

in this issue >>>

100th anniversary information

Free little library

Police Department News

Friends of Biltmore Forest



March
2022

A quarterly insight into the Town of Biltmore Forest

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle



100th Anniversary

On February 14, the Town of Biltmore Forest celebrated its 99th birthday! That means that next year, 2023, is Biltmore Forest's 100th Anniversary. Biltmore Forest residents should expect nothing less than a meaningful and delightful celebration of this momentous event that both honors the Town's achievements of the past one hundred years and kicks off a banner second centennial in style. To that end, the Friends of Biltmore Forest has formed the Biltmore Forest 100th Anniversary Committee. It will spearhead and host initiatives and activities commemorating the anniversary throughout 2023, with the biggest shindig held during the Town's annual Fourth of July celebration. The traditional parade will occur as usual, beefed up with extra special guests and a big party. In the meantime, keep your eye out for further news in this newsletter, and please join the committee! It will be fun, and many hands make light work. To learn more about the committee and to join, contact Cindy Holman, Chair, at bfanniversary@biltmoreforest.org

Biltmore Forest Little Free Library

The Biltmore Forest Little Free Library Committee is pleased to announce the unveiling of our new neighborhood Little Free Library! With one side for adults and one for children, this mini library allows neighbors to exchange books and adds a new destination for readers and those of us in search of an outing. The library will be installed at Rosebank Park and a special event will be held on Saturday, March 5, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., to celebrate. Hot chocolate and hot cider will be provided. Part of the March 5 celebration will include a book drive. Please bring your gently used books to stock our new library. Any books collected that do not fit into the library will be donated to local nonprofits. This is a great time to do a little spring cleaning while helping your neighbors and your community. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Karlsson at laurenkarlsson1@gmail.com.

*In the event of inclement weather, the March 5 event will be postponed until March 19.

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Goosmann, III

Commissioners
Doris P. Loomis
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Fran Cogburn

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Director of Public Works
Harry Buckner
(828) 274-3919
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Police Chief
Chris Beddingfield
(828) 274-0822
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Please remember to contact the Town Hall prior to beginning ANY exterior project. This includes, but is not limited to, landscape design changes, additions to your home, installation of accessory structures, and many other property improvements. Town staff is eager to help you navigate the permitting process. Please allow us to work with you to ensure compliance with the Town's ordinances before beginning a project.

Police Department News

As we transition from winter to spring in Biltmore Forest, the change in season brings a time of beauty as the cold departs and warmth begins to appear. There have been a small number of break-ins recently and some issues with strangers knocking on doors during night hours. Please know that being alert and vigilant for both yourself and your neighbors is the key to preventing these crimes. If you have an alarm system, make sure it is working and activated. Be a good neighbor and keep an eye out for others. When in doubt call us, if you see something say something. We are here 24/7 and would rather respond to a false alarm or something that is verified instead of not being called until after the fact and learning a crime has been committed.

Here are some spring crime prevention tips:

- **Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.**
- **If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.**
- **Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.**
- **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.**

Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not “normal” to their neighborhoods and alert us. 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. Thank you.

~Chief Chris Beddingfield



Police Officer, Joe Zub

Is a full-time student at Brevard College finishing up his last semester of the criminal justice program. Joe has excelled academically and regularly appears on the Dean's list. Joe came to Brevard College recruited for baseball and has completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College. Joe is originally from Levittown, New York and we are excited to welcome him to the Biltmore Forest family.



SERGEANT JOHN DRIVER RETIRING

The Police Department is proud to formally announce the service retirement of Sergeant John Driver. He has served the Town of Biltmore Forest for 15 years and his commitment to serve the community is an excellent example to any officer. Please join us on Wednesday, March 2nd from 4pm--6pm at the Town Hall for a drop-in reception with a presentation from Chief Beddingfield at 5pm. We will be thanking Sgt. Driver for his service and celebrating his 15 year commitment to the Town. Refreshments will be served.

Congratulations to Police Chief Chris Beddingfield

Biltmore Forest Police Chief Chris Beddingfield was recently sworn in by Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson to the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police Board of Directors.



Chief Beddingfield has served as the Chief of Police for the Town since 2018. Beddingfield has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, a Bachelor of Science degree from Gardner-Webb University, and received his Basic Law Enforcement Training from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. In addition, Beddingfield has also completed the West Point Leadership College, North Carolina State Law Enforcement Executive Program, FBI Command College, and holds an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the State of North Carolina, among other certifications. He received the Region C Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award in 2012. Please congratulate Chief Beddingfield (pictured on the far right) on this exciting accomplishment and being part of the NCACP Board of Directors.

Public Works News

The Public Works Department wishes each of you a Happy New Year. We are excited for the New Year and have many great improvements planned for the coming year.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

One exciting piece of news we have to share is that we added a new Public Services Worker on January 31. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Kasey Lake to the team! Kasey is originally from Berryville, Virginia and he is a graduate of Bridgewater College with a degree in Health and Exercise Science. Kasey has just relocated here from Virginia and is currently living in Woodfin. You may have already seen him working with Jeff Glover on the "B" garbage route, and part of our training is to have him work in all areas of Public Works so he is exposed to and proficient in all of the activities of the Department. Kasey has already proven to be a great fit, hard worker, and is a wonderful addition to our staff. I'm confident you will all enjoy meeting him in the coming weeks and months.

GREENWOOD PARK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

I also wanted to update everyone on our Greenwood Park Stream Restoration project. As has been covered before, The Town of Biltmore Forest received a North Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund, zero-percent-interest loan, to perform a stream restoration project for the stretch of Fourmile Creek that passes through Greenwood Park, between Stuyvesant Road and Greenwood Road. We have just received approval to award this project to the low bidder, Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. This company, based in Old Fort, North Carolina, specializes in natural stream restoration work and has performed many such projects throughout western North Carolina.

The total construction cost is approximately \$185,000, and involves the removal of the old, wire gabion baskets and several hundred tons of quarried rip-rap stone from the stream bed. The stream channel will be enhanced and stabilized using modern, "natural stream channel" design techniques that include the installation of larger, more natural boulders along with other natural stabilization techniques. The result will be the creation of more distinct pool and riffle sections that more closely mimic what is seen in stable, undisturbed streams. As part of the project, the Town has also committed to maintaining a largely undisturbed buffer around the stream banks that will be heavily vegetated with native plants that help to reinforce the channel banks, keep the water cool, support aquatic life and provide habitat, and prevent erosion along the reach.

We will be meeting with the Contractor in the near future to schedule the construction start date, which we currently anticipate beginning in late winter or early spring. Once work begins, please plan on the park being completely closed for approximately four to eight weeks until all of the heavy construction in the stream itself is completed. It is likely that sections around the creek itself will remain closed beyond this initial construction awaiting installation of the plant materials. The replanting will occur over a longer time due to the need to install the materials during appropriate planting windows and when the live materials are commercially available.

This project represents the first phase of bigger plans for the park, but is crucial to preserving this natural resource for generations to come. Stay tuned for additional information on improvements not only at Greenwood Park, but throughout Town.

As always, if you ever have questions regarding the services we provide, or if you have any feedback for the department, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Harry Buckner, PE, Director (hbuckner@biltmoreforest.org), or Mike Dale, ASLA, Supervisor (mdale@biltmoreforest.org), at 828-274-3919. It is our pleasure to be of service to you.



Employee Anniversaries

Kenny Merritt-11 years
Kim Rhinehart-21 years
Samantha Bombace-25 years
John Driver-15 years
Harry Buckner-2 years

Greetings from Skyland Fire and Rescue, we hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We have been busy preparing for an Insurance Rating coming up on March 21st. The NC Department of Insurance along with the Insurance Services Office, rates fire departments on how well they are prepared to handle fires. The score covers different aspects of capability such as staffing, water supply, communications, and training. The scores range from Class 9 to Class 1, of the roughly 50,000 departments scored by ISO only 455 have achieved a Class 1 rating. Skyland Fire is currently an ISO Class 3. This rating allows for lower insurance rates for businesses and homeowners. One category that factors into a rating score is Community Risk Reduction. SFD has recently added a Community Risk Coordinator to each shift which will provide a resource for Fire Prevention and Education, and Community Safety. As always please contact us if we can be of service.



FRIENDS OF BILTMORE FOREST

Greetings from the Friends of Biltmore Forest! Happy ninety-ninth birthday to our Town, which was incorporated on February 14, 1923. Reading over the history that was compiled by David Schulman to celebrate the Town's seventy-fifth birthday, I was touched to see that so many residents' memories of growing up here in the 1930s and onward reflect what I see and treasure in our neighborhood today—residents enjoying walks with their dogs, families playing in the park, bike riders of all ages facing our hills with fortitude, and neighbors' appreciation of our majestic trees—and there were even complaints about the deer! Ultimately, so many of the memories fondly recall a feeling that neighbors could count on each other in good times and bad. As John Brackett, Jr., reminisced, “In such a complicated and changing world, we were awfully lucky to have White Oak Road in our blood, awfully lucky indeed.” I know the past few years have only heightened my gratitude for this special place. If you would like to read more oral histories of Biltmore Forest's first 75 years, the document compiled by David Schulman is available on the Town's website.

In keeping with this lasting spirit of community, the Friends of Biltmore Forest is pleased to announce a few upcoming events. On March 5, we'll unveil the Town's first Little Free Library. Great thanks to Lauren Karlsson for leading this project; to Melissa Ryan for the design and inspiration; to Jonas Karlsson and Paul Zimmerman for construction; and to Megan Dugan and Cindy Holman for their support and ideas. See article on page one for more details about the celebratory “grand opening” of the Little Free Library in Rosebank Park on Saturday, March 5.

The next event to put on your calendars is our second annual Arbor Day Celebration. After a two-year pause as we learned to safely navigate the pandemic, we are re-launching our Arbor Day festivities on Saturday, April 23. We'll have activities for children, an information table about tree stewardship, our first food truck of the season, and more. Additional details will follow as the date approaches. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Katie Valeika (valeikak@gmail.com).

We'll again host several food trucks in Rosebank Park as the weather warms up and will keep you posted in this newsletter and via the CodeRed System. And finally, with our 100th anniversary approaching, please consider volunteering or sharing your memories as we put together a celebration worthy of our Town's history and residents. Thank you to Cindy Holman for spearheading these efforts. See the article on page one for more information. I look forward to seeing you at these events as we add new pages to our Town's history.



Town of Biltmore Forest
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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.



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! Step to the side of the road when a vehicle is approaching as you face traffic.