



The Cove

November - December 2023



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EVENTS COMMITTEE NEWS

Blue Moon Dance Party

We celebrated August's Blue Moon with an outdoor dance party at the fitness area. Over 100 residents came down and enjoyed an evening of curated music. Some danced, some watched, all had a good time.



Live Music at Cummings Cove!

On September 29, we hosted the Gin Mill Pickers for an exclusive performance at the Pavilion. The Gin Mill Pickers are a popular duo featuring one of our residents. They generously donated a performance to the 2022 Cummings Cove Cares campaign. The Events Committee won the bid and finally got to have them perform. Over 100 residents enjoyed the show, reinforcing the Cove's love for live music.

Music Bingo!

On October 3rd we presented a new to The Cove event. Inspired by similar events at local venues, we put together a Music Bingo game, combining the two popular themes of Bingo and music. Played like traditional Bingo but with song titles instead of numbers, we played four rounds showcasing the 60's, 70's, 80's, and an "Anything Goes" round. Over 80 residents participated, many also enjoying a buffet dinner provided by Palmers II. An evening of dancing, singing and laughter!



Festival of Lights

Looking ahead, the Events Committee is now planning the annual Festival of Lights, to be held Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3. We will add some new events in and continue with some favorites from previous years. Saturday will include a Crafter's Market, Dinner Buffet, caroling led by the Cove Tones, and the tree and menorah lighting. Sunday will feature the Gingerbread House contest and a Holiday Social at the Pavilion. We will also feature three decorating contests this year: Individual House, Block/Group House, and Mailbox. Full details and schedules will be shared in the coming weeks. It is sure to be another special time in Cummings Cove.

The Festival of Lights will close out the 2023 calendar year. As always, we appreciate the continued support and enthusiasm for the various events we host. We will be adding some new members this year as some members' terms end. Many thanks to our outgoing members Mary Culp, Ed Movic, MaryEllen Terradas, and Allison Violette.

PICKLEBALL NEWS

The summer might be winding down, but there are still plenty of pickleball players out on the courts. The fall weather makes playing very enjoyable! Pickleball continues to be a growing sport and it's no exception in the Cove. We had almost 100 residents participate in weekly sign-ups this summer and several additional players have recently moved in and are just learning about organized play.

Tournament Results

Cummings Cove made a great showing at the September tournament at Connestee Falls.

Robin Virbickis and her partner brought home the gold in Women's doubles 3.5, Neil Londa and his partner won silver in 4.0 mixed doubles, Steve Dolan and Swee Wong won gold in 3.0 mixed doubles, and Robin and Tom Virbickis took the gold in mixed doubles 3.5!



Robin and Tom also won gold in 3.5 mixed doubles in the Keowee Key Pickleball Tournament!

Pickleball Olympics

Thirty-two pickleball players competed in the end of the season Pickleball Olympics. Team Robin and Team Ross tied for first place. It was a great event enjoyed by all!

Sign Up Genius is the tool used for scheduling our community pickleball play. Please continue to use SUG to sign up for scheduled play and skills and drills as well as any additional play you organize. If you have questions about the schedule, or how to get involved, contact Nancy Rader at bnrader@hotmail.com.



GOLF NEWS



Congratulations go to ...

Jon Ciolek, Hole in One on No. 8 on 8/23;
 Roger Burgess, Hole in One on No. 5 on 9/12; and
 John Stocker, Hole in One on No. 8 on 10/5.

League News: Thanks to our 2023 league leaders who all worked hard to provide a great season for everyone involved. We bid farewell to the ladies 9 Hole Coordinators Nancy Ciolek and Carol Cox and the men's 18 Hole Coordinators Kevin Harrison and Mike Herrick – thanks for all your hard work. Say hello to your coordinators for the 2024 season. Women's 18 Hole Coordinator: *Cheryl Kent*; Women's 9 Hole Coordinators: *Michelle Chenard and Allison Violette*; Men's 18 Hole: *Ed Movic and Cal Violette*; and Men's 9 Hole: *Doug Thomson*.

Fall and Winter League Tee Time Changes Beginning November 6th: It is that time of year where we adjust our tee times for the Fall and Winter due to the arrival of colder temperatures. Please make the changes to your calendars.

Mon: 10 a.m. Men's 18-hole league
 Tues: 10 a.m. Ladies 18-hole league
 Wed: 10 a.m. Men's 18-hole league
 Thurs: 10 a.m. Ladies 18-hole league

Mon: 11 a.m. Ladies 9-hole league (front nine after the men)
 Tues: 10:30 Men's 9-hole league (front nine after the ladies)
 Wed: 10 a.m. Ladies 9-hole league (back nine)
 Thurs: 10 a.m. Men's 9-hole league (back nine)

Ladies Cove Cup: The 2023 Women's Cove Cup was played on August 23. This year's captains were Carol Cox for the Cove Cougars and Tami Valentine for the Fairway Foxes. The format included a two-person scramble and a two-person best ball. The Fairway Foxes celebrated with a victory this year. Special thanks go to Julie Christianson for managing this tournament.



BIG10 – SEC Tournament: The men of Cummings Cove held their 4th annual BIG10/SEC Challenge on August 28th. This year the BIG10 narrowly defeated the SEC 138 – 132. Shown is the BIG10 Captain Tom Loney accepting the trophy from tournament organizer Dave Colip and SEC Captain John Stocker. The BIG10 now holds a 3 to 1 advantage. Thank you to captains along with all the players for supporting their respective conference teams and making this another fun and competitive event.

Carolina Ladies & Blue Ridge: The Cove ladies have been busy participating in both Carolina Ladies and Blue Ridge Golf this year and representing our club well. We have had 17 active members playing in Carolina Ladies and 8 ladies active in the Blue Ridge Golf Association events.

Thank you to Tami Valentine for her Carolina Ladies leadership and to Sally Gauntlett with Julie Christianson as her assistant for your leadership in Blue Ridge Golf.

VICTORY GARDEN CHANGING SEASONS



As you are reading this article you may look outside and see the leaves have fallen, the wind has picked up and warmer clothes really feel good! This article is being written in early October and the colors of the leaves, the trees on the hillsides and the mountains are simply gorgeous. It's the changing of seasons.

Looking back at the 2023 season of the Victory Garden, there have been several changes. New volunteers arrived to learn about gardening, make new friends, and gain an understanding of why our Victory Garden is so important to them and to our many neighbors. They learned about watering, so the plant roots properly, the best amendments to use and why, as well as what's going on in Cummings Cove and where to go for anything and everything!

And the results! Oh my! Mushroom compost is the BEST! The plants have thrived! Rotating the plants is essential for health and plant productivity. Excellent soil preparation is essential. There is a lot that goes into a productive garden.

This season, 2023, we surpassed every previous year of production. As of October 5th, over 8,800 pounds of healthy, nutritious and fresh vegetables have been harvested and distributed to several food pantries. This is the largest amount that has ever been produced. The amount of thought and planning for 2023 certainly has paid off. New ideas were tried and evaluated, and the teams worked together for the best garden ever. Many thanks to each and every volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering to work at the garden, please contact Rod Hansen, Joani Robson, Barbie Fricker, Robin Virbickis, Gina Howenstine, or Blue Haymond.

If you are interested in seeing where the food goes after harvesting, Judy Chandler has offered to give you a tour of the Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry. This pantry has been giving food to needy neighbors for about 20 years! If you are interested, please give Judy a call at 828-329-7974 or email her at 1chandlerjn@gmail.com. You are welcome to join a tour even if you have not worked at the garden but want to learn more about the process of getting the produce to our neighbors.

FITNESS CENTER NEWS

Hello from Cummings Cove Fitness Classes! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a beautiful autumn in WNC. Fitness classes will be offered Tuesday-Thursday all fall and winter at the Cove. We offer a variety of classes and have something to offer everyone! Check out the fall/winter schedule below as well as the attached link which will give you the class descriptions. If you have any questions, just send me an email at candypricewellness@gmail.com. Enjoy the fall season in this Picture Perfect Place! -Candy

Total Body Strength:	<i>Tuesday & Thursdays 10:00 – 10:45</i>
Pilatesmake:	<i>Tuesdays 11:00- 11:45</i>
Gentle Yoga Flow:	<i>Wednesdays 10:00 – 10:45</i>
Chair Yoga:	<i>Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:45</i>
Functional Fitness:	<i>Thursdays 11:00 – 11:45</i>
Rotating Class:	<i>Last Wednesday of Each Month! 10:00 – 10:45</i>

<https://harvestinghealthandhappiness.com/fitness-classes-sign-ups/cummings-cove-fitness-classes/>



TENNIS NEWS



Come out to play tennis with the group or practice to improve your game with the ball machine on the hard court. Scheduled weekly tennis will be played on the clay courts in the afternoons as the weather permits. Once the clay courts are no longer available for use (Most likely by the end of November) we will be moving from playing on the clay courts to the hard court.



To stay up to date on days and times for organized tennis events contact Craig Swenson at cjswenson123@gmail.com.

For tennis lessons contact Roy Riley at 828-551-1227

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Euchre: The Howenstine’s 937-470-7796
November 20 & December 18

Hand & Foot: Cindy Kopperud, 414-265-6776
November 13 & December 11

Mexican Train: Steve & Mary Culp, 770-329-9975
Maureen Handy & David Martine, 908-319-1738
November 27

Shanghai: Cindy Kopperud, 414-265-6776
November 6 & December 4



ABOG Meeting:
November 4 & December 12

CCCA Meeting:
November 21 & December 19

DRB Meeting:
November 22 & December 27

OPEN HOUSE AT THE KENT’S 2023



Bill and Cheryl Kent at 35 Wedge Court in the Cottages invite you to come and walk through their annual Open House and view their Christmas decorated home. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 8 from 4:30-7:30 pm. Bill and Cheryl ask that no gifts be brought, however, a non-perishable food item will be accepted to give to the Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry in Etowah. Last year, over 400 lbs. of food was donated to this local food pantry from this event.

Plan on bringing your neighbors, family and friends to this annual celebration. Enjoy some Wassail, cookies and chocolates that will get you in the mood for the Holidays. Any questions, please contact Cheryl at cheryl.kent1953@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS GO TO THE 2023 CLUB CHAMPIONS!

Senior Men’s Champion—*Keith Johnson*; Men’s Club Champion—*Mike Silvius*;
Women’s Club Champion—*Sally Gauntlett*





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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Buyers continue to seek homes in Cummings Cove even though the overall housing market nationwide continues to be a mixed bag depending on the market region. The national average 30-year mortgage rate rose to a 23-year high of 7.49% in the first week of October, according to Freddie Mac. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR) "Given current rate conditions, it's no wonder that year-over-year existing home sales sagged for the third consecutive month, slipping by 0.7%, with all four major U.S. regions posting declines."

Lack of quality inventory and the remaining high interest rates are largely responsible for an overall continued cooling of the real estate market. "Inventory is approximately 46% below the historical average dating back to 1999," says Jack MacDowell, chief investment officer and co-founder at Palisades Group. "We think that it is highly unlikely that the inventory problem will be resolved in 2023."

Even build starts are on a downward trend due to market uncertainty. The most recent National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) tracking builder sentiment sank from 50 to 45, putting builder confidence back into negative territory. A reading of 50 or above means more builders see good conditions ahead for new construction.

In Cummings Cove, buyer traffic continues to decrease as does for sale inventory. Regardless, there are still buyers willing to buy homes they find desirable. But with a couple exceptions, all homes that come on the market in Cummings Cove are still finding buyers even though some are taking much longer to sell than others. As of the distribution of this newsletter, of the fourteen homes Cummings Cove Realty listed and closed so far this year, seven closings where Dual Agency with Cummings Cove Realty representing both Sellers and the Buyers. Twelve of the Cummings Cove Realty listings went into contract in less than five days. The cumulative average days on the market for all fourteen Cummings Cove Realty listings so far in 2023 comes in at an astounding 13 days from listing to contract. In comparison, the cumulative average of days on market for homes listed for sale in 2023 by other firms in our community is 90 Days and counting! The days on market average for our competition is still adjusting upward since, at the time of writing this article, there are two properties listed by outside firms inside Cummings Cove that remain unsold.

At the time of writing this update, Cummings Cove Realty had no homes listed for sale. Cummings Cove Realty sells most everything we get the privilege to list. If you are thinking about selling, give us a call as we have prime advertising placements available for your home to help keep your days on the market far below the competition. Our advertising program is just one of the many specialized methods we deploy to sell homes and property here in Cummings Cove.

