



# The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

**April 2021**

**Mayor**

George F.  
Goosmann, III

**Commissioners**

Fran Cogburn  
E. Glenn Kelly  
Doris P. Loomis

**Town Manager**

Jonathan Kanipe  
(828) 274-0824  
jkanipe@  
biltmoreforest.org

**Director of Public Works**

Harry Buckner  
(828) 274-3919  
hbuckner@  
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**Police Chief**

Chris Beddingfield  
(828) 274-0822  
cbeddingfield@  
biltmoreforest.org

Dear Biltmore Forest Neighbors,

Greetings from the Friends of Biltmore Forest, formerly known as the Biltmore Forest Community Preservation Committee. Our committee was established by the Town Board of Commissioners three years ago to foster strong neighborhood ties. Like you, we treasure the beauty and camaraderie of our Town. In the past, we have hosted speakers on historical, horticultural, and other topics. We've organized the Christmas party, Arbor Day celebration, potlucks, and other events to bring our neighbors together. As you may know, our Town will celebrate its One Hundredth Anniversary in 2023. Planning is already underway to commemorate this important birthday.

For many of us, 2020 emphatically underscored the important role that friendship and community play in our lives. If you would like to volunteer with our Anniversary celebration, help with any of our other events, or if you have other ideas to nurture community in our neighborhood, please let us know. Whether you have a lot of time or a little, we would love your help as the Town looks forward to its next century.

You can start participating by tuning in to our first virtual lecture to be presented Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm via Zoom. This spring's lecture will feature two great presentations. First will be representatives from the Hemlock Restoration Initiative discussing ways we can all work to preserve our native hemlocks and protect them from the hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA). Second, Dr. Sara Villani and Cliff Ruth from the NC State Cooperative Extension Service will provide an update on boxwood blight and answer questions regarding this issue that affects many in Biltmore Forest. We hope you join us in April "virtually" and in-person in the near future!

Sincerely,

Katie Valeika, Committee Chair  
(706) 410-6293  
valeikak@gmail.com

Mary Alice Bailey  
Millie Elmore  
Elaine Goosmann  
Shana Lopez  
Merry Stephenson  
Diane Zimmerman  
Fran Cogburn (ex officio)



**Water Bill**

**The Town has utilized postcards for water bill mailings for many years. Sometimes these mailings get damaged or lost in the mail. We have created a new full page water bill which will make it much easier to decipher. Residents will start receiving these in April.**

## PUBLIC WORKS



This spring and summer the Public Works Department is beginning an initiative to more actively maintain and improve the Town rights-of way along all Town streets. The purpose of this project is to improve the safety of our rights-of ways for pedestrians and vehicles, as well as to maintain the beautiful aesthetic of our community. With over 22 miles of roads (which is 44 miles of road shoulders), this is a significant undertaking, and our department is requesting your assistance.

Specifically, our staff will be reviewing the rights-of-way to identify overgrown vegetation impacting vehicle sight distances and pedestrian safety; improving ditch lines and drainage on road shoulders; repairing sunken or eroded road shoulders; and working with residents to remove obstacles such as reflective metal and fiberglass driveway markers and poles, rocks, shrubbery, and other unpermitted items. Upon completion of the assessment phase, our staff will begin reaching out to property owners adjacent to these areas to work out the most appropriate solution. This may include asking the property owner to correct the situation, such as trimming overgrown vegetation or removing items improperly placed in the right-of-way. It may also include having our staff correct the issues such as regrading road shoulders to fix drop-offs, erosion, or drainage issues. The Town will attempt to make contact with the adjoining property owners before any work is started.

A frequent question we are asked is, "How much town-owned right of way exists along my street?" Generally speaking, the Town maintains about 5-feet away from existing edges of pavement. Notable exceptions to this are along Vanderbilt Road, Stuyvesant Road, all roads in the "Subdivision" area, and inside the Ramble. These areas are generally maintained about 10 feet from the edge of pavement. Legally, the right of way is a surveyed and recorded measurement that can and does vary from lot to lot. Most lots in the Town have property corners that are easy to find by identifying the solid iron pins or hollow iron pins that extend a few inches above the ground at each corner. Please note, however, that only a surveyor licensed in the State of North Carolina can positively identify your property corners.

The way you can assist our department is by proactively trimming overgrown shrubbery that blocks the shoulders, moving items like reflectors or reflective poles back to the edge of the right-of-way, and removing any other obstacles. Also, if we do reach out to you about a concern, please know that we will try to work with you to find a mutually acceptable solution to eliminate the problem. Remember that we will not be reaching out unless there is a clear safety or aesthetic issue that needs to be resolved.

Feel free to reach out to us at [publicworks@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:publicworks@biltmoreforest.org), or 274-3919, if you have questions or specific areas of concern. If you are planning any improvements near the road shoulder, we are happy to discuss your plans before work has begun to make sure there will be no issues. It is our pleasure to serve you in this role.

~Harry B. Buckner, PE, Director

### EMPLOYEE

### ANNIVERSARIES

Harry Buckner

**1 year**

John Driver

**14 years**

Kenny Merritt

**10 years**

Samantha Bombace

**24 years**

Kim Rhinehart

**20 years**

Shannon Kimbrough

**2 years**

Hannah Quinn

**1 year**

Cody Bartlett

**1 year**

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



Spring time in Biltmore Forest is one of our most beautiful times of year. We spend much of our time outdoors enjoying the weather and starting the processes of spring cleaning. It is very easy to become complacent and unaware of situations around us as we are so focused on our tasks at hand. Always remember that our situational awareness is our number one crime prevention tool. Pay attention to what happens around you. If something doesn't seem quite right, it probably isn't.

If you see something, say something.

### **Here are some spring crime prevention tips that we all need to practice:**

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- During the spring weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Consider some version of a camera system. There are a wide range of inexpensive doorbell cameras and similar devices available.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- In warm weather months personal property thefts increase; there is a tendency to leave items, such as bicycles, gardening tools, lawnmowers, weed eaters, and other yard tools lying around in the open. Make sure you lock up your personal property in your garage or yard shed; it doesn't take long for someone to ride by and quickly take your property. An open garage door or yard shed can also be inviting, keep them closed even when you're at home.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools.

Please call us at 828-274-0822 or 911 with emergencies or suspicious activity. As always feel free to contact me or the department with any questions at all.

~Chief Chris Beddingfield  
Email-cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org



### North Carolina Law:

**Pedestrians should walk on the left side of the road facing traffic when practicable.**

**Please make sure to wear light colored or reflective clothing to increase visibility so others can see you. We want to help keep walkers and drivers safe on our roads!**



**Join the CodeRed notification system which keeps citizens informed in the event of emergency situations and community alerts. You may visit the Town's website at [biltmoreforest.org](http://biltmoreforest.org) to sign up for notifications via email, text, and phone call.**

**Town of Biltmore Forest**  
**P.O. Box 5352**  
**Biltmore Forest, NC**  
**28813**

### **Hemlock Restoration Initiative and Biltmore Forest**

As we well know as residents of Biltmore Forest, our hemlock trees are cherished and have an immense impact on the beauty and serenity of our neighborhood. In fact, our town symbol is the hemlock tree. These trees continue to be threatened by the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), and several of our residents have recently learned about an organization called the Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) that is dedicated to fighting back against this pest and saving our hemlocks. I first learned about them last summer when I noticed some of my trees that had previously been treated were starting to show signs of new infestations. Since I have so many trees on my property and was looking into the best options for treatment, I contacted them for help. They were not only extremely helpful, but they also helped me further understand their broader initiative and the efforts happening all over Western North Carolina. With their guidance, I have now treated more than 100 Hemlocks directly on my property and adjacent neighbor's properties. It is simple and easy, and we would like to get more residents involved.

One of the key mandates of HRI is community education. They have graciously volunteered to coordinate with our town to hold an educational seminar to correspond with our annual Arbor Day activities in April. This year's event will be held via Zoom, and will cover some scientific details on the pest, the life cycles of these insects and effective treatment methods. Safe chemicals can be applied that are quite impactful, but treatments need to be done every five to seven years to maintain control. Many of the trees in Biltmore Forest are in need of follow up treatments, so we need the community to act now. The ideal time to treat our hemlocks is coming up this spring (April-June).

If you would simply like to have someone come and treat your trees, there are many good, certified arborists (<https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>) that can assist you directly and who can arrange for applications through a qualified company. Regardless of the path you take, we need your help to act.

If you are interested in getting involved and learning more prior to our Arbor Day meeting, you can reach out to me at [matt.r.baker@gmail.com](mailto:matt.r.baker@gmail.com). For more information on the Zoom lecture to be held April 22, please review the information located in the Friends of Biltmore Forest section on the front page of the newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Matt Baker