

To the new owners of my home,

Living in this log home these past 16 years reminds me that a lot of living can happen in a rural setting. I chose to build a log home in the middle of Jefferson County on a wooded hillside lot so that I could come home from a long work day to relax in a wilderness-like setting with my dogs. I purchased the three-acre lot from a family that settled in the area decades ago and who had knowledge about the history of Belle Hollow, the original name given to this small wooded valley. The day I stood on the Western ridge of this hollow and looked down to the creek bottom I was sold. The creek is part of the Sandy Creek tributary system and runs year-round. The wooded hillside overlooking the shady hollow bottom and creek was the ideal setting for a modern log home.

Nearby homesites are well kept and their owners are hard-working individuals always willing to lend a hand to neighbors who might need some assistance. A bonus feature of this property is that when all the trees are in full leaf, the surrounding homes become nearly invisible. Over the years that I've lived here, the hollow has become my refuge from an increasingly busy professional life.

Life is peaceful here, and on snowy winter days the views of the surrounding woods makes for the perfect reason to light a gas log fire in the living room fireplace. A perfect time to settle in and read a good book, bake a loaf of sourdough, or nap awhile before cooking a meal in my very cozy kitchen. The Italian glass wall tiles and the oak cabinets in the kitchen give the space a warm homey feel. In the evening, a few simple lamps illuminate rooms throughout the house, and their light reflects off the pine walls, giving each room a golden quality.

On warm weather nights, the surrounding woods are quiet and only an occasional gathering of barn owls hooting to one another breaks the silence of nights on this hillside. Windows open, the smell of the nighttime air makes for a good night's sleep. Occasionally, the sound of a distant train horn reminds me that I'm just far enough away from the noisy modern world.

The city of Hillsboro is a short drive away. It is the seat of government for the surrounding Jefferson County. Hillsboro is a small town with a lot of going on. The town is a lively place on most weekdays, and there are several weekend events throughout the year. There is a very well stocked grocery store where I enjoy the personal service they provide. There is a new urgent care center and plenty of primary health care provider offices nearby. Two miles away stands Jeffco Community College, where they offer very affordable post-secondary degree programs and a two-plus-two arrangement with Missouri Baptist University. The college drama program and music program both offer evening events to the public.

Weekends in Hillsboro can be a busy place, with the annual county fair, horse shows, rodeo shows, Independence Day firework displays, a Christmas time parade, and a variety of other events at the city civic center. For me, just going to the local grocery store to pick up something to bring home and barbeque for dinner while hanging out on the back porch and cedar deck is entertaining enough. These are the things I'll miss most about living in the Belle Hollow log home.