

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

March 2023



Photo Credit: Jess Hedrick

Friends of Biltmore Forest

Are you ready to dive into a world of shared hobbies, vibrant connections, and new friendships? Mark your calendars for April 18th from 4-6 pm, as Friends of Biltmore Forest is gearing up for an exciting Resident Interest Group event that hopes to bring residents together over common interests and shared hobbies.

From fitness fanatics and crafting connoisseurs to culinary enthusiasts and dining-out devotees, this event could have something for everyone. We believe that fostering a sense of community begins with embracing our diverse interests, and what better way to do that than by joining or organizing a Resident Interest Group?

Fitness junkie? Picture yourself doing a morning yoga session or organizing a weekly walking group. Crafty by nature? Share your skills in a knitting circle or a DIY crafting club. Love exploring new culinary delights? Initiate a dining out group or cooking class. The possibilities are endless!

This event is not just about finding a group that matches your interests – it's about building connections and making our community an even more vibrant and engaging place to live. Imagine the joy of meeting like-minded neighbors, learning new skills, and sharing experiences together.

If you're passionate about something, we encourage you come on the 18th and possibly even initiate a group! Whether you're a seasoned expert or just starting out, your enthusiasm is what matters most. Spread the word, invite your neighbors, and let's make some new connections. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to Biltmore Forest, we welcome you to attend.

Save the date – April 18th, from 4-6 pm at Town Hall – and get ready to embark on a journey of community building and shared experiences. See you there!

Mayor

George F. Goosmann, III

Commissioners

Doris P. Loomis – Mayor Pro-Tem
 Fran Cogburn
 E. Glenn Kelly

Town Manager

Jonathan Kanipe
 (828)274-0824
jkanipe@biltmoreforest.org

Director of Public Works

Harry Buckner
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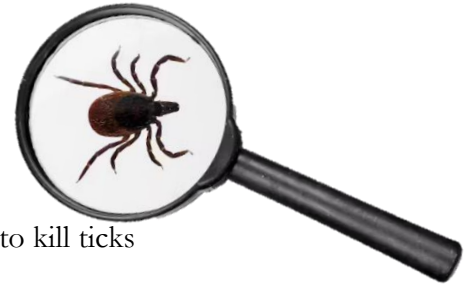
Police Chief

Chris Beddingfield
 (828)274-0822
cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org

LEADS FAQ and Survey Results

Thank you all for completing the tick awareness survey. We have received over 70 to date – but it is not too late to send yours in and be added to the statistics. The survey identified an additional 20 cases in people or pets, so the case count in the neighborhood is now 72. In the next newsletter we will have complete reporting, but below are some early results.

- Over 90% are concerned about Lyme disease in Biltmore Forest
- Over 90% are willing to remove leaves and debris
- Over 80% are willing to spray private property for ticks at least once
- 15% have questions about the spray or said they would not spray to kill ticks



The FAQ based on the survey responses and feedback. The Town has asked the LEADS task force to provide answers to several questions, as well as to further investigate the spraying of the public areas.

How does the tick spray work?

Sprays to kill ticks (acaricides) have the objective of reducing the tick population. The CDC recommends a multi-faceted approach to tick reduction but on the CDC website Tick Management Handbook, “Research and computer models have shown that pesticides are the most effective way to reduce ticks, particularly when combined with landscaping changes that decrease tick habitat in often used areas of your yard.” The spray is targeted on the “lawn perimeter, brushy areas and groundcover vegetation, and most importantly, the woods as the high tick zones.” Spray of lawns, ornamental vegetation, and flower gardens is NOT needed. Spray typically costs \$150 per acre per application. Keep in mind the motto “Before bees and after leaves!”

Are acaricides safe for people, pets, and insects?

A licensed professional (e.g. Terminix, Bugout) is recommended to administer the spray on a day over 50 degrees when ticks are active. Pets and people should avoid the area until it dries. Acaricides vary in strength and longevity, but most breakdown quickly and will only kill insects for a few weeks. For this reason, spraying in February or early March targets hatching ticks, but not pollinating insects. The spray after leaf removal in the fall targets adult ticks before they lay eggs, and again is outside of the pollinator season.

Will further deer population management be part of the tick reduction efforts?

Deer are a key part of the tick life cycle and according to the CDC Tick Management Handbook, controlling their numbers is critical to reducing tick populations. The controlled deer reductions will continue in the fall, in coordination with the NC Department of Wildlife Resources. Options for fencing and topically treating deer will also be investigated by the LEADS task force.

Do chipmunks and mice carry Lyme?

Yes. Small mammals are an integral part of the tick life cycle, and therefore must also be addressed as part of any integrated tick reduction effort. Tick tubes are available online and are cardboard tubes with cotton treated with the same treatment used on pets to kill ticks without harming the animal. The mice take the cotton to their nests and then both the mouse and offspring are protected. Tick tubes cost roughly \$150 per acre per year and are biodegradable. The best times to distribute them are April and August. For more information go to

What is the LEADS program doing this spring?

The Town has authorized the creation of a formal task force to further study and understand the options. The task force is made up of three residents and an outside expert from the NC Cooperative Extension Service. The task force will review the Tick Management Handbook, developed by the Connecticut Agricultural Experimentation Station, which is an integrated guide for homeowners, pest control operators and the public health officials for the prevention of tick – associated disease. Connecticut is ground zero for Lyme disease and has been working on these efforts for decades. Biltmore Forest and the LEADS task force will use this 75-page document as a guide and resource.

For more information go to CDC.com “Preventing Ticks in the Yard”. Note the valuable information here from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station titled “Tick Management Handbook”. Please scan the QR code to be taken to the CDC website. For any additional questions please contact Town Hall or Angela Newnam.



QR Code takes you to the CDC Website for more information on how to combat ticks.

Upcoming Blood Drive with The Blood Connection

Wednesday, May 22, 2024
02:00 pm - 07:00 pm
Biltmore Forest Town Hall – Social Room
355 Vanderbilt Road
Asheville, NC 28803



The Town will be hosting a blood drive with The Blood Connection. There is currently a blood shortage in our area, and donating blood is critical for our local hospitals. When you donate, you can save up to three lives! Take a look at some helpful hints below for a successful blood donation.

- Sign up for a donation appointment at: https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/246028 or scan the QR code below
- Get a good night's sleep prior to donating
- Don't skip any meals – make sure to eat iron rich foods as well!
- Stay hydrated and drink an extra 16 oz. of water before you donate
- Bring your proper identification documents – a driver's license, a state ID, ect.
- Be sure to take it easy - avoid heavy exercising and lifting after your donation

The Town thanks you for making a difference in your community!

Please email FOBF@biltmoreforest.org with any questions.



QR Code takes you to The Blood Connection scheduling portal.

Employee Anniversaries

- Brian Barnette – 1 Year
- Harry Buckner – 4 Years
- Krystal Curtis – 3 Years
- Wayne Husko – 1 Year
- Shannon Kimbrough – 5 Years
- Brooklyn Martin-Gigi – 1 Year
- Kenny Merritt – 13 Years
- Kim Rhinehart – 23 Years
- Tony Williams – 1 Year

Employee Birthdays

March

Debbie Hill

April

Mike Dale

Kim Rhinehart

Patrick Ridgeway

May

Shelby Frady

Please Call Us!

Town staff is here to assist with all permitting needs associated with new landscaping projects, tree removal, and any other work on the exterior of your home or property. Before you begin any work, please check with the Town to ensure all permits and processes are followed!

Chief's Corner

Spring in Biltmore Forest is one of our most beautiful times of year. We spend much of our time outdoors enjoying the weather and starting the processes of spring cleaning. It is very easy to become complacent and unaware of situations around us as we are so focused on our tasks at hand. Always remember that our situational awareness is our number one crime prevention tool. Pay attention to what happens around you. If something doesn't seem quite right, it probably isn't. If you see something, say something. Please report suspicious activity to us no matter how trivial you think it might be. Here are some spring crime prevention tips that we all need to practice:

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- Record your serial numbers on power tools and valuables.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools.

Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not "normal" to their neighborhoods and alert us at the Police Department.

Many residents enjoy walking in the gentle weather that comes with Spring. Here are some pedestrian safety tips to keep you safe while walking in Biltmore Forest:

- **Walk facing traffic and single file.**
- **Be visible – wear bright colors, especially at sunrise and sunset.**
- **Be alert – use caution with headphones and earbuds.**
- **Remember that if there are no crosswalks or sidewalks pedestrian traffic must yield to vehicular traffic**

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.

Thanks,

Chief Chris Beddingfield

Email: cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org



Public Works Update

Major Stormwater System Improvements to Begin in April, Continue Through October

The Town of Biltmore Forest will be completing significant stormwater system improvements in Rosebank Park and in the vicinity of Vanderbilt Road, Stuyvesant Road, and Lone Pine Road this summer. The purpose of the \$1.2 million-dollar, 3,630 linear foot long project is to improve significant flooding issues in the intersection of Vanderbilt, Stuyvesant, and Lone Pine Roads.

The need for these improvements was first identified in the Town's 2019 Stormwater Master Plan, which was adopted by the Town Board of Commissioners in October of that year. The projects, identified as "Area 1" and "Area 9" in the Master Plan, are designed to replace substantially undersized and deteriorated or failed stormwater pipes originally installed almost 100 years ago. This project represents the third and fourth projects to be completed by the Town out of the ten (10) projects identified in the Master Plan.

The Town received five (5) competitive bids from contractors on February 27th, 2024, with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder being Hyatt Pipeline, LLC, from Canton North Carolina. Work is anticipated to begin in April and continue for approximately 6 months.

Please be aware that Rosebank Park may be partially or temporarily closed periodically while construction is active, and there will likely be extended single lane closures and flaggers in the project area for much of the summer. We will, however, be working with the Contractor to make sure the Park is open for the annual Town-wide Independence Day celebration on July 4th. We ask that residents please be patient and mindful of possible delays in this area and to watch carefully for construction workers and vehicles. The safety of our residents and our workers is a primary goal.

In addition to replacing over 3,360 feet of stormwater pipes, the Town partnered with the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD) to simultaneously replace approximately 750 linear feet of gravity sewer line that was also identified as being in poor condition. By working together with MSD, the Town was able to minimize disruptions to the public by repairing two different underground infrastructure systems in the same timeframe allowing us to share the cost of roadway restoration. MSD coordinated their in-house design and construction of the new sewer line to occur in late 2023 just ahead of our larger project.

The Contractor will also complete final repairs to the roads along the project area. We are aware that the current temporary patch along the sewer line replacement on Vanderbilt Road does not meet our current standards, but completing this work in this way did create significant cost savings by partnering with MSD. Our contractor will be milling and overlaying both lanes with new asphalt, effectively restoring the driving surface to a new condition.

The section through Rosebank Park will also be restored and re-graded to improve the play area in the vicinity of the playground. Additionally, Town Staff will be replacing the park benches, picnic tables, and other amenities in the park while this project is proceeding.

Upon completion of the project in the fall, we anticipate that these improvements will provide the Town and its residents with reliable service for another 100 years. If at any time you have questions or concerns about this project or its related work, please contact the Public Works department at 828-274-3919.

Harry Buckner
Director of Public Works

Town of Biltmore Forest
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