



## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007  
Volume 4, Issue 1

### News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

As the outside temperature starts to get warmer, we tend to migrate outdoors for a variety of reasons including getting the lawn equipment serviced, working on the flower beds, cleaning gutters (I dread this one) and in some cases, staking out the annual garden size. In my case, I'm always on the lookout for the most new and modern equipment and as always, my billfold doesn't allow me to get all the "new stuff."

Spring means many things to many people and to the Town - it means the start of budget time. Our budget process passes through no less than four different steps. Those steps are 1-Staff, 2-Finance Committee, 3-Public and 4-Council. Our budget, in theory, is the same as a normal business and our "billfold" doesn't always allow us to get the "new stuff." I can assure you that Council doesn't automatically "rubber-stamp" the budget presented to it.

#### Sales Tax

We will soon start negotiating with Henderson County as to this very important source of revenue to the Town. The Sales Tax issue is paramount to the Town and the very reason that we have been able to keep our property taxes to a very bare minimum of 1 cent per \$100 valuation.

#### Racetrack

This issue is generating a lot of attention regardless of your particular position. The Council, in conjunction with Henderson County and the Town of Fletcher, has formally requested more detailed information from the City of Asheville. We have established a link on our Web page for those wanting more information.

#### Library

The Town has formally requested that the County Commissioners, in their FY 2007-2008 budget, upgrade our Library to a "Branch." This designation means a Staff Person and a larger facility. Our "staff volunteers" and the "Children's Story Time Readers" do a most excellent job and are always looking for additional people.

#### Property Reevaluation

Henderson County has the sole task of determining the value of your property. So if you have questions or comments regarding this, contact the Henderson County Assessor's Office....they have set up both an informal and formal appeals process, but the process is time sensitive.

As always, if you need help with something, have suggestions or comments; please feel free to contact us. You can do this either by email, fax, phone call or by just stopping by.

### THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3  
Mills River, NC 28759

OFFICE: 828-890-2901 FAX: 828-890-2903  
Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Monday-Friday  
[info@millsriver.org](mailto:info@millsriver.org)  
[www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org)

#### **Council Members:**

Mayor: Roger Snyder  
Mayor Pro Tem: Lois Pryor  
Councilman: Wayne Carland  
Councilman: Ed Glenn  
Councilman: Shanon Gonce

#### **Staff:**

Town Manager: Jaime Laughter Adrignola  
[jaime.adrignola@millsriver.org](mailto:jaime.adrignola@millsriver.org)  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Susan L. Powell  
[susan.powell@millsriver.org](mailto:susan.powell@millsriver.org)

Administrative Assistant: Martha M. Orr  
[martha.orr@millsriver.org](mailto:martha.orr@millsriver.org)

**Email for Free Newsletter Subscription:**  
[newsletter@millsriver.org](mailto:newsletter@millsriver.org)

**Website:** [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org)



## History Corner

by Jim Brittain

Soon after Henderson County was created in 1838, the General Assembly of North Carolina approved legislation dividing the new county into 31 school districts. Under the legislation, three-person

school committees were to be selected and authorized to establish "subscription schools" in each district. One of the districts included a portion of the Mills River community bordered on the South by Iron Works Mountain (later called Forge Mountain) and by Seniard Mountain on the North. Merit Rickman, Lawrence Sitton, and Matthew Gillespie were chosen as the school committee for this district.

One of the first schools located in the upper Mills River valley became known as Shanghai School and was constructed on a ridge near Seniard Creek, a tributary of North Mills River. It was a one-room school with seven grades and opened sometime before the Civil War. Early teachers there included Hamilton Osborne (1833-1864) and David Rickman (1831-1864), both of whom joined the Confederate Army and died during the War. Jim Shipman taught at Shanghai after the War and went on to become a prominent attorney in Hendersonville. Children of the Sitton, Rickman, Whitaker, Stuart, and Mullinax families are known to have attended the school. Some of them had to walk several miles to reach the school. The school closed by the early 1890s, probably as a result of land acquisition in the vicinity by George W. Vanderbilt as well as the creation of the Mountain View School further down the valley. The Shanghai school building no longer exists but the Stuart Cemetery is still maintained near the site of the school.

Another one-room school in upper Mills River was the "Maple Gap School" located near Queen Creek, a tributary of South Mills River. This school was in operation by the early 1890s and continued until around 1910. An old photograph of the school building and its students, taken shortly before it closed, shows 18 youngsters and some adults. Three of the students are identified as the children of John and Minnie (Sitton) Gillespie. The teacher is also shown in the picture and identified as Nettie Sitton (1891-1959), a sister of Minnie Gillespie. Several students are known to have transferred to the Mountain View School when Maple Gap closed.

The Mountain View School was built on a one and a half acre tract deeded by William H. Gillespie and Mark Moore to three school trustees in October 1891. The trustees were Milton L. Underwood (1851-1945), Marian C. Whitaker (1852-1925), and G.M. (Mark) Brittain (1855-1940). The school was located near the intersection of present-day Whitaker Lane and Hall Road.

This location enabled the school to attract students from both the North and South forks of Mills River. It was a seven-grade, one-room school. A surviving photograph of its students around 1905 indicates an enrollment of about 65. Among the students were two children of William A. Brittain (1857-1930) and Mattie (Rickman) Brittain (1867-1916), residents of North Mills River. Essie Freeman (1880-1967), who taught at the school, boarded with the Brittain family. Several children of Sid Whitaker (1862-1943) and Ruth (Field) Whitaker (1863-1945) also went to Mountain View. Others who taught at the school at various times included Jim Crawford, Reba Field, Mary Sitton, and Edith Sitton. Older students often acted as tutors to younger students.

One Mountain View student later recalled that she and her siblings had "walked or ran the three miles rain or shine" to attend the school from their home on South Mills River. They had carried their lunch in a bucket. The school had no indoor plumbing and it had been necessary to carry water to drink from a spring some distance from the building, a privilege given to a "good student" by the teacher. Since there was no restroom, not even an outhouse, there were separate trails to nearby woods for boys and girls. The school required no end-of-term examinations or report cards. When students completed the books for a grade, they began the next until they "graduated" from the seventh grade.

Although Mountain View with its one room and one teacher would not satisfy modern requirements for amenities and teacher-student ratios, it seems to have provided a sufficient education in basic subjects such as reading, writing, and arithmetic to enable its graduates to succeed in high schools and colleges outside the community. Several became teachers including Howard Sitton, Reba Field, and Sue Brittain. One former Mountain View student, Charles Sitton, walked several miles each day from his home on South Mills River to attend high school at Mills River, where the Mills River Elementary School is still located. Velma Gillespie continued her education at the Fruitland Institute, east of Hendersonville and then studied at Cecil's Business School in Asheville.

The Mountain View School closed in the mid 1920s when school buses began transporting students from upper Mills River to the eleven-grade school at Mills River. (A twelfth grade was added in 1947.) The abandoned building at Mountain View was torn down with some of its lumber being salvaged to build a residence several miles away. Both of my parents attended Mountain View, but I rode the North Mills River school bus to the Mills River School for twelve years.

## “Are you a ‘do-er’?”

by Town Manager, Jaime Laughter Adrignola

A few months into college I found myself terribly homesick. Here I was, a mountain girl, in the middle of Raleigh living in a dorm with hundreds of other kids all piled on top of each other. It felt strange to live so close together and it felt even stranger to only have known any of them for a few months. After all, I had lived my life up to that point in the same house, in the same community with the same people. I missed a lot of things about home, but it was really the sense of community I missed the most. I started thinking a lot about what makes a community feel so warm and inviting and sought to find that feeling in Raleigh amidst a very urban backdrop.

I finally found that feeling - volunteering. There was something about donating time to help others that made me feel like part of this community that I missed so much was with me everywhere I went. I felt like the people who had donated their time here leading my Girl Scout troop or chaperoning mission trips when I was a kid were reaching out through me. The people in Raleigh were getting to experience the feeling of community that I grew up in - one where helping your neighbor is just something you do. It's the feeling you get when people come together to care for one another. That is at the heart of being a community.

Coming home and taking this job has opened my eyes to how much volunteering makes living in Mills River so great. There are over 50 firemen at Mills River Fire and Rescue- most of them are volunteers. Town Hall has multiple boards who volunteer countless hours towards keeping our tax rate low and addressing tough issues. Our library has been run almost entirely with volunteers. And that is just scratching the surface. There are people who take a trash bag along their evening walk and pick up litter, people who volunteer with youth, scout programs and read to preschoolers. These people are “do-ers”. They do what needs to be done to take care of our community and we wouldn't be the community we are without them.

Spring time is the perfect time to get out and lend a hand. Volunteer through an organization or just lend a hand to a neighbor - it is what makes our community so special and such a great place to live.



## Meeting/Other Dates

Mar 6	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Mar 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Mar 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
Mar 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Mar 19	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Mar 20	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Mar 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 3	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 6	Good Friday Town Hall Closed	
Apr 10	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Apr 11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Apr 12	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 16	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Apr 17	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 26	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 1	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 9	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
May 10	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 15	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 21	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
May 24	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 28	Memorial Day Town Hall Closed	
Jun 5	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jun 12	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Jun 13	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jun 18	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Jun 19	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jun 21	Town Council	7:00 PM

## A Celebrity in Our Midst

by  
Paula DeLorenzo



Mills River resident, Donna Cator, has been selected twice for inclusion in the Who's Who of American Women published by Marquis. She is currently profiled in their Silver Anniversary Edition for 2006-

2007. Donna serves our Town of Mills River as Webmaster for [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org).

In addition to our thanks for Donna's service, let's all congratulate Donna on her celebrity!

## RECIPE CORNER



### Crunchy Jumble Cookies from Dianne Margenau

- Preheat oven to 350
- In small bowl, combine 1 1/4 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda and 1/4 teaspoon salt; set aside
- In large bowl combine 1/2 cup softened butter and 1 cup sugar; beat until creamy
- Add 1 egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract; mix well.
- Blend in flour mixture
- Stir in 2 cups Rice Krispies, 1 6-oz. package (1 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips.
- Drop by level tablespoonfuls onto lightly greased cookie sheet.
- Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes.

Note: This is kind of a variation of the traditional chocolate chip cookie recipe...but much lighter. I usually double the recipe, using a whole large package of chocolate chips. Watch closely the first time you bake them. Cookies should be a light, golden brown. Some ovens might do better at a slightly lower temperature or with slightly less cooking time.

**Please send in your recipes!**

## Local Small Business Ads

The Mills River Town Newsletter is printed quarterly: 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 serve 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 and the committee reserves the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs.

## Secret Santa

Our "Holiday Hampers" were much appreciated. Thanks to all of the following for your contributions:

Edward Jones  
Food Lion  
G & B Energy  
Mills River Animal Hospital  
Mills River Physical Therapy  
Patty Cakes  
The Real Estate Professionals  
Valley Ag  
Van Wingerden  
Lois Pryor, Carlene Gibson, and Pat Wagi

Special thanks to our Secret Santa, Cliff Salfkeld!

## The Mills River Community Center Schoolhouse Road



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## IT CAN'T BE TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

by  
Jeannie Pfeffer

Spring cleaning brings to mind many things, but does it include “safety?” The most innocent looking items like household plants and even vitamin supplements can poison a child or small house pet in less than a minute. Did you know that commonly used products such as cosmetics, detergents, and medicines can be fatal to young children and some pets? Let's get busy with that spring cleaning and remember to protect our households from unintentional poisonings.

Every year more than 1.1 million unintentional poisonings among children 5 and under are reported to the US poison control centers. Why are the numbers so high, for such young children? “Children ages 5 and under are particularly vulnerable to poisonings due to their curiosity and natural desire to put everything into their mouths,” said Heather Paul, Ph.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. “Many poisonings can be prevented if parents simply lock poisonous products out of children's reach.”

National Poison Prevention Week is celebrated in March; however we should always be conscious of our family's safety. Mills River Fire and Rescue and National SAFE KIDS recommend the following poison prevention tips:

- Keep poisonous products out of reach. Storing potentially harmful products out of sight and reach – in cabinets with safety locks – is one of the best ways to prevent poisonings.
- Know which household products are poisonous. Something as common as mouthwash can be poisonous due to its alcohol content if a child or small animal swallows a large amount.
- Stay alert while using poisonous household products. Many poisonings occur while adults are using a household product like a bathroom cleaner or bleach. Never leave a child alone in a room with a poisonous product. It takes only seconds for a poisoning to occur.
- Never refer to medicine or vitamins as candy. Vitamins, particularly those containing iron, can also be poisonous to children. Keep them out of your child's reach at all times and carefully monitor their use.
- Throw away old medicines and other potential poisons. Discard old medicines by flushing them down the toilet. Get rid of cleaning supplies that are no longer needed and dispose of these items.
- Beware of certain cosmetics and personal products. In addition to medicines, children may be tempted to taste cosmetics and personal care products.
- Keep products in original containers and properly labeled.
- Buy child-resistant packaging. Child-resistant caps do not guarantee that children cannot open a container, but they do deter children and increase the time that you have to stop them before they swallow a poison.
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach. Learn which plants in and around your house are poisonous, and either remove them or make them inaccessible to children.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in the home. Install CO detectors in your home in every sleeping area, and on the ceiling at least 15 feet from fuel-burning appliances.
- If your home was built before 1978, have it tested for lead-based paint. Blood levels can be tested by your pediatrician to determine if lead based paint has been ingested.

**If a poisoning does occur, have the National poison prevention center number available: 1-800-222-1222.**

For further information on poison prevention you can contact local hospitals, your physician's office, SAFE KIDS, internet research, or your local fire department.

**Mills River Fire and Rescue** has safety programs, fire safety house, Sparky the Fire Dog, and other services available free of charge to area residents. We encourage you to give us a call for more information at 891-7959 for the Main Fire Station, or contact Jeannie Pfeffer Public Fire and Life Safety Educator at 215-4897 or [millsriverfireprevention@hotmail.com](mailto:millsriverfireprevention@hotmail.com).

**MILLS RIVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND RAISER  
Bonnet Girl Quilt Raffle**



**Beautiful Handmade Quilt  
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**The Mills River  
Finance Committee**

by  
Bill Foisy

The Finance Committee consists of seven seats, with members serving a one-year term. Currently, there are two vacancies and applications are being reviewed for appointments. The Finance Committee is charged with advising the Council on financial decisions affecting the Town.

The Committee reviews revenue and expenditures on a monthly basis. In January, the Committee had a joint meeting with the Council and a formal presentation was made by the Town Manager, Jamie Adrignola, reviewing the past three years financial information.

Following the presentation, all participants had an opportunity to 'brainstorm' and share their visions of the future. Some of the ideas will help in the development of future budgets. The budget for 2007-2008, starting July 1, 2007, is still evolving.

Upon receiving the sales tax revenue figures from the County, the Town will then complete the budget proposal. The budget proposal will be reviewed by the Council and presented to the Town population during a public hearing.

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## Mills River Teen Wins North Carolina State Award

by  
Roz Ledford



Ms. Katie McCraw, daughter of Dennis and Deanna McCraw of Mills River, has been named by North Carolina Governor, Michael Easley, and the NC Wildlife Federation as the North Carolina Youth Conservationist of the Year for 2006.

Katie has been an active 4-H member in Henderson County for several years, and has served as Henderson County 4-H Council President and Vice President.

During 2006, she was of tremendous assistance with the local 4-H Embryology program, educating Henderson County teachers and students about hatching and raising northern bobwhite quail. Currently, she is working to improve the habitat for small upland game birds in her area.

In 2006, Katie was inducted into 4-H Honor Club, the highest award that can be earned in 4-H. Katie has consistently earned gold medals with her 4-H presentations. In 2006, her topic was about stream investigation. She is part of a biological monitoring team that samples the North and South Mills Rivers by identifying and counting the macro-invertebrates. These species are valuable indicators of water quality. Katie also has won state and national awards with the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program. An individual can only compete at the national level one time and since Katie's team placed third in the Nation several years ago, she has been helping to train younger students. Katie has also participated, and won honors in Forestry, Marksmanship and Poultry Judging. Katie is a very hard worker, and very deserving of the Youth Conservationist of the Year award.

All of these accomplishments were a result of Katie's active participation with the Henderson County 4-H program. Poultry Judging, Wildlife Competition and Forestry are just three of the exciting events in which Henderson County 4-H'ers excel. New members may join 4-H clubs any time during the year. Adults who are interested in being volunteer leaders are also encouraged to join. Ms. Denise Sherrill is the 4-H Agent for Henderson County. For more information about 4-H, contact the Cooperative Extension office in Jackson Park, by calling 697-4891.



## Henderson County Library System and the

### Mills River Branch

by Roz Ledford

It is the mission of the Henderson County Public Library to provide the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational resources for all residents of Henderson County. The library staff and the staff of its Branches support this mission by providing collections in print, audiovisual, and electronic formats that reflect diverse points of view; access to information-related technologies, a wide range of quality programming; and outstanding customer service.

#### Services – Look what your County Library has to offer!

- Books on Tape, Books on CD
- Movies, DVD and WHS Tapes
- Music, CDs, and Tapes
- Internet Access
- Wireless Internet Access (Main Library)
- Word Process and Other Software Applications
- Meeting Rooms (not available at Mills River)
- Story Times
- Home Bound Services
- Interlibrary Loan
- Year-round Programming to Suite all Ages and Tastes

Mills River's own Branch of the Henderson County Library System is located at 4683 Boylston Highway close to the intersection of Hwy 191 and 280 directly across Hwy 280 from the *Food Lion* and *CVS*. This is Henderson County's newest location and has been open since April 2005.

#### MILLS RIVER BRANCH APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT

### Paula DeLorenzo, CPA

Mills River, NC

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**Henderson County Sheriffs Department  
Mills River Division  
by Corporal Ken McCraw**

School is still in session. Please remember to:

- Watch for stopped school buses and children around them;
- Abide by school zone speed restrictions and drive with caution in school areas;
- Abide by the Child Restraint Law when traveling with children.

**IF YOU NEED LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Contact the Henderson County Sheriff's Dept. at:

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

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**1-800- 662-7137 (to report wildlife violations)**

**DO NOT** contact the Town Hall to reach law enforcement.

**The Town of Mills River  
5046 Boylston Highway  
Suite 3  
Mills River NC 28759**