



# the ECHO

SEPTEMBER 2024

A BENT TREE  
PUBLICATION



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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.



# There is Nothing Artificial About My Intelligence

By Jim Pryor, General Manager

Sometimes I get pretty annoyed talking to my mom on the phone. She has the ability to relate any topic of conversation into how she did it back in the days. My common response is “mom, it’s not 1960 anymore, times have changed”. In perspective, I am not sure if my discourse is at her for not changing with the times, or is the simple fact that times have changed?

As I watch the Olympics, it seems like every commercial has something to do with AI- Artificial Intelligence. AI seems to be taking over the world. By simple definition, AI is defined as intelligence exhibited by computers. In other words, people rely on computers to do their work for them. Mark Cuban recently said that by 2035, roughly 50% of jobs in America will replace human with computers.

I was recently talking to a professional colleague. He asked if I was using AI. I said, “absolutely not”. He said he uses it for almost everything now, plans, press

releases, reports, responses to citizens... He practically doesn’t have to think and gets his work done quickly. To me that’s sad, because he is one of the smartest and most creative people I know.

While I am very thankful for computer technology, I am now terrified that the business world is being dominated by AI. That today’s leadership has thrown uniqueness and creativity to the wayside to become cookie-cutter thinkers in today’s world. That a botched computer upgrade can shut down our air traffic operations and cell phone service. That no cell phone or internet access can cripple our ability to live, work or play. Of course, this all translates to the fact that most young professionals now grew up with the internet, texting and social media at their fingertips aiding their thought process and communication.

I’m sorry, but I won’t subscribe to a computer doing all my thinking for me. In



this case, I am proud to side with my mom and be old fashioned. Bent Tree, your General Manager will rely on 18 years of education, 29 years of working leadership experience, and 53 years of life experience to facilitate plans, solve problems, write reports, communicate with staff, work with Board of Directors, meet with you in person, and respond to your emails. Hopefully all these avenues will have a tinge of personality and flair to them. But, I can’t promise they will always be politically correct.

## "Bent Tree Days" at Whispering Springs Nursery

**FRI & SAT SEPTEMBER 13 - 14  
10AM - 4PM**



**10% of proceeds go to support BT Lake & Wildlife Projects**

**Location: 25 Whispering Springs Rd, Jasper, GA 30143  
(Just off of Cove Rd, between BT front gate & Dollar General)**

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

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# Behind the Scenes with Taree Darby

by Leah Kelly

Did you know that the backroom at the Tavern used to be the Bent Tree Library? And did you know, the patio area off the Tavern was once screened in? These are just a few things I learned in my interview with Taree Darby, Director of Marketing and Community Services for BTCL.

Taree enjoys laying low and leading a quiet life. She has a small social circle with an intensely fierce group of friends. One of her favorite traditions is the long-standing Sunday dinner with her family. Taree was born in Atlanta, and around age 10, her family moved to Bent Tree. In 2018, she became a property owner.

As a child, her parents successfully operated several local restaurants. In the late 90s, they ran the 19th Hole as independent contractors. Thus, she grew up as a restaurant kiddo with an appetite for food and management. In her twenties, she moved to California and started with Panera Bread. Since people are her passion, it was a natural transition into a corporate role with Panera. She honed her skills as a regional training manager. Additionally, she trained all sorts of staff, from top chefs to menu creators, conducted seed training to test new food technology, and served as the test gauge for success. Furthermore, she audited local restaurants and, in 2014, was awarded the first Platinum Audit in Atlanta. She takes pride in training restaurants for operational excellence.

After over a decade in restaurant management, Taree left the field in 2018. She dabbled in wineries before moving into a human resources role. She later became the Executive Director of the Georgia Wine Producers before accepting her position at Bent Tree. Her previous experience gave her the skillset for taking over community services, which includes all the amenities within Bent Tree.

Taree gained the confidence of the Board of Directors and was given a “Hail Mary” attempt at running The Tavern. She went to the Board with a solid business plan of accountability and measurable goals. In a week, she implemented many changes. She hired a restaurant manager and bartender, created a detailed employee handbook that included signed responsibilities and job descriptions for each role, and held a staff meeting.

Taree refuses to buy into the ogre mentality. Through team development and building long-term relationships, she desires to help everyone manage their success. She stated, “Managing individual successes leads to your success.” Taree shared, “It’s been a joy to have a meaningful impact on The Tavern. However, as I have always done in my career, I hire talented and able-bodied people, give them the tools for success, and put my trust in them. I am here to support them. These motivated individuals are working towards their accomplishments.” Furthermore, she divulges, “The Tavern team is the real driving force behind the changes you’ve seen so far. Overall, the energy of the staff has had a huge impact on the success of The Tavern. The positive changes the community sees are not the result of one person but an ongoing team effort.” While Taree appreciates the praise, she always turns it around and passes it on to the team.

Going forward, she wants people to understand the Board and Bent Tree Administration have heard their concerns. The menu will reflect what residents want to eat. There has been a change in the culture of The Tavern with an urgency placed on accountability and operational excellence. Employee scheduling will be based on sales reports. And finally, costs will be managed by accurate margins using metrics to make sound decisions.

My impression of Taree is that she is a respectful, thoughtful, and articulate leader. She strives for obtainable and measurable goals and thus has raised the bar at The Tavern. She has collaborated with our Food and Beverage employees to help them achieve and set a higher standard of service, which our community appreciates. We are blessed to have her on our Bent Tree leadership team.

# Public Safety Stats from 7/1/24 – 7/31/24

By Michael Koorey - Director,  
Donnie Arp - Acting Fire Chief,  
John Hawkins - Assistant Director

## Call Responses

Fire	47
Medical	17
Resident Complaints	2
Resident Assists	8
Property/Resident Checks	3
Animal Calls	27
Public Safety Calls	47
Total	151
2024 Total	877

## Patrol Mileage

Total Patrol Mileage (7/1 – 7/31)	3,128
2024 Total	14,863

## Violations

Written Citations	87
Warnings	22
Total (7/1 – 7/31)	109

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



## 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**

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**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.



## Bent Tree Seniors “Rock”


By Patrick McMorrow

The inaugural year of BTAC Senior Activities continues to be an astounding success with monthly events catered towards senior’s interests. From BINGO at Club Tamarack to a theater outing in Dahlonega, Bent Tree seniors are having a great time together and perhaps learning a new skill such as bird house painting during the “Sip & Paint” class held at the Tavern.

Next up in September is an activity that is sure to “rock” your world. One of our very own BT artists, Karen Parker, is going to lead a rock painting workshop on Wednesday, September 11 at 2:00. This is a free event to be held at Club Tamarack with all supplies included. Karen’s rock paintings are no ordinary painted rocks but decorative, weather resistant rocks worthy of the most distinguished garden.

Please text or email Patrick McMorrow at 770-710-1133 or [pmcmorrow26@gmail.com](mailto:pmcmorrow26@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in the rock painting workshop. This will be an event you do not want to miss!


BINGO is back on the calendar and scheduled for 10/9 at 2pm at Club Tamarack.



# Bent Tree Seniors Rock Painting Workshop



Wednesday, September 11  
2:00-4:00 pm  
Club Tamarack Rec Room



Free Event!  
All supplies included  
Led by Karen Parker  
For information or to sign up: [pmcmorrow26@gmail.com](mailto:pmcmorrow26@gmail.com)

# Putting Bent Tree on the map...

by Coach Bob

Bent Tree was well represented in the 2024 Apple Capital Paddle Battle, held in Ellijay Ga. On July 12th -13th. Congrats to all the medal winners ! You all rock! Pickleball's fun to watch, but even more fun to play. Huge thanks to the many Bent Tree friends that made time to attend to support our players.





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# The 2024 Bent Tree Foundation Golf Challenge

by Judy Crain, Photography by Mary Jane Cagle

The morning of July 17th was a great day! The rain did not deter our 44 golfers lined up at the Bent Tree golf course to participate in the Bent Tree Foundation Golf Challenge. The challenge was for teams to raise \$1000+ to fund scholarships for qualified Pickens County school children as well as children of Bent Tree residents and of Bent Tree employees. Money raised also provides teacher/classroom grants. This year's teams met the challenge with a total of \$10,320 in donations!

There were four teams that each raised \$1000+ in donations to fund a scholarship: Huff's Hackers (\$2,100), the 18 Hole LGA (\$1,600), the Sandell Men's Golf Group (\$1,350) and Aggie Pack Tide (\$1,030). In addition, \$1,000 scholarships were funded by the following: Colin and Sheila Thompson; Marty Stephens and Linda August.

Although we had a 15-minute rain delay before the teams went out to their assigned holes for the 18-hole scramble, it turned out to be

a great fun-filled day. Each player hit the golf ball, and the best ball was chosen for the next shot.

But the best was yet to come! Calvert Huffines, Bent Tree Foundation Board Director, donated funds for golfers to enjoy free beer, wine, soft drinks and pizza. All participants gathered in The Tavern to celebrate their day and enjoy the free refreshments while awaiting the results of the tournament.

Although each team of four did their very best to win the four \$25 gift certificates donated by the Bent Tree Foundation, only one team's score was victorious ... the Sandell Men's Golf Group #1. Congratulations to Mike Moffitt, Glen Harris, Bill Evans and Jim Jeffcoat.

On behalf of the Bent Tree Foundation, thank you one and all who played, donated and contributed in any way to this year's success!



L-R: Jim Jeffcoat; Glen Harris; Bill Evans and Mike Moffitt



L-R: Calvert (Huff) Huffines and Judy Crain





# From the Golf Pro

By Patrick Higgins

Please welcome our newest employee, Mick Graves to the club. Mick is originally from Ocala, Florida where he grew up playing golf. He had a passion for the game & loves teaching kids and is excited to join us here at Bent Tree. Mick is currently going through the PGA program and aspires to be a Head Golf Professional or Teaching Professional someday. So if you're down at the club or just having lunch, feel free to stop by and say hello and get to know Mick.



The MGA had their Red/White/Blue golf tournament July 20th. The format for this tournament was a 3-Man team shamble where each player hits their drive and the best one is selected, the players then proceed to play their own ball from there. 85% handicaps we're used and the team of Ken Baxley, Brad King and Steve Craig won with an impressive score of 120 overall. Congratulations guys!

The LGA hosted the play with the pro day July 30th. Although the weather was very hot and humid, the team of Janet Vardaman/Judy Crain/Lyn Fickes/Lyn Orletsky out on top with a score of 127. We'll done ladies and I'm looking forward to playing more golf with you all soon.

See you all at the club soon!



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# Where Did Summer Go?

By Ellie Girard

Can you believe it? School started the week of this writing! Maybe it's due to all the rain this summer, but it just doesn't seem as though we've had summer! The good news is - our fall season is typically the best golf season in Bent Tree, so let's look forward to that, shall we?

There was no Niners golf the first week of July as the traditional week of "Youth Fest" was underway. On July 11th we played Yellow Tees, with the following winners coming out on top....1st Gross: Ursula Chapman; 2nd Gross: Laura Dutton; 3rd Gross: Kathy Hall. 1st Net: Mary Lou Weng; 2nd Net: Susan Paul; 3rd Net: Pat Smith. Congratulations to all winners!



On July 18th, a game called "Puttless" was played and winners were as follows: Gross winners....1st: Ellie Girard; 2nd: Laura Dutton; 3rd: Ursula Chapman. Net Winners...1st: Linda White; 2nd; Kathy Craig; 3rd: Michele Shaeffer. Congratulations to all the winners!



July 25th was a rainout. On August 1st it was cart-path-only due to a saturated course, so it was decided to play Yellow Tees. Winners were the following...Gross winners...1st: Ellie Girard; 2nd: Ursula Chapman; 3rd: Michele Shaeffer. Net winners...1st: Mary Lou Weng; 2nd: Patti Sosebee; 3rd: Donna Stapleton. Congratulations to all the winners!

DID YOU KNOW...Golf and Greens recently addressed several local rules that were in question, and the outcome of these discussions has led the Niners board to call for a special meeting to decide how we might choose to make our own determination concerning the rules. Once the Niners board reaches a conclusion, the members will then vote on any changes that will take place, so more on that subject will follow the board meeting.

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# Bent Tree Ladies 18 Holvers News

By Lyn Orletsky

Congratulations to Gayla Smith for another Hole-In-One on number 7. This makes a total of five aces for this outstanding golfer.

Despite all the rain, the 18-holvers had plenty of fun this month. Celebrating Independence Day, the ladies played a flag tournament. Each player hits the ball 72 strokes plus their handicap, and then places an American flag on the course at that point. What a beautiful sight to see dozens of flags on the course, reminding us of what a great country we live in.

- 1st Lynn Manni
- 2nd Summer Turner
- 3rd Karen Sandell
- 4th Charlene Church
- 5th Bonny Pearson

6th Carole Fallgren  
7th Gayla Smith

The annual Guys and Dolls tournament is the most popular scramble event of the season, where many of the MGA members join us for an enjoyable event which is followed by a delicious cookout buffet.

1st Lyn Orletsky, Brian Orletsky, Lyn Fickes, Bob Rizzuto, Net 64.23

2nd Susan Carmichael, Laird Carmichael, Faye Cole, Brian Feehan, Net 64.63

On July 23, in between rainstorms, the ladies played a tough variation of The Jokers Wild. Since the teams consisted of only three players, each person was

assigned a card of ace, king, or queen. If a jack was the card for a hole, the players had to use the team member's highest score!

1st Bonny Pearson, Lynn Manni, Wendy Kaplan, 98 (card playoff)

2nd Gayla Smith, Gayle Foy, Lyn Fickes, 98

The final game of the month was a shamble. Everyone tees off and then each person plays their own ball from the best drive. The two best net scores on each hole are counted. Our golf pro, Patrick Higgins, played #4 and #13, so we had the choice of using his drive on those two holes.

Winners: Janet Vardaman, Lyn Fickes, Lyn Orletsky, Judy Crain



Gayla Smith: Hole-in-One number 5!



Sunny Smiles



Nancy Henson and Zandra Sommer



Wendy Kaplan

# Free Bird at Lake Tamarack

Free Bird rocked Lake Tamarack Beach on Saturday July 27th. The beach was full of music enthusiasts enjoying this Lynard Skynyrd cover band. Fans stayed until the very last song to not miss a beat and some even said they were the best band that we have had play at the beach.



## Big Canoe Chapel Announces 2024-2025 Concert Series: Music In The Mountains

By Calvert Johnson

The music ministry at Big Canoe Chapel announces a new concert season at the Chapel, “Music in the Mountains.” These free concerts are Sundays at 4 pm at the 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 need to inform the gatekeepers that they are attending these concerts.



### Carol Williams

The series celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of Big Canoe Chapel. The opening concert features Dr. Carol Williams, former Civic Organist at Balboa Park in San Diego, and recently organist at Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta. She is an experienced improviser, playing a range of repertoire from the classics to

popular and folk music. She earned her doctorate in organ performance at Yale University, and performs internationally with a full schedule in her homeland of England. Her program is scheduled for Sunday October 6, 2024.

Subsequent concerts on the series include:

### Elena Dorozhkina

Pianist Dr. Elena Dorozhkina, November 17, 2024; Dr. Dorozhkina studied at the State Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia, and earned her doctorate in piano performance at the University of North Texas. Her concert will include Russian masters of the 19th and 20th centuries. She currently teaches piano at Agnes Scott College.



Annual Christmas Concert with the Big Canoe Chapel choirs and orchestra, directed by Dr. Samuel Holmes, Tuesday December 11, 2024 at 5 and 7:30 pm (two to pick from!).

A lenten concert featuring Atlanta Symphony violinist Judith Cox accompanied by Julie Ryder from Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Atlanta, March 16, 2025. This concert will include the popular Partita No. 1 by Johann Sebastian Bach and several Rosary sonatas by experimental early Baroque composer Heinrich Biber.

### Judith Cox

Joyful Noise Gospel Choir from Agnes Scott College, directed by Dr. Nathan Grigsby with a Gospel instrumental ensemble, Wednesday, April 16, 2025.



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.



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# Bent Tree *September* community



## 7 L&W PARTNERS PROGRAM

September 7th at 9:30 am in the lower level of Club Tamarack  
9 am for coffee and donuts  
**EVERYONE INVITED!**

## KARAOKE

The Tavern

## 11 GSGA SENIORS- ROCK PAINTING WORKSHOP

2:00 – 4:00pm  
Club Tamarack Rec Room



## 14 SUNSET MUSIC ON THE DECK

6:00 – 9:00pm  
Lower Pool

## REOCCURRING EVENTS

### MONDAY

**Bible Study:** Monday bible study group on summer hiatus. They will meet ad hoc through the summer for social events and prayer support. This group is open to men, women, singles, couples and the curious. Contact David and Pattie Jones, dpjones\_2000@yahoo.com 803-795-9566.

**Picnic:** April through October 5:00 at the Beach Pavilion 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

**Advanced Bridge:** 12:45 – 4:00 at Club Tamarack Fireside Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

**Bookworms:** 3rd Monday of each month 10:30 at the Cottage 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 btreespirit@etcm.com

**Water Aerobics:** 9:00 AM at the Upper Pool \$3/class. Bring a noodle & wear pool shoes. Contact: sandy@etcm.com

### TUESDAY

**Duplicate Bridge - Mixed Group:** Intermediate and Advanced. 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm at Club Tamarack Fireside Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

**Circuit Crafts & More:** Rec Room at Club Tamarack **4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm** This crafty group focuses on how to use a Circuit machine with monthly projects that teaches different skills. The group also works on various seasonal crafts. Contact: Mary Davis at mcdavis@live.com 404- 213-219

**Knit Wits:** 10:00 at Club Tamarack Fireside 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

### WEDNESDAY

**Guitar Instructions:** 5:30 and 6:30 at Club Tamarack Fireside Beginning guitar lessons are the perfect opportunity to discover the joy of playing the beautiful instrument. Bent Tree resident, Randy White teaches individual or small group lessons. Contact Randy White at 770 - 608 - 0843

**Pilates:** 9:30 at Club Tamarack Rec Room \$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 Krokroer2749@sbcglobal.net

**Water Aerobics:** 9:00 AM at the Upper Pool \$3/class. Bring a noodle & wear pool shoes. Contact: sandy@etcm.com

# calendar

## 15 FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER MEETING

3:00 – 5:00pm  
Club Tamarack Fireside

## 16 GREENS AERIFICATION

17

## 27 TAVERN GRAND REOPENING

19th Hole & Tavern 5:00-8:00

*Join us for the grand reopening party of the Tavern! We're excited to have Engelheim Vineyards on site, with their knowledgeable staff pouring complimentary wine tastings and sharing insights about their award-winning wines. Enjoy the evening with Rolling Smoke's mobile cigar bar, cornhole, live music, putting contests, and more. Come celebrate with us and discover the best of what the Tavern has to offer!*

BTAC PRESENTS  
**Sunset Music**  
on the deck  
at the lower pool  
FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 14TH  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Featuring Local Artists

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### THURSDAY

**Bridge Mixed Group:** All levels. All levels welcome from beginner to advanced. 6:30pm – 10:00 pm at the Cottage Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

**Bent Tree Strings/Dulcimers:** Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack **Thursdays from 2:00pm until 3:30pm** The mountain dulcimer ensemble meets to perform traditional Appalachian dulcimer folk music. Contact Marlin Ferrell at mferrell777@earthlink.net

**Men's Bible Study:** 9:00 at the Club Tamarack Fireside This men's group focuses on a non-denominational study of God's word. Current study is Quest 52 by Mark E. Moore, Bestselling author of CORE 52. All men are welcome! For more information: Call Bryan George at 931-982-0978



*The Library is open every day, 9:00 AM- 8:00 PM at the Cottage*

### FRIDAY

**Women's Bible Study:** 9:00 at Club Tamarack Rec Room This women's group provides opportunities for Scripture based studies done in 6-7 week sessions. Currently on Summer hiatus scheduled to resume in September. Contact Dale Newman 678-438-0971 or dalenew14@gmail.com.

**Water Aerobics:** 9:00 AM at the Upper Pool \$3/class. Bring a noodle & wear pool shoes. Contact: sandy@etcmail.com

# Fall Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

Call for Event Volunteers!

2024

It's the only fundraising event of the year!

**Next volunteer meeting is September 15th.**

**3:00 at the Fireside**

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# Bent Tree Stables – Back to School Counselors

by Keeve Krasner, Stable Master

It has been quite a summer. Four weeks of summer camps, one week of Youth Fest, 200+ children, numerous trail rides, a dozen very tired horses and one very exhausted stable master. However, we never could have made all this possible without the help of our very talented, dedicated and energized camp counselors and part-time barn chore workers. But now, as much as we have enjoyed their help, it's time for them to move on and for most that means back-to-school. Here's a little bit of insight into each one of these outstanding young ladies of summer:

**Fun loving Sam.** Never a dull moment around Sam. She will be the life of every party and the joy of every occasion. Her energy is limitless and contagious. Her playfulness and animation kept us entertained all summer. However, when it came time to get serious and teach riding lessons to our campers, Sam always stepped up to the plate and exhibited her full attention and professionalism. A recent high school graduate, Sam is now starting a degree program at South Georgia Technical College. We wish her the best.

**Amazing Alison.** Alison was featured in an Echo article earlier this year. Besides being a phenomenal person with a very likable and easy going personality, Alison is a highly trained gymnast. She not only excels in the uneven bars but this past April won this event at the National Championship. No kidding, we had a National Champion gymnast working as a camp counselor at the Bent Tree Summer Horse Camp. Although Alison will be finishing up her senior year of High School, she has already secured a college scholarship starting next year at Towson University in Maryland. We cannot be more proud of this incredible and talented young lady.

**Melt your heart Marion.** It was so easy to see why Marion was a favorite to so many of our young campers. Always happy, always smiling, this sweet young lady is just a joy to be around. She was always ready and willing to help out with any of the camp responsibilities as well as any barn chores that needed doing. At the end of the day, when the campers were gone and the chores were finished, Marion would very politely ask permission to saddle up and ride one of our horses in the arena. With a sweetness such as hers, I could never refuse. Marion, who lives in Roswell, will be finishing up her senior year of high school this year.

**Quiet yet focused Annaliese.** There is so much more to this young lady than meets the eye. Pretty and quiet, there was never any doubt that Annaliese was here to get the job done, and done right. We could always count on Annaliese to take over barn chores on a non-camp day and get it all right. She comes from a large family living right here in Jasper, not far from Bent Tree. A recent high school graduate, Annaliese says that she will be taking a year off from her studies. Instead, she is answering an inner calling, and will be doing mission work, presumably in Africa.

**Goal oriented Grace.** Probably the biggest surprise counselor this year was Grace. What started out with a phone call from a young lady just wanting an opportunity to be around horses, it turned out to be so much more. Grace was not a stranger to Bent Tree or the stables. She had already been here with her Godmother, Susan Crane, a Bent Tree resident, many times before. An eager learner and fast to catch on, Grace quickly took over so many of our barn chore responsibilities in addition to being a camp counselor. Grace is now a second year pre-vet student at the University of Georgia. Her passion and dedication to becoming a veterinarian has been a life-long calling. We know she will succeed.

A shout out to all of our wonderful camp counselors this year for doing such an outstanding job working with our camp kids and our stable horses. Special shout out also to our camp Arts and Craft teacher, and Bent Tree resident, Leslie Elliot. Leslie was responsible for creating and executing all of the interesting and creative art projects. Well done everyone.

Remember, the barn is open all year, so catch a beautiful late summer/early fall day and come on down to the stable and enjoy a relaxing trail ride or tune up your skills with a horse riding lesson or even if you just want an opportunity to hang out and pet a horse. We are open Wednesdays thru Sunday with same day reservations; and also open Mondays and Tuesdays with 24 hour advance reservations. Until then, Happy Trails.

For more information and reservations, please contact the stables at 706-692-6322.



Counselor Marion



Counselor L-R Annaliese, Sam, Marion, Grace



Counselor F-B Alison, Annaliese, Sam, Marion



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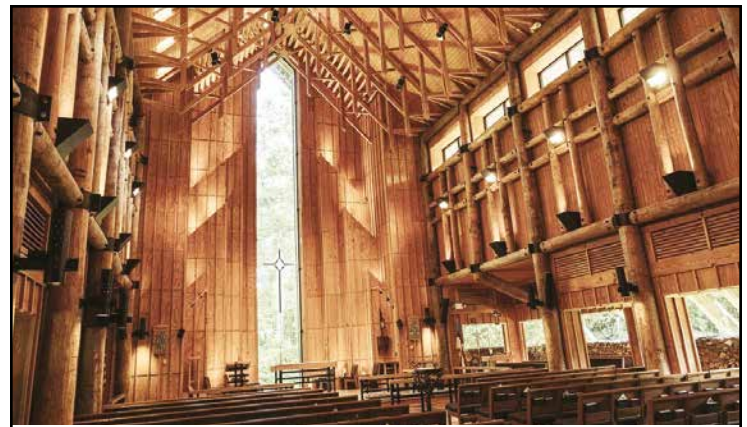
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**EVERYONE is welcome here!**

# Severe Weather Preparation

By Michael Koorey, Director of Safety and Emergency Management

Recent severe weather highlighted the need for all residents to prepare for major weather incidents. Strong storms can devastate our community without warning. It is imperative for everyone to maintain a state of readiness for these incidents by taking some basic storm preparedness actions and ensuring they are receiving vital communications from Bent Tree staff.

Email Alerts are our primary method of communication with Bent Tree residents. They cover any information of significance to our community, including the Friday News. Everyone should be signed up for these alerts. Email your name, address, and contact information to Michael Koorey at [michaelkoorey@bent-tree.com](mailto:michaelkoorey@bent-tree.com) if you are not receiving these. Information contained in Public Safety email alerts is generally also posted on the Bent Tree Public Safety Facebook page. We recommend all residents search Facebook for Bent Tree Public Safety and follow us.

The Bent Tree Infoline can be reached at 770-893-2999. This line includes prerecorded messages that are kept current during events or incidents with major community impact. The Infoline does not always reflect the information relayed in email alerts. However, during major weather events in particular, Public Safety will keep the Infoline updated in case residents are experiencing an internet outage. Please call this line to find out about road closures or spillway status instead of the front gate. Public Safety recommends checking the Infoline frequently during major weather incidents.

Our text alert system is generally used to deliver high priority messages during major community events or incidents. Messages will often direct residents to other platforms, such as the BT Infoline. There are certain limitations with text alerts, so they are not used often. Email your name, address, and contact information to Michael Koorey at [michaelkoorey@bent-tree.com](mailto:michaelkoorey@bent-tree.com) if you would like to receive Bent Tree text alerts or believe you are not receiving them.

Pickens County CODE RED Alerts come directly from Pickens County Emergency Management and deliver valuable emergency information via recorded messages to your phones. We encourage all residents to sign up for these alerts in the Public Safety section of the Bent Tree website.

An extended power outage resulting from severe weather is the most likely emergency our community faces. There are some basic things that all Bent Tree residents can do to be ready.

Public safety recommends having at least one gallon of water per person, per day, for seven days for drinking and sanitation. Most residents have generators for backup power. Having a backup water supply is even more important and much simpler. There are many good inexpensive options available for storing water including cases of bottled water, gallon jugs or larger, heavy duty polyurethane water storage containers, and large water tanks which store up to five hundred gallons. These are just some simple options to consider. Reasonably priced gravity filtration units are also available. Some of these filtration units have the capability to purify very contaminated water. Public Safety recommends researching and doing what is best for your situation and storage capabilities of your home. Whatever option you choose, make

sure to fill containers before weather events or other emergencies take place. Filling your storage containers after power is lost to the water plant will result in you and your neighbor being without water service.

Public Safety recommends having at least seven days of non-perishable food as well. Large amounts of storable food that last twenty years or more are available at various online and local retailers. Considering inflation and supply chain shortages, having a supply of long-lasting storable food is simply a wise investment in your household's well-being and security. Don't forget to store extra pet food as well.

Think about items that you use daily, and make sure to have several days of them stored for emergency situations. Commonly used items include medications, vitamins, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, and cleaning supplies. Some suggestions for very useful emergency supplies are batteries, flashlights, battery-powered lanterns, hand warmers, blankets, butane stoves, and portable power stations. Additional suggestions can be found through links in the Public Safety Emergency Preparedness section of the Bent Tree website.

Having a generator is a must within Bent Tree. Some generators are set up to turn on automatically when power is lost and can support everything in a home. Others must be started or connected manually and are meant to only power some important appliances. Either way, generators are extremely valuable machines capable of preserving your ability to power medical supplies, heat and cool your home, cook, and refrigerate or freeze food.

Purchasing a generator is more complicated than storing food or water. Depending on how you prefer it to be set up, an electrician or generator specialist may need to be consulted. It is important to always follow all safety guidelines in the owner's manual and perform the recommended maintenance. Some vital questions to answer when purchasing a generator are as follows:

- Will the generator be fueled by propane or gasoline? Although gasoline powered generators typically cost less, there are many advantages to a propane generator that need to be researched. Either way, an adequate fuel supply is a necessity.
- Where will the generator be stored and kept while in use? It is very important to understand that emissions produced by generators are very dangerous. Because of that, they cannot safely be used indoors or within enclosures. Make sure to follow all manufacturer's guidelines regarding placement and all other safety related items.
- How powerful of a generator is needed? There are various "wattage reference guides" available online that display estimates of power used by common appliances. It is worth noting that the necessary power to start an appliance is generally much higher than the normal running power requirement. Please consider which appliances you want to power and their total "starting power requirement" when deciding which generator meets your needs.

*continued on next page*

Do not allow your propane levels to fall too low. Have your tanks filled regularly, so that you will always have an adequate supply. Bear in mind that if you wait until a weather event is forecasted to have you tank filled, propane companies will be much busier fulfilling orders for others who also waited.

If your power goes out, call Amicalola EMC at 706-253-0359 to report the outage immediately. Only after you have properly reported it should you notify Public Safety, so we can be aware of possible downed trees. Also, please do not tie up our phone lines asking for updates on power restoration. We will put out updates via our communication channels only once reliable information is obtained. The best way to check the status of your power outage is to do an online search for “Amicalola EMC Outage Map”. Follow the link to a map that shows all outages and their status. You can even see if a crew is assigned to your outage or on scene. The current link to the outage map on 7/26/24 is <https://outages.amicalolaemc.com:83/>. However, the link does sometimes change.

It is very important to minimize driving during strong storms. Severe weather frequently brings down trees and power lines. Your chances of contacting one of these hazards go up significantly if you drive during or immediately after a storm. Do not drive or walk near a downed power line. Downed power lines present both visible and hidden hazards. These lines can be energized even if they don't hum or spark, and even downed power lines that appear dead can become reenergized at any moment. Downed lines can also energize other objects, such as the ground or nearby puddles, utility poles, vehicles, fences, trees or foliage, ladders, and siding. Report downed power lines to Public Safety at 770-893-2628.

Wintry weather poses its own challenges and can quickly cause our roads to become impassable for most vehicles. Please plan ahead to ensure you do not get stranded away from home during winter weather events. During these incidents, Public Safety limits its travels to emergency responses only. We will do our best to monitor road conditions and keep residents informed via email alerts and the Bent Tree Infoline.

This information is intended to help residents be self-sufficient and in a position that allows them to ride out a multiday weather event comfortably at home. Do not allow yourself to be in an ill-prepared position that pressures you to make dangerous decisions. If after reading this, you realize your preparations are inadequate, please do not wait to act. Once a weather event begins, it is too late to prepare. We hope this information is useful and helps all Bent Tree residents to be prepared for the next major storm.



# Grand REOPENING

SEPT 27TH



Join us from 5-8 for our Grand Reopening event! Live music, Cigars, and Complimentary Wine from Engelheim's own staff. Come learn about our new wines, enjoy a wonderful time, and celebrate the community's social hub!

# Puddle Of Purr-fection!

By Veda L. Wohlford, Photos by Veda L. Wohlford

Greetings from your Bent-Tree Animal Shelter! We have a new family of kitties to share with you. The first photo was taken before they had their breakfast...



*So cute, so active and playing. Then they had their breakfast, and with their tummies full they became this Puddle of Purr-fection! There are five of these little cuties, all different colors and markings.*

Remember, all our cats and dogs are fully vetted medically and spayed or neutered before being eligible for adoption. Ready to meet these cuties? Bent-Tree's Animal Shelter has so many kitties available for adoption, 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.



*And here's their Mom, Zig Zag! ZigZag is a beautiful tabby, and so super sweet! And taking what was a much-needed break from her 5 active babies!*



*Finally, here's another great shot of Idris... Look at that wonky ear...it gives him such character!*

# Roadkill

By Dara Sinclair

A good day includes a drive to and from work without seeing new death on the road. Not on Grandview, not on Cove Road, not McClain Mountain or 53 or Yellow Creek.

No squirrel, on its back, arms folded across chest looking skyward. Watching the undercarriages go by as drivers straddle it. Do they think it might still be alive or they just don't want guts and fur and teeth in their tires?

No deer, large body off the road, legs twisted at impossible angles. A pack of vultures squawking and jostling for the first pickings before the belly swells large and rank in the heat.

No birds, feathers lifting in the breeze created by passing cars. A suicide bomber death into the side of van, intent on the mouse on the roadside nibbling on an orange peel thrown out by a well-intentioned passenger that wanted to share their snack.

No groundhog, with its last mouthful sticking out the cheek. Took a step too many in the wrong direction following the kudzu vine right into the road. A large brown lump of formerly cute critter not as lucky as Phil.

No turtle, still with its generally round shape but unnaturally flat. It must've looked like a rock or a pinecone or a leaf in the road. Blood oozing and staining the road where it exits the crushed shell. I was not there to help it on its journey.

No rabbit, with its mid-section crushed, powerful back legs still recognizable. They were no match for the speed of the car during its mad dash for the other side.

No coyote or fox, a dog or a cat? Is it worse if it's someone's pet? Does human caring and grief add value to the life, to the death?

No unidentifiable mangled mess of guts and red flesh and inside out fur, dismembered and spread across multiple lanes. Since it can't be straddled, in a few days the bits not caught in tire grooves will disappear into the asphalt.

No raccoon, the fur of its ringed tail still lush and beautiful. It is not valuable enough to be turned into a nice Daniel Boone hat, so it will stay there until it is no longer beautiful.

An observant walk on the road reveals numbers of frogs, snails, caterpillars, worms, and snakes.

No armadillo, 4 legs straight up in the air as if putting on a silly act. With poor vision and blinded by lights, it never knew what happened. Not that it would know what a car is anyway.

No opossum, curled up as if taking a nap right there on the yellow line. Is it dead or playing dead? Is it springtime, is it a momma with joeys still in her pouch? I do not have the fortitude to check but cry for the possibility.

It is a dangerous world for wildlife, with short lives and many ways to die. Being absorbed into the circle of life is expected, into the belly of another creature or into soft Mother Earth. But to die, distorted, on asphalt is utterly foreign and without dignity. The animals don't care, they are all dead and out of pain my husband tells me. But he's only trying to make me feel better and he hates it too.

- Slow down and watch for animals especially between dusk and dawn.
- Leave plenty of room between you and the car in front of you so you can better react to anything on the road.
- Use your horn to scare animals away from the roadsides.
- Don't throw **any** food out of car windows.

*It is estimated that 1 million vertebrate animals are killed in vehicle collisions every day in the US.  
What you can do to help.*

# House Sounds

By Lynn Kaiser Conrad

The house sounds different,  
when the old people are gone,  
the new not arrived.

The house sounds different,  
wooden floors don't breathe,  
with the wheezing creak.

The house sounds different,  
windows latched shake,  
with repeated rattling wind.

The house sounds different,  
dormant plumbing pipes,  
with boredom - burp and cough.

The house sounds different,  
silent swoosh of the door,  
without swinging open and closed.

When I sit alone in any room,  
listening to the pulse of noises,  
in an empty house.

# Let's Welcome Fall Y'all!

By BTAC Executive Committee

The season is changing and it's time for cooler weather, autumn leaves and football. It also marks the time for Bent Tree Activities Committee's (BTAC) annual fundraiser. It's the one and only event each year where we all come together to garner community support for the many activities that BTAC oversees. From guitar lessons to water aerobics. Bible studies to concerts, theatrical plays and Easter egg hunts. Programs serving ages from 1 to 99, the Fall Festival funds each community offering.

This year the annual event will be held on Saturday, October 19th beginning at 3:00 PM. There will be much loved and traditional activities to enjoy and maybe some surprises as well!

## What you can expect:



**Chili/Soup Cook-off** – a tradition goes on! Hurry and send your entry to compete to be the best in Bent Tree with your chili or soup tasty sampling. Email [KStewartx4@me.com](mailto:KStewartx4@me.com).

**Football Watch Party** and squares for purchase – Georgia vs Texas on the screens! Get your football square by emailing [andrewkidd58@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkidd58@gmail.com).



**Bake Goodies Sale** – delectable morsels prepared by your neighbors! To donate your goodies email [chambers221@gmail.com](mailto:chambers221@gmail.com).



**Game Zone** – back by popular demand... come pass the flask and win! Plus, many more games of talent and risk. Take a chance to win a prize!



**Scarecrow Contest** – returning this year is the delightful “build a scarecrow” competition. Don't miss out on displaying your creativity with this fun event. Email [KimberlyNicoleStahman@gmail.com](mailto:KimberlyNicoleStahman@gmail.com).

**Hot Dogs and snacks** – don't be hungry... plan to take your afternoon respite with us and enjoy a grilled hot dog and so much more. Questions? Email [sheilahedgpeth@yahoo.com](mailto:sheilahedgpeth@yahoo.com)

**Cash Bar** – all your favorite libations available.



**Silent Auction** – What you wait all year for! Come shopping here and bid on a multitude of amazing items donated by local businesses. From artwork to gift baskets you'll find what you're looking for. Email [edwardpichette@msn.com](mailto:edwardpichette@msn.com) for donation ideas and contributions.

**Get involved!** The next volunteer meeting is **Sunday, September 15th at 3:00pm**. Come join us at Club Tamarack. Meet new friends. Join a team. Make a difference!

**Get your ticket!** Ticket prices remain the same this year as last and will go on sale **September 11th**. All BTAC Subcommittee chairs will have them available, and they'll be on sale on selected dates and times at the Tavern. For more information email [benttreeactivities@gmail.com](mailto:benttreeactivities@gmail.com).

We can't wait to welcome fall with y'all!



# Traditional Monday Nights

By Denis Foerst

Every Monday from April 1st to October 31st Bent Tree residents gather in the Pavilion to share a smorgasbord of appetizers, salads, veggies, entrees, and desserts. In addition to a great meal everyone gets the latest news about the neighborhood. A special picnic each summer showcases Bent Tree's own – Mountain Express – performing a free concert.

Monday Night Picnics began tens of years ago under the tutelage of Sue Bapst. One of the driving reasons that he picnics were held was that the Tavern didn't open on Mondays. Sue moved out of Bent Tree in 2021. In 2022 Denis Foerst assumed the reins. The picnics came under the BTAC umbrella that same year. During Covid picnic attendance averaged 25 residents. Current attendance is averaging 45 per picnic.

A highlight of early summer's picnic is the concert presented by the Mountain Breeze. In addition to attending the potluck, many

residents come to the pavilion area with their chairs and listen to the performance. Beginning a year ago, picnic shared hosting the early summer Newcomers Welcome event.

It's easy to attend. Get your picnic basket out and pack it with your colorful tablecloth, plates, flatware, and adult beverage. Don't forget your contribution to the potluck. Past favorites include Caesar Salad, shrimp trays, deviled eggs, three bean salad, pasta salad, chips and salsa, beet salad, potato salad, fried chicken, beanies and weenies, pork tenderloin, baked ham with pineapple rings, hot dogs, barbecued pork, pizza, casseroles, peach cobbler, brownies, cookies, apple pie, and chocolate pie.

Monday Picnic is a great Bent Tree tradition. Gather at 5 PM. Potluck starts at 6 PM. Seeing as there are Monday holidays during the summer, you just might find the group singing God Bless America on patriotic holidays in May and September.



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## Pest Control

Legacy Pest Control	770-423-0160
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## Plumbing

Bryan Plumbing Services	770-826-5277
Panacea Plumbing	404-644-7549

Robinson and Family Plumbing	770-873-3202
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Serv'all Plumbing & Rooter Service	770-917-1852
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Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880
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## Pre-Schools & Kindergarten

Omega Learning Center-Acworth	770-792-7431
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## Propane Service

<b>Gas Incorporated</b>	770-720-1378
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## Real Estate

Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne	404-403-1789
Atlanta Communities-Elizabeth Martin	678-373-9342

Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	770-403-5639
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Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team	404-373-0076
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Cory & Co. Realty	404-564-5561
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Georgia Real Estate Depot-Nix	770-401-4932
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Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes	404-626-3604
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JW Collection Brokers LLC-Oslund	678-672-2878
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Keller Williams-Gloria Williams	678-780-7556
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Keller Williams-Linda Jacobs	770-337-2006
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Orchard Realty-Schmidt and Pala	678-677-2738
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ReMax-Bailey	678-535-8979
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Robin Martin and Associates	678-665-0202
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## Remodeling

Diversified Contracting Group	770-329-9112
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GCI Basements	404-569-8794
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Serv'all Plumbing-Remodeling	770-917-1852
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Victoria Renovations	678-429-3108
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## Restaurants

Cactus Cantina	470-207-8341
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Kaldi's Coffee	404-727-0405
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Luna Maya	770-720-4999
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## Roofing

Atlanta Roofing Specialists	770-419-2222
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Certified Quality Roofing	470-326-7663
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Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
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## Schools-Private

Atlanta Academy	678-461-6102
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King's Ridge Christian School	770-754-5738
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McGinnis Woods Country Day School	770-664-7764
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The Friends School of Atlanta	404-373-8746
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## Security Systems

Classic Entry Systems	678-330-1111
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## Skin Care

dermani MEDSPA - East Cobb (Marietta)	678-909-1735
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## Tutoring

The Brain Station	678-401-3596
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## Veterinarians

Flowery Branch Pet Wellness Center	678-960-3060
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## Water Heaters

Serv'all Plumbing-Water Heaters	770-917-1852
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## Window Replacement

Davis Window & Door	678-379-1629
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EntryPoint Doors & Windows	770-904-0094
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North Georgia Replacement Windows, Inc.	770-888-1604
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Visionaire Windows	404-543-9306
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## THINKING OF *Selling?*

If you are thinking of selling now is the perfect time. New listings are hitting the market daily. Although rates are fluctuating, homes that are listed in the peak of summer typically sell faster at a higher sales price than in the fall.

With all the changes we have seen in the market, you might be asking if now is the right time. Let's discuss the options to find what works best for you and your situation.

If you are concerned about rates, we have a team of amazing local lenders to help you prepare and lay things out that make sense for you financially.

### BENT TREE MARKET PREVIEW

\$479,450 MEDIAN SALES PRICE	92.10% MEDIAN SALES TO LIST PRICE	91 AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	32 ACTIVE LISTINGS
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CENTURY 21 OFFICE  
SOUTHEAST



CENTURY 21  
OFFICE GEORGIA

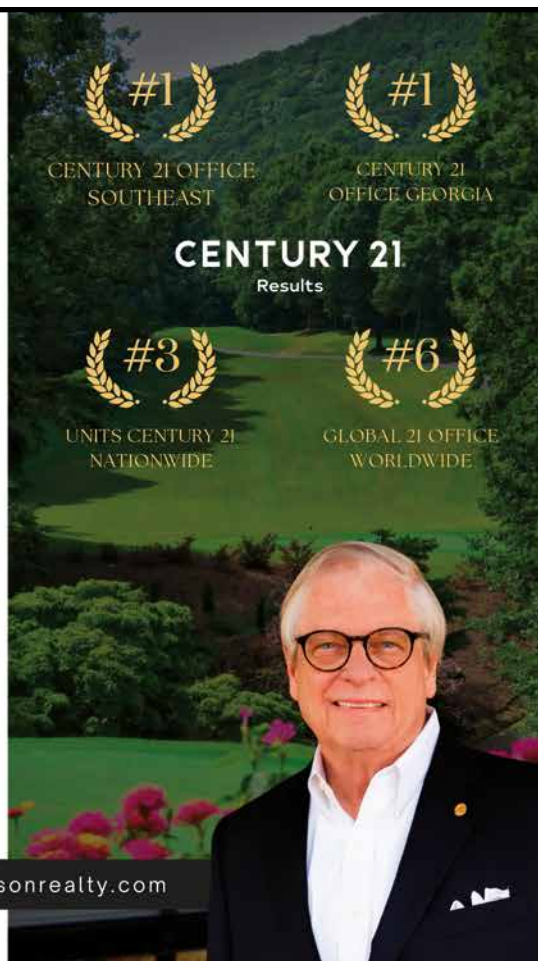
**CENTURY 21**  
Results



UNITS CENTURY 21  
NATIONWIDE



GLOBAL 21 OFFICE  
WORLDWIDE



GERALD LAMBERT | 404-272-6563 | 770-424-0888 | [glambert@charsonrealty.com](mailto:glambert@charsonrealty.com)

**CENTURY 21** Results 171 Foothills Parkway, Ste. 104, Marble Hill GA 30148

We have reached the end of the first half of the year. Sales in the first half of 2024 just barely beat the sales from the first half of the year in 2023 by about \$200,000. There have been 42 houses sold for a volume of \$16,698,796 and 40 lots (including the tax sale lots) for a volume of \$565,393. Craft sold ten of the 42 houses. There are currently 35 active homes on the market and seven pending sales. Of the 35 active homes on the market, Craft is listing five of those. Craft is representing two of the seven under contract. 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 66 sales. We have the knowledge, the experience, and the contacts to sell your home for top dollar. Looking forward to working with you.



**2323 Tamarack Drive • \$793,999 | 5BD/5BA • Amazing lake views!**



**470 Sharp Top Mountain Trail  
\$679,000 | 4BD/3.5 BA**



**104 Big Stump Mountain Trail  
\$539,000 3BD/2.5BA**



**354 Starcross Lane  
\$519,000 | 3BD/3.5 BA**



**174 Sassafra Mountain Trail  
3BD/BA | \$485,000**



**381 Crippled Oak Trail  
\$329,500 | 3BD/2BA**



**172 Starcross Lane  
\$339,900 | 3BD/2BA**



**273 Denny Ridge  
\$349,900 | 3BD/2BA**



**Lot 351 Lake View Trace  
\$55,000 | .65 Acre Lake Lot**



**Lot 272 Tamarack Dr  
\$24,900 | .46 Acre Golf Course Lot**

Bob McCallum,  
Broker  
404-502-8644

David Stone  
678-608-7944

Maxie Kelley  
706-692-9343

Lynn Manni  
678-480-6944

Gary McCallister  
941-374-3676

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678-773-1782

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Associate Broker  
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Katie Witmer Hall,  
Associate Broker  
706-766-9222

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