

A black bear cub is the central focus of the cover, standing in a natural, outdoor setting. The ground is covered with a thick layer of dry, brown leaves and twigs, suggesting an autumn or winter environment. The bear's fur is dark and appears slightly matted. The background is a soft-focus field of similar ground cover.

the ECHO

MAY 2026
COVER: TIM ROOKER

A BENT TREE
PUBLICATION



When you can't tell
who has dentures, implants
or natural teeth,
we've done our job!



GENERAL • COSMETIC • IMPLANTS
IRELAND
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Dr. Michelle F. Ireland
310 Gilmer Ferry Road, Suite 200
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Dentures • Implants
Partials • Bridges
Veneers • Crowns • Fillings
X-Rays • Cleanings
Extractions • Emergencies



OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
7:30am - 4:30pm
Lunch: 12pm to 1pm

**About
DR.
MICHELLE F.
IRELAND**



For over 20 years, Dr. Michelle F. Ireland has perfected the smiles of thousands of patients. Dr. Ireland graduated with her Doctorate of Medicine in Dentistry (D.M.D.) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 1994 and became licensed to practice as a general dentist. Upon graduation, she completed additional educational requirements and specialized training at the UAB School of Dentistry to become a prosthodontist.

Dr. Ireland has served as a professor at UAB School of Dentistry in the Department of Prosthodontics, where she enjoyed teaching crown and bridge prosthodontics and

removable prosthodontics with an emphasis on esthetics, occlusion, and implant restoration.

Over the years, Dr. Ireland has counseled former students, general dentists and their patients, and continues to receive extensive training in the field of dentistry and prosthodontics. Dr. Ireland has built a reputation as a caring, compassionate, and competent dental practitioner. Her additional expertise is a blessing and is evident in the way patients are accepting of her recommendations.



“Dredging Project Details”

By Jim Pryor, General Manager

In Echo January 2026, my article talked about why dredging Lake Tamarack is important for the recreational health of the lake and all the planning steps leading up to our project. At that time, I knew funds were approved in the budget to complete the project in 2026, but did not know the exact details of the project. I would like to use this article to take this opportunity to communicate the details with the community.

In February 2026, the Board of Directors approved a standard State of Georgia construction contract with Piedmont Dredging, whose business is located in Watkinsville, Georgia. Out of 17 dredging companies in Georgia, only 2 expressed interest in our project, and the 2 proposals gave us very different approaches to dredging. Piedmont Dredging provided us with what I believe is an ideal approach, meaning they offer the equipment and expertise where the spoils are excavated and disposed of in an efficient manner, instead of a barge process where large piles of dirt are sitting next to the lake waiting to dry for long periods of time.

Piedmont Dredging uses a process called “hydraulic dredging”. They will have a vessel in the lake that looks like a pontoon boat featuring an underwater suction pump. This hydraulic pump will pull the soil off the bottom of the lake, combining it with water which will make a “muddy slurry”. This slurry allows easy transport through pipelines leading to a large processing machine. This machine will de-water the slurry and then send the soil through a drying process. Once dry, the soil will be loaded from the machine into a dump truck and removed from the lake area.

The first 2 phases of the project will be in the beach and marina area. For this, the pipelines will be transversing the beach area leading to the processing machine, which will be located in the parking area next to the bocce ball court. This is the ideal area for the processing machine because it is flat and has the existing gravel loop road which will make loading the dump trucks very efficient. For phase 3 of the project, the equipment will be mobilized to the Mulligan Creek area.



In total, this project will remove 25,000-30,000 cubic yards of silt/soil/sand (aka “spoils”) from these 3 areas of the lake. We estimate that this will translate into nearly 1600 dump truck loads of



spoils. The hauling of the spoils will be completed by a combination of BTCI employees/equipment and contracted employees/equipment depending on the progress of the project. The spoils will be deposited in a low area behind the Horse Arena in the quarry area of our community.

Dredging Lake Tamarack is definitely the most complex capital project we face at Bent Tree. It takes a lot of planning, as well as a very qualified company that has the appropriate equipment and personnel to do the work. Dredging is expensive, takes a long time, and is highly dependent on the weather. The estimated completion time for our project is 8-10 months, which no matter how you look at it, is an inconvenience to the operations and events in our community. Other negative effects we will experience are noise, odor, and large dump trucks on our roads. The good news is that this only needs to be done every 15-20 years.

The following is a rough estimate of the expected timeline for our project. Again, please keep in mind that general weather, extreme weather events, equipment function, etc. can play a big role in altering the timeline.

- May 1st-10th:** Contractor mobilizes equipment to the site
- May 15th-June:** Dredging in beach area (Beach area closed for use)
- July -September:** Dredging in marina area (Beach area open for use)
- October-December:** Dredging in Mulligan Creek area

BTCI staff will be managing the project with the assistance of Lake & Wildlife officials. Lake & Wildlife will be doing water testing and posting safety advisories to the community. BTCI will be posting regular updates on the project status in the Friday News once things get started in May. Lake Tamarack is one of the most popular amenities in our community, so I ask that you “please excuse our mess” while we complete this necessary maintenance.



CONTACT US TODAY - 770-623-6220 • info@frontporchatlanta.com

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Golf Carts and Low Speed Utility Vehicles

By Michael Koorey, Director of Safety and Emergency Management

Over the past several months, there has been an increase in severe accidents involving golf carts. Due to their sensitive steering, high centers of gravity, lack of stability, and inherent lack of standard safety features, golf carts must be operated with caution and respect.

Just like regular vehicles, operators of LSUVs and golf carts must be at least 16 years old and possess a valid state driver's license. Please review the information below for more requirements regarding golf carts and LSUVs.

- Must carry liability insurance that permits operation within BT and be registered with Bent Tree
- Must have a steering wheel and foot controls for acceleration and braking
- Must be equipped with headlights and taillights if used at night
- Must be equipped with rear view mirrors if used on BT roads and should move to side of the road to allow cars to pass where it is safe with adequate visibility
- May only be used on BT paved and gravel roads or owner's property (no off-roading)
- Only golf carts with a paid trail fee or paid daily use fee may be driven on the golf course.
- Operation of golf carts or LSUVs while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a violation of state law and Bent Tree Rules and Regulations.

Forms to register a golf cart or LSUV are accessible at the Front Gate or Public Safety section of the Bent Tree website. Registration forms must be completed and submitted to our team at the Front Gate with proof of insurance. We will confirm the vehicle meets all requirements and affix a registration decal to it. Please contact Public Safety at 770-893-2628 for further assistance.

Public Safety Stats

2/1/26 – 2/28/26

By Michael Koorey - Director,
Donnie Arp - Fire Chief,
John Hawkins - Assistant Director

Call Responses

Fire	8
Medical	32
Resident Complaints	1
Resident Assists	10
Property/Resident Checks	2
Animal Calls	4
Public Safety Calls	27
Total	84
2026 Total	232

Patrol Mileage

Total Patrol Mileage (2/1 – 2/28)	1,839
2026 Total	5,628

Violations

Written Citations	4
Warnings	12
Total (1/1 – 1/31)	16
2026 Total Written Citations	10

40 Little Pine Mountain Road
Jasper, GA 30143 • 770-893-2628
publicsafety@bent-tree.com



GPS Directions to Bent Tree

Please give your visitors the following address (1 Little Pine Mountain Rd, Jasper, GA) to gain access into the front gate on Bent Tree Drive, which will alleviate GPS systems from sending them to the back gate off Grandview Rd.



We Want You...

... to email us short stories,
interviews, poetry, and articles of
general interest to our residents.
... to tell us what articles you would
like to see.
... to share with us some of your
amazing Bent Tree related images.

Thanks.

echo Editorial Committee

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A Neighborly Hike

By Elden Bonnette

Winter weather in North Georgia can be quite unpredictable. Recognizing this, during the Hiking Club's annual planning meeting in October it was agreed an easy local hike would be in order for the March event. Linda and I signed up to lead that event and selected a Big Canoe trail hike assuming it could be arranged with our neighbors to the East. Accordingly, Mason and Stephanie Holland reached out to Big Canoe resident, Lou DePeters, a longtime friend and former neighbor, and arrangements were made for Lou to host our visiting group.

Wildcat Park, a 4.3 mile trail was selected for our outing. The two connecting loops trail is one of many hiking trails in Big Canoe and offered the beauty, ease and suitable challenge we were looking for. After a smooth check-in thru Big Canoe Security, 26 Bent Tree hikers participated in the March 24 hike on a beautiful crisp Spring morning. Although the dogwoods were not yet in bloom, the hike along the rolling path through the wilderness was enjoyed by all except maybe two that were given conflicting direction by the author! Many thanks to Lou for accommodating our hikers on this very memorable trip.

Lunch at the Bent Tree Tavern with guests Lou and wife Debra followed the hike.

North GA Mountain History Center opens in Ellijay

By Jan Murphy

North GA Mountain History Center

My only regret is not moving to the north Georgia mountains sooner. The region offers plenty to see and do, attracting new residents from across the country. It's popular for retirement, raising families, and as a spot for second homes among Georgians.

The North GA Mountains History Center in East Ellijay showcases the history and wildlife of north Georgia. There are nine galleries highlighting exhibitions on the region's moonshine heritage, Native American history and the Trail of Tears, the formation of the Appalachian Mountains — the oldest range in North America, the legacy of the marble industry, the gold rush, and some of the breathtaking natural wonders in Georgia.

The exhibitions aim to spark curiosity and feature U.S. war history galleries highlighting unique military facts and stories. Educators report that NGMHC presents each war in an engaging way for all ages. Much of the historical data is unknown to most people. Our war and military galleries are the favorites among our visitors.

NGMHC's museum was established as a regional museum focusing on history from all over North Georgia. Emphasis was placed on something for everyone. It's particularly important for kids and families to learn about history in a way that makes them curious and interested.

Visitors often say, "There's a lot that I didn't know." That's the most common statement we get from our visitors. That's exactly what we intended to accomplish.

Founded by Jan Murphy and Kathleen Ingram with community support in just three years, North GA Mountains History Center is among the first regional museums in North Georgia. While our exterior sign is still pending, we welcome you to visit us at 772 Maddox Dr., Ste 126, East Ellijay in the Clock Tower Center. Learn more about our mission and exhibitions at northgamountainshistorycenter.org.

Admission is \$10 per person; children five and under enter free. Friday 1–6 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday 1–5 p.m. Group and school tours can be scheduled in the mornings between 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Call us to arrange one. The museum will also host meetings, coffee socials, and activities for families and veterans in the evenings and business networking groups.

To volunteer or contribute, contact 678-310-7887 or email northgamountainshistory@gmail.com. Please go to our website to learn more about what we offer and how to contribute to our mission: Preservation and Education.



The Long Way Home After the Last Job

By William Klenk

I finished my last day of work the way I'd ended so many others—by walking out the door, getting into my car, and turning the key. No speeches. No gathering. Just a handshake, a few kind words, and the quiet click of routine releasing its hold. It wasn't until I reached the first intersection that I realized there was nowhere I needed to be at any particular time.

Out of habit, I aimed toward the quickest route home. The efficient one. The road I'd taken in every season and every mood. But just before the turn, I slowed and chose the longer mountain road instead—the one that curves patiently, the one many of us save for days when the drive matters as much as the destination.

It was May, that brief, generous stretch of mid-spring when the mountains seem to exhale. The trees had filled out but not yet thickened, leaves still light enough to let the sky show through. The hillsides carried fresh greens in a dozen shades, and the air held that unmistakable scent of rain-soaked earth and new growth. I rolled down the window and let the cool breeze in, just enough to remind me winter had fully loosened its grip.

As the road unwound, I noticed details that had long faded into the background. A creek running alongside the pavement, lively with spring runoff, rushing and folding over rocks polished smooth by years of water. Sunlight flickered across the hood of the car through branches overhead. At one bend, the ground still glistened where shade kept it damp, and ferns were beginning to uncurl along the shoulder.

So many of us here have measured our lives by weather and work in equal parts, timing commutes around storms, planning days by daylight, and moving through these mountains with purpose. Even beauty can become something you pass through quickly, saving your attention for what waits at the end of the road.

That afternoon, nothing was waiting. The road didn't feel longer than usual, just slower. With each mile, the pressure I hadn't realized I was carrying began to ease. I thought of all the drives I'd made with my mind elsewhere—already home, still at work—rarely present for the space in between.

When I finally pulled into my driveway, the light was beginning to soften, the day settling into itself. Somewhere nearby, water was still moving through the trees, unseen but steady. I sat for a moment before getting out, listening to the engine quiet down, aware that while one chapter had ended, nothing felt finished.

Here in our mountain community, we understand these rhythms—the seasons turning, the familiar roads that teach us when to slow down. That drive showed me something simple and generous: there's meaning in taking the longer way home. Not as a delay, but as a way of arriving differently.

2025 Contaminant Table

<i>COTAMINANT</i>	<i>YEAR</i>	<i>UNITS</i>	<i>MCL/MRDL</i>	<i>GOAL / MCLG</i>	<i>AMOUNT DETECTED</i>	<i>RANGE DETECTED</i>	<i>MAJOR SCOURCES</i>	<i>VIOLATION?</i>
Disinfectant								
Chlorine	2025	mg/L or PPM	4.0 MG/L	.2 - 4.0 mg/L	1.82 MG/L	1.0 to 2.0 mg/L	Used as a disinfectant in drinking Water	NO
Inorganics								
Sodium	2025	mg/L	N/A (Recommended between 30 MG/L and 60 mg/L)	0	6.5 mg/L	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment from rocks and soils	NO
Fluoride	2025	mg/L Or PPM	4.0 mg/L	4.0 MG/L	.7 mg/L	.7 to 1.0 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth	NO
vDisinfection by Products								
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	2025	µg/L	60 ppb	0	(Highest level Detected) 18 ppb	7.3pp to 15.67ppb	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	2025	µg/L	80 ppb	0	(Highest level Detected) 16 ppb	5.5ppb to 22.8ppb	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	NO

Acronym Key

MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
mg/L	Milligrams Per Liter or PPM
ppm	Parts per million or mg/L
µg/L	Microgram or PPB
PPB	Part Per Billion or µg/L

2024 CCR Supplemental Lead and Copper CCR Information For (GA2270003) Bent Tree Community Water System

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Bent Tree is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Bent Tree Water Plant ([770-893-2636](tel:770-893-2636)) or email btwater@etcmail.com.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead and Copper Range Data.

Analyte	Date Sampled	Action Level	Range		Units	Violation
			Low	High		
Copper	9/26/2023	1.3	.0082	.38	ppm	NO
Lead	9/26/2023	15	0	5.2	Ppb	NO

To access all individual Lead tap Sample results for Bent Tree, contact: Bent Tree Water Plant at ([770-893-2636](tel:770-893-2636)) or email btwater@etcmail.com

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water.

To access the SLI for Bent Tree please contact the Bent Tree Water Plant ([770-893-2636](tel:770-893-2636)) or email btwater@etcmail.com. The SLI can also be found on the Bent Tree website <https://www.bent-tree.com/Home> scroll all the way down to the bottom and it will be located next to the “Water Quality Report” tab.

2026 Men's MEMBER/GUEST Tournament



THU
11

Day One

Optional Practice Round

12:00 PM Shotgun

- Members cart fee applies
- Beat the Pro Challenge
- Optional \$50 per team cash Best Ball (90% handicap)

Thursday Evening Men's Stag Dinner

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Dinner Menu:
Carved Prime Rib with Au Jus & Horseradish
Scalloped Potatoes
Chef Cut Vegetables
Salad Bar
Apple Cobbler & Vanilla Ice Cream



Lunch Menu:
BBQ Brined Pork Sandwiches
Grilled Burgers with Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Pickles & American Cheese
Potato Salad
Baked Beans

FRI
12

Day Two

Breakfast on your own

Round 1

8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Format:

Round Robin Match Play (90% Handicap)

- Flights of 5 teams

Friday Skills Contests (2-4 PM):

Putting & Chipping

Lunch (Following Round 1)

Evening:

Open night for all players



Lunch Menu:
Italian Buffet

SAT

13

Day Three

Breakfast on your own

Final Round

8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Format:

Round Robin Match Play (90% Handicap)

Post-Round:

Awards Ceremony & Lunch

Championship Shootout:

Following lunch on Hole #1

Flight winners + 1 wildcard team will compete in a shootout for the 2026 Member-Guest Champion

June 11-13

\$550 Per Team

Register Your Team

Contact the Golf Shop to sign up

770-393-2626 - btproshop@best-tree.com

2026 Golf Tournament Schedule

May

6	1pm Shotgun	Jasper Optimist
14	1pm Shotgun	Lowback Open
16-17	8:30 Shotgun	MGA Member/Member
18	8:30 Shotgun	Northeast Georgia Seniors
29	4pm Shotgun	Couples Scramble
30-31	12:30 Tee Times	Girls Golf Tour

June

3	TBD	Hospice
9	9am Shotgun	Ladies Invitational
11-13	1pm Shotgun	MGA Member/Guest
15	TBD	Bent Tree Foundation Tournament
26	4pm Shotgun	Couples Scramble
27	9am Shotgun	Bear Necessities Tournament
29	8-10 Tee Times	GSGA

July

11	1pm Shotgun	Matthew Campbell
13	AM Tee Times	Georgia Mid AM Qualifier
18	8:30 Shotgun	MGA Red, White, & Blue
31	4pm Shotgun	Couples Scramble

August

3	8:30 Shotgun	GSGA
15-16	8:30 Shotgun	MGA King of the Mountain
21	4pm Shotgun	Couples Scramble
29-30	AM Tee Times	Bent Tree Club Championship

September

10-12	TBD	Salazar Group
14-15		Aerification

October

5	TBD	Habitat for Humanity
10-11	8:30 Shotgun	MGA Lee Wilson Colligate
12	8:30 Shotgun	Northeast Georgia Seniors
20	TBD	Joyhouse Tournament
26	9:30 Shotgun	NWGASR
30	4pm Shotgun	Couples Scramble

November

7	8:30 Shotgun	MGA Foley Cup
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LADIES' GOLF

BEGINNERS + FUN DAY!

About The Day

Ready to learn golf or improve your skills in a fun, relaxed, zero-pressure way? Grab a friend and join us for an afternoon of learning, laughing, and playing on the course!

No clubs? No problem! Clubs will be available.

Date & Place

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
At Bent Tree Golf Course

Schedule

1:00	Welcome (Pavilion by the Tavern)
1:30	Skills Clinic
2:45	Break (bring a snack)
3:00	9-Hole Fun Scramble
5:00	Dinner at the Tavern (order off menu)

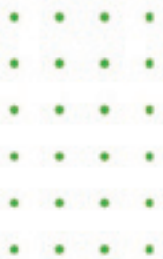


Total Cost

\$10.00

Includes 9-Hole Play and Golf Cart
(Dinner not included)

Call or Sign Up at
Pro Shop
770-893-2626



Niners Opening Day Tees Off with a Great Start!

The Niners launched their 2026 season in style on Thursday, April 2, with an exciting Opening Day! After gathering for announcements, it was game time — and the “Texas T Up Scramble” did not disappoint!

This fun-filled format was a big hit, letting players tee up their second shot and use mulligans to their advantage. Many players seized the chance to drive their second shot straight down the fairway — a strategic move that helped lower scores and boost the excitement!

Congratulations to our winners!

Gross winners: Arlene Scott, Sherry Sather and Robin Roberts

Net winners: Laura Dutton, Ursula Chapman and Barbara Bealda-White

Winners took home some well-earned cash to spend in the pro shop — perfect for picking up fresh gear like apparel, golf balls, hats, shoes, and more!

In other news, we want to wish a speedy recovery from a wrist injury to Janet Vardaman. Looking forward to having you play again!

Looking for more golf fun?

Our “Lovely Ladies” casual playdays are back! Every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., just show up and play. Whether you land in a threesome or a foursome, it’s the perfect chance to fine-tune your shots, make new friends, and enjoy the game — no pressure, just fun! Big thanks to Robin Roberts for coordinating.

Behind the scenes:

A couple of items to mention. The Bent Tree Pro Shop will hold a ladies scramble, beginning Wed., May 6 at 4 p.m. The first couple of scrambles will be monthly and then move to a bi-monthly schedule, depending on attendance. Long- and short-game clinics are held every Wednesday at 9:45 am with our pro Rob and are a great way to sharpen your game.

Also, the highly anticipated June Ladies Invitational will be held Tues., June 9, so get a team together soon if interested.

Meet your 2026 Niners Board:

- President: Dianne McMullen
- Secretary & Treasurer: Donna Stapleton
- Tournament Chair: Kathy Craig
- Co-Tournament Chair: Robin Roberts

Welcome to our new board members — we’re in great hands!

With a calendar full of creative games, social fun, and spirited competition, 2026 is shaping up to be one of our best seasons yet.

Let’s make it unforgettable — see you on the course!



Gross winners Arlene Scott, Robin Roberts and Sherry Sather

Photos by A. Scott



Net winners Ursula Chapman, Laura Dutton and Barbara Bealda- White



LADIES

Scramble

*Upcoming Thursday Dates:
May 7th & 21st
June 4th & 18th*



THURSDAYS

5:00 SHOTGUN START
9-Hole Scramble - ABCD
Player Format
Food Provided After Play!



REGISTER NOW

COST:

- \$15 for Annual or Seasonal Members
- \$25 for AGUF

770-893-2626
btproshop@bent-tree.com

These seniors are truly spectacular

by Bob Coleman

3 1/2 years ago there was a group of pickleballers who were constantly complaining about pickleball tournaments. While offering levels of play by skill set and age, many of the tournaments that offered the 60, 70 plus age groups were always being combined with lower age groups due to low turnout with player registration in those particular ages. To address this concern, the idea was conceived to start a monthly social that included only 70- and 80-year-old players. And month by month the size of this group has continued to grow with as many as 53 seniors playing. Word of our success spread quickly. We now have several north Georgia counties participating in this event and routinely hosting this event at their facilities.



This allows players to expand their network of similar age players while honing their skills competing against a different style of play outside their normal circle of peers. It's amazing to watch these athletes perform. They are truly a group of spectacular seniors. Below are some pictures of our recently held event at Bent Tree on March 19th. We even awarded them a special medal to show our appreciation of their dedication to this endeavor. Be on the lookout for future events that we may be hosting here at Bent Tree and mark your calendars. Come by and watch. You'll be amazed.



St. Paddy's Day Social



Tennis/Pickleball Socials are what makes Bent Tree an amazing community

by Bob Coleman

“Socialization is crucial for human development, mental health, and longevity, fostering empathy, emotional regulation, and cognitive skills. It allows individuals to learn societal norms, build meaningful relationships and improve their sense of belonging.”

This is exactly what we’ve (Kristy and I) witnessed over the last 8 to 10 years around many of the pickleball communities that we have been involved with, none more important to us than the Bent

Tree community. We have seen hundreds of friendships forged through the social connections offered by tennis and pickleball. These friendships extend far beyond the courts. It’s one of the great byproducts of pickleball.

The socials are enjoyed by many. However, there is certainly room for more. We hope that you will consider joining us in the future as we’d love to see you play on the courts, spectating can be a lot of fun as well. Below are a few pics from our Saint Patty’s Day tennis social that was conducted on March 15th and our pickleball social which was conducted on March 17th. We had 60+ participants for both venues. Again, we invite you to join us soon.



THE COURTS **FIESTA ON THE COURTS**
TENNIS SOCIAL

Play Format: Round Robin
Wear: Your colorful fiesta attire
Bring: A fiesta dish to share and your beverage of choice

Sunday, May 3rd
3:00 - 5:00
The Courts at Bent Tree

Courts Members: Free
Other BT Residents: \$10
Non-Residents: \$15

Sign Up:
Via Evite or contact Bob Coleman
770-893-2623 or 770-877-0884



SPRING CLASSIC
Bent Tree
2026

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

MAY 30TH - 31ST
MEN'S & WOMEN'S DOUBLES - SATURDAY, MAY 30TH
MIXED DOUBLES - SUNDAY, MAY 31ST

REGISTER BY: 5/24

REGISTER EARLY - SPACE IS LIMITED

\$50 COST

MEN'S WOMEN'S & MIXED DOUBLES

BENT TREE COURTS
JASPER, GEORGIA

SKILL LEVELS:
 * 2.5
 * 3.0
 * 3.5
 * 4.0+

AGE BRACKETS:
 15-39, 40-59, 60+

MORE INFORMATION
770-893-2623



DINKO DE MAYO **Pickleball Social**

Date: Tuesday, May 5th
Where: The Courts at Bent Tree
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (eat after play)
Wear: Your colorful fiesta attire
Bring: A Fiesta dish to share and your beverage of choice

Cost: Courts Members: Free
 Other BT Residents: \$10
 Non Residents: \$15

Sign up via Evite or contact Bob Coleman at 770-893-2623 or 770-877-0884



This is Ivan – do NOT let the “Grumpy Kitty” face fool you, he is the sweetest boy!

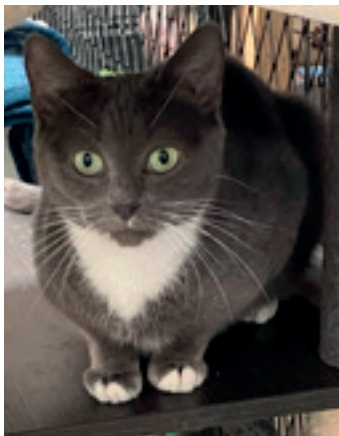
Happy Spring – Happy Kitties!

By Veda L. Wohlford

Happy Spring from your Bent-Tree
Animal Shelter!

May we ask you to consider adopting
one of our wonderful kitties? We
have so many, with so many different
personalities. All of them would love
to have a fur-ever home with you!

Remember, all our cats and dogs are
fully vetted medically and spayed
or neutered before being eligible
for adoption. When you fall in love
with one of these cuties, please
consider coming by to meet him or
her! Bent-Tree’s Animal Shelter has
so many cats and kittens available
for adoption, each with their own
individual personalities, and all of
them would love to join your family!
If you would like to visit any of our
kitties to see if you’re a match made
in heaven, please contact LuAnn
Chambers at 678.414.1047.



This sweetie is just hanging out!



Just look at these faces! How can you resist?

Photos by Veda L. Wohlford



Get Ready for Youth Week 2026!

By Kim Stahlman

Now is the perfect time to start planning summer fun for your children and grandchildren! Youth Week 2026 kicks off on Sunday, June 28th, with a Kick-Off Dinner at the beach pavilion, and concludes on Saturday, July 5th. There's something for the whole family to enjoy!

This year's lineup features a mix of classic favorites along with exciting new activities for all ages. To make participation easier than ever, registration will open on May 11th and close on May 25th.



We're thrilled to announce a brand-new, user-friendly Registration Portal! The BTAC executive committee recognizes the need for a streamlined way to sign up for events, and this new system is designed to make the process fast and simple.

A preview of events and all registration details will be available on the Bent Tree website starting May 1st. Don't miss out—mark your calendars and get ready for a week of fun, laughter, and community!





Mother's Day

CARVING STATION

Herb-Crusted Prime Rib

Roasted Turkey Breast

SOUTHERN BRUNCH FAVORITES

Lowcountry Shrimp & Grits

Creamy stone-ground grits topped with sautéed shrimp in a rich

Creole tomato cream sauce

Chicken & Waffles

Crispy fried chicken, Belgian waffles, hot honey & maple

Fried Green Tomatoes

Crispy, golden-fried, topped with goat cheese and balsamic glaze

BRUNCH CLASSICS

Scrambled Eggs

Applewood Smoked Bacon

Sausage Links

Southern Hashbrown Casserole

Creamy, cheesy hashbrowns baked until golden and bubbling

FEATURED SELECTIONS

Peaches & Cream Stuffed French Toast

Sweet cream filling, warm peaches, maple drizzle

Eggs Benedict

GARDEN & FRESH TABLE

Strawberry Spinach Salad

Candied pecans, goat cheese, red onion, vinaigrette

Seasonal Fresh Fruit

CHEF'S SIDES

Roasted Asparagus with Lemon & Parmesan

DESSERT TABLE

Assorted Cakes & Petite Desserts

Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Mini Cheesecakes

Adults — \$39

Children (ages 6–12) — \$19

Children 5 & under — Free

Reserve your space



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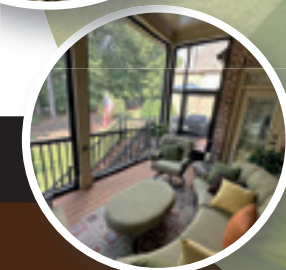
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Easter Egg Hunt

By Laura Chambers

Here comes Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail, and right after him were around 50 children and their parents and grandparents. They were all ready to hunt eggs, make crafts, dance and participate in relays! Each age group had their own area to hunt eggs and do crafts. We had two different crafts for each age group and the table for the Reason for the Season. They were assisted by Mary Ada Kidd and her wonderful group of volunteers - Mary Davis, Susan Bartleson, Cheryl Wilsonra, Beth and Don Leonard, Jan Jeffcoat, Reetie Jameson, Barb Collier, Kim Jackson, and Abby Ashbeck.

The children loved hunting the eggs hidden by Kerry and Mike Chambers, and Judi and Bob Beeler. Each age group had someone to watch after them. Many thanks to Karen Rooker, Patti Duncan, Patti Sosebee and Beverly Fenello. Andy Kidd made all the announcements and provided all the music. His

“Ready, Set, Stop!” was a great way to start the hunt!

There were two special eggs for each of the four age groups that were supplied by our sponsor, Undercover Roofing. Each egg was able to be exchanged for a prize! We also had Laura Johnson, a temp tattoo artist, and Belkys Gonzalez, our face painter.

After the hunt, everyone could work on crafts and dance the Hokey Pokey. The dances were led by Fred and Elaine McLam. It was fun to watch the bunny hop, and Baby Shark done by kids and adults! Next, we had races led by Sandy Tolar and cupcake walks where everyone won a cupcake or cookies.

Thank you also to David Tolar and Johnny Jameson who helped with everything! Our bunny was Ben Chambers who kept the children hopping! A fun day was had by all!





THE COURTS PICKLEBALL

Summer CAMP

PLEASE BRING:

- SUNSCREEN
- HAT
- COURT SHOES
- EXTRA CLOTHES
- SNACKS & DRINKS
- SUNGLASSES (OPTIONAL)

JUNE 8TH - 11TH & JUNE 22ND - 25TH
1:00-2:30
*registration ends June 4th

AGES 5-18 \$25/CLASS OR \$90/WEEK

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE COURTS AT 770-893-2623



BENT TREE BASKETBALL

2nd Thu. of the Month
Next Up: Thu. May 14
6:30-8:00p

Casual play for adults and teens at the court by the beach. Weather permitting. Sponsored by BTAC.

QUESTIONS
 Contact Brad
 615-495-8995

Join the group on **groupme**





THE COURTS TENNIS

Summer CAMP

PLEASE BRING:

- SUNSCREEN
- HAT
- TENNIS SHOES
- EXTRA CLOTHES
- SNACKS & DRINKS
- SUNGLASSES (OPTIONAL)

JUNE 8TH - 11TH & JUNE 22ND - 25TH
11:00-12:30
*registration ends June 4th

AGES 5-18 \$25/CLASS OR \$90/WEEK

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE COURTS AT 770-893-2623



Save the Date
Sunday, June 28 - Saturday, July 4

Youth Week

Registration begins early May
More Information to Come!



Bent Tree Events

BTAC WISHES TO THANK OUR SPONSORS!

Wine contributed by these local vineyards. Plan to visit them soon!



Fashions provided by these area boutiques offering a 5% discount to Bent Tree residents and a donation to BTAC on all purchases. One coupon available per boutique. Valid through May 15th. Email benttreeactivities@gmail.com to get yours!



TAYLOR'S BOUTIQUE AND GIFTS

SUNSET STYLE A BTAC FUNDRAISING EVENT



FASHION SHOW

Come Celebrate the Opening of Our Pools!

Poolside Sairée

Cash Bar with Specialty Cocktails
\$26 per person
Complementary Glass of Champagne

MAY 16 AT 6 PM

SATURDAY 2026

Featuring **Band X**

NO GLASS PLEASE

Limited Tables Available for Groups of 4, 6 & 8
Reservation ONLY - Must be made & paid per table

Reservations Open April 24 @ 10:00am
BTACSpecialEvents@gmail.com

An Adult Only Event



Bent Tree Art Exhibition

Join us for a stunning showcase of talent, creativity, and inspiration from BENT TREE ARTISTS

Sunday, June 7
1pm-4pm
Club Tamarack

Applications at Admin Office



Sponsored by BTAC Arts Events

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

AT THE MONDAY PICNIC

Monday, May 18

5pm-7:30pm

Bring a folding chair, beverages OR come join the weekly covered-dish picnic

Featuring

Bent Tree Happy Tappers
Mountain Breeze Combo

Questions: Andrew Kidd @ 386-290-6C02

FREE ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORED BY
BTAC ART EVENTS

THE TAVERN

Karaoke PARTY

MAY 23 6 PM

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

THE TAVERN

MEMORIAL DAY GRILL OUT

MONDAY, MAY 25TH

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR APPETITE, AND YOUR PATRIOTIC SPIRIT!

AT THE TAVERN

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SAVE THE DATE!

SCHOLARSHIPS/TEACHER GRANTS
GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 15, 2026

DETAILS TO FOLLOW ~



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SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER EVENING OF MUSIC

Saturday, June 20th, 6:00 PM

FEATURING

FLASHDRIVE

DON'T MISS THE RETURN OF THIS POPULAR BAND!

Bring your chairs, canopies/umbrellas, snacks and beverages

FREE EVENT!

Location to be determined inside our gates

Announced in June Echo

Watch your email for updates: Thursday News & Happenings and Friday News

For more information email: benttreeactivities@gmail.com

Sponsored by Bent Tree Activities Committee



Interested in Quilting?
Beth Leonard can help!
call her at 770-815-0878



2ND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

CLUB TAMARACK REC ROOM

1PM - 4PM

Next Group Meeting : FRIDAY May 8th

Quilters of all levels -beginning to advanced

Basic instruction for new quilters

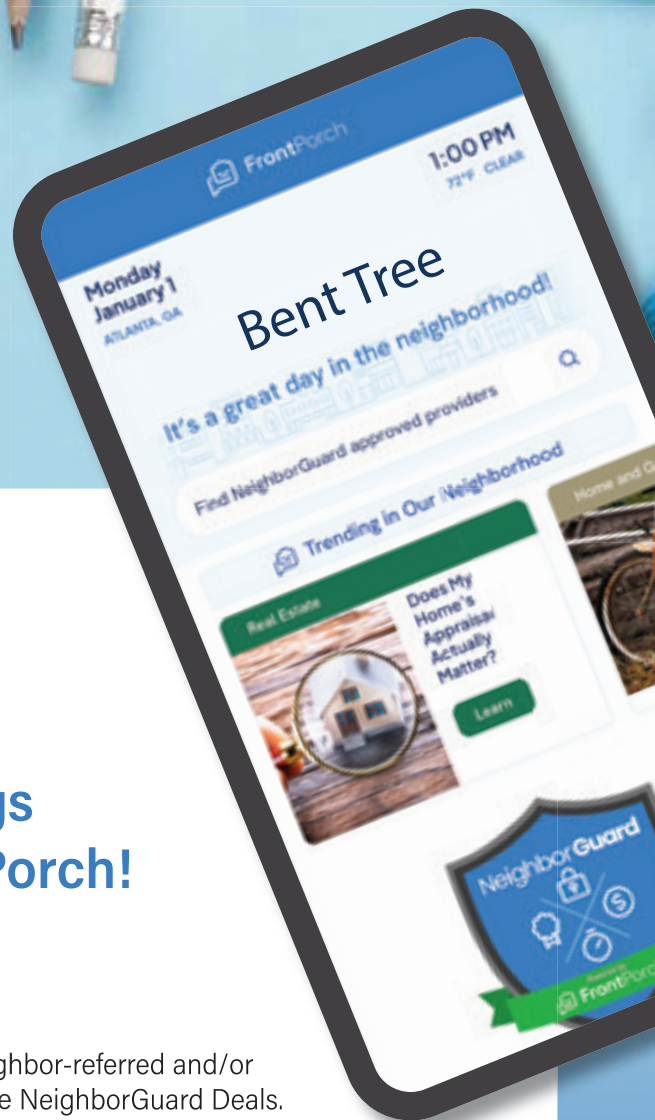
Bring your machine or hand projects

For more info and supplies needed -

BethLeonard1@att.net or 770-715-0878

To DO

- Check on HVAC maintenance contract Cost/Special Offers?
- Plumbing Leak How fast can they be here?
- Find new Landscaper Neighbor suggestions?



Welcome to the FrontPorch of Bent Tree

Here's just a few of the things you can find on your Front Porch!

- Access to the online version or your custom HOA and Neighborhood Magazine.
- NeighborGuard, your locally sourced directory of neighbor-referred and/or vetted and verified service providers offering exclusive NeighborGuard Deals.

Because finding reliable service providers shouldn't feel like a risk. NeighborGuard gives you the homeowner a safer starting point - No more having to "Google & Guess." NeighborGuard guards your time, money, safety and satisfaction.

- Local Community updates, events and informative content.



Scan the QR code to gain access and learn more about Front Porch



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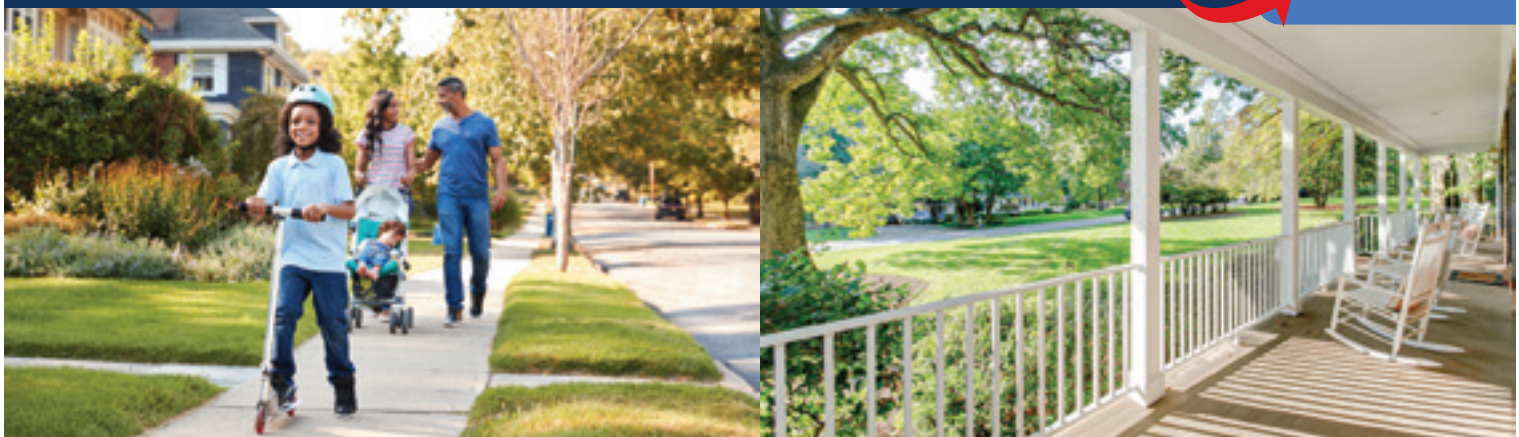
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214 South View Trail
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1379 Little Hendricks Mountain Road
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858 Crippled Oak Trail
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