



## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009  
Volume 6, Issue 4

### News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

As I write this article, there is about 12 inches of snow on the ground and the lights are flickering off and on. Gayle (my wife of 25 years) had stocked up earlier on the usual food staples while I got extra calf feed, dog food and fuel for both the generator and tractor. I also had to bring down some firewood from the shed.

When I was younger, I enjoyed getting out and playing in the snow. We used to have community sled rides. No one could afford a sled so we would use whatever was flat and we could hang on to. My father built me one that was made out of used 2x4's and a sheet of plywood. I remember that I was so embarrassed dragging that "thing" to its maiden voyage.

There were many places here in Mills River that were pre-designated "rides." To mention just a few: Wayne Carland's driveway, Larry Roper's Hill, the hay field across from Tom and Beulah Moore's driveway and by far the best was Lissie and Laura Moore's hay field on L. L. Moore Road.

Sometimes I think we have forgotten the simpler things in life. We spend a lot of time and energy trying to stay caught up. Maybe we should slow down and enjoy the things around us, because everything changes.

As always, during this winter, check on your neighbors, the elderly, and don't forget those animals. Make sure you're prepared for bad weather. An extra blanket, batteries and flashlights might come in handy if your power suddenly goes out.

My sled, that I was so embarrassed about, turned out that it could hold half a dozen kids and fly down the "run." You couldn't steer it, but who cared.

*Remember to change those batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and of course all of those flashlights.*

*The Staff and Council would like to wish you a prosperous New Year.*

### THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3  
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Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Monday-Friday  
[info@millsriver.org](mailto:info@millsriver.org)  
[www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org)



### Council Members

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

### Staff

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

Email for Free Newsletter Subscription:  
[newsletter@millsriver.org](mailto:newsletter@millsriver.org)

Website: [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org)

## HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain



Corn has long been the most important crop grown on the fertile river bottom land in the Mills River Valley. Sixty years ago, one could see tall shocks of corn in the fields in the late

fall and winter. Corn possessed the great advantage of permitting convenient storage through the non-growing season and served as a staple food product for farm families and livestock.

One of the more interesting aspects of the early history of corn culture in Mills River is the story of what became known as "Lance Prolific Corn" and its progenitors. The story demonstrates how some progressive local corn growers experimented with seed selection in a systematic quest for higher yields. In some instances, their informed knowledge of the genealogy of their field corn rivaled their knowledge of connections among the extended families who resided in the Mills River community.

It seems that the original variety of corn which later evolved into Lance corn was brought to Henderson County from Rutherford County by Allen Hawkins, who resided in the Shaw's Creek community. Subsequently, Mathery D. Barnett (1839-1922), a Mills River farmer, acquired seed corn from Hawkins. It produced what was described as a deep-grained, red-cob variety of corn with one large ear per stalk. Around 1890, Thomas (Tom) E. Osborne (1857-1956) obtained seed from Barnett and continued the selection process. Following the recommendations of W.F. Massey, a professor at North Carolina State, Osborne carefully selected seed from well-proportioned stalks with two ears over a period of many years. He was honored for his community leadership and his progressive approach to farming by being selected as the county's first "Master Farmer." Reportedly, he was still growing corn at the age of 90.

Osborne eventually shared some of his "Osborne Prolific" seed with M.M. (Mont) Brittain (1859-1927) who grew corn on a farm in upper Mills River. He also exhibited a progressive approach to farming. He selected seed to develop what his neighbor, W.M. (Wash) Lance (1867-1960), called the "Mont Brittain" variety of white field corn. Lance acquired some of the Brittain seed and managed to gain a further increase in yield over a 20 year period. His corn attracted attention early in 1936 when it was announced that the "Lance Pro-

lific" variety had been the winner in comparative tests of 15 varieties of corn. The tests were conducted at the Mountain Experiment Station in Swannanoa. The competing varieties had been planted in four rows, each 20 feet in length, and harvested on 25 October 1935. In a newspaper article about the results, the Henderson County farm agent, G.D. White, mentioned that any local farmer who might decide to try the Lance corn could obtain seed from Lance or by contacting the county agent's office.

In August 1936, Lance's farm was visited during a tour of a number of farms in the county led by White and the assistant county agent, D.W. Bennett. The agents predicted that a "contest acre" at the Lance farm would produce a yield of about 135 bushels. The newspaper story about the tour stated that Lance had adopted a three-year crop rotation schedule with corn followed by wheat and then by red clover. Also, he was using a subsoil plow and applied animal manure periodically. The Lance corn variety became relatively popular over the next several years and performed well in annual corn growing contests in Henderson County. The county agent stressed the importance of corn to the local economy in a talk delivered in January 1939. He reported that about 400,000 bushels of corn had been produced on 15,160 acres of land the previous year with a total value of about \$240,000.

Lance corn and other local varieties began to be replaced by hybrid corn during the 1940s. The acreage devoted to hybrid corn in Henderson County reached 500 acres in 1947 and continued its rapid rise thereafter. The annual corn contest in the county attracted a hundred entrants in 1947 and eight of them obtained a measured yield of more than 100 bushels per acre. The following year, 52 local farmers were reported to have qualified for the "100 bushel an acre club." In 1948, about 12,500 acres, of the total of 33,000 acres, of crop land in the county was planted in corn with a total yield of about 500,000 bushels.

Corn still is being grown in the bottom lands of Mills River, but the methods of planting, weeding, and harvesting have changed remarkably since World War II. Corn growers no longer save seed corn or acquire seed from a neighbor but instead purchase hybrid seed. The old-time farmers who used the traditional ways described above would be amazed at the density of planting, and heavy application of liquid-fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides now used with no intermediate work required between planting and harvesting. The harvesting now generally is done using machines which chop the stalks and ears into silage that is transported to store in a silo.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Beer Can Chicken

by Sue Hatch

- 1 whole chicken (4 – 5 lbs)
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 can (preferably 16 oz) beer
- Beer-can chicken rub (see below)

Rinse chicken inside and out and pat dry. Brush all over, inside and out, with the oil and season inside and out with the rub.

Open and drink half the beer. Set the half-full can on a flat pan and slide the chicken over the top so the can fits inside the cavity. Bake 1 ½ hours at 350 degrees, or until inside temperature is 170 degrees in the breast area. Let rest 10 minutes before removing the beer can.

Carefully remove the chicken from the can, being careful not to spill the hot beer. You can poke holes in the can to let the beer drain out first. Discard the beer and serve warm.

Rub:

In a small bowl combine

- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp grated onion
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp coriander
- ½ tsp cumin
- ½ tsp black pepper

**Enjoy!**

## MEETING & OTHER DATES

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 18	Martin Luther King Town Hall Closed	
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

Feb 2	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Feb 9	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Feb 10	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Feb 11	Town Council	7:00 PM
Feb 16	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Feb 19	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Feb 23	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Feb 25	Town Council	7:00 PM

Mar 2	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Mar 10	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Mar 11	Town Council	7:00 PM
Mar 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
Mar 16	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Mar 19	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Mar 23	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
Mar 25	Town Council	7:00 PM

Apr 2	Good Friday	Town Hall Closed
Apr 6	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 8	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 13	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Apr 14	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Apr 16	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
Apr 20	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Apr 20	LGCCA-Mills River	3:00 PM
Apr 22	Town Council	7:00 PM
Apr 27	Parks and Recreation	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](mailto: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 INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **VOLUNTEER for Town Board or Committee**

Volunteers are an invaluable asset to the Town. Opportunities to serve include the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Finance Committee, or Agricultural Advisory Committee. If you are interested in becoming more involved in your community, fill out an application (one per committee of interest) and return it to the address below. Applications can be found at [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org) or are available at the Town Hall.

Town of Mills River  
ATTN: Town Clerk  
5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3  
Mills River, NC 28759

Forms will be kept on file for two (2) years. As openings occur, applications on file are reviewed, and appointments are made by Council.

## New Mills River Town Council Member

by Paula DeLorenzo

On December 10, 2009 the Town of Mills River welcomed Larry B. Freeman as its new district one councilman. Mr. Freeman was sworn in by District Court Judge Mack Brittain.

Born in Hendersonville at the old Patton Memorial Hospital, Larry attended school in the old Hendersonville City School system. Thereafter he studied Political Science at UNCA.



From Left to Right: Roger Snyder, Lois Pryor, Larry Freeman, Shanon Gonce & Wayne Carland

Mr. Freeman has been in broadcasting since he was fifteen years old. He started at WHKP doing odd jobs and also worked for Channel 13 during college. Larry worked in Spartanburg during his twenties for WSPA, Channel 7, for a couple years and then returned to Hendersonville. He is now in his 46<sup>th</sup> year at WHKP and currently serves as program director and news director.

Larry married Karen Morgan, a Mills River native, whose family farms and raises cows. They have four children, Dena, Andrea, Jennifer and Vance, and three grandchildren, all of whom live in the area.

Mr. Freeman has been involved in community service his entire adult life. He currently serves on the Pardee Hospital Board and has done so for the last six years. Larry has also served on the Henderson County Planning Board and Henderson County Courthouse Commission, just to name a couple of his past service ventures.

Please join me in welcoming Larry Freeman as a concerned Mills River resident whose goal it is to be involved in helping with the upcoming challenges the Town and its residents will face.



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## Mills River Branch Library

by Paula DeLorenzo



Our own Roz Ledford was chosen as 2009 Volunteer of the Year in the mountain area by the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries for her dedication to the Mills River Branch Library. Congratulations, Roz, and thank you from all of us in Mills River!!!

Also our Town Councilwoman, Lois Pryor, accepted an

award from the same organization for the work done by the Friends of the Mills River Branch Library – a non-profit foundation that helps to raise money for our Mills River Branch Library. Congratulations, Lois, and thank you from all of us in Mills River!



We are blessed to have such dedicated residents in our wonderful town! Please take advantage of the fantastic service provided by our town library.

### 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.**

## Mills River Christmas Tree Lighting

by Paula DeLorenzo



On December 6, 2009 the Mills River Recreational Foundation, Inc. sponsored a fundraiser for the benefit of the proposed Mills River Park. There was hot chocolate, cookies, Christmas tree balls to sign and hang on the tree and, of course, Santa and his Elf!

A good time was had by all who attended in spite of how bitterly cold it was that day!!



The foundation officers are Shane Swekosky, Jollene Austin and Lacy Dylowski.

If you would like make a donation to this foundation you can do so at Mills River Physical Therapy or you can call Shane with any questions you might have at 329-3105.



## Winter Fire Safety Tips for the Home

by Jeannie Pfeffer



Heating our homes has become increasingly more expensive. The high cost of fuel and utilities has left many people searching for ways to save money. This resulted in residents using alternate forms of heating, like wood stoves, space heaters, fireplaces, man-made logs, and other potentially dangerous methods. When used safely these may be acceptable, but they play a major role in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. Mills River Fire and Rescue and FEMA encourage you to follow these safety tips to maintain a fire safe home this winter.

### Kerosene Heaters

- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Purchase only heaters with an emergency shut off, in case the heater is tipped over.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper ventilation. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene or propane, for example) can produce carbon monoxide. Be sure you have working carbon monoxide alarm.
- Use only proper fuels for that particular heater.
- Keep kerosene and other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well-ventilated areas, outside of the house.
- Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. Do not use cold fuel because it may expand in the tank as it warms up, causing overflow.
- Refueling should be done outside of the home.
- Keep young children away from space heaters, especially when they are wearing loose-fitting clothing that can be easily ignited.
- When using a fuel-burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a build-up of carbon monoxide.

### Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance – at least 36 inches – from combustible surfaces, and have proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have a chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used in some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire in a fireplace or wood stove.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from escaping and causing a fire or burns.
- A wood-burning stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15 to 30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. Overbuilding the fire could ignite creosote in the chimney.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper can help rekindle the fire, forcing toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire, and never use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

### Furnace Heating

- It's important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well-supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams can indicate a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use oven as a supplemental heating device. It is a safety hazard and can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Use only extension cords that have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blowtorch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the inside of the wall. Use hot water or a UL-labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event of a fire. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of obstacles so it can be easily located.
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check, clean and test it on a monthly basis.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- Contact Mills River Fire and Rescue for any further questions or problems. 828-891-7959.

**SHERIFF**



**HENDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
MILLS RIVER DIVISION**

by Corporal Ken C. McCraw—Have a Happy New Year!

Please check the Henderson County Sheriff's Office website at [www.henderson.lib.nc.us/county/sheriff](http://www.henderson.lib.nc.us/county/sheriff) for links and information regarding identity theft, Community Watch programs, and crime prevention.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. As we enter into a new year, I want to remind everyone to drive safely. Below are a few driving reminders:

- Obey all posted speed limits
- Observe speed regulations in school zones
- Slow down and use caution during times of inclement weather
- Wear your seat belt
- Watch out for children around schools and near school buses
- Come to complete stops at all stop signs
- Turn your headlights when operating your windshield wipers in the rain
- Please properly secure children in the correct child seats for their weight and age
- Increase your following distance in traffic
- Make sure your vehicle is in safe operating condition (tires, lights, signals, wiper blades, brakes, etc.)

**For Emergencies—911 Non-Emergencies—697-4911 NC Highway Patrol—693-4141**

**The Town of Mills River  
5046 Boylston Highway  
Suite 3  
Mills River NC 28759**