

YOUR VOICE IN THE VILLAGE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2026

The Future of TVRA Is Up To You!

As TVRA looks to the future, openings on our Board of Directors present an opportunity for **new leadership**, **fresh ideas** and **new energy** to build on the programs and services that make a difference to our members and our community.

That's where you come in!

TVRA needs members to step forward NOW to help lead the organization into its 38th year. Several Board positions for 2027 still need to be filled, and having committed volunteers in these leadership roles is critical to maintaining the programs, activities and services our members value. Whether you have served on a board before or are simply looking for a meaningful way to become more involved in your community, there is a place for your skills, experience, interests and ideas.

Read more on page 4

TVRA Golf Gives Back



TVRA Golf's annual event on September 9 was a patriotic tribute to our Veterans and a fundraiser for the Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department in remembrance of 9/11.

The TVRA Golf Committee presented **\$925** to the Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department. Many thanks to all of our players for their incredible generosity and for helping make this special event such a success!

Pictured from left to right: TVVFD Deputy Chief Bob Lennington, TVRA Golf Lead George Luttrell, and Assistant Chief Bill Ballinger, standing in front of Engine 124.

Read more on page 8

October 2026
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Linda Garza

Happy Fall Y'all



Fall is a favorite time of year for many of us who enjoy the slightly cooler temperatures and beautiful foliage across the Smoky Mountains. For TVRA, fall marks the beginning of our annual membership drive. This year, we're excited to offer a 25% discount on 2027 membership dues, made possible by a stronger-than-expected 2026 membership year.

From October 1 through December 31, existing members can renew their 2027 household membership for just \$15. New members who join during that time will receive membership for the remainder of 2026 and all of 2027 for the same discounted \$15 membership fee.

Football season is in full swing and this month's Social is all about Knoxville's hometown team - the TN Vols! Wear your **orange and white** game day gear and join friends and neighbors for some Rocky Top fun!

Our guest speaker for this month is **Mike Blackwell**. Mike, and his wife Sherry, founded **Tellico Village Honors Veterans** program in 2019 and continue to support the annual **Wreaths Across America** initiative at Knoxville's National Cemetery. I hope you'll join us to learn more about this year's wreath-laying ceremony and what you can do to honor the soldiers that gave their life for our freedom.

Our Event Planning team continues to provide a calendar filled with activities designed to offer something for everyone. From dining out, ziplining, horseback riding, Halloween scavenger hunts and costume parties, to learning about the art and science of weather prediction—and much more—there are plenty of opportunities to get out, have fun, and connect with your neighbors.

Our annual Holiday Gala is a favorite among many members and is almost sold out! Check the Events section of this newsletter for upcoming events opening after this month's Social, as well as previously announced events that still have space available.

Be sure to check out this month's **Advocacy in Action** article to learn more about the final phase of this year's election cycle, the upcoming POA Board of Directors Candidate Forum, the development of property known as P38 and a few highlights from September's Town Hall and TVPOA Board of Directors meeting.



On behalf of our entire TVRA Board, **thank you** for your continued support.
We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!



Linda

TVRA

OCTOBER SOCIAL

Tuesday, October 13
Mix 'n Mingle 4:30pm
Program at 5:00pm

Wear orange!



GUEST SPEAKER

Mike Blackwell
"Wreaths Across America"

Cash Bar
Door Prizes
Coming Events

Tammy F.
Social Planning VP
2026

"I decided to give it a try because I felt it was my turn to give back to the community. This position is fun, and inspirational to me. I've met the best people you can ask for."



The Future of TVRA Depends on YOU!

TVRA is looking for members who are willing to step forward and help lead the organization into its 38th year. Whether you have served on a board before or are looking for a meaningful way to become more involved, there is a place for your skills, experience, interests and ideas.

2027 OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

- PRESIDENT
- SECRETARY
- VP EVENT PLANNING
- VP SOCIAL PLANNING
- WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Most board positions may be shared by 2 members, allowing for coordination of time, skills, and availability. Terms are for 1 year with opportunities to extend if desired.

Get ready for 2027 today!



TVRA

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

LIMITED OFFER

JOIN OR RENEW NOW!

25% OFF

PAY \$15.00 / HOUSEHOLD
NOW THRU DECEMBER 31

FEES INCREASE TO \$20 / YEAR / HOUSEHOLD
ON JANUARY 1ST

MEMBERSHIP STARTS WHEN YOU SIGN UP
AND LASTS THROUGH NEXT YEAR

TVResidents.org

Contact the Nominating Committee
to learn more about where you'd like
to contribute in 2027:



(865) 657-1405



Contact@TVResidents.org

[LEARN MORE](#)

JOIN NOW!



TVRA SOCIAL SIDE

Where neighbors become friends



The following events are NEW
and will open the day after the Social on October 14th



BENTON'S TOUR
11/4 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



DONKEY RESCUE TOUR
11/7 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



CAVE MILL MUSEUM
11/10 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



SINGO NIGHT!
11/18 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



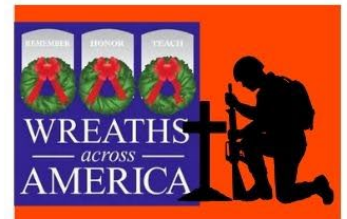
BUNCO NIGHT!
11/24 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



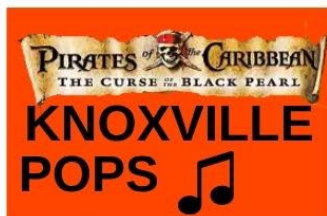
RIVER FORECAST
11/24 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



LADIES DINNER
12/10 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



BUS TRIP - K'VILLE
12/19 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



POPS Pirates
1/9/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



Jake Leg Stompers
1/17/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



POPS RocknRoll
2/6/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



Mama Mia!
2/17/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



POPS - "QUEEN"
3/6/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



"Hadestown"
4/25/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information



"Jersey Boys"
7/21/27 [Click Here](#)
For More Information

Why I Serve:

- Collaborate with like-minded individuals to shape programs and give back to the community
- Keep my computer and technical skills sharp

Lisa K.
Asst. Treasurer 2026-27

Tickets Still Available!

- Medicare & Social Security – Oct 16
- Cx – ~~Dine Out – Tellico Italian~~ – Oct 17
- SINGO – Oct 21
- Zipline @ 10:00 am – Oct 22
- Zipline @ 11:00 am – Oct 22
- Horseback Riding @ 3:00 – Oct 22
- *** Dine Out – TN Brew House – Oct 23
- BUNCO – Oct 28
- Cades Cove Hayride @ 10am – Oct 28
- Cades Cove Hayride @ NOON – Oct 28
- Scavenger Hunt/Costume Party – Oct. 29
- TV Meteorology – Oct 30
- Mayfield Dairy Tour – Oct 30
- *** Halloween Party w/NVs – Oct 31
- Data Centers – Nov 2
- Attack on the Pentagon – Nov 3
- UT Forensics – Nov 5
- Plantagenets Sally Keil – Nov 6
- Mah Jong 101 – Nov 11
- Pop Piano w/ Wendel – Nov 15
- Mah Jong 102 – Nov 18
- Mah Jong 103 – Nov 25
- Dolly's Stampede – Dec 3
- TVRA Gala – Dec 6
- Clayton Holiday Concert – Dec 19

**Register
Now**



All events listed on this page are open now for registration! Click the button below to be taken directly to the TVRA calendar on TellicoLife where you can get all the details and register online.

PLEASE NOTE

*Events marked *** are new events, yet because they are time sensitive, they were opened early.*

Click Here!



Kathy Ruzic
Events VP
2025 & 2026

"Planning events is a great way to give back to the community. People get to try new things and people are happy. It's a win win!"



"As a relatively new Tellico Village resident, I'm honored to serve on the TVRA Board as Vice President of Technology. Volunteering is one way I can give back to a community that has already given so much to Julie and me.

I believe communities grow stronger when people share their time, ideas and experience. In my role, I work to ensure technology helps us communicate effectively, stay connected and access important information more easily.

Ultimately, I serve because I care about the people who make Tellico Village such a welcoming place. Through TVRA, we can keep residents Engaged, Informed and Heard while strengthening the connections that make this community so special."

Terry Thompson
VP Technology
2026

I am honored to be part of an organization that has made such a lasting impact on Tellico Village. Its rich history of introducing and supporting new organizations and services for Village residents and surrounding community members is truly remarkable.

Tellico Village's Library, Litter Angels, Stay in TV, and TellicoLife are just a few examples of how TVRA team members have brought a vision to life and created services that have made a meaningful difference in our community.

Today, TVRA continues that tradition by working with and promoting nonprofit organizations within the Village—bringing greater awareness to their services, encouraging civic involvement, and helping provide financial support to further their important work.

Linda Garza
President 2025, 2026
Communications VP 2023, 2024

Why Do We Serve?

Because it feels good to contribute.

Not for a paycheck.

Not for recognition.

Not because you have to.

Because we can.

Because we care.

Because being part of something bigger than ourselves is rewarding.



I enjoy my position as I try to give back to our community and this is one way I can do that. I also like to be kept informed of all the items Tellico Village is facing and by being on the Board, we hear and see them immediately as they come up. My position is not like most of the Board positions, but I try to volunteer and help when I am available.

Kevin Flanagan
Chair-At-Large
2026, 2027

Sometimes the greatest reward for giving back is knowing you made a difference.

"Volunteering on the TVRA Board has given me the opportunity to serve the residents of Tellico Village while also building strong relationships with agency leaders in both Monroe and Loudon counties. Both counties appreciate Tellico Village providing a platform to engage residents during the State of the County meetings, where they can share updates, answer questions, and address community concerns."

Kally Barker – VP Programs 2026

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."

Ben Carson



TVRA CIVIC SIDE

Be Engaged. Be Informed.

OUR MISSION



To enrich the lives of Tellico Village residents by offering informative programs, fostering open communication on key issues, encouraging civic involvement, and creating opportunities for social fellowship that builds a stronger, more united community.



2 MORE OUTINGS LEFT!

by George Luttrell, TVRA Golf Lead 2026

TVRA Golf is (too) rapidly approaching the end of the 2026 season, with 13 of our 15 events now in the books. While membership is down about 10% from last year, our Golf Committee continues to do a great job with prizes and fundraising. Our numbers may be a little lower, but those who are playing are having a great time!

We've mentioned our very successful fundraising events throughout the season, and our last one was the annual Never Forget 9-11 event on September 9. It was a bit of a patriotic double whammy, with Labor Day falling just two days before the outing. In addition to collecting donations, every player received an extra raffle ticket for making a donation and another for wearing patriotic colors—red, white and blue. A check for \$925 was presented to the Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department with many thanks to all of our players for their incredible generosity!

We're also excited about working with Tanasi Waterfront Dining for our events at Tanasi Golf Course. As we've done with Toqua and Kahite, we worked with TV Food & Beverage Director Christine Martinez to offer our golfers a pre-order menu. Several golfers took advantage of the option, with orders ready during the raffle drawing and a wrap-up in the fireplace area.

Then it rained.

Heavy rain hit us about two-thirds of the way through the round. Some players came in without finishing, some managed to play all nine holes, and others simply headed home. That created a bit of chaos with the food orders, but the Tanasi staff decided to prepare all of the pre-orders—even for players who didn't stay. They were fantastic to work with, and we really appreciate their help!

We've also had some fun with the rules this year. Our go-to seems to be the hand toss for all players, but our most recent event featured "Make a Putt, Save a Stroke." In a scramble, once the first player makes a putt, the hole is finished, so the remaining players don't get a chance to put their putting skills into practice.

With this game, however, every putt made after the first one reduced the team's score by one stroke, with a minimum score of one. We get some amazing results!

There are 2 more opportunities to play with us, so **GET STARTED NOW!**

We are a fun, non-competitive league with some run rules and no pressure. It's perfect for both couples and singles, and it's a great way to meet and get to know more of your neighbors here in Tellico Village.

Advocacy in Action

by Linda Garza

Be Engaged

The upcoming State and Federal General Election is the final phase of the 2026 election cycle. TVRA encourages all eligible voters to participate in the election. To help you prepare, we have created a State & Federal General Election webpage with important information about registration, voting, districts, and what to expect on the ballot in your county. Visit the TVRA website to access this nonpartisan voter information before heading to the polls

[Click Here
For More Information](#)

Be Informed

On Monday, September 21, the TVPOA hosted a special Town Hall introducing residents to Hunter and Jim Harrison of CHM, LLC, the developers currently in negotiations with TVPOA to purchase 39 acres of land known as P38 at the north end of the Village. This parcel of land is located off of the Tellico Parkway (Hwy 444), on Poplar Ridge Road.

Hunter provided residents with an overview of the project, including references to a "green" grocer (aka Publix) as the anchor store and five (5) additional retail spaces. Hunter went on to say that CHM intends to invite residents' feedback on what additional businesses they would like to see included in the project. CHM will work with POA Marketing and Communication Director, Beth Kuberka, to create a survey for residents' feedback. Look for additional information on this project in the Tell-E-Gram and Tell-Events. To watch the complete meeting on Tellico Village Network's YouTube channel,

[CLICK HERE](#)

September's TVPOA Town Hall and Board meetings provided residents with valuable information and insight into several important community topics. A few of the highlights included from this month's meeting include:

• Results of Troon's benchmark studies, including:

- Information Technology and solutions currently being evaluated
- Tellico Village restaurant services and their overall performance
- A recommended strategy to eliminate restaurant subsidies



TVRA encourages all residents to Be Informed by attending these meetings whenever possible. For those unable to attend in person, Tellico Village Network provides recordings of these and other community meetings. Visit the Tellico Village Network YouTube channel:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Be Heard

For the first time in many years, the POA will not be holding an election for the two open seats on its 2027 Board of Directors because only two candidates applied for the positions. According to the information provided by the POA, Gary Bush and Gary Zika will be officially recognized as members of the POA Board at the conclusion of the December 18th Board meeting.

In an effort to provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about these candidates, the POA is hosting a **Candidate Forum** at the Yacht Club, 5th floor, on **October 7 at 5:00 p.m.** Residents may submit questions in advance for the candidates to address during the forum, with additional questions taken during the event if time permits.

To submit your question(s) using the Candidate Forum Question

[Submit here](#)

The forum will also be available to watch live on the [Tellico Village Network YouTube Channel](#).

[CLICK HERE](#)





2027 TVRA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE HAS BEGUN!



by Mark Flynn, Membership VP

HELLO OCTOBER! The summer is over, the boat gets winterized, the clubs get put away, and the swimming pool is closed. Now would be a good time to check the outside of the house for caulking issues and close the vents in the crawl space. When that's done, maybe start that new book you've been wanting to read but was too busy with summer activities.

Another thing to do is to sign up or renew your membership with the TVRA! Remember that guy who came to speak to your organization earlier in the year exclaiming the virtues of the TVRA and inviting you to join the group who sponsors the Litter Angels, supports the Fire Department, and promotes all the good works the Library is busy with? It's that same guy who said TVRA would share info about WATeR, encourage you to support T-Bart, New Villagers, and various civic organizations in the Village. And he told you about the 20+ TVRA liaisons to the various Village and county government meetings that report back to the membership so you can keep up with what's happening. And then summer got busy . . .

You meant to sign up, especially after hearing all that the TVRA does plus the more than 240 fun social events they organize, including a knock out annual picnic and an awesome Holiday Gala (that your wife wants to get all dressed up and go to). And you also planned to attend the monthly Socials on the second Tuesday of every month but might have missed a few!

You meant to experience all that the TVRA has to offer, but it was either too hot or too cold, too rainy or too sunny, etc. Then it was getting late in the year, so you thought why not wait until the October Membership Drive? That way, you'd get the rest of 2026 and all of 2027 all for 1 membership fee of just \$15 for the entire household! The annual cost per household is still \$20.00 per year beginning January 1st, but if you **join now through December 31st**, you **get 15 months of membership for \$15.00**. That's just \$1.25 per month for the whole household!

It is now officially October and events are already lining up for 2027. Click the button below and review all the benefits that are available as a TVRA membership household and enjoy the next 15 months without regret! We look forward to welcoming you to yet another year of community fun!

Click Here

Okay, now go out and get the caulking done.



MARK F.
Membership VP
3.5 years

"We all have a nice place to live here. I'd like to keep it that way, I think that volunteering is my way of keeping the social fabric and culture of Tellico Village friendly, fun and affordable. If we don't all pitch in, the things that we enjoy here very likely will go away. My thought is: "If not me, who? If not now, when? "



Should You Go “Au Naturel” in Your Yard?

by Lynda Parker, Aesthetics & Environment Committee



Although many of us think of *au naturel* in terms of clothing—or the lack thereof—the dictionary’s first definition is actually “in a natural state.”

You may have heard about the growing movement to plant native plants. It’s more than a gardening trend; it’s based on real science. A 2019 Audubon Society study documented the loss of **3 billion birds** in North America over the previous 50 years. One of the biggest factors is habitat loss. As trees and natural areas disappear, birds lose the places they need to nest and raise their young—and the plants that support the insects their babies depend on for food.



In fact, **96% of our common songbirds rely on caterpillars to feed their hatchlings**. Caterpillars are a rich source of protein essential for baby bird development, and a single baby bird can eat as many as **720 insects a day**. Chickadee parents may collect **5,000 to 9,000 insects** to raise just one brood.

So, what can we do? Most of us can’t prevent development or habitat loss on a large scale, but we can create small pockets of habitat right in our own yards.

This is where native plants come in. Native plants serve as host plants for the butterflies and moths that produce those all-important caterpillars. While we love our roses, irises, daylilies and other beautiful garden favorites, many are non-native plants. Butterflies may visit their flowers for nectar, but they generally won’t lay their eggs on them. Native plants, however, evolved alongside our local butterflies and moths and provide the food their caterpillars need.

And you don’t have to turn your entire yard into a wilderness! Dedicate a small corner of your yard or even one section of an existing garden bed to native plants. You may be surprised by the increase in butterflies—and the birds that come looking for caterpillars.

There are plenty of resources to help you get started. Consider talking with the folks at **Overhill Native Plant Nursery in Vonore**, or visit **Tennessee Smart Yards**, a University of Tennessee program designed to help homeowners create native habitats:



MORE INFORMATION



It would be a sad day if our common songbirds became uncommon. If each of us added just a little *au naturel* to our yards, we could make a meaningful contribution toward preventing that from happening.

BTW: October and November are excellent months to plant native plants in East Tennessee. Many native plants benefit from overwintering in cooler temperatures.

“In line with our motto, I enjoy being “engaged” in volunteerism and being part of all the aspects that put TVRA in its own category.”

Nancy M.
VP Social 2023
Secretary 2024, 2025, 2026



Community Happenings in October!

Kahite
MAH JONGG
Game Day
Wednesdays 1 - 4 PM
Kahite
Kahite Community Center

October is Membership Month
No tricks, just treats

Sign up online
at tvlibrary.org
or at the library!

When you renew or join today your membership is good thru Dec 2023.

WALK 2 REMEMBER & KICK'N CAR SHOW

October 10, 2026
WALK STARTS AT 9:00 AM
8am-12pm

Our PLACE
MEMORY DAY CENTER
Alzheimer's & Dementia
Lenoir City Park
6706 City Park Dr.

Bring cash to vote for your favorite car in the Car Show!

Contact:
Brandi Johnson (865) 657-7222
Ginny Ranck (865) 271-8101

Scan Me to Walk

PRESENTED BY

CNSCares
Caring for Tennessee Energy Workers

2026 EVENT NAMING SPONSOR

Scan to register car



TV FIRE DEPARTMENT IS FUNDED BY DONATIONS, NOT TAXES!
50% of villagers donate \$156 / year on average

HELP US REACH 100%!

Make a tax-deductible donation TODAY!

Drop a check at the station

or online at TellicoFD.org

Thank you!
Jim Nelson, Chairman, Fundraising Committee, TVVFD

TOQUA
BAR & GRILL

OCTOBER MUSIC NIGHTS
at the Toqua Pavilion

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1	AM STATION BAND 5:00PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 8	COLE SITZLER TRIO 5:00PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 15	JOEY PIERCE 5:00PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 22	SHAUN ABBOTT TRIO 5:00PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 29	SARAH WILLIAMS 5:00PM - 8:00PM

"I love being 'in the know' about happenings in and around Tellico Village and working alongside others who find giving back to the community to be rewarding. Having had an opportunity to create, learn, and participate with the amazing friends I've met along the way has been a true blessing."

Kay Condon
VP Communications - 3 years
Graphic Designer - 4 years

TVRA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Ed Grollemond and Carla Johnson for their volunteer service, leadership, and many contributions to our community. Thank you for your dedication to Tellico Village!

Please support
the following businesses who
donated generously to the
SEPTEMBER door prize drawings

**THE LIONS CLUB
GALLAHER SPA
TVRA**

Thank You

for reading the "Voice in the Village!"
We hope this monthly publication helps
keep you engaged and informed, and we
would appreciate any feedback or
suggestions for improvement you might
have. Please send them to:

communicationsvp@tvresidents.org

**DESPITE CONGRESS'S ATTEMPTS TO PASS THE SUNSHINE
PROTECTION ACT, THE LEGISLATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO
PASS BEFORE THE ANNUAL TIME CHANGE.**

**THE SUNSHINE PROTECTION ACT REMAINS STALLED IN
THE SENATE, AND AMERICANS WILL LIKELY SET THEIR
CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR ON NOVEMBER 1ST.**

**CONTINUE TO MONITOR YOUR NEWS OUTLETS
FOR UPDATES!**

