

The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

June 2026

New Town App!

The Town of Biltmore Forest is excited to announce the release of our new Town App, **Biltmore Forest Connect**! Designed to keep residents informed and engaged, the app serves as a convenient hub for community news, town updates, and information about local events and activities.

Biltmore Forest Connect highlights the fun, social, and community events that bring neighbors together while also providing timely updates on town projects, meetings, announcements, and other day-to-day happenings. Residents can easily stay connected and informed through one central platform.

This new app complements the Town's existing communication tools, including the Police Department App and CodeRED emergency notification system. While those platforms remain focused on public safety and emergency communications, Biltmore Forest Connect provides a dedicated space for community engagement and general town information. Sign up today with the App Store or Google Play Store!

3 Ways to Stay Connected with The Town of Biltmore Forest:

1. Biltmore Forest Connect
2. Biltmore Forest PD, see download details on page 7
3. CodeRED Emergency Notification System

Mayor

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Commissioners

Doris P. Loomis – Mayor Pro-Tem

Drew Stephens

Allan Tarleton

Town Manager

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Police Chief

Chris Beddingfield

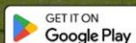
(828)274-0822

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Download Biltmore Forest Connect

- View Information
- Receive Notifications
- Community Updates
- Access Quick Links

SCAN ME



Create an account to stay updated on the topics you won't want to miss!

CodeRED Sign Up



To get signed up, scan the QR Code or visit:

<https://accountportal.onsolve.net/biltmoreforestnc>



Get ready to celebrate Independence Day with friends, neighbors, and family at the Town's annual Independence Day Celebration! This beloved community tradition promises an evening filled with fun, laughter, entertainment, and patriotic spirit for all ages. Whether you're coming to enjoy the festivities, make lasting memories, or simply spend time with your community, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. We can't wait to see y'all there!

Featuring

- Live Music Featuring: City Limits
- Face Painting
- Balloon Twisting
- Bounce House & Obstacle Course
- Tiny Tots Bounce House (ages 1-6)
- Cotton Candy
- Popcorn
- The Greatest Hot Dogs
- Snow Cones
- And more!

Schedule of Events

At 9:45am: Vanderbilt Road closes and we'll hear from Mayor George Goosmann at Town Hall

Immediately after the Mayor's welcome, we will parade from Town Hall down to Rosebank Park to begin our 4th of July festivities!

From 10:00am – 12:00pm: Festivities begin! Enjoy food, fun, music, and family activities

Don't forget to bring some chairs and a picnic blanket!



City Limits

We are proud to present City Limits as our live band for the event! The City Limits Band serves the Carolinas, and hails from the Black Mountain/Swannanoa/Arden areas of North Carolina. Their passion for rock includes a 24-carat 70's-80's setlist that takes them beyond the average, to include: Boston, Journey, Kansas, Yes, Pink Floyd and more!

The Car Show is Back!



Scan the QR Code to
sign up or visit
biltmoreforest.org for
more information

After a one-year hiatus, one of our favorite community traditions is returning! The Town is excited to bring back the Car Show and invite residents to showcase the vehicles that hold a special place in their hearts. Whether it's a classic cruiser, a modern masterpiece, a cherished family heirloom, or a unique ride with a story to tell, we want to see what makes your vehicle special.

Participation is open exclusively to Town residents, and preregistration is required to reserve your spot. Don't miss this opportunity to share your pride and joy with neighbors and fellow car enthusiasts!

Hurricane Helene Financial Recovery Update

As we continue to look forward, we have some excellent news regarding the Town's financial recovery following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene. We are officially entering the final stages of receiving our disaster reimbursement funds, ensuring that the financial burden of the cleanup does not fall on our local taxpayers.

Over the spring, our financial recovery reached several major milestones:

- **Debris Removal Funding:** We recently received \$943,016.50 for waterway cleanup projects, which included a mix of fully funded and 90% reimbursed projects.
- **Right-of-Way Progress:** We received official approval for \$1,566,481.56 to cover the standard 90% reimbursement for clearing our main roadways.
- **The Final Piece:** We are currently awaiting our very last reimbursement check from FEMA, totaling \$1,678,005.60.

Once this final payment arrives, the Town's total federal funding for roadside debris removal alone will stand at \$9,220,127.92.

Managing a disaster cleanup of this magnitude required an extraordinary financial effort, but diligent tracking and close partnership with federal and state emergency managers, resulted in a successful funding recovery for the Town.

A complete breakdown of the overall cleanup costs and where the funding came from is detailed in the chart below. *Note: the 90% federal payment shown reflects that 10% of the overall cost was paid for by the State of North Carolina after March 25, 2025.*

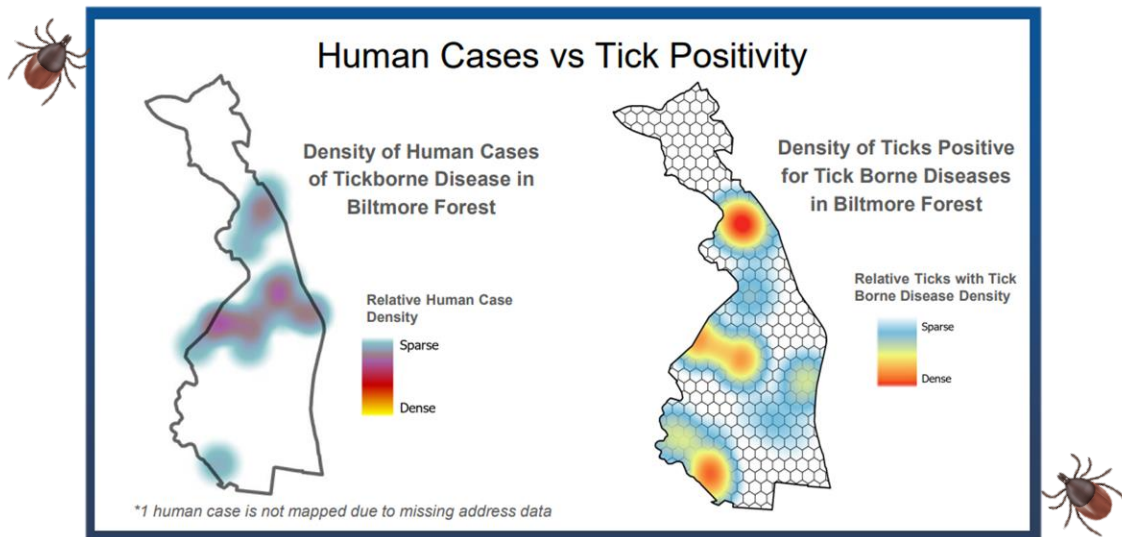
Debris Type	100% Payment	90% Payment	Total
Right-of-Way and Parks	7,653,646.36	1,566,481.56	9,220,127.92
Waterway	316,008.25	627,945.95	943,954.20
Private Property	5,008.20	323,116.09	328,124.29
Commercial Property	-	90,475.65	90,475.65
Total	7,974,662.81	2,608,019.25	10,582,682.06

Biltmore Forest Tick Results Surprise Researchers and the CDC

In April, the University Team of UNC, NC State and USC completed Phase 1 of their research into the tick-borne diseases in Biltmore Forest. After a year of monthly tick collection, the testing (which was completed by the Center of Disease Control -CDC), resulted in some alarming statistics. Over 370 ticks were collected. 75% of those ticks were the Black Legged Deer Tick, the primary vector for Lyme Disease. Of those deer ticks, over 33% tested positive for Lyme Disease. As presented by the University Team, this level of positivity compares to New England states, with levels in New York (38-64%), Maine (42%), New Hampshire (37%) and Pennsylvania (45%)

In addition to Lyme Disease, the University Team collected other dog ticks, rabbit ticks and lone star ticks which can carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Anaplasmosis and can be fatal if untreated. Of the ticks collected, 21% carried Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, 7.5% carried Anaplasmosis and 6% carried Hard Tick Relapsing Fever. The ticks were collected from 23 properties across all sections of Biltmore Forest and infected ticks were found in all areas and on roughly 60% of the properties.

Several areas appeared as "hot spots" to both infected ticks and known Human Cases, particularly Cedar Hill, Cedarcliff, Forest and Central Vanderbilt Roads.



The CDC was surprised with the testing results in Western North Carolina and contacted the NC Department of Health and Buncombe County Department of Health. The Asheville Watchdog reported on the work in an article in May, which is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. The Biltmore Forest LEADS committee, started in 2023, is hopeful that these findings will raise the alarm in broader Western North Carolina. Ten total NC counties are now endemic for Lyme Disease, including Buncombe, Madison, Avery, Watauga, Yancey, Mitchell, Ashe, Alleghany, Surry and Stokes.

With this baseline data, the University Team plans to publish its findings and move to the Solutions and Remediation work. Using Biltmore Forest as its laboratory, the University Team plans to work with the Town LEADS committee and Mahec, to identify potential solutions, implement solutions in a methodical approach and evaluate the impact of those solutions over the next year. The Town of Biltmore Forest has budgeted targeted funds for this continued work. UNC has established a targeted fund as well which enables private citizens to make tax deductible donations toward this research. A second round of town wide surveys are being collected for the additional research. The University Team has also applied for grants to match these local funds to push the program to other impacted counties of WNC, starting with awareness programs and tick collections, similar to those conducted in Biltmore Forest.

Biltmore Forest Tick Results Surprise Researchers and the CDC (Continued)



If you get a tick bite:

- Contact your doctor. The NC Health Department now recommends post exposure prophylaxis treatment with antibiotics in the above counties, without a positive test.
- Remove the tick with tweezers, by the head, not the body. Place the tick in a zip lock bag. Test the tick by going to www.TickCheck.com or www.TickReport.com. For \$50 testing can inform you if the actual tick was infected with several bacteria in less than a week, which can then better inform your treatment plan.

Get involved:

- Complete the Town Survey and return it to Town Hall. Surveys are available on the Town website, or in hard copy at Town Hall. These surveys cover additional information which will enable the University Team to establish its "Solutions Zones".
- Donate private funds - A QR code has been established with UNC to collect tax-deductible donations to fund the continued work in WNC
- Continue collecting ticks and bag them. Return to Town Hall with address and date labelled
- Continue individual and family care by wearing insect repellent or treated clothing when in nature, do thorough tick checks and treat pets

Please contact Angela Newnam at AngelaNewnam@gmail.com or via phone at 704-996-5035 with any questions.

Town Tick Presentation

Scan the QR Code below or visit biltmoreforest.org to view the Town's Tick Presentation with LEADS and several universities from May 4th



Picnic in the Park – Summer Series

The Friends of Biltmore Forest Committee is hosting a town picnic series in Rosebank Park this summer! Pack up your picnic basket, a blanket, chairs, and anything else you might want for a picnic in the park. Spend time with your neighbors and enjoy an evening of alfresco dining on Saturdays: June 13, July 11, and August 8 at 4:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

In the event of inclement weather, the picnic will be moved to the following Saturday at the same time.



Rain Dates:

Saturday, June 13 th	→	Saturday, June 20 th
Saturday, July 11 th	→	Saturday, July 18 th
Saturday, August 8 th	→	Saturday, August 15 th

Brush Collection Update

As we mentioned back in the December newsletter article, the Public Works Department has returned to our normal pre-Helene brush and leaf collection program. We would like to remind residents of the following guidelines that will make collection quicker and easier for everyone:

Collection Guidelines & Limits

- Brush Pick-up versus Leaf Pick-up: Woody brush is collected from January 16 to October 31. Bulk leaves are ONLY collected from November 1 – January 15.
- North Route: Starts 15th of the month. Place brush curbside between the 10th and 15th.
- South Route: Starts 30th of the month. Place brush curbside between the 25th and 30th.
- Duration: Each route typically takes 4–5 business days to complete.
- Contractors: Hired services must haul away their own debris.
- Limit: Maximum 15 cubic yards (approx. 1/2 truckload) per month.

Proper Pile Placement

- Stacking: Create a single, orderly pile parallel to the road edge.
- Size: Cut limbs and brush into lengths of 6 feet or less.
- Location: Only place brush on the lot where it was collected. Do not move debris to neighbors' yards or Town-owned community property.
- Obstructions: Ensure piles do not block fire hydrants, water meters, storm drains, or roadways. Avoid placing debris under low power lines or overhanging trees that block equipment access.

Material Restrictions

- Logs & Stumps: We cannot remove logs exceeding 12 inches in diameter or any stumps.
- Mulch, Soil & Dirt: Please do not mix woody debris with mulch or soil. We cannot collect dirt; any significant amounts must be managed by the property owner.
- Prohibited Items: Grass clippings, bamboo, potted plants, pallets and other construction debris, dog waste, and general trash are also not accepted.

Resident Communication Update

In April, the Public Works department began issuing white “We Took What We Could” notices to residents regarding brush pick-up compliance. If needed, these notifications are delivered directly to the front door to provide immediate feedback on collection issues.

This month, we are also launching the “We Need Your Help” initiative. This campaign is to notify residents of the need to trim trees and shrubbery to ensure our sanitation vehicles have unobstructed access to garbage and recycling carts, can traverse private driveways without damage from encroaching landscaping, and have clear views for them to safely navigate and reenter the street. These notices will be placed on carts as needed.

Both of these new white notices serve a similar purpose as the yellow “Oops Tags” that have been in use for some time now and are used to identify compliance concerns with standard garbage and recycling pick-ups.

If you receive a notice or have inquiries regarding any municipal services, please contact the Public Works Department at 828-274-3919.

Chief's Corner

As summertime reaches its peak, so does property crime. The Biltmore Forest Police Department would like to provide you with some important safety tips to make your summer safe and enjoyable. Summertime is great for vacations and family time, but criminals don't take summer breaks. Actually, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Household property crimes exhibited a pattern of seasonal fluctuations throughout history. The most common pattern for household property crimes was that victimization occurred at higher rates during the summer than during other seasons." Here are some summertime safety tips:

- As always be aware of your surroundings. Our situational awareness should always be our number one safety priority. Pay attention to what is happening around you. Be aware of what's happening in the neighborhood. Communicate and partner with neighbors about any suspicious activity in the neighborhood and always call or notify the police department with any concerns.
- Lock your doors, including the garage door. Unlocked doors are open invitations to intruders.
- If you vacation, ask a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor to keep a watchful eye on your home or have your mail held at the local post office until your return.
- Don't post on social media that you are leaving town; 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 at home!
- Be alert for children playing in our residential areas. Young children may be more concerned about catching a ball that rolls into the street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.
- Drive safely and slowly around parks and playgrounds. More children are out playing during the summer. In Biltmore Forest we have a large walking and cycling population so be alert everywhere that you drive.
- Remember, if you see something say something. Always call an alert us to any questionable or suspicious activity.

Animal interaction is very common during our summer season. Bear encounters seem to be our most common wildlife challenge. Please be proactive with your trash cans, bird feeders, and cleaning your grill/cooking items then storing them securely. The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission is a great resource. Here are some quick links with bear tips and information.

- <https://www.ncwildlife.gov/media/1400/download?attachment>
- <https://bearwise.org/>

Thanks,

Chief Chris Beddingfield

Email: cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org

Phone: 828-274-0822

Biltmore Forest Police Department Mobile App

Built by  **THEPOLICEAPP.COM**
Custom Police Apps



**INTRODUCING
OUR NEW APP**

Navigating critical information
has never been **easier**.



**SCAN
TO DOWNLOAD!**

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play

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

New Drop Off Box at Town Hall

The Town has gotten a new drop off box for payments! The new drop box acts as the Town's mailbox as well. The top drop slot is for resident payments, and the bottom is for USPS deliveries. The blue USPS drop box is still for all outgoing USPS mail. If you prefer to mail in your utility payments, please mail payments to:

PO BOX 5352, Asheville, NC 28813



Upcoming Reforest the Forest Speakers with the Biltmore Forest Tree Committee

All events are held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted

July 21 – 5:30 PM

The Tree–Pollinator Partnership

Speaker: Phyllis Stiles, Founder and Director of Bee City USA Asheville

September 15th - 4:00 pm

Expo Event

A helpful resource fair to help residents reforest their property and improve the local ecosystem for future generations. More information to come, please stay tuned!

Get Involved!

The Biltmore Forest Tree Committee is made up of residents committed to restoring and protecting Biltmore Forest's tree canopy and natural biodiversity. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM at Town Hall. All residents are welcome and encouraged to join! To receive updates about upcoming speakers and workshops, email jwhitworth711@gmail.com.

***Come to a talk. Join a workday. Plant a tree.
The future of Biltmore Forest grows from what we do today!***