



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005  
Volume 2, Issue 4

## News from the Mayor

Roger Snyder

As we close the calendar year of 2005 and look forward to 2006, we want to review some things that happened in no real order — the water battle of the Regional Water Plant intensified; Mills River celebrated its 2nd birthday with a free hot dog supper to all of our residents (all of the expenses were donated by area businesses); the Council implemented our two remaining state required services—street lighting and supplemental law enforcement; Comprehensive Land Use Plan; branch library opening; and, the Mills River Fire Department opened the Pryor Substation on Fanning Fields Road — to name just a few.

The Council also had a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. This was just a small way of our town showing its appreciation of all of their hard work and dedication. Our volunteers provide an immeasurable service to the town government and we appreciate them very much.

Do you know that your elected officials are also volunteers? We serve you without receiving compensation of any type. Council members pay their own cell phone bills, furnish their own gas and vehicles, and attend all sorts of meetings on the behalf of Mills River.

We want to welcome our newly elected Council member—Shannon Gonce. I think Shannon will do an excellent job and he has spent the last month getting up to speed on all aspects of the town. Also, in the same breath, we want to publicly thank Jennie Hernandez for her service to the town. One of her many projects was to get this newsletter up and running. The Council will sorely miss her.

We want to wish all of our readers—  
"Happy Holidays".



## 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](mailto:info@millsriver.org)

### Council Members:

Mayor: Roger Snyder

Mayor Pro Tem: Lois Pryor

Councilman: Wayne Carland

Councilman: Ed Glenn

Councilwoman: Jennie Hernandez

### Staff:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Susan L. Powell

[Susan.powell@millsriver.org](mailto:Susan.powell@millsriver.org)

Town Manager: Dean McGinnis

[Dean.mcginis@millsriver.org](mailto:Dean.mcginis@millsriver.org)

Administrative Assistant: Martha Orr

[Martha.orr@millsriver.org](mailto:Martha.orr@millsriver.org)

### Email Free Newsletter Subscription:

[newsletter@millsriver.org](mailto:newsletter@millsriver.org)

### Committee Spotlight

In this issue we would like to list all of the Town's committees. If you would like to volunteer, please stop by Town Hall or go online and fill out an application. The committees are:

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Board of Adjustments

Newsletter Committee

Finance Committee

Library Committee

Planning Board



**Mills River Volunteer  
Fire & Rescue  
by Rick Livingston, Fire Chief**

**FIRE or MEDICAL emergencies  
Call 911**

As the Christmas season is upon us, so is the season when we typically see a huge increase in the number of house fires which we respond to. With the cost of heating fuels, i.e. fuel oil, natural gas, propane, etc. continuing to be extremely high, I'm sure many of you will be using alternative sources of heating such as wood heat, portable kerosene heaters, and other space heaters, etc. Careless and improper operation of these heating appliances is often the cause of many fires which we respond to. Following are a few suggestions and points to remember in the coming months to minimize the possibility of a fire in your home and also some protective measures if a fire were to occur.

1. Make sure your home has smoke detectors on every level which are working properly and change the batteries at least annually or more frequently as needed. If you are financially unable to purchase these detectors, call Mills River Fire and Rescue and we will provide these to you at no cost. Good detectors can be purchased at Lowe's, Home Depot, Kmart, or Wal-Mart, etc. for around \$20 or less. NOTE: We responded to two house fires during the week of November 13th where no detectors were present in one home and detectors with dead batteries were found in the other. This is completely unacceptable and inexcusable and often results in injuries and fatalities.

2. Install at least one fire extinguisher (maybe more depending on the size of your home) on every level. A good industrial Grade 5 lb. ABC dry chemical extinguisher can be purchased at Firex Company in Hendersonville for \$45. This is not a "disposable type" extinguisher and can be recharged and serviced after each use or as needed. These can be purchased from other companies as well.

3. If your home has a chimney or flue pipe, have these inspected and cleaned regularly by a certified chimney sweep, especially if you are using wood to heat with. Chimney fires are the cause of many major fires that we respond to. The thought that a chimney fire is nothing to worry about and no reason to call the fire department is very foolish and unwise. There is a possibility that one or more chimney fires many not cause major structural damage.

However, the intense heat generated by each fire results in cracks inside your chimney and weakens the strength of the flue pipe. A subsequent fire may expand these cracks allowing the fire to spread to your attic, walls, floors, etc. Always call 911 and don't take chances if you experience a chimney fire.

4. Always carry portable heaters outside your home to add fuel and store your fuel in containers which are approved for this use and clearly marked as to their contents. Example: Never store gas in containers which are not approved and marked for gas such as kerosene containers. Many house fires, injuries, and fatalities result from this carelessness.

5. The use of these heating appliances also increases the likelihood of carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in your home although many other factors can contribute to CO buildup as well. For these reasons, we recommend the use of CO detectors as well as smoke detectors. CO detectors are comparable in price to that of smoke detectors; however, combination (smoke/CO) detectors are available for around \$40 and work very well.

6. Lastly, here are a few tips particularly relevant to the Christmas season. If you purchase a live tree, find one which is freshly cut and not one which has loose or falling needles, indicating dryness. Keep the base of the tree in water as long as it is inside your home. Fire retardant sprays that cover the entire tree are available and work very well also. Be very careful with tree lights and don't overload extension cords and electrical outlets. Do not set furniture and other items on top of extension cords which result in electrical shorts and fires. Be very careful with candles and always extinguish them as well as cutting off tree lights prior to leaving your home. We see many fires resulting from carelessness during the Christmas season which could be prevented by using your head and following common sense procedures.

**All of us at Mills River Fire and Rescue wish you a safe and happy holiday season.**

<b>TOWN MEETING DATES</b>			
Dec	8	Town Council	7:00 PM
	12	Planning Board	7:00 PM
	13	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
	23	Christmas	Town Hall Closed
	26	Christmas	Town Hall Closed
Jan	2	New Year	Town Hall Closed
	3	Planning Board	7:00 PM
	11	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
	12	Town Council	7:00 PM
	16	Martin Luther King Birthday	
	16	Agricultural Advisory Committee	7:00 PM
	17	Planning Board	7:00 PM
	26	Town Council	7:00 PM
Feb	7	Planning Board	7:00 PM
	9	Town Council	7:00 PM
	14	Board of Adjustments	7:00 PM
	15	Finance Committee	7:00 PM
	20	Agricultural Advisory Committee	7:00 PM
	21	Planning Board	7:00 PM
	23	Town Council	7:00 PM

## History Corner

by Jim Brittain

In its issue of April 12, 1933, the Hendersonville Times-News (HTN) announced that a "forest camp" of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) would be located at North Mills River in the Pisgah National Forest. The newspaper pointed out that the proposed camp should provide an attractive opportunity for local farmers to provide vegetables and other produce to the CCC recruits. It was also mentioned that the Hendersonville business community hoped that the workers at the camp would construct an access road from upper Mills River to the Pink Beds, thus facilitating trips to Mount Pisgah.

The creation of the CCC had been authorized in the fall of 1932 as a program funded by the federal government to help alleviate the widespread unemployment due to the severe economic depression. Applicants were required to be unmarried young men between 18 and 25 years old. Top priority was given to the sons of widows or those with disabled fathers. Applicants who were selected were to live under a quasi-military system and devote 40 hours per week to physical labor in exchange for food, shelter, clothing, medical care and \$30 a month. They were expected to serve for at least six months and might reenlist if they wished. A typical camp included a recreation tent, a hospital tent, a mess hall, a commissary, a washroom and latrine, a water supply system, a blacksmith shop and an office. Shelters consisted of five-man tents and those who came to the Mills River camp were expected to construct roads, trails, fire towers, and telephone lines as well as to plant trees. Recent graduates in forestry from NC State College were recruited to supervise projects and were paid \$150 per month. Shortly before the arrival of the first contingent of recruits, a group of Army soldiers from Fort Bragg came to prepare the camp.

The first CCC recruits assigned to the Mills River camp arrived by train in Hendersonville in the late afternoon on May 19, 1933 and were transported to the camp by trucks. In late June, an Army officer and a forester spoke on the work being done by camp residents at a Rotary Club meeting in Hendersonville. They reported that there were more than 200 men at the camp including 24 from the county who had been hired to do special work. The two supervisors stated that morale was high and that the principal project was the construction of a 14 mile long motor road from the camp to the Pink Beds. Other work included the construction of a fire tower about five miles from the camp and work on a telephone line linking various sites in the National Forest. Also, some men had been assigned to remove inferior trees in the vicinity. As the six-month

enlistment of the first cohort of CCC men neared to an end in October 1933, the HTN reported that a substantial number had decided not to reenlist. Among the reasons given were "being fed up with camp life and cold weather" or "planning to return to school and girl friends". However, enough new recruits were accepted to keep the camp at full strength.

The men at the Mills River camp were provided with a weekly convocation of educational or entertainment activities. One such program, reported by the HTN in February 1935, was sponsored by the Hendersonville Kiwanis Club and included a talk on citizenship by the Club president. The program also included inspirational reading and music followed by a dance. It was reported that most of the 195 men from the camp along with two Army officers and five foresters had attended. Army Major Sledge was quoted as stating that the Mills River CCC camp was "the best kept of the 17 he visits."

The economic impact of the camp at Mills River was substantial during its 30 month existence. One published estimate indicated that camp residents spent around \$12,000 per year locally and that at least \$2,500 worth of food was purchased each month for camp consumption. Also, several local residents who were not members of the Corps were employed at the camp. One housewife who lived on upper Mills River acquired a gas engine powered washing machine in order to wash laundry for camp inhabitants. (Electricity had not yet arrived in her neighborhood.)

In October 1935, it was announced that the Mills River camp would be closed. It was one of 63 camps to be closed (of the 465 in the country) due to declining enrollment. Some CCC camps remained in operation at other locations until 1942. In June 1938, the HTN reported that the Mills River CCC was being converted into a recreational area which would be available to local residents and others at no charge. The report disclosed that the CCC facilities were being replaced by parking for 95 cars, fireplaces, tables, and an 80 acre playground. Also mentioned was a pond said to have the "informal beauty of an 'ole swimming hole." A few weeks later, the newspaper published directions for motor tours in the National Forest and mentioned that the newly created North Mills River Recreation Area already was becoming a popular destination. In July 1940, an estimated 60 members of the Mills River social club attended a picnic at the facility. It also became an attractive venue for family reunions as well as summer visitors to the area. As a popular gateway to the National Forest, the former site of the North Mills River CCC camp continues to enjoy heavy use to the present day.

## Would You Like to Help Out Your Elementary School?

Get on board and earn some cash for the kids at Mills River Elementary School. Here's what you can do without any cost to you:

Register your Ingle's Advantage Card. A percentage of your total purchase will be given to the media center.

Register your Food Lion MVP Card and Food Lion will donate a percentage of your purchase to the Physical Education program and to the PTO.

Target offers two great ways to help our school—Target VISA and Target Card. With Target VISA you can make purchases at Target and they will donate an amount equal to 1% of your purchases to your designated school. You can also use this card elsewhere and Target will donate an amount equal to 1/2% of your purchases back to your designated school. The Target Card (red card) can only be used at Target, but it will earn your school 1% of your purchases. These funds are available to the school twice a year paid by check.

They are also unrestricted which means the administration can decide what to use the money for. To apply, you can visit the store, call 1-800-316-6142, or go online to [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe). Don't forget to link your card to [Mills River Elementary](http://Mills River Elementary)

### Buying your favorite products can help too!

Clip Box Tops for Education from General Mills products. The school administration will receive \$.10 for each Box Top to be used for general school expenses.

Cut the labels off cans, boxes, or bags of Campbell products. The school will receive points for every label turned in which can be used to purchase items that are needed (sports equipment, books, computers, etc).

Tyson's chicken labels will give the PTO \$.24 for each label they receive.

All labels and box tops can be dropped off at the collection box provided at the Mills River Town Hall.

**Thanks for helping out our community's children!**

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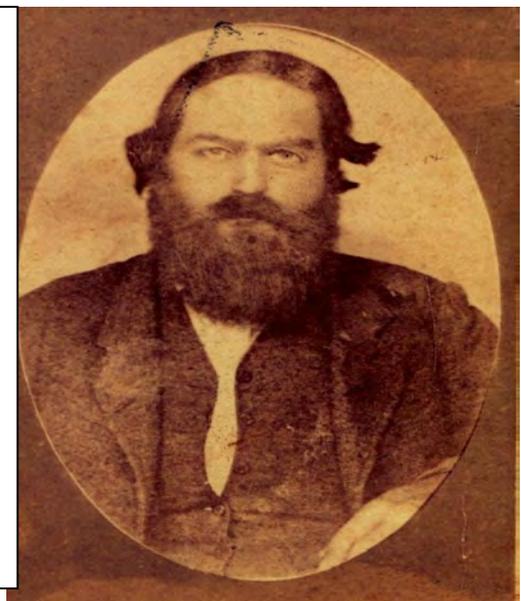
To read this newsletter online, access the Mills River Website at

<http://www.millsriver.org>



### Lost and Found

Each quarter we will run a new picture of a person or place from Mills River. The picture of the little girl is circa 1900's. The picture of the man is circa 1890's. Contact us if you have the identity. If we can find out, then we will post them in the next newsletter.



## 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 [info@millsriver.org](mailto:info@millsriver.org)

How do you like the format or layout? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are the articles well written? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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What other subjects would you like to see covered in further issues? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Do you have any suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Would you be interested in helping with the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank You for Your Input!**

## The High Vista Story



On the evening of July 5, 1976, Dave Robinson and his brother-in-law, Geary Cordell, were grumbling at Dave's house in Candler over a frustrating weekend of golf. The courses they had just played were overcrowded and the resulting conditions were not conducive to a happy time. Geary and Dave put their heads together to go and make their own golf course.

They quickly approached six friends with the idea and got enthusiastic approval. The group began a search for a suitable site and focused on an available 540-acre tract of mountain and valley land that could readily accommodate a 125-acre golf course. An additional 45 acres were to be devoted to a clubhouse, swimming complex, and tennis courts. This was known as the Orr property, highlighted by a beautiful two-story native stone hunting lodge that an E.S. Koon had built upon a knoll.

The group grew to 40 at the close of the first meeting on August 4, 1976 and the green light was on for the project. Dave Robinson was named President and Geary was Vice President. Within 49 days the club consisted of 200 charter members with \$1,000,000 raised for the project. The property was purchased from Mrs. Orr on November 1, 1976 and High Vista Country Club, Inc. was a reality.

The club was formed as a non-profit enterprise. Each of the original 200 charter members were granted sustaining memberships and promised a one-acre parcel of the remaining 370 mountainside acres. The lot selection was based on a drawing, which gave all members an equal opportunity at drawing the best lot. On March 28, 1978 the Protective Covenants were publicly registered to preserve the quality of the community that Dave and Geary had envisioned. And so began High Vista Estates. At that time the full 540 acres were still owned by the club.

On February 28, 1983 the High Vista Estates Homeowners' Association, Inc. was incorporated.

Today High Vista has grown to approximately 660 acres. There are 530 house lots with 275 existing homes, 17 condominiums, and 6 townhouses. On the average, 20 new homes are added each year. High Vista lays in both Henderson and Buncombe counties



.Over 80 percent is located in Henderson County and is part of Mills River: Two of the gates are on Highway 191 and one is on Pennsylvania Road.

High Vista is a diverse community ranging from young families to retirees, year-round and seasonal residents. Volunteers from High Vista have assisted in the Mills River incorporation process, on town committees, at Town Hall, and in the Library. High Vista Homeowners' Association through their liaison works with the town on matters of interest.

The High Vista Homeowner's Association is responsible for maintaining the fourteen miles of private roads within High Vista, maintaining the gates and landscaping common areas, issuing building permits, and making sure that the covenants are followed. Residents pay an annual assessment to cover the costs.

The "Old Clubhouse", as the original old granite building is now called, also has spectacular views of the Mountains and golf course. Today it houses the offices for the country club and the homeowners association. There is also the Vista Lounge, a small function room.



The house was built in 1928 by E .S. Koon with local stones. It was sold to William Ford in 1930, and then to George and Nona France in 1933. The France's lived in Ohio, and used the property as a part time home. They purchased several adjacent properties increasing their land to 540 acres. In 1968 Thomas and Annie Lee Orr bought the property as their home. In 1976 it was purchased by High Vista Country Club.

During the past three years the "Old Clubhouse" has gone through much needed repairs, preservation and restoration. Much of the inside has been renovated with priority given to maintaining the original architecture. This has been done through the Preservation and Restoration Committee and volunteers.

High Vista is proud of its heritage and history prior to its inception. The community has a high sense of obligation towards the environment as is reflected in its covenants. The future for High Vista is bright. The wildlife within High Vista, the views, and the proximity to Asheville and Hendersonville all make for an ideal location to live.

**Changes in Mills River  
Library Hours**  
by Sandy Shigeno

From the end of November, the hours for the Mills River Library have been changed, hopefully making it more convenient for our patrons and coming more into line with the other branches of the Henderson County Library system. We will now be open all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays — from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the library will be open half days from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

There are now over 5,550 books in the Mills River Library, including those on the New York Times Best Sellers list. Whether your interest is in mysteries or detective stories, science fiction or fantasy, history or biographies, gardening or crafts, dog training or hunting—there is something for everyone in our local library!

For the little ones, there is story hour at 11:00 AM every Tuesday and Thursday; for older kids and teens, there are shelves of age-appropriate books; for family tree research or checking email, there are computers; and for the rest of us, there are not only adult fiction and non-fiction (including large print), but also movies, music CDs, books-on-tape, and the latest newspapers and magazines. If we don't have what you need, then we will request it for you from another branch library. Books checked out at other Henderson County branch libraries can also be returned here in Mills River.

We can still use more volunteers at the library, so if you are willing to invest a few hours a week or a few times a month, please pick up a volunteer interest form the next time you come by. In case you have never been in, the library is located in the storefront building near the 280/191 intersection directly across from Food Lion. Join the rest of the Mills River community who can now proudly say, "I'm going to the library — right in our own town." (^\_^)

**Local Small Business Ads**

The Mills River Town Newsletter is printed quarterly: March, June, September, and December. At sometime in the future we hope to increase the frequency of circulation. 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.

**North and South Mills River Community Club**

Come join us for fun, fellowship, and a down-home covered-dish supper the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. If you are new to the area, we welcome you to come "meet your neighbors" at the community center on South Mills River Road.

We now have the 2006 "Historic Mills River" calendars for sale. You can find them at Valley Ag Supply and the Mills River Town Hall or you may call 891-4567. Get them while they last, as they were big sellers last year. Our cover features the old Mills River Academy. Check it out to see if you can find your grandfather or grandmother. You know that "if your grandpa's from Mills River, then you're akin to me."



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

The Holiday Season is upon us. Let me take a brief moment and wish each of you a happy and SAFE Holiday Season.

This is the time of year that we sometimes see an increase in property related crimes and larceny, breaking and entering, motor vehicle (breaking and entering), etc. Here are some tips that may help prevent you from becoming a victim of these types of crimes:

1. Lock doors and windows on your residence.
2. Use dead bolt locks.
3. If you have an alarm system, make sure that it is in good working order.
4. Utilize your outdoor lighting at night.
5. Lock outside storage areas (garages, storage buildings etc.).
6. Lock you vehicles at home and in parking lots.
7. Do not leave valuables in the vehicle where they can be seen. Lock them in the trunk or secure them away from the vehicle.

8. Participate in community watch programs. Contact the Sheriffs Department for further information on these programs.

9. Report any suspicious activity to Law Enforcement when you see it occurring.



Again I wish you a happy and SAFE Holiday Season.

**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  
PO Box 189  
Boylston Highway  
Horse Shoe NC 28742**