

A monthly publication of the Hot Springs Village Voice

# HSV *life*

M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 2025

A man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a black clerical shirt and a white stole with gold Maltese crosses, stands behind a wooden podium. The podium is covered with a green cloth featuring a repeating pattern of Maltese crosses. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is a wooden wall.

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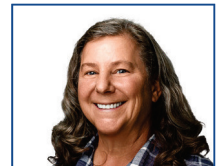
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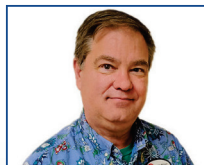
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## A Hint of Spring Around the Corner

**I**t won't be long now. With March comes early signs of spring and it can't come too soon for most people, including me. The days continue to get longer, and Daylight Saving Time comes into effect on March 9 when we "spring ahead" one hour. Officially the first day of spring is March 20.

There are plenty of interesting days in March as well. Like Mardi Gras beginning on March 4, Saint Patrick's Day on March 17 and, we in Arkansas need to know that March 1 is National Pig Day. Oink, oink.

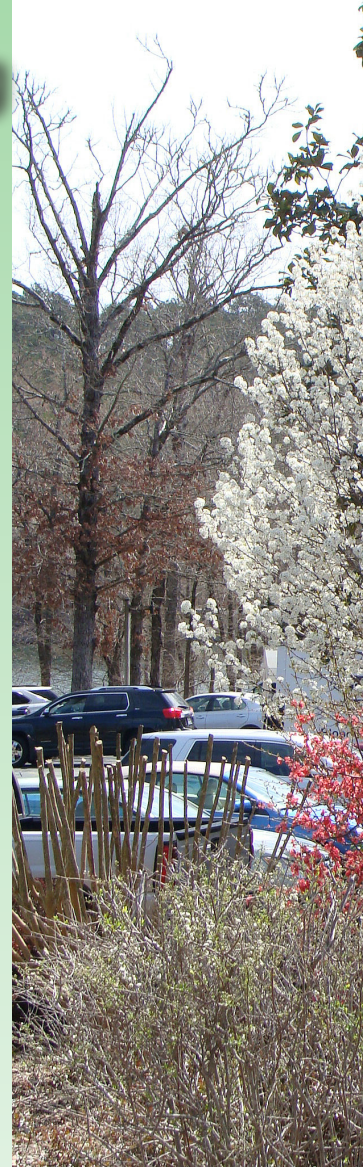
March is also known as Women's History Month. Looking around for more I see that International Women's Day is on March 8, celebrating achievements of women across the globe. On that note I can't help but throw kudos at my boss Jennifer Allen who, 4 years ago, rescued the Hot Springs Village Voice newspaper from near extinction.

And Ash Wednesday, the first day of lent, this year is March 5.

For those with a sweet tooth, like me, please note that March 6 is National Oreo Day, a day to celebrate that long time favorite cookie. My mother had a jar of them in the kitchen at all times. Our children, decades later, still remember that beloved cookie jar of Oreos. Oh, and don't forget a glass of milk to go with that Oreo. It's a must for many.

March will also see more Hot Springs Village residents on the Village trail system, tennis courts, pickleball courts and fishermen will see an increase in the aggressiveness of fish as the water warms.

And usually, we begin to see flowers and plants bloom and the lawn begins to green up. Get that lawn mower and string trimmer ready.



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Early spring brings forth color. (Jeff Meek photo)

Spring and warmer temperatures also seem to bring a sense of hope, hope for the future, hope for peace, hope for good health. Speaking of hope, know that the Hot Springs Village Voice hopes you have a great month of March, a great 2025 as we all continue to love HSV Life.

**Jeff Meek**  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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**ON THE COVER:** Chris Hemund has pastored Village United Methodist Church for almost 8 years (Lewis Delavan photo)



# ALL AROUND ARKANSAS



The exterior of the museum.

## The Oil Boom

Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources showcases oil production in the state

Darrell W. Brown

The Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources near Smackover (Union County) showcases the compelling story of oil and bromine production in southern Arkansas, focusing on the historic oil boom of the 1920s. The museum not only delves into the history of these resources from their ancient origins to modern times but also highlights the impact of this significant period in Arkansas history.

During the 1920s, national attention was drawn to this region, as the Smackover Oil Field rose to prominence, ranking first among the nation's oil fields with an impressive yearly production of sixty-nine million barrels in 1925. This area experienced one of the most rapid mineral booms in North America, with a staggering success rate of ninety-two percent in drilling 1,000 wells within the first six months, leading

to the exponential growth of Smackover.

However, the lack of conservation laws resulted in the escape of natural gas and the pollution of the landscape by saltwater, leading to the decline of the oil boom by the early 1930s. Despite this, south Arkansas oil fields continue to produce petroleum, albeit at a slower rate.

The Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources' origins can be traced back to 1975, when a group of visionaries envisioned a place to preserve and interpret Arkansas's oil history. Subsequently, in 1977, the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 310, which imposed a tax on the state's oil production to fund the museum's construction and operation. Additionally, in 1979, the legislature imposed a tax on brine, a saltwater often found alongside oil deposits and a source of bromine



extraction. Notably, bromine, a vital chemical used in various industries, is derived from this brine.

In 1980, Jack Turner donated nineteen acres in Smackover as a site for the Arkansas Oil and Brine Museum. Initially known by this name, the museum was later renamed the Arkansas Museum of Natural

Resources in 1997 and is operated by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

The museum's exhibition center spans 25,000 square feet and houses an array of captivating displays. Visitors can explore vintage photographs, an auditorium showcasing two videos, a unique exhibit called "Center of the Earth," a geologic time scale and fossil exhibit, and life-size representations of roughnecks working an oil derrick. Additionally, there are exhibits on family life in the oil fields, vintage gas pumps, and petroleum company signs.

One of the museum's highlights is a high-tech elevator that takes visitors on a journey through time, from a Jurassic period sea floor to the Industrial Revolution. An adjoining exhibit focuses on the evolution of oil consumption from 1922 to modern times, offering a fascinating perspective. Moreover, visitors can peer from a replica of the Rogerson Hotel's second-floor veranda overlooking a re-created, boom-era street scene in Smackover, complete with numerous storefronts, a jail, a newspaper office, mannequins in period dress, and vintage automobiles.

Outside, the center's Oilfield Park features operating examples of oil-producing technology from the 1920s to the present day, including a 112-foot wooden derrick similar to the one at the original Busey No. 1 Well in



**Recreated Smackover street scene inside the museum.**

El Dorado. For those interested in seeing an active oil field, the museum's staff has prepared maps for either six- or fifteen-mile driving tours of the Smackover field, revealing remnants of early production such as salt flats. The field is conveniently located just north of the museum.

For further details regarding the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, contact the museum's office at 870-725-2877 or visit its website at [www.amnr.org](http://www.amnr.org).

*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 Boston Terrier puppy named Tucker.. Find him on Facebook and Instagram at AllAroundArkansas.*

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## VILLAGE PEOPLE



Jane Browning has lifted the lives of many through her leadership in many organizations. (Mary Eliades photo)

# Jane Browning: Lifting the Lives of Others

Mary Eliades  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

“I’ve been driven to lift up those least able to speak for themselves,” says Hot Springs Village resident Jane Browning. “I believe that helping those who are most vulnerable serves to raise the quality of life for everyone.”

And Jane Browning is someone who walks the walk. She has had a long career, working for one agency or organization after another, all of which she has left better than she found them.

Browning is from Omaha, Nebraska, and grew up in a house “right in the middle” of town. Her family was an interesting mix: her father was a special agent with the IRS, her mother a musician; her brother, seven years

older than Jane, was a television broadcaster, and her sister a church organist and social worker.

Browning said, “My parents adhered to Christian principles that fostered a love for justice and mercy in all three of us children. Growing up, Omaha seemed very egalitarian, I never felt any extreme class differential.”

Jane carried on the family musical tradition by playing the cello, taking ballet lessons, and singing – “I was always in church choirs.” She went to Central High School in Omaha and became interested in acting, starring in high school productions of “My Fair Lady,” “Carousel,” and “Carnival.”



The Browning family gets together often, either in the Village or Atlanta (where son Jack lives with his wife and toddler) or traveling around the U.S. to visit friends and family. From left, John, Jane, Paul and Jack. (Submitted photo)

She went on to Northwestern University, where she was a varsity cheerleader, and hoped to pursue an acting career.

As with many best-laid plans, fate intervened. Jane married a Vietnam veteran, a wounded and decorated Marine, and moved back and forth between Estes Park, Colorado, where her parents had moved, Omaha, and Lincoln, Nebraska, working various jobs, before becoming secretary to the program department at Nebraska Educational Television.

Another move took her to Denver, working for a financial advisor, where she became friends with staff from the Denver Association for Retarded Citizens (DARC). The group started the first group home for adult women, and Jane initially worked as a volunteer before taking a job with the association – “I pretty much just stayed.”

From that start, “I became an advocate for people with disabilities, [which has continued] throughout my career,” she said.

And a long and distinguished career it has been.

She became the assistant director of a citizen advocacy program at DARC and was soon asked by the National Association for Retarded Citizens to join the staff there and expand the citizen advocacy program as a project coordinator. This entailed a move to Dallas, Texas, where she spent four years working under a grant, traveling to 22 states, facilitating programs, speaking to various groups, and conducting training.

While living in Dallas, Jane went back to school at the University of Texas, Dallas, and got a degree in English literature with a minor in theater and art history. She also met the love of her life, John Browning.

John, who hailed from Michigan and later Chicago, attended Western Illinois University on a football scholarship and was a psychology major. He ended up in Dallas, working in outside sales for Northern Electric.

They got married and, at some point, decided to move to Little Rock. Although neither had family or jobs there, John had worked there before and loved it.

The Brownings bought a house on the National Register in the Quapaw Quarter of Little Rock,



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and Jane took a job as executive director of the Arkansas Humanities Council, where she stayed for eight years. One of the projects she spearheaded involved putting together the curriculum for a two-week course for teachers on Arkansas studies. The course covered the geology, geography, history, folklore, etc. of Arkansas, and teachers received credit towards master's degrees.

This effort gave Jane the idea to write a history book for 8th graders, based on the research conducted by the AHC (and with its permission). Jane enlisted the help of T. Harry Baker ("it was the best collaboration I've ever experienced") and the book, "An Arkansas History for Young People," is now in its fourth edition.

Jane and John welcomed sons Jack in 1980 and Paul in 1983. Paul was born with Down syndrome and the Brownings were more than ready for the challenges to come.

"I worked for the ARC for 11 years before Paul was born and had met scores, if not hundreds, of kids and adults with Down syndrome," said Browning. "It was perfectly natural for me to assume the role of parent myself. One of my ARC work buddies said at the time that I was 'affirmed' by his arrival."

John eventually accepted a transfer to Baltimore with his job at Master Builders, and "a new chapter" began for the Brownings.

Jane took a job with the Maryland Association for Retarded Citizens ("the best job I ever had") and the family moved to Berrywood, near Annapolis, "right on the water."

"We faced a lot of challenges," said Jane. Paul was kindergarten age and was the first special education child to be fully included in regular classrooms in Maryland ("and not without a fight").

Jane said she had a lot of leeway in her job – she



**The Brownings on the trail – Paul, John and Jane. (Submitted photo)**

could create any programs she wanted, as long as she could round up the funding. She created an inclusion curriculum and organized conferences on various issues, including fetal alcohol syndrome,

Jane switched jobs again to become director of membership services at the National Association of Social Workers and director of the National Association of Social Workers Press. At the time, the Press published 12 books and five peer-reviewed journals every year, as well as quarterly newspapers.

Jane became a volunteer member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and was later appointed executive director of the committee by the White House, with a mandate to report annually to the president on the state of mental disabilities in the United States. Jane's team organized conferences for the "Next Generation of Leadership" and funded projects to examine the links between poverty and



disability.

This job landed her on the management team of the Administration on Children and Families, a \$39 billion federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she attended National Institutes of Health meetings and was able to attend state events at the White House.

Her next move was to Pittsburgh, to head the Learning Disabilities Association of America. In her four years there, “I rebranded them,” Jane said. She completely revamped the data management system and the website (as she had for every organization she’d been involved with – “I used to be quite a techie,” she admitted), conducted many policy conferences in Washington, D.C., and “did a lot of lobbying.”

The Brownings entered another new chapter of their lives in 2011 when son Paul decided he wanted to move out on his own, and the family came back to Arkansas. Jane was familiar with the program Group Living, and Paul was quickly established in a house in Arkadelphia. John and Jane opted for a home in Hot Springs Village and have been here ever since.

Jane parlayed her experience with the International Community Corrections Association to accept a position as executive director of Compassion Works for All, a Buddhism-based mission for prisoner support. The group taught meditation in prisons, created a newsletter read and contributed to by inmates, and curated a gallery of prisoner art.

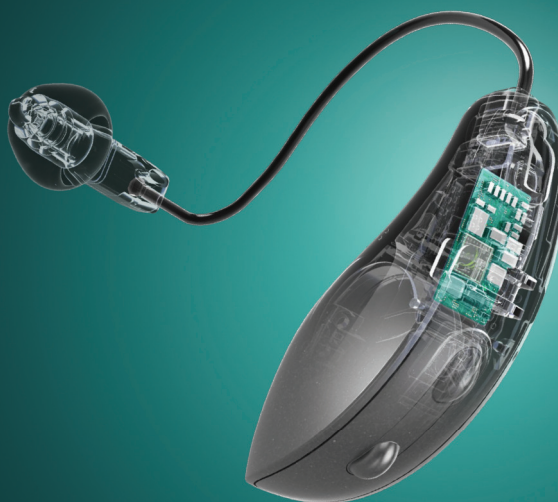
Jane’s next endeavor was as executive director of the Garland County United Way. During her four years there, she “resuscitated” the organization with focus groups and forums, attracted community leaders, and raised the group’s profile.

Her focus now is on her position as executive director of the Hot Springs Village Community Foundation, where she’s currently working on the 19th annual benefit concert, coming up March 25.

Jane’s entire life has been dedicated to helping others – her family, her community and, through her long years of advocacy, the rights of people less able to speak for themselves.

“My life has been rich in experience and filled with remarkable people,” said Browning. “I cherish relationships and work hard to maintain the bonds of friendship over time.”

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# POCKET COMMUNITY THEATER



The Pocket  
Community  
Theatre.  
(Robin Raborn  
Burns photos)

## *Small Stage, Big Impact*

*The Pocket Community Theatre's commitment to excellence*

Robin Raborn Burns  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Nestled in Hot Springs, the Pocket Community Theatre continues to shatter stereotypes about what small-town stages can achieve. Far from the common misconception that these community theatres lack professional polish, the Pocket boasts state-of-the-art equipment, expert stagecraft, and a structure that rivals larger venues. Its dedicated team of volunteers, who comprise the performers, technicians, and more, deliver productions with a level of quality and creativity that leaves audiences captivated and impressed. The Pocket is not just a theatre; it's a testament to the power of local talent and the magic of storytelling done right.

The Pocket Community Theatre began in 1991 at

the former Hot Springs Factory Outlet Mall. Mark Britton and Linda Kercado's newly formed production company, Marlin Productions, and the original owners and management of the Factory Outlet Stores teamed up to produce "Love Rides the Rails."

The mall donated \$100, the use of a tent and folding chairs. Mark built the stage complete with lights, and formed a cast and crew from volunteer theater lovers. So many people came that they were encouraged to bring their own chairs!

They began producing shows through the winter months "indoors," utilizing an empty store and metal folding chairs.

It was said that the little production company was



almost small enough it could be put in your pocket. (Maybe influenced the naming of the theatre?) As they continued to put on indoor shows, they built a little stage and put on great plays that attracted more patrons, and soon, the 100 or so folding chairs were used for every show.

Fast forward to late 1996 - when the Pocket Theatre incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation.

Audiences increased and in late 1997, The Pocket Theatre moved into its next location on Higdon Ferry Road. There were 177 comfortable seats, a larger stage and even a sound and light booth!

The last show at Higdon Ferry was "Second Time Around" in July of 2005.

The Pocket Community Theatre began working on a plan to own their own building. This would help ensure stability, continuity and they yearned to have a location that was free of competition with shopping center traffic.

The current location is at the corner of Ravine and Ramble Streets off Park Avenue in downtown Hot Springs. The building is the former Ramble Elementary School auditorium which was closed as a school in the spring of 1967 when Park Elementary opened. One of its former students has become fairly well known - former President Bill Clinton. After closing, the main school building was torn down, and the auditorium was used for a variety of purposes, including various churches, before it was acquired by the Pocket Community Theatre.

The building is a two story structure with a large auditorium, lobby, restrooms in the lobby and backstage, a rehearsal hall, kitchen, workshop, storage rooms, and a fenced-in, paved parking lot. It gives the theatre more room to grow and provides more opportunity to perform and produce a wider variety of shows.



**Pocket Community Theatre Board of Directors  
Treasurer Jodi Tooke and Secretary David Fleming.**

The "President elect" of the Pocket Community Theatre Board of Directors, Dan Breshears, says

"The first thing I always say about the Pocket Community Theater is that the word 'community' means more than just a theater that's in a certain neighborhood. The actors, directors, producers, volunteers, and board members, we are all one tight knit community. It's amazing to me how so many people with such varied, and broad backgrounds, come together to make art that we put on that stage month after month, year after year. It is a gift we



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Sound technicians Board of Directors President-elect Dan Breshears (back), Technical Director Thomas Griffin, and sound system consultant/volunteer Jon (front).

share with our patrons from Hot Springs and the surrounding area. The experiences my family and I have personally had in the theatre have been life-changing/affirming and I'm so grateful to be a part of this great organization."

The Pocket Community Theatre gives back to the community in big ways. They have provided Jackson House and the Literacy Council with sizable donations.

There is a Pocket Community Theatre Readers group - a group of residents who gather regularly to read and discuss plays. There are the Pocket Singers who delight in singing songs from popular musicals. The theatre has resident artists who have taught piano, voice and choreography lessons.

There is a two week Kids Camp held at the theatre every July - this July the Kids Camp will be held





The stage of the Pocket Community Theatre.

from July 7-18. There is a production of 'The Aristocats' that will run July 18, 19 and 20. The actors in the play will be, as always, children who attended the Kids Camp. The Pocket Community Theatre hosts an annual fundraiser, entitled Lives Impacting Lives. This year's event will be held on November 14, 2025 at the Doubletree hotel,

Visit <https://www.pockettheatre.com/> for more info about shows, tickets, and opportunities to volunteer or donate.



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## COVER STORY

# Living a Life of Service

Rev. Chris Hemund has learned that everyone has a story and every story is worth hearing.

Lewis Delavan  
STAFF WRITER

Throughout a life of service, Rev. Chris Hemund has learned that everyone has a story, and every story is worth hearing. “All (life) stories are significant,” he says. “It’s part of what makes us who we are.”

Hemund has pastored Village United Methodist Church for almost 8 years – his 8th appointment in a third-of-a-century of pastoral service. Between this current appointment and a prior village church appointment, he has spent almost half of his vocational ministry here in Hot Springs Village.

The grandson of a longtime Methodist pastor at Amity, Arkansas, Chris was called into ministry while in the Wesley Foundation campus ministry at college. Grandfather Ralph E. Hemund pastored churches in Indiana and Arkansas during nearly a half century of service. As a young pastor, “I was always known as Bro. Hemund’s grandson,” he recalls, “and those were big shoes to fill. Today, I’m honored and proud of that legacy I now carry.”

When Grandfather Hemund passed away last Nov. 25 at age 95, he left a legacy of 7 sons, 4 daughters and a total of 95 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Young Hemund started as a “supply preacher” – somewhat like a circuit riding minister of the



Chris Hemund

nation’s early years, he traveled to preach at Methodist churches, primarily in the Arkadelphia and Hope districts.

He and his wife, Kim, have been married for 28 years and are the parents of three grown children. Kim, the daughter of a Southern Baptist minister, was maid of honor at a wedding that young Hemund officiated, but they really met later on a blind date over the telephone. A date was planned for the next Friday – but that date had to be canceled 3 weeks in a row due to unforeseen pastoral needs that arose. Kim was patient, Chris was persistent, and after dating for 3 months, they were engaged and married the next January.

Six months later, Hemund was called to serve as associate pastor at Glenwood United Methodist Church, which then had a private Christian school. In addition to church duties, he was asked to administer the school. “I knew nothing about administering schools,” he recalled of the part-time job.

So when Kim became pregnant with their son, Hemund took on a job of funeral directing. The





Preparing the church's mobile food pantry to help feed hungry insecure neighbors. (Submitted photos)

funeral home sat across from his parent's business. The owner of the funeral home approached Chris one day and said, "I understand you are preaching?" After confirming that he was, the funeral director asked, "So you have a suit and a tie? If so, I could use some help tomorrow." Hemund recalled that conversation fast-tracked him into funeral directing as a full-time job while preaching on the weekends, which well suited the young preacher's empathetic and compassionate nature.

Hemund returned to full-time ministry the next year. "I love preaching, teaching, and pointing others to Jesus." Reaching out into the community helps foster the love of Jesus Christ. "We are meant to be in community, neighbors helping neighbors," he said in an interview. Sometimes that means listening to one another's story; other times it means getting our hands dirty. That was certainly the case as Hemund walked village neighborhoods after the March tornado last year clearing debris with a chainsaw with other volunteers.

One highlight over the years has been working with youth through the Ozark Mission Project. Youth ranging up through college students work on projects to help older or disabled people. Ozark

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Chris Hemund worked with Cornerstone United Methodist Church youth through the Ozark Mission Project to build this ramp for disability access.

All (life) stories are significant, It's part of what makes us who we are  
-Chris Hemund

Mission Project's work transforms lives of youths and recipients alike, instilling servant leadership in young people while helping neighbors live their lives more fully. OMP's volunteers provide minor home repairs including accessibility projects like wheelchair ramps, handrails and deck repairs, as well as yard work, house painting and other small projects.

One memorable project was building a 47.5-foot wheelchair ramp in 100-degree August heat, along with students from Jonesboro's Cornerstone United Methodist Church. That ramp meant freedom and increased independence for the resident neighbor they assisted. "Neighbors helping neighbors and walking

in the example of Jesus will always make a difference."

More recently, he guided Village UMC in the establishment of a mobile food pantry which last year served more than 1,900 persons in north Garland County and beyond.

His advice for those in need or desiring to serve? "Always trust God and keep the faith," he said. "In a world of uncertainty, we can trust the Lord, and that makes all the difference."

A couple of years ago, Chris and Kim bought bicycles. Chris celebrated his half-century birthday by riding 50 miles. Challenging for a new bicyclist, it was worth it, he recalls, but "I doubt I do that again!"



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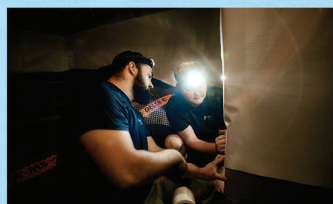
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## SPRING IN HSV

# Spring has sprung in the Village



Suzanne Sweeten  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Hooray for sunshine, and hooray for Spring! Residents of Hot Springs Village are excited to say goodbye to the cold days of winter and are even embracing the sight of pollen, although that might be a stretch. Spring fever has stirred up an itch to plant, but gardening can sometimes be challenging for new and experienced Villagers.

Meet Landscape Architect Kathy Edmonson. She is a valuable resource for everything from soil amendments to guidance on how residents can find assistance for their gardening questions. Edmonson, a Village Pines Garden Club member, has years of experience working with Arkansas' rocky, compacted soil and coping with the challenges of the summer heat.

"The first and foremost



Landscape Architect Kathy Edmonson enjoys working with her fellow Village Pines Garden Club members to enhance the beauty of Hot Springs Village. (Submitted photos)

thing a newcomer needs to know is our hardiness zone; it's 7b/8a. This knowledge will save you time, money, and heartbreak. What you planted in Wisconsin or other areas of the country will probably not grow in Arkansas.

There are eight common gardening mistakes. Ignoring a plant's maturity size is a key mistake. Additionally, planting too closely together or too near buildings can cause issues. It's also important to avoid planting too deeply and to ensure the planting hole is wide enough. Incorrect mulching, insufficient watering, and over-watering can also create problems. Lastly, being unaware of your hardiness zone

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and the plants' specific sun or shade requirements can lead to difficulties," she explains.

The ideal time to plant in the Village is in the spring, once the ground has thawed. Edmonson emphasizes that having the right tools can reduce the work needed; she recommends using a pickaxe and a digging bar. An alternative to traditional digging is to use raised garden beds filled with quality topsoil or planter mix. If the area is free of existing plants, you can incorporate these soil additions by tilling them into the ground.

When planting a shrub, the gardener should dig a hole two to three times wider than the root ball but only as deep as the root ball itself. After placing the shrub in the hole, backfill it with soil. Ensure the plant is not planted too deeply; the top of the rootball should be the same level as in the container. Annuals, perennials, and groundcover can enhance the landscape with vibrant color and interest while requiring minimal digging.



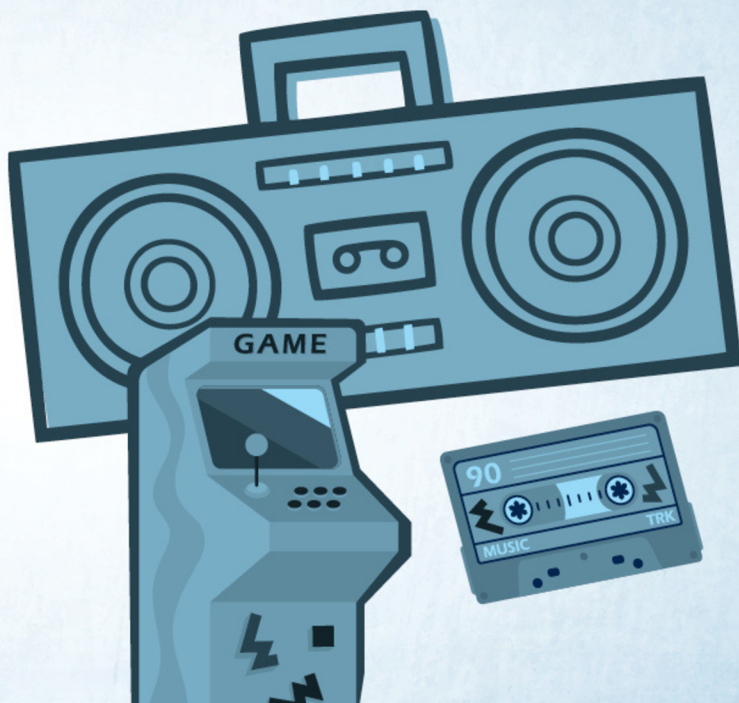
"Fortunately, there are many sources of information available to HSV gardeners. My favorite is the Missouri Botanical Gardens ([missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder)). They provide information, including the identification of plant diseases and pests.

I recommend checking out the Cooperative Extension Services in the area. The Saline County office can be reached at 501-303-5672, and the Garland County office at 501-623-6841. Additionally, the University of Arkansas

Extension website is a valuable resource. Visit [uaex.uada.edu](http://uaex.uada.edu) and click on "Yard and Garden" at the top of the page for more information."

Hooray for spring and the rejuvenation of the lovely Hot Springs Village. With experts like Kathy Edmonson and her 118 colleagues at the Village Pines Garden Club, our hometown and its resident gardeners will continue to make Hot Springs Village special. Hooray for the sunshine and all the beauty it brings.

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Annuals, perennials, and groundcover can enhance the landscape with vibrant color and interest while requiring minimal digging.



An alternative to traditional digging is to use raised garden beds, urns, and pots filled with quality topsoil or planter mix.

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The Village Pines Garden Club maintains the beautifully landscaped East Gate Entry. The crepe myrtles and azaleas are hardy to the HSV hardiness zone, which is 7b/8a.



# POA BOARD ELECTION

## Board candidates offer their qualifications

The Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association received applications from eight candidates for the 2025 Board of Directors election. Each was certified, but candidate Charles Brown later withdrew as a candidate.

In alphabetical order, edited biographical information submitted to the POA is presented below:

### Tammara 'Tammie' Capps

Tammara "Tammie" Capps and her husband, Greg, became Hot Springs Village residents in March 2021. After a few months they fell in love with the Village and decided to leave their lifelong home in Kansas and make HSV their primary residence.

The Capps have 5 children, 9 grandchildren and two dogs.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, Capps also earned a management certificate from the University of Southern California in pharmaco-economics, is an NBC Anchor Academy graduate and received medical training from various institutions.

She spent most of her career as an executive in the medical industry specializing in cardiovascular diseases/oncology/mental health/diabetes, and also

held roles as a patient advocate, health policy analyst, external affairs, regulatory federal and state affairs, marketing and other roles. After retirement Capps taught in an underserved area of Kansas, serving in special education, reading/math instruction and as a librarian.

She also owned and operated a catering and event-planning company, a design, staging and property-investment company, and a marketing and health care-consulting company.

As a child, her family believed in the value of volunteerism. Her grandfather and uncle served in the legislature and her parents were presidential advisers.

She has enjoyed volunteering at church and served on various state committees on regulation/legislation, participated in fundraising for a children's shelter and assisted with junior golf programs.

She believes the board has many opportunities to create a strong business plan, offer each resident a voice on issues that matter, to offer dependable leadership that can think strategically, make difficult decisions for the good of the community and to think out of the box. "Transparency, trust and integrity are the cornerstones of leadership. HSV has been successful in creating a community that is truly unique and inviting." Capps hopes to use her background in marketing, collaborative practices and advocacy to be a part of a successful leadership team that helps HSV be the best community of its kind in the country.



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### Bruce Caverly

Born and raised in New England after college, Bruce Caverly joined the Air Force in 1962 and wound up in Anchorage, Alaska. He was discharged in 1966.

His business career began with Minnesota-based 3M Company as a sales representative covering Alaska. A 1983 promotion to international business development manager brought him to 3M's home office in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Building one of 3M's key business units in its international subsidiary operations involved extensive travel to 48 countries in Asia, Canada, Europe and Latin America. Caverly's charge was to identify and staff new business opportunities world-wide. That included marketing, sales, sales training oversight, business plan development, and profit/loss management with 3M subsidiary staff and management.

Shortly after retiring at the end of 2000, the Caverlys moved to HSV in 2001. He joined the POA's Natural Resources Committee (later to become the Common Property, Forestry and Wildlife Committee) and continuously served on that committee (including terms as vice chair and chair) from 2002 through the summer of 2021.

"Throughout my 24 years in the Village, I have also served on numerous POA committees; helped lead the Friends of HSV; presented program proposals to the Board and POA Staff; and routinely attended almost all POA board meetings. That exposure gave me first-hand knowledge of HSV's governing documents, our Declarations, and our budgeting processes and operations."

Other key Village involvements:

- 12-year forest management plan with a return of \$1.2 million to HSV
- Wildlife management programs and Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- Mercy St. Joseph Hospital Advisory Committee
- HSVPOA Emergency Preparedness Committee



● HSV Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (was treasurer 9 years)

● Member, Sons on the American Revolution Society

"I decided to run for a second 3-year term on the POA Board due to my passion for HSV, and desire to ensure that the POA Board is staffed with individuals who are dedicated to positive, budget smart, constructive fact-based decision-making as HSV moves into its next decade. I have no personal agenda and remain convinced that our gated community is truly a 'hidden gem' with a bright future."

"I am pleased to report that over the last 3 years serving on this board, we have honored our commitment to our membership by spending our increased assessment dollars only on neglected infrastructure improvements as originally promised. We have fixed, painted and polished much of the deferred maintenance items such as roads, collapsing culverts, our sewer and water-plant distribution systems."

"There is more to do, including recovery from our recent tornado damage. I would like to be part of completing our commitment to fix what Cooper Communities Inc. left us while maintaining our commitment to transparency."

### Wayne Crump

Wayne Crump and his wife Valarie moved to HSV in June 2023 and live on Lake DeSoto. After researching and looking at different states and properties, we chose HSV to make our home. I enjoy fishing, boating and vintage automobiles.

E d u c a t i o n a l background: BS degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior in 1996; master's degree from Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 2016.

Lifetime career history includes being a staff buyer for a Fortune 500 company, with responsibility for negotiating contracts, obtaining costs reports and analysis, ensuring the timely delivery of all items





purchased to keep the factory running. He also implemented a cost-savings program to reduce operational costs, thereby boosting profits.

"I have also been a proprietor in the housing sector, where I purchased an apartment building and a struggling mobile home park, turning those endeavors around to become profitable. Prior to retirement, we sold those properties."

"In the public sector, I held positions in various local agencies, including zoning administrator. I am a retired police chief, which gave me great experience in budgeting, personnel management, legal insight, civil liability, etc. I became proficient in grant writing, as well as writing ordinances that would later become law for the city. During this time it gave me the opportunity to work closely with our county and city attorney. One of the implementations I am most proud of was working with the Defense Logistics Agency with the LESO Program where I was able to secure equipment such as vehicles, and weapons. I ultimately was able to assist other agencies introducing them to

the program."

As a Lakes Committee member, Crump measures water levels, temperatures and lake clarity. The position has offered great insight as to how the lakes are managed. The staff and fellow volunteers associated with the Lakes Committee have been very helpful, sharing expertise and knowledge. He has a new appreciation for them and looks forward to a long relationship.

"My goals for being on the board of directors includes making their actions more transparent to you, the property owners. After all, the POA is the Property Owners' Association, and that association is us – you – every property owner. You will find that I think 'outside the box' to find answers to make our community more secure, and profitable. I am a fiscal conservative and believer in operating HSV finances as my own. I do not like wasting funds."

"You will find that I am very straightforward, and if I do not know the answer to something, I will find it. It's my goal to work with the Board in bringing solutions

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that will most benefit the HSV community. You are the ones that can put me on the board of directors, and I value your input. I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election.”

#### **Peter Kirk Denger**

Peter Kirk Denger is campaigning to represent all Hot Springs Village property owners, particularly those on fixed incomes, focusing on lot owners. He bought a lot in 1979, one in 1991, one in 1995, one in 2001 and another one surrounding Balboa Beach in 2022.



“With a high school education, I have been employed in the home-building industry in HSV for over 40 years and advocate for preserving the values of our Village heritage. All property owners have a right to a fair vote on how our community is governed,” he wrote.

“With annual assessments of \$600 on lots assessed at \$2,000, owners see no return on their investment after a few short years. Continuous assessment increases and the legal liabilities of skyrocketing schemed-up fees have driven one-third of property owners to abandon their lots, resulting in constant financial losses for our Village. This trend harms all property owners and undermines the economic stability of our community. The solution is adopting a multi-tiered structure based on property values. Assessments resonating with the existing work of county assessors can reduce financial burdens for most property owners. This lowers costs for lot owners and encourages retention, creating a broader and more stable revenue base for HSV. The purpose of the POA is to serve property owners by maintaining our natural common properties, amenities, and infrastructure—not to profit from them. All profits should be returned to property owners through refunds.”

“The POA’s use of lots in arrears with unclear titles that are not paying assessments as votes to achieve quorums raises concerns about fairness in representation. I advocate for greater transparency in managing these lots for their use to be in all property

owners’ best interests. I challenge practices that undermine property owners’ rights. Changes to our protective covenants enshrined in our Declaration word for word, further restricting our property rights, can only be decided by the consent of a two-thirds majority of property owners, as stated in our Declaration, through a transparent voting process. Investing in a vibrant, well-managed community with long term potential should be an opportunity. Together, we can achieve this vision that all property owners see the value and benefit of their investment. I am committed to guiding the direction of the POA in a way that raises property values, not assessments, and upholds the principles that make a fairer, more equitable future for Hot Springs Village.”

“I campaign to guide the POA’s direction in embracing HSV’s heritage, which created the prosperity we have always enjoyed. HSV is the natural premier active lifestyle community with a quality of life everyone wants to live in. As we celebrate the 55th anniversary of our community in 2025, we are on the course many of us moved here to be part of and to preserve for future generations.”

#### **Mark Quinton**

Hot Springs Village has been Mark Quinton’s home since 2018, when he relocated from Louisiana. “Although my wife and I have experienced 7 different states and 8 moves from promotions, Arkansas and HSV tops them all.”



He holds a bachelor’s degree in education and a master’s degree in kinesiology (exercise movement). “Those credentials carried me through a 20-plus year career as a sales, marketing and training professional in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, reaching a national director role with AstraZeneca, responsible for upwards of 2,000 employees.”

He also honed management and leadership skills as chief executive officer of a collections services bureau, and as the owner of a commercial hockey



arena. “Those 6 years as a business owner were particularly meaningful, acquiring skills in business plan development, the art of securing individual and corporate investors, and financing and constructing a \$2M facility. During this time, I volunteered in the community as the Better Business Bureau president, United Way chairman, and Rotary member and Chamber member.”

“Even more important in my candidacy for a seat on the POA Board, is my exposure to the wants and needs of Hot Springs Village. In May 2023, I was appointed to the HSV Board of Directors for a one year term and elected to a one-year term in 2024 that I am currently serving and have immersed myself in all aspects of the governance of the Village. I am currently the Board of Directors liaison for the Community Development (Communications Committee).”

“In 2024, I brought the Archery Senior Olympics to the Village, and I am actively working on bringing several Senior Olympic events here in 2025. More recently, I served on HSV’s AdHoc Land Committee,

evaluating Cooper Communities land holdings, and their potential impact on HSV. I am also on the planning committee for the 2024 Urban Hunt and played a key role in bringing HSV’s Archery Range into operation.”

“I am currently serving on the board of directors since May 2023 and have learned a lot about what we can do to continue to be a better place to live by being fiscally responsible and updating our infrastructure. As a board member, I have been developing general manager goals to increase revenue through marketing and reducing the golf deficit to zero over the next few years. We have also brought the neglected infrastructure back to where we see a 7-year plan to keep what we have up to date. My unique blend of creativity, analytical skills, and directness with diplomacy have allowed me to resolve issues thought to be insurmountable. With no personal agenda, I am prepared to continue to commit my time and talent to representing all HSV’s property owners by addressing the challenges ahead to preserve what we have for

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generations to come. I am respectfully asking for your vote.

### Janet Rowe

Janet Rowe graduated with a bachelor's degree in social science from the California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, California in 1979. She attended two law enforcement training academies: The San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department Academy in 1977 and the Northern Virginia Regional Academy in Fairfax, Virginia, in 1981, and has received certifications in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Crisis Intervention Training, and Crisis Negotiation Training.

She started her career in law enforcement with the Morro Bay, California Police Dept. as a parking enforcement officer in 1976 and then worked as a patrol deputy with the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department from 1977-1979. In 1980, she worked loss prevention for Barnes and Noble Bookstores in Springfield, Virginia. In 1981, she became a police officer with the Arlington County Police Department, in Arlington, Virginia, until retirement in 2012.

"While in the Patrol Division with the Arlington County Police Department, I received several meritorious awards for community service, a lifesaving award, a Medal of Valor, and was awarded Officer of the Year. I was a member of the SWAT team as a crisis negotiator for 22 years, and was a field training officer for 15 years. I was a first responder to the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon performing police duties and evidence recovery."

"I became a property owner in Hot Springs Village in 2008, retiring here in 2016. I joined the Trails Committee 2017-2021 performing general maintenance on several trails, participating in several work projects, and coordinating special trail events. In 2019, I joined the Architectural Control Committee and was chair from 2020 until 2023. I was a member



of the 2022 Ad Hoc Committee to review the Cooper Reserved Properties, leading to the saving of several important infrastructure properties for the Village."

"I was president of the Village Audubon Society from 2022-2024 and currently organize field trips for Audubon and the Village Camera Club. I have also participated in Village Clean-up Days."

"As a member of the retired law enforcement group, Wuz-a-Fuzz, I organized the security detail for the Kid's Fishing Derby during the 4th of July celebration for the past 4 years and at Christmas, a drive to collect funds for a needy local family."

"In 2023, I was one of 3 finalists for the Hot Springs Village Village Citizen of the Year Award. For 5 years I worked as a volunteer at Fountain Lake School with their after-school program. At 242 Ministries in the Village, I coordinated the Operation Christmas Child program."

"I wish to serve on the board of directors, as my background in public service has always led me to have pride in helping to protect and serve the community to keep it a place we all can be proud of. I truly care for the Village and the lifestyle living here affords the residents and hope to be a common-sense representative for the property owners."

### Evert Uldrich

Evert Uldrich visited the Village several times over the past several years, before moving here last June and buying a house in August. His son and son's family live here.

A civil engineer, Uldrich is fascinated by the Village's engineering features.

He holds three degrees in civil engineering, the first two from the University of Kansas. During my first four years at KU, I worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Oahe Dam Project, serving on a land surveying team, a portland cement concrete laboratory team and a construction inspection team,





After graduation, he worked as a design engineer for General Dynamics/Astronautics on the Atlas Missile "D" Program. Called to active Army duty, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Uldrich served as a public health engineer, with 7 enlisted men on his team that inspected food service, issued health permits, held hearing inspections, domestic water bacteriolytic tests, inspected swimming pools and occasionally looked at the water treatment plant and the wastewater plant.

He later worked for Lehigh Structural Steel designing/analyzing steel transmission towers, and became a registered professional engineer.

After earning a KU master's degree, Phillips Petroleum hired him and he worked in its nuclear division in Idaho, performing stress analysis of many nuclear power plant components.

At the University of Idaho he earned a doctor of philosophy degree and taught classes in engineering

mechanics and a structural mechanics laboratory.

Returning to southeast Idaho, performing sophisticated analyses of nuclear test reactor components. This involved very high pressures and temperatures. During this time I became a registered professional engineer with structural enhancement. This meant I could do structural analysis of structures for seismic and/or wind loads. I retired from the nuclear industry in 2001.

Prior to his years at Lehigh, he was an avid water skier. Upon moving to Idaho in 1967, he became an avid downhill snow skier. He was an official at the 2002 Winter Olympics at Snowbasin.

"I am relatively new to the Village and so I view this opportunity to familiarize myself with the Village and satisfy my civil engineering curiosity. Also, it will be an opportunity to meet other residents."

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# HSV BUSINESSES

Owners Tasha Vines (l) and Brenda Palmer. (Robin Raborn Burns photos)



## *Everything's coming up roses at Fancy Schmancy*

Robin Raborn Burns  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

*Successful business that blends creativity, innovation and a love for local artisans*

Small businesses face significant challenges. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 80% of small businesses survive their first year, but only around 50% make it past the five-year mark. Key factors influencing survival include access to capital, market demand, competition, and effective management. Despite these challenges, small businesses remain a vital part of the economy, contributing innovation, jobs, and local community support.

The Fancy Schmancy Vintage Boutique has not only survived, but thrived. With over 100 vendors and 7 storefronts, and an outdoor venue, owners Tasha Vines and Brenda Palmer have combined collective perseverance and creativity to make the vintage boutique a landmark in the Fountain Lake Shopping Center. They are now a tourist attraction – there is a directional sign at the roundabout, alerting drivers

of the boutique. The mother and daughter team have been in business for 10 years.

Fancy Schmancy was once located in a single story house that was torn down to make way for the new traffic roundabout between route 5 and route 7. Prior to the demolition of that building, Vines and Palmer found out there would be a space available in the Fountain Lake Shopping center, and they began planning accordingly – recruiting new artisan vendors, and envisioning a new layout. Vines has a master's degree in recreational management from Henderson State University, and her mom has a business management degree from the same university. The mother and daughter team work well together – Palmer says that “Tasha handles the paperwork and bookings, and I add a bit of business savvy if needed.”

Palmer says that one of their goals has been to foster a “mindset shift from flea market to vintage” for



their boutique. “Certainly each has their appeal,” she shares. “The structure and setting are different. Flea markets often are more casual, bustling environments with a ‘treasure hunt’ feel.” As a vintage boutique, we aim to have a setting that is a bit more polished and organized, with a focus on aesthetics. Items in flea markets may require repair or cleaning, and quality can vary, while we aim to have items in our store that are cleaned, restored, or displayed in an appealing way.”

As for pricing, Palmer has observed that “Flea Market prices tend to be lower, but haggling is common. Boutique prices are fixed and may be slightly higher in some instances due to the curated selection and focus on quality.”

Vines and Palmer want to ensure that Fancy Schmancy supports local vendors and artisans as that not only sustains their business, but it enriches the community in impactful ways. By providing this platform, the boutique supports small businesses, keeping money circulating within the local economy and fostering entrepreneurship. Palmer believes that a successful business that highlights homegrown talent can instill pride in the community’s artisans and culture, turning it into a point of interest for both residents and visitors. Both Vines and Palmer hope that their ability to thrive in their business encourages women to educate themselves on the challenges of opening, and sustaining a business. Quite honestly, the owners of Fancy Schmancy have become role models. Vines also believes the boutique can serve as an inspiration for creativity, encouraging others to pursue art, crafts, or other creative ventures.

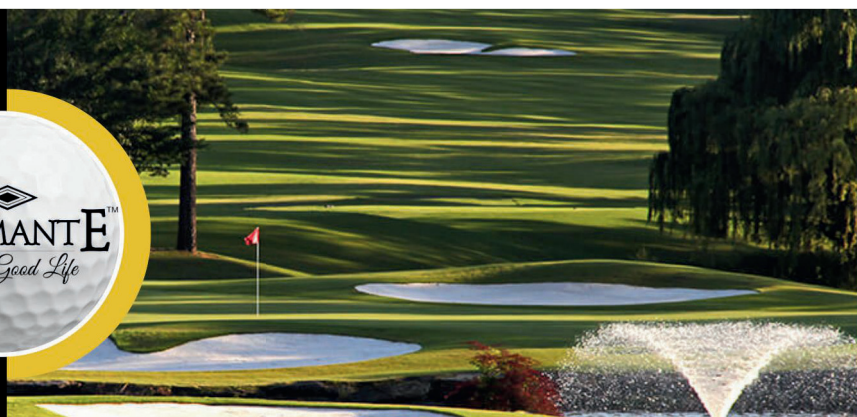
Vines is a superbly creative entrepreneur, Some of



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Vendor Michelle has a booth named 'Doggie Duds'

her ideas for decorating Fancy Schmancy have included using book pages to cover a wall, and creating flooring using builders flooring paper, mod podge and water-based stain. (Think decoupage). The talented duo also employs some whimsy in their decorating. There is a strategically placed ladder, with the bottom half of a woman stuck in the ceiling – simulating a woman who fell through the roof (uninjured, they promise.)

They have an old abandoned canoe placed on a high shelf with the leg of a woman hanging off the side. Enjoying a leisurely nap on the lake, or a bit much wine during a picnic?

"Pickin' in the Pines" was an ambitious outdoor

event in 2023-2024 hosted by Fancy Schmancy that featured live music, food trucks, and vendor tables to create a vibrant community experience. While the idea celebrated creativity and brought people together, the logistics proved to be too labor-intensive and inefficient to sustain.

Despite its charm and appeal, the effort required coordinating vendors, managing operations and endless details to ensure a seamless experience. Ultimately the effort outweighed its benefits, leading Vines and Palmer to refocus their energies on more manageable initiatives.

The event space, which includes a stage for bands, an outdoor court, tables and chairs for up to 50 people, and an indoor venue, is available for rent. It is perfect for birthdays, holiday parties, community gatherings, business meetings, club gatherings, etc. Interested individuals are invited to call and schedule a viewing or to stop by Fancy Schmancy during business hours to take a look. After all, there is SO much to see at this lovely vintage boutique.

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## Back to the 70's with James Taylor and Jimmy Buffett

Mary Eliades  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The Hot Springs Village Community Foundation has a treat in store for fans of music from the 70s. On March 25, the Florida-based band Fire and Rain (aka the Parrot Head Band) will entertain ticket holders with tributes to two legendary singer/songwriters, James Taylor and Jimmy Buffett.

The matinee performance will take listeners down country roads, to Carolina and Copperline, with Sweet Baby James Taylor, and the evening show will evoke beaches, sailing, and margaritas to the tunes of Jimmy Buffett.

This will be the 19th annual benefit concert staged by the Community Foundation. Foundation director Jane Browning said, "The proceeds fund our endowments and, ultimately, benefit our nonprofits in Garland and Saline counties."

Greg Pitts is the lead singer for both Fire and Rain – The James Taylor Experience and the Parrot Head Band.

Pitts has been a disciple of James Taylor since he first saw him perform a concert at West Point, New York, in 1981. Taylor has a distinctive finger-picking guitar style, and Pitts has learned and perfected the technique over the years.

Members of the Parrot Head Band have been "immersed in the music and storytelling of Jimmy Buffett for over 40 years," performing many shows in Buffett's beloved Florida Keys. Pitts actually hung out with Jimmy on numerous occasions, warmed a barstool with Captain Tony in Sloppy Joe's, and lived for years in Key West on a sailboat.

Music director Derek, who also plays pedal steel



and lead guitar, has been playing Jimmy Buffett's Gulf Coast/Florida tropical music style for decades.

The matinee performance is at 3 p.m., featuring The James Taylor Fire and Rain Band, and tickets are \$30.

The bar will open at 5 p.m., and at 5:30 the party will continue with the pre-concert "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" dinner – cheeseburgers, baked potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, tea and lemonade, topped off with banana pudding, all prepared by Clampit's Country Kitchen. Tickets for the dinner are \$17.50 and are limited.

The evening performance begins at 7:30 p.m., with Pitts leading the Parrot Head Band. Pitts was born and raised in Florida and said that Buffett's life, music and legacy left a lasting impression on him, inspiring him to pursue his passions for sailing and music.

The Parrot Head Band's last tribute to Buffett was a recent concert at the Key West Theater, where Buffett performed his last concert in February 2023.

Tickets to the evening performance are \$35; all tickets are available on ThunderTix (<https://hotspringsvillage.thundertix.com>).



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# MARCH EVENTS

Ultimate Mardi Gras Party at Vapors Live  
**Vapors Live**  
March 1 at 5 p.m.

Southwest Sporting Goods Classic  
**Majestic Park**  
March 3-6

The Remnants of Rock  
**Woodlands Auditorium**  
March 6 at 7 p.m.

Valley of the Vapors Music Festival  
**301 Whittington Ave.**  
March 14-16

Irish Spring Fling  
**Coronado Center**  
March 14 at 5 p.m.

The Muses Celtic Spring  
**Woodlands Auditorium**  
March 14 at 7 p.m.

Grand Funk Railroad Live on Bridge St.  
**Bridge Street**  
March 16 at 8 p.m.

First Ever 22nd Annual World's Shortest  
St. Patrick's Day Parade  
**Downtown Hot Springs**  
March 17

Clint Black at Oaklawn  
**Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort**  
March 21 at 7 p.m.

Tom Petty Tribute - The Normal Noises  
**Woodlands Auditorium**  
March 22 at 7 p.m.

Floyd Nation - Pink Floyd Tribute  
**Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort**  
March 22 at 7 p.m.

James Taylor Tribute  
**Woodlands Auditorium**  
March 25 at 3 p.m.

Jimmy Buffet Tribute  
**Woodlands Auditorium**  
March 25 at 7 p.m.

Arkansas Derby  
**Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort**  
March 29



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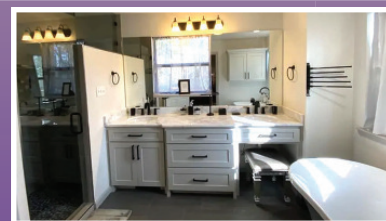
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