

TELLICO VILLAGE

pulse.

Magazine

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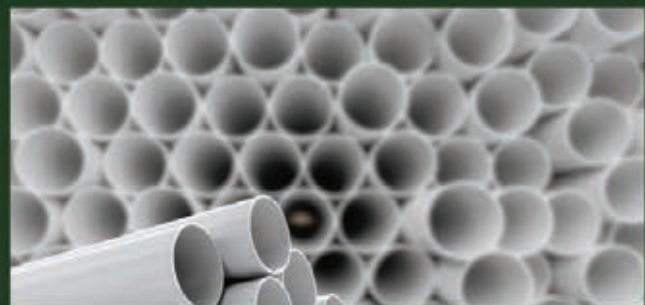


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MAGAZINE

MAY 2025 ISSUE

As spring marches onward into summer, we hope this edition of Pulse finds you enjoying the beauty of East Tennessee and taking advantage of all the fun and adventure the area has to offer!

In this issue, you will find musical features about the Elite Tune Series and the Loudon County Concert Band. Choose a concert to enjoy or, if you are musically-inclined, join in the fun!

You can also learn about the return of Aubrey’s restaurant, golfing in Tellico Village, the mission of the Young Professionals of Loudon County, and more.

To keep the beat going, we encourage you to send story ideas, press releases, event news, photographs, or even just a line to let us know how you feel. Contact us at khartman@farragutpress.com.

As always, we are thankful for all of our readers and contributors and grateful for the opportunity to bring you some of the highlights of the Tellico Village community.

Keep the pulse going,

Kathy Hartman

Kathy Hartman
General Manager

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The Elite Tune Series at Tellico Village is gearing up for another exciting season, with a variety of summer concerts planned to benefit local charities.

Kicking off May 4, this year's lineup features world-class entertainers Jordan Rainer, the Bicho Brothers, Erin Viancourt, Kristen Brown and Stacy Mitchhart. Each concert will take place at the Tellico Village Yacht Club, 100 Sequoyah Road, in Loudon.

Aimed at providing high-level musical events to support nonprofit charity groups that enhance the lives of East Tennessee communities, the Elite Tunes Series at Tellico Village began in September of 2023, featuring the Dollywood favorite "Run Katie Run" out of Marietta, Ga.

However, local resident Lee Brockman said the idea to hold charity music events in Tellico Village dates back to 2018.

"That fall, my wife Barbara and I were having dinner on the veranda of the Yacht Club at dusk," explained Brockman. "As we looked out over the lake with the mountains in the background, we thought how incredible the venue would be for an outdoor concert... I guess that planted the seed."

Gearing Up *for another* Season

Brockman pitched his idea to the Yacht Club's general manager, Skyler McClurkin, about a year later, offering to bring in his friend Chris Blue, who was named winner of season 12 of *The Voice*, for the benefit concert.

"While well received, it never came to fruition

but I believe it moved the needle as to what was possible in our community," said Brockman, noting that an ad hoc committee was later formed in 2023 to study the viability of a concert series. "The result of that was we got some of the best and brightest here in Tellico Village to volunteer for the cause, and they have brought an amazing variety of skill sets to the table."

The official Elite Tune Series Committee now includes Jim Sandridge, Andrea Johnson, Barbara Brockman, Dave Curley, Tom Engel and Nick Markowicz.

"We've also been blessed to have folks such as music advisor Steve McCormick, as well as Colleen Marley and Lori Jo Peterson, who handle our social media needs," said Brockman. "It certainly takes a team!"

Brockman added that 2024 marked the first full year of the series, as four concerts were held outdoors on the banks of Tellico Lake. This year will feature one indoor and four outdoor performances, with proceeds benefiting Isaiah 117 House, Child Advocacy Center, Good Shepherd Center of Monroe County, Good Samaritan Center of Loudon County and Iva's Place.

"We've already signed some contracts for 2026," he said. "We definitely see the Elite Tunes Series thriving for the foreseeable future."

For more information about the Elite Tune Series at Tellico Village, visit facebook.com/p/Elite-Tunes-Series-at-Tellico-Village-61553330895423 or eventbrite.com/cc/elite-tunes-charity-concerts-at-tellico-village-2969089, or scan the QR code.





Loudon County *Concert Band*

Began as a dream growing to 50 volunteer musicians

Founded in 2021, the Loudon County Concert Band began as a dream of local resident Kevin Meyer, who sought to establish a community group of musicians from across the surrounding area. The volunteer band has grown rapidly since its inception, bringing together more than 50 musicians from diverse backgrounds.

“Kevin, our band manager, was in the Army band and has a real love for bands and band music,” explained Rev. David Whipple Jr., the band’s music director and conductor. “So he figured there were probably a lot of other people in our community that have played in bands and would welcome an opportunity to be a part of something like that.”

After speaking with members of the local community, the band was officially established under the direction of Eugene Hattaway, former minister of music at First Baptist Church of Tellico Village. Unfortunately, however, Hattaway passed away in 2022, leading Whipple to take over as the band’s music director and conductor.

“I didn’t want to see the band end,” said Whipple, noting the band’s unprecedented growth over the last couple years. “We’ve got players from high school on up to folks who are

in their eighties, and so it really is a multigenerational group and that is a very exciting thing to see.”

The band is always looking for new members, too.

“We’re always looking for new people, and we’re not just a Tellico Village or Loudon County group,” Whipple said. “We’re open to players from the surrounding communities that are looking for opportunities to play and we certainly welcome them. That was very intentional on our part when we organized; we wanted to really have a broader reach in our wider community.”

Because the whole point, Whipple said, is to ensure the fine arts can thrive in the East Tennessee region.

“I’m a firm believer in music and fine arts in our community, and I want to see that continue to flourish in our community and beyond,” he said. “We’ve got a lot of talent in our community, and it may be untapped... Hopefully, the band can be a catalyst to see all areas of performing arts and the visual arts continue to flourish and grow in our county and in our whole region.”

“We’ve got players from high school on up to folks who are in their eighties, and so it really is a multigenerational group ...”

Rev. David Whipple Jr.,
the band’s music
director/conductor



Memorial Day concert

The Loudon County Concert Band will honor America’s heroes at their upcoming Memorial Day Concert. Set for 7 p.m. Monday, May 26, at First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, 2085 E. Simpson Road, the concert will celebrate those who put their lives on the line every day to defend our freedom.

“I’ve worked really hard to make this a true Memorial Day concert,” noted Whipple. “We’re certainly going to be recognizing our veterans and active duty service members, and I also hope to be able to recognize and honor our first responders and our representatives who are serving in public office... But we’re really gonna emphasize those who have given their lives and service to our country.”

There will also be a special time of remembrance to honor those from “the greatest generation,” who served during World War II.

“It’s going to be a very special and, I believe, a very powerful and meaningful program,” Whipple said.

Tickets can be purchased for \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. For more information, visit loudonconcertband.org.

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Hiatus to comeback

After a year-long hiatus, Aubrey's is back in Lenoir City, boasting a larger space with updated decor.

The esteemed local restaurant chain closed its location at 401 Town Creek East in February of last year, and just reopened directly across the street on March 24. Covenant Health, the parent company of Fort Loudoun Medical Center, is now using the former space.

"We leased the property, and the property was sold," explained Bradley Westenhaver, general manager of the Lenoir City restaurant. "So we had to find another location."

Fortunately, Westenhaver, said the relocation has proven to be beneficial, as the restaurant was able to secure more space and modernized upgrades at its new building at 375 Town Creek Parkway.

"We've got more seating, more parking, our bar is a little bit larger and our patio is larger as well," he said, noting the restaurant had to basically double its staff to accommodate the additional space. "All the fixtures are also brand new... From tables and chairs to kitchen equipment, everything is brand spankin' new."

This new decor is also completely different from any other Aubrey's Restaurant in the Knoxville area. For example, Westenhaver said that the wooden chairs have been replaced with wider, more plush chairs with textured fabric and leather.

"At the old location, there was a lot of dark wood and beige walls, so it really kind of brightens the place up," he said. "But when you walk in, you will still know that it's an Aubrey's."

Westenhaver noted that the chain's other new Middle Tennessee locations in Spring Hill and Lebanon also feature the same updated decor and design elements.

"They have the same footprint that we do," he said.

Since reopening, Westenhaver emphasized the immense support provided by members of the community.

"The community has been amazing... They missed us and they're showing it by coming in full force," he said. "We just really appreciate Loudon County and Lenoir City for showing their support, and we're just super enthused to be back."

For more information about the Aubrey's in Lenoir City, visit aubreysrestaurants.com/lenoircity.

Everyday is a day for Golf

Tellico Village
has the perfect setting

East Tennessee's mild climate and mesmerizing mountain and lake views provide the perfect setting for a day of golf. The Tellico Village area, in particular, offers plenty of opportunities to indulge in the sport, with three top-rated courses available for both residents and nonresidents to enjoy.

Designed by Ault, Clark & Associates to cater specifically to retirees, these world-class golf courses – Toqua, Tanasi and the Links and Kahite – offer quality, semi-private options for golfers of skill levels.

“They were all designed with the retiree in mind, and have been consistently made more fair and enjoyable for new and higher handicap players over the years with the addition of more forward tee options,” explained Lucas Forstrom, Head Golf Professional at Tanasi Golf Club, emphasizing the quality of the playing surfaces at each course. “The golf maintenance staff at each facility is award-winning, and they keep the courses in incredible shape.”

However, in a community where every day feels like a Saturday, it's important to note that Tellico Village's golf courses can get a bit busy.

“We're a community of 10,000 people, and of those 10,000 that live here, about 6,000 play golf,” noted Charles Roffers, Head Golf Professional at The Links at Kahite. “So for our three golf courses of 54 holes, we're busy all the time. But unlike most courses that are busy Friday, Saturday and Sunday when people are off work, we're busy Monday through Friday.”

In fact, according to Roffers, Tellico Village's busiest golfing days are typically Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Fortunately, those who live outside the area are able to book any open tee time up to five days in advance by calling the Toqua, Tanasi, or Kahite golf shop.

The Village also offers a variety of men's and women's golf leagues. While these are only available to Tellico Village residents, there are several events and tournaments that are open to the public.

Roffers said that these events are typically held to benefit local organizations, such as the Monroe Area Council for the Arts (MACA), Smoky Mountain Service Dogs, the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and the Hopewell Fire Department.

“Between our three courses, we will host about 330 events each year,” he said.

The Tennessee PGA Championship will also be held August 25-27 at the Links at Kahite. Forstrom said the event will be one of the Village's “highlights of the year,” bringing together PGA Professionals from across the state of Tennessee for the opportunity to play for a prestigious title and advance toward qualifying for the 2026 PGA Championship.

“So, we've got all kinds of stuff going on, which is a good problem to have,” added Roffers. “It's busy for sure, but we love it.”

On top of this, Tanasi is currently in the process of constructing a new \$12 million golf clubhouse and restaurant to replace the previous clubhouse that burned down in August of 2022.

“Tanasi is still open for golf and we encourage people to come out and play and enjoy seeing the progress and changes over time,” said Forstrom.

For more information about Tellico Village's golfing opportunities, visit GolfTellicoVillage.com.



Impossible to Possible

Bledsoe, the one time waitress, single mother made her vision happen

Purchasing her first home as a single mom put Tonya Bledsoe on a professional path she had never envisioned, but one for which she is truly grateful.

At that time, Bledsoe had waitressed for 15 years, which made her realize she loved working with the public. While real estate “seemed interesting, being a single mom, it seemed nearly impossible as well.”

The Loudon County native found encouragement from the Realtor who assisted her home purchase, as well as from her then boyfriend, now husband, Keith Bledsoe.

“We had talked about me getting my license, and in 1997, I had the opportunity to do that,” added Bledsoe, who worked full time during the day while taking night classes at Pellissippi State Community College until successfully passing her real estate test and licensing.

The field “has always been my passion since the day I started,” she noted. “I am a salesperson for sure — if I believe in the product I can sell it.”

But, also, “I am a people person and love meeting and talking to people,” she added. “I have a great concern for people and am always wanting to help people in need.”

Bledsoe said she did not feel she had a lot of help when she first started selling real estate, which made her consider the next step of obtaining her broker’s license, a feat she mastered in 2008

“I always thought if I ever [had] the opportunity to be a broker, I would always want to help other agents be their best,” she said.

By that time, she had worked at three different firms and was asked to broker a firm, which she did until 2010, when she and her husband decided she should open her own firm.

“It was not a planned decision - it happened in a week,” she recalled. “We didn’t have a name but my husband has a classic car lot, Smoky Mountain Traders, so we just went off of that name and became Smoky Mountain Realty in July 2010.”

They leased a building on Highways 321 in Lenoir City for five years, then purchased a small home on Broadway in 2015. Since Keith is a contractor, he was able to completely renovate the house and add a second story.

“We have just continued to grow since 2010, and we are one of the top real estate offices in this area,” said Bledsoe.



Tonya Bledsoe, second from right, is pictured with, from left, son, Devvin, daughter-in-law, Lexee, grandsons, Abel and Lucas; son-in-law, Brody Bryant, daughter, Trinity, and her husband, Keith, from Brody and Trinity’s December wedding.

“I am a salesperson for sure — if I believe in the product I can sell it.”

~ Tonya Bledsoe,
Broker/Owner
Smoky Mountain Realty



Tonya Bledsoe, bottom right, owner/broker of Smoky Mountain Realty, accepts the Favorite Booth Award, won at this year’s Taste of Loudon County, from Stephen Wolfe of the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce. Also pictured are, starting second from right, Kelli Monger, Misty Tidwell, Jennifer Vineyard Curtis and Dawn Moats, all of Smoky Mountain Realty.

After 15 years, she has not wavered from “wanting to help agents to be their best. That’s a goal that I continually work at. We’re a small company and some of us have worked together for years. We are co-workers, friends and really family. I don’t consider myself above any of my peers.

“I have always respected other Realtors, and I think I am respected as well. At Smoky Mountain Realty we pride ourselves on honesty and integrity.

“I want our clients to feel like they have chosen the best, and I try my very best to be that person.”

With 28 years in real estate behind her, Bledsoe notes, “I can honestly say that I have the best job. It can be stressful at times, but I guess we all need a little stress. I have helped many people with one of the biggest decisions of their life, and I try to make it as easy as possible.

“It’s very exciting and I always want my clients to feel special and proud that they can actually do this,” she continued. “This can be such a need for people, (I was one of those people) and a milestone that some people didn’t even think was possible.”

She said she brings “a lot of energy and positive thoughts for people, and it’s such a blessing to see them realizing that they really can do this. It is a great accomplishment that I get to be part of time and time again.

“I try to never be a negative person,” Bledsoe added. “I am always working for a solution when problems arise. This is what I get paid for. There’s a lot to make a real estate transaction work. Some people think we have a great easy job — a good Realtor just makes it look that way.”

She said she works with both “experienced buyers and sell-

ers” and stays not only “educated in real estate but also On top of the market.

“Our market changes rapidly as everything seems to be connected to real estate.”

Beyond business, the company helps in other ways.

“We founded two scholarships for young women that passed in our community,” said Bledsoe. “These are given on awards night at Lenoir City, Loudon and Greenback Schools: [the] Keiley Waldrop Scholarship \$1,000 (four were given out last year); and [the] Mary Stamey McRaven Scholarship, \$750 (gave 2 away last year).”

In addition to her long standing work, Bledsoe is dedicated to her family.

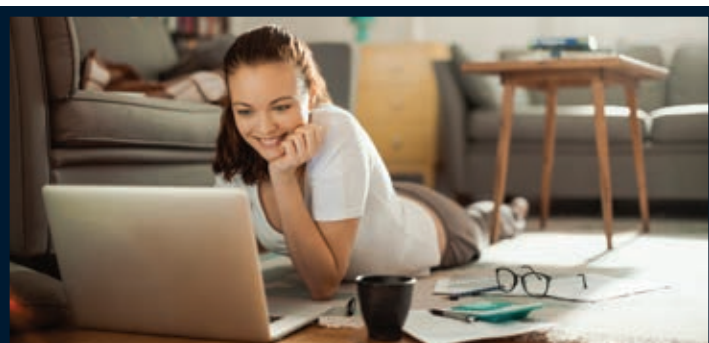
“I love my family, and I am so proud of them,” she said. “My husband has always given me the confidence I need. My son, Devvin Howard, and my daughter-in-law, Lexee, have my three sweet grandsons, Lucas, 7, Abel, 4, and Brooks, who was born March 30.”

Her daughter, Trinity, will be graduating from law school with honors in May, and married Brody Bryant in December.

Bledsoe also enjoys her ‘rotten’ Doodle, Darla, who “has so much energy and keeps me going,” is a Vol fan and enjoys spending time in the mountains, on the lake and at the beach as time permits.

A member of Rio Revolution Church in Maryville, she said she tries “to volunteer as much as possible in church and in the community.

“All I can say is God has blessed me more than I deserve, and I hope I can always be a blessing to others that He puts in my path.”



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“The local workforce’s retirement risk is high, and the retention and attraction of young talent is essential to ensure success in our community’s workforce into the future.”

~ Blair Sitzlar,
Director of Tourism and Marketing
for the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce



Since its inception in 2018, the Young Professionals of Loudon County organization has remained committed to its mission of “attracting, engaging and connecting emerging leaders and young professionals in Loudon County.”

“The local workforce’s retirement risk is high, and the retention and attraction of young talent is essential to ensure success in our community’s workforce into the future,” said Blair Sitzlar, director of tourism and marketing for the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce.

Open to all sectors of employment, the organization targets any individual between the ages of 18 and 40 who lives, works or networks in Loudon County. It currently has more than 50 active members.

To help further its mission, Sitzlar said that special events are held each month that correspond with the organization’s four pillars: social networking, community involvement, professional development and civic engagement.

This includes annual community events such as a Christmas Toy Drive for Loudon County Family Resource Center’s Christmas for Angels Program and a Putting Green Contest to benefit the Lenoir City and Loudon High School golf teams.

Additionally, the organization’s Spring Social – dubbed “Sunset Soiree” – is also planned for 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Avalon Country Club, 700 Turnberry Circle, in Lenoir City. Sitzlar said that tickets can be purchased for \$15, and \$5 from each ticket will be donated to a local nonprofit.

“YPLC puts a large emphasis on our Community Involvement/Community Service pillar to give back to the



community,” noted Sitzlar.

Aimed at promoting social networking, community service, professional development and civic engagement, YPLC was initially founded as a workforce development initiative under the Loudon County Economic Development Agency. In January of 2024, the organization became a program of the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, visit loudoncountyyeda.org/about/yplc or facebook.com/yploudoncounty.

TELLICO VILLAGE HOA events.

HOA Monthly Social

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 • 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tellico Village Yacht Club - 100 Sequoyah Road

Generative Artificial Intelligence

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tellico Village Yacht Club - 100 Sequoyah Road

Music of the 70s lecture with Wendel Werner

Monday, May 19, 2025 • 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Tellico Village Yacht Club - 100 Sequoyah Road

Nautical Boat Club Lake Tour

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 • 6:00 PM
Tellico Marina - 1000 Marina Harbor Drive

Singo

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 • 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Toqua Pavilion - 200 Toqua Club Way

Bunco

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tellico Village Yacht Club - 100 Sequoyah Road

CPR Training

Thursday, May 29, 2025 • 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tellico Village Fire Department - 210 Chota Road

Stop the Bleed

Friday, May 30, 2025 • 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tellico Village Fire Department - 210 Chota Road

Ruby Sunshine Brunch

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 • 9:30 AM
Ruby Sunshine - 37 Market Square

The Body Farm

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 • 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tellico Village Yacht Club - 100 Sequoyah Road

All HOA activity events
require registration* through
www.TellicoLife.org.

**In order to register, you must be a
member of the HOA.*

Not currently a Member?

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Tellico Village Contacts

Tellico Village Main Numbers

TV Property Owners Association (POA).....	(865) 458-5408
TV Homeowners Association (HOA)	(865) 657-1405
TV Townhouse Association.....	(865) 657-3044
TV Network.....	(865) 657-6278
TV Public Library	(865) 458-5199
TV Welcome Center	(865) 458-7061
TV Phone Directory	amanda.kimbrell@news-herald.net (send email for updates)
Public Works Department	(865) 458-4522
STAYinTV Requests.....	(865) 458-7084
The Neighborhood Assisted Living	(865) 408-0211
Premier Residences	(865) 408-4583
Our Place Adult Day Center	(865) 657-7222
Yacht Club	(865) 458-4363

Tellico Village Recreation Centers

Chelsea Golf Reservations	tellico.chelseareservations.com
Chota Recreation Center	(865) 458-6779
Kahite Activity Center	(423) 884-6353
Kahite Pro Shop	(423) 884-6108
Tanasi Pro Shop	(865) 458-4707
Toqua Pro Shop	(865) 458-6546
Wellness Center.....	(865) 458-7070

Tellico Village Area Restaurants

Blue Heron at the Yacht Club.....	(865) 458-4363
Kahite Pub and Grill	(423) 884-2159
Little Italy.....	(865) 657-6224
Lorenzo's Mexican Grill.....	(865) 458-4655
Tanasi Bar and Grill.....	(865) 458-9392
Thai Bistro	(865) 657-6440
Toqua Cafe.....	(865) 458-1330
Subway at Marathon.....	(865) 458-8011

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Law Enforcement - Dial 911 for an Emergency

Loudon County Sheriff's Office.....	(865) 986-4823
Monroe County Sheriff's Office.....	(423) 442-3911
Loudon Local security, non-emergency (solicitors, hunting on common property, etc.)	(865) 458-9081
Citizens Observer Patrol (COPs)	(865) 458-5193
Monroe County Sheriff's Office.....	(423) 442-4357
Monroe Local security, non-emergency (solicitors, hunting on common property, etc.)	(423) 442-3911

Boater Rescue

Tellico Boaters Assistance Response (T-Bart)	
Dial 911 and the dispatch will contact Tbart.....	911
Towboatus Fortloudon Tellico Wattsbar	(865) 414-1626
Boat Police Region 4.....	(865) 322-0900

Fire Departments

Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department	(865) 458-5733
Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department.....	(423) 442-2074

Hospitals

Fort Loudoun Medical Center	(865) 271-6000
550 Fort Loudoun Medical Center Drive, Lenoir City, TN 37772	
Parkwest Medical Center.....	(865) 373-1000
9352 Park West Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37923	
Turkey Creek Medical Center	(865) 218-7011
10820 Parkside Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934	
Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center	(865) 541-1111
1901 Clinch Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37919	
Physicans Regional Medical Center	(865) 545-8000
900 E. Oak Hill Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917	
Tennova Riverside	(865) 632-5011
137 Blount Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37920	
The University of Tennessee Medical Center	(865) 305-9000
1924 Alcoa Highway, Knoxville, TN	
Sweetwater Hospital	(865) 213-8200
304 Wright Street, Sweetwater, TN	
Blount Memorial Hospital	(865) 983-7211
907 East Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, TN	
NHC Farragut, 120 Cavett Hill Lane, Knoxville, TN	(865) 777-4000
Blount Memorial Occupational Health Center at Tellico West 110 Deer Crossing, Vonore, TN	(423) 884-1921

Churches

Community Church at Tellico Village.....	(865) 458-1516
130 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774	
www.tellicochurch.com	
First Baptist Church of Tellico Village.....	(865) 408-0110
205 Chota Road, Loudon, TN 37774	
www.fbctellicovillage.org	
Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church.....	(865) 816-4756
143 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774	
shepherdofthelaketn.org	



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- With an efficiency rate of **95.2%**, \$0.95 of each dollar you donate goes towards providing meals for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.



Join us June 6th—8th, 2025, for our annual **Volley for Hope** pickleball charity tournament. Visit **SecondHarvestETN.org/volley-for-hope** for more.

Visit <https://qrs.ly/m8g5n2b> to donate, or scan:



1. Open the camera app or QR code reader
2. Hover over the code
3. Tap the link that appears on the screen

Learn more at www.SecondHarvestETN.org or at **(865) 521-0000**



AGING IN PLACE

As we age, maintaining the dream of homeownership can become difficult. If you can't afford to add grab bars to make your bathroom safe or replace a leaking roof, how can you continue to live safely in the place you've called home for so long?

Loudon County Habitat's Critical Repair Aging In Place (AIP) Program makes critical home repairs that enable senior citizens to move around safely inside their homes, and continue to maintain their independence.

Applications are now being taken for our Critical Repair Program.

Call for more information.



(865) 458-0704

loudoncountyhabitat.org