

July 2020



# The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

## The Commissioners' Corner

Like everyone around the globe, residents and staff in Biltmore Forest have been dramatically impacted by the novel coronavirus, Covid-19. The Town closed buildings and facilities to the public Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Playground equipment remains closed, but public parks are open for walking and other uses. The Board of Commissioners did not meet in April, and the Board of Adjustment postponed meeting for three months due to state regulations.

The Board of Commissioners has held regular meetings since May. While we are currently unable to have the meeting open to the public, due to state social distancing and mass gathering guidelines, these meetings are available for Town residents to participate virtually. The Board of Adjustment held their first meeting, conducted virtually, on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Both the Board of Commissioners and Board of Adjustment will continue to hold meetings virtually until such time that mass gathering limits are increased and we can safely allow the public inside. We continue to evaluate the format for these virtual meetings and strive to make improvements into how they are presented. Information for accessing these meetings is provided on the Town's website the Friday before each meeting, at the latest.



These have been difficult, challenging, and confusing times for all of us, but we are persevering and moving forward. We are able to do this because of the cooperation, understanding, and patience of all Town residents. This is illustrated by those patiently waiting for an application to appear before the Board of Adjustment or citizens providing public comments to the Town via email. This is also evidenced in those who send their thanks to Town staff for the job they are doing. This has not been an easy time, but it has revealed the deep character and professionalism of our Town's staff. As a Board, we are continually made proud of the services provided by our employees – but their efforts in the midst of a global pandemic have shown they are truly a cut above the rest. The next few pages of this newsletter include information about the life of the Town that continues even in the midst of these changing times – we have new employees, ways you can help and be involved in the life of the Town, and other important information. We hope all our citizens are healthy and well, and encourage you to keep checking on each other. We will get through this time together.



### **Fourth of July Festival and Parade**

In late May, the Board of Commissioners made the decision to cancel this year's Fourth of July Festival and Parade. This decision was made after careful consideration for the health and safety of Town residents and in an effort to limit any potential contact or community spread of the coronavirus. We are all saddened by this year's cancellation, but we appreciate everyone's understanding. We are hopeful that we can gather and celebrate together soon.

## Introducing Our New Town Employees



Mr. Cody Bartlett has been with the Town since May. Cody has a background in maintenance and snow removal from working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Cody enjoys spending time with his wife and three children. He also enjoys hunting and fishing.

**Cody Bartlett,  
Public Works**



Mr. John Divello has been with the Town since June. John previously worked with the City of Asheville and has a background in operating heavy equipment and snow removal. John and his fiancé enjoy the outdoors and are avid mountain bikers.

**John Divello,  
Public Works**



**Public Works  
Director,  
Harry Buckner**

On February 27, 2020, the Town welcomed our new Director of Public Works, Mr. Harry Buckner. Harry holds a professional engineer's license and worked with McGill Associates for 24 years, including a substantial amount of time as a partner and owner. He has a thorough background in public works project management and civil engineering design, plan review, and organi-

zational development. He worked as a financial advisor for Northwestern Mutual for three years before joining the Town. His first four months on the job intersected with the impacts from Covid-19 and have been unique, to say the least, but he is already making impactful and lasting change upon the Town and Department. Harry is a Buncombe County native, a gradu-

ate of Erwin High School, and obtained his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from NC State University. His wife is a native of northern Buncombe County and they have one daughter. You can reach him at the Public Works Department by calling (828) 274-3919 or via email at [hbuckner@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:hbuckner@biltmoreforest.org).



**Hannah Quinn,  
Police Department**

Ms. Hannah Quinn is a Western North Carolina native, and graduated from Owen High School. Hannah was hired as a telecommunicator for the Police Department and we are delighted to have her join our Biltmore Forest team! Hannah enjoys cooking, fishing, fashion, and is also a beautician.

**Keep our Creeks and Streams Clean – Pick Up After Your Dog!**

Did you know dog and pet waste is a major contributor to stormwater pollution? Pets and urban wildlife are major sources of water contamination because pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites. You can make a difference by being a responsible pet owner and carrying bags with you to pick up pet waste. The Town provides bags in both Greenwood and Rosebank Parks and is currently identifying ways we can increase additional bag access areas in Town. When walking, please pick up after your dog and DO NOT leave the bags on the ground— there isn't anyone designated to pick them up. Dog waste and bags should not be left on tops of brush or leaf piles either, as these get put into mulch yards and ends up running downstream, too. Do your part to help maintain the beauty of our Town and health of our creeks and streams – please pick up after your pet!



Please clean up after your dog and do not leave bags on the ground.

Information sourced from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3564131/>

**Hendersonville Road Corridor Study**

The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), housed at the Land of Sky Regional Council, is sponsoring the ***Hendersonville Road Complete Streets Corridor Study***. The study corridor starts at the intersection with NC 280/ Airport Road and transitions northward to Rock Hill Road. The purpose of this corridor study is to review issues related to safety, congestion, multimodal connectivity and development/urban design.

The portion of the Town located in this corridor is the area on the western side of Hendersonville Road from Valley Springs Road to Rock Hill Road. The MPO welcomes input from those along this corridor in an effort to learn more about the project and participate and the Town encourages our residents to make your voice and opinion known. The website for staying involved in this process can be found at the following link: <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/hendersonville-road-corridor/>

There are no plans for construction or changes proposed as a result of this study at this point, but the MPO is using this time to prepare future improvements that will benefit the health, safety, and quality of life of all who utilize this road.

**Optional town vehicle decals are available at the police department for \$5 per vehicle. Methods of payment accepted are exact cash and check only.**

**Power Outages:**  
Duke Energy (800)419-6356  
**Gas Leaks:**  
Dominion Energy  
(formerly PSNC Energy)  
1-877-776-2427  
**Water Service:**  
Public Works 274-3919  
After Hours 274-0823

**EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES**  
**Charles Tesner 5 years**  
**Jonathan Kanipe 6 years**  
**Laura Jacobs 11 years**  
**Gabriel Crespo 15 years**  
**Helen Stephens 16 years**  
**Keith Bowman 28 years**  
**Eric Anderson 1 year**

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

We, like all law enforcement are facing challenging times as a police department. COVID-19 guidelines are the new normal. As this is uncharted territory, we want you to know that your police department in Biltmore Forest is here for you in any situation when you need us. No matter what we face as a society, we stand ready to protect and serve you professionally and at the high standard that we are known for. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any need at all.

As summertime reaches its peak, so does household property crime. The Biltmore Forest Police Department would like to provide you with some important safety tips to make your summer safe and enjoyable. Summer time is great for vacations and family time, but criminals don't take summer breaks. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Household property crimes exhibited a pattern of seasonal fluctuations from 1993 to 2010. The most common pattern for household property crimes was that victimization occurred at higher rates during the summer than during other seasons." Here are some summer time safety tips:

~As always be aware of your surroundings. Our situational awareness should always be our number one safety priority. Pay attention to what is happening around you. Be aware of what's happening in the neighborhood. Communicate and partner with neighbors about any suspicious activity in the neighborhood and always call or notify the police department with any concerns.

~Lock your doors, including the garage door. Unlocked doors are open invitations to intruders. If you vacation, ask a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor to keep a watchful eye on your home or have your mail held at the local post office until your return.

~Don't post on social media that you are leaving town, and wait to post photos after you return from your trip.

~Always lock your car doors and roll up your windows when you leave your car. Even when it is in your driveway.

~Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods and residential areas. Young children may be more concerned about catching a ball that rolls into the street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.

Please do not hesitate to contact the police department with any concerns at 828-274-0822.

~Chief Chris Beddingfield, Chief of Police

## PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

The Town of Biltmore Forest is known for its lush landscape and well-maintained appearance. To assist residents with keeping their property looking its best, the Public Works Department collects and disposes of brush from each occupied residential lot once per month. This year, our department has worked especially hard to keep up with the needs of residents in this area. The combination of rainy and occasionally severe weather, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic keeping residents sequestered at home, has increased the work on our lawns and gardens.

To better serve all residents through the brush pick-up program, we want to remind everyone of the Town's ordinances and tips as they relate to brush collection. By complying with the ordinances, residents can enhance the beauty of their property, be a considerate neighbor, and provide our Department with a safe and efficient working environment.

~Brush should be placed curbside **NO SOONER THAN 5 DAYS** before scheduled pick-up. We have begun using the CodeRed telephone system to remind residents of the appropriate times to bring brush to the curb for removal. Placing brush outside of these windows is an eyesore for your neighbors, and typically kills the grass under the pile, leaving the road shoulder unsightly.

~For homes **NORTH OF** Southwood and Eastwood Roads, brush pick-up begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. This means brush should be placed out no sooner than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

~For homes **ON** Southwood and Eastwood Roads, and **ALL POINTS SOUTH**, brush pick-up begins on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month. This means brush should be placed out no sooner than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

~Brush gathered by outside tree, lawn, or landscaping companies (anyone other than the resident) **MUST BE REMOVED BY THAT SAME COMPANY**. We simply cannot keep up with all the professional landscapers that work in our Town and maintain equitable service to all.

~**NO MORE THAN 15** cubic yards of brush (approximately 1/2 of our brush truck capacity) should be placed curbside per month. Again, to equitably serve **ALL** residents, there is a monthly limit.

~**PILES SHOULD BE NEATLY STACKED** parallel to the roadway. Limbs should be trimmed no more than 6-feet in length. This allows our crew to operate with maximum efficiency.

~**BE AWARE OF WHERE YOUR BRUSH IS PLACED**. Do not place brush in the public roadway, in a blind spot, beneath shrubbery or trees where our equipment cannot reach, or underneath power lines. Keep our team safe!

~All brush must be **PLACED ON THE LOT WHERE IT WAS COLLECTED**. Do not place brush for collection on your neighbor's lot or on Town owned community property. Be a good neighbor.

We appreciate your assistance with keeping our Town beautiful and our workers safe. Please do not hesitate to call Public Works at 274-3919.

~Harry Buckner, Director of Public Works

# Town of Biltmore Forest

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ASHEVILLE, NC

355 Vanderbilt Road  
Biltmore Forest, NC 288803

**Mayor:**  
**George F. Goosmann,  
III**

**Commissioners:**  
**Fran Cogburn  
E. Glenn Kelly  
Doris P. Loomis**

**Town Manager:**  
**Jonathan Kanipe**  
Town Hall: 274-0824  
jkanipe@biltmoreforest.org

**Police Chief:**  
**Chris Beddingfield**  
274-0822  
cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org

**Public Works**  
**Director:**  
**Harry Buckner**  
274-3919  
hbuckner@biltmoreforest.org

**Remember, ALWAYS contact the Town Hall before beginning ANY project on your property. This includes interior or exterior construction, new or refreshed landscaping projects, fence construction, and tree removal. We want to ensure your project is successful, and the first step is to check with the Town!**



### **Stand Up, Be Counted!**

By now, all residents have received letters or postcards from the United States Census Bureau for completing the 2020 census. It is vitally important that all residents respond to this form, stand up, and be counted! If you have lost your form, you can simply go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) and provide your home street address to get started. You may also call (844) 330-2020 to complete the Census by phone. As of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 68% of the Town's population had completed the Census form, ranking 51<sup>st</sup> in the state for all Census population groups. We encourage everyone to complete their form now and help boost the Town into first place!