



## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007  
Volume 4, Issue 4

### News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

We have a lot of things going on in the Town but let's not forget about the holidays that are upon us.

#### Some Safety Reminders

- Give your vehicles a winter check up
- Change your batteries in your home smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Extra flashlight batteries (make sure it works)
- Remember to make sure your pets are taken care of
- Don't leave any heaters or a fireplace unattended
- Have your fireplace cleaned and inspected before using
- Regularly check on your neighbors and the elderly

#### Town Property

We have made offers on two different parcels of property and together they total about 75 acres. We expect to close on both in the next 30 days. Beginning in January, the Council will be looking at the different options as to what the best use of the properties will be.

*We solicit and encourage your participation in this project. Look for opportunities in the near future to share your ideas.*

#### Councilman Ed Glenn

On behalf of the Council and the Staff, I want to say that we truly regret that Ed turned in his resignation. He resigned due to some medical issues and will be sorely missed. Ed was on the Incorporation Committee and has been a member of Council since the beginning. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Ed was the District I representative. Council will be receiving applications from those residents that might be interested. Contact Sue Powell, Town Clerk for information. Applications will be accepted from December 19, 2007 to January 15, 2008 at 5:00 PM.

#### Street Lights

Council has approved some new street lights. They will be installed at the Highway 280 and Ray Hill Road Intersection in the near future.

#### Volunteerism

Our daily lives seemed to be getting more and more complicated with all the events, meetings and other things that we need to attend. But, try volunteering right here in the Mills River Community. There are many worthwhile causes, but two come to mind quickly – Glen Marlowe and Mills River Elementary Schools, and of course our Mills River Library.

I'm sure that they would love to have you contact them.

#### Holidays

The Council and Staff want to wish our residents of the entire Mills River Community a Happy Holiday. Enjoy them with your families and next door neighbors.

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

### 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 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)  
Zoning Enforcement Officer: Pat Christie  
[pat.christie@millsriver.org](mailto:pat.christie@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



During the 19th century and lasting well into the 20th century, farm families in the Mills River community depended on local grist mills to process the corn, wheat, rye, and oats they grew as food for themselves and their livestock. Local sawmills were relied on to saw their trees into lumber suitable for building homes, barns, schools, and churches. Most of the mills were water-powered and were family owned enterprises. However, contrary to an item published recently in the Hendersonville *Times-News*, our river did not derive its name from the mills which used its water for power. The river was, in fact, known as Mills River by 1789 as shown by a land deed dated 27 November 1789 for a 200 acre tract on both sides of Mills River including the fork.

One of the first mills to be located in the Mills River watershed was owned by my great-great-great grandfather, James Brittain (c. 1750-1831) who came to Mills River around 1788 after serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His "mill and fruit distillery" at Mills River were mentioned in a land deed dated December 1812. One of his grandsons, Leander E. Brittain (1820-1900), reportedly owned a grain mill and sawmill at Mills River in 1890. My great-grandfather, Silas C. Sitton (1848-1912) and his family operated a water-powered grain mill and sawmill at the Sitton homeplace on South Mills River in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Lumber from his sawmill was used to construct a new sanctuary at the nearby Mills River Baptist Church in 1902. I have an old photograph of the Sitton mill dam. Silas died from a sawmill accident in December 1912.

Melvin M. Stuart (1846-1921) operated both a sawmill and a grist mill on upper North Mills River near the mouth of Wash Creek during the late 19th century. On one occasion, it was reported that one of his customers, Ulysses Reeves, carried a 100 lb bag of corn meal

from the mill to his home near Beaverdam Gap, about four miles uphill on the Trace Ridge Trail.

One of my early memories was being invited to ride with a neighbor in his horse-drawn wagon to the Carland water mill which was located about two miles down the river from our home. The mill was powered by water from Foster Creek, a Mills River tributary. It had been started by Hiram Carland (1801-1884) and continued in operation by his descendants until the mid 20th century. The 2005 Mills River calendar contained a photograph of the mill showing the elevated wooden trough which carried water from the creek to the top of an overshot water wheel.

When I was growing up, our family relied mostly on the engine-powered grain mill owned by a neighbor, M.A. Moore (1884-1970), and located near what is now known as Whitaker Lane which connects South Mills River Road and North Mills River Road. The Moore family also had a small country store adjacent to the mill building. I remember taking a bag of shelled Lance corn on horseback to Moore's mill for grinding. It was a pleasure to smell the warm freshly-ground corn meal during the return trip and to anticipate the taste of the hot corn bread baked daily in the oven of our wood stove. I also made regular trips by foot on a trail over the mountain to purchase jugs of kerosene for our lamps, matches, salt, sugar, and other items from M.A. Moore's store. Both the store and the mill building may still be seen near the entrance to the new Homestead housing development as reminders of life as it once was for residents of the Mills River Valley.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

**Jollene J. Austin**  
Financial Advisor

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member SIPC

Suite 500 5046 Boylston Hwy  
Mills River, NC 28759  
828-690-2791

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## RECIPE CORNER



### Blackberry Dumpling Cobbler by Roz Ledford

- 2 (16 oz) packages frozen blackberries
- 2 cups sugar, divided
- 1/4 cup butter
- 3 (8 oz) packages 1/3 less-fat-cream cheese, softened
- 2/3 cup fat-free milk
- 2 1/4 cups Bisquick All-Purpose Baking Mix
- 3/4 cup uncooked oats

Bring blackberries, 1 1/3 cups sugar, and butter to a boil in a large saucepan over medium heat, stirring gently until butter is melted and sugar dissolves; remove blackberry mixture from heat.

Beat cream cheese and remaining 2/3 cup sugar at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy; add 2/3 cup milk, and beat until smooth. Stir in baking mix and uncooked oats. Spread two-thirds of the cream cheese mixture (about 3 cups) onto bottom of a lightly greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish; spoon blackberry mixture evenly over cream cheese mixture. Dollop remaining cream cheese mixture evenly over blackberry mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until golden brown.

This recipe is just as good prepared with frozen peaches or cherries. Serve with a dollop of sweetened whipped cream.

- Makes 12 servings
- Prep Time: 15 minutes
- Cook Time: 5 minutes
- Bake: 35 minutes



## MEETING/OTHER DATES

**Please remember that schedules often change around the Holidays**

Dec 4	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Dec 11	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Dec 12	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Dec 13	Town Council	7:00 PM
Dec 17	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Dec 18	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Dec 23, 24, 25	Christmas	Town Hall Closed
Dec 27	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jan 1	New Years Day	Town Hall Closed
Jan 8	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Jan 9	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jan 10	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jan 21	Martin Luther King	Town Hall Closed
Jan 22	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Jan 24	Town Council	7:00 PM
Feb 5	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Feb 12	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Feb 13	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Feb 14	Town Council	7:00 PM
Feb 18	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Feb 19	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Feb 28	Town Council	7:00 PM
Mar 4	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Mar 9	Daylight Savings Time	
Mar 12	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Mar 13	Town Council	7:00 PM
Mar 17	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Mar 18	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Mar 21	Good Friday	Town Hall Closed
Mar 27	Town Council	7:00 PM

**The results of the public involvement workshops are available online and at Town Hall.**

**Hours:**  
Tues-Thurs: 6am-6pm  
Fri & Sat: 6am - 8pm

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## 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.

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## 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 25th of each of the following months: May, August, November, and February. 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 the Mills River Town Hall. If you need assistance, have questions, or need more information, feel free to call Paula at (828) 890-8131 or email.

## Get to Know Your Civil Servants

by Paula DeLorenzo



Newly re-elected Town Council member, Wayne Carland, was born and raised in Mills River. After graduating from Mills River High School during the time that the school housed all grades, Wayne attended Clemson University and graduated in 1963 with a degree in Education.

Wayne's family had run a dairy farm in Mills River since 1946 and when Wayne returned to Mills River in 1964 he took over running the family dairy farm until the mid 1990's. Today you can still see Wayne farming corn and hay and raising some beef cattle. Fourteen acres of the old dairy farm were sold to Ingles.

Carolyn Gordon became Mrs. Carland in 1960 and she and her husband are proud parents to three daughters and six grandchildren, aged 7 to 18 years. The oldest grandchild is a freshman at UNC Charlotte. Wayne and Carolyn's oldest daughter is also a graduate of Clemson. She and the youngest daughter have built homes on the farm while the middle daughter lives in Fort Mill, SC.

In 1983 Wayne opened the Valley Agri Farm & Garden store on Boyleston Highway. Land and a store building were purchased from the Davenport family who had run a grocery store at that location. Valley Agri operated out of the old store until five or six years ago when the new store was built. Wayne's wife and youngest daughter continue to work at the store.

Wayne has been a very active member of our community for quite some time. He served as the Treasurer for the Mills River Volunteer Fire Department for at least ten years. Wayne is also a current appointee on the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation Board on which he has served for at least ten years.

As one of the original members of the incorporation team, Wayne feels that we still have a long way to go in getting the town started and he happily serves on the council so that he can help to steer the town in its direction of growth while striving to maintain the town's rural character.

## News from Mills River Branch Library

by Roz Ledford  
Volunteer Coordinator

We are very happy to report that circulation at the Mills River Branch continues to improve and our volunteers are available Monday-Friday to assist you with your Library needs. Our ever helpful Friends of the Mills River Library continue to work to assist us in every way they can.



Local Mills River artist, Joyce Barnett, has volunteered to dress up our Library windows with a wonderful winter scene depicting our rural Mills River life with children playing in the snow and other pastoral scenery (that's Joyce in the photo at the window). The painting is being done in stages and should be completed by the middle of December. It will remain in our windows until early March. Be sure to come out to take a look!

Mills River wants to send congratulations to the Etowah Branch on the completion of their new Library. What a wonderful new facility for that area. They plan to open in mid-January 2008.

Our Mills River Branch is always **in need of dedicated volunteers**. We are still working to increase our hours to full time but that requires additional volunteers. We are very optimistic that Henderson County will provide Mills River with full-time paid staff in the new fiscal year budget.

Should you be considering doing community volunteering in 2008, the Mills River Library would be an excellent choice. We would ask that you donate 4 hours of your time each week. In case of family emergencies or vacations, you can arrange for one of your co-volunteers to fill in for you. Your training will be provided at the Fletcher Branch Library (approx. 2 hours) and you would work another morning (about 2 hours) with your trainer at the Mills River Branch to become familiar with the Branch and how it functions. We would then work with you to find a suitable morning or afternoon that would work with your schedule and the Mills River Branch schedule. You would, at all times, be working with another fully trained volunteer.



As we end 2007 and look forward to 2008, I would like to say a very special "THANK YOU" to all of the Mills River volunteers for their dedicated hard work on behalf of our Branch and our patrons. This includes our ever faithful daily "Librarians" and our staff of "Readers" who work two mornings each week to provide *Story Time* for our youngest patrons. These individuals, along with our steadfast patrons, are the reason your Mills River Library has been the total success it has been for the nearly three years that we have been open. We look forward to seeing and serving you in 2008.

Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year from your Mills River volunteer staff!

### Library Hours

Mon & Wed & Fri — 1:30 – 5:30  
Tue & Thu — 9:30 – 5:30

Story Time for ages 3-6: Tue & Thu 11 am

## 'Tis The Season For Fires

by Rick Livingston – Fire Chief



**As the Christmas season approaches and the cold winds increase, so does the likelihood of fires occurring inside homes.** To minimize these risks, and provide a safe and enjoyable season for all, let's review some basic fire safety issues which are often overlooked.

Due to the increasing cost of fuel, I'm sure many folks will be relying on alternative sources of heat, which are the cause of many fires. Always follow the safety recommendations listed on these various heating appliances and call us at the fire department if you have questions.

If you burn wood, always have your chimney cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep at least annually or more often as needed. Chimney fires are extremely dangerous often causing cracks in flue liners which, later, can allow fire to spread from inside the chimney into your home. Always call 911 if you experience a chimney fire, as this is the cause of many house fires to which we respond.

The following safety tips will also aid in providing a safe and accident free holiday season for each of you:

- ◆ Check all electric lights and connections before decorating and don't use lights with worn or frayed cords.
- ◆ Never use lighted candles on your tree, and never leave other burning candles unattended.
- ◆ Don't overload the electrical outlets. Consult with a licensed electrician if you have questions.
- ◆ Place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets and other heat sources, which dry out your tree.
- ◆ Always make sure your tree has plenty of water to prevent drying. Check the water every day.
- ◆ Always turn off all decorations before going to bed or anytime that you leave home.
- ◆ Don't use additives such as bleach or sugar in the water, which some people think prolongs tree life or improves color. Bleach will kill the tree, and sugar just gums up its water absorption system.
- ◆ When you get the tree, make several small fresh cuts in the trunk to stimulate water absorption.



**From all of us at Mills River Fire and Rescue  
We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!**



## Heritage

by Jaime Adrignola

Has anyone ever asked you to define your heritage? If you have, you may have responded with the countries that your family immigrated from or that you are Native American. You may have described broad concepts of being American, the region you are from, such as the Appalachian Mountains, the “North” or “South”. You could even have gone so far as to describe your family’s traditions and values. Individual heritage is just not something that is easy to wrap up in a concise little package to explain.

It can be just as complicated for a community to define heritage, but in small towns heritage means everything. Heritage is what defines the community and makes it distinct from everywhere else. For some towns, understanding community heritage is what gives them hope and a future.

In 2003, I was working for the North Carolina Department of Transportation in the Public Involvement and Community Studies Unit. It was my job to go out to areas that had a project planned and study the community to determine the positive and negative impacts of a highway project. This meant looking at everything from demographics, land use patterns, economics and, for me, it meant getting to know the people who lived there.

One small town that left a lasting impression on me was Spruce Pine. On a trip there to collect information I found myself walking through downtown in late November. I was looking for locals to talk to and quickly found some friendly faces willing to share with me about this small, tight knit community. They confirmed much of what the town manager had already told me. The town had been hit very hard from the loss of manufacturing and was struggling with a way to revive their downtown and attract jobs. They told me about how their children struggled to come back after college because there weren’t jobs for them back home. The story of this community was looking rather bleak.

I continued to walk through downtown and noticed that the local business owners were already putting out Christmas decorations in their display windows and the town had even begun hanging greenery and big red bows. I stepped inside a local bookstore to warm up and there I learned about how this community was taking their future in their own hands. Those early Christmas decorations were all a part of a comprehensive economic development effort that put Spruce Pine’s heritage at the forefront. A local writer, Gloria Houston, had authored a book entitled *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree* and the town had decided to use the book to craft an entire campaign.

The book was set in a time where everyone lived in wooden cabins and used wood stoves to cook and heat their homes. The illustrations showed traditional Appalachian scenes and featured local commodities such as locally grown Fraser firs and Buck Stoves, a product of one of the remaining manufacturers. The town was planning a month long Christmas celebration designed to invite tourists looking for a Christmas tree from the local farmers into town and show them what Spruce Pine’s history was all about. They even had planned to have local business owners read the book to kids in school and local craft guilds were busy crafting old-timey furniture and pottery to have for sale. This small community had not only defined their heritage, but they were preserving and sharing it while taking their economic future in their own hands as the “Home of the Perfect Christmas Tree”.

I bought a copy of the book and still keep it in my office for inspiration, but now I take it home at least once during Christmas to read to my daughter. I hope it will help her understand that complicated thing called heritage - both on an individual and community level.



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

Identity theft and fraud are continually occurring in our area. These crimes take on many different faces and can happen to anyone. Being a victim of this type of crime can be very disruptive to your life. Please report these crimes to Law Enforcement and to other pertinent agencies (banks, post offices, etc.). The following are a few tips to help you protect yourself.

- Do not give out personal information such as social security #'s, drivers license information, date of birth, etc., over the phone or Internet.
- Do not send money to organizations that you are not familiar with, nor give them personal information.
- Do not send money or checks to persons or groups requiring this in order to receive a money prize or other type winnings.
- Shred or destroy bank and credit card statements, and other documents containing personal information. Also be aware of pre-approved credit card mailings, these items should be shredded or destroyed before placing them in the trash receptacle at home or the office.

**Have a Safe and Happy 2008!**

Remember if you need law enforcement services

**For Emergencies: 911**  
**Non-Emergencies: 697-4911**  
**NC Highway Patrol 693-4141**  
**NC Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**1-800- 662-7137 (to report wildlife violations)**

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