

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 53

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Dec. 31, 2020

## How COVID changed the Highlands and Cashiers real estate market

What a year for MC Tax Administrator Abby Braswell to be handed the reins after decades-

long Tax Administrator Richard Lightner retired.

As all the Realtors® in High-

lands have attested, 2020 has been a year like never before and that

•See RE MARKET page 12

## Free drive-thru COVID testing Jan. 4 & 11

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) is sponsoring local COVID-19 testing initiatives on the plateau January 4 and January 11. The format will be drive-through at the Village Green in Cashiers from 11am-1pm and the Highlands Recreation Center from 2:30-4:30pm.

To ensure adequate testing supplies on the day of, participants are encouraged to notify Mountain Park Urgent Care of your interest to participate at [info@mtnparkuc.com](mailto:info@mtnparkuc.com).

“This post-holiday timeframe is a critical time to be tested because CDC and science tells us positive cases will likely increase after travel and gatherings with family and friends. Identifying people with the virus

• See TESTING page 9

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## Winter weather plan for Macon County Schools

With winter quickly approaching, Macon County Schools would like to remind families how our school district makes and communicates decisions about the operation of school during inclement weather. Dealing with snow on school days will be different.

This year, thanks to additional equipment and students' iPads purchased in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district plans to utilize remote learning on certain school days that would

have otherwise been cancelled and later made up due to inclement weather.

Macon County Schools has gained experience with remote learning over the past year that has prepared our schools with the equipment and skill needed to operate school remotely on snow days this winter.

Winter weather will give us the opportunity to continue learning through remote learning days

• See WEATHER page 5

## HBS continues success with adaptive programs

CULLOWHEE – In a typical school year, Highlands Biological Station (HBS) serves nearly 10,000 students through more than 250 programs, for 50-plus schools across the mountain region.

This was not a typical school year.

With “stay home, stay safe” orders in place and even the great

outdoors temporarily shut down during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Western Carolina University's 23-acre research and learning facility remained at work to meet the conservation and educational needs of the community.

Now in its 93rd year, the

• See HBS page 5



Graphic courtesy of [www.teeshirtpalace.com](http://www.teeshirtpalace.com)

In honor of our brokers, clients and colleagues, Highlands Sotheby's International Realty has made a generous donation to The International Friendship Center which serves the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community, including providing food assistance through The Highlands Food Pantry. Thank you for your friendship and for The Friendship Center!

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Looking back at 2020 and forward to 2021

I will not miss 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have many things to still be thankful for, pandemic has put major stresses on all aspects of community life. So far, we have missed the full force of COVID that has impacted many areas of nation. For example, thankfully the Highlands Cashiers Hospital has not seen a surge of COVID patients as we all had feared happening back in the spring.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

I realize we were making decisions in an emergency situation with very uncertain variables. I and the board were concerned that the town would see a sudden spike in cases to the level that are now being seen in other communities. Looking back, I wish we could have had a "do over," with information and time to respond. But that is not the way life is.

Back in the spring some folks believed I and the town board didn't react as quickly and as forcefully as the situation warranted. Other folks have let me know they think I and the board overreacted. One person sent me a letter calling me a "Nazi Communist,"

#### Highlands Newspaper

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whatever that term may imply. As an elective official I have come to realize that sweet spot where everyone is happy doesn't exist. I have to carry that burden of displeasing some folks and balance that load with those who are pleased. The final measure takes place at the ballot box.

My concern throughout the year has been the virus toll on community rituals that we all treasure. I think of the cancellation of many events, beginning

in the spring with planned Highlands Food and Wine Concert in the park. We also saw almost all our arts and cultural events cancelled, postponed or converted to virtual events. The Bascom's exhibition schedule was curtailed, the Chamber Music Festival suffered a blow, the Playhouse schedule was decimated, as well as the schedule at the Performing Arts Center. I hated to see a great rite of spring on the plateau, the graduation of our high school seniors, delayed and scaled back. The concerts in the park were lost, the Friends of the Park Shrimp Boil was cancelled. While the art show in the park was modified significantly, the Highlands Motoring Festival had to be converted to more of a motoring rally rather than a public car show. I hated to see a Fourth of July without fireworks, and the loss of the Twilight 5K Race. The annual CLE program with face-to-face lectures was setback. The Highlands Food and Wine Festival that was scheduled for November was cancelled, along with the Main Street Halloween event, and the Christmas Parade. The town Christmas Lighting was modified to be more of a drive thru event. Our churches have also suffered greatly in not being able to have full in person services. I have missed not having town hall fully opened so people can drop off their utility bills and say hello to the staff. I have missed in-person Town Board meetings.

These changes, some that may be viewed as minor, all have added up to big missed opportunities for community engagement. Countless in person community meetings were lost. The sense of community in going to restaurants and meeting friends and neighbors was impacted. Sallie and I missed the option of meeting friends for dinner out. Takeout is nice, but not the same.

The food is just better when surrounded by others. I can't wait to see the masks go away from the tables and conversations flourish.

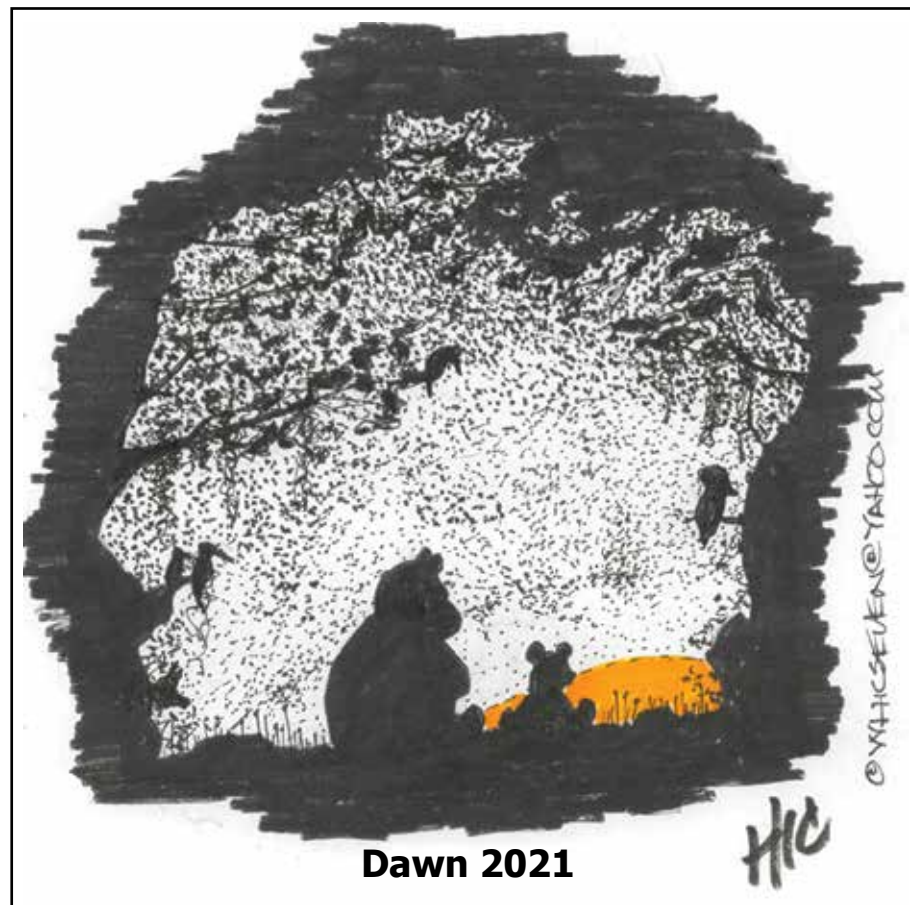
The loss of so many of these events have impacted our nonprofit communities in their effort to serve people in need. I hope folks will send a little extra to these organizations here at the end of the year.

As we go into the new year and recover

from the pandemic, I am optimistic that so many of these ritual events will be restored to their original level, or even better. With the challenges that we have faced, new ways of doing things will be incorporated into the fabric of our community.

Happy new year to all. I hope the all-mighty will shower us with blessings.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



Dawn 2021

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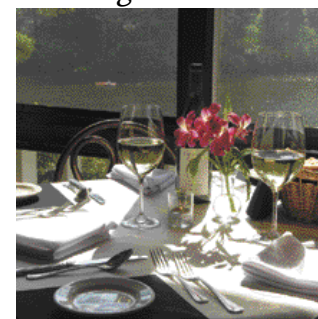
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## ...WEATHER continued from page 1

like we have had in the past 10 months of school. Snow in the past, would have had forced the school system to try and decide if conditions allowed us to run buses to bring students into school. Now we can use our iPads and experience of teaching remotely, to continue teaching and learning through inclement weather. Remote learning is not the ideal situation for our students and staff but it does build flexibility into our decisions and allows learning to continue without interruption. Because of this, MCS will not have to determine when make-up student days would need to be scheduled.

Utilizing remote learning days eliminates the possible need to have Saturday school, or to convert Spring Break days into school days, or add student days to the end of the school calendar.

This year, North Carolina General Assembly mandated that school districts build 5 remote learning days

into their calendar. During this school year, Macon County Schools have been using Fridays as remote learning days for most students, but the flexibility to change student days into remote learning days, because of inclement weather, will help keep the school calendar intact.

Even though Macon County Schools and the community have tried to increase internet access within the county, internet dead spots still remain within Macon County. Teachers will work with all students, no matter whether they have internet service or not, to obtain and complete assignments in the event of a large snowfall that keeps the school system learning remotely. Until our county can provide internet access to all citizens, the teachers, faculty and staff of MCS will continue to strive to make remote learning as efficient, and effective as possible.

In-person, face to face instruction is the best way to teach students, and MCS will do everything possible to keep school doors open and school buses running. With this in mind, school staff will continue with the long-standing early morning road checks of the most problematic roads within

the county. Staff will also be in contact with 911 Emergency Dispatch and the NCDOT maintenance shed to help determine if roads are safe enough for buses to transport students to schools.

Determination for in-person learning will be made at approximately 5:00 am.

Notification of school delays or closures, will be announced in a number of ways. Local TV and radio stations will be notified as soon as the decision is made. MCS Facebook page, schools websites and the MCS webpage will also have school delay or closing announcements. In addition, automated calls and text messages will be sent out to all persons with a phone number registered with the school system.

If you have questions about limited bus service areas due to inclement weather, please contact the school where your child attends, or consult the list of roads not traveled by buses in snowy or icy weather located on the Macon County Schools website at [www.macon.k12.nc.us](http://www.macon.k12.nc.us).

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## ... HBS continued from page 1

Highlands Biological Station includes the Highlands Nature Center; the William Chambers Coker Laboratory and other teaching labs, classrooms and dormitories; and the Highlands Botanical Garden, which features a network of public-accessible trails and boardwalks.

"These are trying times. Canceling programs and closing doors is a bitter disappointment, but not unexpected given the uncertainties we've all faced," said Jim Costa, the station's executive director and professor of evolutionary biology at WCU. "But one lesson from this unprecedented situation is just how adaptable and creative humans are, and how we rise to the occasion."

An example of that adaptation was seen in how the staff found ways to fill the void created by the suspension of workshops, classes and field trips. In the spring, outreach education specialist Patrick Brannon receives requests for programs on similar topics, such as wildflowers, frogs, birds, emerging insects and other seasonally related items.

"During this time, many teachers are struggling to provide activities for their students at home," Brannon said. "Since I cannot visit them in person, I am, like many others, trying to continue to 'visit' their classrooms via the internet. So, I am creating weekly 'Science Short Shows,' which I send to those teachers, but also make available to the public at large, including other teachers and home school groups." Using the YouTube format, Brannon also produced at-home video versions of some of his programs for elementary and middle school students, beginning with segments on frogs and snakes.

Brannon and staff have had requests from as far away as Raleigh and are continuing to provide virtual programs through 2021.

Paige Engelbrektsson, nature center education specialist for the station's nonprofit organization, the Highlands Biological Foundation, has been sharing virtual tours of what is currently blooming in the botanical garden and on the grounds. "No matter what else is happening in our world at the moment, seasonal changes and beauty still occur in our

mountains that are worth sharing," Engelbrektsson said. "Being able to lead nature tours and allow visitors to experience that through technology is a wonderful opportunity that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere, and it's important we do what we can to help students stay in touch with the outdoors and encourage at-home learning."

Along with Winter Gary, communications and events coordinator for the foundation, Engelbrektsson posted ideas for daily fun and learning activities for children on the station's Facebook page as part of a "Nearby Nature" series.

"Teachers have been extremely appreciative of these resources, which maintain a sense of normality in their lesson planning. These lessons are even more relevant when our students are outside exploring their backyards," said Jennifer Love, the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) coordinator for Macon County Schools. "Nothing can replace the experience of walking through the garden, seeing the animals at the nature center or having a guest scientist visit your classroom. But the schools certainly appreciate everyone who is going above and beyond to make this experience as normal and meaningful as possible."

The virtual lessons model hands-on activities and nature observation, with a focus on topics that not only tie into the North Carolina Standard Course of Study but are accessible to almost anyone when they walk out their door, Love said.

The station also was able to host researchers during the summer, including undergraduate students and recent graduates who were scrambling to find internship opportunities after their summer plans were canceled because of the pandemic. Four volunteer research interns from four different universities worked on projects including bird banding, sorting aquatic insects under a dissecting scope and measuring trees as a part of a vegetation survey. In all, the students volunteered more than 580 hours during the summer and fall.

"I'm proud of the Highlands Biological Station staff — I know all this can be demoralizing, but I'm so appreciative of their resilience and determination to keep our momentum going," said Costa. "I know it's making a difference to the station, WCU and the broader community."



# • HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Could New Year's resolutions be more important than ever, as we approach 2021?

The end of 2020 — a year none of us are likely to forget any time soon — is fast approaching, and for a while now, we've known that the holidays also wouldn't be like any we've enjoyed in the past. We will likely celebrate Christmas creatively, and then there's New Year's Eve, which we will have to hunker down for too, but that doesn't mean we can't get creative about our New Year's Resolutions. In fact, since these goals often have to do with health, there are many lifestyle decisions we can make and practices we can either start or tweak, that will help us feel some sense of control over our health this winter.

You hear it all the time, but a well-rounded nutrition plan is essential to your continued wellness

through the winter. Along with exercise, I can't emphasize enough how much it impacts the strength of your immune system. Eating a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein, and taking it easy on fatty foods, sweets, and highly processed foods fuels your body so it can be ready to fight the standard illnesses that crop up during winter. As for beverages, it's easy to forget to drink enough water, so be mindful of staying hydrated and drink alcohol in moderation.

Moving your body every day is also critical to keeping your immune system robust. You don't have to be a triathlete either; a brisk walk, a dance session, and yard work like raking are all good activity options. If you dread going out into the cold, invest in some good outerwear, because lots of layers make all the difference. Getting outside each and every day cuts down on the cabin fever we are all dealing with after nine months of isolation.

Rest is another pillar of health all year-round, but especially in winter. Most adults should try to get eight hours of sleep a night, with babies and children needing significantly more. Rest is a time when your body recharges, and repeatedly shortchanging yourself in this area makes you less prepared to fend off illness.

Managing your stress effectively is another powerful tool with regard to maintaining your winter wellness. Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has inserted a level of stress into all of our lives that we've never experienced before. In addition to stress that stems from work and family life,



Tom Neal, CEO/CNO  
Highlands Cashiers  
Hospital

we also face a formidable new type of worry. Between anxiety around keeping up with the news of how the virus is playing out around the country and the world, and worrying about our loved ones and ourselves contracting the virus, our work is cut out for us.

I mention exercise again here because staying active is a potent stress reliever, as is practicing meditation, yoga, and other mindfulness techniques. Stress relief can also look like grabbing a bowl of popcorn and watching a comedy or carving out time for a video call with a friend. Simply slowing down a bit can take the pressure off, which is good for our winter health.

Most of the time, we talk about vaccinations in the context of childhood, but staying healthy in winter means keeping up with your vaccinations and knowing which you should receive, depending on your age. Remember, it's not too late to get your flu vaccine. The CDC states that the ideal time for getting your shot is anywhere from early September through late October, but your doctor's office and retail stores and drugstores offer them all throughout the flu season. Since the individual strain that emerges each year is different, the flu peaks at different times every year; peak times are also different depending on what area of the country you reside in.

The bottom line: Get your flu shot as soon as you can, especially this year, since being protected from the flu will help your entire community by reducing the chances that you will need to be hospitalized at a time when COVID-19 may also be straining our healthcare facilities.

If you're older than 50, be sure also to get the shingles vaccine and get the two-dose pneumonia vaccine, especially if you have certain health conditions that could put you at greater risk for serious complications, like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Thankfully, we've watched the tremendous speed at which several potential COVID-19 vaccines are being developed. I have high hopes that one or more will be rolled out soon, which will provide us with sizeable doses of encouragement and hope we so badly need after this year.

I also continue to urge you to practice the 3 Ws to fight the spread of COVID-19 — wear your mask, wait six feet apart, and wash your hands frequently. December 6th-12th is actually National Handwashing Awareness Week, so continue to do your part!

Finally, it may sound idealistic, but doing all you can to stay positive over this winter can go a long way in getting you through these months emotionally and physically intact. Practicing gratitude and fostering a "glass half-full" attitude is not only linked to a lower rate of depression and cardiovascular disease, you're less likely to catch the common cold and more likely to develop better overall coping skills during challenging times.

We're heading into a new — and hopefully much better — year very soon. Do all you can to take the best care of yourself this winter and you'll be a fully participatory team member with your doctor as you live your best, healthy life. I have confidence we will make it to spring and turn an important corner in the fight against COVID-19 and as always, all of us at Highlands-Cashiers Community Hospital are ready to support you in your efforts to

• See HOSPITAL page 9



.HAPPY.

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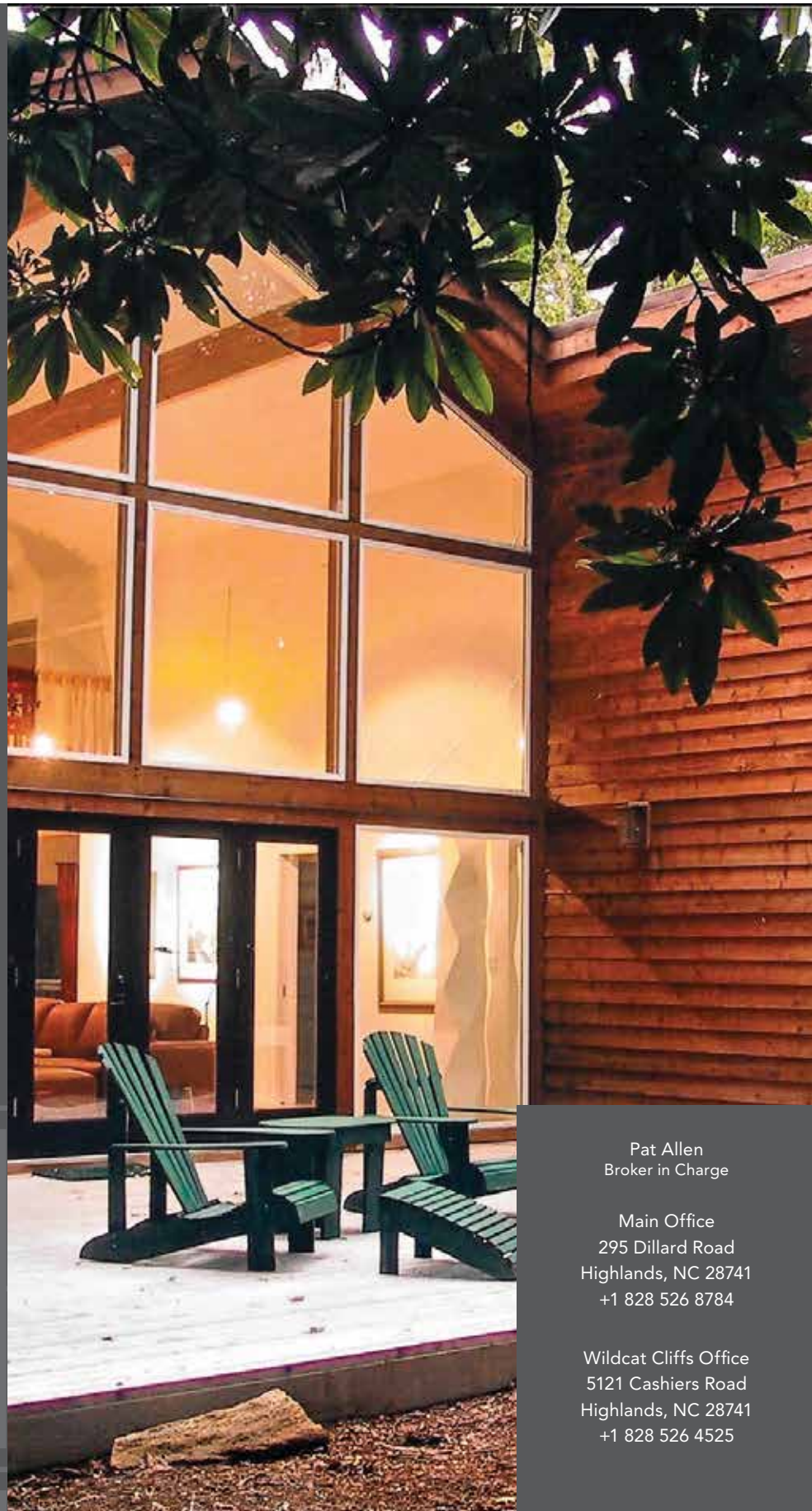
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## ALL ABOUT BOOKS

I suspect when most people reflect on the year, the top of mind thought will be Covid and its impact, particularly if they or friends or loved ones fell victim to the virus. Fortunately, for my husband and me, that has not been the case.

We also haven't experience the heartache of not being able to see children or grandchildren, as we have only the four-legged variety. I count my blessings that I'm retired and no longer working. I know if I were employed in corporate America as I was for over thirty years, I'd be worried sick about my job and whether I'd be able to hold on to it, much as I did every time we had a financial downturn during my career.

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## • INK PENN •

### A Writer's Reflections

Thankfully, that's another worry I didn't have.

Yes, my husband and I were disappointed we had to cancel a May trip to Santa Fe, but we survived. We made light of the fact it was the second time we'd canceled it, as we had to do the same in 2019 when he had a serious health scare. We hope to take another river cruise someday, or better yet, return to England for a visit, but we've managed to keep ourselves occupied in other ways this year.

We read, we put together jigsaw puzzles, and we're addicted to BritBox and Amazon Prime for entertainment. We've visited a few restaurants for meals on their patios and have a few favorites for takeout.

I'm still able to see my trainer for workout sessions by meeting him at a local park, and I meet my sister weekly to walk. What do I do with the rest of my time? I write and watch webinars. Mostly, I write, and it's a joy to have more free time for that.

Do I miss the coffee catchups and lunches with friends? Definitely, but rather than lament that loss, I fill the time with my passion—writing. Trust me, I realize how fortunate I am to have something I enjoy to fill my time.

That passion combined with unexpected amounts of extra time allowed me to publish three books this year and write a fourth to be released in early 2021. Now, I've started book five in my Dickens & Christie mystery series. Had we been traveling as much as we typically do, I doubt I would have been quite as prolific.

My goal is to publish "Collectors, Cats & Murder" in February and complete book five for a September release. For my



Kathy Manos Penn

series set in the Cotswolds, I rely heavily on the notes I took during the three-week trip we took to the UK in 2018. My fictional Cotswolds village derives from the heavenly week we spent in Cold Aston, a small village near Bourton-on-the Water.

Because my husband and I also spent a week in Dartmouth, my characters visit there in book two and explore many of the sites we enjoyed

in that coastal town. The fifth book is set in Cornwall, another spot we visited on our trip. Surely, I need to return before I run out of material.

If life is slow to get back to the way it used to be, I'd love to write a novella as a prequel to the series. I have the kernel of an idea, but not much more.

Trust me. If the new normal rapidly reverts to the old ways, I will lay down my pen and once again enjoy meeting friends for coffee and lunch, taking girls trips, and traveling with my husband. I won't give up writing, but I won't hold myself to as high a daily word count as I do now, and I'll take a bit more time off between books.

We've all made adjustments this year, some more than others. Perhaps the word of the year should be resilience. Hopefully, the awful parts of the experience will fade from our memories and what we've learned from it will serve us well. Farewell to 2020!

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries locally at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).

## Laurel Garden Club announces deadline for grant applications

The deadline for grant applications to Laurel Garden Club is January 31, 2021. Organizations wishing to apply for a grant from the club should consult the club's web site [www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com/community](http://www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com/community) for guidelines. The grant application is available on the site as well.

Laurel Garden Club is dedicated to community beautification, protection, and conservation of the natural heritage and scenic mountain landscapes. The club's purpose is charitable and educational. Proceeds from fundraising efforts will benefit projects that comply with the club's stated purpose.



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# • ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

## Amazing Grace



Kenny Youmans

song “Amazing Grace.” That’s when Harriet Beecher Stowe added the last verse (When we’ve been there 10,000 years, bright shining as the sun, we no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we first begun).

Harriet Beecher Stowe was raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cincinnati was the stopping off place for the underground railroad which brought the runaway slaves out of the South. Harriet’s father was President of Lane Theological Seminary. Because of whom her father was she had the opportunity to meet the slaves and get to know the slaves.

In 1851 Harriet’s 6-month-old daughter, Julie, died of the colic. Dur-

ing her period of grief, she begins to realize how hard it was for the slave women to have their babies taken away at such a young age. That inspired her to write the book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

The book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” spread like wildfire. It became a best seller. People felt like they knew Tom, they despised Simon LeGree. They became very passionate. They began to demand an end to slavery. A few years later slavery was abolished.

After the Civil War, and before Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, Harriet Beecher Stowe had the opportunity to meet

Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln said to her and I quote “So you’re the little woman who wrote the book that started the war” and she replied to him and I quote “I cannot take credit for it. It was written by God himself. I was merely his instrument.”

Today “Amazing Grace” is America’s favorite song. It’s sung over 10 thousand times every year at different functions. It’s the most recorded song ever written. It has changed more lives than any song ever written. John Newton said the words were given to him by God.

My mother’s name was Mildred Louise Newton. Her family was from England. We sang “Amazing Grace” at her funeral.

The song “Amazing Grace” was written over 238 years ago by John Newton, a former slave trader.

However, the last verse of the song “Amazing Grace” was not added until 1909. It was added by Mr. Edmond Excels. Mr. Edmond Excels was a music composer. But the verse was not written by Mr. Excels. Mr. Excels found the verse in a book written in 1852. The book was “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

The book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” was given credit for starting the Civil War. It was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

It is a story about a slave named Tom. Tom was being beaten to death by his master (Simon LeGree) because he wouldn’t renounce his Christianity. While Tom was dying, he started singing the

## ...TESTING continued from page 1

helps to avoid a sudden spike, slow the rate of new infections, lower the overall number of cases, ease the pressure on health services, keep our schools open, workforce employed and community activity flowing.” Dr. Richard Ellin, Board member and leader of the HCHF testing project.

Participants will be asked to present a photo ID and insurance information on site. Uninsured participants are eligible to participate without cost, however a photo I.D. is required. Confidential results will be provided directly to participants by phone.

The tests will be administered by Mountain Park Urgent Care (MPUC), Sylva, NC in full compliance with CDC, FDA, and NCDHHS guidelines. The County

Health Departments are provided COVID-19 test reports as required by NCDHHS.

Please note a COVID-19 test is a one-time indicator. Frequent hand washing, covering your face, and social distancing at least six feet apart are also important to protect yourself and others and to slow the spread of COVID-19. For questions and further information please call the Foundation office: 828-482-6510.

• *The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation was established on February 1, 2019 as a 501 (c) 3 public charity with a purpose to improve the health and wellbeing of Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding communities. For more information, please visit the website: [www.hchealthfund.org](http://www.hchealthfund.org) or call 828-482-6510.*

## ...HOSPITAL continued from page 6

stay healthy.

As you may know, Mission Health received its first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine on Thursday and began vaccinating our employees Friday morning in accordance with the CDC tiering system. This guidance from the CDC prioritizes health-care workers most at risk for contracting COVID-19 and includes staff at Mission Hospital in Asheville, along with staff at the five regional hospital locations. The staff health team has worked through the weekend to administer the vaccine quickly

to our frontline workers. Vaccinations are continuing and we have been told to expect doses of the Moderna and more of Pfizer vaccine within the next week, but we don’t have firm dates at this time. For additional information regarding the availability of COVID 19 vaccinations as well as the phased approach to administering the vaccination, please access the NC DHHS COVID 19 website at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>. You can also visit [Missionhealth.org/covid](http://Missionhealth.org/covid)



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828-526-5251 or 904-514-4896  
[www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com](http://www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com)

## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

### Highs and Lows of 2020

As 2020 comes to a close, I thought it would be interesting to summarize some of the highs and lows experienced on the Plateau, similar to the weekly highs and lows on a Sunday morning news show. Some of these relate to “investing” on the plateau, some relate to most of us and some are personal.

**LOW** – Everyone would agree that the shutdown in March closing offices, retail, restaurants, etc. was a big low point. I never thought that there would be roadblocks coming into town, but they did their job and kept Covid from arriving here for several months.

**HIGH** – The election is over! This isn't a political column and I am not going to express my views other than I have faith in the democratic process, for all levels of elected officials. I feel blessed to live in this country and to have the ability to vote. If you didn't like the way one of the elections turned out, you have the opportunity to let your voice be heard at the next election.

**LOW** – Deaths from Covid. I think each of us know someone who was taken by this disease. I personally know of three people who were healthy and are no longer with us. We should all remember those that died without family at their side and the families left behind.

**HIGH** – Opening back up in phases, beginning Memorial Day. I don't think anyone expected the surge of rentals that happened immediately and is continuing to this day. I am aware that many of the readers are against vacation rentals, but the visitors helped to keep our small businesses and restaurants open. It also brought in families that had never been to this area and gave an opportunity to experience what we are fortunate to experience every year.

**LOW** – Cutting my own hair. Let's just say that I can keep the front looking like business, but the back was no party.

**LOW** – No church. No art shows, Motoring Festival, music in the park, fundraisers for charities, Halloween, Food & Wine Festival or Christmas Parade. There are many events that we all missed, both public and private. Our families didn't get to celebrate birthdays or holidays in the usual way. I know of several grandparents that went months without the ability to see a newborn grandchild. We certainly don't want this to become the “new normal.”

**HIGH** – The number of buyers that



Carl Romberg, BIC  
Landmark Realty Group,

came to the market. Like the rentals, none of us expected buyers to come from all over ready to buy a home or second home. Many had been on the fence for months or years and some were new to the area. I will say that I worked with some of the best buyers to help create memories for their families. Most came here for the same reasons we came here – the love of the outdoors, the beauty of the mountains, the slower pace of life and friendliness of the people. I can assure you that

for realtors, it wasn't a slow pace of life for months and is just now starting to taper off a bit, but don't take that as a complaint.

**LOW** – No travel. I love it here, but also enjoy seeing different areas of the country and world. I always look forward to a trip somewhere interesting, but stayed put like everyone else. Maybe, next year?

**LOW** – Dollar General. Need I say more? Everyone who knows me knows that I love a bargain. However, one reason I left my prior home was the lack of hometown stores and restaurants; and being a prior small business owner, I know what it means for locals to support local businesses.

**HIGH** – That real estate was considered an “essential business” and that this has been a fantastic year in real estate. It became a seller's market. Buyers were plentiful. Agents were able to negotiate multiple offers, the high demand for services, the slow mortgage process and work together to bring buyers and sellers together and create mostly smooth transactions. There are some really outstanding agents here that are knowledgeable and talented that I am fortunate to work with. And we are all aware that not everyone had the same type of year as we did.

Well, there are many, many more highs and lows that I could list, but I tried to keep them relevant to our “bubble” here on the Plateau. I would like to wrap it up with a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all, and let us hope that it is Happy and Healthy New Year and that the lows of 2020 are in the rearview mirror.

• Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Landmark has been the firm with the largest volume of sales on the plateau each of the past 7 years. Carl can be reached at 678-936-9309 or [carl@landmarkerg.com](mailto:carl@landmarkerg.com).

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# Real Estate Transactions Jan. 1-Dec. 15, 2020

## Town of Highlands

**PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE (over \$1)**

- 7429466558, 175 TURTLE POND RD, 9/24/2020, 100000.00
- 7429561688, TURTLE POND RD, 5/5/2020, 125000.00
- 7439267291, 669 GLEN FALLS RD, 12/1/2020, 395000.00
- 7439294632, MOONLIGHT LN, 11/10/2020, 65000.00
- 7439377488, 445 GLEN FALLS RD 22, 3/23/2020, 127000.00
- 7439378877, 76 OVERLOOK RD, 7/6/2020, 285000.00
- 7439384312, 2125 DILLARD RD, 8/4/2020, 350000.00
- 7439486437, 59 KLEIN RD, 7/31/2020, 380000.00
- 7439576434, 88 LOWER CARRIAGE HILL DR, 4/23/2020, 265000.00
- 7439580970, 50 HOLT RD, 12/1/2020, 410000.00
- 7439599537, 604 HIGHLANDS MTN CLUB, 10/22/2020, 230000.00
- 7439690187, 1503 HIGHLANDS MTN CLUB, 7/28/2020, 180000.00
- 7439691264, 1603 HIGHLANDS MTN CLUB, 11/17/2020, 355000.00
- 7439808207, 91 CORNET LN, 3/23/2020, 410000.00
- 7439863467, 21 LOWER BRUSHY FACE CIR, 7/16/2020, 2300000.00
- 7448124147, 30 FRED RANKIN RD, 7/17/2020, 75000.00
- 7448130816, WALHALLA RD, 11/4/2020, 100000.00
- 7448139810, WALHALLA RD, 11/4/2020, 100000.00
- 7448414979, 397 CARL CHASTAIN LN, 12/8/2020, 188000.00
- 7448421076, MACK WILSON RD, 12/8/2020, 188000.00
- 7449048370, 725 & 729 BRUSHY FACE RD, 12/9/2020, 1900000.00
- 7449186041, 114 PICKLESIMER RD, 12/9/2020, 390000.00
- 7449197847, 174 WILLIAMSBURG CT, 9/16/2020, 216000.00
- 7449199663, 100 WILLIAMSBURG CT, 7/21/2020, 352000.00
- 7449382714, 215 SATULAH RD, 9/29/2020, 1000000.00
- 7449399070, 31 OLD FARM RD, 1/21/2020, 501000.00
- 7449584726, 730 PIERSON DR, 2/4/2020, 130000.00
- 7449585328, WILSON RD, 8/21/2020, 50000.00
- 7449588543, SATULAH RIDGE DR, 12/7/2020, 96000.00
- 7449794204, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7449798425, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7449885499, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7449897420, 1311 HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7458397349, WALKINGSTICK RD, 4/7/2020, 85000.00
- 7458490407, WALKINGSTICK RD, 4/7/2020, 85000.00
- 7511937128, 280 TYKE KEENER LN, 9/30/2020, 35000.00
- 7520551236, 24 MOUNTAIN BROOK WAY, 8/18/2020, 415000.00
- 7530504982, STONEY CREEK CIR, 3/6/2020, 29000.00
- 7530513055, STONEY CREEK CIR, 3/6/2020, 29000.00
- 7530659847, 118 WEBB MONT RD, 6/10/2020, 670000.00
- 7530840006, 34 NAIAD TER, 5/29/2020, 300000.00
- 7530850243, 231 AZALEA CIR, 2/27/2020, 250000.00
- 7530868094, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530869148, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530869381, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 10/30/2020, 126000.00
- 7530948150, 156 MOUNT LORI DR, 4/3/2020, 350000.00
- 7530950683, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530951454, 370 WYANOAK RD, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530951841, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530951985, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530959307, 200 NETSI PL, 12/8/2020, 38000.00
- 7530960588, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530962038, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530962199, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530963412, SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7530964330, 92 SEQUOYAH WOODS DR, 11/20/2020, 1250000.00
- 7531926787, 59 HEDDEN LN, 3/27/2020, 206000.00
- 7540027863, 195 HOLT CIR, 1/22/2020, 318500.00
- 7540104613, 39 WOODCREST WAY, 7/15/2020, 910000.00
- 7540126903, 125 RAOUL RD, 11/17/2020, 226500.00
- 7540127989, 121 RAOUL RD, 11/17/2020, 303500.00
- 7540214736, 149 FRANKLIN RD, 6/1/2020, 1500000.00
- 7540222080, OAK ST, 6/1/2020, 1500000.00
- 7540231153, 45 BROOKSIDE LN, 7/2/2020, 480000.00
- 7540234173, FOREMAN RD, 8/5/2020, 385000.00
- 7540237177, FOREMAN RD, 8/5/2020, 385000.00
- 7540308985, 322 MAIN ST, 9/18/2020, 1600000.00
- 7540309913, 326 MAIN ST, 11/23/2020, 1450000.00
- 7540316058, 130 N 3RD ST, 2/28/2020, 2431000.00
- 7540352687, 59 HEMLOCK RDG, 6/26/2020, 955000.00
- 7540372711, ZACHARY RD, 8/25/2020, 127500.00
- 7540380076, 61 DIAMOND DR, 8/25/2020, 127500.00
- 7540407742, 206 N 5TH ST, 9/16/2020, 342500.00
- 7540415716, 535 N 4TH ST, 10/16/2020, 450000.00
- 7540417178, 448 CAROLINA WAY, 9/24/2020, 369000.00
- 7540429995, 542 HICKORY ST, 1/16/2020, 750000.00
- 7540430755, 30 PINECREST RD, 1/29/2020, 850000.00
- 7540431643, 892 N 4TH ST, 1/29/2020, 850000.00
- 7540473950, 36 ALLEN RD, 3/6/2020, 250000.00
- 7540505848, 90 HIGHLANDS MANOR CT, 4/30/2020, 580000.00
- 7540508595, 740 HORSE COVE RD, 9/30/2020, 195000.00
- 7540582260, HICKS RD, 12/1/2020, 330000.00
- 7540583057, 1073 HICKS RD, 12/1/2020, 330000.00
- 7540670053, 317 CROWE DR, 11/16/2020, 300000.00
- 7540681915, 1305 HICKS RD, 7/13/2020, 100000.00
- 7540724507, 111 UPPER LAKE RD, 9/23/2020, 1200000.00
- 7540808290, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7540861356, 45 LAKEVILLA CT, 1/30/2020, 293000.00
- 7540895405, 87 SASSAFRAS CT, 1/14/2020, 625000.00
- 7540918146, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7540945650, 6 LAURELWOOD CT, 9/4/2020, 425000.00
- 7540959190, 211 CHESTNUT CV, 7/31/2020, 255000.00
- 7540959344, 147 CHESTNUT CV, 5/26/2020, 315000.00
- 7540980044, SKYLAKE DR, 1/29/2020, 750000.00
- 7541533488, 138 CHENEY LN, 7/10/2020, 250000.00
- 7541614175, HOMER POTTS RD, 8/25/2020, 54000.00
- 7541636565, 111 CHESTNUT HILL DR, 10/30/2020, 330000.00
- 7541637568, 121 CHESTNUT HILL DR, 9/11/2020, 320000.00
- 7541638360, 48 WHITE CLOVER LN, 4/3/2020, 325000.00
- 7541639353, 68 WHITE CLOVER LN, 11/2/2020, 335000.00
- 7541804495, 1080 SKY LAKE DR, 9/25/2020, 420000.00
- 7541809915, 87 OAK RD, 4/24/2020, 568500.00
- 7541830627, 360 HICKORY DR, 5/11/2020, 485000.00
- 7541964057, FOREST TRAIL, 10/27/2020, 50000.00
- 7542301707, 391 COLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 10/30/2020, 258000.00
- 7542312533, 535 COLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 11/30/2020, 275000.00
- 7550055179, 1365 FALLS DR E, 10/28/2020, 499000.00
- 7550058081, 1510 UPPER DV, 10/29/2020, 751000.00
- 7550059870, FALLS CT, 11/6/2020, 34000.00
- 7550174188, 2020 CULLASAJA CLUB, 12/4/2020, 1435000.00
- 7550261790, 154 KELSEY CT, 1/2/2020, 700000.00
- 7550410795, 58 SAGE WOODS DR, 10/7/2020, 1833500.00
- 7551050612, OFF RD 1514, 11/10/2020, 46000.00
- 7551232968, 329 HIGHLAND MEADOWS RD, 7/6/2020, 280000.00
- 7551240085, 351 HIGHLAND MEADOWS RD, 7/6/2020, 540000.00
- 7551241183, COTTONWOOD DR, 7/6/2020, 540000.00
- 7551433220, 296 FALLEN LEAF LN, 7/6/2020, 290000.00
- 7551549063, 115 HEMLOCK WOODS DR, 10/2/2020, 434000.00
- 7551907196, 2615 MAGNOLIA DR, 10/9/2020, 1000000.00
- 7551908465, MAGNOLIA DR, 10/9/2020, 1000000.00
- 7551931715, 137 HICKORY LANE, 11/13/2020, 645000.00
- 7561002521, MAGNOLIA DR, 10/9/2020, 1000000.00

## ...RE MARKET continued from page 1

has affected everyone in the field: tax appraisers, home appraisers, the service industry, closing attorneys and more.

“Many Realtors®, as well as people working in real estate related professions, have been working anywhere from 10- to 16-hour days, seven days a week, with no breaks,” said Highlands-Cashiers MLS president Julie Osborn with Pat Allen Realty Group. “The small number of closing attorneys we have on the plateau have been overwhelmed trying to run title searches and process the 900+ real estate transactions sent to them by the plateau’s Realtors®. Appraisers have been doing double time as they have been faced with the challenge of processing traditional home purchase-based appraisals along with bank-based refinancing appraisals because interest rates have been hovering under 3.0%. Then there are the inspectors, contractors, subs – everyone attached to the real estate industry has been busy.”

Osborn said the workload is due to the fact that everything is selling – homes and land – and inventory has shrunk to under three months’ worth.

“I don’t know of any Realtor® on the plateau who would have predicted what we’ve seen here in 2020,” she said. “Our market typically carries around 10-12 months of inventory but since the onset of COVID, our inventory has shrunk to under three months – six months of inventory is considered a balanced market; anything under six months is a seller’s market and anything above six months is a buyer’s market.”

The number of transactions logged at the tax office illustrate this.

According to Braswell, property sales in Macon County

• See RE MARKET page 17



# Main Street **COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES** Mtn. Fresh

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Wonderful flat lot and walk to town with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car garage, wood floors, heated tile master bath, generator. Lush rhododendron in back and sides for privacy. Oil furnace with wood stove backup to keep you warm. Offered at \$699,000. mls #94369



This beautiful, quiet parcel is 36-39+/- unrestricted acres backed by USFS. All of it above 4,000 ft. Comes complete w/ 3 bedroom, 3 bath solidly built home and a pretty pond. Living area/great room/loft layout with lots of glass. Parcel begins on left a good ways before pond (see survey tape) and runs toward end of Shortoff Road. Old road bed on property provides walking access through land up Shortoff Mountain to USFS lands. Offered at \$1,700,000 mls #93768



**INVESTMENT PROPERTY!** The cottage is offered fully furnished – minus 3 chandeliers. Listed on Airbnb with income ranging from \$4000-\$6000/month. Seldom do these cute cottages come on the market. Two units with separate electric meters, the upper level measures approx. 850sf, lower level approx. 600sf. This home is immaculately maintained, no maintenance has been deferred. Beautiful landscaping with abundant flowering shrubs and a firepit below. Offered at \$390,000 MLS # 95070



Great House at Highlands Falls Country Club. Recently renovated and move in condition, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, great decks that take advantage of the wooded and ridgeline views. Inside features an open plan with vaulted ceilings and a custom kitchen. A wonderful getaway home. Offered at \$625,000. mls #94842



Located in the beautiful Hickory ridge Road area off 106 in Scaly Mountain community. This Mountain farm features a 3 bedroom dwelling with exercise and man-cave. Vaulted ceilings, fireplaces, huge carolina room porch with fireplace. The property is over 8 acres with pond, barn, and a huge garage with lift. Could be horse friendly with some fencing. Offered at \$850,000. mls #95334



Apple Mountain Shoppes is investment property that doesn't fade away in these volatile times. Great high traffic location on Highway 64 near all of the Country Clubs and the Briar Patch Shop is this great complex for you to own and operate or just rent out for a steady income. Offered at \$1,199,000. mls #92678



Come see this completely renovated cottage on .85 acres with Big Creek running in the back yard off the deck. Vaulted ceilings, wood floors, lots of privacy with all the living on the main level. Fire pit, carport and workshop. Offered at \$475,000. mls # 95095.



2, 700 SF+- Commercial building located near Highlands Falls Country Club. Great exposure and wonderful setting overlooks a bold creek and room for dwelling or addition. Offered at \$575,000. mls #92946



Fabulous 6 bedroom 6-1/2 bath log cabin on historic Satulah Mountain. 3 large stone fireplaces including one in the master bedroom. This log home is a rare find in the town of Highlands on 2 acres of land. Old heart pine, wormy chestnut and charm throughout from the gourmet kitchen to the large great room with dining area and adjoining sun room that all open out to the deck with a fabulous view to the west for those wonderful sunsets. The owners have added a large 2 car garage. Offered at \$2,900,000. mls #94319



Convenient to the clubhouse, this 3 bedroom 4 1/2 bath is comfortable and works well for entertaining family or guests. The lower level is complete with a living/playroom, and two huge bedrooms. Wood floors in the main areas carpeted bedrooms and great storage spaces. The master suite completes the main level living as the entire left side of the house. Double porches are screened and pleasant in rain or sun. Great views. 2 car garage for easy access. Offered at \$775,000. mls #93456



This cute cottage is located close to downtown Highlands off the Dillard Road. Sits on over an acre of wooded land overlooking a stream and waterfall. The living and dining room has vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors and stone fireplace. The glass enclosed porch includes a sitting room and bookcases. The master bedrooms are private with views of the woods and stream. This is a great year round home and has a great vacation rental history. Offered at \$499,000. mls #95003



Walkingstick Road. Looking for a small cabin with great view, this cabin lives large with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, and is pleasant with a porch and a wall of glass in the living room to enjoy the view of Sagee and Blackrock mountains. This house is in good condition and is at a price that won't break the bank. Offered at \$339,900. mls #93206



Located above Highlands Country Club on Hudson Road is this cherished family cottage that exudes old Highlands charm. Lovely grounds and old stone work frames the cottage which is adorned with wormy chestnut, chunky stone and school house windows. 2 bedrooms, one bath on the main, with living room, dining room and kitchen. Huge screened porch. Large master with bath upstairs. Garage with guest quarters. Offered at \$799,000. mls #94063



Lovely Old Orchard estate Over 9 acres with a spectacular mountain views, this house is move in condition, with 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Fully renovated kitchen with dining area and cathedral living room with fireplace. Immaculate grounds and guest house is available listed separately. Do not miss this one if you want privacy and usable yard. Offered at \$1,875,000. mls #94043



Wonderful views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Main floor master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with shared bath. Each has access to an upper level balcony. Huge deck to enjoy the layered mountain view. Offered at \$350,000. mls #95121

# Real Estate Transactions Jan. 1-Dec. 15, 2020

## Flats Township (Scaly Mountain)

**PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE (over \$1)**

- 7408126040, 51 CREEKSIDE COVE S, 7/9/2020, 130000.00
- 7408126077, 41 CREEKSIDE COVE S, 9/22/2020, 155000.00
- 7408126495, 57 CREEKSIDE COVE N, 6/12/2020, 165000.00
- 7408127253, CREEKSIDE COVE, 8/27/2020, 85000.00
- 7408128884, 10195 DILLARD RD, 10/27/2020, 325000.00
- 7408147350, ON HWY 106, 5/7/2020, 47000.00
- 7408318745, 73 PEEK AND PEAK LN, 2/11/2020, 100000.00
- 7408322551, 361 HUCKLEBERRY HILL RD, 10/6/2020, 245000.00
- 7408355371, 9548 DILLARD RD, 6/15/2020, 123000.00
- 7408595540, HIGHLANDS GAP RD, 5/15/2020, 285000.00
- 7408630807, 811 THOMAS KNOB TRL, 11/5/2020, 700000.00
- 7408634234, THOMAS KNOB TRL, 1/24/2020, 52500.00
- 7408640148, 523 GOLDEN HILL LN, 8/3/2020, 300000.00
- 7408667408, 133 RITCHIE RD, 7/28/2020, 185000.00
- 7408683672, 400 TRAILWOOD LN, 7/14/2020, 1110000.00
- 7408764734, 129 RITCHIE RD, 7/13/2020, 295000.00
- 7408766752, ON 1627, 7/13/2020, 295000.00
- 7408790692, 230 RAVEN RIDGE RD, 3/20/2020, 250000.00
- 7408870176, 16 RITCHIE RD, 9/30/2020, 55000.00
- 7408894643, 140 AUTUMN VALLEY LN, 4/3/2020, 157500.00
- 7408898724, 359 HICKORY RIDGE RD, 2/7/2020, 205000.00
- 7408953565, OFF RD 1627, 8/17/2020, 20000.00
- 7408954714, 565 PINES RD, 5/20/2020, 149500.00
- 7408959070, 532 RABUN BRANCH RD, 3/27/2020, 160000.00
- 7409109257, OFF RD 1624 HIGHLAND GAP, 3/17/2020, 68000.00
- 7409139197, 26 HIDDEN FALLS TRL, 10/28/2020, 765000.00
- 7409209938, 179 OLD BEAR RIDGE RD, 7/27/2020, 293000.00
- 7409245278, 391 NATURAL BRIDGE RD, 8/24/2020, 410000.00
- 7409509307, LOT 23 RIDGEVIEW ADD # 1, 9/18/2020, 530000.00
- 7409601229, 444 RAVEN RIDGE RD, 9/18/2020, 530000.00
- 7409601478, LOT 25 RIDGEVIEW ADD #1, 9/18/2020, 530000.00
- 7409684851, 1942 BUCK KNOB RD, 3/11/2020, 700000.00
- 7409714333, 1125 BROWNS MOUNTAIN RD, 11/19/2020, 257000.00
- 7409755435, 76 RUNKEN LN, 7/13/2020, 55000.00
- 7409778314, 112 GREEN COVE RD, 8/31/2020, 375000.00
- 7409784582, 327 LENHART RD, 7/15/2020, 215000.00
- 7409793301, 207 EVANS CREEK RD, 9/23/2020, 250000.00
- 7418044844, 442 RABUN BRANCH RD, 10/30/2020, 575000.00
- 7418064108, 309 PINES RD, 9/10/2020, 125000.00
- 7418089649, 389 HALE RIDGE RD, 12/9/2020, 65000.00
- 7418153424, 121 PINES RD, 12/11/2020, 325000.00
- 7418182369, HALE RIDGE RD, 8/24/2020, 150000.00
- 7418242734, 85 ROCKY KNOB RD, 7/30/2020, 229500.00
- 7418345528, 306 HIGHPOINT DR, 9/15/2020, 289000.00
- 7418365708, OFF RD 1625, 9/18/2020, 18000.00
- 7418368279, 170 OSAGE LN, 11/3/2020, 238000.00
- 7418443688, 110 HIGHPOINT DR, 10/30/2020, 309000.00
- 7418451489, 77 BLUEBERRY RD, 3/11/2020, 314000.00
- 7418460087, 64 OSAGE LN, 2/26/2020, 160000.00
- 7418463182, 23 OSAGE LN, 6/15/2020, 220000.00
- 7418470367, OFF RD 1625, 3/31/2020, 230000.00
- 7418547758, OFF RD 1625, 10/21/2020, 69500.00
- 7418643558, OFF RD 1625, 11/23/2020, 62500.00
- 7418653297, LOT 68 ROCKY KNOB, 10/28/2020, 30000.00
- 7419004487, 238 DRYMAN RIDGE RD, 8/10/2020, 145000.00
- 7419007244, 176 DRYMAN RIDGE RD, 2/18/2020, 165000.00
- 7419007251, 170 DRYMAN RIDGE RD, 2/18/2020, 165000.00
- 7419021011, WILDFLOWER RD, 11/18/2020, 140000.00
- 7419023218, WILDFLOWER RD, 7/21/2020, 130000.00
- 7419050775, 1033 BUCK KNOB RD, 10/11/2020, 685000.00
- 7419112019, 7441 DILLARD RD RD, 1/31/2020, 330000.00
- 7419132383, OFF RD 1622, 1/17/2020, 22000.00
- 7419209422, 49 BRIAR WOOD LN, 7/30/2020, 53500.00
- 7419214559, 418 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD, 11/13/2020, 125000.00
- 7419216431, OFF HWY 106, 8/19/2020, 68000.00
- 7419318922, 811 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD, 6/17/2020, 10000.00
- 7419412886, 70 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD, 8/14/2020, 335000.00
- 7419439699, 277 KING GAP RD, 8/31/2020, 240000.00
- 7419472991, 325 BOB LONG MTN RD, 9/16/2020, 495000.00
- 7419540282, 88 KING CIR, 11/20/2020, 759000.00
- 7419555676, 160 GALAX CIR, 3/6/2020, 399000.00

# Real Estate Transactions Jan. 1-Dec. 15, 2020

## Highlands Township

**PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE (over \$1)**

- 7429446497, 311 BLUE VALLEY FALLS DR, 11/13/2020, 888000.00
- 7429459406, 268 BLUE VALLEY FALLS DR, 1/22/2020, 1000000.00
- 7429461296, 150 BARTRAM WAY, 7/28/2020, 613000.00
- 7429466558, 175 TURTLE POND RD, 9/24/2020, 100000.00
- 7429546285, 100 RING RD, 5/4/2020, 10000.00
- 7429561688, TURTLE POND RD, 5/5/2020, 125000.00
- 7429564025, TURTLE POND RD, 2/13/2020, 4000.00
- 7429564763, TURTLE POND RD, 2/13/2020, 125000.00
- 7429567378, DILLARD RD, 3/3/2020, 72000.00
- 7438587559, 1036 COPPER DR, 2/13/2020, 400000.00
- 7438745551, 1100 BLUE VALLEY RD, 10/30/2020, 245000.00
- 7438875116, 600 CHEYENNE DR, 11/12/2020, 1500000.00
- 7438919873, 00 CARRIAGE LN, 1/24/2020, 30000.00
- 7438937545, 611 BLUE VALLEY RD, 12/1/2020, 485000.00
- 7438972358, 322 CHEYENNE DR, 11/12/2020, 1500000.00
- 7439267291, 669 GLEN FALLS RD, 12/1/2020, 395000.00
- 7439294632, MOONLIGHT LN, 11/10/2020, 65000.00
- 7439345581, 882 KLEIN RD, 10/29/2020, 725000.00
- 7439364929, 449 GLEN FALLS RD, 10/14/2020, 115000.00
- 7439377488, 445 GLEN FALLS RD 22, 3/23/2020, 127000.00
- 7439378877, 76 OVERLOOK RD, 7/6/2020, 285000.00
- 7439384312, 2125 DILLARD RD, 8/4/2020, 350000.00
- 7439386672, 2025 DILLARD RD, 11/30/2020, 2059000.00
- 7439391893, MOONLIGHT LN, 10/1/2020, 750000.00
- 7439443794, 105 PEACE MOUNTAIN RD, 9/9/2020, 2250000.00
- 7439445827, 49 CARDWELL EATON RD, 9/16/2020, 750000.00
- 7439454964, 314 BROADVIEW CIR, 10/20/2020, 461000.00
- 7439463574, 169 BROADVIEW CIR, 12/8/2020, 440000.00
- 7439474338, 290 KLEIN RD, 8/7/2020, 330000.00
- 7439484579, 1886 DILLARD RD, 10/30/2020, 253000.00
- 7439486437, 59 KLEIN RD, 7/31/2020, 380000.00
- 7439488887, 39 HOLT RD, 7/10/2020, 520000.00
- 7439568983, 548 HOLT RD, 8/21/2020, 371000.00



# Highlands Township (from page 14)

**PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE**

- 7439569738, 572 HOLT RD, 8/21/2020, 1000.00
- 7439576434, 88 LOWER CARRIAGE HILL DR, 4/23/2020, 265000.00
- 7439578214, 496 HOLT RD, 7/16/2020, 650000.00
- 7439580970, 50 HOLT RD, 12/1/2020, 410000.00
- 7439808207, 91 CORNET LN, 3/23/2020, 410000.00
- 7439907167, CLEAR CREEK RD, 10/14/2020, 39000.00
- 7439908460, CLEARVIEW LN, 10/14/2020, 299000.00
- 7439909681, 68 CLEARVIEW LN, 10/14/2020, 299000.00
- 7448092045, 1634 CLEAR CREEK RD, 11/4/2020, 240000.00
- 7448124147, 30 FRED RANKIN RD, 7/17/2020, 75000.00
- 7448130816, WALHALLA RD, 11/4/2020, 100000.00
- 7448139810, WALHALLA RD, 11/4/2020, 100000.00
- 7448163119, 2730 CLEAR CREEK RD, 8/27/2020, 1500000.00
- 7448170981, ED HENRY RD, 7/1/2020, 18000.00
- 7448261698, SASSAFRAS GAP RD, 9/11/2020, 140000.00
- 7448276002, SASSAFRAS GAP RD, 9/11/2020, 140000.00
- 7448323836, 100 MOUNTAIN SHADOWS RD, 8/12/2020, 175000.00
- 7448414979, 397 CARL CHASTAIN LN, 12/8/2020, 188000.00
- 7448421076, MACK WILSON RD, 12/8/2020, 188000.00
- 7448556860, 383 QUEEN MOUNTAIN RD, 10/12/2020, 575000.00
- 7448566126, QUEEN MT RD, 7/27/2020, 562500.00
- 7448568065, 311 QUEEN MOUNTAIN RD, 7/27/2020, 562500.00
- 7449309621, 356 OLD ORCHARD RD, 10/12/2020, 400000.00
- 7449324276, 21 BUENA VISTA DR, 5/5/2020, 480000.00
- 7449410155, 411 SATULAH FALLS LN, 11/17/2020, 600000.00
- 7449410310, SATULAH FALLS LN, 12/11/2020, 1275000.00
- 7449412435, 320 SATULAH FALLS LN, 12/11/2020, 1275000.00
- 7449885499, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 10500000.00
- 7449897420, 1311 HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 10500000.00
- 7458326007, WALKINGSTICK RD, 5/29/2020, 1318000.00
- 7458397349, WALKINGSTICK RD, 4/7/2020, 85000.00

• See TOWNSHIP page 16

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices  
Meadows Mountain Realty

**2021**

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST  
**in the New Year**

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## Highlands Township (continued from pg 15)

**PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE**

- 7458490407, WALKINGSTICK RD, 4/7/2020, 85000.00
- 7458643099, 207 FAR END RD, 7/27/2020, 282000.00
- 7459274226, 3515 HORSE COVE RD, 3/3/2020, 340000.00
- 7459279608, 25 COUNTRY SQUIRE LN, 11/4/2020, 518000.00
- 7459435146, 671 WALKINGSTICK RD, 8/18/2020, 730000.00
- 7459535505, 565 CHESTNUT RIDGE RD, 9/23/2020, 612000.00
- 7459542450, 477 WALKINGSTICK RD, 10/19/2020, 150000.00
- 7459546247, 265 CHESTNUT RIDGE RD, 3/31/2020, 430000.00
- 7459559965, 4265 HORSE COVE RD, 10/28/2020, 880000.00
- 7459632979, 19 RUSTIC LANE, 6/12/2020, 355000.00
- 7459668088, 4476 HORSE COVE RD, 10/6/2020, 1800000.00
- 7459753218, 4549 HORSE COVE RD, 10/28/2020, 945000.00
- 7459758471, HORSE COVE RD, 11/17/2020, 66000.00
- 7510889602, 1461 RETREAT LN, 9/23/2020, 1200000.00
- 7520058281, 583 PAINTED TURTLE LN, 7/13/2020, 480000.00
- 7520076838, 1030 RETREAT LN, 2/5/2020, 1120000.00
- 7520178946, 216 MCCALLUM ALLISON RD, 10/5/2020, 1125000.00
- 7520368616, TURTLE POND RD, 8/21/2020, 30000.00
- 7520389042, 3264 TURTLE POND RD, 9/17/2020, 60000.00
- 7520450662, TURTLE POND RD, 11/5/2020, 105000.00
- 7520551236, 24 MOUNTAIN BROOK WAY, 8/18/2020, 415000.00
- 7530115016, BLACK BEAR TRCE, 10/1/2020, 750000.00
- 7530200669, OWL GAP RD, 12/4/2020, 107000.00
- 7530206902, BLACK BEAR TRACE, 10/1/2020, 750000.00
- 7530207954, 134 HIDE AWAY HL, 9/4/2020, 850000.00
- 7530316650, 95 THE GRAYROCKS, 7/27/2020, 1750000.00
- 7530320563, 1349 HIGHGATE RD, 11/12/2020, 1719000.00
- 7530322767, 1293 HIGHGATE RD, 5/19/2020, 1025000.00
- 7530326731, HIGHGATE RD, 8/12/2020, 55000.00
- 7530327277, HIGHGATE RD, 8/13/2020, 81000.00
- 7530504982, STONEY CREEK CIR, 3/6/2020, 29000.00
- 7530513055, STONEY CREEK CIR, 3/6/2020, 29000.00
- 7530546276, 434 LAKE SEQUOYAH DR, 9/9/2020, 2525000.00
- 7530599461, 134 COTSWOLD WAY, 7/2/2020, 1165000.00
- 7530638095, 555 ARNOLD RD, 8/18/2020, 1975000.00
- 7530685691, WEBBMONT RD, 11/19/2020, 45000.00
- 7530693841, 422 COTSWOLD WAY, 11/20/2020, 750000.00
- 7530697377, COTSWOLD WAY, 10/30/2020, 180000.00
- 7530886784, 368 LAUREL BR, 3/13/2020, 550000.00
- 7530894974, 660 FLAT MOUNTAIN ESTATES RD, 11/12/2020, 615000.00
- 7530993088, 180 LAUREL BR, 9/21/2020, 825000.00
- 7530995398, LAUREL BR, 9/28/2020, 3600000.00
- 7530995949, 400 VIEW POINT RD, 10/7/2020, 475000.00
- 7531605050, COTSWOLD WAY, 5/13/2020, 185000.00
- 7531904969, 127 VIEW POINT RD, 9/22/2020, 350000.00
- 7531924106, 80 FLAT MOUNTAIN ESTATES RD, 5/15/2020, 409000.00
- 7531925165, 30 STRAWBERRY LN, 9/23/2020, 355000.00
- 7531926787, 59 HEDDEN LN, 3/27/2020, 206000.00
- 7531929983, 114 CHELSEY LN, 9/28/2020, 156500.00
- 7531939105, HEDDEN LN, 7/1/2020, 275000.00
- 7531939329, HEDDEN LN, 7/1/2020, 275000.00
- 7540090406, 470 SKYLINE LODGE RD, 9/28/2020, 3600000.00
- 7540098702, 25 BIG CREEK LANE, 2/25/2020, 1725000.00
- 7540168461, 75 BILLY CABIN RD, 3/2/2020, 1150000.00
- 7540273543, BONNIE DR, 11/5/2020, 80000.00
- 7540372236, 99 DOLLY LN, 8/13/2020, 635000.00
- 7540372711, ZACHARY RD, 8/25/2020, 127500.00
- 7540374187, MIRRORMONT DR, 9/16/2020, 45000.00
- 7540376092, 144 BIG PINE LN, 11/12/2020, 75000.00
- 7540376646, 22A MT MOORINGS DR, 9/4/2020, 185000.00
- 7540380076, 61 DIAMOND DR, 8/25/2020, 127500.00
- 7540463321, 175 HEMLOCK CIR, 12/10/2020, 568000.00
- 7540463620, 149 HEMLOCK CIR, 9/17/2020, 379000.00
- 7540466912, HEMLOCK CIR, 8/12/2020, 1195000.00



# Highlands Township (continued from pg 16)

## PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE

- 7540467986, 201 APPLE ORCHARD RD, 8/12/2020, 1195000.00
- 7540473950, 36 ALLEN RD, 3/6/2020, 250000.00
- 7540560909, WOODLAND HILL DR, 8/12/2020, 1195000.00
- 7540571477, 124 APPLE LAKE LN, 8/21/2020, 639500.00
- 7540572310, APPLELAKE LN, 9/15/2020, 70000.00
- 7540573080, 343 WOODLAND HILL DR, 7/22/2020, 480000.00
- 7540573339, HOLLY BERRY LN, 9/15/2020, 70000.00
- 7540573558, APPLE LAKE LN, 8/21/2020, 639500.00
- 7540578316, 230 WOODLAND HILLS DR, 9/11/2020, 457500.00
- 7540582260, HICKS RD, 12/1/2020, 330000.00
- 7540583057, 1073 HICKS RD, 12/1/2020, 330000.00
- 7540663628, 315 ROLLING ACRES DR, 7/21/2020, 295000.00
- 7540670053, 317 CROWE DR, 11/16/2020, 300000.00
- 7540681915, 1305 HICKS RD, 7/13/2020, 10000.00
- 7540771248, 2161 N 4TH ST, 9/10/2020, 129000.00
- 7540789561, 186 AZALEA RD, 1/9/2020, 60000.00
- 7540793126, 112 JOHNWOOD RD, 3/30/2020, 350000.00
- 7540799115, 99 BALSAM LN, 12/10/2020, 647000.00
- 7540808290, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7540839401, 336 N BIG BEARPEN MOUNTAIN RD, 8/5/2020, 850000.00
- 7540861356, 45 LAKEVILLA CT, 1/30/2020, 293000.00
- 7540865265, 44 RIDGE LAKE CIR, 11/20/2020, 385000.00
- 7540867018, 80 RIDGE LAKE CIR, 9/24/2020, 430000.00
- 7540880862, 205 BALSAM LN, 9/14/2020, 678500.00
- 7540881675, 654 SKY LAKE DR, 8/28/2020, 580000.00
- 7540885685, 23 LOCUST LN, 8/24/2020, 295000.00
- 7540888496, 67 DOGWOOD CT, 10/28/2020, 370000.00
- 7540888883, LOCUST LN, 9/1/2020, 335000.00
- 7540889314, 45 DOGWOOD CT, 8/17/2020, 395000.00
- 7540889859, 101 LOCUST LN, 9/1/2020, 335000.00
- 7540891847, 168 SASSAFRAS CT, 7/8/2020, 375000.00
- 7540895405, 87 SASSAFRAS CT, 1/14/2020, 625000.00
- 7540918146, HORSE COVE RD, 9/9/2020, 1050000.00
- 7540936278, 150 N BIG BEARPEN MOUNTAIN RD, 11/19/2020, 675000.00
- 7540945523, 20 LAURELWOOD DR, 8/20/2020, 430000.00
- 7540945650, 6 LAURELWOOD CT, 9/4/2020, 425000.00
- 7540946880, 51 LAURELWOOD CT, 2/4/2020, 400000.00
- 7540959169, 207 CHESTNUT CV, 1/9/2020, 200000.00
- 7540959190, 211 CHESTNUT CV, 7/31/2020, 255000.00
- 7540959242, 201 CHESTNUT CV, 8/21/2020, 245000.00
- 7540959263, 203 CHESTNUT CV, 7/31/2020, 267000.00
- 7540959344, 147 CHESTNUT CV, 5/26/2020, 315000.00
- 7540961730, 68 SPRUCE LN, 1/14/2020, 1775000.00
- 7540973211, 165 SPRUCE LN, 9/16/2020, 520000.00
- 7540980044, SKYLAKE DR, 1/29/2020, 75000.00
- 7541003494, 170 PINE CIR, 5/29/2020, 533000.00

- 7541004273, 139 PINE CIR, 10/26/2020, 535000.00
- 7541007968, 140 MEL KEENER RD, 10/23/2020, 500000.00
- 7541012650, 1533 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD, 8/25/2020, 360000.00
- 7541030308, 193 HEDDEN LN, 7/1/2020, 275000.00
- 7541032927, 2199 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD, 1/10/2020, 330000.00
- 7541111547, 1391 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD, 11/12/2020, 132500.00
- 7541533488, 138 CHENEY LN, 7/10/2020, 250000.00
- 7541614175, HOMER POTTS RD, 8/25/2020, 54000.00
- 7541618847, 160 SPARKLING LAKES RD, 10/5/2020, 720000.00
- 7541624853, 11099 BUCK CREEK RD, 12/1/2020, 79000.00
- 7541636565, 111 CHESTNUT HILL DR, 10/30/2020, 330000.00
- 7541637568, 121 CHESTNUT HILL DR, 9/11/2020, 320000.00
- 7541638360, 48 WHITE CLOVER LN, 4/3/2020, 325000.00
- 7541639353, 68 WHITE CLOVER LN, 11/2/2020, 335000.00
- 7541639432, 49 JESSAMINE LN, 10/22/2020, 340000.00
- 7541676409, 439 BY WAY, 12/7/2020, 2200000.00
- 7541688062, 1141 SHORTOFF RD, 7/13/2020, 1010000.00
- 7541739904, 90 HICKORY DR, 9/16/2020, 772000.00
- 7541740763, 270 SHORTOFF RD, 8/7/2020, 728500.00
- 7541748547, 45 CHESTNUT LN, 10/21/2020, 420000.00
- 7541753732, NORTON RIDGE RD, 12/11/2020, 5000.00
- 7541756170, SHORTOFF RD, 12/11/2020, 5000.00
- 7541774798, 65 EAGLE RIDGE DR, 10/2/2020, 730000.00
- 7541803580, 1106 SKY LAKE DR, 9/25/2020, 637500.00
- 7541804495, 1080 SKY LAKE DR, 9/25/2020, 420000.00
- 7541806596, 1063 SKY LAKE DR, 4/14/2020, 400000.00
- 7541809915, 87 OAK RD, 4/24/2020, 568500.00
- 7541818239, 264 WOODLAND RIDGE DR, 2/18/2020, 960000.00
- 7541819536, NORTH RIDGE TRL, 2/18/2020, 120000.00
- 7541830627, 360 HICKORY DR, 5/11/2020, 485000.00
- 7541832259, 434 BUCKBERRY RD, 9/8/2020, 375000.00
- 7541840040, 74 HICKORY DR, 8/31/2020, 945000.00
- 7541873372, SHORTOFF RD, 11/16/2020, 750000.00
- 7541878316, SHORTOFF RD, 11/16/2020, 750000.00
- 7541905778, WOODLAND RIDGE DR, 10/9/2020, 80000.00
- 7541906303, 1194 CLAIRE LN, 7/7/2020, 850000.00
- 7541911593, NORTH RIDGE TRL, 2/18/2020, 960000.00
- 7541911657, NORTH RIDGE TRL, 2/18/2020, 120000.00
- 7541915024, WOODLAND RIDGE DR, 10/9/2020, 80000.00
- 7541930075, 232 BUCKBERRY RD, 6/9/2020, 484000.00
- 7541944596, 3/2/2020, 80000.00
- 7541945941, 56 RIDGE TRL, 8/28/2020, 430000.00
- 7541954359, 148 PHEASANT RUN, 8/12/2020, 420000.00
- 7541957912, 207 FOREST TRL, 12/11/2020, 374000.00
- 7541959021, PHEASANT RUN, 9/23/2020, 207500.00

• See TOWNSHIP page 19

## ...RE MARKET continued from page 12

have increased by more than 30% from 2019. Highlands has had an increase of over 60% from 2019.

“As of Dec. 9, there were 620 sales in Highlands. I am counting only sales that have an excise tax of greater than \$0. If you count all deeds including the \$0 there are 843 deeds recorded for property in Highlands,” said Braswell. “There has also been an increase in \$1,000,000 plus sales for 2020 – an increase of over 150% for sales over a \$1,000,000.”

The two largest sales in Highlands to date are a \$10,500,000 sale and a \$6,410,000.

Osborn said MLS stats at the end of November showed that, year over year, the number of Highlands and Cashiers single-family homes increased by 56.83%. Condo units increased by 42.74% and land units increased by 68.28%.

“With housing inventory so low, consumers are now considering building, so land sales, which have essentially been stagnant in the past, are now up-ticking,” she said.

With properties selling for more than the 2019 appraised value, and bidding wars a reality in Highlands and Cashiers, the next question is, how will this affect house values and therefore taxes during the next revaluation cycle?

Macon County is on a 4-year

• See RE MARKET page 22

**Lunch**  
Thurs. - Mon.  
11a to 3p



**Dinner**  
Thurs. - Sat.  
5 to 7p

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**At the High Dive 476 Carolina Way • Highlands**



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## When 2020 is Outta Sight

Pastor Randy Lucas  
Highlands United Methodist  
Church

There's many things to ponder  
in this ole world of woe.  
Many hurts needin' healing,  
'cross the many miles we go.

But there's one thing I'm sure of,  
let me shout with all my might.  
I'll sure be plenty proud,  
when 2020 is outta sight!

I'm sure it never meant no harm,  
when it came into our life.  
But you can bet your bottom dollar,  
it brought a world of pain and strife.

A virus for the history books,  
put us facedown in the dirt.  
And filled our little planet, here  
with too much pain and hurt.

And then we were reminded  
how injustice still remains,  
and humanity is still not free  
from sins' life-draining stains.

Civil unrest filled the streets,  
violence shook us to our core.  
Leaving us to wonder, what else  
2020 had in store.

And then contentious politics  
like few have ever seen.  
Reminding us, we all can be  
right petty, and downright mean.

We've fought o'er masks and policies,  
we've argued and disagreed.  
But still, somehow, we've found a way  
to care for those in need.

Folks fightin' on the front lines,  
just keep risin' to the test,  
like brave soldiers who take the hill,  
help us see us, at our best.

And there's still work needs doin'.  
if we'll get 2021 right.  
But I'll sure wave a hearty wave,  
when 2020 is outta sight!

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Wes Sharpe, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30am Sunday School; 11:30am Worship Service; 6pm Mon.

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; 9:45am (masks required) Early Worship Service; 11:15am (masks optional) Worship Service; Sundays 10:45am-Children's Program,

Sunday Youth-4:30pm – 6:30pm Dinner

provided **COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY**

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447,

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Sunday Services Live-Stream at 10:30 a.m.,

Morning Prayer Weekdays on Facebook live at 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist at noon in the garden on Mon and Wed

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-31 • 75 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Monday: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.

Wed: Choir: 6p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

## John 3:16

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: • 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening Worship, 6p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

In-Person Indoor Worship with limited seating, and an allowable capacity up to 30% pending appropriate social distancing. 9:09 and 10:50 worshipservices.

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S., Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



# Highlands Township (continued from page 17)

## PIN • PROP ADDR • DATE RECORDED • SALES PRICE

- 7541964057, FOREST TRAIL, 10/27/2020, 50000.00
- 7542301707, 391 COLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 10/30/2020, 258000.00
- 7542312533, 535 COLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 11/30/2020, 275000.00
- 7542314144, 175 HAWKS NEST LN, 9/22/2020, 86000.00
- 7550050523, 107 CHESTNUT CV, 1/13/2020, 280000.00
- 7550051089, 251 CHESTNUT CV, 10/13/2020, 485000.00
- 7550051291, 263 CHESTNUT CV, 9/23/2020, 465000.00
- 7550051382, 271 CHESTNUT COVE, 5/28/2020, 425000.00
- 7550051385, 273 CHESTNUT COVE, 12/4/2020, 495000.00
- 7550051435, 283 CHESTNUT CV, 8/5/2020, 445000.00
- 7550055179, 1365 FALLS DR E, 10/28/2020, 499000.00
- 7550058081, 1510 UPPER DV, 10/29/2020, 751000.00
- 7550059870, FALLS CT, 11/6/2020, 34000.00
- 7550130756, 98 SALT ROCK CT, 7/24/2020, 2133000.00
- 7550158567, 1513 FALCON RDG, 9/25/2020, 871000.00
- 7550174188, 2020 CULLASAJA CLUB, 12/4/2020, 1435000.00
- 7550179425, 1920 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, 1/8/2020, 625000.00
- 7550261790, 154 KELSEY CT, 1/2/2020, 700000.00
- 7550273425, 162 RIVER VIEW CT, 10/9/2020, 1025000.00
- 7550360605, 1532 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, 10/19/2020, 725000.00
- 7550473505, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550474493, GARNET ROCK TRL, 11/6/2020, 1680000.00
- 7550475714, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550476850, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550477665, GARNET ROCK TRL, 11/18/2020, 1680000.00
- 7550477877, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550478763, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550479758, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550479903, GARNET ROCK TRL, 10/28/2020, 2380000.00
- 7550581028, LOT 119 GARNET ROCK TRL, 11/18/2020, 220000.00
- 7550480298, CULLASAJA CLUB DR, 11/4/2020, 112500.00
- 7550483821, 950 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, 7/30/2020, 465000.00
- 7550495686, CULLASAJA CLUB DR, 12/11/2020, 120000.00
- 7550581028, LOT 119 GARNET ROCK TRL, 11/18/2020, 220000.00
- 7550582163, 919 GARNET ROCK TRL, 9/18/2020, 1850000.00
- 7550582795, 35 WEST VIEW WAY, 9/22/2020, 830000.00
- 7550585582, 814 GARNET ROCK TRL, 8/3/2020, 950000.00
- 7550587622, GARNET ROCK TRL, 8/3/2020, 950000.00
- 7550594693, GARNET ROCK TRL, 12/4/2020, 70000.00
- 7550694739, ROCK GAP RD, 12/2/2020, 285000.00
- 7551050612, OFF RD 1514, 11/10/2020, 46000.00
- 7551212072, CRESCENT TRL, 12/4/2020, 140000.00
- 7551212107, 891 CRESCENT TRL, 11/10/2020, 920000.00
- 7551227030, HEMLOCK WAY, 9/8/2020, 1575000.00
- 7551229057, 132 HEMLOCK WAY, 9/8/2020, 1575000.00
- 7551232968, 329 HIGHLAND MEADOWS RD, 7/6/2020, 280000.00
- 7551240085, 351 HIGHLAND MEADOWS RD, 7/6/2020, 540000.00
- 7551241183, COTTONWOOD DR, 7/6/2020, 540000.00
- 7551301178, 330 CRESCENT TRL, 11/5/2020, 1650000.00
- 7551301415, 369 CRESCENT TRL, 10/14/2020, 600000.00
- 7551302449, CRESCENT TRL, 10/14/2020, 600000.00
- 7551303201, 308 CRESCENT TRL, 11/12/2020, 1550000.00
- 7551303574, 297 CRESCENT TRL, 10/13/2020, 780000.00
- 7551306294, 238 CRESCENT TRL, 9/18/2020, 950000.00
- 7551306547, 241 CRESCENT TRL, 1/9/2020, 665000.00
- 7551319354, 265 COTTAGE LN, 8/28/2020, 2850000.00
- 7551320375, APPLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 11/16/2020, 85000.00
- 7551323408, APPLE MOUNTAIN LN, 9/9/2020, 400000.00
- 7551323470, 80 APPLE MOUNTAIN LN, 9/9/2020, 400000.00
- 7551327489, APPLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 9/9/2020, 40000.00
- 7551329327, 100 APPLE MOUNTAIN CIR, 12/11/2020, 417000.00
- 7551335574, 159 RAINTREE LN, 6/1/2020, 299000.00
- 7551415810, 171 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, 11/13/2020, 2125000.00
- 7551433220, 296 FALLEN LEAF LN, 7/6/2020, 290000.00
- 7551443613, 10 WILD PINE WAY, 10/8/2020, 545000.00
- 7551454147, 14 E FOREST WAY, 12/1/2020, 720000.00
- 7551509910, 50 CATAMOUNT TRL, 10/9/2020, 1363000.00
- 7551512890, 26 CHERRY TREE LN, 3/16/2020, 1550000.00
- 7551521505, RAVENEL LAKE TRL, 11/20/2020, 200000.00
- 7551529879, 82 HIGH POND LN, 6/19/2020, 250000.00
- 7551539149, LAKE OSESEROGA, 10/6/2020, 142000.00
- 7551543034, 705 WILDWOOD DR, 9/30/2020, 207000.00
- 7551545567, 578 WILDWOOD DR, 8/5/2020, 295000.00
- 7551547648, 53 RIDGE LN, 9/11/2020, 680000.00
- 7551549063, 115 HEMLOCK WOODS DR, 10/2/2020, 434000.00
- 7551605715, BIRCHWOOD DR, 7/13/2020, 175000.00
- 7551608692, 94 OAK PT, 11/6/2020, 500000.00
- 7551615775, LAKEVILLAS WAY, 9/4/2020, 1550000.00
- 7551615830, 520 LAKEVILLAS WAY, 6/18/2020, 1460000.00
- 7551616710, 490 & 494 LAKEVILLAS WAY, 9/4/2020, 1550000.00
- 7551619608, 454 LAKEVILLAS WAY, 10/7/2020, 865000.00
- 7551622864, 75 RHODODENDRON DR, 8/28/2020, 512500.00
- 7551623939, RHODODENDRON DR, 11/3/2020, 425000.00
- 7551636211, 204 COUNTRY CLUB DR, 3/10/2020, 70000.00
- 7551627272, 387 COUNTRY CLUB DR, 8/31/2020, 450000.00
- 7551628050, 255 RHODODENDRON DR, 1/30/2020, 892000.00
- 7551630215, 23 STREAMSIDE LN, 8/10/2020, 1110000.00
- 7551630870, 140 HEMLOCK WOODS DR, 8/7/2020, 475000.00
- 7551633172, 25 RHODODENDRON DR, 11/3/2020, 425000.00
- 7551636211, 204 COUNTRY CLUB DR, 10/29/2020, 470000.00
- 7551669533, 945 COWEE RIDGE RD, 2/14/2020, 550000.00
- 7551701527, 83 OAK PT, 9/16/2020, 650000.00
- 7551711517, 394 LAKEVILLAS WAY, 1/3/2020, 760000.00
- 7551713308, BIRCHWOOD DR, 7/13/2020, 175000.00
- 7551715254, OAK PT, 7/28/2020, 695000.00
- 7551716151, 239 OAK PT, 7/28/2020, 695000.00
- 7551720441, 51 PRIMROSE LN, 1/14/2020, 715000.00
- 7551724404, 494 COUNTRY CLUB DR, 10/30/2020, 1700000.00
- 7551735302, MOUNTAIN ASH LN, 11/10/2020, 1500000.00
- 7551736206, 220 MOUNTAIN ASH LN, 11/10/2020, 1500000.00
- 7551737220, MOUNTAIN ASH LN, 11/10/2020, 1500000.00
- 7551767802, 416 EAST OVER DRIVE RD, 10/9/2020, 295000.00
- 7551801230, MAGNOLIA DR, 10/15/2020, 1725000.00
- 7551803030, 1519 WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN RD, 10/15/2020, 1725000.00
- 7551804561, 2175 MAGNOLIA DR, 11/25/2020, 617500.00
- 7551813671, 270 AZALEA LN, 9/10/2020, 418000.00
- 7551813827, 303 AZALEA LN, 10/15/2020, 403000.00
- 7551826124, 745 COUNTRY CLUB DR, 9/10/2020, 8• 75000.00
- 7551907196, 2615 MAGNOLIA DR, 10/9/2020, 1000000.00
- 7551908465, MAGNOLIA DR, 10/9/2020, 1000000.00
- 7551918137, 69 MAPLE LN, 8/3/2020, 660000.00
- 7551923622, 910 COUNTRY CLUB DR, 8/12/2020, 979000.00
- 7551931347, 78 HICKORY LN, 1/15/2020, 1200000.00
- 7551931715, 137 HICKORY LANE, 11/13/2020, 645000.00
- 7560091876, 1125 WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN RD, 9/30/2020, 825000.00
- 7561002521, MAGNOLIA DR, 10/9/2020, 1000000.00
- 7561004683, 845 WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN RD, 10/6/2020, 550000.00
- 7561005943, 2741 MAGNOLIA DR, 12/3/2020, 550000.00
- 7561010128, MAPLE LN, 8/3/2020, 660000.00



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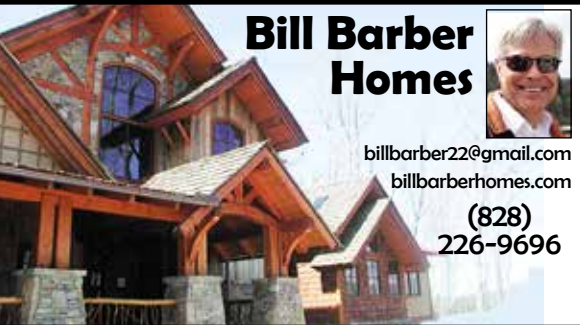
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Highlands | Sotheby's  
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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**CUTE 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH COTTAGE** and bonus room. Terrific large porch and wood burning fireplace 8 mins from town. \$1500/month. Furnished or unfurnished. Minimum one year rental. Available later this fall. [Mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com](mailto:Mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com) (st. 9/3)

## ...RE MARKET continued from page 17

revaluation cycle. The last revaluation was in 2019. What that means is that every four years the tax office revaluates properties based on sales and brings the value of them to what is market value. North Carolina is a 100% Market Value state. The next revaluation will be in 2023.

Braswell said properties will remain at the assessment set in 2019 unless a change is made to that property.

“We track changes through the building permit office, and we look at sales to see how our value is different from the sales price to see if we are missing anything, or if we think we need to look at the property based on the value being different from what the sales price is,” she said. “We can’t change the 2019 assessment unless we find something different such as an addition or some physical change that we did not assess before, so we do not change the assessment based on the sales price – only for some physical change that we missed.”

However, sale prices will be looked at when the next revaluation is done 2023.

The sales ratio indicates how the county’s assessment compares to what the market is doing, said Braswell.

“In 2019 our sales ratio was 100% after our revaluation. At the beginning of 2020, our ratio dropped to 96.58% and now it is around 90%. This means that the assessed values are 10% lower on average than what they are selling for,” she said. “In basic terms, the sales price is higher than tax value and that gap seems to continue to widen with sales prices continuing to rise while the tax assessment remain

the same.”

Permitting information is where the county gets information about what is being built or changed and altered in some way.

County wide, Braswell said there has been an increase in commercial permits of 30% from 2019. Single-family homes are the same as last year and there has been an increase in alterations or additions to existing structures of around 20%.

“The tax office goes out twice a year for new construction/or to reevaluate permits that have been pulled. We just finished what we called new construction process and we had over 600 sites to visit to either pick up new construction or to check on previous new construction. That figure is a slight increase from last year,” she said.

Since many homeowners don’t get permits to do alterations to their dwellings and therefore don’t list those changes at the county office, when those changes are discovered inspectors visit the property to reassess its value.

“At that point, we do send them a change of value letter and they have a chance to discuss these changes with us,” she said.

With developed properties selling, the new construction process added less than 1% to the tax base for the upcoming year – 2021.

According to Braswell, the real property values at this time are approximately \$7,630,000,000 with a tax collection rate in Macon County that is 3% higher than at this time in 2019.

Overall Macon County looks to be growing in the number of new residents, but Braswell said the tax office doesn’t know the percentage of those who will become full-time residents.

Full-time or not, COVID has likely changed the face of Highlands and Cashiers forever.

“Our plateau is an escape where people can easily isolate but be outdoors in nature,” said Osborn. “We don’t have the traffic, noise, pollution or crime that big cities have. We don’t live in a community where people live in elevator-access, high-rise buildings with thousands of other people who they don’t know hovering around them. We are drivable from just about any state in the southeast U.S., so airplanes are not needed to travel to our plateau for the most part. Driving versus flying affords the option of being in control of who we are exposed to when travelling.”

Braswell said though 2020 is coming to an end the tax office still has much work to do.

“For us at the tax office, 2020 has been a much busier year. We didn’t shut down in March and we have stayed open the entire year. We have taken precautions and we do not allow anyone in our individual offices but because of the increase in permits, sales, transfers of all kinds we have much work to do and we are trying to get that done so that we can serve the taxpayers and make sure that all of this new information is processed as quickly and as correctly as possible.”

– By Kim Lewicki



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