News from the Mayor
Larry Freeman

Fall is a beautiful time of the year in Mills River! The colorful changing of the leaves, the cooler temperatures, and all the special events in the area make it an exciting time to enjoy our special community.

As we enjoy the beauty and all the good things that go along with the season, it’s a particularly appropriate time to reflect on our many blessings.

Last fall, many parts of western North Carolina were ravaged by wildfires. As we prayed for those who suffered through them and for the hundreds of heroic firemen who fought them, we also gave thanks…and do now as well…that Mills River escaped those horrible fires. The horror of those fires and doing all we can to prevent them from happening again, is worth keeping in mind as we enjoy this fall.

This summer, all out hearts were broken as we were shaken by the nightmare and then shared the loss with the Tommy Bryson family…it doesn’t get any worse than that for them or for the community. But as you would expect Mills River to do, our whole community came together to mourn the loss and support the family. Who could ever forget that spectacular candlelight memorial and tribute?

And now this fall, we’re witnessing the devastation that hurricanes can do. And even though Mills River is only touched by the edges of some of them, we share that hopeless but prayerful feeling of those who lost so much.

It reminds us, as the warmth of summer begins to fade and the days grow shorter, just how blessed we are in Mills River. Natural beauty that is God’s gift to us, that is our duty to protect and preserve and friends and neighbors whose lives touch ours everyday with their presence and their true-to-the-core Southern mountain neighborliness and unselfish generosity…are special gifts from the Almighty that make our lives so sweet in this community.

As we enjoy this splendid season and look forward to those to come, let’s take the time to reflect and to be thankful. Three words we’ve seen on some t-shirts late this summer say it all: MILLS RIVER STRONG. And for that “spirit” in this community, we all are forever blessed and thankful!

Sincerely and respectfully,
Mills River Mayor Larry Freeman
MILLS RIVER LIBRARY SCHEDULE

MONDAYS
10:00 am: Storytime for all ages. Join us every Monday for songs, stories, crafts and more! (No regular storytimes in Dec.)

TUESDAYS
9:00 am: Yoga with Lynn Edgar
1:00 pm: Knit and Crochet Group (all levels welcome, opportunities to learn for beginners)
4:00 pm: Lego Club: (all LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
   October 3
   November 7
   December 5

THURSDAYS
9:00 am: Yoga with Lynn Edgar
10:30 am: Book Club
   October 12 - "The Nest" by Cynthia D' Aprix Sweeney
   November 9 - "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult
   December 14 - "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot

SPECIALS
October 4, 4:00pm: “Spooky Science Hands on Museum!” For students K-2. Dr. Beaker & Dr. Bunsen explore spooky science! Why do certain sounds and images scare us? Explore properties of matter, minerals, light, & sound as you discover the science behind the scary. Students will take home slime!! Registration required

October 18, 4:00pm: “Tech No Logic Hands on Museum!” For Students 3rd-6th grade. Program real robots! Students will assemble and play a fun game with a robot called Ozobot. Using dice with different OzoCodes, they will be challenged to use the codes and beat the time. Registration required

November 1, 4:00pm: Hands on Program for K-2nd graders. Call for information. Registration required.

November 15: “Lost In Space – Space Survival” For grades 3rd-6th. Lost in space-how will you get home? How do astronauts fix problems with limited materials? Students will use LEGOS and other items to replicate real life space dilemmas and find solutions to these life-threatening problems. Registration required.

More Hands on Programs continuing throughout the year on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

NEW PIANO TEACHING STUDIO
Mills River Village Neighborhood

Highly credentialed professional pianist and teacher. Instruction for children and adults begins October.
Susan Kincaid  828.458.6260
HISTORY CORNER
by Jim Brittain

Bryson Mountain is named for one of the pioneer families who settled in Mills River soon after the American Revolution. The Bryson’s trace their ancestry back to Ireland. William Bryson (1758-1817) lived in Pennsylvania where he married Susannah Bogle (?-1811). They became the parents of three sons and six daughters. William and his family moved to Mills River around 1790 when it was part of Rutherford County. Later, the area became part of Buncombe County in 1792 and then Henderson County when it was formed in 1838. William acquired a tract of land that included the confluence of North and South Mills River. The property had formerly been owned by David and Andrew Miller, who purchased it from the state of North Carolina in November 1789. The land included river bottoms along both forks of the river well suited for growing food for the family and their livestock.

A Bryson family cemetery was established on a ridge overlooking the forks of the river. Susannah Bryson was buried there in July 1811 and William was laid to rest there in September 1817. The last known burial at the cemetery was in 1859. When I visited the cemetery a few years ago, it had grown up in large trees. At least some of the inscriptions on grave stones could still be read.

A son of William Bryson, also named William (1779-1852), married Sarah Jones (1785-1873) in December 1805. They became the parents of 12 children, including James W. Bryson (1819-1862) and Rachel Bryson (1829-1898). My great grandfather, Francis M. Brittain (1826-1890) married Rachel Bryson in September 1855. When J.W. Bryson died in 1862, F.M. Brittain served as executor of the estate. He and Rachel acquired a substantial portion of the Bryson property, including the forks of the river and the Bryson family cemetery. By the mid-1870s, they owned about 350 acres. My grandfather, William A. Brittain (1857-1930), married Mattie Rickman (1867-1916) in December 1895. Their home was located on what is now known as River Loop Road on North Mills River. It is the house where I was born. In 1936, my parents moved to a newly constructed home on the other side of North Mills River. I lived there until January 1950.

SAFETY FIRST: PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE FUTURE
Jeannie Moore, Fire & Life Safety Educator, Mills River Fire and Rescue

Fall is upon us and that increases our fire risk. Mills River Fire and Rescue encourages you to follow some of these safety tips for a safer season.

In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

That’s why this year’s NFPA Fire Prevention Week theme: “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!” is so important. It reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan. Here’s this year’s key campaign messages:

* Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.

* Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home and practice using different ways out.

* Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can’t help them.

* Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.

* Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

* Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

* Make sure you have a meeting place outside. It needs to be away from the house, away from the over-hanging power lines, and away from the driveway (emergency vehicles will be entering here.)

Continued on Next Page
Town of Mills River tax notices were mailed at the end of August. Property owners have until January 6th, 2018, 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 it’s 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!

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, 2018 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, 2018), 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 work well to bring in tax revenue.

The Town began foreclosing on properties this summer. It is not something I want to do, but some property owners, despite all of my notices, letters, phone calls, and sometimes even texts, do not pay their taxes. Not only is it terribly unfair to those citizens who do pay, it affects the Town’s budget as well as the Mills River Volunteer Fire Department. Properties are chosen only if they meet specific parameters.

We’re happy to talk with property owners; we know it would be more convenient to have our taxes on-line, 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 – we’re always happy to speak with citizens.

If you feel you might qualify for tax relief as an elderly, disabled person, 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 – both your County bill and your Town of Mills River bill.

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, please feel free to call me at 828-890-2901 or e-mail at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org

As our weather gets chilly, of course we will be turning up our thermostats, but before you do that its recommended to have your furnace serviced to be sure that it is in good working order.

Have your Chimney checked and cleaned before your first use.

Make sure to give your Space Heaters some space. At least a clear area for three feet around them.

Research reports that burning leaves produces dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals and urges homeowners to avoid disposing of leaves this way. If you decide to burn leaves, wear a protective mask. Burning leaves should only be attempted far away from your house or other structures on a homeowner’s property. Always check the weather forecast before starting to burn leaves. This activity should not be attempted in windy conditions.

Use Candles with care and never leave them burning unattended.

Don’t forget to test your smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries when the time changes.

We hope our tips will encourage you to have a Safe and Happy Fall Season.

For further information or to schedule a fire or life safety program for your family or group, contact Jeannie Moore at fireeducator1840@gmail.com.
Fall is officially here and it’s time to think about leaves changing color and outside activities in the cool crisp air. We hope everyone had a great summer!

What…you may ask…is going on at the playground?

We want to update everyone about a couple of projects we have been working on. The playground shade structure has arrived. This project will protect children, prolong the life of the equipment, and bring relief to everyone who brings their kids to the Mills River Playground.

The second project is something that was identified as a concern by folks playing tennis at our courts regarding wind issues. As a result, we are going to plant evergreen trees along the western side of the tennis courts to eventually act as a buffer from the winds that predominantly come out of the west. These trees will be planted this fall.

The park recently hosted the third annual "Party in the Park". This event was well attended and we estimated that nearly 800 people participated. Also for the third year the park hosted the Mills River Valley 5K/10K event. We estimate nearly 200 people (both runners and spectators) came out for this year’s event which also included a Dog Fun Run!

Upcoming events include the annual Lion's Club Trunk or Treat on October 31st.

We want to thank everyone who took the time last spring to participate in the public input for our last Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant application. We know it takes time from everyone’s busy schedules, but it is important in the planning and implementation of facilities in the park. Unfortunately, our application was not selected for funding this cycle.

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. We have started a pilot program for recycling at shelter reservations and special events. Blue recycling cans will be placed adjacent to the existing trash receptacles. Please place your cans and bottles in those cans for us to recycle. Don’t forget to empty them out first please!

We also want everyone to know that there is an opening on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. This is a volunteer opportunity and is appointed by Town Council. We meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. If you are interested, please go to our website, print and fill out a volunteer application, and bring it by Town Hall.

To the Mills River folks,

The Tommy Bryson family would like to thank the whole community of Mills River for the great love and support during this tragic time. It affected not only our family but everyone in Mills River.

I don’t know who organized the candlelight vigil, but I would like to especially thank them. It was oh so very beautiful. It touched the hearts of so many. Please remember that we are not a special family. But we do serve a very Special God! And good has come and will continue to come. God always prevails over evil. Sometimes we just can’t see it.

Thank you is not enough,

Lynn Bryson
**School Bus Safety Tips:**

Always stop when a school bus’s lights are flashing in the following situations:

- If you are traveling a two-lane road, all traffic in both directions must stop.
- If you are traveling a two-lane road with a center turn lane, all traffic from both directions must stop.
- If you are traveling a four-lane road without a median separation, all traffic from both directions must stop.
- If you are traveling a divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation, only traffic following the bus must stop.
- If you are traveling a road with four or more lanes with a center turn lane, only traffic following the bus must stop.

**Other school safety traffic considerations:**

- Be prepared to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Never pass a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.
- Before making a turn, be sure the path is clear of any pedestrians.
- Slowdown in areas where you are likely to find pedestrians, such as near bus stops, schools and playgrounds.
- Avoid distractions such as food, passengers and using mobile devices.
- Be patient; the safety of children is always more important than arriving to your destination on time.

**Penalties for school safety traffic violations:**

- There is a $500 penalty for drivers who pass a stopped school bus, with the possibility of driver license revocation.
- The penalty for speeding in a school zone is $250 in North Carolina.
- Passing a stopped school bus can cost motorists five points on their driver’s license and eight points for commercial vehicles.
RECIPE CORNER

Vegetable Soup

Ingredients
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1” cubes
- 3 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Pinch of Kosher or sea salt, more or less to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 (15 ounce) cans navy beans, drained and rinsed (optional, black beans)
- 4 cups vegetable broth, low-sodium
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes (no salt added), *this is an optional ingredient
- 4 cups baby spinach, loosely packed (optional, 2 zucchini, sliced)
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil, optional, for serving (1/2 teaspoon per serving)

Directions
Add all ingredients, except spinach and olive oil, to the slow cooker. Cover and cook on low 6 to 8 hours, or until the vegetables are tender. Add spinach, stir and continue cooking just until wilted, approximately 5 minutes. Serve and enjoy!

Note: Olive oil helps the body absorb nutrients more efficiently and supports a healthy digestive system.

Stovetop Method: Follow the same instructions above for prep, cover, and simmer until veggies are tender, approximately 2 hours. Stir every 15 minutes to prevent sticking. Add spinach at the end of cooking time, remove from heat, cover and allow spinach to wilt before serving.

ENJOY!

MEETINGS & OTHER DATES

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<td>Dec 28</td>
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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.
In addition to the law enforcement presence provided by School Resource Deputies regularly assigned in Henderson County Public Schools, personnel from multiple divisions will dedicate extra attention to the safety of students throughout the school year.

The Sheriff’s Office will continue to participate in the Adopt a School program where deputies complete both scheduled and irregular visits and extra security checks on our school campuses. This initiative was established by Sheriff McDonald in 2013 and it assigns sworn personnel to specific schools to provide additional security on our campuses. These additional school checks provide a more visible law enforcement presence and encourage positive interaction between law enforcement and youth that is in addition to the relationship built by their respective School Resource Deputy.

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