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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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Jeff Moore (Treasurer)

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Chris Everett (Members at Large)

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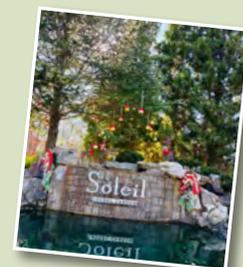
Emergency Alerts

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The pool of still water below the now-silenced waterfall (turned off for the winter) reflects the Soleil Laurel Canyon sign beneath shiny seasonal ornaments that dangle from the tree branches overhead. Photo by Soleil resident Christina Quinn.



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Newbies Ring in the New Year



▲ The Newbies—an unofficial group of new Soleil residents and friends—gather on New Year's Eve at the home of Ron and Shirlee Fender. Joining the Newbies is Jim Hunter and his wife Margaret. Jim is the realtor responsible for bringing these new residents together. (L-R): front row (sitting): Jim Hunter, Jan Gradle, Shirlee Fender, Margie Olds. Back row, (standing): Margaret Hunter, Scott Farrington, Mary Farrington, Linda Martindale, Jay Martindale, Bob Gradle, Ron Sifen, Joammie Olschewske, Dan Olds, Ron Fender. (Photo by Ron Fender)

Welcome to Soleil!

Please join us in welcoming the following Soleil residents:

Name	Address
Deb Fugagli	646 Laurel Crossing
Kathy Hoelscher-Levine	419 Laurel Spring Court
Sharon & Frank Jernigan	110 Mountain Laurel Court
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Newly Elected Board Members

By Lou Knight

In November, Soleil residents rose to the occasion with fifty-eight percent of households voting for new members of the Board of Directors. Results were announced at the annual HOA meeting on December 4 welcoming Mary Beth Burnette, Chris Everett and Jeff Moore.

Mary Beth stepped into a vacant seat on the Board a year ago, serving as the liaison for the modifications committee which she'd chaired for nine years. Her responsibilities included distributing applications to twelve committee members, a group of volunteers who approved changes that met proper guidelines, drafted approvals and scheduled final inspections. Last year, the committee reviewed 408 modification requests.

Chris Everett believes in community service and being part of the solution. He previously served on Soleil's finance committee. He believes that his degree in accounting and the MBA that concentrated on Management Information Systems gave him the tools to obtain his vision for Soleil—maintaining the HOA's reserves, replacing things before they break and preserving all amenities.

Jeff Moore also served on the Board previously, holding the position of treasurer for four and a half years. He served as liaison to the Finance Committee. His term included the years after the Board took ownership from the developer—a difficult and labor-intensive task. Jeff believes all residents have a responsibility to ensure their community

remains vibrant, financially strong and continues to provide a lifestyle all can enjoy—now and in the future.

With their leadership experience at Soleil and elsewhere, Mary Beth, Chris and Jeff know how to work as a team to achieve a common goal: to keep Soleil beautiful, vibrant and attractive to future buyers. This can only be accomplished by maintaining high standards, investing in facilities and amenities, and protecting property values—all things they are committed to do.

Soleil is fortunate to have a Board of Directors whose members are willing to share their skills, talents and time for the betterment of the community.

2026 BOARD OFFICERS

Judy DiBernardo	President
Richard Cheap	Vice President
Jeff Moore	Treasurer
Charlie O'Mahoney	Secretary
Mary Beth Burnette	Asst. Secretary

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Finance	Jeff Moore
Landscape	Charlie O'Mahoney
Maintenance	Mary Beth Burnette
Modifications	Chris Everett
Website	Richard Cheap

John Nettuno Honored at HOA Annual Meeting



▲ John Nettuno (center) is surprised by the plaque presented to him by Board President Judy DiBernardo (right) at the HOA Annual Meeting on December 4 as his wife Marge Nettuno looks on. John has served on the Board for five years and was head of maintenance two years before that. John works tirelessly overseeing the maintenance and repair of Soleil facilities. As Board President Judy DiBernardo said, "His knowledge of Soleil's facilities is unbelievable." John will serve as Maintenance Advisor in 2026. (Photo by Martha Crockett)



▲ This plaque hangs above the door leading into the newly renamed John Nettuno Conference Room. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

Samba Sisters Bring Cheer to Nursing Homes

By Kristina Croteau

Once again, the Soleil Samba Sisters celebrated the Christmas season with Cherokee and Canton Nursing Homes. Because they've made this an annual event, the residents eagerly line up to participate as the group arrives.

Beginning the first of December, they hang wreaths on each resident's door to boost their holiday spirit. Walking down the hall, there is no doubt Santa's coming.

The Christmas party began at each home with the oldest resident chosen as "Grand Marshall 2026." They led the parade down the halls with Soleil's resident Santa and Mrs. Claus (Kathy Samples and Bobby Munster).

The Samba Sisters adorned each resident with "light up" Christmas necklaces, singing Christmas carols led by our own Soleil Singers Cathy Pica and Larry Hoover. Many who are confined to their beds asked to speak to Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Each year the Sisters introduce a new craft. This year proved a favorite—muslin bags with pre-stamped designs. After decorating them with colored markers, many attached their bags to their wheelchairs or walkers. Each resident was given a jar of Samba Sisters' homemade Christmas Crack.

The Samba Sisters started with a group of samba card players looking for a project to help the less fortunate in our community during the holiday season. Others have since joined. They feel blessed being able to bring happiness and joy to those less fortunate.



▲ Samba Sisters pause before hanging wreaths on the door of every resident at Canton Nursing Home. (L-R): Nancy Lampman, Kristina Croteau, Claudia Bradbury, Rose Levitan, Jane Wirsch, Carol Munster. (Photo by Carolyn Hedmann)



▲ At Cherokee Nursing Home, Kathy Samples, Bobby Munster and Grand Marshal James Vance (L-R) prepare to parade down the halls. (Photo by Valencis Wicker)



▲ Kathy Samples and Bobby Munster (standing) show off the Grand Marshal of the Canton Nursing Home, Nellie McDonald, before taking a Christmas march through the Home. (Photo by Carolyn Hedmann)

Soleil Book Fund Drive

By Susan Abrams, Norma Robich, Lanna Swindler

As Soleil's book clubs conducted the 2025 Annual Book Fund Drive, the community's generosity shone through again. Residents donated \$8,200 to support literacy through books and reading materials.

The money raised purchased a copy of Mo Willems' *Elephant & Piggie Biggie* with 5 adventure stories for each first grader at three local elementary schools: R.M. Moore, Hasty and Clayton.

Book club members came together at each school

in December to wrap 410 books. Just before winter break, members of Soleil's book clubs returned to the schools to distribute books for the grand book unwrapping.

Soleil book clubs participating include BFF Book Group, Book Buddies, Lady Peppers Hemlock, Christian Book Club, Laurel Springs Book Club, Third Thursday Book Club, History Book Group, Windy Ridge Way – Ladies Group 1, Windy Ridge Way – Ladies Group 2, Windy Overlook Neighborhood, Larkspur Book Group, Third Friday AM Book Club.

The schools will now submit applications to use the balance of the book drive funds for materials and resources to support reading and literacy.

Thanks to the book clubs that helped spread the word and collect donations from the community. Also thanks to Lorraine Dorrrough who secured a \$250 grant from Thrivent Foundation—an organization committed to helping people “Live Generously.” The grant covered the cost of book wrapping supplies.



▲ Holiday book wrappers at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy gather in their wrapping workshop. (L-R): Trina Selby, Jean Harmon, Gayle Lee, Jean Desvernine, Christi Hinkley, Melinda Long, Sue Rabson, Eileen Shafer. (Photo by Lana Swindler)



▲ Soleil book club volunteers pose with R.M. Moore Elementary Staff and members of the 5th grade student council after all the books are wrapped. (L-R): Susan Abrams, Lois Rebele, Kim Moody (school principal), Kathy Anderson, Ruth Gilmore, Mary Lu Albee. Seated: Wendy Landry (school media specialist) surrounded by members of the 5th grade student council. (Photo by Cheryl Watkins, teacher)



▲ Terry Asbury and Anne Owens carefully cut the wrapping paper to the precise size needed to wrap the books—a process introduced by Donna Dillon. This precision was appreciated by the wrappers when the carefully cut wrapping paper fit the books' size perfectly. (Photo by Donna Dillon)



▲ Soleil Book Club members with Clayton Elementary School staff. (L-R): Emily Ingram (school staff), Susan Abrams, Jan Wolf, Sonia Middlebrook, Lorraine Dorrrough, Gail McKoy, Annie Langston, Sandee Slack, Sandy McPherson (school staff), Norma Robich. (Photo by Michelle Chafin, school staff)



▲ A first grader at Clayton Elementary digs right into the adventures of Mo Willems' *Elephant & Piggie Biggie*. (Photo by Susan Abrams)

Soleil Cover Girls Diaper Drive



▲ Barb Baker and Cindy Bender proudly show off their SUV full of donations for the Cover Girls' diaper drive for MUST Ministries. The group thanks Soleil neighbors for their generosity. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)

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New Officers & Optimist of the Year

By Lenora McCrea

Early during the fall quarter, the Optimist Club redirects its efforts for the following fiscal year and several special events occur. First, club officers and new members are installed. Past President, Ed Hill, installed the following officers: Tony DeLuca, President, Sandy Smoak, Secretary, Chris Everett, Treasurer. Others serving on the board this year are Pam Dulin, Alan Lodwick, Lenora McCrea and Ed Hill.

Another important event is the announcement of the Optimist of the Year. This year the board is proud to announce that Mary DeLuca is the 2025 Optimist of the Year.

Tony and Mary DeLuca moved to Canton in 2017 from Alpharetta to be near family in Cumming while experiencing the many benefits of Soleil. They joined the Optimist Club in 2022, sponsored by Alan Lodwick.

Mary's efforts in the Optimist Club have been varied. She has worked with preschool students at Ralph Bunche in connection with the Friday



Friends Literature Enrichment Program and the Ralph Bunche Teacher Appreciation Luncheon each spring.

Mary serves as the Lunch Coordinator for the monthly meetings, keeping lunch orders organized plus overseeing delivery and payment for the lunches.

Mary has been active in many club projects. For the Pancake Breakfast, she sold tickets, worked as a waiter, and assisted in both setup and cleanup in the ballroom. She and Tony recruited Pancake Breakfast sponsors, bringing in many returning and new sponsors. She also sold tickets for the Yearly Raffle.

By volunteering her time for these club activities, Mary exemplifies the goals of the Optimist Club by helping and serving children, youth and veterans, including the less fortunate.

Congratulations, Mary, on being recognized as the 2025 Optimist of the Year. Thank you for your dedication and hard work in volunteering your time and sharing your talents with the club.

The club has been very busy during fall quarter visiting nonprofit organizations and delivering checks used to assist their clients. The following organizations were assisted:

- Anna Crawford Children's Center
- Canton Police Department "Shop with a Cop"
- Cherokee County Sheriff's Department "Christmas Joy"
- MUST Ministries
- R.M. Moore Elementary
- Ralph Bunche Preschool Center
- Waymark Foster



▲ Mary DeLuca accepts a plaque proclaiming her 2025 Optimist of the Year from Past President Ed Hill. Mary was chosen for her support of Optimist Club activities including working with preschoolers at Ralph Bunche Center, serving as the club's Lunch Coordinator and supporting various activities at the Pancake Breakfast. (Photo by Lenora McCrea)



▲ Captain Amason of the Cherokee Sheriff's Department (right) accepts a check from new Optimist President Tony DeLuca. Funds support students and seniors throughout Cherokee County in the "Christmas Joy" Program. (Photo by Lenora McCrea)



▲ A preschooler at Ralph Bunche Center is excited about decorating a paper gingerbread cutout when Valerie Hill shows the finished product. Members of the Optimist Club volunteer to read a story and assist with making a craft each month during the Friday Friends Literature Enrichment Program. (Photo by Lori Rich)



▲ Officers for 2025-26 are installed by Past President Ed Hill (not pictured). (L-R): Tony DeLuca, President; Chris Everett, Treasurer; Sandy Smoak, Secretary. (Photo by Lenora McCrea)



▲ Lenora McCrea (fourth from the left) presents a check to Anna Crawford's Children Center to support children and families affected by abuse and trauma. Staff include (L-R): Director of Finance Kelley Vincent, Forensic Interviewer Conner Kelley, Therapist Mikayla Dittman, Director of Operations Gail Garland, Clinical Child Specialist Brittany Anderson. (Photo by Jessie Nees)



▲ New officers installed by newly elected President Tony DeLuca include (L-R): front row: Sue Polmanski, Ron Fender, Tony DeLuca. Back row: John Holthaus, Steve Therneau, Gayle Lee, Christi Hinkley, Bruce Hinkley. Not pictured: Sandra & Harold Pelzel. (Photo by Lenora McCrea)



▲ A group of Optimists who volunteer at Ralph Bunche Preschool Center deliver a check to Dr. Jessica Porter, Principal (white sweater). They include (L-R): Denise Davis, Robyn De la Houssaye, Linda Brent, Valerie Hill, Linda Penrose. Funds are used to purchase materials and provide teacher grants for individual classroom resources. (Photo by RBC staff)



◀ President Tony DeLuca (left) presents a check to members of the Canton Police Department, Chief of Police Marty Ferrell and Sergeant Mary Reynolds. Funds are used to support underprivileged students from Hasty Elementary through the "Shop with a Cop" Program. (Photo by Lenora McCrea)

Veterans Day

November 11



Photos by Dick Slaats



▲ Guest speaker Hal Burk presents his talk on the history and importance of Veterans Day following a short program of patriotic music by The Veterans Voices, a group of singers affiliated with the Soleil Singers.



▲ Donna Dillon (left) and Sharon Monaco (right) of Soleil's Lady Bug Quilters award a Quilt of Valor to Veterans Club member and US Army veteran Paul Dayton at the Veterans Day Dinner in the clubhouse ballroom.



▲ A second Quilt of Valor is presented to US Navy veteran George Horack by Donna and Sharon.

Ladies Auxiliary Collects Winter Items



▲ Ladies Auxiliary of the Soleil Veterans Club prepare bags for Cherokee County Homeless Veterans for the third year. After a successful community food drive, the Auxiliary collected items for winter needs of homeless veterans such as foot/hand warmers, hats, scarves, fingerless gloves, hygiene items, first aid kits, flashlights, socks, rain ponchos and more. These were placed in waterproof bags which are distributed as needed at the American Legion Canton Post. (L-R): Joan Werner, Kathy Jones, Jan Gradle, Sharon Morris, Rose Good, Dorothy Greer, Maureen Edick, Judy Wise, Donna Gracie, Carole Fanning, Marci Zied, Lisa Galaleta. (Photo by Kathy Jones)

Veterans Club Donates \$15K to Homeless Vets in 2025

January 5



▲ Veterans Club President Clint Asbury (right) presents checks totaling \$8,000 to Jim Lindenmayer (center), Director of the Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Program, as Past President Tom Wise (left) looks on. Along with the \$7,000 presented in November, the Veterans Club donated \$15,000 total in 2025. These donations are due to the great generosity of the Soleil Community. (Photo by Brenda Holmes)

Lady Bug Quilters Make Holidays Bright

By Sharon Monaco

All year long, the Lady Bug Quilters plan, design and make quilts, pillowcases and many, many baby items to donate to community charities. Any Monday and Friday, you will find members working diligently on various projects.



On December 5, all the finished projects were removed from the Arts & Craft Room closet and separated by destination. Members completed 47 quilts, 19 pillowcases, over 100 mug rugs (small placemats) and many baby items.

Recipients of the items include Cherokee County Homebound Veterans, The Children's Haven, Cherokee County Senior Center, Goshen Boys Ranch, Meals on Wheels, Hope Center and its thrift store Seeds.

Since December 2020, Lady Bug Quilters have produced 248 quilts, 137 pillowcases and about 500 mug rugs. Anyone interested in quilting and the fabric arts is welcome to join us Mondays and Fridays—10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Arts & Craft Room. For more information, contact: Sharon Monaco, President (203-297-2355) or Cynthia Rubant, Vice President/Secretary (508-733-3339).



▲ Lady Bug Quilters gather in the Arts & Crafts Room to divide quilts for distribution. Posing with the quilts destined for the Cherokee Senior Center are (L-R): front row: Joyce Versepunt, Carol Cullin, Susan Mamula, Lisa Gadaleta, Sharon Monaco, Cynthia Rubant. Back row: Janet Clevenger, Lois Rebele, Linda Lorenzi, Jo Laswell, Terry Deloney, Donna Dillon. (Photo by Brenda Holmes)



▲ At Seeds, the Hope Center's thrift store, Lois Rebele (right) holds a baby quilt for Manager Jerry Smith to admire. Seeds puts together and delivers Blessing Baskets to new Mothers in need that include Lady Bug quilts for their babies. (Photo by Joe Rebele)



▲ Linda Lorenzi (left) presents a holiday quilt to Terry Meyer, Director of the Cherokee Senior Center. (Photo by Ray Lorenzi)



▲ Stephanie Compton (left) and Jim Lindenmayer, Director for Cherokee County Homeless Veterans, display one of the quilts donated to the Center. (Photo by Jeanne Bayer)



▲ Lisa Gadaleta (right) holds a baseball quilt given to The Children's Haven. Michelle Meek, Director of Community Engagement, accepts the gift. (Photo by Children's Haven staff)

Holiday Karaoke

November 30

Photos by Rob Kraus



▲ Brenda Kees, Karen Barber, Teresa Ratteree and Angie Kurzen have a little lyrical fun with “Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow,” rewritten as “Let It Flow...” You get the idea.



▲ George Goodman and Lori Tomlinson partner on the Lionel Richie song, “Endless Love,” one of several fine performances of non-holiday songs during the evening.

Holiday Cheer

December 3

Photos by Craig Stichtenoth



▲ Residents fill the ballroom wearing their holiday finest—enjoying good food, beverages and the camaraderie that comes with the season.



▲ The hot hors d'oeuvres serving area is the place to find several tasty options to enjoy.



◀ The traditional centerpiece of the Holiday Cheer decor is the large ice sculpture that greets everyone as they enter the ballroom. This year the sculpture forms a snow globe.

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Pumpkins

Photos by Linda Struck



▲ Bessie the cow waits at the gate eyeing the abundance of pumpkins donated by Soleil residents. On November 1, Linda Struck put word on the blog that she would collect everyone's uncarved Halloween and Thanksgiving pumpkins and deliver them to Hidden Acres Animal Sanctuary (HAAS) in Canton for special treats for their rescued farm animals. As usual, Soleil responded in spades...or in this case, pumpkins.



▲ Charley and Finnegan chow down on someone's ex-Halloween pumpkin. The donkeys also thank Soleil's Garden Club for collecting overripe vegetables throughout the summer for food and snacks. Check out the HAAS website—hiddenacresanimalsanctuary.org—to learn more about the animals on the farm.

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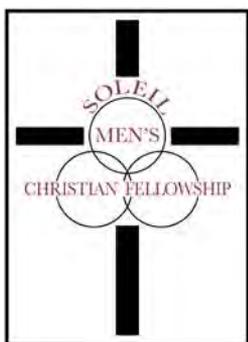
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MUST Ministries CEO Speaks at the Thanksgiving Worship Service

November 25

By Craig Stichtenoth

On November 25, approximately 125 Soleil neighbors gathered in the Clubhouse for the annual Thanksgiving Worship Service presented by the Soleil Men's Christian Fellowship. After being welcomed by Jesse Irwin, attendees joined the Silver Sounds Chorale in the traditional hymn of thanksgiving, "We Gather Together," led by Sandra Henry.



Guest speaker Dr. Ike Reighard, CEO of MUST Ministries and Senior Pastor of Piedmont Church in Marietta, spoke on how genuine gratitude leads to cheerful giving. On behalf of MUST Ministries, he thanked the residents of Soleil Laurel Canyon for their years of support for MUST and its multi-faceted efforts to care for neighbors in need.

The Silver Sounds Chorale, under the direction of Pat Peterson and accompanied by Diane Taylor, followed the message with their performance of the contemporary song "A Harvest of Thanksgiving." The service concluded with the entire assembly reciting the Lord's Prayer, followed by fellowship with coffee, cider and cookies.

The Soleil Men's Christian Fellowship (SMCF) has been inviting neighbors to experience the annual Thanksgiving worship service since 2011. The club also sponsors Soleil's annual Easter Sunrise Service.

The Soleil Men's Christian Fellowship—open to all Soleil men—meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 4 p.m. for one hour in the Clubhouse. The SMCF has been meeting since 2009 for Christian fellowship, Bible study, discussion and prayer for one another and our community.



▲ Dr. Ike Reighard thanks Soleil residents for their generosity supporting MUST Ministries. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ Soleil residents fill seven food bins for MUST Ministries in the weeks before Thanksgiving, illustrating the generosity of the community when a call for donations is made. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

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Heartfelt Holidays

December 14

By Ed Kuester



On December 14, Soleil Residents Theater presented the gala benefit, *Heartfelt Holidays*, in



support of The Children's Haven. The sold-out event began with a wine and holiday treats reception sponsored by Brenda Laird of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and enjoyed by over 200 attendees.

The evening's entertainment included two lighthearted plays beginning with *The Twelve Gifts of Christmas* written by Reatha Thomas Oakley and directed by Ed Kuester. The cast consisted of Sherry Remillard (Holly), Sharon Sunderland (Holly's best friend Ivy), Steven Jones (Holly's True Love), Ed Kuester (son Chris), Robin McClelland (daughter Merry) and Dick Jackson (narrator). It was a cautionary tale about what can happen if you turn the *Twelve Days of Christmas* into a gift giving strategy. "All those birds!"

The second play was *Etta and Ida's Hanukkah Party* written by Michael Stang and directed by Ed Kuester. The cast consisted of Arlene Zucker (Ida), Sue Polmanski (Etta), Michelle Rothstein (Thelma), Helen Ford (Gertrude) and Terri Pessa (Marge). The play takes place in a Florida retirement community with a group of ladies with diverse personalities trying to plan a "kick-ass" Hanukkah party.

The evening concluded with a raffle drawing and the presentation of a check to The Children's Haven by Pam Kuester on behalf of the Soleil Residents Theater. With support from the Soleil community along with donations received from business sponsors Brenda Laird of Berkshire Hathaway, TEP Electric, Nina's Pizza Kitchen, Autumn Hill Nursery & Landscaping, The Local Graze, Fairways of Canton, Tom's Awesome Seafood and Laurel Canyon Brewing, The Children's Haven received \$14,500.



▲ SRT director Ed Kuester (right) introduces the cast of *The 12 Gifts of Christmas* at the end of the first performance. (L-R): Robin McClelland as Merry (Holly's daughter), narrator Dick Jackson, Sherry Remillard as Holly (the gift recipient), Sharon Sunderland as Ivy (Holly's best friend), Steven Jones as 'True Love' (Holly's suitor). Ed Kuester played the role of Chris (Holly's son). (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ *Counting the candles* in a scene from *Etta & Ida's Hanukkah Party*. (L-R): Arlene Zucker as Etta, Sue Polmanski as Ida, Michelle Rothstein as Thelma, Helen Ford as Gertrude, Terri Pessa as Marge. (Photo by Steve Henderson)



▲ Sherry Remillard as Holly and Sharon Sunderland as Ivy introduce their characters to the large crowd on hand for Soleil Residents Theater's *Heartfelt Holidays*, a theatrical event supporting The Children's Haven of Canton. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ Janelle Walker is a volunteer cookie elf for the wine and cookie reception sponsored by Brenda Laird of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services that kicked off the evening. Other volunteers serving wine and cookies were Ron Laird, Betty Henry and Susan May. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ Reflecting the generosity of Soleil residents and community sponsors, a check for \$14,500 is presented by Pam Kuester (right) to representatives of The Children's Haven. (L-R): Lisa Carr, Operations Manager; Marcie Smith, Executive Director; Buster Cushing, Board Member; Pam Kuester. (Photo by Steve Henderson)

Videos of the 2 plays are available on the Soleil Residents Theater Facebook page



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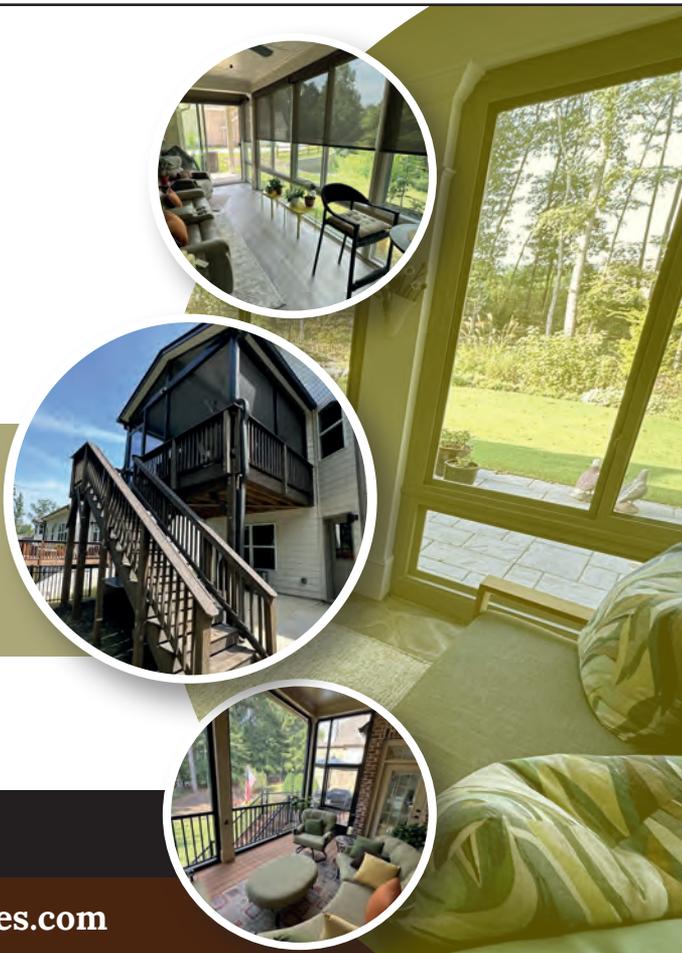
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▲ The Soleil Singers are ready for their holiday concert. (L-R): Front row: Director Don Cheyne, Accompanist Judy Cheyne, Founder Sandy Schnee, Director Susan May. Middle row: Mimi Mowery, Priscilla Omega, Ellen Offentier, Donna Coppage, Larry Hoover, Rick Zenna, Barbara Dwyer, Barbara Ruschman, Roz Gladstone, Valerie Hill, Mary Ann McKinney, Cathy Hasz. Back row: guest pianist Teresa Nienow, Jessica Poole, Holly Stone, Barbara Chenette, Susan Callan, Rosaline Baud, Ernie Jarvis, Jim Riley, Larry Taulbee, Craig Stichtenoth, Margie Olds, Jill Snipes, Jackie Carver, Paula Barbin, Cheryl Wilson. (Photo by Dick Slaats)

Soleil Singers' 15th Anniversary Holiday Magical Moments

December 5



▲ Guest Pianist Teresa Nienow, Director Susan May, Founder Sandy Schnee and Accompanist Judy Cheyne pose for a photo before the show begins. During the program, Teresa and Judy reprised their piano duet of "Sleigh Ride" from a previous concert, accompanied by Ernie Jarvis on slap board and sleigh bells. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ The Soleil Singers perform for a ballroom filled with neighbors and friends. Tunes sung by the group included "Deck the Hall," "Bidi Bom," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Eight Lights for Hanukkah," a medley titled "Song of the Angels," the hilarious "Cold and Fugue Season" and others. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Larry Hoover and Rick Zenna collaborate on a special presentation of "The Christmas Song" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas"—an arrangement of these two holiday classics created by Sandy Schnee, who accompanied the singers on the keyboard. (Photo by Tom Snipes)



▲ A mysterious group of monks who have taken a vow of silence take to the stage to present "Silent Hallelujah." (Photo by Tommy Jacobs).



▲ Six altos smile for the camera before making music with the rest of the singers. (L-R): Jessica Poole, Holly Stone, Donna Coppage, Rosaline Baud, Barbara Chenette and Susan Callan. (Photo by Tommy Jacobs)

All That Holiday Stuff! | December 9



▲ Members of the Silver Sounds Chorale pose in the library on the day of their 11th holiday concert: (L-R): Seated: Betty Henry, Sandra Henry, Accompanist Diane Taylor, Sharon Jernigan, Linda Padgett, Barbara Chenette, Director Pat Peterson. Standing: Larry Kicher, Sherri Wilson, Gary Verseput, Veronica Steffensmeier, Bob Rhome, Ron Laird, Betty Minnick, Cathy Pica, Charlotte Loadwick, Craig Stichtenoth, Joe DiBernardo. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ The Chorale prepares to begin the program with “Deck the Hall in a Minute and a Half.” Other notable pieces sung by the Chorale included the fast-paced title song “All That Holiday Stuff” Also the inspiring “Who Will Go to Bethlehem,” a medley called “Holiday Favorites” and “Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas” from the movie “Home Alone 2.” (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ The lyrics of “Remembering Decembers,” a lilting piece of contemporary music, are so touching that as they are sung by the Chorale, they also appear on the big screen so that the audience can fully appreciate their message of reflection and connection. Appreciation goes to Leslie Barnes for operating the slides during the concert that were created by Craig Stichtenoth, to the Chorale’s dedicated sound technician Wendell Henry, and to Ron Laird for writing and presenting introductions to each musical piece. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Violinist Will Myers accompanies the Chorale on “Celebrate the Light,” a vibrant tribute to Hanukkah. Mr. Myers also accompanied the Chorale on the poignant “Who Will Go to Bethlehem?” (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ The tenors and basses present “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers,” complete with the sound of kazoos. (L-R): Basses Gary Verseput, Ron Laird, Larry Kicher. The sopranos and altos also sang a two-part piece, describing the deliciousness of “Figgy Pudding.” (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)

Holiday Greenhouse Open House

December 1



▲ Garden Club members are not deterred by cold and dreary weather as they gather for food and fellowship to celebrate Soleil's beautiful, bountiful garden—dormant now for the winter. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ Warmth, friends and tasty treats could be found inside the greenhouse, brightly illuminated with holiday lights. (L-R): Robyn de la Houssaye, Dee Proctor & Donna Goppelt. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



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Soleil Resident

Photos with Santa | December 7



▲ Babs Baldwin and her grandson Bennett enjoy their moment with Santa. After making an appointment, Soleil residents and their families (often three generations) came to the Soleil ballroom to visit Santa. (Photo by Penny James)



▲ Hildegard Husar—one of several unsuspecting residents who wandered into the clubhouse on this day—also gets her photo taken with Santa. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Terri Pessa shares a big holiday hug with Santa. (Photo by Penny James)



▲ In Grinch PJs, Brenda Holmes and Judy Fauver—the ringleaders of this annual photo day with Santa—have their own moment with the jolly old elf. (Photo by Penny James)



▲ The photography team pauses for their own photo with Santa. (L-R behind Santa): primary photographers Penny James and Chastaine Kendrick with their support crew of Bev & Craig Stichtenoth (right). Santa is the jolly and quick-witted Jesse Irwin. (Photo by Brenda Holmes)



▲ This holiday village scene was produced on a 3-D printer by Robin Wilson. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)

Holiday Exhibition | December 22-23



▲ This highly animated Santa train is a favorite with kids. The G-scale train—larger than the trains running on the main track—is on loan to the Railroader’s club for their holiday events by the sister of club member Jay Barnes. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Members of the Railroaders club include (L-R): Robin Wilson, Greg Altman, Russ Cudmore, David Smith (President), Bob Povenz, Bill Schuck, Wendell Henry (VP), Jay Barnes. Members not pictured: Ray Battaglia (Treasurer), Dan Casey, Tim Carrera, Tom Cutilletta, Ryan Goldstein, John Szwest. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Bill Schuck (left) and Russ Cudmore (center) admire Robin Wilson’s scene created by Robin on a 3-D printer. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



◀ Henry Shipley, grandson of Chris & Dick Slaats, looks on in wonder as Railroader member Robin Wilson stamps the certificate proclaiming him a bona fide engineer after driving the Railroaders model Thomas the Tank Engine. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



◀ Christmas Trees are for sale in Bill Schuck’s scene as the Union Pacific Railroad whizzes by pulling Pullman coaches. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)

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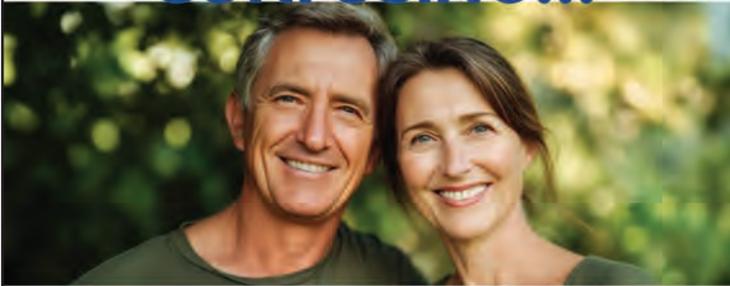
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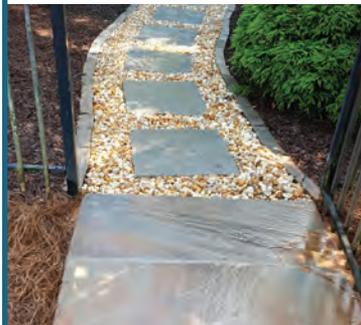
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Ugly Sweater Party | November 22

Photo by Craig Stichtenoth



▲ The dance floor is filled with folks in ugly holiday sweaters and PJs.



▲ Dieter Kindermann and John Brent demonstrate that it is all about the head gear.



▲ Larry Hoover has some fun with a reindeer (Nancy Krocza) in the always popular photo booth.



▲ Claudia Balog and Sue (Santa Buc-see) Polmanski dance to the tunes played by DJs Fred & Tiffany.



◀ Linda Brent, Teresa Rattere, Karen Barber and Jeanette Shoemaker smile for the camera in the ballroom's enchanted holiday forest.



◀ Ron & Shirlee Fender take their turn in the photo booth.

Harvest Gathering | October 30



▲ Hosts Norm & Barbara Bushee oversee the final plating at Connections Cooking Club's Harvest Gathering. The seasonal menu included Crostini with Cheese & Fig Jam plus Puffed Pastry Cups appetizers with Butternut Squash Soup. Main course was Pan Glazed Chicken Breast with Maple Syrup, Dijon Mustard & Rosemary, Maple Glazed Carrots with Wild Rice, and Pumpkin Bars with Cream Cheese Frosting for dessert. Additional hosts for the event were Sam Bukenholts and Hodge Jenkins (not pictured). (Photo by Hodge Jenkins)



▲ Dean Taylor assembles the signature drink—Apple Cider Sangria, an aromatic mixture of apple cider, chardonnay, brandy, ginger ale and cinnamon with diced apples and sliced oranges. (Photo by Norm Bushee)



Reinhardt Caters Holiday Dinner | December 17

Photo by Cathy Nelson



▲ Chris Cooks and Sharika Chambers (left) from Reinhardt University along with (L-R) Deb Carrera and Jim & Tammy Hemmen set out an olive tapenade crostini appetizer. Menu also included mini crab cake appetizer, prime rib, rosemary red potatoes, lemon & garlic broccolini, farro-walnut-strawberry-arugula salad.



▲ Barbara Bushee, Hodge & Carol Jenkins, Norm Bushee, Tom & Bernadine Cutilletta, Ron Sifen and Joan Olschewske (L-R) wait for appetizers to be served.

Annual Holiday Party | December 19



▲ The members and their spouses who prepared the food gather for a group photo. (L-R): Neil Dubry, Chris & Debbie Everett, Jeff Pawlik & Janelle Walker, Barbara & Norman Bushee, Bev & Craig Stichtenoth, Paula & Bill Barbin, Beth & George Horack, Bob Abrams, David Hyatt, Dennis & Dale Guerrard. Not pictured: Dennis Burnette, Steve Englebert. (Photo by Mike Rainwater)



▲ Several guests gather around the hot hors d'oeuvre table. L-R: Club VP Phil Walsh, Dennis Burnette, Craig Vandenberg, Janelle Walker (elf). (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ Bartender Larry Hoover serves guests at the Beverage Bar, offering a festive punch and the choice of rum, bourbon or vodka. Clockwise from left: David Coppage, Larry Hoover, Janelle Walker (elf), Cliff Penrose, Richard & Nancy Cheap, Carol Munster. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



◀ Members and their spouses enjoy the Holiday Party. Twelve Soleil Cooking Club members, some working as a team of two or with their spouses, created their own appetizers and sweets for more than 80 members and their guests. (Photo by Bob Abrams)

Treats for Some of Cherokee County's Finest

December 1



◀ Judy Graham (left), Maryann Zelinski (third from right) and Jackie Scheirer (far right) pose with several of the emergency responders at Cherokee County Fire Station #9 after expressing Soleil's thanks for their dedicated service to our community. Each year the Winers & Diners Ladies Cooking Club collects snacks for the local team of first responders. These dedicated professionals respond every day to needs within Soleil. Judy, Maryann, Jackie and Barbara Burnsworth (not pictured) volunteered to deliver the snacks collected from Winers & Diners members. (Photo by a Station #9 first responder)



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Residents Complete Cherokee Fire Citizens Academy



▲ Soleil residents Tommy Jacobs and Peggy Chang pose with their instructors after completing the Cherokee Fire Citizens Academy held during the fall of 2025. The 12-week, 36-hour program provided an in-depth understanding of the fire service and the many functions it serves within the community. (L-R): Doug Knott (Fire & Life Safety Education Program Manager), Tommy Jacobs, Peggy Chang, Kaleigh Liscio (Fire Safety Educator). (Photo by classmate)



▲ Peggy Chang mans a hose line that flows 175 gallons per minute as instructor Captain Brandon Denson of Station 23 supervises. Soleil benefits by having residents with hands-on knowledge of what the county fire and emergency services provide—including educational opportunities. The program includes a variety of presentations and hands-on activities taught by members of all ranks within the fire department. Don Gizinski completed this course in Spring 2025. (Photo by Tommy Jacobs)

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▲ Words of encouragement on the aerobics room wall. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

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Northside Hospital Breast Cancer Fundraiser

November 18



▲ Tennis and Pickleball players come together to raise funds and awareness for the Northside Hospital Breast Cancer Unit. A check for \$1500 was given to Northside representatives who attended. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Pickleball players Mark Young, Jan Windsor, Jackie & John Dosen (L-R) pause before their game. (Photo by Gary Swindler)



▲ A flock of pink flamingos representing cancer awareness watch as Cat Nelson (left), Tammy Pebbles (across net) and Linda Nochtka play a game of pickleball behind the fence. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Judy Schaffer reaches high for a serve. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Chuck Lampman grimaces after delivering a backhand. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Representatives from Northside hospital include (L-R): Shannon King, Brett Kneisel, Christina Brown, Michelle Orlando. (Photo by Gary Swindler)

Toy Drive Round Robins Net Over 100 Toys

December 15-16

By Tom Cobb

In mid-December, Soleil's Tennis and Pickleball communities came together for their annual Toy Drive Round Robins. Although bad weather forced cancellation of Round Robin events, it didn't dampen the generosity of players. Together, tennis and pickleball members donated over 100 toys to this year's toy drive.

Paul Hess, Gary Swindler and Director Tom Cobb loaded the toys into an SUV. The "elves" (Paul and Gary) delivered the toys to the local fire station that took them to Toys for Tots, bringing joy to children who might not otherwise have a gift under their tree.

It was a successful December toy drive and a great example of what the Soleil community is all about.



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Swim Class Thanks Ann Alman



▲ The 10:15 a.m. water aerobics class honors their instructor, Ann Alman, with a gift for another year of fun exercise in the indoor pool. (L-R): Veronica Steffensmeir, Martha Turner, Denise Davis, Jeannie Kraus, Stan Carder, Joan Lanier, Ron Laird, Ann Alman, Jim Remillard, Riva Adamovsky. (Photo by Austin Turner)



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12th Annual Turkey Shoot: A Festive Affair

November 14

Article by Dwight Kees • Photos by Tom Snipes

Late fall and winter weather poses significant challenges for golfers and organizers in the Canton area. Toss in aging and creaking bodies that don't respond well to cooling temperatures and the mix is daunting.

Originally scheduled for Veterans Day (Nov. 11) the 12th annual Turkey Shoot was postponed to November 14 due to cold weather. On the later date, Mother Nature smiled on the LCMGA, allowing the most popular event of the year to proceed in milder conditions.

This year's edition featured the usual. The players were greeted at sign-in by Lamar Gilmore and Dwight Kees "concealed" in camouflaged clothing with Ole Tom the turkey keeping a silent vigil nearby.

Following opening remarks by President Tom Snipes, a tribute was paid to the various armed forces branches and veterans of those branches were recognized. A hearty breakfast planned by Social Chairman Jim Harvey and prepared by the Stratus staff followed.

Following the on-course turkey "hunt," Game Warden Joe Simpson and Chief Deputy Steve Jensen announced the winners. Those players who finished last were awarded a rubber chicken and a certificate for golf lessons.

The day's festivities then moved to the putting green where Paul Sullivan, Jay Barber and Matt Tomlinson staged a chipping and putting competition. Joe White proved to be the best chipper by sinking a hole-in-one to capture first place.

In the putting phase, players took turns rolling the ball 87 feet over a downhill, right-drifting green toward a 6-inch opening in a giant cut-out turkey target. Those who hit the target—or better yet put the ball through the opening—moved on the next round. In an amazing display of prowess, Danielle Christopher stepped away from the refreshment cart she was manning and proceeded to knock her first putt right through the opening, just as she did last year. However, it was Jim Pefinis who put two balls through the opening and ultimately prevailed whereupon he donated his \$100 winnings to Danielle to share with the refreshment staff.

"Many thanks to all who helped make this event a great venue for fun, fellowship and sportsmanship," Joe said.



▲ Winners of each flight (L-R): William Lyons and John Maretich (Champions); David Coppage and Alan Keller (Masters); Joe White and Don Wolf (Legends).



▲ The four players who finished last hold the rubber chicken given by Game Warden Joe Simpson and Coordinator Steve Jensen. (L-R): Dwight Kees, Chris Garbow, Mike Gecan, Joe Simpson (game warden), Steve Jensen (coordinator), Bob Smith.



▲ Winners of the chipping and putting contest include (L-R): Joe White, Danielle Christopher (Stratus staff), Jim Pefinis.



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