

Highlands Newspaper

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The paving of Main, 4th and beyond is on again

Work to begin March 2021

A couple years ago talk about paving Main Street began. The project which entails milling about two inches of old asphalt,

clearing it away, repaving and marking the road was supposed to begin early spring a year ago. Due to funding, it was de-

layed and it looked like it would be cancelled indefinitely. "It has been delayed one year
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HCHF announces 2020 grant recipients

Living up to its stated intention of improving the health and wellbeing of Highlands, Cashiers and the surrounding communities, Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) has awarded more than \$1 million toward grants and special projects in 2020.

"This has been an unprecedented year for everyone," stated, HCHF Board Chair, Dr. Walter Clark. "In late March, our Board

refocused their 2020 priorities to meet the new community needs that arose from COVID-19."

Since then, HCHF has been in full swing addressing COVID-19 projects such as funding the distribution of 250 hand sanitizing stations in partnership with four Chambers of Commerce, sponsoring community COVID-19 drive through testing

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Andrea is top 12%
Real Estate Brokers in 2019.

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is
the top selling firm in Highlands
since 2013 as per HCMLS Navica.

Whiteside Mountain Road View - MLS #93175 Offered for \$1,950,000
3 bedrooms (w/add'l sleeping areas), 4.5 baths, partially furnished
622 Whiteside Mountain Road

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Highlands

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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sites in Cashiers and Highlands, and funding COVID-19 weekly testing in three local schools. "We want to put our dollars where the needs are greatest, and where needle-moving projects make a real difference," said Dr. Clark. "Once we addressed critical COVID-19 projects our Programs & Grants Committee went into action."

Led by Stephanie Edwards, the HCHF Programs and Grants Committee proceeded with the original strategic priorities for 2020 grants: 1) Health and Access to Healthcare, 2) Education, and 3) Transformative and Collaborative Solutions. "Our grant cycle took a little longer this year, but I am thankful to our committee for persevering through a judicious process to make a meaningful difference in people's lives," said Mrs. Edwards.

Twenty grant awards (19 confirmed

and 1 pending) totaling nearly a million dollars were approved by the HCHF Board in October. "These awarded funds will touch lives spanning from early childhood through end-of-life and support non-profit services that uplift and improve lives," added Edwards. Fifty-five percent of HCHF's 2020 grants will support health projects such as school-based health, dental care and behavioral health services for the underserved; nearly 20% will fund childhood education programs and the remaining funds went toward transformative solutions to some of our areas most pressing issues.

Director Linda Quick said "While transformative is a difficult concept to define, we were impressed by programs that inspire and lead people to learn and thrive. Our goal is to improve health and well-

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being by partnering with organizations that make a lasting, impactful difference.”

In addition to COVID-19 projects, and grant-funding the Foundation unveiled its “Leap of Faith” initiative to open a new community health center operated by Blue Ridge Health (BRH) incorporating a Rural Teaching Practice ran by Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) and the UNC School of Medicine. HCHF invites donors and funding partners to support this project to ensure access to quality healthcare for our community and to create a pipeline to increase rural physician recruitment to our area. “If all goes as planned, we expect to see an opening date by summer 2021,” said Dr. Clark.

Since its founding 21 months ago on February 1, 2019, HCHF has invested more than \$3.6 million dollars across six counties through 73 grants to non-profit organizations and special projects. “2020 has been a year of unexpected need. The Foundation and Board of Directors have done a tremendous job by listening to and meeting the increased needs of our community. I am honored to serve alongside fellow Board Members and dedicated Community Advisors. We all look forward to continuing this momentum and building upon our purpose creating lasting impact

for generations to come,” Dr. Walter Clark, Chair of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation.

“The Foundation looks forward to another tremendously impactful year in 2021, as we continue to move the needle forward for improving health and well-being throughout Highlands, Cashiers, and the surrounding communities,” said Robin Tindall, CEO & Executive Director of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation.

Approved Organizations - 2020

- Advance Highlands Education Committee (AHEC)
- The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts
- Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic
- Blue Ridge School Education Foundation
- Cashiers Valley Preschool
- Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority
- Circles Cashiers-Glenville
- Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, Inc.
- Friends of The Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library
- Macon Program for Progress
- Giving Spoon, Inc.
- Hampton Preschool and Early Learning Center
- Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc.
- Highlands Community Child Development Center

opment Center

- HIGHTS, Inc.
- Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc.
- Macon County Care Network
- Pisgah Legal Services
- The Summit Charter School, Inc.
- Vecinos Farmworker Health Program

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Board member Melissa Evans. “I think all of those who showed interest in the open seat are great people and I think Carol will do a good job.”

Arnold was 38 years of experience in education, including serving as a member of the Macon County Board of Education from 1998-2002. Arnold came off of the board in 2002 due to a terminal illness in her mother. Arnold has built a career in education, working as a teacher in Swain County as well as at Macon Middle School. She has served as the Exceptional Children’s Director for Macon County Schools as well as the Assistant Superintendent of Clay County Schools. Since retaining, she has worked as a contract consultant for Macon County Schools Federal Programs. She resigned from her position in order to serve on the Board of Education.

Stephanie McCall, who is set to come off the Board of Education next week, voted against Arnold being appointed to the

seat. She said she had been contacted by individuals of the community who wanted to see Matt Mason appointed to the seat.

Mason ran for the Macon County Board of Education earlier this month, however, he lost to incumbent Jim Breedlove. Mason was not one of the four individuals who submitted the requested letters of interest. McCall did not say she had spoken to Mason about the appointment and said she was not sure why he did not submit a letter of interest.

The last time a board member was replaced due to a resignation was when McCall was selected to serve on the board to represent Highlands in 2009. McCall was selected out of a pool of seven candidates submitted for consideration.

Arnold was appointed to fill Goldsmith’s seat with a 3-1 vote. Arnold will serve the remaining term and will be able to seek election for the position in two years.

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colleagues and families, and a 1-for-1 match for employee's contributions to charitable organizations.

I believe strongly in the power of positive thinking. As we enter winter with many questions and few answers about how the virus will play out, I urge everyone to take care of themselves by eating and resting well, getting outside, and connecting safely with others, all of which uplift your mood as well as your health.

On behalf of every HCH team member, thank you for choosing us to care for you. We renew our commitment to you every day, no matter what unexpected twists and turns come our way.

** Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience. Prior to his role at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS) and served as Chief Executive Officer of both Berwick Hospital Center in Berwick, Pennsylvania, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN from*

SCAM Notice from the Highlands PD

The Highlands Police Department has received information about a scam in which an unknown sender threatens to kill the recipient unless they are sent money.

The message begins with "Someone paid me to kill you" and then demands money in order to call off the threat.

Our department suggests that you not open the email. We also suggest that if you do open the email and find a similar message, do not respond and call the NC Fraud and Complaint hotline at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

HIGHLANDS CASHIERS HEALTH FOUNDATION

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

**YOUR GIFT TO THE NEW COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER WILL BE DOUBLED, UP TO
\$50,000 NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST!**

The Foundation, along with a generous donor, is eager to fund the start-up of a new Community Health Center on the Plateau.

The power of your support provides the fuel that drives our work to improve the health and well-being of all residents in Highlands, Cashiers and surrounding communities.

**For information on how to match your gift call us at 828-482-6510
or Join us at hchealthfnd.org/donate**

 **Highlands
Cashiers
Health Foundation**