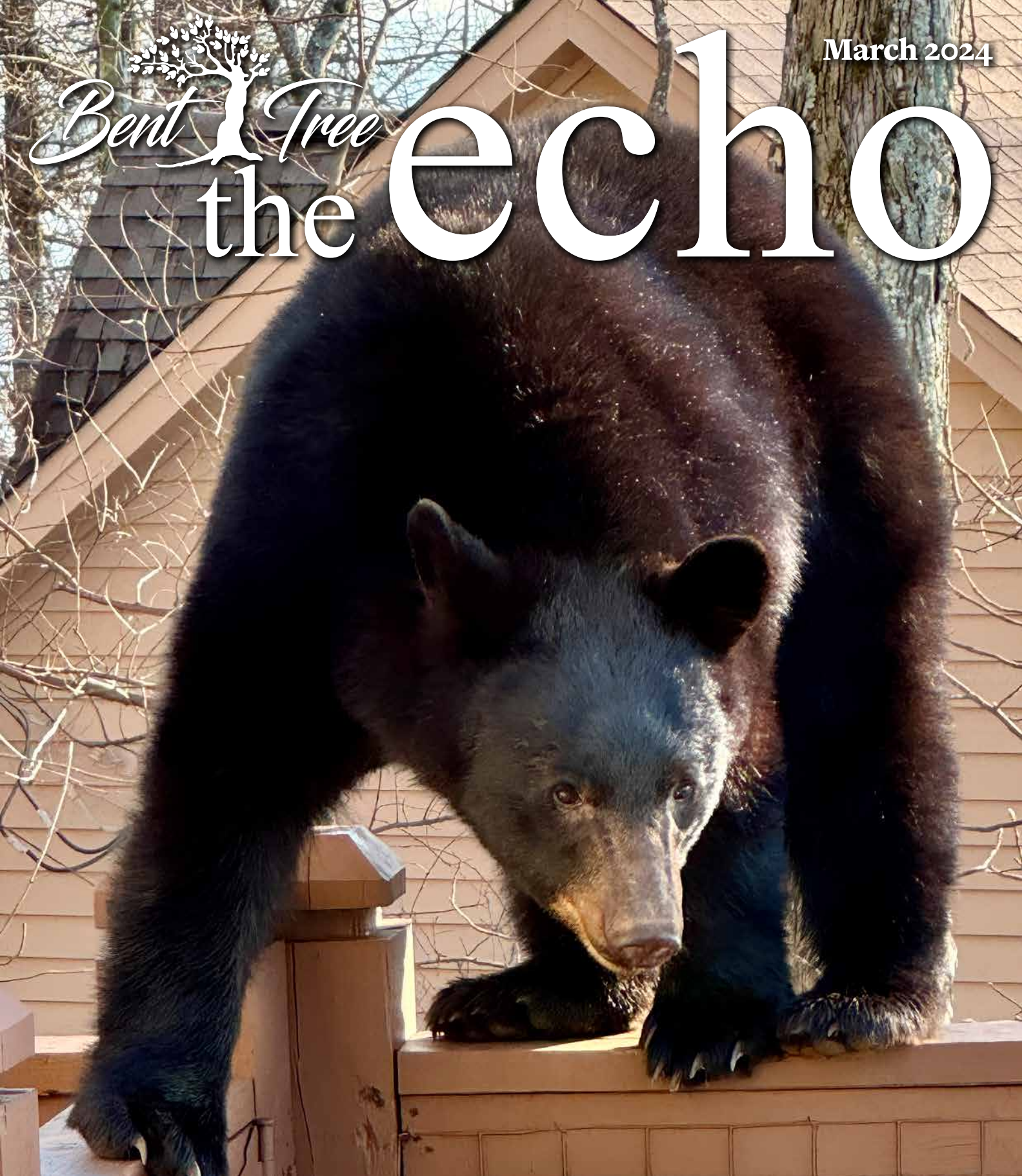


March 2024

*Bent Tree* the echo





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**About**

**DR.  
MICHELLE F.  
IRELAND**



For over 20 years, Dr. Michelle F. Ireland has perfected the smiles of thousands of patients. Dr. Ireland graduated with her Doctorate of Medicine in Dentistry (D.M.D.) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 1994 and became licensed to practice as a general dentist. Upon graduation, she completed additional educational requirements and specialized training at the UAB School of Dentistry to become a prosthodontist.

Dr. Ireland has served as a professor at UAB School of Dentistry in the Department of Prosthodontics, where she enjoyed teaching crown and bridge prosthodontics and

removable prosthodontics with an emphasis on esthetics, occlusion, and implant restoration.

Over the years, Dr. Ireland has counseled former students, general dentists and their patients, and continues to receive extensive training in the field of dentistry and prosthodontics. Dr. Ireland has built a reputation as a caring, compassionate, and competent dental practitioner. Her additional expertise is a blessing and is evident in the way patients are accepting of her recommendations.



# From The Board's Perspective

By Harold Ford

It is great to see spring arrive in Bent Tree. Flowers and trees blooming, green grass, birds chirping, warm weather, an occasional bear sighting and many outdoor activities. Winter can have some enjoyable times but there is nothing like spring to get us all going again. What a wonderful place to be.

But maybe you cannot enjoy spring because you think our yearly dues are too high, too low, or about right! If you think they are too low you are probably in a minority. Would you like to do something about these fees? There is one way you can directly influence the process. Run for the Board of Directors! Or at the very least vote for the directors.

Do you think being a property owner gets you the right to vote? Not so fast! Just like in other elections you must REGISTER to vote. It is the same process as being registered to vote in state, county, or national elections. There is a form you can obtain from administration. Simply fill it out and if you are an owner you will be approved/registered to vote in all Bent Tree elections.

There are nine members on the Board of Directors. Each year three members "age out" or end their term and three new members are elected. Being a board member is definitely Interesting! Packed with information you did not know about? Yes! Entertaining.... most definitely! And being a board member is a great learning experience about how Bent Tree operates. Much of what is done is little things like revising existing rules that were not clearly written. You will approve officers, volunteers and keep the community informed by serving as a liaison for one of our standing committees. But there are several things that greatly impact our community each year. The main thing is creating and approving the yearly budget. There is never enough money, and the board must decide between which issues to address and the ones to postpone until another year. The Board always needs qualified people who have a personal stake in keeping Bent Tree great and finding ways to make it an even better place to live. Hopefully, you will be one of those people who can hear and solve the issues that people complain, moan and groan about and how they would do it better.

The application to become a BTCI member which is a requirement to run for the board can be picked up from administration, or found under *Community Documents* on the website. The deadline for filing is May 16. After you apply someone from the election committee will guide you through the remainder of the process. I hope to see your name on the next ballot.

So, while you are taking a break from planning your campaign speech to run for the Board of Directors get out on the golf course, play pickleball, hike our trails and get your summer self in shape before beach and pool season arrive in full force.

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT ELECTION!



## New Public Safety Radios – Thank You

By Michael Koorey, Director of Safety and Emergency Management

Last summer, the Bent Tree Foundation purchased nine portable Motorola radios for Bent Tree Public Safety. At that time, our radios were worn out, outdated, and had many functional issues. After an extended delay from the supplier, the new radios are finally here! Now all our primary response units have been assigned state-of-the-art radios, allowing them to properly communicate during emergency situations. Officers with assigned radios are also now properly equipped to go directly to emergency scenes from an off-duty status, which happens frequently. We have had no shortage of emergency situations recently, and these radios have already benefited our department immensely.

Thank you very much to the Bent Tree Foundation and all the generous donors that made this purchase possible. Your contributions have made a major difference and greatly enhanced the safety of our community and officers.

The new radios are just one of the many community enhancement projects the Bent Tree Foundation has done for our community over the years. We encourage all residents to visit their website at [benttreefoundation.org](http://benttreefoundation.org) to learn about their other projects and how you can help them continue improving the quality of life for residents in and around Bent Tree.



**CONTACT US TODAY - 770-623-6220 - [info@frontporchatlanta.com](mailto:info@frontporchatlanta.com)**

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# Bent Tree's Learning Tree is Back!

By Mary Lou Weng

In 2012 a committee of volunteers, sponsored by the Board of Directors, created a series of classes about Bent Tree and living in Bent Tree. These very successful classes were offered each year until the dreaded Covid pandemic.

And now Learning Tree is back!

Are you interested in finding out:

- Who built these narrow, twisty roads and why the County doesn't take care of them for us?
- Who had the vision of building this wonderful community in the mountains and why and how?
- What is the difference between Bent Tree and the subdivision/neighborhood we used to live in?
- How does the assessment process work and where is the money spent?

The format this time around is a little different than in the past. But there are still five sessions covering;

1. The Early History of this area and the Creation of the Bent Tree Resort – Chris Feldt;
2. Creation of BT Community and its Unique Governing Documents – Edie Stephens;
3. All Things Financial – Arty Allen;
4. Later History of Bent Tree – What's happened the last 30 Years – Chris Feldt;
5. Bent Tree Operations and Employees – Jim Pryor.

Sessions will be held each Wednesday evening beginning May 1 at the Tavern. This is a private event with a buffet supper available for Learning Tree attendees at 6:00 pm, presentations beginning at 6:30 pm, and running no later than 8:00 pm. The charge for attending Learning Tree is \$15 (separate from food and beverages). And attendance is limited to the first thirty (30) registrants.

Complete the Registration Form and pay your \$15 in BTCI Administration. The deadline for registering is Wednesday, April 24th. Remember – attendance is limited to 30 people.

Besides the above speakers, other volunteers on the 2024 Learning Tree Committee are Michael Kahn, Board Vice President & Liaison; Mary Lou Weng, Chair; Taree Darby, Publicist; and Jon Hoppe, Videographer. Watch the Friday News for more information or contact Mary Lou Weng (770-894-9086 or email [wengml@etcm.com](mailto:wengml@etcm.com)) for additional information or Learning Tree questions.



# Public Safety Stats from 1/1/24 – 1/31/24

By Michael Koorey - Director,  
Trevor Beavers - Fire Chief,  
John Hawkins - Assistant Fire Chief

## Call Responses

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Fire                     | 37  |
| Medical                  | 26  |
| Resident Complaints      | 3   |
| Resident Assists         | 13  |
| Property/Resident Checks | 0   |
| Animal Calls             | 12  |
| Public Safety Calls      | 18  |
| Total                    | 109 |
| 2024 Total               | 109 |

## Patrol Mileage

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Total Patrol Mileage (1/1 – 1/31) | 1,982 |
| 2024 Total                        | 1,982 |

## Citations

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Written Citations | 5 |
| Warnings          | 4 |
| Total             | 9 |

40 Little Pine Mountain Road Jasper, GA 30143  
770-893-2628 • [publicsafety@bent-tree.com](mailto:publicsafety@bent-tree.com)



# Employee Birthdays

|      |                  |                  |
|------|------------------|------------------|
| 3/1  | Brooke Peters    | The Tavern       |
| 3/5  | Ricky Cooper     | Golf Maintenance |
| 3/7  | Triston Laroche  | Utilities        |
| 3/13 | Mariah Clayton   | Pro Shop         |
| 3/24 | Dominique Ray    | The Tavern       |
| 3/25 | Josh Whittington | Utilities        |
| 3/26 | Lauren Quarles   | Pro Shop         |
| 3/28 | Natalie Andrews  | The Tavern       |

## We Want You...

- ... to email us short stories, interviews, poetry, and articles of general interest to our residents.
- ... to tell us what articles you would like to see.
- ... to share with us some of your amazing Bent Tree related images.

Thanks.

**echo Editorial Committee**

### 2024 Bent Tree Board of Directors

**Buddy Creef – President**

**Michael Kahn – Vice President**

LAD Committee Liaison

**Arty Allen – Secretary**

The Courts Committee Liaison

**Ralph Morse – Treasurer**

Stables Committee Liaison

**Brian Feehan**

Architectural Committee Liaison

**Harold Ford**

Lake and Wildlife Committee Liaison

**Tanya McTeer**

Activities Committee Liaison

**Charles Rice**

Golf and Greens Committee Liaison

**David Stone**

Communications Committee Liaison

Contact the Editor of the echo at  
[btecho@etcmail.com](mailto:btecho@etcmail.com)

### GPS Directions to Bent Tree

Please give your visitors the following address (1 Little Pine Mountain Rd, Jasper, GA) to gain access into the front gate on Bent Tree Drive, which will alleviate GPS systems from sending them to the back gate off Grandview Rd.



## On the cover...

The cover image was submitted by Sheila Thompson.

## echo Submission Policy

The following describes the policy guidelines regarding articles/photos/graphics submitted for publication in the *echo*. Submissions which do not adhere to these guidelines may, at the sole discretion of the Editor be returned to the submitter or omitted from publication.

## echo Deadline Date

Submissions are due to the Editor at [btecho@etcmail.com](mailto:btecho@etcmail.com) by 4 p.m. on or before the seventh of each month prior to the publication month. Submissions sent to any other email address will not be considered.

## Articles

All articles must be submitted via email, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced in MS Word (or similar) format. Please use built-in double spacing options instead of typing extra returns at the end of each line. We have to go through and manually remove them. Any article received not double spaced will be returned to submitter for correction. All articles must include the author's name. A contact phone number must be included in the email.

## Photos

Do not send embedded photos. Submissions including embedded photos will be returned to the submitter for correction. Most modern equipment has settings you can adjust in the image quality menu to medium or high size. We suggest you set your camera to the highest image quality setting. Note that photos that are attractive online may not be of high enough quality for print. If a photo is not of adequate size for print, it will be omitted. Include with your photo a suggested caption including names of any people in the photo, left to right. Use of stock photography is discouraged, except where it is the only option available. It is the sole responsibility of the submitter to obtain any photo release(s) which may be required.

## Photo Locations

When wanting a photo to appear in a specific location of an article, merely write insert 'golfeventpic JDoe 1 here' with appropriately named photo. See Naming Files section.

## Naming Files

Multiple files included in a single submission should have corresponding filenames. For example, photos submitted with the article should be named in the following manner - (Name of photo to match title of article, capitalized first letter of first name, followed by capitalized first letter of last name, with the remainder of the last name of the photographer, followed by number of photo.) For example, an article named golfevent.doc that has two accompanying photos would be named golfeventpic JDoe1.jpg, golfeventpic JDoe2.jpg

## Captions

Captions should be written at the bottom of the article and should reference their corresponding photos. For example, golfeventpic JDoe 1 - John Doe at a tournament.

## Accuracy

It is the sole responsibility of the author to ensure accuracy of all information included in any article or event promotional material submitted for publication in the *echo*. Articles shall reflect correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Any submission with other than a minor amount of correction required may, at the sole discretion of the Editor be rejected.

## Letters to the Editor

The current policy of the Board of Directors is that we do not include Letters to the Editor in the *echo*.

## Political Articles

The current policy of the Board of Directors is that we do not include political articles in the *echo*.

## Space

In consideration that there may be space constraints and the publisher is not able to include all submitted articles/photos/graphics, organizations submitting multiple items for publication should inform the Editor of their preferred priority. If no priority is provided, selection of items to be omitted will be at the sole discretion of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to condense lengthy articles or to omit pictures as necessary to manage available space.

# "A Carolina Promise"

By Jim Pryor, General Manager

I always enjoy when the calendar rolls into March. It just feels like spring is on the horizon. At Bent Tree, spring signals the weather warming, the golf course starting to turn green, wildlife emerges, the fish in Lake Tamarack start biting, and many of our residents start returning from Florida. Of course, with me being such a big sports fan, March signals two of the best sporting spectacles of the year, the crack of the bat starting baseball season and college basketball's main event, March Madness.

The NCAA basketball tournament is my favorite event of the year. 68 colleges are invited to "The Big Dance" to compete for 1 big trophy. It's three weeks of the most spirited competitive basketball there is because the loser of each game will see their season end. Of the 68 teams invited to play, 67 of them will end their season with a loss and 1 team will see their season end with a win.

I was very fortunate to spend the best 4 years of my life in Chapel Hill, NC as a Tarheel. And for the 30 years since I have been a very vested Tarheel basketball fan. While I am not the crazy type of fan you see on TikTok yelling at the TV, pacing around the room, throwing things, punching the wall and mentally hinging on every play, the outcome of each game usually does affect my mood for the rest of the day. And I admit, when assessing the team, I tend to point out what's wrong with them more than what is right.

At the start of the 2022 season, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski (hereon referred to as Coach K because I hate spelling his last name) announced that he would be retiring at the end of the season. Being a basketball fan, I completely respected Coach K's prowess as being one of the greatest coaches ever and I was always scared to death when UNC had to play him. Carolina fans always say that it's fitting the Duke Blue Devils were coached by the devil himself. Coach K was to Carolina fans what Nick Saban is/was to Georgia fans.

As we entered March of 2022, it was time for a mediocre UNC team to conclude their regular season by visiting Duke for Coach



K's final regular season game at Cameron Indoor Arena. Duke was ranked #1 in the nation and UNC wasn't ranked. There was a lot of glitz and glamour surrounding the game and the prelude to the game was that Duke was going to embarrassingly stomp UNC into the ground to honor Coach K's legacy. But the one thing I know about Duke-UNC is that it's going to be a battle no matter which team is higher ranked. Still, I didn't want UNC to be the final highlight of Coach K's career...or did I?

I decided the morning of March 5, 2022 that I was going to have a special meeting with God. We all know that God is a Tarheel fan because the sky is Carolina blue, as well as the General Manager's office at Bent Tree. In this meeting, I made what I refer to as "A Carolina Promise". Dear Lord, I know UNC has struggled mightily this year, but if we could shock the world and rain on Coach K's parade, I promise to give UNC a 10-year reprieve from my criticism as a fan, and that I will be the most positive supporter ever. And whoa, my proposal was accepted with a UNC 94-81 win followed by Coach K addressing a stunned crowd by admonishing his team for an embarrassing effort. It was awesome to see Coach K's moment ruined. I maniacally enjoyed every minute of it. But sometimes when you win you really lose. 3 weeks later UNC-Duke clashed again in the final 4 of the NCAA Tournament. Now the stakes were even higher as Coach K appeared destined to end his career leading his final Duke team to the NCAA Championship. UNC was in the way. I was still completely good as I got my original wish, but things became much sweeter when UNC pulled off another win, thus raining on Coach K's career parade again all within the same month. My promise was answered with a cherry on top.

Fast forward to 2024 and I have fully kept my promise. I have been a 100% positive Carolina fan. I support the team fully when they win and when they lose. And hey, my stress level has gone down drastically. March is here, spring is in the air at Bent Tree, baseball season is right around the corner and it's time for some March Madness baby. Go Heels!!

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# Pickleball Happenings

By Bob Coleman

We enjoyed yet another successful Senior Spectacular event on January 25th at The Courts at Bent Tree Tennis & Pickleball ...36- 70, 80 yr old players attended. These folks are amazing. One of the joys of this endeavor has been the reconnecting of old friends. Laird Carmichael reconnected with a childhood friend (Tim Kepler) he hadn't seen in decades. It turns out they actually grew up two doors down from one another. It was a great pleasure to witness their reacquaintance after all these years. This accidental reuniting has now twice occurred through this gathering. Carol Carlsen reconnected with long time friend Nor Moody. Wow!

Please stop by and visit our wonderful amenity. And please accept my personal invitation to come learn this amazing sport. The camaraderie is crazy good.



*Carol reconnecting with Nor and Jim Moody*



*36 players from 3 counties participating #never2late2learn*

## Niners' News

By Ellie Girard

Hello everyone! As we are fast approaching spring, it's time to start thinking about signing up for our Nine Holer's Golf season! I don't know about you, but this writer can't wait to get started, so...

Here are a few things you need to know. The Fee of \$45.00 is still the same, and the entry form can be picked up at the Pro Shop. Fill it out and include with it your cash or check made out to Bent Tree Niners. Feel free to leave your information there in the Pro Shop to the attention of Joanne Gracey, our Treasurer. One more thing, if you haven't yet paid your annual handicap fee, that can be paid to your Pro, Patrick Higgins.

Now for the fun stuff! Our opening Breakfast and business meeting will be held on March 28th. Members will receive an email at a later date about the time. Opening of the season will be April 4th at 9:30 a.m.

We're always looking for new members to join in the fun, and it really is an enjoyable group of ladies. The lunchtime following golf is always a big part of the day's enjoyment. So COME! Enjoy the game of golf with us!

The first meeting has already been held by our officers as pictured here, planning for a great year of golf: Joanne Gracey, Wendy Kaplan, Diane McMullen, Debbie Ford, Donna Stapleton, Michele Shaeffer.

See you at the Breakfast meeting!



# From the Golf Pro

By Patrick Higgins

The Icebreaker tournament was the first event of the 2024 season. It was a balmy 32 degrees when the players teed off and it warmed up to 36 degrees by the time they came in (Some players elected to stay out longer for some reason!).

Lynn Manni & Theresa Shattock took top honors in the Ladies Flight.

Brad King & Cooper Smith took home the hardware for Low Gross.

In Flight 1: Barry Foy & Butch Goldi won 1st Net with Pete Ashley & Mark Christensen coming in 2nd place.

In Flight 2: Matt Kelly & Mark Widlowski took home first place with Brad Bledsoe & Jim Carlsen coming in 2nd Place.



Our 2024 Junior Golf Camp schedule is ready for the summer. We are offering 5 camps over June & July. This is a great way to introduce your kids or grandkids to golf in a fun and friendly environment. Instruction will be lead by the Head Golf Professional (Patrick Higgins) and the kids will get to enjoy some quality time on the golf course to learn basic etiquette and the foundations of the game.



## 2024 Bent Tree Junior Golf Camps

Dates: June 3rd, 4th & 5th

June 25th, 26th & 27th

July 10th, 11th & 12th

July 17th, 18th & 19th

July 24th, 25th & 26th

Ages 6-14 10am-2pm

Price: \$250 per child, includes instruction, refreshments & prizes

- Action-packed camps include hands-on instruction led by certified PGA Professionals.
- Signature PGA camp curriculum focuses on developing golf skills (full swing, short game, rules and etiquette) while keeping the experience fun and engaging (games and activities).
- A fun, safe and educational environment designed with your child's wellbeing in mind.
- Playdays consisting of 3, 6 and 9 holes of golf.

We will also be hosting a PGA Junior Golf League again this summer. All information and registration details can be found on [www.pgajrleague.com](http://www.pgajrleague.com) This is a 3 month golf program that kicks off in April and runs through June, with some end of season activities in July before the kids go back to school. This is an emphasis on fun and family. Kids do not have to be experienced with golf to join, but they will learn a lot throughout the season and make a lot of memories and new friends on the course.



Can't wait for the warmer weather to kick into gear and have another fun season at Bent Tree.

See you all soon!

# Ladies 18 Holers News

Of all sports, golf has the most unusual set of rules, such as knowing the differences between yellow stakes, red stakes or white, and many golfers grow confused on what the USGA rules of golf truly are. On our travels this summer, my husband, Brian, and I came across a set of “rule changes for seniors” at a golf course in Michigan.

## Rule Changes in Effect for Senior Golfers age 70+:

**Rule 1.a.5** – A ball sliced or hooked into the Rough shall be lifted and placed on the Fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled into the Rough with no penalty. The senior player should not be penalized for tall grass which groundkeepers failed to mow.

**Rule 2.d.6(B)** – A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed NOT to have hit the tree. This is simply bad luck and luck has no place in a scientific game. The senior player must estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree and play the ball from there.

**Rule 3.b.3(G)** – There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course and will eventually be found and pocketed by someone else, thereby making it a stolen ball. The senior player is not to compound the felony by charging himself with a penalty.

**Rule 4.c.7(H)** – If a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The Law of Gravity supersedes the Rules of Golf.

**Rule 5.e.4(U)** – Putts that stop close enough to the cup that they could be blown in, may be blown in. This does not apply to balls more than three inches from the Hole. No one wants to make a mockery of the game.

**Rule 6.a.9(K)** – There is no penalty for so-called “out of bounds”. If penny-pinching golf course owners bought sufficient land, this would not occur. The senior player deserves an apology, not a penalty.

**Rule 7.g.15(Z)** – There is no penalty for a ball in a water hazard, as golf balls should float. Senior players should not be penalized for any shortcomings of the manufacturers.

**Rule 8.k.9(S)** – Advertisements claim that golf scores can be improved by purchasing new golf equipment. Since this is financially impractical for many senior players, one-half stroke per hole may be subtracted for using old equipment.

**Rule 9.k.34(A)** – If a tree is between the ball and the hole, and the tree is deemed to be younger than the player, then the ball can be moved without penalty. This is so because this is simply a question of timing, when the player was younger, the tree was not there so the player is being penalized because of his age.

## Golf is ...above all ... a game of integrity.

To learn the real USGA rules of golf, ask our golf professional, Patrick Higgins, or better yet, come join one of our golf associations – MGA, Ladies 9 holers, or the Ladies 18 holers. The season starts this month, so check in the Pro Shop for more info. There’s no better way to learn the game, improve your score, and make new Bent Tree friends.

See you on the links.

## 2024 Bent Tree Directory

by Mike Chambers

Production and distribution of the 2024 printed Bent Tree Directory proved to be a collaborative effort involving many dedicated Bent Tree volunteers who gave unselfishly of themselves to make this project a huge success.

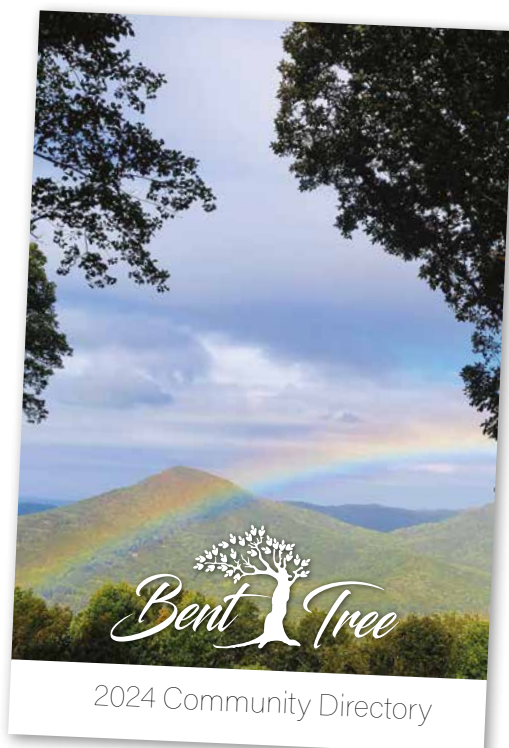
Special thanks go out to Bent Tree residents Arty Allen, Bill McNulty, Brad King, David and Kim Stewart, Jim White, Johnny Jameson, Leah McCallister, Russ and Muzette Randall, Patrick McMorrow, Danny Day, and Kerry Chambers as well as Admin staff Claire Elliott, Deborah Guffey, and Taree Darby for all assistance each provided.

The printed directory publication is a yearly volunteer-led initiative of the Bent Tree

Activities Committee (BTAC). There are no costs incurred by Bent Tree residents and each resident listing in the directory receives one free copy.

A photograph by Karen Parker was selected for the 2024 directory cover through a majority vote of the BTAC Executive Committee. Other contributing photographers included Dominique Ray, Peggi Hunt, Katina Jones, and Sheila Thompson.

If you haven’t received your copy of this year’s directory, you may pick one up at Admin during regular business hours. Questions and comments may be directed to [btacdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:btacdirectory@gmail.com).



# Stables Spring Fling Clean Up

Mark your calendar. The barn could use a thorough cleaning from top to bottom, and we can use YOUR help.

When is this fun community event? Saturday April 13 from 10AM to 1PM

## Who do we need to work?

Volunteers who are willing and able. In fact, grab your friends or come alone, we will be here. And you can come for one hour or all four. That is your choice. We need all adults and teens who are willing to get dirty, have camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment for contributing to this worthy safety event.

## What are we doing?

Using leaf blowers to clean the loft (se we need a blower brigade). This is the first task. Must be able to climb to loft and competently use a power blower. These volunteers should be there by 9:45.

Pressure wash saddle pads (oh yeah, this will require strength and humor)

Store laundered winter blankets, broom clean stalls & doors, wipe down fans, sweep aisle stall mats, rake barn aisle, clean bathrooms, clean classroom, clean kitchen, leather condition saddles and tack. (these volunteers can have all types of skills, bur being able to stand on your feet for 15 minutes is required).

## What should you wear?

Wear clothes you are fine with getting dirty. We suggest the following: a hat, closed toed shoes or boots, gloves (rubber or garden), mask (if you are blowing) protective eye wear (if you are blowing), bandana, neck gaiter.

## What can you bring?

We're glad you asked. Since this is such a huge job, we don't have enough of the following:

- Brooms
- Leaf blowers
- Pressure washer
- Bleach
- Rags
- Sponges
- Scrub brushes
- And snacks for all the volunteers



# Bent Tree Stables Events

## Join us at the Stable for events

March 1 New pricing

March 17 Specialty Ride 3-6 hour ride  
seasoned riders only

March 23 Medieval Banquet

March 30 Word search coupon expires

April 13 Spring Barn Clean 10AM - 1PM  
volunteers needed

April 20 Specialty Ride 3-6 hour ride  
experienced riders only

May 11 Specialty Ride 3-6 hour ride  
advanced riders only

June 10-14 Youth Summer Camp

June 17-21 Youth Summer Camp

July 1-3 Youth Fest trail and arena rides

July 4 City of Jasper Parade

July 8-12 Youth Summer Camp

July 15-19 Youth Summer Camp

September 14 Fall Barn Clean 10AM -1PM

October 26 Shindig and Trunk or Treat

*Events are subject to change. Please call to confirm.*

**For more information call (706) 692-6322**  
**<https://bent-tree.com/Amenities/Stables>**

What can you donate if you cannot attend and still want to help?  
See the above list.

If you don't want to work, but want to watch (or better yet supervise and tell others what to do), feel free to come on down too.

We're like Motel 6. We will leave the light on for you. We hope to see you and your band of buddies. For questions or to register as a volunteer please call (706) 692-6322. See you at the barn!

# Finding Home: “New Eyes Challenge” 2024

By Chris Rumble

*“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.”*

— Henry David Thoreau

Cathy and I are excited to present the Second Annual Bent Tree Realty “New Eyes Challenge!”

I love this challenge so much because it flows out of one of the pillars of my philosophy of living. I am convinced that the number one way to keep your life interesting and exhilarating is to continually do that which you have never done.

Every time you go through a new, unopened door, you find many more doors on the other side, doors that would have gone otherwise undiscovered and they lead to an infinite amount of unpredictable possibilities.

Mind you, the new thing you try doesn’t have to be a big, schedule-altering deal. For example, last year the new thing Cathy and I did was simply going to the pool every chance we got.

Over the previous 19 years, we had enjoyed our pool less than ten times, which made no sense at all, since we love lounging at a pool while on vacation.

Adding going to pool to our lifestyle had many benefits:

- By treating ourselves to little vacations at the pool, we felt so much more relaxed (always a good thing!)
- Since we often find ourselves working from home, going to the pool helped us get away from work and just shut it down.
- Poolside naps are exponentially superior to any other kind of nap. By the way, our skills in this area are growing at such an impressive rate, we have petitioned the International Olympic Committee asking to them to pool-side napping to the sanctioned events for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. Our bags are packed and hopes are high!
- The best part, hands down, was making new “pool friends” who have made us think, laugh and enjoy this life all the more.

All of these wonderful blessings came our way simply by going to the pool.

I wonder what blessings are waiting for you?

Get out there! Take the leap!

Find something new to explore in the amazing community of Bent Tree, dive in and then tell us all about it!

**So, here are the particulars for our Second Annual “New Eyes Challenge:”**

1. Take the spring and summer to discover and dive into something new in Bent Tree! You won’t regret it and your life will be enhanced!

2. Take photographic evidence of your experience.

3. Write a paragraph or two describing the blessings you received from your new adventure.

4. Email the photos and paragraph to [chrisrumble@gmail.com](mailto:chrisrumble@gmail.com).

5. Our panel of esteemed judges will select first, second and third place entries.

6. Winners will be announced and prizes will be distributed in mid-September!

**First Place: \$50 Gift Certificate to the Tavern**

**Second Place: \$30 Gift Certificate to the Tavern**

**Third Place: \$20 Gift Certificate to the Tavern**

*“The only true voyage of discovery would be not to visit strange lands but to possess other eyes.”*

— Marcel Proust

Bent Tree Realty

Ready to Listen. Ready to Serve.

Call Cathy at 770-617-8426, Chris at 770-617-8381 or our office at 770-893-2629, ext 103

***Let’s get started on something amazing!***





# Summer HORSE CAMP

**CHILDREN AGES 6-13**

**CHOOSE FROM ONE OR MORE CAMP SESSIONS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JUNE 10 - 14 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JULY 8 - 12  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JUNE 17 - 21 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JULY 15 - 19 |

**HOURS:** 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM. ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR EARLY DROP-OFF AND/OR LATE PICK-UP.

**FOCUS:** KIDS SPEND THE FIRST HALF OF THE DAY LEARNING HOW TO CARE FOR, GROOM, TACK AND RIDE HORSES. EMPHASIS IS ON LEARNING TO RIDE OR IMPROVING YOUR RIDING SKILLS. OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ARTS AND CRAFTS, GAMES, SWIMMING AND COOLING OFF AT THE BEACH.

**COST PER CHILD:** \$550 FOR 1 WEEK. \$1000 FOR 2 WEEKS. \$1800 FOR 4 WEEKS

**DEPOSIT PER CHILD:** \$100 (FULLY REFUNDABLE UNTIL MAY 15TH FOR JUNE CAMPS UNTIL JUNE 15TH FOR JULY CAMPS)

**REGISTRATION FORM:** DOWNLOAD FROM: BENT-TREE.COM/AMENITIES/STABLES/SUMMER\_CAMPS  
**BAIANCE DUE:** PAYMENT IN FULL DUE TWO WEEKS BEFORE START OF CAMP DATE

**REFUNDS:** FOR MEDICAL OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE, BAIANCE DUE WILL BE FULLY REFUNDABLE

**DISCLAIMER:** CAMPS THAT DO NOT MEET A MINIMUM PARTICIPATION LEVEL OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON MAY BE CANCELLED WITH AN OPTION TO PICK ANOTHER CAMP DATE OR BE FULLY REFUNDED.

**PAYMENTS:** MAKE CHECKS OUT TO BENT TREE STABLES, 2225 TAMARACK DR #20092, JASPER, GA 30143

**FOR QUESTIONS  
PLEASE EMAIL: [BTSTABLES@ETCMAIL.COM](mailto:BTSTABLES@ETCMAIL.COM)  
OR CALL: 706-692-6322**



# Participate and Volunteer in Bent Tree Activities

By Dave Stewart, 2024 BTAC Chair



I'd like to invite you to be a part of Bent Tree Activities. This year is going to be another fun year for activities here in our community. We have all the familiar activities plus a couple of new ones that include our Seniors' Programs. Our activities are here for you to be a part of your community and meet new friends with common interests. With so many opportunities, everyone in Bent Tree should find a way to be an active participant in this wonderful community.

Volunteers are the heart of this committee, and we are constantly seeking helpers to put on all of these extraordinary events. From stage setup to helpers with Youth Fest and everything in between, we need your talents to help make the activities run smoothly. You will likely see "Volunteers Needed" on the Friday News and social media often during the year. We would welcome and appreciate all who are willing to volunteer for an hour, a day, or the year. As we increase the number of social programs offered during the year, we know that new volunteers will be essential. If you would like volunteer, please contact me anytime at: [benttreeactivities@gmail.com](mailto:benttreeactivities@gmail.com). Enter "Volunteer" in the subject line and we will include you in

periodic emails giving you advance reminders of upcoming events that interest you as well as volunteer opportunities. You may not know in advance when you would be available to attend and participate in planning meetings, but you can jump in as you are able.

Everyone is welcome to attend our quarterly committee meetings in February, April, September, and November at 6:00 in the Club Tamarack Recreation Room to see what events are coming up and provide any comment or to volunteer. The committee has vacancies that need to be filled and we would love to have you be a part of our team. We have an energetic group who will guide you in whatever tasks are necessary.

Our goal is to provide activities for all residents of Bent Tree. You are welcome to contact me directly with suggestions or questions: [dstewartx4@gmail.com](mailto:dstewartx4@gmail.com)

## Bent Tree Activities Committee Sub-Committees and Events

| Families & Children – Kim Stahlman, Liaison           |                  | Community Service - Kim Stewart, Liaison                   |                             |
|---|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Children's Activities</b>                          |                  | Senior Programs  | Patrick McMorrow            |
| Easter Egg Hunt                                       | NEED LEADER      | Newcomers  | Kim Stewart                 |
| Summer Events   | NEED LEADER      | Library  | Marlin Ferell/Mary Lou Weng |
| Trunk or Treat  | NEED LEADER      | Monday Night Bible Study                                   | Pattie Jones                |
| Christmas Party                                       | NEED LEADER      | Men's Bible Study  | Bryan George                |
| Youth Fest  | Susan Kahn       | Women's Bible study  | Dale Newman                 |
| <b>Family Activities</b>                              |                  | <b>Arts Council - Andy Kidd, Liaison</b>                   |                             |
| Pool Party  | NEED LEADER      | Band Jam Group   | John Johnson                |
| Beach Party   | NEED LEADER      | Bent Tree Strings  | Marlin Ferell               |
| <b>Social Programs - Sheila Hedgpeth, Liaison</b>     |                  | Quarterly Dancer Party                                     | Mary Ada Kidd               |
| Suppers Around the Tree                               | Pamela Henderson | Knit Wits  | Carol Kopetski              |
| Monday Night Picnics                                  | Denis Foerst     | Guitar Lessons   | Randy White                 |
| Beach & Deck Music                                    | Tim Miller       | Cricut Crafts & More                                       | Mary Davis                  |
| Last Blast of Summer                                  | Margie Robinson  | Dinner Theater   | Reid Conrad                 |
| Winter Ball   | NEED LEADER      | Arts Events  | Andy Kidd                   |
| Special Events  | CHAIR Needed     | <b>Special Interests/Live &amp; Learn - Liaison Needed</b> |                             |
| Spring Fling  | Laura Chambers   | Bocce Ball   | Rick Patterson              |
| Holiday Party   | NEED LEADER      | Bridge   | Debbie Ford                 |
| <b>Fundraising Events</b>                             |                  | Bunco  | Chair Needed                |
| Fall Festival   | NEED LEADER      | Bookworms  | Maureen Huntington          |
| Ticket Sales   Food   Bake Sale   Silent Auction      |                  | Pilates  | Karen Rooker                |
| Chili Cook-off   Football   Games   Scarecrow Contest |                  | Qi Gong  | Liisa Pasila                |
|   |                  | Water Aerobics   | Chair Pending               |

SUNDAY SERVICE  
**11:00 AM**



**WOMEN'S  
BIBLE STUDY**

TUESDAY 10:45 AM



**DINNER CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY**  
WEDNESDAY 6:00PM



**BIBLE LEARNING  
CENTER**

AGES 4-11

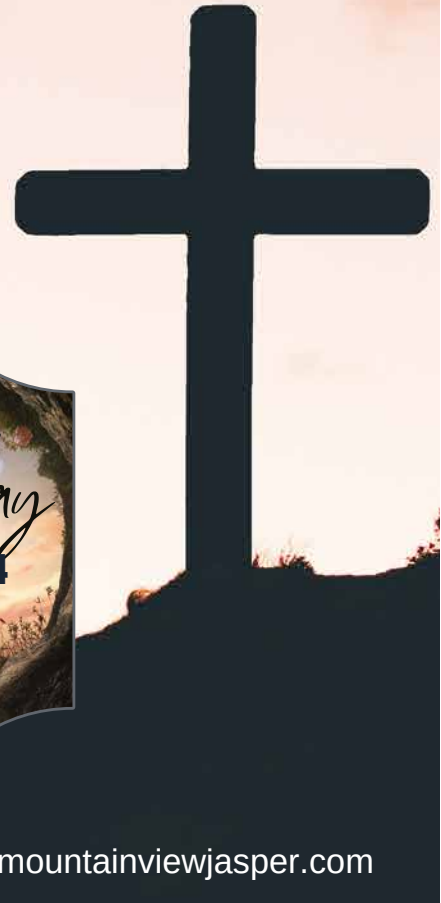
TUESDAY 4:30-5:30 PM

SUNDAY 9:30- 10:45 AM



**Mountain View  
Community Church**

Join us for worship and praise



For more information: [mountainviewjasper.com](http://mountainviewjasper.com)

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# BTAC Arts Council Events

by Andy Kidd

The Arts Council was formed in mid 2022. It is intended to provide a home for all of the arts in Bent Tree. The mission of the Arts Council is to promote the literary arts, visual arts, theatre arts, instrumental and vocal arts in Bent Tree. This group has taken on a life of its own introducing new opportunities to experience new types of arts presented by our own artists in various venues. We expect this group to grow and to enhance the lives of all Bent Tree residents as it begins to achieve its goals. Some of the planned arts events for the coming year are listed below.

## Bent Tree Dance Party

Mary Ada Kidd, Mamekidd1@gmail.com,  
386-212-4277

Bent Tree Dance Parties are held quarterly in the Rec Room of Club Tamarack with each event featuring basic instruction of different dance styles as well as “open” dance times. Everyone is invited to participate and there is no dance experience needed. You are welcome, but not required, to bring an appetizer or dessert for sharing. Bottled water, soft drinks and paper plates/forks etc will be provided. The cost for each dance event will be between \$5 - \$10 dollars per person, depending on the instructors for each musical style. The dance parties are held from 6:00-9:00 PM. Please be on the look-out in Friday News and on the Mail Center Info Boards for updates on the dance schedule. Reservations for the quarterly dance parties can be made at the front desk of the administration. The dance dates for 2024 are:

Saturday, February 10  
Valentines Dance Party  
(Texas Two Step and Waltz Instruction)

Friday, May 3  
Cinco De Mayo Dance Party  
(Salsa Instruction)

Friday, August 2  
Summer Dance Party  
(Swing, and Disco Instruction)

## Theater Events and Dinner Theater

Reid Conrad, RRConrad55@gmail.com,  
386-366-1902

Each year, Dinner Theatre events will take place at Club Tamarack. The dinner theatre shows will showcase many of our Bent Tree actors. Each show will have a different theme and twist. The 2024 show, slated for March 23 will be a Medieval Banquet. The King and Queens’ “Clans” will gather for a medieval style meal at Club Tamarack and will enjoy a night of music and entertainment! Many surprises will take place during this authentic reenactment of a Dark Ages banquet! Please be on the look-out in Friday News and on the Mail Center Info Boards for updates on upcoming theatrical events.

On Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9th and 10th another theatrical event will take place in the Club Tamarack Dining room. The play takes place in a restaurant on the New Jersey shore. The restaurant, “The Golden Carousel”, is small but elegant. The owners are worried about having to repay the money they borrowed to convert the townhouse into a restaurant. The evening’s guests are three groups, each with their own eccentricities and problems. “The Art Of Dining” is a play by Tina Howe which premiered Off-Broadway in 1979. The play showcases the bizarre relationships three groups of characters have with food. All the guests will enjoy a fine dining experience, while watching the show unfold in the same dining room! “The Art of Dining” will feature Bent Tree residents and will be directed by Bent Tree resident Reid Conrad.

## Poetry Slams

Each year, Bent Tree residents gather in the fireside lounge for a Sunday afternoon of poetry and improv. Anyone is welcome to bring a poem, compose a poem, read lyrics from a touching song and enjoy the literary realm of poetry and verse. This is a free event and all are welcome to join the fun. The 2024 poetry slam event is slated for Sunday, April 14 at 2:00pm in the

Fireside Lounge of Club Tamarack. Please be on the look-out in Friday News and on the Mail Center Info Boards for updates on upcoming literary events.

## Bent Tree Strings – Marlin Ferrell

Bent Tree Strings is a mountain dulcimer play group that meets to play in ensemble, to share music, and to learn more about how to play. They meet on Thursday afternoons from 2pm-3:30pm in the Fireside Lounge. The group has performed at various assisted living locations in the area as well as area churches. They provide an entertaining Christmas Concert in early December at the Fireside Lounge.

## Book Worms – Gary Baker

The Bent Tree Book Club meets on the third Monday of each month at the Cottage. This group of residents have a love for the written word and enjoy sharing the books they have read.

## Knit Wits – Carol Kopetski

The Knit Wits meet on Tuesdays at 10am in the Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack. They are interested in all kinds of needlecraft including knitting, quilting, and crocheting. Their weekly meetings are generally attended by 6-10 people.



# ARTS COUNCIL

## -Sponsored by BTAC-

### Quarterly Dance Events

Rec Room at Club Tamarack

**Saturday, Feb. 10** Valentines Dance Party  
(Texas Two Step and Waltz Instruction)

**Friday, May 3** Cinco De Mayo Dance Party  
(Salsa Instruction)

**Friday, Aug 2** Summer Dance Party  
(Swing, and Disco Instruction)  
Fall Dance Party - TBA

**6:00-9:00 PM**

Everyone is invited to participate and there is no dance experience needed. You are welcome, but not required, to bring an appetizer or dessert for sharing.

The cost for each dance event will be between \$5 -\$15 dollars per person, depending on the instructors for each musical style.

For more information: Mary Ada Kidd at [Mamekidd1@gmail.com](mailto:Mamekidd1@gmail.com)  
386-212-4277

### Theatrical & Arts Events

#### **Dinner Theater**

Dining Room at Club Tamarack

**March 23 - Medieval Banquet**

**Aug. 9 & 10 - "The Art Of Dining"**

The dinner theatre shows will showcase many of our Bent Tree actors. Each show will have a different theme and twist. Please be on the look-out in *Friday News*, monthly *echos* and on bulletin boards for updates on upcoming theatrical events  
Reid Conrad at [RRConrad55@gmail.com](mailto:RRConrad55@gmail.com)  
386-366-1902

#### **Poetry Slam**

Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack

**Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 pm**

Bring your own poetry or read a favorite poem at this intimate setting. We invite all residents and friends to come to the open mic and recite a literary prose for all to enjoy.  
No experience necessary, all ages are welcomed.  
Contact Andy Kidd at [andrewkidd58@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkidd58@gmail.com)

### Band Jam

The first Jam of 2024 to be announced

Band Jam is an open program that meets at least three times a year for the purpose of playing rock and roll. Most of us put away our dreams of being a rock star along with our guitars or drumsticks when we were young. Jam band helps you dust that dream off and join with other rusty old cranks that still want to turn up the amps and play.

Contact John A Johnson (423)261-4952 or [jajcoach@gmail.com](mailto:jajcoach@gmail.com)

### Bent Tree Strings

Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack

**Thursdays from 2:00pm until 3:30pm**

The mountain dulcimer ensemble meets tolerant and perform traditional Appalachian dulcimer folk music. The mission of the ensemble is to perform standard repertoire for their own enjoyment, as well as performing in various venues throughout the calendar year. If you would like to learn more about how to play the dulcimer, come visit us! The group will gladly help a new person get started and guide them as they gain confidence to be a full part of the musical ensemble.

For more information contact Marlin Ferrell at [mferrell777@earthlink.net](mailto:mferrell777@earthlink.net)

### Guitar Instructions

Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack

**Wednesdays 5:30 and or 6:30 PM**

Beginning guitar lessons are the perfect opportunity to discover the joy of playing the beautiful instrument. Bent Tree resident, Randy White offers individuals or small group lessons.

For more information contact Randy White at 770-608-0843

### Cricut Crafts & More

Rec Room at Club Tamarack

**First Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm**

This crafty group focuses on how to use a Circuit machine and design space with a monthly projects that teaches different skills. The group also works on various seasonal crafts throughout the year.

Contact: Mary Davis at [mcdavis@live.com](mailto:mcdavis@live.com) 404- 213-2196

# Arts Council Presents a Medieval Banquet

by Reid Conrad

A wonderful and entertaining event awaits you this month on Saturday, March 23, as the BTAC Arts Council presents a Medieval Banquet! This festive dinner and entertainment will take place in the Club Tamarack Rec Room (downstairs) with cocktails and music at 5:30pm and dinner at 6pm. Reservations and payment can be made at the front desk of Administration with Clare or Heather.

All the guests will be a part of this medieval times event. We encourage you to participate by wearing the appropriate attire of the era. Come as a knight, a princess, a peasant, a huntress, a viking, a wench, or any other character from the broad period of the Middle Ages. The banquet will honor our kingdom of "Bentreevia" and seek unification of our clans! The dress could be as simple or complex as you would require.

amazon.com has amazing supply of inexpensive costumes;

halloweencostumes.com is another site that you could explore.

The participants will feast on a traditional three-course medieval meal to rival any banquet of the Dark Ages. In keeping with the historical customs of the times, we will draw upon rustic dining cutlery, dinnerware and decor. Entertainment will feature traditional recorder motets and madrigals, vocalists, brass fanfares and more. Several entertainment surprises will delight you and your guests during the evening.

Reservations for the Medieval Banquet will be on sale when this article goes to press. When reserving your spot, a decision must be made on which Clan you will represent: the Lions of Griffeth (colors - blue yellow, red, pink, orange, gold) or the Pendley Wyverns (colors - purple, black, white, green, brown, silver).

We look forward to having you join us in fine food and drink, and an evening of entertainment!



**NO  
EXPERIENCE  
NEEDED**

## Join the "Bent Tree Strings" The Dulicimers

WE REHEARSE EVERY THURSDAY FROM  
2:00 - 4:00  
CLUB TAMARACK - FIRESIDE LOUNGE

CALL MARLIN FERRELL FOR MORE INFO:  
706-301-9395-  
MFERRELL777@EARTHLINK.NET



Representatives of Bent Tree Community, Inc. (BTCL) may photograph on our Common Property. By participating in BTCL sponsored events, you consent to the ownership and use thereof unless and until you provide written notice otherwise.



## BTAC GUITAR INSTRUCTION

Our beginning guitar lessons are the perfect opportunity to discover the joy of playing this beautiful instrument. Bent Tree Resident, Randy White will be teaching on Wednesday evenings in the Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack!

**Wednesdays 5:30pm or 6:30pm**  
**1 hour lesson each \$6.00**  
**Club Tamarack Fireside Lounge**  
**Individual or small group**

**Contact:**  
**Randy White**  
**770 -608-0843**



# Community Service

-Sponsored by BTAC-

## Newcomers

The team is planning three events this year to welcome new families to our slice of paradise. Each event will coincide with other Social Programs to allow the community to participate in welcoming our new neighbors:

**Friday March 15th** hosted by Suppers Around the Tree

**Monday June 10th** at Monday Night Picnics

**Friday September 13th** at Sunset Deck Music

Contact Kim Stewart: [newatbenttree@gmail.com](mailto:newatbenttree@gmail.com)

## Senior Programs

Senior Programs endeavors to connect senior residents, or those residents living alone, with activities that better reflect their interests and lifestyle. While all residents are welcome to attend, the programs are geared toward senior adults. Examples of the events presently scheduled are BINGO, Movie Matinees, Valentine Tea, Home and Garden tours.

Contact Patrick McMorrow: [pmcmorrow26@gmail.com](mailto:pmcmorrow26@gmail.com)

## Women's Bible Study

Rec Room at Club Tamarack

**Friday mornings from 9:00 am to 10:30 am**

This women's group provides opportunities for Scripture based studies done in 6-7 week sessions. A time of sharing and prayer is an integral part of each meeting. Purchase of study materials is optional. During the summer months meetings are less formal and begin at 10:00.

Contact Dale Newman 678-438-0971 or [dalenew14@gmail.com](mailto:dalenew14@gmail.com)

## Monday Night Bible Study

Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack

**Monday evenings at 6:30 pm**

Building community through bible learning, application and fellowship. This group is open to men, women, singles, couples and the curious. We also have a time for sharing and prayer.

Contact David and Pattie Jones, [dpjones\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:dpjones_2000@yahoo.com)  
803-795-9566.

## Men's Bible Study

The Cottage

**Thursday Mornings at 9:00 am**

This men's group focuses on a non-denominational study of God's word. Studies exist of both book- to-book study and topical study. Time is spent sharing the Word and discussing where one can apply it to their lives. All men are welcome!

Contact Bryan George (931) 982-0978 [begee111@gmail.com](mailto:begee111@gmail.com)

## Community Directory

The Bent Tree Community Directory is prepared each year and provided by Our Front Porch. The directory includes property owner contact information by last name and street name. It also serves as a guide to the community and the area featuring extensive information and resources such as a community map and hiking trails. Property owners are asked to review their previously submitted directory listings each fall and submit any changes or deletions. Inclusion in the directory is strictly voluntary.

Contact Mike Chambers, [btacdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:btacdirectory@gmail.com)

## Library

Bent Tree Library at the Cottage

**Open every day from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm**

The Library is housed in the Cottage located behind the Recycling Center, near the front gate. Borrow books and return at your leisure.

We accept book donations. Please do not donate books with a copyright date earlier than 2014. Please check your copyright date prior to donation. We always have room for new volunteers.

Contact Marlin Ferrell at [mferrell777@earthlink.net](mailto:mferrell777@earthlink.net)

Or Mary Lou Weng at [wengml@etcmail.com](mailto:wengml@etcmail.com)



# Senior Activities Committee Update

By Patrick McMorrow

The Senior Activities Committee kicked off its first event on January 11th with BINGO at Club Tamarack. The event was a big success with 30 residents participating. Drinks and snacks were served by our wonderful volunteers. Also, fun gift bags were given out to each game winner. A special thanks goes out to Chef Michael for providing 4 vouchers for a free lunch entrée or dinner appetizer. Bob Coleman stepped up big and provided a free pickleball lesson for each winner. There was a ton of excitement shared by the participants and many said that they used to play BINGO regularly many years ago and are looking forward to playing BINGO again.



As you may know, we hosted a Valentine's Day Tea Party at The Tavern on February 14th, which was also a huge success!

So, what are Senior Activities and why are these events just for Seniors? We have received several inquiries regarding this question.

First off, I would like everyone to know that ALL Senior Activities are open to ALL Residents. However, our goal is to reach those residents 70+. Many of these residents don't have much social interaction in the community and studies have proven that social activities and relationships are key contributors to everyone's quality of life. There are numerous reasons why our older residents have limited social interaction. Many times, it's a health issue or loss of a spouse. Other times it is their inability to drive or drive at night. For this reason, all events are scheduled in the afternoons. Many of us know residents that would benefit from these activities. Please reach out to those neighbors or friends and invite them. Even better invite and offer to drive them to an event you believe they would enjoy.

## What's Next?

Our next event is a St. Patrick's themed movie matinee of *The Quiet Man* scheduled for 2pm on March 14th at Club Tamarack. Get cozy, bring a blanket and a snack to enjoy! This is a classic love story starring the beautiful Maureen O'Hara and the rugged John Wayne. He is retired American boxer who returns to the village of his birth in 1920s Ireland, where he falls for a spirited redhead, whose brother is contemptuous of their union. There are some classic lines in this blockbuster!



Do you have an IRISH joke, poem or saying you would like to share? We would love for you to share it with us on the 14th! Come prepared to share and let's have a fun afternoon! Hope to see you there! SLAINTE!

Then in April, BINGO is coming back, with the fun starting at 2pm on April 3rd at Club Tamarack. Our May event is scheduled for May 21st and will be an outing to Gibbs Gardens. I would encourage folks to carpool. We are planning to meet at the admin parking lot at 1pm. More details to follow regarding BINGO and Gibbs Gardens events. Check Friday News and bulletin boards!

The plan is to schedule events monthly. If you have any ideas on future events or would like to volunteer, please contact Patrick McMorrow at 770-710-1133.

**BENT TREE  
NEWCOMERS**

**SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
DAY  
WELCOME EVENT**

Hosted by Suppers Around the Tree

Watch for your invitation via email.  
RSVP Requested!

**March 15th, 5:00 – 7:00**  
**Fireside Lounge**

For more information  
contact: [newatbenttree@gmail.com](mailto:newatbenttree@gmail.com)

**Bent Tree Activities Committee**

Representatives of Bent Tree Community, Inc. 2023 may photograph on our Common Property. By participating in BTCI sponsored events, you consent to the membership and use thereof unless and until you provide written notice otherwise.

# FAMILIES & CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

-Sponsored by BTAC-

## Events

**Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday March 30th @ Beach**

**Family Pool Party – Sunday June 9 @ Upper Pool**

**Youth Fest – 1st week of July**

**Last Blast of Summer – Sat. August 24th @ Beach**

**Shindig - Last Saturday of October @ Stables**

**Trunk or Treat - Thursday October 31st**

**Children's Christmas – Saturday Dec 14th @ Club Tamarack**

## Opportunities/Activities

Many more in the planning stages.

Dates and More Information TBA

Watch the echo, Friday News and Bulletin Boards

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to assist with all. Come be a part of the Family and Children's Group. Let's bring our children and families together.

Contact: Kim Stahlman –

[kimberlynicolestahlman@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlynicolestahlman@gmail.com)

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY MARCH 30TH  
1-3 @ BEACH  
EGG HUNT  
BOUNCE HOUSE  
FACE PAINTING

IN CASE OF RAIN IT WILL BE AT CLUB TAMARACK  
\*\*WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES



BTAC SPONSORED  
ACTIVITY ANY QUESTIONS  
REACH OUT TO KIM  
STAHLMAN 678 858 5073

Lake & Wildlife Invites

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DONATIONS

MONDAYS

10:30 - 11:30 AM

FEB. 26 - APR. 8

Admin. parking lot

Accepting donations of home decor, kitchen ware & small appliances, Bent Tree logo & sportswear, accessories, books, toys & games, sporting goods, art, and small furniture pieces

DONATIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED AT CLUB TAMARACK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MARCH & APRIL L&W PARTNERS MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE: OUTDATED, TORN, STAINED AND OVERLY USED ITEMS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED

*Thank you!*

# One Man's Opinion

By Joe Fore, cc (certified codger)

WOW! FANTASTIC! HUMBLING! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

My 92nd Birthday wasn't exactly a surprise, I have one every year, you know. On top of that, Mila my Bodyguard, was making unmonitored phone calls, which gave me reason to think something was afoot. BUT - - WHAT TOOK PLACE HAS MADE THIS OLD COOT ASTOUNDED, VERY MUCH SURPRISED AND TOTALLY HUMBLLED! !

First, she puts me in the car, says "No questions now. Just look surprised." Down the mountain we go to the library. We walk in, maybe a dozen or so friends there, cakes, libations, balloons, etc and a big "Surprise!" from all present! What no one bothered to tell me was the surprise took place over the next two hours! Rick Patterson, my special friend, Kevin O'Brien, dear friend, Mila, my bodyguard, chauffeur, bosses me around companion, Jerry Sinclair, dear friend, and others plotted to make this day outstanding. Friends and neighbors by the score poured in the door, over one hundred was the count, bringing cards, gifts, and LOVE to mark my milestone, by far the most incredible and memorable so far. (Wonder what they're planning for my hundredth?). Now wait . . . it gets even better.

Mila had spread the word - - it's Joe's special day. We know a Wednesday mid-morning party makes for all sorts of conflicts, so when it's over by noon, Joe is going back home, and he will be there all afternoon and evening if you want to drop by. And so they did, again some 50 to 75 special friends and neighbors came by. Incredible! I knew many of my neighbors were good friends, but the love and friendship shared that day is one of the highlights of my long life. I had no inkling that so many felt that way is indeed humbling!

Nita and I, when we moved here, said "We're not just a name on a property owners list, we are going to be involved." And so we were. Both of us were elected to our Board of Directors, Nita served as President, I had two separate terms. Nita and I chaired the Echo for several years, I served as co-chair of Lake and Wildlife with LeRoy Foster for three years, we served as co-chairs of the Bent Tree Travel Club for several years (had some memorable trips with many dear friends and neighbors). All sorts of Activities parties were planned, L&W parties, she loved to party, didn't really need a reason. She has told me several times that she was happier in Bent Tree than any other place she had lived. I sometimes wish she was still here so our new friends could know her. I am convinced when she was born, God was looking the other way and one of his Angels slipped out the Golden Gates. She came to Earth and lucky old Joe got her. If you look in the dictionary under "soul mates", you'll find our picture.

God called her back to active duty thirteen years ago, but I know where she is and that in God's own good time he will take me to her again.

God has also recognized that I need guidance here on this old globe. And Joe's incredible luck continues.. He sent me Mila to help me, to guide me, she drives me most places we go (including sometimes crazy), she is a gourmet chef, a nifty dresser, a marvelous friend and companion, all in all far more than I deserve. A DEEPLY LOVING THANK YOU TO THAT FABULOUS WOMAN!

A deep and Heartfelt "THANK YOU!" to all who came, to all who have phoned or stopped me to say Happy Birthday, it has been a magnificent highlight in my lifetime. I LOVE YOU ALL!!



**QI GONG and MEDITATION**

**in BENT TREE**

**AT CLUB TAMARACK REC-ROOM ON THURSDAYS 4:30 to 5:30pm**



Qi Gong (*chi gong*) means "Supreme Life Energy Cultivation". It is an ancient Oriental practice to enhance health, happiness and long life. Our class consists of four key elements:

- 1) Slow, easy and gentle movements
- 2) Breathing exercises
- 3) Focusing the mind on movements and breathing
- 4) Seated Meditation

Qi Gong helps to achieve and maintain general well-being, physical and mental balance, flexibility, sleep quality, lung capacity, blood circulation, brain function, pain management, peace of mind and much more. Our classes help speed recovery from accidents, surgeries and other physical or mental ailments. They also teach us to live mindfully in the here and now. Meditation is a simple seated meditation, Qi Gong is usually practiced standing up, but our members in wheel chairs are greatly benefiting from the seated practice. No special gear or fitness level required, just wear comfortable clothing.

Cost of class is \$5. We have a wonderful group, come give it a try for **FREE!**

**Classes are held by Bent Tree resident Liisa Pasila, a long-time practitioner and instructor. Call or text for more info: 561-236-2633**

This activity is sponsored by BTAC

# SPECIAL INTEREST/LIVE & LEARN

## -Sponsored by BTAC-

### Bocce Ball

Bocce Courts at the Beach

#### **Spring and Fall**

We have two league seasons each year with approximately 30 teams divided into 4 divisions. Each team consists of two people. The season lasts 8 to 10 weeks with each team playing 8-10 games. Games last about 30 minutes. Season ending awards and BBQ dinner is provided.

\$10.00 team fee is required.

Bocce 101 is offered before each season to refresh and learn rules of play. Sign up period will be posted in Friday news and posted on communication boards.

Contact Rick Patterson at [peepa3352@gmail.com](mailto:peepa3352@gmail.com).

### Bookworms

The Cottage

#### **3rd Monday of the month at 10:30 am**

Men, women, guests, kindle readers, and traditional book lovers! All are invited. People share their love, likes and dislikes of the books they have read throughout the month.

Contact Maureen Huntington at 770-893-3552 [btreesprit@etcmail.com](mailto:btreesprit@etcmail.com)

### KnitWits Group

Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack

#### **Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**

If you like to knit, quilt, crochet, or do any other types of needle crafts, KnitWits is for you. If you are just learning or having difficulty with a project, come to Knitwits where there will probably be someone to help!

Contact: Carol Kopetsky at [kopetskicarol@gmail.com](mailto:kopetskicarol@gmail.com)

### Bunco

Dining Room at Club Tamarack

#### **3rd Thursday of each Month at 6:00 pm**

Play starts at 6:30. Bunco is played at Tables of 4. All are welcome but RSVP in advance is required. Bring \$5 for the pot, and an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share.

RSVP to: [btacbunco@gmail.com](mailto:btacbunco@gmail.com)

### Bridge

All levels from beginners to advanced! Ladies, mixed, and duplicate groups are available.

Contact DebbieFord at 770-490-3248 [abcford@gmail.com](mailto:abcford@gmail.com)

### Pilates

Rec Room at Club Tamarack

#### **Monday 11:30 Wednesday Classes at 9:30 & 11:30**

\$5/class

Instructor Karen Rooker is a certified Personal Trainer and a Certified Pilates Instructor with 30 years of experience

Contact Karen Rooker at 214-475-9722  
[Krooker2749@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Krooker2749@sbcglobal.net)

### Qi Gong

Rec Room at Club Tamarack

#### **Thursdays 4:30-5:30 pm**

\$5/class

Qi Gong (*chi gong*) is an ancient practice to promote and maintain optimum health. It consists of slow and easy movements, breathing techniques and mental focus.

It can be practiced seated or standing up..

Contact Instructor Liisa Pasila at 561-236-2633  
[liisapasila@yahoo.com](mailto:liisapasila@yahoo.com)

### Water Aerobics

Upper Pool

#### **Beginning in June - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am**

\$2/class

Bring a noodle & wear pool shoes

Contact: To be announced

# Monday Night Picnic

by Denis Foerst

It's time to catch up on what's been going on this past winter. Where do you meet Bent Tree residents that you haven't seen in the past five months and find out what's been happening? You come to Monday Night Picnic.

The 2024 Monday Night Picnics starts up again at the Pavilion on April first and runs every Monday until October 28.

Get your picnic basket and table cloth out of storage. Pack it with your favorite beverage and a potluck dish to share. Come on down the Pavilion between 5 PM and 6 PM and share what's new with your family and your local neighborhood.

The community table opens at 6 PM. Everyone is back home by 7:30 at the latest. Daylight Saving time starts on March 10th this year which is three weeks before the start of Monday Picnics. There will be plenty of daylight on April First.

If you have a new neighbor tell them about Monday Picnic. Last year we had a couple come to picnic before they had closed on their

new residence. We also had a first-time couple come to the picnic after they had been Bent Tree residents for over 15 years. They made every picnic the rest of the year. If you are a part timer, come to picnic and find out why Bent Tree is a place you want to live in full time.

As we have in the past there will be one or more picnics with live music. Last year we had the pleasure of listening to the Cox Johnson Band and the Bent Tree Jaz/Pop combo.

What should you bring as a pot luck to the community table? Favorites include appetizers, salads, pasta salads, fruit salads, vegetables, bean salad, pickled beets, casseroles, bread, biscuits, pizza, barbecue (beef, chicken, or pork), ham, fried chicken, hot dogs, lasagna, and everyone's favorite DESERT.

Gather at the Pavilion at 5 PM. Dinner starts at 6 PM. Everyone gets home by 7:30 PM.



# Social Programs

-Sponsored by BTAC-

## Winter Ball

The inaugural ball was held this year in February. It was the first event of its kind and featured an elegant dining experience with menu selections for each course offered along with wine pairings. Formally attired guest danced to the Big Band sound of Tommy Ward.

Plans are underway to make this a Bent Tree annual winter tradition.

Contact btacspecialevents@gmail.com

## Monday Night Picnics

### **Monday Nights April - October**

Our annual tradition of gathering at the beach pavilion for a picnic with neighbors begins April 2nd and will continue through October 22nd.

Bring a dish to share, your tableware and beverages.

Social hour starts at 5:00. The picnic begins at 6:00.

Contact Denis Foerst: dfoerst@gmail.com

## Suppers Around the Tree

### **April – November**

In full swing this year, our own version of a supper club is forming groups now to begin in April. Groups of 6-8 neighbors meet once a month to share a meal! This is an excellent way to meet new people! It is also a way to get a pulse on what is going on and around our community.

Contact Pamela Henderson: btacsuppers@gmail.com to sign up.

## Last Blast of Summer

Last Blast of Summer returns again this year! Come spend one of the final days of summer at the beach and enjoy great live music and food truck specialties. Bring your chairs, blankets, coolers and friends to join us for this free event. Radio 80's Band returns to entertain us!

### **Saturday August 24th**

Beach & Pavilion

Contact Margie Robinson btacspecialevents@gmail.com

## Music Nights

Awesome music! All coming to Bent Tree this Spring, Summer, and early Fall. Come spend an evening on the beach or sunset on the decks of the lower pool this year. Gather with your friends and neighbors. Bring chairs and coolers and enjoy these free events.

### **Beach Summer Music:**

**Saturday June 15th**

**Saturday July 20th**

### **Sunset Deck Music:**

**Friday April 26th**

**Friday September 13th**

Contact Tim Miller: tim.miller9021@gmail.com

## Special Events

These events are tradition in our community and change in theme and experience every year. Each event is self-sustaining with ticket price dependent on cost.

### **Spring Fling - Blast from the Past**

A Hippie style party with the Rainmen performing!

Come celebrate the opening of our pools!

### **Friday May 26th at the Upper Pool.**

Contact Laura Chambers: btacspecialevents@gmail.com

### **Holiday Party**

A celebration of the lighting of Tree to kick off the Holiday Season.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Contact btacspecialevents@gmail.com

# Peace.Love.Pool!

Spring Fling 2024  
**HIPPIE POOL PARTY**

**FLOWER POWER**

**BLAST FROM THE PAST**

**UPPER POOL**

**BURGERS, BAND & BELL BOTTOMS**

**COME PARTY like a Flower Child!**

**Save the Date**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 24**

More info to come

Sponsored by BTAC

BTAC Presents

# Sunset Music

April 26th

Watch for exciting details coming next month

Sip, Shop and Music

On the deck at the lower pool

Sponsored by Bent Tree Activities Committee

**Suppers Around the Tree**

Suppers Around the Tree is Bent Tree's own version of a supper club. Groups can include couples and/or singles. The groups meet once a month for four months to enjoy a meal together.

Each group decides the format of their meals, from complex to simple, dinner or brunch, weekday or weeknight, picnic on the beach, sunset dinner on the terraces, eating in, or going out. Couples take turns hosting the group at a mutually convenient date and time. The host each month contacts the other members of the group to share the arrangements.

This is an excellent way to meet new people & create friendships within Bent Tree. All, while participating in one of our favorite pastimes...eating.

**New Groups are Forming Now!**

Contact: [btacsuppers@gmail.com](mailto:btacsuppers@gmail.com) to sign up or request more information

Sponsored by Bent Tree Activities Committee

# EVENTS SCHEDULE

**MAY 11 MOTHER'S DAY INVITATIONAL**  
3 levels...2.5,3.0,3.5

**FATHER'S DAY INVITATIONAL**  
3 levels...2.5,3.0,3.5

**JUN 15 BEST DAD**

**JUN SUMMER CAMPS**  
June 10th thru 13th  
June 17th thru 20th

**AUG 16-18 JAMMIN FOR JOY TOURNAMENT**  
Presented by the Joy House

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# Big Adventures – In the Saddle Again

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kaiser Conrad

Since the 1800s, the allure of the west has never waned. There's a romanticism attached to the big open spaces, the beauty, and the blue skies go on forever. Add horseback riding to that landscape and now you have rugged and romantic. Out west—the ideal location to take a vacation, and that's just what resident Bob Crowl did.

In fact, Bob and friends spent six nights at a ranch. This was the sixth dude ranch vacation that Bob has enjoyed.

In August, Bob and friends headed to the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch in Sandpoint, Idaho, which encompasses 2500 acres in the narrow northern part of the state, just south of the Canadian border. Bob said August was the ideal time because the weather was warm and sunny during the day and cooler at night, with the days still long enough to do a lot of outdoor activities.

While there was a main lodge at the ranch, where meals and some evening gatherings took place, he stayed in his own cabin, equipped with a kitchen, living room, bedroom, bath and a loft.

According to Bob, a typical day began with a hearty breakfast and then four to six hours in the saddle, not necessarily a straight six hours. Bob said if he were to change anything about this ranch, it would be to offer more time on the horse. There were other activities in addition to riding that guests could choose to participate such as archery, clay pigeon shooting and e-biking.

Any level rider can vacation at the ranch, but Bob cautions the novice. If you haven't spent a lot of time on a horse, you may want to put some more miles in a saddle before going to a dude ranch. Bob has been riding for about 30 years and considers himself an intermediate rider. Once you arrive at the ranch, guests are assessed and then matched with a horse. Bob's horse was a Percheron (draft) and Quarter horse blend, who stood over 16 hands. Bob said he and his friend Susan were extremely well matched to their mounts, which of course made the experience enjoyable.

When it was time to hit the trails, the twenty guests were divided into two or three smaller groups. Guests were not obligated to go on every ride, so if someone wanted to opt out, they could. In addition

to the trail rides, there were a couple of scenic rides in open meadow areas. If you wanted to learn the ways of cowboys and cattle ranchers, that was available too.

Bob worked on his ranching skills such as herding cattle where he and others had to go and find the cattle in the woods and bring them back to the holding area. Bob also worked on sorting cows, which is where the rancher must isolate a cow, for various reasons. There was a competition amongst the guests for the sorting and Bob and his team finished first and were awarded a blue ribbon. (Go Bob!) He also participated in a roundup. Bob shared that all the ranching tasks look much easier than they actually are because it takes precision, finesse, patience and lots of animal cooperation.

Some of the highlights were having dinner outside under the stars at the lodge while watching a movie, and riding to Grouse Creek Falls to have lunch beside the river just below the waterfall where it was both majestic and peaceful.

Bob would definitely go back to this ranch, and he said of all the ranches he has been to thus far, this one had the best food!



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- Social outings
- Onsite therapy and visiting physician
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**Tickets \$45 per person**

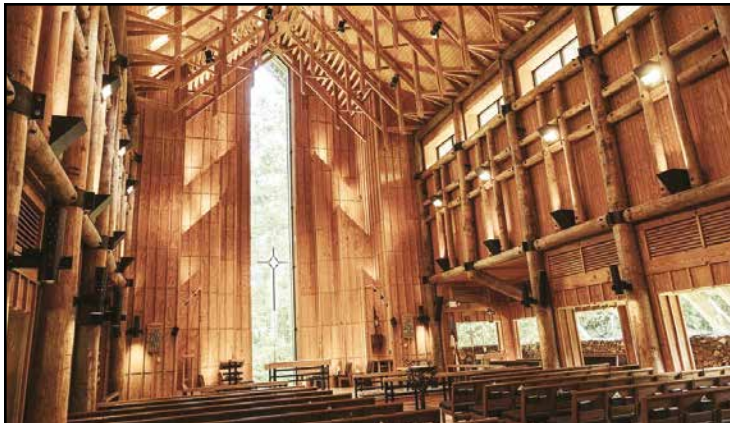
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# A Cacophony of Kittens!

By Veda L. Wohlford and Linda Blanchette

So many kittens! We have so many kittens at the Bent Tree Animal Shelter...all of them looking for their furever homes. Wouldn't you like to come see these cutie pies?

First up, please meet Nina and Simone!

These 2 beautiful little girls have shiny, velvety black coats and almond-shaped, gold-colored eyes. Their oriental genes are very evident in their shape and voices! They are high spirited, affectionate, intelligent, and talkative. They will be 6 months old at the end of February, have had all their shots, are spayed, and microchipped, and will be ready for adoption to loving homes only. They are currently being fostered and are used to being in a home.



*Finally, let's not forget Dolly! Dolly is a tabby like Reba, but she has completely different markings. Not really shown in this photo, but she's more "lynx-like" in her coat. She loves to be up high! She kept dropping a toy on my head!*

Remember, all our cats and dogs are fully vetted medically and spayed or neutered before being eligible for adoption. Ready to come by and meet these Kittie Cuties? Bent-Tree's Animal Shelter has so many kitties available for adoption, kitties of all personalities, shapes, and sizes, and all of them just want a fur-ever home with you and your family! If you would like to visit any of our kitties to see if you're a match made in heaven, please contact LuAnn Chambers at 678.414.1047.



*Now here's Reba! Just look at this sweet face! This little love-bug is full of energy, cute as all get out, and sweet as can be!*



*And another cutie, meet Jesse! Jesse is another beautiful black-coated sweetie that wanted ALL of my attention during the photo shoot!*



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### IT IS FINISHED!

THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST

### Easter Services

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Good Friday Service -          | 6:00 pm  |
| Sunrise Service -              | 7:00 am  |
| at the Terraces                |          |
| Easter Service -               | 10:00 am |
| at Trinity Church              |          |
| "SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!" |          |

# January Hiking

by Jan Jeffcoat

As always, when a Bent Tree group hike is scheduled on a certain date, you never know what the weather will be. In the hiking world, the co-leader of a hike is said to be responsible for the weather (LOL) but this month, three hikes were scheduled without a co-leader so I hoped for the best. My thought was that after the holiday season and during the dreary winter weather, a walk on a trail would be a welcome change whatever the weather conditions were. Little did I know that we would gain so much more than that.

The first hike on Thursday, January 11 up to Sharptop Mountain happened on a beautiful sunny cool day that felt like fall. Nine adventurous hikers, four of which were newbies to hiking Sharptop, began at the water tank at the top of SouthView Trail inside Bent Tree. We made our way up the road to the trailhead and began hiking the trail. Upon reaching the top of Sharptop Mountain, we enjoyed full sunshine, clear and distant views of Pickens County, Kennesaw Mountain, and even the skyline of Atlanta. The trail itself provided a good cardio and leg workout due to it's steep, rocky terrain. We returned to our starting point after completing over 3 miles and about 1000' elevation gain.

A full description and maps of the following three trails are included in the new 2024 Bent Tree Community Directory prepared by Bent Tree Activities Committee volunteers.

The second hike on Thursday, January 18 consisted of Bent Tree's Beaver Run Trail and the Denny Ridge Trail. Again the weather that day provided us with an amazingly beautiful day after having several days of freezing temperatures earlier in the week. Four hikers covered the Beaver Run trail enjoying the rapid water flow in the creek. Next hiking the second trail up on Denny Ridge was beautiful with it's icicle show in the creek and in several places. We even got an upper body workout using the new rope handrail system that was installed by our Bent Tree Trail Maintainer, Mason Holland and crew. We covered nearly two miles of trail that day, enjoying many natural water features.

The third hike had to be rescheduled for Monday January 29 after several inches of rain fell on the original hike date. A carpool of ten hikers parked in the nice new area constructed by the Johnson family and L&W volunteers. There we entered on donated land into the Chestnut Cove Trail System through the Dorough trailhead to the sounds of running water below provided by the recent rains.



We descended into this area on the Creekside Trail stopping on the rock face overlooking all of the many creeks that were flowing beautifully down the mountainsides. After the group crossed three high flowing creeks using rocks to navigate, the end of this trail was reached where a great view of a sliding rock waterfall was enjoyed. Next the hike turned up the High Vista Trail just over the first rise to see the upper part of the sliding rock creek. A return trip along the main trail by the creek traveled back over the three creeks including a hardy ascent back up to the parking area. This one mile green space trek was full of beauty and gifted each one with a feeling of accomplishment and great joy in experiencing this wonderful natural area.

The month of January may not bring you to the thought of hiking but I assure you that hiking in January will bring you much more than you expect. The benefit of cool winter hiking in nature with long range views could be restorative and stress relieving, bringing improved sleep, and lengthening and improving the quality of your life.

Due to many volunteers and their hours of hard work and the donated gifts of Bent Tree residents to the community, we can find information about a Bent Tree trail, park at a trailhead, access a trail, hike and climb on a dirt path and explore the wonders of nature without having to travel afar.

But the biggest benefit of group hiking in the Bent Tree community area could be the joy of a walk with neighbors, together in nature, sharing gratitude for the opportunity of living in this beautiful place we love to call home.

For more information about the Bent Tree hiking group, email your name and phone number to [www.benttreehikingclub02@gmail.com](mailto:www.benttreehikingclub02@gmail.com)



# Celtic Fire at Big Canoe Chapel – Music in the Mountains

By Calvert Johnson

Celtic Fire will perform at Big Canoe Chapel as the second concert in the concert series, “Music in the Mountains.” **This free concert is 4 pm, Sunday March 3, 2024 at Big Canoe Chapel, 226 Wolfscratch Village Circle, Big Canoe GA.** Under the direction of Music Director Dr. Samuel Holmes, the concerts are organized by Dr. Calvert Johnson, Keyboard Accompanist at the Chapel. Persons from outside Big Canoe will need to inform the gatekeepers that they are attending these concerts in order to enter Big Canoe.

The Celtic harp and uilleann pipes are Ireland’s two indigenous instruments, though the fascinating history of each is quite distinct. The Celtic Fire trio weaves the two together with Irish step-dance, penny whistle and bodhran (Irish frame drum) into a program that culminates with a crowd-pleasing ceili (music and dance party), featuring audience participants who are taught simple dance steps and accompaniment on harp and bodhran (hand-drum). Celtic Fire was a featured program of Young Audiences of Atlanta for over 15 years. During that time they performed and taught literally thousands of Georgia school children in assemblies large and small. Celtic Fire also offers a concert program suitable for all ages.

Nella Rigell, John Maschinot and Mary Hughes will present a fascinating program of traditional Irish music and dance. Though the musical combination of harp and bagpipes may seem unconventional, Nella and John have refined their sound through decades of performance together. John’s uilleann pipes (also called Irish bagpipes) offer a much mellower tone than the famed Scottish Highland bagpipes and blends beautifully with Nella’s Celtic harp. Brilliant young step dancer Mary Hughes provides percussive footwork sure to make for a unique program of soulful airs and toe-tapping dance music!



**Nella Rigell’s** illustrious career spans both the realms of classical and Celtic harp. As the principal harpist of the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and a fixture in touring Broadway productions, she has lent her talents to numerous recordings, television, and radio performances. Her artistry has garnered praise from critics and audiences alike. Described as possessing “expressive delivery and superior technique” and hailed for her “remarkable regard for tonal beauty” by The Huntsville Times (Ala), Nella is recognized as “one of Atlanta’s busiest and most sought-after harpists”, according to Music Atlanta. The Mississippi Business Journal also lauds her “ability to captivate large chamber concert audiences.”

Beyond her professional engagements, Nella finds deep fulfillment in using music as a therapeutic tool. At Emory Hospital, she shares the soothing sounds of the Celtic harp, offering relaxation and comfort to patients.

Nella Rigell’s multifaceted career also includes a role as an educator, where she has shared her expertise in Celtic harp at the renowned John C. Campbell Folk School. Through her teaching, she imparts the intricacies of this ancient instrument, inspiring students to delve into the rich tapestry of Celtic music and culture. As a soloist,

Nella has had remarkable opportunities to showcase her talent. She premiered Laura Zaerr’s Celtic Harp Concerto with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra, later reprising the piece with the Atlanta Chamber Players. In a poignant tribute to the late harper, Derek Bell, Nella joined the esteemed Irish ensemble, the Chieftains, earning acclaim from Jig Time International for her “moving performance.”

Collaborating with fellow musician John Maschinot, Nella explores her passion for Celtic music, delighting audiences across Georgia with their diverse repertoire. Their performances blend traditional Irish, Scottish, and Welsh tunes with classical inspirations, creating a truly eclectic experience.



**John Maschinot** has been playing uilleann pipes, Irish flute and tin whistle for nearly four decades. The uilleann pipes, or Irish bagpipes, are a type of bagpipe possessing a beautiful tone, much quieter than the more familiar Scottish Highland bagpipes, and therefore highly suited for indoor performance. John’s performance and recording career spans almost four decades, both solo and in ensemble with The Buddy O’Reilly Band, Celtic Fire, The

Kinnigans, Ah Surely, Mythology, and as guest musician with many other artists. He produced and directed Atlanta’s Celtic Christmas from 1990 to 2019.

John’s playing is grounded in a piping tradition of the past 300 years. John is an ardent student of the time-honored Irish piping tradition but often goes further to explore a larger musical territory, reflective of his life experience and love of all sorts of music. Growing up in southern communities rich in musical tradition, John thrives on the diversity that American music has to offer. Old-time string band music, bluegrass and Appalachian melodies, African-American spirituals, the blues, and perhaps a Cajun two-step: John has devoted much of his career to the study and performance of non-Irish music on his distinctly Irish instruments.

**Mary Hughes** is an award-winning Irish step dancer who has been dancing for over eight years with Atlanta Irish Dance by Burke Connolly. She is a four-time National Qualifier, placing within the top 25% the last three years at every national event. She also teaches younger, advanced beginner dancers at Burke Connolly and aspires to teach dance as a future career. In the meantime, she loves to perform at concerts, local festivals and at her school, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Atlanta.

The closing concert on the series will feature **Wanda Yang Temko**, soprano, and **Nic Deusen**, guitar, May 5, 2024.

**Concerts of Music in the Mountains** are funded by generous donations, enabling anyone to attend. Contributions may be made to Big Canoe Chapel, 10455 Big Canoe, Big Canoe GA 30143, with the notation “Music in the Mountains” on the memo line.

For additional information, contact Calvert Johnson at [calvertjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:calvertjohnson@gmail.com) or 404-373-0748.

# Discovering Bent Tree Diversity through Citizen Science

By Barbara Collier and Dara Sinclair

The mountains and valleys of Bent Tree can differ greatly in their plant and animal life. By the running mountain streams in the valley there are woodland salamanders and frogs, water snakes, water birds, and distinctive kingfishers with their rattle. The water loving Citronella Horse Balm which can be smelled a foot away! In higher elevations we typically find larger wildlife like the American Black Bear. Plants have a more rocky, sometimes shallow soil to make their home in, but many native plants thrive here. Fields of Bear's Foot, in the sunflower family and also known as hairy leafcup, grow and thrive in the harsher conditions.

Lake and Wildlife programs are good gatherings of neighbors who want to learn about the wide wild world just outside our doors. In between the Saturday meetings and volunteer events, here are some new ways to continue learning and connecting. Seek is a free cell

phone application that will take your nature knowledge up a level by helping you identify plant and critter species that you encounter. All Seek observations are

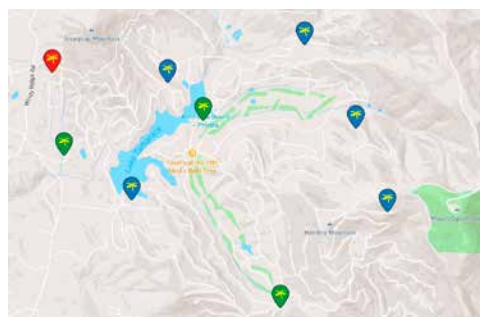
kept on your own phone. If you choose, your observations can be uploaded to iNaturalist and shared with others. 'Bent Tree Diversity' is an iNaturalist project that collects observations made within the general Bent Tree geography by those who choose to participate. The goal is to document and learn about the variety of species found in Bent Tree. In Habitat Conservation terms, this is a chance for Citizen Science of the most fun sort! Like humans always have, we learn best about the natural world by getting outside and experiencing, discovering, and following our curiosity. We can share with each other interesting discoveries made in our back yards, on roadside walks, adventurous hikes, and fun fishing outings. Sharing observations helps us all know what native plant families are thriving and can be useful in developing plans to preserve Bent Tree habitat. But even if you aren't ready



Download the  
SEEK app

to participate in the Bent Tree project, consider using Seek for your own learning and enjoyment.

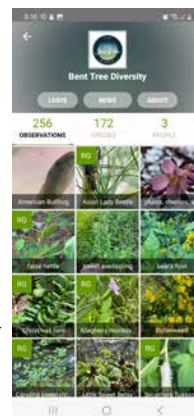
Another great organization using technology to help encourage habitat conservation is Homegrown National Park started by Doug Tallamy, author of *Natures Best Hope* and *The Nature of Oaks*. The largest cooperative conservation project ever conceived or attempted, its initial goal is 20 million acres of native plantings in the U.S. (Note that only represents approximately ONE HALF of the green lawns of privately-owned properties). The map estimates/tracks the total area occupied by native plantings and is a way for individuals to see their part in the whole. Add your plantings to the HNP Biodiversity Map to light up our area. Your entries do not have to be exact; they are estimates of the native plants and the area they cover. Whether planted by you or pre-existing on your property, add them to the Homegrown National Park. Lake & Wildlife Habitat Conservation will be providing updates as Bent Tree lights up in the Homegrown National Park!



L&W is adding Bent Tree Common Areas. Add your property to become part of the Homegrown National Park!

For any questions about participation via these tools, or getting more involved with native plants and habitat conservation here in Bent Tree, email [benttreelw@gmail.com](mailto:benttreelw@gmail.com)

Observations made in iNaturalist or uploaded from Seek can be shared with the Bent Tree Diversity project.



## Road Safety – Some more information...

By Miguel Rodriguez

In a recent offering of our Echo Monthly magazine, there was an article about Road Safety Awareness, a very much appreciated and welcome communication regarding one of the most important issues in our community.

Road Safety Awareness evolves from important to critical when the road is the only means of conveyance for all (service vehicles, private vehicles, ATVs, golf carts, unmotorized vehicles and, yes, pedestrians), as is the case in our community.

There are several elements influencing Road Safety; key among them are:

**Speed Limit.** In the same edition of the Echo Magazine mentioned above, it was reported there were 49 citations and 12 warnings issued by Public Safety in December 2023; those represent the ones who were caught. One can easily surmise that, for everyone caught, there may be hundreds who were not. We, both drivers and enforcers, can do better!

**Playing by the rules.** According to Georgia law, “...pedestrian shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway unless he has already, an under safe conditions, entered the roadway.” Since we do not have sidewalks, as soon as we as pedestrians leave our driveways, we have entered the roadway.

**Common Courtesy.** We all share the road, and that includes all types of vehicles, pedestrians, and wildlife; no one has priority (except emergency vehicles under emergency circumstances). As pedestrians we have the responsibility to always make ourselves visible; we must ensure that we don't make it harder than it already is for drivers on our challenging roads. As drivers we must realize that the road is shared, and that our actions could cause serious harm to those with whom we share the road. We, both drivers and pedestrians, must do better!

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| Panacea Plumbing                   | 404-644-7549 |
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Bent Tree closed 64 homes in 2023 for a volume of \$25,609,712 and 47 lots for \$777,371. Craft sold 25 of the 64 homes sold. So far in 2024, there have been two houses sold and one lot. Craft sold one of the houses and sold the lot. There are currently 17 active homes on the market and six pending sales. Of the 17 active homes on the market, Craft is listing two of those. Craft is involved in three of the six pending sales. There are still plenty of buyers looking in Bent Tree but there is very little inventory to sell them. If you are considering selling your home, please contact us. Craft outsold every other brokerage in 2023 with 25 of the 64 sales. We have the knowledge, the experience, and the contacts to sell your home for top dollar. Looking forward to working with you in 2024.



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