

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

September 2023

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Photo Credit: Wayne Husko

A Tick Bite Could Change Your Life

In Spring 2023 Mayor Goosmann issued a Lyme Disease Proclamation for Biltmore Forest. Since then, public and private efforts have been underway to reduce the tick populations and to educate our community about Lyme Disease. These efforts include holding awareness sessions, spraying, tracking and tick testing. If you were unable to attend one of the Lyme Awareness presentations at Town Hall, you can watch a video of the event on YouTube – Lyme Disease & Tick-borne Illness Presentation April 4, 2023.

Lyme disease is the fastest growing vector-borne illness (ticks, mosquitoes, etc.) in the US with the CDC reporting nearly 500,000 cases in 2021. Despite its 1970s beginnings in New England, Lyme has spread south and west and is present in 49 of 50 states. In North Carolina, Buncombe County and 5 other counties are now categorized by the CDC as “Endemic” for Lyme disease. Our very own Senator Kay Hagan died from an infection from a tick bite in 2019. Ticks are in our community and Lyme is in our community. We have identified over 40 cases of Lyme disease in Biltmore Forest.

Learning from our research on communities in the Northeast, Biltmore Forest is taking proactive measures to track, treat and reduce our tick populations and infections.

Tracking - Volunteers are collecting and testing ticks. Contact Angela Newnam, angelanewnam@gmail.com, if you would like to help. BAG AND TAG A TICK is easy and safe.

Article continued on next page.



A Tick Bite Could Change Your Life – Continued

Steps:

1. Use tweezers to remove ticks from skin or pets
2. Place one tick per bag in a small Ziploc bag. Contact Angela or Town Hall. The ticks will be tested for Lyme. Recent testing from our neighborhood showed 75% of the ticks carried Lyme, but we would like a larger sample.

Signage – This fall we will add tick signs to public areas.

Leaf Pickup – Ticks live in leaf piles and high grasses. Please keep your grass cut and clear leaves from your yard and move them to the road this fall. We will continue our leaf pickup schedule.

Private Yard Spray – Once leaves have fallen and been cleared, it is ideal to spray natural areas to kill remaining ticks before they lay eggs. Contact a licensed pest company to schedule. Typically, the cost is \$150 per acre. The spray is not harmful to pets or people.

Public Area Spray – The parks and roadsides will also be sprayed by the Town.

Keep these points in mind:

- Wear DEET or other deterrent when hiking or working in the yard – even in winter.
- Do a tick check and take a hot shower as soon as possible after outdoor activities.
- Vaccinate your pet against Lyme disease- yes, they have a vaccine, but people do NOT
- Collect any tick that you find, keep it and follow the instructions above.
- If you get a bite, keep the tick and test it. Monitor for a rash or change in health. Contact your physician.
- Clean up leaf, log and other debris from your yard and keep grass cut short, particularly along road right of ways where most people walk.

Our unique and enclosed neighborhood is proactively addressing this county issue, and if we work together, we can reduce and control our exposure to this disease. BF LEADS begins now. To get involved or report a case of Lyme in

From the 100th Anniversary Committee

It is our pleasure to recap the 100th Anniversary Events implemented by your neighbors 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.
- On March 18-19, a Gray Line 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.
- 4th of July, where the wonderful traditions were augmented by the Biltmore Forest Jam Band, headed by Tim Gillespie & the Sophisticats, and Mayor Goosmann waving from the parade's special lead car, a 1923 Model T from Sawyer Motors courtesy of Mountaineer Motor Tours.
- 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.

Friends of Biltmore Forest

From the Arts Committee:

Hootenanny: Our focus during this anniversary year has been to feature our residents' talents in all forms of art. We showcased the visual arts with the Art Show in February, nature as art, with the Garden Tour in June, and will now feature performance art at our final event of this 100th year. We are putting on a Hootenanny. What's that? Per Google, a hootenanny is a longstanding country colloquialism meaning a "party," and "a social gathering where folks singers entertain, often with the audience joining in" with dancing or even singing.

This Hootenanny will present several forms of music and dance.

The headliner will be resident Trent van Blaricom's band, *Moonshine Stills and Mash*. Trent will entertain us with a variety of music including Cajun, swing dance tunes, and songs fit for square dancing. Caller Rodney Sutton, leader of the Green Grass Cloggers, will be on hand to get everybody dancing. Don't stay home if you don't want to dance - spectators are welcome to enjoy the music as well.

Where: The Social Room in Town Hall.

When: **November 3.**

Drinks at 6:30pm, including the specially-labeled Biltmore Estate wine that is dually labeled with the Town's and the Estate's logos and non-alcoholic options will be provided.

Entertainment follows at 7.

Plan to wear very casual clothes and shoes that are easy to dance in!

From the Party Committee

Southeastern Classic XXXVI – Austin Healy Car Show

The Town and Centennial Committee are pleased to offer a unique opportunity for Town residents to see examples of one of the most beautiful sports cars ever made. On September 23rd, Rosebank Park will play host to a private car show featuring over one hundred Austin Healey sports cars, **and** provide an opportunity for Town residents to show off their classic cars as well. Cars entered by Town residents DO NOT have to be Austin Healeys. For those interested in showing off your classic car, Austin Healy or not, please contact Town resident Tom Young at (828) 232-7080.

The Southeastern Classic XXXVI, an annual regional event hosted by Austin Healey Clubs located in the southeast United States, will be in the area September 20-24, 2023. They will be based at the DoubleTree and touring all over Western North Carolina during this time with the car show as a highlight of their weekend.

Biltmore Forest-themed holiday swag: Did you know that the Town commissioned special new Town logos for this, our 100th year? Our final branded item for the year will be a holiday ornament featuring the centennial logo. Information on how to place your order in time for the holidays will be posted on the website soon!



Children’s Holiday Trolley Tour: The Gray Line Trolleys return to Biltmore Forest on December 19, focusing this time on our kids. These 25-minute tours will feature kid-friendly content and allow kids & their parents to not only enjoy the exciting trolley, but also to see the lights and other decorations around town. The tours will start at Town Hall after 5 pm. For information on how to register for the holiday tour, visit the 100th Anniversary page on the Town’s website.

From the History Committee

Speaking Engagement with Diane Zimmerman: On Sunday, November 12 at 2 p.m., be at Town Hall to enjoy another of Diane Zimmerman’s entertaining, enlightening talks on Biltmore Forest history. If you were lucky enough to attend her talk in January, you know that these fill up fast, so arrive early.

From the Sports Committee:

Bird Watching: An encore guided Bird Watching Tour is being held on September 23. They will meet at 9 a.m. at the pond at Brooklawn Chase. First registered, first served. To register, email bfanniversary@biltmoreforest.org, with “Bird” in the subject line. Give names and best forms of contact, for each person in your party.

About our guide, Aaron Sneed: Aaron has been interested in birds and natural history his entire life. Originally from Wilmington, NC, Aaron holds a B.S. in General Biology from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and has worked numerous ornithological field positions in North Carolina, Texas, Kansas, California and Arizona, focusing primarily on endangered or imperiled species (such as the Black-capped Vireo and Lesser Prairie-Chicken). Instead of going to grad school in 2013, Aaron decided to take the opportunity to become a professional bird guide and began working for Ventures Birding, leading local day trips in the Western NC region. In the years since, he has taken groups to Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, Honduras, Belize, Peru, Cuba, and Spain as well as a multitude of destinations across the US. Aaron likes to have fun with his groups, bringing a low-key professionalism and relaxed atmosphere to his tours.

Board Games Meetups: The next monthly Board Games Meetups are September 20 and October 18, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Social Room of Town Hall. All ages are welcome. Enjoy pick-up games with your neighbors – play cards, chess, checkers, backgammon, Monopoly, Parchesi, and any other game you might bring from home. Invite neighbors! See the street signs installed close to event dates, or the Upcoming Events Calendar of the Town website for any changes - <https://www.biltmoreforest.org/upcoming-events>.

Sunday Stretch Class: First Sunday Stretch classes, led by the talented Leslie Brazil, continue with sessions planned for 5 p.m. on each of Sunday September 3, October 8, November 5, and December 3 or see the Town Upcoming Events calendar at <https://www.biltmoreforest.org/upcoming-events>.

Running Club: The Biltmore Forest Running Group, initiated by resident Blair Holl and the Sports Committee, continues to grow. Join us! 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. The Running Club schedule can be found on the Town’s website along with Blair’s contact information.

Employee Birthdays

September

Shane Burrell

October

Brian Barnette

Jeff Glover

Jess Hedrick

Aslyne Tate

November

Shannon Kimbrough

Daniel Rice

Lu Riley

New Town Employee

Jess Hedrick – Customer Service Representative

Ms. Hedrick was hired as a full-time employee beginning in July. She was originally working with us as a temporary employee since December 2022. Ms. Hedrick lives in Hendersonville with her family and an entire hoard of animals – 5 dogs, 3 cats, 2 tortoises, a snake, a tarantula, and a hedgehog! Jess is very excited about the opportunity to work in Biltmore Forest. Don't hesitate to give her a hello!



Employee Anniversaries

Michael Anton – 4 Years

Jeff Glover – 4 Years

Hunter Graham – 2 Years

Patrick Ridgeway – 4 Years

Update Your Contact Information with the Town!

The Town wants to know how you want to receive information. We strive to provide timely and important information to all residents via our website, CodeRED notifications, and newsletters – but we understand that not everyone wants to receive information in the same way. We have an online web form that will let you update your communication preferences with the Town and let us know whether you want some or any information included within the Town's Directory.

Simply visit the Town's website at biltmoreforest.org and click the "Update Citizen Contact Information" link under the RESIDENTS tab on the front page. You can also visit biltmoreforest.org/residents to visit the page directly. We want to make sure everyone in Biltmore Forest has an opportunity to stay connected and learn about upcoming events, meetings, and projects within the Town. Help us help you!

****2023 Biltmore Forest property tax bills will be mailed soon. Please call or email the Town Hall if you have not received your bill. The due date for payment is January 5, 2024.***

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.



Public Works Updates

Public Works Project Update – Cedar Hill Road and Stream Stabilization Project

The Town of Biltmore Forest Public Works Department has recently completed work on a significant capital project to stabilize approximately 400 linear feet of an unnamed tributary of Fourmile Creek that parallels Cedar Hill Road beginning just South of Hemlock Road. This stretch of creek was very unstable and had significantly eroded its banks, threatening the stability of Cedar Hill Drive and the parallel utilities in this area. Due to this public safety concern, the Town partnered with Jennings Environmental, a local stream restoration engineering company, to design and permit a natural stream restoration and stabilization project for this area.

Jennings Environmental completed its design and permitting activities in the summer of 2022, and contractors were invited to provide proposals to complete the project in October and November 2022. Baker Grading and Landscaping was the successful bidder for the work which began on the site in mid-May of 2023. The construction project is expected to cost approximately \$275,000.

To stabilize the creek and road, the contractor moved the creek slightly east away from the road. This new location is more natural in alignment and has various rock structures in the creek bed and along the banks to control the slope, and thus the water velocity, minimizing the potential for erosion and flood damage. The finished product is a very natural looking and, most importantly, stable stream alignment similar to the stream stabilization project completed in Greenwood Park last year.

Unfortunately, the execution of the project did require the removal of a substantial number of trees. However, the project does include replanting to revegetate the project area. The basic structural elements of the project were just recently completed in August, and the re-planting work will be performed in multiple phases through the end of the year. Please remember that it will take some time for the new plantings to mature and revegetate the area.

The Town wishes to extend our thanks to the property owners at 2 Hemlock Road for their cooperation, as well as the additional upstream residents for allowing us the ability to utilize their property as a staging area while working on the project.

If anyone wishes to discuss the details of the project, please reach out to the Public Works Department.

Harry Buckner

Director of Public Works

828-274-3919

publicworks@biltmoreforest.org



Chief's Corner

Fall is one of our most beautiful times of year here in the forest. The changing colors and cooler weather tends to relax us from the hustle and bustle of summer. Don't let this relaxed state bring your guard down in terms of self-awareness and safety.

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. 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.

Fall seems to be a popular time of year for wild animal interaction in Biltmore Forest. We have had several bear encounters and deer encounters recently. We have had coyote sightings and several calls for snake removal. The key here is your safety, if you feel threatened or in danger never hesitate to contact the police department for assistance. Most of the time animals will move on in a search for food or shelter.

Halloween is coming soon so here are some safety tip reminders to keep everyone safe while trick or treating:

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Be especially alert for kids during those hours.



Chief Chris Beddingfield
828-274-0822

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