

April 2025

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 Private Backyard



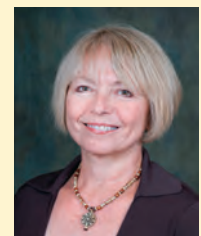
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Digital copies of *Soleil Living* are now available on the Soleil website.  
**Go to: Resident Resources > Soleil Living Magazine**



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# CONTACTS

## Clubhouse Office

**678-493-5710**

Onsite Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Heritage Property After Hours Customer Care  
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 tecobb@windstream.net

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jeff.cornwell@  
 pmcommunities.com  
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## Russell Landscape

www.russelllandscape.  
 com/soleil

## Fitness Director

**Gina Beckwith**

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 SoleilFitness@outlook.com

## Cherokee County

### Emergency Alerts

To receive emergency  
 alerts sign up at:  
 cherokeeega-ema.org  
 /codered

**A rare wintry blast leaves  
 a dusting of snow and an  
 abundance of icy branches  
 across the Soleil landscape.  
 Photo by resident Michelle  
 Hume.**





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## Locate Utilities

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# Like Spring, Soleil is Sprouting Again

By Lou Knight

In the past, events like golf cart parades, flu-shot drive-throughs and fund-raising walks were assisted by Soleil's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Members directed traffic, kept people on the right path and helped anyone injured—all important jobs that are essential to keep the community and the county safe.



Unfortunately, Soleil's CERT membership dwindled—from over forty in 2019 to six in 2024. But there is hope on the horizon thanks to Tom Jacobs and David Hazen who recently took the training. Spread over four weeks, they spent twenty-four hours in class, took a final exam and participated in a disaster simulation.

Tom and David are now certified to assist the county when called upon in the event of an emergency. They plan to recruit new Soleil members for the next training session.

Courtney Brown recently joined the Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency and took over the CERT program. She hopes to come to Soleil and talk to residents about preparing themselves and their homes in the event of a disaster. Anyone interested in the CERT training should contact Brown at [cmbourgouin@cherokee-countyga.gov](mailto:cmbourgouin@cherokee-countyga.gov)



▲ Soleil residents Tommy "TJ" Jacobs and David Hazen receive their certificates after completing of their CERT training. (L-R): EMA CERT Program Manager Courtney Brown, Tommy, David and Dana Martin, Cherokee County's Chief Marshall. (Photo by firefighter Colton Brown)

## Welcome to Soleil!

Please join us in welcoming the following new Soleil residents:

Name	Address
Suzanne & Tony Dew	122 Laurel Glory Road
Al Broyles	446 Larkspur Drive
Ann Marie Folk	102 Laurel Glory Road





Featured Listing | 117 Laurel View

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# Want to Save a Life? LifeVacs & AEDs

Article & Photos by Kathy Schevling

**L**ifeVac anti-choking devices are now available for use at the Soleil clubhouse and Raquet Club. AED devices are now in 5 locations around Soleil, and CPR classes can teach you how to use them.



Choking is the third leading cause of death in people over 75 and certain medical conditions can add to the risk. Over 3,000 lives have been saved by LifeVac devices so far.

A new AED will be placed in the ballroom and a new first aid kit in the aerobics room. The locations of the other AEDs and the eight First Aid Kits can be found on the Health & Wellness Club page of the Soleil website.

Soleil's five LifeVac anti-choking devices are clearly labeled in metal cases on the wall (see photos). Directions for use are in the kits. They include masks for adults and children.

Locations:

- Clubhouse, Upper Floor: across from the business office
- Clubhouse, Upper Floor: to the right of the closet inside the kitchen
- Clubhouse, Upper Floor: the ballroom, alongside a new AED
- Clubhouse, Lower Floor: under the clock across from the gym
- Racquet Club: on the patio by the grill

You can purchase a LifeVac kit for your home on [LifeVac.net](http://LifeVac.net) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

CPR and AED training are offered three times a year. A blast will be sent out for the next class.



▲ The 6014-2 LifeVac device across from the gym.



▲ The 6015-2 LifeVac device inside the kitchen.



▲ The 6063 LifeVac Home Kit includes a plunger, child's face mask and two adult face masks/practice masks.



## Line Dancers Celebrate Mardi Gras March 5

◀ Costumed Mardi Gras dancers pose for a mirror portrait. (L-R): Joan Werner, Jackie Schierer, Cathy Staller, Pat Pugrant, Denise Lange, Brenda Gilbert, Laura Guildenberg, Ann Marie Folk, Lucy Bosco.  
(Photo by Pat Pugrant)



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# Fun Facts about Folks

By Joe DiBernardo

**DAVY CROCKETT.** *Furniture Designer.* (Yes, he's a distant cousin of the original.) After battling mobbed-up unions in Chicago for Frito-Lay a year after serving a stint in the jungles of Vietnam, Davy made a fortuitous career change into furniture. He worked in sales for Kroehler, then a move to Tupelo, Mississippi, changed the course of his career. Recognizing Davy's creativity, his boss at Action Furniture—the motion (reclining) furniture subsidiary of Lane—moved him into merchandising where he was responsible for designing the entire furniture line. Davy also served as Vice President of Merchandising for La-Z-Boy, PeopLounger and Southern Motion. Though Davy holds numerous U.S. Design Patents, the furniture industry is rife with companies who steal designs and chances are you're reading this as you sit on a recliner he designed.



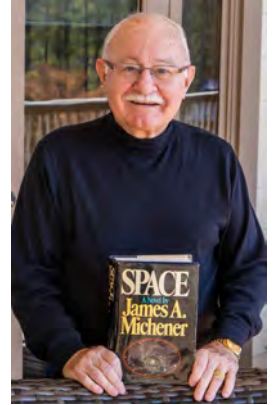
▲ Davy Crockett.  
(Photo by Martha Crockett)

**RON DENNEY.** *From postman to postal innovator.* Ron followed his father's footsteps as mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He rose through the ranks and became a high-ranking Post Office official. As zip codes were introduced, Ron thought about how bulk mailings could be handled more efficiently either through the post office or the private sector. He developed and later refined the sorting technology for the bulk mailing process in the Atlanta area. He founded Electro Mail Sort—a company that services banks, insurance companies and large corporations from a large warehouse with a fleet of trucks that deliver bulk mail to post offices to expedite mailings.



▲ Ron Denney.  
(Photo by Joe DiBernardo)

**BOB RHOME.** *NASA scientist.* During an extensive career in Federal service spread over 32 years, Bob served in different locales around the globe. His most interesting accomplishments were his work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) where he was responsible for the science, technology and content of seven Space Lab missions. He also had responsibilities for Space Shuttle payloads.



▲ Bob Rhome.  
(Photo by Dick Slaats)

**BERNIE ROSNER.** *Witness to history.* Bernie grew up in Havana, Cuba. When Fidel and Raul Castro rode with Che Guevara through the streets of the city during the revolution, young Bernie was on the balcony of his parent's home catching bullets thrown up to him from Castro in this celebratory parade. He also remembers being in school during the Bay of Pigs and seeing leaflets rain down from airplanes letting everyone know an invasion was coming. He distinctly remembers his mother picking him up from school that day—something she'd never done before. There were anti-aircraft guns on the roof of his building, and they could hear the sounds of executions every morning. Bernie and his family left Cuba with only one suitcase as Castro closed the island in November 1961.



▲ Bernie Rosner.  
(Photo by Dick Slaats)

*This column highlights interesting facts you may not know about fellow residents in Soleil Laurel Canyon. If you would like to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming column or know of someone who should be, please contact Joe at [jldibernardo@gmail.com](mailto:jldibernardo@gmail.com).*

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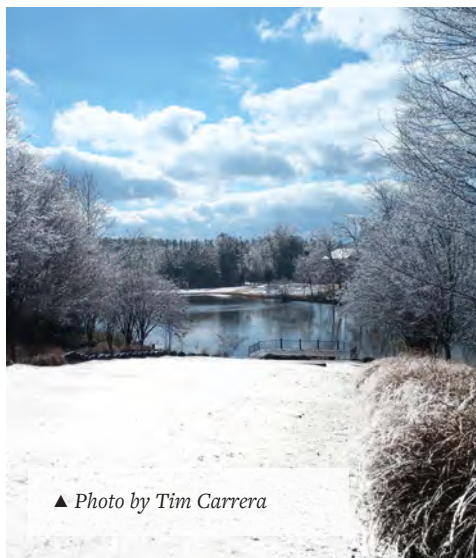
770-442-3901 sales and events at [autumnhillnursery.com](http://autumnhillnursery.com)



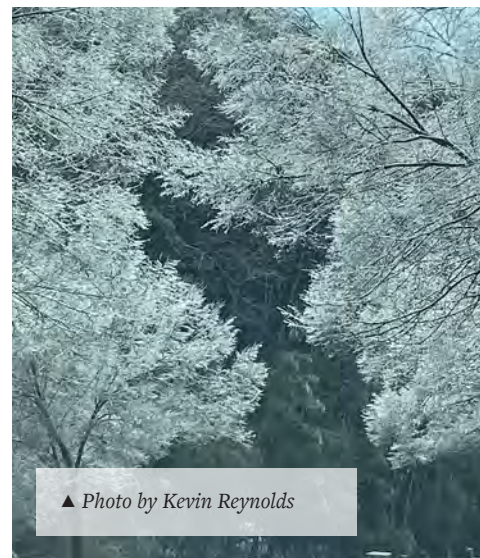
# Snow & Ice



▲ Photo by Steve Henderson



▲ Photo by Tim Carrera



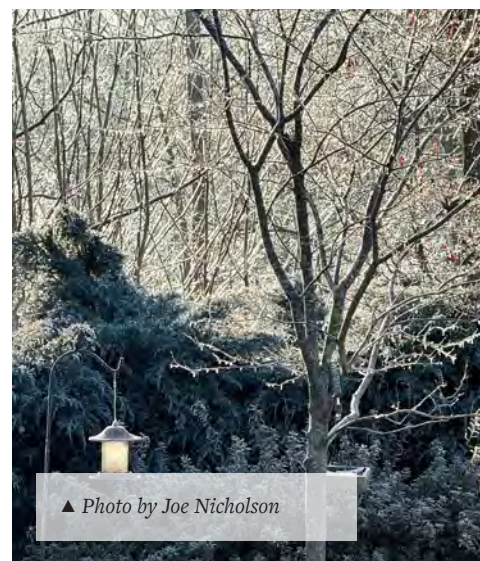
▲ Photo by Kevin Reynolds



▲ Photo by Bev Stichtenoth



▲ Photo by Bob Abroms



▲ Photo by Joe Nicholson



▲ Photo by Sunny Lewitt



▲ Photo by Chastaine Kendrick



▲ Photo by Craig Stichtenoth



# Your **MAP** to a PERFECT PAINTING PROJECT

## **M**aterial~**A**pplication~**P**roper Color

*How to avoid common painting mistakes and get a professional result. 7 steps to painting success.*

Soleil of Laurel Canyon is a beautiful community with diverse and elegant homes. To maintain its high standards and appeal, you need to keep your home well-painted and repaired. This can be challenging, but if you follow the Verge MAP (Material, Application, Proper color) you'll achieve outstanding results and a home you can be proud of.

### **1. Inspect every surface:**

A thorough inspection of every surface and area is essential. Different sides of the house may require different treatments. Siding, trim, stucco, and metal surfaces all wear differently. You need to identify and address any issues such as dirt, mold, mildew, paint chalk, rotten wood, delamination of siding, rust, and foreign materials.

### **2. Substrate integrity:**

Paint needs a clean and solid surface to adhere and last. Pressure cleaning with the right chemicals is mandatory. Repairing rotten and delaminating surfaces with quality materials is critical. Caulk is not a substitute for proper repairs.

### **3. Chose the right material:**

You get what you pay for with paint and repair

materials. The more expensive paints and coatings have the best ingredients that make them durable, resistant, and attractive. The same goes for repair materials. Synthetic products like Azeck or Plycem are better than cheap wood that will rot again. Investing in high-end materials will save you money and hassle in the long run.

### **4. Engineered materials means long life cycle:**

Not all paints are created equal. You need to specify the exact product and product line from the manufacturer that suits your project. Paint for a new build is different than a high-end cross-linking painting polymer for a custom repaint. The same applies for repair materials. Using engineered materials will ensure a long life cycle for your paint job.

### **5. The right application on the right surface:**

Applying a coating correctly is as important as choosing the right material. You need to follow the manufacturer's instructions and use the appropriate equipment and technique. Some paints are designed to be applied with airless sprayers and others with specific brushes. Applying a coating

incorrectly will waste the material and compromise the performance.

### **6. Color - HOA standards and approval:**

Living in a premier community comes with rules and responsibilities. You need to follow the HOA manual and the subdivision's architectural color palette. Our color experts can help you with recommendations, but you need to get HOA approval before painting. This will avoid penalties and repaint costs.

### **7. Annual cleaning and inspection:**

Using top of the line materials will help keep your paint clean and fresh, but you still need to pressure clean your home annually. Acid rain and pollen can damage the paint film over time. It's best to have the same company that painted your home return to clean it and inspect it for any maintenance. An annual cleaning is a must for any painting project. Also, keep bushes, shrubs, and tree limbs away from your home to prevent moisture and abrasion.

We hope this information is helpful. If you need more information, have questions, or more detail, feel free to call Verge Painting and Siding at 678.331.1102

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# Winter Art Show

February 23



**O**n Sunday February 23, 13 artists from the Soleil community had full exhibits in the annual Winter Art Show. Types of art included watercolor paintings, acrylic pours and paintings, oil paintings, fiber arts, sculpture, mosaics, photography, Zentangle and others.

The show attracted 188 attendees including Brooke Schmidt and Jamie Foster from the Canton Arts Council as well as Canton City Council members Travis Johnson and Bryan Roach.



▲ Jim Heywood. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Karen Sasine and her mother, Judy Freedman. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Peter Evans displays paintings by his late wife, Sally Evans. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Arlene Hobbs. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Michelle Rothstein. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Tom Jacobs. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)





▲ Sharon Golden. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)



▲ Kerry Maxwell. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Jayne Hopping. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)



▲ Pam Priest. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Doug Murphy. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Kevin Reynolds. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Tim Carrera. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



# Winter Art Show Features Artists' Favorites & Heritage Art

**T**he Favorites section allowed 12 additional artists to display just a few of their works without having to put on a full exhibit. Not pictured: Jan Gradle (watercolors), Chastaine Kendrick (photography) and Sue Baumgartel (picture of stylized fabric art using reverse applique technique).



The Heritage section displayed works from the loved ones of four Soleil residents. Not pictured: mosaic pieces from Karen Sasine's mother, and paintings and drawings by Craig Stichtenoth's father.

## Heritage Art



▲ Alex Wilson displays his own charcoal drawings and his very interesting charcoal sketches from a relative in 1890s Scotland. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Micki Farley with her sister Marti Allen's Kentucky Derby art. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)

## Scenes from the Show



▲ Karen Perkul and Maxine McMartin attend the door to offer direction and information to art show guests. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Helen Ford purchases a print from photographer Tom Jacobs. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ Canton City Council Member Travis Johnson and Soleil Resident Donna Goppelt pose for a picture. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Karen Perkul and Chastaine Kendrick discuss show attendance. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)



▲ Photographer Jim Heywood and Don Cheyne discuss his photos. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



## Artists' Favorites



◀ Ann Alman and her Zentangle pieces. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)



◀ Patty Sawyer and her latest watercolor. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)



◀ Rick Zenna with just a few pieces from his amazing watercolor paintings. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)



◀ Alan Bernhardt with his favorite photographic images. (Photo by Sally Swartz)



◀ Linda Martindell shows off her watercolor paintings. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



◀ Cheryl Kacher with her acrylic and acrylic pour work. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



◀ Craig Sticheno with two acrylic paintings from his youth. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



◀ Ralph & Karen Perkul assist art show guests, as well as display Karen's art pieces. (Photo by Tom Jacobs)





# Houseplant Show

February 22-23



▲ Linda & Jerry Boisvert meander through the greenhouse on February 23, learning how to grow and take care of houseplants. That weekend, the Soleil Garden Club invited all Soleil residents to experience the beauty of members' private household plant selections. (Photo by Martha Crockett)

## The Hill

BY RICHARD CORCORAN

That summer day we drove up that  
steep hill for the first time

We had no idea of what we might  
find

Until we crested the top.

Looking ahead at the hills and sky  
far beyond our reach,

Looking up at the bluest blue sky  
we'd ever seen,

Feeling the warmth of the closest  
sun we'd ever felt,

We knew right then and there

That someday we had to live here.



## Honest Abe Comes to Soleil

February 11

◀ Homer S. Sewell III portrays Abraham Lincoln—accompanied by Joan Britton in the character of Mary Todd Lincoln—sharing stories of our 16th President in a delightful and informative presentation in the Soleil ballroom on the eve of Lincoln's birthday. From nearby Jasper, Georgia, Mr. Sewell has been presenting Mr. Lincoln to appreciative audiences for more than half a century. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



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# 14 Teams Vie to Win Soleil's Amazing Race

## March 4



First Place

▲ Super Seventies: (L-R): John & Marge Nettuno with Donna & John Resetar.  
(Photo by Lorraine Dorough)



Second Place

▲ Micuta's: (L-R) Dan & Susan Michael & Donna & Rick Suta  
(Photo by Lorraine Dorough)



▲ Volunteers help put the amazing in the Amazing Race. Hooray for volunteers! (Photo by Dick Slaats)

### In alpha order, Amazing Race volunteers are:

Rick Anderson  
Nancy Back  
Wendy Chauvin  
Jason Chenette  
Martha Crockett  
Judy DiBernardo  
Annette Dixon

Lorraine Dorough  
Renee English  
Mark English  
Judy Fauver  
Helen Ford  
Roz Gladstone  
George Goodman  
Donna Goppelt  
Laura Gourley

Brenda Holmes  
Beth Horack  
George Horack  
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Nancy Lampman  
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Ann O'Mahoney  
Mary Rainwater  
Mike Rainwater  
Joe Rebele  
Kevin Reynolds  
Tom Reynolds

Dick Slaats  
Sandy Smoak  
Holly Stone  
Clint Tucker  
Kirsti Zell  
Diane Zizich  
Arlene Zucker



## Photos by Dick Slaats



▲ Beach Bunnies won the new award for Best Team Spirit: (L-R): Tineke Arzbach Lori Poer, Babs Baldwin, Brenda Kees



▲ Stayin' Alive: (L-R): Chuck & Sue Surdi with Sherri & Jim Thomas



▲ Dinkster: (L-R): Margaret Bickerton, Lauren Lodwick, Linda Nocht, Cat Nelson



▲ Sassy Ladies: (L-R): Cheryl Conter, Connie Harrison, Rose Russo, Beth Moore



▲ Lovin' Life: (L-R): Jim & Donna Graham with Julie & Dean Taylor



▲ Blue Thunder: (L-R): Debbie Southern, Kathy Samples, Lynn Herman & Janelle Walker



▲ Barbie's Dolls: (L-R): Jo Kingsman, Merilee Heath, Barb Roberts, Gina Coenson



▲ Wise Guys: (L-R): Judy & Tom Wise with Russ & Melanie Fazio



▲ Abby Normals: (L-R): Bernie Rosner, Jackie Schierer, Sue Polmanski, Michael Grant



▲ Soleil Sistas: (L-R): Linda Struck, Barbara Kinderman, Judy Shaffer, Betty Moxley



▲ Gala Girls: (L-R): Laura Guildenberg, Joan Werner, Sharon Morris, Terri Pessio



▲ Flag Favorites: (L-R): Fran & Alex Capocci with Carol & Bobby Munster



# Amazing Race: Games People Play

## March 4



▲ *The Beach Bunnies—Beth, Lori, Babs and Tineke—have fun with the kitchen challenge called “I Doughn’t Know About This Game,” with volunteers Nancy Lampman and Judy DiBernardo. (Photo by Martha Crockett)*



▲ *The ladies of Team Blue Thunder—Kathy, Debbie, Janelle and Lynn—test their pool table skills with volunteers Barbara Burnsworth, Arlene Zucker and Sunny Lewitt. (Photo by Martha Crockett)*



▲ *Team Lovin’ Life’s Dean Taylor and Jim Graham contemplate the game “Don’t Lose Your Marbles” custom built by maintenance guys Clint Tucker and Jason Chenette. (Photo by Mark English)*



▲ *John Resetar and Marge Nettuno of Super Seventies do battle with Jackie Shearer and Michael Grant of Abby Normals in the giant inflatable game called “Hungry, Hungry Residents,” with volunteers Holly Stone (background), Mike Rainwater (background) and Tom Reynolds (foreground) overseeing the competition. (Photo by Brenda Holmes)*



▲ *John Nettuno of Super Seventies attempts to solve the Soleil Monopoly puzzle, a roadblock managed by volunteer Wendy Chauvin. The puzzle was created by Ron Best and painted by Kathy Zenna. (Photo by Martha Crockett)*



▲ *Susan Michael of Team Micuta’s plays “Scrabble,” a roadblock presented by volunteer Mary Rainwater. (Photo by Martha Crockett)*



▲ *Team Flag Favorites—Alex, Bobby, Fran and Carol—prepare for the kitchen challenge with volunteers Nancy and Judy. (Photo by Martha Crockett)*



▲ *Team Abby Normal—Bernie, Jackie, Sue and Michael—demonstrate what it takes to be mentally prepared to compete in the Amazing Race. (Photo by Lorraine Dorough)*





▲ Barbara Kindermann paints the face of Soleil Sistas teammate Linda Struck during the "Guess Who?" challenge. (Photo by Brenda Holmes)



▲ Chuck Surdi and Jim Thomas of Team Stayin' Alive show off their dance form during the "Dance Off" challenge. (Photo by Robin McClelland)



▲ Tom, Judy, Russ and Melanie of Team Wise Guys perform during the "Dance Off." (Photo by Robin McClelland)



▲ The Sassy Ladies—Beth (painted face), Cheryl, Connie and Rose—show how much they enjoyed the "Guess Who?" challenge. (Photo by Lorraine Dorrough)



▲ Sharon Morris navigates the wheelchair course while teammate Laura Guildenberg from Team Gala Girls videos her trek in the "Off to the Races!" challenge. (Photo by Kevin Reynolds)



▲ Barbie's Dolls—Gina, Merilee, Barb and Jo—seem quite proud of their just completed "Dance Off" routine. (Photo by Robin McClelland)



▲ The ladies of Team Dinkster learn about the challenge called "Pong Time" from volunteer Michelle Young as photographer Mark English looks on. (Photo by Keven Reynolds)



# Mmmm, Good! Soup Night in Soleil

## February 26



▲ John de la Houssaye and other soup lovers consider the many enticing options.  
(Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



▲ John Irizarry samples the Tomato Bisque Soup brought by Soleil's own Judy Fauver.  
(Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Soup cooks Jerry & Linda Wiedenfeld carry out their empty crockpot after a successful Soup Night in Soleil. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Dorothy Ellingsen, Liz Halsey, Scott Trevathan and Dave Smith (L-R) show off bowls of their favorite soups. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



▲ Kristina & Rick Croteau (left)—who brought Orzo Sausage soup—and Mary West wait their turn to hit the soups. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



◀ Steve Henderson serves himself some tortellini soup as Rose Lowicky and Martha Kennedy chat. (Photo by Alan Bernhardt)



◀ Jane Wirsch, Nancy Lampman and Cindy Battaglia meet at the bread table. (Photo by Sallie Swartz)



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# Old Soulz Band's Sock Hop

January 31

Photos by Craig Stichtenoth



▲ Soleil dancers join the Old Soulz Band to open the evening with "Do You Love Me"... now that I can dance!



▲ Barbara & Dieter Kindermann take a nostalgic trip back to the 50s.

# Magic Show

February 13

Photos by Bev Stichtenoth



▲ Magician Doc Dixon enlists the aid of Arlene Zucker (left) & Sunny Lewitt to keep track of an unknown number of green balls.



▲ Kathy & Stan Samples help Doc Dixon encourage audience participation.





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## Fly Betty Band

February 28

◀ Bobby & Carol Munster (center) and Alex & Fran Capocci (right) along with many Soleil neighbors enjoy dancing to the music of the Fly Betty Band. (Photo by Sue Polmanski)

## Elvis Reenters the Building

March 1



▲ An Elvis slow song fills the dance floor... could it be "Can't Help Falling in Love?" (Photo by Mary West)



# Karaoke

## March 2

Photos by George Goodman



▲ Teresa Ratteree, Brenda Kees and Angie Kurzen proudly proclaim that “These Boots Are Made for Walking.”



▲ Cathy Pica and Gary Versput debut as a duo on the Righteous Brothers classic “You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling.”



# Dancing with the DJ

## March 7

◀ Back by popular demand, DJs Fred & Tiffany lead a floor full of Soleil line dancers in “The Electric Slide.” (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)





## Veterans Club Elects New Leader

**O**n February 19, Tom Wise passed the president's baton for the Soleil Veterans Club to Clint Asbury, Retired US Air Force Colonel. Clint graduated from the Airforce Academy in 1972 and retired as a Colonel after 26 years.

"I wish Clint all the best," said Tom. "I know everyone will support him going forward."

Tom served as Veterans Club President for 8 years. His personal mission was to grow the club and offer interesting, fun times where Veterans could meet and develop the comradeship many of them grew used to in the service.

"This challenge is not an accomplishment of one person, but of many," said Tom. "I want to thank all those that assisted me over the years in making the club what it is today."



▲ The Soleil Veterans Club present a \$15,000 check to Jim Lindermayer, Director of the Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Association. The club reports having a great 2024 supported by the generous community of Soleil and the Ladies Auxiliary. (L-R): Craig Keith, Tom Wise, Jim Lindermayer and Clint Asbury. (Photo Judy Fauver)



▲ Outgoing Veterans Club President Tom Wise (right) congratulates the new president, Retired US Air Force Colonel Clint Asbury. (Photo by Bic Bickerton)



## Row, Row, Row Your Body

BY GINA BECKWITH

**C**heck out the new rower in the Fitness Room. Rowing is a full-body workout that engages multiple muscle groups, provides great cardio and may be adapted to a variety of fitness levels, making it an excellent no-impact tool for achieving your overall fitness goals.

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# Optimist Club Sponsors Oratorical Contest



Article by Lenora McCrea • Photos by Valerie Hill

Optimist Clubs throughout the United States have sponsored Oratorical Contests for students since 1928. It is the organization's longest running program and is designed to:

- gain experience in public speaking
- perfect self-expression
- expand self-assurance
- improve communication skills
- compete for scholarships

In February, the Laurel Canyon Optimist Club held its contest at Teasley Middle School, where seven students in grades six through eight participated. Jaimee Hood, ESOL teacher and Speech and Debate Advisor, helped prepare the students during their homeroom elective speech class.

As families, teachers, friends and Optimist Club members gathered to listen and show support, the boys and girls were given a timeframe of four to five minutes—no more and no less—to speak on the topic, “How Optimism Guided Me through Trying Times.” Each speaker was judged on theme, content, logic, delivery and presentation.

All students who participated received a framed certificate. Winners for first, second and third place received a medallion and a monetary prize.

All three students representing LCOC advanced to the Zone Contest held in downtown Canton on March 15. Their first-place winner had a scheduling conflict, so only the second and third place winners represented the club.

This year, Soleil residents took on several roles for the Oratorical Contest.

- Chairperson and Master of Ceremonies - Lenora McCrea
- Judge - Mary Martin, retired business owner
- Sergeant-at-Arms and refreshments - Sandy Smoak
- Ed Hill set up the Optimist Banners and Flags, Valerie Hill was the photographer, Wayne Smoak served as the timekeeper and Alan Lodwick purchased the medallions.

The Oratorical Contest gives the Optimist club the opportunity to fulfill its motto of “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” and to witness the inspiring talents and creativity of middle school students.

Optimist Club meetings, including lunch, are held on the second Monday of the month at Sidelines Grille. If interested in attending a meeting, learning more about the club's projects or volunteering time, contact Alan Lodwick, president (alodwick@gmail.com / 303-748-3719) or Ed Hill, past president (evhilljr@yahoo.com / 770-880-6462).



▲ Jaimee Hood was the Speech and Debate Advisor. Winners were: First Place, Alexander Hood; Second Place, Luxe Lenzen; Third Place, Leila Napoles. Lenora McCrea served as Oratorical Chairperson.



▲ Seven students from Teasley Middle School participated in the Oratorical Contest. Pictured (left to right) are Jaimee Hood, ESOL teacher & the Speech and Debate Advisor. Contestants were Alexa Seudieu, Luxe Lenzen, Avery D'Ambrisi, Roman Settle, Max Kroukamp, Leila Napoles, and Alexander Hood. Lenora McCrea served as contest chair and master of ceremonies.



# Bicycles Bring Smiles to Many Faces

By Lenora McCrea

Optimist member, Alan Lodwick, has a talent for fixing things, especially bicycles. He also has a passion for helping the less fortunate. He combines his talent and passion to repair bicycles to donate to youth and homeless veterans. An Optimist member since 2017, Alan's project has blossomed in the last five years with 170+ bicycles donated. Many Soleil residents have contributed to this project by donating personal bicycles or bikes picked up from yard sales.

Groups that have received bikes from Alan include Goshen Valley Boys Ranch, Homeless Veterans, Serenade Heights, Serv International and MUST Ministries. Alan has also worked with Bearings Bike Works, a community-based bicycle shop in Atlanta where youth work to earn bikes, cycle parts and the supplies to maintain them.

He combines that talent and passion by repairing bicycles for donation to youth and homeless veterans.





# Sip & Paint Your Pet

## January 24

Photos by Craig Stichtenoth



▲ Art teacher Libby Dutcher helps Sabra Keesee finish up her painting of her 7-year-old Yorkipoo named Winston.



▲ Diana Graff shows off her fine watercolor painting of her Yorkie named Skipper.



▲ Each art creation is based on a photograph of the resident's pet. Here's a look at Connie McCallum's painting and the corresponding photo of her adorable Shih Tzu Poodle mix named Bandit.



▲ The 'Sip & Paint Your Pet' art class gives each participating resident the opportunity to create a painting of her own dog or cat. Jennifer Baker, Christine Ries and Connie McCallum (seated L-R around table) do their painting guided by instructor Libby.



# Kiss Me, I'm Irish

## February 25



▲ Guest Chef Judith McLaughlin talks to the 52 diners as President Jeff Pawlik looks on. On February 25, the Soleil Cooking Club invited Judith from her catering company The Shamrock & Peach to prepare a dinner with the theme Kiss Me, I'm Irish. This was Judith's second time working with the Soleil Cooking Club. She also has a tour business of Ireland and Scotland in which 15 Soleil residents joined her in 2024. (Photo by Rob Kraus)



▲ Wayne Smoak, Cliff Penrose, Chef Judith, Stan Carder and Craig Vandenberg prepare dessert—White Chocolate Buttermilk Waffle Berry Pudding. (Photo by Bob Abrams)



▲ Team Leader Ed Hill (right) and Fred Weems prepare the main dish, Rosemary Chicken Supreme, as Host Phil Walsh (white apron) looks on. In the background putting finishing touches on the salad are (L-R): David Hyatt, Chuck Surdi, John Amones. (Photo by Craig Stichenoeth)



▲ Rob Kraus (Team Leader; right) and John Amones work on the Fennel & Blood Orange Salad. (Photo by Craig Stichenoeth)



▲ Cooks preparing the Irish Potato & Vidalia Onion Bake pose with the chef. (L-R): David Minor (Team Leader), David Coppage, Chef Judith, Stan Samples. (Photo by Bob Abrams)



# Winter Birds



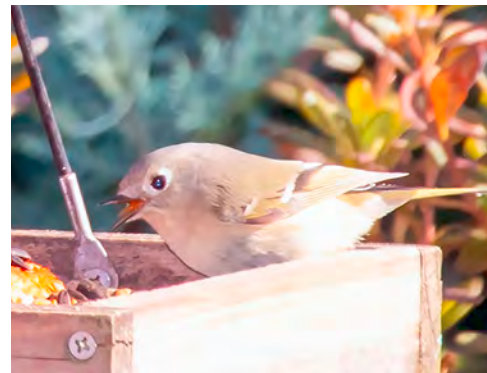
Compiled by Craig Stichtenoth



▲ A Brown-headed Nuthatch maintains a watchful eye from a tree near Laurel Lake. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ A migratory Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle) Warbler shows off its somewhat subdued winter plumage at a feeder on Windy Ridge Lane. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ A wintering Ruby-Crowned Kinglet dines at a feeder on Windy Ridge Lane. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ Wintering White-Throated Sparrows occupy a tree on Windy Ridge Lane. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ Eastern Bluebirds have a pool party on Laurel Crossing. (Photo by Walter Schmitt)



▲ A migratory Hermit Thrush visits a backyard on Aster Court. (Photo by John Brent)



▲ A Mourning Dove—which lives with us year-round—visits a feeder on Windy Ridge Lane. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ While some of this species migrate from northern latitudes to places further south during the winter, Eastern Phoebes in North Georgia like this one tend to hang out around here year 'round. (Photo by John Brent)



▲ A Cedar Waxwing is a commonly seen migratory bird in Soleil. (Photo by Charlie Barnes)





▲ A Bald Eagle is perched above the 2nd tee. This is the first known photo of a Bald Eagle seen in Soleil. (Photo by Charlie Barnes)



▲ A Red-Shouldered Hawk surveys the wintertime trail behind Aster Court. (Photo by Charlie Barnes)



▲ One of a pair of Screech Owls is discovered in the winter night behind homes on Laurel Crossing. (Photo by Charlie & (son) Matt Barnes)



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# LCMGA Announces Officers for 2025 Season

Article by Dwight Kees • Photos by Alan Bernhardt

Although winter brings the off-season for the Laurel Canyon Men's Golf Association (LCMGA), the leadership has been hard at work putting in place its administrative board of directors for 2025.

"This board of directors was set at our monthly meeting in January with most being nominated for their continuing role," stated President Tom Snipes.

Many of the board members have served in their position for several years. Tom Snipes has held the office of President since 2019, overseeing the overall function of the board and acting as a liaison with the officials at Fairways of Canton Golf Course to ensure a smooth, symbiotic relationship.

The other officers for 2025 are Vice-President James Bishop, Technology Director Jim Strand, Treasurer Steve Janes, Social Director Jim Harvey, Director of Golf Doug Ellsworth, Secretary Bill Cade and Director of Communications Dwight Kees.

All past Presidents of the LCMGA are advisers to the board and are active Board members. They include Jay Barber, Paul Sullivan, Matt Tomlinson and Joe Simpson.

While serving as LCMGA Tournament Director, Joe Tollus was tapped by the North Atlanta Senior Men's Golf Association last year as their President. At the risk of his being stretched too thin, Bill Wakefield was appointed by the LCMGA to the newly created position of Assistant Tournament Director.

The many golfing events throughout the year would not be possible were it not for the efforts of the event coordinators. These gentlemen handle the many tasks involved in managing game day events. They are Steve Jensen, Jay Burnworth, John Resetar, Jim Strand, John Brent and Doug Ellsworth. John Mathis oversees the scheduling of game-day hosts.

The LCMGA was formed in 2012 with the goal of promoting good fellowship and sportsmanship among its members and to encourage active participation by members in weekly golf events. The current membership stands at 142 with 80 percent comprised of Soleil residents.

In addition to regularly scheduled Tuesday/Thursday play, there are many sponsored low-key handicapped tournaments throughout the year featuring a variety of formats. Additionally, group activities are offered that include fun-filled social events which may include a spouse or friend.

Golf is a sport that can be enjoyed well into senior years, long after many outdoor sporting activities have been set aside. To that point, the average age of LCMGA members is a surprising 76. The board is aware of the broad range of golfing skills the members possess and are attuned to the needs of senior golfers.

Membership is granted to men 55+ with new members welcomed anytime. If you feel you may have an interest in joining LCMGA, please visit the website at [lcmga.com](http://lcmga.com) or contact Steve Janes at 630-765-2652.

## HOLE IN ONE CLUB

For Joe Lawhon, it was déjà vu all over again when on February 6 he performed a near carbon copy of his hole-in-one last April on FoC's always troublesome hole 8. This time Joe called on his 6 iron to notch career HIO number 4, the last three coming just 26 months apart. With that swing, Joe quickly established himself as one of LCMGA's most accurate players.

## MEETING THE NEW MEMBERS

Milton Graff has been playing golf at Fairways of Canton since about 2007. He and his wife Diane have lived in Soleil for six years. The Graffs have one son. Milton was a regional manager for Rollins Pest Control before starting his own company, City Wide Plumbing, two decades ago. Originally from Louisiana, Milton is a Saints and LSU fan.

Jeff and Sharon Golden have lived in Soleil for the past eight years. The Golden's have two daughters and two grandchildren. When Soleil's "San Francisco" section opened, the Golden's were the first buyers. Jeff is the Director of Systems Integration for a Motorola service center.

Jeff moves the LCMGA membership up to 142. We hope you will make yourselves at home and join in the many opportunities for fun, fellowship and of course, golf that this group offers.

Hit 'em straight and not too many.



◀ The 2025 LCMGA board was elected in January. Many have served in their position for several years. (L-R) front row: John Mathis, Jim (Bucky) Harvey, Steve Janes, Tom Snipes, James Bishop, Bill Cade, Dwight Kees. Back row: Paul Sullivan, Joe Simpson, Doug Ellsworth, Jim Strand, Joe Tollus, Matt Tomlinson. Not pictured: Jay Bayer, Bill Wakefield.



▲ LCMGA coordinators for 2025. Doug Ellsworth, Jim Strand, John Resetar, Jay Burnworth. Not pictured: Steve Jensen, John Brent.



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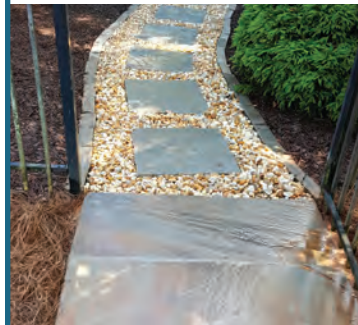
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Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880

## Pre-Schools & Kindergarten

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

Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
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## Real Estate

Atlanta Communities-Elizabeth Martin	678-373-9342
Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	770-403-5639
Classic Luxury Real Estate-Lisa Hughley	678-923-5152
Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team	404-373-0076
Cory & Co. Realty	404-564-5561
Georgia Real Estate Depot-Nix	770-401-4932
Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes	404-626-3604
<b>JW Collection Brokers LLC-Oslund</b>	678-672-2878
Keller Williams-Linda Jacobs	770-337-2006
Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin	770-330-2374
ReMax-The Melissa Bailey Group	678-535-8979
Robin Martin and Associates	678-665-0202

## Remodeling

Diversified Contracting Group	770-329-9112
GCI Basements	404-569-8794

## Restaurants

<b>Luna Maya</b>	770-720-4999
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## Roofing

Atlanta Roofing Specialists	770-419-2222
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203

## Schools-Private

Atlanta Academy	678-461-6102
McGinnis Woods Country Day School	770-664-7764
The Friends School of Atlanta	404-373-8746

## Security Systems

Classic Entry Systems	678-330-1111
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## Siding

Painting Plus - Siding	404-973-2541
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## Travel Agencies

Travelmation-Rachel Spain	678-316-0314
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## Window Replacement

America's Best Choice	678-896-8688
Davis Window & Door	678-379-1629
EntryPoint Doors & Windows	770-904-0094
North Georgia Replacement Windows, Inc.	770-888-1604

## Wine

Grapes & Grains Wine & Spirits	770-884-2450
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