This summer is seeing a lot of things happening in the Town of Mills River!

You’ve seen the new turn lane into Town Center Drive under construction. It will be complete and in full use soon, making access much easier and safer.

The “healthy reminder” banners from Pardee Hospital began hanging on the light poles in the park this spring. The Town wishes to thank Pardee Hospital and UNC Health Care, the Mills River Recreation Foundation, and all our sponsors and donors for their support of our park. Our NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant application for funds to further develop and build the ball fields is still pending. We should know in September if we’ve been approved.

The Town is participating for the first time in the “America In Bloom” competition this summer that recognizes landscaped and natural beauty and environmental protection. We’ll be judged in late June; winners will be announced early this fall. Wish us luck!

The Town’s new fiscal year starts July 1 and your Town Council and staff have completed work on the budget for fiscal year 2014-15. We are proud to report there will be NO property tax increase and NO funds taken from the Town’s savings to pay our bills and balance our budget in the new fiscal year.

The Town has participated in a study to possibly add bike and pedestrian lanes along the existing rights of way along Highway 280 from the Buncombe County line into Pisgah Forest. Making this happen is a long process, but it’s now underway.

Your Planning Board has finished gathering public input on more affordable, high density housing in the Town and should have some recommendations for Council by the end of this summer.

THE’S THE PARK, THE LIBRARY, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE TO ENJOY THIS SUMMER…SO “Y’ALL COME”!

Respectfully,
Mayor Larry B. Freeman
A German physicist, Wilhelm Roentgen (1845-1923) discovered what became known as x-rays in November 1895. In December 1961, a man named X Ray (1897-1961) was buried in the Mills River Presbyterian Church cemetery.

The connection between these events provides an unusual story. X Ray was the oldest of seven children of Walter and Mary Ray. Walter had worked as a reporter for the Asheville Citizen before moving to Henderson County. In 1897, x-rays were the subject of great public interest. There was speculation that scientists might soon be able to use them to see through walls and clothing. By then, x-ray machines already had produced photographs of bones by penetrating human flesh and were expected to have numerous medical applications. Apparently, the physician who assisted in the birth of Ray’s child decided that giving him the name X would generate favorable publicity for the new medical device.

Other sons of Walter and Mary were named William, Horace Greeley, and Theodore Roosevelt Ray. William worked for the Blue Ridge Power Company before moving to Georgia. Horace was named for the well-known publisher of the New York Tribune and a losing candidate for U.S. President in 1872. Horace and his wife, Marcella, owned a dairy and produce farm in Mills River. Theodore worked for a book publisher and served a term as a state representative from Henderson County in 1932-34.

X Ray worked for the U.S. Postal Service and was the father of Charles L. (Lenoir) Ray. Lenoir graduated from Hendersonville High School in 1941 and served in the Army as a cryptographer during World War II. He became a reporter for the Western Carolina Tribune and served as the Postmaster in Flat Rock from 1947 to 1971. He authored a book on the history of local post offices titled Postmarks, which was published in 1970. The book is regarded as an excellent source of history of Henderson County and was reprinted by the Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society.
PARK UPDATE
SUMMER 2014

Summer is here. School is out and the park is full of activity. The dog park, playground area, multi-use trails, picnic shelter and tennis courts are especially busy in the mornings and evenings, so we hope everyone will come out and enjoy all that the park has to offer.

We are in the process of adding two more benches to the rear multi-use trail. Hopefully they will be installed by the time you read this. We want to thank the Mills River Recreation Foundation for their generous donation. With the addition of these benches there is now a total of four benches around the rear trail. A new message board has also been installed at the beginning of the rear trail located at the northern end of the Town Hall parking lot.

A shade structure has been constructed over one of the benches in the large dog park. This was done as an Eagle Scout project, and we thank Conner Miller for this timely structure. We are expecting another similar shade structure to be built in the small dog side as well.

You may have noticed a new town vehicle in the park. We purchased a small, used, black Ford Ranger for use primarily for the park. This vehicle will enable our Park Rangers to be out in the park during inclement weather as well as being used to carry park maintenance supplies.

As you know, we have applied for a grant through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for the construction of ball fields and additional parking. We have just received word that the Parks and Recreation Authority, the folks that decide who receives a grant, are going to meet in July. In the past they have met twice during the year in May and August. We will keep you posted.

There are a couple of events coming up in the park. On July 26th, the Library is sponsoring its annual Touch-A-Truck Event and Challenger Sports is holding a soccer camp the week of July 28th-August 1st. On September 14th, the Hendersonville Seventh-Day Adventist Church is sponsoring a “Let’s Move Day” at the park. Please contact these organizations directly for more information.

We want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that dogs cannot be left unattended in the dog park. Please do not drop off your dogs and go for a walk or to the library. Other dogs and their owners are constantly coming and going into the dog park. All dog owners are legally responsible for their dogs while at the park.

Don’t forget that the Picnic Shelter is available for rent and a calendar may be viewed to confirm availability. Please go to www.millsriver.org and click on the Park button or call Town Hall at 828-890-2901 for information.

Have a great summer!
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

September brings tax notices once again. Legally, tax liens attach to property on January 1, but since the tax rate isn’t set by governing bodies until the end of June, notices can’t be sent until the summer. When towns like Mills River receive their owner, address, and assessed value information from counties, this further delays tax notices. We try to get the notices out as close to September 1, the official due date, as possible. Taxes may be paid any time up to the delinquency date without penalty. This year the delinquency date is January 6, 2015. The date can vary, depending upon whether January 6 falls on a Saturday or Sunday. Usually we know the amount of your tax by the middle of August.

Pre-payments (both total and partial) are always accepted – there are citizens who pay a set amount a month every month of the year. Partial payments are also accepted. If the tax isn’t paid in full by the delinquency date, interest will accrue on the unpaid balance. We don’t have the software to post taxes online, but we’re always happy to answer any tax questions over the phone - that’s part of what we’re here for. The assessed value of your property in Mills River is the same as the value in Henderson County. Their tax information is on their website, so if your question has to do with value it may be worth checking it online with Henderson County.

A note about tax notices – governments are not legally obligated to furnish property owners a tax notice. It’s the responsibility of the citizen to know that they owe property tax. Just like you know you have to file a state and federal income tax return, you should know what property you owe taxes for. We do our best to get a notice to the proper place, but if we don’t, the tax obligation still exists.

If you think you might have problems paying your taxes, please call the office and set up a payment plan. The earlier you do this, the more options we have to help. If we don’t know you’re in financial distress, we are likely to use “enforced collection” measures after January 6 – garnishment of wages or rent, attachment of bank accounts or investment accounts or seizure and sale of assets.

MUSIC! GAMES! FUN! FOOD! FELLOWSHIP!
First Annual Mills River Sweet Corn Festival
Saturday, July 26, 2014
4pm – 8 pm
Mills River Community Center
120 School House Rd
Mills River
Children $5  Adults $10

Mills River
Sweet Corn Festival
On Friday, June 13, Mayor Larry Freeman and Town Manager Jaime Laughter presented awards for Good Citizenship to deserving students at Glenn C. Marlow Elementary and Mills River Elementary schools. Each year the Town of Mills River presents these awards, which include an individual plaque, a check payable to the student, and a plaque to hang in the hallway of the school.
MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

Important Notes for June, July, and August 2014 at the Mills River Branch

- Story Time each Monday morning at 10:00 a.m.
- Purls of Wisdom (knit and crochet) each Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.
- Mills River Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Summer Reading Programs June – July 2014

FIZZ-BOOM-READ
Children (Ages 0 to 11)
Stop by the Mills River Branch Library to pick up a reading record. You will receive information on how the children's program works and how to keep track of what you read to earn prizes.

Halfway Prize: Read 187.5 minutes: 3 years and under get stickers
4 years and up get a pencil

Final Prize: Read 375 minutes: receive a paperback book

SPARK A REACTION
Teen Summer Reading Program (Grades 6 – 12)
Teens, read a total of 6 books, track the minutes it takes you to read each book, record on your paper book log. Bring in completed log to get a free paperback book and enter your log into a drawing for one of the following prizes:

Grand Prize is a Kindle Fire HDX
(2) $25 gift cards to Fountainhead Bookstore
(2) $25 gift cards to EPIC Theatre

Note for all: Reading records must be completed and turned in by Monday, August 4, 2014

ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM
Reading program runs June 1–July 31, 2014. “Reading” includes books, ebooks, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, & reading to children. When patron completes the first log, they receive a pen and entry into the branch & grand prize drawings. All subsequent log completions will be entered into the branch and grand prize drawings. Prizes include movie tickets & restaurant certificates.

Grand prize is one iPad Mini. Adult Prize drawings will be held on August 8, 2014.

Other great programs will be held at the Mills River Branch Library

- Weather & Climate (ages 6 - 12) with Greg Hammer from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Asheville, NC. Friday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- Flat Rock Playhouse Youtheatre Summer Vagabonds, Wednesday, Jun 25 at 2:00 p.m.
- Science Made Fun - with High Tech High Touch of WNC  *Registration Required* - Wednesday, July 9 at 2:00 p.m. (Indicator II pH Day or Make Your Own Volcano)
- Soda Can Pen Calligraphy Workshop with Catherine Langsdorf  *Registration Required* - Thursday, July 10, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, July 16, 3:00 p.m.
- Qigong, July 17, 4:00 p.m.
- Rabbits from Garden Gate Park. Thursday, July 24, 10:30 a.m.
- Touch-a-Truck, Saturday, July 26, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Mother Goose Troop, Wednesday, July 30, 11:00 a.m.
**RECIPE CORNER**

**Tomato Pie**

**Ingredients:**
- Store bought deep dish (very important it’s deep dish) pie crust
- 3 large fresh tomatoes, peeled and sliced
- 1 cup Dukes light mayonnaise
- 2 cups shredded cheese of your choice
- Salt
- Pepper
- Any other spices you like
- 2 tablespoons of garlic (optional)

- Brown your pie crust in oven according to directions on carton. Take out to proceed.
- Layer tomatoes in bottom of pie shell.
- Layer of spices including salt & pepper (garlic)
- Layer of tomatoes
- Layer of spices
- Layer of tomatoes
- Mix mayonnaise and cheese together. Put on top of pie.
- Bake in oven at 325 until cheese turns golden brown.

**ENJOY!**

**MEETING & OTHER DATES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 17</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Jul 18</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 22</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
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<td>Jul 24</td>
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<td>Aug 5</td>
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<td>Aug 12</td>
<td>Board of Adjustment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 28</td>
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<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 23</td>
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ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS ADS**

The Mills River Town Newsletter is printed quarterly: at the end of March, June, September, and December. In order to defray the cost of publishing, the newsletter accepts small business ads. These ads should be business card size (preferably the card itself) and black and white. There is no guarantee of ad or print quality. The company must do business within the town limits, but not necessarily have its location in the town. There is a $50 fee for each quarterly advertisement and since there is a limited amount of space, ads will be taken on a first come, first served basis. The payment must accompany the ad and should be labeled for the newsletter. The fee collected goes directly for newsletter costs. Site selection within the newsletter is to be determined by the newsletter editors. The editors reserve the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs. All ads must be emailed in JPEG format and MUST be business card size.

Thank you for your support.

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

The Town of Mills River newsletter is published and distributed quarterly by US mail and e-mail link. A copy can also be found at www.millsriver.org. Articles submitted may be edited for brevity, content, and appropriateness. Inclusion of an article is at the editor’s discretion. Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each of the following months: March, June, September and December. Submit articles in writing to:

Patty Brown
Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to patty.brown@millsriver.org. Articles can also be dropped off at the Mills River Town Hall. If you need assistance, have questions or need more information, feel free to call Patty at (828) 890-2901 or e-mail her at the above address.
Summertime 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: 828-697-4911
NC Highway Patrol: 828-693-4141