



# THE CHEROKEE CHATTER

Published by Cherokee Water Co. NK20 Lake Cherokee Longview, TX 75603

DECEMBER 2025



*New Board Members:  
Rhonda Bullard, Beth Swindell, Colby Mize,  
Logan Lobue and George Steele*

Lake Manager's Message	2
Board Meeting Minutes	2-3
Annual Shareholders' Meeting	3
Office Manager's Article	4
Code Compliance Corner	5
Biologist Monthly Article	7
End of the Year Update	8
Bulletin Board	9
Preservation Club - Chili Fest	11
First Friends	17
Photography Club	18
News from the 19th Hole	19
Bridge Club	20
Cherokee Fishing Club News	21
December Calendar	22
January Calendar	23



*Employee of the Year – Mark Svoboda*

**Cherokee Water Co.  
NK20 Lake Cherokee  
Longview, TX 75603**

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Kevin Jones

General Manager, Lake Cherokee

Hello shareholders,

December is here, and Christmas is finally in sight. It feels like another year has flown by, reminding us how precious our time truly is. As we step into this season, I hope you're able to slow down, enjoy the company of your friends and family, and take in the countless blessings God has placed in your life. Most importantly, let's hold tightly to the TRUE meaning of CHRISTmas. In the middle of the lights, the gatherings, and the rush of the season, let's remember the reason, not just the season, the gift of GRACE, hope, and love that came into the world so many years ago. May this Christmas fill your homes with peace, your hearts with gratitude, and your spirits with the joy that only He can give.

# MESSAGE from the MANAGER

It has been another financially strong year for Cherokee Water Company. Through disciplined oversight, accountability at every level, and a shared commitment to excellence, we have once again managed to stay below budget while exceeding revenue expectations. This is not the result of luck or chance; it is the product of fiscal responsibility practiced daily, not just from the top down, but through the actions of every employee who calls this company home. From leadership to the newest team member, everyone has played a part in ensuring that every dollar is spent wisely and every goal is achieved with purpose.

As I have said for the past few years, we are at a crossroads. The can will not be kicked down the road any further. While operating under the cover of darkness can make leadership appear successful when the bottom line looks strong and problems seem hidden, it only delays the inevitable. Darkness may mask the issues for a season, but those problems eventually find the light, and by then, they are often bigger, harder, and far more expensive to fix. I would rather kick the legs out from under anyone kicking that can and face our challenges head on. We will correct what needs correcting on a common sense, financially sound timeline so our future leaders do not inherit a mountain we could have leveled today. Ignoring necessary investments, especially in

our infrastructure, always comes back with a price. Eventually someone has to shoulder the consequences, and too often it's the person doing the right thing who ends up with a rough-looking bottom line, not because of poor leadership, but because they're finally addressing what should have been handled all along.

When I became General Manager over two and a half years ago, I made a commitment to right the ship financially, to lead with integrity and fairness, and to bring this lake community back together. I believe, through dedication, transparency, and teamwork, that we have done just that. Our Lake Patrol has become more responsive, more respected, and more connected with the shareholders they protect. Their enforcement is fair, their actions driven by care rather than confrontation. Our Maintenance Department is another pillar of strength. This dedicated group of men takes tremendous pride in every task they tackle. Our Office Staff is equally remarkable. Between the constant flow of shareholders walking through the door, the phones ringing nonstop, and my own frequent interruptions, the CWC office never stops moving. It is a dynamic hub of activity that keeps this entire company driving forward every single day.

Finally, I want to thank our Board of Directors. Twelve individuals, each

passionate, opinionated, and deeply committed to this lake, have worked tirelessly to guide this company through both challenges and triumphs. We have had intense discussions and moments of friction, but that is what progress looks like when people care deeply. I also want to thank the shareholders who stepped up to run for the Board of Directors. It is a thankless job at times, with long days and real commitment, and let's be honest, the pay is not great for a voluntary position. But we need individuals who care enough to make a difference with their time and their voice, rather than just with their keyboards or phones.

So, to sum it up, the State of Cherokee Water Company is strong. Financially, operationally, and culturally, we are on solid ground. We will continue to grow our revenue streams, manage expenses wisely, and lead with honesty and passion. We will keep building the bridge between shareholders, management, employees, and the board. We have just completed another successful year, and I expect nothing less from myself and every shareholder as we move into 2026. Thank you to everyone who has gone above and beyond to Make Lake Cherokee Great Again.

The Reason for the Season: Luke 2:11, John 3:16-17, John 1:29, 1st John 4:14

Respectfully,  
Kevin Jones, GM



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHEROKEE WATER COMPANY

Monday, November 10, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Cherokee Water Company was held at 1:35 PM on Monday, November 10, 2025, at NK 20 Lake Cherokee, Longview Texas 75603 with the following Directors present:

Gary Mapes, President  
David McDaniel, Vice President  
Randy Graves, Treasurer  
Dee Rea, Secretary  
Kristina Coolidge  
Justin Simmons  
Cody Edmonson  
Cory Eason- absent  
Mary Yoder- absent  
Alan Koelemay  
George Steele  
Jeff Patty

President Gary Mapes called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.  
Dee Rea, Secretary, pronounced a quorum.

**Rules, Policy & Variance Committee**  
**David McDaniel presented the following Variance Committee Report**  
**The Committee reviewed 5 variance requests:**

**NR -15:** A variance was requested to build a 2652 square foot single family dwelling that will be closer than 75 feet from the shoreline. The variance was reviewed by the Committee, and they voted unanimously to approve the variance.  
**SF-21:** A variance was requested to build with a new outdoor BBQ area that is less than 75 feet from the shoreline and closer than 6 feet from the side

property line. The variance was reviewed by the committee and all committee members voted to approve the variance.

**SH-34:** A variance was requested to build a new edition to an existing home that already violates the 6-foot setback rule on side property lines. The variance was reviewed by the Committee, and they voted unanimously to approve the variance.

**SK-46:** A variance was requested to renovate and enlarge an existing accessory building with separate concrete pad to be 16'W x 36'L building with a single slab and add a 16'W x 10'L wooden deck (on lake side); widen a portion of existing driveway and extend to accessory building. Remove a tree on lot SK- 46 that has grown to a size that is causing damage. The variance was reviewed by the committee, and the committee voted unanimously to approve the variance.

**SL-56:** A variance was requested to build a new carport and driveway with carport being 52 feet from shoreline and 48 feet from the road. The variance was reviewed by committee, and they voted unanimously to approve the variance.

David McDaniel made a motion to the Board that all 5 variances be approved. Randy Graves seconded the motion. Kristina Coolidge recused herself from voting on SH-34. The motion passed with majority consent.

With no other business, Gary Mapes adjourned the meeting at 1:39 pm.

ATTEST

Dee Rea, Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CHEROKEE WATER  
COMPANY**

**Thursday, November 13, 2025**

A meeting of the 25\_26 Board of Directors of Cherokee Water Company was held at 8:27 pm on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at NK20 Lake Cherokee, Longview Texas with the following Directors present:

Gary Mapes, President

David McDaniel	Cody Edmonson
Alan Koelemay	Beth Swindell
George Steele	Colby Mize
Jeff Patty	Rhonda Bullard
Mary Yoder	Logan Lobue
Justin Simmons	

President Gary Mapes called the meeting to order at 8:27 pm  
David McDaniel pronounced a quorum.

Gary Mapes, President of the Board of Directors, introduced and welcomed the newly elected board members. New Members: Colby Mize, Logan Lobue, Georgee Steele, Rhonda Bullard and Beth Swindell.

President, Gary Mapes presided over the election of new officers and the Executive Committee.

**Nominations for President:**

- George Steele nominated Gary Mapes

**Due to no other nominees, Gary Mapes was elected as President.**

**Nominations for Vice President:**

- Gary Mapes nominated David McDaniel

**Due to no other nominees, David McDaniel was elected as Vice President.**

**Nominations for Secretary:**

- George Steele nominated Alan Koelemay
- Colby Mize nominated Rhonda Bullard.

**Rhonda Bullard was elected as Secretary with a majority vote.**

**Nominations for Treasurer:**

- Gary Mapes nominated Logan Lobue

**Due to no other nominees, Logan Lobue was elected as Treasurer.**

These 4 officers will serve as the Executive Committee.

President Gary Mapes stated committee assignments would be made in December and the next Board Meeting will be held the 3rd Thursday of January.

With no other business, President Gary Mapes adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.



ATTEST:

**David McDaniel, Vice President**



# ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING 2025

The Annual Shareholders meeting was held on Thursday, November 13th at 7:00 pm at the CWC office. President, Gary Mapes called the meeting to order. He announced that Dee Rea had resigned from the Board for personal reasons.

George Strunk, Co-Chairman of the Election Commission announced a quorum for the meeting. He introduced the members of the Election Commission.  
Sue Wilson, Co- Chair  
Andrew Suits  
Mike Lee  
Greg Mehringer  
Tressie Grant  
Charles Schindler  
Nikki Winn  
Brenda Koelemay  
Randy Platt  
Brian Bogue  
Christy Bussey

The minutes for the last 2 years were approved.

Mitchell McCoy with Heard, McElroy and Vestal CPA presented the 2025 audited financial results. The 2 page financial statement is available in the office. In addition, Garrett Stamport with Pristine Ponds shared information about the quality of the lake and vegetation.

Kevin Jones provided the state of the Lake Address. He shared some key statistics regarding CWC Operations. The slides from the meeting are posted on the Portal.

Also, Gary Mapes presented service awards to the (4) outgoing board of directors. Thank you to Kristina Coolidge, Randy Graves, Cory Eason and George Steele for your service.

Kevin announced the Employee of the Year – Mark Svoboda, Maintenance Supervisor. Congratulations, Mark!

## The Results are in!

7 candidates ran for the (4) open board positions. Additional (1) year term filled due to open board position.

Total votes: 3424  
Participation: 57.1%

### Voting Results:

Candidate	Votes	Term
Colby Mize	980	3 years
Logan Lobue	723	3 years
George Steele	523	3 years
Rhonda Bullard	512	3 years
Beth Swindell	403	1 year
Tim Ender	146	
Tim Burris	137	

In the board meeting that followed the Annual Shareholders meeting, the new board elected the

### 25\_26 Executive Officers:

Gary Mapes, President  
David McDaniel – Vice President  
Logan Lobue – Treasurer  
Rhonda Bullard – Secretary



**Mitchell McCoy, CPA**



**Garrett Stamport, Pristine**



**Outgoing members:**

**Cory Eason, Kristina Coolidge and Randy Graves**

# Office Manager Article

During November, we continued to process Lease Renewals and mailing or delivering decals. As of November 20<sup>th</sup>, our Lease Renewal Dashboard. We have 48 lots that need attention from shareholders. An additional \$100 late fee will be applied on December 1<sup>st</sup> for those that have not been completed.

If you have not received your decals and/or privilege cards by the time you see this article, please contact the office.

I want to Thank our Lake Patrol for delivering our decals this year. For



Cathy Hite  
Office Manager, Lake Cherokee

every envelope they delivered, it saved all of us \$1.03 or more in postage which resulted in \$100s in savings. Starting in December, any remaining decals will need to be picked up in the office for those that live at the lake.

If you need assistance with saving your electronic privilege cards to your phone, stop by the office and we can assist you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Cathy



## Manage Lease Renewals is: **Active**

Leases Needing Action: 95

CAN NOT RENEW	13
NEEDS RENEWAL	38
SUBMITTED	10
PAYMENT PROCESSING	19
PAID / IN REVIEW	0
ON HOLD	28
COMPLETED	1390

CWC will be closed on  
December 24, 25 and  
31st  
and  
January 1st  
for Christmas and New Year's

## CWC OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

If you are unable to make it to the office during business hours, give us a call.

We can help!

barbara@lkcherokee.com  
(903) 643-3933



## LEASE RENEWALS

Many of you have renewed your lease for 25-26. Lease renewals were Due on October 1st and Late November 1st. Renewals are online this year via the Portal. If you are looking for a paper document in the mail, we are no longer sending out paper renewals. Starting December 1st, late fees of \$100 will be issued each month until paid. If you have not renewed your lease, contact the office ASAP.



**FUEL CENTER Closed**

November, December, January, February

Watch for Pop Up Dates / Hours

## VARIANCE DEADLINES 2026

- 12/30—1/15 Board Meeting
- 2/3—2/19 Board meeting
- 3/3—3/19 Board meeting
- 3/31—4/16 Board meeting
- 5/4—5/21 Board meeting
- 6/1—6/18 Board meeting
- 6/30—7/16 Board meeting
- 8/3—8/20 Board meeting
- 9/1 — 9/17 Board Meeting
- 9/29 — 10/15 Board Meeting
- 10/27 — 11/12 Board Meeting



## October 2025 Transfers- 5

if you have any questions regarding a property or stock transfer, please feel free to contact Misty Conway  
(903) 643-3933  
misty@lkcherokee.com

Permits	
OCTOBER 2025	
Permit Type	#
Accessory Building	2
Boathouse - New	6
Boathouse - Repair	0
Demolition	2
Dirt Work / Drainage	2
Driveway / Walkway	2
Fence	2
Home Repairs / Additions	2
New Construction	6
OSSF	4
Other	0
Outdoor Enhancement	0
Pool	0
Retaining Wall	2
Dredge	0
Total Permits	30

## LAKE CHEROKEE SECURITY REPORT OCTOBER 2025

FACILITY CHECK: 2292

OPEN DOOR: 9

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE/PERSON: 9

WELFARE CHECK: 1

ASSIST SHAREHOLDER: 3

ISSUE TREE PERMIT: 25

ANIMAL ASSIST: 10

CLEAR ROADWAY OF TREES/DEBRIS: 5

EXTRA PATROL: 481

DISTURBANCE: 0

ALARMS: 0

VEHICLE / BOAT ACCIDENT: 0

WATER RESPONSE/BOAT TOW: 4

ASSIST AGENCY: 4

BURGLARY/THEFT: 0



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## CODE COMPLIANCE CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, CWC! As we get ready to welcome 2026, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and look forward to new beginnings at the lake. With the start of a new year comes fresh projects and the chance to strengthen bonds with neighbors and the lake community. Together, let's make this coming year one of collaboration, respect, and enjoyment.

With this in mind, I want to touch on a few important topics for the year ahead with the first being **permits**. Before any projects can begin, shareholders must secure a permit before constructing any structure, making repairs, renovations, or improvements to an existing structure, placing any type of structure, or making site modifications on any lot on CWC property. These requirements help ensure that all projects align with our community standards and protect both safety and property values.

Please remember that permits **ARE NOT** required for interior remodeling, exterior painting, landscaping, or general yard maintenance. Following the established permit process helps keep things running smoothly and maintains fairness for everyone.

I also want to emphasize the importance of **neighborly communication**. This year, I have seen an increasing amount of tension and conflict between neighbors, something that feels out of place in a community as beautiful and peaceful as Lake Cherokee. It's surprising, and honestly disappointing, to see how often simple conversations never take place or if they do, they escalate instead of leading to resolve.

The Compliance Office exists to ensure community rules are followed and to provide guidance, not to mediate disputes and long-standing grudges. All too often, disagreements between

neighbors turn into bigger conflicts because people skip the step of talking directly and assume the office should step in to resolve the matter. Before contacting the Compliance Office, I strongly encourage neighbors to attempt to resolve concerns directly with one another through calm, civil conversation. CWC will refrain from deciding on matters that are unclear or lack sufficient evidence to decide on a course of action. If a determination cannot be made, the matter may need to be addressed through avenues beyond CWC's authority.

Of course, if you have any questions about whether something requires a permit or if a situation truly needs Compliance Office involvement, please feel free to reach out to me directly. My approach has always been, and will continue to be fair, impartial, and focused on doing what's right. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Respectfully,  
 Tammie Sanders



*Tammie Sanders*  
 CWC Code Compliance Officer



## IT IS TIME TO WINTERIZE

### Boat Winterizing Checklist

***If winterizing your boat sounds like a difficult task, learn how to winterize your boat and use this simple checklist to winterize your boat in less than a day.***

- Change the oil and oil filters
- Change the lubricant in engine transmission or the outboard lower unit
- Apply fogging if called for by manufacturer
- Drain the boat's fuel tanks as much as possible
- Fill the boat's fuel tanks completely full
- Add biocide and/or stabilizing agents to fuel
- Change the fuel filters
- Add antifreeze to the engine's cooling system
- Add distilled water to batteries, charge completely and disconnect
- Charge batteries to capacity

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# CHRISTMAS ON THE ISLAND

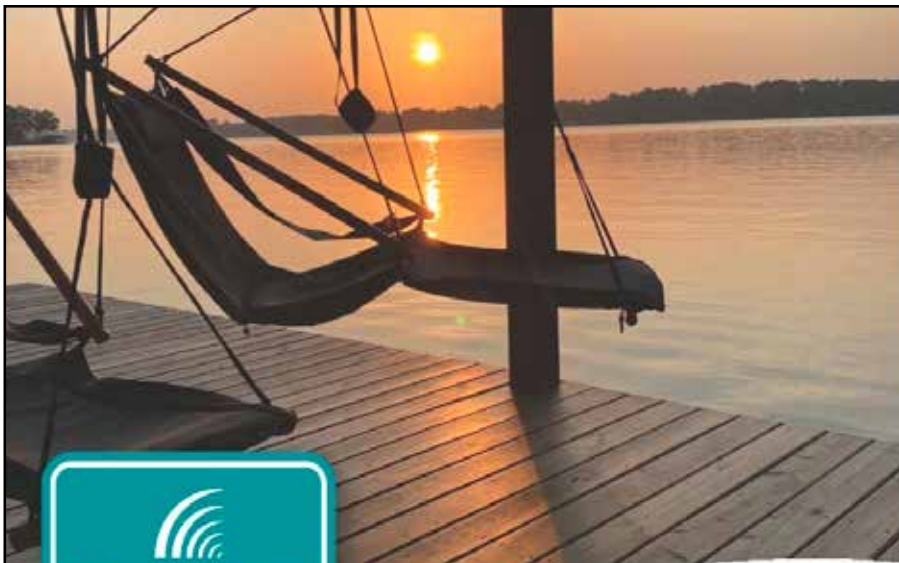
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Angel of Hope Remembrance Ceremony

December 6, 2025 | 12:00 p.m.

The Church at Lake Cherokee, 11968 CR 2011, Henderson, TX

The public is invited to attend the 2nd Annual Angel of Hope Remembrance Ceremony, a gathering dedicated to parents, family members, and friends who grieve the loss of a child.

The ceremony will take place outdoors in the Angel of Hope Garden at The Church at Lake Cherokee and will last approximately 20 minutes. Attendees are encouraged to bring a white flower to place at the base of the angel statue in memory of their child.

A limited number of flowers will also be available at the event.

A list of children's names will be read aloud during the ceremony. Please provide the name of the child you wish to have remembered upon arrival.

The ceremony will be held rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, it will move inside the church sanctuary adjacent to the garden.



Are you looking for a place to...  
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The Church at Lake Cherokee  
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## Fish Identification Guide - Sunfishes of Cherokee Part 1

### Introduction

Sunfish is a term used to describe fish species in the *Lepomis* genera, often referred to in the south as perch or brim. While these common names are often broadly used to describe multiple species (all are often called brim/perch) this group of fish is actually very diverse and identification can be difficult. In this article we will break down key identifiers for the most common sunfish species present in Lake Cherokee.

### Bluegill - *Lepomis macrochirus*

Bluegill are the most abundant sunfish in lake cherokee and can be identified by a small mouth, green to dark olive color, vertical bars on their sides, an all black ear flap (no other color or it is not a bluegill), and a black spot on their dorsal fin. Prespawn males may also have noticeable blue margins on their gills (do not confuse this with green sunfish) and a yellow to orange chest.



### Redbreast Sunfish - *Lepomis auritus*

Redbreast sunfish are the second most abundant species based on electrofishing data. These fish reach much smaller sizes than bluegill and can be identified by a yellow to rust colored belly, a narrow and long ear flap with a pale margin; prespawn males may have orange to red spots, blue lines on their gill plates, red coloration in their dorsal and tail fins, and some blue coloration on their body.



### Redear Sunfish - *Lepomis microlophus*

Redear sunfish are present in relatively low abundance on lake cherokee but are easily identified by the orange to red margin on their ear flap. They also have a pale green to olive body with irregular blotches (almost a camouflage look).



### Warmouth - *Lepomis gulosus*

Warmouth sunfish have many common names such as goggleye and are often confused with green sunfish and rock bass due to their bass-like body shape and large mouth. These fish can be identified by dark, irregular vertical bars, dark lines radiating from the eye on the gill plate, a small red dot on the edge of their ear flap, a light brown to nearly black color, and a tooth patch on their tongue.



For more information on the various sunfish species found in lake cherokee contact: [garrett@pristinepondsolutions.com](mailto:garrett@pristinepondsolutions.com)

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## CWC Board of Directors – 2025

### End-of-Year Shareholder Update

As 2025 comes to a close, the CWC Board of Directors would like to extend our gratitude to all shareholders for your continued support, trust, and investment in the health and longevity of our community and natural assets. This year, we continued our focused-on key infrastructure and environmental priorities that directly support the long-term integrity of the lake, roadways, and surrounding forested areas.

#### Completed and Ongoing Projects

##### 1. Road Refurbishment – NP Section

One of the major infrastructure projects this year was the refurbishment of the road in the NP and the NQ section of Lake Cherokee. This upgrade has improved driving conditions, increased safety, and reduced wear and tear on vehicles—benefiting all who live in or visit the area. We are committed to maintaining our roadways to a high standard.

This was the third year in a row that the CWC has completed a road refurbishing project.

##### 2. Siltation Control and Lake Health

Preserving the lake is one of our highest priorities. In 2025, we made significant progress on sediment and siltation management:

- Siltation removal in the NQ cove is currently underway. It is projected to be finished in the next 6 weeks.
  - An enlarged siltation pond was also constructed in the NQ cove to reduce the future buildup of debris and sediment.
  - We have now identified and mapped siltation ponds around the lake. These ponds play a vital role in trapping runoff and preventing further siltation of our waterway.
  - Maintenance of these ponds will be performed annually or as needed, based on environmental conditions and performance monitoring.
- This proactive work strengthens the health of the lake, supports wildlife, and preserves recreational use for years to come.

##### 3. Forest Management – Tree Thinning in NE Circle

This fall, the Board initiated a tree thinning project in the NE Circle area. Years of unchecked growth had created dense, overgrown zones that posed serious

wildfire risks and hindered healthy forest development. Strategic thinning promotes healthier timber growth, improves visibility and access, and significantly reduces the risk of uncontrolled fire spread.

These projects reflect our commitment to responsible stewardship of CWC's resources and shared spaces. Heading into 2026, the Board will continue to prioritize environmental protection, infrastructure upkeep, and the safety of our residents and visitors.

– CWC Board of Directors



## ROCKY'S FOOD DRIVE

**Rocky's Food Drive benefiting Longview Food Pantries. Please donate nonperishable foods at: Crawfish Cove, Ace Hardware, Adams Ribs, All State Ins., Larry Dodge Agent, Buffalo Bells, Crows Automotive, Barracudas, Headhunters Salon, Lakeport Smoke Shop, Lee's Creek Grocery, Rodeo Dr. Tx. Boutique, Rightside Restaurant, Spuds and Jones Hardware. You can also donate online at [easttexasfoodbank.com](http://easttexasfoodbank.com)**



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## BOAT WATERCRAFT MAINTENANCE

### CHEROKEE BOAT MAINTENANCE

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## CLEANING

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House cleaning, short or long term property management. Lake references available. 903-297-1766 home 903-746-5179 cell.

### BRENDA'S CLEANING SERVICE

I have opening for home cleaning. I also cleaned offices. References upon request. Contact me at 903-736-6973

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## HANDYMAN SERVICES

### KK'S HANDYMAN

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### JUAN MEDINA'S PAINT

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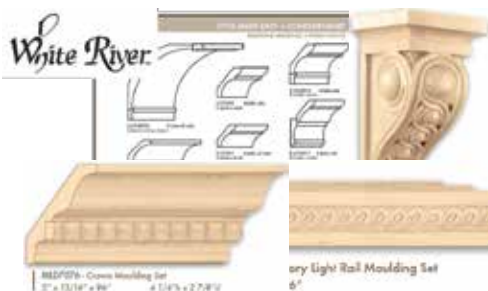
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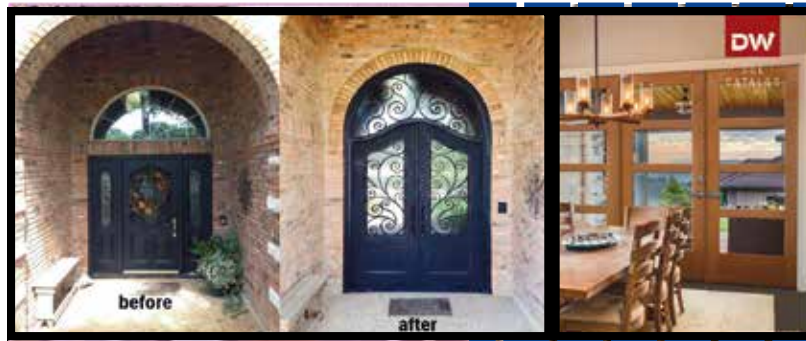
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**Calvin Coolidge,  
U.S. President**

**14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>a</sup> a sign: The virgin<sup>b</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and<sup>c</sup> will call him Immanuel.**

**Isaiah 7:14 NIV**

**Merry Christmas 2025**



# Friends of Freedom Park

The Wall of Honor is completed! Thank you to all of our volunteers and donors for your faith in our dream. We are especially indebted to Thomas White for his artistry, persistence, and countless hours of work to make the Wall of Honor and Flag Display a reality. Freedom Park can be visited by land, but the best view is from the water. And, it is even more dramatic at night!

Our second Veterans Day Ceremony had a great turnout with 137 attendees most of whom came to see their own names or those of loved ones or friends on the completed Wall of Honor. Attendees enjoyed a potluck picnic and a ceremony acknowledging the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families.



Photos can be found on our CWC portal group page, our website (see below), and Facebook page.

Now that the Wall of Honor is completed, the Lake Cherokee Community Foundation is turning over remaining funds to the Friends of Freedom Park (FFP). FFP is now officially a organization and applying for non-profit status. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the following officers and directors were voted on: Barrett Newsom (President), Miguel Fabbiani (Vice President), Hunter White (Treasurer), Kathryn Johnston (Secretary), and Directors Roger Morris, Ken Pope, Karen Torres, and Thomas White. This group has great plans for future ceremonies, projects, and events at Freedom Park. Updates will be posted here in the



Chatter, on the CWC portal, our website [www.LakeCherokeeFreedomPark.org](http://www.LakeCherokeeFreedomPark.org) and our Facebook page.

Among its charges, FFP will be organizing Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies as well as future celebrations and memorials; FFP will manage other projects and activities related to Veterans and heroes who protect and serve our community; FFP will work be stewards of the Flag display and all monuments at the Park; And FFP will promote fellowship and community among Veterans and their supporters.

Miguel Fabbiani and Barrett Newsom, the co-chairs of FFP, will need creative and passionate individuals to help safeguard



the spirit of Freedom Park. Let them know if you'd like to help.

If you are interested in honoring your veteran in future monuments, please contact Kathryn Johnston [kacourville@gmail.com](mailto:kacourville@gmail.com) to be put on a waitlist. You will be notified of upcoming opportunities at Freedom Park.



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## CHILI FEST 2025

The Preservation Club Chili Fest was held on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>. May have been the best ever, if judged by the attendance. It seemed to be standing room only!

There were 9 teams represented and the weather was great for eating chili and gathering with friends.

### WINNERS

1st Place – Cherokee Shores

2nd Place –  
Hank's Frame and Wheel

3rd Place –  
Willy Wonka

People's Choice –  
The Chili Dawgs

Best in Show –  
Willy Wonka

CWC Clash -  
Lake Patrol

I want to give a special thank you to our judges: Angela Wayt, Gaylon Butler, Elyse McCoskey, Selena Simmermann, Keith Hightower and Manny & Kari from the Right Side Restaurant.

Mark your calendars for 2026:  
Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>



# Christmas *Candlelight* Service

On this holy night, we invite you to a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service — a beautiful evening of worship, carols, and the timeless story of Christ's birth.

Come share in the warmth and light of the season with family and friends.

**5:00 PM | The Church at Lake Cherokee**



[www.thechurchatlakecherokee.com](http://www.thechurchatlakecherokee.com)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monthly Clean Up  
December 8-12



*The Lake Cherokee Flag travels to Normandy Beach in Paris.*

**Kent and Diane McClurg, Lisa Lobue, Martha Weant,  
Amanda and Glen Wallace.**



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## Lake Cherokee Groups and Clubs

We have several clubs that have been formed and led by Lake Cherokee Shareholders. You can find more information about these clubs in the Shareholder Portal. Key contacts with phone numbers are provided online in the Portal.

### Preservation Club

Deanna Kalmus, President

Meetings are 3rd Thursday of each month  
following Board Mtg

### Fishing Club

Genia Holland, President

Meetings are 2nd Monday at 7:00pm at CWC  
office

### First Friends

Roxanne Lane-Brink/ Gail  
Fowler

Lunch 3rd Thursday of each month

### Photography Club

Holly Treadway

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month

### Bridge Club

Norvella Skarda

Play every Wednesday at 11:30 am at NK21

### Lake Cherokee

### Community Foundation

Non-profit organization benefitting the commu-  
nity More information: [www.lakecherokeecom-  
munityfoundation.org](http://www.lakecherokeecom-<br/>munityfoundation.org)

### Friends of Freedom Park

Miguel Fabbiani and Barrett  
Newsom, Co-Chairs

An organization of volunteers who will manage  
the upkeep and ceremonies/activities at Free-  
dom Park (where the Veterans Monument is  
located)



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Our First Friends group gathered on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the Right Side Restaurant in Lakeport, enjoying a cozy afternoon filled with good food, easy conversation, and meaningful fellowship. This month, we carried our spirit of "sharing" a little further by bringing donations for the East Texas Food Bank.

As the holidays draw near, the need in our community becomes even more visible. The food bank's shelves grow especially bare this time of year, with so many families struggling to provide for their households. In this season of Thanksgiving, we're reminded of how truly blessed we are—and giving back feels not only fitting, but deeply fulfilling.

A heartfelt thank-you to Jeanne Collins for arranging our lunch gathering and coordinating our tour of the East Texas Food Bank. Your efforts helped make the day both enjoyable and inspiring and very eye opening!

Lake Cherokee ladies, as we look ahead to 2026, we invite you to join us on the third Thursday of each month for our casual lunch get-togethers. It's an easy,



welcoming way to meet new friends and stay connected with familiar faces.

To keep up with what's happening, join our First Friends (Lake Cherokee) Facebook page or contact me to be added to the monthly email list: Gail Fowler at bogafowler@gmail.com. We'd love to have you be part of our circle!

In attendance were: Gail Fowler, Judi Morgan, Marjorie Morris, Tracy Lasser, Lisa Goettle, Delores Toon, Penny Dant, Barb Robar, Jeanne Collins, Karen Franklin, and Teresa Davis. Judi Morgan was the winner of the door prize!



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Please send any correspondence related to The Cherokee Chatter directly to its dedicated e-mail, [chatter@lkcherokee.com](mailto:chatter@lkcherokee.com)

This includes articles for clubs, submitted travel photos, submitted fishing photos, Shopper's Corner, Bulletin Board, and regular ads, and any other Chatter related questions or needs.

All Shareholders are urged to contribute articles, event news, photos, inquires and information of interest to residents of Lake Cherokee for publication in The Chatter.

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## Lake Cherokee Photography Club

The November 11, 2025 meeting was to be at the Veterans' Day event at Freedom Park. Several club members attended and photographed. The ceremony was well attended and the food was plentiful.

The December 8, 2025 meeting will be our holiday party at the home of Deana and Jarett Harkness, SD2, starting at 5 PM. Teresa has sent an email already reflecting what the hosts plan provide. Bring a true white elephant, or a white elephant related to photography for the gift exchange, if you wish to participate. It is always a good time. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre which will serve as our meal. BYOB/wine to share.

January 13, 2026 will feature a return of Marc Bailey who always has interesting topics and most times, assignments to put his topics into action. Have your cell phones handy.



February 11, and March 11, 2026 will feature Patty Stewart Photography. She has had a long career and has photographed well known celebrity clients. She is an excellent nature photographer as well. In February, she will discuss her early career, and in March, her post covid career.

April 8, 2026 Day trip to the Arboretum. Time to be determined.

May 12, 2026 Boat Safari Best to go before it is too hot for us and the birds.

We need to firm up the remainder of the year. Any Ideas?

The club meets the second Tuesday to the month at 6 PM at the lake office unless otherwise noted. We have an email list and a Lake Cherokee Photography Group Page as well. There are no dues and we welcome all Lake Cherokee residents who have an interest in photography to join us. Feel free to come to any meeting. For information, email me at [greytbiker@yahoo.com](mailto:greytbiker@yahoo.com) and put photography club in the subject line, and I will get back to you.

Photos by Holly Treadway



**PRO SHOP** hours for **December** are **8:00 am to 4:00 pm** Tuesday through Sunday. Closed when the temperature falls below 45 degrees and on Mondays for course maintenance.

**CHRISTMAS** - The course will close at **2:00 pm** on **Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** and remain closed **Christmas Day**.

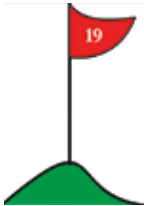
**NEW YEAR'S** – The course will close at 2:00 pm on **NEW YEAR'S EVE**. The Pro Shop will open **NEW YEAR'S DAY** from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and the course will be open to the public depending on the weather.

The **WOMEN'S** group play every Tuesday morning usually at **9:00 am** depending on the weather. Hours may vary so please call the Pro Shop for the tee time.

**SATURDAY FUN BUNCH** is every Saturday except for tournament days @ **9:00 am**. It is a "choose up" style, (couples draw together and all others draw for a team) scramble format. It's a lot of fun.

Teams are picked randomly the morning of the tournament so plan to arrive early. Hours may vary so please call the Pro Shop for the tee time.

**SHAMBLES TOURNAMENT** - Six teams had to put their thinking caps on for the November, **Shambles Tournament**. Thank you to all the teams who participated.



# NEWS FROM THE 19TH HOLE

by Alyce Clark



1st Place Team -  
Danny Matherne & grandson Ty, Mike Erwin, Phil Porter & Ollie, and James Patterson

**First Place** – Danny Matherne, Mike Erwin, Phill Porter, & James Patterson  
**Second Place** – Mark Taylor, Tammie Spicer, Robbie Nodine, & Myron Foster  
**DECEMBER TOURNAMENT** will be the **Santa Surprise & Toy Drive Tournament** held on **DECEMBER 13**, at **9:00 am**. We will draw for partners that morning and the low score wins (watch out for surprises.)



2nd Place Team -  
Mark Taylor, Tammie Spicer, Robbie Nodine, and Myron Foster

Toy or monetary donations are being accepted and will be donated to Blue Santa in Tatum. The cost is \$30 per player. Lunch will be available after the tournament.

members willing to serve on the board for the coming term. Members interested in running can contact Phillip Works, Mark Taylor, David Stokes, or Nan Friend. Ballots will be mailed to CCGA members with the January statements.

The next **Board Meeting** will be on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm. It is an open meeting, and all are welcome to attend and ask questions.

**Board Elections** will be held at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Incumbents for re-election are Phillip Works & Alyce Clark. The Nomination Committee is seeking

**Congratulations** to Phil Porter for a "Hole in One" on #3.

Our **Volunteers** are the best! The club would like to thank our "Tree Elves" who showed up on a cold Monday morning and helped cut and remove trees.



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# BRIDGE CLUB

By Jeanne Collins

## DECEMBER 2025

'Tis the Season ! As all of our December schedules fill up and become more complicated and hectic, it is a comfort to slow down for a few hours every Wednesday afternoon and spend a little time playing bridge with friends. The concentration required to play the cards helps to calm our minds and slow down the frantic pace. Plus, someone is always bringing a snack of some kind or trying out a new recipe! We invite you to come join our group.



Bridge play at the CWC club is very informal, and men and women of all skill levels are welcome. If you do not know how to play, we will teach you. We play every Wednesday at the CWC Library, next door to the CWC Office. We start at 11:00 am and play four rounds, usually finishing by 2:30 pm.

We do enjoy the spirit of competition, and at our CWC club weekly games the person with the high score for the room each Wednesday gets to put his or her name "On the Wall".

If you would like to join in, please do not hesitate to just show up on any Wednesday. We look forward to meeting you!



Seated, L-R: Danny Coats, Ludie Courtney  
Standing, L-R: Barbara Coats, Beth Schreiber, Janet Martin

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Our first Bounty Bass Contest was a success. Dana Deason presented the winner, Ryan Hill (7.9 lbs) his prize, a 7' Pride Spinning rod. Congratulations Ryan! Dana hinted Pride Fishing Rods may be interested in supporting more contests like this in the future.



Gary Lindsey, Hatchery Director, reported the fish feeders at the mega structure are being refurbished. Gary mentioned he is starting the search for his successor. If you are interested, please let him know.

George Steele, Habitat Director gave an update on the great progress being made to build our new fish attractors. 48 new structures have been put out so far. They were very easy to sink in the water. 14 more are ready to put out and there are plans to build 30 more. That should be enough to replace all our decaying brush structures. This is a huge leap forward in creating long-term habitats here in the lake. The habitats were made mostly with concrete and reclaimed piping from the recent utility installation along 149. Additional costs turned out to be minimal. Thank you, George and team, for making this happen! This effort will benefit all who fish here.

David Wilson, Tournament Director reported results of the Fall bass tournament. 18 teams weighed in over 250 pounds of bass. First place team was David Gooze and Greg Wallace, bringing in 25.53 pounds. Big bass was from Greg Wallace, bringing in a 5.79 pounder. All bass were weighed and measured for the ongoing data collection by our Lake Biologist. This will be used to track progress of our

fish management activities and inform decisions for bag limits in 2026.

Our program was Lake Cherokee's own Cooper Mayes. Cooper grew up fishing on the lake and is an active supporter of youth fishing programs in the area. He graduated from Texas A&M this May and is currently working on his master's degree. Cooper shared insights on what it takes to get the big bass in Lake Cherokee. I won't share ALL the tips, as that benefit goes to those who attended the meeting! He showed what areas on the map



are likely to hold fish this time of year and acknowledged you must be willing to move from place to place throughout the day. Small ridges and stumps are where you'll find them, more in shallower water (8-15 feet) as it gets colder.

We wrapped up with the raffle. Winners: Jerald Lewis scored the coveted gas can; Harrison Modisette won a bottle of Bird and Spider stain remover to help his parents keep their boat spotless; Dawson Jaskiewicz won a tackle bag; David Tramel, a nice hat and shirt, Genia Holland won some custom jigs, and Jason Murray snagged a mosquito repellent system.

December meeting is all about food, fellowship and helping others. We will have a toy drive and collect food for Samaritan House. Join us for a special meal and to be with people who love this lake and everything about fishing. Those who would like to participate in a gift exchange can bring a new, wrapped lure. See you December 8th!



November 2025

Once again, we had a full house with 45 members attending. Pete and Carol's chili was delicious. Sides, fixin's and desserts were provided by Larry Willis, Genia Holland, Anna O'Brien, Bryce Tawney, David Wilson, Pete Peerenboom, Dee Kennel and Lori Klump.

We welcomed returning member, Jason Murray and our guests, Lisa Lobue and Harrison Modisette.

Food drive for Samaritan House in Tatum is going very well. Bryce will likely make a couple of trips to get it all there this week. Thank you, Bryce, for leading this effort and to all who have given so generously!

Bryce also extended his appreciation for everyone who has stepped up to volunteer at the fishing tournaments, meeting set up/clean up and program development.

Genia reported that Jones Supply is moving their 24-hour bait operation to a more permanent location next to their main entrance. Owners of Jones are pleased with the business they are getting from fishing and hunting enthusiasts. They also offer licenses. Check it out!

Other business included a reminder of the upcoming elections for the club board. President, Secretary and Habitat Director are open. All positions have incumbents who will be there to support and transition new leaders into the role. Please let Bryce or Genia know if you are interested. Elections will be in January.

#### Cherokee Fishing Club 2025 Fall Bass Tournament In The Money:

Big Stringer 1st Place	25.53 lbs	Team:	David Gooze / Greg Wallace
Big Stringer 2nd Place	21.85 lbs	Team:	Travis Smith / Brad Langford
Big Stringer 3rd Place	18.77 lbs	Team:	Dee Kennel / Kasey Moore
Big Stringer 4th Place	18.74 lbs	Team:	Jim Tutt / Jeff Wright
Big Stringer 5th Place	17.68 lbs	Team:	Kain Hogue / Ryder Rushton
Big Bass 1st Place	5.79 lbs	Angler:	Greg Wallace
Big Bass 2nd Place	5.37 lbs	Angler:	Travis Smith
Big Bass 3rd Place	4.86 lbs	Angler:	Ryder Rushton

25 Teams Registered, 18 Teams Weighed-In, 250.22 lbs Total Weight.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE TOURNAMENT WINNERS!!

<div>  <h1>December 2025</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Bridge Club Luncheon			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Monthly Cleanup - December 8-12 10 am to 5 pm					
	Fishing Club	Community Gardeners Photography Club	Bridge Club	Golf Course Board Meeting		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Chatter Deadline Bridge Club	First Friends		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
First Day of Winter			CWC Office Closed Christmas Eve	CWC Office Closed Christmas		
28	29	30	31			
		Variance Deadline	CWC Office Closed New Year's Eve			

# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY <sup>1</sup>	FRIDAY <sup>2</sup>	SATURDAY <sup>3</sup>
				CWC Office Closed New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Bridge Club Luncheon	Golf Course Board Mtg		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Monthly Cleanup - January 12-16 10 am to 5 pm					
	Fishing Club	Community Gardeners Photography Club	Chatter Deadline Bridge Club	First Friends CWC Board Meeting		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday		Bridge Club			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			Bridge Club			

# THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME 2025 Chili Cook Off



## SELLING THE LAKE LIFE!

