The Tropic Isles
November 2026 Breezes
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Home of the Month



November's "Home of the Month" is awarded to Marilyn Fahrenholz at 367 Tampico Dr. This well-loved home proves that age is just a number, with great curb appeal and a beautiful display of flowers. The care, pride, and hard work that go into keeping this home looking so good truly shine through. Congratulations on being named November's "Home of the Month"!

Photo of the Month



Becky Freeman captured this amazing picture of an osprey with his "catch" near the Main Basin.

Meet Your New Neighbors

By Cindy Shaw



New to the neighborhood at 133 Capri Dr. are **Jackie and Tom Tweedy** from Vicksburg, Michigan. They will be part-time residents here and are a part of a group of 18 other residents from Michigan that reside in Tropic Isles. The Tweedys have rented different homes on Trinidad Way since 2009, so they were familiar with Tropic Isles when they decided to purchase. They have 3 children—Sheri (Fred) lives in Schoolcraft, MI; Mark (Sara) lives in Gardiner, Maine; and Ben (Jessi) lives in Portage, MI. Jackie and Tom have 8 grandchildren between the ages of 14 and 28.

Tom is a Navy veteran, where he served from 1968-72 in the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas on an oiler/repair ship. He is retired from working as the Manager of Utilities at Pfizer for 30 years. Jackie also worked at Pfizer in logistics for 16 years. She currently donates her time at a friend's greenhouse doing planting and shipping. Tom enjoys home remodeling, fishing, golf, boating, and working as a handyman helping friends with their projects. Jackie likes gardening, shopping, playing cards and bingo. They love spending time with family and their "friend family" in Tropic Isles. Please welcome Jackie and Tom to our little piece of paradise.

Thought for the Day

Happiness is not determined by what's happening around you, but rather what's happening inside you.

Most people depend on others to gain happiness, but the truth is, it always comes from within.

Happy Starfish Hunt



Can you find me hiding somewhere inside?

Out and About . . .



Ron and Gail Stewart visited Nashville in September.



Sharon Wagner spent a great day at Oliver's Winery in Indiana with her daughters and her sister in October.



We were on our way home from bonny Scotland. Thank you to our wonderful family, Rikki and Carol Bailey, for having us and showing us so much more of this beautiful country. *–Janice and Keith Dey*

What's Happening in Tropic Isles?

Inside the canvas cover around the center console of our boat, we discovered this baby dove sitting in the nest that Mama dove built in the cupholder.

----Bob and Cindy Shaw



The Falcon 9 rocket launch in the early morning hours of October 13 was amazing to see as it created a jellyfish cloud and the booster descended back to Earth.







Residents got in the spirit of the holidays by decorating their homes for Halloween.



3116 10th St. W.



42 Edessa Dr.



69 Edessa Dr.

Tropic Isles

1503 28th Ave. West, Palmetto, Florida 34221

The Office is open from 9 AM to 3 PM and will be closed for lunch from 12 to 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.

Barbara McEvoy, General Manager
Lynn Szabo, Administrative Assistant
Robin Emanuel, Resident Services
Thomas Tonich, Maintenance Manager
Peter Distelhurst, Maintenance Tech
Rick Kropp, Marina
Office (941) 721-8888 • Fax 941-729-0687
Marina 941-729-8128
www.TropicIsles.net

Tropic Isles Co-op

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026/2027

President ..... Drew Doll
Vice President ..... Katrina Eagle
Secretary ..... Dennis Butts
Treasurer ..... Jose Torres
Director 1 ..... Dennis Weber
Director 2 ..... David Bishop
Director 3 ..... Randy Rice

TIHOA
Tropic Isles Homeowners Association

2026/2027

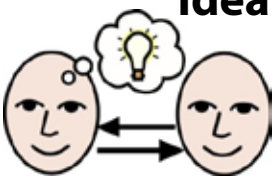
President ..... Terry Foley
Vice President ..... Nancy Larsen
Treasurer ..... John Slater
Secretary ..... Sharon Wilson

Tropic Isles Breezes
Published monthly and delivered to all residents
Editor: Cindy Shaw

Send photos and articles to TIbreezes1@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.

Idea to Ponder....



It is far better to learn to walk fully in your own footprints, than to force a fit into someone else's.

Letter From The Editor

Welcome back to our next wave of snowbirds! More and more residents will be returning in the coming months and once you arrive you will notice some changes and improvements inside the buildings and around the grounds since you've been gone. Check out the new homes that have gone in!

November is the month that brings our Tropic Isles' activities to life. There are many activities that start up in the month of November, so keep your Breezes calendar handy to keep abreast of everything that goes on. The new marquee in front of the Auditorium has coming events listed there. There is no reason to miss anything that you are interested in doing! I encourage you to support the wonderful activities Tropic Isles has to offer. Find something you enjoy doing and invite a new resident to join you. The season got off to a great start with the Halloween Party and Golf Cart Parade and there's more fun to come this season.

New residents! Come out and get involved in the activities—as a volunteer or participant—there's something for everyone! Try something new! Take a leadership role. You'll meet lots of people and make new friends. Get ready for a great season! Let the fun begin!

This month, we celebrate Veterans' Day to honor all members of the Armed Forces who served this country. They served and fought to protect us, to keep our country safe, and to preserve our way of life. Veterans gave their time and risked their lives for you and me. In some cases, they made the ultimate sacrifice. This holiday originally was called Armistice Day and was first celebrated in 1921. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veteran's Day, in honor of those who served and died from all wars. Remember to thank our veterans for their service.

November also reminds us that we have a lot to be thankful for—new friends, family connections, each new day, good health and healing, and the little things in life.



May the good things in life be yours in abundance,
and stay with you all year long.



ON NOVEMBER 1, 2026,
don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!

From the Manager's Desk

TROPIC ISLES OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 9 AM – 3 PM
The Office is closed for lunch from 12 – 1 PM

Important Information from the Tropic Isles' Office

SIGNING IN AND OUT-- Please follow our policy of checking IN and OUT at the Office when returning to the park or leaving for an extended absence. To check in/out, all you need to do is sign the sheet on the Office counter to let us know. We will try to make the appropriate change of address in our computer system when necessary. Be sure to sign in when you return.

FOB SYSTEM— Access FOB Rules: Please remember that access to the amenities is limited to those individuals with an active FOB ONLY. Please do not permit entry to anyone who does not have a FOB. At the January 15, 2026 board meeting, the Board approved the following rules regarding use and sharing of FOBs:

1. Each property in Tropic Isles Co-Op, Inc. is entitled to receive two (2) access FOBs for authorized entry into the common areas and amenities. These access FOBs are for the exclusive use of the owners or approved renters residing in said properties.

2. In the event that any owner or renter in the Co-Op shares their FOB with an unauthorized or unapproved individual, or allows access to any of the common areas or amenities to an unauthorized or unapproved individual, the use of the amenities by said owner or renter will be suspended as follows:

1st occurrence: Suspension for a minimum of ninety (90) days.
2nd occurrence: Suspension for a minimum of one (1) year.
These rules apply to all TIPOA residents as well.

MAIL CHIMP NOTIFICATION SYSTEM—Mail Chimp is the system that has been put into place that will allow the Office the ability to instantly communicate with ALL Tropic Isles residents separately or all together. Please give the Office your current email address.

OFFICE EMAILS—To contact the Office via email go to info@tropicisles.net.

TROPIC ISLES FACEBOOK PAGE—Tropic Isles has its own Facebook page -- **Tropic Isles Co-op, Inc.** This is the group where you will see notifications of park events and important notices for the Co-op residents. Please make sure to become a member so you don't miss out on any important notices! (Keep in mind that membership is limited to current Co-Op residents only. Please don't invite your friends from up north, etc., as they will not be permitted access.)

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES—If you see something that requires immediate attention, (i.e. broken water pipe, red light on the lift station flashing, sewer or electrical issues, etc.) which can be considered an emergency, but it is after hours that the Tropic Isles' Office is open, please call **941-721-8888**. This is the **Tropic Isles Answering Service** for after-hours emergencies. You will be connected to an actual person who will place a call to the Manager or Maintenance person on-call to handle the situation.

PARKING PERMITS – A parking permit is required to park in the Auditorium and Yacht Club parking lots overnight. The parking permit is good for 48 hours. Pick up your parking permit in the Office.

ARC APPLICATIONS -- Completed applications and all supporting information must be received at least 7 days prior to the ARC meeting. Any modifications performed without ARC approval are subject to a **$250.00** penalty.

It's a Matter of Life and Death

For public safety reasons such as Fire and Rescue, Emergency Medical, and Police Response, the following regulation taken from the Rules and Regulations is crucial:

Rule 3.2 Unit/Lot Numbers

All residents shall post three-inch (3") lot numbers on their Dwelling facing the street, at the corner of the Dwelling closest to the carport or driveway, and according to local ordinances.

Properly displayed house numbers are also very helpful to Postal Letter Carriers, UPS, FedEx, etc. Lastly, it helps your visitors to more easily find your home. If you don't have your house numbers posted or if they are not posted properly, please use the above criteria to come into compliance. *(3 inches is the minimum height. 4 or 5 inches is good, too.)* It really could be a matter of life or death.

Property/Home Rentals



This is just a reminder that all rentals need to be approved by the Co-Op prior to any tenants moving in. We have created a very easy process for getting your tenants registered and approved.

****Minimum rental period is 30 days.**

To register your tenant, please submit the following documents at least 14 days prior to your tenant's planned arrival:

1. **Tenant Registration Form** - completed by owner/landlord
2. **Application for Residency** for each tenant with a photo ID and $75.00 fee per tenant
3. **Pet Registration Form**, if applicable (2 pets are permitted, up to 30 lbs. each)
4. **For RV lots**: If the tenant is bringing their own RV, the RV and its placement must be approved by the ARC Committee. Please submit the "new" **ARC Application – RV Approval & Placement Form** with the required documentation. ***Note: Tenant's background application will not be processed until after the RV is approved by the ARC Committee.***

All documents are available in the Office and on the portal as well. If you have any questions, please contact the Office at 941-721-8888.

Bobbie McEvoy, General Manager

New 2026-2027 Co-op Resident Phone Directories

The NEW 2026-2027 resident phone directories will be distributed later this month to Co-op residents, one per household, by the Block Captains, if you are listed in the directory this year. If your residence looks vacant, it will be returned to the Office. Then you may then pick up your copy from the Office when you return.

Once you receive your new directory, please check through it 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, please contact me by calling/texting 608-212-8967 or send an email to tibreezes1@aol.com with your correction. I will be happy to print the correction in the next month's issue of the Breezes in the interim and make the change in the directory for next year. Thank you to all those residents who took the time to update their information for the new directory.

Cindy Shaw, Editor

Corrections For The Directory

Any corrections or additions that arrive after the 2026-27 directory went to print will be posted here in the monthly newsletter in the interim. Please add them to your new directory once you receive it.

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Picture-Perfect Pets of Tropic Isles



Tropic Isles is a pet-friendly park. Our pets are a part of our family and bring so much comfort and joy to our lives. We have so many pets in the park, so we'd like to get to know them.

Please send me a picture of your pet for a future issue of the Breezes. Send your picture to tibreezes1@aol.com or text it to 608-212-8967 with your pet's name, breed, age, and any other interesting tidbits that you'd like to share (quirky habit, etc.) Thanks, in advance, for your pictures!

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 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!

Photo of the Month



Please send me your favorite photo of wildlife or scenery in or around the area 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 or text it to 608-212-8967. Please send in your favorite nature photo.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



BE SURE TO GOBBLE 'TIL YOU WOBBLE!

Cook's Corner

CHICKEN DIPPIN' SAUCE

Mix this up, and keep it in the fridge up to a week to serve with chicken nuggets, fries, or anything else that's improved by a creamy sauce.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground pepper
- 1/2 tsp. white vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. paprika

Directions:

1. Whisk together all ingredients in a medium bowl until combined.
2. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to a week.

Volunteers Needed! Please Help!



We have a need for volunteers in the following positions:

- **CO-OP BOOK CLUB COORDINATOR**: A coordinator is needed to continue to lead the Co-op Book Club for the Co-op residents. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Irene Casey at 774-201-9444. She will help to get you started.
- **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS CO-ORDINATOR**: Coordinator(s) needed to assist with organizing Neighbors Helping Neighbors. If interested, contact Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099. Two people could share the job together.
- **BLOCK CAPTAIN (SUB) NEEDED FOR CAPRI DRIVE**: A volunteer is needed as a sub for the block captain on Capri Drive to help distribute the Breezes newsletters when needed. Please contact Cindy Shaw at tibreezes1@aol.com or by calling/texting 608-212-8967 if you can help.
- **COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEE**: Additional volunteers are needed to be a part of the Coffee Committee that oversees the Saturday Morning Coffee Hour and purchases the supplies. Contact Drew Doll at 716-573-3250 if you are interested.

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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 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 Co-op Board Meeting is November 19 at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium and via Zoom.



2026-2027 Co-op Board of Directors E-mails

Drew Doll, President ..... president@tropicisles.net
Katrina Eagle, Vice President ..... vp@tropicisles.net
Dennis Butts, Secretary ..... secretary@tropicisles.net
Jose Torres, Treasurer ..... treasurer@tropicisles.net
Dennis Weber, Director 1 ..... director1@tropicisles.net
David Bishop, Director 2 ..... director2@tropicisles.net
Randy Rice, Director 3 ..... director3@tropicisles.net

Homeowners' Association

(TIHOA) 2026-2027

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

We maintain our own Mail Chimp account to communicate with our members. If you would like to sign up to receive emails, please send an email to fstop1122@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Board members.



Terry Foley	**President**
Nancy Larsen	**Vice President**
Sharon Wilson	**Secretary**
John Slater	**Treasurer**



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November

Tropic Isles Golf League (TIGL)

Hi everyone! We are back in beautiful Palmetto starting our golf league at Terra Ceia on **November 4** where we will play our 1st Scramble and I'm sure we'll have a GREAT TIME! Remember, we will be running the Tropic Isles Golf League from November through April, 2027. The first Wednesday of every month is a blind pick Scramble. Every other Wednesday, we will play our own ball. All levels of golfers are encouraged to join us and enjoy the fun!

Every Monday, I will text the members asking for your commitment to play the following Wednesday. I will publish rosters from that information on Tuesday evening for the following morning's golf.

If you are new to the park or just want to join, please notify Gail or myself (Ron) and we will get you in ASAP! Don't be bashful and don't worry about your level of golf! There is room for every level of play and the main function of the TI Golf League is to enjoy camaraderie with our friends and to have fun doing it! Please remember our "Golden Rule in Golf": IF YOU DON'T HAVE FUN, YOU CAN'T COME BACK!

Coordinators: Ron Stewart 207-641-5335 or Gail Stewart 207-459-9548



Co-Op Arts and Crafts Classes

Get ready for another fun and creative season with our Co-Op Arts & Crafts group! Join us every **Wednesday, starting November 4 from 1:00–3:00 PM**, in the Dockside Room at the Yacht Club. We're excited to share a variety of creative projects throughout the season. Diane Swartz and Dona Keats will be starting us off with some fun projects in November. More dates and details will be announced weekly.

Do you have a favorite craft or project you'd like to share with the group? We'd love to have you join us as an instructor or presenter! Please contact Cheryl Brink if you're interested. Be sure to watch the Co-Op Facebook page, Mail Chimp notices, the marquee board, and future newsletters for weekly announcements, project details, and Pop-Up Craft days. Whether you're an experienced crafter or just looking to try something new, there's something for everyone. We look forward to another season filled with creativity, laughter, and great friendships.

Entertainment Committee

(more Coming Events on page 10)

Bowling News



Here are a few things you should know about the Bowling League. The cost of bowling will be $20.00 per week. Subs will pay $16.00 per week and we can always use subs. We will be starting on **Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 12:30 PM** at Bowlero Lanes in Bradenton. The days we will be taking off for the holidays are November 26 for Thanksgiving, December 24 for Christmas, and December 31 for New Year's Eve. We will start up again on January 7, 2027. The last week of bowling will be March 11, 2027. The banquet will be on March 18, 2027. Any questions? You may call or text me at 518-283-2763.

Vicky Williams—Bowling Secretary/Treasurer

Welcome To Co-Op Game Night!



Please join us on Thursday evenings starting **Thursday, November 5** 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!

Kathi Gossman, Coordinator



Co-Op Booster Meeting



The first meeting of the Tropic Isles' Co-op Boosters is scheduled for **Friday, November 6, at 9:00 AM** in the Yacht Club. Please plan to attend and become part of the Boosters. The purpose of the Boosters is to work together to help make Tropic Isles a great place to live. We especially welcome new Co-op residents to attend and find out what the Boosters will be doing this year and hopefully become involved with this amazing group.

BOOSTERS' OFFICERS 2026-2027

Boosters President .....Bob Shaw..... (941) 705-4485 / bshaw16872@aol.com

Vice-President.....Wendy Verstringhe.....(585) 481-4099 wendyjean609@gmail.com

Secretary.....Linda Doll.....(585) 599-3341 canoedoll@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Mike Cuff .....(952) 261-7707 mcuff@comcast.net

Director..... Carmen Garcia.....(941) 933-0453 cusie_garcia@yahoo.com

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING



The Boosters continue to collect aluminum cans throughout the year. The drop-off box is in the Office parking lot or you can call for pickup if you have a large quantity. Thank you for recycling!

Co-Op Sunday Night at the Movies

Sunday Night at the Movies is held on the second Sunday of the month. Our next Movie Night will be **Sunday, November 8 at 7 PM** in the Yacht Club. We will be showing the movie **Ordinary Angels**--A woman finds meaning by helping a young family in this feel-good drama. You can bring your own comfortable chairs, snacks, and beverages if you choose. We hope to see you there. Contact Sharon Wagner at 502-220-8557 if you have any questions.

The Co-Op Caring Team



Some concerned citizens in Tropic Isles began the formation of the "Caring Team" in 2023—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 after a hospital visit or rehab, helping them with some tasks, shopping, running an errand, etc.

The idea behind this concept centers on providing 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 has been successful in providing assistance of various kinds to residents who had various health needs. All information is kept strictly confidential.

The Caring Team is available to assist you with your health needs by calling Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099.

Our next Caring Team meeting will be November 9 at 9 AM in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. If you are interested in becoming a part of this Caring Team, please attend the meeting on November 9. We'd love to have you on our team!

Cindy Shaw, Caring Team Secretary

Co-Op Activity Committee Meeting



Our first Activity Committee Meeting for the 2026-2027 season will be **November 11 at 9 AM** in the Yacht Club. SAVE THE DATE! All Co-op residents are welcome to attend. The Tropic Isle's Activities Committee is here for you! We meet every second Wednesday of the month. We support the 40+ activities in our vibrant, wonderful community and welcome new ideas and activities! Our Tropic Isles' community is strong through our activities and social activities! We look forward to connecting with you and most importantly, hearing how we can support your activity and group this 2026-2027 season. Old and new activities alike, please send a representative or two, and share with the Activity Board your goals for the upcoming season. You can talk about news and happenings with your activity and club and where we can partner together ensuring our social community in Tropic Isles remains fun and vibrant.

Tropic Isles' Activity Committee
Wendy Verstringhe, President

(more Coming Events on page 11)

Co-Op Shuffle Club News



Shuffleboard is a fun and exciting game of skill and strategy . . . and sometimes a bit of luck for sure. You will see us on the courts in the morning and very likely hear us laughing while you are at the pool. The courts are open to Co-op residents and we invite you to join the fun! It is an easy game to learn and our shuffle folks are very friendly and willing to help with the game, the equipment, and really everything you need to have fun. More and more folks will be migrating South and we would love new folks to join us for our daily play at 10:00 AM.

You will see that our club members work together to keep the courts clean and well-maintained. Even court maintenance is fun!

Starting in January we will offer beginner and intermediate lessons if you are interested in learning.

For 2026-27, our club dues are $10 for the season. We have monthly meetings, tournaments, potlucks, and of course our daily shuffle games. Our first general meeting of the season is on **Wednesday November 11th**. We gather in the Yacht Club for a potluck at 5:00 PM, and then the meeting starts at 6:00 PM. Shuffle and have fun!

Mel Theel, Club President
John Ulery, Club VP
Robbin Moore, Club Treasurer
Deb Sargent, Club Secretary

Welcome Back Dance



Get ready for a wonderful evening of music, dancing, and catching up with friends and neighbors! Join us on **Saturday, November 14th,** as we welcome back the ever-popular Bob and Tom, The Band! They will be playing from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, with doors opening at 6:30 PM. Reserved seating tickets will be available for $8 each. Tickets can be purchased at Coffee Hour or by contacting Cheryl Brink. Be sure to get yours before they're gone!

Feeling lucky? Our $100 Lottery Board will also be available! For just $5 per chance, you could win all $100 in lottery tickets! Bring your favorite drinks, put on your dancing shoes, and enjoy a fun-filled evening reconnecting with friends and neighbors. We can't wait to welcome everyone back!

The Entertainment Committee

In Honor of Our Veterans



Please join us on **Saturday, November 14th**, as we honor our veterans during Coffee Hour.

If you are a veteran, we encourage you to attend so we may recognize and thank you for your service to our country. We invite all residents to join us in showing our appreciation and gratitude to the brave men and women who answered the call to serve our great nation.

Coffee Hour begins at 8:30 AM in the Auditorium. Coffee/tea, donuts, meat, cheeses, rolls, and bread will be available for $2 and there will also be a 50/50 drawing. Let's come together as a community to honor those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom!

Co-Op Line Dancing



Another season will be starting soon for line dancing. I want to thank everyone for your participation last season and I am looking forward to this year. We will be having new songs and new dances. Classes will start **Tuesday, November 17, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Yacht Club. (NOTE: NEW DAY AND PLACE)**. Beginners are encouraged to come for fun and exercise. For more information call Nancy Larsen at 941-725-2216.

Thanksgiving Dinner



The Co-op Boosters will be hosting Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thursday, November 26**. Please watch your Mail Chimp emails for more details as they become available.

Outdoor Christmas Decorating Committee



It's almost time to bring some Christmas cheer to our community! I will be sending out a reminder to everyone who signed up last year to serve on the Outdoor Christmas Decorating Committee. I would like to hold a meeting later this month to discuss our plans and schedule decorating days. We welcome additional volunteers! Whether you can help with **setup, takedown, or both**, we'd love to have you join us. Simply contact Cheryl Brink at 419-690-9353 or watch for the schedule and show up when you can. Every helping hand is appreciated! Let's work together to light up our community and make this holiday season bright!

(more Coming Events on page 12)

December

Our First Blood Drive!

Santa Needs More Than Cookies This Year



Santa has the cookies covered, the elves have the presents, and **Tropic Isles has something even more important to give—LIFE**. Our next **OneBlood Blood Drive is Friday, December 4, 2026**, and we're asking our Tropic Isles family to **book early**. December calendars fill up quickly with holiday parties, family visits, travel, and all the hustle and bustle of the season. So why not put something meaningful on your calendar now?

Give a Gift That Can't Be Wrapped



A blood donation takes only a small amount of your time, but it can make a tremendous difference for someone who needs it. Someone in a local hospital may need blood because of an accident, surgery, cancer treatment, or another medical emergency. You may never know whose life your donation helps—but that's the beauty of giving and we already know what happens when Tropic Isles comes together. **We show up. We roll up our sleeves. We help our neighbors.** Let's make this December another great example of what makes our community so special. Thanks, in advance, for your participation!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Friday, December 4, 2026
7:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Tropic Isles – Auditorium Parking Lot

Appointments are encouraged -- book early and choose the time that works best for you! Walk-ins are accepted, too. To make an appointment go to: **https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1602165**

Whether you're a regular donor or you've never donated before, consider making a blood donation part of your holiday tradition.

Come prepared.

- Have a light meal and plenty to drink.
- Bring your driver's license, or two other forms of identification.
- Bring the names of medications you are taking.

In December, donors will receive a $20 eGift card and a One-Blood sweatshirt.





This Christmas, give something that can't be bought. Give blood. Give hope. Give life.

Contact: Carmen Garcia, OneBlood Event Coordinator at 941-933-0453 with questions or for help in making an appointment.

Mark these blood drive dates on your calendar for this season.

- **December 4, 2026**
- **February 5, 2027**
- **April 9, 2027**

(more Coming Events on page 13)



The Gift of Life: A Thank You to Our Blood Donors

By Lisa Murphy



Sometimes it takes being on the receiving end to truly understand just how precious the gift of blood can be. While spending time in Florida, I have been fortunate to participate in blood drives and give blood and platelets when the Bloodmobile comes to Tropic Isles. I always knew donating was important, but I recently experienced firsthand just how much those donations can mean to someone in need.

I was recently hospitalized with aplastic anemia, a serious condition in which the bone marrow does not make enough new blood cells. Because the bone marrow is responsible for producing red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets, aplastic anemia can leave a person dangerously low in all three. This can lead to severe fatigue and weakness from anemia, increased risk of infection from low white blood cells, and serious bleeding problems when platelet counts become dangerously low.

During my hospitalization, my blood counts became critically low. I needed two units of red blood cells and two units of platelets to help bring my levels back to a safer range. As I lay there receiving those infusions, I could not help but think about the people who had taken the time to donate. Those bags of blood were not simply bags hanging beside a hospital bed. They stood for someone who had taken time out of their day, rolled up their sleeve, and given a part of themselves to help a stranger. That realization has stayed with me.

I especially want to take this opportunity to thank Carmen for all her hard work in arranging the Bloodmobile at Tropic Isles. Her efforts make it possible for people in our community to donate and help people like me when we need it most. Carmen, thank you for caring enough to organize these blood drives and for making it easier for others to give. Your work matters more than you may ever know. To everyone else who has ever donated blood or platelets-- THANK YOU! I am now one of the people who can personally tell you that your donation can make a tremendous difference. It can mean another day, another week, another opportunity to heal, another chance to go home to the people you love. You may never know the name of the person who receives your donation. You may never meet them, but somewhere, someone may be looking at a bag of blood or platelets and silently thanking the person who made it possible. I know I am. Thank you, Carmen, and thank you to every blood and platelet donor who helps to give someone the gift of life.

Holiday Craft Fair

Sunday, December 13 12:00-3:00 PM Auditorium

Come shop the wonderful creations made by our talented residents! It's the perfect opportunity to find a **special Christmas gift** for someone on your list—or a little something for yourself! **Want to be a vendor?** If you're interested in setting up a table and selling your creations at the fair, please contact Judy Hayes at 651-214-6838.

Great Light Fight



Let it Glow!

It's almost the Christmas Season! We want everyone in Tropic Isles to have fun and light it up! If you want to take part in the Christmas lighting contest, please register by emailing Nancy Larsen at nplarsens@aol.com or text her at 941-725-2216 with your name and address by **December 18**. 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 20**, so be sure your lights are on by 6 PM that night. (Rain date will be December 21.) The 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

Christmas Dance



DJ Peter Gruskin is our headliner for the Christmas Dance this season and we couldn't be more excited! He will be providing the music on **Saturday, December 19 from 7-10 PM**. More details will be shared out in the December Breezes and at Saturday Coffees. Tickets will be $8.00. Put this date on your calendar to party, rock, and dance the night away!

The Entertainment Committee

(more Coming Events on page 15)

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January

Co-Op Shuffle Club 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 will be leading a team, teaching beginner skills and strategies for new players. Beginners' lessons are held on Mondays starting at 1:00 PM, usually wrapping up around 2:30 PM. All needed equipment is supplied by the TI Shuffleboard Club. The first beginner lesson is **January 4th**.

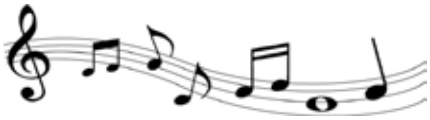
Dave Myers will be leading a team to teach more advanced skills and strategies for experienced players. Intermediate lessons are held on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. The first Intermediate lesson is **January 7th**.

Both groups permit players to join later in the series if you're unable to make the first sessions. (We'll help you catch up). Players who participate in the majority of the lessons are welcome to play in the Club's Beginner or Intermediate Tournaments in the week following lesson wrap-up.

Mark your calendars! This is really fun! Not only will you learn and practice new skills and strategies, but there will be lots of fun and laughs! We look forward to seeing you on the courts. Questions? Contact Mel Theel (Club President) or John Ulery (Club VP).



We Want You In Tropicaires!



Greetings!

As most of you know, we have gone through two seasons with the Tropicaires unable to put on a variety show. We are hoping that this trend will end this season. However, this cannot happen with just a few people. It will need help from the whole community. We will be looking for talented residents, stagehands, and audio-visual help.

Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, January 5, 2027 at 9 AM in the Auditorium**. I know it sounds a long way off, but it will be here before you know it. I'm looking forward to seeing you then. Contact Joan at 207-577-8933 if you have any questions.

Joan Cloutier
President of the Tropicaries



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What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

Let's Play Co-op Poker!



Like to play poker? We play every **Monday night from 6 to 9 PM** in the Yacht Club for any Co-op members. 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.

Co-Op Canasta/Hand, Knee, and Foot



If you have an interest in playing Canasta/Hand, Knee, and Foot, come join us on **Thursdays at 1 PM** in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. Contact Kathi Gossman at 810-985-3870 with questions.

Co-Op 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.

Co-Op Entertainment Committee News



The Entertainment Committee will have their first meeting on **Thursday, November 5th at 10:00 AM** in the Dockside Room of the Yacht Club. We have a great time deciding our community events and always welcome new members! Feel free to drop in and observe a meeting to see if this is something you would enjoy.

The Halloween Golf Cart Parade had a great turnout with many fun costumes and decorated carts! It's always fun to both participate in the parade or be one of the bystanders waving them on or providing that special treat. It is appreciated!

The Halloween Party was a fantastic evening of costumes, music, dancing, games, and food! Thank you to Diane and Roy Scwartz for hosting as the DJs and to those who helped bring it all together!

Here are some of the events already on the calendar:

- **November 14**– Welcome Back Dance featuring **Bob and Tom, The Band**
- **December 19**– Christmas Dance featuring **DJ Peter Gruskin**
- **Christmas Golf Cart Parade**– Date to be announced
- **December 31**– New Year's Eve Party
- **February 7**– Valentine Golf Cart Parade
- **February 14**– Super Bowl Party
- **March 27**– Farewell Dance –**Denim & Diamonds/Western Theme featuring the Aloha Sharks**

And that's just the beginning! We're also planning additional live entertainment, special shows, social gatherings, and new activities to make this season one to remember. Be sure to watch the Co-Op Facebook page, Mail Chimp, our new marquee board, and future newsletters for announcements and event details. We're looking forward to bringing fun, laughter, and time with our community.

The Entertainment Committee

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! Please contact Shirley Clarkson at 941-465-8430 with any questions on obtaining Memory Bricks for you or a loved one.

Library News

If you haven't done so already, it is time to visit the TI library. We have a lot of great books, movies, audio books, magazines, and puzzles. We also have free books/movies to keep. If your grandchildren come to visit, check out our children's corner in the library.

More games for adults and children are located in the cupboards in the Game Room. There is a copy machine located in the Book Nook. It is 5-cents a copy. Place your money in the lockbox located on the copy machine.

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. Please contact Nancy Larsen at 941-725-2216 with questions.

TUESDAYS AT 2:00

LOOKING FOR SOME AFTERNOON FUN? JOIN US FOR CARD GAMES!



As our snowbirds return, it's the perfect time to join us for an afternoon of cards! Whether you're an experienced player or want to learn a new game, everyone is welcome. Meet new friends, enjoy a little friendly competition, and share plenty of laughs! With so many TI activities happening in the mornings and evenings, this is a great way to fill your midafternoon with something fun. We usually play for small change, with the winnings going to the lucky winner, so bring along some dimes and quarters. Come join us from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at the Yacht Club for cards, conversation, and a good time! Contact Sherry Novak at 339-428-6005 with questions.

(continued on page 18)

What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

Saturday Co-Op Coffee Hour



We welcome all returning Co-op residents to Saturday Coffee Hour which is held every Saturday at 8:30 AM. **Our first Coffee Hour is Saturday, November 7 in the Auditorium**. For the fee of $2.00, you can enjoy coffee/tea, donuts, meat, cheeses, rolls, and bread. Most importantly, this is a great time to share information and converse with other residents who are in the park. There will be a 50/50 drawing that costs $1.00 for three tickets. The holder of the winning ticket receives half of the money, and the rest of the cash helps to finance the expenses for this activity. Clubs and activities have volunteered to sponsor Coffee Hour and will receive half of the proceeds from 50/50 for their group. We are also looking for more people to join the Coffee Committee to help out with Saturday Coffee Hour. We hope to see you there for this great social hour spent with friends and neighbors.

The Coffee Committee

Coffee sponsored by:
Entertainment – November
Boosters – December
Boat Club – January
Shuffle Club – February
Water Aerobics – March
Dogs, Inc. – April (first 2 weeks)

Coffee Talk



Get Well/Thinking of You/Sympathy Cards

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.

A "Get Well" card was sent to:
Carla Ernewein of the Tropic Isles Apartments (heart attack)
Patti McBride of Nassau Dr. (hip replacement)
Dennis Christenson of Bahia Dr. (heart surgery)
Karen Wadsworth of Nassau Dr. (knee replacement)

Condolences were sent to:
Katrina and Bill Eagle of Bimini Dr. on the passing of her son, **Jordan Ault.**

Vincent and RaNae Contarino of Capri Dr. on the passing of his mother, **Jeannette Vannais**.

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.**

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November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	**2** 12 noon Co-op Beginner Mahjong - SB	**3** 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A	**4** 8:30 am Golf League Terra Ceia 9:00 am Kayak Group - Launch 1:00 pm Co-op Arts & Crafts - Y 7:00 pm Co-op Boat Club Mtg - Y	**5** 10:00 am Co-op Entertainment Meeting - Y 12:30 pm Bowling League - Bowlero 6:00 pm Co-op Game Night - Y	**6** 9:00 am Co-op Booster Meeting - Y	**7** 8:30 am Co-op Coffee Hour - A 6:00 pm Co-op Mexican Train Dominoes - Y
8 7:00 pm Co-op Movie Night - Y	**9** 9:00 am Co-op Caring Team Meeting - SB	**10**	**11** 9:00 am Co-op Activity Mtg - Y 5:00 pm Co-op Shuffle Potluck & Meeting - Y **Veterans Day**	**12**	**13**	**14** 7:00 pm Welcome Back Dance - A
15	**16**	**17** 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A 6:30 pm Co-op Line Dancing Begins - Y	**18** 7:00 pm Co-op Boat Club Mtg - Y	**19** 9:30 am Co-op BOD Meeting - A and Zoom	**20**	**21**
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** 5:00 pm Thanksgiving Dinner - A No Bowling	**27**	**28**
29	**30**	***Calendar is subject to change. Please refer to the website calendar for the most up-to-date information.***				

WEEKLY EVENTS

10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle	8:00 am Co-Op Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Co-op Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle 12 noon Co-Op Beginners Mahjong - SB 6:00 pm Co-op Texas Hold 'Em - Y 6:00 pm Co-op Poker-Y	8:00 am Co-Op Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Co-op Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle 2:00 pm Co-Op Cards - Y 6:30 pm Co-Op Line Dancing - Y	8:00 am Co-Op Aerobics - Y 8:30 am Golf League 9:00 am Kayak Group - Launch 10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle 1:00 pm Co-Op Arts & Crafts - Y	8:00 am Co-Op Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Co-op Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle 1:00 pm Co-Op Canasta - SB 12:30 pm Bowling 6:00 pm Co-Op Game Night - Y	8:00 am Co-Op Aerobics - Y 10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle 6:00 pm Co-Op Bid Euchre - Y	8:30 am Co-Op Coffee Hour - A 10:00 am Co-Op Shuffle 6:00 pm Co-Op Mexican Train Dominoes - Y

Out and About . . .

Downtown Bradenton Farmer's Market



The Bradenton Farmer's Market is held every **Saturday, from October through May, 9 AM–2 PM** on Old Main Street in Downtown Bradenton (400 12th St. W.). The Farmer's Market is a place where you can enjoy fresh produce, local art, and upbeat music. Parking is free on the weekends at the parking garage at the corner of 3rd Avenue and 10th Street West and dogs on leashes are always welcome. Visit www.bradentonfarmersmarket.com for more information.

Bishop Museum of Science and Nature

If you haven't visited the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, now is the time to do so. They are offering free admission in December and January. The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature is conveniently located at 201-10th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34205. The Bishop is open from 10 AM to 5 PM Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 5 PM on Sundays, and they are closed on Mondays.

Free street parking is available on 10th Street West in front of The Bishop for up to 3 hours at a time. There are also several parking locations available in downtown Bradenton convenient to the Museum, including the parking garage at the corner of 3rd Avenue and 10th Street West, and the Manatee County parking garage at the corner of Manatee Avenue and 10th Street West.



The first-floor of the museum features fossil evidence of Florida's earliest animal inhabitants and archaeological material representing Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and pre-contact cultures. Discover the underwater viewing window, where you can see the manatees being cared for in the **Parker Manatee Rehabilitation Habitat**. Take a trip through the night skies in their state of the art **Planetarium**.

Manatee Performing Arts Center

OLD TIME SAILORS – November 17 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Traditional seafaring music, lively folk songs, and classic shanties in a 19th century atmosphere.

ANASTASIA – December 3-13 7:30 PM
Saturday and Sunday matinees 2:00 PM

THE NUTCRACKER performed by the International Ballet of Florida
December 22 6:00 PM

Manatee Performing Arts Center is located at 502 Third Ave. W., Bradenton, FL. Call 941-748-5875 for ticket information or visit www.manateeperformingartscenter.com.

Palmetto Public Library

923 6th St. W., Palmetto, FL

Registration for all these programs can be done by going to bit.ly/ManateeLibraryEvents or by calling 941-722-3333.

BELLY DANCING – November 23, 1:00 PM – Fitness through belly dancing.
CARDMAKING – December 15, 5:30 PM – Make your own cards.

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Out and About . . .

Dogs, Inc. Visitor Center at Lakewood Ranch



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Discovery Zone

Stop by any time we're open to visit our interactive Discovery Zone! Stroll through this interactive exhibit and find the wonder of our mission and how puppies become life-changing guide and service dogs. Guide and service dogs are welcome. No pets, please.

5815 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Bradenton, FL 34202

Hours

Monday – Friday	10 AM – 6 PM
Saturday	9 AM – 4 PM
Sunday	Closed

Visit www.dogsinc.org/lakewood-ranch to check out the calendar of events and sign up for the Dogs, Inc. newsletter.

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Exercise and Wellness

Co-Op Walking Aerobics



Come join us for Walking Aerobics, a fun activity that meets **Monday-Friday at 8:00 AM** in the Yacht Club. We use exercise CDs to do 2 miles of walking aerobics for heart health, with some strength training (weights) mixed in. We vary the CDs that we use to keep interest and enthusiasm high. Weights are available or you can bring your own. Come on down and get fit with some friendly people! Call/text Cindy Shaw at 608-212-8967 if you have any questions.

Cindy Shaw, Coordinator

Co-Op Fun and Fitness

Are you looking for a less intense form of exercise, but would enjoy some mild strength training, stretching, and exercises to improve balance? Then mark your calendars and 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 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. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS, FANS, AND MUSIC WHEN YOU LEAVE THE ROOM. The door to the hallway should always remain closed.**



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- A sign in a shoe repair store read: "We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you."
- A sign at an eye clinic read: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."
- A sign on a plumber's truck read: "We repair what your husband fixed."
- A sign in a restaurant window read: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."
- A sign in the front yard of a funeral home read: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."
- A sign on the back of a septic tank truck read: "Caution –This truck is full of political promises."
- I was on a train and this woman sitting opposite looked at me and said, "Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place." I asked, "Are you single?" She replied, "No, I am a dentist."
- Naprotunity (noun) – a window of time sufficient for a nap.
- Husband: "The nerve of that doctor saying I'm so old that he referred me to an archaeologist." Wife: "Audiologist, dear. You can't hear."
- Doctor to female patient: "I'm just waiting for your x-ray. Patient: "But I've never dated anyone named Ray." Doctor: "And we might do a brain scan."



LOTS OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS



I just realized I still have so many unanswered questions!!!!

- I never found out who let the dogs out...where's the beef...or how to get to Sesame Street?
- Why Dora doesn't just use Google Maps?
- Why eggs are packaged in a flimsy cardboard or styrofoam carton, but batteries are secured in plastic that's tough as nails?
- Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, yet dish-washing liquid is made with real lemons?
- Why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? (Where's that extra penny going?)
- Why do "The Alphabet Song" and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" have the same tune?
- Why did you just try to sing those two previous songs?
- What is Victoria's secret?



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Monthly Health Tips



Tips When Calling 911



1. **CLEARLY EXPLAIN YOUR EMERGENCY.**
2. **SHARE YOUR LOCATION OR SPECIFIC LANDMARKS.**
3. **NOTIFY THE OPERATOR OF ANY INJURIES.**

Flu Season Is Here!



With flu season knocking at the door and COVID still around, please do not attend any activities or events if you are feeling ill. Shelter at home until you are feeling better, and your illness has passed. We want everyone to stay healthy and happy!



Submissions to the Breezes Newsletter



Submissions to the Breezes should be sent to Cindy Shaw at 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.

Mosquito Prevention



The Florida Department of Health in Manatee County is reminding everyone on how to prevent contact with mosquitoes, especially during the heavy rains that we've been experiencing in recent weeks.

Mosquitoes are a nuisance and can spread diseases. Please remain diligent in personal mosquito protection. Here are some simple suggestions:

Drain and Cover

1. Drain standing water from anything to stop mosquitoes from multiplying where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.
2. Empty and clean birdbaths and other containers.
3. Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
4. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover Skin with Clothing or Repellant

1. If you work in areas where mosquitoes are present, wear long pants, long sleeves, shoes, and socks.
2. Apply mosquito repellant to bare skin and clothing. Read and follow label directions.

Cover Doors and Windows with Screens

Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

Happy Veteran's Day – November 11



THANK A VETERAN FOR THEIR SERVICE!

It was the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the armistice - the end of hostilities in World War I - went into effect in 1918. Armistice Day was celebrated in 1919, became a legal holiday in 1938, and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. To all who served and are currently serving, we thank you!

November Is Manatee Awareness Month



How much do you really know about manatees? Sure, they're cute, and Manatee County is named after them, but did you know manatees are smart?

Did you know?

- that manatees are related to elephants?
- that fishermen back in the day used to think they were mermaids?
- that they're vegetarians?
- that they have their own state proclamation signed by the governor declaring that November is Manatee Awareness Month?
- that manatees—not dolphins-- are the state's official marine mammal?
- that they're defenseless against the cold, red tide, watercraft, and disruptions to their habitat?
- that they're endangered?
- that November is a critical time for manatees because that's when they start returning to warm-water winter refuges in Florida and many seasonal manatee protection zones go into effect.



Here are some tips to make sure that manatees stay safe, so the next generation of humans can be charmed and fascinated by them.

- Wear polarized sunglasses on the water to better see manatees in your path.
- Follow posted signs for slow-speed manatee protection zones.
- Keep your distance from manatees—never feed, chase, touch, or harass them.
- Stow trash and fishing line when underway. Marine debris that accidentally blows overboard can become ingested by or entangled around manatees.
- If you observe a manatee mating herd—several manatees gathered as males vie to mate with a female—watch from at least 100 feet away. Coming any closer might disrupt the animals' natural mating behavior or put people into harm's way.

Call 1-888-404-3922, *FWC, or #FWC on a cell phone, or use VHF Channel 16 on marine radios to report:

- A manatee with a pink or red (fresh) wound.
- A dead manatee.
- A manatee tilting to one side, unable to submerge, having trouble breathing or acting strangely.
- A manatee calf by itself with no adults around for an extended time.
- Anyone harassing a manatee in any way.
- Boaters speeding in a manatee zone.
- A manatee entangled in monofilament, crab-trap lines, or other debris. Do not attempt to remove debris by yourself. It may be embedded underneath the skin, and only a trained veterinarian can adequately assess and treat wounds.

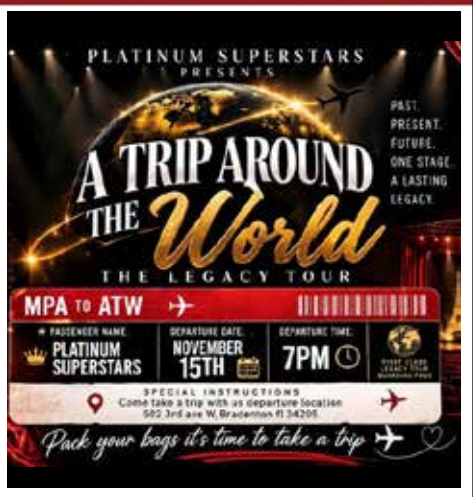
Musicals, Concerts, and More!



NuJazz Band Winter Show
November 7 - 7 pm



Old Time Sailors
Nov 17th - 2pm & 7pm



Trip Around The World
November 15th - 7pm

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Report a Sick or Injured Manatee in Florida

If you are at all concerned that a manatee may be sick, injured, entangled, or orphaned, or if you see a manatee that is being harassed or wearing a "tag" or tracking device, please immediately report it to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) 24-hour Wildlife Alert Hotline by calling 1-888-404-3922 (FWCC).

What to do if you spot a sick or injured manatee:

- Immediately call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline. An FWC biologist will give you instructions on what to do next.
- If possible, keep the manatee in your line of sight, but remember keep your distance. If the animal leaves the area, take note of the direction.
- If possible, take a photo/video of the animal without disturbing the manatee.

Watch to learn how to determine if a manatee is in trouble:

Signs that a manatee may be in distress:

- Floating high in the water, unable to swim down
- Fresh, open wounds (pink/red)
- Rapid breathing – breathing every minute or so
- White lesions, emaciation (thin, visible ribs/skull), lethargic
- Tidally stranded (do not attempt to push the manatee back into the water or move it yourself)
- Lone, orphan calf (manatee less than five feet in length)
- Entanglement

Also call if:

- You see anyone harassing a manatee.
- You see boaters speeding in a protected area.
- You see a dead manatee. By doing a necropsy, scientists can sometimes determine the cause of death and better understand the dangers to manatees.
- You see a manatee tagged with a radio or satellite transmitter. Sightings of tagged manatees help provide researchers with information that can be used to protect manatees and their habitat. However, do not attempt to remove the transmitter. It is designed to come off if it becomes entangled, so the animal won't be trapped.

Manatee and Humanity

There's something about a manatee that makes people smile. November through March, the gentle giants move inland to warmer water and fascinated fans can see them up close. Here are some places to do that:

- **Manatee Viewing Center**—Apollo Beach Tampa Electric draws water from Tampa Bay to cool its Big Bend power plant, returning the warm, clean discharge into the canal that becomes a manatee spa from November to April. With viewing walkways over 50 acres, it is also a federally designed sanctuary.
- **Three Sisters Springs**—Crystal River-- This oasis frequently hosts 100 manatees at a time drawn by the constant 72-degree water. Accessible by canoe or kayak (rentals are available in town), the springs also feature a viewing boardwalk on a 57-acre preserve.
- **Blue Springs State Park**—Orange City-- The St. Johns River refuge has a population of manatees exceeding 300 during the coldest months. With public diving, canoeing, and swimming prohibited between November and March, the manatees have room to frolic and visitors have unobstructed views.

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:

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
https://www.friendsofthepelicans.org	
Save Our Seabirds	Sarasota
https://www.saveourseabirds.org	
Seaside Seabird Sanctuary	Indian Shores (near St. Pete)
https://seasideseabirdsanctuary.org	
Wildlife, Inc.	Anna Maria Island
https://wildlifeinc.org	

FOR SICK, INJURED, ENDANGERED, OR ORPHANED MANATEES CALL: 1-888-404-3922

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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 call/text them to Cindy Shaw at 608-212-8967 or email tibreezes1@aol.com.
- **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.
- 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 to make that request. Mail Chimp requests to make an announcement for an event must be made **48 hours** in advance and sent to info@tropicisles.net.
- 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.
- The minimum rental period is 30 days. All prospective tenants must undergo a background check through the Tropic Isles Office and be approved in advance. Owners must provide tenants with a copy of the Rules and Regulations.
- DO NOT feed stray cats or dogs. This attracts unwanted critters (foxes, wolves, raccoons, rats, etc.) to the area. Our Rules and Regulations clearly state:
  10.5 General
  Residents are not permitted to leave food or water dishes outdoors. This includes bird feed.
- 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.
- Avoid driving down the streets where demolition of homes is being done or new homes are being installed. Many nails, screws, and sharp metal pieces get left behind which could do damage to your tires. Residents on those streets can help by walking the street you live on and picking up the sharp metal items that get left behind. We all can do our part to help!
- Smokers, please do not use the streets, parking lots, or common grounds as your ashtray. Please dispose of your cigarette butts in the trash can.
- 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.



- THE POOL IS OPEN 24/7, BUT PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS. QUIET HOURS ARE 10 PM TO 8:30 AM.
- If your activity changes the formation of the tables/chairs in the Yacht Club or Auditorium, you must return the tables/chairs to their original formation.
- That these are important emails to record and save:

Tropic Isles Co-op Manager, Barbara McEvoy manager@tropicisles.net
Administrative Assistant, Lynn Szabo office@tropicisles.net
Resident Services, Robin Emanuel frontdesk@tropicisles.net
Maintenance Manager, Tom Tonich maintenance@tropicisles.net
Marina Manager, Rick Kropp marina@tropicisles.net



Safety Tip of the Month

~PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER~



Now that sunset comes earlier, please remember to be safe while walking at night. While you are walking your dog, taking a stroll, or riding your bike wear light or reflective clothing and carry a flashlight. We have narrow streets and as we age our eyesight fades a little. Be mindful of cars and have lights on your bicycles and golf carts. When driving, please be aware of pedestrians and our park speed limits (especially 28th Ave.) We want everyone to stay safe.

Trivia Tidbits

- Email existed before the Web. The first email ever was sent in 1974 by computer scientist Ray Tomlinson, who emailed himself. He doesn't remember what he wrote.
- The first spam email was an ad to sell computers. It was sent by Gary Thuerk in 1978. Spam now accounts for 70-80% of all emails sent. Thanks, Gary. Not!
- The term "Wi-Fi" has no inherent meaning. "Wi" is an abbreviation of "wireless", but "fi" doesn't mean "fidelity", or anything. The inventor, just called it "Wi-Fi" because it sounded cool like "Hi-Fi" (high fidelity) for music.
- Wi-Fi may eventually be phased out and replaced by Li-Fi. Li-Fi uses light, making it 100 times faster than Wi-Fi, which uses radio waves.
- Microwave ovens work by vibrating water molecules in your food to create heat. The food is cooked from the surface, and the heat slowly spreads inward. Microwaves can only penetrate about an inch deep, which is why it's generally safe to microwave raw bacon strips, but not a whole chicken.
- The Dodgers, Angels, and the Yankees are the few MLB teams that don't have an official mascot. The Yankees did once, but fans got so angry that they physically assaulted the guy in the suit.
- By MLB regulation, all umpires must wear black underwear, just in case their pants rip mid-game.
- Charlie Sheen once bought 2,615 tickets to a game at Anaheim Stadium just so he could run around and catch a home run ball. No one hit a home run for Charlie that day.
- Babe Ruth stuffed cabbage leaves under his hat to keep cool during baseball games. He would swap in a new one, of which he kept in an ice box, every other inning.

Co-Op Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Procedure



ARC approval is needed for ANY improvements that happen outside—on your home, dock, or lot.

ARC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM AT 9:30 AM ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

REMINDER: All ARC applications are due seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Any applications received after the deadline will be included on the next meeting's agenda. The only exception is for emergency applications, such as a roof or AC. Pick up your ARC application from the Office or online at **www.tropicisles.net**. Contact Steve Tourtilotte at 860-682-7656 with questions.

ARC Committee Members

Steve Tourtillotte-Chairman
Mike McBride
Cathy Sweeney
Bill Eagle
Connie Giroux
Chris Wagner
Dennis Weber-Board Liaison

ARC Meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium.

3-COR Meetings will be held as needed for "like-for-like" projects and for emergency requests only (roof, AC).



Rule of the Month

Have You Read Your Rules?

The Rules and Regulations are now in effect and being enforced. Please take the time to read over the Rules and Regulations and become familiar with them to avoid receiving a compliance notice for rule violations. All residents are expected to know and abide by these rules and to make sure their guests follow the rules. Landlords are responsible for making sure their renters are following the rules of Tropic Isles.

The **Compliance Policy and Procedures** are printed quarterly in the Breezes, most recently in the October issue. Please become familiar with it.

III. DWELLING AND UNIT/LOT MAINTENANCE

3.2 Unit/Lot Numbers
All residents shall post three-inch (3") lot numbers on their Dwelling facing the street, at the corner of the Dwelling closest to the carport or driveway, on your RV unit or lot, and according to local ordinances.

3.8 Storing Outdoor Items
- No exposed area on any Unit/Lot shall be used for storage, unless approved via the ARC process.
- All outdoor items must be removed and safely stored or secured with tie-down straps during extended periods of absence, especially during hurricane season.
- Ladders and kayaks or other outdoor-like items must be stored in the shed, inside or under the Dwelling, or hung horizontally on a rack and secured on the carport wall.

IX. GUESTS

9.2 Subletting/Sub-occupancy
- The minimum period of a sublet shall be for 30 days.
- Anyone staying in the Community for more than 30 days will be considered a Resident and must meet the Association's requirements for residency which includes a background check through the Tropic Isles Office.
- Anyone staying in the Community for 30 days or less is considered a Guest.

XI. SOLICITING AND SIGNAGE

11.2 Signage
- No signs of any kind, except mobile home "For Sale" or "For Rent" signs, shall be displayed within the Community, or on any Resident's home or Unit/Lot.
- A maximum of two (2) permitted signs may be displayed in a window or yard. The size of the sign may not exceed 18"x 24".
- General notices and articles for sale may be posted on the bulletin boards inside the Yacht Club and Auditorium provided for that purpose.
- Residents are permitted to place up to two (2) "No Trespassing" signs on their dock or slip, one landside and one waterside. These signs may not exceed 10"x 14".
- Any signs in violation of this section can be removed immediately by Management.

General Dog Etiquette



Living in a 55+ community often means closer quarters, shared spaces, and a quieter environment, so thoughtful dog ownership really matters. Here are some practical, respectful ways to reduce noise and prevent behavior issues:

NOISE CONTROL TIPS
- Address barking early. Don't let it become a habit. Identify triggers (passing neighbors, other dogs, boredom) and prevent behavior issues.
- Use enrichment toys. Puzzle feeders, chew toys, and treat-dispensing toys keep dogs occupied and less likely to bark from boredom.
- Close visual triggers. Use curtains, window film, or reposition furniture so your dog isn't constantly reacting to outside movement.
- White noise helps. A fan, TV, radio, or white noise machine can mask sounds that may set your dog off.

MANAGING CLOSE-QUARTERS LIVING
- Daily exercise is essential. A tired dog is a quiet dog. Even short, frequent walks help to reduce pent-up energy.
- Create a "quiet zone". A designated bed or crate gives your dog a safe, quiet place to relax.
- Avoid high-energy play indoors. Save fetch and rough-housing for outdoor areas.

Live and Learn and Pass It On



- I've learned that the only thing you can be sure of improving is yourself. –age 61
- I've learned that you get the best feeling when you can return home after a long absence and see that everything is just the same as when you left it. –age 34
- I've learned that bragging on your children and grandchildren is one of life's greatest pleasures. –age 71
- I've learned that work is when you sweat and you don't want to. Leisure is when you sweat and you don't care. –age 51
- I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by looking in the trunk of his or her car. –age 50
- I've learned that the gauge of success is not whether you have a tough problem, but whether it's the same problem you had last year. –age 49
- I've learned that the more content I am with myself, the fewer material things I need. –age 36
- I've learned that the most endearing three little words I can say to my wife are, "Let's eat out."
- I've learned that you lose only the expensive sunglasses and pens. The cheap ones are always around. –age 32
- I've learned that the wealthiest of women is she whose daughter grows up to be her best friend. –age 74

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Tropic Isles' Co-Op Marina



Hi, everyone!

Welcome back as you all begin trickling in for another season. It's wonderful to see familiar faces returning! We're happy to have everyone back and look forward to another great season together.

There may be some gossip going around that we've changed the boat ramp lock code. The rumors are true—we have! All Tropic Isles residents are welcome to use our boat ramp. Simply stop by the Marina to request the new code. As always, you must have a free, valid boat ramp sticker to use the ramp. While you're here, we'd also like to verify your sticker number. Some residents on our current list no longer live here, so it's time to update the list and renew our records to ensure our boat ramp user list is accurate.

On a personal note, I hope you enjoy your winter home here at Tropic Isles as much as I enjoy being here year-round. It's a pleasure to be part of this community! Thank you for supporting your Tropic Isles Co-op Marina. Tight lines and safe boating!

Rick Kropp, Marina Manager

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")

New Boat Ramp Code



The code to the boat ramp lock has been changed.

Please inquire at the Marina for the new code.



Kayak-Ity-Yak News

Kayaking at Tropic Isles!

By Beverly Butts

So, you live in Tropic Isles with waterfront all around you. Instead of getting INTO the water at the pool, how about getting ONTO the water? Tropic Isles has a very active Kayak Group that meets at the kayak launch on Wednesdays at 9 AM. Experienced kayakers are there to help get everyone onto the water safely (Thank you, Denny Foley and Hans Ulrich!). It takes a while to get all the boats into the water, so we gather at Bird Island directly opposite of the Jamaica and Trinidad Canal. From there, we judge the wind and tide and head out.

It is not expensive to get started kayaking. First, you might ask to borrow a kayak from a neighbor, or you could check the bulletin boards in the Auditorium or Yacht Club, or Facebook Marketplace for a used kayak. In addition, you will need a life vest, a whistle, and a paddle.

You will need to choose whether you want a sit-on top kayak (heavier, but less likely to flip) or a sit-in kayak (lighter weight, sometimes more maneuverable). That is how I got started; I found someone who was selling their used kayak for a good price. I still own it and use it for a loaner. After a couple of years, I upgraded to a longer, lighter, and faster boat.

The beauty of kayaking at Tropic Isles is that we are surrounded by a shallow bay. If you are nervous about flipping your kayak in deep water as a beginner, we have LOTS of shallow water around us to practice your paddling. Even after 10+ years, I love kayaking in our adjacent mangroves, sometimes in just inches of water! The bird life in the mangroves is amazing.

Kayaking in Florida is AMAZING! It provides great opportunities to observe bird life; or you might float over a manatee, or have dolphins jumping ahead of you. Come give it a try! Denny Foley and I help lead the group and we would be happy to help anyone new to the sport.

Kayak Rack Storage



Check with the Office about availability of the racks and rental prices.

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. The Co-op is not responsible for loss or damage to your kayak. **REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR KAYAKS TO THE RACK!**

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- Musty smell inside your home
- Floors feel soft & spongy
- High energy bills
- Visible moisture or standing water

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Have You Seen One of These? - Eastern Lubber Grasshopper



The orange grasshopper commonly found in Florida is the Eastern Lubber Grasshopper, known for its striking coloration and large size.

The Eastern Lubber Grasshopper is notable for several distinct features.

- The grasshopper exhibits vibrant colors, typically a mix of black, orange, yellow, or red.
- It is a large, flightless grasshopper, often reaching lengths of up to 4 inches.
- Commonly found in gardens, yards, and citrus groves across Florida.
- This species has few natural predators due to its bold coloration and toxic nature, which deters many potential threats.

Predators of Eastern Lubber Grasshoppers

- Grackles and crows learn to avoid brightly colored adults. Raccoons, opossums, lizards, and snakes occasionally consume lubbers.

How to get rid of:

- Grab a bucket of soapy water (dish soap works fine) and head out in the early morning when lubbers are sluggish from cooler overnight temperatures. Pick them off plants and drop them into the bucket. The soapy water prevents them from climbing out and kills them within minutes. It works because lubbers can't fly and move slowly, so hand-picking is surprisingly efficient.
- You can also use a butterfly net for quicker collection, especially on taller plants. Some gardeners simply stomp on them, but keep in mind that lubbers can secrete an irritating spray when handled roughly — wear gloves and avoid touching your face afterward.



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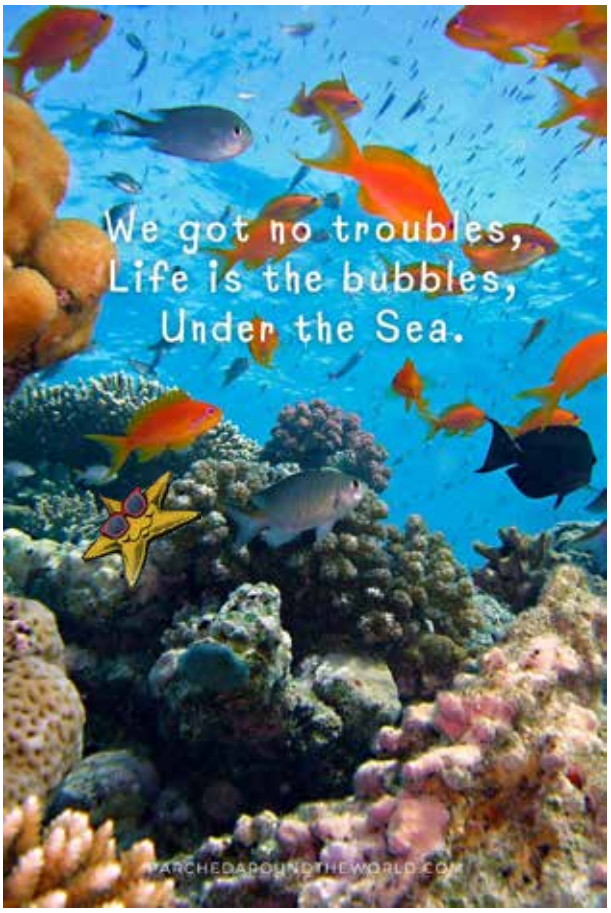

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