



The Scottish Society of Louisville

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SSL volunteers at World Fest 2023; Jack Bowling, Pat Schweitzer, Lorna Bolton, and Cheri Eskridge

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Cover photo
courtesy of
Angie
Bowling

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THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE

Established in 1993 as a nonprofit organization to enrich the cultural lives of members in the Kentuckiana area.

The Society offers exposure to Scottish heritage and preserves, enhances and fosters pride in our Scottish ancestry.

The Society sponsors local and regional activities and is a nonsectarian organization with no religious or political affiliation.

Welcome New Members

The members of the SSL look forward to meeting like-minded people, interested in extending their knowledge about all things Celtic. We encourage those with questions about their own heritage, as well as anyone interested in participating in our member meetings and our many interesting events. Do not be shy about suggesting programs, speakers, or events you are interested in learning more about. Member participation is always encouraged.

Welcome to our new members. Coming into a new group can be a little scary, but know that if you have any questions, just ask. The people in the SSL are some of the friendliest you would ever want to meet. Here is a little bit of information to get you started:

- Read the newsletter and the website. All upcoming events will be listed both places. If you want more information, you can contact any of the board members.
- All meetings will have a program, some time to socialize, and a business meeting.
- January/February brings our Burns' Night Gala. You won't want to miss this! There will be food, drink, raffles, entertainment, and an all-around good time!
- May starts our "Event" season. The Society sets up a booth at many local and state Scottish and Celtic events, and even a couple of out-of-state events. Don't be afraid, jump on in and help us in our booth. It's not hard, and everyone will help. It is a great way to get to know some of the members and recruit new members.
- October is a really fun meeting. We have a dinner and an auction with Halloween-themed decorations. Members will be informed of what type of dish to bring according to their last name. The auction is so much fun. Everyone is asked to bring at least one item to donate. Now, you will find that a lot of the items are things you would love to have, but some are "White Elephants" that circulate among the members. Proceeds benefit the Heritage Fund, which helps promote Celtic related studies by individuals.
- November is our holiday meeting, with treats and Christmasy activities.
- In December, we do not have a membership meeting.

We hope that you will attend as many meetings as possible. We are so happy to have you as a part of the group!

More Information for New Members

Find Us On The Internet

Webpage: <http://scotsoflou.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ScotsofLou>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/The Scottish Society of Louisville](http://www.facebook.com/TheScottishSocietyofLouisville)

On our Facebook page, you are welcome to add pictures from Society events, to post/share some Scottish history or information, or just say "Hi".

Life Membership

Our Society offers a Life Membership Program. You can attain this status by paying a one-time membership fee of 10 times the current dues rate. At this time, a single life membership is \$240, and a family life membership is \$360.

Please see the Membership Commissioner or for more details email at scotsoflou@gmail.com. All new life members are acknowledged at the Burns' Night Gala.

Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund Committee is accepting applications for the dispersal of scholarship funds. The Fund helps support the efforts of SSL members to pursue studies of the many different aspects of Celtic culture, which may include music (piping, drumming, fiddling, etc.), art (dancing, weaving, etc.) language (Gaelic) and athletics (Highland Games). This fund can also support a person's interest in an educational program or project that furthers the understanding of Scottish culture and history.

Scottish Society members in good standing can apply for funds or can sponsor non-members for scholarships.

The application form and guidelines can be picked up at the monthly SSL meetings from the Heritage Fund Committee Chairperson, Gary Schweitzer, or by email at scotsoflou@gmail.com.

The deadlines for receipt of applications are March 31st and September 30th.

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

President's Message



President's Remarks:

President Holland reminds us that we need volunteers for Burns' Night, and we are looking for a new venue for Burns' Night as well. If you have any ideas, please let any Board member know, or bring it up at a membership meeting.

Planning for Burns' Night needs to start now, so any ideas need to be brought to our attention as soon as possible.

Don't forget our upcoming Member's Dinner and Auction Fundraiser! We also collect peanut butter for donations to a local food bank, so remember to bring a few jars in October. Vice President Schweitzer will provide more information about this event.

There are still two Board positions open at this time; Membership and Hospitality. President Holland thanks Erika Rivertree for taking over Social Media.

Hope to welcome you to our next general meeting September 26, 2023.

Slainte,

Dianne Holland



August 22, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes

President Dianne Holland called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Of the 24 present, there were two guests, whom President Holland welcomed to our meeting, Lisa Marsh and Andrea Elgin. Andrea is a new member.

President Holland brought in an example of an item for the auction; this was a cute stuffed cow (highland cow) in a basket surrounded by tissue paper and plaid ribbons.

Treasurer Eskridge sent in our annual State report.

Secretary and Newsletter Editor Linda Wilson encouraged members to send her pictures and articles for the newsletter, and thanked those who have already done so.

Regional Celtic Commissioner Jack Bowling asked members to sign up to help at the upcoming events in September and October.

He also reminded us that any member not on the Board who works for at least two hours at events gets their name put in for a free Burns' ticket. This happens for each event for which a member volunteers. If a member wants to be a flag-bearer in a parade and wants to carry a specific clan flag, get in touch with him.

The Southern Indiana Renaissance Faire will be held in Charlestown, IN on October 14th-15th. Setup will be on the 13th, but should only take a couple of hours.

Vice President Gary Schweitzer talked about the auction, which is 63 days from this meeting night. He reminded us to bring only clean items in good shape. Also, anything not sold we will have to take back home with us.

If possible, we need to invite businesses to donate items or gift cards for our auction.

*Please bring in peanut butter (16 oz. jars are best) for our annual donation to the Highland Community Ministries food bank. **We had over 150 jars last year, it would be great to beat that total!***



August 22, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes

Member At Large Pat Schweitzer told us that the paper products for snacks are in two small plastic tubs, and Mr. Bowling said we have 3 1/2 cases of cups. Members will need to bring snacks. Mr. Bowling said he can bring the sodas and water, as there are quite a few.

Electronic Services Commissioner Damien Burns was absent, and there was no report. Marla Jo Cameron asked Board members to let him know that the website calendar needs to be updated.

Judy Stubbs talked about future kirnings. There is one on October 29th at Okolona Presbyterian Church with a potluck lunch. St. Paul's in New Albany, IN has one on Nov. 19th, and they provide a lovely reception for us. The Brotherhood of St. Andrews has a kirking on Nov. 30th with a reception in their hall at St. Francis of the Fields. She will provide more details as the dates become closer.

Programs and Education Commissioner Shannon Fauver told us she has been collaborating with our former P & E Commissioner, Robbin Goodin, and has some good ideas. She asked members to let her know if there is any topic or idea for programs that we would like added to the list for next year.

After our snack break and socializing Ms. Fauver introduced our presenter. Our August program was provided by Mindy McIntosh-Shetter, a member of the SSL, an agricultural and video blogger, and an historical botanist.

Historical botany combines ethnobotany and gardening with a story. Using her educational background, Mindy reaches history lovers, gardeners, and the famous "Outlander" fans.

She has written three books, including The Unofficial Outlander Book of Herbs, The Unofficial Guide to Outlandishly Outlander Landscape Designs, and The Unofficial Outlander Book of Herbs II.

Mindy attended an Outlander Conference at the University of Glasgow, Scotland with help from a scholarship from our Heritage Fund.



Dianne Gabaldon, the author of the Outlander series, was the opening speaker. When Claire went through the stone the first time, she was a nurse in WWII, and at that time treating illness and injuries with herbal remedies was against the law for medical professionals.

When she went back the second time (she was pregnant, and the Battle of Culloden was taking place), herbal remedies were still against the law in North America, but with exceptions. Willow and yellow root were being farmed for use as herbal remedies. Willow needs a lot of moisture, and grows well in swampy areas. Willow bark can be used to make a pain reliever similar to Aspirin. Yellow root grows well in poor soil, and is drought resistant. It can be used to treat fungal infections.

Agricultural extension offices were set up at this time to help teach people how to grow their own fruits and vegetables, and safely preserve the harvest.

The third time she went through the stone, Claire took penicillin, surgical instruments, syringes, and new

August 22, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes, cont.

surgical techniques, as she had become a surgeon in modern-day America.

Ms. Gabaldon mentioned other uses for herbs, such as golden seal for birth control, Jesuit bark and dogwood bark for malarial fever (they contain quinine), and yellow root for a bright yellow dye. Queen Anne's Lace is both edible and medicinal. All parts of the plant can be eaten, though foragers must be careful not to mix it up with poison hemlock.

She also talked about a new program being set up at the University of Glasgow on the Outlander books. The conference was set up to see what kind of research papers would likely be presented, and of what quality.

We enjoyed Mindy's presentation, and hope she can do another in the future.

SSL Programs 2023

**SSL SEPTEMBER 26th PROGRAM
CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST
4614 BROWNSBORO RD.**

**WHO ARE THE CELTIC NATIONS?
WHERE AND WHY?**



PRESENTED BY PAT MURRAY SCHWEITZER

Updated programs

October 24– Dinner/Auction - Strathmoor Presbyterian Church,
2201 Hawthorne Ave., Louisville, KY 40205



November 28 – holiday meeting, with treats and Christmasy activities

December – NO general meeting – *Happy Holidays to all!*



SCOTTISH SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION



PROCEEDS BENEFIT STUDIES IN
BAGPIPING, DRUMMING, ART, DANCING, LANGUAGE AND
HIGHLAND GAME ATHLETICS

OCTOBER 24TH, 2023
STRATHMOOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2201 HAWTHORNE AVENUE

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 DINNER 6:30

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A DISH ACCORDING TO YOUR LAST NAME

A-G DESSERT

H-M VEGGIE/CASSEROLE

N-Z SALAD

AUCTION IDEAS FOR YOU TO BRING :

Gift Baskets, e.g. Tea Lovers, Fruit, Wine and cheese, Chocolate, Christmas or Halloween Items, Anything Scottish or Celtic, Liquor, Gift Certificates

Something that you would like to take home or give as a gift.

Board Member Volunteers

We have been very fortunate in having Erika Rivertree step up to take over the Communications Commissioner Board position. We still need a volunteer for **Hospitality**. who has been a member for a year is eligible for a Board position. Members need to bring snacks for refreshments at membership meetings, or donate a dollar or two to the snack fund. The Hospitality Commissioner sets out the snacks, paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups, and drinks. They also bring a small cooler of ice and a scoop for drinks. Any needed funds come from the donations provided by members who do not bring snacks.

We also need someone to step up for the **Membership** Commissioner's job. Since this is often the first person new members get to talk to about the Scottish Society, it is important that we fill this position. Anyone who is interested in taking on this Board position please contact any Board member.

Contact information below.

Dianne Holland 502-897-0379 diannerholland@gmail.com	President	Jack Bowling 502-447-0046 jackandangb13@gmail.com	Regional Celtic Commissioner
Gary Schweitzer 502-423-0699 robertgary40@gmail.com	Vice President	Damien Burns 502-931-6837 mechjagger@gmail.com	Electronic Services Commissioner
Cheri Eskridge 502-693-2235 cherieskridge@yahoo.com	Treasurer	Pat Schweitzer 502-298-8945 mmflurie@gmail.com	Member At Large
Linda Wilson 812-948-9324 tomatoladyone@yahoo.com	Secretary, Newsletter Editor	Shannon Fauver 502-468-6006 srfauver@gmail.com	Programs & Education Commissioner
Erika Rivertree 502-403-6494 triskelehearth@gmail.com	Communications Commissioner	?	Membership and Hospitality Commissioners

Grandfather Mt. Highland Games, by Robbin Goodin

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 2023

Submitted By Robbin Goodin

Steve and I were delighted to return to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games this past July. Our second foray. We again stayed in Newland, NC in a beautiful community nestled in the hills and attached to a large lake. Beautiful for walking and early morning tea. And quiet in the evening as it is mostly a residential community.

Only a short 10 minute drive to the town of Linville at the base of the mountain. We help with the Clan Hay tent and our NC convener sets up quite the spread every year.

We have enjoyed the Calling of the Clans, visiting the other clans and seeing their set up, listening to the music in the various “groves” in the woods, shopping, watching the Outlander parade, hiking on the Appalachian Trail, driving on the Blueridge Parkway and hanging out in the social tent. At the GMHG the clans are able to reserve two tents. The social tent right at the athletic field and the Clan information tent just across the gravel path. We had well over 100 people pass through our tents, and signed up many new members. Clan Hay folks come from all over the eastern US to join in the fun.

This year on Wednesday night about 12 of us went to see the Highland Echoes show in Boone, NC. Similar to Riverdance but for the Scottish Highland dancers and storytellers. It was quite good and the Clan Hay was one of the sponsors.

The athletic competitions were fabulous and right in front of us!! Dancing across the field, piping in the woods behind us, on the field, at the tent and literally ALL OVER the place. Never heard so much piping!

The clan parade hosted and boasted around 100 clans and was truly a marvel. We had about 25 people from our clan participate this year.

Do try to make the trek to these games as they are held on the mountain and in such beauty!! It is one for the bucket list for sure!!!

We hope you enjoy the pictures, history and tidbits attached.

Peace,

Robbin Goodin

History of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

In 1956, Agnes MacRae Morton of Linville, North Carolina, and Donald F. MacDonald of [Charlotte, North Carolina](#), co-founded the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Donald MacDonald's vision for the games was based on the Royal [Braemar Gathering](#), which he'd attended a few years before in Scotland in 1954. The Braemar Games had been held there for several hundred years and the Grandfather Mountain Games were often later called "America's Braemar". It was special in many ways, by boasting an oval track in which traditional foot races could be held, along with the heavy events in the inner field. The site became a favorite among games attendees very fast for its striking resemblance to the [Highlands of Scotland](#).

The MacRae family owned the land where the games were held at the foot of Grandfather Mountain in Linville, North Carolina. The MacRae family actually founded the town of Linville in 1892 and had always wanted to have a Highland gathering there, even if just a small event. In 1955, Morton contacted Donald MacDonald, who at the time was working for *The Charlotte News* and had also founded the Clan Donald Society not long before that as well as helping establish a [Robert Burns](#) Society of Charlotte. Knowing his dedication to Scottish culture, Morton set out to convince him to help her start Highland games in North Carolina. MacDonald agreed and the first games were held on August 19, 1956, on the anniversary of the landing of [Bonnie Prince Charlie](#) in Scotland and the beginning of the [Jacobite rising of 1745](#).

The two set out to model the games after what MacDonald remembered from the Braemar games and using the program he had brought back with him. The very first games were only one day in length with two bands and a small group of competitions. The games were small at first with only 1500 attendees, but became popular quickly and Highland games began spreading throughout the country modeled after the Grandfather Mountain Games. *"Grandfather Mountain Games website"*



Grandfather Mountain Front Gate

Photos courtesy of Robbin and Steve Goodin

Grandfather Mountain Parade Photos



Grandfather Mountain Clan Tents and Vendors



Photos courtesy of Robbin and Steve Goodin

What Goes on at Highland Games?

From other web sites:

Highland games in North Carolina

The Scottish people have a long and rich history in the state of North Carolina. After the [Battle of Culloden](#) in 1746, [Highland Clearances](#) left many Scottish clans with no home. During the time after the clearances, North Carolina became one of the most popular destinations. The local government in North Carolina urged Highland Scots to come to North Carolina by offering them land and tax exemptions. At first, many groups kept to the eastern shores of North Carolina, but as populations in the states rose, many went west in search of farm land and more space. During the revolutionary war, Scottish immigrants fought on both sides. The most famous Scottish resident of North Carolina was [Flora Macdonald](#), who immigrated to the then-colony after the battle of Culloden and lived in [Harnett County](#) from 1774 to 1778. After the war, many Scottish Loyalists left the states to go back to Scotland and others went on to Nova Scotia, Canada. However, a large group of Scots remained in North Carolina.

The Scots kept their Highland culture alive in the United States, speaking [Scottish Gaelic](#) among their families and in church. The Scots were unable to legally practice their cultural heritage in Scotland after Culloden, as the [Act of Proscription 1746](#) banned the Highlanders from possessing arms or wearing [Highland dress](#). In response, the Scots in America sought to keep their traditions alive. Highland gatherings were a part of the lives of every Scot in North Carolina. At the very beginning they were used as a time to trade with others, baptize their children, get married and pass along information. The language and culture remained an active part of their lives in the US until after the [American Civil War](#), when much of the culture became assimilated into the developing American culture. However, the loss of the Scottish culture in North Carolina did not go unnoticed. In 1956, the Highland games returned to North Carolina as a modern event.

Parts and pieces of the games:

The torchlight ceremony- Also called "calling of the clans", the torchlight ceremony is a ceremony that long ago was used to call the clans to battle. In this ceremony, each clan brings its torch to announce itself as being present at the games and adds its own torch to the larger bonfire in the center of the field. The ceremony typically begins after sundown and is accompanied by music and [piping](#).

The parade of tartans- The final day of the games begins with a worship ceremony that includes the "kirkin' of the tartans" ceremony and then the parade of [tartans](#) begins. The parade of [tartans](#) includes every clan attending the games. Each clan gathers some of its most important members and they parade around the track along with several piping bands. The games typically attract more than 120 different clans each year.

Competitions:

Piping and drumming- A wide variety of piping and drumming competitions takes place on the East Meadow. Piping competitions are held in multiple sections. Divisions include Open (Professional) and Amateur I-IV. Drumming events include: march, Strathspey and reel, tenor, bass, drum pad, etc. Like piping, drumming competitions are held in multiple sections. Division again include Open (Professional) and Amateur I-IV. There are also specific divisions for tenor drum. [11](#)

What Goes on at Highland Games?

Dancing- The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has been designated by the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing as the official site of the Atlantic International championship. Each dancer must dance four separate dances laid down by the Board of [Highland Dancing](#) and each is judged accordingly. People come from all over the world to compete and also to watch the best dancers in the nation compete. The United States Inter-regional Championship has been held at the games twice in the past, thanks to retired dance director Anne Andrews. Pat Johnston is the director of dance now, and has recently restarted a dance camp in the mountains (a week before the games) by the dreams of Sally Southerland. There is also the chance for everyone to try out their highland dancing skills at the many evening events that feature piping and Highland reels.

Games- Besides the traditional track sports, there are several heavy sports competitions that take place throughout the games. One of the best parts about the games is that people of all ages and skill can participate in the games. There is a day for professional competitors and one for amateurs and over 40 competitors as well. In addition, the children at the festival can also have the chance to practice their own skills at traditional Highland games. Competitions include the [hammer throw](#), weight toss, [caber toss](#), [sheaf toss](#), Highland wrestling, [kilted](#) mile run, and the [clan tug of war](#). In addition to the competitive games, one of the crowd favorites is the exhibitions of [sheep herding](#) with [border collies](#) on the playing field.

Music- There are numerous music events at the games. The annual [ceilidh](#) and tartan ball features traditional music and dance. There is also a bagpipe concert that features some of the best pipers from around the country. The festival also offers two concerts, a Celtic jam and a [Celtic rock](#) concert on the second and third nights of the games. Each day there are three "Celtic [groves](#)" that feature music of different types. Each grove has its own flavor, from the more traditional to the more modern rock groups. The Gaelic [Mod](#) is another traditional form of [Gaelic](#) speaking that takes place at the games. During the mod, competitors sing traditional Gaelic songs. It is held to encourage the use of the Scottish Gaelic language throughout the world. There is an extensive summer school for bagpiping and drumming during the weeks leading up to and after the games at the historic Conference Center in [Valle Crucis, North Carolina](#).



SSL Member Contributions: KY State Fair Winner



Our own **Janice Beatty** took this adorable Scottish doll to the Kentucky State Fair and won a blue ribbon and Best of Show. She made the entire outfit herself, and this little fellow is sure a cutie!

Congratulations, Janice!

SSL Member Contributions: New York Stock Exchange



The New York Stock Exchange



Shannon Fauver visited the New York Stock Exchange with a friend who works there, and got to be there when the opening bell was rung. It was a great experience, and she says you can only go inside if your stock is being made public, or your best friend works there.

2023 Columbus, IN Highland Games



Gary and Pat Schweitzer manning the SSL table at the Columbus Highland Games.



Pipers and drummers at the Columbus Highland Games, photos courtesy of Cheri Eskridge.

2023 Eminence, KY Scottish Highland Games



Jack and Angie Bowling at the SSL table, Robbin Goodin photobombing in the background.



Mindy McIntosh and Jack Bowling present the SSL Athlete of the Day Award to Legacy Athlete Heather MacDowel. Heather also broke the world record for the light hammer throw by three feet!

2023 Eminence, KY Scottish Highland Games



Volunteers at the SSL table;
Judy Stubbs and Shannon
Fauver.



Volunteers Pat Schweitzer, Cheri Eskridge, and Gary Schweitzer
helping a visitor find out about their Scottish heritage.



The caber toss

Other Local Events of Interest

Gaelic Storm – November 11th @ 8pm ▪ Location: Louisville’s Mercury Ballroom

Do you love the blockbuster film TITANIC – GAELIC STORM is the band that played at the third class party – “so- do you want to go to a real party”????

*Keltricity ▪ October 6th @ 6pm – The Raven – Louisville, KY

▪ November 10th @ 6pm – The Raven – Louisville, KY

▪ January 28th @ 2pm – English Country Dance St. Andrews Episcopal Church – Louisville, KY

▪ March 2nd @ 2pm – Lexington Scottish Country Dance at Midway Presbyterian – Midway, KY

▪ March 3 rd @ 3pm – Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival – Salem, IN

For the latest information on performances, please visit:

www.keltricity.com [Guilderoy Byrne](http://www.guilderoybyrne.com)



▪ September 23rd @ 2pm – Holt House Community Day 2023 @ Joseph Holt House Historic Home – Stephensport, KY

o Guilderoy Byrne performs period & contemporary songs and tunes for this annual fundraiser in honor of the Joseph Holt House Historic Home. Come out and meet Abraham Lincoln and watch an old-fashioned 19th century baseball game! Special guests include the Berea Festival Dancers. Free complimentary Guilderoy Byrne CD giveaway for everyone in attendance!! www.jholt-houseky.org

▪ September 23rd @ 7pm – Wine Over Water Concert (WOW) @ The Blue Heron Winery

o Guilderoy Byrne is back to play our traditional WOW show at this great venue and beautiful outdoor setting. Grab dinner and a glass of wine from the vineyards! Our hosts, Gary & Lynn Dauby will make it a night to remember. Free complimentary Guilderoy Byrne CD giveaway for everyone in attendance!! Additional details at: www.blueheronvines.com

For the latest information on performances, please visit: <http://guilderoybyrne.net/>

If you are wondering why most of these do not show up on the calendars, it is because only events at which the SSL has a manned booth or table are included on the calendars.

September 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2 World Fest SSL On the Belvedere
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Columbus, IN Scottish Games
10 Columbus, IN Scottish Games	11	12 SSL Board Meeting 	13	14	15	16 Eminence, KY Scottish Games
17 Eminence, KY Scottish Games	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 SSL Member Meeting 	27	28	29	30

September Birthdays: Lorna Bolton 1st, Bruce Wilson 2nd, Judy Stubbs 5th,
Jarrete Kinder 10th, Stephanie Kinder 10th, Donald Yovich 10th, Stephen Kirzinger 13th,
Linda Frederick 19th, Carolyn Cook 23rd



October 2023



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 SSL Board Meeting 	11	12	13 Set up for the Renaissance Faire	14 Charlestown, IN Renaissance Faire
15 Charlestown, IN Renaissance Faire	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 SSL Dinner & Auction 	25	26	27	28
29	30	31  Happy Halloween				

October Birthdays: Jason Goodin 4th, Abby McLeod 4th, Dan Bailie 6th, Gary Schweitzer 11th, Edyth Wheeler 11th, Peter Matallana 18th, Linda Wilson 18th, Debbie Walker 19th, Cheri Eskridge 20th

