



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009
Volume 6, Issue 3

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market is up and running. It's held each Saturday in the Town Hall parking lot from 9 AM to 12 PM. Come out and support them.

Hooper Property

The grading has been completed for the new Town Hall / Library on the property. Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to start with the building construction.

Also, our *Parks and Recreation Committee* is continuing to look at different recreation facilities that will be best suited for the property and requested by the residents.

Elections

Mills River has several candidates for the three "District" Town Council seats. If you are not registered to vote (or just not sure), contact the Henderson County Board of Elections. Everyone needs to get out and vote.

Weather

Are you prepared for the different changes in the weather? Put your valuables, important papers and other necessities in a secure place that you could get to in an emergency. Could you leave your home in less than 5 minutes? If not – take some time now to get prepared.

Fire Department

Special thanks to the Fire Department and to the Mills River Community for the recent fundraiser for the three accident victims. Attendance was by far the most that I have seen at any other event. All money raised went to the Benefit Fund that was set up for them.

Safety

Let's all slow down and be more careful while driving. Whether a local or long distance trip, focus on your driving and watch out for other drivers.

THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

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info@millsriver.org

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Council Members

Mayor: Roger Snyder
Mayor Pro Tem: Lois Pryor
Councilman: Wayne Carland
Councilman: Shanon Gonce

Staff

Town Manager: Jaime Adrignola
jaime.adrignola@millsriver.org
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Susan L. Powell
susan.powell@millsriver.org
Administrative Assistant: Aurelie Taylor
aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org
Zoning Enforcement Officer: Pat Christie
pat.christie@millsriver.org

Email for Free Newsletter Subscription:
newsletter@millsriver.org

Website: www.millsriver.org





HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

Dramatic changes in agriculture affecting Mills River farmers occurred during World War II. The changes were manifest in a rapid increase in the acreage devoted to so-called "truck crops" such as snap beans.

There also was a shift from a primary reliance on family members for farm work to a growing use of seasonal migrant workers. In addition, there emerged a trend away from small subsistence farms relying on the use of draft horses to large commercial agricultural enterprises relying on rented fields and tractors.

The United States entered the War in December 1941, and the farm labor supply soon began to be affected by the military build-up and an increased demand for labor in war-related industries. These developments created an urgent need to increase production of food to supply those leaving to go to war or work in urban centers. A local impact was to stimulate the planting of an increased acreage of bean fields in Mills River and other agricultural areas of Henderson County. Bean picking was a very labor-intensive task, and it soon proved necessary to bring in migrant workers to help with the harvest. In the summer of 1942, a migrant labor camp was set up at the Western North Carolina Fair Grounds just east of Hendersonville. The camp had a capacity of 600 workers, and those who came helped harvest a bean crop with an estimated value of one-half million dollars that year.

The acreage devoted to truck crops in Henderson County increased from about 3,500 acres in 1942 to 10,000 acres in 1943. Planting of what was predicted to be the first million dollar bean crop in county history began in May 1943. The same month, it was reported that the capacity of migrant labor camps was being increased to 1,800, including 1,200 at the Fair Grounds and 600 at a camp in Mills River. In late June, the first beans were ready for picking and the Hendersonville *Times-News* stated that pickers would receive 30 cents per 30 pound hamper for the first picking and 35 cents for the second.

Unfortunately, the expected migrant laborers did not arrive soon enough. It was announced on 26 June that there was an acute shortage of bean pickers in the county with an estimated 10,000 bushels of beans which needed picking. Two days later, a "bean harvest emergency" was declared with an estimated 15,000 bushels said to be in danger of spoiling if not picked quickly. Subsequently, it was reported that local merchants had agreed to close at noon to enable their employees to work in the bean fields. The *Times-News* even suggested that "loafers" would be arrested and jailed if they were unwilling to pick beans. The newspaper edition of 29 June stated that about 500 city residents were at work in the county bean fields. Children from local summer camps also joined in the effort to save the bean crop. By then there were only about 75 people at the migrant labor camp. Some growers were reported to have begun picking beans on Sunday. The crisis was alleviated by mid July with the arrival of migrant laborers from the Bahamas and some others from Eastern North Carolina, where they had been harvesting potatoes. Reportedly, there were 725 workers staying at the Fair Grounds labor camp by 19 July.

A rather unusual addition to the county's farm labor force took place during the growing season in 1944. John Hollamon, the county Farm Agent, announced in mid June that 250 German war prisoners were to be sent to the county and would be confined in

a prison camp on Haywood Road. They were to be guarded by a contingent of American military police and would be available to work for local farmers in groups of 10 or more. The prisoners had arrived by 13 July and the *Times-News* stated that they already were at work in the bean fields and were taking good care of the bean vines. A Mills River bean grower was reported to have used some of the prisoners and to have been pleased with their work. Another Mills River farmer later recalled that he had transported a group of prisoners along with 3 guards to bean fields in North Mills River in an open-bed Dodge truck. In addition to bean picking, some prisoners were used to perform other farm chores such as clearing land, digging ditches, and harvesting corn and potatoes. They were paid up to \$1.20 per day which they could use to purchase cigarettes, candy, and other items at the prison commissary.

In November 1944, after the prisoners had left the county, it was reported that they had picked 27,795 bushels of beans during 8,186 man-days of work. They also were credited with 411 man-days devoted to general farm labor. The report also disclosed that Bahamian migrant workers had been in the county from 25 June to 3 November and that they had picked about 300,000 hampers of beans in 34,000 man-days for a total of about one-half million dollars worth of beans. These pickers had earned an average of \$3.25 per day and had worked for about 250 growers in the county.

Bahamian migrant workers and German prisoners returned to the county in the summer of 1945. By then Henderson County reportedly had become the top producer of beans in the region. The County Agent's report on the county's production in 1945 stated that truck crops and fruit had a gross value of almost 2 million dollars. This included about 625,000 bushels of beans valued at about one million dollars. The labor force had included 635 from the Bahamas and 500 German prisoners. The prisoners had performed farm labor worth \$94,238 which included \$58,473 for bean picking and the remainder for other farm work. They had harvested about 250 acres of potatoes and picked 30,000 bushels of apples.

With the War ending in 1945, German prisoners no longer were available to harvest beans in 1946. Migrant workers from the Bahamas did return but fewer in number than in previous seasons. About 4,000 acres were planted in snap beans in the county, and the bean crop again reached a level of about a million dollars in value. In 1946, the county also produced about 600,000 bushels of apples worth about one million dollars while the county's production of dairy products was valued at about \$972,000. Other truck crops with a significant value that year included potatoes, pole beans, and strawberries.

Jollene J. Austin, AAMS®

Financial Advisor

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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RECIPE CORNER

Party Chicken by Cleo Jones

- 8 Large skinned and boned chicken breasts
- 8 Slices of bacon
- 1 Package of dried beef (Hormel or equivalent)
- 1 Can of cream of mushroom soup
- ½ pint of sour cream

Preheat oven to 275 degrees

- Cover baking dish with beef
- Wrap chicken in bacon and place on beef
- Mix soup and sour cream and pour over chicken
- Bake at 275 degrees for 3 hours – uncovered

(I always want extra gravy, so I double the soup and sour cream.)

Enjoy!



Mills River Secret Santa



Mills River's needy families need you!!

Donations for our Secret Santa
will be gratefully accepted
the week of December 14th through 18th.

Drop off food, clothing, toys, etc.
at Edward Jones on Boyleston Highway.

Thank you for your kindness!!

MEETING & OTHER DATES

Oct 6	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Oct 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Oct 13	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Oct 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Oct 16	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Oct 20	LGCCA	3:00 PM
Oct 20	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Oct 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Oct 27	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM

Nov 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 3 Municipal Elections

Nov 3 Planning Board 7:00 PM

Nov 11 Veterans Day Town Hall Closed

Nov 11 Finance Committee 7:00 PM

Nov 12 Town Council 7:00 PM

Nov 17 LGCCA 3:00 PM

Nov 17 Planning Board 7:00 PM

Nov 20 Agricultural Advisory 9:00 AM

Nov 24 Parks and Recreation 7:00 PM

Nov 26 Town Council 7:00 PM

Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving Town Hall Closed

Dec 1 Planning Board 7:00 PM

Dec 8 Board of Adjustment 7:00 PM

Dec 9 Finance Committee 7:00 PM

Dec 10 Town Council 7:00 PM

Dec 15 LGCCA 3:00 PM

Dec 15 Planning Board 7:00 PM

Dec 18 Agricultural Advisory 9:00 AM

Dec 22 Parks and Recreation 7:00 PM

Dec 24 Town Council 7:00 PM

Dec 24-25 Christmas Town Hall Closed

Jan 1 New Years Day Town Hall Closed

Jan 5 Planning Board 7:00 PM

Jan 13 Finance Committee 7:00 PM

Jan 14 Town Council 7:00 PM

Jan 15 Agricultural Advisory 9:00 AM

Jan 19 LGCCA 3:00 PM

Jan 19 Planning Board 7:00 PM

Jan 26 Parks and Recreation 7:00 PM

Jan 28 Town Council 7:00 PM

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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 will be taking small business ads. These ads will be business card size and black and white. The business must be located within the town limits. 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 serve basis. The ad must accompany payment and checks 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 committee. The committee reserves the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs. Thank you for your support.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The Town of Mills River newsletter is published and distributed quarterly. Articles submitted may be edited for brevity. Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of each of the following months: March, June, September, and December. Submit articles in writing to:

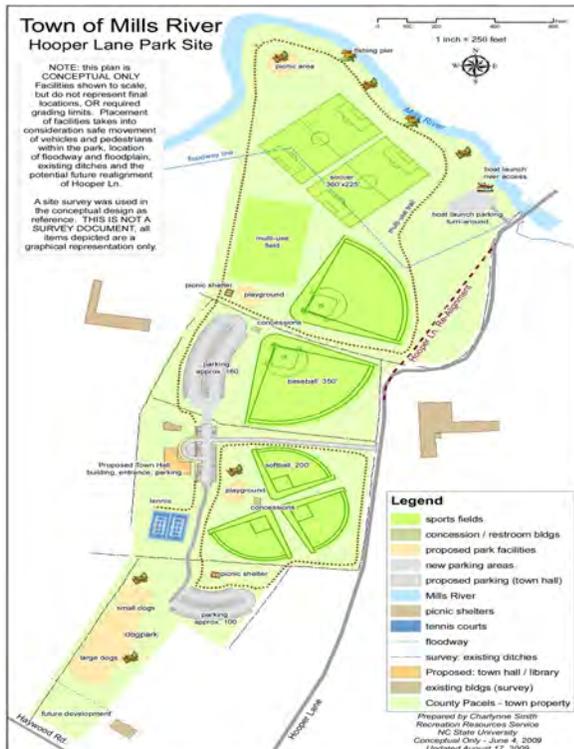
Paula DeLorenzo
9 White Birch Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to p828@bellsouth.net. 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 Paula at (828) 890-8131 or email.



Parks Committee Update Fall 2009

by Pat Christie



The Park Master Plan Development Committee hosted three public input sessions in late August and early September that offered Mills River citizens the opportunity to come and look at the park conceptual plan. Two sessions were held on Saturdays and one was held on a weekday all day and into the evening. We want to extend our appreciation to all those who took the time to come to these sessions and make their comments, opinions and suggestions known. It is through public input that we gauge response and gather information to move forward. Overall, reaction to the plan was positive and many constructive ideas were discussed. A presentation of the input session results will be made to Town Council in October. The conceptual plan is still available for viewing online at our website www.millsriver.org.

The non-profit board has come together and is in the process of incorporating. They hope to complete this process soon and are working on ideas for raising funds for the park. If you would like to become involved with this non-profit board, please contact Jollene Austin at 828-699-7575.

News from your Mills River Branch Library

By Roz Ledford

A Surprise from Indiana!

MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
To Whom it May Concern

Main Library
303 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47408-3534
812-349-3050

Ellettsville Branch
600 W. Temperance St.
Ellettsville, IN 47429
812-876-1272

www.monroe.lib.in.us

As a 20 year Public Librarian in a branch in Central Indiana, I helped to design and teach a graduate level class on Branch Libraries at Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science. This graduate program class reminds students that many of them will find their work in branch libraries and that branch libraries really connect with communities in special and influential ways. The students have to design a branch library and create two programs for their new design and the community it serves.

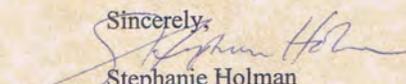
In the class, students are to find and report on special branches they discover. We heard about branches inside museums and branches in shopping malls, but the most unique in my mind was the discussion of the Henderson County Public Library--Mills River Branch.

As a Branch Librarian in the Monroe County Public Library system, I know what kind of dedication and energy and time it takes to serve the public and keep a branch operational. So to learn that the Mills River Branch was operating entirely with volunteer staff was stunning. This, to me, is the ultimate example of the meaning and purpose of branch libraries.

Branch libraries specialize in mirroring their services and collections to their demographics, but here is a branch that is made up and operated by the very demographic it serves! Our branch makes use of the occasional volunteer, but to have enough dedicated volunteers to staff a facility is a remarkable statement of community buy-in.

The area served by Mills River Branch has embraced their branch library in a way that I have never heard of or read about in library literature. So successful is their work, that an expanded facility is being provided. All expansions take more than the building and the hard working staff, volunteer or paid. Expansions take furniture and equipment and it is my sincere hope that Mills River Branch will be able to acquire all it needs for the increased square footage.

As a 15 year lecturer at the School of Library Science at IUPUI and IU Bloomington and a 20 year branch librarian, I write in hopes that my admiration for this volunteer staffed branch will lead to others taking note of its unique role in public libraries. I hope the hardworking volunteers of the Mills River Branch and the community it serves will be rewarded with the ability to acquire all they need to continue serving this area with the excellence it has grown accustomed to.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Holman
Branch Librarian

The volunteer staff at the Mills River Branch Library received this letter in late August, 2009.

A Graduate School professor who teaches at Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science in Bloomington, Indiana, heard about the Mills River Branch Library through a student's input to an assignment. The student described how our Branch has operated for more than four years with only a volunteer staff. It seems the student is the daughter of one of our Mills River volunteers and she learned about our Branch through her mother.

This volunteer feels, as many of our volunteers do, that volunteering can be an exciting and enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, work with people, help them with their needs, solve problems, see benefits, and know you have had a hand in it.

We can't tell you what this letter means to our volunteer staff. It is wonderful to know that someone we don't know and who doesn't know us recognizes the value of our service to the Town of Mills River and to Henderson County.

Mills River Branch Library Hours

Monday – Thursday
Friday
Story Time

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m.



OCTOBER 4-10, 2009

IT'S FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK

STAY FIRE SMART!

**DON'T GET
BURNED**

www.firepreventionweek.org



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Mills River Fire and Rescue Urges Henderson County Residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”

by Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer

Mills River, NC October, 2009 — Once a child touches a hot stove, as the cliché goes, he learns his lesson - stay away from a hot stove. This cliché does not take into account the pain and suffering from burns and burns should not be part of the learning process.

That's why Mills River Fire and Rescue is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009 – October 4-10 – to urge Mills River and Henderson County residents to **“Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”** This year's campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

The statistics are staggering. Each year roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation's emergency rooms for burn injuries.

“The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds and contact burns,” said Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, NC Fire and Life Safety Educator III. “Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children's reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen.”

By following simple safety rules, you can **“Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”**

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free” zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, ovens, irons, lamps, heaters.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
- Install anti-scald valves on shower heads and faucets.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

For more information on **“Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”**

visit www.firepreventionweek.org

For Fire Prevention and Safety Programs

Contact Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer

Mills River Fire and Rescue 828-891-7959

Mills River Farm Market

Pictures below taken one **Saturday morning** during the **Mills River Farm Market** hours of **9am until noon** courtesy of Jaime Adrignola.

Thank you, Jaime and thank you everyone who has supported this effort!
The Farm Market will be operational, hopefully, until sometime in early November.





HENDERSON COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT
MILLS RIVER DIVISION
by Corporal Ken C. McCraw

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.

Crime Prevention Tips

- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Lock your car and don't leave valuable items inside or in view.
- Make sure your outside lighting is working properly.
- Take pictures or videos of your valuables, and document serial numbers
- If you are away for an extended time, have a trusted friend or neighbor check your residence, pick up mail, bring in the newspaper, etc.

Law Enforcement Services

For Emergencies: 911
Non-Emergencies: 697-4911
NC Highway Patrol 693-4141
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1-800- 662-7137
(to report wildlife violations)

The Town of Mills River
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