FROM THE MAYOR

It looks like summer is off to a HOT start! Hopefully everyone can find a balance between cool indoor and warm outdoor summer activities. If you are looking for a break from the summer heat, I would encourage you to check out the many regular and special programs available in the Mills River library.

The Town of Mills River had a busy late spring, and finally, some long anticipated projects in the park have been completed. The shade structure has been installed over the playground and the swings have been installed! The Rain Garden project has been completed (following a delay due to the rain!) and the tennis court repair is ongoing. The basketball court is in the asphalt curing phase and we hope for completion and dedication sometime in July. We also celebrated the grand openings of Pardee Urgent Care and Norafin and are excited to welcome them to Mills River!

Along with Soccer Camp and steady shelter reservations for private events, we have two special events scheduled so far for later this year—Party in the Park on August 26th and Mills River 5k/10k September 9th.

Our town staff is actively working to keep you informed of news and events happening in Mills River. Stay tuned to our website for postings and to submit an event to our community event calendar!

Mills River’s longtime Parks Director, Pat Christie, left at the end of May to become the Town Administrator for the Village of Flat Rock. It’s a great opportunity for her and, though we are sad to see her leave, we wish her the best and are grateful for all she has done for us over the years! We are happy to now welcome our new Parks Director, Nicole Sweat. Nicole comes to us from the Town of Fletcher where she was the Parks and Recreation Supervisor. Our park is busy and steadily growing and we know Nicole will be a great fit for our Town!

To those traveling this summer, I wish you safe travels! For those who are planning “staycations”, keep in mind all of the great area agritourism businesses at your local farms and orchards here in Mills River and all over Henderson County!

Enjoy your summer!

Mills River Park Swings
HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY
TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

On June 24, 2003, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a bill incorporating the Town of Mills River. This day was the culmination of several years of hard work and perseverance by dedicated individuals working to preserve the rural character of their community and to have a say in how growth would occur.

The birth of a town is something few people can say they have witnessed, but is an awe-inspiring event, and stirs pride in the heart. Fifteen years ago, Mills River was a sleepy community poised on the brink of development, and many of its residents were, or were related to, past or present dairy farmers. Farming remains a staple of Mills River, but has now transitioned away from dairy farming towards organic farming, sod farming, vegetable farming, ornamental farming, and the raising of horses. Some of the families living here today are direct descendants of the early settlers of the Mills River area and Henderson County; and, continue to own land that has been in their families since the 1700’s. Mills River remains proud of its heritage, but we are no longer just a rural farming community. We are a Town of some 7,224 diverse persons from around the United States and the world.

The past fifteen (15) years have seen many changes in Mills River with the addition of a shopping center and development along Highway 280, breweries and cidery, new subdivisions, and new businesses to serve the many families locating in this idyllic setting. Your town government has moved their offices from a store-front Town Hall to a building set inside of a beautiful park on the Mills River; and, supplements the cost of and provides space for the third most visited library in Henderson County. We offer enhanced police protection through the Henderson County Sheriff’s Department, fire protection through Mills River Fire and Rescue, street-lighting at the most dangerous intersections for improved safety; and planning and zoning services to achieve our goal of managing growth.

More changes are poised to alter the landscape of Mills River, but it is still the desire of Town Council to maintain the balance of our community, to protect our natural, historical and cultural resources and manage the growth of Mills River.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Mayor Chae Davis presents Jairo Mestanza Martinez with a citizenship award at Mills River Elementary’s 5th Grade graduation ceremony.

Town Manager Jeff Wells presents Lauren and Eli Clonch with citizenship awards at Glenn C. Marlow’s 5th Grade graduation ceremony.
By 1916, the existing water supply of the town of Hendersonville was found to be inadequate to supply the demand, especially in times of drought or a fire. Charles E. Brooks, who served as Mayor of Hendersonville during 1915 to 1919, became a strong proponent of expanding the water system and quickly took advantage of an opportunity to bring Mills River water to town. George W. Vanderbilt died in March 1914 and much of his property, which included the headwaters of Mills River, was sold to the federal government as the nucleus for the Pisgah National Forest in 1916. A consultant hired by Hendersonville considered various alternative sources before recommending that water from Big Creek, a tributary of North Mills River, be piped to a reservoir in Hendersonville. The consultant, Gilbert C. White, stated that this source should meet the town’s needs for the foreseeable future. Among the advantages were that the watershed would be protected by the federal government and that the water was of such high quality that a filter plant would not be needed. Thus, the town newspaper ran a headline in its edition of January 12, 1916, stating that “Pisgah Mountain Water is Proposed for this City.” Implementation of the consultant’s plan was delayed by the War, but the state legislature authorized the issuance of municipal bonds to fund the Mills River project in December 1921.

Construction of the intake dam at the confluence of Big Creek and Fletcher B Creek began in September 1922 and it was completed in December 1922 at a reported cost of slightly over $22,000. The dam was 25 feet in height and 160 feet long with a concrete core and it had a facing on the downstream side of large blocks of locally-quarried stone. It was an aesthetic structure and remains so today after more than eight decades.

The construction of the 16.3 mile long pipeline from the intake dam to Hendersonville was a challenging task. It consisted of 12-foot long cast iron sections with each weighing between 1,450 and 2,200 pounds, depending on the pressure specifications. The diameter of the pipe was 16 inches. The route crossed Mills River several times, the French Broad once, and 29 smaller streams. The pipe was fabricated at a foundry in Birmingham, Alabama, and hauled to Henderson County by rail. In a progress report in December 1922, the project engineer stated that trucks, tractors, two and four horse teams, and two and single yoke oxen had been used during construction of the line. He noted that oxen had been able to drag pipe sections over terrain where nothing else could go.

The pipeline had blow-off valves at stream crossings so that the line could be flushed in sections. Automatic air-release valves were installed at hill tops to purge air from the line. According to the engineer, about 215,000 pounds of lead had been used to seal the pipe joints. The lead was melted on site over open wood fires. The line was buried under at least 2.5 feet of dirt except in the National Forest where crop cultivation was not anticipated. In March 1923, the local newspaper reported that pipe was being installed at a rate of about 5,000 feet per week.

Even before completion of the water project, residents of the Mills River community anticipated that they would receive a share of water from the pipeline down the valley. A newspaper article in April 1923 noted that Mills River now had one of the finest rural schools in the state, but that it still lacked electricity and running water. It pointed out that the Hendersonville water pipe passed quite near the school and that local residents hoped to have running water in their homes quite soon. A report of a community meeting in June 1924 was headlined “Mills River People Seek Connection for Water and Lights.” It stated that those attending the meeting were eager to receive water “available by tapping the city’s line from Pisgah which runs near many residences.” Needless to say, their expectations were not fulfilled and most Mills River residents still get their water from other sources.

Completion of the new water system stimulated a public celebration in Hendersonville in July 1923. The Hendersonville News announced that the city now had a supply of water “unsurpassed for purity anywhere in America” and that “only wild beasts inhabit the watershed.” An editorial called it “the greatest project” which Hendersonville “has ever undertaken in the course of its long history.” Those who attended the water celebration were reported to have “sung in gleeful manner.” The public was encouraged to visit the new distribution reservoir at Ewart Hill which was filled with water from Mills River. In April 1924, it was reported that about 800,000 gallons per day was being used from the system which had a capacity of about 2.3 million gallons per day.

Only three years later, in 1927, Hendersonville water customers received the surprising news that the purity of their water was threatened and that a new source would be required, at least temporarily. The threat came from announced plans by the Carr Lumber Company to build a logging railroad into the North Fork watershed and harvest timber there for as long as seven years. The Carr Company had negotiated a contract in 1912 when the property still was owned by Vanderbilt. The federal government agreed to honor the contract even though the area to be logged was now part of the National Forest. At the same time, the city of Asheville launched an effort to secure rights to “Pink Beds” water from the headwaters of South Mills River, effectively blocking that alternative for Hendersonville. However, in April 1927, the Chief Forester offered to let Hendersonville have access to Bradley Creek, a tributary of South Mills River. Asheville was authorized to secure water from the Pink Beds prong of the river. (Subsequently, Asheville decided on a different source for its water supply.)
Hendersonville agreed to relinquish its use of water from North Mills River until the lumber company completed its logging operations above the intake dam. Early in 1928, a plan was announced to install a 60-foot high dam on Bradley Creek to create a storage reservoir with a maximum capacity of 435 million gallons. The plan called for Hendersonville to issue $400,000 in municipal bonds to pay for the new dam and new pipeline. Public opposition to the high cost soon led to a revised plan to reduce the cost to $225,000 by building a low dam of ten to fifteen feet in height. This of course reduced the storage capacity significantly. A new pipeline using 20-inch diameter iron pipe was installed to carry the Bradley Creek water about seven miles to a junction with the older line from North Mills River. Water from the new source became available during the summer of 1928 but without much fanfare. By then, Hendersonville had about 2,400 consumer taps and was supplying Mills River water to Flat Rock and Balfour as well as to residents of Hendersonville. In January 1929, it was reported that Hendersonville now had access to enough water to serve a population of 200,000.

Increased demand for water eventually led to the construction of a new treatment plant on lower Mills River just below the Davenport Bridge. A new 24-inch pipeline with a capacity of about six million gallons per day carried the treated water to an enlarged storage reservoir at Ewart Hill, beginning in 1965. A study in 1975 indicated that the Hendersonville water system could be expanded to supply every community in Henderson County by 1990 at an estimated cost of about $14 million.

After about a 70-year delay, Asheville obtained a share of Mills River water in 1999 when a new treatment plant costing about $29.8 million was dedicated near the confluence of Mills River and the French Broad. It was built with a capacity of 5 million gallons per day with a potential expansion to 10 million gallons if needed. Ironically, most residents of the new town of Mills River and upper Mills River still rely on well water and septic tanks. It is interesting to speculate on the response if the town were to announce a plan to install its own treatment plant well upstream from the two existing plants which furnish water to irrigate lawns and golf courses elsewhere in the county and beyond.

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**PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

by
Jeannie Moore, NC Fire & Life Safety Educator III

With summer upon us and school being out, visits to the parks and playgrounds are increasing by leaps and bounds. Sounds like plenty of fun to be had, but we need to remember that hazards are out there and we need to take note or our fun visit may end in a trip to the Emergency Room.

Make sure to keep a close eye on the little ones, especially in the parking lots. Small children may get all excited about the adventure ahead and may forget and dart out ahead of parents or guardians. This can easily result in being struck by a vehicle or many other traumatic types of injuries. The most common type of traumatic injury at the playground is from falls. Falls can happen in many different ways - from slides, climbers, ladders, swings, etc.

Today’s playground equipment is much safer than it was thirty or more years ago. Specifications are much more detailed and strict now. We all remember the metal slides that would get super hot during the days. They would burn your skin. What about the monkey bars and all the falls from those? The surfaces underneath may have been concrete and painful to fall on. What about the spinning things that when your buddy spun it faster and faster? Until it slung you off! OUCH!!! Those were the days! Not so much, they were dangerous and not all safe by today’s standards.

Even with stricter guidelines, parents/guardians are still encouraged to check out the playground equipment prior to the children using it.

Follow these steps to make your visit to the playground safer:
- Stay hydrated and keep your group hydrated.
- Make sure there is nothing that they are going to trip or fall over.
- Watch your children closely and don’t get distracted by your phone, book, conversation, or social media sites.
- Make sure that the kids are utilizing age appropriate equipment.
- Beware of platforms with no rails that they could fall off of, especially young children.
- Watch out for sharp edges, bolts sticking out, or laceration hazards.
- Wear appropriate clothing and especially no tops with strings, due to choking hazards.
- Make sure they can’t get their heads caught in any rails or other equipment.
- Make sure the under surfaces are of soft material, in case of a fall.
- Overcrowding and things too close together can cause serious injuries, like traumatic brain injuries from flying swings hitting someone in the head.

With these simple tips, you can look forward to a safe and fun summer at the playground.

For safety programs for your group, please email Jeannie Moore, Fire and Life Safety Educator, at fireeducator1840@gmail.com or contact Mills River Fire and Rescue. Check out and follow millsriversparky on Facebook.
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

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 aren’t sent until late summer. When towns like Mills River receive their owner, address, and assessed value information from counties, this delays Town tax notices. I 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 official delinquency date it January 6 with the last day to pay “on time” being the 5th BUT since this year the 5th falls on a Saturday, the last day to pay “on time” is Monday, January 7. The delinquency date is Tuesday, January 8, 2017. If you are paying in person, they must be received in our office by 5pm, Monday, January 7, 2019. If mailed, the envelope must have a United States Post Office postmark of January 7, 2019. 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 7!

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 7 — 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. This year we began foreclosing on real property and mobile homes. If we have some sort of payment agreement that is being followed, I can avoid foreclosure.

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 on line, 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 on line with Henderson County before calling the Town.

If your property taxes are paid by your mortgage company, they should request the bill from us before August. In that case, we send the tax bill to them instead of you. Usually, mortgage companies pay the tax around mid-November. You can always call us to check.

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 and the owner is still liable for penalties and interest if not paid on time.

Mills River Community Center
120 Schoolhouse Road
Inside and Outside Yard Sale
Saturday, September 8, 2018
8 am to 12 pm
If you have items to sell, you can reserve tables inside or a parking space outside. Call 891-0070 to reserve your space today.
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
Thursday: 9:00am - Yoga with Lynn Edgar

Special Day Events:
July 3, 4:00pm:  LEGO Club – all LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome
July 12, 10:30am: Book Club
August 7, 4:00pm: LEGO club – all LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome
August 9, 10:30am: Book Club
September 5, 4:00pm: Hands On! Registration is required
September 12, 4:00pm: LEGO Club
September 13, 10:30am: Book Club
September 19, 4:00pm: Hands On! Registration is required

Summer Reading Specials:
July 9, 1:00pm - Hands On Museum will present The Science of Sound – Learn how sounds are made and heard. Play the “sound wave game,” hear a Theremin and more! For rising 1st-5th graders. Space is limited, registration is required.
July 11, 10:00am - Snakes Alive! Learn about the lives, habits, and characteristics of snakes and other reptiles. Live animals will be present!
July 20, 2:00pm – Stellar Classification with PART: Explore how astronomers study stars using classifications based on spectra of actual stars. For rising 6th-12th graders.
July 25, 3:30pm - Asheville Hoops: Have fun moving and grooving with Asheville Hoops! No experience necessary! For grades K-5. Registration is required.
August 8, 2:00pm – Wire Wrapped Jewelry Workshop for ages 12-18. Discover the fascinating world of wire craft jewelry. Using pliers, gold, or silver wire, and a few basic techniques, learn how to create your own handcrafted jewelry. All tools and materials will be provided. Call or stop by to register.

SUMMER CAR SAFETY

With summer approaching, the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office would like Mills River residents to take steps to keep their possessions and loved ones safe as it relates to their vehicles:

- The temperature in your car can quickly become deadly. Never leave children or pets unattended in the car, even if only for a few moments. Vehicles heat up quickly and if the outside temperature is in the low 80s°, the temperature can reach deadly levels in just a few minutes.
- With school being out for the summer, all motorists are encouraged to be alert for children. Vacations, summer programs and camps mean children may be playing in areas where you least expect them. Never text or use mobile devices while driving, and always use extra caution when driving through parks and neighborhoods.
- Make sure your car is ready for summer. Keep your car in good working order and complete a vehicle safety checklist before you go on a road trip. Additionally, every vehicle should contain an emergency kit that can be personalized to meet the needs of you and your family. Cell phone, charger, first aid kit, flashlight, jumper cables, spare tire with tire changing tools/jack and other items are important to travel with. Visit www.ready.gov/car or other online resources for tips on building a vehicle emergency kit.
- Because of the warm temperatures, drivers often leave their car windows down with items in plain view. Please help prevent motor vehicle break-ins with a few simple steps:
  - Never leave items such as purses, mobile devices, GPS’s, headphones, medications, money/loose change, gym bags or shopping bags in view. Visible items, regardless of their monetary value, can tempt would-be thieves to break into cars.
  - Take items with you, secure items in your trunk before leaving your initial location, or leave items safely at home.
  - Always remember to lock your car doors.

Taking small steps can help prevent accidents and theft.
**RECIPE CORNER**

Black Bean and Couscous Salad

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup uncooked couscous
- 1 1/4 cups chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 8 green onions, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 2 (15 ounce) cans black beans, drained
- salt and pepper to taste

**Directions**
1. Bring chicken broth to a boil in a 2 quart or larger sauce pan and stir in the couscous. Cover the pot and remove from heat. Let stand for 5 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lime juice, vinegar and cumin. Add green onions, red pepper, cilantro, corn and beans and toss to coat.
3. Fluff the couscous well, breaking up any chunks. Add to the bowl with the vegetables and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve at once or refrigerate until ready to serve.

**ENJOY!**

**MEETINGS & OTHER DATES**

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<th>Date</th>
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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.
Your Mills River Deputies hope you have a safe and fun-filled summer.

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