

# ECHOES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHAMPION HILLS

DECEMBER 2025

[championhills.com](http://championhills.com) | [@ChampionHillsCommunity](https://www.instagram.com/ChampionHillsCommunity) | 828.696.1962





## SEEING THE GEMS AT CHAMPION HILLS CLUB!



A week ago, I had a wonderful surprise as I walked into the Clubhouse on one of these incredibly sunny November days we are enjoying. There sat our excellent Member Concierge, Mary Catherine with a spectacularly shiny new engagement ring on her finger! Congratulations, Mary Catherine!

This got me thinking. While it's not every day you get to celebrate a diamond engagement ring, it is quite a regular occurrence that you see a "gem" at Champion Hills Club. Particularly, as we approach the holidays and the calendar is packed with afternoon rounds of golf and holiday parties, allow me to share a few of the "gems" I have been seeing around:

- How about our outside golf cart and range staff?! Led by Bo, the team of Mitch, Steve, Christian, Bill, Garrett, Colton, John and James have been incredibly busy throughout the incredible golf weather this fall. The teamwork they showoff each day has been terrific!
- Recently, 40 members enjoyed an exceptional Winebow Australian & New Zealand wine dinner. Wine dinners at the Club give our culinary staff a true chance to shine - and there at the end of the meal, Chef Sean showed off an entire crown of gems: Chef Anthony, Chef Brandon, and Chef Caroline! All the chefs took a bow and enjoyed a round of applause.
- That brings me back to the true "Front of the House," and my personal favorite "gems": The amazing Concierge/Administrative/Membership team members, Josie and Mary Catherine. The ladies often make the first and last impression for visitors and Members as they come through the clubhouse. They always have a kind word, a helping hand, and smile for everyone. This ECHOES publication is their handiwork. On a more mundane note, the business of the Board simply would not be possible without the help of this administrative team.

You probably have your own examples of the things you treasure at Champion Hills Club. I hope you have also seen many of the same gems that I have seen and taken the time to say "thanks". As the year draws to a close, I wish you all safe travels and happy holidays.

See you around the Club!

Milan Turk  
Champion Hills Club Board President

# BRYAN & KARA FLEMING

## WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Bryan was born in the Pacific Northwest but grew up in the suburbs of Houston, Texas. Kara is a native Texan who grew up in the Dallas suburbs.

## ARE YOU IN CH FULL-TIME OR SEASONALLY?

We jokingly are figuring that out! Currently, we're splitting our time close to 50/50, but Champion Hills and these WNC mountains sure are selling themselves!



## WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES / HOBBIES AT CHAMPION HILLS?

Does Thirsty Thursday count as a hobby?! We've loved dabbling so far - golf, pickleball, wellness classes, Music Bingo and Trivia Nights! Mostly, we're just enjoying meeting so many fun people and look forward to plugging into more events/activities in the new year.

## WHAT IS ONE FUN / INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELVES?

We are high school sweethearts and were introduced because we were the rare Texans looking at colleges in the NC/VA area. Clearly, we have always loved this part of the country!



## *Santa Paws' Nice List...*

## CHARLIE & BAXTER BROWN

OWNERS: ALLEN & ANNA BROWN



Our oldest dog is Baxter. He is two year old mini goldendoodle. His biological brother is Charlie who is a 1 1/2 year old mini goldendoodle. They are the best of friends and have a blast playing with each other all day long. They love chasing each other and wrestling, often playing tug of war, especially with a stuffed animal they can tear apart. They both love laying on your lap or beside you to get petted, and are both highly intelligent, learning new tricks or tasks quickly.

Baxter's favorite game outside of wrestling with his brother is to nudge you with a tug toy to try and entice you or his brother to play tug with him. He also loves keep away and loves if you chase him. He will entice his brother in order to be chased, running around the kitchen island or couches to try and get Charlie to catch him (which Charlie struggles to do because his legs are shorter than Baxter's). Baxter is highly focused and has the intensity of a poodle while Charlie is more laid back and has the traits more so of a golden retriever.

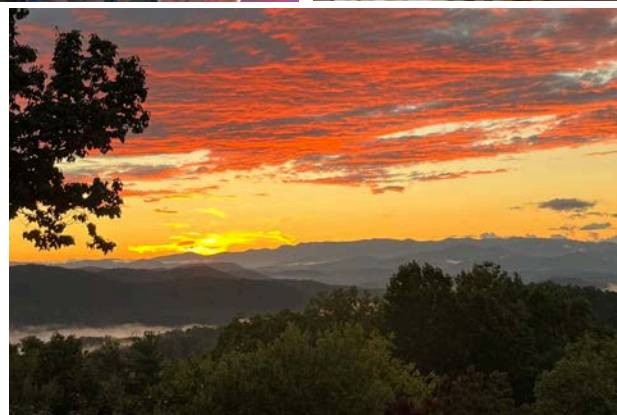
Charlie's favorite game is playing fetch besides playing with his brother or other dogs. He will fetch endlessly until his brother comes and tries to steal his ball and take over the game in order to be chased. Charlie was a 'rescue' and fearful of people but now loves getting petted and treats from them. He loves to pounce on his brother and Baxter loves being on the bottom enticing him to play more. They both play beautifully; each one flipping from bottom to top throughout the day with each other. For the first time recently, I found them lying in the same bed together. Sooo darn cute. They bring tons of joy and fun to our lives for sure!!



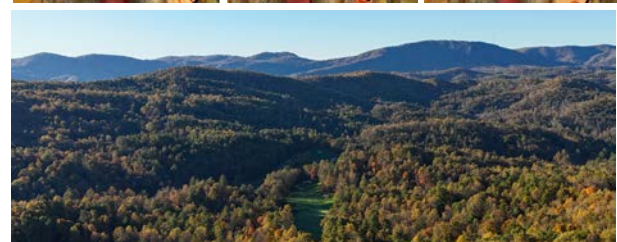
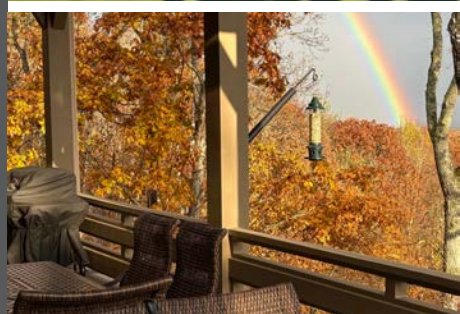
WHAT IS YOUR STORY AND / OR YOUR PET'S STORY? TELL US! WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING 2026 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT & PET PROFILE SUBMISSIONS. EMAIL [JOSIE@CHAMPIONHILLS.COM](mailto:JOSIE@CHAMPIONHILLS.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS!



# AROUND THE CLUB



## AROUND THE CLUB



## Holiday Hours of Operation

DECEMBER 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE

FAZIO PUB LUNCH: 11 AM - 2 PM

PRO SHOP: 9 AM - 3 PM

SHORT GAME & DRIVING RANGE: 9 AM - 2 PM

DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY

CLUB CLOSED

DECEMBER 31 | NEW YEAR'S EVE

FAZIO PUB LUNCH: 11 AM - 2 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

PRO SHOP: 9 AM - 3 PM

SHORT GAME & DRIVING RANGE: 9 AM - 2 PM

JANUARY 1 | NEW YEAR'S DAY

CLUB CLOSED



# HOWL-O-WEEN

The fur babies of Champion Hills Club dressed up, enjoyed pup cups, Chef Brandon's dog cookies & toys!

Thank you to our Club members, Sarah (Blue Ridge Humane Society) & WAG! A Unique Pet Boutique!



# HOWL-O-WEEN COSTUME CONTEST



**CUTEST**  
Biscuit Darnell

**SCARIEST**  
Bob Leitner

**BEST OVERALL**  
Buckeye & Sassafras Darnell



**RAFFLE WINNER**  
Denise Bounous

## SPOOKTACULAR COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS



**GHOULISH**  
Diane McGowan  
Jodi Sundeen



**FOOLISH**  
Diane Hansberry  
Ardell Fox



**BEST OVERALL**  
Phil & Amy Gray  
Mary & Jim Kwolek



## CHAMPION HILLS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to your generosity, Champion Hills was able to collect over 1,100 lbs. of food for the IAM Food Drive!



AROUND THE CLUB



# Let's Celebrate! Champion Hills Holiday Events



## CHAMPION HILLS BOOK CLUB | 10:30 AM THE BRIAR CLUB

BY KATE QUINN

For more information please contact:

Barb Morrison | 309.269.0010 Susan Thomas | 210.834.8771



## CHAMPION HILLS HOLIDAY PARTY\* COCKTAILS 5:30 PM | DINNER 6:15 PM

Enjoy an evening of great food & merriment with your friends at the Champion Hills Holiday Party! Music by Michelle Masci.



## CHAMPION HILLS CLUB TOWN HALL MEETING | 3 PM

The objectives of this Town Hall meeting are to share with the Members the state of the Club at the end of 2025 and to preview 2026. Club members are highly encouraged to attend but may request a Zoom link from Mary Catherine at [marycatherine@championhills.com](mailto:marycatherine@championhills.com).



## LADIES' HOLIDAY TEA\* | 2 PM - 4 PM

Enjoy a special holiday tradition of afternoon tea & cookies and complimentary gift wrapping, so bring those unwrapped gifts! Mingle with fellow Club members while the Champion Hills team wraps gifts. All supplies included.



## UGLY SWEATER PARTY | 4 PM - 6 PM

Grab your ugly (or favorite) holiday sweater for the annual Thirsty Thursday Ugly Sweater Party! Enjoy bar bites, spirits, prizes & all things merry & bright!



## PRIME RIB & OYSTER NIGHT | 5 PM - 8 PM

We have your post-Christmas dinner plans covered! Get your surf and turf fix at Prime Rib & Oyster Night!



## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Ring in 2026 at Champion Hills Club! Choose between an early or late seating time. Live music & dancing kicks off at 8:30 PM with The Caribbean Cowboys!



## A NOTE FROM THE CHAMPION HILLS HOLIDAY ELF



December is here-Boy, this is my favorite time of the year!  
Laughter & merriment galore, I can't wait to see what adventures we have in store!

Pay attention to your emails for clues on December 16, 17 & 18, too.  
A chance to win prizes each day-I could not imagine spending the holidays any other way!

VISIT [CHMEMBER.COM](http://CHMEMBER.COM) FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO REGISTER.

\*PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO OUR 24-HOUR CANCELLATION POLICY.

Enjoy this Member Favorite Holiday Cocktail...

## *The Jolly Joyce*

1.5 oz Bacardi Silver

1 oz Chocolat Chocolate Liqueur

.5 oz Kahlua

.5 oz Peppermint Schnapps

2 Dashes Orange Bitters

Stir over ice

Garnish with a Brandy Cherry & an Orange Twist  
For a sweeter treat, top with whipped cream!



## DECEMBER WINE OF THE MONTH

### IRON & SAND CABERNET SAUVIGNON PASO ROBLES, CA

Born from the grit of Paso Robles, CA, Iron + Sand is a nostalgic nod to the natural draw of the historic hot springs, Iron Spring and Sand Spring, that propelled Paso Robles into a bustling destination known as "California's oldest watering place". Iron and sand are also important elements in the wine's classic Paso terroir, as the sturdy iron trellising supports the bearing vines and the alluvial, well-drained sandy soils are the perfect match for Cabernet Sauvignon. Sourced predominantly from two sustainably farmed vineyards within the Paso Robles AVA, winemaker Lee Miyamura uses neutral oak allowing the Paso Robles terroir to shine through.

### TASTING NOTES

Dense purple in color, this wine opens with aromas of dark red fruit, blueberry, black cherry, cassis and cola with a dusting of baking spice. The wine is velvety and lush presenting delicious flavors of black cherry and blackberry with undertones of coffee, mocha and a hint of vanilla. The flavors are complemented by lively acidity and fine tannins that lifts the wine suggesting a long life. The finish is long, supple and mouthwatering.

This Paso Robles Cabernet is the perfect match for local Santa Maria style BBQ of tri-tip with salsa, pinto beans, grilled French bread, and a crisp green salad, or slow-braised short ribs with creamy polenta and roasted mushrooms.



GLASS | 13 BOTTLE | 46

## MAKE SPIRITS BRIGHT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON... THIRSTY THURSDAY WINE TASTING

Join Courtney (Tryon Distributors) and discover the perfect wines to complement your holiday meals or to gift to your favorite party host!

DECEMBER 4 | 4 PM - 6 PM



**RIEDEL**  
THE WINE GLASS COMPANY



### RIEDEL GLASS PRESENTATION \* DECEMBER 10 | 3 PM - 4 PM

Come learn about the history of Riedel while we taste through a lineup of wine. Light appetizers will be included.

\$70 per person | Each Recipient Takes Home 4 Riedel Glasses  
Limited to 12 | Join the Waitlist at [chmember.com](http://chmember.com)!

VISIT [CHMEMBER.COM](http://CHMEMBER.COM) FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO REGISTER.

\*PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO OUR 24-HOUR CANCELLATION POLICY.



## BACK TO THE BASICS: THE FOUR PILLARS OF FITNESS



There are four types of exercise that can improve your health and physical ability: endurance, balance, strength, and flexibility.

Most people tend to focus on one type of exercise or activity and think they're doing enough. Research has shown that it's important to get all four types of exercise.

Each one has different benefits. Doing one kind also can improve your ability to do the others, and variety helps reduce boredom and risk of injury.

### ENDURANCE

Endurance activities, often referred to as aerobic, increase your breathing and heart rates. These activities help keep you healthy, improve your fitness, and help you perform the tasks you need to do every day. Endurance exercises improve the health of your heart, lungs, and circulatory system. They also can delay or prevent many diseases that are common in older adults such as diabetes, colon and breast cancers, heart disease, and others. Building endurance is as easy as taking a brisk walk!

#### QUICK TIP:

Test your exercise intensity! Try talking: if you're breathing hard but can still have a conversation easily, it's moderate-intensity activity. If you can only say a few words before you have to take a breath, it's vigorous-intensity activity.

### BALANCE

Balance relies on input from several of the body's systems.

To name a few:

- **VISUAL SYSTEM**

To get an idea of how important vision can be for balance, see if you can stand on one leg with your eyes closed for 30 seconds.

- **PROPRIOCEPTION**

Receptors called proprioceptors in the skin, joints, ligaments, tendons, and muscles receive stimuli (for example, pressure on the bottoms of the feet) indicating the position, orientation, and movement of the body, and convey information to the brain, which uses it to create a constantly changing map of your position. When you lift your right leg, for example, the map is revised, and you maintain your balance by unconsciously shifting your weight to your left leg. You need sensory input, central processing (motor control), and muscle power to maintain stability during both purposeful movements.



### BALANCE EXERCISES

Try standing on one foot, then the other. If at first you need support, hold on to something sturdy. Work your way up to doing this movement without support. Get up from a chair without using your hands or arms.





## STRENGTH

Your muscular strength can make a big difference. Strong muscles help you stay independent and make everyday activities feel easier, like getting up from a chair, climbing stairs, and carrying groceries. Keeping your muscles strong can help with your balance and prevent falls and fall-related injuries. You are less likely to fall when your leg and hip muscles are strong.

**STRENGTH EXERCISES INCLUDE LIFTING WEIGHTS, EVEN YOUR OWN BODY WEIGHT (FUNCTIONAL FITNESS), AND USING A RESISTANCE BAND.**



## FLEXIBILITY

Stretching can improve your flexibility. Moving more freely will make it easier for you to reach down to tie your shoes or look over your shoulder when you back your car out of the driveway. Healthy muscles are both strong and pliable. Work mindfully through each stretch to promote good body mechanics and gain flexibility. It is always encouraged to work at your own personal range of motion!

## SAFETY TIPS

- Stretch when your muscles are warmed up.
- Stretch after endurance or strength exercises.
- Don't stretch so far that it hurts.
- Always remember to breathe normally while holding a stretch.

The path to improved health and physical ability includes endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. No matter your age, you can find activities that meet your fitness level and needs!

## CHAMPION HILLS PICKLEBALL CLINICS

**MONDAY | 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

**101/102 LEVEL DRILL & PLAY**

Limited to 8

**TUESDAY | 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

**101/102 SKILLS & DRILLS**

Limited to 8

**WEDNESDAY | 1 PM - 2 PM**

**SERVING & RECEIVING SERVES CLINIC**

Limited to 8

**THURSDAY | 1 PM - 2 PM**

**SKILLS & DRILLS**

Limited to 8



**TO BOOK A PRIVATE OR SEMI-PRIVATE LESSON,  
PLEASE CONTACT KATIE AT 262-492-9783.**

**REGISTER FOR ALL CLINICS ON CHMEMBER.COM**



# A MESSAGE FROM ERICK FOWLER, PGA

## CHAMPION HILLS HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL



### 2025 SPOOKTACULAR TOURNAMENT

We had 13 teams play in the 2025 Spooktacular. The 9-hole various-format event was enjoyed by all! Congratulations to the team of McFarland / Gaudino for taking the win!



### HOLE-IN-ONE!

Congratulations to Mr. Stan McFarland on his hole-in-one on #2 during the SPOOKTACULAR event!

The amazing thing is that it was to a blind hole (no flag), and the hole was very, very small! His feat was even picked up by the official GolfOnCBS Instagram page!



### PAR 36 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The PAR 36 program is up and running. We have 25 participants, both men and women at all different ability levels, for the first 6-week's session that runs through December. Participants start out playing 9 holes from their regular set of tees. After their 9-hole score has been recorded, subsequent rounds will be played as follows:

- Goal 1: 9 holes from 25 yards
- Goal 2: 9 holes from 50 yards
- Goal 3: 9 holes from 75 yards
- Goal 4: 9 holes from 100 yards
- Goal 5: 9 holes from 125 yards
- Goal 6: 9 holes from 150 yards

Participants move to the next Goal once they have scored 36 or better for their 9-hole score. This is a personal process to improve at their own pace while scoring better where it matters most. Everyone LOVES IT!



### PUTTING LEAGUE

The weekly Putting League will continue throughout the winter months. Participants learn skills and drills, while testing their ability to avoid the dreaded 3 putt (or worse). December dates and registration will be available on Foretees.

## 2025 HOLIDAY SALE

DECEMBER 11 - 14

Stop in these dates for exclusive Member discounts, plus daily stocking stuffer sale items!

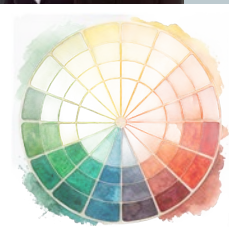




# CHAMPION HILLS

*Real Estate*

REAL ESTATE NEWS



## HELP US PREDICT THE 2026 PANTONE COLOR OF THE YEAR!

While Pantone keeps its official 2026 Color of the Year tightly under wraps, color experts around the world have already begun forecasting the trends. This year, nature-inspired tones are taking center stage. Industry leaders are leaning into greens, teals & earthy neutrals that evoke calm, balance, and a connection to the natural world. Here are some of the top predictions:

### TRENDING PICKS FOR 2026

#### Transformative Teal

Trend forecasters WGSN and Coloro have selected a rich blue-green blend as their 2026 Color of the Year—symbolizing balance, regeneration, and ecological mindfulness.

#### Hidden Gem

Behr's chosen hue is a smoky jade, praised for its versatility and its ability to create grounded, vibrant spaces.

#### Warm Eucalyptus

Valspar leans toward a soft, earthy green designed to evoke calm, comfort, and restoration.

#### Universal Khaki

Sherwin-Williams' prediction: a warm mid-tone khaki—timeless, elegant, and naturally grounded.

#### Other Designer Predictions

Shades like olive green (fashion's new neutral), emerald (known for its restorative qualities), and muted yellow-greens are also gaining traction.

The design world is signaling a clear shift toward organic, nature-inspired hues—so what do you think the 2026 Color of the Year will be?



CAST YOUR VOTE!



Stop by the Champion Hills Real Estate Kiosk - located just outside the real estate office to cast your prediction for the 2026 Pantone Color of the Year.

One lucky winner will be drawn on December 20. Winner receives a gift basket full of Western North Carolina goodies crafted by local artisans!



SCAN QR CODE  
TO VIEW LISTING



## Featured Listing

21 WILD FLOWER HOLLOW

LISTING PRICE | \$725,000



3 BDRM



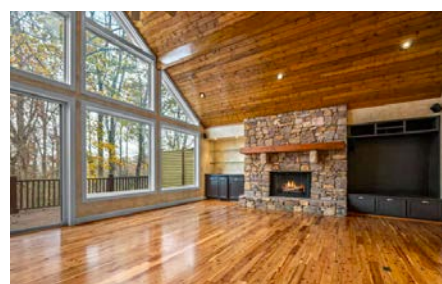
3 BATH



2,456  
SQFT

### PROPERTY FEATURES

- Loft suite
- Polished finish cypress floors
- Vaulted cathedral ceiling
- Custom built-ins
- Wall of windows for natural light
- Lower level golf cart garage
- Screened-in porch



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CHAMPIONHILLS.TEAM@ALLENTATE.COM





# December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Book Club Clubhouse Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Thirsty Thursday Holiday Wine Tasting	<b>5</b> Champion Hills Holiday Party	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Clubhouse Closed	<b>9</b> Town Hall Meeting	<b>10</b> Riedel Glass Presentation	<b>11</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Hannukah Begins	<b>15</b> Clubhouse Closed	<b>16</b> Ladies' Holiday Tea	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Third Thursday Sweater Party	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Clubhouse Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Club Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Prime Rib & Oyster Night
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Clubhouse Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Party			

NOTES: