

Take Advantage of What You Have

By Marlene Garten

Our town has been blessed with beautiful mountain vistas. We are also blessed to have something as grand as the Appalachian Trail coming right through town.

I remember a vacation to the Smoky Mountains, and seeing people from all over the U.S. driving through and stopping at a particular parking area with access only a few footsteps away to the Appalachian Trail. All these people were ecstatic to walk from their cars a few paces and actually stand on the trail. They didn't walk the trail; they just stepped on it and that made them happy. I remember that and thought it was strange. But really...it wasn't strange at all. I was so familiar with the trail, having been born and raised in this neck of the woods, that it seemed silly and strange to me. But, to the traveler from afar, standing on the trail was a big deal.

This made me wonder how many of our fair Troutville citizens take advantage of that wonderful resource right in our midst. Maybe you have all kinds of excuses for not "taking a hike," but that might be just what they are...excuses. Heaven only knows what you might have missed.

For example, I heard a story recently that makes one wonder. There's a certain Troutville hiker who takes his dog on the trail just about every day of the week. One day not long ago, this hiker and dog were moving along up the trail away from town. All of sudden, there was a woman coming down toward them. This was not your ordinary lady hiker; in fact, she was exceptionally tall. The hiker himself was six feet tall and this thin woman with filmy short black hair and unusually dark, slanted eyes was much taller. And - wait until you hear this - she was dressed in something like babydoll pajamas. She had on little slippers and was "skipping" down the trail. She approached our hiker and in a dazed way said, "Pardon me. Do you have any Grey Poupon?" No she didn't say that! I was just checking to make sure you're with me. She did say, "Could you tell me where I am?" WOW. Our hiker started explaining that she was headed toward Route 11 and the town of Troutville. The lady went on past the hiker and his dog. Just as the hiker started off in the opposite direction from the lady, there was a loud boom of thunder; the hiker turned immediately to go back to the car before the storm hit. In fact, he and his dog ran the whole distance to the parking lot and guess what?...no sign of the lady. No sign of her on the trail and no sign of her at the parking lot. She didn't have time to get far...where did she go? The lady just vaporized down the trail. Who was this lady who was dressed more for bed than for a stroll on the trail? I guess we'll never know who this mysterious lady was, but we can talk about it.

Do you think Troutville is a boring little town? Maybe you need to get out a little more. Perhaps we all could take more advantage of what we do have. You never know what you might find out there to talk about.

Mr. John Rocks!

By Hannah Harris

My bus driver's name is John Cook...we call him "Mr. John." He is a great bus driver. He plays music for us to listen to. Also, we have boys' and girls' week for the back seats. He also gives us candy every Friday. I love riding his bus!



SAVE THE DATE

"PARTY ON THE PORCH"



Sunday, August 1, 2010

12:00pm - 5:00pm

Apple Barn II on Lee Highway

Refreshing Refreshment will be served.

Hosted by *Friends of the Park.*

Watch for the August *Troutville Tidbits* for more details.



3rd Annual Senior Dinner

By Dottie Henry

Rainbows were everywhere at the Senior Dinner held on May 29th at the Troutville Town Hall. The "Sunshine Girls," under the leadership of Lee Minnix, sponsored the event.

Mayor Bill Rader once again provided valet parking for the guests; Jan Smith served as hostess and greeted the seniors in the foyer.

The hall was decorated with a rainbow balloon arch and the tables set by Julida Beard were in rainbow colors, as were the candy and daisy floral centerpieces. Len Miller, the town historian, also displayed a table of town history.

A delicious shrimp dinner was served by waitresses Linda Tam, Patty Mills, Marlene Garten and Sandra Thomas. Even the menu had rainbow colors in the Jell-o salad, the angel food cakes created by Sally Rauscher and the rainbow sherbet. Paula Henry of Salem deep-fried the shrimp. The kitchen helpers were Peggy Combs, Brenda Myers, Lee Minnix and Dottie Henry. Thanks to "Country Cooking" for donating the fresh rolls.

After the meal, the eight veterans present were recognized and all sang "God Bless America" with Rose Young at the piano. Lee Minnix and Cecil Bingham provided the entertainment, and the evening concluded with karaoke music. A special thanks to May Bailey for bringing in her old record collection for all to reminisce.

Happy July 4th!!!

****Friendly Reminder****

The Recycle Containers at the Park are for **Park Use Only.** Please **do not** deposit your recyclables from home.

For more information on the "Friends of the Park", contact -

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