CCC News

Charleston Country Club *November 2026*







Annual aeration

Top, grounds crew staffer Justin Palmer aerates #6 green Oct. 19 during annual aeration of the greens. Above left, Course Superintendent Dan Ochs Jr. spreads sand on #2 green. Blaine Smitely, Jim Hickenbottom and Jim Shoot helped with the work.

President, four board members elected Oct. 22

Blaine Crews, Zack Buxton and Tim Carlson won three-year terms on the board of directors Oct. 22 in the first contested board race in five years.

Also elected were Jodi Hildebrandt to a two-year term on the board and John Ryan to a two-year term as president. Hildebrandt and Ryan ran unopposed.

All the terms will begin Jan. 1, 2027.

In the October election, four candidates ran for the three three-year board terms, the first contested race since 2021.

Crews received 79 votes, Buxton garnered 71 and Tim Carlson got 53 votes to edge Katrina Butler, who finished with 51.

Three of the candidates had served on the board.

Butler is finishing her seventh year of board service. Crews is finishing a one-year appointment as Pro Shop director and Buxton previously served almost two years on the board as course director.

Hildebrandt and Carlson will be serving on the board for the first time.

Ryan will finish 10 years service in December — five as a board member and five as president.

Club in great shape financially: finance director

Despite Mother Nature's attempt June 17 to damage the course and facilities, the club has weathered the tornado in good shape.

That was the message from Finance Director Kyle Barrow Oct. 22 at the Annual Meeting.

"Considering we were closed for a couple weeks and lost out on income, we have made a little money this year," Barrow said. "The club is in great shape."

Barrow said the club is currently $68,000 in the black and he projects the club ending the year in the black.

The main reason for the surplus is the increase in dues at the beginning of the year. Dues were hiked $45 a month for Class A members, $62.50 for Senior members and $60 a year for social members.

Barrow said the dues hikes will make sure the board of directors doesn't have to seek special assessments as in 2024.

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CCC News

is published monthly by the Board of Directors. If you have items of interest for the newsletter, contact John Ryan, jmryan@eiu.edu.

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The Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. the third Monday of every month.

Christmas bonuses on November bills

November bills will include a $15 charge for Christmas bonuses for club employees.

Should members not wish to contribute the $15, they can opt out of it by contacting office manager Nichole Winstead.

Winstead works from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Christmas bonuses will be distributed to employees in their last pay checks in December.

Those planning to be gone for the winter can also set up Snow Bird rates to meet their monthly $35 kitchen/bar minimum.

Snow birds won't be charged the minimum in January, February and March. Instead they will be charged $70 for the minimum in April, May and June.







October festivities

Club members and guests celebrated their own Octoberfest Oct. 10, sampling seasonal beers and wines. Carl Wolff and the Entertainment Committee, left, planned and put on the event. Booth Blues Band also performed.

Club in great shape financially: director

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While some areas are over budget, others are in line to finish on budget or better, he said.

Turning to the subject of storm damage, Barrow said, the club's insurance company, IMT, has notified the club it will not renew the club's insurance.

However, he said, the company is working with the board to make sure it follows through on covering the tornado damage. Barrow said IMT has paid the club $430,122 but should end up paying between $600,000 to $650,000 through appreciation on the cart sheds and other coverage.

He said IMT has agreed to pay $90,000 for the clubhouse roof. The insurance company has agreed to pay more to replace the gaming room because it will need to be rebuilt from the ground up. It originally agreed to pay $59,000 to rebuild the gaming room on its current platform.

Barrow said IMT also will be paying something for the club's loss of business until it reopened after the tornado and it will contribute something for the volunteers who worked on the course.

"I do think the club will come out ahead when it's done," he said.

For the record

Welcome new members:

Shane Beard, Class A

Membership:

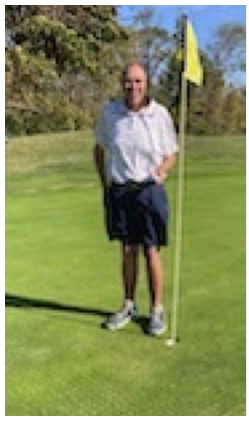
Class A = 127
Social = 76
Senior = 54
Junior = 36
Fellowship = 8
Non-resident = 16
Student = 11
College student = 9
Corporate = 10
Honorary = 4

Red October:

Hunter Meister, 64
Ted Deremiah, low net

Congratulations

Alex Clayton who finished in 20th place at the state tournament.



Kudos to:

Bernie Buttram, hole-in-one, Oct. 29, #17!

Club's #: (217) 345-6603

Wine pairing dinner set Nov. 6

Events at the club continue indoors in November.

Nov. 4: The second Mahjong class will be held at 6 p.m. for beginners wanting to learn the popular Chinese tile game. Three spots are left. Cost. $25.

Nov. 6: Wine Pairing Dinner, a culinary experience to remember, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6.

Special five-course meal will be paired with five wines, featuring wines from Augusta Winery and Montelle Winery.

Reservation deadline is Nov. 4. Cost is $35 per person, $70 per couple.

Nov. 20: Local artist Luke Perring will perform from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the bar area. He'll perform classic and contemporary rock, folk and country tunes on acoustic guitar.

Dec. 18: Holiday Happy Hour with the Freezelands is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with happy hour specials and an ugly sweater contest.



A Ewing Tree Service driver stands next to a load of timber harvested from course.

Tree planting must wait for 2027

Planting new trees to replace those that were ravaged in the June 17 tornado will have to wait until next year, Course Director Blaine Smitley said at the Annual Meeting Oct. 22.

Course Superintendent Dan Ochs Jr. says the best time to plant trees is in September and October, Smitley said, and it's too late to start planting this year.

"It will have to wait until next year," Smitley said. "One year won't make that much of a difference."

Smitley said Bob Wagoner, who has been heading the timber project on the course, has a company that will plant three-to-four-inch trees and guarantee them. He said that will probably be the best way to go.

The club raised $17,500 to go toward the purchase of new trees through the raffle for three bottles of Pappy Van Winkle bourbon.

The club also will have proceeds from the sale of timber that was harvested this fall by Ewing Tree Service of Marshall.

At the meeting, Wagoner said it will be at least two weeks before he knows how much the club's share of the timber sale will be. The club and Ewing will split the sale roughly 60-40.