

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

June 2023



Photo Credit: Wayne Husko

Spring is in the air, and summer isn't too far behind!

Here's some things to keep in mind as the wildlife starts to be out and about more in the outdoors.

- Secure food, garbage, and recycling as well as keep your trash inside until your trash pickup day.
- Never feed or approach the bears.
- Never leave pet food outdoors.
- Clean and store smokers/grills after each use.
- Respect the outdoors, this is their home too.
- Bird feeders can attract bears and other wildlife, typically best to remove these while bears are active
- And finally, enjoy the outdoors and seeing nature in its natural habitat!

The Town's Annual Independence Day picnic and celebration will take place Tuesday, July 4th from 10am-12pm at Rosebank Park. The annual Children's Parade will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and depart from Vanderbilt Road in front of the Town Hall. The Mayor will welcome the crowd at 9:50 followed by Chief Chris Beddingfield leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. From there, Skyland Fire Department and the Biltmore Forest Police Department will lead the procession down Vanderbilt Road to the park. For those who want to begin at the Park, please feel free to join us beginning at 10am! The Town will serve its customary hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips, watermelon, ice cream, watermelon, sno-cones, cotton candy, and water/juice will be served. We will have a bouncy obstacle course and slide for children and there will also be face painting and balloon animal twisting. Live local bands will also perform starting at 10am until early afternoon. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, July 4th at Rosebank Park!

Mayor

George F. Goosmann, III

Commissioners

Doris P. Loomis – Mayor Pro-Tem

Fran Cogburn

E. Glenn Kelly

Town Manager

Jonathan Kanipe

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Director of Public Works

Harry Buckner

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Police Chief

Chris Beddingfield

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From the 100th Anniversary Committee

It is our pleasure to recap the 100th Anniversary Events held so far during 2023:

- Centennial 5K Run/Walk and Centennial Kickoff party at Rosebank Park.
- Diane Zimmerman gave two fascinating, standing-room-only talks about the History of Biltmore Forest on January 8.
- The actual birthday of our town was February 14, celebrated with a Centennial Proclamation, cupcakes bearing the Town's new 100th Anniversary logo were served, and a Residents' Art Show was held. Private-labeled Biltmore Estate wine bearing the joint logos of the Biltmore Winery and the Town was served.
- On March 18 & 19, a GrayLine Trolley tour of the neighborhood, hosted by lifelong resident Louise Brackett with a wide array of oral history topics from her own and residents' stories of life in our beautiful town.
- Check out some photos from these events at <https://www.biltmoreforest.org/town-biltmore-forest-centennial-celebration>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page for photos and a slide show.

From Friends of Biltmore Forest

Food Truck Friday Schedule

We are hosting two Food Truck Fridays this summer: June 9 and August 25 from 5-8 pm at Rosebank Park. Be sure to check out the Upcoming Events tab on the town's website for a list of the food trucks participating in both events.

We have a special event* for residents in July – a movie in the park on July 21! We are currently gathering suggestions for a family-friendly film. Send your suggestions to Lauren Karlsson, Chair of Friends of Biltmore Forest, at laurenkarlsson1@gmail.com. Additionally, the FOBF committee has identified a few local restaurants who will extend discounts and special food packages for residents to enjoy during the film. More information will be available on the FOBF page on the town's website.

*This event will start at sunset—later than regular Food Truck Fridays.

July 4 Jam Band Opportunity

We are soliciting resident musicians now to join for a song or two in the Biltmore Forest Jam Band, which is headlining our 4th of July celebration this year. If you have an instrumental or vocal hobby that you are willing to share with us, we would love for you to join in.

We need for you to sign up soon! Coordinating a jam band takes time, and the more time we have for properly preparing, the more fun it will be for listeners and for resident-entertainers.

Details: One of the special treats presented in this year's Fourth of July celebration is the Biltmore Forest Jam. Resident Tim Gillespie and his band, The SophistiCats, will play a concert immediately following the picnic, featuring Classic Rock, funk and blues. We invite our talented musician residents to join the band onstage for a song or two.

Sign up to play: Contact us at bfanniversary@biltmoreforest.org to indicate you want to learn more about joining. Put "Jam" in the Subject line of your Email and tell us what instrument you play.

Please check with Town Hall prior to beginning any landscaping or construction project. This includes, but is not limited to, tree removals, hardscape design, fence, wall, and gate installations, additions to existing structures, and driveway realignments. While some projects do not require formal Town approval or review, it is much simpler for all residents and their contractors to ask the Town staff for assistance. We are happy to provide a simple review that ensures compliance with the Town's Zoning Ordinance. When a permit is required, we are happy to assist with this application process. Please contact us at any time with questions regarding your project ideas.

From the Sports Committee:

Under the auspices of the 100th Sports Committee, and initiated by resident Blair Holl, a Biltmore Forest Running Group has formed. This informal group is intended for runners of every skill level, to provide running buddies, introduce interesting routes in and around the neighborhood, add motivation and encouragement for continued enjoyment of the sport, and more. If you are interested in learning more, submit your preferred contact information into this form: <https://forms.gle/tU1NkutWSBTjmig49>. There is also a direct link to the form on the centennial page on the town's website.

From the Sports and Party Committees:

The Sports and Party Committees invite you to tell us about your interest in board games. Would you be interested in coming to Town Hall for monthly late afternoon pick-up games of checkers, backgammon, chess, Parcheesi, cards [the PG variety], and more? Please tell us about you, your gaming interests and preferences via this form <https://forms.gle/moFbRPKB7jXTXYFF7> or call Town Hall for help with the form. There is also a direct link to the form on the centennial page on the town's website.

From the Arts Committee:

We are considering holding a short series of children's art classes and art show at Town Hall in early August. Please indicate your interest by answering this couple of questions at: <https://forms.gle/XbbLNbjHy4h4dHYk7>. We will use the results of everyone's expressions of interest to determine what to offer. Stay tuned!

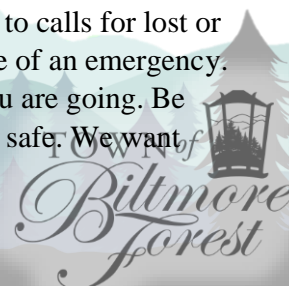
As part of the 100th Anniversary of Biltmore Forest, we will again be having a Car Show of Biltmore Forest resident's cars and motorcycles. If you have an interesting sport or utility vehicle and would like to participate, please contact Paul Zimmerman at 774-5006 or brassringfarm1@gmail.com! Your car does NOT have to be a show car to participate, so if it's an older Land Rover in original condition with mud in the wheel wells--that would be great! Just so it's in running condition!"

Skyland Fire Department

Greetings from Skyland Fire & Rescue

Summer is fast approaching and bringing warm temperatures and more outdoor activities with it. We would like to remind everyone to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors. Warmer temperatures present several potential hazards. A common emergency we respond to in the summer months is heat exhaustion. Remember to drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks during outdoor activities; make sure kids are staying hydrated as well. Another common emergency we respond to is allergic reactions. These can range from bee stings, to food allergies, or other environmental allergens. If you or a child have known allergies, carry a prescribed "EPI PEN" with you at all times. Not every allergic reaction is severe, however an anaphylactic reaction is a life-threatening emergency. An allergic reaction coupled with hives or any difficulty breathing, is a true emergency and warrants a 911 response. Water safety is another concern, it only takes a few seconds for a small child to wander into a pool or pond. Be sure gates and fencing around pools is secure. We also respond frequently to calls for lost or injured hikers and bikers. If you or family members venture out, have a plan in place in case of an emergency. Make sure cell phones are charged, you have plenty of water and someone knows where you are going. Be specific about which area or trails you will be on. Wear helmets on bikes or horses and stay safe. We want everyone to enjoy the beautiful area we live in, stay safe and have fun.

Skyland Fire & Rescue





Chief's Corner

Springtime is here and with warmer weather comes much more interaction with wildlife. We have received numerous bear sightings and complaint calls recently. The key thing to remember is that the bears are either searching for food or traveling to and from habitat. Most of the time the bear will avoid you just by your presence, but proactive prevention goes a long way. Make sure all bird feeders are put away during this time of year. Keep your trash put up until it is ready to be picked up. There are also bear resistant trash cans and other devices available that keep the bears moving along. Keeping your grill clean and stored securely will also help. Obviously if a bear is acting aggressively or traveling with a cub or cubs avoid them if at all possible. There are so many thoughts on what to do if attacked by a bear. Many experts suggest using bear spray, make no sudden movements or even play dead. The easiest way is to be proactive and eliminate their food source and you should have no problems with the bears in the area.

As always just some general crime prevention tips are as follows:

Always be aware of your surroundings. We are all in hurry with the hustle and bustle of life but do not let your guard down. Focusing on your surroundings and staying alert will reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Be aware of solicitation scams both online and over the phone. If something seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Anyone that contacts you asking for personal, or banking information should be verified before giving this information. If it is a legitimate call, they will have no problem with you calling them back or making some verification. Scammers will try to make you feel pressured or hurried into giving this information, do not fall into their trap. Always remove your valuables and secure your vehicle at night. Even if your car is in your driveway, it is a prime target to be rummaged through by a criminal looking to score. Most of the time if the door is locked and there are no valuable items in sight the thief will move on looking for an easier target. Investigate the feasibility of a security camera or alarm system. Prices have come down recently and these systems are very inexpensive for the returned amount of protection. No system is 100% guaranteed to prevent a crime but we have solved many incidents by starting with camera footage or a picture of the suspect. Remember, if you see something say something. Please call the police department regarding any suspicious activity you might observe. It is always better to be safe than sorry and many times your call might prevent someone from becoming a victim.

As always feel free to contact the police department for any need that you might have. Please download the Biltmore Forest Police Department app for constant updates and information.



Chief Chris Beddingfield

828-274-0822



Public Works Updates

Greetings from the Town of Biltmore Forest Public Works department! We trust that you have enjoyed our beautiful spring this year and are gearing up for a relaxing summer season here in Biltmore Forest. Our team here at Public Works is fully underway with spring and summer mowing and maintenance activities in our public spaces, and we wish to share some important department news and tips with you.

WELCOME OUR LATEST TEAM MEMBERS

We have recently added two new team members to the Department. Please join me in welcoming Brian Barnett and Wayne Husko to our team. As they learn the ropes of our work and our Town, you will likely see them working on our garbage, recycling, and brush trucks, as well as participating in all our other work activities here in the Department.

SUMMER REMINDERS AND TIPS

With the summer months comes lots of yard and lawn maintenance. As we discussed last month, please be reminded of the following tips that will improve our efficiency in keeping our Town looking its best:

- **Reminder: the Town's Tree Protection Ordinance requires residents to notify our Town Arborist of the removal of any tree greater than 6-inches in diameter. Once we have reviewed the tree or trees you wish to remove, we will provide you with any specific replacement (or other) requirements outlined in the Town ordinance. You can contact us at 828-274-3919 or submit a form on the Town's website at www.biltmoreforest.org/request-tree-inspection-removal**
- To assist with and expedite brush collection, please place all brush in a single, orderly pile parallel to the road edge.
- Be mindful of where you are building your brush piles for collection! Avoid overhead utility lines, storm drain inlets, fire hydrants, and water meter boxes. If we cannot see this infrastructure, it is very easy to damage it as we collect the brush.
- Grass clippings, bamboo, and other debris such as pallets or trash cannot be taken with the brush.
- Brush collected by hired lawn services must also be removed by those services.
- Please be mindful of your water consumption by properly maintaining and monitoring your irrigation system for leaks. Water conservation saves you money and is good for the environment, too!

As always, we appreciate your help in these areas, and please call Public Works at 828-274-3919 if you have any questions at all.

Harry Buckner

Employee Anniversaries

Samantha Bombace – 26 years

Gabriel Crespo – 17 years

Krystal Curtis – 2 years

Shannon Kimbrough – 4 years

Kenny Merritt – 12 years

Kim Rhinehart – 22 years

Employee Birthdays

May

Shelby Tate-Frady

June

Chris Beddingfield

Harry Buckner

July

Gabriel Crespo

Matt Kelly

Joe Zub

August

Michael Anton

Samantha Bombace

Wayne Husko

Laura Jacobs

Kenny Merritt



New Town Employees

Tony Williams – Town Planner

Mr. Williams is a native of Buncombe County and has extensive experience in both planning and code enforcement. A graduate of North Buncombe High School and UNC-Charlotte, Mr. Williams began his career in this sector as the Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Hendersonville in the mid-2000s. Subsequently, he served in the Madison County government from 2007-2018 as the Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal, and finally as the Director of Inspections and Planning and Zoning. Most recently, Mr. Williams has served as a building inspector with Buncombe County.



Brooklyn Martin-Gigi – Dispatcher

Ms. Martin-Gigi is originally from Miami, Florida, but has lived in the Asheville area since 2007. Ms. Martin-Gigi comes to us from the Biltmore Company Police. She has been in the dispatch area since 2019. Ms. Martin-Gigi graduated from Lees McRae University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, and is in the process of pursuing her master's degree with a specialization in forensic psychology. When not working, Ms. Martin-Gigi enjoys spending time with her two cats: Vivian and Onyx.

Wayne Husko – Public Works

Wayne Husko is a recent addition to the area from northern Illinois. His background is in industrial equipment maintenance, and he has also worked as an auto mechanic, but most recently came to us from Lowe's Home Improvement. Wayne lives in Hendersonville with his fiancé, and we are grateful to have his expertise in the department.



Brian Barnette – Public Works

Brian Barnette is a Western North Carolina native that comes to us most recently from Sierra Nevada Brewery, but with an extensive maintenance background. Brian and his family live in Candler and we are excited to have him on the team.

