Interest in paddle recreation has grown tremendously world-wide and it is no different here in Bella Vista. The Kayak Demo Day held on Saturday, June 3, was well attended by serious and novice paddlers from young children to older adults. 550+ registered people that actually tested a kayak. Member Services has seen a dramatic increase in the number of registered kayaks: 1,605 in 2015; 1,831 in 2016 and over 2,300 so far this year.

No longer just a recreational sport, kayak fishing is catching on due to the less expensive insurance, gas and high maintenance costs of motorized boats. Recently, Bella Vista Lakes hosted a Kayak Bass Fishing National Trail Event where anglers from around the country competed for cash and prizes. The fishing tournament was from 4 p.m. to midnight; anglers were assigned to five of the Bella Vista Lakes with the winning total of 76.75 inches coming from Lake Rayburn. The winner was chosen by a combined total of the largest 5 fish by length. Local fishing club member, Jason Adams, helped coordinate the event and said local, regional and national anglers competed and hope to return to Bella Vista for another tournament event.

Adams followed by saying, “I would like to say thank you to Rick Echols and the Bella Vista POA for letting Fish It Forward host their first Kayak Bass Fishing Trail Tournament on these beautiful lakes.”

To read angler’s views of the tournament: www.kayakfishingfocus.com/kbf-bella-vista-tournament-recap

Paddling Bella Vista!

 Connections
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY NEWS
July 2017
For the past several years, the allocation of Men’s Hole Handicaps at Bella Vista has been a heavily debated conversation. The Golf Operations team, along with the Bella Vista Men’s Golf Association, have completed the Men’s Hole Handicap calculations for every 18-hole golf course. Now golfers have proof of the validity as the results are based upon U.S.G.A. recommendations. The calculations were based on more than 5,800 rounds of golf the MGA collected over the past several months.

We are in the process of correcting and printing new scorecards. A big thank you goes out to Randall Gnant and the MGA for their record keeping and calculation assistance. Following are the new Men’s Hole Handicaps.

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<th>Hole #</th>
<th>BVCC</th>
<th>Dogwood</th>
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To review the USGA® recommendations for allocating Handicap Strokes, go to www.usga.org

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OFFICE OPENING SOON IN BELLA VISTA, AR

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Project Updates from Tom Judson, COO

Branchwood Parking Lot Expansion – The opening last year of the Branchwood Walking Trail has resulted in a significant increase in the number of days when the parking lot at Branchwood is completely full. This parking lot expansion will comfortably accommodate the increased usage. Anticipated completion in third quarter of this year.

Branchwood Building Expansion – Management is currently working with an architect to develop plans to expand and renovate the Branchwood building. Once the plans are complete, we will be able to determine the cost of the expansion and renovation. With final approval from the Board, we hope to start this work in the fourth quarter of this year.

The Beach at Lake Avalon – The Board has already approved the construction of a Beach at Lake Avalon. This project will include a large sandy beach, a swim area, beach volleyball courts, kayak rentals, small concessions stand, renovated restrooms, renovated pavilion, and renovated and expanded parking lot. We anticipate this work will be completed in the Spring of 2018.

Renovated and Expanded Parking Lot at Lake Avalon – To save money, the parking lot at Lake Avalon will be done at the same time as the parking lot at Branchwood. We anticipate this work will be completed in the third quarter of this year.

Renovation of the Country Club – This major renovation is currently underway. Once completed, the building will have an expansive pro shop and a fantastic new restaurant. The menu for this restaurant will offer items found traditionally at golf clubs. We anticipate this work will be completed in the fourth quarter of this year.

Restrooms at Metfield Park and RV Park – The renovation of these two restroom facilities will both modernize them and get them to be ADA compliant. We anticipate this work will be completed in the third or fourth quarter of this year.

Driving Range at Scotsdale – In the third quarter of this year we will finalize and open a driving range at Scotsdale Golf Club.

Attendant Hut and Restroom for the Gun Range – In the coming weeks the finishing touches will be made to this amenity at our Pistol and Rifle Range.

Cart Paths at Highlands and Dogwood Golf Courses – The cart paths for Highlands and Dogwood, which are in horrible shape, will get renovated in the third quarter of this year.

Hydrology Study of the 3 golf courses located in the flood plain – We are working to get expert advice on the best possible way to deal with the ever-growing problem of flooding. We anticipate this study will take six to twelve months.

Other Projects – There are additional projects currently underway or planned that are not as interesting as the ones mentioned above, but are just as important to the overall rejuvenation of the POA. If you would like more information regarding any of these projects, I encourage you to attend one of my Coffee and Questions sessions. These take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00am at Riordan Hall and the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00pm at Riordan Hall.
ATP is Successful

The inaugural Cooper Communities NWA Classic golf tournament concluded May 27th, with Joshua Creel of Oklahoma City firing a Highlands golf course record-tying 7 under par 65 to win the Tournament by two strokes.

Thanks to the support of Cooper Communities, Bella Vista Foundation, the City of Bella Vista, Visit Bentonville, Brown’s Collision Center, all other sponsors and Pro-Am Tournament participants, more than $65,000 was raised. After deducting the Tournament expenses, including all POA out-of-pocket expenses and course usage fee, more than $22,000 remained available for local charity distribution and for a 2018 Tournament promotional fund. The Foundation provided grants to the Bella Vista Animal Shelter, The First Tee of NWA and Boys and Girls Club of NWA in the total amount of $18,500.

Highlands Golf Course Renovations

The Board of Directors voted on June 15, 2017 to close Highlands Golf Course for renovations starting Monday, July 10, 2017. These renovations include the replacement of all collars with the new Latitude Bermudagrass. It is necessary to renovate the collars now due to the overall turf deterioration over the last several years. The existing common Bermudagrass collars do not perform well in this area and are subject to winter kill issues. In addition, the Latitude Bermudagrass sod needs to be installed during peak growing season (June-August) in order to be established and playable before winter.

The renovation also includes redoing the bunkers using the Better Billy Bunker Method™ as done at Country Club with no stack wall and with new sand. Bunker renovation was planned for this winter, however, it was decided to combine the work with the collar renovation to close the course one time. Cart path repairs scheduled for 2017 will also be done with this course renovation. These renovations are anticipated to be completed by September 30, 2017.
Junior Golf Clinic: First Camp A Hit, Sign Up For Second Camp!
Junior Golf Clinic is for ages 6-18 where kids are taught by PGA Staff instructors. Kids go through all aspects of the swing and are taught golf etiquette.

The Second Camp will be August 8-11, Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Fee is $100 for 4 days.
To Register call 479-855-5079 or online at: www.bellavistapoa.com/summercamps

Junior Tennis Camp - Ages 6-18
Coaches include three certified USPTA instructors with over 80 years combined experience. Teaching will compliment all levels of the game for various ages and abilities. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (last hour includes optional match play or swimming time)
Choose from two Tennis Camps: July 10-13; July 31-August 3 Fees: Bella Vista POA Member: $180 per child; Non-Members: $190 per child
To Register call 479-855-8170 or online at: www.bellavistapoa.com/summercamps

Super Science Guy comes to Camp Bella Vista - July 17 & July 26
Back by popular demand, the Super Science Guy returns to Camp Bella Vista on Monday, July 17 and Wednesday, July 26. Campers who attend those days will have a blast making slime and witnessing other cool science experiments.
Camp Bella Vista runs through the week of July 24 and we still have openings. Activities include arts and crafts, outdoor games, sports and swimming. Camp is open to ages 7-12 and campers can attend Monday 12 - 4 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., or Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or all three days for just $75 (weekly).
To Register call 479-855-8170 or online at: www.bellavistapoa.com/summercamps

RV Park Reservations
Blowing Springs RV Park and Campground continues to gain popularity with many of the full-service spaces booked weeks ahead of time. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis by calling (479) 855-8075. More specific information can be found at www.bellavistapoa.com/rv-park-rv-storage
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With 31+ years experience in Real Estate, and her family moving to Bella Vista in 1965, Annette’s Father was an Engineer for Cooper Development and he helped design the Bella Vista Community.

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