

Mountain Musings

Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.
PO Box 1755, Asheville, NC 28802

Asheville Civitan Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 203, Asheville, NC 28802



Asheville Civitan Club
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Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.
Builders of Good Citizenship
81st Year of Service
Mountain Musings is the
official weekly bulletin of
The Asheville Civitan Club
and
The Asheville Civitan
Foundation

Asheville Civitan Foundation
Officers and Board Members for 2000-
2001

Officers:
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William M. Pomeroy, Jr.

Past Lt. Governors NC District West:
Robert Gray, 1998-1999
Ralph Scarritt, 1995-1996
Fred Rutledge, 1994-1995

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www.ashevillescivitan.org

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2001

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 12:00 NOON

“SPREADING THE WORD—KIDS NEED PARENTS”

JILL LENHART MEADOWS will detail the workings of a “professional parenting” program which is run in affiliation with Appalachian State University and contracts with county Departments of Social Services. She will spread the word that “kids need parents.”

FRANK HOLBY will give the invocation.

ROBERT RUSKIN will be the greeter.

MENU FOR TUESDAY: Pork and Black Bean Burritos * Salad
Fruit Bowl * Assorted Desserts * Beverages

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

BOB FABREY announced that his **Adopt-a-Highway** team will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 28 for another clean-up. The meeting place is the Grassy Branch Baptist Church on Riceville Road. New hands are always welcome.

FIFTY-YAR PLAQUE

President **SAWYER** presented a fifty-year plaque to **DUMONT (MONTY) CLARKE, Jr.** **HI CODY** responded for **MONTY**, expressing his appreciation for the award.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

BLAIR MANNING, Chair of the **Meals-on-Wheels** team, made another plea for a deliverer for Wednesday's route. The job takes only a couple of hours each week and it is a "feel good" kind of service. The appreciation of clients was brought home in a call to **BLAIR** by Bruce Hunter's son to say "thank you" for the kindness and consideration shown to his father. Mr. Hunter is now permanently in a nursing home and will not be returning to **Meals-on-Wheels** but the son indicated that the delivery of meals enabled his dad to live at home much longer than he might otherwise have been able to. See **BLAIR** if you are interested

NEW ADDRESS

FRED RUTLEDGE has a new address: 72 Polo Ridge Circle, Columbia, S.C. 29223. His phone number remains the same.

"BREATHING TROUBLED AIR—A PRAYER FOR THE MOUNTAINS"

JOHN TRAW, Chair of the **Environmental Concerns Committee**, arranged for the video *Breathing Troubled Air—A Prayer for the Mountains*, narrated by **Bob Caldwell**, to be shown. It proved to be a well-produced and informative viewing that convincingly illustrated the need for action, and quickly, on the clean air front. With the help of testimony from asthma sufferers and others with respiratory illnesses of various kinds, with panoramas of haze covered mountains and with naturalists, physicians and park rangers offering their views, the evidence is overwhelming that the mountains surrounding Asheville are in trouble.

Statistics were also used to help bolster the case. For example, 1994 saw more high ozone days than had ever been recorded. Average visibility in the mountains, over recent years, has been reduced from 90 miles to 6, a 60% annual decline! It is estimated that 84% of the pollutants in the area are imported from other states, so the problem is obviously a regional one. So the solutions, too, must be regional and even national.

The problems are most acute in the summer as the demand for electricity soars and the fossil fuels that power the generating plants send more pollutants into the air. Exacerbating the situation are two factors unique to the region: high pressure systems that tend to "park" here, and the cool night air that "pools" in the valleys and traps pollutants by inversion. Lack of strong winds tend to allow them to stagnate here.

Fortunately, there are some attempts being made to effect changes for the better. Pressure is being put on the Tennessee Valley Authority, perhaps the greatest pollution contributor to the region, to reduce its emissions. Careful monitoring by the Regional Air Quality Agency will help document the effects of pollution so as to convince doubters. CP&L claims it has spent millions to upgrade its Asheville plant in this regard and will significantly reduce its NOx emissions by 2002 with new equipment.

Individuals, too, must do their part in this effort. Such things as keeping the family car tuned up, making sure the insulation in the house is adequate, turning down the thermostat, being careful of outdoor burning, and using mass transit where possible all mount up to huge strides forward in the fight to preserve our environment

Two **Asheville Civitan Club** members are actively engaged in the clean air effort: **JOHN TRAW** serves on the Publicity Committee of the Regional Air Quality Agency and **KEITH THOMSON** has been recently appointed to membership on the Clean Air Trust Fund.