

JUST BLUE

PRESENTED BY *Sidra McCain*



Prudential
Georgia Realty

FALL 2011

The change of the angle of the light in the sky, and the hint of early morning coolness in the air, subtly reminds us that autumn will be arriving soon. The leaves on some of the hardwoods are beginning to change from the greens of summer, signaling the barest beginning of cooler weather in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Soon, the mountains will be awash in the vibrant tones of the season. The changing of colors to the varied hues of red, orange and yellow, the rustle of leaves underfoot, the bright blue sky and the early morning crispness of the air add to the vibrancy of life that autumn colors evoke.

Not only is nature going through seasonal changes, the neighboring towns are as well. Renewed life is evidenced by the growth of the shopping districts in the surrounding communities. The historic downtown area of Blue Ridge is thriving, and Copperhill and McCaysville are quickening with a burst of new life. New shops line Ocoee Street and there are several new restaurants in the Twin Cities.

Since opening in June, Pearly Gates, one of the new restaurants in Copperhill, has sold out on several occasions, with lines that go out the door. Blue Ridge Outfitters debuted in their new Copperhill location. Dream Angels, a spiritual books and gift store, has brought a wonderful energy to the Copper Basin. The shop contains an eclectic mix of books, crystals, rings and items usually found only in larger cities. Aunt Suzie's Attic has a welcoming vibe and it is a great place to find unique treasures. Toccoa Candles & Gifts, another new addition to the business community, carries a line of locally made candles and soaps. The Copperhill Rock and Mineral Company has relocated from Asheville to its new home in McCaysville. The owner carries items for children that are kid friendly and are sure to delight.

Liquor by the drink has been passed in Blue Ridge. New and remodeled buildings are being made ready to accommodate the ever growing downtown. Yes, the local economy is thriving, and sales at most local businesses are up over last year. Lake Blue Ridge has almost returned to full pool and the lake season is in full swing. Lake front property, once again, is becoming sought after. Prices are the lowest they have been in the eight years I have been selling Real Estate here in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Although prices are low, I have had my share of contracts and sales this year. Folks are out and about taking advantage of the great deals we have here in the Tri State area. 2011 to date has been my most successful year for closings and sales in dollar volume for my ten years as a Realtor. There has never been a better time to buy in the Blue Ridge area. If you are thinking about buying a vacation home or relocating, now is the time to take advantage of the tremendous prices and low interest rates still available. What better time to come and enjoy the mountains but this time of year? Autumn is on our doorstep, the very season that heralds new beginnings and changes in life and nature. If you are interested in either buying or selling please stop by my local office or call me, I would love to show you the reason why there is no better time like the present moment to buy in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Local office address: 101 Bridge Street McCaysville, GA 30555. Look for the Starry Night Vacation Rentals and Harry Norman signs past the old steel bridge on the left, the Georgia side of the bridge.

www.SidraMcCain.com

Real Estate in the Tri-State areas of North GA, South East TN and Western NC.

www.NorthGeorgiaLakeHouses.com

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Sidra McCain, Licensed in Tennessee and Georgia

(706) 851-5197 Direct

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HUMANITARIAN OF THE MONTH

Feed Fannin was born on a cold day in February, 2009, when Barbara Ferer called a group of people together. Concerned that people in Fannin County were hungry, she proposed that a group of volunteers would grow a community garden while encouraging the community toward self-sufficiency.

The idea took hold, and now, three years later, Feed Fannin's motto, "One Community, One Spirit" has guided them well. Last year, they sponsored seven community gardens (three of which are at local churches), offered gardening classes in conjunction with the UGA Extension Office and local businesses, and helped "Snack in a Backpack" get on its feet. With over

7,000 pounds of produce delivered to the food bank from the gardens, and \$20,000 worth of food items collected in the Feed Fannin boxes placed in local grocery stores, the members of Feed Fannin are not slowing down.

What can you do to help? You can join this lively and committed group at 10:00 a.m. the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month at Family Connection. There are several teams from which to choose if gardening is not "your thing." You can also make a donation to Feed Fannin's Tractor Drive by sending a tax-deductible gift to Feed Fannin, P.O. Box 1085, Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

Together, we can make a difference!



RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH

Proprietor Terry Lee Wilson's dream was to own a bar with live entertainment. Never did he dream that it would become a reality in Blue Ridge. Since its' opening in June of 2010, Whistle Stop, the first bar in downtown Blue Ridge has been extremely successful. Recently doubling their space, they added a stage with a sound booth for live music venues; the Whistle Stop is on the right track to becoming a downtown favorite.

The relaxed atmosphere during week turns into a high energy scene on most weekend nights. You can catch live performances by up and coming artists like Nick Cowan and old favorites such as Ken Mellons. Or, perhaps a local favorite, or maybe, if you're lucky, Terry Brock, the lead singer from the popular rock band Kansas.

A pit stop can turn into an impromptu show worthy of the Hard Rock in any big city. Blue Ridge also gets a treat when local Tim Passmore, Travis Tritt's fiddle player, gets in the mood to fiddle around. Offering up great bar food favorites like fried mushrooms, fried green tomatoes, fried pickles and my favorite, the Whistle Stop Burger. The Whistle Stop Grill is sure to please all on board.



Next stop: We are adding steaks and seafood to our menu for the dinner crowd as well as some low-fat menu options (coming soon) for the lunching ladies. Come on down to the Whistle Stop, located track side on Roberts Way in downtown Blue Ridge.

Tuesday night is karaoke, Wednesday night for ½ price wings and open mike night, Thursday night for trivia, and live music most weekends. Open 11 am to midnight, every day but Sunday.

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Come see what all the fuss is about at Posh on Main, located in the eclectic downtown area of Blue Ridge, Georgia. Posh has a flair for filling their boutique with a unique blend of items that are elegant, funky, and above all, FUN! Your welcome to the shop begins with the slogan, "Spoil Your Soul", which graces the entrance doors, and that sums up what the owners, Matt Garrett and Millie Hughes, have in store. The rustic, modern design was lovingly created by Matt and Millie.

Each guest is welcomed with a delightful greeting; many leave as friends. Posh is definitely not a run of the mill Boutique. Matt and Millie are dedicated to bringing unique couture, fanciful accessories and a wonderful selection of gifts to their shop. Many of the fun items are handmade by local artists, or constructed by craftsmen from all over the globe. The owners of Posh take pride in being globally conscious; they buy from countries that are part of the free-trade community. In some cases, these countries give back to the local women and children through education or through providing much needed health care.

Customers invariably find so many wonderful items to choose from that deciding which ones to buy isn't easy. With the amazing prices offered, don't be shy; go ahead and "Spoil Your Soul".

The feel of this vibrant boutique is funky, yet fun, meets lavish! On your next visit to downtown Blue Ridge, we know that you will delight in both the shop and the wonderful items you find at Posh on Main. They are located on Main Street in Historic Downtown Blue Ridge.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Marie Hunter, an artist, has recently relocated to the Blue Ridge mountains from Woodstock, Georgia with the intention of establishing a lifestyle that promotes her creativity. Taking up residence in Copperhill, Tennessee, Marie is in the process of establishing a related business with her sister. Marie, a multi-faceted, talented artist, is a welcome addition to the area.

In conjunction with being a licensed massage therapist, Marie's artistic talents include sewing, quilting, painting, drawing, and jewelry making, her primary focus for the past few years. With much of her interests in nature and the outdoors, her jewelry feeds her love of geology, as well as her love of color.

"As the artist behind these pieces, I value personal expression through color. I devote much time and energy into the balance, quality, and enjoyment of working with pieces of natural beauty. I find great peace in making these treasures for others, and myself, to enjoy. I have a love for geology and for all that the earth gives. Each piece is made with this love, for each customer to love."

Using gemstones, sterling silver, copper and occasionally glass, each piece is handmade, one of a kind—just like each customer. Special orders for bridal jewelry, gifts, and other requests for re-purposing/recycling old jewelry can also be accommodated. Marie will be happy to arrange a private jewelry party with your family and friends with as well.

Marie can be contacted by phone at 678-699-7705, or by email at krzpatches@yahoo.com. With a business location currently in the works, some of her pieces can be found at Posh in Blue Ridge and at the Four Seasons Boutique in McCaysville. Her business is scheduled to open for business in Copperhill in the near future.





377 FIGHTINGTOWN CREEK \$399,900

Breathtakingly Picturesque & Simply Serene! Creek Front Builder's Cabin with 250+/- Ft of Frontage on 50 Ft Wide Fightingtown Creek. Listen to the Rapids down below from any level! Trout fish, Kayak or Swim in the old Swimming Hole all from your Backyard Oasis. Immaculate, Open Floorplan. Grand Floor to Cathedral Ceiling Stacked Stone Wood Burning Fireplace Graces Great Room. 2 Huge Decks for Entertaining with Private Deck off Master, Wrap around on Main. Kitchen has Granite, Black Appliances. Full Finished Basement has Rocked Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with wine chiller and refrigerator. Outside has Vineyard, Huge Garden Area, Fire Pit, Horseshoe Pit, Path to Creek, 2.5 Garage-Workshop with additional parking for Boat & RV. 7K Bose Home Theatre & Music System.

57 WATSON GAP ROAD \$279,000

Stunning Timber Framed Custom Chalet with Fantastic Sunset & Mountain Views. Immaculate & Fully Furnished. Gated with no restrictions. Surrounded by Hardwoods — Completely Private. Backs up to approximately 100 acres of Horse Farm. Features: Cathedral Ceilings with Open Floorplan. Kitchen has Black Granite, Stainless Appliance, Wine Cooler, Bar and Separate Dining Area. Wood Burning, Floor to Ceiling Stone Fireplace. Master Suite on Main has Garden Tub, Tiled Shower. Walk-in Closets, Double Vanities. Full Finished Daylight Basement. Spacious Decks on two levels with ceiling fans. ADT Security System, Surround Sound inside & outside. Ample Parking. Paved Roads all the way to Door, Central Location 20 minutes to Blue Ridge GA, Copperhill & Murphy NC.



331 MEMORY LANE \$264,900

Spectacular Sunsets from this Story Book Stunner with year round long range layered Mountain Views overlooking the Cohutta Wilderness Area! Picture Perfect Immaculate Cabin is a Nature Lover's Delight! Enveloped in Mature Hardwoods with Bird & Butterfly Gardens, Hike from your doorstep with USFS across the road a few foot away. Has Everything: Views, Location, Beauty, Perfection, Seclusion and Privacy. Neighbors not too close & not too far. Features: Floor to Ceiling River Rocked Wood Burning Fireplace, Cathedral Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Oak Floors, Large Decks, Spacious Master with Crows Nest Balcony, Loft, Full Finished Basement, Stainless Appliances, Breakfast Bar Pine Cabinets, Tiled Counters, Den & Office with Library, Tons of Storage. Hot Tub Included.

6976 CASHES VALLEY \$129,900

Amazingly Beautiful, Pristine, Awe Inspiring, Spiritual, Heaven on Earth are just some of the words that describe this location. This Unique Cabin is 100% off the Grid! Private and secluded. Located in the Heart of the National Forest surrounded by Chattahoochee National Forest and Cohutta Wilderness Area. 1000's of acres of USFS. Hike to Fightingtown Creek & Trout Fish. Get back to Nature in this Completely Self Sufficient cabin with all the conveniences of home. Solar & Gas Powered. Cabin features: Tongue & Groove Throughout, Dining area, Huge Loft, Screened Porch, Wood & Tile Floors, Floor to Cathedral Ceiling Stacked Stone Fireplace. 2 Gas Heaters. Solar run lights & outlets, Private Well. Cabin has LP Generator-Furnishings Negotiable.