

A monthly publication of the Hot Springs Village Voice

# HSV *life*

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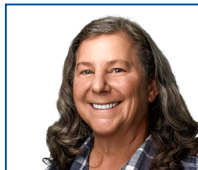
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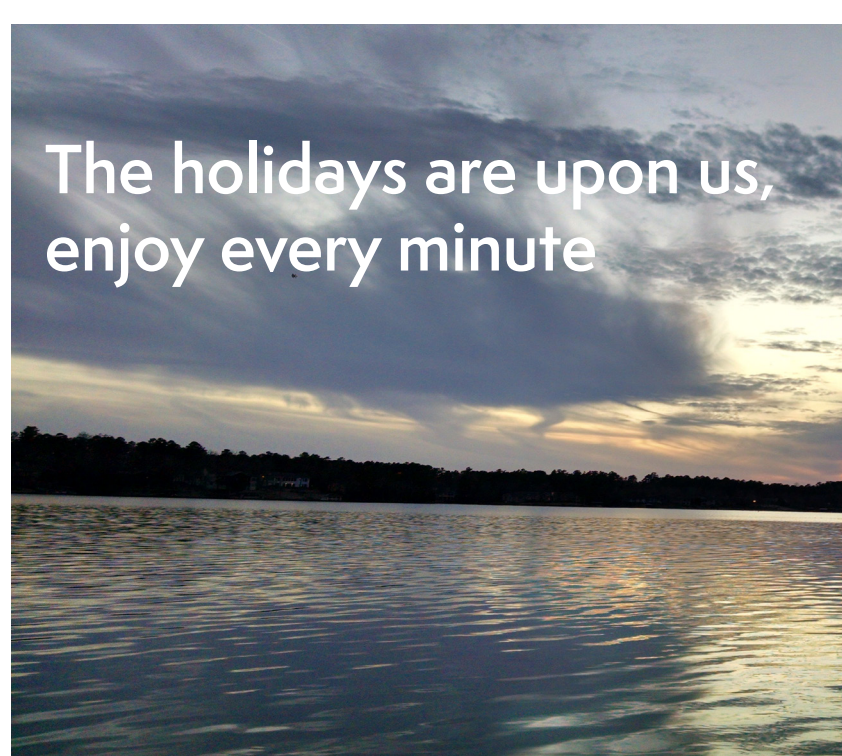
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The holidays are upon us,  
enjoy every minute

Winter scene on Lake Balboa. (Jeff Meek photo)

Well, we are at the final page of our 2023 calendar and when it comes to December, certainly Christmas, family, grandparents, children, and grandchildren top the list of special people. Traditions reappear and perhaps a new 1 or 2 are created. Church services take on special meaning, choirs share their talents with audiences, parties, fancy dress up occasions and more fill the next several weeks. Shopping is a huge part of the Christmas season, but let's, as they say, "remember the reason for the season."

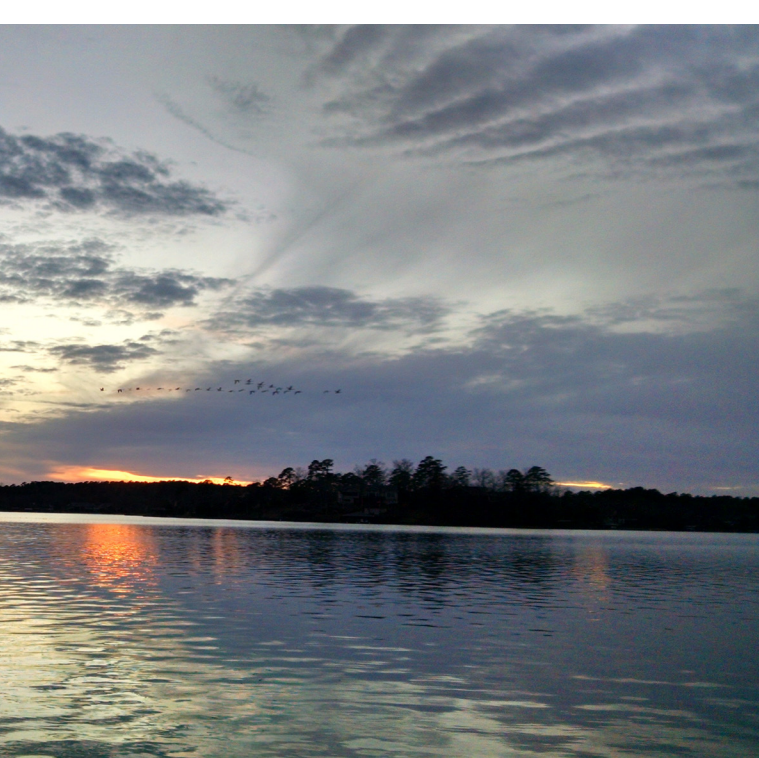
A while back I remembered a family that seemed to have things in perspective. They of course celebrated, but they had a gift exchange, with just 1 gift per person. That's a tough pill to swallow for kids, but it also helps them learn perspective and why December 25 is special.

And of course there are a few "eves" in December – Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For the Meeks when we lived in Hot Springs Village, a candlelight Christmas Eve service at Christ of the Hills was special. The dimly lit sanctuary and singing of



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“Silent Night” seemed to create, in my mind at least, such a peaceful, calming evening.

New Year’s Eve is a fun time too. Turning the page on a new year and what it may bring causes many to reflect on what was and what’s to come. Maybe that special trip is headed your way in 2024 or perhaps getting that new vehicle you’ve been planning on is just around the corner.

New Year’s Eve parties are plentiful and fun as well. Just remember if you drove to a party you have to drive home. Having an accident is not how anyone wants to begin a new year. Know your limits and be responsible.

May 2024 be an exciting, memorable year for you and your loved ones. Stay in touch with the Hot Springs Village Voice and let us know about your special happenings through a press release or request for coverage. We pride ourselves in being a community newspaper and a big part of that is you helping us spread the word throughout the Village on what’s happening.

**Jeff Meek**  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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**ON THE COVER:** Villager Trak Thompson’s cat, Belle, seems entranced by their Christmas Tree.  
(Photo courtesy of Trak Thompson.)





## Town of Many Colors

*Welcome to Calico Rock, the most colorful place in Arkansas*

Darrell W. Brown

**View of the White River from Chalk Bluff at Calico Rock, Arkansas.**

The city of Calico Rock (Izard County) is located in north central Arkansas on the White River. It takes its unusual name from the streaks of colors on the bluffs that overlook the river, which reminded early settlers of the colors in calico cloth. In writing about his travels through the Missouri and Arkansas territories in 1818 and 1819, author and explorer Henry Schoolcraft referred to the area as “the calico rock.” It is the only city in the United States with that name.

The town started as a steamboat landing on the White River in the early 1800s, and was originally known as Calico Landing. The landing, located at the river’s confluence with Calico Creek, was the most popular landing site above Batesville (Independence County), which was as far upstream that steamboats were able to travel.

In 1857, the first of several general stores opened in

the area. But they closed when the Civil War began. After the war ended and Reconstruction began, carpetbaggers from the North began moving into the area and opened several businesses, including a mercantile, a dry goods store, a drug store and doctor’s office. These businesses were built on the north shore facing the White River, with the front street following the river east and west.

A post office opened in 1871, but only lasted for a year. Another was established in May 1879. Due to the town’s rough and tumble atmosphere, organized religion was slow to make its way into Calico Rock, but eventually Methodist and Presbyterian congregations formed and built a house of worship, which was used by both congregation until 1907, when the Presbyterians built their own church.

In 1898, a fire destroyed nearly all the businesses in



Calico Rock's commercial district. But the city would rebound and became a bustling community in 1902, when construction began on railroad tracks along the river beneath the colorful bluffs. Calico Rock served as the headquarters for railroad construction crews, and later that year, the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad officially opened service in the town.

In 1903, a hardware store opened, as did the Bank of Calico Rock. As of today, these two structures are still in use. That same year, Calico Rock's first permanent schoolhouse was built. The building was a two-story concrete block structure that housed the elementary and high schools and served the community for nearly 50 years. Calico Rock was officially incorporated as a city on Jan. 24, 1905.

On April 7, 1923, a spark from a locomotive on the switch track set fire to a warehouse. High winds caused the flame to spread to the city's Main Street. More than 20 businesses were destroyed, including all of the commercial businesses on the east side and some on the west side. The brick and stone replacement structures that remain have become known as the "ghost town" of Calico Rock — officially known as

the Calico Rock Historic District.

The city got a taste of Hollywood in 1974, when writer/director Charles B. Pierce filmed the movie "Bootleggers" there. Pierce is best known for his 1972 cult classic, "The Legend of Boggy Creek," about the alleged Sasquatch monster that roams the swamps near Fouke (Miller County). The poster for the film credited a "rising star" named Jaclyn Smith, who would become part of the hit television show, "Charlie's Angels," as well as a successful model and clothing designer.

Today, Calico Rock is a city with around 900 residents. In recent years, it has become very attractive to retirees and tourists, thanks in part to its natural scenic beauty and proximity to such tourist destinations as Blanchard Springs Caverns and the Buffalo National River. No doubt, it's places like Calico Rock that help give our state the nickname "The Natural State."

*A proud sixth-generation Arkansan, Darrell Brown is a lover of all things Arkansas. He lives in Saline County with his wife, Amy, and their beloved Boston Terrier, Dixie. Find him on Facebook and Instagram at AllAroundArkansas.*

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## HSV PEOPLE

# Dedicated to HSV

*John Paul served as  
Director of Golf for  
18 years and two  
terms as interim  
General Manager*



John and Jackie Paul, married 43 years. (Photos courtesy of John Paul)

Sandy Johansen  
STAFF WRITER

For many years, Hot Springs Village Resident, John Paul, has dedicated his life to a myriad of sports and athletics. After serving as Director of Operations for Hale Irwin PGA Professional Golf player and course designer, JP decided to make some changes in his life.

“I was in St. Louis for approximately 5 years in charge of Irwin’s 14 courses in 8 states,” he said. Paul and his wife Jackie, former airline flight attendant, now married for 43 years, moved to Dallas where he not only opened his own sporting goods stores, but took on the challenge of college basketball referee positions in Dallas from 1975 to 1992 and in St. Louis from 1992 to 1997.

“Jackie and I had visited Hot Springs Village several times, spending weekends here away from the Dallas hustle and bustle.” They moved to HSV in the summer of 1997 and he was named Director of Golf on

Thanksgiving Day 1998 serving in the position until he retired in 2016.

He took the Interim General Manager position May 27, 2020. It was a disorderly period of time and JP used his management skills to interview and hire new staff members as many were leaving. He passed the GM post to Charles King who served as HSV General Manager until January 2021. King resigned shortly thereafter and Paul was again requested by the HSV Board of Directors to serve another term as Interim General Manager. He had also served as Interim General Manager at Diamante Country Club.

John Paul has unselfishly served Hot Springs Village under difficult GM changes. In February 2022, the Board hired a permanent replacement, Kelly Hale. Paul is credited with many accomplishments during his interim times at the POA general office



as Interim Manager, beginning with forgiveness of the PPP Loan. He has guided the Compliance Department with improved gate security and safety.

During his interim tenure, JP supervised the remodeling of Balboa Club and renovation of both the DeSoto Beach and DeSoto Marina. He is also credited with leading HSV sanitation to side-loading trucks, and other improvements. JP credits the Golf Department for the increase in rounds during his tenure.

Ending their January 2022 Board Meeting, Chair Joanie Corry saluted JP for his dedication to the Village. With the installation of Kelly Hale, new HSV POA GM. Paul Stated, "I am actually leaving this in very good hands. I've had multiple meetings with Kelly (Hale) over the last couple of months and you couldn't be getting a better person for this job. He is very savvy and knows the Village because of his mother living here and he's been here for quite a while. He's asks the right questions and listens to the right people. I am very, very encouraged for the future and glad he is here."

Those accomplishments aren't the only ones John Paul has launched in HSV. JP not only loves golf, but he loves music. During the 2007 Couples tournament, he and friends Bryan Stout and guitarist familiarly known as "Hose," put together a little entertainment for the closing night of the tournament.

It was again, just the beginning for John Paul as he helped grow a three person musical team to the 12-member band, Colt and the Old 45s, entertaining not only in Hot Springs Village, but around Arkansas and neighboring states. The ensemble has opened for Clint Black at the American Air Facility in Dallas and played for a 60,000 crowd attending the Balloon Festival in Plano, Texas.

"Our music has honored many generations including award winning hits of the 60's and early 70's including the Four Seasons, and Chuck Berry. We are growing and have added signature songs of the 80's including award winning Blood Sweat and Tears along with



Colt and the Old 45s.

Chicago.

Collectively speaking, many long term residents of Hot Springs Village honor John Paul for taking over the helm of HSV Interim GM and guiding the POA through many ups and downs. "His dedication to the Village is unmatched," said Joanie Corry. That's a comment heard many times by many others about John Paul.

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## MCAULEY SENIOR CENTER

# Fun & Friends



Cardio drumming is excellent exercise for the upper body and balance. Enjoying their session are (L-R) Kathi Mielke, Gloria Dycus, Lynette Gates, Dixie Ford, and teacher May Mills. (Sandy Johansen photos)

Sandy Johansen

STAFF WRITER

“Each week we offer activities like volleyball, tap dancing classes, Gatorball (a version of pickleball), card rooms and pool tables and more.” said Donna Bates, McCauley Senior Center Supervisor.

CHI St. Vincent’s McCauley Senior Center offers countless activities to not only keep seniors in better physical condition, but also to expand their knowledge and create new friendships, especially for those seniors living at home alone. The Senior Center is free to seniors age 60 and older.

“We have many fun events each day,” said Bates. “We have physically challenging activities such as tap dancing. We also offer creative classes for painting and ukulele lessons. Majong and Hand & Foot are always featured.”

Table tennis benefits decision making skills,

accuracy, agility, brain health, calorie burning, motor coordination along with social bonding. Rug hookers meet regularly along with line dancers and seniors taking ukulele classes, she said.

“The McCauley Senior Center is a staple in the Hot Springs Village community.” CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs Vice President of Operations Crystal Bohannon said. “And getting seniors in the community to socialize is better for their health.” Just being isolated is not good for seniors. Socialization supports mental well being.

There’s a coffee bistro in the entrance of the center on the left with bistro tables and a coffee bar with many different flavors. Walking into the center, first of all the smell of coffee is awesome and a delightful way to welcome everyone into the center. There are places



Nothing beats Line Dancing (L-R) Shara Keltner, Carol Lowry, Hal Keltner, Susan Wade, Beth Camp, Gary Mettler, Alice Moore and Val Mettler, director, right.



Lining up his shot Bill Cunningham is ready, as his regular pool playing buddy, Steve Phillips, watches, left.

for people to sit and have conversations drinking their special coffee flavors.

Even though the McAuley Senior Center is free for seniors 60 and older, members will need to renew their membership when they first go back and new members can register for free.

“Some of our seniors are isolated and don’t have interaction and that can lead to senior depression. We know that senior and veteran suicide is an issue. So we want to make sure we are giving seniors an opportunity to come and whether it be after an illness as it’s another form of rehab or to prevent illness.”

The center is open 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CHI St. Vincent COVID-19 guidelines will be in place as far as signing in for meals or activities.

CHI St. Vincent McAuley Senior Center is located at 5010 N. Hwy. 7, Hot Springs Village, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact phone number is: 501-984-5594.

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# HSV BUSINESSES



Joey Clampit at Clampit's Country Kitchen and Meat Market. He stands in front of Clampit's extensive meat case. (Lewis Delavan photos)

## Country Blessings

*Joey Clampit is thankful for God's grace*

Lewis Delavan  
STAFF WRITER

Jobs were hard to come by when Joey Clampit graduated Hot Springs High School in 1988. He was glad to get a job washing dishes at Western Sizzlin' in Monticello in 1989, working his way up to a meat cutter, and later as a cook, ending up in Louisiana.

After a few years, Clampit returned to Hot Springs and took a job at Brown's Packing. A conveyor belt brought a hog every 40 seconds. "Each side of the conveyor belt had cutting boards and men standing there," Clampit recalled. The initial worker quartered each hog. Each man had a certain duty; Clampit pulled necks.

The conveyor line was cold; the work hard. But

workers were expected to keep up.

Clampit caught up by working during breaks; he persevered and worked his way up.

Later taking a job at Piggly Wiggly in Hot Springs as a meat cutter, Clampit worked his way up to market manager in Star City.

Life takes its turns. Clampit developed cancer, then beat it.

He gained employment with Harvest Foods in Hot Springs. And once again became market manager, working out of the Bryant store. But Affiliated Foods, which owned Harvest Foods, shut down.

Once again Clampit was looking for work. He



**Clampit's new private banquet room seats around 50, right.**

became a meat merchandiser for Family Market in Malvern, a unit of Big Red stores. He was also responsible for meat at Family Market's stores in Pangburn and Shannon Hills, and helped develop each week's print advertisement section.

After five or six years, he became a meat salesman, selling directly to grocery stores and other customers.

Now, as owner of Clampit's Country Kitchen and Meat Market, 5398 N. Highway 7, north of the West Gate, Clampit sees God's blessings in his life.

He currently employs 15, which will grow to around 25 around Thanksgiving and Christmas. "I am thankful to be able to provide jobs in a low-income area with few jobs," he says, recalling his teenage days when he was grateful to find a job after a long search.

"I'm very relatable to my employees," he says. "I've been there. I didn't do this on my own; God has blessed me to be able to do this. The Lord has enabled me to be in the grocery business – not me."

Last year the Clampits were able to donate well over \$20,000 to area charities, many of them serving Hot Springs Village. Some of the charities were the Village Walk for Cancer Research, HSV Animal Welfare League and veterans on Veterans Day. A recent effort was helping a local blood drive. Each week is busy, varied and hard, but Clampit finds work rewarding.

Clampit's is one of the few meat processors in Arkansas – if not the only one – that will custom process sausage to the customer's desire, he says. He's already processed a couple of bears this year, and also processes deer, elk and other game. From catering an event for 1,000 or providing intimate dining for five performers at Woodlands Auditorium, Clampits is ready to fulfill the need.

Open Monday-Saturday, Clampits opens at 8 a.m. weekdays, and offers breakfast starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Stop by or visit [clampitscountrykitchen.com](http://clampitscountrykitchen.com), or ClampitsCountryKitchen on Facebook. Or call him at 501-204-5030.



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# Musical Diversity



Skyler Kimmerly, from left, plays electric guitar when Roots to Branches doesn't have Trent Broughton. Front man John French plays guitar; Mountain Pine band director Chris Johns performs on bass guitar. (Submitted photos)

Lewis Delavan  
STAFF WRITER

**R**oots to Branches – Hot Springs singer/songwriters who tell stories from beginning to end – has won numerous awards.

Founded by John French, Trent Broughton, and Chris Johns, Roots to Branches mixes rock, country and soul.

“Trent Broughton thought up our name, Roots To Branches. Its significance is that we consider ourselves songwriters and we tell the story from the roots to the branches,” French says.

“Since 2008 Trent and I have been writing songs and

## Indie artists Roots to Branches mixes rock, country & soul

putting out EPs (extended play tracks). We got 2nd place in the Frank Brown's international Songwriters Festival song critique and contest back in 2012,” French said in an email.

Roots to Branches has played around 120 shows a year since about 2011. “In 2019 I showcased solo at the Nashville Songwriters Association International. We showcased at three songwriters rounds in Nashville this last year and are up for a Josie Music Award at the Grand Ole Opry.”

Roots to Branches released its new single, “Gettin’



Gone,” on Oct. 20.

“We are very proud of “Gettin’ Gone. It was produced by Anthony Fiddler at Fiddler Productions in Canada. We collaborated with Travis Toy, who is a well-known steel-guitar player for Rascal Flatts, and Corey Stacey CMack, a hip-hop recording artist,” French said.

Last year the artists added a bass player and a drummer and are playing full production shows as well. “Our other members are Chris Johns and Rob Kellar. Both of those guys are great musicians. We also have another guitar player, Skylar Kimmerly, that plays with us a lot as well. Our band has solid 3-part harmonies, sometimes 4-part.”

“We play shows all over Arkansas from festivals to bars, to weddings, to restaurants, and everything in between. We also showcase our original material in Nashville at writers rounds.”

Johns, the Mountain Pine High School band director, has been performing live since he was in high school. A Benton native, Johns holds a bachelor’s in music education from the University of Arkansas and a master’s from Bowling Green University.

A seasoned drummer, Kellar has been playing in church for a long time and leads his worship band professionally.

Visit the band online at <https://www.facebook.com/rootstobranchemusichs/>. Contact French at [johnmusicianfrench@gmail.com](mailto:johnmusicianfrench@gmail.com).



Trent Broughton; Chris Johns, right.

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# The Grace Warrior

Life Counseling Session with Melissa Kirk, Director of Women's Ministry and at Barcelona Road Baptist Church. (Sandy Johansen photos)



Sandy Johansen  
STAFF WRITER

It began in 2005 when Hot Springs Village resident Melissa Kirk, suffered a paralyzing stroke and later was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. “This was the transition of my life. It was time to reinvent myself, and help others,” said Kirk. She said it was not time to pity herself and her prayers with God brought her answers.

“Sharing God’s message of grace is my ministry. I do that as a Life Coach, Speaker, and Author.

I always aim to be the Grace Warrior he has called me to be. With all that I am. With all that I have. As a professional, but mainly as Melissa Kirk, The Grace Warrior, my encouraging words to you are the same

## After a stunning diagnosis, Melissa Kirk sets out to reinvent herself

as God’s grace is all you need.”

Melissa has served over 30 years in ministry. Not only is she an inspirational speaker, but she also works as an individual or group life coach. “I want to encourage and guide them to the end.”

Her goals are to show the path suitable for women and teen girls with topics Bathed in Mercy and Clothed in Grace.

Christian Life Coaching is Kirk’s teaching is all about trusting and speaking with God and teaching everyone how to talk with Him about life’s stuff and listen to His response.

When asked about a mission to help others,



Many volunteers show up for October 1st through 7th, "Boots On The Ground." Kirk stands in the center behind the registration table.



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Melissa was first in line. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, she and Pastor Wright, began a week-long project October 1st through 7th. She said Boots on the Ground was a time for many to serve others.

Outreach programs included visiting Good Sam's and Belvedere Nursing homes and providing singing, devotions and handouts to all. The volunteers also painted rooms at Potter's Clay and designed a new flower bed at Teen Challenge's new women's center. They also initiated some flood cleanup and purging old medicines for the Cooperative Christian Ministries.

Church members also assisted in cut and tie blankets for Teen Challenge and fold boxes for Samaritan's Purse. They learned to make PLARN (plastic yarn) mats for the homeless. In addition, many made knit caps for the Owensville Clothes Closet. Countless donations were offered to purchase including socks for Jackson House, baby care needs, and T-Shirts, socks, and underwear for Samaritan Ministries and SOZO. Also donated were clean health items for Child Advocacy Center and homeless included deodorants, toothpaste, wet wipes, soap, Kleenex, chapsticks, socks, bandages, granola bars and cheese and cracker packs.

Melissa Kirk, Grace Warrior, looks forward to planning and assisting with community projects like Boots On The Ground and is happy to speak with anyone about needing a life coach. Kirk asks if you are uncertain, overwhelmed, fearful, unmotivated, holding regrets from the past or experiencing a transition, a life coach can help.

In addition to countless community services and life coaching, Kirk has penned books and journals including Running from Asperity, Bathed in Mercy and Clothed in Grace, At the Kings Command, Celebrate the Coming, To Be Encouraged and For Wisdom.

For more information on life coaching and Melissa Kirk, go to: [www.TheGraceWarrior.com](http://www.TheGraceWarrior.com)



Kirk holds the rough copy of her newest journal soon to be published, "God's Plan"



Running From Asperity, Melissa Kirk's first novel.





Hundreds of volunteers show up to work with Boots On The Ground.

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## HSV FITNESS

# Boxing Day



Boxing classes meet every day of the week at Fit for Life and participants help and support each other. (Mary Eliades photos)

## *Good Samaritan offers a class for Parkinson's sufferers*

Mary Eliades  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

**P**arkinson's Disease (PD) is an insidious disorder that manifests in so many different ways, with so many different symptoms, that sometimes the diagnosis is a long time coming. And even with a diagnosis, there is no cure – only drugs and lifestyle choices that can mitigate the effects.

Parkinson's symptoms come as a result of decreased dopamine production, but there is no consensus on the causes. Researchers have speculated that the disease is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

The vast majority of cases are not directly inherited; some gene mutations can cause the disease directly but affect only a small number of patients.

Some environmental toxins have been blamed, notably Agent Orange, but other triggers may be well water, manganese, pesticides, etc. Another theory is that PD is caused by a head injury, but most doctors

think the person suffering the injury already had mild Parkinson's disease.

The primary motor symptoms of PD include tremor, slowness, rigidity, and postural instability. Non-motor symptoms can precede motor signs – and diagnosis – and can include loss of smell, constipation, mood and sleep disorders, and low blood pressure when standing up.

There are 10 million PD patients in the world, with one million in the United States; 60,000 new patients in the United States are diagnosed each year, and the average age of diagnosis is 60.

Although there is no cure for the disease – and no standard diagnostic tests – movement disorder specialists can help. The Parkinson's Foundation stresses the need to find the right doctor and, because patients have different issues and needs, the treatment plan should include various healthcare professionals, as well as family members.

Many medications are available that have an effect on dopamine production, but they also have side effects. Treatment programs usually require lots of



adjustments to get the medications in balance, but the goal is to reduce the primary symptoms and side effects.

Exercise can be challenging but has been shown to be effective in reducing symptoms. And this is where the Rock Steady boxing class, a nationwide program offered by the Good Samaritan Society, comes in.

Misty Parrish is the wellness director at Good Samaritan, and her interest in PD began when she served as a caregiver for her uncle, who had Parkinson's. Parrish is



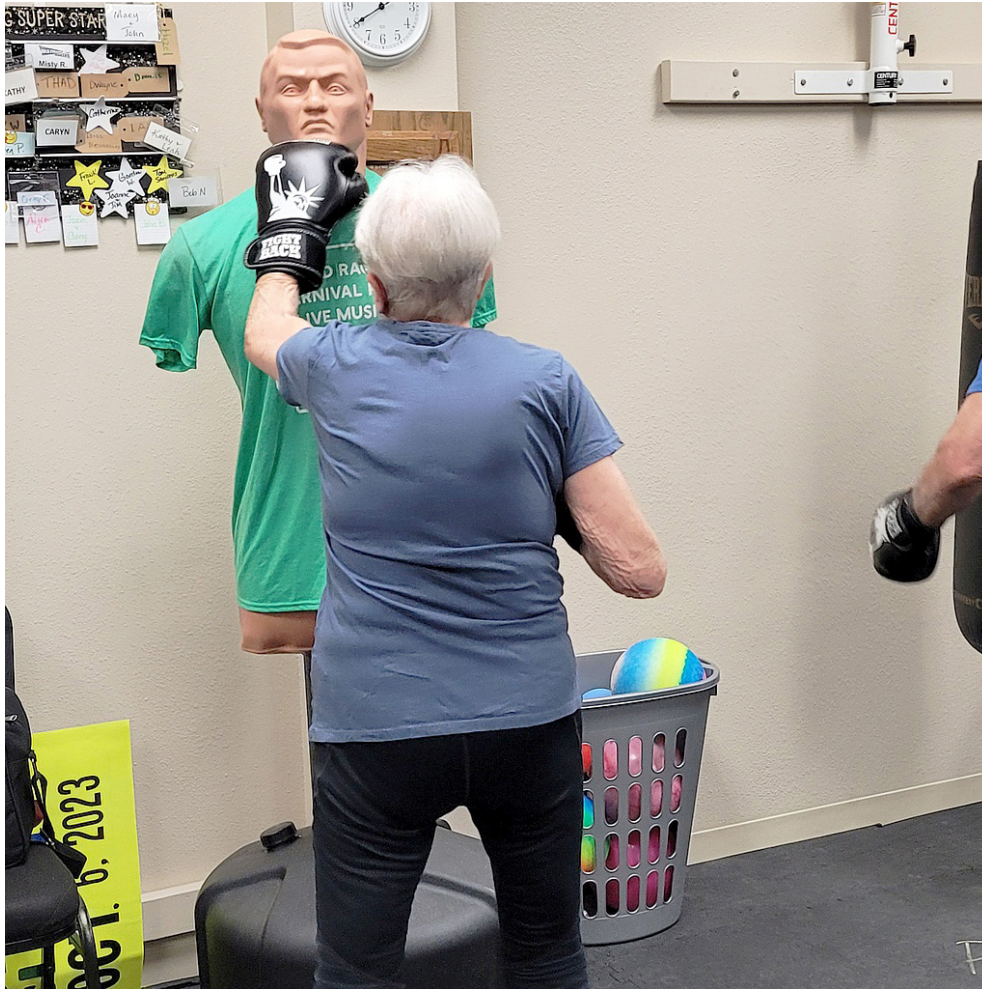
The group practices jabs and uppercuts before heading to individual stations.

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Having a face to aim at sometimes really gets the dopamine flowing.

certified as a personal trainer and as a Rock Steady boxing coach, and is a dynamic and well-loved teacher.

The hour-long workout begins with warm-up exercises and is followed by group activities (tossing and catching balls to improve hand/eye coordination)

class is fun!" said Parrish.

Hazel and Ian Cresswell have been attending the class together, although Ian does not have Parkinson's – he's a caregiver for his wife, Hazel, and volunteers at the class, helping keep things on track and

and boxing, ending with stretching and balancing movements. Everything is set to lively music, and the group supports and teases each other throughout. One participant quipped, after another member took a slight tumble, "A big part is learning how to fall safely."

The boxing portion of the workout is as intense as participants want it to be. Participants complete a circuit of speed bags, punching bags, etc., with some really getting into it on the bag with the face on it.

The most notable thing about the boxing class is how much fun everyone seems to be having. Parrish said the benefits are many – the exercises slow the progression of the disease by helping to "move" the dopamine with the "forced intensity" of boxing and the group activities strengthen group ties and support ("so they don't feel alone") – but mainly "Boxing

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safe. Hazel said, “We love this class!” and Ian added, “I’ve done a lot of research on Parkinson’s and Misty really knows what she’s doing.”

Frank Labowski has been attending the class for three-and-a-half years and credits the exercises with helping to mitigate his many symptoms. He’s also a big fan of Parrish: “She checks on everyone” and gives personal attention where needed.

For information on the classes, held at Fit for Life, contact Misty Parrish at [mrichens@good-sam.com](mailto:mrichens@good-sam.com)



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# Force of Nature

*Villager Dotty Burke has been a competitive swimmer for 47 years*

Robin Raborn Burns  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

To know Dotty Burke is to know a force of nature. She has been a competitive swimmer for 47 years and has been the recipient of numerous national, regional, and state awards. She holds 257 top ten times in the United States as well as 83 Arkansas records. A two-time cancer survivor in 2020, she placed first in the United States in 2021 in four events and second place in three events in her age group. Her top event is the 400 Individual Medley which consists of swimming 100 yards of Butterfly, 100 yards of Backstroke, and 100 yards of Breaststroke, followed by 100 yards of Freestyle.

Dotty was introduced to swimming quite unexpectedly. She and her family had just moved to St. Louis. Her two children had been previously involved in swimming when they lived in Illinois. When they moved, she started taking her daughter to the local swim club - Sugar Creek Swim Club, in St. Louis. This was where the next national swim competition was to



**Dotty receives the Swimmer of the Year award.  
(Dotty Burke photos)**

be held for master swimmers, which are competitive swimmers ages 25 and older. She would drive her 12-year-old daughter to summer swim practice every morning and watch while she swam. When the swim coach suggested Burke get in the pool and practice for the upcoming competition, she hesitated at first. "I had never competed in anything, including swimming," she said. "So I thought, 'I'm driving my daughter here and I'm sitting, just doing nothing for an hour, sometimes an hour and a half. Why don't I get in the pool and swim? So I did.'" The rest, as they say... is history.





Dotty and her husband celebrating the lovely evening event.

Dotty was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. After marriage she moved 12 times, ending up in St. Louis. She moved to the Village in 2003 and sold her Medical Sales and Distribution Company. She retired in 2005 – she and her husband have lived happily in the Village for twenty years. Dotty started volunteering in the POA Marketing Department In 2012. She was an active committee member – she set up the first Village triathlon and served as Water/Safety Director until 2018, at which time the event was no longer held. Dotty shares the accolades she received when she volunteered as Water/Safety Director. “No one

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drowned”, she said, and added that “we received many compliments about how well the Water Safety Team performed and we were also told that our triathlon was the best managed of all other triathlons the participants entered.”

Dotty participated in the event as well and was one of the top three winning teams every year. For the past four years, she has been a volunteer for the HSV Community Foundation, acting as secretary for the Public Relations Committee. She also served on the Board of Directors for the HSV Community Foundation. In 2020, she resigned from the Board of Directors because of health issues but continues to serve as Secretary for the PR Committee. The responsibilities consist of taking and recording minutes at the monthly meeting, keeping the monthly workflow sheet up to date, planning monthly activities, and volunteering for any CF activities that are needed.

Three days a week you will find Dotty working out at the Y swimming pool in Hot Springs where she says she interacts with all the “water people.” She has been organizing and facilitating a Tuesday



Dotty doing her butterfly stroke during her regular practice

morning Bible Study group in her neighborhood for twelve years. She is an active member of the Women’s Ministry Team at Village Bible Church. She has been a member of the United States Swim Association, and has traveled, participated, and volunteered for many swimming and triathlon events since 1976.

In addition to her love of swimming, Dotty is a member of not one, but 3 book clubs, 2 bridge clubs, and she also enjoys playing Mahjong. Dotty likes entertaining, home decorating, and traveling. Dotty shares that the past year has been a challenge for her healthwise.

“I am recovering from a shoulder injury and more recently a knee replacement.” Dotty has sincere respect and gratitude for the therapists and staff at Village Golf and Physical Therapy East for their assistance in helping her get back to “Dotty speed.” Dotty hopes to compete in January 2024 at the Arkansas Masters Short Course Meters Invitational in Little Rock. She







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realizes that when adversity of any kind hits, you summon your inner reserves of strength, draw upon your support system, and ask for help where you need it. She knows there is strength in recognizing areas where you need the assistance of others.

When she is not swimming, Dotty Burke is certainly not a fish out of water. She is equally adept on land or in sea. She says “I aim to live a balanced life in my community, neighborhood, church, and athletic activities. I enjoy setting and achieving new goals and doing the work to meet those goals. I have found myself at swim meets where I am on the starting blocks with nine and ten-year-old swimmers. I strive to be a source of inspiration to all the younger swimmers and enjoy my interaction with them.”

Dotty adds that she feels she has been blessed throughout her life, and volunteering, and offering inspiration is a way for her to give back. Those who know her are happy to graciously accept her heartfelt gifts.



### December is National Cat Lover’s Month

People should make room in their December celebrating calendars for a purrrfectly special event: National Cat Lovers Month. This is a time of year to enjoy the antics of felines young and old.

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# Learn & Enhance

“Learning, Sharing, Giving’ is the HSV Woodworkers motto

Lewis Delavan  
STAFF WRITER

Woodworkers of all levels learn and enhance their skills through the Hot Springs Village Woodworkers.

“You don’t need your own shop or tools – many members welcome you to work in their shops. The Woodworkers’ motto is ‘Learning, Sharing, Giving.’ The club is a good way to learn a new skill or share your expertise with others,” toy project coordinator Colleen Angel said in response to an email.

“Men and women enjoy the variety of activities that the club offers. Members generously give of their time and talents in the many projects the club does.” Her husband, Steve, is club president. Founded in 1995, the Woodworkers have 69 families.

For many years, club members have focused on



Mark Walters adjusts a board during September’s Woodworkers meeting. (HSV Woodworkers photos)

improving the lives of children.

The toy project began around 2000. Every year since then, Santa’s elves – aka HSV Woodworkers – are crafting toys for the annual November toy distribution.

Members receive new toy ideas starting in January. Teams and individuals discuss what toys they would like to make and communicate this with toy coordinator Colleen Angel. “We try to balance the number of toys for boys, girls and gender neutral. We try to make toys for ages 3-5, 6-8 and 9 and older. Our toys are given to children in foster Start programs. This year 700 toys were made.

New toys this year: A Bakery Stand, Mountain Climber Game, Spinning Tops, Puppet Theatre, T-Rex, Cat/Dog Crayon holders, Pretend Makeup Kit, Hand

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In September agencies are contacted to determine toy needs. Toys are assigned an age and gender, then are matched up with the agency. Toys have been collected at the Angels' home and organized for picking. Several members come to help pick and pack the toys from the spreadsheet. Toys are then taken to the November club meeting and set out on display by partner agencies.

A representative from the agency comes that night to explain what their agency does and what receiving a toy means to their children. These heartfelt stories often leave us all with teary eyes, but grateful hearts that we could help. At the conclusion of the program the members pack up all the toys and help load them up for the agency to take along," Colleen Angel said.

Throughout the year, club members craft toys for youth of various ages.

Another long-term project is creating bookcases to donate to area students.

Members explored their creativity through this summer's 2x4 project. A 2x4 no longer than 23 inches spurred many projects presented at July's meeting.

September's meeting featured Mark Walters, owner of Mark's Machinery & More, Fort Smith. Walters opened the business in a corner of his woodworking shop in 2006. He was a vocational teacher at the time.

Members had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with Walter's equipment.

Spinning tops and lathe equipment was August's meeting theme, in a presentation by Ken Koepp. Club members showed projects done on the lathe.

Past meeting presenters have included a Benton guitar maker. Sometimes club members gather at a member's workshop. Field trips this year have included an area sawmill and, in May members visited Hot Springs cabinetmaker JDK Custom Inc.

Club meetings are 7-9 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month. Fellowship time for visitors, new and current members precedes each meeting from 6:30-7 p.m.

Activities for 2024 include a bookcase project, starting in March; and a scroll saw contest in February-April.

Pending activities include a workshop on joinery at a member's shop, scroll saw workshops at member's shop, a workshop on making jigs, with a focus on wheels and circles; and more contests to challenge members' skills.



Members submitted these boxes during a 2022 contest.

For more information, visit <https://villagewoodworkers.org>, or visit the club at Facebook/people/Hot-Springs-Village-Woodworkers.



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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

# Housing Security



A recent woman's build gets underway. (Photos courtesy Garland County Habitat for Humanity)

**Robin Raborn Burns**  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

When you are faced with housing insecurity, your whole world is a maze of instability. If you are a working Mom or Dad, it is hard to focus on your child's education - the quality and content of information going into your child's head - when it is a struggle just to ensure there is a roof over your child's head. The need for safe, affordable housing is as out of reach

Habitat for Humanity serves Garland and Saline counties and

for many in Arkansas, as it is for many people around the world. Many families lack a decent place to call home due to a seemingly hopeless and vicious cycle of increasing rent, poor living conditions, financial instability, and a lack of access to affordable finance.

"Across Arkansas, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost-burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions." <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/arkansas/>. Habitat for Humanity works in more



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Their impact in Hot Springs Village, Saline, and Garland counties is indelible. Habitat for Humanity works together with families, local communities, volunteers, and partners from around the world so that more people are able to live in affordable and safe homes. Their advocacy efforts range from far-reaching policy reform to grassroots efforts. They strive to remove barriers that prevent low-income and underserved families from accessing safe and affordable shelter. Habitat for Humanity knows that everything starts with an affordable place to call home. Decent housing serves as a family's foundation



Volunteers on the job at a recent project.



# Warm Wishes!

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for living healthier and accessing more educational and economic opportunities. Some of the most vulnerable citizens are the elderly.

Through their Aging in Place program, Habitat for Humanity helps older adults age at home and in communities of their choice. Through the innovation of their Housing Plus model, a range of person-centered, holistic approaches starts with the older adult's needs. Local Habitat affiliates collaborate with human services organizations to evaluate individual needs and provide critical home repairs, modifications, and other community services that are individualized and specific to each homeowner's lifestyle and needs. Visit [https://](https://www.habitat.org/our-work/aging-in-place/)



Framing a wall in a recent build.

[www.habitat.org/our-work/aging-in-place/](https://www.habitat.org/our-work/aging-in-place/) for more information.

What does Habitat for Humanity's presence in Garland and Saline counties look like? Garland County Habitat for Humanity's Women Build - Garland County Habitat for Humanity recently held its ninth annual Garland County Habitat for Humanity's Women Build event on Oct. 3-7 at 200 Beard St. from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily. The event was formerly known as Heels to Hammers - the program allows women of all skill levels to come together to build homes for families in the community. This year's build was for two deserving families in the community. In addition to providing housing, the event helps create a sense of camaraderie and team-building opportunities for women.

The event was presented by Oaklawn Racing Casino. Visit: <https://www.garlandcountyhabitat.org/2023-women-build/> for photos and more information. Shell Giving Pump - Little Rock-based Roadrunner, Super Stops, and affiliated stores - managed by Coulson Oil Company - have participated for the third year with Shell USA (Shell) on The Giving Pump as part of its Force For Good initiative to drive positive change in local communities by giving back. Typically held from Labor Day through September 30th, Habitat

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for Humanity will receive one penny for every gallon sold at The Giving Pump. There are 8 participating locations in Garland County...look for the specially marked purple pump and help give back! Visit <https://www.shell.us/motorist/together-we-are-a-force-for-good/fill-up-for-a-good-cause-at-the-giving-pump.html/> for more information.

Habitat for Humanity ReStores - are independently owned reuse stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations. The stores accept donations and sell a constantly changing inventory of diverse, high-quality merchandise to the public at a significantly lower price than retail. The sales of donated items help Habitat for Humanity partner with local families to build, rehabilitate, and repair safe and affordable homes in communities. It is a win-win; it offers great deals for shoppers, the community, and the environment. Visit <https://www.habitat.org/restores/> for additional information on ReStores. Restore locations

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Apply for a Habitat House – Habitat for Humanity offers a path to homeownership. Prospective individuals are prepared for the various responsibilities of homeownership, which also includes education about personal finances, mortgages, maintenance and upkeep of homes, and much more. Families are selected through an application process, then Habitat builds the home and sells it to the family at cost. The family pays for the home with a 0% interest mortgage. Monthly mortgage payments do not exceed 30% of the gross income. The 2023 Open Application Period began Saturday, November 11, following the Application Seminar and continue through Thursday, December 14th at Noon. Visit <https://www.habitat.org/housing-help/apply/> for more info.

Be a part of the solution, help make a difference, help end housing inequity and insecurity by: Donating to Habitat directly, donating in-store at the register and/or online, or donating at your local Habitat ReStore.



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# DECEMBER EVENTS

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**December 1 at 5:30 p.m**

The Nutcracker  
**Woodlands**  
**December 1 at 7:30 p.m**

Colt and the Old 45s  
**Woodlands**  
**December 2 at 7 p.m**

Christmas in the Village - ASO  
**Woodlands**  
**December 3 at 3 p.m**

Hot Springs Christmas Parade  
**Downtown Hot Springs**  
**December 4 at 6:30 p.m**

Village Chorale Christmas Concert  
**Woodlands**  
**December 5 at 7 p.m**

Ice on Ice  
**Hamp Williams Building**  
**December 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

Oaklawn Opening Day  
**Oaklawn Casino Resort**  
**December 8 at 11 a.m.**

Muses Voices of Angels  
**Woodlands**  
**December 8 at 7 p.m**

Christmas Comedy Dinner Show with  
 Daryl Felsburg  
**Vapors Live**  
**December 9**

Elf the Musical  
**Pocket Theatre**  
**December 1-3 & 7-10**

Cocoa, Christmas & Carols  
**Coronado Center**  
**December 11 at 1 p.m**

Hot Springs Concert Band Christmas Concert  
**Woodlands**  
**December 14 at 7 p.m**

Bret Michaels - Party Gras Tour  
**Oaklawn Event Center**  
**December 30 at 7 p.m.**

New Year's Eve Party at Vapors Live  
**Vapors Live**  
**December 31**



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## TRADITIONAL COQUITO

Individuals of Puerto Rican descent might enjoy whipping up batches of coquito around the holidays. Coquito, which means “small coconut,” is made in batches with recipes passed down through families. It is similar to traditional eggnog, but Puerto Ricans will tell you it’s even better. The beverage is served throughout Navidad, or starting after Thanksgiving and ending in mid-January with the celebration of Fiestas de la Calle San Sebastian.

Those interested in making homemade coquito can follow this

“Traditional Coquito” recipe, courtesy of Discover Puerto Rico.

### Traditional Coquito

- 1 can of condensed milk
- 1 can of evaporated milk
- 1 can of cream of coconut (most Puerto Ricans prefer Coco Lopez)
- 1/2 cup white rum (preferably Don Q or Bacard’)
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon (add more to taste)

In a blender, add evaporated milk, cream of coconut, sweetened condensed milk, rum, vanilla extract, and cinnamon. Blend on high until mixture is well combined, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer mixture into glass bottles and chill in the refrigerator until cold. To serve, pour coquito into small serving glasses and garnish with ground cinnamon or a cinnamon stick.

Note: This is traditional Coquito. Individuals can experiment with different flavors, like chocolate, guava or even mango coquito if they desire.

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Hot Springs Village, AR 71909



## Village True Value®

HOME CENTER • BUILDING SUPPLY • LUMBERYARD

### MORE THAN A HARDWARE STORE

4650 N. Highway 7, Hot Springs Village, AR | 501-984-6074

# BARGAINS OF THE MONTH®

Good Dec. 1-30, 2023



**\$75**

**DeWALT® 108 pc. Mechanics Tool and Socket Set**  
Includes standard and metric sockets, quick-release 72-tooth ratchets and anti-slip grip bit driver. R 195 264



**14.99**

**As Seen On TV Battery Daddy**  
Stores and organizes 180 batteries. Includes built-in tester. W 270 215



**14.99 YOUR CHOICE**

**Energizer Max® 16-pk. AA or AAA Alkaline Batteries** Long lasting. Great for toys, games and remotes. Shelf life of up to 10 years in storage. E 137 891, 896



**19.99 YOUR CHOICE**

**Holiday Wonderland® 200 ct. Mini LED Light Set** Choose from cool white, warm white or multicolor. 49.8 ft. of lighted length. Connect up to 18 sets. T 195 539, 540, 541



**5.99 YOUR CHOICE**

**Energizer® 100 ct. Slim Wire Micro Dot LED Lights** Choose from warm white, multicolor or cool white. 33 ft. of lighted length. Requires 3 AA batteries (not included). T 105 078, 079, 081



**14.99 YOUR CHOICE**

**Green Thumb® 22 in. Lawn & Leaf Rake or 32 in. Poly Leaf Rake** Lightweight. Hardwood handle. T 146 483; 683 964



**8.99**

**Sterilite® 18 gal. Holiday Storage Tote** Snap-on lid. Molded handles for easy transport. 23½" L x 18¾" W x 16½" H. W 204 527



**5.99**

**Duke Cannon Supply Co.® 10 oz. Lump of Coal Soap** Premium soap formulated with activated charcoal, featuring a bergamot and black pepper scent. W 270 213



Become a Rewards® Member to take advantage of these great deals!  
\*See store for details.

†You must be a True Value Rewards Member to receive the sale prices shown.

Village True Value. **LOCALLY STRONG**

## Community Calendar

**December Charity:**  
Donate your change in December & we'll match it to benefit **Make-A-Wish** Foundation.

## Santa Is Coming!!!



**December 9th From 10am-2pm.**  
**Take your Photo with Santa At Village True Value**

## Christmas 25% Off Coupon

Of any \$50.00 Plus purchase in HALLMARK ONLY...

This Coupon only applies to our gift department items.

**Good Thru. Dec. 9th-13**