

MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE RECODIFICATION PROCESS UNDERWAY – ReCodify Cashiers is an initiative by Jackson County, in partnership with the Cashiers Community, to update and improve the development regulations and development application review processes for unincorporated-Cashiers regulated districts. The Jackson County Unified Development Ordinance (or “UDO”) specifies standards for the Cashiers Commercial District and village core surrounding the US 64 & NC 107 “Crossroads” including the rules for the types of allowable uses in the area and how development must be configured. In 2019, Jackson County adopted a new small area plan for Cashiers that creates a framework for how the community will develop in the future and the ULI Cashiers Panel growth management report was released in May 2022. The next step is to revise the development regulations for Cashiers to implement recommendations made by these reports. CodeWright Planners, the consultant hired by the county to carry out this process, held multiple public meetings and “office hours” during the week of May 8th to solicit “community character” input from interested stakeholders. The Cashiers Area Chamber has facilitated the consultant outreach. The revision of the code is expected to be completed in November, followed by public hearings and consideration by the Cashiers Area Community Planning Council, Jackson County Planning Board and the JC Board of Commissioners.

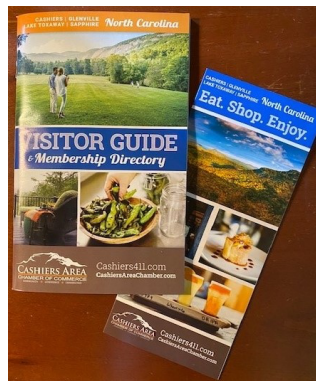


ANNUAL BURGER WEEK A HIT AMONG RESIDENTS & VISITORS ALIKE -- Cashiers Burger Week was a weeklong celebration of the Almighty Burger from May 1st to 7th, 2023. Cashiers Area restaurants, in partnership with the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce, showcased limited-time \$10 burgers which featured creative recipes that ranged from peanut and butter condiments to venison patties. Participants got their “Passports” stamped at each location to vote for Best and

Most Creative Burger and to be entered to win prizes. A celebration will be held on May 18th to announce winners. The Chamber has agreed to organize the event in 2024.



LEADERSHIP CASHIERS CLASS V KICKOFF – The fifth class of this community leadership development program will begin with a two-day retreat on May 19th at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley. This year-long curriculum is designed to Inform, Connect and Engage participants in preparation for civic, government and community leadership service. The LC Alumni Network is active with quarterly events and includes more than 100 graduates. The Chamber is working with Jackson County to identify candidates for volunteer board positions. JCTDA Director Nick Breedlove will be a featured speaker during the Economic Development session which focuses on the tourism industry among other topics. For more information, visit www.LeadershipCashiers.org.



2023 CASHIERS AREA VISITOR GUIDE & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AND SHOPPING & DINING GUIDE “EAT. SHOP. ENJOY” – Chamber-partner Smoky Mountain News is currently producing the two publications which were expected to be released earlier this month. A change in staff has delayed printing but delivery is expected shortly. Full distribution to local, high traffic outlets and kiosks will occur immediately on receipt. Annual deep-clean maintenance and repair is being done on the all-weather units located across the area.

OTHER

- New restaurant opening, “The Local - Glenville” casual dining
- Info item: Signal Ridge Marina has been listed for sale
- Cashiers Crossroads banner stand to promote area events, now featuring “Shop. Dine. Play. Stay” and “Welcome Campers & Families” (Camp Merriewood/Deerfoot Blue Ridge) and Cashiers411.com events.
- Participation in Cashiers Historical Society Trout Symposium and other community activities
- Spring maintenance and repair of visitor center.
- Greeted visitors, responded to inquiries and provided destination information.
- Fulfilled telephone, email and written destination information requests (individual, weddings and other groups).
- Other duties as required.

CASHIERS VISITOR CENTER “MASCOT” IS A CELEBRITY! – The May issue of Laurel Magazine featured Cashiers Visitor Center Manager Thomas Taulbee and his puppy “Chambers,” from the dog’s point of view. Public response to this entertaining profile has been very positive!

BUSINESS

Life With *Thomas*



Thomas Taulbee and Chamber

Editor's Note: We'd been hearing reports about an unfailingly cheerful Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce volunteer who'd quickly become a favorite of people stopping in for advice or directions and locals just coming in for a quick mood elevator. We asked the Chamber's Thomas Taulbee for a report, and this is what he sent. (We have reason to believe that Thomas may have helped, but we'll go ahead and give Chamber the byline.)

My name is Chambers, “The Dog,” and I hail from Charleston, South Carolina, where I was adopted by my favorite human, Thomas.

My mom was a standard poodle and my dad was an Akita. I am nine months old and almost 100 pounds of fluffy happiness. I'm so grateful that Thomas found

me, adopted me and gave me a fur-ever home in Cashiers. Woofs to happiness!

From day one, I get to go to work with Thomas, who's the membership and community relations director for the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce. It's such an exciting place to work and I have become the official Chamber/ Visitor Center greeter and mascot (hence my name, Chambers). The best part of my day is saying “hello” to all the visitors that come by which means more pets for me. We share with our guests all the wonderful things to do in the Cashiers and surrounding area from hikes to waterfalls, and all the yummy restaurants and shopping.

In just five months with Thomas, we have explored so much of the area together and Thomas loves sharing this with visitors. Working with Thomas and Stephanie

makes my new life here the best.

Part of our weekly activities is to go visit members, which Thomas tells me is one of his favorite parts of his job. They are always so happy to see us and of course, I've learned a lot from him on how to listen, behave, and be kind to everyone!

Sometimes as a reward for working hard, I get a pup cup from Crossroads Custard or Buck's Coffee. Pup cups are the best.

Being a part of the Cashiers community allows me to live my best life and I'm grateful to all those who have been so kind in welcoming me. I would love to meet more friends, so, please stop by the Chamber during the week to say “hello,” or say “hi” if you see us walking around Cashiers.

*Sending lots of Puppy Love,
Chambers, “The Dog”
photo by Mary Gillan*