Happy New Year!

The most important thing your Town Council has to report as we begin 2015 is we have selected a new Town manager. With Interim Town Manager Lee Galloway and our excellent staff to take care of Mills River “business as usual”, an exhaustive search process began late last summer immediately after Jaime announced she was leaving. The professionally guided process produced dozens of highly qualified candidates. The necessary due diligence took several months, but by mid December we were able to decide that Jeff Wells will be our new Town Manager. Jeff was working as Planning Director for Kannapolis, NC and had many years experience before that in a similar capacity in Archdale, NC.

With his extensive background in planning, Jeff is well positioned to help your Council and Town staff go forward, maintaining that careful balance between responsible growth, while preserving our highly valued agricultural, rural, and residential character and lifestyle. Jeff, his wife Rebecca, and their three year old son Zane are now looking for a home in this area. He will begin his duties as our new manager on Tuesday, January 20th. A reception with the whole community invited in to meet him/ them, will be announced soon.

Your Council, along with the Mills River Recreation Foundation and a very generous donor, is starting the process of building a canoe/kayak launch on the backside of the park on the river. You’ll be hearing more about that this spring.

The Town's Park Director is working to reapply for...
a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant from the state to help us construct ball fields in the park.

You’ll be finding it much easier to enter Town Hall and the library. We have recently invested in an automatic opener on our front doors. We’re looking at other ways to make the Town Hall and facilities more handicapped accessible and “customer friendly”. We welcome your suggestions.

As we continue to build on good customer service at the Town Hall, you’ll notice that receptionist Patty Brown is now in her office to greet and assist you on a FULL TIME basis.

Be safe this winter, stay warm, and we’ll look forward to more good things to share with you in the spring!

Respectfully,
Mayor Larry Freeman

A WORD FROM BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Blue Ridge Community College continuing education schedule of courses for early 2015 is available on its website. Course offerings include 3D Printing, Craft Beer Academy, Introduction to Bicycle Mechanics, Social Media for Systems for Small Business, ServSafe Food Safety Manager, and Customer Service for Tourism.

Blue Ridge Community College also offers a regular schedule of computer training courses. New in 2015 is professional truck driving training offered in cooperation with Alliance Tractor Training Centers.

For more information about upcoming classes, visit the website at http://www.blueridge.edu/continuing-education or call (828) 694-1735 or 883-2520.
Those of us who attended Mills River High School share fond memories of the school and teachers, who inspired and encouraged us. One teacher that I often recall was Bessie Jordan (1890-1982), my 7th grade teacher. She assigned me the task of measuring and recording the relative humidity each day. This involved reading dry bulb and wet bulb temperatures and using a formula to calculate the humidity. This early experience probably stimulated my life long interest in data collection and record keeping. Her specialty was math and she encouraged me to memorize the squares of numbers up to 25 or 30. This proved useful in estimating in various applications. I also remember one occasion when she persuaded me to play a game of checkers while I waited for the school bus. She seemed quite surprised when I managed to play her to a draw.

When Miss Bessie noticed my interest in history, she presented me with a well worn history book for my personal library. During 1946, my home library grew dramatically when I acquired a 50 volume collection of books known as the Harvard Classics along with an encyclopedia and a number of old copies of the National Geographic magazine. These were obtained from Bertie Dalton, the widow of Cody Dalton (1891-1946). The Dalton residence was located on what now is known as Dalton Road on upper South Mills River. The Harvard Classics constituted selections from the works of the greatest writers since ancient times. The same year, 1946, Miss Bessie gave me a membership in the National Geographic Society. I still have the membership certificate dated January 1, 1946. The Society’s magazines and maps certainly contributed to my education and I enjoyed reading about the adventures and explorations of contributors to the magazine.

I still have my report card from the 7th grade which included a laudatory comment by Miss Bessie inscribed at the end of the year. It indicated that I had read 24 approved books that year and had been absent two days. Miss Bessie continued to take an interest in my career after I graduated from Mills River. I still have two small hand woven bookmarks which she fabricated on a loom and enclosed with Christmas cards. Her personal loom known as a "Macomber 4 now 4 later" was featured at a Fiber expo held at the historic Johnson Farm in January 2013.

Willie Lou Jordan (1898-1996), a younger sister of Bessie, was another of my teachers at Mills River. I took English and two years of Latin under her direction and she was my homeroom teacher in the 12th grade. The sisters were daughters of William C. (Will) Jordan (1859-1947), who operated a commercial flour mill in Flat Rock for many years. In 1966, Bessie and Willie Lou created the Jordan scholarships for high school students in Henderson County. They both were inducted into the Henderson County Education Foundation’s Hall of Fame in 2005.
LEGO CLUB
On December 2, we had our first Lego Club meeting. We had 24 children show up to build individually and in teams. It was an amazing turnout and we received so many positive comments from the parents and the children. The Lego Club will be on the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm. With the cost of Legos and the expected growth of the group, we welcome donations of Legos. For more information, contact Brittany at the Mills River Library.

“PRESENTS FOR PETS” PROGRAM
The County Animal Shelter received 2 boxes of handmade and donated gifts and treats from our recent “Presents for Pets” program. The staff at the shelter was every excited to receive the donation and we hope to make it an annual event.

YOGA
Yoga with Lynn Edgar will continue at the library every Saturday in January at 9:00 am. Classes last approximately an hour. Space is limited so please call the library to register or for more information.

BOOK CLUB
Will meet on January 8th at 10:00 am to discuss “Unbroken” by Laura Hillenbrand. The book club meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10:00 am.

FAMILY STORY TIME
Meets every Monday at 10:00 am. Join Miss Lisa for stories, songs, crafts and more. All ages are welcome!

KNIT AND CROCHET GROUP
Meets every Tuesday at 1:30 pm. Whether you are an expert or wanting to learn, there is a place for you in the group. We look forward to seeing you there.

“FEARLESS PRUNING”
Al Falzone from The Potting Shed will be back to teach pruning techniques on Saturday, February 21st at 10:00 am. Mark your calendars!
HENDERSON COUNTY 4-H CLUB

Through 4-H, hundreds of Henderson County's young people, age 5 - 18, learn new skills and serve their communities each year. 4-H offers clubs, classes, summer camps, and school enrichment. Guided by North Carolina Cooperative Extension educators and adult and teen volunteers, 4-H'ers gain knowledge, skills and experience that help them become responsible citizens and leaders.

Learn to sew in 4-H Beginner Sewing Classes! Or brush up on your skills if you already know the basics, but haven't sewn in a while. Open to all youth ages 8 – 18. Girls and boys are welcome to attend. No prior sewing experience required. Over the course of six weekly classes, youth will learn to use a sewing machine and make a simple garment or accessory from the choices offered.

Classes will begin on January 15, 16 and 17, and also on February 26 and 27. Choose Thursday, Friday or Saturday classes. After school classes will be from 4:00 – 5:30 pm once a week and the Saturday class will be 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Classes are held at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Henderson County Center across from the ball fields in Jackson Park.

The fee for six weeks of 4-H Beginner Sewing classes is $20. Sewing machines, patterns and basic sewing tools are provided. Youth will purchase fabric, thread and notions for their projects. There will be an opportunity to show off all garments and projects in the 4-H Sewing and Fashion Revue on May 8.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

Thanks to all of you who paid their property tax before the delinquent date this year. Paying taxes on time is not only the responsible thing to do, it helps keep the tax rate low. The staff here at the Town of Mills River pride themselves on trying to keep administrative costs low, but services cost what services cost, and if collection rates are low, then the Town Council has no choice but to either cut services or raise the tax rate. Also, enforced collections cost money in supplies, postage, fuel, and staff time. I am always looking for more efficient ways to collect delinquent tax, but the best way to be efficient is to have a citizenry that understands that paying taxes on time is best for the whole town.

January is the month for listing property for 2015. It’s the responsibility of the owner to list all personal property and any improvements made to real property. Obtaining a permit for construction doesn’t relieve an owner from listing their improvements. List forms are mailed by Henderson County or may be obtained on the County’s website: www.hendersoncountync.org. Any listing forms not received by the County by January 31, 2015 are considered late and will incur a 10% late listing penalty.
Winter is here and now is the perfect time to peer into the new year, make plans and look forward to a good year here at your park.

Graduates and current participants in the Rising Leaders Program in conjunction with United Way of Henderson County, finished installing the Born Learning Trail this past October. This trail is a valuable community resource and will help young children boost language, reading, problem solving and critical thinking skills. The Born Learning Trail is a series of 10 signs and activities that are posted around the front walking trail with the purpose of promoting learning in a fun and interactive way. On Saturday, October 25, 2014, volunteers painted four concrete activity pads and attached the signs. This trail will offer families a place to be active, elevate awareness of early childhood education, and is a visible symbol of the community’s commitment to young children.

We are working on the application for a PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) grant to help with funding the construction of ball fields and additional parking. The Mills River Recreation Foundation is also involved with this project by pledging that they will contribute towards this project if the grant is awarded.

An important part of the grant application process is showing public input and support for the grant proposal. There were three drop in sessions held in October in the Commons Room at Town Hall and down at the picnic shelter. We had a great turnout this year with over a 300% increase in the number of people attending the sessions. We thank you for showing up and supporting your park. The application is due February 2nd, 2015. The decision on funding is set to take place in July, so we will keep you posted.

Town Council recently decided to move forward with the construction of the canoe/kayak launch and additional parking on the river. A private donor is contributing towards this project and we are fortunate to have a park committee member who is also an engineer to help us with this particular endeavor. This facility will be located in the northeast portion of the park and will be accessed directly off Hooper Lane when complete. We will keep you updated as the plans and permitting progress.

We look forward to the continued growth of the park and thank you for your ongoing support.

Don’t forget that the Picnic Shelter may be reserved up to six months in advance. A calendar may be viewed at the Town’s website 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.
**RECIPE CORNER**

**Pinto Bean Casserole**

- 2 cans pinto beans
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 box Jiffy cornbread mix

- Brown chuck and onion in large skillet
- Add stewed tomatoes, boil until thoroughly hot
- Pour into large 9x13 inch casserole dish
- Mix cornbread as directed on box but add extra milk to make batter real thin
- Pour this on top of pinto bean mixture
- Lightly smooth over top
- Bake at 350 degrees until bread is done, about 30 minute

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**MEETING & OTHER DATES**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Birthday</td>
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**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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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. All ads must be emailed in JPEG format and MUST be business card size.

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 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.
Domestic violence can happen in all walks of life. A lot of people who are victims of domestic violence, can be nervous about what to do. They may have questions about where to live, how to earn money, and if children are involved, how to take care of them. The first step is to get out of the situation. If you are in danger, do not hesitate to call 911. Once you are out of the situation, Mainstay, Inc. is a good place to get help. Mainstay can help in many ways. There is a hotline available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Mainstay can help prior to leaving and during the whole process.

Contact: Mainstay, Inc.
133 Fifth Avenue West
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828) 693-3840
http://mainstayhelp.org

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