

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

2021

During last year's budget process, the Board of Commissioners prioritized ensuring the safety of the Town's staff by agreeing to purchase uniform trash containers for all Town residents. The uniformity of these containers allows Town staff to place the garbage can on a lift, thereby reducing risk of injury and arm strain. Over the course of the past five years alone, three Town employees have suffered rotator cuff tears because of the repetitive lifting of garbage bags from trash containers.

The Town understands this transition to a uniform container system requires our citizens to forgo their existing containers and, for many, a 95-gallon container may be too large. For your reference, a 95-gallon container is the same size as the recycling container provided by the Town. Recognizing this, the Town is offering a smaller, 65-gallon container that still provides the uniformity necessary to ensure the well-being of our staff.

Opportunity to Choose

The Town has both size options available for review at the Town Hall. Please come by, review each size, and let staff know your preference by Friday, December 13, 2021. If you *know* you want a 95-gallon container, there is no need to come to the Town Hall. We will automatically issue 95-gallon containers if we do not receive a request for a smaller container. The Town will place this order in late December with an estimated arrival date 10-12 weeks from then. Installation and delivery will be provided by the Town, and we will also dispose of your old containers if you wish.

The Town appreciates your understanding as we strive to continue providing an exceptionally high level of service with our trash and recycling collection. This transition to uniform containers allows the Town to continue providing this service while ensuring the health and well-being of our staff.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The holidays are a wonderful time of family and fellowship. As we make our way into winter and the holiday season we must stay vigilant during one of our most busy times of the year. Winter weather is always a concern, not to mention many criminals thrive on the hustle and bustle of the holidays. 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 lots of cash and that we are making large purchases. Fraudulent activities take advantage of the spirit of giving. 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. Remember if you see something say something!

If You Are Shopping

Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you. Park in a well-lit space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible. Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket. Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight.

Prepare Your Car for Winter

Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
Remember to keep your car's emergency kit fully stocked, too.



Officer Kenny Merritt received his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division. The Advanced Certificate is awarded based upon formal education, years of experience and law enforcement training. Officer Merritt has 10 years of experience, an Associate's Degree, currently working on his Bachelor's degree, and accumulated 37 training points. This is an outstanding accomplishment and we congratulate Officer Merritt on this accomplishment!.



Employee Anniversaries

Chris Beddingfield-4 years
Michael Anton-2 years
Patrick Ridgeway-2 years
Matt Kelly-12 years
Lucius Riley-3 years
Aslyne Tate-3 years
Shelby Tate-Frady-3 years
Mike Dale-1 year
Daniel Rice-1 year

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

This month's newsletter focus is an update on our efforts to maintain and care for our aging stormwater system. Proper operations and maintenance of our storm drain system represents a significant portion of our department's resources in both time and money. Our system is quite old, with many parts of it dating to the original development of the Town in first half of the 20th century. The Town commissioned a Stormwater Master Plan in October 2019 that was developed by an outside consultant that created an inventory (map) of the Town's stormwater infrastructure, performed a generalized assessment of the system, and concluded with the identification of system deficiencies. The final recommendation was for the Town to complete a total of \$5.37 million dollars of capital projects over the next ten years in ten distinct project areas. Clearly, we have a great deal of work to do!

To that end, our department is looking for ways to efficiently and creatively accomplish this goal. Our first master plan project, completed in 2020, was repairs at Project Area 4. This involved the repair of a significant sinkhole and replacement of several hundred feet of storm drainpipe along Cedar Hill Drive. This year, we are attempting to accelerate our efforts and working on three more projects across Town as follows:

Project Area 2 – 13/15 Park Rd. Culvert Replacement

This project involves the replacement of a culvert under Park Road that was identified as potentially being undersized and in poor condition. A survey of this project area has been completed and our engineering consultant is finalizing the detailed design this month. Construction will likely begin this winter.

Project Area 4(b) – Cedar Hill Road Stream Stabilization

This project involves the stabilization of a segment of an unnamed tributary to Fourmile Creek that begins near the intersection of Hemlock Road and Cedar Hill Drive, and continues upstream to the end of the initial Project Area 4 project that was completed last year. The instability of this stream bank is threatening the Cedar Hill Drive roadway itself.

Project Area 1 & Area 9 – Vanderbilt/Stuyvesant/Lone Pine Stormwater Project

This is the largest stormwater project undertaken to date, with the goal of eliminating flooding at the five-way intersection of Vanderbilt Road, Stuyvesant Road, and Lone Pine Road.

(Continued on opposite panel)

This also includes improvements to the stormwater system south from this intersection along Vanderbilt Road, to the lower end of Rosebank Park. Because of the size of the initial scope and estimated project costs of this project, we have authorized the completion of 30 percent design drawings and an updated cost estimate. This will allow us to potentially phase the project into a series of smaller improvements if that is advantageous as well as properly budget the project properly before finalizing the design so that the project can be appropriately budgeted and work scheduled. This design work is scheduled to be completed in February 2022.



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

Residents can assist the Town by notifying us when you see poorly draining areas, sinkholes, or other areas of concern. Be mindful not to block storm drain inlets and pipe outlets with leaves, brush or other debris. Please be patient with us as we do have a substantial amount of deferred maintenance we are working to catch up on and, as you can see, several significant projects to manage, in addition to responding to unexpected service work.

Town of Biltmore Forest
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SKYLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Happy Holidays from Skyland Fire and Rescue, as we celebrate and close out the year we would like to remind everyone to stay safe. We would like to ask residents to ensure they have a working smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector on each level of the home. Winter often brings power outages and alternate heating and power sources which present their own unique safety hazards. If you would like a fire crew to help you perform a safety evaluation on your home feel free to contact me at wbryson@skylandfire.com and we would be more than happy to set up a visit. Skyland Fire is also growing; we have recently added 6 new Firefighter/EMT positions to increase our staffing as well as created 3 new Community Risk Coordinator positions. The Biltmore Forest Station also placed a new dual purpose truck in service. The truck will respond to medical incidents but also has firefighting capabilities. We look forward to serving you in 2022 and as always if we can be of service give us a 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!

Annual Tree Lighting Returns!

The Town's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event returns this year on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the season and mingle with your friends and neighbors at the Town Hall!

TAX PAYMENT REMINDER

The last day to pay your 2021 property taxes without a penalty is January, 5, 2022. A 2% interest accrues on January 6th, 2022 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 .