

# ECHOES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHAMPION HILLS

JANUARY 2026

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





I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends. As we begin our 2026 journey, it's hard not to feel excited about what the New Year will bring.

The Board and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the staff for making the past several weeks during the holiday season so special. Their spirit, dedication, and genuine care are what make Champion Hills Club such a vibrant and welcoming place. Without them, our Club simply wouldn't be the same—thank you!

We will be welcoming Jerome Louie as our Interim General Manager during the second week of January. Jerome brings extensive experience in hospitality, Club/POA management, and staff development, and he will serve in this role until a permanent General Manager is selected. Please watch for additional information about Jerome's arrival in the coming days—he is very much looking forward to meeting you.

As you know, we are well underway in our national search for both our next General Manager and Head Golf Professional. Many of you have asked whether we are looking within the Troon system or externally—the answer is both. Our focus is on identifying the individuals whose experience and skill sets best align with the needs of our Club. We are finalizing our selection panels and interview process now. While recruiting for a premier club in the Blue Ridge Mountains is exciting, our size and illusion of seclusion do present challenges. That said, Troon is receiving strong interest and inquiries, and we will remain diligent until the right candidates are found. We will continue to keep you informed as the process moves forward.

Although January and February are typically quieter months, please keep an eye on the Club's Event Calendar. Weather permitting, opportunities to enjoy golf, croquet, and pickleball will continue. On January 5, I will be hosting our first "Pull Up a Chair – Let's Chat" from 10 AM to noon. This informal gathering is an opportunity to ask club-related questions, share ideas, and raise topics that matter to you—your voice truly matters. The Clubhouse will also continue to host Thirsty Thursday each week. On February 8, be sure to join us for the Champion Hills Super Bowl Party—it's always a great time. The following Saturday is Valentine's Day – a wonderful night to gather with friends, family, or someone special to enjoy a wonderful meal at the Club. Details and additional coming events will be shared on [chmember.com](http://chmember.com).

I look forward to seeing you around the Club and wish you a happy, healthy, and exciting New Year.

Stu Holcombe  
Club Board President

Thank You to our Members that participated in the  
2025 Member Spotlight & Pet Profiles!

## MEMBER PROFILES

### PHIL & AMY GRAY

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

We are life-long Texans that moved to North Carolina from Dallas.

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

We are thrilled to call Champion Hills our full-time home.

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

Golf, croquet, hiking, gardening, travel, and most importantly, spoiling the grandkids.

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

We've been married 37 years, and the interesting/fun fact list is quite long! One cute fact is that Phil's Mother introduced the two of us 40 years ago, and the life-long journey continues with new and exciting adventures like moving full-time to the mountains of Western North Carolina in May.



## PET PROFILES

### MISTER MAX BARRY

A.K.A. MAXI OR MAX

OWNER: CHARLOTTE BARRY



#### AGE & BREED

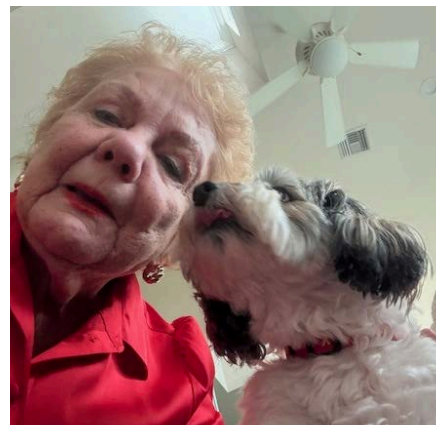
Mister Max (aka Maxi or just Max) is a 10-yearold purebred Havanese. (The Havanese is the Cuban national dog- brought to Cuba by the Spanish royalty).



#### COMMENTS ABOUT MAX & HIS FAVORITE THINGS TO DO

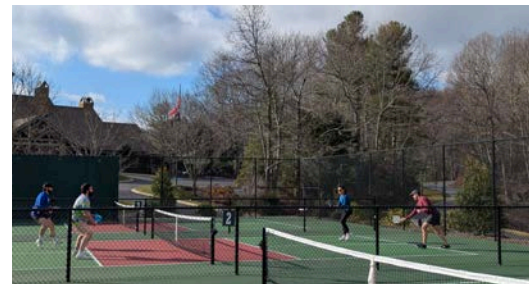
He is internationally certified as a therapy dog; meaning we can make visits to the home bound/hospitalized anywhere in the world.

Maxi loves people and is bred to be comfortable in apartments, RVs, and on someone's lap. He is playful and loves to do tricks for treats. His breed is often referred to as "circus dogs". His crazy antics bring smiles to my heart!

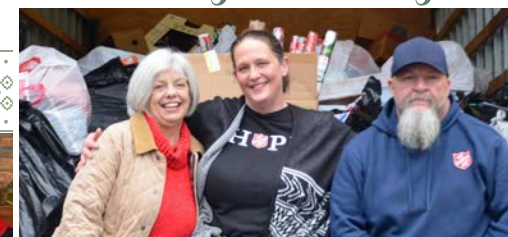


WHAT IS YOUR STORY AND / OR YOUR PET'S STORY? TELL US! WE ARE ACCEPTING 2026 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT & PET PROFILE SUBMISSIONS. EMAIL [JOSIE@CHAMPIONHILLS.COM](mailto:JOSIE@CHAMPIONHILLS.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS!





## 2025 Angel Tree Program



Champion Hills purchased gifts for 125 local, disadvantaged, children

Your generosity brought much happiness to these children this holiday season!

Thank you to the CH Angel Squad: Jean Calkin, Pam Roadman & their shoppers in ensuring these children received a very Merry Christmas!

## UGLY SWEATER PARTY



**UGLIEST**  
Becky Jansen



**MOST CREATIVE**  
Bob & Diane Hansberry  
Todd & Pam Roadman



**BEST COUPLE**  
Jim & Mary Kwolek  
Cindy & Kevin Gunter



## STAY CONNECTED WHILE YOU'RE AWAY!

As you travel and explore the world this season, stay connected with your Champion Hills family through our "HOW FAR CAN YOU GO?" social media campaign.

Here is how to participate:

1. Be sure to pack your favorite CH logo shirt/apparel
2. Take a photo of you with the CH logo wherever you travel
3. Email [josie@championhills.com](mailto:josie@championhills.com) telling us where you are traveling

It's that simple! At the end of March, we will award two winners:

1. Who traveled the furthest from the Champion Hills Clubhouse with their CH logo
2. Most Unique Destination traveled with their CH logo

All submissions must be submitted by February 28, 2026.

The winners will receive a feature in the April Echoes issue and a gift. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Admin Office!

# Upcoming Events at Champion Hills!

JAN  
5

## PULL UP A CHAIR - LET'S CHAT SESSION 10 AM - 12 PM | MOUNTAIN VIEW ROOM

Meet with the Club Board President, Stu Holcombe to ask club-related questions, share ideas & suggestions, or raise any topics important to you. Your voice matters!

JAN  
31

## SURF & TURF NIGHT | 5 PM - 8 PM

For our seafood lovers, enjoy an evening of your favorite surf & turf delights!

FEB  
4

## TRIVIA | 5:30 PM

Can our reigning champions, Practicing For Jeopardy be defeated or will they kick off the 2026 Trivia season with bragging rights?!

### PRACTICING FOR JEOPARDY

(LTR) Glenn & Terry Strow | Steve & Karen Imhof  
Dave & Laudette Doudna



FEB  
8

## SUPER BOWL PARTY | 5:30 PM - 10 PM

### FAZIO PUB MENU AVAILABLE 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Enjoy an evening of touchdowns, tailgating eats, and TVs everywhere! The Fazio Pub menu and beer specials will be available.

FEB  
14

## VALENTINE'S DINNER SPECIALS | 5 PM - 8 PM

Make a date at the Club for swoonworthy Valentine's Day dinner specials.

FEB  
18

## MUSIC BINGO

### 5 PM | COCKTAILS & 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM | DINNER BINGO STARTS AT 7 PM

Don't miss a chart-topping evening of singing, laughing...and even some dancing.

FEB  
19

## CHILI CHALLENGE | 4 PM - 6 PM

Warm up in the Fazio Pub at the annual Chili Challenge. Enjoy assorted homemade chili prepared by your fellow Club members & vote for your favorite chili. The chili contest is open to ALL members! Please reach out to Shelly Metcalf to enter your chili.

FEB  
28

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

Reservations will go fast for this popular dinner!

UPCOMING CLUB & DINING EVENTS

VISIT CHMEMBER.COM FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO REGISTER.

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





# JANUARY WINE OF THE MONTH

## 2022 MARKHAM MERLOT

Markham Vineyards of Napa Valley, CA

The 2022 Markham Merlot is made by renowned winemaker Kimberlee Nicholls, who previously won Wine Spectator's "Merlot of the Year" with Markham Vineyards. Sourced with fruit sourced from the best sites in Napa Valley, including estate-owned vineyards in the Calistoga, Yountville and Oak Knoll.

### TASTING NOTES

Ripe plum & cherry jam flavors are balanced by spicy oak & lively acidity, producing a balanced, food-friendly Merlot that pairs with a wide range of cuisines.

**\$13 GLASS | \$46 BOTTLE**



## A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME IN 2026

Here is just a taste of what's to come in 2026. Mark your calendar for these exciting Club events! Stay tuned to future Echoes and Happenings for more details!

Ladies Night Out | March 11\*

Men's Night Out | March 25\*

Easter Brunch | April 5\*

Mother's Day Brunch | May 10\*

Ladies' Fashion Show | May 22\*

Memorial Day Celebration | May 25\*

Summer Soirée | May 30\*

July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration\*

Casino Night | July 25\*

Luau on the Lawn | August 15\*

Murder Mystery Dinner | August 22\*

Labor Day Celebration | September 7\*

Autumn Affair | September 26\*

Spooktacular | October 31\*

Thanksgiving Day Buffet | November 26\*

Champion Hills Holiday Party | December 4\*

Ladies' Holiday Tea | December 15\*

New Year's Eve Celebration | December 31\*

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CLUB.

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.



## START THE NEW YEAR WITH A BASELINE HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT.

A fitness assessment evaluates your overall health and fitness through a series of fitness tests. It is conducted by a fitness professional. The test helps gain an insight into a person's level of fitness, endurance, body composition and general health. This information will help you to better achieve your fitness goals.

### HEALTH & FITNESS ASSESSMENT \$130

Your one-on-one assessment with TJ Vore will include fitness testing in all five components of physical fitness. Testing will take approximately one hour to complete.

For general health and fitness purposes, the tests are considered the starting point for designing an appropriate exercise program. They are meant to ensure you won't be at risk of harm and provide the trainer with the insights needed to establish clear and effective fitness goals.

Your testing will include an evaluation in these five categories.

1. Cardiovascular endurance: Testing measures how efficiently your heart and lungs work to supply oxygen and energy to your body during physical activity. This is a sub-maximal test and NOT a stress test. (OPTIONAL)
2. Body composition: Describes the different components that make up your total body weight, including your muscles, bones, and fat. This test will identify your body density percentages.
3. Strength testing: Measures the maximal amount of force a muscle group can exert at one time.
4. Muscle endurance testing: By comparison, measures the length of time a muscle group can contract and release before it becomes fatigued.
5. Measuring the flexibility of your joints: Vital in determining whether you have postural imbalances, foot instability, or limitations in your range of motion.

Once your testing is complete the information will be compiled into a personalized report. TJ will schedule a second appointment with you to review this data in depth. To book your personal fitness assessment contact TJ at 828-606-8887.



## ARE YOU READY FOR THE CHAMPION HILLS 5-MINUTE PLANK CHALLENGE?!

Beginning January 5th we will embark on the annual plank challenge.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PLANKS?

- **Planks provide total-body exercise**

A plank is a compound movement that activates multiple muscle groups for a total-body challenge, engaging arms, chest, shoulders, abs, back, and legs!

- **Planks build core muscle strength and endurance**

Isometric exercises like planks require you to hold a position so your muscles contract without changing length. Adding isometrics to your resistance workouts can help you build muscle strength and endurance. That could lead to better performance in your day-to-day activities and workouts.

- **Planks can correct your posture**

Doing core exercises like planks can lead to better posture. These targeted moves help build strength and endurance in postural muscles.

- **Planks improve balance and coordination**

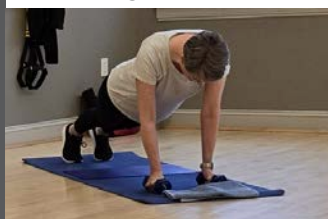
Core-strengthening exercises have been shown to improve balance and coordination. Planks challenge you to engage deep abdominal muscles and keep your back straight while balancing your weight on your hands and toes. That requires controlled movement and stability.

- **Planks may improve heart health**

Strengthening exercises are good for your heart, too. Weekly strength-training workouts may improve cardiovascular health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

- **Planks are versatile and convenient**

One of the best things about planks is their versatility and convenience. You don't need any equipment. You don't have to be in the gym to participate in the Champion Hills 2026 plank challenge!



**TIP:** Focus on proper plank form before holding the position for long periods. Try to avoid arching your back, dropping your hips, or craning your neck in a plank position. Imagine you're a puppet with a string that runs from the crown of your head to your toes. Keep your "puppet string" pulled taut and your body long and straight while in a plank.

**A 15-SECOND PLANK IS YOUR GOAL FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5TH!**



### PICKLEBALL LESSONS & CLINICS

To book a private or semi-private lesson, please contact Katie at 262-492-9783. Register for all clinics on [chmember.com](http://chmember.com)





# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRO SHOP

## PAR 36 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The PAR 36 program was a huge success! We had 25 participants for the first session, both men and women at all different ability levels.

**CATCH THE NEXT SESSION: JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 28. REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON FORETEES.**

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!

### RESULTS FROM NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SESSION

- 25 yards lowest score | Camille Grant {25} & Dung Phan {25}
- 50 yards lowest score | Don Morrison {27} & Gerritt Kerkstra {28}
- 75 yards lowest score | Steve Imhof {28} & Gerritt Kerkstra {29}
- 100 yards lowest score | Gerritt Kerkstra {31} & Joy Flora {35}
- 125 yards lowest score | Gerritt Kerkstra {28}
- 150 yards lowest score | Gerritt Kerkstra {36}
- Overall farthest finisher | Gerritt Kerkstra, 150 yards

1ST PLACE RECEIVED A \$75 PRO SHOP CREDIT & 2ND PLACE RECEIVED A \$50 PRO SHOP CREDIT.  
OVERALL FARTHEST RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL \$50 PRO SHOP CREDIT.

## SIMULATOR USAGE

Please reserve the simulator for your personal or small group usage by contacting the Pro Shop.  
Time is allotted in 1-hour increments.

## GOLF SIMULATOR EVENTS : JANUARY

Available when the weather outside is frightful.  
Watch the Friday email from the Pro Shop  
for details & dates/times.





# HOLE-IN-ONE!

JOHN GILMORE

Hole #2

112 yards

8 Iron into a very Strong Headwind

December 21, 2025

Congratulations to John Gilmore  
on his very first hole-in-one!



WAITING LIST ONLY!

**WHERE:** Champion Hills Club

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 14 (dinner reception) through Thursday, April 16

**WHO:** The Hall of Fame Golf School for Women is designed exclusively for women of ALL ability and handicap levels to participate in a golf school environment at their home golf course. The School is limited to no more than 24 participants. Student/Teacher ratio is no more than 6:1.

**WHY:** The benefit of the Hall of Fame Golf School for Women to Champion Hills members is that participants receive instruction in the areas that are most beneficial and relevant to them and the Champion Hills property. The many innuendos that are unique to Champion Hills are taken into consideration in the instruction and execution during the on-course sessions.

**SUMMARY:** Carole Clark brings with her teachers who have been recognized in their industry to be the best-of-the-best. They have collaborated since 2010 up and down the east coast of the U.S. at high end facilities that Carole has been a part of.

**COST:** The Early Birdie price is \$695. After January 15, the price will be \$725.

To learn more about The Hall of Fame Golf School, please visit ForeTees. The event is currently at capacity. To be added to the waitlist, please contact Carole at [c.clark@championhills.com](mailto:c.clark@championhills.com) or call the Pro Shop at 828-693-3600.

CANCELLATIONS UP TILL MARCH 1 WILL NOT BE BILLED. REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 1 WILL BE GRANTED IF THE SPACE IN THE EVENT CAN BE FILLED.





Thank you for making 2025 a wonderful year -  
we could not have done it without your help!

## 2025 CHAMPION HILLS REAL ESTATE HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Total Closed Homes</b>	<b>26</b> ↑
<b>Total Volume</b>	<b>\$31,161,745</b> ↑
<b>Avg. Sale Price</b>	<b>\$1,198,529</b> ↑
<b>Avg. Price Per Square</b>	<b>\$333.44</b> ↓
<b>Avg. % of Asking</b>	<b>95.63%</b> ↑

<b>Total Closed Lots</b>	<b>10</b> ↑
<b>Total Volume</b>	<b>\$416,999</b> ↑
<b>Avg. Sale Price</b>	<b>\$41,700</b> ↓
<b>Avg. % of Asking</b>	<b>78.05%</b> ↓

↑ INCREASE FROM 2024

↓ DECREASE FROM 2024

## DECEMBER DRAWING RECAP

We recently held our inaugural member interactive drawing, and it was such a joy to see everyone's favorite paint colors for decorating their home. From timeless neutrals to bold, vibrant hues, the submissions truly covered the spectrum.

Here's a recap of the entries:

- Basic White
- Royal Flush
- Sweet Pea in a Pod (2)
- November Rain – Terry Strow, WINNER!
- Hidden Gem
- Warm Eucalyptus (2)
- Dynasty Marquee
- Electric Orange
- Pretty Pink
- Butter Pecan
- Candle White
- Morning Sky Blue



Congratulations to Terry Strow, who won our Christmas basket filled with goodies from local companies.

Thank you to everyone who participated. It was fun seeing your color picks – keep an eye out for the next drawing!



# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> New Year's Day Clubhouse Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Pull Up A Chair- Let's Chat!  Clubhouse Closed	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Thirsty Thursday	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>   Clubhouse Closed	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Third Thursday	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>   Clubhouse Closed	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Thirsty Thursday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>   Clubhouse Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Thirsty Thursday	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Surf & Turf Night

NOTES: