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FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY

their phones, get fresh coffee and just cool off. He didn't have to do this. The trees have been removed from the homes and, yes, we still have some cleanup yet to do, although again today driving through other parks we are in very good shape. I would rather be here.

Sincerely,

Theresa Stevens, HOA President

RESIDENTS' ACTIVITY COMMITTEE (RAC)

Kevin Karcher, RAC President

I hope everyone is doing well. We have survived one heck of a summer. Two hurricanes, several inches of rain all summer, and as of this article still above-normal temperatures.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the cleanup from Hurricane Milton. I have never seen so much destruction from a storm before. We all came together as a community helping each other.

Be sure to use a licensed and insured contractor for all repairs. You will need permits for anything that is not part of your mobile home (such as carports). Manatee is waiving the fee for most of the work, so be sure your contractor is aware of this.

We still have been able to have some fun at the clubhouse, whether it was Feather Your Nest, darts or karaoke. Be sure to come out and join the fun. Check your calendar for upcoming events.

Kevin Karcher

RAC President

CLVII RAC Board of Directors:

Kevin Karcher - President

Dianne Meyaard - Vice President

Judy Faries – Treasurer

Lisa Eurick - Secretary

Directors: Anna Syjud, Deb Williams,

Dave Magne, Judy Marshall,

Joanne Fandey

FROM MANAGEMENT

NEWS FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Terry West, CLV Community Manager

- Information for all Smartaira users (Previously Lux all terms and conditions still are applicable), For any support issues please call Support at 877-589-3015
- Home of the Month is suspended until more homes have been repaired and the park can be returned to some semblance of its previous glory prior to Hurricane Milton.
- For all of you who are returning to the park from being away; Please be sure to check in with the office so we can update the address you are at. You can call, email, or drop by to check-in. Thank you to those who have checked in already.
- All guests must be registered with the office. Guests' stay must conform to the rules and be limited to no more than 15 consecutive days at a time, no more than 30 per calendar year. If staying longer than these parameters outlined, the guests must be age-qualified and screened by submitting an application to the office as stated in the Community Rules as well.
- Dog owners need to pick up their own pet's droppings as soon as it happens if in their own yard. This is in the rules and is a good practice in helping to keep the park looking its best and to avoid spreading disease. Cats must be kept inside the home except when on a leash, just as dogs must be leashed if outside the home at all times.
- Reminder to mail your payments or have them mailed out in time to meet the deadline of receiving on or before the 5th of each month. After the 5th, the \$40 late fee is added, and if not paid by the 10th, after the 10th a \$10 per day fee is also added. The full amount of this fee must be paid and will subject you to enforcement if not paid. Pay on time to avoid this fee as the office is doing the job the owner expects us to do and as the rules dictate.

continued on page 4

- The new amounts will be in effect on January 1, 2025, so please be sure to make your January checks for the correct amount per the increase letters mailed on 9/25/24. Also, if you opted in to participate in the Community Internet remember that you cannot opt-out or put on vacation hold at any time. Please make sure to add the \$90 additional to the 2025 total amount on the letter. No partial payments can be accepted.
- Country Lakes Villages is a 55-plus community and it is important all residents and guests are identified prior to occupancy. Guests must register with the office and can stay for 15 consecutive days and no more than 30 days collectively per year. Guests staying longer must be age-qualified and screened. Rentals must be for 90 days or more and approved by the office prior to occupancy. Anyone not following this policy needs to be reported to the office as the safety of all the residents is paramount. Unapproved, back-door rentals, jeopardize the safety and welfare of all residents and won't be tolerated. But again, we have to be notified to act on legitimate written reports. The safety and status as a 55-plus community hinges on residents complying with the rules of the community. Non-compliance will result in legal action and accompanying fees. Our objective is to maximize your safety and the value of your home and the community.
- Homeowners are responsible to maintain all bushes, plants, and sod; the park mows, edges and weed eats. If you want a nice yard it takes water, time, and effort on the homeowner's part.
- The community is returning to normal as fast as possible after Milton, thanks to Bob Miller sending much-needed help. Please be patient as the clean-up and repair will take many months for the community and homeowners.
- RV's, boats, and trailers must have a current registration and be approved by the office. Failure to do so may result in towing. There are currently a few vehicles that aren't approved by

the office or have a current tag. After notification, I will have the vehicles towed, if necessary. This free amenity is to be used for vehicles that are road-worthy.

- The mandatory annual census will be coming soon to your mailboxes. Please take the time to complete this form as mandated by the rules of the park and return it to the office in a timely fashion before the deadline for the census.
- Happy Holidays to all! Please be safe over the Holidays so we can see you all in the New Year.

NOTES FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dave Vossberg, Advisory Board



First, on behalf of both our communities, thank you, Bob Miller! Your willingness to help us in our time of need has not gone unnoticed, and is very much appreciated. Terry, Cheryl, Mike, Jose and Bonnie did an excellent job helping to get us back to as much normality as can be expected.

Tyler and his crew worked tirelessly day after day cleaning up both communities. I, as well as a lot of others, were very impressed by his and his crew's work ethics and willingness to do whatever it took to help us.

We had many people step up and help others during this time which just proves my point that these truly are communities, not just parks.

Bob Miller, owner of Country Lakes Villages, has an Advisory Board in place, comprised of residents from both communities.

The Advisory Board has accepted two new members. They are Susan Garcia from CLVII and Judy MacInness from CLVI. Welcome and we look forward to positive things in the future. At this time here are the board members: CLVI-Sandy Gilbertson, Sue Eckert, Bruce Steltzer and Judy MacInness. CLVII-Bree Borders, Sue Dibble and Susan Garcia with Dave Vossberg, Chairperson.

continued on page 4

Flood Damage??? We can HELP!!!

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FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY

As of the deadline of this publication, we have not yet met with management for this month. We will include updates from this month's meeting in next month's newsletter.

Through the Advisory Board, resident issues are facilitated with Terry West, manager. A form has been created so that your concerns can be submitted in writing to any board member. Forms are available in both clubhouses, from any board member and within this publication. With Mr. Miller's approval, issues submitted to the board are those which affect more than one household. You are advised to deal individually with Terry West, manager, for personal issues.

The annual review of Rules and Regulations are done with the Resident Advisory Board. Other responsibilities include the revue and approval of social funds, the direction of improvements in the parks, along with other issues that may arise.

Additional items for discussion with Terry at the October meeting included:

Guest Overnight Parking. Through an input form from a member of the community, we discussed guest overnight parking with Terry. CLVII has an area designated for overnight guest parking and it was suggested that CLVI residents have a similar area.

Terry agreed with this idea and will move forward creating these spaces at CLVI's clubhouse parking lot. These spaces would be for registered guests only to park overnight when the host resident does not have room for them to park off the street.

Hot Tubs: The hot tubs at both communities have been resurfaced and by the time of this publication are back in use hopefully.

Fountain CLVI: The fountain has been repaired and will be installed by a vender. Unfortunately, the storms have delayed the installation.

Additional Bookcases CLVII Library: There will be no additional bookcases. It is suggested to organize and purge the existing books.

Submitted by Dave Vossberg, Advisory Chairperson

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Deb Williams, Editor

Chicks With Kicks will be added to the January calendar. So for those who have been waiting for Susie to get you in shape, especially after the holidays, January is the month to begin.

On a sad note, Barry Arnold will not be holding any of his line dancing classes this season. Many residents look forward to his classes and I am positive they will be missed by many residents in both CLVI and CLVII.

Check out the Upcoming Calendar of Events this month for updates on all events scheduled between January and May. There will be a three-event Sunday Show Series beginning in January and ending in April. What a great way to spend a little of your Sunday afternoon enjoying the performers and visiting with neighbors and friends.

Also of interest, the Home of the Month selection has been discontinued due to the damage caused by Hurricane Milton to our beautiful CLV communities. Once our community is restored to its original beauty, the Home of the Month selection will start back up.

Deb Williams, Editor



SCAM ALERT

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Tips for Avoiding Facebook Scams

- 1. Secure your Facebook account with a strong password and two-factor authentication**
Avoid including your name, phone number, email address or common words. Don't reuse your Facebook password on other services online, and never share your password with others.
- 2. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know**
Scammers may create fake accounts in an attempt to friend and manipulate people.
- 3. Watch out for suspicious links and malicious software**
Be careful not to click on suspicious links, open suspicious files or install malicious apps or browser extensions—even if they appear to come from a friend or a company you know.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Peggy Seiler, Coordinator



To you, did this past year seem like it just went so quickly? The saying that “the older we get the faster the years go by” seems to have some validity.

Surgery can be a setback for any of us whether minor or major.

Cards were shared with Andrea Giovanni for eyelid surgery which we hope now helps her vision.

Suzan Garcia had major dental surgery that left her very bruised and sore.

Bette Arnold had knee surgery and we all will be glad to see her up and getting around without pain.

Paula Borrero had an infection on her leg which caused her to be put in the hospital for surgery and we hope this will heal quickly.

Prayers were asked for Jerry Stram, who at the time of this submission for printing, is in the hospital being challenged with blood clots.

All have received your cards.

In the weeks ahead we shall see more of our “Snow Birds” returning and the joy of family getting together for the holidays.

As we think of the true meaning of the December 25th celebrations, may it truly be a Merry CHRISTmas in our CLVII community.

Your help is always appreciated to keep me updated.

I am blessed to be part of this community.

My phone number is 941-217-9384 and my residence is at Lot # 2110 Lakeside.

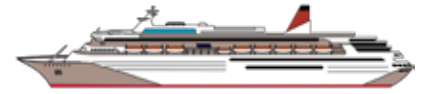
Thank you and Blessings,

Peggy Seiler

Sunshine Committee Coordinator

TRAVEL

Bev Smith, Coordinator



January 3, 2025, Royal Caribbean “Serenade of the Seas” 10-day cruise Costa Rica, Colon Panama, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel, Mexico. Late February 2025 (dates will be announced later).

December 19th to BOK TOWER, Lake Wales, where you can walk through many garden trails, tour El Tetiro mansion, enjoy listening to the singing Carillon Bells every half hour, and a restaurant and gift shop. Lunch and round trip bus are also included. Pick-up will be at CLVI. We will be sharing a bus with Tera Ceia. The price is \$125. There are only 25 seats still available so if you are interested call 607-742-9949 to reserve your seat. A sign-up sheet will be on your travel board hopefully in October.

On January 31st a day trip to the Buddy Holly Story, and his 50’s music at Broadway Palms in Ft. Myers. Tickets are \$145 and that price will include the musical show, a huge buffet lunch, tips, and a round-trip bus from CLVI. We will have our own full bus.

We are also working on a trip to Space Kennedy Center in February and a Calypso Breeze luncheon and music day cruise in March. Watch your newsletters and Travel board for more information.

Sign up on your travel board in the clubhouse for any trips.

All this info is on your TRAVEL BOARD. CLV Travel representatives LARRY and BEV SMITH, 607-742-9949, e-mail bevseneca@gmail.com. Our travel agent is Valerie Gill, 941-232-8612, e-mail valatwk@aol.com We are looking forward to having a fun time with all of you!! Please watch your monthly newsletters and travel boards for updated info.!!

Bev



CLVII UPCOMING SCHEDULED EVENTS

Saturday, January 18: The Fulcos, 7-10pm, ticket price

\$10, BYOB, 50/50.

Sunday, January 26: Star Newman, 2pm, ticket price

\$10, BYOB.

Friday, February 14: Rye Road Entertainment,

7-10pm, ticket price \$10, BYOB & 50/50.

Sunday, February 23: 2pm, Beach Bumz, ticket price \$10, BYOB.

Saturday, March 1: Ruby Blues, 7-10pm, ticket price

\$10, BYOB & 50/50.

**Monday, March 17: John Rinell, 1:30, ticket price \$20, M-N-M BBQ,
BYOB & 50/50.**

Friday, April 4: Silver Alert, 7-10pm, ticket price \$10, BYOB & 50/50.

Sunday, April 6: Christopher John, 2pm, ticket price \$10, BYOB.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Brunch, 2pm, ticket price \$20, BYOB.

Saturday, May 17: Pool Party, Scott Allen, 1-4pm, ticket

Price \$10, BYOB/Appetizers, 50/50.

**Monday, May 26: Memorial Day Celebration, 1-4pm, M-N-M BBQ,
ticket price \$20, BYOB.**

Christmas Gift Exchange and Golf Cart Parade

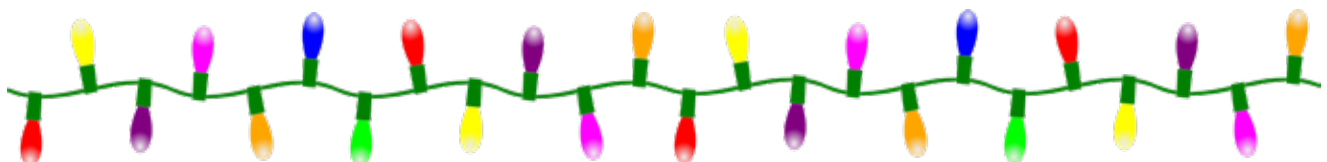
December 8

BYOB

\$15 gift limit

Golf Carts will line up at the clubhouse at 5:30pm and return to the clubhouse and enjoy some ice cream and the gift exchange. White Elephant Gift exchange will begin at 6:00. Bring a tray of cookies to share. Santa will be making a surprise appearance.

****Sign up sheets will be located by the back door at the clubhouse 11/17***





CHRISTMAS BUFFET

December 15 at 2PM

Tickets will go on sale 11/24

See Dianne Meyaard, 2185 Easy St

Tickets are \$20—refundable at the door



Traditional Christmas Buffet by

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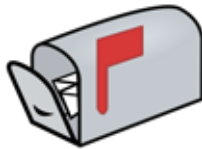
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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

PLEASE WATCH THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS AND THE "FRIENDS @ CLVII" FACEBOOK PAGE FOR SCHEDULE AND EVENT DETAILS, CHANGES AND UPDATES.

Attention CLVII residents. Did you know we have internal mailboxes in the Clubhouse? They are on the south side of the hallway between the kitchen and restrooms, near the side entrance. These boxes are for postage-free communications between residents and sometimes lost mail, all year long. They are also used after the annual Christmas card boxes are gone, and cards are moved to this location if they have not been picked up. Please check them often in case something is waiting for you!



You have probably noticed the tree trimmers making their rounds through CLVII recently. They are a welcome sight to see. They have been trimming numerous palm trees throughout the community, helping to ensure dead or loose fronds don't break off from the storms and high winds during this hurricane season.



Please add your picture to our Picture Board! This helps your neighbors put a face to a name.

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Janet Wright.....Proofreader

COFFEE TIME
Join us for Saturday morning coffee, donuts and chat!
8:15 a.m. at the clubhouse.



<http://www.countrylakesvillage.com>

Click on Community News

Username: clvresident
Password: CountryLakes



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New to the game no problem
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Come and enjoy the FUN!!!

Original by Mike Munk

Pinochle - Monday - 1 p.m.

Coordinator: Barb Gibson 941-304-6588

Water Aerobics - Tues, Thu, Sat 9:30 a.m.

Coordinator: Joann Dodge 941-224-7106

Dominoes – First Tuesday of the month 1 p.m.

Coordinator: Jim Roberts 410-465-0159

Potluck & Social Hour - Tuesday 4 p.m.

BYOB and munchies plus a dish to share.

Darts - Tuesday 7 p.m.

Coordinator: Walter Hull 614-578-6562

Feather Your Nest – 6 p.m.

Coordinator: Kevin Karcher 609-929-2211

Yoga – Friday 9 a.m.

Coordinator: Jennifer Berglund 716-471-4599

Canasta - Friday 1 p.m.

Coordinator: TBD

Karaoke - Friday 7 p.m.

*Coordinators: Cherry Vickery 941-301-7782
Anna Syjud 248-983-8545*

THINGS TO DO IN THE PARK

Mahjong – Sunday at 1 p.m.

Coordinator: Barb Gibson 941-304-6588

Cornhole – Monday at 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Kevin Karcher 609-929-2211

Pickleball – Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m.

Coordinator: Linda Weber 618-977-2705

Beginners Pickleball – Mon, Wed & Fri – 8:30

Coordinator: Jim Roberts 410-465-0159

Chicks with Kicks – Mon & Wed 9:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Susie Taunt 989-329-2097

Pennies from Heaven - Wednesday 12:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Sue Garcia 906-280-2890



HOA MEETING RULES

The HOA has initiated the following rules for the HOA resident meetings held on the 1st Wednesday of each month. These meetings are held once a month and every month throughout the year. Meetings will begin promptly at 7 pm.

- Meetings will begin promptly at 7pm.
- Table talk will not be tolerated while either an HOA board member is speaking, or a resident is addressing the membership.
- All residents must make statements or ask questions from the podium.
- Anyone addressing the HOA/residents from the podium will be given 3 minutes of speaking time. A timer will be set and after your 3 minutes are up you will be asked to return to your seat.
- Each resident will be allotted 3 minutes of talking time per subject.
- For issues that must be addressed by the Advisory Board there will be sheets provided on each table that can be filled out and given to the HOA board that will be forwarded on to the Advisory Board for consideration.
- Moving forward, an agenda for the residents meeting will be sent via email to all residents. This will provide residents with the opportunity to have questions or concerns ready for the meeting.
- Also, meeting notes from the HOA residents meeting will be sent out via email by the HOA secretary to all residents within 10 days of the meeting.
- There will be a Sergeant at Arms at all HOA resident meetings. Any person who does not act with respect and consideration during the meeting will be requested to leave by the Sergeant at Arms present at the meeting. The HOA cannot allow our resident meetings to become unruly and make residents feel uncomfortable. The HOA must always maintain order to ensure a productive and informative meeting for all residents.
- Please state your name and lot number when presenting a motion.
- Please state your name and lot number when seconding a motion.



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Sandy Maxham
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Becky Jones
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Lisa McKenzie
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December 2024 CLVII Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	DAILY EVENTS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Sunday 1:00 Mahjong Monday 8:30 Pickleball 8:30 Beginner Pickleball 1:00 Cornhole 1:00 Pinochle Tuesday 8:30 Pickleball 9:30 Water Exercise 10:00 Ping Pong 4:00 Social Hour/Potluck 7:00 Mixed Bridge 7:00 Darts Wednesday 8:30 Pickleball 8:30 Beginner Pickleball 12:00 "Pennies from Heaven" /Library Thursday 9:00 Pickleball 9:30 Water Exercise 6:00 Feather Your Nest 6:30 Euchre Friday 8:30 Pickleball 8:30 Beginner Pickleball 9:00 Yoga 1:00 6 Deck Canasta 7:00 Karaoke Saturday 8:15 Coffee 9:00 Pickleball 9:30 Water Exercise
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Christmas Buffet 2-4PM 	 1:00 PM						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					
		New Years Eve Celebration 8-12PM 					
<p>FOR CALENDAR CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS, CALL DEB WILLIAMS AT 941-304-7756 or e-mail Dawilliams1031@yahoo.com For any community related emergencies after business hours please call 844-285-2099</p>							

(Check facebook to confirm)

January 2025 CLVII Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	DAILY EVENTS
			1	2	3	4	Sunday Mahjong 1:00 Monday 8:30 Pickleball 8:30 Beginner Pickleball 9:00 Chicks with Kicks 1:00 Cornhole 1:00 Pinochle Tuesday 8:30 Pickleball 9:30 Water Exercise 10:00 Ping Pong 1:00 Dominoes 4:00 Social Hour/Potluck 7:00 Mixed Bridge 7:00 Darts Wednesday 8:30 Pickleball 8:30 Beginner Pickleball 9:00 Chicks with Kicks 12:00 "Pennies from Heaven" /Library Thursday 8:30 Pickleball 9:30 Water Exercise 6:30 Euchre Friday 8:30 Pickleball 8:30 Beginner Pickleball 9:00 Yoga 1:00 6 Deck Canasta 7:00 Karaoke Saturday 8:15 Coffee 8:30 Pickleball 9:30 Water Exercise
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
		Dominoes 1 PM	HOA Resident Meeting 7PM	Feather Your Nest 6PM			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
			RAC Resident Meeting 7PM	Feather Your Nest 6PM		Dance The Fulcos 7-10 PM	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	 1 PM			Feather Your Nest 6PM			
26	27	28	29	30	31		
Star Newman Magic/Comedy/ Mentalism 2PM				Feather Your Nest 6PM			
<p>FOR CALENDAR CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS, CALL DEB WILLIAMS AT 941-304-7756 or e-mail Dawilliams1031@yahoo.com For any community related emergencies after business hours please call 844-285-2099</p>							
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After

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Dec 5 Kim Rickards
Dec 6 Kevin Colby
Dec 7 Mary Etta Yoder
Dec 7 Richard Bouchard
Dec 8 Sherry Hayes
Dec 10 Pat Wixson
Dec 12 Elmer Goodroad
Dec 13 Michael Houser
Dec 13 John Yoho
Dec 16 Theresa Stevens
Dec 17 Craig Taunt
Dec 18 Roger Ewing
Dec 18 Paula Borrero
Dec 19 Joan Gilmour
Dec 20 Bev Cameron
Dec 21 Gerald Martin
Dec 22 Ann Frazier
Dec 23 Sandy Thacker
Dec 25 David Klukow
Dec 25 Joanne Fandey
Dec 26 Pat Nickel
Dec 27 Mike Rowntree
Dec 27 Mary Miceli
Dec 27 Jeannie Collins
Dec 29 Gerald Monteleone
Dec 29 Agnes Everett
Dec 29 Donald Stannard

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 1 Dennis & Laura Reynolds 51 Years
Dec 6 Don & Elaine Burchell 55 Years
Dec 9 Scott & Lisa Eurick
Dec 12 Larry & Linda Chitti
Dec 15 James & Judy Steiger 52 Years
Dec 16 Mike & Sylvia Coleman 57 Years
Dec 18 Vince & Tricia Boris
Dec 23 Tom & Katherine Martel
Dec 31 Jack & Brenda Thompson

Happy 
Anniversary



Leslie Molinaro won the 'Winner Takes All' pot at the Feather Your Nest game on October 24. Congratulations to Leslie on her big win.



RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK



The annual Halloween Party proved again to be a great success. The creative costumes were a sight to take in. Our first place in female costume went to Andrea Giovanni. She was a sexy and spooky vampire. Our first place male costume went to a resident favorite, Ron Lorenz. The beard becomes him...we are unsure if Darlene agrees. Our group winners portrayed Gilligan's Island: Sandy Santino was Gilligan, Leslie Molinaro was Ginger, Dianne Meyaard was Mrs. Howe, Jerry Meyaard was Mr. Howe, Mike Morgan was the Skipper, Judy Marshall was Mary Ann and Tim Morgan was the Professor. The entertainment for the night was Taylor and Taylor and they did a great job as usual. The clubhouse was decorated extra spooky for the event and looked great.

<p>1</p> <p>OMG, have you heard the great news? Sewell's Plumbing Services is now doing A/C!</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Really? That's great, but I have an A/C guy...</p> 	<p>SEWELL'S PLUMBING NOW DOES HVAC INSTALLATION AND REPAIRS!</p> <p>941-794-6497</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>SEWELL'S PLUMBING SERVICES \$50 OFF YOUR FIRST HVAC SERVICE</p> <p><small>*CAN NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS* *MUST PRESENT COUPON AT THE TIME OF SERVICE*</small></p>
<p>3</p> <p>Well that's good, but I bet you're overpaying, and waiting forever for service. Me? I'm gonna stay "Cool like a Sewell" all summer long!</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>I wanna be cool like a Sewell! I'm in!</p> 	

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VETERAN'S DAY



Kevin Karcher did a wonderful job coordinating our Veteran's Day tribute. The flag ceremony was very moving for some residents. Small touches such as this are a respectful and moving way to honor our veterans. Some of our veterans stood before the luncheon to tell us some of the specifics of their military service. We hope to keep building ways to honor our veterans on Veteran's Day each coming year.



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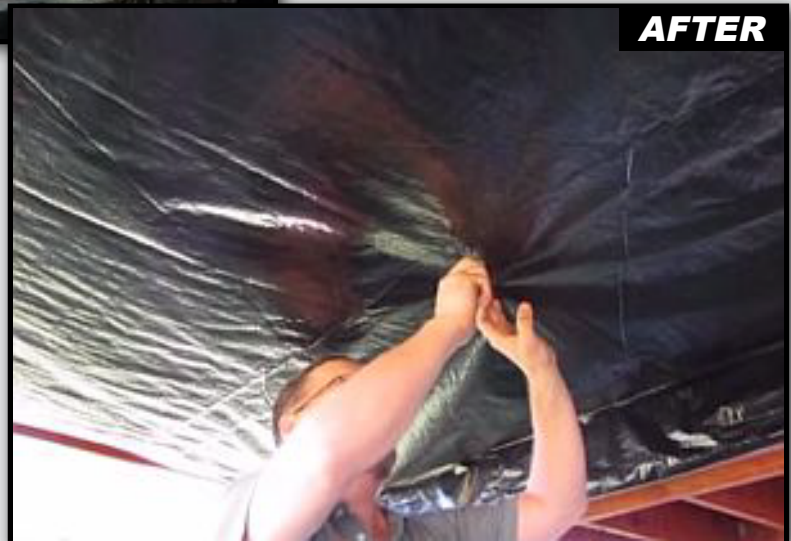
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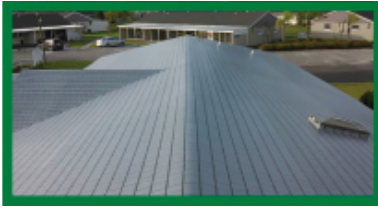
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FUN FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Deb Williams

1. Christmas wasn't always on December 25. Although Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, it doesn't actually mention December 25 anywhere in the Bible. In fact, some historians think Jesus was born in the spring, not the winter at all! Christmas on December 25th wasn't celebrated until about 336 AD.
2. Gifts have both Christian and Pagan origins. For Christians, gift-giving at Christmas mimics the presents the Wise Men gave to Jesus and the charitable giving of the ancient St. Nicholas (the forerunner to Santa!). However, winter gift-giving also has its roots in Saturnalia, a pagan holiday where they gave offerings to the gods.
3. Evergreens are an ancient tradition. The iconic Christmas tree has a lot of roots (forgive the pun). Ancient Egyptians used to mark the winter solstice by decorating their homes with green palms, while the Romans celebrated Saturnalia with evergreen boughs. These green plants signified that the spring would return with new life. The first Christmas trees as we know them today started in Germany in the 16th century.
4. St. Nick was more generous than jolly. The original Santa Claus was actually St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop in the 4th century. He didn't wear the red suit that's so famous today, but he did give all of his inheritance to the poor and needy. In Dutch, his name is Sinter Klaas, which later morphed into Santa Claus.
5. Mistletoe is an aphrodisiac. The holiday decoration isn't just pretty. It's also an ancient symbol of fertility and virility — and the Druids considered it an aphrodisiac.



DECEMBER AROUND THE CORNER

Lorelei Millet

HO, HO, HO HOLIDAY season is here! And after all the commotion from the Hurricanes, it will be nice to put our focus on the most Joyful



Season of All! I know that some of you still have much to do with your home repairs but do try to take a few moments every day to open your eyes, hearts, and minds to this blessed season.

Christmas Joy Concert

Join the First Baptist Church of Palmetto Celebration Choir and Orchestra at this free outdoor event. The Christmas Joy Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 4th from 6:30 – 7:30 at the Marriot Resort located at 600 US 41 N. This is the new Marriot next to the Convention Center. If you've never been to one of the FBC of Palmetto's concerts you are in for a treat. It's a great way to relax and start the Holiday Season with some great music and surrounded by friends and family.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The newest holiday movie is taken from a well-read book by the same name. This may sound like a kid's movie, but believe me, Chuck and I saw it and it is wonderful for all ages, kids, and kids at heart. It is playing at both AMC Bradenton 20 and Regal Oakmont theaters. The Herdmans are six siblings with a not-so-great reputation who take over the Christmas Pageant during the holidays. What seems to be a disaster turns into a wonderful story about what Christmas is all about. Check the theater for dates and showtimes.

Continued on page 20

St. Petersburg Farmers Market

Visiting the Saturday morning market in St. Petersburg is an experience not to be missed! The market is full of wonderful vendors featuring farm-fresh produce, artisanal food products, and a wide range of arts and crafts. Visitors can wander through rows of vendors, sampling delicious treats from food trucks or picking up unique gifts for Christmas giving. The market is open every Saturday from October to May from 9 am to 2 pm. It is located in the Al Lang Stadium parking lot on the corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue S. There is some parking on the lot next to the market but there are several parking ramps within walking distance as well. Get there early and make it a fun-filled day of adventure. This would be a great time to visit the St. Petersburg Pier, as well.

Tampa Zoo Christmas in the Wild

It's the most wonderful time of the year at Zoo Tampa with the return of Christmas in the Wild, featuring one of Tampa Bay's largest light displays, delectable holiday treats, amazing wildlife, and new festive adventures! Check out the Tampa Zoo webpage for days, times, and ticket information. Get out and enjoy the wild side of the holiday!

Preserves and Hiking

December is a great time to get out and enjoy nature at one of our wonderful Manatee County Preserves. The weather is cooler, and the migrating birds are in abundance. Many of the Preserves offer guided tours that are always a fun way to learn more about the plants and animals who live on the preserve. Check out www.mymanatee.org for information on the preserve and what days guided tours are available. I did hear that the shell tour might be available soon at Coquina Beach but when I looked at the webpage it looked like January would be the first one. They are still doing a lot of cleanup on our wonderful Anna Maria Island.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6


We can search “Around the Corner” or over the entire earth but never find what we are looking for until we seek the child who is born for us, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. My hope during the most wonderful season is for you to find the real reason for the season and open your heart to the peace and comfort only Christ can give. Blessings and Merry Christmas.

Lore Millet



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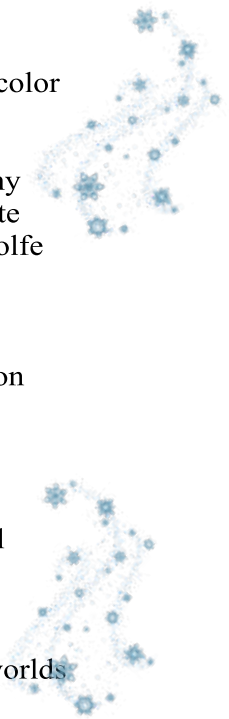
Report Imposter Scams Online to the Federal Trade Commission



December Crossword

ACROSS

1. Chronic nag
6. Hardly believable
10. A dark bluish-red color
14. Moor
15. Not under
16. Religious ceremony
17. Liquid bodily waste
18. Detective _____ Wolfe
19. Leave out
20. Neutral
22. Game piece
23. Disagreeable person
24. Is melodramatic
26. Capable
30. Consumed
31. Downturn
32. Metal used in steel
33. Feces
35. Skirmish
39. Chuckled
41. In the best of all worlds
43. Brown shade
44. Lack of difficulty
46. Stair
47. Zero
49. East southeast
50. Fashion
51. Lacking companions
54. Tears
56. Double-reed woodwind
57. Classical music compositions
63. Dam
64. Infinitesimal amount
65. Actor Clark _____
66. Being
67. Coagulate
68. Food grain
69. Marsh plant
70. Arid
71. Affirmatives



DOWN

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Blackball | 13. Distributes | 42. Ocean trenches |
| 2. Protagonist | 21. Angered | 45. Faucet attachment |
| 3. Precipitation | 25. Rodents | 48. Words to a song |
| 4. Europe's highest volcano | 26. Afflicts | 51. Not upper |
| 5. Young seal | 27. Scottish hillside | 52. Overweight |
| 6. Line on a world map | 28. French for "Wolf" | 53. Sound of any kind |
| 7. Retaliator | 29. Designed | 55. Damp |
| 8. Nothing more than | 34. Squander | 58. Puncture |
| 9. Worn away | 36. Countertenor | 59. Act presumptuous |
| 10. Cytoplasm | 37. Sleigh | 60. Nile bird |
| 11. Boundary | 38. Hoopla | 61. Apart from this |
| 12. Useful | 40. Salute | 62. Adjusts |



DECEMBER



				8	3			2
				2		5		8
3				4	6			
5	1	6	9					
	2					3		1
						7		
9					1	2		3
			6				8	5
	5	4						



2	5	4	3	7	8	1	6	9
1	7	3	6	9	2	4	8	5
9	6	8	4	5	1	2	7	3
8	3	9	2	1	4	7	5	6
4	2	7	8	6	5	3	9	1
5	1	6	9	3	7	8	2	4
3	8	2	5	4	6	9	1	7
6	4	1	7	2	9	5	3	8
7	9	5	1	8	3	6	4	2

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