



Grants Mountain Newsletter

Hello Grants Mountain Property Owner!

Big Shout-Outs to:

Bennie Owens for renting and running a digger and cleaning out our culverts in July. Awesome! Assisting Bennie with the ditch and culvert cleaning were: Catherine Owens, Joel Carley, Terri Miner, Kristi Black, Ron Tadlock and Rich and Joan Messner. Joel Carley for cutting the tree out of the road, below the "t". Bennie and Catherine Owens for cutting a tree out of the road in August. Alan Ledbetter for painting the gate and cleaning the stone pillar lights.

President's Corner:

Hello! I hope everyone is dealing with the summer heat. We have had some intense thunderstorms on the mountain and along with that some issues with power outages. Some of us have had some problems with Air Conditioning and some Water Well issues. These problems could be weather related or just normal wear and tear of equipment. I would encourage everyone to be aware of the Health of your house and turning off some things if you are not going to be home for a while. Also turning off power to TVs and Well pumps during a thunderstorm is a good idea.

I am very thankful for all my Grant's Mountain neighbors. I want to say a special thanks to Linda Tadlock and Terri Miner. Linda came to my house and checked on two stray dogs that I saw on my security camera while I was out of town. It seems that the dogs were camping out on my porch. Terri came over and fed the dogs and made sure that they got to a No Kill Shelter where they could be cared for.

Dillon

VP's Corner:

Kristi and I are working on the fences; checking pricing for various wood "products", replacing and painting boards. Also, Kristi and her dad, Ed Black have been removing some downed trees along the road way and still have some to get, so if you see them out there stop and say hi. Last, but not least, a big thank you to the other board members as we are all working on different things that we are hoping will benefit our beautiful community.

Terri

Secretary's Corner:

I'd like to begin my entry by recognizing "One of Our Own", Max Ledbetter. While watching the local news, I heard about Max being recognized for his contribution to the students and teachers of his former school, Glenwood Elementary.

Boy, was I impressed! I emailed Crystal and asked if she could forward some information on Max's Project, so I could include it in our newsletter. Below is a portion of what Crystal shared:



My Project:

Yearly cuts to the education budget, growing classroom sizes and an economy slow to recover 10 years after the recession all make it extremely hard for educators to do their job the way they wish they could. According to a recent report, 99.5 percent of all public-school teachers spend their own money on classroom expenses, with a national average of \$485 per year coming straight from teachers' pockets. This money is coming from teachers, who in North Carolina, make \$7,736 below the national average.

If that wasn't reason enough to support this project, in 2017-2018 McDowell County ranked as one of North Carolina's "low wealth" counties according to the NC Public School Budget. This made McDowell County students eligible for low wealth supplemental funding. The amount allotted to each child was \$357.57. That amount of funding sounds great until you break it down into how the funds were expended. Only 4.7% went to textbooks, supplies and material. If you break this down further this means that each school had \$16.81 available for each child.

If you pair that with the fact that in 2016 The United States Census Bureau reported that McDowell County had an estimated population of 45,075 and of that population 20.5% were people under 18 years old. That is roughly 9,240 school age or younger people living in McDowell County. In that same year The Bureau reported that 18.4% of the county's population lived in poverty with a per capita income of \$19,233. The national poverty average in 2016 was 12.7% which means McDowell was 5.7% higher than that of the national average. With the number of students enrolled in the McDowell County School system in 2016, there were roughly 1,700 living in poverty that year.

When parents, grandparents and guardians are living off \$19,233 per year, there is precious little money left to buy pencils, crayons, glue sticks and notebooks in August when school begins again. It is unacceptable that financial limits of students and teachers should cause an unequal educational experience. McDowell County students and their teachers deserve to have this financial burden lifted of their shoulders. I have chosen to focus my project on those students and teachers in kindergarten through second grade at Glenwood Elementary. My goal is to provide classroom supply boxes that contain all the materials each student needs to begin their school year.

-Max Ledbetter

Max created a website with Alan's help. The address is: <https://www.glenwoodsupplies.org/>
He was able to collect \$3,704.88 in sponsorships from family, friends, community businesses in Marion and abroad. (a list of these businesses is on the website under Community Sponsors). He also held a fundraising car wash and Boston Butt sale which combined brought in a little over \$600.00. He placed supply donation boxes at local businesses and churches (list on website under Drop-off locations) His original goal was to provide the beginning of school supplies that every student in kindergarten through second grade needed, about 190 students. In the end he was able to provide everything each student needed in kindergarten through fifth grade, about 400 plus students and we still had a little over \$200.00 that we were able to donate to the school for further supply use during the year at the school.

If community members would like to donate to the project, they still can via the website or by sending a check made out to Boy Scout Troop 806, 1156 Grants Mtn Rd, Marion, NC 28752. Any future donations will be given directly to the school and placed in the Max Ledbetter Eagle Scout Supply Fund. The school we worked with was Glenwood Elementary, which is the one Max went to and right here in our Grants Mtn community. He has always said that when it came time to do his project he wanted to do something for this school.

-Crystal Ledbetter

Reminder: Please email: secretary@grantsmountain.com with any suggestions for enhancing our Newsletter. Also, please submit any "Classified" entries if you need to buy, sell an item, property, etc. Please include your contact info and any pictures that you'd like to include.

Joan

"Things that We're Working On":

Maintaining roads within our community is critical in providing access to our properties and homes. NOW, is the time to plan ahead and decide how we will pay for road failures and expensive preventive road maintenance. Paying a large assessment, in one lump sum, for a catastrophic failure is certainly not appealing to any of us. What about starting a Reserve Fund now, that would be dedicated solely to road work?

Our annual dues have always been \$250, but with rising costs for services and items to maintain our community, we barely have enough to cover annual costs. When we plugged our \$250 annual dues, the same amount since our GM Community was established, into an Inflation Calculator, it was obvious that we needed to increase our dues. If we started now, with an increase in dues, based on this calculation, we could dedicate this extra money to the Reserve Fund. **WE NEED TO PLAN NOW, TO HELP AVOID AN UNEXPECTED, LARGE LUMP SUM ASSESSMENT!** Let us know your thoughts and please share any ideas that you may have to start saving for our roads.

Your GMPOA Board

Treasurer's Corner:

Twelve Property Owners still have not paid their dues, despite two notices for payment. The owners are:

08 Loyd
14 Turner
17 Scott
24 Schneider (multiple bills passed due)
27 Engel

40 Abernathy
51 Curtis
53 and 54 Smith
73 Balsam

Because late fees, multiple bills, etc. may be present, please email anika@catskill-moc.com to verify the exact amount owed.

PLEASE write a check and have your name removed from our delinquent list! We don't want to proceed with attaching liens to properties; however, we need funds to help maintain our community and pay for services.

MAL's Corner:

Hello neighbors! Wow! Summer on Grants Mountain just flew right by!

The mountain looks great thanks to our many volunteers! Are you interested in volunteering to keep our mountain in tip-top shape? Let me know!

Do you follow Grants Mountain on Facebook? As a resident of GM, you get access to up-to-date pictures & happenings on the mountain. Search for "Grants Mountain POA" & request to join. We love seeing our neighbors & friends come together on this social platform. Is there anything special you want to see on our social media page? Email us with your ideas! Remember, it's your neighborhood too!

Hats off to Joel Carley for all his help year after year. He does a great job keeping downed trees off the road, keeping the culverts clear, maintaining our presence on social media & much more! Thanks Joel!

Is there any other content you want to see in the next newsletter? Let me know! I'm only an email away!

Catherine
MAL@grantsmountain.com

Trash Pickup:

A huge "Thank You" to all those homeowners who volunteered their time to pick up trash along our beautiful roads! Volunteers include:

July: Catherine & Bennie

August/Sept: No volunteer

October: Joel & Teresa

November: Kristi & Terri

We NEED Volunteers for the Coming Months!! Please email Catherine, our new Webmaster, to sign up for "Trash Pickup". The monthly calendar assignments are posted on the grantsmountain.com website.

What's Involved: Picking up litter and trash during your sign-up month from Ashworth Road and all community roads.

Meet our New Neighbors:

Lot # 26: Dennis and LeeAnn Mialki: We're both in real estate here in Florida. We've got a few years till we can retire to the mountain full time. Our immediate plans are to possibly spend a week here and there and maybe the month of August or September.



Community Recommendations:

Contributed by Don and Mary Ross, Lot #55:

- Mission Hospital, 430 Rankin Drive, Marion
 - As a first visit to the hospital, you never know what you will find. Mission Hospital in Marion was a wonderful surprise. The staff was knowledgeable, personable, kind & quick! This hospital seems brand new as I think we used a bed that had not been slept in before (comfy too!). If you have an emergency, I would highly recommend Mission in Marion.

Contributed by Bennie and Catherine Owens, Lot #55:

- Mulligan Macks After 5, 33 West Henderson Street, Marion
 - If you are looking for good food, reasonable price, friendly staff in a fun environment, Mulligan Mack's is the place to go. The philly cheesesteak & steak quesadilla are two of our favorites & the Boom Boom Shrimp is a great starter!

Contributed by Rich and Joan Messner, Lot #64:

- Mission My Care (Urgent Care), Rankin Drive, Marion:
 - This new Urgent Care facility, attached to the new McDowell Hospital, was a great place to go for non-emergent care. The PA was extremely thorough and efficient.
 - X-rays and lab work were done and reported quickly. The facility was clean and staff efficient.
- Electrician, Glen Davis, Marion; Phone 828-442-8582: Prompt, efficient, neat, knowledgeable
And local.

Grants Mountain Classifieds:

In Search Of:

Catherine is in Search Of:

- Concrete contractor for driveway
- Pest control
- Power washer for house

**If anyone has any recommendations for Catherine. Please email her at:
dadspetts@hotmail.com**

Please take advantage of this section of our GM Newsletter to Buy, Sell and Seek! Send entries to: secretary@grantsmountain.com