

Hi Everyone!

It's been my pleasure to serve the community this past year. I know the new board under Jim Schorr's leadership and the addition of Linda and Mac will make the community even better.

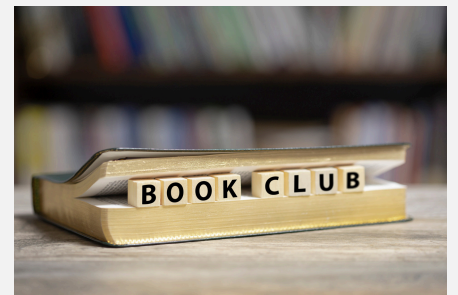
The upgraded front entrance camera system that Janice told you about in the spring newsletter has been installed. This includes a new and improved license plate camera and a camera aimed towards the trash receptacle. Check out the article and pictures from Janice. A picture is worth a thousand words.

The rotted railings and posts at the clubhouse have been repaired or replaced. In addition, the entire porch area has been painted or stained. Thanks Janice and Will.

Finally, we had a good turnout for the annual meeting. Thankfully we had enough proxies and attendees to make quorum. If you sent in your proxy or attended in person, I thank you. If you did not, I ask that you please do so in the future, it's important. We squeaked by with just enough responses this year.

Have a great summer everyone and see you around the neighborhood!

Roynan



The Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the Clubhouse. All are welcome to attend.

Here are the book selections for the coming months:

June 19 - *Dispatches From Pluto*

Author Richard Grant

The Book Club will start up again in September. Send an email to Rhonda Gramley if you would like to join.

Have a great summer!

A Few Words from the New President

First I would like to thank departing Board members Roynan Jones and Lisa Antognoli for their hard work and service to the community! Thanks!!

Also, welcome new Board members Linda Barber and Mac McClurkan. Linda is a long time resident, and active in many areas of The Settings community. Mac is a new resident and brings a ton of experience to the Board. I look forward to working with both new Board members. Also thanks to current Board members Jana Simpson, Will Ferguson, Steve Kyryk, and Janice Johnson. A lot of work got done in 2023-24 by the past Board, and I hope the new Board can keep the momentum going!

What are the major challenges for the 2024-25 Board?

1. Continuing to maintain a vibrant community for all property owners. Not only for the home owners, but also for property owners who trust the Board to exercise good judgment in maintaining The Settings as a desirable community and investment.
2. Coordinating with the DRB to ensure that as new homes that are built on steeper and smaller lots, the forested feel of The Settings is maintained. Also, that adequate stormwater measures are integrated into each new homesite.
3. Getting ready for major road expenditures. Crockett Ridge, Sister's View and Guastavino are all candidates for complete replacement in the 2025-2030 time frame. The Board will continue to patch and seal to stretch the life of these roads, but eventually these roads will require replacement.

The Board looks forward to serving the community. I invite your comments and questions, and we are always looking for residents to join in making The Settings the best community in the mountains.

Jim Schorr

Newly Painted Clubhouse Deck

As presented at the Annual Meeting, an important maintenance project was replacement of rotted wood railing on the Clubhouse deck and repainting of the deck flooring. We ask that when you use the Clubhouse, please **do not** drag any of the furniture or chairs across the floor as it will result in scratching the paint. The tables are all quite heavy so we request that you leave the furniture in place. Chairs may be moved carefully.

Thank you for helping to keep the deck in good condition.



We have new cameras at the gate!!

By Janice Johnston

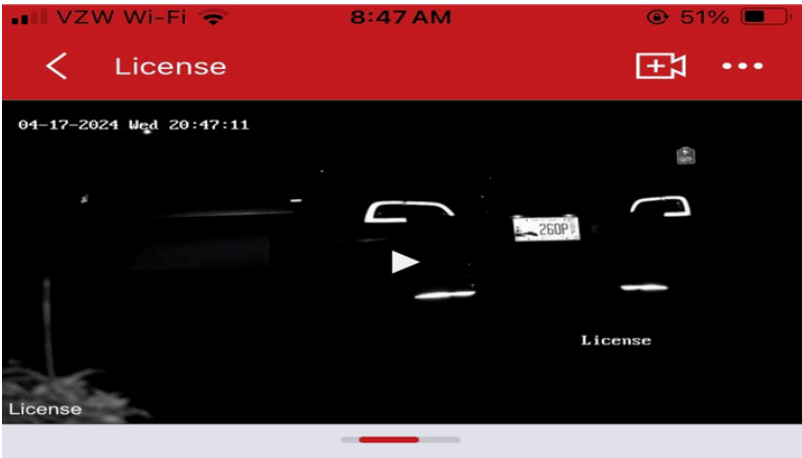
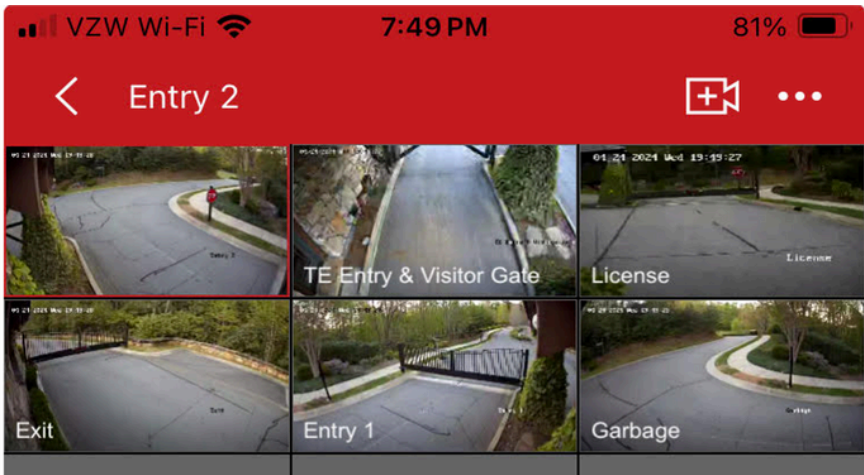
In the Spring newsletter, we mentioned the plans for an upgraded camera system. The installation was completed in mid-April, and the system is now fully operational.

In addition to the new hardware, we also added a camera to capture the community garbage containers.

We replaced the entrance and exit cameras with infra-red capability, enabling significantly improved clarity especially in the dark. This new system automatically captures a photo of every license plate that enters the properties and provides a report with the date and time of entry. These capabilities improve the community's ability to identify trespassers and reduce the time to search should any incidents occur.

This change is the first significant upgrade to the technology since the original installation of the hardware by the developer more than 15 years ago.

See a few samples of the clarity and visibility in the photos.



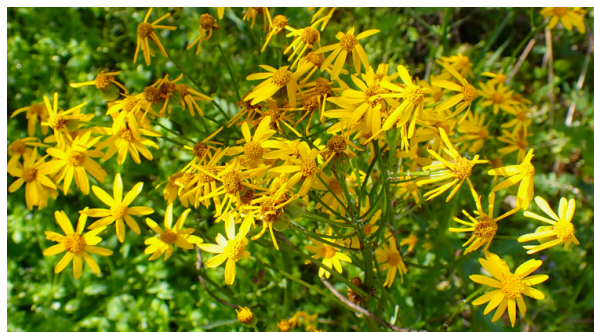


What a great
time
everybody
had at the
St. Patrick's
Day party!!



Guided Nature Walk April 2024

In April, many of us enjoyed Randy Sarton guiding us through the spring wildflowers along the Swannanoa River in Charles Owen Park. Among the many wildflowers identified were Spring Beauty, Mayapples, Golden Ragwort, and Wintercress.



Dinner for the Black Mountain Police and Fire Departments

Thank you to all who cooked and came out for the spring potluck dinner! The troops were very thankful.

***Save the date for the fall potluck,
It will be held on Monday, September 16th, 2024***



North Carolina State Bird: The Cardinal

In 1943 the North Carolina General Assembly named the Cardinal the Official State Bird. Sometimes known as the Northern Cardinal, the birds are common in North Carolina and are easily spotted, with their large beaks and distinctive cap of feathers on their heads. The males are often bright red. And the females have less bright colors, with mixtures of brown, gray and red. Cardinals are found throughout the United States and do not migrate, so we see them in North Carolina year-round.

NCpedia.org



We had our first Drinks on the Porch on May 3rd. Join us on the first Friday of the month May-September.



The Annual Homeowners Association meeting was held on Saturday, May 4th.



**Here is a list of upcoming social activities.
Watch for emails with details.**



**June 7th, July 5th,
August 2nd, & September 6th**
Drinks on the Porch
5:00 to 7:00 PM

August 8th
Asheville Tourists
Baseball Game





Dog Training Tip

by Joann Rehtine

Take Your Dog on a Sniffari

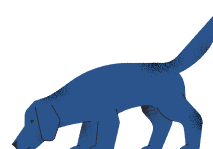
We all know that dogs love to sniff, but did you know that it is something that is essential to their well-being? A dog's sense of smell is likely their most important sense and sniffing walks have been shown to help from both a physical and emotional aspect.

I know how hard it is to be patient and wait while a dog sniffs, I even wrote a [blog post about my struggles with it as a type A person](#). Trust me though, it's worth it. Dogs get SO much out of being allowed to sniff at their own pace and it relaxes them. When we get back from our walks, Gibbs is very mellow and typically has a long nap. A nice sniffing walk sets us up to have a good day.

Thoughts on how to have a successful sniffing walk:

- 🐕 Use a longer leash. (I use a 10 ft. leash in the neighborhood and a longer line if we are in the woods)
- 🐕 The dog gets to go wherever he wants to go.
- 🐕 The dog sets the pace for the walk.
- 🐕 The dog gets to stay in the spot he is sniffing for as long as he likes. Let him decide when it is time to move on.
- 🐕 Caveat - all of this is in play if your dog knows how to walk nicely on a leash, and it is safe for you and the dog. It takes practice to get comfortable and be safe using longer leash, make sure you become proficient in a safe environment before venturing out where you might encounter dogs, people, vehicles or other distractions. #safety first

Give it a try and let me know how it goes.



Gardening in the Settings

by Emmett Doerr

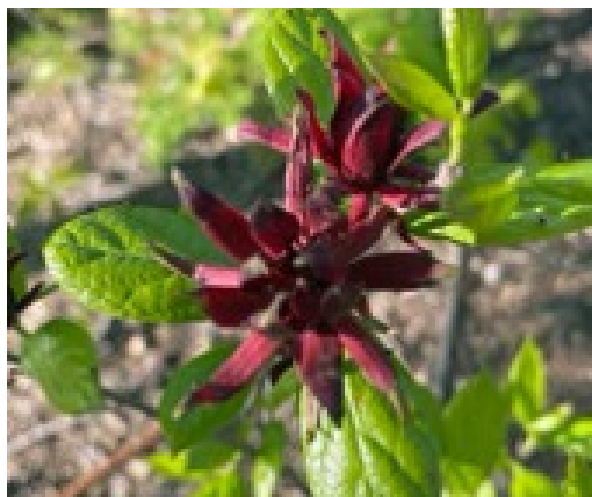
At the recent HOA meeting, Roynan created a new HOA Gardening Committee and appointed Jim Barber as Chair. Several others and I quickly signed up. The purpose of the committee is to care for and suggest improvements in the common areas. I propose that we expand the scope to include a voluntary Gardening Club of SOBM.

Many of us are active gardeners who have learned what plants do well in our special natural environment in the Settings. Some of us have been exchanging ideas about what works well and what does not. We are freely sharing seeds, dahlia tubers, iris rhizomes, and actual plants as we divide them every few years.



My favorite plant is Blue Lupine native to North America. I had seen it flourishing in Alaska and Nova Scotia. Several years ago I bought several ounces of seed and strew them on the unpaved portion of our common driveway on Guastavino Lane at the lower portion of our property. Our local flock of crows ate some of the seeds and then deposited them on Bill and Karen Gosnell's property. The next Spring we both had Lupines blooming. They grow well in our hard clay soil, have blue flower spikes in Spring, and beautiful blue green leaves that last all Summer. In mid Summer I will harvest more than a quarter pound of seeds that I will be happy to share.

In 2015 I planted Cornus Red Dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, for its beautiful red color in Winter. Last year I trimmed twenty stalks to use as stakes for my tall dahlias. Next week I will be cutting them back again because the new growth is more deeply red. I am then cutting 12-16 inch stakes that I will simply plunge into the ground which will then become new bushes on other parts of our property. We are happy to share.



My favorite flower is the Carolina Spicebush, *Calycanthus floridus* with its beautiful deep red flowers. It was Thomas Jefferson's favorite flower at Monticello. In Summer and Fall we could host separate meetings at our homes to give tours of our gardens and share ideas over a chilled glass of tea or wine.

If you would like to participate, please email me. I will then create a group email for our interested gardeners.

Thanks

Here are some events that are
happening in town this summer.

Click on the image or scan the QR code for more information

