



# The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

## The Commissioners' Corner

October 2020

**Mayor:**

**George F.  
Goosmann, III**

**Commissioners:**

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

**Town Manager:**

**Jonathan Kanipe**  
**[jkanipe@  
biltmoreforest.org](mailto:jkanipe@biltmoreforest.org)**

**Director of Public  
Works:**

**Harry Buckner**  
**[hbuckner  
@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:hbuckner@biltmoreforest.org)**

**Chief of Police:**

**Chris Beddingfield**

**[cbeddingfield@  
biltmoreforest.org](mailto:cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org)**

**2020 Biltmore Forest property tax bills were mailed in August. Please call or email Town Hall if you have not received your bill and would like a copy of your 2020 tax bill.**

### Election 2020 Information:

The in-person early voting (one-stop) period begins Thursday, October 15, and ends Saturday, October 31. During early voting, voters may cast a ballot at any early voting site in their county. This is different from Election Day when registered voters must vote at their assigned precinct. Buncombe County has many one-stop voting locations throughout the County. For a complete list, please visit: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/ossite/> and select "Buncombe" from the drop down menu.

**Please remember the Town's ordinance related to political signs. Section 93.03 of the Town Code states:**

(C) Political signs are allowed on any residential lot prior to a primary election, general election,

or referendum provided the signs are erected as follows.

(1) Signs may be posted 30 days prior to the beginning of one-stop voting and removed within five days after the day of the election.

(2) Four signs are permitted per lot, with each sign representing a candidate, or one issue if a referendum.

(3) Each sign shall not exceed four square feet in size and not contain any electrical component or lighted in any way.

(4) Wording shall be the same on both sides of the sign if both sides are exposed to the roadway.

(5) The sign shall be set back at least 20 feet from the nearest edge of the pavement of all public roads on which the house borders, and in no way shall signs be located within the public right-of-way.

(6) No portion of the sign is to extend more than four feet above the ground.

(7) A sign located on private property requires the owner's approval.

(8) The property owner shall be fined if the signs are not removed within five days of an election or referendum.

**CodeRED**

**TEXT "BiltmoreForestNC"**  
to 99411 to enroll in  
Biltmore Forest's  
emergency alert program

[biltmoreforest.org](http://biltmoreforest.org) | (828) 274-0824



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Brush and Leaf Pick-up

The Public Works Department wishes to extend a hearty “Thank You” to residents for your compliance with the Town’s brush ordinance. We have worked to clarify the ordinance so it is easier to understand and follow for all residents. If you have any feedback on the revised ordinance (listed below), your input is always appreciated.

The final brush collections of the season will occur in October. Brush can be placed at the curb from October 10-14, and again from October 25-29. We have decided to continue pick-up for the whole Town on both October dates.

As usual, brush pick-up will be suspended in November so that leaf pick-up can begin. Leaf pick-up will continue until January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please do not mix any brush with the leaves as it will damage our collection equipment.

### Public Dumpster Usage

Another area that we could use your assistance in is the proper use of the two (2) dumpsters located at Town Hall. These dumpsters are emptied in the early mornings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. We have noticed that the use of this service has dramatically increased this year, and want to remind you of the following dumpster rules: The dumpsters are for household garbage ONLY, do NOT dispose of construction debris, lumber, electronics, furniture, or other prohibited items in the dumpsters. A list of unacceptable materials is posted near the dumpsters. Never leave any garbage on the ground outside the dumpsters. If they are full, please take your garbage with you until they have been emptied.

### Recycling Program Information

As you are aware, the Town provides recycling pick-up to residents every other week. We field a lot of questions concerning what can and cannot be recycled. Please refer to [www.curbie.com](http://www.curbie.com) for a lot of great information regarding our recycling program. Please also visit the Town’s website at [www.biltmoreforest.org](http://www.biltmoreforest.org) for a list of what can and cannot be recycled.

~Harry Buckner

### **Revisions to Town Brush Ordinance**

During their September meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved amendments to the Town’s brush ordinance. The purpose of these amendments is to provide a clear definition for the amount of brush the Town will collect, when it is allowed to be placed along the road for pickup, and where brush should be located on private property before collection occurs. For a full version of this ordinance, please review the agenda packet from the Board of Commissioners meeting available on the Town website. Highlights from the new ordinance include the following:

A definition for **collection period** and **placement window**. These definitions provide definitive times for when the Town will pick up brush and when residents are allowed to place it along the road.

**COLLECTION PERIOD.** The period of time during which the Town picks up tree limbs, brush, leaves, and the like.

**PLACEMENT WINDOW.** The period of time during which tree limbs, brush, leaves, and the like may be placed by occupant upon that portion of residents’ property immediately adjacent to the street.

The inclusion of a specific volume of brush, limbs, and materials the Town will collect. In this case, the Town will pick up 15 cubic yards per residence. This represents approximately one-half of the large brush truck the Town uses. Clarification regarding that brush should be kept a minimum of ten (10) feet from the road edge at all times except during the collection period and placement window. During the placement window, brush may be placed along the Town street but not within the street itself.

Specific language indicating brush and similar materials shall not be placed on public property (parks or open space) or on neighboring property – it must be placed on the property from which it originated. It is our hope additional clarity and information will result in greater compliance and result in a better brush collection program for all citizens. The Town will provide a yearly brush schedule to all residents (along with a trash and recycling schedule) by the first of each year. This will include all definitions, information, timelines, and allowable amounts for brush pickup.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

We have had several issues with subjects going through unlocked cars parked both in driveways and near the roadway. We can't stress enough to secure your valuables and lock all of your doors including your vehicle doors. Leaving things like electronic devices in plain view of an unlocked vehicle is asking for problems. We are currently following up on leads from these incidents and have developed a couple of suspects and continue to work towards charging these individuals. It is always a good idea to record and keep serial numbers for all of your valuable property and electronics. This way if they are taken we are able to enter the items into a national data base of stolen property which greatly enhances the chances of getting your property back and bringing those who took it to justice. As always if you see suspicious activity or have any questions please contact us at the police department.

The Department is very proud to have two employees graduate from the Western North Carolina Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (LELA) at AB Technical College. Sergeant Matt Kelly and Senior Telecommunicator Aslyne Tate graduated from this academy on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. LELA is an in depth and challenging six month program that covers various leadership techniques, ideas, and applications. Please join us in congratulating these two on this great accomplishment.

Biltmore Forest is a peaceful place to walk, but please remember that vehicles have the right-of-way on our streets. Pedestrians should move out of the roadway when oncoming traffic approaches and should walk along the edge of the road facing traffic, unless sight lines or visibility prevent this from occurring safely. Wearing light colored or reflective clothing also ensures motorists are able to see you, particularly when the mornings and evenings are darker this time of year.

~Chief Chris Beddingfield

### Right of Way Renewal Program

In the next few weeks, the Town will begin a comprehensive review of all Town rights-of-way. The purpose of this review is to ensure the Town is equitably and effectively performing right of way maintenance and then provide a report on what is found to the Board of Commissioners. The steps for this program will be as follows: Town residents will be provided information on this program via newsletter, the Town website, and CodeRED. The Town will provide a list of all rights of way within the Town on our website. This will allow opportunities for residents to review their respective right of way and determine if any obstructions or vegetation is located within the Town's right of way.

Town staff will visually inspect each individual parcel within the Town and document what is or is not within the Town's right of way for that specific property. Town staff will document all visits with a time stamped digital photo, and conduct inspections for visibility and lines of sight for all street signs and intersections. The Town will also perform visual tree inspections and note hazardous trees within the Town's right of way. The Town will also document trees that may be hazardous to the public right of way from private property. Once the street survey is complete, results will be compiled and presented to the Board of Commissioners. This information will be made available during a regular meeting, and the Board will determine what actions are necessary to improve rights of way maintenance. We have received guidance from our insurance company on amendments to the Town Code and Zoning Ordinance regarding right of way maintenance, and will provide this information to the Board when reviewing whether changes to the existing ordinances are necessary. The above program will allow the Town to do two things: effectively and fairly manage street rights of way and limit future liability by routinely inspecting rights of way and performing routine maintenance. Once the initial thrust of inspections are complete Town staff will perform a quarterly check of street sign and line of sight visibility and address other obstructions more quickly.

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### Employee Anniversaries

**Patrick Ridgeway**

**1 year**

**Michael Anton**

**1 year**

**Lt. Mark Allen**

**21 years**

**Please remember to be a considerate neighbor and keep your dog on a leash and pick up waste after your dog while walking in the streets and parks throughout Town. Waste bags are available in the parks for your convenience. Throw bags away in the trash receptacles after cleaning up after your dog.**



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

**Town Hall: 274-0824**  
**Jonathan Kanipe,**  
**Town Manager**

**Public Works: 274-3919**  
**Harry Buckner,**  
**Public Works Director**

**Police Dept: 274-0822**  
**Chris Beddingfield,**  
**Police Chief**

Visit our website at  
[www.biltmoreforest.org](http://www.biltmoreforest.org)

#### North Carolina Law:

- Wear a bicycle helmet on public roads if under 16 years old.
- Use hand signals to communicate intended movements.
- Ride on the right in the same direction as other traffic. Stop at all stop signs and obey the speed limit.
- Please make sure to wear light colored or reflective clothing to increase visibility so others can see you.
- According to NC Pedestrian Laws, pedestrians should walk facing traffic when practicable.



### TRICK-OR-TREAT!! HALLOWEEN IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st!!

This year's Halloween will be different for all of us. For those who decide to trick or treat, or offer treats for children, please remember to practice social distancing, wear a mask (that doesn't cover eyes), and wash or sanitize your hands frequently! Be careful in the afternoon and evening as trick-or-treaters will be moving around Town. PLEASE drive cautiously and obey law enforcement road closures at Buena Vista & White Oak for trick-or-treaters. Trick-or-treating begins at sundown.

**WE ACCEPT PAYMENTS ONLINE!**

**Payments for water , taxes, and permit fees can also be made online via [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com)**

(A small fee is charged for this service)