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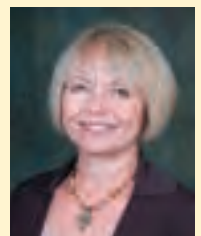


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Digital copies of *Soleil Living* are now available on the Soleil website.
Go to: Resident Resources > Soleil Living Magazine



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**The evening sun filters through
fall foliage along Laurel Canyon
Parkway just below Fairways
of Canton's second tee. Photo
by Soleil resident Chastaine
Kendrick.**



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Welcome, Kirsti Zell

Kirsti Zell joined the Soleil office staff on November 6 as the new Administration Assistant. Kirsti is currently earning her MBA from the University of West Georgia and will graduate in December. She grew up in Canton and recently moved back. Her hobbies include playing pickleball with friends, running half marathons when she has time and spending time with family. (Photo by Martha Crockett)

Finance Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Soleil Finance Committee is seeking residents who would like to volunteer to serve on the Committee in 2024. The role and responsibilities of the Finance Committee and its members can be found on the Soleil Website under Board/Finance Committee/Charter. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Mark Runge (markrunge@gmail.com) by December 31, 2023.



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Soleil Women win USTA State Championship

By Dwight Kees

▲ The Soleil Women's USTA 65-and-over 3.5 tennis team journeyed to Savannah and brought home the crown! (L-R): Standing: Kathy Furlong, Joy Martin, Sharon Brown, team captain Judy Shaffer, Linda Struck, Babs Baldwin, Tineke Arzbach. Kneeling: Brenda Kees, Lori Poer. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)

The Soleil Women's USTA 65-and-over 3.5 tennis team journeyed to Savannah, Georgia on October 12 to compete in the 2023 state championships. This was their second trip in as many years.

Both trips were earned by winning the Atlanta area city championship. The team made it all the way to the final match last year before coming up just a little short. This year's version had a different result.

The team roster consisted of team captain Judy Shaffer, Linda Struck, Sharen Brown, Tineke Arzbach, Kathy Furlong, Brenda Kees, Babs Baldwin, Joy Martin, Lori Poer. Unfortunately, Linda was not able to make the trip due to a family emergency. In addition, Judy was out of the country.

The tournament start was somewhat rocky for the Soleil ladies. During the first match on Friday morning, Kathy sustained an injury and was unable to continue, leaving the team with the minimum six players for the remainder of the competition. In addition, Joy had just returned from Europe and was dealing with the effects of jetlag.

As a result of a late morning rain, the scheduled afternoon match was pushed

into Saturday, forcing the depleted team to play three matches beginning at 9:30, not ending until 8 p.m.

Having won all three matches on Saturday, the team was then in a waiting game to determine if they had made the semifinals. They decided to chill a bit with a drive to the beach at Tybee Island.

Upon hearing they had indeed made the semifinals, they hurried back to begin the final afternoon of tennis. The semifinal match win propelled the team into the early evening finals and a sweep of all three matches resulted in the tournament win.

To say the team had to overcome several "curve balls" and push through adversity would be an understatement. Acting team captain Sharen Brown summed up her feelings toward the team when she said, "We are such an exceptional group of girls and I cherish the friendships we share. Each one of you has a special talent on the court and we all made it work together to achieve our State Championship. Kathy gets the title of the best team supporter, and we all thank her for her support. Stay on the sunny side of life."

Annual Flu Vaccination Clinic

By Joe Tollus

On October 12, Soleil's Health & Wellness Club sponsored its sixteenth annual flu vaccination clinic at the clubhouse. Club and CERT volunteers worked together to make the clinic run smoothly by checking documentation and guiding participants to the Cherokee County Health Department staff, who then administered the shots.

Flu vaccines were provided to 158 Soleil residents who took advantage of an easy drive-through process instead of going outside the community for the same service. It was a big success and an appreciated convenience.

The Health and Wellness

Club provides important benefits to the Soleil community and will continue to sponsor events and schedule speakers who appeal to residents.

The Club welcomed six new members in 2023: Kevin Reynolds, Riva Adamovsky, Laura Gildenberg, Sunny Lewitt, Chastaine Kendrick and Kathy Schevling.



▲ Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD) staff (L-R) Pam Graham, Daniel Ramos and Karen Mathis provide assistance with paperwork for a Soleil resident during the annual Soleil Flu Shot Clinic, as Soleil Resident Jim Hunter directs traffic. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Soleil Resident Sunny Lewitt helps a resident fill out a medical form as Glenda Prather and Kathy Schevling await new arrivals. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Soleil Health and Wellness, CERT Volunteers and Health Department staff at the annual flu shot clinic include (L-R): **Front row:** Soleil residents Kathy Schevling, Sunny Lewitt, CCHD staff member Cyndi Lopez, Soleil resident Glenda Prather. **Middle row:** CCHD staff members Daniel Ramos, Amy Patterson, Karen Mathis, Pam Graham, Pam Baker, Soleil resident Chris Amones, CCHD staff member Brittany Pettway. **Back row:** Soleil residents Jim Hunter, Chastaine Kendrick, Ed Hill. **Not pictured:** Soleil residents John Nettuno, Roz Gladstone, Judy Wallace, Linda Ries. (Photo by Judy Fauver)

Streets are Sealed September



▲ Jerry Jernigan scheduled all the volunteers and set up barriers on streets being sealed each day. Others helped with golf cart shuttles for residents on shut-off streets and with package deliveries. (Photo by Martha Crockett)



▲ A view down Daicey Way shows the difference between the old and the sealed streets. Board member John Nettuno headed up the project that sought the best and longest-lasting sealant for Soleil Streets. (Photo by Martha Crockett)

Committee Appreciation Dinner

October 10

▲ Board member John Nettuno (at podium) recognizes the volunteer residents who serve on the Maintenance Committee for which he is Board Liaison. At the Committee Appreciation Dinner on October 10, the Board Liaison for each Board Committee spoke about the work done by their committee volunteers and recognized each one present at the dinner. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



Soleil's Doughboys

Every single day for the past three years, twelve Soleil residents—affectionately known as the Doughboys—have picked up surplus baked goods from Canton's downtown Panera Bread.

They deliver these baked goodies to Angel House, MUST Ministries, Goshen Valley Boys Ranch and other Cherokee County charitable organizations. The Doughboys salute Panera Bread for their generous donations. For more info on the Doughboys, please contact Fred Weems at fredweems550@gmail.com. (L - R): *Front row:* Anjalay Studdard (Panera Bread), Gary Selden, Courtney Moss (Panera Bread), Fred Weems. *Middle row:* Rob Kraus, Don Converse, Ed Hill, John Wolcott (former Soleil resident), Tom Wise. *Back Row:* Bob Rose, Steve Agocs, John Amones, Michael Tabor (Panera Bread Manager). *Not pictured:* Bruce Digby and Tom Reynolds. (Photo by Cathy Pica)



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Soleil's Cover Girls

By Cindy Bender • Photos by Dan Bender

Did you know Soleil has Cover Girls? Many residents are probably unaware of the generosity provided by this group.

The Soleil Cover Girls club was founded in 2017 by former resident, Carol Darras. It derived the name from its original focus, which was making fleece blankets for Canton elementary schools—hence providing “cover.” Cover Girls currently has 22 members.

Although it started as a blanket-making group, it has expanded to many different types of “covers” such as coats, clothing and even school nurse supplies to meet community needs. Every year the donations have grown larger. So far, over 300 blankets have been made. Over 275 items of coats, clothing and shoes have been distributed.

This year the group is focusing on specific Must Ministries needs such as diaper bags filled with essential items for parents of newborns. In addition, blankets are being made in response to a critical shortage.

On December 1-15, the group will be sponsoring a diaper drive for Must Ministries. Especially needed are diapers sized 3-7 and pull-ups. There will be a bin in the entryway of the clubhouse. We welcome your support.

If you are interested, Cover Girls meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-noon in the Arts and Crafts room. Come meet the busy workers! We hope you will want to join us as we continue searching for ways to serve our Canton community. For more information contact Cindy Bender at 248-495-5864.



▲ Nancy Farris and Barb Baker assemble a fleece blanket.



▲ Dottie Deviney, Cindy Bender, Nancy Farris and Barb Baker with donated coats.



▲ On October 22, the group was honored to receive an award from the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals for “enhancing education through outstanding support.” (L-R): Barb Baker, Cindy Bender, Nancy Farris and Dottie Deviney pose with the award.



▲ A staff member of Must Ministries accepts a Cover Girls donation of diaper bags and blankets.



▲ Cindy Bender assembles a diaper bag destined for Must Ministries.



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▲ Over a hundred Soleil residents show their eagerness to take a hike in support of Angel House on the morning of October 7. (Photo by Dick Slaats)

15th Annual Angel Walk

By Ron Laird

The 2023 Angel Walk to benefit Angel House of North Georgia held on October 7 raised more than \$7,500 in donations. More than 225 residents registered for the event and over 100 showed up on Walk Day to participate. In addition to those registering, others gave almost \$1,000 in direct donations.

Susan Worsley, Angel House Executive Director, participated in the Walk and thanked Soleil for the continuing support her organization receives. The weather cooperated nicely as lunch was cooked and served by members of the Les Marmitons cooking club. All participants received 2023 commemorative T-shirts featuring the 15-year anniversary.



▲ Hildegard Husar (89) smiles even after walking the whole way. Photo by Brenda Laird

Organizers Ron and Brenda Laird wish to thank the sponsors who helped to make the event a financial success: Laurel Canyon Optimist Club, Brenda Laird Real Estate Services, Vienna Beef through Soleil resident Jim Silverman, and McStats Printing.



▲ Susan Worsley, Angel House Executive Director, speaks to the crowd as Canton Mayor Bill Grant (left) and Angel Walk organizer Ron Laird look on. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Dan & Helen Casey pick up their 2023 commemorative T-shirts from volunteers Mimi Mowery and Brenda Laird, also a sponsor of the event. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Members of Les Marmitons cooking club stand ready to prepare lunch for a hungry post-walk crowd. (L-R): Marv Hirschel, George Horack, David Hyatt, Bob Hamilton, Mike Rainwater, Ron Laird, Jack Jolin. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Over \$7,500 was raised to support Angel House, including a \$1,500 check from the Laurel Canyon Optimist Club. (L-R): Angel House Director Susan Worsley, Optimist Club Past President Ed Hill, and Angel Walk organizer Ron Laird. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Relaxing in the aftermath, Angel Walk participants enjoy the lunch prepared and served by Les Marmitons cooking club. (Photo by Lori Poer)



▲ Angel Walk participants head east down Laurel Canyon Parkway on the first leg of the 3.6-mile hike. (Photo by Lori Poer)

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Failed Casino Heist

October 6

Photos by Brenda Holmes



▲ The ultimate goal for every team—the inside of the casino vault. Even though Donna Graham is holding a sign saying they made off with the loot, no team took the prize. (L-R): Dave Battaglia, Donna Graham, Jeanne Kraus, Cindy Battaglia, Rob Kraus.



▲ The challenge that got away! The “Break into the Vault” challenge stumped every team resulting in no winner for this year’s Escape Room. Attempting the heist are (L-R): Jackie Shierer, Tom Krueger, Michael Grant, Jo Kingsman.



▲ Volunteer police officer Sunny Lewitt (left) warns (L-R): Beth & George Horack, Wayne & Sue Dodd, George & Lee Goodman about their game as volunteer police officer Arlene Zucker handcuffs suspect Lee Goodman.



▲ Rick Zenna as the Casino bartender.



▲ Volunteers run the show! (L-R): Front row: Bob Johnson, Robin McCelland, Jeannie Johnson, Louie Eichman, Roz Gladstone (in the hat), Robin Lincoln. Second row: Rick & Kathy Zenna, Arlene Zucker, Sunny Lewitt, Sharon Golden, Lynda Best, Sally Carder.



▲ Soleil dances by moonlight and a lit pool. (Photo by Pam Kuester)

Chastain Night October 14



▲ The first-place team displays their winning version of the "Farmhouse" theme for Chastain night. (L-R): Nancy Farris, Donna Resetar, Cindy Bender, Dottie Deviney, John Farris, Dan Bender, David Deviney, John Resetar. (Photo by Cathy Zenna)



▲ The 120East band warms up to play on a windy Saturday night. (Photo by Martha Crockett)



▲ The second-place team enjoys a European supper with their second-place winning Italian country theme. Gayle Lee is in the white sweater. Moving around the table counter-clockwise: Tricia Paul, Jean Harmon, Christi Hinkley, Bruce Hinkley, Mike Lee, Tony & Mary DeLuca. (Photo by Pam Kuester)



▲ This Farmhouse Outhouse theme engendered many smiles. (L-R): Lois Hershel, Kari Spitz, Jack Jolin, Marvin Hirschel, Joe & Guye Dupcat, Brenda & Ron Laird. (Photo by Martha Crockett)



▲ Members of Les Marmitons prepare a dinner that some tables opted to partake of rather than preparing their own. (L-R): Paul Martin, Hank Matyniak, George Horack, Neil Dubry, Mike Chauvin, Dwight Kees, David Hyatt, John Brent. (Photo by Pam Kuester)

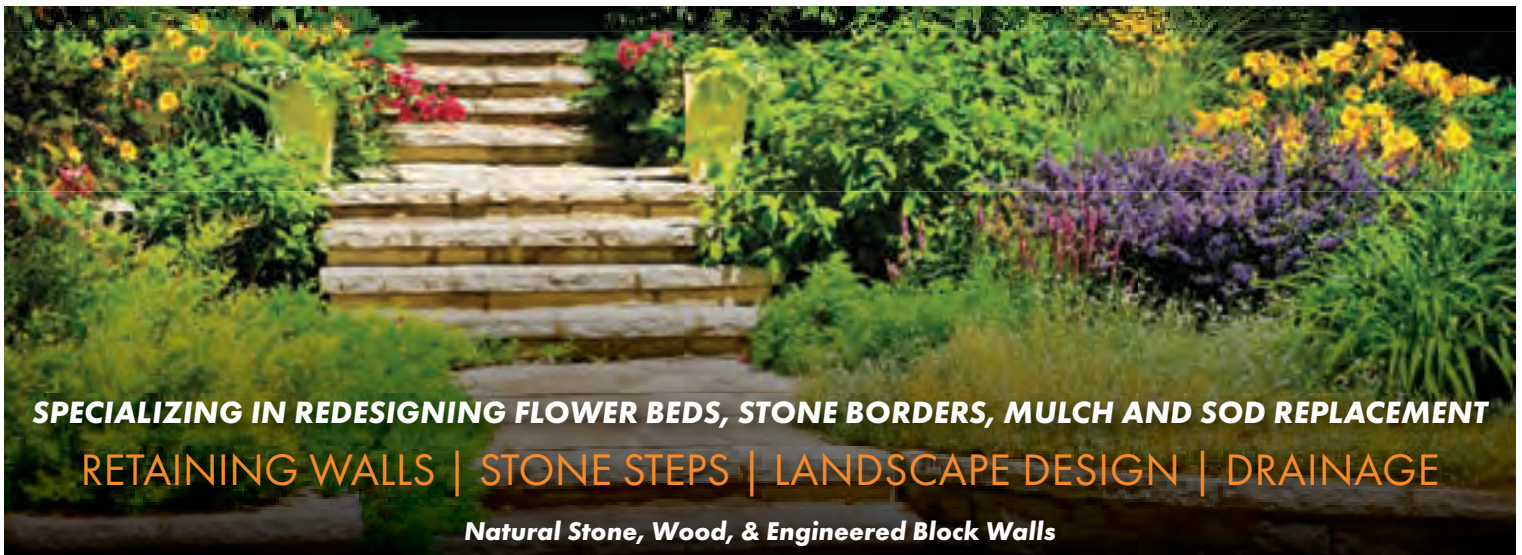


▲ Dancing was a highlight of the evening. (Photo by Penny James)



▲ Ed & Pam Kuester's table opted for a giving theme. (Photo by Marie Smith)

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▲ Ashley Frasca of 95.5 WSB Radio gives her presentation titled “Chipmunks, Rabbits, Squirrels and Armadillos Oh My!” to Soleil residents on October 26.
(Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

Garden Club Presentation & Plant Sale

By Caroline Calloway

At the Garden Club’s first meeting for 2023-24 season on October 26, they invited all Soleil residents to hear a presentation by Ashley Frasca of 95.5 WSB Radio. Ashley is the host of the Saturday morning show, “Green and Growing,” having worked for years with Walter Reeves on his garden show.

Ashley talked about nuisance wildlife in our gardens with a presentation titled “Chipmunks, Rabbits, Squirrels and Armadillos Oh My!” She described a humane way to deal with pests called the HERL method:

- Habitat modification

- Exclusion—keeping pests out of the area
- Removal—removing wildlife from your property
- Lethal—using poisons for extermination (a last resort)

Ashley also recommends utilizing various sources such as UGA Extension, Walter Reeves.com, or her Facebook page Green and Growing for additional information.

Earlier in October, the Garden Club had a successful plant sale of beautiful pansies from Premier Nurseries with 62 happy customers.



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Soleil's New Piano

Article & Photos by Martha Crockett

When Joe Di Bernardo had an occasion to play Soleil's ballroom piano for the first time, he realized it was in deplorable condition. The piano had been originally purchased as a used instrument and had been played in Soleil for roughly fifteen years since that purchase was made.

Soleil's piano is utilized on a regular basis for concerts by the Silver Sounds Chorale and Soleil Singers, along with occasional ballroom performances by the Mike Dorough Singers, musical productions associated with Soleil Residents Theater, and special guest concerts such as the Cherokee Chorale. The Silver Sounds Chorale and Soleil Singers use the piano weekly for rehearsals throughout much of the calendar year.

Recognizing the need for an upgrade, Joe spearheaded a search to find a new piano for Soleil in collaboration with accompanists Sandy Cox and Diane Taylor. They visited Atlanta area piano showrooms to find a suitable new instrument. A detailed report prepared for the Soleil Board of Directors suggested three piano options.

On October 9, the Board voted in favor of their number one choice, a Bechstein-Casio hybrid piano, which was delivered on October 18. This piano combines the features of a traditional acoustic piano and an electronic instrument. It has many unique features and can be connected to the Ballroom sound system.

Joe said, "It has the traditional 88 keys and pedals but does everything but brush your teeth. Never has to be tuned."

"The sound on our new piano is much, much better," Sandy Cox, Soleil Singers accompanist, said having used the instrument for several months now. "And the touch is much better, which is huge for accompanists. The creative solutions it gives us with its various features—such as connecting to the ballroom speakers—will make a big difference for accompanists, singers and members of our audiences."

The Silver Sounds Chorale and Soleil Singers are most appreciative to the HOA Board for their support. It's certain that concert audiences for years to come will enjoy the sounds of Soleil's new piano.

Current plans call for keeping the old piano near the Arts & Crafts Room for those occasions when a second piano is needed during split rehearsals by one of our choral groups.



▲ On October 21, Joe Di Bernardo gathered residents closely tied to Soleil's musical groups to share an overview of the instrument's capabilities. (L-R): Silver Sounds Chorale member Joe Di Bernardo (standing); Soleil Singers Co-Director Sandy Schnee; Director Mike Dorough of Mike Dorough Singers; Soleil Singers Accompanist and Silver Sounds Chorale member Sandy Cox; Silver Sounds Chorale Accompanist Diane Taylor; Soleil Singers Co-Director Susan May (back row); Silver Sounds Chorale member Betty Henry; and Ballroom Audio Technician Wendell Henry.



▲ Diane Taylor (seated)—accompanist for the Silver Sounds Chorale—plays as (L-R) Wendell Henry, Sandy Schnee and Susan May discuss the instrument's sound.



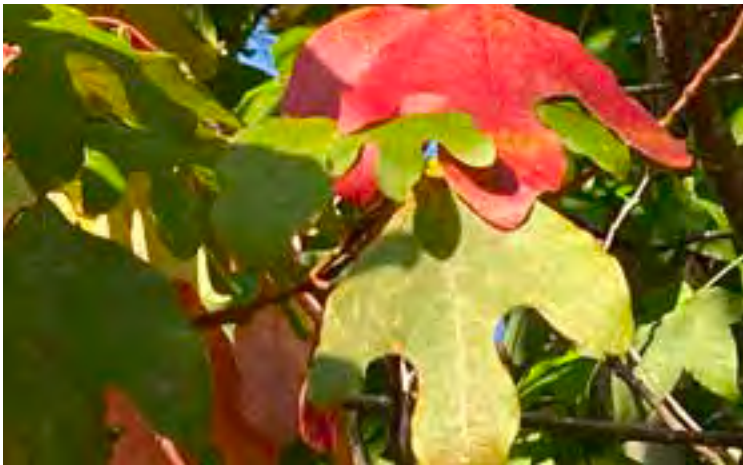
▲ Accompanist for the Soleil Singers, Sandy Cox, takes a turn at discovering the features of the new Bechstein-Casio hybrid piano.



▲ The delicate bright yellow sassafras flowers decorate the branches in early Spring before the leaves emerge.



▲ Wearing its late summer greenery, this small grove of sassafras trees along Laurel Overlook displays examples of all three kinds of leaves—single lobe ovals, two lobe and three lobe leaves.



▲ By early Fall, the first leaves begin to change color, in this case a crimson red.



▲ In late October, these sassafras leaves are turning a golden yellow with hints of orange and red.

Soleil's Sassafras Trees

Article and photos by Joe Nicholson

Sassafras trees grow naturally throughout the eastern United States. The trees in Soleil vary in height from about eight to thirty feet, but a mature tree can reach over 50 feet tall.

Sassafras is a deciduous tree with leaves that can turn various colors in the fall—bright yellow, orange, pink or red. Its unusually shaped leaves can be oval, two-lobed or three-lobed. The small flowers are a bright yellow that appear in the early spring before the leaves appear, usually blooming during the last week in March.

In 1976 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ruled that sassafras could not be sold as sassafras tea because of toxins. In ancient times the American Indians used sassafras for teas and medicinal tonics. Colonists likewise found many uses for sassafras and shipped it to Europe for sale there.

Sassafras trees in Soleil can be seen at several locations along Laurel Overlook

where the first cluster of trees are found at the edge of the forest near the sixth planted willow oak tree. The second cluster of these trees grow just beyond the first eyebrow on the right behind street light pole number 15 at the top of the berm. They are best seen by walkers, but those driving by might notice them in the spring when the yellow flowers appear or when the leaves turn in the fall.

The Laurel Crossing nature trail provides additional opportunities to view sassafras trees. Some examples may be seen from the trail that leads into the woods from near the 2nd tee area just off Laurel Ridge.

The tallest sassafras tree might be the one located about halfway between the second bridge and the steps down to the last bridge, as you walk toward the 3rd hole. From that point the tree (about 30 feet tall) may be seen down the hill near the creek. It is easiest to recognize when in bloom.



▲ Halloween revelers lead the crowd in “YMCA.” (Photo by Alan Bernhardt).



▲ And the most chilling, most winning costumes are (L-R): Lois Healey as the Tooth Fairy (2nd place), Rick Zenna with Kathy Zenna who as Winifred Sanderson (Bette Midler’s character in Disney’s “Hocus Pocus”) took 1st place, Linda Boisvert as Maleficent (played by Angelina Jolie) (3rd place), and Stephen Dillon as The Hunchback of Notre Dame (3rd place). (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)

All the Ghastly Ghouls

October 27



▲ Bev & Craig Stichtenoth show off the steins they use to enjoy their dark beer. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Beverly Cavazos as Marilyn Monroe blows kisses at the photographer with approval from her baseball player beau, Gil Cavazos. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Linda & Al Ries use the dance floor to demonstrate that ketchup and mustard do go together. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Brenda & Judy - enough said. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Crystal & Tommy Jacobs (left) with Mary Rainwater bring their Roaring Twenties look to the ballroom. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Susan Seiple enjoys the festivities and the meal. Judy Fauver and Brenda Holmes were the masterminds behind the haunting table decorations. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ This table of Halloween revelers opted for Western costumes. (L-R): Russ & Melanie Fazzio, Tom & Judy Wise, Jeanne Kraus, Doug Sauer and Margie Brisson. (Photo by Rob Kraus)



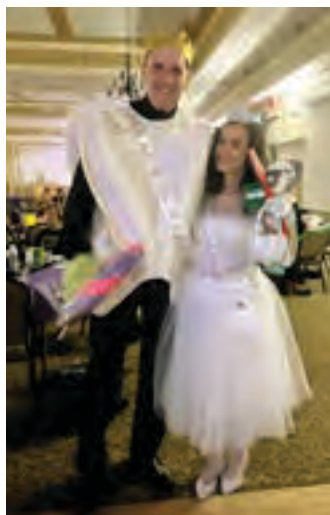
▲ Fictional and real-life ghouls enjoy a respite from the activities. (L-R): Seated: Jerry & Linda Boisvert with Kathy & Rick Zenna. Standing: Sunny Lewitt & Arlene Zucker. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Proving cats and mice can get along are Julie Taylor (cat) and Getty Czako (Minnie Mouse). (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Roz Gladstone & Charlotte Braunstein dance like two peas in a pod. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Bill Healey portrays a 'molar with a crown' with tooth fairy Lois Healey whose costume took second place. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Betty & Wendell Henry "serve" as volunteer assistants to Judy and Brenda. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



Pink Ribbon Society Raises Money for Breast Cancer

By Kathy Schevling • Photos by Kathy & Keith Schevling

No one undergoing breast cancer treatment should have to choose between getting medical care or paying household bills. Sadly, treatment costs, coupled with income loss, force them into hard decisions.

The financial side can be just as devastating as the medical side. That's why there is the Pink Fund, a nonprofit organization that helps with critical expenses for housing, transportation, utilities and insurance.

The Pink Fund relies on donations that often come from fundraisers, such as the one held in Soleil. To recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Soleil Pink Ribbon Society held a wine and cheese fundraiser on October 25. All proceeds were donated to the Pink Fund.

Many local businesses participated as well by donating items that were raffled at the event. These items included gift baskets, wine and gift cards for goods and services like dinners, movie tickets and spa treatments. The raffle process was great fun with some participants winning more than one prize that evening.

Attendees enjoyed wonderful wines, delicious cheese and other goodies while socializing with their neighbors. It also proved to be an event where residents who care about the breast cancer cause were able to meet others who share the same passion. Many people made new friends while raising money for a very important organization.

The Soleil Pink Ribbon Society is a positive group of people who care about patients, survivors and caregivers who are dealing with the effects of breast cancer. Members don't have to be survivors to participate.

To get involved with the Soleil Pink Ribbon Society, contact Kathy Schevling—nursekathy630@yahoo.com (203-837-0147), or Sheila Gerstin—Sheila.gerstin@gmail.com (770-833-8233).



▲ Three of the fundraiser organizers (L-R): Sue Polmanski, Kathy Schevling and Sheila Gerstin.



▲ Sheila Gerstin and Sue Polmanski announce the raffle winners.



▲ Kathy Schevling (sitting) welcomes Jo Laswell to the fundraiser.



▲ Denise Davis is a happy raffle winner.

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Optimist of the Year Announced New Officers and Board Members Initiated

By Lenora McCrea

Every year, two special events occur at the Optimist Club's October meeting. First, club officers and board members are initiated. Second, the Optimist of the Year is announced.

The club was fortunate to have Russ Thomas, Optimist International Board Director, perform the initiation ceremony. Thomas, a dynamic and positive speaker, talked about the future of the Optimist Club organization and the importance of leaving a legacy for the children and community the clubs serve.

While stressing the possibilities, Thomas said, "We cannot do this alone. Each person must take ownership of what they can contribute. Small steps matter and have a big impact on the future of a child, senior or veteran. When we help our communities, we feel the payback in our hearts."

After Thomas' inspirational speech, the club's Optimist of the Year, Sandy Smoak, was recognized for her dedication and involvement in many club



activities. Sandy and her husband, Wayne, moved to Soleil in 2019 from Savannah to be near family and to enjoy what Soleil and the area have to offer. They both joined the Optimist Club in 2020.

Sandy's organizational skills and willingness to help made her a perfect fit for the Club. She has served as secretary for three years and participated in numerous club projects. She also volunteered to:

- Serve at the annual Pancake Breakfast
- Obtain sponsorships from local businesses
- Collect raffle prizes and silent auction items
- Sell breakfast and raffle tickets
- Assist teachers at Clayton Elementary
- Recruit other members to volunteer

Sandy goes above and beyond to help in any way she

can and has been a wonderful addition to the club. Congratulations on being chosen as 2023 Optimist of the Year.

Optimist Club meetings, including lunch, are held on the second Mondays at Sidelines Grille. If Soleil residents are interested in learning more about the club's projects and volunteering, attend any upcoming meeting. Contact Alan Lodwick, president, at alodwick@gmail.com (303-748-3719), or Ed Hill, past president, at evhilljr@yahoo.com (770-880-6462).

► Ed Hill, Past President, (right) presents Optimist of the Year plaque to Sandy Smoak, Secretary. (Photo by Valerie Hill)



▲ Russ Thomas, Optimist International Board Director (far right), initiated LCOC's 2023-24 Officers and Board Members (L-R): Bill Pfaeffle, Board Member; Sandy Smoak, Secretary; Pam Dulin, Board Member; Lenora McCrea, Vice President; Mary Anne Parker, Secretary; Ed Hill, Past President. Not pictured Alan Lodwick, President, and Kathy Keith, Board Member. (Photo by Valerie Hill)



▲ Optimists and friends give out Halloween candy at Clayton Elementary for Trunk or Treat. (L-R): Wayne Smoak, Linda Brent, Ginny Pallo, Sandy Smoak, Lori Poer with her granddaughter Adeline Poer, Valerie & Ed Hill. (Photo taken by Lincoln Loden, Lori's grandson, a student at Clayton Elementary)

Class Dances On

By Pat Pugrant

Being able to dance is important to the line dancing and belly dancing classes usually taught in Soleil's aerobics room. When the clubhouse closed for a week, Pat and Bob Pugrant moved their furniture to the walls, rolled up the carpet, swiffered the floors and welcomed all Pat's dance classes to their home.

Belly dancers joined line dancers and the balance class without missing a beat. On Halloween, the classes danced in costume to Halloween music and enjoyed delectable treats.



▲ Halloween dancers at Pat Pugrant's house. (L-R): Lucy Bosco, Jackie Schierer, Cathy Staller, Rose Good, Joan Werner, Brenda Gilbert, Terri Pessa, with Pat Pugrant in front. (Photo by Bob Pugrant)



▲ Belly dancers use scarves to accentuate their movements. (L-R): Cathy Staller, Joan Werner, and Brenda Gilbert. (Photo by Pat Pugrant—also dancing)

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Abraham Lincoln

August-October



▲ Guest presenter Nick Nickerson shares stories about the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln during his first visit to Soleil. Nick presented three lectures, one each month in August, September and October. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Nick visits with Kathy Anderson and Mike Elliott after his presentation on John Wilkes Booth and Robert Todd Lincoln in September. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

Karaoke – Tribute to Jimmy Buffett

September 16



▲ Soleil gals offer their energetic rendition of Jimmy Buffett's "Cheeseburger in Paradise," part of the night's tribute to the beloved singer/songwriter. Other residents performing Buffett songs included Art Heller, George Goodman, Tom Snipes with Mike Shaver, and Gary Gettis with backup singers Goodman, Ron Laird and Craig Stichtenoth. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ Bev and Craig Stichtenoth share memories of September with "Try To Remember" from the Broadway show "The Fantastics." (Photo by Rob Kraus)

An Evening on Broadway

October 15

The ballroom was alive with the sound of music on October 15 when the Mike Dorough Singers presented a Broadway review. The performers sang timeless classics and current favorites spanning eight decades of musicals.

All the music was arranged by vocal ensemble producer and Soleil resident, Mike Dorough. Introductions and narration provided by Lorraine Dorough kept the program flowing smoothly for the enthusiastic audience. Members of the ensemble commented afterwards that the positive energy from everyone in the crowd made it a joy to sing for Soleil.



▲ The Mike Dorough Singers present a Broadway review in the Soleil ballroom on October 15. (L-R): Soleil resident Arlene Zucker, Bill Killmeier, Jimmie Nettles and Anne Nettles. (Photo by Lorraine Dorough)



◀ The Mike Dorough Singers include (L-R): front row: Soleil resident Arlene Zucker, Anne Nettles. Back row: Bill Killmeier, Soleil resident Mike Dorough, Jimmie Nettles. (Photo by Lorraine Dorough)

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Two Ladies Who Never Miss a Trick

By Carolyn Gehl

You're never too old for trick or treat. On Halloween, the Tuesday Bridge Club was treated to the appearance of our good witch (Nelle Mason-right) and her kitty cat (Aiko Seo) nonagenarians both. Aiko brought bags of Halloween treats filled with candy for all the players. Nelle amazed us all with her beautiful Witch's Hat. All of the bridge players know—in bridge as in life—Nelle and Aiko never miss a “Trick.” The club started in 2008, when Soleil was still called Seasons. Players include: Nelle, Aiko, Sheryl Miner, Margie Hall, Mary Ann Ansaro, Delyse Goodwin, Pat Harrison, Marge Winter, Elizabeth Staylor, Judy Freeman, Carolyn Gehl and Marcia Waggoner. (Photo by Delyse Goodman)



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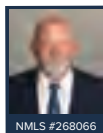
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Arts & Crafts Fair

November 4

Photos by Craig Stichtenoth

▲ The ballroom bustles with activity as residents and guests explore a holiday array of arts and crafts offered by our creative Soleil neighbors. The event netted a \$245 donation to the American Cancer Society from vendor registration.



▲ Rena Peppers (left) visits with exhibitor Marlene Caracalas.



▲ Event organizer Micki Farley chats with visitors at her display of handmade greeting cards.



▲ Sallie Shahid and her daughter Kathleen delight visitors with Sallie's striking handmade folded fabric ornaments.



▲ Sally Carder and Josie Vangrov are all smiles behind their table of festive seasonal gifts.



▲ Arlene Hobbs is joined by her daughter, Lindsey, in her booth displaying beautiful handmade angels and much more.



▲ Anne Owens, Liz Balak and Brenda Watson (L-R) admire the beautiful holiday trees created by Chieko Melcher (gold sweater) with Soleil resident Yuki Aley.

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Spanish Paella Dinner

September 26

For our September 26th Soleil Cooking Club Dinner we had a traditional Spanish meal including Sangria, Gazpacho and Paella with a scattering of appetizers and side dishes. The Paella was a recipe from members Rob Kraus and Don Converse. Last summer they toured Spain and brought these recipes home. They were our “Chefs” for the meal. They gave a video presentation of the “History and Culture of Paella” before the meal.



◀ Chuck Surdi (left) and Bill McCreary prepare the Paella before cooking with Steve Goldstein (right) directing. (Photo by George Goodman)



▲ Rob Kraus (no apron) reviews the finished Paella in skillets. (L-R): Gary Selden, Ed Hill, Richard Cheap and George Goodman add the final touches. (Photo by Bob Abrams)



▲ Clockwise from left: Neil DuBry, Gary Selden (serving), Jay Barnes, Chris Garbow, Gene Arnold and Alex Capocci. In addition to the Paella in the center of the table, Sangria and Gazpacho accompany at each setting. (Photo by Greg Adamovsky)

Low Country Shrimp Boil Spousal Event

October 24

Photos by Rob Kraus



▲ Joe Simpson, from Four Seasons Culinary Club (maroon chef coat) is the Guest Chef for the night's cooking event. The Low Country Shrimp Boil is one of Joe's specialties. (L-R): Lee & George Goodman, Joe Simpson, George & Beth Horack.



▲ Between the Guest Chef, Hosts and Team Leads, these are the guys that pulled off a successful Low Country Shrimp Boil for the Soleil Cooking Club October 2023 Spousal event. (L-R): Hosts: Ray Lorenzi and Craig Vandenberg. Team Leads: Gary Brooks, Phil Walsh, George Horack, Chuck Surdi, Jeff Pawlik. Guest Chef: Joe Simpson. Team Lead: Dan Rooney. Host: Dave Poer.

Cornhole Tournament

October 18



▲ The winners! (L-R): Second place: Scott Trevathan & Chuck Nohta. First place: Jim Thomas & Bill Healey. (Photo by Brenda Holmes)



▲ Competitors and observers watch closely as one contestant lets a beanbag fly. (Photo by Martha Crockett)



▲ Soleil's Lifestyle Directors Judy Fauver and Brenda Holmes join in the fun. (Photo by Martha Crockett)



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The War of the Worlds

October 8



▲ Director Wendell Henry (right) welcomes the audience to the “studios” of radio station WSRT where his production of “The War of the Worlds” is about to begin. Pointing to the applause sign, he instructs the audience as to their role in the play. The radio actors behind Wendell are doing a final review of the script. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ The production of “The War of the Worlds” is underway with four of the actors (L-R): Kathy Geroski, Dayle Geroski, Janelle Walker, Steve Pawlik at their microphones, while Steven Jones is waiting for his next speaking part to come up in the script. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ The cast of SRT’s “The War of The Worlds” include (L-R): Kathy Geroski, Dayle Geroski, Chuck Lampman (off-stage sound effects), Janelle Walker, Jeff Pawlik, Steven Jones. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



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A View into the Lives of our Soleil Veterans

By Helen Ford • Photos by Dick Slaats

Just before Veterans Day, the Soleil Residents Theater proudly presented “A View into the Lives of our Soleil Veterans.” Interviewer Helen Ford explored the military experiences of Linda Boisvert (Navy), Jerry Boisvert (Air Force) and Jim Kenton, (Army).

Representing three service branches, active and reserve duty, the interviewees each shared their experiences which included flying helicopters, engineering airplanes, Vietnam tours, Intelligence assignments, Hurricane chasing and much more. The audience was visibly engaged.

For years, Linda Boisvert worked as a civilian for the Air Force supporting the missions of the Hurricane Chasers Squadron. Then she joined the Navy Reserves, assigned to Intelligence, where she served for ten years. Linda said joining the Navy Reserves was “a natural fit” for her since her husband was in the Air Force Reserves, and she had a chance to work with so many intelligent, skilled co-reservists.

Jerry joined the Air Force after high school and created an exciting 35-year career. He was trained first to be a mechanic of the C-130 airplanes and then to be a Flight Engineer. After a decade of active duty, he joined the Air Force Reserves. Both his military positions and those as a civilian were interesting and increasingly challenging. He trained Flight Engineers for the C-130, was a Hurricane Chaser and worked as an Airworthiness Inspector for the Federal Aviation Authority. His last position was in Saudi Arabia as an Airworthiness Inspector for the United Nations.

After completing his college degree and ROTC training, Jim Kenton joined the Army—a long-time goal. After Basic training, he learned to pilot Huey helicopters prior to being sent to Vietnam. There he also learned to fly the Cobra helicopter and participated in the Tet Offensive. After a second tour in Vietnam and completing 20 years of service, he retired. He then became a Corporate Pilot until his “real” retirement in Soleil in 2007.

The SRT is grateful to each of these Veterans for sharing his/her military experience with the community. We are also appreciative of the service that all Veterans have given to us and to our country. Thank you!



▲ Jerry Boisvert (with his arm pointing at the slide above) explains that the image shows him being thoroughly hosed down—an old Air Force tradition for the retiree on the last day of his service.



▲ November 5 SRT features interviews by Helen Ford of three Soleil veterans. (L-R): Linda Boisvert (Navy), Helen Ford (Interviewer), Jim Kenton (Army) and Jerry Boisvert (Air Force).



◀ Ed Kuester, President of the Soleil Residents Theater, presents donations from the Veteran's interviews to Tom Wise, President of the Soleil Veterans Club.



▲ *Jim Pefinis—2023 Club Champion low gross winner—hits his 3-hybrid club for his second shot on the par 5, #11 hole at Fairways of Canton. His next shots were on target and par was made.*

Great Weather = Great Golf

Article by Dwight Kees • Photos by Tom Snipes

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The annual two-day LCMGA event kicked off September 12 with a day-one field of 71 players each vying for trophies, cash and most importantly, bragging rights for the coming season.

The day was punctuated by play fitting a championship as 29 players combined to record a total of 52 birdies and two eagles. On top of that, 15 players shot net par or better.

In the Masters flight, defending two-time champion Alan Keller was denied the “threepeat” when Greg Cornish bettered his round-one performance by two strokes allowing him to move from eighth place into the top spot.

Turning to the Champions Flight, three players turned the two days into a real tussle. At the completion of day one, Danny Dunlap, Pete Thayer and Steve Janes were within 2 gross strokes of each other. When the dust settled on

day two and handicaps were applied, Danny was the repeat champion with Pete and Steve taking the next two slots. As an aside, Pete was the #2 finisher last year in the Masters division.

Scott Cameron’s solid consistency allowed him to post the net lead after each round and that put the first-place Legends trophy on his mantle.

MASTERS FLIGHT NET SCORES

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Greg Cornish | 144 |
| Jim Pefinis | 145 |
| Michael Kohl | 147 |
| Alan Bernhardt | 147 |
| Jay Barber | 147 |
| Barry Compton | 148 |
| Alan Keller | 148 |

CHAMPIONS FLIGHT NET SCORES

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Danny Dunlap | 138 |
| Pete Thayer | 147 |
| Steve Janes | 148 |
| Joe Simpson | 148 |
| John Tingle | 148 |
| Dwight Kees | 149 |
| Rollie Hickman | 150 |

LEGENDS FLIGHT NET SCORES

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Scott Cameron | 143 |
| Dale Johnson | 146 |
| Ray Rauba | 148 |
| Lamar Gilmore | 149 |
| John Mosier | 150 |
| Jay Burnworth | 150 |
| Frank Murphy | 151 |

Players demonstrating superior driving accuracy on the par 3 holes on day one were Dale Johnson, Frank Reagan, Ray Rauba and Michael Gandy. The day-two sharpshooters were Greg Cornish, Steve Jensen, Steven Reece and Pete Thayer.

The best gross scores for both rounds were turned in by Jim Pefinis 149–Masters; Danny Dunlap and Steve Janes 170–Champions; and Dale Johnson 184–Legends.

Steve Jensen coordinated this event with John Mathis and Ray Rauba serving as hosts.

LAUREL CANYON CUP

This annual two-day team competition was held October 10 and 12. The popular event features a modified Ryder Cup style format with two teams, each consisting of 22 players. The players are chosen by team captains from a field of 44 whose eligibility was determined by points accumulated throughout the year.

Team captains this year were Barry Compton and Michael Kohl representing Team Blue with Danny Dunlap and Joe Tollus steering Team Red.

After two styles of match play on day one, Team Blue held a solid 13.5 points to Team Red's 8.5 lead. Some may recall that last year, Team Blue (also co-captained by Barry) held the lead after day one only to have Team Red mount a furious charge for the victory on day two.

This year Barry got his revenge and Michael was handed a birthday present as Team Blue held on in the day-two individual match play portion to post a winning score of 25.5 points to 18, thus ending Team Red's three-year victory streak.

A hearty shout-out to Steve Jensen for coordinating this event and the players for a great display of golf.

Hit 'em straight and not too many.



▲ Winners of the 2023 Club championship (L-R): Masters flight–Greg Cornish; Champions flight–Danny Dunlap; Legends flight–Scott Cameron.



▲ The Laurel Canyon Cup winners—the Blue Team. (L-R) seated: Mike Kohl (left) and Barry Compton. Standing, first row: Joe Simpson, John Moser, Doug Tinsley, Dennis Burnette, Mark Spezzano, Jim Harvey, Greg Jensen, Jeff Moore, Dwight Kees, Bill Tidwell. Second row: James Bishop, Jim Loadwick, Steve Reece, Brian Dyer, Tom Sawyer, Fred Meyers. Back row: Frank Regan, George Lawrance, Dave Brackett, Doug Lockrem.

LGA's 2023 Season Ends

Article & Photos by Bonnie Johnson

The LGA season is in the books and the ladies celebrated the year with a luncheon at Stratus on a crisp November 1 afternoon.

Incoming officers and committee chairs were announced: President Sharon Jenson, Vice President Paula Hardy, Secretary/Treasurer Susan Jarvis, Rules Chair Teresa Ratteree, Tournament/Social Chair Angie Kurzen and Colette Sanders as Games Chair.

Our most improved golfer was Brenda Kees who lowered her handicap by 4 strokes. Outgoing president Charlotte Loadwick was presented with a well-deserved thank-you gift and a dozen red roses. We weren't quite finished with Charlotte as she was named the Club Champion for the fifth time! The luncheon also featured a raffle orchestrated by Angie Kurzen where everyone won a prize!



▲ The “movin’ and groovin’” Golfettes Darlene Brannon, Teresa Moore, Heidi Martin and Karen Barber put on a great show.

While not an LGA sponsored event, Bonny Lockrem and her hard-working committee comprised of LGA members hosted a fabulously successful Breast Cancer tournament in October resulting in a \$13,616.00 check presented to Northside Hospital. This money will be used exclusively in Cherokee County and will provide over a hundred mammograms to needy women.

Last but certainly not least, the renowned “Golfettes”—Teresa Moore, Heidi Martin, Darlene Brannon and Karen

Barber—performed “Let’s All Go Down to the Golf Course,” “Waisting Away in La-La Land” and “Puttin’ On My Golfin’ Shoes” to the laughs and cheers of the crowd.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and so does our season. We eagerly await next spring when we’ll do it all again.



▲ Delane Cope from Northside Hospital accepts a check for over \$13,000 from Jacki Wickersham and tournament chair Bonny Lockrem to benefit Cherokee County women battling cancer.



▲ Charlotte Loadwick is crowned Club Champion for an unprecedented 5th time!



▲ Fine-feathered Brenda Kees was most improved golfer for 2023.



Motivational Quotes from Elaine LaLanne

Elaine LaLanne, First Lady of Fitness and 97-year-old widow of Fitness Guru Jack LaLanne says:

“If you don’t move, you become immovable.”

“Anything in life is possible if you make it happen.”

“Exercise is King. Nutrition is Queen. Put them together and you have a kingdom.”

“Twenty minutes a day gets me on my way.”

▲ Many residents take “moving” to heart using the several miles of natural trails that meander through the woods of Soleil, like this one that runs behind the homes on Laurel Ridge, down the hill from Fairways of Canton’s 2nd tee, before the first small bridge.

(Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ Tom Cobb leads a large crowd on the dance floor

Racquet Club Celebrates 2023

September 29

Photos by Sallie Swartz



▲ Party planners for this big event were (L-R) master of ceremonies Mike Rainwater, Racquet Club Director Tom Cobb, Donna Graham, Barbara Blaschke and Chuck Lampman.



▲ Donna Graham presents a door prize to an elated Beverly Cavazos.



▲ Les Marmatons' Gary Blouse serves the main course to Gloria and Arnie Kornblum and Charlie O'Mahoney.



▲ A large kitchen crew comprised of members of Les Marmatons prepared and served dinner for the party guests. L-R: Doug Connor, Gary Blouse, Greg Cornish, Richard Cheap, Mike Hanley, Ron Laird, Wendell Henry, Gene Arnold, Dayle Geroski, Ullman Garrett, Jim Carver, Jack Jolin, Michael Golub and George Horack.

HOA Dues

Where Does The Money Go?

By Lou Knight

Soleil residents pay \$1,203 per quarter, \$401 a month, or \$13.18 a day for resort living and beautiful amenities. Sometimes people wonder how that money is distributed.

The largest piece of the pie, 42%, is Homeowner Direct Expenses. This includes items that affect homeowners personally:

- Alarm systems
- Cable
- Landscaping & Lawn Care
- Pine straw

- Trash

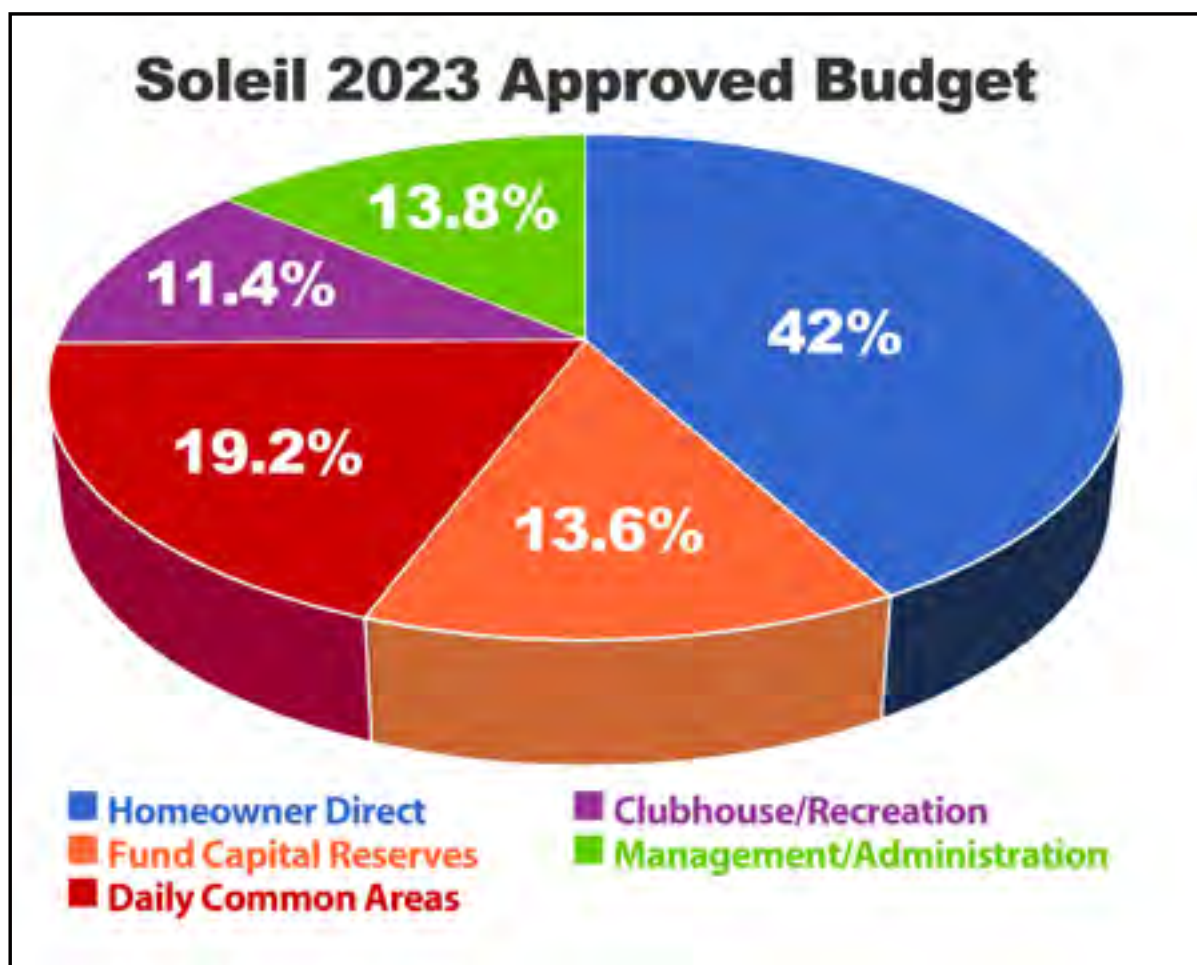
The second largest piece is Daily Common Area Expenses, which takes 19.2% of the budget. These items are for the greater good and include things like:

- Landscaping & Lawn Care
- Hiking trails
- Streetlights
- Irrigation
- Fountain
- Guardhouse/personnel

- Shared parkway expenses

The other 38.8% is divided among daily management/administration, funding for capital reserves and clubhouse/recreation areas. Soleil is fortunate to have a Board of Directors whose members take their responsibilities seriously and are committed to keeping Soleil the best it can be. And residents get all of this for \$13.18 a day.

**Taken from the Soleil owner's website *HOA/Board (in left menu)/Annual Budget/Budget Presentation/ Page 3. For detailed information look under the Audits, Financial Reports and Annual Budgets option on the left menu.*



▲ Pie chart created by Lou Knight.

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