

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 41

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Thursday, Oct. 8 2020

## Committee meets to hash out water/sewer agreement with Hospital

Last Thursday the town's committee met with Hospital Corporation of America's representatives to continue discussing

HC Hospital's request for water and sewer for its proposed workforce housing complex on hospital property.

On the town's ad hoc committee was Commissioners John Dotson and Amy Patterson. After

• See AGREEMENT page 8

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## Governor eases restrictions for indoor and outdoor venues

### What it means for Highlands

As of 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 2, Executive Order 169 went into effect which moved North Carolina into Phase 3 of COVID restrictions through Friday, Oct. 23.

The new order issued by NC Gov. Roy Cooper included changes and safety precautions for large outdoor and some indoor venues.

"North Carolina will ease some restrictions while continuing safety measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 as the state's metrics remained stable in September," said Gov. Cooper. "Our top priority remains getting children back to in-person learning," said Gov. Cooper. "This month marks a major shift for many families now and in the coming months as schools open their doors, some for the first time since the pandemic. The virus continues to spread, so we must take the next steps methodically,

and responsibly."

Its new provisions include:

- Large outdoor venues with seating greater than 10,000 may operate with 7% occupancy for spectators.

- Smaller outdoor entertainment venues, like arenas or amphitheaters, may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.

- Movie theaters and conference centers may open indoor spaces to 30% of capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.

PAC Director Mary Adair Trumbly said since the Performing Arts Center isn't a "conference" center she has been told she can only allow 25 patrons inside at one time.

"But I will take 25!" she said.

Clif Gottwals on The Playhouse board said though movie

• See RESTRICTIONS page 17



Trees along the property of the First Presbyterian Church ablazed on S. 5th Street.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

## It's starting to look a lot like ... Fall!

By Geoff Cantrell  
Western Carolina University

Autumn leaves and the natural beauty of fall colors across

Western North Carolina are a seasonal sensation that draw thousands of visitors and locals alike - and prompts an annual prognos-

tication by Western Carolina University biology professor Beverly Collins.

• See FALL page 6

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### On changing and uplifting policing

In recent months there have been confrontations across the nation between police and citizens that bring into question how law enforcement officers should react in certain critical situations. It's a complicated issue.

I support our Highlands Police Department and other area law enforcement agencies. But I do not blindly support unjustifiable police actions. We must strive for continuous improvement in government, including law enforcement agencies. Even in the recent turmoil I hold to the hope that communities can improve policing across the nation, thereby building trust and support.

The North Carolina Legislature is looking at ways to improve law enforcement. As a mayor, and I suspect most elected officials would agree that the solution is not to simply defund the police. I certainly do not want to see that happening in our Highlands Police Department. On the other hand, reallocation of resources and redirecting law enforcement programs may certainly be in order.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

As a former magistrate, I was very aware that law enforcement officers are expected to deal with and solve problems that were not a part of their enforcement mission and training. We need more community mental health resources, drug addiction programs and social support services that redress problems that law enforcement officers address daily and on a repeat basis. For example, it is more cost effective to provide treatment for a person addicted to drugs than to incarcerate that person in a state penitentiary. Almost all the folks I encountered as a magistrate were basically good people that were dealing with dysfunctional life problems. They needed help rather than criminalization.

State legislative committees are now addressing these law enforcement issues. At the next session, recommendations will be presented for legislative action. Below are several areas where lawmakers believe improvements can be made.

First, there will be a focus on training. Being an effective policeman in today's environment is complex and requires a high level of training. Our own police department has highly trained officers, many with criminal justice degrees, but their training never stops. Our new chief is already revising training to address these national concerns. I hope we have a statewide initiative to fund and support even better training.

Second, legislators are looking at the issue of mental health services for policemen. Police officers are under constant stress, in some instances it is tantamount to military battle fatigue.

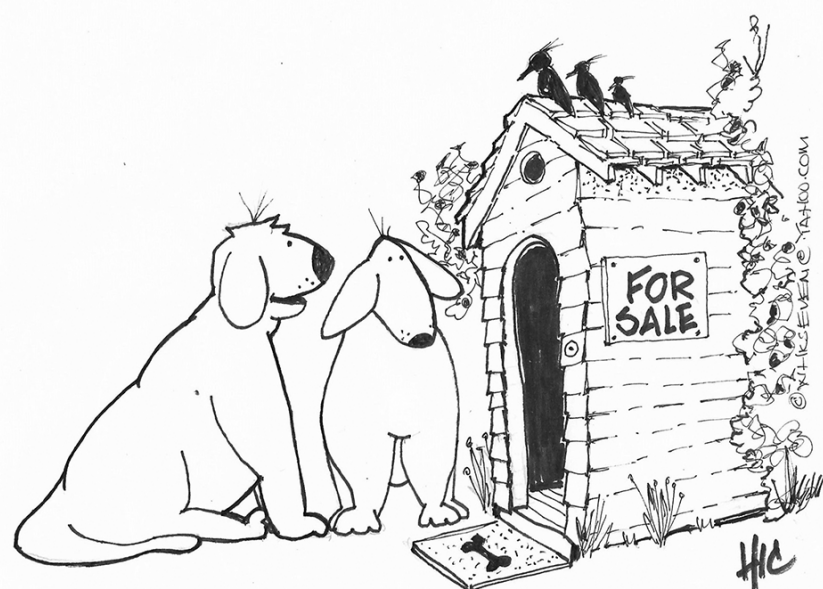
Third, there is the issue of law enforcement agency accreditation. Schools, medical facilities and fire departments have accreditation requirements, and many folks believe law enforcement agencies should, too.

Other issues being examined are the use-of-force policies, and a statewide data base for decertified officers and officers who have a history of disciplinary actions.





The statewide policy of the release of police camera footage is also being reviewed.

•See MAYOR page 18

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 8-Oct	Fri, 9-Oct	Sat, 10-Oct	Sun, 11-Oct
 75°F 52°F	 67°F 56°F	 64°F 60°F	 65°F 57°F
Sun mixing with clouds; warm	Cloudy	Wind and rain	Tropical rainstorm
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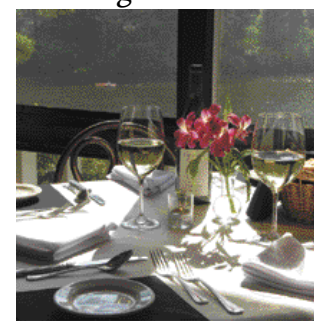


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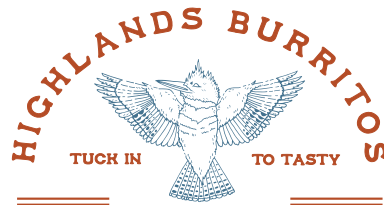
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## ...FALL continued from page 1

"In short, for 2020 we can't expect an extra bright, full-color display everywhere and there might be a less dramatic color peak, but a stretch of sunny days and cold nights early- to mid-October could change that," said Collins, who combines her knowledge of forest ecology with observa-

tions of weather trends to assess the potential for vibrant leaf colors.

She explained the means behind the methods of her prediction, while acknowledging that, as with any forecast, there are margins for variations. "As we know, local light and temperature condi-

tions vary widely in the mountains over elevation, slope exposure and vegetation type, and there certainly will be areas where colors are brighter or arrive earlier or later," Collins said. "Sites that typically 'turn earlier' are likely to do so again, and colors will progress down the mountain and north to south as they have done in the past."

Collins said predicted weather patterns can affect fall colors in two ways: First, fall colors may be subdued because there is little stress or cold temperatures to promote abundant yellow, orange and, especially, red pigments. Second, the colors may be spread out or lag over the season and landscape.

"The warm, rainy summer caused little drought or 'hot sunny day' stress and promoted a lush, full, green leaf canopy," Collins said. "This is true even in some species we don't want around. For example, kudzu seems to be overtaking road signs and covering trees at a faster clip than in years past. The long-term forecast for September and October is for warmer than average temperatures and average precipitation through October; low temperatures around Cullowhee are not predicted to reach the 30s until the last week of October. This suggests our summer weather pattern might hang around longer than normal."

Collins explained that fall colors are a mixture of yellow, orange and red pigments that are revealed as photosynthesis and chlorophyll production wind down and ultimately stop when the weather turns colder. These pigments – especially the yellow and orange pigments – play a role in photosynthesis and help protect the plant from stresses; for example, when there is drought, when it's bright and hot, or under high UV conditions. The pigments are always there in the leaf but may be relatively less abundant when conditions are wet and warm. The red pigments, called anthocyanins, are also produced more in fall when the weather turns cool.



Monarch butterflies feasting on flowers are a sure sign of fall.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki



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# • OBITUARIES •

## Dorothy 'Dottie' Jean Egler

Mrs. Dorothy ("Dottie") Jean Egler (née Foutch), 92, of Highlands, NC passed away on September 28, 2020 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

She will be dearly missed by her family and friends, and remembered for her warm and joyful spirit. Dottie was kind and generous, and she spent much of her life devoted to charitable work for many organizations, including working as a church secretary and librarian, as well as becoming a hospice

volunteer in retirement, together with her husband, Gene. She was always curious and finding new discoveries, taking college courses as an adult and pursuing many hobbies, as well as traveling whenever she was able. She had a keen interest in history and genealogy, traveling to many small town hall archives in the days before the internet, in order to learn more about her family tree and connections to the larger world, as well as carefully chronicling the life of her growing family.

Dottie was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1928 to Jay Bowen Foutch and Florine Adele Kurz Foutch, and was sister to Margaret, Wayne, Wendel, and Gary. Dottie attended the University of Michigan before going on to become an airline stewardess and meeting her future husband on a business flight. She wed Gene Egler, originally from Tipton, Indiana, in 1952. They were married for forty-four years until Gene's death in 1996. Dottie was the loving moth-



er of their children Mark, Terry, Brian, and Lesley, as well as proud grandmother of Audrey, Hadleigh, Julia, Celia, and Chloe. In the early years of their marriage, Dottie and Gene traveled to and lived in many different countries abroad, including Norway and England, as well as living in nine different states

in the U.S.A., including Alaska and Maryland. Dottie helped to turn twenty-four different households into homes for the Egler family during their marriage, before finally settling down in North Carolina, where Dottie lived for the last thirty-three years, in Statesville, Winston Salem, Cary, and in Highlands, where she most recently attended Highlands United Methodist Church.

Dottie's family would like to thank the dedicated and caring staff at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, where she spent many happy years, as well as the Four Seasons hospice team and hospital staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, who made her final days comfortable and peaceful.

A memorial service will be planned for next spring in celebration of her life. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to <http://www.cartfund.org/cart/donations/>.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Mrs. Egler's family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com) under the Obituaries section.

## Herbert Lawrence Munger

Herbert Lawrence Munger, 76, of Highlands passed away Sunday, September 27, 2020.

Born and raised in Macon County, he was the son of the late Robert Warren Munger Sr. and Dora Lucille Lowe Munger. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn Janie Keener Munger and his siblings, Joyce Rogers, Sherman Munger and Bobby Munger. Lawrence enjoyed hunting, fishing and being outdoors. In his younger years he also enjoyed a good round



of golf. Lawrence worked for the US Forest Service before his retirement.

He is survived by his children, Jeffrey Lawrence Munger and wife Carla of Indiana and Pamela Peck of Highlands, NC; Half siblings Michael Timothy Crane of Franklin, Warren Anthony Munger, James David Munger, Dale Allen Munger and Christopher Matthew Munger, all of Lexington, NC, Billie Juanita McDaniels

of Southpoint, NC, Margaret Irene Rish and Frankie Michelle Rogers of Franklin;

two grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and three great grandchildren and his beloved dogs Hank and Boomer.

Graveside Services will be held Friday, October 2, 2020, 2 pm at Highlands Memorial Park with the Rev Gary McCall and Rev Oliver Rice officiating.

Pallbearers will be Kelly Munger, Roger Talley, Matthew Barnes, Casey Barnes, Mar-

shall Buck and James Rish.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com)



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## ...AGREEMENT continued from page 1

talking for an hour and a half, no decision was uttered; commissioners will make a report at the Oct. 17 Town Board meeting.

Representing HCA in person was Chairman of the hospital board Jimmy Maurin, a commercial real estate developer from New Orleans and hospital CEO/CNO Tom Neal.

The meeting began with Neal reiterating what he said when he approached the Town Board in September – that every business in town recognizes the need for affordable housing while also recognizing the town's concerns based on the history with the Chestnut Hill Retirement Community.

When Chestnut Hill was part of the hospital, it offered individual residences and assisted living apartments; the idea being, that people could segue into the Eckerd Living Center which is a skilled nursing facility when needed.

Since it was part of the hospital tract and basically an arm of the hospital, Chestnut Hill got water and sewer, too.

Then in the early 2000s, the hospital needed money, so the Chestnut Hill complex was carved out and sold.

The result, of course, was that a private entity is now hooked up to the town's water and sewer.

"We understand the town doesn't want that to happen again," said Neal.

Commissioner Patterson said she was concerned with HCA's long-term plans.

"The entire concern is that we only have you under contract for 8 ½ more years according to HCA and what the NC Attorney General said. So, you may or may not be here. We feel like you would be building an HCA asset that we wouldn't take the water and sewer away from, but at the same time, we would be elevating HCA's baseline asset."

Neal felt and Maurin agreed that the town's utility contract with the hospital could be amended to protect the town and release it from a long-term water/sewer commitment should HCA leave.

"As far as we are concerned, there will be an assurance that the water/sewer would be used for healthcare workforce housing. We thought the best way to do that is to execute a ground lease with whoever develops it – a nonprofit is what we are looking at and we have been in talks with the Dogwood Trust Foundation – because there are a lot of government grants out there if you partner with a nonprofit, so it opens a lot more avenues for us to build housing," he said. "What we don't want is a partner to come in and try to

make a 20%-25% profit off of this, which would turn affordable housing into a profitable venture, which means it may not be 'affordable,' so a nonprofit fits better with our interests."

Neal said they are thinking of a 50-year lease with 5-year increments with covenant restrictions limiting the use of that land and any structures built on that land for healthcare workers.

"Part two of the plan is for the town to amend the lease with the hospital regarding the water and sewer access to say it would be restricted use to healthcare workers. In that way, if it was ever sold, that would be part of that transaction and it would be up to the new buyer to figure out how they would provide water and sewer ... if the property didn't continue to be for healthcare workers."

Neal went on to reiterate that over the last two years HCA has invested millions at the HC Hospital in capital improvements.

"If HCA didn't plan to stay, why would they invest in HC Hospital like that?" he asked.

He said the plan is to bring back surgery, offer new services and to fill out the Eckerd Living Center but to do that he needs to entice healthcare workers to live and work in Highlands which isn't currently possible due to the high cost of housing.

He said the hospital has been losing workers to other Mission hospitals because they are closer to where his workers live – Angel in Franklin, for instance.

"This is a combination of investing in the people who are already here and creating a solution so that people from the surrounding areas have the ability to come here to work and live," he said. "Workforce housing would also enable us to bring in extra doctors and nurses during the season when more are needed than the rest of the year."

Commissioner Dotson said he was there to be convinced one way or the other.

"What do you think is the availability of a medical workforce within Jackson, Macon and western Transylvania counties – or are you going to have to bring them in from Omaha?"

Neal said he isn't talking about huge numbers but a 25-mile or more commute is too much for many with families.

Commissioner Patterson said the need, or the hospital's perceived need is clear.

"It's the logistics of how it will work,"

• See AGREEMENT page 9



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## ...AGREEMENT continued from page 8

she said. "Lots of folks would like to have workforce housing and would build their own if they had a resource like water and sewer. So why you and not anybody else?"

For Neal it is simple.

"Having access to healthcare is paramount and without healthcare workers you don't have that. Essential workers are a group of people who are essential for the well-being and future of the community. Without access to healthcare, the community will not flourish and grow," he said.

Maurin and Neal said they believe the property in question, which runs alongside the entrance to the hospital, was originally planned to be for this sort of use.

"There was an intent to support the hospital," said Maurin. "We are asking the town of Highlands to honor the original commitment that was made back 20 years ago. The infrastructure is there and it's in place. The volume of water that was anticipated for this campus is there and we are using just a fraction of that."

Commissioner Patterson said the volume of 70,000 gallons a day was based on the hospital's fire suppression needs.

"You don't use that every day but in

one day you might use every bit of it. And that's where that number came from. It has nothing to do with you using 70,000 gallons a day. It was strictly for fire suppression," she said.

Neal said the plan is simple: to build workforce housing exclusively for and priced for health care workers, but regardless of what the town decides, he will figure out another way to bring in additional staff and expand services.

"We are committed to that; this would just make it a lot easier for us," he said. "It's important to remember that HCA owns the hospital so the strongest hospital in the country owns your hospital up here and it is committed to long-term quality healthcare."

Neal said he understands the town doesn't want to get burned again but said the town's attorney could draft a failsafe agreement.

"Basically, If HCA sells, the town has the ability to cut off the utilities because if not for healthcare workers, the agreement would be null and void," he said.

Citizen Steve Mehder suggested the town could take over the housing complex

• See AGREEMENT page 10

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## ...AGREEMENT continued from page 9

which would be a stop-gap option that would help everyone, but Commissioner Patterson said the town wasn't interested in getting into the housing market.

"I don't know if there is verbiage that can be put into a lease of a working relationship that can't be taken to the court system and reversed," said Commissioner Dotson. "If HCA walks away, whoever is coming in is going to have the monetary wherewithal to make life hard for the Town of Highlands for that water and sewer."

He suggested HCA would be better served to just dig its own well and septic system without involving the town.

Maurin and Neal said HCA wants to put its resources into healthcare facilities not housing.

Commissioner Patterson said it boils down to the fact that workforce housing is an important asset to Highlands proper and the hospital is an important asset, she's just

not sure how much she trusts HCA.

"Everyone has a staffing problem. We got burned because the hospital told us one thing and then didn't stick to it. The hospital hasn't built up a lot of trust with the citizens of town. If there is some way it can be for the essential healthcare workers and be assured that is what it is and it won't be sold off as a money making venture, I'm not necessarily against helping to make sure this hospital be sustained."

Maurin said utility service agreements are very common now because it protects both parties.

"It protects the owner's property ensuring that the town is committed to protecting that property. It's a two-way commitment," he said.

The Town Board will consider the request at the October 15 Town Board meeting.

— Kim Lewicki

## Benefits of CBD discussed at Rotary meeting

At its September 29th virtual meeting, the Rotary Club of Highlands had as its guest speaker, Lori Lacy, co-owner of Appalachian Growers. Her company, started in 2017, is one of an increasing number of nation-wide producers of products made from CBD (cannabidiol) oil. Appalachian's 10-acre hemp farm is located in Franklin. The harvested crop is processed in Boone, NC, and the extract is then returned and packaged in various forms and strengths by Appalachian, and sold through its web site and several local third party retail outlets. While, except for FDA-certified labeling, the non-prescriptive, non-intoxicating products are largely unregulated at this time, buyers have reported success in the treatment of a variety of ailments, including sleep disorder, arthritis, anxiety and migraine headaches.

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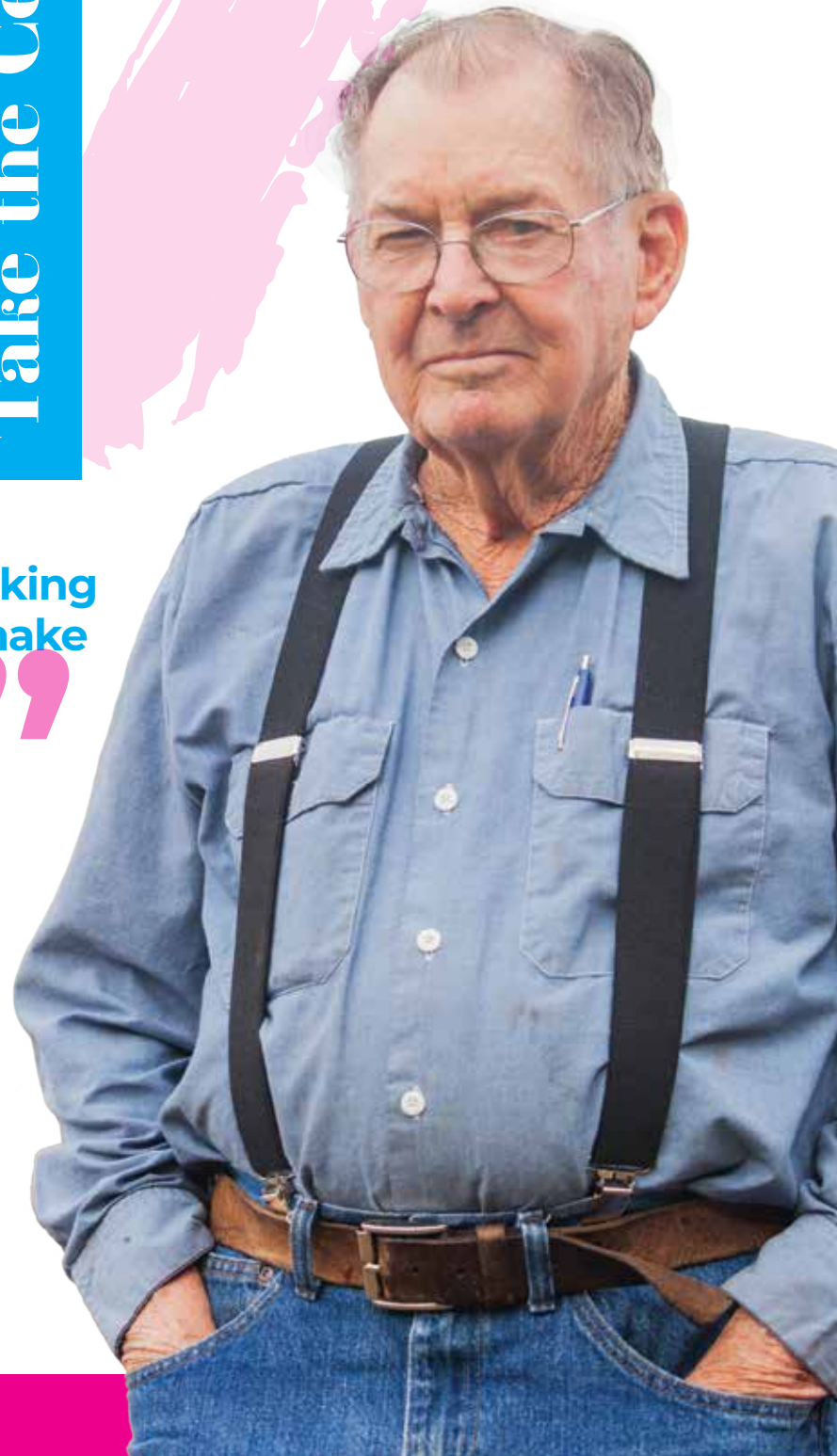
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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## What are Some Current Options for Home Buyers

Over the past few months, there has been a lot of discussion about how active the market on the plateau has been. People have determined that if they are going to have to sequester somewhere because of a pandemic or other reasons, they want space and the ability to do outdoor activities and be in less congested areas. In addition, mortgage rates are at all time lows, bringing prior renters into the homeowner market and younger buyers into the second-home market.

All of this has led to the number of sold units on the plateau being up; the total dollar volume up; average prices are up and inventory is down. There is no doubt that this is a desirable place to be for seasonal and now year-round residents. The plateau is not unique to this phenomenon, as it is happening in resort, coastal, suburban and rural areas,



**Carl Romberg, BIC**  
Landmark/Highlands  
cell: 678-936-9309

with an exodus of people from metropolitan areas.

I was recently reading an article about the national aging housing stock and how the crisis of low inventory is impacting affordable housing, energy conservation and natural disaster preparedness. Not all of these issues impact the

plateau, but we do see homes being demolished because of a number of reasons. I also see listings that are deteriorating rapidly and at some point will need to be razed. All of this is happening in a thriving housing market. This calls for strategic planning for future generations of homebuyers. Here on the plateau, that planning can start now and there are opportunities being created.

I have been told that the number of single-family residences for sale on the plateau would normally be around 1,200 units at a peak time of the year. As I write this, there are currently 359 single family units listed, which includes a number that are not actually on the plateau. With a shortage of properties, buyers need to start thinking about alternatives.

Of the 359 single-family units currently for sale, 168 have been on the market 90 days or more and

• See INVESTING page 16

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## Fall has many colors of CHANGE ...



Bidens is a genus of sunflower-like plants in the Aster family. These are on the corner of Chestnut and 6th streets.

## All roads lead to VOTING with many bi-ways filled with Bidens!

Early VOTING is  
Thurs., Oct. 15, through Sat., Oct. 31.  
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## ...INVESTING continued from page 15

103 have been on the market 6 months or more. That isn't taking into consideration properties that previously expired and were re-listed. These properties are either over priced, in poor condition or functionally obsolete (do not meet today's living needs). This is where there are some values to be found, with due diligence and homework required.

Beyond inspections, buyers need to meet with contractors, designers, mold remediation experts, and obtain estimates on required repairs and necessary improvements. This takes time and effort, but after doing your homework, negotiating a reasonable price and doing the work, you can have an updated home that suits your needs, and if done right, instant equity. Keep in mind that the value is in the buy and it will take longer than you expect and cost more than you budgeted.

We are seeing a number of lot and land sales occur. This gives buyers an opportunity to build exactly what they want. In some cases we are seeing homes purchased for the lot they are on, with the home being bulldozed and a new house being built. New construction also takes time, so patience in working with architects, designers, builders at a time when all the trades are busy, is necessary. Those who choose this path will most definitely be rewarded a prize when finished and will be adding to the future housing inventory.

Many buyers are afraid that they cannot afford to renovate or build. There are many financing products available for construction/permanent loans on new construction as well as renovation to permanent loans.

Whether you buy something turn-key, take on a renovation or build from scratch, know that working with professional Realtors, mortgage brokers, designers, builders and tradesmen can make what seems to be an overwhelming task, a memory that you will hold dearly as you enjoy the home of your dreams. Luckily, there are plenty of all of these on the plateau. Asking for recommendations, checking references and obtaining multiple quotes is always advisable. Who is ready to take on a project?

• 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.

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## ...RESTRICTIONS continued from page 1

theaters can open to 30% capacity, the board is rethinking all its options.

"Our Board is in discussions now about how to best re-open given the most recent executive order. As you may have seen in the news Regal Theaters has decided to close again after re-opening due to the lack of films being released by the studios. We are having to factor in how many people will come and what we will have to show them!" he said.

- Bars may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.

- Amusement parks may open at 30% occupancy, outdoor attractions only.

- The limits on mass gatherings will remain at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.

So far, given those restrictions, the Highlands Food & Wine festival has been cancelled as was the Highlands Motoring Festival (except for its hybrid form) and Monday the annual Highlands Twilight 5K and 10K was postponed until May 15, 2021.

- The 11 pm curfew on alcohol sales

for in-person consumption in locations such as restaurants and outdoor bars has been extended to October 23.

State and public health officials will continue watching the key COVID-19 trends over the next several weeks to determine if any further restrictions can be eased when the current Executive Order expires October 23.

## Early voting begins on October 15-October 31

There will have two locations: The Highlands Civic Center and the Macon County Robert Carpenter Community Building. Hours will be Monday-Friday 8am-7:30pm, open the first two Saturdays from 8am-6pm and the last Saturday 8am-3pm.



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## The Need for Space

**Pastor Randy Lucas**  
Highlands United Methodist Church

In her poem, "Fire," Judy Brown points out that a key to a good fire is space between the logs.

Pile the logs on top of one another too tightly, and the fire will smother and die. Brown's poem reminds us of the need for space. It's true if we want to have a healthy fire in the fireplace on these cool October evenings. And it's true if we want to live healthy lives. Brown's poem serves as an apt metaphor for life, serving as a hopeful corrective for us in our breathless, break-neck busyness.

Central to people of the Jewish and Christian faiths is the understanding of God's good gift of Sabbath. Modeled and hallowed by God in the seven-day creation narrative found in Genesis, Sabbath is God's invitation to rest, to stop, to be.

I suspect many of us could confess to some degree of struggle with the faithful practice of Sabbath in our busy lives. We rush and run, hurry and over-schedule in frantic pursuit of accomplishment and acquisition. And if we're not careful, we can spend our lives majoring in the minors, forgetting that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!

We've entered into a magnificent time of the year. And isn't it neat how the beautiful fall colors and cool mountain mornings can stir the inner-child within us? It's a great time to stop, to look, to breathe and bask in the glory of God's good creation. And experiencing the beauty of this season in the Highlands area? Priceless!

Autumn offers a powerful metaphor for our lives. After the vibrant landscape of bright reds, golds and yellows, the leaves fall to the ground. And if we pay close attention we can learn a valuable lesson from the trees, the lesson of letting go. The fall season is a great time to take time, a great time to make space. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the grandeur that surrounds us, to be blessed by the beauty we often hurry by without noticing. It's also a good time to consider the message modeled by the trees.

What are the things of which we need to let go? What past hurts or wounds have we continued to carry? Is there a wrong or slight we have not forgiven? What burden should we lay down? What life-draining sin needs to be discarded?

Perhaps one thing we would all do well to relinquish is our busyness. Maybe a lesson we can all learn from 2020's version of Autumn is the lesson of making space between the logs, of taking time to embrace the things that truly matter, of spending less time worrying about peripheral things and attending to what lies at the center. Henri Nouwen once cautioned not to become a slave to the urgent at the expense of the essential.

Here's my simple invitation and hope for you on this October day. May you take time to breathe, to bask, to be. May you enjoy the gift of this day, finding delight in the sacredness of this very moment. May you rest in the goodness of God, and give thanks.

## Proverbs 3:5

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

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

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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

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Wed: Choir: 6p

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# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Outdoor Worship Services 8:30 & 11

Please see our website - highlandsmethodist.org and

our Facebook page for more information

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30

All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

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Pastor Zane Talley

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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### 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

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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Sept. 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## Sept. 18

• At 11:47 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west at Chowan Drive.

## Sept. 23

• At 2:21 p.m., offices received a complaint of someone communicating threats at the High Dive on Carolina Way.

## Sept. 27

• At 1:10 p.m., officers were called about an unattended death at a residence on Munger Road.

## Sept. 28

• At 2 p.m., officers were notified about larceny with a credit card at an ATM.

## Sept. 29

• At 1:35 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east at Sherwood Forest.

## Sept. 30

• At 11:30 a.m., Sierra Salone Jenkins, 29, of Franklin, was arrested on 2 counts of "pretenses, swindle, confidence" and one count of impersonation. She was issued a \$25,000 secured bond. Her court date is Oct. 13.

• At 4:59 p.m., officers received a report of someone obtaining property by false pretenses at Unique elegance on Main Street.

## Oct. 1

• At 4:15 p.m., officers re-

ceived a report of someone obtaining property by false pretenses at Mountain Heritage on Main Street.

## Oct. 4

• At 5:30 p.m., Harlem Gonzalez, 38, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI. He was issued an unsecured \$500 bond. His court date is Nov. 24.

## The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 27

### Sept. 27

• At 1:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Munger Road.

• At 2:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

### Sept. 28

• At 2:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Pipers Court.

• At 9:22 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Paul Walden Road.

• At 3:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 4:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 11:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive.

### Sept. 29

• At 1:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Pipers Court.

• At 2:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Fairway Condo.

### Sept. 30

• At 11:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence

on Brookside Lane.

• At 12:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Club Circle.

• At 1:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 3:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 5:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Carriage Lane.

## Oct. 1

• At 11:10 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a resident on Morewood Circle.

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Picklesimer Road.

## Oct. 2

• At 8:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas leak at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

• At 11:58 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

## Oct. 4

• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Kettle Rock Road.

• At 9:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on USA 64 east.

• At 9:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of the smell of gas at a residence on Lucas Lane.

• At 11:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive.

## Oct. 5

• At 5:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

All of our town police have body cameras, but that is not the case across the state and nation. Research has shown that when body cameras are used both the police and citizens on average behave more civilly.

The legislature is also look-

ing at whistle-blower protections for officers who report misconduct. Also, law enforcement pay is a critical issue. In this time of turmoil many good law enforcement officers are leaving the profession. Communities need to recruit and retain committed and competent

officers.

I hope our state representatives will pass legislation that addresses these critical law enforcement concerns. A balance and deliberative plan is certainly needed.



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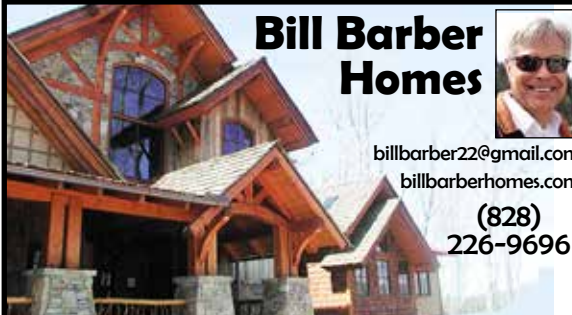
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