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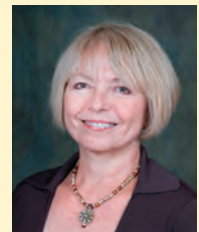


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Digital copies of *Soleil Living* are now available on the Soleil website.

Go to: Resident Resources > Soleil Living Magazine



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The Enchanted Forest, with its pile of beautifully wrapped gifts, welcomes residents and guests to the ballroom throughout the holiday season. Photo taken by Soleil resident Bev Stichtenoth.



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Soleil Cover Girls Hold Diaper Drive

By Cindy Bender

The Soleil Cover Girls sponsored a holiday diaper drive in December to benefit Must Ministries in Canton. They delivered 6199 diapers and 1088 baby wipes. Must Ministries staff was overwhelmed with gratitude. Thanks to all residents for their support.

In 2024, the Cover Girls—whose mission is to help provide whatever "cover" is needed by others in the community—made 52 blankets and donated 17 coats plus gloves, underwear and socks. They also filled 42 diaper bags for new moms.

The Cover Girls invite residents to join their community outreach efforts. The group meets each second Wednesday in the Art & Crafts room from 10-12 a.m. For more information contact Cindy Bender (248-495-5864 or cinben99@comcast.net).



▲ Barb Baker (left) and Cindy Bender prepare to deliver a Cover Girls diaper donation to Must Ministries in December. (Photo by Dan Bender)

Welcome to Soleil!

Please join us in welcoming the following new Soleil residents:

Name	Address
Betty & Larry Altman	201 Big Meadows Court
Julie Benton	211 Aster Court
Janice & Paul Brandt	538 Appalachian Woods Drive
Ray Brooks	620 Laurel Crossing
Barbara Burnsworth	510 Laurel Grove
Virginia Campbell	643 Hemlock Trail
Bonnie Gore	308 Tree Top Lane
Dixie & Mike Moore	541 Appalachian Woods Drive
Elly & William Stephens	657 Hemlock Trail



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 - 109 Laurel View **SOLD**
 - 121 Laurel Glory **SOLD**
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Soleil Book Fund Drive

By Susan Abroms & Lorraine Dorough

When Soleil's book clubs coordinated the 2024 Annual Book Fund Drive, the community's generosity shone through once again.

Residents donated \$7,500 to support literacy through books and reading materials. The money raised went toward purchasing one book for each first grader at three local schools: R.M. Moore, Hasty and Clayton Elementaries.

Book club members gathered at each school in December to wrap 450 books for the kids. Right before winter break, Soleil's book clubs members returned to the schools to distribute books for the great Book Unwrapping.

Soleil book clubs participating include BFF Book Group, Book Buddies, Lady

Peppers, Hemlock, Christian Book Club, Laurel Springs Book Club, Third Thursday Book Club, Balsam Book Group, History Book Group, Windy Ridge Way - Ladies Group 1, Windy Ridge Way - Ladies Group 2, Wendy Overlook Neighborhood, Larkspur Book Group, Third Friday AM Book Club.

The schools will now submit applications to use the balance of the book drive funds for materials and programs that support reading and literacy.

A special thank you goes to all Soleil book clubs that helped spread the word about the Book Fund Drive and collect donations from the community. Also, thanks to Lorraine Dorrough who applied for and received a \$250 grant from Thrivent Foundation—an organization committed to helping people “Live Generously.” This grant covered the cost of the book wrapping supplies.



▲ Wrappers of holiday books for first graders at Hasty Elementary School pose in their workshop. (L-R): Trina Selby, Jean Harmon, Karen Perkul, Sue Rabson, Holly Stone, Melinda Long, Jean Desvernine. (Photo by Lanna Swindler)



▲ Soleil resident volunteers and R.M. Moore staff pose after a hard day of wrapping books. (L-R): front row: Emily Ingram (R.M. Moore staff), Susan Abroms, Ruth Gilmore, Barbara Bushee, Nancy Hyatt, Chris Digby, Wendy Landry (R.M. Moore staff). Back row: Lorraine Dorrough, Jane Gandy, Judy DiBernardo, Debbie Kotyuk, Judy Wise, Jane Nodaor, Karen Ross. (Photo by R.M. Moore staff)



▲ Book wrappers at R.M. Moore Elementary got help from fourth and fifth grade Student Council members. This assistance was part of the School's Student Leadership program. (Photo by Lorraine Dorough)



◀ After unwrapping, first graders at Clayton Elementary found a hardcover book containing five adventure stories by Mo Willems, a #1 New York Times bestselling author and illustrator. Book wrappers for Clayton (not pictured): Norma Robich, Annie Langston, Jan Wolf, Barbara Howard, Susan Abroms, Gail McKay. (Photo by Susan Abroms)

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Soleil Card Players Bring the Holidays to Local Nursing Homes

By Carol Munster

Soleil card players celebrate another year of bringing holiday cheer to two of our local nursing homes—Cherokee Nursing Home and Canton Nursing Home. What began with a group of Soleil card players looking for a project to help the less fortunate in our community has grown into a yearly project at Easter or Christmas.

Realizing from previous experience that other than the lobbies of these facilities, the actual rooms had no holiday decorations, the clubs chose to boost residents' holiday spirit by decorating 150+ Christmas wreaths. Then they adorned each door with a unique wreath by the first of December.

The next week they spread the party around. In each home, several card players spent an afternoon of music, food and crafts with the residents. They paraded the halls with Christmas Carols playing, giving each resident a jolly decorated headband or hat. Many residents joined

in the parade in their wheelchairs, including a 99-year-old lady who was dubbed the Grand Marshall leading the parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The parade ended in the craft room where the residents decorated a holiday picture frame for their rooms. Many were more excited about gifting their work of art to their children or grandchildren. Each resident was also wheeled through a smorgasbord offering a variety of sweet and savory goodies of their choice. Everyone returned to their rooms with a loaded container for snacking during the holiday season.

The card players found that it's touching every year to see the many familiar faces, remembering their names and seeing their excitement. Most of all, it's fulfilling to see the joy this brings to those less fortunate. They leave the nursing homes feeling blessed to be healthy and able to live independently in beautiful Soleil.



▲ Wreaths destined for the doors of residents at local nursing homes fill the floor of Sheila Zak's basement which served as the club's decorating workshop. Funding for the wreaths came from personal donations and proceeds from a booth at the Soleil Craft Fair. (Photo by Sandy Rhodes)



▲ Soleil card players pose at Canton Nursing Home after an afternoon of crafts with the residents. They also helped residents choose trail mix snacks to fill individual containers. (L-R): first row: Jane Wirsch, Robin de la Houssaye, Rose Levitan, Gail Beckett. Second row: Joy Martin, Carol Munster, Karen Ceuninck, Sandy Rodes, employee, Elaine Lawson. Third row: Cathy Werner, Lillian Grella, Sheila Zak, Carolyn Hedmann. (Photo by Canton Nursing Home staff)



▲ Santa (Bobby Munster) & Mrs. Claus (Kathy Samples) help a resident at Cherokee Nursing Home who is 99 years young to join the parade down the halls during their Christmas march. (Photo by Jane Wirsch)



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Touching Lives & Spreading Cheer During the Holidays

By Lenora McCrea

During the months of October, November and December, the Laurel Canyon Optimist Club continued its tradition of sharing blessings of the holiday season with hundreds of youth and seniors throughout Cherokee County by donating to these non-profit organizations:

- Anna Crawford Children's Center
- Canton Police Shop with a Cop
- Cherokee County Sheriff's Christmas Joy
- Hasty Elementary Reading and Math Buddies
- MUST Ministries Thanksgiving Boxes
- MUST Ministries Cherokee Toy Shop
- Never Alone Food Pantry
- Ralph Bunch Preschool Center
- R.M. Moore Elementary
- Waymark Foster Journey Weekend

Through the generosity of the Soleil Community and our business sponsors and partners for the Annual Pancake Breakfast and from the proceeds of the Annual Raffle Ticket sales, the club has donated \$10,000 during the last three months to these non-profit groups.

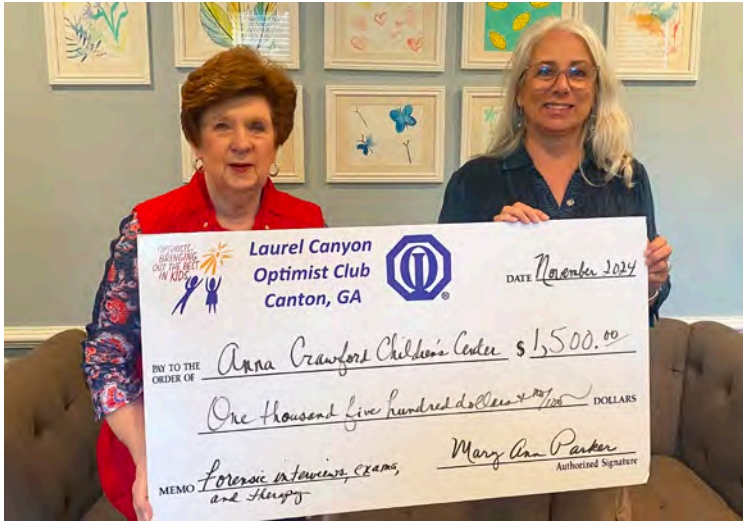
Optimist Club meetings, including lunch, are held on the second Mondays at Sidelines Grille. New members are welcome. If interested in learning more, attend an upcoming meeting or contact president Alan Lodwick (alodwick@gmail.com or 303-748-3719) or Ed Hill (evhilljr@yahoo.com or 770-880-6462).



▲ Ed Hill (left) presents a check to Millie Hughes, director of Never Alone Food Pantry. This non-profit organization donates food to children, families and seniors in Cherokee County. (Photo by Valerie Hill)



▲ Linda Brent (left) and Jeanne Kraus read *The Gingerbread Boy* at Ralph Bunche Preschool Center on December 6. Volunteers from the Optimist Club read and assist with a craft activity monthly. (Photo by Valerie Hill)



▲ Lenora McCrea (left) presents a check to Kelley Vincent, Director of Finance for Anna Crawford Children's Center. Funds support the annual Holiday Lights of Hope event at Hobgood Park in Towne Lake which provides funds for forensic exams, counseling and support for children and youth who suffer from abuse and neglect. (Photo by Children's Center Staff)



▲ Ed Hill (center) presents a check to Rebecca Warren (left), Parent Facilitator at Hasty Elementary, and Janet Mariotte (right), Assistant Principal. Funds were used to support the Reading and Math Buddies Program, a tutorial program to help struggling students. (Photo by Paige Tatum)



▲ Kim Moody (left), Principal at R. M. Moore Elementary, and Ben Sexton (center), Music Teacher and Director of the Elementary Theater Workshop, receive a check from Ed & Valerie Hill (right). Funds support purchase of lighting, sound, sets, props and costumes for the newly created theater. (Photo by Emily Ingram)

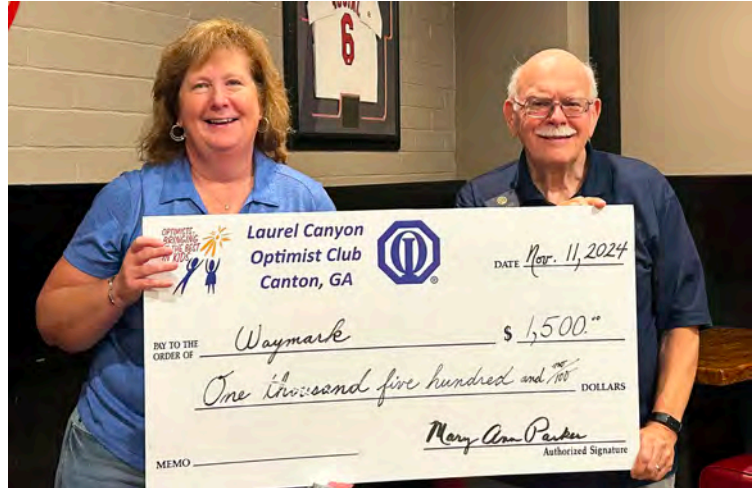


▲ Ed Hill (left) delivers a check to Greg Elder, VP of Client Services for MUST Ministries. Funds support their Thanksgiving Food Baskets and the Cherokee Toy Shop for needy families and youth. (Photo by Valerie Hill)



◀ Members of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Dept. (L-R): Detective Clark, Receptionist Josefa Hart, Sgt. Turner and Sgt. Clement bring smiles to this little guy during the Christmas Joy event at Walmart. LCOOC supports this event yearly. (Photo by CC Sheriff's Dept. Staff)

▶ Julie Welborn, Program Director for Waymark Foster (left), accepts a check from Ed Hill. Waymark supports foster children by providing camps, mentorship, Youth Compass Focus Groups and skills training. (Photo by Valerie Hill)



Veterans Day Dinner

By Tom Wise

On November 11 the Soleil Veteran's Club held its annual Veterans Day dinner to celebrate the men and women who have served this great country in various branches of the military.

Tom Wise chaired the event which started with Soleil Singers' patriotic songs, followed by dinner and guest speaker Col. Dan Schradge, U.S.

Army retired, speaking on how the Vietnam war could have been winnable.

After dinner the Lady Bug Quilters—represented by Cynthia Rubant and Sharon Monoco—presented three quilts of valor to Soleil veterans Clif Penrose, Lou Rothenstein and Tom Wise.



▲ A flag flies proudly before the home of a Soleil veteran. Every year on Veterans Day, Veterans Club members place flags next to each Soleil veteran's mailbox to honor their service to our country. (Photo by Tom Wise)



▲ Tom Wise (left) introduces guest speaker Col. Dan Schradge, who spoke on how the Vietnam war could have been winnable. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Lady Bug Quilter Sharon Monoco (right) presents a Quilt of Valor to Soleil veteran Clif Penrose as Cynthia Rubant looks on from behind. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Lady Bug Quilters unfurl the Quilt of Valor the club made for Soleil veteran Lou Rothenstein. (L-R): Betty & Lou Rothenstein, Cynthia Rubant, Sharon Monoco. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Veterans Club President Tom Wise thanks Cynthia Rubant (left) and Sharon Monoco (right) for the Quilt of Valor made especially for him. (Photo by Dick Slaats)

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Two Veterans United in Service

November 10



Photos by Dick Slaats



▲ Interviewer Helen Ford and the stars of the evening—Retired Navy Captain Greg Cornish and former Army paratrooper Chuck Lampman—played to a large, appreciative audience.



▲ Chuck Lampman invites the audience to compare his face today with the photo of him as a young Army paratrooper.



▲ Greg Cornish shares one of his many fascinating Navy stories with the audience.



▲ SRT Director Ed Kuester presents a check to Veterans Club president Tom Wise, representing donations received to help support and care for homeless veterans of Cherokee County.

Holidays with a Heart

December 8

By Ed Kuester •

Photos by Dick Slaats

On December 8, over 150 attended Soleil Residents Theater's *Holidays with a Heart*, a gala benefit supporting The Children's Haven.

The evening began with a holiday reception sponsored by Brenda Laird of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.

The evening's entertainment began with "Hanukkah: Blessings, Music and Miracles" that included the story of Hanukkah told by Michelle Rothstein. This was followed by a selection of Hanukkah songs sung by Arlene Zucker and Michelle Rothstein accompanied by Sandy Schnee, the lighting of the menorah and blessing by Rod Bogash, President of the Shalom Club.

The Christmas performance was the O'Henry play *The Gift of the Magi* adapted by Diane Taulbee and directed by Ed Kuester. The cast consisted of Julie and Steve Burton (Della and James), Sherry Remillard (Edith), Sue Polmanski (Mme. Sofie) and Michelle Rothstein (Mollie).

The evening concluded with a raffle drawing and presentation of a check to The Children's Haven for \$12,400 with over \$500 added later due to support from the Soleil community along with donations received from business sponsors Brenda Laird of Berkshire Hathaway, Nina's Pizza Kitchen, The Local Graze, Salon-Spa Venessa, Laurel Canyon Brewing and Tom's Awesome Seafood.



▲ Shalom Club President Rod Bogash offers a blessing and the traditional lighting of the menorah.



▲ Steve Burton and Julie Burton portray Jim & Della, the selfless, loving couple in the O. Henry short story *The Gift of the Magi* set at Christmas time, adapted for this stage production by Soleil's own Diane Taulbee.



◀ Arlene Zucker and Michelle Rothstein present a selection of Hanukkah songs accompanied by Sandy Schnee on the piano.



◀ The cast takes a curtain call. (L-R): Michelle Rothstein (Mollie), Sue Polmanski (Mme. Sofie), Steve Burton, Julie Burton, Sherry Remillard (Edith), and script writer Diane Taulbee.



Garden Club Invites Soleil to Celebrate the Holidays

December 16



▲ Hosts Robyn de la Houssaye, Susan Plant, Dee Proctor (Greenhouse Committee Chair) and Ullman Garrett welcome club members and guests to the Garden Club's greenhouse open house. (Photo by Dick Slaats)



▲ Garden Club members and other Soleil residents enjoy a sunny afternoon in the community garden with holiday cookies and hot beverages served in the greenhouse. The club will continue to hold events to welcome Soleil neighbors to visit the greenhouse. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

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Soleil Thanksgiving Worship Service

November 25

Article by Rich Elwell •

Photos by Bev Stichtenoth



On November 25, 125 Soleil neighbors gathered in the Clubhouse for the annual Thanksgiving Worship Service. After words of welcome by Dick Jackson, the congregation—led by Sandra Henry—joined with the Silver Sounds Chorale to sing the hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Then the Chorale, under direction of Pat Peterson and accompanied by Diane Taylor, sang “For All Good Gifts.”

Following the singing, guest speaker Dr. Bob Reccord with Total Life Impact Ministries spoke about choosing an attitude of gratitude to fill hearts with thankfulness. Dr. Reccord has often been the keynote for the national Promise Keeper’s conventions and has authored 10 books.

The service concluded with the Lord’s Prayer. Attendees enjoyed fellowship and pastries generously donated by our two local Publix stores.

The Soleil Men’s Christian Fellowship (SMCF) has invited neighbors to the annual Thanksgiving worship service since 2011 and also sponsors Soleil’s annual Easter Sunrise Service.

The Fellowship—open to all Soleil men—meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 4 p.m. for one hour in the Clubhouse. SMCF has been meeting since 2009 for Christian fellowship, Bible study and discussion, and prayer for one another and our community. Questions and discussion are an important part of each meeting, stimulating the opportunity for personal growth among all participants who come from diverse backgrounds.



▲ Dr. Bob Reccord speaks to an appreciative Soleil audience with a variety of relatable personal anecdotes and bits of humor.



▲ The Silver Sounds Chorale performs “For All Good Gifts,” a contemporary composition of gratitude based on the traditional Welsh folk song “The Ash Grove” with a melody that dates to the 18th century.

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Canyon Band

November 23



▲ Soleil's own Canyon Band has the ballroom dance floor hopping with danceable tunes from years past. (L-R on stage:) Dean Taylor, Sandy Schnee, Tom Couzens, Tom Little, Sue Little, Larry Hoover. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



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Karaoke

December 1

Photos by Rob Kraus



▲ The Snow Angels have fun with what else?... “Let It Snow!” (L-R:) Barbara Kindermann, Diane Kart, Marge Nettuno, Janelle Roberts.



▲ Joe Graziano awes the crowd with his powerful delivery of the haunting “O Holy Night.”



▲ Larry Hoover and Cathy Pica deliver their seasonal weather report—“Baby, It’s Cold Outside.”

Soleil Gathers to Cheer the Holidays

December 4

Photos by Craig Stichtenoth



▲ Residents in the packed ballroom revel in the delicious food and holiday décor at the annual Holiday Cheer event on December 4.



▲ A highlight of the Holiday Cheer décor is the ice sculpture which is different every year.



Music Fills the Air

December 6

Photos by Bev Stichtenoth



▲ Under the direction of founder Sandy Schnee, the Soleil Singers welcome their audience with “We Need a Little Christmas.” Generous donations collected at the concert totaled more than \$1200 toward support for Cherokee County’s homeless veterans.

▲ The trio of Arlene Zucker, Rick Zenna and Lori Tomlinson sing about a “Winter Wonderland.” Arlene also performed a solo celebrating Hanukkah and Rick offered a solo titled “Joy, Joy, Joy.”



▲ An octet called The Soleil Ensemble performs acapella, first with P.D.Q. Bach’s “Throw the Yule Log On, Uncle John” and then a rousing interpretation of “Jingle Bell Rock,” both directed by Don Cheyne. (L-R): Karen Brady, Sharon Jernigan, Sherri Wilson, Barbara Chanette, Craig Stichtenoth (hidden behind director Don), Tommy Jacobs, Rick Zenna and Larry Hoover. Sharon also presented a solo with “My Grown-up Christmas List,” and Larry offered a memorable solo with the musical question “Mary, Did You Know?”



▲ Accompanist Judy Cheyne (left) and past accompanist Teresa Nienow thrill the audience with their faithful piano duo interpretation of Leroy Anderson’s “Sleigh Ride,” with sleigh bells and whip sounds capably provided by directors Susan May and Don Cheyne.

Hear the Joy

December 10



▲ On December 10, the Silver Sounds Chorale presented its 10th annual holiday concert, "Hear the Joy." Comprised of 17 singers for this concert, the Chorale is directed by Pat Peterson with Diane Taylor providing piano accompaniment. (L-R): seated: Cathy Pica, Director Pat Peterson, Sandra Henry, Betty Henry, Barbara Chenette and Sharon Jernigan. Standing: Ron Laird, Bob Rhome, Gary Versput, Sarah Laird, Veronica Steffensmeier, Betty Minnick, Joe DiBernardo, Linda Padgett, Bill Woodcock, Charlotte Loadwick, Craig Stichtenoth, Sherri Wilson and accompanist Diane Taylor. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Joe DiBernardo (at the piano) and Barbara Chenette perform a delightful duet of the beloved song "White Christmas." (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ The Chorale sings "Hanukkah Song." Other featured songs included the spiritual-styled "Can You Hear the Angels Sing" with a solo by Veronica Steffensmeier, "When I Hear the Sounds of Christmas" and "In the Still of Winter." (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ Bill and Lois Healey dance "The Christmas Waltz," accompanied on the piano by Joe DiBernardo. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



◀ The sopranos and altos make like reindeer as they amuse the audience with "Santa's Girls." The entire Chorale then followed with "Fruitcake," guiding the listeners in making that much disdained December dessert, with each vocal section adding ingredients, along with a solo by Sharon Jernigan. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)

Good Thoughts

BY RICKY WAYNE

You are never too old to dream a new dream.

At our age we might not be able to do great things anymore, but we can do small things in a great way.

These days are the good days.

Ladies, never regret wearing anything that you really love and makes you feel good.

There is still plenty of time to do things that makes you say—yeah, that was fun!

Don't forget that we are all made up from the building blocks of matter formed in the Big Bang. Therefore, we are all Star People.

Today might be a good time to try something new.

What Chaka Khan sang— "Tell me something good..."

Japanese Maple

BY RICHARD CORCORAN

Oh my!

All the green and autumnal leaves

Are gone from our tree.

Having dropped to the ground below,

Or blown away on a windy day.

All its branches turning red.

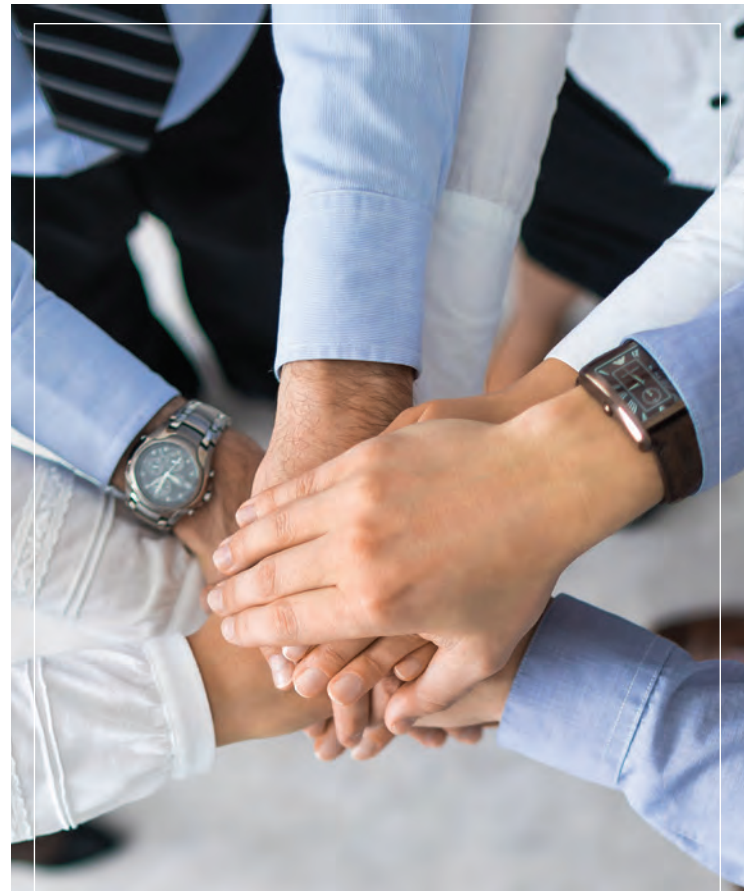
Not dead though,

Just hibernating.

Taking its winter nap

Until next spring.

How beautiful!



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▲ The Shalom Club's decorating crew poses with the holiday display in front of the clubhouse. (L-R): Roberta Bogash, Myra Witten, Ronna Guinness, Karen Goldstein, Sheila Gerstin, Sheryl Bilus, Barbara Bushee. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



Sunset Ushers in Shalom Club's Hanukkah Dinner

December 29



▲ Shalom Club members enjoy the evening. (L-R): Richard Gerstin, Laura Gildenberg, Sheila Gerstin, Shari Gittleson, Allan Klaus, Roz Gladstone, Jerry Gladstone. Jewish holy days begin at sundown and Hanukkah—which commemorates the miracle leading to the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 166-165 BCE—consists of eight days in total. The club's event took place on the fifth night and was an evening to nourish the body and spirit. (Photo by Ann Brandt)



▲ Elegant table settings in the traditional blue, white and silver theme. The event this year was planned by Ingrid Friedman and Dr. Ann Brandt with an elegant and traditional setting. The menu was prepared and served by 61 Main and included must-have potato Latkes. Shalom Club members look forward to this special time to celebrate with friends, family and community, given our distance in Canton from organized congregations. (Photo by Ann Brandt)



▲ Cantor Arlene Zucker lights menorah candles as she leads the group in reciting the Blessings over the candles and meal. Thanks also go to the dedicated volunteers for their much-appreciated time and efforts: Jodie Vangrov, Joan Werner, Teri Pessio, Sharon Morris, Sunny Lewitt, Karen Goldstein, Steve Goldstein, Rich Selby and Trina Selby. (Photo by Ann Brandt)



▲ Shalom Club President Rod Bogash (right) and Roberta Bogash show off their festive side. (Photo by Ann Brandt)



▲ Barbara Bushee, Ronna Guinness and Karen Goldstein put final touches on the Shalom Club's display in the card room. Every year, the Shalom Club shares seasonal decorations throughout the Soleil Clubhouse. Special recognition goes to volunteers Karen Goldstein, Roberta Bogash, Ronna Guinness, Myra Witten, Trina Selby, Barbara Bushee, Sheryl Bilus and Sheila Gerstin for organizing the tabletops allotted to the Shalom Club with festive décor. (Photo by Roberta Bogash)



▲ Soleil's Shalom Club also provided a tabletop display at the R.T. Jones Library in Canton for the whole community to enjoy. Deepest appreciation to Roberta Bogash for arranging to add a display to the "Festival of Trees" and bringing a touch of Hanukkah to the larger community. (Photo by Roberta Bogash)



▲ The parade rolls down Laurel Overlook. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)

Golf Cart Parade

December 20



▲ Lori Poer and Tineke Arzbach's cart covered in glowing icicles—which took top prize for the best decorated cart—awaits the start of the parade on Canyon Lane. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ In the staging area at the top of Canyon Lane, Babs Baldwin shows off her “Grandma Got Runover by a Reindeer” golf cart, awarded 2nd place by the judges. (Photo by Bev Stichtenoth)



▲ Christmas elves once again placed Santa hats on fire hydrants along the streets of Phase 3, including the staging area where the golf carts gathered. Who makes the hats mysteriously appear every year, then disappear after the holiday season? Shhh, it's a secret. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ On the first leg of its journey, the parade makes the turn from Canyon Lane onto Canyon Trail. (Photo by Lorraine Dorough)



▲ Ed & Rose Russo cruise through the dark holiday streets of Soliel with their puppy Lexi Rae peeking out from between them. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrck)



▲ Santa and Mrs. Claus (George & Beth Horack) ride down Skyland Drive, chauffeured by Jeff Pawlik in his convertible. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrck)

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Pleasant Holidays



Holiday Whistle Stop



▲ A crowd gathers to admire the HO scale model train display in Soleil Ballroom—once again home to the semi-annual Soleil Model Railroaders Club. (Photo by Phil Glennon)



▲ The 17-member club displays the 28'x19' layout every Memorial Day weekend and during Christmas holidays for the enjoyment of all ages. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ Members who worked the display include (L-R): Robin Wilson, Bob Povenz, Bruce Monsinger, Bill Schuck, David Smith, Russ Cudmore, Ray Battaglia, Phil Glennon. Not pictured: Wendell Henry, John Szwest, Jay Barnes, Dan Casey, John Amons, Ryan Goldstein, Greg Altman, Tom Cutilletta, Tom Sawyer. If you're a model train enthusiast looking for a home, the Soleil Railroaders Club welcomes new members. The club meets the first Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. usually at the clubhouse. No experience required. Please contact club president David Smith at ellingsmith@gmail.com for further information. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ The Holiday Express enchants all children, proved by the open-mouthed fascination on the faces of Grant (left) and Luke, grandsons of Kathy & Keith Schevling. The train was engineered by Railroader Phil Glennon. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



◀ Phil Glennon poses with grandson Ethan and granddaughter Aryana after their turns at becoming engineers and running Thomas the Train—always a big favorite with the kids. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



◀ Cindy Battaglia hugs grandsons Forester (left) and Mercer as they put Thomas the Train through its paces. Other activities included completing a scavenger hunt for sixteen mystery items hidden on the modules. Both activities earned a signed certificate so there's fun for all ages. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



◀ This Railroaders Club show was dedicated to the memory of Pat McCallum who passed away on December 5. Not only was Pat instrumental in designing and creating the center yard portion of the displays, he also helped many club members with their own home projects. (Photo by Russ Cudmore)

Ugly Sweaters Bring Holiday Smiles

November 16



▲ Kathy & Rick Zenna are all about the humor on their sweaters, chosen the best ugly sweaters in the ballroom. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ Mary Ann & Fred Gasko show off their ugly holiday sweaters, judged to be the 2nd best pair of the evening. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ DJ's Fred & Tiffany have the dancers kicking their feet. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ When a slow dance record is played, the dance floor fills with ugly sweaters. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)



▲ Bev & Craig Stichtenoth feel compelled to pose with the "Ugly Sweater Party" banner. (Photo by Getty Czako)



◀ The dance floor filled with line dancers creates a colorful scene. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

▶ Gene Balog and David Coppage demonstrate that two ugly reindeer sweaters are better than one. (Photo by Sue Polmanski)



Holiday Party

December 14



▲ SSC's Holiday Party is in full swing with 108 members and their spouses enjoying hors d'oeuvres as well as the holiday decorations in the ballroom. (Photo by Bob Abrams)



▲ Bacon-Wrapped Snow Peas prepared by Marianne & John Holthaus (center). Smoked Salmon on Blini and Braised Pork Belly skewered w/Daikon and Carrot by Nancy & David Hyatt (left) and Susan & Bob Abrams (right). (Photo by David Coppage)



▲ Bacon-Wrapped Smokies prepared by Lee & George Goodman (left—Lee is not pictured). Bowtie Meatballs and Pesto Tortellini Sprinkles prepared by Mary & Mike Rainwater (right). Lee Goodman was responsible for the table decorations. (Photo by Bob Abrams)



▲ Pastry Puffs prepared by Karen & Steve Goldstein (left—Karen is not pictured). English Toffee prepared by Debbie & Chris Everett (center). Chocolate Pecan Fudge prepared by Di & Steve Englebert (right). (Photo by Bob Abrams)



▲ Beth & George Horack prepare a charcuterie board for Soleil Cooking Club's (SCC) 2024 Holiday Party. Members prepared delicious hors d'oeuvres for the event. Recipes for SCC's last three events are available on SCC's website page. (Photo by Bob Abrams)



Making Spirits Bright

Photos by Gene Reilly



▲ The laden charcuterie table entices guests with a variety of tasty items at the Four Seasons Culinary Club's annual holiday cocktail party for members and their spouses.



▲ The four club hosts and their wives enjoy a moment among the ballroom's seasonal decorations. (L-R): seated: Sharrie Harvey, Jim Harvey, Debbie Janes. Standing: Linda Brent, John Brent, Steve Janes, Karen Barber, Jay Barber. To learn more about the Four Seasons Culinary Club, contact Gene Reilly (irishdad52@aol.com) or Mark Van De Water (mnsvandewater@gmail.com).



▲ Brenda Kees, Steve Janes, Karen Barber, Joe Simpson, Debbie Janes, Jack McCarthy, Jim Loadwick and others check out the appetizers.

Lady Bug Quilters Had a Great Year

By Sharon Monaco

The Lady Bug Quilters had a very productive 2024 making and delivering 42 quilts, 91 mug rugs (tiny placemats), many pillowcases and multiple baby items to several community service organizations: The Children's Haven, Goshen Boys Ranch, Cherokee County Homebound Veterans, Cherokee Senior Services, Meals on Wheels and The Hope Center's thrift store called Seeds.

One of their favorite projects was making three Quilts of Valor, which they presented to Soleil residents Betty and Lou Rothenstein, Cliff Penrose and Tom Wise in honor of their service to the country.

Besides having two successful in-house retreats last year, the Lady Bugs hit the



road, traveling to Scottsboro, Alabama, for a four-day retreat and to Hiawassee and Dahlonega to visit different quilt shops. Several members also attended the East Cobb Quilters Guild Show held in June.

The Lady Bugs meet in the Arts & Crafts Room on Mondays and Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Anyone interested in fiber and fabric arts (sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc.) stop by and join in for inspiration and socialization.

Contact Sharon Monaco (sharonmonaco@gmail.com / 770-213-3990) or Cynthia Rubant (quiltsrubant@comcast.net / 508-733-3339) for more information.



▲ Daphne Mullen, office manager (left), and Sharon Monaco hold several of the 10 quilts donated to The Children's Haven. (Photo by Charles Monaco)



▲ Viola Ross, director, (left) and Sharon Monaco display some of the 10 quilts donated to Cherokee County Homebound and Homeless Veterans. (Photo by Charles Monaco)



▲ Sharon Monaco (left) and Jerry Smith, store manager, hold some of the 8 quilts and many baby items donated to Seeds—the thrift store associated with The Hope Center. (Photo by Charles Monaco)



▲ Distribution day for 2024 community service projects. (L-R): Susan Hawkins, Nancy Hyatt, Lisa Gadaleta, Susan May, Linda Lorenzi, Jo Esman, Marjorie Heywood, Jo Laswell, Sharon Monaco, Terry Deloney, Cynthia Rubant. (Photo by Krista Kugelman)



▲ Labeling mug rugs with a poem. (L-R): Susan Mamula (coffee cup back turned), Susan Hawkins, Jo Laswell, Nancy Hyatt, Joyce Verseput, Cynthia Rubant, Barbara Howard, Cathy Staller, Terry Deloney. (Photo by Sharon Monaco)

Rock Hounds Hunt for the Georgia State Mineral

November 13

By **Wayne Dodd**

One of the most collectable minerals in North Georgia (as well as up into North Carolina, Virginia and other places around the US and the world) is Staurolite.

Because Staurolite is so widely available in Georgia, it has been named the State Mineral. (The Georgia state gem is quartz.)

Staurolite is a metamorphic, silicate mineral. It is characterized by crossed, twinned crystals, which often occur at 60 degrees to each other. Single Staurolite crystals or blades are also quite common. The rarer and more treasured Staurolite crystal pairs are 90-degree crosses, which are sometimes called “Fairy Crosses.”

The Soleil Rock Hound group was fortunate to locate a piece of public property near Ball Ground on which Staurolites may be readily found. An exploratory trip by Wayne Dodd, Doug Ellsworth and Steve Burton proved successful in finding some quality specimens. That led to a follow-up field trip by a larger group of Soleil Rock Hounds, where a good number of Staurolites were found, followed by an enjoyable BBQ lunch in Ball Ground.



▲ A group of Soleil Rock Hounds pose for a photo at the end of a successful expedition to dig for and collect Staurolite crystals near Ball Ground, Georgia. (L-R): Bob Matthews, Doug Ellsworth, Wayne Dodd, Bill Wesley, Dieter Kindermann, Donna Graham, Jane Cantrell, Getty Czako, Craig Stichtenoth, Jim Graham. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ Craig Stichtenoth demonstrates how to use the shaker box to sift through the soil and reveal the Staurolite crystals. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ Lisa Fletcher shows off her display about Staurolite, along with a box full of specimens, to visitors to the Rock Hounds exhibit that was presented alongside the Soleil Railroaders model trains on Friday, December 27. (Photo by Chastaine Kendrick)



▲ This Staurolite Fairy Cross taken right out of the ground appears reddish-brown and somewhat non-descript. (Photo by Joe Nicholson)



▲ After a good cleaning, a Fairy Cross displays a bit of a shiny finish marked with small garnet crystals. (Photo by Wayne Dodd)

Water Aerobics Class Thanks Instructor

November 27

Photos by Greg von Seeger



▲ Ann Alman (left) receives a surprise Christmas gift and card from her water aerobics class presented by Ron Laird. For several years, Ann has led Basic Pool Classes three times a week. The class emphasizes posture, balance, stretching and strengthening—all things that carry into everyday life. (L-R) front row: Ann Alman, Riva Adamovsky, Ron Laird. Back row: Steve Lovely, Jim Remillard.



▲ Members of Ann's class show up for the presentation whether they exercised that day or not. (L-R) Front row: Christi Hinkley, Martha Turner, Joan Lanier, Craig Ford, Janet Ford, Kathy Zelinsky, Ann Alman, Riva Adamovsky, Ron Laird, Rena Peppers. Back row: Bonnie Holub, Jeanne Kraus, Veronica Steffensmeier, Robert Duncan, Christina Quinn, Stan Carder, Steve Lovely, Jim Remillard, Mark Van De Water.

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Soleil Plays for Toys

December 11



▲ The weather is delightful for December 11's Annual Tennis Toys for Tots Round Robin organized by Racquet Club Director, Tom Cobb. Participants donated toys that were then delivered to the local fire station on Reinhardt College Parkway. (L-R): Linda Struck, Debbie Everett, Charlie O'Mahoney, Judy Wise, Larry Shaffer, Michelle Hume, Sally White, Marge Nettuno, Dan Wolfram, Lori Poer, John Jenkins, Tineke Arzbach, Janet Wellborn, Tom Baker, Merilee Heath, Doug Starr, Anne Owens, Rob Kraus, Ann O'Mahoney, Chic Desvernine, Barb Kindermann, Chuck Lampman, Sue Irwin, Donna Graham, Jesse Irwin, Rod Ochs. (Photo by Tom Cobb)

Fitness Tip

BY GINA BECKWITH

"You want to be the oldest person in the weight room, not the youngest person in assisted care."

—Stacy Sims, MSc, PhD,
international exercise physiologist
and nutrition scientist specializing
in exercise nutrition and
performance for women



▲ Lorraine Dorough uses weight machines in the fitness room. (Photo by Craig Stichtenoth)

Northside Breast Cancer Fundraiser

November 13

Photos by Dick Slaats



▲ Tennis and pickleball players too numerous to name pose during Soleil’s annual Northside Hospital Breast Cancer Fundraiser. Northside representatives were on hand to express their gratitude to all participants. Soleil raised \$1600 for Northside’s Breast Cancer Program. This generous donation is a testament to the spirit and kindness of Soleil’s tennis and pickleball community, and it will go toward supporting those affected by breast cancer in meaningful ways.



▲ All the tennis and pickleball courts are full as Soleil played for pink and rallied for a cure. (L-R): Gina Coenson, Karen Ross, Anne Owens and Chuck Lampman congratulate each other at the end of their round robin match.



▲ Janet Welborn and Mary Martin find themselves among a flock of pink flamingos. All the pink player outfits on the courts made for an awesome sight.



▲ Tom Little and Debbie Murphy are involved with intense pickleball play.

11th Annual Turkey Shoot Another Success

Article by Dwight Kees • Photos by Tom Snipes

Soleil golfers have entered the time of year when frost delays, cold rain, wind and other assorted adverse weather conditions make golf event scheduling and playing a dicey proposition. We did, however, manage to snag a perfect fall day for the annual LCMGA Turkey Shoot.

Held on November 12, this year's event drew a record slate of 92 "hunters" aiming to bag some birdies, but not the kind that fly, cackle and roost in trees.

"This final official event of the year always draws the largest turnout," stated event planners Jim Strand and Joe Simpson. "There is a definite festive atmosphere during the event as the golfers enjoy camaraderie and low-key competition. Another positive was that 60 players shared in the prize money."

Several of the players—who were greeted at sign-in by Ole Tom the turkey—wore camouflage gear.

Players enjoyed a hearty kickoff breakfast organized by Social Director Jim Harvey and prepared by the fine folks at Stratus restaurant. At the conclusion of course play, the 46 two-man teams met for the presentation of awards, later gathering at the putting green for a "putt-off" contest.

A large turkey target was placed on the green and

participants exchanged putts until a winner was crowned. The last man standing wasn't a man at all but Danielle Christopher from Stratus who had been serving refreshments at the green. She grabbed a putter and joined in the fun where she proved to be more than a match for the men. Paul Sullivan tied Danielle for first place. Jay Barber and Joe Tollus tied for second.

MASTERS FLIGHT

1. Greg Cornish/ Leo Dwyer -11
2. Ed Calleja/ Tom Sawyer -10
3. Jim Pefinis/ Matt Tomlinson -8
4. Jim Struck/ Fred Meyers -7
5. Steve Reece/ Doug Tinsley -7

CHAMPIONS FLIGHT

1. Frank Cleveland/ Barry Compton -8
2. Gary Franklin/ Chris Wells -7
3. Eric Demaree/ Mike Skonicki -6
4. John Tingle/ Bill Wakefield -5
5. Doug Ellsworth/ Tom Snipes -5

LEGENDS FLIGHT

1. Lamar Gilmore/ Tom Wilson -5
2. Jerry Cole/ Mike Tongel -2

3. Jesse Irwin/ Mark Spezzano -2
4. Jay Burnworth/ Scott Cammeron E
5. Stuart Blake/ Alan Niederhoffer E

Those proving to be the best sharpshooters—at least for one shot—were the closest-to-the-pin winners. On hole #2 it was Paul Sullivan, #8 Don Gizinski, #14 Greg Cornish and #17 Jim Harvey.

While not an official LCMGA sanctioned event, Tournament Director Joe Tollus has, for the past three years, organized a Toys-for-Tots tournament. This year's December 3 outing was characterized by 32-degree temperatures and wind.

While limiting the number of players who teed up a ball, the unfriendly weather did not prevent 41 hearty souls from supporting this worthy cause. There were many members of the ladies' and men's golf associations who though not playing, dropped by to donate an unwrapped toy.

"It was pleasing to see a large table covered with toys that will go towards making a lot of kids happy this Christmas," said Joe.

The winning team posting a scrambled score of 14 under par consisted of Bob Hamilton, Ray Rauba, Michael Shue and Mark Spezzano.

Hit 'em straight and not too many.



▲ Masters Team: Greg Cornish and Leo Dwyer



▲ Champions Team: Barry Compton and Frank Cleveland



▲ Legends Team: Lamar Gilmore and Tom Wilson



▲ The Stratus ladies competed in the putting contest as well as handling serving duties for breakfast and on-course refreshments. (L-R): Bambi Winfrey, Danielle Christophe, Katelynn Cowen.

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Shumate Handyman Services	678-584-0880
Home Builder	
Stonecrest Works	770-823-7892
Home Furnishings	
ARIANA Home Furnishings & Design	678-807-7422
Hospital	
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	770-214-4492
Insurance	
Allstate Insurance Nancy Wells	404-452-5066
Farmers Insurance-Nathan Martin	678-888-5818
The Upton Agency	770-361-6570
Insurance - Medicare Advantage	
Humana- Medicare Advantage	470-548-4045
Interior Design	
Interior Evolutions-Decorative Painting	770-843-0179
Internet Service Provider	
Point Broadband	706-807-9028
Medical Clinic	
Prestige Medical Group	706-692-9768
Nursery	
Autumn Hill Nursery	770-442-3901
Beech Hollow Wildflower Farm	404-277-4726
Painting	
Chris Brown Painting & Home Repair	770-323-3148
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Painting Plus	404-973-2541
Red Oak Painting	678-800-6533
Performing Arts	
Schwartz Center For Performing Arts	404-727-8769
Pest Control	
Legacy Pest Control	770-423-0160
Plumbing	
Bryan Plumbing Services	770-826-5277
Greenlee Plumbing	678-386-7513
Rooter Pro Plumbing GA	470-600-5146
Shumate Plumbing Services	678-584-0880
Pre-Schools & Kindergarten	
Omega Learning Center-Acworth	770-792-7431
Propane Service	
Gas Incorporated	770-720-1378
Real Estate	
Atlanta Communities-Carl Hawthorne	404-403-1789
Atlanta Communities-Elizabeth Martin	678-373-9342
Atlanta Communities-Jennifer and Associates	770-403-5639
Compass Realty-Natalie Gregory Team	404-373-0076
Cory & Co. Realty	404-564-5561
Georgia Real Estate Depot-Nix	770-401-4932
Harry Norman Realtors-Pam Hughes	404-626-3604
JW Collection Brokers LLC-Oslund	678-672-2878
Keller Williams-Gloria Williams	678-780-7556
Keller Williams-Linda Jacobs	770-337-2006
Remax Around Atlanta-Falkin	770-330-2374
ReMax-Bailey	678-535-8979
Robin Martin and Associates	678-665-0202
Remodeling	
Diversified Contracting Group	770-329-9112
GCI Basements	404-569-8794
Restaurants	
Kaldi's Coffee	404-727-0405
Luna Maya	770-720-4999
Roofing	
Atlanta Roofing Specialists	770-419-2222
Earthly Matters Painting and Contracting	770-346-0203
Schools-Private	
Atlanta Academy	678-461-6102
McGinnis Woods Country Day School	770-664-7764
The Friends School of Atlanta	404-373-8746
Security Systems	
Classic Entry Systems	678-330-1111
Siding	
Painting Plus - Siding	404-973-2541
Travel Agencies	
Travelmation-Spain	770-540-0544
Tutoring	
The Brain Station	678-401-3596
Veterinarians	
Flowery Branch Pet Wellness Center	678-960-3060
Window Replacement	
America's Best Choice	678-896-8688
Davis Window & Door	678-379-1629
EntryPoint Doors & Windows	770-904-0094
North Georgia Replacement Windows, Inc.	770-888-1604



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