

January 2026



## *News from the Golf Shop*

We hope you and your family enjoyed a great holiday season! Now that 2025 has come to a close, most folks will take time to assess what they did well and maybe not so well in hopes of improving in 2026. It is called New Year's resolution! For many of us it is a lot of the same each year: lose a few lbs., be more attentive to spouse, more vacations, PLAY MORE GOLF! We hope the 2026 golf season will provide you with many opportunities to play more golf. We are excited about all that 2026 has to offer and are prepared to help you meet your New Year's resolutions!

The 2025 Tournament season finished its last event of the year with the Golden Hills Match Play tournament. The final match pitted defending champion Shawn Miller and Tony Banks. Shawn Miller continued his steady play throughout the tournament and bested Tony by a score of 6 & 5 to capture the Match Play Champion title for the second year in a row. Congratulations Shawn, well done!

Golf at Golden Hills in 2025 brought many highlights and some were same old same old. David Gibson won the 2025 Club Championship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Shawn Miller won the Golden Hills Match Play tournament for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Bob Cave was the Super Senior Champion for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Jean Burns won the Ladies Club Championship for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 5 years. New to the winner's circle were Trent Whitfield capturing the Senior Club Championship. Ernie Dotson and Barry Mears won the Member-Member title and Mike Moody and Matt Shealy were new champions of the Member-Guest. Great playing everyone!

Heading in to 2026, your Golden Hills staff will continue to strive to offer the great customer service you are accustomed to. Part of being able to service each of you depends on everyone being attentive to the accuracy of their tee times. Please be sure to notify the Golf Shop in the event you need to cancel a tee time or modify it if you know of players that will not be able to play. If you need to cancel outside of 24 hours it can be done through the online portal, inside 24 hours you will need to call the Golf Shop. Please help us service the membership better by making accurate tee times and notifying the Golf Shop ASAP when there is a change. Remember the member missing out maybe you!

Join us on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> for the Par 3 Challenge. Members and invited guests are welcome to play. In this event every hole will be played as a par 3 ranging from 50-150 yards. Weather permitting, play will begin with a shotgun start beginning at 9am. Prizes will be given for closest to the pin on all 18 holes with low net and gross prizes. The field is limited to the first 72 players that sign up. Call the Golf Shop to sign up and come join in the fun.

The Senior Men's Golf Association had another great year in 2025. Play in January will continue at 10am on Tuesday mornings. As the SMGA continues to grow, it is getting harder to make room for everyone who wishes to play. Please be sure to sign your group up by 2pm on Sundays and notify Ray Chiellini or the Golf Shop if there are any changes to your group before Tuesday, as this will enable us to make room for others who wish to come join in the fun.

Throughout the winter months the Ladies Golf Association will continue to play on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:15am. If you are new to Golden Hills and haven't played with the LGA yet, what are you waiting for? This is a great group of ladies who are very welcoming. If you are beginner or scratch golfer, walk or ride, play 9 or 18, all are welcome to come join in the fun. Simply call the Golf Shop for details on how to get signed up to play with these fun-loving ladies.

Looking forward to February, we will host our annual Super Bowl Super Ball tournament on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar and come out and join in the fun. The format for the Super Bowl Super Ball will be Play it Forward. The format is individual stroke play using 100% of handicap and is open to all members of Golden Hills with established USGA handicaps. Ages 54 and younger will play the green tees. 55-69 will play the black tees. Ages 70+ and ladies will play the forward tees. This is a fun way to test your skills by playing a shorter course than normal. You can make your normal tee time with the only qualifier being that 2 members of your group must play in the event.

During the winter months, be sure to check your email or call the Golf Shop before heading to the course for your scheduled tee time. Unfortunately, those pesky frost delays are unavoidable and very hard to predict. Also be sure to check with the Golf Shop staff before using any of the facilities, including the driving range and putting green to make sure they are ready for play. Please be aware and know that the Golden Hills staff is committed to doing our best to keep things running as smooth as possible with as little delay as possible. With frost or excessive moisture, driving a golf cart or even walking on the grass can cause damage to the leaf blades and roots. Please check with the Golf Shop staff for the rules of the day.

We would like to thank each of you for a great 2025 and we're looking forward to an awesome 2026.

Your Golf Shop Staff, *Steve Larick, Justin Fowler, Doyle Price*

## Local Knowledge:

- **Par 3 Challenge:** Join us on January 17 for the Par 3 Challenge, where each hole will be set up as a Par 3. It's the perfect winter tournament & a fun time for all skill levels. Contact the Golf Shop to register.
- **Hole In One:** We added 3 more names to the Hole In One Archive last month. Congrats to Randy Senn for his ace on 12/12, hole #3; Rick Kester found the bottom of the cup on hole #3 on 12/20 & on 12/26 John Stehmeyer dropped it in on # 3 as well.
- **Murphy's Custom Golf:** Broken shaft? Could your clubs use a loft & lie adjustment? Count on Ryan to get you back on the tee & hunting birdies. Call (803) 360-4909
- **Advantage Tennis at Golden Hills** is led by Coach Whit Moorman. Lessons are offered for all ages & ability levels. Call (912) 381-1584 for more info.

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## Ladies Golf Association

WOW! We wrapped up 2025 in grand fashion and look forward to all that 2026 has in store! We hope you will resolve to play more or pick up the game this year. Throughout the winter months the club hosts Ladies Play Days each Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:15am. If you are new to Golden Hills and haven't played with the LGA yet, what are you waiting for?? If you are a beginner or scratch golfer, walk or ride, play 9 or 18, all are welcome to come join in on our fun. Simply call the Golf Shop for details on how to get signed up to play with these fun-loving ladies.

Several of our Golden Hills LGA ladies played in the WSCGA One Day Event at Caledonia Golf and Fish Club on Pawleys Island last month. Congratulations to Sue Styles, Kathy Shillaber, Jean Burns & Trish Proctor who took 1st Place Gross in the 3rd Flight with a 2-day score of 175! Way to go ladies!

What a great day we had last month at the LGA Christmas party. A huge thank you to Regena! The food was fabulous, the Decor was festive, the golf was fun and the gift exchange was chaotic as always. In addition to the fun and festivities, several awards were presented. Carole Stone won the Queen's Cup, Jean Burns won both the Ringer Board and Birdie Tree contests, Beth Koin was recognized for her hole in one made on #13 in February. And a very special congratulations to Annemarie Keene, who was honored with our first ever Carolyn Brooks Spirit of Golf award, presented to her by Dian Berry and Carolyn's daughter, Lisa Asmer. This is such a well-deserved award for Annemarie's dedication and commitment to promoting golf here at GH and throughout her "reach" in the community and beyond. We love you Annemarie! Thanks to all who helped with organizing, cooking and cleaning as well. What a great way to end 2025!!

If you would like more information on ladies golf at Golden Hills, contact Trish Proctor at: proctrish@gmail.com

### 2026 USGA Handicap:

Members with a USGA handicap at Golden Hills will be charged for 2026 this month. If you would like to cancel, establish or transfer your handicap please notify the Golf Shop by January 11th. *Thank you!*

## Senior Men's Golf Association

If you are new to the club or just looking for more playing opportunities, consider joining our SMGA. Any male member of Golden Hills, age 55 or older, can join us each Tuesday at 10:00 am for a little friendly competition. To be included on the roster, call the Golf Shop by 2:00pm on the proceeding Sunday at (803) 957-3355.

For all our SMGA members, make plans to join us for our Christmas party, at the clubhouse, on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The results from last month were as follows:

**Dec 9:** Flight A: 1 - Larry Haussman 73; 2 - Nyle Burks 75 ; 3 - Randy Laney 76; 4 - Lynn Griffin 77; Flight B: 1 - Tom DiMashe 67; 2 - Steve Lyman 72; 3 - Doug Harper 74; 4 - James Cavanaugh 75; 5 - Mark Wiggins, Howard Werner, and Bill Buonomo 77

**Dec 16:** Flight A: 1 - Keith Morgan -1; 2 - Nyle Burks -2; 3 (tie) Dave Cionek, Kirk Wiley, and Gary Maynard -5; Flight B: 1 - Al Beard +6; 2 - Tom DiMashe +1; 3 (tie) Steve Lyman & Doug Harper 0; 5 - Rich Turgeon -2

**Dec. 23:** Blind Draw: 1 - Kirk Wiley & Steve Lyman 141; 2 - James Cavanaugh & Lynn Griffin 145; 3 - Tommy Mann/Butch Hale and Rick Hubbard/Randy Miller 147; 5 - Frank Jansen & Bob Waterfield 149; 6 - Barry Mears/Frank Beard, Dale Mamele/Dave Cionek & Rick Green/Bill Buonomo 150

If you would like to receive emails from the SMGA about events and results, send your address to Ray Chiellini. He can be reached by calling (803) 518-4215 or email: dober2plus1@gmail.com

This year we decided to start an annual award in honor of a cherished old friend and former member of Golden Hills, Carolyn Brooks. Carolyn was a staunch member of the club and our Ladies Golf Association. She supported both through the years; even when her health would no longer allow her to play the game she loved. She was a successful businesswoman, community volunteer and cheerleader for ladies golf at Golden Hills. She did it ALL and always with a smile on her face!

## *Carolyn Brooks*

### *Spirit of Golf Award*

The Spirit of Golf Award recognizes individuals who embody exceptional sportsmanship, dedication, and a positive impact on the game of golf. It highlights individuals who inspire others, contribute to the game's growth, or demonstrate remarkable character both on and off the course.

Here's a breakdown of what the Spirit of Golf Award signifies and some examples:

General Meaning:

#### **Sportsmanship:**

The award emphasizes fair play, respect for rules and opponents, and ethical conduct.

#### **Dedication:**

It recognizes a deep commitment to the game, whether through playing, coaching, volunteering, or promoting golf.

#### **Positive Influence:**

Winners inspire others, especially juniors, to enjoy and appreciate golf.

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Spirit of Golf Award was presented to **Annemarie Keene** at the LGA Christmas Party. Annemarie, like Carolyn, has been a champion of the LGA and ladies golf at Golden Hills. She has led the group as President and has worn many hats when it comes to supporting the game. She is an active member of her church, leads anger management courses for juvenile offenders, is involved in Matthew 25 Ministries and actively volunteers in our local community. In many respects, Annemarie stepped in to fill some pretty big shoes that Carolyn left behind.

*Annemarie ~ Thank you for your exceptional leadership, sportsmanship, dedication & positive impact on the game of golf!*



*Pictured: Carolyn's daughter Lisa Asmer, Annemarie Keene, Dian Berry*