Lois Pryor
I want to say thank you to this extraordinary lady who has served on our Town Council for 10 years, retiring from her position as Mayor Pro Tem just last month. I have never heard of anything that she couldn’t do or was afraid to take on. This lady is a go-getter. I’ve never seen anyone like her and those of you that know her will agree with me.

Lois and her husband, Benny were very active in the Mills River incorporation effort and both were a major force in getting the State of North Carolina to approve our incorporation.

I’m always attending some kind of meeting, but when my schedule didn’t allow time, Lois was always ready to sit in and she represented Mills River with a passion. Lois has always been the Vice Mayor (Mayor Pro Tem) and she took the job seriously.

I asked Lois why she was retiring from the Council; she said without hesitation “This will give me more time to tackle other projects!”

We wish her well.

Miscellaneous
I want to congratulate Larry Freeman (District 1) and Shanon Gonce (District 3) on their re-election. I also want to welcome new Councilmember Billy Johnston (District 2).

I hope you and yours have a great new year. As always, if we can be of any assistance, please give us a call.

Safety Tip
Have you changed those batteries in your smoke detector? Have you checked the flashlight that you have in your vehicle? Had your chimney cleaned out?
HISTORY CORNER
by Jim Brittain

Recently, I discovered an old photograph from the late 1940’s that depicted our first washing machine on the back porch of our home at North Mills River. The machine had rollers that made it possible to roll it into the kitchen on wash day. Before we acquired the machine, wash day included the task of heating water on the wood-fueled kitchen stove and using it to fill a wash tub. My mother would then place a washboard in the tub and add soap before scribing work clothes and bed linens. Once they were clean enough to meet her standards, she rinsed them in hot water before wringing out as much water as possible either by hand or with the aid of a hand-cranked wringer. Further drying required hanging the washed items on a clothes line in the yard with clothespins.

Our washing machine was made by the Maytag Company and was rather primitive by today’s standards. It still was necessary to heat wash water on the kitchen stove or sometimes in a black iron pot in the yard. Buckets of heated water were poured into the reservoir of the Maytag machine which featured an electric-driven agitator. This, at least, eliminated the labor intensive task of scrubbing with a washboard. Once the wash cycle had been complete, it was necessary to drain the reservoir by means of an attached hose on the machine. It was a gravity drain system and the used water could be poured into the kitchen sink.

Our washing machine also featured a powered wringer which eliminated the need for hand or hand-cranked wringing. However, we did not have an electric dryer and continued to use “solar drying” on an outdoor clothesline. This worked fairly well in good weather, especially on a sunny day with low humidity. In cold weather, however, I can recall the recently washed clothes becoming “stiff as a board”. Even with the benefits of a washing machine, my mother still found it necessary to iron most of the washed items using a flat iron heated on the stove or an electric iron once she had one. My principal contribution on wash day was assisting my father in the conversion of oak trees into stove wood that was used to heat the wash water. I also sometimes helped to hang the wash on the clothes line or quickly retrieve it in case of a sudden storm.

In the early years, we did not enjoy the benefits of an electric dishwasher. Dishes were washed by hand in a pan of hot water. They were then rinsed and dried using a dish cloth.
Happy New Year! Winter has arrived - we are seeing the temperatures drop and coats, hats and gloves are making their annual appearance. It seems like the weekdays have been sunny while the weekends have been wet and raining. Any time the weather warms up a bit, we see a lot of action in the dog park and find some hardy tennis players on the courts.

The rear multi-use trail is open and benches and trash cans have been installed. There is a dog waste station at the start of the trail to encourage patrons to pick up a bag on the way into the trail with their furry friend. The trail is approximately 1 mile in length and starts and ends at the Town Hall parking lot. You can see the trail's location on the plan available at our website under the Park button or in one of the bulletin boards in the park. Speaking of bulletin boards, we have also ordered one for installation at the entrance to the rear trail.

In addition to the installations on the rear trail, we have recently put additional trash cans just outside the gates of the tennis courts.

As mentioned in the last article, the Town Council has instructed the staff to move ahead with a Phase II PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) Grant Application. The proposal will include the construction of the three 200’ ball fields in the grassy area next to the current Restroom/Concession building. This size field should accommodate both softball and little league baseball when completed. We are also proposing to build another parking area north of the Town Hall parking lot. We have posted a plan on our website and in the bulletin boards in the park showing the proposed Phase II. The facilities that are the subject of the next grant application are colored in green. The application deadline is the end of January. We will keep you posted on any news.

We want to extend our appreciation for your patience while the dog park was closed down to do some turf repair and maintenance. We will monitor the results to see how well the repaired areas hold up under constant use. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank everyone for their understanding.

Did you know?

The only place a dog can be off of a leash is within the dog park? Park rules state that dogs must be leashed at all times outside of the dog park. Please leash your dog from your vehicle to the dog park and back and while walking on our trails.

For more information about your park, please go to www.millsriver.org and click on the Park button or call the Town Hall at 828-890-2901.
As noted above, the first meeting of the new Book Club at the Mills River Branch Library will take place on January 9, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. At the first meeting we will discuss format and the book we want to read. All following meetings will be on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Using Your Kindle Fire with Library Ebooks will be held at the Mills River Branch Library on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Alan Falzone from the Potting Shed here in Mills River will be at the Branch on February 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. to teach a pruning class for adults.

Our free Yoga classes are being offered every Saturday in January and March. The January classes are full. Please call the Branch to register for the March classes (890-1850).

Bright Star Touring Theatre will be at the Mills River Branch Library on March 8, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. to present “Jackie Robinson” a pre-K to 5th grade program. In this 45-minute interactive production, Jackie Robinson takes the stage and goes to bat for equal rights and the integration of professional sports. At a time when segregation was the law, Jackie Robinson was an American hero and an icon of America’s favorite past time who stood up for what he knew to be right. The life and work of Jackie Robinson are recreated in this triumphant tale of one man’s journey to forever change America. Brimming with inspiration, perseverance and hope, Jackie Robinson’s story is sure to be a hit among young audiences.
LEARN ABOUT SMOKE ALARMS
by: Jeannie Moore-Payne, NC FLSE III (Mills River Fire and Rescue)

Why should I have a working smoke alarm?
A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you’re awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke. According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

What types of smoke alarms are available?
There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market, but they fall under two basic types: ionization and photoelectric. It cannot be stated definitively that one is better than the other in every fire situation that could arise in a residence. Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different, yet potentially fatal fires, and because no one can predict what type of fire might start in a home, the USFA recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with:
•Both ionization AND photoelectric smoke alarms, OR
•Dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors
In addition to the basic types of alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

What powers a smoke alarm?
Smoke alarms are powered by battery or they are hardwired into the home's electrical system. If the smoke alarm is powered by battery, it runs on either a disposable 9-volt battery or a non-replaceable 10-year lithium (“long-life”) battery. A backup battery is usually present on hardwired alarms and may need to be replaced. These batteries must be tested on a regular basis and, in most cases, should be replaced at least once each year (except for lithium batteries). See the Smoke Alarm Maintenance section for more information.

Are smoke alarms expensive?
Smoke alarms are not expensive and are worth the lives they can help save. Ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms cost between $6 and $20. Dual sensor smoke alarms cost between $24 and $40. Some fire departments offer reduced price, or even free, smoke alarms. Contact your local fire department’s non-emergency phone number for more information.

Install smoke alarms in key areas of your home
Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or early in the morning, so the U.S. Fire Administration recommends installing smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions.
Some fire departments will install battery-operated smoke alarms in your home at no cost. Contact your local fire department's non-emergency phone number for more information.
Hardwired smoke alarms should be installed by a qualified electrician.

Smoke alarm maintenance
Is your smoke alarm still working? Smoke alarms must be maintained! A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all.
A smoke alarm only works when it is properly installed and maintained. Depending on how your smoke alarm is powered (9-volt, 10-year lithium, or hardwired), you’ll have to maintain it according to manufacturer's instructions. General guidelines for smoke alarm maintenance:

Smoke alarm powered by a 9-volt battery
•Test the alarm monthly.
•Replace the batteries twice per year. (When time changes)
•The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 10 years.

Smoke alarm powered by a 10-year lithium (or “long life”) battery
•Test the alarm monthly.
•Since you cannot (and should not) replace the lithium battery, the entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced according to manufacturer's instructions.

Continued on next page
Smoke alarm that is hardwired into the home's electrical system
• Test the alarm monthly.
• The backup battery should be replaced twice per year.
• The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking; a smoke alarm is just doing its job when it sounds while you’re cooking or taking a shower with lots of steam.
• If a smoke alarm sounds while you’re cooking or taking a shower with lots of steam, do not remove the battery. You should:
  - Open a window or door
  - Wave a towel at the alarm to clear the air, or
  - Move the entire alarm several feet away from the location.

Disabling a smoke alarm or removing the battery can be a deadly mistake.

If you need a smoke alarm or assistance with installing a smoke alarm please contact Mills River Fire and Rescue at (828) 891-7959, or your local Fire Department.
**RECIPE CORNER**

**Strawberry Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 box plain white cake mix
- 1 3-oz. box strawberry-flavored gelatin
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup frozen sliced strawberries in syrup, thawed
- 4 large eggs
- ½ cup water
- 1-2 tubs Whipped Cream Cheese Frosting

**Directions:**
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

With an electric mixer, beat the cake mix, gelatin, oil, strawberries, and water until fully combined. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each egg.

Pour the batter into 2 round cakes pans that have been greased and floured (You can use Baker’s Joy Spray).

Bake according to the back of the cake box until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Let cool in the pan before removing to put on the frosting.

This makes a two-layer round cake. Put cream cheese frosting between the layers too. After cake cools completely, frost the cake and decorate to your liking. Decorate with fresh sliced strawberries on top when in season.

ENJOY!

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**MEETING & OTHER DATES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting/Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
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<td>Jan 17</td>
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<td>Jan 20</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 13</td>
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<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 24</td>
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**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Scheduled meetings may be cancelled at any time – please call Town Hall at 890-2901 or check our meetings calendar at www.millsriver.org

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**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.

Thank you for your support.

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**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 25th 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.
Hope everyone has a very Happy New Year! We want to remind everyone to drive safely. Below are a few driving reminders:

- Obey all posted speed limits
- Observe speed regulations in school zones
- Slow down and use caution during times of inclement weather
- Wear your seat belt
- Watch out for children around schools and near school buses
- Come to a complete stop at all stop signs
- Burn your headlights when operating your windshield wipers in the rain
- Please properly secure children in the correct child seats for their weight and age
- Increase your following distance in traffic
- Make sure your vehicle is in safe operating condition (tires, lights, signals, wiper blades, brakes, etc.)

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

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