



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011
Volume 8, Issue 2

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

Since my last contribution to the newsletter, there have been many things going on in the Town. The General Assembly has been very busy. Normally, there are just a couple of bills that interest the Town, but in this session there have been several that directly or indirectly affected Mills River. Many thanks to our local delegation for watching out for our interests. Although Rep. David Guice doesn't represent Mills River, he was very helpful in getting the House to vote against classifying Boylston Creek as a "Class C Trout Stream."

Our open house at the new Town Hall was well attended with some 150 people stopping by. If by chance, you didn't get to attend, stop by anytime and we'll be happy to give you a quick tour. The Park is progressing and Council is considering the design of a new driveway to Town Hall coming off of Highway 191. More news on that in the near future.

The Council reviewed the budget very careful and decided to keep the tax rate - revenue neutral.

Please be safe out on the roads this summer; watch out for those bicyclists and the farm equipment.



THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

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Councilman: Shanon Gonc

Councilman: Larry Freeman

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SPOTLIGHT ON MILLS RIVER RESIDENT...
Paula McLelland, Third Grade Teacher, Mills River Elementary School

 How long have you been a teacher at Mills River Elementary School?

I've been a teacher at Mills River Elementary School for 16 years, but I've been teaching for a total of 26 years. I enjoy teaching at Mills River because it is such a supportive community. It still means something to be a teacher in this community and "schools are a reflection of the community". Our school slogan is "Mills River – a great place for children to learn." That's so true.

 Did you always want to be a teacher?

Yes! My poor stuffed animals were subjected to my lessons for years. I got into big trouble as a child for stapling bulletin boards on my walls and bedroom door.

 What inspired you to become a teacher?

There wasn't one thing in particular that inspired me to become a teacher. I just always thought it was really exciting to give someone something, especially knowledge. When you see a child struggle with a concept and finally find success you realize they have not only added a new skill to their skill set but a part of their self-esteem has been strengthened.

 How do you like the new school building?

I appreciate being in the new building. I taught in one of the mobiles for 8 years! It's so nice to have everyone under the same roof now. Also, since we are a green school the children can actually see green practices in action.

 Did you grow up in North Carolina? How long have you lived in Mills River?

I grew up in Whiteville, North Carolina, a small town about forty miles from Wilmington on the coast. My family has lived in Mills River for 17 years.

 Do you have children of your own?

I have two sons. Scott is 21 he lives in Asheville and attends AB Tech. Will is 16 and a junior at West Henderson High School.

 What do you do for fun?

I love to garden! I am always delighted to spend a day digging in the dirt and enjoying the beautiful mountains. I also enjoy needlework and hunting for treasures at local thrift shops.

 Do you have a favorite book?

I don't have one favorite book. I enjoy reading. My Master's Degree in education was with a concentration in reading. I like to read books about subjects depending on where I am in my life. Right now I am reading a gardening book by Margot Rochester and I am looking forward to reading a lot of "beach books" over the summer.

 Do you have a favorite quote?

I don't know who originally said, "Children don't care what you know until they know that you care", but they were right.

 If you could have two superpowers what would they be?

I would love to have the ability to be in two places at one time! My to-do list always seems longer than the day. My other power would be to be able to heal people's sadness, making people happy and making them treat each other nice.

MEETING & OTHER DATES

Jul 4	Independence Day	Town Hall Closed
Jul 13	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jul 14	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jul 15	Agricultural Advisory Committee	
		9:00 AM
Jul 26	Parks and Recreation Committee	
		7:00 PM
Jul 28	Town Council	7:00 PM

Aug 2	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Aug 9	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Aug 10	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Aug 11	Town Council	7:00 PM
Aug 19	Agricultural Advisory Committee	
		9:00 AM
Aug 23	Parks and Recreation Committee	
		7:00 PM

Sep 5	Labor Day	Town Hall Closed
Sep 6	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Sep 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sep 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Sep 16	Agricultural Advisory Committee	
		9:00 AM
Sep 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sep 27	Parks and Recreation Committee	
		7:00 PM

Oct 4	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Oct 11	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Oct 12	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Oct 13	Town Council	7:00 PM

MILLS RIVER THANK-YOU

by Jaime Laughter, Town Manager

The Town would like to thank everyone who made the Town Hall and Library Grand Opening a success on June 24. We celebrated the opening of the first municipal building along with our eighth anniversary of incorporation. The event could not have been a success without all of the volunteers and staff who dedicated their time and effort to the day.

Special thanks go out to Mills River Fire and Rescue and the Friends of the Mills River Library for sending volunteers to help park, shuttle and man tables. Food and beverages were donated by Food Lion of Mills River, Mills River Restaurant, Triangle Stop of Mills River and Pepsi Company. We also need to thank TD Bank for use of their tents and Park Ridge Hospital for bringing their Wellness on Wheels to provide health screenings.

The ribbon cutting ceremony facilitated by the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce hosted representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture who funded the loan on the project and the flag ceremony was conducted by local boy scouts. Everyone did a fantastic job!



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 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 served 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.

Thank you for your support.

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: March, June, September and December. Submit articles in writing to:

Aurelie Taylor
Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to aurelie.taylor@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 Aurelie at (828) 890-2901 or email.



PROPERTY TAX NOTICES

Property Tax Notices for 2011 Mills River property tax will be mailed on or about the first of September, 2011. Residents should look for these notices and contact this office if you do not receive yours by October 1.

North Carolina Statutes dictate that property tax for all jurisdictions become due and payable on September 1 of each year and become past due after January 5 of the following year. Taxes not paid before the close of business on or postmarked by January 5, 2012 will begin accruing interest at the rate of 2.0% for the month of January, and 0.75% for each month thereafter. The Town of Mills River will accept partial payments.

If you have purchased property or refinanced a mortgage in the past 12 months and are paying escrows for taxes, please check with your mortgage company. There should be escrows set up for Henderson County as well as the Town of Mills River property taxes.

If you have any questions or anticipate difficulties with meeting your tax obligation, please contact the Tax Office at 828-890-2901 or email inquiries to susan.powell@millsriver.org or aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org.

SUMMER STORM SAFETY

by Jeannie Moore Payne, Public Fire & Life Safety Educator, Mills River Fire Dept.

Mills River Fire and Rescue is concerned for you and your family. Almost daily, we have afternoon thunderstorms ranging from mild to severe. This is why we want you to review and utilize the following safety tips offered by the U.S. Fire Administration, who encourages you to use the following safety tips to help protect yourself, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after a summer storm. You can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty by being able to identify potential hazards and following the outlined safety tips.

Some Types of Fire-Related Hazards Present During and After a Summer Storm

- Lightning associated with thunderstorms generates a variety of fire hazards. The power of lightning's electrical charge and intense heat can electrocute on contact, splitting trees and causing fires.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Appliances that have been exposed to water can short and become a fire hazard.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.

Chemical Safety

- Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.

Electrical Safety

- If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Be aware of and avoid downed utility lines. Report downed or damaged power lines to the utility company or emergency services.
- Remove standing water, wet carpets and furnishings. Air dry your home with good ventilation before restoring power.
- Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.

Gas Safety

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open.
- Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.
- Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional.

Generator Safety

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.

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- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or 'backfeed' can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

Heating Safety

- Kerosene heaters may not be legal in your area and should only be used where approved by authorities.
- Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.
- Alternative heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away.
- Make sure your alternative heaters have 'tip switches.' These 'tip switches' are designed to automatically turn off the heater in the event they tip over.
- Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines.
- Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot.
- Refuel heaters only outdoors.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, and at least 3 feet away from combustible materials. Ensure they have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other combustible items.

and Remember ...

- Be careful when using candles. Keep the flame away from combustible objects and out of the reach of children.
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least twice a year.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. All batteries should be replaced with new ones at least twice a year.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.

**For Further Information:
Contact Mills River Fire and Rescue
at
828-215-4897**



NEWS FROM YOUR MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

by Roz Ledford

Branch Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am. – 5:00 p.m.

**July 4, 2011 – CLOSED
in observance of Independence Day**

The Mills River Branch Library is in “high gear” at this point in the summer. We have completed a full month (June) of the Summer Reading Program (SRP) with a full month still to go. Children, ages 0 - 11 years, can read or be read to in increments of 15 minutes to earn prizes during the program. At specific intervals during the SRP they earn prizes and upon completion of the program their name will be entered into a drawing for a new bicycle to be given away at each library branch as well as the main location in Hendersonville. Participants can read additional books once they complete the initial requirement and upon duplicating the required reading amount again will be entitled to another chance to win the bicycle.

Teens can also enter the Teen Summer Reading Program to win prizes and a \$50 gift card to Mast General Store, EPIC Movie Theatre, or Walden Books.

Programs available to children and teens at the Mills River Branch Library during July 2011 are:

- **Teen Jewelry Making:** (Necklace), July 12 at 2:00 p.m. (Registration required as space is limited)
- **Teen Jewelry Making:** (Bracelet & Earrings), July 27 at 2:00 p.m. (Registration required)
- **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences:** July 27 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Story Time:** Monday & Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Programs available during August 2011 are:

- **Story Time:** Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- **Fire Safety Program:** Aug 11, at 10:00 a.m. for ages 5 – 12 at the Mills River Branch Library. A full safety program is planned. Ms. Jeannie Moore Payne, EMT & NC Certified Fire & Life Safety Educator and a co-worker, as well as member of the Mills River Fire & Rescue will present the program. They will bring with them Sparky the Fire Dog, their Fire Safety House, and a fire truck from the Mills River Fire Dept., etc. The program is an excellent one for school age children.



**The Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River NC 28759**

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**HENDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
MILLS RIVER DIVISION**

by Sergeant Ken C. McCraw—Have a Happy and Safe 2011!

Please check the Henderson County Sheriff's Office website at www.henderson.lib.nc.us/county/sheriff for links and information regarding identity theft, Community Watch programs, and crime prevention.

Summer time is upon us once again here in Mills River. School is out, the grass is green, and the days are warm. As always, this is the time of year when traffic on our roads increases.

- Remember to watch for children playing in neighborhood areas.
- Please obey all traffic rules, and adjust your speed and drive times for increased traffic congestion.

When the weather warms we tend to open doors and windows in our homes. Remember to close and LOCK them when you are away from your residence.

Have a safe and happy summer. Enjoy the beauty of Mills River.

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