



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008
Volume 5, Issue 1

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

Committees

Interested in serving on a Town Committee?

*Agriculture Advisory
Board of Adjustments
Planning Board
Finance Committee
Recreation Advisory*

Budget

In the next 60 days, the Council and the Staff will be preparing our FY 2008-2009 Budget. As you are well aware, the Town lost some \$600,000 dollars because of the County's switching methods of sales tax distribution.

Salary

As you may or may not be aware, your Town Council and Committee members serve without pay. We are all volunteers. Our cell phones, fuel and other things while attending to Town business are paid for out of our personal pockets.

Safety Reminder

As you are driving through Mills River take some extra precautions and watch for people both walking and riding their bicycles. On a similar note, give those tractors and farm equipment a wide berth. Chances are they're not going far and want to get off the road as soon as possible.



THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3
Mills River, NC 28759

OFFICE: 828-890-2901 FAX: 828-890-2903
Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Monday-Friday

info@millsriver.org
www.millsriver.org



Council Members

Mayor: Roger Snyder
Mayor Pro Tem: Lois Pryor
Councilman: Wayne Carland
Councilman: Ed Glenn
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: Martha M. Orr
martha.orr@millsriver.org
Zoning Enforcement Officer: Pat Christie
pat.christie@millsriver.org

Email for Free Newsletter Subscription:
newsletter@millsriver.org

Website: www.millsriver.org

MILLS RIVER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Apply for:

Mills River Parks and Recreation
Development Advisory Committee

Applications are available online and at Town Hall.

History Corner

by Jim Brittain



In March 1829, Phillip Brittain (1788-1849) deeded a parcel of land near his home in Mills River to five trustees for use as the site of "a meeting house and a school house." The tract

originally had been part of the homeplace of Phillip's father, James Brittain (c. 1750-1831), one of the pioneer settlers in the community. The deed mentioned that the property already contained a school. It is believed to have been a small log structure where classes were taught for local children and community meetings were held. According to some sources, James Brittain had set aside about ten acres of his land for a school in 1797. It probably was the first school to be established in what is now Henderson County.

Early teachers at the school included David Haddon, a clergyman, and Michael Francis, who had been educated in Scotland before coming to Mills River. Phillip Brittain may well have attended the school prior to his service in a local militia force led by his father in the so-called "Walton War" in 1804. Phillip later became a captain in the U.S. Army during the war of 1812. Subsequently, he served as Registrar of the Buncombe County Court and held various other official positions

By the early 1830s, the trustees mentioned in Philip's land deed over saw the construction of a two-story building to replace the existing school. Located near the present Presbyterian Church on School House Road, the new building became known as the Mills River Academy. The second floor was used for classes with the first floor being used for worship services and other community meetings. The Academy operated as a free public school for about three months each year, or longer for students whose parents were willing to pay a fee. The building was used for county court sessions for a time after Henderson County was formed in 1838. A new building was constructed, using locally-made brick, in 1859 and was shared by the Academy and the Presbyterian Church until 1905.

My grandfather, William A. Brittain (1857-1930), attended the Mills River Academy. One of his teachers, Mary A. Graves (1837-1909), gave him a book in November 1866 in recognition of his proficiency in arithmetic. He received another book in December 1870 as a reward for proficiency in spelling. The Mills River Calendar for 2006 included a photograph taken around 1910 of the Academy building and the teachers and students. A high school department was added around 1912 with the initial enrollment of about 20 students.

Disaster struck the Mills River Academy on 2 April 1921 when fire destroyed the building. The *Hendersonville News* reported that the fire had occurred sometime after an

"entertainment" held at the school on Friday night and that some suspected arson as the cause. The newspaper report continued that the local school officials intended to rebuild with a building designed to meet the needs of a large consolidated district. The estimated cost of 40 thousand dollars would be obtained from a 20 thousand dollar school bond issue and an equal sum borrowed from the state. In its issue of 14 April 1921, the newspaper announced that Mills River would have a bond vote at Davenport's Store on 24 May. Pending completion of the new building, classes for elementary school students were held in local homes and churches. The high school students were transported to school in Hendersonville by means of a truck converted to a bus.

The new school, located a few hundred feet from where the old one had been destroyed, was completed by the fall of 1922. It was a two-story brick building with a basement. In its edition of 16 October 1922, the *Hendersonville News* characterized the new 50 thousand dollar facility as being, probably, the finest rural school plant in North Carolina. It mentioned that four rooms in the basement were to be used for exhibits such as an artifact from a pre-Civil War mowing machine. It was thought to have been the first such machine in Mills River and, perhaps, the county. The report added that the total enrollment was anticipated to be about 200 students including about 50 high school students. A later article in the newspaper in April 1923 mentioned the school still had no running water or electricity even though the line carrying water from Mills River to Hendersonville passed near the new building.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, a number of existing one-room schools in the community, such as Mountain View on upper Mills River, were closed. Their students were transported to the consolidated Mills River School by bus. Along with many others, I received the first seven years of my formal education in the 1922 building which continued in use until 1974.

A one-story auditorium building where graduations and other events were held was completed at the Mills River School in 1928. Another new building containing a gymnasium and high-school rooms was added in 1941. The last high school class to graduate at Mills River was in 1960 with future graduates attending West Henderson High School. Only elementary school students attended Mills River after the middle school opened at Rugby in 1973. By 1997, the Mills River School plant included six mobile class rooms and the enrollment was about 700 students.

The cluster of mobile classrooms observed by anyone driving past the Mills River School hardly seems appropriate to those aware of the rich history and heritage of this institution. Unfortunately, the school has suffered years of relative neglect despite frequent reports of urgent needs for modernization of the physical plant. Many alumni, alumnae, and others who support the school believe that it deserves better and should be returned to a more attractive status befitting its illustrious past.

RECIPE CORNER



Caramel Butterscotch Cake by Susan L. Powell

- 1 package (18.25 oz) white cake mix
- 1 package (3.25 oz) butterscotch instant pudding mix
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons butterscotch caramel ice cream topping
- 2-3 teaspoons milk

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Lightly spray Bundt pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, water, oil and eggs. Beat with electric mixer on low speed 30 seconds.

Beat on medium speed 2 minutes until smooth. Spoon into prepared pan.

Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Release cake onto cooling grid; cool completely.

In small bowl, stir together confectioners' sugar, ice cream topping and enough milk for pouring consistency; drizzle over cake.

Makes 10 to 12 servings.

MEETING/OTHER DATES

Apr 1	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 3	Community Forum	7:00 PM
	District One Council Seat Vacancy	
	Mills River Community Center	
Apr 8	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Apr 9	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Apr 10	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 15	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 21	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Apr 22	Public Input Session	9 AM – 7 PM
	Parks and Recreation - Town Hall	
Apr 24	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 6	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
May 19	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
May 20	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 26	Memorial Day	Town Hall Closed
Jun 3	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jun 10	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Jun 11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jun 12	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jun 16	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Jun 17	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Jun 26	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jul 1	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jul 4	Independence Day	Town Hall Closed
Jul 9	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jul 10	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jul 15	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Jul 21	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Jul 24	Town Council	7:00 PM



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Local Small Business Ads

The Mills River Town Newsletter is printed quarterly: 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 and the committee reserves the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs.

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: May, August, November, and February. Submit articles in writing to:

Paula DeLorenzo
9 White Birch Drive
Arden, NC 28704

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.

Get to Know Your Civil Servants

by Paula DeLorenzo



Roger Snyder, the Mayor of Mills River, has lived his entire life in Mills River. Roger's parents moved from Haywood County to Mills River in 1958 and purchased the home next to the Mills River School the year before Roger was born. Mayor Snyder was in the first class to attend Rugby Middle School and graduated from West Henderson in 1977.

After high school Roger worked for the DOT for one year then worked for Ecusta for six years in the printing department mixing the ink used for printing cigarette paper. Roger then went back to school and attended what was then Blue Ridge Tech where he graduated in the first electronic engineering class.

Prior to graduating Roger met his wife, Gayle, who was, and still is, a Math teacher at Blue Ridge Community College. Gayle was originally from Pfafftown, near Winston-Salem. Roger and Gayle have a sixteen year old daughter and a fourteen year old son, both of whom attend West Henderson High. Roger likes to stay active in children's sports.

After graduating from Blue Ridge, Roger worked for the Xerox Corporation. During the first ten years he worked on copiers and he worked on computers, hardware, software and printers for the last ten years prior to retiring in April 2004. Roger considers himself a part-time farmer, likes to go bass and trout fishing and enjoys "amateur" wood working. Roger is also a history buff and really enjoys researching genealogy and collecting old pictures of Mills River residents and properly identifying them.

Roger was a member of the Fire Department for thirty years which is how he became involved in the Mills River incorporation effort. On the Fire Department Board of Directors, he was sent to the incorporation meetings since the fire district was used for geographic area and demographics. One thing led to another and, after chairing the incorporation committee, Roger was appointed Interim Mayor in June 2003 when the Mills River incorporation became a reality. Following the November 2003 Town Council elections, Roger was selected from among the elected council members to serve as Mayor.

Roger's favorite task as Mayor is helping residents resolve issues they may have with governmental agencies. Town Hall has two rules established by Mayor Snyder. Customer service is number one!! A phone must be answered by the second ring. If a resident takes the time to stop in to town hall, then a staff member will take the time to deal with whatever issue they may have, even if that means following up with another agency and getting back to the resident later.

Roger hopes that future employees and council members don't forget why Mills River was formed – "We are a community before we're a Town." Roger's vision is "to **manage** growth while protecting individual property rights, being conservative and keeping the tax rate to a bare minimum."

News from Mills River Branch Library

by Roz Ledford
Volunteer Coordinator

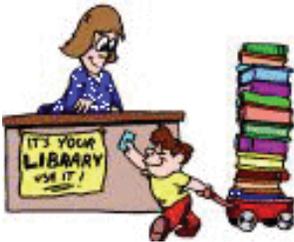
Circulation at our Mills River Branch continues to improve as 2008 proceeds into Spring. Our volunteers are working steadily and diligently to increase our hours. Hopefully it won't be long before we can add to our current schedule.

Our Branch now has reading programs established with both Mills River and Glenn Marlow Elementary Schools. Our dedicated reading staff visits both of these schools at least once a month to read to the kindergarten classes.



Two of our volunteer staff recently participated in a Title I Reading Program presented by Glenn Marlow personnel for the parents and children of their kindergarten through second grades. The participating students are working with the school's Reading Specialist.

The Friends of the Mills River Library (FOMRL) continue to work very hard for the Branch and the volunteers very much appreciate the efforts of this group. The Friends have asked that we express to the local community how much they appreciate the outstanding participation and support provided at the recent "Spaghetti Supper and Raffle" held at the Mills River Community Building. The Friends group, along with our volunteers and other community volunteers, served an outstanding and generously portioned meal on Saturday, March 8. We have had numerous compliments from library patrons on the delicious homemade spaghetti sauce served as well as the many delicious desserts supplied by Mills River's outstanding cooks. It was a great evening for all who participated and the funds raised will greatly benefit our local library branch.



Library Hours

Mon & Wed & Fri — 1:30 – 5:30

Tue & Thu — 9:30 – 5:30

Story Time for ages 3-6

Tue & Thu 11 am



The Town of Mills River invites residents to attend:

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Parks and Recreation

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

9AM to 7 PM

Mills River Town Hall

Your input is requested on the possible development of a Public Park in the Town of Mills River

Please contact Town Hall for further details.

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Spring Safety

by Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer

With the change in time, did we remember to change our smoke alarm batteries? If we haven't we should immediately. With the days being longer and warmer weather here, people in our community are emerging from their winter cocoons to focus on long-neglected projects like spring cleaning, home repairs, and yard work. These activities can be extremely beneficial, but they also involve a variety of health and safety hazards that can be avoided with the proper precautions. To help ensure everyone in our community stays safe this season, the members of the Mills River Fire & Rescue bring you the following tips and suggest you post them where they can be seen by your family members and co-workers.

Cleaning for Safety

Nature is undergoing a fresh start and so are homeowners. Many are ready to clean up the debris that has been accumulating in basements, storage sheds, and garages.

- Household and pool chemicals, paints, and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad.
- When cleaning up a hazardous chemical, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the packaging. Never mix chemicals in the same container. If you don't know how to dispose these items, contact Henderson County Emergency Management. Never put them into the trash or pour down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and chemicals are well marked, stored in cool dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts, or floors.
- Clean-up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, and matches and lighters away from children's reach or locked up.
- Check barbecue grills for leaks and cracks. Store any propane tanks away from the house and garage.
- Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers, boxes, and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around the furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters, dryer, and under the stairs.

Yard-work Safety

Itching to get the yard into shape for the summer? Here are ways to help ensure your spring spruce-up is disaster-free.

- Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, yet they involve muscles that probably haven't used in a while.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- More than 60,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for lawn mower injuries.
- Never allow small children to ride on the mower with you. They can be seriously injured.
- Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air.
- Never operate a mower in bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.
- Never start a mower indoors

If you need a smoke alarm for your home, or if you/ your group would like a Fire or Life Safety program, please contact Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, Public Fire Educator, at 828-215-4897.





Time for a Park?

by Jaime Adrignola

Now that the time has changed to daylight savings, we all have a little more daylight to enjoy after a long day. You may be starting to get your garden ready, spring cleaning or just sitting on the porch enjoying the scenery. Town Hall wants to know what you'd be doing if Mills River had a park.

Would you be walking along a trail that winds down by the Mills River? Would you be playing tennis, a pick-up game of soccer or taking the kids to the playground to burn off some energy? Designing a park is a huge task and the property that Town Council has purchased has 50 acres that could become everything from ball fields to walking trails. Council is already planning to include a building for a temporary town hall and library, but there are still plenty of details to be determined. Tuesday, April 22 Town Hall is going to host an input session from 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM to try and give everyone a chance to stop by and see the work that has already been done towards planning for the property and to register your opinion on what you'd like to see on it.

If you are particularly interested in being involved in how the Mills River Park develops, you may want to fill out an application to be on the Park Development Advisory Committee. This committee will be appointed by the Council and given the task of using the public input session information to come up with a plan they can recommend to the Council for the property. You don't have to be an expert to apply, just have an interest in helping shape the future development of the park.

For more information, contact the Town Hall or visit our website at www.millsriver.org. We hope you'll take the time to get involved in the process for planning the park and let us share your vision for the future of Mills River's Park.

Community Forum District One Council Seat Vacancy

by Sue Powell

In December of 2007, Councilman Ed Glenn resigned his seat on the Mills River Town Council due to health reasons. Mr. Glenn was elected as Council representative to District One in November, 2005 to serve a four (4) year term, and his resignation has left a void on the Council.

On December 13, 2007, the Council created a procedure to fill this vacancy which included an application process for residents of District One and a set time period for acceptance of those applications. Two applicants responded to this call for service, and the Council is split on which applicant is the most appropriate for the appointment.

Town Council members are representatives of the people; therefore, the task has been returned to you to assist the Council in this decision. Here is your opportunity to have a voice. Speak up and be heard.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM
Mills River Community Center

Submit Questions in **WRITING** to:

info@millsriver.org or to

Forum, 5046 Boylston Hwy, Suite 3
Mills River, NC 28759

No questions or comments will be allowed on the evening of the Forum.

Detailed information is available at Town Hall during regular business hours.



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**Henderson County Sheriffs Department
Mills River Division
by Corporal Ken C. McCraw**

Spring is finally here! With the warmer weather, please remember the following tips:

- Watch out for children playing in their neighborhoods
- Be mindful of pedestrians out and about due to warmer weather
- Obey all your traffic laws and speed limits
- Buckle Up!
- Allow time to reach your destination. Traffic will increase as we go through the summer and the tourist season.

Have a Safe and Pleasant Spring and Summer!

Remember if you need 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
5046 Boylston Highway
Suite 3
Mills River NC 28759**