



Letter from our Board President



Hello Neighbors:

A couple of items that concern our community:

BOARD ELECTIONS: The Nomination & Elections Committee is currently preparing for our upcoming HOA Board elections for three Board openings. The three current board members whose terms are ending in September 2016, Doug Miller, Mary Ann Mongillo and myself, have all indicated that we are not going to seek reelection; therefore, our community is going to need at least three residents to “step up” and self nominate to fill these three board positions.

I have heard a lot of excuses from many of you over the past several years as to why you don't want to be on the Board, but let me tell you, while being a board member does take some extra time, most of the decisions faced by the

Board have not been that difficult. I know that this community has many talented and qualified people with the wherewithal to add value to the Board, so please take some time to consider running for the Board. **Our community needs your help.**

LANDSCAPING: As a heads up, the Landscape & Grounds Committee, with the concurrence of the Board, is currently formulating a policy in conjunction with the Four Seasons Design Guidelines, II, paragraph C.1, concerning landscaping on the Common Areas. This community has many residents that give their time to help maintain the Common Areas and this policy is in no way meant to regulate this help, but only to insure that plantings in the Common Areas are coordinated and approved by the Landscape & Grounds Committee. Two of the main issues are to insure that shrubs planted in the Common Areas are low maintenance and that they do not interfere with the mowing of the Common Areas.

Regards,

John Normand, President
Four Seasons at Charlottesville Community
Association

Welcome The Wienkes!

A big Four Seasons welcome goes to Jim and Marilyn Wienke who have moved here from Blacksburg, VA. Jim hails from Quincy, IL and Marilyn was born in Burlington, WI. Jim was a general surgeon and today enjoys operating in his garden. Marilyn was a secretary and likes to do crafts and engage in Bible studies. The Wienkes have been married for 48 years and have four children and 11 grandchildren.



Let's Talk About Space at Shenandoah National Park!

Want to learn about the night sky? Join our very own Greg Redfern, NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador, for engaging presentations about outer space.

“Under the Stars at Shenandoah National Park”—if the sky is clear after the presentation, guests will move outdoors to see the night sky in all its glory while listening to sky lore and fascinating sky facts!

Presentations are held select dates at Skyland and Big Meadows Lodge. Free to all park visitors. Program start time varies based on sunset. A jacket is recommended and a flashlight is helpful.

Reservations are encouraged as space is limited and often fills quickly. Call 877-847-1919.

The schedule can be found here <http://www.goshenandoah.com/activities-events/astronomy>. See you there!

Writer's Group Goes to Class

Writers are always looking for ways to improve their craft, and the members of the Four Seasons Writer's Group are no exception. The group, which meets twice a month, has been watching a series of 24 DVDs entitled: *Analysis & Critique—How to Engage and Write About Anything*. Purdue University professor, Dorsey Armstrong, PhD, mentors the program, offered through The Great Courses.



Our group is studying specific writing samples to learn what makes for effective writing; learn how to organize, present, support, and end an effective—and persuasive—thought; explore effective writing across different genres, including poetry, drama, and autobiography; learn how to implement ethos and pathos in powerful speeches and memorable resumes; revisit (or learn about) common errors in grammar and spelling so they can write more effectively; and dive into the basics of using drafts, editing, and rewriting to create a polished final product.

The group is open to anyone who enjoys the creative process of writing covering all genres. We're always looking for new members, so if you're a closet novelist, an avid journal keeper, a poet, a published author, or just enjoy the writing process no matter what genre, join us! Watch for the monthly calendar for dates and times of our meetings, or call Chris Sauter.

SUPPORT THE TROOPS & WOUNDED WARRIORS *IT'S WHAT WE DO!*

By Marty Cavanagh

For the past eight years I've been heading up the above program with the Support of Shepard of the Hills Catholic Church and the Four Seasons community. We conduct a Care Package Campaign, raffles and collect monetary donations for our Troops and Wounded Warriors.

For the record ~ the Knights of Columbus who is our sponsor does not have any official or unofficial contact with the National Wounded Warrior Program. Our donations for Wounded Warriors go to Salem Veterans Hospital in Salem, VA and Bethesda Veterans Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

We would like to expand our project to our fellow residents of Greene County. I'm an Army Veteran and a retired Department of Defense civilian; every member of my family has always been committed to community service.

Our new slogan is called "THE BLUE BUCKET BRIGADE" and BB's will soon be placed at the following establishments whose purpose will be to collect the Care Package items that you all are asked to purchase in Support of our Military:

Blue Ridge Café; Tractor Supply, Vietnam Museum (Memorial Weekend) and Wal-Mart.

We have permission to set up a table at Wal-Mart handing out item lists for the Sundays in May (May 8, 15, 22 & 29) leading up to and in remembrance of our deceased military, Memorial Day the 30th.

We need your help to man/women the table on these dates. We need three people for each two-hour shift, starting at 10:00 a.m., with our last shift ending at 4:00 p.m. So that's nine people each Sunday in May.

Won't you please give us a few hours of your time - an opportunity to show your patriotic pride - for your county - for your country?



We also will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Hawaiian Lap Quilt made by my sister-in-law Bette in Honolulu 1 for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00, with the drawing to be in front of Wal-Mart Memorial Day afternoon.

Let's show our neighboring counties that Greene County cares about our military men and women who put their lives on the line every day and for those that are wounded and recovering. I had a premonition on a Sunday morning at 5:00 a.m. while lying in bed. I believe it came from the Man Upstairs. All the Greene County Welcome signs had the following "HOME OF THE BLUE BUCKET BRIGADE."

Please pick a day and time and contact me via email or phone.

Thank you and thank you to our Troops! God Bless America!!!

Marty Cavanagh

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Brooke Frautschi
Written by Hazel L. Sykes

It's a joy to describe someone who led such a meaningful life.
Someone who was a devoted step-mother, grandmother, and wife.
Someone who fought for truth and was a defender of fair.
Someone who handled challenging issues with the utmost care.

That someone was Brooke---I've written as if she were still here,
for I know deep in my heart the essence of her is near.
Brooke Frautschi, you were a very special lady indeed,
caring, loving, and unwavering when you saw a need.

You were intelligent, wise, determined, and oh so strong,
when you tried to warn others where we were going wrong.
You were never a follower; you always took the lead,
giving others food for thought, at least planting the seed.

I can still see you enjoying the things you used to do,
interests that widely varied and seemed tailor-made for you.
Painting colorful pictures while wearing a satisfied smile.
Doing your own thing, not conforming to only one style.

Working hard in your garden planting, mulching, and weeding.
Passionately writing children's books and forever reading.
You protected our environment and all things that grow.
You were an advocate for clean air and pure waters that flow.

You and Dick loved to travel to states and countries near and far.
When making short trips to the cabin, you'd just pack up the car.
You preferred the leisurely motion and comforts of a train,
but for long distances, you had no problem hopping a plane.

Earthy, gutsy, knowledgeable, adventurous and kind,
a person with qualities such as these is a rare find.
Yes, you were uniquely special in so many ways.

I will remember you, *dear friend*, for the rest of my days.

How to Attract Hummingbirds

By Joe Brennan

A couple of years ago I snapped these two pictures of a hummingbird from the deck of my house in Damariscotta, Maine.



We had been watching them on and off for several years, and had always enjoyed their antics. We have seen them guarding the feeding station, and chasing away any other hummingbirds.

We watched many times as two of three of them made giant U-shaped swoops in the sky, 30 or 40 feet high, over and over and over. We saw them flit rapidly from feeder to feeder, their magic wings making little blurs. We could easily differentiate the males, with their showy chest feathers.

By the way, do you know why hummingbirds hum? They forget the words.

We learned how to attract and feed them, and it very simple and easy to do:

FEEDERS: Over the years we tried several kinds of feeders, and we found that the one seen in the pictures is the best. It is easy to clean and it is inexpensive. We bought ours at Wal-Mart. We hung three feeders, about ten feet apart.

ATTRACTING: The hummingbirds can't resist bright flowers, especially red or pink.

FOOD: One half of a cup of white sugar dissolved in two cups of hot water makes an attractive and nutritious lure. Food coloring is not necessary, and is probably harmful. Simply have some red in the feeder, as in the photos.

WHERE: A low hanging limb on a nearby tree is a good place, especially if you can see the feeder from your deck or inside your house. The little birds don't mind if you watch them from fairly close-up. Feeders can also be attached to decks, and even to windows.

HOW OFTEN: The food should be renewed twice a week. Each time you change the food you should also wash out the inside carefully. This prevents the buildup of **BLACK MOLD**, which can be very harmful to hummingbirds.

WHEN: Enjoy feeding and watching these tiny and beautiful birds from early spring to autumn.

Have a great hummingbird season!

Joe and Arline Brennan

Our Beautiful Four Seasons!

Thanks to Dave Katz for these gorgeous spring photos taken in our community!



Farewell from the Bishops

Ecclesiastic's 3:1 states, *"There is an appointed time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*



We know there was a reason for our six year 'season' here in the Four Season's Community. We don't know why, but do know that we have enjoyed our "retirement vacation" in this community.

We will miss much about living in Virginia and will miss each one of YOU, especially those who have become so very "special" to us.



We will be returning to Maryland and will be residing at Carroll Lutheran Village.

Our new address as of May 13, 2016, will be:
205 St. Mark Way, Apt. 429
Westminster, MD 21158

If you are ever in our area, please call us. We would enjoy connecting with you again.

Fondly,

Lon & Harriet Bishop

P.S. Harriet recently saw a quote from one of A.A.Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* books and we recognize how much it applies to our feelings about leaving Four Seasons. Can you just hear Pooh saying this? "How lucky to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

The Swan as a Metaphor of Life

One of the many blessings of living on the lake is the endless entertainment provided by the variety of wildlife that come and go throughout the seasons. Of course, our most treasured resident is our beautiful swan. While we generally only see one, we have seen up to three in close proximity of each other—but that is rare.

So what is it about swans that we revere so much? Certainly it's their beauty; their pristine coloring; their long and graceful neck; the way they peacefully glide across the water is calming. It is nature at her best.

Throughout history, swans are often a symbol of love or fidelity because of their long-lasting, monogamous relationships. In [Hinduism](#), swans are compared to saintly persons whose chief characteristic is to be in the world without getting attached to it, just as a swan's feather does not get wet although it is in water.

But probably the best-known story of the swan is one of my favorite fairytales, Hans Christian Anderson's, "The Ugly Duckling," a story about personal transformation and self-image. The duckling's struggle comes from the treatment he receives from others, but also from the fact that he simply accepts their perception of him and doesn't realize until he gets a good look at himself how truly beautiful and wonderful he is. While he transforms into a beautiful swan on the outside, the real transformation occurs inside him; only when he finds a group who accepts him at face value does he have the courage to examine his own reflection. The moral of the story teaches us to accept one another no matter how different we might appear.

I thought about that story as I observed the behavior of our Lake Rucker swan. As beautiful and as graceful as he may be on the outside, if you watch him for any length of time, you see a totally different side to him. He's not much more than a bully, as evidenced by the way he doggedly and aggressively

pursues any other swan that attempts to share the lake with him.

One day I watched him relentlessly chase another swan from one end of the lake to the other. With his hissing and busking, in full threat display, his neck curled back and his wings half-raised, feathers all stretched out in defensive, aggressive mode, he quickly swam behind the visiting swan, pushing him down the center of the lake, until his prey turned around and flew to the other end of the lake. Then our swan would high tail it to the other side and start the chase again. Back and forth, back and forth, this went on all day until around sunset, when the beleaguered and exhausted visitor set flight, circled around the lake one more time in a sad farewell, and then headed off to what I hoped would be friendlier pastures.

Now I know that habitats with abundant food and with suitable nesting sites like our lake may be highly fought over, although this was not done during nesting season and there wasn't a mate to fight over either, so I am not sure what triggered the aggression. But watching this unfold throughout the day, I couldn't help but think—how could something so beautiful, something that symbolized peace, calm and love, be so downright mean? I knew our community at large would benefit from the presence of multiple swans on the lake and I found myself softly asking our swan—"Why can't you just get along? Why can't you be welcoming and embrace each other? You may become friends, or lifelong mates. There's enough here for everyone. Be accepting."

And then I realized— isn't this a metaphor for life in general? Can you really judge someone by the way they look? After all, bullies come in all ages, all sizes, and in all forms of dress.

Thinking about the swan and the world at large and of the problems we are facing here and now, it dawned on me that we could ask each other the same questions I asked the swan. "Why can't we just get along? Why can't we be welcoming and embrace each other? We could become friends. There's certainly enough on the planet for everyone. Be accepting."

.....Continued next page

Swan as a Metaphor, continued

The swan's behavior won't change. It's inherent in his nature and he is simply being who he is. But people can change. Like the Ugly Duckling, we can look at our reflection and see the beauty that is within each of us and learn the important lessons about acceptance and kindness towards others.

Thank you, Mr. or Ms. Swan, for imparting that lesson.

Joanne Lattiak

Guess Who?



In our last newsletter, we ran a photo of this darling little boy and asked you to guess who it was.

Once again, no one guessed!! Here's the answer.



It's none other than Larry Baker!!

Welcome Birds of Spring!

Have you been watching the delightful Robins this spring? There is an arrogance to their stance, and an annoyance for humans, I wonder why? The Robins are a joy to watch, but sometimes can be very skittish.

I've watched a Robin build her nest in a pine tree outside my kitchen window. The mother sat on the nest, while the father flew around sometimes to guard off predators. That means they work together. Hmmm, what a concept!



Imagine, she was never trained to be an engineer, and she built this beautiful, symmetrical nest. The nest contained four small, perfectly shaped, aqua colored eggs.



For weeks, I have watched the mother as she sat on the nest waiting for her little ones to emerge. My kitty Trinity watched as well. Don't worry! She's an indoor cat so she can only peek through the window. I could hardly contain myself, as I patiently waited for the Robin family to emerge.



Wow, 13 days later and 2 are here with just enough sun to take a picture. The wonders of nature on Mistland Trail! What's in your yard?

---Lucille Smith

The Landscaping & Ground Committee collected \$109.86 from donations from residents who put money in this jar in the club house! The jar is gone now but THANK YOU!

The money will be used to buy flowers for the community,



Reminder! **Reminder to all residents—Flowers, shrubs even the dirt in the common areas are not for the use by residents for their own property!**

per Section II.C.1 of the Design Guidelines: *"No Home Owner or resident may mow, fertilize, apply pesticides to, maintain, alter or modify any area not owned by the Home Owner, including areas set aside as open space or preserve."*

“THANK YOU” to the many volunteers throughout the community who spend time weeding, picking up dead branches, painting the fire hydrants, those who involved with the water advisory group and all the many other projects to help out the Landscaping Committee.

“THANK YOU” to the recent ‘Anonymous Donor’ who gave the committee a donation to help out with plantings to make our community beautiful for the summer months.



Notes of Interest—

The dead pine tree in the Fountain Park will be coming down soon.

Flower pots with summer flowers will be put at the entrance of the community in front of the closed gates



Hanging baskets with flowers will be placed on either side of the entrance to the club house.

Watch for other projects and enjoy the beauty of summer throughout the Four Seasons Community!

Craft Club Proudly Displays its April Project! Decoupage Plates!



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

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