



# THE BILTMORE FOREST CHRONICLE

## MARCH 2015



### THE MAYOR'S CORNER

**Mayor:** George Goosmann, III

**Commissioners:**

Fran Cogburn

E. Glenn Kelly

Doris P. Loomis

**Town Administrator:**

Jonathan Kanipe 828-274-0824

[townhall@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:townhall@biltmoreforest.org)

**Chief of Police:**

Eric Tinsley 828-274-0822

[chieftinsley@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:chieftinsley@biltmoreforest.org)

**Director of Public Works:**

Terry Crouch 828-274-3919

[pwdirector@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:pwdirector@biltmoreforest.org)

*I have been asked what do you and your Commissioners do other than serve the Town as our Council? Everyone on the Council has served on various boards representing the Town of Biltmore Forest. Commissioner Kelly has represented the Town for many years on the MSD (Metropolitan Sewerage District) board, Commissioner Loomis has served on the Flood Damage Reduction Task Force, Commissioner Cogburn represents the town on the TAC (Transportation Advisory Council) board, and I serve on the Land of Sky Regional Council serving the Counties of Buncombe, Henderson,*

*Transylvania and Madison. We, from time to time, attend various state meetings on behalf of the Town to learn how to better serve our citizens and region. Furthermore, the North Carolina League of Municipalities holds training seminars around the state, which one or more of your commissioners attend. The League is sponsoring a Town Hall Day in Raleigh on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March for elected officials around the state to meet with legislators and discuss various issues that will affect towns around the state. Commissioner Loomis and Jonathan Kanipe, our Town Administrator, will be attending that meeting*

*on behalf of the town. The Executive Director of the Land of Sky, Justin Hembree and I, as Chairman, will be sponsoring a breakfast for our Regional Legislators in Raleigh on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. The breakfast is sponsored by the Land of Sky. Come see what is going on in your town. Our Town Commissioners meet monthly, normally on the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are open to everyone. Check our website to double check the date and time. We welcome suggestions or comments from our residents on how to make our Town better for all of us.*

*~Mayor Goosmann*

Any correspondence mailed to Town residents by the Mayor, the Commissioners, Town Administrator, or Department Heads will always include our signatures.

### Estes Book Fair March 2nd-14th

Please donate your gently used children's and adult fiction or non-fiction books. You may also donate DVD's to the Estes Elementary Used Book Fair! You can drop items off between March 2nd and March 14th at the Biltmore Forest Town Hall. Thank you for supporting Estes!

## Police Department News

Please welcome Zachery Pennstrom to the Town of Biltmore Forest. He recently started working as a Desk Officer for the Police Department in February. Zach was born in upstate New York and raised in Nebraska. He moved to Asheville in 1988.

Zach is a 1993 graduate of T.C. Roberson High School. Zach recently graduated from BLET school at AB-Tech in December 2014.

He spent his previous six years with U.S. Cellular as a service technician and twelve years in the automobile industry as a service writer.

Please stop by the Police Department and give Zach a warm welcome to Biltmore Forest!

Courtesy of Laura Jacobs



From the Chief of Police, Eric Tinsley

There has been much talk in the news lately regarding Police Officers wearing cameras. It has become a point of controversy in the law enforcement community. Some Law Enforcement associations are against them, saying that cameras “see” in two dimension, not always seeing what the Officer sees.

The Biltmore Forest Police are ahead of the curve. We have been using cameras on our uniforms for years. The cameras we bought in the past have been fairly inexpensive, approximately \$100. In addition, we also have cameras in our patrol cars and have for several years. The cameras that are made and marketed to police are rather expensive. They come on when an Officer turns on their blue lights, and record until they are turned off.

The cameras we purchased are made for and sold to the general public, and are much cheaper. These cameras record when the car is running. They will hold about 15 hours of video, and will record over the oldest video when full. This has helped us identify suspects, by looking at what the car has seen when a crime was reported hours earlier.

Our video has also been used in court with traffic cases. In one DWI case, the suspect’s attorney tried to have the video suppressed saying it could have been altered. The judge ruled it admissible, because it was a continuous video from several minutes before the car came into the Officers sight, until the Officer parked at the jail.

I have used video from the car and body cameras to prove Officers’ innocence when they have been accused of misconduct. Two cases involved suspects calling the media, saying they were beaten by an Officer. I have let reporters watch what really happened, and that settled the issues.

Now modern Police science has developed new technology, cameras that do what our cheap cameras have been doing for years, recording all of the time. These new wonder cameras are better quality and come with software that helps maintain the chain of evidence for five to ten times the price. Also, grant funding is available to buy these modern marvels! Lt. Robin Davenport, master of grants, has written the request, and we have been awarded cameras for every Officer and every patrol car. Officers download the footage daily, and we retain it for a couple of weeks, just in case.

So, we now have practically doubled our Police force. The new Officers can't respond to calls, but they do have a photographic memory.

Vehicle Stickers are available at the police department for \$5 per vehicle. Methods of payment accepted are exact cash and check only. Pick yours up today!

## From the Public Works Department

Garbage will be picked up on regular schedule for Easter 4/6/2015 and Memorial Day 5/25/2015.

Remember to place your brush in an open area that will be suitable for the new knuckle boom truck to remove. The truck needs plenty of vertical and horizontal space to operate in.

Leaves are available for gardens and mulching. The leaves were collected throughout the Town during leaf season and deposited on Brookside. You can load and take as much as you would like. Contact the Public Works Department at 828- 274-3919 to ensure the gate is open.

Irrigation backflow devices will be inspected starting in the spring. Be sure that no insulation is on or around the RPZ as this will cause the unit to fail.

Be sure not to include any grass clippings with your brush.

Removal of limbs, brush, and debris of all types resulting from commercial services shall be the responsibility of the property owner, and not the Town. Please have your contractor haul off all material they generate.

Courtesy of Austin Tucker

## TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM: A Few Helpful Tips From Skyland Fire Department

Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use of both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

The National Fire Protection Association reaffirms the value of the smoke alarms already available to protect people from home fire deaths and voice its concern about the number of U.S. households without these early warning devices. While 96% of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in two out of five (41%) of the reported home fires between 2003-2006. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Please feel free to contact Division Chief Mark Dillingham with Skyland Fire Department if you have any questions or need help with any part of your home smoke alarms, systems or home escape planning. He can be reached at 828-606-0471.

Courtesy of Mark Dillingham

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ASHEVILLE, NC

**DID YOU KNOW?**

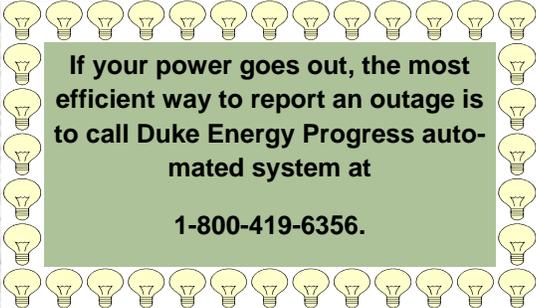
**North Carolina Guide to Pedestrian Laws:**

When sidewalks are not provided, pedestrians walking along or on the highway should, when practicable, walk on the extreme left of the roadway or shoulder facing traffic and must yield the right-of-way to traffic. [§20-174(d)]

If your Biltmore Forest Town directory is out of date, you can get a current directory sent by email. Send your request to:

[townhall@biltmoreforest.org](mailto:townhall@biltmoreforest.org)

In the event of inclement weather, please do not park your vehicles on the road shoulder. This makes it rather difficult for the snow plow trucks to do their job of removing snow and salting the roadways.



If your power goes out, the most efficient way to report an outage is to call Duke Energy Progress automated system at  
**1-800-419-6356.**

Prior to removing any tree, even if dead, it is the obligation of the property owner to contact the Town Administrator, Jonathan Kanipe. If any unauthorized removal, cutting or damage to trees takes place, the Town Administrator shall issue a Stop-Work Order which shall remain in effect until all corrections are made that are necessary.