Welcome to the summer in beautiful Mills River!

Our park is more beautiful than ever and we’re eager for you to thoroughly enjoy it this summer! Shade over the playground area is on the way and so are swings for the kids. A new multi-purpose field has been graded and seeded. After the grass has established itself in the new field, it will be ready to be enjoyed.

We are proud to report our budget for FY 17-18 is balanced, our fund balance (savings) is healthy, and your property tax rate is remaining the same with no increase.

Additional designated deputies are coming "on board" under our contract with the sheriff’s department. We’re seeing the benefits of this in a greater law enforcement presence in our Town and in a significant reduction in criminal offenses.

The river is up, thanks to plenty of rain this spring, so the fishing is great at our fishing pier. Thanks to the Eagle Scouts for the helpful kiosk full of information! Our canoe and kayak launch can connect you to the French Broad just downstream and we urge you to please be safe and careful as you enjoy the river this summer.

NCDOT has plans for widening Highway 191, a number of paving and other road improvement projects are on the way, and your Council recently voted to add street lighting at the Highway 280 and Butler Bridge Road busy intersection.

At the suggestion of a citizen, we’ve added a regularly updated list of development activities in Mills River to the Town’s web site. Look for the drop-down box “Development Activities” on the home page.

Wish us luck, we are once again participating in “America In Bloom”. Welcome to Norafin and GF Linamar!

That’s enuff talkin’ and readin’…head outdoors and enjoy Mills River this summer…and God bless America!

Respectfully and sincerely,

Mayor Larry Freeman
Solomon Whitaker (1824-1895) was the patriarch of a large family of upper Mills River. The Whitakers trace their roots to Scotland. They lived for a time in Rowan County, North Carolina before coming to Mills River. Solomon first married Dicie Owenby (1824-1874), and they became the parents of nine children. Solomon and two of his sons served in the Union Army during the Civil War. After Dicie’s death, Solomon married Catherine Anders (1847-1883), and they became the parents to three children. Solomon’s third wife was Elmira Gray (1854-1899), and they were the parents of two daughters. Solomon and his three wives are buried in the family cemetery on Hall Road a short distance from its intersection with Whitaker Lane.

Sidney J. Whitaker (1862-1943), a son of Solomon and Dicie Whitaker, married Ruth Field (1863-1945). She was a daughter of Nathan Field, who came from Massachusetts to Mills River after the Civil War. Sidney and Ruth became the parents of 17 children. At the time of Sidney’s death, he was survived by 7 sons and 7 daughters. The family lived in a large house with 7 bedrooms. The house, built in 1909, is on Whitaker Lane and overlooks the North Mills River Valley.

A daughter of Sidney and Ruth, Bertha Whitaker (1886-1953), married James T. Davenport (1871-1946), who established a small general store on Whitaker Lane around 1900. In 1908, he acquired a store in lower Mills River near the Highway 191 bridge over Mills River. Bertha’s brother, Fred Whitaker (1883-1974) became a partner of J. T. Davenport at the store. Sheldon T. Davenport (1907-1983) joined the enterprise in 1929. He married Sue Winslow and they lived on the second floor of the store with their children. Robert Davenport, one of their sons, delivered grocery orders to homes in Mills River for a time.

Edgar (Ed) Whitaker (1894-1983), one of Sidney’s sons, married Edith Sitton (1904-1980), a daughter of Will and Hattie Sitton of South Mills River. They became the parents of three children. Ed Whitaker operated a sawmill near their home on Whitaker Lane and sang in a local gospel quartet. Another of Sidney’s sons, Tom Whitaker (1892-1970) married Lola Gillespie (1901-1988), a daughter of John and Minnie Sitton Gillespie of Upper South Mills River. Tom and Lola lived in a house on Whitaker Lane. They were the parents of three children. Lola was a sister of my mother, Velma Gillespie Brittain (1903-1971). Many of the descendants of Solomon and Sidney Whitaker still live in the area.
WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Community leaders are investigating the feasibility of a proposed 15-mile paved path between Mills River and Brevard, from Westfeldt Park, near the Asheville Airport, to Pisgah Forest at the junction of NC 280 and US 64.

The proposed paved path would be parallel to and separated from the NC 280 roadway.

We would like to hear from you. You can access a survey online at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NC280Path

A link to the survey is provided on the town’s website. Or, you can fill out a hard copy survey at Town Hall.

You can also learn more about the project through the following link:

http://bit.ly/2h4McWu

A stakeholder group representing local governments, businesses, NCDOT and transportation organizations, non-profits and interested citizens has formed to help increase community awareness and engagement; and to shape the next steps. They have prepared informational materials and planned a variety of ways to share the information throughout the summer. Keep checking our website for events and dates that you can share your thoughts on the proposed path.

OUR BEST WISHES!

Dr. Molly Parkhill retires as President of Blue Ridge Community College. Mills River Town Council honors her for her commitment to job training and preparing Mills River residents for promising futures.

Mills River Town Council honors Deputy Ricky Woodard and thanks him for his service to Mills River residents. He will be greatly missed but we wish him well in his new position.
Mills River Library
Summer Fun

July 2017

July 3: 10:00 am Storytime (Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and more. All ages welcome)
        1:00 pm "Sally the Reading Dog"
July 4: Library Closed
July 6: 9:00 am Yoga
July 10: 10:00 am Storytime
        1:00 pm "Sally the Reading Dog"
July 11: 9:00 am Yoga
        1:00 pm Knit & Crochet Group (Join us to learn to knit, get help with a project, or just to be around others who enjoy the same thing)
        4:00 pm Lego Club (All ages welcome to free build, all LEGOs provided)
July 12: 4:00 pm Worm Ranching 101 (Composition and Decomposition - Diane Rhoades will share the deep down and science fiction truth about worms! For children in grades K-5; no registration required)
July 13: 9:00 am Yoga
        10:30 am Book Club
July 17: 10:00 am Storytime
        1:00 pm "Virgil the Reading Dog"
July 18: 9:00 am Yoga
        1:00 pm Knit & Crochet Group
July 20: 9:00 am Yoga
July 22: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Touch A Truck! (A fun event for the whole family, granting children of all ages an ALL ACCESS pass to explore, climb, and touch trucks, emergency response vehicles, and heavy machinery and meet the people who build, protect, and serve us in Henderson County)
July 24: 10:00 am Storytime
        1:00 pm "Virgil the Reading Dog"
July 25: 9:00 am Yoga
        1:00 pm Knit & Crochet Group
July 27: 9:00 am Yoga
July 28: 2:00 - 4:00 pm CRAFTERNOON (Paint a Better World! Drop by any time between 2 and 4pm and try your hand at painting. Multiple types of paints will be available for you to create your masterpiece. For grades K-5)
July 31: 10:00 am Storytime
        2:00 pm Build A Better World - Hands on Museum (In this action packed one hour class, participants will learn that engineering is a process for developing solutions to real world problems. They will also learn that inventing is a process for creating things that didn’t exist before. As both inventors and engineers, students will look for ways to improve the world around them. This program is for children in grades K-5; Registration is required)

August 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>1:00 pm Virgil the Reading Dog</td>
<td>Each Tuesday</td>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>Each Thursday</td>
<td>August 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00 pm Yoga</td>
<td>9:00 am Yoga</td>
<td>1:00 pm Virgil the Reading Dog</td>
<td>(not on 8/10) 9:00 am Yoga</td>
<td>11:00 am Farmer Jason</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>1:00 pm Knit &amp; Crochet Group</td>
<td>Dates Coming</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 pm Lego Club</td>
<td>returning</td>
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* Registration required for Yoga, Sally the Reading Dog and Virgil the Reading Dog

August 7
Virgil the Reading Dog
1:00 pm Yoga
1:00 pm Knit & Crochet Group
August 1
4:00 pm Lego Club

Each Tuesday
9:00 am Yoga
1:00 pm Knit & Crochet Group

August 2
1:00 pm Virgil the Reading Dog
Dates Coming
Hands on Series returning

Each Thursday
(not on 8/10) 9:00 am Yoga

August 10
10:30 am Book Club
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 governments 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. The delinquency date is Saturday, January 6, 2018. If you are paying in person, they must be received in our office by 5pm, Friday, January 5, 2018. If mailed, the envelope must have a United States Post Office postmark of January 5, 2018. Postage machine postmarks are not considered valid proof of mailing. Any illegible postmark is also not considered proof of mailing. The bottom line is, if you want to be sure to avoid penalty, mail your payment well before January 5!

If you think you might have problems paying your taxes on time, please call the office and speak to me about a payment plan. If I don’t know you’re in financial distress, I am likely to use “enforced collection” measures after January 6 – that can be garnishment of wages or rent, attachment of bank accounts or investment accounts or seizure and sale of your property. I’m happy to work with citizens who need some extra time to pay, but if I don’t hear from you, I don’t know you’re having monetary issues. I can be reached by phone at 890-2901 or by email at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org.

Pre-payments (both total and partial) are always accepted – there are citizens who pay a set amount a month every month of the year. 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. Exemptions and deferments are also the same. Their tax information is on the County website, so if your question has to do with value it may be worth checking it online with Henderson County before calling the Town.

A word 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.

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**Mills River Library**

**Summer Fun**

**September 2017**

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<tr>
<td>Each Monday</td>
<td>Each Tuesday</td>
<td>Dates Coming Hands</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Storytime</td>
<td>9:00 am Yoga</td>
<td>Hands on Series</td>
<td>9:00 am Yoga</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>1:00 pm Knitting Group</td>
<td>returning</td>
<td>September 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Closed</td>
<td>September 5</td>
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<td>10:30 am Book Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LEGO Club</td>
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**Library Closed**

**September 4**

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<td>September 14</td>
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<td>10:30 am Book Club</td>
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S’MORES AND MORE SUMMER FIRE SAFETY
by Jeannie Moore
Public Fire and Life Safety Educator at Mills River Fire and Rescue

Enjoying a campfire under the summer stars and making a few s’mores is a warm weather favorite, but it also comes with responsibilities. Following a few simple and easy safety tips can make you and your forest neighbors much safer and happier.

Choosing a good spot for your campfire is the first thing to do. Follow local and campground rules and laws about fire. Make sure there are not hazardous or dry conditions before building a fire. Check for already existing fire pits. If there are none, then be sure to build at least 15 feet from tents, shrubs, trees, or any other objects that may burn. Watch out for low trees or branches. Choose a level area with minimal brush. Make sure to check the winds and their direction. Build your fire pit and put a fire ring around it with rocks to create a wall to keep the fire in and NEVER use any gas or other flammable liquids to start the fire.

Building your fire: Start with some brush, twigs, leaves, grasses or needles, then add twigs less than one inch, and last add your firewood. Now let’s enjoy the fire, but remember to keep it small and a shovel and water handy if it needs to be put out. ALWAYS, have sober, ADULT supervision. Keep an eye on the weather, in case the winds change.

Let the fire burn out completely, if possible. Drown the remaining ashes with large amounts of water. Stir the ashes with your shovel and add water to make mud. Don’t leave the fire until it is COLD. Scrape around the fire pit edges to be sure all the hot embers got mixed in and doused. NEVER TOUCH THE ASHES, they might burn you. Add more water if necessary.

Smokey the Bear says, “If it’s too hot to touch, it’s too hot to leave!”

For more fire safety tips or any questions about Fire and Life Safety programs provided by Mills River Fire and Rescue, contact Jeannie at millriverfireprevention@hotmail.com.

PARK UPDATE SUMMER 2017

Summer has officially arrived and as the temperature climbs, we note that park usage is highest in the mornings and evenings while the middle of the day can be fairly quiet. In contrast, the fishing pier and canoe/kayak launch become especially busy when it’s hottest as people try to find ways to cool off.

In order to bring some relief to the mid-day sun and heat, your Town Council recently approved the construction of a shade structure over the playground area. When completed, it will be comprised of three shade sails that will keep the playground equipment cooler (which should also extend the life of the equipment) and help to protect everyone from too much exposure to the sun. This is a professionally engineered and installed project that should serve the community well for years to come.

We have been receiving a lot of inquiries regarding the removal of the temporary fencing in the large dog park. This is the first major restoration of the turf in the dog park that we have undertaken since opening in 2012. Through the years, we have tried various methods of rejuvenating and reseeding the large dog park that included trying to close off sections of the park and at one point closing the park entirely for a month. Ultimately, none of those methods worked very well. We are in constant communication with our mowing contractor about the new grass and how green and tender it is and we understand that you are anxious to get back onto that side of the park. We ask for your understanding and patience during this time as we try to ensure that the new grass is established. At that time, we will move a portion of the temporary fencing so that we can restore the other side as well.

The Mills River Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Public Input portion of our PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) application process. We appreciate the time it took to tell us what is important to you about your park and show support for the proposed facilities we are hoping to add to the park. We should learn results sometime in the fall.

Upcoming events include the Library’s annual Touch A Truck event on July 22nd, a Challenger Sports’ British soccer camp to be held the week of July 24th–July 28th (you can sign up online by going to www.millsriver.org, going to the “Links” tab and clicking on “Mills River Parks and Rec 2017”), and Party in the Park on August 27th. The annual Mills River Valley 5K/10k race is scheduled to be held this year on September 17th.

Mills River once again participated in the annual America In Bloom national awards program in early June. We joined 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 and North River Farms for participating in this year’s judges tour and representing Mills River so well.

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, so please plan ahead as the weekend reservations fill up rapidly. 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.

Have a great summer! See you at the Park!
RECIPE CORNER

Broccoli, Cheese, and Rice Casserole

YIELD: 8 servings (serving size: 1/2 cup)

Ingredients

• 1 cup uncooked instant brown rice
• 1/2 cup chopped onion
• 1/4 cup fat-free milk
• 4 ounces light processed cheese, cubed or shredded (such as Velveeta Light or Colby/Monterey Jack)
• 2 tablespoons butter or stick margarine, softened
• 2 (10-ounce) packages frozen chopped broccoli, thawed and drained
• 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can condensed reduced-fat, reduced-sodium cream of mushroom soup, undiluted

How to Make It

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl, and spoon into a 2-quart casserole. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

ENJOY!

MEETINGS & OTHER DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>Jul 13</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 20</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<td>Jul 21</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
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<td>Jul 25</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory</td>
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<td>Jul 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 1</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Aug 8</td>
<td>Board of Adjustment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 10</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 5</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Sep 14</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 28</td>
<td>Town Council</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.

⇒ Never leave children or pets in a locked vehicle, especially in the summer time. The temperature in a closed vehicle can rise to a dangerous level very quickly.

⇒ 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.

⇒ When on 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