



“The Senior Informer” March 2024



Your source of current news and information from The Neal Center,
100 T.R. Harris Drive, Shelby, NC 28150



Something to think about

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door, that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

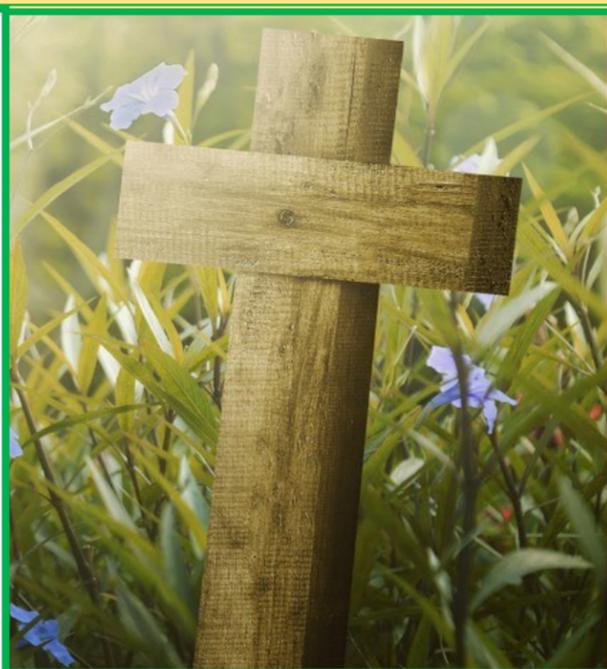
— Helen Keller

An Easter Prayer

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray,
Lord, Amen.

- Rachel Marie Stone



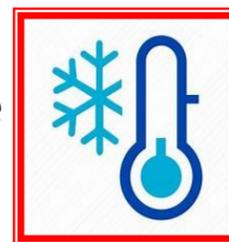
MARCH 2024 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 Monday Morning Bridge 9:00 One-Day Oil Painting (3rd Monday) 9:30 Chair Yoga 12:00 Beginning Canasta 12:30 Monday Afternoon Bridge 2:00 Chair Yoga 5:00 Monday Night Bingo 5:30 Zumba	9:45 Carolina Line Dancers 10:00 Acrylic Painting Ladies Support (4th Tues.) Veteran's Coffee & Chat (4th Tues.) 11:00 Tai-Chi 12:00 Canasta For Beginners 1:00 Chair Volleyball	9:00 The Sewing Circle 9:30 Chair Yoga 10:00 Beginner Spanish 11:00 Zumba Gold 11:00 Piedmont Rook 12:00 Canasta For Beginners 12:30 Knit Pickers 1:00 Packing Out 2:00 Chair Yoga 2:00 Euchre 10:00 Carolina Singers (1st & 3rd Weds.)	9:30 Chair Volleyball 10:00 Daytime Friends (2nd & 4th Thurs.) 1:00 Thursday Afternoon Bridge 1:00 Mexican Train Dominoes 4:00 Dine-Around (2nd Thurs.)	11:00-12:00 Zumba Gold Center closes at 12:00 pm

NOW THAT WINTER IS OFFICIALLY HERE...



In case of snow, ice, sleet, or freezing rain this winter, call the Neal Center's "Weather Line" to see if we are open, delayed or closed. Call 704/481-7398 and the



information will be updated as conditions change.

Be prepared!

Keep this number handy!

From the Executive Director's Desk...

Paulette Putnam, Neal Center Executive Director

Hello Everyone!

Don't forget to "spring forward" this month on March 10th. Get your dancing shoes on and St. Patty colors ready and let's celebrate on Thursday, March 14 at our St. Patrick's Day theme dance. Advance tickets are on sale now for \$6.00. Easter is also this month on March 31st. The Senior Center will be closed on Good Friday, March 29th. Hope you will a wonderful and blessed March!

Paulette Putnam, Executive Director

Neal Center Staff and Contact Information

Have a question? A specific need? Not sure what to do?

Neal Center main number: 704/482-3488

Paulette Putnam, Executive Dir.

Daniel Dedmon, Program Dir.

Teresia Ladd, Administrative Asst.

Dolores Ashworth, Volunteer Coor.

Heather Ledbetter, Nutrition Coor.

Jane Wright, Administrative Sec.

April Wheatley, Bookkeeper

Betsy Lavender, Housing Dir.

Stephanie Baxter, Housekeeping

What are the hours for the Neal Senior Center?

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm

Friday, 8:30am-12:00pm

**Not sure if the center is open? Call our
"Weather Line" at 704/481-7398!**



**NEED TO GET YOUR ESTATE
IN ORDER?
LEARN THE CORRECT WAY TO DO IT!**



Join us for a “Planning Your Estate” seminar at the Neal Senior Center. It will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, beginning at 10AM. It will be led by Brenton Begley, Elder Law Attorney. A light snack will be provided. It will also be available virtually. Simply go to www.facebook.com/nealseniorcenter

To pre-register, please contact Daniel Dedmon, Neal Senior Center Program Director, at 704/481-7387. Space is limited so please pre-register as soon as possible!



FROM THE NEAL SENIOR CENTER



Council on Aging
of Cleveland County

100 T. R. Harris Drive * Shelby, NC 28150 * 704-482-3488



May 3, 2024

OPEN HOUSE & REVERSE RAFFLE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



POWERED BY CONNECTION: MAY 2024

EVENT SCHEDULE:

VENDOR FAIR – 8:30am – 2:00pm

INFORMATION FAIR – 10:00am – NOON

MEDICARE 101 – 11:00am – 1:00pm

HOT DOG SUPPER – Begins at 5:00pm

REVERSE RAFFLE – Begins at 6:00pm

HOT DOG SUPPER

- FREE -

to all participants & contributors

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Reverse Raffle Tickets: \$100.00 each

* 400 TICKETS AVAILABLE *

BUY 4 TICKETS & GET ONE FREE!!!

For a chance to win \$10,000

★ **Reverse Raffle PRIZES** ★

(Taxes will be deducted)

(1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER \$10,000

(9) \$250 WINNERS

(Multiple) DOOR PRIZES

*You DO NOT have to be present to win!!

****TICKETS ON SALE NOW ****

Contact COA/Neal Senior Center
for more information!!

To Purchase Tickets Contact:
April Wheatley 704-481-7382

LET'S MEET A NEAL CENTER VOLUNTEER

The volunteers with the Neal Center often say that the center has been a major help to them as they adjust to retirement. One of our volunteers that declares this to be very true is Carole Champion. Carole has been a volunteer with the Neal Center since 2015, giving her time to working the Reception Desk. She has also assisted with the Health Fair, the annual car show, and worked in the center's cafeteria as a beverage server.



Born in Polkville, NC, Carole was raised by her grandparents, who farmed for a living. There were also three aunts that lived with them, so Carole had plenty of family to care for her. She recalled her growing up years as being fun. She especially enjoyed horse-riding. "I had an uncle who had a horse named "Nell" that I would ride with my two cousins. We all rode and fortunately never fell off!", she said with a laugh. She and her cousins also rode bicycles together. Carole was always well-behaved as a youngster, though she recalled an incident that taught her a valuable lesson. "My Dad was visiting us. My cousins and I rode our bicycles together one day and there was a tiny country store on the dirt road we rode on", she recalled. "We decided that we wanted to have some ice cream, though none of us had any money. We asked the shop owner to simply charge it to my father or to my cousin's father, which he agreed to do." They had their ice cream break, then resumed riding their bicycles. Upon their return home later that day, Carole's father inquired, "What did you do today?". She explained that they rode bicycles and got ice cream. Her father then asked, "Who paid for it?". Carole knew she had to be honest about it, so she admitted requesting that the debt be charged. "He wasn't happy with us", she stated while laughing. "We didn't get in serious trouble, but we got a good scolding. We knew not to ever do that again", she concluded.

Carole also recalled her school years. "I liked school. We had good teachers back then", she also added. Carole admits that though she was a good student, she didn't concentrate as hard on her school work as she would now. She recalls taking Home Economics at Polkville High School, which was a favorite subject for her. "I learned how to sew in Home Ec class. It was one of my best subjects", she adds. When asked if there was a school subject that she either disliked or wasn't especially good at, she stated, "No, not really. I never failed anything, but I wasn't a straight-A student, either." She graduated from Polkville High School in 1956, along with 29 other graduating seniors. Even today, Carole continues to have contact with some of her graduating class.

Once she graduated from high school, she decided to become a cosmetologist. She enrolled at Shelby Beauty School to focus on how to be a hairdresser. She took her classes while she worked at Hudson Hosiery. Her coursework taught her the basics of working with hair, including shampooing, perms, colorings, highlighting, and more. She chose not to get her certification in cosmetology, though she seriously regretted her choice later in life. "I would have had to go to Raleigh to get my licensure as a cosmetologist, but at that time, I decided not to do that", she said. In the meantime, when Carole married Ben Champion in 1960, the newly-married couple moved to Shelby. He began a long career with Fiber Industries (later renamed Hoechst-Celanese) while she became the mother of two daughters, Gina and Donna. It was when he was about to retire from Celanese that Ben approached Carole with an offer: to have the chance to finally get her certification in cosmetology.

(Continued on the next page)

Volunteer (continued)

Carole looked into what would be required for her to become certified, and was shocked at what she discovered: she would have to repeat all of the same coursework she had taken previously to graduate in cosmetology. "Ben asked me if I wanted to take all of the cosmetology coursework again", she said. She agreed to do it, except this time, she had to take her coursework in Raleigh, since the Shelby Beauty School had closed. "I told my husband that I didn't know if I could pass it at my age. He assured me that if I flunked, he wouldn't fuss. But, it was the Good Lord's help that got me through it". Attending the "Progressive School of Cosmetology", she successfully repeated the entire program while working and raising a family, receiving her certification as a cosmetologist. This would become her profession for the next 29 years.

Carole was still working when she first came to the Neal Center, which was then located in downtown Shelby. "I was in the line dancing class while I was still working", she remembers. She decided that after her cosmetology career, she was ready to retire. When her husband Ben passed away in 2010, Carole realized that being retired was now different from what she had planned, as she now was needing things to fill her time. This was when she became a volunteer for the center. The brand-new senior center was now at its current location and Carole became a Reception Desk volunteer, which she continues to do today. "At first, there was more to learn than I cared about learning!", referring to learning how to operate an electronic switchboard when she began volunteering. What are her thoughts about the Neal Center? "It's such a good thing for people to go to when they need to get out. It serves a purpose. It's something people can come to that's most beneficial".

In addition to volunteering, Carole has a lot to keep her on the go. She's now has four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She is the owner of a "party poodle" (a black and white mix) named "Mia". You won't catch Carole at home very often, either! She goes out often, attending dances and going out to eat with friends. She also is a member of Pleasant City Church and plays the piano on alternate Sundays for her Sunday School class. She sums up how she feels about her life: "I've been blessed with good health. I've done a lot in my 85 years and there's nothing really that I am excited about still wanting to do. I try to stay healthy and enjoy life".

FUN FACT: Carole cuts and styles her own hair! "I only go to a hairstylist one or two times a year", she says. Carole is often amazed over how people comment on how great her hair looks. "I've been cutting my own hair for years", she stated. She concluded with, "I can even mess my hair up, if I want to!"

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NEAL CENTER VOLUNTEER?

The Neal Center is always looking for volunteers in various areas. Volunteers are needed in operating our gift shop, working with the "Meals-on-Wheels" program, and helping with the Monday Night Bingo games. To find out more, please contact Dolores Ashworth, Neal Center Volunteer Coordinator, at 704/481-7386.

Has being cooped up inside this winter left you bored beyond description?



Then it's time for some FUN AND GAMES!

***THERE'S PLENTY OF GAMES TO CHOOSE FROM
AT THE NEAL CENTER!
BRIDGE, CANASTA, EUCHRE, ROOK, AND
MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES!
GO TO NEALSENIORCENTER.ORG AND SEE OUR
MARCH ACTIVITIES LIST FOR THE MEETING-
DATES AND TIMES OF OUR GAMES AND OTHER
ACTIVITIES!***

***GOT QUESTIONS? CALL 704/481-7387 FOR MORE
INFORMATION!***

**NO MATTER WHAT CREATIVE ABILITY YOU HAVE,
THE 2024 SILVERARTS HAS A PLACE FOR YOU!**



Whether you can do artwork, sing, dance, or write creatively, seniors age 50+ can enter in the “Cleveland County SilverArts”!

To obtain a SilverArts registration packet, please go to nealseniorcenter.org and download a copy. They may also be picked up at the Reception Desk of the Neal Senior Center or the Patrick Senior Center. “Early Bird” deadline is Friday, March 22, at 11 AM. All literary entries are due Friday, March 22, at 11AM. Final deadline for all registration is Thursday, March 28, at 11 AM. Questions? Please call 704/481-7387.

“THANK YOU’S”

The Neal Center would like to thank everyone who donated money, food, paper products, medical equipment, and anonymous donations from January 1-February 15, 2024.

Pine Grove United Methodist Church

Martha Whaley

Gail Lane

Bruce & Jan Dumas

Wayne Paul

Roger & Peggy Wuest

Bobbie Johnson

**First Parlor Co-Ed Sunday School
Class, First Baptist Church, Shelby**



**ANNOUNCING A NEW WAY TO BECOME ACTIVE WITH
THE NEAL SENIOR CENTER!
BECOME A “GOLD STAR” DONOR!**

The Neal Senior Center is inviting residents of Cleveland County and former participants of the Gold Card Club, to become new donors of the GOLD STAR. If you're already familiar with our Gold Club here at the center, the Gold Star is very similar to it. The fee to be a Gold Star is \$100 per person and the date of giving begins on January 1, 2024, and ends on December 31, 2024. The center provides activities, educational seminars, classes, dances, car shows, market days, and services, both inside and out, throughout the year! There are too many to mention! You will also have the opportunity to donate to the center in memory of or in honor of someone.

We'll be glad to answer any questions you have! Please contact Jane Wright at the Neal Senior Center at 704/482-3488.

It's winter time when the need for food hits its most critical level!



The Neal Center's food pantry has served so many in need, so...

PLEASE HELP US REFILL IT!



Thank you to everyone in the community who answered the call in supporting the Neal Center's food pantry and "Meals-on-Wheels" program with your monetary and food donations! Currently, we need these items for our homebound:

Vienna sausages, miniature canned hams, salmon, beef stew, corned beef, saltine crackers, canned fruits and vegetables, shelf-stable pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice, noodles, cereal, and oatmeal.

Please be sure that the items being donated are well within their expiration dates on the item. Items donated to the center that have expired cannot be given out. We are unable to accept refrigerated items. If you'd prefer to make a cash donation, it would be very welcome! When writing your check, be sure to indicate that your donation is for "The Food Pantry".

Donations are accepted Monday – Thursday, from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. Please call us at 704-482-3488 to arrange a time to drop off your donation.

**'Ladies Support
Coffee & Chat'**

*Neal Senior Center
March 26, 2024
10:00am—11:00am*

Spring

Ladies 50+ are invited to "Ladies Support Coffee and Chat", You will enjoy conversation, refreshments, fun and laughter. Hopefully, you will leave knowing your neighbor a little better, feeling a little more light-hearted as you face 2024!!!

Program will be given
by Sarah Chambers with Peak Resources – Cherryville

Please call 704/482-3488 to
RSVP by March 20, 2024 at 3PM

**If you haven't registered for this year's
Senior Games....TIME IS GETTING SHORT!**



**Early registration ends March 8th;
all games registration ends March 15!**

The Senior Games will be held April 8-12, 2024

Take part in many sporting activities, including pickleball,
shuffleboard, cornhole, swimming, table tennis, chair
volleyball, and a lot more!

To get a registration packet, you may either:

- Come by the Neal Senior Center in person and pick up a registration packet at the Reception Desk.
- Download and print a packet at our website: www.nealseniorcenter.org
- Contact Daniel Dedmon, Cleveland County Senior Games Director at 704/481-7387 or at ddedmon@agingcouncil.org and request that a packet be emailed to you.

Open to seniors age 50 and better!





IF YOU'RE A U.S. VETERAN,
YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR
"VETERAN'S COFFEE & CHAT"
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024, 10 AM
AT THE NEAL SENIOR CENTER
100 T.R. HARRIS DRIVE, SHELBY

A great opportunity to have coffee with other veterans and
discuss the many issues veterans deal with in today's world.

FREE OF CHARGE...JUST SHOW UP!

**ATTENTION SINGERS, AGE 50+...
(OR ANYONE THAT WOULD LIKE TO TRY!)**



Join "The Carolina Singers"!

This is a lively group of seniors that enjoy music and singing songs of different types...gospels, oldies, contemporaries, and classics! You DON'T have to be great singer to participate! If you're age 50+, you're welcome to join in! The group also performs throughout the area for many special activities. For further information, please contact Daniel Dedmon, Neal Senior Center Program Director, at 704/481-7387.

ATTENTION SENIORS! Need to get your taxes done?

The Neal Center's Tax Preparation Service can help....**and do it while you wait!** To make a tax preparation appointment, call the Neal Senior Center at **704/482-3488**. **Appointments will be scheduled Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 am-2:30 pm.**

The Jig is Up
At the Neal Senior Center!

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at
our Thursday night dance!



March 14, 2024
6:00pm



Music provided by Union Express.

Advanced Tickets are \$6 each
(Deadline to purchase is Tuesday,
March 12 by 3:00pm)

Tickets will be sold at the door for
\$8 each.

A minimum of 50 tickets must be sold in
advance to have the dance.

Monday Night Bingo @ COA/Neal Senior Center

2024

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2024

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL Dates subject to change at the discretion of COA/Neal Senior Center.
Minimum player count must be met.

Holiday – COA/Neal Senior Center – CLOSED – NO Bingo

1/1 New Year's Day – 5/27 Memorial Day – 9/2 Labor Day

Monday Night Bingo – Regular Schedule

See calendar

Special Events

