



# Pamlico Plantation

## I Resolve...

Making resolutions in the new year started some 4000 years ago when, during the festival of Akitu, the Babylonians made promises to their gods to pay debts and return borrowed objects. In the first century before Christ, when Julius Caesar ruled, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deities and made promises of good conduct for the coming year. Christians continued the tradition of promising to do better in the new year. Today most promises are not made to the gods, but to ourselves. Here are some resolutions made in the past by Pamlico Plantation residents that may inspire your choice this year:

- I will start on a diet to lose weight.
  - I will exercise more.
  - I will show more patience.
- I will become a volunteer somewhere.
  - I will get a hearing aid.
  - I will refuse that last drink.
  - I will be kind on social media.
  - I will laugh once each day.
- I will remember to pick up my doggie's doo.
  - I will shun the boob tube.
  - I will read a book a month.
  - I will listen more and talk less.
- I will try to see both sides of every situation.
  - I will make a New Year's resolution.



## Christmas Past

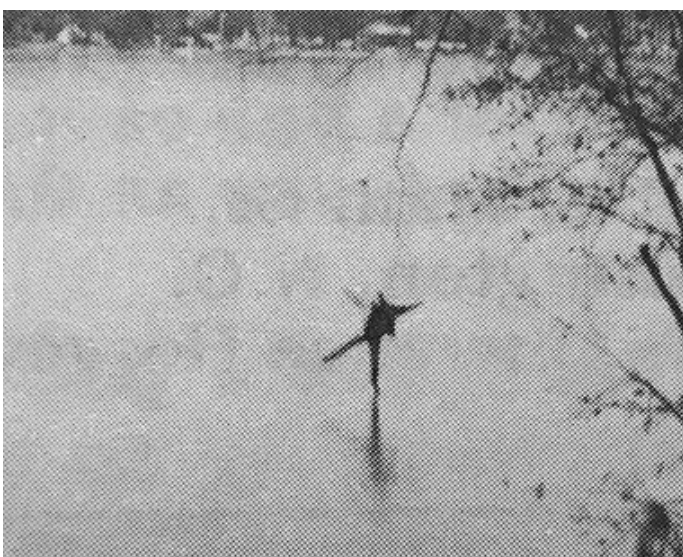
*From the December 1994 newsletter article written by Betty Whitsun, a one-time resident.*

Our first Christmas 1988 was most memorable. We had Christmas dinner on our deck with the temperature at a balmy 70 degrees. Our kids from Massachusetts loved it! Naturally we were looking forward to this type of weather as being the norm for NC. Alas, not so.

Christmas 1989 was a rude awakening to the variances of North Carolina weather. No balmy breezes greeted our children but rather a snowstorm at the Greenville airport. In fact, the plane wouldn't land in Greenville but was diverted to Rocky Mount where taxis were commandeered to bring weary passengers to Greenville – a trip that took over three hours.

Five hours after leaving for the airport, we returned, driving carefully through the growing amounts of snow and dropping temperatures. Relief at being in a nice safe dry warm home soon dissipated as electric power went out throughout the Plantation and remained out for several days.

Our Tideland Electric folks worked through the night on Christmas Eve trying to get the Plantation on line and many were frostbitten.



Mary Beth Whitsun skating on Broad Creek in 1989.

Some townhome folks had power at times and brought hot coffee and soup to the freezing workers until the job was complete.

Since our home is all electric, that meant no heat, no water, no toilets! We put food from the refrigerator out on the deck as it would remain colder out there than in the fridge. We had our old kerosene heater from NY in our “cellar” to keep the pipes from freezing, and a fireplace in the living room going around the clock. It was a cozy family Christmas. We all, including the cat, snuggled in front of the fireplace day and night... Amazingly, not only did all of our little lakes freeze over, but Broad Creek and a good part of the Pamlico River froze as well and remained frozen for about a week.

The rest of our Christmases blend into fond memories with average winter temperatures, neither unusually warm nor cold, but those first two Christmases will always stand out in my mind just from sheer contrasts.

## Facelift

After 40 years the townhome entry sign for Paddle Wheel, Riverboat and Wheel House has a facelift. It needed it badly. Chad Irmiger painstakingly rebuilt the rotted sign, which was no easy task. He reinforced the backing with plywood, used biscuits to draw separating boards together and filled gaps with Bondo, a plastic and resin filler. Kay applied the paint, crisp white for the lettering and Plantation gray (what else?) for the background. We very much appreciate their effort.



## A White Deer

Clara Mayo reacted to the albino deer she spotted while she and her sister were driving out of the Plantation: “I don’t usually like to use the word “awesome” since I feel it’s overused, but this was one of the most awesome experiences I have ever had! I still get chills when I think of him. I stopped in the middle of the road to get his picture, and he stayed there and stared at us for the longest time and then, apparently judging us as no threat, just continued to eat. We finally left knowing that if we continued to sit and marvel we would eventually be in another car’s way.”

Seeing a white deer is a rare experience. Some say there are fewer than 1 in 30,000. If the deer has no pigment in the hair and skin due to lack of melanin, and the eyes are red, then it is a true albino. If the eyes are brown, the deer’s lack of color is the result of a similar rare genetic condition called leucism. Usually such rare specimens of white deer have other genetic defects, resulting in a shortened life span.



The white stag has played a role in the folklore of many cultures. The Celts believed the albino stag would appear if someone was flaunting a taboo. In many cultures the whiteness is a sign of purity and the supernatural. In Arthurian legend the white stag is elusive and represents mankind’s search for a quest or spiritual greatness. The badge of King Richard II of England shows a white stag or hart. The native American Lenape tribe’s legend predicts that the sight of two all-white deer together is the sign that the peoples of the Dawnland will unite to lead the world with wisdom. And in the Chickasaw legend Ghost of the White Deer, the chief’s daughter can only marry her lover if he returns with the hide of a white deer, an impossible task. He never returns but she still never weds because when the moon is very bright, she believes she sees the white deer pierced with her lover’s arrow and remains hopeful he will return.



Sweet! Who takes time to decorate the birdhouses on Harvey Road for Christmas? Laura Jo and Francis Cox.

## Twelve Days 'til Christmas

Twas twelve days 'til Christmas and all 'long  
the road,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a toad.  
The sides were all littered and full of old trash,  
Thrown out of car windows, built up in a flash.

I sat by the clubhouse, alone in my car  
Hoping for help with a wish on a star.  
When outside my window, there arose such  
a clatter,  
I sprang from my seat to see what was the  
matter.

And what to my wondering eyes should  
appear,  
But seven smiling faces, full of good cheer.  
More rapid than eagles, they reached for their  
gear.  
They'd come out to help me, that much was  
clear

With deepest apologies to Clement Clark Moore for my abuse of his famous 1823 poem. I can't say how pleased I am with the "reeeally" great job these volunteers are doing...Dallas Dawson, Danee Halford, Gary Halford, Kirk Harris, Ted Lake, Johanna Suhonan, and Ron Burt. Come join us for the next clean-up of Harvey Road on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 7AM at the Clubhouse. Thank you all very much!

Literally,  
Chad

By bike, car and walking, seeking no fame  
All helpful neighbors, I hailed them by name.  
Now Kirk and Johanna, Danee and Gary,  
Ted, Ron, and Dallas, with all they could carry.

Dash away, dash away by car and bike too,  
To the top of the drive, my helpers they flew.  
Cups, glass and bottles, they attacked in a  
flash.  
Soon they all had their bags full of trash.

I might not be Santa with a nose like a cherry  
But I have my elves, be they ever so merry.  
As I picked up the bags for the trip to the  
dump,  
The roads looked so clean I just wanted to  
jump.  
I yelled to my elves, as I drove out of sight  
"Happy Christmas to you and to all a good  
night!"



Youngsters Evie and Ella Parham and  
Cameron and Sidney Kozuch with their  
grandmother Marian Kozuch and Denise  
Petrakos joined the holiday festivities at the  
Bath Parade.

## Newsletter Committee

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### Contributing Photographer:

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## A Cheery Cheers

Christmas Cheers was a lively party. This year it was enhanced by in-house entertainment. Chris Porter played the French horn. Charles Porter serenaded *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* much to the delight of the audience. Momma Susan Stewart chided her naughty children, Charles, John LaVake and Susan Penders, who “ain’t gettin’ nuttin’ for Christmas.” The organizing ladies of the Community Relations Committee closed the entertainment with a medley of Christmas songs with Carlene Kincaid’s guitar accompaniment. Carlene was also the “mover and shaker” behind the evening’s entertainment.



## Book Club News

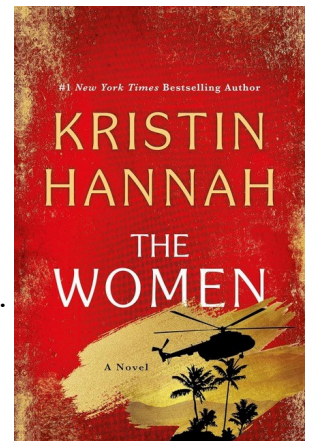
By Judy Whitesell

The Book Club resumes in January with a discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, which was recently voted the 2024 Goodreads Readers’ Favorite Historical Fiction.

From the award page: *An insightful meditation on courage, character, and women gone to war, Kristin Hannah’s novel introduces idealistic Army nurse Frances “Frankie” McGrath as she volunteers in Vietnam, circa 1965. Incredibly, her life gets even more complicated when she returns to a dangerously divided America.*

Join us for the discussion of *The Women* on January 20 at 3 PM in the Clubhouse.

If you’d like to be added to the Book Club e-mailing list for additional reminders, or have any questions, please email Judy Whitesell at [bullcitytaheel@gmail.com](mailto:bullcitytaheel@gmail.com).



# The Italian Gentleman

By Paul Cyr

On the first night aboard the Azamara cruise this fall, the air was filled with excitement as the Burroughs, Hunts, Cranes, Ruth and I set sail across the Adriatic Sea. My fellow travelers and I decided to begin our voyage with a visit to the ship's Living Room Bar.

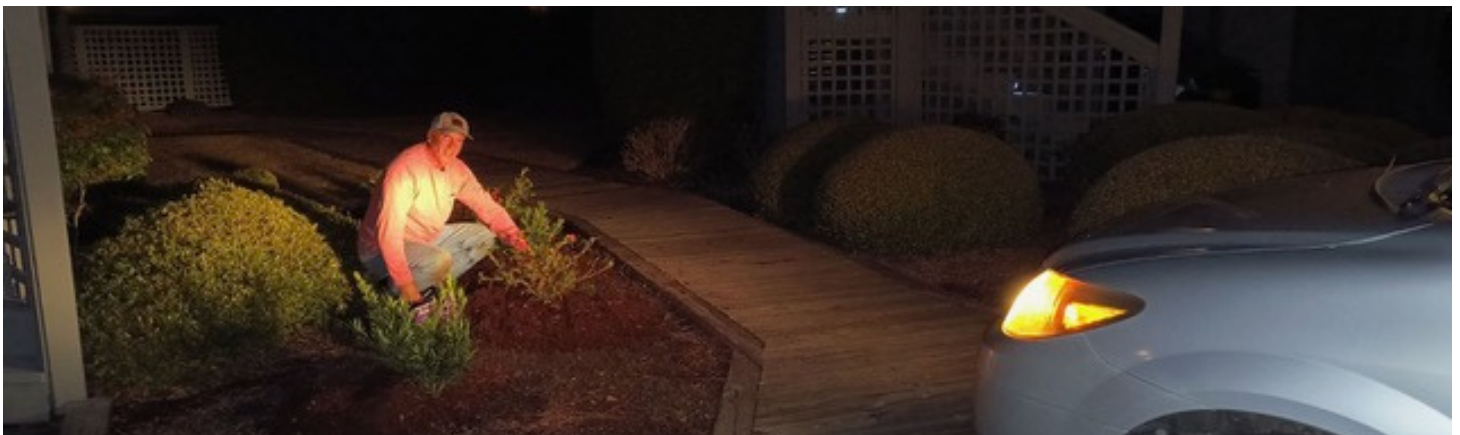
As I approached the bar, I introduced myself to the bartender. "Paul," I said, extending a friendly hand. I researched a drink called The Italian Gentleman and asked if he knew how to make it. He replied, "No." Intrigued and welcoming, the bartender was eager to learn a new drink. With practiced hands, I guided him through the steps: equal parts Campari and Bourbon, a splash of simple syrup, a squeeze of fresh lemon juice, and a dash of bitters. The bartender seemed impressed with the elegant blend of bold flavors and subtle sweetness.

Come the second day, as we gathered in the same room, a habit we kept up through the entire cruise, a man approached us with a warm, amiable demeanor.

Introducing himself as Nayever, the bar manager, he seemed genuinely pleased to see me. "Mr. Paul," he began with a smile, "I've heard about your new creation, The Italian Gentleman". "I've taken the liberty of sharing your recipe with all the bars on the ship," Nayever informed me proudly. "Now wherever you and your friends choose to relax, our bartenders will know your preference by heart."

This delightful gesture just made my day, turning my cruise into a more personal and unique adventure. It wasn't just the adventures ashore or the remarkable service that made my journey special—it was the sense of community and personalized care fostered by Nayever and his team. From that evening on, The Italian Gentleman became a staple of my voyage, a drink that was shared with friends, sparked conversations about what true great service means and embodied Azamara's exceptional hospitality.

Our days at sea were enriched not just by new destinations, but by this seamless connection of personalized service, creating memories that would sail with us long after we returned to shore.



Ron Burt works by car light planting bushes for the townhomes. What dedication!

# Community Relations Committee Events & Updates

## Cheers

Weekly Cheers will resume this month. Come join your neighbors at the Clubhouse each Tuesday at 6 PM for a true social and happy hour. Bring your own beverage and an appetizer to share.

## New Resident Meet and Greet

Plan to come to Meet & Greet the new residents who have either purchased a home or property in the PP during 2024. This will be a potluck event to be held on Saturday, January 25 starting at 6 PM. If you are new to PP, this event is to honor you and to meet you, so we hope you are available to attend. Additional information will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, contact Donna Klayner at [dak34@suddenlink.net](mailto:dak34@suddenlink.net) with questions.

## Looking Forward

The CRC team had their annual planning meeting for 2025. Details will be forthcoming, but here are some of the events to look forward to:

- January: Meet and Greet new neighbors (1/25)
- March: St Patrick's Day Party (3/15)
- April: Yard Sale (4/12)
- May: Taps (5/26)
- September: Meet the POA and TOA Candidates (date TBD)
- October: Annual Meeting Reception (date TBD)
- December: Holiday Party (12/13)

The CRC team thanks you for attending our 2024 events and making them so much fun. We wish you all a prosperous and Happy New Year.

## A hayride with Santa



# Padua

## By Patrick Crane

Carol and I joined the Cyrs, Hunts and Burroughs on a cruise of the Adriatic but came down with awful flu-like symptoms for much of the cruise so I can't add much to the cruise part of the trip. I will share a short piece about what was a highlight for me on this trip to Italy.

Prior to the cruise, Carol and I spent time in Rome, Padua and Venice. My favorite city was Padua, a relatively small town about an hour from Venice. For years I have wanted to visit the Scrovegni Chapel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which features frescos painted by Giotto in 1305, early in his career. These frescos are considered a landmark in art history as the figures are painted in naturalistic poses, with deep emotions portrayed. Three bands of frescos wrap around the interior of the chapel, one featuring the life of Mary, another the life of Moses, and the primary band showing the life

of Jesus. All have been restored to their original vibrant colors. The vaulted ceiling is a brilliant blue dotted with eight-point stars. Visitors are allowed only a fifteen-minute visit so I thoroughly soaked in as much of the art as I could. The picture gives a sense of the beauty of the small chapel.

The town of Padua is also very nice. It is a university town dating back to the 13th century. Galileo was a professor there. There are great places to eat and drink. The Basilica of Saint Anthony attracts many visitors as he is the patron saint of lost causes.

Finally, our lodging in Padua was unbelievable! In the neighborhood of the chapel, the Palazzo Mantua Benavides is a hotel in a restored 17th century palazzo. Rooms are individually decorated in a luxurious fashion. We had the "Pink Room" which was incredibly spacious and beautiful. The room was so appealing I had a hard time getting motivated to leave the room to see the sites!



Thespians Susan Stewart and Karen Britton liven up the stage during an adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.





## Around the Town in January

For a quieter pace after the holiday season, this month you might enjoy classic movies at the Turnage or a Friday art walk in Greenville.

**January 3, 5-8 PM: First Friday Art Walk**, Downtown Greenville, (free Emerald Express Trolley, every 20 minutes), Free

**January 10, 7 PM: African American Music Series**, Emerge Gallery & Art Center, 404 Evans Street, Greenville, Free

**January 11, 7 PM: Tell Me Lies: The Fleetwood Mac Experience**, The State Theatre, 110 5th St, Greenville, \$14.50 - \$25

**January 18, 10 AM-5 PM: Mid-Atlantic Reptile Expo**, Greenville Convention Center, Greenville Blvd, Greenville, \$10 (ages 12 and under free)

**January 18, 2-4 PM: Jukebox Dreams: A 50's Musical Dance Journey**, Turnage Theatre, Washington, \$18 and up

**January 23-26**, (Jan. 23, members only, 12-6 PM; Jan. 24-25, 9 AM-5 PM; Jan. 26 12-3 PM): **Friends of Brown Library Book Sale**, Washington Civic Center, Washington

**January 26, 2 PM: Tuscarora Educational Powwow**, Orringer Auditorium, Craven Community College, New Bern. \$15 (252-638-8558 for tickets & information)

**January 30, 6-8 PM: CinemaPass 2025, His Girl Friday**, Turnage Theatre, \$10 (or purchase a CinemaPass 2025 for \$100 and see 12 monthly movies. Step into the magic of classic cinema and relive Hollywood's golden era with iconic films from the '30s, '40s, and '50s. Beaufort County Arts Council, 252-946-2504)

**January 31, 7 PM: Legally Blonde Jr. The Musical**, join The Beaufort County Arts Council for an exciting youth theatre production performed by talented theatre students from all over Beaufort County, Turnage Theatre, Washington, \$5 students; \$10 adults

If you're looking to donate some time, consider helping with setup on January 21 and/or 22 for the Brown Library Book Sale at the Civic Center. Contact Katie Lake for details.

### Newsletter Submissions Invited!

Please send your articles and/or photos for the **February 2025** Newsletter

no later than **January 15**

Email: [pamplantnews@gmail.com](mailto:pamplantnews@gmail.com)



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