



# The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

## January 2021

### Mayor

George F.

Goosmann, III

### Commissioners

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E. Glenn Kelly

Doris P. Loomis

### Town Manager

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### Director of Public Works

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### Police Chief

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## A Message From the Mayor

As we enter the New Year and say goodbye to 2020, it is my sincere hope that you and your family are healthy and well. This has been a challenging year for many, and I know the Covid-19 pandemic has placed unexpected burdens on all of us. On behalf of the Commissioners and Town staff, please know how appreciative we are to all our citizens for remaining vigilant and doing your best to curtail the spread of this virus.

Town employees have not paused in delivering high quality services to the citizens of Biltmore Forest during these unprecedented times. The staff recognizes and appreciates the extra patience from our residents, and they sincerely appreciate the thanks and gratitude shown to them. Some differ-

ences remain in what were once routine interactions with the Town; our facilities are still closed to the public, but all staff are available on an appointment basis. The Town Board of Commissioners and Board of Adjustment meet via Zoom, but the Town has done everything to ensure all rules related to virtual meetings and public hearings are met. I urge you to review the Town's website frequently as the work of the Town continues even in the midst of this pandemic. You will find information on Board meetings, how you can continue participating in the Town's work, and information on projects important to you and your neighbors.

Let us continue to move forward into 2021 with the same positive attitude and outlook for our future as we have had in 2020. On behalf of the Commissioners, please know how thankful we are for each and every one of you. We continue wishing for good health for you and your family as we enter 2021.

Mayor George Goosmann

### TAX PAYMENT REMINDER

**Reminder: the last day to pay 2020 property taxes without penalty is January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. Payments should be received or USPS postmarked January 5<sup>th</sup>. Interest will accrue on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 2%; interest will accrue at 0.75% the first of each month thereafter. In order to avoid penalties, please ensure the legal and memo amounts on the check are correct and remember that only USPS postmark dates can be honored.**

## PUBLIC WORKS

We would like to welcome Mr. Mike Dale and Mr. Daniel Rice to the Biltmore Forest Public Works team. Mike comes to the Town from HNH Construction, and has an extensive background in utility system construction management and planning as well as utility system design, and environmental projects.

Daniel is joining us from the City of Asheville and has been with their public works department since 2012. We are excited to have them both at the start of 2021!

The Public Works Department wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season! We have been working diligently on leaf collection and, as you can imagine, this is a substantial undertaking. We greatly appreciate your patience as we continue to move through our normal collection routes. Leaf pick-up is a continuous effort that began November 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through January 15. At that time, brush collection will transition back to its normal, once-per-month schedule. Be on the lookout for a new 2021 garbage and recycling schedule, and we will be adding a brush collection schedule to the calendar to help residents better understand the pertinent dates of the program.

We also want to take this opportunity to ask residents to adhere to the following sanitation rules:

### TOWN HALL DUMPSTERS

The dumpsters are for HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE ONLY. Nothing in the dumpsters is recycled.

COLLAPSE ALL BOXES. This allows the dumpsters to hold more and prevents overflows.

DO NOT PLACE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS IN THE DUMPSTERS: Construction debris, lumber, wood, electronics, furniture, etc. A list of prohibited materials is posted near the dumpsters.

NEVER PLACE ANY DISPOSED MATERIALS ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE DUMPSTERS. If they are full, please take your garbage with you until they have been emptied.

### RECYCLING PROGRAM

PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELVES WITH ACCEPTABLE RECYCLEABLE MATERIALS at [www.curbie.com](http://www.curbie.com). Specifically, used pizza boxes, any plastic films or bags, and packing foam is NOT recyclable. This website also has great information regarding recycling in general.

### GARBAGE COLLECTION

ALL GARBAGE MUST BE BAGGED.

### BRUSH COLLECTION

ALL BRUSH AND LEAVES SHOULD BE NEATLY STACKED parallel to the roadway. Limbs should be trimmed no more than 6-feet in length, and leaf piles should be windrowed along the shoulder. This allows our crew to operate with maximum efficiency.

BE AWARE OF WHERE YOUR BRUSH AND LEAVES ARE PLACED. Do not place brush in the public roadway, in a blind spot, beneath shrubbery or trees where our equipment cannot reach, or underneath power lines. Keep our team safe!

All brush and leaves must be PLACED ON THE LOT WHERE IT WAS COLLECTED. Do not place brush for collection on your neighbor's lot or on Town owned, community property. Be a good neighbor.

Lastly, we sincerely appreciate all the kind notes and messages we receive at this time of year from our community and are looking forward to serving you in 2021. Happy New Year!

~Harry B. Buckner, PE, Director



## POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Biltmore Forest Police Department has joined a nationwide trend on using what is known as “cruise lights” on our police vehicles. These are steady glowing blue lights on the ends of the light bars on our vehicles. There is no need to stop or worry about an emergency as flashing lights will still be utilized for those purposes. The steady lights are intended to show a police presence and add to an officer’s visibility. Our intention is that the lights will bring a level of comfort to the community that police officers are in the area and are here if you need us. An additional crime prevention side effect occurs as well. There are multiple studies that have found this technique to be effective in reducing crime, specifically car break-ins involving unlocked cars. Again, high visibility patrol that allows the criminal element to see us out and about as well. The officers control this function from inside of their patrol vehicle. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this program please do not hesitate to contact the police department 24/7.

As we move into the new year of 2021 just remember our everyday safety and crime prevention tips:

Always be aware of your surroundings. We are all in hurry with the hustle and bustle of life but do not let your guard down. Focusing on your surroundings and staying alert will reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Be aware of solicitation scams both online and over the phone. If something seems too good to be true then it probably is. Anyone that contacts you asking for personal or banking information should be verified before giving this information. If it is a legitimate call they will have no problem with you calling them back or making some verification. Scammers will try to make you feel pressured or hurried into giving this information, do not fall into their trap.

Always remove your valuables and secure your vehicle at night. Even if your car is in your driveway it is a prime target to be rummaged through by a criminal looking to score. Most of the time if the door is locked and there is no valuable items in sight the thief will move on looking for an easier target.

Investigate the feasibility of a security camera or alarm system. Prices have come down recently and these systems are very inexpensive for the returned amount of protection. No system is 100% guaranteed to prevent a crime but we have solved many incidents by starting with camera footage or a picture of the suspect. If you see something say something. Please call the police department with any suspicious activity you might observe. It is always better to be safe than sorry and many times your call might prevent someone from becoming a victim.

As always feel free to contact the police department for our crime prevention suggestions or with any other need that you might have. ~Chief Chris Beddingfield



### **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!**

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

### **Skyland Fire Department**

Season's Greetings from all of us at Skyland Fire and Rescue. We would like to wish each of you a safe and happy new year. We would like to offer a few tips to help you enjoy the holidays:

1. There is just something about a cozy fire during the holidays, be sure to have your chimney inspected by a professional each season before use. Ensure that your gutters and roof valleys are free of leaves and debris, embers from the chimney can ignite these items resulting in a roof fire.
2. Ensure that gas logs are properly cleaned and functioning correctly before use.
3. Most importantly; Ensure you have working smoke detectors on every level of the home. In addition, you should have a working carbon monoxide detector on each level as well, if you have any gas fueled appliances in your home. (Most of you do).
4. Have an evacuation plan and discuss it with guests, especially young children.
5. Do not drink and drive, we see an increase in Motor Vehicle Collisions every year during the holiday season.

As always we wish you well, we hope you have a safe and happy holiday season, but know that we are ready to respond 24/7.

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



**Join the CodeRed notification system which keeps citizens informed in the event of emergency situations and community alerts. You may visit the Town's website at [biltmoreforest.org](http://biltmoreforest.org) to sign up for notifications via email, text, and phone call.**