

July 2021



Fourth of July Picnic and Celebration

As we enter July 2021, the Town is excitedly returning to a sense of normalcy. Vaccinations and preventative measures have allowed our region, state, and nation to move forward. While we understand the Covid-19 pandemic is not over, we look forward and consider how to safely gather and resume some of our favorite Biltmore Forest traditions.

Our first such return is the Town's Annual Fourth of July picnic and celebration. Due to the Fourth falling on a Sunday, **this year's event will take place Saturday, July 3rd from 10am-12pm at Rosebank Park.** The annual Children's Parade will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and depart from Vanderbilt Road in front of the Town Hall. The Mayor will welcome the crowd at 9:55 followed by Chief Chris Beddingfield leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. From there, Skyland Fire Department and the Biltmore Forest Police Department will lead the procession down Vanderbilt Road to the park. For those who want to begin at the Park, please feel free to join us beginning at 10am!

The Town will serve its customary hot dogs with all the trimmings, but we have made changes this year for safety reasons. Hot dogs will be dressed by a volunteer and provided to each person instead of being served "buffet style". Individual bags of chips, condiments, and bottles of water will be available for each person to take. Ice cream will be provided, along with sno-cones, cotton candy, and watermelon. The Town is appreciative to several citizens who have volunteered to assist with this year's picnic – we were not sure until mid-May that we could even hold it this year! The Whitewater Bluegrass Company will be providing festive music for the morning, and we will have a bouncy obstacle course and slide for children.

The Town is absolutely focused on ensuring a safe and clean event. In addition to the food safety measures noted above, we will not hold the award competition for best dressed, best wheels, or best dressed pet this year. This will allow more space and separation between groups before the parade. We understand this may be disappointing to some, but appreciate your understanding. We hope some will still dress up and show off their patriotic spirit!

Above all, please understand how excited we are to see everyone and return to our annual tradition for the Fourth of July. We hope to see everyone Saturday, July 3, 2021 at Rosebank Park!

Mayor

George F.
Goosmann, III

Commissioners

Fran Cogburn
E. Glenn Kelly
Doris P. Loomis

Town Manager

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

Director of Public Works

Harry Buckner
(828) 274-3919
hbuckner@
biltmoreforest.org

Police Chief

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

PUBLIC WORKS



Town Public Works staff has placed three dog waste bags and containers in the Town during the past few months. This is the first step in our efforts to provide easy, accessible, and appropriate places for dog waste to be thrown away. A breakdown of those three locations is provided at this end of this article. Town staff will place several more in heavily walked areas over the next few months. Please properly dispose of dog waste in these containers, containers at the parks, or at your home.

In a previous newsletter, we discussed how dog waste helps contribute to pollution in streams, creeks, and rivers. Certainly, other wildlife living in our forest contributes to this problem as well – but we can be proactive with the part *we control* by depositing dog waste appropriately. Bagged dog waste left on the roadside is also unsightly and impolite to your neighbors – in addition to being a violation of the Town’s littering ordinance. With opportunities for appropriate disposal provided, the Town will begin proactively enforcing this littering ordinance related to dog waste bags left on the street, right-of-way, or private property when possible. Please help us ensure the beauty of Biltmore Forest by picking up after your dog.

Current Dog Waste Container Locations

***Intersection of Cedarcliff Road and Forest Road
Vanderbilt Road, south of Rosebank Park
Pathway between Greenwood Place and Westwood Road
Rosebank Park & Greenwood Park***

New Employees

The Town recently hired Krystal Curtis as our new Finance Director and Tax Collector. An extensive search was conducted and Ms. Curtis stood out for her knowledge and experience. Ms. Curtis is a native of Buncombe County, graduated from North Buncombe High School, and is completing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Law from Western Carolina University. Ms. Curtis previously worked in the Buncombe County Tax Department. The Town is thrilled to have her on board – please welcome her when you stop by Town Hall!

Please also welcome back Officer Kevin Clark. He has been with the Biltmore Forest Police Department since August 2004, when he was hired as a full-time officer with the department. Officer Clark went to part-time status in December 2009 so he could pursue a business opportunity. In May of this year, he expressed interest in returning to full-time status. His promotion brings the Police Department to full staff.

Prior to joining the Biltmore Forest Police Department in 2004, Officer Clark served with the United States Marine Corps, Fletcher Police Department, and the Buncombe County Sheriff’s Department.

EMPLOYEE

ANNIVERSARIES

Gabriel Crespo

16 years

Laura Jacobs

12 years

Jonathan Kanipe

7 years

Charles Tesner

6 years

Eric Anderson

2 years

Shannon Kimbrough

2 years

Debbie Hill

1 year

POLICE DEPARTMENT



We live in very challenging times. Change is a word heard often, though many do not take time to think about how constant change is in our world. Society is in a constant state of change and evolution. Many are resistant to change, but change is inevitable. Each individual person is different, with different beliefs and opinions - some agree with various stages of change while others disagree. If we all agree that change is going to happen, and strive to be a positive part of the solution, the glass becomes half full and we are all work toward to the same goal.

One great change we are all undergoing is our slow transition out of the pandemic. Covid-19 unexpectedly and instantly changed all of our lives. Hopefully, we will return to some sense of the new normal. As we spend time with friends and family, please make sure not to let your guard down to those taking advantage of others and committing crimes against us. As Sir Robert Peel so brilliantly put it in 1829, "*the people are the police and the police are the people*". Please be observant and vigilant, if you see something say something. Report any suspicious activity to the police. Be a good neighbor, check on your neighbors, and keep an eye out for suspicious activities on their property as well.

I have received several calls and emails asking about our level of policing Biltmore Forest. I want to reassure all our residents and business owners that the Police Department stands ready to protect you and keep you safe. We are fully staffed, well equipped, and highly trained. It is our pleasure to serve in such a wonderful and supportive town. We strive to maintain and continuously improve the high level of service to Biltmore Forest. If I can assist in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me at the police department.

~Chief Chris Beddingfield

Summer Crime Prevention Tips

Lock your doors, including the garage door. Unlocked doors are open invitations to intruders. If leaving town, contact the police department to have your residence put on a house check.

Don't post on social media that you are leaving town, and wait to post photos after you return from your trip.

Always lock your car doors and roll up your windows when you leave your car - even when it is in your driveway.

Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods and residential areas. Young children may be more concerned about catching a ball that rolls into the street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.

Be mindful of those walking throughout the Town, and for walkers, please remember to walk **facing** traffic. This is a state law that allows oncoming vehicles to see you and you to see them.

CodeRED™

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 to sign up for notifications via email, text, and phone call.

Food Truck Fridays

A new tradition started in May this year, as the Town embarked on its first Food Truck Friday event. The Friends of Biltmore Forest Committee has done a great job coordinating food truck vendors and providing an exciting chance for friends and neighbors to get together. We have learned a great deal from our first two events and continue working on improvements for the next two months. We are hopeful this will become an annual tradition, and with knowledge gained this year, we will continue enhancing this event for Biltmore Forest.

Please mark your calendars for our two remaining food truck events in July and August. Each event takes place at Rosebank Park from 5-8 pm on the date listed below.

July 9 – Cecilia’s Kitchen and Pelican’s SnoCones

August 13 – Doc Brown’s BBQ and Pelican’s SnoCones

September 10 – Appalachian Chic and Pelican’s SnoCones

****Please note, if there is a significant change of rain or inclement weather, the event will be postponed to the following week. The Town will send out CodeRED messages if this occurs.***



Planning and Land Use Information

The Town recently adopted revisions to its Zoning Ordinance. These revisions were required by changes to the State of North Carolina’s land use and development regulations. The amended ordinance complies with all state law changes and is effective July 1, 2021. A second part of the new state law requires Towns perform a comprehensive planning effort and adopt this plan by July 1, 2022. Beginning this fall, the Town Planning Commission and Town staff will begin reaching out with information related to this effort. This may include public meetings, surveys, and other input from residents regarding the Town’s land use planning and zoning. Keep an eye out for this information in the next few months!

As always, ***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.

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

Town Meetings Return to In-Person Format

In June, the Board of Commissioners returned to meeting fully in-person at the Town Hall. The Board of Adjustments, Design Review Board, and Planning Commission are all meeting in-person as well. The Town had previously met in a hybrid format with Zoom and in-person gatherings. Governor Cooper's easing of restrictions in May 2021 allowed full attendance by lifting indoor capacity restrictions – resulting in the Board's decision to resume in-person meetings.

The Town is abiding by all State and CDC guidelines. We ask that anyone not vaccinated against Covid-19 wear a face covering and practice social distancing when entering any Town facility. Those who are vaccinated do not have to wear a face covering when entering a building, if they desire. Town facilities are professionally cleaned and disinfected weekly and staff cleans workspaces during the week. Meetings are currently being held in the large Social Room at the Town Hall in an effort to provide as much space as possible for spreading out and attending a meeting. The Town is now utilizing a soundboard, speakers, and microphone system to assist with hearing in this room. We encourage all to attend Town meetings and are happy to return to this process.

