



BATTLECREEK COMMONS COMMUNICATOR

Issue 124 Page 1 October – December 2026



Reminder: Sunday, November 1st
Daylight Savings Time Ends! **Fall Back!!** You get to set your clocks back and sleep an extra hour. 🌲



 Bonus Joke:
"It is safe to eat lettuce again...
or should I stick with cake."



Hot Dogs and Chili

Hi Neighbors, You're Invited!



We're firing up the grill for hot dogs and cooking up a pot of homemade chili. Come join us for a relaxed afternoon of food, friends, and conversation!

The Social Committee will provide Hot Dogs & Chili. Bottled water will be provided or bring your favorite beverage. Please bring a lawn chair.

We hope you'll come enjoy some food, conversation, and fellowship with friends and neighbors!



Date: **Saturday, October 10, 2026**

Time: **12:00 - 3:00 pm**

Location: **6675 Continental Circle, Hal and Kathy Miller's**

Please RSVP if possible. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kathy Miller **916-416-5682** or Kathy Kaspari **503-851-3052**

PS: A donation box will be available for anyone who would like to contribute toward future community events and gatherings. Donations are appreciated but not expected. Kathy M & Kathy K, Social Committee 🌲

BCC Annual Election



The annual election of the Board of Directors will be conducted November 4th, so be on the lookout for your ballot packet arriving to you during the second week of October.

In order to ensure your vote is counted, please follow the instructions in your ballot packet.

Completed ballots must be **returned to the clubhouse mail slot by 4 pm, November 3rd.**

If you have any questions or have not received a ballot packet by mid-October, contact Betsy Hughes at 503-932-6853. 🌲



*"I got confused by all the yard signs....
and I think I may have voted for a realtor."*

CALENDAR**October 2026 – December 2026****HOA Activities**

These meetings are all open to all members.

For the time being, follow the instructions provided in the emailed meeting notices about how meetings will meet or contact the Chair of the committee you wish to attend.

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Finance – Jean Dalton, Interim</u>	<u>Planning & Projects</u>	<u>Neighborhood Watch – TBD</u>
October 27, 2026-5:30p - ZOOM	October 21, 2026-4:00p - Clbhse		
***** November 17, 2026-5:30p - ZOOM	***** November 11, 2026-4:00p - Clbhse	TBD	
***** December 15, 2026-5:30p - ZOOM	***** December 9, 2026-4:00p - Clbhse		
January 26, 2027-5:30p - ZOOM	January 20, 2027-4:00p - Clbhse		

<u>Grounds – Virginia Ferguson</u>	<u>Maintenance/Repair/Paving – V. Ferguson</u>	<u>Architectural – John Morgan</u>	<u>Emergency Prep – Aline Autenrieth</u>
October 13, 2026-6:00p - Clubhouse	Meets as needed-contact Chair	Meets as needed-contact Chair	October 6, 2026-7:00p -Clbhse
November 10, 2026-6:00p - Clubhouse		TBD	January 5, 2027-7:00p -Clbhse
December 8, 2026-6:00p - Clubhouse	TBD		April 6, 2027-7:00p - Clbhse
January 12, 2027-6:00p - Clubhouse			Meet quarterly unless called sooner

We hope you will join these meetings to share your concerns and views, and become more involved in our community. Please come join us! 🌲

Social Activities: Thirsty Thursday – Thirsty Thursdays are BACK!!! The clubhouse is reserved every Thursday 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm for this fun gathering. Bring your own drink and an appetizer to share. 🌲



Special Note: November and December Board & Finance Meetings are ONE WEEK EARLY so as not to interfere with holidays. 🌲



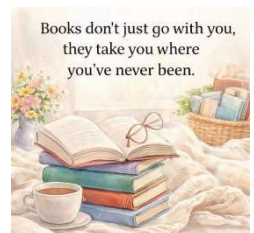
Reminder: It is deer rutting season now through December/January so PLEASE be more observant and very careful as you travel. 🌲

**Thirsty Thursday!!**

This is a reminder to join the group of faithfuls on Thursdays – 5:00 to 6:00 PM for wine or other beverage. Come to the BCC Clubhouse for visiting, snacks, and finding out current community news. There are always delicious snacks guaranteed to spoil your dinner appetite or serve as an early dinner so you don't have to cook!! This is one way we create community and BCC is a wonderful community. Come check it out!! Sharon & Editor 🌲

Book Club

I am considering starting a book club meeting at my house. The reading material can be discussed, but I am leaning towards the typical book club books like Oprah or other clubs read. If you are interested in a book club that would be meeting monthly, starting possibly in October, please email me, Cheryl Rohde, at cheryl45@yahoo.com. 🌲

**US Mid-Term Election**

Remember to take advantage of your **right to vote on November 3rd, 2026!!** Soon you will receive your ballot in the mail. Mark it with your choices and return it as soon as possible to make sure it is postmarked correctly and counted. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard! 🌲

Annual Holiday LUNCH

The Annual Holiday Dinner will now be a **Holiday LUNCH on Saturday, December 12th from 1-3.** We have not selected the caterer and menu as yet so watch for updated info. Sharon Grasseth, Social Committee 🌲



*“My Roomba just beat me to a Cheeto I dropped on the floor.
This is how the war against machines begins.”*

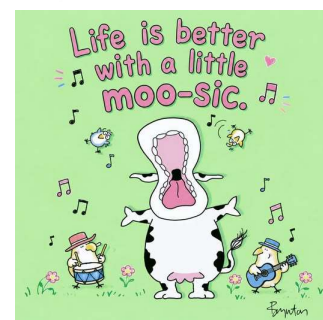


CONCERTS!!



Since 2018, Battlecreek Commons has hosted intimate house concerts in our clubhouse -- a chance to enjoy great live music with friends and neighbors in a relaxed, listening-focused setting. Unlike a noisy restaurant or bar, house concerts let you truly hear the music. Artists love the experience because they have the audience's full attention and can share stories behind their songs. Attendees enjoy an up-close performance and the opportunity to connect with the musicians.

Concerts are held one Sunday each month, beginning at 2:00 PM and ending by 5:00 PM. We ask a minimum \$15 donation to the artist, and we ask everyone to bring a snack to share, including with the performers. Mark your calendars and join us for an afternoon of music, community, and fun!



October 18th – Nate Botsford – Singer-songwriter, *Former American Idol* contestant. Nate plays a country rock hybrid style. He calls upon his influences of Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, and his big-band pianist grandfather while crafting his music.

November 8th - Rob Rainwater – Rob is a singer-songwriter, stands out as a versatile and authentic artist, combining lyric-driven storytelling with folk-rock energy, making his music both timeless and contemporary.



December 13th -- Pair Blossom, a guitar and violin duo that put a classical twist to modern music. Similar to the music for the series *Bridgerton*. Pair Blossom performs regularly at the Restaurant at Chira's. Come see them here so you don't have to compete with talking diners and clanging dishes. You will not be disappointed!

So, plan to join us for an enjoyable afternoon of music. Residents are very welcome to invite guests to join us. Call/text Sharon Grassetth to reserve seats for you and your guests - 503-599-8414, sharose47@yahoo.com Sharon Grassetth 🌲

CONCERT REPORTS



We've had a wonderful summer of wonderful concerts! In July, Gail Gage and daughter, Carolyn, joined us for a wonderful afternoon.

In August we were completely delighted to welcome back the Severin Sisters, twin sisters, Amy and Heidi. And in September Next of Kin, F-I-L Alan and D-I-L Lou Nicholson spent the afternoon with us with many fun covers and even some great sing-alongs!!



These are such fun afternoons with these wonderful musical talents. We would be so glad for **MANY MORE** of our community members to come to the clubhouse to enjoy a leisurely afternoon of music, great snacks, and a chance to visit with your friends and neighbors. It is also really nice to support these musicians and their passions. Please consider it!! We miss you!! We'd love to welcome so many more of you and your friends and guests, too!!

Your Editor 🌲



"If you put a potato in the microwave and push pizza, it still comes out as a potato. Why label the buttons if they don't work."

BCC Board Decisions

- At the last board meeting a couple of important items were voted on and finalized. More details follow.

1. End cable television service:

- Provide internet service from Comcast/Xfinity (1 gig speed, no data limits, at a flat rate (no increases) for seven years effective 1/1/2027).
- This package will include internet for the clubhouse and the office and basic cable TV in the clubhouse.
- Comcast/Xfinity will provide the following onsite services during the transition: meetings in the clubhouse to answer any question for those who wish to continue cableTV service; a pickup time to turn in any TV boxes people no longer want to use; no cost for in home install for those who cannot do it themselves and some tech savvy community members have also offered to assist.



2. End the contract with AMS Management Company:

- We will switch to a computer program designed for HOAs to ensure vendors payments are more timely.
- This will result in many changes including payment of dues, board members responsibilities, Anna's duties, possibly hiring a bookkeeper etc.
- Board meetings may be a little later in the day and some meetings will be in person in the clubhouse.



The internet service will include the modem/router to fit the speed and service. You are welcome to use your own modem/router but there is no additional cost by using the one provided by Comcast/Xfinity. The cost of the internet is very close to what we are currently paying for TV service. Because TV is regulated in a different way than internet service, taxes and fees and an annual increase would have continued with TV service resulting in increased costs each year. We sent out a survey to 160 homes and got back 46 responses. Of those 46 approximately, 1/4 do not use the TV service at all and are only streaming.



A while ago a **resident donated a TV to use in the clubhouse**. During the refurbish in the clubhouse the TV went missing. If you took it for safekeeping during this time please let me know so we can begin to plan the hookup in the clubhouse.

Without the management company, **Anna will be taking on more responsibility as will board members**. We may also hire a part time bookkeeper or a bookkeeping service. I ask your patience during the transition and your support of the board members who will take on more duties. This new process will cost less than the management company and ensure that our providers of service are paid in a timely manner. The board will have to take on the duties of enforcement of rules. This is not what any of us want to do so please be aware of the rules and be a good neighbor.

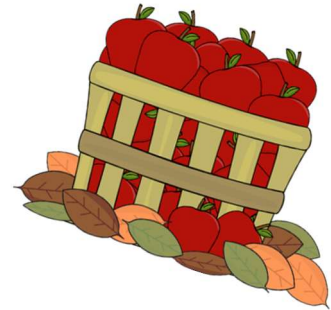
Sharon Grasset/BCC Board of Directors 🌲



"I wonder how many vampires have been run over by people who backup just using their mirrors."

Visitor Parking Reminder

Please pay attention to this sign ->



Due to frequent infractions regarding the abuse of visitor parking spaces, here are the most common violations. For a complete list of parking rules, please refer to the Rules & Regulations document, which is available online at <https://www.battlecreekcommons.com/>, then click the Resources tab.

II.D. VEHICLES & PARKING (Revised April 2020)

Homeowners and their guests must adhere to all parking rules and obey posted signs. In the event of a parking violation, the Office Manager may elect to pursue a legal remedy or action, including having the vehicle towed (*after a 72-hour warning notice has been posted on the vehicle of concern*), to enjoin and restrain the party from continued parking on Commons property. (Refer to Enforcement of Association Rules for additional information.)

D.1. Visitor parking spaces are intended for guest use only. Vehicles parked over 24 hours *total within a week* require a permit, which is issued by the Office Manager, upon request. Residents cannot use visitor parking to park or store any vehicles, except on a temporary basis, not to exceed a 24-hour period *per week*. Under extenuating circumstances (i.e., damage to garage or garage door), the resident can request permission for more time. (Revised August 2022)

NOTE: For visitors and homeowners, moving the car for a short while or to another visitor spot will count towards the 24-hr weekly maximum period. (Added August 2022)

D.2. Parking in the clubhouse lot is for clubhouse and pool use only or when visiting the BCC office. Residents or their visitors are not to park their vehicles in this lot for any other reason without a permit and are subject to towing and impoundment after proper notice.



Mary Schroeder and Virginia Ferguson 🌲



“Got a parking ticket the other day for being parked illegally. Not sure why. The sign clearly said ‘Fine for Parking’”

National Night Out in August



Earlier this summer in early August the Emergency Preparedness Committee hosted the BCC Annual Night Out in our clubhouse. This came in the midst of some of the worst wildfires in Oregon this year and the breezes had shifted to out of the east so our Willamette Valley was quite thick with smoke. In spite of these difficult conditions, around 26 people braved the thick air and came to the clubhouse for ice cream, videos, and a terrific presentation by Joe Hutchinson who is the City of Salem's Emergency Manager. He shared lots of useful and wonderful information about being prepared for unexpected emergencies. A huge thank you to our Emergency Preparedness Committee and Steve Starkey for supplying and dipping ice cream for the enthusiastic attendees, and David Best for bringing a television for viewing CERT videos and others. It was a very fun and informative evening.



Emergency Preparedness Committee 🌲

Are You Ready For The Unexpected?? (from Emergency Preparedness Committee)

Unexpected does not have to mean unprepared. It is only a Crisis if you are not Prepared! Remain Calm and Be Prepared!!!

An Emergency is The Absence of Choice....

Disclaimer: Please remember information shared here are ideas and suggestions presented for your consideration and are not recommendations by the BCC Board of Directors.



Annual Great ShakeOut Drill, 10:15 AM on October 15, 2026. It is October and time to put the Annual Great ShakeOut Drill on your calendar. Battlecreek Commons has participated in this drill for a number of years. This year the **Great ShakeOut will be at 10:15 AM on October 15, 2026.** This is the drill where you Drop, Find a VOID/Cover, and Hold On. It is good practice to do this drill. To the right is an illustration of the drill including ways to participate depending on your level of agility. This is a personal drill you do on your own wherever you are at that moment.

Another idea. We have heard for a long time that at the time of an earthquake we should "drop, cover, and hold on." There is another school of thinking where, rather than getting under something heavy like a table/desk, you find a spot **BESIDE** a very heavy item like a sofa or desk and get into what is called the **"Triangle of Life."** If you are under something, when the ceiling comes down, you could be crushed as the desk/table flattens. So **get NEXT to an object**, next to a sofa, next to a large bulky object that will compress slightly, but leave a **VOID** next to it - that is where you want to be. Next time you see a collapsed building (or a video of one) look for all the "triangles" formed. They are everywhere.



The Emergency Preparedness Committee may hold an event around this Drill, so please keep watch for more information about possible fun and informative activities closer to this date. 🌲

Protect Yourself During Earthquakes!



www.EarthquakeCountry.org/disability



"I asked my kid to give me the phone book. They laughed at me, called me a dinosaur, and handed me their iPhone. so... the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken and my kid is NOT happy."

Other Opportunities in Salem this Fall

- Firstly, **September** (even though it is past) is always **Preparedness Month!** So take a moment to think about where you are in your preparations and take a few steps to strengthen your supplies and fill in some of the things you are missing from your kits.
- Our City's CERT group is hosting information tables at Saturday Market and also at various other venues, so keep an eye out for these tables with lots of good information. They are also hosting tables at the next two (2) **Salem Fire House Open Houses**. The first is Saturday, October 3rd, 9:00 am – noon at Fire Station #6, 2470 25th Street, Salem, OR, and on Saturday, October 24th, 9:00 am – noon at Fire Station #11, 1970 Orchard Heights Road NW, West Salem, Or. All are welcome (kids of all ages) and it can be fun to visit stations, see the fire trucks up close, and talk with Firefighters.
- **Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) Ready Fair 2026 is October 10, 2026 at 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM** at Oregon Department of Emergency Management, 3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR. It is very informative. If you can go, it's worth it and it's great for kids of ALL ages.



<https://www.oregon.gov/oem/community-preparedness/pages/ready-fair.aspx>

If you are interested in more information about the City CERT programs and information, please visit the website at <https://salemoregoncert.org/>. There is a calendar of events listed there. 🌲

!! Items of the Month !! Winter is approaching. It's time to think about being prepared for colder and wetter weather. If you are planning any winter travel, get your vehicle prepared with a good tune up and have winter driving supplies in your vehicle. Things like:

- ⚡ Jumper cables and Tire Chains
- 🚚 Reflective triangles and a safety vest if you have to fix a flat tire.
- 🔦 Flashlight and extra batteries.
- 🥤 Water and non-perishable food
- 🩹 First Aid kit
- 🔋 Car charger and extra battery packs for electronics
- 🔥 Matches in a waterproof bag
- 🛖 Extra blankets or sleeping bag
- 🐱 Sand or cat litter for traction
- 🧊 Ice scraper
- 🧥 Extra clothing like jackets, hats, and gloves



And remember to travel on the top half of your gas tank. These things can keep you safe if you get stranded. 🌲



PLEASE send in your Emergency Prep Information Form to Mary Schroeder.
(If you need another one contact Mary at felines@comcast.net!!!!)

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse**. Emergency Preparedness meets the **1st Tuesday of each quarter (October 6, 2026, January 5, 2027, April 6, 2027) at 7:00 pm** in the Clubhouse unless called sooner to which **ALL are welcome!** Please contact one of us if you wish to join the meeting, have questions, or something to contribute. Stay healthy, happy, and safe!! 🌲



"One minute I'm in 8th grade listening to "Stairway to Heaven," and the next I'm enrolling in a senior healthcare program. Time flies by so fast. Well, it's a long song."

Finders Keepers!

The **Rock Fairy** has fallen behind in distribution and has a backlog of delight to seed around BCC. Look for these rocks in the next month or so. And if you're wondering, all the thread is 100% cotton. It will biodegrade if left in the sun and weather.



"If you ever picked up a rock and thought, 'now this is a good rock,' then we're family." 🌲

4. For a silky texture, use an immersion blender to partially or fully blend soup. If you prefer chunkier, rustic soup, skip this step.
5. Stir in heavy cream & simmer gently for another 3-5 minutes. Taste & adjust seasoning as needed.
6. Ladle into bowls & garnish with fresh parsley. Serve with crusty bread or toasted sourdough. Rich, creamy, & full of earthy mushroom goodness. 🍄

Contributors to this month's Newsletter: Kathy Kaspari, Kathy Miller, Betsy Hughes, Cheryl Rohde, Sharon Grasse/BCC Board of Directors, Mary Schroeder, Virginia Ferguson, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rock Fairy, and me!-Aline Autenrieth. 🌲

Newsletter Submissions:

Do you have something to share with the community? The Newsletter is a good place to get out the word. Write it up and send it to me (aautenrieth@juno.com). Please send the article rather than just the idea! Articles should be from 100 words to 600 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Microsoft Word compatible is desired. PDF files are more difficult! **DEADLINE: 10th of the month, please!** 🌲

If you have a recipe or several you would like to share, please send them to me – always searching for good contributions!! Thanks!

Recipe Corner!

Creamy Mushroom Soup

Ingredients

- 2 Tablespoons Butter
- 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
- 1 Onion, finely chopped
- 2 Cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb Mushrooms sliced, (cremini, white, & shiitake work well)
- 1/4 cup All-Purpose Flour
- 4 cups Vegetable or Chicken Broth
- 1 cup Heavy Cream
- 1/2 teaspoon Dried Thyme (optional)
- Salt and Black pepper to taste
- Fresh Parsley for garnish



Instructions

1. In a large heavy-bottomed pot, heat butter & olive oil over medium heat. Once butter melts & begins to foam slightly, add the onion. Cook for about 4-5 minutes until soft & translucent. Stir occasionally so it doesn't brown. Add garlic & cook for another 30 seconds, just till fragrant.
2. Add mushrooms to the pot. They will shrink as they cool. Stir well to coat in butter mixture. Cook 8-10 minutes, allowing mushrooms to release their moisture & begin to brown. This step is key for deep, rich flavor. Add thyme, salt, & pepper.
3. Sprinkle flour evenly over mushroom mixture. Stir continuously for 1-2 minutes to cook out the raw flour taste. Gradually pour in the broth, stirring constantly to prevent lumps. Bring soup to a gentle simmer & cook for about 10 minutes, till slightly thickened.

Continued at the left...



"Be Yourself. Unless yourself is hungry. Then go find a snack." ~Sandra Boynton



BCC Office Hours

**Monday thru Friday (except holidays):
10:00 am - 3:30 pm**

NOTE: The office will be closed for holidays on

**Nov 26, Dec 25
Jan 1**

**Battlecreek Commons HOA
1823 Lexington Circle SE
Salem, Oregon 97306
Phone: 503-362-9284**

Battlecreekcommons@gmail.com
www.battlecreekcommons.com