

Meet Your New Neighbors

By Cindy Shaw

New to the neighborhood are **Ed and Maria Resendez** who will be our part-time neighbors at 120 Capri Dr.

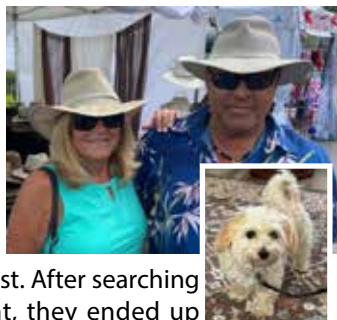


Maria was born in Germany while her father served in the military. They moved around a lot and eventually settled in Texas for a few years. Maria served in the Air Force for 20 years. She eventually moved to Florida and in the 90's lived on Anna Maria Island and then in Bradenton. For the last 10 years, she has been running a cleaning business, getting homes ready for sale, helping people move in and move out.

Ed was born in Texas and grew up in Ohio. He served in the Marine Corps for 4 years. Ed is currently working as Director of Performance Management in the automotive and mechanical division at a company that is a logistical support provider.

Ed and Maria have a blended family of 7 adult children between the ages of 22 and 42. They have 20 grandchildren between the ages of 3 and 22 and one great granddaughter who is 4 years old. Ed and Maria are members of the Moose and the American Legion and enjoy golfing and spending time at the beach and at the pool. Maria was introduced to Tropic Isles through some friends and decided it was the place she eventually wanted to be. They are excited to be living in Tropic Isles. Please give Ed and Maria a warm, Tropic Isles welcome.

You may recognize the two smiling faces of **Deb Smith and Don Chiappone**. They are our new, part-time neighbors at 131 Capri Dr. They hail from central New York with a home on the Seneca River. Don and Deb spent 5 years on the east coast of Florida, before deciding to spend time on the west coast. After searching on the Internet for places to rent, they ended up renting for the past 4 years in Tropic Isles on Basin, Flores, Del Rio, and lastly on Trinidad Way. Don's mother lived in Bradenton for



(continued on page 3)

Home of the Month



This beautiful home, belonging to Bill and Cheryl Smith at 205 Bimini Dr., has been chosen for April's "Home of the Month". This month's featured home stands out with beautifully maintained landscaping, fresh paint, charming palm tree-accented shutters, and colorful plants creating instant curb appeal! Congratulations on being named Tropic Isles' "Home of the Month".

Photo of the Month



This gorgeous sunset was taken by Bev Butts.

Thought for the day

We don't know what tomorrow will bring,
 So don't stay mad for too long.
 Learn to forgive and love with all your heart.
 Don't worry about the people who don't like you.
 Enjoy the ones that love you!

Starfish Hunt

Can you find me hiding somewhere inside?



February Fun

Residents got in the spirit of Valentine's Day by decorating their golf carts and parading through the streets of Tropic Isles.



The pancake breakfast was well-attended and residents enjoyed pancakes, sausage, and eggs to start their day off right! Many thanks to the cooks and servers!



Spring Is Here



Spring is finally back. Water temp is on the rise again. Doug Woulf had great fishing in March with a neighbor and saw the thirsty manatees come back in our canals.

Spring brings new birth. The mourning doves are nesting and laying their eggs right now.



Book Club Social

A group of ladies met socially to discuss books and say farewell to Bev MacKenzie.



Doggie Duos

This group of dogs and their owners regularly enjoy a walk together in the morning.



Hypnotist Comedy Show

Residents were left in stitches after an unforgettable hypnotist comedy show that had the entire audience laughing from start to finish.



Tropic Isles

1503 28th Ave. West, Palmetto, Florida 34221

The Office is open from 9 AM to 3 PM on Monday and Tuesday and will be closed during the lunch hour from 12 to 1 PM. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the Office will be open from 9 AM to 12 noon. 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

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Tropic Isles Homeowners Association

2025/2026

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Tropic Isles Breezes

Published monthly and delivered to all residents

Editor: Cindy Shaw

Send photos and articles to Tlbreezes1@aol.com

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,

As the days grow longer and the sunshine lingers just a bit later each evening, we are reminded that spring has finally arrived. After the cold and quiet of winter, this new season brings with it a sense of renewal, warmth, and fresh beginnings.

The end of winter is always something to celebrate. The first blooming flowers, the return of birds singing in the morning, and the gentle warmth in the air invite us all to step outside, take a deep breath, and enjoy the beauty around us. Spring is a wonderful reminder that brighter days are ahead.

With the season also comes Easter, a time that many celebrate as a symbol of hope, renewal, and togetherness. Whether you observe Easter as a religious holiday, a family tradition, or simply a joyful sign of the season, it offers an opportunity to connect, reflect, and share moments of happiness with friends and neighbors.

Wishing you a beautiful spring filled with sunshine, good health, laughter, and the simple joys that make this time of year so meaningful.



Meet Your New Neighbors

(continued from page 1)

Deb Smith and Don Chiappone

25 years, so they were familiar with the area. Don and Deb have a blended family of 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren ranging in age from 6-15 years old. Don was a physical education teacher and coach. He often coached and refereed his own children in their sports endeavors. Deb worked for Excellus BlueCross-BlueShield for 34 years. They like to keep active and enjoy biking, kayaking, boating, and traveling. They enjoy spending time in the gym and at the pool. Deb loves doing water aerobics. Don and Deb share their home with Dolly, an 8-month-old toy Maltipoo. They love Tropic Isles for its location on the water and all the amenities it has to offer the residents. Please give a warm, Tropic Isles' welcome to "The 3 Ds"—Don, Deb, and Dolly!

From the Manager's Desk



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 current Co-Op residents only. Please don't invite your friends from up north, etc., as they will not be permitted access.

Annual Pool Party: The pool area will be closed at 2:00 PM on April 12th for the Annual Co-Op Pool Party.

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

1. Each property in Tropic Isles Co-Op, Inc. is entitled to receive two (2) access FOBs for authorized entry into the common areas and amenities. These access FOBs are for the exclusive use of the owners or approved renters residing in said properties.
2. In the event that any owner or renter in the Co-Op shares their FOB with an unauthorized or unapproved individual, or allows access to any of the common areas or amenities to an unautho-

rized or unapproved individual, the use of the amenities by said owner or renter will be suspended as follows:

1st occurrence: Suspension for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

2nd occurrence: Suspension for a minimum of one (1) year.

These rules apply to all TIPOA residents as well.

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 authorized individuals only.

Boat Launch: If you use the boat launch, please note that the combination for the lock has been changed. 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.

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.

Apartments: We currently have 1 vacant 55+ apartment. 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

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It's Not Too Early to be Thinking About the 2026 Hurricane Season!

I know it is only April, but many of you will be leaving for your northern homes in the coming months. For those snowbirds who are heading north for the summer, it's important to remember that hurricane season in Florida runs from June 1 through November 30. Even if you won't be here, your home still needs to be ready. Here's a practical reminder checklist to help you prepare before you leave:

🌀 1. Review Your Insurance Coverage

- Confirm that your homeowner's policy includes wind and hurricane coverage.
- Check your hurricane deductible.
- Consider separate flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program if you don't already have it.
- Keep digital and paper copies of the policies with you up north.

🏠 2. Secure the Exterior

- Install or inspect hurricane shutters.
- Reinforce doors and carport roofs (a common failure point).
- Trim trees and remove weak or overhanging branches.
- Bring in or securely store patio furniture, grills, and outside décor.
- Check roof tiles/shingles for loose areas.

💧 3. Protect the Interior

- Unplug electronics.
- Move valuables and important documents off the floor and into waterproof containers.
- Consider installing a water leak detection system.
- Shut off the water supply if appropriate.

🔌 4. Utilities & Systems

- Set air conditioning to around 78–80°F to control humidity.
- Install a smart thermostat for remote monitoring.
- Check that your surge protection devices are functioning.
- Service your generator if you have one.

👁️ 5. Arrange Property Monitoring

- Ask a friend or trusted neighbor to check your home regularly.
- Ensure someone can install shutters if a storm threatens.
- Provide emergency contact information to the Tropic Isles' Office.

📸 6. Document the Condition of Your Home

- Take updated photos and video of each room and exterior areas.
- Store files in cloud storage for easy access if you need to file a claim.

📄 7. Know the Local Resources

- Sign up for alerts from your county emergency management office.
- Bookmark the Florida Division of Emergency Management website for storm updates.
- Follow the National Hurricane Center for official forecasts.

🚤 8. Prepare Your Boat, Kayak

- If you have a boat on a lift, tie the boat to the cradle and tie the cradle to the pilings. **RAISE your lift as high as you can.**
- Take your boat out of the water, if possible, and store it on its trailer in your carport if it can fit completely under the carport. It is much safer to have your boat on a trailer than sitting on land.
- Secure your kayak inside at home or in your shed.

🌴 Bonus Tip for Peace of Mind

Many seasonal residents find it helpful to:

- Install impact-resistant windows.
- Keep gutters and drains clear.
- Review evacuation zone information—even if you're away.
- Preparing BEFORE you head north can save thousands of dollars and significant stress later. A little planning now ensures your Florida home is protected all summer long.



7 Things Florida Newcomers Should Know About Hurricane Season

If you are a new full-time resident of Florida or just a snowbird, here are some things you should know. Tens of thousands of newcomers move to Florida every year.

Long-time residents of the Sunshine State know the drill that comes with hurricane season: Keep your gas tank full, your pantry stocked, and one eye on the tropics at all times.

We also appreciate the importance of things like having an extra propane tank or plenty of charcoal to grill with during power outages and filling your bathtub with water before a storm hits so you can flush toilets if water service is knocked out or turned off.

If you're a recent transplant, here are some insider tips about hurricane season:

1. It Doesn't Have to Be a Hurricane to Be Dangerous

Even a storm that isn't a hurricane at landfall can be destructive and deadly. Two tropical storms that hit Florida in 2021 - Elsa and Fred - made NOAA's annual list of billion-dollar disasters for the damage they caused. In 2020, Tropical Storm Eta made the list. Eta dumped between 10 and 20 inches of rain on South Florida, and both it and Fred claimed several lives due to flooding as the storms moved up the U.S. East Coast. While hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, named storms can happen any time of the year.

2. Categories Are Just a Guideline

Hurricanes are ranked ranging from Category 1 to Category 5 based on their wind speed under the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, first developed in the early 1970s, but the scale doesn't take into account other factors, including flooding rainfall and storm surge. Those two things kill far more people than wind. Flat-natured Florida is surrounded on three sides by salt water and is pock-marked by springs, lakes, and marshes, which means that flood waters can and do rise quickly with or without winds of 75 mph. Another hazard newbies might not know: There's often animals like alligators and snakes hiding in those waters, too.

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7 Things Florida Newcomers Should Know About Hurricane Season *(continued from page 5)*

3. Know Your Zone

Where needed, Florida counties have designated evacuation zones. Most are identified by letters ranging from A to L, with A being the most vulnerable areas. Note that these are different than FEMA flood zones. You should know your evacuation zone and evacuation route.

Separately, people living in low-lying areas or certain types of buildings are also sometimes told to evacuate, regardless of how far they might live from the coast. The bottom line: If you're told to go, GO. If you do plan to evacuate, know where you're headed. If it's a friend or relative's house, work out the details with them AHEAD OF TIME. Many hotels waive pet restrictions and extra fees and offer flexible reservations with no penalties for cancellation when a storm is coming.

Shelters are usually opened when evacuation orders are issued, but emergency management officials say they should be a last resort for evacuees. If you plan to rely on a shelter, make sure to check your county's emergency management website to see what you should (or shouldn't) bring with you and have those items packed and ready to go throughout hurricane season.

4. Know Your Home

Do you have impact windows? If so, there's typically no need to board up or worry about hurricane shutters. Sometimes called hurricane windows, they're designed to withstand a hit by flying debris in certain wind speeds. Impact windows are required by the building code in many areas, so whether you have them might depend on where you live and when your home was built. This information should have been provided to you when you purchased the home.

Did hurricane shutters or plywood come with the property? If so, you'll want to make sure you have all the hardware and tools to install or secure them before the time comes and that you know how to do so. If you are buying shutters, plywood, or anything that goes with them, add that to your list of things to buy well in advance.

Renters should make sure they know their responsibilities in terms of prepping a house or apartment for storms.

Do you have flood insurance? Typical homeowners' insurance doesn't cover water that comes in from outside your home. There's often a waiting period before flood insurance kicks in, so don't wait until a storm is coming to buy it. Flood insurance is separate from what most people call "hurricane insurance" or a "hurricane rider," which is actually windstorm insurance and is usually added to a regular policy.

5. Stay Safe During Power Outages

Dozens of people have died in the Gulf states in recent years from carbon monoxide poisoning while running generators after a hurricane or tropical storm. Generators should never be used in, near, or adjacent to a building or partially enclosed space. They should be at least 20 feet away and never be placed near windows, doors, or vents. If you plan to use a generator, make sure you have battery-powered carbon monoxide detectors for your home.

Heat is also deadly during post-storm power outages, especially for the elderly and those with underlying health issues. People who might need extra assistance during a storm or its aftermath should reach out to local emergency officials to see what services they might provide.

6. Keep a Supply Kit Stocked and Ready

Emergency officials recommend having at least 7 days of non-perishable food and water for every person and pet in your family, plus a two-week supply of any necessary medications.

Every household should also have a "TO GO KIT". This includes things you will take with you if you evacuate. The kit should also include a list of important documents or other things - like phone chargers or pet leashes - that you might want to gather as you leave. Make sure to know where those things are. Make a list of things you need to take so that you don't forget anything.

7. Stay Informed

Know how your county and city send out information and sign up for text alerts and other communications. Familiarize yourself with relevant websites and terms. Have a NOAA weather radio on hand. Make sure the Tropic Isles Office has your email to receive important notices.

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Monthly Health Tip

Prevent falls

- If you have difficulty with walking or balance, or have fallen in the past year, talk to your healthcare provider about having a special falls risk assessment.
- Ask your provider if you would benefit from an exercise program to prevent falls.
- If you have fallen before, or are scared of falling, think about buying a special alarm that you wear as a bracelet or necklace. Then, if you fall and can't get to the phone, you can push a button on the alarm that will call emergency services for you.
- Don't rush to answer the phone. Many people fall trying to answer the phone. Either carry a cordless or cell phone or let an answering machine pick up.
- When walking on smooth floors, wear non-slip footwear, such as slippers with rubber/non-slip bottoms or flat, thin-soled shoes that fit well.
- If you have a cane or a walker, use it at all times instead of holding onto walls and furniture.
- **Safety-proof your home**
 - Make sure all hallways, stairs, and paths are well lit and clear of objects such as books or shoes.
 - Use rails and banisters when going up and down the stairs. Never place scatter rugs at the bottom or top of stairs.
 - Tape all area rugs to the floor so they do not move when you walk on them.
- **Avoid bathroom hazards**
 - Set the thermostat on the water heater no higher than 120° F to prevent scalding.
 - Have grab bars installed in the shower and near the toilet to make getting around easier and safer.
 - Put rubber mats in the bathtub to prevent slipping.
 - If you are having a hard time getting in and out of your tub, or on and off the toilet, ask your provider to help you get a special tub chair, bench, or raised toilet seat.



Stay in Touch with Tropic Isles!

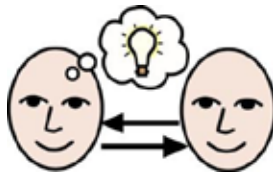


As many of you get ready to head north for the summer, we wish you safe travels. Throughout the upcoming months, all residents can stay connected to the activities and events going on in your second home here in Tropic Isles. Go to www.tropicisles.net and click on "Residents" at the top of the page. From the dropdown menu, you can choose "Community Resources," "Breezes Newsletter," and "Calendar" to keep abreast of what's happening.

Co-op Shareholders can read the minutes of the Board meetings held throughout the coming months by logging onto www.tropicisles.net. Click on "Residents" at the top of the page. From there you can choose to "Log in" or "Get Started" to set up an account. To "Log In", enter your sign-in name (email) and your own password. New shareholders can create their sign-in name and password by clicking on "Get Started" and completing the registration form. Once you are inside the portal, click on "Shared Documents" in the menu bar at the left side of the page. There you will find "Board Meeting Minutes" and more.

You can also visit the Tropic Isles' Facebook page by going to **Tropic Isles Co-op, Inc.** There you will find all sorts of information and pictures to see what's going on in the park. It's just a click away!

Idea To Ponder....



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New 2027 Resident Phone Directories

ALL RESIDENTS: If you need to make a change to the information in the current Resident Phone Directory, please send an email to tibreezes1@aol.com or text it to 608-212-8967 with your correction/addition.

THE DEADLINE TO GET THOSE CHANGES TO ME IS AUGUST 1.

NEW RESIDENTS: This is your chance to have your information included in the 2027 Resident Phone Directory. Please send me your name, TI address, phone numbers for each person in the household, email addresses, and northern information if you wish to have it included.

~~ TO THE HEADS OF ALL ACTIVITIES ~~

The Tropic Isles' Resident Phone Directory includes all clubs and activities. If you have any changes to your officers, chairpersons, coordinators, date, time, or meeting place, please send it to me at tibreezes1@aol.com or text me at 608-212-8967. Check pages 4-7 in the 2025-26 directory to see what is currently listed for your activity.

I'd like to give a special "thank you" to all those people who take the time to update their information for the directory.

---Cindy Shaw, Editor

CORRECTIONS FOR THE DIRECTORY

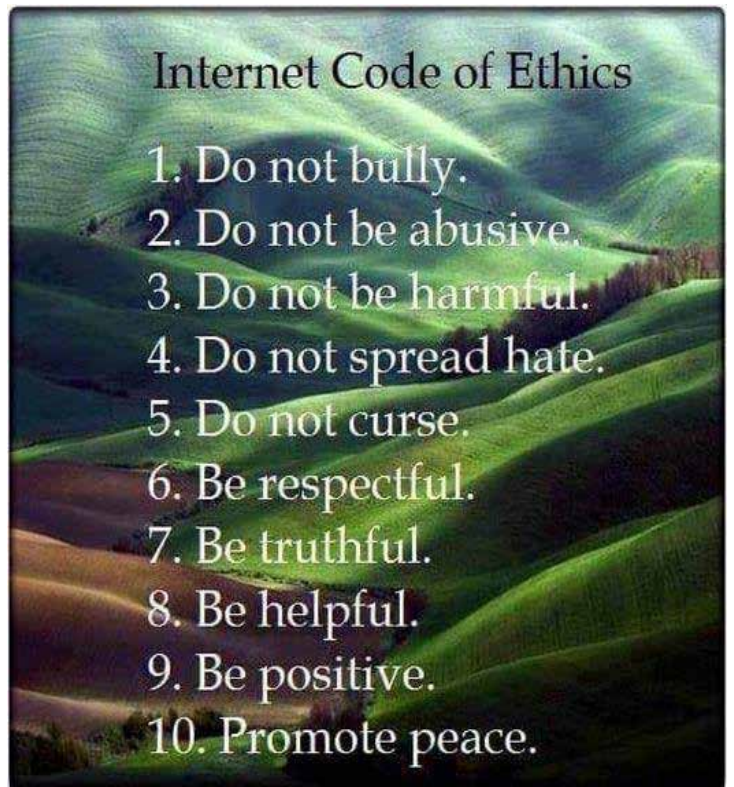
Any corrections or additions will be posted here in the monthly newsletters until the 2027 Resident Directory is printed. Please make these changes to your current Directory.

Resident Listings:

- ORR, Ken & Karen** Change the email to ken.ord@orbitdesign.com.
- TENBRAAK, Rene & Inez** **NEW!** Add 214 Bimini Dr., phone numbers for Rene 770-310-1461 and Inez 770- 310-1204, and emails itenbraak@yahoo.com (I) and tenbraakr@gmail.com (R)
- WICHMAN-CHAVES, Dana & HIGGINS, David** Add northern address 6020 10th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34209

~~Special Thanks~~

- Special thanks to **Dennis Foley** for keeping those AEDs in tiptop working order in Tropic Isles and for helping to organize another CPR class for the residents along with the help of **Bev Butts**.
- A big "thank you" to **Randy Rice** for donating an AED unit to be installed outside at the Marina.
- Thank you to **Don Stroud** for his 5 years of volunteer service organizing the Pancake Breakfast for residents to enjoy.
- Thanks to **Jack Bulmer** for volunteering to organize the Pancake Breakfast for next year.
- Many thanks to the **Landscape Committee** for organizing the Landscape Talk and for all their hard work in beautifying the park with the butterfly gardens and flowers planted throughout the park.
- Thanks to **Drew Doll** for volunteering to organize a group of residents to do the palm tree fertilizing in April and for installing new shelving units behind the stage.
- A heartfelt "thank you" to **Joan and Mike Cloutier** for volunteering to manage the TI Apparel Sales for the Boosters.
- A HUMONGOUS thank you to all the **Caring Team members** who worked to distribute the File of Life packets to all the Co-op residents and apartment tenants.
- Special thanks to **Connie and John Giroux, Beverly Butts, Sharon Wagner, Irene Casey, and Katrina Eagle** who helped to organize the Health Fair for the residents of Tropic Isles.



Residents! Volunteers Needed! Please Help!

We have a need for volunteers in the following positions:

- The **Tropic Isles Library** is looking for volunteers to keep the library organized over the summer months starting in July-September and also next season. If interested, contact Nancy Larsen at 941-725-2216. Nancy will train you.
- The **Activity Committee** is looking for a volunteer to serve as **Secretary of the Activity Board** to take notes at the monthly meeting and send them out to all the Activity heads. (AI Notetaker is an extremely helpful tool that makes the job a lot easier.) Contact Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099 if you'd like to volunteer.
- **Zoom Moderators** for Co-op Board Meetings are needed. Contact the Office. You must be a Shareholder. We will train.
- **Volunteers needed to sub for Block Captains on their street** to help distribute the Breezes newsletters when needed. Subs are needed for these streets: **Basin/Bahia, Flores, Maui/10th, and Montego**. You do not need to be a full-time resident to help out. Please contact Cindy Shaw at tibreezes1@aol.com or by calling/texting 608-212-8967 if you can help.
- **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 Verstringhe, Activities President. Without your help, this great program cannot continue. See page 24 to find out what's involved.



A Writer In Our Midst

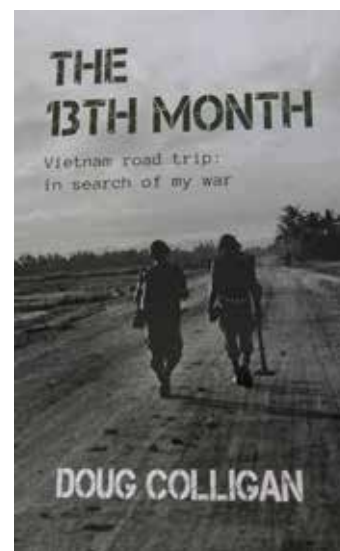
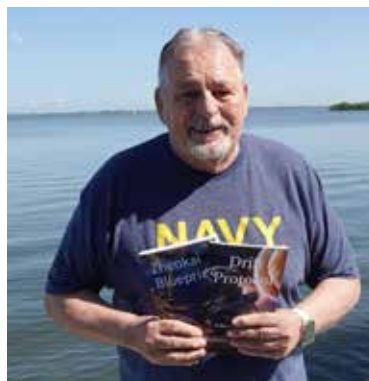
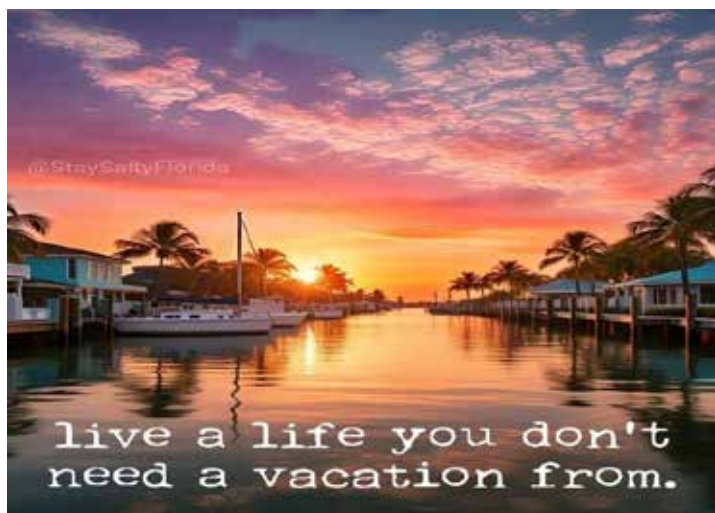
By Terry Foley

We'd like to highlight two books with a local connection that were recently published. One is by our Bahia Dr. resident, **Bob Allaire**, titled *Drift Protocol*. The other book is a Vietnam war memoir called *The 13th Month* by **Doug Colligan**. Colligan is the brother-in-law of Dennis Foley of Flores Dr. Allaire, a retired engineer and Navy veteran, published his seventh book, *Drift Protocol*, in the science fiction genre. It's subtitled "A novel of The Veil Protocol" referring to a system of transport in the galaxy. His most popular book, *ZhenKai Blueprint*, is a fast-paced techno-thriller. Allaire enjoys writing while he is in Tropic Isles seasonally, as well as when he is back home in New Hampshire. Among his other books are two on real estate. He plans to have a book signing at the nearby Tenth St. Coffee shop.

Allaire's ship, the USS Coral Sea, was deployed to Vietnam while Doug Colligan served with ground troops in 1968 in the wild and nasty Central Highlands at Pleiku. Colligan's title refers to the twelve months he served after being drafted as a Combat Engineer (infantryman). The "thirteenth month" was when he arranged to go back to Vietnam in 2000 to revisit the exact locations where he fought. His story is both comical and heart-wrenching. As a professional writer and a former senior managing editor at Readers Digest, Colligan's book is one you don't want to put down.

Allaire's and Colligan's books are all available on Amazon, either as print editions or as downloads. Copies of both books have also been donated to the Tropic Isles' library.

Your Daily Dose of Vitamin Sea



Laughter is the Best Medicine!



- Two things to make your day better: 1. Do not watch the news. 2. Stay off the bathroom scales.
- It's been a great week so far. But on a positive note, I didn't need any bail money and I didn't need to hide any bodies.
- Ah, the modern days! I just saw a grandpa help a youngster who was staring into his phone, to cross the street.
- A retired man volunteered to entertain patients in assisted living homes and hospitals. He visited one in Brooklyn and brought along his portable keyboard. After telling jokes and singing songs, he said farewell and said "I hope you get better." One elderly gentleman replied, "I hope you get better, too."
- A woman in labor suddenly shouted, "Shouldn't, Wouldn't, Couldn't, Didn't, Can't". The doctor said, "Don't worry, those are just contractions."
- Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay, they would be called "bagels".
- There are 4 stages of old age: You forget names. Then you forget faces. Next, you forget to zip up. And finally, you forget to zip down.
- Three old guys are out walking. The first one says, "Windy, isn't it?" The second one says, "No, it's Thursday." The third one says, "So, am I. Let's go get a beer."
- Where can single men over the age of 70 find younger women who are interested in them? Try a bookstore under fiction.
- When you're 20 and drop something, you pick it up. When you're 80 and you drop something, you decide you don't need it anymore.
- One of the shortest wills ever written. "Being of sound mind, I spent all my money."
- A senior sitting at a bar notices a young woman seated a few seats over. He gets up, shuffles over to her, leans in, and asks, "So, do I come here often?"
- Jerry Seinfeld said, "My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned 60 and that's the law."
- My dental hygienist won the local award for "Best Teeth Cleaning". She proudly keeps the plaque on her desk.

TRIVIA

Trivia Tidbits

- The average dog is about as smart as the average two-year-old toddler. Research has shown that dogs are capable of understanding about 250 words and gestures, use similar parts of their brains as humans, can understand and discern emotion, can count to five, and even perform simple math calculations and arithmetic.
- The hippo can open its massive mouth at a 180-degree angle, which is half the circumference of a circle.
- Frogs never actually drink water. Frogs have no need to physically drink water because they have drinking patches located on their body and on the underside of their thighs that naturally absorb water whenever they're in a lake or a pond.
- Scientists have found that octopuses have miniature brains in each tentacle, which then connect to the larger central brain. This is due to the massive amount of movement and control in the tentacles. If all the information got sent to the central brain, it would quickly get overloaded.
- Snakes can see with their eyes closed. A snake's eyelids are very thin and transparent, allowing the snake to look out into the world when his eyelids are closed.
- Electric eels can create so much electricity that they could start approximately 50 cars with one massive shock of voltage. While they are called eels, they aren't really eels, but a species of knife fish closely related to the catfish. One species of eel can create up to 750 volts of electricity with one shock.
- A tiger's night vision is 6 times better than a human. While tigers may have better vision in the dark, humans can taste their food a lot better, with over 30 times the number of taste buds of tigers.
- Sharks can be over 500 years old. The Greenland Shark has an estimated lifespan of 300-500 years. That makes it the vertebrate with the longest known lifespan. That makes it 5 times longer than the Galapagos Tortoise, which is the longest land-living animal with a 100-year lifespan.
- The armadillo's hard shell is called a carapace and is made of bone with a tough tissue coating. It is so hard it can deflect a bullet as one Texas man discovered the hard way when he was hit in the jaw with a bullet that ricocheted off the armadillo he shot.





Mike Turner,
owner



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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 April 16 at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium and via Zoom.

2026-2027 Co-op Board of Directors Emails

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

Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

(TIHOA) 2025-2026

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

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

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

Submissions to the Breezes Newsletter



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

Safety Tip of the Month ---

HOW TO LOCK A GOLF CART: SECURITY IDEAS



Golf cart security is important as long as there are thieves willing to jack your cart. It's really not that difficult for a thief to steal your golf cart and get away with it. Think about it. There's no breaking-in involved. A quick hot wire will get it started and next thing you know your cart is on eBay about to be sold to the highest bidder. Unless your cart really stands out in a crowd, it is unlikely that any witnesses will be able to pick it out of a line-up. Here are some simple and inexpensive ways to make your golf cart more secure.

Install a unique key switch. One of the most common and inexpensive methods to lock a golf cart is to install a unique key switch. Standard golf carts of the same brand use generic common keys, so everyone has basically the exact same key. Many manufacturers offer unique key switches for their brands to give you a different key option with your cart. Now someone else with a common key cannot start your cart and drive off.

Install a pedal lock. Installing a pedal lock is yet another way to lock a golf cart. There are several pedal boxes on the market which prevent the accelerator pedal from being pressed by locking it into the upright position. If you can't press the pedal down, you can't drive it off.

Install a steering wheel club. Just like in the automotive market, there are various "club-like" products available to lock your steering wheel into an undesirable and undrivable position. If you can't steer, it is difficult to drive off.

Install a wheel lock boot. Kind of clunky and cumbersome to travel with, but a wheel lock boot will definitely prevent your wheels from rolling. It is better suited for locking a golf cart at home.

Lock and Chain. A good old-fashioned chain might be enough to deter any potential thieves. If you have a long enough chain, you can run it through all four wheels which would not only deter the thief from stealing your cart, but also from stealing your wheels if you've got custom rims.

Nothing you do is foolproof. If a thief wants your golf cart bad enough, he can probably find a way to get it. Even if they can't start your cart, they can still pick it up and put it on a trailer. So, putting it in your carport close to your door and parking your vehicle behind it will be a good deterrent for any thieves. Yes, it's somewhat inconvenient, but it is more inconvenient to have to call the police, fill out a report, and then go shopping for another golf cart.

Calling All Fishermen and Women!



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

SKILLS WE'RE LOSING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A SPECIAL REPORT ON PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND MENTAL AGILITY

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Fixing clothes, appliances, furniture — instead of replacing them.



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Fermenting, pickling, sun-drying, storing seasonal produce.



BASIC COOKING FROM SCRATCH

Making meals without processed shortcuts.



GARDENING & GROWING FOOD

Understanding soil, seasons, composting cycles.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION FACE-TO-FACE

Handling disagreement without digital avoidance.



BASIC FIRST AID KNOWLEDGE

Handling minor injuries without immediate medical outsourcing.





Cook's Corner



DEVILED EGG MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

- 16 ounces elbow macaroni
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons mustard
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 1½ teaspoons granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 6 large hard-boiled eggs, peeled and divided
- ¾ cup celery, chopped
- ¾ cup diced red onion
- ½ cup diced pickles, dill or sweet, your choice
- paprika or smoked paprika (opt.)

Instructions:

Cook Macaroni

Heat a large pot of water over high heat and salt generously. When the water comes to a hard boil, add the macaroni and cook according to the manufacturer's directions. When the macaroni is cooked, remove and run under cold water for a minute or so. Drain well.

Dressing

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, mustard, apple cider vinegar, and sour cream.
2. Add the sugar, salt and pepper, and whisk until combined.
3. Remove the yolks from the hard-boiled eggs. Smash them lightly with a fork and then add to the dressing and whisk to combine.
4. Chop up the egg whites and set aside.
5. Add the cooled, drained macaroni to the dressing and stir to combine. (It will thicken as it sets up.)
6. Stir in the egg whites, celery, red onion, and pickles until the dressing is evenly distributed over all the ingredients. Taste and add additional seasoning, if needed.
7. Cover the salad tightly with plastic wrap or a lid and chill for 2 hours or more. Sprinkle with paprika or smoked paprika before serving. Enjoy!

Cover leftover macaroni salad with plastic wrap and refrigerate for up to 3 days. I do not recommend freezing this recipe.

Tropic Isles Book Club

2026 REVISED Reading List



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

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

June: *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan

July: *The Director* by Daniel Kehlmann

August: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

September: *The Unraveling of Julia* by Lisa Scottoline

October: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

November: *When We Flew Away* by Alice Hoffman

December: *The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple

Injured Wildlife? You can help!

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



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



If you see injured birds in or around Tropic Isles, please call:

FRIENDS OF THE PELICANS 941-447-0773

Keep these numbers handy to report an injured seabird.

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

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



~COMING EVENTS~



APRIL

The Tropic Isles' 2026 Health Fair

APRIL 10, 2026 9:00 TO NOON



On **April 10**, the Tropic Isles' Caring Team will present the **2026 Tropic Isles Health Fair**. The doors of the Auditorium will open at **9 AM** to showcase a wide variety of Senior Resource providers who will come to share some important health information with you. You will receive a free Tropic Isles cloth bag to collect your "goodies" as you visit each of the tables. The **Big Red Bus** will be here for our third and final blood drive of the season and the **OnSpot Dermatology Van** will also be available with appointments. We hope to see you there! These are some of the resource providers who will be here to provide information and answer questions for you. Additional providers may be attending as well.

Meals on Wheels
Care Finders
Archwell Health
Moffit Cancer Center
Community Health Team
Veterans Services
Home Well Care Services
Elder Care

MCR Outreach
Vital Caring
Stroke Prevention-Blake
Riviera Palms Rehab
Smile Home Therapy
Palmetto Library
Senior Blue Book 2026

Shuffle Club News

Join us for our last general meeting/potluck of the season on **Wednesday, April 8** in the Auditorium at **5 PM**.



Shuffle Under the Lights – Masters Play

Shuffle Under the Lights-Masters Play continues on **Sunday, April 5th** with the last Master's Play on **April 19th** at **6:30 PM**. 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.). 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, April 12** with the last game on the **26th** 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).



Paul Kary was crowned the 2026 shuffle season winner of the Beginner's Class.

~COMING EVENTS~



March 3 was the Dean Cone Memorial Shuffle Tournament. This was the 10th year for this tournament. We got a bit of the history from Dean's daughters (who also baked LOTS of cookies for the event). This tournament is a memorial for Dean and all those we have lost. Dave Myers ran the Dean Cone Memorial Tournament and won the tournament. Bob Davis was the runner up. We had a great turnout!



We had a fun "Couples Tournament" with the Shuffleboard Club. Great job managing the tournament by Dave! The finals were played by Martin and June Dey and Robbin and Doug Moore. Congratulations to Martin and June and the winners, Robbin and Doug!



Dogs, Inc. 'Thank You' Party

The annual Dogs, Inc. "Thank You" Party for all Tropic Isles' residents and staff will be held on **Thursday, April 9th** in the Auditorium. This party is free and open to everyone in the Tropic Isles Co-op, HOA members, and those in TIPOA. Your continued support for Dogs, Inc. is greatly appreciated and needs to be recognized.

The party will last from 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM. Hot dogs, macaroni salad, chips, veggies, and dessert will be served. We will have door prizes and a 50-50 raffle.

Through your generosity Tropic Isles has earned the right to name another puppy. The recipient of that honor will be announced at the party. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. If you have questions or concerns, or want to help, please contact Sue Weaver at 716-450-5077 or email me at smweaver2@sstny.rr.com.

Become a Scent Sample Participant



If you live with Type 1 diabetes, Dogs, Inc. needs you! Their highly trained scent service dogs learn to detect blood glucose changes, offering critical support to those who need it most. By volunteering as a scent sample participant, you'll help the dogs learn to reliably alert to shifts in blood sugar. By donating samples, you directly help train service dogs to provide safety, confidence, and companionship for someone living with Type 1 diabetes.

What to expect:

- Free collection kit
- Simple instructions
- Ongoing support

(Participants must live close enough to the Dogs, Inc. campus to pick up and return the scent samples kit.) Go to

www.dogsinc.org/type1 to register or for more information.

Entertainment Committee Update



The last Entertainment Committee Meeting of the season will be **April 2** at 10 AM in the Yacht Club.

The Entertainment Committee is slowly winding down from another great and busy season. It has been a pleasure bringing so many events to our park this year, and we have already begun working on next year's calendar.

On March 24, we sponsored the Spring Arts and Crafts Fair and decided to incorporate a Scavenger Hunt on the same day—always a favorite event in the park. The hunt included clues highlighting different places around our community that we wanted to bring attention to. Because this article had to be submitted before the event, we will share more details about the event in next month's newsletter.

We also hosted the Farewell Dance featuring the band, soulRcoaster. Highlights from that event will be included in next month's issue as well.

Our final big event of the season will be the Pool Party on **Sunday, April 12th**. The pool will close at 2:00 PM, so we can stack the loungers and prepare the area. Please keep that in mind. Entertainment will be provided by the steel drum musician, Steely Pan, playing from 4:00–6:00 PM. We will be serving Walking Tacos (also known as Taco in a Bag). If you've never had one, you're in for a treat! We'll also have root beer floats and cookies available. The cost for the event is \$8, and tickets will be available from any Entertainment Committee member or at the door. We will also be holding the infamous Lottery Board Raffle one last time this season. Tickets are \$5 each. For those who would like to watch golf, we will also be broadcasting the Golf Masters Final on the 85" TV in the Yacht Club. Please join us for this final event of the season before many of us begin heading home.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all the support the Co-Op residents have given the Entertainment Committee this season. We are TI Strong!

Cheryl Brink, Entertainment Chairperson

~COMING EVENTS~

Booster News



YOU ARE A BOOSTER!

The last meeting of the season for the Tropic Isles' Boosters is **Friday, April 3 at 9:00 AM in the Auditorium.**

MISSION STATEMENT

Tropic Isles Boosters are a group of TI residents that volunteer their time and talents aimed at supporting and enriching our community on several levels.

- We organize and conduct fundraising events to financially assist the Tropic Isles Community.
- We organize and support making Tropic Isles a more beautiful place to live.
- We provide discretionary funding for community projects and purchases within the park.
- We provide a collaborative support group for the Tropic Isles Co-op Board of Directors.

TROPIC ISLES BOOSTERS MEETING MINUTES --

March 6, 2026

Officers present: Dennis Weber, Wendy Verstringhe, Mike Cuff, Linda Doll, and Carmen Garcia

Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Dennis offered a prayer.


Treasurer Report: Mike reported a beginning balance of \$12,751.49 from which several checks had been written against and a deposit made, leaving a current balance of \$14,172.48. Report was accepted.

Secretary Report: Accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

T-shirt Sales: Wendy reported, in the absence of Mike and Joan Cloutier, that the inventory is dwindling due to recent sales. Shirts were donated to the volunteers that were hypnotized during the Hypnotist Comedy Show in February.

Aluminum Cans: Bill Pealer and Dennis Foley reported that all is going well. They recently received \$72.85 for redeemed cans. It was suggested that we need a container with just a hole in the top to accept cans only and not trash mixed in with the cans. Drew created the top and it will be on the container at the Auditorium and at the pool. It was suggested that Tom, from our maintenance crew, could possibly do it, but Drew did it.



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Booster News, continued

AEDs: Dennis Foley reported that all equipment is up to date. The AED at the Auditorium was used during the Valentine's Dance and did save a life! We had many knowledgeable and trained attendees that worked together to save the man's life. Dennis also noted that the bags holding the unit could also hold a spare battery, old pads, and a current battery. Randy Rice donated an AED unit (our 4th) which will be placed outside at the Marina. A cabinet will be ordered to place it there. The North River Fire Department is willing and able to lead a class for up to 25 residents for AED usage, but there won't be a certificate upon completion of the class. Dennis will start a list to see if there is interest during the balance of this season. If not, it will be considered for next season.

Palm Tree Fertilization: Drew Doll volunteered to head this up. It will be done in April. We normally fertilize the palms in November and April. There was discussion and it was decided that we will be fertilizing all the palms, including those in the TIPOA section.

Landscaping: Pamela Cuff reported on the work the group has recently done. We are pleased and proud of all the beautification these volunteers do. They plant, mulch, fertilize, replant after the freeze (entrances), weed, and deadhead. They also hosted a talk on butterfly gardens in February with a representative from the Cooperative Extension. Future work includes planting a tree at the Memorial Garden (which was approved, not to spend over \$400), a new butterfly garden at the pool to include host plants, planning the replacement of shell with river rock at the Auditorium, painting of the Auditorium pots, and planting perennials in the pots at the Auditorium.

New Projector and Screen: The projector at the Auditorium was adjusted to match the system we have and it projects a much clearer picture now. We do not see a need to further investigate purchasing a projector and screen.

Pancake Breakfast: Don Stroud thanked the volunteers that put on the breakfast and announced that 145 people were served. With higher expenses (ex: propane was \$45, used to be \$20) a profit of \$650.00 was made. This was the 5th year that Don has chaired this event and he is not able to continue as chairman in the future. Bill Pealer volunteered to take over as chairman of the Pancake Breakfast. Bill Pealer mentioned that the grill needs to be cleaned thoroughly and correctly after each use or it cannot be used for pancakes next year. It was suggested to have a sign-out sheet, along with cleaning instructions, for any group that borrows the grill.

Caring Team: Wendy showed everyone the File of Life packets that will be distributed to all Co-op homes and the apartments. The cost was \$533.24 for 500 packets. Boosters agreed last month to pay half of the cost which is \$266.62 and the Activity Board will pay \$266.62. Caring Team members will go door-to-door to distribute the packets. The Caring Team will be hosting a Health Fair on April 10th at the Auditorium. John and Connie Giroux are the organizers of this. John ordered and received 150 cloth bags which will be given to attendees of the fair. Wendy made a motion to have Boosters reimburse John \$342.81 for the bags. OnSpot Dermatology, the Bloodmobile, and other health organizations will be at the Health Fair with pamphlets and valuable information. Motion was carried.

Beverly Butts reported that the North River Fire Department will be doing a presentation on Thursday, March 12, 2026 in the Auditorium

from 10 – 11:30 AM, highlighting their activities and speaking on Safety in Our Community and the importance of the File of Life.

NEW BUSINESS:

Entertainment Committee: Cheryl Brink reported that the St. Patrick's Dance, sponsored by the Boosters, is Saturday, March 14, 2026. Tickets are \$5.00 each and David Bishop will be the DJ. She needed someone to sell the lottery board tickets and Dennis and Janet Weber volunteered.

Coffee Committee: Although the Coffee Committee is not under Boosters, but under the Activity Committee, Linda Doll mentioned that the committee is setting up groups to host and serve next season. Linda will check with the Activities Committee at their next meeting.

Storage Building at 21 Flores: Cheryl Brink reported that the Storage Building is the responsibility of the Co Op. Board members and committee chairmen will have the combination to the lock.

Stage area storage: Drew removed the old wooden cabinets in the back of the stage. He will replace them with metal shelving and is requesting \$900.00 for the shelves. A motion was made and seconded to spend a maximum of \$900.00 for 5 metal shelves to replace the old wooden ones that the Tropicares use. The items currently being stored there will be moved and placed on the new shelves this season. Motion was carried.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Doll, Secretary

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. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY TRASH or CARDBOARD CARTONS into the bin. It is strictly for ALUMINUM CANS.

(continued on page 21)

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~COMING EVENTS~

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 last meeting of the season on **Wednesday, April 8 at 9:00 AM** in the **Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club**.

We are in need of a new Secretary as our wonderful secretary, Bev MacKenzie, has stepped down.

The job requires that you take notes once a month at the meeting and send them out to all the Activity heads. (AI Notetaker has been used and is very helpful making the job a lot easier.) Please give Wendy Verstringhe a call at 585-481-4099 if you would like to volunteer.



The Tropic Isles' Activity Board

The Activity Committee thanked Bev MacKenzie for her years of service as the Recording Secretary of the Activity Board. You will be missed!

Tropic Isles' Next Blood Drive

APRIL 10, 2026

Our last blood drive of the season is scheduled for **Friday, April 10 from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM**.

All donors will receive:

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



Online appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome upon availability. To make an appointment to donate, please visit the link below:

https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1602194

Whatever your reason for donating blood, the need is constant, and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. **Contact Carmen Garcia at 941-933-0453 with questions.**

Mark your calendars for next season's blood drives:

December 4, 2026
February 5, 2027
April 6, 2027
December 10, 2027



Sunday Night at the Movies

Our next Movie Night will be **April 12 at 7 PM in the Auditorium**. We will be showing Play Date on April 12 at 7:00 PM. Play Date is about a suburban dad, whose afternoon playdate with a new neighbor, turns into a high-stakes action thriller. (Alert: There is some foul language, but for the most part it is a good, clean comedy.) 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. **Movie Night will continue throughout the summer.**

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 give us a call.

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 last Caring Team meeting of the season will be APRIL 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. At this meeting, we will get updates from the File of Life distribution event, the Community Safety talk, and the Health Fair.

Cindy Shaw, Caring Team Secretary

(Caring Team continued on page 22)

~COMING EVENTS~

File Of Life Distribution Update

FILE OF LIFE	
	Name: _____
	Address: _____
Doctor: _____	Phone#: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACTS	
Name: _____	Phone#: _____
Address: _____	
Name: _____	Phone#: _____
Address: _____	

The File of Life packets and stickers were distributed by the Caring Team members going door-to-door in March. If you have not received your File of Life packet, please contact Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099 to receive yours.

North River Safety Presentation— “Safety For Seniors” Update



The North River Safety Presentation in March presented an informative program about “Safety for Seniors”. Some important take-aways from the program were about the File of Life packet. It was suggested that you print in pencil to make the information more legible and easier when you have to make changes. Make a copy of the information card to carry in your wallet, purse, and in your RV or boat for an emergency.

They also stressed that you use the correct address of your location when calling 911 so the first responders can reach you quickly. The addresses of the Co-op buildings are:

Office **1503 28th Ave. W.**
Auditorium **1507 28th Ave. W.**
Yacht Club **1375 29th Ave. W.**

Make sure the address on your home or RV is clearly visible, so that first responders can locate you quickly. Turn on the porchlight or stand outside for them to see you easily.

Future issues of the Breezes will cover other important information that was presented at the “Safety for Seniors” Presentation, so stay tuned.

Our Final Event of the Season – The Pool Party



As another wonderful season comes to a close, we are excited to wrap things up with one last celebration—the Pool Party! It has been so great having the pool back in use this year, and we’re looking forward to gathering together for a fun and relaxing afternoon.

The party will take place **Sunday, April 12 from 4:00–7:00 PM**. Please note that the pool will close at 2:00 PM so we can move the loungers and set up for the event. Thank you in advance for keeping that in mind.

Enjoy the afternoon with the sounds of steel drum musician, Steely Pan, a local favorite, who will be performing from 4:00–6:00 PM, bringing a perfect tropical vibe to the poolside celebration.

We will be serving Walking Tacos (also known as “Tacos in a Bag”)—a fun and tasty favorite. If you’ve never had one before, you’re in for a treat! We’ll also have root beer floats and cookies to round out the menu.

The cost for the event is \$8, and tickets will be available from any Entertainment Committee member or at the door. We will also be holding the infamous Lottery Board Raffle one last time this season, with raffle tickets available for \$5 each.

For those who would like to watch golf, we will also be broadcasting the Golf Masters Final on the 85”TV in the Yacht Club. We hope you’ll join us as we celebrate the end of the season together with good food, great music, and good friends!

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

(continued on page 24)

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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.

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 have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Wendy Verstringhe at 585-481-4099. This will be our last request for volunteers. Without volunteers, this program will not continue.

We should work together to keep our property values up and have a safe community for everyone. We need to take pride in the tropical paradise that we live in.

Let's Play Poker!

Like to play poker? We play every **Monday night from 6 to 9 PM** in the Yacht Club through the month of April. 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.



Canasta/Hand, Knee, and Foot, Anyone?

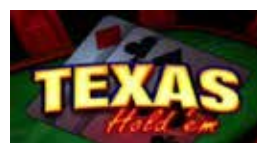


If you have an interest in playing Canasta/Hand, Knee, and Foot, come join us on **Thursdays at 1 PM** in the Seabreeze Room of the Yacht Club. Contact Kathi Gossman at 810-985-3870 with questions.

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.



Texas Hold 'Em

Come join us for a rousing game of Texas Hold 'Em on **Monday nights, at 6-9:30 PM** in the Dockside Room of the Yacht Club. **We will continue to play through April 13.** Contact Dwayne Scruton at 978-360-5267 if you have any questions.

(continued on page 27)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 2026						
			1 7:00 pm Boat Club Meeting - A	2 9:30 am Shareholders Town Hall Meeting - A and Zoom 10:00 am Entertainment Meeting - Y	3 9:00 am Booster Mtg - A	4
5 6:30 pm Master's Shuffle	6 1:00 pm Landscape Meeting - SB 6:00 pm Texas Hold 'Em - Y	7 9:30 am ARC Meeting - A	8 9:00 am Activity Mtg - SB 5:00 pm Shuffle Mtg/Potluck - A	9 1:00 am Thank You Hot Dog Party - A	10 7:30 am Blood Drive - A 9:00 am Health Fair - A 9:00 am Dermo Van - A	11 8:30 am Coffee Hour ends for the Season - A
12 4:00 pm Pool Party - Y 6:30 pm Shuffle Under the Lights-Hoss Collar ends 7:00 pm Movie Night-A	13 9:00 am Caring Team Meeting - SB 6:00 pm Texas Hold 'Em ends - Y	14	15	16 9:30 am Co-Op Board Meeting - A and Zoom	17	18
19 6:30 pm Master's Shuffle ends	20	21 9:30 am ARC Meeting-A	22	23	24 6:00 pm Bid Euchre ends - Y	25 6:00 pm Mexican Train Dominoes ends - Y
26 6:30 pm Shuffle Under the Lights ends	27 6:00 pm Poker ends - Y	28	29	30 9:30 am Special Shareholder Meeting - A and Zoom 10:00 am Water Aerobics ends 6:00 pm Game Night ends - Y		
WEEKLY EVENTS						
10:00 am Shuffle	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness-Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P 6:00 pm Poker - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness-Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P 12:00 pm Swing Dance - Y 2:00 pm Cards - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 8:30 am Golf - Terra Ceia CC 9:00 am Kayakers Launch 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P 10:00 am Shuffle 3:00 pm Mahjong - SB	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 9:00 am Fun & Fitness-Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P 12:00 pm Swing Dance - Y 1:00 pm Canasta-Y 6:00 pm Game Night - Y	8:00 am Aerobics - Y 10:00 am Shuffle 10:00 am Water Aerobics - P 6:00 pm Bid Euchre - Y	8:30 am Coffee Hour - A 10:00 am Shuffle 6:00 pm Mexican Train Dominoes - SB

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What's Happening in the Neighborhood?



Welcome To Game Night!

Please join us on **Thursday evenings in the Yacht Club for GAME NIGHT at 6 PM until April 30.** 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



Bid Euchre Anyone?

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

🚩 Tropic Isles Golf League (TIGL) 🚩

Wow! Has the winter season flown by! March was much warmer and more inviting for our golfers to come out at Terra Ceia!

Our first Wednesday in March brought out 20+ golfers and the winning team was 6 under. Pretty good for a bunch of "old golfers" having fun 🏌️😄



There was a mistake in last month's Breezes which I want to correct. We will be running TIGL through the first Wednesday in May. It will be our last outing for the season and we will be having a super fun scramble. We will have 28 slots to fill and we are looking to fill that up! Take a break and treat yourself to a really fun experience! As I've said many times before, if you don't have fun, you can't come back! I guarantee it will be fun if not on the course, the gathering at the Club House upstairs will surely tickle your fancy. The laughter, food, and libations will certainly make you smile.



Something miraculous happened on Wednesday, March 11th at Terra Ceia Country Club. The first lady to ever have a hole-in-one during Tropic Isles Golf League happened that day. The weather was perfect, the surroundings were perfect, and Cathy Cardinal's shot was perfect!



Cathy's story is one to behold. Always a good golfer, but of late battling back numerous medical setbacks, she managed to hold it all together and pulled off a truly miraculous shot on Hole #6--one where hundreds of good golfers have lost their favorite ball! Not Cathy and not on that day! The sky was solid blue, the temperature was perfect, and the breeze was as well, but not as perfect as Cathy's shot! Congratulations, Cathy Cardinal

Come out and enjoy the beautiful weather with us. Gail and I will look forward to seeing you on the course!

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

(continued on page 29)

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What's Happening in the Neighborhood?



Line dancing came to the end of its season as of March 29. I want to thank everyone who participated this year. A special thanks to Martin Stacy, who helped lead the class. I look forward to next season and bringing you some new dances.

Nancy Larsen, Coordinator

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.



The Landscape Advisory Committee presented a wonderful talk on Butterfly Gardens in March.

Mexican Train Dominoes



Come and join us for Mexican Train Dominoes on **Saturday nights at 6-9 PM until the end of April** in the Seabreeze

Room of the Yacht Club. Contact Kathi Gossman at 810-985-3870 with questions.

Memory Brick Garden

MEMORY BRICKS are 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.



Saturday Coffee Hour



Tropic Isles "Coffee Hour" is held on **Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM** in the Auditorium November-April. **The last Coffee Hour of the season is April 11.** 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 upcoming events. 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. Coffee Hour is hosted by "Friends of the Dogs" in April. **There will be NO Summer Coffee. Coffee Hour will resume on November 7.**



Coffee Hour in March was hosted by the Water Aerobics group who got some help from Steve Dubinsky donning a very stylish Water Aerobics apron. Thanks, Steve!

The schedule for groups hosting Coffee Hour for the 26/27 season is as follows:

- November 2026 Entertainment Committee
- December 2026 Boosters Group or Tropicaires
- January 2027 Boat Club
- February 2027 Shuffle Club
- March 2027 Water Aerobics
- April 3 & 10, 2027 Dogs, Inc.

The Coffee Committee:

Drew and Linda Doll, Robbin and Doug Moore, Bruce and Jeanne Lepine, & Irene Casey

Coffee Talk

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

"Get-Well" cards were sent to:

- Joanne Miller** of Flores Dr. (eye surgery)
- Merwin Crampton** of 29th Ave. (eye surgery)
- Gary Galasso** of Bahia Dr. (hospitalized)
- Pamela Cuff** of Terra Ceia Dr. (broken wrist)
- Dianne Leonard** of 13th St. W. (fall with injury to eye)
- Tim Carlton** of Terra Ceia Dr. (illness)



Condolences were sent to:

Cyndi Belle of Capri Dr. on the passing of her sister.

Best Wishes were sent to:

Ron Roop and Cathy Campbell of Flores Dr. on their recent nuptials. Congratulations!

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.**

(continued on page 30)

What's Happening in the Neighborhood?



Library News



The Tropic Isles' Library, or more recently known as **The Book Nook**, is open for business! If you are new to Tropic Isles, you will find large print, hard cover, and paperback books, DVDs, magazines, jigsaw puzzles, and more. Games for adults and children are now located in the cupboards in the Game Room.

Our library operates on the honor system. You do not need to check out items you wish to borrow. We simply ask that you return the items to the basket by the desk when you are done. A library volunteer will put them back where they belong. There is also a copy machine located in the Book Nook. It is 5-cents a copy. Place your money in the lockbox located on the copy machine.

The Library is in need of volunteers to help shelve books and keep the library neat and tidy, etc. over the summer and next season. Volunteer to help serve on the Library Committee. Please contact Nancy Larsen at 941-725-2216 to volunteer.

Crafty Ladies

Many ladies have enjoyed attending the craft classes this season. Cheryl Brink did a paint-by-number class where residents enjoyed a relaxing time working at their own pace.



Peggy Vliek hosted a rock painting class enjoyed by many ladies who got very creative.



Cheryl Brink helped many ladies create beach candles to enjoy.



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 2# weights and stretch bands if you wish to 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! **Aerobics will continue until May 15 and then resume in September.**



Cindy Shaw, Coordinator

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.



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.** Fun and Fitness will end April 30 for the season. 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. Water Aerobics will end for the season on April 30. Your instructors are Cindi Myers, Wendy Verstringhe, and Karen Timmermans. Contact Cindi Myers at 765-438-3642 if you have any questions.

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DRAMAS

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE by Agatha Christie April 9-19*
BIG FISH- a musical drama April 23-May 3*

(*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

April 7, 4:30 PM
Estuary Park Preserve
98 U.S. Hwy. 41
Palmetto

To volunteer and sign up for any location, go to www.manateebeautiful.com or call 941-795-8272.

Palmetto Library Events



Chair Yoga – Tuesdays 9:15 AM

Yoga with Meditation – Tuesdays 10:30 AM

One-on-One Tech Help Appointments – Thursdays 11 AM and 11:30 AM (Book a 30-minute appointment with library professionals and get your tech questions answered.)

Mah Jongg Club – Fridays 10 AM

Other special events are listed on the library calendar.

The Palmetto Library is located at 923 6th Street West in Palmetto. The hours are 9 AM – 8 PM Monday -Thursday and 9 AM – 6 PM Friday and Saturday.

To register for events, visit www.mymanatee.org/library-system and select "View Calendar" under "Events and Classes".

Bradenton Public Market

Saturdays, October-May

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Old Main Street, Bradenton



Spring Training at Lecom Park

Lecom Park is the spring training home of the Pittsburgh Pirates and is located at 1611 9th St. West in Bradenton. Call 941-747-3031 for tickets and information. Day-of-the-game parking is available at several locations. The Outfield Parking Lot north of the ballpark is accessible from 9th St. W. A grass parking lot is located on 6th St. W. and accessible from 17th Ave. W. All parking lots have limited capacity and are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Play ball!



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Rule of the Month

HAVE YOU READ YOUR RULES LATELY?

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

III. DWELLING AND UNIT/LOT MAINTENANCE

3.8 Storing Outdoor Items

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

3.10 Grills, Fire Pits, Other Flammable Appliances

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

APPENDIX 3: DOCKS, LIFTS, FLOATING PLATFORMS, SEAWALLS, and WATERCRAFT

1.9 Seawall Restrictions

- Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed to drill holes, attach nails, bolts, screws, or like materials, in or onto the seawall.
- **No structure or materials of any type may extend over the seawall or riprap rocks, except for electric and water lines serving the docks.**
- Electric and water lines currently extending over the seawall cap may remain until a new dock, lift, or seawall is installed.
- If the seawall is being replaced, new installation of electric and water lines serving the docks/lifts must have a conduit core drilled or sleeved below the seawall cap as approved via the ARC process.
- No painting, sealing, or staining of the seawall is permitted by Residents.
- Access along the entire length of the seawall must be unimpeded.

APPENDIX 4: VEHICLES and PARKING

1.5 Parking

- **Parking is not permitted on the streets between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 AM.**
- With prior approval from the Management, vehicles may be parked at the Auditorium, Yacht Club, and at the Bimini Point parking lots. Vehicles must display Management- issued temporary parking permits.
- Vehicles, storage trailers, travel trailers, watercraft trailers, and/or watercraft are NOT allowed to park on vacant Association-owned lots without prior approval from Management. A temporary parking permit is required and must be displayed.

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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 my mother sometimes laughs so hard she snorts. – age 7
- I've learned that people will obey almost any reasonable request except, "Please remain seated until the captain has brought the aircraft to a complete stop at the gate." –age 51
- I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love human touch –holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. – age 85
- I've learned to keep looking ahead. There are still so many good books to read, sunsets to see, friends to visit, and old dogs to take walks with. –age 86
- I've learned that you shouldn't do anything that wouldn't make your mother proud. –age 53
- I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. – age 92
- I've learned that you realize you have locked your keys in your car the instant you slam the door shut. –age 44
- I've learned that you should never attempt putting on a brand-new pair of support hose in 90-degree weather after taking a shower. –age 39
- I've learned that if I had listened to Mom, I would have avoided 90% of life's problems. –age 20
- I've learned that if you're going to pray about something, why worry? If you're going to worry, why pray? –age 70
- I've learned that a hug from my husband sends his strength into my body. –age 39

Photo of the Month

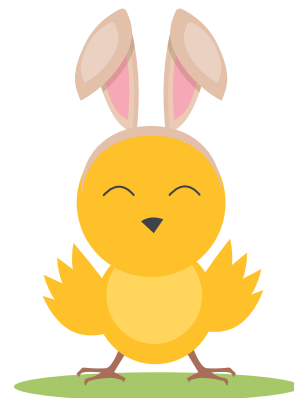


Please send me your favorite photo of wildlife or scenery in or around the area and I will feature at least one photo a month. Include where it was taken and the name of the person taking it. Email it to tibreezes1@aol.com or text it to 608-212-8967. Please send in your favorite nature photo.

Friendly Reminders



- Did you know our official Tropic Isles Co-Op Facebook page is the best place to get accurate, up-to-date information about our community? We will use this Facebook page, Tropic Isles Co-op, Inc. to share:
 - ✓ Community updates and announcements
 - ✓ Events and activities
 - ✓ Important reminders
 - ✓ Helpful resources for residents
- 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 on the park streets are 15 **MPH**.
- The speed limit along 28th Ave. is **25 MPH**. Please slow down.
- There is no parking of vehicles, boats, or trailers on the empty lots.
- **THERE IS NO PARKING ON THE STREETS OVERNIGHT.**
- **THERE IS NO PARKING/DRIVING ON THE GRASS ANYWHERE IN THE COMMUNITY.**
- Know where the **AED units** are located at the Auditorium (outside), Yacht Club (inside), pool (outside) and Marina (outside). 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.
- The Storage House (the old Trash and Treasure House) at 21 Flores is now under the supervision of the Co-op. If you need access, contact the Tropic Isles' Office.
- If you need to borrow a medical appliance (wheelchair, walker, potty seats) contact Nancy Cobb at 941-730-0018 for assistance.





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Manatee County

Modified Phase II "Severe" Water Shortage Regulations

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 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.

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.

For water-saving tips and conservation resources, visit WaterMatters.org/Water101.

Lawn Watering Limited to One Day Per Week

Legend:

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

Map labels: LEVY, MANATEE, City of Dunnellon, The Villages, CITRUS, HERNANDO, SUMTER, PASCO, LAKE, HILLSBOROUGH, POLK, MANATEE, HARDEE, SARASOTA, DESOTO, CHARLOTTE, HIGHLANDS, Gasparilla Island.

Water 101 Southwest Florida Water Management District





Tropic Isles' Marina



MARINA HOURS

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

MARINA STAFF

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

Marina News!



By Rick Kropp, Marina Manager

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.

~ 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 for your parking permit.

Kayak-Itty-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.



February's kayaking trip had 10 brave kayakers for a cool start. We paddled to Champlain Bayou and cut through the mangrove tunnel.

Kayak-It-yak News



On a windy, Wednesday morning in late February, 7 kayakers and 2 dogs took to their paddles in the back waters of Cut's Edge Marina. Seen here are Wes Oosterman and his two dogs.



There were 11 kayakers and 4 dogs on a bit of a windy morning in March.

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 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 and during hurricane season, 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.

Boat Club News



It is hard to believe our '25/'26 Boat Club season is coming to an end. I would like to briefly summarize our Club events/meetings this season. Your Club Bridge works throughout the season to coordinate your events for all to enjoy. The Boat Club now has 150+ members. There is truly a lot of satisfaction that comes from working with our members and at the various events.

This year's Christmas party was a great time with our popular Dirty Santa game. MERRY CHRISTMAS! Thanks to Sharon, Frank, Diane, and Roy.

We had quite a cold snap thru Jan./Feb. which limited our boating, sailing, and kayaking. The Club has been working with the Marina on various signage and repairing the TI channel markers. This should be completed this summer. A new floating dock was installed at the Marina along with a new gas pump system. We have recently installed two new safety ladders in the Middle Basin. THANK YOU to Tracy Gilbert and Kevin Sauntry for the use of their docks. These ladders were purchased by the Co-Op and installed by club members. We also supported our sailing group by donating \$250 for a new race buoy.

This season we changed our Fishing Derby rules. The big change was that the fish would be "weighed" instead of numbers counted. The winner will be determined by how many pounds of fish they bring to the scales. It's always a fun day followed by our annual Fish Fry at the following social meeting.

We continued through the season with our annual Valentine's Day Dance. SPECIAL THANKS to our "in house medics" who saved one of our members who suffered a heart attack during the dance. Their quick actions during this emergency truly "saved a life". We want to thank and recognize Dr. Fred Allina, Cindy Myers, Dave Bishop, Jose Torres, Sue Klenz, David Black, and Bobbi Joe Scott.

Our annual Poker Run and Sea Breeze Park picnic were well-attended and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all who participated in the Mullet Toss competition. Congratulations to our Mullet toss winners: Nancy Cobb and Martin Dey.

We also have been supporting our local Suncoast Waterkeeper group to protest the proposed Mega Cruise Line project. Our local State Senator, Jim Boyd, has proposed legislation to halt any large-scale dredging near Rattlesnake Key. The bill is going through so far, with no objections and should be signed by the Governor, effective 7/1/26.

As the season comes to a close, it is time to bring in a new team of members to serve on the Club Bridge. Please support our new Bridge Officers as they work hard to bring you the season's events and activities. Remember, "volunteers are the backbone of America." THANK YOU to all our volunteers who helped with all our events and meetings this season.

As I look back at my tenure on the Boat Club Bridge, I am happy and proud to have been a part of this unique group. I was fortunate over the years, to work with some great individuals who were past Bridge Officers. THANK YOU to past Commodores Deane Sumler, Don Denby, Sue Weaver, Lance Link, John Brink, and Denny Vitton. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to my Bridge Officers for their hard work

and for making my job easy! I truly appreciate your efforts: Jim Kelly, Steve Tourtillotte, Cheryl Brink, Karen Linke, and Mike Cuff.

So, that wraps up my report for this season and I look forward to working with the new Bridge of Officers for the '26/'27 season. Thanks for all your past support. Be safe in your travels to your summer homes, and we will see you all back in November.

Full Sails and Tight Lines!

*Tom Hennessy, Commodore
Tropic Isles' Boat Club '25/'26*

Oyster Restoration

RESIDENTS---If you are interested in installing vertical oyster strings at your dock, contact Denny Vitton at 231-645-5021 or stop by at 211 Bimini Dr. and he 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 Denny Vitton.



Annual Boat Club Picnic

The Boat Club picnic had beautiful weather at Sea Breeze Park for a day of great food, good music by Holly Rae, and lots of fun. The Mullet Toss is always the hit of the day with the ladies showing great style and form in their mullet toss attempts. Thanks to the Mullet Retrievers, Cindi Chambers and Betty Bean.



(continued on page 41)

Annual Boat Club Picnic (continued from page 40)



The winner of the Mullet Toss in the Men's Division was Martin Dey. The winner in the Women's Division was Nancy Cobb. Love the hats! Congratulations!





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Safety Ladders

Two more safety ladders were added to locations on the Nassau Canal and in the Middle Basin. Look for the green flags if you ever find yourself in the water. Thanks to Tracy Gilbert and Kevin Sauntry for agreeing to put ladders at their docks.



NEW 304 Bahama Dr. (Nassau Canal)



NEW 313 Bahama Dr. (Middle Basin)

Sailing Away!



The Boat Club has voted to give us the funds to purchase a new buoy to replace one that has failed. Thank You, Boat Club.



These still shots, provided by Fred Lawrence, were taken from drone videos of the race on February 24. If you'd like to see more videos of the race go to <https://youtu.be/vj6LD6fte-0>.

March 3 Race

The sailors had another beautiful Tuesday on Terra Ceia Bay in March. The wind came from the East with continuously changing speed and direction. Just before the first boats reached the downwind buoy, the wind slowed. We shortened the course by sailing directly from the downwind buoy to the finish line. The average time around the course was 76 minutes.

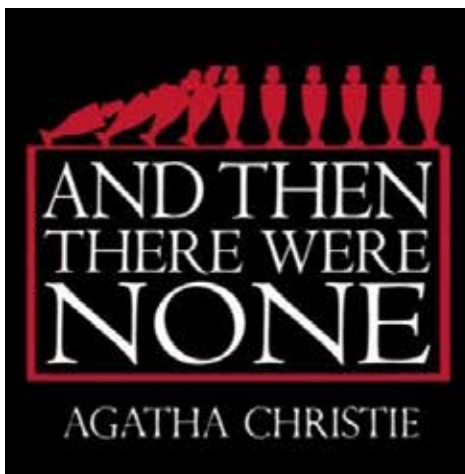


Peter Sielski of the Cohete crew took these photos.

Musicals, Concerts, and More!



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And Then There Were None
April 9th - 26th



Big Fish
April 23rd - May 10th



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March 10 Race

By John Castellana

15 minutes before the race started, I wasn't certain there would be a race this Tuesday. There was close to no wind. We set a course without an up-wind buoy to shorten the course and promised to shorten the course further if the wind stayed light. (The procedure is not to start a race if boats can't sail at 2 knots. If after a 30-minute postponement, there is still insufficient wind, the race is abandoned.) Just before the race started at 1:00, Old Faithful arrived in the form of a patchy southeast breeze that moved slowly across the water and the race was completed.



If you'd like to check out Fred Lawrence's drone video go to <https://youtu.be/rzd9TGE-M3o>.

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Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Procedure

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

- ARC application forms are available in the Office and on the website www.tropicisles.net. Fill out an ARC application and submit it to the Office. Make sure to include diagrams, drawings, or photos as needed. If possible, please show the neighbor's homes and the distance from each. Include the labels N, S, E, and W directions on your diagrams.
- All applications must be logged in at the Office and assigned a date for review by the ARC Committee or 3-COR.
- 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.
- 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. You will be notified when your request is placed on the agenda for an ARC meeting. You are encouraged to attend the meeting.
- 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.
- If denied, you can appeal the decision to the Board of Directors, if you so choose.
- To obtain a permit from the City, you must first receive the Architectural Review Application approval, signed by the ARC Committee and the Manager.**

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



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

	2			7		6		
6			9		4	3		
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Shuffle Club 2026-2027

The Shuffle Club ended an awesome season with an election of new officers:

President	Mel Theel
Vice President	John Ulery
Secretary	Debbie Sargent
Treasurer	Robbin Moore



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