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# The Fairview Town Crier SEPTEMBER 2020 VOL. 24, No. 9 | FAIRVIEW, NC | FAIRVIEW TOWN CRIER. COM

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# 2020

# A Reminder for Election Season

As your non-profit community newspaper, the *Town Crier* strives to bring positive regional news, event listings, local history and general interest articles to our readers. Additionally, we provide a vehicle for businesses to advertise in the community where they do commerce. We allocate space for the current elected or appointed officials directly responsible for our locale to deliver updates to our readership. Although a bit more daunting, we do everything possible to maintain these policies of neutrality during election periods that can become passionate and at times even contentious. We always do our best to deliver information that is useful to our readers, including voting locations, early and mail-in voting particulars, candidates slated to appear on our ballots, etc. As a monthly paper, we are not able to include late revisions, and some details may change or not be available prior to press time. And then, sometimes mistakes happen or items are overlooked. We can promise that everyone on our staff will do their best to present the most current, complete data available when we go to press, but we encourage our readers to double-check website resources provided for the most up-to-date information.

All paid advertising placed by political parties, candidates, support groups, etc. will be required to present information that adheres to the *Crier*'s overall editorial policies of not criticizing any person or entity. Sample ballots and candidate or party endorsements are strictly the opinion of the advertising entity and do not in any way reflect the *Crier*'s support.

— Sandie Rhodes, Publisher

This historic Fairview barn (circa 1860) is on the property with Lissie Wright's cabin (est. 1895). According to Bruce Whitaker, it was built by Peter Redmon, the Tranthams or John Whitaker. Note the hand-hewn logs and mortise and tenon construction. Thanks to Dana Irwin for the photos.



# **Looking for Old Barns in Fairview**

By Clark Aycock

I grew up on a hundred-year-old farm in a rural, farming community outside Charlotte. On our property, we had a granary, a cow barn with tin siding and roofing, and a big chicken coop. These old structures, with warping boards pulling out homemade nails, seemed like they were ready to collapse at any time. But those buildings, like the old barns found around Fairview, are still standing today—a true link to history.

I love old barns. (The wasps that live in them...well, that's another story.) So, I was interested to recently learn about the Appalachian Barn Alliance (appalachianbarns.org), whose mission is to capture, in oral histories, photographs and

architectural drawings, the evolution of the Appalachian barn. They've identified the location and history of many barns in Madison County and have produced maps for driving tours.

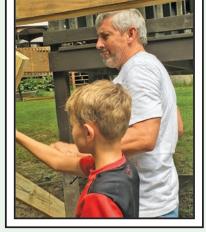
I'd like to do something similar for Fairview, with your help. We're asking our readers to send in the location of any old barns in the area. And if you know any history associated with the barn—who built it, when it was built, what it was built for, how it was constructed, etc.— as well as the current owners, we'd love to learn that too.

We'll keep you up-to-date on our progress and eventually create a map so you can explore on your own.

To participate, email any info you have to copy@fairviewtowncrier.com or call or text 828-771-6983.

# Outside the Norm: Fairview in 2020





**Laurie S.:** She and her husband built a waterfall pond.

**Karen L.**: Her husband Jim built a treehouse with his grandson, Banks.

Last month, we asked you to document how you've been living under quarantine, and nearly 30 readers submitted photos.

Congratulations to the three winners of our drawing. Michael Gentilini III, Jessica Hegge and Karen Lowe each won a gift card. Karen requested that we donate her gift back to the *Crier*. Thanks, Karen—and thanks

Turn to pages
16–17 to see
a sampling of
life in Fairview
during the
summer of
2020.

for all the support we've received from our readers this year. We hope you are all staying safe!

# How to Help Fairview Get Up to Speed

The pandemic has revealed, more than ever, that access to broadband is a modern necessity. People are working from home and kids are learning online, but getting service is not always easy for people living on the side roads and in the coves of Fairview.

We need high-speed, affordable internet for all of WNC. And you can help bring it here.



The state Department of Information Technology has launched the NC Broadband Survey to gather information on locations without adequate internet access and speeds. The survey results will provide clear data to guide the investment of funds, inform research and policy recommendations, and support strategic targeting of additional funding streams.

The survey takes about five minutes to complete (available in English and Spanish). Visit ncbroadband.gov/survey to provide your feedback, which includes a speed test.

If you don't have internet service where you live—and you want it—you can take the survey by calling 919-750-0553 or texting "internet" to the same number.

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### SEPTEMBER 1 (TUESDAY)

#### **Prostate Cancer Support Group**

7 pm. Medical professional speakers when available. Free, via Zoom. wncprostate@gmail.com or 419-4565.

#### SEPTEMBER 6 (SUNDAY)

# **Celebrating Thomas Vess**

2:30 pm. A praise and worship celebration of the life of Thomas Edwin Vess. If you would like to take part, call Trinity of Fairview at 628-1187.

### SEPTEMBER 9 & 24

# Free Medicare Info Classes

2-3:30 pm. The Council on Aging of Buncombe County will hold free classes via Zoom. To register, visit coabc.org or call 277-8288.

# SEPTEMBER 10 (THURSDAY)

# Scripture and Science Speak **About COVID-19**

7 pm. The first of a six-part online seminar. See ad on page 6 for more information and to learn how to sign up. Sponsored by the Fairview Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

# SEPTEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)

### **Cane Creek Cemetery Meeting**

2 pm. The Cane Creek Cemetery Association will meet at the cemetery on

Graveyard Road. Bring a folding chair and park in the grassy area across the road from the green building.

# SEPTEMBER 14 (MONDAY)

# Fairview Area Art League

10 am. The group will be meeting virtually via Zoom to share art inspirations and projects. Email Paula.entin@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

### SEPTEMBER 15–19

### Farm Animal Awareness Week

11 am-5 pm. Celebrate the week with Animal Haven of Asheville, where you can interact with many rescued farm animals. Price of admission is a watermelon or bag of apples for the animals. They currently have chickens, ducks, goats, cows, sheep, pot belly pigs, bunnies, a goose, a guinea pig, and canines and felines. For more information, call 299-1635. 65 Lower Grassy Branch Rd., Asheville.

### SEPTEMBER 20 (SUNDAY)

### **Ethical Humanist Meeting**

2:30-4 pm. "Racism and Runaway Inequality" will be presented by Les Leopold via Zoom videoconference. Zoom connection info at EHSAsheville.org. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 687-7759.

# **COMMUNITY UPDATES**

# Spring Mountain Comm. Center

The center's meeting rooms (upper and lower levels) are now available for rent, subject to NC's Covid-19 guidelines. Inquiries and bookings can be made at springmtncc.com or by calling 778-0279.

The Berry Pickers Bluegrass Jam has resumed outdoors under the picnic pavilion every Tuesday at 7 pm.

Yoga with Sabrina has resumed out-

doors on Thursdays at 6:15 pm. Suggested donation \$5-10. Contact Sabrina at 243-8432.

### **Library Book Sale**

Weather permitting, the Friends of the Fairview Library will host a Grab & Go sale on library curbside pickup days (see next page). Pick your favorite genre and leave with a bag of five to 10 books. Cash is accepted. Look for the table outside the library. 1 Taylor Rd., Fairview.

Masks are mandated in North Carolina in all public areas where social distancing is not possible.

#### **IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT**

The Fairview Town Crier is a 501 (c) (3) company that publishes a monthly community newspaper. Twelve issues per year are delivered free on or about the first of every month to 8,900+ households. Distribution is limited to Fairview, Gerton, and contiguous parts of Reynolds and Fletcher, North Carolina. The Fairview Town Crier is located at 1185H 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. Visit fairviewtowncrier.com for details or to order online.

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 31.



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### UPDATES

# StoryWalk Is Here. We Promise!



We've had some major technical difficulties getting this out there (darn rain and wind), but we've adjusted course and are now

able to present you with a wonderful Story-Walk, which is an innovative and delightful way for children—and adults—to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Our current story, Over in the Forest by Marianne Berkes, is on display outside on the library grounds. In addition to walking and reading, you will also learn fun facts and participate in fun activities as you go.

## **Curbside Pickup Hours**

Tuesdays 1-5 pm, Thursdays 10 am-2 pm, Saturdays 1-5 pm

# **Storytime Anytime**

We have a collection of stories you can listen to anytime on our Storyline. Just call 250-KIDS (5437) and hear a story read by your favorite librarian. We have stories in English and Spanish, and we change the story on a regular basis. You can also find all the stories on our library webpage at buncombecounty.org/library.

#### Magazines

Magazines are now available for checkout during curbside pickup hours. Magazines go out on a first-come, first-serve basis so

there's no need to reserve ahead of time. Just come to curbside pickup and let us know you're here for a magazine.

Magazines can be checked out for three weeks, and there is no limit on the number of magazines you can check out.

# Point and Pick Up

We know you miss browsing the library bookshelves, and we're doing our best to recreate that experience for you. When you come to curbside service, you will now have access to a cart filled with new titles. Just point to the ones you would like, and we'll get them checked out for you.

# **Appointments for Computer Use**

The library is now offering computer use on Wednesdays and Fridays. Time slots lasting 45 minutes are available from 10 am-5 pm by appointment only. Call 250-6484. All staff and patrons will be required to wear face coverings while inside the library building. Staff will clean and reset each computer station after every appointment.

### Parking Lot Wi-Fi

Buncombe County Public Libraries have free Wi-Fi hotspots available outside any library building. To use the Wi-Fi, look for the LibraryGuest network and use the password "readmore." The Wi-Fi is available all day every day, whether the library is open or not. Please observe all Buncombe County social distancing and gathering requirements while using the Wi-Fi service.

#### Census 2020

For the first time, you can respond to the census online. Libraries offer public computers and free internet access to help make sure you're counted. On Wednesdays and Fridays, you can make an appointment to use one of the libraries computers. You can also get free Wi-Fi in any library parking lot if you'd like to use your own device.

Give us a call or shoot us an email, and we'll be happy to help you find a way to complete your census form online.

#### **BookFix**

Do you miss browsing the library's shelves? Let our



librarians help with BookFix. Call or email us (250-6484 or fairview.library@buncombecounty.org) to have our librarians put together a bundle of up to 15 items to meet your interests and needs. When your bundle is ready, you can pick it up during curbside service hours.

# **Passport Around the World**

Ready for a change of scene, but not ready to travel? The library has just what you need. Call or email us and tell us where you would like to virtually visit. Your librarian will select 5-10 items about your destination of choice, anything from documentaries, folktales and cookbooks to travel guides, poetry and children's books.

We will notify you when your items are ready. Pick up your bundle at the curbside pickup location of your choice. Bon voyage!

#### **Picture Book Bundles**

Not sure what to read to your kids? Request a Librarian's Choice Picture Book Bundle.

The bundles will have 10 of our favorite picture books, selected by a Buncombe County librarian. You can check out the bundle with your library card and return it to our book drops when you're done. We have plenty of bundles ready to go, and we can fill these requests for you when you come to curbside pickup. There is no need to place these on hold ahead of time.

We also have a few other ready made kids book bundles that you can ask for on the spot. Examples include chapter books, easy readers, graphic novels, etc.

Our services are changing frequently as we continue to adapt. Follow our Facebook page or website for the latest information.

Jaime McDowell is the head librarian at Fairview Public Library. She can be reached at Jaime.McDowell@buncombecounty.org.

# Connect with Us!



f @fairviewpubliclibrary



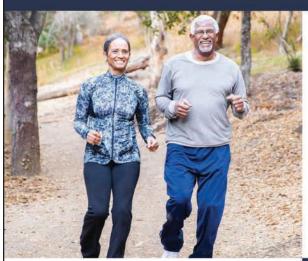
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**GERTON** 3 bedroom, 2 bath cabin in the mountains with a creek and privacy. \$289,000 *MLS* 3638041



**FAIRVIEW 3BR/3BA** Updated, mtn views, open floor plan. Suite w/ huge walk-in shower, sitting rm, sep entry & HVAC (perf for airbnb). Lg gar & fin rm above. 23 mins downtown AVL. Stone firepit in landscaped yard. \$429,000 *MLS* 3610734



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# LOTS AND LAND

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SWANNANOA 2.54 acres in Alpine Mountain. VIEWS! \$24.500 MLS 3237622

**SWANNANOA 3.58 acres.** Circular drive and building site in place. New barn and shed. \$98,900 *MLS* 3573948

WEAVERVILLE 2.09 acres in Oxbow Crossing \$69,000 MLS 3603284

**BYERS PARK .61 acres** \$45,000 *MLS 3277895* 

MARS HILL 1.59 acres Red Wolf Run \$81,900 MLS 3599475

**LAKE LURE 91.94 acres** \$499,000 *MLS 3591068* 



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# All about Absentee Ballots in NC

As the 2020 general election draws near amid an unrelenting coronavirus pandemic, many voters are considering mail-in ballots. As of August 1, more than 9,000 Buncombe County voters had already requested absentee ballots, compared with 6,800 in the 2016 general election, according to Corinne Duncan, the county's director of elections.

Thousands more county voters are expected to vote by mail over the next two months. One recent survey in the state showed that 48 percent of registered voters said they were "somewhat likely" or "very likely" to vote by mail. With more than 198,000 registered voters in Buncombe County, that could mean as many as 95,000 absentee ballots locally.

"We are anticipating a big uptick in requests for absentee ballots," said Duncan. "We've hired extra people and are preparing to handle more ballots than ever before. We are doing everything we can to make this election run smoothly."

On June 9, North Carolina's legislature passed a bipartisan election reform law that expanded absentee voting, made in-person voting safer and more secure, and increased criminal penalties for offenses related to voting fraud.

In Buncombe County, as in all other counties in the state, any registered voter can cast a ballot from the comfort and safety of home. A voter does not need a reason or an ID to vote this way.

## **Ballot Security**

Every absentee ballot has an individual barcode so that it can be traced. The state board of elections is hoping to set up a website so voters can track their mail-in ballots. It might take a week or two after you turn in your absentee ballot before you can check on its status, Duncan said.

"There are checks to ensure that no one

can vote with an absentee ballot and then vote in person," she said. "We have the means to catch anyone who tries to double vote. We verify each ballot, and it's checked by the staff and then again by the members of the board of elections." (If you request an absentee ballot, you can still vote in person as long as you tear or shred the unused absentee ballot.)

Once the absentee ballot is accepted, that voter is marked in the system as having voted in that election, Duncan said. "If that voter tries to vote in person, poll workers will know the person has already submitted an absentee ballot. We also do extensive auditing of the ballots. There are big consequences for anyone who attempts voter fraud. Fraudulently or falsely completing the absentee ballot form request or the ballot is a Class I felony."

According to a statement from the state board of elections, "Election officials have worked for many months to ensure accessible, safe and accurate elections in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people are watching NC's absentee voting process, including candidates, political parties, county boards of elections, political and data scientists and the media. If there are anomalies or questionable activities, they will be reported to election officials."

The NC board said it would also conduct audits after the election to look for any inconsistencies and deploy teams to investigate all credible allegations of voter fraud.

"Data on who has requested absentee ballots is now confidential until Election Day," according to the board. "This reduces the ability of third parties to attempt to tamper with ballots, as they will not know who has requested a ballot or when ballots are sent out."

If you would like to read the sources used for this article, you can find a list at fairviewtowncrier.com/links.



# UNSOLICITED ELECTION MAIL AND CALLS

Have you received a phone call or text asking about your voter registration status? Did you get voter registration applications or absentee ballot request forms in the mail?

According to the state board of elections, "We know these groups are often well intended and we certainly do not want to discourage [people] from being active participants in our democracy[, b]ut we must make sure that these actions do not prohibit, impair, or cause voters not to be active participants in democracy."

# Tips

- Rely on official sources, especially state and county elections officials, for accurate information. See the county contact info below.
- State and county elections officials are not associated with third-party groups that send out mass mailings or texts. If you have concerns, contact the group responsible. There is rarely anything elections officials can do to stop outreach efforts.
- Elections officials do not randomly call or text residents to encourage them to register to vote or request absentee ballots.
- Elections officials don't verify accuracy of data, such as voter records, provided by third parties in their mailings. State and county elections officials don't go door-to-door to register voters or encourage them to request absentee ballots.
- If voter registration workers come to your door, ask them to verify their identities and organizations. If they refuse, call the State Board of Elections at 919-814-0700 and ask for the Investigations Division.

## **REGISTRATION FOR ALL VOTERS**

The deadline to register is October 9. If you miss that date, you may only register and vote through early voting.

# How to register (or update your registration)

1. Fill out a registration form

**Online forms** can be found at ncsbe.gov/Voter-Information/VR-Form. **Printed forms** are available at the county election board office at 77 McDowell Street in Asheville.

2. Mail the signed and completed form to: Election Services, PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802.

North Carolina does not allow online voter registration.

# **HOW TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT**

Obtain a 2020 North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form from the county board of elections by doing one of the following:

- Go to the Buncombe County website to fill out and print the form. Find the link at fairviewtowncrier.com/links.
- *Visit* the Board of Elections at 77 McDowell Street in Asheville.
- Send a letter to Buncombe County Board of Elections, PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802.
- Fax a request to 828-250-6262.
- Call 250-4200.

Fill out the form with your name, residential address, mailing address for your ballot, date of birth, driver's license number or last four digits of your Social Security number and your signature.

**Return the completed form** (completed either by you or a near relative) by doing one of the following:

- Hand deliver: drop box in the entryway of the Board of Elections office at 77 McDowell Street in Asheville.
- Mail: the board of elections, using the post office box address listed above.
- Fax: 828-250-6262.
- Email: elections@buncombecounty.org.

The deadline to return the completed form is October 27 at 5 pm. "I strongly urge anyone who requests an absentee ballot to do so as early as possible," Corinne Duncan, the county's director of elections, said. "The post office is taking longer than usual to process mail."

When your request is received, the Board of Elections will send you a ballot, an instruction sheet and a return envelope with a certificate statement. The office will begin sending out ballots September 4.

## After you receive your ballot:

 Vote in the presence of a witness at least 18 years old. Unless you need assistance because of a disability, the witness does not need to see how you voted; only that you voted and are the registered voter submitting the ballot.

- You and the witness must complete and sign the certificate on the return envelope and provide your addresses.
- Insert your ballot in the envelope and seal it. You can return your ballot at any time up to and including Election Day, November 3 (and even before the start of early voting on October 15).

# To return your ballot, do one of the following:

- Mail to the county board of elections in the supplied self-addressed envelope.
   It requires a 55-cent first class stamp and must be postmarked on or before Novemver 3 (Election Day). The board of elections recommends mailing by October 27 to ensure timely delivery.
- Drop it off at the board of elections office no later than 5 pm on Election Day. This can be done only by you or a near relative (a spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, in-law, stepparent, stepchild or verifiable legal guardian).
- Deliver to an election official at the check-in station of any early voting site. In Fairview, that place is the community center next to Fairview Elementary School, across the street from Food Lion. Note: you cannot drop off your absentee ballot at a polling location on Election Day.

If you are active duty military, a US citizen living abroad, disabled, sight impaired or suffering from an illness and want to vote, call the board of elections at 250-4200 or visit buncombecounty.org/vote for information about absentee ballots.

# Absentee ballot request forms are available at these local locations:

Troyer's Country Amish Blatz
14 Bonn E Lane
Daymoon Coffeebar
381 Old Charlotte Highway
Nachos & Beer
230 Charlotte Highway
Great Wall Restaurant
4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd
Trout Lily Market
1297 Charlotte Highway
The Local Joint
1185 Charlotte Highway

QUESTIONS? Call 250-4200 or visit buncombecounty.org/vote Readers who live in Gerton, visit hendersoncountync.gov/elections

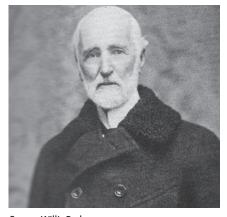
# **George Willis Pack**

eorge Willis Pack was born in Fenner, Madison County, New York on June 6, 1831. He was the son of George W. Pack (1794–1875) of New Brunswick, Canada and Maria Lathrop (1810–1883). He married Francis Brewster Farman (1837–1917) in Detroit, Michigan.

Pack made his fortune in the timber and sawmill business in Huron County, Michigan, located at the top of what is called Michigan's "thumb." He owned 5,000 acres of hardwood timber in Huron County and 25,000 acres of pine. Even though the business was in Michigan, George and Francis lived in Cleveland, Ohio.

Francis developed respiratory problems in the early 1880s, and her doctor recommended the couple move to Asheville for her health. They moved to Asheville in 1884. They built a mansion on Merrimon Avenue, on the west side of the street where Harris-Teeter is now located. The house was called Many Oaks.

Pack fell in love with Asheville and quickly became involved with trying to improve it. He became the primary advocate of placing electric lights on what was then called the Public Square. He pushed to pave the streets, build sidewalks and improve the sewer system and encouraged the use of indoor plumbing. He donated a building for Asheville's first kindergarten and paid the salary for one of the teachers.



George Willis Pack

He assisted in the development of Mission Hospital and donated land for Aston Park and Montford Park. In 1900, he deeded property at the corner of Flint and Magnolia for a park.

The winter of 1898–1899 was one of coldest and most severe winters in Asheville, and Pack donated large sums of money to help the poor. During the Spanish–American War, when he learned that Asheville soldiers in North Carolina's first regiment had run out of money and were having to do without essentials until the next government payday, he sent \$500 to tide them over.

He was also a supporter of the city's first library. He wrote the following to the Asheville Library Association: "I offer to



Francis Brewster Farman Pack

purchase from its present owner the Palmetto Building, formerly the First National Bank Building, with the land appertaining there to and give it to the Asheville Library, with the understanding that the library shall be installed in the large room formerly occupied by the bank. And that the corporation shall be free from debt when it receives the conveyance of the property. The property to be conveyed and possession given on or before April 1, 1899."

Pack did not live full-time in Asheville, He also had a house in Cleveland on Euclid Avenue, which was known as "Millionaires Row." It was probably the most elegant street in America at that time. Cleveland's reputation may be lessened now, but in the late 1800s and early 1900s it was one of the most booming and prosperous cities in the world. John D. Rockefeller made his fortune in Cleveland, not New York, and was Pack's neighbor.

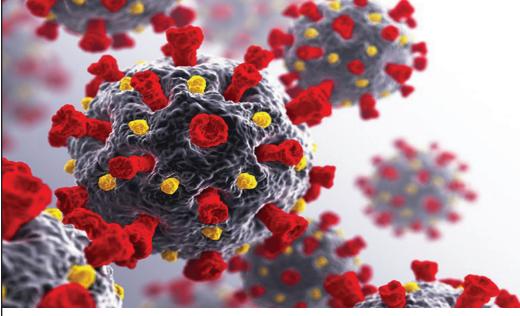
In 1900, Pack's doctors told him his heart trouble would not improve until he moved to sea level, so he and Francis moved to Southampton, New York.

George Pack died on August 31, 1906 in Southampton, Suffolk County, New York at the age of 75. Francis B. Farman Pack died on November 21, 1917 at the age of 81. George and Francis are buried in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

George Willis and Francis Pack had four children.

- 1. Charles Lathrop Pack was born on May 7, 1857 and died on June 14, 1937.
- 2. Mary Pack was born on September 23, 1860 and died on November 14, 1939. She married Amos Bush McNairy (1854–1941).
- 3. Millicent Pack was born on February 22, 1865 and died on November 3, 1865.
- 4. Beulah Brewster Pack was born on August 27, I869 and died on December 22,1957. She married Phillip Ashton Rollins (1869–1950).

Local historian Bruce Whitaker documents Fairview area genealogy. To get in touch with him, contact the Crier at copy@fairviewtowncrier.com or 828-771-6983 (call/text).



# What's really happening? What should I do? What's next?

At the beginning of this year, no political, financial, academic, or medical expert foresaw that the then-emerging respiratory infection from Wuhan, China would trigger a global tsunami of change, disrupting the daily life of every human family. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to alter nearly every aspect of our life — business, education, sports, and politics — in unprecedented ways. In times like these, where guidelines and responses are constantly changing, only the abiding Word of God provides us sure guidance. Scientific knowledge from the Creator can be used by the Holy Spirit to make us wiser in these unprecedented times.

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Hospitalist, AdventHealth Hendersonville, NC

As a Bible student, Dr. Kim's special interest in the role of plagues in Bible history and prophecy has led to dozens of lectures on various epidemics like

Avian Flu, the 1918 Flu, Ebola virus outbreak, etc., over the past decade. Unlike previous topics, the COVID-19 pandemic fueled him with a greater zeal to research and discover new insights as he fights to save its critically ill victims at the hospital day to day.

Sponsored by Fairview Seventh-Day Adventist Church. For more information, call 828-577-5723.

# **Setting Your Student Up for School Success**

e still do not know how the school year will go. Will we have our children learning from home fulltime, part-time or not at all? In any case, this is a good time to think about setting up a study area where your children can work during the school day or for dedicated school projects and afternoon homework.

Children need structure, especially children who will be experiencing learning from home for the first time. Here are some basic tips to create a dedicated learning space that will make it easier to concentrate on schoolwork.

## **Quiet Space**

Locate a space in a low-traffic area that is quiet so kids can concentrate. Try to find a designated space near the kitchen, in a corner of the dining room, or in your living room.

#### **Desk and Chair**

Schools have small desks and chairs for students. Children's feet should sit flat on the floor, and their desks should be between 21 inches and 29 inches high, depending on your child's height. Legs shouldn't be dangling nor should children be sitting on them. Many secondhand stores in the area have small school desks and chairs that are reasonably priced, and if schools remain closed it might be a smart investment until the virus is controlled.

# **Bookshelf or Cabinet**

While searching for a desk and chair, keep your eye out for a small bookshelf or cabinet (preferably with a door on it). All school supplies, including books, should be placed in it at the end of each day. The cleared space signals the end of school work for the day, and it also returns your living space to a family setting.

# **Lighting and Temperature**

Be sure to have good lighting at the desk. If it is located near a window, make sure there are blinds or curtains to keep the direct sunlight off of the desk. If it's not, make sure there is good overhead lighting or a desk lamp. Too much heat or cold can make it uncomfortable to work.

# **School Supplies**

These should be stored in one place. This is a good time to put together a box of supplies for your students so they can access them easily (whether they are working at home or they come home from school with homework). Knowing where all or most of the items are makes it easier for them to access materials without distraction. Keep things like rulers, staplers, staples, markers, pens, pencils, crayons, tape, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, and scissors in a shoebox or a small clear plastic box (with a label) and place it on a shelf. Larger items or extra supplies that



Set your kids up for success in a dedicated space that's quiet and uncluttered.

might not be used as often can be stored in a cabinet or bookcase. Those items can include folders, index cards, notebooks, paper, extra supplies, etc.

At the end of the day, teach your child to put away all supplies and place them in the correct storage location. Most kids do well with simple clean-up instructions, and they will enjoy pleasing their parents. If repeated over time, each end of day and morning will be organized, and you and your student will know where all the school-related supplies are located.

You might want to paint or hang a bulletin board near the desk. Having a fresh coat of paint or hanging age-appropriate pictures near the desk will help make a dedicated space for learning. Put up a bulletin board so children can see their completed

projects, hang test scores, or list areas of study they have questions about.

#### No Clutter

Clutter and miscellaneous items easily distract students. Keep the study area as organized as possible and remove things that will take your child's attention away from learning.

Creating a comfortable environment and having the correct supplies will improve the functionality of your child's workspace. Make sure your child is well fed before they start their schoolwork and know that you are available to help them if they need you. If you follow these tips, the school year will be off to a great start.

Diana Soll is a Certified Professional Organizer living in Fairview. For more information, you can email her at Diana@grandsolutions.net.



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# **MAJESTIC OAKS**



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# **Meteorological Summer Is Over**

s mentioned in previous articles, meteorological summer doesn't exactly follow the equinox. A feature of September weather is the end of summer. And meteorological summer—the three warmest months of the year-has already ended. The amount of solar radiation, hence the length of day, starts out at 12 hours 54 minutes on the first of September and is down to 11 hours 50 minutes by month's end, which is a decrease of around an hour of daylight. The temperatures show a marked decrease as well. Average high and low temperatures start out at 80 and 60, respectively, and drop to 72 and 50 by month's end. And it isn't unusual to have a couple of nights drop into the 40s at the end of the month—all due to the amount of solar radiation received.

Over the past three months, we have had periods of fairly hot weather, with just a few refreshingly cooler periods. Looking at the temperature data at the Asheville airport for the summer season, as of mid-August, we had 11 days with a high temperature of 90 or better, with a run of seven consecutive days of 90 or higher

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September is the month historically with the most hurricane activity in the Atlantic Ocean basin.

in July. So, it has been quite hot, with temperatures running, on average, close to three degrees above normal. Summer didn't want to give up in September last year, when we had 10 days with a high temperature of 90 or better during the month (and two in October, too).

Most places in Fairview have picked up a decent amount of rainfall the last several months. The Asheville airport reported a seven- to nine-inch surplus for the year. Most lawns are looking pretty good right now due to the frequent showers and thunderstorms we had throughout the summer. A few spots across WNC picked up three to five inches of rain in a few hours from some heavy thunderstorms this season.

September is the month historically with the most hurricane activity in the

Atlantic Ocean basin. Usually the peak of the season occurs in September and corresponds with low wind shear and the warmest sea surface temperatures. The average is four tropical storms a year, of which two become hurricanes. Every two or three years, the month also has the highest probability of a hurricane making landfall. Keep your eyes on the tropics the next couple of months. Check out the NOAA's National Hurricane Center's hurricane web page at nhc.noaa.gov.



Meteorologist Tom Ross managed the Climate Database Modernization Program at the National Climatic Data Center.

# **WEATHER WONDER**

# What is the deadliest US hurricane on record?

The Galveston hurricane of 1900 was the deadliest hurricane to ever hit the US. Estimates of the number of lives lost range from 8,000 to 12,000 people, but the damage was so great that an accurate count of fatalities was impossible to obtain. The storm reached the Texas coast south of Galveston on September 8, 1900 as a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge of eight to 15 feet. A lack of warning and the high storm surge resulted in the highest death toll of any US hurricane.

# **QUESTION** of the **MONTH**



What is the earliest autumn date locally to record a freezing temperature?





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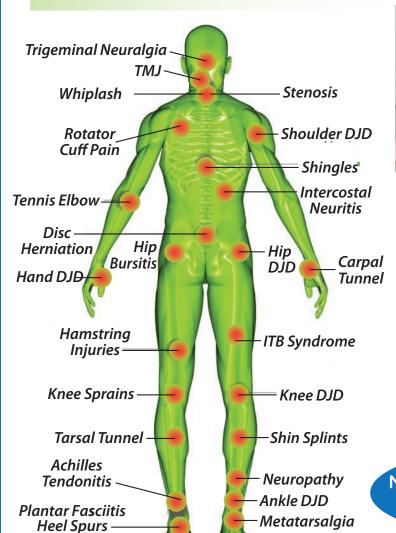


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# Fairview's Soul and Soil Project

Soul and Soil Project is a nonprofit farm on Flat Creek Road in Fairview that promotes the practice of whole-systems healing and lifestyles with regenerative agriculture and art.

**NATURE SHOWS US** just how vulnerable we can be when we don't sync up with its rhythms, and yet it inspires and guides us by its own resilience.

Resilience is when we overcome difficult situations, bounce back from trauma and become at least as strong as we were before. What systems are in place that make or break our socio-environmental resilience? And how can we empower ourselves with choices that actually leave us stronger than we were before?

These are central questions that have come up during these unprecedented times. In the face of a pandemic, income loss, school closures and food insecurity, we have witnessed the rise of community-building, social justice efforts, mutual aid and an interest in reshaping our social systems to meet the needs of our era.

Our small nonprofit, though challenged with fewer hands at the farm and the changes we made due to COVID-19, has responded by rooting deeper into its mission of investing in regenerative food systems, building bridges and weaving networks with wider community members, as well as revamping our community-style

educational platforms, including creative online articles and videos.

As we celebrate our third year, we would like to share with you our efforts and plans for the future. And we welcome you to join us in whatever ways you can, whether that is volunteering with us at the farm, donating, partnering or simply spreading the word.

As our name suggests, we're very interested in soil. If food gets its nutrients from the soil, and we are what we eat, then soil health is indicative of our personal health. With some scientists estimating that we have 60 years of topsoil left and an overall decrease in nutrient density, including in organic-certified foods, we consider it everyone's responsibility to rebuild the soil. Our project is motivated to show people how to do that, no matter what your day job is.

Last summer, we established permanent raised beds for a no-till market-garden, planted fruit trees and other natives, and witnessed the decomposition of various Hügelkultur beds we assembled (Hügelkultur is a technique where a mound of decaying wood debris and other compostable plant materials is planted as a raised bed). This year, we harvested a little more than 400 pounds of garlic, which takes nine months to gestate before it's ready to dry. We installed a Johnson Su-style compost setup, planted hundreds of sweet potato slips and welcomed our first crew of chickens.



Next year's market garden will have more medicinals for herbalists, in addition to increasing supplies for existing clients. We rely on farm sales to help support our overall mission, and we are pleased to partner with businesses that are passionate in buying from local growers, including locals like Trout Lily. We will offer a community share agriculture (CSA) opportunity for next year.

We participate in think-tank sessions about food waste, food justice and, on a community level, what school is going to look like this year. Additionally, Kelly Hollinger, our farm manager (and my cofounder), joined the board of Root Cause Farm because we believe in cooperative community, solidarity networking, and Root Cause's mission.

**Hiring** We are offering a paid position for someone interested in farmhand work. Email if interested. We encourage people of color to apply, especially young adults who are passionate about community-building.

**Resilient Youth** Recognizing the urgency to address alternative school situations

for our local youth, we have been curating a resiliency curriculum for young people for after-school, homeschools, field trips and more. The arts-integrated, solution-oriented, intersectional curriculum weaves together self-care, food

sovereignty and healthy cooking, climate change mitigation, deconsumerizing and cultural exchange. This is our collective opportunity to invest in youth and their dreams and leadership, as well as our planet. We hope to offer opportunities for critical thinking, healing, solidarity and joy.

Do you have something to share? Please get in touch if you are interested in facilitating a class, workshop or circle—or recording a video—on food systems, wellness, ecology-oriented art, community-building or other related themes. We also seek partners to help scale up our resiliency mission.

**Volunteering and Classes** Lend a hand, get some sunshine and fresh air and connect with us at our farm on Flat Creek Road. Sign up for volunteering and class days on our website. Be prepared to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Volunteer days are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 am–2 pm, and you must register in advance.

Alina Talladen is cofounder and creative manager of Soul and Soil Project. info@ soulandsoilproject.org, soulandsoilproject.org.

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# **Neck Pain and Stiffness Can Cause Dizziness**

ur balance is controlled by three primary body systems: vision, vestibular (inner ear), and somatosensory. Somatosensation is the ability to perceive our environment and bodily awareness through touch, taste, pain, pressure, temperature, sound, stretch, vibration, and joint and muscle position sense. The information that our muscles and joints perceive regarding where we are in space and what position we are in is called proprioception.

The most obvious way that proprioception contributes to our balance is through our feet. If we feel a bump on the ground with our feet, we know to make a correction with our balance. However, every joint in our body provides information to help us balance, including the spine. Problems arise when there is conflicting information between the different systems.

This conflict can result in dizziness, disequilibrium and sometimes nausea. For example, if you are on a boat below deck level and you feel but don't see movement, your visual system seems stable but your vestibular and proprioceptive systems sense the movement of the boat. This mismatch can result in motion sickness.

When the conflicting system is the proprioceptive system of the neck, we call

this cervicogenic dizziness (CGD). This may be caused by whiplash, neck pain, postural changes, concussion, degenerative changes to the cervical spine, or any other neck disorder. According to research performed by John Chester, 88 percent of subjects with persistent neck pain following a whiplash injury also had abnormal balance in sensory organization testing, such as computerized dynamic posturography (CDP).

## **Varied Symptoms**

Symptoms of CGD may vary. Often, patients describe a sense of dizziness and/ or lightheadedness, headaches localized at the base of the skull, neck pain or stiffness and postural imbalance. Dizziness may persist for seconds, minutes, hours, or days. This dizziness is often associated with an abnormal position of the neck or head. For example, a woodworker may spend significant time with his head flexed forward to do detailed work and subsequently notice associated symptoms.

There is no specific, single diagnostic test for CGD. It is diagnosed based on a cluster of tests to rule out other possibilities and to understand more about each patient's symptoms. A hands-on assessment of the neck is imperative, assessing for musculoskeletal impairments, pain and posture, among other things.



Treatment for cervicogenic dizziness may include increasing the range of motion, flexibility or strength of the neck.

Specialized equipment and diagnostic testing, such as videonystagmography, inclusive of traditional and non-traditional tests, such as neck torsion testing, CDP and video head impulse testing (also known as vHIMP), may be necessary. Often, CGD occurs concurrently with other vestibular or balance disorders.

Treatment for cervicogenic dizziness may include increasing the range of motion, flexibility or strength of the neck, retraining posture and improving head-neck awareness, also called cervical

proprioception. According to research performed by Konstantin Beinert and Wolfgang Taube, balance training can effectively improve neck muscle function and decrease neck pain intensity. Additionally, research by Mikael revealed that physical therapy aimed at reducing neck discomfort improved postural control, even when there was no posture or balance training included in the rehabilitation plan. These findings suggest that those with neck pain should have their balance assessed and treated, and those with balance problems would benefit from having their neck assessed.

It is important to find a provider with the correct diagnostic and treatment skills to receive proper help for cervicogenic dizziness. Many physical therapists are comfortable treating the neck, and some may even be able to treat the vestibular system. Cervicogenic dizziness is both orthopedic and neurological, and an understanding of both systems is necessary. Dizziness due to neck problems can be completely resolved by working with a skilled physical therapist and performing a consistent home exercise program.

Steven Mack, PT, SCS, is a physical therapist specializing in orthopedic and sports medicine physical therapy at AVORA Physical Therapy. avorahealth.com.

# **Challenging Times Call** for a Sensible Solution

In challenging times like these, you're probably focused on protecting your health. But what are you doing to protect your finances?

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# Get a Flu Shot This Year

f you regularly read the *Town Crier*, you may recognize this MAHEC column as a fairly light-hearted exploration of medicine. But with the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting most aspects of our daily lives, I find it appropriate to use the space this month as more of a PSA for public health. As we navigate the unknowns around COVID-19, many experts are unfortunately predicting a second wave of cases during the fall and winter. That alone may be challenging for our community to face, but another more common problem may have conflating effects: the common seasonal flu.

Unfortunately, many of the symptoms of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza overlap, and therefore it may be hard to tell the difference between the two based on clinical presentation, even for veteran clinicians. According to the CDC, COVID-19 and the seasonal flu have varying degrees of the following symptoms, ranging from asymptomatic to severe presentations: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue (tiredness), sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle pain or body aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults).

This overlap is going to present problems for healthcare providers, as well as the general public. You may have already had the experience this year of questioning whether your runny nose— or any other minor ailment you would generally brush off—was a cause for concern. This will likely become more commonplace as we enter the cold and flu season, which runs from October to as late as May.

So, this year, more than any prior year on record, it is incredibly important to prioritize getting a flu shot. And get one early, preferably in September or October.

If you don't generally get a flu shot, I understand. I've had that extended conversation with many patients, and most of the time it boils down to personal choice. This year will be no different. And although the flu vaccine isn't a perfect tool, it is the only resource we have to prevent the spread of the illness. Much like wearing a mask, getting a flu shot protects both yourself and the general public you interact with, including friends and family who may be at greater risk of complications from both the flu and COVID-19.

Please talk to your healthcare provider or stop by your local pharmacy starting in September and get your flu shot in this unprecedented year of COVID-19.

JT Labruyere is a Certified Physician's Assistant at MAHEC Family Health Center at Cane Creek. 628-8250. 1542 Cane Creek Road. Fletcher.







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# Jenna Wadsworth Commissioner of Insurance

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# Commissioner of Labor

Jessica Holmes

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Jen Mangrum

(Your ballot will show either District 48 or 49)

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NC Senate District 49

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#### Seat 2 **Lucy Inman**

NC Supreme Court Associate lustice

#### Seat 4 **Mark Davis**

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 4

Tricia Shields

NC Court of Appeals Judge Sent 5

# **Lora Christine Cubbage**

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 6

# **Gray Styers**

for **DEMOCRATS** 

NC Court of Appeals Judge

# Reuben F. Young

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 13

# **Chris Brooks**

NC District Court Judge District 28

#### Seat 6 **Andrea Dray**

NC District Court Chief Judge District 28 Sent 7

# Calvin Hill

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# **Amanda Simpkins**

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Asheville City Council (You may vote for THREE)

### Sandra Kilgore Rich Lee Sage Turner **Keith Young**

# **YOUR VOTE IS CRITICAL VOTE ONE OF THREE WAYS**

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# **COMPUTER BYTES BILL SCOBIE**

# Move Your Music, Swap Your Window

oogle Play Music is going away by the end of this year, which means you need to back up your music or transfer it to another one of Google's products, such as YouTube Music. Backing up your music (and other Google info, if you want) is done through visiting takeout. google.com. Once logged in, select the data to include (your music is under Google Play Music) and then click through the next two screens and wait for the download to be prepared for you. If you would rather just transfer music to YouTube Music, you can do it through music.youtube.com/transfer or through the YouTube Music app on your smart phone.

If you plug in your laptop and it does not charge, there are a variety of things to check. Start at the outlet. Check the end that plugs into the power inverter box; pull it out and put them back together. If you can remove the battery, do so (having powered down the laptop first), and unplug the power into the laptop. Hold down the power button to clear any still stored electricity and then, leaving the battery out, plug in the power and turn on the laptop. If it powers up, you might need to replace the battery. Make sure you are using the right power adapter; if the plug fits, it doesn't mean it can actually charge your laptop. Look for damage or feel if the plug hole feels looser than it used to. You

might want to try a new charger, ideally one from the laptop manufacturer.

While trying to explore the variety of different time management strategies, I discovered a survey at Todoist (see link at fairviewtowncrier.com/links). They are pushing their own product, but it might help you figure out how to choose between all the buzzwords. The beauty of the advice is that they recognize the role of paper in planning for some people.

If you are bored some afternoon while looking at your screen, live-streaming webcams can suck you in as much as cat videos. Starting with random views can be fun. Try window-swap.com, which almost makes me want to have a second monitor. Then there is Africam.com, where the live channels menu is a good place to start. Webcamtaxi.com will let you pick streams through a variety of classifiers. I've already spent some time looking at airports. And, finally, there is a Reddit community of purportedly controllable webcams (see link at fairviewtowncrier.com/links). I presume these are all family friendly, but I can't guarantee it.



Bill Scobie fixes computers and networks for small businesses and home. 628-2354 or bill@scobie.net.



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# Scout Camp in the Middle of Blueberry Season

t's blueberry season again. As with everything else, this year is a little different. We didn't hire any farmhands this spring because of the impact of COVID-19 on our economic resources. With many restaurants closed and the tailgate markets opening on a delayed schedule, our finances couldn't handle the strain of adding another paycheck each week. Luckily, Andy has been a tremendous help in the day-to-day running of the farm. Blueberry picking adds another layer to the workload, so we decided to do something we haven't done in years. We opened the blueberry patch to a few pickers by appointment. We decided to let folks come up while we were there doing the routine picking and mowing. We wouldn't need extra staff to oversee the operation while we were doing other things like deliveries (now that restaurants are starting to re-open), shipping products, attending markets, and managing the main farm location.

The other kink in this year's picking is that Walter had set up a week of camp for his Scout troop. After the official programs were canceled, Walter felt bad that the girls were going to miss out on their first camp (the troop was formed too late last year to participate). In order to advance in rank, some of them needed merit badges they would have earned at camp. So, he decided



Imladris Farm reopened its blueberry orchard to pickers this summer.

to set up a camp that would allow for social distancing and be small enough to meet the state's COVID regulations.

It was a great success. The girls worked on merit badges in archery, citizenship in the world, fly fishing, environmental science, and cooking. They got to go fishing at Azalea Park and Davidson River. They went horseback riding at Hickory Nut Gap Farm with Annie Ager. An afternoon hike up the mountain after picking blueberries for a Dutch oven cobbler finished out another day. Another evening was spent using natural dyes to make tie-dye bandanas to commemorate camp. Then there was the bonfire and skits to round out the experience. We were pleased that only one

chigger bite was reported during the whole endeavor—which I think is amazing since we usually end up with more than that just from a day of picking.

Andy and I continued the picking routine during camp, and it felt like the hottest summer we've had in a while. Or maybe it's just because our peak picking happened a couple of weeks later than in the past decade (the late frosts we experienced this spring set the crop back to the days of Walter's youth, when picking started the first week of July). Either way, the 90-degree temperatures were hard physically and mentally during 10-hour days. We're not morning people, so hitting the patch before 9 am is difficult for us. By

evening, the bugs got pretty vicious out there and made picking a torment. So, we picked on through the heat of the day.

All in all, it has been a productive year for the blueberries and a busy season for us here on the farm. I'm pleased that we even had a blueberry season this year. Many local fruit growers were severely hit by a couple of late frosts this spring, and crops were limited or nonexistent. In some ways, a season like this is a relief; it's an opportunity to travel or just rest and recuperate. But in conjunction with the other economic and social issues this year due to COVID, a crop loss is a significant hit both financially (in an already financially hard year) and emotionally when we're all looking for the normal. As hard as we all worked, it was a good thing to have a mostly normal season in the blueberry patch.

I'm also glad the scout troop got to experience camp, even if it was in a socially distanced and somewhat limited environment. Most of all, I'm glad the picking season is winding down and life can get back to something a little less hectic.

Wendy Harrill is co-owner of Imladris Farm, a sustainable supplier of jams, jellies, and preserves made from locally sourced fruit.

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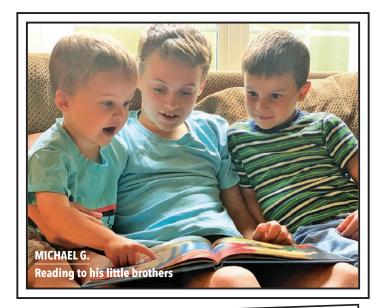
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# GLORY S. Enjoying some good ol' fowl play





# Outside the Norm:

Spending time outdoors is important to Fairview folks. From gardening and time with our animals to just being with family, it's one of the main reasons people live here. And that's even more evident—and important—in this pandemic. But of course, there are other things we are doing, too! We hope you enjoy this look at life in Fairview in 2020.

First name and last name initial represent the reader who submitted the photo. We will post all the photos we received on our website. You'll be able to find that link at fairviewtowncrier.com/links.

LORI A.
Just two moms
and their son
trying to tackle
quarantine 2020



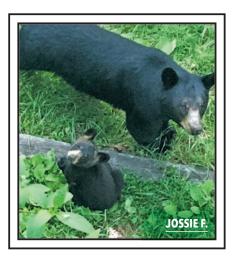




# Fairview in 2020

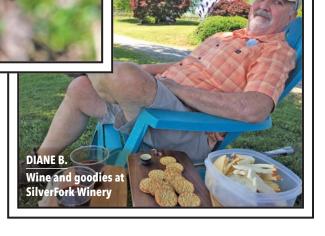
















# **A Smooth Start for County Schools**

ugust 17 was the first day of school, and it arrived with many different emotions for parents, children, teachers and all of us. With most of our students in classrooms for less than a week, I wanted to be sure I was able to visit all seven schools in the Reynolds District before the week was out. I was so glad I did.

For those who missed last month's update, the Buncombe County Board of Education voted on July 28 to open schools in "Plan B-Beyond." This meant that all students who chose in-person learning would be assigned to Group A or B. For K-8 in the first week, Group A students attended shortened days on Monday and Wednesday, and Group B attended on Tuesday and Thursday. High schoolers followed this same pattern for the first two weeks of school so they could attend one class each day and avoid class changes. Fridays were remote for everyone during that time. Families could also choose to be fully remote, with a commitment for at least one full semester.

Dr. Angie Jackson and Jamie Slagle, principal and assistant principal respectively, welcomed me to Fairview Elementary, my first visit, by telling me, "Knock on wood; it has all gone so smoothly." I heard those same words over and over during my visits. With all the planning and sleepless nights that had gone into preparing for this first week, school leaders were profoundly relieved.

Though, of course, nothing feels completely normal in our world now, I was thrilled to see bubbly students and happy teachers, all glad to be back in the classroom.

Desks were distanced, and students of all ages were comfortably wearing masks as they learned together how to join their Zoom sessions and set up daily schedules for remote learning on the laptops they'd be taking home. Kids giggled and sang silly songs as they participated in movement exercises. Principals popped in to say hello



Reynolds Middle Principal Stanley Wheless demonstrates six-foot distancing.

to remote classes as teachers led online sessions from colorful classrooms, with some even set up as mini-recording studios with different backgrounds and scenes.

I felt very safe everywhere I went. All schools have temperature kiosks and hand sanitizer dispensers at their entrances. I saw extra maintenance staff in all the schools, wiping down desks and doorknobs and keeping restrooms clean. Front offices have plexiglass shields, and some classrooms even have shields on the desks. School administrators helped choreograph students' movements through the schools, ensuring proper distancing.

As of August 31, all students will stay home and learn remotely. What's next? School will remain in remote mode through September 25. Teachers and administrators will work closely together to track down every student who did not show up for remote or in-person learning during the first week of school. Some have moved away, but there are others we

While very different than we would ever have anticipated a school year to start, it has been wonderful to see students in our building for the first time since March. Our students have been outstanding in following all safety protocols, and our teachers have had many positive comments regarding the onboarding days and

having a chance to see some students before [they go remote]. I am very appreciative of Buncombe County Schools for the extensive planning and diligent efforts to provide options for families to access education and a safe environment for faculty, staff and students...



Principal Doris Sellers, ACRHS



FES teacher Sarah Kuehne

must find and engage. During this remote period, daily breakfasts and lunches will be available for all school-age children at Reynolds High and Oakley Elementary.

Later in September, the Board of Education will reconvene to determine, based on current COVID trends, whether students will be able to return to the classrooms after this first six weeks or if we need to remain remote.

In the meantime, as Reynolds Middle School Band Director Greg Love so carefully explained to me, "We will make



ACRMS Assistant Principal Cathy
Haughney delivers lunches to classrooms.

it work." Teachers are committed and creative, and students are ready to learn.

To get our kids back in school as soon as possible, we as adults must wear our masks, wash our hands and keep our distance from each other. We will get through this, but we all have to do our part.



Cindy McMahon is the Reynolds District Representative, Buncombe County School Board. You can contact her at cindy.mcmahon@bcsemail.org.

Sport	First Practice	First Competition	Final Contest	Season Contest Limit	Weekly Contest Limit
Cross-Country	Nov 4	Nov 16	Jan 8	10	2
Volleyball	Nov 4	Nov 16	Jan 8	14	2
Swimming & Diving	Nov 23	Dec 7	Jan 30	10	2
Basketball	Dec 7	Jan 4	Feb 19	14	2
Lacrosse (M&W)	Jan 11	Jan 25	Mar 12	14	2
Soccer (M)	Jan 11	Jan 25	Mar 12	14	2
Football	Feb 8	Feb 26	Apr 9	7	I
Golf (M&W)	Mar 1	Mar 15	Apr 30	14	2
Soccer (W)	Mar 1	Mar 15	Apr 30	14	2
Softball	Mar 1	Mar 15	Apr 30	14	2
Tennis (M)	Mar 1	Mar 15	Apr 30	14	2
Baseball	Apr 12	Apr 26	Jun 11	14	2
Tennis (W)	Apr 12	Apr 26	Jun 11	14	2
Track & Field	Apr 12	Apr 26	Jun 11	10	2
Wrestling	Apr 12	Apr 26	Jun 11	14	2

# Start of ACRHS Sports Schedule Pushed Back

Due to COVID-19, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) has revised the practice and contest schedule for schools in the state. (Some private schools will follow their own schedule.)

All of the sports at ACRHS will be affected, with some being pushed to the spring, including football.

Dr. Josh Bloom of the NCHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, said, "It is critically important to provide opportunities for NC student-athletes to participate...in education-based athletics. While there are risks with resuming... this is an exercise in balance—and we are committed to an appropriate balance of both safety and participation."

Note: Cheerleading has been postponed until invitationals in May.

# **FES-PTA Asks You to Support Fairivew Elementary**



Molly Sherrill

By Kenya Hoffart

The parent-teacher association (PTA) at Fairview Elementary is gearing up for another year of supporting the staff, students and families at FES. While schedules and much else has changed, the goals of the PTA have stayed the same: to support the FES community and promote children's health, well being and educational success. The fine folks of Fairview have always been great supporters of Fairview Elementary, and we need you now more than ever.

As a community member, you may show your support by joining the PTA. You do not



Cristy Brunner

have to have a student at FES; just a desire to see all FES students succeed. There are many membership opportunities available, starting as low as \$5. You can join online at fespta. memberhub.store.

If you are a business owner, you may show your support of the staff and students by becom-

ing an organizational sponsor. This is a great way to advertise your business to the hundreds of families connected with Fairview Elementary. Sponsorship levels start as low as \$250. Benefits include outdoor banners, newspaper



Kim Matyskiela

mentions, social media attention and more. To sign up as a sponsor, visit fespta.memberhub. com and select "Sponsorships" from the menu on the left.

Direct donations are also always welcome. Checks should be made out to "FES-PTA" and mailed to 1355 Charlotte Highway, Fairview.



President Molly Sherrill

VP of Programs Cristy Brunner

VP of Fundraising Kim Matyskiela

Treasurer Amy Spedden

Secretary Carly McAbee



Amy Spedden

There are additional ways you can support Fairview Elementary:

• Register your Ingles Advantage Card so that a portion of your purchases are contributed to the Ingles Tools for Schools program. You can do this by going online to ingles-markets. com/toolsforschools and selecting "Link Your Card" from

the menu on the right.

• If you shop Amazon, visit smile.amazon.com and search for and choose "PTA North Carolina Congress Fairview Elementary School PTA" as your charity. A percentage of your purchases will benefit FES.



Carly McAbee

• **Download** the Box Tops for Education app at boxtops4education.com, choose Fairview Elementary as your school, and scan your receipts every time you shop.

All memberships, sponsorships and donations are tax-deductible, as the PTA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. As always, thank you for supporting the staff, students and families at FES.

In addition to having a child who attends Fairview Elementary, Kenya Hoffart is also a staff member and PTA Communications Chair at the school.

# Fairview Elementary Gets a Facelift

Several Fairview Elementary School teachers will be teaching from new classrooms this year when students return. One of the westside hallways was recently completely remodeled, making this area of the school more accommodating for the rapidly growing student body. This wing now has five classrooms, two resource rooms, a copy room and lounge, a special pull-out room and several storage closets.

Three of the classrooms have private bathrooms, and two of the rooms have sky tunnels with the ability to adjust natural lighting. All rooms have motion-activated, dimmable overhead lighting, keyless entry doors, advanced technology such as SMART Boards that will be used for instruction, and new and modern furniture.

Jennifer James, who has been teaching for 25 years and has spent the last 13 years teaching at FES said, "I love that the motion-sensor lighting will help save electricity and that we can control the level of brightness in each room." She added, "The pull-out room will be great for small groups, and the new SMART Board in there makes it even better."

The environment these teachers have created in their new rooms is both welcoming and encouraging, and they are all very happy to be connecting with students again. Once in-person instruction resumes, students will find these new spaces just right for learning and exploring and will fill the hall with fun and laughter. The staff at FES looks forward to having them back at school soon.

—Kenya Hoffart

A growing student population created the need for more space at Fairview Elementary. Improvements include new classrooms and furniture and technology that saves energy and makes teaching easier.







# **MAGIC WITH GREG**

# The Invisible Ball Trick

Make up your own story, practice it in front of a mirror, then try it on your family and friends. See how much fun it is when you fool them with this simple trick!

### **SET UP**

**1** You need a small paper bag, your imagination and a little acting skill.





**2** Practice "snapping" your fingers as you hold the bag as instructed below. It should sound like you're catching something in the bag as you snap.

# **TO PERFORM**

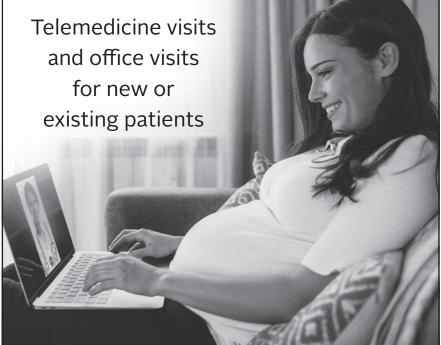
- **1** Open the bag. Hold the bag in one hand by putting your middle finger inside the bag and your thumb on the outside so that it presses against your finger inside the bag.
- **2** Reach into the bag and pretend to take out an invisible ball.
- **3** Toss the invisible ball into the air. Watch it with your eyes to help create the illusion. Toss it up and catch it in your hand a few times.
- **4** Toss it again, and this time catch it in the bag at the same time you snap your fingers on the bag. Drop your hand just a bit as you catch the ball to make the illusion more convincing.



**5** Take the ball out of the bag and toss it to a spectator. When they toss it back to you, catch it in the bag, as before (remember to drop your hand a bit). **Magic!** 

Greg Phillips is a professional speaker, magician and comedian. Contact him at Greg@GregPhillipsMagic.com or MountainMagicAcademy.com.





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# A Happy, Fulfilled Life for Your Dog

he lives of our dogs and their wild ancestors are vastly different. At first glance, our pet dogs seem to have it made. They typically don't have to worry about shelter, food or water, and their medical needs are usually met. But physically and behaviorally, our dogs were built for a different world, one much more like that of their wild forebears.

When they were wild, our dogs may have spent as much as 70 percent of their day hunting and searching for food. This required quite a bit of physical energy expenditure and the use of problem-solving skills. For many of our modern canine companions, their day consists of eight or more hours of just lying around and not doing much of anything. This makes it difficult for our dogs to meet their normal needs for movement and stimulation.

Dogs that are under-stimulated are at an increased risk for behavioral problems, including destructive behaviors, such as digging or escaping the house or yard, excessive movement, attention-seeking behaviors, excessive barking, and even stereotypic or compulsive behaviors. The good news is that many of these problem behaviors improve with appropriate enrichment. Many studies on the benefits of enrichment have been conducted on zoo animals, and the benefits range from reduced stereotypic and self-injurious

behaviors to improved learning, reduced aggression and fear, decreased reactivity to stressors, and improved memory. In dogs, enrichment both early and later in life has been shown to slow cognitive decline.

With many of us are spending a lot more time at home these days, what can we do to keep our dogs busy and make life a little more interesting for them? There are actually a lot of easy ways to keep them busy and give them fun things to do.

# Social Enrichment

Social enrichment fulfills dogs' needs to interact with others. This includes time with their people, other dogs and maybe other species. Consider setting up supervised play groups with dogs that are compatible with your pooch. Allow your dog to interact with friends and family or take them with you to see your friends. With any social enrichment activity, keep in mind that some dogs may not be comfortable around new people and other dogs. If your dog is not comfortable in these situations, determine your dog's preferred social interactions. They may just want to spend more time with you.

# **Occupational Enrichment**

Have you ever thought maybe your dog needs a job? You don't need to buy a herd of sheep for your border collie. Instead, you should focus on games, puzzles and tasks that stimulate your dog both physically and mentally. Giving food toys to dogs daily is an excellent way to start. A variety of puzzle toys are available, and rotating through them can help prevent your dog from becoming bored.

Consider taking a training class, anything from life skills to a sports-oriented class, such as agility or flyball. Training covers basic commands and is a great way for your dog to work and think, as well as bond with you and your family.

# **Physical Enrichment**

Physical enrichment is not just about exercise. Interaction with toys is an effective way to physically enrich your dog's world. An array of toys can take care of typical dog needs. Studies show that interaction with toys may decrease a dog's response to environmental triggers such as noise and unfamiliar people and dogs, as well as reduce excessive barking, destructive behaviors and digging. Digging is a normal behavior for many dogs, so stifling that behavior may be difficult and may lead to other behavioral issues. You should instead consider providing a dig pit in the yard in which to bury fun things for your dog to find. If you do that, your dog will prefer to dig there.

### **Sensory Enrichment**

Dogs have a strong sense of smell that we frequently overlook. Classes focused on scent games (often called "noseworks" or nose games) are a great way to expand your dog's world through their sense of smell. Providing a variety of animal scents

or herbal-scented toys is another method. Music is another sensory form of enrichment. Dogs that listened to classical music for animals showed increased resting and sleeping and reduced stress levels. Remember to monitor the volume and don't play the music all the time. Just like us, dogs need a break from a song on repeat. Also, remember that going on a run and walk is not just about exercise; it gives your dog a chance to see and smell new things.

## **Nutritional Enrichment**

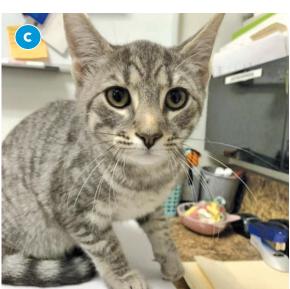
Dogs naturally forage for food. Discontinue the use of a basic food bowl, and instead use food toys and foraging games. Consider hiding food and having your dog hunt and search, whether inside or outside. This allows a dog to express natural feeding behaviors. Nutritional enrichment also can include different flavors and textures of food. Any time you feed something new, start with small amounts and check with your veterinarian that the food is acceptable for your pet.

Add in one or two of these enrichment exercises daily to help decrease the likelihood of behavioral problems and keep your dog happy and fulfilled. We use many enrichment activities with the dogs that board with us and they really work.

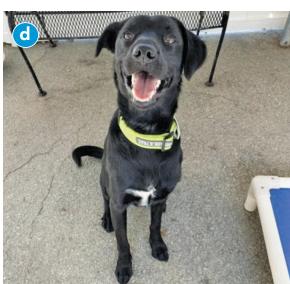


Stefani Cotten is the owner of Fairview Boarding, 1923 Charlotte Highway, Fairview. For more info on boarding your dog, call 628-1997 or go to FairviewBoarding.com.











**a Kal** is an 8-year-old Chocolate Lab who was found as a stray. Friendship comes easily to this good-natured fellow. He has been social and mellow around other dogs, walks well on a leash, and enjoys car rides. *Humane Society* 

**b Franco** is a 2-year-old Tabby. He is very friendly and enjoys chatting. He has a skin condition that requires a special diet, but is otherwise in good health. Franco lived with a dog in his previous home and is very laid back. *Humane Society* 

c Pots is waiting for a new home. He is a four month old who loves to roll himself up in a blanket. He is a kitten full of character and adventure. His brother, Pans, is also available for adoption. Charlie's Angels

d Cletus is eight months old, just under 50 pounds, and still growing. He is a sweet, energetic, goofy boy still learning his manners. He has presented some possessive behaviors around other dogs, so his new home will need to be able to manage his guarding behaviors. Charlie's Angels

**Charlie's Angels** 885-3647 wncanimalrescue.org **Humane Society** 761-2001 ashevillehumane.org



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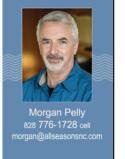
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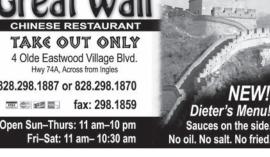
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# In Memoriam: Carolyn Sisson-Smith

By Roger Klinger

A bright light left this earth on July 27, as Carolyn Sisson-Smith passed away in her mountain home in Fairview. Her unmistakable laugh, smile and bright spirit live on in the hearts and minds of her loved who remain behind.

Carolyn was born on August 24, 1944 in Hempstead, New York. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Peter Smith, and her daughter Kim Smith and beloved grandson Cody, who live in Montpelier, Vermont, along with a host of friends from around the country. Carolyn is predeceased by her son Matthew, who died in a motorcycle accident in 1995, and by her parents Gladys and Wayne Sisson of Hempstead.

Carolyn was an exceptional teacher and educator, touching and transforming thousands of kids' lives in her long career in the New Jersey school system. She had a lifelong desire to learn and discover and earned a master's degree in Elementary Education from Hofstra University, as well as an M.A in Counseling from Keane University. She was a school principal and sat on countless educational boards.

After retiring from her career in education, she and Peter moved from Vermont to WNC and made a new home on Flat Top Mountain in Fairview. Wasting no time in embracing their new community, they opened their home to everyone they met, and Carolyn dove headfirst into local activities and volunteering with the Spring Mountain Community Center and the Town Crier. Both Carolyn and Peter were regulars at the monthly Crier



labeling "parties" and may even have held a record for "the fastest labelers in town." Carolyn also sat on the board of directors of the Crier for several years.

She became a coach for the worldwide, creative arts foundation Odyssey of the Mind and served enthusiastically, helping the kids for many years. This fit right in with her trait of thinking "outside the box." She embraced people of all walks of life, especially those outside the mainstream, working decades ago with transgender kids and those with special needs. Carolyn was also an accomplished potter, drawn to everything unique, and

a passionate collector and supporter of local artists, no matter where her "local" was at the time.

Carolyn never met a stray animal she didn't love, so it was natural for her to also volunteer with Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. She and Peter adopted many pets over the years and helped place abandoned dogs and cats in need of good homes. She had a gift of always connecting the right animal with the perfect home and had many loving matches to her credit.

Her insatiable curiosity and zest for life was evident to all who crossed her path. Carolyn never went unnoticed, whether from the infinite array of spices and fragrant cheeses she brandished in her fabulous cooking adventures, her vast array of bold and creative jewelry, her infinite collection of fun, colorful and inventive outfits and whimsical hats, her expressive

laugh heard easily in a crowd, or her bright smile that would light up any room.

Carolyn Sisson-Smith may have left this earth suddenly, but she lived her life fully and generously, laughed often, and knew the true meaning of one her favorite sayings—"C'est la vie" ("that's life"). She embraced all of life, from the bitter to the sweet, darkness to the light, sickness to health, tears, laughter, sorrow and great joy. Carolyn often said, "Life is an adventure. Why be boring?" And without a doubt, boring was not a word ever used to

Carolyn always surrounded herself with good friends, gave countless, heartfelt hugs, and above all, embraced a spirit of embodied love and creative joy that we will all, always, remember and treasure.

Roger Klinger writes the Wild Edibles column.

# Bearwallow Provision Opens in Gerton



Bearwallow Provision Company has opened in Gerton to offer drinks, snacks and gear for the trails.

Owner Erik Julian (at left

with Kate Loughran), a Hendersonville/Lake Lure native and avid hiker and fisherman, saw an opportunity with so many hiking trails, fishing holes and rock climbs in the area, as well as long drives down from the mountain for food and drink. Loughran will be the company's plant ecologist and volunteer coordinator.

In addition to local gear and goods, Julian hopes to expand into a taproom and event space.

The business is located at 4612 Gerton Highway in Gerton, just past the community center driving east. They have outdoor space as well and will be following all safety guidelines for COVID-19. Initial store hours will be Tuesday

through Sunday from 10 am–6 pm. You can find them online at bearwallowproco. com or @bearproco on Facebook and Instagram or call them at 625-9693.



# Get Counted and Help a Community Center

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Would you like to secure over \$1,600 a year for the next 10 years to Fairview area fire departments, food pantries, schools, road construction projects and more? It's easy. Fill in and submit your 2020 US Census.

The census population count is the basis for how much money is received in federal grants to

many organizations and governmental entities. It also controls the number of representatives in the state and national government.

WNC is growing in both population and infrastructure needs, but we have to prove it through the 2020 Census. Unfortunately, state census returns are lagging. To increase participation, and taking into consideration the effects of COVID-19, the deadline has been extended to September 30.

Several local community centers are participating in the WNC Communities Get Counted program, which provides a small grant to those centers that are successful in getting more people counted. Please help out on a local and regional level by contacting your closest participating community center to get counted. You can contact any of the representatives listed below.

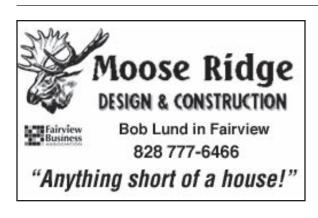
**Fairview Community Center** Wanda Lytle, 367-8187

**Spring Mountain Community Center** Maria Horton, 778-0279, springmtncc@gmail.com

**Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center** Stan Mobley, gertoncensushelp@gmail.com

Buckeye Cove Community Center

Dave McMahon, 299-0657 (leave a message)



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# How Can You Prepare for the "New Retirement"?

generation or so ago, people didn't just retire from work—many of them also withdrew from a whole range of social and communal activities. But now, it's different: The large Baby Boom cohort, and no doubt future ones, are insisting on an active lifestyle and continued involvement in their communities and world. So, what should you know about this "new retirement"? And how can you prepare for it?

For starters, consider what it means to be a retiree today. The 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study has identified these four interrelated, key ingredients, along with the connected statistics, for living well in the new retirement.

#### Health

While physical health may decline with age, emotional intelligence—the ability to use emotions in positive ways—actually improves, according to a well-known study from the University of California, among others. However, not surprisingly, retirees fear Alzheimer's and other types of dementia more than any physical ailment, including cancer or infectious diseases, according to the "Four Pillars" study.

#### **Family**

Retirees get their greatest emotional nourishment from family

relationships—and they'll do anything it takes to help support those family members, even if it means sacrificing their own financial security. Conversely, retirees lacking close connections with family and friends are at risk for all the negative consequences resulting from physical and social isolation.

#### **Purpose**

Nearly 90% of Americans feel that there should be more ways for retirees to use their talents and knowledge for the benefit of their communities and society at large. Retirees want to spend their time in useful, rewarding ways—and they're well capable of doing so, given their decades of life experience. Retirees with a strong sense of purpose have happier, healthier lives and report a higher quality of life.

#### **Finances**

Retirees are less interested in accumulating more wealth than they are in having sufficient resources to achieve the freedom to live their lives as they choose. Yet, retirees frequently find that managing money in retirement can be even more challenging than saving for it. And the "unknowns" can be scary: Almost 70% of those who plan to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their healthcare and long-term care costs will be in retirement.

So, if you're getting close to retirement, and you're considering these factors, how

can you best integrate them into a fulfilling, meaningful way of life? You'll want to take a "holistic" approach by asking yourself some key questions: What do you want to be able to do with your time and money? Are you building the resources necessary to enjoy the lifestyle you've envisioned? Are you prepared for the increasing costs of health care as you age? Have you taken the steps to maintain your financial independence, and avoid burdening your family, in case you need some type of long-term care? Have you created the estate plans necessary

to leave the type of legacy you desire?

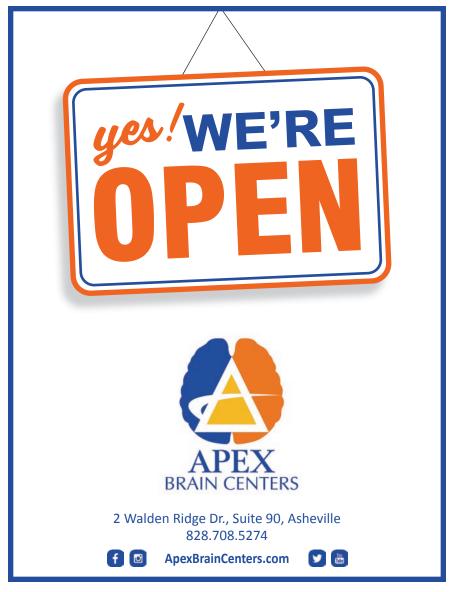
By addressing these and other issues, possibly with the help of a financial professional, you can set yourself on the path toward the type of retirement that's not really a retirement at all—but rather a new, invigorating chapter of your life.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Stephen Herbert. Contact 628-1546 or stephen. herbert@edwardjones.com.

#### JULY FAIRVIEW REAL ESTATE STATISTICS Max \$ Lowest \$ Average \$ **Homes Listed** 10 1,060,000 329,000 601,769 **Homes Sold** 37 789,129 66,500 430,082 25,000 144,900 **Land Listed** 11 450,000 2 Land Sold 230,000 50,000 140,000

Cool Mountain Realty provides the monthly real estate stats for the Fairview area (zip 28730). When selecting a real estate company, remember to shop local. Cool Mountain Realty has been in Fairview for 13 years and our agents have been selling in our area for 33 years. Keep and multiply the dollars in your local community's economy.







# The Importance of the Census and Protecting Farmland

t is not too late to complete the 2020 Census. Please take a few minutes and visit my2020census.gov. If you don't have internet access, the public library system provides free Wi-Fi access at every branch.

You may be asking why it is important to complete the Census. Conducted every 10 years, it is the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country. The Census is used to produce statistics about how many people live in what areas and who they are by age, sex, race and ethnicity. When those statistics combine with other data, governments can make better decisions about allocating funds for services for the next 10 years. Census data also helps determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives and assists in drawing congressional and state legislative districts. Additionally, Census data will show where communities need new schools, new clinics and new roads.

The more people who respond from Buncombe County, the more funding we will get for Medicaid, Medicare, school lunch programs, highways and disaster relief, just to name a few things. The funding formula is  $$1,600 \times 10$  number in the household x 10 years. In my household, that would be  $$1,600 \times 3 \times 10$  to equal \$48,000. Just think what that number looks like across Buncombe County.

This year, Dogwood Health Trust (DHT) is supporting efforts to increase Census counts by incentivizing Buncombe County to improve its response rate. DHT will grant \$1,000 for every percentage point increase above the 58% of respondents reported. The estimated total grant amount is expected to be between \$10,000 and \$20,000. These funds mean even more support to Buncombe County for programs and services that impact our daily lives.

Currently, only 60% of Buncombe County residents have completed the Census, meaning one in five households still needs to respond. In early August, the US Census Bureau began following up with households nationwide that have not responded. Please take a few minutes to complete your Census survey.

# **Farmland Protection Plan**

The last few months have been quite full for the county commissioners. One of the votes I am most proud of occurred on August 4. We unanimously approved the new Farmland Protection Plan that will continue to preserve one of our most valuable resources. As you all know, our mountains and landscapes contribute to the beauty of our county and are one of the many reasons we love living here. Agriculture is a critical component of our county, and we must be intentional

about preserving farmland. Through very intentional efforts, Buncombe County has been able to protect farmland in the face of growing development. More than 300 farms and over 24,000 acres of land are currently in our conservation programs.

However, more work needs to be done, as the threat of losing agriculture-based land continues. Buncombe County's new Farmland Protection Plan will help further preserve agricultural areas that improve our quality of life by providing food, clean air and water. Additionally, the Farmland Protection Plan outlines three programs that will allow a property to be preserved or continue its agricultural use for generations to come. If you are interested in preserving agricultural land, contact Ariel Zlip at 250-4794.

Farmland preservation is near and dear to me. My husband grew up on a 300-acre farm, and it wasn't placed in a conservation easement. The land that he grew up working and loved is now gone from the family forever. I support these initiatives because I don't want any family in Buncombe County to experience the heartbreaking loss of a family farm.

# Voting

Finally, I hope each one of you is registered to vote. I have loved Election Day since I was a small child. I have such wonderful

memories of going with my mother to take my great-grandfather to vote in what would be his last election in 1984. I was only 7 years old and still vividly remember that, despite failing health, it was vital to him to exercise his right to vote. I have not missed an election since I became eligible to vote and thank my Pawpaw Wade for instilling that responsibility in me.

I hope your voice will be heard too on November 3. The 2020 ballot features federal candidates and state candidates, including your NC House and Senate representatives, and local county commission races. Local government and its policy-making impacts your daily lives. Be sure to research your local candidates and vote in every race.

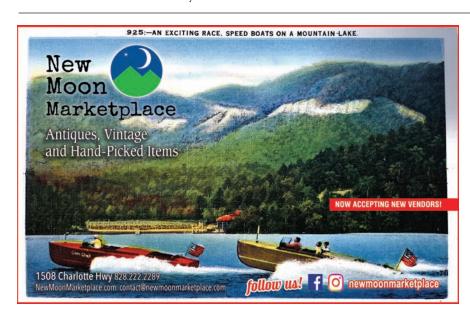
[See page 5 for more information on voting in the general election.]

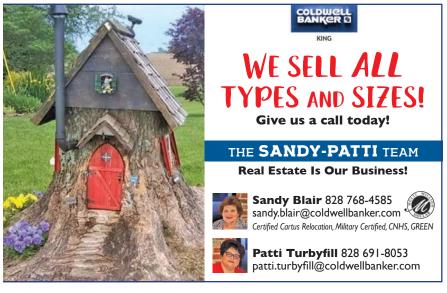
I hope everyone continues to stay healthy by following the three w's: wear a face covering, wash your hands, and wait six feet apart. Thank you for taking care of yourself, your families and your neighbors.



Amanda Edwards is one of the District 2 representatives, along with Anthony Penland, on the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. She can be reached at amanda.

edwards@buncombecounty.org or 484-6385.









# **Great American Outdoors Act: Public Lands for All**

ast month, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law after passing the US House and Senate with bipartisan support. It has been touted as the most important legislation for land and water conservation and public lands in the last 50 years.

What makes this legislation important? And why were conservation organizations and partners all over the nation doing a happy dance after the signing? The act finally fixes funding issues with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which has had a long and challenging road despite broad bipartisan support. The legislation will enable funding to flow for a long backlog of deferred maintenance needs on public lands. And with funding from the LWCF, the US Forest Service will be able to add priority tracts to the unfinished blocks of national forest land.

Funding for the maintenance and operation of facilities will benefit everyone who enjoys public lands. For example, the act could enable funding for staffing public areas and maintaining restrooms, which would allow for better opportunities for people to enjoy nature.

You may wonder why "fixing" the LWCF funding is important for conservation or why we need to add to local public lands. When you look at a map and see large swaths of green indicating national forests



The Great American Outdoors Act will benefit the preservation and management of public lands, such as the Appalachian Trail in the Highlands of Roan (above). PHOTO: TRAVIS BORDLEY/SAHC

and parks, you may think these public lands are not broken up at all. However, in examining the map with parcel-level data (looking at the ownership of individual tracts of land), you find that these big blocks are actually cut through with many privately-owned properties, including in-holdings, which are totally surrounded by national forest land. This can create a variety of challenges for public enjoyment or access to public lands.

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) works with partners in the landscape to help secure some of these priority tracts when the opportunity arises. SAHC helps conserve land for public parks and national forests by acquiring properties from willing landowners when they are ready to sell or donate their land and then transferring it to the appropriate public lands entity when funds are available.

#### "Like a checkerboard"

SAHC Executive Director Carl Silverstein explained, "In the eastern US, every acre of national forest land has [had] to be purchased. Within the forest planning boundaries, property ownership appears something like a checkerboard, with both public lands and private lands. This is important because parts of the national forest may be near a trail or other feature, but people can't utilize the public lands to the fullest because private lands are interspersed."

SAHC works closely with partners across the landscape to help fill in these gaps in public lands—like completing a puzzle—for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Contiguous public lands provide the benefit of public enjoyment, while also securing intact corridors for plants and animal movement. For example, this year, SAHC acquired three properties totaling 273 acres that will eventually be transferred to the US Forest Service for inclusion in the Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests. Each of these properties were completely or partially surrounded

by public land and had been identified as conservation priorities because of their location, as well as for their water and habitat resources. Also this year, a 65-acre tract that SAHC purchased in the Highlands of Roan last year was transferred to the Forest Service to become part of Cherokee National Forest.

SAHC founders were instrumental in the passage of the National Trails Act in 1963, which enabled funding for purchasing land for the Appalachian Trail corridor in the '70s, '80s, and '90s. "The LWCF worked well toward this purpose in the '70s and '80s," said Silverstein, "and SAHC helped accomplish a number of projects securing the AT corridor, particularly in the Highlands of Roan. In the '90s, funding began to be diverted from the LWCF for a number of other purposes; the Great American Outdoors Act fixes that."

Check our website for new virtual tours of some public lands and trails that SAHC has helped protect.

With National Public Lands Day this month (September 26), we hope you will hit the trail or enjoy the abundant public lands in WNC. And while you're out there, remember the important role that your local trusts play in permanently conserving these areas.

Angela Shepherd is Communications Director of the SAHC in Asheville. She can be reached at 253-0095 ext. 200 or sahc@ appalachian.org. Visit Appalachian.org.





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# **Networking with FBA Members** at Annual Picnic



by Candi Yount

**OUR ANNUAL PICNIC** was held on August 7 at Cloud 9 Farm. Members brought their own food and beverages for comfortable socialization.

Our gathering was an optimum time to see Janet Peterson's farm in its summer beauty. We had perfect networking opportunities under a large, event-sized tent, as well as ring-side seats on the lawn, as we overlooked the lake and meticulously manicured gardens of the wedding venue.

Setting the picnic off right were the Pellys, owners of All Seasons Heating & Air Conditioning, who arrived dressed to the nines and sporting fine style in their 1940 Packard. Our thanks to Morgan and Lisa for the great musical selections. We used this happy time to just enjoy being with fellow business members.

The forecasted rain came in manageable amounts, and those who stayed for the end of the showers were presented with more beauty, as the sun lit a fresh landscape in golden hues.

This year's picnic was, in my opinion, an especially meaningful time of camaraderie.

# **FBA Board Officers**

**President** Diana Soll Grand Solutions LLC

**Vice President** Michelle Shuford *Sunrise Sawmill* 

**Treasurer** Brandy Lampert *Frame It Asheville* 

**Secretary** Candice Yount AA Diamond Tile

**Meeting Coordinator** Janet Peterson Cloud 9 Relaxation Home

Webmaster Bill Scobie, Scobie.net





FBA members enjoyed time on Cloud 9's lawn (above right). The Pellys (above left) arrived in style in their Packard.

# Welcome, NEW MEMBER!

M. Moore Woodturning

Thanks to Subway Reynolds and all who braved the weather to make it such a special time.



# **Next Member Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 10 at 6 pm at Bearwallow Event Center, above, in Gerton.

This wedding and event center sits on the ridge of the eastern continental divide and was planned with care to utilize the beauty of the 75 acres on which two large guest homes and the pavilion dwell. You won't want to miss the breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains from this new event center.

Candi Yount is the secretary of the FBA.

# Keep it Local!

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All Season Heating & AC651-9998 Cane Creek Concrete230-0322	Trout Lily628-0402
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B&B Tree Service	Holistic Health Solutions490-0988
Fairview Landscaping628-4080	Stacy Martin Reiki 516-902-6107

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# **Interviews for Our New Sanctuary Space**

n the spring, I was introduced to Root Cause Farm through my interfaith class at Warren Wilson College, which focused on how to engage in community service with people of different faiths. I had the pleasure of extending my work by interviewing community members by phone about their ideas of what a sanctuary space means to them.

Root Cause introduced the idea of a sanctuary space in May, with the understanding that it was to be a place to celebrate, meditate and heal. We've since been working with community volunteers to come up with a design. As I was doing the interviews, I noticed common threads of what sanctuary means to people.

One of the main threads that popped up was the concept of having an enclosed space within the sanctuary space. A garden volunteer said, "I think our entrance to the garden and various points of going into the area that are often enclosed are very welcoming and warming." A fellow Fairview land steward said, "I'm thinking a lot about trees. There's almost... boundaries to it. There's a nesty quality to it." A community member talked with me about the sense of solitude by "having various 'rooms' within the garden where people can be alone with their thoughts," they said. "Perhaps they want to feel sad or even cry." Enclosed spaces can encourage a

sense of safety for some.

Secondly, many of the interviewees highlighted the senses. A Sprouts parent talked about utilizing the senses for healing. (Sprouts is a summer program for children between the ages of 3 and 8.) "Aromatic plants, herbs for tasting, some sort of opportunity for touch," they said. "The sound of water would be lovely and soothing." Most of the volunteers touched on how our senses allow us to connect with the space around us, letting us feel grounded. A community partner added that these features "allow us to interact with our grief and touch our deepest feelings, like a stone wall into which we can tuck notes with our specific prayers [or] plants of many textures and fragrances that invite us to touch and wake the parts of us...that we've shut down in our fear of grief."

### Symbolic Plants

Lastly, volunteers brought up that people could connect more to a space and heal with [exposure to] certain plants. Some plants connect with people personally. A garden friend talked about how certain trees will remind them of their connection to their past. Perhaps incorporating these symbolic plants can serve as a reminder to us of how we've grown. A Fairview land steward shared how they use plants "that



historically have had multiple uses... I grow nettles for their fiber and Tansies... for natural dye—but it's also a natural insect repellent." It's possible that plants can help us to realize the creativity inside of us.

Root Cause Farm interviewed its community members about their ideas of what a sanctuary space means to them.

As I ended the last interview, I began to combine all of the threads to form an idea of what the community wants for our personalized yet communal sanctuary space. Perhaps you might want to reflect on what sanctuary means to you. Please add your thread to the tapestry this community has begun to create by September 30. We'll be reaching out on social media to conduct some polls and ask for your input to make our sanctuary space the most

welcoming, nurturing and healing place it can be. You can contact us directly at programs@rootcausefarm.org.

Max Gross is a volunteer at Root Cause Farm. rootcausefarm.org.









# Music to the Teeth

ere's a riddle for you: What wild edible is called "music to the teeth" in Malaysia? It sells for approximately \$20 a pound and is a multi-million-dollar crop around the world—prized especially in most of Asia.

Here's a second clue: Most Americans hate them and avoid them at all costs. They have a nasty poison that can be stronger than cobra venom that really hurts for a while—and some species are deadly.

Wasps? Snakes? Stinging nettles? Mutant squids? None of the above. But most people have experienced them at one time in their lives; their sting is rather unforgettable, and they truly are a pest to humans in the summer months. They exist in most oceans and are, in fact, too abundant in places like the Chesapeake Bay, where I lived many moons ago, and up and down the Atlantic coast.

# **Try Once Before Judging**

The wild edible I am speaking of is the nasty but beautiful jellyfish. You cannot eat them raw, unless you are a squid, as they have to be processed for about a week. You can be the judge as to whether you think it's worth the effort. Taste, like scent, is in the mouth of the beholder, and many things we find delicious and common in the US might be met with revulsion in other cultures. So, a delicacy is relative. One thing I have learned over the years

"A small platter arrived with tiny, pretty cubes... that resembled jello... with a flower in the center."

is to try something once before passing judgment, as you never know—you might be surprised and find something absolutely delicious.

When I was visiting Scotland, locals raved around haggis and blood pudding, so I tried it at breakfast once—and only once. My Scottish friends were delighted that I found it rather gross, as that meant more for them. But I'm glad I tried it.

I was hesitant at first to try roasted rattlesnake, but I found it to be delicious. The same held true for possum. I was well aware that it was eaten throughout Appalachia and other parts of the world, but it had absolutely zero appeal to me. I like them as a critter, but they just seemed too much like giant rats. In Madison County many years ago, I hosted a wild foods event for an international caterers association, and the stellar chef who prepared our meal served a mystery: a wild



barbecue on ramp-infused crackers with morels. It was delicious. Later, we found out the barbecue was a possum the chef had caught raiding her henhouse. She had fed it milk and corn for two weeks before working her magic. The lesson learned was never say never.

I had heard that jellyfish were edible, but I didn't want to eat them. Years ago, during a meal at a Chinese restaurant, I asked my friend Gary, "What is the weirdest thing on the menu that we might try?" We both immediately settled on the same item: crispy jellyfish. A small platter arrived with tiny, pretty cubes of yellowish-clear jellyfish pieces that resembled jello, but they had a firm texture with a

On Edisto Island, South Carolina, Roger pulled a prank and put a big cannonball jellyfish on a platter for a friend's daughter's plate for dessert. She laughed but demanded cheesecake instead.

flower in the center. After we both took a bite, I asked for his review. He said it was like "two-week-old, stale, chewy jello," and

There are three kinds of jellyfish that are edible on the East Coast, and one of the common ones is called "cannonball jellyfish." None of the edible varieties have tentacles. They must be caught fresh, put in a saline brine solution for three days with alum, taken out and fattened, put in another brine solution for three to four days, removed and dried.

Since my first experience with them, I've discovered that they are best served with a good sauce or marinade. Had I known that years ago, jellyfish might be on my "yum" list.



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# **Certify Your Habitat**

ome time ago, I wrote an article about the staggering drop in bird populations since 1970. I also outlined in that article the seven steps people can take to help birds. These steps include making windows safer, keeping cats indoors, reducing lawns by planting native plants, avoiding pesticides, buying shade-grown coffee, reducing the use of plastics and becoming involved with citizen science.

This month, I want to write about step three: reducing your lawn by planting native plants. Let's take that a step further. Did you know that the National Wildlife Federation has a program that offers you the opportunity to certify your habitat? Wildlife habitat gardens are havens for local birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Once you are certified, you can share your accomplishment and commitment to helping wildlife with your whole neighborhood.

Creating a wildlife habitat garden is fun, rewarding and makes a big difference. And it's easier than you might think. A wildlife habitat garden should include the following five elements.

#### Food

Native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife. For birds, feeders can supplement natural food sources and provide hours of bird-watching enjoyment.



Here are a few things to consider for your bird feeding stations.

- Implement multiple feeding stations in different areas of your yard to disperse bird activity.
- Use a seed blend designed for your feeder and the types of birds you feed.
   Blends that contain filler seeds and grains (milo, sorghum and red or golden millet) are not typically eaten by birds and will often end up on the ground.
- Place bird feeders in locations that do not provide hiding places for cats and other predators. Feeders should be 10 to 12 feet from low shrubs or brush piles.

- Black oil sunflower seed is a favorite of just about every seed-eating species.
- Suet feeders are a favorite of woodpeckers and other insect-eating birds. You can make your own suet or buy blocks of suet from a wild bird store.

#### Water

All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding as well. Birds need to bathe in order to keep their feathers in good working order, while other species, including some amphibians, insects and other wildlife, actually live in water.

#### Cover

Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and hide from predators or hunt for prey. Simple collections of brush or wood piles can offer this cover. For birds, also consider a roosting box, which is different than a nesting box.

### Places to Raise Young

Wildlife need resources to reproduce and to protect and nourish their young. Many places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise their young, from wildflower meadows where butterflies and moths lay their eggs to caves where bats roost and form colonies. Nesting boxes are a great addition to your bird habitat.

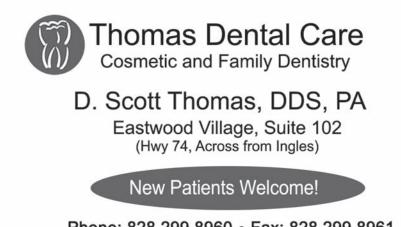
#### Sustainability

Always use sustainable practices by maintaining your yard or garden in natural ways to ensure that soil, air, and water stay healthy and clean. Soil and water conservation, controlling of exotic plant species and using organic practices will do the trick.

Working together in this way can help save the songbirds. For more details on creating a certified wildlife habitat, see the links at fairviewtowncrier.com/links.

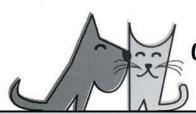
Steve Muma is co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited at 10 Crispin Court, Suite D, 102, Asheville. asheville.wbu.com.





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# **Hard Work**

As I described last month, my wife and I mapped out the course of events we expected to encounter along the journey of her getting surgery on both of her knees at once. Every step of the way, we tried to imagine what she would go through and what my tasks would be to support her in her recovery.

# **Psyched Out**

Marilyn had made the conscious decision to have both knees done because, from what she had heard, the likelihood of getting the second one done after doing the first was virtually nil. As we approached the time of surgery, we received more and more anecdotes from well-meaning people about their (or a friend's) knee surgery. Many people, in wide-eyed disbelief, said, "You're going to have double knee surgery?" This was usually followed by "You poor dear," "You're very brave," or the "Bless your heart."

In hindsight, I don't think they were referring to the actual operation but the physical therapy that followed. Single-knee surgery leaves one "good" leg to stand on during rehabilitation, which is a big asset. Doing both means you have two new knees to contend with, much like when you were first born. You must learn to walk all over again. Old habits

of movement the body developed to cope with the bad knees must be forcibly replaced with corrected habits incorporating long-misused or never-used muscles—and often under great protest. This is why people fear the physical therapy phase of recovery.

# **Psyched Up**

As in much of life, we tried to cope with a difficult situation by using mind games—visualizing the end goal, taking one step at a time; "a light at the end of the tunnel." A positive mental attitude —"no pain, no gain"—is crucial in the healing process. And yes, there is pain. But despite the occasional ups and downs, we're greatly encouraged by the breakthroughs and steady improvement Marilyn has experienced each day.

# **Takeaway**

It turns out that the therapy is the most important part of the healing process. And that fear is turning into excitement. "If we never give up, it truly will be worth it," we tell ourselves. It will be for you too.



Mike Richard is president of Prime Time Solutions, offering local, free, no-obligation consultations: 628-3889 or 275-5863.

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