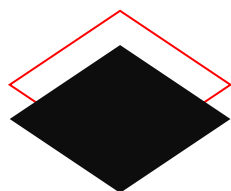




## SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN HENDERSONVILLE, NC

*“Bridge is more than just an intricate card game; it’s a multifaceted tool that benefits seniors in numerous ways. From enhancing cognitive function and emotional resilience to fostering social connections and improving overall quality of life” -- Senior Living Magazine*



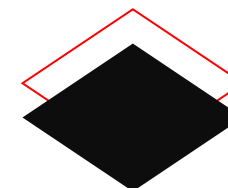




# Our Agenda

HURRICANE HELENE HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON ALL OF US. NONE MORE THAN OUR SENIOR COMMUNITY, WHO NEED A PLACE TO SOCIALIZE AND PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.

- 01.** **HISTORY**  
UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF THE HENDERSONVILLE BRIDGE CENTER
- 02.** **IMPORTANCE**  
THE ROLE THE HENDERSONVILLE BRIDGE CENTER PLAYS IN THE COMMUNITY
- 03.** **BENEFITS**  
THE BENEFITS THAT THE BRIDGE CENTER PROVIDES, NOT ONLY TO OUR SENIORS BUT TO THE TOWN AND ITS' BUSINESSES
- 04.** **HOPES**  
THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A CRITICAL ACTIVITY TO THE AREA IN ORDER TO PROMOTE WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR SENIORS





# 01. HISTORY

## BEFORE HURRICANE HELENE

- ❖ MOVED INTO WHITMIRE IN 2009
- ❖ MORE THAN 225,000 PLAYERS SINCE 2011  
(PLAYER TRACKING STARTED IN 2011)
- ❖ MORE THAN \$297,000 PAID TO HENDERSONVILLE
- ❖ MANY PEOPLE MOVED HERE FOR THE VIBRANT BRIDGE COMMUNITY
- ❖ BEFORE COVID, HBC WAS LARGEST BRIDGE CLUB IN NORTH CAROLINA, 16,852 PLAYERS IN 2019
- ❖ RECOVERING IN 2024 ... ON PACE FOR > 12,000 PLAYERS BEFORE HELENE HIT IN SEPTEMBER

Club Table Counts			
Year:	Type:	District:	
2019	Regular	All	
Country:	State/Province:	City:	
All countries	North Carolina		
Overall Rank	Filtered Rank	Club Name	City
86	1	Hendersonville Bridge Center	Hendersonville
146	2	The Bridge Academy	Durham
149	3	Sandhills Bridge Center LLC	Pinehurst
187	4	Triangle Bridge Club	Durham
219	5	Crazy 4 Bridge	Cornelius
299	6	Vanderbilt Bridge Club	Raleigh
331	7	Bridge R Us	Greenville
350	8	Highlands DBC	Highlands
367	9	Brunswick Bridge	Saint James
375	10	Raleigh Bridge Club	Raleigh
383	11	Foothills DBC	Tryon
401	12	Queen of Hearts	Cary
		Monday Afternoon	Charlotte



# 01. HISTORY

## AFTER HURRICANE HELENE

- ❖ REACHED AGREEMENT WITH CASCADES RESORT IN NOVEMBER 2024
- ❖ NO GAMES HELD IN DECEMBER-JANUARY DUE TO LACK OF HEAT, RESUMED PLAY FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>
- ❖ SHUT DOWN BY HENDERSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>
- ❖ SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH ART HOUSE VENUE IN EAST FLAT ROCK FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>
- ❖ SO FAR IN 2025, ON PACE FOR APPROXIMATELY 6,700 PLAYERS ( 50%+ DECLINE)
- ❖ MANY PLAYERS NOW PLAYING IN CLUBS IN OTHER TOWNS, SALUDA, BREVARD, ASHEVILLE





## 02. IMPORTANCE

- ❖ LACK OF DEDICATED SENIOR CENTER IN HENDERSONVILLE
- ❖ THE BRIDGE CLUB PROVIDES SOCIALIZATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS
- ❖ 30.9% OF HENDERSONVILLE'S POPULATION IS 65 YEARS OR OLDER\*
- ❖ BRIDGE IS ONE OF THE FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS WITH MOBILITY ISSUES OR HANDICAPS
- ❖ POSITIVE IMPACT ON LOCAL BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS
- ❖ GAMES, CLASSES, SEMINARS AND TOURNAMENTS BRING PEOPLE INTO THE AREA

\* 2023 US CENSUS, HENDERSONVILLE, NC



# 03. BENEFITS

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

*Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.*

-- Henry Ford

*Combatting Loneliness: Bridge clubs can help combat feelings of loneliness, especially among the elderly, by fostering social interactions and a sense of belonging.*

-- Faster Capital



### WASHINGTON POST

Seniors who regularly engaged in pastimes that stretched their minds... lowered their risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by as much as 75 percent



### UNIV. OF CA - BERKELEY

A study by Berkeley University showed that there are significant health benefits from learning to play bridge.



### NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

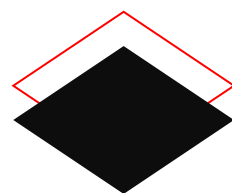
Seniors who played bridge regularly had a significantly lower risk of developing dementia compared to those who did not play the game



# 03. BENEFITS

## SEMINARS AND TOURNAMENTS

- ❖ BRIDGE EVENTS BRING IN PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES
- ❖ HOSTED AT WHITMIRE ACTIVITY CENTER
- ❖ ARRANGEMENTS WITH MULTIPLE HOST HOTELS IN THE AREA
- ❖ INCREASED PATRONAGE AT LOCAL BARS, RESTAURANTS
- ❖ ADVERTISING IN TRADE MAGAZINES



UNIT 171 AND THE HENDERSONVILLE  
BRIDGE CENTER PRESENT

# LARRY COHEN LIVE



25 National Championships  
2002 ACBL Player of the YEAR  
ACBL Hall of Fame  
Top 10 Living Most  
Influential People  
in Bridge

19th-20th  
**MAY** 2024  
STARTS AT  
9:00 AM

### DAILY SCHEDULE

9:00 Continental Breakfast  
Meet and Greet  
9:30 Lecture + 4 Deals  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Lecture + 4 Deals

### DECLARER PLAY

The Most Important Decision  
Don't Grab

### DEFENSE

The Key Strategy

### BIDDING

The Most Important 'Convention'

**\$199**  
INCLUDES  
BOTH DAYS

**REGISTER  
ONLINE**



<http://bit.ly/Larry171>



**WHITMIRE ACTIVITY CENTER**  
310 LILY POND DR.  
HENDERSONVILLE, NC

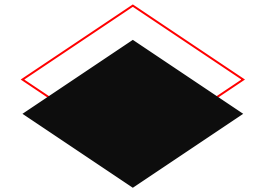


**SEMINAR HOST HOTELS**  
reserve by 4/18/24, mention  
'Bridge Seminar' for special rates

Fairfield Inn and Suites  
\$89/weekday, \$155/weekend  
1-828-513-5100

Holiday Inn Express  
\$129, 1-877-666-3243

# 04. HOPES



**THE BRIDGE CENTER IS CRUCIAL IN PROVIDING FOR THE WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH OF ITS' SENIORS. WE NEED A VENUE ...**

**1**

**PUT MAJOR EMPHASIS AND FUNDING ON THE PATTON PARK INITIATIVE**

**INVEST ONLY WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED TO RESTORE THE WHITMIRE BUILDING**

**LEASE WHITMIRE TO THE HENDERSONVILLE BRIDGE CENTER FOR EXCLUSIVE USE DURING THE WEEK**

**ALLOW OTHER TO USE FACILTY ON WEEKENDS VIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES**

**PROVIDE A 3-YEAR LEASE DURING WHICH TIME THE HBC WOULD ATTEMPT TO FIND A LONG-TERM SOLUTION OR BUILD OUR OWN FACILITY.**

**2**

**CONSIDER SELLING WHITMIRE. POTENTIAL BUYER IS IN THE WINGS AND THE DIFFICULTY OF DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC OWNED ASSETS IS RECOGNIZED**

**THE SALE OF TRANSFER OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY TO A NON-PROFIT MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY EASIER UNDER THIS SITUATION.**

**HBC IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING REORGANIZATION AS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NC GS 55A AND IS PURSUING 501(C)(7) NONPROFIT STATUS.**

**WE EXPECT TO INITIATE THE NEW DESIGNATION AT THE BEGINNING OF 2026.**





# THANK YOU

WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A VIBRANT, HEALTHY SENIOR COMMUNITY, AND THE VITAL ROLE THAT THE HENDERSONVILLE BRIDGE CENTER PLAYS IN MEETING THAT GOAL.



[HTTPS://HENDERSONVILLEBRIDGE.COM](https://hendersonvillebridge.com)

## HENDERSONVILLE BRIDGE CENTER

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