

Newcomers of Catawba Valley
2425 North Center Street #169
Hickory, N.C. 28601

www.newcomersofcv.com

MAY 2020



President's Column

Hello Newcomers!

"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about." — haruki murakami

Well it is almost May and we are still on hold. I hope everyone is doing well, staying healthy and stepping out to your front porch, deck, balcony or backyard for some fresh air and a look at the glorious spring we are having!

As I stated in my April 24th's message, Governor Roy Cooper extended North Carolina's stay-at-home order to May 8 and the state will reevaluate then. He also announced that when NC does begin to open, it will be in three phases. These phases will take place over several weeks, and may be delayed if the virus doesn't show positive signs of slowing down. A moving target. So, we continue to be on hold.

As such, we have decided to keep the Newcomer's club closed until the end of May. The BOD continues to meet and to assess the information provided by the Governor's office and we will proceed as appropriate.

We are all missing the Newcomer's activities, but health is most important, and we will get back to our social activities just as soon as we can. In the meantime, be positive, as this will pass. Call your friends and family, plan future events, step outside, garden, go boating, breathe and count your blessings.

Please continue to follow the stay-at-home order and be safe.
Hope to see you all very soon!

Warmest Regards,

Cathi Montgomery
President, NCV



Special Events Committee

Greetings from the Special Events Committee!



Special Events Committee?? Yes, we still exist, even if we are much more low-key right now. But, no need to fear! We are still working on future outings and events and checking out places (albeit on-line) for us to visit! This will all be over at some point and we'll be ready!!

The next event that we have on the calendar is the Pontoon Party on June 3rd. This activity has been cancelled. Thanks for your understanding.



The next event that is likely to happen is the Annual Picnic on June 22nd. It is planned to take place at Glenn C. Hilton, Jr. Park in Hickory, so we'll have space to spread out, places to hike, places to play games like Horseshoes and Corn Hole, and tables for Dominoes and Mah Jong. Again, we must continue the wait-and-see game, but here's hoping!!

Because we are all still looking forward to Michele and Vince LeGrand's Pool Party on July 18th, don't overdo on the snacks and cookies! Swimsuit season will be upon us before we know it! I've heard that the "19" in Covid-19 stands for the 19 lbs. we will gain during quarantine! Don't let that be you!



The plans for the 2020 Holiday Party are beginning, so please let Cathi Montgomery, Rob Herman, Chris Beckom or myself know of a hall you are aware of or any suggestions for entertainment. Maybe there was a particular entertainer you enjoyed in the past and it's

time to bring them back. Maybe you heard someone before the quarantine that you would like to perform for us. The more ideas the better!

Think of all the things you have to look forward to! So, chin up and Stay Home, Stay Healthy until further notice!

Amy Chizen

Chair, SEC

Book Club

Book Club is currently reading *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side, understanding more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy.

Book Club meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month, except for this November. Our next meeting is supposed to be May 27 (but we won't know if this will be possible until a later time), at Women's Resource Center at 1:30 p.m. Mary Bucy will facilitate our discussion.

Members can find the list of excellent books that we have chosen for 2020 on the website.

The Book Club Coordinator is Mary Bucy at mebucy@hotmail.com



Online Games to Play....with the "computer" or with other Newcomers who sign up!

I have picked ones my computer antivirus/Norton, says were SAFE SITES. BUT, as always check for yourself and if you are not comfortable...pick another site. All I did was "GOOGLE" the different games we all play using the Game Name and "play online FREE"

Games that you can play online, against the computer, or with other you know who sign up on the same website:

Canasta sites:

<https://www.playok.com/en/canasta/>

<https://zone.msn.com/en/canasta/default>

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/canasta-online-offline/id1059474530> for APPLE devices only

For members who are Face Book users

Rummikub and Canasta FB Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOriginalRummikub/>

<https://www.facebook.com/handandfootcanasta/>

Rummikub sites:

<https://rummikub.com/>

Dominoes sites:

<https://www.dominoblock.com/>



Mah Jongg.....great ONLINE Mah Jongg game!!



After two weeks of no games, mah jongg was gotten much more interesting. Not only has the 2020 card arrived in the mail (did you sanitize it?), but many of us have discovered an excellent online version called Real Mah Jongg. You download the app from your app store and play on the internet.

<https://realmahjongg.com/>

The photos here are what the opening page and sign in/up page looks like

14 day free trial
Signup without credit card.
Then just \$5.99/mo.

Already have an account?

Email
Enter your email

Username
Enter a username

Password
Enter a password

Sign Up

We can play against computer opponents, other humans or your friends. Players have their choice of using the newest card or an older version, as well as the speed of the game.

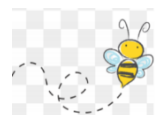
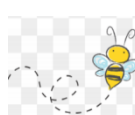
The first two weeks are free, with no need to give your credit card number. After that, you can opt for a monthly subscription of \$5.99 or \$59.99 a year. It is realistic, easy to use and lots of fun.

Several of our players added another feature: We started a conference call on our cell phones and chatted and kitized as we played. It was so fun to hear familiar voices.

Dianne will still stick to our normal schedule: 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays -just **not** at Pinecrest but online. When you open the app online, you can search "hickory" in the SEARCH box.

Many of us who have signed up for this app have made hickory----- part of our user name, such as hickorybrenda or hickorychris, or hickorydianne...etc!! So it's easy to find a "table" to join in on!!

Don't worry if you see the game is in progress. If there are less than 4 names showing, the other player(s) are the computer...and you take that place...JUMP ON IN a game when you can!! If you have questions, contact Dianne Straley dfwhit@gmail.com



Committee Position Available

[The board is asking for help from our membership.](#) There is a need for a person or persons to cover our Members Helping Members committee. The position coordinates support for members with short term needs and would not require a lot of time and just a minimum of computer and telephone work. Please put your thinking caps on if you would be willing to consider this position and contact Adra Kryszczuk, temporary chair at adraellen@yahoo.com

Now a word from the CDC

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

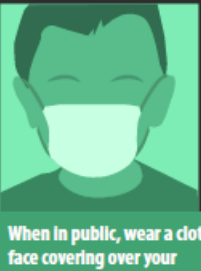
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



Corona has proved that everything around us is so temporary. Things our lives revolved around... work, gym, malls, movies, society have all gone for a toss as we are learning to live without them. It has taught us that in the end, it's your own home and family that keeps you safe.

To All our NCV Members:

Please be sure to get all your information about the Covid-19 Virus and what is happening in our State and our area from **FACTUAL and RELIABLE** sources. There have been numerous misleading articles on social media and even sent through emails and texts that are just plain wrong and harmful.

Below are some websites with accurate and timely information on the corona virus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

<https://www.wfae.report/breakingnews/>

<https://www.wbtv.com/news/catawba-county/>

All these websites have the ability for you to sign up for regular updates.

Another Edition of “NOT YOUR NORMAL NEWSLETTER”

In an attempt to Bring smiles and light heartedness to our IRREGULAR Times.....I have been very fortunate to have some fun and informative “reporters” who have helped to bring their ideas and perspectives on everyday joys. Thank you So much, to Dianne Straley, Amy Chizen, Susan Reese, Adra Kryszczuk, and Michelle LeGrand....every lil’ bit helps!!

Zooniverse.com Dianne Straley

If you have a computer and time on your hands, volunteer with the citizen scientist program outlined at zooniverse.org. More than 1.5 million volunteers do what is frankly tedious study of records to back up scientists and researchers in the field of astronomy, natural sciences, weather, history, cell biology and more. You don't need an advanced degree to do it. Imagine 24 cameras in the Serengeti taking photos around the clock for years of animals as they walk by. A PhD scientist studying migration and survival trends does not have time to categorize and count all those animals. You do.



In dozens of projects from around the world, volunteers:

- 1) watch videos of worms for scientists studying human brain function
- 2) help the NY Public Library by transcribing hand-written mortgage records of immigrants from years 1851 to 1921.
- 3) study retinas for signs of diabetes.
- 4) look at images from the Hubble telescope to count star clusters in the Andromeda Galaxy.
- 5) transcribe ships logs from exploratory and research trips to the Arctic, from 1850 to 1950.
- 6) study time-lapse photos to look for unknown asteroids.

Sign up at zooniverse.org. When we all get back together, it will give you something to talk about besides that darn virus.

Yummy Twist to an Angel Food Cake....from Michele LeGrand

This is a REALLY easy recipes (and low cal, too, which I know I need, especially now)

Take a box of angel food cake mix. Instead of the water, add a 20oz can of CRUSHED pineapple (juice and all). Mix and bake as for the angel food cake.

That’s IT! Sometimes angel food cake can be so “bland” but the pineapple gives it a bit of “zing”

Been Keepin’ Busy From Susan Reese

I have been doing DISH ‘OnDemand’. These are the movies that I enjoyed.

- HOME
- A BRILLIANT YOUNG MIND
- MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
- FINDING YOUR FEET
- LOVE & MERCY

I just finished this book, *Family Acts*, by Louise Shaffer. I enjoyed it, I like her writing style, very conversational. I also like that she lets you peek into her thoughts in *italics*... I will get more of her books. Currently reading, *Coconut Cowboy*, by Tim Dorsey. He is one of my favorite guilty pleasures... I love his characters, *Serge and Coleman*. The ‘bent’ version of (*maybe*) Robin hood and Little John... Maybe???

I’m waiting for my next big read, *Deacon King Kong*, by James McBride, for book club. I’m very excited to start this one, looks awesome.

I’ve been doing a lot of podcasts, in lieu of audio books (*I miss being in the library*).... L But, I’m really enjoying the podcasts a lot. I will probably keep doing that in the future (*post c-virus*).

- 1001 Stories.... (There are a bunch of these in different genres)
- NPR – Fresh Air
- TED RADIO HOUR· RON BURGUNDY (Will Ferrell really makes me laugh) LOL

So many to choose from... There are lots out there.

Sewed 3 face masks, washable and with filters... Panty liners make a wonderful filter. WHO KNEW!! LOL

Lastly ‘Home Projects’, here’s the garden art. It will give me something else to study while sitting with a glass of wine on the deck. It also hides some of the neighbor’s less than appealing backyard. LOL I added a cordless jigsaw to my cordless tools... FUN and a bit scary!! LOL





Lots of gardening, peas, beans, lettuce, herbs, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, cucumbers. *I think I'll have more than 3 apples on the trees this year. No cherry blossoms though. I will have to get another tree, though the nursery swore this was a self-pollenating dwarf, it's been 3 years. So, I have a place for another cherry tree. It's going in in the Fall. So THERE!*

Quarantine Busy Bees **Amy and Harlan Chizen**

What has kept me busy during the quarantine? Plenty!! I have to say that moving to NC has proven to be a blessing ten-fold. I could expound on that with examples of the many friends we've made here, the slower pace of life than in New England, or the lower cost-of-living. But right now, I can't help but feel that, if we have to be quarantined, we've had the best weather to do it in! I keep in contact with family and friends in CT, IL, WA, PA and TX, and NC and TX are certainly the places to be. All the others are still having measurable snow, rain and cold temps. Our beautiful days and mild nights have allowed us a lot of enjoyment and productivity.

So, particulars. We are great believers in shopping the many resale stores in this area. During the cooler months we were able to pick up some outside furniture to use on the patios. They all needed to be assembled and/or painted, however, so that's what I've been doing! The wicker tables on the front porch are a project I'm particular proud of since they started out dark maroon! The bar stools on the side porch weren't such a big deal to disassemble or paint, but putting them together turned into a real project.

Some other items that we have gotten taken care of outside are hard to show in pictures, but having the house power washed and getting the 4 small, mostly dead trees out of the back yard were on our To Do list and have been accomplished. Our neighbors' son was taking some trees out of their yard and just kept going into our yard! He loves to play on the equipment and he did a wonderful job – even took the trees away!

We've also been busy inside the house! Almost all of our pictures have been hung – and we had A LOT of pictures! My son said he felt like it was a time tunnel of his life when we showed him the hallway! I guess it kind of is! My sewing/crafts room has been unpacked and organized. I'm not saying it's neat, just that I know where things are now. And, of course, even though we recently moved in, there are closets to straighten, furniture to move around, cabinets to be organized and always – ALWAYS – more boxes to unpack.

What has kept us sane throughout have been our 5-mile daily walks. We live in a terrific area for walking and take advantage of that! We walk up 6th Street and sometimes circle around a couple blocks; or we walk to Hilton Park and head into the woods with the Disc Golfers or wander around on the boardwalk; or we continue passed Hilton Park and go on to Geitner Park and go to the water so the dog can get a drink and cool off her feet. Once at Geitner Park we have to be mindful of the heat, but we have walked on their paved path as well as some of the trails through the woods. At some point we'd like to walk to the park, walk the paved trail from one end to the other, then walk home. That would be a 7-mile walk so we're working on it in pieces. I actually think Harlan and I could make it, but it would be tough on the dog.

Hope everyone else is finding things to keep them busy, happy and sane! We'll have so much to talk about when we can get back together!



Amy & Harlan



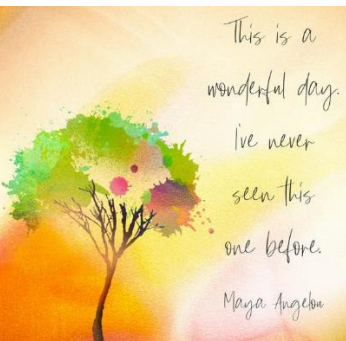
Flowers to share...come an' get'em!!

Adra Kryszczuk

Adra has perennial bedding plants (lily of the Valley, yellow daisies and some purple coneflower (echinacea) available in her yard if anyone wants to come dig it up.



Thoughts to bring Smiles and Love



You know, all that really matters is that the people you love are happy and healthy. Everything else is just sprinkles on the sundae.
-Paul Walker

I hope there are days when your coffee tastes like magic, your playlist makes you dance, strangers make you smile, and the night sky touches your soul. I hope there are days when you fall in love with being alive.

There are some people that walk into our life like sunshine after the rain or a clear night sky full of stars. The kind of people that just sitting next to them inspires us and awakens our magic. I like those people.
BROOKE HAMPTON

JUST BE A GOOD PERSON,
love who you can,
HELP WHERE YOU CAN,
give what you can.



"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"
-MISTER ROGERS

Laughing is the best medicine. But if you're laughing for no reason, you may need medicine.



Life is like a CAMERA
just focus on what's IMPORTANT
& CAPTURE
the good times
DEVELOP from the negatives
& if things don't work out
JUST take another SHOT



I love when my kids tell me they're bored.
As if the lady standing in front of a full sink of dirty dishes is where you go to get ideas about how to have a good time.

Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person.

Worth mentioning...If you are a **YOUTUBE**'r one show we have found that is GREAT is **SGN (Some Good News)** done by John Krasinski, you may remember him from "The Office" and "Jack Ryan on Amazon Prime Video. Here is a link to his YouTube show :

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOe_y6KKvS3PdIfb9q9pGug

Sponsor Spotlight

Lake Hickory Adventures

Lake Hickory Adventures offers the first and only known dinner, holiday, and private charter boat cruises on Lake Hickory in Hickory, North Carolina. Serving over 350,000 people in a four county, 2,000 sq. mile area of the Catawba Valley, Lake Hickory Adventures has something for everyone. They have Public Dinner cruises, Fishing cruises, Holiday and Specialty cruises, Private/Wedding Event cruises, just to name a few. Whether you're looking for family-friendly things to do or celebrating something special, we have something for everyone in Hickory and the Catawba Valley. (Lake Hickory Adventures is suspending activities until sometime after May 2020, as directed by Local Authorities, due to Covid-19.) Once restrictions are lifted, they can be reached by calling 828-358-2384 or fun@lakehickoryadventurs.com

BIRTHDAY



Birthdays in May

Janis Goonan	5/1
Nancie Jaeger	5/3
Al Osbahr	5/4
Carolyn Shoemaker	5/10
John Wrigley	5/11
Anna Murawski	5/12
Brenda Gordon	5/14
Elaine L. Kalber	5/20
Debra Palmer	5/22
Pratibha Patel	5/24
Teeky Kenny	5/25
Robyn Wolgemuth	5/26
Marc Fedder	5/27
Karen Mills	5/28

Birthdays in June

Neil Forrest	6/2
Amanda Black	6/3
Bill McLaughlin	6/4
Gail Meyer	6/5
Verna McDowell	6/8
Carol Lundeen	6/9
Stan Bumgarner	6/11
Kris Bowman	6/13
Jeffrey McDermott	6/13
Muriel Galluzi	6/13
Betty Schwartz	6/13
Kenneth Pujdak	6/17
June Chalk	6/18
Cass Taliaferro	6/18
George Beckom	6/21
Doak Walker	6/21
Laurie Johnsen	6/22
Bill Jones	6/22
Gloria Berg	6/24
Dennis Valkanoff	6/24
Bev Forrest	6/26
Sandy Sigmon	6/27
Carol Earl	6/30

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

Gail and Ken Feldman from Granite Falls, NC



SPONSORS

NEWCOMERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY—SPONSORS



Hickory Community Theatre



Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning



Trent Jolley, Farm Bureau Insurance



Lake Hickory Adventures



Chad Burel, Edward Jones Investing



Hickory Real Estate Group



Viewmont Healthsmart Pharmacy



Crosswind Café



Catawba County Chamber of Commerce



Catawba Valley Comm College



Marine Corps League



Hickory Hop



Select Tech Repairs



Granite Falls Brewery



Van Fleet Aviation

The UPS Store

The UPS Store



Linda Meares, Coldwell Banker



Allen Tate Realty - Mortgage

Gary West's Power Washing and Steam Cleaning

Business
Residential
Commercial
Vinyl Siding
Tractor & Trailers
Heavy Equipment
Decks, Driveways, Roofs, Etc.



3252 Pooh Place
Lenoir, NC 28645
828-754-8072
(Cell) 396-0323

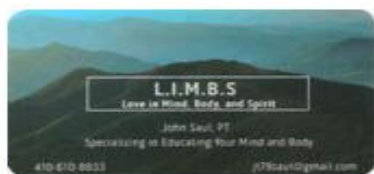
Gary West's Power Wash



Life Enrichment Travel



Auto Fitness Center



LIMBS Physical Therapy



Hickory Heat & Cool

Charity **ROBIN'S NEST**

Robin's Nest is a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center. Child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse are provided child specific services that include compassionate forensic interviews, medical examinations, counseling and advocacy services. Providing these services at a single site helps decrease the trauma these children face, speed the healing process, and increase the likelihood of conviction of offenders.

Wish List

GIFT CARD

- \$10 Wal-Mart Gift Cards
- \$10 Grocery Store Gift Cards (Fair Value, Food Lion)
- \$10 Gas Cards

SNACKS

- Juice Boxes
- Individual Size Snack Packs - Chips, Cookies, Gummy Snacks, Applesauce, Crackers, Little Debbie Cakes

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Copy Paper 8 1/2 x 11
- Paper Towels & Toilet Tissue
- 13 Gallon Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Antibacterial Cleaning Wipes & Spray Cleaner
- Air Freshener Spray
- Heavy Duty PAPER Plates & Plastic Forks, Knives, Spoons
- 12oz Disposable Coffee Cups, K-cups for Keurig, Flavored Creamer Cups/Powdered Creamer/Sugar
- Lysol

ALFIE'S WISH LIST (Robin's Nest received Alfie through the Canine Companions for Independence Program in February 2020)

Alfie can only accept the following items. This is a mandate through the Canine Companions program

Dog Food: Eukanuba Large Breed, Kong toys, Lint rollers, Oatmeal Pet Shampoo, Mango Tango Cleansing wipes for dogs.



Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2020

Officers	Position
Cathi Montgomery	President
Rob Herman	Vice President
Kathy Rozea	Treasurer
Chris Beckom	Secretary
Delilah Bragg	Past President
Directors	
	Amy Chizen
	Adra Kryszczuk
	Suzie Matthews
	Addie McSherley
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Mary Bucy, Donna McDermott
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Gloria Berg
Canasta and Games Day	Linda and Royce Dunn, Adra Kryszczuk
Canasta and Games Night	Zig and Adra Kryszczuk, Addie and Lonny McSherley
Charity Coordinator	Suzie Matthews
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Dominoes	Bob Jones, Cheri & Ed Stewart
Events Committee	Amy Chizen (chair), Chris Beckom, Dottie Demarest, Mary Ellen Glover, Shari Kidd, Jon Kiser, Kevin McCutcheon, Audrey Rozzelle, Sharon Snellings and Paige Straley.
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Hospitality	Sharon Snellings, Carol Sawicki, Judy Dostall
Lunch out	Chuck Bethany, Francine Gissy
MahJongg	Dianne Straley
Membership	Rob Herman
Members Helping Members	Position available
Newsletter Editor	Brenda Ireland
Programs	Dianne Straley
Publicity	Amy Chizen
Rummikub	Michele LeGrand
Samba Day	Chris and George Beckom, Hedy Paussa
Samba and Games Night	Paige and Dianne Straley, Audrey Rozzelle
Shooting Practice	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Brenda Ireland
Team Cuisine	Chris and John Almeida, Jon Kiser and Rob Herman
Webmaster Team	Adra Kryszczuk (site and calendar), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)

.....last but not least.....

