I’m putting my safety tips at the top of the column this time in hope that more people will read them:

- Change all those home detector batteries
- Don’t leave your home with any appliance running or turned on
- Changed your flashlight batteries
- Service your vehicles

As always, during this winter, check on your neighbors, the elderly, and don’t forget those animals. Make sure you’re prepared for bad weather. An extra blanket, batteries and flashlights might come in handy if your power suddenly went out.

I like to see people volunteering in the community whether it is at your local school, church, or other organizations – get involved. There are almost always volunteer opportunities on Town of Mills River boards and committees.

**Sierra Nevada**
I’ve received a lot of questions about Sierra Nevada. Construction is on track for the brewery to be open by July. They have asked Blue Ridge Community College to administer potential job applications and they plan to have a “job fair” in March. So if you’re interested, dust off that resume, update your references, and be prepared.

**Town Park**
We’re looking at adding several new things in the Park next year. Fishing Pier, Small Boat Launch, and another walking trail loop just to name a few. The complete conceptual plan is available at Town Hall.
HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

My collection of old photographs from my early years at Mills River included one of a Hereford cow and her calf standing near a watering trough fabricated from a chestnut log. The scene is suggestive and leads to reflections on the nexus of water, wood and livestock on a small family farm. In particular, the old picture taken around 1950 shows one element of a water distribution system developed by my father to facilitate the use of water from a spring for several purposes. The chestnut trough actually served as the final stage in the system which delivered water to the kitchen in our house and to a small reservoir in the dairy room before supplying water to the trough with drinking water for our livestock.

Although I do not recall any discussion of the early history of our water system with my father, it seems likely that the site for our house, constructed about 1935, was chosen carefully so that a pipe would deliver water from the spring to the house without requiring the installation of a hydraulic ram or hand pump. The older Brittain house across the river where I was born and lived until we moved in the winter of 1935-36 had depended on water drawn from a hand-dug well with a bucket and chain. The spring for our new home was a reliable source but not ideal since the water came out of the ground at more than one location. However, it did prove possible to collect enough at one location to fill a small wooden reservoir and serve our needs fairly well. A close examination of the site of the spring box relative to the kitchen faucet suggests that the elevation differential was barely adequate for water flow. I would speculate that my father undertook a measurement, perhaps using a carpenter's level, to make sure that the house site was not too high to permit water delivery from the spring.

Another of my old photographs shows that the water line entered the east side of the house via a short vertical section of pipe rising to perhaps six feet from ground level. This section was protected from freezing in cold weather by being enclosed by a short wooden enclosure nailed to the outside wall of the house. The water pipe fed a kitchen faucet located at the corner of the kitchen. When the faucet was turned off, as it was most of the time, the water line delivered water into the adjacent dairy room where it filled a concrete reservoir. Stoneware milk containers were placed in the pool of water for cooling until needed. Actually, there was ample water and space to enable me to use it as an indoor "trout pond" for rainbow trout brought home from the river. One of them attained a length of well over a foot before is suffocated due to a temporary interruption of the flow. The reservoir was fitted with an exit pipe that carried the outflow outside the house where it flowed downhill to a branch a short distance east of the house.

As I recall, the chestnut trough was added soon after we acquired a draft horse in the early 1940's. Since the horse needed a better place to drink than from the branch, my father decided to build a trough from a log cut from a large chestnut tree. Being familiar with the longevity of chestnut wood, he cut a log of perhaps ten feet in length and used the horse to drag it to the site where it would become a trough. Using an ax and other wood-working tools, he converted the log into what resembled a dug-out canoe except that it was designed to keep the water in instead of out.

The resulting trough was leveled and then filled with water from the outlet of our dairy room. Ultimately, the recycled water from the house that supplied drinking water for the horse and cattle was returned to the branch which flowed to the North Fork of Mills River. Our water system was somewhat unusual but proved to be an adequate one to supply the needs of a small mountain farm. Also, there was no monthly utility bill to pay for water.
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

As we constantly try to improve the newsletter, we welcome your input. We would appreciate your comments, ideas, and suggestions on anything that relates to the newsletter. Please take the time and fill out this short survey and get it back to us. You can fax it to us at 890-2903, drop it in the regular mail (please remember to affix postage), or email it to us at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org

How do you like the format or layout: ___________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Are the articles well written? ____________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Do the articles pertain to issues that are of interest to you? ________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

What other subjects would you like to see covered in further issues: ________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any suggestions? ________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Would you be interested in helping with the newsletter? ___________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Thank You for Your Input!
SPOTLIGHT ON MILLS RIVER RESIDENT...HOLLY WILSON
by: Kathryn Finotti

• How long have you been a resident of Mills River?
  I've lived here now for about six years.

• Where is your hometown?
  I was born in Raleigh, North Carolina

• What kind of work do you do?
  I work as a cashier at Walmart.

• Do you have a family?
  In Raleigh I have two sisters that still live at home with my Mom.

• Do you have pets?
  Yes. I have a cat named Rocky...he's my baby.

• What is your favorite pastime or hobby?
  I don't really have a hobby. I do love to read though.

• What is your favorite meal?
  I'm very partial to Italian food, especially homemade lasagna.

• Where do you go for vacation?
  I haven't had a vacation in a few years. I love to go to the beach, any beach.

• What is the most interesting place you've ever been?
  I would have to say out west...Arizona. Because that's the only place I've been besides North Carolina.

• Do you have a favorite actor or singer?
  Alan Jackson is my favorite.

• Do you have a favorite activity here in Mills River?
  I love to go kayaking with my friends on the French Broad River.

• What is your favorite season?
  That would be summer! Summer in the mountains is beautiful.
Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around
by Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer

Mills River Fire and Rescue Reinforces Newer Smoke Alarm Recommendations

"Many homes in Mills River may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working," says Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Mills River Fire Department. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced."

According to Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Mills River residents can feel free to contact the fire department for more information about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect their loved ones from fire.

Interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

Mills River Fire and Rescue offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace ALL smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

For more information regarding smoke alarms or other fire prevention or life safety programs, please contact Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer with Mills River Fire Department at 828-891-7959.
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.

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.

Thank you for your support.
RECIPE CORNER

Hearty Lentil Soup

2 celery ribs, thinly sliced
1 medium onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
2 tbs. butter or margarine
6 cups water
1 – 28oz can diced tomatoes, undrained
¾ cup dry lentils, rinsed
¾ cup pearl barley
2 tbs. chicken bouillon granules
½ tsp. dried oregano
½ tsp. crushed dried rosemary
¼ tsp. black pepper
1 cup carrot, thinly sliced
1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese (optional)

In a Dutch oven or soup kettle, sauté the celery, onion and garlic in butter until tender.

Add the water, tomatoes, lentils, barley, bouillon, oregano, rosemary and pepper; bring to a boil.

Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 40 minutes or until lentils and barley are almost tender.

Add carrots; simmer for 15 minutes or until carrots, lentils and barley are tender.

Sprinkle with each serving with cheese if desired.

Yield: 8-10 servings.

ENJOY!

MEETING & OTHER DATES

Jan 10 Town Council 7:00 PM
Jan 17 Finance Committee 7:00 PM
Jan 18 Agricultural Advisory Committee 7:00 PM
Jan 21 Martin Luther King Birthday Observance Town Hall Closed
Jan 22 Parks and Recreation Committee 7:00 PM
Jan 24 Town Council 7:00 PM

Feb 5 Planning Board 7:00 PM
Feb 12 Board of Adjustment 7:00 PM
Feb 14 Town Council 7:00 PM
Feb 15 Agricultural Advisory Committee 9:00 AM
Feb 26 Parks and Recreation Committee 7:00 PM
Feb 28 Town Council 7:00 PM

Mar 5 Planning Board 7:00 PM
Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time Ends
Mar 14 Town Council 7:00 PM
Mar 15 Agricultural Advisory Committee 9:00 AM
Mar 26 Parks and Recreation Committee 7:00 PM
Mar 28 Town Council 7:00 PM
Mar 29 Good Friday Town Hall Closed

Apr 2 Planning Board 7:00 PM
Apr 9 Board of Adjustment 7:00 PM
Apr 11 Town Council 7:00 PM
Apr 18 Finance Committee 7:00 PM
Apr 19 Agricultural Advisory Committee 9:00 AM
Apr 23 Parks and Recreation Committee 7:00 PM
Apr 25 Town Council 7:00 PM
The Henderson County Sheriff’s Office continues to see vehicle break-ins in residential and business areas as one of our highest reported crimes. Here are some tips that may keep you from being a victim of a vehicle breaking and entering.

- Be sure to lock your vehicle and remove all valuables from the passenger compartment no matter where your vehicle may be parked.
- If you have items that must be left in your vehicle while shopping or otherwise, secure them in the trunk of the vehicle when possible.
- If you use a GPS unit, always wipe the suction cup ring off of the windshield and remove the unit from the vehicle including the power cord.
- Park in a spot that has a lot of foot traffic and is well lit.
- Engage your car alarm if your vehicle is so equipped.
- When you exit or enter your parked vehicle please be beware of your surroundings.

Here are a few steps to follow if you are the victim of a vehicle break in or you observe a possible vehicle break in occurring in your neighborhood.

- Please report the incident to the Henderson Sheriff’s Office immediately.
- Remain on the line with the communication center as long as possible.
- Provide as much information as possible to the communications center to include your location, description of the suspect, direction of travel, and any possible modes of travel.
- Remember your safety is of utmost concern and a confrontation with a suspect could cause them to become aggressive.

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