FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year everyone! As we welcome 2019 and reflect on 2018, I hope that everyone had a joyous Holiday season! With three young boys at home, Christmas is always an exciting time for us in the Davis household!

As I write this article, everyone is still plowing out from Winter Storm Diego! After being without electricity for three days, (and knowing that others waited even longer) I realize that there is so much that we take for granted every day. I want to say a big thank you to all the power crews who worked for days to restore electricity to many of the residents of Mills River. Thank you to local good Samaritans who took time to scrape and plow driveways, parking lots and side roads. Thank you to the fire departments and emergency personnel that braved the storm to aid the sick and injured and help with fallen trees, power lines and auto accidents. Thank you to those individuals, who checked on their neighbors, offered up the use of a hot shower or hot meal to someone without electricity or helped shovel a walkway. We live in the best community because of great people like you!

Looking forward to 2019, the Town Council will have our annual Visioning Session on January 24th at Town Hall. This will be an all-day meeting where the Council will look to plan for the upcoming year. The public is welcome to attend at any time.

Stay up-to-date on closings and announcements from the Town by signing up for the mailing list on our website.

I hope everyone has a blessed 2019!

Chae Trantham Davis, Mayor
In its issue of April 12, 1933, the Hendersonville Times-News (HTN) announced that a "forest camp" of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) would be located at North Mills River in the Pisgah National Forest. The newspaper pointed out that the proposed camp should provide an attractive opportunity for local farmers to provide vegetables and other produce to the CCC recruits. It was also mentioned that the Hendersonville business community hoped that the workers at the camp would construct an access road from upper Mills River to the Pink Beds, thus facilitating trips to Mount Pisgah.

The creation of the CCC had been authorized in the fall of 1932 as a program funded by the federal government to help alleviate the widespread unemployment due to the severe economic depression. Applicants were required to unmarried young men between 18 and 25 years old. Top priority was given to the sons of widows or to those with disabled fathers. Applicants who were selected were to live under a quasi-military system and devote 40 hours per week to physical labor in exchange for food, shelter, clothing, medical care and 30 dollars a month. They were expected to serve for at least six months and might reenlist if they wished. A typical camp included a recreation tent, a hospital tent, a mess hall, a commissary, a wash room and latrine, a water supply system, a blacksmith shop and an office. Shelters consisted of five-man tents and those who came to the Mills River camp were expected to construct roads, trails, fire towers, and telephone lines as well as to plant trees. Recent graduates in forestry from NC State College were recruited to supervise projects and were paid 150 dollars per month. Shortly before the arrival of the first contingent of recruits, a group of Army soldiers from Fort Bragg came to prepare the camp.

The first CCC recruits assigned to the Mills River camp arrived by train in Hendersonville in the late afternoon on 19 May 1933 and were transported to the camp by trucks. In late June, an Army officer and a forester spoke on the work being done by camp residents at a Rotary Club meeting in Hendersonville. They reported that there were more than 200 men at the camp including 24 from the county who had been hired to do special work. The two supervisors stated that morale was high and that the principal project was the construction of a 14-mile-long motor road from the camp to the Pink Beds. Other work included the construction of a fire tower about five miles from the camp and work on a telephone line linking various sites in the National Forest. Also, some men had been assigned to remove inferior trees in the vicinity. As the six-month enlistment of the first cohort of CCC men neared an end in October 1933, the HTN reported that substantial number had decided not to reenlist. Among the reasons given were "being fed up with camp life and cold weather" or planning to return to school and girlfriends. However enough new recruits were accepted to keep the camp at full strength.

The men at the Mills River camp were provided with a weekly convocation of educational or entertainment activities. One such program, reported by the HTN in February 1935, was sponsored by the Hendersonville Kiwanis Club and included a talk on citizenship by the Club president. The program also included inspirational reading and music followed by a dance. It was reported that most of the 195 men from the camp along with two Army officers and five foresters had attended. Army Major Sledge was quoted as stating that the Mills River CCC camp was "the best kept of the 17 he visited."

The economic impact of the camp at Mills River was substantial during its 30-month existence. One published estimate indicated that camp residents spent around $12,000 per year locally and that at least $2,500 worth of food was purchased each month for camp consumption. Also, several local residents who were not members of the Corps were employed at the camp. One housewife who lived on upper Mills River acquired a gas-engine powered washing machine in order to wash laundry for camp inhabitants. (Electricity had not yet arrived in her neighborhood.)

In October 1935, it was announced that the Mills River camp would be closed. It was one of 63 camps to be closed (of the 465 in the country) due to declining enrollment. Some CCC camps remained in operation at other locations until 1942. In June 1938, the HTN reported that the Mills River CCC was being converted into a recreational area which would be available to local residents and others at no charge. The report disclosed that the CCC facilities were being replaced by parking for 95 cars, fireplaces, tables, and an 80-acre playground. Also mentioned was a pond said to have the "informal beauty of an ole swimming hole."

A few weeks later, the newspaper published directions for motor tours in the National Forest and mentioned that the newly created North Mills River Recreation Area already was becoming a popular destination. In July 1940, an estimated 60 members of the Mills River social club attended a picnic at the facility. It also became an attractive venue for family reunions as well as summer visitors to the area. As a popular gateway to the National Forest, the former site of the North Mills River CCC camp continues to enjoy heavy use to the present day.
PARKS AND RECREATION

The Park staff spent the last week of November and the first week of December preparing the park for the upcoming winter months. If you have been to the Mills River Park recently, you may have noticed the sun shades have been removed from the playground. The removal is to prevent damage from winter storms and preserve the life of the shades. We expect the shades to be put back up in late April or early May, depending on the weather. The water fountains at the restroom building have also been shut down for the season to prevent freezing pipes. Water fountains are available in the Town Hall/Library building during regular business hours. Staff will also close the dog park in wet weather this winter to help preserve the remaining grass and minimize additional turf damage. The first half of 2019 will bring some minor renovations to the dog park that we are hoping will have a big impact for users. By adding additional concrete around the benches, rehabbing some of the grassy areas and drainage work, we are hoping to minimize mud puddles in the future.

With snow on the ground it is hard to start thinking about warm weather, but if you are considering a birthday party, family reunion, or company picnic in the Mills River Park in the upcoming year, we will begin taking picnic shelter reservations for 2019 on January 2nd. Just a reminder, the picnic shelter may be reserved no more than six months in advance. Weekends do tend to fill quickly so be sure to reserve your date early! 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 the Town Hall at 828-890-2901 for information.

2018 was a year of great improvements for the Mills River Park. In the Spring, sun shades were raised over the playground, new swings were added to an already impressive playground, and the Thomas A. Bryson Memorial Basketball Court was open. All of these additions to the Mills River Park will benefit the citizens for years to come. 2019 will bring some exciting new additions to the Mills River Park. To get the latest updates on park projects, please sign up for our monthly updates at www.millsriver.org/mailing-list.html.
While it is the responsibility of the Tax Collector to be sure a tax is assessed on the current value of real property, it is the property owners’ responsibility to list personal and business personal property. Personal and Business Personal property listing forms are generally sent by Henderson County in December; if you don’t receive one, they are also available from the County or can be printed out from their website. Listing forms should be returned to Henderson County during the month of January. If not filed by the due date, a 10% penalty is assessed for a “late listing.”

2018 taxes become delinquent on January 8, 2019. The next few months we will be attempting to collect those delinquent taxes by a variety of means. While I generally wait until after a delinquent letter is sent at the end of January, legally I can begin “enforced collections” on January 8. Enforced collections include garnishing wages, freezing bank accounts and garnishing funds from those accounts, garnishing rent from tenants to pay the owners’ taxes, seizing and selling property for personal property taxes, and foreclosing on real property. Anyone who can’t pay a tax bill in its entirety can avoid enforced collections by faithfully keeping up small monthly payments. Delinquent real property bills will be published in a local newspaper in the spring. If I have a phone number, the property owner may get a phone call. I occasionally personally deliver delinquent bills.

If you think you may have problems paying your tax before the due date, please let me know as soon as possible, even before the bill comes out. Some taxpayers find that it is easier to pay monthly; I’m happy to accept payments this way – payments made between January and August simply lower the balance on the bill I send in the Fall.

There are also programs available to the disabled veterans and elderly that lower their tax bills. Please contact Henderson County to apply for tax relief; they send the information to me and not only may your County tax bill be lowered, but the Town’s will be, too. Applications are taken until June 1, 2018.

As always, if I can answer any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 890-2901 or by email at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org.
Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer’s instructions. If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

**HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT:**
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.

**CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS**

A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time, or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 nonfire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.
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!)

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

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:  9:30am - Pilates with Blair Felder
Thursday:  9:00am - Yoga with Lynn Edgar

Special Day Events:
January 2, 4:00pm:  “Zaniac! Up, Up and Away” - Grades K-3  **
January 9, 4:00pm:  LEGO Club (All LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
January 10, 10:30am:  Book Club
January 16, 4:00pm:  “Zaniac! Computer Programming” - Grades 3+  **
January 17, 10:30am:  “Mommy and Me Yoga” with Lynn Edgar
January 23, 4:00pm:  “Hands On! States of Matter” - Grades K-5  **

February 6, 4:00pm:  “Zaniac! Magnet Magic” - Grades K-3  **
February 13, 3:00pm:  “I Love My Library” Event at the Main Library
February 13, 4:00pm:  LEGO Club (All LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
February 14, 10:30am:  Book Club
February 20, 4:00pm:  “Zaniac! Robotics: How Fast, How Far!” - Grades 3+  **
February 21, 10:30am:  Chair Yoga with Lynn Edgar
February 27, 4:00pm:  “Hands On! Pressure, Pressing Down on You” - Grades K-5  **

March 6, 4:00pm:  “Zaniac! Wizardry Wonders” - Grades K-3  **
March 13, 4:00pm:  LEGO Club (All LEGOS will be provided, all ages welcome)
March 14, 10:30am:  Book Club
March 20, 4:00pm:  “Zaniac! Eggsellent Engineering” - Grades 3+  **
March 27, 4:00pm:  “Hands On! Airplanes, Rockets, and Catapults” - Grades K-5  **

** REGISTRATION REQUIRED
RECIPE CORNER

Classic Sausage Balls

**Ingredients**
- 1 pound hot or mild ground pork sausage
- 2 cups sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 cups baking mix
- Optional: 2 tablespoons grated onion
- Optional: 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning

**Directions**
1. Heat the oven to 400°F.
2. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil or parchment paper.
3. In a mixing bowl, combine the raw ground sausage and shredded cheese with the baking mix until well blended. If desired, mix in the grated onion and poultry seasoning.
4. Shape the mixture into 1-inch balls and arrange them on the prepared baking sheet.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for about 12 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown.
6. If you are unsure of doneness, you can check with an instant-read thermometer inserted into the middle of a sausage ball. They should register at least 160°F, the minimum safe temperature for ground pork.
7. Remove to paper towels to drain.

ENJOY!

MEETINGS & OTHER DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>New Year Holiday</td>
<td>Town Hall Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
<td>Town Hall Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Town Council Visioning session</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Board of Adjustment</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Daylight Savings Begins</td>
<td>2:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>Town Council</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Agricultural Advisory</td>
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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.
Winter weather can cause many problems ranging from power outages to being stranded along the road in your vehicle. You can prevent some problems by being prepared for emergency situations. With wet winter predicted, there are some precautions that can be taken to ensure safety during a winter storm:

**For the Home**
- Stock up on non-perishable foods and water, on any medicines, and other essential items:
  - Flash lights, battery operated radios, and a first aid kit.
  - Ways to stay warm: keep plenty of fuel, firewood, auxiliary heating sources and blankets, coats, etc.
  - Also check smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors.

**For the Vehicle**
- Make sure you have plenty of fuel in your vehicle in case you become stranded.
- Keep cell phone charger, blankets/coats/gloves, snacks/water, first aid kit, jumper cables, emergency warning devices—road flares/reflective warning signs and flashlight in your vehicle in case of emergencies.