



# Bell-Ransom Family News

## Holiday Edition

# Happy Holidays!



Nov./Dec. 2024



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*For the Bounty of our Blessings,  
We Give Thanks.*



For the love of family and friends,  
the kindness of neighbors,  
For the joy of watching children grow and thrive,  
For memories of loved ones and  
the actions that they inspire,  
For the energy to persevere.  
when things are at their darkest,  
For the blessing of good health  
and the faith needed to heal,  
For the happiness of celebrations  
and comfort in times of sadness,  
For motivation to accomplish tasks  
and for wishes that come true,  
For dreams of things yet to do  
and places yet to go.  
For the gift of gathering and fellowship,

*We give thanks.* Jbp 2022



*Merry Christmas!*



*May the spirit of the season  
fill your heart with...*

*Joy to celebrate,*

*Love to share,*

*Peace that warms your soul  
and,*

*Hope for a new year of  
many blessings.*

*Merry Christmas!*



## Sharing Family News and The Things We are Talking About...



**Ava Tanaz Gardner** celebrated her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. According to her mother, Tala Gardner, she is a kind social butterfly and the epitome of style and grace. Her favorite things are pink, unicorns, rainbows, hearts, and animals. She started kindergarten this fall. She loves to sing, dance and perform. She participates in soccer, gymnastics, and swimming.



**Sophia Pyatt** was selected as a member of Charles Country Public Schools All County Middle School Honors Orchestra. Sophia played violin in the October 22 concert.



**Terry Bell** visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel while attending Homecoming 2024 at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.



**Olivia Bell** continues her outstanding performances with the New York City Ballet and was featured in an article in the October 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the New York Times.



**Deborah Hill** seen at Northwest Stadium cheering on her favorite team, The WASHINGTON COMMANDERS.



**Mrs. Sarah Sweatt Johnson** celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**Valencia Turnage** celebrated her 64<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 13<sup>th</sup>.



**Kyle Lockhart** made a trip to Las Vegas to visit with his sister, Stehanie Lockhart. Among the places visited was Sphero.



The 2024 Elections



Support the Edward Cheek House Museum & Halifax Co, NC African American Center with a donation.  
Email: [edwardcheekhousemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:edwardcheekhousemuseum@gmail.com) Edward Cheek House Museum, Inc c/o Andrea Cheek Whitaker 5921 Dalhberg Drive Raleigh NC 27603





**Shiloh** is patiently waiting and admiring **Erika Person's** Halloween decorations.



**Skylar Lewis** is dressed in her prize-winning Halloween costume and ready for Treat or Treating in her Rocky Mount, N.C. neighborhood.



**Freida Wellman** attended her Barton College Homecoming. She is shown with her Sigma Gamma Nu Sisters. Freida has also shared her beautiful

**Décor4Joy** arrangements on social media.



**Chance Lewel**, son Raven and Thomas Lewell, passed the end-of-the-grade tests and is now a school safety patrol student in the NC Wake County Schools. He is also the grandson of Gary and Wanda Bell. He turned nine years old on July 27th and is a highly favored student basketball player.



**Nima** is waiting for her owner, **Carole Strickland**, and a Halloween Walk in her Berkeley, California neighborhood.



**CJ Bell, Cary Bell, actor Anthony Anderson and Joni Roan** pose at a LA Dodgers game. The Dodgers defeated the New York Yankees to win the 2024 World Series.

**Margaret McGee, Valencia Turnage and Margaret Hawkins** traveled to Fort Washington, Md. in September. They visited with Jacqueline Pyatt and attended the 96<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Margaret's sister-in-law, Margie Ellis in Washington, DC.

**Bill and Linda Strickland** are attending NC A & T S U home football games. This is Linda's 55<sup>th</sup> reunion year.

**Rudy Pyatt** continues to share the sights of New York and his guitar improvisations on social media.

Congratulations to **John W Britt III** and **Amanda Pryor** on their October 18<sup>th</sup> wedding. John is the Grandson of Janet Allen Britt and John Wesley Britt, Sr and the father of the late John Wesley Britt, Jr, and nephew of Anthony Terrell Britt.

**RJ Pyatt** is a member of the AAU Maryland Elite Outlaws Basketball Team. In addition to basketball, the 8<sup>th</sup> grader enjoys playing video games. RJ is the son on Randy and Emily Pyatt.





**Samuel Hawkins and Audrey Barbee** were married on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Cary, N.C. The newlyweds honeymooned in Jamaca and will make their home in Durham. Samuel is the grandson of Margaret B. Hawkins and the late Quincy Hawkins, Sr.



**James Earl Ransome** illustrated the cover of Alta magazine's special issue **THE TRUE FACE OF THE WEST**, Reconciling Our Past. Reimagining Our Future along with three inside sections People, Land and Culture.



**Claudette Belfield** celebrated 25 years of employment at the Durham Department of Social Services on September 27.



**Catherine Bell, Jackie Pyatt, Margaret Hawkins, Linda Stickland and Yvonne Lewis** at the

wedding of Samuel and Audrey Hawkins.



**Terry Bell and Cheryl Bell** celebrated the debut of Kimberly Michelle's CD. The talented artist is the granddaughter of Sarah Sweatt Johnson and the late Andrew Mack Johnson.

**Margaret B. Hawkins** of Weldon was featured in the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald article "WELDON in Action Oral History Project." On Oct. 12, seven outstanding citizens and former citizens of Weldon told their life stories to launch Weldon In Action's oral history project.

**Florine Bell** continues her monthly Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald feature "Local history from Florine Bell" with *The Natural Spring Waters of Halifax and Warren Counties – Part III* on October 29

**Jeremiah Ramsey, the grandson of Barbara and Ernest Ramsey** received a Methodist University ROTC scholarship.



**Cary J. Bell** trained all summer to be prepared to start the soccer season with his Long Beach California team.



**Micheal Bell and wife, Bonita Bell** celebrated their 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 15 and Michael's October 13<sup>th</sup> birthday with dinner out.

**David Bell, Sr., and wife Florine Bell** are now members of **Golden 80's Club**. They celebrated their 80th birthdays on September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to the 80's Club.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## NOVEMBER

1 Mamie Cumberbatch

6 Douglas Boone III

8 Patricia Sasser

6 Lisa Gladden

10 A J Lewis

11 Douglas Bell III

11 Ethel Thompson

15 Terry Bell

16 Mark Gill

18 JJ Wellman

22 Sophia Pyatt

22 RJ Pyatt

29 Cheryl Bell

30 Billy Strickland

## DECEMBER

2 Joni C. Roan

7 Robert A. Owens

7 Ralph Bell Sr.

10 Joydan Wellman

10 Kyle Lockhart

11 Julian McGee

13 Lawrence Anyaso

15 Cierro Anyaso

29 Byron Hunter

31 Victor Anyaso

and others with a December birthday



Keep the sick, shut-in and those recovering from various ailments in your thoughts and prayers. Those reported include **Clarence Bell, John Wesley Thomas, Lawrence Gee III, Arsine Cameron, and Maxine Hill.** Add the names of others you know need prayer.



**Stay Well!**



*Our Deepest Sympathy*

We extend our deepest sympathy to all who have suffered the loss of a loved one since the publication of our Sept./Oct. newsletter. The following deaths have been reported:

**Mr. Wiley Jones** of Clinton, Md., son of the late James and Viola Jones

**Mr. Larry Davis, Sr.** of Jakson, cousin of Melvin Branch

**Mrs. Eleanor Harris** of Jackson, cousin of Catherine Bell

**Mr. Wiley E. Welch, Sr.** of Creswell, N.C. son of John and Mattie Welsh Sr.

**Ms. Mironica Miranda Ramsey** of Gaston, daughter of Ernest and Barbara Ramsey

**Michael Andrew Ward**, 10, of Petersburg, Va., son of Joshua and Kristina Ward and grandson of Stella and Michael Ward.



*"God is our refuge and our strength." Psalm 46:1*

**American Education Week 2023 is celebrated November 18– 22,** providing a dedicated time for schools, families, and communities to come together and support education. The 2024 theme is "Together for Safe, Just & Equitable Schools."

- ◆ Thank an Educator
- ◆ Visit Schools
- ◆ Participate in Parent-Teacher Conferences
- ◆ Support Education Initiatives







Thank you, Veterans.  
We appreciate your service.

“Having  
somewhere to  
go is home.  
Having  
someone to love  
is family. Having  
both is a  
blessing.”  
Unknown

**REMINDER:** If you  
are a Bell-Ransom  
Family Reunion  
2024 Scholarship  
Recipient, send  
verification of your  
higher education  
attendance to  
Margaret B.  
Hawkins, 1200  
Snead Street,  
Weldon, NC 27890

### A Holiday Recipe

#### Leatrice's Sweet Potato Pie

3 medium-sized sweet potatoes boiled and mashed.

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk

1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring

1 cup sugar, more or less

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter or margarine

3 eggs well-beaten

1 tablespoon flour

A pinch of nutmeg

Mix and whisk together all ingredients and pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

From: *Memories, Good Eats and Treats: A Recipe Collection Celebrating The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Bell-Ransom Family Reunion* August 2003



Save the Dates August 8-10, 2025, for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Bell-Ransom Family Reunion

The Bell-Ransom Family Tree



Deeply Rooted in Love