



# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009  
Volume 6, Issue 1

## News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

### Boylston Creek

Council is following this project very closely. The State initiated a study two years ago to analyze whether the creek could support a trout habitat and re-population. North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ) wants to upgrade the classification of the creek to a "Class C – Trout Stream." This will place additional restrictions not only on Boylston Creek but also its tributaries. The current study area is in the Boylston Community and goes to the headwaters located inside Transylvania County. Town Council is very much against this reclassification as is the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners. Check [www.millsriver.org](http://www.millsriver.org) for additional information.

### Farmer's Tailgate Market

Mills River's Agricultural Advisory Committee is looking into establishing a tailgate market for local producers. It is still a "work in progress." Look for some public meetings in the near future. If you are interested, let us know.

### Mills River Fire Department

Congratulations to the Fire Department. They have recently received word that their insurance rating improved from a Class 5 to a Class 4. This lower rating benefits Mills River.

### Traffic Safety

You might have noticed that the farmers are gearing up for the Spring planting season. Tractors and equipment will be using the roads very soon, so please give them a wide berth as you travel. They want to get off the roads as soon as possible.

### Mills River Library

Our Library will soon have been open for 4 years. I want to give our many volunteers a sincere "Thank You" for a job well done. If you haven't visited, please do so at your next opportunity. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, let us know.

*.....and as always, if the Council and Staff can be of any assistance...please let us know.*



## 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](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

## 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



A new substation to be used by the Mills River Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was completed on North Mills River Road in September 2008.

It was named for George Mullinax and located on a site that was part of the Mullinax homeplace. Those who drive past the station might be interested in learning more about the life and times of Mullinax and his family.

George's father, Meadow M. Mullinax (1835-1925), spent his early years in South Carolina and served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. In 1863, he married Phoebe Anders (1843-1928) and they became the parents of one daughter and six sons, including George W. Mullinax (1880-1968). Meadows and his family came to Mills River after the War. He purchased approximately 150 acres of farm land near North Mills River from Solomon Whitaker in 1877. Meadows later augmented his land holdings by the purchase of nearly 100 additional acres from Leander Brittain and the heirs of Francis M. Brittain in 1897. Despite a physical handicap from a wound received in the War, Meadows earned a reputation as a frugal and industrious farmer. His wife worked long hours at the weaving loom. Their daughter, Dicie Mullinax (1873-1960), married Will McElrath (1889-1958) and they made their home on a large tract of land on Seniard Creek, a tributary of North Mills River.

George Mullinax spent his life as a farmer-craftsman on upper Mills River. As a teenager, he took produce from the family farm to sell at logging camps on Big Creek. About a half century later he recalled some of his early experiences during a hike in the Big Creek watershed with my father and me. George showed us the remains of old splash dams on Fletcher Creek and Big Creek that had been used to impound water to help float logs downstream. He also guided us to the isolated grave of an early settler located on a ridge near Spencer Branch.

George married Julia (Myrtle) Cairnes (1897-1948), a resident of South Mills River and they became the parents of a daughter who died as an infant in 1921 and a son, John P. Mullinax (1922-1982). George added to his land holdings in 1919 when he purchased about forty acres on South Mills River from Clifford Field. I remember him using a path through our place to reach his South Mills River property.

George became a skilled stone mason who fabricated

numerous chimneys and grave markers from soapstone. He also made stone flower pots for my mother and others in the neighborhood and we took our cross-cut saw to him for sharpening. I well remember a small wooden toy truck that he made for my mother to give me for Christmas one year. A few years later he carved a miniature double ox yoke which I received on another Christmas.

The Mullinaxes were among the first of our neighbors to have a battery powered radio. Sometime in 1938, they invited my father and me to listen to a broadcast of a heavyweight prize fight one evening. John Mullinax was quite active in the Future Farmers of America while attending high school in Mills River. He was selected "Star Farmer" of Henderson and Transylvania Counties in 1940. He was a member of the seed judging team and a delegate to the state FFA convention for two years. In June, 1941, he was awarded the North Carolina Farmer degree by the FFA as recognition for his outstanding record in agriculture. He served under General George Patton in Europe during World War II. After the War, he returned to Mills River and participated in a Veterans Farm Training Program. He ranked first in the state in a corn growing contest in 1947 with a yield of 131 bushels per acre. His winning corn patch was planted in a grid pattern featuring equal spacing of the stalks of hybrid corn. At about that time he acquired a John Deere tractor. I still remember the distinctive sound it made when he drove it down River Loop Road.

George Mullinax and his wife are buried at the Sitton-Gillespie Cemetery on South Mills River. The family burial plot has an attractive border of river rock constructed by George a few years prior to his death. The old Mullinax home, which served as something of a landmark in the community, was burned down intentionally in 2008 as part of a training exercise for local firefighters. Alice Mullinax Krebs, the daughter of John P. Mullinax and Eleanor Quist Mullinax (1928-2006), generously donated property to serve as the site of the new fire station.

### LOOKING FOR DIRECTION IN THIS VOLATILE MARKET? LET'S TALK.

**Jollene J Austin**  
Financial Advisor

Suite 5 5046 Boylston Hwy  
Mills River, NC 28759  
828-890-2791

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



## RECIPE CORNER

### Honey-Pecan Chicken by Lois Pryor

2 TB lite soy sauce  
 2 TB honey  
 2 cups wheat cereal squares, crushed  
 1/3 cup finely chopped pecans  
 1 TS salt  
 1 TS pepper  
 6 skinned and boned chicken breast halves  
 Vegetable cooking spray

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees
- Stir together soy sauce and honey and set aside
- Combine cereal crumbs and pecans
- Sprinkle salt and pepper evenly over chicken
- Dip both sides of chicken breast in soy sauce mixture
- Dredge in crumb mixture to coat
- Arrange chicken breasts on an aluminum foil lined baking sheet coated with cooking spray
- Bake at 425 for 15 to 20 minutes

## MEETING & OTHER DATES

April 7	Planning Board	7:30 PM
April 9	Town Council	7:00 PM
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Town Hall Closed</b>
April 14	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
April 15	Finance Committee (Date Changed)	7:00 PM
April 17	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
April 21	Planning Board	7:30 PM
April 23	Town Council	7:00 PM
April 28	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
May 5	Planning Board	7:30 PM
May 13	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
May 14	Town Council	7:00 PM
May 15	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
May 19	Planning Board	7:30 PM
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>Town Hall Closed</b>
May 26	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
May 28	Town Council	7:00 PM
June 2	Planning Board	7:30 PM
June 9	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
June 10	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
June 11	Town Council	7:00 PM
June 16	Planning Board	7:30 PM
June 19	Agricultural Advisory	9:00 AM
June 23	Parks and Recreation	7:00 PM
June 25	Town Council	7:00 PM



## THE HISTORY OF MILLS RIVER SCHOOL BY MICHELE EVANS BURNETTE (1997)

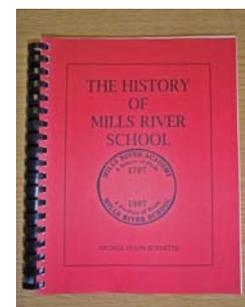
by Roz Ledford

Mills River School was founded two-hundred years ago in 1797, only 21 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and more than 40 years before the State of North Carolina established the public school system.

By giving 10 acres of his farm in 1797, James Brittain II, an American Revolutionary War soldier who had settled in the Mills River area in the 1780's, helped start the first school in the territory that would become Henderson County. Community residents built a small log building on this acreage and the Reverend David Haddon taught the first school. It is not known how long he taught there; however, the next known teacher was Michael Francis, a Scotsman educated in Edinburg who took charge of the school about 1820. Thus was started what we know as Mills River School.

If you would like to own a copy of *The History of Mills River School*, orders are being taken through April 30, 2009. Cost is \$20 per copy. Should you want to review the book prior to ordering, a copy resides in the Reference Section of the Mills River Branch Library at 4683 Boylston Highway (across from Food Lion).

Orders can be placed by contacting:  
Opal Moore  
5037 Boylston Highway  
Mills River, NC 28759  
828-891-5134



## 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](mailto: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.

You Can Count on Me



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## PARKS COMMITTEE SPRING UPDATE

by Pat Christie



Since the last newsletter update, the Parks committee has been working towards developing a conceptual plan for the park. With the support of the Town Council, the committee has enlisted the help of a consultant with the actual drawing of this plan. It will be based on the input we received last April from the town's citizens. Upon receipt of the first draft, we will make the plan available to the public for input and comment. Stay tuned for further details.

The committee also has been discussing the need for a non-profit organization to help in raising funds for the park. In the future, we are looking to apply for a grant that is designed to help towns like ours to build new parks. This grant requires matching funds and a non-profit organization could help with our efforts to do that. If you or someone you know would like to become involved with this non-profit board, which is a separate entity from the town, please contact any parks advisory committee member or Jolene Austin at 828-699-7575.

## NEWS FROM YOUR MILLS RIVER BRANCH LIBRARY

by Roz Ledford

It is the mission of the Henderson County Public Library to provide the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational resources for all residents of Henderson County. Your Mills River Branch staff (all volunteers) supports this mission and will make every effort to assist you in all aspects of your Library needs. Please stop in at the Branch or call 890-1850 if we can assist you.

### Revised Hours for Mills River Branch Library effective April 1, 2009

To better serve the Mills River Community, beginning April 1, the hours for the Mills River Branch Library will be:

Monday – Thursday	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday	1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Story Time: Tuesday & Thursday	11:00 a.m.

### Library Cards

Henderson County residents and those who work, own property, or attend school in the county can acquire a library card at no charge by presenting proper identification - a picture ID (such as a North Carolina drivers license) with a current address is a good example. A parent or guardian must be present for a child under the age of 14 to be issued a card. Replacement fee for a lost card is \$2.00.

### Library Computer Services

All Henderson County Library Branches have Internet access and computers with Microsoft Office applications. Computers are available on a walk-in basis. The Mills River Branch also provides wireless Internet access.

### Library Web Site

From the Library web site you can search the library catalog, manage your account, renew items, and reserve items. The web site includes information on upcoming programs for adults, children and teens. Also from the comfort of your home you can use many reference resources from our Research Tools section. Check out our web site: [www.henderson.lib.nc.us](http://www.henderson.lib.nc.us)

### Gifts and Memorials

Donating funds to purchase a book for the Library is a wonderful way to remember a departed loved one. The Henderson County librarians purchase a book and a bookplate to be placed inside the cover with the name of the person being honored. The name of any individual receiving an aggregate of \$500 in memorial gifts will be added to a plaque in the West lobby of the Main Library (in Hendersonville). In addition, the name of any individual who donates \$500 or more to the Library will be added to a plaque in the lobby of the Main Library (in Hendersonville).



## MILLS RIVER FIRE & RESCUE

by Rick Livingston – Fire Chief

With the arrival of Spring and all of its beauty, also comes a period of time which is typically very busy for firefighters. This is a time when many people are burning lawn debris which leads to wildfire. This year is of particular concern to all in the fire service due to budget related cuts within the N.C. Forest Service ranks.

Normally, the N.C. Forest Service provides a huge amount of assistance to local fire departments for wildfire suppression. This assistance is most often in the form of personnel, apparatus, heavy equipment and aircraft. However, due to the budget situation in our state, very few of the resources normally available to us will be available for at least a year. The message to remember from all this is, please be careful with all your outdoor burning, and don't burn at all if you have the option of composting, chipping, etc.

Hopefully, everyone is already aware of our rating classification improvement and how it might affect you. Mills River Fire Department completed our inspection in the fall of 2008 and was notified in January, 2009 that our rating has improved to a Class 4. This will result in a substantial insurance savings for all commercial property owners. It is possible that residential property owners were already receiving the best rate possible, however I do rec-

ommend that every property owner contact your insurance agent and make them aware of this change. It may be that some residential property owners will also see a savings on their insurance premiums.

I hope that everyone in our fire district realizes what a huge accomplishment this is for a rural fire department such as ours. We made this happen with one of the lowest fire tax rates anywhere in this area and with only two paid career firefighters. Fifty-eight out of sixty Mills River Firefighters are volunteers who freely donate a huge amount of their time for training and responding to emergency calls. They deserve a pat on the back when you see them.

Lastly, we are still planning for an open house and dedication for our substation on North Mills River Road. Mrs. Alice Krebs, who donated the property for this station, now lives in South Dakota with her husband and has been experiencing health problems for quite some time. Obviously, we would like them to attend this event with us and we will schedule this when they are able to travel and be here. We will get the word out when a date is set.

Have a wonderful and safe Spring.

### SPRING FLING SOCK HOP

by Paula DeLorenzo

Please enjoy the pictorial report of the Sock Hop held at the old Mills River High School Gym (current Mills River Elementary School Gym) on March 21<sup>st</sup>! Many of the graduates of the old Mills River High School were in attendance. There was fun to be had for all...dancing to the oldies, delicious ice cream sundaes and ice cream sodas, hot dogs, chips, drinks, jewelry to be purchased and a 50/50 raffle. The Sock Hop was sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of MRVF & RD.



**The Henderson County Chamber urges everyone to continue to *Shop & Dine Henderson County*. Now, more than ever before, local businesses need the support of local consumers.**

Shopping locally not only benefits our merchants and their employees, it adds to local government revenue in the form of sales tax dollars. North Carolina collects a 6.75-cent sales tax on every dollar spent - 2.25 of those cents are returned to the county in which the taxed items were purchased. Sales taxes collected by Henderson County businesses make up over 20% of the county's budget and between 20-30% of our municipalities' budget, which provides for school needs, infrastructure and countless other items we enjoy and expect as residents here.

**But what happens when Henderson County shoppers travel to Asheville or Greenville to do their shopping?**

The phenomenon is termed "leakage," and it amounts to an estimated \$157 million annually being spent outside Henderson County. 2.25% of these expenditures (\$3,000,000 + annually) will go to the county or community where the tax was collected. If those tax dollars stayed in Henderson County, many of our county programs and benefits could be enhanced and other forms of taxation or tax increases could be prevented.

## **TOP TEN REASONS TO SHOP & DINE LOCALLY**



### **1. Keep the Dollars in Our Local Economy**

When you shop in our community, you simultaneously create jobs, fund more services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement, and promote community development.

### **2. Local Business Owners Invest in Community**

Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's future.

### **3. Support Community Businesses**

The well-being of a community benefits when you shop locally. Our area businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities, contributing to local charities, supporting sports teams, festivals, service clubs, school activities and the list goes on.

### **4. It's in Your Backyard**

Win – Win. Reduce your environmental footprint and save money at the same time. Shopping in Henderson County means no need for long drives and overnight stays. You're not burning fuel and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Everything you need is right here in our own backyard.

### **5. Consider What Our Retailers Are Facing**

They purchased their stock six months ago for \$100 hoping to sell it today for \$120, pay their employees, pay their taxes, heat and hydro, donate to charity, and hopefully pay themselves. Instead they are being asked to sell it for \$80.

### **6. More Jobs and Wages**

Supporting our local merchants means more jobs and better wages for our community. These wages, in turn, are spent again in our community as employees purchase goods and services from local merchants.

### **7. Keep Our City Unique**

We have a variety of unique specialty shops and products. These businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of our community. Our tourism industry benefits from this. When people go on vacation they seek out destinations that offer them the sense of being someplace special. By choosing to support local businesses you help maintain our diversity and distinct flavor.

### **8. Get Better Service**

Our area merchants take pride in hiring the right people who are passionate about their products and services....let's support them by shopping locally. And consider if you have a problem with the item you have purchased you can easily return it to a local merchant for service where this is not as easily accomplished with a foreign purchase.

### **9. Lots of Great Products**

With so many great stores, markets, restaurants and crafters, the choices are endless. There is a broad range of products available.

### **10. We love our Community – Let's Keep our Money Here**

We can encourage local prosperity by keeping our hard earned dollars in our local economy.



**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](http://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**  
**5046 Boylston Highway**  
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**Mills River NC 28759**