



Welcome Committee. . . Danette Grider

Most of us remember moving to McLendon Hills and being visited by Marilyn Dotto and Karen Marshall, who for many years served as the Welcome Committee. Ready to answer any questions we had, they brought us their warm smiles, a gift and the resident's booklet.

In March, Stacey Hilliard, Danette Grider and Dwaine Sawyers took over as the Welcoming Committee. Before they could do their first Welcome, COVID-19 restrictions forced them to get creative! In-house Welcomes were not prudent so the committee decided an outdoor "group welcome" at the Pavilion could be a safe alternative during the pandemic. Plus, it would allow new neighbors to meet other new residents since social events and activity group meetings had been halted. As long as COVID-19 restrictions are in effect, the Welcome Committee will contact new residents and leave the booklet and a gift at their front door along with an invitation to the next Welcome event.

The burst of construction and sales brought us neighbors to eleven newly built homes in 2020, and six more homes are under construction. In addition, neighbors moved into ten existing homes they had bought. So far, three Welcome meetings have been held – June 7th three residents attended; July 14th four residents attended; and November 5th four residents attended. Feedback from these meetings has been positive. We look forward to welcoming all of our newcomers to McLendon Hills and hope to be able to resume in-home visits before too long.

Our Condolences



On a sad note . . . We extend heartfelt thoughts and sympathy to Karen Marshall on the recent loss of her mother, Edna Hull, who lived in McLendon Hills with Karen and Clark. Edna was 100 years old at the time of her passing. She will be missed.

Submit your ideas or photos for the Spring newsletter to Danette Grider, Communications Committee Chairperson, tgrider760@aol.com, before March 10, 2021.

A New Year's Day Sunset in McLendon Hills . . .



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### Social Committee . . .

### Rachel Carr

As I write this newsletter article, I am surrounded by rooms of unfinished Christmas décor. One thing that COVID 19 has taught me is there isn't such an urgency to complete "stuff." Since there isn't much entertaining taking place, no visitors dropping in, and no family coming, I have no deadline (except maybe the 25<sup>th</sup>). I'm sure many of our readers will feel likewise.

Our McLendon Hills Social Committee certainly had no events or neighborhood activities this year for which to feel pressure. Our committee members have had a year off. Most have agreed to serve another year.

As we begin to think about the new year and a return to some measure of normalcy, we ask that any interested residents please consider serving on the Social Committee. We are normally a busy group with all the planning and doing that goes into community social events and helping hands are always welcomed. Providing "fun" for all our residents and property owners is extremely rewarding and important to the community. If you are interested in serving on the Social Committee, please give me a call at (910)783-7994 or send me an email at [rachelcarr5010@gmail.com](mailto:rachelcarr5010@gmail.com).

**Please keep your contact information updated in the directories on the POA website. Eblasts are used to inform owners and residents of time sensitive info, changes to gates codes and events, and other important matters. Visit the POA website at [www.mclendonhillspoa.com](http://www.mclendonhillspoa.com)**

## McLendon Hills Activity Groups

### Contacts for Activity Groups

**Ladies Book Club** ~ Rachel Carr,  
[rachelcarr5010@gmail.com](mailto:rachelcarr5010@gmail.com)

**Bunco** ~  
 Evening Group ~ Karen Marshall,  
[karen4clark@gmail.com](mailto:karen4clark@gmail.com)

Daytime Group ~ Danette Grider,  
[tgrider760@aol.com](mailto:tgrider760@aol.com)

**Equestrian Connection** ~ Faith Brouillard,  
[twistedtreefarm1@gmail.com](mailto:twistedtreefarm1@gmail.com).

**Garden Club** ~ Nancy Seitz,  
[Nancy@twseitz.com](mailto:Nancy@twseitz.com).

**Guys Grub Gang** ~ Peter Dotto,  
[dottop8@gmail.com](mailto:dottop8@gmail.com)

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** ~ Louise Ashbridge,  
[l.ashbridge@yahoo.com](mailto:l.ashbridge@yahoo.com)

**Wood Working Club** ~ Matt Holway,  
[mpholway@gmail.com](mailto:mpholway@gmail.com)

**Yacht Club** ~ Sharon Lasswell,  
[olney88@gmail.com](mailto:olney88@gmail.com)



### Wood Working Club . . . Matt Holway

It is hard to believe that the last meeting of the McLendon Hills Wood Working Club was our Christmas celebration in December 2019. We hope and pray that 2021 treats us a little better and allows for us to again come together and advance our skills, make some cool stuff, serve our community, and have some fun.

While we continue our hiatus, I suggest that you watch some wood working videos. Some of my favorite providers are “The Wood Whisperer”, “Stumpy Nubs”, “Wood Working for Mere Mortals”, and “Katz-Moses.” They cover myriad topics such as safety, tools usage, techniques, and cater to a wide level of skills.



### Evening Bunco . . .

**Karen Marshall**

Like the other activity groups, the Evening Bunco group has missed being able to get together each month. We were able play Bunco outdoors a couple of times at The Pavilion with plenty of disinfecting, face masks, individual dice, distancing and other precautions. Not all of the regulars could participate so some of the newer ladies in the community and Daytime players substituted. By the time you read this edition of the newsletter, we will have enjoyed our own version of 12-days of Christmas and a Secret Santa virtual get together! We are looking forward to be done with the COVID pandemic so we can get back to our normal Bunco schedule.





**POA Board Notes . . .**

**Maggie Boor**

The Board of Directors election was held in November. Nick Picerno, Bill Protz and Tom Seitz were elected to replace the three Directors whose terms were ending. Maggie Boor is our new POA President, Nick Picerno is Vice President, and Rheo Brouillard is Treasurer.

Among the Board’s priorities for 2021 is internet services for McLendon Hills. Resident Member, Johnny Brown, deserves much credit in finding options for the POA. The Board sent eblasts to All Owners with details on high-speed internet services for our community. If you did not receive the eblasts, please make sure we have your correct email. A letter was sent to your address of record on December 11th. Enclosed was the amendment to the Covenants that will allow us to enter into a contract for internet services along with the ballot for a Yes/No vote on the amendment. Ballots must be received before January 13, 2021. Ballots not received by this date are counted as a ‘no’ vote. Questions and Answers (Q&A) and other information is posted on the POA website.

**Access Control . . .**

**Deb Appice**

In early December, the locks to the gates to the Amenities Area and The Point were changed. The new combination was sent by eblast to all Owners. It was also posted on the POA website and on the McLendon Hill Neighbors Facebook page. The numbers and letters on the new locks are much easier to read than those of the old locks. You must make sure they line up where it says “Master” on the lock. To re-secure the lock, just spin the numbers and letters so it stays locked.

Each of us has a responsibility to safeguard the combination. Please do not give it to people who are not authorized to use the Amenities Center. We are each responsible for re-locking the gates or making sure the person behind knows they have to do so. If you have any problems with the new lock, let us know.

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Amenities Committee . . .

Tom Seitz

Outdoor activities continue to be some of the best and healthiest ways to pass the time during pandemic restrictions and your Amenities Committee has provided two new amenities to support those activities. A kayak launcher is now available at the boat ramp to make it easier for you to enter and exit your kayak, SUP, or canoe. And, a public address and music system with wireless microphones is available for property owners’ use at the Pavilion.

Near term projects that are in the works include an irrigation system, fire pit and pathway to the observation deck, and decorative plantings. Finally, we hope to have a beach and swim platform in place for the next summer season.

Please remember to put away equipment and close and lock the doors of The Pavilion building after use. Also please refrain from parking on the grass if possible. The ground gets soft this time of year and the grass is easily damaged.

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**Architectural Review Board (ARB) . . .**

**Thom Giangrande**

McLendon Hills continues to be a popular development with six new homes under construction, and five homes completed since the Spring newsletter. In addition, there are six property improvement projects ongoing. We expect 2021 to be another busy year for new construction.

A reminder — many outside/exterior projects require ARB approval to include extensive landscaping changes, tree removal, driveway replacement, sheds, and fences. The *ARB Guidelines* have a section detailing what projects do and do not require ARB approval. You may contact any member of the ARB for more information.

Thom Giangrande, the new ARB Chair may be reached at [thomas.giangrande@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas.giangrande@yahoo.com) or (513) 330-0933.

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Lake & Wildlife . . .

Pete Dotto

The Erosion and Silting Subcommittee is developing a plan for repair and reinforcement of areas around the streams that feed into the lake to better control water flow and reduce the amount of silt entering the lake. Homeowners will be contacted individually if some of the affected areas are within their property. Some of the work may be done by contractors and some of the lighter work may be done by community volunteers. If anyone is interested in volunteering on various projects, please contact Terry Grider at tgrider760@aol.com.

Equestrian Committee . . .

Amie Collins

One of the beautiful things about our neighborhood is the bucolic setting equestrians bring to McLendon Hills. Looking at horses and actually interacting with them as part of our community are two very different things. A new resident asked for some general insights into horses, their behavior, and how to peacefully co-exist. Here are things you need to know:

- Horses are prey animals whose first instinct in a dangerous or unfamiliar situation is to flee. Properties along the bridle trail present many different challenges, whether it is a swimming pool, swing set, lawn mower, dog, or even horses galloping a fence line. Most horses will be put on guard by these situations.
- If you encounter a horse on the trail, please speak up. A horse will recognize a human voice and realize you are not a mountain lion lurking behind the shed. If you are using power equipment, jumping or splashing in the pool, swinging, or simply enjoying the outdoors, please pause for a moment to let the horse pass, especially if you see the rider may be having some difficulty getting the horse to focus.
- If you encounter a horse along the road, slow down. Horses have specialized vision that allows them to see almost 360 degrees, with a small blind spot immediately in front and behind. An object, car, jogger, or bicycle speeding up along side may surprise a horse who suddenly sees it and that reaction may put the horse in the path of the approaching vehicle. A slow approach gives the horse time to evaluate the situation and relax. A horse-drawn cart should be treated similarly, slowing almost to a crawl and passing the cart with a wide berth.
- Don't feed or pat horses unless its owner has given you permission to do so. Horses can bite and be aggressive, and some may have special dietary restrictions.
- Most of your neighbors with horses are not professional riders. Even the most seasoned professional cannot predict or control a horse's reaction to every situation. Serious injuries can result from a fall from a bolting or spooked horse.
- Horses can get loose, whether from a pasture or a riding accident, and you may encounter them unexpectedly on the road.
- Taking the time to acknowledge your neighbors on horseback, and think about how what you are doing may affect an animal that runs from danger will help us all stay safe.

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## Garden Club . . .

Nancy Seitz

Like many other groups, Garden Club activities came to a screeching halt well before our usual summer break and have yet to resume. For those of us with a penchant for digging in dirt and painting scenes with flowers, trees and green things, there has been solace in the outdoor freedom and automatic social distancing McLendon Hills offers! Meeting together is one of the great pleasures of our group, though, and it is time to look for a brighter 2021! The plan is to begin our year with a January Zoom brainstorming session to rethink our program plans for the early months of the year. Among other ideas to be discussed is the opportunity to help with work, soon to be underway at the Amenities area, which includes a focus on landscaping. Offering to do some spring planting there will allow us a chance to gather safely, share our green thumbs and enjoy time together.

We welcome two new neighbors to our number, Joan Trombini and Sandra Hooper. We look forward to getting to know them, sharing what we've learned about the flora and fauna of McLendon Hills and learning together about more of the gardening resources of the area! If you aren't a member but would like to be (or think you might), please contact Nancy Seitz [nancy@twseitz.com](mailto:nancy@twseitz.com) for more information.

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Book Club . . .

Rachel Carr

Our last book club meeting was in February at the home of Danette Grider where we shared opinions of *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in Silicon Valley* by John Carreyrou. We all agreed we would be riveted to the pending trial of the main character but COVID-19 postponed that. While stuck indoors more, I've used the extra time to complete our reading list, and found some interesting reads from other book clubs and friends' suggestions: *Three Things About Elsie*; *Clementine*; *The House Girl*; *The Orphan Tale*; *A Time for Mercy*; *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*; *Olive Kitteridge*; *Caste*; *Anxious People*; *22 Summers* and *Sycamore Row* (reread again), and probably others I've already forgotten. Carolyn Protz sent me a title that I haven't read, *Beneficence* by Meredith Hall.

When we next meet, we will select titles for 2021, plus welcome new neighbor Sandra Hooper. Sandra reached out to me for current and past book lists. I know we will all be anxious to meet her and hear her perspective on our reads.

COVID forced the cancellation of neighborhood social events, but we were still able to maintain a sense of community at Halloween and with a 'Turkey Trot' on Thanksgiving.



Real Estate News....

Cristy Hunt

Throughout this newsletter it is evident that our community is thriving to say the least. We are blessed beyond measure to have had the opportunity to welcome so many new neighbors this year. New home construction continues to stay busy with several more to start next year.

New lot owners include: Ed and Kathleen W. from New Mexico. (Lot 349)

Robin and Carolyn P. from Fayetteville, NC. (Lot 212)

Peter and Abby B. from Pittsboro, NC. (Lot 106)

Craig and Sandy W. from Hampstead, NC (Lots 347&247)

We are hopeful for a strong start to the new year with more lots under contract and several more prospects inquiring for information. Stay tuned for upcoming Spring Specials!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

New resident testimonial:

We are very pleased to be a part of the McLendon Hills community. The people are friendly and the experience of living here is a daily blessing. Much thanks to all — developer, builder, and neighbors for the warm welcome!

Shirley and Dave Williams



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Hanging of the Greens, December 2020

