



# GOOD NEWS MEMO

May/June 2015 Issue

## Message from the Board



### From the Chair Gary Jordan

Friends and Neighbors, thank you for your participation in electing our first ever resident elected HOA board! I am also honored and humbled to have been elected to serve as your President.

I sincerely appreciate all of your emails and comments. I equally appreciate your opinions and suggestions on ways to improve our community. Please never hesitate to contact any of your board members.

Your board is committed to doing our best to maintain and/or improve our property values while keeping our cost lean and operating within our budget.

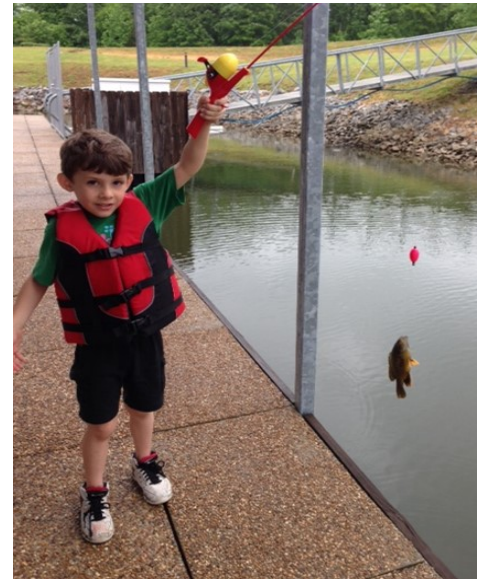
We have held two open board meetings with good resident attendance. We have chartered 6 committees with resident members to help us facilitate some of the work that needs to be done.

Other items to note are:

- Vending machines have been placed in the vending room. Soon you will be able to purchase bagged ice.
- We will be updating the elevator floors with a more durable material
- Repairs have been approved for the Lobby floors
- "Sun deck" material has been approved to use on the terraces, additional info coming shortly.
- We will be adding lighting at the back door.
- We plan to begin enforcing existing rules and releasing new rules to ensure we maintain a harmonious community.
- And last but not least you have our first Board sponsored Newsletter!

We have a huge list of other tasks that we are chipping away at. Together we can and will have a Great Community!

Thank you,  
Gary Jordan



## Remember that First Fish??

By: Carol Yost

If you think back to the first fish you ever caught, there are certain things that stick with you. I remember that I REALLY didn't want to touch that worm; that it took FOREVER to catch a fish, and I REALLY didn't want to take that fish off the hook. What I am sure of is that my grin was just as big as this young man's (Davin Brandt) and I was just as proud! The proudest grin of all was actually Grandpa Gading who took the photo.

Welcome to the first edition of the *Braxton Good News Memo*. We will be looking for input from all of our residents on what you would like to see in our newsletter. If you would like to write an article, reach out to other residents who may have similar interests, or would like to start a regular meeting or game of any kind, let one of us on the committee know. By having the ability to reach each and every resident, our special events, parties, and other information will touch us all. We will get that information out for you.

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## Shuffle Up and Deal

By: John McAdams

Texas Hold 'em: Monday Nights 7-9:30 pm (See Nextdoor for any time changes).

Texas hold 'em is a variation of the standard card game of poker. Two cards (hole cards) are dealt face down to each player and then five community cards are placed face-up by the dealer—a series of three ("the flop") then an additional single card ("the turn" or "fourth") and another additional card ("the river" or "fifth street"). The best five card poker hand is obtained by taking cards from either the community or their hole cards.

Players have the option to check, bet, raise or fold after each deal; i.e., betting may occur prior to the flop, "on the flop", "on the turn", and "on the river".



Usually the minimum bet is \$0.50 and each round is limited to a total of \$1 or \$2 decided at the beginning of the game. At that, most play with an initial \$10 buy-in of chips for the 2-3 hours we play. The goal is to enjoy a card game with friends and neighbors. If your goal is to make money then this is not your card game. On the contrary, you won't be winning a lot either.

It's real easy and fun to play. If you want to try it out come down to the game room at 7 o'clock on Monday nights and we'll play a few hands with nickels and dimes so you can get a feel for it.

## Spanish Only Lunch, Cocktail Hour or Whatever

By: Frankie Cowen

During one of my employment stints several of my colleagues spoke Spanish and we would have a Spanish only lunch about once a week or so. Being monolingual wasn't all that much fun when I was in Argentina, so I dredged up a few phrases from high school Spanish and people were so receptive to helping me that it turned out better than I expected. Thus, the idea of a Spanish only brown bag lunch or cocktail hour at the Braxton came to me when I began seeing Patricia Santiago's frequent Spanish FaceBook postings. About 15 people responded with interest to the Next Door Neighbor posting regarding the idea. Also, there are two friends who live here who spent a number of years in Guatemala that I will try to recruit to help those of us who need help. Stay tuned and let's not die being monolingual.

## Getting Physical



By: Diane Skelton

Getting physical.....some can do it on their own while others need help in starting an exercise routine.

A dozen or so of the Braxton community have been getting this extra help and support from a personal trainer here in our workout rooms.

Ben Brinkley is a personal trainer at One Goal Fitness in Ashland City. He will do one-on-one training at \$40 per hour or just \$20 per hour if working with more than two people, here at the Braxton. We have classes scheduled at the Braxton on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Thursdays at 10:30 AM and Saturdays at 2:00 PM. There are usually 2 to 4 that show up for each class and a few of the men have been meeting Ben at One Goal Fitness for one-on-one training sessions. We work hard but have lots of laughs. Contact info for Ben is:

615-587-1649 or  
COACHBRINKLEY1@gmail.com

## Who is on My Bluff?

By: Carol Yost

Ever since I moved in last Thanksgiving I have noticed people standing on the smaller of the two bluffs across the Cumberland River. My first thought was how did they get there, and why were they there?

Nosey person that I am, it began to make me crazy...two people today, three yesterday? And, although you will find I am certainly no computer guru, I have found that Google will find anything you want to know as long as you are a patient person.

What I discovered is that my bluff (by now I have adopted it as mine!) is named Sydney's Bluff and is supposedly named after a girl who jumped to her death trying to escape from hostile Indians.

I also found that it is a popular spot for rock climbers (that would explain why I have seen so many people in what I considered an unusual spot). There are evidently various levels for beginning and experienced rock climbers. My bluff has become one of my favorite views!



## Tired of Watching Television??

By: Carol Yost

Why not join us for a game of Hand and Foot every Thursday at 1:00pm in the media room? Hand and Foot is a variation of Canasta and we manage to have a fun time, win or loose! If you have never played, let us know and we will get a copy of the rules to you. We will also be happy to have a "learn to play" class...just let us know. Call or email us for info.

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## BRAXTON GOTHIC

By: Phil Leftwich



*Linda and Randy in the garden*

“Take a pinch of this dirt,” my grandfather Oscar said. He had scooped a handful of newly tilled soil from his garden and thoughtfully handed me some as though it were a hallowed offering.

“Now smell it,” he said. “Smell it good.”

I did as any five-year old boy would do. I held the loose, dark soil in my hand and brought it up to my nose obeying my grandfather’s wishes.

“Now,” he went on, “take a pinch and put it in your mouth. What does it taste like?”

“Eat dirt?” I quickly replied.

“Yep! Let it roll around on your tongue.”

Again, I obeyed, but not without a frown. The dirt smelled rich and pungent. To my surprise it tasted sweet. When it appeared I was about to spit it out Grandpa interrupted.

“No you swallow that,” he told me. “A little dirt never hurt nobody?”

This was my first lesson about gardening of many more that would follow.

Some people love the soil. They are seduced by the land

and its sights and sounds and smells and tastes, but even how it feels in their hands, or with the handle of a hoe as it chisels out rows for planting.

Randy Smith is such a man who finds peace and the warmth of the sun in his garden across the river nestled in beside Lee Batson’s soybeans. It’s a “loaner” piece of rich soil that measures about 80’/80’, a respectable size for tilling, planting, and weeding with some sweat equity added. But Randy grew up in the middle of farms and farmers in White Church, Missouri, “Population 58.” So small, he says that the folks living there had to “take turns being the town drunk.” Some people seem born and raised with a hoe in their hands. Randy is one of those.

Linda Raices, the prettier half of the pictorial tribute to the Grant Woods painting, *American Gothic*, has also learned her way around the furrows and mounds by adding her unique style with touches of blossoming flowers—zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers at the garden’s edges, and a host of new seeds to try out as they begin sprouting in the cups holding them with tender care. Linda and Randy find their smiles for this picture which is far more kin to their usual happy laughter and easy contentment with their life together.

Linda hails from the “Show Me” state, as well, growing up in Aurora, population 4,000 to 6,000 depending on who’s doing the counting. She’s a “big city” sort of girl who seems taken to lending her hand with gardening chores. She and Randy are as well matched for gardening together, as they are at being a couple. But, then, gardening and being best friends and mates seem to go well together as they brighten our Braxton hallways with the friendly hellos and laughter. They have a great idea for a “canning day” in the entertainment center as their tomatoes ripen for those who want to revisit dearly held memories, or learn a new avocation.

In the meanwhile they gently tend their garden without the belabored dourness of the Wood’s painting, but with their happy smiles.

Richard Goodman, a writer and storyteller, speaks of his experience as a first time gardener. He writes: “I didn’t need anything. I slowly moved down a row, attending to each plant thoroughly, pushing my shovel in . . . getting the backs of my hands dirty, sweating, wiping the drops from my eyes. Working. I was there for one simple reason: to help make things grow.”

Randy and Linda would agree.

## Cheatham Lake Lock and Powerhouse Tour

By: Carol Yost

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is offering the public free guided tours which are approximately one hour long and will be available on June 27, July 18 and August 8th. Tours will start at 9am and 11 am.

Participants will receive guided access to the lock, across the dam and inside the power plant where they can view the lock and the generators. Tour size is limited and is on a first-come basis.

You must have reservations and you can contact Bill Peoples or Lee Roberts at [615-736-7161](tel:615-736-7161). Registered tours will check in at the Right Bank Recreation Area located at 1798 Cheatham Dam Road in Ashland City.

All guests, including minors, are required to submit a request form at least five days prior to the tour and receive an email confirmation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Their email address is [chief.public-affairs@usace.army.mil](mailto:chief.public-affairs@usace.army.mil)

Tour details require arriving 15 minutes prior to tour. All facilities are Ada accessible. Only visitors with confirmation will be permitted and must have identification if 16 years or older. No cameras of any kind are permitted. No high heels, open toe shoes, or bare feet are allowed. Tennis shoes are recommended. All children under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an adult. Any increase in threat conditions can result in tours being cancelled.

This should be an interesting tour for all ages

## Happy Hour at The Braxton

By: Chonda Pierce

I hadn't been at the Braxton long when someone grabbed me in front of the mailboxes and said, "Don't miss Happy Hour!" I thought, "Here? I never saw a Pub moving in." For me, I've never been one for the bar scene. At first, it was because – it's embarrassing for your Mom to show up and drag you home when you're 21! Later, I came to notice it was simply not for me. But Happy Hour has been around for centuries and it is alive and well at The Braxton!

William Shakespeare mentioned Happy Hour in 1599 writing, "Therefore, my lords, omit no happy hour that may give furtherance to our expedition..." Some believe Happy Hour originated because of prohibition. Another possible origin of the term came from a group of home-

makers in the early 1800s called the Happy Hour Social Club – where women would gather a couple of times a week and smoke! By June in 1913, the crew of the USS Arkansas started referring to the title not just for smokers but for short intervals of entertainment that included, dancing, boxing and wrestling. By the end of WWI, the practice of holding Happy Hours had spread across land and sea thanks to the United States Navy!

I quickly learned that Happy Hour at the Braxton is not about what's in the glass - it's about the folks seated at the table. I also quickly learned that few topics are off limits! It's a great place to catch up on the latest gossip, discuss the weather and simply sit and sip and... well... be happy!

Maybe ole William Shakespeare was correct: It just might further your expedition. Boxing however, is optional!



# SEE YOU AROUND



Kara Mia

