



# March 2026

## What's Happening In and Around the Community?

### Estates of Fort Lauderdale NEWSLETTER



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**In Loving Memory of John Hofmeister.**  
Editor and Master Mind of our newsletter

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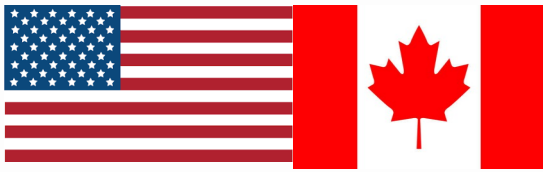
\*minimum 3 issue commitment\*

- ⇒ Monday, March 2 Community Club General Membership Meeting - 7:00 pm
- ⇒ Monday, March 2—3, through Tuesday Purim
- ⇒ Thursday, March 5 BINGO! Doors open 5:30 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, March 8 Daylight Savings Time begins - 2:00 am (Spring forward)
- ⇒ Tuesday, March 10 Women's Club, Social Time 11:00 am, Meeting 11:30 am.
- ⇒ Wednesday, March 18 POA Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
- ⇒ Saturday, March 28 Easter Egg Hunt - 10 am
- ⇒ Saturday, March 28 Community Club Miami Vice Party— 7 pm

- ⇒ Every Monday on the Patio, bring a dish and enjoy time with neighbors—5:30 pm
- ⇒ Every Thursday on the Patio—Spanish Lessons with Mateo (6pm 1st two Thursdays in March)
- ⇒ Pickle Ball—Weekday mornings

Estates of Ft. Lauderdale - Office Tel.: (954) 962-2712 / Fax (954) 391-9600  
2850 SW 54th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

*A Community Club Service Vol. 53 No. 3 March 2026*



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>Comm- nity Club Meeting 7pm</b>	3 <b>2026 PURIM</b>	4	5 <b>Doors Open 5:30</b>  <b>Spanish Class 6pm</b>	6	7
8	9 <i>Every Monday at 5:30 pm Mix and Socialize with your Friends and Neighbors on the PATIO</i>	10 <b>Women's Club 11 am—Social Time 11:30 am Meeting</b> 	11	12  <b>Panish Class 6pm</b>	13	14
15	16	17 <b>HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY</b> 	18 <b>POA Board Meeting 7 pm</b>	19  <b>NO Spanish Classes</b>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26  <b>NO Spanish Classes</b>	27	28 <b>Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Comm. Club Event 7 pm</b>
29 	30	31				

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**Dania Beach City Hall** (check hours of operation)  
 City Commissioners Meeting - 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month open to the public and also on Comcast ch. 78 @7pm  
 ⇒ C.O.P. Meeting (City Hall) - Second Thursday of each month @ 5pm



# Community Club



Dear Neighbors and Friends,

March is here! With longer days, blooming flowers, and that fresh spring energy in the air, it's the perfect time to reconnect, get involved, and make the most of everything happening in our beautiful community.

If you haven't already signed up for the Community Club, this is your sign! Membership is what keeps our events, traditions, and social gatherings thriving. From family-friendly celebrations to fun nights out with neighbors, your participation truly makes the difference. We would love to welcome you and your household into the fun.



## St. Patrick's Puttshack Fun Miniature Golf Party OFFSITE



Puttshack - Dania Pointe



March 17th | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a little friendly competition and a lot of fun! Join your neighbors for mini golf at Puttshack in Dania Pointe.



Reserve your spot by purchasing your **\$15 golf ticket** on Monday March 2nd & March 9th on the patio (6:00–7:00 PM).



Food and beverages will be available at the venue for purchase on your own.

Wear your green and get ready to tee off with your community! To check out the location visit [puttshack.com](http://puttshack.com).



## Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 28th | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Spring wouldn't be complete without an Easter Egg Hunt! Be sure to sign up your children so they can join in the excitement. We'll have plenty of treats, eggs, smiles, and springtime fun for everyone. It's a wonderful way for families to connect.



## Miami Vice Party – Saturday, March 28th | Starting at 7:00 PM

Adults, this one's for you! Get ready for a vibrant evening filled with music, tropical vibes, and authentic Cuban cuisine. We'll be serving: (Con't page 26)

# Estates of Fort Lauderdale Women's Club



Top O the Month to you Ladies!!

I'm happy to report that the open positions on the Board have been filled! Thanks for answering the call and stepping up!

We started off the February meeting with the Installation of Officers. The following officers were duly installed by Virginia Stewart:

President—Suzi Ford

Vice President—Caroll Colby

Secretary—Lisa Thompson

Treasurer—Lya Alencar

Tracy Krog has agreed to serve as Membership Chair

Many thanks to all as we move forward in 2026!!!

We were happy to welcome our “resident” BSO Detective Taryn Sessions who provided us with a timely report and scammer update. We always love having her join us! Lya Alencar reminded us of the many needy people that live in and around our community. With that in mind, she requested that we bring canned, non-perishable food items to her at the next meeting and all subsequent meetings in 2026. She is also happy to receive items at her home address: 2878 SW 58 Manor. Questions may be directed to Lya at 954-854-0102. Please be sure to double check your items for expiration dates before drop off.

Lorraine Viviano was the Lucky Duck winner of the 50/50 drawing and Bliss Rovelsky, former member Marion Figini and Lya Alencar were door prize winners.

The next meeting is March 10 th starting with social time beginning at 11:00 am and followed by the business meeting at 11:30 am. The theme will be “Shamrocks and Shenanigans” so please come dressed in the traditional colors of Ireland, green, white and orange! Question: how much do YOU know about St. Patrick’s Day???? Do you have “the luck of the Irish”?

Please remember, Any woman who has reached the age of 18 and is a registered resident of the Estates of Fort Lauderdale is eligible for membership. COME AND JOIN OUR FUN BUNCH OF LADIES!!!

Don't forget Happy Hour on the Patio each Monday beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own beverage and a snack to share! Hope to see everyone real soon.

Yours in fun and friendship,  
Suzi Ford, President

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## MARCH Observances & Fun Facts

February is the shortest month. It was named after the Roman purification rituals, known as lustratio, which were celebrated to restore harmony with the gods.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 3 – PURIM</li> <li>• March 6—Employee Appreciation Day</li> <li>• March 8—International Women’s Day</li> <li>• Daylight Savings Time Begins</li> <li>• March 17—St. Patrick’s Day</li> <li>• March 18—April 7—March Madness</li> <li>• March 20—Vernal Equinox (1st Day of Spring)</li> <li>• March 29—Palm Sunday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARCH— named after Mars, the Roman god of war—symbolizes transformation and new growth.</li> <li>• We will mark the Full Worm Moon on March 3, 6:38 A.M. This is more than just another Full Moon! There will also be a <b>Total Lunar Eclipse</b>, also called a <b>Blood Moon</b>.</li> <li>• This <u>lunar eclipse</u> is visible from all of North America. The Moon will enter the penumbra at 8:17 A.M. EST (5:17 A.M. PST) and the penumbra at 9:23 A.M. EST (6:23 A.M. PST).</li> </ul>
<b>Birthstone</b>	<b>Aqua-marine and Bloodstone</b>
<b>Fruits and Veggies</b>	<b>Strawberries, grapefruit and kiwi</b> <b>Artichokes, radishes and spinach</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Daffodil</b> -symbolizes rebirth and hope <b>Jonquils</b> —affection and love
<b>Astrological Sign</b>	<b>Pisces:</b> February 19—March 20 <b>Aries</b> —March 21—April 20
<b>Birthdays</b>	Albert Einstein, Reese Witherspoon, Elton John & William Shatner



Good day fellow homeowners.

I hope everyone had a Valentine's Day of  love .

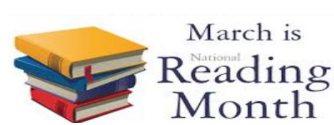
Again, I have to stress to please follow the rules. The parking on the lawns is getting out of hand. Also not having your guests registered is a big nono!!!! Once we are told about it, we must act!!!!

I am going to mention again about having your IDs with you when you go to the pool, hot tub and common areas. YOU WILL NOT be permitted to enter without it!!! All of these rules are for your safety and ours. We are only trying to do our job. People getting angry over this just have a problem with rules. Please help make our job easier by abiding the rules.

We want our community to strive so please help. I hope everyone has a wonderful St Patrick's Day . Luck of the Irish be with you all .

Have a happy, safe, blessed month.

Thank you,  
Lisa Thompson POA President



# Association Canadienne Américaine Canadian American Association

Le bonheur est avec l'ACA est notre thème cette année.

En effet, c'est le bonheur de commencer le mois de mars avec le Brunch de la cabane à sucre ! miam, miam !

De plus, nous aurons l'occasion de tout brûler ces calories durant les semaines de sports du 2 au 13 mars. Quelle belle formule ! Ne manquez surtout pas notre dernière soirée dansante de la saison le 14 mars.

Bon printemps !  
Monique Vaillancourt,  
Présidente par intérim

Our theme this year is « Happiness is with the ACA ».

Start the month of March with our famous Sugar Shack Brunch on March 1st. Now that is happiness!

The very next day you can burn off those calories with 2 weeks of sports.

There will be a tournament on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from March 2nd to March 13th .

The final dinner dance of the season will be on March 14th .  
Happy Spring!

Monique Vaillancourt,  
Acting President

CANADIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION - ESTATES OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
MARCH 2026 HAPPINESS IS WITH SPORTS WEEKS SPORTS WEEKS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9.30- Sugar Shack Brunch 11.00- Sugar Shack Brunch	8.30- Petanque	3.00- End of season for Leagues Cocktail	8.30- Golf (green)		8.30- Baseball Bean Bag Toss	
	8.30- Shuffleboard		8.30- Olympiads		8.30- Bowling	5.30- Dinner & Dance End of Season
	8.30- Aquafitness		8.30- Aquafitness		8.30- Aquafitness	
	8.30- Aquafitness		8.30- Aquafitness		8.30- Aquafitness	





# HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY

**St. Patrick was NOT Irish**

He was from Wales

**11** of our favorite ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

1. Drink green beer
2. Go to a parade (instead of work)
3. Make green eggs & ham
4. Learn an Irish jig
5. Don a green top hat
6. Wear green knee socks
7. Paint toenails green
8. Eat corned beef & cabbage
9. Shave a shamrock in your beard
10. Add Irish cream to your coffee
11. Buy an Irish Setter

In the last 100 years **650,000** babies have been named **PATRICK** in the U.S.

**39%**

of Americans celebrate St. Pat's Day  
Wear green.....83 %  
Make special food ....34 %  
Attend a party ..... 31 %  
Decorate home .....25 %

The color traditionally associated with St. Patrick was **BLUE** not green

**40 LBS** of green dye are used in the Chicago River every year

**5.5 million** pints of Guinness® are consumed every day around the world

**11 million** pints on St. Paddy's Day!

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in **New York** in **1762**



Irish immigrants subbed **CORNER BEEF** for traditional Irish **BACON** to save money

The **SHAMROCK** called the "seamroy" by the Celts, symbolized the rebirth of spring in ancient Ireland

THERE ARE OVER **450** CHURCHES named for St. Patrick in the U.S.

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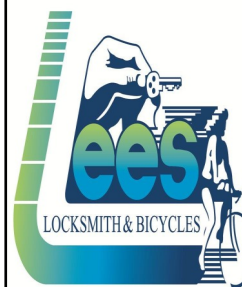
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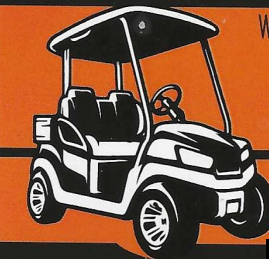
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# MARCH 2026



March 3—Charlotte Sloboda

March 17—Karl Newell

March 28—Harold Baird

March 30—Jody Deuyour

March 15—Wayne & Shirl Schneider

March 31—Karl & Judy Newell



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## Daylight Saving Time Starts

*March 8, 2026*

Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night or Sunday morning the weekend of March 9.



# Quebec

CELEBRATE our Canadian residents  
and learn something about the  
charming city of QUEBEC!  
Solution page 17



Quebec

Quebec is the capital of the province of Quebec and the oldest city in Canada. Among its notable cultural attributes is the Musee national de beaux-arts du Quebec, the largest museum in the province. It contains both traditional and modern French paintings and sculptures.

- |  |                                    |   |
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What is the “Ides of March”?

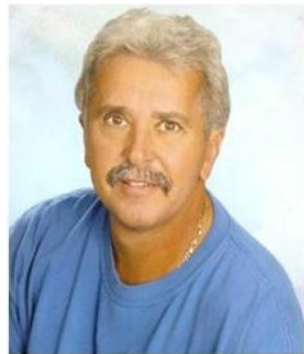
According to the Roman calendar, the Ides are a monthly occurrence. In March and other months with 31 days, the **Ides** always falls on the 15th; it falls on the 13th in months with 30 days. The Ides traditionally marked the arrival of the new Moon and was cause for celebration. The word “Ides” is derived from Latin, meaning “to divide.”

The Ides is one of three named days in the Roman calendar month. The others are the **Kalends**, which always falls on the first day of a month, and the **Nones**, which occurs on either the 5th or the 7th of a month, depending on if it has 30 or 31 days, respectively.

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*“You won't melt in your house, while you're in our hands”*

When you participate with the EFL Community Club



(Left) We see Pat Tyra who celebrated her February birthday with the Community Club President, Staci Powell at the Monthly Meeting! Pat received a lottery scratch-off.

Take the time to attend the Community Club Meetings, you will be glad you did.

# Community Club News (continued)

We'll be serving:

- Cuban Sandwiches with Cuban-style rice and beans, Plantain chips, Dessert
- Two drinks included with your ticket plus BYOB

Dust off your pinks, whites, and Miami-inspired attire and join us for a night that promises great food, laughter, and unforgettable memories with neighbors.

## **How to Sign Up:**

Tickets are sold on the patio on Mondays from 6:00–7:00 PM. You can also check the flyers in the mailroom for additional ways to register for all events and club membership.

## **Spring Ideas & Reminders:**

March is a great time to:

- Refresh your yard and front entry for spring
- Introduce yourself to a new neighbor
- Volunteer at an upcoming event
- Share ideas you'd love to see the Club bring to life this year

As we step into this new season, let's embrace the spirit of renewal and connection. Our community is strongest when we show up, participate, and support one another.

I look forward to seeing you at the Easter Egg Hunt, dancing the night away at our Miami Vice Party, and welcoming even more of you into our Community Club family.

Here's to a bright and beautiful March together! 

Warmly,

Staci Powell  
Your Community Club President



**CITIZENS  
Observation  
PATROL**



Our C.O.P. volunteers continue to patrol Ravenswood and the Estates and the entirety of Dania Beach. We are always looking for new members. You can contact me for an application @ [dadsinkeylargo@gmail.com](mailto:dadsinkeylargo@gmail.com).

**CRIME REPORT:** Just a reminder that most home burglaries take place during the day. But those at night are at homes where the lights are off. It is advised that you turn your outside lights on at night. The bad people prefer to work in the dark. In 2025, there were 849 burglaries in Dania Beach. So far in 2026 it has exploded to over a thousand.

A change has been made in traffic speed enforcement. Particularly in school zones. Most know the speed limit is 15mph during school openings and closings. It has been expanded to as long as there are activities in the schools, the speed laws enforcement will continue until all activities end and that could be into the evenings. Just be aware.

**FIRE RESCUE REPORT:** It is time to safeguard your home and yourself. Check all extension cords. It is not advised to have multiple things plugged in. Check for visible worn wires. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors. If you are unable to do it yourself, you can call the fire department and make an appointment. They will gladly do it for you. Lastly, get rid of that old footwear. Weak or smooth tread will facilitate slipping and falling. If you live alone, pick a friend to keep in touch with. You can keep a watchful eye out for each other.

Non emergency number is **(954) 764-4357**. You can always call **911!** They want you to call.

**As always, be safe, keep your head up and look around you. If you see something, say something, do something!**

**Leslie Kevles, Captain  
BSO, C.O.P., Dania Beach**



# BINGO at Estates Clubhouse



## Thursday Mar 5<sup>th</sup>

Doors open **5:30**

Bingo Papers & Hot Dogs

sold between 5:30 & 6:15

Games start at 6:30

# PURIM 2026

With costumes, spiels and lots of drinking, **Purim** is one of Judaism's most raucous holidays. You might know about beautiful Esther thwarting evil Haman's plans, the custom of getting drunk and what hamantaschen are. But we're guessing there's a few things about this holiday that might surprise you

1. Esther was a vegetarian (or at least a flexitarian).

According to midrash, while Queen Esther lived in the court of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of legumes so that she would not break the laws of kashrut (dietary laws).

2. You're supposed to find a go-between to deliver your mishloach manot, the gift baskets traditionally exchanged with friends and family on Purim.

The verse in the Book of Esther about mishloach manot stipulates that we should *send* gifts to one another, not just give gifts to one another

3. The Book of Esther is one of just two biblical books that do not include God's name. The other is Song of Songs. The Book of Esther also makes no reference to the Temple, to prayer, or to Jewish practices such as *kashrut* [keeping kosher].

4. Hamantaschen might have been designed to symbolize Haman's hat — or his ears or pockets. Or something a little more womanly. Some say these cookies represent Haman's ears (the Hebrew name for them, *oznei Haman*, means just this), and refer to a custom of cutting off a criminal's ears before his execution. Another theory is that the three patriarchs whose power weakened Haman and gave strength to Esther to save the Jews. Yet another theory: Because the German word *tasche* means "pouch" or "pocket," the cookies could signify Haman's pockets and the money he offered the king for permission to kill the Jews.

5. In 1945, a group of American GI's held belated Purim services inside Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels' confiscated castle.

6. The Book of Esther, which many scholars theorize is fictional, may be an adaptation of a Babylonian story.

Some scholars argue that the Book of Esther adapted stories about these pagan gods — Marduk becoming Mordecai and Ishtar transformed to Esther — to reflect the realities of its own Jewish authors in exile

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## BINGO at Estates Clubhouse



Jeudi 5 mars

Portes ouvertes a 17:30

Feuilles de bingo et Hot Dogs

entrée 17:30 et 18:15

Les jeux des 18:30

The Community Club invites you to:

# MIAMI VICE PARTY

SAT~MARCH 28~7PM



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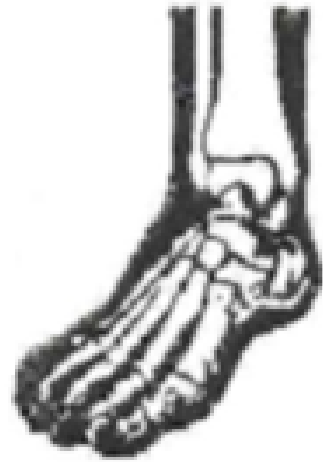
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**Women's Club**



Celebrated a month of  
LOVE in February

Virginia Stewart installed new officers for the 2026—2027 year.



# Annual Massachusetts Lunch Monday, March 30th @ 1pm

Join us at Kelly's Landing  
Ft. Lauderdale

Once again anyone in our Park, or a visitor, who is from Massachusetts or has "ties" to the Commonwealth (friend, neighbor, whomever), or is from a bordering State is welcome to join us (and share historical facts, pictures, recent events or whatever).



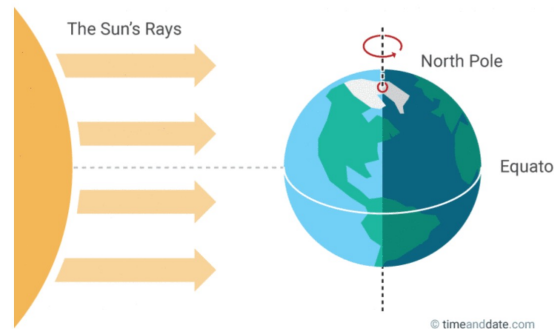
You order (and pay for) whatever you want from the menu. As always we hope for fresh New England fish like Scrod and of course Clams with the Bellies!

Once again Patrick, our server has set aside table space for us. BUT, Table reservations must be made in advance, so if you plan to join us please call Pat Tyra (954)987-5132 by Thursday, March 26th.

Also call her for menu information, driving directions, or if you want to carpool.



## Spring Equinox – Friday, March 20, 2026



**What is it?** The March equinox – aka the *vernal equinox* – marks the sun's crossing above Earth's equator, moving from south to north. Earth's tilt on its axis is what causes this northward shift of the sun's path across our sky at this time of year. Earth's tilt is now bringing spring and summer to the Northern Hemisphere. At the same time, the March equinox marks the beginning of autumn – and a shift toward winter – in the Southern Hemisphere.

**When is it?** The sun crosses the celestial equator – a line directly above Earth's equator – at 14:46 UTC on March 20, 2026 (9:46 a.m. CDT).

No matter where you are on Earth, the equinox brings us a number of seasonal effects, noticeable to nature lovers around the globe.

### Equal day and night on the equinox?

At the equinox, Earth's two hemispheres are receiving the sun's rays equally. Night and day are often said to be equal in length. In fact, the word *equinox* comes from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). For our ancestors, whose timekeeping was less precise than ours, day and night likely did seem equal. But today we know it's **not exactly so**.

### Fastest sunsets at the equinoxes

The fastest sunsets and sunrises of the year happen at the equinoxes. We're talking here about the length of time it takes for the whole sun to sink below the horizon.

### More March equinox effects

And there are also plenty more effects in play around the time of the March equinox that all of us can notice. In the Northern Hemisphere, the March equinox brings earlier sunrises, later sunsets and sprouting plants.

Meanwhile, you'll find the opposite season – later sunrises, earlier sunsets, chillier winds, dry and falling leaves – south of the equator.

The equinoxes and solstices are caused by Earth's tilt on its axis and ceaseless motion in orbit. You can think of an equinox as happening on the imaginary dome of our sky, or as an event that happens in Earth's orbit around the sun.



Everyone has a good time on BINGO Night! Come out and join your friends and neighbors and maybe we'll see your face among the winners.



## Pickle Ball - What to Know

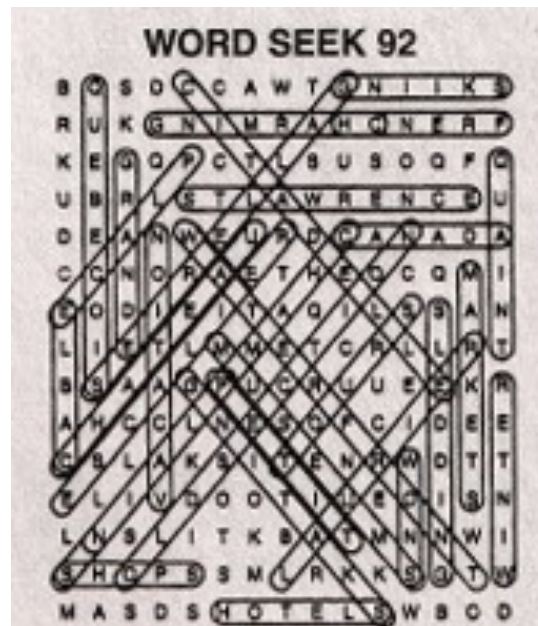
Back in 1965 three Dads living on Bainbridge Island, Wash., were sick of hearing their kids complain of boredom. So they created a mash up of Ping-Pong, tennis, and badminton to squelch their bellyaching complaints. It worked!. But what about the name?

Theory #1: "Pickles" was a ball chasing dog belonging to one of the Dads and the game was named in her honor.  
 Theory #2: Because of its mixture of other racket sports, the wife on one of the Dads coined the term as a reference to the second-string leftovers manning the "pickle boat" in rowing.

A pickelball paddle is different from a Ping Pong paddle. It is larger, slightly square and made of high-tech materials. The pickleball is made of a thick polymer and has anywhere from 26 to 40 holes. There are slight variations between indoor and outdoor balls.

Want to Talk like a Pickler?

Dillball; an incoming ball that has bounced once and is thus available for you to wack.  
 Flapjack; for each serve and return of serve, players must allow the ball to bounce before they hit it.  
 The Kitchen; a 7 foot zone on either side of the net where you are forbidden to hit the ball unless it has bounced first.



From the Editor,

Hopefully you have noticed some changes and updates. We recently updated the front picture but with this issue we have improved the front, keeping it similar but cleaner and easier to read.

The Dania Beach meetings have been moved to the page listing the important numbers.

We're listing more events on the calendar and including the ACA calendar when it is available..

No promises but keep your eyes open for additional changes.

Paul

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Volunteer Spotlight: Charlotte Sloboda & all the BINGO VOLUNTEER CREW

Behind every successful community event is someone working quietly with dedication, heart, and vision — and this month, we are honored to celebrate Charlotte Sloboda and the many BINGO CREW volunteers who include: BINGO callers - Joe, Carl, and Angela, BINGO card and food sales helpers - Jean, Sue, Lorraine, Lee, Mary, Cathy, Pat, Latisha, Evelyn, and Natalie.

Charlotte's passion for keeping our Community Club active and connected shines through in everything she does. Her leadership behind our monthly Bingo is truly invaluable. She continually brings forward ideas and initiatives that strengthen our sense of belonging and create meaningful opportunities for neighbors to gather.

Her commitment to our monthly Bingo is especially remarkable. What appears effortless on event night is actually the result of careful preparation, thoughtful planning, and hours of behind-the-scenes work. Her organization and exceptional attention to detail ensure that every BINGO event and all other events that she helps with are enjoyable and well-executed.



Volunteers like Charlotte and the BINGO CREW are the heartbeat of our community. We are deeply thankful for all of their time, energy, and unwavering support. On behalf of our entire community, thank you all for your dedication, generosity, and heart.



Readers, don't look for the Cahoots quarterly publication this fall but it will be back in the spring!

A colorful poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. At the top, the words "EASTER EGG HUNT" are written in large, multi-colored, bubbly letters. Below that, it says "Join us for a hoppin' good time!". In the center, a cartoon rabbit is holding a basket of eggs, standing next to a wooden signpost that says "Monte Carlo Room". There are several decorated Easter eggs and flowers scattered around. Below the rabbit, the date "MARCH 28th" is written in bold. A white box contains the event details: "WHEN: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM" and "WHERE: Meet in the Monte Carlo Room for instructions." At the bottom, a pink box says "TWO WAYS TO REGISTER:". Below this, there are two options: "OPTION 1: Sign up in the mailroom so we can prepare." with a clipboard icon, and "OPTION 2: Scan the QR Code below to sign up." with a QR code icon labeled "SCAN ME".