The Biltmore Forest Chronicle

September 2024



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Doris P. Loomis – Mayor Pro-Tem
Fran Cogburn
E. Glenn Kelly

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News from the Friends of Biltmore Forest

A big thank you to Town staff for another year of their help in executing the 4th of July picnic. We handed out over 800 hotdogs to residents and their families!

Your Friends of Biltmore Forest committee is hard at work organizing some fall events for the town. They are organizing a book donation drive for the month of October. From October 15-31, please bring any books (children's and adult) that you would like to donate to the drop off box outside Town Hall. FOBF will distribute them to local nonprofits in November. If you have questions about the book drive, please contact Lauren Karlsson at FOBF@biltmoreforest.org.

FOBF is also working a Family Support Resource Fair for residents that will be held in November at Town Hall. Please be sure to sign up the CodeRed notifications to receive the latest details on that event. You can also check the website under the "Residents" menu and then "Friends of Biltmore Forest".

Do you have a suggestion to make our town more beautiful? FOBF reviews project suggestions for the town on a monthly basis. You are welcome to submit your suggestion via email to FOBF@biltmoreforest.org, or attend one of our monthly meetings. The schedule can be found on The Town's website.

Town History – Did you know?

Did you know that Biltmore Forest was issued a DOE in 1989?

A DOE is a "Determination of Eligibility" to be a Historic District and "worthy of nomination to the National Register". It does not mean the Town of Biltmore Forest has been designated a Historic District, but it does mean the Town is protected from a "taking" by a governmental body for public benefit, such as a park or highway. In the late 1970s and early 1980s the Department of Transportation (DOT) was studying the widening of Hendersonville Road. Federal law required the DOT to do an evaluation of impacted areas which included Biltmore Forest. The DOT assessment was filed in September 1989, and Biltmore Forest was issued its Determination of Eligibility for the National Register. This DOE protected Biltmore Forest and specifically the homes along Hendersonville Road, which included eleven "contributing" homes built from 1921-1941. The widening eventually took place on the east side of US 25.

The DOE process included documenting the history of Biltmore Forest, its notable architects, the forested canopy, and 271 "contributing" items including 204 structures, 6 parks, the golf course, 5 bus shelters, and 55 original streetlamps.

The 65-page document includes historical statements that still ring true today.

In 1925, D. Hiden Ramsey in the Foreword of the Biltmore Estate Company sale brochure wrote:

"The verdure of trees, the scent of flowers, the songs of birds, views of great range and beauty, these stamp Biltmore Forest with the impress of Nature and of that charming atmosphere which Nature alone can provide… It was to be a community with a real personality, as distinctive in its way as Biltmore House is distinctive in its way. The natural beauty of the region was to be tenderly conserved."

According to the DOE report, "It is precisely because such attention was paid to preserving the natural character of the land the Biltmore Foret possesses its unique character today. This character is defined by mature mixed hardwood and pine forest underplanted with flowering trees and shrubs and interspersed with small open park spaces… As imposing as the architecture is (and always has been) in the historic district, the strongest impression made by the district is the overwhelming influence of the forest setting. This has brought together in the District the many disparate architectural patterns to form a unified whole."

Lastly, Biltmore Forest earned the DOE for the National Register of Historic Places on all three criteria for listing which included being a local example of a nationwide movement, the personal connection of the Vanderbilts and William Waldo Dodge, Jr. Dodge was the foremost silversmith of the twentieth century who lived and had his shop in Biltmore Forest from the 1920s to World War II. Lastly, the Town's eligibility was determined due to its example of community planning in which "plan, landscaping, and architecture were combined to provide a feeling of identity and character."

Chief's Corner

The Biltmore Forest Police Department has been very busy with many developments as of late. We are back up to full staff for the first time in a couple of years. We have three new officers that have joined our team. We have Jay Turney who comes to us with almost 20 years of experience in Polk and Rutherford Counties. Landon Taylor and Brandon Ball join us after recently completing Basic Law Enforcement Training. We are excited to be back at full staff and have these fine individuals join our staff.

Chief's Corner – Continued

The department recently completed the rigorous task of becoming accredited by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. This was a comprehensive review of our operation, policies, procedures and training. Evaluators went through all our records, rode with officers on patrol and observed our operation in person. We were granted a three-year accreditation, and the league evaluators had this to say about our agency. "The Biltmore Forest Police Department has reached a pivotal achievement in its ongoing journey towards operational excellence, community trust, and service integrity by completing the comprehensive North Carolina League of Municipalities Risk Review process. This accomplishment directly reflects the department's strong leadership and unwavering commitment to adopting and implementing the highest standards of law enforcement practices. The agency meticulously addressed and met over 40 stringent standards, focusing on high-risk critical areas that embody best practices in law enforcement. This process is a targeted effort to substantially lower the agency's risk and liability exposures in facets of its operations.

Completing this process validates the department's dedication to operational integrity and highlights its proactive stance on risk management. By embracing best practices and a culture of accountability, they have significantly minimized potential risks, resulting in safer interactions between its officers and the community, enhanced officer training and wellbeing, and a marked reduction in litigious challenges against the department. It reaffirms its pledge to meet and exceed the communities' expectations, establishing its agency as a model of law enforcement best practices and risk-aware policing." We are very proud to receive this accreditation in our ongoing processes to improve our level of service.

During this same time frame the department successfully completed an audit by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division. The department's record keeping related to officer certification and training were all examined. The agency passed this audit successfully. Again, keeping with this standard of excellence allows us to provide a high level of service to our stakeholders.

Fall is one of our most beautiful times of year here in the forest. The changing colors and cooler weather tends to relax us from the hustle and bustle of summer. Don't let this relaxed state bring your guard down in terms of self-awareness and safety.

We can't stress enough to secure your valuables and lock all of your doors including your vehicle doors. Leaving things like electronic devices in plain view of an unlocked vehicle is asking for problems. It is always a good idea to record and keep serial numbers for all of your valuable property and electronics. This way if they are taken, we are able to enter the items into a national database of stolen property which greatly enhances the chances of getting your property back and bringing those who took it to justice. As always if you see suspicious activity or have any questions, please contact us at the police department.

Fall seems to be a popular time of year for wild animal interaction in Biltmore Forest. We have had several bear encounters and deer encounters recently. We have had coyote sightings and several calls for snake removal. The key here is your safety, if you feel threatened or in danger never hesitate to contact the police department for assistance. Most of the time animals will move on in search of food or shelter.

As always, your police department is here for any need that you might have. Please don't ever hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. If you haven't done so, please download our police department application. This is a great source of information, and it can be found in your app store on your mobile device.

Thanks,

Chief Chris Beddingfield
Email: cbeddingfield@biltmoreforest.org



LEADS August Report – Tick Season in Full Swing

The LEADS task force is in full swing to raise awareness and reduce the prevalence of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne infections in Biltmore Forest.

Latest data:



Human Cases in Biltmore Forest – 51 (increase of 5 since March)

Human Cases with ongoing symptoms after treatment- 8

Tick testing % positive for Lyme – Spring batch – 50%, Summer batch- 20 ticks in process

Using the resources from The Connecticut Integrated Tick Management Handbook, Biltmore Forest is pursuing a multifaceted "Tool Kit" approach to reduce Lyme cases. Homeowners and the Town have many tools to consider and you are encouraged to use them at your comfort level.

The Tick Tool Kit is targeted at interrupting the tick life cycle. Ticks rely on small mammals (mice, chipmunks) as well as deer as the hosts of choice. Past Biltmore Forest deer density analysis reported over 80+ deer per square mile, putting our neighborhood in "tick abundant habitat" like comparisons in New England. Healthier deer levels for both the deer populations and tick populations are 10-20 deer per square mile. Translated- we have 4x-8x the deer we should have. Reducing the deer habitats with landscaping strategies is an important aspect of reducing tick populations. Ticks also rely on habitats of warm, moist shade such as woods, thickets and high grass areas. When people and pets enter these habitats, ticks will be attracted to them.



Summer/Fall Tool Kit to Reduce Ticks

Tool 1 – Protect your family. Wear DEET spray or Permethrin infused clothing when working in the yard, hiking, or walking in the woods. Spraying shoes, hats and pants – not skin – is sufficient. Read labels for all products for age and application instructions. Check for ticks and take a hot shower after time in nature.

Tool 2 – Test attached ticks - Testing is a powerful tool if you have an attached tick. Remove the tick and place it in a Ziplock bag. TICKREPORT.com and TickCheck.com are both testing services that tests the tick for $50 within 2-4 days, well ahead of when any Lyme symptoms could occur. If the tick tests with Lyme or other bacterial pathogens, you and your doctor can discuss proactive treatment. In the last month, several people have sent attached ticks in for testing and 50% of the ticks carried Lyme.

Tool 3- Treat Pets – Talk to your vet about the Lyme vaccine and tick and flea treatments. It is important not to let dosages lapse. The treatments protect your pet and kill the ticks that bite them

Tool 4 – Treat small mammals – Like pets, small yard mammals can also be treated to kill ticks that bite them. TickTubes by Thermocel are available on amazon and are an ecofriendly product. Roughly one box of tubes (48) treats one acre. This product does not harm the mammals. Apply April and August at an annual cost for 1 acre - $150.

Tool 5 – Protect your property from deer – Many products claim to keep deer away, but this product has worked better than others. Wirelessdeerfence.com. The website has information and videos. The battery-operated devices require attention every 6-8 weeks. Annual cost per year for 1 acre - $150. In the test yard, deer sightings went from 5-10 per day to only 5-10 sightings in 3 months.

Tool 6 – Landscape management is a critical tool in reducing tick populations. Consider the habitats required for ticks, mice and deer to thrive – dense underbrush and thickets. (particularly invasive underbrush such at Japanese Barberry and Privet) In fact, deer eat many of the native saplings (white oaks, dogwoods, maples) …



LEADS August Report – Tick Season in Full Swing – Continued

Tool 6 – continued … Landscape management is a critical tool in reducing tick populations. Consider the habitats required for ticks, mice and deer to thrive – dense underbrush and thickets. (particularly invasive underbrush such at Japanese Barberry and Privet) In fact, deer eat many of the native saplings (white oaks, dogwoods, maples) leaving only the invasive underbrush to grow. Cleaning out the invasive species not only highlights the larger trees and ornamental shrubs in the yard - it leaves deer and mice searching for a new habitat. The Town is nearing completion of the first wave of the trail system and is a good example of landscape changes while maintaining a forest.

Tool 7 – Pruning for sunlight- Ticks live in shady and moist areas, so increasing sunlight to heavily used areas of the yard will reduce the numbers of ticks

Tool 8 – Awareness and neighborhood efforts. Signage will be installed this fall. Repellant stations at the trailheads and parks is in the planning phase. Tick testing will continue into the fall, so please collect ticks in Ziplock bags and drop them at the Town Hall.

Tool 9 – Insecticide spray is NOT recommended at this time of year to protect pollinators.

Tool 10 – Please report any cases of Lyme disease to Town Hall so we can track our progress.

New Employees with The Town



Jim Robinson

Jim grew up in Candler and graduated from Enka High School in 1989. He enlisted in the U.S. Army for 3 years immediately after graduation, where Jim served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, deploying to Saudi Arabia and Iraq for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After his enlistment was up, he returned to Candler and served an additional 2 years in the N.C. National Guard, 211th Military Police Company. Jim began attending Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College at the end of his enlistment in the Army in 1992, and completed his A.A.S. in Law Enforcement Technology. During that time, Jim also completed Basic Law Enforcement Training in 1993 and started work at The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office in 1994. Between 1994-2024, Jim served a combination of 28 years full-time and 2 years part-time/reserve service with the Buncombe County and Haywood County Sheriff's Offices, in a variety of roles, with 17 years of service in the Animal Services Division of The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, 13 of which he served as the supervisor of the division.

As Jim looks toward retirement in a few years, it is his desire to spend the remainder of his career in a smaller community where he can connect in a positive manner with the people he serves. Jim feels that he has found that here in Biltmore Forest, and it is an honor and privilege to be here.

New Employees with The Town – Continued



Brandon Ball

Brandon was born in Henderson County and lived there most of his life. He is married and has a 3-year-old daughter. Law enforcement has always been an interest of Brandon, and decided to pursue new career goals with The Town. Brandon met Chief Beddingfield in his basic law enforcement class, where he was the instructor. Brandon was already familiar with Biltmore Forest, but after talking with Chief, he decided this is where he wants to be. He looks forward to serving the citizens of the community and being part of the Biltmore Forest family.

Landon Taylor



Landon is proud to be a new member of the Biltmore Forest Police Department. He grew up just down the road in Fletcher, NC. Landon has always loved reading and enjoying the outdoors, but his biggest passion has been serving others. Becoming an officer has been a dream of his for a long time and couldn't be happier with Biltmore Forest.

Jay Turney

Jay is excited to become a part of Biltmore Forest Police Department. He has over 19 years of experience in Law Enforcement, many of those years as a Seargent and Detective with Polk County Sheriff's Office as well as time with Police Departments. Jay looks forward to getting to know and helping the residents and being a part of the Police Department.

Skyland Fire & Rescue

The members of Skyland Fire and Rescue would like to take a moment and remind you of some key fire safety knowledge with you. Did you know, the National Fire Protection Association research data shows that the average household will experience up to 5 fires in its lifetime? Here are some key tips to keep you and your family safe.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Fire spreads fast—working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. Smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Skyland Fire & Rescue – Continued

Home Fire Escape Planning

Your ability to get out of your home during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning. Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately.
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

Request a Free Home Fire Safety Visit

Skyland Fire & Rescue is preparing families within our fire district to act quickly and safely if they experience a residential fire. Firefighters will come to your home and provide tailored information on how to protect your home and reduce the risk of a residential fire. To request a visit, visit us at: https://form.jotform.com/241874989208170.

Biltmore Forest Tax Update



Tax season has arrived! Taxes have been mailed out and as a friendly reminder, they will be due by January 6, 2025, with penalties applied as of January 7, 2025.

As always, payment plans are available upon request, and any other billing question may be directed to our Tax Collector, Krystal Curtis.

If there are any concerns about your home's value, address changes, or any other information changes, please contact the Buncombe County Tax Assessment Division at 828-250-4920. The Town of Biltmore Forest is required to transfer all information from Buncombe County's tax scroll when sending out Town taxes.

Political Sign Regulations and Information

As this year's political season ramps up, please be advised of the Town's regulations. Most notably, political signs are allowed to be placed on a property thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of early voting. For this year, that means political signage may be placed out beginning September 17th. A full list of regulations is as follows. You may also find these, and all Town ordinances, online from the Town's website (www.biltmoreforest.org)

(1) Each sign shall not exceed four square feet in size and not contain any electrical component or be lighted in any way;
(2) The sign shall not be located within the town owned public right-of-way or on town property and must be set back at least 20 feet from the nearest edge of the paved road on which the house fronts or faces and shall not encroach on the public right-of-way;
(3) No portion of the sign is to extend more than four feet above the ground;
(4) A sign located on private property requires the owner's approval;
(5) Up to four political signs may be placed on private property beginning 30 days before the beginning of early voting for a primary or general election. Political signs should be removed within five days after the primary, general or special election; and
(6) Political and ideological signs are not allowed on town property.

Town Code, Section 93.05 (D) (1-6)

National Night Out

Come see what is new with the Town of Biltmore Forest Police Department on Tuesday, October 1st. National Night Out is an opportunity for law enforcement and the community to come together for interaction when there isn't an emergency or traffic stop taking place. This allows for relationships to be built and open communication to take place. Biltmore Forest has participated since 2019 with equipment and informational displays. The officers and telecommunicators serve popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones! We offer information about our police APP, house checks and other important information.

This year, National Night Out will be on Tuesday, October 1st from 4-7 pm at Greenwood Park. We hope to see y'all there!

Trick or Treat 2024

Thursday, October 31, 2024

5:30 pm to 9:00 pm



Halloween is Thursday, October 31st. White Oak Road and Buena Vista Road will be closed starting at 5:30 pm for trick-or-treating. PLEASE use caution traveling in or around this area as it will be dark, and many children will be out during this time. Some Halloween safety tips include: wear reflective clothing , make sure children have a flashlight or glow stick to make them more visible. Always inspect your children's candy beforehand and most importantly, make sure to have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Employee Birthdays

September

Shane Burrell

October

Jeff Glover

Jess Hedrick

Aslyne Tate

November

Shannon Kimbrough

Daniel Rice

Lu Riley

Employee Anniversaries

Michael Anton – 5 Years

Jeff Glover – 5 Years

Patrick Ridgeway – 5 Years

Here are some pedestrian safety tips to keep you safe while walking in Biltmore Forest:

* Walk facing traffic and single file.

* Be visible – wear bright colors, especially at sunrise and sunset.

* Be alert – use caution with headphones and earbuds.

* Remember that if there are no crosswalks or sidewalks pedestrian traffic must yield to vehicular traffic.

MAJOR STORMWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE,

Work expected to be completed in December

Work continues on the Town's $1.2 million-dollar, 3,630 linear foot long stormwater rehabilitation and replacement project to improve flooding issues in the intersection of Vanderbilt, Stuyvesant, and Lone Pine Roads. The contractor has completed the installation of almost 1,300 feet of pipe replacements (about 35% of the pipe) located in Rosebank Park and along Vanderbilt and Park Roads and is now working northward along Vanderbilt Road towards the intersection with Lone Pine Road.

Hyatt Pipeline, the Town's contractor, continues to stage their work from the lower end of Rosebank Park, and that specific area of the park will likely remain closed for the duration of the project. Please watch for heavy equipment in the area of Park Road and Vanderbilt Road as the Contractor shuttles pipe and other materials to their active construction areas.

Workers have discovered a conflict with the planned project along Vanderbilt Road that will require a small modification to the project. There is an existing 2-inch steel natural gas line in the space originally planned for the stormwater pipes to be located. These lines will likely be shifted out into the north bound travel lane of Vanderbilt Road. This segment of work will require significant traffic control and an extended single lane closure for the remainder of the summer and through October.

Once the pipe work has been completed, the Contractor will complete final repairs to the roads along the project area. The proposed project scope includes milling and overlaying affected roadways with new asphalt, effectively restoring the driving surface to a new condition.

We again ask that residents please be patient and mindful of possible delays in this area and to watch carefully for construction workers and vehicles. The safety of our residents and our workers is a primary goal.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about this project or its related work, please contact the Public Works department at 828-274-3919.

Sincerely,

Harry Buckner
Director of Public Works

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

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE TOWN HALL COMPLEX CLEAN

The Town provides two (2) dumpsters located at the Town Hall Complex free of charge for resident use. We continue to struggle with abuse of the dumpsters including overloading and disposal of illicit materials. To assist us with enforcement, we have installed dedicated video surveillance on the dumpster area. Before you use the dumpsters, please follow these rules:

- The dumpsters are for HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE ONLY. Do not send your contractor here to dispose of construction or remodeling debris.
- COLLAPSE ALL BOXES FLAT; AND CUT OR FOLD CARDBOARD AS NEEDED TO FIT INSIDE. This allows the dumpsters to hold more and prevents overflows. If it does not fit through the SIDE door, it should not be left outside or otherwise forced into the dumpster.
- DO NOT PLACE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS IN OR AROUND THE DUMPSTERS: wooden pallets, paint and other liquids, furniture, carpet, mattresses/box springs, appliances/electronics, and construction debris. A list of prohibited materials is posted near the dumpsters.
- NEVER PLACE ANY TRASH OR OTHER MATERIALS ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE DUMPSTERS. **THIS IS LITTERING**. If the dumpsters are blocked or overloaded, the Town is charged a surcharge, and/or the pick-up is skipped until they can be safely accessed,
- The dumpsters are emptied four (4) times per week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday morning each week at approximately 3:00 am.

A good rule of thumb is that if you cannot fit the item you want to dispose of in a trash bag that fits through the dumpster door, it doesn't belong in the dumpster. We appreciate your help in complying with these rules, and please share them with your neighbors and friends!



