

**Personal Post Office Boxes for Owners**

The volume of mail and packages being sent to owners in care of the Resort has increased substantially. The post office does not pick up or deliver to us. The staff picks up the large volume of busi-

ness mail daily. Owners who are here on a regular basis are required to purchase a personal post office box and retain responsibility for their own mail. The cost of a post office box is \$4.00

per month with an initial \$6.00 key deposit for 2 keys. Note: Most orders to Amazon are now sent to the post office for pickup even if you are providing the physical address.



**2017 CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**



- April : 15 **EASTER EGG HUNT** and games for children.
- May : 14 **UNICOI CHAPEL HOMECOMING DINNER:** After chapel services. (Ham, Turkey, Tea, Lemonade and utensils provided.) Bring two side dishes to share.
- May : 28 **MEMORIAL DAY** Veterans' Ceremony and Parade, Evening Dance. **COOK-OUT:** Sign up required. Tickets \$5.00
- June : 17 **FALL CRAFT FAIR AND YARD SALE:** In the Clubhouse and at individual sites. (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Sign up to reserve table in Clubhouse and to let people know where you are and what you have.
- July : 1 **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION:** Camper Decoration and Golf Cart Decoration Contest, Parade, Veteran's Recognition Ceremony, Evening dance. **COOKOUT:** Sign up required. Tickets \$5.00
- September : 2 **LABOR DAY COOKOUT:** Sign up required. Tickets \$5.00
- September : 16 **ANNUAL OWNERS' MEETING** in the Clubhouse.
- October : 21 **FALL CRAFT FAIR AND YARD SALE:** In the Clubhouse and at individual sites. (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Sign up to reserve table in Clubhouse and to let people know where you are and what you have.
- October : 28 **HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION** Morning Children's Activities. Evening "Treat or Treating", Costume Contest, dance and entertainment. *(Bring a snack to share at the dance.)*
- November : 4 **THANKSGIVING DINNER** Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Tea, Lemonade and utensils provided. *(Bring 2 side dishes to share.)*
- December : 23 **CHRISTMAS DINNER** - Meal to be decided
- December : 31 **NEW YEAR'S DINNER** - Meal to be decided

This is just a sampling of the larger events. As details unfold, they will be posted on the website at [www.unicoisprings.com](http://www.unicoisprings.com) and will appear on the Weekly Activity Sheets. Volunteers are always welcome to make these events as enjoyable as possible. Don't hesitate to step up if you have ideas for other activities, talents you would like to share or just want to help!



**The Springs Communicator**

"An Official Publication of the Board of Directors"

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**In Memoriam**

- Steve Bailey
- Robert E. "Bob" Kirk
- James Ogletree
- Laura Perry
- James Phillips
- Donald Thurman
- Doris Thurman

*You will be missed...*

To the families and friends of these owners, we send our condolences. Please help us recognize anyone whose name has been inadvertently omitted.

Don't forget to visit your website at [www.unicoisprings.com](http://www.unicoisprings.com)

**Election Results and Special Vote**

The results are in and your new Board of Directors are as follows: David Stover, President; Arlon Maddox, Vice President; Beth Cruz, Treasurer; Bonnie Jordan, Secretary; Thurman Carpenter, our newest director, W.

Tommy Walker, serving his second term as director and Frank Ward, continuing his term as director. Our thanks to John Gaines for serving and completing his first term on the Board. Thurman Carpenter received 798 votes and

W. Tommy Walker received 796 votes. The vote to keep the Resort open 12 months of the year passed. 448 voted YES and 429 voted NO.

**A Full Year of Opportunity**

Whether you spend the entire year at the Resort or an occasional weekend, here and there, the payoff is the same - beautiful surroundings, friendly faces and kind hearts reside in and visit Unicoi Springs. For the most part, the spirit is that of cooperation, anticipation of good times and camaraderie with others you may only see during your visits.

The planned Activities are an important part of the Unicoi Springs experience. The events may seem to happen spontaneously, but this is not the case. Each activity happens because at least one person has stepped up to lead, organize, gather supplies for, cook, bake and/or publicize the event. Over the years, a core group seems to volunteer over and over again without regard to the time and effort they expend so others can enjoy their stay. It is very easy to take these dedicated individuals for granted and sometimes react negatively to them when things are not to your liking.

If you have ideas for activities you would like to see implemented; if you have a talent you want to share and teach; if you are willing to lend a hand for just one week of your stay during the year, this will make things easier for everyone and add dimension to the growing list of things to do here at the Resort.

Don't think that you cannot do enough to make a difference—even offering a few hours might lighten the load of those few who are always here for us. Look at your schedule; attend an Activity Planning meeting or spend just a few hours a week towards helping out. If everyone does a little...no one has to do a lot. Contact David Stover if you want to help.

Just think of the possibilities: A New Year's Eve gala, football and New Year's Day complete with blackeyed peas and the lucky dime, a Valentine's Day Ball, St. Patrick's Day fun, just think of an April Fools' Day celebration, our

special Easter Activities, Mother's Day Luncheon, Memorial Day, a Daddy Daughter Dance, Independence Day, a Just Because It's Summer Celebration including our own Olympics including Volley Ball teams on our amazing new court, Fishing Tournaments (have you seen the size of some of the fish caught just in the last month or so??) Labor Day, our phenomenal Halloween Celebration, Thanksgiving at the Resort, lighting up the Resort for Christmas with some real old fashioned holiday fun. Make some memories with cookie exchanges, White Elephant gift exchanges, caroling, Secret Santas, why not invite the real Santa to speak with our children with a "sleigh ride" around the lake, hot cocoa and storytelling in the Clubhouse??? Let's make 2017 another great camping season!

## Why Is My Internet Not Working???

(Please Read)

Since we have acquired our resort wide Wi-Fi service, the majority of you are thrilled beyond belief to have this long-awaited service. However, the Office receives occasional calls from owners whose connection is difficult to obtain and or intermittent dropping of the connection. They are frustrated and can't believe that we spent the money for this service that "just doesn't work".

Once we started getting this type of call, we contacted our representative from Gunby Communications to assist us in pinpointing the problem. Fortunately, for us, the support from this company is immediate. They can remote in prior to even visiting the Resort and have amazing technology to pinpoint any issues.

Here is an excerpt from information we have posted in the Clubhouse in regard to the use of the Wi-Fi

*"These are some simple guidelines and tips that you, as campers, can utilize to make the internet system work better. First of all, the Wi-Fi system was designed to make it usable to all campers in all locations. The stations that distribute the internet are placed in strategic locations to reach all campsites. If you look near your campsite, find the access point that is closest to you, and associate your devices to that access point. All the access sites are numbered.*

*Second, while you may see a full signal coming from the access point on your device, keep in mind that the signal coming from your device is not going to be as strong as the signal you receive. The antenna distributing the Wi-Fi has much more power than the one on any device*

## Golf Cart Parking Alert

If you are paying for golf cart storage, you know that you are paying for a designated spot to park your cart. When you prepare to leave the park, it is your right to assume that your space will be vacant until you return to put your cart back in place.

Nothing is more frustrating than to see that someone has parked their golf cart in your spot or parking over the line when you are packed, ready to go and probably on a time schedule. The dilemma is finding out who parked in

*you have. Also, most campers are constructed with a lot of aluminum so when you are inside your camper, the camper itself will sometimes block the signal coming from your devices inside. There are some solutions that you can use to make your internet perform better. Wi-Fi extenders are relatively cheap and work well with our system. Some come with a small antenna that sticks to the window and boosts the signal inside. We DO NOT recommend using a booster connected to another wireless router. In that case you are simply broadcasting more radio waves that distort the signal for you and your neighbors. ALSO, if you have or are using a jetpack or similar cellular device to receive internet connected to a wireless router in your camper, please TURN DOWN the power of your wireless router. In that case you are interfering with your neighbors' ability to use the campground Wi-Fi system."*

In a nutshell, if you are having a problem with your Wi-Fi, there is a very good chance that one or more of your neighbors is still using their own hotspot or router. The intention is not malicious; many are not even aware that they are causing problems in their area. Often this individual may believe that if we have Wi-Fi in the park and it is strong, adding their own Wi-Fi makes their connection even stronger. In this case, more is not better.

If you want to amplify the strength of your connection, you can purchase a Wi-Fi extender, as mentioned in the Guidelines, however; this extender will not override the hotspots and personal routers

your spot or taking the easy way out and parking in the next vacant spot. Not only are carts being parked in the wrong designated spot, they are being parked in such a way that they are taking up more than one space which compounds the problem.

At some point, these decisions will come home to roost and someone will not be able to park their cart at all. So begins another "domino effect" that eats up precious time for an owner and/or staff to unravel who parked

ers being used in your area.

Our Wi-Fi system has 13 access points delivering 40 mgs of service which is more than adequate for the volume required, even on the busiest weekends. Overall, the system we installed is performing correctly and there are an average of 125 to 200 devices daily connected. Gunby Communications has more than 400 accounts of this caliber. The same issue happens to all of them. The solution to the problem is simply education and consideration of your fellow owners. You can actually see for yourself if someone in your area is using an extra and personal connection device. When the Unicoi Springs access points appear for your choice to click for your connection, any personal ones will also show up on that list.

This is your opportunity to speak with your neighbor and explain the complications and that our system will work without them using valuable minutes or spending extra money while they are here in the Resort. This conversation should be both friendly and beneficial from one owner to another.

Remember, this great service is very new to everyone and not everyone understands the ramifications of this simple step. Let's help each other, you may even strike up a new friendship in the process.

The Office will make this information available to owners and guest checking in. If we work together in this endeavor, everyone will benefit.

where and why so that the carts can be organized the way they should be. Due to the fact that this problem is still occurring, the Board has passed a motion to charge a \$20.00 fine when this happens in the future. There is a warning posted in the area.

In consideration of others and for the sake of your pocketbook, please use diligence in parking your golf cart in the assigned space and make sure that your owner number is visible even if the cart is covered.

## Gentle Reminders

• If you need to update your Christmas card list before you leave, you can check the owner address list in the Office. Phone numbers are not included due to privacy issues.

• Your Unicoi Springs on-line store is a great place to Christmas shop. Contact the Office if you would like to have an even more personalized product prepared for you at no extra charge. Just click on the Unicoi hoodie on the home page of our website to see.

## Unicoi Springs Ladies Time Out Group

Included in the construction plan of upgrades approved last year were two other areas – the mini golf course and the playground. We are excited to see the finished products in both of these areas.

Our new playground design is especially dear to the members of the Ladies Time Out Group. They have donated the proceeds from the first printing of the cookbook and also from their first Silent Auction towards special needs equipment for the playground, to help our campground purchase items to enhance the campground that are not normally figured in the original budget.

To date, they have collected \$2,229.00 to go toward the cost of wheelchair access material to place on the ground, two special needs swings, sun-screen material for a shaded area and cushioned mats once the final dimensions are configured.

The Ladies Time Out Group continues their monthly goal of making a differ-

## Unicoi Springs Pitmasters

On the testosterone side of the coin, we have the Pitmasters, the cooking, smoking, grilling experts of the Resort. Their gastronomical creations appear at most large holiday functions accompanied by the delicious side dishes and desserts provided by our wonderful ladies of the Activity Committee.

• Need some extra holiday cash? Refer someone to purchase an ownership and you can make \$300 to go into your Santa Fund, OR get one year free maintenance fee OR a two year paid membership in Coast to Coast. This is for every ownership you refer to the office. With all the wonderful improvements recently made, it is easier than ever to boast about our resort. Check with the Office for more details. Not too many years ago, there was a waiting list to purchase an ownership. Re-

ence in the community reflecting a positive light on our Resort and the owners.

In addition to collecting pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House, they have fulfilled wish lists for the Smithgall Woods Animal Shelter and, for the second year, they are collecting much needed warm clothing items for the children of White County Headstart for delivery on November 15th.

The pop top collection will continue through 2017 and will be delivered periodically to them. So far, they have delivered 16 gallons of pop tops thanks to you!

The group's first Silent Auction featuring handcrafted items and special items from owners was held during the July 4th weekend this year. They raised \$729.00 towards their special needs equipment for our new playground. They will hold a second Silent Auction on the July 4th weekend of 2017. If you are an artist or crafter or have a unique new or like new item to

cent visitors to our Resort marvel at the price and all that it includes. As the holidays draw near, strut our stuff and make some money at the same time!

• Save your minutes and save your money. When connecting to our resort -wide wi-fi, do not use your hotspots or personal routers – they are not necessary and cause problems for you and your neighbors. (See article on Page 2).

donate and want to help out this worthy cause, contact Nancy Stearns at (770) 307-6367.

The first printing of the new Unicoi Springs Cookbook sold out and they are now taking pre-orders for a second printing. They accrued \$1500.00 towards their playground fund. This was a momentous undertaking, as those of you involved in previous cookbooks for Unicoi Springs know only too well.

If you missed out on the first printing or need more, you can contact Nancy Stearns at (770) 307-6367, you can call the Office at 706-878-2104 and pay by credit card or you can download the order form from the Library on our website and send it in with a check.

The Ladies' Time Out Group meets the first Tuesday of every month. If you want to join in the shenanigans, snacks and fairy godmother goals, just sign up and show up! Each month, there is a different theme, so hang onto those poodle skirts, fringed vests and footie pajamas...."ya" just never know!

certainly missing out. Their cooking rivals any local bbq restaurant at a fraction of the cost, not to mention no traffic stress. Just know that when you sign up for a plate at any of our events, they will be the chefs. Got skills of your own? Just contact David Stover, Ken Loudermilk or Herman Dove...cooking accomplices welcome!