



Habitat Happenings

By: Pat Piacente

HAVE YOU SEEN some of the improvements in the Cypress Landing Butterfly Habitat this past year? As you know, Habitat is a natural environment whose goal is to attract pollinators, wildlife and the community alike. Since 2012, Habitat Team members have enjoyed learning and showcasing to the community plants that both thrive in our area and support our local wildlife. Last year CL volunteers contributed over 2000 hours to plant, maintain, and improve the Habitat.

Beyond volunteer hours, community residents have made valuable contributions in 2023 to help enhance the garden. Mike and Rosemary Mandilakis generously donated a large supply of stones from their yard. With this material Jon Heely and Donna & Willis Ennis created raised beds in a new shade garden. The shade garden is being constructed in Habitat's wooded area and will include shade loving native plantings. It will be a welcome respite for visitors and volunteers on our hot Summer days.



FOUR CYPRESS LANDING ARTISTS have combined their talents and designed a mural of paintings for the Habitat. Barb VanVliet, Molly Emanuel, Janie Lennon, and Gail Baird, gathering to paint at Molly's house on Mondays, have created a mural, entitled "Mondays at Molly's". It is a compilation of four paintings by these artists and was inspired by pollinators and plantings. The mural is a welcome



addition and is mounted on the side of the Coke machine located near the bathrooms on Hole 14 of the golf course.

MANY THANKS to the Mandilakis's and these CL artists for their generous donations, and thanks to Habitat Team members for their shared efforts and enthusiasm.

We do hope you will stroll through the Habitat and enjoy Mother Nature's work through the seasons. If you are interested in offering your time, talents or donations to this amenity, please contact Pat Piacente at ppiacente53@gmail.com or Liz Wheeler at lizrvmd@verizon.net.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



Social Committee News

By: Patrick Kinlaw, Chair

Holiday Decorations

The Social Committee ensured the Bay Club was beautifully decked out for the holidays. On **November 28, 2023**, an army of Social Committee elves met at the club and adorned the facility, to include the Iris Lounge, with holiday fare. The effort is no easy task. Multiple trucks/SUVs are required to move the items from storage to the club. Once done, the decorating and assembling commence. Thanks to Jackie Burkett's organizational skills, each group of elves was directed to an area of the club with supplies and decorations in hand to complete their assignments. It is amazing how quickly the club was transformed. And the same could be said regarding the de-decorating effort that occurred on **January 2, 2024**. Everything was carefully packed and returned to storage in record time with the help of selfless community volunteers who give so much to Cypress Landing. The community members who make the holidays so much brighter are truly appreciated.

Trim-a-Tree

The traditional Trim-a-Tree event was held on **December 3, 2023** when twenty-four new residents had the opportunity to meet each other, interact with current residents, and see their ornaments hanging on the amazing Bay Club Christmas tree. Ruth Recchia served as the emcee and engaged participants in an entertaining exchange that was enjoyed by all. The Grinch made a special appearance as a part of the festivities. The conversations among new and established residents that followed the structured activities were a good sign that new folks felt welcomed and were making meaningful connections. Thanks to the Welcome Committee for ensuring newcomers have such a unique opportunity to be embraced by our wonderful community.

December Wine Club Social

The Cypress Landing Wine Club rang in the holiday season with their annual Holiday Dessert & Wine Social. There was a variety of dessert wines, sparkling wines, as well as the usual array of red and white premium wines. The desserts were incredible and plentiful. A good time was had by all. It was such a great event to launch the holiday season. One hundred residents enjoyed the affair.

Holiday Reindog Parade

In near perfect weather, 70 and sunny, the first annual Reindog Parade held on **December 23, 2023**, was a resounding success. Twenty six dogs, or so, participated complete in holiday regalia.

Canines proudly strutted their stuff as did their owners on a red carpet provided by Carol Kuhns. Pooches were announced by Stephanie Perkins, posed on the red carpet, performed tricks, and sashayed off to enjoy water and treats.

Santa Claus (Kevin Matsil) was on tap for photo ops in an open sleigh with presents for dogs and kids, and anyone else who wanted a picture. Despite the 70 degree weather, snowballs fights ensued on the grassy knoll in front the Bay Club that the young folks enjoyed. Snowballs were handcrafted/knitted by Stephanie Perkins. Cookies and hot chocolate with marshmallows were available.

Tractor Supply Company of Washington, North Carolina enthusiastically donated dog toys and treats. Chocowinity Pet Resort also donated a wash. Raffle tickets were given to all dog owners for the various prizes that were awarded.

Following the dog parade, trophies were awarded to the following:

- 🌀 **Zoey**, a Pomeranian for the small dog category (owners Joni Caputo and Bob Vecchi)
- 🌀 **Bear**, a Boykin Spaniel for the medium dog category (owner Sheri Matthews), and
- 🌀 **Buckley**, a Golden Doodle for the large dog category (owner Steve Seymour). It is worth noting Buckley arrived pulling a sleigh filled with presents.

A special **thank you to Stephanie Perkins** for the idea and for leading the effort. Lastly, dogs and their owners were all very well behaved.

Looking Forward

The Social Committee is busy planning for the coming year. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming notices about the Easter Egg Hunt, the Memorial Day Celebration, the Dock of the Bay Party, another Murder Mystery event and monthly Dinner with Friend's.



By: Tom McCluskey

Warning to readers: Insofar as this column was composed during Dry January and therefore lacks the requisite modicum of disinhibition characteristic of writings enabled by a glass or two of wine, reader discretion is advised. It's hard to write humor when you're cranky.

In approximately 200 BC, the Chinese invented man buns. In the 1600's it was popular to paint ugly Dutch people. Well into the 1700's bloodletting was believed to cure all manner of maladies. Until the early 1800's there was no such thing as left or right shoes. In 1954, 45 percent of all U.S. adults smoked. In the 1970's and 80's, it was popular to dump old tires off our Atlantic shores (including an estimated 650,000+ tires in Coastal North Carolina) to create artificial reefs and new fishing grounds. Why bring up this random list of failed ideas in what tries to pass for a humor column you might ask? Or, even if you don't...

Just before Christmas this past year, thousands of vintage tires made a break for it after the second of two strong Nor'easter's lashed our Crystal Coast with high winds and heavy surf. From Holden Beach, NC across the Bogue Banks to Atlantic Beach, NC and beyond, thousands of tires migrated onto our nearby shores and beached themselves like confused nesting turtles. The first wave of the invasion peaked on December 19th and 20th, but, over the Christmas Holidays and well into 2024, their cousins and other family members have continued their journey as well, trickling down to maybe 3 or 4 per day on any given stretch of beach. This, however, is by no means the largest mass tire migration in recent history. Some 28,000 tires washed up on our beaches after Hurricane Bonnie hit North Carolina in 1998.

Not to be outdone, back when giant cell phone bricks roamed the earth and before the adoption of widespread recycling, the so-called Osborne Reef composed of an estimated 2 million used tires some 7,000 feet off the coast of Ft. Lauderdale was created by a non-profit group consisting mostly of Broward County fishermen—aided and abetted by the Army

Corps of Engineers—and also, interestingly, by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. The company provided many of the tires and one of its blimps from which a gold-plated tire was dropped amid much fanfare to join the other 1,999,999 tires. This golden tire, somewhat suspiciously, has not been among the estimated 1.5 million tires so far recovered from the site. All but the remaining 500,000 or so tires have either been salvaged or have migrated North and West, where the summers aren't so hot and humid.

In defense of the fishermen, many of whom knew lots about non-tire reef things but not how long steel clamps and nylon line might withstand the power of Poseidon, 44 million pounds of rubber and that pesky and ever-present stuff called salt water, the theory was that if they put the tires someplace where they couldn't see them, they would no longer exist. Also, the corals would go to nightclubs with the tires and become attached and make families and little baby corals who would build more nightclubs and more corals where fish liked to hang out. There was only one problem: No one remembered to ask the corals if they liked tires first.

Presumably one of the fisherman/prospective nightclub owners was likely named Osborne, (ergo the reef's name), but for obvious reasons he prefers not to give out his first name. Strangely, no one associated with the project seeks to be remembered by either their first or last names. While success has a thousand forebears, failure (and apparently Mr. Osborne) is an orphan. Thanks to extended efforts at environmental remediation and continued battering by storms, the Osborne Reef, one way or the other, is expected to be gone by 2040 or so.

Stories like the **Osborne Reef** madness is one of the reasons I married an engineer. She shoots down most of my failed ideas before they grow large enough to inflict serious environmental damage. But, failed ideas require constant vigilance. The man bun came back in the 2010's for a mercurial but mercifully brief run. Let's hope the same is not true for any more of our used tires.

A Long Winter's Night...

By: Joseph Fehr

*"Winter is a season of recovery and preparation."
~ Paul Theroux*

As I write this, we've had a very mild early Winter coming off a late Fall of above average daily temperatures. Thus was the reason that, while on a recent walk, we observed a **Rough Green Snake** (*Opheodrys aestivus*) sunning itself.



Many animals, and almost all plants, have evolved adaptations that allow them to survive the onset of cold weather. In plants, dormancy is the norm—the period in which the plant's growth is arrested. This strategy can be activated by the plant's biological clock, which slows growth activity and prepares the plant's soft tissue for freezing temperatures. It can also be triggered by decreasing temperatures, a shortening of daylight and/or a reduction in rainfall. Seeds can also "go dormant," sometimes for centuries, until the right environmental conditions allow for germination. This is technically "seed coat or external dormancy" and not a true form of dormancy.

Hibernation is a term we're all familiar with, but it, too, has its caveats—an animal can enter either predictive or consequential hibernation. Some animals, like chipmunks, raccoons, skunks, and bears reduce their activity by slowing their metabolism and sleeping for long periods of time. This is known as semi-hibernation and may last for days or weeks (and, in the case of bears, months) at a time, only to emerge for food or on unusually warm days. These animals gorge themselves in the late Summer and early Fall, building up a thick layer of body fat that is "burned" during hibernation to provide a measure of heat and energy. The only true mammal hibernation we have here are groundhogs—they're able to reduce their heart rate and body temperature to spend months in their burrows (depending on the air temperature). Bats are also long period hibernators like ground hogs, but we don't generally see hibernaculum in our area. During hibernation, animals go through many physiological changes, such as decreased heart rate (up to 95% in some animals), a decreased body temperature, and periodic shivering to generate internal heat.

As an aside, there is only one bird species that hibernates—the **Common Poorwill** (*Phalaenoptilus nuttalli*) found on dry, stony slopes with little vegetation along the west coast from Canada to northern Mexico. The Poorwill goes into torpor

for weeks or months at a time during the Winter, concealed in and among the rocky landscape in which it lives. Such an extended period of torpor is close to a state of hibernation and is unknown among other birds. Reptiles go through a period of "brumation," which means they do not depend on stored fat, like hibernators, but rather on a greatly reduced metabolic process. Some reptiles may feed more heavily prior to brumation but will refuse food as the temperature drops. They can go for months without eating. When the weather turns cold, the Box Turtles we find on our property will be tucked underground in relatively shallow burrows (about four inches deep). These turtles are also freeze tolerant; they're the largest vertebrate that can withstand icing of their internal organs, albeit for a short period of time. They neither eat nor breathe while in brumation; any oxygen they need is absorbed through the skin. During especially cold weather, the Red-Bellied Cotters and Painted Turtles we see in and around the ponds bury themselves in mud at the bottom of the ponds, absorbing oxygen in the same way.

A few of the frog species found a little farther north of our area are even more incredible. Wood frogs retreat deep into leaf litter to over-winter. In extreme cold, they utilize a sugary substance in their cells that acts as an anti-freeze, their heartbeat stops, and they can literally become frozen solid—only to thaw and emerge as the weather warms in the Spring.

Back to the Rough Green Snake we encountered... These non-venomous insect eaters (these are good snakes to have) are active right up to the time adverse winter weather conditions set in. As the weather changes, they seek refuge in underground burrows that were dug prior to the onset of winter. There they enter a state of brumation, emerging as the weather moderates (usually in April). However, the strategy of "consequential dormancy," can be disastrous for localized populations, causing high mortality rates if cold weather sets in too suddenly before they can enter their brumation den.

During cold months, most insects also shut down in a process known as "diapause," which, while somewhat like hibernation, can occur in any stage of the insect's life cycle. Once an insect enters diapause, it will remain dormant until Spring even though the weather might be suitable for normal growth.

Scientists are still trying to understand how insects can essentially "turn themselves off" and still preserve their soft tissue and other material to turn themselves back on. When insects suspend their growth and development in the Fall, their metabolic rate starts to drop, eventually reaching a point where very little or no oxygen is needed. This greatly reduces the need to burn stored carbohydrates and fat. Some insects use a complement of enzymes that allows them to accumulate polyhydric alcohols (molecules that help to lower their freezing point much like anti-freeze) and thus avoid freezing.

While Winter, and the wild weather mix it can bring, may or may not be your favorite season—it's still a wonderful time to get outside and explore. **The surrounding woods and wetlands remain full of life...sometimes you only need to look a little harder...**

HAPPY HOER OF CYPRESS LANDING

By: *The Happy Hoer*

The Dirt on Nature is a regular feature of The Landing newsletter. Got a question about gardening, pests, or native habitat? Send questions to editor.thelanding@cypresslanding.com and clearly state it is for the Happy Hoer of Cypress Landing.

Dear Happy Hoer, we raked and bagged leaves this Fall and took them to the dump. Someone said we should have left them around our plantings or taken them to the Butterfly Habitat. Which is true?



The Happy Hoer champions lazy gardeners everywhere, as does the National Wildlife Federation with their *Leave the Leaves* campaign. (<https://www.nwf.org/Latest-News/Press-Releases/2023/10-2-23-Leave-the-Leaves>) Consider thinking of your yard as a place to support and sequester life, instead of a pristine and perfect-looking garden. It is no longer in fashion to ask our gardens to be pretty and immaculately raked. Instead, gardeners in-the-know understand native plants and less labor-intensive gardening practices result in a healthier ecosystem for all. "Leaving the leaves is so much more than a debate about raking vs. not raking. It's about how we, as individuals, can impact wildlife right at home through gardening and other outdoor maintenance practices," said Mary Phillips, head of Certified Wildlife Habitat and Garden for Wildlife programs. "Creating and enhancing garden habitat continues throughout the year, with potential for significant impact in the off seasons, as we prepare for current and future wildlife generations. Small changes, like leaving the leaves, are easy ways to directly benefit biodiversity and the environment right at home." According to the NWF, "Fallen leaves provide winter habitat for lots of native insects, small creatures, and birds to thrive, such as cardinals, flickers, doves, juncos, and thrashers." By preserving leaf litter, you will see more beneficial insects, including butterflies and bees, by providing a protective hiding place to complete their life cycle. Leaf litter is especially attractive to earthworms, which our clay soil needs to improve drainage and soil structure. Still not convinced? All that leaf material provides FREE MULCH - which is why the Butterfly Habitat accepts bagged leaves to keep you from hauling them to the landfill. So, for those of you who DIDN'T rake and bag leaves, well done! You won the award for Native Species Champion of the Year!

Dear Happy Hoer, I squashed a stink bug, and it didn't stink. Why is that?



Meet the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). This is the stink bug we need to watch for in North Carolina. Like many of the pests in our state, it was introduced accidentally from Asia in the 1990's in Pennsylvania, and was first found in NC in 2009. According to the NC State Extension website, "For reasons that are not yet entirely clear, BMSB has not become well established in the coastal plain. Some preferred wild hosts include (but are not limited to) tree-of-heaven, paulownia, catalpa, wild cherry, and black walnut." BMSB is often confused with the native brown stink bug, dusky stink bug, rough stink bug, or the squash bug. Visit <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/brown-marmorated-stink-bug-1> for more than you ever wanted to know about brown marmorated stink bugs. Like all the bugs in the family, they emit a terrible "stink" when squashed. You may be one of those lucky folks that can't smell it. *However*, other stink bugs are attracted to the smell, so instead of squashing ANY stink bug, drown it in a bucket of soapy water. THAT approach works for most garden pests and is far safer and easier than applying pesticides.

Dear Happy Hoer, this morning I had THIS on my front porch. I am pretty sure it wasn't put there by a domestic cat but I'm curious if you can suggest who left it there.

Not having a crystal ball, or your Ring Doorbell feed, I can offer two guesses as to the source of the fish head, (drum roll please) - a bird or a possum. Both animal species are incredibly beneficial to our ecosystem, and how kind of them to leave you a gift. Hopefully, you were able to dispose of the catfish head with a nod of thanks for the gift, and not disturb the animal who left it. Possums can catch small fish, but likely a possum waited for another predator to leave and dragged the fish to your porch. If it was a bird, likely it was a bald eagle or an osprey who was dining in a tree and lost control of the head, overhead.



Dear Happy Hoer, do we have otters in the marina?



Yes! The American river otter is native to all of North Carolina. Generally, we see them at the Cypress Landing Marina in the late fall and winter early in the morning. Those who have boats on "A" dock, and our fearless dockmasters, will be most likely to see otters or evidence of their visits. According to the NC Wildlife Resource Commission, "River otters are important predators; they can reduce undesirable fish populations that compete for food with cold-water game fish. Due to their curious nature and their near-sightedness, it is not uncommon for otters to approach a boat or a person on shore." <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/mammals/river-otter#87021661-overview>

THE HAPPY HOER WANTS ALL NEW RESIDENTS TO KNOW THAT THE BONE SHAPED P.U.P. SIGNS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ARE REMINDERS TO DOG OWNERS. IF YOUR DOG POOPS, PUT IT IN A TRASH CAN - THE POOP, NOT THE PUP.



The Cypress Landing Women's Golf Association (CLWGA) wants you! The purpose of the CLWGA is to increase active participation, to encourage friendly competition, and to promote interest in the game of golf among the ladies of Cypress Landing. The CLWGA has both a golfing membership and a social membership.

The CLWGA has both 18-hole and 9-hole golfing flights which include women of all ages and handicaps. The women play from the red tees, from the green hybrid tees, or from the forward teal tees. Golf is a social game, and the WGA season demonstrates that fact. The late March through early November season includes weekly play-days every Thursday geared for all levels. The WGA is a great way for ladies to connect with the Cypress Landing golfing community. The organization fosters ladies to play more, to play better, to have fun, and to make new friends.

The CLWGA social membership includes participation in WGA activities including "Meet and Greet," "Hit 'em," "You Win It," "Tic Tac Toe," "Skee Ball," "Croquette," "Whack and Hack" and Ladies Night Out (which occurs once a month April through October) as well as all of the planned social evenings at the Marina Lounge and the Bay Club.

If you are interested in CLWGA, the Meet and Greet Opening Meeting is March 14, 2024, at the CL Bay Club. The evening includes social time, dinner, and a short meeting. Cost of the Meet and Greet dinner is TBD. Cash bar opens at 5:00 pm. Contact Pat Schleifstein, CLWGA President at pat Schleifstein@gmail.com or call 774-217-8842 for more information.

CLWGA applications are available on the bulletin board next to the lady's restroom at the Cypress Landing Golf Clubhouse and on the website at cypresslandinggolf.com. **We look forward to having new members. Join Us!**

DID YOU KNOW?

By: Fran Monaco

Cypress Landing Marina Lounge & Patien

All residents are welcome to enjoy the marina lounge (open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm). A Dockmaster is always on duty during these hours. All residents are also welcomed to use the patio tables and chairs and the grills whenever they wish. The marina patio is a great place to have a snack and your favorite beverage and watch the sunset. Give it a try!

Cypress Landing MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

By: Bob Pappagianopoulos

Hello everyone! I would like to invite you to become a member of the Men's Golf Association (MGA). We have 89 members today and would love to have you join us!

WHAT WE OFFER OUR MEMBERS:

We have a membership for only \$30! This membership allows you to play in all the weekly events (your choice in which to play). We collect \$3 for each participant, which is paid out to the top winners. The only other cost is for your golf cart.

Periodically, we have 'Free Beer and Soft drinks' days so we can enjoy ourselves at the 19th hole (the grill). This year, we hope to supplement some of the cost of some lunches after games, to help in the fun and friendship. You can play from White, Gold, Purple, Red, or Teal tee boxes.

We have year-long tournaments:

RINGERS: These are multiple flights of similar handicaps, from same tee boxes, where your season's lowest net score, per hole is recorded. Winners are determined by the lowest score at the end of the year. It is \$10 to join. You can opt out of this, but it is a fun event!

LAMBORGHINI: This is a match play tournament. You create your two-man team and play matches throughout the season with double elimination. This is a bracket-type event- very competitive, but lots of fun!

SHOOT-OUT: We have multiple qualifying events during the year. If you qualify, you play against other qualifiers in a 9-hole elimination event. The last person standing wins!

MGA CHAMPIONSHIP: This is a two-day, individual event where we crown the Champion, per tee box. Prize money is awarded for closest to pin, etc. It's fun and competitive.

RYDER CUP: This is a two-day event, where we have the red vs the white teams, winners having bragging rights for the year.

During the year, we have individual events, team events (four and two-man teams), Captain's choice, etc. Handicaps are assigned to make every golfer competitive with all other golfers.

Membership renewal/application forms are in the Pro shop. Please complete the application forms and place them in the MGA mailbox located in the Pro shop business office. Also, include your \$30.00 in cash or a check made out to "CL MGA".

Feel free to contact any member of the MGA Board (Bob Pappagianopoulos, Brian Murphy, or Andy Smith) with any questions, or ask any current members. We would love to have you join us!

FROM THE GROUND UP

October to December 2023-By: Debbie Mitchell, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Greetings Cypress Landing Residents! As the leaves turned and the pumpkin spice flowed, our Buildings and Grounds (B&G) team was as busy as squirrels during the Fall season. **Here's what's been cooking:**

Let's shed some light on the subject, er, um - or talk about what's new in lighting in Cypress Landing. The Bay Club foyer probably looks a little brighter to you. B&G replaced some light bulbs in the foyer chandelier. And they didn't just stop with the inside of the Bay Club! Outside, they installed a transformer and "up lights" to light up the trees on the hill behind the Bay Club.

Wow! Wasn't that storm in late September a doozy! It did a good job taking out our kayak racks and destroying a lot of the wood plank walkway to the various racks. Discussions with the HOA Board have begun regarding a future approach for kayak storage. In the meantime, B&G moved all the remaining kayaks to the Marina parking lot for CL residents to pick up. They also completed a stepping stone project (walkway) in front of the bulkhead going to the kayak boardwalk.

Swimming along, let's talk about some completed projects relating to water. Don't you just hate leaky faucets? What's worse is that, around the Bay Club, we had three water hydrants that were leaking! B&G took care of this problem by replacing all three water hydrants in the area. The hydrant by the Marina parking lot got some extra loving care with the installation of a post, hose rack, and hose near the hydrant. The pond fountain around Ashley Lane wasn't working properly. A circuit breaker replacement was the remedy to make it spout again, along with the replacement of the wiring running out to the Fountain through the water. You know how we must have our ponds dredged every so often to remove silt build-up. Well guess what - our waterfall at the entrance to Phase Two also suffers from sludge build-up. B&G removed about 6 inches of this muck from the bottom of the waterfall, and power-washed the wall behind the waterfall. Water is easily flowing again down a spic and span wall. The Fitness Center pool had some much-needed cement work done to repair the coping. Not to be outdone, the Bay Club Pool had actions done to winterize the pool house, including weatherproofing the toilets and replacing several timers there.

While some of you were busy looking for the ELF along Cypress Landing Parkway in December, the MIA golf course crossing signs on Providence Place couldn't be found. B&G installed two new golf crossing signs on Providence Place. They also repaired a sinkhole on this road.

In addition to the ongoing community landscaping maintenance that continues to impress, some significant changes occurred in this quarter.

Around the Bay Club, a tree from the hill behind the Club was removed. All the plants for the wall behind the Bay Club have been purchased, with some of them already planted, while others are nesting at the Habitat, waiting for a Spring planting. B&G ordered thirteen 750-pound Brandywine Red Maples to replace trees in decline at the Golf Course Parking Lot and the area surrounding the back of the Tennis Courts. Raul Renteria and his crew removed the dead trees and their roots in these areas, dug new holes for the new trees, amended the soil, and planted the new trees. **Can't wait to see these ornamental beauties in bloom in the Spring.** Snap Dragons were ordered and planted in the annual beds. The area around the Fitness Center was mulched and sodded. The eyebrows along Cypress Landing drive have been spruced up with new plants.



Stayed tuned for information on future projects, including the Bay Club and Marina Parking Lots, Kayak Storage, and the Bay Club Cupola repair. **That's a wrap for our FALL 2023 B&G update!!!**

DID YOU KNOW?

By: Fran Monaco

The Grill at Cypress Landing

Not a golfer? No problem. You can still enjoy dining in the golf club grill, open to all residents daily from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you have not tried the culinary specials of Chef Khalil, you should! The daily menu is available on Escapades and online at cypresslandinggolf.com. You can also organize a group lunch utilizing the back room. For information, call 252-946-5510.

Cultural & Education Committee Happenings



By: Jennifer Gresham

The Cultural & Education (C&E) Committee ended its 2023 program season on a high note with the high-sounding bells of the River City Ringers. Washington's very own English handbell choir performed two wonderful, well-attended Christmas concerts for the Cypress Landing (CL) community on December 10th. The beauty of the sounds of the handbells, from the softest tinklings to the swell of the crescendos, was magical! We learned a bit of history on each piece, traditional, sacred, and popular, as it was introduced by Sally Love, plus some background on the talented ringers themselves. The added pleasure of the holiday sing-alongs was the finishing touch to a merry evening indeed.



A recap on C&E's last two fall programs: a bit of Washington history was brought alive during the October program. James Smallwood, historian of the PS Jones Alumni Association, told us about the alumni's tireless dedication and determination in honoring and preserving an important part of NC's education history, i.e., Beaufort County's African American public schools from past to present, through the establishment of the PS Jones Museum. The museum, a passion project of many years, opened its doors in July of 2023.

In November, Tamyra Jovel, a specialist from the Mid-East Commission Area Agency on Aging, outlined the resources, support, and information available to caregivers and to our senior population during her presentation on levels of care as we age. Along with helpful handouts, she spoke of the importance of knowing our patient rights, preparing for care transition situations, having a Plan B, and creating a caregiver journal to name a few.

Cliff McFarland, CL resident and former Defense Nuclear Agency Senior Executive, talked about "The Manhattan Project & the Atomic Bomb, Then & Now". He told the inside story of the Department of Defense's research on nuclear weapon effects, which inspired the movie Oppenheimer. It was a very informative and entertaining evening.

The committee is excited about the engaging and informative programs that will open its 2024 season... you don't want to miss any of these following events:

February 18th: Dr. David Loope, President of Beaufort County Community College, author, and CL resident will speak on the "Culture of Rural American South." He will discuss what comprises the South and why it differs from other regions of the U.S., the role of the honor code in southern society, past and present, and the historic dilemma of racism in southern culture.

March 10th: East Carolina University professor, author, and CL resident, Dr. Mona Russell, will give a presentation on "Palestinian Women: Resilience, Resistance, and Peace Efforts." She'll provide an overview of the geography of Palestine, the history of the conflict, and women's roles in the national movement, resistance efforts, and peace process.

The committee was pleased to recognize **Steve Spaanbroek** for its January "Artist of the Month." You will find his work on display in the Bay Club foyer, featured on the C&E webpage, and posted in Escapades. C&E welcomes new members and suggestions for future programs. Programs are usually held at 7:00 pm at the Bay Club on the second Sunday of each month.

DID YOU KNOW?

By: Fran Monaco

Cypress Landing Golf Club

All property owners are "basic" members of the Cypress Landing Golf Course. Basic membership includes access to the facility (Pro Shop, Grill, Driving Range & Putting Green) and the basic rights to use the golf course as follows: (1) discounted golf fees for playing golf; (2) reduced range ball prices; (3) use of these non-transferrable rates 10 times per calendar year; (4) may make golf reservations up to 10 days in advance in person, by phone, or via email at clgpro@cypresslandinggolf.com; and (5) are required to ride in a golf cart during play. It is the responsibility of the Basic Member to advise the Proshop attendant of their member status to receive appropriate pricing. If you are new to the game or looking to pick it up, the Proshop will be happy to arrange a lesson. For information on current discount pricing, contact the Proshop at 252-946-7788.

BEAUFORT COUNTY HAPPENINGS

By: County Commissioner John Rebholz



SO, WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE COUNTY?

I really need to get Tom McCluskey to write this so humor would permeate each paragraph.

I did have the opportunity to present what Beaufort County is doing to address our lack of affordable housing for young professionals and skill trades members. It was interesting because my fellow panelists were from Mecklenburg (Charlotte), Wake (Raleigh) and Buncombe (Asheville). Those Counties had departments dedicated to housing. I joked, "The residents of Beaufort only have little-old-me."

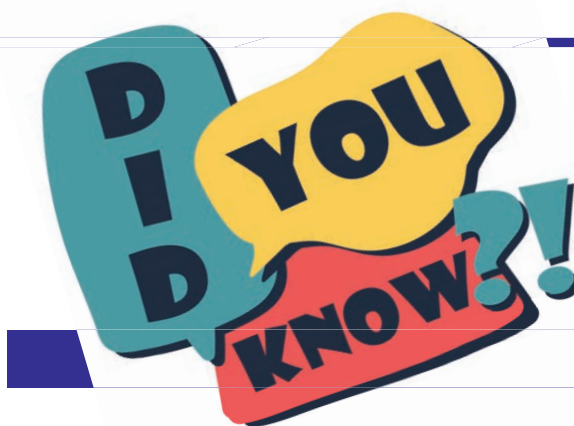
Over the last three months, the Board of Commissioners has been focused on three things.

FIRST: The School Board request to allow them to apply for a Lottery Grant to build a new school. While other Counties have taken advantage of these Grants, we have not. Successfully passing the funding would allow our District to replace two of our oldest and most expensive schools and combine them. The Lottery fund would provide \$40 million while the county would be required to match with \$10 million. (The cost of construction certainly has gone up!) The motion to allow the School Board to apply and obligate the County to fund the match passed 5 to 2.

SECOND: The Sheriff requested funding for 12 new deputy positions to allow them to provide School Resource Officers (SRO). A little history is needed. Over the last 12 years, we have gradually placed Law Enforcement in each school. In 2021, then Sheriff Coleman terminated the agreement with the School District. Why he did that is another story, too long to report here. As a result, the School District hired Allied Universal to provide sworn and armed School Resource Officers. The three-year agreement with Allied ends in June 2024. Our current Sheriff, Scott Hammonds, campaigned on putting deputies back in the schools. He presented a plan to do that beginning July 1. I fully support this plan because of the added benefits the Citizens of Beaufort County receive. The proposal passed 4 to 3.

THIRD: The Solid Waste Ordinance. While it took months, we approved a Solid Waste ordinance. The ordinance not only provides rules for any vendor wishing to dispose of waste, but it also covers rules for individuals. The purpose of this portion of the ordinance is to reduce the indiscriminate but intentional tossing of waste on public and private property. Included is a fine structure to penalize offenders. The ordinance is at the bottom of the County's home page or at co.beaufort.nc.us/479/solid-waste-ordinance.

On a personal note, I have filed for re-election as a County Commissioner. Once again, if elected, I will be the only Commissioner that lives on the Southside. **EARLY VOTING BEGINS FEBRUARY 19, 2024.**

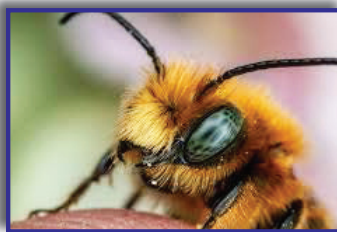


"Did You Know?" is a new feature of The Landing where wisdom from The Environmental Committee is tucked between feature articles.




DID YOU KNOW that *Oak Mistletoe* is the only host plant where the *Great Purple Hairstreak* butterfly lays its eggs? The butterfly is actually grey, not purple and it will feed on the nectar of many flowers including wild plum, sweet pepperbush, goldenrod, and saw palmetto. Go to birdwatchinghq.com and search butterflies in North Carolina to learn about 32 common butterflies in our state! Both birds and insects are critical pollinators. More than 80 percent of land plants are pollinated by animals such as butterflies!

NOW YOU KNOW the mistletoe around here is good for more than the "kisstory" that holds a man is allowed to kiss any woman standing beneath a sprig or bouquet of Mistletoe, and vice versa. If a kiss is refused, bad luck befalls the person who said "No."



DID YOU KNOW that although honey bees seem to get all of the attention as the top pollinator it is the mason bee family, and its 150 different species,

that have been pollinating our world long before the European honey bee arrived. *Mason bees* can pollinate up to 2,000 flowers every day, with each one capable of performing the task of 100 honey bees. I guess the fact that they don't live in hives and make sweet honey has them at a pop-culture disadvantage. Mason bees live in tube-shaped homes and you can go online to learn how to invite them into your own back yard, **NOW YOU KNOW!**



TENNIS IS ALIVE & WELL

AT CYPRESS LANDING

By: Kate Hoelscher

Drive down Clubhouse Road on any given day when it isn't raining or scorching hot, and you will probably see folks swinging racquets and a lime yellow ball wafting through the air. Open your car windows, and you will hear the thwack of a ball, laughter, and maybe an errant grunt or two...these are the sounds of tennis, and tennis IS alive and well at Cypress Landing.

With four lighted Har-Tru courts and a strong cadre of regular players, our beautiful courts are a well-used amenity of the community. Court reservations are not required; general etiquette is first come, first serve for two hours, if players are waiting to play. However, there is a recognized pattern of play: Monday and Wednesday mornings are Women's Social Tennis, and Tuesday and Thursday mornings are Men's Social Tennis. Outside of these times, the courts are open to play. Efforts to re-establish a mixed doubles round robin play time are underway. So, if you have a racquet stowed in the garage collecting dust or are an active player that hasn't graced our courts in a while, we welcome you to come and play with us.

Typically, two tennis socials are conducted each year - one in the spring and the other in the fall - which provide an opportunity for mixed doubles "competition" among the tennis faithful. These are fun-filled, friendly events that include mild trash-talking, excellent food/beverages, and occasionally impressive tennis. Our Fall event was conducted on September 30th, with 26 residents and their guests playing in a round-robin format. Many thanks to Vivienne Afshari for masterminding the seedings and organizing the luncheon. Overall women's winner was Davey Fulmer, and Greg Allen took the honors for the men. A souvenir Wimbledon spoon rest and mug were awarded to the respective winners, thanks to Lisa Strang.

We also have been fortunate in securing the services of a highly qualified teaching pro, Tom Morris, to provide individual or small group (3 players) lessons to interested members of our tennis community. Tom has an impressive resume both as a player in his younger days and a teaching pro, and as a very successful college coach. After a nine-year coaching stint at Barton College, he directed East Carolina University women's team for 21 seasons, compiling 320 wins, and amassed 68 triumphs while serving as ECU's men's coach from 1999 to 2004. For additional information, contact Tom directly at the number listed below.

In keeping with Cypress Landing's strong spirit of volunteerism, there is a dedicated group of tennis players who provide on-going maintenance to keep the courts in tip-top condition. From monitoring the water irrigation system to ensure an optimum clay court surface, adjusting the wind screens for seasonal conditions, resurfacing the Har-Tru courts, and pressure washing and repairing the shelter, to repurposing used tennis balls for chair slides (at last count over 5000 were donated to schools and nursing homes), and numerous other little tasks required to keep our courts the best in eastern North Carolina. Kudos to these behind-the-scenes magicians whose efforts are greatly appreciated.

For additional information about getting into the swing of things, check the bulletin board located at the courts or contact:

Chair of Tennis Committee..	Dan McDaniel..	Dappleseed@hotmail.com ..	252-721-1348
Men's Social Play	Tom Quarnstrom.....	budgetman@aol.com ..	703-867-7290
Women's Social Play	Kate Hoelscher.....	hoelschk@gmail.com ..	850-206-6574
	Vivienne Afshari.....	vafshari827@gmail.com ..	203-979-8134
Tennis Lessons.....	Tom Morris.....		252-565-2538



PICKLEBALL

Memorial Dedication & Fundraiser

By: Patrick Kinlaw, Tennis | Pickleball Committee

On October 22, 2023, pickleballers dedicated an engraved memorial stone at the Cypress Landing pickleball courts to Jim Gabor and Brad Smith and enjoyed both social and tournament play in their honor. The full-day event raised significant funds for Chocowinity Middle School.

Jim Gabor and Brad Smith (both deceased in 2021) were instrumental in making the permanent courts in Cypress Landing a reality. Jim and Gail Baird established pickleball play in the Bay Club parking lot with spray-painted lines and portable nets in 2018. The level of interest led Jim and Gail (along with others) to work with the CLHOA Board to fund and construct the existing courts. Brad, an engineer, joined Jim in the work to ensure the courts were first rate and met national pickleball standards. Jim and Brad were responsible for securing and coordinating volunteers that put in drainage, added gravel, watered new landscape plantings, oversaw fencing, and began the process of adding a pavilion. Upon their passing, John Bussanick stepped in to see the pavilion installation to completion. Pickleballers love the courts and the pavilion (especially when temperatures are extreme). The ceiling fan in the pavilion is a very nice touch. It was extra special to have Arline Smith, Deb Gabor, Kristin Gabor, and Joe Rossi in attendance representing the two families for the memorial tournament.

As is typical, each pickleball event has a fundraising focus. The proceeds from the Gabor/Smith Memorial Tournament were directed to Chocowinity Middle School's (CMS) emerging pickleball effort. Cypress Landing's pickleball community has already donated paddles, balls, and nets; however, their courts need repair.

The lead sponsor of the tournament was Nutrien of Aurora, NC. David Jordan from Nutrien was on hand to donate \$300 to the effort. Additionally, there were numerous donations from participants. CMS Kelly Makepeace, Principal, and Allan Swain, Directors of Athletics, were gifted with a check totaling \$1,270. They were so appreciative of the donation. Here again, Cypress Landing residents step up when there is a need.

The Social Play portion of the day had 20 plus individuals taking to the courts. The day ended with Tournament Play where Chip and Cathy Wheeler earned first place. Larry and Corina Bezrouch claimed second place against 16 other players.

It was a day full of fun, good food and drink, and good fellowship. For Cypress Landing residents who may be interested in pursuing pickleball and perhaps a free lesson, please feel free to reach out to me at patkinlaw@comcast.net. There are numerous instructors who are more than willing to assist.

Women's Club **OF CYPRESS LANDING (WCCL)**

By: **Stephanie Perkins**

Dear Cypress Landing neighbors - we had much to be thankful for during the recent holiday season!



The Women's Club Angel Tree, with your generosity, provided nine families and their 28 children a very happy Christmas...109 gifts including eight bikes, along with a \$350 Walmart gift card. You were also able to provide an additional seventeen \$100 Walmart gift cards to other families with school age children in

need during this 2023 holiday season. Thirty-six of our WCCL neighbors volunteered and set up the Angel Tree in the Bay Club in early November. They collected and wrapped gifts and delivered them to the school. **Heartfelt thanks!**

The WCCL fundraising effort was spear-headed by Lani LeFevre and her committee. A raffle for a week's stay on Emerald Isle, NC, was a success thanks once again to the CL community. And the **winner is Margaret Ryan of St. John's Court!**

Proceeds of \$5,775 will be distributed to Beaufort County charities at the end of the WCCL season in May 2024.

Dare I mention the fun we had as participants of the Chocowinity Christmas Parade. The WCCL entered a decorated float with Mrs. Claus throwing snowballs at the crowds lining the streets. Walkers and recumbent bikers in full Christmas regalia marched along handing out candy. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Jeff Gould for making us YouTube stars.



Winding down our 2023-24 season, we wish you all a Happy New Year. With many thanks to our wonderful neighbors...Your **Women's Club Cypress Landing Board**: Stephanie Perkins, Melanie Cherrillo, Mardi Hastings, Judy Fuller, Kathy Napoli, and Kelly Hemmings.

CYPRESS LANDING REAL ESTATE SCOREBOARD

YEAR	HOMES SOLD	LOTS SOLD	BUILD PERMITS
2018	56	15	10
2019	54	24	13
2020	65	20	7
2021	59	25	15
2022	41	29	16
2023	33	14	12



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Editor.TheLanding@CypressLanding.com.

Standing HOA committees have first priority to print their articles and pictures. We also invite other Cypress Landing groups and individuals to contribute. Submitted material may be altered by the editorial staff who is charged with publishing a community newsletter financed by our advertisers and shared with potential residents.

Printed issues of The Landing are published in winter, summer, spring, and fall. Issues can also be read online by visiting our website at www.cypresslandingnc.com.

The Landing is the official newsletter of Cypress Landing Master Homeowners Association.





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FITNESS CENTER

By: *Tom Hemmings*

The Fitness Center is open from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm. If you enter outside these hours, an alarm will sound. Equipment for strength training, aerobic exercise and stretching is available, as well as a Junior Olympic lap pool. Fitness Center rules are posted in the lobby, and lap pool rules are posted poolside. All fitness center users must sign in at the lobby table and must follow fitness center and lap pool rules. The facility is for use by residents and guests only. (Note: There is no attendant present at the fitness center - exercise is at your own risk.)

To begin using the Fitness Center, you must schedule an orientation with one of the following orientation members:

→ TOM HEMMINGS.....443-789-2175
→ CINDY GOULD.....252-833-0680

→ BARBARA CADWALLADER 252-623-1086
→ DAVID SHEPHERD 847-275-3633

The main entrance is passcode protected. Your fitness center access door code will be given to you during your orientation. If you are new to the gym, you may want to take advantage of the short video introductions available for equipment currently installed in the fitness center. These are very basic 1-to-2-minute introductions to most pieces of equipment to help you get started confidently and safely. Links to the videos are provided on the Cypress Landing website (www.cypresslandingnc.com) under Community/Fitness Center.