



The Fairview Town Crier



THE VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY • FAIRVIEWTOWNCRIER.COM • DECEMBER 2015 • VOL. 19, No. 12 • FAIRVIEW, NC

BANDIT by Frank and Susan Duckett

Bandit left us on October 10, 2015...
Most unique pet we have ever seen

She appeared out of nowhere in
our neighborhood.

Behaved herself as a lady should
Every house became her home,
But her main occupation was to
roam and roam.

If she missed a visit two days in
succession,

We'd wonder which neighbor had
taken possession.

With each social gathering on our deck,

She was greeter du jour and
showed everyone
respect.

If a deer or bear arrived in our "hood"

Barking began and her hackles stood.

Bandit (aka Nina, Flicka, Molly, Mystery,
Gypsy), you were pure delight...

We will all miss you every day and night!

See page 23 for Bandit's story



Glenda Ploeger of Cane Creek Asparagus & Company found a unique photo op in late September on her way up from the gardens to the house. She noted the two fawns are so young they still have their spots. The Crier joins Glenda in hoping they all make it through the winter.

MISSING MISSING MISSING MISSING



Yoshi is a mixed breed Brindle. He was not wearing a collar. His shots are up to date. He was last seen on Saturday, November 21 at 16 Mountain Country Acres in Fairview. His family misses him very much. If you have seen him, please call 828 778-9465.

In This Issue

An ambitious boy...
a determined girl...
an exotic fish...
and a drunken cow!



Alex Puzerewski
See page 24



Jessika Davis
See page 24



Geophagus Cichlid
See page 21



Drunk Cow #1029
See page 21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all who have sent in donations after learning a bit about your non-profit community newspaper. We realize there are many worthy causes, especially around the holidays, and appreciate your support. It is our mission to support all of our local charitable, civic and religious organizations as they do their good works within our community. We do that through our monthly communication with you, and also by utilizing our office to sell charitable tickets and fundraising products, etc. Next year will be our 20th year of mailing this newspaper free to your homes every month. Your tax-deductible donation can be made securely online at fairviewtowncrier.com or by using the **donation form on page 31**. Thank you!



The Fairview Fire Department is collecting for Toys For Tots. **Drop off unwrapped toys for boys or girls at the main fire station on Charlotte Highway until December 12.**

The Toys For Tots program will "collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted." Toys for Tots was started in 1947 by the wife of a Marine who wanted to donate a Raggedy Ann doll to a little girl and couldn't find any organization to take it. As of 2013, the Toys For Tots program and Foundation have collected and distributed more than 469 million toys!



**Hey kids,
I'm coming
to town!**

**December 5 at the
Fairview Community
Center (see page 2)**

**December 5 & 12 at
Chimney Rock Park (see page 3)**

**December 12 at KD's One Stop
(see page 3)**

**December 19 at the Spring Mountain
Community Center (see page 4)**

**December 15 at Upper Hickory Nut
Gorge Community Center (see page 4)**

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

DECEMBER 3 (THURSDAY)

Neurofeedback for ADHD/ Insomnia

A free seminar at Asheville Neurofeed-back Center/Fairview Chiropractic Center, 2 Fairview Hills Drive, Fairview, on neuro-feedback and other non-drug remedies for ADD/ADHD and insomnia. 5:30–7 pm. Reservation required, call 628-7800.

Benefit Concert for Make-A-Wish at The Orange Peel

Five Bands will perform with Brian Blades of 105.9 The Mountain emceeing. **Doors open at 5:30 pm** for silent auction and libations. At 6:30, Dorsey's Asheville All-Star Benefit Band with a mix of local musicians spanning generations & styles takes the stage. . . followed by the Log Noggins, the Travers Brotherhood and Porch 40. The headliner, The Marcus King Band's new release is topping the blues charts. All proceeds go to Make-A-Wish of Central & WNC to help grant wishes for children in our region. This is for all ages. Purchase tickets at \$15 at The Orange Peel box office, Wed-Fri, 12–5:30 pm and at Orange Peel ticket outlets, Aloft Hotel, Harvest Records, Music City or purchase from any of the performers. Americare and The Local Joint are sponsors.

“Paws to Give” Aids Brother Wolf

A festive holiday evening with hors d'oeuvres, drinks and silent auction, 5:30–9 pm at the Venue Asheville, 21 N. Market Street in Asheville. Proceeds to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, bwar.org.

Trivia Quiz for Asheville Humane

Quiz for a Cause, a multiple-round multimedia trivia challenge with awesome prizes, will donate all proceeds to the Asheville Humane Society. Bring friends, co-workers and families to the final round of Brews & Brains at 6:30 pm, at the Millroom, 66 Asheland Avenue, Asheville. Tickets are \$10 at ashevilemillroom.com.

DECEMBER 4 (FRIDAY)

December on Depot Street

Nine art studios, including Lynn Stanley's Trakside Studio group, plus restaurants, cafés and shops will be open from 4–8 pm with food and drink, live music, art, gift items and cards. A portion of Trakside's profits from sales will go to The Lord's Acre, and a free holiday card by Lynn will be given to each visitor who donates. 342–375 Depot Street in the River Arts District.

Exhibit at Red House Gallery

The Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League opens their new show, “Artist's Choice,” 5–7 pm at the Red House Gallery, 310 W. State Street, Black Mountain. The show will run until February 1. For details visit svfalarts.com.

DECEMBER 4 & 5 (FRI & SAT)

Choral Candlelight Evening

The Asheville Choral Society will perform “Yuletide Candlelight” in Trinity Episcopal Church. The event will feature candlelight procession, soaring melodies, old English carols, familiar songs, and carols for all to sing. Friday at 7:30 pm, Saturday at 4 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students at ashevilechoralsociety.org or 232-2060.

Holiday Puppet Theatre

The Red Herring Puppets and the Asheville Community Theatre will present *The Legend of La Bafana*, a multicultural holiday adventure for the entire family, Friday at 9 am and Saturday at 10 am. All tickets are \$5 at asheviletheatre.org, by calling 254-1320 or at the ACT box office, 35 East Walnut St., Asheville.

DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)



Breakfast with Santa at FCC

The Fairview Community Center hosts a pancake breakfast free to guests 12 and under, with children's crafts and Polaroid photos with Santa for \$1, 8:30–10 am at 1537 Charlotte Highway.

DECEMBER 5 & 12 (SATURDAYS)

Garden Club Christmas Market

The 88th annual Christmas Greens Market will offer fresh Fraser firs, garlands and greenery, handcrafted items and – new this year – handmade rocking horses, at Clem's Cabin, 1000 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, 9 am–2 pm both days. Proceeds fund horticultural and environmental scholarships. For details visit fbrgc.org.



Santa Climbs Chimney Rock

Santa Claus readies himself for clambering down chim-

neys across the world by climbing one of the most famous chimneys of all every 30–45 minutes from 11 am–2 pm. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy live holiday music, complimentary hot cocoa, cookies and kids' activities and see live critters.

DECEMBER 6 (SUNDAY)

Gospel Quartet at Emma's Grove

Soul Vision Gospel Quartet will perform at Emma's Grove Baptist Church, 417 Emma's Grove Road in Fletcher, at the 10:45 am morning service.

Classical Piano Concert

Pianist Christopher Tavernier will perform classical piano masterworks at the Biltmore United Methodist Church, 376 Hendersonville Road, at 3 pm. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information call 274-2379.

DECEMBER 7 (MONDAY)

Flesher's Holiday Fair

Fleshers Fairview Health Care Center Holiday Fair, 1–4 pm. Homemade crafts, baked goods and other vendors. For info, call 628-2800 or email Staffing@Fleshers.net.

DECEMBER 12 (SATURDAY)

Christmas with Santa

Bright Star Touring Theatre's Christmas with Santa is a 45-minute production packed with carols, Santa and Christmas galore! In this seasonal comedy, two elves learn that the real gifts of the season are the people and friends we celebrate it with. Performance at 10 am at ACT, 35 East Walnut. All tickets \$5, available at asheviletheatre.org, 254-1320 or at the ACT Box Office.

Santa at KD's One Stop Toy Drive

Santa and his friends come to KD's One Stop, 11 am–2 pm at 1299 Charlotte Highway. Children will be able to meet and sit with Santa, and parents are invited to bring cameras. At this free event, KD's will be collecting new unwrapped toys and donations for community families in need.

WINTER LIGHTS AT THE ARBORETUM

The North Carolina Arboretum presents its spectacular light show through January 2, 6–10 pm, with three acres of light-ed garden exhibits and landscapes including the nationally renowned Quilt and Bonsai gardens, the family favorite Rocky Cove Railroad, and new this year, animated displays set to holiday music. Tickets are date-specific and must be purchased in advance at Etix.com or ncwinterlights.com; prices are \$18 adults, \$16 children 5–11 and free for children under four.



DECEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)

Christmas Musical *Prayer* at Fairview Baptist Church's

Fairview Baptist Church will present *Prayer*, a Christmas musical drama, during worship at 3 pm and 6 pm. For more information please call 628-2908.

The Light Center

The Light Center celebrates the holidays with a Holiday of Light Concert with Rev. Kiah Abendroth & Friends, 3–5

pm. Route 9 in Black Mountain, more information at 669-6845 or dome@URLight.org.

“Blue Christmas” Comfort

This worship service at 5 pm will give everyone the opportunity to acknowledge their grief and voice what gift they need to receive from the Christ child this Christmas. Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is located at 801 Charlotte Highway in Fairview.

continued...

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December^{on} Depot Street

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Pink Dog Creative pysanky ornaments • lamps jewelry • mixed media • pottery painting • Azalea Bindery Asheville Running Live music at The Paintbox 352 Depot St. Studios oil • acrylic • pastel • mixed media	Nourish & Flourish Live music until 7 mulled cider • snacks handmade perfume & body care demos Northlight Studios oil • acrylic • watercolor pastel • mixed media	The Lift Studios 6:30-9:30 painter Daniel McClendon paintings • small lites libations • merriment Element Clay Studio ceramic tiles • bowls • curios	Benbow & Associates custom designs in wood Trakside Studios Asian painting • oil • wire art acrylic • jewelry • photography mixed media Trakside Studios will donate 25% of event sales to The Lord's Acre!
David C. Stewart Fine Art classical works in oil	Penny Cup coffee bar and café	Desert Moon Design artisan gifts • raffle sweet treats	

... plus Fresh West and The Junction restaurants and the Magnetic Theatre, too!

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The Fairview Town Crier December 2015 3

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DECEMBER 14 (MONDAY)

Blood Drive at Highland Brewery

Give the gift of life this holiday season, 2–6:30 pm at the Highland Brewing Company, 12 Old Charlotte Highway, Asheville. For details or appointment visit redcrossblood.org.

DECEMBER 15 (TUESDAY)

UHGCC Christmas Party

All are invited to Upper Hickory Nut Gap Community Center's Christmas party at 6:30 pm, Gerton. Please bring finger foods to share and a \$5 gift for the gift exchange.

DECEMBER 15 (CONT'D)

4-H Club at SMCC

Students from age 5 to 18, along with a parent or supporting adult, will meet in the upper level of the community building, 6:30 pm. For more information please call Mary Ann Auer at 712-6857.

DECEMBER 16 (WEDNESDAY)

Friends of HNG Gathering

The Friends of Hickory Nut Gorge annual Holiday Gathering offers an evening of fun, relaxation and information, 6–9 pm at the Lake Lure Inn, Lake Lure. Hors d'oeuvres and nonalcoholic drinks provided; cash bar. No fee to attend.

DECEMBER 19 (SATURDAY)

Santa at Spring Mountain CC

Spring Mountain Community Center hosts Christmas Breakfast with Santa, 9 am, followed by caroling to elders. Bring a potluck dish to 807 Old Fort Road in Fairview. The event includes a raffle of a beautiful custom quilt. Call 778-0279 or 712-6857 for tickets (\$5 or 5 for \$20). Proceeds will go toward a heating system for the community center building.

DECEMBER 19 (CONT'D)

The Light Center

The Mystic Christ Seminar with Mary Nadler, 10 am–6 pm. Route 9 in Black Mountain, more information at 669-6845, dome@URLight.org.

DECEMBER 20 (SUNDAY)

Ethical Society Meeting

"Heaven's Here on Earth" is the theme for the Ethical Humanist Society of Asheville's Winter Festival, 2:00-3:30 pm, at The Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood Road. For details visit EHSAsheville.org.

The Light Center

Winter Solstice Concert with Richard Schulman, 3–5 pm. Route 9 in Black Mountain, more information at 669-6845, dome@URLight.org.

Fairview Sharon Church Candlelight Advent Service

Fairview Sharon United Methodist Church will host a candlelight Advent service, open to the community, at 6 pm, at 2 Laura Jackson Road.

ONGOING EVENTS

Fairview Fire Department Toys For Tots Toy Drive

Our local Fire Department will again be collecting unwrapped toys to donate to Toys For Tots. Toys will be collected through December 12 and can be dropped at the main station on Charlotte Highway.

Welcome Table Lunch

A community lunch every Thursday, 11:30–1 pm in the Community Room of Fairview Christian Fellowship behind the Fairview Library. A donation of \$10 (if possible) allows others who cannot afford it to enjoy a meal with neighbors. Visit fairviewwelcometable.com or find them on Facebook.

Angels of Fairview Holiday Meal Drive

This year is the 9th Annual Holiday Meal Drive of Angels of Fairview. Donations (tax-deductible) are needed **before December 21**. Send donations to Angels of Fairview, PO Box 94, Fairview, NC 28730; drop off with your child's teacher or at the *Town Crier* office (1–5 pm daily or use the window drop slot 24/7). Make checks payable to Angels of Fairview. See page 22 for more info.

Hickory Nut Gap Farm in Winter

Shop the farm store while warming up with a hot cup of cider. Visit the pigs deep bedded in the hoop barn. Catch a glimpse of the cows in the pasture, grazing their stockpiled fescue. No admission fees during winter. Slides and picnic areas open year-round, 9–6. Visit hickorynutgapfarm.com.

Sip & Doodle Art For Fun

Grab a friend (or two), pack a snack and beverage of your choice, and try your hand at painting. No experience needed. Various subjects and techniques will be explored and you'll go home with a work of art. December 1 & 15, 6–8 pm; December 6 & 20, 3–5 pm. 45 Old Gap Creek Road, Fairview. For details, 712-1288.

Festival of Lights at Lake Julian

December 3 (walkers only), 6–8 pm, December 4 – December 23 (cars allowed) from 6–9 pm, Lake Julian Park presents "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" at the park off Long Shoals Road in Arden. Adult tickets are \$5, children are free. Drive-through nights, cars \$5, vans \$10, motor coaches \$25. For details email david.blynt@buncombe-county.org or call 684-0376.

State Farm Helping Neighbors

State Farm agents are collecting donations for Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry this season. Stop by any Asheville/Buncombe County State Farm agent's office Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm, **through December 18** to drop off donations for ABCCM's Christmas Angel toy drive and/or Veterans Restoration program. For more information, see page 22.

Spring Mountain CC Events

Yoga: Monday mornings 9:15–10:30; Thursday evenings 6:15–7:30; \$5–10 suggested donation. Call 243-8432 or sabrina.alison.mueller@gmail.com.

Quilting Bee: Second Tuesday of each month, 10 am–2 pm. Bring your own project. Call 628-7900 or 628-1938.

Monthly Meeting: Usually the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm.

Artist's Choice Gallery Opening


Artist's Choice", a special exhibit just for you... the viewer, by members of the Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League, opens on Friday, December 4, from 5-7 pm at The Red House Gallery located at 310 W. State Street in Black Mountain. The show will run until Monday, February 1. The winter hours are Monday through Saturday 11 until 3 pm and Sundays 12– 4 pm.

Asheville History Center Open House

The AHC's 2015 Holiday House will be open in the Smith-McDowell House on A-B Tech's campus through January *continued...*

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

The Fairview Town Crier is a 501 (3) (c) company that publishes a monthly community newspaper Twelve issues per year are delivered free on or about the first of every month to 8,400+ households. Distribution is limited to Fairview, Gerton, and contiguous parts of Reynolds and Fletcher, North Carolina. The Fairview Town Crier is located at 1185F Charlotte Highway, Fairview, North Carolina 28730; mailing address is PO Box 1862, Fairview, North Carolina 28730. Subscriptions may be purchased for \$30 per year and will be mailed First Class postage on or about the first of each publication month. Editorial Policy: The Fairview Town Crier reserves the right to refuse any advertising or editorial submission deemed inappropriate for the tone and style of the publication. A best effort has been made to verify legitimacy of information received and published. Views expressed in columns and/or articles do not represent those of The Fairview Town Crier. Submissions: Announcements, community news, upcoming events, personal notices, letters, etc. will be published free as space allows. Email to copy@fairviewtowncrier.com. For staff directory, contacts and additional information, please see page 30.




Having More Retirement Accounts Is Not the Same As Having More Money

When it comes to the number of retirement accounts you have, the saying "more is better" is not necessarily true. In fact, if you hold multiple accounts with various brokers, it can be difficult to keep track of your investments and to see if you're properly diversified.* At the very least, multiple accounts usually mean multiple fees.

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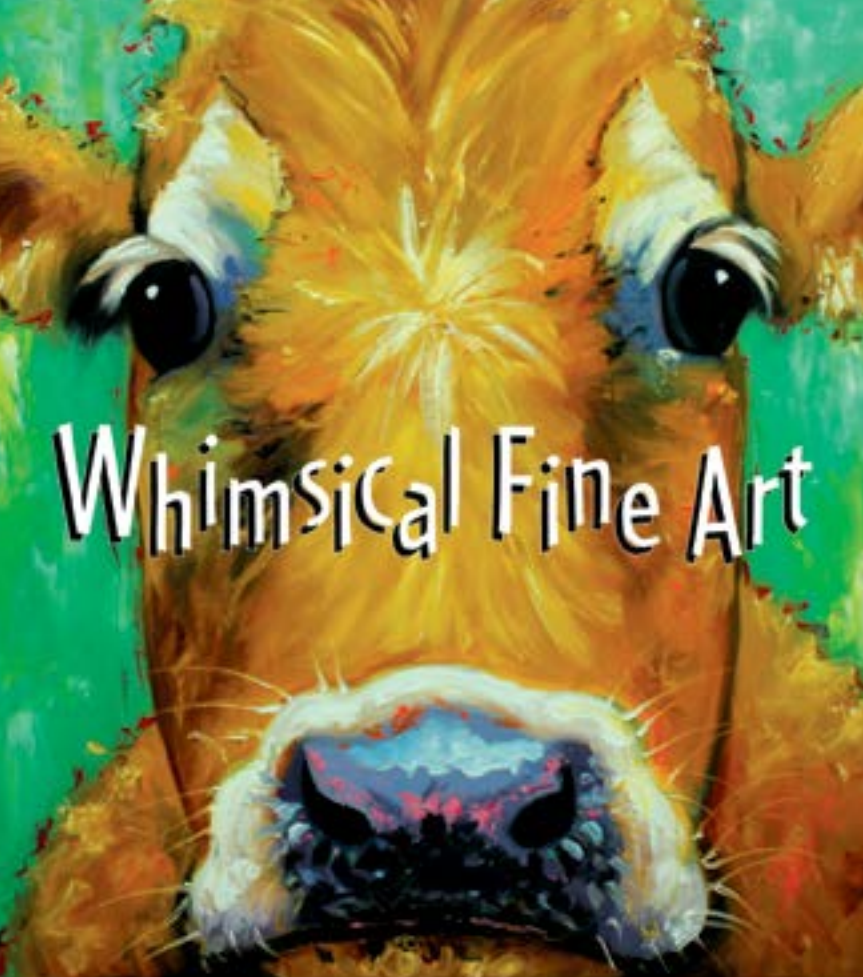
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ONGOING EVENTS

Asheville History Center
Open House *continued...*

3, Wednesdays–Saturdays, 10 am–4 pm, Sundays 12–4 pm, celebrating the history and stories of well-known Christmas carols, in lavishly decorated 19th-century period rooms. For details visit wnchistory.org.

Americare Pharmacy's
Ugly Sweater Mondays

Stop by Americare at 1185 Charlotte Highway any Monday in December and you'll enjoy some refreshments and have a good chuckle seeing everyone dressed in their best ugly (tacky) sweater. Cast your vote in person or on their Facebook page for the staff member with the ugliest sweater. Employees with the most votes and the ugliest sweaters each week will win a gift card.

Adult League Dodgeball Signup

Sign up **until December 28**; games are played Tuesdays, January 5–February 22. Call Jay Nelson at 250-4269 or email him at jay.nelson@buncombecounty.org.

Goodwill's Tacky Sweater Promo

With Christmas almost upon us we're all starting to think about... pullover, cardigan or vest? We're talking tacky Christmas sweaters. And Goodwill is the first store people think of to find the best selection at bargain prices. With that in mind, Goodwill has launched a tacky (or ugly) sweater promotion. All sweaters in this category will be sold for only \$11.25. And realizing most will want a different look next year, they are offering a free \$5 Gift Card to Goodwill to everyone who purchases a sweater and donates that sweater back (must have the tag and original receipt) before December 31.

Brain Tumor Support Group

Meets every third Thursday at MAHEC at 6 pm. Refreshments served. For info visit wncbraintumor.org or Facebook.

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Us TOO of WNC: a prostate cancer support forum, meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7 pm at First Baptist Church of Asheville, 5 Oak Street. Free. For info call 273-7698 or wncprostate@gmail.com.

FOOD FOR FAIRVIEW by Misty Masiello

Give a Gift of Holiday Meals

The holidays are upon us! It's the most wonderful time of the year, a time when we reflect on the things for which



we are most thankful and gather to feast with family and friends. Yet so many families in our community struggle every day just to keep food on their tables, and to them a special holiday meal seems like an impossible dream. At Food For Fairview, we are most grateful to have the generous donations of our community. Without your ongoing support, we would be unable to feed all of our families who are in need of our help. The truth is, during the holidays our resources are always taxed... and this year is no different. More people in our community are seeking help with the essentials — food and shelter. As long as there is a need for those two things, there will always be a need for our Food For Fairview food bank. To that end, we depend on the continued generosity of those in our community who support our efforts on behalf of our families in need. It's not easy, especially during the holidays, but it's worthwhile to make

We invite you this holiday season to go to our website, FoodForFairview.org, where your donations will be gratefully accepted during this holiday season. For your convenience we accept PayPal and all major credit cards. If you prefer to send in your check, our address is...

Food For Fairview
PO Box 2077
Fairview, NC 28730
All gifts are tax deductible. For additional information, please call 828.628.4322 or reach us from our Contact page.

We wish you and yours a blessed and joyful holiday season!



For information, visit foodforfairview.org, email food4fairview@gmail.com or call 628-4322 and leave a message. Food for Fairview is a Tax Exempt 501 (C) (3) Corporation.

Top Honors Go to UNHGCC at
WNC Communities Annual Awards

by Margaret Whitt



Sixty-five communities located in western North Carolina participated in the 66th annual WNC Honors Luncheon at the Doubletree by Hilton in Biltmore on Saturday, November 7. This year, WNC Communities had a total of \$36,900 to give to the 65 communities who filled out the annual report. \$300 was given to each of 43 groups, naming them a "Participating Community." Twenty groups received \$1,000 each, honoring each as a "Community of Promise." The top award of \$2,000, along with the title of "Community of Distinction," was given to Bethel and Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center (UHGCC).

UHGCC was also named a "Community of Distinction" in 2011, 2012, and 2014. In 2013, it was a "Community of Promise." To take the top award four times in five years is most rare! For the present, the cash award of \$2,000 has been deposited in a savings account until decisions are made about the center's next big project.

But UHGCC did not rest with just the top prize; they also won the Calico Cat, a beautiful piece of ceramic art. The Calico Cat has been awarded for the past 41 years to the group that has done the

most to preserve, alter, change, add to and improve their clubhouse. UHGCC won the Junior Calico Cat in 1994, 1995, and 2014. They won the big cat in 2002 and now again this year — a crowning reward for the completed kitchen.

This year the 65 participating groups included 5,711 volunteers and 133,390 volunteer hours; collectively the organizations raised more than \$480,000 from grants and fundraisers. Those who support the clubs in rural western North



Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Club being presented the Community of Distinction Award. Pictured (left to right) Jim Earnhardt, Lynn Morehead, Margaret Whitt, Sylvia Sane, presenter Lisa Leatherman of Duke Energy, Jim Sane and Jean Bradley.

Carolina, providing the cash prizes, include: Harrah's Cherokee, Biltmore Farms, Duke Energy, Mission Health, Farm Bureau, Carolina Farm Credit, First Citizens, and Wells Fargo.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY by Lauren Biehl

The Force Awakens

Star Wars fans aged 5–12 are invited to the Fairview Library on **Saturday, December 5, 2 pm** to enjoy crafts and activities in anticipation of the new movie coming out soon. Dress up as a Star Wars character for extra fun!

Holiday Giving Tree

There's still a bit of time to give the gift of reading by placing books in the hands of local children in need. Visit



the Fairview Library and select a child from the Giving Tree. Purchase a new book (\$10 minimum retail value) and bring it to the library **by December 4** or donate \$10 and we will do the shopping for you. Please bring donated books unwrapped. The donations will be given to children at Fairview Elementary School. For more information, call 250-6484.

Book Group

The evening book club will meet on **Tuesday, December 15 at 7 pm** to discuss *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.

Fairview Public Library
1 Taylor Road, Fairview
250-6484

MON/WED/THURS/FRIDAY 10–6 PM
TUES, 10 AM–8 PM **SAT** 10 AM–5 PM
CLOSED SUNDAY
MOTHER GOOSE TIME (4–18 MO)
TUESDAYS, 11 AM
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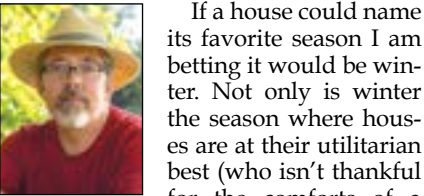
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Santa Mug



If a house could name its favorite season I am betting it would be winter. Not only is winter the season where houses are at their utilitarian best (who isn't thankful for the comforts of a warm fire and a window to look out on bitter cold days?), they also host a lot of cooking and baking; and, after all, winter is when the decorations come out and take over windowsills, sideboards, and special niches that sit empty gathering dust during the rest of the year. And it's party season! The time when rooms are jammed with friends and family singing carols, telling stories, stoking fires and

enjoying meeting new and old friends ... like the Christmas parties at Hickory Nut Gap Farm. I faithfully tried photographing holiday festivities at the Big House a few times over the past years. I'd bring my camera and maybe a flash, but mostly the equipment would just stay in my shoulder bag — an excuse for me to be there and bring my family! For instance, the annual kids' party at the Big House where Santa has been showing up for many seasons now. How fortunate — blessed even — I felt being able to take my kids to the Big House to see Santa instead of waiting with them in a long line at the mall! Or the Christmas parties complete with carols around the piano in the mural room — sung from a book of lyrics printed, I think, using a mimeograph copier, which means they'd have to have been in use for at least 50 seasons.



I have a few good pictures from those parties, but for me the best pictures and picture-making times happened when the house was much quieter, sometimes just me and maybe Grace there, and Clarence passing through occasionally doing chores. People remark that there is a "still life" quality to the photographs I made

inside the Big House for the *Useful Work* project, and I have to admit that though I'm an admirer of portraiture and am happy with many of my portraits and landscapes at Hickory Nut Gap, for me the pictures that resonate most deeply are those quieter scenes. You might wonder how a picture of a kitchen counter full of lunch items, including a prominently positioned jar of Duke's Mayonnaise, could "resonate" more deeply than pretty much any portrait of any person. And you'd have a point. But they do seem to hold up — and that's the magic of photography, for me.

The viewfinder frame of the camera is, as the late John Szarkowski, former curator of photography at New York's Museum of Modern Art, once said, primarily a kind of editing tool. The camera frame by nature includes some things and excludes others. Some objects sit close to the edge and find prominence in that tension, other items might sit right smack in the middle. Colors bring some things forward, others recede; textures soften and model the light; some items are in focus and thus emphasized, while others not within the "depth of field" zone are fuzzy and more generalized. Mostly we don't think of photographs as being made up of such abstractions as these, but they are.

The photograph at left, of the Santa coffee mug in the kitchen cabinet in the Big House, is, for a still life, pretty straightforward. The Santa figure is old-fashioned-looking and the view

through the old cabinet glass emphasizes that nostalgia — a sentiment perhaps forgivable at Christmastime, a holiday that, aside from its religious significance, is for many of us deeply nostalgic, as we strain to recapture the magical frosted view of the holidays we remember from childhood.

Happy Holidays to you, and may your houses be warmed by friends and family, the smells of good things cooking, and maybe a hot toddy in an old Santa mug.

Ken Abbott received his MFA in photography from Yale University in 1987, and received a North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship Award for his photography at Hickory Nut Gap Farm in 2006. Reach Ken via kenabbottphoto.com.



GET YOUR COPY!

In his new book *Useful Work: Photographs of Hickory Nut Gap Farm*, Abbott captures the spirit of the

land and the people who love and honor it. The book is available at Hickory Nut Gap Farm Store, Trout Lily, and the *Town Crier* office, as well as online and in downtown stores. **If you purchase the book from the *Town Crier* office, 50% of sales will be donated to the paper.**

Zebulon Vance Brevard

Zebulon Vance Brevard was born in Swannanoa, Buncombe County on August 8, 1858. He was the youngest child of Thomas Ashworth Brevard (1824-1859 or 1861) and Susan Selina Harris (1830-1902). Zebulon's father Thomas was born in Fairview and was constable there, and was later elected sheriff of Buncombe County.

Thomas Brevard moved to Swannanoa in the late 1850s and lived next door to his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Abel and Elizabeth Mashburn Harris. Zeb's father died when he was one or three years old (Thomas Brevard's tombstone said he died in 1859, but other records say 1861). Thomas Brevard died leaving four children, the oldest of whom was born in 1850. Susan Brevard apparently did not remarry.

Zebulon Vance Brevard married Celia L. Ashworth in Fairview on September 4, 1879. Celia was born in Fairview on April 25, 1856. She was the daughter of Johnson Ashworth (1818-1895) and Mary Merrill (1821-1904) She was also the first cousin of Zebulon's father Thomas Ashworth Brevard, even though she was only two years older than he. Zebulon and Celia Brevard lived in Buncombe County until 1887.

Zebulon Vance Brevard was a Democrat (he had to be, with the name Zebulon Vance). He was appointed Postmaster of Fruitland in Henderson County on February 23, 1887 by President Grover Cleveland, the first Democrat elected president after the Civil War. Brevard claimed to be a distant cousin of Adlai

E. Stevenson, Cleveland's Vice President from 1893-1897. Zeb and Celia Brevard moved to Fruitland that year, and Brevard ran a store in Fruitland as well as the post office.

Celia Ashworth Brevard died on September 5, 1891. Zeb brought Celia's body back to Fairview and buried her in Cane Creek Cemetery near her parents. Zebulon wasted little time before remarrying; he came back to Swannanoa and looked up the daughter of a family who lived nearby when he grew up. Zebulon Vance Brevard married Julia Hepzibah "Hepsie" Reed on January 6, 1892, four months and one day after his first wife died. Hepsie was born in Swannanoa on November 24, 1871. She was the daughter of John A. Reed (1834-1898), formerly of Fairview, and Malissa L. Gregg (1840-1911).

Brevard became a relatively well-to-do and prominent person in the Fruitland community. He was a member of the Baptist Church, and donated the original land for the Fruitland Baptist

Bible Institute. A monument on the school's property honors Brevard.

Zebulon Brevard died at Fruitland in Henderson County on February 15, 1901. His body was brought back to Fairview and buried next to his first

wife, Celia. Zeb's father and grandparents were also buried in Cane Creek Cemetery. Brevard's widow Julia Hepzibah Reed Brevard later married John Pitt Freezer (1867-1959). They lived in Asheville for a number of years and then moved to Bryson City in Swain County. Hepsie died in Bryson City on June 20, 1955. She and her second husband John Freezer are buried at Berea Baptist Cemetery in Swannanoa, near her parents. Zebulon Brevard and his first wife Celia Ashworth had four children.

Mary Elizabeth Brevard was born in Buncombe County on September 8, 1880. She married Julius Preston Garren (December 23, 1882-March 28, 1967). Mary died in Henderson County on December 16, 1961. Both are buried in Fruitland Cemetery in Henderson County.



Zebulon Vance Brevard

Merta Sue Brevard was born in Buncombe County on October 23, 1883. She married a man named Wildman. Merta died January 23, 1915 and is buried in Cane Creek Cemetery.

Thomas Johnson Brevard was born in Swannanoa, Buncombe County, in November 1887. He moved to Flint, Genesee County, Michigan, married Maude Lee Elliot (1895-1929) and died in Flint, Michigan in 1952.

Bertha Naomi Brevard was born in Henderson County on January 16, 1888. She was a missionary in China for many years and never married. She died in Morganton, Burke County on March 17, 1960. Bertha is buried in Cane Creek Cemetery.

Zebulon and Hepsie Reed Brevard had two children.

Juanita Katherine Brevard was born in Henderson County on September 21, 1895. She married Dr. Burnice Earl Morgan, M.D. Juanita died on September 1, 1940. Burnice died on August 14, 1956.

Jenny Gaynell "Nell" Brevard was born in Henderson County on March 9, 1898. She married Reverend William Herbert Brown (1901-1992). Nell died on January 11, 2000, just short of her 102nd birthday, in Clemmons, Forsyth County, NC.

Local historian Bruce Whitaker documents genealogy in the Fairview area. You can reach him at 628-1089 or email him at brucewhitaker@bellsouth.net.

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Pulsed Electromagnetic Frequency Therapy

by Ed Reilly, BA, MBA, DC, CCSP, FIAMI, GT-C, Fairview Chiropractic Center



PEMF, Pulsed Electro Magnetic Field, is a therapy often used to treat musculoskeletal, nerve and chronic inflammatory pain. An electromagnetic field affects the behavior of tissue with a charge in the vicinity of the field. Every beat of our hearts generates electromagnetic waves (measured as EKG) that pump blood through our bodies, in turn stimulating tissues at a cellular level. The brain's electromagnetic "pulse" is measured via an EEG. Magnetic fields continually operate in our body, where they effect each of the body's more than 70 trillion cells. PEMF is like sunlight; the rays from the sun are all around us and interact with our bodies, be it a sunburn or producing vitamin D in our skin. If certain frequencies of sun's light are concentrated, we can take X-rays or perform Lasik eye surgery. These natural PEMF energies are no different than mechanically produced energies: if you pick specific frequencies and concentrate them, you can influence human tissue for the better, like sunlight producing Vitamin D in our skin. Our bodies have evolved in electromagnetic fields and can readily absorb and get benefit from them. Much research has been done in Europe, but America is still catching up with the latest non-drug, non-surgical approach to healing.

Power is everything with PEMF; the higher the intensity, the higher the charge that will be produced in the body, and the faster the cells in the body will be affected. High-energy PEMF systems use frequencies and power to produce rapid resolution of many common musculoskeletal problems, delivering magnetic pulses directly to the affected areas. Because of the high intensity, treatment may take as little as 10-30 minutes. High-intensity PEMF's are routinely used in most modern medical practices. This includes not only MRIs, but also repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation and various other muscle stimulation systems, many of which operate at frequencies much higher than the clinical PEMF devices. You cannot overdose on magnetic fields — they simply pass through our bodies. The high-intensity PEMF system simply provides faster, better, and longer-lasting results for challenging health issues and higher levels of pain.

Dr. Reilly has served Fairview since 1998. Reach him via fairviewdc.com.

PEMF is like sunlight: If you pick specific frequencies and concentrate them, you can influence human tissue for the better.

The Facts About Gout

by Benjamin Gilmer, MD, MAHEC Family Health Center at Cane Creek

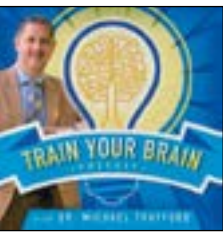


The holiday season is here, along with good food, spirits and holiday cheer. Unfortunately, this can also be a time when gout rears its ugly head. Recently, I have seen a rash of acute gout flares in my practice. Even when patients are not symptomatic, they may be at greater risk for heart disease. Gout is a disease that has been recognized for hundreds of years and has been described as the "disease of kings," as it mostly afflicted wealthy aristocrats due to their rich diets. Gout is due to an overabundance of uric acid crystals that become deposited in the peripheral joints, most commonly the big toe and ankle. People will tell you it is one of the most debilitating pains ever — rivaling kidney stones. Many factors can provoke a gout attack, such as genetics, diet and certain medications. In some ways it is a disease of overabundance, linked to obesity and metabolic syndrome. Gout attacks often occur at night, due, it is thought, to cooler body temperatures. Certain known dietary triggers exist such as alcohol, shellfish and the newest offender, high fructose corn syrup. Drinking two soft drinks or two servings of sweet tea a day increases the risk of an attack nearly 2.5 times. Drinking two alcoholic drinks daily, particularly beer, will double the risk. Diets high in protein, such as the Atkins diet, can also increase the risk of gout.

If you have high blood pressure and are being treated, there are some common medications such as hydrochlorothiazide and lisinopril which can dramatically increase your risk of gout. Even aspirin at low doses can put you at risk. Luckily, the treatment of gout is fairly straightforward. We have to extinguish the flames of the gout fire with anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen, naproxen, colchicine or steroids. They all are basically equally effective. Then we must reduce the amount of uric acid in the blood — the fuel for the fire — which can usually be done with dietary and lifestyle changes. Uric acid-lowering agents like allopurinol can also help. Generally after a flare, patients need to be on anti-inflammatory treatment, also called attack prophylaxis, for at least three months. A new study has revealed that people with high uric acid (hyperuricemia) but without frequent gout attacks may still be at risk for heart disease and stroke; those with elevated uric acid without gout attacks or uric acid-lowering treatment had a 2.5 times greater risk of heart disease than those who were treated. Gout is a disease that we understand well and for which treatment is available. But sometimes its symptoms can fly under the radar for a while without being diagnosed. If you have concerns or questions, please talk to your health-care provider. Happy holidays to you from the MAHEC family!

Good Balance Equals a Good Brain

by Dr. Michael Trayford, Apex Brain Centers



You may often ask yourself, "Does my ability to maintain healthy balance have anything to do with how well I think, remember and solve problems?" Well, if you don't, you should! Assessment and treatment of impaired balance is being looked at as the holy grail for higher-level thinking by many experts in the brain world. Our ability to stand on two legs is nothing short of remarkable, possibly our greatest feat as humans. Balancing on the stilts we call legs requires a tremendous amount of brainpower. And walking is an even greater accomplishment. While standing and walking, we are constantly in a state of falling. When someone's brain is "offline" due to alcohol consumption, disease, or simply waking up from a deep sleep, they have a dramatic increase in their likelihood of falling. Our brain requires constant and precise input from the many sensory receptors located in our eyes, inner ears (vestibular system), and muscles and joints (proprioceptive system). Any damage to these systems, or our brain's control over them, will lead to measurable changes in our ability to balance and walk. It works both ways. Walking on two legs has long been associated with larger and more complex human brains. From our early ancestors' rudimentary toolmaking abilities to our descendants' possibilities of inhabiting other planets, only humans can generate the cognitive power to do such things. As much as I love my dogs, I cannot see them ever being able to type an article! Research has been accumulating that our ability to move through our environment (spatial navigation) is directly related to our ability to learn and remember. An individual's ability to rise, stand, and walk is "the single most important part of the entire neurologic examination," states Dr. Jose Biller from Loyola University's Department of Neurology. Someone unable to rise, stand, and walk is clearly in moderate to advanced stages of balance impairment and very likely moderate to advanced stages of associated cognitive decline. More sophisticated testing of balance is required to pick up abnormalities long before they are visible. Dynamic posturography, or computerized assessment of postural systems, is the gold standard for measuring such abnormalities. Testing of eye movements with videonystagmography (VNG) and neurological evaluation of muscles and joints will help determine if the associated systems of balance are impaired as well. Get checked today!

Dr. Michael Trayford is a Board Certified Chiropractic Neurologist and co-founder of APEX Brain Centers in South Asheville. APEX Brain Centers utilizes cutting-edge technology and strategies to optimize brain function. Learn more at ApexBrainCenters.com.

Diabetes and Vision

by Dr. Brittany Love, Visual Eyes Optometric



Nearly 30 million Americans are predicted to have diabetes, and 8 million of those remain undiagnosed. Regular eye exams can actually detect diabetes in many cases. An eye exam is an easy way to visualize blood vessels and expose problems that can affect your overall health. Diabetic eye disease includes diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, cataracts, and glaucoma. All of these conditions can cause potentially severe vision loss. Anyone with Type 1, Type 2, or gestational diabetes has the potential to develop these eye diseases. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of vision loss and blindness among Americans age 20-74. This is also the most commonly seen eye condition in someone with diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy causes the blood vessels in the back of the eye to leak fluid or blood, which alters vision. Risk of this disease increases the longer someone has diabetes. Oftentimes this condition can go unnoticed until vision loss occurs, which is why it is recommended everyone with diabetes get at least a yearly dilated eye examination. Diabetic macular edema occurs when fluid leaks into the macula, the area of retina that is responsible for central vision. This can cause severe and sometimes permanent vision loss. Cataract is a clouding of the lens inside the eye, and can also be seen in individuals who do not have diabetes. However, those with diabetes are more likely to develop cataract at an earlier age and progress faster. Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, which is responsible for peripheral vision. Diabetes almost doubles the risk of glaucoma in adults. The best ways to prevent vision loss from diabetes are to control your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol; take your prescribed medications; get regular exercise; attain and maintain a healthy weight; and stop smoking. Vision loss from diabetic retinopathy is often permanent, but early detection and treatment can reduce risk of vision loss by 95%!

While there are ways to treat diabetic eye disease, the real key is prevention. Be proactive about your eye health; get a comprehensive eye exam today! Dr. Brittany Love is an associate with Dr. Haley Perry at Ammons Perry Optometric (Visual Eyes Optometric and Elite Eye Care) and is currently taking new patients.

Vision loss from diabetic retinopathy is often permanent, but early detection and treatment can reduce risk of vision loss by 95%!

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YOU ARE HERE

by Blair Holland Clark



I recently had an experience many Baby Boomers may share at some point on their journeys: I noticed some changes in my health that I couldn't attribute to simple aging. After several outpa-

tient visits, my doctor read the latest test results and with a kind of urgent look on his face said, "You need to be in the hospital today." There is nothing like a doctor's look of urgency to get your attention.

I ended up spending three of the longest days of my life in the hospital, and since I didn't really feel sick, I had a lot of time to walk around. I noticed the hallways of the hospital were full of signs and rules. I was monitored and tested, which offered other kinds of signs. My wife and son came to see me, which offered still more signs. The experience got me thinking about how my entire journey has been guided by signs. I learned in this case that so far I am actually pretty healthy, hospital food isn't too bad if you are bored and hungry, and my family loves me. I walked out of the hospital with these old song lyrics playing in my head, "Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?"

The healthcare system offers much advice, also a type of sign. Like many, I have been known to ignore or rebel against such signs, determined to forge my own way in a sort of "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" response to my health. I think the invulnerability of youth helped me ignore some signs. Although I still don't know exactly what is causing my

symptoms, I find myself feeling less invulnerable and perhaps a little in awe of the workings of my body — a lot of parts have to talk to a lot of other parts to make the whole thing work properly.

The intricate communication system of the body is not unlike the complexity of our journeys through time and space. Lots of things have to work together, as we travel our individual paths and interact with others. The signs we give and receive help make this possible; to this end we have developed abilities to read signs with our eyes, other senses and emotions, and with what may be called our gut, heart or soul.

Signs can come from many different sources, take many forms, touch different parts of our journeys. Expanding the ability to read signs accurately helps us to communicate more successfully. Are we being clear with ourselves and others, or are we giving and getting mixed messages? Are we checking out unclear signs or making assumptions through some weak or distorted method of reading the sign?

We live in a world with instant information and few natural filters. In fact, if you do a search on the internet, the search engine will learn what you have looked at and send you towards more of the same in subsequent searches; thus we can become ill-informed even while trying to expand our skills.

We can and should work on improving our sign-reading skills. We can learn how to gather information and open new sources of signs. We learn to face the unknown or uninformed parts of our jour-

Living With Signs

neys with wonder and awe as we learn how to "read the signs."

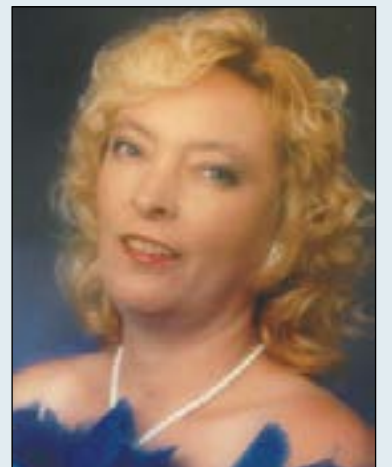
Our sign reading sometimes works best if we turn off outside input for a while and check in with our gut, our heart, our soul — with ourselves, whom we have known longer than anyone. Recognizing ourselves in the signs around us can make us feel more able to access signs of life, even in times of difficulty or when we feel disconnected from life.

Consider the following as you assess your skill and ability to send and receive signs:

- What are some of the signs I read from the world and the people around me? What forms are the signs taking?
- What do I use most to read signs (eyes, other senses, emotions, curiosity, gut)?
- What are my main sources of signs? Am I finding sources and reading signs that simply support what I want to believe, or am I really open to the unknown?
- What form do the signs I am reading take (verbal or nonverbal signs from others, internet, social media, emotions, written, heavily marketed)?
- What signs am I sending to others?
- What unknowns I am facing — things I am curious about but don't feel informed about? How do my unknowns differ from those of earlier in my journey?
- What am I in awe of? You Are Here.

Blair Clark is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and author of "Answers to What Ails You (AWAY). Reach Blair through Facebook or by emailing copy@fairviewtowncrier.com.

JUST PERSONAL



Wanda Jane Morrow, 52, of Fairview, passed away peacefully on November 27. She has gone home to her Lord and Savior after a long battle with cancer. Mrs. Morrow was born on January 9, 1963 and has lived in Fairview for the past nineteen years. She is survived by her husband of 13 years, Jerry Morrow; mother, Jean Reese; son, Jimmy Morrow; daughters, Amanda Burris, Christy Burris and Jessica Morrow; sisters, Donna Sherlin and Debbie Sherlin; and seven grandchildren. Mrs. Morrow was of Baptist faith. She worked as Deli Manager at the KD's One Stop in Fairview and enjoyed spending time with her family, writing, and was a big fan of the band Metallica. Services will be held at a later date. Asheville Mortuary Services is assisting the family. Condolences may be made at AshevilleMortuaryServices.com

"Any man can, if he so desires, become the sculptor of his own brain."

Santiago Ramón y Cajal, 1852-1934
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A Fund for Coach Ledford



A.C. Reynolds High School volleyball coach Lori Ledford has been with the Rockets for nine years, winning her 100th career match last year. Coach Ledford has also been a dedicated supporter of the fight against breast cancer; she was a catalyst for the “Volley for a Cure” games, a staple for the A.C. Reynolds Volleyball team helping local women afflicted with breast cancer.

As fate would have it, she was diagnosed in early November with breast

Can You Bake Holiday Cookies to Help ACRHS?

Each holiday season the A.C. Reynolds High School PISO distributes cookies to every faculty and staff member at the school, and they need the community’s help to make this happen. Anyone who can contribute to the needed 150 dozen cookies, please bring your cookies on *December 16*. Someone will be available to receive these from you in the car pool line.

Cookies can also be dropped off early in the office December 14 and 15. The cookies are always a welcome show of appreciation for everyone who works at A.C. Reynolds.

“Lori will have a long fight ahead of her and now the one who has helped so many NEEDS OUR HELP!”

— from the GoFundMe page

cancer and underwent surgery shortly thereafter. A “GoFundMe” page has been established to allow people to help the coach and her family with expenses. To make a donation, please visit gofundme.com/sf9fr5h8.

We wish coach Ledford and her family all the best.

A.C. Reynolds Needs Volunteer Judges for Senior Projects

A.C. Reynolds High School needs community volunteer judges to assess graduation projects on *Thursday, December 10, beginning at 5:30 pm*.

Judges will be offered a free catered dinner, after which judging will begin at 6:30. Training will be provided.

The senior projects represent hours of hard work by students, and completion of the projects is required for graduation in Buncombe County.

For information or to register, call the school at 298-2500 or visit buncombe.k12.nc.us/acrhs.

FES “Field of Dreams” Update

by Cynthia Palmieri

As a result of a wonderful outpouring from the Fairview community, our “Field of Dreams” inclusive playground project is well underway. Our contractors/engineers John Garner and Mona Ellum have been guiding Phase I of the playground project, which focuses on grading the 3+ acres and preparing for the all-inclusive pathways that will meander through new play areas and sensory areas such as inclusive and accessible playground spaces, sound gardens, stage area, hill slides, and sensory gardens.

Lowe’s Store #617 has graciously spent a community work day sealing the black-top ball play area, redoing the basketball hoops, painting half courts and four square play spaces as well as donating five benches for the playground that will be installed after the grading and seeding is completed.

In addition to the labor and materials donated by Lowe’s, we have had generous services in kind, reduced rate or free services including labor, equipment and materials from donors such as T & K Utilities, Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc., Ellum Engineering, Buncombe County Schools, Caterpillar, Fairview Elementary School PTA and the Firewood Ministry at Trinity of Fairview.

The Playground committee is currently reaching out to community business-

es for end-of-year donations. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the future phases of the “Field of Dreams,” which include: installing pourable/seamless wheelchair-friendly playground surfaces in several play areas; purchasing and installing multiple pieces of accessible and inclusive playground equipment and swings; and purchasing and installing multiple landscape features and several other



details such as “buddy benches,” bridges, a stage, and masonry work. We are always looking for services in kind and donations as well.

All tax-deductible, end-of-year donations may be made payable to Fairview Elementary School PTA and mailed to Fairview Elementary School Field of Dreams, 1355 Charlotte Highway, Fairview NC 28730.

We thank everyone for helping to make the Field of Dreams come true.

Student of the Month

The Fairview Town Crier and A.C. Reynolds High School are pleased to announce that Zoie Albrecht is November’s Student of the Month for Academic Excellence.

Reynolds counselor Laura McCreary nominated Zoie for the award, saying, “Zoie has shown persistence and follow-through in the pursuit of scholar-

ships. She has met deadlines and gone above and beyond in presentation and manners.” Principal Doris Sellers added, “Zoie is a pleasant young lady who does an excellent job in the classroom and beyond the classroom.”

Zoie is interested in studying medicine, a field where she can join her interests in math, the sciences and people. Her Senior Project is focused on the topic of universal health care and how people can gain access to better, more affordable care. Her project internship was at Mission Hospital.

Zoie is also an accomplished athlete: she is captain of the tennis team and has been captain of her swim team since her sophomore year. When asked what Rocket Pride means to her, she said, “Excellence and enthusiasm in sports, the classroom and extracurricular activities.” She said staying busy with sports and activities keeps her motivated in the classroom, “and it’s more fun, too!”

Many congratulations, Zoie, and best of luck for a wonderful year!



by Cindy McMahon, Reynolds District Representative, Buncombe County School Board

Spreading the Light



In a perfect world, all school children would be warm, fed, well-dressed, safe, and well cared for year-round. If this were true, our public schools could focus on the three R’s and leave it at that.

As a person who grew up in poverty myself, I know that we don’t live in a perfect world. Especially around the holidays, it is critical that our schools and communities work closely together to take care of our neighbor families who struggle. And we do!

As a person who grew up in poverty myself, I know that we don’t live in a perfect world. Especially around the holidays, it is critical that our schools and communities work closely together to take care of our neighbor families who struggle. And we do!

We are blessed to have a wealth of charitable and faith-based organizations providing a helping hand to families in the Reynolds District. Food for Fairview, MANNA Food Bank, Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries, The Salvation Army and other nonprofit organizations provide meals and other resources to our needy

families all year, and are partnering to make sure our kids have nutritious holiday meals as well. Our school counselors and social workers connect families directly with these organizations on a regular basis.

Angels of Fairview, also a nonprofit organization, raises money to provide holiday meals and gifts for families at Fairview Elementary and Cane Creek Middle School. Last year, the Angels helped a recently divorced mom with gifts and Christmas dinner. The experience changed her outlook on giving: “I used to think of philanthropy as a way for rich people to feel good about themselves. I now know there is an interconnectedness to giving and receiving that creates community and that anyone can give of themselves to make their world better just by helping a neighbor.”

To donate to Angels of Fairview, you can send a check to PO Box 94, Fairview, NC 28730, or drop your donation at Fairview Elementary.

At Reynolds High, the counseling team interviews disadvantaged students regarding their needs. The school prints the requests on anonymous angel tags on an “Angel Tree” after these interviews, and then ACRHS staff and community members select a student, shop for them, and wrap their gifts; the team distributes these gifts to the students. To participate, e-mail Brooke Scott at Brooke.Scott@bcsemail.org.

Many local churches also adopt Reynolds families to provide gifts for children who might otherwise find

nothing under the tree. Volunteers from Family 2 Family, a collaborative project of several Reynolds-area churches, fill stockings with hygiene items for students in poverty at Reynolds High.



Eblen Charities is just one of many organizations making a difference this season.

Eblen Charities provides for struggling families, and also offers opportunities for our students to experience the joy of giving themselves. Through their St. Nicholas Project and collaboration with the Smoky Mountain Toy Run, Eblen has grown from helping five families their first year to assisting more than 5,000 children and their families in 2014. Through the “Teens for Teens” part of this program, our middle and high school students have the opportunity to raise funds and purchase gifts for teens in poverty.

If your business would like to become a drop-off site for the St. Nicholas Project or if you would like to donate

to this cause, contact Eblen Charities at 828-255-3066 or via email at eblen-found@aol.com.

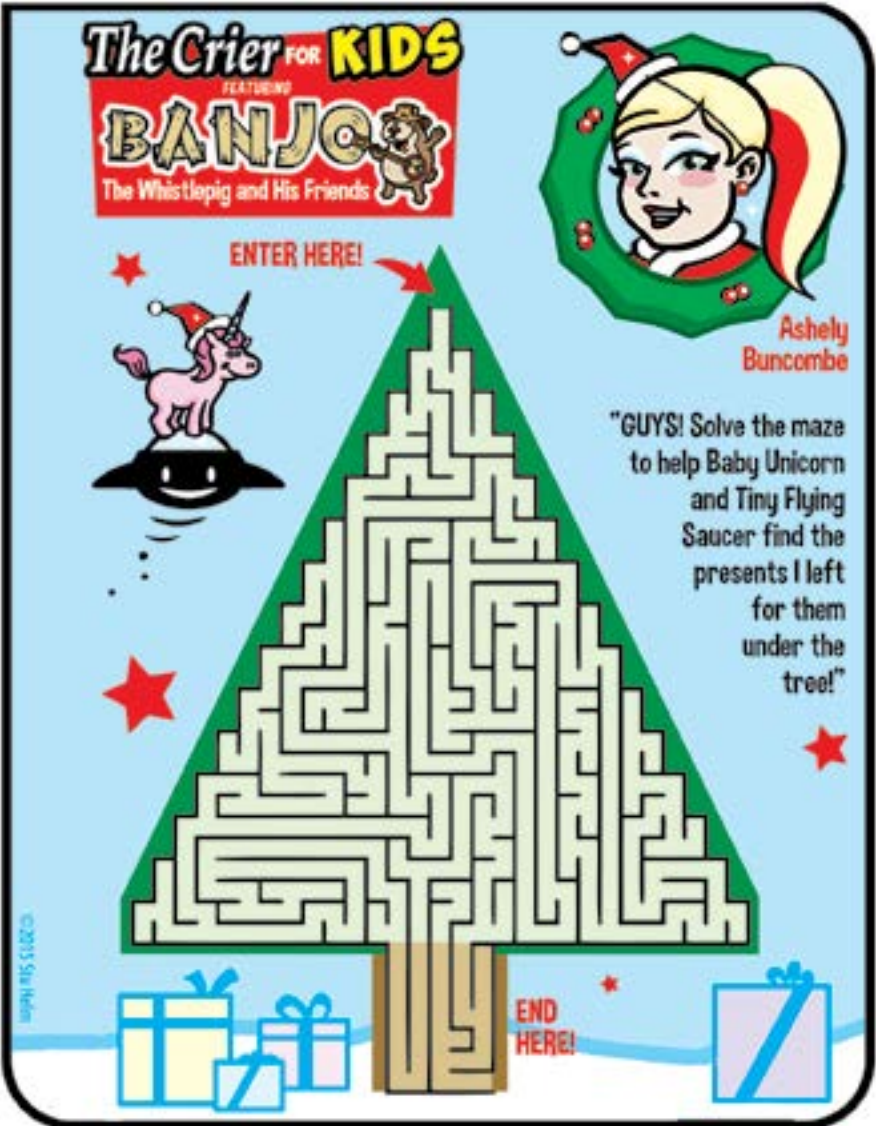
At all of our schools, the depth of giving goes far beyond the advertised programs. As Jennifer Reed, Fairview Elementary principal, recently reminded me, “We also have many teachers who buy things for families without anyone else knowing.”

None of these programs can make a difference without our support. How will you help your neighbors during this season of light?

Reynolds District Events in December

- December 1–3: Oakley Elementary PTO-sponsored Holiday Shop
- December 3: Reynolds High Blood Drive, 8 am
- December 3: Fairview Elementary Winter Chorus Concert, 6 pm
- December 4: Early Release Day
- December 7: Reynolds High Choral Concert, Biltmore Estate, 5 pm
- December 8: Reynolds High Winter Band Concert, 7 pm
- December 10–11: Reynolds High Theater Production, *A Human Write*, 7 pm
- December 17: Reynolds High Holiday Choral Concert, First Baptist Church, 7 pm

Winter Break
December 21–January 1



Peppermint Pedicure – \$45

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Your holiday sweater can make someone else’s future look great.

Your donations of clothing and household items fund training programs that help people find jobs and get back on their feet. Learn more at goodwillnwc.org.

ON THE ROAD



COLORADO
Pike's Peak

Last month Alan and Annie MacNair visited Alan's oldest sister Joey in Colorado. The day after arriving from Asheville, they piled into Joey's car and drove to the summit of Pike's Peak, 14,110 feet above sea level. Standing at the top "with the altitude buzzing our brains," they were delighted to discover this mountain was the inspiration for "America the Beautiful," by Katharine Lee Bates, first published in 1895 as a poem entitled "Pike's



Peak." In 1910 it was published as the favorite anthem it is today, music written by Samuel Ward.

Later in the trip they attended a family reunion in Boulder (Annie's side of the family) and stayed at the Chautauqua Cottages located in the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark. Alan and Annie cannot stop thinking and talking about this fascinating and beautiful place, nestled in the foothills of the Flatiron Mountains, where they hiked each day, accessing trails directly from their lovely cottage.



Animas Forks

Ruth Atkins reads the *Fairview Town Crier* at Animas Forks, an 1880s vintage ghost town in southern Colorado. The town's former newspaper, the *Animas Forks Pioneer*, holds the distinction of being printed and published at the highest elevation (11,200 feet) of any newspaper in the United States. That's over two miles above sea level!

OF INTEREST TO SENIORS

by Mike Richard

Damage Control!



Help Me If You Can

"Mr. Richard, I'm contacting you because my plan won't be coming back next year. Can you help me?"

If I had a nickel ... Here's the story: There were a lot of shocked Medicare Advantage beneficiaries when they read their Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) from their company this year. (You did read yours, didn't you?) Here's the bad news: Your company is withdrawing its plans from your county for 2016. This means that if you were one of these folks, you will be having fun insurance shopping to find a suitable replacement while everybody else is Christmas shopping for the grandkids. Whoopee!

The Silver Lining

There is some good news, however. You will be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) from December 8th until the end of February of 2017 to do so — one of Medicare's many safety nets. This also opens up an opportunity for you to return to original Medicare Parts A and B and pick up a guaranteed issue Medicare Supplement policy without having to answer any health questions. For some people, this may be the perfect (and only) chance to get coverage for which they otherwise would have been disqualified due to poor health. Many of my clients have expressed an interest in that option. The state, however, limits these guar-

anteed issue plans to plans A and F only. But if you are healthy enough, you might be able to qualify for any plan you want. Just remember, if you're looking for a January 1st effective date, you must make application before midnight December 31st.

Sweet and Sour

If you feel that the sweet taste of lower premiums has given way to the sour taste of annual change, uncertainty and what seems like endless copays, you may be one of those people who have been hoping for this opportunity. I once heard a sage say, "If life gives you lemons, turn 'em into lemonade." Maybe your health has taken a change for the worse, preventing a switch back to Original Medicare because you couldn't otherwise qualify for a supplement policy. A change back to Original Medicare is now possible because of the guaranteed issue Medsup feature of the SEP. Expect higher premiums than an Advantage plan, but also more robust benefits, plan stability and flexibility. You shouldn't have any trouble finding your health care providers in network either, because there aren't any network restrictions. Don't forget the Part D Rx plan to go along with your supplement. You have to pick that up separately. Happy shopping.

Mike Richard is president of Prime Time Solutions, Inc., an insurance agency serving people across the Southeast specializing in senior insurance products since 1998. 628-3889.

RALEIGH REPORT

by John Ager, District 115 North Carolina House of Representatives



As December comes around once more, our thoughts as a community turn towards the celebration of Christmas. It is first and foremost the re-telling of a powerful story in the Bible:

the birth of Jesus as a baby of flesh and blood, vulnerable and at risk. Somehow, the parade of lowly shepherds and far-away kings speak of his purpose: the redemption of sinful mankind from this world of troubles, war, disease, and death. And surely the act of Herod to kill all the little boys speaks of the corruption of power that has always been part of the story of human history. I am always reminded during the Christmas season of these basic beliefs that ought to be driving my life:

My charge is to "fear not" even though we are as vulnerable as a baby in a manger. We should not be fear-mongers but love-mongers.

1. I need to forgive because I need to be forgiven.
2. Judgment is not my job; I need to take the log out my own eye before I can comment on the speck in my neighbor's.
3. The kingdom of God is at hand; I have access to the full spiritual powers of the Holy Spirit if I will only quit "getting and spending" long enough to pray and worship.
4. Like those terrified shepherds in Bethlehem, my charge is to "fear not" even though we are as vulnerable as a baby in a manger. We should not be fear-mongers but love-mongers. Even death has

lost its sting, so be strong and have courage no matter what you face.

My devotion to these beliefs is intermittent at best, but just being reminded of their power and wisdom helps me to remember my imperfections, and that my Savior cares and loves me nonetheless. And I need to try to model that forgiveness for my family and friends. And, I will add, being a legislator adds to the sense of humility as I hear about the difficulties faced by so many of my neighbors. While we strive to find ways in Raleigh to combat ignorance, sickness and human evil, our capabilities cannot match the powers of healing and love shown by Jesus two thousand years ago.

Our celebration of the Christmas season has also become a celebration of our material wealth. We have mixed feelings about this aspect of our modern American Christmas, and I find all the shopping frenzy and advertising hype difficult to bear. As a child, I thought differently. Unwrapping those presents on Christmas morning was such joy. There was always the hope that one of the treasures would change me in some way. Even today, I feel a huge pressure to express my love to my family members with the perfect, transformative gift. And then there I am, running out of time and wandering the Asheville mall a few days before the 25th!

Our Puritan forbears often would not celebrate Christmas. Our Appalachian ancestors also gave the holiday little

notice. For our old neighbor, Lo Wright, Christmas consisted of an orange and a few shotgun blasts when he was a boy. We have a tradition here at Hickory Nut Gap of inviting Santa on Christmas Eve to deliver gifts to all the children of farm workers that goes back almost 100 years. He has arrived on a bicycle, a horse, a fire truck and many other odd contrivances. Santa requires each child to sit on his lap, while onlookers debate whether "naughty" or "nice" wins the day.

My own desire for Christmas 2015 is to purchase gifts to support my friends and neighbors, and to buy local products and services that keep the money in my community. People I know benefit, and they in turn may think to support what I might have to offer. The gifts have more meaning because I know the people who made them. As I write this article, we are having a Sugar Hollow Artisan sale in my own back yard full of the amazing things my neighbors have been creating. Last Saturday, the Fairview Community Center was packed with fabulous locally made crafts. Before we head out to the mall, let's look around Fairview and Buncombe County for gifts that will keep our dollars at home.

Receiving is not as great as giving. A family service project at a homeless shelter, or for someone in need in our community, can be full of the proper meaning of the Season. Your church would be a good place to start. As Jesus taught us, we are all needy, some in less obvious ways.

May each one of us find a great blessing this Christmas, maybe an unexpected treasure like a baby born in a feed trough and destined to show us the way to the

Kingdom of God! May we truly look at the needs of our family and friends, and be inspired to speak to those needs. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John Ager's Contact:
NC House of Representatives
16 West Jones St, Room 1004,
Raleigh NC 27601-1096
John.Ager@ncleg.net or
jagerhng@gmail.com
628-2616 / 713-6450 cell
NCleg.net

LETTER

Thank You to the
Fire Departments

I want to thank the Fairview Fire Department and all the other firehouses who assisted in putting out the Nov 13th fire near Charlotte Highway. It was pretty scary watching from our home across the street, but we were all highly impressed at the speed of putting it out. Thank you so much.

Carole Erickson



Six gently rolling acres with amazing views!

1219 Alexander Road Leicester, NC
\$325,000 | MLS# 3124238



- Charming 2 bedroom/2 bath home
- Large master suite
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TRAIN HARD BE STRONG

"Middle of the Month" Lunch
Join Jolene Puffer, Fairview's finest trainer, for a free lunch and goalsetting for the month. First lunch December 9!
Bring a pen and paper to write your goals for the new year, and a healthy appetite. Lunch is provided.

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We thank all our customers for your business this year and wish everyone a safe and happy holidays.

Keep us in mind over the next few months for winter storm debris removal, any drainage problems, gravel road repair and ditching, all grading, building roads and house sites.

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4,900 SF LIVING SPACE



Magnificent home with soaring ceilings, floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, and windows galore for a bright airy feel and to bring the outside in. Open floor plan is great for entertaining. Attention to detail everywhere with built-in shelving, cedar-lined benches and closets. Den (or nursery) on main level, 1902 sf finished basement with wet bar. Wraparound deck, part covered/part open. Five luscious acres for privacy and winter views. **\$750,000** MLS # 593363

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL LAND LISTINGS

LAND COMMERCIAL

Prime 1.36 acre lot fronting both US74A and Fairview Hills Drive. Lots of traffic every day for this multi-use lot. City water and natural gas available. **MLS#544464. Call Rick at 713-7626**



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Lot #	Acreage	List Price
Lot 1	0.57 acres	\$50,000
Lot 2	0.98 acres	\$79,000
Lot 3	0.57 acres	SOLD
Lot 4	0.83 acres	\$69,000
Lot 5	0.86 acres	SOLD
Lot 6	0.83 acres	\$69,000
Lot 7	1 acre	\$79,000

PERFECT FOR LARGE FAMILY!



Beautiful 4br Home w/2 large bonus rooms. Great Fairview location. Cathedral ceilings & gorgeous maple floors. Gourmet kitchen w/island, granite tops & SS appliances. Master suite on main w/luxury bath. Large screened porch and private fenced yard. Nicely landscaped yard. MUST SEE! **\$510,000** MLS# 593501 www.171onecoyote.com

BRING YOUR HORSES! 19 ACRES OF PASTURE!



Pasture & Luxury Home. Stucco and rock exterior make a beautiful combination. Stone outdoor fireplace. Great detail everywhere w/ solid alder doors, trim, and built in dinette. Gourmet kitchen, lots of cabinets and solid surface counter tops. Lge family room, windows galore. Tiled baths and tiled pet shower. Large laundry rm. Fenced property for horses **\$1,200,000** MLS#578796 www.338GarrenCreek.com

REDUCED! HOME ON 15 ACRES



Remarkable views from almost every room. Large living/dining area w/ stone fireplace. Large covered porch to enjoy the views. Nice open deck. Separate cottage for guest or in-law suite. Newer 2 car garage. Lovely garden space. Wooded hiking trails throughout the property, rhododendrons, across the stream and next to several large boulders. Two fenced acres for the pets or children. **\$400,000**

GREAT STARTER HOME!



Wonderful starter home in the desirable Fairview/Fletcher area. Large 3 bedroom 2 bath mfgd home with some modular upgrades. Open floor plan w/ large living & kitchen w/island and bar. Master suite w/jetted tub and large closet. Nice deck & large lot. Washer & dryer are included. **\$116,500**, MLS#591231

YOUR OUTDOOR OASIS



Fabulous Mountain home in a private setting with lots of mountain laurels and beautiful large trees. Open floor plan with a vaulted ceiling in the living & dining area. Wonderful 10x30 deck to sit and enjoy nature. 3 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Separate family room with doors leading to the outside. This is your outdoor oasis. MLS # 593805, Price: \$250,000.

GREAT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - REDUCED



Great location in Fairview for your business. Freshly painted inside and out. Level back yard. Nice front porch for your customers to enjoy with a mountain view. Updated bathroom and kitchen. Would make a great office, nail salon, massage parlor, doctors office just to name a few. **MLS#591487 \$149,000**

1,800 SF HOME



This 3 Bed/2 Bath home is situated near the Parkway off 74A in a great subdivision. The roof, appliances, replacement windows and metal outside doors were redone about 3 years ago. Newer water heater also. The yard is level, front and back, with a large outbuilding in backyard. Over 1800 sf on almost half an acre for **\$185,000**. **MLS #591321**

LAND FOR SALE

Call Karen Cernek for details at 216.3998

2 Subdivisions Ideal for Affordable Homes, both have city water, paved access and are 15 min from Asheville. **5.25 Acres**, file special Subdivision, 3 lots, 1.75 acres each. **3.25 Acres**, part of major subdivision has 11 lots, but some will need to be combined due to small size. **Each is \$110,000**.

Extraordinary Parcel for Private Estate or Commercial Project. Tract is partially developed, has city water and driveway up to one section. Beautiful entrance road winds through pasture and over a bridge. Bold stream, 2 ponds and smaller creeks, potential for views and numerous building sites. Great spot for a boutique hotel, cabins or family compound, potential for sewage facility. **\$2,500,000**.

Private, wooded, unrestricted lot just over 15 min. from Asheville. South facing with potential for long range views. Driveway in, site graded and 2 BR septic. **\$35,000**.

OWNER FINANCING REDUCED



7 acres w/ 200 degree views of huge valleys & mtns from Pisgah to Mitchell plus long range views to the Smokies, yet only 25 mins. to downtown Asheville. Contemporary 2 BR, 2 BA artisan home w/ 2 bonus rooms. Tile & marble bathrms, lovely oak floors/ quality woodwork, 3 screened porches and lge wraparound deck. Lots of level land, fenced garden, sauna, garage. Live off the grid. **\$335,000**

BARN & PASTURE



Nice Level to Rolling 1.13 acre property in a quiet location in Fairview. Two stall barn with tap room. Nice long-range mountain views. **\$60,000** **MLS #NCM594518**

REDUCED!



Great one level living w/ open floor plan. Hardiplank siding, stone/cedar accent shakes. Split BR plan. Hdwd floors, tile in kitchen/baths. SS appliances/granite countertops. Dbl garage. Master BR w/ large walk-in closet. Master bath, dbl vanity sink & tiled shower. Level yard great for the kids, pets or a garden. Great curb appeal. Architectural shingles. This home shows like new. **\$280,000** **MLS 586804**

We all want to care for our pets as part of our family. Sometimes they can be in an emergency situation or injured. It can be helpful to have some materials and knowledge in order to help your pet survive.

Always remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment.

A first aid kit for your pets at home can include many of the same things that you would have for the people in your home. There are many comprehensive lists on-line, but they should include:

- Phone numbers for your veterinarian, the emergency clinic (REACH: 665-4399), and Animal Poison Control Center: 888-4AN-HELP (888-426-4435);
- Medical records, including vaccine history;
- Bandaging materials — nonstick, adhesive tape, bandage roll that sticks to itself and not hair (Vetwrap);

Wound disinfectant (Betadine or Nolvasan), triple antibiotic ointment;

Sterile saline eye wash;

Leash and gauze or a muzzle to use on injured animals, as long as they are breathing normally, not vomiting;

Thermometer (to use rectally. Label it for pets! Remember that animals generally have a higher normal temperature than people.)

Perform any exam of your pet slowly and gently. Never assume that a gentle pet will not bite if it is hurt; fear and pain can cause them to act differently. Dogs can be muzzled, as long as it is safe, and cats/smaller animals can be wrapped in a towel, as long as it is not done tightly and they can breathe. Keep them in a small area while transporting them (crate, blanket) to prevent further injury.

There are some basic things that can be done for some common emergencies.

First Aid for Your Pet Family

by Sarah Hargrove, DVM, Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital and Equine Clinic

Bleeding: Muzzle your pet, then apply pressure to wound with sterile/clean gauze for several minutes. It can take time to clot; a wrap may be needed while traveling to the vet. Internal bleeding can be indicated by blood from the mouth, nose, rectum or in the urine, pale gums, fast pulse and collapse. Please keep your pet warm, calm, and take it to the vet immediately.

Poisoning: Generally, if something is dangerous to people, the same applies to pets (rat poison, antifreeze, cleaning products.) If your pet has been in topical contact with poison, you can follow instructions given for people (flush eyes, wash with soap and water, etc.) and then contact your vet. Collect any material your pet may have vomited or chewed and place it in a bag to take with you when you bring your animal in for veterinary treatment.

There are also other items that can specifically hurt pets, such as choco-

late, onions and certain plants. Call animal control for specific advice or contact your veterinarian. They can give support such as inducing vomiting, giving activated charcoal (to bind poisons in the digestive tract), fluids and bloodwork.

Seizures: If a pet is having a seizure, keep them safe (away from furniture) but do not try to restrain them. Time the seizure (usually several minutes), and then contact your vet, while keeping the pet warm.

There are both resources online and courses which can help you learn more about caring for your pets while getting them to emergency care (try **avma.org** "First Aid Tips for Pet Owners" and **veterinarypartner.com** "First Aid and Emergency Care").

Always feel free to talk to your family veterinarian. We want to help you to provide the best care for your animal family members.

Animal Haven of Asheville

Call 299-1635 or animalhaven.org



Hippie

I am a 7-year-old neutered male Shih-tzu. I look like a little teddy bear now that I have been groomed. My owner became too ill to care for me and I ended up at the shelter. I am very laid back and a great guy. I am enrolled in the New Leash on Life program with my friend Lucy.



Lucy

I'm the cutest 7 pounds of love. I'm gold and white with whiskers, 9 months old, friendly with other dogs, and I even like cats. I am currently enrolled in the New Leash on Life program at the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women. I am learning new things every day!



Brother Wolf Animal Rescue

Call 505-3440 or bwar.org
Adoption Center at 31 Glendale Avenue

Demelza

Demelza is a sweet little girl, about one year old, and a total purr machine! She's quiet and calm, but curious and friendly. She's very good with other cats, as well as dogs. Contact Kristi (kes2@charter.net) for more information about Demelza.



Presto

Presto is a beautiful medium-sized rabbit waiting for a forever home. He's super sweet and calm and enjoys being stroked and petted. He loves to run around and explore. He's well-behaved and litter-trained as well. Contact Mary Ann at marsidotzo@gmail.com for more info.



Zorah

This sweet little 6-month-old guinea pig named Zorah is looking for a new home! Please contact Erin at minglewood-cottage@yahoo.com for more information about Zorah.



Jasper

Jasper is a 1.5-year-old Lab/German Shepherd mix who is great with other dogs and friendly with people. He walks great on a leash. If you are looking to add a happy-go-lucky canine to your family, then consider meeting Jasper! He is in a foster home, so e-mail janine@bwar.org to learn more!



Brother Wolf December Events

Adoption

December 5: Mast General Store, 15 Biltmore Avenue, 12-3 pm

December 30: Sanctuary Brewing company, 147 1st Avenue East, Hendersonville, 5-7:30 pm.

Fundraising

December 19: Holiday Tour and Adoption Event at Grove House, 11 Grove Street, Asheville, 2-7 pm. No fee; donations to BWAR encouraged.

December 20: Yoga with Cats at Little Volcano Yoga Studio, 62 Wall St, Asheville, from 3-5 pm. Class is \$20, and there will be raffle tickets, prizes, treats, and adoptable cats.

FINANCIAL FOCUS by Stephen Herbert

Get Your Affairs in Order for an Orderly Estate



You may be quite willing to plan an investment strategy for your retirement years. After all, it can be enjoyable to think about traveling the world, pursuing your hobbies or participating in any of the activities you've associated with an active retirement. However, once you do retire, you'll need to "shift gears" somewhat to focus on your legacy. Specifically, to protect your loved ones and ensure your intentions are clear and carried out, you'll need to do some more planning – and you'll need to share your thoughts with your family.

Here are some moves to consider:

List your assets and debts. Your family needs to be aware of your assets and debts, so share this information with them while you are alive and well.

Create a durable power of attorney. Give a trusted friend or family member a durable power of attorney to pay bills and make financial choices on your behalf if you are unable to do so.

Choose an executor. An executor is the person or entity you name in your will to carry out your wishes. An executor has a variety of responsibilities, so pick someone who is honest and capable of dealing with legal and financial matters. Talk with an attorney about how best to name your executor.

Update your will. You might have written a will many years ago, but, over time, many aspects of your life may have changed. Review your will with your attorney to ensure it reflects your current wishes.

Review benefits of a living trust. A simple will may not be enough to accom-

modate your estate-planning needs. You might want to consider establishing a living trust, which provides you with significant flexibility in distributing your assets and can help you avoid the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate. To create a trust or other estate-planning documents, you will need to work with a qualified legal professional.

Review your beneficiary designations. The beneficiary designations on your financial accounts (401(k), IRA, etc.) and your insurance policies can even supersede the directions on your will, so it's essential that you update these designations to reflect events such as divorce and remarriage. And make sure your beneficiaries have the facts they need to claim their benefits.

Share location of your legal documents. Your loved ones should know where you keep documents such as your birth certificate, will and living trust. If you keep these items in a safe deposit box, tell your family where you keep the key.

Encourage two-way communication. It's obviously necessary to communicate your final wishes to your family members – but listen to their wishes and concerns, too. For example, ask your children to agree on who gets those objects of special concern to them, such as furniture, mementos and heirlooms.

As you can see, you'll need to take several steps to fulfill your intentions – and the above list is certainly not exhaustive. So plan carefully, engage the appropriate team – financial advisor, attorney, tax professional – and put your plans in motion. By being proactive, you can greatly ease the burden on your loved ones in the future.

COMPUTER BYTES by Bill Scobie

Going and Coming



Old Stuff

Google will stop offering the latest version of their Chrome web browser for Windows XP and Vista, and OS X 10.8 in April 2016. It is unclear what Firefox's policy will be on this; and computer makers will no longer be able to sell Windows 7 computers after the end of October 2016. If you want or need a Windows 7 computer, the clock is ticking.

What's My Number?

Getting the serial number of your computer is not always easy, especially for desktops. You can find your serial number on any PC running Windows 7 through 10 by holding down the Windows key (the one with the flag on it) and typing the letter "r" to get a one-line box. In that box type the three-letter abbreviation "cmd" and click the OK button. In the old-fashioned-looking black screen that comes up, type "wmic bios get serialnumber" (without the quotes) and press the enter or return key. There you will see your computer's serial number. When you have written it down, you can close that window.

Upgrades and Apps

To help avoid extra junk software being installed, **unchecky.com** has a tool to help uncheck those boxes that are pre-checked to install other software when you are downloading desired software. It does not catch everything, so still look for pre-checked boxes before clicking through the install buttons.

Is it time to upgrade to Windows 10? Microsoft has released its first major update, fixing a variety of bugs. This might be the time to finally try it, especially if your friends already upgraded and find it fine. Or, maybe you just like free things and enjoy learning something new; remember you still have thirty days after installing the upgrade to uninstall it.

Filehippo.com, a site for finding free and trial software, has a tool to help you check for updated versions of your installed software. Their update checker **filehippo.com/updatechecker+** scans your computer to match your versions against their database of updates and lets you know if you need updates and where to get them.

Install and Refine

Firefox lovers can finally install it on their iPhones and iPads; check for it through Apple's App Store. Now that you've been using the latest iOS for a bit, (iOS 9.1 for many iPhone and iPads), look for some of these added features, like just pulling up a contact by using Search (pull down from the top of the screen or swipe right to pull up Search). You can mass-delete photos by swiping or running your finger across the photos you want to delete (assuming they are all together) to select them, no longer do you have to tap each one. And, if you use Mail, don't be surprised when appointments and dates show up in Calendar, a new feature to ease your life.

Any questions, call Bill Scobie, of Scobie.Net; fixing computers and networks for small businesses and home. 828-628-2354 or bill@scobie.net.

BUSINESS by Bill Scobie

Tropical Fish/Aquarium Store in Fairview

The Evolved Fish Cichlid and Aquarium Supply store, specializing in freshwater, tropical Cichlid fish and aquarium supplies, has opened at 1334 Charlotte Highway. The shop, which is owned and operated by husband and wife Lee Miller and Kristen Coco, offers a variety of live and dry stock, which



changes regularly with many varieties of African, Central/South American, and New World Cichlids, with something for those new to fish keeping and long-time hobbyists, too.

Visitors are welcome to stop by with questions or just to see beautiful, vibrant, freshwater Cichlid Fish, and to find out about the Betta Fish for Life Program for children and adults.

At left, a Tanzanian cichlid (protomelas) from Lake Malawi in Northwest Africa; lower left is a Ruby Green (haplochromis) from Lake Victoria also African; and below is a Geophagus cichlid (guyanasurinamensis) from South America.



Drunken Cow Studio in Fairview

Rosilyn Young, professionally known as Roz, has opened an oil painting studio, called Drunken Cows, in her home at 910 Old Fort Road.

She calls her style "whimsical fine art" since so many of her subjects seem to be having a bit of fun. She paints pet portraits, pigs, cows, giraffes, nests,



Rosilyn Young, or Roz, is happily painting drunken cows (among other things) at her studio in Fairview.



birds, roosters, leaping families, landscapes, barns, still lifes such as donuts, and more.

The name of her business came to her after she painted one of her first cows and someone said it actually looked drunk. Her work has been featured in many places, including *Cottages & Bungalows* magazine, the Huffington Post and Apartment Therapy websites, and in movies and on HGTV. She sells to all kinds of businesses, galleries and private collectors.

You can visit her cows and her other whimsical art at her website at **drunkencows.com**.

A big Thank You to Carolina Scale Crawlers for putting on such a great family friendly event!



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**OCTOBER FAIRVIEW
REAL ESTATE STATS**

		High \$	Low \$	Avg \$
Houses listed	12	2,200,000	170,000	503,982
Houses sold	9	705,000	98,900	353,308
Land listed	10	195,000	35,000	10,925
Land sold	3	85,000	35,000	66,333

Cool Mountain Realty provides the monthly real estate stats for the Fairview area (zip 28730). They have recently relocated to their own building at 771 Charlotte Highway in Fairview. If you have questions concerning real estate in our community, email Jenny Brunet at **coolmtn1@gmail.com** or call 628-3088.



Rep. John Ager Visits Americare

John Ager was invited to tour Americare Pharmacy and learn about the challenges that independent pharmacies face. Patrick and Sandi Bryant would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication to our community!



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WORSHIP & COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Fairview Sharon Candlelight Service

Fairview Sharon United Methodist Church will host a Candlelight Advent service, open to the community, on *Sunday, December 20 at 6 pm*, at 2 Laura Jackson Road.

“Blue Christmas” Comfort

The Christmas season can be less than joyful for some of us during this festive month. This special Blue Christmas worship service on *Sunday, December 13, 5 pm*, will give everyone the opportunity to acknowledge their grief and voice what gift they need to receive from the Christ child this Christmas. Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is located at 801 Charlotte Highway in Fairview.

Fairview Baptist’s Prayer

Fairview Baptist Church will present “A Christmas Prayer,” a Christmas musical drama, in worship on *Sunday, December 13 at 3 and 6 pm* and on *Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm*, on Church Road in Fairview. A nursery will be provided. For more information please call 628-2908.

B.E.A.R. Closet Ministry

Fairview Sharon United Methodist Church, 2 Laura Jackson Road, is one of several churches participating in the B.E.A.R. (Baby Equipment and Resource) Closet ministry, which offers baby equipment and resources to young families. The closet, which is free of charge, is open at Sharon Church on the first and third Mondays of each month (excluding holidays) from 3 to 7 p.m. Please see bearcloset.org to learn more.

Free Tutoring Program

A retired teacher will help with Basic Literacy skills at the Fairview Library. Specifically for teens and adults. Email Ellen at starkman53@gmail.com or call 305 724 4214.

Holiday Meal Drive

Angels of Fairview, a group of community members who want to make a difference, formed a non-profit to help families in need who are identified by the counseling departments at Fairview and Cane Creek schools. All of their efforts are funded by the generous donations of this community.

This year is the 9th Annual Holiday Meal Drive of Angels of Fairview. A donation of \$50 provides a complete meal for a family of 4-6 people, including a 10-12 pound turkey, 2 side dishes, rolls and a dessert.

Donations (tax-deductible) are needed before December 21. To make a donation, please mail to Angels of Fairview, PO Box 94, Fairview, NC 28730; drop off with your child’s teacher; or drop off at the *Town Crier* office (open 1-5 pm daily or use the window drop slot 24/7). Checks should be made payable to Angels of Fairview.

If you have questions, contact Ron Gortney at 775-7750, Laura Booth at 216-6002 or Katherine Demetris at 712-4069.

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Echo Lake Residents Say Goodbye to a Beloved Bandit

by Susan Duckett, Bandit’s families and Lynn Stanley

This Bandit was a thief of hearts. And she collected quite a few of them during her all-too-short life among the Echo Lake resident families. In some respects, Bandit was luckier than the average adopted dog. She was adopted by many neighbors at Echo Lake.

Karen and Dick Perry recall that Bandit came into their lives as a stray. “After awhile she stole our hearts. She was so full of fun and love.” Bandit stayed for about a year and then moved on to Echo Lake, but Karen remembers, “Every so often on my way home I would turn off Old Fort Road onto the road to our house and she would be waiting for me. She was always so happy to see me and would roll over to give me her belly and then lick me silly.”

David Raymond, one of Bandit’s Echo Lake families, says “She was one of the first to greet us when we moved in and she was Paloma’s first friend. I will always remember with a smile Paloma walking around the lake tapping her leg and yelling ‘Banda!’ She couldn’t quite get the ‘t’ yet. Then Bandit would come running towards her and Paloma would giggle with excitement and a bit of trepidation. Invariably, she would hide behind my legs with a big

smile on her face and get licked on the face by our beloved girl.”

Kim Riggs, who knew Bandit as Nina, also remembers her playful spirit. She used to love to pick up their solar path lights, Kim says, and one evening she saw a light bouncing through their yard. Yes, it was Bandit, running around with one in her mouth. “That dog was something else!” She also loved work gloves. “If you left your gloves outside she would take them for her collection.” Neighbor Keith Horton remembers having a word with Bandit on the subject, but though she looked sheepishly at him she didn’t drop his gloves.

Karen Kovacs adds that whenever she came to visit her parents on the lake, “Bandit would greet me upon my arrival from Florida every time.”

Bandit was protective as well as playful, recounts Rita VanNuys: “One evening after dark, I heard a noise on my deck. Without thinking, I opened the door and stepped out to investigate. Suddenly, Bandit was beside me pushing me back with her body, then running across the



deck barking and growling. After chasing a large bear off the deck and through the neighbor’s yard, she came back to sniff and lick me to be sure I was all right. This is just one of many times she has stood guard through the night to keep her neighborhood and her people safe.”

Bandit was also given the names Flicka, Molly, and Mystery by different families around the lake, but the majority called her Bandit, says Susan Duckett, and all united in her care. “Bandit considered any home around Echo Lake as her home. Bandit was special to each neighbor on the lake and also neighbors east, west, north and south of us.”

A Bandit Fund was established by the neighbors and was managed by Robbie Capps for Bandit’s trips to Fairview Animal Hospital, where she received excellent care and made more friends, too, thanks to

Drs. Hutsell, Lloyd and staff, and Bandit’s special friend, John Swart.

Sadly, on October 10, Bandit was accidentally hit by a car and did not survive; and once again her families came together, this time to see her home.

Terry Capps and Bill VanNuys built the coffin, and Tim and Terry Capps dug the grave. Susan and Frank Duckett wrote and read a farewell poem at the graveside. Bandit is buried under a tree, on a bank with a good view of the lake.

Perhaps it is not that Bandit stole hearts, but that she entered them. For clearly, in the hearts of all her adopted families, Bandit still lives on.



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Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Prayer Meeting/Youth/Team/Kids - 7:00 p.m.

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Two Young Community Activists to Make Us Proud

by Laurie Sexton and Lynn Stanley | Photos of Alex by Steven Keull

Jessika Davis

Nine-year-old Jessika Davis is a native of Fairview. She attends Fairview Elementary, where she enjoys studying as a fourth grader. Her interests include going to church, Master Club, 4-H, horseback riding and biking. She loves to help wherever she can.

Jessika's association with 4-H has awakened a sense of concern and pride within



her and given her a servant's heart, and she takes very seriously her pledge to serve her community and country.

Buncombe County 4-H has taken on a drive to clean the roadsides of our communities; the competition for miles completed has driven the 4-Hers of Buncombe County to get out and pick up trash everywhere.

Recently, Jessika took on the one-mile stretch of Miller Road. At completion, there were six bright orange bags for the DOT to pick up ... and one hubcap.

Jessika has been with the Horse Spirits 4-H club for over two years and has participated in the completion of other projects such as making blankets for those who needed a bed and helping an invalid with repairing a driveway, just to name two of many.

Under the watchful eye of Kim Eggert, Jessika and the other youngsters in her group have blossomed into more responsible young people. She is excited about future endeavors with her group.

Our gratitude and admiration to Jessika; we look forward to seeing more of her, and her giving spirit, in our community.



Alex Puzerewski

Alex Puzerewski has been involved in the Boy Scouts for more than half his sixteen years, since he began as a Wolf Cub at the age of seven; and in November he earned the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout, in part due to a project he planned and carried out for another community resource, the Fairview Welcome Table.

Alex is home-schooled, which allows



him to take part regularly with his parents in the Welcome Table's Thursday lunches. He became aware that the volunteers at the Table had trouble bringing in supplies in inclement weather, and he decided that his Eagle Scout project would be to build a protective awning over the door.

With the help of his father, family and other Scouts, the construction of the portico took about a week. But, Alex says, "with all the planning it was a lot longer than that, and to make sure it was all

done properly we had to pull a lot of permits and have 5 or 6 inspections." Alex has also worked on other Scout projects, helping to build a brick pathway at the VA Hospital and refurbish a public kiosk in Mills River.

Alex is also active on the Asheville Youth Rowing Team, is a two-time state champion gymnast and when he has a little time to spare, enjoys dirt biking. Not surprisingly, though, when he thinks of the future, he is most attracted to the field of engineering. He plans to apply to the Merchant Marine Academy in New York, one of the country's four military academies. As a graduate Alex will be able to practice engineering, travel and serve his country as well.

Congratulations, gratitude and best wishes to this fine young man.



From left, Mark Puzerewski on the ladder, Wes Keull and Alex on the roof



NEW MEMBER SPECIAL!

Membership Special

New members joining now pay annual dues of \$60 and get the rest of 2015 for free! New membership will be good until 12/31/2016.

Welcome New Members

- Lee Miller/Kristen Coco of *The Evolved Fish*

TIME TO RENEW

Members — Time to Renew for 2016!

Hate those pesky emails that are generated from our website automatically? Take a moment now and renew for next year. You can do it online at fairviewbusiness.com, at the *Town Crier* office, or by mail (see yellow box below).

FBA Holiday Party

Our annual party is right around the corner. Great food including light apps, main course, salad and desserts plus live music for listening and dancing. Cost is \$10/member and guest (2 tickets). Additional guests are \$20/person. Additional guests are \$20/person. **Party is on Monday, December 7 at Highland Brewing's new event space. Prepay and make your reservations RIGHT NOW if not already**

done. There will be a cash bar (\$4 beer, \$5 wine). Food prepared by MooseRidge Catering, The Local Joint and Lacey Pelly Desserts.

Meeting Minutes

Member Minutes are always available by logging into FairviewBusiness.com.

November Member Meeting

At the November meeting, members had an opportunity to go "back to preschool." The businessmen and women heard about the mission and the intentional learning at Fairview Preschool from Director Chris Lance. Fairview Preschool has been a part to the Fairview community for five years, offering a developmentally age-appropriate, hands-on learning environment.



Interested in Joining?

Join at FairviewBusiness.com or send \$60 check to FBA, PO Box 2251, Fairview, NC 28730. Or join at the Town Crier office, 1185F Charlotte Hwy, M-F, 1-5 pm. FBA Voicemail – 585-7414

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“As a land planner and beginning farmer and permaculture enthusiast, I learned about economies of scale, and after cultivating with a fleet of tractors on over 30 acres of production my first year farming, I chose to do my second year apprenticeship on a smallholding that used a two-wheel tractor for all its tillage needs, here in the foothills of NC,” said Chris Link, Community Farm & Food Associate with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC).

Link recently led a BCS Tractor workshop and demonstration at SAHC’s Community Farm.

“I first saw the two-wheel tractor used at Eliot Coleman’s farm in Maine, which was scaled as a market garden around a homestead, under three acres,” he continued. “This is the size farm we know is feasible for a couple of people farming, and though many farmers will scale up to larger acreages in time, many who practice intensive growing methods will stay right about this size and will not need

larger equipment. Two-wheel tractors are just right for many operations — not too big and not too small. They are also particularly nimble and user-friendly on our hillsides and small pathways, and therefore more efficient when you are working with a smaller land base.”

Background

In the United States, Gravely Brand developed a walk-behind tractor as early as 1911, but by the 1970s production had all but halted because commodity/cash crops had replaced much of what were once small family farms.

The BCS two-wheel tractor was first developed in Italy in 1942 as a walk-behind sickle bar mower for small-scale hay mowing on mountainsides. The design gained popularity in the 1950s and replaced draft power on small farms in Europe. With more than one million customers in 80+ countries, BCS is now the largest manufacturer of two-wheeled tractors and attachments in Europe.

Today, both Italian brands Grillo and BCS are available through dealers in the U.S., and are rising in popularity among small commercial growers as well as land managers, landscapers and hobbyists due to the lower cost point, reputation for quality, and versatility.

Benefits and Main Features

Two-wheel tractors are designed with one engine and implements to perform many tasks, in contrast to the more traditional method of using multiple tractors/ machines for varied tasks. Much more time and money is necessary to acquire,

learn to safely operate, maintain and store the traditional equivalent of what one walk-behind, two-wheel machine can do. Multi-tasking implements and ease of switching implements is another benefit of these smaller machines.

“The two-wheel tractor mechanization works best for a growing area over 5,000 square feet and up to 3-5 acres, and with a small turning radius it is great for smaller, tighter cultivated areas,” explained Link. “Overall, you could expect to pay \$1,550 to \$4,500 for a new machine (and add \$800 for a diesel engine model). There are also used models available.”

Special features that come standard include: reversing handlebars, lockable differential with steering brakes, PTO drive (separate from wheel drive for different speeds), gas or diesel capability and electric start, quick-attach coupling, and being completely gear driven.

“As with traditional tractors, safety is still paramount: all the same rules apply when it comes to safety when operating this smaller tractor as a larger one — it is still a tractor.”



Chris Link from the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy demonstrates the use of a two-wheel tractor.

SAHC plans to host more educational workshops (free and open to the public) on our Community Farm in 2016. Visit Appalachian.org or follow us on Facebook for updates!

Since 1974, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy has protected over 68,000 acres of unique plant and animal habitat, clean water, farmland and scenic vistas in six focus areas — the Highlands of Roan, Black Mountains, Smoky Mountains, Balsam Mountains, French Broad River Valley, and Appalachian Trail Countryside. In addition to preserving land, SAHC’s conservation work includes guided hikes, volunteer workdays, educational workshops, and farmland access initiatives. For more information, visit www.appalachian.org.

A White Christmas?



With the winter holidays just a few weeks away, many folks would like to have a bit of the white stuff around during the Christmas–New Year’s season. The map shown in this article gives the odds for a white Christmas based on what the climatological averages are between 1980-2010.

Let’s dig into the actual snowfall numbers for the area. In terms of a white Christmas, let’s take a look at the historical record. These snowfall numbers/percentages are based on the records taken at the Asheville Airport, and the early years of the record are based on the data from the old Asheville city office, which was in the Grove Arcade Building. So the probabilities for the rural Fairview area may be a couple of percentage points higher, but generally it will be very close.

The chance of seeing at least a trace or a few flakes of snow on Christmas day is about 27%. This is based on the daily snowfall records that go back continuously from 1888 through 2015. There has been at least a trace of snow reported on 34 separate occasions on Christmas Day. The largest snowfall on Christmas Day actually happened just a few years ago, in 2010. In that year anywhere between 8–10 inches of snow fell, making it the snowiest Christmas on record. (In fact, that was the last year we received any snow on Christmas day.) The probability of getting accumulating snow — let’s say a third of an inch or more — isn’t that

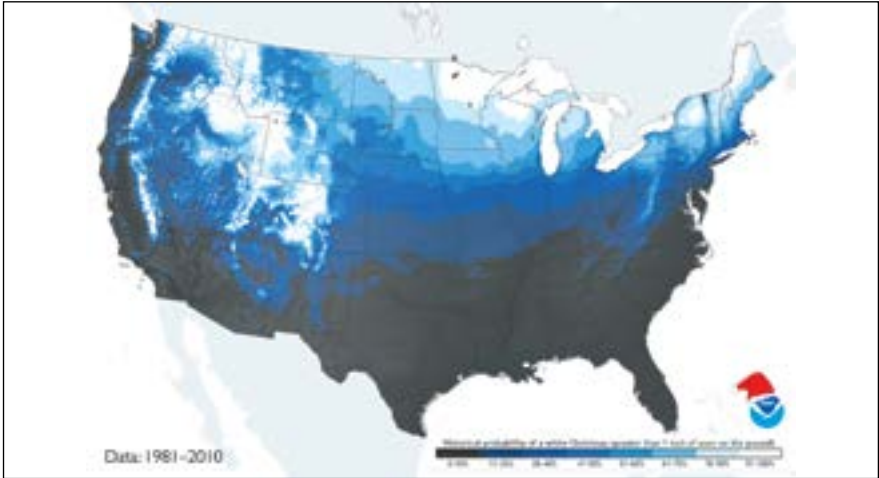
high, only about 7%. This has happened on Christmas day on only nine out of 126 occasions since 1888. We will have to wait and see what this year will bring.

One of the strangest White Christmases in the U.S. in recent memory was back in 2004, when a developing low off the Texas coast brought 5–10 inches of snow to inland areas of southeast Texas. Brownsville, Texas, which is at the same latitude as Miami, picked up 1.5 inches of snow that Christmas Day — the only day in which they have had accumulating snow dating back to 1895.

In terms of precipitation, in the last three months we’ve had a more active pattern bringing plenty of moisture our way. In the Fairview area, we were actually starting to think about dry and possibly even drought conditions during the summer. The first six months of

2015 brought just 19 inches of precipitation, and we were starting to have to do some watering of our crops and gardens. However, that situation turned around by late summer, with an increasing amount of rain being recorded. The yearly numbers aren’t in yet, but if you think it’s been very cloudy and wet recently — you’re right. We have made up for our precipitation deficit and are at or above our normal precipitation for the year in Fairview, with almost 50 inches of precipitation recorded through mid-November. This is in part due to the El Niño pattern, which tends to bring moisture into our area from the south and east.

If you combine our current “wet streak” with the probability of snowfall for Christmas, the odds favor a wet but not necessarily a white Christmas this



DECEMBER’S TRIVIA QUESTION
is answered in this article.

JANUARY’S TRIVIA QUESTION
What is “cold air damming” and how does it bring freezing rain and ice storms to our area?

year. But on the other hand it’s been five years since we had any snow on Christmas day.

The old adage “as the days grow shorter, the days get colder” has a bit of truth for December. In terms of averages, temperatures continue to drop as we head through the month, with average highs about 53 degrees at the start of December dropping to 47 by month’s end. The lows drop from 32 at the start of the month to 27 by month’s end. The warmest day on record was 81 degrees on December 31st in 1951, and the coldest was a numbing -7 degrees on the 25th in 1983. The average precipitation for the Fairview area is around 4 inches with the average December snowfall close to 2 inches.

Meteorologist Tom Ross managed NOAA’s Climate Database Modernization Program and was involved in educational and community outreach during his 25-year career at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville. He was a senior weather forecaster at Accu Weather in Pennsylvania. Tom currently teaches classes on weather and climate at various venues in Western North Carolina.



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There is only so much pie to go around, and if you get a big piece there is less for me. Someone gives and someone gets. That’s the typically human default.

And then there’s the win-win, which “sees as much of life as possible as a co-operative arena, not a competitive one. Win-win is a frame of mind and heart that means we both get to eat the pie and it tastes pretty darn good!” (Stephen Covey)

Asheville has more than its fair share of win-win mentality, so when the *Mountain Xpress* saw a quadruple win-win-win-win in action in other cities across the country, they knew this was the perfect place to give it a go. How? By facilitating a creative way for donors, businesses and nonprofits to each benefit by helping each other.

This is year one for Give!Local Asheville, and I can guarantee you’ll want to check it out. It’s a concept we’re all working to explain because it’s sheer creative genius.

You win because when you donate as little as \$10 (for children it’s as little as \$5) you get in return a packet of coupons redeemable for great freebies and discounts. The more you give, the more incentives you “win.”

What do businesses win for donating these incentives? They get *you* redeeming your freebies and discounts in January and February (when all incentives must be redeemed). That’s their slow time of year, and they’d love to see our chilly faces walk through their doors.

What do the nonprofits win? Greater awareness and the donations raised.

Even the *Mountain Xpress* wins; they get community appreciation for doing the heavy lifting of creating a website and the PR that makes this possible.

When you head to the Give!Local website (givelocalguide.org), you’ll see real-time donations scrolling across the bottom from folks just like you. It’s the easiest website imaginable. On the easy-to-navigate website, you’ll see the nonprofits, the incentives and the sponsors menus, and checkout is a breeze. Donate to one or more nonprofits and your total giving will be rewarded by local incentives (free stuff plus discounts). The Give!Local Campaign is open now through December 31st for giving, and incentives must be redeemed during January and February 2016.

We of course hope you’ll donate to The Lord’s Acre, *your* local nonprofit chosen to be among the first 30 for the launch of this great idea here in Asheville. What do you say, Fairview? By donating to us through Give!Local you can win awesome incentives, The Lord’s Acre will benefit, and we show Asheville that Fairview is much more than a satellite community. Fairview is all over this thing called hunger and we have the greatest community around with which to meet it head on.



Note: For some reason we’re listed under “environment” instead of “people” on the Give!Local website.

December in the Garden — Not!

Besides writing grants, educational material and planning, here’s my to-do list for December:

- 1. Relax knowing any snow we get is adding nitrogen to the soil. Rest

- up but keep in shape.
- 2. Imagine our fall spinach and garlic hibernating until it takes off in spring. If you didn’t plant these, do both around mid-September next year.
- 3. Register for the Organic Grower’s School 2016: Go online to organicgrowers-school.org and start marking the classes I’ll take March 11, 12, 13th at UNCA. This is the best and most affordable regional conference on raising and processing your own food, and it’s only 20 minutes away.

Sites

Some favorite local sites are theorganicgrowersschool.org, livingwebfarms.org, asapconnections.org, and carolinafarmstewards.org.

You’ll find more great info at these not-so-local sites: ATTRA, National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, an excellent source of all types of info: attra.ncat.org; SARE, Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education: sare.org; excellent insect ID sites: vegipm.tamu.edu/imageindex.htm and bugguide.net/node/view/182; Johnny’s Selected Seeds (info, charts, videos): johnnyseeds.com; and maninoveralls.blogspot.com

Podcasts

Growing a Greener World, The Self-Sufficient Gardener, Root Simple, Organic Gardener by Jackie Marie Beyer,



Someone donated 2 old tractors and a riding lawn mower and TLA didn’t have anywhere to put them. So Steve Norris & Kendall Hale donated the wood from one of their personal farm buildings that they were tearing down and Steve, Will Hamilton and Said Abdullah built this great shed. Susan Sides picked up the metal heart at a local yard sale knowing it would be the perfect topper to show the big heart of those that give so much.

Real Dirt with Ken Druse, and A Way to Garden by Margaret Roach.

Books

Favorite books for beginners and intermediates: *The Vegetable Gardener’s Bible* by Edward C. Smith and *The Complete Compost Gardening Guide* by Barbara Pleasant and Deborah L. Martin. Favorite first permaculture book: *Gaia’s Garden* by Toby Hemenway. Favorite small-scale market gardener books: *Sustainable Market Farming* by Pam Dawlings and *The Market Gardener* by Jean-Martin Fortier. I’ll be reading *Hope Beneath our Feet*, *Seed Underground*, *The Unsettling of America*, *Reclaiming Our Food* and *Paradise Lot*.

Catalogs

Interesting seed catalogs to try or re-try: Landis Valley Heirloom Seed (specializing in Pennsylvania Dutch heirloom varieties); Baker Creek Seeds (all heirlooms); Gourmet Seed International (untreated European seeds); Redwood City Seeds (specializing in the world’s hottest peppers); Totally Tomatoes; Bountiful Gardens of Ecology Action; The Cook’s Garden (focusing on salad crops); Pinetree Garden Seeds (focusing on small packets); Seed Saver’s Exchange; Southern Exposure Seed Exchange; and Tomato Grower’s Supply Co.

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The Hawthorn Tree



As winter winds awaken and stream down the mountains, the holiday season is upon us, and the ancient wheels of time shift towards the winter solstice. It is a time of celebration and festivity and an opportunity to enter the silent stillness and pristine beauty of winter. All the leaves are down from the trees, feeding the good earth with their living mulch, and yet edible berries and wild foods still remain in the landscape.

Late this fall, I was on top of a mountain in a wild apple orchard that is at least 60-70 years old, and the trees were loaded with apples. The apple trees were so laden with fruit that a huge bear took to

Hawthorn seeds **MUST** be removed before the fruit is eaten; the seeds contain cyanide.

they were holly trees, but the shape was wrong. I was thrilled that these trees were so gnarly, covered in lichen and looked quite old; I looked at the berries and the giant barb-like thorns and was delighted to find hawthorn trees (*Crataegus monogyna*) covered in thousands of red berries. I popped a few berries in my mouth, spit out the large singular, poisonous seed and enjoyed the tart, fruity flavor.

Those brilliant red berries took me down memory lane, and I remembered vividly my first encounter with a hawthorn tree. I was 19 and out for a walk

with my dear poet friend and feral sage, Christopher Floor; it was 10 degrees as we came upon a huge hawthorn tree, its branches intertwined around a street lamp. I had never seen one before. Chris shimmied up the light post, grabbed a few berries and said, “Try these frozen hawthorn berries.” They were mildly sweet, kind of tart and refreshing. I was delighted and climbed up myself, avoiding the prominent thorns, and gathered a handful of berries. What I remember most was Chris saying, “Whatever you do, don’t lick



Pulp from the berries can be used for jellies or tea.

sleeping near one of the trees, so it could have breakfast in bed, I imagine! I noticed several trees in the meadow with bright red berries and from a distance assumed

the metal pole, as your tongue will freeze to it.” Well I was young and didn’t believe him and after eating another berry, I put my tongue to the pole, and it did freeze



Hawthorns are tough, gnarly trees, native to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

to it, and Chris had to go get water from his dad’s house and unfreeze my tongue! Lessons learned!

Hawthorn trees are members of the rose family and can reach 30 feet in height. The genus *Crataegus* comes from a Greek word meaning flowering thorn. The species name, *Monogyna*, means one seed. Hawthorns are tough, gnarly trees, native to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and can become quite ancient, living up to 700 years in age. Common names include mayblossom, quickthorn and whitethorn. Small white, hermaphroditic flowers appear after the leaves in spring, and later in the year produce numerous “haws,” which are oval, dark red fruits with one large seed inside. There are many species of these trees, and even though all the seeds within the genera are poisonous and need to be discarded, the fruits are highly edible, extremely high in pectin and are frequently made into jellies.

Hawthorn extracts made from the berries, leaves and flowers are powerful medicinals for the heart and are natural beta-blockers. I was delighted to find these trees this summer, as I had recently been diagnosed with borderline hypertension and had decided to come off the blood pressure medicine due to the side effects. With my physician’s consent, I chose to lose weight, meditate and begin using commercially prepared hawthorn berry capsules along with tea made from the fresh berries. After two months, my blood pressure has returned to perfect levels.

The seeds must be removed, as they contain cyanide and are toxic enough to

kill if eaten in quantity. Tea can be made from the fresh new flowers and berries. Berries can be de-seeded and the pulp can be used for jellies or tea.

The trees also provide terrific nesting habitats for wild birds; predators avoid the tree’s lethal spikes, and the berries are an important food source. In Europe, hawthorns have been used for centuries as a living fence, and when grown as a hedge shrub, create an impenetrable barrier of wicked thorns.

Hawthorns have an important history in both pagan and Christian symbolism. Local folks and healers made amulets out of hawthorn to ward off evil spirits. Hawthorn is also associated with the old Beltain rites of “fetching the May” into the village to bestow fertility and plenty and to celebrate the return of the green life force. Many believe Christ’s crown of thorns was made of hawthorn. According to legend, in Glastonbury, England, Joseph of Arimathea brought the grail cup to Britain after the death of Christ and struck his hawthorn staff into the ground, where it burst into flowers, and consequently founded the first Christian Church of England in Glastonbury. What is unusual is that the old hawthorn trees there bloom in May but in many years, bloom a second time in December!

May your hearth fires burn bright and warm; may the winter holidays be filled with joy and peace as we enter the New Year; and may we all enjoy and appreciate the profound blessings and gifts that our natural world bestows upon us. Contact Roger at rogerklinger@charter.net.

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GreyBeard Realty	298-1540	Fletcher Post Office	684-6376
Hickory Nut Gap Farm.....	628-1027	Gerton Post Office	625-4080
High Country Truck & Van	222-2308		
HomeTrust Bank.....	259-8000	COMMUNITY CENTERS:	
John Earnhardt Concerts...	864-985-2908	Cane Creek CC	628-2276
Karakido Karate School	712-1288	Fairview CC	338-9005
Keller Williams, Jim Buff	771-2310	Spring Mountain CC	628-2363
Kieffer's Subs	772-0568	Upper Hickory Nut Gorge	625-0264
Long Time Sun Yoga	Visit us!		
Looking Glass Creamery	458-0088	MISCELLANEOUS:	
MAHEC Family Health	628-8250	Fairview Town Crier	628-2211
Marvins Tree Service	628-1353	Fairview Business Assoc.....	338-9628
McCrary Stone	649-2008	Fairview Farmers Market.....	550-3867
McDade, Dawn	337-9173	Fairview Library.....	250-6484
McKinney Insurance	684-5020	Food for Fairview	628-4322
Mitch Contracting.....	252-0694	The Lord's Acre Garden	628-3688
Moores Pond Farm	712-2753	Meals on Wheels	253-5286

The Fairview Town Crier

THE VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY™

OFFICE OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY 1 – 5 PM
1185-F Charlotte Highway (office)

628-2211

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730

www.fairviewtowncrier.com

OFFICE MANAGER — ADVERTISING / SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Subscriptions are \$30 per year (Mail check to address above).

Submissions/Announcements/Events/Stories

Announcements, community news, upcoming events, Just Personals, Letters, etc. will be published free as space allows. Send a SASE if you would like your photo returned. Articles submitted must have a content and tone in keeping with the Town Crier's editorial policy. All submissions will be edited for clarity, style and length. Materials must be received by the 10th of the month preceding publication. Include name and phone number. Unsolicited manuscripts/photos are welcomed, and will be returned if a SASE is included. Anonymous submissions will not be published. The Town Crier reserves the right to reject editorial or advertising it deems unfit for publication.

Editorial Policy

The Fairview Town Crier reserves the right to refuse any advertising or editorial submission deemed inappropriate for the tone and style of our non-profit community newspaper. Information provided has been submitted and a best effort has been made to verify legitimacy. Views expressed in columns and/or articles do not represent those of The Fairview Town Crier. Email editor@fairviewtowncrier.com or mail to Fairview Town Crier, PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730.

Letters of 400 words or less may be submitted. All letters may be edited and will print as space allows. No letters will be published anonymously. We will not print letters that endorse or condemn a specific business or individual, contain profanity or are clearly fraudulent. Views expressed do not represent those of The Fairview Town Crier. Include name, address and phone. Email letters to editor@fairviewtowncrier.com or mail to: Fairview Town Crier, PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730.



Upper Hickory Nut Gorge
Highway 74A in Gerton

To rent: call Margaret Whitt at 625-0264
or email mwhitt@du.edu

Fairview

1357 Charlotte Highway

To rent: 338-9005 or email
fairviewcommunitycenter@gmail.com

Spring Mountain

807 Old Fort Road

To rent: call Bruce at 280-9533

DECEMBER 2015 CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT

HORSE PASTURE FOR RENT. Horse pasture for rent. 3.5 acres. Stall and storage space. \$100/horse/month up to 2 horses. Contact Frazier (fworth1@bellsouth.net) or call 768-2694.

TWO OFFICES PLUS BATHROOM. Convenient Fairview location in Cane Creek area. \$350 per month. Call Jenny at 779-4473.

FOR SALE

TWO RHODE ISLAND RED ROOSTERS. Very attractive, eight months old. 989-9848

SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION/ HANDYMAN

SMALL CONSTRUCTION/REPAIR Experienced retired builder available. Carpentry, remodeling, repair, concrete work, small barns, porches & gazebos. Steve Norris, 777-7816, earthsun2@gmail.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT Does your house need a face lift or just a nip and tuck? 30 years of exp. in home improvement. Reliable and insured. Call Charlie at 989-4477.

HOME CARE / CNA

COMPANION/CNA available for Private Duty, In-Home Care. CPR, Hospice Certified. 15 years exp. with excellent references. Flex. hours, 24-hour shifts available. Dependable, non-smoker. Call 400-1699 cell.

HOUSE KEEPING/ ERRANDS

ATTN: RETIREES! HOME AID, laundry, light housekeeping, chores, dr. appts., errands, etc. Insured, 24 hr schedule, excellent references, reasonable rates. Call Ellen, 628-0189

HOUSECLEANING

TRADITIONAL/GREEN CLEANING. Experienced, references available. Flexible days and hours. Call Ana at 582-1252.

LAWN/YARD/CLEARING

PRAYTOR'S LANDSCAPING General Landscaping, Grading, Retaining Walls, Plantings, Mulch, Erosion Control, Drainage Work. Please call 674-4339 or email mattpraytor@yahoo.com.

CLASSES

ART CLASSES:

ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS IN THE RIVER ARTS DISTRICT. Established school with excellent references and top instructors. All levels welcomed. Many classes offered year round. See www.310art.com or call 776-2716

ART CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 6–7:30 pm, by painter Roger Jones. \$25/class. Call Roger at 712-1288.

DOG TRAINING

THE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF ASHEVILLE is accepting enrollment in Winter classes (January 14-March 3, 2016) for puppy and adult dogs. Certificates are available for purchase of classes as a gift. obedienceclubofasheville.org.

MUSIC CLASSES

PATIENT, COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTION IN GUITAR AND MANDOLIN. Bluegrass, jazz, and other traditional styles. Over 40 years experience, references 747-9616.

EXPERIENCED PIANO TEACHER convenient location on 74A in Fairview. Artistic teaching. Children through adult. Free interview lesson. Call Suzan at 777-0061.

WELLNESS CLASSES:

Yoga, Relaxation Meditation AND Transformation with Tami Zoeller. An intimate, fully equipped studio at 90 Taylor Road in Fairview. Call 280-0297 for class schedule and any questions you may have. Cost is \$10 per class.

NOTICES

CRIER CLASSIFIED ADS WORK!

Only \$10 for 20 words and 25 cents each word over
Classified Ads must be PREPAID

Free ads for Churches, Nonprofits, Yard Sales, Lost & Found

Email ads to Candice at office@FairviewTownCrier.com

Mail payment to: Town Crier Classifieds, PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730

or pay at office. or drop in dropslot at office window.



Donation Form

Happy to help with my tax-deductible donation to the Fairview Town Crier.

The *Fairview Town Crier* is a non-profit newspaper entering its 20th year of publication. It brings community news and events FREE to every mailbox and PO Box in Fairview and Gerton and part of Fletcher and Reynolds monthly... that's over 8,400 households. Public support is critical to our maintaining our office, which in turn supports other non-profits, community and civic organizations, as well as our non-profit mailing permit. This makes postage affordable for mailing. We appreciate your support, when you can, with whatever you can give. We love our community and want to hear from you so drop us a line from time to time. Or call any day, Monday – Friday, 1 – 5 pm, 628-2211

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____ ☐ PLEASE SEND A REMINDER EVERY _____ MONTHS

☐ MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED ☐ PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD ONCE

☐ CASH IS ENCLOSED CC # _____ EXP _____

☐ SEND RECEIPT SEC CODE _____ BILLING ADDRESS ZIP _____

MAIL TO: Fairview Town Crier, PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730, drop off at office or dropslot at 1185F Charlotte Hwy (next to Elena the Groomer & Electric Guitar Shop) or donate securely online at **FairviewTownCrier.com**



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1303063 10/13

State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL

The Fairview Town Crier 2015 Advertising Rates

The Town Crier is mailed free to 8,600 households in Fairview, Gerton, Reynolds and east Fletcher. Copies are available at the Town Crier office, Fairview Library and retail establishments throughout the community. A PDF version including all ads is posted on our Facebook page and website for online viewing. Free ad design available.

COLOR DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page Color	12X = \$330	6X = \$358	1X = \$385
Half Page Color	12X = \$214	6X = \$236	1X = \$253
Quarter Page Color	12X = \$132	6X = \$148	1X = \$160
Eighth Page Color	12X = \$94	6X = \$110	1X = \$122
Business Card Color	12X = \$60	6X = \$70	1X = \$75

BLACK DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page BW	12X = \$302	6X = \$330	1X = \$358
Half Page BW	12X = \$182	6X = \$204	1X = \$220
Quarter Page BW	12X = \$104	6X = \$122	1X = \$132
Eighth Page BW	12X = \$62	6X = \$78	1X = \$88
Business Card BW	12X = \$40	6X = \$50	1X = \$55

NONPROFIT AD RATE IS 20% OFF APPLICABLE RATE.

NOTE: 1X ads are payable in advance. **SAVE MONEY:** On an annual or 6 month contract, you can go up and down in size and/or color and still enjoy the discount. Prepaid annual contracts receive a 13th month free.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Minimum \$10.00 for 20 words; 25¢ per word thereafter
[example: 27 word ad would be \$11.75.]

All classified ads must be prepaid.

Notices and personal ads not selling anything are free.

All print classified ads run online for free at
www.FairviewTownCrier.com



Jim Buff, CRS
828 771-2310
www.jimbuff.com
email@jimbuff.com
86 Asheland Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801



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McDOWELL CDR 126 Acres prime development property, ideal for residential, subdivision or commercial, paved road frontage, cleared and wooded, creek adjoins property, a rare find! **ML 58576872, \$780,000**



NEW LEOMINSTER Beautiful, spacious 3 BR, 3 Bath home with amazing views, incredible kitchen, den 2-car garage lge. mudroom above cow lt porch, enclosed side porch, full bath – easily finished, HOME WARRANTY, private, wooded setting. **ML 58572764, \$385,000**



NORTH Beautiful 5.6 acres rolling farmland w/ incredible home, lg MBR, master bath w/ jetted tub, wraparound cow lt porch, 2 car garage, detached garage, bonus room, barn and outbuildings. Call Tamara Fox @ 773-3712, **ML 58573504, \$305,000**



HICKORY CREEK 3-car garage, spacious 3 BR, 2.5 bath home on a private 1.34 acre lot, gorgeous kitchen, jetted tub and some heated floors, gas fireplace, office, game room, rear deck and covered deck. **ML 58576829, \$314,900**



FAIRVIEW Come sit & relax in your own hot tub on the cow lt porch of this 4 BR, 3 bath Cape Cod home w/ private, majestic Mt views, beautiful rock FP, massive game room, out bldg, absolutely landscaped yard. **ML 58573274, \$349,900**



SUGAR MOUNTAIN Cute 2 BR, 2 bath home near Western Wilson College, new carpet, level 6.47 acres of land, mostly pastures, tons of frontage on Sugar Mountain River, sheds, greenhouse, full basement. **ML 58577440, \$289,000**



CARLETON Immaculate 3 BR, 3 bath home, wonderfully private .84 acre lot, fenced backyard, HOME WARRANTY, large rear deck, updated kitchen, office, den, plus a huge out building. **ML 58568824, \$274,900**



NORTH 3 BR, 3 bath home on private acre lot, wonderful subdivision, quiet, peaceful setting, LR w/ brick FP, den w/ lobby room, carport deck & large back deck, HOME WARRANTY, 2-car garage. **ML 58568874, \$229,900**



NORTH 7.83 private acres – easily developed, large one level home, recently updated, 3 BR, 2 bath, great views, good sized rooms, HOME WARRANTY, Livingroom w/FP, large family room, tons of storage. **ML 58572624, \$279,900**



SOUTH Fantastic location, 2 lots totaling 1.50 acre lot with FUTURE zoning. Includes a 3 BR house w/ great, fireplace, 2-car garage, newer roof, outbuilding, outstanding commercial property. **ML 58 687772, \$279,900**



ENIGMA SCHOOL DISTRICT! 3 BR home, great established neighborhood, family room, deck, fenced back yard – large lot, fresh paint & new carpet, kitchen appliances. **ML 58568777, \$154,900**



LEICESTERSHIRE Great old farmhouse w/ BR, 1.66 private, peaceful acres, HOME WARRANTY, deck, creek, carpet, no thru traffic. **ML 58562076, \$149,900**

RESULTS!

Overlook Dr.....	Pending in 7 days	Fairfax Ave.....	Pending in 7 days
Noble Rd.....	Pending in 27 days	Hanover Rd.....	Pending in 13 days
Cameila Lane.....	Pending in 27 days	Pisgah View Rd.....	Pending in 21 days
Lakewood Dr.....	Pending in 7 days	Elk Mountain Rd.....	Pending in 8 days
Weldon Way.....	Pending in 24 days	Blalock Ave.....	Pending in 35 days
Richmond Ave.....	Pending in 3 days	Beech Spring Dr.....	Pending in 5 days
Mitchell Ave.....	Pending in 2 days	Lynwood Ave.....	Pending in 6 days
Max Street.....	Pending in 7 days	Meadowbrook Ave.....	Pending in 5 days