



Hook, Line & Sinker

Cumberland Lakes Newsletter, Monterey, TN

Winter 2023 Edition

FROM THE DESK OF THE P.O.A. PRESIDENT:

Hello Cumberland Lakes Neighbors!

Well, the New Year is upon us! In 2023, once again we saw explosive growth in Cumberland Lakes. Several new homes are being built, homes already completed, lots being cleaned up, and the installation of culverts to start driveways. We welcome all the new neighbors entering Cumberland Lakes and look forward to meeting you in the future.

We mourn the loss of several neighbors this past year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your families.

Great memories are being made with our monthly community potlucks and is an opportunity to greet new neighbors. I'm thankful to our Activities Committee for running and hosting our Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, and Christmas celebrations. Monthly game nights are a fun time and hope you plan to attend in 2024. Many enjoyed getting together for arts and crafts making some beautiful pieces. The 3rd Annual Car Show with several new car entries and a live band hosted by Dawn and Jim.

A big THANK YOU to Lauren Greber as she retired from her position as secretary to the POA board. Thank you also to Reggie Almond and Linette Almond for your volunteer service on the POA board for 2023. Karen Dunn is stepping away from her many years of service on the board. Karen has volunteered for many years, and I thank her for all her time and talents she donated to our community.

Starting in 2024 we welcome 3 new board members, Norm Carlson, Jim Biron, and Chuck Smith along with returning members Kent Stewart, Connie McDonald, Louie Check, and myself. Looking forward to working with all of you in the new year to serve our community.

We are always looking for volunteers to help on the many committees that keep our community running strong. We have openings for every level of time and commitment. Please reach out to me and we can find the right fit for you.

I am honored to have served the community this past year as POA President. I appreciate your support. I wish for continued growth and fellowship in the year to come.

As I have always been in the past, I am available for any questions, comments, and concerns you may have either by phone (224-308-2061) or my email at mjperkowski@yahoo.com.

Michael Perkowski
Cumberland Lakes POA President

FIREWISE:

Burn Bans vs. Burn Restrictions

There is much confusion about the terms Burn Ban and Burn Restriction vs. Drought Rating. Much confusion is generated by the local news agencies. The state is divided into four Fire Districts, and we are located in the Cumberland District. Obviously Burn Permit Restrictions are the lowest method of fire control, through education, and are issued by the district Forester based on local conditions along with the Drought Monitor. Burn Bans are method of fire control and are issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture and only after consultation with the area District Forester and the County Mayor. Note: Burn Restrictions and Bans are used in areas of the state that are basically unincorporated. The U.S. Drought Monitor is only a tool generated by National Drought Mitigation Center, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that the Division of Forestry uses to generate Burn Permits and Burn Bans. Many Cities throughout the state control their own Burn Permit and or Ban programs. A violation of a commissioner-imposed Burn Ban is classified as "Reckless Burning" and deemed a Class A misdemeanor. On the other hand, burning without a permit is a serious offense and is classified a Class C misdemeanor.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

For those who missed the year-end report, basically our community is trending towards a safer community. The statistics for suspicious vehicles and activity remain elevated. The issue of main concern is for new construction. Building sites offer opportunity for theft and new construction is another issue. More specifically, the lack of security at a new home under construction and during the "move in" process. Windows need to be covered after construction is complete and during the "move in" process especially in less populated areas.



PARK/LAKES MANAGEMENT & IMPROVEMENT:

The past year has seen an abundance of geese on our lakes, healthy levels of bass and bluegill and, until the end of the year, good water levels. The drought in the summer, carried over to fall and now winter which has both lakes down quite a bit. As we've seen in the past, however, that can all change with one very heavy rain system coming through. With so many feeder streams coming into our lakes, it's amazing to me to see how several inches of rain can raise the lake level over a foot. We've continued to hear reports of game cameras recording everything from the occasional black bear to wild hog, fox and even bobcats. Of course, the deer, turkeys, racoons, etc. are part of the normal and frequently seen wild-life. We've also had a few folks seeing copperheads, but not often. We seem to have a healthy population of black snakes which apparently are affective natural deterrents to poisonous snakes. A thing to keep in mind with our two species of venomous snakes that are around: timber rattlers will often rattle to warn you off, or when agitated; copperheads will tend to freeze in place when you get too close, and potentially without any warning, strike if stepped on. Not so much now in cooler temps when they are less active, be vigilant in warmer months and consider snake boots when out in/near brush.

Update: I received an update from our P.L.M. Committee Chair: From around Christmas that a resident on Lazy Lake reported seeing and photographed an otter in the lake. This is significant because otters require clean water and a good food supply which speaks to the overall health of the lake.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:

A Note from the AECC

Fellow residents, thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given the AECC for many years. The committee is a group of volunteers who give of their time to better this community. Your support goes a long way in sustaining the committee.

For those new to the community, the AECC exists to protect property values and safety in the community. This is achieved when our community members adhere to and follow the rules set forth in the Covenants and Restrictions and the AECC requirements and restrictions. Cumberland Lakes is a deed restricted community and we all agreed to follow these fairly simple rules when we bought property here.

As we gain new members at the change of the year, we greatly appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,
Richard Dunn

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES:

CHECK this out! (see what I did there?)



We are excited to offer, through Builtwell Bank in Monterey, Tennessee, a BillPay option for our members starting in January, 2024! Thanks to Tonya Jackson at Builtwell, a designated and dedicated account has been open to receive only BillPay annual fee payments. This has been requested by several of our members for that last two years. This account is cost free to the CLPOA. Test payments have been initiated from 4 very different types of banks. Tonya is watching for those payments to drop and will let us know how it looks on their end. We'll put together the information our members need as soon as Tonya helps us evaluate the test results. Many folks rely on BillPay monthly – for them, this will be a breeze. For those who have never used BillPay and want to give it a try – we'll have an instruction sheet available when the invoices are ready. For those who like to write a check and stick it in the mail, that will remain an easy option, too.

ACTIVITIES:

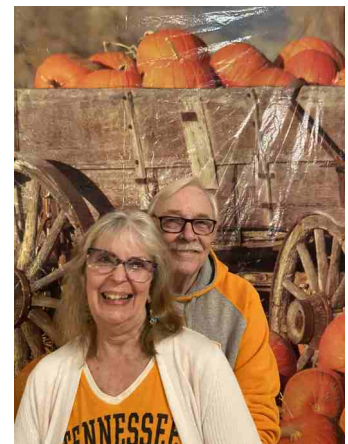
Chili Cookoff

Congratulations to Cumberland Lakes 2023 Chili Queen, Judi Boyle! Nine chili entries and Judi's winning chili #8 earned her a crown, belt, trophy and cash prize. Cooking is one of her favorite things to do, she was so excited to have won, and will happily carry the crown and belt until next year.



Thanksgiving Pot Luck:

So thankful for our beautiful community and neighbors in Cumberland Lakes. Christine and Renee Monfort hosted an amazing thanksgiving themed potluck where everyone who attended enjoyed an incredible feast and desserts galore!



Christmas Decor:

Oh what fun we had crafting a fresh evergreen candy cane door decoration lead by Beth Carlson. The season's most delish, homemade peppermint hot chocolate was served and dozens of delicious cookies were shared during our inaugural cookie exchange.



Christmas Party:

It sure was a December to Remember! So many laughs and fun celebrating the most wonderful time of the year at the Annual Christmas Party.



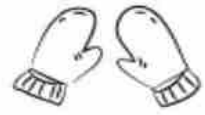
The Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville, TN - An Area Jewel:

New to the area, looking for some good entertainment? Well, look no further than The Cumberland County Playhouse - Go to <https://ccplayhouse.com/> to view the 2024 season and buy tickets or check out their facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/CCPlayhouse/>

IT'S PUZZLING:



WINTER



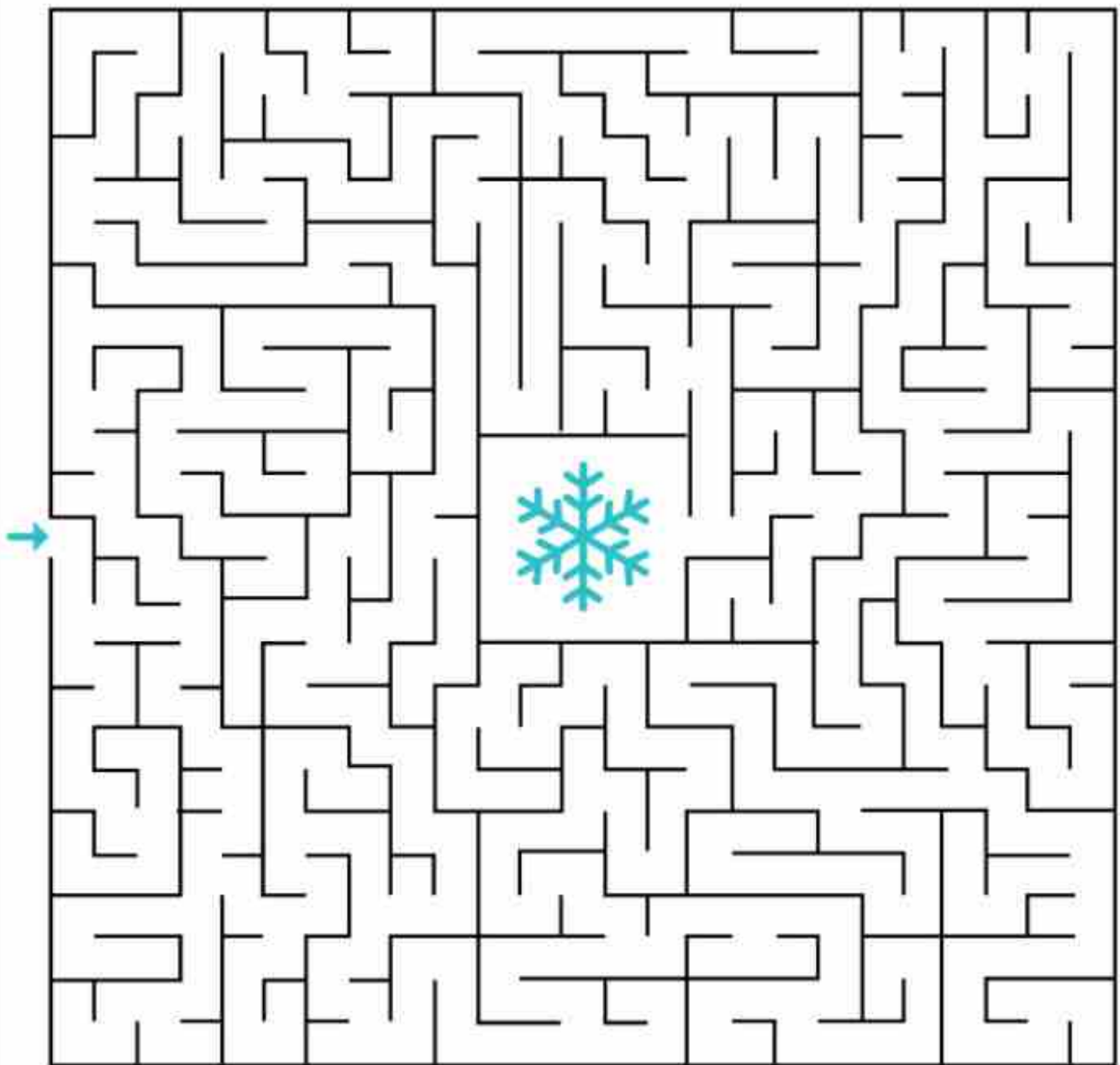
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blizzard	frostbite	igloo	skating	snowman
December	frozen	jacket	skiing	snowshoes
February	gloves	January	sleigh	solstice
fireplace	hockey	longjohns	slippery	sweater
flannel	holidays	mitts	snowballs	toboggan
flurries	hot chocolate	scarf	snowboarding	whiteout
frigid	icicle	shovel	snowflakes	wintertime



WINTER MAZE

Find your way through the maze to reach the snowflake in the center.



FUR BABIES OF CL SPOTLIGHT:



Cindy & Jerry Carty's The very loveable, Miss Kitty

Hi everyone! My name is Miss Kitty and I live with my Humans, Catdaddy Jerry and Catmommy Cindy (my name for them), over on Lazy Lake. Being a member of the Cumberland Lakes Community has been life changing for me. Here is a little of my story. My life here started when I was dumped in the woods near the Big Lake and found by my saviors Jim & Connie. They rescued me, got me healthy, and gave me a home. It was a nice home and they were very good people but they had a lot of other fur babies already and some of those fur babies didn't take too kindly to me stealing attention from their Humans so they protected me by separating me from the others. As much as they loved me, Jim & Connie knew this was not the best way for all of us to live so they started looking for a new home for me. My wonderful cat sitter, Michele, knew of a family who had just lost two cats to the effects of diabetes and had to have another cat they rescued from the woods rehomed due to behavior issues. They were very heartbroken and were not sure they needed another fur friend right now but Michele convinced them that I was exactly what they needed and she was so right. I was and am just purrfect for my new Catdaddy and Catmommy. I have a big house to play in and toys and beds and hiding places in every room. Oh, and did I mention the food...oh my so much! I probably do not need that much food as I am a bit full figured but I run really fast and play a lot with my Humans so I am working it off. I just love to play with my tower of spinning balls and work hard every day to make sure they stay contained in their spinning tracks. It is a tough job but somebody has to do it. They love me so much that I am their camper cat and go on all sorts of adventures with them in their rolling house. I have many toys there too. I know I have brought much joy to my Humans as they have to me as they hug me, play with me, and kiss my heart shaped nose every day (it tickles but they like it). Oh, and they have heated rocks I get to lay on all day! Well, more for another day. I just wanted to say hello and tell you how happy I am here in Cumberland Lakes with my loving Humans.

Nosh Nook:

Parmesan Candied Bacon Crackers

These Candied Bacon Crackers are the perfect bite-sized poppable appetizer. They are smoky, sweet and salty with just a kick of heat. The fat from the bacon slowly bakes into the crackers as they cook, caramelizing the brown sugar and creating soft chewy-crunchy texture perfection!

Prep Time: 15minutes mins

Cook Time: 40minutes mins

Servings: 44 crackers

Ingredients

1 lb. thin-sliced bacon

1.5 sleeves Club crackers (about 44 crackers)

8 oz Parmesan wedge

1/2 cup dark brown sugar

1 tablespoon red pepper flakes



Instructions

Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil or parchment paper to catch the drippings from the crackers and place a cooling rack on top the lined baking sheet.

To prep, thinly slice parmesan wedge, trying to match the width and length of the Club crackers. Slice the bacon into fours so they also match the length of the crackers.

To assemble, place one piece of parmesan onto the cracker, top with bacon, followed by the brown sugar, and finally the red pepper flakes. Repeat with remaining crackers.

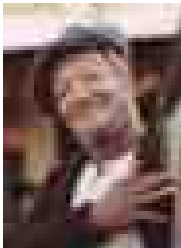
Place each cracker onto the cooling rack side by side. Bake in the oven for 35-45 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through. Begin checking on them at 30 minutes. Once the bacon is cooked through and the edges of the crackers begin to brown, they are finished.

Serve warm or at room temperature.

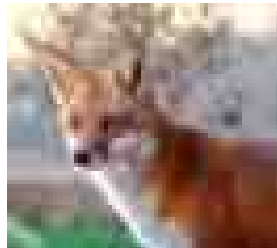
CRITTER CORNER:

Bet you didn't think there was more than one type of Fox in Tennessee!

No, not this one:



THIS ONE!



Well, there is! Tennessee is home to more than just the Red Fox. The Gray Fox, or *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* also is found statewide.



This shy, nocturnal canine is very similar to the Red Fox, and is found state-wide.

Description: A small, dog-like mammal with an elongated muzzle, moderately long legs, and a long, bushy tail with a black tip. Ears are erect and triangular shaped. The long, thick, soft fur is grayish with black streaks, especially along the top of the tail. Some reddish fur occurs mainly along the sides of the neck, on the backs of the ears, on the sides of the belly, on the legs, and under the tail. Cheeks, throat, and belly are white. The pupil is vertically elliptical.

Length: 35 - 44 inches

Tail: 11 - 15.5 inches

Ears: 2.5 - 3 inches

Weight: 5 - 14 pounds

Similar Species: Red Fox is slightly larger, has a fur coat which is mainly orangish-red, and has a white-tipped tail. The Coyote is larger in size, has a shorter tail, and has round pupils.

Habitat: Usually prefers brushy edge habitat created by a mixture of woods and fields. Gray Foxes generally use more wooded habitat than Red Foxes.

Diet: Although they are omnivorous, rabbits and other small mammals form the bulk of their diet. They will also eat fruit, berries, plants, insects, birds, and reptiles.

Breeding information: Gray Foxes breed from January to mid-May with the peak occurring in February or early March. Females deliver their single, annual litter after a pregnancy averaging 53 days. A litter of 1 -10 (average 3-5) pups are born in dens, which are usually located in hollow trees or logs, under rock piles, or underground. The newborn pups are blackish, blind, and have very little fur. By the time they are 3 months old the pups can leave the den to hunt with their parents.

Status in Tennessee: Gray Fox can be common in some areas of Tennessee. They are both hunted and trapped in the state.

Fun Facts:

Gray Foxes are the only canines that can truly climb trees; they use their front feet to grasp the trunk and their hind feet to push upward. Trees are used for sunning, foraging, and hiding from danger.

Best places to see in Tennessee: Forests or brushy areas next to forests.

