



YOUR NONPROFIT, COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1997

# The Fairview Town Crier

DECEMBER 2023 VOL. 27, No. 12 | FAIRVIEW, NC | fairviewtowncrier.com  

## Great News!

Things are looking up. Last issue, we announced the *Crier* might have to cease publication since we had not found replacements for Clark and Lisa, our managing editor and art director who are moving on to their next journey in 2024.

We ran job descriptions and were heartened to hear from a number of applicants. It was hard to pick from many qualified people who also expressed deep love and caring for our community, but we were especially drawn to two who just felt like the right fits. They're both excited to join the *Crier*.

The hire won't be official until the paper's board of directors votes at their meeting in early January, but the new folks are willing to jump in and work with the outgoing

team to produce the January issue. And Clark will stay involved as publisher for as long as needed for continuity and support. What a fantastic way to start the new year! The *Crier* will live on to deliver local updates, events, business resources, informative articles, school and library reports, nonprofit activities, family connections, humor and more for years to come.

### But — there's always a "but" — we need your help

If you are new to the community, you may not realize that the jam-packed free paper that appears in your mailbox each month is a nonprofit company in its 26th year. That nonprofit status allows us to mail at a reduced postage rate so it costs the reader nothing to receive. Public support (donations) is required to maintain our nonprofit status, as well as subsidize increases in printing, labor and mailing costs.

We thank all who have made donations in the past, and appreciate every one, no matter how small. It shows us you care and find value in the *Crier's* efforts to keep you informed over the years. So, what is getting the paper every month worth to you?

While the *Crier* is itself a nonprofit, part of our mission is to support other community nonprofits. So we are very aware there are a lot of charitable organizations in need, but whatever amount you can give will be accepted with gratitude. Your donation is tax deductible. See the box at left for options to donate—thank you!



Publisher and managing editor Clark Aycock, left, with the prospective new production team: Ralph Grizzle, editor, and Saige Hopkins, ad and layout artist.

### SUPPORT THE CRIER!

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The Fairview Town Crier  
PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730

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At the *Town Crier* office at  
1185 Charlotte Highway or  
in the blue drop box outside

#### ONLINE

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### Another way to help!

All of the newspapers are printed with "Fairview Postal Patron" on the front page. The copies going to Fairview addresses are dropped at the Fairview Post Office. However, papers going to Fletcher, Gerton and Reynolds must have appropriate addresses labeled over the Fairview one. This is accomplished by volunteers, a number of whom have been doing this monthly task for many years. Honestly,

the paper wouldn't get out in those areas without them. It takes about an hour and a half, once a month. Then the postal bins are collected by Chad Flynn, our bookkeeper Veronica's husband, and delivered to the various post offices. Additional help with labeling is always needed, and it's fun. So, if you feel you can spare a few hours once a month, or even just once, please email clark@fairviewtowncrier.com to be put on the email reminder list.

## Fairview Holiday Events

### DECEMBER 5

**Holiday Workshop** 10 am  
Upper Hickory Nut Gorge  
Community Center  
4734 Gerton Highway, Gerton

### DECEMBER 9

**Holiday with the Horses** 2–5 pm  
Decorate the barn, dress up the horses, and make ornaments with Project HNG.

### DECEMBER 10

**Drive-through Nativity**  
5:30–8 pm  
Cane Creek Missionary  
Baptist Church  
2063 Charlotte Highway, Fairview

### DECEMBER 10

**A.C. Reynolds High Band Craft Fair**  
9 am–2 pm  
1 Rocket Drive, Asheville

### DECEMBER 10

**Christmas Drive-Thru**  
6–8 pm  
Cedar Mountain Baptist Church  
27 Reeds Creek Rd., Fairview

### DECEMBER 16

**Holiday Brunch with Santa**  
9–11 am  
Spring Mountain Community Center  
807 Old Fort Road, Fairview

### DECEMBER 17

**Christmas Musical**  
6 pm  
Oak Grove Baptist Church  
1442 Cane Creek Rd.,  
Fletcher

See page 2 for  
full info on some  
of these events.



### Letters to Santa

Once again, Fairview-area kids can drop off their letters to Santa at a special mailbox at 467 Emma's Grove Road (near Lytle Road) in Fairview/Fletcher.

There's a wrap-around driveway for easy and safe access. **Drop off a letter with your child's first name, last name and return address by December 18** and they will receive an official letter from Santa.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 5 WNC PROSTATE SUPPORT GROUP 6:30 pm

Medical professional speakers. Free meeting via Zoom and in-person at First Baptist Church of Asheville. For more info, wncprostate@gmail.com or 419-4565.

## DECEMBER 7 FBA HOLIDAY PARTY 6 pm

Fairview Business Association  
Members and the public are invited. See page 27 for more info.

## DECEMBER 9 CRAFT FAIR 9 am–2 pm ACRHS High School Band

Handmade items from local vendors, as well as food, baked goods, hot chocolate, raffle items, live music. Fairview Community Center (next to the school).

## DECEMBER 9 HOLIDAY WITH THE HORSES 2–5 pm

**Project HNG**  
Come for a fun evening of decorating the barn, dressing up the horses, making ornaments for the tree, drinking hot chocolate and decorating cookies. This year, Project HNG is raising money to build a new riding ring so it can provide more kids with the opportunity to learn through horseback riding. Recommended donation of \$25 per family to Project HNG (VENMO, cash or check). At the Hickory

Nut Gap Horse Barn, 2063 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview.

## DECEMBER 10 CHRISTMAS DRIVE-THRU 6–8 pm

**Cedar Mountain Baptist Church**  
“A Christmas Blessing,” honoring Gina Page. 27 Reeds Creek Rd., Fairview.

## DECEMBER 10 DRIVE-THROUGH LIVE NATIVITY 5:30–8 pm

**Cane Creek Missionary Baptist**  
Everyone is invited to drive through to view the live nativity to celebrate the Christmas season. 506 Old US Hwy 74, Fairview.

## DECEMBER 11 NEW 4-H CLUB 5–6 pm STEM & Electricity—Hickory Nut 4H Club

This new club will meet the second Monday of each month at Hickory Nut Gap Meats Big Barn. For kids ages 8 to 18. Come explore science experiments. No cost to join. Email brittanykeeler@gmail.com for more information. 57 Sugar Hollow Rd., Fairview.

## DECEMBER 16 BRUNCH WITH SANTA 9–11 am

**Spring Mountain Community Center**  
All ages are invited. Bring a breakfast snack to share if you can. 807 Old Fort Rd., Fairview.

## DECEMBER 17 CHRISTMAS MUSICAL 6 pm

**Oak Grove Baptist Church**  
“Christmas: The Story that Never Grows Old” — a 25-minute mini-musical celebration. Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship after. See ad on facing page. 1442 Cane Creek Rd., Fletcher.

## DECEMBER 17 HOLIDAY PARTY 2–4 pm

**Upper Hickory Gap Community Center**  
UHNGCC will hold its annual holiday party outside at the Chestnut Hills Pavilion. Hot chocolate, hot cider, and coffee provided. Bring finger foods. They will have several fire pits, so come enjoy Christmas songs and visiting among neighbors. All are welcome. 4730 Gerton Hwy., Gerton.

## DECEMBER 26–30 AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE 9:30 am–4 pm

**Signs for Hope**  
See the ad on page 12. 379 Old Charlotte Highway, Fairview

## ONGOING CHRISTMAS TREE SALE Asheville Lions Club

Christmas trees will be on sale at 2310 Hendersonville Road (next to Dairy Queen) in Arden through December.

## MONTHLY ROOT CAUSE FARM

Volunteer Days, Sundays, 3–6 pm, Mondays, 9 am–12:30 pm; Potluck Dinner, last Sunday of every month, 5 pm; Share Market, Mondays, 12–1 pm.

## EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY THROUGH DECEMBER 23 GIFT MARKET 12–5 pm

**Gratia Botanica**  
See ad on page 7. 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd. Suite 202.

coming next month



## JANUARY 10 LOSS OF SPOUSE SEMINAR JANUARY 17 GRIEF SHARE

**Trinity of Fairview**  
Both at 646 Concord Rd, Fletcher. See the ad on page 12.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Trinity of Fairview**  
646 Concord Road, Fletcher

**Wednesday, December 20**  
Candle and carol service, 6:30 pm

**Sunday, December 24**  
Family Christmas service  
10:45 am and 10:45 pm

**Sunday, December 31**  
New Year's Day service  
9:15 am and 10:45 am

### FOOD PANTRIES

#### Food for Fairview

Fairview Community Center, 1357 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview

**MONDAYS 3–6 pm**

For food assistance and to volunteer (shifts run from 1–6 pm)

**TUESDAYS RESTOCKING, 8:30–10:30 am**

#### The Place Fellowship Church


2 Laura Jackson Rd., Fairview

**WEDNESDAYS 4–6 pm**

#### Trinity of Fairview

646 Concord Rd., Fletcher

**WEDNESDAYS 9 am–12 pm**



The Garren Creek Fire Department Auxiliary is selling nuts again this year—pecans (both halves and pieces) and black walnuts in one-pound bags. Great for holiday baking and healthy snacks. Cash or check. Call or text Elizabeth Simmonds at 230-3986 to arrange for delivery.

**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, NC.

*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 clark@fairviewtowncrier.com. For staff directory, contacts and additional info, please visit fairviewtowncrier.com or see page 31.

**DECEMBER SPECIAL 2 ROOMS FOR \$109**



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UPDATES

**Holiday Closings**

Please note that the Fairview Library will be closed from December 25–27 for the Christmas holiday.



**Friends of the Library Meeting**

December 5 at 7 pm  
The Friends of Fairview Library will hold their regular meeting.

FOR EVERYONE

**Yummy Books and Recipe Exchange**

“She’d just walked into heaven. And her grandmother was right there, in every scent. Sugary and sweet. Herby and sharp. Yeasty and fresh.”  
—Sarah Addison Allen, *Garden Spells*  
During the month of December, the library will highlight “Yummy Books” that inspire new food traditions or harken back to fond memories associated with favorite family recipes. We will also host an ongoing recipe exchange throughout the month.  
To participate, drop by the library with a favorite recipe to exchange it for something new and exciting to try. Recipes can include a title, ingredients, directions,

special dietary notes, your name, and why this recipe has special meaning to you. Blank recipe card templates will also be available in the library for participants.  
To submit electronically, send to [fairview.library@buncombecounty.org](mailto:fairview.library@buncombecounty.org). All recipes shared by December 22 will be combined into a packet for patrons who would like the entire shared collection.

FOR KIDS

**Weekly Story Time at the Library**

Tuesdays, 10:30 am, 3–6 years  
Thursdays, 10:30 am, 18 months to 3 years

**CRAFTING AND CREATING**

**In House Activity: Gingerbread People**  
Decorate a paper gingerbread person with all kinds of festive stickers and doo-dads. They’ll look good enough to eat! But don’t, because, you know, they’re paper. All ages.

**Take Home Craft: Snowpeople Bookmarks**

Pick up the materials to make a snazzy little snowperson bookmark! Requires some folding, so this craft is best suited for older kids. Ages 7 and up.

**Lego Club**

December 29, 3:30 pm  
The library provides the Legos, you provide the creativity. Perfect for ages 6 and up.

SPECIAL EVENT

**Spider Web Wonders**

from the Friends of the WNC Nature Center  
**Sat., Dec. 2, 2:45 pm**

Spiders are some of the most misunderstood animals in our area. Now it’s time to learn what makes them so special. Participants will discover the different types of webs that spiders weave and even have a chance to spin their own. For school-age kids.



FOR ADULTS

**Fiber Arts Club**

December 12 from 6:30–8 pm  
A monthly gathering for those who enjoy knitting, crocheting, and hanging out with friends. This is not an instructional group, but newcomers are most welcome.

**Fairview Online Book Club**

December 19 at 7 pm  
The book club will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Diane Wilson via Zoom.

**Upcoming Books**

January 16—*Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* by Kate Beaton  
February 20—*People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks  
March 19—*The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller  
For information or to register, email [jaime.mcdowell@buncombecounty.org](mailto:jaime.mcdowell@buncombecounty.org).  
Jaime McDowell is the head librarian at Fairview Public Library. She can be reached at [jaime.mcdowell@buncombecounty.org](mailto:jaime.mcdowell@buncombecounty.org).

**Christmas**  
THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD  
A 25-MINUTE MINI-MUSICAL CELEBRATION  
SUNDAY DEC 17 6 PM  
Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship afterwards  
Created by Dave Clark  
Arranged by Cliff Duren, Mike Speck, Nick Robertson & Phil Nitz  
Oak Grove Baptist Church  
1552 Cane Creek Road, Fletcher  
[oakgrovemministries.org](http://oakgrovemministries.org) 828-628-1873

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Lead Pastor  
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[www.reachlifechurch.org](http://www.reachlifechurch.org)  
1 Rocket Dr, Asheville, NC 28803



# General Edgar Porter Alexander

Edgar Porter Alexander was born on May 26, 1835, in Washington, GA. He was the son of plantation owner Adam Leopold Alexander and his wife Sarah Gilbert. He was appointed to West Point Academy in July 1853. He was ranked the 3rd highest in his class when he graduated in 1857. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of engineers. Soon after he got out of college, he was sent to Utah on an expedition by President James Buchanan. The expedition was led by General Albert Sydney Johnson.

Alexander married Betty Mason on April 3, 1860, in King George County, VA. He was stationed at West Point as a teacher, where he helped form the Signal Corps of the United States Army. He resigned upon news of the attack at Fort Sumter, SC.

**"...one of the best artillery officers in American history"**

Alexander was appointed as a captain of engineers in the Confederate Army. He was promoted in July 1861 to lieutenant colonel after the Battle of Bull Run. He soon became the chief of ordinance of the Army of Northern Virginia. Alexander performed



so well that he was soon made colonel and chief of artillery of General Longstreet's forces. He was considered to be one of the best artillery officers in American history. Alexander took part in all the major battles in northern Virginia. He was severely wounded at the battle of Petersburg. Alexander was with General Robert E. Lee at

the surrender at Appomattox. After the war ended, Alexander became a professor of engineering and mathematics at the University of South Carolina. He founded and was president of the Columbia Oil Company. He was soon made superintendent of the Charlotte and Augusta Railroad. Alexander was also vice president of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and served as president of the Georgia Railroad and Banking Company and as a director of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Alexander became very close friends with President Grover Cleveland. President Cleveland was a strong supporter of former Confederate soldiers and officers. He paid Alexander \$1,000 dollars a month to settle the boundary dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This

was the beginning of the idea of building a canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Alexander maintained homes in Columbia, SC; Louisville, KY; Augusta, GA; and Savannah, GA. He also owned a large rice plantation on South Island near Georgetown, SC.

Alexander built a summer home in Flat Rock in Henderson County, NC. He called the home Wigwam. He would spend the months of June, July, August and part of September in his Henderson County home for the last 20 years of his life. Alexander began writing extensively in his later years, mainly at his Henderson County home. His best-known book was "Military Memoirs of a Confederate." It took him five years to complete this book, which was published in 1907. The book was soon recognized as both a literary and military classic. The book is a collector's item and the few that are found bring a high price.

Betty Mason Alexander died in Savannah, GA, on November 20, 1899. She is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, GA. Edgar Porter Alexander died on April 28, 1910, also in Savannah. He is also buried in Magnolia Cemetery.

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

**IMPORTANT COMMUNITY CONTACTS**

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

Sheriff's Department 250-6670  
 Fairview Fire Department 628-2001  
 Garren Creek Fire Department 669-0024  
 Gerton Fire & Rescue 290-6194  
 Reynolds Fire Department 298-5200  
**CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES**

**SCHOOLS**

A.C. Reynolds High 298-2500  
 A.C. Reynolds Middle 298-7484  
 Cane Creek Middle 628-0824  
 Fairview Elementary 628-2732

**COMMUNITY CENTERS**

Cane Creek 768-2218  
 Fairview 338-9005  
 Spring Mountain 545-9092  
 Upper Hickory Nut Gorge 625-0264

**POST OFFICES**

Fairview Post Office 628-7838  
 Fletcher Post Office 684-6376  
 Gerton Post Office 625-4080

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Fairview Business Association 585-7414  
 Fairview Library 250-6484  
 Food for Fairview 628-4322  
 Meals on Wheels 253-5286  
 Root Cause Farm 628-3688



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Tues, Dec 19  
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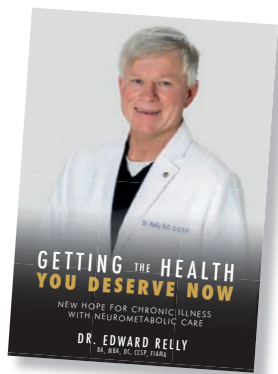


- Tues, Dec 5 **FOOT PAIN**
- Thurs, Dec 7 **DEMENTIA**
- Tues, Dec 12 **NEUROPATHY**
- Thurs, Dec 14 **BLINKY LIGHT**

## JANUARY

Thurs, Jan 4 **What To Do When Traditional Medicine Fails**

Mon, Jan 15  
**BOOK LAUNCH**



- Tues, Jan 9 **NEUROPATHY**
- Thurs, Jan 11 **MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS**
- Tues, Jan 16 **DEMENTIA**
- Thurs, Jan 18 **AUTOIMMUNITY**
- Tues, Jan 23 **LEAKY GUT**
- Thurs, Jan 25 **FIBROMALGIA**
- Tues, Jan 30 **KNEE PAIN**

## FEBRUARY

- Mon, Feb 5 **MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS**
- Tues, Feb 6 **NEUROPATHY**
- Thurs, Feb 8 **DEMENTIA**
- Tues, Feb 13 **NEUROPATHY**

- Thurs, Feb 15 **Getting The Health You Deserve Now!**
- Tues, Feb 20 **NEUROPATHY**
- Thurs, Feb 22 **AUTOIMMUNITY**
- Tues, Feb 27 **NEUROPATHY**
- Thurs, Feb 29 **LEAKY GUT**

## MARCH

- Tues, March 5 **NEUROPATHY**
- Thurs, March 7 **AUTOIMMUNITY**
- Tues, March 12 **LEAKY GUT**

- Tues, March 19 **NEUROPATHY**
- Mon, March 25 **DEMENTIA**
- Tues, March 26 **KNEE PAIN**



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# Fall 2023 Recap

Looking back a bit at fall, precipitation through at least the first half of November was sparse. We continued our streak of dry weather and could use some rain and snow. In fact, as of mid-November, the last decent soaking rain was back in late August, when several thunderstorm complexes gave us 3 to 5 inches of rain in a three-day period. That was also our wettest month of the year, with over 7 inches of precipitation. Since September 1, it has turned dry, with our area getting only about 2.5 inches of rain.

December starts meteorological winter, which is defined as the three coldest months on average (December, January and February). Most of the long-range winter forecasts are calling for colder air masses with more snowfall. However, any snowfall will beat what fell last winter, which was just a few traces. Winter tends to be a visitor in December, and we usually go back and forth between warm and cold. However, we will have to wait and see if that is true.



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

## WEATHER WONDER

### What is typical Christmas Day weather, and what are the extremes?

No column in December would be complete without a look at the probability of snow or even a flurry or two at Christmas. In terms of a "White Christmas," let's take a look at the historical record. These snowfall numbers/percentages are based on the records taken at the Asheville Airport, and the early years of the records are based on the data from the old Asheville city office, which was in the Grove Arcade Building. The probabilities for our rural Fairview area are a couple of percentage points higher, but it will generally be very close.

The percentage chance of seeing at least a trace or a few flakes of snow on Christmas day is about 26%. This is based on the daily snowfall records that go back continuously to 1888. There has been at least a trace of snow reported on 35 separate occasions on Christmas day out of those 134 years. The largest snowfall on Christmas day happened in 2010. In that year, anywhere between 7 to 10 inches of snow fell, making it the snowiest Christmas on record. We had a cold Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2020, with a couple inches of snow and temperatures in the 20s. The probability of getting accumulating snow—let's say a third of an inch or more—isn't that high, only about 8%. This has happened on only 10 occasions on Christmas day since 1888. We will have to wait and see if it will happen again this year.



### Historical Christmas Weather

Year	Max T	Min T	Weather
2022	31	12	Cold
2021	71	37	Record Hi
2020	24	12	Snow -2 in.
2019	61	30	Mild
2018	49	26	P/Cloudy
2017	36	23	Cold
2016	65	47	Mild
2015	67	59	Rainy
2014	48	31	Cloudy
2013	38	18	Sunny
2012	50	35	Showers
2011	46	34	P/Cloudy
2010	34	28	Snow-7 in.

### QUESTION of the MONTH

**Meteorologically speaking, when is the "Dead of Winter," and why is that term used?**

In terms of temperatures, it flip-flops a lot (see the accompanying image). Last Christmas and Christmas Eve were ones to remember, with bone-cold low temperatures of 0 to -5 as an Arctic blast arrived for the holidays and did a lot of damage to overwintering plants. However, in 2021 was the warmest Christmas, with temperatures topping out above 70. The coldest Christmas was back in 1983, with a high temperature of 14 and a low of -7.

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**38 ACRES IN FAIRVIEW** Private, lush with views of Echo Lake and mtns. Front of property is level to gently sloping w/ easy access off Old Fort Rd. **\$395K REDUCED! NOW \$350K**

**194 ACRES BURNSVILLE!** Private expanse of land with springs, creeks and several old buildings. Exceptional mountain property with STUNNING long-range mountain views & multiple home sites. **\$1M**

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# Building Community in Fairview

I first came to Fairview 55 years ago, to milk cows for Hickory Nut Gap Farm and to woo Annie Clarke. It was a summer gig, and I returned to college in the fall. My family had a small farm, Agers Acres, outside Black Mountain, where I spent my summers roaming the mountains with my cousins. These mountains can certainly get a hold of your heart and soul.

Agers Acres and Hickory Nut Gap Farm remained in the rural world back in those days, with fascinating mountain characters that were a part of everyday life. Agers Acres has become the upscale planned community of Chesire, and Fairview has certainly become the home of many “outsiders” drawn by the small-town feel, proximity to Asheville and scenic views. Fairview has also seen its share of culture clash as new people have arrived. Trying to appreciate neighbors who often make you feel uncomfortable can breed unease as their ways clash with yours. I want to thank Bruce Whitaker and his “Days Gone By” articles in the *Town Crier* for the many years of helping newcomers appreciate the past in our community.

Back in the day, I coached soccer, basketball, and baseball in Fairview. Soccer could be a hard sell for the old families. I had one parent tell me, “John, I thought we fought a war to keep that sport out of America.” We were a baseball community, and there was always a hard edge to a game when we played Haw Creek. In

the Reynolds High School constellation of neighborhoods, Haw Creek was the fancy suburb and Fairview was Hicktown! I was finally able to put together a first-rate All-Star team that could crush Haw Creek and make Fairview proud. That was all the glory I needed.

As Fairview continues to grow, how can we continue to appreciate and get along with our new neighbors? What are some of the ways we can work together to build a better community and enjoy one another?

Much of Fairview has always revolved around its churches, and that remains true today. At their best, our many churches can be the light for struggling families. Food for Fairview began out of a church mission, and is a great organization to support as a donor and volunteer. Root Cause Farm has a similar mission of bringing healthy food to families in need. Grab a hoe, make new friends and learn some gardening techniques.

You can also be a bona fide Friend of the Fairview Library, a group that brings interesting speakers, often local, to share their interests. You might be one of those speakers, so let them know you are



available. Fairview Elementary School just received a prestigious national award for its success with struggling students. Why don't you check with the school to see if you can be of help, maybe just reading with a student who needs extra help? Cane Creek Middle and Reynolds Middle and High could

also benefit from your time and expertise and connect you to the community. And then there is the Fairview Athletic Association, offering baseball, softball, and basketball. You could coach or referee. Or you could help with the accounting or ballfield preparation.

Fairview has several community centers managed by volunteers: Spring Mountain, Cane Creek, and the old Fairview gym. In Gerton, they have the active Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center, as well. All of them could use your involvement. We met recently at the Spring Mountain Community Center to discuss a new park for Fairview at the old Camp Woodson property, and there will be plenty of opportunities to help with that project in the next year. And I would be remiss if I did

not include the various fire departments and substations that need board members and volunteer help. Fairview, Garren Creek, Reynolds and Gerton are all vital emergency responders in our community.

## What are some of the ways we can work together to build a better community and enjoy one another?

Finally, there are some efforts I would love to see in our community. One of them is a historic preservation group that would help identify and physically maintain the most interesting and important buildings in Fairview. I have been involved in the pre-Civil war church, Sharon Methodist, and I know they are in need of help to keep up the building. Cemetery maintenance is another interesting community effort. We have several old burial areas that need attention. And getting involved with the political parties is another way to get connected in our community.

What have I left out? Oh, how about the *Town Crier*! Nothing connects Fairview like the *Crier*. If you have some publishing background, consider joining our board.

Community service can be so satisfying, and the opportunities abound. Thank you.

*John Ager is a board member of the Crier and the Fairview area's former Representative in the NC House.*

## Looking to Lend a Hand?

There are many Fairview-area organizations ready to put your generous heart (and hands) to good use. Let us know if we missed any.

### Angels of Fairview

Helping families and children in need in the Fairview area. Find them on Facebook (@angelsoffairview) or call 216-6002 or 775-7750.

### Churches

Visit a local church to find out how you can help. See page 30 for the contact info of some Fairview churches or stop by a local church on a Sunday.

### Community Centers

Local centers need volunteers! Call to see what you can do:

**Cane Creek**, 768-2218

**Fairview**, 338-9005

**Spring Mountain**, 545-9092

**Upper Hickory Nut Gorge** (Gerton), 625-0264

### Conserving Carolina

Build trails, restore habitat, help with a special event, lend a hand in the office, or share your unique skills. [conservingcarolina.org](http://conservingcarolina.org), 697-5777.

### Fairview Town Crier

Write a column, take photos, search social media for interesting stories, be our contact for local school news, research Fairview history, etc. This is your paper—get involved!

Call 628-2211 or email the editor: [clark@fairviewtowncrier.com](mailto:clark@fairviewtowncrier.com).

### Food for Fairview

Volunteers are needed at the Fairview Community Center to greet clients, assist them in shopping, stock shelves, carry boxes to cars, transport food from MANNA Food Bank to the pantry, and help with fundraisers. See page 2 for more info about days and times. [foodfor-fairview.org](http://foodfor-fairview.org), 628-4322.

### Friends of Fairview Library

This active group is always looking for new members who want to make a difference in the community and bring awareness and support to the library. Individual memberships are \$20. You can help gift wrap books at holiday time, provide refreshments for programs, attend business meetings, help with landscaping, coordinate or assist with events, or help in other ways.

For more information, email [fairviewlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:fairviewlibraryfriends@gmail.com) or stop by the library (1 Taylor Road, Fairview).

### Public Schools

Parents and community members can help teachers and students in many ways, such as assisting with a phonics lesson, chaperoning a field trip, proctoring a test or supervising a classroom while a teacher eats lunch or goes to the restroom. Call a local school to find out how you can help. **Fairview Elementary**, 628-2732 **Cane Creek Middle**, 628-0824 **A.C. Reynolds Middle**, 298-7484 **A.C. Reynolds High**, 298-2500

### Root Cause Farm

Get your hands dirty in the garden, help with administration, fundraising and outreach, or see what other help they need.

[rootcausefarm.org](http://rootcausefarm.org), [info@rootcausefarm.org](mailto:info@rootcausefarm.org).

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blinds, and high-end lighting are among new upgrades. HOA fees include water, sewer, garbage, grounds maintenance, and security.

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\$695,000 | MLS 4073328

### Asheville



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811 Starnes Cove Road  
\$125,000 | MLS 4023455

### Black Mountain



3 BR | 2 BA | 1,276 SF

24 White Willow Ridge  
\$443,000 | MLS 4078392

## FAIRVIEW REAL ESTATE SALES OCTOBER 2023

LISTING PRICE	NUMBER SOLD	AVERAGE SALE PRICE	AVERAGE DAYS ON MKT	AVERAGE % LIST-SALE PRICE
UNDER \$300K	3	\$183K	60	71
\$300K-599K	8	\$431K	18	102
\$600K-899K	4	\$730K	41.5	98.5
\$900K+	1	\$985K	2	99

Data is sourced from Canopy MLS and compiled by Greybeard Realty Broker Sara McGee.

## WELCOME *New Agent*



### PRESTON MAYFIELD

Before joining the GreyBeard team, Preston spent more than 10 years in technology consulting. His passion for connecting people with unique opportunities made real estate a natural progression, and he is grateful to leverage this experience to help people with their real estate goals!

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# Brett the Service Dog

**D**ogs are amazing animals and can be trained to help humans in many ways.

Therapy dogs are often used to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, hospices and disaster areas. Though they may be trained and certified by reputable organizations, they do not fall under the protection of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and thus are not allowed in public places because they are not trained to perform a specific job or task for a person with a disability. When access is granted to therapy dogs, it is by courtesy or invitation only and at the discretion of the establishment.

According to the US Department of Justice, service dogs are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, and alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. The ADA protects the rights of people with disabilities to access public places, including stores, restaurants, hotels and hospitals with their service dogs.

Many owners of service dogs have a



Brett helping a client, with the author assisting.

life-threatening disability and rely on their animals in times of crisis or distress, so it's important that service dogs do not falter in their performance. Service dogs are heroes to many.

Compared to therapy dogs, service dogs undergo longer and more intensive training and must pass a difficult assessment before being placed with a client. The standards are so high that as many as 50% of dogs in service training fail to complete the program. The training for service dogs is also very expensive and usually must start at an early age.

Some service dogs in training cannot pass tests due to not being able to follow a

"leave it" command or drooling at the smell of food. Dogs need to understand and obey "leave it" for the safety of their handler in case the dog goes after a wild animal, such as a squirrel. And they need to control their drool to maintain a dry floor for their handler to decrease the risk of falling.

My practice has been very pleased to bring on board Brett, a black Labrador service dog, to assist in serving our clients. She was born in 2015 in Kansas and her litter was named after members of the Kansas City Royals, who won the World Series that year. George Brett, the Hall of Famer who played in the 1980s, was the hitting coach of the 2015 team.

Following her birth, Brett began extensive training, learning how to follow scents even before her eyes were open. She then went to the prison system for more training on basic obedience until she was 18 months. Brett passed her final exam, in which the hardest task was going to a mall and letting a stranger take her away from someone that she was familiar with. This showed that she, as a service dog, would allow individuals (for instance, medical staff) to help their handler in an emergency situation.

After passing her final exam, Brett first went to serve a little boy with seizures. She then got to serve in Canada for a veteran with PTSD. And now she has the privilege of helping serve the Fairview community during physical therapy sessions.

Brett has been trained on alerting for

seizures, low- and high-blood sugar levels, arrhythmias, PTSD and emotional distress. She greets clients coming into the clinic to get their basic scent. If there is a change in scent during the session, Brett paces, gets a staff member's attention by pawing at them, or makes a noise until the client sits down to make sure they are safe.

In addition to being on alert for changes in clients, she assists in other ways. To help clients with their balance, they throw balls for fetching while they stand on unlevel surfaces. They also walk her to train on how to manage a leash and balance prior to walking their own dog. Or they can practice reaching down to pet her. She also provides emotional support if needed.

When not working, Brett enjoys running, hiking with lots of smells, paddle boarding, riding on boats, and any activity that involves a ball and water. Whether she has her vest on or not, she is always alert and attentive to her surroundings and what her handler needs. Brett is a true hero and loves serving our community.



Allison Fender is the co-owner of Unified Therapies, located at 145 Charlotte Highway, Suite 40, Asheville. She has a Doctorate of Science in Physical Therapy with a

concentration in Neurology. For more information, go to [unifiedtherapies.com](http://unifiedtherapies.com) or call 414-2368.

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# Happy 20th Anniversary COOL MOUNTAIN REALTY!

In 1997, Jenny and her husband Brian, a general contractor who builds custom homes and commercial buildings, started Cool Mountain Construction in Fairview. At the time, Jenny was working for Fairview Prudential Realty. After five years, though, she wanted to work for herself, and she and Brian started Cool Mountain Realty.

Their first office was located on Cane Creek Road where the Piano Lab is now. Then, they moved to their current location, at the top of the hill at 771 Charlotte Highway.



They say it's worked out well for them to have the construction company and the real estate companies under one roof. (They also own the local Appalachian Log Home franchise.)

Jenny said, "I really enjoy being part of the construction business and understanding what it takes to build a home. It really helps me when showing homes and



Brian and Jenny Brunet (left). Jenny with a sign showing the original logo in front of the old office on Cane Creek Road (middle). And an ad from the Crier from 1999 (right).

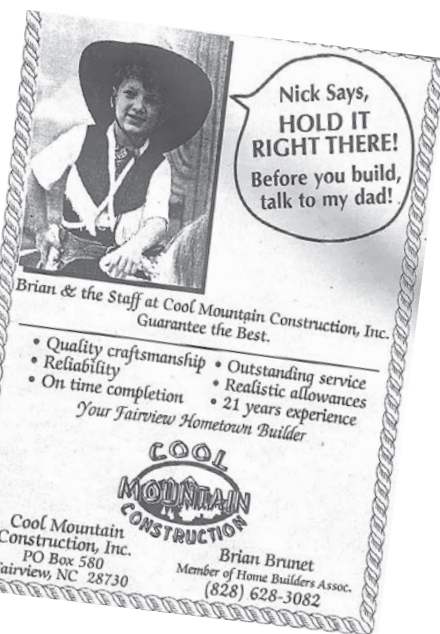


helping my clients buy or sell land." When she first started, selling and purchasing land was much less involved. With all the county regulations now in place, she said, there's much more to consider.

She's been involved in the development of multiple small subdivision communities in Fairview.

She and Brian are active members of the Fairview community. As long-time members of the Fairview Business Association and long-time advertisers in the *Town Crier*, they are always willing to lend a hand to a worthy local cause.

Cool Mountain Realty, where Jenny is the Broker-in-Charge, is a boutique real



estate company with a team of experienced agents, two of which worked with Jenny at Fairview Prudential. They have agents that specialize in helping folks list or purchase land and homes in Fairview and the Asheville area.

Congratulations to Cool Mountain on 20 years!

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# The Ash Tree Has a Grinch

If you've been reading my previous conservation articles on invasive species, you may have already heard of the emerald ash borer (EAB). This brilliantly colored, tiny, jewel-like beetle may look beautiful, but it has cast a grim shadow on the future of ash trees in our forests. But there is a glimmer of hope. The US Department of Agriculture and academic researchers have been working on methods of biological control—specifically, tiny parasitoid wasps—which could provide a potential for hope against the EAB.



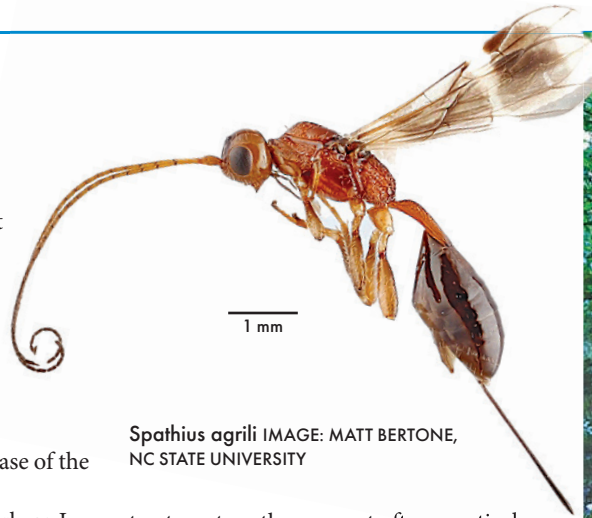
COURTNEY SMITH

This year, in an example of cooperation, coordination and a synergistic meeting of forest health, education and conservation, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) teamed up with researchers from NC State University (NC SU) and an experienced entomologist to conduct a biological control research project at one of SAHC's nature preserves in WNC.

Dr. Kelly Oten, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NCSU contacted colleague Paul Merten, an entomologist with the US Forest Service's Forest Health Protection Program, to help find an appropriate site for a research project involving the release of the parasitoid wasps.

"I was familiar with SAHC's work, so I reached out to Stewardship Director Sarah Sheeran to see if she would permit a release on one of SAHC's preserves," said Merten. "In order to be effective for this project, the appropriate location required a dense population of high elevation ash trees and a moderate infestation of EAB—enough to be a significant infestation but still have plenty of life in the trees. We investigated several potential properties and selected one which had both the density of ash trees and present state of decline necessary for an effective project."

Courtney Smith, a graduate student involved in the research project, said, "Due to the vast impact of the EAB, management is critical for containing and suppressing populations of the beetle. Chemical treatments are available for high-value landscape trees. However, these insecticides can be costly, and they require repeated



Spathius agrili IMAGE: MATT BERTONE, NC STATE UNIVERSITY

treatment, so they are not often practical in a natural forest setting. As a result, biological control is often used in forests. Biological control involves using the natural enemies of a pest to suppress it. In the case of the EAB, we have used parasitoid wasps to attack the pest. These parasitoid wasps are tiny, non-stinging wasps that deposit their eggs on or inside immature EABs. When the young wasps hatch from these eggs, they feed on the immature EAB, killing the pest."

The researchers emphasize the fact that the parasitoid wasps cannot harm humans, and there has been a long, diligent process involved in approving the species for biological control.

The release of parasitoid wasps on the SAHC preserve began this year, and the project will stretch over a total of three years: two years of parasitoid wasp release and a third year during which researchers



SARAH SHEERAN

will seek to trap and recover the wasps. Paul explains that in classic biocontrol techniques, the predatory species is released for a specific period of time; then finding them in subsequent years provides evidence that they have been successfully reproducing in the new environment.

"We are losing ash trees at an astonishing rate," said Dr. Oten. "While it's great that there are pesticides available to protect the ash resources in our forests, we really need long-term, sustainable management options... Our hope is that these wasp releases result in protection of the ash in those forests."

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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# Even Country Dogs Get Kennel Cough

I grew up on a small farm in Kentucky with my parents and three siblings. My parents practiced homesteading and so our farm contained a menagerie of animals from which I could learn many lessons in animal husbandry, as well as important life lessons. From Two Bits, my Shetland pony, I learned much about patience and perseverance, and it was with the help of my fluffy little brown and white dog, Fifi, that I learned the fine arts of dog bathing and flea treatment.

I still remember the time that Fifi got kennel cough. Because her honking cough was so disruptive, Fifi couldn't sleep in the bedroom that we shared with my sister, so the two of us spent the first night of her illness downstairs on her dog bed. My mother took her to our vet the next day, and I was greatly relieved to learn that Fifi was expected to make a full recovery in time.

## What is Kennel Cough?

Kennel cough is the term commonly used for infections of the trachea and bronchi that cause coughing in dogs. Kennel cough can be caused by a variety of bacteria and viruses that are spread either through direct contact with infected dogs or through indirect contact with objects that have become contaminated by droplets produced during coughing or sneezing.



Even though Fifi was never boarded, she still got kennel cough. Since she's free to roam, she may have had contact with a dog from a neighboring farm.

Though dogs don't have to go to a kennel to contract one of these infections, kennels and other places where dogs congregate are common environments where these infections spread.

## Common Symptoms

The most common symptom of kennel cough is a dry, hacking cough. Affected dogs may also gag following the cough and produce a white foamy liquid. Often, these symptoms make affected dogs appear to have something stuck in their throat. Less

common symptoms of kennel cough are a runny nose, eye discharge and sneezing. In more severe cases, dogs with kennel cough may become lethargic, lose their appetite or have trouble breathing.

## Onset of Symptoms

For many dogs, the symptoms of kennel cough will begin to improve in a few days without treatment. Dogs with more severe signs or those whose symptoms don't begin to improve in a few days should be examined by a veterinarian. To prevent spreading the infection to other dogs, infected dogs should avoid boarding and other social activities for two weeks following the development of symptoms.

**All dogs can potentially benefit from vaccination, especially puppies because they have a higher risk of developing more severe symptoms.**

Even though there isn't a vaccine that protects against all the various bacteria and viruses that can cause kennel cough, vaccination remains the most important thing that owners can do to protect their dogs. Vaccines that provide immunity from the most common causes of kennel

cough—*Bordetella bronchiseptica* (a bacteria) and parainfluenza (a virus)—are available through your veterinarian and can be given as drops applied in the mouth or nose, or by injection. To give your dog time to develop adequate immunity following vaccination, have your dog vaccinated at least two weeks prior to boarding.

While dogs that board or participate in other social activities have an increased risk of infection, all dogs can potentially benefit from vaccination, especially puppies because they have a higher risk of developing more severe symptoms. I don't know how Fifi got kennel cough, as we never boarded our dogs and I don't remember a time when our dogs ever had company, but being free to roam she certainly could have had contact with a dog from a neighboring farm. Thankfully, the medicine that we got from our vet helped her cough and we went back to sleeping in my bed.



Dr. Elaine Klesious grew up on a farm, where she discovered her passion for working with animals when she was very young. She is a veterinarian at Fairview Animal Hospital, 867A Charlotte Hwy., Fairview. 628-3557.

Charlotte Hwy., Fairview. 628-3557.

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# Holiday Safety for Your Pets

The holiday season is upon us, and many of us want to include our furry family members in the festivities. As you prepare for the holidays, it's important to try to keep our pets' eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. We must also protect our pets from holiday health hazards, such as seasonal plants, fatty foods, and dangerous holiday decorations.

## Seasonal Plants and Decorations

### • Christmas trees

If you put up a Christmas tree, it's important to anchor it so it won't tip and fall, causing injury to your pet or young children. It's also important to prevent your pet from drinking the tree water, which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset.

### • Poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and lilies

When eaten, these plants can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe is particularly dangerous because it can cause cardiovascular problems. Lilies are especially toxic to cats, so keep your holiday lilies out of reach of your feline family members.

### • Tinsel

Cats, in particular, are attracted to tinsel. If eaten, it can cause an intestinal blockage, requiring expensive surgery. If you have

indoor cats, it would be best to avoid using tinsel. It's also advisable to place breakable holiday ornaments at the top of the tree.

## Holiday Food

### • Rich, fatty foods

As tempting as it is to give our pets a taste from the table or the fat from holiday meats, doing so can lead to pancreatitis, which leads to a very sick pet that can require hospitalization. Though it is usually treatable, it can also be life-threatening.

### • Chocolate and Xylitol

Chocolate and Xylitol are commonly found in the sweet treats of the holiday season. Both are dangerous and can cause toxicity in our pets. Baker's, or baking chocolate, is the form of chocolate that contains a higher concentration of the stimulant theobromine and is therefore far more toxic than either semi-sweet or regular milk chocolate.

Xylitol is among a group of sugar substitutes classified as sugar alcohols that may be found in "sugar-free," "reduced-sugar" or "diet" foods, such as gum, candy, baked goods, ice cream, and peanut butter. Look for the term "Xylitol" or "sugar alcohol" on food labels when checking for ingredients. In dogs, even a small amount of xylitol can be fatal.



Cat owner? Avoid using tinsel and place breakable holiday ornaments at the top of your tree.

pets can't get to them. Alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, coma, and even death.

If your pet does ingest something it shouldn't, contact your vet immediately, or contact MedVet (formerly REACH) at 665-4399.

There are safe ways to share the holiday with your pet. Start by taking your dog on an extra walk. Or give them a long-lasting treat made just for them, such as a chewing toy stuffed with plain yogurt, banana, and blueberries and then frozen. Surprise your kitty with a new catnip-stuffed treat or interactive flirt pole. If you take care, your pets can join in the holiday festivities in lots of fun ways that don't lead to expensive vet bills.

Have a safe and happy holiday from all of us at Fairview Boarding!

### • Grapes and raisins

While these may seem healthy, just one grape or raisin can cause kidney failure and potentially death in a dog. If your dog ingests one, even if they seem fine, go immediately to a vet hospital.

### • Holiday cocktails

If your holiday celebration includes alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol, be sure to place them where your



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

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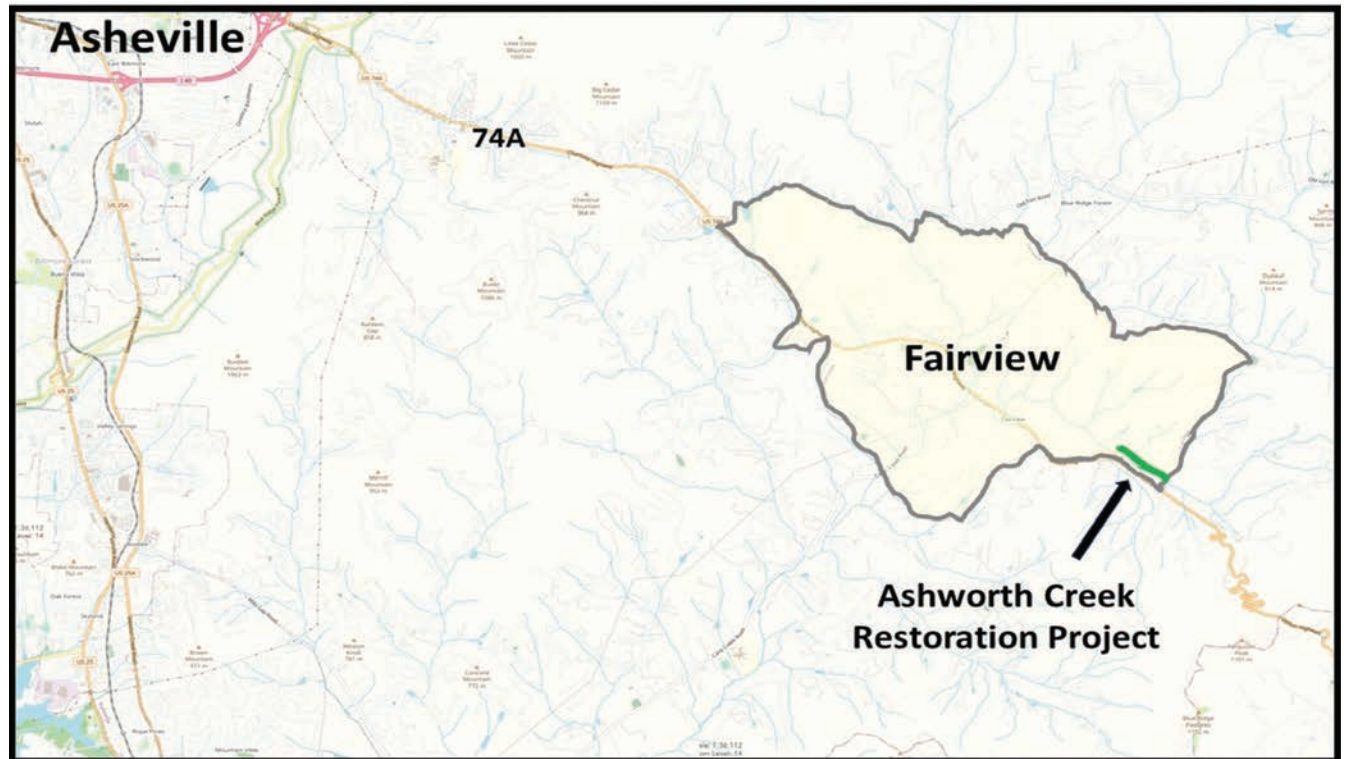
# Repairing Long-Past Damages to Ashworth Creek

What comes to mind when you think of a healthy, undisturbed creek—a straight channel, or a curving, meandering channel that winds its way through the landscape’s hills and valleys? In all of nature, straight lines are rare and usually human-made; curves are the natural pattern of most streams and rivers. Streams meander and curve as water seeks to flow through the lowest path in the landscape. Even when streams flow across flat valleys, they don’t flow in a straight line and still tend to meander back and forth.

## “Straightened” Channels

This natural meandering pattern posed a dilemma for early settlers and farmers in our area, who had very limited flat land available in the first place. A common practice many decades ago was to “straighten” stream channels to enable more acreage in flat areas to be farmed. Although this practice did temporarily increase the arable acreage in some areas, it also came at a price—a never-ending battle to maintain the straightened stream channels against the natural tendency of streams to erode back into their original meandering patterns. Along with all the extra maintenance, additional problems often occurred. Straightened channels would flood more easily and damage adjacent crops. Fish habitats became degraded. The faster, more powerful flow in a straightened channel would erode tons more soil from the stream bottom and banks, harming water quality downstream. And in some areas, the erosion carving the streambed would also drop the water table deeper and deeper, making the farmland drier.

Fast forward to now, when stream dynamics and soil erosion are better understood than 100 years ago. Stream straightening is a far less common practice and is even prohibited in most areas. But



Location of the Ashworth Creek Restoration Project

many historically straightened streams still exist. One local example in Fairview is the section of Ashworth Creek that passes through Flying Cloud Farm (see map) between Hollywood and Wilson Roads. This section was channelized and straightened in the 1800s to create easier farming. Over time, this part of the creek eroded badly, damaging its banks and sending sediment down through Cane Creek, the French Broad River and beyond.

## A Win-Win

As active farmers that aim to be environmentally friendly as well as agriculturally productive, Flying Cloud’s owners Annie

and Isaiah Perkinson and area landowners including the Lynch and Hamilton families looked into the possibility of creek restoration to halt their soil loss and improve water quality. When initial studies revealed that the property was losing 150 tons of soil per year as sediment washed downstream, they were convinced that restoring a more stable and natural stream channel would be a win for their farming and for the water quality downstream.

## Key Partners

A restoration proposal involved the US Department of Agriculture, the State of

North Carolina, and Buncombe County Soil and Water as funding partners under coordination provided by The Resource Institute. The restoration design and fieldwork are being carried out from mid-2023 through winter 2024 by Jennings Environmental and their subcontractor, North State Environmental—both experienced specialists in stream restoration.

## Project Goals

Project goals are: reduce soil erosion by stabilizing streambanks; bring the creek back to a more natural, meandering pattern; and improve water quality locally and downstream. In other words, the



The new, curving channel and more gently sloping banks were created by the heavy equipment in the background. Although many trees were removed, the new plantings will all be native trees and shrubs of much better diversity than the former vegetation.



The brush toe technique protects the erosion-prone bottom of the near bank by anchoring stumps and roots all along the water’s edge. Layers of straw and coconut fiber fabric reduce erosion on the upper slopes while new vegetation gets started.





In this log-and-rock vane design, the log (right shore) protects the bottom of the sloped bank while the curve of large rock slabs across the stream directs flow to create a deep pool in the center.



Grasses sprouting through the bank stabilization fabric are just the first of more vegetation plantings yet to come, including a variety of native trees and shrubs.

project is going to transform about a half-mile of old, straightened creek channel to a natural meandering pattern with more gently sloped banks revegetated by native trees and shrubs.

### Have Faith, Fairview!

This isn't simple. Restoring a formerly straightened stream requires permits, highly technical engineering designs, correct choice of restoration techniques used, and the use of heavy equipment to move earth and reroute water flow. Fortunately, the opportunity to control so much soil erosion and improve water quality in one project attracted the funding agencies and the experienced restoration firms that were needed. Ironically for a project that will eventually result in a more natural creek setting, the site will look very scoured before the new bank vegetation becomes established.

Much to their credit, Flying Cloud Farm has reached out to reassure onlookers that this is just a temporary appearance and a healthier, more natural-looking creek corridor will soon develop. Have faith, Fairview—it will look better and better each year. I've seen speedy recovery on my own property along Cane Creek, where a streambank denuded by the August 2021 floods is already completely revegetated, including saplings up to 8 feet tall.

I was able to walk the restoration project site in October with Flying Cloud's Annie Perkinson after the most

dramatic earthmoving had already reestablished a new, curving path for Ashworth Creek. Why, I asked Annie, did you take on this large restoration effort? For conservation-minded farmers, reducing soil loss and improving water quality were evident benefits, for themselves and the communities downstream. But beyond that, restoration was consistent with the philosophy of her multi-generational, local farming family—and in particular, it would honor the memory of her late relatives William and Dr. Will Hamilton.

### Disturbance is Temporary

Photos capture the complexity of this project better than words alone. Because of my own past experience in streambank restoration, I knew it would be hard to see denuded streambanks and several trees removed. But I was reassured to know that the disturbance is temporary, and it's always worth it to replace an erosion-prone straight channel with the natural stream pattern that was created long ago.

Here's to the ongoing rebirth of Ashworth Creek, and thank you to the landowners, organizations and agencies that are helping to make it happen.

*Doug Norton (dougorton99@gmail.com) is a retired watershed ecologist and online science educator who lives in Fairview. Cane Creek Chronicles explores the Cane Creek Watershed.*



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# Fairview Elementary Receives Top Honor

By Kenya Hoffart

**Fairview Elementary School (FES)** has been recognized by the US Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School. This recognition is based on the school's overall academic performance. The National Blue Ribbon Schools (NBRS) Program celebrates achievement, and it also shines a spotlight on the best schools and encourages them to share best practices with other schools across the country. It affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and engaging environments where students thrive.

The NBRS Program is one of the US Department of Education's longest-running recognition programs. The Department works with state departments of education to identify and nominate outstanding schools based on student academic achievement measures and progress toward closing achievement gaps. Once FES administrators were notified they were nominated for this prestigious award, several dedicated staff members spent hours preparing the application. They were required to report on areas such as attendance, curriculum and instruction, academic supports, school climate and culture, family and community engagement, school leadership, teaching



Dr. Bonnie Bolado, Jennifer Gortney and Dr. Rob Jackson.

and learning strategies, and more. These efforts were led by recently retired school principal Dr. Angie Jackson and former assistant principal Christen Davidson, who left a lasting mark at FES. After a rigorous review process, the US Department of Education (USDOE) proudly named FES an Exemplary High Performing School.

Each year, the USDOE honors National Blue Ribbon Schools at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Teachers at FES voted on the teacher they wished to represent them at this ceremony and chose second-grade teacher Jennifer Gortney to accept the award. Along with Buncombe County Schools superintendent Dr. Rob

Jackson and FES principal Dr. Bonnie Bolado, Gortney proudly represented FEs as she networked, shared ideas and conversed with USDOE officials about excellence in education.

Superintendent Dr. Rob Jackson said, "This is a wonderful achievement for Fairview Elementary." He added, "I am proud to congratulate the students, staff, faculty and administration for this well-deserved national recognition. The award is a testament to the dedicated staff and exceptional parent and community support at the school. Their collaborative effort has created an environment where students thrive—a true reflection of our



A state education official with Gortney and Jackson.

school system's commitment to excellence in the classroom and beyond."

It is wonderful that the teachers, support staff, and administrators of FES are recognized for their excellence, high standards and determination to succeed, and equal recognition goes to the students and families who work hard to meet and support expectations. While this honor was awarded to FES, it was earned by every stakeholder who supports the school and their efforts.

*Kenya Hoffart is a staff member and PTA Communications Chair at Fairview Elementary School.*

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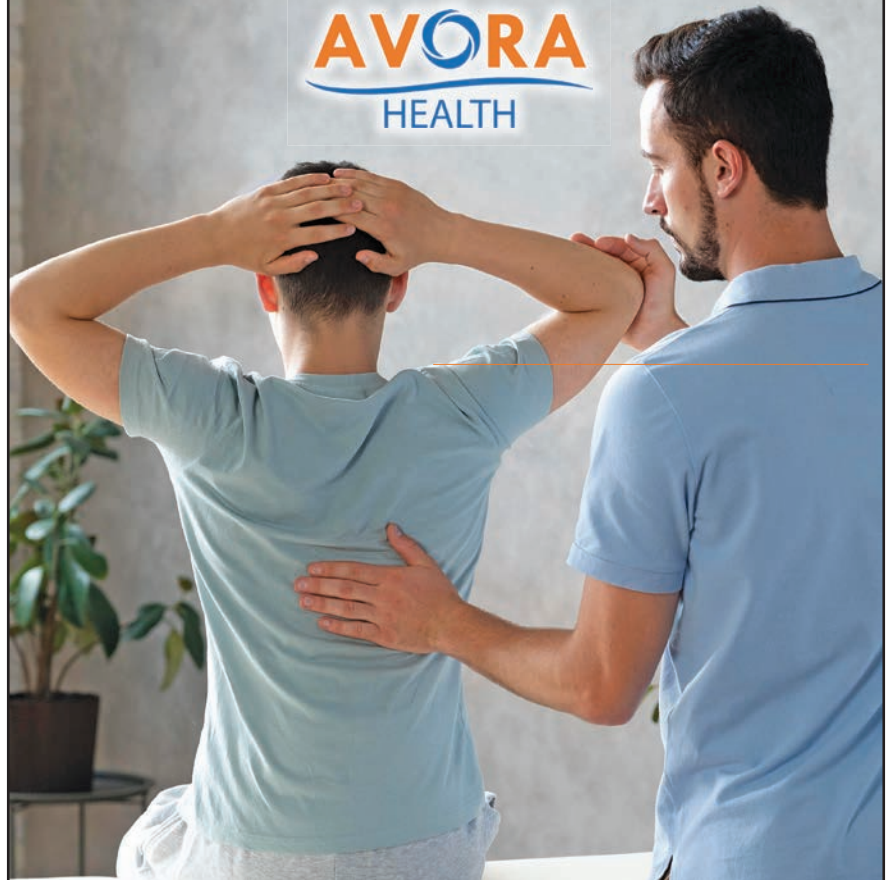
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CHRISTI HURD

## Let the Journey Teach

Lighthouse parents know that life is a journey, even for them. That means they expect to have bumps in the road but don't see them as obstacles. Instead, they are taken as opportunities to learn. They embrace the benefits of learning from their own mistakes and model that kind of gracious, warm response when their children inevitably mess up. They remain calm instead of joining them in the chaos. They are invested in long-term solutions, so they acknowledge and empathize with the child. The child then builds a healthy self-identity because your behavior:

- Lets them know that they are okay no matter what;
- Eliminates perfectionism;
- Builds self-confidence and risk-taking; and
- Creates a strong sense of belonging, connection and significance.

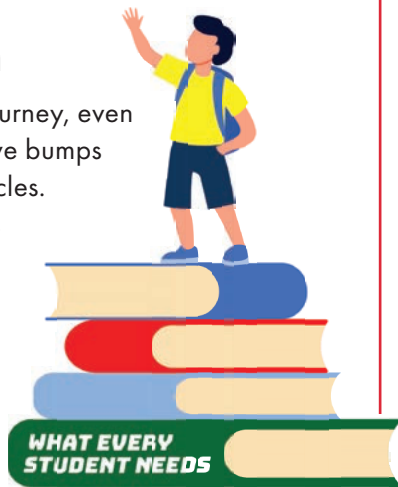
The lighthouse parent knows that punishment and harsh words will only erode their relationship. Building a strong one is critical to helping their children become confident, capable adults in the real world. Back when one of my sons was in 7th grade, he received his

first F for cheating on a test. His wise teacher told him to get my signature by the end of the day. Seeing his forlorn face and the big F showed me he had already learned from his foolish mistake, and I didn't need to add more punishment or shame. I signed the test, put my arm around him, and said, "I know that sucks since it impacts your GPA, but I bet you've learned from this."

Never forget: your voice will always be powerful regardless of their age.



Christi Hurd, M.A., NBCT, who retired from CCMS, is certified through the Parent Coaching Institute. See [hurduddleparentsupport.com](http://hurduddleparentsupport.com) for more info.



## FES DADS CLUB

### Meet the Dads: Monroe Naimark

Monroe Naimark and his family love spending time outdoors and traveling as much as possible. You can find the family at the soccer field (all three kids play), on a trail in the woods, or hanging out with friends and dreaming up the next adventure.



Callie, Leo, Clara, Lizzie and Monroe Naimark

"The Dads Club organizes various fun activities that allow us to bond with our children and lead from the front," said Monroe. "Personally, I've enjoyed the opportunity to read in front of our kids' class, plan fun activities for Mom's night out, and, of course the Daddy/daughter dance!"

The club is always looking for dads or male role models. For more info, email [fesdadsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fesdadsclub@gmail.com), follow the club on Facebook (@fesdadsclub) or call/text 631-741-9606.

### • DECEMBER 15 Pasta with Pops

Everyone is invited to Pasta with Pops from 6 to 8 pm at the Fairview Community Center (next to the school in the old gym). The FES Dads Club and kids will be serving a pasta dinner, and all donations received will go to support an FES dad recently diagnosed with cancer.



### STUDENT OF THE MONTH Hannah Anderson

Hannah has shown tremendous citizenship and leadership throughout her time at ACRHS. Hannah is the editor of our school yearbook and helps the team meet deadlines and stay organized. Furthermore, Hannah has pursued her passion for the medical field by volunteering at Mission Hospital this summer and as an AB-Tech CNA student this fall. She has demonstrated academic excellence and is someone of high moral character.

She represents every quality we want in a Reynolds Rocket.

All winners receive a special mug from the Town Crier. Congratulations, Hannah!

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—Thomas B., February 2023



# Our Differences Teach Us Lessons

If you've read my previous columns, you know I feel like I don't act or think like most teens. However, it's more than just a hard fought battle to repel the stereotype of a teen. It's the soul of who I am that I think sets me apart from all types of people in my life. Sometimes who I am can cause friction in relationships, which is hard for me to deal with, but it does allow me to learn many lessons.

I should start with my brother, Landyn. We are very different. He's talented in



*Ansley Fuchs*  
**TEEN PERSPECTIVE**

music and the arts while I can barely hum and feel at home on a field or court. But it's more than just that.

Take cleanliness, for example. From the days of our family's RV road trip to back at home in the kitchen, we have always split cleaning jobs and have had the hardest time with it. We are much better now, but there was a time when we got in a fight every single day over cleaning. He would put something in a cabinet that was dirty, or not sweep the whole floor, and it made me furious. Of course, I didn't want to take on all the cleaning responsibilities, but I wanted him to do his jobs better! Our brains just

work in completely different ways. What he thinks is perfectly fine, I think needs to go through a deep clean. It has been such a long, agonizing battle over the last few years, but our differences teach us lessons. For me, letting things go and understanding that my work ethic and standard is not necessarily going to be upheld or appreciated in others. I have learned to let go of the little things and focus on just what I need to do, and doing it to my standards.

These same lessons apply to my relationships with people my age. Many goof off, make rude and sarcastic comments, and can feel like they deserved a grade or position that they had done little work to earn. For a long time I wasn't liked by many because I wouldn't put up with it. I told people to stop saying sarcastic comments, to calm down, or stop acting a certain way. I finally realized that teenagers are going to be teenagers, and that part of my stiffness towards their actions was my introverted, "always ask for permission" attitude. Now, I'm finding a balance between when I definitely should stand up and tell someone to stop doing or saying something and when they are truly doing no harm and -- even though I would never do whatever goofy thing they are doing -- it is ok and I need to just laugh or let it go.

Moving up to high school also helped my relationships in a lot of ways. I was

no longer in class with the same craziness every day, as I was introduced to tons of new people, younger and older than me. I started to enjoy being around more of the teens in my grade because I'm not in class with them every minute of the day. Throughout my short time in high school, I have already navigated through many obstacles that got in the way of community, and I now have a large group of great people who are helping me get better about finding balance.

And, finally, there are my interactions with teachers. As teens say, I am a "tryhard". I go above and beyond on projects, try for extra credit on a high A grade, make excessive studying tools, etc. And, simply put, many other teens don't. There is definitely room for me to cut back and not kill myself on a self-created workload, but I am also proud of the work I put into school.

I hate being lumped in with the general, entitled, minimal efforts of some of my classmates. When teachers rant about how we don't deserve good grades for a paper we threw together the night before with no care in the world, I bite my lip thinking about the care and consideration I put into my paper.

Another hard interaction is when teachers say something like "any form of an A is a good grade, so stop complaining."

I completely agree with their statement, but in my mind if it's not a 100 I can still improve. Yes, that's being hard on myself, but I genuinely, wholeheartedly want to improve. So, when teachers write questions off as me thinking I deserve a better grade, or imply that I care nothing more than "trying to figure out my GPA," or "how this will affect my grade," I get frustrated, as I only want to improve. Yes, I want good grades, but I'm not looking at how a single assignment will affect me—I look at how a single assignment will help me grow. Over the school year I build relationships with my teachers, to the point where they understand my questions come from a genuine desire for improvement, and are not grade-centered. However, with every new year there are new teachers, and the hard process starts over.

While I am proud of my work ethic, it seems like an uphill battle at my age. But I know that it is teaching me many lessons for future workplaces, bosses, communities, and every other type of interaction in the adult world. Striving for excellence is part of who I am, and I look forward to growing due to the friction it creates and using it to succeed.

*Ansley Fuchs lives in Fairview with her parents and three siblings and is a sophomore at Asheville Christian Academy.*

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# A.C. Reynolds High DECA Students Share Stories and Smiles

By the members of the ACRHS DECA chapter

Everything in the room seemed a bit smaller—especially the chairs—to a group of A.C. Reynolds High students who left the high school hallways to return to elementary school.

Members of DECA, an international association of marketing students, came to share stories with students at



students at Fairview and Oakley elementary schools. High school DECA chapters across the state participated in

“Read for the Record” on October 26. The event, organized by the early childhood education nonprofit Jumpstart Foundation, highlights the importance of sharing a love of reading at a young age.

“I have so many good memories from Ms. Sullivan’s class,” said DECA member Kayla Doughty. Now a junior at ACRHS, Doughty was excited to come back and read to students on the same carpet where she sat when Sullivan would read to her and her classmates. “She’s such a good



ABOVE: DECA members Jaden Miles and Neva Smith “Read for the Record” with FES students.



RIGHT: ACR DECA members Kayla Doughty and Keira Caulder read to Ms. Sullivan’s kindergarten class at Fairview Elementary School.

teacher, and I’m so glad I got to be back in her classroom one more day.”

The national event had young learners sharing the same book, *With Lots of Love* by Jenny Torres Sanchez. The book is about staying connected with your family, whether you’re in the same house or many miles apart.

“We must seem so old to the kindergar-

teners,” said senior Brennan Tedder, who read to students at Oakley. “It blew their minds when we told them if they kept reading, then join DECA when they come to Reynolds, that they could come back and read to their old kindergarten class when they’re our age.”

The Reynolds DECA students donated the book to each class they read to and

shared notes of encouragement to inspire the young readers. The DECA chapter also recently completed “Be the Change,” in which students collected coins during class changes for the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event. Members raised \$555 and participated in the recent walk in Pack Square Park.

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Some good free email providers, beyond what you may already know (Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, and AOL), include Proton Mail (proton.me/mail) and Zoho Mail (zoho.com/mail). You can even get an iCloud email address without using an Apple device by creating an Apple ID at appleid.apple.com (look to the upper right to create your ID).

Many products sold on Amazon are made in other countries, often China. Cultivate (wecultivate.us) offers a browser plugin to find alternative deals and shows where the products are made. This plugin makes use of affiliate commissions, and if you wish to donate your savings to a suggested charities (what they call Pay it Forward), you will have to give the plugin permission to know which sites you visit so it can check whether the site is in one of their partner networks. If you already use a shopping or coupon add-on in your

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If you think using tricks to obfuscate your email address online, like "bill [at] scobie [dot] net" works, you haven't reckoned with ChatGPT. It can easily identify addresses, so if you are going to publicize your address for human use, just go ahead and return to standard use, like bill@scobie.net.

Fakespot, a service to help spot fake or false reviews on sites like Amazon, eBay, Walmart, and more, will soon be built into Firefox. You can install the plugin now (fakespot.com), but when it's integrated into Firefox it will be another tool to help you shop smarter.



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

## LOCAL CRITTERS LEE PANTAS

# GRAY FOX

## FUN FACTS



Lee James Pantas

- They have the ability to climb trees, shared only with the Asian raccoon dog among canids. They have strong claws that allow them to climb to escape predators or access arboreal food sources.
- They make dens in hollow trees, stumps, or burrows to hide from predators and to raise their young.
- Gray foxes are easily differentiated from the red fox by their lack of "black stockings" on their lower legs, and have predominately gray fur, not orange.
- They have vertical pupils and can retract their claws, two physical characteristics of cats.
- They have superior hearing and have been reported to be able to hear a watch ticking over 40 yards away.

Lee Pantas is an author and artist who's lived in Fairview for more than 30 years. From time to time, we share illustrations and animal facts from his book Wild & Furry Animals of the Southern Appalachian Mountains (available on Amazon).



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Your skin, the body's largest organ, absorbs up to 60% of what is applied to it, impacting your overall health. Non-organic skincare products often contain harmful synthetic chemicals, including sodium laurel and mineral oils, linked to skin issues and long-term health risks such as cancer. In contrast, organic skincare products boast seven key benefits:



**No Harmful Ingredients:** Non-organic products contain synthetic chemicals that are harmful to health.

**Natural Ingredients:** Organic products use plant-derived ingredients grown without harmful chemicals.

**Non-Allergenic:** Organic products, lacking harsh chemicals, reduce the risk of allergic reactions.

**Higher Antioxidants:** Organically grown plants have more vital antioxidant vitamins.

**Better for Skin:** Organic products provide real nutritional benefits, promoting skin health without invasive harm.

**Cruelty-Free:** Organic skincare supports cruelty-free practices, eliminating the need for animal testing.

**Environmental Impact:** Organic products, produced without toxic pesticides, contribute to a sustainable and eco-friendly environment.

Switching to organic skincare not only benefits your skin and health but also supports cruelty-free practices and environmental sustainability. Make the change today for a healthier, more conscientious skincare routine.



With 45 years as an esthetician and the founder of the first day spa in Texas, Brea Gratia excels in acne and aging skin expertise, offering sought-after solutions. She is the owner of Gratia Botanica, 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd., Asheville. 333-5345.



### Helpful Insurance Tips

Higher deductibles encourage policyholders to be more cautious and proactive in preventing claims. When people have a financial stake, they are often more diligent in risk management, which leads to fewer claims and lower costs long term on both sides of the fence. Do not always react and call in a claim until you have some time to discuss it with your agent.

For homeowners, some carry \$1,000 for collision deductible on their auto insurance for a \$30,000 vehicle, while also carrying a deductible of \$1,000 for a \$300,000 home. This is no longer sustainable. This is where the industry is going to shift to the 1%, meaning if your home is insured for \$300,000, you will then have a \$3,000 deductible.

So be aware of your deductible and remember that this will be your out-of-pocket cost if a claim occurs. Choose wisely for your future self.

Joanne Winkler is the owner of ESCO Insurance Agency. 231-6577 or esco1960.com.

## Day Care at Camp Good News

**Camp Good News** is a non-denominational Christian camp off Old Fort Road. They offer an after-school program for students of Fairview Elementary from 2:30–6 pm, Monday–Friday. They also offer full day care for days when there is no school.

With the approval and assistance of the administration, they pick up the kids in camp vans at the school and take them to the camp. Parents pick them up at the camp any time before 6 pm.

While at camp, the kids can do their homework if needed and have recreation indoors and out, depending on the weather. They get snacks every day at 3:30, and on Tuesdays a team from Child Evangelism Fellowship comes to the camp for “Good News Club.”

The cost for running this program is covered by \$15-a-day donations from the parents, or as much as they can reasonably afford. The camp also receives funding from supportive individuals, churches and businesses for general needs. The camp needs volunteers who can pass a background check to help out in various ways.

If you are interested, or would like to visit, contact Jonathan Peck or Eric Turner at 628-7954. The camp is located at 110 Maranatha Road. For more information, go to CampGoodNewsNC.org.

## Oral History Project Update

From 2018 until early 2020, dedicated volunteers helped Buncombe County Libraries collect oral histories, digital scans, and donations of material to shed light on Fairview's history. More than 45 hours of oral history interviews have now been transcribed, including interviews with beloved community members who have since passed away.

You can listen to recordings and read transcripts by visiting the Buncombe County Special Collections website

(specialcollections.buncombecounty.org), the Internet Archive (archive.org/details/buncombecountyspecialcollections), or in the special collections reading room at Pack Library downtown. Search or ask for collection number MS382.

If you have questions, notice errors in transcripts, or have more Fairview history to contribute to the library, contact Carissa Pfeiffer at Buncombe County Special Collections by emailing carissa.pfeiffer@buncombecounty.org or calling 250-4740.

## UHNGCC Awarded Funding

The 74th annual WNC Honors Awards luncheon was held last month in Asheville. Over 270 people representing 67 communities and 68,000 households in WNC competed for cash awards provided by a dozen businesses and foundations, including The McClure Fund, First Citizens Bank, Farm Bureau, Wells Fargo and Duke Energy.

In four categories, now designated by trees—Trillium, Mountain Laurel, Redbud, and White Oak—communities vied for Best in Class status for added dollars to their \$730 base. Mountain Laurel consists of 34 communities, and 13 were offered Best in Class. Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Club in Gerton received this award, receiving a total of \$1,230 that will be funded back into the community for various activities that enhance the lives of people in the Gerton area. UHNGCC was the only community in Henderson County to be so named in the Mountain Laurel Best in Class.



DR. ASHLEY LUCAS

### Using Food Labels

When it comes to achieving your weight loss goals, the path to success often starts with the simplest of actions—reading food labels. To help you on your journey, here are three tips for deciphering food labels and making healthier choices.

**Sugar's Many Guises:** Sugar can be a stealthy saboteur, and it often lurks under various names. While we're familiar with terms like sucrose and fructose, it's important to recognize the sneaky “-ose” endings, which signify different forms of sugar. And be aware that chemical sweeteners like aspartame can interrupt hunger hormones and lead to overeating. Choose products with minimal added sugars and avoid artificial sweeteners.

**The Hierarchy of Ingredients:** A crucial aspect of reading food labels is understanding that the order in which ingredients are listed reflects their quantity in the product. When striving for weight loss, keep an eye out for products in which healthier ingredients, like whole grains and lean proteins, occupy the top positions. Fewer ingredients often indicate a cleaner, more wholesome option. Less is more.

**Say No to Certain Preservatives:** Nitrates and certain preservatives found in processed foods can hinder your weight loss journey. Nitrates are commonly used in processed meats like bacon and sausages to preserve freshness and enhance color. However, they can convert into nitrosamines when exposed to high heat during cooking, increasing the risk of health issues. Additionally, certain preservatives can disrupt your body's natural processes and contribute to weight gain.



Ashley Lucas, who lives in Fletcher, has a PhD in nutrition and is a Registered Dietitian. Her company, PHD Weight Loss and Nutrition, is located at 1833 Hendersonville Road, Suite 170, Asheville. 552-3333 or myphdweightloss.com.

# Can You Make Charitable Giving Less ‘Taxing’?

Once again, it's the season of generosity. In addition to considering gifts for your loved ones, you might want to think about charitable gifts as well. But what should you know before making gifts to charities? And what impact might these gifts have on your financial and tax situation?

First, you may want to create a gift budget by deciding just how much you will give to charitable organizations over the rest of the year.

Next, look closely at the groups to whom you wish to contribute. You can find many reputable charities, but some others may be less worthy of your support. One of the red flags of a questionable organization is the amount of money it spends on administrative costs versus the amount that goes to its stated purpose. You can check on the spending patterns of charitable groups, and find other valuable information about them, on the well-regarded Charity Navigator website ([charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)).

Once you've established a gift budget and are comfortable with the groups you choose to support, you might turn your thoughts to another key issue connected with charitable giving: tax benefits. A few years ago, changes in the tax laws resulted in a large increase in the standard deduction, which meant that many taxpayers found it more favorable not to itemize—and lost the ability to take charitable deductions. But if you still do

itemize, your charitable gifts or contributions to tax-exempt groups—those that qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations—can generally be deducted, up to 60% of your adjusted gross income, although lower limits may apply, depending on the nature of your gift and the organization to which you're contributing.

Other, more long-term avenues also exist that combine charitable giving with potential tax benefits. One such possibility is a donor-advised fund, which allows you to make an irrevocable charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. You can give cash, but if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, your tax deduction would be the fair market value of the assets, up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Plus, you would not incur the capital gains tax that would otherwise be due upon the sale of these assets. Once you establish a donor-advised fund, you have the flexibility to make charitable gifts over time. You can contribute to the fund as often as you like.

Another possible tax benefit from making charitable contributions could arrive when you start taking required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and 401(k). These RMDs could be sizable—and distributions are counted as taxable income. But by taking what's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can move money from a traditional or Roth IRA to a

qualified charitable organization, possibly satisfying your RMD, which then may be excluded from your taxable income. You must start taking RMDs at 73 but you can begin making QCDs of up to \$100,000 per year as early as age 70½. (This amount will be indexed for inflation after 2023.)

Establishing a donor-advised fund and making qualified charitable distributions are significant moves, so you'll need to consult with your tax advisor first. But

if they're appropriate for your situation, they may help you expand your ability to support the charitable groups whose work you admire.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Stephen Herbert. 628-1546, [stephen.herbert@edwardjones.com](mailto:stephen.herbert@edwardjones.com).

## OCTOBER 2023 FAIRVIEW REAL ESTATE STATISTICS

PRICE RANGE	NUMBER OF SALES	\$ AVG PRICE	DOM
90-99,999K	1	92,000	92
200-299,999	2	275,000	27
300-399,999K	3	312,536	23
500-599,999K	5	548,600	27
600-699,999	3	648,333	82
800-899,999K	1	812,000	1
900-999,999K	1	985,000	2

HOMES LISTED: 4	HOMES SOLD: 16	LAND LISTED: 16	LAND SOLD: 3
Max \$2,150,000	Max \$985,000	Max \$1,000,000	Max \$396,000
Min \$725,000	Min \$90,000	Min \$60,000	Min \$85,000
Avg \$1,206,250	Avg \$391,601	Avg \$367,556	Avg \$175,000

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### Barn Door Ciderworks

(appetizers, desserts)  
 23 Lytle Road, Fairview  
 484-1586  
 barndoorcw.com/menu

### Black Bear BBQ

800 Fairview Road, Asheville  
 298-1035  
 blackbearbbqavl.com/menu

### Daymoon Coffeebar

381 Old Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 338-0550

### Dunkin'

192 Charlotte Hwy., Asheville  
 412-3032

### El Tapatio food truck

parked at New Moon Marketplace  
 1508 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 337-2542

### Fairview Grocery

(breakfast foods and  
 microwaveable meals)  
 1612 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 338-0014

### Food Lion

(hot wings, rotisserie chicken, etc.)  
 1350 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 628-2283

### Great Wall Chinese Take Out

4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd.,  
 Asheville  
 298-1887

### Hickory Nut Gap Farm

57 Sugar Hollow Road, Fairview  
 628-1027  
 hickorynutgap.com/shop

### Hilltop Ice Cream Shop

520 Old Highway 74-A, Fairview  
 775-2482  
 facebook.com/  
 HilltopIceCreamShop

### Hot Dog King

1487 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 628-1036  
 facebook.com/  
 thehotdogkingfairview

### KD's One Stop

(pizza, hot dogs, and more)  
 1299 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 628-1122

### The Local Joint

1185 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 338-0469  
 facebook.com/THELOCALJOINT  
 andJOINTNEXTDOOR/menu

### Nachos & Beer

30 Charlotte Hwy., Asheville  
 298-2280

### Piazza

4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd. Asheville  
 298-7224  
 piazzaeast.com/#menu

### Red Star Kitchen

1395 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 338-5015  
 theredstarkitchen.com

### Rise Above Bakehouse

1207 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 222-2600  
 riseabovebakehouse.com

### Sky Mountain Pizza

1321 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 338-5039  
 skymountainpizza.com/menu

### Smokey & the Pig

913 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 222-2595

### Subway

4 Old Eastwood Village, Asheville  
 299-845

### Trout Lily Deli & Market

1297 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 628-0402  
 troutlilymarket.com

### Turgua Brewing

(food truck most nights)  
 3131 Cane Creek Road, Fairview  
 338-0218  
 turguabrewing.com/events

### Troyer's Country Amish Blatz

(sandwiches, baked goods)  
 14 Bonn E Lane, Fairview  
 280-2381  
 troyscountryamishblatz.com

### Whistle Hop Brewing

(food truck daily after 3 pm)  
 1288 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview  
 338-9447  
 whistlehop.com/events

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# Going to Seed

This past weekend, my mother and grandmother and I spent time cutting down and digging up our dahlias. The earth was very dry around the tubers and caused some damage to a few, as the hardened dirt broke some of the potato-like roots when we pulled them free. All in all, it was a good collection that will leave us with several hundred for planting next season.

In the days before we dug them up, I spent several evenings walking through the rows and looking for seeds. Many of you readers are probably aware that my grandmother and I spent time this year on a little side project that centered around growing some dahlias from seed. The project was a great success, with roughly 90% of our seeds growing and most of those producing flowers. We were even more pleased when we dug up those seedlings to find many healthy tubers, which should translate to having more of that new variety next year.

In addition to growing dahlias from seed, we also learned how to collect dahlia seeds so that we might continue the cycle unaided in perpetuity.

Here is the gist of it: Instead of cutting away or deadheading flowers that have died—which is something I have espoused in this column as healthy for the plant for the promotion of more



flower growth—at the end of the season as the first freeze was approaching, I left all the flowers on the plant to go to seed.

There is a kind of beautiful thing that happens as the petals wither and die and the flower closes itself back up, turning brown as all of the water retreats from that part of the plant. This drying is essential, as within that flower head, at the base of each petal, there is the formation of a seed. Each flower head holds potentially hundreds of seeds.

To collect those seeds, it is imperative that the whole flower has dried all the way to the center; then you can simply break it apart. I would recommend that you Google an image of a dahlia seed, as you will find that each one will be

separated by a paper-thin petal that resembles an onion skin and that for the most part they will simply fall away.

We have collected hundreds, perhaps thousands at this point, even finding a mesh pan that allows us to separate the seed

from the chaff more easily.

I have been struck by my lack of true understanding of what the term “going to seed” actually means. Even as I began this article, I looked it up, to be certain that my previous understanding still held. Here is the definition that I found: to allow yourself to become unfit, untidy, or fat as you grow older.

What I am struck by is how misguided that definition actually is. Letting our flowers go to seed this season was actually quite beautiful. It may have been unsightly to an unaware neighbor passing by, but really it is just another marvel of the natural world.

There were several times as I collected the brittle flower heads that they would

break apart in my hand, casting a bunch of seeds into the breeze to scatter over the soil. I wondered what might happen if I were to cease my presence in our garden and just let nature run its course. I believe thousands of seeds would make their own way into the ground along with the hundreds of tubers that would continue to expand their territory. A true circle of life might occur as it should. Kind of lovely.

I have only begun to scratch the surface of what this metaphor actually means for us. I am approaching the middle of my 40s and continue to encounter these long-form learning life lessons that I think can only truly be gained by living all of my years. What does it mean for me to go to seed? I don't believe that I am anywhere near that season of my life, but I am encouraged by the idea that there can be beauty in letting yourself go to seed.

I hope that you are able to find some beauty in an unexpected place in the coming season.



Nate Barton is an artist who teaches art. He lives with his wife and two sons in Fairview, where he maintains a flower garden with his mom and grandmother, who are also his neighbors. Find him on Instagram (@etannotrab).

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# The FBA Relaxes at Cloud 9



Todd Winkler and Janet Peterson (left) and Kate Schneider from Edward Jones (right).

Our last meeting of 2023 was at Janet Peterson's vacation rental called Cloud 9 Relaxation Home (shown at top). She told the history of this 1968 home of her parents that was ahead of its time then with passive solar. Now, with modern updates and picture windows looking over the Cane Creek valley, vacationers can enjoy the "unbelievable" quiet and often comment that their hearing might need to be checked. You can learn more at [cloud9relaxation.com](http://cloud9relaxation.com).

After a potluck, Mary Anne Tierney, RN, MPH, explained in a presentation how her life was changed from a frantic pace to one of calm simply by consciously taking a break from her cell phone. "Never sleep with the phone by your head," she warned, as she pulled out her EMF (electromagnetic frequency) tester. She suggested getting a battery-powered alarm clock instead. Tierney also makes home visits.

All applauded Justin Purnell, a local realtor, for stepping up for over a year to be the FBA's president while also getting his two daughters through high school and the traveling soccer teams.

Just as busy is Liz Bopp, from Steam Master, who is stepping in as president with enthusiastic new ideas. Blaire Stewart of Big Sisters Sparkling Clean, a new FBA member, was named vice president. Her company specializes in construction cleanups and recurring cleans, and she is excited about involving the community more in our meetings.

Todd Winkler from ESCO Insurance has taken over for Janet Peterson as the FBA meeting coordinator, a position she held for many years. With commitment to community engagement, Todd is dedicated to actively recruiting local businesses and building relationships within the Fairview community and will make sure



Mary Anne Tierney used her meter to show the radiation coming off a smartphone.

we have a variety of breakfast, lunch and evening meetings, so all members can attend at least as often as possible.

Our meeting will now be held every other month. The board is also encouraging members to join the Fletcher Business Association, since the territories overlap.

## Jingle and Mingle

Our Christmas gathering, a "Merry Mingle," will be on December 7 starting at 6 pm at the new Cultivated Cocktails Distillery and Tavern at 161 Charlotte Highway, Asheville. They will have food and drinks for purchase. This party is open to members and others in the

community who would like to meet FBA members.

Scan the QR code at left to be taken to the FBA's website.



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Abba's Vintage		ESCO Insurance Agency	231-6577
Resurrections	865-567-7549	Kimmel HR Solutions	222-0105
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	<a href="mailto:blueridgeengravers@yahoo.com">blueridgeengravers@yahoo.com</a>	Stovall Financial Group	275-3608
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Katherine Morosani	793-4310	Ink	222-4567
Edward Jones--		Outside the Box Interactive	848-4072
Kate Schneider	628-1546	Re.Solutions	280-8270
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Turgua Brewery	338-0218	Apex Brain Center	681-0350
Whistle Hop Brewery	338-9447	AVORA Health	505-2664
<b>BUILDERS/MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTORS</b>		Carolina Mobile Optician	779-2891
AA Diamond Tile	450-3900	Fairview Chiropractic Center	628-7800
All Season Heating & AC	651-9998	Koretz Family Health	220-0125
Cane Creek Concrete	230-3022	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>	
Cool Mountain Construction	628-3082	Fairview Town Crier	628-2211
Daylight Asheville	778-0279	<b>NONPROFITS</b>	
Living Stone Design + Build	855-720-2435	Food for Fairview	628-4322
TP Howard Plumbing	628-1369	SafeTech NC	<a href="http://safetechnc.org">safetechnc.org</a>
<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b>		Signs for Hope	691-2581
gk, Inc.	222-4567	<b>ORGANIZING</b>	
Rising Workplace	214-7827	Grand Solutions LLC	516-238-6979
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Grace Farms	222-4567	Cool Mountain--Jenny Brunet	628-3088
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Fairview Preschool	338-2073	Sandy Blair Real Estate	768-4585
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<b>EXERCISE</b>		Nachos & Beer	298-2280
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CC Flooring	712-1671	<b>VETERINARIANS</b>	
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# White Birch

Las month, I went to the back of our barn to select a few white birch branches with which to make “Yule logs” for friends, as they are an old tradition that I enjoy sharing with others. I wrap the beautiful, snow-white log with sage, cedar greens, a sprig of rosemary and lavender as a way of honoring the spirit of winter. The white birch symbolizes snow to me and the purity and clarity of winter, a season that I need as it is a time of celebration, rest and renewal. When the Yule log is placed in our woodstove, it is magical to watch the flames burst forth and drink in the fresh aromatic essence of all the evergreens and herbs.

White birch (*Betula papyrifera*) is one of our most important trees. Although it is a tree that thrives in the northern latitudes, it is often grown here as an ornamental for its beauty, but this far south it is prone to the birch borer as it approaches maturity. In general, white birch in the Carolinas live to around 30 years. We still have a large cache of birch logs generously given to us from a couple at Echo Lake who had taken down a magnificent tree a year ago. In our home, we have a wonderful lamp made from birch bark—the peeling layers of bark are easily utilized for art and are quite stunning. Etymologically, the name “birch” derives from the Sanskrit “bhura,” meaning “shining tree,” which clearly is an allusion to the striking white bark and



luminous, golden cloak of leaves.

Birch trees grow in a fairly wide range of habitats, extending from Alaska south to North Carolina. These trees are easy to recognize with their white bark, often peeling in layers with threads of black striations woven into the tree trunks. Another name for white birch is “canoe birch,” as these trees were prized by indigenous peoples for thousands of years; they have a rich, resinous inner bark that is waterproof, which made them useful for making lightweight canoes.

The inner bark was used extensively to repel water from wigwams, tee-pees and other structures for living. Birch was also used for making water buckets, kettles to cook, baskets, funnels, utensils and bowls. The thinnest paper bark from birch trees has been prized around the world for writing and scrolls, from Rome to India. Ancient hieroglyphics tell us that people recorded medicine lodge rituals, histories and spiritual teachings on the outer bark of birch.

The wood is fairly hard and highly

flammable and has a high caloric value.

Birch will burn well even when frozen, so it was also prized for making torches and tinder in fire starting. Even green branches will ignite fairly easily, so it’s useful on the trail, especially under damp or wet conditions.

Extracts of birch are used in making leather oil and put into cosmetics and shampoos. “Russian Oil” or birch tar is an extract from the bark that is thermoplastic and completely waterproof, serving as a glue for arrows and as an additive to medicinal tonics. In addition, birch tar has been used as a healing salve for cuts and sores and as a mosquito repellent.

Birch wood is most often used as a veneer that is pale and light in color with an almost satiny sheen and is quite lovely. The famous Hughes H-4 Hercules, better known as the “Spruce Goose,” which was intended for transatlantic transport during World War II and was the largest flying boat ever built—was constructed nearly entirely out of birch and not spruce.

The inner bark of birch trees is rich in

sugars and oil and contains Vitamin C. It provides welcome winter nourishment for deer and other rodents when everything else is covered in snow. Native Americans used to prepare a type of flour from it, which could be used for baking. Many tribes also used to burn very thin pieces of birch bark inside, as the smoke was believed to provide healing properties to the sick by purifying the air and killing germs from infectious diseases.

Birch trees are one of the first trees to put on their spring cloak of new leaves, and for centuries in Europe, the birch tree was chosen as the centerpiece for the May Day/Beltane celebrations that date back to pre-Christian times. Often, a birch tree was selected as a maypole, with cookies, ribbons and feathers tied to it as a symbol of spring, fertility, love and life.

Right now, spring feels like a distant dream. The pond has a layer of ice on it, and the birds are busy throughout the day at the feeders trying to keep warm. And yet, underneath the frozen ground, hidden growth and renewal is always taking place—a few daffodils have popped up through the mulch and, before we know it, that distant dream of spring will become a living reality.



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## Grow Season Comes to a Close



The row cover is on, the cover crop is growing, and we're calling it a wrap on 2023 at Root Cause Farm (RCF). Y'all showed up big time to help us alleviate hunger in the community. We had more than 2,500 hours of volunteer help this year and grew more than 7,000 pounds of produce. In lettuce alone, we shared 10,000 servings. That's a lot of salad! We couldn't have done it without this solid Fairview community.

For those who donated, volunteered, shared our events on social media, printed our articles (thanks Town Crier), hosted an event (Barn Door Ciderworks, Turgua, Whistle Hop) and showed up for the farm, thank you. If you didn't get a chance to participate this year, it's not too late. You can donate at our website ([rootcausefarm.org/give](http://rootcausefarm.org/give)), and anyone who gives before the end of the year will have a chance to win an East Fork Pottery planter or two tickets to Biltmore Estate.

We are the only production garden in Buncombe County growing for donation. Our produce and service-learning opportunities are in high demand. It is more important than ever for us to grow as much food as possible. Everything we raise now helps us prepare for another season of abundance, giving and community building. Thank you for being part of a community solution to hunger.

### Bringing the Garden Inside

It has taken me many years to make peace with winter and her drab skies and barren trees. The trick has been leaning into soups, cinnamon candles, ridgeline hikes and bringing the garden inside. I prepare my home for winter in the same way I prepare the garden for spring, with little touches that make it feel less artificial and more like the garden is all around me. I would like to invite you to join in on this tradition. It is also a fun way for kids to continue to participate in growing a garden and thinking about the change of seasons.

Start by walking through the garden and gathering simple and beautiful treasures to bring inside. If you don't have a garden, come by RCF and see what you can find. Gather things such as interesting-looking branches, unique leaves, dried queen



Anne's lace stalks, pinecones, acorns, spiky echinacea pods and anything



else that catches your eye.

Dried wildflowers, cut and brought inside, can make a unique bouquet in a vase. I love the softness of the goldenrod puffs exploding from a stout amber vase. For those treasures that don't work in a vase, they can be attached to a piece of twine with small clothespins and hung like garlands over windows or doorframes. They can be gathered in a glass jar to display. Sticks can be cut and glued into the shape of stars to make unique ornaments. Rosemary and lavender can be tied with twine into mini-wreaths to hang on the tree or doorknobs. Another idea is to hang a large branch on the wall; then tie different garden finds onto it with twine or directly pin them on the branch. To mix it up, you can cut leaves and orange peels into the shape of stars.



For a delicious fresh pine smell, stop by a Christmas tree stand and ask to take the extra branches they shave off the bottom of their trees. They're free! These rich, green sprigs conjure up images of sleigh bells and quiet snow, heavy on trees in the forest. With a pair of pruners, cut them to make individual strands that can be pulled around a wire frame for a wreath, gathered with twine and splayed out like a fan as a hanging or clustered with care on top of a fireplace mantle or piano top or table centerpiece. If you can find a plant with red berries, such as asparagus stalks or holly, these really pop in the display. Or cheat and cut up oranges from the store and dry them out in the oven as easy and fragrant splashes of color to mix into your creations.

There are no rules except letting go and being a little wild, just like the garden.

Amy Miller is the Director of Operations at Root Cause Farm. 26 Joe Jenkins Road, Fairview. [rootcausefarm.org](http://rootcausefarm.org).



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Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

\*\*\*

Two dragons walk into a bar.

The first one says, "It sure is hot in here."

His friend snaps back, "Shut your mouth!"

\*\*\*

A girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

\*\*\*

A guy goes ice fishing for the very first time. All of a sudden, he hears a voice.

"There are no fish under the ice!"

He ignores it and moves to another area, cuts a hole, and tosses his line in. Again, he hears the booming voice:

"There are no fish under the ice!"

He nervously looks up and asks, "Lord? Is that you?"

"No, this is the rink manager!"

Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive.

—Elbert Hubbard

I tried to organize a hide-and-seek tournament, but it was a complete failure. Good players are hard to find.

\*\*\*

A mother asks her young sons what they want for breakfast. The first boy says, "I'll have some @\$%\$ pancakes."

The mother angrily sends him to his room for cursing. She glares at the other boy and asks, "What do you want for breakfast?!"

The second boy says, "Well, I sure don't want the @\$%\$ pancakes!"

\*\*\*

Thanks, Bonnie Sibner, for this riddle:

What do Alexander The Great and Winnie The Pooh have in common?

The same middle name.



Blaine Greenfield hosts BLAINESWORLD, a podcast, and he publishes a blog with the same name. To send items for possible inclusion in a future issue, email bginbc@aol.com.

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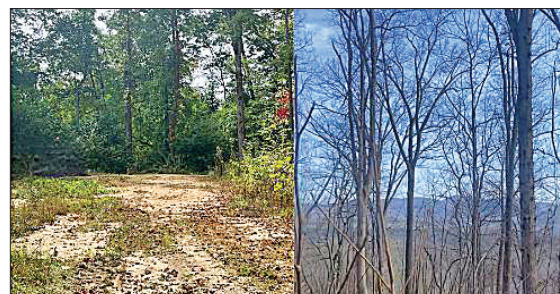
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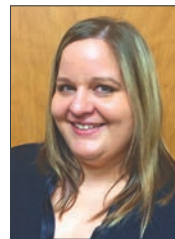
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