



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008
Volume 5, Issue 4

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

As I write this article (you thought someone else wrote these for me), I always wonder what to write about and put it off for a couple of days (okay weeks). But once I get going, I always seem to use more space than is allocated to me. For most of you who know me – I'm never at a loss for words.

I like to have a safety reminder tucked somewhere in the article as I think this is very important. Having been a member of the Fire Department for some 30+ years, I guess it's just been ingrained in me.

I think it is important to visit family, friends and neighbors. For some reason, there doesn't seem to be enough time in the day and we need to be in three places at the same time. Priorities seem to change all the time. At my house, we have had to resort to a "master calendar." I also keep a lot of little notes in my shirt pocket!

I also try to keep you informed on what is happening in the Mills River Community—the projects that may or may not have reached the news media but are certainly note worthy.

I like to see people volunteering in the community, whether it is at your local school, church or other organizations – get involved.

So I've come to the end of my "allocated" space and I leave you with this:

"Happy Holidays, Be Safe in 2009, Visit and Volunteer"

(P.S. Let's see if the Editor will cut this part off due to space)

Editor's Note

No, Roger I didn't cut it off and could you please get your article in a couple of weeks earlier! Thanks

Coordinator's Note: *Thanks for your early submission this quarter, Roger!*



THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3
Mills River, NC 28759

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info@millsriver.org

www.millsriver.org

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

Mills River Community Breakfast

Saturday, February 28th
7:30 am to 10:00 am

Community Center on School House Road

Call Jollene Austin at 890-2791
with any questions.



HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

Many of the early settlers who came to the North Carolina mountains after the Revolutionary War were skilled hunters and, by the early 1800s, the last of the native elk and buffalo to inhabit the French Broad watershed had been killed. The population of white-tail deer

and place bear proved more resilient but also had reached a low ebb by the 1880s when George W. Vanderbilt arrived and established his impressive home at Biltmore. Subsequently, he acquired thousands of acres of land in the vicinity of Pisgah Mountain. Beginning in the 1890s, he gave his professional forester responsibility for the protection of big-game animals as well as for a program of scientific forest management. The forester, Carl A. Schenck, organized a group of rangers who were provided with housing in "black forest" type lodges at various locations on the Vanderbilt property. Their duties included the protection of game animals and trout from trespassers, control of predators, and fire suppression.

Schenck had a fenced deer park built on the estate for convenient observation of feeding and breeding characteristics. With this protection the enclosed herd increased rapidly in population producing a surplus that was released on land outside the fenced area. A hunting lodge was built at Buckspring near Pisgah to accommodate bear and deer hunting by the owner and invited guests. A short-lived effort was made to establish populations of non-native game birds such as Mongolian and English pheasants but it soon proved unsuccessful.

Many of Vanderbilt's game management policies continued after his death in 1914 and the sale of much of his mountain property to the federal government for the creation of the Pisgah National Forest in 1916. The new managers of the forest resources undertook an interesting initiative in 1918 when a small herd of elk was brought to the national forest and released in the "elk pasture" in Horse Cove on the headwaters of North Mills River. The elk pasture soon became a popular destination for local residents who could drive to it on a road through the Pink Beds or hike there on trails. This experiment in reintroducing the giant animals which had once roamed in the area had failed by 1930. In August 1930, the *Hendersonville Times-News* reported that the surviving elk had escaped from the elk pasture and ventured onto private property in quest of the "more luscious and palatable fields of corn and other crops." The reporter predicted that the elk would soon be killed by irate farmers unless they could be driven back on protected federal lands. An older resident of Mills River once told me about the man whom he believed had shot the last of the stocked elk.

In contrast to the elk, the deer population increased rapidly in the national forest under the protection of professional game protectors such as Perry Davis who lived with his family in a ranger station near the entrance to the forest at North Mills River. During the 1930s, a program was established to capture and transfer deer from the Pisgah preserve to other preserves deficient in deer population. One interesting technique was to pay local residents of Mills River to catch young fawns

during the Spring season and carry them to fawn pens. For example, the sons of Will and Hattie Sitton of South Mills River were paid five dollars each for doe fawns which they caught by walking along the river and its tributaries until they spotted a fawn in its bed. Reportedly, Howard T. Sitton used the money earned from fawn hunting to help pay his way through college. He later became a teacher and school principal in Henderson County. In 1938, the *Times-News* published an article which stated that visitors to the Pink Beds might request to tour the fawn pens. The article explained that hundreds of fawns were being raised there annually on a diet of canned evaporated milk diluted by 40 percent water. Adult deer also were trapped by forest service employees for use in restocking elsewhere. In 1938, visitors to the Pisgah National Forest could observe the effect of over-browsing by deer on vegetation to a height of more than five feet from the ground.

Deer hunting in the Pisgah National Forest first was permitted in 1932 when an area of about 14,000 acres on Davidson River and Looking Glass Creek was opened for hunting buck deer. No more than 50 hunters at a time were admitted after being selected at a drawing from all who applied and with a maximum of 400 hunters for the entire season. Other areas, including upper Mills River, were added over the next few years and about 1600 hunters were selected for the hunt in the fall of 1938. By then, the estimated deer population in the Pisgah preserve was 4500 along with about 150 black bears. In addition to the hunters who checked in each day, there were so-called "wilderness hunts" in more remote areas for some who wanted to camp out for three days and were able to carry their equipment in from parking areas. A *Times-News* article in November 1938 stated that the Pisgah big game hunt was the "largest organized hunt of its kind in the country." It noted that hunters had come there from all over the southeast the previous season when about 700 deer and 27 bear had been killed.

I had the opportunity for an unforgettable chance to observe the Big Creek Wilderness Hunt in the fall of 1947 when my father was hired to transport the hunters' food and camping equipment with me as his assistant. We used a two-horse wagon to haul the supplies from the parking area at Bear Branch on Wash Creek Road over a rough road across Trace Ridge and down to the designated camping site on the creek bank. We spent three nights each week of the hunt in a one-room shack with the hunt ranger. It was equipped with a small wood heater, a single-wire telephone linked to fire towers, and a couple of rustic bunks. I can well remember carrying one hunter's deer on my shoulders about two miles from Rich Cove down the river to the camp. Although, I missed six days of school that year, my high school English and Latin teacher, Willie Lou Jordan, thought that participating in the hunt would be a useful contribution to my education and she was right. Wilderness hunts also were held for many years at a site near the mouth of Cantrell Creek on upper South Mills River.

Some older residents of Mills River, including me, well remember the extraordinary spectacle provided during deer season in late November and early December at the checking station at the entrance to the national forest on North Mills River. Dozens of cars and trucks would arrive and line

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up well before daylight to wait for game protector, Wayne Wiggins, and his helpers to hand out permits and assign compartments to the eager hunters. Small convoys then would drive up Yellow Gap Road and Bent Creek Gap Road to reach the assigned compartments to park and walk to their chosen site for the day's hunt. Local men were hired as temporary rangers to manage the different compartments and help successful hunters get their deer and bear to the road. Some Mills River families such as Tom and Lola Whitaker provided bed-and-breakfast accommodations for hunters from out of town. The managed



RECIPE CORNER



Sausage and Mushroom (breadless) Stuffing by Paula DeLorenzo

4 sweet onions, thinly sliced
 2 to 4 tablespoons olive oil
 4 cups coarsely chopped mushrooms
 (I like Portobello mushrooms for this recipe)
 salt and pepper
 ½ cup dry white wine
 2 generous tablespoons butter
 1 pound sweet turkey sausage
 1 pound spicy turkey or chicken sausage
 Tarragon leaves
 (fresh and finely chopped or from the spice bottle)

Sauté the onions in olive oil over medium-low heat until caramelized and browned for at least thirty minutes. Turn the heat up to medium-high and add the mushrooms. Sauté the mushrooms until browned, about ten to fifteen minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Turn the heat to high and add the wine. Let the wine cook off for a couple of minutes, then lower the heat and simmer for another 10 minutes. Stir in the butter 1 tablespoon at a time until combined. Remove from heat and set aside.

Remove the sausage from the casings. In a large skillet brown the sausage while breaking into small pieces. Cook at least seven minutes or until no longer pink, drain off fat and add to the mushroom/onion mixture. Add the tarragon and combine thoroughly.

Leftovers can be heated in your skillet and taste even better the next time around.

MEETING & OTHER DATES

Jan 1	News Year Day	Town Hall Closed
Jan 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jan 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Jan 16	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Jan 19	Martin Luther King	Town Hall Closed
Jan 20	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Jan 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Jan 27	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Feb 10	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
Feb 11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Feb 12	Town Council	7:00 PM
Feb 20	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Feb 24	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Feb 26	Town Council	7:00 PM
Mar 3	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Mar 11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Mar 12	Town Council	7:00 PM
Mar 20	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Mar 24	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Mar 26	Town Council	7:00 PM



ASHEVILLE

HIGHWAY 280, MILLS RIVER

(828)-891-74WD

Barbour
Authentic British Apparel

landroverasheville.com

(828)-890-5JAG

jaguarasheville.com



Jollene J. Austin
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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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 15th 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@mchsi.com. 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.

Mills River's Newest Staff Member

by Paula DeLorenzo

Aurelie Taylor is Mills River's new Administrative Assistant. Martha Orr, our long time Administrative Assistant, has left Mills River's employ and gone to work for the town of Flat Rock. Best wishes to Martha!



Aurelie was born in Glen Cove, New York and moved to Polk County, NC in 1981, later moving to Dana in Henderson County in 1982.

As a graduate of Blue Ridge Community College with a horticulture degree, Aurelie worked for ten years in ornamental horticulture before spending thirteen years doing administrative and accounting work in an office.

Aurelie has two Doberman pinschers and she loves to hike. This avocation caused her to move to Mills River in June so that she could pursue her passion close to the Pisgah Forest.

Additionally, Aurelie trains in martial arts and has a first degree black belt. It would be wise not to get on her bad side (just kidding, of course). We all wish Aurelie well in her new position and welcome her to our wonderful town!

Mills River Community Center

by Delores Meadows

A Youth Center - a community building equipped to serve the needs and desires of every youngster in our Mills River community - had been a cherished dream for years and materialized in 1957.

This building is our current Mills River Community Building on School House Road, owned and operated by the community. Under the direction of Directors Foster, Cathey, Whiteside, Grimes, Clay, Burgin, Corpening, Osborne, Heffner, and Wright, the Community Center was built for a cost of \$10,000. Every member of the community had a part in the construction regardless of age. Many contribution means were devised from "Buy a Block", a variety show, programs, suppers, turkey shoots, square dances, and all-night singing, to name a few.

The lot was cleared and graded, Mr. Hollamon's high school class dug the water line, and the men of the community gave many work evenings as carpenters, painters, and electricians' helpers. Hr. Hollamon's class also assisted in the pouring of the concrete floor.

A letter from the directors dated December 4, 1959 proclaims, "What a big help for all of us this Community Center Building is going to be." For many years the Community Building was used for various functions.

Completely upgraded in 2003, the building is once again a great place for various functions. To rent the Mills River Community Building for private or community functions, call 891-9070 for prices and availability.

Mills River Branch Library

4683 Boylston Highway

Mills River, NC 28759

828-890-1850

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30am—5:30pm

Wednesday and Friday: 1:30pm—5:30pm

Using the Mills River Branch Library Computers

The Henderson County Public Library uses an automated system to manage access to its public computers. The system allows self-service sign-up for the computers and ensures fair and equitable access for all. You will need your library card to use a computer.

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Computer Use

- ◆ **What do I need to do to get on a computer?** If you see a computer sitting vacant you can go up to it and see if it is available. The computer will indicate if it is available for a full session, a shorter session, or currently reserved and waiting for the patron with the reservation. Enter all 14 digits of your library card number to start a session.
- ◆ **Why do I need a library card?** The system uses your library card number as a means of reserving a computer session for you. It also times your sessions on the computer. The library does not use your card number to track your research or use of the computers. The library takes your right to privacy very seriously.
- ◆ **What if I don't have a card?** If you are eligible for a card, you are required to get one from the service desk. Henderson County residents and those who work, own property, or attend school in the county may acquire a card.
- ◆ **What if I have forgotten my card?** If you have forgotten your card, a staff member can look up your card number if you show a valid ID, preferably a driver's license. If you do not have a valid ID, the staff member can look you up by name. You will be asked for two pieces of information in order to establish your identity.

Please remember to bring your card next time. When you have your card you do not have to wait for assistance. The library has installed a self-service system and you are expected to use it as such. If you repeatedly neglect to bring your card, the staff member will no longer look up your number. We will assume that your card is lost and you will be required to get a new one.

- ◆ **What if I lost my card?** If you have lost your card then you must apply for a new one at the service desk.
- ◆ **What if I am visiting and not eligible for a card?** If you are a visitor, be prepared to show the staff member a valid ID, preferably a driver's license. This will confirm you are not eligible for a card. The librarian will assist you in logging on as a visitor.
- ◆ **What do I do if all the computers are in use?** If all of the computers are currently occupied, the staff member can make a reservation for you. The reservation can be for the next available time slot, or for a future time that same day.
- ◆ **Can I make a reservation for tomorrow?** No, same day reservations are all that are permitted.
- ◆ **If the computer has a future reservation can I still use it?** There has to be at least 15 minutes available before that reservation begins. If you opt to take that session, however short it might be, it counts as one full session.

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- ◆ **How long can I have on the computer?** It all depends! You are allowed to log in for two sessions per day. The length of these sessions is determined by what type of computer you are using and on how busy the library is.

⇒ **Internet/Word Processing Stations:** One full session is one hour. After one hour the computer will allow you to continue for an extra 15 minutes, twice, if no one is waiting.

Printing Procedures

- ◆ **How do I print?** When you select to print, do not exit your computer site until you know your print job pages have actually arrived at the service desk computer (check with the staff member at the desk). The staff member will check and inform you of the total pages received and the cost (10 cents per page). If you agree, the print job is then sent to the printer at the service desk. The staff member will release your prints on payment. You may wish to use the print preview feature to ensure you only print what you need. Please ask for assistance if you have questions.
- ◆ **Can I use my own paper?** Yes, but the same charges apply. The cost of the toner is still involved. The staff is not responsible for problems that might incur when we try to use your paper, envelopes, etc.
- ◆ **What about privacy?** The library respects your privacy. When you send a print job to the service desk it is placed in a queue. On paying for your prints, the staff member releases the print job to the printer. The staff does not see what you have printed.

Guidelines for Internet Use

- ◆ Children age 11 and under must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Everyone using the Internet while in the library must abide by the **Internet Use Policy**, which is posted in each library location.

We look forward to having you visit your Mills River Branch.

Roz Ledford
Volunteer Coordinator
Mills River Branch Library

Brick Pavers for New Mills River Town Center

by Lois Prior and Paula DeLorenzo



The Friends of the Mills River Library are selling 8" x 8" brick pavers that can be engraved as the purchaser wishes, per the sample seen here. (Sample pictures were taken at The Elizabeth House in Hendersonville.) Engravings can contain 16 characters per line, including spaces, and can contain up to 6 lines per paver.

The pavers will be placed along the walkway to the new Mills River Town Hall and Library to be built on the Hooper land that was purchased about a year ago.

Pavers are on sale for \$100 each with all proceeds going to the Mills River Branch Library. Let's all get into this wonderful fundraiser as a way to remember loved ones, ourselves or anything at all!

For additional information or to place an order, please call 684-8425 or 891-5344. Payment will not be due until the orders are submitted, but get your orders in soon and think about what you'd like to have your personal paver say.



Property Tax Relief

North Carolina law provides three (3) types of Property Tax Relief for North Carolina residents. The following is a brief description of Property Tax Relief Programs for which you may qualify. **Further qualifications and more detailed information may be obtained by contacting the Henderson County Tax Assessor's Office.**

Elderly or Disabled Exclusion

This program excludes from property taxes, the greater of \$25,000, or 50%, of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner.

Who is Eligible?

- ◆ A permanent resident of Henderson County, age 65 or older, with an income not exceeding \$25,600,

OR

- ◆ A permanent resident of Henderson County, totally and permanently disabled, with an income not exceeding \$25,600.

Disabled Veteran Exclusion

This program excludes the first \$45,000 of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a North Carolina resident, who is an Honorable Discharged Disabled Veteran, or the unmarried surviving spouse of an Honorable Discharged Disabled Veteran.

Who is Eligible?

- ◆ A permanent resident of Henderson County who is an Honorably Discharged Disabled Veteran who either has (1) has a 100% permanent total disability that is service-connected OR, (2) receives benefits for specially adapted housing under 38 U.S.C. 2101,

OR

- ◆ An unmarried surviving spouse of an Honorably Discharged Disabled Veteran who must also provide proof that the deceased spouse met all the requirements at the time of death.

Circuit Breaker Property Tax Deferment

This program allows taxes billed each year to be limited to a percentage of the qualifying owner's income. However, taxes in excess of the limitation are deferred and remain a lien on the property. The three most current years of deferred taxes prior to a disqualifying event will become due and payable, with interest, on the date of the disqualifying event.

Who is Eligible?

- ◆ A permanent resident of Henderson County, age 65 or older **OR** who is permanently disabled, with an income not exceeding \$38,400, **AND**, who has owned and occupied their residence for at least the last five calendar years prior to January 1 of the year for which this Application is made.

How to Apply for Exemptions or Exclusions

Applications should be filed during the regular listing period, January 1 through January 31, but may be timely filed through June 1.

Applications received after June 1 will be considered untimely.

Request an application by:

- ◆ Telephone - Henderson County Assessor
828-697-4970
- ◆ Visit the Assessor's Office
200 N, Grove St., Suite 102, Hendersonville
8:30 – 5:00 PM
- ◆ Internet website
hendersoncountync.org/ca
- ◆ Written request



HENDERSON COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT MILLS RIVER DIVISION

by Corporal Ken C. McCraw

Happy New Year!

As we end 2008 and begin fresh during 2009, I would like to thank the Mills River community. Thank you for your support of me and for support of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. During the past year, I have attended many community events. Getting to know the people of Mills River has been a pleasure for me. During my duty on patrol I have always been met with a smile, a kind word, or a handshake. I hope the New Year is a safe and happy year for you and your family.

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
5046 Boylston Highway
Suite 3
Mills River NC 28759**