

Santa greeted a procession of over 400 vehicles filled with holiday celebrants at the Fire Station during Big Canoe's first "Wilderness Wonderland." (Photo by Karen Steinberg)

POA News	3
Events & Happenings	19
Wining & Dining	28
Getting Fit & Healthy	29
Around the Tees	30
Racquets 'Round the Nets	35
Marina	36
Let's Go Clubbing	40
Made in BC Gift Guide	50

DON'T JUST LIST YOUR
HOME, GET IT *sold.*



#1 in homes and lots sold



www.BigCanoe.com

706.268.3333

sales@bigcanoe.com

POA News

Preserving Big Canoe's Character: Clubhouse Edition

By Scott Auer
Big Canoe General Manager

We love to highlight all that makes Big Canoe such an unbelievable place to live, especially around the holidays. Beyond the natural beauty and unmatched amenities are our employees – those 200+ folks who tirelessly make sure the snow is cleared, the greens are pristine, and the meals come straight to your table hot from the kitchen. These staffers are too often overlooked and underappreciated.

Now, I am very sorry to say, they're suffering at the hands of some Scrooges, a few property owners misguided by a sense of entitlement who occasionally resort to inexcusably rude, abusive and even threatening behavior. Who does that?

We've had the good fortune of assembling a team of seasoned food and beverage professionals to turn around our Clubhouse. They're a versatile group that collectively has had its hands in more than 100 eating establishments, from high-end resorts to fine-dining restaurants to more casual chain locations. They've come up through the ranks as dishwashers, owned their businesses and dealt with every conceivable customer interaction within an earshot of a food processor. Their combined experience speaks volumes.

In all those years in kitchens and dining rooms across the country, they have never had to deal as frequently with the level of galling rudeness or threats leveled at them in the Sconti Clubhouse. Numerous employees, tired of stomaching the harassment, quit because such chronic headaches weren't worth the trouble.

Also at issue have been the bar patrons unwilling to take "no" for an answer. They might down one too many drinks, climb into their car and then navigate the curves of Big Canoe's mountainous roads in a way that at best is a total disregard for anyone's safety, including their neighbors'. What they conveniently ignore: The Clubhouse staff and the POA are likely liable if they end up in a wreck. That sort of customer behavior has led to an alcohol-service class for



Scott Auer, Big Canoe POA General Manager

The Clubhouse staff to re-emphasize that drink limits will be enforced.

Part of my job as general manager is to preserve the character of Big Canoe. This goes beyond making sure we repaint the Postal Facility or have a fresh layer of pine needles on the traffic circle to greet inbound visitors. It's about maintaining standards, regardless of the setting. I know of numerous property owners who say they forgo The Clubhouse because of the atmosphere in the Black Bear Pub.

"This hurts the business," says Brett

Kreisher, a Big Canoe property owner who just two months ago became the Food and Beverage floor manager where he essentially oversees the inner workings at The Clubhouse. He was among the recent hires brought on board to right the Clubhouse ship, an industry vet with 34 years under his belt who previously spent a decade in the Navy as a submariner.

"Some people will not come here until this problem is fixed," he added. "They would rather go to Home or Sourwood. And that's disappointing because this place could be doing even better, it could employ more capable people and it could really live up to the expectations we all have for it."

This issue is addressed in Big Canoe's Rules and Regulations, which are explicit about conduct described as "belligerent, hostile, harassing, threatening, or combative in nature" and considered "violations of a serious nature." The rules outline how violators can be asked to leave The Clubhouse while the most combative could lose access to amenities for a month or face fines.

As a result of all this, we also are instituting some changes at The Clubhouse. Cameras will be installed in the bar. Drinking patrons who've had more than their share will no longer be served alcoholic beverages. Clubhouse personnel will reserve the right to deny service to anyone who arrives inebriated. Past administrations discussed addressing this, but we are adopting a zero-tolerance policy for this sort of behavior.



The Sconti Clubhouse is a beautiful facility that all should enjoy.

Continued on page 4

POA News

Continued from page 3

As most of you know, I'm a pretty upbeat person and have a deep love for this community. I don't want to come off as a Grinch as we are easing into what should be the most joyous stretch of the calendar. Nearly every person who dines on the fried green tomatoes or stops in for a drink or two is contributing to Big Canoe by patronizing The Clubhouse. Everyone, from property owners to our valued employees, wants to feel comfortable enjoying the great amenity that is the Black Bear Pub.

This situation is one previously raised – repeatedly – whether through emails, announcements at board meetings or in local newspaper columns.

To that, I feel the need to paraphrase what my mom might have said: Big Canoe is better than this. We are a community with no shortage of positives and we are capable of making this a place where everyone, including our employees, feels as comfortable and secure as if they were in their own home.

And that might just be the ultimate Christmas gift for everyone in Big Canoe.

Respect

everyone deserves it

Our employees have the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

They are here to serve you, and should be able to do their jobs without being verbally abused.

Most people respect this.

Thank you for being one of them.



Who doesn't love free incentives?

'Big Three' amenity promotion offered until December 31

Here's something to celebrate as we wave goodbye to 2020 in the rearview mirror.

The POA is offering a two month free membership incentive and opportunity to join any of the "Big Three" Big Canoe amenities - full golf, tennis and fitness.



Play and pay nothing for the first two months of your annual membership (full dues for the remaining 10 months).

This is for residents who have not had a membership in golf, tennis or fitness for at least one year. All those interested in having a little fun while being physically active should contact Teri Sawyer at (706) 268-1092 no later than December 31 when this great promotional offer ends. It's available for December sign-ups only.

Once signed and geared up, Big Canoe's well trained and knowledgeable staff will help you explore all that's offered in your chosen amenity.

What does this savings amount to? Residents will save at least \$445.30 on a golf membership, \$153.40 for tennis and at least \$89.50 at the Wellness Center.

Visit each amenity on the POA website, bigcanoepoa.org, to learn all that can be yours.

What a great way to welcome 2021!



Ronald Reemsnyder
Attorney

RESIDENT OF BIG CANOE

Whether you have been injured, need help updating your wills, a Power of Attorney, collecting a debt, defending a complaint, or dealing with an insurance company, Ron can provide you with the legal assistance needed.

Call for Free Initial Consultation
(404) 861-9798
rreemsnyder@mflaw.com

POA News

Parting words from our past POA President

*By Bob Crouch
Retiring POA President*

I have had the privilege and honor to serve as your POA Board President in 2020.

It has been an interesting experience. The year was marked by a pandemic, the POA Board being seated in March unlike a “normal” December formation, we entered into a management agreement with Bobby Jones Links and hired a new General Manager in mid-year.

There have been notable accomplishments in this unusual year. In spite of significant revenue impacts from COVID-19, POA finances are very strong. The Food and Beverage loss is trending to improve more than a quarter of a million dollars in 2020 and the 2021 budget, when achieved, will provide an improvement from 2019 of \$420,000.

The 2021 budget has no increase in property owner assessments while investing in Public Safety (patrols and 24/7 manning of the North Gate), Communications and Project Management.

Budget priorities were strongly influenced by the Satisfaction Survey results. Please continue the high participation rate in future surveys.



Bob Crouch, President of the POA Board of Directors

POA debt will be paid down by almost \$1M on the path to be debt free in early 2026.

Property owners sent a powerful message of support to maintain Big Canoe properly by casting 73 percent Yes votes on the Creek 9 Rejuvenation Project. The year 2020 marked a year of “Sprucing Up” many POA facilities. The budget included significant funding for road maintenance which was delayed due to utility work which would have made planned paving wasteful.

I expect 2021 to continue to progress with needed improvements in a much calmer environment.

The coming distribution of COVID-19 vaccines provides the opportunity to get back to a “new abnormal.” This will allow for fun opportunities including music and socializing as in the past. We are poised for additional social opportunities when possible.

What can you do to enjoy life in Big Canoe and improve on what we already have? If you see fit to volunteer, register in our new Professional Registry. If you simply want to enjoy your time here, stay informed, participate in Satisfaction Surveys so we know what is being done well and what needs work, complete the census so we can plan for new demographics and vote to elect representative directors so you will influence the desired direction of your community.

Always display the respect deserved by our employees who make our idyllic life possible. Live with tolerance, graciousness, compassion, generosity, civility, caring and appreciate what a blessing it is to live in Big Canoe. Please continue to support our General Manager and the new POA Board President as we strive to fulfill the “Character of Big Canoe.”

Scott Shiffman
Jeweler • Custom Designs • Diamond Sales
 ScottShiffman.com
 sshiffman@tds.net
 706-268-1556
 770-653-1773

Inside the Gates

10586 Big Canoe, Jasper, GA 30143
 Phone: (706) 268-3346
 Fax: (706) 268-3765
 Websites: www.bigcanoepoa.org
 www.insidethegates.org
 email: info@bigcanoepoa.org
 Advertising: aliceeachus@gmail.com
 Communications & Marketing Manager: Tim Moran
 Articles written and edited by Alice Eachus
 Official publication of the Big Canoe POA
 © 2020 Big Canoe Property Owners Association

POA News

It's annual inspection time again

By Treena Parish

During the second week of January, the Architectural and Environmental Control Department (AECD), that would be Treena Parish, will be doing the yearly drive through the entire property.

Treena will be looking for a variety of things including, but not limited to the following: holiday decorations, unpainted additions, unauthorized decorative appurtenances, and progress regarding the recent notifications of C.2 Tree Maintenance Provisions.


The AECD guidelines state all holiday decorations are to be removed within two weeks of the applicable holiday. Please take the time to remove all holiday decorations and remember to check your front door for a wreath.



All additions, repairs, and remodels are required to be painted to match the existing structure. It is understood that some additions/repairs require time to “dry out” prior to painting. If this is the case with your addition, please let Treena know when you receive your notification.

These are just a few of the things she will be looking for. Hopefully her list will be short.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



Woodland Gardens
Big Canoe Landscapes & Maintenance
 Cynthia Hendry
 Owner/Designer

1385 Petit Ridge Dr.
 10617 Big Canoe
 Big Canoe, GA 30143-5130
 cell 770-337-2277
 cynthiahendry@icloud.com

It's for the birds!

For all those who were watching the calendar waiting for November 30 to arrive - rejoice, it's come and gone. This is the date when Big Canoeers can officially fill their birdfeeders with seed.

But wait, not so fast! Prevailing thought is bears hibernate in the winter. That might be true in Canada or Alaska, but not necessarily in Big Canoe. It just doesn't get cold enough here.

Bears do slow down, but they're still hanging around.

As expected, pregnant mama bears head for their dens first, followed by their offspring. Then come the other lady bears leaving the gents to roam about. Those big guys have hefty appetites, even while moving slow.

Birdfeeders serve several purposes. They offer nourishment, if not treats, for all kinds of birds. Some feathered friends are plain, but many have colorful markings that are fun to identify. If looking out the window is your favorite form of winter entertainment, bird watching can be an adventure. Grab a copy of a birdwatcher's guide and have at it.

Don't place birdfeeders too close to your house. Bears do climb and those sunflower seeds smell mighty tasty. While nibbling on them, that big old bear might get a whiff of your supper and that could lead to him knocking on your door.

Enjoy watching birds flock to your feeder and playing hide the seed. Squirrels notoriously love to taunt birdies by threatening their nibbles which often leads to a turf battle. Such excitement Mother Nature provides!

For more information about the bears of Big Canoe, check out the Black Bear Project on Facebook. You'll be surprised at how much you'll learn.



POA News

Giving the gift of life to many Americans

Information and photos submitted by Karen Steinberg

Friday the 13th was a lucky day for many Americans. It was the day Big Canoers donated blood to help save lives. The effort was sponsored jointly by the POA and the American Red Cross and was held in McCormick Hall at the Big Canoe Chapel.

Pints and pints of blood and plasma were drawn and sent on their way to help those desperately in need. This is a difficult time for many hospitals with critical care units filling fast. All help is needed to see our country through the crisis now faced.

Donors could walk in or make an appointment, all were welcome. The reward? A thankful nation and a pack of cookies to enjoy.

The next blood drive will be held on March 12, same place. To make an appointment and save some wait time, call Cheryl Mahan, the local Red Cross representative, at (706) 224-6610.

Please consider giving the gift of life; the life you save might be your own!



Checking cell phones was a favorite pastime while waiting to give blood.



So comfortable! The Red Cross makes it easy to donate blood.

Capital Contribution Fee ballots

On December 4, the POA mailed ballot packages to property owners to cast their votes for or against the proposed Capital Contribution Fee. Ballots were sent to all property owners current on their POA account as of November 30.

If you will not have access to the address on your POA account by December 15, contact Tim Moran at (706) 268-3375 or tmoran@bigcanoepoa.org to request an emailed ballot package.

All ballots must be received by Wednesday, December 30. Duplicate ballots will be void. Completed written ballots may be submitted:

- Via U.S. mail to Mauldin & Jenkins, 200 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 1700, Atlanta, GA 30339-9545
- Emailed to: bgraham@mjcpa or
- Faxed to (770) 980-4183

Election results will be announced on Monday, January 4, 2021.

FAIR IS GOOD
We all share in Big Canoe's future!

It's hard to believe that this very special place is closing in on its 50th anniversary. The natural beauty, assortment of amenities and unparalleled lifestyle is what first brought us here — and we all share in keeping our community maintained and responsive to ever-changing needs.

The proposed Capital Participation Fund, which requires \$2,500 at closing for all new homeowners, is a fair way to balance the costs long borne by current owners with new owners, who will participate in all that Big Canoe has to offer.

Your support of this much-needed funding source will ensure we maintain the Big Canoe we all know and love. Remember to vote on the Capital Contribution Fund Dec. 4-30. Go to bigcanoepoa.org to learn more.

CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION FUND
We all share in Big Canoe's future.

POA News

Keep your holidays safe and bright **One Warm Coat Drive extended to January 1**

By Ricky Jordan
Director of Public Safety

The holiday season is fast approaching and home safety during this joyful time of year is one topic Public Safety would like to impress on residents.

From sitting around a blazing fireplace sipping hot cocoa to trimming the tree, be fire safety aware while making sure safe practices are being utilized. This will result in a happy holiday season.



With cold weather's arrival, families are jockeying for seats around the toasty fire. To ensure fireplace safety, a few factors should be considered. First, a fireplace should be inspected and cleaned annually prior to use; a professional chimney sweep can make sure your fireplace is in proper working order.

The next concern with a wood burning fireplace is to make sure the fire you build isn't too large for the fire box. Properly seasoned hardwood should be used. The wrong wood, such as pine, creates excessive creosote which can create chimney fire hazards.

Another concern Public Safety recognizes are fires resulting from improper lighting and wiring issues or live trees that become dry and thus are extremely flammable.

For families choosing live Christmas trees, some major safety guidelines should be followed.

First, don't buy your live tree too early. It could die and become dry and brittle before Santa arrives.

Once the tree is placed in its stand, it should be kept in water through the remainder of the season. Finally, any and all decorations should be UL approved and caution taken using extension cords and multiple plug strips.

A little bit of holiday caution will result in a happy and safe holiday season.

Check out the NFPA Tree Safety Sheet at <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ChristmasTreeSafetyTips.ashx>.

Hey, it gets mighty cold in January, February and March, you know. Big Canoe's participation in the national One Warm Coat Drive typically ends at the end of November, but this year coats and jackets will be welcomed until January 1.

This national program gives the opportunity for communities to donate warm outerwear to those in need in local communities. This gift of warmth is so appreciated during this very difficult year for many. Coats and jackets are distributed through CARES of Pickens County.

Outerwear for adults and kids is welcome - all sizes. Coats and jackets should be clean and gently worn. Please remember to remove tissues and Kleenex from pockets before donating.

Donation collection boxes are located outside the Membership and Events office on the Terrace Level of the Sconti Clubhouse.

Please help spread the warmth of the holidays to all.



Petit Crest Villas



Call 706-268-3600
www.petitcrestvillas.com

Sales & Rentals

Providing Interval
Ownership
In Big Canoe -
Since 1981

POA News

Meet the next mega millionaires

Big Canoe has entrepreneurs in the making

Photos by Ashley Bates

Start ‘em young, and watch ‘em grow!

As noses tingled when Jack Frost tickled, three young entrepreneurs in Wedgewood put their heads together and decided to open the Three Brothers Hot Chocolate Stand complete with marshmallows and peppermint sticks to warm things up a bit for Big Canoers who happened by. To add to the flavorful sipping, pre-packaged gingerbread cookies and Christmas tree cakes were included as extra treats, all for free! Of course, donations were happily accepted, maybe to help fund summer lemonade stands when temperatures soar.

By the end of the two-day hot chocolate sipping, the boys had almost \$100 donated. Then came the hard lesson in economics when they learned about cost versus profit. In the end, each boy had dollars to put into their piggy banks and used some of the profit to buy Christmas gifts for the family.

Eight-year-old Sean and five-year-old Liam Wheeler did most of the heavy lifting as 15-month-old Phoenix probably had no idea what was going on. Phoenix just knew his handsome older brothers were up to something big and he wasn't about to be left behind.

To add to the merriment, the boys performed magic tricks and chatted up the crowd. Reindeer Rudolph marked the spot where the boys stood decked in bright red Santa caps with snowy white face masks creating the illusion of fluffy beards on sweet, innocent faces.

The stand was quite a hit as holiday cheer took on a whole new look. Good going, boys, your future looks starry bright with such energetic, enterprising enthusiasm even at your young ages. Come June or July, we'll all be in line



Along with hot chocolate, the boys served gingerbread cookies and Christmas tree cakes.

at your roadside stand for icy cold lemonade to beat the summertime heat.

There is a bit of Big Canoe history with this family. Allen, Abby and daughter Ashley Bates have had a home in Big Canoe for 26 years. They first purchased property in 1989 when Ashley was three years old. The Bates became full time residents in 1994, right before Ashley started 4th grade at Tate Elementary. Ashley is now 34 and has a family of her own with her partner Sean.



Sean amazed the crowd with magic tricks he taught himself.

Ashley and her young family of five moved in with her parents Allen and Abby in March 2020, right before the pandemic hit.

“It is a great blessing to be with my parents and in my childhood home in Big Canoe. I couldn't imagine being raised anywhere else. I hope our boys can embrace the beauty and adventure, the love and fellowship of Big Canoe, the way I did growing up here,” Ashley fondly remembers.

We're glad you're here, family of five plus two grandparents!



Sean, Liam and Phoenix are starting their business careers early with their warm and welcoming Three Brothers Hot Chocolate Stand.

POA News

Toad's Pond Trail renamed Mike Davis Trail

By Dianna Peterson

At a recent POA Board meeting the Board approved the Trails Committee's request to rename the trail around Toad's Pond the "Mike Davis Trail" in honor of Mike Davis who passed away in June.

Mike and his wife Kay lived on Toad's Pond in the Waterford section of Big Canoe since 2007, and have been a part of the Big Canoe community since the 1980s. Initially they were part-timers, and Mike enjoyed retreating to Big Canoe to escape the pressures of his job as a CFO in Atlanta.

Mike's deep appreciation of nature benefited the community through his participation with the Mountain Stewards and the Big Canoe Trails Committee. Mike was especially passionate about helping maintain the Waterford trails, and was the steward for the Toad's Pond Trail for over 10 years. He maintained, repaired and continually improved the trail, and even took his rowboat out to cut the grass on the small islands to allow a pair of geese to nest and raise their goslings year after year.

However, his contribution to preserving the natural surroundings was not limited to the trails in Waterford. Other work includes his involvement in 2005 as a member of the

Mountain Stewards and Hiking Club where Mike was one of the handful of volunteers that donated many days of labor to construct the Turner Bridge and Wildcat Creek Bridge in nearby Wildcat Campground.

Reluctantly, a couple years ago Mike had to retire from his role with the Trails Committee

due to declining health, but his wife Kay didn't miss a beat and took over maintaining the now named Mike Davis Trail. Mike and Kay's neighbors and friends applaud the decision by the POA Board for this well-deserved tribute to a wonderful and caring man.



Mike Davis was always ready to work on Big Canoe trails and beyond.



Doing what he loved to do, hanging out in the woods.

Dream Vacations
A CRUISEONE COMPANY Start Here

**All Major Cruise Lines • Escorted Land Vacations • Groups
River Boat Cruises • Luxury Cruises • & Much More!**

www.VacationsByMike.com • 706.579.5005

For information call Mike Ziegenbalg & Associates, Big Canoe, GA
(Independently Owned and Operated)
Satellite Office Now Open North Gate Station

**Cruise Line Direct
Pricing PLUS
Personal Service**

POA News

Avalanche of cardboard roars at the Postal Facility

It's quite shocking actually that Santa is able to fly to the Big Canoe Postal Facility, or even get off the ground with so many packages in his sleigh daily. The five ladies who serve our facility must have sore feet at the end of the day after scanning and sorting hundreds of packages along with delivering the heavy load of regular mail. Oh, if there was some way to stop junk mail, our mailboxes wouldn't be so crammed! Even requesting a stop to junk doesn't seem to work that well.



It's apparent we need a new facility desperately. Our Postal Facility is not really a post office, just a glorified mail distribution center. It worked well when there were just a thousand or so residents, but with our community swelling to close to 5,000, it's getting a little tight in there.

Of course one obvious solution is to have residents pick up their mail daily. Not so easy with so many working folks here now who often don't inch back through the gates until well after sunset. Without regular posted hours of service, it's often hit or miss to pick up your load of Amazon's finest. The parking lot around the Postal Facility gets crowded fast and navigating can be like a scary run in a demolition derby.

Residents can check to see when the mailroom is open for pickup by logging on to the POA website, bigcanoepoa.org, and checking the video feed. That might save you a trip. Some opt to be notified by the USPS when mail or packages arrive. That works, some of the time.

Speaking of Amazon, the company now uses the US Post Office as the pick-up point for their familiar boxes. Shipments may start out with UPS or FedEx but are finally delivered by post. Hence the avalanche of cardboard.

Some companies promise front door delivery and many residents opt to order from them. If you choose that option, make sure you have Big Canoe written in your address someplace. There are a good number of streets in Bent Tree, Ball Ground and Jasper with the same name. If you're missing a package, you might find yourself in a game of hide and seek.

The POA is looking into places to build a new facility but that might come years down the road. So, how to solve this problem until that special delivery day arrives?

On the unofficial Big Canoe Facebook pages, ideas spin like a roll of Forever stamps. Here are a few solutions offered: Use an out building designated for package pick up only; designate a postal employee "runner" to deliver packages directly to cars lined up in a lot; recruit volunteers to pick up packages and deliver to front doors, or an enterprising soul might start a delivery business and rake in the big bucks; grab a postal box at the Marble Hill Post Office so you have mail/package access 24/7. There are many more solutions floating around, check out Facebook to read them all.

In the meantime, wear a mask when visiting our crowded facility and don't hang out to chat with friends. Get your mail and packages and hit the road, Jack.

Your Life.
Your Policy.
Your money.



Are you over age 70?

If you are, Whitestone Life can help you get CASH NOW for your existing life insurance policies. Plus, you will never have to make another premium payment.

The money you receive can be used to eliminate debt, pay day-to-day expenses, create financial stability, or fulfill wishes and dreams.

Whitestone Life is located in Jasper. As a local company, we can work quickly to get you the money you deserve!

Request an Evaluation of Your Life Insurance Policy. Call 770-676-6488 • whitstonelife.com



POA News

2021 Budget

By Jayne Hagan

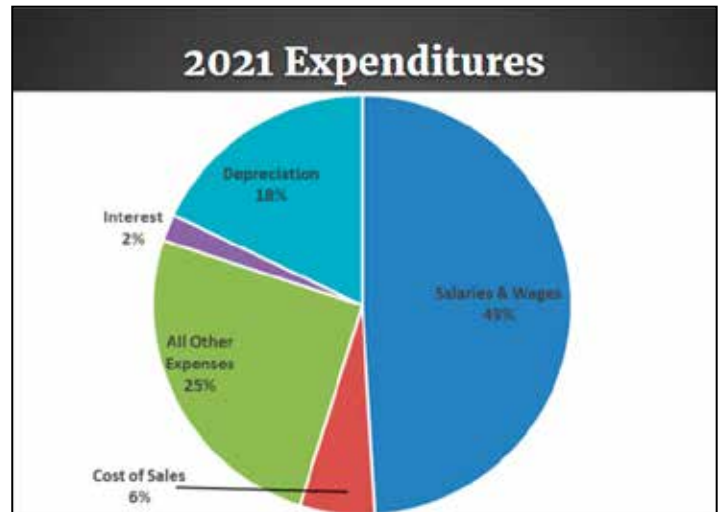
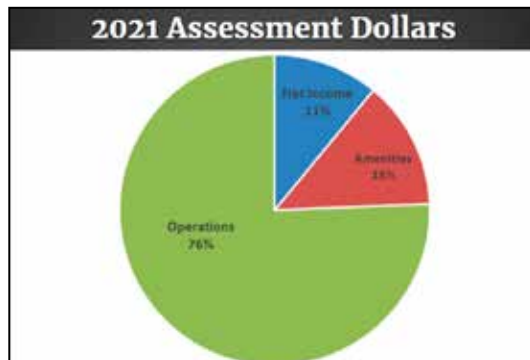
The 2021 operating and capital budgets were approved at the November 19 Board meeting. The following are the key features for the operating budget:

- Food & Beverage loss is \$379k compared to \$779k in 2019
- Storage yard fees will increase after improvements are completed
- Marina slip fees will increase after docks are moved
- Contractor transponder fees will increase
- Cart fees increase \$1 for 18 April 1
- Merit - 2% increase
- Benefits - 23% increase
- Additional personnel in the Communications/Marketing Department
- Additional Public Safety firefighter / EMT's
- Staff North Gate 24/7
- Start the Firewise program around POA buildings
- Additional plants and shrubs
- Interior painting
- Wood floor maintenance at Clubhouse and Wellness Center
- Increased Window Cleaning
- Property Owner Activities return mid-2021 (hopefully based on COVID restrictions)
- Property Insurance - 12% increase
- Garbage facility – adding transponder gate access and an additional compactor

All this without an assessment increase.

Net income of \$4.1M to cover loan and capital replacement budget

The following chart shows where your assessments are budgeted including depreciation:



Highlights of the 2021 \$3.6M Capital Budget are:

- Twice the normal amount of paving, since no paving was completed in 2020
- Swim dock replacement
- New bocce court construction
- Disharoon silt removal & pipe replacement
- Walking mowers
- Road shoulder refurbishment
- Tennis Courts #1-4 Clay replacement
- Replace several vehicles
- Cart path underpass engineering for Cherokee 4 -5
- Security cameras

POA News

Talkin' Trash

Okay, enough is enough. The trash facility at the North Gate needs a little TLC from Big Canoe residents and guests. The mounding problem has been on the pile for a while now but some folks aren't getting the message.

If the garbage, recycling or cardboard chutes are closed as designated by a red light signifying STOP, either take your trash home again or cart it to the Pickens County recycling facility on Cove Road just a few minutes away.



Do not leave anything on the ground! Also, do not throw inappropriate items in the large dumpster containers designed for a special purpose like yard debris, aluminum cans or metal.

There's a brand spanking new trash and recycling facility in Pickens County. Don't live in Pickens County? No problem. Anybody in the whole state of Georgia is welcome to use it.

The new recycling center is located in Jasper, a little past Walmart. The address is 390 Appalachian Court, Talking Rock. It's larger than the facility on Cove Road. It's free except for \$1.00 per bag of household trash.

Hours for both Pickens facilities are Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Both facilities are manned for your convenience.

You can also check out Priest Recycling in Jasper. The company will pay for certain recycled items. Check their website at priestrecycle.com for details.

Bulk trash can be dropped at Whitestone Valley Landfill in Talking Rock. There is a \$28.00 minimum charge for items dropped. Call Whitestone for details at (706) 253-3300.

In Ball Ground, bulk trash is accepted at Advanced Disposal Eagle Point Landfill. There is a minimum charge of \$25.00, then determined by weight. The phone number is (770) 781-2721.

If you're headed to Dawsonville, trash can be dropped at Dawson County Waste and Recycling. Bagged refuse up to 55 gallons is 50 cents per bag with a 10 bag limit.

Introducing the Big Canoe Professional Registry

Share your life experiences and help our community shine

It's official! Big Canoe now offers a Professional Registry and invites property owners to be part of its listings.

Along with our beautiful surroundings, the folks who live here are beautiful assets too.

Collectively, Big Canoers offer a wide and interesting array of skill sets and work experiences. Many talents are evident among our ranks, but often aren't known. There is an impressive and rich reserve of helpful expertise that has too long gone untapped.

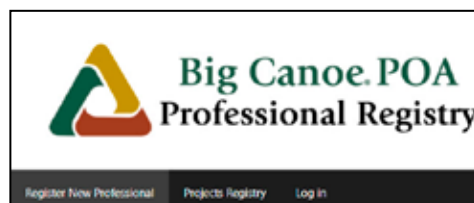
The Big Canoe Professional Registry is designed to identify and match specific strengths, experiences and institutional knowledge with the needs of the community. It will be a place where residents can find a fit for possible volunteer service or use personally.

The registry will identify professional, volunteer and military and other life experiences, some of which might not fit into a specific category.

All life experiences will be included to offer skills which will be helpful to our

community. This is an innovative way to learn more about your neighbors and their past life and work experiences. It will be an adventure to discover the many talents and gifts hidden behind our gates.

Sign up for the registry at <https://professionals.bigcanoepoa.org/>.



Big Canoe has its own Bulk Trash Day quarterly. Watch POA e-blasts for details.

There you go. Plenty of places for you to use rather than dumping in the areas around our own trash facility. There is often an attendant at our facility and cameras are catching violators which could lead to a big fine.

Be part of the solution to this ever growing problem. Thanks to Bonnie Schlots and Gretchen Hudock for supplying information.

POA News

STAR Award goes to Steve Panetta, a real dynamo

Article and photos by Mark de la Viña

Steve Panetta couldn't help himself.

As the Wellness Center Activities Director, Steve readied for an informal photo shoot to document his winning the November Big Canoe STAR Award. Steve froze upon spotting a crooked light fixture by the Wellness Center entrance. He paused, briefly tapped the bulb and then pulled back. This would have to wait. There was other, more immediate business at hand.

In this case, the business was receiving a framed November STAR Award and a \$50 gift certificate, a recognition given by Big Canoe to exceptional employees who go beyond the call. Steve was nominated by the board of Leadership Big Canoe (LBC), the popular course for Big Canoe residents interested in leveling up their involvement in the community.

As much as any Big Canoe employee, Steve has endured all manner of challenges in working to keep the Wellness Center both safe and functioning in the age of COVID-19. Unlike other Big Canoe facilities, the Wellness Center requires visitors to have their temperature taken on arrival. Mask-wearing is required, which has deterred more than a few former regulars from returning. Most have adapted and accepted the new normal is temporary, but Steve has seen nearly a third of the regular patrons put their memberships on pause.

Nonetheless, Steve has worked hard to ensure his staff, as much as the treadmill sets, are as safe as possible and able to keep going.

What likely surprises those more accustomed to seeing Steve Panetta around the Wellness Center is he is something of a multi-sport star. His official duties also include



Steve Panetta shows off the plaque honoring him as the November STAR Award recipient.

overseeing both the recently renamed Beach Club and the Wildcat Recreation area and pool. On top of that, he operates Canoe Connection, the orientation program that helps new employees better understand life inside the gates.

Five years ago Tim Moran, Marketing and Communications Manager, revised the New Property Owner's Orientation presentation to use as a crash course for Big Canoe new employees. A team led by Steve, including former POA staff members John Thompson and Kim Cooper, Debbie Pickett, Director of Administrative Services, and consultant Susie Pecuch, used it as the basis for Canoe Connection. The program became so vital and popular that it was adopted by Leadership Big Canoe to help familiarize its participants with the community's inner workings.

Today Steve provides colorful commentary for attendees on mini-buses, springs a pop quiz built on local trivia (Tip: There are four pools in Big Canoe) and acts as a tour guide whether the class is visiting the fire station or the golf maintenance facility.

"Canoe Connection is a wonderful addition to our employee on-boarding process," Steve shared. "I appreciate being recognized for something that I'm so passionate about and enjoy providing."

To date, Steve has led 65 Canoe Connect classes, three of which were for LBC. All that and he assembled and personalized more than 700 balsa wood miniature canoes which he has hand-delivered to every individual who has come through the Canoe Connection program.

"Panetta is kind of the essence of what Big Canoe is all about," says Brian Galway of the Leadership Big Canoe board. "As a leader, he instills in his people a drive to be helpful, to go beyond what their responsibilities are, and to ensure that everyone has a meaningful experience. And for property owners, he's there to help them understand what Big Canoe is all about – and that can be fixing light fixtures or cleaning up."

"It's like having a big house with a lot of guests," Steve explained. "When you discover a problem, you own the problem."

Or in Steve's case, owns and solves the problem, puts his stamp on the solution and then manages to make a flotilla of miniature canoes.

If you want to celebrate a Big Canoe staff member who has risen to the occasion whether it's a co-worker, employee, or an ace staffer who wowed you with their service, anyone from employees to property owners to visitors can show their appreciation by filling out and submitting a STAR award nomination form at https://www.bigcanoe.org/files/Star_Award_form_and_description.pdf.

POA News

Getting to Know Ricky Jordan

We all recognize the big teddy bear of a guy who heads Big Canoe's Public Safety Department - Ricky Jordan. Ricky started working for our community out of high school as a fire-fighter and security officer. He became interested in emergency services after serving as a volunteer fire-fighter in Ball Ground.



Ricky was appointed Fire Chief in 2009 and now oversees all emergency related operations and access control. He doesn't stop singing the praises of his entire staff - the very best team of safety workers ever assembled!

Here's a bit of inside info to get to know Ricky better.

1. What's your favorite Christmas cookie?
The original chocolate chip cookie. No icing, please!
2. What's something you really resent paying for?
I really hated paying for insurance, until I needed it. As I've gotten older and wiser, risk management has become more important.
3. What makes you boiling mad?
Dishonesty and untrustworthy people.
4. What chore do you put off doing?
Changing the HVAC filter at home. Always slips my mind until it makes it on the official Honey-do-list.
5. What role in a movie would you like to play?
I would love to play a firefighter/paramedic. In almost 99 percent of movies scenes the tactics or medical treatments are so far from correct it's comical.
6. What famous person would you like to meet?
Garth Brooks. I've always loved music and his genuine nice guy personality and ability to energize a crowd is amazing.
7. What was your favorite Christmas gift ever?
My favorite gift was a dirt bike I got when I was around nine. I grew up on several acres with a lot of land to explore. I can't imagine how many hours I spent on that dirt bike.
8. How do you get out of a bad mood?
Roll down the window or drop the top on our Jeep, turn up the music and drive through mountain and forest service roads.
9. If you had to pick a favorite dinner, what would it include?
A steak dinner at Down-Town Kitchen in Canton, including steak, loaded baked potato and a house salad with ranch dressing.
10. What are your hobbies?
I enjoy music and playing in my down time. I play the drums and bass guitar and play in the Worship Team at our church.
11. What talents do you wish you had?
I wish I could learn to play the guitar better. I have tried teaching myself, paid for lessons but just can't catch on.
12. What's your favorite family tradition?
Christmas traditions are my favorites. From having families together for a meal to how we do Christmas morning with our kids.
13. What word would you say best describes you?
Trustworthy. A person is only as good as their word.
14. What would you sing at karaoke night?
Not much of a singer, I'm more of a shower performer. But if I were to sing it would be an old classic country tune.
15. If you could go back in time and change one thing, what would it be?
Spend more time with my grandmothers. I was fortunate to have both of them for most of my childhood. I wish now I would've spent more time sitting on the front porch chatting and learning more about our family.
16. What super power would you like to have?
Be in two places at one time. With two kids and a career there are times I wish I could be in two places at once.
17. What's your favorite part of the day?
My favorite time is after morning coffee and before lunch. This is when I feel most productive.
18. What's your dream vacation?
I love cruise vacations but due to COVID our last two cruise plans were cancelled. Once a year Jennifer and I take a no-kids getaway usually on a ship with another couple to the Caribbean.
19. How many pairs of shoes do you own?
I have 8-10 pairs of shoes. I have black work boots for the fire station, work boots for the yard, tennis shoes, a pair of dress shoes for church, dress shoes for a suit and a few pairs of Crocs for the beach or lounging.
20. What current trend makes no sense to you?
Teens lifting the front of their trucks and keeping the rear low. It looks like they're driving with an extremely heavy load or pulling a trailer.

POA News

‘Happy Trails’ is the song of the Trails Committee

Article and photos by Liz Scherer

On November 15, a Sunday, FedEx showed up at my door with a big heavy box. I thought, “What did I order?” The box was from Corona Tools in California. Then I remembered. A few days earlier, while I was helping fellow members Ignacio Leon and Mitch Waldman clear a downed tree, Mitch

noticed I had a Corona hand saw I was using to cut fairly large limbs. Turns out, Corona Tools is a client of Mitch’s in the Home Improvement space.



A surprise box of goodies.

Mitch spoke with his contacts at Corona and they offered to send tools for us to use on our trail work.



In the package were high quality pruners, a seven-inch folding saw, 13-inch saw with leather scabbard and a machete with sheath.

The package contained some serious cutting tools, ranging from high end pruners to machetes, saws and an awesome pair of loppers.

I tried them out in my back yard on downed branches, dead limbs and such. The tools are really good quality, comfortable with special grips and cut anything like butter.

My own saw I use on trails and at home, I had initially purchased on Amazon, where it had great reviews. I’ve had it many years until it got dull while we tried to use it to cut a chainsaw out of a fallen log that got stuck. The blade got dull so I went back to Amazon and bought another one.

So I’m excited that the Trails Committee will now have additional tools for our next work day. A bucket works well to carry them to the worksite. But you can carry the pruner and folding saw in your pockets, and the larger saw and machete attach to the belt with their holders too.

Many thanks to Mitch and Corona Tools for this very generous donation to help us keep our trails in great

condition. These are excellent quality tools I recommend to anyone. They can be found online, at Ace, Home Depot and Lowe’s.



These loppers are seriously awesome. Here they are with handles extended. They cut tough dead mountain laurel branches like butter.



Mobile Mechanic



Chip Mitchell | Owner, Mechanic
 (833) GREASE 2 | (833) 473-2732
 info@grease2go.com
 www.Grease2Go.com

- ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
- ENGINE DIAGNOSTIC
- BRAKES
- SUSPENSION & STEERING
- COOLING SYSTEM
- GENERAL REPAIR



No need to TOW - Scan for INFO!

POA News

Winter weather is knocking on our door

*By Ricky Jordan
Director of Public Safety*

With cold weather right around the corner, now is the time to prepare for winter in Big Canoe.

Recently over 200 new families moved to Big Canoe and for many of these families, this will be their first experience with a Big Canoe winter. It can be eye opening as well as eye pleasing.

Big Canoe boasts some of the most beautiful sights following a fresh snowfall. Some of the most fascinating and intriguing landscapes I've ever seen have been while working winter storms in our community.



With all the beauty comes pre-planning for Big Canoe owners and residents to prepare before the first flake falls.

The first thing to do prior to the arrival of snow is to gear your mind to preparation. This means having food and water supplies stocked in your home for a minimum of 72 hours, although a week's supply is recommended. Make sure to have your prescriptions filled as well as a good supply of over the counter meds and first aid needs.

Games and books are good to have on hand in case power is lost and you need something to occupy the hours.

Back-up power and heat are recommended; this could mean a back-up generator or other heat sources that can be used if power fails. Of course, a good supply of flashlights is recommended, but if you use candlelight, watch the flame carefully to avoid a surprise fire.

Foods that can be used without cooking is a great idea. If cans don't have a pull-up lid, be sure to have a manual can opener on hand. Of course chocolate is always a treat when stressed or bound inside.

Big Canoe has a large fleet of road clearing equipment to make roads passable as quickly as possible. However, the current practice of waiting for the snowfall to stop before clearing continues in place.

Due to our elevation and temperatures, if roads are plowed and cleared too soon, an icy film will freeze and make travel worse. Black ice is common in our

mountains.

Public Safety has specialized vehicles and equipment to respond to winter weather emergencies. If you see our vehicles traveling with ease, it's likely because we have installed heavy duty tire chains or are in a track-equipped vehicle. Don't try to follow a Public Safety vehicle unless you are told to do so.

It's also a good idea to have a cell phone charger, boots for cold, wet weather, snacks, food, water and blankets in your vehicle in case you become stranded. Don't try to navigate roads if you can't see markers. It's easy to become disoriented and easy to slide into a culvert. Keep your gas tank full.

Public Safety will attempt to access anyone stuck in a bad place, but it often takes some time so if you are stranded, you may have to stay warm while you wait for help. Finding a nearby home in which to pass the time brings a welcome, comfortable feeling.

One of the most common phrases we hear during a winter storm is, "I thought we could make it home in time!" Our rapid elevation changes often catch people by surprise. Last year a storm dumped over three inches of snow at the Lake Petit dam in less than 20 minutes!

Be prepared, be weather aware. If you have guests coming to enjoy the snow, make sure they arrive at your home before the snow falls as guests are not permitted to enter the community once the roads become slick.

Big Canoe is beautiful, but can be a struggle in the winter if you're not prepared. The best thing to do is sit inside by the window and enjoy the frosting Mother Nature puts on our cake.

For additional information, check the FEMA Tip Sheet at https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/winter-storm_information-sheet.pdf.



POA News

The '70s are alive and well in Big Canoe

By Jan Murphy

We cannot escape the '70s in Big Canoe. And we may not want to. The era is still all around us. It's easy to go back in time by visiting the Treetoppers or driving by the modern architectural homes built in the 1970s scattered throughout Big Canoe.

On the inside of The Chimneys, time stood still and not much has changed since it was built in 1974. For those too young to remember the '70s, it was an expressive decade. Rock music was huge, bright, vivid wallpaper was popular with lots of oranges, olive greens, yellows, shag carpet and bringing nature inside was the thing.



This rendering was used to market Big Canoe in the 1970s.

It is easy to dismiss the 1970s as “the decade that taste forgot.” But to do so would be to overlook the decade’s contributions in architecture, furniture design and interior decorating. A more thorough examination of this period is particularly worthwhile today, a time that (like the 1970s) is burdened by a time of renewed environmentalism and disenchantment with material excess. And like our early '70s counterparts, we too are emerging from a period dominated by sleek, minimalist modernism in interior design.

Who would have ever imagined cathedral ceilings with wood beams and lots of wood on the walls and floors would be still popular in the twenty-first century! Perhaps the interior designers and the architects in the '70s were born before their time or knew some things would never lose their charm.

So, what are some of the more interesting, even inspiring, features of 1970s design found in Big Canoe?

Back to Nature

The style of the '70s was greatly influenced by the back-to-nature movement, which arose from both a hippie rejection of consumerism and materialism and a renewed environmentalism following the 1973 oil crisis. Architect S. Claire Conroy points out many '70s architects were early

adopters of new energy-efficient technologies and designed houses “as organisms that mesh with their surroundings—living, breathing, and changing together.” Big windows and skylights were popular, as were indoor gardens and elevated or stacked stone fireplaces. While high-tech plastics were obviously big in the '70s, so too was teak and pine furniture.

Open-Plan Living

While many rooms in the 70s resembled wall-to-wall carpeted, wood-paneled dungeons, residential architecture of the time was very innovative when it came to light and space. In many ways, the '70s introduced the concept of “open plan living,” according to some architectural historians.

Many homes had massive windows, spiral or floating staircases, interior second-floor balconies, and vaulted ceilings. Again, sound familiar?



This Big Canoe home has a definite look representing the '70s.

Color, lots of it

Love it or hate it, the 1970s were a colorful time in interior design. For every drab earth-toned room there was an equally colorful one.

Most of the homes in Big Canoe no longer have shag carpet but it's common to find the back to nature style, skylights and the open wood beams with high ceilings found in most of the homes built today. Who would have guessed the seventies would influence mountain living as we know it today?

Stroll around Big Canoe and what you will find are fascinating homes built in the seventies that reflect the styles of the time with many having the modernistic exterior that will take you back in time.

Thank you, seventies! That era may be gone forever but it will never be forgotten!

Author's Note: Do you have a '70s home? Send me a picture! Would like to capture the '70s throughout Big Canoe for the 50th Anniversary celebration in 2022.

If you would like to see more images of this period in Big Canoe, join us on the Facebook group, Big Canoe Historical Society. If you have Big Canoe nostalgia to share, contact Jan Murphy at (678) 761-9414 or email her at jmurphy36867@gmail.com.

Events & Happenings

Bears' bourbon sipping at its very best

Photos by Steve Papke

The Bear Society spread a bit of warmth in November by hosting a Bourbon Tasting at The Clubhouse. Rod Arnold, well known as The Bourbon Whisperer, brought six exceptionally famous bourbons to sip and savor.



What a glorious display of Kentucky's finest.

Rod introduced the history of bourbon as well as the distinct nuances that separate each brand. Guests were invited to share their thoughts and favorites on a scoring sheet.

At the end of the sipping soiree, all left with Kentucky on their minds. Many were introduced to bourbons they'd never enjoyed before and perhaps found a new favorite.

The Bears are looking forward to getting their groove back with parties and events for members and the whole community.

With 2020 putting most on hiatus, we're ready to party hearty once again. C'mon 2021, make us happy!



Before one drop was savored, Rod Arnold gave an introduction to the bourbons of Kentucky.



Our Success Is Best Demonstrated by What Our Clients Say About the Work We Do....Here Is A Recent Sampling!

*"....When we interviewed Linda Travis to list our home in Wildcat, she came professionally prepared with extensive knowledge of the Big Canoe market, and a persona that was perfect – neither over or underselling her considerable experience.....Once deciding on Linda, she went to work immediately.....We had anticipated a sale taking five months or longer, **but Linda sold it on day one!!!**.....Linda's post-sale support was equally amazing -the perfect buffer between Seller and Buyer (who her firm also represented).....We would highly recommend Linda Travis & Associates Realtors, Inc. to anyone considering selling their home. Linda is the "real deal", and a pleasure to work with."*

- Norman & Jesse Jester (Sellers, 2020)

Linda Travis & Associates Realtors, Inc.

Providing Professional Real Estate Services in Big Canoe Since 1994 • Member First MLS (FMLS)
Phone 706-268-3011 • Fax 706-993-3300 • Email: sales@dltravis.com • Website: www.dltravis.com

Events & Happenings

Santa ruled the waves on Lake Petit

Photos by Karen Steinberg

Ahoy, mates! Word was out Santa was coming to town and would be riding the ripples of Lake Petit to greet the most wonderful time of the year. In early December, a flotilla of watercraft bobbed in the water as Big Canoers captained their crafts to light up the lake. Those who worried it might be too cold and blustery were delightfully surprised when Mother Nature gave her blessing to skirt any unexpected winter surprises.



Ready to launch!

Boats were decorated with colorful lights and props to bring cheer to all who enjoyed the spectacle, whether riding the lake waves or watching from the shoreline snuggled in blankets. Homeowners around the lake added to the merriment with their own lights and decorations.



Santa paddles his own sailboat, but where are the reindeer?

The Christmas boat parade has the look of becoming an annual holiday flotilla cruising Lake Petit and we all hope the waves will welcome Santa next year. And a good time was had by all!



Rafting up to share cheer was popular.



Wow, this pontoon really lit up the lake.



View from the cockpit looking over Lake Petit. (Photo by Tina Marie Mayr)

Events & Happenings

Sounds of the season at the Big Canoe Chapel

Enjoy the music of the Ryzhkov Family online

Sounds of the season welcomed the month of December at the Big Canoe Chapel when the Ryzhkov Family entertained and inspired folks with their own brand of music. The Ryzhkovs are founders of the Byelorussian Mission organization which helps orphan children and helps build churches in Belarus, Israel, Ukraine and Russia.



The sweet sounds of music filled the Big Canoe Chapel on December 5.

Due to COVID, seating was limited for the December 5 performance but the concert can be enjoyed online by visiting bigcanoechapel.org.

It's sometimes difficult to get into the Christmas spirit with so many restrictions in place. Enjoy this holiday performance online while sipping hot chocolate in your favorite easy chair. It's the next best thing to being there.

Lighting up the blessed season

The Big Canoe Chapel has a nighttime glow this holiday season, thanks to the generosity of volunteers. The Chapel stands as a beacon of light in these very troubled times. A dusting of snow would bring a touch of glistening silver to this monument dedicated to faith and hope. Maybe it will happen!

Christmas is being celebrated at the Chapel, with social distancing precautions in place. To view all you can enjoy, in person or online, visit bigcanoechapel.org. (Photo by David Apple)



Complimentary Dental Implant and Facial Aesthetics Consultation
Northgate Station Comprehensive Dentistry

Dental Implant Center,
 Cosmetic Dentistry,
 Facial Aesthetics
 and Invisalign
 all Under one Roof.

470-695-3534



30 Northgate Station Drive, Marble Hill, GA 30148

Events & Happenings

It was sugar and spice and everything nice

Information and photos submitted by Amanda White

One corner of The Clubhouse welcomed the spicy fragrance of the holidays and brought remembrances of Christmas Past to all who wandered by. The Clubhouse held its first ever Gingerbread House Decorating competition, with high hopes this sweet event will become a tradition in our community.

Congratulations to Marie Jolie and Tina Marie Mayr for winning First Place for their Gingerbread Village. It was



The Summit Neighborhood had a jolly old time raising the roof on their own neighborhood of sweets.



Nancy Allen's gingerbread house was sprinkled with snow.



Nine-year-old Patton Ragsdale created a cozy mountain cottage.

a delight to see, especially the fanciful train that chugged through the town. What an innovative touch!

Second Place was awarded to Big Canoe's Summit Neighborhood with their cluster of homes reminiscent of those on "Summit Mountain." From tortilla shaped walls to pretzel designed roofs, it was a fantasy neighborhood which invited all "contractor neighbors" to help build.

Nancy Allen won third place with her delightful candy inspired cottage with a frosty snowman standing at attention to welcome visitors.

Honorable mention was awarded to nine-year-old Patton Ragsdale who created a cozy cabin constructed of peppermint and chocolate.

A sweet thank you to all the bakers and decorators who helped create a little holiday magic in Big Canoe. It was a warm and wonderful way to welcome the holiday season. Now we're off to catch the gingerbread man!



The gingerbread town designed and decorated by the mom and daughter team of Marie Jolie and Tina Maria Mayr took first place.

Events & Happenings

The benefits of NEAT

By Christine Flaherty

I expect your holidays will not include watching an inappropriate art film with your children. They are adults but *The Favourite* may not have been the best choice. It is the story of the sickly and conflicted British Queen Anne in the early 1700s. Excellent performances. Beautiful cinematography. Engaging plot. And yes. Amazing reviews. But unbeknownst to us it included several scenes of, how to put this delicately, lesbian bedroom drama. It definitely will not be replacing *It's a Wonderful Life* in our family's holiday rotation. That is just one (admittedly small) aspect of this year that did not go as anticipated. So as we bid goodbye to the debacle that was 2020, part of my plan is to welcome 2021 with some new and healthy diversions in the form of non-exercise (read: easy) activities. If you and/or your spouse skew sedentary, read on.



The first involves “dynamic sitting.” It sounds like an oxymoron. It’s actually a form of Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis (NEAT). In other words, burning calories the easy way. The fact is that anything you do, no matter how seemingly inconsequential, enables blood to flow and your muscles to engage. Surprisingly, you actually can burn an extra 100-150 calories an hour by increasing your NEAT. The good news is this type of neat does not require a vacuum cleaner or a mop. Unless you want it to.

So how does one increase their NEAT? Alternating standing and sitting as you answer emails is a great way to increase thermogenesis. An ideal ratio is standing for three times longer than you sit. So consider placing your laptop/iPad on top of some books, so you can stand while you type or read. Even fidgeting, generously included in dynamic sitting, burns calories. Dynamic sitting also offsets one of the more negative effects of being sedentary. It stimulates blood flow through the major arteries of the legs, lessening the potential for arterial stiffening and elevated blood pres-

sure. All good.

Consider adding other NEAT activities to your day. There are the classics: take the stairs rather than the elevator, park at the far end of the lot, gardening, dog walking, cleaning (vacuuming and mopping included), cooking and even shopping. These are all ways to stimulate circulation and build strength. One of my favorites is to stand on one foot while brushing my teeth. You will be surprised how not-easy that is as you improve balance, reducing the chance of a fall. Consider adding movement to your TV time. A wobble cushion (available at Amazon for about \$20) enables you to rotate your hips and build core muscles as you binge watch your favorite shows, all while providing valuable entertainment for your spouse.

There is more good news if you are ready to ramp up your routine. It was felt 30 minutes of walking or other exercise was needed to maintain health. A recent article in *The New York Times* reported that respondents were not always, ahem, precise with their time estimates. When a study was done with participants wearing a measurement device it was determined that only nine minutes of strenuous walking or other exercise was needed to achieve meaningful health benefits. In fact, with just short bursts of demanding activity people were shown to be resistant to 13 types of cancer. Similarly, the American College of Sports Medicine concluded that regular exercise has the potential to reduce our risk of developing some cancers by as much as 69 percent. It also was found exercise could actually prolong life in people who already had cancer. These are impressive results for something that takes less time than unloading the dishwasher.

Without a doubt, activity of any kind is good for us. It improves fitness, reduces disease, lengthens life span, benefits heart health, makes us stronger and improves our quality of life. It speeds our metabolism, strengthens immune response, increases stamina and benefits almost every organ and biological system within us. Pretty compelling. So don't delay. Make getting more exercise in 2021 a priority. You will thank yourself later.

If you would like to join the walks hosted by the Healthy Living Committee, we walk every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. at three different locations. Social distance is maintained and the group walks even on the coldest days. Contact Christine Flaherty at christine.flaherty21@gmail.com for more information and to be added to the walk reminder/invitation list. We hope to see you there.

The Healthy Living Committee is a part of the Wellness Collaborative, a 501(c)3 organization.

Events & Happenings

How to pod, safely and effectively

By Christine Flaherty

Here in Big Canoe we are exceptionally fortunate.

We hike and kayak, we play golf, racquet sports and bocce and dine on the open-air veranda at the Clubhouse. But as it gets colder, some of these activities may seem less appealing.



What if you

want to entertain a few close friends or family at home? How can that be done safely?

Simple - create a pandemic pod. A pod, or bubble, or “quaranteam” is a group of friends or family members who agree to specific safety measures, both for when they are together and when they are not. These enable them to gather, while reducing the risk of contracting or spreading the coronavirus. The approach does not eliminate risk. It is, however, a valuable tool for lessening the chance of developing or passing on COVID, while addressing the issue social isolation.

Who should be in your pod? Clearly, it should be individuals you enjoy spending time with. That’s a given. Then you will want to choose members with an approach to COVID safety that matches your own, and that you feel confident will be able to abide by the rules you agree to. Pods may want to do some initial screening, to ensure everyone is healthy at the start. Members may agree to isolate for two weeks or get a COVID test before their first meeting. Ideally your group should consist of no more than six people.

Set up ground rules for your pod. Members will need to agree on how to interact with individuals both inside and outside the pod. Will members consistently wear masks and observe social distancing for any outside activity? Can pod members interact with other friends and family? Will there be visits to indoor restaurants or bars? What about other

non-essential locations? Will the group go grocery shopping or use delivery? Then when gathering will everyone wear masks? Stay six feet apart? Share food? If socializing with outsiders is agreed to, the group may decide that pod members should be informed.

Keep indoor air as fresh as possible. Start by cracking a window. Try to gather in a room with a high ceiling and adjust ceiling fans to pull air up and away from the group. Try to keep the indoor relative humidity between 40 and 60 percent in spring and fall. Lower levels of relative humidity in winter will prevent excess moisture from accumulating on windows. Consider using a portable air purifier with a HEPA filter.

What happens if someone gets sick? Be specific upfront by defining what constitutes being sick and how the pod will respond. There then will need to be a plan for how members will reenter the group. Will there be testing? Temperature taking? The CDC recommends that people who have been infected or exposed to the virus, quarantine for two weeks.

Support your immunity. Norwegians say “There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing.” So think about making some cold-weather, wardrobe additions part of your winter COVID-safety plan. This will enable you to spend more time, more comfortably in the outdoors. Then consider joining the walks hosted by the Healthy Living Committee as a way to boost your immunity. We walk every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. at three different locations. Social distance is maintained and the group walks even on the coldest days. Contact Christine Flaherty at christine.flaherty21@gmail.com for more information and to be added to the walk reminder list. We hope to see you there.

The Healthy Living Committee is a part of the Wellness Collaborative, a 501(c)3 organization.

CREATIVE.

Writing Ideas Consultation

40-Year Ad Agency Professional

Brent Carroll 404 863 3005

bcarroll@carrollwhite.com

Events & Happenings

Scavenging for fun was a family affair

By Katie Mitchell

The Big Canoe Family Christmas Scavenger Hunt complete with loads of holiday fun was the brainchild of Anne Jaekel. Anne reached out to Katie Mitchell and Tina Marie Mayr to help plan the exciting socially-distanced event for our kids in Big Canoe.

Anne provided the decorations and organized additional volunteers to set up and work the event since she was pulled away for the birth of her new grandchild. Cathy Venlos and Kimberly Eschenbach were team leaders for decorating the trails and had assistance from Pat Papke, Ursula Berlinger, Cade Ross, Lauren Johnson and



The Kimbrell family played in the leaves when not searching for colorful clues.



Ella Kate and Elliott Ostrosky followed the trails for loads of fun. Clues were pretty easy to spot.

Gordie Lazich.

This first ever event was held December 1-6 with a variety of activities geared to family holiday fun.

Five daily challenges were posted on Facebook so families knew how to earn team points toward prizes. Bonus challenges were also added to earn entry into a raffle for prizes.

The actual scavenger hunt was held on December 6 starting at the Lower Falls Jeep Trail.

Please help us thank the people and businesses that donated the prizes for the winners of the week long event. The kids really loved those prizes! Donors included Anne Jaekel, Dollar General, Ace Hardware, Mary's Bread Basket, HOME Restaurant and North Gate Estates & Consignment Sales.

Same time next year? Count on it!



Did the family pup sniff out scavenger clues for an added advantage?



BCAR was part of the holiday challenge too and our pups benefited. Ella Kate and Elliott Ostrosky loved playing with the dogs and cats.



The Krumins family had just a little fun on the hunt.



Team Shenanigans participated in all the daily challenges. The team spanned three generations. Allen and Diane Hooper live in Big Canoe. Their daughter Kristi and her children Adrian (12), Juliana (9) and Luca (5) live within an hour's drive.

Events & Happenings

Travel Club celebrates seven years around the world

By Margo Vallone

If you've lived in Big Canoe for awhile, you're probably aware we are definitely a community of travel lovers, but most people have probably forgotten, or never knew how the Big Canoe Travel Club was born. I can tell you, because I was there on day one, and have been the POA representative for the Travel Club ever since.

It actually began in 2013 before the HOA merged with the POA. Mike Ziegenbalg, owner of Cruis-eOne Dream

Vacations located at North Gate Station, approached the HOA Board with the idea of a travel club for residents, their families and friends. Mike, having been in the travel business most of his career, was well aware of a strong interest in travel from the conversations he had with many clients and friends expressing an interest in a variety of travel options and group trips. After a number of meetings with the HOA and POA, General Manager Roger Klask gave the approval for a "trial period" to see whether there was enough demand to make a club worthwhile.

On September 7, 2013, the HOA sponsored a reception at The Chimneys to introduce the idea of a travel club, featuring Mike and representatives from Royal Caribbean Cruises and Globus Tours. The response was overwhelming with a standing-room-only crowd of over 125 who signed up that evening for a free membership in the Big Canoe Travel Club. The membership has remained free to this day, and there are over 400 people on the mailing list!

The Travel Club operates under an official charter designating it to "play a role in Enriching Life in Big Canoe," and a Planning and Advisory Committee was chosen and meets quarterly to help oversee and plan the monthly meetings. In 2018, Katie McGrady Allman and Nancy Thur-



mond, owners of Cruise Planners American Express Travel Franchise, became the second travel agency to sponsor Big Canoe Travel Club meetings and to host vendors.

Each month's meeting features a different vendor who wows the crowd with slick video presentations highlighting land tours and sea and river cruises to exotic domestic and worldwide destinations. The offerings are available for individual travel and several group packages are available each year, many of which are customized and specially priced for Big Canoe members. A few favorites have been: AMA Waterways Christmas Markets on the Danube, Alaska Land and Sea Adventures, Rocky Mountaineer train trips to the Canadian Rockies, Rhine and Douro Wine Country River trips, and even excursions to Antarctica and the Galapagos Islands. In 2022 a trip through Egypt on the Nile River is on the books.

For the past several years, the Travel Club hosted a themed gala event for members to mix and dine on gourmet ethnic food and visit with several sponsoring vendors. A drawing at this event awards a lucky person as the winner of a fabulous trip for two.

Like everything else in 2020, the highly popular Travel Club meetings at the Sconti Clubhouse came to a halt, and Dream Vacations has resorted to Zoom presentations by various travel vendors for the past several months. As of now, it appears it may be early spring before vendors will again do live presentations. Be assured as soon as pandemic restrictions are lifted enough so we can begin gathering again, there's no question Mountains Grille will be brim full on the fourth Wednesday of each month with enthusiastic travelers anxious to get on a plane to satiate their pent-up desires to again visit tourist favorites and exotic wonderlands.

Watch for Travel Club updates in *Smoke Signals* and in POA e-blasts.

HANDYMAN SERVICE AND HOME REPAIR



**Carpentry • Electrical
Plumbing • Drywall
Tile work • Odd Jobs
Deck & Fence repair
Pressure washing**

*Just about anything you
need done*

Dawsonville, GA 30534
RSortor@windstream.net

Call Randy at (678) 230-9893

Events & Happenings

Winter Balls carried touches of elegance and glamour

In this year of COVID, the Clubhouse presented two Winter Balls, just to keep folks socially distanced and safe. Masks were worn, except when eating since it's a real challenge to sip shrimp and lobster bisque through a mask.

The Clubhouse was elegant as a gaggle of volunteer elves led by Amanda White put their magical decorative touches everywhere. Elves included Cathy Mitchell, Joy Dyer, Pat Williams and Pat Gogolin.

Ball attendees enjoyed a delightful dinner of shrimp and lobster bisque as the first course, beet and baby arugula salad accented with smoked almonds and goat cheese with a balsamic and strawberry reduction for the second course. The entrée was a beef filet with rosemary jus accompanied by Yukon gold whipped potatoes, asparagus and heirloom tomatoes.

The crowning glory to the dinner was a generous slice of bourbon pecan pie topped with sweet ice cream.

While the evening was a bit different than in years past, the warmth of friendship filled the room with genuine holiday spirit. Next year, hopes are hugging, cheek kissing and dancing will return to celebrate the season.



David Sharp and Jane McKenney enjoyed their evening at the best table in the house!



Scott Auer, Big Canoe GM, celebrated with his wife Cindy on the second night of Winter Ball. Attendance was limited to just 50 guests each night in accordance with Georgia guidelines.

Oh, the weather was so scary and frightful

But spirits were so delightful

The first ever Big Canoe Winter Wonderland was a wonderful welcome to the Christmas season ahead, even the angels wept tears of joy at the celebration. Grinches might have called those tears raindrops, but what do they know anyway?

Showers of thanks to Teri Sawyer and her Programs and Events

team, Public Safety, Public Works, the Big Canoe Chapel, Big Canoe Boy Scouts, Inside the Gates Radio and all the volunteers who made this evening a very merry time. Of course, special thanks to Santa, the big man in red.

Even the Scrooge Pandemic can't keep our community from having fun. On to 2021, finally!



Wining & Dining

Curbside Pickup is yours Wednesday through Friday

If fixing supper on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday brings a case of the blahs, turn your frown upside down and order Curbside Pickup from The Clubhouse. Orders are taken between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. for pickup between 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pickup times are in 15 minute intervals with five pickups assigned per time slot.



There's a limited select menu which can be viewed under the Dining tab at bigcanoepoa.org.

Call (706) 268-2421 to place your order or order online by clicking the Order button on the POA website.

Get your hands around a big juicy 'burger and leave those kitchen blues behind!

Duffer's is Big Canoe's hot spot

Ahhh... that's what you'll swoon after a warming visit to Duffer's, our little bistro behind the golf cart barn. This is the season when hot stuff calls, particularly the savory soups simmering on the burner at Duffer's.

Every day there's a new choice - chicken noodle, tomato, French onion, vegetable and maybe even that old favorite, stone soup. Chili is always there to enjoy.



To add to the warmth, why not try a steaming cup of hot cocoa or deep dark coffee, perhaps laced with your favorite libation?

Duffer's is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Call (706) 268-3273 to place a pickup order or just drop on by the warming hut.

THE PASTRY STUDIO

BY HANNAH STONE

Hey Big Canoe, we bring the goodies to you!

French Macarons & Cakes baked fresh to order

The new Holiday Season menu is here, and we are delivering from Cumming! See the menu and delivery details online:

HannahStonePastry.com
Contact@HannahStonePastry.com
410.474.2620

Macarons | Wedding Cakes | Chocolate & Sugar Showpieces

Getting Fit & Healthy

Getting your moves on at the Wellness Center

Information submitted by Steve Panetta

The Wellness Center has taken enhanced health and safety measures for residents, guests and employees. Keep in mind all must follow posted instructions while visiting any Big Canoe facility.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public

place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease



Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By visiting Big Canoe facilities, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

In compliance with the latest State of Georgia Executive Order, all persons entering the Wellness Center will be subject to screening. This will include a temperature check and asking several questions. Additionally, patrons are required to wear a mask at all times when using the fitness equipment and center.

But that doesn't mean exercise isn't happening for Big Canoers! Ten exercisers are allowed in the workout room, admitted at the top of the hour for 45 minutes. Masks are required during the extent of the workout. Reservations are needed.

There are a number of classes offered online via Zoom, including Terence Grigg's exercise class and Elizabeth Devereux's yoga classes.

Additionally, 21 classes are offered "live" either in the studio or indoor pool.

The indoor pool can accommodate four at a time and the whirlpool was recently opened for one person at a time, top of the hour and bottom of the hour.

The racquetball/squash court is open for singles only and masks must be worn during play.

Wonder who the kids are using the pool? The

Folks ran to Big Peach on Wheels on a sunny Sunday

Some might jokingly call Big Peach On Wheels by another name - Big Foot on Wheels.

So, what exactly was this big colorful peachy-peach unit parked in the Wellness Center parking lot on a sunny Sunday afternoon in December?



Big Peach on Wheels brought a fully stocked mobile shoe fitting experience inside our gates. Its compact yet spacious showroom included over 400 pairs of shoes, socks, foam rollers, apparel and most any other run specialty gear you can imagine.

The company specializes in an award winning fit process which will help determine the correct footwear for you so you can run, walk, jump or horse around in style and comfort.

If you missed this come-to-you shoe fitting opportunity, follow the company on Instagram at [bigpeachonwheels](https://www.instagram.com/bigpeachonwheels) or visit the company website, [bigpeachrunningco.com](https://www.bigpeachrunningco.com). To chat about your footwear needs, contact Sean at sean@bigpeachrunningco.com.

Grab a pair of Big Peach athletic shoes so your feet won't be magnets for Legos in the dark. We all hate that!

youth swim team is back and practicing a couple nights each week.

For information about any Wellness Center activity, class or to make reservations for equipment, contact the front desk at (706) 268-3441 or visit [bigcanoepoa.org](https://www.bigcanoepoa.org) and click on the Amenity tab.

Wellness Center Hours

Monday – Thursday:	6:15 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Friday:	6:15 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday:	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24:	Closed
Friday, December 25:	Closed
Thursday, December 31:	6:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1:	Closed

Around the Tees

Taking care of our golf course fairways

By Lydell Mack

There have been much discussion and questions lately about the fairways; here are some answers you might find helpful. Here are some here

Since going dormant after the first frosts in November, our bermudagrass fairways and rough have shown quite a

bit of wear patterns from cart traffic. I believe the traffic wear is worse this year because we have more carts in use due to the pandemic restrictions which include single riders on each cart. We have seen an increase in rounds played ever



since the pandemic took hold and with that has come an increase in cart rentals – now four carts per four-some instead of two. While the turf was actively growing, it was able to withstand the extra wear and tear but now that it's dormant the turf canopy continues to be beaten down with no recuperative ability in the plants.

That lack of recovery in the dormant grass has led to thin areas that have been mistaken by some as Golf Maintenance lowering the height of cut on the mowers. We do not mow during dormancy, in fact we try to time our last mowing to finish about two weeks before the first frost so the turf grows up a little more than normal height. We plan for the dormancy period by allowing more leaf tissue to grow before it shuts down for the winter as a way to provide a protective cushion against cart traffic in the winter months. All this promotes a quicker green-up in the spring without having to spend money on new sod in dead areas.

I have proposed a solution to combat the extra cart wear by suggesting we stay “cart path only” until spring when the turf regains its recuperative ability. This suggestion has caused debate because “cart path only” is not a popular scenario from a customer service standpoint. I understand a few golfers in Big Canoe have physical disabilities that

Big Canoe's fairways suffer during the winter months. Staying on the cart paths will help solve the problem.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24 (Course closes at 3:00 p.m.)

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25 (Course Closed)

New Year's Eve – Tuesday, December 31 (Course open as usual)

New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1 (Course Closed)

If you would like to be added to the Golf Shop email list to view special sales, event promotions, results, and more, please send your contact information to bjmccranie@bigcanoepoa.org.

prevent them from playing if they can't drive out to their ball and for those folks I propose an exception. However, I hope all others can be open-minded to the rule and see it for what it is – a practice giving us the best chance of having great course conditions to start off the league season in the spring.

Another cultural practice is the pigment application to the fairways. As we have for the past two years, we again applied the green pigment which not only improves the aesthetic appearance of the golf courses, it also helps spring green-up by warming the soil temperature earlier. Like all our golf maintenance practices, this process is done for a specific reason and will have a lasting impact throughout the year.



Yes, that's green pigment on the course. Along with brightening the fairways, it helps with spring green-up.

Around the Tees

Rebirth of the Creek golf course has begun

By Lydell Mack

We know 2021 will be a year of rejuvenation, for the Creek golf course, at least. After four years of planning and promoting, the Creek nine-hole course will close this month to begin the year long process of infrastructure improvements. You may have noticed some of the initial work has been going on since early December as the Golf Course Maintenance team has been conducting tree removal and bunker demolition. We have accomplished roughly half of what we committed to undertaking on our own to reduce the overall scope of work for the contractor.

You may have also noticed unfamiliar faces carrying clipboards, paint guns and ribbons while roaming around Creek these days. These folks include the course architect, Bill Bergin, the environmental engineers from Cor Blue and the contractor, Cole Sanders. Each is making their own plans and markings to ensure the work is carried out efficiently and safely.

What's next, you ask? The most obvious sign of work taking place will be the erosion fencing popping up all over Creek, and then you'll notice Lake Sconti's water level has severely dropped. We are lowering the lake level so the bottom can be dredged down to the original depth and the soil deposited there over many years can be used in the project as fill dirt.

The spoils will be stored on Creek #2 fairway until they dry, then the mound of new soil will be used there and in other areas of the project as it is required. There is no need to completely drain the lake, therefore the aquatic wildlife will still have plenty of water to use and the irrigation pumps on Choctaw will still have enough water supply for drawing. As soon as the dredging is complete, we will



Amazingly, 2020 was a great year for Golf Maintenance

By Lydell Mack

Everywhere you turn these days you hear folks exalting the end of this year, eager to put a bow on the bizarre year that was 2020. But you won't hear Golf Maintenance saying it! For us, 2020 has been a great year, one we will remember for fantastic weather conditions which allowed us to provide stunning course conditions.

Pandemic restrictions allowed course maintenance to take place on a closed course every day and the resultant increase in productivity was noticeable. One great lesson from this year has been that both golfers and workers are happier and more productive when not in each other's way. We will certainly keep that in mind as we move forward in our course improvement project this coming year.

The entire Golf Course Maintenance team wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas, a safe holiday season and a healthy 2021!



close the lake valve and allow the water level to return to full pool as quickly as possible.

While that is taking place you'll see Sanders Golf staff navigating their heavy equipment around working on removal of old pipes and the installation of new drainage catch basins and pipes. Their bulldozers will be pushing soil everywhere to create water collection areas, new bunkers, new greens and new forward tees. After the rough grading is complete, the new irrigation pipe will be trenched in and the sprinkler heads installed. After that, it's just grassing and growing.

With good weather the whole process will take Sanders Golf about six months and then about four more months is needed to grow-in the new turf. We're hoping for a mild fall and winter so the greens are ready for play roughly one year from now.

Around the Tees

MGA closes the season with spectacular tournaments

By Keith Sievers

In a busy four weeks of golf, the Men's Golf Association (MGA) successfully closed out the 2020 season tournament schedule. The weather was incredibly kind to us and with fall colors in full array on the surrounding mountains, the words "picture perfect" would not be overstating the conditions that accompanied our last two events.

On October 16 and 17, the MGA held the Battle of the Ages tournament. In this Ryder Cup style tournament, two teams of 24 players each competed in rounds of Alternate Shot, Two Man Best Ball and Individual Match Play over two days.

Team One consisted of MGA members 70 and older while Team Two represented the 69 and younger crowd, thus the theme Battle of the Ages.

BJ McCranie and Andrew Sterritt, our golf professionals, each captained a team. Friday saw a fairly tight competition, with the 70+ team opening up a modest lead over the young guys. The competition tightened with Saturday's individual match play as the scores came in. Friday's lead



Golf Pro BJ McCranie receiving his award from MGA President Keith Sievers for being the winning Battle of the Ages coach.

proved large enough to fight off the charge, however, and the "Old Guys" captained by BJ walked away with the championship crown. It was a tight competition, but in the end (as an old guy) I'll conclude wisdom and craftiness born of age won the day.

On November 7, the MGA season closed with a Bonus Tournament tacked on the schedule to make up for the early tournaments missed as a result of COVID restrictions. Eighteen four-man teams competed, with the two best net balls counting toward team score on each hole.

At the end of the tally, two teams tied for First Place at 22 under par: Todd Stephens, Bob Chestney, Jim Theis, Buddy Williams and Ron Honeycutt, Ron Young, Steve Mitchell, David Finlay. Congratulations to our Closest to the Pin winners: Ross Milley, Alan Bates, Charlie Hankey and Mark Green.

The last items on the MGA agenda for the year will be holding our elections, establishing a tentative schedule for next year and compiling our annual report. By all accounts, it has been a great year despite the challenges faced, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the patience, understanding and support of our membership.



The beauty surrounding fall golf in Big Canoe. (Photo by Robin Sievers)



Winners of the MGA Bonus Tournament, from left: Buddy Williams, David Finlay, Ron Honeycutt, Steve Mitchell and Ron Young. Not pictured: Todd Stephens, Jim Theis, Bob Chestney.

Around the Tees

Despite a pandemic, WGA golfers were the best

By Martha Power

Although the closing day scramble for the Women's Golf Association (WGA) was rained out, awards were given at a luncheon for 18 and 9-Hole players acknowledging their accomplishments during the 2020 season.

It was noted the WGA, during this very unusual year, played 15 play days with no rainouts, averaging 38 players per play day, sponsored five tournaments and hosted a charity

event that raised over \$3,000 for the Wellness Collaborative. WGA players recorded 41 chip ins, and 137 birdies. Golf balls were awarded for each birdie with three golfers receiving double digit balls: Ellen MacArthur (30), Peggy Williams (15) and Julianna Sproles (10).

Goals for next year include getting an entire WGA season in and continued use of new formats and Golf Genius. Tee times for WGA members will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from November through March but without organized games.

Club Champions were recognized during the luncheon. Eighteen-hole Big Canoe women's champions from past and present are Donnie Faucette ('99, '05, '08, '09, '10, '13), Arti Bailey ('07), Martha Sefarian ('11, '12, '14), Peggy Williams ('15, '16), Diane Mance ('17) and Ellen MacArthur ('18, '19, '20).

WGA net champions are Nancy Allen ('12), Arlene Thurman ('14), Margaret Wendelburg ('15), Carol McClain ('16, '18), Ali Littley ('19) and Janet Vandebark ('20).

One of the highlights of the WGA golf year is the Big Canoe Cup. Eighteen-Holers accumulate points throughout the season by participating in play days, winning flights and playing in tournaments as well as placing in tournaments.

The top 18 point getters plus two captains' picks

make up the two 20-member Canoe Cup teams; this year they were the Eagles and the Bears. The Canoe Cup was held October 16-17. The teams competed in four nine hole formats – alternate shot, best ball, alternate shot and match play.

Bears, captained by Ellen MacArthur, came out on top after a very competitive two-day tourney. Bear team members were Captain MacArthur, Claudia Floyd, Leslie Grogan, Diane Mance, Jackie Murdock, Martha Power, Ginny Shoup Arlene Thurman, Janet Vandebark and Peggy Williams.

Eagles competing were Captain Louise Dale, Carol McClain, Patsy Long, Kim Haczynskii, Tudi Sprague, Rita Boje, Donnie Faucette, Judy Melville, Sandi Towle and Karen DuBose.

At each play day, Ringer cards are kept to record a golfer's best score hole by hole on the three courses. The 18-Hole Ringer Award winners on Creek were Ellen MacArthur (29) gross, Nancy Allen (23) net; Choctaw, Jennifer Jetton (33) gross, Malissa Jett (27) net; Cherokee, Ellen MacArthur (30) gross, Malissa Jett (22) net.

Most Improved 18-Hole golfer for 2020 was Leslie Grogan. Nine-Hole Most Improved Award went to Lynn Downie. The 18-Hole Spirit Award winner was Martha Power. Two 9-Hole players, Sue Leonard and Laura Smith, were Spirit Award winners.

Women's Golf Association officers serve two year terms. Heading the WGA 2021 season are second year leaders Janet Vandebark, president; Carolyn Witt, vice-president; Donna Welch, secretary; Leslie Grogan, 18-Hole play day co-chairman and Joyce Fitch, 9-Hole play day co-chairman.

Newly elected officers are Cindy Marushak, co-vice president and 18-Hole tournament chair; Judy Melville, treasurer; Kathy Martindill, co-play day 18-Hole chairman and Pam Johnson, co-play day 9-Hole chairman.



Golf Shop Hours of Operation

December

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Tee times

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tee Times are weather dependent



Around the Tees

Great Santa gifts fill the Big Canoe Golf Shop

By B.J. McCranie

The holidays are coming and the Big Canoe Golf Shop is your one stop shop to make gift giving easy. Let our experienced staff help you find the perfect gift for that special someone, whether they are a golfer or non-golfer, there's something for everyone.

We carry all your favorite brands; Titleist, Callaway, Taylormade, FootJoy, Donald Ross, Oxford, Southern Tide, Private Label, Adidas, Levelwear, Tail, and much more. Keep an eye out for daily discounts that are unmatched.

A friendly reminder: All Big Canoe Bucks expire on Wednesday, January 1.

The entire Big Canoe Golf Staff wishes you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday.

Great Scores

Congratulations to Jack Yolinsky for his Hole-in-One on Choctaw #2 in November, striking a perfect 7-iron that never left the pin. He was accompanied by Roger Wuestefeld and Ken Monckton. Well done, Mr. Yolinsky!

Congratulations to Ron Honeycutt for accomplishing the challenging feat of shooting his age. Mr. Honeycutt shot a remarkable 72 playing Cherokee/Creek. Awesome!



Eric Willoughby and John Willoughby, Big Canoe Team Champions.

Big Canoe Team Championship

After an uncertain start on the morning of the Big Canoe Team Championship final round, we made it through the day without any rain. There was some great playing, as most of the flights finished pretty tight. After a tasty lunch (thanks to our wonderful Clubhouse staff), we went straight into the much anticipated Shoot Out.

Breaking into two groups, the Flight Winners, Death Flight Survivor, and the three Wild Cards took off down Creek #1. A couple wayward tee shots proved to be too much to overcome for a couple teams. On Creek 3, the first group was neck and neck as there was a three-way chip off to advance.

Moving to our Final 4, the last stretch consisted of a father/son duo, a team of brothers, a pair of regular playing partners, and the only two women team in the field. Creek 7 seemed to be unfriendly to the Walsh brothers as their tee shot was in a bit of trouble off to the right.

On Creek 8, Ron Reemsnyder showed his touch by making his putt from 60 feet off the right side of the green, down the hill, striking the flagstick and finally dropping in.

The Willoughbys proved to be the most resilient as they made par on a tough Creek 9, capturing the title as the first Big Canoe Team Champions. Congratulations!

We want your home SOLD

NO WORRIES

Work with Big Canoe's Finest



Lyn & Howard Hunt

678-818-7010

hunt4homes@bigcanoe.com



"Howard and Lyn Hunt are an exceptional team. They were with us every step of the way—from listing through closing. Our home sold in a very short time due to their professional advice & expertise. Enormously grateful to them for making our selling experience so quick and easy."
Hugh and Elsie

**Big Canoe.
Realty**



PART OF THE WINNING TEAM
No #1 Selling Brokerage in Big Canoe
www.bigcanoe.com



Racquets 'Round the Nets

Welcome Cheyenne Paterson to the Racquet Club

By Linda Powell

Please welcome Cheyenne Paterson to the Racquet Club team! We are thrilled to have Cheyenne join us in our office. She is originally from Roswell, New Mexico. Cheyenne currently attends the University of North Georgia pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education.

Cheyenne was in the Marine Corps for five years and moved to Big Canoe last May. She will be handling the front counter in the Pro Shop as well as updating our reservation system.

Cheyenne will be using her extensive background in customer service. In addition to her indoor duties, you'll find Cheyenne working on the courts midday. Be sure to stop by and say hello.



Hailing from Roswell, New Mexico, Cheyenne Paterson is the newest member of the Racquet Club team.

Big Canoe's new scissor lift in action

By Linda Powell

Scottie Patterson over at Public Works is so proud of his department's new scissor lift.

The first job that required the new lift was at the Racquet Club. Every once in a while the court light bulbs burn out. In order to change the bulbs, a lift is needed. It's wonderful to have the right tool for the right job!

Special care and caution must be used when taking equipment onto the clay courts so they're not damaged. Thank you Scottie Patterson and David Browning for a job well done. We appreciate your work which allows us to see balls a lot better at night.



Up, up and away on the new bright yellow scissor lift. Changing light bulbs just got easier.

IS YOUR HOME SAFE AND HEALTHY?

Mill Creek Environmental offers consultation and analysis of residential and commercial properties throughout North Georgia. Whether you are testing your current home for possible interior health hazards and/or exterior moisture damage, or in the process of purchasing a home and want to make sure your dream home doesn't turn into your biggest nightmare. Have peace of mind and have your property inspected. Do you have a question about how to keep your home safe and healthy? Give us a call at **706-579-1607** and we will prescribe the right treatment for you!



Offering a comprehensive range of environmental consulting services including:

- **Mold, Moisture & Radon Testing**
- **Asbestos & Lead Paint Inspections**
- **Stucco & Stone Inspections**
- **Stormwater & Erosion Plans & Level 3 Soil Surveys**

[For More Troubleshooting Tips For Your Home Click Here](#)

706-579-1607 • www.millcreekenvironmental.com

Marina News and Fish Tales

Changes to the marina rack policy affecting boat owners

By Tom Durban

Over the past year the old wooden racks holding personal canoes, kayaks, etc. in the Main and North Marinas were removed and replaced with sturdier and more ergonomically friendly aluminum racks. These racks rent for \$200 per year.

With improvements to the racking system, we have experienced a significant growth in requests for racks and we are at capacity. Our goal is to keep the cost of the racks the same, but to change the policy for transferring ownership.

In the past a resident could sell canoes/kayaks and pass along the “ownership” of a rack to the new buyer or someone else. With the increase in requests for racks, we are changing the policy to be fair and in line with slip rentals.

Effective January 1, 2021 boat owners will no longer be able to pass “ownership” of their rack to someone else. When a rack becomes available, the marina staff will call the first person on the waitlist. They will have the option of taking the rack or going to the bottom of the waitlist. If we get to a point in the future when there is no one on the waitlist, the marina staff can transfer “ownership” to the person a resident designates.

For more information about the new marina rack policy, call the Big Canoe Marina at (706) 268-3303 and talk with John Willoughby.



That's a mighty colorful collection of watercraft perched on racks. (Photo by Big Canoe Marina Staff)

Christmas tree recycling at the North Marina

By Tom Durban

Are you looking for a way to recycle your live Christmas tree after the holiday season?

If so, you're in luck! Just bring your live Christmas tree to the North Marina and it will get a new home at the bottom of Lake Petit to provide a fish habitat. Next February the trees will be weighted down and submerged to create a safe habitat for smaller fish swimming in the lake.



Ready for reefing! Volunteers are building a Christmas tree reef at the bottom of Lake Petit.

An example is the small walleye that were introduced to Lake Petit in 2019. They have thrived over the past year and we know of several folks who caught walleye this summer and they roughly doubled in size over the past year. They're growing big!



**Wishing
you a Season
of Peace**

• Love • Joy

FRAN FARIAS, Agent
Phil Farias, Marketing
Tim Fore, Business Mgr.
www.FranFarias.com
770-668-0222

Here to help life go right.® Big Canoe Resident Since 2000



Celebrating 30 years – Fran Farias Agency

State Farm
Bloomington, IL

1708158

Marina News and Fish Tales

Marina restrooms sporting a whole new look

By Tom Durban

The Big Canoe Marina restrooms just received a long overdue “refresh.”

The North Marina restroom has been completed and ready for use while the restrooms located at the Main Marina are being refreshed and structured to be ADA compliant. This was a necessary refresh as these facilities were looking worn and were difficult for those with mobility issues to use.



Wow, pretty spiffy, don't you think? All marina restrooms were given an overhaul. They are now fully ADA compliant. (Photo by Big Canoe Marina Staff)

The moon made me do it!

How cold do you think it will be on December 29 when the full Cold Moon rises over Lake Petit? Just the name doesn't inspire much hope for warmth.

This moon is special because of its high trajectory across the sky resulting in the Cold Moon sitting above the horizon for a longer period of time. But, you knew that, didn't you?



According to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, moon names come from Native American, Colonial American or other traditional sources passed down through generations.

December's full moon is most commonly known as the Cold Moon. No surprise there. The name comes from the Mohawks and conveys the frigid conditions this time of year.

Other names that allude to the cold and snow include Drift Clearing Moon (Cree), Frost Exploding Trees Moon (Cree), Moon of the Popping Trees (Oglala), Hoar Frost Moon (Cree), Snow Moon (Haida, Cherokee) and Winter Maker Moon (Western Abenaki).

If you can brave the chill with a thermos under your arm, why not invite friends and neighbors to join you at the Big Canoe Marina to moon watch over the water? It's a cheap date night and the marina offers plenty of social distancing.

These days, we have to find fun anyplace we can. Moon watching gives good excuses for randy behavior. As 2020 blessedly comes to an end, we can always say, “The moon made me do it!” Who can argue with that?

Attention boat owners!

By Tom Durban

The Big Canoe Marina manager and the chairperson of the Lakes and Marina Committee conduct an annual review of all watercraft assigned to a slip at the main marina. This does not include watercraft stored on aluminum racks at either marina.

This review will be conducted in the coming spring and all boat owners having watercraft at the Main Marina are advised to check their craft and fix/clean as necessary.

All watercraft stored on the lake must be maintained in a mechanically reliable and seaworthy condition and be kept free of trash.

Boat seats, deck areas, convertible tops and other boat equipment must be maintained in good cosmetic condition. Thank you for your attention to this housekeeping matter.

On a separate note, the storm damage to Dock C has been fixed. The storm that hit Big Canoe on October 28 caused one of the mooring cables for Dock C to snap and the ramp to the dock pulled away from its cradle. A dock company fixed the issue on November 5 and Dock C is now accessible again. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Marina News and Fish Tales

Changes coming to the Big Canoe Marina in 2021

By Tom Durban

The Big Canoe Marina as a place to enjoy watercraft or just relax with family and friends continues to be very popular.

Two areas that have been challenging for years are parking and the narrow alleys between some of the docks. These issues are being addressed. The plan calls for docks to be moved a bit further into the lake so the alleys between the docks are all the same. This provides a better and safer boating experience.



We are also planning an engineering review aimed at expanding the marina parking lot. During busy times we typically see people parking along Wilderness Parkway which creates a dangerous situation along this busy road. Our goal is to complete the engineering study in 2021 and expand the parking lot in 2022.

The 2021 pontoon boat rental rate for property owners

All smiles, wonder why?

Nothing beats a good day on the water, especially for a little guy. Jayden Barnes holds a line of fish that just might weigh more than he does. Cooler weather brings good fishing to Lake Petit and Jayden proved it. We wonder if he cleans his catch? The Barnes family sure has a good start on dinner. (Photo by Tom Durban)



remains the same at \$30/hour (two-hour minimum). Guest rates will be \$75/hour (two-hour minimum). Jon boats will rent for \$25/hour and kayaks/canoes/paddleboards will cost \$20/hour to rent.

We are happy to provide all property owners and guests with many options to enjoy the beauty and fun on Lake Petit.

START YOUR JOURNEY TO BETTER HEARING

Small, family-owned hearing healthcare provider improving people's lives through better hearing.



Brittany Bumgarner, H.I.S.
Licensed Hearing Care Professional

We offer:

- Free diagnostic hearing exam
- Copy of your results
- Demo of the newest technology
- Lifetime services! Including programming, adjustments, receiver replacements, cleaning, supplies, repairs, counseling



Georgia
HEARING AID Factory Outlet



800 HWY 400 South, Suite 525
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Call to book your appointment!

Our patients love us!
Check out our 160+ five-star reviews to learn more about us and our commitment to patient-first service.



(770) 868-6036  info@gahear.com

Marina News and Fish Tales

Lake Petit volunteers scan the lake to offer help

By Tom Durban

This past summer brought the start of a new opportunity for residents of Big Canoe. As reported, the Big Canoe Marina acquired a patrol boat that allows staff and volunteers to provide assistance to people on Lake Petit. Marina Manager John Lipowitz and resident Larry Mundt organized a group of “ambassadors” who cruise the lake and assist where they can.

According to Larry, the new boat is a great conversation starter and he’s received positive feedback from other boaters. Along with providing assistance where needed, the new boat allows the ambassadors to help all users of Lake Petit understand the rules of the lake. To maintain the character and beauty of Lake Petit there are a few rules for both residents and visitors to follow:

Swim only in the designated swim area between the dam and Eagle Island. This swimming area was created by the POA several years ago as a compromise with homeowners on Lake Petit.

No one is allowed on Eagle Island so we do not disturb

the eagles who nest on the island year-round.

No watercraft is to be stored or kept on the shoreline overnight.

Permits are required for fishing and for all private watercraft using the lake. Funds generated from permits are used to help offset the cost of stocking and maintaining the lake.

If you’re interested in becoming one of the volunteers helping during the warm months of 2021, text Larry Mundt at (404) 386-0461.

As a perk, you’ll get to cruise around Lake Petit in one of the coolest boats on the lake!



Riding low and sleek, volunteer ambassadors patrol Lake Petit to offer help.



THE CHAPEL’S CHRISTMAS

We welcome everyone to join us during his very special season

A Special December Advent Sermon Series

12/5 A Children’s Concert 3:00 & 5:00pm*

12/12 *The Glory of Christmas* Virtual Concert

12/12 Chapel/POA *Wilderness Wonderland Drive*

12/16 A Special *Hope & Remembrance* Service*

12/24 Christmas Eve Services*

Sunday Services Both Live and Online

***Reservations Required**

Information on all Christmas Activities at christmasinbigcanoe.org

470-273-6768 www.bigcanoechapel.org facebook.com/bigcanoechapel

Let's Go Clubbing

Quirky cat behaviors

Article and photos by Henrietta Hall

We all know how quirky cats can be, leaving you scratching your head about why they are behaving the way they are. They are also endlessly entertaining, as the popularity of cat videos online testifies. Below are some of these behaviors with a possible explanation.

Getting the “zoomies.” Why do cats suddenly run through the house at lightning speed, from one end to the other and then back again? They do it to expend pent-up energy and to them it feels good. It's all related to their hunting instincts and they're most likely to engage in this activity at night when they would be hunting if they were out in the wild.



Perched on a throne to declare his kingdom.

Grooming their human. It's not really known why cats do this. Allowing your cat to groom your hands is up to you but it is probably a sign of affection.

Knocking things off flat surfaces. If you've ever had a cat, you're familiar with this problem. They can't seem to help themselves, whatever is sitting there just has to go flying. To break cats of this behavior, play with them more to keep them from being bored.

Oh, you really shouldn't have! Why do cats present you with dead critters, sometimes ones that have been dead for a long time? It's really a sign of affection and love, their way of saying thank you.

Kneading. Kittens knead their mother's breasts to stimulate milk production while feeding. It's a soothing feeling for them.

Rubbing up against us. They are definitely showing affection but they are also marking you with their scent saying “This is mine!”

Playing with their food. Messy, isn't it? Experts say they are exhibiting hunting behavior when they take their bowl and scoot it around the floor.

Sitting on your newspaper or getting in front of the computer monitor? Cats are notorious for doing this. It's

really their way of demanding attention.

Head-butting and rolling on the ground. They do this to tell you that they love and trust you. It means the cat feels safe and comfortable.

Staring and blinking. A cat frequently stares at something you can't see. His eyesight is incredibly better than yours so he is seeing objects and movement you miss. When he stares at you, he is displaying affection and especially if he does a slow blink. In kitty talk, this is the equivalent of a kiss.



Asking for a rub?



We know this kitty isn't asking for a bath.

Let's Go Clubbing

Chapel Benevolence needs help restocking their shelves

By Judy Bellenger

The year 2020 has been a tough one for all, but local non-profits have been hit especially hard, even as they continue to serve an ever-growing number of people in need. Big Canoe Chapel's Benevolence Committee needs your help! Collection boxes are located in Cousins Hall (upper level at the Chapel) and the needed items can be dropped off, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. through the month of December. Please remember face masks are required in all Chapel facilities.



Won't you help fill shelves for those in need?

The following organizations need the listed items:

Appalachian Children's Center is a child advocacy center dedicated to the safety of all children and to reducing the trauma of abuse and maltreatment in children and their families. They provide individual, family and group therapy, advocacy, education and support for caregivers and families.

Urgent needs: Paper products, gas cards (Walmart \$10 each) and small fleece blankets.

Boys & Girls Clubs of North Georgia serves the children and youth of Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin counties. They provide a safe environment where children can find learning, recreation and companionship in the afternoons and evenings.

Urgent needs: Paper towels, toilet paper and disinfectant spray.

North Georgia Pregnancy and Family Resource Center ministers to women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy or post-abortion trauma in Pickens and neighboring counties. They provide free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and education.

Urgent needs: Larger size diapers, baby wipes and baby girl clothes.

North Georgia Family Partners works closely with the Division of Family & Children Services providing home visitation services to Pickens County's most at-risk families with children four years and under. Parent Educators provide training in child development, discipline, health nutrition, safety sleep and parent/child interaction.

Urgent needs: Diapers (all sizes particularly size 3 and up), diaper ointments and wipes, baby board books up to two years, craft/art supplies (crayons, washable markers, construction paper), Clorox wipes and face masks.

Ric-Rack Pantry and Thrift Store, a charity thrift shop and food pantry in Dawson County. They are currently supplying the food needs for about 200-300 families per month and the number is growing.

Urgent needs: Toiletries (travel size is fine), personal hygiene items and canned food.

Ruth House provides a 6-24-month residential program for women suffering with addiction. They offer counseling, healing, life skills, job search and placement and support to women's families.

Urgent needs: Office supplies, white printer paper, letter-sized envelopes, toner cartridge TN450 for Brother MFC-786ODW printer/copier/fax, ink cartridges (black and color for HP Office Jet Pro 8710), household and personal items (laundry detergent, Lysol spray, bleach, tampons, antibacterial hand soap).

Thank you for helping those in need.

T. GORDON & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE:
 Dental & Vision Plans • Cancer, Heart Attack & Stroke Insurance • Emergency Air & Ground Transportation Plans • Term & Whole Life Insurance • Long & Short Term Care Insurance • Home Health Care Insurance

For more information please call or text T. Gordon
[Big Canoe Resident] 470-485-4042

Blossman
 Propane Gas, Appliance & Service

Water Heater Specials

- Rinnai tank-less heater installed for \$999.00
- Rheem 40 or 50 gallon water heaters installed for \$499.00

770-386-6268
www.blossmangas.com

Let's Go Clubbing

Meet Canoe's Computer Whiz

Many having computer problems already know him

For many in Big Canoe, any kind of computer glitch is enough to cause a cold sweat, revisiting of breakfast and a rush to the phone to call our community computer whiz, Christopher Peterson.

For those who heard about Chris and his amazing talents a few years back, they were no doubt stunned to open their front door and find a young kid standing at attention waiting to help.

This early entrepreneur started his official business at age 14 with his parents driving him to appointments and the customer driving him back home. Worked well, especially when the charge was then \$10 an hour. After Chris was finished diagnosing and fixing any and all problems, customers were exceptionally satisfied as they were finally again flying high in cyberspace.

Diagnosed with ADHD, Chris put his intense concentration to good use. He got his first computer around age six and immediately started saving money from chores and holiday gifts to buy a faster model by age seven. He built his first computer when he was 12 and sold his first custom built computer that year too.

Since that time, Chris has logged over 4,000 appointments inside Big Canoe. He's just coming off his heaviest month ever (November) in which he had 190 home appointments for repairs. From 2016 to 2018 he worked every single day and only took Christmas and Thanksgiving off. No surprise he added over 50,000 miles on his first car in three years.

Does this kid ever sleep? Yep, and he found time to become an Eagle Scout too.

He's a student at Auburn now after graduating from Mountain Laurel Academy in Jasper. Chris hopes to graduate from Auburn in 2022 with a degree in Business Administration.

Being a good businessman, Chris invests 90 percent of his earnings in the stock market and he's proud to say his portfolio has outperformed the market by at least 30 percent every year.

When not in college, working on computers or investing, Chris enjoys spending time in low stress environments with friends and family. Big Canoe is his workplace, but it's easy for him to enjoy life here too. He likes photography, hiking and taking walks with his girlfriend Aspen around

Auburn. The young couple met at Wildwood Academy in 2014 after Chris confessed to a seven-year crush on the young lass; it was a happy day for him when Aspen finally caved in to be his girlfriend.



Chris credits his parents for his work ethic. Having their own business, they taught him the importance of

At the age of 10, Chris made a YouTube video that got over 175,000 views. His parents had no idea about this until Chris asked how to accept payment from advertisers.

good customer service. They encouraged him to leave his comfort zone to try new things and become goal oriented. Boy, has that worked well!

Chris will be going back to Auburn soon and plans to take time off from helping folks over the rush of computer panic, but will post on Facebook when he's ready to once again help conquer Big Canoe customers' fears.

Long term, Christopher Peterson hopes to retire with enough money to run a charity full time or find a position as an executive in a company. We're betting this young guy will own that company! He's that good!



Even with his busy schedule, Chris found time to volunteer at The Terraces.

Let's Go Clubbing

Chase Elliott returns home a victorious racing hero

Article and photos by Steve Carlisle

Dawsonville is famous for two things: moonshine and playing a significant role in the birth of stock car racing in the South. Distilling alcohol in Dawson and Pickens counties was a popular, yet illegal practice during prohibition. Local stills turned fruit from farms into whiskey to supply liquor stores in Atlanta, owned by Raymond Parks, a Dawson County native. He paid his cousins to drive souped-up 1940 Fords delivering batches of white lightning to thirsty Atlantans. Often revenuers would chase the speeding bootleggers, creating a strong incentive for them to keep making faster cars.

Parks financed the early stock car races of Roy Hall and Lloyd Seay, his cousins. In the eighties, Bill Elliott, a Dawsonville native, became one of NASCAR's top drivers and the very first to win the championship and the million dollars the Winston Corporation put up. Elliott won 44 Cup races and his popularity earned him the nickname "Awesome Bill" from Dawsonville.

Elliott married his girlfriend, Cindy, and they had a son they named Chase. He learned to drive fast like his famous father and his career looked promising. Before long Chase won NASCAR Rookie of the Year honors and last November he won the championship by winning the final two races of 2020.

Chase Elliott was 24 years old when he hoisted the Cup in the final race in Phoenix. It was decided that night to hold a grand celebration back home in Dawsonville to share the joy with his friends and neighbors.



Bill and Cindy Elliott were on hand to greet their son's fans in Dawsonville.

The very next day excited fans packed the streets near the Dawsonville roundabout and local police escorted Chase Elliott driving his #9 Chevy race car in a victory parade. Soon smoke from his spinning tires filled the air as he did a full burn-out; the siren on the roof of the Pool Room blared in celebration. The parade route led to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame, where a larger crowd was waiting.



Chase Elliott was given the Key to the City by Dawsonville's mayor.

Elliott entered the Winner's Circle and climbed out the window, grinning ear to ear! Joined on stage by his racing team's entire crew and his parents, Cindy and Bill Elliott, he introduced his Crew Chief Alan Gustafson, then his father, Bill. After thanking the crowd of loyal fans, Chase tried to put into words what an emotional roller coaster winning the Cup Championship felt like. Then he accepted a key to the city from the mayor.

After the ceremony which concluded with Gordon Pirkle, founder of the Pool Room, people enjoyed the opportunity to get their photo taken with Chase's race car in the Winner's Circle of the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame.

In mid-February the Daytona 500 kicks-off the exciting new season and a great deal of locals will be watching and rooting for Chase Elliott.



Chase Elliott emerges from his Number 9 race car at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame.

Let's Go Clubbing

Exciting news about Diamond Dog Park

Article and photos by Sherry Evans

Once it was decided dogs would not be allowed off leash at the soccer field and the old baseball field became the new dog park, parking became an issue at Diamond Dog Park as many relied on Wildcat for parking, a difficult trek.

It was important to pull together a fundraiser to provide a few new parking spaces for those needing easier access.

Karen Evans, Tracey French, Liv Taylor and Nicky Sensale joined me in the effort.

Nicky concentrated on our initial plan addressing parking; we also decided to provide safe areas for both large and small pups, thus fencing was important.

Nicky suggested moving the fence back 14 feet to provide parking spaces. Tracey prepared a project plan and kept us on track to work on Phase One, moving the fence.

It wasn't easy. The ball field is owned by a trust fund so there were many steps to the process, including obtaining POA approval.

Liv designed a logo and fundraiser t-shirt; Karen and I worked on the administrative and financial angles. Anne Jaeckel came on board to help with fundraising.

We had to decide if we were an official non-profit fundraising group or stay with the original plan to focus only on committee action. Anne's husband Bob helped with legal and fundraising issues. We decided to stay a committee with one focus.

After a community wide appeal, we were only \$3,000 from our fundraising goal. Jodette Endsley generously came to the rescue by hosting a private fundraiser taking us over the goal of \$15,000.



A lot of socializing happens at our dog parks.



Diamond Dog Park is fast becoming a state of the art playground for pups.

The fence was installed, parking created and separate spaces for large and small dogs was built. Jason Brownell and Matthew Parks of the POA and Duncan Knapp were instrumental bringing the effort to fruition. Jason and Matthew also addressed issues at all three dog parks.

Sandy Pullara became our treasurer. An official POA Dog Park Committee was formed with Sherry Evans, Chairperson and Communications; Liv Taylor, Vice Chair and Maintenance; Karen Evans, Secretary and Fundraising and Sandy, Treasurer and Hospitality. Subcommittees were added including Jan Mckinney Communications and Legal; Duncan Knapp, Maintenance; Jodette Endsley, Fundraising; Molly Purdy, Hospitality.

We meet monthly to review our status, maintenance and updates. Minutes of meetings are available on the POA website.

Fast forward to 2020, no explanation necessary. Everything came to a stop. Our plans for doggy playground equipment and water features for Diamond Dog Park were put on hold.

Out of the blue, we heard from a homeowner who wished to donate the Diamond Dog Park playground equipment!

The POA green light was given to move forward. Duncan Knapp is working with the donor and others to develop a new design for Diamond Park including playground equipment. It's important the equipment blends into the natural environment, is durable and offers easy maintenance.

We hope the playground equipment will be installed by summer. Fundraising will continue to provide a doggy water feature, benches for sitting and other comfort enhancements.

Many thanks to all who have donated to this cause. You don't have to be a dog owner to visit Diamond Dog Park. Virtual pups are welcome! It's a great place to meet new people and socialize.

This is a wonderful and important amenity for all in Big Canoe. Many thanks to a generous neighbor.



Every day is a fun day at the pup park. Many friendships, people and dogs, start there.

Let's Go Clubbing

A quiet calm marked the Silent Night Hike

Information and photos submitted by Steve Papke

On a crisp, starry bright Wednesday night in December, the Big Canoe Hiking Club gathered for one of their most enchanting and meaningful hikes of the year - the annual Silent Night Hike. Thirty-four hikers took the 30-minute walk on the Jeep Trail to the Lower Falls in total silence. Not a word was spoken.

When finally reaching the falls, the sweet carol Silent Night was sung after which folks chatted through masks and made their way back to sharing a drink in the parking lot. Usually the club has a potluck to welcome the holidays, but that old COVID bug put a stop to that tradition.

Walking through the woods at night is a thrilling experience as the sounds of the forest carry a much different tune. Particularly interesting is the roar of rushing streams which serenades the hikers on their silent trek.



Crossing a bridge on the silent trek to the Lower Falls was beautiful.



A parade of lights wound its way to the Lower Falls.



Shining a mass of flashlights on the falls was quite spectacular. Oops, is that the silhouette of a bear on the rocks?

Ridgerunners book clubs make merry for the holidays

While some Ridgerunners book clubs opted to finish Christmas shopping and gift wrapping rather than meet to discuss books, other clubs made merry by reading restaurant menus or playing reindeer games at parties. But some clubs did meet and offer selections for you to enjoy over the holidays. Merry Christmas to all readers in Big Canoe.



- Blue Stockings:** Lunch at Woodmont
- Godivas:** *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- The Noveladies:** *Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn
- Viewpoint:** No meeting
- Gray Matters:** Christmas lunch
- Leaf Turners:** *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*
- Book Belles:** No meeting
- Chapter 13:** *Where the River Ends* by Charles Martin
- Sworn Sisters:** *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
- Divine Readers:** No meeting
- Woodland Readers:** Holiday excursion
- Page Turners:** *Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan
- Between the Lines:** Holiday lunch
- Novel Ideas:** Christmas party
- Between the Covers:** Holiday luncheon at Wolf Mountain
- Happy Bookers:** Christmas outing
- Who Picked This Book?:** No meeting
- Papyrus:** No meeting
- Hooked on Books:** No meeting
- Adventure Bound:** *The Secret Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister
- Women, Words, and Wine:** No meeting
- Between the Wines:** Party and games
- Chapter Chicks:** Outing with spouses
- As the Pages Turn:** *The Pale Faced Lie* by David Crow

Submitted by Susan Eanes
Ridgerunners Book Clubs Chair

Let's Go Clubbing

SYAH ladies are princesses of masked frivolity

Information and photos submitted by Sherry Evans

It's the season for merriment, even when parading around six feet apart and bejeweled in a face-covering mask. The ladies of Still Young at Heart (SYAH) didn't want to sit at home watching *I Love Lucy* reruns. Nope, they wanted fun, even with restrictions.

On a delightful afternoon in December, the ladies of SYAH met at the Tate House for a Sip and Shop with glasses of bubbly to make spirits bright. Since sipping was an arduous process, shopping was the main entertainment. The Tate House is known for whimsy and glamour and their Christmas Gift Shop is a feast for the eyes, but maybe a famine for the pocketbook.

The ladies had a wonderful time calling to each other from many feet away. It was good to see each other's eyes again and hear familiar voices.

Charity was on their minds too. The group collected and donated funds to support kids in Pickens County through the Children's Weekend Snack Program. Funds are used to buy snacks for kids to enjoy over the weekend.

Some kids only get nutritious meals during the school week but go hungry on the weekends. This program helps get good, healthy snacks to kids when school is out. You can bet the kids love it!

The word is out SYAH has big plans for a socially distanced play field event in early spring. Won't that be something to look forward to? It will be time to trade heavy winter masks for gay gingham coverings. Oh, what a relief it is!

If you're not yet a member of this fun-loving, very casual group, contact Sherry Evans at srevans284@gmail.com and she'll welcome you with her masked smile.



How's this for social distancing? The Tate House made sure everybody stayed safe.



If you can't sit on Santa's lap this year, make do with a trio of polar bears and a reindeer.

Let's Go Clubbing

Adding a touch of whimsical fun to animal photographs

By Steve Carlisle

Her bear and tiger photos are a familiar sight around Big Canoe. As professional photographer Mary Jo Cox travels the world taking amazing pictures of grizzlies and whales, her photos are on display around our community. But she also donates her valuable time helping rescue animals find a new home by taking their photos for BCAR and other rescue shelters around Atlanta.

"In doing rescue photos, our team decided we needed to do more to help the hard to adopt animals," Mary Jo explains. "We worked together to create costumes and signs that the dog would hold during the photo session. We shopped for hats, clothing and jewelry to dress up the pups. Being creative helped showcase personalities of the pups. It was crazy and challenging but a lot of fun. We helped find homes for dogs that people would overlook. The animals were given a second chance."

Mary Jo knows if her wildlife photographs feature the animal's face and the eyes are in sharp focus, it helps make a great photo. "Many people commented about how my photos really captured the eyes of the animal, capturing the heart of the family," she shared.

Mary Jo decided to start a pet photography business. "I photograph horses and birds in addition to wild animals, such as bears and tigers. I will photograph any animal that holds a special place in your heart," explains Cox. "Animals run the show! Once the show begins, the creative process occurs within the heart and eye first, then within the lens. My camera captures each unique moment and I get the pleasure of documenting the antics."



Let us introduce you to Ms. Elizabeth Taylor. What a personality! (Photo by Mary Jo Cox)

We are so fortunate to have such a talented and generous artist willing to share her skills with these lovable creatures desperate for a new home. She also shares her talent explaining how to capture exquisite wildlife pictures with the Photography Club at Big Canoe.

Recently the club president, Mark Green, switched the club meetings to the online platform Zoom. In November Brian Robbins, a Big Canoe resident and an accomplished professional photographer specializing in architectural and interior design, was the speaker. He is an accomplished nature photographer as well.

The aerial photo we feature this month was taken by Mark Green during peak fall color in November of 2018. He describes how he took it. "It was foggy early, and often these conditions offer very dramatic results. I took my drone camera to the street traversing the #2 Tee Box on the Cherokee golf course and launched it. As the miniature helicopter-like drone lifted off and ascended above the mist, the results were spectacular!"

"The drone offers some stunning perspectives that you just can't get any other way. I fly with a DJI Phantom 4 Professional model with a very crisp LED screen attached to the hand-held controller, allowing me to see what the drone is seeing, and to switch between stills and video, as well as change settings during flight," he concluded.

This is specialized equipment used by trained pros. During a club meeting last year another member, who will remain nameless, showed a movie of his drone making a crash landing onto his porch! It was hilarious and proof most of us should not be attempting this. Mark Green is a FAA licensed Remote Unmanned Aircraft pilot with lots of experience.



Mary Jo Cox often uses props, clothing, signs and jewelry to dress up rescue dogs like Musha, a Chi.

Let's Go Clubbing

Human factors authority to present to Ridgerunners

By Christine Flaherty

What exactly are human factors? (1) The study of ergonomics and its relation to our physical world; (2) The analysis of AI and what it means practically for our future; (3) The impact of “big data” and how it might enable us to better age in place; (4) All of the above. The answer is #4. Most importantly, it is something that is positioned to profoundly impact our lives for the good going forward.



On January 12 (note new date) at 10:00 a.m., Big Canoe resident Dr. Brad Fain, will discuss each of these issues via an online Zoom presentation. A Zoom invitation will be sent to all Ridgerunners prior to the session. In particular, he will address how the rapidly changing world of technology is likely to influence our daily lives.

Dr. Fain, a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in Engineering Psychology, is the Executive Director at the Center for Advanced Communications Policy. He also is a principle research scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute where he leads the human factors program for both military and industrial customers. In addition, Dr. Fain is the director of Georgia Tech's HomeLab, a collection of over 600 homes that enables a wide variety of researchers to conduct studies related to improving our lives in an actual home setting.

Technology now occupies a significant place in our everyday lives. Some of us may have come to this point kicking and screaming, but largely unable to stem the tide. It does, however, offer a myriad of opportunities to enhance our environment, improve safety, increase our ability to remain independent and even improve our social connectedness.

In numerous ways, the current pandemic has moved

'Books and More' shopping event in April

The Big Canoe Chapel Women's Guild is hoping “the third time's the charm” and re-rescheduled the Books and More event to April 8-10 at the Big Canoe Chapel.

Organizers will do one last round of collections during February. Collection bins for only fiction books will be located at the Postal Facility and the Wellness (Fitness) Center the entire month of February. All the previously donated books have been sorted and stored, and other categories of books are in good supply.

Additionally, each Wednesday in February from 9:00 a.m. -

10:00 a.m. at the Postal Facility donations of nice quality, gently used women's jewelry, accessories and shoes will be accepted.

For more information or to volunteer, call or text Pat Papke at (630) 802-1865 or Judi Schoeler at (315) 415-5185.



some of its benefits to the forefront. Many of technology's advantages that may not have been fully utilized before are now becoming more mainstream. Tele-health, working remotely, online classes, as well as Zooming for both work and socializing are increasingly being made use of by many of us. These are all capabilities that existed before, but now are much more prevalent, and dare I say embraced (sometimes), by even the most senior among us. Mark your calendar for what is sure to be a very enlightening and engaging presentation.

You can still join Ridgerunners

Membership through May 2021 is \$18, and is open to all women over 21 who are residents of Big Canoe. Online sign-up instructions and information for membership by mail are covered in the brochure available at the mail facility and online at www.bigcanoerr.com.

Let's Go Clubbing

From a humble beginning to Woman of the Year

By Christine Flaherty

Life in Big Canoe for Cindy Marushak, Ridgerunners 2020 Woman of the Year, began with a series of rejections. She and husband Joe had enjoyed playing Trivia in Rochester, New York before they moved south in 2013. They made plans to attend the popular weekly event here, anticipating being assigned to a congenial group of residents. Oh, no! That's not how it's done here. Host Kevin Tillery, noting their disappointment, graciously took Cindy and Joe from table...to table...to table.

Standing before each group like beauty pageant contestants being scrutinized by a table of judges, the two were rebuffed again, and again. With each team's size limited to 20 players it took a while before one team (Did they detect a measure of anxiety from the couple?) graciously invited the two to join. In retrospect, those teams not giving the thumbs up to Cindy and Joe (you know who you are) certainly missed out.

Cindy did not let this less than promising start hold her back. Her volunteer work, following her 2015 retirement, has been as extensive as it has been exhaustive. She worked with the POA on the original search committee for a General Manager. In addition, she was a part of the Troon Task Force. She helped organize a series of focus groups for property owners and led training sessions for the POA Board and Leadership Big Canoe. Her volunteer work also included the Legacy of Caring, the key fundraising effort for the Women's Chapel Guild.

An avid golfer, Cindy has devoted many hours to planning and chairing tournaments and special events for the Woman's Golf Association. She is the incoming Vice President of the WGA and was one of the founders of the new Lady Players group. As manager of the WGA website, she has improved communications with members and enabled online sign-up and payment options for members.

Cindy's volunteer work for Ridgerunners spans a wide range of responsibilities. As Program Chair for the 2015/16 season, she selected the monthly speakers that entertain and educate members. Starting in 2016 her ongoing work as Web Mistress and as Membership Co-Chair (2016/17) successfully brought in new members and enabled them to register for membership, as well as sign up and pay for activities online. Beginning in 2018 Cindy drew on her design talents to create posters, brochures and various advertising

media to effectively communicate with Ridgerunners. In addition, an enthusiastic traveler, she worked diligently as Spring Travel Chair in 2019 and 2020.

Cindy also has a diverse group of other interests. She enjoys knitting, particularly Christmas stockings for her family of two married daughters, and five grandchildren. She sews, does upholstery, (very impressive) quilts, and has taken up mahjong. Born on Thanksgiving Day, she naturally has developed a serious interest in cooking. It is a wide-ranging group of activities and abilities for sure.

To return to the trivia story... feeling like middle

schoolers not chosen for dodge ball did not hinder Cindy and Joe from successfully becoming a key part of the trivia team that welcomed them that first night. The team has become a friendly and supportive social group that they both value enormously.

Trivia is on hiatus now, but the team has stayed in close touch and has

happily gathered for socially distant outdoor get-togethers.

Ridgerunners is extremely pleased to honor Cindy Marushak as the 2020 Woman of the Year. Her willingness to step up, her tireless enthusiasm and her exceptionally supportive and cheerful manner kept her exceedingly busy. Friends shared she needs to start practicing saying NO, although, thankfully, she does not seem inclined to do that just yet.



A woman of many talents and interests, Cindy Marushak was recently named Ridgerunners Woman of the Year. (Photo by Christine Flaherty)

Excellent Programs to Come

We will hear from Dr. Brad Fain, on January 12 (new date), about how the rapidly changing world of technology is likely to influence our daily lives. On February 9 (new date) Jan Murphy will describe the origins of Big Canoe, dating back to the early 1970s and before. On March 9 Seth Hopkins of the Booth Western Art Museum will discuss the Western art they are known for, as well as its extensive collection devoted to past presidents. We plan to conclude the year with a festive seasonal gathering on April 13.

Ridgerunners is Big Canoe's largest women's social and educational organization. All women residents of Big Canoe over the age of 21 are invited to join. Ridgerunners events are open exclusively to members. To become a member visit our website at bigcanoerr.com.

Made in Big Canoe Gift Guide

‘Made in Big Canoe’ treasures just for you

Big Canoe has its own little gift boutique. It’s socially distanced, easy to use and is a wonderful introduction to the talented folks who live within our gates. A while ago, Dinah Sutton came up with the idea of creating a one stop shop for artists and crafters in Big Canoe to showcase their inspired talents and sell their wares.

It launched on Facebook with the page named Made in Big Canoe. On this site you’ll be introduced to pottery, jewelry designs, fine art, weavings, fanciful masks, Christmas ornaments, designer plaques, painted glassware, silk and burlap floral arrangements, stately orchids grown with a loving touch, handcrafted cards, and even designer cookies. Browse the site and find so much more.

Vicki Johnson, a new Big Canoe resident, takes recycling to a creative art form using what might end up in the throwaway glass bin. Vicki welcomes the wind with eclectic wind chimes created from wine bottles that once embraced the nectar of the vine. Adding polished stones suspended serendipitously on chains creates a pleasing sound that blends beautifully with nature’s songs.

Martha Altman commands her kitchen to create wonderful treats that bring oohs and aahs from guests or offer a comforting morsel for little old you after a tough day in the mountains. Martha conjures up rum cakes, barbeque sauce, Bloody Mary mix and a pate so smooth that’s been known to make grown men swoon.



Vicki Johnson creates artistic wind chimes from wine bottles. Clear glass showcases the stones that bring a tinkle although Vicki also uses green and blue glass too.

After a successful Arts and Crafts Crawl in October, the creative concept of Monica Burnette, many here wanted more of what they saw at the sale. With gift giving on minds these days, Inside the Gates offers a peek at some items to strike your fancy. Each artist and crafter showcases one item, but welcomes you to contact them for more of what they offer. It’s good to shop locally and support friends and neighbors.

Visit Made in Big Canoe on Facebook to get acquainted with your talented neighbors.

Now, let’s go shopping!

Mud Hut Pottery spins the wheel

A delightful food safe, 12-inch round pottery bowl glazed in cream and green with leaf imprints is sure to make an impression on your guests. The bowl price is \$43.00 and was created by Cindy Bonner. Cindy will porch deliver in Big Canoe.

This talented potter also forms wine charms, ornaments for every occasion, platters, garden decor and collections of serving pieces. Cindy can be contacted at CINDYBONNER@msn.com.



Made in Big Canoe Gift Guide

Big Canoe Bear just paddling along

Along with a large assortment of painted pillows to fit any home décor, Betsy Hillis also takes her paintbrush to glass, creating fanciful wine bottles, table accessories, cocktail ware and just about anything your heart desires. After painting 500+ masked bear glass ornaments, Betsy is taking a winter break until January.

This beary cute pillow measures 16 x 16 inches and the cost is \$40. Contact Betsy at betsyhillis@yahoo.com.



Got paper? Pat gives it a message

Pat Schultz sure knows paper crafting. Her greeting cards bring a smile or even a tear to all lucky enough to get one in the mail. She designs cards for all occasions and can make one just for you. Pat holds classes and teaches the art of paper crafting. Yes, you can do it!

Pat is also a jewelry designer and her works use beads like they've never been used before. Her designs are unique and can be customized to fit your style.

Contact Pat at (404) 219-0163 and see how crafty she can be.



Deck your hall with a whimsical tree

Holiday in Harmony 3-foot tree featuring pottery ornament accents by Big Canoe artists Cindy McDougal Bonner and Monica Burnette. \$130 including delivery. Other themed Christmas trees are available for \$95 each including delivery. See the trees and holiday orchid arrangements at www.willowgategardens.com. Call (706) 579-1903 or email customerservice@willowgategardens.com to order.

Along with holiday décor, Laura can design an array of decorative items to make your home a delight. Her orchids are exquisite!



An explosion of color

Artist Jacqueline Doyle Allison must have the most interesting, colorful home in Big Canoe. Her abstract paintings and fine art collages are striking and offer lyrical abstraction to tease the eye.

To enjoy her offerings for sale and shown in galleries, visit www.jacquelineallison.com or to contact the artist, send an email to jacquelineallison@att.net.



Made in Big Canoe Gift Guide

Dinah Sutton, ‘Jackie of all trades’

Dinah Sutton is a “Jackie of all Trades.” Her talents are many and are enjoyed by hundreds of Big Canoeers. She loves making gnomes to everyone’s delight. Santa Gnome is \$40, Buck \$20, Grazing Deer \$18, Fawn \$15. She also creates angels on vintage tin roof shingles, word art signs on vintage barn wood and vintage spindles. Dinah is a family photographer and a delicious sugar cookie artist. Contact Dinah Sutton at (239) 265-3921 or socaldinah@gmail.com.



Symphony in the woods

Don’t you love hearing the birds sing while enjoying your deck overlooking the mountains? Add to the symphony with wine bottle wind chimes handcrafted by Vicki Johnson. She collects wine bottles that served well, adds a few colorful polished stones and the melody is ready to begin. Vicki offers a choice of bottle colors - blue, green, maize and clear. The chimes are \$35 each.

Vicki accepts cash, checks or Venmo. Her email is vsjohnson1971@gmail.com and phone is (770) 316-1713. Join the wildwood chorus!



An artist for many seasons

Kathy Wood displays an array of talent. She trained in fine arts and enjoys painting creatures and scenes around our mountains. Her originals are done in oil and are sized from 8x10, 16x20 and larger. Prices range from \$120 to \$1,000. Museum quality prints sizes 5x7 to 9x12 are available from \$30 to \$52. All artwork is framed, some handcrafted frames by Eric Wood.

Kathy has a whimsical side to her art too. Painting on planks, she captures all that’s fun to see. Contact Kathy at kathywood1959@gmail.com.



Made in Big Canoe Gift Guide

Are you a ‘Hot Mess?’

Or maybe you’re a Crazy Cat Lady, Dog Mom or Pack Leader. Angela Burgess is a candle maker and offers the most delicious scents with the craziest names. Her candle tins contain four ounces of pure soy wax at special Big Canoe pricing - \$10 per candle or three for \$20. Cash, checks or Venmo accepted.

Visit Angela’s website at kinfolkofmine.com for a description of scents available or stop by her home, shop in person and sniff away. For questions, call Angela at (501) 831-7288.



Do you drink from a naked can?

Nobody should do that! Marissa Bristol makes koozies just for Big Canoe. They are black with Big Canoe written boldly in white along with a silhouette of a bear or deer head. For only \$2.50 each, you can dress your can in fine style.

This is a perfect stocking stuffer, gift for houseguests, pool accessory or a present for little old you.

Contact Marissa through the Made in Big Canoe Facebook page with a comment.



Entertaining on your mind?

You can bet Martha Altman’s kitchen wafts the most enticing aromas when this lady dons an apron and sets to work. Martha is well known for her gourmet sauces, mixes and pates to satisfy savory tastes, but she also stirs up one amazingly fantastic rum cake for only \$35. Her tangy barbeque sauce is \$12, Bloody Mary mix is \$15 and the smoothest pate ever is \$10.

Call or text Martha at (813) 495-9645 to order and make your holiday entertaining easy.



Made in Big Canoe Gift Guide

Silky skin can be yours

Bonnie East created Olde School Mercantile skin care because “I want simple-pure-organic products for my own skin. Stirred and poured into glass jars the old school way. No fillers!”

The Face Balm (cleanse without drying) and Healing Salve (think Vic’s Vapor Rub but gentler and organic) are created from certified organic Shea Butter, pure Beeswax, Virgin Coconut and Jojoba Oils, and 100% pure essential oils including Lavandin from France. Two ounce glass jar \$32 or two or more \$30 each.

Contact Bonnie East at (410) 474-1434 or bonnie-stone@live.com to order.



A tisket, a tasket, such pretty little baskets

Beth Westberry creates the prettiest little baskets that measure between 1-1/2 and 2 inches. Woven with waxed linen thread, they are durable as well as fun to use. Beth creates holiday designs, but also makes her craft to fit everyday uses; you pick the colors and Beth will go to work. Custom orders if time allows.

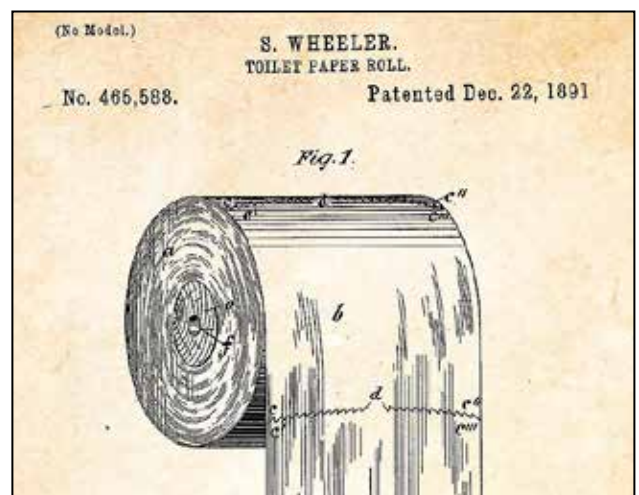
The baskets make perfect tree ornaments and are a fun addition to tie on a bottle of wine. Each are \$20. Contact Beth at wsouthwest@aol.com or (404) 277-0163.

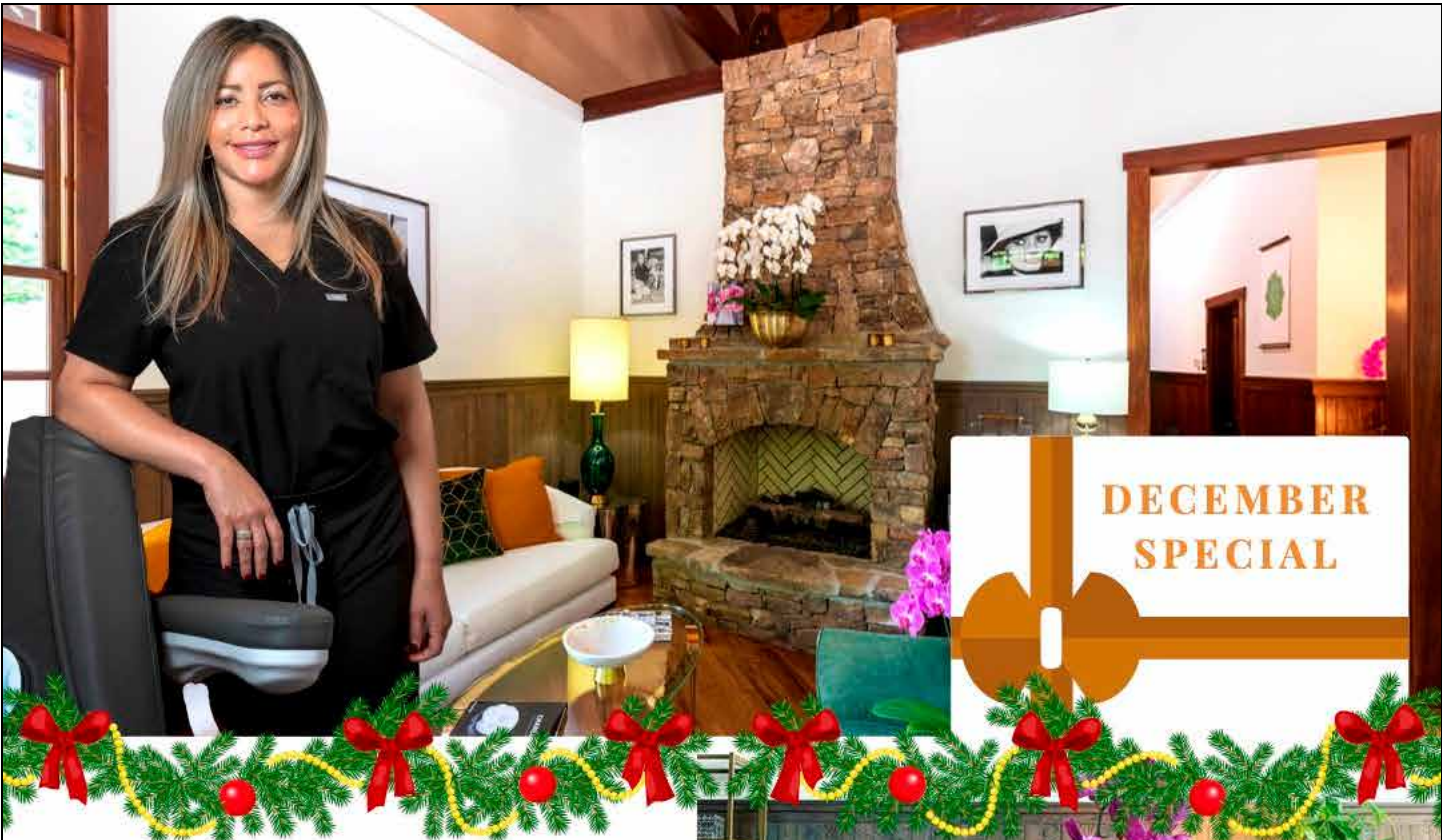


Looking for something a bit different?

The Patent Guy, Mike Robertson, started researching patents and producing art based on their graphics in 2016. The goal is to produce art uniquely representing your interest. From musical instruments to cameras, from Harleys to firearms, the toilet paper roll remains the best seller at \$15.

Text Mike at (770) 903-9926. He delivers to alpha boxes for folks inside the gates and mail to all others. Check out www.thepatentguy.biz to learn more.





**DECEMBER
SPECIAL**

**GET YOUR SKIN READY
FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!!**

- Microneedling using your own growth factors 20% off
- HydroFacials 20% off
- Botox \$11 per unit
- Restalyne DermalFillers \$650 buy 2 and get 3rd half price.
- Restalyne Kysse for lips \$600 per syringe.
- **And much more!**

Free facial Aesthetics Consultation



**Outside the NorthGate at Big Canoe
88 NorthGate Station Dr.
Marble Hill, Ga 30148**

**"Non Surgical Face Lift"
using PDO threads.**

**Compassionate Facial Rejuvenations from
NEIGHBORS YOU CAN TRUST**

**WWW.ZINNEYANTIAGINGCENTER.COM
IG ZINNEYANTIAGINGCENTER**

678-717-4969





Elizabeth Heath
REALTOR®



Jamie Daves
REALTOR®



Janice Morris
REALTOR®



Dan Zachman
REALTOR®



Gail Colvin
Associate Broker



Dick Haczynski
REALTOR®



Leah Clemshaw
REALTOR®



Tiffany Hegenbart
REALTOR®



GeorgiaViews Realty

Call Tony to sell your home!

706-299-6232

www.GeorgiaViewsRealty.com



Tony Hicks
SRES, Realtor-Broker