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Heavens  
Kiss  
Peaks



# Peaks

the **AM 1450** | **FM 107.7** **WHKP** magazine

**FREE**



**2024 Home for the Holidays**

**Holiday Events Listed Inside**



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Please note that this list of events is as complete and accurate as possible. Due to printing deadlines there is no guarantee that all holiday events have been listed. Errors are inevitable. Please note that details are subject to change. We have tried to provide contact information for most of the events contained herein and we highly encourage you to verify event details. You may also check the Henderson County TDA website: [www.VisitHendersonvilleNC.org](http://www.VisitHendersonvilleNC.org) for additions/changes to the schedule.

# Home for the Holidays Calendar of Events 2024



## Thursday, November 28

12th Annual Hendersonville Turkey Trot 5K – A run/walk (non-sanctioned) event open to all ages, all fitness levels and all family members – bring the family, the kids, and the dog! 8:30am. City Hall, 5th Ave E & King St, Hendersonville, NC 828-233-3204 [hendersonvillenc.gov/turkey-trot](http://hendersonvillenc.gov/turkey-trot)



## Friday, November 29

Historic 1902 Hendersonville Railroad Depot Open House – Come on out and watch the trains run! It would be a great time for any of your out-of-town guests and the new amusement park on the Thomas layout is sure to entertain the kids! 10:00am-2:00pm. Historic Train Depot, 650 Maple Ave, Hendersonville, NC [avmrc.com](http://avmrc.com)



*Keaton*

*Jessie Faye*

*Charlie*

*Eric*

1404 Spartanburg Highway • 698-0054





# WHKP Welcomes You *Home for the Holidays*

*It's the most wonderful time of the year!* That is so much more than a song. Christmas 2024 is packed with local events here in Henderson County. It's WHKP's pleasure to provide another holiday event magazine so you don't miss a thing.

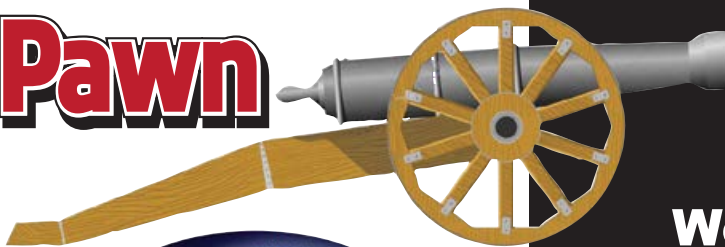
WHKP celebrated 78 years this year! That's 78 years, and 78 Christmas seasons too. WHKP will begin our Christmas music the day after Thanksgiving, and increase it through December 25th. We thank you for listening to us!

WHKP is once again the most-listened-to local radio station in Henderson County by a wide margin. From all of us here at Radio Hendersonville - Merry Christmas and a most happy and prosperous 2025.



***From Broadcast House to your house – thanks for tuning in, we appreciate you!***

# Cannon's Pawn



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### Friday, November 29 [cont'd]

Downtown Hendersonville's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Carriage Rides kicks off the season in the ultimate small-town fashion. The evening is complete with live Christmas music, shopping, hot drinks and delicious treats, as well as a countdown to Santa's arrival, when he flips the switch at dusk and lights up Main Street, followed by visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus and carriage rides. 5:00-8:00pm. Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville, NC 828-233-3205

[downtownhendersonville.org](http://downtownhendersonville.org)



### Friday, November 29 - Saturday, December 21

**Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas Show** – Tis the season to be jolly!

The tradition continues with the same great holiday cheer to put you in the Christmas spirit. All new renditions of your holiday favorites will help you get those sleigh bells jinglin' and chestnuts roasting! There is truly no better way to kick off your holiday season – share in the joy and excitement of this seasonal spectacular that will have you feeling merry and bright! \$55-\$75 (child pricing available), 2:00pm matinees and 7:30pm shows – visit our website for days/times. Flat Rock, NC 828-693-0731

[flatrockplayhouse.org](http://flatrockplayhouse.org)

**SEE OUR DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 10**



# Every child deserves a home for the holidays.

Whether you're interested in becoming a community foster parent or a professional parent, **children in foster care need you!**

Scan the QR code to find out more about becoming a parent with **Crossnore Communities for Children!**

[crossnore.org](http://crossnore.org)

[info@crossnore.org](mailto:info@crossnore.org)

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communities for children





**MERRY**  
*Christmas*

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### Friday, November 29 - Monday, December 23

Peppermint Bear Scavenger Hunt – Peppermint Bear takes you on a fun-filled bear hunt in downtown Hendersonville in search of her lost cubs. (*Hint: the cubs are hiding in downtown businesses.*) Join in on the fun by picking up your map at the Welcome Center. Then head out to find all the cubs and get a stamp at each location once you've found the bear, then return your completed entry form to the Welcome Center to be eligible for great prizes. FREE, pick up required brochure at the Welcome Center, 201 S Main St, Hendersonville, NC 828-693-9708 [visithendersonvillenc.org](http://visithendersonvillenc.org)



### Friday, November 29 - Sunday, January 5

Wine in Winter Wonder at Marked Tree Vineyard – Relish in the sparkle of more than 50,000 twinkling lights that adorn the property and Henderson County's largest oak tree, "Otto." Sip a glass of wine by the outdoor fire pits or hike around the property to view the lights. In addition to the nightly light display, carolers will be at the winery bringing Christmas cheer on Saturday evenings. 623 Deep Gap Road, Flat Rock, NC 828-513-3773 [markedtreevineyard.com](http://markedtreevineyard.com)



*The list of events continues on page 13...*

Merry Christmas 

From Your Friends

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# A Donation Makes A Difference

The Salvation Army of Hendersonville, NC has served this community for the last 99 years. We not only serve in times of crisis, but we serve our community on a daily basis.

Whether it was helping our neighbors with hot meals during recovery periods, providing a place to charge phones, picking up clean drinking water and other supplies or simply giving a hug and prayer to folks after hurricane Helene impacted all of Western North Carolina.

Our regular services include helping with day-to-day issues like high electric bills, food assistance, help at Christmas or coordinating with other agencies in our county to assist people. The Salvation Army works hard each day to fulfill our mission of "Doing the Most Good".

But we are not alone in the work. Our hard-working volunteers help every day to achieve The Salvation Army's Mission. Volunteers run our daily food pantry, help at community events and in our homeless outreach ministry, translate for our Spanish-speaking community or adopt Angels to supply Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in our county. There is a place for everyone wanting to be a part of the Army's Mission.

Other opportunities include participating in our annual golf tournament (The Red Shield Classic), volunteering in our Winter, Spring and Summer Children's Day Camps, attending our School for the Performing Arts (SPA), ringing bells at Christmas as an individual, family or group or by simply coming together with us on Wednesdays and Sundays as we spend time in worship.



## Christmas To Do List:

**Donate to ANGEL TREE**

*Make a Child's Holiday*

**Ring A Bell**

*Sign up at [RegisterToRing.com](http://RegisterToRing.com)*

**Donate to Virtual Red Kettle**

*[HendersonvilleRedKettle.org](http://HendersonvilleRedKettle.org)*



**DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD™**

**Call Hendersonville: 828-693-4181**



*Events continued from page 8...*

**Saturday, November 30**



**Curb Market Christmas Open House** – Visit amongst the friendly vendors and view their unique handcrafted items. Shop for gifts, local seasonal produce, fresh baked goods, greenery, holiday decorations, preserves, relishes and salsas. Enjoy free refreshments, our children’s craft table and see Santa and his elves! Admission & parking is FREE. 8:00am-2:00pm. Curb Market, 221 N Church St, Hendersonville, NC 828-692-8012 [hendersoncountycurbmarket.com](http://hendersoncountycurbmarket.com)



**SEE OUR DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 31**

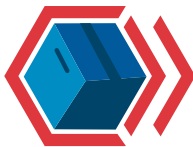
**Saturday, December 2**



**18th Annual Gingerbread Cookie Contest** – Bakers of every age are encouraged to create their best gingerbread man or woman, boy or girl. They must be 100% edible and the deadline for entries is December 1. Winners will be announced on December 2nd in four categories: traditional, unusual, bakers under 14 and teamwork Narnia Studios, 408 N. Main St, NC (828) 697-6393 [narniastudios.com](http://narniastudios.com)



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**COLUMBUS  
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192 Hospital Dr.  
Columbus  
828.573.5410





**Saturday, December 2 (cont'd)**

5th Annual Ugly Sweater Run – A festive 5K & 10K hosted by Hunter. The mostly flat course promises to be fun for participants and spectators alike and the all-paved surfaces make it perfect for families, pets and stroller friendly and anyone eager to wear their most festive ugly sweater. Join us for a morning of fitness, fun, and holiday spirit! 8:30am, \$35, visit website to register. Oscar Blues Brewery, 342 Mountain Industrial Dr, Brevard, NC 828-684-0812

[idaph.net/ugly-sweater-run/](http://idaph.net/ugly-sweater-run/)



**Thursday, December 5 - Sunday, December 15**

Hendersonville Theatre presents *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* - Frank Capra's beloved American holiday classic film is reimagined as a live radio broadcast! This hilarious re-enactment is set in Studio A at WBFR in Manhattan on Christmas Eve 1946 and reminds us that "no one is a failure who has friends." \$20-\$32, 3:00pm matinees and 7:30pm shows – visit our website for days/times. 229 S.Washington St, Hendersonville, NC 828-692-1082

[hendersonvilletheatre.org](http://hendersonvilletheatre.org)



*The list of events continues on page 23...*

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*Merry Christmas  
to you!*



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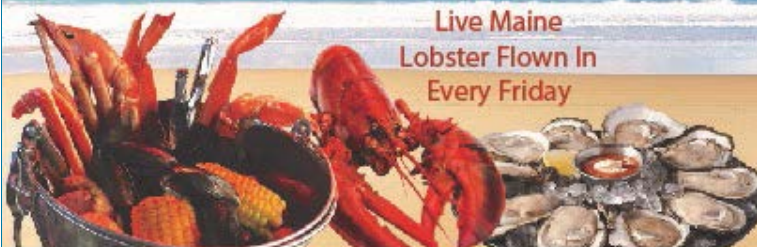
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# 31st Annual Rugby Middle School Craft Fair

Saturday, December 7 • 9:00am-3:00pm

**FREE Admission • FREE Parking**



*Come shop for Pottery, Wearable Art, Jewelry & so much more!*

*Children Ages 3-10 Make Your Own Crafts*

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**Christmas Open House**  
*Saturday, 12/7, 8am-5pm*

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Events continued from page 15...



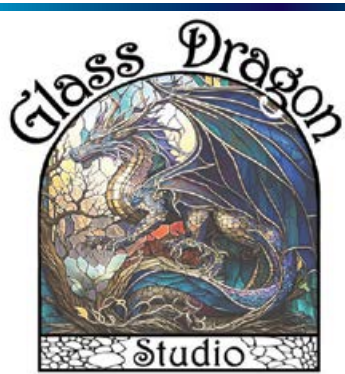
**Friday, December 6**



Step into a Hallmark movie with the annual Olde Fashioned Christmas celebration, hosted by the Downtown Merchants Association. Stores, boutiques and galleries stay open extended hours and serve holiday treats, carolers stroll the sidewalks, Santa and Mrs. Claus visit with kids on the courthouse plaza and carriage rides take place along the serpentine Main Street. 5:00-8:00pm. Historic Downtown Hendersonville, NC [hendersonvillenc.gov](http://hendersonvillenc.gov)



Downtown Holiday Carriage Rides – Get into the holiday spirit with carriage rides on Hendersonville’s beautiful Main Street. Experience the twinkling Christmas lights and decorations of downtown Hendersonville at the leisurely pace of a horse-drawn carriage. The winding streets set a leisurely pace, allowing you to slow down and truly savor the holiday spirit! Carriage rides begin at the Historic Courthouse. Free, first-come, first-served. 5:00-8:00pm. Historic Downtown Hendersonville, NC [hendersonvillenc.gov](http://hendersonvillenc.gov)



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**Friday, December 6 & Saturday, December 7**

Bullington Gardens Announces Annual Holiday Craft Sale – Come immerse yourself in the holiday spirit! Decorated wreaths and swags, locally grown plants such as cyclamen, amaryllis, and poinsettia, and handcrafted nature-themed items made by our own elves will be available for sale. Bullington Gardens, 95 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC 828-393-5737 [bullingtongardens.org](http://bullingtongardens.org)



**Saturday, December 7**



**Raymond's Garden Center Christmas Open House** – shop for wreaths, decorations, Christmas trees, and gifts for all the gardeners in your life. 8:00am-5:00pm. 1320 Kanuga Rd, Hendersonville, NC 828-696-8000 **SEE OUR DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 21**



5th Annual Ugly Sweater Run – A festive 5K & 10K hosted by Hunter. The mostly flat course promises to be fun for participants and spectators alike and the all-paved surfaces make it perfect for families, pets and stroller friendly and anyone eager to wear their most festive ugly sweater. Join us for a morning of fitness, fun, and holiday spirit! 8:30am, \$35, visit website to register. Oscar Blues, 342 Mountain Industrial Dr, Brevard, NC 828-684-0812 [idaph.net/ugly-sweater-run/](http://idaph.net/ugly-sweater-run/)



**Happy Holidays**

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[www.bpsg.us](http://www.bpsg.us)



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**Saturday, December 7 (cont'd)**

Hendersonville Farmers Market Christmas Market – Put a local feast on your family’s table this Christmas! More than 30 vendors selling seasonal food products, baked goods, and more, in addition to a plethora of handmade artisan crafts including unique gifts and holiday decorations. There will also be live music and kids’ activities. 9:00am-1:00pm. 650 Maple St, Hendersonville, NC



**31st Annual Rugby Middle School Craft Fair** – Over 100 crafters from around the Southeast converge on the school campus, providing a great way to kickoff the holiday season. A craft room is available for children ages 3-10 to make their own crafts for free. Admission & parking is FREE, 9:00am-3:00pm. Rugby Middle School, 3345 Haywood Rd, Hendersonville, NC 828-891-6566

**SEE OUR DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 21**



Land O’ Sky Garden Club Christmas Bazaar – Handmade, original, and all-natural Christmas gifts made especially for you by the Land O’ Sky Garden Club elves. Let the elves embellish your one-of-a-kind wreath at the wreath bar! 9:00am-3:00pm. J & D Produce, 221 S. Church St, Hendersonville, NC




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**Saturday, December 7 (cont'd)**

Christmas at Connemara – Celebrate Christmas at Connemara while enjoying demonstrations and craft making in the garage adjacent to the Sandburg Home. Activities are free and visitors can come anytime during the event time to participate. Reservations for tours of the Sandburg Home, decorated in the simple style of the Sandburgs, can be made online for a fee. 10:00am-1:00pm. Carl Sandburg NHS, 81 Carl Sandburg Ln, Flat Rock, NC 828-693-4178 [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)



Hendersonville Symphony Youth Programs Concert – An unforgettable musical experience that celebrates the talent and creativity of our youth ensembles. 2:00-3:30pm, Blue Ridge Community College Concert Hall, Flat Rock, NC 828-697-5884 [hendersonvillesymphony.org](http://hendersonvillesymphony.org)



**“Light Up The World” Christmas Parade** – Get in on the holiday cheer by enjoying the ribbon of floats and marching bands in the evening, festively adorned in the holiday spirit with lights! Local organizations and businesses participate in this festive event, which is capped off by a visit from the big man in red himself, Santa Claus! 6:00pm. Main St, Hendersonville, NC 828-692-4179



**SEE OUR DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 16**

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**Sunday, December 8**

Holiday Tour of Inns and Cookie Caper – Four of the area’s beautifully appointed and festively decorated historic inns welcome you to experience the warmth and joy of the season. Enjoy a sweet treat at each stop along this self-guided tour. \$20, tickets may be purchased (*cash or check only*) beginning November 1st at the Welcome Center, 201 S Main St, Hendersonville, NC 828-693-9708 [visithendersonvillenc.org](http://visithendersonvillenc.org)



Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra presents *Holidays in HVL* – Join us for the Hendersonville holiday tradition featuring all the favorite hits! Selections include Sleigh Ride, Nutcracker, Polar Express, Festive Sounds of Hanukkah, and many more of our best-loved tunes. It can't be missed! 3:00-4:30pm, \$15-\$49, Blue Ridge Community College Concert Hall, Flat Rock, NC 828-697-5884 [hendersonvillesymphony.org](http://hendersonvillesymphony.org)



**Friday, December 13 & Saturday, December 14**

Carolina Concert Choir presents *Christmas Spectacular*, Featuring the Choir with Flutes, Oboes, Strings & Organ. Friday at 7:30pm and Saturday at 3:00pm. \$15/students, \$25/adults – available on the website. Grace Lutheran Church, 1245 6th Ave W, Hendersonville, NC 828-393-5737 [carolinaconcertchoir.org](http://carolinaconcertchoir.org)



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**Saturday, December 14**

4th Annual Jingle Jog 5K – We ho-ho-hope to see you at this 5k/Fun Run. Our goal is to bring our community together to raise awareness about substance misuse and serve those who need support in their recovery journey. 9:00am. First Citizens Plaza, 539 N. Main St, Hendersonville, NC 828-233-3204 *hendersonvillenc.gov*



**Saturday, December 21**



Holly Jolly Train Rides on Main Street – Enjoy the winter wonderland of downtown while riding Mountain Fresh Orchard's mini-train on Main Street. Holiday craft vendors, educational displays for children, face painting and a pop-up market with fresh baked goods and treats from Mountain Fresh Orchards. Rides begin at the Historic Courthouse. Free, first-come, first-served. 5:00-8:00pm. Historic Downtown Hendersonville, NC



Sleigh Photos with Holiday Llamas – Everybody seems to love taking pictures with the festive holiday llamas from Ellaberry Llama Farm! Create unique family memories and be the envy of social media by posting images of your loved ones sitting in the llamas' Christmas sleigh. 5:00-8:00pm. Historic Downtown Hendersonville, NC

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Mon - Sat 9:30-5:30 Sunday 12:00-5:00 12/1 thru 12/29  
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# CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, November 30th, 8am-2pm**

**FREE Refreshments**

**Craft Table & Santa's Elf**

**Christmas Stories Ready by Vendors**

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### Wednesday, December 25

41st Annual Bounty of Bethlehem Christmas Dinner – Offering a freshly prepared, hot meal for registered shut-ins and anyone and everyone who comes through the door because “No one should be alone on Christmas Day”. Free, due to the generous support of our community donors and volunteers. 12:00noon-5:00pm. Dinner is prepared and served at The Salvation Army, 239 Third Avenue, Hendersonville, NC 828-845-4277 [bountyofbethlehem.org](http://bountyofbethlehem.org)



### Sunday, December 31

New Year’s Eve *Apple Rise* Family Celebration – A family-friendly celebration to ring in 2025. We pay homage to being North Carolina’s Apple Capital by raising a giant apple on the plaza of the Historic Courthouse. The free event features New Year’s Eve swag giveaways, a DJ dance party, hot cocoa, games and craft vendors. All leading up to the apple rise countdown at 7:00pm. Perfect for families with young children or those who wish to enjoy an early, alcohol-free celebration, 5:00-7:00pm. Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville, NC 828-697-4884



**Remember to check the Henderson County TDA website: [www.visithendersonvillenc.org](http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org) for additions/changes to the schedule.**

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## Fraser Fir Facts

- The Fraser fir was named after John Fraser, a Scottish botanist who explored the southern Appalachian Mountains in the late 1700s.
- North Carolina produces 26% of real Christmas trees in the US and ranks #2 nationally for number of trees harvested annually.
- The iconic Fraser fir represents nearly 95% of all Christmas tree species grown in NC.
- Christmas trees are raised in more than a dozen western NC counties (Alleghany, Ashe and Avery are among the top producers).
- In 2005, the Fraser fir was adopted as the official Christmas tree of NC.
- Fraser firs are known as “the Cadillac of Christmas trees” due to their needle retention, strong branches and pleasant aroma.
- It can take between 7 to 10 years to grow a 6- to 7-foot Fraser fir.
- Since 1961, a North Carolina Fraser fir has appeared as the official White House Christmas tree a record 13 times.
- While the Fraser fir is the only fir indigenous to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a tiny invasive insect called the Balsam Wooly Adelgid has killed 90% of mature fir trees in the park since 1962.

Source: NC Museum of Natural Sciences

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# Shop & Dine Locally

WHKP encourages us all to shop and dine locally this holiday season. Our local merchants need our support to survive in the current economy.

## Why does shopping and dining locally matter?

- When we shop and dine locally our tax dollars stay here and fund our schools, law enforcement, emergency services, and local non-profits.
- When we shop and dine here at home we keep local people employed, and in many cases can create new jobs too.
- When we support our local businesses, they in turn give back to our community through donations to non-profits, clubs and other organizations.

Shopping and dining right here in Henderson County just makes sense! Please join WHKP and support our local merchants this holiday season.



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## Christmas Past 2024

by Richard Rhodes

I recall when Christmas meant a time of sharing. It was a time when friends and neighbors would pay a visit and bring homemade goodies. It might be the only time you would see them each year, but they made the effort to show up!

Henderson County just went through the worst flood in the history of the county. The flood of 2024 broke all records! Amidst the stories of life and property loss there came the stories of true generosity. It was a return to times when it was the

people living here who looked after their friends and neighbors. It was a return to the church – not the government – for what you needed most.

I recall when folks who had needs went to the church in their community. The church was always the first point of help in a time of need. We created these non profits that took the burden off the church and put it in the hands of clearing houses of assistance. We returned to the church for our needs in 2024.

Make no mistake about it – it was the citizens and the churches here in Henderson County who did the most to relieve the suffering and meet the needs. If it wasn't for local guys with chainsaws, roads would have remained impassable for days. If it wasn't for churches being first at the front with water and needed items, the needs would have gone on much longer.

I want to also recognize the Henderson County employees who had their jobs change overnight, and who had to take on tasks they weren't compensated to perform. City employees too swiftly mobilized. And our local Salvation Army graciously fed over 30,000 during the storm. Henderson County, our citizens, and our churches came together to provide the day to day necessities we have taken for granted!

This Christmas we have somewhat returned to normal, even though many won't be in their own home this Christmas. Following the flood, I recall neighbors who had generators offering to charge phones (although we had no cell services), friends knocking on our door with hot food they had prepared before it went bad, and just asking if you need anything. It was in my mind that this felt like a return to Christmas past when those same things happened.

It is so comforting to realize local folks can survive with the help of their friends and neighbors. It wasn't the federal government meeting needs first and foremost – it was local folks helping local folks. Isn't it interesting? Politics disappeared during this time as it held no importance.

Let's celebrate life, each other, and the rebuilding process that will take a while. There is still no place in the world better than Henderson County, North Carolina – not just because of our natural beauty, but because of the citizens who call this place their home!



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