

LIFE

at The Lakes

Burlington, North Carolina

TWIN LAKES COMMUNITY

ISSUE 2 • 2024

Welcome

The Season of Celebration
and Giving

Around the Lakes

Recent News in the
Twin Lakes Community



Relationship

Students and Seniors
Make Connections

Veterans Day

Honoring Those
in Our Community



WELCOME

to our community

An Exciting Time

As we prepare this newsletter for publication, 30 families have moved into the Stockton, the remaining 18 families are scheduled to move in soon, and plans are underway to begin construction of the project's second phase early next year. This is an exciting time for the new residents, certainly, as they settle in and begin to meet the other members of their new community. It is an exciting time for all of us who already live or work at Twin Lakes. Over the coming months we will get to know these new residents, and our committees, clubs and gatherings will be enhanced by their presence, perspectives and experience.

No sooner will our new residents settle in than we'll be heading into the festive holiday season, with Thanksgiving feasts, Lanes of Light and plenty of parties and holiday gatherings. With a large, diverse group of people living here, there is a wide variety of happy occasions in which to participate.

But the holidays are not just a time of celebration at Twin Lakes. Many members of our community are moved to share their good fortune with others. That outreach started early this year, as residents, staff and board members contributed to making a significant gift to disaster relief efforts in areas of Western North Carolina that were devastated by Hurricane Helene. This generous spirit will be apparent during Lanes of Light, during which we anticipate we will cross the

500-ton mark for food donations to local food pantries. And in fact, that generous spirit is evident every day as our community members volunteer for local nonprofits, take care of one another, and seek ways to make our community a welcoming and supportive place for everyone who calls Twin Lakes home.



Pamela Sarsfield Fox
President/CEO, Twin Lakes Community



Twin Lakes
COMMUNITY

A division of Lutheran Retirement Ministries of Alamance County, North Carolina

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NEWS

around the lakes

CROP Hunger Walk

The annual CROP Hunger Walk at Twin Lakes occurred on a beautiful October morning. Sponsored by the Residents' Association, this year's event was dedicated to the memory of Mary Ann and Larry Dettman, who organized the Twin Lakes Walk for 14 years. As in previous years, participants gathered at the Boland Community Center before embarking on a 1-mile loop around the east side of the campus. The Twin Lakes Residents' Association, a consistent major sponsor of the CROP Walk, raised an impressive \$14,372 for local, national, and global agencies working to combat hunger. This year, 159 participants, including 95 walkers, joined the efforts to reduce hunger and poverty "one step at a time."

Walk. Give. Change the world.



Twin Lakes residents participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk which they dedicated this year to Mary Ann and Larry Dettman (right).



"The Tees Bees" and the Twin Lakes Community Players entertain an enthusiastic audience.

A Night to Remember

In January 2024, a small group of residents gathered to discuss forming a theatre group, later known as Twin Lakes Community Players. Some participants had years of experience performing in community theater across the country, while others had not been on stage since high school. Ultimately, the group decided that experience did not matter; they were all in this together. The group aimed to perform for a live audience while having fun themselves, emphasizing the joy of collaboration to bring the stage to life.

The first few weeks together focused on shaking off the rust. The group held table reads of scripts written for senior actors. They practiced engaging warm-ups, worked on voice projection, and rehearsed monologues. During this time, one member quietly began writing her own script. Becky Clark, a resident since 2022, created humorous dialogues featuring couples who

misunderstood one another due to differences in their speech – one using street slang and the other employing highbrow vocabulary. Her fictional world came to life when the group decided to launch a variety show showcasing their works along with the talents of other

residents from across campus.

In October, the group performed a short comedy titled "No Frills Airplane," along with Clark's "A Play on Words" and two monologues. Dinny Sisley, a resident since 2014, introduced the audience to slam poetry with her original and powerful poem, "Death Throes." Rounding out the production, an offshoot group of the Twin Lakes choir called "The Tees Bees" (short for Tenors and Bases), performed two songs. Their rendition of "Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables* left not a dry eye in the room.

The evening was filled with both laughter and tears. The show ignited excitement and encouragement among its audience reminding them they are never too old to play and make new friends and now they eagerly anticipate the next production, scheduled for Spring of 2025!

Twin Lakes Values Intergenerational Connections

Twin Lakes Community encourages opportunities for intergenerational relationships, recognizing that they benefit everyone involved. For many years, Twin Lakes has collaborated with local public schools as well as colleges and universities to provide opportunities to residents and students alike. Through these efforts, resident volunteers have engaged with students to provide tutoring, job skills, mentorship, and scholarship opportunities. These connections help to foster meaningful relationships that ultimately bridge the gap between different age groups.

This summer, at the initiative of resident Judy Harrow, Twin Lakes launched a new program, *Students & Seniors Community Conversations*. In this initiative, residents were paired with students from the local community, creating opportunities for mutual learning and engagement across generations. The student participants were a diverse group, ranging from high schoolers to college and graduate students. The goal of the program was to cultivate a supportive and inclusive environment where intergenerational friendships could

This program was a reminder of the strength, wisdom, and kindness that this community embodies.

thrive. The meet-ups were filled with lively, spirited conversations, with many participants exchanging contact information to continue nurturing these relationships long after the formal events.

Shenandoah University senior, Jack Hardman, interned at Twin Lakes this summer and was instrumental in the program's development. He shared the following thoughts about his experience:

"From the very first gathering, I could see something special unfolding – these moments of connection weren't just conversations – they were bridges being built across generations, filled with mutual respect and genuine curiosity. Residents told me how much they loved having their perspectives heard and seeing the enthusiasm of the students, who themselves came away with

a deeper understanding of life's many twists and turns. This program was a reminder of the strength, wisdom, and kindness that this community embodies, and I am truly honored to have been a part of it."

Thanks to the dedication of all involved, *Students & Seniors Community Conversations* joined other successful campus efforts to engage residents and young people together and encourage a sense of connection and understanding.





The Residents' Association honored both current and former resident veterans during the Veterans Day program.

Twin Lakes Honors Veterans

As our nation honored veterans across the country, the Twin Lakes Residents' Association presented a program paying special tribute to veterans who currently live at Twin Lakes and to the memories of those who once did. Nearly a fourth of our residents are veterans, including

three centenarians! Our annual Veterans Day service beautifully recognized the valor, commitment, and sacrifices of the heroic men and women who have defended the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

Stockton Apartments Open Doors to New Twin Lakes Residents

The long-awaited opening of the Stockton, Twin Lakes' newest residency development, has officially arrived, offering residents an attractive blend of comfort, convenience, and spacious amenities. Nestled in the heart of our community, this building affords beauty and ideal proximity to other services on campus.

Twin Lakes strives to foster a sense of community by bringing together a diverse mix of residents who value purpose and connection. Adjacent to the Stockton, Saponi Place offers additional spaces to support this mission. Inside, you'll find the Fireside Room, which serves as an informal living area featuring two game tables. The Saponi Clubroom is a spacious venue available for events, such as presentations, club meetings, and social mixers. Additionally, the Agnes Coble Chapel provides a small, serene space for intimate services, gatherings, or simply a place for quiet reflection. These spaces are designed to meet our new residents' growing



The Fireside Room resides in Saponi Place, the new community space adjacent to the Stockton apartments.

desires to become integral community members, encouraging interaction in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

The Stockton offers a variety of apartment layouts, ranging from cozy one-bedrooms to expansive two-bedroom apartments with offices. The construction of the second phase is expected to begin in the early spring of 2025 with an anticipated completion in the summer of 2026.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please visit twinlakescomm.org or call 336-538-1572.



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Lanes of Light Holiday Drive-Through

December 7 and 8 / 5:30 pm until 8 pm

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around Twin Lakes Community! Santa's elves are festively decorating for our annual Lanes of Light holiday drive-through on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 from 5:30 pm until 8 pm. Lanes of Light represents a labor of love created by our residents and staff, impacting the broader community in ways that inspire everyone. Over 400 tons of food have been donated to local food ministries by way of

Lanes of Light. For 18 years, this beloved event has been feeding hungry people, delighting children of all ages, and creating family traditions across the region. We continue the tradition and invite you to join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Requested admission is a monetary donation benefitting The Salvation Army and Meals on Wheels food ministries.