

## Home of the Month



This well-cared for home at 79 Del Rio Dr. belongs to Keith and Jacki McMahon. The tropical blue trim and accents really make this home stand out. Additional flowers and decorations add beauty and charm. Congratulations on being named March's Home of the Month.

## Photo of the Month

Manatees visited with Sharon and Chris Wagner in the Jamaica Canal in January. They served fresh water while flushing the boat motor. The manatees were extremely mannerly guests.



## Starfish Hunt

Can you find me hiding somewhere inside?



## Meet Your New Neighbors

By Cindy Shaw

I'd like to introduce you to our new, part-time neighbors at 25 Montego Dr. They are **Paul and Tiffany Sullivan**. The Sullivans hail from Ulen, Minnesota, about 40 miles east of Fargo, North Dakota. Paul and Tiffany have 3 children—Kristin (27), Brittany (24), and Travis (23). Paul and Tiffany run a small grain farm of 1600 acres with his brother. Tiffany has worked various jobs, including at a corn processing plant, which was her favorite job, before children. She has spent the majority of their married life as farm support, and a stay-at-home mom. Paul and Tiffany have been active in various Christian ministries in their spare time. They both enjoy deer hunting and fishing. Tiffany also collects rocks and shells. Fun Fact: Paul is an identical triplet with older identical twin brothers.



Paul and Tiffany share their home with Koda, a 7-year-old purebred Pomeranian. The Sullivans discovered Tropic Isles by searching the Internet with 3 criteria—a Co-op community with a marina and an RV section. Tropic Isles fit the bill in all 3 categories. We are happy to welcome Paul, Tiffany, and Koda to our Tropic Isles community!

I'd like to introduce you to **Steve and Laura Gibbs** at 3004 12th St. W. from Mahomet, Illinois. They will be our part-time neighbors in Tropic Isles. Steve and Laura rented on 10th St. last winter and decided to purchase a home here in Tropic Isles. They have two grown children. Dylan (32) is a police officer in Champaign, Illinois and Emma (26) is a Histology Lab Tech, also in Champaign. Steve is a retired Farmers Insurance Agent and Laura is an insurance agent as well who is semi-retired.



The Gibbs' have two Shih Tzu's, Charlie and Beau, who will join them in the winter months. Steve and Laura both enjoy golfing, cards, bowling, and want to learn to play shuffleboard. Please welcome

Steve, Laura, Charlie, and Beau to our little piece of paradise.

## Thought for the Day

Sometimes good things fall apart, so better things can fall together.

## Super Soup Supper

A special "thank you" to Sue Weaver, the volunteers, and all the cooks who made the delicious soups for the Soup Supper.



## Unusual Golf Carts

*Photos and article by Terry Foley*

We're not sure how many golf carts there are in Tropic Isles, but it's a lot. It's fun to cruise around the park in it and it helps when there is limited parking for our events. Carts come in all shapes and sizes. New lithium ones come jacked up and may have built in speakers and special lights. Here are a few of the more unusual carts spotted around the park.



**Bengal Tiger**



**Eyelashes**



**Red Chevy**



**Turquoise Woody**



**Fiat Jolly 1966**

(It's actually a car, but a real eye catcher in our community)



**1934 Ford Pickup (replica)**

# 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.

**Barbara McEvoy, General Manager**

**Lynn Szabo, Administrative Assistant**

**Robin Emanuel, Resident Services**

**Thomas Tonich, Maintenance Manager**

**Shaun Schweitzer, Maintenance Tech**

**Rick Kropp, Marina**

Office (941) 721-8888 • Fax 941-729-0687

Marina 941-729-8128

www.TropicIsles.net

## Tropic Isles Co-op

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025/2026

President ..... Al MacKenzie  
 Vice President.....Drew Doll  
 Secretary ..... Dennis Butts  
 Treasurer ..... Jose Torres  
 Director 1.....Dennis Weber  
 Director 2.....Vacant  
 Director 3.....Randy Rice

## TIHOA

### Tropic Isles Homeowners Association

2025/2026

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

## TIPOA (Property Owners)

2025/2026 Board

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

### Tropic Isles Breezes

Published monthly and delivered to all residents

Editor: Cindy Shaw

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

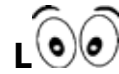
Deadline the 10th of each month for the following month.

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

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Residents,

There is always something happening in Tropic Isles and we don't want you to miss out. This is a friendly reminder to please check the Breezes calendar regularly to stay up-to-date on upcoming meetings, events, volunteer opportunities, and special activities. Everything is listed in one convenient place. Checking it regularly is the easiest way to stay informed and involved. An engaged community is a strong community and your participation makes all the difference. We encourage you to keep it handy, review it often, and mark your calendars so you don't miss out on opportunities to connect with your neighbors. Thank you for staying engaged in our wonderful community. We look forward to seeing you!



## LOO K What's Coming In March!

### MARCH

- 1..... Masters' Shuffle
- 3..... Dean Cone Memorial Shuffle Tournament
- 3..... ARC Meeting
- 4..... Boat Club Meeting
- 5..... Dermatology Van
- 5..... Entertainment Committee Meeting
- 6..... Boosters Meeting
- 8..... Shuffle Under the Lights
- 8..... Movie Night
- 9..... Caring Team Meeting
- 11..... Activity Board Meeting
- 11..... Mixed Couples Shuffle Tournament
- 11..... Shuffle Potluck/Meeting
- 12..... Community Safety Presentation
- 14..... St. Patrick's Day Dance
- 15..... Farewell Party for the MacKenzies
- 15..... Golf Cart Parade
- 15..... Masters' Shuffle
- 17..... ARC Meeting
- 17..... Canada vs USA Shuffle Tournament
- 18..... Boat Club Social
- 19..... Shuffle Turkey Shoots
- 19..... Co-op Board Meeting
- 19..... TIHOA Annual Meeting
- 21..... Co-op Annual Meeting/No Coffee
- 22..... Shuffle Under the Lights—Hoss Collar
- 23..... Guy Manchester Memorial Shuffle Tourney
- 24..... Arts and Crafts Fair
- 25..... Boat Club Fish Fry
- 28..... Farewell Dance – SoulRcoaster

(For more details about each of the events listed above, check inside the Breezes newsletter. See page 24 for a list of repeated daily activities. Clip the calendar to keep it handy for easy reference.)



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8.**

# From the Manager's Desk



## The Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

Hello! It's been a very busy few months around Tropic Isles, but I'm hoping to get back on a regular monthly schedule for these Community Updates. Here's the latest news around our community:

**Facebook:** Have you joined the "official" Co-Op Facebook page yet? **Tropic Isles Co-op, Inc.** This is the group where you will see all the notifications of park events, activities, parties, and important notices for the Co-op residents. Please make sure to become a member so you don't miss out on the fun! The link to the page is as follows: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/586664080466236>. Keep in mind that membership is limited to Co-Op residents only. Please don't invite your friends from up north, etc., as they will not be permitted access.

**Access FOB Rules:** Please remember that access to the amenities is limited to Co-Op Residents ONLY. Please do not permit entry to anyone who does not have a FOB. At the January 15, 2026 board meeting, the Board approved the following rule regarding use and sharing of FOBs:

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

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

- 1st occurrence: Suspension for a minimum of ninety (90) days
- 2nd occurrence: Suspension for a minimum of one (1) year

**Shuffleboard Fence:** The shuffleboard area has been fenced along the parking lot on the east side of the Yacht Club. We will also be installing a FOB reader for access by Co-Op Residents.

**Boat Launch:** If you are a Co-Op resident who uses the boat launch, please note that the combination for the lock has been changed. This area is limited to Co-Op residents only. To get the new combination, just stop by the Marina with your access FOB. If you use the ramp after the Marina closes at 5 PM, please make sure you lock it.

**New Maintenance Building:** As you know, we are getting quotes to replace the current maintenance sheds with a hurricane-resistant building. This would require a two-thirds vote of the shareholders. Details have been presented at recent board meetings, and we are in the process of preparing the vote documents, which will include complete details. We will send a Mail Chimp when this vote package is mailed to shareholders.

**Electronic Marquee Sign:** We have received quotes to replace the old letterboard signs on the front of the Auditorium with an electronic sign. More details will be presented in the coming weeks.

**Parking Lot Sealing:** The parking lots at the Auditorium and the Yacht Club will be re-sealed (and repaired as needed). To minimize any inconvenience, this work will be done after April, when our snowbirds leave.

**Janitorial Services:** We have also hired a professional cleaning service to deep clean the Auditorium and the Yacht Club once a month. This will include cleaning the floors, windows, kitchens, restrooms, etc. We are working with the cleaning company to schedule the cleanings around our community activities.

**Cable Wires:** We have sent a map of all messy/ "spaghetti" cable wires in the community to Spectrum so they can schedule a service team to come and get things cleaned up. We hope this will be done quickly, but we will stay on top of it so they don't forget us!

**Apartments:** We currently have 3 vacant 55+ apartments. These apartments are 2 bedroom/1 bath garden apartments, and tenants enjoy full use of all amenities. The monthly rent is \$1,300. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact the Office.

Sincerely,  
Bobbie McEvoy, LCAM/CMCA  
General Manager  
[manager@tropicisles.net](mailto:manager@tropicisles.net)

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## Going Away Celebration for Al and Bev MacKenzie



Please join us in celebrating and thanking our **Co-Op President, Al MacKenzie**, and his **wonderful wife, Bev**, as we wish them well on their next chapter.

Serving as both a president and a volunteer is no small task. It takes time, patience, heart, and an unwavering commitment to the community. Al has given all of that and more, helping guide Tropic Isles through challenges, improvements, and everyday decisions that keep our community running smoothly, often in difficult times.

Behind that leadership has been a constant and generous presence in Bev. She has quietly and consistently volunteered her time, energy, and talents for the good of the community. Whether serving on various committees, helping with events, lending a hand where needed, or simply offering support, her contributions have made a lasting impact and have not gone unnoticed.

We invite all residents to stop by, share a memory, and say thank you to both of them for the dedication, kindness, and leadership they have given to all of us.

### Sunday, March 15 at 1-3 PM in the Auditorium

Let's come together to show our appreciation and send them off with the gratitude they truly deserve.



## Do You Have a Burned-Out Street Light?

If you see a streetlight that is burned out or malfunctioning on 28th Ave. or any street in Tropic Isles, you can contact FP&L online and fill out a simple form to have it repaired. Simply go to [www.fpl.com](http://www.fpl.com) and in the search box type "lighting trouble". Once that page comes up, click on CREATE A NEW REPORT. It will ask for your name and phone number. Then you can choose to report it by its location or pole number. If you report it by location, a map will appear and you will click on the pole's location. It's easy to do. FPL is striving to have lights repaired within **40 days**, weather and workload permitting. Please keep in mind that repairs may be delayed in areas more heavily impacted by weather events, or for lights in which materials are limited due to ongoing supply chain challenges.

## 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.

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 [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@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 [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@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:

**EAGLE**, Bill & Katrina

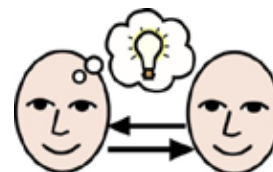
Designate 440-984-1870 as Katrina's phone number. Add 614-332-9905 as Bill's number. Designate [mojo8966@gmail.com](mailto:mojo8966@gmail.com) as Katrina's email. Add [billeagle1959@aol.com](mailto:billeagle1959@aol.com) as Bill's email.

**FREDRICK**, Judy

Change northern address to 5504 Sunset St., Weston, WI 54476. Cell phone number remains the same 253-508-9294. Remove Bill's name and number.

**WILLOUGHBY**, Dan & Cindy Remove 517-252-5142. Add phone for Dan 810-513-3917(D).

## Idea To Ponder....



Don't believe everything you see. Even salt looks like sugar.

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## ~~Special Thanks~~

- Thanks to the **Shuffle Club** for providing a great spaghetti dinner for the residents of Tropic Isles. It was run with efficiency and was very tasty too.
- A special “thank you” to those **contributing writers** who send me their great articles for their activities every month and other topics of interest.
- Thank you to the **Landscape Advisory Committee** for their work in organizing the Butterfly Garden Talk in February. Residents who attended learned some important information about gardening in Florida. Thanks also for replenishing the Auditorium’s front planter with colorful plants.
- A BIG thank you to **Don Stroud and the Booster volunteers** who provided residents with a delicious pancake breakfast to start the day off right!
- Thanks to the **Boat Club** for sponsoring the Valentine’s Day Dance with great music and fun times.
- Special “thanks” to **Fred Allina** and the **dance instructors, Dave and Theresa Spiwak**, for providing some exercise and fun through dance. Ballroom Dance Lessons, which began in January, had a great turnout of 11 couples! What a fun way to get some exercise and dance with your favorite partner.



- A heartfelt “thank you” to those people who so generously donated to Dogs, Inc. during our Donation Day and hot dog roast. Thanks to **Sue Weaver and her crew of volunteers** who worked to make it happen.
- Comedy Night was a HIT in January. The Auditorium was PACKED and the laughter was nonstop! Thank you to the organizers and to everyone who came out and made it such an unforgettable evening.



- A BIG “thank you” to **Cheryl Brink and the Entertainment Committee** for organizing the Superbowl Party, Hypnotist Comedy Show, and “No Frills” Dance for the residents to enjoy.

- A huge thank you to our fantastic **Maintenance Supervisor, Tom Tonich**, who created and generously donated through his business, **H Fusion Welding**, a beautiful set of three metal plaques in honor of Super Bowl LX. The set was raffled throughout the month of February, with the drawing held on February 28th. All proceeds went to the Activity Committee and will be used as needed to support the 42 activities we offer throughout the park.



- What a fun Super Bowl Party! Thank you to everyone who joined the party and brought such great food. A huge thanks to the **Entertainment Committee** with all their ideas and hard work, and to all who helped clean up! The winners of \$25 from the \$1 squares were: **Liz Skinner, Lisa and Mike Murphy, Diane Sackett, and Bill Giroux**. The winners of \$125 from the \$5 squares were: **Ron Roop, Jeff Cobb, Randy and Julie Rice, and Bev MacKenzie**. Congratulations one and all!



- A special “thank you” to **Carmen Garcia** for purchasing the cute aprons for the kitchen helpers to wear during our food events.
- Thank you for ALL the thoughts and prayers during my medical journey and surgery. It was very much appreciated and truly does make a positive difference. ---**Randy Rice**

## Your Daily Dose of Vitamin Sea



## 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 Weber, 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](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com) or by calling/texting 608-212-8967 if you can help.
- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** --We are in need of 1 or 2 people to help coordinate the work parties for the requests that come in to **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**. If you can help, contact Wendy Verstinghe, Activities President. See page 29 to learn what's involved. Without your help, this great program cannot continue.

## Musicals, Concerts, and More!



**Bright Star**  
March 5th - 15th



**Paddy O'Furniture**  
March 10 - 2pm & 7pm



**ABBA EUPHORIA**  
March 28 - 7:00 pm



**ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com**  
502 Third Avenue W | Bradenton  
Box Office (941) 748-5875

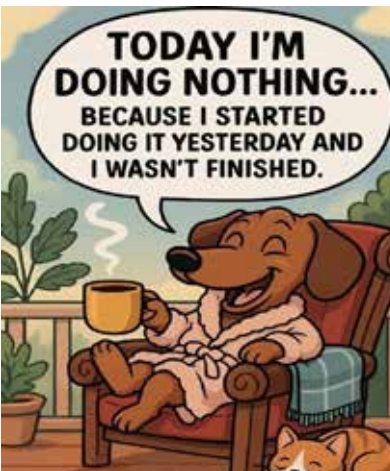
# Laughter Is The Best Medicine!



- When Florida winters get cold, people put on socks ... with their flip-flops.
- Florida winter survival kit: one hoodie, one pair of jeans, and intense emotional support from iced coffee.
- The coldest part of a Florida winter is the grocery store freezer aisle.
- Floridians don't layer. We "panic-buy" scarves and gloves we'll never use again.
- Floridians pull out their UGGs for weather Alaska would call balmy.
- Florida winter is the only season where locals dress like it's a ski trip and tourists are still in swimsuits.
- Florida winter temperatures are what other states call "a nice day to grill".
- Florida winter is a prank the rest of the country doesn't bother correcting.
- Florida winter is when the population doubles and the patience drops to zero.
- If it ever snows in Florida, half the state will panic and the other half will try to grill in it.
- The only white stuff Floridians expect to see falling from the sky is bird-related or extremely suspicious.



This is Punxsutawney Phil's ex-wife, Phyllis, who now lives in Florida and said that Phil is a compulsive liar.





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# TRIVIA

## Trivia Tidbits

- The famous snack, Doritos, was created at Disneyland. A restaurant named Casa de Fritos used to repurpose stale tortillas they had purchased from local vendors and make fried snacks out of it. Someone noticed the stale tortillas and decided to fry and sell them rather than throw them away. The Vice President of Frito-Lay visited the restaurant, managed by Frito-Lay, a year later and tried the highly popular tortillas chips. He decided to partner with Alex Foods to make it a snack. It was eventually rolled out nationally by Frito-Lay in 1966. Dorito is Spanish for "little fried and golden thing".
- The most commonly stolen food in the world is cheese! Other foods most commonly stolen are meat, chocolate, alcohol, and baby formula.
- A turkey can run 25 mph.
- The Orca is the only known natural predator of the Great White Shark.
- A group of toads is called a knot.
- A giraffe is the tallest animal in the world.
- The pig is protected by the Florida constitution. Specifically, pregnant pigs are not able to be killed or injured while carrying their pregnancy, meaning that farmers are not able to process these pigs as long as they are pregnant.
- The Giant Tortoise can live over 120 years.
- A group of zebras is called a dazzle.
- Brazil has played in every single World Cup Tournament!
- Dimples play an important role in the movement pattern and flight path of a golf ball. For low-flying golf balls, this helps them fly higher and longer. For high-flying golf balls, the dimples help it stay on course and come back down to the ground.
- You can get to first base a total of 9 different ways in baseball. Those 9 ways are: single, base on balls, Fielder's Choice, hit by pitch, fielding error, dropped 3rd strike (from a wild pass), catcher's interference, and fielder interference/obstruction.
- Norway has won the most Olympic medals at the Winter Games.
- Oldsmobile was the first automobile company to be in business for 100 years.
- The first-ever vending machine was used to dispense holy water.
- Saudi Arabia imports camels from Australia. Australian camels are imported to Saudi Arabia for their meat, which is considered a delicacy in the middle eastern country. Saudi Arabia has its own camels, but these are bred for domestic and racing purposes and are not suitable for eating.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check and Lubricate Oilable Motors</li> <li>• Inspect Safety Equipment</li> <li>• Clear Dirt &amp; Debris from Bottom of Unit</li> <li>• Run Test the Heat</li> <li>• Level and Calibrate Thermostat</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Check Evaporator Coil</li> <li>• Clean Condensing Coil</li> <li>• Check for Loose &amp; Frayed Wiring</li> <li>• Inspect Line Sets / Armor Flex</li> <li>• Inspect Supply and Return Plenums</li> <li>• Check Freon</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean or Replace Filter</li> <li>• Flush and Vacuum Drain Line</li> <li>• Add Algaecide Tablets to Drain Pan</li> <li>• Visually Check Ductwork</li> <li>• Amp Draw Motors for Electricity Usage</li> </ul> |
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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 March 19 at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium and via Zoom.**

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

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



## Homeowners' Association Meeting Schedule

(TIHOA) 2025-2026

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

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

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

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

## 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.

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## Safety Tip of the Month ---



The idea of a burglar breaking into your home is pretty terrifying to most people for obvious reasons. A report compiled by Arizona State University stated that close to 60% of reported burglaries happened during the day. Many people assume that burglars will be dressed in black, with a ski mask, and gloves. The truth is that many burglars try their hardest not to stand out. They will often dress in classic styles or nondescript clothing so as to not draw any attention to themselves. Here are some tips that can help to keep you safe.

- **Keep quiet about your trips.** Wait until you get home from vacation to post pictures.
- **Put a "Beware of Dog" sign up** (whether you have a dog or not).
- **Don't leave your car keys by your front door.** You're giving potential burglars a fast exit and a free car.
- **Lock the windows.** If someone can't get in through the door and they're determined to gain access, they're likely to take advantage of an unlocked window.
- **Use the lights.** Your home is more vulnerable when you're out of town if you don't take the right precautions. It's helpful to use a smart light that you can turn on and off when you aren't there for an added effect of someone actively being in the house. One of the easiest ways to deter a burglar from targeting your home is to reduce the amount of shadowy dark places where they can hide or observe your home. Installing motion-activated lights outside of your home can help illuminate potential entry points.
- **Don't leave your shed open.** While your home and car are crucial to protect for its high value, you'll want to make sure that your shed, or garage is locked up tight as well. Even if your house is well-locked, if your shed isn't, a burglar will have access to a plethora of tools he can use to gain access to your home.
- **Don't trust your mechanic.** Always remove your house key and garage door opener from your car and car keys before handing them off to your mechanic, especially if you're going to be out of town while your car is in the shop.
- **Be careful who you let in.** When you own or rent a home, there are often problems that can only be solved by professionals. While these service providers can be very helpful, letting them into your home can also be a risk. Technicians, repairmen, and even cleaning services are often given wide access to people's homes to perform their services. This access could provide the perfect opportunity to plan future break-ins or scope out any valuables in their client's home.
- **Get to know your neighbors.** One of the greatest ways to prevent a burglary is by reporting any suspicious activity near a home or neighborhood. Having multiple eyes on the neighborhood and watching for any suspicious people can be a good way to prevent something bad from happening.

## Do You Know Where the Defibrillators are Located?



Knowing where defibrillators are located and how they work can save lives. Here's why it's so important.

1. During sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) every minute without defibrillation reduces survival chances by about 7-10%. Quick access to an AED can double or even triple survival rates.
2. Cardiac arrest can happen anywhere. Public places often install AEDs for this reason.
3. AEDs are designed for non-medical people. Modern AEDs give clear voice and visual instructions. Knowing how they work reduces hesitation and increases confidence in an emergency.
4. Familiarity with AED locations and functions helps you stay calm and act quickly instead of losing time searching. When more people know AED locations and basic use, entire communities become safer and more resilient.
5. Using an AED is straightforward, but only if you know where it is and are willing to use it. Make a point to know where they are located.

### TROPIC ISLES HAS 3 PLACES WHERE DEFIBRILLATORS ARE LOCATED:

- **On the outside of the Auditorium on the right side of the front doors.**
- **On the inside of the Yacht Club near the sliding glass doors to the pool (fob access needed).**
- **Inside the pool deck area near the north entrance gate to the pool (fob access needed).**

## Alert Manatee



Sign up for Alert Manatee to receive notifications from local government and public safety officials. You'll receive alerts for emergency updates, such as evacuation notices, boil water advisories, weather warnings, and hazardous traffic or road conditions. You can opt to receive notifications by phone call, text, or email. Sign up today at

[www.mymanatee.org/alertmanatee](http://www.mymanatee.org/alertmanatee).

# Submissions to the Breezes Newsletter



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



## Cook's Corner

### QUICK CHICKEN VEGETABLE SOUP



#### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced
- 3 medium cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 12 ounces baby yellow or gold potatoes, scrubbed and cut into 1/2-inch pieces (about 2 1/2 cups)
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup frozen vegetable blend

#### Directions:

1. Sauté the onion and celery:  
Heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onions and celery, and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 8 minutes. Add the garlic, salt and pepper and cook, stirring often, until fragrant, about 1 minute.
2. Cook the potatoes:  
Add the potatoes, stir in the chicken broth, and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the potatoes are fork-tender, 5 to 7 minutes.
3. Finish the soup:  
Add the shredded chicken, canned tomatoes, and frozen vegetables. Return to a simmer over medium-high heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until heated through, 3 to 5 minutes. Serve.

**Variation:** Add some egg noodles to the simmering soup. They will take about 6 minutes to cook.

Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container for up to 4 days. Re-heat individual servings in the microwave or on the stovetop over medium heat. The completely cooled soup can also be frozen in freezer-safe containers or zip-top bags for up to 2 months.

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# Calling All Fishermen and Women!



Would you like to share a picture of your "catch of the day" from the nearby waters around Tropic Isles? Send it to [tibreezes1@aol.com](mailto:tibreezes1@aol.com) and it can be published in the next issue of the Breezes. Please include a sentence or two about where it was caught, size, and what type of fish it is!



Another great catch for Captain, Jim Gorton, and his crew, Bill Clark, George Pennachio (single) and Rod Love (double).



Hank and Sherri Correll are competing for the largest sheephead of the season and Sherri is just ahead (so far) with this 18-incher.

## Pelican Rescue in Tropic Isles

On a cold Sunday in February a brown pelican was discovered in need of some help. The pelican's right wing looked like it had lost some feathers due to an injury. Connie and John Giroux and others worked together to manage the pelican until help arrived from two local individuals that work for Birds in Helping Hands. The pelican got the help it needed.



# Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)

The FWC manages Florida's fish and wildlife, oversees conservation efforts, and enforces wildlife laws through its officers. For reporting fish kills, wildlife emergencies, alligator nuisance problems, sick/dead wild rabbits, deer, bobcats, turtles, etc. call **850-488-4676**. Outside of normal business hours or for reporting injured, sick, orphaned, or dead manatees, dolphins, whales, gopher tortoises, Florida panthers, and black bears, call the **FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-3922**. (If the animal is a domestic or feral animal, such as a dog, cat, or horse, please contact the nearest Humane Society, Animal Services Office, or Animal Control Agency.)

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE BIRDS

Filletted carcasses and large fish bones can injure or kill seabirds by puncturing their throats. Instead of tossing fish carcasses and trash in the water, please discard in a lidded trash can or at home.

**In Florida, intentionally feeding pelicans is against the law.**

## 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.**

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

## ~COMING EVENTS~



### MARCH

#### Shuffle Club News



Join us for our next general meeting/potluck of the season on **Wednesday, March 11 in the Auditorium at 5 PM.**



The TI Shuffle Club, a hearty, dedicated group, were seen shuffling during a very chilly day in February.

#### Shuffle Under the Lights – Masters Play

Shuffle Under the Lights continues **Sunday, March 1st and 15th** 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 are 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 continues on **Sunday, March 8th and 22nd** 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).

#### 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, March 3rd** – Dean Cone Memorial

**Wednesday, March 11** – Mixed Couples

**Tuesday, March 17** – Canadian vs American

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

**Monday, March 23rd** – Guy Manchester Memorial

*Darlene Scruton, Club President*

#### Congratulations, Ed Leonard!

Our very own Ed Leonard, who shuffles out of the Bradenton Club and is a board member of the club, earned his 200th point on February 9 at the Bradenton Courts while playing in the FSA "Red Line" state tournament. This qualifies Ed for "Hall of Fame" honors. Ed also won the State Doubles Championship. Congratulations from all your fellow shufflers and friends in Tropic Isles. It is a well-deserved accomplishment!



## ~COMING EVENTS~

### Entertainment Committee Update



The Entertainment Committee had a very busy February! We kicked off the month with our first annual Super Bowl Party, which was attended by over 80 residents and turned into a very fun evening. Many enjoyed watching the game on the big screen and the food was amazing! The bingo cards were a big hit, and the football squares were a blast to keep up with throughout the game. We will definitely be making this an annual event. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success.

We also had a great turnout for the Valentine's Golf Cart Parade. It was just as much fun participating in the parade as it was watching the beautifully decorated carts go by as a spectator.

Another highlight was the hypnotist, Brian Hook, who provided a very comical evening. Watching our fellow residents on stage had everyone laughing, and it was wonderful to see such strong community support. Laughter truly is the best medicine and we will be looking into similar events for next year.

On Saturday, February 28th, we tried something new with a "NO FRILLS" Dance. This event featured simple music in the Auditorium for those who wanted to dance or just socialize—no decorations or extra frills. Thank you to Nancy Larsen for providing the music and helping make this new event possible.

Looking ahead, on **Sunday, March 15th**, we will be hosting a going-away party for Al and Beverly McKenzie from 1:00–3:00 PM in the Auditorium. Sandwiches, chips, cake, and an ice cream bar will be served. Al and Bev have been a huge asset to our community and will be greatly missed.

Also on **Sunday, March 15th**, the St. Patrick's Day Golf Cart Parade will take place. Participants should meet in front of the Auditorium at 3:45 PM, with the parade starting at 4:00 PM. If you are not in the parade, please come out and support the participants as they drive by.

Our big Farewell Dance will be held on **Saturday, March 28th**, from 7:00–10:00 PM in the Auditorium. The popular band, SoulRcoaster, will be playing, and this year's theme is "The BIG Glow Out." Break out those bright neon clothes and let's light up the night! Tickets are \$8 and will be sold by Diane Swartz. Contact her at 508-596-9685. They will be available every Saturday at Coffee Hour. We will also have the \$100 lottery board raffle.

Looking ahead, our last big event of the season will be the Pool Party, scheduled for **Sunday, April 12th**. The Steely Pan Steel Drum Band will be providing the music. Save the date—more information coming soon!

The next Entertainment Committee Meeting will be **March 5th** at 10 AM in the Yacht Club. Hope to see you there.

*Cheryl Brink, Coordinator*

### Booster News



#### YOU ARE A BOOSTER!

##### Who is a Booster?

Anyone that lives in Tropic Isles (shareholders, homeowners, and renters)

##### What is the Boosters' purpose?

To support efforts in making Tropic Isles a great place to live.

##### What are some of their projects?

- Palm Trees – Purchase, fertilize, and maintain palm trees.
- Recycling - Collect and redeem aluminum cans.
- Financial Support – Contribute financially to further the efforts of other park groups.
- Selling Tropic Isles' Apparel.
- Social Activities – All activities are listed in the Breezes newsletter.

##### When do they meet?

- We meet the **first Friday of each month** in the Auditorium, November – April at 9 AM.
- Meetings are informative and open to all.
- Meetings are well run, enjoyable, and always open to suggestions!

#### **BOOSTER MEETING**

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

#### **BOOSTERS' OFFICERS 2025-2026**

Boosters President / Dennis Weber (989) 233-4457 / [denweb@toast.net](mailto:denweb@toast.net)  
Vice-President / Wendy Verstringhe (585) 481-4099 / [wendyjean609@gmail.com](mailto:wendyjean609@gmail.com)  
Secretary / Linda Doll (585) 599-3341 / [canoedoll@gmail.com](mailto:canoedoll@gmail.com)  
Treasurer/ Mike Cuff (952) 261-7707 / [mcuff@comcast.net](mailto:mcuff@comcast.net)  
Director/ Carmen Garcia (941) 933-0453 / [cusie\\_garcia@yahoo.com](mailto:cusie_garcia@yahoo.com)

*(continued on page 19)*

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## ~COMING EVENTS~

### BOOSTER EVENTS/PROJECT MANAGERS 2025-2026

- Thanksgiving Supper (Judy Milliken)
- Soup Supper (Sue Weaver)
- Pancake Breakfast (Don Stroud)
- Booster Dance (Cheryl Brink)
- AED Maintenance (Dennis Foley)
- Palm Tree Purchasing, Planting, and Fertilizing VACANT
- Aluminum/Metal Collection and Sales (Bill Pealer, Dennis Foley, Jeff and Nancy Cobb)
- TI Apparel Sales (Mike and Joan Cloutier)
- Marketing Director VACANT

### 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.



Booster volunteers emptied the bin in January and February. As a reminder, it's for **aluminum cans only**. Bottles, food cans, and cardboard cartons should go in your blue recycling barrel. 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. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!

### TROPIC ISLES BOOSTERS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 6, 2026

- Officers present: Dennis Weber, Wendy Verstringhe, Linda Doll
- Two new members were greeted: Dave Sample and Gaye Dey
- Treasurer Report: Mike was absent. Dennis reported the checking account total was \$12,751.49.
- Linda mentioned that a check from Carmen was just received for \$100.00 and Judy Milliken returned her \$23.72 soup reimbursement.
- Secretary Report: Accepted

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**T-SHIRTS:** Joan and Mike Cloutier, coordinators. Sixteen t-shirts have been sold and 1 zip up hoodie (\$373.00). It was decided they should have \$25 petty cash, so \$348.88 was turned in.

**ALUMINUM CANS:** Bill Pealer, Dennis Foley, and Dennis Weber

December's redeemed cans were \$160.00 and recently \$156.80 and \$57.35 was submitted.

**CPR & AED:** Dennis Foley reported that there are several online options for recertification of CPR training. Certification lasts 2 years. As of 2/4/26 we have 3 AED's up and running. The Auditorium pads expire 5/11/27 and the battery expires 7/2/26; The pool pads expire 5/11/27. The battery was replaced 7/17/22 and is still working. The Yacht Club pads need to be replaced because they expired 8/2/25 and the battery expired in 11/2023. We have one spare battery which expires 7/31/29. He recommends purchasing one more battery and sets of pads. Pads cost \$89 and batteries \$109. Nancy and Jeff Cobb volunteered to check this equipment during the summer months.

**SOUP SUPPER:** Profit was \$744.12. Seven soup makers donated their soup costs.

**VACANT DIRECTOR POSITION:** Carmen volunteered to be a Director on the Boosters Board. That seat was vacated by Drew Doll.

**PALM TREES:** Dennis Weber reported that the trees need to be fertilized in November and April. We presently do not have any fertilizer on hand. A motion was made and passed to purchase 10 bags of slow-release fertilizer from Big Earth at a cost of \$860.00 for the April application. Delivery will not be made, so volunteers are needed to pick up the order. We will revisit this at the November meeting. Dennis will ask Denny Vitton to chair the November palm tree fertilization.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Will be held February 9, 2026 with Don Stroud as chairman. He reports that the equipment and supplies are accounted for and volunteer sign-up sheets are being filled.

**NEW PROJECTOR AND SCREEN:** Dennis reported that he and Drew Doll are awaiting a bid for a new projector and screen for the Auditorium. This would benefit any club or committee that is doing a presentation and of course Movie Night. Our present equipment is 8+ years old. With new technology, a new purchase would increase the look on the screen.

**ST. PATRICK'S DANCE:** Cheryl Brink reported that the Booster-sponsored dance is March 15 with David Bishop handling DJ duties. There is a \$5.00 entry.

**CARING TEAM:** Wendy reported that the Care Team would like to provide a 'File of Life' packet for each resident that would attach to a refrigerator by magnet. This packet contains a card that would be filled out with the resident's medical issues, medications, and emergency contacts to be available for rescue responders if the resident is not able to speak. She made a motion to purchase the packets, not to exceed \$400.00 from Boosters with an equal amount being paid for by Activities. The Care Team would go house-to-house to distribute them. The motion carried.

A motion was made, seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda Doll, Secretary*

*(continued on page 20)*

## ~COMING EVENTS~



### Sunday Night at the Movies



Our next Movie Night will be **March 8 at 7 PM in the Auditorium**. We will be showing **The Magic of Belle Isle**, a comedy starring Morgan Freeman. 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.

### 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 March 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. At this meeting, we will initiate the distribution of the File of Life packets to residents and work on finalizing the details of the Health Fair.** If you are signed up to distribute the File of Life packets, please attend the meeting on **March 9**.

*Cindy Shaw, Caring Team Secretary*



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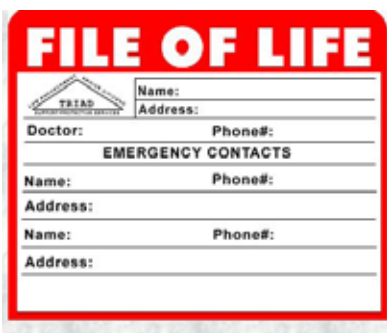
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# FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY

## ~COMING EVENTS~

### Partners in an Emergency, Community Safety Presentation



**FILE OF LIFE**

TRISAD  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The Caring Team of Tropic Isles has asked North River Fire Department to lead a presentation and discussion about safety in our community. **They will be visiting Tropic Isles on March 12 from 10-11:30 AM.** Mark your calendars for this important event!

**In preparation for this presentation, the Caring Team will be distributing, door-to-door, a "File of Life" packet to members of the Co-op and to the apartment tenants the week of March 9.** Please make sure to fill out the File of Life form for each resident in your home and place it in the magnetized holder on your refrigerator or other magnetized surface in your kitchen.

In addition, the Caring Team will provide residents with a sticker which we ask you to place in a forward-facing position in a window or on your entrance door. First Responders are trained to look for this sticker and then will know to look for the File of Life on your refrigerator or other magnetized surface in your kitchen. Imagine if a resident fell and could not respond when help arrived. The File of Life contains vital information about you, your allergies, your next of kin, your physician, your medications, and any other important information that would assist the First Responders. If you need help in filling out the form, a Caring Team member is available to assist you. Thank you, in advance, for your positive response to the Caring Team member who will be coming to your door to provide you with this important life-saving information.

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

*The Tropic Isles' Activity Board*



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**COMMUNITY SAFETY PRESENTATION**  
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- ✓ File of Life: The info EMS & Fire needs
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[www.NRFD.org](http://www.NRFD.org)

### Bimini Block Party

**Bimini Block Party.**  
**Saturday March 14, 2-5 PM.**  
**Overflow parking lot at the end of Bimini Dr.**  
**Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.**

The TI Band will be playing so all are invited to come and bring their chair and drinks to listen to the music. Parking will be limited, so please park on one side of Bimini Dr. to allow for the flow of traffic. Residents in the park, please know that the overflow parking lot at the top of Bimini Dr. is occupied that day and take the time to make other plans and avoid any inconvenience. Contact Bev Thompson at 863-397-4676 with questions.

### St. Patrick's Dance

Join us on **Saturday, March 14th**, in the Auditorium for a fun-filled evening of music, dancing, and friends! Our very own resident DJ, David Bishop, will be spinning the tunes from 7:00-10:00 PM. Tickets are \$5. There will be no reserved seating. On the day of setup, you may come in to save your seat. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. Don't forget to try your luck with the \$100 Lottery Ticket Raffle Board— \$5 per ticket! So, grab your green and come enjoy a great evening with friends.



*(continued on page 24)*



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SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY																						
<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Master's Shuffle	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Dean Cone Memorial Tourney 9:30am ARC Meeting - A	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Dean Cone Memorial Tourney 9:30am ARC Meeting - A	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Boat Club Meeting - A	<b>5</b> 8 am-3 pm Dermatology Van - A 10:00 am Entertainment Committee Meeting - Y	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Booster Mtg - A	<b>7</b> 11 am-4 pm Boat Club Picnic Seabreeze Park	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Shuffle Under the Lights 7:00 pm Movie Night	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Caring Team Meeting - SB	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Mixed Couples Tourney 9:00 am Activity Mtg - SB 5:000 pm Shuffle Mtg/ Potluck - A	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Mixed Couples Tourney 9:00 am Activity Mtg - SB 5:000 pm Shuffle Mtg/ Potluck - A	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Community Safety Presentation - A	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm St. Patrick's Day Dance	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Co-op Annual Meeting - A and Zoom No Coffee Hour	<b>15</b> 1-3 pm Farewell Party for Mackenzies - A 4:00 pm Golf Cart Parade - A 6:30 pm Master's Shuffle	<b>16</b> 9:00 am St. Patrick's Day Canadian vs American Tourney 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A	<b>17</b> 9:00 am St. Patrick's Day Canadian vs American Tourney 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Boat Club Meeting - A	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Turkey Shoot 9:30 am Co-Op Board Meeting - A and Zoom 4:00 pm THIOA Annual Mtg. - Y	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Co-op Annual Meeting - A and Zoom No Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Co-op Annual Meeting - A and Zoom No Coffee Hour	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Shuffle Under the Lights - Hoss Collar	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Guy Manchester Tourney	<b>24</b> 1-3 pm Arts and Crafts Fair - A	<b>25</b> 5:00 pm Boat Club Fish Fry - A	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Farewell Dance - A	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Farewell Dance - A	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<h1>March 2026</h1>			
<b>29</b> 10:00 am Shuffle	<b>30</b> 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 Line Dancing - A	<b>31</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Craft Class - A Sailing Races Cards - Y 2:00 pm Bunco - Y 6:00 pm	<b>1</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 8:30 am Golf - Terra Ceia CC 9:00 am Kayakers Launch 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Aerobics - P 2:15 pm Mahjong - SB	<b>2</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>3</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>4</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>5</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>6</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>8</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>10</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>12</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>15</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>16</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>18</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>19</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>22</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>23</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>25</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>26</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>27</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm			<b>29</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm	<b>30</b> 8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P Canasta - Y Game Night - Y 6:00 pm

# Weekly Activities by the Day

## Mondays

Aerobics  
Fun and Fitness  
Shuffle  
Water Aerobics  
Poker  
Line Dancing

## Thursdays

Aerobics  
Fun and Fitness  
Shuffle  
Water Aerobics  
Bowling  
Canasta/Knee, Hand, and Foot  
Game Night

## Tuesdays

Aerobics  
Fun and Fitness  
Shuffle  
Water Aerobics  
Sailing Races  
Craft Class  
Tuesdays at 2:00 Cards  
Bunco

## Fridays

Aerobics  
Water Aerobics  
Shuffle  
Bid Euchre

## Wednesdays

Aerobics  
Golf League  
Kayak Group  
Shuffle  
Water Aerobics  
Mahjong

## Saturdays

Coffee Hour  
Shuffle  
Mexican Train Dominoes

## Sundays

Shuffle

# ~COMING EVENTS~

## Golf Cart Parade



The final park parade of the season will be held **Sunday the 15th of March** with a theme of St. Patrick's Day. Put on your green and join in the fun. Golf carts and bikes-- all are welcome. Line up at the Auditorium at 3:45 PM on Sunday, March 15th and we will parade at 4:00! Hope to see you as a participant or a spectator, as it takes both to have a great parade and TI does know how to have fun!

## Spring Arts And Crafts Fair



### CALLING ALL TI ARTISANS AND RESIDENTS!

We will be holding our Spring Arts and Crafts Fair on **Tuesday, March 24 from 1-3 PM in the Auditorium** and hope you will join us to see what our wonderful resident artists have been creating. More information will be sent out via Mail Chimp and posted on the TI Co-Op Facebook page. If you would like to participate in the event, please contact Judy Hayes at 651-214-6838.

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## ~COMING EVENTS~

### Farewell Dance



Our annual Farewell Dance will be held on **Saturday, March 28th**. The theme is "The Big Glow Out"! The ever-popular band, SoulR-Coaster, will be playing from 7-10 PM in the Auditorium. Reserved seating tickets are \$8 and will be sold by Diane Swartz. You can contact her at 508-596-9685. Tickets will also be available every Saturday at Coffee Hour. We will also have the \$100 Lottery Board Raffle. Break out those bright neon clothes and let's light up the night!

### APRIL

#### Dogs, Inc. Donation Day



Many thanks go out to all the wonderful people who came by on February 6th to support Dogs, Inc. We sold coffee, donuts, hot dogs, chips, and sodas to raise funds for this amazing non-profit organization. We sold out of hot dogs and apologized to a few people who stopped by after they were gone. The 50-50 was successful. Jan Burbie was the lucky money winner. Four more tickets were pulled and those recipients were rewarded with Dogs, Inc. insulated Tervis cups. All in all, with food sales, 50-50, direct donations, and raffle ticket sales, we raised nearly \$3,000 for the guide dogs. With this money and money collected from our other fundraising efforts, we have enough to name another puppy. More information about this will be forthcoming. This community is amazing. If you missed our event and would still like to donate to Dogs, Inc. you can. Please contact Sue Weaver at 716-450-5077 or email [smweaver2@stny.rr.com](mailto:smweaver2@stny.rr.com).

We are still planning on having our annual "Thank You Party" in **April**. More information and the location information will be listed in the April Breezes. A heartfelt thanks to all!

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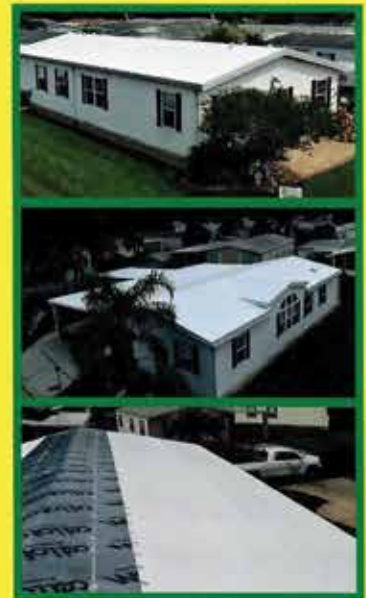
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## ~COMING EVENTS~

### Tropic Isles' Next Blood Drive April 10, 2026



Our next blood drive is scheduled for **Friday, April 10** in conjunction with the Spring Health Fair. Whatever your reason for donating blood, the need is constant, and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. Donated blood is likely transfused into a patient within 48-72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and that constant. Contact Carmen Garcia at 941-933-0453 with questions.



### Our Second Blood Drive Was a HUGE Success!

The Big Red Bus (OneBlood) visited Tropic Isles on **February 6**. We are beyond grateful for the incredible response at the One-Blood Blood Drive — we broke a record! **47 amazing participants** showed up. **39 pints** of the sweetest, most caring blood were collected. That means **117 families** will receive our gift of love. Take a moment to look over the donor list and thank your neighbor who stepped up. Because of them, lives will be saved and hope will be restored. Thank you for showing up, giving love, and making a real difference in our community.

*Carmen Garcia, Coordinator*



### Our Tropic Isles' Superheroes

Thank you to all our wonderful superheroes who have donated blood at Tropic Isles last month. **Just one pint of blood can help save up to three lives** — a powerful reminder that a small act of kindness can make an enormous impact.

Barbara McEvoy  
Billie Thompson  
Connie Giroux  
Darlene Scruton  
Denise Blosser  
Doug Moore  
Gary Bidlespacher  
Hans-Gerd Ulrich  
James Dues  
Joanne Miller  
Karen Timmermans  
Kathleen Metzler  
Kelly Stege  
Lisa Murphy  
Rex Thompson  
Rick Kropp  
Robert Manning  
Steve Tourtillotte  
Thomas Daller  
Wendy Polderman

Beverly Butts  
Carmen Garcia  
Dale Koester  
Debbie Christenson  
Diane Erhard  
Dwayne Scruton  
Gay Dey  
Henry Correll, Jr.  
Jennifer Helget  
John Ulery  
Kathi Gossman  
Keith Dey  
Lisa Cummerow  
Martin Dey  
Rhonda Hough  
Robin Moore  
Shelly Saunders  
Susan Neumann  
Tracy Gilbert

### Pool Party



The annual Pool Party is scheduled for **Sunday, April 16th** with the **Steeley Pan-Steel Drums Band** providing the entertainment poolside. Save the date—more information coming soon!



*The Entertainment Committee*



### 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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Pinellas County

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# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### 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 around their home. 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

**HELP! We are asking for a couple of people to step up and act as coordinators for this group. Here is what we do:**

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, and 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.
5. If you think you might be willing to coordinate this group of volunteers, contact Wendy, the Activity Board President at 585-481-4099, and we'll 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 projects 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.**

## Mahjong



Mahjong Players, if you want to learn to play Mahjong or would just like to brush up on your Mahjong skills, please come to the **Seabreeze Room (aka Pretty Room) on Wednesdays from 2:15 to 4:30 PM.** Experienced players are welcome! Call Leslie Cheney at 781-826-5673 if you are new to the game in order to provide you with a tutorial. We are always looking for more players!

## 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.

*(continued on page 30)*

# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Craft Class



Craft Classes started up in January and will continue through 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. These beautiful, beaded bracelets are the creations of our many talented residents! On another day, residents also created beautiful tiles.



The March Craft Classes are:

- March 3**, Paint by Number—Cheryl Brink
- March 10**, Rock Painting--- Peggy Vleik
- March 17**, Decoupage Cans---Cheryl Smith
- March 24**, Arts and Crafts Fair headed by Judy Hayes

Watch your Mail Chimp and Facebook page for a reminder as to what that week's project will be and the cost. We will have a sign-up sheet near the TV in the Auditorium a week prior to the next class. Come enjoy the afternoon getting creative with all your friends!

*The Activities Committee*

## Tuesdays At 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)

Here it is March 2026 and spring is in the air. Wow! January and the first half of February was very cool, costing us quite a loss in attendance at Terra Ceia Golf Club on Wednesdays. It's warming up now and the fun is waiting for you at Terra Ceia. Remember, we have a fun Scramble the first Wednesday of the month in March, April, and May.

TIGL League will run through the 1st Wednesday of May, so there is plenty of time to join up with the most fun group in Florida!

Gail and I have been doing this for 6 years now and our rule is "If you don't have fun, you can't come back." We welcome all levels of golfers as we are a low-key enjoyable league. Don't be shy or afraid. You all are welcome and you will have fun. If you have any questions or comments, please call or text Gail or me for clarification.

We have seven tee times, 28 slots to fill every Wednesday, and after golf we retreat upstairs at the clubhouse to enjoy discussion, laughter, food, and libations! If you don't have fun on the course, I know you will have fun in the clubhouse. If you have a busy schedule, take some time for yourself. You will enjoy! Gail and I look forward to you coming out and sharing some fun golf with us! Can't wait to see you!

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

# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## 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 Kathi Gossman at 810-985-3870 with questions.



Line dancing is in full swing on **Mondays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM** in the Auditorium. Please join us for fun and exercise. Don't worry if you are a beginner. We go over all the steps. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Larsen at 941-725-2216.

## Welcome To Game Night!



Please join us on **Thursday evenings in the Yacht Club for GAME NIGHT at 6 PM**. You may come alone or with friends. Different card games and board games are played. If you come alone there will always be a place for you. You can bring a game that you would like to play. If you want to learn a new game, you will find many members who would be more than happy to teach you. It is a fun way to spend a social evening!

*Judy Gutwein and Kathi Gossman, Coordinators*



Line dancing is being enjoyed by many residents as they get some exercise and meet new neighbors.

## 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.



## Photo Directory Update

Our photo sessions in January and February were astoundingly successful. We had over 200 photo sittings completed! I want to take this time to thank my wonderful volunteers who helped make this endeavor successful.

Betty Bean  
 Bill Bean  
 Joan Cloutier  
 Mike Cloutier  
 Pamela Cuff  
 Mike Cuff  
 Frank Lord  
 Darlene Mallory  
 Butch Minick  
 Cindi Myers  
 John Myers  
 Sharon Schumann  
 Cathy Sweeney  
 Sharon Wagner  
 Chris Wagner

## 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](mailto:prcuff@gmail.com).



We plan to resume our photos next season, so if you have not had your photo taken for the 2027 Tropic Isles' Photo Directory, be sure to keep an eye out for opportunities next season.

*Paula Jordan, Coordinator, 2027 Tropic Isles' Photo Directory*

*(continued on page 33)*

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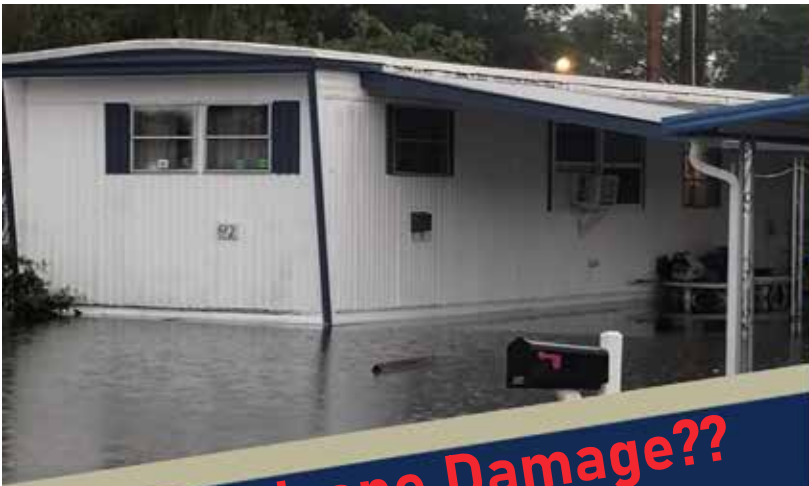
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# What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

## Saturday Coffee Hour



Tropic Isles "Coffee Hour" is held on **Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM** in the Auditorium. 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 Water Aerobics group will be hosting Coffee Hour in March.

*The Coffee Committee*



## 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:

**Pat Brazil** of Bimini Dr/ (hospitalized after a fall)  
**Verne Knapp** of Terra Ceia Dr. (flu/pneumonia, rehab)  
**Gail Sherman** of Edessa Dr. (hospice)  
**Jeanne Oliver** of Aloha Dr. (pneumonia)  
**Butch Minick** of Terra Ceia Dr. (procedures)  
**Randy Rice** of Edessa Dr. (procedure)  
**Mary Pike** of Montego Dr. (knee surgery)  
**Richard Nitti** of Bahia Dr (procedure)  
**Mike Chisenhall** of Flores Dr. (procedure)

Condolences were sent to:

The family of **Jim Murphy** of Terra Ceia Dr. on his passing.  
The family of **Diane Ringler** of Del Rio Dr. on her passing.  
The family of **Gail Sherman** of Edessa Dr. on her passing.  
The family of **Ann Stroud** of Flores Dr. on the passing of her sister.  
The family of **Dan Sargent** of Bahia Dr. on the passing of his brother.

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.**



## Memory Brick Garden

MEMORY BRICKS are once again for sale. You may have 3 lines per brick and 13 letters per line (including the spaces). The cost is \$35.00. The memory bricks are placed in a special area near the Yacht Club parking lot. What a wonderful way to cherish a loved one who is no longer with us or to have your time spent at Tropic Isles remembered. Call Shirley Clarkson at 941-465-8430 with any questions and to order.

## 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. We have some weights and 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. If the air temp is 60 at 10 AM and it isn't raining, there will be Water Aerobics!** Remember to bring 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!

### Manatee Performing Arts Center

**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.



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

#### **First Tuesday Cleanup**

**Tuesday, March 3 at 4:30 PM**

Sutton Park  
1036 6th St. W.  
Palmetto

#### **First Saturday Cleanup**

**Saturday, March 7 at 9:00 AM**

Neal Preserve  
12301 Manatee Ave. W.  
Bradenton

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

### Bradenton Public Market



**Saturdays, October-May**  
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Old Main Street, Bradenton



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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 people can change, so give them the benefit of the doubt. –age 14
- I've learned that if you wish to do business with honest people, you must be an honest person. –age 55
- I've learned that a man who says he can do as much at 60 as he could at 30, wasn't doing very much at 30. –age 62
- I've learned that you can inherit wealth, but never wisdom. –age 51
- I've learned that the older I get, the less attention I get. –age 6
- I've learned that the little sayings you learn as a child, such as the Golden Rule, are actually important. –age 15
- I've learned never to underestimate the potential and power of the human spirit. –age 82
- I've learned that it's never too late to heal an injured relationship. –age 57
- I've learned that a good relationship between me and my family, my friends, and my business associates can be boiled down to one word: RESPECT. –age 66
- I've learned that to make for a HAPPY DAY, look for something bright and beautiful in nature. Listen for a beautiful sound. Speak a kind word to some person. Do something nice for someone without their knowledge. –age 85

## Friendly Reminders



- The Tropic Isles' Facebook page that announces events and notices important to Co-op residents is **Tropic Isles Co-op, Inc.** Check it out for all the latest information!
- Remember to **save the calendar** from the Breezes newsletter and keep it handy to find out what's going on in the park!
- Speed limits within the park are **15 MPH** and along 28th Ave. it is **25 MPH**. Please slow down.
- There is no parking of vehicles, boats, or trailers on the empty lots or on the grass.
- Know where the **AEDs** are located at the Auditorium, Yacht Club, and pool. It could save someone's life.
- **NO GLASS OR BREAKABLE ITEMS** are permitted in the pool or hot tub/spa deck area.
- **NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES** are allowed in the pool or hot tub/spa, or within four (4) feet of the water.
- Golf carts are **NOT** to be operated by children under the age of sixteen (16) throughout the Community.
- Pets are **NOT** permitted to disturb the peace and enjoyment of Residents. Contact the Palmetto Police Department for code violations at 941-721-2000.
- Any pet creating a reoccurring nuisance, at any time of day or night, may be cause for its permanent removal from the Community.

## Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Procedure

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

1. ARC application forms are available in the Office and on the website [www.tropicisles.net](http://www.tropicisles.net). Fill out an ARC application and submit it to the Office. Make sure to include diagrams, drawings, or photos as needed. If possible, please show the neighbor's homes and the distance from each. Include the labels N, S, E, and W directions on your diagrams.
2. All applications must be logged in at the Office and assigned a date for review by the ARC Committee or 3-COR.
3. The ARC approval process begins with a preliminary review by a 3-person team, referred to as 3-COR. Simple improvements and replacement issues may be approved by this group and not require a review by the full ARC committee.
4. The ARC Committee needs a week to review the application and go to the lot before the next meeting date. If there is not enough time to do this, you will have to wait for a future date.
5. **NEW SCHEDULE:**  
**ARC Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium. 3-COR Meetings will be held if needed.** After the meeting, you will be notified, by phone or in writing, as to whether your request is approved or denied.
6. If denied, you can appeal the decision to the Board of Directors, if you so choose.
7. **To obtain a permit from the City, you must first receive the Architectural Review Application approval, signed by the ARC Committee and the Manager.**

8. **You must also provide a copy of all required permits to the Office.**
9. **BOTH THE ARC APPLICATION AND THE CITY PERMIT NEED TO BE POSTED ON THE FRONT OF THE HOME BEFORE THE WORK CAN BEGIN.**
10. 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

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



# Manatee County

## Modified Phase II "Severe" Water Shortage Regulations

**Lawn Watering Limited to One Day Per Week**

- District's Modified Phase II Water Shortage Order (once per week)
- Continue following restrictions from St. Johns River WMD
- Continue following restrictions from Suwannee River WMD
- Continue following restrictions from South Florida WMD

**Water 101**  
Southwest Florida Water Management District

in the district's water resources, such as aquifers, rivers, and lakes, are continuing to decline and many are below normal. Public water supplies in the Tampa Bay area are lower than expected at this time of year.

Outdoor water use accounts for more than 50 percent of water consumed by households and residents should know and follow their local watering restrictions. Residents should check with their city or county for their allowable day and times as many have different schedules or stricter hours in effect. To get complete details on the requirements of the new order, visit [WaterMatters.org/Restrictions](http://WaterMatters.org/Restrictions).

**In Manatee County, the standard one-day-per-week schedule is based on street address:**

- **Addresses ending in 0 or 1: Monday**
- **Addresses ending in 2 or 3: Tuesday**
- **Addresses ending in 4 or 5: Wednesday**
- **Addresses ending in 6 or 7: Thursday**
- **Addresses ending in 8 or 9, and locations without a discernible address: Friday**

Additional provisions of the Modified Phase II Order include:

- Homeowners' associations and similar entities may not require increased water use for landscape appearance, plant replacement, or pressure washing.
- Residential car washing is allowed only on the assigned watering day.
- Aesthetic fountains are limited to eight hours of operation per day.
- Pressure washing is allowed once per year or when preparing surfaces for painting or sealing.

For full details on watering restrictions, visit [mymanatee.org/waterrestrictions](http://mymanatee.org/waterrestrictions).

For water-saving tips and conservation resources, visit [WaterMatters.org/Water101](http://WaterMatters.org/Water101).

The District's Governing Board voted to declare a Modified Phase II "Severe" Water Shortage due to dry conditions throughout the region, which requires all residents, including those on private wells, in the cities and counties listed below to follow one-day-per-week watering restrictions.

The restrictions apply to all of Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, **Manatee**, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter counties; portions of Charlotte, Highlands and Lake counties; the City of Dunnellon and The Villages in Marion County; and the portion of Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County from **February 8, 2026 through July 1, 2026**.

The district received below average rainfall during its summer rainy season and currently has a 13-inch regional rainfall deficit compared to the average 12-month total. In addition, water levels

## Oyster Gardens for Cleaner Water



Many are again asking what we can do to help improve water quality around Tropic Isles. Several years ago, the Boat Club provided Tropic Isles residents with Vertical Oyster Gardens to be placed under their docks. We can again do our part by joining with Oyster River Ecology (ORE): a nonprofit organization dedicated to implementing transformational ecological restoration projects in Southwest Florida.

ORE provides oyster strings to us for free to be placed under your dock. Vertical Oyster Gardens help to improve the quality of the sea water in our canals and bays. Every little bit helps. By working with ORE, we can again provide oyster strings. (See website <https://oysterriverecology.org> or call 941- 567-8738 for assistance.)

Vertical Oyster Gardens (strings) will be available at my residence. Please contact me, Denny Vitton at 231-645-5021 or stop by at 211 Bimini Dr. and we can provide you with the oyster strings. We are also asking for volunteers to help those dock owners that need assistance in placing them at their dock. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact me, Denny Vitton.

# 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](http://www.tropicisles.net) to view or print a copy online.

### IX. GUESTS

#### 9.1 Registration

- Residents who have Guests that stay in the Community for more than seventy-two (72) hours/3 days, must notify the Office of all of their Guests on the next business day.
- Guests under the age of fifty-five (55) may stay in the Dwelling provided the permitted Residents are then in occupancy and further provided such stay is less than thirty (30) days in any twelve (12) month period.
- The Association's facilities are primarily for the use and enjoyment of the Residents.

#### 9.2 Subletting/Sub-occupancy

- The minimum period of a sublet shall be for thirty (30) days.
- Anyone staying in the Community for thirty (30) days or more will be considered a Resident and must meet the Association's requirements for residency including a background and credit check. **(SEE APPENDIX 5: SALE OR SUBLETTING OF A DWELLING OR RV LOT)**
- Anyone staying in the Community for less than thirty (30) days is considered a Guest.

#### 9.3 Restrictions to Operate Golf Carts

- Golf carts 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.

#### 9.4 Resident's Responsibility

- Guests are entirely (financially and legally) the responsibility of their host Resident and must comply with all of the Association's Rules and Regulations.
- Residents will be responsible for violations or damage caused by their Guests, regardless of whether or not they are present at the time of the violation or damage.
- All Guests under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by an adult to use any of the recreational facilities in the Yacht Club or Auditorium.
- Consideration for the rights of others is encouraged and common courtesy is expected.

### X. PETS

#### 10.1 Restrictions

- Two (2) pets per household are permitted.
- Maximum adult weight of each pet is not to exceed **thirty (30) pounds** at full growth.

- Residents must register all animals with the Office.
- Evidence of current immunizations and licensing must be provided every year.
- No aggressive breeds of dogs will be allowed i.e., German Shepherds, Chows, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Pit Bulls, Staffordshire Terriers, Akitas, crossbreeds of these animals, or any animal that has a history of biting or dangerous aggression.
- No exotic or non-domesticated animals are allowed.
- Pet owners should be respectful of other Resident's Units/Lots.



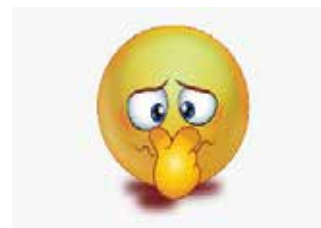
### VI. GENERAL PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS

The following information is intended to inform applicants of certain general rules, and thus, avoid unnecessary delays in the application process.

#### F. Utility Buildings/Sheds

- Only one (1) shed/utility building may be installed and must be integral with the Dwelling/carport, and permanently attached to the Dwelling/carport/ground.
- Only one (1) prefab shed will be allowed provided it is permanently attached to the Dwelling/carport/ground and under the existing roofline. The structure must be installed on a concrete slab and properly anchored.
- The RV section of Units/Lots classified as RV Units/Lots on Bahia, Basin, Montego, and Terra Ceia Dr. may be allowed to have one shed per Unit/Lot as approved, via the ARC process

## Can You Smell That Smell?



If you smell an odor coming from the Water Sewer Treatment Plant, the supervisor at the plant told us to record the day and time and call 941-448-5724 to report the issue.



## Tropic Isles' Marina



### **MARINA HOURS**

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

### **MARINA STAFF**

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

## Boat Club News



### **Boat Club Bridge**

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

## 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. TI residents must show their new key fob to get a ramp permit and will then receive the new code to the lock for the ramp. Please be sure to lock the cable on the ramp after use.

If you need a parking permit for your vehicle and boat trailer, they are available at the Marina. You'll need a stickered boat launch permit affixed to the right side of your boat windshield and your new key fob. See a Marina attendant.

## Marina News!



*By Rick Kropp, Marina Manager*

Our Marina offers a 10 cent per gallon fuel discount to residents. Since we don't know everyone in the park yet, please remember to let us know that you are a resident when purchasing fuel. Non-residents who are BoatUS and Sea Tow members also receive the discount. The Marina is running an ad in the Coastal Angler in hopes of drawing in non-resident customers. You can pick up your free copy at the Marina along with the Breezes newsletter. Thank you for your patronage.



A windsock was installed on the outermost marker as you enter the channel to Tropic Isles which will help when you enter the channel.

There is a lot going on with the Boat Club and in Tropic Isles. We had great times this past month at the Spaghetti Dinner, the Valentine's Day Dance, and our Poker Run. Our seasonal sailboat races finally got underway as the wind and the cold settled down this winter. Our kayakers are getting out on Wednesday mornings depending on the tides, and also enjoying the beautiful weather. We are working with the Marina Manager, Rick, to upgrade our channel markers. Rick is getting price quotes from contractors. Our entrance channel signs will be changing to include a direct phone number for visitors to call into the Marina. There are new Fish Derby rules which will be distributed to all our fishing teams. We will pick a date in March for the Derby as we monitor the weather. We will also be announcing a day in March to hold our Training Seminar Day, which will include Navigation, Boating Safety, and Fishing Tips. If you would like to present a training subject to the Club, please contact a Bridge member. Members are also looking to hold day trips for our boaters.

Two new safety ladders have been installed in the Middle Basin. Remember to look for the green reflective flags that will show you the ladder locations if you ever find yourself in the water. The locations are 304 Bahama and 313 Bahama. Special thanks to Tracy Gilbert and Kevin Sauntry for the use of their property docks.

Big news for the area. As discussed at the meeting, a major cruise ship line is being proposed for construction in Terra Ceia Bay. This is being fought by ALL our local environmental groups. Please see links in our meeting minutes to join the petitions and VOTE NO for this proposed construction.

Remember these dates: **Seabreeze Park Picnic—March 7, Fish Derby--TBA, and Fish Fry—March 25.** Also keep in mind suggestions for candidates for the Bent Prop award and new upcoming open Bridge positions. Remember always, "TEAMWORK, makes the dream work."

Full sails and tight lines!

*Tom Hennessy, Boat Club Commodore*



Boat Club members attended the Save the Bay event on February 14 at Seabreeze Park in Terra Ceia to protest the proposed Cruise Ship Port.

## Sailing Away!

Sailors and Friends,

All the forecasts warned that the gales of the first weekend in February would diminish to calm on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 3. We postponed the start for an hour and a half to get the best wind of the day. As forecasted, a breeze came up to give us a quick race.



The race ended for PollyEster when we got too close to the second buoy. It reached out and wrapped its anchor line around our keel and wouldn't let go. We will keep our distance in the future.

Thanks to Bob and Cindy Shaw for running our race on this chilly afternoon. Once again Cindy took great photos.

While freezing this past 3 weeks, I wrote a little about the skipper's strategy for winning a race. If you are among those that believe that a race with a top speed of 7 miles an hour is an oxymoron, you may stop reading now. Ideally, all the competitors should be sailing identical boats with sails cut by the same sailmaker. For us, since we all sail different boats with different speed potential, we compensate by handicapping the boats. For example, PollyEster captained by me, has a handicap of 197 seconds per mile, while Precocious, captained by John Myers, has a handicap of 263. So PollyEster owes Precocious 66 seconds per mile or 7½ minutes per hour. Handicapping is a feeble attempt to correct the difference between boats, but it's the best we can do.

So, if you are PollyEster your strategy is simple.

- **Cross the start line on time, in a favored place while moving fast.**
- Use your speed to separate you from the fleet so that you are sailing in undisturbed wind and water.
- Keep expanding your lead.

If you are Precocious, your strategy is more complicated and much more difficult to pull off.

- **Cross the start line on time, in a favored place while moving fast.**
- It is imperative that you start ahead of faster boats and for as long as possible keep your boat between the faster boat and the upwind mark.

The trick is, on the upwind leg, to slow the faster boat by keeping her in your wake, wind shadow, or the backwind from your mainsail. By the time you reach the weather mark, the faster boat will have passed you. Then, on the downwind leg, stay upwind and as close as possible, so that once again she is sailing in your dirty wind. If you have maintained your potential speed and are successful in slowing the faster boat, even though the faster boat may finish ahead, your handicap may work its magic at the finish.

Note: That whether you are PollyEster or Precocious, the first line of your strategy is exactly the same. **Cross the start line on time, in a favored place while moving fast.** How you do that will be the subject the next time I am moved to writing.

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



John Castellana and Crew on PollyEster



John Myers and Crew on Precocious



## February 10th Race

All six boats sailed for the first time this year on February 10. Our race was sailed on a beautiful day, but the light shifting breeze with occasional gusts made it a difficult day to sail a race. I had no trouble sleeping Tuesday night. The average time to complete the course was 97 minutes, which is about 30 minutes more than it usually takes to sail that course. One of the reasons for that is that the wind died late in the race leaving the slower boats stranded. At least it was warm. ----John C.



## Kayak Launch Use Reminders



For safety reasons, kayakers are encouraged to use the Float Plan Log on the sign-in kiosk in front of the Kayak Launch showing directions on how to use the Kayak Launch correctly.

- Kayakers should also use life jackets, whistle (or other sound-producing device), and a light for night kayaking.
- Please be respectful of neighboring homes when using the Kayak Launch Center. Keep noise to a minimum and clean up the area of your belongings (including trash) before leaving.
- Use the water hose provided to wash off your kayak and the Kayak Launch after use and make sure both water valves are turned off before leaving.

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

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

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



## Kayak-It-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](mailto:beverlybutts@gmail.com).

## February Kayak Paddle

With the low tides we've had this winter, the kayak launch was sitting in the mud, so kayak time in early February was moved to 1 PM and they were rewarded with a great paddle. They had 9 kayakers and 2 dogs.



Kim Trammel with Westee



Lizzie Taylor with Bella

## 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.

## Public Service Reminder



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



## Photo of the Month



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

## Do Not Put FROG Into the Drain!

### F-R-O-G - Fats, Rags, Oils, and Grease in the Sewer System

Help us prevent fats, rags, oils, and grease clogs/blockages in the sewer system. Sewer overflows can cause major health hazards, costly cleanups, and environmental damage. Raw or partially treated sewage can back up into homes or flow into area streets, parks, yards, ponds, rivers, and bays. The resulting corrective action usually involves hefty repair bills for homeowners and increased operational costs for sewer service providers.

### THE CULPRITS OF THESE MESSSES?

In many cases, they are fats, oils, and grease. All of which, clog pipes.

Typical sources include:

- Food scraps
- Butter
- Margarine
- Cooking oils
- Sauces
- Dairy products
- Greasy leftovers



What do you mean by rags? Rags is a general term for a multitude of items that end up in our wastewater that cannot be processed properly at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

They include:

- Facial tissues
- Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc.
- Toilet bowl scrub pads
- Disposable floor wipes
- Napkins (paper or cloth), paper towels
- Dental floss
- Egg shells, nutshells, bones, and coffee grounds
- Hair
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, or any non-organic material
- Vitamins, medicines, or other pharmaceuticals
- Sheet plastic, or plastic of any kind
- Diapers (cloth, disposable, "flushable")

### HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

Fats, Oils, and Grease 101: Fats, oils, and grease don't mix well with water and easily adhere to other materials, such as underground pipes. When washed down the drain, these substances can solidify and stick to the pipe's interior. Over time, the grease can build up and cause blockages or breaks in the pipe.

### Fats, Oil, Grease, and the Environment

Fats, oil, and grease (FOG) are a major environmental problem. When you discard your cooking oil into your kitchen sink, it accumulates inside the sewer pipes making it difficult for wastewater to flow freely to the wastewater treatment plant. When wastewater cannot make its way through the sewer pipes, it overflows into our homes, streets, lawns, and storm drains. Storm drains carry rainwater away from homes and anything that is thrown on the street goes untreated to our water sources such as our rivers, ponds, and bays. You can help us keep our water running clean by disposing of your cooking oil and grease properly.



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MARCH 8**



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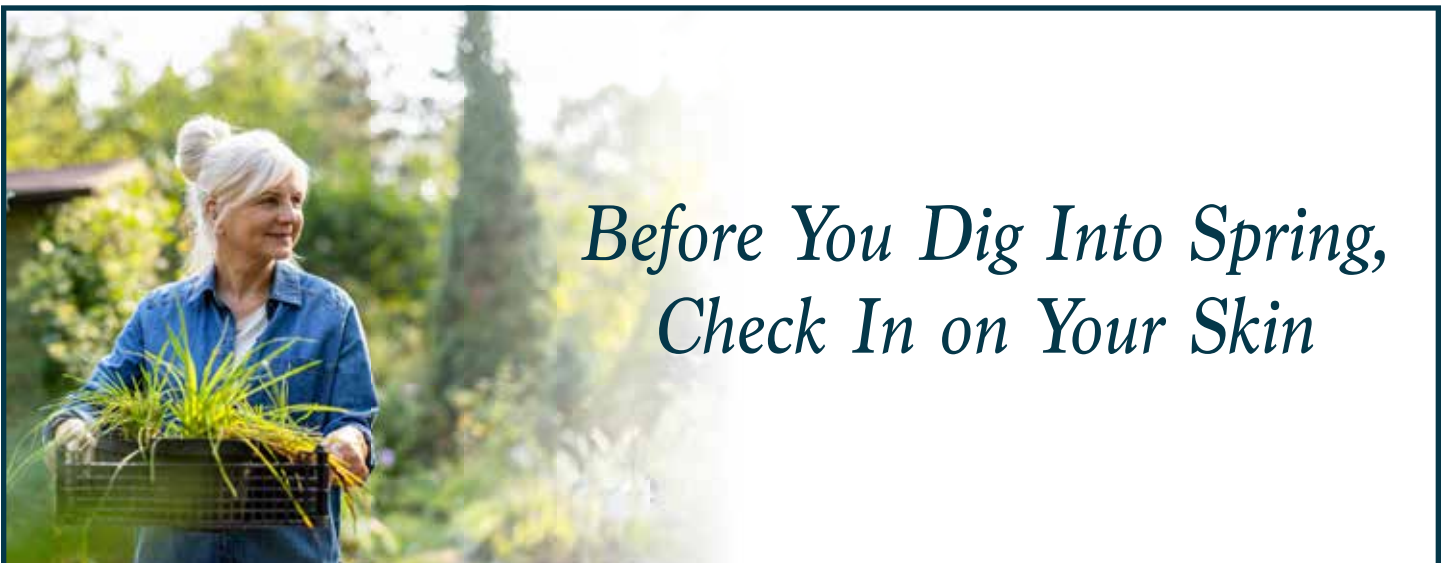


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# Snowball Dance

The Tropicaires' Snowball Dance was a ton of fun with Nancy Larsen providing a play list of great music! The Tropicaires would like to thank everybody who came out to support our Snowball Dance. A good time was had by all!

---Joan Cloutier, Tropicaires' President



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