



Our New
Guide to Four Seasons Activities and Activity Groups
Begins on page 2
Check it out!

Our Clubhouse Management Staff
Thanks for being so helpful and welcoming!



Jeanne Kibler



Sylvia Kibler



Sam Colvin



Christine Alley

Guide to Four Seasons Activities and Activity Groups

Have you been seeing interesting activities listed in the Four Seasons Monthly Calendar? Maybe you wanted some more information, but didn't know who to call? This Guide will point you in the right direction. We have a wide variety of on-going activities and interest groups at Four Seasons.

Glance through the list and see if there is something that interests you; then come and try it out. The special interest groups are very active and diverse. You can get involved, or you may know someone who would like something new to do. Sometimes there are two things scheduled at the same time and you have to make a choice. C'est la vie, that's retirement!

This is the first edition of our handy guide to all the activities that you might see listed on the Four Seasons Monthly Calendar. Of course, new activities are always coming up, and the current list changes. To keep current, check out the latest version of this Guide, which we will post on the community website at our4seasons.org and keep updating regularly.

Let the Games Begin

Games are a favorite with many of our Four Seasons residents. Check out the variety of groups that get together to play games every week!

ADDICTED TO MAH-WHAT?

Mah-jongg is a game played with tiles and dice and so much fun. It's even a little addicting; no we mean a lot addicting! We play it twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. This website has information on the game in case you haven't played it before: www.nationalmahjonggleague.org. For more information, contact **Sandi Lashbrook** at 434-985-8512.

There is also a session on Sundays, especially for beginners to learn the game. Contact **Debbie Hinton** at 434-242-3946 about Sunday Mah-jongg.

GOT TO KNOW WHEN TO HOLD 'EM

There is **poker**, usually on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays every month, where we hear that if you have matchsticks, you are welcome. For more information, **Larry Baker** (434-207-4854) is the man.

YOUR TICKET TO THE MEXICAN TRAIN

Is **Mexican Train** a game you play with dominos? The answer is yes, but these aren't your granddaddy's dominos! They go from double blanks all the way to double 15's. Fun and challenging! Come on Wednesday evenings and see if you can beat the current champion. For more information, **Alice Grasewicz** at 434-985-4199 is the person to contact.

TAKE OUT A CONTRACT

A social **Bridge** game is played Thursday afternoons. If there is interest in learning Bridge there would be teachers available for a beginner's table. **Lois Feingold-Taff** at 434-985-8154 is coordinating.

SHOOT POOL, OR IS IT BILLIARDS?

The **pool** tables in the clubhouse are always available, so bring a friend and take an open table. The regular sessions are on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings after the Gent's Coffee. We have a yearly tournament if you are interested in getting competitive. If you have never played before or you would like to review your basics we have a teacher who would be happy to give some lessons. Contact **Ron Heinz** at 434-985-6809.

CANASTA/SAMBA AND PINOCHLE

Wednesdays, we play **Canasta, Samba** and **Pinochle**. We are willing to learn new games. Want more information? **Vic Stavisky** (434-985-1044) for Pinochle; **Sandi Lashbrook** (434-985-8512) or **June Drake** (434-466-4513) for Canasta/Samba.

PAWN TAKES ROOK

Serious **chess** player or want to learn to play? Contact **John Monaghan** (434-985-7637) or **Rick Pietrzak** (434-985-8809) for more information.

Making Beautiful Things

LOVELY, LOVELY, LOVELY

The artists in our community are fabulous. If you would like to spend time with your creative side (for some of us, a side we did not even know we had), come to the Friday morning **Art group**. **Sue Stover** (434-985-4995) leads this activity.

GET CRAFTY

Monday afternoon it's time for the **Crafts group**. We meet to do all kinds of needlework projects. Currently you will see quilting, needlepoint, Swedish weaving, crochet, knitting, and tatting, but we are always excited about new craft projects. People just come and work on whatever they have. For more information, call **Helen Lodgen** at 434-985-4999.

(Guide continues on the next page)

Help Us Keep This Guide Current!

Of course, no list like this is ever complete. Let us know of new activities that should be added or of changes in current listings.

Good Reads and Good Flicks

READ IT, THEN (SOMETIMES) WATCH IT

If you like to read but never know what to read, check out our **Book Club**, which meets monthly, usually on the 4th Monday. We have interesting selections during the year and a lot of fun with the presentations. If there is a movie that can be obtained to go with a book it means an extra afternoon get together. **CJ Besanson** at 571-271-1700 is the contact person.

FUN AT THE MOVIE MATINEE

The third Monday afternoon every month brings the wonderful **Movie Matinee** in the Clubhouse card room. **Art and Sandy Cohen** (434-985-8977) make this happen. Will there be popcorn?

SEE IT ON THE BIG SCREEN

Another great movie option! The second Thursday evening every month there are **Classic Movies** on the big screen in the Clubhouse ballroom. Bring your own drinks and munchies. **Larry and Sharon Miller** (434-990-1161) take the lead on this activity.

Getting Out

HIKERS UNITE

Want to get out, stretch your legs, and see some beautiful scenery? The **Hiking Group** meets at the Clubhouse every Wednesday morning for a trip to one of the great local trails. Not too long or strenuous, just fun and lots of fresh air. **Joe Brennan** (434-990-9913) is the coordinator. He can give you more information about what hikes are coming up and their difficulty level. When Joe is in Maine for the summer, ask **Sharon Shinstock** (520-234-7507) for a status report on what might be planned.

TRY A CAB FRANC OR VIOGNIER?

Central Virginia has become widely known for the quality of its local wines. There are several dozen wineries with tasting rooms in our vicinity, and many of them have outdoor patios with wonderful views. Sometimes there is live music. The **Wine tasting group** is a great way to spend a nice afternoon with friends. You can even bring a picnic! Contact **Sue Campbell** (434-985-8979) or **Ann Brady** (434-985-7524) to find out what is upcoming.

Shake Those Bones

FEEL THE ENERGY

Chi Gung is a low stress exercise activity that is done by aligning breath, movement and awareness, for exercise, healing and meditation. Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions are held in the Clubhouse fitness room. Call **Eleanor Busa** (434-985-1865) or **Dianne Horvath** (919-280-1295) for more details.

INTO THE POOL, THEN THE SPA

Come to the pool Tuesday or Friday mornings for **water aerobics**. We stretch and swim to music and then relax in the spa. For more information contact **June Drake** at 434-466-4513 or **Anne Childs** at 434-985-3102.

ZUMBA IS DANCE TO THE MAX!

So new at Four Seasons that it just appeared in the monthly calendar! **Zumba** is wildly popular nationwide. It starts with Latin dance moves, throws in some belly dancing, and is a whole lot of fun plus a good aerobic workout. Credit **Mary Ann Mongillo** (434-985-7103) for making this happen.

Helping Others

CARING HANDS

Our **Caring Hands group** provides assistance with household chores, transportation, and companionship in times of need. If you would like to help out or want more information, contact **Chris Sauter** at 434-990-5790.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat helps provide housing and housing repairs for folks in need. It meets at the clubhouse monthly and is always looking for new volunteers. **Jerry Besanson** (434-990-9977) is the man to contact.

Strictly Social

Some events are planned primarily as good places to get to know other folks in the community.

GENTLEMEN'S COFFEE

Every Friday morning, the guys meet over coffee and donuts to swap stories and bad jokes. Sometimes there is even a full catered breakfast. Later some of us end up in the billiards room shooting pool. **Larry Baker** (434-207-4854) makes it all happen.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

The 4th Friday of the month, the ladies usually have a special outing somewhere in the area for lunch. Sign-up is required. Keep an eye out for an email notice.

MEET & EAT

This community potluck dinner is held monthly on the first Thursday. No sign-up needed, just come with a dish to share. A different host each month. Email notices are sent as reminders.

THIRD THIRSTY THURSDAYS

Often the "biggest party in town" each month, sometimes with live music or dancing or both. Usually it includes a catered dinner in the Clubhouse ballroom. Sign up required. Just check for the email notice each month, because each party is different.

~ Meet your Neighbor ~



Frank
Steele

Frank Steele

Story by Vera Reece

Frank Steele is another of our many talented residents, being an accomplished stained glass artist. After serving in Viet Nam as an enlisted Marine, Frank attended Officers Candidate School and then returned to Viet Nam. When he came back to the U.S. he spent many years as an Army Reservist. Public service was obviously in Frank's blood, as he made the FBI his career and spent 20 years working as an Agent. He and Diane made their home in Manassas, VA. They have been married 36 years and have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

In 1982, Diane suggested Frank needed to find an outlet to relieve some of the stress coming from his job with the FBI. Having always loved stained glass, Frank decided to pursue it.

He is "self-taught", having had no formal training in this art. Everything he has learned is from research, reading, and talking to other artists. He says he is not a "traditional stained glass artist". Instead, he creates his beautiful work in mosaics – a method he came up with after a visit to a church in Richmond about ten years ago in which he says he had his "eureka" moment. The church had beautiful stained glass windows made out of multiple triangles. He felt this depicted much finer detail than traditional stained glass. So he took that idea and created his method of cutting various size triangles and creating mosaics to design his picture. He also learned to put each work on a clear glass background, which helps to preserve the work.

His talent is such that he has been designated a Juried Artist by the Artisans Center of Virginia. To be named a Juried Artist you must first send a picture of your work to the Center. If they are impressed they then ask for an actual piece of your work. Then the group votes on whether or not your talent justifies being named a Juried Artist.

As retirement approached, Frank and Diane began researching retirement communities up and down the East coast. Frank wanted to get away from yard work and all the tools and equipment associated with it, and they both wanted to be close to their children and grandchildren. They were surprised to discover the Four Seasons Community right here in "their backyard", so to speak, after having looked as far away as Florida. So in 2007, they purchased a home and became some of our original Four Seasons residents. Frank recalls coming out here on weekends from Manassas and watching the dirt loaders reshape what he calls "mounds of dirt" into our beautiful neighborhood.

Frank's workshop is in his basement where he keeps his supplies, frames, ideas, etc. He also has to keep a good supply of band aids and healing cream – one of the drawbacks of cutting glass. He has had several cuts, but so far nothing too serious. Frank enjoys mostly doing nature scenes. A finished piece of work can take anywhere from 10-30 hours, depending on the size. He is very particular about where he gets his supplies – recalling one instance when he decided to try some commercial grout. He had spent about 60 days on a picture of a horse and used the commercial grout. When he came back to see if it had dried, the picture was ruined. A hard lesson, but he now knows never to use anything but artist's grout.

Some of Frank's work is displayed at Mad Arts in Madison and The Pallet in Stanardsville. He also takes work on commission. But his dream is to someday have his own little shop in the area, where folks can come in and chat, have coffee, and enjoy art.

Frank also shares his time with the greater Greene County community. He recently served as a member of the County Planning Commission. And he is a charter member of the recently formed Greene County Artists Guild and is serving on its Board of Directors. The Guild is currently focused on raising money for the high school art program. They recently sponsored an "art crawl" to help fund the purchase of a kiln for the school. Frank's generosity and talent add a lot to our wonderful community.

Saturday, May 18



Thanking Those Who Serve

~ Community Social News ~



Martine Monaghan wears her passion on her wrist!

Sixth Annual Mah-Jongg Marathon

Tuesday, April 23

Story by Sandi Lashbrook



The Clubhouse card room was full of players.

What is the Mah Jongg Marathon? Maybe you saw it on the April calendar and wondered? We asked Sandi Lashbrook to educate us, and she responded with this interesting bit of history. Thanks, Sandi!

The Mah Jongg Marathon is neither a tournament, nor an endurance test, although it can feel like one by the end of the day. It's actually an annual celebration of the new National Mah Jongg League Card that arrives every year in April. This card shows the more than 50 tile patterns of 14 tiles needed to win the game. Having played a card for an entire year, players are always excited to play a new card with fresh challenges.

Marty and Lyn Cavanagh began our group in 2007. Lyn was our teacher, and with the help of three other experienced players (Marty, Eleanor Busa and Mary Stavisky) we began to play. When the 2008 Mah Jongg Card was issued our group decided to celebrate by playing Mah Jongg for an entire day. We have continued the tradition each year.

When the clubhouse opened, our group moved there and began playing and teaching new neighbors to play as the community grew. We play on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and welcome anyone who already plays Mah Jongg or those interested in learning to play.

Events Not to Be Missed—But We Missed Taking the Photos!

Even the best reporters sometimes forget to bring the photographer along. There were two good events this Spring for which we don't have a single photo. Bummer! But here is what we do know...

St. Patrick's Day Third Thirsty Thursday, March 21

This was the biggest TTT event ever! A record-breaking 93 folks signed up to attend. Owner/Chef Jerome Thalwitz of the Bavarian Chef catered the excellent dinner, included such traditional St. Paddy's Day fare as corned beef and cabbage. A very special dessert was prepared and served by members of the Social Advisory Group, consisting of Irish Coffee with whipped cream and Vanilla Ice Cream topped off with Crème de Menthe or choice of other toppings. Yummy! To complete this wonderful event, our local Four Seasons band (Joe Brennan, Sue Campbell, Doug Miller, Terry Pratt and Joe Tucker) played a set of Irish folk songs and ballads, complete with sing-alongs to "Molly Malone", "Danny Boy", "My Wild Irish Rose", and other Irish favorites.

This note was sent from **Sandy Cohen** and **Kay Crute**, the co-ordinators of this very successful event: *"A note to express our thanks to all who helped make the March TTT a successful community event (planning, decorating/set-up, scooping of ice cream, clean-up/laundry). It was great team work! Judging by last night's feedback, the food, dessert, entertainment and decorations were a great contribution."*

First Annual Spring Art Crawl, April 5

The optimistically-named "First Annual Spring Art Crawl" consisted of three open houses from 4-7 on the first Friday in April. Arline and Joe Brennan, Sue Stover, and Terry Pratt were the artists involved. Plus, as an additional attraction, Joe Tucker was pounding out the tunes and leading a sing-along at Terry's home. Lots of folks made the trek among the three houses on a fine Spring evening. Let's do it again next year!

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

(More information from the Social Committee forthcoming)

Memorial Day Indoor Block Party
Monday, May 27, 5-8 pm
At the Clubhouse

Clubhouse Patio Party
Thursday, June 20, 6-8 pm

~ Stories of Fires and Fireplugs ~

The Great Grass Fire Wednesday, April 17

Many acres of tall, dry grass, a stiff breeze, and a spark — that combustible combination led to a large grass fire in the undeveloped land in back of the houses on the lower end of Mistland Trail on April 17. At about 4:30 in the afternoon, Richard Wernig of Sunny Pond Landscaping noticed the smoke and flames and called 911. Several local volunteer fire departments responded quickly, including Ruckersville, Stanardsville, and Dyke. Quick work on their part brought the fire under control before any houses were endangered. It helped that the wind shifted and moved the fire parallel to the line of homes, rather than pushing it straight up the hill into the back yards where the tall grass was a mere 30 feet from some houses. About 10-15 acres were burned.

Open windows meant that some homeowners had smoke in their houses, and there was also some ash blowing around, but no direct fire damage. A close call!



Grass fire!



Three weeks later, the burned area has already started to green up, but the highly combustible dry grass remains near some Mistland Trail houses.



These things can really come in handy!

Have you noticed that all our community fire-plugs now have a new, shiny, bright red paint job. That contribution is due to resident **Phil DePoy**. Thanks Phil! We saw how useful these can be when the grass fire began. Good to have them as visible as possible.

~ Summertime in Downtown Charlottesville ~

Two Weekly Special Events — Fridays-After-Five and City Market



Fridays After Five is a wonderful weekly summer event on the Charlottesville downtown mall. Every Friday during the summer season, from 5:30-8:30pm, the Charlottesville

Pavilion, located at the East end of the downtown mall, hosts a FREE concert showcasing local and regional talent. Over 65,000 people attend Fridays After Five per season, making it a signature event of downtown Charlottesville. The 2013 season kicked off on April 19th. The line-up consists of central Virginia's favorite local bands performing in a wide variety of musical genres. The events are all free and a portion of the proceeds from the concession sales go to benefit a variety of local non-profits.

Beer and wine and a variety of foods are available at the concert, but leave room to stroll down the downtown mall after the concert and check out any of the dozens of great restaurants on or near the mall.

Charlottesville City Market is open for the season! It is located at Water Street and First Street, just a block off the downtown mall. The hours are 7am—noon on Saturday mornings. Lots of fresh fruits and vegetables

are available, as well as fresh flowers, baked goods, herbs, cheeses, crafts, doughnuts made on the spot, live music, and much more. You can find some of the best homemade tacos in the Charlottesville area, made right there at the market! And try the extraordinary “best key lime pie in the world” — Wow!

City Market runs every Saturday morning all through the summer. There is parking in the Water St. parking garage and on the streets nearby. Definitely worth a trip!



For more information or directions to either of these events, contact long-time local **Terry Pratt** (434-990-0533 or twpratt@aol.com). He tries to go almost every week.

~ **Did you guess who?** ~

From the last issue -



This little guy grew up to be???



Doug Miller

~ **Do you know who this is?** ~

Her name and current picture will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter!!



~ **Restaurant review** ~



Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar

For those of you who have a taste for fine Italian food, or simply love food in general, a new restaurant recently opened in Charlottesville. Located in The Shops at Stonefield, and next door to the Regal 14 movie theatre, the TRAVINIA Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar provides excellent food and beverage in a casual and contemporary American atmosphere.

The menu is extensive, offering a wide variety of appetizers, salads, soups, and entrees. The dishes we ordered that night were outstanding in taste and presentation. In addition to being pleasing to the palate you will also have food to take away. For those of you who prefer to have dessert first you will find an excellent dessert menu with choices for every taste.

The sparkling wines, ports, and cordials menu is equally impressive. Tuesday evening dining features 25% off all bottled wines. The wait staff was very friendly and had excellent command of the service they provide.

TRAVINIA is located at 2075 Bond Street. Their website is www.traviniaitaliankitchen.com at Charlottesville, or call 434-244-3315. Bon Appetit!

- review by Lon Bishop

~ **Dates to Remember** ~



Sunday, May 12



Monday, May 27



Sunday, June 16

~ *Make Your Ugly Utility Box Disappear?* ~

One thing we know for sure: those utility boxes in your front yard rate about a minus one on the beauty scale. What can you do to make them look a little better? Maybe you could shroud them in shrubs? Not so fast—it isn't quite that simple, because they may be ugly but they have a purpose. Here's what you should consider before you move forward with that plan, straight from the Modifications Committee:

“The Modifications Committee has established guidelines for planting around utility boxes. The limit is a 4 ft height on any planting. This maximum height includes the bloom or blossom of the plant. If an ornamental grass is used, it must be cut back each year so as not to create blind spots for traffic in and out of the resident's driveway, as well as for street traffic.

The boxes are the property of the various utility companies. The utility companies expect immediate and ready access to the boxes when necessary, and if any planting obstructs such access, the company may remove, cut back or destroy the planting. The companies are not liable for damages or replacement. Nor will the companies be responsible for any injury to the homeowner, homeowner's equipment, or any extra cost if the careless digging of a resident or a landscaper disrupts service to the home.

As with all landscape projects undertaken outside the private area of each lot, submit an application to the Modification Committee listing the plants you wish to use. Furthermore, the Committee reminds you to call Miss Utility (800-552-7001 x 811) to have them mark the utility lines before any digging. It is the owner's responsibility to see that this is done, not the landscaper, if the work is being done professionally.

Be sure to submit two copies of your application. A new streamlined application form will be coming soon. In the interim, please continue to use the current application. (Appendix B to the Design Guidelines.)”



They'll Always be Ugly, But at Least They Might Stand Up Straight!

Ever notice how many of the utility boxes suffer from a version of the “leans”. Few of them are truly straight up-and-down. Two of our residents, **Peter Bowles** and **Phil DePoy**, are working on a project to straighten them up. Go for it, guys!

New Sign for the Community Entrance



Harold Robbins installed the new sign at the entranceway to the community on Monday, April 15. The original sign to the community had to be replaced because it was knocked down when remnants of Hurricane Sandy came through the area last year. Thanks Harold!

~ **Classified Ads** ~

This section is for residents only and features any thing or service that you might want to sell or give away to other residents. Ads will be run for one issue of the newsletter and then removed. If you would like your ad to be run again, contact someone on the Communication's Team.

Free Notary Service. One day advance notice will be helpful. Email atrjs4p@virginia.edu or call **Rauzelle Smith** at 434-985-3395.

Alterations—slacks, coats, skirt hems, etc.

Betty Ray—434-985-8593. (Betty had her own dressmaking business for many years.)

Small Electrical Services. Call **Harold Robbins**, 434-985-7202.

*Classified Ads
Needed!*

Send us your ads!

**The Mountain Breeze
at Four Seasons Charlottesville**

Published bimonthly for the Four Seasons Charlottesville Community.

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First Day of Summer—June 21

Many thanks to those people who have submitted articles for the newsletter. If you do not see your article in this edition, we will try to include it in a later issue. The Communications Committee reserves the right to edit any article for length or clarity.

The deadline for the July /August issue is June 10

Send all submissions to

blueridgebreeze@gmail.com

Tell us about your recent trip!
Send pictures and details about your trip to
blueridgebreeze@gmail.com

**The Newsletter is published by the
Communications Committee**

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Phone Numbers to Remember

Club House — 434-990-2012

Emergency — 911

Greene County Sheriff's Office — 434-985-2222

Identity Theft Hotline — 877-438-4338

National Do Not Call Registry — 888-382-1222

Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia — 804-648-0016