

## Meet Your New Neighbors

By Cindy Shaw



You may recognize the happy faces of Keith and Jacki McGahan at 79 Del Rio Dr. Jacki and Keith have been around Tropic Isles for years, first visiting friends, then in their motorhome on Bahia Dr. They rented on 13th St. for a couple of years and finally purchased a home in the spring of 2024. Keith's brother, Dennis, and sister-in-law, Sandy, followed in his footsteps and also purchased in Tropic Isles. The McGahan's are from Richland, Michigan, a town about 10 miles north of Kalamazoo. They have 2 children—Kristopher (41) and Nikki (39) and one granddaughter, Ava (8). Keith served his community for 27 years as a police officer and firefighter. He also worked as a Community Corrections Therapist for 17 years. Jacki was a teacher in special education and English for 27 years, first in Junior College and then in Elementary and Jr. High.

In their free time, Keith enjoys hunting deer (bow and gun), pheasants, and bears in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Canada. He raised "pheasant hunting dogs" for a time. He also likes to fish and wants to learn all there is to know about fishing in saltwater. Jacki does daily journaling, loves to read, and writes poetry. She belongs to the Kalamazoo Poetry Foundation back home. She also dabbles in acrylic painting. Please welcome our new, part-time neighbors, Jacki and Keith, to our little piece of paradise.



You may recognize these two smiling faces as two that you've seen before. They are Ed, Jr. and Robin Baker of 74 Edessa Dr. who are our new, part-time neighbors from Bradford, New York. Ed is the 2nd generation of Bakers in Tropic Isles. He is the son of Ed (deceased) and Pat Baker of

Del Rio Dr. After retiring 3 years ago, the Bakers decided to purchase in Tropic Isles after sharing so many good times with his parents in the park. Ed spent 6 years in the Marines and then worked in finance at Cornell University for 34 years. Robin also worked at Cornell University in Admissions for 20 years and then as a higher education consultant, implementing new software at various colleges and universities for 14 years.

Ed enjoys bow and gun hunting of deer, turkey, and ducks and had trained hunting dogs for a time. Robin also enjoys gun hunting. Ed also likes to golf and play poker. They both enjoy exercising, weightlifting, and biking. Robin owned 3 show horses, competing with them for 20 years. She also enjoys landscaping. Please give a rousing "welcome back" to Ed and Robin Baker!

## Home of the Month



December's "Home of the Month" belongs to Beverly Allen at 200 Bimini Dr. With a touch of marine life and decorative plants, this home has a 'well-cared-for' look and great curb appeal. Congratulations on being named December's "Home of the Month".

## Photo of the Month

Florida Christmas lights 📸



## Starfish Hunt

Can you find me hiding somewhere inside?





## Out and About . . .



Jeff and Nancy Cobb visited Mike and Bev Thompson in Georgia and the men went deer hunting.



Martin Stacy is seen here preparing to race his 2023 Corvette at Roebing Road Raceway in Savannah, Georgia.

Martin and Barbara Stacy visited the Grand Ole Opry House for its 100-year celebration in Nashville, Tennessee.



Jim Kelly drove up to Tupper Lake to pick up Doug Woulf at his sister's home in the Adirondacks en route to Lance Linke's 80th birthday shindig this summer.

## Halloween Happenings

Residents lined the streets to watch the Halloween golf cart parade. Thanks to the Steve and Nancy Grant, Jim and Karen Grant, Elaine Faulkner and Floretta Krueger, Sue and Tom Sommers with Judy Milliken, Connie and John Giroux, and Debbie and Al Coleman who got into the spirit and decorated their carts for the parade.



See more  
Halloween photos  
on page 43 )

## Tropic Isles

1503 28th Ave. West, Palmetto, Florida 34221

The Office is open from 9 AM to 3 PM. The Office will be **OPEN** during the lunch hour from 12-1 PM. Other than office hours, your call will be forwarded to a live answering service. You may call the regular office phone number at any hour of the day or night for urgent matters. For emergencies, dial 911.

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### Tropic Isles Breezes

**Published monthly and delivered to all residents**

**Editor: Cindy Shaw**

**Send photos and articles to [Tlbreezes1@aol.com](mailto:Tlbreezes1@aol.com)**

**Deadline the 10th of each month for the following month.**

*The inclusion of advertising contained in this newsletter supports the publication costs, but does not constitute an endorsement by the Tropic Isles Co-Op, nor does the content of articles submitted by individual residents and those representing clubs and activities.*

## Letter from the Editor

### Lessons from a Christmas Tree



Be a light in the darkness.

It's ok to fall over sometimes.

Bring joy to those around you.

Sparkle and twinkle whenever you can.

Remember...it's perfectly fine to be a little tilted.

### Thoughts for the Coming New Year

Some days we skip along, pulling our wagons with great confidence—so full of energy that the load seems light.

Some days the load seems heavy, and we need someone to help us pull our wagons over the bumps in the road.

Some days we are just tired. We sit in our wagons and let someone else pull us along for a while.

And some days it's kind of nice to share our little red wagon with a friend.

As you think about yesterday, and make plans for tomorrow, keep in mind that there will be times when you can help pull someone's little red wagon for a while.

After all, helping to pull each other's little red wagon is what makes it possible to face the challenges the new year brings.

*Margaret Katter*



**Correction:** The plants that were placed in front of the Yacht Club are pink hibiscus, not hydrangeas.





# From the Manager's Desk



## Seasonal Office Hours

The Office hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The Office will BE OPEN during the lunch hour from 12-1.

## UPDATES FROM THE MANAGER

**Pool:** The pool heater is on, and set at 87°. The shower heater is also hooked up and set at 100°. It seems that there are still people drinking beverages in the pool. Please remember that it is STATE LAW that NO beverages other than "commercially bottled water in plastic containers" is permitted within 4' of the pool or spa.

**Storm Repairs:** Common Areas: The storm repairs to the Auditorium and Yacht Club are complete! The only item remaining is the fascia on the north side of the Auditorium, but we are hoping that will be done in the next couple weeks.

**Your Home:** If you haven't addressed the repairs to your own home, please do so! Remember that any exterior work needs to be submitted to the ARC Committee for approval prior to starting (and most work also requires a permit from the City). Compliance notices were sent starting the week of October 27 for any storm damages that haven't been repaired.

**Demolitions:** The last home was demolished in the park! It's been a long road, but we made it. Thank you for your continued patience while we worked our way through the many schedule changes, etc. After all the storm cleanup and demolitions were finished, the streets were swept clean!



**Riprap on Bahia:** This work started October 20 and is expected to take several weeks to complete.



**Street Signs:** New reflective street signs were installed around the park.



**New Committees:** Requests for volunteers to serve on the following committees will be sent out when the majority of our residents have returned to the park:

- Boat Lift Cover Committee
- Event Pavilion Committee

**Replacement of Maintenance Building(s):** The Co-Op Board is considering replacing the maintenance building and shed with one large hurricane-tolerant building. We are in the process of gathering all of the details, which will be submitted to the Board for review. Once reviewed by the Board, this action will require a positive vote of two-thirds of the Shareholders. Some of the key benefits of this building are:

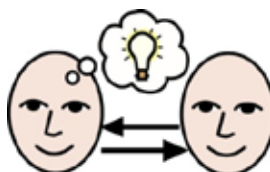
- Hurricane-Resistant Construction: A secure facility built to withstand major storms.
- Protection of Equipment: In the event of a storm, all maintenance and pool equipment will be stored safely, reducing risk of flooding, weather damage, or vandalism. (Flood insurance only covers equipment stored inside a building.)
- Centralized Storage: Consolidates equipment into one secure location for greater efficiency.
- Operational Hub: Provides a reliable command center for staff during emergencies.
- Enhanced Disaster Recovery: Speeds up recovery in the event of a future disaster. Generators and fuel to run them will be stored onsite.

**Exterior Painting:** The Co-Op Board approved the painting of the exteriors of the Auditorium and Yacht Club. We worked with the contractor to select more modern, updated colors. This work was completed in mid-November.

**Access Control System:** The new access control system (fobs) will be installed. All residents will need to obtain new fobs. Please watch your emails for additional details.

**Parking Lot Sealing:** We are in the process of obtaining quotes to have the Auditorium and Yacht Club parking lots sealed and re-striped.

**Zoom Moderators Needed:** We are again asking for 3 or 4 shareholders to be on the list of Zoom moderators for the monthly board meetings. The moderator simply watches the chat comments and shares them with the Board during the meeting. If you are interested, please contact the Office.



## Idea to Ponder....

In life, it's important to know when to stop arguing with people and simply let them be wrong.



## Mail Chimp Procedure

If you want to send out a Mail Chimp to announce your activity, you need to give the Office 48-hour notice. You are allowed to send out ONE Mail Chimp per activity. You can ask to schedule your Mail Chimp for any day, including the weekend, and it will be sent out when it was requested. You must make your request in writing using the form found on the website [www.tropicisles.net](http://www.tropicisles.net) or via email to the Office.



## Games, Games, Games



Do you enjoy playing Cornhole, Bocce Ball, or Connect Four? Tropic Isles has those games available for use by the residents. The first closet in the main room of the Yacht Club will house those games so residents have easy access to them. Just remember to place them back in the closet when you are done, so they are available for someone else to use.

## It's a New Day in Tropic Isles

As the 2025 Hurricane Season drew to a close on November 30, we remember where we were a year ago after 2 devastating hurricanes and look ahead to the future of Tropic Isles—TI STRONG! Two more new homes, brought in by cranes, went in on Bahama Dr. and Bimini Dr. in November with more new homes to come.



Bimini Dr.



Bahama Dr.

## Photo of the Month



Please send me your favorite photo of wildlife or scenery and I will feature at least one photo a month. Include where it was taken and the name of the person taking it. Email it to [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com) or text it to 608-212-8967. Please send in your favorite nature photo.

## Submissions to the Breezes Newsletter



Submissions to the Breezes should be sent to Cindy Shaw at [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com). The deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month. If you are unable to make a submission using email, call/text 608-212-8967 with your request. You can text or email your pictures, but they must be in jpeg format

## Where Can You Find Out What's Happening in Tropic Isles?



Do you often wonder what events are taking place in the park? Do you not want to miss something important that is going on? Well, here are some places to look to find the information:

- **Inside the Breezes newsletter** there are articles about each event and a calendar in the centerfold that shows what's happening that month.
- Reminders of some events taking place in the park are often sent to all residents via the **Mail Chimp system**.
- Events are sometimes posted on the **Friends of Tropic Isles' Facebook page**.
- Announcements of future events and tickets are sold at **Saturday Morning Coffee Hour**.
- The calendar of events and other flyers announcing certain events are posted on the **bulletin board in the second entrance to the Yacht Club**.



## The 2026 Resident Phone Directories

The new 2026 Resident Phone Directories will be distributed in the coming month by the Co-Op Block Captains, ONE per household, if you are listed in the directory this year. If your residence looks vacant, it will be returned to the Office. Then you may pick up your copy from the Office at your convenience. Once you receive your new directory, please check through the new directory to see if your information is listed correctly. Remember to check ALL the sections of the directory, including the street listing in the back. If you find an error in the directory or you are not listed, please contact me by calling/texting 608-212-8967 or send an email to [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com) with your correction or addition. I will be happy to print the correction or addition in next month's issue of the Breezes in the interim and make the change in the directory for next year. Thanks to all those people who took the time to update their information. We can only be as accurate as you help us to be. (TIPOA residents should contact Elaine Faulkner.)

Cindy Shaw, Editor

## Calling All Fishermen and Women!




Would you like to share a picture of your "catch of the day" from the nearby waters around Tropic Isles?

Send it to [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com) and it can be published in the next issue of the Breezes. Please include a sentence or two about where it was caught, size, and what type of fish it is!

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## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### DECEMBER

#### Great Light Fight



Let it Glow!

It's the Christmas Season! We want everyone in Tropic Isles to have fun and light it up! If you want to take part in the contest, please register by emailing Nancy Larsen at [nplarsens@aol.com](mailto:nplarsens@aol.com) or text her at 941-725-2216, with your name and address by **December 17**. Our judges will be picking 3 of the best decorated, lighted homes in Tropic Isles. The categories we will be judging are Best Overall, Wow Factor, Completeness and Originality. Judging will be on Sunday, December 21, so be sure your lights are on by 6 PM that night. Winners will have their names in the Breezes, as well as on the Tropic Isles FB page, and will receive a prize! We are also looking for the most decorated street in Tropic Isles for an "Honorable Mention" and "bragging rights."

Nancy Larsen, Coordinator

#### Holiday Collection For Veterans



The Tropical Red Hat Ladies are again collecting items for Veterans to be distributed at Bay Pines VA Medical Center. You will find a red, white, and blue decorated Christmas tree with a container to collect NEW underwear, t-shirts, gloves, socks, sweatshirts, hats, scarves, jackets, shorts, hygiene items, toiletries, etc. All items must be NEW and unwrapped. **The deadline to donate items for our veterans is December 15.** This has been a very successful program over the years to benefit the Veterans in our area. Please donate what you can and we thank you, in advance, for your contributions. If you have any questions about the Red Hat Ladies, please call Shirley Clarkson at 941-465-8430 or Anna Antonacci at 941-238-7773.



#### Yoga Classes

Hatha (Basic) Yoga classes with Dottie Gross will be held on **Wednesdays at 9:00-9:50 AM** in the Dockside (main) Room of the Yacht Club **starting December 3, 2025** and will run through January 28, 2026. All levels are welcome. Please bring your own yoga mat, water bottle, and any personal yoga props. The cost is \$5 per session to be paid at the time of the class. This class is donation based, and all monies will go to the Activity Committee. Contact Dottie Gross at 770-855-9618 if you have any questions.

#### Tropic Isles Health Fair



An organizational meeting will be held **December 3rd at 10:00 AM** to discuss a TI Health Fair to be held in the spring of 2026. Anyone interested in either being a part of the committee or volunteering to help is welcome to attend this meeting. The meeting will be held in the Yacht Club in the old "Pretty Room." Any questions, please call John Giroux at 970 962 4061.

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## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### Entertainment Committee Meeting

December is a busy month filled with holiday cheer and festive fun!

The Entertainment Committee invites you to our **Holiday Dance on Saturday, December 13**, featuring Bob and -Tom--The Band, performing from 7:00–10:00 PM. Tickets will be \$8 per person. This event will be held indoors only, with reserved tables available through presale tickets, so be sure to get yours early! There will also be a \$100 Lottery Board Raffle. Tickets are \$5 each!

Next up is our **Golf Cart Parade on Sunday, December 21**. Lineup begins at 3:45 PM in front of the Auditorium and the parade starts at 4:00 PM. If you're not joining the parade, come outside and cheer as the carts roll by. It's a wonderful way to spread holiday spirit throughout the community!

Then celebrate the season at our **Christmas Eve Social on Wednesday, December 24**, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium. Enjoy an evening of songs, stories, and a special visit from that jolly fellow up north! Please bring a dish to share and join us for this heartwarming holiday tradition.

The Entertainment Committee has their monthly meeting on **Thursday, December 4 at 10:00 AM** in the Auditorium. After the meeting, we will be decorating the hall for Christmas.

🎄 Merry Christmas from the Entertainment Committee!



### 2025-2026 ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

These are some of next season's schedule of events. (There will be more events added.)

<b>Christmas Dance</b>	Dec.13	Bob and Tom--The Band
<b>Christmas Golf Cart Parade</b>	Dec.21	Meet at the Auditorium
<b>Christmas Eve Social</b>	Dec. 24	Christmas Program in the Auditorium
<b>New Year's Eve Party</b>	Dec. 31	Party at the Auditorium
<b>Super Bowl Party</b>	Feb. 8	Gathering in the Auditorium (wear your favorite team attire)
<b>Valentine Golf Cart Parade</b>	Feb. 15	Meet at the Auditorium
<b>St. Pat's Golf Cart Parade</b>	March 15	Meet at the Auditorium
<b>Farewell Dance</b>	March 28	SoulRCoaster (Theme: "The Big Glow")
<b>Pool Party</b>	April 11	TI Band

### 2026 Farewell Dance

Next year's Farewell Dance theme will be The Big Glow! Get those neon clothes from the 80's out. We will feature SoulRCoaster, a park favorite, on Saturday, March 28.

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## ~ COMING EVENTS ~



### Give the Gift of Life this Winter at Tropic Isles!

As the holiday season approaches and cooler days settle in, our Tropic Isles community shines brightest when we come together to care for one another. One of the most meaningful ways to give back this winter is by donating blood.

#### Why Winter Donations Matter

During the winter months, blood donations tend to decline. Busy holiday schedules, travel, and seasonal illnesses can make it harder for people to donate. Yet, the need for blood never slows down. Every day, hospitals rely on the generosity of donors to help patients undergoing surgeries, cancer treatments, trauma care, and more.

Just **one pint of blood can help save up to three lives** — a powerful reminder that a small act of kindness can make an enormous impact.

#### Join Us for the Tropic Isles Blood Drive!

**Friday, December 5, 2025**

**7:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

**Tropic Isles – Auditorium parking lot**

Online appointments are encouraged, and walk-ins are welcome upon availability. **To make an appointment, please go to: [https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/1387091](https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1387091)**

#### A Few Tips for Donors:

- Stay hydrated and eat a healthy meal before donating.
- Bring a photo ID and wear clothing with sleeves that can be rolled up.
- Encourage a friend or neighbor to join you — first-time donors are always welcome!

As we celebrate the season of giving, let's come together as a community to make a lasting difference. Your donation could help someone spend another holiday with their loved ones. Let's show our **Tropic Isles Strong** spirit! Roll up your sleeve and give the gift of life this winter!

Call Carmen Garcia at 787-501-2613 to get more information or for help in making an appointment. Thanks, in advance, for your participation! Mark these future blood drive dates on your calendar for this season.

**February 6, 2026**

**April 10, 2026**

**December 4, 2026**

### Blood Donations are Vital

*By Bev Butts*

I have been a regular donor at the Tropic Isles Blood Drives for several years. Last season, I had obligations each and every donation day, but this was the year when blood donations became personal. In mid-April of 2025, my husband of 51 years had major back surgeries to correct a severe scoliosis of his spine. This involved a procedure to insert "spacers" to open up the vertebral spaces that had collapsed over time. The second surgery inserted rods to correct the "bend" of his spine. During this surgery he started to lose blood and, ultimately, required four units of whole blood! Thankfully those donated units of blood helped to resolve a hypotensive crisis. He ended up in ICU for two nights and received another unit of blood before he "graduated" to a step-down-unit to begin to recover. Blood donations are vital. Thanks to blood donations, my husband is now in his 8th month of recovery!

For all of you who I normally join on the Red Bus, I salute you! It may have been your blood that was used! I will be donating at our blood drives again this season in Tropic Isles AND, my husband who always said "Never!" to donating blood, said he will become a donor, too.





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**Tropic Isles Mobile Home Park**  
**Friday, December 5**  
**7:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

All donors will receive\*:

- \$20 eGift Card
- Oneblood Sweatshirt
- Culver's Coupon
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.



## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### Booster Meeting



"Everyone is a Booster!" The next meeting of the Tropic Isles' Boosters is scheduled for **Friday, December 5 at 9:00 AM** in the Auditorium. We meet the **first Friday of each month** in the Auditorium, November–April at 9 AM.

#### TROPIC ISLES BOOSTERS MEETING - November 7, 2025

**Officers Present:** Wendy Verstringhe, Linda Doll, Mike Cuff, and Drew Doll. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Wendy Verstringhe.

**Treasurer Report:** Mike Cuff reported that the balance after the April meeting was \$14,046.47. The present balance is \$17,380.31. This balance includes a \$2,000.00 donation from Carmen Garcia representing homes she has sold since the last Booster meeting and \$60.00 from Jim and Karen Grant for a driveway sale they recently had. Thank you so much for these generous donations.

**Secretary Report:** Linda Doll reiterated that the Booster minutes are printed in the Breezes each month. She also reminded those people that are chairmen of an activity (turkey supper, pancake breakfast, soup supper, etc.) that she will need a written report handed in at the meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Tropic Isles' Apparel:** Jean Volkens turned in a report that she will gather her committee and an inventory will be taken of all remaining Tropic Isles shirts, hats, and visors before any ordering will be done.

**Recycling:** Bill Pealer reported that the Co-op trailer that they use to redeem cans had 2 flat tires on it and that Drew Doll had them replaced. Drew will be reimbursed by the Co-op. This is not a Booster expense. Jeff and Nancy Cobb redeemed cans in the summer and most recently turned in \$87.00. Bill suggested the committee not scrap any more aluminum because it is heavy and bulky, but will continue to redeem cans. This will be made into a motion and voted on at the December meeting.

**Palm Trees:** When Don Denby arrives, he will advise us and set up volunteers to do the fertilizing which is usually done in November. At the April meeting, a cap of \$8,000.00 was voted and agreed on to spend for the purchase of new palm trees and the fertilizer.

**Storage House:** Cheryl Brink spoke about items stored in the Co-op-owned storage house. Jeff and Nancy Cobb took care of anything put in there over the summer. There is an inventory of medical equipment (wheelchairs, rollators, walkers, crutches, potty chairs, shower chairs) there. Cheryl is asking for some volunteers to come to the house and do an inventory of what's there. Any excess medical equipment will be donated to the Veterans. Nancy Cobb has accepted some items, posted them, and sold them on Facebook Marketplace for us. If anyone has something special and of "a good value", Nancy can check it out and if acceptable, she will sell it for us.

**Health Fair:** Cindy Shaw reported that the Dermatology Van that was here last year would like to come back. Could we put together a Health Fair in cooperation with their Van being here? For example, there could be a table set up to do blood pressure checks, a table for other medical information, health insurance information, etc.

This will be discussed at the December meeting after the Caring Team has a meeting to discuss it.

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** Judy Milliken, Chairman of the Thanksgiving Dinner, has had tickets printed. She uses a count of presale tickets sold to estimate how much food and supplies to purchase. Karen Timmerman will be selling tickets. Judy is concerned because some people who had signed up in the past to cook a turkey or help out with food preparation haven't contacted her yet. She was assured that the Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day at 5 PM and open to all residents.

**Landscape Committee:** Pamela Cuff reported on the Landscape Committee. She has been in contact with Tom Tonich (Maintenance Dept.) and he will have the layers of rocks and fabric removed from the Aloha Street entrance. The committee will be planting annuals and fertilizing.

**Soup Supper:** The Soup Supper is on the calendar for Friday, January 30, 2026. Sue Weaver was not at the meeting, but a volunteer list for soups was turned in. So far two soups have been promised.

**Christmas Decorations Committee:** Cindy Shaw asked if there is a committee or a person in charge of putting up Christmas decorations at the Yacht Club, at the entrances, or in front of the Auditorium. No one knew.

A motion was made by Bill Pealer, seconded by Cheryl Brink, to adjourn the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda Doll, Secretary*

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## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### The Caring Team



The "Caring Team" was formed in 2023, consisting of a group of individuals that would be willing to help those in our community who may be alone or need assistance. The "Caring Team" might do things like calling and/or checking in on their neighbors, helping them with some tasks, shopping, running an errand, etc.

The concept is to provide a type of "wellness visit" for residents who live alone or those that do not have a support system in place for health emergencies or in times of need. Since it was formed, the Caring Team was successful in providing assistance of various kinds to residents who had health needs. All information is kept strictly confidential. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call the Caring Team Coordinator, **Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099**. The Caring Team is here to help!

**Our next Caring Team meeting will be December 8, 2025 at 9 AM in the Auditorium.** If you are interested in becoming a part of this Caring Team, please email me at [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com), call/text me at 608-212-8967, or attend the meeting on **December 8**. We'd love to have you on our team!

*Cindy Shaw, Caring Team Secretary*

### Activity Committee Meeting



The Activity Committee supports the 40+ activities in our community and always welcomes new ideas and activities! Your participation is crucial to ensure your activity is represented and to address any concerns, needs, or upcoming events or projects. Even if there are no updates to report, your ideas and feedback are vital to the Activity Board as we continue to strive for the success of our community's events and activities.

Regular meetings of the Committee are held on the second Wednesday of each month, November through April. Please join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 10th at 9:00 AM** in the Auditorium.

*The Tropic Isles Activity Board*

### Shuffle Club News

Join us for our next general meeting of the season on **Wednesday, December 10th**. We gather in the Auditorium for a potluck dinner at 5:00 PM, and the meeting starts at 6:00 PM.



See you on the courts!

*Julie Bonenfant, Club President*



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### Christmas Dance



**Saturday, December 13th at 7:00–10:00 PM**

Join us for an evening of holiday fun inside the Auditorium! Bob and Tom-The Band will be performing live and they come highly recommended, so you won't want to miss it! **Tickets go on sale December 1st. Contact Cindy Shaw at 608-212-8967.** They are \$8 each. You will choose your seats in advance when you purchase your tickets. **Tickets will also be sold at Coffee Hour on December 6.** Don't forget to take a chance on the \$100 Lottery Board Raffle. Raffle tickets are \$5 each. Come enjoy great music, laughter, and holiday cheer with friends and neighbors. Contact Cheryl Brink at 419-690-9353 with questions.



## ~ COMING EVENTS ~



### Sunday Night at the Movies



Movie Night will resume on the second Sunday of the month. **Our next Movie Night will be December 14 at 7 PM in the Auditorium featuring George C. Scott's The Christmas Carol.** You can bring your own comfortable chairs, snacks, and beverages if you choose. Come and join us AT THE MOVIES!! Contact Sharon Wagner at 502-220-8557 if you have any questions.

### Christmas Golf Cart Parade



Our Golf Cart Parade is on **Sunday, December 21**. Lineup begins at 3:45 PM in front of the Auditorium, and the parade starts at 4:00 PM. If you're not joining the parade, come outside and cheer as the carts roll by. It's a wonderful way to spread holiday spirit throughout the community!

### Christmas Caroling

We will be Christmas caroling on **Monday, December 22**, to people around the park. If you would like to participate, please meet in the Yacht Club at 5:30 PM and bring 1 dozen cookies! Call Jean Volkens (563-564-9056) with questions and with the names of people we should visit to carol and bring cookies to!



### Christmas Eve Social



**Wednesday, December 24th | 6:00 PM | Auditorium**

Celebrate the spirit of the season at our Annual Christmas Eve Social! Enjoy an evening filled with songs, stories, and a special visit from that jolly fellow up north. Please bring a dish to share and join your neighbors and friends for this heartwarming holiday tradition. Let's gather together to make this Christmas Eve truly special!

### New Year's Eve Party

**Wednesday, December 31st at 7:00 – 10:00 PM in the Auditorium**

Ring in the New Year with music, dancing, games, and plenty of fun! There's no charge to attend — just bring an appetizer to share and your own drinks. \$100 Lottery Board! Take a chance to win \$100 worth of lottery tickets — \$5 per ticket. Let's celebrate together and welcome the New Year in style!



## JANUARY

### Progressive Euchre



We play Progressive Euchre on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6-10 PM** in the Dockside Room of the Yacht Club. Progressive Euchre is a tournament where you progress around the tables if you win. Starting in January, we will be meeting on **January 4 and 19**. All players are welcome. Come join us and meet some new people. Contact Jackie Freeman at 859-750-2617 with questions.

### Come One, Come All – Free Shuffle Lessons!



The TI Shuffleboard Club welcomes new and experienced players to join its free lesson series and tournaments. Lessons are led by expert players and are offered weekly starting in January, running for six weeks.

Roy Swartz and his team, Lorne Antaya and Diane Swartz will teach skills and strategy to new players. Beginners' lessons are held on Mondays at 1 PM usually wrapping up about 2:30 PM. All equipment that is needed is supplied by the TI Shuffle Club. The first beginner lesson is **January 5th**.

Dave Myers and his team, Dwayne Scruton and John Stuart will teach more advanced skills and strategy to experienced players. Intermediate lessons are held on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. The first intermediate lesson is **January 8th**.

Both groups permit players to join later in the series if you're unable to make the first sessions. Players who have participated in the majority of lessons are welcome to play in the Beginner or Intermediate Tournaments in the week following lesson wrap-up.

So, mark your calendars! Not only will you learn and practice new skills and strategies, you will have loads of fun and laughs. We look forward to seeing you on the courts. Contact Julie Bonenfant at 508-395-2019 with questions.



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## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### Tropicares Variety Show



It's that time of year again. The Tropicares' first meeting will be held at the Auditorium on **Tuesday, January 6 at 9 AM sharp**. Come and see what we are all about. Talent comes in many forms, so bring your creativity, ideas, and enthusiasm. You can participate in many ways, other than performing. We need help with backstage coordination, as well as lighting and props. It is a terrific way to meet new people and have a good time as well. Please join us for this initial meeting. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at 207-577-8933.

*Joan Cloutier – Tropicares President*

### Sailing Away!

#### Tropic Isles 2026 Sailboat Races

Sailors and Friends,

Once again there will be sailboat races on beautiful Terra Ceia Bay. This will be our fifteenth year of handicapped racing. You are invited to participate in the 2026 series by racing your boat if you have a sailboat, or by crewing on someone else's boat. The races will be weekly events (weather permitting) and begin on the first Tuesday in January (**January 6**) and continue until the last Tuesday of March (March 31). The race will start at 1300 (1:00 PM). The courses may change to make life interesting and are designed for races of about one hour. These are fun races (aggressive sailing is discouraged).



- You need not be a member of the TI Boat Club to participate.
- Entry is free.
- Boats are handicapped. The handicap is an attempt to compensate for differences in the boat's abilities.
- Main and Genoa sails only (no spinnakers).

A new list of those that wish to crew is being compiled and will be distributed to the skippers. Now is not too early to get on that list. Please understand, there are always more people that want to crew than there are positions available.

In past years, after each race, I wrote a little about the day's race or about racing or sailing in general along with the race results and emailed it out to a list of people that have indicated they would like to get it. If you would like to be added to that list, please let me know. If you are no longer interested, it is just as easy to decline.

Skippers that wish to compete, or those interested in these events, or those wanting more info should contact John Castellana. We're looking forward to a great race series.

*Mobil 585-737-6712 E-mail [jcastell382@gmail.com](mailto:jcastell382@gmail.com)*

### Art Classes



Last year's Art Classes were so successful that I will be continuing this year through our winter season. I'm really excited and have many new "crafting" challenges along with some upgraded versions from last year. Classes will be every

**Tuesday at 1-3 PM in the Auditorium starting on January 6.** I will put up a sign-up sheet each week in the Auditorium, but if you forget to sign up, don't worry, come anyway! I'll always make room! Don't worry about your crafting skills! Just give it a try and have some fun! The best part is that all the classes will be FREE!!! Below is a list with dates and proposed projects (always subject to change):

- Jan. 6: Drawing and Painting Review and New
- Jan. 13: Cheese Grater Art!
- Jan. 20: Water Color Painting
- Jan. 27: Learn to Make Jewelry
- Feb. 3: Plastic Spoons (what?)
- Feb. 10: Valentine Bouquet
- Feb. 17: Painting on Wood
- Feb. 24: Straws, Glue and You!
- Mar. 3: Black Paper Painting.
- Mar. 10: Concrete Garden Stone...New one!
- Mar. 17: Beads...Plants...Pots!
- Mar. 24: Sea Shell Art
- Mar. 31: It's a surprise!
- Apr. 7: You tell me!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 830 388-9816 or by email at [dona.keast@gmail.com](mailto:dona.keast@gmail.com). Can't wait to see all your fabulous creations!!!



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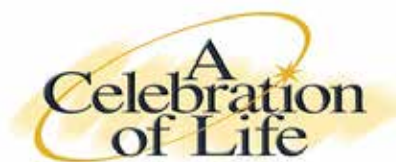
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## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### Join Us in a Celebration of Life – Carolyn Johnson



**Join us for a Celebration of Life for  
Carolyn Johnson on January 8th  
from 1-3 PM in the Auditorium.**

Please bring a written statement of your favorite memory of Carolyn to share. We will give them to her husband, George, to keep. It is hosted by Robbin and Doug Moore. If you have any questions, please call Robbin at 859-468-8982.



## Look What's Coming!

It is time again for the portrait sessions for the **Tropic Isles' Photo Directory**. This has been done every 5 years over the last 25 years. The next publication is slated for distribution in 2027.

For those who have done this before and for those who are new to our community, this is a reminder of how it works:

- Portrait sessions will begin next month (January) and additional sessions will be available during the spring, fall, and winter of 2026.
- January session dates and times in the Yacht Club are:  
**Friday, January 9** 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM  
**Saturday, January 10** 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
- The portrait sessions are available for everyone in the park, including apartment renters, TIHOA members, TIPOA members, and CO-OP members.
- The time and date sign-ups in the Yacht Club will be coordinated by members of the Photo Directory Volunteer Team. There will also be a link provided for online self-scheduling.
- The portrait session can be whimsical or serious, dressy or casual, and pets are allowed. A session takes less than 30 minutes of your time.
- You will receive a free 8 X 10 portrait, an opportunity to purchase a portrait package if you choose, and a free directory that has everyone's photos, as well as photos of all the activities and clubs in the park. (It's like a Tropic Isles' Yearbook).
- Photos cannot be submitted. They must be taken by the professional photographers.

Be on the lookout for a Mail Chimp in your email inbox with further details. There will be flyers posted around the park. You may also be contacted by the Volunteer Team to aid you in registering.

There is no advertising in the Photo Directory. The Park Office has no involvement with the photo directory. No money is involved with any members of the Volunteer Team. This is a resident-driven, volunteer activity in partnership with Universal Church Directories to provide our resident's names with faces. Stay tuned!



## ~ COMING EVENTS ~

### Snowball Dance



The Tropicaires will be sponsoring the annual Snowball Dance on **January 17th, 7:00 to 10:00 PM**, to be held inside the Auditorium. We will be grooving to the TI Band. Tickets will be \$8 and can be purchased from Joan Cloutier at Saturday Coffee or by contacting her at 207-577-8933.

### Boosters' Soup Supper



The annual Soup Supper, sponsored by the Boosters, will be held on **Friday, January 30th from 5-6:30 PM** or until all the soups are gone. It will be in the Auditorium. The price for tickets will be announced prior to the event. Ten more soups are needed. We currently have Cabbage Soup and Wild Rice Soup. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be distributed at the Booster meetings in December and January. Please contact Sue Weaver at [smweaver2@stny.rr.com](mailto:smweaver2@stny.rr.com) or 716-450-5077 if you want to help out. Remember, we are ALL Boosters. Thank you!

### A Special Event is Being Planned...

By the Caring Team



The North River Fire District has accepted an invitation by the Caring Team to provide an evening of education and conversation about resident safety. No date has been set, but we are anticipating an evening in January. The North River personnel are well-equipped to tell us about mishaps that happen in communities such as ours and how to prevent them.

The Caring Team is providing an outline of topics we would like them to address:

- Hazards in your home
- Entryway issues
- Fall prevention measures
- How to alert friends/family when there is a need
- Medication safety
- Fire prevention and control
- How to best assist the EMS when they arrive at your home for an emergency call

If there is another topic that you would like to add, please contact Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099, Coordinator of the Caring Team.

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# ~ COMING EVENTS ~

## FEBRUARY



### Dogs, Inc.

Since the mid 1980's, Tropic Isles has been a dedicated supporter of Dogs, Inc, formally known as Southeastern Guide Dogs. Over the years, we have donated over \$100,000 to their very important causes. Again, this year, we hope to raise enough money to name a puppy. Our annual Donation Day and Hot Dog Roast will be held on **Friday, February 6th**, in front of the Auditorium. We will also sponsor a "Thank You" party for everyone in the park on **Thursday, April 9th** in the Auditorium, so mark your calendars. If you are interested in becoming more involved with our fundraising efforts, please call or text Sue Weaver at 716-450-5077 or email her at [smweaver2@stny.rr.com](mailto:smweaver2@stny.rr.com). Thank you all for supporting this worthwhile and heart-warming cause.

### A Local "Dogs, Inc." Trainee Graduates!

Tropic Isles has a long tradition of supporting the training of therapy dogs. For years, fund raising has been underway to help the Southeastern Guide Dog Association, now known as Dogs, Inc. Sue Weaver, with Ted Chatterly and Vicky Williams, led multiple campaigns to raise money and, on several occasions, Tropic Isles has "earned" the right to name a puppy.



In May of 2024, a season-ending celebration was held in the Auditorium to thank Tropic Isles residents for their continued support and to, yet again, name not one, but two puppies! At this celebration, a therapy dog in training was able to attend the event. Melinda and Ken Wellman of Bradenton brought four-month-old "Ember" to the event.

Ember was in his training harness and impressed everyone with his calm demeanor in spite of the large crowd.



Mel and her neighbor, Amy, were the primary raisers of Ember.



The Wellmans continued to train Ember at home and took her to various Dogs, Inc. events to "socialize and train" dogs. The Wellmans were getting trained, too, on how to handle a growing dog and acclimating him to different experiences. Ember liked to swim in their pool.





## ~ COMING EVENTS ~



At six months of age, the Wellmans had to return Ember to the Dogs, Inc. facility in Palmetto for further training. The Wellmans are happy and proud to report that Ember has now graduated from Dogs, Inc.

The Wellmans attended Graduation Day festivities and were re-united with Ember for a short while. They are pleased to report that Ember successfully graduated and has been assigned to an individual with limited eyesight. Only a few dogs reach this level of competence. Well done to the Wellmans, Ember, and Dogs, Inc!



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## What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

### Line Dancing



Line Dancing is held on **Mondays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM** in the Auditorium. We will be having new songs and new dances. Beginners are encouraged to come for fun and exercise. For more information call Nancy Larsen at 941-725-2216.

### Texas Hold 'Em

Come join us for a rousing game of Texas Hold 'Em on **Monday nights, at 6-9:30 PM** in the Dockside Room of the Yacht Club. Meet new people and enjoy a night of poker. Contact Dwayne Scruton at 978-360-5267 if you have any questions.



### Tuesdays at 2:00



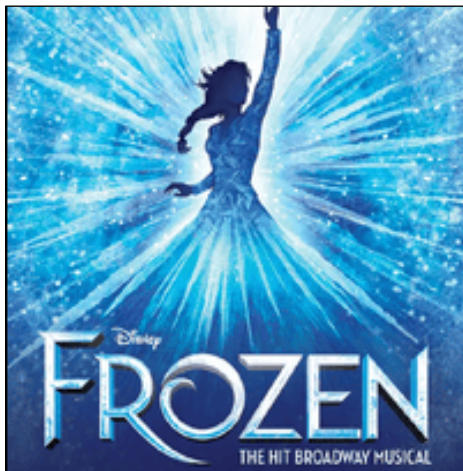
### Let's Play Poker!

Like to play poker? We play every Monday night from 6 to 9 PM in the Yacht Club. We play Dealer's Choice with nickel and dime antes. We are always eager to learn new games. We hope to see you there. Call Darlene at 810-488-0354 with any questions.



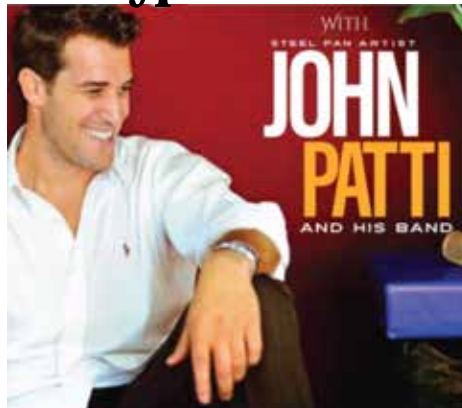
The **Tuesdays at 2:00** group gets together for cards and something to do. We meet in the Dockside Room of the Yacht Club. Everyone is welcome! We can teach you or you can teach us. We usually play for small change, so bring some dimes and quarters. If you are not a card player, the park also has some board games, or you can bring what you like to play. Contact Sherry Novak at 330-428-6005 or Sharon Wagner at 502-220-8557 if you have any questions.

## Musicals, Concerts, and More!



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# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Tropic Isles' Music Jam—TI Band

Join us for an afternoon of music at the Tropic Isles' Musicians Jam in the Auditorium. On **Wednesdays, we rehearse from 1-3 PM and jam from 3-4 PM**. This is open to all residents and any musicians in Tropic Isles. It will give you an opportunity to meet other talented musicians who live in the park. All are welcome! Due to lower attendance at this time of the year, please call Tom Tripp at 603-391-9645 prior to going, just to be sure it is happening.

## Welcome to Game Night!

**Please join us on Thursday evenings in the Yacht Club for GAME NIGHT at 6 PM.** You may come alone or with friends. Different card games and board games are played.

If you come alone there will always be a place for you. You can bring a game that you would like to play. If you want to learn a new game, you will find many members who would be more than happy to teach you. It is a fun way to spend a social evening!

*Judy Gutwein and Kathi Gossman, Coordinators*



Bible Study has resumed in Tropic Isles for the winter "season". We are meeting in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club at **9:00**

**AM on Friday mornings.** We will follow a very simple format. A topic will be chosen each week for the following week. Each person is asked to look up Old Testament and New Testament verses on the topic and come prepared to share what they have discovered! We look forward to some lively discussions! Please feel free to call Karen Downing at 231-218-4261 with any questions.

## Bid Euchre Anyone?

We play Bid Euchre every Friday starting promptly at 6 PM to 9 PM in the Yacht Club. You don't need to bring a partner. We play with 4, 5, or 6 people at a table. It just depends on how many people show up. It's always a fun time. Come and check it out. Call Darlene at 810-488-0354 with any questions.



## Mexican Train Dominoes



Come and join us for Mexican Train Dominoes on **Saturday nights at 6-9 PM** in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. Contact Kathi Gossman at 810-985-3870 with questions.

## Tropic Isles Golf League (TIGL)

Hi, everyone! We started up the 5th of November with an exciting scramble! Everyone who participated said they had fun so they all could come back the next week!

We actually have 7 tee times and need a full response in order to keep them. If you're new to the Park, please contact Gail or Ron and get in the game. It is a fun league with absolutely no pressure. We do a scramble (blind draw) the first Wednesday of every month. The rest of the Wednesdays we play our own ball. You pay your own green fees and we play for a little cash as well--\$1.00 for closest to the pin. Each week all groups are selected via a blind draw so that everyone gets a chance to meet everyone. The exception is whenever you have friends or family in town, notify me and we will arrange that you are together for that day! We do have some golfers in our league that live off-site and play with us. When I send messages out on Sunday night or Monday morning, it is a 1st come, 1st in basis and TI members will always have first shot at play!

Again, this is a FUN league and FUN is the name of the game. We hope to see you all on Wednesday mornings. The first tee time is 8:28 and last tee time is 9:16. After golf, we all assemble in the Club House for some additional fun, food, and drink. We hope to see you on the course.

*Coordinators: Ron Stewart 207-641-5335,*

*Gail Stewart 207-459-9548*



## Library News



The Tropic Isles' Library, or more recently known as The Book Nook, is open for business! If you are new to Tropic Isles, you will find large print, hard cover, and paperback books, DVDs, magazines, jigsaw puzzles, and more. We have some games for adults and children. Our library operates on the honor system. You do not need to check out items you wish to borrow. We simply ask that you return the items to the basket by the desk when you are done. A library volunteer will put them back where they belong. If you'd like to volunteer to help in the library, please contact Phyllis Ann Smith at 941-932-5654.

*Phyllis Ann Smith, Library Committee President*

## Memory Brick Garden



This is a great way to honor a friend or loved one who is no longer with us. Memory Bricks are on sale for \$35.00. You may have three lines with thirteen letters per line. The bricks will be ordered and placed in the garden in front of the Yacht Club in the spring of 2026! Please contact Shirley Clarkson at 941-465-8430 with any questions on obtaining Memory Bricks for you or a loved one.

*(continued on page 25)*

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SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
		<b>1</b> Christmas Dance tickets go on sale	<b>2</b> 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A 10:00 am TIPOA BOD Meeting - SB	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Yoga begins - Y 10:00 am Health Fair Meeting - SB 6:30 pm Boat Club Meeting - A	<b>4</b> 10:00 am - Entertainment Meeting - Y	<b>5</b> 7:30 am Blood Drive - A 9:00 am Booster Meeting - A	<b>6</b> Christmas Dance tickets sold at Coffee Hour						
<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Day	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Caring Team Meeting - A 10:15 am TIPOA Members Meeting - Y	<b>9</b> 1:00 pm Book Club - Y	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Activity Mtg - A 5:00 pm Shuffle Potluck/ Meeting - A	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Christmas Dance - A							
<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Movie Night - A Hanukkah	<b>15</b> Veterans' Donation Collection Ends	<b>16</b> 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A	<b>17</b> 5:00 pm Boat Club Christmas Party - A	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Co-Op BOD Meeting - A and Zoom	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>							
<b>21</b> 4:00 pm Christmas Cart Parade Winter Solstice	<b>22</b> 5:30 pm Christmas Caroling - Y	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Social - A	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> Kwanzaa	<b>27</b>							
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Party - A	December 2025									
WEEKLY EVENTS													
10:00 am Shuffle 2:15 pm Mahjong - SB	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness-Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Poker - Y 6:00 pm Texas Hold 'Em - Y 6:30 pm Line Dancing - A	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness- Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Cards - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 8:30 am Golf - Terra Ceia CC 9:00 am Yoga - Y 9:00 am Kayak Group Launch 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Shuffle 10:00 am Music Rehearsal - A 2:15 pm Mahjong - SB 3-4 pm Music Jam - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness- Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y 6:00 pm Game Night - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Bible Study - SB 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Bid Euchre - Y	8:30 am Coffee Hour - A 10:00 am Shuffle 6:00 pm Mexican Train Dominoes - SB							

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- Inspect Supply and Return Plenums
- Check Freon

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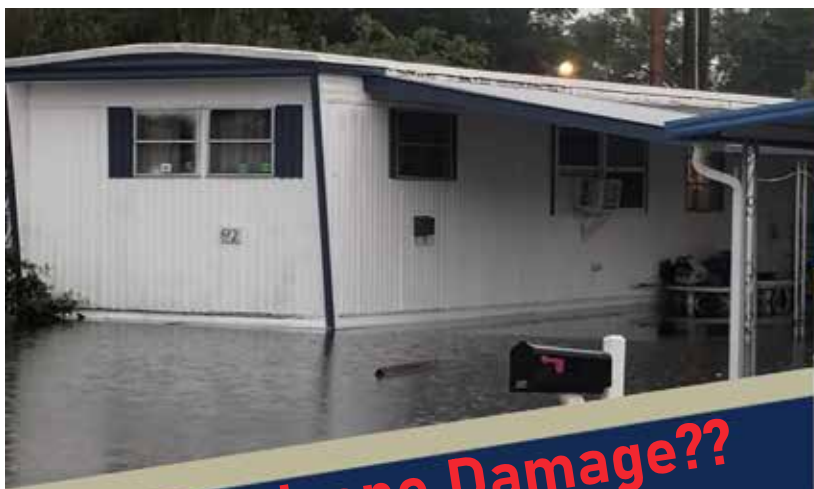


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# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Landscaping Advisory Committee

The Landscape Advisory Committee is always looking for volunteers to help weed the entrances during all the seasons. Volunteers help to keep the entrances weeded and deadheaded, including the areas inside the pool's fenced area. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, please contact Pamela Cuff at 952-374-8712.



## Water Aerobics



Water Aerobics is held daily, **Monday through Friday at the pool at 10 AM, weather permitting**. Remember your water shoes, hat, drinking water, and sunscreen. All are welcome in this class. Come down and meet your neighbors, new and old. Your instructors are Cindi Myers, Wendy Verstringhe, and Karen Timmermans. Contact Cindi Myers at 765-438-3642 if you have any questions.



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) continues to answer calls for various needs relating to park compliance issues with your home or yard, special concerns, or hardships. We welcome all calls. If we cannot help you directly, we have a list of referrals which may help. Bev is still looking for volunteers to assist her in coordinating the work parties for residents' requests. Please call **Bev MacKenzie at 716-583-4894** for assistance or to volunteer.

## Mahjong

Mahjong will meet in the Seabreeze Room (formerly the Pretty Room) of the Yacht Club every **Wednesday and Sunday at 2:15-4:30 PM**. If you are interested in learning to play Mahjong, please contact Irene Casey at 774-201-9444 or email Irene at [irene5381@gmail.com](mailto:irene5381@gmail.com).



## Canasta, Anyone?



If you have an interest in playing Canasta, come join us on **Thursdays at 12:30 PM** in the Yacht Club. Contact Diane Ringler at 941-713-1534 with questions.

## Tropic Isles' Book Club



On **Tuesday, December 9** the Book Club will meet in the Yacht Club at 1 PM. The Tropic Isles' Book Club is looking for more members! Contact Irene Casey at 774-291-9444 with questions.

### TI Book Club 2025 Book Selections

**December: The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride** by Joe Siple

The Tropic Isles Book Club has selected their books for discussion in 2026. Join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 1 PM in the Dockside Room in the Yacht Club or just follow us virtually! Send your comments about the book we are reading each month to [irene5381@gmail.com](mailto:irene5381@gmail.com).

### 2026 Reading List



**January: The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau** by Kristin Harmel

**February: Crow Mary** by Kathleen Grissom

**March: When the Cranes Fly South** by Lisa Ridzen

**April: How to Read a Book** by Monica Wood

**May: Sandwich** by Catherine Newman

**June: Buckeye** by Patrick Ryan

**August: Hamnet** by Maggie O'Farrell

**September: The Unraveling of Julia** by Lisa Scottoline

**October: When We Flew Away** by Alice Hoffman

**November: The Lion Women of Tehran** by Marjan Kamali

**December: The View from Lake Como** by Adriana Trigiana

(continued on page 26)



# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Saturday Coffee Hour



Tropic Isles "Coffee Hour" is held on **Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM** in the Auditorium and open to all park residents. It is the longest continuously run park activity and creates a meet and greet with neighbors and gives a warm welcome to Tropic Isles residents who join us. Come enjoy table talk with park residents, learn about items of interest to all. Upcoming Park events and club activities are announced, along with ticket sales for functions. Entry cost is \$2 per person with a menu of fresh brewed coffee, hot tea, pastries, breads, cold cuts, and cheese. Bring a cup. A purchase of 50/50 tickets helps to fund and support the clubs hosting coffee hour.

*Kay Lynn Duncan, Chairperson*

## Coffee Talk



This feature will be run throughout the year, sharing the names of those people who have received "We Care" cards from their friends and neighbors here in Tropic Isles.

Get-Well cards were sent to:

**Joanne Miller** of Flores Dr. (hospital)

**Carol Turner** of Terra Ceia Dr. (hospital)

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to:

**Jeanne Oliver** of Aloha Dr.

Condolences were sent to:

**Gary Murphy** on the passing of his mother, **Mary Jane**, of 12th St. W.

**Rick Johnston**, formerly of Terra Ceia Dr. and Riviera Dunes on the passing of his wife, **Cindee**.

The family of **Pat Clevenger**, formerly of Montego Dr. and Indiana on her passing.

**George Johnson**, formerly of Montego Dr. and Michigan on the passing of his wife, **Carolyn**.

**Russ Embry** of 12th St. W. on the passing of his mother.

**Jim Armstrong** of Aloha Dr. on the passing of his wife, **Valerie**.

If you know of someone who needs a "Get Well" or "Sympathy" card, please send your requests to **Irene Casey** by calling or texting her at 774-201-9444.

## Veterans' Tribute

A wonderful Veterans' Tribute with a flag procession and individual recognition by each veteran was held at Saturday Coffee on November 8 for our Tropic Isles' Veterans.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**



*(continued on page 27)*





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# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Exercise and Wellness

### WALKING AEROBICS



Aerobics is a fun activity that meets **Monday-Friday at 8:00 AM** in the Yacht Club. We use exercise DVDs to do 2 miles of walking aerobics for heart health with some strength training mixed in. Please bring your own weights or stretch bands if you use them. We vary the DVDs that we use to keep interest and enthusiasm high. Come on down and get fit with some friendly people!

*Cindy Shaw and Bev MacKenzie, Coordinators*

### FUN AND FITNESS



**EXERCISE & WELLNESS**  
Are you looking for a less intense form of exercise, but would enjoy some mild strength training, stretching, and exercises to improve balance? Then join everyone for Fun and Fitness on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 9 AM** in the Yacht Club. Many of the exercises are good for people suffering from arthritis, back problems, or fibromyalgia. Get fit and have fun, too. Contact Paula Reid at 941-773-6711 or Mary Buckley at 847-833-6955 with questions.

### FULL SPEED AHEAD FITNESS CENTER

The Fitness Center is located in the Yacht Club and is open 24/7. Inside you will find treadmills, weights, and other fitness equipment for your needs.



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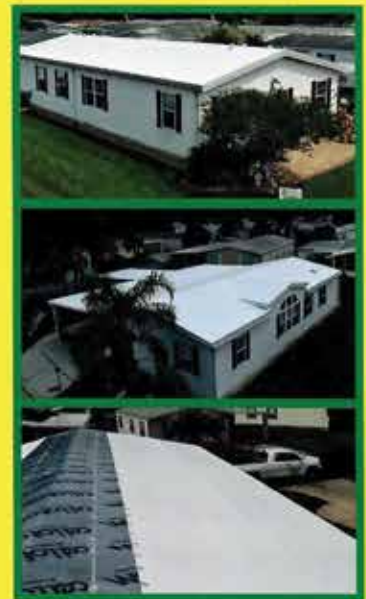
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# Out and About.... Around Town!

## Meet Me At Dogs, Inc.



**KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL** was busy in 2025 collecting trash and storm debris in the hardest hit areas of Manatee County, but they couldn't have done it without the help of volunteers.

### **KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL – First Tuesday & Saturday Cleanups**

#### **First Tuesday Cleanup**

**Tuesday, December 2 at 4:30 – 6:00 PM**

Connor Park  
505 5th St. W.  
Palmetto, FL

#### **First Saturday Cleanup**

**Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 AM – 12 noon**

Bradenton Beach - Coquina South Boat Ramp  
2651 Gulf Dr. S.  
Bradenton Beach, FL

To volunteer and sign up for any location go to [www.manateebeautiful.com](http://www.manateebeautiful.com) or call 941-795-8272.

## **Manatee Performing Arts Center**

**FROZEN – December 4-21\***

**FLEETWOOD MAX: a Definitive Fleetwood Mac Tribute –  
January 6, 2:00 & 7:00**

**TERMS OF ENDEARMENT – January 8-18\***

**ONCE UPON A MATTRESS – January 22-February 1\***

(\*Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening shows are at 7:30 PM. There are also Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 PM.) Call 941-748-5875 for tickets.



Dogs, Inc. has created a series of unforgettable guest experiences at the Dogs, Inc. campus for you to enjoy. From cuddly puppies to extraordinary dogs, every experience celebrates hope. Use the promo code MAGIC for complimentary registration to all events. Plan your visit at [www.dogsinc.org/visit](http://www.dogsinc.org/visit). Choose from the experiences offered below.

- **Campus Tour** – Walk the paths. Meet pups with purpose. Select days at 10:30-12:00.
- **Dogs Graduate** – Watch 4-legged college students conquer math, history, and obstacle courses. 12/3, 12/17.
- **Discovery Zone** – Where curiosity comes to life—explore, engage, and experience the wonder of Dogs, Inc. (Coming soon).
- **Beyond the Dark** – See darkness in a new light. Find out why everyone is talking about this multisensory experience. 12/2.
- **One More Time with Feeling** – Emotions take center stage as a young actor revisits the moments that shaped her—one audition, one memory, one feeling at a time. 1/13

## **Injured Wildlife? You can help!**

If you see an injured bird or manatee, you can call Wildlife for Manatee County at 941-822-3272 or Wildlife, Inc. on Anna Maria Island at 941-778-6324. Keep these

numbers near your phone at home or put them into your cell phone in case you need them.

**If you see injured birds in or around Tropic Isles, please call: Mitch and Lisa Barribeau at 920-373-6787. Leave message, if no answer.**

**Fred Allina at 260-437-0118**

**Ilene Allina at 941-307-4979**

**or**

**FRIENDS OF THE PELICANS 941-447-0773**

Keep these numbers handy to report an injured seabird.

Contact Jeanette Edwards 941-447-0773 and take a class on pelican rescue so you can join in.

Friends of the Pelicans	Bradenton
<a href="https://www.friendsofthepelicans.org">https://www.friendsofthepelicans.org</a>	
Save Our Seabirds	Sarasota
<a href="https://www.saveourseabirds.org">https://www.saveourseabirds.org</a>	
Seaside Seabird Sanctuary	Indian Shores (near St. Pete)
<a href="https://seasideseabirdsanctuary.org">https://seasideseabirdsanctuary.org</a>	
Wildlife, Inc.	Anna Maria Island
<a href="https://wildlifeinc.org">https://wildlifeinc.org</a>	

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## Co-Op Board Of Directors' Meetings

The Tropic Isles' Board of Directors usually meet every **third Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium**. You will be notified of the meeting via Mail Chimp prior to the meeting and given the Zoom link. The agenda is also posted in the box to the left of the front doors at the Auditorium at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. All Shareholders are welcome to attend. Meetings and the agenda will be announced via Mail Chimp prior to the meeting. The next meeting is December 18th at 9:30 in the Auditorium and on Zoom.

### 2025-2026 Co-op Board of Directors Emails

Al MacKenzie, President	<a href="mailto:president@tropicisles.net">president@tropicisles.net</a>
Drew Doll, Vice President	<a href="mailto:vp@tropicisles.net">vp@tropicisles.net</a>
Dennis Butts, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@tropicisles.net">secretary@tropicisles.net</a>
Jose Torres, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@tropicisles.net">treasurer@tropicisles.net</a>
Dennis Weber, Director 1	<a href="mailto:director1@tropicisles.net">director1@tropicisles.net</a>
VACANT	<a href="mailto:director2@tropicisles.net">director2@tropicisles.net</a>
Randy Rice, Director 3	<a href="mailto:director3@tropicisles.net">director3@tropicisles.net</a>

## Homeowners' Association Meeting Schedule (TIHOA) 2025-2026

Meetings are open to residents who own their home and rent their lot from the Co-op.

**TIHOA Board Meeting – February 12 at 4 PM – Seabreeze Room**

**TIHOA Members Meeting – March 19 at 4 PM – Dockside Room**

We maintain our own Mail Chimp account to communicate with our members. If you would like to sign up, please send an email to [fstop1122@yahoo.com](mailto:fstop1122@yahoo.com). If you have any questions, please contact Board members:

**Terry Foley--President**  
**Richard Belle--Vice President**  
**Anna Antonacci--Secretary**  
**John Slater--Treasurer**



## Property Owners (TIPOA) Meeting Schedule 2025 – 2026

### Board Meetings

Y/C Seabreeze Room

10 AM – Noon

**Dec. 2, 2025**

**Jan. 6, 2026**

**Feb. 3, 2026**

**Mar. 3, 2026**

**Apr. 7, 2026**

### Membership Meetings

Y/C Dockside Room

10:15 AM - 12:15 PM

**Dec. 8, 2025**

**Jan. 12, 2026**

**Feb. 9, 2026**

**Mar. 9, 2026 (Annual Meeting)**

**Apr. 13, 2026**

### **PROPERTY OWNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026**

President .....	John Vetter
Vice President.....	Al Coleman
Treasurer .....	Kay Lynn Duncan
Recording Secretary.....	Jackie Adinolf
City Liaison .....	Dan Demers
Directors .....	Dan Baker
	Bill Clark
	Mike Jenkins
	Shirley Pendergrass
	Trish Spangler



# Thoughts on Growing Old



IF I get dementia, I'd like my family to hang this wish list up on the wall where I live. I want them to remember these things.

1. Every time you enter the room announce yourself. "Hi Mom- it's Margaret." NEVER ask- Do you know who I am??? That causes anxiety.
2. If I get dementia, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality.
3. If I think my spouse is still alive, or if I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things. I'll be much happier for it.
4. If I get dementia, don't argue with me about what is true for me versus what is true for you.
5. If I get dementia, and I am not sure who you are, do not take it personally. My timeline is confusing to me.
6. If I get dementia, and can no longer use utensils, do not start feeding me. Instead, switch me to a finger-food diet, and see if I can still feed myself.
7. If I get dementia, and I am sad or anxious, hold my hand and listen. Do not tell me that my feelings are unfounded.
8. If I get dementia, I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.
9. If I get dementia, I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read, and visit with friends.
10. If I get dementia, ask me to tell you a story from my past.
11. If I get dementia, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.
12. If I get dementia, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.
13. If I get dementia, make sure that there are plenty of snacks for me in the house. Even now, if I don't eat I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.
14. If I get dementia, don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.
15. If I get dementia, don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not your fault, and you've done your best. Find someone who can help you, or choose a great new place for me to live.
16. If I get dementia, and I live in a dementia care community, please visit me often.
17. If I get dementia, don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events, or places. Take a deep breath. It's not my fault.
18. If I get dementia, make sure I always have my favorite music playing within earshot.
19. If I get dementia, and I like to pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original place.
20. If I get dementia, don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.
21. If I get dementia, know that I still like receiving hugs or handshakes.
22. If I get dementia, remember that I am still the person you know and love.



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## Retirement Clock



## Live and Learn and Pass It On

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- I've learned that a smart husband knows that the wooing never stops. –age 59
- I've learned that kids need hugs more than they need things. –age 43
- I've learned that everybody likes to be asked his or her opinion. –age 71
- I've learned that the trip is often more fun than the destination. –age 62
- I've learned that my best friend is my teddy bear. –age 6
- I've learned that I am my child's most important teacher. –age 32
- I've learned that position can be bought, but respect must be earned. –age 51
- I've learned that it's never too late to improve yourself. –age 85
- I've learned that a good deal is a good deal only when it's a good deal for both parties. –age 47
- I've learned that when visiting my parents, it takes five minutes to say "hello" and about thirty minutes to say "goodbye". –age 48

*12 Days of Christmas  
At The Beach*

Twelve Dolphins Diving  
Eleven Boaters Boating  
Ten Fish a Leaping  
Nine Ladies Sunbathing  
Eight Men a Fishing  
Seven Kids a Swimming  
Six Shells a Laying  
Five Golden Sunsets  
Four Flying Birds  
Three Sharks Teeth  
Two Turtle Nests  
And a Coconut in a Palm Tree

## TRIVIA Trivia Tidbits

- Queen Elizabeth II is a trained mechanic. Being a member of the royal family and queen of a nation doesn't mean you don't know how to get your hands dirty. Queen Elizabeth II actually trained as a mechanic and military truck driver in London. Queen Elizabeth II remains the only female member of the royal family to have ever joined the military as well as the only current living head of state to have served in the second World War.
- It's illegal for supermarkets in France to waste food. Using a practice that should be repeated the world over, France actually does not allow grocery stores to throw away unused food. Instead, all food that they think they can no longer sell must be given to the poor and donated to charities.
- The French became the first army to use camouflage in 1915 during the First World War. In 1915, the French army became the first army to use camouflage during the World War I. They created a dedicated camouflage unit, which was tasked with remaining hidden and spying and attacking the enemy. This tactic was quickly followed by other nations, with the British army copying the tactic the following year.
- Olympic Gold Medals are mostly made out of silver due to the insane cost, combined with the weakness of gold.
- No baseball in a Major League Baseball game has ever been clean. The rules state that a baseball must be rubbed in the mud before every game, to make sure the ball has a consistent grip.
- An average NFL career lasts only 3.3 seasons. The longest NFL career by position belongs to the kicker at 4.87 seasons while the shortest average career was only 2.57 seasons.



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# Laughter is the Best Medicine!

- The weather in Florida just went from 90 to 55 like it just saw a State Trooper.
- I don't want to say I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.
- Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.
- Struggling to get your wife's attention? Just sit down and look comfortable.
- As I've gotten older, I thought I was starting to get lazy, but it turns out I am just being more energy efficient.
- I am responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.
- I'm going to quit my job and travel the world until I run out of money. I estimate I'll be home again around 10 PM this evening.
- So, you're telling me you drive a mile to the gym to walk a mile on a treadmill?
- I was worried my mechanic would try to rip me off. I was relieved when he said I only needed blinker fluid.
- What did one pickle say to the other when it didn't get its way? Dill with it!
- What's in an astronaut's favorite sandwich? Launch meat.
- What did the fisherman say when his fishing line got tangled? Something a-piers to be wrong.
- What do you call a military member who loves to cook? A grill sergeant.
- What do you call a happy cowboy? A jolly rancher.
- What award does the "dentist of the year" get? A little plaque.
- I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I think I nailed it, but nobody saw it.
- Why do eggs come in flimsy cardboard boxes, yet batteries come in packets only a chainsaw can open?
- Medical students hate the final exam on kidney stones. It's the hardest one to pass.
- I tried to tell the cashier a joke, but it didn't seem to register.
- The only BS I need in my life is beach and sunshine.



## Cook's Corner

### 5-MINUTE APPLE PIE



#### Ingredients

- 1 apple finely diced, skin on
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 teaspoons corn starch or arrowroot flour
- 4 cinnamon graham cracker squares (2 full sheets), crumbled

#### Instructions

- Place the diced apple in a microwave-safe bowl. Add the cinnamon and brown sugar, stirring until the apple pieces are evenly coated.
- In a small bowl, dissolve the corn starch in water to make a slurry. Stir until smooth with no lumps, then pour it into the apple mixture, stirring to combine. This slurry will help thicken the apple mixture.
- Microwave the apple mixture for 1 minute. Carefully remove and stir, then microwave for another minute until thick and gooey.
- Stir in the crumbled graham cracker squares. Divide between 2 small bowls, and if you like, add a dollop of whipped topping and a sprinkle of cinnamon or apple pie spice.

Yield: 2 servings

#### Cooking for one:

- If you're making this for yourself, stash the leftover half (without the graham cracker) in the fridge, covered. When you're ready to enjoy it, reheat in the microwave until warm, then add the crumbled graham cracker and optional garnishes just before serving.

## Looking For A Rental?



I am offering to act as a Rental Liaison for Tropic Isles. I will simply match homeowners to perspective renters and renters to homeowners wishing to rent. Communication only, no charge. Please send me your request via email to [jwfreeman@fuse.net](mailto:jwfreeman@fuse.net) or call/text 859-750-2617 to Jackie Freeman.

# Safety Tip of the Month ---

## Safety-proof your home

- Make sure all hallways, stairs, and paths are well lit and clear of objects such as books or shoes.
- Use rails and banisters when going up and down the stairs. Never place scatter rugs at the bottom or top of stairs.
- Tape all area rugs to the floor so they do not move when you walk on them.

## Protect against fire and related dangers

- If there is a fire in your home, don't try to put it out. Leave and call 911. Know at least two ways to get out of your apartment or home.
- When you're cooking, don't wear loose clothes or clothes with long sleeves.
- Replace appliances that have fraying or damaged electrical cords.
- Don't put too many electric cords into one socket or extension cord.
- Install a smoke detector and replace the battery twice a year.
- Never smoke in bed or leave candles burning, even for a short time, in an empty room.
- Make sure heaters are at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, such as curtains, bedding, or furniture. Turn off space heaters when you leave the room.

## Avoid bathroom hazards

- Set the thermostat on the water heater no higher than 120° F to prevent scalding.
- Have grab bars installed in the shower and near the toilet to make getting around easier and safer.
- Put rubber mats in the bathtub to prevent slipping.
- If you are having a hard time getting in and out of your tub, or on and off the toilet, ask your provider to help you get a special tub chair, bench, or raised toilet seat.



## Prevent poisoning

### Carbon Monoxide

- Never try to heat your home with your stove, oven, or grill since these can give off carbon monoxide--a deadly gas that you cannot see or smell.
- Make sure there is a carbon monoxide detector near all bedrooms, and be sure to test and replace the battery two times a year.

### Medications

- Keep all medications in their original containers so you don't mix up medicines.
- Ask your pharmacist to put large-print labels on your medications to make them easier to read.
- Take your medications in a well-lit room, so you can see the labels.
- Bring all of your pill bottles with you to your healthcare provider's appointments, so he or she can look at them and make sure you are taking them correctly.

### Cleaning products

- Never mix bleach, ammonia, or other cleaning liquids together when you are cleaning. When mixed, cleaning liquids can create deadly gases.

## Protect against abuse

- Keep your windows and doors locked at all times.
- Never let a stranger into your home when you are there alone.
- Talk over offers made by telephone salespeople with a friend or family member.
- Do not share your personal information, such as social security number, credit card, bank information, or account passwords, with people you do not know who contact you.
- Always ask for written information about any offers, prizes, or charities and wait to respond until you have reviewed the information thoroughly.
- Do not let yourself be pressured into making purchases, signing contracts, or making donations. It is never rude to wait and discuss the plans with a family member or friend.



## Grass Recycling Is Important



We want to take a moment to remind you to practice "grass recycling" when your lawn gets mowed. Grass recycling (or mulching) means leaving clippings on your lawn. This helps to make sure grass clippings do not blow into bodies of water or onto surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, or street curbs, where they will eventually end up in the canals during rain events. Nutrients trapped in organic matter, such as grass clippings, leaves, and branches, can be re-released as pollutants when organic debris enters drainage areas, basin canals, and waterways. We all need to do our part to protect our waterways, and making sure to blow your grass clippings back onto your lawn is an important step. Please remind your lawn service to do the same. Thanks!



## ~~Special Thanks~~

- A very “special thanks” to **Irene Casey, Bev MacKenzie, Dawn Jackson, Jackie Freeman, and Debbie Coleman** for doing a little cleaning in the Auditorium kitchen to prepare the area to bring back the supplies from the Yacht Club for the return of Saturday Coffee Hour to the Auditorium.
- Thank you to the **Entertainment Committee** for organizing a great Halloween Party and Golf Cart Parade for residents to enjoy. Thanks to all who decorated their carts to parade through the streets of Tropic Isles. Thanks, too, to **Diane Swartz** for providing the playlist of music and to **Cheryl Brink** for leading the games.
- Thanks to **Carole Peck** for volunteering to be a Block Captain “Sub” on Edessa Dr.
- A big “thanks” to **Nancy and Jeff Cobb** for collecting, bagging, and taking the aluminum cans to be recycled this summer.
- Special “thanks” goes out to **Judy Milliken, Marilyn Denby, and all the cooks and helpers** that prepared such a delicious Thanksgiving meal for all the residents!
- Thanks to the **Kay Lynn Duncan** and the Saturday Coffee Committee who provided a fabulous tribute to our veterans here in Tropic Isles at Coffee Hour on November 8. A very special “thanks” to all our **Tropic Isles Veterans** for their service!
- A big “thank you” to **Cheryl Brink and the Entertainment Committee** for organizing a great Welcome Back Dance.
- Thank you to **Nancy Larsen** for organizing the Great Light Fight to encourage residents to light up their homes and “Let It Glow” for the holidays.
- Thanks to the **Landscaping Committee** for planting new annuals in the front entrances and around the pool to beautify the area.





## Tropic Isles' Marina



### MARINA HOURS

Open 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
7 days a week,  
weather permitting

### MARINA STAFF

**Rick Kropp -**  
**Marina Manager**  
**Dean Brown**  
**Mike Biggins**  
**Jerry Quesenberry**  
**Joe Bokar ("Bokey")**

## Boat Launch Permits ~



Any resident who launches their boat from the boat ramp at the Marina must have a launch permit. **Permits are provided free to Residents.** Please pick up a boat launch permit at the Marina. The staff at the Marina will have each resident sign for a new permit because the new permits are numbered and are assigned to a specific resident. This permit should be affixed to your boat and displayed where it is clearly visible to the Marina staff. If you are a resident launching your boat at the Marina, temporary parking is available for your vehicle/trailer with a parking permit from the Office. Contact the Office for details.

## Aerial View Photographs of Tropic Isles for Sale

Karen Linke is selling aerial view, color photographs of Tropic Isles. The sizes and prices are as follows:

8x10	\$10.00	14x20	\$20.00
11x14	\$12.00	16x20	\$25.00
11x16	\$14.00		



Contact Karen Linke at 978-273-4709 or see her at a Boat Club meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month if you are interested in purchasing one.

## Boat Club News



The season is here, but as I write this news, it feels more like New England weather. I know many of you return home for Christmas and New Years. We look forward to our upcoming events and seeing all our members back in January. **Our next business meeting will be December 5, followed by our Christmas party on December 17.** We appreciate your cooperation in our recent member application update. If you have not, please make sure your membership application is completed and your dues are paid for the new season.

As we continue to watch the renovations in the park, it's hard to picture where we were just over a year ago. Resilient, that's what we are! Hard work and dedication are what is needed to insure a positive outcome. We have seen it firsthand here at Tropic Isles.

As you travel to see loved ones throughout the country, always remember that things could change in an instant. We all saw that last September. Be thankful for your family and friends. Appreciate all that you have and take care of yourselves and each other. I wish you all the best this season. Please be safe in your travels and enjoy your holidays. On behalf of the Boat Club Bridge, MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

*Tom Hennessy, Boat Club Commodore*

### Boat Club Bridge

Tom Hennessy, Commodore  
Jim Kelly, 1st Vice Commodore  
Steve Tourtilotte, 2nd Vice Commodore  
Cheryl Brink, Secretary  
Karen Linke, Treasurer

## Kayak Launch Use Reminders



If you are using the Tropic Isles' kayak launch, please make sure to do the following:

1. Read the directions if you are not sure how to use the launch.
2. Make sure you sign out and erase your name when you return.
3. When you lower the ramp, do not undo both ends of the rope. Undo one side, lower the ramp, and then cleat it off.
4. If no one else is signed out when you return, please lift the ramp out of the water.
5. If the ramp has debris on it, please hose it off.

Your help in taking good care of our launch is appreciated.



# Kayak-ItY-Yak News

## Join the Kayak Group This Season!



The Kayak Group paddles on Wednesday mornings starting at the kayak launch behind the Auditorium at 9 AM. We all meet at Bird Island at 9:30 and decide where to go depending upon the weather and tide conditions. If you have any questions or want to get on the kayaking email list, contact Beverly Butts at [beverlybutts@gmail.com](mailto:beverlybutts@gmail.com). (Note that the following photo is rare. It shows Dennis Foley on his Hobie in the Manatee River. He is the one who usually takes the photos!)



## Kayak Rack Storage



Check with the Office about availability on the racks.

Yearly rental prices are \$75 for a top rack and \$100 for a bottom rack.

**REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR KAYAKS TO THE RACK!**

**FOR RESIDENTS WHO STORE THEIR KAYAKS ON THE RACKS AT THE LAUNCH:**

Be advised, kayaks may only stay on the racks, if YOU are here in the park. If you are leaving for an extended period of time, please store your kayak in your shed or home where it can be safely secured, especially during hurricane season.



*Happy Hanukkah*

**December 14-22**



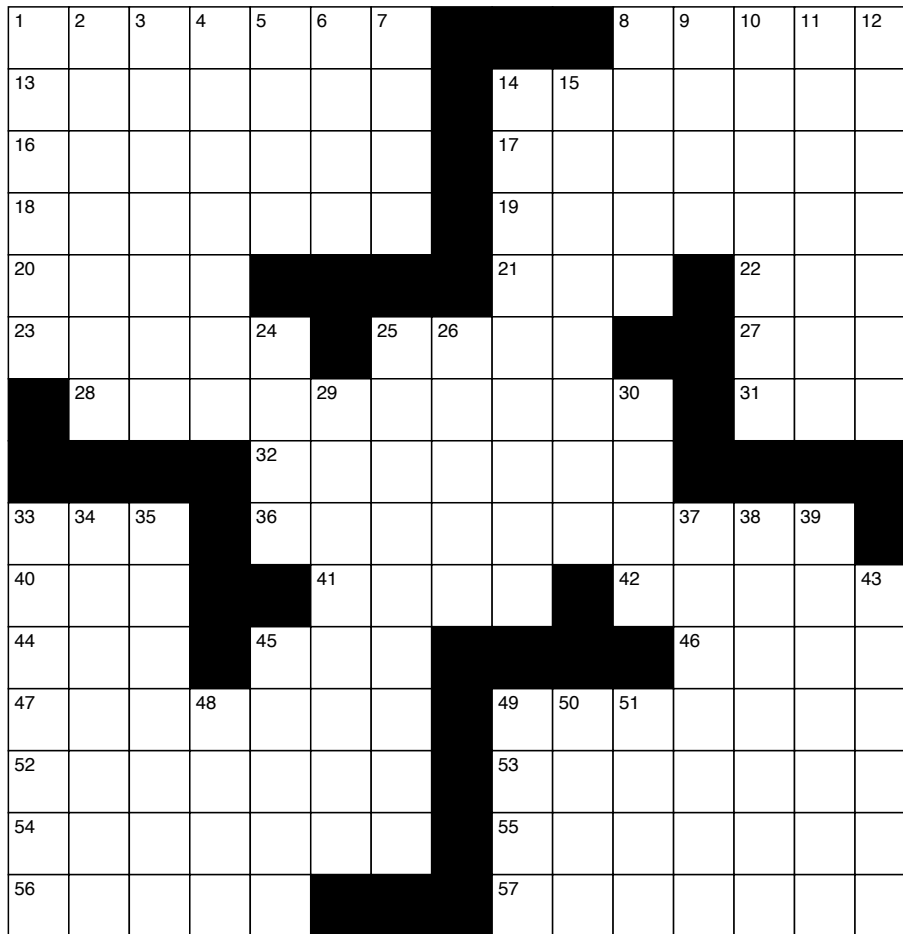
## Friendly Reminders

- That we encourage you to follow the “**See something, say something, do something**” slogan if you see someone not following the rules or trespassing in the park. Take a picture and report it to the Office AND call the Palmetto Police 941-721-2000 Ext. 4.
- If you have corrections or additions to make for the Resident Directory, please complete an Information Form with your information. A copy of the form can be picked up in the Office.
- **ARC (Architectural Review Committee)** approval is needed for any work that is done on the outside of your home, on your dock, or on your lot. ARC application forms are available in the Office and need to be completed to get placed on the ARC agenda. No work should begin on your project until your final approval letter from the Office is received. An ARC application can be picked up in the Office.
- Make sure the Office has your email address to be included in the important **Mail Chimp** notices that go out to residents. You can email the Office at [info@tropicisles.net](mailto:info@tropicisles.net) to make that request. Mail Chimp requests to make an announcement must be made 48 hours in advance.
- All residents of Tropic Isles Co-op (including private renters) are required to have a **background check** and be approved by the Co-Op. The Board unanimously approved instituting a \$250.00 penalty for any residents/tenants/renters who do not go through the approval process per the Rules and Regulations. The penalty will be posted to the owner's account.
- Remember that **NO yard waste** (grass clipping, branches, etc.) should end up in the canals or streets. Please notify your lawn care service of this as well.
- That **dog owners** are EXPECTED to be responsible and pick up after your dog EVERYWHERE and dispose of their waste in the proper container. Dogs must be on a leash throughout the park and in the control of the Resident or an authorized caregiver at all times.



- Smokers, **THERE IS NO SMOKING ON THE POOL DECK.** Use the “Smoking Area” outside of the fence.
- THE POOL IS OPEN 24/7, BUT PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS. QUIET HOURS ARE 10 PM TO 8:30 AM.

# CROSSWORD



## Across

1. Pierced, in a way
8. Rubik's challengers
13. Foul-smelling
14. Insisting
16. Mogadishu's land
17. Author of "The Little Drummer Girl"
18. Solid yellow sphere on a table
19. Seaport on the Clyde River
20. Jotted note
21. "Old MacDonald" ender
22. Legal org.
23. Input, as data
25. Do damage
27. Ending for cash or cloth
28. Date regularly
31. Time setting in St. Johns, Can.
32. Graceful riding horse
33. Geographical abbr.
36. Ravaged
40. Female sheep
41. Little isles

42. Not hold something in
44. Feel sickly
45. RR depot (abbr.)
46. "Tell \_\_\_\_ lies!"
47. Passe "please"
49. Some eBay transactions
52. The Rebels of the Southeastern Conference, familiarly
53. Do like
54. Goes back to a former condition
55. Actress Holm of "Still Breathing"
56. Rocker Reznor
57. Threw away

## Down

1. Loafer liner
2. Idling aimlessly
3. Kind of cheese
4. Red \_\_\_\_
5. Showgirl in the song "Copacabana"
6. 1928 Oscar winner Jannings
7. Distribute, as cards
8. Tree that's the source of chocolate
9. Actress Thurman, and namesakes
10. Shopper's prize
11. Dresses like a justice
12. Rod or Jimmy
14. Convicted perjurer of 1950
15. Salami or bologna
24. Street
25. Weight
26. Ready to swing
29. Supreme
30. Genetic materials
33. Where ships come in
34. Baton trickster
35. Go in for
37. Mexican treats
38. Narrowest of margins
39. Breakfast nook
43. Go \_\_\_\_ (decay)
45. "Keep your \_\_\_\_ on!"
48. Certain Feds
49. Geometric fig.
50. EMT part
51. Toni Morrison novel

(solution on page 42)

Puzzle from <https://www.printable-puzzles.com/>



## ❓ Did You Know? ❓



- That there is **NO PARKING on the empty lots, on the grass, or in other resident's driveways without permission from the owner.**
- That the **tables and chairs set up in the Yacht Club** should always be returned to that formation. If you need to move them, please return them to their original position. There is a diagram located on the refrigerator in the Yacht Club so you can reset the room to the default formation.
- That **Bocce Ball, Cornhole, and Connect Four games** are available for use by the residents. They can be found in the first closet in the main room of the Yacht Club. Please return them to the same closet when you are finished using them so others may use them.
- That there is a **bulletin board in the second entrance to the Yacht Club** where you will find a calendar of events and flyers posting events happening in and around the park.
- That all **activities in Tropic Isles** and their contact person are listed in the front of the Resident Phone Directory?
- That **garbage, yard waste, and recycling information** is found the Resident Phone Directory?
- That the **Block Captain for your street** is listed in the front of the Resident Phone Directory?
- That the **properties on the numbered streets** (12th, south side of 13th only, 14th, 28th Ave. Dr., 29th, 31st) and Trinidad Way are deeded property and are governed by the laws and ordinances of the City of Palmetto.
- That Maui Dr. is a **ONE-WAY STREET** going from 28th Ave. to Aloha Dr. ALL vehicles, including golf carts and bikes, should proceed in the correct direction to avoid mishaps on this narrow road.
- That the **2 restrooms in the Yacht Club** are now unisex. Both restrooms can be used by either men or women.
- You can access the **Breezes newsletter** by visiting the Tropic Isles portal at [www.tropicisles.net](http://www.tropicisles.net) under the "Residents"—"Breezes Newsletters" heading.
- You can **send pictures** to be included in the Breezes newsletter of your events by texting them to 608-212-8967 or emailing them to [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com). Don't forget to send your pictures to [f34221@aol.com](mailto:f34221@aol.com) to be posted on the Tropic Isles' Facebook page.
- That if you are in need of a piece of **medical equipment**, the Co-op has wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, crutches, shower chairs, and potty chairs that you can borrow and keep them for as long as you need them. Contact Nancy Cobb at 941-730-0018 for assistance.
- That the Shuffleboard Club purchased the **washer/dryer** unit that is located in the Yacht Club kitchen. It was specifically purchased to handle the laundering of cleaning supplies used to maintain the shuffleboard courts. Residents are strictly prohibited from using this equipment for any other purpose.
- That there is a **copy machine** in the Book Nook for use by the residents. It is 5-cents a copy. Please leave your money in the lockbox.



- Follow the **SLOW-Manatee Zone** signs in the area. Manatees are on the move to find warm water. It is against the law to harass, feed, water, or touch a manatee.



DECEMBER 26-JANUARY 1

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# Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Procedure

ARC approval is needed for **ANY** improvements that happen outside—on your home, dock, or lot. The ARC procedure is as follows:

1. ARC application forms are available in the Office and on the website [www.tropicisles.net](http://www.tropicisles.net). Fill out an ARC application and submit it to the office. Make sure to include diagrams, drawings, or photos as needed. If possible, please show the neighbor's homes and the distance from each. Include the labels N, S, E, and W directions on your diagrams.
2. All applications must be logged in at the Office and assigned a date for review by the ARC Committee or 3-COR.
3. The ARC approval process begins with a preliminary review by a 3-person team, referred to as 3-COR. Simple improvements and replacement issues may be approved by this group and not require a review by the full ARC committee.
4. The ARC Committee needs a week to review the application and go to the lot before the next meeting date. If there is not enough time to do this, you will have to wait for a future date.
5. You will be notified when your request is placed on the agenda for an ARC meeting. 3-COR Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium. ARC Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium and are announced via Mailchimp. You are encouraged to attend the meeting.
6. After the meeting, you will be notified, by phone or in writing, as to whether your request is approved or denied.
7. If denied, you can appeal the decision to the Board of Directors, if you so choose.
8. **To obtain a permit from the City, you must first receive the Architectural Review Application approval, signed by the ARC committee and the Manager.**
9. **You must also provide a copy of all required permits to the Office.**
10. **BOTH THE ARC APPLICATION AND THE CITY PERMIT NEED TO BE POSTED ON THE FRONT OF THE HOME BEFORE THE WORK CAN BEGIN.**
11. **NO WORK should begin on your project until your final approval letter from the Office is received.** If you fail to get ARC approval for your project before you begin, you may be asked to deconstruct it and/or a fine of **\$250** can be imposed. Contact Steve Tourtilotte at 860-682-7656 with any questions you may have.

## ARC Committee Members

Steve Tourtilotte-Chairman  
 Randy Blanton  
 Mike McBride  
 Cathy Sweeney  
 Drew Doll-Board Liaison

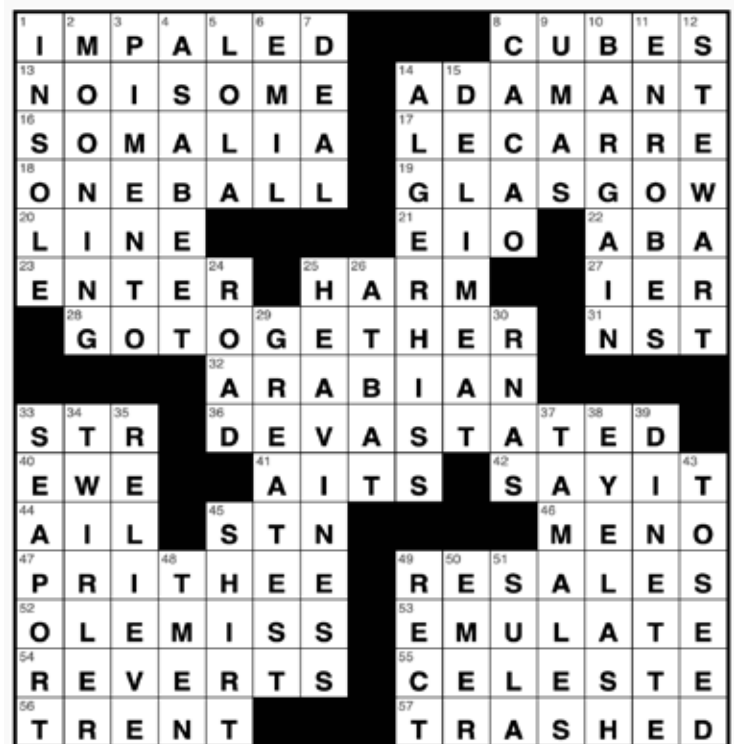
**ARC Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month**  
**3-Cor Meetings: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month**

# Thinking of Installing a New Home?



Anyone wishing to install a new home must complete an ARC application and should stop in the Office to pick up a copy of the Requirements for New Home Installation.

# CROSSWORD SOLUTION





## Halloween Happenings

Residents got into the spirit at the Halloween party wearing costumes and playing party games.



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# Poppin' Jazz Christmas

**Bradenton Area Convention Center - Grand Ballroom**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of Christmas Jazz as The Pops Orchestra's Jazz Combo fills the stunning new ballroom with festive flair!

**Friday  
12/5/2025  
7:00 PM**

Enjoy timeless holiday classics with a jazzy twist, sing along to your favorite seasonal songs led by professional vocalists, and wrap up your visit to the European Holiday Market with this one-of-a-kind concert experience.



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**For Tickets Call the Box Office 941-748-5875**

**Or visit [www.ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com](http://www.ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com)**



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