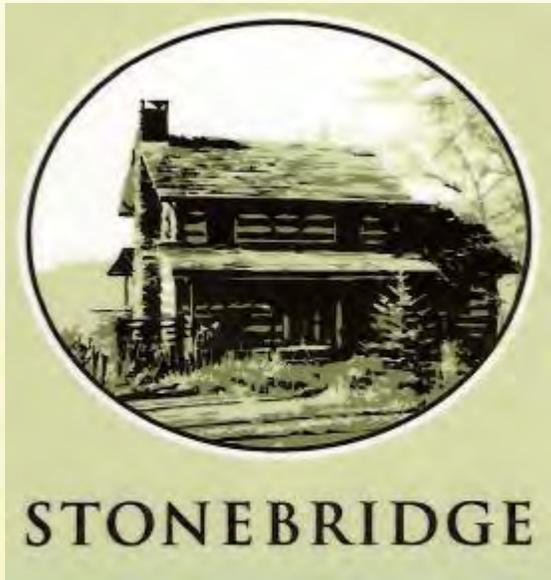


# STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

October 2015

FALL EDITION



## President's Message

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the "God" show on the mountain these past few weeks. It always amazes me how the neighborhood changes daily during this time of year.

A special thanks to Lynne Eastburn for purchasing bulbs and wildflowers at her expense to beautify our common areas. Anyone who wants to help with this project in any way contact me at [tommyhite@hotmail.com](mailto:tommyhite@hotmail.com). I am particularly interested in finding new areas to

plant wildflowers so we can reduce erosion and show our residents and visitors how much we care about this community.

I also want to give a special thanks to the entire road committee as well as the volunteers who helped for a job well done in refurbishing our road system. We got a very good application of the road bonding material this year and hope everyone will see a difference going forward. While we can't please everyone, we have tried to work with folks on problem issues concerning the road work as our bylaws allow.

There will be some new concave mirrors installed in some of our switchbacks very soon. We hope this will enable folks to safely swing wide in the turns and reduce the wear and tear on the steeper inside sections of our roads. Also, you will soon see some more environmentally friendly speed limit signs which are in keeping with our mission to make our roads safer.

Finally, the road committee and the entire board are asking folks to help us identify

*(continued on next page)*

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## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

People—with vehicle descriptions and/or tag numbers (we believe most are non-residents) who are habitually driving at high rates of speed or otherwise carelessly or recklessly driving on our roads. We have some tight turns with limited visibility and many folks daily walking in our neighborhood. While our hands are tied in some respects (we can't issue tickets under NC law on private property), we can and will speak to employers of specific drivers to try to slow them down and hopefully make things safer for everyone.

Enjoy what's left of the fall. Winter will be here before you know it.

### 2015 HOA Board

**Tommy Hite, President**  
[tommyhite@hotmail.com](mailto:tommyhite@hotmail.com)

**John Benton, Vice President**  
[jbentonrhsc@hotmail.com](mailto:jbentonrhsc@hotmail.com)

**John Crecelius, Secretary**  
[jcrecelius@skybest.com](mailto:jcrecelius@skybest.com)

**Peter Rodriguez, Treasurer**  
[peter.rodriguez.usa@gmail.com](mailto:peter.rodriguez.usa@gmail.com)

**Hank Orr** [2ncmtns@gmail.com](mailto:2ncmtns@gmail.com)

**Jim Dixey** [jdixey@mac.com](mailto:jdixey@mac.com)

**Steve Robertson** [sorobertson@skybest.com](mailto:sorobertson@skybest.com)

**SPOA Standing Committee Chairpersons**

**Communications** - Peter Rodriguez  
[peter.rodriguez.usa@gmail.com](mailto:peter.rodriguez.usa@gmail.com)

**Covenants** - Hank Orr [2ncmtns@gmail.com](mailto:2ncmtns@gmail.com)

**FireWise** - Jim Dixey [jdixey@mac.com](mailto:jdixey@mac.com)

**Good Neighbor** - Cindy Weihrs  
[cwiehrs@gmail.com](mailto:cwiehrs@gmail.com)



Fall means football, and the Stonebridge bear is demonstrating team spirit! Thanks, as always, Pam Garner & Paula Grogan, the "bear mamas" who keep the Stonebridge bear dressed for the season!

## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Introducing the NEW SPOA Website

Over the last several issues of the Sentinel, Stonebridge property owners have been told to visit the SPOA website as a source for past editions, listings of service vendors if you need help with your cabin, SPOA By-Laws & Rules as well as to gain access to past SPOA Annual & Board of Director meeting minutes.

While all these things are still important reasons to visit, you cannot believe the improvement in content and style of the website which has been significantly enhanced recently thanks to the wonderful efforts of Scott Loftin. Scott is a more recent addition to the Stonebridge community, having become an owner with his wife Joanie (aka the Editor of the Sentinel) in August 2014.

Scott volunteered to work with our communications committee (thanks Scott!) and has taken our website to a whole new level. You just have to see it to understand. Please visit at your earliest convenience at [www.Stonebridgetodd.com](http://www.Stonebridgetodd.com)

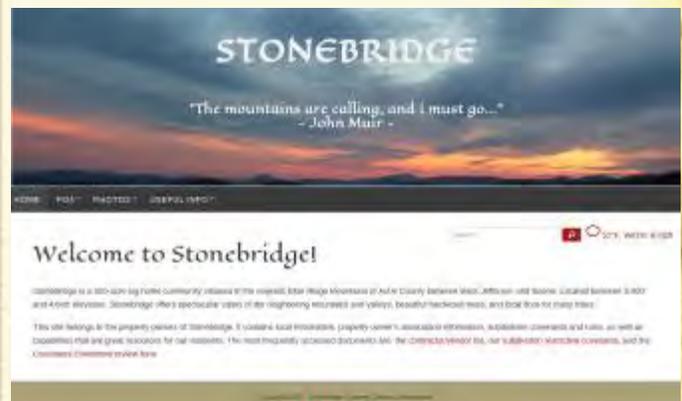
Following is an article from Scott Loftin detailing some of the changes and additions  
*Article from Pete Rodriguez*

### New Stonebridge Website

The Stonebridge website has a whole new look and many features to provide residents with more information in an easy-to-use and updated format.

Goals for the revised website included:

- Update the "look and feel" of the site
- Incorporate some of the more recent techniques of page layout in order to support viewing on multiple devices (desktop, notebook, tablet, smartphone, etc.)
- Conversion of the PDF files into web pages that are easier to update
- Make use of photographs taken by residents.
- Include community weather information



*Photo of newly designed homepage*

## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Revised Home Page

On the homepage, there is a "rotating" header of photographs taken in and around Stonebridge. These photographs will change as new images are received from the community. The "box" navigational menu has been replaced with a strip menu and drop-down sub-menu options. On the right side, under the header images, there is a search box and current weather conditions. The current weather conditions are explained later in this article, but that "area" is clickable and brings up the new weather page.

### Menu Organization

The top "strip" menu is purposefully limited in size (number of items) so that it will render well on a tablet device or other narrow screen and not wrap to 2 lines, and that menu converts to a box with horizontal lines if the site is viewed on a smartphone or other small screen. The most frequently accessed items are on top of the menus in order to reduce the number of mouse clicks required.

### Other Website Pages

Opening other pages on the website reveals a different, smaller header image that doesn't rotate, but is randomly selected from a collection of images. Like the home page, the same strip menu is used on these interior pages, as

is the search box and current weather conditions. However, there are a few additional features on these pages that don't exist on the home page:

- **Text Resizer** - this area on the right side of the page (AAA) allows text to be resized, making it easier to read. The "middle" A resets the text size to the "default" setting, while the "small" A makes it smaller, and the "large" A makes it larger.
- **Email & Print Buttons** - these 2 buttons at the bottom left of the page content allow for emailing of a link to one of the pages, and the Print button allows the page to be printed

### Weather Information

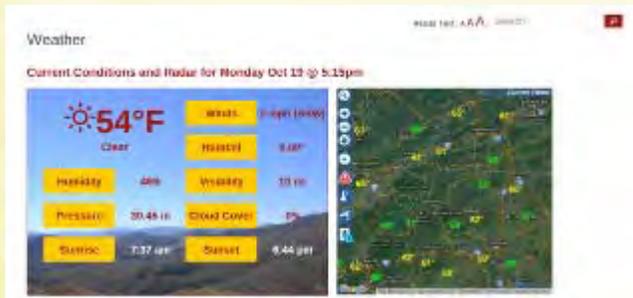
A new weather page includes information from an internet-connected weather station at the home of a Stonebridge neighbor. On the new weather page, Current Weather Conditions are located on the left side. The image "behind" the current weather conditions comes from a southwest-facing webcam (images available Friday mornings until midday Mondays). The temperature, humidity, wind, pressure, and precipitation readings come from the weather station in Stonebridge and are gathered every 15 minutes. The page also includes forecast informa-

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## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

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tion from [www.forecast.io](http://www.forecast.io), including visibility and cloud cover, which are estimated.



*Photo of weather page*

The Forecast area is located below the Current Conditions. This information comes from forecast.io. It includes current conditions, but those may not match up with the ones from the neighborhood station. Below that forecast box, is a link to see a detailed 48-hour hourly forecast.

The final section on the page is History. The bottom weather history link brings up a page with graphical weather information, as well as a link at the bottom of the page to see all the weather details that go into those graphs.

### Photo Galleries

With so many photographers in Stonebridge, the website seemed like an obvious place to showcase their work. The website contains several "living" photo galleries within the new website. The plan is to add to each gallery as photos come in. For starters, there are 5 categories: views, flowers & trees, wildlife, the Stonebridge bear, and people. Clicking an image converts the page into a left/right scrolling photo gallery.

### Webcam

As mentioned in the weather section above, there is a southwest-facing webcam now connected to the website. It uploads images every 5 minutes during the daylight hours. Currently it's only online from Friday mornings through about noon on Mondays. Each night the webcam is online, an automatic time-lapse video is created that shows the day "unfold" in about 45 seconds.

The website is always a work in progress, and suggestions for content are welcomed. Please email comments/suggestions and submit photos to [scott@theloftins.net](mailto:scott@theloftins.net).

*Article from Scott Loftin*

## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Join Us on Facebook

Our Facebook group has grown to 128 members and has provided a wonderful opportunity to share photos, find vendors for firewood and cabin cleaning, etc., get a lead on a good Halloween pumpkin, learn about community events, and much more! The group is closed, meaning that only residents of Stonebridge can join the group, and only members of the group can see what is posted there. Along with the website, the Facebook group provides a means of enhanced communication in the neighborhood. Any member can post to the page, providing everyone with timely updates and interesting information. Find us at [www.facebook.com/groups/1586324594968696/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1586324594968696/) and request to join!



### Update on Stonebridge Fiber-Optic Cable

In an earlier edition of the Sentinel, it was reported that Skyline had agreed to provide fiber-optic cable for the balance of the Stonebridge community above Falls Creek Rd. While this process was expected to begin this summer, Skyline reports that there has been an unavoidable delay due to the widening process planned for US Highway 221. Skyline has had to move its resources to address the result of the widening process before it could continue its planned expansion of fiber-optic installations elsewhere.

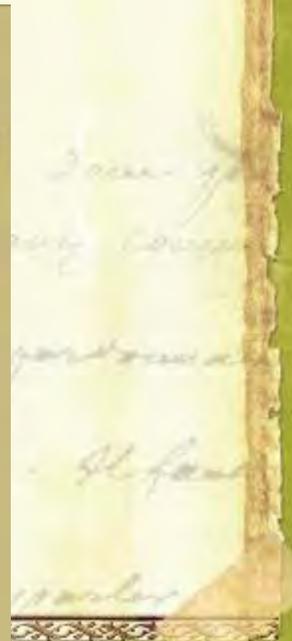
Recent discussions with the Skyline folks have resulted in a combined decision for the installation of fiber-optic cable to begin now sometime in the spring of 2016. When this process is completed, all of the Stonebridge community will have access to not only possible cable-based TV services, but also high speed internet access.

*Update by Pete Rodriguez*



## Fall Picnic —Fun For Everyone

The fall picnic was held on Saturday, September 5 with wonderful weather, lots of delicious food (no leftovers for proof!) and over 140 neighbors and family members in attendance. Thanks to everyone who came out for a fun afternoon and for those who helped with setting up and cleaning up. The Good Neighbor Committee did a fabulous job of making this a special occasion for Stonebridge — THANK YOU! Here are some photos from the day—animal friends right, young folks below, and neighbors and friends on the next page!





## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Flying the Flags of History

Many of you have noticed the historical flags flown near the entrance to our neighborhood, at the home of Jim Dixey, who has always had a fascination with all things military and battle-related. He majored in history and was in the Navy for seven years, serving 2 tours in Viet Nam. Following his military service, he had a career the airline industry and a second career in academia management working at Purdue, Georgetown and Texas A&M.

Jim's interest in battle flags is in the human stories they tell. Before the advent of radio communications, battle flags served to identify where troops were on the battlefield. Battle flags also served as inspiration to the soldiers of the unit the battle flag represented. More importantly, each battle flag has a story behind it and that story is the soldiers, their loneliness, their fear, their heroism, and their cause. It is a story that is ageless; it resonates with every soldier that has ever served in combat in every army in history.

The flags in Jim's collection represent three main freedom periods in US history: the Revolutionary War, the Texas War of Independence, and the Civil War. Most of the battle flags in his collection can be found on the internet, and the average cost of the flags is

\$8. Jim's favorite flag is the Bonnie Blue flag, the freedom flag with a blue background representing truth with

a star representing independence and the white



color of the star representing purity. Freedom is an idea that transcends history. This flag became the inspiration for a popular Civil War song, "The Bonnie Blue Flag".

Jim raises a new flag every Monday, so as you come and go in the neighborhood, be sure to check out the newest flag each week. A file with illustrations and descriptions of his entire collection is located on the Stonebridge Facebook page—check the file if you want to know about the flag currently on display. If you are not on Facebook, please email Jim (jdixey@mac.com), and he can provide you with a PDF version of the file, or stop in and ask him about his flags - he is truly passionate about the historical value of his collection and is glad to share information about it.

## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Stonebridge Newcomers

**August 1-October 31**

**James Blumenthal and Daphne McKee**  
Chapel Hill, NC  
205 Tomahawk Drive

**Jerry and Sarah Overaker**  
Hurdle Mills, NC  
1055 Homestead Road

**Charles and Lynne Hayes**  
264 Tomahawk Drive

**Blair and Susan Mahoney**  
Carolina Beach, NC  
1137 Homestead Road

Welcome to Stonebridge—we hope you enjoy spending lots of time in your cabin!



### **Who Is That Stonebridge Neighbor and Where Is That House?**

This photo, taken in Stonebridge in 1999, depicts one of our current residents standing in front of a house under construction (not his home). There are two mysteries here—who is the resident (has a known answer) and what house is this (unknown). If you would like to submit a guess to solve either mystery, email your response to [joanieloftin@theloftins.net](mailto:joanieloftin@theloftins.net).



*you take a big garden  
under your gables - it's  
some good work*

## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

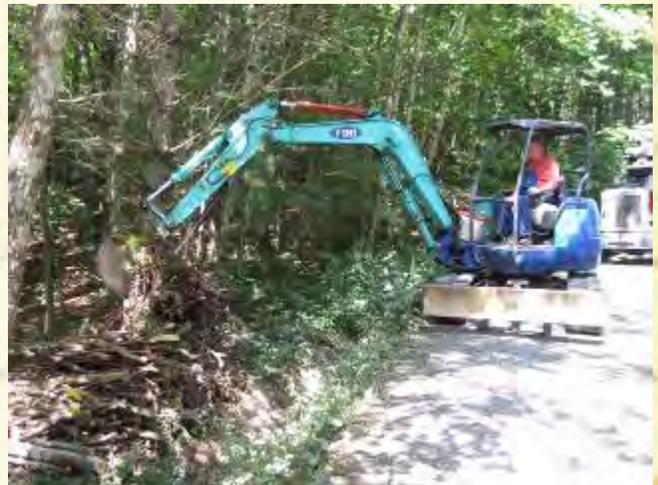
### Brush Pickup Success

The brush pickup was completed in early September with 19 large dump truck loads of debris removed from our community. Firewise Committee members Jim Dixey, Mac Brown, Len Andruicci, and Ed Braxton, along with volunteers Ed Taylor and Lloyd Goldstein worked with Hart Construction to load and haul over 90 piles of brush and



*(piles stacked and waiting for pickup)*

limbs from our neighborhood. It is encouraging to see that over one third of our homeowners took their time and efforts to remove these combustibles from their property. Thanks to everyone for their efforts to make Stonebridge a better community for all of us.



## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL



### Christmas Shopping to Benefit the Arts in Ashe County

You have probably noticed that Ashe County is home to many talented artist of all genres. From visual arts to performing arts, artists abound and have contributed to the revitalization of West Jefferson and helped establish Ashe County as a destination for more than just leaf-lookers.

The Ashe County Arts Council is a non-profit organization that promotes all forms of art and artists and helps educate future generations of artists in the county. Many Stonebridge residents are actively involved in the local art scene as well. Talented artists have displayed their works in juried exhibits at the Arts Center. Others have sold their works in the Gallery Shop. Visit [AsheCountyArts.org](http://AsheCountyArts.org) to learn more about how the Arts Council supports the arts in our area.

Those who are not artistically talented volunteer their time and talents at local events—doing everything from baking for intermission at concerts, taking tickets at a Coffee House event, helping at the Fiddlers Convention, building and painting sets for plays or staffing a booth at Christmas in July.

In addition, Stonebridge residents are extremely generous with their money. For the past six years, Lynne & I have hosted a

dinner for *A Feast for the Arts* to raise money for the Arts Council. This year more than 75 residents enjoyed a fabulous meal donated by us and prepared by Chef Jared Yelton at Boondocks Brew Haus. 100% of the donations from our guests went directly to the Arts Council. Between these donations and generous bidding on silent auction items at the Arts Center, Stonebridge residents contributed more than 1/3 of all the moneys raised county-wide at this event.

### The Gallery Shop

The Arts Council headquarters is located at 303 School Avenue in West Jefferson. In addition to staff offices, this facility houses an



exhibit/performance space and The Gallery Shop, where you can purchase a variety of art related gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list. There are books by local/regional authors, pottery, jewelry, stationary, photography, quilts, CD's, musical instruments and other works by local artists, and you can purchase tickets for upcoming performances.

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## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

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### Shopping on Amazon

If you can't find that perfect gift in The Gallery Shop, certainly you can find something on Amazon.com! Whenever you make a qualifying purchase on Amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase amount to the Ashe County Arts Council. That may not sound like much, but if everyone participates, it adds up quickly. Here how it works -

- First go to [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com)
- Specify Ashe County Arts Council in the charity search box
- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. REMEMBER - start by going to **Smile.Amazon.com** and specify *Ashe County Arts Council* in the charity search box.

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

*Thanks to Dave Eastburn for this article on the Ashe County Arts Council*

### Take Care of Our Newly Repaired Roads

The fall road repairs have been completed — THANK YOU to Steve Robertson, Ed Taylor, and Joe Culbreth (road committee) for their tireless work on keeping us all moving up and down the mountain. Gentle driving safer and helps the roads stay in better condition, saving money and keeping our POA dues lower. Please remember to drive gently on our roads!—

**20 is good, but 15 is better**



## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### What's In a Name?

The previous edition of the Sentinel offered and opportunity for Stonebridge residents to share about their cabin name/history. Here is some information about three of our cabins—

#### Hi-Banc

Allison and Stuart Malter's cabin at 1052 Homestead is visible as you swing around the switchback. Their location has always been called Hi-Banc, although they are not sure why. This was

one of the earliest cabins built around 1992-1993, and there was not much between



the village and this site when the side of the mountain was carved out, forming a high bank on one side and the cabin was built for Barbara Cloniger. The Malters have heard tales about her hiking down to and from the mailboxes which were originally on Laurel Creek Rd. They bought the house from her in 2005, and continue to maintain the beautiful flowers, started by Mrs. Cloniger, at the entrance to their driveway.

#### Highland Cabin

Located at 600 Tomahawk, Steve and Gayle Robertson's place is known as Highland Cabin, named in homage to Steve's ancestors who came from the Scottish Highlands and for

their West Highland Scottish Terrier "Miss Scarlett," who really rules the roost!



#### Springwood

John Dimling's cabin has a natural spring on the property which feeds two ponds located in the woods. His cabin at 139 Summit Drive is appropriately called Springwood! John doesn't have a sign yet, but it is on his to-do list.

Please continue to send in information about cabin names/history, and it will be included in future editions of the Sentinel. Submit information to [joanieloftin@theloftins.net](mailto:joanieloftin@theloftins.net)

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#### **Community Corner**

If your church or non-profit is having an event that would be of interest to Stonebridge residents, please submit the information to be included in future editions of the Sentinel in a Community Corner. Our next edition will come out in January, so think ahead to early spring events!

## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Coyotes in Stonebridge: Take II

In the last Sentinel, I described an altercation between a coyote and two deer which I witnessed off our deck; fortunately the deer won. I had not seen hide or hair of a coyote again until October 14<sup>th</sup>. As I walked along a flat stretch of Tomahawk near Rocky Valley Drive where we live, I came across scat. It looked like dog scat but it was curiously deposited exactly in the middle of the road - most dogs will go off to the side to do their business.

Two nights later, after dark, I took our dog (Bear) and cat (Jeffery) out for a short walk on our driveway. I wore a runner's head lamp, not only to illuminate our way, but to keep track of Jeffery. The light causes his eyes to light up like two bright yellow moons so I know where he is. Bear came back into the house, but Jeffery continued around to the back where we abut woods. I followed as he went down to our lower deck. He stopped suddenly. I looked up into the woods and my lamp illuminated two very large, bright yellow eyes which were alarmingly far apart, indicating a large animal. The eyes were 25 yards away and looking steadily, and unblinking, at me. I had the distinct impression that we had been under observation for some time.

A few stunned moments later, I realized that this was a coyote. I blew my camping whistle, which I always carry to scare off wildlife.

The eyes did not move, did not blink, and continued to fix me in their stare. I then started to growl as a last ditch effort to make the eyes go away - they did not budge. All I could do was break off visual contact, pick up Jeffery, and carefully walk around the house and get safely in the door.

The very next morning, I was walking down the lowest stretch of Tomahawk when I came across another pile of scat; exactly in the middle of the road. Fifty yards further down the road was another pile; exactly in the middle of the road. Finally understanding that three such similar events could not be random; I looked up coyote scat on the internet. Coyotes deposit their scat on important trails and at important crossroads in order to mark their territory. Once marked, they hunt that territory for life. So, it is official; Stonebridge has its own permanent coyote.

*Article by Tom Davis*



## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Log Protection and Restoration

*Note: A Stonebridge resident suggested that this article from several years ago be reprinted for the information of newer residents. This information is also available on the Stonebridge website.*

Log home living is great, but as with any wood structure, maintenance is required. Weather and insects pose the most threat to wood. One of our neighbors researched products and techniques and wrote up the content in this article after applying them to their home.

### Exterior Log Surface

The product applied was called Woodguard ([www.woodguard.com](http://www.woodguard.com)), made by IBC Manufacturing Company. It can be purchased locally from Ashe Builder's Supply or ordered directly from other distributors. Woodguard, an oil-based wood preservative, has excellent water repellency. It inhibits mold, decay, and is toxic to termites and powder post beetles.

Woodguard is available in clear and tinted options, but none of the tinted samples tested were a good match the home's logs. The clear product was used since this restores the natural wood color. The temporary darkening effect on the logs will fade over time because the clear product does not provide UV protection. The product is packaged in 5-gallon containers, and the distributor contacted recommended a total of two coats, applied

about one year apart, due to the type of logs in the home (reclaimed). After that, the surface should be protected for 3-5 years.



The initial coating on the home required about 7 gallons. To avoid staining the chinking, the product was painted on using a 3-inch width natural bristle brush. Sufficient material was painted on each log to the point of "saturation" as evidenced by no further absorption.

Drips on the chinking must be removed as quickly as possible with a clean damp cloth or with a water/detergent mixture. The brush can be cleaned with paint thinner or mineral spirits.

### Interior Logs and Cabinets

For the interior log surfaces, a latex-based product, Natural Home Interior Wood Finish, from the makers of Woodguard, was

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## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

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used. This product was very easy to apply with a standard nylon brush, and resulted in a low "sheen" finish, which highlighted the wood grain. There is practically no odor when applying, and cleanup with water or a soap/water mixture is a breeze. Also, drips on the chinking can be wiped with a damp cloth without any resultant staining.

Two coats are required, but the initial coating will dry in only 2 to 3 hours, allowing re-painting of the same wall or cabinets very conveniently. Slightly over 2 gallons of material double-coated the entire interior logs and cabinets of the home.

For more information on the Woodguard product, visit [http://www.woodguard.com/woodguard/woodguard\\_qa.php](http://www.woodguard.com/woodguard/woodguard_qa.php).



### *Crisi's Corner*

Xylitol is a sugar alcohol that is naturally found in some plants, mostly birch bark and corncob. However, sugar alcohol is a hybrid of a sugar molecule and an alcohol molecule formed by altering their chemical structures.

Used cup for cup in place of sugar, xylitol contains 40% fewer calories and has almost no effect on blood sugar levels or insulin response. Food manufacturers have used sugar alcohol in sugarless gum, candies, and mints. It's most common home use is sweetening tea, coffee, and other beverages. The minty aftertaste maybe a drawback depending on how it is used. Consuming large quantities may also have a laxative effect.

*Information from IDEA Fitness Journal 4/15*



## STONEBRIDGE SENTINEL

### Cheesy Smoky Butternut Squash Pasta

*(The Vegiterranean Diet (Da Capo 2014))*

- 1 1/2 C chopped butternut squash, raw
- 1 (12 oz) package dry pasta (e.g., rigatoni, penne, macaroni or spirals)
- 1 1/2 C raw broccoli florets
- 3/4 C unsweetened almond or soy milk
- 1/2 C raw cashews, soaked and drained or hemp seeds
- 1/2 C nutritional yeast
- 2 T freshly squeezed lemon juice with zest
- 1 T tamari
- 1/2 to 3/4 t ground chipotle powder

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. On a baking pan, roast the squash until dark brown and bubbling (about 20 minutes). Fill a large pot 3/4 full of cold water and bring to a boil over high heat. Once boiling, add pasta and return to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer over medium heat until pasta is soft, 20-30 minutes. Before draining, add fresh broccoli florets and allow to wilt, 2-4 minutes.

Drain & return to pot. Meanwhile, purée squash, almond milk, cashews, nutritional yeast, lemon juice and zest, tamari and chipotle powder in blender until smooth, 10-20 seconds.

Pour the squash sauce over the pasta and the broccoli, and stir to combine. Serve warm.  
Makes 4-6 servings.

*Recipe shared by Crisi Coney*

### A Note from the Editor

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the Sentinel! It is wonderful to have content and suggestions from many neighbors, as I believe that our newsletter should be based on the interests of the Stonebridge residents. Your input is valued, so please feel free to send suggestions for content and photos. Anyone is welcome to contribute an article that might be of interest! I do plan to publish a winter edition which will come out at the end of January, so let me know what you want to read about. If you would like to help on a regular basis, please email me! I hope to have input from many of you along the way!

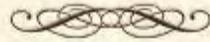
Joanie Loftin

Editor

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**"The mountains are calling**



**And I must go."**



**Stonebridge Property Owners'  
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