

# The Mountain Breeze

## Four Seasons at Charlottesville Community Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 5

Sept/Oct 2013

### Congratulations to the 2013 -2014 Board of Directors



Mike Avery, Jim Wilson, Dave Katz  
Lil Russell-Nicolai, Sue Miller, Barbara Pavelle



Rick Smith

**Town Hall Meeting:** October 12 at 10:30 am  
**Board of Directors Meeting:** October 31 at 4:00 pm

## ~ Meet your New Neighbors: The Birchells ~

**Steve and Marguerite Birchell** moved to our community in the spring of this year from a beautiful farm in Barboursville. Their journey together began in Long Island, NY, where they were high school sweethearts. Marguerite fondly recalls their first date when they were both in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She says she got all “dolled up” in a new dress and heels only to find out Steve was taking them to a stock car race. Needless to say, she felt extremely over-dressed for the occasion. But that didn’t stop her from accepting another date, and their courtship quickly blossomed. They married soon after high school and have been together more than 54 years, raising three beautiful daughters. They now have 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Steve’s keen business sense has served him well over the years. He started out in the dry cleaning business, a venture that grew and lasted over 20 years. Marguerite remembers that at some point Steve began saying he was getting tired of the business and was thinking about making a “life style change”. A friend of his that had moved to New York from Virginia was always talking about how beautiful Virginia is. One day in the early 1970s, Steve was looking at a magazine and saw an ad for a farm for sale in Virginia. He was struck not only by the beauty but the price as well — being used to the real estate market in New York. So he decided to take a trip to Virginia and look around, accompanied by his Dad and one of their daughters. Steve recalls there weren’t a lot of lodging choices around Charlottesville so they stayed in the Boar’s Head Inn, noting that it looked a lot different than it does now. After looking at properties, he fell in love with a 185 acre horse farm in Barboursville with a pre-Civil War farm house. Marguerite remembers her reaction when he brought her to see it for the first time. As they came up the driveway and she saw the house she said “you can’t be serious!” The house was run-down and the main floor was very small. It only had one bedroom and that was upstairs. Steve was serious, however, and they ended up buying it.

In 1989, after approximately 10 years of coming down on weekends, they finally decided to sell their dry cleaning business and move to the farm. They completely renovated the house and added a large addition — more than doubling its size, but keeping the integrity of the original structure. They also put in a riding ring, barn, and several garages. By the time they moved here



in 1989 their three daughters had already married and settled in the area. Steve talked his parents into moving down and built them a home on their property.

Steve’s entrepreneurial spirit kicked in again, and he decided to venture into real estate. He purchased land on Route 29 in Ruckersville and eventually built the shopping center where the Post Office is, as well as the adjacent office building. When the property behind the shopping center became available, he purchased that and built the storage units.

Around 1990 he purchased more land and developed the Preddy Creek subdivision. Steve recalls one of the men working for him told him he was betting he wouldn’t sell a single home. Preddy Creek is now an established subdivision with 219 homes.

Marguerite says that they enjoyed wonderful times at their farm, having enough space for their large family to gather and create special memories. But eventually she knew it was time to downsize. They began looking at different properties around the Charlottesville area, and the first time they drove into Four Seasons she quickly fell in love with it. She says what a gem it is tucked in behind the congested 29/33 corridor. Also being able to find such a beautiful retirement community that was close to their friends and family made up her mind. Unfortunately, it took about two years to sell their farm and by that time there wasn’t anything for sale in here. They had a realtor watching out for them though, and as soon as they heard of the house they bought coming on the market (493 Four Seasons Dr) they looked at it and decided it was the one. They have made several changes to their home to accommodate their needs and Marguerite’s talent for decorating is seen throughout.

Around 2002 Steve discovered a hidden talent. Marguerite’s sister and brother-in-law gave Steve an art set for his birthday. Steve started painting and immediately fell in love with it. His beautiful work is displayed throughout their home. He set up his studio in his office in the front of their home and enjoys painting there.

Although Steve misses the farm (and being a car lover he really misses his garage space), he has settled in comfortably. Marguerite says she will miss all of their large family gatherings, but they are truly happy here. They have been warmly welcomed to the community and enjoy the social gatherings and activities available.

— story by Vera Reece

~ *Local Spot to Visit* ~

## The Paramount Theater is Charlottesville's "Crown Jewel"



As a young adult in the 50's I always enjoyed going to the movies...particularly Westerns...and finding a seat in the balcony. Today I serve as a volunteer usher at The Paramount Theater on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall where my regular assignment is ...you guessed it...the balcony.

When its doors first opened in 1931 the Paramount was an opulent movie theater. Today it serves a new role as a regional performing arts center. Located on the Downtown Mall (no cars, just trees and brick walkways) it offers the ultimate in entertainment...a large and visually stunning lobby, a relatively small (1100 seats) performing arts center, extremely comfortable seats, a sound system that is state of the art, and reasonable prices. And don't forget...the balcony!

- article by Vince Donnelly

### *Shows at the Paramount*

- 9/5 *Pink Martini*
- 9/14 *James Gregory*
- 9/25 *The Hungry Hungry Games*
- 9/26 *Terry Gross*
- 10/4 *Jeanne Robertson*
- 10/10 *"Raise the Roof" for Habitat for Humanity*
- 10/26 *Bill Jenkins & the Virginia Mountain Boys*



Check their website for times, prices & more information about these events and other events.

[www.theparamount.net](http://www.theparamount.net)

~ *Fall Festivals & Other Events* ~

### **Carter Mountain Orchard**

2013 Apple Harvest Celebration every weekend in October. Extended hours first 3 weekends: 8am to 7pm.

### **Drumheller's Orchard Apple Festival**

September 29, 9am to 5pm.  
1130 Drumheller Orchard Lane in Lovingston.  
434-263-5036

### **Oktoberfest at Blue Mountain Brewery**

September 29 thru October 16  
9519 Critzers Shop Road in Afton.

### **Graves Mountain Apple Harvest Festival**

Weekends of October 5/6, 12/13, and 19/20,  
10am to 4:30pm. Live bluegrass music and cloggers, arts & crafts, hay maze and hay mountain, hayrides, horseback rides, pick your own apples, and of course, Graves famous food!

Admission & parking is free.

[www.gravesmountain.com/events-calendar/apple-harvest](http://www.gravesmountain.com/events-calendar/apple-harvest)

### **Massanutten Fall Festival**

October 12, 11am to 5pm. Fall festival features over 60 arts & crafts vendors, live music, food vendors, chairlift rides, kid's activities, wine tasting. Tickets: \$5.00 in advance / \$10.00 at the gate.

[www.massresort.com/fallfest](http://www.massresort.com/fallfest)

### **Chincoteague Island Oyster Festival**

October 12, 10am to 4pm. All you can eat oysters prepared many different ways, crabs, hush puppies, clam chowder, hot dogs, french fries, salad bar, soft drinks, and live entertainment. Admission: \$40.

[www.chincoteagueoysterfestival.com](http://www.chincoteagueoysterfestival.com)

### **Mountain Magic in Fall (Buchanan)**

*Bluegrass, Antiques & Crafts Festival*

October 5, 10am to 5pm.

Mountain Magic in Fall celebrates the regions heritage through music, crafts, history & architecture. Features a full day of free live bluegrass performances held at Center Stage. 100 vendor spaces featuring antiques, crafts & food. Buchanan, VA

[www.townofbuchanan.com](http://www.townofbuchanan.com)



## ~ Landscaping & Grounds Committee Report ~

In the beginning the earth was barren...



And then there was beauty...



Thanks to those who helped to plant!

Helen Lodgen, Jim & Dianne Wilson, Jay Stover,  
John Normand, Jerry Besanson,  
Vibe & Jerry Weber & their grandson, Will Lash



*Another very special "Thank You!" to the people throughout the community who have volunteered their time (and money) to help keep our community beautiful.*

*Volunteers who:*

- *Cleared large weeds to allow access to a fire hydrant.*
- *Painted fire hydrants.*
- *Straightened utility boxes.*
- *Weeded and fed the common area around their homes.*
- *Drained out standing water from the fountain.*
- *Pulled weeds throughout the community.*

*And all the many other projects done!*

**THANK YOU!**  
*Landscaping & Grounds Committee*

The Landscaping & Grounds Committee  
is going to hold a

### **SILENT AUCTION**

at the Third Thursday Oktoberfest on October 17  
to raise money to purchase plants for the community.

Items to be auctioned will be on display all day on  
the 17th. Bids can be submitted throughout the day  
and the winners will be announced at the end of the  
evening.

## ~ Let's Go To The Islands! ~

### Vibe and Jerry Weber Vacation in Aruba

*Story by Dianne Wilson*

It started at the crack of dawn. A gathering of family members headed for the sunny south – very far south. A short flight to Atlanta, followed by a longer flight to the Lesser Antilles in the southern Caribbean Sea.

Destination: **Aruba**

*Vibe picks up the story in her own words:*

Jerry and I, with our daughter, son-in-law and their 4 children, plus Grandma Carter, enjoyed a week in paradise. Aruba is the place to swim in gorgeous pale blue water, read books, drink exotic drinks, do a little shopping, eat in excellent restaurants next to the lapping waves while the sun goes down, and meet friendly people.

We sat by the “Lazy River” watching iguanas zipping in and out of the bushes and people floating by on rafts. Eventually we joined the Lazy River crowd and found it so relaxing, it was hard to get out at the end of the day! We explored the small island (20 miles long), seeing the large tourist area, the capital, Oranjestad, shops with jew-



elry and clothes and anything you can think of, a large Valero refinery, cactus fields, and lots of aloe. Aloe is their main “industry” and is available in many forms of skin care products and soothing balms. But to me the white sand and aqua blue water are the most appealing in terms of natural beauty. Condors are common in the skies off of Aruba.

After shopping one day we stopped in an open air restaurant for lunch. Locals and tourists were there. There were three large portraits on the wall: Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and Hugo Chavez. Interesting. Aruba is a mere 20 miles from Venezuela.

We spent a day at “Baby Beach” on the far eastern tip of the island. This is a large family beach with a protected cove and an opportunity to snorkel. There were hundreds of colorful tropical fish – the types we buy here for our fish tanks! If you go to Aruba one day, be sure to bring dog biscuits, which are what the fish like to eat after they’ve been softened and crumbled into tiny pieces.

If you like an easy pace, sunshine and beautiful water, friendly people, a constant breeze and good food, we recommend Aruba.

## Help Build the Clubhouse DVD Library!

### *Are there DVDs cluttering your shelves at home?*

The Movie Committee plans to open a lending library of DVDs (movies, TV Shows, documentaries, etc.) in the Clubhouse. It will be housed in the Card Room. We are hoping to obtain donated DVDs from our residents. Alternatively, if you wish to “loan” rather than donate your DVDs to the new library, just place your name (a sticker would be great) on the cover.

We hope to operate the library on an honor system. There will be a sign-out sheet so we can have an idea of whom to call if a resident is looking for a particular DVD. Please bring your donations to the staff at the front desk and return the borrowed DVDs back to the Card Room.

Thanks in advance to all of you who participate.

HAPPY WATCHING!  
THE MOVIE COMMITTEE



## Want to Help Keep Our Community Beautiful?

The Landscaping and Grounds Committee has a list of useful tasks where they could really use some help. If you have some free time and would like to get involved, please contact **Vibe Weber** at 434-875-4110 or **Dianne Wilson** at 434-985-9285. Here are some opportunities currently on the list:

**Weeding** in the Fred Benzinger memorial lily garden behind the Clubhouse, in the flower beds in front of the Clubhouse, in the circle, or in the pocket park at the corner of Prestwood and Mistland.

**Spraying** for weed control in the mulched area or the grassy area along Greenecroft Blvd.

**Annual tree pruning** in all the common areas.

**Weed control** in the street gutters.

## ~ Tasty Treat ~



Baked  
Apple  
Chips

**Prep Time:** 5 minutes

**Cook Time:** 2 hours

**Keywords:** bake, snack, healthy, vegetarian, vegan, low-sodium, apples

**Ingredients:** apples/cinnamon

### Instructions:

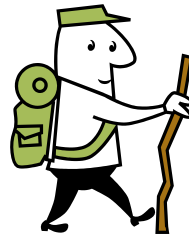
1. Core apples, if desired.
2. Slice apples as thinly as possible (I use a mandolin).
3. Place on a greased baking sheet (or use a silpat).
4. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
5. Bake at 225 degrees for one hour.
6. Flip apple slices over and bake for one hour more.
7. Transfer to a cooling rack and let cool completely.
8. Store in an airtight container.

A lot of people sprinkle these with sugar. Not necessary. They will be naturally sweet.



Recipe used by permission  
Lindsay Livingston—  
@LeanGrnBean

## ~ Hiking Event ~



### Monticello Trailblazers Sunrise Hike

Saturday, September 14  
5:45 am—7:30 am

This early morning trek begins at the Monticello Visitor Center and ends atop Montalto, Thomas Jefferson's first land acquisition, which stands 410 feet above Monticello Mountain. Once there, you will enjoy the sunrise, breathtaking views, light breakfast, and a warm cup of coffee.

This hike is short but has a substantial upgrade and is moderately difficult.

*Reservations required*

[Trailblazers@monticello.org](mailto:Trailblazers@monticello.org)



## ~ Dates to Remember ~

September 2—Labor Day  
September 8—Grandparents Day  
September 11—Patriot Day  
September 14—Yom Kippur  
September 22—Autumn Begins

October 14—Columbus Day  
October 31—Halloween



~ **Did you guess who?** ~

From the last issue -



This little girl grew up to be???



**Vibe Weber**

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

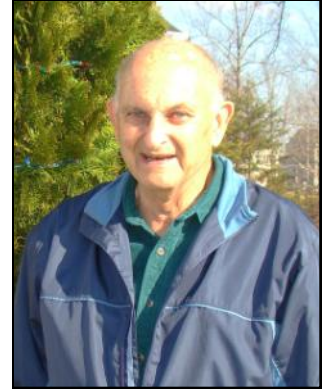
His name and current picture will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter!!



~ **Community News** ~

Congratulations to the 2013 "Mexican Train" Champion

**Orv Kiehn**



**Upcoming Community Social Events**

**September**

**Labor Day Block Party**

6:00 PM on Monday, September 2nd, at the corner of Stodghill Drive and Four Seasons Drive. No sign-up required.

**October**

**Oktoberfest Third Thursday**

October 17th, at 6:00 PM in the ballroom. Chef Jerome Thalwitz of the Bavarian Chef is catering the event. More info to follow.

**Please Try to Minimize the Time your Trash Containers are Outside**

*A reminder from the Covenants Committee*

Residents, please don't leave your trash containers on your driveway or on the side of your house between trash collection mornings. Covenant 10.17 outlines our agreement about this:

10.17 Trash Containers and Collection. ... In no event shall such containers be maintained so as to be visible from outside the principal structure on a Dwelling Unit unless they are being made available for collection and then only for the shortest time reasonably necessary to effect such collection. ...

The covenants exist for the mutual benefit of all residents. We respectfully request that residents adhere to them. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the Covenants Committee. Thanks for your help in making our community stay beautiful!

Arnie Silverman, *Chair*  
Eleanor Busa      Jerry Matross

Karen Orsini, *Secretary*  
Art Pavelle      Richard Pietrzak

## ~ A Wedding Story ~

### The Livingstons Travel to a Family Wedding in Honduras

On June 20th, **Keith & Kathy Livingston** and their son, Lee, boarded a flight bound for Tegucigalpa, Honduras to attend the wedding of their other son, Steve and Claudia Cecilia Gradiz Canales (better known as Ceci). The wedding took place on Saturday, June 22 at a mountain retreat a few miles from the capital city of Tegucigalpa. The retreat compound included a chapel and large banquet hall surrounded by tropical flowers. The cool mountain air made for a very pleasant location, and it was a beautiful sunny day even though this was the rainy season of the year.

The bride wore a beautiful white gown and carried a bouquet of white roses. The bridesmaids all wore matching azure blue dresses (Ceci's favorite color). The groomsmen wore dark suits and all wore matching azure blue neckties. The chapel and banquet hall were decorated with white roses with azure blue accents.

The vows were administered by Tom Gill, Steve's pastor from the Grace Community Church of Southern Maryland. An interpreter repeated the vows and message in Spanish as Pastor Gill conducted the ceremony. One hundred and twenty friends and relatives of Steve and Ceci attended the wedding ceremony and reception that immediately followed.

Steve and Ceci first met when both were teaching at the World Gospel Outreach Orphanage School located in the mountains approximately fifteen miles from the city. But at that time they were barely friends, as Steve was extremely busy with being a house parent for seven orphan boys ranging in age from seven to twelve, in an orphanage home known as "The House of Timothy". Some of these young men now call Steve, "Dad".

Fast forward several years. Steve is now involved with finding jobs, counseling, and leading Bible studies for these young men who have now all graduated from the orphanage High School and who must now become self-reliant. This is where Ceci comes into Steve's life again. Since she has a degree in psychology and is the counselor for the children at the orphanage, she begins to assist Steve with counseling the boys from "The House of Timothy".

They fell in love and on Christmas Eve, 2012, Steve asked Ceci's mom and dad for her hand in marriage. For many years Keith and Kathy had prayed that Steve would find a helpmate. God had answered their prayers in His time.

The beautiful couple spent their honeymoon on Roatan, an island off the coast of Honduras and visited Ruinas De Copan on their return to Tegucigalpa. Then on July 2nd they came back for a two week visit in the U.S. Their one day in Washington was enjoyed at the National Gallery of Art, Ceci's choice.



On July 6th, Steve's church in Maryland honored the couple with an abbreviated wedding service and reception. This event was attended by the Maryland church families and many of Steve's friends, including his best friends from college and their families. Steve was the last in his group of college friends to get married. This was an informal and fun time as all had an opportunity to tell stories about their experiences with Steve.

Then on July 7th, the couple was honored once more with a dinner at the Four Seasons Clubhouse. This event gave Keith & Kathy's church family and friends an opportunity to meet Steve's new bride. Steve and Ceci returned to Honduras on July 16th. Ceci will continue as counselor at the orphanage and Steve will begin a new teaching assignment at a private Christian High School in Tegucigalpa.

Please pray for them as they continue to grow their Christian witness and support the orphans and these young men just starting their independent lives.

— article by Keith Livingston

#### Wildlife in Four Seasons



Dave Katz took this picture of a family of three deer feeding in his back yard!



## ~ 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 Communications Team.*

**For Sale.** Hunter Douglas white woven shades for the sunroom slider. Two panels that have strings for pulling shades up (bottom up only). Short valance included. Left: width 39 x 81 3/4 Right: 37 1/8 x 81 3/4. The shades do cover the molding around the slider. Original price: \$740.00 for both. Asking \$400.00. Call **Harriett Bishop** at 410-979-1547 or 410-979-1585.

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

**Experienced Seamstress.** Simple alterations, pants and skirt hems. Outstanding workmanship. Call **Betty Ray**—434-985-8593; 23 John Rucker Drive. (Betty owned 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.*

*Any fact, opinion, or information expressed in an article is that of the author and not of Four Seasons at Charlottesville Community Association, Inc. The representations, opinions, facts, or information set forth in the articles are not binding on the Association nor are the views and opinions expressed in the articles the views or opinions of the Four Seasons Community Association. This publication is provided for information purposes only.*

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 November /December issue is  
October 15**

Send all submissions to

[blueridgebreeze@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgebreeze@gmail.com)

## The Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee

Larry Miller, *chairman*

Dianne Wilson, *newsletter editor*

Terry Pratt Vera Reece

Arnie Silverman Coleen Sizer

Don Brady



## 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**