FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome Fall! This is by far my favorite time of year. I love the changing colors and the welcome relief from summer's heat! Fall also means a busy time in Mills River. Farms are wrapping up their harvests and schools are back in session. Be mindful and patient on the roads with the additional slow-moving farm equipment and school buses. I want to thank all of the teachers and staff at Mills River Elementary and Glen Marlow Elementary for their dedication to their students and wish them a great school year!

2018 is a special year for Mills River Fire and Rescue as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Thanks to the many of you who came out to celebrate their Open House and celebration last month! The men and women of Mills River Fire and Rescue dedicate a great amount of time to working, training and planning to be ready in the event of an emergency and we are grateful to have them!

I hope everyone has been utilizing the new calendar of events on the Town of Mills River’s website homepage! If you or your group has an event that you would like to add to the community calendar, submit your event details to info@millsriver.org.

Mills River Park remains a busy place through fall! I hope you are enjoying the new basketball court and resurfaced tennis courts and swings in the playground area. The shades over the playground have provided a much more pleasant temperature on the playgrounds. The Parks Committee and Town Council are currently studying and discussing the next phase of the Park. The 2nd Annual Deer Dash 5k/10k is scheduled for October 6th. We are excited that this is becoming an annual event!

I encourage everyone to stay updated on town events by signing up for the mailing list on our website. Enjoy the beautiful fall!
September is National Preparedness Month. It is a time to focus our attention on the importance of preparing our families, homes, businesses, and communities for disasters that threaten our lives, property, and homeland. Over the past 2 years, our community has witnessed and endured damaging wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters.

The Party Rock fire of November 2016 burned approximately 5,700 acres costing approximately 15 million dollars. Authorities drove house to house knocking on doors in more than 15 communities. Over 1,000 people were affected by mandatory or voluntary evacuations in Henderson and Buncombe Counties. Firefighters from 21 states came to combat the fire, working 16-hour days.

May 2018 was the wettest month recorded in WNC. Some areas saw as much as 2 feet of rain between May 15th and May 30th, 2018. 2,000 people in McDowell county were evacuated after the Lake Tahoma Dam warning. Flooding closed more than 40 roads in WNC including I-26. Mudslides closed roads and brought down trees resulting in three deaths. Swift water teams were brought in to assist local teams in rescuing residents from cut off homes.

With hurricane season in full swing and before winter arrives, what can you do to prepare?

**Pack a Bag**  
**Make a Plan**  
**Be Informed**  
**Get Involved**

**Emergency Kit Essentials**

It is important to have shelter, water, food, fire and communications in your emergency kit. Kits should be customized to the individual's needs. Update your kit every six months to make sure all food, water, medication is fresh, clothing fits and is season appropriate, personal documents and credit cards are up to date, and batteries are charged.

Here is a suggested starting list:

**Shelter**
- Blanket and/or sleeping bag
- Change of clothing - include inner and outer wear, socks, shoes/boots, rain gear/poncho

**Water**
- Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Water filter and/or purification tablets

**Food**
- Non-perishable food such as protein/granola bars, trail mix, crackers/cereal, canned tuna/beans/meat/soup, canned juice, candy/gum
- Can opener (pop top cans might leak)

**Fire**
- Waterproof matches and lighter
- Tinder such as cotton balls soaked in Vaseline, char cloth, fuel tablets, candles

**Communications**
- Family plan already in place
- Cell phone (sign up for emergency alerts)
- Emergency radio that runs off of battery or crank
- Extra batteries
- Maps of local and surrounding area

**Miscellaneous**
- Pocket knife
- LED flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Personal documents such as legal documents, vaccination records, insurance policies, passport, IDs
- Cash, prepaid phone card, credit/debit card
- Personal items: toiletries, medications (prescriptions and over the counter), hand sanitizer, pen and paper, duct tape, cordage, small shovel
- Specialized items for infants, pets, and the elderly

Remember this is a basic list that you can use to get started and customize to your family's needs. It is not a comprehensive list.

Visit the following sites for additional guidance:


To stay informed, sign up for local Nixle Emergency Alerts by texting your zip code to 888777 or by visiting www.nixle.com. ReadyNC is a great resource that provides weather updates, traffic conditions and emergency preparedness resources. Download the ReadyNC app on your phone or visit www.ReadyNC.org for more information.
FALL 2018 PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATE

The Summer of 2018 has brought a lot of great changes to Mills River Park.

After some setbacks with the weather, the long-awaited sun shade over the playground and the addition of the swing set is now complete. The sun shade provides much needed sun protection for our littlest park users as well as extends the life of our playground equipment. Extensive sun exposure will cause the playground materials to weaken at a much faster rate. To prevent damage from winter storms, the shade will be removed in early December and will reappear in April.

This summer the tennis courts received a much-needed face lift. The cracks that developed last winter have been sealed and the courts have been resurfaced. While re-painting, lines for Pickleball were added to the southside set of courts. A roll-a-way pickleball net is available for use or players are more than welcome to bring their own portable nets. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States and we are glad to be able to offer this new opportunity to our park users.

On the evening of July 24th hundreds of people came to Mills River Park for the dedication of the Thomas A. Bryson Memorial Basketball Court. The new court was made possible by a donation from the Thomas A. Bryson Legacy Fund. Friends and family of Mr. Bryson raised over $40,000 to build and name the court in his honor. The court has been busy all summer and we expect use to increase as the cooler fall weather sets in. If you forget your basketball, please stop by Mills River Town Hall during regular business hours and check one out for no charge.

As the weather cools down we’d love to see you at the park to check out our newest additions. While you’re here, please utilize our 1.2 miles of walking trails, dog park, acres of open space, and all of our other great park amenities.

Picnic Shelter Rentals
$100 per 4 hrs. + $25 refundable security deposit
Great for Birthday Parties, Family Reunions and Company Picnics!
Reservations can be made at Mills River Town Hall, M-F, 9am-5pm, cash or check is accepted.
Available dates and a copy of the reservation form, can be found at www.millsriver.org

MILLS RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mills River Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 90 years - to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere™,” which works to educate the public about basic but essential ways to quickly and safely escape a home fire.

“Working in the fire service for many years, we know that people often make choices in fire situations that jeopardize their safety or even cost them their lives,” said Jeannie Moore, Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Mills River Fire Department. “We need to do a better job of teaching people about the potentially life-saving difference escape planning and practice can make and motivating them to action.”

Jeannie says this year’s “Look. Listen. Learn.” campaign highlights three steps people can take to help quickly and safely escape a fire:

♦  Look for places fire could start
♦  Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
♦  Learn 2 ways out of every room

While NFPA and the Mills River Fire Department are focusing on home fires, these fire safety messages apply to virtually anywhere.

“Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go,” said Jeannie. “No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately.

The Mills River Fire Department is hosting a series of events in support of this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn.,” including visits to local Elementary Schools, a 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Main Fire Station, and Farm City Day. The Mills River Fire Department plans and delivers education to all age groups, including Seniors, Preschool age, all children, and adults. Please Contact Jeannie Moore @ millsriverfireprevention@hotmail.com, or MRFD @ 828-891-7959.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and home escape planning, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.
HISTORY CORNER
by Jim Brittain

The story of how the upper Mills River valley did not become the site of a lake in the system of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is quite a remarkable one. It is a story of how a determined group of Mills River residents, with the help of a few supporters from outside the valley, managed to block implementation of a TVA plan to construct a dam just below the confluence of the two principal forks of the river. This was despite the fact that federal funds to undertake the project were actually appropriated and despite the strong support of the TVA plans by most officials of state and local governments as well as the state’s congressional delegation.

Even before the creation of the TVA, there was considerable discussion of installing a dam on the French Broad River near the mouth of Bent Creek during the 1920s. Depending on the height of the dam, it was estimated that it would create a reservoir of as much as 80,000 acres and would flood many communities including Mills River. In October 1923, the Hendersonville Times-News (HTN) characterized the proposed Army Corp of Engineer’s lake as being the “ultimate development of Henderson County as a playground.” The newspaper anticipated the lake giving a great boost to water sports and asserted that the “lake frontage for tourist housing would be ideal.”

President Franklin Roosevelt signed a legislative act authorizing the TVA in May 1933. Speculation soon followed that a future project of the TVA would be the building of a dam on the French Broad near Bent Creek. This speculation was reinforced when a TVA engineer addressed a crowd attending a public meeting at the Henderson County Court House in November 1933. He stated that a 125-foot dam at Bent Creek could produce up to 45,000 horse power of hydroelectricity and would elevate the water level as much as 30 feet in Rosman. He suggested that a dike might be required to protect Hendersonville from flooding by the lake. Uncertainty about the project led to the temporary interruption of work on Highway 280 between Brevard and Mills River in June 1934. The Mayor of Brevard was quoted as saying that, although he opposed the dam, he thought that “fighting the proposition was useless”.

However, in July 1934, the TVA issued a press release disclosing that its engineers had determined the benefits of a Bent Creek dam would not justify the cost although one or more dams might be built at other locations some time in the future. For the next few years, the TVA’s focus shifted to the encouragement of soil conservation and improved agricultural practices in the upper French Broad watershed. The TVA sponsored a number of demonstration farms and provided low-cost lime and fertilizer. It also distributed tree seedlings for erosion control and gave a small subsidy to farmers who planted them.

The political landscape changed considerably with the election of Roy A. Taylor, a strong supporter of TVA projects for Western North Carolina, to Congress from the mountain district. In 1961, the Western NC Regional Planning Commission requested that the TVA undertake a comprehensive study of water and other resources in several mountain counties including Henderson. This resulted in a two-volume report in May 1964 entitled “Economic Development of the French Broad Area.” In December 1965, a preliminary TVA plan for a system of dams on the main tributaries of the French Broad, including one on Mills River, was completed. The same month, the Upper French Broad Economic Development Commission (UFBEDC) was formed with three members from each of five counties, including Henderson. Its first chairman was Kermit Edney, a Hendersonville civic leader and radio personality. He was an outspoken proponent of the new TVA proposal as were the other members.

The UFBEDC’s backed effort to secure initial funding for a proposed 14 dam system on tributaries of the French Broad gained momentum in 1968. In its edition of 19 September 1968, the HTN announced “Five County Water Project Passes Last Major Hurdle” and that Congress had approved an expenditure of $250,000 for engineering studies. A TVA official was quoted as promising that public access to lake shorelines and recreational facilities would be available soon after the dams were completed.

The presidential budget message in January 1969 included specific information on the proposed Mills River dam. It was to be built about two miles upstream from Highway 191 and would be an earthen dam with a height of 110 feet and length of 2400 feet. The nominal size of the resulting lake was 660 acres with about 14 miles of shoreline. It also was reported that water in the impoundment might be used to furnish power to Asheville and industrial plants. Other benefits claimed by proponents were that the dam would protect downstream fields and potential industrial sites from floods and provide recreational boating and fishing. A TVA official asserted that the Mills River reservoir would offer the “greatest benefits with respect to cost” of all the proposed lakes in the region.

In early February 1969, a special meeting of the Mills River Community Development Club was convened to hear presentations on the proposed dam and its impact on the community. Congressman Roy Taylor declined an invitation to attend but confirmed that he supported the TVA plans and intended to do all he could “to get the needed appropriations approved.” A TVA official who did not attend the meeting was not able to say whether land owners of upper Mills River would be permitted to keep property not permanently flooded by the reservoir. The Community Club members voted to “continue to oppose, by all appropriate means, the construction of the downstream Mills River dam by the TVA.” A TVA press release on 5 March 1969 stated that actual construction of the Mills River dam was not expected to begin before the spring of 1970. It also mentioned that more than a million cubic yards of fill dirt would be needed to build the dam and that it would come from the area where the reservoir would be located.

In April 1969, it was announced that the latest federal budget request did not include funds for the construction of a dam at Mills River. This news soon stimulated the UFBEDC and Congressman Taylor to launch a vigorous effort to get the funding restored. Kermit Edney asserted that the project had the “endorsement and backing right now of every organization in the area from the Governor, the North Carolina Water Resources Department, State Planning Task Force, County Commissioners, every city, Chambers of Commerce, civic clubs, Rotary, Kwanis, Lions, Civilian, wildlife clubs, granges, and even from one neighborhood oriented stemming off the specific impoundment.” North Carolina Senator B. Everett Jordan also announced his support for the restoration of funding for the Mills River project.

A new weapon for residents of upper Mills River became available in December 1969 with the enactment by Congress of the National Envi-
The Environment Policy Act. The Act required that an environmental impact statement be prepared for public projects such as dams and highways spelling out the anticipated environmental impacts and “available alternatives to the proposed course of action.” This meant that the TVA would need to prepare such a statement before beginning construction of the dam at Mills River.

Another significant development in the on-going struggle was the formation of the Upper French Broad Defense Association (UFBDA) in September 1970. Prior to its creation, the TVA opposition had been rather fragmented consisting of small independent groups in Henderson and Transylvania counties. But as an umbrella organization, the UFBDA seemed a more formidable opponent and was better able to recruit new supporters. At its first meeting held at the Mills River School, the UFBDA elected Jere A. Brittain as its chairman. He was a Mills River native and a descendant of several pioneering families of the valley.

But even as the UFBDC was organizing and planning its strategy, word came that Congress had approved a bill including 2 million dollars for the Mills River project of the TVA. In October 1970, the HTN reported that President Nixon had signed the Public Works Bill including the Mills River funding, but that a freeze remained in effect on the start of new federal projects. In its edition of 2 December 1970, the HTN announced that “Mills River Dam Money is on Ice” and that the freeze by the Office of Management and Budget would continue at least until 1972. In late January 1971, it was reported that the President’s new budget request did not include funds for the dam at Mills River.

The TVA released a draft environmental impact statement on its proposed system of dams including the Mills River dam in late June 1971. It was a rather weak document and had flaws which quickly were discovered by the TVA opponents. North Carolina Governor Robert W. Scott was among those who found the impact statement to be inadequate.

In August 1971, the TVA announced that a public hearing on the proposed Mills River dam would be held on 31 August on the campus of UNC Asheville. The hearing turned into a virtual pep rally for the UFBDA and its friends who wore yellow neckerchiefs with the UFBDA emblem and operated a hospitality suite during the hearing. It was something of a public relations disaster for the TVA and its supporters. Shortly after the Republicans landslide in the November 1972 elections, the HTN edition of 14 November 1972 reported that the “TVA Drops Plan for French Broad Dams.” A TVA spokesman attributed the termination to “the evaporation of local support for the Mills River Project” and credited it with “killing the overall project.” Thus, ended the protracted conflict which had in fact, become an illuminating object lesson in grass-roots democracy at work.

**MILLS RIVER LIBRARY**

**Hours:**
- Monday 9-5
- Tuesday 9-6
- Wednesday 9-6
- Thursday 9-1
- Friday 9-5
- Saturday 9-1

**Weekly Events:**
- Monday: 10:00am – Storytime for all ages. Join us every Monday for songs, stories, crafts and more!
- Tuesday: 9:00am - Yoga with Lynn Edgar
  1:00pm - Knit and Crochet Group – all levels welcome, opportunities to learn for beginners
- Wednesday: 9:00am - Pilates
- Thursday: 9:00am - Yoga with Lynn Edgar

**Special Day Events:**
- October 3, 4:00pm: Zaniac! (Registration Required)
- October 10, 4:00pm: LEGO Club (All LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
- October 11, 10:30am: Book Club
- October 17, 4:00pm: Zaniac! (Registration Required)
- October 24, 4:00pm: Hands On! (Registration is required)
- November 7, 4:00pm: Zaniac! (Registration Required)
- November 8, 10:30am: Book Club
- November 14, 4:00pm: LEGO Club (All LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
- November 28, 4:00pm: Zaniac! (Registration Required)
- December 5, 4:00pm: Zaniac! (Registration Required)
- December 12, 4:00pm: LEGO Club (All LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
- December 13, 10:30am: Book Club
- December 19, 4:00pm: Zaniac! (Registration Required)

**Special Event:**
- November 14, 10:00am - **Card Making with Gail** Join master card maker Gail and create your own handmade seasonal greeting cards. This class is for adults and has limited space so registration is required. All materials will be provided.
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
Aurelie Taylor

Town of Mills River tax notices were mailed in late August. Property owners have until January 8th, 2019, to pay without penalty or interest. If you’re planning on dropping your payment by Town Hall, you need to be at our office before 5pm on the 7th to be considered on time. If mailed, a legible USPS postmark of the 7th of January is accepted; if we can’t read the date or its dated by a postage machine, it will be considered late. It’s always best to be safe rather than sorry – mail your payment in with some time to spare!

If you feel you need assistance in meeting your tax obligation, please contact me as early as possible after receiving the tax notice. If I can, I will work with taxpayers who show true hardship and a willingness to work with the Town in getting the obligation paid. Partial payments are always accepted. Accounts must be paid in full before January 8, 2019 in order to avoid interest on the balance. Interest is 2% for January and ¾% per month for each month thereafter the tax remains unpaid.

If paying by check, please be sure the number amount matches the written-out portion and that it is legible, the check is signed, it is dated appropriately, and endorsed to the Town of Mills River. Our bank only credits our account for the amount in the written section of the check and will not accept predated, unsigned, or inappropriately endorsed checks. If the amount written out isn’t enough to pay the whole tax amount, you will receive another bill, and if our bank won’t accept the check, we’ll return it to you – we do not hold checks until the date it is written if pre-dated. This may mean that the tax isn’t paid on time and will result in penalty and/or interest.

Enforced collections (garnishment of wages or rents, attachment of bank accounts, levy of personal property or foreclosure of real property) can legally begin as early as the day after the last day to pay without penalty (January 7, 2019), without any prior notice to the property owner. I would rather not resort to these measures, but if property owners don’t contact me to make arrangements to pay or pay regular small payments, I do find that enforced collections work well to bring in tax revenue.

We’re happy to talk with property owners; we know it would be more convenient to have our taxes online, but the software is expensive and we would lose the small town feel of being able to talk to folks. Never hesitate to call if you want information or have questions – we’re always happy to speak with citizens.

If you feel you might qualify for tax relief as an elderly, disabled person, or disabled veteran, please call the Henderson County Tax Assessors’ office at 828-697-4870 to apply. It may cut your tax bill in half – both your County bill and your Town of Mills River bill.

In order to avoid duplication in services and manage our taxpayers’ funds wisely, we do not have assessing personnel in our office. All property valuation, as well as addressing and ownership validation is done by Henderson County.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 828-890-2901 or e-mail at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org

MILLS RIVER NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS
To sign up for our newsletter, please go to our website at www.millsriver.org and subscribe.

Click Here

Historic Johnson Farm
Historic Johnson Farm is looking for docents to be trained in giving tours of the 1880 farmhouse. Docents help give tours to the public, help with field trips, and help at festivals. No need for a weekly commitment (unless you want to!)

Come to an information session on October 23 at 10:30am for a chance to learn the history of the farm and how tours operate. Docents will be given a folder of information which includes a tour script.

For questions, call 828-891-6585 or email jfarm@hcpsnc.org
**RECIPE CORNER**

**VEGETABLE CASSEROLE**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 can (22.6 ounces) Campbell’s® Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 ½ cups shredded Swiss cheese (about 6 ounces)
- 2/3 cup sour cream
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 packages (16 ounces each) frozen California vegetable blend (broccoli, cauliflower, carrots), cooked and drained
- 2 cans (2.8 ounces each) French’s® French Fried Onions (about 2 2/3 cups)

**Directions:**
1) Stir the soup, 1 cup cheese, sour cream, black pepper, vegetables and 1 can onions in a 3- quart shallow baking dish.
2) Bake at 400°F. for 20 minutes or until the vegetable mixture is hot and bubbling. Stir the vegetable mixture. Sprinkle with the cheese and remaining onions.
3) Bake for 5 minutes or until the onions are golden brown.

ENJOY!

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**MEETINGS & OTHER DATES**

Oct 2  Planning Board  7:00 PM
Oct 9  Board of Adjustment  7:00 PM
Oct 11  Town Council  7:00 PM
Oct 18  Finance Committee  7:00 PM
Oct 19  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
Oct 23  Parks and Recreation Advisory  7:00 PM
Oct 25  Town Council  7:00 PM

Nov 4  Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 6  Planning Board  7:00 PM
Nov 6  Election Day
Polls Open – 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM
Nov 8  Town Council  7:00 PM
Nov 12  Veterans Day  Town Hall Closed
Nov 16  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
Nov 22  Town Council  7:00 PM
Nov 22-23  Thanksgiving Holiday  Town Hall Closed
Nov 27  Parks and Recreation Advisory  7:00 PM

Dec 4  Planning Board  7:00 PM
Dec 11  Board of Adjustment  7:00 PM
Dec 13  Town Council  7:00 PM
Dec 21  Agricultural Advisory  9:00 AM
Dec 27  Town Council  7:00 PM
Dec 24-26  Christmas Holiday  Town Hall closed
Dec 25  Parks & Rec Advisory  cancelled 7:00 PM

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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.
HENDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT
MILLS RIVER DIVISION

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.

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