

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006  
Volume 3, Issue 2

### News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

Since our last newsletter, things have been moving at a very fast pace. The Town Council has been working very hard on many different issues. Here are a couple of the major issues:

#### **Zip Code and Post Office**

As you might have heard, the USPS has issued the town its own Zip Code – 28759. This is the first step in a formal “Mills River Post Office.” The postal authorities have agreed to “reassign” everyone living inside the town a Mills River, NC address. This includes Horse Shoe, Fletcher and Arden addresses. This will be accomplished in stages.

- Phase 1 – Horse Shoe addresses will switch to Mills River—August, 2006
- Phase 2 – Arden and Fletcher addresses will switch to Mills River—October, 2006
- Phase 3 – Upper North and South Mills River will switch to Mills River—October, 2006
- Phase 4 – Everyone will be given a year’s grace period for notification—2007

**(The above dates are flexible and subject to change)**

#### **Note**

- Your physical address, such as 123 Fanning Fields Road will stay the same.
- Mail will be sorted at the Horse Shoe Postal Facility until we can find local suitable facilities
- PO Boxes will NOT be affected
- During the next 6 months, everyone living inside the town should be notified of their new Mills River address.....if not, contact us at Town Hall and we will refer this to the proper postal authorities

So, please bear with us as we try to make this move as smooth as possible. We understand that it might inconvenience you in the interim, but we believe that the end result will be good for Mills River overall. Council’s next job is to find a facility that will adequately serve the postal needs of our citizens until we can get a “full fledged” facility established.

#### **Sales Tax Distribution**

Henderson County and the municipalities have reached an agreement on a pay-back schedule. Mills River stood to lose some 1.4 million dollars per year. The county has agreed to roughly a 50% pay back. Although Mills River wanted the entire amount, faced with the complete loss should the county have switched methods, we agreed to the payback.

#### **Town Manager**

Effective May 26, 2006, Town Manager Dean McGinnis resigned his position with Mills River. Mr. McGinnis has taken a position with the city of Charlotte and we wish him well. Town Council is actively seeking his replacement, but

while the search continues, we have hired Al Richardson as Interim Town Manager. Mr. Richardson is retired from his former position as Manager for the Town of Black Mountain, NC and offers Mills River much valuable knowledge and experience.

#### **Planning and Zoning**

Town Council has hired Benchmark CMR, Inc. of Kannapolis, NC to manage its planning and zoning needs. What this means to the public is that zoning permits are still issued at Town Hall, but may take a little bit longer to be received. Jessica Sick or Emily Jackson from CMR will be at Town Hall, normally on Tuesdays to meet with applicants and answer questions. Other days of the week, town staff will take applications and FAX them to the CMR for review. Response time is usually within 24 hours. We apologize for the temporary inconvenience that this might cause.

#### **Committees**

We are always looking for residents to serve on our various committees; feel free to drop by Town Hall and pick up an application.

And as always, Council and Staff are here to serve you – our citizens. If for some reason you need our assistance on any matter, **feel free to contact us.**

#### **THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER**

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3  
Post Office Box 189  
Horse Shoe, NC 28742  
OFFICE: 828-890-2901 FAX: 828-890-2903  
**NEW Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm**  
**Monday-Friday**  
[info@millsriver.org](mailto:info@millsriver.org)

#### **Council Members:**

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

#### **Staff:**

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 Free Newsletter Subscription:**  
[newsletter@millsriver.org](mailto:newsletter@millsriver.org)  
Website: [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org)

## HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain



A few of our long-time residents can still remember when a railroad ran through the Mills River community. In fact, one of my early memories is of seeing a logging train steaming past the home of an aunt who lived on what is now Whitaker Lane in upper Mills River.

The construction of the Mills River rail line resulted from a timber contract negotiated late in 1912 between George W. Vanderbilt and Louis Carr, owner of the Carr Lumber Company. Under the terms of the contract, Carr agreed to pay Vanderbilt \$12 per acre to harvest mature trees on 69,326 acres or a total of \$831,912. The money was to be paid in equal installments twice a year over a period of 20 years. If the lumber company were to cut timber on more than 3466.3 acres during any year, the annual payment was to be increased by \$12 for each additional acre cut. The contract included a provision for extending the life of the contract by up to two years in case of a depression or other unforeseen delays. Also Carr was to have an additional year to remove the railroads and other equipment after completing logging operations.

The 1912 contract gave Carr the right to operate a commissary or store and to lease land near the railroad station in Pisgah Forest for the installation of a sawmill, train yard, log and lumber yard, and employee housing. The timber company also was to be permitted to produce sufficient hydroelectric power at an approved location to provide electric lighting for the sawmill and adjacent buildings. The contract specified that all locomotives and other steam engines used by the Carr Company were to be equipped with spark arresters to reduce the risk of forest fires. Work animals or milk cows used by the loggers were not to be allowed to graze on the Vanderbilt land except in designated areas. Carr's employees were authorized to use houses or other buildings on the property being timbered with some exceptions specified by the contract.

The Carr contract placed some interesting restrictions on the size and type of tree which could be removed. It stated that no yellow poplar, cherry, basswood, hickory, ash, cucumber tree, walnut, beech, birch, maple, white pine, scrub pine, or oaks other than chestnut oaks were to be cut if the trunk were less than 16 inches in diameter at the stump. Also, no chestnut oaks or chestnuts measuring less than 14 inches and no spruce under 12 inches at the stump were to be harvested. An exception permitted that trees of lesser diameter might be used to build bridges or trestles, except for yellow poplars. A penalty of 4 dollars per tree was to be imposed for any yellow poplar discovered to have been cut with a diameter under 16 inches. A two dollar per tree penalty was to be imposed for cutting other types less than the diameter prescribed. The timber company was encouraged to try to minimize damage to smaller trees during logging operations.

Initially, the Carr Company constructed a 15 mile rail line extending from Pisgah Forest up the Davidson River to the headwaters of the South Mills River in the Pink Beds. The project included several spur lines on the

major tributaries. Soon after the line was completed, a local newspaper, the *French Broad Hustler*, informed its readers that non-employees might arrange to ride the Carr logging train to the Pink Beds. Logging operations were well underway when ownership of the Vanderbilt land changed not long after the untimely death of George Vanderbilt in March 1914 from complications following surgery for appendicitis. In 1916, the Forest Reservation Commission of the federal government accepted an offer from Mrs. George (Edith) Vanderbilt to purchase approximately 80,000 acres of land at a price of \$5 per acre to become the nucleus of the Pisgah National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service, which assumed management of the newly acquired property, decided to honor the 1912 Carr contract and permitted logging to continue. Edith Vanderbilt retained ownership of about 500 acres in the vicinity of Buck Springs Lodge near Pisgah as well as about 12,000 acres surrounding the Biltmore House.

When Carr's company completed logging operations along the Davidson River rail line in the early 1920s, a new line was installed along the south fork of Mills River and its major tributary, Bradley Creek. It was extended to connect to an existing railroad at Etowah so that logs could be delivered directly to the sawmill at Pisgah Forest. For the portion of the route located outside the national forest, Carr acquired a temporary right-of-way from individual land owners. For example, Henderson County land records document Carr's purchase of a 20 foot right of way from Henry Gillespie, owner of a farm on South Mills River, for the sum of \$100 for a 17-year duration.

The lumber company established a logging camp near the confluence of Cantrell Creek and South Mills River. Some farm families who lived near the railroad were able to supplement their income by selling fresh vegetables and other produce for the logging camp. Local residents, including two daughters of John and Minnie Gillespie were hired to prepare hot meals at the Cantrell Creek camp. One daughter used her earnings to pay for her room and board while attending the Fruitland Institute.

By around 1927, Carr was ready to begin logging the north fork of Mills River. This required construction of the new rail line up the valley including spurs on the major tributaries, Big Creek and Fletcher Creek. The new section of the railroad joined the South Mills rail line a short distance above the confluence of the two forks.

The Carr Lumber Company completed its timber cutting on Mills River in the early 1930s and removed the iron rail and other equipment. However, evidence of the project may still be seen by the careful observer. Some of the trails in the national forest follow the old railroad beds, and a few discarded metal artifacts still turn up occasionally. Some interpretive exhibits related to the Carr logging saga are maintained at the "Cradle of Forestry" in the Pink Beds. Some sections of the forest, including the Big Creek watershed, have not been logged since the 1930's. Big Creek remains the largest contiguous forested tract without roads in Henderson County.

Those who now enjoy solitary hikes along Big Creek can only imagine the steam trains and other sights and sounds produced by the small army of loggers who once worked there.

# GT – Little Farmers Market

*The best of fresh vegetables and fruits.*

– Mills River –

At the corner of Highway 280 (Airport Road)  
and Butler Bridge Road.  
2530 Butler Bridge Road Rd. Fletcher, NC 28732  
Phone (828) 654-0088

## Mills River Community Cookout

**Sponsored by: Mills River Community Association**

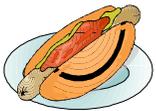
**Place: Mills River Community Center  
(School House Road)**

**Date: September 16, 2006**

**Time: 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM**

**Adults: \$5.00  
Children: \$3.00**

**Take out Available**



Hot Dogs



Hamburgers



Fixins



Live Entertainment

## Henderson County 4-H WHEP Teams Bring Home State Gold and Silver

by Drue Stinnett

I bet your first question is what in the world is WHEP? Well, WHEP stands for **Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program**, and it's a 4-H program that helps kids understand and get involved with many wildlife species native to North Carolina.



Junior Team

On April 29, 2006 Henderson County sent two teams, totaling eight members to compete on the state level at the Latta Plantation just outside of Charlotte. Each team member was tested in four areas: animal ID, foods ID, aerial photos, and wildlife management practices. **Five of the eight members were local Mills River kids.** They were Lory, Katie and Patrick McCraw and Kyle and Drue Stinnett. The remaining members were Bethany Hyde of Saluda and Caleb and Gideon Worrell of Zirconia.

The Henderson County Senior Team took Gold at the state competition and those team members were Lory, Katie and Patrick McCraw and Kyle Stinnett. The Junior Team won Silver at the state competition and those team members were Bethany Hyde, Caleb and Gideon Worrell and Drue Stinnett.



Senior Team

## Congratulations!



**Edward Jones**

**Jollene J. Austin**  
Investment Representative

5046 Boylston Hwy., Ste. 5  
Mills River, NC 28742  
Bus. 828-890-2791 Toll-free 866-890-2791  
Fax 828-890-2435 Home 828-696-1599  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

## MEETING DATES

Jul	4	Independence Day	Town Hall Closed
	11	Planning Board	7:30 PM
	12	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
	13	Town Council	7:00 PM
	17	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
	18	Planning Board	7:30 PM
	19	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
	27	Town Council	7:00 PM
Aug	1	Planning Board	7:30 PM
	8	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
	9	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
	10	Town Council	7:00 PM
	15	Planning Board	7:30 PM
	21	Agricultural Advisory Committee	7:30 PM
	24	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sep	4	Labor Day	Town Hall Closed
	5	Planning Board	7:30 PM
	13	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
	14	Town Council	7:00 PM
	18	Agricultural Advisory Committee	7:00 PM
	19	Planning Board	7:30 PM
	28	Town Council	7:00 PM

## LIBRARY CORNER



The library circulation continues to grow, with more new library cards being made every week. The Summer Reading Program for kids is off to a great start, with many children already signed up and lots of books being checked out. The volunteers hope to see many more folks from the community using the library this summer. **Don't forget that we also have movies and books on tape, too.**

Our library volunteers and some other "friends of the Mills River Library" are working on a beautiful handmade quilt for a raffle and social event to benefit the library -- probably to be held at the end of the summer. We hope to have a photo of the finished quilt and raffle tickets available by next month. **Come by and use your town library !**

## Library Hours

**Mon—Wed—Fri 1:30—5:30 pm**

**Tue—Thurs 9:30 am—5:30 pm**

**Children's Hour—Tue & Thurs 11:00 am**

**Ages 3-6**



## Mills River Town Hall Meeting Room Quilt

"Dedicated to our forefathers, men, women, and children, who cared for the land and the water we are so blessed with and also to all the volunteers and employees who have made our town possible."

Dedicated, donated, quilted and embroidered  
by Barbara Brittain

## 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. The committee reserves the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs.



## Mills River Square Dance Club

Bet you didn't know Mills River has its very own Western Square Dance club, the first that we know of. On Tuesday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, The Old Homeplace was the site of the Mills River Pioneers first graduating class.

It was a sight to watch the fifteen students dance enthusiastically and confidently surrounded by the purple and white decorations that adorned the "barn" which is customarily used for country western dances on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Bob Presley, owner of the Homeplace and one of the dedicated students, has graciously allowed Walt Puckett, nationally known caller and member of the American Association of Callers and the South Carolina Callers Association, to hold classes to teach the art - yes, it is an art, - of Western Square Dance. It is one of the oldest forms of dancing in this country and recognized in every free country with all the calls being the same and all called in English, no matter in which country. There are over 69 basic and mainstream calls to be learned and once mastered, if the student wishes, he or she can then move up to the more advanced calls.

The name Mills River Pioneers was chosen to honor the fact that Mills River was the first section of Henderson County to be settled and the club colors of purple and white were decided upon simply because it's attractive and purple is Dottie Davis' favorite color.

The purple and white balloons and crepe paper streamers were hung everywhere there was space in the Homeplace along with covered wagon decorations on the table on either side of the purple and white decorated cake with Mills River Pioneers emblazoned across the middle next to the river, horses, cowboys, Indians and covered wagon. There was an abundance of snacks, which is a custom at square dances, and numerous choices of sodas. After all, dancers need to keep up their strength.

Everyone laughed as they watched the students, aided by angels (more experienced dancers who willingly give of their time and knowledge to help the students each week learn the dance moves) dance blindfolded as part of the graduation ceremony. As if that was not funny enough, the students then did the "Birdie" dance that you must see to believe.

If you hate exercise but know you need to do something to stay fit, try square dancing. It is also great mental exercise trying to master those calls. The very best thing is IT IS FUN, just ask our students who will be the angels when classes begin the second Monday, this coming September 11th, at 7pm at the Homeplace. In the meantime, Walt will be doing refresher classes each Tuesday during the summer for any square dancers in the area who would like to become more proficient. Lessons are \$5 each and worth every penny! If you just want to come and watch you will be welcomed at no charge.

If you would like to speak with someone about square dancing, feel free to call Walt Puckett at 890-4643 or Larry and Dottie Davis at 891-4372 and Jimmy Hungerford, acting President, at 258-0817.

## Mills River Library Fundraiser

By Paula DeLorenzo

The Mills River hot dog supper, organized by Lois Pryor, at the Community Center on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> provided not only a good time for all who attended, but also raised just over \$1,000 for the Mills River Library! If you weren't there, you missed out on some good entertainment generously provided by:

Strummers of Hendersonville



Free Range



The following donated raffle prizes:

- MRM Outdoor Design
- First Citizen's Bank
- Waycaster Tire Service
- Mills River Family Hair Care
- Fullam Creamery
- Van Wingerden
- Carland Tractor
- Edward Jones
- Elaine's Beauty Nook
- Mills River Hardware
- Jerri Brittain
- G & B Energy
- Mills River Quick Lube



Food contributions and meal supplies were provided by:

- Flavor First Produce
- Mills River Physical Therapy
- Little Farmers Market
- Smith Family Tires
- Handle with Care
- Mills River Realty
- Mills River Storage Center
- Reese Trailer Sales
- Food Lion
- Asheville Hobbies
- Triangle Stop
- Pepsi
- The Real Estate Professionals
- Mills River Fire Department
- J & B Transport



And last, but not least, there were those Mills River residents who donated scrumptious desserts, their services and their ever-ready smiles.



## MILLS RIVER VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE SUMMER SAFETY ALPHABET

By Jeannie Pfeffer, NC Fire and Life Safety Educator III



Smoke **A**LARMS are early warning devices that you have smoke and possibly a fire in your home. Please make sure that you have working smoke alarms that are less than 10 years old in your home. Alarms need to be tested monthly and the batteries should be changed when the time changes.

**B**ICYCLE Helmets can prevent 88 percent of cyclists' brain injuries according to the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute. Make sure that helmets are properly fitted and correctly positioned. A good rule of thumb is anything that can be ridden most likely requires a helmet.

**C**OOKOUTS and picnics can be great fun as long as you handle your food properly. Pack well-wrapped food in an insulated cooler. Keep your cooler in the shade with the lid on. Remember to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Eat everything within a two-hour time period and return leftovers to the cooler. Always wash your hands before and after handling food and keep food preparation areas clean.

**D**IALING 911 is only for a TRUE Emergency. Calling 911 typically means that you are requesting something with lights and sirens, an ambulance, fire-truck, or police/sheriff's officer. It is important that when you call 911, that you have some simple information ready for the dispatchers. Please remain on the line until the dispatcher tells you that you can hang up.

**E**LECTROLYTES are important and need to be replaced. During warmer weather and activities, sweating occurs. The fluids lost need to be replaced, by drinking more liquids than your thirst indicates, states the CDC. Water, juices, and electrolyte replacement drinks are best. Sodas and alcohol will just contribute to the fluid loss.

**F**OURTH of JULY is coming and that means many people will be using fireworks. Although they can be fun to see, remember that they can be very dangerous. We recommend that you leave fireworks to the professionals.

**G**ASOLINE has only ONE PROPER USE, and that is to power machinery or vehicles. Did you know that just one gallon of gasoline is equal to 14 sticks of dynamite in explosive force? Gasoline should never be used as a hand-cleaner, to start a fire or ignite a grill, should never be siphoned by mouth, and should never be handled when using a cell phone or smoking. Gasoline should be kept in well-ventilated areas outdoors; machinery should only be filled when turned off completely.

**H**OLIDAYS increase the risk of accidents and injuries. Guests are coming and going during the holiday times, so it is important to make guests and their children aware of their surroundings.

**I**NJURIES occur most often, during the spring and summer months. Take precautions to keep safe and make your summer all that it can be.

**J**ET skis are a source of real fun. Just remember to always wear the proper safety gear when riding and operating a Jet Ski. Always when around the water, or in the water, wear your Pfd's (life jackets.)

**K**ITTENS, puppies, dogs, cats OH MY! Pets should be considered during the summer, as well. If you plan to travel, make sure that they are properly cared for. Provide extra water on hot days. Don't ever leave your pet or child in a parked vehicle.

**L**AWN Mowers/Weed trimmers are all necessary to keep our yard looking nice. A child under 12 years of age should never operate any lawn mower and they should be at least 16 before operating a riding mower. Please wait until the blades completely stop before trying to remove the grass catcher, unclogging the chute, or when crossing roads. When mowing on a slope, with a push mower, it is safe practice to mow across, not up and down the hill. On a slope with a riding mower, it is best to ride up and

down. To minimize fire hazards, cut down on any shrubbery against your home and remove dead plants and bushes as soon as possible, as it is a source of fuel for a fire.

Carbon **M**ONOXIDE poisoning is not uncommon in the summer months. Remember to keep gas grills away from sleeping areas. Keep grills outdoors, not in basements or garages. Traditional camping heaters, charcoal grills, camping lanterns, and gas generators can cause CO poisoning.

**N**ATURE, although beautiful, plays host to unseen hazards. That beautiful walk in the woods may result in a case of poison ivy, sumac, or something worse. Remember that the animals may not be as happy to see us, as we are to see them. It is important to have someone available who can give a report if you do not return in a timely manner.

**O**ZONE layers need our respect. Burning of improper substances can damage the ozone layer. Please don't leave your car idling unless necessary. Use chemicals and substances that are kind to the environment.

**P**LAYGROUNDS are fun but can carry hazards. Check to make sure that there is a safe surface under the equipment. Check to make sure that the equipment is not too hot to play on. Never use wet playground equipment, it may cause falls. Don't wear drawstrings or loose straps on clothing as it can catch and cause strangulation. Parents should always supervise their children at the park.

**Q**UICKLY take action if you or your child becomes injured. Know what number to call (911) in an emergency situation, and know what action to take until help arrives. Mills River Fire and Rescue encourages individuals to learn CPR and First Aid.

**R**ENTAL cars are very convenient to use, but please get acquainted with them before you take them out on the road. All vehicles are not created equal. Be familiar with all the gauges, braking systems, and safety items (air-bags and restraint systems.)

**S**PARKLERS are often considered a safer form of fireworks, but they can reach temperatures higher than 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. (Remember that water boils at 212 degrees.) The three most injury causing fireworks are firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets.

**T**ICK bites can lead to Lyme disease. This starts with a rash and flu type symptoms. If you are planning to be in the woods or fields use insect repellent that contains Deet. Wear light colored clothing and tuck pant legs into socks and shirts into pants. After a tick exposure, inspect your entire body for ticks. Remove ticks with tweezers and treat bites with topical antibiotic.

**U**LTRAVIOLET (UV) radiation can cause sunburn. Basking in the sun can be dangerous because of the depleting ozone layer. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, limit your sun exposure, apply sunscreen of at least SPF 15, and re-apply often. Use waterproof sunscreen if in the water.

**V**EHICLE/Motorcycle accidents are a leading cause of injuries and fatalities across the US. Please follow the proper restraint laws for your state. Wear your seat belts properly. In NC, it is recommended that children under age 12 be restrained in the rear seat. Never place a rear facing child safety seat in front of an active airbag.

**W**ATER/Swimming/Pools/Boats are all fun things, but remember to wear your Pfd's and other safety equipment. If you own a pool, a pool alarm is a great safety feature that signals you when someone or something falls into your pool.

**E**XERCISE helps you to feel better and look better. Ease into a program and set reasonable goals.

**Y**ESTERDAY'S trash and clutter should be cleared out. Newspapers, magazines and stacks of papers are just fuel for a fire.

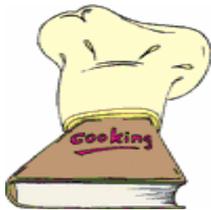
**Z**OOS are educational and exciting places to take the children. However, it is important to remember that petting zoos especially come with dangers. Remember to make sure that everyone washes their hands before and after petting the animals.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month in the last month of each quarter (March 10, June 10, Sept. 10, Dec. 10). Submit articles in writing to:

Paula DeLorenzo  
9 White Birch Drive  
Arden, NC 28704

or by email to [p828@bellsouth.net](mailto:p828@bellsouth.net). Articles can also be dropped off at Mills River Town Hall. If you need assistance, have questions or need more information, feel free to call Paula at (828)890-8131.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Scotch Chocolate Cake from Estelle Whiteside

#### CAKE

Mix in a large bowl:

2 cups flour  
2 cups sugar

Bring to a boil then add to large bowl above:

1 stick of butter  
½ cup oil  
4 heaping tablespoons cocoa  
1 cup water

Mix together then add to large bowl above:

½ cup buttermilk (powdered buttermilk can be substituted)  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix thoroughly and pour into 9x13 baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees from 30 to 45 minutes (until done) – when done pierce holes in the top of the cake for icing to seep into cake

**ICING** - Begin about five minutes before cake finishes baking

Bring to a boil while stirring constantly then remove from heat:

1 stick of butter  
4 tablespoons cocoa  
6 tablespoons milk

Add to above mixture and mix thoroughly:

1 box 10-X powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Pour over warm cake

**Please submit your recipes for  
publication in our Newsletter!**

## Town of Mills River Planning Board

by Carolyn Johnson

The Town of Mills River Planning Board was officially created and the first members appointed by the Town Council in February of 2004. However, the Incorporation Committee appointed the first “planning committee” even before the town was born in June of 2003. This seemed only natural, as the driving force to incorporate was the strong desire to maintain and preserve the area’s character while allowing for a balance of agriculture, residential, commercial and industrial uses within the town boundaries.

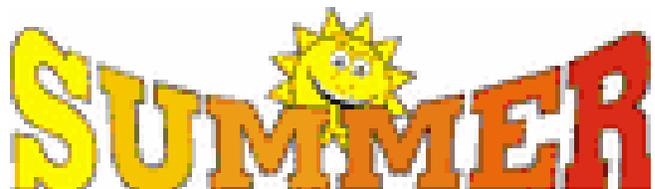
Initially, the town contracted with Henderson County to enforce zoning within its limits – at substantial cost and with little input from its residents. In March of 2004, the town adopted its first zoning ordinance – a mirror of the current Henderson County regulations found within the town limits. The Town Manager became the first zoning administrator and staff person assigned to the Planning Board.

It quickly became apparent that the regulations adopted did not, in many ways, reflect the incorporation goals, nor were they suitable for the town. The Planning Board began to look at infrastructure – present and planned and current uses and development patterns within in the town.

The first amendments were completed and a new zoning map was adopted and became effective August 1, 2004. Since this time, a Landscape Ordinance has been adopted, a Comprehensive Plan has been accepted and a Sign Ordinance is in draft form for presentation to Council this summer.

The Planning Board also reviews subdivision plats, makes recommendations on matters relating to land use and other matters as allowed by the State of NC. The first and foremost responsibility agreed upon by the Planning Board is to preserve, protect, enhance and plan for suitable, balanced growth within the town that will maintain the character of this area we call home, while protecting the rights of property owners both today and in the future.

The Planning Board is made up of 9 members – with representation from all districts within the town. We currently have one seat open and would invite anyone interested to visit Town Hall and fill out an application. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights of each month at 7:00 pm EST and 7:30 pm EDT.



**Henderson County Sheriff's  
Department Contacts**



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

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

**PAULA DELORENZO, CPA**  
**MILLS RIVER**

**WEB SITE DESIGN & MAINTENANCE  
AND  
BUSINESS & PERSONAL  
TAXES, ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL**

**(828) 890-8131**

**EMAIL [p828@bellsouth.net](mailto:p828@bellsouth.net)**

**Mills River/County Committee Vacancies**

**Board of Adjustments** 1 seat—2nd alternate term ending 2/26/07

**Planning Board** 1 seat—term ending 1/14/07

**Henderson Historic Preservation** 1 Mills River seat—3 years

**The Board of Adjustments** consists of 5 voting members and 2 alternates. The Board is a state-regulated board that meets in quasi-judicial hearings and applies the Town Zoning Ordinance in appeals from decisions of the Zoning Administrator when a property owner requests a variance or conditional use permit. The Board meets the second Tuesday of every second month at 7:00 PM, or more often when caseload deems it necessary.

**The Planning Board** consists of 9 members. It is a state-regulated board that makes recommendations and advises Council on matters relating to the town's land use regulations. The Planning Board also hears rezoning requests, requests for text amendments to the zoning ordinance, and, in some circumstances, special use permits. Various other matters regarding land use development must also be reviewed by the Planning Board before being heard by the Town Council. The Board meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM during Eastern Standard Time and at 7:30 PM during Eastern Daylight Time.

**County Historic Preservation** is a new Henderson County committee being formed to review whether buildings over 50 years old should truly receive historic designation and will help to attain National Historic designation—looking for experienced architect, historian, etc.

Anyone wishing to apply should submit an application for each Board/Committee by going online to [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org) and clicking on volunteer application, or by contacting Town Hall for an application.

**The Town of Mills River**  
**PO Box 189**  
**Boylston Highway**  
**Horse Shoe NC 28742**