

Home of the Month



February's "Home of the Month" is awarded to Alice Hohler and John Danielson for their cute little park model at 58 Montego Dr., named the "Sunshine Cottage". Alice's mother stays there from time to time and uses that cute little scooter to help her get around. Congratulations on being named "Home of the Month".

Photo of the Month



Audubon volunteers began doing the Christmas Bird Count around TI on December 20.

This flock of white pelicans was seen by Dennis Foley on the 28th Ave. pond.

Thought for the Day

Don't think about the passing of time—just what you are doing with it!

Starfish Hunt

Can you find me hiding somewhere inside?



Meet Your New Neighbors

By Cindy Shaw

A resident of Florida, but new to Tropic Isles, is **Norma Kramer** at 150 Maui Dr. She will be our full-time neighbor, originally from Long Island, New York, but has lived and worked in Texas, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Florida. Most recently, she lived in the Terra Ceia Club in Palmetto. Norma's son, Bob, lives on Snead Island, so she would pass by Tropic Isles on a regular basis.



Norma has been a teacher of World History, American History, Economics, Government Studies, and Geography from 1987-2001 in public, Catholic, and private schools. She has served as Assistant Principal in Pennsylvania and then as Principal in Dallas, TX, Oklahoma City, OK, and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Norma has worked in education from 1987 until May of last year.

Norma has 3 grown children. Bob is a lawyer in Bradenton, FL; Peter is a social studies teacher in Long Island, NY; and Jamie is a history teacher in Winter Garden, FL. She has 7 grandchildren between the ages of 12 and 37 and 1 great grandchild. Norma has gotten involved in Tropic Isles activities by joining Mahjong, Book Club, volunteering to help at Saturday Coffee, and would like to learn to play Euchre. She has a passion for history and politics and loves to travel to visit historical sights. She spent time in China in 2019 and has taught English to Chinese children online. She also enjoys reading and playing blackjack. Please welcome Norma to our Tropic Isles' Community!

A resident of St. Petersburg, Florida for the past 25 years, but new to Tropic Isles is **Stefan Kaschkadayev** at 294 Nassau Dr. He will be our full-time neighbor, originally from Rochester, New York. While driving to Snead Island for boat-related jobs, Stefan would pass by Tropic Isles and began to check out properties to purchase.



Stefan has a daughter and a son—Nadia (25) and Dimitri (30). Stefan works as a "private-for-hire captain" doing private charters, transporting, and captaining sailboats and power yachts. He also gives sailing and cruising lessons and does boat repairs.

Stefan has a passion for sailing and is an outdoor junkie enjoying motorcycling, mountain biking, camping, hiking, paddleboarding, and traveling in his Class C RV. He loves to cook, enjoys fine food, plays guitar, and sings. Welcome to Tropic Isles, Stefan. We know you'll like it here!

Christmas Memories

The Christmas Golf Cart Parade was a great success with 20 carts decorated for the holidays parading through the streets with Mr. and Mrs. Claus (aka Roger and Mary Pike) leading the way.



Contestants in the "Let It Glow", light decorating competition, let their lights shine brightly for all to see!



30 Montego Dr. - Winner
(See runner ups 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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Lynn Szabo, Administrative Assistant

Robin Emanuel, Resident Services

Thomas Tonich, Maintenance Manager

Shaun Schweitzer, Maintenance Tech

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Tropic Isles Co-op

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TIHOA

Tropic Isles Homeowners Association

2025/2026

President	Terry Foley
Vice President	Richard Belle
Treasurer	John Slater
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2025/2026 Board

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Tropic Isles Breezes

Published monthly and delivered to all residents

Editor: Cindy Shaw

Send photos and articles to Tibreezes1@aol.com

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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

"ROCK THE RED" MONTH



February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. **The first Friday in February (February 6) is National Wear Red Day.** On

this day in February, which is considered American Heart Month, everyone across the country dons the color red in order to raise and spread awareness in hopes to help eradicate heart disease and stroke in millions of men and women all over the nation. Remember to wear your red! With so many Americans affected by heart disease, it's important to make sure you know how to lower your risk. Keep the following heart-related facts in mind this month so you can learn healthy habits for the future.

1. Ten Minutes of Exercise Helps Your Heart

Getting just ten minutes of physical activity each day can lower your risk of having a heart attack significantly. Aiming for thirty minutes a day could potentially lower your risk even more.

2. Less Screen Time Is Heart Healthy

If you tend to spend four or more hours per day sitting in front of your TV, computer, laptop, or other device, your risk of having a heart attack is almost double. Limit screen time and spend more time on your feet to reduce this risk.

3. Heart Disease Starts Early

Heart disease isn't something that develops when you're older. In fact, it starts when you're a teenager or young adult. Being obese during childhood can make the risk of having heart disease even higher when you become an adult.

4. Stress and Heart Disease Go Hand in Hand

Stress is one of the biggest factors that leads to heart disease. Find ways to reduce stress, such as deep breathing. Learn to keep your anger in check to lower your risk of having a heart attack.

5. Heart Disease Is an Ancient Disease

Heart disease is often linked to modern habits, such as sedentary lifestyles and poor diets, but CT scans done on mummies shows that it was around in ancient Egyptian times.

6. More Sleep Is Better for Your Heart

Those people who get more sleep each night have a lower risk of heart disease. Women who get less than five hours of sleep, have a 39 percent chance higher of having heart disease.

7. Laughter Protects Your Heart

Laughing is healthy for your blood vessels. It helps them relax and expand, which keeps your heart working properly.

8. Mondays Are the Worst for Heart Attacks

Researchers found that heart attacks tend to occur more often on Monday mornings than at any other time of the week.

(continued on page 4)

Letter from the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

9. Heart Disease Fatality Rates Are High

Heart disease fatality rates are around 40 percent, which is higher than deaths associated with all types of cancer. More than 25,000 people in the U.S. die from heart disease every day.

10. Age Is the Biggest Risk Factor

Although heart disease can start when you are young, age is the biggest risk factor. Other risk factors include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, and a sedentary lifestyle. Even though you can't control certain risk factors, such as a family history of heart disease, making healthy lifestyle changes can help reduce your risk overall.

Correction Note-- (Third time's a charm): It was stated in the January issue of the section entitled "While you were away..." that "New flowering shrubs (hydrangeas) were planted in front of the Yacht Club." The flowering shrubs are hibiscus, not hydrangeas. Thanks to all my "gardening" friends for pointing that out to me!

HAPPY
Valentine's Day

From The Manager's Desk



Attention Shareholders!

We are quickly approaching the 2026 Budget and Election Season for the Co-Op. The 1st Notice of Annual Meeting with the proposed 2026/27 Budget was sent by mail to all shareholders on January 13, 2026. The Annual Meeting and Election is set for Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

Please take note of the following important dates:

- 2/04/26, 3:00 PM:** Statements of interest from Board candidates due by 3:00 PM.
- 2/09/26, 9:30 AM:** Budget Town Hall to discuss the proposed Budget.
- 2/09/26, 3:00 PM:** 2nd Notice of Annual Meeting sent to all shareholders by mail (includes ballots, proxy, etc.)
- 2/10/26, 7:00 PM:** Candidate's Night (opportunity to meet Board candidates, ask questions, etc.)
- 2/19/26, 9:30 AM:** Regular Board Meeting – approval of the budget on the agenda.
- 3/21/26, 9:30 AM:** Annual Meeting/Election

If you have any questions regarding the budget process or election process, please call me at the Office.

Sincerely,
Bobbie McEvoy, LCAM/CMCA
General Manager
manager@tropicisles.net



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Tropic Isles' 2026 Resident Phone Directories



If you have just returned to Tropic Isles and were not in the park in December when the Resident Phone Directories were distributed, please check-in with the Office to receive your copy of the Directory. If you are listed in the Directory this year, you will have a Directory waiting for you (one per household). If you own your lot, but it is empty at this time, you are still entitled to a Directory for that address which you can pick up in the Office. TIPOA residents should call/text Elaine Faulkner at 941-723-9591 or email her at cfaulkner2@tampabay.rr.com for their copy of the Directory and to provide her with any changes that are needed. Once you receive your new directory, please check through the new Directory to see if your information is listed correctly. If you find an error in the Directory, please fill out an Information Form in the Office or contact me by sending an email to tibrezes1@aol.com with your correction. I will be happy to print the correction in next month's issue of the Breezes in the interim and make the change in the Directory for next year.

Cindy Shaw, Editor

Important for All Residents

If you have any changes to make in the new Directory, please send them to Cindy Shaw at tibrezes1@aol.com, or complete an Information Form which can be picked up in the Office.

Cindy Shaw, Editor

CORRECTIONS FOR THE DIRECTORY



Any corrections or additions will be posted here in the monthly newsletters until the 2027 Resident Directory is printed. Please make these changes to your current Directory.

Resident Listings:

- ALEXANDER, Paul & BOROVCANIN, Ljubica** Add northern address 63 Glenwild Ave., Bloomingdale, NJ 07403
email paulmason3460@gmail.com
email lborovcanin@outlook.com
- BULMER, Jack & TANNER, Gayle** Remove 905-468-9440(J) in the local listing. Add 941-721-9454. Add northern phone number 905-468-9440(J)
- CARSON, Eric** Remove the entire listing.
- CRAFT, Dan** Change address to 2849 Trinidad Way.
- MCCARTHY, Tim & Julie** 2848 Trinidad Way, 906-233-8608, Northern address 50631 I.75 Lane, Escanaba, MI 49829.
Northern phone 410-398-5685
- SCOTT, Barbara "Suzanne"** Change address to 43 Edessa Dr.
- STAAF, Thomas & REDESKE, Lesia** **NEW!** Add 2863 Trinidad Way, 893-956-8172, redeskel@gmail.com

~ ~ Special Thanks ~ ~

• Thank you to all the residents who got into the Christmas spirit by decorating their homes and entering in the "Let It Glow" Lighting Contest! Congratulations to all the winners!

• Special "thanks" to **Nancy Larsen** for organizing the "Let It Glow" event and to **Carmen Garcia** for her generous gift for the Best Overall Decorations.

• A warm "thank you" goes to **Mary and Roger Pike** for playing Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Christmas Eve Social.

• Thank you to all the volunteers that signed up to be a part of the **2026 Exterior Christmas Decorating Committee** and to Cheryl Brink for organizing the group. If you are willing to help, contact Cheryl to get on the list.

• Thanks to the **Entertainment Committee** for providing an evening of laughter at the Comedy Show for the residents to enjoy.

• Thanks to **Dottie Gross** for organizing the Yoga Class for the residents in December and January!

• A big "thanks" to **Paula Jordan, Mike Cuff, and their volunteers** for organizing the photo sessions for the new 2027 Tropic Isles' Photo Directory.

• **Jack Miller** wants to give a very "special thanks" to everyone from Tropic Isles for the lovely card he received after his son, **Mark**, passed away.

• A sincere thank you to **everyone who supported the Boosters** by attending the Soup Supper and a truly heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers who made sure the supper was a success. ---- Sue Weaver, Coordinator



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Let It Glow Lighting Contest



The Activity committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Let it Glow lighting contest! **Congratulations to the winners of the Let it Glow Lighting Contest!**

Best Overall Decorations – Steve and Debbie Dubinsky, 37 Montego Dr.

\$50 gift card to Detweillers:

Chris and Diane Sackett, 28 Flores Dr.

Jeannette Vannais, 1302 29th Ave.

Roger and Mary Pike, 50 Montego Dr.

\$25 gift card to Detweillers:

Rosaire and Jan Cote, 126 Capri Dr.

Mike and Lisa Murphy, 58 Edessa Dr.

Carol Spritzer, 19 Flores Dr.

Special “thanks” to Carmen Garcia for providing the \$100 prize for the “Best Overall Decorations” winner.

An honorable mention and bragging rights go to **Flores Drive for the “best lit street”**. Your street sparkled! The streets were glowing with holiday cheer thanks to all Tropic Isles residents. (See pictures on color pages.)

Inspiration



Jean Goodwin, who lives at 32 Flores Dr., knits hats, about 50 per year, that she donates to the ABCD School for poor farm children, to handicapped children through BOCES, and to the Salvation Army in Geneva, NY. She is always looking for free yarn that you are willing to donate to a good cause and be part of the giving effort. You can drop off the yarn at her daughter, Bonnie Pealer's home, at 26 Flores or you can call Bonnie to come and pick it up.

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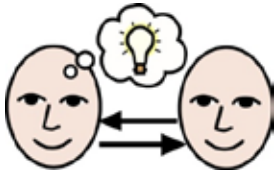
Residents! Volunteers Needed! Please Help!



WE WANT YOU

We have a need for volunteers in the following positions:

- **Zoom Moderators** for Co-op Board Meetings are needed. Contact the Office. You must be a Shareholder. We will train.
- **Tropic Isles Apparel Sales**—A volunteer is needed to manage this project for the Boosters. Contact Dennis Butts, Boosters President
- **Volunteers needed to sub for Block Captains on their street** to help distribute the Breezes newsletters when needed. Subs are needed for these streets: **Basin/Bahia, Flores, Maui/10th, and Montego**. You do not need to be a full-time resident to help out. Please contact Cindy Shaw at tibreezes1@aol.com or by calling/texting 608-212-8967 if you can help.



Idea To Ponder....

When life knocks you down, roll over and look at the stars.

Your Daily Dose of Vitamin Sea



Just A Coincidence . . .

By Terry Foley

In a very unusual coincidence, after running a beautiful photo of Basin St. on the front page of the January Breezes, a painting surfaced of the same view.



Chuck Harding immediately recognized the view in Kathryn Wells' January Photo of the Month. Why? Because he sees it in the painting, he and his wife, Karol, were given last season. Harold Carlton, a resident artist, painted the scene from across the North Basin. It was on the wall of 14 Basin St., a house previously owned by Bob and Joy Lauric. Perhaps Joy was given or bought the painting from Harold at the annual Tropic Isles Craft Show where Harold would have a table selling his art. Or perhaps they traded paintings since Joy was also an artist, according to Nancy Larsen, who helped the couple as their health deteriorated.


Many of you might remember Harold from his habit of smoking a cigar out in front of his house at the end Terra Ceia Dr. where he displayed his work on alternating wood panels. Bonnie Minick, a Terra Ceia Dr. neighbor, recalls the paintings and Harold's art studio near his back deck.

The Hardings were thankful to get a call while they were in Minnesota from the current owner of 14 Basin St., Joseph Snow, who wished to give it to them. The Hardings' homes at 8 and 9 Basin St. unfortunately had to be demolished after the hurricane, but the view lives on in the painting as does Buddy, the Laurics' dog, who is now lives with Nancy.

TRIVIA

Trivia Tidbits

- A banana is technically a type of berry. Berries are not actually what you think they are. Blackberries and raspberries are not berries at all, but things like bananas, pumpkins, avocados, and cucumbers all are. This is because a "berry" is a botanical definition for something that contains seeds on the inside that is surrounded by fruit, also known as pulp.
- The world's longest wedding dress has a train that's 1.85 miles (2.98 kilometers) long. The wedding dress was designed by a Romanian wedding salon, Adress Salon, and is recorded in the Guinness World Book of Records.
- There are only 18 actual minutes of play (action) in a major league baseball game.
- Brown is the rarest color of M & Ms.
- A newborn giant panda is about the size of a stick of butter.
- A fox's tail allows it to communicate with other foxes.
- Armadillo shells are bulletproof.
- The sea otter has the thickest fur.
- Dogs like squeaky toys because they remind them of the high-pitched cries of an injured animal due to their wolfen origins.
- Dogs don't see the world in black-and-white and are colorblind to the red-green spectrum. They can see shades of blue, gray, and yellow.
- Border collies, the most intelligent dog breed, can understand and recognize 200 words. Their intelligence is equal to a 3-year-old child.
- Cacti in the Saguaro National Park have microchips embedded in them to track their location. There are thieves that sneak into the park and saw off the cacti to sell on the black market.
- There are 117 million (recognized) lakes in the world. Size is not a determining factor for a body of water to be called a lake. A lake is defined as a body of water that is deep and has dark areas where sunlight can't penetrate, limiting plant growth to the edges. It also has distinct temperature layers.
- The correct way to hang toilet paper, as the creator Seth Wheeler intended, is to drape the sheet over and in front of the roll, NOT behind and NOT under.



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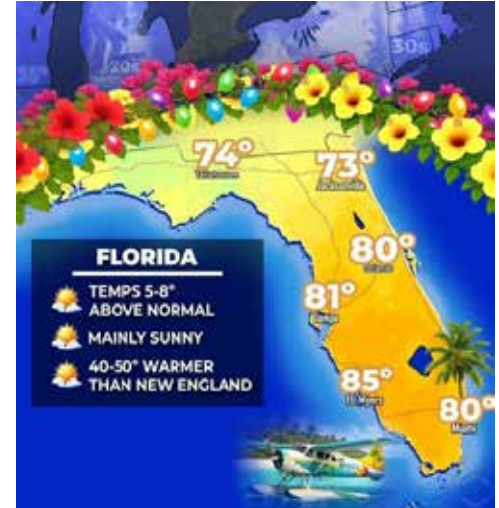
Laughter is the Best Medicine!

- People ask me why I drink wine. My body doesn't produce its own alcohol, so I have to take a supplement.
- I just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.
- Don't spell "part" backwards. It's a trap.
- Most people are shocked when they find out how incompetent I am as an electrician.
- My kids laugh because they think I'm crazy. I laugh because they don't know it's hereditary.

SNOW FORECAST



WINTER FORECAST



Floridians right now

Floridians during the cold snap.

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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**. 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 February 19 at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium and via Zoom.

2025-2026 Co-op Board of Directors Emails

Al MacKenzie, President	president@tropicisles.net
Drew Doll, Vice President	vp@tropicisles.net
Dennis Butts, Secretary	secretary@tropicisles.net
Jose Torres, Treasurer	treasurer@tropicisles.net
Dennis Weber, Director 1	director1@tropicisles.net
VACANT	director2@tropicisles.net
Randy Rice, Director 3	director3@tropicisles.net



Zoom Etiquette



Zoom meetings are now a staple in our day-to-day lives. Reliable, easy-to-use video platforms like Zoom have helped to restore the ability to hold meetings during difficult times. The challenges and benefits of Zoom meetings can be much different than in-person meetings. The advantage of virtual meetings is the ability to hold them almost anywhere and have more people participate from anywhere, but there are dos and don'ts associated with participating in a Zoom meeting.

ZOOM "BEST PRACTICES"

1. You should try to attend the meeting from a quiet area that has a neutral background.
 2. Eliminate distractions-- noises (dog barking, dishwasher, voices in the background, TV, etc.) and movement going on around you.
 3. Wear proper attire—not your pajamas or go shirtless.
 4. Avoid distracting behaviors—ironing, eating, moving around.
 5. Don't do private things— brush or floss your teeth, shave, etc.
- REMEMBER: THE CAMERA SEES EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE ON ZOOM CAN SEE YOU.**

While we like to see everyone, you do not have to participate using video to attend a Zoom meeting. You do not have to have your camera on to see what is going on at the meeting either. Another option is to just cover up your camera lens at the top of the screen with a post-it note. If you choose to have your camera on, aim the camera 'straight' at your face (not from a position that looks up your nose) and try to follow the Zoom "best practices".

Just a reminder: In the chat portion of the Zoom meeting, remember to give your name and address when you ask your question. Questions can't be read without that information.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Board members:

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

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Property Owners (TIPOA) Meeting Schedule 2025 – 2026

Board Meetings

10 AM – Noon, location TBD

Feb. 3, 2026

Mar. 3, 2026

Apr. 7, 2026

Membership Meetings

10:15 AM - 12:15 PM, location TBD

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 Adinolfi
 City Liaison Dan Demers (not pictured)
 Directors Dan Baker
 Bill Clark
 Mike Jenkins
 Shirley Pendergrass
 Trish Spangler

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.

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 or text it to 608-212-8967. Please send in your favorite nature photo.

Urban “E” Recycling



Electronic waste is growing exponentially. Televisions are used, on average, less than two years -- computers for three years. Recycling (“E-cycling”) these and other electronic items is critical for preserving landfill space and ensuring that hazardous materials contained in these electronics are properly disposed of. Urban “E” Recycling properly disposes and recycles electronics in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. Essentially, they are a service that has free pick-up from businesses and residents of e-waste. They also destroy data of hard drives with certification. 100% of all electronics they handle are recycled responsibly. Visit them at 5144 Le Tourneau Circle, Tampa or call 813-501-9346. Check out their website at www.urbanerecycling.com and find out more about this great **FREE** service.

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- Insulated Cable & Wire
- Video Games/X-Boxes
- Laptops
- iPads & Tablets
- Cable Boxes

Items We Do Not Recycle

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If You're 70 and Can Still Do These 5 Things, You've Already Won at Life 70

Reaching the age of 70 used to be considered the start of "old age." But if you've made it to this milestone, you know the truth: it's not the end—it's a beautiful beginning. It's a season filled with reflection, deeper appreciation, and the quiet joys that younger people are often too busy to notice. In a world obsessed with youth and speed, we rarely stop to honor the **wisdom, strength, and peace** that come with aging well. But here's the truth: if you're 70 (or getting close) and you can still do these five things, then you've already achieved what many people spend their entire lives chasing. In fact, you've already won at life.

1. You Can Wake Up Without Regret

At this stage in life, the greatest luxury isn't money or possessions. It's **peace of mind**. If you can wake up in the morning and feel *settled*—not because everything went perfectly, but because you've made peace with the imperfections—then you are carrying a kind of freedom few ever know. You may have loved and lost, made mistakes, or taken chances that didn't work out. But if you can smile and say, "I did the best I could," then you are one of the truly lucky ones. **Emotional wellness after 70** often comes not from what we did, but from what we've learned to let go of. And that, is a priceless kind of success.

2. You Can Move Your Body Without Help

You don't need to do yoga poses or jog five miles a day. But if you can wake up, swing your legs out of bed, stretch your arms, and walk to the kitchen without pain—take a moment to feel gratitude. Mobility is a **gift of healthy aging** that many lose far too soon. If you can still take a walk in the park, bend down to pull weeds from the garden, dance a little when a favorite song comes on, or get on the floor to play with a grandchild—then your body is telling a remarkable story. A story of **resilience, movement, and care**. A story that says: *I'm still here and I'm still going*. Never underestimate what a little freedom of movement truly means.

3. You Can Hold a Conversation—and Remember the Names

Some things are easy to take for granted—until they're gone. One of those things is **mental clarity**. If, at 70, you can sit across from someone you love, engage in a thoughtful conversation, tell a good story, or even throw in a sharp joke—then your mind is still working in beautiful ways. You remember names. You recall moments from years ago. You enjoy discussions, not just sit through them. **Cognitive sharpness in older adults** doesn't just mean you're mentally alert. It means you're still *connected*—to your past, to others, and to yourself. That's more than mental fitness. That's **being fully alive**.

4. You Still Give More Than You Take

If you've lived long enough to understand what it means to give without expecting anything back, then you've discovered one of life's most meaningful truths. You listen more. You advise gently. You help younger generations navigate struggles you've already faced. You give your time, your patience, your wisdom—quietly, consistently. This is more than generosity. It's **purpose**. If, at 70, you still want to lift others up, whether it's through mentorship, helping a neighbor, or just sending someone a thoughtful **gift basket**—you are fulfilling one of aging's highest callings: to be a

steady light for others. It doesn't take much to brighten someone's day and when you still *want* to do that, you're living with a richness far greater than wealth.

5. You Can Still Laugh from the Heart

Not a polite chuckle. Not a smile on cue. But a deep, belly laugh—the kind that makes your eyes water and your soul feel wide open. If you can laugh at yourself, laugh at life's absurdities, and find joy in old memories or funny little mishaps, then your spirit has stayed wonderfully intact. **Humor in older age** is one of the surest signs that your heart hasn't been hardened by time. It means you've kept wonder alive. It means that joy still has a home in you, no matter how many storms you've weathered, and that kind of laughter isn't just charming. It's healing.

Aging Isn't Losing—It's Becoming

Too many people view 70 as the beginning of the end. But the truth is, it can be the beginning of the most **honest, peaceful, and meaningful** season of your life. If you can still move with ease, think with clarity, give without bitterness, laugh freely, and face the mirror without regret—then you haven't just aged well, you've **lived well**. These aren't just milestones. They're **victories**. You've built a life worth being proud of. You've cultivated peace where others grow bitterness. You've loved, lost, and loved again. You've learned. You've survived. You've thrived. So don't let the world tell you that being 70 means fading away. You're not fading. You're *shining*—with all the quiet brilliance of a soul who's learned what truly matters.

Turning 70 doesn't mean the journey is over. It means you've reached a high point after many years. If you can look around and see that you live in peace, move easily, think clearly, give freely, and laugh fully, then you've already achieved what many people spend their lives chasing. You've won—not with money or fame, but with purpose, wisdom, and presence. You've lived. You've learned and most importantly—you've kept your light shining.

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Safety Tip of the Month ---

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!



Please be alert to your surroundings and any strangers in the park. If there are people in the park who do not belong, please call the police. You do not need to confront the person, just place the call.

There is a phone inside the Yacht Club, Auditorium, and on the outside wall of the Yacht Club on the pool deck that can be used for emergencies or to call the police for any trespassers. Call the Palmetto Police Department at 941-721-2000, ext. 4, OR 911 with an EMERGENCY! If in doubt, CALL. We ALL need to do our part to keep Tropic Isles a safe place to live!

Business Trespass Program

Over the summer and at other times throughout the year, we've had problems in the pool and in other areas of the park with non-residents. The issue of non-residents on the property has been an on-going problem. The Palmetto Police Department has developed a program to help us at Tropic Isles. On June 19, 2018, we enrolled in this program, the Business Trespass Program. You may have noticed the signs that are up at the entrances on 28th Ave. and Aloha Dr., the pool, Office, and peninsula. These signs are part of the program. The program works this way. **If you see a non-resident who you believe is trespassing anywhere in the park, call the police IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT CONFRONT THEM. CALL THE POLICE!** Do not waste time trying to figure out if they are visitors or trespassers. Act quickly. The police have to find them on the property. The police will come out to Tropic Isles and determine if they are in the "Trespass database" and have been warned before. If they are, they will be immediately arrested. If not, they will be given a warning and placed in the Trespass database. If they are caught on the property another time, they will be arrested. Our participation in this program prevents the need to file a complaint each time a trespass occurs. It also raises the awareness level of non-residents of the seriousness of their actions. A non-resident is a person who has not been invited to be on the property by a resident of Tropic Isles. Again, please do not confront these people. **CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!**



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What Is "Mail Chimp"?

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---Co-op, Property Owners, and Homeowners, separately or all together.

This is how it works:

When the system of communication was established in January of 2018, a database of all known email addresses was taken out of the Tropic Isles Directory and assembled. The "Mail Chimp" system has the ability to send messages to all, or any segment of Tropic Isles separately. This "Mail Chimp" program DOES NOT share email addresses with everyone. It DOES NOT allow the recipient to "Reply to all", and it also gives residents the option to **unsubscribe**, if desired. Your privacy will thus be protected.

What should you do?

Check the directory to be certain your email address is correct. If a correction is needed, or your email address is not in the directory, or you are a new resident of the park, or you have NOT been receiving email notices from the Office, see Robin or Lynn if you want to be included in the "Mail Chimp" email list.

Not everyone has an email address, so if you know of a neighbor or friend who does not use email, please try to spread the message to them. This system WILL NOT replace notices that are legally required to be mailed out to all residents, but rather it is used as a quick method to keep as many residents as possible, updated on situations as they occur in the park that may affect them. This system came in very handy during hurricane season and for other events in the park (i.e. water shutoff, sewer testing, etc.), so make sure you get on the list for important information as it happens.

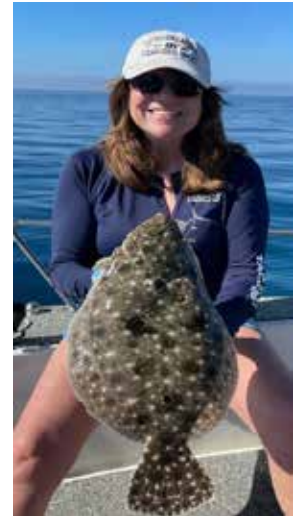
(If your activity wants to send out a Mail Chimp with information about your event, please give the Office 48-hours' notice.)

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!



It was a perfect day for offshore fishing with John and Cheryl Brink and Judy Meyer caught a 22.5-inch flounder! Way to go, Judy!



Another great day for Captain, Jim Gorton and his crew--Bill Clark, George Pennachio, and Steve Pearcy. They caught 6 groupers up to 28 inches. Steve had the catch of the day. Congratulations!





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Choose to be Kind



**I can BEE
KIND**

by doing things for
others without expecting
something in return.

The real question: Are YOU kind? Kindness is learned behavior. It doesn't come naturally. It is a mind-set that has to be chosen. Kindness means that you treat people better than they deserve to be treated. Go ahead—shock people with kindness. In a dog-eat-dog world, you will stand out like a shining beacon. Pick up someone else's mess. Do little acts of service that only you will see. Take an elderly person to the doctor. Buy flowers for someone recently divorced. Send a card to a sad person "just because". Don't wait until you feel it from someone else. Go first!

Since the future is an elegant mystery, we must not spend our present energy feeding grudges or chasing validation from those who do not see our light. Forgiveness is not a gift to others, but a freedom to yourself. Choose to love with every fiber of your being, and fiercely protect the precious time you have with the souls who truly nourish you. Let kindness be your priority, and acceptance be their gift.

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Here are Some Friendly Reminders to Help Make Tropic Isles a Happy and Stress-Free Place to Be!

Carts vs Bicycles and Pedestrians



Please remember that golf carts must follow the same “rules of the road” as cars and other motor



vehicles. Golf carts need to stay on their side of the street, stop at all stop signs, and proceed into an intersection after carefully looking both ways. There have been way too many “near misses” on our streets involving bicycles and pedestrians with golf cart drivers not following the “rules of the road”. Pedestrians and bicycles have the right-of-way. Remember also, that according to our Rules and Regulations and state law, **golf carts are not to be operated by children under the age of 16.** (See Rule 1.3 below.) Please follow the “rules of the road” and the posted speed limits on our Tropic Isles’ streets for the safety of all of our residents.

Appendix 4

1.3 Age Restriction to Operate Golf Carts

- *Golf carts are motor vehicles and are not to be operated by children under the age of sixteen (16) throughout the Community.*
- *The operation of golf carts must comply with state laws and local ordinances.*

Speed Limits



The speed limit in the park is 15 mph, although it is not posted on most streets. On Bimini Dr. the speed limit is painted on the road. Please check your speed as you travel throughout the park and slow down on those tight corners. There are people riding bicycles and walking, so please slow down where people may not be visible until you turn the corner. Then it is too late. Golf carts must also abide by the rules in the park. The speed limit on 28th Ave. W. is posted as 25 mph. Many people speed down 28th Ave. and create an unsafe situation for walkers, bikers, and people walking their dogs along that street. **Please drive safely, observe the speed limits, and SLOW DOWN!**

Stop Signs

For the safety of our residents and guests, obey all the STOP SIGNS! Please **STOP at every sign** and proceed with care. There have been some near misses of pedestrians, bikers, and vehicles and we are asking for your cooperation to avoid any serious problems. It is such a little thing to ask, for something so important! After all, IT IS THE LAW!



Pedestrians vs Vehicles



When walking on 28th Ave., please remember to walk facing traffic. According to Florida state law, **pedestrians must walk facing oncoming traffic on the same side of the road as the oncoming traffic.** Also, you should get as far to the side of the road as possible to provide additional space between you and oncoming cars. It is important to see the vehicles that are approaching you for your own safety. This gives you the best chance to see traffic approaching closest to you and take evasive action when needed.

When bicycling, you must ride on the right side of the road (going in the same direction as automobile traffic). In the early morning hours and in the evening when it’s dark, please remember to be safe while walking on our streets. **If you are walking at night, wear light-colored or reflective clothing AND CARRY A FLASHLIGHT!** If driving a golf cart or riding a bike, lights are needed. When driving, be attentive to pedestrians and bikers. Obey our park speed limits! **SLOW DOWN!**

Guest Parking



When Tropic Isles is in full season, guest parking is always a challenge. If you have overnight guests and you do not have sufficient parking for them at your home, Tropic Isles has several areas for temporary guest parking. Unfortunately, our parking facilities are limited. If you have a need for temporary overnight parking for your guests, please come into the Office to get a parking permit. At that time, we will assign you an area for your guest(s) to park. Temporary permits are issued for parking up to 48 hours. If your guest arrives on the weekend, they can park at Bimini Point or the north parking lot of the Auditorium, unless there is an event happening in the Auditorium. Please come into the office on Monday morning to get a temporary permit in you arrive on the weekend. Do not park on empty lots or on the streets overnight.



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? Did You Know? ?

- that the Board of Directors are all elected volunteers?
- that all Shareholders are invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Director's meetings?
- that residents have the responsibility to know and abide by the Rules and Regulations?
- that all shareholders of the Co-op should read the Master Form Occupancy Agreement, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws of Tropic Isles Co-op, Inc.?
- that Tropic Isles has its own website: www.tropicisles.net ?
- that the Co-op has an audio-video surveillance system in the Office, pool, Auditorium, and Yacht Club for your safety?
- that Saturday Morning Coffee is a social event?
- that anyone can offer constructive suggestions and ideas or ask questions of the Manager?
- that anyone can submit pictures for the newsletter by sending them to tibreezes1@aol.com?
- that the Boosters collect aluminum cans for recycling?
- that you need to use your fob to enter the fenced-in pool area and remember to shower before entering the pool?
- that there are many opportunities for you to volunteer to help around the community?
- that the waters in and around Tropic Isles are Manatee Zones which require all boats to travel at "slow, no wake" speed and watch out for manatees?

UPDATE: The two restrooms in the Yacht Club that were designated UNISEX, are now designated as LADIES and GENTLEMEN. Note the new signs on the doors.

4 Tips to Simplify Your Life

A lot of us think we can do 84,000 things in a day and not feel stressed. News flash! We're not Superman or Wonder Woman. We can't do it all, especially not without neglecting those we love most. Here are 4 tips to simplify your daily hustle:

1. **Be willing to let your brain settle.** Set aside days to recover mentally and physically. Put your feet up, read, take a nap, watch a movie, cuddle with your spouse, or take the dog for a walk. Otherwise, you're running a marathon you can't win.
2. **Know your limitations.** If you put too much into too many things, you're going to end up overstressed and overwhelmed. You can't fix or do everything. Some days you'll get more done than other days - that's just how it goes.
3. **Make a list of your 10 most important obligations and responsibilities.** It's amazing how many people can't narrow it down to 10. Figure out what your unessential essentials are.
4. **Get your priorities straight.** Stop prioritizing the wrong things for the wrong people.



Cook's Corner



SHEET PAN CHICKEN PARMESAN

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup Italian seasoned panko bread crumbs or regular seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 T Parmesan cheese
- 1 ½ T olive oil
- 1 pound thin-sliced boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 cup Prego Marinara Sauce
- 4 oz. part skim mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced or shredded

Directions:

1. Heat the oven to 425 degrees. While the oven is heating, stir the panko, Parmesan cheese, and ½ T oil in a small bowl.
2. Spray a rimmed baking sheet with vegetable cooking spray. Place the chicken on the baking sheet and brush with 1 T oil. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Spoon the sauce over the chicken.
4. Top with the panko mixture and the mozzarella cheese.
5. Bake for 20 minutes or until the chicken is done.

LOO K What's Coming In February!

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1..... | Master's Shuffle |
| 1..... | Progressive Euchre |
| 6..... | Blood Drive |
| 6..... | Dogs, Inc. Donation Day/Hot Dog Roast |
| 8..... | Superbowl Party |
| 8..... | Shuffle Under the Lights |
| 9..... | Caring Team Meeting |
| 10..... | Book Club |
| 13..... | Spaghetti Dinner |
| 14..... | Valentine's Day Dance |
| 15..... | Golf Cart Parade |
| 15..... | Master's Shuffle |
| 15..... | Progressive Euchre |
| 17..... | Pancake Breakfast |
| 17..... | Beginners Shuffle Tournament |
| 18, 19..... | TIPOA Photo Shoot |
| 20..... | Hypnotist Comedy Show |
| 20, 21..... | Photo Shoot |
| 22..... | Shuffle Under the Lights-Hoss Collar |
| 23..... | Butterfly Garden Talk |
| 26..... | Men's vs Women's Shuffle Tournament |

(Weekly activities are not listed here.)

Please show your support by attending the park activities in February and volunteer to help where you can. There's something for everyone in Tropic Isles!

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Please Don't Kill Pelicans with Kindness!



Would it surprise you if you were told feeding pelicans the bones and heads of your catch-of-the-day is killing them with kindness? It is a traditional habit: come in from fishing, clean the fish on the dock, and throw the scraps to the gathering group of pelicans. They gather in twos, threes and more, waiting for a handout. It is hard to resist throwing them something. The next time you are filleting that 'keeper' grouper, redfish, or snook, please remember that the bones and head of a filleted fish (that include large bones) can scratch, poke holes in the throat pouch, or even get stuck in the throat of a pelican. This causes the bird to get sick from infection, choke, or even starve. If the pelican is successful in swallowing the large fish carcass, it cannot digest the large bones and it will die a slow and agonizing death. In past years, Tropic Isles has had pelicans die when someone threw fish carcasses into the canal where the pelicans swallowed the carcasses, getting them stuck in their throats. If you are thinking that the carcasses sink to the bottom of the canal, think again. When the tide is low, the pelicans can dive down and retrieve the carcass. Please don't throw the carcasses into the canal! Those bones are deadly! The terminal scenario of feeding pelicans is that they get habituated to the human handout, causing the birds not to hunt for themselves, becoming aggressive around the dock and in marinas. Brown Pelicans take three years to acquire their adult plumage or to mature. If young pelicans do not learn to hunt naturally during these developing years, they will not be successful in feeding themselves, let alone any young they produce. Also, once they become accustomed to the human handouts of fish scraps they will become a nuisance, staying in popular fishing areas around piers and marinas. Now, the lingerers can be endangered by fishing hooks and monofilament line. Many fishermen will cut the line once an entangled pelican is caught. Don't cut the line! Follow the steps below:

Quick Reference for Rescuing Injured Pelicans:

Capturing the Bird

- If the attempt is made from a pier, use a net to scoop the pelican.
- If the attempt is made from land, try to approach the bird from behind (if not possible, lure the bird to you with bait in one hand – grab bill gently with other hand). Cover the bird's head with a towel. This will calm the bird.

Holding the Bird

- Grasp the beak with one hand, but leave it partially open so the bird can still breathe.
- Restrain the bird's body with your free hand after the wings have been folded against its body (like holding a football under your arm).

Removing Hooks/Line

- Locate the hook and push it through the skin until you can see the barb.
- Cut the barb off and back the rest of the hook out.

CAUTION: For humans and pelicans: never pull a hook out without first removing the barb!

Releasing the Bird

- If the bird is not seriously wounded, release it.
- If the hook is swallowed, deeply imbedded, or there are injuries to wings or legs of the pelican, please call the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Wildlife Rehabilitative Center at (239) 262-2273.

Please don't harm or kill pelicans with kindness. Many marinas and piers have fish scrap repositories, or fish carcass disposal tubes located conveniently near the cleaning tables. If this is not available, discard fish scraps in a garbage can. This will keep pelicans healthy and naturally part of the wildlife ecosystem. Please call the **Conservancy of Southwest Florida Wildlife Rehabilitative Center at (239) 262-2273 to report sick or injured birds.**

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
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	

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SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
1 6:00 pm Progressive Euchre Master's Shuffle	2	3	4 8:30 am Golf League Terra Ceia Boat Club Meeting - A	5 10:00 am Entertainment Meeting - Y	6 7:30-1:30 Blood Drive 9:00 am Booster Mtg - A 9:00 am Dogs, Inc. Donation Day-A 11:00 am Hot Dog Roast-A	7	8 6:00 pm Super Bowl Party - Y No Movie	9 8:30 am Caring Team Meeting - SB 9:30 am Co-op Budget Town Hall Mtg. - A	10 1:00 pm Book Club - TBD 7:00 pm Candidates Night - A	11 9:00 am Activity Mtg - SB 5:00 pm Shuffle Meeting/ Potluck - TBD	12 4:00 pm HOA Board Meeting - SB	13 5-7 pm Spaghetti Dinner - Drive Thru	14 7:00 pm Valentine's Day Dance
15 4:00 pm Golf Cart Parade 6:00 pm Progressive Euchre 6:30 pm Master's Shuffle	16	17 7:30 am Pancake Breakfast - A 9:00 am Beginner Shuffle Tourm. 9:30 am ARC Meeting-A	18 11:00 am TIPOA Photo Shoot 4:00 pm Boat Club Poker Run	19 9:30 am Co-Op Board Meeting - A 9:30 am TIPOA Photo Shoot	20 11:00 am Photo Shoot - Y 7:00 pm Hypnotist Comedy Show - A	21 9:30 am Photo Shoot - Y	22 6:30 pm Shuffle Under the Lights - Hoss Collar	23 1:00 pm Butterfly Garden Talk - A	24	25	26 9:00 am Men vs Women Tourney	27	28
February 2026													
WEEKLY EVENTS													
10:00 am Shuffle 2:15 pm Mahjong - TBD	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 Dance Lesson - Y 1:00 pm Craft Class - A 1:00 pm Sailing Races 2:00 pm Cards - Y 6:00 pm Bunco - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 8:30 am Golf - Terra Ceia CC 9:00 am Kayakers Launch 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Shuffle	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Dance Lesson - Y 1:00 pm Canasta - Y 6:00 pm Game Night - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Bible Study - TBD 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Dance Practice - Y 6:00 pm Bid Euchre - Y	8:30 am Coffee Hour - A 10:00 am Shuffle 6:00 pm Mexican Train Dominos - SB							

~COMING EVENTS~



FEBRUARY

Shuffle Club News

Join us for our next general meeting/potluck of the season on **Wednesday, February 11**. The location will be announced.

Shuffle Under the Lights – Masters Play



Shuffle Under the Lights resumes **Sunday, February 1st** with Masters Play. Players must have previously placed in the top four spots in a tournament (inside or outside the park, but not lesson's tournaments) or won her/his division in a skills tournament (e.g. turkey shoot, etc.). **Masters Play games will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6:30 PM.** Everyone is welcome to come and watch experienced players battle it out in three games.

Shuffle Under the Lights – General Games

Shuffle Under the Lights--General Games resume on **Sunday, February 8th** at 6:30 PM. These games are open to all skill levels and equipment is available at the courts. **The second Sunday will be a regular game and the fourth Sunday will be a Hoss Collar game.** There is a 25-cent entry fee for the Hoss Collar games. BYOB! There may be some light refreshments and door prizes. There definitely will be FUN! The event coordinators are Ann Marie Davis (815-814-5122) and Julie Bonenfant (508-395-2019).

Come One, Come All – Free Shuffle Lessons!



The TI Shuffleboard Club welcomed new and experienced players to join its free lesson series and tournaments. Lessons were led by expert players and were offered weekly starting in January, running for six weeks through the middle of February.

Roy Swartz and his team, Lorne Antaya and Diane Swartz, have been teaching skills and strategy to new players. Beginners' lessons were held on Mondays from 1 PM usually wrapping up about 2:30 PM. All equipment that is needed was supplied by the TI Shuffle Club. The last beginner lesson is **February 9**.

Dave Myers and his team, Dwayne Scruton and John Stuart, have been teaching more advanced skills and strategy to experienced players. Intermediate lessons were held on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. The last intermediate lesson is **February 12**.

Players who have participated in the majority of Beginners lessons are welcome to play in the Beginner Tournament in February. There will be no Intermediate Tournament. Other tournaments are held in March. Contact Julie Bonenfant at 508-395-2019 with questions.

Shuffle Club Tournaments



It is that time of year again and our club tournaments have been scheduled. All tournaments begin at 9:00 AM. Come join us. Spectators have just as much fun as the players. See you on the courts!

Tuesday, February 17th – Beginners Tournament

Thursday, February 26th – Men vs Women

Tuesday, March 3rd – Dean Cone Memorial

Wednesday, March 11 – Mixed Couples

Tuesday, March 17 – Canadian vs American

Thursday March 19th – Turkey Shoot
(and Friday, the 20th if needed)

Monday, March 23rd – Guy Manchester Memorial

Julie Bonenfant, Club President

Entertainment Committee

The Entertainment Committee continues to bring fun to our park! After a busy December month, we slowed down a bit for January. The Comedy Show was a great success and was a night of laughs and friendship!



We will start February with something new! We are hosting a Superbowl Party on **Sunday, February 8th** in the Auditorium. The doors will open at 6:00 PM. There will be no charge and we will have the game on the big screen! There will be games, door prizes, and we will have the infamous \$100 lottery board. We will have a \$1 football square pool and will set up cornhole games, yard Jenga, and more! We are asking you to bring your favorite Superbowl dish to share and your own drinks and come enjoy the game together with others. Wear your favorite team colors!



The Valentine Golf Cart Parade will be on **Sunday, February 15th**. Line up starts at 3:45 in front of the Auditorium with the parade taking off at 4:00. These parades are a lot of fun no matter if you're driving a cart or watching them go by!

(continued on page 25)

~COMING EVENTS~

Entertainment Committee *(continued from page 24)*



This year on **Friday, February 20th** we will host a **Hypnotic Comedy Show**. Under the guidance of a skilled comedic hypnotist, Brian Hook, participants find themselves singing, dancing, or acting out hilarious scenarios while the audience watches in awe and amusement. The show will take place in the Auditorium. The doors will open at 6:15 and the show will start at 7:00 PM. Bring a snack and your drink. We will have the \$100 lottery board raffle. Tickets are \$5 each. Show ticket prices are \$10 each and we will have reserved seating, table style. Tickets sales will begin at Coffee Hour on January 31st and will be sold by Cindy Shaw. Contact her after January 31 by calling/texting her at 608-212-8967.

We are still discussing some pop-up events. We will be communicating via Mail Chimp and on Facebook if and when we get anything scheduled.

The Entertainment Committee will have their monthly meeting on **Thursday, February 5 at 10:00 AM** in the Yacht Club. Come and join us in planning some fun events!

- 2/8 Super Bowl Party
- 2/15 Valentine Golf Cart Parade
- 2/20 Hypnotic Comedy Show
- 3/25 Farewell Dance with SoulRcoaster – The theme is Neon Glow!
- 4/12 Pool Party

The Entertainment Committee

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. This is for aluminum cans only. Please do not put plastic bags, trash, or any other food items in the box. We collect a considerable amount of money from recycling and the money is used on items for the park.



(More Coming Events on page 26)

Booster Meeting



The next meeting of the Tropic Isles' Boosters is scheduled for **Friday, February 6 at 9:00 AM** in the Auditorium. We meet the **first Friday of each month** in the Auditorium, November–April.



Don Denby and other Booster volunteers planted palm trees in December.

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~COMING EVENTS~

Dogs, Inc. Donation Day



Our annual Donation Day and Hot Dog Roast to benefit Dogs, Inc. will be held on **Friday, February 6th**, in front of the Auditorium. **Donation Day will begin at 9:00 AM. The Hot Dog Roast will run from**

11:00 AM-1:00 PM.

We will also sponsor a "Thank You" party for everyone in the park on **Thursday, April 9th** in the Auditorium. The location of the party will be forthcoming. If you are interested in becoming more involved with our fund-raising efforts, please call/text Sue Weaver at 716-450-5077 or email her at smweaver2@stny.rr.com. Thank you all for supporting this worthwhile and heart-warming cause. We are hoping to raise enough money to name another puppy.

Keeping Hope Alive



Tropic Isles has been fundraising for Dogs, Inc. (previously known as Southeastern Guide Dogs) since 1983. In 2023, Tropic Isles raised enough money in donations to name a puppy. Cindy and Bob Shaw were given that honor, naming a puppy, Auggie, after their wire-haired dachshund. Auggie, a black lab, was born July 1, 2023 and spent his first months with a puppy raiser learning the basic skills. He turned 1 year old on July 1, 2024 and came back to the Dogs, Inc. campus in December of that year for his formal training. On December 18, 2025, Cindy and Bob were invited to the Dogs, Inc. Commencement. Here they met Auggie and Crystal, his partner. Auggie will serve Crystal as her guide dog due to her vision loss. It was such a heartwarming experience to meet them and see how hope is kept alive through a 4-legged, furry friend.



What is the Difference Between a Service Dog, Therapy Dog, and Emotional Support Animal?



Emotional Support Animal—All dogs by their nature serve as emotional support for their owners, but are used by many people to try and claim the right to take their dog places they shouldn't. Without service training, they have no legal right to go places and no legal protection.

Therapy Dogs – Many of these dogs are trained to be around the sick or elderly. They often go into hospital wards, senior residences, and schools. They must be well-behaved and well-trained. Their work often takes them into places where pets are not normally permitted, but because of their work they are welcome visitors.

Service Dogs, Medical Service Dogs, and Guide Dogs – All dogs in this group have legal protection and have the right of public access to go anywhere their handler goes with very few exceptions. All dogs in this category must be trained to do work or perform tasks for the handler with a specific disability, as well as being well-behaved. They can be trained by the owner/handler or by an organization. According to the law, any business has the right to ask the handler what specific task or work the dog has been trained to perform to assist the handler.

Dance Lessons



We have formed a dance lesson group that will have **instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 PM in the Yacht Club, and practice sessions on Fridays from 12:00-1:00 PM, no instruction, just music.** The instructors are Dave and Theresa Spiwak from Snead Island who used to live in Tropic Isles. Lessons started on Tuesday, January 20 in the Yacht Club at 12:00 PM as planned, and will continue through February. There is no charge for lessons. Lessons will include: ballroom-foxtrot, swing, jitterbug, etc. The dance lessons will remain flexible based on interest, so watch your Mail Chimp notices. Contact Fred Allina at 260-437-0118 with questions.

~COMING EVENTS~

Give the Gift of Life This Winter at Tropic Isles!

Join Us for the 2nd Tropic Isles' Blood Drive!

Friday, February 6, 2026

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/1602164

DONATE BLOOD

Tropic Isles Mobile Home Park
Friday, February 6
7:30 AM - 1:30 PM

All donors will receive*:
- \$20 eGift Card
- Long-sleeved T-shirt
- Culver's Coupon
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Donors Receive: \$20 eGift Card, Long-sleeved T-shirt, Culver's Coupon

ID REQUIRED

Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 14374

oneblood

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

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!

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 coming year.

April 10, 2026

December 4, 2026

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 and/or do not have a support system in place for emergencies or times of need. Here's how it works:

- If you or someone you know has just returned from a hospital visit or rehab and could use a "wellness visit" from one of our Caring Team members OR
- If you know of someone who lives alone and could use a wellness visit or assistance with a task.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call the Caring Team Coordinator, Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099.

Here are some tasks that the Caring Team could provide:

- Daily/weekly check-in calls
- Home visit – daily/weekly
- Run an errand (i.e. groceries, pick-up meds, etc.)
- Drive to an appointment
- Help prepare food, initiate a Meal Team, or Meals on Wheels for help
- Initiate help with a family member, agency, or other resource.
- Provide caregiver with some free time.
- Other

Since it was formed, the Caring Team has been successful in providing assistance of various kinds to residents who had health needs. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Our next Caring Team meeting will be February 9, 2026 at 8:30 AM in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. (Note the change in time.) If you are interested in becoming a part of this Caring Team, please attend the meeting on **February 9**. We'd love to have you on our team!

Cindy Shaw, Caring Team Secretary

(More Coming Events on page 28)

Sunday Night at the Movies

Movie Night continues on the second Sunday of the month, BUT there will be no movie on February 8 due to the Super Bowl Party. Our next Movie Night will be March 8 at 7 PM in the Auditorium. 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.

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~COMING EVENTS~



Tropic Isles' Book Club

On **Tuesday, February 10**, the Book Club will meet at 1 PM, location TBD. The Tropic Isles Book Club has revised their books for discussion in 2026. Join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 1 PM in a location to be announced or just follow us virtually! Send your comments about the book we are reading each month to irene5381@gmail.com. Contact Irene Casey at 774-291-9444 with questions.

2026 REVISED Reading List



- February:** *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom
March: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali
April: *The View from Lake Como* by Adriana Trigiana
May: *When the Cranes Fly South* by Lisa Ridzen
June: *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan
July: *The Director* by Daniel Kehlmann
August: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell
September: *The Unraveling of Julia* by Lisa Scottoline
October: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters
November: *When We Flew Away* by Alice Hoffman
December: *The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple

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, **February 11 at 9:00 AM** in the **Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club (Note: change of location.)**

The Tropic Isles' Activity Board

Spaghetti Dinner

Come One, Come All to the Shuffle Club Spaghetti Dinner!

On **Friday, February 13th**, the Shuffle Club is sponsoring a Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner.



Everyone is welcome to join the fun. A delicious meal of spaghetti with home-made sauce, garlic bread, and dessert will be served for pick-up at the Auditorium. Pick-up hours are 5 PM thru 7 PM. You can walk, cart, or drive-thru for meal pick-ups. We will have a 50/50 raffle and the winner will be notified after the pick-up service closes.

Tickets go on sale Monday, January 19 for \$8. Tickets sold after Tuesday, February 10 will be \$10. Ticket sales close on Thursday, February 12 at 12 noon. "Day-of" tickets will only be sold after 6:30 PM, provided food is available. If you want to pay by check, please make your check out to Tropic Isles' Shuffle Club.

Tickets are available from Joan Cloutier at 239 Bimini Drive. You may call her (after 9 AM, please) at 207-577-8933. Tickets are also for sale at the shuffle courts at 9:30-10:00 AM most weekdays. Contact Darlene Scruton at 978-758-1253 with questions.

Pancake Breakfast

A Booster-sponsored Pancake Breakfast will be held on **Tuesday, February 17 from 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM** in the Auditorium. The price is \$8 at the door. We will be serving all-you-can-eat pancakes along with an egg and sausage.



A sign-up sheet will be available at the February Booster meeting on February 6th for those who are willing to help. You can also contact Don Stroud at 937-271-2796 or Julie Couwenberg at 519-535-1172 to volunteer. Come on out and support our Boosters (You!) and our Tropic Isles' paradise. At the same time, fill up on some delicious pancakes.

Put On Your Smiles!

Tropic Isles Photo Directory Update



We started taking our first round of photos in January and if you haven't signed up yet, there is still time to do so in February. **This will be the**

last chance this 2026 season to have your photograph taken.

We will resume our photography sessions next season in 2027. The photo sessions for **TIPOA Residents** will be held at 2804 12th Street W. on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, February 18** from 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM - **TIPOA Residents only**
- **Thursday, February 19** from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM - **TIPOA Residents only**

Mike Cuff will be your contact person for these photographs. You can also schedule a session yourself. This location will accommodate our TIPOA neighbors to have their photos taken in a TIPOA-owned home.

(continued on page 29)

~COMING EVENTS~

Tropic Isles Photo Directory *(continued from page 28)*

The photo sessions for CO-OP members, HOA members, and apartment renters will be held in the Yacht Club on the following dates:

- **Friday, February 20** from 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM at the Yacht Club
- **Saturday, February 21** from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Yacht Club

Please sign up as early as you can in one of the following ways:

- by going to the website www.ucdir.com and using church code: **FL1068** and family password: **photos** (these are case sensitive) and choosing a time for your household sitting for photos. This way is the most efficient and user friendly.
- by calling 888-742-5823 and identifying yourself as a Tropic Isles' resident and using the code and password stated in #1 above, you can have a representative of Universal Church Directory sign you up for any opening available.
- by working with our Tropic Isles volunteers' who may call you or knock on your door to arrange a date and time for your sitting.

Everyone that sits for a photo session will receive a FREE 8x10 professional photo, and a FREE copy of our Park Photo Directory. We have these photo books done once every 5 years and you cannot buy a copy. Everyone who has their photo taken receives a free Photo Directory, so get yourself scheduled for a photo session.

I'm looking for volunteers to assist at the photo sessions as a host to check people in for their scheduled appointments. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Paula Jordan at 727-365-2318.

Laughter Meets the Mind:

A Night of Hypnotist Comedy You Won't Forget



When was the last time you laughed so hard your cheeks hurt? A hypnotist comedy show delivers exactly that — a whirlwind blend of mystery, spontaneity, and sidesplitting humor that turns an ordinary night out into an unforgettable experience.

This year, on **Friday, February 20th** we will host a **Hypnotic Comedy Show**. Under the guidance of a skilled comedic hypnotist, Brian Hook, participants find themselves singing, dancing, or acting out hilarious scenarios — while the audience watches in awe and amusement.

The show will take place in the Auditorium. The doors will open at 6:15 PM and the show will start at 7:00 PM. Bring a snack and your drink. We will have the \$100 lottery board raffle. Tickets are \$5 each. Show ticket prices are \$10 each and we will have reserved seating, table style. Tickets can be purchased at Coffee Hour starting **January 31** and after that from Cindy Shaw by calling/texting 608-212-8967.

If you're ready for a night where anything can happen, grab your tickets, and prepare to be amazed. Your mind might not be under hypnosis, but your funny bone definitely will be.

The Entertainment Committee

Butterfly Garden Talk



"How to Attract Butterflies" will be the subject of a gardening talk on **Monday, February 23, 2026. The talk begins at 1 PM in the Auditorium.** The first 25 people will receive a ticket to pick up a free plant at the end of the talk. Our special guest will be Susan Griffith of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS) Manatee County Extension Service.

Butterflies are endangered for many reasons. In the most recent study in North America, 100 butterfly species have declined by fifty percent. The Monarch is one that people are concerned about. Susan will explain how to attract them, with a special caution about the Tropical Milkweed plant. That's the one most commonly found in big box stores. She stated that it needs to be cut back in the fall so that the monarchs will fly down to Mexico as part of their natural life cycle.

The last part of the February 23 talk will be a slideshow of the plants and shrubs that do well on our small lots in Tropic Isles.

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What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

Tropic Isles' Apparel Sales

TI apparel (T-shirts, hats, visors, sweatshirts) and TI STRONG t-shirts will be available for purchase during Coffee Hour on Saturdays at 8:30 AM in the Auditorium. We are trying to deplete our inventory and currently have limited styles, colors, and sizes, but you might find something just right for you. Contact Joan Cloutier at 207-577-8933 with questions.



TROPIC ISLE APPAREL PRICE LIST	
Short Sleeve Tee Shirts	\$12
(2x, 3X)	\$14
Short Sleeve V Neck Tee Shirts	\$15
(2X)	\$17
Long Sleeve Sun Shirts	\$25
(2X, 3X)	\$27
Crew Neck Sweatshirts	\$20
(2X, 3X)	\$22
Zip Up Hoodie	\$25
(2X, 3x)	\$27
Hats	\$12
Visors	\$10

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What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

Neighbors Helping Neighbors -- NEW RESIDENTS! WE NEED YOU!



Who we are – A committee of resident volunteers

What we do – We are here to help and assist those who may have challenges performing basic maintenance issues. We can help identify needs while assisting to improve our properties. We are hoping, with everyone's help, to create a positive environment where all homes will be kept in a good state of repair so that they conform to the standards of the Park, and maintain a desirable place to live to improve the curb appeal of the park. We offer help to residents who may have challenges performing basic outside maintenance issues or need help after receiving a compliance letter and at the same time preserve the value of our homes and our neighbor's investment. We have a wealth of resources available to assist you with your specific needs. Remember this is a free service for park residents of Tropic Isles.

Here are some projects we can help with:

Mold
Weeds
Rusty awnings and/or storage facilities
Cluttered carports and driveways
Items in yard that may be considered an eye sore
Visibly ripped window treatments
Torn screens
Broken windows
Poorly kept landscaping—overgrown trees and shrubs
Painting outside sheds
Planting annual flowers

Presently, we are asking for a couple of people to step up and act as coordinators for this group.

1. The way the process worked was if any resident needed assistance with anything, they called one of the coordinators. The numbers were always listed in the newsletter.
2. Then 2 people would go to the site and assess the needs.
3. Once the needs were assessed, they sent out an email to the volunteer list with date, time, place to meet with a description of the job.
4. If the request couldn't be handled by the NHN team, they had a list of additional resources as a reference list that residents could use.

If you think you might be willing to coordinate this group of volunteers, contact Wendy Verstringhe, the Activity Board President, at 585-481-4099, and she will get you set up with the materials you need to get started.

- Volunteer list with group emails
- List of additional resources/references
- Binder with past job records

We know people use the Friends of Tropic Isles website to ask for help, but for those who do not want to publicly ask for help or are not keen on using the computer, this is an additional resource.

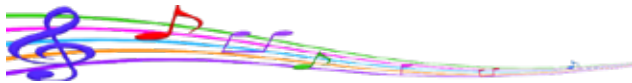
We are happy to mentor new residents to become future coordinators of this worthwhile service for other residents.

If you need assistance with any items listed above, or if you have questions, please contact Beverly MacKenzie at 716-583-4894.

We should work together to keep our property values up and safe for everyone.

We need to take pride in the tropical paradise that we live in.

Tropicaires Variety Show



The Tropicaires' Board of Directors met January 6, 2026 and unfortunately, due to a lack of participation, the Board has cancelled the show for 2026. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past. Hopefully, we will be back next year, provided there is enough interest.

Joan Cloutier – Tropicaires President

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 WILD CARDS and 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.

(More "What's Happening in the Neighborhood?" on page 33)

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What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

Craft Class



Craft Classes started up in January and will continue until March. The classes are on **Tuesdays from 1:00- 3:00 PM in the Auditorium.** We have many

different volunteers that are stepping up to share their talents with us. We will be making coasters, candles, greeting cards, glass art, and much more!

We will announce the project each week as soon as we get all the details set up. Next month, we should have the list completed and in the Breezes. Watch your Mail Chimp and Facebook page for updates as to what that week's project will be and the cost. We will have a sign-up sheet in the Auditorium a week prior to the next class. Come enjoy the afternoon getting creative with all your friends!

The Activities Committee

Tuesdays st 2:00



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.

It's Bunco Time!

Come and join us for a fun game of Bunco on **TUESDAYS at 6:00-8:30 PM** in the Yacht Club Main Room. Bunco is a fun, fast-paced dice game that's easy to play. We'll teach you the rules and you'll get to meet your Tropic Isles' neighbors. It is \$1 to play which provides the money for cash prizes. Contact Karen Timmermans if you have any questions at 647-239-0648.



Tropic Isles Golf League (TIGL)

It's 2026 and I can't believe where the time has gone. Really! I know we are so busy, that we forget to take the time to have fun! I have an idea! Come out on Wednesday mornings with your golf clubs to Terra Ceia Golf Course, relax and have some fun!

We scramble the 1st Wednesday of the month and play our own ball the rest of the month. Teams are selected via a blind draw so that everyone will get a chance to meet and play with everyone else at some point. Many friendships have been formed from this format. When we get special requests to play with family or friends, we try to comply as best we can. We have a number of slots to fill. Come on out, fill these slots, and have a great deal of fun doing it. We had 20 golfers come out the 1st Wednesday in January with the scramble and wow was it FUN! Come out and experience it for yourself. Call Gail or I with questions. We hope to see you on the course!

*Coordinators: Ron Stewart 207-641-5335,
Gail Stewart 207-459-9548*

Canasta/Hand, Knee And Foot, Anyone?



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 Diane Ringler at 941-713-1534 or Kathi Gossman at 810-985-3870 with 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.



Tropic Isles' Community Bible Study will be held weekly on **Friday mornings at 9:00 AM** in private homes until further notice. To learn the location and the topic for a particular week, please check Friends of Tropic Isles' Facebook page or text me at 231-218-4261. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing some new faces!

*Blessings!
Karen Downing*

(More "What's Happening in the Neighborhood?" on page 34)

What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

Landscaping Advisory Committee (LAC)



If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, the Landscape Advisory Committee (LAC) seeks volunteers to help weed and deadhead the entrances and pool year-round. If you are interested in being added to our list, please contact Pamela Cuff at prcuff@gmail.com.

Progressive Euchre



We play Progressive Euchre on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6-10 PM**. This month, we will meet on **February 1 and 15** at Robin Kelly's house at 2804 12th St. W. Come join us and meet some new people. Contact Jackie Freeman at 859-750-2617 with questions.

Tropical Red Hat Ladies



The Red Hat Ladies, in support of the men and women who have served our country, collected articles for the veterans at Bay Pines. They took everything to them in December. Thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause. They really do appreciate it!

The Red Hat Ladies met in January and decided to try again next season to recruit more ladies to their fun-loving group. They have had lots of fun and made friendship over the years and are hoping to get more ladies in Tropic Isles interested in joining them for outings around the area and sharing new ideas. Look for us again next season!

Anna Antonacci, Club President

Saturday Coffee Hour



Tropic Isles "Coffee Hour" is held on **Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM** in the Auditorium. Come enjoy table talk with park residents and learn about items of interest to everyone. Upcoming Park events and club activities are announced, along with ticket sales for functions. The 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.

The Coffee Committee



Coffee Hour was enjoyed by many as Mike Cloutier, our Coffee MC, shared jokes and trivia tidbits with the residents.

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:

Lance Linke of Trinidad Way (shoulder surgery)

Jim Willsey of Montego Dr. (hospital stay)

Wayne Young of 28th Ave. (hospital stay)

Gina Blumenstock of Bimini Dr. (pneumonia)

Pamela Cuff of Terra Ceia Dr. (procedure)

Condolences were sent to:

Jack and Joanne Miller of Flores Dr. on the passing of Jack's son, **Mark**.

Carol Turner of Terra Ceia Dr. on the passing of her husband, **Jerry**.
Julie and Peter Couwenberg of Capri Dr. on the passing of Peter's brother.

Ross and Joan Rhoads of Del Rio Dr. on the passing of their grandson.

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.

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



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 Mary Buckley at 847-833-6955 with questions.

Water Aerobics



Are you looking for an exercise program that is fun and full of music while giving you a good workout? If you have aches and pains that prevent you from doing traditional exercises, water aerobics is for you! The Water Aerobics Group meets at the pool daily, **Monday through Friday at 10 AM, weather permitting**. Remember your water shoes, hat, drinking water, and sunscreen. Your instructors are Cindi Myers, Wendy Verstringhe, and Karen Timmermans. Contact Cindi Myers at 765-438-3642 if you have any 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.**

Out and About... Around Town!

Open House – Family Fun Day!

- February 14, 10 AM – 2 PM
- North River Fire District Station 1 at 1225 14th Ave. W.
- Food Trucks
- Giveaways
- Touch A Truck
- Rescue Demonstrations
- Petting Zoo
- Free Face Painting
- Activities for All Ages
- Multiple Agencies Participating



Manatee Performing Arts Center

- **Temps, Tops, Supremes, & Smokey: A Motown Revue** – February 10-12, 2 & 7 PM
- **Neil Diamond Tribute** – February 17, 2 & 7 PM
- **The Women of Rock Show-Las Vegas** – **Joan Jett, Stevie Nicks, Pat Benatar, & Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders** – February 20, 7 PM
- **Bright Star** – Romantic Drama Musical – March 4-22 *



(*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 Monday-Friday 9 AM-6 PM for tickets and information.

Bradenton Area River Regatta



The **ALL FREE**, 11th annual Bradenton Area River Regatta, in Palmetto and Bradenton, happens **February 20-21, 2026** featuring high speed racing, ABBA and Fleetwood Mac National Tribute Bands, and the sensational sights and sounds of the Sky Elements Lighted Drone and Fireworks Show. For the first time, the Formula One Powerboat Championship Series comes to the event, plus two additional race circuit series—Formula Lights and Tri-Hulls. Opening night, February 20, the evening will start with the musical performances at Rossi Park along the Bradenton Riverwalk at 6:30 (ABBA) and 7:30 (Fleetwood). The drone and fireworks show will light up the skies along the river at 7:00 PM. Saturday will be an all-day event of racing on the Manatee River, music, and family fun events. A free trolley will run continuously all day Saturday across the Green Bridge to make trips between activities in Bradenton and Palmetto fast and easy.



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We have taken steps to limit exposure to the virus by making our customers aware that there is no need to have any contact with our employees if you choose to do so. Our business falls under the state's guidelines as "Essential Business".

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Live and Learn and Pass It On

People, ages 5 to 95, share what they've discovered about life, love, and other good stuff.

- I've learned that the best way to appreciate something is to be without it for a while. –age 66
- I've learned that it has taken me 61 years to learn to do what my granddaughter calls "mellowing out". –age 61
- I've learned that it takes as much time and energy to wish as it does to plan. –age 49
- I've learned that we grow only when we push ourselves beyond what we already know. –age 53
- I've learned that if you don't feel like being pleasant, courteous, and kind, act that way and the feelings will come. –age 38
- I've learned that sometimes life hands you situations, when all you can do is put one foot in front of the other and live moment to moment. –age 39
- I've learned that I am quick to count others' offenses against me, but seldom think about what others suffer because of me. –age 39
- I've learned that there are people who love you dearly, but just don't know how to show it. –age 41
- I've learned that people are in such a hurry to get to the "good life" that they often rush right past it. –age 72
- I've learned that you shouldn't speak unless you can improve on the silence. –age 62

Rule of the Month

HAVE YOU READ YOUR RULES LATELY?

This is a reminder that the Rules and Regulations are in effect and being enforced. All residents and their guests are expected to know and abide by these rules. If you need of a copy of the current Rules and Regulations, you may go to www.tropicisles.net to view or print a copy online.

3.4 Fencing

Fencing of Units/Lots is prohibited. Other materials which are used as a fence, border, or barrier are not permitted without written permission via the ARC process.

3.5 Carport Use (Covered Area)

- Carports are primarily intended to be used for passenger vehicle parking.
- Carports cannot be converted to living or personal property storage space if vehicles are displaced to the street or other areas.
- All vehicles must be parked parallel to the carport. Parking across the end of the driveway is prohibited.
- Unoccupied campers, motor homes, travel trailers, watercraft trailers with or without watercraft, motorcycles, and utility trailers may be parked in a Resident's carport PROVIDING the item can be parked PRIMARILY* within the carport or on the driveway/parking pad in the RV Section, as long as the resident's vehicle is not displaced to the street or other areas for parking. (* to the greatest practical extent for the given space.)
- See Appendix 4 for other Rules and Regulations governing Vehicles and Parking.

3.6 Outdoor Furniture

- The only furniture permitted on open patios, lanais, decks, carports, or Units/Lots outside of a Dwelling is that which is specifically designed for outdoor use.
- Hot tubs/spas, Jacuzzis, saunas, and swimming pools are NOT permitted on Units/Lots.

3.7 Indoor Appliances

- Washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, indoor lighting sources, or other indoor-rated appliances are NOT permitted in carports or on patios/lanais/decks.

3.10 Grills, Fire Pits, Other Flammable Appliances

- Grills, fire pits, or other open flame appliances using firewood are NOT permitted.
- Open flames are NOT permitted within or under carports or covered patios.
- Outdoor gas or electric grills and appliances used for cooking are permitted and must be used according to manufacturer's specifications.





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")

Marina News!

By Rick Kropp, Marina Manager

I hope everyone is well. Our TI Marina offers a 10-cent-per-gallon fuel discount to residents and nonresidents who are BoatUS members. Since we don't know everyone in the park yet, please remember to let us know that you are a resident when purchasing fuel. In time, we'll get to know everyone. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.



We also ask that after using the boat ramp, you please hang up the ramp cable and lock it once you have completed your launch or retrieval. It is the user's responsibility. The boat ramp is open to all residents and the access code has not changed. If you are a new ramp user, please stop by the marina to request a ramp permit. We will need to see your driver's license and you will be issued a sticker to place on the starboard (right) side of your windshield so it is visible from the marina. There is no charge for the ramp permit.

Additionally, I am currently in the process of obtaining quotes to replace the channel pilings leading into the Main (south) Basin from Terra Ceia Bay. Updates will be provided as information becomes available. Thank you all for your patronage.

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. With your boat launch permit, you will receive the code to unlock the chain at the boat launch. 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 parking details.

Boat Club

Boat Club Bridge

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



The season is in full swing with numerous Park events and lots going on with the Club. We have several new members who have joined this season and have picked Tropic Isles for their vacation home. "WELCOME" again to the Club. We are looking forward to the season with new training sessions, boat trips, and events.

The January sailboat season began on January 6 with 5 captains competing. Kayakers are enjoying their trips each Wednesday morning. Please ensure you leave the kayak ramp up after use, and check to ensure the 2 washdown hose valves are turned off.

We will be coordinating a training day seminar to educate our members on boating navigation methods, boater safety, fishing locations and tips. Our members will also be coordinating boating trips to area locations which will be announced. We are also arranging guest speakers to come from FWC and Environmental agencies. Fishermen, be on the lookout to review the new fishing rules for our annual Fishing Derby to be held in March.

February will also be a busy month for the Club with other upcoming events. The Club will be hosting the annual **Valentine's Day Dance on February 14**, and also our popular **Poker Run Event to be held on February 18**. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help coordinate and manage these events.

Keep in mind that we will have open positions for the Club Bridge Officers—Commodore, Secretary, and Treasurer. These nominations will be held in March and effective the first week in April. Please consider a position, as the Club functions with the volunteerism of our members. Full sails and tight lines!

Tom Hennessy, Boat Club Commodore

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.

Tropic Isles is not responsible for any loss or damage to your kayaks if left on the racks.



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 gather 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.



Sue Weaver and Dennis Foley from the TI Kayak Group, along with others, volunteered with the Tide Trekkers for the Paddle Clean-Up at Emerson Point Preserve in December.

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.

Sailing Away!

Tropic Isles 2026 Sailboat Races

Sailors and Friends,

Once again, we have been having sailboat races on beautiful Terra Ceia Bay. This is 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 are weekly events (weather permitting) on Tuesdays and continue until the last Tuesday of March (March 31). The race starts 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.

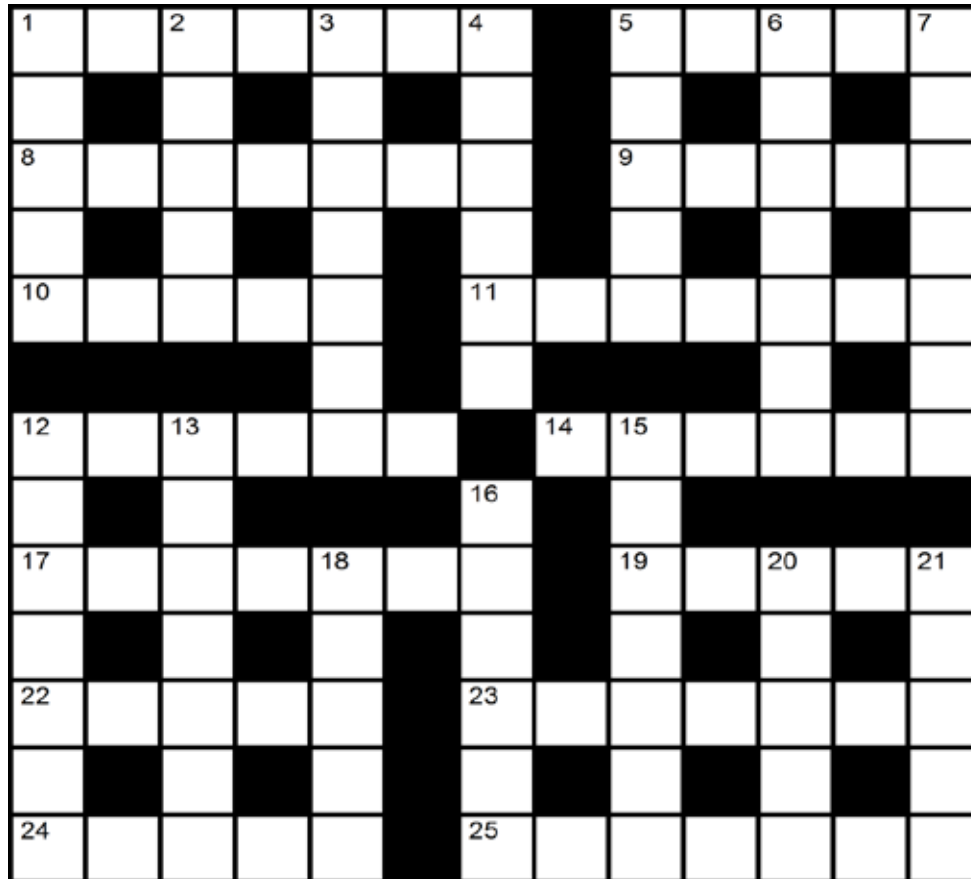


Skippers that wish to compete, those interested in these events, or those wanting more info should contact John Castellana. We're looking forward to a great race series.

Mobil 585-737-6712 E-mail jcastell382@gmail.com



CROSSWORD



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

Puzzle compiled by Bianca Morèl

Clues:

Across

- 1 In addition
- 5 Wait on
- 8 Iodine source
- 9 Absurd
- 10 Part of an act
- 11 Most simple
- 12 Stir up
- 14 Went by
- 17 Pipe & fixture tradesman
- 19 Edible molluscs
- 22 Snares
- 23 Looking for
- 24 Beginnings
- 25 Find questionable

Down

- 1 Strips of whalebone (for corsets)
- 2 Hue
- 3 Most abstruse
- 4 Without warning
- 5 Kind of cheese
- 6 Library patrons
- 7 Voted
- 12 Stimulus
- 13 Heroism
- 15 They use bows and arrows
- 16 Snacks
- 18 Foundation
- 20 Comment to the audience
- 21 Spectacle

(Solution on page 42)

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. 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. **NEW SCHEDULE: 3-COR Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM. ARC Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium.** 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 \$100 can be imposed. Contact Steve Tourtilotte at 860-682-7656 with any questions you may have.

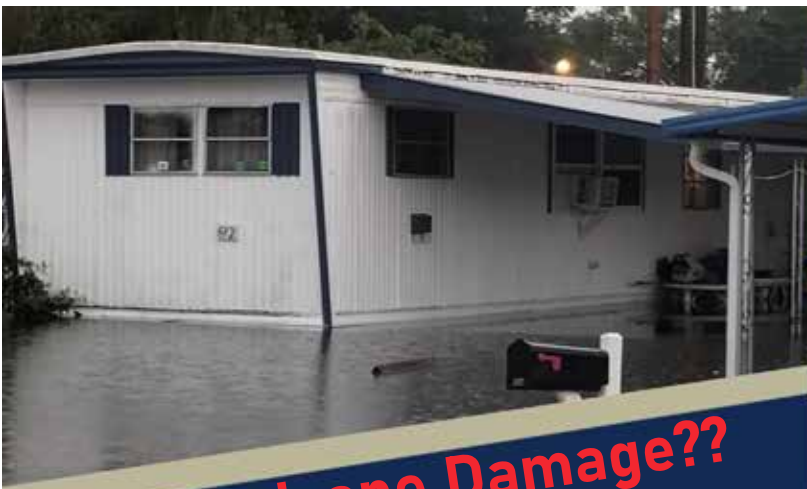
ARC Committee Members

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

**3-COR Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month.
 ARC Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month.
 (Additional meetings are held as needed.)**

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.



Hurricane Damage??

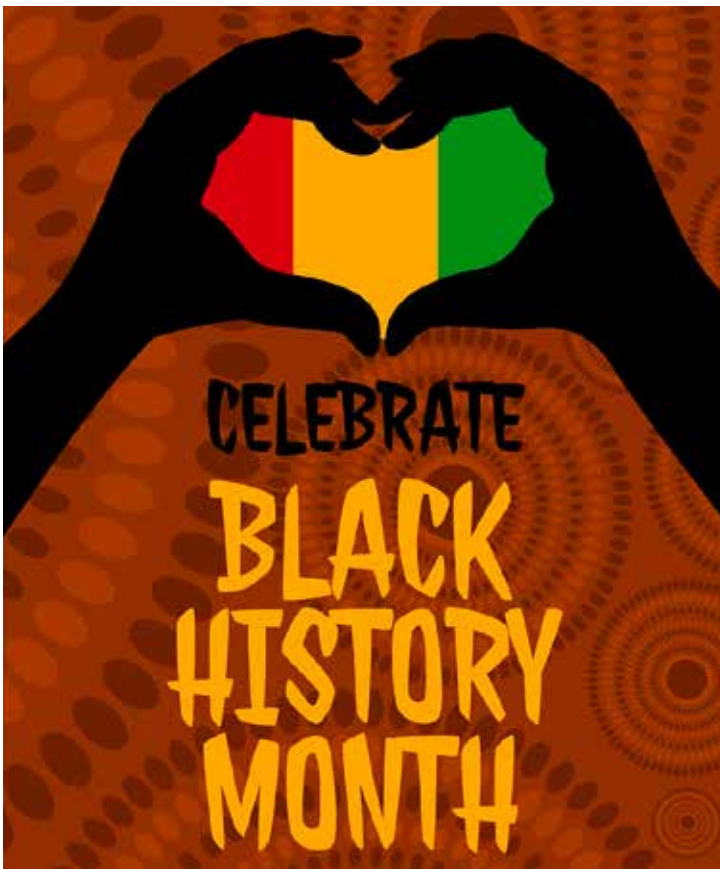
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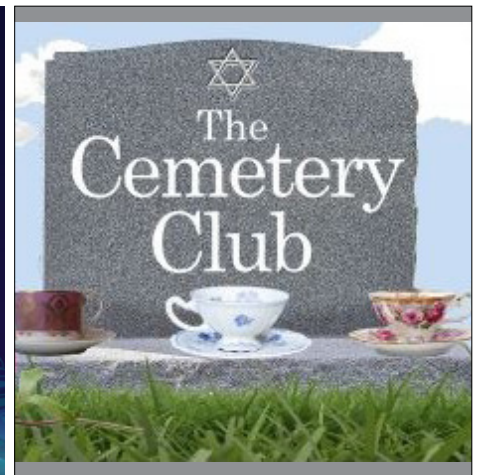


Fred Klett
Stand-Up Comedy

February 7th
7:30 pm



The Soul Sensations
February 10-12



The Cemetery Club
February 19 - March 8



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