



Newsletter

Fall 2006
Volume 3, Issue 3

News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

Town Manager

We would like to welcome Jaime Adrignola as our new Town Manager. She is a native of Eto-wah and graduated from West Henderson High School and NC State. Jaime will be serving in a couple of different areas as Town Manager, Planning & Zoning Administrator, and the Town's Budget Officer. If you haven't met her yet, stop by Town Hall.

Zip Code

We continue to make small progress in getting our new zip code recognized. We are still having some package delivery issues, but we are working through them with both the US Postal Service and the delivery services. Also, we are finally getting insurance services to recognize the new zip code. If you experience problems, let us know and we will forward the issues to the proper people.

Post Office

We continue to seek the upgrade of services at our "Courtesy Center." We have been in constant contact with Representative Charles Taylor and Senator Elizabeth Dole's offices for their help in the Town's long term goals of establishing a permanent facility.

Library

Our "branch" library continues to perform exceptionally well, actually better than ever anticipated. We want to sincerely thank all the volunteers that do such an outstanding job. If you would like to volunteer your services or time, feel free to contact us or just stop by the library.

New Sign Ordinance

The Town has enacted a new sign ordinance that went into effect October 1, 2006. The Council has also asked the Town Manager to provide education to both the citizens and businesses for the months of October and November.

Committees

We are always looking for residents to serve on our various committees; feel free to drop by Town Hall and pick up an application.

And as always, the Council and Staff are here to serve you — our citizens. If for some reason you need our assistance on any matter, feel free to contact us.



THE TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

5046 Boylston Highway, Suite 3
Post Office Box 189
Horse Shoe, NC 28742
OFFICE: 828-890-2901 FAX: 828-890-2903
Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Monday-Friday
info@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 Laughter Adrignola
jaime.adrignola@millsriver.org
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Susan L. Powell
susan.powell@millsriver.org
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History Corner

by Jim Brittain



Before the advent of television, cell phones, and the Internet, residents of Mills River were dependent on other means of communication and entertainment including letters, telephones, and radios. For nearly three decades, those who lived in upper Mills River could send and receive mail by walking or riding a horse to one of two post offices known as Pink Bed and Sitton. One of several locations of the Pink Bed Post Office was a small building which still survives on Whitaker Lane. The normal schedule was for someone from the postmaster's family to pick up mail at the Angeline Post Office on Jeffress Road in Lower Mills River and bring it to the Pink Bed Office. The Sitton Post Office was in the home of Silas Sitton on South Mills River where mail was also brought from Angeline. Both the Pink Bed and Sitton offices closed in 1904 with the inauguration of rural free delivery service by a carrier who delivered mail to individual mail boxes from Horse Shoe.

A revolutionary new method of communication, the telephone, was patented by A.G. Bell in 1876. However the lines of the Bell System were relatively slow to expand to rural areas which led many communities to install so-called "party lines" owned and operated locally. One such line was constructed on Upper Mills River during the winter of 1912-13. Initially, the line connected about ten homes although several more were added later. The subscribers shared the cost of installation of the system and maintenance. A local resident, Ruddyard K. Whitaker, maintained the line and performed the necessary repairs for many years. By 1912, the telephone apparatus had become relatively standardized and durable, except for transmitter batteries which required replacement periodically.

Each home on the party line was equipped with a wall-mounted instrument with a "generator box" mounted at the top of a "mounting board." The generator box had a small hand crank on its side and two gongs or call bells on its front. The box contained a magneto-electric current which was carried by the telephone line to all houses on the circuit causing their call bells to ring. Each subscriber was assigned a unique coded signal such as one long and two short rings. In theory, only the party called would answer, but, in practice, anyone on the system could eavesdrop on conversations. One short ring served to indicate completion of a call while five long rings alerted everyone to pick up their receiver for a message intended for everyone. For example, it could summon help from neighbors in case of a fire or an accident. Each phone included a "butterstamp" receiver placed on a hook switch when not in use and held near the year when listening to a

call. The device was shaped much like the butterstamps commonly used at the time to stamp a decorative pattern on home-produced butter.

The transmitter of the telephone was mounted below the generator box and consisted of a carbon microphone with a bell-stamped mouth-piece and an induction coil. The microphone was connected to a dry-cell battery housed in a "battery box" located near the bottom of the mounting board. The typical telephone battery of the time was the "Columbia" dry cell manufactured by the National Carbon Company. It used carbon and zinc electrodes separated by a cardboard tube and took the form of a cylinder about six inches in length. Speaking into the microphone varied the resistance in the battery circuit and produced a voice-modulated current which, in turn, was transmitted by the phone line to a remote receiver. The hook switch served to switch the battery-powered talking circuit into the active mode and to interrupt the ring circuit when the receiver was picked up.

The Mills River party line proved useful in a variety of ways for about three decades until it was supplemented by the arrival of the lines of Southern Bell. Parents could chat with married children who still lived in the community, and young people could plan a party or share news of trips or other activities. Farmers could recruit help when needed or the community doctor could be summoned to attend a birthing or treat the sick. Interestingly, even the first Bell lines in the valley were two party lines although usually limited to four or eight customers per line.

Radio communication was also a 19th century innovation although the era of radio broadcasting did not begin until 1920 when the famous station KDKA in Pittsburgh went on the air. It was quickly followed by many other broadcast stations around the country. Prior to the arrival of the Duke Power lines, residents of Upper Mills River needed a battery-powered receiver or possibly a "cat whisker" or crystal set to pick up broadcasting. Reportedly, Will Field and family, who lived on South Mills River near the Baptist Church, were the first in the community to acquire a battery radio. It used ear phones which meant that only one person at a time could listen. Neighbors often would visit and take turns listening to a program.

The first time that I can recall hearing a radio was in the summer of 1938 when George W. Mullinax, a North Mills River neighbor, invited my father and me to listen to a heavyweight prize fight on his radio. My family's first radio, a "Silvertone," was delivered to our mailbox by the carrier, Louis Cairnes, soon after the power line reached our home, just before World War II. We soon came to rely on it as a source of news and entertainment.

Mills River Cookout

September 16, 2006

The Mills River Cookout, held at the Community Center, was a huge success and a great time was had by all who attended. Many thanks to all who organized, served, cooked, cleaned up and made those wonderful desserts!

Thank you also to everyone who donated food and supplies, such as Food Lion, Flavor First Produce, Triangle Stop, Pepsi, Mills River Fire Department, Handle With Care, Edward Jones (Jollene Austin) and Van Wingerden.

Everyone enjoyed the great music provided by Tyler Carson and his Band. Aside from enjoying the camaraderie, food and music and after paying all bills, over \$400 was raised for the Town.

The beautiful handmade quilt pictured below was worked on in some way by the following: Joanne Brittain, Delette Carland, Ellen Carland, Sherry Clay, Beth Foisy, Bonnie Forlaw, Sherry Fransioli, Jeannie Hardin, Sue Hatch, Anita Krzywicki, Roz Ledford, Suzanne Maney, Marguerite McCraw, Elaine Pettit, Pat Sams, Jan Scott and Sandy Shigeno.

The quilt was raffled off to raise money for the Mills River Library and raised \$1,098! Kelly Rhymmer, a niece of Marguerite McCraw and Elaine Pettit was the lucky winner. Money was also raised by items donated by Sherri Eakes, Beverly Toth and Jacquie Toth.

The Community Center would like to take this time to thank Robert Crawford for donating his masonry labor for the Center's new planter and John Owens for making the new sign. Last, but not least, a special thanks goes out to Jimmy Cowan for mowing our grounds this summer.



This is what working and living together in our Mills River Community is all about.

Congratulations to Timothy "Kyle" Stinnett By Paula DeLorenzo



On Saturday, August 19, 2006, Kyle Stinnett was recognized and applauded as an Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor held at the Mills River Community Center.

Kyle was inspired at an early age to become an Eagle Scout by his great grandfather who became an Eagle Scout over seventy years ago in Texas and a scout candidate for the Byrd expedition to the South Pole.

Kyle was "sworn in" by his great grandfather following a poem by his sister, Drue, and words from several others who played a part in Kyle's "scoutsmanship." A representative from Congressman Charles Taylor's office was also on hand to present Kyle with congratulations and a specially flown flag.

Kyle paid tribute to all who were instrumental in his achievement, especially his parents and great grandfather.



Mills River Post Office Now Open!!!

Temporary Location: Goodes Plaza

Monday - Friday from 12-1PM.

Show your Support for our Post Office
Buy Stamps, Sign up for Post Office Box Interest, Mail Letters

To Increase Hours & Keep Our Post Office Open
Place Your Outgoing Mail in Area Drop Boxes:

Mills River Library/Physical Therapy Plaza,
Elaine's Beauty Shop, Kountry Kupboard/280BP

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New Mills River Sign Ordinance

By Paula DeLorenzo

Adopted by the Town Council of Mills River, North Carolina August 24, 2006. Effective date: October 01, 2006.

It is the intent of this ordinance to authorize the use of signs whose types, sizes and arrangements are compatible with their surroundings, preserve the natural beauty of the area, protect existing property values in both residential and non-residential areas, prevent endangering the public safety, express the identity of the community as a whole or individual properties or occupants, legible in the circumstances in which they are seen, and appropriate to traffic safety. These regulations are designed and intended to improve the overall aesthetics of the community by preventing over-concentration, improper placement, and excessive height, bulk and area of signs.

It shall be the duty of the duly appointed Zoning Administrator that she/he is hereby given the authority to administer and enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

A Sign Permit is required for all signs that are not exempt.

A. Unless otherwise stated in this Ordinance, all uses regulated by this Ordinance must secure a sign permit. The Zoning Administrator shall in no case grant any permit for the erection, alteration, construction, relocation, conversion or enlargement of any sign if the sign as proposed would be in violation of any provisions of this Ordinance.

B. All applications for a sign permit shall be accompanied by plans in duplicate showing the actual dimensions of the proposed sign, drawn to scale and the proposed location of the sign on the building, structure or site and such other information as may be necessary to provide for the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance.

C. If no substantial construction progress has been made within six months of the date of the issuance of the sign permit, the permit becomes invalid.

The following signs are exempt from the regulations of this ordinance:

A. Political Signs. (Less than 4 square feet) Signs must be removed 5 days after election. Candidates should obtain property owner's permission before placing signs on their property.

B. Construction Sign. (Less than 9 square feet).

C. No trespassing/warning signs (Less than 4 square feet).

D. Seasonal/Holiday signs and decorations associated with national or religious holidays.

E. Flags or insignia of any governmental, non-profit or business organization.

F. Signs required by law, statute or ordinance.

G. Special event signs and special event directional signs, including portable signs and banners related to events sponsored by non-profit organizations.

H. Bulletin signs incidental to churches/synagogues and schools, provided they do not exceed 12 square feet in area and have a maximum height of 6 feet.

I. Incidental Signs. A single face, non-illuminated professional or announcement sign attached wholly to a building, window or door containing information relative to emergencies, store hours, credit cards honored and other similar accessory information.

J. Real Estate Signs. (Less than 4 square feet) One sign per property double-sided with limit of 7-days after "Sold".

Agricultural Signs. (See definition) These signs are limited to thirty-two (32) square feet or less and non-illuminated. (This includes Portable Signs that would be used for advertising agricultural products).

All other signs of any kind must conform to the regulations of this sign ordinance. Please call the Mills River Town Office to receive the regulations in full for any sign that you intend to erect or alter.

Get Involved and Make a Difference!

You can participate in the run, volunteer at the event, take part in the Fund-Racer donation drive, become a sponsor or help us involve your company as a sponsor or Team.

Imagine the impact – hundreds of people doing their part for autism across the state. Please join us for a day of fun for families and runners!

Please go to the following website:

www.autismsociety-nc.org

for more information.



Recipe Corner



"Japanese Fried Chicken"
from Sandy Shigeno

Cut several **CHICKEN BREASTS** into sections, a little larger than bite-sized.

Marinate in **SOY SAUCE** for about 30 minutes, turning once.

Put some **FLOUR** into a small plastic or paper bag; drop in the chicken pieces; close the bag and shake vigorously.

Cover the bottom of a frying pan with oil and cook the chicken pieces 'til brown on both sides, turning them several times; then drain them on paper towels.

This recipe is very simple, and the chicken tastes great. It's usually served with rice in Japan, taken on picnics, or put into lunch boxes.

Please submit your recipes for
publication in our Newsletter



**MILLS RIVER FIRE and RESCUE
Reminds MILLS RIVER and Henderson County Residents to 'Watch What You Heat'**

It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 8-14 Mills River Fire and Rescue Department is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat.' During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of cooking fires--most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent cooking fires from starting in the first place.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

"Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Jeannie Pfeffer, Fire Life Safety Educator. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. This is the 85th year that fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

Mills River Fire and Rescue provides programs in Fire Prevention and other Life Safety programs all year round. If you would like to schedule a presentation, Fire Department tour, a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog, or the Fire Safety House (with severe weather package) for your group or organization, please contact Jeannie Pfeffer, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator at Mills River Fire and Rescue (828) 891-7959.

Mills River/County Committee Vacancies

Board of Adjustments:

1 seat—2nd alternate term ending 2/26/07

Henderson Historic Preservation:

1 Mills River seat—3 years

The Board of Adjustments consists of 5 voting members and 2 alternates. The Board is a state-regulated board that meets in quasi-judicial hearings and applies the Town Zoning Ordinance in appeals from decisions of the Zoning Administrator when a property owner requests a variance or conditional use permit. The Board meets the second Tuesday of every second month at 7:00 PM, or more often when caseload deems it necessary.

County Historic Preservation is a new Henderson County committee being formed to review whether buildings over 50 years old should truly receive historic designation and will help to attain National Historic designation—looking for experienced architect, historian, etc.

Anyone wishing to apply should submit an application for each Board/Committee by going online to www.millsriver.org and clicking on Volunteer Application, or by contacting Town Hall for an application.

Meeting/Other Dates

Sep 4	Labor Day	Town Hall Closed
Sep 5	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Sep 13	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Sep 14	Town Council	7:00 PM
Sep 18	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Sep 19	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Sep 28	Town Council	7:00 PM
Oct 3	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Oct 10	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Oct 11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Oct 12	Town Council	7:00 PM
Oct 16	Agricultural Advisory	7:30 PM
Oct 17	Planning Board	7:30 PM
Oct 26	Town Council	7:00 PM
Nov 7	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Nov 8	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
Nov 9	Town Council	7:00 PM
Nov. 10	Veterans Day	Town Hall Closed
Nov 20	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Nov 21	Planning Board	7:00 PM
TBA	Town Council	7:00 PM
Nov 23	Thanksgiving	Town Hall Closed
Nov 24	Thanksgiving	Town Hall Closed
Dec. 5	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Dec 12	Board of Adjustment	7:00 PM
Dec 13	Finance committee	7:00 PM
Dec 14	Town Council	7:00 PM
Dec 18	Agricultural Advisory	7:00 PM
Dec 19	Planning Board	7:00 PM
Dec 25	Christmas	Town Hall Closed
Dec 26	Christmas	Town Hall Closed
Dec 28	Town Council	7:00 PM

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LIBRARY CORNER

Come by and use your town library!



Library Hours

Mon—Wed—Fri 1:30—5:30 pm
Tue—Thurs 9:30 am—5:30 pm

Children's Hour (Ages 3-6): Tue & Thurs 11:00 am

More readers for story time will be greatly appreciated!
Please call the Library at 890-1850 to volunteer

Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District

By Paula DeLorenzo

Just what is the Soil and Water Conservation District you might ask...I know I did. The Soil and Water Conservation District's purpose is to:

- Design farm conservation plans to keep soil in the fields and out of waterways.
- Conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Plant trees and grass to hold soil in place.
- Help farmers and homeowners manage the land in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation.

The Soil and Water Conservation District provides financial assistance to land owners to help them prevent soil erosion and water contamination. If you need a fence to keep your animals away from a stream and can't afford to put one up, then this is the place to apply for help. According to very specific state rates for each item, up to 75% of the cost can be approved, based on need and circumstances.

There are 96 of these districts in North Carolina, almost one for every county, aside from those that are so small that they work together. Soil and water conservation is a national endeavor – there are nearly three thousand soil and water districts throughout the United States...almost one for every county in every state.

There are three elected and two appointed supervisors who work with citizens to help approve their conservation and erosion needs. Mills River's own Drew Brannon, is Chairman of the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District. Drew has been an elected supervisor on this Board for the last thirty-three years where he draws on his family's vast experience farming in Mills River since 1855.

Should you require any conservation or erosion assistance, please call (828) 697-4949 or visit the USDA Service Center Building at 61 Triple Springs Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

Edward Jones®

Jollene J. Austin
Investment Representative

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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.



OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Old Stone House at High Vista

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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 5th of each of the following months: June, September, December, and March. 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.



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

School has started. Please remember to:

- Watch for stopped school buses and children around them;
- Abide by school zone speed restrictions and drive with caution in school areas;
- Abide by the Child Restraint Law when traveling with children.

IF YOU NEED LAW ENFORCEMENT

Contact the Henderson County Sheriff's Dept. at:

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

NC Wildlife Resources Commission
662-7137 (to report wildlife violations)

DO NOT contact the Town Hall to reach law enforcement.

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