



NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication of the government of the Town of Mills River

Winter2012
Volume 9, Issue 4

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

I'm putting my safety tips at the top of the column this time in hope that more people will read them:

- Change all those home detector batteries
- Don't leave your home with any appliance running or turned on
- Changed your flashlight batteries
- Service your vehicles

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 went out.

I like to see people volunteering in the community whether it is at your local school, church, or other organizations – get involved. There are almost always volunteer opportunities on Town of Mills River boards and committees.

Sierra Nevada

I've received a lot of questions about Sierra Nevada. Construction is on track for the brewery to be open by July. They have asked Blue Ridge Community College to administer potential job applications and they plan to have a "job fair" in March. So if you're interested, dust off that resume, update your references, and be prepared.

Town Park

We're looking at adding several new things in the Park next year. Fishing Pier, Small Boat Launch, and another walking trail loop just to name a few. The complete conceptual plan is available at Town Hall.



THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

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HISTORY CORNER

by Jim Brittain

My collection of old photographs from my early years at Mills River included one of a Hereford cow and her calf standing near a watering trough fabricated from a chestnut log. The scene is suggestive and leads to reflections on the nexus of water, wood and livestock on a small family farm. In particular, the old picture taken around 1950 shows one element of a water distribution system developed by my father to facilitate the use of water from a spring for several purposes. The chestnut trough actually served as the final stage in the system which delivered water to the kitchen in our house and to a small reservoir in the dairy room before supplying water to the trough with drinking water for our livestock.

Although I do not recall any discussion of the early history of our water system with my father, it seems likely that the site for our house, constructed about 1935, was chosen carefully so that a pipe would deliver water from the spring to the house without requiring the installation of a hydraulic ram or hand pump. The older Brittain house across the river where I was born and lived until we moved in the winter of 1935-36 had depended on water drawn from a hand-dug well with a bucket and chain. The spring for our new home was a reliable source but not ideal since the water came out of the ground at more than one location. However, it did prove possible to collect enough at one location to fill a small wooden reservoir and serve our needs fairly well. A close examination of the site of the spring box relative to the kitchen faucet suggests that the elevation differential was barely adequate for water flow. I would speculate that my father undertook a measurement, perhaps using a carpenter's level, to make sure that the house site was not too high to permit water delivery from the spring.

Another of my old photographs shows that the water line entered the east side of the house via a short vertical section of pipe rising to perhaps six feet from ground level. This section was protected from freezing in cold weather by being enclosed by a short wooden enclosure nailed to the outside wall of the house. The water pipe fed a kitchen faucet located at the corner of the kitchen. When the faucet was turned off, as it was most of the time, the water line delivered water into the adjacent dairy room where it filled a concrete reservoir. Stoneware milk containers were placed in the pool of water for cooling until needed. Actually, there was ample water and space to enable me to use it as an indoor "trout pond" for rainbow trout brought home from the river. One of them attained a length of well over a foot before it suffocated due to a temporary interruption of the flow. The reservoir was fitted with an exit pipe that carried the outflow outside the house where it flowed downhill to a branch a short distance east of the house.

As I recall, the chestnut trough was added soon after we acquired a draft horse in the early 1940's. Since the horse needed a better place to drink than from the branch, my father decided to build a trough from a log cut from a large chestnut tree. Being familiar with the longevity of chestnut wood, he cut a log of perhaps ten feet in length and used the horse to drag it to the site where it would become a trough. Using an ax and other wood-working tools, he converted the log into what resembled a dug-out canoe except that it was designed to keep the water in instead of out.

The resulting trough was leveled and then filled with water from the outlet of our dairy room. Ultimately, the recycled water from the house that supplied drinking water for the horse and cattle was returned to the branch which flowed to the North Fork of Mills River. Our water system was somewhat unusual but proved to be an adequate one to supply the needs of a small mountain farm. Also, there was no monthly utility bill to pay for water.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

As we constantly try to improve the newsletter, we welcome your input. We would appreciate your comments, ideas, and suggestions on anything that relates to the newsletter. Please take the time and fill out this short survey and get it back to us. You can fax it to us at 890-2903, drop it in the regular mail (please remember to affix postage), or email it to us at aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org

How do you like the format or layout: _____

Are the articles well written? _____

Do the articles pertain to issues that are of interest to you? _____

What other subjects would you like to see covered in further issues: _____

Do you have any suggestions?

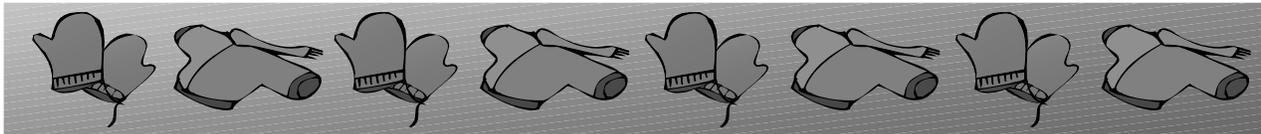
Would you be interested in helping with the newsletter?

Thank You for Your Input!

SPOTLIGHT ON MILLS RIVER RESIDENT...HOLLY WILSON

by: Kathryn Finotti

- How long have you been a resident of Mills River?
I've lived here now for about six years.
- Where is your hometown?
I was born in Raleigh, North Carolina
- What kind of work do you do?
I work as a cashier at Walmart.
- Do you have a family?
In Raleigh I have two sisters that still live at home with my Mom.
- Do you have pets?
Yes. I have a cat named Rocky...he's my baby.
- What is your favorite pastime or hobby?
I don't really have a hobby. I do love to read though.
- What is your favorite meal?
I'm very partial to Italian food, especially homemade lasagna.
- Where do you go for vacation?
I haven't had a vacation in a few years. I love to go to the beach, any beach.
- What is the most interesting place you've ever been?
I would have to say out west...Arizona. Because that's the only place I've been besides North Carolina.
- Do you have a favorite actor or singer?
Alan Jackson is my favorite.
- Do you have a favorite activity here in Mills River?
I love to go kayaking with my friends on the French Broad River.
- What is your favorite season?
That would be summer! Summer in the mountains is beautiful.



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Mills River Business Association



Mark your calendar for February 12, 2013
"Mingle in Mills River After 5 Networking"
At Valley Ag Farm and Garden, 5:30 to 7:30pm

MRBA meetings are held every other Tuesday at Mills River
Community Center @ 6:30pm

To join the MRBA email:
sadell@millsriverbusiness.com www.millsriverbusiness.com
www.facebook.com/Millsriverbusiness

Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around

by Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer

Mills River Fire and Rescue Reinforces Newer Smoke Alarm Recommendations

"Many homes in Mills River may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working," says Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Mills River Fire Department. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is **10 years old or older**, it needs to be replaced."

According to Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Mills River residents can feel free to contact the fire department for more information about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect their loved ones from fire.

Interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

Mills River Fire and Rescue offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace **ALL** smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, **when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.**
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

For more information regarding smoke alarms or other fire prevention or life safety programs, please contact Jeannie Moore-Pfeffer with Mills River Fire Department at 828-891-7959.

MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

The Mills River Branch Library will be closed January 1, 2013, for New Year's Day and closed on January 21, 2013, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We encourage you and your children to join Ms. Kathy for our Family Story Time every Monday at 10:00 a.m. Each session is approximately 30 minutes long and is filled with stories, songs, crafts and more.

The Mills River Branch will offer a Kindle class on February 7, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. In this presentation, you will learn how to access and download the Library's free e-books.

Please call the Branch at 890-1850, or stop by, if we can be of assistance to you and your family with your library questions or needs. We are going to have a great 2013!!!



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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 accepts small business ads. These ads should be business card size (preferably the card itself) and black and white. There is no guarantee of ad or print quality. The company must do business within the town limits, but not necessarily have its location in the town. There is a \$50 fee for each quarterly advertisement and since there is a limited amount of space, ads will be taken on a first come, first served basis. The payment must accompany the ad and should be labeled for the newsletter. The fee collected goes directly for newsletter costs. Site selection within the newsletter is to be determined by the newsletter editors. The editors reserve the right to refuse an ad. Both ad and payment will be returned if this occurs.

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:

Aurelie Taylor
Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River, NC 28759

or by email to aurelie.taylor@millsriver.org. Articles can also be dropped off at the Mills River Town Hall. If you need assistance, have questions or need more information, feel free to call Aurelie at (828) 890-2901 or email.

**The Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River NC 28759**

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

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.

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office continues to see vehicle break-ins in residential and business areas as one of our highest reported crimes. Here are some tips that may keep you from being a victim of a vehicle breaking and entering.

- ◆ Be sure to lock your vehicle and remove all valuables from the passenger compartment no matter where your vehicle may be parked.
- ◆ If you have items that must be left in your vehicle while shopping or otherwise, secure them in the trunk of the vehicle when possible.
- ◆ If you use a GPS unit, always wipe the suction cup ring off of the windshield and remove the unit from the vehicle including the power cord.
- ◆ Park in a spot that has a lot of foot traffic and is well lit.
- ◆ Engage your car alarm if your vehicle is so equipped.
- ◆ When you exit or enter your parked vehicle please be beware of your surroundings.

Here are a few steps to follow if you are the victim of a vehicle break in or you observe a possible vehicle break in occurring in your neighborhood.

- ◆ Please report the incident to the Henderson Sheriff's Office immediately.
- ◆ Remain on the line with the communication center as long as possible.
- ◆ Provide as much information as possible to the communications center to include your location, description of the suspect, direction of travel, and any possible modes of travel.
- ◆ Remember your safety is of utmost concern and a confrontation with a suspect could cause them to become aggressive.

For Emergencies: 911 Non-emergencies: 828-697-4911 NC Highway Patrol: 828-693-4141