



# HOA newsletter *February 2026*

## HOA Executive Committee

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# In the Neighborhood

What's been going on in Hazelwood



Hazelwood residents enjoyed several neighborhood events this past year. The annual picnic in April was as delightful as always with games for young and old, plenty of opportunities for socializing, and an impressive spread provided by neighbors. The weather was perfect, and the setting in the yard of Cyndi and Tom Buckhoff was ideal.



Residents also enjoyed our traditional annual Christmas caroling in the neighborhood on December 14. Participants serenaded their neighbors on a hayride through the neighborhood. Participants enjoyed a sing-along at the home of Michael Braz; the fun culminated with a visit to the festively decorated home of Bo and Mandy Broadwell. Hot chocolate, wassail, and sweet treats were plentifully supplied to the singers (with a bonus visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus).



*Photos courtesy of Mandy Broadwell*



## In Memoriam

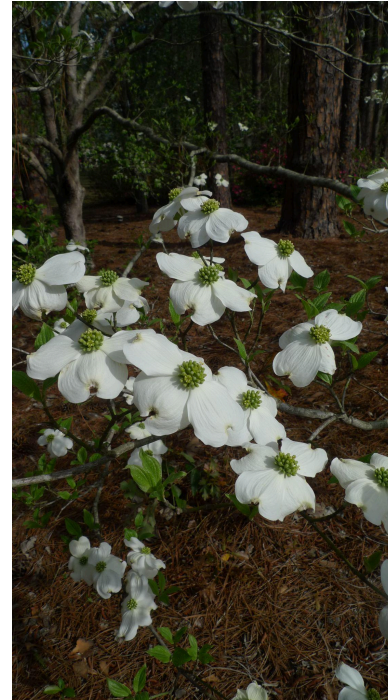
It is with sadness that we remember long-time friends and residents of Hazelwood who have passed away during this past year: **Miriam Hagan**, **Scotia Buckhoff**, and **Fred Sanders**. These neighbors will be greatly missed.

## New residents

We are glad to welcome the following new neighbors to Hazelwood:

- Elizabeth and Derek Williamson, 107 Hazelwood Drive
- Jake and Madison Maples, 105 Elliswood Drive
- Lori DeLoach, 110 Elliswood Drive

We know you'll extend a friendly greeting to these new neighbors when you see them. And we encourage them to participate in neighborhood events, so we can all get to know each other!



# Living with Trees After the Storm: Finding Balance, Safety, and Resilience

Todd Beasley, Director, Georgia Southern University Botanic Garden



*Live Oak*

Over the past few years, hurricanes and strong storm systems have understandably changed how many of us think about the trees in our yards. Seeing tall pines or large oaks fall during Hurricane Helene and other recent storms was unsettling, and for some homeowners, the instinct to remove trees altogether feels like a way to regain control and protect homes and families. The staff here at the Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern University has been frequently contacted over the last year regarding widespread removal of trees in Statesboro and what we can do to assist as well as offering options.

The response to modify the landscape is human—and it deserves understanding. At the same time, as more mature trees are removed across our neighborhoods, it may be helpful to step back and look at the *full picture*: not only the risks trees can pose, but also the many ways they quietly protect our homes, our property values, and our quality of life every single day.

## **Why Trees Matter in Local Neighborhoods**

In urban and suburban settings, trees do far more than provide shade and beauty. Healthy, well-placed trees help slow stormwater, stabilize soil, reduce flooding, and protect septic systems by absorbing excess groundwater. Their root systems—especially those of native hardwoods—act

like living infrastructure, pulling water out of the soil after heavy rains and reducing the saturation that can damage septic drain fields.

Trees also reduce summer temperatures, lower energy costs, buffer noise, and increase property values. Studies consistently show that neighborhoods with mature tree canopies are more desirable, more resilient, and recover more quickly after storms than areas that have been clear-cut.

## Trees as Habitat: Supporting Birds and Local Wildlife

Beyond their structural benefits, trees play a critical role in supporting birds and other wildlife that are part of our everyday landscape. Native trees provide food, nesting sites, and shelter for songbirds, pollinators, and beneficial insects that help keep ecosystems in balance.

Many birds rely on native trees for insects to feed their young—resources that non-native ornamental trees often do not provide. A landscape dominated by non-native species may look green, but it functions more like a “food desert” for wildlife. By contrast, native trees help sustain healthy bird populations, which in turn help control pests naturally and bring life, sound, and seasonal beauty to our neighborhoods.

*Southern Magnolia (right)*

## A Balanced Approach: Cut One, Plant One

Rather than viewing tree removal as an all-or-nothing decision, many communities are adopting a “cut one, plant one” mindset. In some cases, removing selective trees may be appropriate—but replacing them with well-chosen native trees can actually *reduce* long-term risk while restoring lost benefits.

Native trees are better adapted to local soils, rainfall patterns, and wind conditions. They tend to develop stronger, deeper, and more stable root systems than many fast-growing non-native species, making them a safer and more resilient choice over time.

Good native replacement options for our area include

- **Southern Magnolia**
- **Oaks - lots of choices here including new columnar forms for smaller yards**
- **American Holly**
- **Bald Cypress** (excellent for wet areas)
- **Blackgum (Tupelo)**
- **Sweetbay Magnolia**



## Septic-Friendly and Water-Wise Trees

Because many homes in local neighborhoods rely on septic systems, tree choice and placement matter. Trees with deep, non-aggressive root systems—planted the proper distance from drain fields—can coexist safely with septic infrastructure while helping manage excess moisture. Trees that assist with groundwater control can actually *reduce* flooding around septic tanks and fields, a growing concern as tree cover declines. Removing too many trees at once can increase runoff, raise the water table, and contribute to saturated soils—ironically increasing the very risks homeowners are trying to avoid.

*Bald Cypress with fall color (left)*

## Looking Forward Together

A neighborhood's strength has always come from thoughtful stewardship—of homes, land, and each other. As residents continue to recover from recent storms, they have an opportunity to make decisions that balance safety with long-term resilience.

By choosing native trees and replanting thoughtfully, you can protect not only your home but also the birds, wildlife, and natural systems that make your community a healthier and more enjoyable place to live. While spring is not the best time to plant trees, we will have some available during our upcoming plant sale on March 28th at the Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern University located at 1503 Bland Avenue.

*American Holly (left)*



*Southern Red Oak in winter (right)*



*All photos of the trees in this article were taken in Hazelwood*

# There's No Business Like Show Business

Hazelwood residents find fulfillment as part-time thespians at the Averitt Center

Nan LoBue



Photo by Doty Dunn

If you happened to catch a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Averitt Center last summer, you may have noticed some familiar faces onstage. Hazelwood residents John Parcels, Hadley Campbell, and Jim LoBue all sang, danced, and acted in the big-hearted musical chronicling the lives of the residents of Anatevka, a small Jewish *shtetl* somewhere in Russia during the early twentieth century.

Several of these neighbors caught stage fever at an early age. Hadley Campbell says, “My mother loved the stage and had me ‘up there’ ...early...I started at about five” performing “Do You Know the Muffin Man” followed by “Please Don't Eat the Daisies,” and “The Little Drummer Boy.” Hadley has continued acting and singing for years; he says playing Herr Drosselmeyer in Statesboro’s annual production of *The Nutcracker* for almost two decades has been “a huge part” of

his performing. At the Averitt, musicals have been his favorite. He has performed in many at the Averitt, including *Anything Goes*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, and *Annie*. About the Averitt, Hadley is “so very thankful for those with the foresight to initiate, provide, and promote such an impactful institution that has positively touched the lives of thousands.” His long experience on the stage has been “such a blessing” in his life.

Jim LoBue did not discover the stage until a bit later than Hadley, but as a natural ham, his love of performing manifested itself early as he was a notorious class clown in school. Later, he discovered the dance chorus at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Illinois, which was a natural fit. The chorus performed in several musical productions; that experience led to minor

parts for Jim as A-rab in Maine South's production of *West Side Story* and as the fiddler in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Jim went on to perform in college, taking several small parts in various plays and then beefier roles such as Ozzie in *On the Town*, Huckleby in *The Fantasticks*, and Puck in an outdoor production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, where—as this writer can attest!--he stole the show.



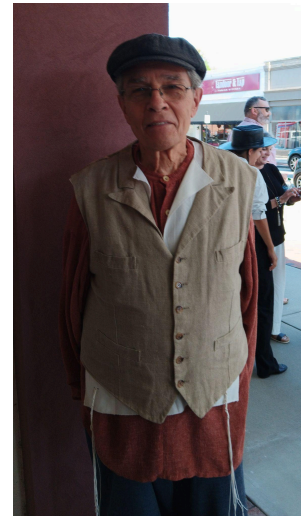
Jim LoBue (left) and Hadley Campbell (right) after *Fiddler on the Roof*

Since his retirement from the Georgia Southern Chemistry Department, he has appeared on the Averitt stage in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Barefoot in the Park*. Jim is grateful for the opportunity to act again at the Averitt, and he intends to try out for as many future productions as he can.



Jim with director Elieen Bayens after *Barefoot in the Park*

John Parcels, a retired Georgia Southern English professor, did not start acting until he turned 70, showing it's never too late to try something new. According to John, he started by "filling in for someone in a ballet, after which I was pressed into auditioning for a play. I never had any expectation or interest in performing prior to that. I taught a lot of plays and Michael Whitaker, liking the way I read in class, tried to get me to act a bit. I told him my sisters did that, not me. He now laughs." Famous last words! Since then, he has done radio and television ads and has graced the Averitt stage in productions too numerous to list, including musicals like *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.



John Parcels after a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*

Hadley, Jim, and John aren't alone in gracing the Averitt stage. Alan Tyson has been performing there for years as well. Alan discovered acting in adulthood, and we can thank his young daughter for giving him a push onto the stage. Sometime in the early 90s, Alan took her to try out for a children's chorus for a Georgia Southern University production of *A Christmas Carol*. On the way out, she encouraged her dad to try out for the play as well, and he did, landing the part of Fezziwig. That experience was the start of a long friendship with director Michael Whittaker. After getting his initial experience in the footlights, Alan acted in many GSU plays before finding his way to the Averitt. He (along with Hadley) acted in the renovated Averitt Center's inaugural play, *A Place to Call Home*, and in many subsequent plays. Among Alan's most memorable roles were Boolie in *Driving Miss Daisy*, a 2008 production that traveled to several



venues, and Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, a role Alan says was his most challenging as well as his most rewarding.

*Alan Tyson with Carol Thompson in Driving Miss Daisy  
Photo by Scott Bryant, Statesboro Herald  
Used by permission*

Perhaps our Hazelwood neighbors will inspire you to try out for a play! As Hadley says, “Making new friends, pulling together to put on great shows and learning from one another” have all been benefits of performing at the Averitt. And if you’re worried about stage fright, you can always support these neighbors and friends by attending some of their performances.