

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

The Commissioner's Corner

Mayor

George F.

Goosmann, III

Commissioners

Fran Cogburn

E. Glenn Kelly

Doris P. Loomis

Town Manager

Jonathan Kanipe
(828) 274-0824

Director of Public Works

Terry Crouch
(828) 274-3919

Police Chief

Chris Beddingfield
(828) 274-0823

TAX PAYMENT REMINDER

The last day to pay your 2019 property taxes without a penalty is January 6, 2020. 2% interest accrues on January 7th, 2020 plus additional interest of .75% on the first of each month thereafter until paid. In order to avoid penalties, please make sure the legal and memo amounts on checks are correct.

The Town has made improvements in our financial reporting the past few years in an effort to more clearly present this information to the Public. As part of these efforts, the documents created by the Town were recognized by national governmental finance review boards resulting in multiple awards recognizing our commitment to financial transparency.

The Town has received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting (CAFR) award four years in a row beginning in fiscal year 2015. According to the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA), "CAFR recipients go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure."

In fiscal year 2017, the Town created a more understandable version of the Annual

Financial Report. The GFOA's Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) program recognizes high quality financial reports specifically designed to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public. The Town received the PAFR designation in both fiscal year 2017 and 2018, and hope to achieve this for FY19.

The most recent financial award received by the Town is the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award. This award recognizes high quality budget documents that meet national standards. The Town's first submission was fiscal year 2018. We were fortunate to receive this designation and hope to achieve this honor again for fiscal year 2019. There were 54 award winners from the State of North Carolina for fiscal year 2018 – the Town of Bilt-

more Forest was the local government with the smallest population to achieve this certificate.

The Town is proud of these awards, and to provide transparent and discernible financial information. The Town is most appreciative of Assistant Finance Director Helen Stephens and her steadfast approach to preparing these documents. Ms. Stephens works tirelessly to ensure the accuracy, clarity, and validity of each piece of data that is submitted. Each of these documents, and other financial documents, can be found on the Town's website at biltmoreforest.org/finance



Please join us for the Town's 5th annual Christmas tree lighting event at the Town Hall on Friday, December 6th at 5:30 p.m. We will have treats and hot chocolate inside the Town Hall, with a special appearance by Santa Claus! Come share the holiday spirit with your friends and neighbors!

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works would like to welcome Jeff Glover as the newest addition to the Public Works team. Jeff started in September and is doing a great job.

Please place all garbage in trash bags. This helps with proper loading into the truck and reduces injuries for personnel. Between the two sanitation personnel, they collect over 500 tons of garbage per year. Please do not place garbage in the recycling containers, only recyclable material. Thank you. The Town provides two dumpsters for residential use. Please only place household garbage in the dumpsters and do not place any items outside the dumpster. This makes it very difficult for the collector. Please note the unauthorized materials list posted on the sign next to the dumpster if you are unsure what is allowed.

Brush collection has stopped and will start back on January 15, 2020.

Leaf pickup has begun. Please place leaves on the road shoulder in front of your property. Please do not mix brush with leaves. After the conclusion of the Christmas holiday, trees will be picked up by Public Works. Please place them at the end of your driveway and we will haul them off for you.



Planning and Zoning Information

Please remember to contact the Biltmore Forest Town Hall before beginning any project on your home or property. Town staff is available to review the project on site and walk you through all processes that may be necessary to obtain zoning approval from the Town. You may contact us at the Town Hall or via email if you have any questions regarding a project. We are here to help!

Jonathan Kanipe, Town Manager (jkanipe@biltmoreforest.org)
Adrienne Isenhower, Town Planner (adrienne@landofsky.org)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

The Town would like to recognize several employees who have recently attained new professional certifications. The employees below demonstrate the Town's commitment to continuing education in local government.

Sergeant Shane Burrell from the Biltmore Forest Police Department recently graduated in the top of his class from the Administrative Officer Management Program at NC State University. AOMP provides graduates with the most up-to-date research in law enforcement management while developing leadership skills within the context of the law enforcement officer's day-to-day responsibilities.

Ms. Laura Jacobs, Assistant Town Clerk, recently graduated from the UNC School of Government's Clerks Certification Institute. CCI runs for 20 days over the course of a year and provides instruction in subjects involving the core responsibilities of municipal and county clerks.

Ms. Helen Stephens, Assistant Finance Director, was recently named a Certified North Carolina Finance Officer. In order to be eligible for this certification, an individual must hold a supervisory position related to financial functions. The individual must also complete at least four (4) local government financial courses and pass four (4) exams.

Mr. Charles Tesner, Public Works employee and Town Arborist, has achieved his Class "B" water certification. This certification allows Mr. Tesner to operate the Town's water system after achieving a combination of exam scores and experience working within the Town's system.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Biltmore Forest Police Department is proud to formally announce the service retirement of Sergeant Keith Mackey. He has served the Town of Biltmore Forest for 25 years and his commitment to serve this community is a fine example to any officer. Sgt. Mackey grew up in the Enka area and he connected well with the community throughout Buncombe County.



Sworn into public service on June 13 1994, Sgt. Mackey has proudly served with distinction in a variety of assignments throughout his career. Those assignments include patrol officer, shift Sergeant, fireman, telecommunications, and fleet coordinator. He also received his basic, intermediate, and advanced certificates from North Carolina Training and Standards.

Inside the organization, Sgt. Mackey quickly developed a strong reputation for teamwork, leadership, hard work, and service to others. Throughout his distinguished career, Sgt. Mackey has exemplified our performance principles of professionalism, teamwork, organizational excellence, leadership, and a winning attitude.

During my twenty-year tenure, I have never witnessed another officer accomplish more and provide better service to the community than Sgt. Mackey. He is an officer I looked up to and respected when I joined the force, and that respect and appreciation is even greater today. I know

he has positively influenced our Department and left a legacy of pride and selfless service to others that will continue in his honor.

Please join us on Dec.3 between 3PM and 6PM at the Biltmore Forest Town Hall for a drop-in reception. We will be thanking Sgt. Mackey for his service and celebrating his 25 year commitment to the Town. Refreshments will be served. ~Lt. Mark Allen~



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!

HOLIDAY TRASH/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

~**Week of Thanksgiving:** Trash and recycling will be on a regular schedule (November 25th-29th).



~ **Christmas:** Regular pickups will occur on December 23rd and 24th for homes typically served on Monday and Tuesday. Homes typically served on Wednesday will be picked up ONE DAY EARLY on Tuesday, December 24th.

~**New Years:** Regular pickups will occur on December 30th and December 31st. The Town will be closed New Years Day so regular pickup for Wednesday, January 1st will occur on Thursday, January 2nd.

**HOLIDAY
CLOSURES FOR
PUBLIC WORKS**

**&
TOWN HALL:**

Thanksgiving

Closures:

**November 28th &
29th**

Christmas Closures:

**December 24th &
25th**

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

Visit our website at
www.biltmoreforest.org

HOLIDAY SAFETY

The holiday season is upon us. This is a time of family and fellowship but this is also a prime time for criminal opportunity. Burglaries and thefts increase during the holidays for many reasons. Everyone is in a hurry and our self-awareness is low. Criminals know that we carry more cash and we are making large purchases. All of this adds up to a recipe for criminal activity. The Biltmore Forest Police Department would like to give you a few holiday safety tips. As always do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

At Home

Don't hide spare keys in mailboxes or planters, or under doormats.

Ensure that dark areas and entrances have outdoor lights that are turned on after dark or are activated by sensors.

Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed so they do not conceal doors and windows. Remember, overgrown foliage can provide a hiding place for criminals.

Consider safe deposit boxes for coin and stamp collections, seldom-worn jewelry, stock bonds, etc.

Be sure to mail cards, checks or gift certificates from the Post Office or at a blue U.S. Postal Service collection box.

Lock your vehicle and remove all the valuables. Yes, even in your driveway.



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 to sign up for notifications via email, text, and phone call.