

JULY 2026

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DISTRICT 35 L

BRAGGING RIGHTS BULLETIN

Statutory Responsibilities of Florida Lions Clubs

To keep your Lions Club in good standing, there are several important annual filings that must be completed. Every club should designate an officer—typically the secretary or treasurer—to monitor these deadlines and ensure all reports are submitted on time.

Florida Corporate Annual Report

Every Florida Lions Club incorporated as a nonprofit must file an Annual Report with the State of Florida between January 1 and May 1 each year through Sunbiz.org. The filing updates your club's officers and corporate information. If your club also has a separate Foundation, it must file its own Annual Report. Late filings may result in penalties.

Solicitation of Contributions Registration

Clubs that conduct fundraising activities should maintain an active Solicitation of Contributions Registration with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Renew your registration before it expires and ensure all required fundraising disclosures are included on promotional materials.

IRS Form 990-N

Most Lions Clubs are required to file the annual IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) using the club's EIN. For clubs with a June 30 fiscal year end, the filing is due November 15 each year. Missing this filing can jeopardize your nonprofit status.

Staying current with these annual requirements helps protect your club's nonprofit status and allows your members to focus on what matters most—serving your community.

Memorium



Jerry Malcolm Smith

7/27/1939 – 6/1/2026

Jerry Malcolm Smith of Alachua, Florida, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 1, 2026, surrounded by his family. He joined the Alachua Lions Club on October 1, 1971 where he served as President and in a number of other capacities for almost 55 years.

Following college, Jerry began his career as a Bank Examiner for the State of Florida and served his country in the National Guard. In 1971, he and Laura moved to Alachua to follow Jerry's dream of running a community bank with the purchase of the First National Bank of Alachua, where he served as Chairman and President until its sale to Capital City Bank in 2005. Under his leadership, the bank grew more than two hundred-fold and became a cornerstone of the community, helping people achieve their own personal dreams.

Jerry served on the Alachua County Community Board for Capital City Bank after the sale of FNBA, demonstrating his continued investment in the local community he loved so much. He was deeply committed to civic and professional service. In 1976, he founded the Alachua Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in shepherding its growth and local impact through his years of leadership and service. Jerry was heavily involved in the Florida Bankers Association, serving as President in 2002- 2003. He chaired the City of Alachua's planning and zoning board, and later served on the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Jacksonville. His vision and leadership left an indelible mark on both the community banking industry and the greater Alachua community.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 10, 2026, at 2 PM at the First Baptist Church of Alachua, with Pastor Jesse Bryan officiating. The family will receive visitors after the service in the church Family Ministry Center. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alachua Chamber of Commerce Building Fund, 14801 Main Street, Alachua, FL 32615, or the First Baptist Church of Alachua, P.O. Box 97, Alachua, FL 32615.



Memorium



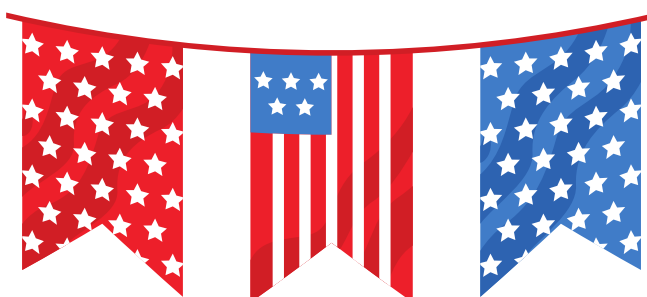
Russell E. Baillie

November 6, 1952 - June 5, 2026

A treasured lifetime member of the Ocala Lions Club has passed. Russell Baillie proudly served as our president and club member. He exemplified the Lions' motto, "We Serve" through his community service and helping others and was a Melvin Jones Fellow.

Memorial contributions may be made in Russell's name to the David Baillie Scholarship Fund, established in memory of Russell's father, David Baillie. His father also served as an Ocala Lions Club President.

The Scholarship Fund, established by the Ocala Lions Club, supports students pursuing degrees in agriculture. The members of our Club have annually volunteered to serve as judges at the Youth Fair held at the Livestock Pavilion. The Scholarship is awarded at the event each year.



Memorium



Jones dedicated life to others



Jones with his dog made his life toward helping other people

Courtesy Photo

Century man struck and killed on Highway 29 trying to get a turtle out of the roadway

By **JOE THOMAS**
Ledger Editor

People who knew Century resident Bernie Jones said he would give you the shirt off his back and worked his entire life helping people. Jones was trying to help get a turtle out of the middle of Highway 29 in Century Tuesday morning when he was struck and killed by a passing vehicle.

According to the Flomaton Highway Patrol Division, the incident happened at 9:25 a.m. on North Century Boulevard near the Henry Street intersection, which is located between Southern Pit Stop and Vallartas Mexican Restaurant.

Officials reported 76-year old Jones was struck by a vehicle heading north, driven by a 27-year-old Flomaton woman. Jones was pronounced dead at the scene and officials stated the investigation is ongoing.

Bubba Hammac said Jones had just left Bondurant Lumber and Hardware in Century before the incident happened.

"He was a wonderful man," Hammac said. "He was a caring guy and I just adored him."

He said Jones had stopped on Highway 29 at one of his rental houses and people said he got out of his truck to go pick the turtle up when he was struck.

Hammac said he's known Jones for more than 25 years and they worked together with the Century Lions Club, where they built wheelchair ramps for elderly people in the community. Jones was also very active in the Alger-Sullivan Historical Society.

"He was a great friend and community guy," Hammac said. "Life is so cruel at times. He was trying to do a little good and it backfired on him."

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Hammac said Jones once told him he wasn't proud of some of the things he did as a young man but tried to make up for it. The two did disaster training together through the Lions Club.

Hammac added that when Jones left Bondurant's shortly before he killed he shook hands with every employee and every customer who was in the store.

Jerry Fischer said he's known Jones most of his life and said Jones was always around to help people. He said the two worked with the historical society and Jones would do anything he could to help, especially during Sawmill Day.

"He carried his dog with him everywhere he went," Fischer said. "He came to the house and let his dog run around while we talked. He was a great man and I loved

his family."

A celebration of Jones' life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at Poplar Bell Baptist Church in Byrneville.

In lieu of flowers, Jones' family wrote they requested "that you honor Bernie's memory the way he lived: reach out to help a friend, tell a delightfully bad joke, and simply enjoy life".





Alachua Lions Club



ALC SPONSORS 5TH GRADE GRADUATION

The Alachua Lions Club was a proud sponsor of Alachua Elementary School's 5th Grade Graduation Ceremony held at the Legacy Park Center. The school services students in grades 3 through 5, and 96 of the 5th graders graduated on May 12.

Alachua Elementary also receives services from the ALC throughout the year with the Food4Kids Program, Coats for Kids, Emergency Clothes Closet, 1st Year Teacher Awards, and other projects as identified by Principal Floyd and the school staff.

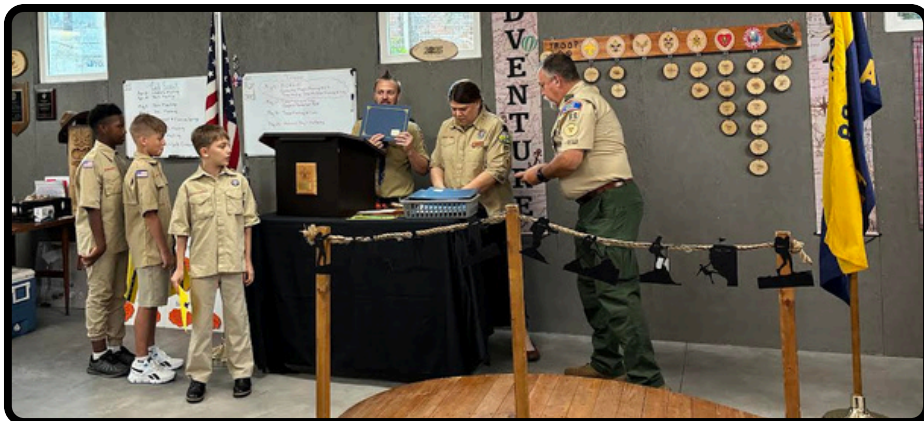


TROOP 88 CROSSOVER CELEBRATION

Boy Scout Troop 88 was chartered in February 1912 and is an entity that has been supported by the Alachua Lions Club for many years. They suffered a very devastating loss in 1983 when the log cabin they met in (built in the 1930's) was destroyed by fire. Spearheaded by an effort of Lion Gil Whitman, the Alachua Lions Club started a fund-raising project to rebuild the cabin.

Over time, the repairs of previous years needed to be reassessed, so in 2024 the Alachua Lions Club started another fund-raising campaign the raise \$165,000 to completely refurbish and remodeled the Scout Hut. We are truly thankful to our many donors and community constituents that made this possible.

The leaders of Troop 88 celebrated the Crossover Celebration for their newest Cubs on May 30, with many family members and ALC members present.





Alachua Lions Club



ALC SUPPORTS JOSH'S PLACE

Josh's Place is a community outreach program for youth where they can feel safe to be themselves. A place where they know that they are not alone with their struggles. A place of hope and encouragement.

The program offers peer groups and mentoring, recreational games and activities, grief support mentors and guest speakers to talk with the youth. Josh's Place is a 501(c)3 organization that meets twice per week and they are currently raising funds to get a building where they can meet more frequently. Their fundraising events include a Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Tournament, a golf tournament, an Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament, a Garden Social, and monthly cornhole tournaments. For more details on this program please visit their website at <https://knowyoubelong.com>.



Pictured left to right: Lion Jack Zuidema, Kelly Harris, Josh's Place Co-Founder, ALC President Bill Johnson, Greg Harris, Josh's Place Co-Founder, and Lion Tommy Harris.





Cedar Key Lions Club

In loving Memory of Katelyn Allen

**FREE MOVIES
IN THE PARK**

PELICAN VACATION HOME RENTALS

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

JAWS

CEDAR KEY CITY PARK
FEATURE PRESENTATION:
JAWS
FRIDAY, JULY 3 | 8:30 PM
EVERYONE WELCOME! BRING BLANKETS & CHAIRS!

America's 25th BIRTHDAY
250 YEARS OF FREEDOM, COMMUNITY & PRIDE!

5K FUN RUN | STARTS AT 8:00 AM

PARADE | AT 11:00 AM

Join Us At
CEDAR KEY CITY PARK

CEDAR KEY AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION and LIONS CLUB

Will Have Booths Set Up FROM 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

FOOD TRUCKS

STEAMED CLAMS, SHUCKED RAW CLAM, MERCH, FACE PAINTING, SNOW CONES, BOBBING FOR APPLES, WATERMELON

BRICK CITY HOTDOG, REDWINE'S COUNTY CUISINE

Celebrate Our Past. Inspire Our Future. Stronger Together.



ChipleY Falling Waters Lions Club



Darrin Wall Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser

Boston Butt OR Rib Slab
\$30

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2026
10 AM - 2 PM**

PICK UP ON THE CORNER OF HWY 77 & 90
NEXT TO NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
CONTACT KEITH LAWTON (850) 260-9830



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High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday, June 20th, the High Springs Lions Club hosted a Poker Run for their local children's Christmas charities.

22 motorcycles and 3 trucks registered for the event with 44 participants.

All stops were welcoming and provided lots of support, well wishes and toys.

Our local news station, TV 20, stopped by to check out the event and interviewed one of our members.

A late lunch and auction were held at the end of the ride. Our toy box for donations was overflowing!

We were so thankful for the beautiful weather and all the support that was received.

Our club is so blessed to be a blessing to those in need in our community. We may just do it again next year!!!

[WCJB High Springs motorcyclists collect toys for Christmas in June](#)



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High Springs Lions Club

On Monday June 22, the High Springs Lions Club presented a check to Traci from Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (St. Augustine) in the amount of \$17,251. This donation was generated from the club's annual Feel the Music event.



Gainesville Lions Club

At our June 16, 2026 meeting, Past District Governor Jerry Skufe presented Lion Beth Wynns, president of Gainesville Lions Club, a Melvin Jones Fellowship. This honor was given for her dedication and service to Lions by her club, Gainesville Lions Club.





Jax Beaches Lions Club

A great night at the Eye Spy Foundation Summer Social!

We had a wonderful time hosting the Eye Spy Summer Social at our club this week.

It was a relaxed evening with BBQ, mocktails, and fun games for the blind and low vision community.

A big thank you to Nick Mendler and Meredyth Mason for organizing everything!

We also want to thank our amazing Lions members who helped out: Deedee, Shawn, Tricia, Judy, Cindy, Pat, Sue and our new member Linda at her first volunteering activity 🦁

Thank you all for your hard work and for being there to support our community.

It was great to see everyone connecting and having a good time. We are already looking forward to the next event!



**Happy
Anniversary**

25 years

**Jax Beach
Lions**



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Jax Beaches Lions Club

A day of learning and connection! 🦁

Our President Linda Zepp and our Marketing Officer Monika Keuchel had a good time attending today's officer training session.

It was a very insightful seminar, and we are returning with some fresh ideas for our club!

A huge thank you to the Orange Park Lions Club for hosting us and for their wonderful hospitality. And a huge thank you to all speakers – we really appreciate your time and input.

It was a pleasure to catch up with familiar faces from the convention and to share this experience with our fellow Lions.



Big news from the Lions Club of Jacksonville Beaches! 🦁

We found out about the great work at Catty Shack Ranch (<https://cattyshack.org/>) and we just had to help. So, we decided to sponsor their resident, Rosa! 🐾

We thought it was a perfect match:

Now our Lions Club finally has a "Lioness" in the family. She is a very sweet girl who loves to say hello to her favorite humans. She even enjoys catnip as much as a house cat!

If you haven't visited the ranch yet, definitely check them out. It's a fantastic organization, and we're proud to play a small part in keeping these beautiful animals happy and healthy.

Welcome to the family, Rosa!



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Jax Beaches Lions Club

Sharing the Lion spirit! 🦁 ✨

Last Friday, a few of us from the Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club visited the Jacksonville Arlington Lions Club for their Bingo Night.

Even though we didn't walk away with a big win, we had such a fun evening! 🎉

If you're looking for a great way to spend your weekend, we highly recommend checking them out! The Arlington Lions host Bingo every Friday and Saturday. Doors open at 2:00 PM, with the fun kicking off at 5:00 PM (warm-ups) and regular games starting at 7:15 PM.

A big thank you to our friends in Arlington for their warm hospitality. We're already looking forward to our next visit!



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Ocala Lions Club

Ocala Lions Club Installs New Officers

The Ocala Lions Club held its 101st Installation of officers and awards banquet on June 18th. The event took place at the Empath Health/Hospice of Marion County's Elliot Center. Lions Bob Cabbage at the baby grand piano and singer Bill Thomas provided the entertainment. The dinner was catered by La Casella Catering.

Outgoing President Barry Fies presided over the event and Lions Susan Oliva and Helen Anderson from the Ocala 200 Lions Club swore in the new officers. Serving this year will be President - Renee Thompson, Immediate Past President - Barry Fies, 1st Vice President - Diane Renyhart, 2nd Vice President - Garry Adel, 3rd Vice President - John Renyhart, Secretary - Tricia Evans, Treasurer - Craig Silverman, Lion Tamer - Lou Barnes, Tail Twister - Andy Pietrzyk, and Membership - Emily Leithauser. Directors will include Jim Evans, Chuck Savage, Marilyn Hinds, Bill Thomas, Garry Adel and Past District Governor Jerry Skufe.

For their commitment to meeting the humanitarian needs both here in Ocala and around the world, Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards went to Lions Tricia Evans and Diane Renyhart. For their outstanding service to the club and community during its 100th Year Celebration, Lions Garry Adel and Jerry Skufe were presented Lions of the Year Awards.

In her acceptance speech, President Renee Thompson noted the significance of the Club's 100 years of service to the Marion County community. She said that it is an incredible milestone and that our members will continue to live by the motto "We Serve". President Thompson looks forward to building on the outstanding foundation laid by the past 100 presidents and their members.

The Ocala Lions Club will be holding its meetings at a new location beginning on Thursday, July 2nd. Meetings will be held every Thursday at the Alcove located at 2210 17th Street near Laurel Run from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

For further information about the work of the Ocala Lions Club and its membership opportunities, please contact Lion Emily Leithauser at 352-817-2765.





Ocala Lions Club

3rd Thursday's Charitable Donations

The 3rd Thursday's Charitable Donations began in October of 2020 at the suggestion of Tricia Evans. The program has helped the poor and needy of Marion County through its contributions at least 60 times!

Lion Marilyn Hinds is now the dedicated leader of the program. This past year we contributed to Brother's Keeper twice, SoZo's Kids, College Park needy families at Thanksgiving, Silent Santa kids for Christmas, The Arc, Wear Gloves which helps the homeless, the Marion County Animal Shelter, Humane Society, and the grand finale baby shower for the Alpha Center. Marilyn and Joe Sowa are already planning a Lion's Teddy Bear collection for the Kimberly Center for abused & neglected children. It is something that Marilyn's late husband Tom would have loved. She thanks the club members for their tremendous generosity.



Kidsight

It was a busy year for the Ocala Lions Club Kidsight Program organized by Lion Kristi Hannen with scheduling help from Peter Palermo and deliveries by Tricia, Jim Evans. Our club purchased two new Plusoptix cameras this year and they were a great addition. There were 17 screening volunteers who gave of their time as much as possible. The program ran from September through May and 34 schools participated. 842 children were screened and there were 96 referrals. Thank you to everyone involved.



Membership

Emily Leithauser has been busy encouraging recruitment of new members. She helps to coordinate the greeter's table and sends thank you notes to guest speakers including a copy of our 100-year history. Emily notes that there are a lot of materials about the Lions Club to hand out to friends, relatives and neighbors. Another helpful hint to recruit new members is to ask single people who might enjoy our activities and volunteering and people that you do business with. If anyone has any questions or would like to join the membership committee and help us reach out, contact Emily Leithauser.





Orange Park Lions Club



VETERANS
4TH OF JULY

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

★ ORANGE PARK LIONS CLUB ★

★ JULY 4TH • 8:00AM - 10:00AM ★

★ EGGS • PANCAKES • SAUSAGE ★
★ FRESH FRUIT • COFFEE & JUICE ★

VETERANS EAT FREE!

KIDS AND ADULTS - \$8.00

The poster features a patriotic theme with a background of fireworks, stars, and stripes. At the top, silhouettes of four veterans are shown saluting. The central image displays a breakfast spread including a stack of pancakes with a pat of butter and a small American flag, a bowl of fresh fruit, a glass of orange juice, a cup of coffee, and a plate of scrambled eggs and sausages. The text is presented in various fonts and colors, with key information highlighted in bold and yellow.



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Orange Park Lions Club

Orange Park Lions Club Celebrates Officer Induction Night

The Orange Park Lions Club ushered in the new Lion Year with a memorable and entertaining Officer Induction Night led by District Governor-Elect (DGE) George Niles. The night started with a wonderful pot luck dinner enjoyed by all members and guests. Then, adding a creative twist to the traditional ceremony, DGE Niles conducted the inductions in a mock courtroom setting, transforming the event into a lighthearted “trial” that highlighted the responsibilities of each leadership position.

Presiding as “The Honorable DGE Judge Niles,” he summoned each incoming officer to the stand and read a list of humorous “criminal charges” related to the duties they would undertake during the upcoming year. From being accused of leading meetings and guiding club initiatives to managing club finances and maintaining member engagement, each officer faced charges uniquely tailored to their role. In every case, the verdict was unanimous: guilty as charged.

The courtroom-themed induction provided plenty of laughter while emphasizing the importance of the responsibilities each officer has accepted. Following the reading of charges and verdicts, the officers were officially inducted and pledged their commitment to serving the Orange Park Lions Club and the community throughout the 2026-2027 Lion Year.

The newly inducted officers are:

- President: Mike Poweleit
- 1st Vice President: Richard Campbell
- 2nd Vice President: Ken O’Neal
- Treasurer: Matt Oliger
- Secretary: Lelon Vencil
- Lion Tamer: Celia Vencil
- Tail Twister: Julius Evans

The evening celebrated not only the installation of new leadership but also the dedication of members willing to accept the challenges and responsibilities that come with serving the club. DGE Niles’ unique approach made the ceremony both meaningful and entertaining, reminding everyone that while leadership requires commitment and hard work, it can also be accompanied by fellowship and fun.

As the Orange Park Lions Club begins the 2026-2027 Lion Year, members look forward to a successful year of service under the guidance of this newly inducted leadership team. With a strong group of officers in place and a shared commitment to the Lions’ mission of serving others, the club is poised for another year of making a positive impact in the Orange Park community and beyond.





Orange Park Lions Club

Orange Park Lions Club Celebrates Officer Induction Night



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Orange Park Lions Club

Two Lion Clubs team up to keep the Clay Train rolling through Clay Hill

A group of Lions from two clubs helped power the latest Impact Clay train when it made its latest stop at Clay Hill Elementary School. It was a warm but beautiful Saturday morning for this stop, and the Orange Park Lions were surprised to see a team of folks from the close by Middleburg Black Creek Lions Club. All these wonderful lions made this a great event overall as the Impact Clay Train had 113 visitors, 73 volunteers, hosted 6 haircuts, and the Lions did 20 vision screenings, 5 optical referrals, and handed out dozens of new readers and 3D printed lion charms for the kids. You could not count all the smiles shared! The next stop of the train will be on July 18th at Grove Park Elementary School from 10AM till Noon in Orange Park. Learn more about Impact Clay Train at www.ImpactClay.org. Learn more about the Lions at WWW.Orangeparklionsclub.com.



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District 35L

ROAR with Pride!

**Share your clubs
achievements.**

NEWSLETTER

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FLDistrict35L@gmail.com

All submissions due by the 26th of the month.

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