

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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STRs in all districts stand says PB

At a special called Planning Board work-session meeting Tuesday night, the board tried to put the finishing touches on the short-term rental ordinance they last worked on in December. Except for a couple of

items, the recommendations didn't change. In a 6-1 vote the board voted to accept what they hammered out in December – mainly that STRs in some form would be allowed in every residential district. Member Wendell Willard –

who is basically against STRs in any form in any residential zone and who repeatedly suggested they were mainly in existence for the wedding industry – voted against the recommendations as a whole

• See STRs page 22

Mission Primary Care Cashiers welcomes new doctor

Mission Health is pleased to welcome the newest addition to Mission Community Primary Care Cashiers, located at 57 White Owl Lane, Cashiers - Dr. Kathleen Shattenkirk.

Dr. Shattenkirk is a board-certified family physician with more than 30 years of experience in a multitude of health care environments.

Dr. Shattenkirk joins our community from Wendell, NC, where she was formerly with Tinkbird Healthcare.

She received her Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her Family Practice Residency at Saint Clare's Hospital in Schenectady,

•See NEW DOCTOR page 14



Snow festival in K-H Founders Park is set for Jan. 29 & 30.

Chamber rolls out first annual Snow Fest

Heralded as cold-weather magic front and center, the first annual Snow Fest will feature everything from twinkly lights to fun in the snow Saturday and Sunday, Jan 29-30.

Planned as a way to bring visitors to town in the off-season, according to the Chamber of Commerce, the event is for “those who are adventurous and unfazed by the blustery wind and temps, and

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NC filing to reopen Feb 24 after court ruling

By Brittney Lofthouse

A three-panel judge ruled Tuesday evening that North Carolina's redistricting maps will not be tossed out. In their ruling, in Wake County Superior Court in Raleigh, N.C., the three judges agreed that both the legislative and congressional maps were “a result of intentional, pro-Republican partisan redistricting.” The Wake County Superior Court Judges stated in their ruling that the maps are not unconstitutional, regardless of the partisan advantage they may give Republicans.

“Were we as a Court to insert ourselves in the manner requested, we would be usurping the political power and prerogatives of an equal branch of government,” wrote Superior Court Judges Gra-

•See FILING page 22

promises to be at least one way to ward off wintertime blues.”

Though mother nature may lay the groundwork with temperatures cold enough for snow,

•See SNOW FEST page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The business of running the town is in full swing

Let me cover several current items. Some of this information comes from questions folks have sent to my website in recent days.

First, Optimum is continuing COVID testing at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 5. This state testing program is in high demand. Testing supplies are becoming limited, as well as testing personnel are being impacted by Omicron. We are fortunate that Optimum is providing this service, and I am hopeful it will continue. The Macon County Health Department is also conducting testing in Franklin.

While the town has provided the site for testing, we are not directly involved in its operation. We open and close the building and sanitize the facility after each session.

Some folks have complained about having to wait outside during this cold weather. Given the spread of the virus and the confined space of the Community Center, having large number of potentially



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

infected people waiting inside the testing area is not an acceptable protocol.

The testing process can be expedited by folks going to the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation website and preregistering. Once on the website scroll down to COVID Testing to where preregistration into the Optimum system is accessible. Preregistration eliminates the need to enter basic information at the testing site and reduces wait times for everyone. If you have previously used Optimum testing services, preregistration is not required a second time.

The replacement of the waterline on Moorewood Road will be underway soon. A major delay has been a limited supply of six-inch ductile iron water pipe. The contractor has had search for and order the pipe from multiple suppliers.

Town electric crews are in the process of replacing the old sodium vapor streetlights with new LED lights. The new lights are more in keeping with the dark sky initiative. They produce a natural light that is directed and focused down onto the street. Crews are getting 50 light units at a time and installing them asap. They are about halfway through the conversion process.

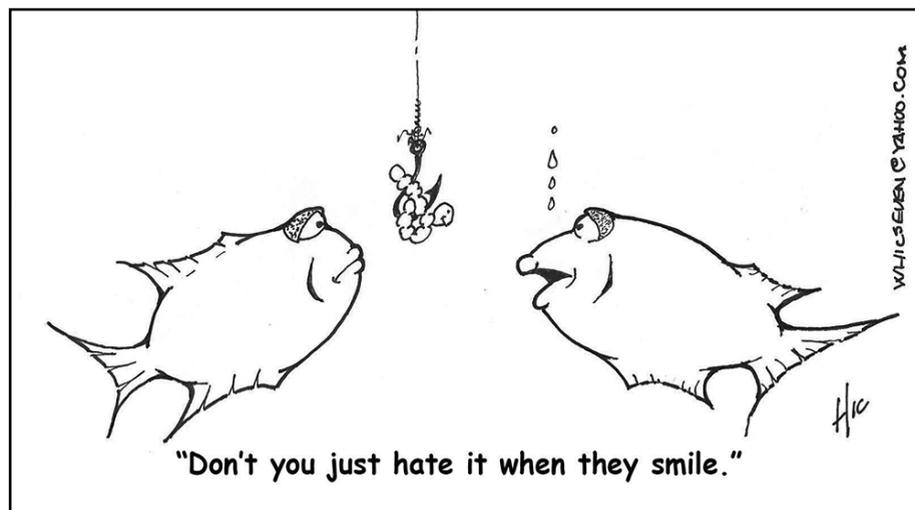
I continue to get questions about when Hotwire will begin operations. Hotwire is in the process of setting up equipment, upgrading the headend building to meet their standards, and setting up an office. They will announce in local media very soon their plans for operation. For folks who live in neighborhoods with underground utilities, the process will take longer since Hotwire will have to install underground conduit. The underground portion of the network will involve about 18% of the residences, and it will be more expensive and challenging to install. Hotwire is committed to provide this service.

We are in the winter season where power outages are very likely with heavy snow and winds. Our friends in Macon County Emergency Services want to remind everyone not to call 911 if there is a loss of power. Outages during business hours can be reported to Town Hall at 526-2118. After

hours call 526-4131, a nonemergency number. But my request is to be patient. During these winter storms our electric crews monitor the electric system and restore power as soon as it is safe to work. In these winter

events, power failures invariably impact large sections of the town. If everyone immediately calls 911, the emergency system will be overloaded to quickly respond to life threatening situations.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 13-Jan	Fri, 14-Jan	Sat, 15-Jan	Sun, 16-Jan
 41°F 27°F	 42°F 27°F	 34°F 23°F	 33°F 16°F
Partly sunny	Partial sunshine	Cloudy, a shower in the p.m.	Cloudy, snow possible; cold
RealFeel® High: 41° Low: 26°	RealFeel® High: 42° Low: 21°	RealFeel® High: 31° Low: 26°	RealFeel® High: 29° Low: 9°

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Highlands Newspaper

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We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

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WINTER HOURSMonday-Friday
11a to 6p**• LETTERS •****Facts matter**

Dear Editor,

Well known Highlands Realtor Pat Allen wrote an Investing at 4,118 Ft, column in the Highlands Newspaper Dec. 30 edition on the issue of short-term rentals.

Unfortunately, on several important facts, Ms. Allen is just wrong. STRs are a crucial issue that threaten the character of Highlands and future livability of our town. Facts matter as the Town moves to establish clarity on this issue.

The facts are:

- The Dog Mountain Property Owners Association has never sued the Town as she claimed. Ironically, although she seems to express regret that there is litigation surrounding this issue, publicly available information reflects that Ms. Allen contributed \$900 to the STR group that is in fact suing the Town, so she is helping to fund the very lawsuit that she is concerned about.

- In fact, 100 per cent of the homeowners on Dog Mountain petitioned the town in 2012 (many years before the explosion of short-term rentals in Highlands) to be annexed into the Town, willingly accepting the extra tax burden. Why? We wanted the protections of the current zoning laws for R-1 that explicitly prohibits all commercial activity, including “overnight accommodations.”

- Ms. Allen also erroneously says that the Town’s board of commissioners voted to ban “all short-term rentals in R-1...”

They did not. The commission by consensus simply agreed to enforce the existing zoning laws, which prohibit short-term rentals in R-1 and R-3 zoning districts and require special use permits (which also includes a number of restrictions that protect the neighbors and neighborhoods) in R-2 zoning districts.

- Ms. Allen erroneously says the homes in R-1 “would no longer be allowed to be offered as rentals.” That isn’t true either.

The fact is long-term rentals are allowed in R-1 under the current zoning law. The town attorney Jay Coward in the council’s August 2021 meeting confirmed that the ordinance prohibits STRs in R-1. Homeowners who need rental income to offset their purchase, can still rent, they just can’t do so on a short-term basis like a hotel.

- Ms. Allen and others have suggested that regulations should be put in place to govern short-term renters with fines and screening. Who would enforce these rules? Not the STR owners. They live elsewhere and don’t know in real time about violations. No, under this idea, it falls on neighbors to report the violations, making homeowners who invested in R-1 who want to live without commercial activity the “monitors” that police STRs. That’s not fair. There should be (and always has been) a residential zone in Highlands for homeowners who do not want to live next to a revolving door of renters.

- Ms. Allen asks “how (can) we continue to have weddings or short-term events.” if we don’t have enough rooms to rent?” Our question is “Why should residential



HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN
\$2,250,000 | MLS# 97131

This newly constructed home in prestigious Highlands Country Club boasts antique beams, a beautiful stone fireplace, and gleaming hardwood floors. The covered deck flows seamlessly from the great room and has a fireplace with built-ins flanking the sides plus an antique door for privacy. The terrace level has a wonderful family room with a stone fireplace plus three en suite guest rooms, a second laundry, and kitchenette.

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SCALY MOUNTAIN
\$1,097,000 | MLS# 97829

Views, views, views! The living rooms boasts a floor-to-ceiling fireplace and a full wall of windows that allows you to take in the views. The kitchen has a large island and opens to a dining area that holds a table fit for a king and a custom chandelier. The owner's suite has a spa-cious bath and opens to the covered deck. Located on 5.19 acres in the Highland Gap community and offers convenience to Dillard, Ga., as well as to Highlands.

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WINTER HOURS

Monday-Friday
11a to 6p

...LETTERS continued from page 4

homeowners be asked to sacrifice their neighborhoods
for the destination wedding industry and the Chamber of
Commerce?

If the need for hotel rooms is so great in Highlands,
we are confident that smart business investors will build
more rooms where zoning rules allow such development.

Carol Gable
Vice President

Dog Mountain Property Owners Association

Don't throw the baby out with the bath water

Dear Editor,

My wife and I have been coming to Highlands for
18 or 19 years and love the town and area. I enjoy reading
your paper

• See LETTERS page 10

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• OBITUARIES •

William Warren Ashburn, III



William Warren Ashburn, III, 74 and affectionally known as Wick or Paka Wick, died peacefully on December 30, 2021 after a short battle with Lewy Body dementia. Most of his family was with him when he entered heaven.

Born in Savannah, Wick attended Savannah Country Day School, graduated from Newberry College where he was a founding brother of their Kappa Alpha order, and from Mercer Law School.

He practiced law in Savannah as a founding partner of Ashburn, Beckmann and Lewis until 1985.

In 1982, Wick and Marjorie Manley Ashburn, also of Savannah, were married and soon moved to one of their favorite places – Highlands, NC. There, he and Margie raised their incredible daughters and Wick took the

helm of Coldwell Banker Ashburn Real Estate.

They all had a wonderful life in the mountains at Highlands Falls Country Club – playing golf with great friends and trying to keep the girls out of trouble!

Shortly after Wick became ill, he and Margie moved back home to Savannah, GA.

Wick was the second son of the late Thomas Norvell Ashburn and Jewell Hurst Ashburn.

He was also preceded in death by his sister, Rosalind Ashburn Demere.

In addition to his wife of 39 years, Margie, he is survived by several very important and loved people. His daughters, Daisy Eleanor Ashburn of Savannah, GA; Leslie Ashburn Cook (Adam), grandchildren, William Grant Cook and Elizabeth Jewell Cook of Highlands, NC; Rosalind Carlyene Ashburn of Palm Springs, CA and Savannah; Ramsey Ingram Ashburn of Highlands and Rebecca Cubbedge Ashburn also of Highlands.

Wick's extended family includes his brother, Tom Norvell Ashburn, Jr. (Maggie) of Columbia, SC, his sister, Anna Priscilla Ashburn (Terri Rupel) of Los Angeles, CA; and his brother-in-law, Hobart Leslie Manley, III (Terri). Nieces and nephews, Patrick Ashburn, Sara Ashburn Reed, Elizabeth Demere Froelich, Houston Demere, Hobie Manley, IV and Erin Manley.

Wick will be missed by his in-laws who were also his great friends, Marilyn and Hobart Manley, Jr.

His humor, generosity, fairness and his great love for his family and God will leave a large hole in many hearts.

A memorial service will be held at Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, GA at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wayne Pearson Scholarship Fund at Newberry College, Newberry, SC.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.foxandweeks.com

Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors, Hodgson Chapel, Savannah, GA, 912-352-7200.

James Lewis 'Jim' Bryson



James Lewis "Jim" Bryson, 74, passed away, January 9, 2022, following a brief illness.

A life-long resident of Jackson County, he was born May 13, 1947, and was preceded in death by his mother, Pat Bryson.

Jim served in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska

Following his service in the Army, he was a heavy machine operator working on the Lake Keowee and Little River Dams.

He retired from Con-Met Cashiers (Cashiers Plastics Plant) after 33 years where he began working as a truck driver before working in maintenance. He then worked for the McNeely Company delivering heavy equipment before fully retiring in 2012.

He volunteered over 30 years with the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad.

Jim spent his retirement days

maintaining the family property working to keep it well-manicured for all to enjoy.

He built a beautiful fishpond and picnic area where he and others shared many wonderful memories.

Survivors include his loving wife of 48 years, Sandy Bryson; sons, Chad Bryson and Jamie Bryson; two grandchildren; Bradley Bryson and Cheyanne Bryson; a sister, Nettie Nash (Tom) and a brother, Sammy Bryson (Arlene); as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, PO box 919, Cashiers, NC 28717 or Whiteside Presbyterian Church, PO box 1550, Cashiers, NC 28717

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...SNOW FEST continued from page 1

in case there's not enough of the white stuff, snow will be blown to fill in the spots or if necessary, fill the entire Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street.

The two-day event will run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

At the December Town Board meeting, Chamber Director Kay McHan requested and got permission to keep some of the holiday lights up in the park for night-time lighting purposes and to allow snow to be blown.

At November's meeting, commissioner voiced concern over the noise made by snow blowers but McHan said only one snow blowing machine is needed and the decibels is only 70 from about 10-20 feet away.

Commissioners also wondered about the need to use town water from a hydrant but the Snow Magic company is carting in ice to make the snow rather than using water.

Activities include Snoga – yoga in the snow with Yoga Highlands -- ice sculptures with The Bascom, s'mores, an ice slide, and a merry-go-round.

Preparations will begin 9 a.m., Friday, Jan. 28 with snow blowing stopping by 10 p.m.

Last minute snow blowing (dusting) might take place early Saturday and Sunday morning, if necessary, prior to the event starting at 10 a.m.

The festival is free, but s'mores will be sold as a fundraiser by Highlands School athletes.

– Kim Lewicki

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Fireplaces and Fire Features



Carl Romberg, BIC
Landmark Realty Group

value to a property. It should be noted that if the feature is not attached to the property, it would be considered personal property and a seller could take it if it wasn't specifically listed in the contract.

Along with fireplaces there are maintenance issues that need to be noted. Wood burning fireplaces should have the chimneys cleaned every few years, dependent on the frequency of use. Chimneys have flashing where they penetrate the roof that can leak. All fireplaces should be inspected

for deterioration or cracking in the hearth, firebox and flue. Some of the prefabricated units are approaching 50 years old and should be inspected for rusting. It is becoming much more common for this to be part of the inspection process for buyers of a house. Although it is not inexpensive, it is possible to replace a prefabricated fireplace with an updated model.

Chimney caps are quite common here because of the heavy amounts of rain that we receive. These can be made of metal, brick, stone or concrete. When showing a house with a wood roof I always point out that many insurance companies will not insure a house with a wood roof and a wood burning fireplace. Some insurance companies are now requiring the installation of spark arresters over the chimney flues in order to insure the property.

Choosing the right type of fireplace or fire feature will vary on many factors. Some people do not want to deal with firewood, the smell of smoke or the disposal of ashes. Other people are looking for a switch on/off feature that they don't have to worry about once the use for the day is finished. Sometimes the fireplace is not only for looks but also a primary source of heat or secondary source when the power is out. In almost all cases the fireplace or feature will add value if built or installed correctly and tastefully.

Whatever type of fireplace or feature you prefer, be sure to operate it according to the instructions, check it regularly and have professionals involved when needed. There are plenty of knowledgeable chim-

ney sweeps and fireplace companies on the plateau and they can help keep your home safe from a fire disaster. Hopefully you will have that special feature that you can gather around with family or friends and share stories and create memories.

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



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...LETTERS continued from page 7

I do hope that the town doesn't do away with STRs. We have brought other couples and family members with us a number of times and they all love coming there. We don't party or cause problems like the ones I have read about in your paper. We just come and enjoy the town and area. Great restaurants, shops, waterfalls and other sights to enjoy.

It seems to me that rules could be in place to prohibit those problems if the owners of these homes made it perfectly clear what can and can't be done to the people renting these homes.

If the renters don't abide by the rules then the owners should be responsible for the problems.

The couple that we rent from couldn't be nicer and easier to work with and they have very clear instructions as to what is expected.

I think stopping STRs will have an enormous financial impact on Highlands and I hope it doesn't happen.

Highlands is a great place to visit and we would really miss being able to come to this wonderful area.

Jeff and Karen Pulliam
Mobile, AL

We never knew we were so hated

Dear Editor,

We are "short term" renters, for 20+ years. We come in July or August so we miss the weddings.

I treat the town with respect. I take my trash and recycle to Buck Creek. We rent from a local real estate company and are pleased with their service.

The only time we get loud is when I play Uno with my grandchildren. We are in bed by 10.

I never knew we were so hated.

We have spent thousands of dollars in the town; we even bought our luggage there. So, I am disappointed about the STR issue, but if we are not allowed to rent in Highlands, I am sure there are

other places we can go for rest and relaxation.

Robert Heider
St. Louis, MO

Clarification of the contentious STR issue is required

Dear Editor,

Regarding the Investing at 4,118 Ft. column I wrote in the Dec. 30 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Sense and Sensibility" in which I discussed short-term rentals in R-1 districts in Highlands – I appreciate Carol Gable's follow-up letter-to-the-editor to my article with her "facts" and the opportunity to respond.

Because of my profession and with the responsibility not to mislead my clients, I have followed the dispute of those for STRs and those against. I have attended meetings where we weren't allowed to ask questions to try and get clarification on this matter.

Essentially, since 2006, the popularity of the expansive internet rental market has grown and has led to numerous homes in town in Highlands being sold with the thought that they could be used as short-term rentals to offset their mortgage.

Short-term rentals weren't prevalent in Highlands until more and more people were drawn to our area. Many of the wedding goers would try to book hotel reservations and find that all of the hotel rooms in our area were booked. They optionally searched VRBO and Airbnb homes and found they would accommodate large groups who preferred to be in town near the churches or the venue, which was often held at one of the OEI facilities.

Additionally, when tourists came for an event, whether a wedding, Chamber event, or simply an unrelated long weekend getaway, they found that there were not enough rooms in town to accommodate them; therefore, the need

for STRs grew. And with the recent sale of Mitchell's Lodge and Cottages for other purposes, we now have 28 fewer hotel rooms than before.

Ms. Gable's summation that the Commissioner's Zoom meeting did not vote to "ban" STRs is the same meeting I watched. Her reference to enforcing the existing laws, which she claims disallows them, is the reason there is ongoing litigation between two groups -- one to keep STRs and the other to disallow or ban, as I interpret the word, since short-term rentals have been allowed for many years in R-1 zoning districts.

At the special Zoom meeting, where no one but Commissioners were allowed to speak, it was shocking to R-1 homeowners, who are currently using their homes for STRs, to hear that they could no longer rent them. This is when groups formed for and against the issue at hand.

There was no discussion of the economic impact this restriction would have for business owners or the impact on current homeowners who are renting on a short-term basis during this Zoom meeting. There was no discussion regarding the implications of how banning STRs in R-1 zones may diminish the value of those homes while conversely and inadvertently increasing the values of homes in R-2 zones. The only discussion during the meeting was to disallow, or as I say, "ban," STRs in R-1 zones and possibly all three zones. Brokers in our area were flooded with phone calls asking them to explain "what happened," which we simply could not do.

I was invited to a meeting at Highlands Country Club with several Dog Mountain residents in October of 2021 who are opposed to STRs in their own neighborhood, and I do understand their objections. No one wants to be subjected to loud conversations, excessive cars, and trash that is not secured.

Ms. Gable does admit that

• See LETTERS page 11

...LETTERS continued from page 10

they asked to be annexed into the Town of Highlands in 2012 because the Dog Mountain residents wanted “the protections of the current zoning laws that prohibits all commercial activity, including overnight accommodations.” Their HOA covenants and restrictions had expired so they wanted the Town of Highlands to regulate the usage of their homes.

To summarize from my “Investing” column, my remarks were that we need regulations, and they need to fall back on the homeowners with fines, large non-refundable deposits from the renters if there is a disturbance, and a refusal to rent to them again.

My article entailed merely a few suggestions for a complicated situation whose outcome will now be determined by attorneys for both sides. My monetary contribution is to help sort out the ordinance and what it means to home-

owners and to finally resolve this. I don't look at it as suing the town but needing clarification moving forward. We have buyers who are leery of buying in Highlands until this issue is resolved.

Approximately three years ago Realtors® were invited to a town meeting for the discussion of STRs. After much discussion, our Town Manager said we would pattern rentals after Wilmington and homeowners and rental companies just needed to register their homes. The town then placed a rental registration form on its website. This certainly did not say that short-term rentals were not allowed. Within the last two years a commissioner, who is a Realtor®, sold a home and assured the buyer he could use it as a VRBO. The buyer was our client and is now involved in this controversy. Actions and the ordinance in question do not coin-

cide.

I am not an attorney and find it almost impossible to understand legal jargon. The mayor has asked the planning board to make recommendations on STRs moving forward after the current situation is settled.

I have no issue with limiting STRs with the sale to new buyers. It needs to be totally CLEAR this time and not ambiguous as before.

We were allowed to sell homes for STRs, and the town was aware of this and received tax revenue from homeowners because of it. I hope this can be settled soon and we can move forward and mend this divisiveness. Any time there is an “us” against “them” situation someone will always lose. A compromise is the solution and should be done quickly.

**Pat Allen
Highlands**

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Slocum Howland at the wheel.

Howland recounts 6-week sea voyage at Rotary

The guest speaker last week at the Rotary Club of Highlands meeting was Dr. Slocum Howland. After being introduced by President Tom Graham, Slocum, also a member of the club shared the story of his trans-Atlantic sailboat adventure. In 2001, Slocum, who as a youngster spent a lot of time sailing, was asked by an old friend from high school, owner of a 45-foot sailboat, if he would consider being part of three-man crew who would sail from Florida to Bermuda to the Azores to Portugal, a 4,000-mile journey. Slocum, along with the third member, another friend of the owner, agreed, and after a year of preparations, the three set off on a 6-week voyage that amounted to the adventure of a lifetime, sometimes thrilling, often challenging, and sometimes downright harrowing!

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Laurel Garden Club Offers Grants for 2022

Applications Now Being Accepted • deadline for grant applications is January 31.

The Laurel Garden Club of Highlands awarded grants to five non-profits in 2021. They are now accepting applications for 2022 grants. The 2021 grants were awarded to The Bascom, Highlands Biological Foundation, the Peggy Crosby Center, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, and The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center.

The 2021 grants amounted to \$10,200, making a grand total of \$198,512 that Laurel Garden Club has given back to the community since 2002. The funds are raised by selling the cookbook, Celebrate Highlands (out of print) and moneys from the Kitchen Tours.



The purpose of the grants is to help provide community beautification, protection, and conservation of Highlands' natural resources and scenic mountain landscapes. The club is an educational and non-profit organization. Proceeds from fundraising efforts benefit projects that comply with the club's stated purpose.

For more information, please visit the Laurel Garden Club website at: <http://www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com/guideline-for-grants.html>

Applications are available at: <http://www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com/grant-application.html>

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ice Rink Schedule

• Thursdays 1-8pm, Fridays and Saturdays 1-10pm and Sundays 1-5pm., Cost is \$5 per skater.

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Adult Swim: M-F 6:30a-1:30p AND Tues & Wed 3:30-7p. Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

American Legion

• No meeting in December, Next meeting Monday, January 3, 2022. 9 AM Highlands United Methodist Church. All veterans invited

Mondays

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

Second Mondays

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

Mon-Fri

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

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

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45 starting Monday, January 3rd. for more info call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon. & Thurs.

• Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call

828.349.2081.

Mon, Wed, Thurs

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

Mon, Wed, Fri

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meetings are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St. on Mon. at 5:30 pm and on Wed. & Fri. at noon, And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Tues. & Thurs.

• New Zumba class from 4:30-5:15p.

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

Tuesdays

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

First Wednesdays

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring "Walk-in Wednesdays" Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and Support Services Professionals, 1-3:30 pm. 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers, Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions, Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

Thursdays

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

• Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change. please check <https://>

• See EVENTS page 13

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...EVENTS continued from page 12

myspot.nc.gov/ for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

- AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope to solve their common problems. An In-Person meeting is held each Thurs, noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member call 828-342-6866.

2nd Thurs. thru - May

- Story Telling & Listening at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square from 2-4 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 14

- Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Sat., Jan. 15

Greenway Workday. Meet in the back parking lot of the Rec park at 9 am. This is what we will be working on:

- 1.) Trail maintenance. Due to recent snow, we have some pruning maintenance on the trails. Volunteers needed with loppers and pruners. Please let Jim know if you would like to get a head start on this work.

- 2.) Kelsey Trail Loop work. Our goal is to have this trail ready for the 2022 season. Please help get this trail completed. Work will include: Benching, cribbing, building a ford and trail clean up.

- 3.) Greenway Equipment Trailer organizing. Lend your organizational skills to help get the trailer in working order. Bonus points if you find the key to the excavator!

We will finish at noon and go to lunch. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly.

For further information contact Jim Chance 337-344-8004, jamesallen-

chance@gmail.com

Mon., Jan. 17 - Wed., Jan. 19

- Emergency Council 2nd Fuel Sign Up from 10am - 2pm at Highlands Emergency Council 71 Poplar St Highlands, NC. Highlands Emergency Council 2nd Fuel Sign Up. Must be a Highlands Resident and Must Bring Proof Of Income.

Mon. Jan. 17

- Jackson County Republican Party Meeting at 6 PM. This month's meeting will be held at the Sylva GOP Headquarters at 24D Steeple Drive in Sylva near the Tractor Supply store on NC-107. This month's meeting will focus on PLANNING and SUPPORT of Jackson County Conservative Candidates.

Tues., Jan. 18

- Regional Prayer Event at the First Baptist Church in Highlands, 6 p.m. 220 Main Street. Visit www.fbchighlands.org for more information.

Fri. Jan 21

- Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Mon., Jan. 24 - Wed., Jan. 26

- Emergency Council 2nd Fuel Sign Up from 10am - 2pm at Highlands Emergency Council 71 Poplar St Highlands, NC. Highlands Must be a Highlands Resident and Must Bring Proof Of Income.

Fri., Jan 28

- Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Mountain Findings will be closed the month of January due to concern for its volunteers and for customers in regards to COVID.

“With the rapidly increasing rate of the Omicron variant in our community, we think this is best for all concerned.”



COVID vaccinations and testing updates

By Tom Neal

CEO/CNO

Highlands Cashiers Hospital

Last week, two revised protocols from NCDHHS regarding Pfizer were issued following new CDC guidance.

The Optum vaccination site at the Highlands Recreation center has adopted these guidelines. The vaccination site is offering pediatric and adult Pfizer every Thursday from 9-5. No appointment is necessary or accepted.

First, booster shots interval reduction.

The interval recommended between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and use of a booster dose has been shortened from six months to five months.

Moderately or severely immunocompromised children ages 5-11 are allowed to receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second shot. Please note: Only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children ages 5-11. At this time, fully vaccinated children ages 5-11 who are not immunocompromised do not need a third dose.

Administration of a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster dose to 12-to 15-year-olds. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech

COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for the use of a single booster dose for administration to individuals 12-to-15 years of age at least five months after completion of primary vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Testing

Optum will provide testing from 9a-5p on the following days through the end of January:

Tuesdays at the Village Green in Cashiers

Wednesday and Friday at the Highlands Community Building

Scheduling an appointment is the best option to ensure you can get your test. You can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

Also, PCR testing is always available.

There is a surge of testing demand at the North Carolina sites, and we were advised the manufacturer of CareStart depleted their inventory of rapid tests. Therefore, for the week of Jan 10th staff will ONLY give rapid tests to the patients who pre-registered for a rapid. If a patient didn't pre-register for a rapid then they can ONLY receive a PCR test.

...NEW DOCTOR continued from page 1

New York.

Dr. Shattenkirk chose to pursue a career in family medicine because she enjoys taking care of patients of all age groups with a wide variety of medical needs. She feels the physician-patient relationship is based on trust, mutual respect and requires great listening skills



on both parts and strives to build a relationship that encourages patients to feel comfortable and confident navigating their health care decisions. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, photography, and spending time with my family, friends and horses.

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Dr. Shattenkirk, please call 828-743-2491.

• INK PENN •

It's never too late for a Christmas cozy

In early December, I participated in a *Twelve Days of Christmas Cozies Giveaway*, and though the twelve days have long passed, the books are still available on Amazon. Perhaps you'll find a book or two or three to warm your heart for the chilly winter months. Who knows? You may even grab a few to save for next year's gifts!



Kathy Manos Penn

by Louise R. Innes:

'Twas the weeks before Christmas, and Daisy nabs a new case, when a missing man is found stuffed above a fire place.

Candy Slain Murder by Maddie Day:

An entertaining series perfect for fans of Joanne Fluke that highlights delicious new recipes for you to try this holiday season! A merry Christmas mystery is the festive read you

need this time of year.

Have Yourself a Fudgy Little Christmas

by Nancy Coco:

Christmas on Mackinac Island brings a flurry of festive activity for fudge shop owner Allie McMurphy—but also a body in a snowbank.

An Aero Island Christmas Mystery by Adriana Licio:

In the depths of the Nordic winter, the beautiful Island of Aero is steeped in pre-Christmas cheer and Danish hygge. But in one dark and forbidding attic, a gruesome secret waits to be discovered.

Yuletide Cast of the Iron Skillet by Jodi Rath:

Holiday folly-LITERALLY! Alongside a murder comes another new little addition to the human race in Leavensport, Ohio. Not to mention a broken-off engagement, a double wedding, and buried bones in the village chapel cellar.

Wrreathing Havoc by Julia Henry:

There's nothing like autumn in picturesque Goosebush, Massachusetts, but beneath the season's sun-dappled foliage, Lilly Jayne and her Garden Squad must investigate a shadowy murder mystery after a theater owner's sudden death sows as much drama behind the scenes as on any stage.

I'm looking forward to snuggling up with a Christmas cozy this winter. How 'bout you?

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries in Franklin at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts and Books Unlimited, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

Purring Around the Christmas Tree by Liz Mugavero:

In the New England town of Frog's Ledge, the Holiday Light Festival is a Christmas tradition. Killing Santa is not. To bring joy back to the season, organic pet patisserie owner Kristan "Stan" Connor will have to find another Santa before it's too late . . . Includes Gourmet Pet Food Recipes!

Murder at the Christmas Cookie Bake-Off by Darci Hannah:

Tucked away inside an old lighthouse in Beacon Harbor, Michigan, bakeshop café owner Lindsey Bakewell is ready to make her first Christmas in town shine bright. But her merry plans crumble fast when murder appears under the mistletoe.

Eggnog Murder by Leslie Meier:

With the fireplace crackling, the tree twinkling, and the carols humming, few things in life are as picture perfect as Christmas in Maine—until murder dampens the holiday spirit. It must be something in the eggnog.

Mulled Wine and Murder by Kate P. Adams: The winter bears a berry, As red as any blood...

As December casts its chilly eye over Derbyshire towns bedecked in festive cheer, the skeletal remains of a forgotten man lie hidden in the cellar of the historic Black Swan pub.

Whiskers, Wreaths & Murder by Kathy Manos Penn:

If it were up to her, they'd be singing carols and baking cookies. Instead, they're stockings-deep in a murder investigation in the Cotswold.

Death at Holly Lodge

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Nantahala Health Foundation to invest more than \$470,000 in regional health, wellness initiatives

Nantahala Health Foundation is pleased to announce it will invest more than \$470,000 in 13 regional nonprofit organizations through its Collaborative Health Innovation Project (CHIP) grant-making program this month in support of their efforts to improve health and wellness outcomes for many of our region's most underprivileged residents.

The success of each awarded proposal depends heavily on the applying organization teaming up with at least one, and in some cases more than five, collaborating partners. Likewise, each agency's proposal, once implemented, seeks to apply a unique approach to eliminating root-cause barriers to health and wellness, according to Nantahala Health Foundation Executive Director Lori Bailey.

"At our core, Nantahala Health Foundation's mission is to serve as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration. This mission framed the eligibility criteria for our second round of CHIP grant awards," Bailey said. "Through our grant review process, we were excited to discover so many collaborative and innovative projects being considered or already at work addressing social determinants of health in our region."

Social determinants of health are known to directly impact up to 50% of an individual's health outcomes over their lifetime. When coupled with lifestyle choices,



which impact about 30% of expected health outcomes, only 20% of an individual's health is directly related to clinical visits and care. In other words, where and how you live, learn, work, and thrive significantly influences (up to 80%) of your long-term health outcomes.

"An ever-growing body of research illustrates that social determinants of health and lifestyle choices

far exceed cumulative physician visits when it comes to predicting health outcomes," said David Garrett, who serves as chair of Nantahala Health Foundation's board of directors. "That's why we have chosen to work with organizations specifically addressing social determinants of health as a way of improving wellness for all in Western North Carolina."

Organizations awarded CHIP funding will launch or continue programs to improve the health of individuals in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Jackson, and Macon counties, as well as the Qualla Boundary. Additionally, CHIP grant funds will support programs designed to address NHF's mission priorities, which include general health and healthcare, education, economic stability, and organizational capacity building.

CHIP grant investments will support the following efforts in these categories:

HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville - To support their work to repair and/or modify the homes of hospital patients with limited financial resources, thus ensuring these individuals return to a safe and healthy environment following their hospital stay.

Swain County Health Department, Bryson City - To meet the basic dental needs of Swain County residents who do not have dental insurance, thus reducing their risk for complications that could negatively impact their health.

Veteran Smiles Foundation, Maggie Valley - To provide support for eligible veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in need of dental care.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

MANNA Food Bank, Asheville - To continue food distribution for individuals and families facing food insecurities in Macon County by identifying a permanent

location for the MANNA Community Market and by exploring options to host a separate MANNA Community Market site in the Nantahala Community.

Rolling Start NC, Cullowhee - To provide safe and reliable transportation to 12 or more individuals and families living in poverty, thus improving their chances of getting and keeping employment, and enhancing their access to educational opportunities, community engagement, medical services, and quality-of-life activities.

United Christian Ministries, Sylva - To address food insecurity through the purchase of a cargo van to transport nutritional food items from producers/farmers to low-income consumers and food pantry locations in Jackson County.

EDUCATION

North Carolina Bartram Trail Society, Franklin - To provide Macon County High School students with a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) educational opportunities and to explore future environmental career paths via youth and volunteer trail maintenance experiences.

Southwestern Community College, Sylva - To employ a part-time instructor/job coach to assist with Project SEARCH, which provides instruction and educational assistance to disabled young adults living in Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties so that they may be better able to explore potential careers and eventually be placed in stable, long-term employment, allowing them to become self-sufficient adults.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center, Sylva - To establish and launch a new nonprofit, Child Medical Collaborative, which will serve to address the lack of child medical providers in our region, specifically those who specialize in treating victims of abuse.

Mountain Projects, Sylva - To build the personnel capacity of their organization's home repairs and rehabilitation program, which works to ensure elderly and disadvantaged individuals in Jackson County are able to remain safely in their homes.

REACH of Macon County, Franklin - To employ a human trafficking specialist and a victim support advocate with a goal of developing a multi-disciplinary task force to strengthen victim response in our

• See NANTAHALA page 22



HIGHLANDS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands NC announces Leadership Highlands 2022 Request For Applicants

Leadership Highlands 2022 is a community engagement initiative of Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands, NC.

The purpose of Leadership Highlands is to develop and empower emerging leaders through a series of interactive seminars, workshops, and other projects.

Selected participants will learn about their own leadership capacity, the people, organizations, and institutions that make up our community and how they can serve Highlands on a profound level.

The program seeks dedicated individuals who want to engage in the future of Highlands.

The 12 class members will attend regular sessions held monthly beginning in March and running through October - with local experts on Highlands' History and Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Government and Public Safety, Health and Human Resources, Education, Arts, and Outdoor Recreation.

Personal leadership skills also will be developed through principle-based decision making and teambuilding exercises.

"We are excited to reprise the Leadership Highlands program in 2022 and look forward to championing future community leaders," mentions Executive Director Kaye McHan.

Applications can be downloaded at highlandschamber.org/chamber/leadershiphighlands/, requested via email at businessservices@highlandschamber.org, or picked up at Highlands Chamber of Commerce (108 Main Street.)

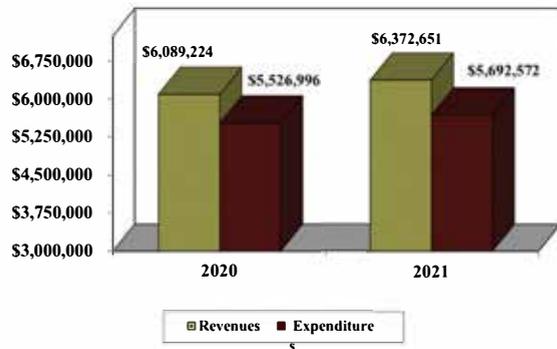
Application should be submitted by Friday, January 21, 2022 to businessservices@highlandschamber.org or delivered to Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Leadership Highlands 2022.

Class members will be notified and announced by February 4.

For more information about Leadership Highlands, call 828-526-5841 or businessservices@highlandschamber.org.

Town of Highlands mid-year FY 2021-'22 Audit Snapshot

General Fund Summary



At the last Town Board meeting of 2021 which was held Dec. 16, Highlands got an unmodified (clean) opinion from auditors Martin Starnes.

A look at the accompanied graphs show a town that is not only in the black but with more revenues and less expenditures than the previous year.

The audit represents just half of the year, since the fiscal year is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

A final budget will be presented at the end of 2021-2022.

The only problems auditors find with Highlands is the fact that it doesn't have enough employees to segregate duties.

In other words, the same person is doing more than one thing -- something commonplace in the operation of small municipalities.

The other issue brought to light was controls over inventory particularly referring to small inventory like nuts and bolts and screws.

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix said that's true and its something a computerized inventory system could manage and he would look into it.

According to Martin Starnes the General Fund is healthy showing a 5% increase over 2020 this time or \$203,569.

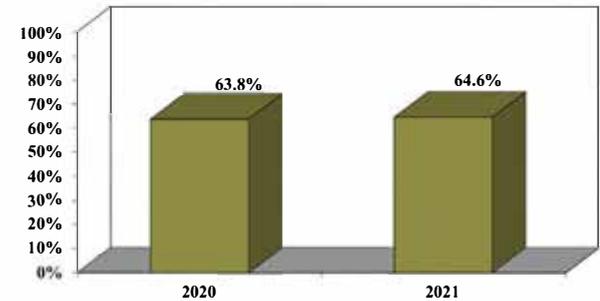
The total Fund Balance -- money that is basically left over after expenses and operations increased by \$141,524 over 2020.

The available Fund Balance is the money that isn't considered "non spendable" or statblized by State Statute.

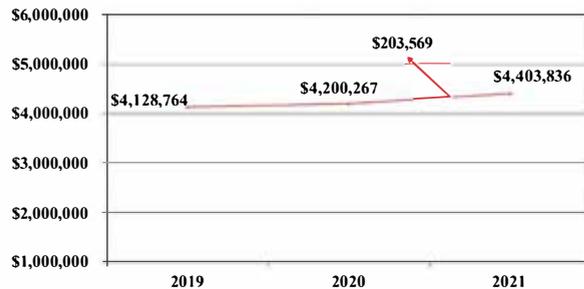
So far, for FY 2021-'22 the available Fund Balance is \$3,983,240 with is \$141,524 more than last year.

Real Estate values have caused the Ad Valorem Taxes -- property taxes -- to increase, too. So far in 2021 Highlands saw a \$2,934,410 increase over last year.

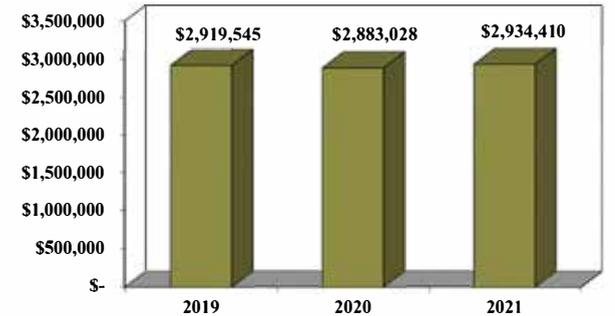
Available Fund Balance as a Percent of Expenditures and Transfers – General Fund



Total Fund Balance General Fund



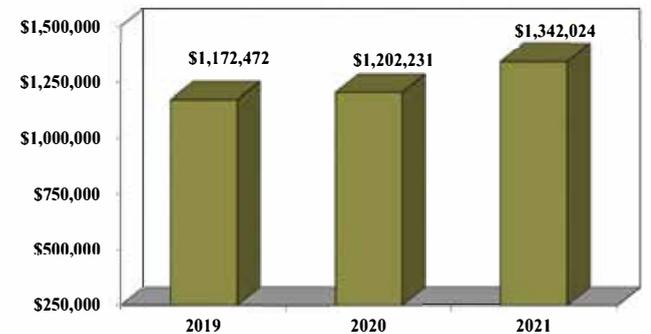
Ad Valorem Taxes



Fund Balance Position-General Fund

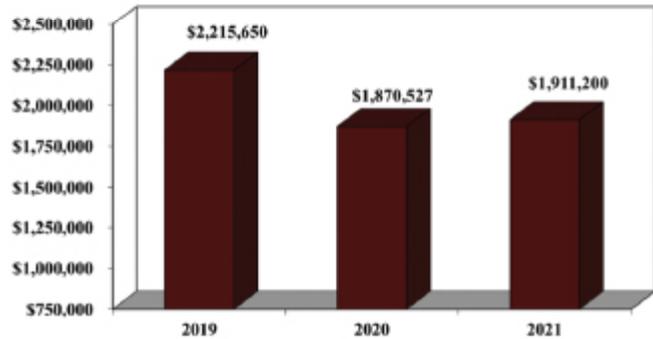
□ Total Fund Balance	\$ 4,403,836
□ Non spendable	- 25,157
□ Stabilization by State Statute	= <u>395,439</u>
□ Available Fund Balance	\$ 3,983,240
□ Available Fund Balance 2020	\$ 3,841,716
□ Increase in Available FB \$	141,524

Other Taxes and Licenses

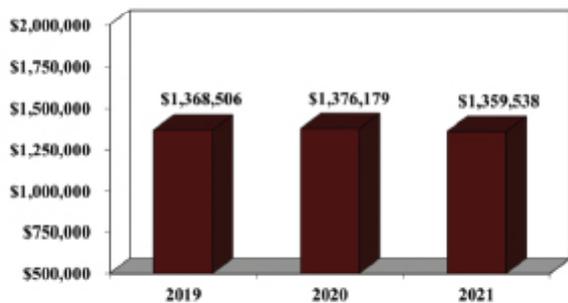


Town of Highlands mid-year FY 2021-'22 Audit Snapshot

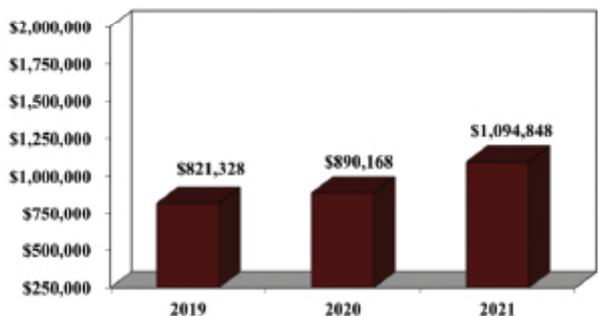
General Government Expenditures



Public Safety Expenditures



Culture & Recreation Expenditures



With Highlands booming all the way around, local option sales tax revenues also increased this year, \$140,000 more than in 2020.

Martin Starnes said the town's enterprise funds are healthy with roughly \$4 million coming in with a current net position of \$35,340,371 million. Unrestricted money in that fund is \$8,456,594 with a change in net position of \$3,051,323 over 2020.

The electric fund increased \$3.2 million and the sanitation fund increased \$220,000. There was a decrease in the water/sewer fund of \$430,000 whose capital improvements were funded by proceeds in the electric fund.

General Fund Expenditures increased over 2020 again due to capital expenditures in infrastructure.

Public Safety Expenditures decreased by \$8,968 compared to 2020.

Culture and Recreation Expenditures increased by \$204,680.

– Kim Lewicki

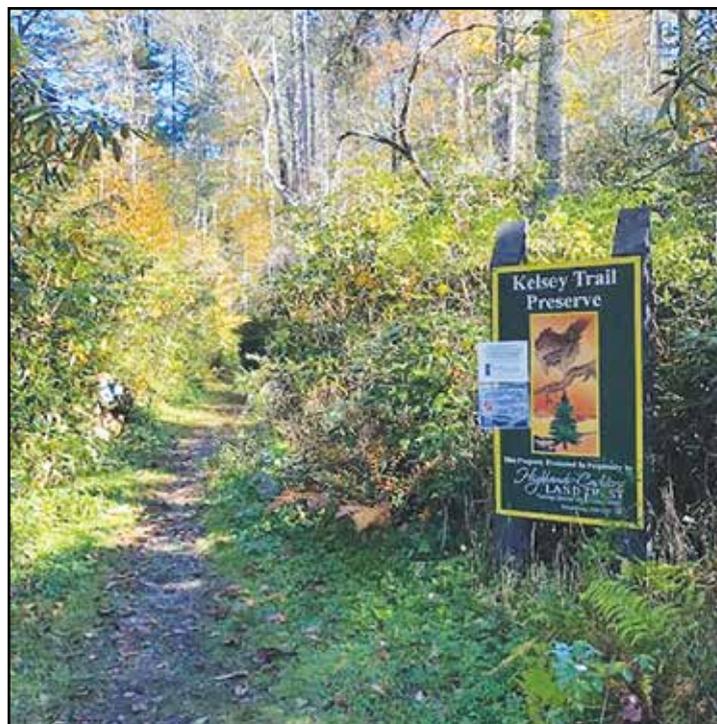
Enterprise Funds

□ Cash Flow from Operations	\$ 4,056,321
□ Total Net Position	\$ 35,350,371
□ Unrestricted Net Position	\$ 8,456,594
□ Change in net position	\$ 3,051,323

Performance Indicators

- LGC data input
 - Indicators:
 - Electric Transfers out
- Findings:
 - Segregation of Duties as a significant deficiency
 - Controls over Inventory as a significant deficiency

Start the New Year off right with some trail work!



On Saturday, Jan. 15, meet in the back parking lot of the Rec park at 9 am. This is what we will be working on:

1.) Trail maintenance. Due to recent snow, we have some pruning maintenance on the trails. Volunteers needed with loppers and pruners. Please let Jim know if you would like to get a head start on this work.

2.) Kelsey Trail Loop work. Our goal is to have this trail ready for the 2022 season. Please help get this trail completed. Work will include: Benching, cribbing, building a ford and trail clean up.

3.) Greenway Equipment Trailer organizing. Lend your organizational skills to help get the trailer in working order. Bonus points if you find the key to the excavator!

For further information
contact

Jim Chance 337-344-8004
jamesallenchance@gmail.com

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Do You Ever Feel Blue?



Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church

Do you ever have a feeling deep down inside your gut, just a little bit of weariness, your wheels stuck in a rut?

You may not know the origin, don't know from where it came, but somehow it just found you, and called you by your name.

Not that anything has happened, to throw your world off course, no need to over-medicate, no need for a divorce.

It's just a matter of malaise, though nothing's really wrong, but sometimes when it hits you, it's hard to find your song.

Maybe it's the shorter days, perhaps the longer nights, maybe it's the quieter house, or boxed up Christmas lights.

However and whenever, without rhyme or reason, the blues can come a callin' during any time or season.

And if you're feeling blue today, please know you're not alone, just take a break, say a prayer, and have an ice cream cone.

So hang in there beloved, even when you're feeling blue, and please always remember, there's a grain of God in you!

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

HOLY COMMUNION 1st & 3rd SUNDAYS

CHRIST ANGLICAN CASHIERS

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

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

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;
10:45am Children's Program. Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:
Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday Services in the Chapel:

Rite I 8a with choir: 9:30a; with choir 11a.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
We wear masks and social distance.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312
Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April
mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. noon; Sun. 11a
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;
Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I. 8a. Rite II. 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • ufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Jan. 5

• At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of destruction of property and vandalism at Highlands School where someone drove on the soccer field causing damage.

Jan. 7

• At 11:30 a.m., officers were called to a residence on Cherokee Drive regarding an unattended death of a 56-year-old man.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 5

Jan. 5

• At 6:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Raoul Road.

• At 9:15 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Goldmine Church Road.

Jan. 6

• At 7:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

Asheville jury convicts Franklin man of starting fire

Burns more than 80 acres of federal land and 20 acres of private land

U.S. Attorney Dena J. King announced today that a federal jury sitting in Asheville found Casey Lee Evans, 42, of Franklin, N.C., guilty of starting a fire that burned more than 70 acres of federal land.

According to filed court documents, evidence presented at trial and witness testimony, on April 3, 2020, law enforcement in Franklin received a call concerning a fire that was actively burning in the area of Cals Cove Road.

According to trial evidence, over the course of the investigation law enforcement determined that Evans willfully started the fire, which originated within the Nantahala National Forest. The fire burned for several days before it was successfully extinguished. In total, the fire burned approximately 70 acres of federal land and 20 more acres of private property.

Evans was convicted of willfully setting a fire on federal land, which carries a statutory maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Following the guilty verdict, Evans was remanded into federal custody. A sentencing date has not been set. In making today's announcement, U.S. Attorney King thanked the U.S. Forest Service, the North Carolina Forest Service, and the Otto Fire Department for their investigation of the case.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Asheville is in charge of the prosecution

Jan. 7

• At 11:35 a.m., the dept. was first responders to residence on Cherokee Drive.

• At 1:29 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

• At 2:23 p.m., the dept was first-responders to a residence on Upper Lake Road.

Jan. 8

• A little past midnight, the dept responded to a motor vehicle accident on Walhalla Road.

• At 9:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Skyline Lodge.

Jan. 9

• At 5:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

• At 10:02 a.m., the dept responded to a LP gas leak at a residence on Shelby Circle.

• At 5:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 3rd Street.

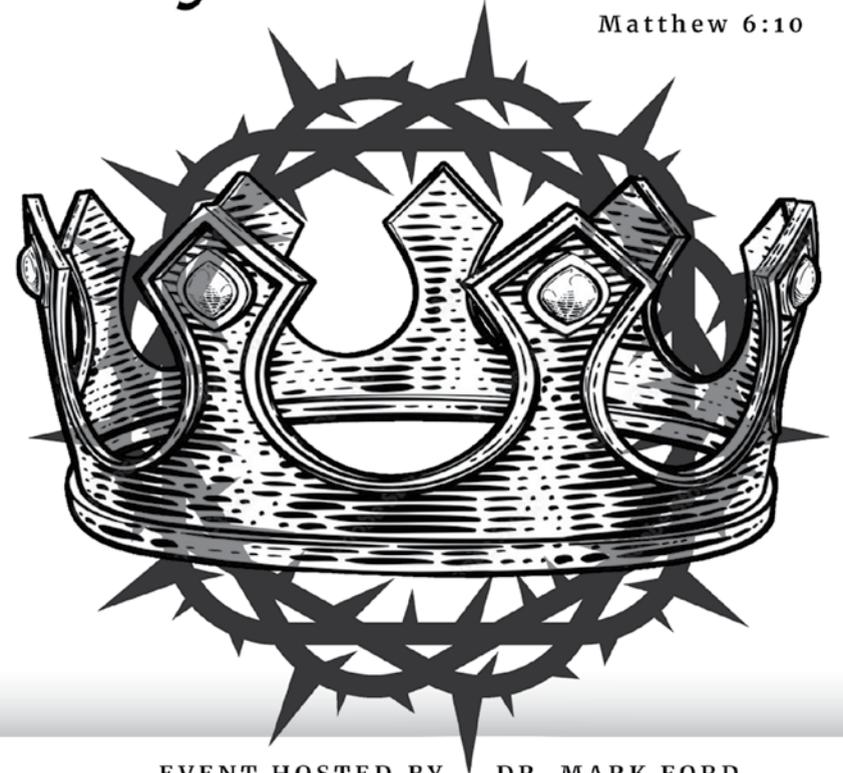
Jan. 10

• At 4:42 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Naiad Road.

Don't Miss the Premier Regional Prayer Event for 2022!

"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done"

Matthew 6:10



EVENT HOSTED BY DR. MARK FORD

First Baptist Church

IN

HIGHLANDS

Almighty God has been sidelined in the darkness of the public square. That needs to change. Join with Christians from our region to pray for His light to penetrate the darkness so that His grace and salvation can be seen by all. *Come Join us!*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18th - 6:00PM

220 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Please visit www.fbchighlands.org for More Information

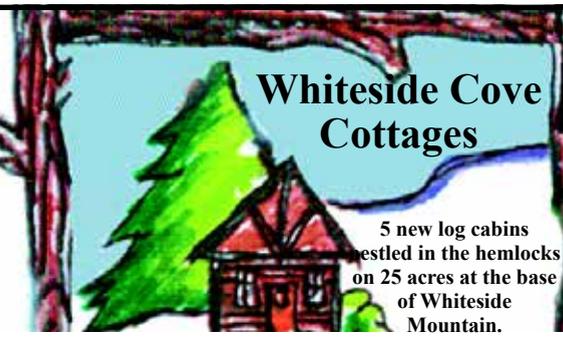


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Alcoholics Anonymous
828-349-4357 (HELP)
www.aawnc80.org

209 N. 4th Street
(Corner of N. 4th and Oak streets
upstairs across from Town Hall.
Enter from the rear.)

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gsgarren@gmail.com

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114 N. 4th Street, Highlands, NC
Highlandssothebysrealty.com



Ryan M, Bears

Broker

Cell: 803-271-5426

Office: 828-526-8784

Ryan@patallenrealtygroup.com

Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



VIVA WELLNESS

Dr. Kit Barker, Ph.D.

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\$25 per week Color

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20 cents for each additional word

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\$5 for color graphic

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DO YOU HAVE LUXURY DESIGNER HANDBAGS SITTING IN YOUR CLOSET THAT YOU DON'T USE ANYMORE? Do you want to make some cash with your used designer handbags and accessories? We are accepting luxury designer handbags and accessories for consignment. Please email allaboutbagzzz@yahoo.com for details, (st. 12/30)

FOR SALE

MASON & HAMLIN UPRIGHT PIANO AND BENCH, mahogany, fully restored by Ward Piano Co. three years ago. \$2500. Call 828-506-7025, Highlands. (st. Jan 6)

HELP WANTED

Silver Creek

REAL ESTATE GROUP

SILVER CREEK IS HIRING – Top real estate firm continues to expand and is searching for qualified, energetic candidates to fill three full-time positions in our Cashiers office. Available positions include: Front Desk/Office Administrator; Content Writer; Videographer; Photographer. For more information, please email info@ncliving.com. (st. 6/17)

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE DINING ROOM SUPERVISOR – HMH is seeking a full time shift supervisor to coordinate reservations and oversee all aspects of service in the front of the house at TRG. This role will act as Maitre' D to the dining room, work service for lunch, dinner and brunch and be responsible for the proper execution of each service period. This position will begin as an hourly position and has the potential to grow into a salaried position based upon performance. This candidate should be positive, reliable, hard working, have a love of people, service and have aspirations to lead and grow with the company. (st. 12/16)

THE ROOSEVELT TAVERN – A new upscale casual establishment in Cashiers, NC. NOW HIRING ALL RESTAURANT POSITIONS. Including Chef, General Manager, Servers, Server Assistants & Line Cooks, Great pay, flexible hours, relaxed work environment for people who can work independently. Established company with great history and following in the area. 18 Chestnut Square, Cashiers. 828-482-8743. Route64restaurants@gmail.com, (st. 9/2)

GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Rebecca Long at 828-507-1487 and leave a message. Need ASAP. (st. 8/26)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med

Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION – Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

NEW 2 STORY HOUSE, big garage on 3,14 acres land, water, sewage, WI-Fi, AC, private paved road, mountain view. (st. 10/7)

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Imagine getting one of the best panoramic views in Highlands. 10 acres of land backing up to the national forest, a beautiful 5,000 sq ft main house with an available 2 bedroom guest house and a putting green and horseshoe pit for \$990,000! Better hurry before my wife changes her mind. Please text or ring Paul at 678-516-8388. (st. 7/1)

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STOP PAYING AGENCY PRICES – Call me! Private, Personal and Professional caregiver, companion or sitter. I am available to work with each clients needs, days and hours. 828-507-1692. (st. 9/30)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? I can do it. Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (st. 9/16)

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN – Can fix anything inside or out, carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, Will also monitor house during winter, Free Estimates, References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (8/5)

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GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 9/17/20)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

...STRs continued from page 1

but continued to offer opinions throughout the meeting.

According to the accepted document, STR uses depend on the type of accommodation – Lodging (less than 30 days), Temporary Guest Occupancy (less than 30 days), Whole House Short-term Rental (7-30 days), Tourist Home (owner stays on property), and Transient Dwelling (less than 7 days).

In the R1 district, a Tourist Home is allowed but only 2 bedrooms; Transient Dwelling is not allowed; and a Whole House STR is allowed but Limited to a 14-day minimum.

Regarding this issue, the board decided not to strike a provision in the proposed amendment about incidental Whole House ST Rentals in R1 which they had struck in December. It says: no more than two such rentals in any calendar year where the total annual rental period for both rentals does not exceed two weeks. So that would be one of the limitations in R1 for Whole House Rentals.

Issues arose concerning the R2 district regarding permitted uses versus limited use and Special Use Permits for Transient Dwellings in that district.

As it stands now, for R2, a Tourist Home is permitted as an accessory use; Transient Dwelling requires a SUP; Whole

House STR is allowed but limited to a 14-day minimum.

Town Planner Michael Mathis said the town doesn't want or need to require Special Use Permits for any STR use because if the use meets all the required criteria, it goes with the land so there is nothing "special" about it.

"The board needs to either permit a use or limit a use and if limited then those limitations need to be outlined," he said later.

The board got into the weeds regarding this issue so finalizing the SUP versus Permitted Transient Dwelling use was tabled until the Jan. 24 meeting.

At one point the board discussed property owners having to get a permit each time they wanted to rent their home, but Mathis said that was not necessary either. Once issued a permit to be a STR – having met all the criteria – the property would be in the system so coming back to the town for "permission" wouldn't be necessary.

Every kind of STR is permitted in R3 and all the business districts in B1-B4.

Though Chairman Brad Armstrong said the topic wasn't their purview, like last time the board got off on the vested interest (grandfathered) issue.

Member Chris Wilkes said he had heard from both sides since the December meeting.

...FILING continued from page 1

ham Shirley, Nathaniel Poovey and Dawn Layton. "Once we embark on that slippery slope, there would be no corner of legislative or executive power that we could not reach.

The 258-page decision comes in response to three law suits filed challenging the new maps, which were drawn and approved the North Carolina's Republican majority in the General Assembly.

"Declaring as unconstitutional, an act of the branch of government that represents the people is a task that is not to be taken lightly. There is a strong presumption that enactments of the General Assembly are constitutional," the ruling stated.

Redistricting tied up courts for nearly a decade after the state's maps were last redrawn — something that is likely to occur again. Challengers are expected to appeal the court's Tuesday decision immediately to the state Court of Appeals or directly to the state Supreme Court, which in December halted candidate filing and delayed the primary election from March to May to allow

for these suits to be tried and appealed.

As part of Tuesday's ruling, the judges set a schedule to reopen candidate filing for all races across North Carolina, however they also issued a separate stay of the schedule to allow the case to be appealed. Candidate filing will now resume on Feb. 24, per the ruling.

Republicans currently hold eight of the state's 13 congressional seats, so the state's GOP remap could help the party take back the U.S. House. North Carolina gained a House seat for the next decade based on population growth in the 2020 census.

"State Board of Elections staff will immediately begin preparing for the continuation of the candidate filing period, including securing a location to ensure the health and safety of staff and candidates," said Karen Brinson Bell, State Board executive director, in a press release. "We will provide all details to the public as soon as possible at NCSBE.gov and through an announcement distributed to the media."

In November, Attorney Craig Justice informed the board that the amended ordinance concerning STRs would be in regards to future dealings and not current STRs. He said those currently using their homes in any residential district could continue and that the use follows the land not the owner.

If the house sells, as long as the new owner continues to rent it without lapsing 24 months, the use is grandfathered in.

This has caused an outcry about a neighbor's house being worth more than another if one is an STR and the other not.

"The biggest concern was going forward. The house next door would continue as an STR and that property value would go up while others would go down," said member Chris Wilkes. "I just think the Town Board should be made aware of the concern among some owners of homes in the R1 district."

He wondered if a limit of some kind could be put on the "grandfathered" aspect.

"Maybe the 'vesting' period should be considered and should be the same for all in all the districts," he said.

Again, Armstrong and others said "vesting" was a legal issue and has nothing to do with the Planning Board.

"We have no legal authority to discuss it," said member Nick McCall.

To get an STR permit, the limits per

district must be adhered to; the property must meet the bedroom/bath ratio for septic; two people per bedroom plus two; no more than 12 people regardless of the number of bedrooms if more than five; one off-street parking space is required per bedroom; renter must sign a document acknowledging rules and regulations; there must be a posted 24/7 contact person; and the property must be inspected by the fire inspector.

The board also discussed the suspension of rights to rent for repeat offenders – those who do nothing about trash, noise or other violations -- so the ordinance would have some teeth in it.

Though Armstrong said again the board was there to give directional advice and there were others better suited to deal with that, Willard proposed after three violations in a 12-month period, the owner would not be allowed to rent for six months and the board agreed.

The board agreed to leave the current ordinance as it is concerning non-related members living in a house noting that businesses use properties to house employees. It stands now at five.

At the regular open Jan. 24 meeting, final touches will be put on the ordinance before sending it to the Town Board.

– Kim Lewicki

...NANTAHALA continued from page 15

region.

United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties, Murphy - To establish and launch a new nonprofit, Community Connections, which will serve to provide parenting education and create opportunities for mutual support among participants, while offering information and education on child development, communication and relationship building, appropriate positive responses to misbehavior, as well as creating a safe and welcoming atmosphere where mutual support systems can develop among participants.

Vecinos Inc., Cullowhee - To establish a Community Health Hub where uninsured, low-income LatinX community members may seek a variety of human and health services in a confidential manner and in a culturally appropriate, Spanish-speaking environment.

ABOUT NANTAHALA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Soon after their establishment in early 2019, Nantahala Health Foundation's Board of Direc-

tors focused on strategic planning and regional information gathering designed to achieve their mission of better health and well-being outcomes for all in their service area of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary. After hosting an extensive series of listening sessions designed to identify issues challenging Western North Carolina, they defined their priorities and set about developing programs, including a grant-making initiative, to support their mission.

Working as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration, Nantahala Health Foundation seeks to partner with nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies to achieve better health and wellness outcomes for all. By working to address the upstream, root causes of health inequities and by removing barriers to positive social determinants of health and life-style choices, NHF's success is seen best in partnerships with regional change-makers. Since its launch, NHF has awarded nearly \$3.13 million in support to some 148 programs throughout the region. Visit NHF's website at NantahalaHealthFoundation.org to learn more and to join their Healthy Future Movement.

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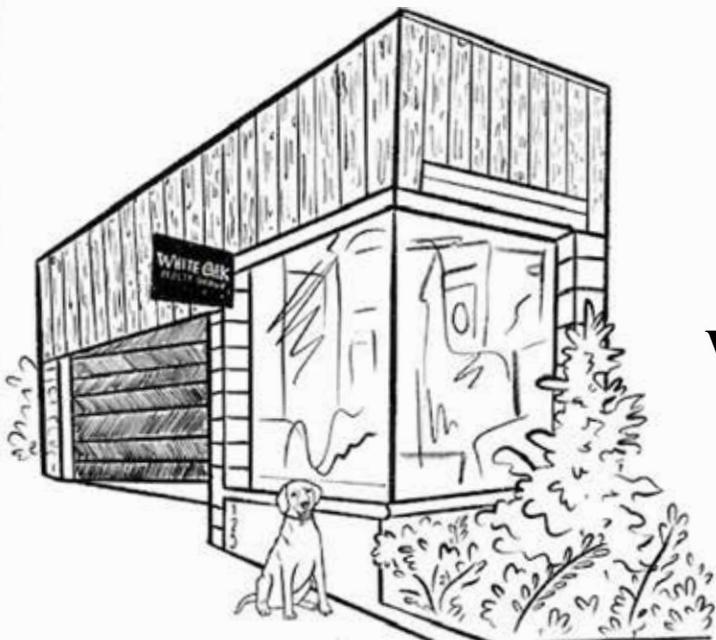
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