Wilderness Parkway between Twin Creeks Drive and Highland Farms Court was closed for the better part of two weeks as the road bank was reconstructed to control erosion endangering vehicle traffic. (Photo by Tim Moran)
Jill’s Corner

By Jill Philmon
Big Canoe General Manager

I was told I should keep a list of questions and do a Q&A to keep residents informed. Funny thing is, I have a list already so I’m taking the advice. Here it goes!

**What are we doing about the plant list?**
We have extended the deadline to May 1. If you would like to suggest additions to the plant list, please submit them to me at jphilmon@bigcanoePOA.org by February 28, including verbiage explaining why the proposed plant would be a better alternative than one already on the list. There will be an open forum for questions and answers at the Community Coffee on April 13 prior to the implementation of the new list.

**Pot holes, why aren’t they fixed immediately?**
Big Canoe POA does not make in-house road repairs. When issues or problems arise or if there are repairs needed due to upgrades by the electric company, the POA is responsible and will utilize the services of an asphalt contractor. UIG and Windstream are responsible for their own repairs and have their own contractor. One issue this time of year when spreading asphalt is dealing with inclement weather. Asphalt does not harden in this weather so any repairs done will be a short term fix until spring arrives. Rain has caused the deterioration of temporary fixes to break down faster. We ask for patience until we have warmer weather.

**I make suggestions but no one listens. Why?**
The board and staff get many suggestions and I promise, we read them all. If your suggestion is not acted upon immediately, it doesn’t mean we haven’t listened, it just means we may not agree the timing is right. I promise you we read emails and listen.

**Why can’t you be more transparent?**
The dictionary shows the meaning of transparency as “characterized by visibility or accessibility of information especially concerning business practices.” So the question is, should the staff and board be transparent after a decision is made or before?

I think it’s a little of both. We cannot possibly manage a community by asking for an opinion on every decision; however, should we be open on what has transpired? Definitely. In addition, if we find we need input from the community, we will go back and get feedback, such as we have done with the plant list. We are trying to be as transparent as possible. All of us making decisions are homeowners just like you are and want what is best for this community.

**Why the sudden changes in Food and Beverage?**
The POA Board and Finance Committee for 2019 determined one of our goals was to try to reduce the deficit in Food and Beverage. To do that, we had to make some changes. I’ve heard the term “penny pinchers”, comments that it’s all about making money, and many other not-so-positive comments.

The problem is, you can’t be both fiscally responsible and also give food and beverage away. We are trying very hard to find a solution that keeps us responsible, yet still has good value for the community. There have been many changes in the menu because we are trying to find a combination that will both satisfy the community while still being able to get the food out of our inadequate kitchen in a timely manner. Chef Hector is working hard to create a team that works in à la carte. Please bear with us, we are working on it, I promise.

**Why did you cancel Friday night bands?**
We did not. We just canceled bands this winter when the weather on the Veranda didn’t support service, causing Food & Beverage not to break even. Bands start back on Friday, March 15. We will have the bands at different times playing both on the Veranda and also at Canoe Lodge to offer a variety of venues. With the new food trailer, we can easily offer food service at Canoe Lodge outside. The bands over the next few months are listed on the Clubhouse eBlasts. We just want to provide a variety for our residents.

So these are just a few of the questions I’m asked a lot. Bottom line, we are trying to do what is fiscally responsible, provide a variety of entertainment for our residents, be transparent in our decisions and listen to each other. We may not please everyone all the time, but I assure you our motives are sincere and transparent.

We are having growing pains, but in the end I think all our goals are the same. We want to keep the community a community, make sure it is sustainable, and most of all make decisions that will keep Big Canoe the “Brigadoon of Georgia.”

For those who don’t understand this statement, Google *Brigadoon* and watch the movie!
Good news, hikers, High Gap Park Trails are complete

Grand Opening set for March 23

By Clardy Schwarz

We are pleased to announce High Gap is open! If you haven't experienced this new addition to Big Canoe's trail system, there's a treat in store for you. Enjoy approximately 1.6 miles of trails through the woods, along streams and small waterfalls, over stepping stones, wooden bridges and benches handcrafted from fallen oak trees.

Wooden benches provide a place to rest and are a nice place for a photo op. First growth hemlocks and massive pine trees are just a few of the many interesting trail features. Parts of the trail are easy, others moderate to hard. Follow the blazes and directional signs atop oak logs standing on end to discover a pleasant and serene journey into nature's beauty.

A parking area has been constructed by the Public Works Department and is located on the left side of Wildcat Parkway just north of the four-way stop at Blazing Star Trail and Wild Pansy Way.

A kiosk and map of the area will be installed. One may access the High Gap trail system on foot by exiting the Blue Loop at its northern end where it crosses Wildcat Parkway. Climb the stairs and signage marks the way from there.

On a cold day in January, a hardy crew of volunteers braved the frigid air to put finishing touches on the new trails. Two truckloads of wood chips delivered by the maintenance department were wheel-barrowed down a muddy slope, across a stream and up a steep incline to a low-lying area.

The fittest and youngest of our crew were physically challenged to make this happen and at times it took three strong men to get a heavy wheelbarrow load up the steepest grade. The wood chips became the base for a bog bridge; timbers harvested from discarded guardrail boards and landscape timbers provide a safe and dry path to the dovetail bench and the remainder of the park.

Another team of volunteers worked on the access from the Blazing Star Trail intersection. A footbridge across a drainage ditch was constructed and red Georgia soil was shoveled from the top of a steep grade to the bottom of the hill, reducing the slope by about 12 inches. Wood chips provide safe footing.

Without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, the trails in Big Canoe would not be as expansive as they are today. It's through their efforts that we will have beautiful trails to enjoy for many years to come.
Determining how Big Canoe can maintain what we have

By Jay Goldman
POA President

Hello, Big Canoe! Much has been discussed about the in-process Master Plan studies being done by Bergin Golf for the golf amenity and by H. Chambers Co. for the other amenities. Many of our amenities were developed more than 40 years ago and passing time has taken its toll.

These studies are being done to help determine how we can maintain what we have. Neighborhoods deteriorate slowly. Having objective sets of eyes suggesting where improvements can be made to maintain our community will help us control maintenance costs and hopefully reduce more significant capital expenditures in the future.

**Big Canoe History**

Let me give you a little background. Both our advisors were engaged after separate, competitive bidding processes, which resulted in their selections after this past Labor Day. They began their work shortly after being appointed.

The Bergin team is studying our three golf courses by evaluating the mechanical functionality of each golf hole, developing ideas for how the courses could be more fun for all skill levels of golfers and evaluating the aesthetics of the courses which is important to many non-golfers.

Chambers conducted several onsite visits by several of its professionals to understand the condition of structures and the layout and topography of our property. To understand community sentiment, they led focus group discussions in early November, 2018 to understand Property Owner concerns and preferences. They are in the process now of surveying the community to better understand in more detail what the community prefers. While these tasks have been ongoing, Chambers is developing conceptual ideas for the many facets of our amenities and is discussing preliminary ideas with our Long-Range Planning Committee. All this will lead to informational sessions with the community to gain further input before a plan with alternative priorities will be developed.

Some examples of what is being evaluated:

**Clubhouse at Lake Sconti**

Our Clubhouse generally serves two primary purposes today. It is both a dining facility and a community center. As a community center, it hosts a large number of sessions for our almost 100 clubs, informational meetings, and game activities. Throughout the week, our staff arranges furniture, tears down tables and chairs, and some days, prepares for the next round of meetings. This results in higher payroll costs as these people also work as servers in many of the same spaces used for dining. We need to evaluate if these spaces can effectively and efficiently accomplish multiple uses.

**Big Canoe Golf Courses**

Our three golf courses were completed between 25 and 40 years ago. Bergin Golf reports that each of our courses has issues with its irrigation system, drainage, and the greens, with the oldest course having the worst conditions. We cannot run the risk of an irrigation system failing in warmer months or the underground drainage system bursting and flooding golf holes. Many of our greens are older than industry-standard useful lives.

**The Wellness Center**

The interior of the Wellness Center is dated. The locker rooms need a major refresh. The lockers are not all used, so determining a better layout may be useful. The roof covering the indoor tennis courts in the center leaks and has been repaired many times. All the functional areas used to provide wellness services need reconsideration to ensure the center is providing the services our approximately 1,000 members need or want.

**The Village Core**

The land and buildings comprising the Village Core were acquired in 2016 as part of the so-called “Land Purchase.” It includes several buildings that many, including the 2017 Land Use Task Force, concluded were past their useful lives. The topography is very hilly, making repurposing this site a challenge. Parking is also an issue. While doing any significant renovation in...

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POA News

No job is really finished until the painting is done

By Treena Parish

Several homes in Big Canoe have had remodeling projects done within the last year. Some of these projects have been completed in a timely manner. Others have been slow in completing their painting. While it is understandable, due to the amount of rain, it is still necessary to get these projects painted as soon as possible. All additions and renovations are approved with the note that all exterior colors must match the existing home. This includes replacement of siding, handrails, additions, retaining walls, etc.

If there is a question about the painting requirement, call the Architectural and Environmental Control Department office at (706) 268-3394.

Vista Pruning

If you would like to maintain your “winter view,” please consider having vista pruning done. Vista pruning is done throughout the year and now is a great time to get on the schedule for the upcoming spring and summer months.

The process for scheduling vista pruning is as follows:

1. Contact your preferred tree service and get on their schedule. The AECD office has a list of tree services and will gladly give you their contact information.
2. The tree service will then call the AECD office to schedule time for the vista pruning supervisor. We have four supervisors so there should be no wait times.
3. When the big day arrives, the supervisor will stay on-site and document all cutting activity. Then, the owner and the tree service will both sign off on the documentation.
4. The charge for the supervisor’s time is $35.00 per hour billed directly to your POA account. Please take this into consideration when establishing your budget for this project.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, contact the office at (706) 268-3394 or send an email to tparish@bigcanoepoa.org for more information.

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the near term may not be possible, we should work toward developing practical alternative solutions.

Big Canoe Postal Facility

This building is owned by your POA and is staffed by employees of the USPS. I’m sure almost everyone has experienced parking issues on the steep hill surrounding the facility which was built more than 40 years ago. When storage boxes were added a couple years back to accommodate packages shipped by vendors, this addition was not able to accommodate the volume, especially during the holiday season. We need to seriously evaluate building a new facility and determine where it should be located.

In Conclusion

There are many more facilities being evaluated. I hope this sample gives you a sense of what is being done. Our principal focus is ensuring we maintain what we have and not let it deteriorate. If, in the course of this evaluation, we find opportunities to add value to our facilities, and do so at reasonable cost, we will consider those ideas. The scope of this project is large and the time frame to implement renovations will be long. Underlying all these considerations will be maintaining the nature and character of Big Canoe.

Colors that work in Venice aren’t necessarily approved in Big Canoe.
New changes in Air Methods flight policies now in effect

Revision to the February Inside the Gates article

Oops, our wings have been clipped a bit! In the February edition of Inside the Gates, a description and explanation was written about medical flight services out of Big Canoe provided by Air Methods.

Since that publication hit the stands, Air Methods has had a change of policy and procedure. Except for those who already hold a policy with Air Methods, the company will no longer be paying for flight fees not covered by insurance. Those with policies in effect will be covered as indicated in their policies and payments will continue to be made when needed until the policy expires.

Air Methods will now become an advocate for patients they fly out of Big Canoe. They are still the only medical helicopter service flying out of our community.

As advocates, Air Methods representatives will assist patients as they untangle the quagmire which is often confusing when dealing with private insurance companies or government agencies like Medicare. Advocates can also assist to set up payment plans if needed.

Advocacy services are free to those patients transported by Air Methods.

For further explanation, visit airmethods.com.

Hauling trash to Hubbard is working out just fine

After two months using the new Bulk Trash Day site on Hubbard Road, Public Works is happy to report things are going well and mounds of trash are happy in their new home. Oscar the Grouch would be thrilled.

After the first haul in January, tweaks were made to better navigate the new dumping site. Cars, trucks, and vans moved quickly as they unloaded unwanted items. The charities collecting usable items to sell in their stores report donations are strong.

Bulk Trash Days continue on the last Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This service is only for Big Canoe Property Owners. To gain admittance to the lot, your POA card must be shown. There is a minimal charge for using the dumpsters which can be put on your lot charge. There is no charge for donating items to the charities on-site or for shredding on the days that service is offered.

Don’t worry, this critter and his friends aren’t allowed at Bulk Trash Day.

If you have old grills, bed frames, or other metal items, please take them to the scrap metal dumpster behind the trash facility bins. If an item is too big to get into the bin, leave it on the side. You do not need to bring them to bulk trash.
Public Safety searches for a few good guys and gals

Information submitted by Ricky Jordan

And you thought the new fire station was just the cubby for our big red fire trucks! Along with housing our state-of-the-art equipment and being the home away from home for our firefighters, the station is a classroom for teaching and exercises.

Big Canoe Fire Chief, Ricky Jordan, is recruiting volunteer guys and gals for Support Role Firefighters and Interior Firefighters. These folks will respond to emergencies and provide assistance. There are slots available as some previous volunteers have relocated or have aged to the point of “retiring.”

Residents must pass a physical ability test along with a certification process.

To explain this position further, there will be an informational recruiting meeting at the fire station soon.

Come learn how you can become a Big Canoe hero. Take a tour of the station if you haven’t yet been impressed with what Big Canoe is so proud of having as a Public Safety team ready to serve.

Sliding down a slippery slope

Information submitted by Toby Jones

It’s been a waiting game for many days, but finally the bank on Wilderness Parkway, one of the most traveled roads in Big Canoe, has been repaired.

Days of rain hampered progress as the project was first delayed and then paused, until the sun finally came out on Monday, March 4 and the contractor was able to complete the job by Thursday evening.

The Bank reconstruction was done by a process called benching and in several stages.

Workers started at the top, back 30 feet or so from the edge of the slide area, cutting down and removing dirt for 10-12 feet, then sloping back to the shear cut created by the step down.

Once completed, workers moved closer to the edge by 15 feet or so and created another cut 10-12 feet deep, then sloped back to that shear cut wall.

The flat areas, known as benches, are designed to stop and hold any further slides.

There you have it. A good solution. For those drivers who detoured around to the North Gate to enter or exit, thank you for your patience. Hopefully you got to see areas of Big Canoe you’ve never set eyes on before.

Kudos to the guys who are playing in the dirt and got the job done.
New POA website launches in April

The much anticipated new POA official website is coming soon, very soon. It will be up and running on April 1.

There will be two sides to the website, one for public viewing which will focus on highlighting amenities, wedding/event/golf outing opportunities, contact information, and jobs offered. The wonderful lifestyle we enjoy here will be presented to potential visitors and guests.

The private side is for Property Owners only. On it, folks can make reservations for a variety of enjoyments – tennis/pickleball, golf tee times, marina rentals, massage services, racquetball/squash, and of course, dining at The Clubhouse.

Property Owners will also be able to view their POA statements and documents, access club and organization contact information, view announcements and critical notices, and have calendar listings for events and happenings in the community.

The Clubessential accounting portion of the new website will go live at the same time and will add new features, including accessing your monthly statements and paying by credit card.

A new Customer-Relationship Management (CRM) System will be introduced. This is an essential tool that managers such as Palmer Howard in Amenities and Dot Grogan in Reservations will use to track memberships, events, registration, etc.

There will be an array of valuable information right at your fingertips. With just a click of your mouse, the world we call Big Canoe will be yours to enjoy and master. We are very excited to launch the new website. Stay tuned for more details!
Legacy of Caring Gala invites all on May 4

By Rita Van Fleet

The 2019 Legacy of Caring Gala: A Celebration of Giving is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at The Clubhouse at Lake Sconti. The event will include dinner, wine, entertainment and silent and live auctions.

Honorary Chairs for the Gala and Auction are Syl and Gordon Harnesberger who have generously given their time, talents and resources for many years. Mark Newton will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Hector and Gerard will work their culinary magic providing a gourmet dinner buffet featuring four stations with an organic nature-inspired theme. Guests will be delighted with the canoe ice sculpture surrounded by jumbo shrimp that dominates the first station accompanied by a wild mushroom and grilled vegetable terrine, smoked trout dip, spring vegetable and grilled onion crudité, blanched asparagus with deviled egg cream sauce, and cheese fondue.

A chef-attended station will offer grilled corn, black olive and zucchini orecchiette, Caesar salad, and a pasta buffet with a variety of gourmet sauces and toppings. A second chef-attended station will feature smoked pork and brisket sliders, hot Italian-style carved beef sandwiches with melted provolone and spicy peppers, and jerked chicken skewers with spiced toasted peanut sauce. Guests will finish with an array of to-die-for desserts. The Harnesburgers and Sandy and Jeff Downing are donating a selection of wines for the Gala.

MAMADEAR, a talented trio of singers out of Nashville, will provide entertainment for the evening. The group (www.mamadear.com), named the “Best Up and Comer” by Rolling Stone at the 2014 CMA Music Festival, will perform an eclectic mix of country, folk and Americana music.

The silent auction tables and the live auction on the Veranda will offer must-have items for the home, gourmet dinners, wine baskets and opportunities for adventure. Donate items for the auction by contacting the Auction Committee co-chairs, Elaine DeNiro at (770) 361-6075 or Catreece Morton at (407) 516-4766.

Tickets for the Gala which include dinner, wine and entertainment are $100 with a cash bar. Tickets may be purchased at the Big Canoe Chapel Stand-Around beginning Sunday, March 3, Guild meetings and online at www.bigcanelegacy.org.

The Legacy of Caring is a program of the Big Canoe Chapel Women’s Guild to benefit charitable organizations in Pickens and Dawson counties that focus on the well-being of women and children.

For more information, contact Beth Herren, LOC Gala Chair, at (610) 324-4988. Follow this season’s Legacy of Caring events at www.bigcanelegacy.org or visit Facebook at Legacy of Caring Big Canoe Chapel.
Joyce Chura Memorial Blood Drive draws on March 15

Once again it’s time for those crunchy Nutter Butter cookie rewards to draw folks to the Joyce Chura Memorial Blood Drive where your blood donation can save lives near and far. The POA teams with the American Red Cross a few times a year to offer the gift of life to so many who desperately need it.

The date for the drive is Friday, March 15 starting at 8:30 a.m. on the lower level of the Broyles Center located at the Big Canoe Chapel.

All donors will have their names put in a hat for a wonderful door prize drawing. Free tee shirts will be given out too as blood donors collect their Nutter Butter prize.

As always, the Bear Society will help with the drive by setting up and taking down the equipment needed by the Red Cross. This is the same day the Bears host their annual St. Patrick’s Day golf tournament and party, but they wouldn’t miss the chance to help those in need.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Contact Cheryl Mahan at (706) 224-6610 to sign-up to be a hero.

Grief takes many faces, all welcome at Grief Support

Sometimes it’s good to sit quietly and reflect on those lost to us. Grieving is an intensely private matter. Some like to talk out their grief, others are more comfortable simply being around those who are also aching.

The newly formed Big Canoe Grief Support group welcomes all who have suffered loss and perhaps can find comfort sharing their experiences, or simply listening to others while sitting quietly. It’s a personal choice.

The casual group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the small meeting room (Card Room) on the lower level of The Clubhouse. All who have suffered a loss, recent or not so recent, are welcome.

For more information or to ask questions, call Kim Simpson (770) 539-5232, Debbie Grimes (706) 579-1616, or Della Clendenin (770) 516-8192.

Northgate Station Comprehensive Dentistry

Dr. William Zinney, a board certified periodontist has recently joined Dr. Stephen (Randy) Muecke at Northgate Station Comprehensive Dentistry. Dr. Zinney received his Dental Degree and Surgical Residency at Emory University and has been in practice in the greater Atlanta area since 1988. Dr. Zinney has been a pioneer in dental implants, periodontal plastic surgery and complete replacement of dentition with the most advanced “Teeth in a Day” procedures. Dr. Zinney believes our smile does not stop at the teeth. As an educated surgeon, he has knowledge of head, neck and face anatomy. The mouth, teeth and jaw support the face. His work with tissue regeneration and rejuvenation has led to us treat the entire facial structure. His technique utilizing growth factors from the patients own blood in combination with microneedling and mesotherapy begins the process of Collagen Induction to revitalize the skin. A non-surgical facelift is then accomplished using a combination of smooth PDO threads, natural dermal fillers and Botox where needed to provide the most natural appearance. Along with creating a functional, esthetic dentition, this truly is your Dental “Fountain of Youth.”

30 North Gate Station Drive
Marble Hill, GA 30148
appointments@ngatestationdental.com
www.ngatestationdental.com
470-695-3534
Come enjoy a main course and ‘Nextovers’ tasting

By Christine Flaherty

The Healthy Living Committee, under the auspices of the Wellness Collaborative, is pleased to announce its first Healthy Living Tasting of 2019. This is the fifth in the popular series of presentations that begun last year.

Each tasting features a type of dish. We’ve covered soups, salads, appetizers and side dishes. The next tasting on Thursday, March 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Broyles Center, will feature main courses.

In the interest of offering suggestions that are not only delicious and nutritious, but simple to prepare, we will be providing ideas about reinventing each meal as an easy-to-prepare new dish for a second, or possibly a third night.

Turn your grilled chicken with Brussels sprouts into a cauliflower stir fry, a crustless quiche, dinner salad, or a hearty soup. The recreation of one dish into another is actually a popular thing now. It even has a name; it’s called “nextovers.” No longer just a humble leftover, these reinterpretations have been elevated, commanding enhanced respect and kudos for the person who will be easily turning one dinner into two or more.

At the March 7 Healthy Living Tasting, you’ll learn how to make a chicken stretch for several meals.

Take a high seas luxury cruise on a Windstar ship

Information submitted by Margo Vallone

The February meeting of the Big Canoe Travel Club featured a cruise on Holland American to Alaska, and the Wednesday, March 27 meeting of travel adventurers will also take to the high seas.

Melissa Nesson of Windstar Cruises will present an overview of this luxury small ship cruise line and the exciting places the ships visit.

Windstar’s 148 to 310-guest small ships and personalized approach bring you closer to each destination and every port, so you can see the world from new perspectives. Share intimate moments away from the crowds, immerse yourself in local, exotic cultures, all on a ship where surprise and delight are constant companions.

Windstar cruises to many destinations – from balmy ports of call to frozen tundras, there’s a cruise to make yours the trip of a lifetime.

Travel Club meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse with a social gathering and complimentary beverages. The program is held from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Mountains Grille.

Come share an ocean adventure with us!

Back Health, Head to Toe Fitness Series

The Healthy Living Committee invites residents to the next session in its three-part series on orthopedic health on Thursday, April 11.

Sponsored by Northside Hospital Cherokee, the series is titled Orthopedic Head to Toe Health. Back health will be the focus in April, in this third and final session in the series.

Dr. Charles Cha, a board-certified physician specializing in spinal issues, will present. The session will take place in Mountains Grille at 2:00 p.m.

A sign-up form for this free presentation is in the Wellness Collaborative box at the Postal Facility. Or, email Linda Yeakel at lindayeakel@gmail.com to be added to the list.
Big Canoe kids are ready to have good times

*Kids will be wearing green to party on March 16*

Information submitted by Teri Sawyer

With the explosion of kids and grandkids in Big Canoe lately, the POA is pleased to announce that programs for young’uns are in the works. Kids clad in diapers to adolescent rock stars will have many opportunities to meet and connect with other kids in the neighborhood. After all, it’s not always easy to walk across the road and find a friend.

For Valentines Day, kids and their keepers met at Canoe Lodge to celebrate love day. Valentines and snacks were shared as kids bobbed under a bunch of balloons. The POA staff gaily decorated the Lodge with hearts and flowers to welcome Big Canoe’s youngest. Of course, party favors were passed around.

After games were played, the kids moseyed to the shore of the lake and licked Eskimo ice cream pops, even in the chilly weather.

Red will give way to green when Big Canoe kids meet again to jig in honor of St. Patrick. Watch for e-blasts with details. Grandparents, this might be a good time to invite your grandkids up to visit.

For more information about upcoming events and learn how you can get your kids involved, contact Teri Sawyer at tsawyer@bigcanoepoa.org or (706) 268-1115.

Will this be the year Petit Pete is finally snagged?

*Kids’ fishing tournament casts off on June 15*

Whoa, momma! That old sneaky Petit Pete, a tagged rainbow trout lurking in the grottos of Lake Petit, must weigh at least 50 pounds by now. At the first Hook a Kid on Fishing Tournament about eight years ago, Petit Pete was tagged and ceremoniously dumped into the lake as a scrawny teenager. He was the designated fish to catch for an exceptionally awesome tournament award, like an iPad. What kid wouldn’t double bait their hook to reel in that prize fish!

Alas, Petit Pete has never been caught and still swims free. But that awesome prize didn’t go uncollected as every fisherkid’s name was put in a bait bucket and a lucky winner was drawn.

The fishing tournament goes on in 2019, with Petit Pete as the featured finny swimmer. But there are other prizes for largest fish caught, most fish caught and more. There are raffles, games, and good stuff to eat too. It’s a fun family day.

Hook a Kid on Fishing will take place at Lake Petit on Saturday, June 15 so mark your calendars now when you’re busy outlining summer kid activities. You don’t want to miss this fun family day in the sun!
In February 2011, Susan partnered with the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), to study the ArtReach model’s impact before launching a national training institute in Atlanta. Since 2015, ArtReach began working with international refugees in the Clarkston, Georgia community.

ArtReach received one of 10 special invitations from President Clinton to become a member at the Clinton Global Initiative. As a result, The ArtReach Foundation® made a major, three-year commitment to humanitarian progress within the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. ArtReach also committed to expand the MENA training to roughly 4,000 educators and professional caregivers of 200,000 children affected by the trauma of displacement, war, violence and natural disaster.

We look forward to hearing Susan tell of the work ArtReach does all over the world.

Sponsored by the Big Canoe POA, The Knowledge Series supports life-long learning and offers compelling monthly presentations by dynamic speakers and discussion groups on literary, artistic, international, national and regional topics of interest and significance.

Reservations are required to ensure a $7 seat at the presentation by registering online on the www.bigcanoepoa.org website listing of upcoming events, or by emailing tsawyer@bigcanoepoa.org. Attendance is limited to the first 100 reservations. Registration at the door at the time of the program is $10. Cancellation is required by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15. Without a cancellation, the appropriate POA account will be charged, in keeping with standard Clubhouse policy.

Susan Anderson, founder and CEO of ArtReach will be the speaker at the March 17 Knowledge Series.

“Using the Arts as a Catalyst for Healing” is the topic of the March 17 program of the Knowledge Series featuring Susan Anderson. The presentation begins at 4:30 p.m. in Mountains Grille, preceded by registration, beverages and conversation at 4:00 p.m.

The Webster Dictionary defines catalyst as “an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action.” In other words, it can be a person or thing that precipitates an event. One such catalyst has been an Atlanta-based nonprofit called “ArtReach,” which has played that role over the last nearly 20 years.

Through the use of various interactive creative arts therapies, the mission of the ArtReach Foundation has helped children and adults, traumatized by war and conflict, natural disasters and displacement. As a result of the foundation’s work, both internationally and in the U.S., lives have been changed, and communities have become reconnected in such places as Bosnia, the Middle East, Haiti, and Clarkston, Georgia. ArtReach has brought its programs into schools and communities so children could express themselves creatively, and in the process, recover from trauma.

Susan Anderson is founder and CEO of The ArtReach Foundation® www.artreachfoundation.org, an international non-profit active since 1999, dedicated to children and adults in their recovery from the traumatic effects from war, violence, or natural disaster. ArtReach offers training programs to teachers, social workers and healthcare providers. The ArtReach Model® training approach incorporates an integrative use of the creative arts therapies within a psychodynamic group process. ArtReach is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, and is also a registered NGO in Jordan.
Leadership Big Canoe presents Volunteer Fair on April 12

By Hal Bish

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” Attributed to Marjorie Moore.

The annual Big Canoe Volunteer Fair is scheduled for Friday, April 12 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at The Clubhouse. The list of organizations represented this year come from both inside and outside Big Canoe and include Big Canoe Animal Rescue, Community Thrift Store, Good Shepherd Clinic, Ferst Readers of Pickens, The Academy at Double H Ranch, Angels on Horseback, Big Canoe Wellness Collaborative and various Big Canoe Property Owner Association committees.

In total, more than 30 organizations will be represented allowing ample opportunity for you to vote for the kind of community you want to live in. Please think about, and then take the time to volunteer. You will get more out of the experience than you give.

Door prizes will be awarded at the Volunteer Fair; all you have to do is register when checking in. For additional information, contact Diane LaCharite at dmlgolf@gmail.com.

Beautiful Eagle’s Rest Park celebrates five years

Information submitted by John Feight

Eagle’s Rest Park on Mt. Oglethorpe will celebrate five years of “building the park” on Saturday, March 23 starting at 2:00 p.m. The park is a gift to the area by Big Canoe resident Ken Rice honoring his late wife, Billie Ann. It’s located very close to Big Canoe at the end of Monument Road.

According to their website, “Mt. Oglethorpe was originally the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, but the trail had to be relocated due to development in the area. The southern terminus is now on Springer Mountain, about 10 miles northeast of Mt. Oglethorpe. There used to be a statue of James Oglethorpe (founder of the colony of Georgia) on his namesake mountain, but it has been removed because of damage. A restored monument now resides in a small park in Jasper, Georgia.”

The Mountain Stewards will be recognized for their commitment to building the park. They have created three major hiking trails, three viewing decks (one functions as an outdoor classroom), a picnic pavilion, and the Greatest Little Privy in the North Georgia Mountains, to enjoy. The fourth viewing deck overlooking Big Canoe to the east was built by Ken Rice, husband of Billie Ann Rice, the benefactor of Eagle’s Rest Park.

Don Wells, president of Mountain Stewards, will present an update on the various projects his crew has been working on and also talk about the sacredness of Mt. Oglethorpe.

Singer and songwriter Bob Knysz will perform two of his original songs written especially for the park.

Boy Scout Troop 20 of Big Canoe will participate in the event by collecting canned food and money for CARES of Pickens and by performing short demonstrations on the four viewing decks.

The public will continue to add stones to the Stone Eagle located on the southern face of Mt. Oglethorpe.

Come to the mountain to refresh your mind, body and spirit with us. It will be an afternoon to remember!
Opening concert at Big Canoe’s Terraces is coming soon

By Graham Nicholson

With baseball spring training underway and the regular season in the batting cage, the Big Canoe Terraces Committee is preparing for the upcoming outdoor summer concert series at the Terraces Amphitheater.

While there is still a fair amount of planning to be done, we want to invite everybody to save the date for our season opener, slated for Saturday, May 25, the start of the Memorial Day weekend.

This year, we welcome to the stage for the very first time, Chi-Town Transit Authority, a Chicago Tribute Band, a rocking seven-piece band created in the image of the original configuration. Their musical sets celebrate Chicago’s timeless music: Rock, Roll, and Horns.

Chi-Town Transit Authority plays the big hits, many fan favorites, and the soulful and rocking deeper cuts found in early albums. This tribute band realizes Chicago is a blend of a lot of things, rock ‘n roll, jazz, bebop, and classical music. Given this, they take great pains in honing their craft, and rely on listening to live concerts rather than albums to recreate that “Chicago” iconic sound.

The band consists of Tom Davis, a drummer for over five decades and the founder of the band. He has played with B.B. King and Arrested Development, among many others.

Eric Gant plays bass and recreates the Peter Cetera vocals. He is originally from South Carolina and is the band’s youngest member. He has over 25 years playing blues, rock, country and bluegrass. Laurence Cohen plays the trombone, hails from Chicago, and grew up just a few miles from where iconic Chicago trombonist, James Pankow, lived. He captures his passion with the saying, “It never gets old playing Chicago!”

Michael Cahen, originally from Richmond, lives in Atlanta. He plays guitar and provides vocals, while also being a songwriter. Thom Jenkins plays woodwinds and percussion, receiving his music degree from Western Carolina University. He’s opened for Jimmy Buffett, Roseanne Cash, and the Kingston Trio. Thom is also a composer, creating music and sound effects for stage plays and documentary films.

Asher McKinney plays keys and provides vocals. He has performed for over 20 years and earned his musical scholarship from West Georgia State University. His other love is playing grand pianos. Chris Horton started playing trumpet at the age of seven, and after meeting Al Hirt at age 12, he was hooked. Chris serves as a professor of many music disciplines at the Art Institute of Atlanta when not playing with the band.

What a great way to usher in the Memorial Day weekend! Spend it with your friends, family, and fellow concertgoers at The Terraces and welcome Chi-Town Transit Authority, a fabulous Chicago Tribute Band. See you under the stars!

The Chi-Town Transit Authority will open the Terraces Outdoor Concert series on May 25.
# Events & Happenings

## March 2019

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**Clubhouse Closed**

**BCAR Open House**

**Marathon Bridge**

**Coffee Klatch at Village Station**

**Knit Together**

**Cribbage Crowd at Village Station**

**Travel Club**

**Ladies’ Line Dance**

**Prime Rib Night**

**Black Bear Project Dinner**

**Artists’ Club Fine Art Show at Swim Club**

**Entertainment by Jesse James on Veranda**

**Bulk Trash Day**

**Artists’ Club Fine Art Show at Swim Club**

**Artists’ Club Fine Art Show at Swim Club**

**Artists’ Club Fine Art Show at Swim Club**

**Artists’ Club Fine Art Show at Swim Club**
Inside the Gates Radio launched with heavy sounds

Don’t you hate it when the radio plays your very favorite song, just when you pull in your driveway? That won’t happen if you’re tuned in to Big Canoe’s new radio station, Inside the Gates. Tunes from the last few decades play loud and strong, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And, best of all, you can carry tunes with you!

There’s an updated news report every day at 9:00 a.m. about all things Big Canoe too.

In addition to multiple live weekly shows, music streams via automatic DJ once live shows are complete, so tune in any time of day or night.

ITG Radio will also be a regular source for weather, announcements, and in time, resident spotlights.

Launching a radio station is cause for celebration for sure. On February 22, Canoe Lodge rocked with almost 100 party people who remembered the words of songs they danced and pranced to, some as far back as Dick Clark’s American Bandstand.

The menu was hearty, with cornbread salad stealing the show this night of tunes. Guests were given a chance to play DJ too, we have some sterling talent here parading in their alter egos.

There are a number of ways to connect to Inside the Gates Radio. It’s available on any computer or mobile device.

From your computer, you can reach the station from the website, www.insidethegatesradio.com, and go to the “Player” tab. The ITG Radio website was created by fellow Big Canoe resident and volunteer, Mike Podsedly. Additionally, anyone can visit BigCanoePOA.org and follow the link to the radio station. The best way to access the station would be via free apps for both Apple and Android phones and tablets.

For Apple devices, proceed to the App Store and type “ITG Radio” in the search line. You’ll find the App logo (careful not to download Radio Networks, just ITG Radio) and it’s free.

For Android devices, on the search line for apps, type “insidethegatesradio” one word, all lowercase and you will see the icon to download. It’s all free and easy.

There are ways to communicate with the ITG Radio team. From each app, it’s possible to rate the station and leave a comment. Additionally, we have an email address, ITGradio@bigcanoepoa.org, for questions or comments.
TED Talks at The Clubhouse on March 7

By Bob Littell

TED Talks have fostered a flurry of interest at Big Canoe with its inaugural 2018 season. As a result, the Knowledge Series will continue the talks through March as “The Best of TED Talks.” These very short talks, typically 15-20 minutes or less, are made by some of the most brilliant minds on the planet, covering almost any imaginable topic. The February event will be repeated in March.

The Thursday, March 7 TED Talks will feature two speakers. First, Robert Waldinger will speak on “What is Happiness Really All About, and What Does It Mean to Have a Life Well-lived?” Waldinger is the third project head of the Harvard Adult Development Study spanning over 75 years.

Instead of having to ask people to look back over their lives to find out what they remembered – when they were happiest, etc., this study is a living document of 724 Harvard men and tracking each of them, their work as well as their family life. About 60 men are still alive and still reporting. And don’t think they all came from affluent families. Two separate groups were chosen – one who were sophomores at Harvard in 1938 and most who after graduation, went off to WWII.

The second group was specifically chosen from among Boston’s poorest neighborhoods. You will find the results eye-opening and provocative and maybe even another reason why we love Big Canoe.

Following, Suzanne Simard will discuss “How Trees Talk to Each Other.” Without giving anything away about her life-long dedication to this topic, it will change the way you walk our 25+ miles of trails within our forests and fields in Big Canoe.

These TED Talks will be held 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Mountains Grille at The Clubhouse on Thursday, March 7. While there is no admission charge, wine, beer, bottled water and soft drinks will be available for purchase.

For further information about TED Talks, contact Bob Littell at chiefnetweaver@gmail.com or Ken Dutter at kpduffer@bellsouth.net.

Members of the 2019 Advisory Council of The Knowledge Series are Calvert (Cal) Johnson, Chair; Gay Abbott, Bob Anderson, Bob Bachman, Jim Crupi, Ken Dutter, Teresa Freeman, Rhonda Gallaspy, and Bob Littell.

Reservations are required to ensure a seat by registering online on the www.bigcanoeapo.org website listing of Upcoming Events, or by emailing tsawyer@bigcanoeapo.org. Attendance is limited to the first 100 reservations. Cancellation is required by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, the day prior to TED Talks.
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in style with the Bears

By Bob Mackey

Everybody’s Irish on St Patrick’s Day, especially in Big Canoe. The Bear Society will help with the celebration as we get St Patrick’s Day weekend off to a great start on Friday, March 15.

The day begins with the raising of the Irish flag at 1:00 p.m., in front of The Clubhouse. And, of course, we’ll be tapping our first keg of beer!

Our seventh annual 9-hole shotgun golf tournament, “Bagpipes and Birdies,” tees off at 2:00 p.m. The tournament is open to all, women and men. It’s always a lot of fun and includes a few “hazards” and prizes. Any golfer interested can register at the Golf Pro Shop.

Our party will move from the golf course to the Black Bear Pub and Veranda at 5:00 p.m. Luis will be serving our favorite Irish cocktails while we’re entertained by Art Shand and his fiddle and even a bagpiper.

Dinner will include all-time Irish favorites. Maybe some bangers and mash, fish and chips, and corned beef.

The party continues at 7:00 p.m. when one of our favorite bands, Modern Vinyl, will play on the Veranda. There is a $5 cover charge for everyone listening to music on the Veranda. The band promises to bring their ‘A’ game and will open their first set with a few Irish melodies. This band has a big following in Big Canoe. Be prepared to have a great green inspired time with many of your friends!

Jig out to the golf course for Bagpipes & Birdies

With leprechauns hanging around golf holes, you can bet your green the Bear Society’s Bagpipes & Birdies Golf Tournament will spring a few surprises. Tee-off time is 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15.

This is a 9-hole scramble, adjusted for team handicap. Four golfers of any gender make up a team. Rules say golfers can only use three clubs, plus a putter. Restrictive, not so much when you consider it’s the Day of the Irish.

Registration forms are available at the Golf Pro Shop or emailing JLS1001@gmail.com will get a form sent to you faster than an Irish jig.

Come out and green up the greens with us on this day of Celtic celebration.

Want Your Home SOLD?
Please call me.
Results Speak Volumes
I had 62 Closings in 2018 (up 19% from 2017) including 39 of my listings

TESTIMONIALS

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Positive Experience — Chris Smooth Run — Julie

Remember to Ask for Steve

Big Canoe Realty
Steve Yambor
678-848-3630
Email: steve.yambor@bigcanoe.com
Website: www.bigcanoe.com
Wining & Dining

Streamlining Clubhouse menus for better service

Navigating new group options at The Clubhouse

Confused about the new menu options at The Clubhouse for “organized dining?” Groups, clubs, and organizations love to break bread at The Clubhouse, and the staff loves to have them! But, getting meals out to tables of many at the same time and temperature has been a challenge for the kitchen.

To help solve this dilemma, Chef Hector and Special Events Manager, Gerard Monte, are offering limited menus or buffets for those groups who meet regularly at The Clubhouse. This will lead to more efficient service while still offering choices. Most special limited menus offer several options to order - from hot to cold, heavy to light, and some in-between. If a buffet is offered, there will be choices on that too.

Groups will be sent the menu offered ahead of time so choices can be called in and the kitchen can be ready to get meals served pronto.

If a particular group has preferences for menu choices, Gerard would be happy to discuss them so everybody is happy. He is also willing to further discuss why limited menu service will make dining a smoother experience for your gathering of friends.

They’re baaaack!

Lunch specials return to The Clubhouse menu board

Have you missed the heady anticipation of discovering what will be the Lunch Special of the Day at The Clubhouse?

Working on the new Clubhouse menu has kept Chef Hector busy recently, so lunch specials were put on the back-burner, so to speak.

But now there’re back, offering a mid-day treat every day, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch specials are offered from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Folks found grilled chicken wraps, piled high turkey clubs, specialty Cobb salads and more on the board since the service began on February 26. Count on new menu items being added weekly, something new to try every day.

So you can appropriately whet your appetite, the lunch special menu for the week is e-blasted out every Monday under the heading “Big Canoe Clubhouse News.” Now you’ll know exactly when to find that coveted shrimp wrap that’s your favorite.

Lunch at The Clubhouse is a great way to break up your day, especially if friends are around your table. Come enjoy!

Bring Your Own Wine Policy

In an effort to achieve our goal to enrich the dining experience of our Property Owners and enhance both the food and wine menus to serve your needs, the following Bring Your Own Wine (BYOW) privileges are extended to Big Canoe Property Owners:

BYOW of any bottle not already on our wine list when enjoying a meal at The Clubhouse any day but Friday (closed on Mondays). Corkage fee is $15 per bottle.
Wining & Dining

Prime Rib Night is a prelude to the weekend

A couple weeks ago, Prime Rib Night was elevated to super high gourmet with the introduction of a juicy lobster tail added to the plate. Lucky for those who happened to choose that particular Thursday night to visit The Clubhouse for their evening’s repast.

Yes, the bright pink crustacean will make more appearances as Surf and Turf, but Mother Nature will dictate the timing as lobsters tend to be in short supply.

The Turf part of Thursday nights will still be on the evening’s menu. Diners will have a choice of a Queen Cut Prime Rib (10-12 ounces) for $23.99 or a King Cut (14-16 ounces) for $26.99. Of course delicious sides will be on the plate, leading with a big baked potato which can be smothered with creamy butter, sour cream, cheddar cheese, bacon crumbles, and scallions, choose one or all. Selections of seasoned vegetables complete the dinner with a delectable dessert ending the meal. Pricing doesn’t include tax, gratuity, or beverage. Prime Rib Night starts at 5:00 p.m. Reservations aren’t mandatory, but suggested.

Thursday nights are the prelude to the weekend, so why not make Thursday Prime Rib Night the start of a four-day party? Select a wine from The Clubhouse’s new Wine Room to complement your beef selection and you’ve got a real celebration going on.

Make Duffer’s your soup stop as winter wanes

Yep, it’s still soup time, and you can be sure to find a steaming bowl of one of your favorites at Duffer’s, our little bistro behind the golf cart barn. Soon the scents and flavors of spring will be arriving and soup might not be forefront on your mind, so enjoy it while you can!

Although Duffer’s sounds like it might be geared to golfers, it’s open to everybody in Big Canoe. It’s not a sit down kinda place, it’s more like a New York deli to-go. But, when warm breezes return, breakfast or lunch on the stone patio nearby is a welcoming place to enjoy a sandwich or salad.

Many call in take-out orders mid-afternoon when the thought of making dinner brings a resounding, Yuck! Duffer’s to the rescue! Check out the full menu on the POA website, www.bigcanoe.org under the Dining tab, give a call to (706) 268-3273, and a casual dinner can be yours in the blink of an eye.

If you haven’t discovered Big Canoe’s little hidden eatery, now’s the time to pay a visit. The staff is most accommodating and eager to please.

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It was a night of wine and roses at The Clubhouse

“The slivers of duck perched on the salad was a tasty surprise!” Well, what else would you expect after being feted with a sparkling glass of bubbly upon arriving at The Clubhouse for a Valentine celebratory dinner?

It was a night of wine and roses as Chef Hector and Events Manager Gerard created a delightful dinner gathering for Big Canoers to enjoy on this night of hearts.

Tables were set in black and red with touches of gold to glimmer. Dinner was served in fine style as friends and neighbors chatted around circular tables. After visiting the dessert display featuring long stems of chocolate covered strawberries that were truly amazing, folks danced to tunes they knew the words to while the evening’s crescendo was reached.

Our Clubhouse never looked or tasted so good on Valentine’s Day, which is a tribute to Jas, Hector, Gerard, and their fabulous staff who made it all happen.

Same time next year? Definitely count on it!

Weekly Clubhouse dinner specials are sure to please

Drum roll, please! March welcomes weekly dinner specials at The Clubhouse, something different every single week. There will be three choices, and all include a starter salad or a cup of hot soup.

The parade begins the week of March 5 with a selection offered of beef stroganoff tagliatelle, chicken and shrimp stir fry, or cioppino, which is a fresh array of seasonal seafood and rich tomato broth topped with a gremolata and presented with grilled French bread toasts.

All are special values and are sure to please every palate. Menus will be presented in the POA Clubhouse e-blasts so guests can plan ahead to find the perfect plate for an evening’s enjoyment.

Tuesday Night Trivia offers a buffet of brain food

It took a little tweaking, but Tuesday Night Trivia is going strong. The choice buffet presented each week gives strength and sustenance for the night of brain teasing ahead.

On March 5, the buffet was announced with hummus and assorted dippers and the generous meal will continue with broccoli cheddar soup and a salad bar.

The hot table will have mounds of beef strips in stewed vegetables, baked fish with warm peach salsa, a Vidalia onion and asparagus frittata, dirty rice, and roasted root vegetables.

The buffet will fini with four-berry cobbler and blueberry bread pudding.

Sounds delish, yes? Let the mind games begin!
Getting Fit & Healthy

A wave of Natatorium news at the Wellness Center

By Steve Panetta

The Big Canoe Natatorium, the indoor pool facility, has recently undergone upgrades and is in the process of more. Here are the newsworthy items.

October 2018

The original 18-year old air handling system, Desert Aire, was replaced with a new Seresco system. The Desert Aire system was malfunctioning and proving to be unreliable. The life expectancy had been 15 years, so it lasted a few years longer than expected.

The new Seresco system allows remote access and adjustments and has a “Read Only” app designed, allowing everyone to access the current pool water temperature, air temperature and humidity. It also allows access to historical temperature data.

To access pool temperature info, simply use your computer, laptop, or smartphone and type the following into your browser, https://goo.gl/Wc1EFh and follow the instructions.

January 2019

PoolCop Evolution, an automated chemical, filter and water treatment company, installed an automated system that controls the following: chlorine balance, Ph balance, water levels and filter cleanings. The system is monitored remotely from the PoolCop main office as well the indoor pool management team. This system will allow consistent water balance as the levels are checked 24 hours a day.

In the fall of 2019, the lap pool is scheduled to receive a new coat of white alabaster plaster and blue water line tile. White alabaster has been selected as it will brighten up the natatorium.

After many years, the color quartz has stained and is in need of replacement. During the week-long plaster process, swimmers and water exercise classes will be relocated to the Wildcat lap pool.

Come join Big Canoe’s ‘Weight Management’ program

By March, many of us have fallen off the diet plan we so diligently started on January 1. With Weight Watchers® no longer an option at the Wellness Center, Big Canoe folks are stepping up to the plate, so to speak, to form their own self-directed “Weight Management” program as an alternative.

Plans are in the works for weekly casual meetings which will include weigh-ins (do it yourself with no watching eyes), support discussions, recipe exchanges and print-outs of helpful hints. Cost would probably be $5 per session.

If you think you’d be interested in this community approach to weight management, contact the Wellness Center at (706) 268-3441 or spanetta@bigcanoeypoa.org and announce you’re on board. As they say, “I’m not losing weight, I’m getting rid of it! I have no intention of finding it again.”

Make 2019 the year you are pounds lighter!

Wellness Center director Steve Panetta monitors the water quality and temperature of the indoor pool.

Put a ‘Spring’ in your step this season

Bring this ad in for FREE GIFT w/purchase of $50.00 or more!
Decor | Linens & Tabletop
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WILTON PLACE
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675 E.Church St., Jasper 30143
Wed - Sat 11am to 5pm • 706-610-2020
Golf fitness conditioning offered at the Wellness Center

Information submitted by Steve Panetta

Join other golfers at the Wellness Center for a gentle dynamic golf-specific energizing warm-up, followed by a series of core, balance, flexibility, strengthening and low-impact exercises designed to enhance both mobility and stability throughout the kinematic chain for greater movement efficiency and enhanced range of motion in your unique golf swing.

After all, it’s been a few months since you were out heavy swinging on our courses so muscles which were worked hard over the summer, might now be “jellified.” Don’t let yourself melt on the golf course! Get ready!

Conditioning classes will be held on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

This 45-minute class includes exercise modifications and welcomes the beginner to advanced golfer.

Fees for the classes are:
- TPI Golf Movement Screen (Assessment & Initial Exercise Recommendations) $80
- Golf Fitness Class (at Wellness Center with screen completed) $10 per class
- Golf Fitness Class (at Wellness Center without screen completed) $15 per class

Classes will be taught by Juliana Sproles, an adventurous, life-long fitness enthusiast, trainer, instructor, former ultra endurance athlete, turned avid golfer.

In 2018, Juliana became (TPI) Titleist Performance Institute Certified to assist and guide golfers of all abilities to achieve greater levels of golf fitness and enhanced enjoyment of the game.

With Juliana’s help, you’ll be ready to whip the course when the golf season starts.
Outdoor pool season is right around the corner

By Steve Panetta

The summer season will be here before you know it, and here’s what you’ll want to know to get the most enjoyment out of the summer pool season.

This summer the POA is pleased to announce a new benefit of being a member of Outdoor Pools – immediate family members, 18 years or younger, who are accompanied by the Outdoor Pool member, will be admitted free of charge. Adult family members, 19 and over, and non-family members, will pay the daily or weekly fee. Please be sure to have your Property Owner ID card available at check-in.

Property Owners may choose to pay daily, weekly, or purchase a membership that is billed in full for the swim season. Guests may pay daily or weekly.

A Wildcat Only membership is available; a Swim Club membership includes both the Swim Club and Wildcat pool amenities.

Golf members and Racquet Club/Wellness Center members receive a complimentary membership to the outdoor pools.

Reusable wristbands and additional wristband packages will not be available for the 2019 season. All Swim Club patrons, members, and guests alike, will check in at the front desk and be given a paper, non-reusable wristband; good for that day only.

Chairs go quickly, especially at the Swim Club, thus personal chairs are encouraged.

The Swim Club Grill will be operational and ready to provide the entire family with healthy and affordable choices, just bring your non-food items. Outside beverages and food will not be allowed.

A filtered ice machine/water bottle filler will be provided — all you need to bring is a bottle or your favorite cup. We will also have cups available.

Just for you, a ‘healthy beginning’

By Steve Panetta

Due to the increasing popularity of Exercise 101 and 201, the Wellness Center is pleased to announce the addition of “Healthy Beginning,” a 45-minute class designed with the beginner in mind. This basic approach to exercise will be offered on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. beginning Monday, March 4.

Yoko Holcombe will be instructing this class. Yoko has been instructing group exercise classes for over 31 years and is certified through AFAA (Aerobic and Fitness Association of America), ACE, Speedo, and NBFE (National Board of Fitness Examiners).

This additional class allows the beginner or an individual recovering from a medical procedure or ailment to plan an exercise schedule that consists of three days a week - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Getting back into exercise is always a good thing for one’s body, mind, and spirit. (Photo by Steve Panetta)

To minimize a repeat of last season’s bear invasion, all food must be consumed close to the Grill at the provided picnic tables. Food will not be allowed on the beach or any other area of the amenity.

American Pool Service of Georgia will be returning to guard and oversee both pool amenities; Michelle Davis will assume her management position.

The inflatable water park is designed with children in mind and adults will not be allowed on it. All users must wear a life jacket, provided free of charge.

Regarding detailed food and beverage policies at the outdoor pool amenities, stay tuned for updates from the General Manager over the next few weeks.

It won’t be long before kids are frolicking in Big Canoe’s outdoor pools. (Photo by Steve Panetta)
Hey guys, it’s time to tee off!

*MGA and NASMGA memberships are now available*

*By Jim Rice*

The Big Canoe Men’s Golf Association (MGA) is a group of more than 220 men golfers who band together to hold monthly tournaments and a couple social outings each year.

Our mission is to organize and manage golf tournaments that are fun, fair and reasonably priced. Food and a keg are often involved. Fun golf, well-designed tournaments, hot food, and cold beverages all while socializing with like-minded golfers from around our community. Sounds like fun to me!

If you have questions about the group, contact Jim Rice at angelsnest@outlook.com or Keith Sievers at pilot114@mac.com. They’ll be happy to answer your questions or direct you to the right person for help.

The North Atlanta Senior Men’s Golf Association (NASMGA) is a subset of the Big Canoe MGA. It includes 17 premier North Atlanta golf and country clubs and has almost 700 members. The clubs host one event each month, usually toward the end of the month, and usually in a team format. Golf, cart fees, lunch, and prize money are included in the price of about $55 per event.

The NASMGA group also runs a season-long interclub match play event that has Big Canoe playing home and away matches once a month for six months. Total points determine the playoff teams; Big Canoe has been in the playoffs four of the last five years.

Membership sign-up for both the 2019 MGA and NASMGA is easy.

If you are a current member of either and wish to continue your MGA and NASMGA memberships, all you have to do is nothing. On March 1, all MGA and NASMGA current members were automatically renewed and membership fees invoiced to the lot number on file. If for some unexplainably strange reason you do not wish to continue on the MGA or NASMGA membership rolls, just let us know at the email addresses above and we’ll remove you from our membership and, therefore, from the website. It’s just that easy.

If you are not a current member, go to www.bigcanoe-mga.org or www.nasmga.com. For the MGA you will be taken to a page that says Sign-in or Apply Now; for NASMGA go to the home page that says “Join NASMGA Now.” Click on Apply Now or Join NASMGA and a form will pop up for you to complete.

You must apply to join each of the groups separately as they are not inclusive. You may join either or both. Just fill out the membership application; you will be approved as a new member and your membership fees will be lot charged.

Do not delay as several events for the MGA have already completed sign-ups and the first event for the NASMGA group opened for sign-up on March 1.

For questions, contact either Keith or Jim.

**Keith Sievers** – Big Canoe MGA President (pilot114@mac.com)

**Jim Rice** – NASMGA Big Canoe Director (angelsnest@outlook.com)
Around the Tees

Getting ready for golf, one hole at a time

By Lydell Mack

As the calendar days slowly tick toward Spring, there’s excitement in the air about the coming golf season. A few spring-like days in February have whetted golfers’ appetites for leagues and tournaments to start up again, and Golf Course Maintenance, too, is anticipating the Spring shift from project work back into maintenance mode.

Over the past few months during course closures, many important improvements have been made to enhance the golf experience in 2019. In addition to the many trees that have been removed, we’ve improved the safety and playability of the area between the Choctaw #3 green and the cart path, added curbing to control water and traffic on Choctaw #1, 3, 5, Cherokee #4, and 8 cart paths, and corrected drainage pipe erosion problems on Choctaw #8, Cherokee #8, and Creek #1 by installing stone headwalls and new pipe.

This month will be our Spring cleaning month. While we finish off the last of our projects, we will be cleaning up debris, mulching beds, replacing weak turf, refreshing the course accessories, and doing all we can to ensure a speedy recovery of greens from aeration. Our goal, as always, is to have great conditions by April 1.

Renovation update

Bergin Golf Design has completed the master plan for golf course improvements. A conclusion to be drawn from their plan is that the drainage and irrigation infrastructure are in need of replacement throughout the courses, and due to our aging demographic, it’s time to update the playability of the course to match our clientele.

What I found enlightening is Bergin feels there are ways to make the course easier for the higher handicap players, while at the same time making it more challenging for the better players, definitely a win-win for all. I’m excited at the possibility to make Big Canoe golf attractive to all types of players and to better utilize the club’s maintenance resources with upgraded infrastructure.

Member & Property Owner Twilight Fees

During the offseason, the POA is offering a special twilight rate for Golf Amenity Members and Property Owners. Every day of the week starting at 2:00 p.m., if you are playing with another Amenity Member or Property Owner, you are eligible for the Twilight Rate of ½ off your Cart Fee (appropriate Green Fees still apply).

For more details or if you have any questions, please feel free to call the Golf Shop at (706) 268-3323.

Upcoming Events

- Bear Society St. Patrick’s Day Event – Friday, March 15
- MGA Opening Day – Saturday, March 16
- GSGA Play Day – Monday, April 1
- MGA Replay – Friday, April 5th thru Saturday, April 6
- WGA Opening Day – Wednesday, April 10
- MGA Member-Member – Friday, April 26 thru Saturday, April 27
- Good Samaritan – Monday, April 29th

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

Our landscape maintenance guys play in the dirt to get our golf courses ready for spring action. (Photo by Lydell Mack)

The Bridge of Honor has a new “red carpet” for golfers to walk. (Photo by Lydell Mack)
Big Canoe Croquet season swings open on April 5

By Dennis Santucci

To kick off the season, Big Canoe Croquet will start with an opening day Wine and Wickets social on Friday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m. A time for croquet enthusiasts to get together and socialize, this will include adult refreshments and round robin play. Registration is required through the Golf Pro Shop.

Tuesday is croquet night at Big Canoe. Beginning Tuesday, April 9 and every subsequent Tuesday, The Clubhouse croquet lawn will be available for play from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Reservations are made by calling (706) 268-3323 or visiting the Golf Pro Shop. The cost will remain $5 per hour, per player. Mallets and balls are available, compliments of the Big Canoe Croquet Club.

Croquet is an easy-to-learn, fun and very social game. It’s not very taxing on aging bodies either. Croquet involves some skill, some strategy, communication between partners and a lot of fun. Everyone is welcome to try it out. Anyone needing help getting started or with questions, should contact Karen Santucci at kasantucci@yahoo.com. The club will arrange for an experienced team to assist you, instruct you, or play a game with you.

Attention Big Canoe women golfers and wannabes

By Rhonda Turner

You won’t want to miss our informal gathering of Big Canoe women golfers! Mark your calendars for Monday, March 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Swim Club to kick off another great season of golf for the Women’s Golf Association (WGA). We hope to see many new faces at our get-together, including those who have never golfed before!

Joan Delk, LPGA professional and Big Canoe Learning Ladies instructor, will be there to welcome women golfers of all ages and stages and explain there is a place for you in the Learning Ladies golf program at Big Canoe. Joan would love for you to come by, say hello, and find the answers to questions you have about attending Learning Ladies as a beginner or intermediate golfer.

Our 9-Hole women and our 18-Hole women golfers are invited to attend and share their fun experiences, embarrassing moments, and personal triumphs with old and new friends. Our 9-Hole and 18-Hole players will welcome the opportunity to tell you about their play at Big Canoe and the opportunities available in 2019.

Everyone will enjoy a cup of coffee and a muffin and participate in “Let’s Play Golf Jeopardy” which is the rules of golf presented in a fun way.

Whether you have never played golf, have played a little golf, or are an established golfer who enjoys playing nine or 18 holes with a great group of women, please join us for this fun, informational meeting.

Questions? Call Joan Delk at (404) 234-3734 or Susan Rolader at (706) 579-1706.
Welcome Pat Gilliam as she rejoins Racquet Club staff

By Matt Motil

If you’ve lived in Big Canoe long enough, you might remember the name Pat Gilliam.

Pat was the Director of Tennis here from 1984 – 1998. She is currently in what she calls “semi-retirement mode.” Pat is taking a step back from coaching, but still wants to stay close to the game.

What better place to do that than at the Racquet Club Pro Shop a couple days each week? Racquet Club Director, Matt Motil, and Pat had previously worked together at Country Club of the South in Johns Creek.

Although Pat will not be coaching, as she did previously at Big Canoe, there are plans for a few special clinics and events that she and Matt will run together.

We’re glad to have Pat at the place she spent so many great years. Stop by the shop to say hello and welcome Pat back to our community.

Lauren Wilson wins prestigious sportsmanship award

By Matt Motil

Big Canoe resident and junior tennis player Lauren Wilson recently won the Hardie Family Award for Junior Sportsmanship of the Year.

This honor is awarded each year to an outstanding Georgia junior tennis player. Some former award winners are Angel Carney, Niles Rachal and Trey Maust.

Lauren has exemplified good sportsmanship on and off the court. We congratulate her on this honor and wish her the best of luck now and with her future time playing tennis.

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Lake Petit devours Christmas trees to create a habitat

By Big Canoe Marina Staff

The Lakes and Marina Committee, along with help from Big Canoe’s Fire Department, gathered at the North Marina to tie concrete blocks to over 100 Christmas trees and sink them at strategic locations around Lake Petit to create a reef.

This is an ongoing effort started in 2014 to improve the lake’s eco system. Within the last two years, schools of bait fish have been sighted which is a great indicator the tree reef system is working. A sincere thank you to all those who helped with this project.

The smokin’ Cigar Club

Warm weather brought out the Cigar Club for an afternoon of cigars, libation of choice and kibitzing on any and all topics imaginable. Smoke Signals eat your heart out, this is the real thing! Those who know how to read smoke can tell the topic of conversation from as far away as Sanderlin Mountain. This could be interesting!

North Marina rehab

A new North Marina racking system for kayaks, paddle boards and other small craft is underway and scheduled for completion by Monday, April 1.

The new racks will be made of three-inch box aluminum and will be installed so the height is ergonomically friendly. The racks have been constructed by Dependable Tube Building and delivered to site.

The east side will be rehabbed first, followed by the west side. The catawampus alignment of the current racking system will be straightened so the racks are parallel to one another and diagonal to the mulched path leading to the water’s edge.

During the first week of March, notices will be sent to those with craft on racks asking them to move their craft temporarily to a staging area on-site until the area has been renovated with the new racking system.

Safety tip of the month

Fire prevention. Check your battery acid levels. Over time, battery acid evaporates creating high levels of hydrogen inside the battery. If the plates become exposed and an electrical arc occurs, an explosion can happen.

When it occurs, it sounds like a shotgun blast. Marina staff has heard and seen this happen. Even though there has not been a fire to date, it is possible, so check the acid level in your battery frequently.

Big Canoe Marina hours

Marina winter hours through March are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call the Marina at (706) 268-3303 to make reservations for pontoon, kayak and paddle board rentals.

What a bunch of guys! You can tell this gang can easily solve all the world’s problems in an afternoon.
The March full moon is a super wormy one

We’ve got a double whammy going with the March 20 full moon. Well, it’s actually a triple whammy, but who’s counting?

This moon, known as the Worm Moon, happens to shine on the vernal equinox, marking the start of spring-time. The last time that happened was on March 20, 1981.

Not only that, but the March moon is the last supermoon of the year. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, “the moon will be nearly at its closest to Earth for the month of March. It’s the year’s third (and final) of three straight full supermoons. This means the moon may appear brighter and bigger than normal, provided the night sky is clear and dark.”

Time to get out those cameras, folks!

Why such a weird name for the March moon? March ushers in warmth, which means the earth is softening and worms are peeking up through the soil. Indians knew this signaled the start of the planting season, and so worms were given notice.

As has become tradition, folks gather at the Big Canoe Marina right around sunset to set up camp to watch the moon rise over the mountain. It’s a very social time with snacks to share and libations to enjoy. Come join the party!

During the chilly months, most moon watchers settle in chairs around the picnic tables and are usually wrapped in blankets. But come balmy breezes, many moon watch from kayaks, pontoons, and canoes. We can only dream of those days now, but they’re coming!

Traditionally, the Moon we see in March is called the Full Worm Moon. At this time of the year, the ground begins to soften enough for earthworm casts to reappear, inviting robins and birds to feed—a true sign of spring. Roots start to push their way up through the soil, and the Earth experiences a re-birth as it awakens from its winter slumber.
It’s time for spring bocce, let’s roll

By Joe Cano

So, what’s this game called bocce? Bocce, otherwise called Italian lawn bowling, is one of the most popular games in the world, and is one of the oldest lawn games. Rolling a bocce ball is simple and can be played by all ages and skill levels.

Often teams compete, like they do in Big Canoe, and part of the exciting competition is naming your team. A play on words is common, often with humorous twists. How about Team Chewbocce or Team Invasion of the Bocce Snatchers?

Socializing is a big part of the experience too and tasty tidbits created by some of Big Canoe’s fabulous cooks share space on the outdoor groaning tables.

March is on our doorstep and that means the Big Canoe Spring Bocce season starts in a few weeks. If you haven’t registered your team or yourself as a sub, there’s still time. The Spring season fees (March 27 through May 11) are $30 for each team and $5 for substitutes.

Bocce is scheduled to become a monthly POA amenity when the new courts are installed. The $30 and $5 fees stated are the only fees collected through the end of the Spring season.

Monday Night Bocce begins March 25, starting at 5:00 p.m. Monday nights are open rolling and are free to all Big Canoe residents. Join us for a fun evening of socializing with your friends and neighbors. Learn how to play the game and pick up a few pointers. Monday Night Bocce happens at the courts adjacent to the Wildcat Recreational Area Pavilion.

Additional information can be found at www.bigcanoe-bocce.org.

This lady player tried to direct the roll of her ball by twisting her head. Whatever works! (Photo by Steve Papke)
WFB educates and inspires for all things green

Secrets of the Augusta National course will be shared in April

On February 9, the Wildflower Bunch (WFB) hosted the POA Community Coffee featuring a presentation on invasive plants by Walter Bland of Rock Spring Restorations. Walter showed what can happen if invasive plants get a foothold in an area such as Big Canoe and he provided information on the plants to look out for in order to protect this area. A summary of the information provided by Walter will be available on the WFB website soon.

After a discussion about invasive plants, you may want some gardening inspiration, and few landscaped gardens are more awe-inspiring than those of Augusta National, widely claimed to be one of the most beautiful golf courses in the world. The site itself was formerly a plant nursery, and thousands more plants have been added since the founding of the club in the early 1930s.

The upcoming WFB meeting on Wednesday, April 3 will feature “Landscaping of Augusta National Golf Course,” presented by Lydell Mack, Big Canoe’s Golf Course Superintendent. Lydell worked for Augusta National for more than two years, and, along with other turf management professionals, has served as a volunteer for the Masters Golf Tournament. The Masters in 2018 was his 16th year working that event. Along with photos of this gorgeous golf course, Lydell will share what he has learned about the history of Augusta National and its extensive landscaping.

And don’t forget a favorite annual event - the Wildflower Bunch Garden Club annual plant sale, which takes place Friday, April 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Wildcat Recreation Area Pavilion in Big Canoe. After our March meeting and luncheon when Cynthia Hendry shared gardening secrets about Big Canoe, inspiration hit and we’re ready to get our hands in the dirt!

Monthly meetings of WFB take place on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise notified, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Mountains Grille at The Clubhouse. Membership is open throughout the year. The annual membership fee is $20. Potential members or guests of WFB are also invited to the Augusta National program for a fee of one-half of the annual membership fee.

For more information on membership, contact WFB president Margie Halls at margiehalls@gmail.com or visit the Wildflower Bunch website at wildflowerbunch.com.
Women’s Guild gets ready to giggle in March

By Robyn Bish

“For we are God’s handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10.

The women of the Chapel (and some men) enjoyed a lovely Valentine evening dinner on February 14, with gourmet delights prepared by Cindy King of Catering by Cindy. Mark Unger wowed the crowd with his romantic classical guitar music. The evening was one not soon to be forgotten.

The Guild will welcome Lauretta Hannon as their speaker on Thursday, March 14. Lauretta, a former syndicated advice columnist, fortune teller, independent radio producer, cocktail waitress and long-time writing instructor has often been called the funniest woman in Georgia. The Guild meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. in the Broyles Center at the Big Canoe Chapel. You won’t be disappointed! All women in Big Canoe are invited to attend.

Guild Bible Study, taught by Nancy Lucenay, continues to inspire. If you missed the Fall sessions, you are invited to join now. Meetings are held on Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in McCormick Hall.

The Collectors’ Corner drop off at 123 Yellow Creek Road will happen on Saturdays, March 16 and March 30. The Guild welcomes all gently used donations for this fun and exciting boutique at the Legacy of Caring Marketplace. All funds raised, support women and children’s charities in Dawson and Pickens counties.

On Thursday, April 11, the Guild will welcome speaker Trudy Cathy White, daughter of the late Truitt Cathy of Chick-fil-A. This will surely be an inspirational morning. Come join us!

Ready to boot scoot and boogie?

Information submitted by Karen Waters

It’s been too long, but Ladies’ Line Dance is shuffling once again. Ladies who love lining up with their gal pals to strut their stuff with giggles and wiggles are hot to trot on the fourth Wednesday of each month, through next October.

Country sounds will raise the rafters at Canoe Lodge at 5:30 p.m., starting Wednesday, March 27. Bring your beverage of choice, your dancin’ feet, and a friend or two.

Best of all, no experience necessary. And, even better, it’s free! All ladies in Big Canoe are welcome to join the fun. No need to sign up, just show up.

Hoofers Karen Waters and Susan Tingle Rolader will lead the line, both known to tear up the floor when the Cupid Shuffle, Stanky Legg, or Mashed Potato Time blasts out. You say you don’t know those tunes? How about starting with the Hokey Pokey? See, you were line dancing back in kindergarten!

Come out and shake your booty with country chick friends. Not only is it fun, but it’s great exercise too.

The Big Canoe Chapel Women’s Guild presents

The Legacy of Caring: A Celebration of Giving

May 4, 2019
5:00 PM
The Clubhouse at Big Canoe
Tickets: www.bigcanoelegacy.org

Entertainment by MAMADEAR
Ridgerunners learn the ‘Wonders of Wine’ on March 12

By Christine Flaherty

“In vino veritas” loosely translated means “In wine there is truth.”

The truth is, wine is not only a wonderful accompaniment to most foods, but consumed in moderation (one, four-ounce glass per day for women) it can be good for you. There is increasing evidence showing when one drinks wine regularly (albeit in moderation), the chance of contracting heart disease, gum disease, stroke, or Alzheimer’s declines significantly.

In addition, according to WebMD, red wine has positive effects on intestinal bacteria. Two new studies have shown that polyphenols in wine (and chocolate) increase blood flow and oxygen to the brain, boosting cognitive ability, an effect that is increasingly beneficial as we age.

If science hasn’t provided enough good news already, drinking red wine could help you lose weight by suppressing your appetite and helping to transform stubborn white fat into beige fat, which is much easier to burn off. Quite impressive for such a delightful beverage.

If all this sounds like it’s just what you hoped to hear, you will definitely want to join fellow Ridgerunners on Tuesday, March 12 at The Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m. for a social time, followed by a wine presentation at 10:30 a.m. That’s when Nancy Hunter, of Wineshop at Home since 2010, will offer her thoughts on a variety wines, and her suggestions what foods they pair best with. Nancy will explain the concept of vinotype, which offers a personal indicator of what wines an individual might prefer based on their likes and sensitivities. The five steps to evaluating a wine will be reviewed, along with tips on where to go in our area for the best wine tasting experiences.

As a special bonus, if you are committed to improving your health via wine (and why not?), you might also consider indulging by adding chocolate for an extra, ahem, benefit.

Spring Fair and Luncheon April 9

On Tuesday, April 9, Ridgerunners will conclude another year of fun and friendship with a festive, nostalgia-filled Spring Fair and luncheon at The Corner District in Ball Ground.

It is the perfect venue for this joyous step back to a simpler time complete with fair games and festive entertainment.

Built in 1911, this historic space once served as a general store. More recently it was transformed into an industrial chic space complete with vintage chandeliers and exposed brick walls.

With food provided by Cindy King of Catering by Cindy, this event offers a wonderful way to finish the year in the company of friends while enjoying an old-timey fair experience.

You also will want to be on-hand for the announcement of Ridgerunners’ Woman of the Year. Tickets for this fun-filled trip down memory lane are $39. Sign up is online at www.bigcanoerr.com, with payment by lot number. The doors to this truly special event will open at 11:30 a.m.
Let’s Go Clubbing

The last of the winter good reads are calling

Ah, the sweet fragrance of springtime is soon to come! After all, doesn’t March 20 welcome the new season? We might have a few cold days still ahead before the robins return; it’s a good time to get a few books read before gardening becomes a passion. Here are suggestions from the Ridgerunners’ book clubs to get you started.

The Blue Stockings: Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen
The Godivas: Members Reading Their Own Choices
Ridgereaders: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
The Noveladies: News of the World by Paulette Jiles
Viewpoint: The Worst Hard Times by Timothy Egan
Gray Matters: Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
The Leaf Turners: The President is Missing by W. Clinton & J. Patterson
Book Belles: The Hamilton Affair by Elizabeth Cobbs
Chapter 13: Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcom Gladwell
Sworn Sisters: Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult
The Divine Readers: The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer
Woodland Readers: Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie
Page Turners: Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
Between the Lines: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Novel Ideas: Desperate Parallels by Lynda Drew
Between the Covers: Stars Are Fire by Anita Shreve
Happy Bookers: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Who Picked This Book?: The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony
Papyrus: The Wolves at the Door by Judith Pearson
Hooked on Books: Maine by J. Courtney Sullivan
Adventure Bound: An American Marriage by Tarayi Jones
Women, Words and Wine: The Alice Network by Kate Quinn
Between the Wines: Educated by Tara Westover

Information submitted by Kaaren Arthurs
Ridgerunners Book Clubs Chair

Mother’s Morning Out has a change to announce

Information submitted by Lindsey Wesseling

To better meet the needs of Big Canoe moms, a change has been made in the newly formed Mother’s Morning Out sponsored by the Big Canoe Chapel.

No longer will kids gather on Wednesday, instead moms will have two days to themselves to shop, visit the spa, or simply sit on a couch and stare at the wall.

Mother’s Morning Out will greet kids ages 2-5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Chapel.

The excellent team of teachers will be using the Christian based Abeka curriculum to engage in basic fundamentals of learning and reading.

There is a one-time $50 enrollment fee, and after that, it’s just $30 a day for an educational experience for your little one while they enjoy other kids and have fun.

For information and enrollment, contact Lindsey Wesseling at lpwesseling@gmail.com.

‘When in doubt, pedal it out’

It can be difficult and daunting to take a bike ride in the bleak of winter when black ice can pop up anywhere, but with springtime coming soon, count on bike riders to be out in full force. A reminder – watch out for them on the open road.

There’s a cycling club here for those who like winding roads and wind in their face. Big Canoe joined forces with Bent Tree to create a club dedicated to those who like to explore and maybe catch lunch to break up the ride.

Some members of the Big Canoe/Bent Tree Cycling Club venture out of the area to wander roads in surrounding states, others like to race and find their thrills that way, but most club members just like to ride and post on the club’s Facebook page where they’re going and invite other riders to bike along.

If you like to scream down the road with your feet pushing pedals, check out the club’s Facebook page or contact Dave Patton at dave.patton@harrynorman.com to get connected.
Let’s Go Clubbing

Acoustic Showcase roars in like a lion on March 7

*Information submitted by Brad Morgan*

Like a lion, Acoustic Showcase will roar into March with powerful sounds and maybe a few cymbals to welcome what’s hoped to be the promise of spring. Musicians will gather at the Swim Club on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. to play and entertain the crowd of Canoers that flock to the community-inspired free concert on the first Thursday of every month. The last chord is played around 8:30 p.m.

Actually, music lovers gather before the first guitar is strummed since seating is at a premium and sometimes folks are packed to the walls. The message – come early!

There will be 10 talents to enjoy this night. Taking their place in the row facing the audience will be Marty Holmes, Paul Jones, Frank Lozano, Tom Kilpatrick, Bob Knysz, Brad Morgan, Jim Murphy, Deborah Osgood, Bill Pound and Art Shand.

Just so you know, there will be a few changes to the evening of music. Musicians will play from the center of the lineup and will perform two songs consecutively.

Since St. Patty’s Day falls smack in the middle of the month, maybe a few Irish drinking songs will be heard. You won’t know unless you show up! See you there!

Robin Davis introduces ’13 Women’ at the March Photo Club

*By Kat Alikhan*

The Big Canoe Photography Club March meeting will feature Robin Davis, a professional Georgia nature, portrait and still life photographer specializing in unique, painterly images.

While in Italy as part of her UGA Study Abroad program in Cortona, Robin was struck by the light and color in old paintings. She became inspired to blend traditional photography with experimental techniques to achieve evocative images. “Lens and light are like the artist’s brush,” she said.

Robin begins with a clear intention for an image, and then she lets the camera do the work. Robin creates her images in camera, with no post production or Photoshop effects.

Robin’s presentation will focus on her “13 Women” series, featuring images including “Leda and the Swan.” She will share information about her workshops, including her Coastal Georgia workshop (Wednesday through Sunday, April 24-28) and The Whispering Woods workshop - a photo shoot with a violinist and a costumed performing artist.

For more information about Robin and her work, visit www.thethirdeyephoto.com and www.RobinDavis.com.

The Photography Club will meet Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the Big Canoe Swim Club. All photographers, beginning and advanced, are encouraged to attend. For more information about club meetings, outings and exhibitions, visit www.bigcanoephotographyclub.org. Join us!

Art Shand will make a special appearance at The Clubhouse, fiddling Irish tunes from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY
Celebration
Friday, March 15

Leda and the Swan
Photo by Robin Davis
Let’s Go Clubbing

Lit Lunch followed ‘The Nose’ in March

By Vivian Sheperis

Lit Lunch met on Friday, March 1 for a roundtable discussion of Nicolai Gogol’s classic and perplexing short story, “The Nose.” Is it wild surrealism, biting satire, political commentary, allegory, or just an absurdist tale? What kind of a nose parades around the city dressed in a gold-braided uniform?

Written in St. Petersburg between 1835 and 1836, the story is based on the ludicrous Table of Ranks introduced by Peter the Great, through which a person with no qualifications could easily achieve high social rank and government title, thereby acquiring paid positions in name only. The hierarchy spiraled wildly out of control and in this tale allows a disembodied nose to attain the office of State Counselor.

The Nose has inspired artists, musicians, composers and writers. For his first opera, Dmitri Shostakovich completed The Nose in 1936. It continues to captivate audiences with a 2013 production by The Met Live in HD and a 2016 production by the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.

Why is it so timely for us? Lit Lunch came up with some interesting answers!

If you are not already on the Lit Lunch email roster, email vsheperis@gmail.com for further information.

The next meeting of the literary lunchers will be on Friday, April 6.

Meet Scarlett, a Southern belle who lives at Maggie’s House

By Henrietta Hall

Meet Scarlett, so named because she is a true Southern belle!

Scarlett is a pretty, medium-sized tuxedo, about one and a half years old according to the vet, and wears a distinctive white mustache.

Scarlett is extremely affectionate and loves nothing better than to be loved on by a human and give lots of love and purring back! She is very healthy and only needs now to find a forever home. She is ready for adoption and can be visited at Big Canoe Animal Rescue’s Open House held every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Scarlett is really precious!

Check out bigcanoeanimalrescue.org and our Facebook page, Big Canoe Animal Rescue. The BCAR address is bigcanoeanimalrescue@gmail.com, and our phone number is (706) 268-1346.
It was a night of blazing red for AWOL ladies

*Information submitted by Karen Steinberg*

Does the moniker AWOL stand for Awesome Ladies of the Laughs? Nope, although that pretty much describes this group of Big Canoe chicks when they get together on the first Monday of every month around 5:00 p.m.

The letters AWOL actually stand for Awesome Ladies on the Lake since the plan was to meet at the Big Canoe Marina every month to do nothing but have good times with other Big Canoe women. With cold winds blowing and temps in the 30s, the ladies moved inside for a few of the crueler months. But, when the robins sing again, it will be back to the marina for laughs while the waves do their lap dance. Hopefully that will happen in April.

Chairs around tables give a good place to plop a wine bottle or a few snacks to share. The casual, but always classy, crowd passes jokes, worldly observations, and smiles while passing beverages of choice. AWOL offers a fabulous opportunity to meet other ladies who share our mountains. To build an identity, AWOL even offers tee shirts and cups with their identifying logo. Nothing like building a brand to make a statement.

To honor their friendship, AWOL recently hosted a Pal-intine white elephant exchange bringing an assortment of somewhat bizarre Valentine gifts mixed with sweet thoughts. Grabbing gaily wrapped packages is always a good way to meet new friends, and there was plenty of that happening.

All women in Big Canoe are invited to be part of AWOL. All you have to do is show up and the gals will welcome you royally. No dues, no rules, just fun.

To learn more, check out the AWOL Facebook page or contact Karen Steinberg at karensteinberg@windstream.net.

Gerard Monte crowned Mardi Gras King

Big Canoe’s own Special Events and Catering Manager Gerard Monte was crowned King of Mardi Gras at the spectacular North Georgia Mountains Hospice fundraising event on March 2. Many, many thanks to all in Big Canoe who donated funds to cast votes for our guy. It was a record breaker! All hail King Gerard! (Photo by Marty Stephens)
Pine Needle Quilters get organized for the year ahead

By Emily Beals

What better way to begin the new year than to get a bit more organized? Thanks to a workshop taught by Polly Davis, several members of the Pine Needle Quilt Guild did exactly that when they learned to sew a Take-Along Bag complete with zipper pockets and pouches to hold all those sewing notions needed for classes or workshops – rulers, rotary cutters, thread, bobbins, scissors, pins and so much more. All of that fits safely and neatly into these clever bags that were lots of fun to make, thanks to Polly’s enthusiasm and patience.

At our March meeting, we’ll announce our annual quilt challenge, start a block-of-the-month project, launch our community service committee, and learn more about the progress of our Beginners’ Bee, started this year by Barb Fraser to encourage new quilters.

Gadgets and tools add fun, accuracy, and efficiency to quilting, so our program for March will ask each member to bring three of her favorite tools to introduce to the group.

If you are interested in quilting, please come to our next meeting on April 2 at 1:00 p.m. at McCormick Hall on the lower level of the Big Canoe Chapel.

Questions? Contact Emily Beals at (706) 579-1094 or nobizbc@gmail.com.

A picture book tells the Choctaw Village story

Information and photos submitted by Lou Reiter

When you visit a friend’s home and see an interesting coffee table book on display, do you page through it? Many do, and find the host’s interest a good point for conversation. A beautiful, full-color coffee table picture book was recently created to reflect the comradery one tiny community within Big Canoe enjoys.

Tucked away near The Clubhouse, is Choctaw Village, home to 130 residents, some part-timers. Because a lone road and small bridge must be crossed to get to the Village, the community seems to stand alone. The homes have their own paint colors and designs, which makes it an interesting place to live.

Choctaw Villagers have a wonderful time together and often make their own fun. They enjoy potlucks at the Swim Club, First Friday of the Month gatherings around the “fireless pit,” crazy Winter Olympic games, a book club, a Manly Men monthly gathering which has little redeeming social value, and a counterpart women’s group called the Choctaw Charmers.

Choctaw Village is also home to fairy villages, designed to enthrall grandkids when they come to visit. Yes, Choctaw is a very friendly place.

Craig McConnell was the motivator behind the pictorial effort and Craig’s daughter Corey put the book together. Photos were added by Carla Baird, Sandra Plevins, and Lou Reiter.

It was a labor of love to create and each page tells the story of a neighborhood that shines in Big Canoe. Hope everybody gets to see a copy!
Plummers are ready for a year of architectural discovery

Information and photos submitted by Patricia Stimmel

Hidden, really hidden, on Strawberry Circle stands a charming Plummer cabin. It’s one of 115 homes that Dick Plummer built in the early days of Big Canoe. There were various floor plans named after trees, but each cabin had a special Plummer touch, whether it be a stone fireplace or unique wooden plank flooring.

One home was built for Harry Black and his law firm in 1984. You might remember Harry Black was a Supreme Court Justice during the Roe v. Wade case. He also had a house built on the cul-de-sac for Secret Service agents needed after the case was decided. The agents were posted at Columbine and Strawberry. No wonder the cabin was built to be secluded!

There’s a club of Plummer owners or past owners who gather occasionally to see how modern day renovations have been worked into cabins without losing the Plummer charm and character. There’s a “Plummer Drop-in” in the works for Friday, April 12 and the charming home of Claire and Joe Cronk will be visited.

For information about Big Canoe’s early architecture a la Plummer, visit the group’s Facebook page, Big Canoe Plummer Cabins Owners Group, or contact Patricia Stimmel at pstimmel@windstream.net.

It’s all a game to Still Young at Heart gals

The Still Young at Heart (SYAH) group has multitasking down to an art form. Head Heart Sherry Evans offers her gals many opportunities for fun and good times. Game nights, movies, shopping, sipping wine at vineyards, taking lunch, road trips and more are all on the agenda.

At a recent Game Night led by Jean Tripi, board games were the favorites as gals pondered their next moves.

Game Night is held on the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Village Station near the Postal Facility. All Big Canoe women are welcome; just bring your beverage of choice and an appetizer or dessert to share.

(Photos by Jean Tripi)
Let’s Go Clubbing

Boy Scouts whip up lasagna to fundraise

Scout Blake Hobgood prepares lasagna for the Big Canoe Boy Scout fundraiser. Local Troop 20 is working hard to fund their upcoming high-adventure camp at Sea Base in the Florida Keys. Through multiple car washes, donations, and their most recent Lasagna Sale, the troop has raised over $6,000 toward their trip. “We’re fortunate to have a Troop 20 Scout mom, Sue Gibbons, who is also the culinary arts teacher at Pickens High School to help create such delicious lasagnas, and even more fortunate to have a community that provides such great support for our Scouts,” reported Jeff Dodson, Troop 20 Scoutmaster. (Photo by Lynne Dodson)

SYAH ladies know how to let the good times roll

While dancing in the streets was somewhat curtailed when temps dropped into the lower 30s, that didn’t keep the Still Young at Heart crowd from hoofin’ to celebrate Mardi Gras in fine style. After all, this crazy Creole night happens only once a year. Gold, green and purple decorated the Swim Club to set a festive scene. Who caught the most beads? Who knows, but everybody was decked in gaudy baubles as umbrellas were raised sky high in the best New Orleans fashion. These chicks don’t hide their crazy, they parade it!

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Let’s Go Clubbing

Fine Art Show at the Swim Club in late March

Information submitted by Monica Burnette

It’s coming soon! Big Canoe Artists are hosting their annual Spring Fine Art Show Friday through Sunday, March 29-31 at the Swim Club. This is the club’s biggest show of the year, what a delightful way to welcome the new season. Club members can enter up to five pieces of art – paintings, photography, sculptures and more. There’s sure to be something to interest all.

There will be an opening wine reception on Friday evening, March 29 and everybody is invited.

During April, the artists will have their work on display at the Woodbridge Inn in Jasper. This would be a good time to dine on fine German fare and enjoy your neighbors’ artworks.

Recently, club member Kay Davis gave a portrait drawing demonstration using graph drawing to get a person’s likeness accurately as well as using pencils as various tools of the trade.

The Artists’ Club meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Broyles Center at the Big Canoe Chapel. All who have a passion for art are invited to join the group. For additional information, contact Tappy Swarner, (706) 306-0686.

‘Be strong,’ these ladies whisper to their coffee

Want to get Hump Day off to a good start? Big Canoe ladies meet casually for a Coffee Klatch every Wednesday morning at 9:30 at the Village Station. All Big Canoe women are invited – long time residents and new, full or part timers, married or single, regulars or those who pop in when they can. No rules, and you can even bring tea if that’s your cuppa choice.

The Station is a friendly place to meet and serves as a gathering place for smaller Big Canoe groups. The room was once home to several restaurants, most recently the Wild Onion. But now tables, chairs, and tasteful décor welcome folks to linger.

The Coffee Klatch moved around for awhile searching for the perfect place to raise a cup or two. Because kitchen facilities aren’t available at the Station, ladies bring their own coffee to sip while discussing whatever happens to be the random topic of the day, or tell jokes to bring a chortle to the morning. It’s a supportive group and shares whatever happens to be on somebody’s mind.

Lisa Jones Kent put out a call to get women together almost two years ago and the group is still going strong. To learn more about joining this happy morning crowd, contact Lisa at lisajkent92@gmail.com.

There’s no agenda, other than coffee, connection, and conversation. Some say, a yawn is just a silent scream for coffee. Maybe that’s the Klatch’s motto!
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*By Alice Eachus*

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Spring is on its way! Why not explore your jewelry box and discover pieces that might benefit from a “face lift?” Rings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches, and more can be refashioned into fun or elegant contemporary styles. Missing stones or rings need resizing? **Jeweler Scott Shiffman** works with his valued clients to share designing, building, and constructing a piece of jewelry, new or old, that will bring enjoyment for years. Scott’s unique artistic talents will create a stunning piece to wear or gift. Visit www.scottshiffman.com or call (706) 268-1556 and see what Scott can do for you.

Searching for that perfect something to accent or finish a room to spruce it up for the coming spring? Just a few yards from the North Gate you’ll find everything and anything you’ve been looking for at **North Gate Estates and Consignment Sales**. From rustic sofas to delicate crystal, there’s something for every taste and style. While shopping for treasures is always fun, selling gently used pieces is also rewarding and can put dollars in your pocket. **Gail Wilson**, store owner, has an eye for helping you find exactly what you’re looking for. Gail often hosts spectacular in-home sales too so watch for announcements of estate sales happening right here in our neighborhood. Give Gail a call at (770) 893-2300 to find out how she can help you.

Please welcome **Dr. William Zinney**, a board certified periodontist who recently joined Dr. Stephen Muecke at **Northgate Station Comprehensive Dentistry**. Dr. Zinney received his Dental Degree and Surgical Residency at Emory University and has been in practice in the greater Atlanta area since 1988. Dr. Zinney has been a pioneer in dental implants, periodontal plastic surgery, and complete replacement of dentition with the most advanced “Teeth in a Day” procedures. Dr. Zinney believes a smile does not stop at the teeth. As an educated surgeon, he has knowledge of head, neck and face anatomy and offers work with tissue regeneration and rejuvenation to treat the entire facial structure. Dr. Zinney also provides nonsurgical facelifts accomplished using a combination of smooth PDO threads, natural dermal fillers and Botox where needed to provide the most natural appearance.

Fireplace season is still here, and fireplaces still need checking after a few months’ use. When you strike a match to light your stack, does a little ripple of fear pass through your mind? When was the last time you had your chimney inspected? **Mike Walker** at **Sweepy Hollow Chimney and Fireplace**
Specialists. Mike will come right out and sweep away your troubles so you can continue the 2019 fireplace season without a care. The company does chimney cleanings, chimney inspections, and dryer-vent inspections along with installing chimney caps and covers and gas logs. Mike also handles chimney and fireplace restorations. Call (678) 247-1215 for fast and excellent service.

For over 60 years, Blossman Gas has been providing the comforts of gas to thousands of valued customers, including those in Big Canoe. Blossman Gas is the largest family-owned propane business in America and offers the competitive pricing and reliability of a large corporation, but maintains the dedicated customer service and family values of a small business. Blossman Gas stores are the place to shop for a new fireplace, stove, refrigerator, grill or other appliance. The company specializes in high-quality, gas-powered appliances for every home and budget. Blossman is the one to call at (770) 386-6268 to connect with Big Canoe’s Propane Consortium.

Randy Sortor of Handyman Services and Home Repair is ready with his hammer, saw, and screwdriver to get your home in tip top shape for personal enjoyment and entertaining. Randy is a guy of many talents—tile work, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, drywall, deck and fence repair, and just about anything else you need done to get your home looking as good as ever. Let Randy get your manse and property in great condition for seasonal enjoyment ahead!

To meet all your home selling or buying needs, give Tony Hicks at Georgia Views Realty a call - the name says it all! Tony can help you find your perfect home with a perfect view, styled just for your dreams. Tony brings 25+ years experience in real estate to help you find good value and a beautiful home. The company is growing and new agents are welcome to join this exciting venture. When buying a home, many questions pop up, like what’s the difference between assessed value and market value? Tony has the answers to all your questions and will happily share his expertise. Call Georgia Views Realty at (706) 299-6232 and allow Tony Hicks to find the home of your dreams.

Spring is here and the ladies of the Big Canoe Women’s Guild are excited to announce events which will be part of the 2019 Legacy of Caring. The exquisite Celebration of Giving Gala will be held on May 4 at 5:00 p.m. at The Clubhouse. After enjoying a gourmet dinner served at stations and bidding on fabulous prizes at both live and silent auctions, guests will enjoy entertainment by MAMADEAR, a Nashville based trio that has opened for Martina McBride and performed in a special concert for the Prince of Monaco. The weekend before, April 26 and 27, Big Canoe residents and friends are invited to shop at the Legacy Springtime Marketplace featuring new and returning Arts and Crafts Vendors, Bear Paw Bakery, The Book Nook, Collectors’ Corner, and Crazy Bear Café. For additional information, visit bigcanoelegacy.org.

There’s no denying Big Canoe is a beautiful place to live, but when it comes time to sell your home, look for a broker with a proven track record and robust marketing credentials. Big Canoe Realty has an experienced team of professionals ready to chat with you to discuss your needs in both buying and selling a home. The company has the largest sales and marketing budget of any real estate brokerage company selling Big Canoe property, and is the only real estate office inside the gates of Big Canoe. In business for over 25 years, they have established an immense data base of over 63,000 potential buyers! Their main office is located in The Village of Big Canoe, next to The Chimneys Conference Center. They also have an off-site office located on Hwy 53 at Steve Tate.

Along with window washing, deck staining, house painting, epoxy garage flooring and more, Squeaky Clean now offers Squeaky Clean Energy services which include LED lighting, foam installation, solar installs, and Smart Home updating. Gilbert Simpson offers the best job at the best price with a company you know and trust. Now is the time to get maintenance and energy efficient work done so living is easy. Call (678) 782-2006 now for a free home energy audit and put a stop to high energy bills. Amazing discounts are now offered. Your home is your castle; Squeaky Clean will help keep it that way!

Have visitors planning a spring stay in Big Canoe? Give Jamie at Petit Crest Villas a call at (706) 268-3600 and she’ll tell you all about the wonderful rental villas she has available. While you may love to play hostess to visiting guests, accommodating extra folks can make things a little tight. Petit Crest Villas are
proud to be a part of Big Canoe’s mountain paradise and offer a cozy place to stay, right near our marina. Villa rentals are offered for family/friends, reunions, weddings, business retreats, or just for fun. The villas are comfortably equipped; they even have a complete kitchen with a washer/dryer!

Looking for an active couple to “help you change your point of view” with listings that have consistently sold? Enter into this active selling season with Howard and Lyn Hunt of Big Canoe Realty. They will provide service above and beyond to all clients in a friendly and professional manner while maintaining the highest possible standards. Visit hunt4homes@bigcanoe.com or contact the Hunts at (678) 818-7010 and they will put boundless energy into selling your home.

What to ask before hiring a housecleaner? These days getting help with house cleaning is no longer a luxury, it’s a necessity especially with spring and summer entertaining coming up. Shopping for the right service provider requires some time to ensure hiring the right fit. Ask to see a copy of the cleaner’s company’s insurance certificate. Make sure the policy covers not just the business interest, the insurance should cover you and your property. The words Workers Compensation Insurance is one benefit claim most companies don’t make. Yet, this could be the most important one. This is a legally required insurance which in the event of injury to a cleaner while working in your home could cost you a small fortune. You’re fully covered on all counts by Rejoice Maids. Rejoice Maids follows core values in dealing with the community they are proud to serve. Call Gemma at (678) 905-3476 to schedule a cleaning today. Discounts offered for new customers too.

Katie McGrady-Allman is a Big Canoe resident and owner of the highly regarded Cruise Planners American Express Travel franchise. Katie wants to be the architect of your next adventure. She specializes in river cruising and bucket list travel, especially trips to exotic places like the Great Barrier Reef, Taj Mahal, Machu Picchu, or any place your heart desires. Her company, Allman Travel and Events is pleased to announce the arrival of their new Sophisticated Traveler Newsletter, a publication which focuses on “bucket list” and luxury travel destinations with an emphasis on special pricing and promotions. Visit allmantravelandevents.com to subscribe.

Tater Patch Players proudly presents The Kitchen Witches as their play performance in February and early March. Isobel and Dolly are two “mature” cable-access cooking show hostesses who have hated each other for 30 years, ever since Larry Biddle dated one and married the other. When circumstances put them together on a TV show called The Kitchen Witches, the insults are flung harder than the food! Dolly’s long-suffering TV-producer son, Stephen, tries to keep them on track, but as long as Dolly’s dressing room is one inch closer to the set than Isobel’s, it’s a losing battle, and the show becomes a ratings smash as Dolly and Isobel top both Martha Stewart and Jerry Springer! Tickets can be purchased at www.taterpatchplayers.org, taterpatchplayers@gmail.com, or at the box office before the production. Seniors and first-time Tater Patch play-goers can take advantage of special pricing too.

Since 1994, Linda Travis & Associates Realtors has been serving home buyers and sellers in Big Canoe. That’s over 20 years of excellent service as many attest to eagerly. Researching the real estate markets and helping folks either sell their homes or helping those bitten by the Big Canoe bug find the home of their dreams is the sole mission of this firm. From first meet, Linda and her team work with their valued clients to make buying or selling a home as streamlined as possible. For buyers, very detail of the transaction, from visiting homes on the market to signing on the dotted line, is handled professionally. For sellers, Linda helps prepare each home to be presented at its sparkling best and the Travis team stands ready to help in any way.

Are you remembering your fine summer garden, but know you need early spring maintenance to keep the wild under control? Cynthia Hendry of Woodland Gardens can make any landscaping project and renovation a reality by helping you groom your landscape for any season. Cynthia is an award-winning landscape designer who really knows the land we all call home. She’s been in the community for a long time and knows what grows and what won’t and how to take care of it. Her staff does an excellent job planting, mulching, and caring for the properties in Big Canoe and can help you create the spring, summer, autumn, and even winter gardens of your dreams.
The motto **Fran Farias, State Farm insurance agent**, keeps at the forefront of her business is simply this – “There when things go wrong. Here to help life go right.” Fran’s company’s mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams. She is an expert in auto, home, property, business, life and health insurance, along with annuities. With years in the business, Fran can help with all your insurance needs, making sure you and your family are well covered for any unexpected event. Give Fran Farias a call at (770) 668-0222 or visit her website franfarias.com to see all she can do for you.

Now open and welcoming residents is **Windsor Lodge Assisted Living** right here in Jasper behind Ingles. The facility is family owned and operated and provides a variety of care services, including a memory care unit. Sometimes families need a little help caring for a loved one, and Windsor Lodge offers a good solution for kind, safe, and loving assistance. Tours are available and reservations are now being accepted. Call Dianne Weston at (706) 253-7400 for more information.

Folks from near and far are drawn to visit the North Georgia Mountains to enjoy our restful beauty, wonderful amenities, and laidback lifestyle. It’s the perfect time to buy a home in Big Canoe or get ready to sell before the 2019 “selling season” is in full swing. **Steve Yambor of Big Canoe Realty** is the go-to guy when you need help readying your home for sale. He will take care of the myriad of details that buying or selling a home requires, and will do this while working hand in hand with you. Steve has an exceptional understanding of the housing market in Big Canoe and can put his expertise to work for you.

**Attorney Ron Reemsnyder** is also a City Judge for Dawsonville. This is a part time position so Ron will continue his active law practice. If you have questions about legal issues and would like to consult a local attorney with over 35-years experience, Big Canoe resident Ron Reemsnyder is the lawyer to call. Whether you need help updating your wills, creating an employment agreement, collecting a debt, defending a complaint, or dealing with an insurance company, Ron can provide you with the legal assistance needed. It’s good to have Super Lawyer designated Ron on your side!

**Wilton Place, a Southern Boutique**, brings a touch of elegance and absolute fun to Jasper. It’s the perfect shop where you’ll find home decor accessories, everything you’ll ever need for table decorating and presentation, linens, bridal accessories and gifts, artwork, gourmet foods, cookbooks, men’s gifts, fashions and accessories for the ladies, candles, lotions, soaps, interior design consultation, and so much more. Every corner of this well-appointed shop presents candy for the eyes and a sense of whimsy and fun. Wilton Place on Church Street is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**Donna Torres of Renasant Bank** in Jasper is all about relationships. Donna specializes in mortgages and can find one specially designed for you, whether you’re building, buying, renovating, or refinancing. There are many options available to structure a mortgage, some you may not be familiar with, but Donna has all the answers to make mortgage securing easy for you. Ask Donna about Renasant’s single-close construction-permanent options for new construction or renovation. Build your banking relationship with Donna Torres for excellent, committed service.

**Northgate Station Comprehensive Dentistry** provides every dental service you might ever need, and the office is located right across from our own North Gate. Dr. Stephen (Randy) Muecke and Dr. William Zinne provide state of the art dental procedures, including invisalign braces, crowns, veneers, CT, implants, PRF, bone grafting, bone rejuvenation, tissue graft, extractions, facial aesthetics, lip augmentation, gummy smile fixes, and non-surgical face lifts. Make 2019 the year your smile shines with professional services provided by two experienced and dedicated dentists who are ready to make your face beautiful and happy. Call for an appointment today at (470) 695-3534 or visit www.ngatestationdental.com.

Thinking about sailing plans for enjoyable balmy vacations at sea, or perhaps start planning your trip of a lifetime? **Mike Ziegenbalg of Dream Vacations** has been in the cruise and travel business for years and knows all ships and tours inside and out. He’ll find an itinerary that’s just perfect for you whether you’re looking for adventure, relaxation, or exploring the seven seas or seven continents. Mike is an expert at planning family trips, reunions, theme vacations, or couples’ getaways. Mike offers cruise and tour ideas you’ve never considered before and is at your service to make your dream vacation a reality. Visit Mike at the North Gate Station, call (706) 579-5005 or visit www.VacationsByMike.com.