News from the Mayor
Larry Freeman

The summer is warming up and greening up beautifully this year all over Mills River, especially in your park and around Town Hall and the library!

Our new, larger, and well lit parking lot opened just in time for “Mills River Day” on May 22nd.

The kayak and canoe launch, as well as the fishing pier, are being utilized this summer. We invite you down to the back of the park, on the bank of the river, to enjoy both! With the Fitzpatrick Foundation, we recently presented our first kayak and canoe safety event in our park.

As the school year ended, we, as always, presented Citizenship Awards to worthy 5th grade students at both Glenn C. Marlow and Mills River Elementary Schools.

Town Council has a budget in place for the new fiscal year starting July 1. The new budget appropriates money to fund a county proposal to provide “enhanced” law enforcement services in the Town, with three designated deputies for Mills River starting this year and increasing to six over the next three years. It’s expensive, but it’s still the least costly of state required “core” services.

Some updates: Our friends at Sierra Nevada just announced that they’ve won the Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Award—the only U.S. production brewery to do so. Raumedic held their official opening/open house in Broadpointe a few weeks ago. GF Linamar has site work underway in Ferncliff Industrial Park. Tri-Hishtil is busy and in production. Bold Rock is making hard cider with local apples. And, Mills River Academy will be dedicating a special plaque in honor of their history on June 30th.

N.C. DOT will be paving the road through Broadpointe from Old Fanning Bridge to Highway 280 and putting in a new culvert/bridge over McDowell Creek in 2017. They plan to resurface Ferncliff Park Drive perhaps later this year. We expect to see a U.S. Postal Service “mailbox” soon at the convenient entrance on Town Center Drive.

So, a LOT is happening in your growing and successful town going into the summer this year!

Come and enjoy it all with us! (And don’t forget your sunscreen!)

Respectfully and sincerely,
Mayor Larry B. Freeman

Newsletter Editors
Articles: Patty Brown
Layout: Kathie Doole

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Councilman: Billy Johnston
Councilman: Roger Snyder

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Administrative Assistant: Patty Brown
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Website:
www.millsriver.org
Mayor Larry Freeman along with Megan Broome, 5th grade citizenship award for Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School.

Town Manager Jeff Wells presented Mills River Elementary 5th grader, Mariah Carver with a Citizenship Award.

The Canoe and Kayak Safety Class was held on Saturday morning June 11th, 2016. People of all ages came out to learn about river safety awareness topics taught by Justin Blythe of the Henderson County Rescue Squad and Ricky Brown.

The first part of the class was held under the picnic shelter with topics taught such as types of river craft and their different uses, importance and type of personal protection equipment, and trip planning. Then the class moved out to the Mills River where hazards on the water and rescuing techniques were demonstrated.

This class was made possible by a generous donation from the Fitzpatrick Foundation. We look forward to offering more learning opportunities like these in the future.
My mother, Velma Gillespie Brittain (1903-1971) remembered having lived in the Pink Beds for about 18 months in the early 20th century. Her father, John Gillespie (1873-1928) worked as a game protector for George W. Vanderbilt. Her mother, Minnie Sitton Gillespie (1879-1965), prepared food for students at the forestry school that was located in the Pink Beds at the time.

In the summer of 1947, three friends and I decided to undertake a weekend bicycle camping trip to the Pink Beds. We packed bed rolls and enough food for two nights out. We rode from upper Mills River to our destination via Yellow Gap Road. At that time, the Pink Beds had not yet been developed as a center for the history of forestry. Once we arrived, we decided to use a CCC picnic shelter as our camp site. We managed to collect enough dry wood for a small camp fire. Water was available from a nearby stream which was populated by hungry brook trout.

On Saturday, we took our bikes up Highway 276 to Wagon Road Gap. It was a steep climb and our bicycles did not have gears to facilitate the process. We followed the Blue Ridge Parkway through Frying Pan Gap to the trail to the top of Mount Pisgah. We parked our bikes there and hiked to the summit. This was before the television transmitting antenna was installed. The return ride to the Pink Beds was quite an experience. There was little car traffic and one could achieve a high speed coasting down the long and curvy highway.

On Sunday, we returned home by following Highway 276 to Highway 280 at Pisgah Forest. From there, we rode to North Mills River Road. I still have a souvenir of our trip that I purchased at a gift shop on the Parkway. It is a small wooden coin holder crafted to resemble a barrel about two inches in diameter. It has an inscription indicating that Mount Pisgah is 5749 feet high. I have climbed to its summit several times since 1947 including the 50th anniversary in 1997.
Summer is definitely here as the temperature climbs into the upper 80’s... it gets hot! During the summer months, the trails, dog park, and tennis courts are used mostly early in the day and late in the evening. By comparison, our newest facilities, the fishing pier and canoe/kayak launch are especially busy when it's hot as people try to find ways to cool off. On a recent hot weekend, it was estimated that 300 people had come to the water to try and beat the heat!

The Mills River Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank everyone who participated in the Recreation Survey. We appreciate the time it took to fill one out to tell us what's important to them about their park.

The Mills River Partnership held their “Mills River Day” event on Sunday, May 22nd. There was music, food, and tubing down the river. Most importantly, the Partnership was able to reach out to the public and educate them about their mission. It took a fair amount of coordination between numerous entities to make this a success and we believe it was the biggest event held at the park to date.

Upcoming events include the Library's annual Touch a Truck event on July 30th, a Challenger Sports' kids soccer camp to be held the week of July 25th - July 29th, the Mills River Sweet Corn Festival AKA Cornfest on August 20th and Party in the Park on August 28th. The second Mills River Valley 5K/10k race is slated to be held this year in September on the 18th.

Additionally, Mills River is once again participating in the America In Bloom national awards program. We are joining Hendersonville, Flat Rock, and Laurel Park in representing Henderson County in areas such as floral displays, landscaping, environmental efforts, and heritage preservation. We want to thank Sierra Nevada, the Mills River Partnership, and Tri-Hishtil for participating in this year's judges tour.

We want to remind everyone that no alcohol or tobacco products are allowed in the park. We also want to remind everyone that dogs may be off leash only in the dog park. Please keep your dog leashed in all other areas including going to and from the gates of the dog park itself.

The Picnic Shelter may be reserved in four-hour increments and the weekends are filling up. Forms, rules, and requirements for making a reservation are on the Town’s website, as well as a calendar showing availability. If you think you may want to reserve the shelter, please check the calendar and call early as reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Please go to www.millsriver.org and click on the Park button or call Town Hall at 828-890-2901 for information.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>LEGO Club</td>
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<td>July 7</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Zelnik the Magician</td>
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<td>July 11</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Asheville Hoops** (teen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Come read to Sally the library dog</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Roger Day!</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Come read to Sally the library dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Asheville Hoops</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Come read to Sally the library dog</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>PARI: Size and Scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>10:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Touch-a-Truck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>LEGO Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>BIG, BANG, BOOM</td>
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<td>Aug 9</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Come read to Sally the library dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Come read to Sally the library dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Hands On Museum (program to be announced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Come read to Sally the library dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>LEGO Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Hands On Museum</td>
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**Library Closed**

- July 4: Independence Day
- September 5: Labor Day
September brings tax notices once again. Because the Town gets its tax data from Henderson County, the Town’s bills are mailed a few weeks after you receive the County’s bill. 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 late 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, 2017, which is a Friday this coming year. The date can vary, depending upon whether January 6 falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

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 on time, 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 your property. We’re happy to work with citizens who need some extra time to pay, but if we don’t hear from you, we don’t know you’re having monetary issues.
RECIPE CORNER
Zucchini and Potato Bake

Ingredients:
- 2 medium zucchini, quartered and cut into large pieces
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 clove garlic, sliced
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- paprika to taste
- salt to taste
- ground black pepper to taste

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
2. In a medium baking pan, toss together the zucchini, potatoes, red bell pepper, garlic, bread crumbs, and olive oil. Season with paprika, salt, and pepper.
3. Bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are tender and lightly brown.

ENJOY!

MEETING & OTHER DATES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Jul 5</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Jul 14</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<td>Jul 15</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory</td>
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<td>Jul 28</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<td>Aug 9</td>
<td>Board of Adjustment</td>
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<td>Aug 11</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory</td>
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<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 5</td>
<td>Labor Day</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.
Summer time is here again. It is a time to relax and have fun! There are some things to remember to ensure you have an enjoyable time:

- Never leave your personal property unattended while out in public for any period of time. Purses or handbags left unattended in vehicles, shopping carts, etc. make easy targets for criminals.
- Always lock your vehicle and keep your windows rolled up. Remove valuables when possible but never leave them in plain view. Lock them in the trunk or glove box until you get home.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. If something doesn’t look or feel right in a situation, leave the area and report the incident to law enforcement.
- Always make sure your residence is locked when you are away.
- Never put your travel plans on social media. Wait until you return home to post pictures of your vacation.
- Have a trusted neighbor or friend/family keep an eye on your home. Have your mail and newspaper held until you return, or have a neighbor or friend/family pick them up.

Have a safe and happy summer!

For Emergencies: 911   Non-emergencies: 828-697-4911
NC Highway Patrol: 828-693-4141

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.

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