came out. Also for the second year the park hosted the Mills River Valley 5K/10K event.

Upcoming events include the annual Lion’s Club Trunk or Treat on October 31st. and in November the park is hosting the 2nd Annual Veteran’s Day 5K to be held on Nov. 12th. We want to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the recreational needs survey. We had well over 500 responses and will use this information as we continue to plan for the future of your park.

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 and on our website. The gate at the Hooper Lane driveway entrance is now open 7 days a week. It will still be closed at night but should improve access and lessen any confusion about directions to the launch area parking lot.

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.

This newly constructed kiosk is located at the canoe/kayak launch area and is the Eagle Scout project of Colt Stephens.

Left to right: Town Manager Jeff Wells, Mayor Larry Freeman, Colt Stephens and Park Director Pat Christie.
**RECIPE CORNER**

**FALL APPLE CRISP**

- 4 cups sliced apples
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour

**Directions:**
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8x8 inch baking dish.
2. Place apples in prepared dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Pour water over all.
3. In a bowl, cream together sugar and butter. Blend in flour. Sprinkle mixture evenly over apples.
4. Bake in preheated oven 30 to 40 minutes, until apples are tender and crust is golden.

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**MEETING & OTHER DATES**

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<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>Board of Adjustment</td>
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**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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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 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.

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**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 2016/2017 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

- Remember to obey posted speed regulations in school zones.
- Watch for children along the side of the road waiting on buses or after being dropped off at home.
- Watch for traffic congestion around schools. These areas tend to be very congested. If possible try to avoid the area right before and after school.
- As a reminder it is always unlawful to pass a school bus when red lights are flashing.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable fall while enjoying our beautiful mountain community!

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