

# Keowee Key cuts ribbon on latest renovation

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — About 360 people attended a ribbon cutting Friday for the grand opening of The Club at Keowee Key, the community's \$7 million clubhouse renovation with new upgrades and amenities.

"It's incredibly important for marketability and quality of life," board president Steve Smith said of the clubhouse. "We're a gated country club community, and this is the heart and soul of our community. This is where everyone gathers for social events. Part of the old facility was in really bad shape."

The club renovation project

represents half of the community's \$14 million in investments for amenity upgrades dating to early 2018.

Renovations to the club include a vista ballroom that seats 250 people, inside and outside dining with a patio seating area for 100 people and a covered bar porch that seats 60. The approximately 3,000 members will also see stone, marble and tile patterns on floors inside the club now totaling 26,690 square feet.

Smith told The Journal amenity rates did not go up to help fund the latest series of renovations.

"We had a number of projects

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**Keowee Key board director David Rosamond hands over the key to the community's newly renovated clubhouse to club director Mary Davis at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday.**

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# KEOWEE KEY: 'We're thrilled about it'

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we started several years ago, and the community was assessed to finance those projects on a short-term basis," he said. "It was a five- or six-year loan we paid off, and those assessments would've expired and it was Margaret (Eldridge's) suggestion to rather than let those assessments expire, people just keep paying them into a pool of funds for renovations into the community."

Eldridge, a former board president, said members' reinvestment into renovations has been key to community upgrades.

"The members were willing to repurpose an expiring assessment to be able to do this," she said. "Keowee Key was the first amenity-filled development on Lake Keowee. It was developed in 1979, and I think this will allow us to take our place as a market leader and will allow us to attract great people to our area who will be great in investing in our community."

Eldridge said she was looking forward to sharing the new amenities with neighbors.

"We wanted this to feel like a beautiful resort on Lake Keowee," she said. "You can see representations of water, waterfalls, fire, trees, mountains, colors and everything incorporated from the outdoors at Lake Keowee."

Marketing director Christine de Vlaming said the renovations will help her encourage those looking into becoming part of Keowee Key.

"The quality of life is going to be improved exponentially by these changes," de Vlaming said. "They



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**Keowee Key board director David Rosamond cuts the ribbon on the newly renovated Club at Keowee Key on Friday.**

have the facilities that are up to date and modern that they deserve as owners. We're thrilled with the support of the community. We have super-duper partnerships with these folks in the community, and they have been terrific for us."

Club director Mary Davis called the upgrades "absolutely amazing."

"We have a new, modern facility, and we're thrilled about it," Smith said. "These renovations mean everything. The club is the social hub of the community. It's giving them a more beautiful and inviting environment to enjoy. The community is going to love it."

Davis said more than 1,000 people

were expected to come to other grand opening celebrations over the weekend.

De Vlaming said the last renovation project is for Keowee Key's 18-hole golf course, set to open in the fall.

"I feel proud, grateful and relieved," Smith said. "There's always the concern in the back of your mind with a project of this magnitude if it's going to be successful. We're very, very pleased with how it all turned out. We want to get this all done and move forward and start enjoying everything in the community."

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