

# Community Hopeful...from Page 1A

getting our vaccines and seeing our grandkids more.”

Added Martha, “We just want to slow down more. 2020 was just awful, and we, fortunately, didn’t have any family members that got sick or anything, so that was good. What we are hoping to do when this is all over, which I hope that will be soon, is to keep some of the time and slower pace.”

The Millers believe it is important for community members to continue doing their part, including wearing masks to slow the spread of the virus.

“We are flabbergasted at how some people refuse to wear masks and blatantly say it is their right to not wear it,” Dayton said. “The important thing is that it protects them, and it protects all of them.”

Melvin Fleming of Fannin County said that he,

too, is hopeful for a more positive 2021 and potential reprieve from the COVID-19 nightmare.

“I am looking forward to a better year and hopefully the end of the pandemic,” Fleming said while walking the Blairsville Square Saturday. “We have been so caught up in everything that I think people haven’t been trying their best to solve this pandemic.”

“We just need some unity, and I want people to realize that this year. My resolution is to be better to people and treat people with respect in hopes that they treat me the same. I need to practice what I preach, and I can’t expect people to help me if I am not willing to help others.”

While many agree that 2020 was far from an ideal year, when it comes to the history books, people like Janey Carr of North Carolina

will be making sure to look back with an eye toward the good as well as the bad.

“2020 wasn’t great for anybody,” Carr said at CVS Blairsville Dec. 30. “It was a year filled with turmoil and dread, and it will be one that people remember for years to come.”

“It is time to get over it, though, and to get ahead of ourselves on coming back in 2021. The vaccine is out, and we are taking steps toward ridding this virus. If I had to think of a goal for myself, it would be to be more involved with my family and community.”

“I haven’t had the time to be as engaged as I want because of work, but you know how working went this past year. It has changed the hearts of a lot of people and put family at the front for everyone. That is one positive about COVID.”

## Iota Iota, a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi December meeting



Iota Iota members

Iota Iota, a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi gathered on Thursday, the 17th at the at Haralson Memorial Civic Center for their December meeting. Ann Sullivan, newly appointed President lead the festivities. After sharing a delicious meal prepared by members, secret sister gifts were exchanged.

each sister found out who was giving them gifts for the year. In November Iota Iota suffered a loss when our then President Lynda Keener died after a very short illness. Being the wonderful leader that she was, Lynda had purchased her secret sister gift so even with her not being physically with us she was with us spiritually. Our theme this year

“Sisters by Choice” was indeed present as we finished the meeting with discussions of how much each sister means to each other even when we are apart. Tears of joy and sorrow were shared.

If you are interested in knowing more about Iota Iota contact Vice President, Sally Shuck at rashuck@windstream.net. NTJan6.24JCA

## What to do with your old Christmas Tree

When the holidays are over, take down the tinsel, but don’t bag the tree. Here are 10 ways to dispose or recycle your Christmas tree.

When the holidays are over, take down the tinsel, but don’t bag the tree. Its needles, boughs, and trunk can do more than hold ornaments. Here are creative ways you can dispose of your Christmas tree or recycle it.



Old Christmas Tree:

1. Mulch With Pine Needles: Pine needles dry quickly and decompose slowly, making them an excellent moisture- and mold-free mulch for ground-covering crops, such as strawberries, to rest on.
2. Create a Bird Sanctuary with the Boughs: Place your tree in its stand outdoors. Fill bird feeders and hang them from the boughs, or drape the tree with a swag of pinecones coated with peanut butter.
3. Insulate Perennials with the Boughs: Cut off boughs and lay them over perennial beds to protect them from snow and reduce frost heaving.
4. Edge Your Borders with the Trunk: Cut the trunk into 2-inch discs and set them into the soil to edge flower beds or walkways.
5. Shelter Fish with Branches: If you live near a lake or have a pond, and your tree’s chemical-free, toss branches into the water to provide sheltering habitat for overwintering fish. (Get permission from town officials if needed.)
6. Set a Stage for Containers with the Trunk: Saw the trunk into different lengths and use the pieces as flowerpot risers for a dramatic group display.
7. Make Coasters and Trivets with Trunk: Cut thin slabs off the trunk, sand them smooth, and apply a thin coat of polyurethane to keep the sap off tables and glassware.
8. Chip It and Use it to Add Nutrients to Soil: Rent a chipper (get a few neighbors together to split the cost) and feed the tree through it. Next spring, spread the wood chips under shrubs; they’ll suppress weeds and, as they decompose, add nutrients to the soil.
9. Feed a Fire Pit with Branches: It’s fine to use a few of the quick-to-ignite branches to start an outdoor fire pit—but never in an indoor fireplace, where creosote build-up is a hazard.
10. Stake your plants with smaller branches. Strip small branches and use the remaining twigs to support indoor potted plants or stake leggy seedlings. NTJan6.G1D5H

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