The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

March 2026

Police Department New Hires

The Town is pleased to announce that we have two new officers joining our wonderful Police Department! Please give a big Biltmore Forest welcome to Officers Kasen Hall and Matt Sluder! Both Officer Sluder and Officer Hall graduated from AB Technical College in December, and have been officially certified through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Standards as law enforcement officers.

Welcome Officer Hall and Officer Sluder!



Officer Hall (left) and Officer Sluder (right) being sworn in on February 17th, 2026.

Mayor
George F. Goosmann, III

Commissioners
Doris P. Loomis – Mayor Pro-Tem
Drew Stephens
Allan Tarleton

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

LEADS Update on Tick Testing

Mark your calendars for May 4th, 2026 at 6:00 pm to attend the Town Hall discussion and review of the tick testing completed by NC State, UNC and USC! The meeting will review the testing results, case mapping and preview next steps for Biltmore Forest.



Over 300 ticks were collected over the twelve months following Hurricane Helene. The CDC testing labs are in process and screening the ticks for multiple tick-borne diseases including Lyme, Babesia, Bartonella, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Anaplasmosis and Erlichiosis.

Please continue collecting ticks for our own testing as well. You may continue to bring them to Town Hall. Please write where the tick was found and who found it on your specimen sample. The ticks do not need to be alive to be tested. If you have any questions, please reach out to Angela Newnam at angelanewnam@gmail.com.

Buncombe & Madison County Hazard Mitigation Survey

Buncombe County and Madison County, along with their local municipalities, are working together to become less vulnerable to natural disasters, and your participation in the process is important to us! These counties, local jurisdictions, and other key partners are currently updating the previous Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan ahead of its 2026 expiration. This plan identifies and assesses the region's various hazard risks and identifies mitigation strategies designed to best minimize or manage those risks.

This survey is an opportunity for you to share your opinions and participate in the mitigation planning process. The information you provide will help both (1) inform local hazard planning and (2) develop targeted mitigation actions to lessen the impacts of future hazard events.

Scan QR code to be taken to the survey website or visit: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/89d28fb14d1447ce9e8d7c23b63f178b

Upcoming Reforest the Forest Speakers with the Biltmore Forest Tree Committee



All events are held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted

April 21 – 5:30 PM - Arbor Day Celebration
Growing a Legacy: Simple Urban Forestry
Speaker: W. Keith Aitken, Urban Forester, City of Asheville
A practical guide to planting and caring for trees on your property to enhance neighborhood beauty, support wildlife, and benefit future generations.



May 9 – 10:00 AM
Saturday Workshop with EcoForesters
Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive plants

May 19 – 5:30 PM
Attracting Songbirds to Your Backyard
Speaker: Simon Thompson

July 21 – 5:30 PM
The Tree–Pollinator Partnership
Speaker: Phyllis Stiles, Founder and Director of Bee City USA Asheville

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!

Chief's Corner

Spring time in Biltmore Forest is one of our most beautiful times of year. We spend much of our time outdoors enjoying the weather and starting the processes of spring cleaning. It is very easy to become complacent and unaware of situations around us as we are so focused on our tasks at hand. Always remember that our situational awareness is our number one crime prevention tool. Pay attention to what happens around you. If something doesn't seem quite right, it probably isn't. If you see something, say something. Please report suspicious activity to us no matter how trivial you think it might be. Here are some spring crime prevention tips that we all need to practice:

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- During the spring weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- In warm weather months personal property thefts increase; there is a tendency to leave items, such as bicycles, gardening tools, lawnmowers, weed eaters, and other yard tools lying around in the open. Make sure you lock up your personal property in your garage, it doesn't take long for someone to ride by and quickly take your property. An open garage door can also be inviting, keep them closed even when you're at home.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools.

Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not "normal" to their neighborhoods and alert us at the Police Department. Please call us at 828-274-0822 with any suspicious activity. As always feel free to contact me or the department with any questions at all.

Thanks,

Chief Chris Beddingfield
Email: cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org

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

Important Notice – Buncombe County: New Property Evaluation Notices

Residents will be receiving notices from Buncombe County regarding new property values for reappraisal. The Property Assessment office is ready to answer questions and schedule appointments if needed at 828-250-4940 or by emailing **realestate.questions@buncombenc.gov**. Drop-in appeal clinics for one-on-one help with the appeal process will be scheduled throughout March and early April and will be posted on the Reappraisal website.

As a reminder, Property Assessment is now located in the new Tax Department at 182 College St. in downtown Asheville. Parking is available in the county-owned parking garage at 164 College St. Bring your parking ticket in for validation.

Please visit buncombecounty.gov or biltmoreforest.org under the news announcement 'Buncombe County: New Property Evaluation Notices' for helpful links.

Utility New Account/Transfer Fee Changes begin March 10th, 2026

On March 10th, The Town approved new utility application forms to be in use. The fee for property owners will stay the same at $30 per new account or transfer. The new fee for renter applications will be $50, and requires the property owner's or property manager's signature. New forms can be found on biltmoreforest.org under the 'Services' tab.

Friendly reminder to those who mail in payments:

Mailing address:
PO BOX 5352, Asheville, NC 28813

Physical address:
355 Vanderbilt Road, Biltmore Forest, NC 28803

CodeRED Sign Up

Don't forget to sign up for the CodeRED alert system to stay in the know about what's happening in the forest!

To get signed up, scan the QR Code or visit: https://accountportal.onsolve.net/biltmoreforestnc