

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 22, 2022

STRs won't be amortized ... for now

At the Thursday, Sept. 15 Town Board meeting, much to everyone's surprise, the amortization of existing STRs in R1 and R2 was no longer on the table.

The ordinance passed 4-1 with Commissioner Marc Hehn

the dissenting vote. He said he hadn't had enough time to go over the new proposal which was sent to everyone at 5 p.m., prior to the 7 pm meeting.

Though commissioners did an "about face" regarding amortiza-

tion, no new STRs are allowed in the R1 and R2 zones as of Sept. 15, 2022.

Commissioner Hehn suggested considering a cap on the number of existing STRs allowed in R1

• See STRs page 4

Donors could make the NC 106 sidewalk a reality

At the September Town Board meeting, Mayor Patrick Taylor said two donors had stepped up to potentially help finance the construction of a sidewalk on NC 106 from Spring Street to Happoldt Drive.

With that in mind, Stillwell Engineering was asked to supply a "design and construction cost estimate."

Though commissioners weren't ready to sign off on a complete and comprehensive cost estimate which would include a conceptual design phase and the project design phase for \$175,000, it did sign off on the Conceptual Design for \$15,000.

As explained by Town Engineer Lamar Nix, the Conceptual

• See SIDEWALK page 22



Photo by Kim Lewicki

It's official: PAC is open

The public was invited to the Performing Arts Center's open house and ribbon cutting Sunday from 2-6 p.m.

The center has all the bells and whistles required of a first-class, 21st century performance center. A 298-seat theatre, with a catwalk, lighting, screens, upscale dressing rooms for performers,

a gathering area and concession area, lots of parking and access to the inviting lobby from the back or the front of the property.

Mayor Pat Taylor and Executive Director Mary Adair Trumbly officiated Sunday with opening remarks prior to the cutting of the ribbon.

• See PAC page 17

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Policing ordinances are clarified and passed

At the September Town Board meeting, commissioners OK'd two ordinances – one about all night parking and one about overnight camping on town property.

Lt. Leah McCall, with Highlands Police Department, explained that there have been problems with people leaving their vehicles parked on town property overnight, some for weeks at a

time. There is an ordinance in place so the one passed Thursday night is a revision with more specificity.

"We have received numerous complaints regarding vehicles that have been left for days or weeks on property owned by the town and in public parking areas," said McCall. "The existing street schedule in the ordinance doesn't

• See POLICING page 17

Chamber lease with the town is up in the air

On Tuesday, the Highlands Town Board and the Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands board had a joint meeting to discuss a myriad of topics, the foremost being the lease agreement with the town.

The Chamber's 10-year lease is up November 20, 2022, so the topic weighs heavy on the Chamber board especially since its bud-

get for FY '22-'23 has already been adopted based on the previous agreement with the town.

Currently the Chamber's rent is \$1 per year, which is the rate the town has historically charged every entity occupying town-owned buildings. In lieu of paying rent, tenants pay utilities and maintenance and repairs – called a dou-

• See CHAMBER page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

The week that was and will be

It has been and will continue to be a time of gatherings this fall in Highlands. The first great gathering was on Saturday night with the inaugural event at the new Highlands Performing Arts Center. What a great new venue! BRAVO Amici was a wonderful first act to open this spectacular venue.



**Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor**

The next gathering was for the ribbon cutting for the new PAC facility on Sunday afternoon. The community can't thank the supporters enough who made this dream of a world class venue a reality. After the ribbon cutting folks got to go on a tour of the new building, including the dressing rooms and stage production areas.

If that was not enough, the second annual Porchfest took place on Sunday afternoon. Outstanding musicians performed at locations throughout the downtown area.

It was a festive occasion with strong attendance at each location. The Center for Life Enrichment is to be congratulated organizing and putting on this free event.

On Tuesday another gathering was the joint meeting of the Highlands Board of Commissioners and the Board of Di-

rectors of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Both boards had been striving to set up a meeting even before COVID. Working around busy schedules we were all able to meet at the Highlands Recreation Department on Tuesday morning.

This gathering of board members covered an array of topics that relate to the town and the business community. Kaye McHan gave an overview pre-

sentation about the chamber and visitor's center that included the current budget. The budget covers the operation of the visitors' center, all the special events in the downtown area, and the promotion of tourism.

A conversation was held about the particulars of upcoming renewal of the lease of the visitors' center. The town owns the property, and the chamber does all the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

The group also had lengthy discussions on how to continue developing and improving the downtown area. Parking, wayfinding signage, planters and Wi-Fi deployment were some of the topics covered. Electric vehicle charging stations were also discussed. I anticipate decisions about charging stations to be made in the near term.

This Thursday evening the board of commissioners will be traveling to the Franklin Town Hall for a joint meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners and the boards from the towns of Franklin and Highlands. These joint meetings were taking place on a routine basis before COVID. With the resumption of these meetings, elected officials will discuss how to work together for the betterment of the two communities and the county.

The final gathering I want to make everyone aware of will be next week, Friday, September 30, at the Hudson Library. The community coffee starts at 11 am. I will be hosting Representative Karl Gillespie and Senator Kevin Corbin. Our representatives will be talking about priorities in the upcoming North Carolina legislative session. I hope everyone can come to the coffee to share your concerns and ask our representatives questions.



THINKING BEAR
(In the school of Rodin, sort of)

• WEATHER •

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...STRs continued from page 1

and R2 or perhaps designating the number of feet allowed between STRs.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said by not allowing new STRs in R1 and R2 the town was in a sense capping the number.

Taken out of the Sept. 8 work session ordinance were several "Whereas components" in the preamble.

Those deletions included everything relating to amortization for STRs but did include a new "Whereas" saying the Town of Highlands may, in the future, consider amortization of nonconforming STRs within the Town's residential districts.

"Our attorneys recommended to not address the issue of amortization at the Sept.

15 Town Board meeting. They requested time to do further research and analysis," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "The board will review the legal advice from our attorneys at a later date in order to make a final decision on whether to implement a period of amortization for zones R1 and R2."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said even if amortization is allowed, its implementation would be years away.

There is talk of the NC legislature discussing the issue sometime in 2023.

After the meeting, Mayor Taylor said if the state rules against amortization, then the board will follow the law.

"We were encouraged to see the Town recognize our grandfathered property rights. We are cautiously optimistic that these matters related to short-term rental regulations may be coming to an end. We will continue to monitor how this plays out, but we are hoping we can all get back to our lives," said Jennifer Huff with SAVE Highlands..

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition is glad commissioners amended the zoning ordinance to ban any new STRs in neighborhoods.

"The decision means that neighborhoods in zoning districts R1 and R2 are protected from any further expansion of STRs. The Coalition views the ordinance that was passed Thursday night as a great first step," said Cathy Henson, president of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition.

The amended ordinance defines STRs as non-conforming uses and the rental of a residential dwelling unit, for compensation, for a period of less than 30 consecutive days. The term doesn't include hotels, motels or tourist homes.

Since STRs are now non-conforming uses the use isn't allowed to be intensified – enlarged, expanded or changed into another nonconforming use. Repairs and reconstructions can be made, however.

If the STR use stops for 12 months, it cannot be re-established unless the use is seasonal and reopened within a 12-month period.

Henson, said the Coalition will be advocating for the town to act sooner than later to eliminate STRs through amortization.

Rebecca Badgett with the UNC School of Government said amortization has long been upheld as a regulatory tool to phase out certain non-conformities. But its initial purpose wasn't specifically for STRs.

"Its purpose is to help cushion the burden of a new land-use regulation," she said.

In 2021, the village of Pinehurst, NC, voted 3-2 not to request the legislature to

consider a "local" amortization law.

Evidently, state legislators are apt to pursue local laws for a particular town or city only if there is no controversy involved or if the vote is unanimous.

Like Highlands, Southport, NC has grandfathered all existing STRs, and prohibited new ones in certain zoning districts.

Only Chapel Hill has amortized existing STRs for a period of 18 months effective Dec. 23, 2022.

This may or may not be challenged in court.

All verbiage referencing "Homestays" was eliminated from the Sept. 8 work session ordinance and replaced with "Tourist Homes."

Unlike STRs, Tourist Homes aren't a non-conforming use. Nor are they considered STRs.

Tourist home: A building or part thereof, not including a motel, or hotel, or short-term rental, where sleeping accommodations or lodging of not more than four (4) bedrooms are provided to guests paying compensation, where the owner, operator or manager also stays on the same parcel during any period of guest occupancy. This term includes; bed and breakfast homes, inns, or rooming or boarding houses.

New and existing Tourist Homes aren't allowed in R1 but they are allowed in R2 with a Special Use Permit (SUP).

To qualify for a SUP:

- The use (Tourist Home) will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located where proposed and developed according to the plan as submitted and approved;
- The use meets all required conditions and specifications;
- The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property or, in the alternative, the use is a public necessity; and
- The location and character of use, as developed according to the plan as submitted and approved, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and in general conformity with the plan of development of the town and its environs.

By not allowing new STRs in R1 and R2, the mayor said the board has stopped the proliferation of STRs in R1 and R2.

"Included was a provision that those people who are operating STRs in R1 and R2 on and before September 15, 2022 can continue to do so for now. No permits are required," he said.

– Kim Lewicki



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• OBITUARY •

Grover Steven Fox

Grover Steven Fox (Steve), 69, passed away suddenly at his residence on Sept 12, 2022.

He was born Feb 13, 1953, in Memphis, TN to William Grover Fox and Rosanna Mary Stevens. He was preceded in death by his father and a sister, Mary Allyne (Marilee) Lee. He attended UT at Martin, completed a term in the USAF, and settled in Tampa, FL. He graduated from Hillsborough Community College and continued his engineering studies at the University of South Florida. He worked for the City of Tampa, learning traffic science from the ground up in the era before computers. While working for the FDOT, District 7, he mentored staff at FDOT, and advised local agencies



and engineering consultants in the Tampa area, many of whom remained lifelong friends. He retired following a devastating vehicular accident in 2001, which left him in constant, severe pain.

Steve loved learning, always wanting to know the why of how things worked. He was incredibly creative and saw things differently from others. He became a pilot and a skilled photographer, built and flew radio-controlled airplanes, and bred birds. He was highly skilled at crafting wood and metal, electrical wiring, computer hardware

and electronics. He loved all types of music. He converted a right-handed banjo to a left-handed instrument, taught himself how to play, and crafted and played Native American flutes. After becoming a seasonal resident of Franklin in 2009, Steve joined the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC and learned gemstone faceting. His most recent interest upon becoming a full-time resident of the mountains was astrophotography. Steve was fascinated by nature and all God's creatures and instilled this love in his daughter, who became a veterinarian.

Steve is survived by his wife, Sharon Brink, daughter, Stacey Fox-Alvarez (Alex Fox-Alvarez) of Gainesville, FL, mother, Rosanna Fox Brogan, three sisters, Bernadette Snyder of Preston, MN, Rebecca Fox of Memphis, TN, and Theresa Degan of Pendleton, OR.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, Sept 24 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, NC. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends of the Smokies, P.O. Box 3179, Asheville, NC 28802.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Location changes for Highlands Food & Wine

The annual Highlands Food & Wine Festival is set for Thurs., Nov. 10 through Sun., Nov. 14.

Though the events are the same, the location of some has changed.

The Grand Tasting which is from 7-10 p.m. Thursday will be under the tent in "the pit" at 2nd & Spring streets.

On Fri., Nov. 11, the Truckin' event which has been at The Bascom in the past will now take place in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street.

Friday's Generous Pour from 8-10 p.m. will take place under the tent in "the pit" at 2nd and Spring streets.

The Main Event featuring Old Crow Medicine Show and other performers will be on Main Street between 4th and 5th streets from noon to 3:30 p.m.

Sunday's Shindig from noon to 3:30 p.m. will be under

• See FOOD & WINE page 18



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...CHAMBER continued from page 1

ble net lease.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center are two separate components of the entity whose 100-year-old building is on the corner of 1st and Main streets.

The Chamber is supported by membership dues and the Visitor Center is supported by room tax dollars.

Room tax dollars keep the Visitor Center running and they finance the grants allocated to area nonprofits and much more.

Budgeting for FY '22-'23 is based on \$1.3 million in room tax proceeds.

Room tax is charged by every accommodation, including short-term rentals. The money is sent to the county and state and after handling fees, it is sent back to the designated entity from where it was generated.

As per current NC legislation, room tax money has to go back to the entity that promotes tourism which in most cases across the state is chambers and or visitor centers.

The Chamber's fiscal year is July 1-June 30. Budgeted for '22-'23 is \$187,000 for media, \$127,000 for technology, \$116,000 for branding, \$389,000 for Public Relations/Communication, \$57,000 for finance and administration, \$325,000 for events and programs and \$93,000 for visitor services. The net income for FY '22-'23 is expected to be \$76,000.

Due to the influx in tourism across the state and the burden that can cause municipalities, there is legislation afoot requesting some of the room tax be allocated to municipalities to offset expenses they incur like maintaining sidewalks and roads, maintaining public restrooms and parks, even per-

forming arts venues.

Meanwhile, Highlands is considering charging the Chamber rent which would be used to maintain the public restroom on Main Street in Town Square which costs about \$40,000 per year.

That facility is the most frequented bathroom in the area and during the "season" which is more year-round now, it has to be cleaned twice a day and repaired and maintained as needed.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said that since the businesses on Main Street are in older buildings without room for public bathrooms, the public bathroom in Town Square is actually for their customers.

"We are basically subsidizing the bathroom for the businesses who would have to pay for the public bathrooms as part of their lease agreement if they were in a bona fide mall situation," she said. "The Town Square bathroom is the facility for Main Street. So, the businesses should contribute to that through room tax money."

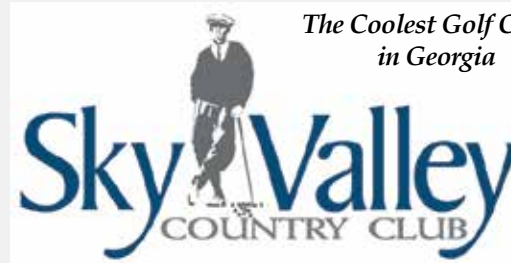
The idea would be for the town to charge the Chamber rent – about \$3,000 a month – to offset the money it costs to run the bathroom that tourists use.

However, the chamber board has spent \$315,643 to maintain and repair its building over the past 10 years – everything from rot, drainage problems, rodent infestation, roof and foundation repairs – which comes to about \$2,600 per month. Members feel that upgrading and maintaining the interior and exterior of the building is enough.

Chamber Board Director, Tricia Cox, said they are wary about entering into an-

• See CHAMBER page 22

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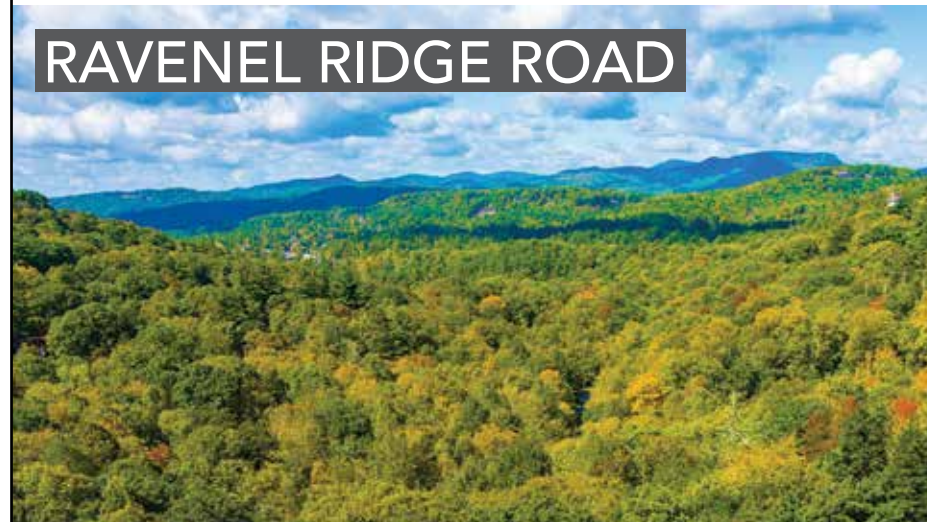
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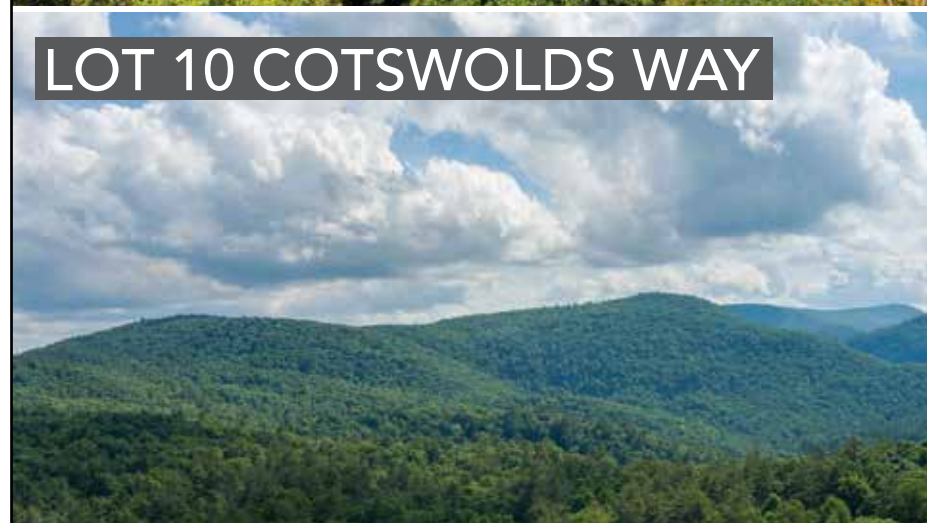


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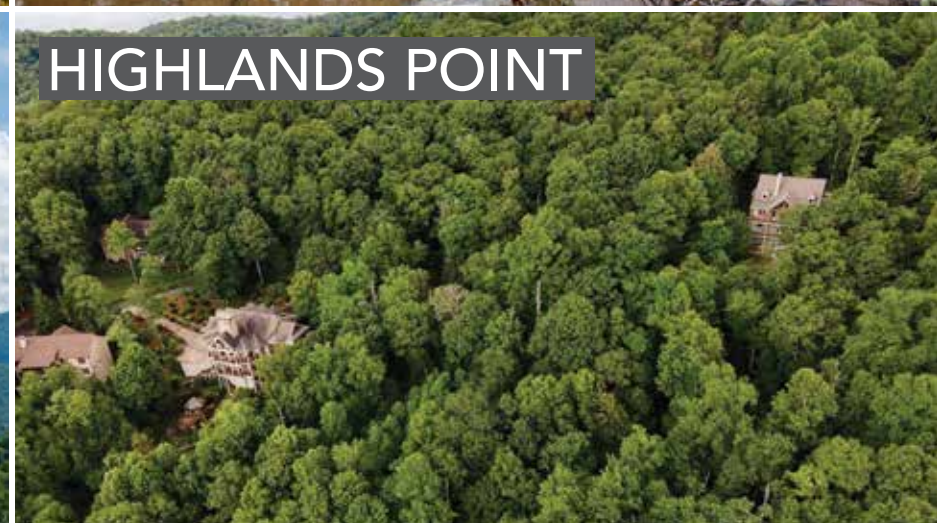


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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Some thoughts on Short Term Rentals

The Unified Development Ordinance regarding short term rentals (STRs) has been finalized. I am certain there are numerous parties on both sides of the STR issue that are not happy with the ordinance. However, what has been passed does give both sides something that I hope they will be willing to live with so that we can put this divisive issue behind us and move forward without litigation and a continued “unknown” for both buyers and sellers during that time.

The lead article in the paper will give details but a brief summary is that it clarifies what STRs are and where they are allowed. It also establishes requirements and standards for occupancy limits, safety, parking, trash, etc. The existing STRs in R-1 and R-2 are grandfathered in and can continue as long as they meet the requirements, but no new STRs can be established in R-1 and R-2 zones. It also includes language that at some point in the future, amortization, or phasing out STRs in R-1 and R-2 could be considered.

One of the items that I personally feel is beneficial is that every rental contract will have a STR Addendum provided by the town that the renter must sign prior to obtaining occupancy. This, along with clear communication from the owner/operator about the occupancy limits and items listed above should make it clear to any renter of what is expected of them. The owner/operator can always provide additional terms to a rental contract as to a minimum length of stay, the minimum age a renter must be, if pets are allowed, etc.

Another item is that the owner/operator's name and contact information must be posted inside the house and they must be available if a situation arises. This will make the owner/operator aware of any issues that a renter might be causing and rental deposits may be withheld, or the renter asked to leave, depending on the rental agreement.

One of the points made by one side is that the value of properties will differ greatly within the same neighborhood based on if one property is a rental and one is not. Obviously if a property is valued solely on the return on investment that could make an income property more valuable than a non-income property.

However, the truth is that the majority of the houses being rented were pur-



Carl Romberg
Landmark Realty

chased for personal use with the intent of rental income to offset taxes, insurance and maintenance.

The purchase was based primarily on the buyer's needs and desires on location, size, style, etc., not on what income it would generate. If there is a mortgage involved there will need to be an appraisal performed and appraisals for single family residential dwellings do not take into consideration potential income.

North Carolina has a Vacation Rental Addendum which is used when a property being sold is currently a rental. The buyer checks if they wish the seller to continue to book rentals or not. Often a buyer may pick a house that is currently a rental with no intention to book future rentals. As this occurs, additional STRs in R-1 and R-2 zones will disappear.

I have had clients that are on both sides of the issue and have sold properties to clients who intended to offer STRs. I will point out that any of these sales were prior to the challenge to STRs and the unknown of what the future held. Recently I have had clients postpone purchasing or listing a property until it was known what the outcome would be. I have even had buyers who changed their minds about purchasing property here because the issue was so divisive, and they didn't like what it was doing to the community.

I truly hope that both sides can look toward the positives of the ordinance rather than what they didn't get so that we can all move forward. I also hope that owners/operators take this seriously and follow the guidelines out of respect for their neighbors.

The majority of renters who come here are great people and are here to relax and enjoy all that our town and surroundings offer. They respect our neighborhoods and support our economy. Many end up purchasing homes at some point in the future. Those renters who don't have the courtesy to be respectful should move on to another town or rent somewhere secluded outside the town limits.

• Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkerg.com.

5

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Fall Home Improvement - 2022

Designing Your Garden for Better Mental Health

(StatePoint) Gardening is not only a means for beautifying outdoor spaces and growing delicious foods. According to those who spend significant time in the yard, getting outside can also support your wellbeing.

“Gardening is good for the mind, it’s good for the

soul and it’s good for the body,” said legendary football coach, Vince Dooley. “I enjoy coming out to garden, and when I finish, I feel like I’ve done something, and I feel good.”

Landscape architect Doug Scott of Redeem Your Ground recently visited Dooley in Athens, Ga. to discuss gardening and mental health. Here are some of the insights they shared:

Health Benefits

- Active benefits: Gardening exercises the body and clears the mind. Studies show that increased outdoor exposure leads to fewer long-term health problems, helping improve cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, strength, and dexterity—all leading to better mental health. Simply planting, growing, harvesting and maintaining plants gives you a direct emotional boost. Why? Gardening helps foster nurturing instincts and restores a sense of hope and purpose, ultimately improving self-esteem.

- Passive benefits: Don’t have a green thumb? Don’t worry. Scientific evidence proves that just being in nature has positive impacts on stress levels and brain chemistry. It can also lower blood pressure, increase concentration and improve mood. What’s more, being outdoors offers a deeper sense of belonging and a new sense of purpose outside the daily grind.

Designing Your Garden

Scott advises designing your garden to reflect how you want to live outside. He typically builds “rooms” connected by meandering paths for resting, unwinding, and feeling restored. However, your outdoor spaces don’t always need to be quiet. They can encourage activity as well. If you enjoy company, create gathering spaces. Or, if you have hobbies that can be done outdoors like exercising, painting or writing, you can set aside areas for them.

Finally, Scott recommends designing your garden to awaken your five senses. Here’s how:

1. Sight: Choose calming colors, or those that bring you joy. The simple sight of a breathtaking array of plants or an arrangement of favorite flowers is bound to give your mental health a boost.

2. Taste: Growing your own food will provide you with an incredibly rewarding harvest. Not only will you be able to enhance meals with the fruits of your labor, you’ll get the personal satisfaction of a job well done.

3. Hearing: Among the plants and flowers, add fixtures, such as wind chimes and water features, that’ll produce soothing sounds. And with the new habitat you’ve created, you’ll enjoy bird song, too!

4. Touch: From the light, feathery textures of petals to the rough surfaces of bark or bush stems, touch offers a deeper sense of connection to nature.

5. Smell: You may already use aromatherapy indoors. Take this concept outside by growing fragrant flowers and herbs, so you can literally “stop to smell the roses.”

By gardening, your mental health will be better off for it. Just be sure to start small, simple and stress-free. Scott says gardening is good for the mind.



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Fall Home Improvement

3 Great Reasons to Consider a Metal Roof

(StatePoint) One of the most important considerations for any major home project is its return on investment. That's why experts point to metal as a solid choice for roofing.

"If you're looking for that elusive combination of beauty, longevity and energy efficiency, metal roofing is a smart choice," says James Alpeter, ProVia metal roofing marketing manager. "It offers superior performance and enhanced curb appeal, plus excellent resale value down the road."

As Alpeter points out, your roof plays an important role in safeguarding your home, protecting it from the elements and providing a barrier to temperature extremes. With your roof covering at least 60% of your home's exterior, consider these advantages that metal has over other roofing materials:

- Longevity: Roofing takes a beating from all kinds of weather -- rainstorms, high winds, hail, harsh UV rays, and heavy snow. Materials like asphalt and wood shingles are susceptible to mold and deterioration, and clay or slate tiles can chip and break. Metal roofing is durable, long-lasting, and withstands extreme conditions better than other roofing options. Metal roofs typically last 40 years or more, and their warranties are stronger as well.

- Curb appeal: Innovations in the metal roofing industry have resulted in beautiful panels and shingles that look identical to traditional materials, but without the associated damage concerns and maintenance issues that can quickly compromise curb appeal. For example, ProVia stamped

panel metal roofing features an embossed surface that mimics the look and texture of cedar shake and quarried slate, and the horizontal panels resemble shingles rather than the industrial-looking standing seam metal roofs. At the same time, this roofing choice features built-in fade and chalk resistance, a premium architectural coating offering dirt, mildew and stain protection, and virtually no material degradation. Bottom line? Your roof will stay beautiful with minimal care.

- Environmental stewardship: Metal roofing can offer significant energy savings when compared to asphalt shingles, helping you reduce your carbon footprint and lower your utility bills. You can take your environmental stewardship a step further by choosing long-lasting, recycled and recyclable products, as well as products that are American made, which require less shipping.

To learn more or get your project started, visit provia.com.

The decision to reroof your home is a big step. As you weigh your options, be sure to select materials that are not only striking, but offer durability, strength and weather-



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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

NEW Rec Pool Schedule

• Public Swim: Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sunday 1-6p.
Adult Lap Swim: Mon-Fri 6-9:45a; Mon.-Thurs, 5-7p. Sat. 10-11a.
828-526-1595.

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Members receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble. "We welcome participation from anyone interested in writing, or just hanging out with writers," said Bud Katz. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Wednesdays in Sept.

• Community Yoga Class to benefit the Chattooga River Conservancy from 6-7:15p at Yoga Highlands, facilitated by Rachel Kinback CYT500. Fun and restorative movement. Come as you are. All skill levels are welcome. Suggested donation \$10-20.

Thursdays

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime at 10:40a. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft

activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p,

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout for every muscle

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a.

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas
• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

Fridays

• Friday Night Live Concerts in Town Square on Main Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

Saturdays

• Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/ 909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10AM We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

Wed., Sept. 21

• Greenway Workday. Meet in the back parking lot of the Rec park at 9 am. The focus will be on maintenance on the Mill Creek Trail System. Please bring your gloves, loppers or clippers to help with the maintenance. We will finish at noon and go to lunch at 4118. Please let Jim Chance know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. Email jamesallenchance@gmail.com

Thurs., Sept. 22

• At The Bascom, 5:30—7p: A Sense of Place: Presentation by Gary Wein, Executive Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust | FREE

Sept. 23 - Oct. 16

• The Mountain Theatre Company presents Brooklyn: The Musical, A Side-walk Fairytale at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wed. - Sat. @ 7:30p and Sat. & Sun. @ 2p. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Fri., Sept. 23

• Highlands Biological Foundation's fall lecture at the Nature Center features renowned climate scientist, Dr. James B. McClintock of UAB who recently returned from his 16th research expedition in Antarctica. The free, educational program is at 5p.

• At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square a booksigning with author Susie DeVille and her new book "Bouyant: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Being Wildly Successful, Creative and Free" at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments provided by The Secret Garden.

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Great Art on Screen: Pompei Sin City at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Sat., Sept. 24

• The first annual Mountain Monarch Festival will be at Gorges State Park, Sapphire, NC, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. This

event, hosted by the park and sponsored by Friends of Gorges State Park and other partners, will celebrate the monarch butterfly during its migration and bring attention to the species declining numbers. As the park lies along the monarch's migratory route, butterflies can be seen in late September annually flying over the park's visitor center on their way south to the high-elevation fir forests of Mexico's Neovolcanic Mountains, where they overwinter until early spring. The festival offers educational programs and exhibits as well as fun for the whole family, including children's crafts, face painting, a butterfly hike and a Monarch Migration Passport to lead all through the activities.

• At The Bascom from 4:30 – 6p: Art League of Highlands-Cashiers artist presentation with Studio Alive | FREE

• Pet First Aid & CPR Training at the Sky Valley Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire House Community Room at 4 p.m. Free admission, but no pets. Please RSVY joan-neroesner@yahoo.com Sponsored by Dr. Joanne Roesner and Rabun Animal Hospital. Leave your pets at home and come learn how to deliver first aid care for them.

Sun., Sept. 25

• Chef Dinner at OEI's The Farm, Fourth Annual Oyster Fest at The Farm with The Darling & Kimball. Book at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinners.

Mon., Sept. 26

• The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers will hold its monthly meeting on Monday at The Bascom. Social Time starts at 4:30p followed by an Artist Presentation from 5-6p. The meetings are FREE. Welcome all Art Enthusiasts and Like-Minded Folks. Join us. For more information visit www.artleaguehighlandscashiers.com, email: johnbauknight3@aol.com or call 828-421-1466.

Tues., Sept. 27

• At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square, author Cathy Pickens is giving a talk and signing of her book, True Crime Stories of Western North Carolina at 4pm. There are parts about Highlands, Cashiers, Franklin and more. Refreshments provided by The Secret Garden.

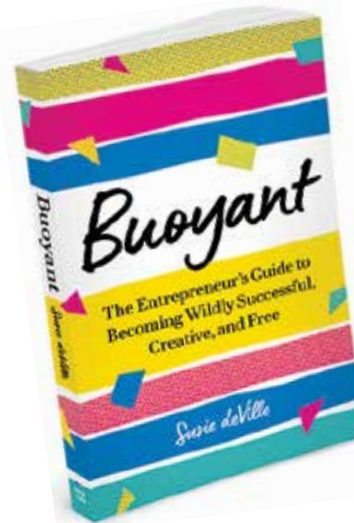
Fri. Sept. 30

Community Coffee at the Hudson Library at 11am in the with Mayor Patrick Taylor who will be joined by Representative Karl Gillespie and Senator Kevin Corbin, with a State Legislative Update.

Sat. Oct. 1

• Foxfire Mountaineer Festival 10a to 5p at the Rabun Civic Center in Clayton,

• See EVENTS page 16



Refreshments provided by
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Author Talk and Signing Friday, Sept. 23 at 5:30p

Susie DeVille is giving a talk and signing her new book
"Bouyant: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Being Wildly Successful, Creative and Free"



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Cathy Pickens is giving a talk and signing her new book
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...EVENTS continued from page 15

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Sun., Oct. 2

- Highlander Mountain House Salon Series with Dylan LeBlanc from 5:30-8p. For more information, call Harriet Hurst 864-415-6263.

- At the Highlands Performing Arts Center, A Brother's Revival at 7:30p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Wed., Oct. 5

- Enjoy the stylings of singer-songwriter Alyssa Bonagura during the live concert series, Orchard Sessions 6-8 p.m. at OEI's The Farm. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplivetix.com/e/orchard-session-featuring-alyssa-bonagura-tickets-102651>.

Sat., Oct. 8

- "Seriously Funny with Sirius XM's Mike Williams" at Highlands United Methodist Church 6-8:30 p.m. Info and registration at SmokeyPartners.com 828-349-3200.

Sat., Oct. 15

- At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite National Theatre Straight Line Crazy at 1p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Sat., Oct. 22

- At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Met Opera Medea at 1p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Sat. Oct. 29

- Highlands Heritage Jam-boree featuring traditional music, dancing and crafts at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 3-7:30 p.m.

- At the Highlands Performing Arts Center, Sideline at 7:30p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Fri., Nov. 4

- At the Highlands Performing Arts Center, Great Art on Screen: Botticelli's Florence & the Medici at 5:30p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Sat., Nov. 5

- At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Met Opera La Treaviata at 1p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

...POLICING continued from page 1

provide the locations where all night parking is prohibited. Therefore, we cannot enforce it.”

Now section 7-101 of Chapter 7 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic - has been amended to say, “All night parking prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., on any streets or on any public property owned by the Town. Exemptions are hotels, motels, residents or renters in the B1 district.”

Lt. McCall said this is not to deter someone who has too much to drink from leaving their vehicle and getting a ride home.

“We want you to do that. This is not about that,” she said.

The other ordinance is new and prohibits camping or setting up domiciles on town property.

Again, McCall said since the town didn’t have an ordinance prohibiting camping, the police department couldn’t prohibit the action or arrest anyone for it.

“This is due to there being increases for this type of call,” said Mayor Taylor. “It will prevent people from sleeping and living in vehicles on Main Street or in public parking areas and prevent them from camping because we have a lot of vacant town property.”

Under Offenses in Chapter 9 the purpose is to prohibit camping and/or sleeping on any public property owned by the town; to protect the aesthetics, promote health, safety and general well-being of

residents and visitors. Therefore, camping, temporary shelters and sleeping are prohibited on town-owned public property. This includes all associated activities of camping including a temporary shelter like a tent, tarp or any kind of structure to provide partial shelter from the elements.

McCall said the police have found people asleep at the front door of Town Hall, in the woods behind the Rec Park, on picnic tables at the Rec Park and sleeping on the sidewalk.

“One man told me he wanted to dig a hole in the grass at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park to have a cook fire so he could cook for everyone that was around there,” said McCall. “We can only imagine what would happen if a fire was started in the woods behind the Rec Park.”

Mayor Taylor said there was an instance where people had camped in their vehicle at the park and then washed their cooking utensils in the fountain.

“These are the things we have been noticing so we need an ordinance that is clear and enforceable,” said McCall.

The first violations is a civil penalty of \$100; the second violation is \$200 and the third violation is \$500 which will include a criminal citation.

All penalties must be paid within 30 days. If the town has to institute a civil action to collect the penalty, the violator will be responsible for all court costs and attorney fees incurred by the town.

— Kim Lewicki

...PAC continued from page 1

“Today we are celebrating the arts. I reject that the arts are simply an enrichment experience, the arts is an essential experience for human beings. We are wired in our DNA to be creative, to have a sense of the aesthetic, to want to see harmony and beauty. That’s what defines us as human beings and this represents what beauty human beings can create when we work together,” said Taylor. “We have had a lot of people working together, sometimes not agreeing but still working toward a beautiful end. This building is a lasting testament to this community. This shows how when we work together, we can create beautiful life-affirming artistic experiences. A beautiful dream that started years ago, is now something that will serve this community from here on out.”

Mary Adair Trumbly opened with a quote from Julie Andrews.

“Feed the body food and drink, and it will survive. Feed the soul art and music and it will live forever.”

“There are so many people to thank, Choate Construction built this in 1 year, 2 months and 2 days. Thanks to project manager JLL, the architect, the theatre collaborative, the consultants for their guidance and expertise. Thanks to the board which is visionary and hard working. This dream first came about at a board retreat in Aug 2015, so it’s been a long time. But this was built by the community for the community with over \$13.7 raised. So please come enjoy and experience what we have to offer.”

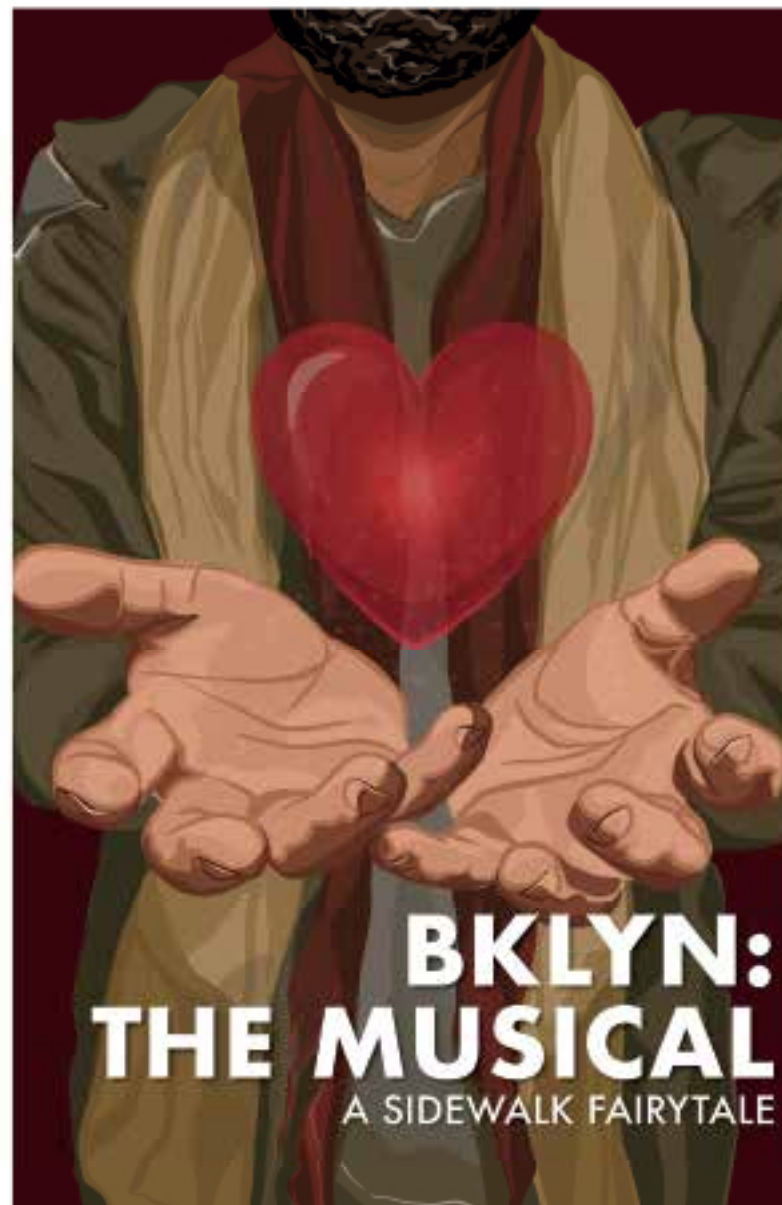
The Highlands Performing Arts Center is on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. For information and to purchase tickets call (828) 526-9047 or visit the website at www.highlandsp PerformingArts.com.

— Kim Lewicki



Highlands
Playhouse

SEPT 23 - OCT 16



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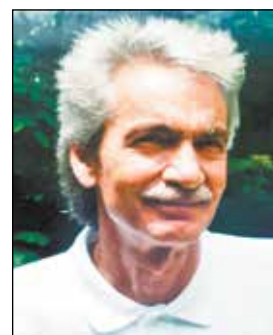
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The season of reflection

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central
Baptist Church

In his book titled: Growing Strong In The Seasons Of Life, Chuck Swindoll writes:

“Has Autumn entered your life? Think before you answer. Close your eyes for a minute or so and consider what God has been doing deep within your heart.

Allow me to remind you of something you may have forgotten. It’s a quotation from the New Testament; God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in His Grace until His work within you is finally finished on the day when Jesus Christ returns (Philippians 1:6).”

At the root of God’s agenda is this promise. Think of it as a guarantee. The One who started the good work within you won’t leave the task unfinished. At the end of the course, God won’t get an “incomplete.” For sure, He won’t fail!

The Autumn season of your life may be uncomfortable. Unemployment might be your lot. Or a broken romance. Perhaps you are grieving over a recent loss. Maybe you’re lonely. Or hungry. Or cold. You feel anxious about the ugly clouds on the horizon that indicate an ominous tomorrow. The winds of adversity are picking up and you feel afraid.

Remember: The roots grow deep when the winds are strong.

If Autumn, the Season of Reflection, has come, expect your roots to deepen. Yet, be assured of this, the Lord God specializes in roots. He plans to deepen you and strengthen you. And painful though it may be,

“He who began.....will keep right on.....until His work.....is finished” So we can boldly declare, “Come wind, come weather, welcome Autumn!” Amen.

I hope you will be encouraged by Mr. Swindoll’s words. And I hope that you will continue seeking to know Jesus Christ personally. No one knows you better.

And no one loves you more.

...FOOD & WINE from page 7

the tent in “the pit” on 2nd and Spring streets.

Festival organizers said moving events will reduce the street closure time in K-H Founders Park from seven days to two days; there will be no damage to the park grounds due to the tent and cement weights; and the new locations will continue to be walkable.

There will be no public parking allowed on 2nd Street between Helen’s Barn Ave and Spring Street Wednesday, Nov. 9-Monday, Nov. 14.

The Town Board OK’d all the changes at its September board meeting.

For more information, go to www.highlandsfoodandwine.com

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY 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. Aryn Williams-Reubel. 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

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am Sunday

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner: 6pm. call for details.

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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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

Sun: 10:45am Children’s Program, HS 4:30-6:30pm

Mon: 4:30-6pm Women’s Bible Study; Tues: 7-8am Men’s Bible

Study@Zookeeper Bistro; 10am-Noon Women’s Bible Study

Wed: MS 5:30-7pm; Thurs: 7-8:15am Men’s Bible Study@

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706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

Sept 18: 9 AM Morning Prayer, 4:45 Festival Eucharist

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

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men’s Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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Franklin • 828-634-1312

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. 9:30a; Sat. 4p; Sun. 11a

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: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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

Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

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schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

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85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 9

• At 10 a.m., officers were called about someone cutting trees with a chain saw on someone's property on Zermatt Circle.

Sept. 13

• At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Smallwood Ave.

Sept. 14

• At 8 a.m., officers received a call about a lost necklace valued at \$2,500.

• At 9 a.m., officers were called about a Dish Network programming package being upgraded without account owners permission.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 14.

Sept. 14

• At 12:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Happoldt Drive.

Sept. 15

• At 1:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N.4th and Chestnut Street.

• At 1:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 4:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Lake Road.

• At 7:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moonlight Lane.

• At 9:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge

• At 9:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

Sept. 17

• At 1:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 6:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lyman Zachary road.

• At 9:54 p.m., the dept. was first-

responders to a residence on Laurel Street.

Sept. 18

• At 7:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

• At 7:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Forest Trail.

• At 10:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

• At 1:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Edwards Circle.



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SUCH A TIME
AS THIS?"

— ESTHER 4:14b

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 26th – 6:00PM

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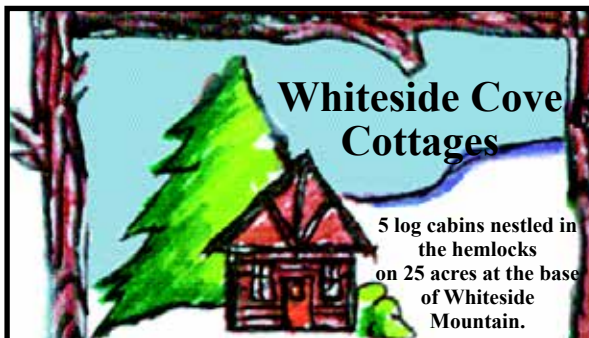
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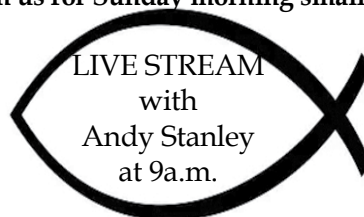
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS BOARD OF REALTORS® AND MLS. If you have three years or more experience as a Realtor Association Executive or executive of an association, we have an opportunity for you. The Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors is looking for an initiative-taker that is not afraid to THINK BIG and initiate plans and activities to continue the amazing growth experienced over the last five years.

The Executive is responsible for administration of the REALTOR® association and Multiple Listing Service for Macon, Jackson, and portions of Transylvania counties. The association is member-focused, and the AE should have a clear understanding of the basic activities of its REALTORS. AE will collaborate with Board leadership and volunteers on the management of the organization. Currently active REALTORS® must be willing to take their license "Inactive" for the duration of their employment. Please do not call the HCBOR Office concerning this position. If interested, email a resume with compensation requirements to INFO@HCBOR.NET. (st. 9/8)

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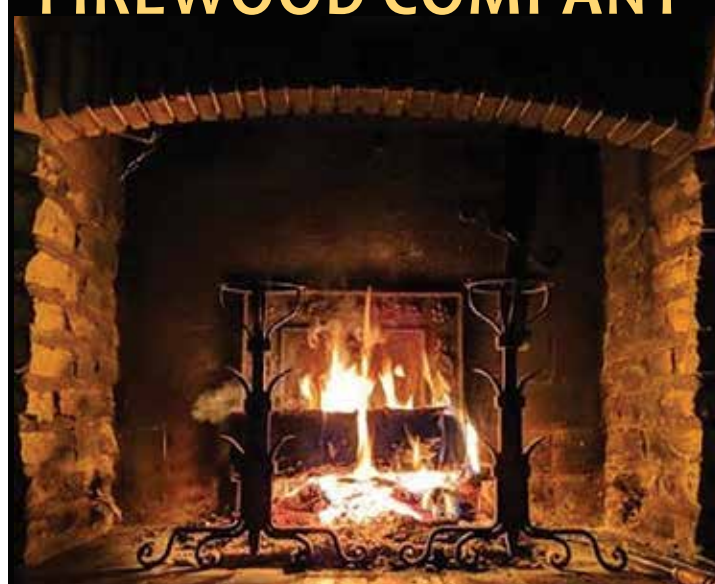
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...CLASSIFIEDS from page 21

and part time staff for the season. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweettreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

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...SIDEWALK continued from page 1

Design would be a detailed picture – a sort of artist rendition – of the project so potential donors could “see” the project beforehand.

But he said the price tag for the completed project will be high.

Fifteen years ago, Nix said it was estimated at \$1 million. “It will be lot more than that now,” he said.

Besides construction costs, there are environmental concerns due to the creek that runs along the left side of NC 106, heading south.

Nix suggested putting the sidewalk down the right side of the road heading south but Commissioner John Dotson said he wouldn't be able to sign off on even the Conceptual Design if it wasn't going down the left side.

“The left-hand side of the road is the side that actually needs the sidewalk as far as future development is concerned,” he said. “There's the Mitchell's Motel property, the tract past Rogers that will be developed, the plaza across from Dusty's.”

In addition, he said the town had been talking about a sidewalk going down NC 28 to Shelby Place.

“This is going to cure Shelby Place's problem by going down 106 and it's a heck of a lot better cure,” he said. “Plus people are actually using [walking on] the left side now.”

Dotson went on to say it seemed completely illogical to go down the wrong side [right side] of the road.

“As far as the future, the development potential on the right is zero. It's all on the left side of the road,” he said.

The board agreed but said regardless of the side of the road if this can be done, it needs to be

done, said Commissioner Brian Stiehler.

“Someone is going to get killed on the road. I like the idea of the left side, but if we can't do it then do the right side,” he said. “If there is an environmental concern that can't be overcome than go to the right.”

Commissioners agreed they needed to find out how much of an environmental problem there is.

“Let's look at it. Let's see how bad it is. Maybe we can build a retaining wall to make it less of an environmental concern,” said Dotson.

Mayor Taylor said that the sidewalk down NC 106 is part of NC DOT's sidewalk plan but it wouldn't happen until 2039.

The conceptual design for \$15,000 would be based on online GIS sources including North Carolina OneMap and North Carolina Spatial Data topographical Q1/Q2 LIDAR.

Also, field observation of existing drainage conveyance measures and structures and other facets that are not available via online sources.

Included there will be the construction project cost estimate based upon the conceptual design for all related construction administration, material, and installation costs to the extent possible.

The board voted unanimously to go ahead with the Conceptual Design going down NC 106 on the left side of the road.

After that is completed and presented to the donors, the board can decide if it wants to move on to the Project Design phase which will cost another \$160,000 before construction can actually begin.

– Kim Lewicki

...CHAMBER continued from page 8

other 10-year lease while still being obligated to repair and maintain the building because they depend solely on room tax money which isn't a finite amount.

“It's not a set income. We are concerned about the STR issue and if things change and room tax proceeds decrease that effects the amount of money we have to operate with. We may not have enough to continue to maintain and repair the building or spon-

sor the events if expenses are too much,” she said.

Though there are factions in town that say there are too many tourists in town and less events would be better, the influx of visitors in town keep the businesses in town – shops and restaurants – running at a healthy sustainable margin.

No decisions about Chamber rent were made Tuesday.

– Kim Lewicki

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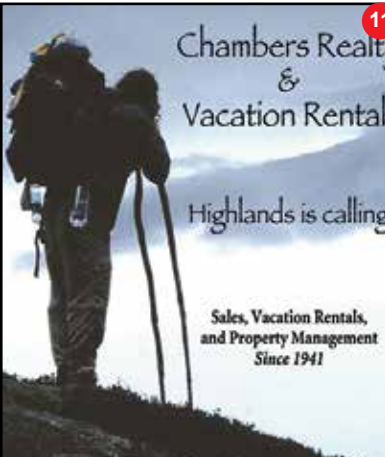
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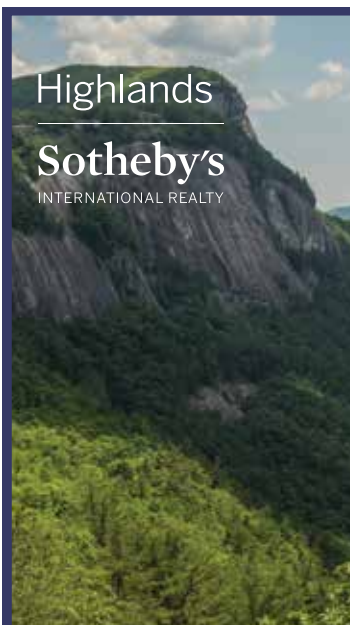
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