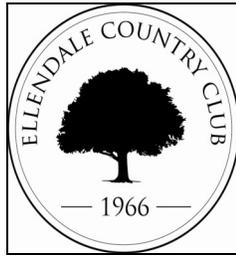


**April 2016**

Volume 24

Number 3

**Ellendale  
Country Club  
Board of Governors  
2015-2016**



# Ellendale Country Club REPORTER

The Official Publication of Ellendale Country Club ♦ Houma, LA



**ROBBIE NAQUIN,**

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*VICE PRESIDENT*

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**MARK RENNER**

## ***SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE GOING ON NOW!***

We are excited to announce that Ellendale Country Club is currently running a membership drive from April 1 – July 1! We are relying heavily on our current members to pass on this information to any potential new members. The details are below:

### **Regular/Corporate Memberships:**

The monthly dues will be lowered to \$197 plus tax per month for the first six months, reverting back to the standard rate of \$247 plus tax per month thereafter.

There is no stock purchase required for the first six months of membership.

### **Junior Memberships (Ages 18-33)**

The monthly dues for a Junior member have been lowered to \$110 plus tax per month for the first six months, reverting back to the standard rate of \$160 plus tax per month thereafter.

There is no stock purchase required until the age of 33.

### **Non-Resident Memberships (Must live outside of Terrebonne Parish)**

The monthly dues for a Non-Resident member have been lowered to \$150 plus tax per month for the first six months, reverting back to the standard rate of \$200 plus tax per month thereafter.

A non-resident membership is not required to purchase stock and there is no initiation fee.

\*Members who refer new members will be given the choice of either 2 Free Sunday Brunches, or 2 Free Cart Rentals. Past members who have exited the Club after March 1, 2016, are not eligible for the above listed specials.

### ***Holiday Hours:***

#### **Good Friday**

**Course & 19th Hole: Open  
Restaurant & Office: Closed**

#### **Easter Sunday**

**Course, 19th Hole &  
Restaurant: Open**

### ***Ellendale Country Club Contact Numbers:***

***Business / Membership Office: 985-876-4392***

***Golf Shop / Tournaments: 985-876-4394***

***Restaurant / Catering Office: 985-872-9924***

***Maintenance Department: 985-851-1376***

***Visit our website at: [www.ellendalecountryclub.com](http://www.ellendalecountryclub.com)***



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## ROBBIE NAQUIN

Fellow Club Members:

This past month, Ellendale hosted the Louisiana Ladies Golf Association Senior Tournament. We have heard plenty of positive feedback regarding our outstanding facilities and hospitality, which took a team effort from all of our departments to pull off in the superb manner in which they did. One of the participants commented that she has been playing this event for the last three years, and Ellendale was the best prepared course she has played. Hats off to Stacey and his crew for getting the course in tournament condition in short order, especially considering the rain we received just prior to this event.

In this month's newsletter you will find information on our current membership drive. There will be incentives for members who refer new members, and as I stated in last month's newsletter, it is imperative for you, the members of Ellendale, to spread the word not only about this introductory special, but also, the work that's been going on to make Ellendale a fully-functioning country club again.

On that note, I want to bring you up to speed on what we've authorized at our March board meeting. On top of voting to proceed with the membership drive, we voted to resurface our tennis courts, and give our pool house a much needed facelift. We are not going to put a tremendous amount of money into the pool house this year, as it is our intention to replace the existing building with a simpler, fully-functioning structure in the next 2-3 years; however, we need that facility to be functional today, just as we need functional tennis courts. From a timing perspective, it is our goal to have all of our facilities improved and functional for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, set for May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are celebrating 50 great years as a country club, and it is the Board's intention to showcase to our existing and potential members that 50 years later, we are still a country club.

Some members may argue with our decision to put money into these two areas of our Club. Let me break down where we have spent money on capital improvements in the last ten years:

Department	Balance as of 4/30/2005	Balance as of 4/30/2015	10 Year Investment
Clubhouse	\$768,906	\$2,746,523	\$1,977,617
Golf Course	\$3,828,682	\$4,813,033	\$984,351
Tennis Courts	\$76,495	\$76,979	\$484
Pool	\$262,647	\$353,478	\$90,831
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,936,730</b>	<b>\$7,990,013</b>	<b>\$3,053,283</b>

So of the roughly \$3 million we've spent in the last 10 years, we have spent just over \$91,000 on our tennis and pool facilities **combined**. And for those that have noticed the condition of both, I think we can all agree it shows. To break it down another way: With the money we have authorized to spend on each facility, it would take 3 regular members to either stay members, or join Ellendale because of our tennis facilities (based on a 5 year payback), to justify the expense. Under a similar scenario with the pool (based on a 2 year payback), it would take 3 regular members to either stay or join because of our pool.

In total, between these two expenditures, the bulkhead project, and the cost to fix one of our pumps on the golf course, we have allocated \$90k for capital expenditures this year. This does not include the money we have spent on new golf course maintenance equipment this year (including a spray rig, blower, and new greens mowers), which we have done either through lease or finance arrangements paid from our monthly cash flow from operations. We understand that some of you would like to spend money on our parking areas, and I agree with you that we should do so, but it is important to spend money on areas of the club that attract members first, and then worry more about aesthetics once we have the means to do so. It is certainly in the five year plan to fix our parking areas, and if we keep on the path that we're on, we will be able to do so. However, it is important to retain and grow our membership in the near term, and we are spending money in the areas where we think we can best achieve that goal.

*Continued on next page...*

"We are celebrating 50 great years as a country club, and it is the Board's intention to showcase to our existing and potential members that 50 years later, we are still a country club."



*Please note that there has been a change of date for the event!*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

*Ellendale's 50th Anniversary Bash*

*Saturday, May 14th, 2016*

*More Details to Come!*

*Continued from previous page...*

Because we feel we have a better handle on our financial situation, we have reached the point where we are comfortable spending funds on capital expenditures; however, given the recession we are in, it was nice to have a cash cushion going into hurricane season and the slower Winter months. I would like to approach our assessment cycle in the same way in the near term, assessing in the summer or fall months, and spending the following Spring once we have reached the other side of that period of uncertainty. We fully recognize the financial situation that many members find themselves in, and will only assess what we feel is absolutely necessary to keep us in a strong financial position, while continuing the needed reinvestment in all areas of our Club. When we do vote on an assessment, we will present to the membership the long term capital plan, and how future assessments will play a role in that plan.

So on that note, let me get you up to speed on our financial performance. In the month of February, we had earnings (earnings before depreciation) of \$6,193, roughly \$3,000 better than what was projected for the month, and \$14,011 better compared to February 2015. **Our ending cash balance as of 2/29/16 was \$274,278**, which represents **an increase in cash of roughly \$28k since the beginning 2016**. We are working with roughly 100 fewer members compared to the same period last year, so once again I want to recognize all of our managers and staff who have done a tremendous job managing through this downturn, all while not materially impacting the quality of our Club.

I encourage everyone to come out to the Club and enjoy the beautiful Spring weather. And when you do, you will notice when driving in, playing golf, or looking out from our Clubhouse, how beautiful our flower beds are. Thanks go out to Debi Samanie and the many other volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to keep the place looking great! Finally, if you have a meeting, outing or party in the future, please consider Ellendale as the place to have it!

### *From the Ladies Tees*

#### The Ellendale Women's Golf Association

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The Annual Ellendale Couples tournament will be hosted by the LGA on May 15, in conjunction with ECC's 50th anniversary celebration. This is a fun event with exciting prizes... Look for the flyer around the clubhouse and in your email and sign up! We thank the club members for always supporting this event by sponsoring holes, donating goodie bag items and registering teams.

Check out the Pro Shop for new ladies attire including hats and shirts featuring the Ellendale Ladies' Golf Association logo. Cute gear with a new club and a gift certificate for lessons is a great Mother's Day gift. The first person to let the Pro Shop know they read this message gets a free LGA hat of their choice.

Every Wednesday morning is Ladies' Day at Ellendale, and golfers of all skill levels are invited to play. We have standing tee times at 9:00, 9:10 and 9:20. Interested players in need of a foursome should arrive no later than 8:45. The Spring Match Play bracket is live and the first matches should be played by April 18. Good luck to all!

Be sure to "like" the Ellendale Ladies' Golf Association on Facebook to keep up with events and activities.



### Men's Golf Association

For anyone who passed the course on March 19th and saw ditches full of water and thought "only an idiot would play golf in such conditions"...you were right. Our March Shamble event was muddy but we managed to play the back 9 twice and added another tournament in the books. Playing wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the hard work by our grounds crew who did their best to drain water off the course in time for us to play. Thank you fellas! Congrats to Bret Cuneo & Henry Kimble for their gross score victory and Troy Baronet & Curtis Callais for taking first in the net category.

In addition to the monthly tournaments, we were able to begin the 2016 Match Play bracket with our draw party held on March 24th. The occasion was fun and the pairings will surely encourage a season of matches that are tougher than a \$2 steak. To all those lucky enough to play this season, I want to extend my insincere well wishes. May the best man win.

As always, we are very excited to host our annual Ellendale Spring 4 Ball tournament which will be held April 29th - May 1st. We have been fortunate in years past to have a great showing from both members and out-of-towners, and we plan to keep it that way. Entry forms can be found in the Pro Shop. We hope to see you out there!

Jeff Bordelon  
MGA Chair

## The Golf Report, Greg Crain

March has blown out the cold weather and now April has arrived for prime time golf at Ellendale. We opened the month with the MGA 2-man Shamble on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Bret Cuneo and Henry Kimble as the gross winners and to Troy Baronet and Curtis Callais as the net winners. This month's event will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please call or stop by the Golf Shop to sign up for this fun event. Ellendale hosted the Louisiana Women's Golf Association State Seniors event on March 21 and 22. Congratulations to Julie Harrison of Baton Rouge on the victory. A special thanks to Joann Blanchard and Elaine Ledet for securing this prestigious ladies event for Ellendale and the community. All the ladies had a wonderful experience for the two days at Ellendale enjoying Niki's "honey pecan crusted" chicken and a great course prepared by Stacey and his staff. Way to go everyone.

The events for April will in-

clude the starting matches for the MGA Match Play Championship. April 11<sup>th</sup> is the annual Vandebilt Terrier Club Tournament. This is a great tournament for all to participate. Entry forms are available at the Golf Shop. The week of April 18-23, Ellendale will host the Adams Pro Tour Series Fakier Open, benefiting Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center at TGMC. This tournament is Houma's only professional golf tournament and will be open for everyone in the community to come watch the professional golfers. The schedules of events are starting on Friday, A free junior clinic on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30, Pro-Am on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and the Professional Tournament on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, visit [MBPTGMC.ORG/FAKIER](http://MBPTGMC.ORG/FAKIER) or call Amy Ponson 851-8661. The Annual Haiti Mission Golf Tournament and Silent Auction are on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please show your support for this event by putting a team together or pur-

chasing a "Thirsty Box" to drill water wells in Haiti. For additional information, pick up an entry form in the golf shop or please feel free to call 985-209-3228 or visit

[www.haitimissioninc.com](http://www.haitimissioninc.com). Closing out the month is the Ellendale Spring Classic 4-Ball on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. This golf tournament is sponsored by the MGA and is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year. This 4-Ball event is one of the premier 4-ball events in the state. Please show your support and register a team for this fantastic event. Please call or stop by the Golf Shop for additional information.

Be sure to stop by the Golf Shop for all the new arrivals and for the monthly sale specials. This month's special is 50% off on selected Adidas shirts. Please visit the website [www.ellendalecountryclub.net](http://www.ellendalecountryclub.net), and postings at the Golf Shop and clubhouse for upcoming events. And always, thanks for your support of the golf shop and Ellendale Country Club.

### On Course, Stacey Hudson

Spring is officially here and the growing season is fast approaching. With the warmer temperatures the golf course has greened up nicely. Our bunker enhancement project is nearly complete with only #15 green side bunkers remaining. We will concentrate on doing the fairway bunkers at a later date. Fairways #3, #5, and #15 have been restricted to cartpath only until further notice. By keeping cart traffic off these areas it will allow us to grow more grass as these are some of our thinner fairways. We will continue to apply a topdressing to these areas as well. All fairways and tee's are in the process of being sprayed with a liquid fertilizer and micro-nutrients to provide a overall healthier turf. The greens have responded well coming out of Winter and should only get better heading into Spring/Summer. We will be lowering mowing heights on greens in the coming weeks. I would like to thank my crew

for all the hard work that went into getting the course prepared for the Ladies State AM qualifier tournament. We received 5.75 inches of rain Friday night thru early Saturday morning causing flooding in some areas of the course. We were able to get the water pumped off the golf course over the weekend as well as get bunkers back in shape after the heavy rains washed most of the sand down from the lips to the bottom flats. Monday morning we were able to have the course back to 90 degrees in time for the start of the tournament. A lot of effort and long hours went into pulling this off. I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy your club and invite a friend to show them what Ellendale has to offer.

### Golf Rule of the Month:

A player's ball came to rest 20 yards over a green and beyond a white stake that the player's caddie said was a boundary stake. The player played a provisional ball that came to rest short of the green, but closer to the hole than his original ball, which had been visible all along, and discovered that the white stake was not a boundary stake and that his original ball was in bounds. What is the ruling?

- A. One penalty stroke; Provisional ball becomes the ball in play.
- B. One penalty stroke; Provisional is the ball in play.
- C. Two penalty strokes; Original is the ball in play.
- D. Two penalty strokes; Provisional is the ball in play.

**Answer: See page 6**

## Restaurant News

Lent is here again, and so are Seafood Nights at Ellendale. Don't miss out on "Hot Boiled" Seafood Fridays during the Lenten season (with the exception of Good Friday). We have also extended our Seafood Nights a couple of weeks into April. See below for the dates.

We will be serving Hot Boiled Crawfish, Jumbo Shrimp, and Dungeness Crabs, and Chargrilled oysters. The a-la-carte menu is also available if you would like to order off the menu. You can call the restaurant to make your orders or reservations at 872-9924. You can order your seafood to go, or bring your friends & family to dine-in. Come out to Ellendale and pass a good time!

Crawfish Nights are from 5:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.  
on the following nights:  
April 1st & April 8th

## Dinner At Your Door

You can enjoy "Dinner at Your Door" for \$12.95 delivered fresh to Ellendale Sub-division every other Wednesday between 4:30 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. If you don't live in the Ellendale Subdivision, you can still enjoy our delicious & convenient dinner with ease, just call us and we'll have your order ready for pick-up in the 19th Hole. All orders can be directed to the restaurant at ph. 872-9924. Call us and let us make dinner a little easier! Thanks for your support of the Ellendale Country Club restaurant.

### Menu:

**April 6th: Chicken Stew, Sweet Peas, Potato Salad, Salad, Dessert & Bread**

**April 20th: Honey Pecan Pork Loin, Field Peas, Italian Potatoes, Salad, Dessert & Bread**

The Ellendale Ladies Golf Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Ellendale and staff of Ellendale for all of their support for the Louisiana Women's Golf Association State Senior Tournament played at Ellendale. Thanks to Stacy and his crew, the golf course was in the best shape ever and we heard nothing but wonderful compliments about the course. We also thank Niki and her crew; the food was outstanding and the service was top notch. And last but not least, the Ellendale Board was there to assist in anything we needed to make the tournament a success.

Again, thanks to all!  
Ellendale LGA



FDIC 985-580-2265  
www.CoastalCommerce.com

## You Just Gotta Know...

"We have a great facility here with the most important thing being the people. I travel at least once a month to golf at different places, and the way people treat you here at Ellendale makes a difference. That is from the golfers to the staff. There is great comradery here at our club."



~ Dr. Bedford Nieves-Cruz



## GARDENS - N - GOLF

Debi Samanie, Chairman

The gardens at ECC are all looking so glorious! A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who have worked so hard to make this happen, Monica Folse, Joy Tingle, Jim & Luisa Mire, Johnny & Joan Glover, and Dave Whitney. We hired Angelo's Garden Center to rework the entire flower bed at the front entrance to Ellendale, and it looks very nice. We need someone to adopt the Flag Pole garden bed. If you are interested in helping please give me a call. My contact info is Debi Samanie cell 804-2161 or email [debisamanie@aol.com](mailto:debisamanie@aol.com)

Anyone interest in joining the Garden Club please contact DeShone in the Business Office at 876-4392. You can join for \$20 monthly or donate any amount you wish.

We would like to  
Welcome the following  
new members and their  
families to  
Ellendale Country  
Club!

Jack Shoaf  
Norman Fuller  
James Vidrine  
Brian Cotton  
Patrick Hollis  
Michael Monier Jr.  
Hogan Bourgeois

Current Membership  
Total: 419

**Hours:**

Tuesday through Friday & Sunday:

**Open 11am to 2 pm**

Monday & Saturday:

**Restaurant closed** (A la carte served on Saturdays from the 19th Hole).

**19th Hole Hours:**

Tuesday through Sunday:

**Open 8 am to 7:00 pm**

Monday:

**19th Hole closed**

**Buffet Hours:**

Full Buffet - 11:00 am till 2:00 pm Thursday, Friday, & Sunday.

**Golf Rule of the Month:**

Correct Answer: D (Rule 27-2c; Rule 15-3b; Decision 27-2c/3)

# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			LADIES DAY		1 SEAFOOD NIGHT	2
3 SUNDAY BRUNCH	4 COURSE CLOSED	5	6 LADIES DAY	7	8 SEAFOOD NIGHT	9
			DINNER AT YOUR DOOR			
10 SUNDAY BRUNCH	11 VANDEBILT TERRIER TOURNAMENT	12	13 LADIES DAY	14	15	16 MGA EVENT
17 SUNDAY BRUNCH	18	19	20 DINNER AT YOUR DOOR	21	22	23
24 SUNDAY BRUNCH	25 HAITI MISSION	26	27 LADIES DAY	28	29	30 MGA SPRING CLASSIC 4-BALL
1 MGA SPRING CLASSIC 4-BALL						

Fakiér Open - April 18th through April 23rd

## Tri-Parish Terrebonne Ford Truck Talk



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