

April 2026

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# Forest Park Newsletter

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By *Laura Freeze*

### Heather Flavin

Heather's roots in Forest Park go back to 1985, when her folks started snow birding here, lasting for 27 years. Having visited many times, she knew it was a good place. She dedicated her career to public service, working for 12 years as a Victim/Witness Advocate for the District Attorney of Worcester County and then 23 years as a Probation Officer for the Massachusetts Trial Court, retiring in 2020. Following her years serving others, she channeled that dedication to making Forest Park a great place to live.

She worked with Monte Johnson, as a feature writer, enhancing the newsletter by establishing a greater focus / spotlight on many park members who volunteer for our resident managed park. If she spotted an act of kindness, community spirit or a giving heart she was there to snap a FB photo recognizing others. She was instrumental in getting the Welcome Wagon back on track to greet our new residents. The recent Get to Know Your park event was a great success, motivating others to volunteer.

In true Heather fashion, when approached to be featured in the spotlight she hesitated preferring the focus to be on others, rather than herself. In February, Heather began a new chapter in her life returning to where she grew up in Massachusetts, (accent ? What accent? ) Although we are all excited about her new adventure, it is a huge loss for our community. She left a wonderful footprint in Forest Park; one we are all grateful for.

Thank you for allowing me to continue Heather's tradition of highlighting volunteers in our community through the monthly newsletter. I feel it is more than fitting that we honor Heather Flavin for her commitment and passion in making Forest Park a wonderful place to live. *Laura Freeze*



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# Farewell to Forest Park

By Heather Flavin



Leaving Forest Park and all the good people here is bittersweet, but one must be practical. I am thinking of how I got to know people in the beginning and memories of collecting mountains of Styrofoam after hurricane Ian was a good introduction to the caring, committed folks that live here. I have enjoyed pitching in and making the park a better place. I am just one of many dedicated residents. Volunteers are essential to the success of Forest Park. Thank you!! As a resident managed property, we need to consistently show up and help. Volunteering saves the park money. There are many who share their talents and it is greatly appreciated.

I enjoyed being the cheer person, sending those thoughtful cards, but I also like to think I cheered the park with great photos and comments of the many positive actions happening here. One fond memory for me was riding my bike and turning onto Hollyberry Court and seeing every lawn of each home decorated with an American flag for our patriotic holidays - a special site to see. I enjoyed being involved with the Red Hats, the Beautification Committee and being the initial push to get the third flagpole back up and flying Old Glory again at the entrance to the park.

There are so many that give their time and don't want to be recognized. Ellen Heigham for example. She does so much and just keeps going, coordinating events for the social club, dance classes, playing the piano for us and greeting the park residents with Christmas carols and so much more. Ellen, you rock!!

Gloria Restko needs a shout out. She coordinates the park calendar and the park's essential night patrol. This is a commitment that is beneficial for the safety of Forest Park.

Brian Hafer needs to be mentioned. He is on the Board of Directors, second vice president and he is the current Wi-Fi guy. From where I lived on Pine Grove, I could see him repeatedly heading into the office to get the info/supplies to help another resident with their Wi-Fi. His golf cart must be on auto pilot!! Thank you, Brian. When I tell folks in Massachusetts that the very reasonable HOA fee here includes Wi-Fi, their response is, "that's incredible, how can that be feasible??"

Again, there are so many that support this park, I would be remiss in not mentioning the whole Board of Directors and Carolyn Candito who is the secretary. These folks are committed to FP and work / volunteer MANY hours to keep things running smoothly and safely for all the residents. They bring their talents and experience and give on a consistent basis. Their time and efforts do not

get recognized enough. Thank you.

I am hoping for the best for Forest Park and hope to return and visit. I have received many well wishes and I appreciate the kind words. I will miss you and I hope Forest Park fares well.

**Heather Flavin**

Heather, Forest Park hopes you fare well also!!

## PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

By Forest Park Compliance Committee

### April Winners

In the spirit of recognizing how far we have come and encouraging each other, we will highlight Forest Park homes displaying "Pride of Ownership." Don't forget to compliment the homeowners on their beautiful home or home improvements. The rest of us benefit not only by having our neighborhood improved, but we can also get ideas for our own homes from what others have done to enhance their property.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Batson Passos



I want to take a few minutes to discuss something that affects all of us — not just today, but the future of our community.

Our governing documents were written decades ago — in the 1970s. At that time, this community looked different. The world looked different. Laws were different. The way people live, rent, buy, and invest in property was different. Yet here we are in 2026, still operating largely under rules written nearly 50 years ago.

Our documents require such a high voting threshold to make changes that even when a strong majority of active residents support something, we can't reach the number required to pass it. We struggle to get quorum at meetings. We struggle to get ballots returned. And because of that, needed updates simply don't happen.

What happens when that continues?

We become stagnant.

## COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

April Showers bring May flowers! They also bring the weeds back to life. Remember just a few weeks ago, during the drought, how all our yards had turned dark brown. Well, now those weeds are growing like *weeds*. The added moisture and humidity also is encouraging the growth of mold and mildew. If you are migrating back north this month, remember to make arrangements for someone to maintain your yard and plants. Out of sight/out of mind happens when you are back at your summer home. Just remember that there are people back here everyday that see your home during the summer months. Do you have someone scheduled to mow your lawn, wash the mold off your house, or complete a security check? You may be in violation of a rule or regulation and not even know it. Before you leave, please make arrangements for these services. Your neighbors, the Board of Directors, and the *Compliance Committee* thank you!

*Bob Charles, Lucinda King, Warren Starks, Bill Russell, and Kevin Mann*

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR & GENERAL MEETING DATES

From the Office



**General Membership Meetings** - We are a membership community. Monthly General Membership meetings are an important part of keeping our park a great place to live. Please make an effort to attend in person to

help us meet our quorums for voting on issues large and small. If you can't make it in person, please join us by Zoom so your voice can be heard and so you have a full understanding of any issues. Zoom can be done on your smartphone, computer, or tablet, it's very user friendly and it allows you to hear firsthand the strides made and challenges ahead to keep Forest Park a great place to live. **Our By-Laws require 75 association members to attend to have a quorum.** Our next regular meetings are scheduled for

APRIL 16, 2026 Board Meeting 9 AM

APRIL 23, 2026 Membership Meeting 7 PM

## Just a Friendly reminder regarding HOA payment methods

Payment methods include: ACH (automatic deduction) - Check - Money Order - Cash in the EXACT amount due. The office no longer has any petty cash so if you elect to pay your dues with cash it must be the exact amount. Any overage will be kept in your account as a credit toward future payment as no change will be available.



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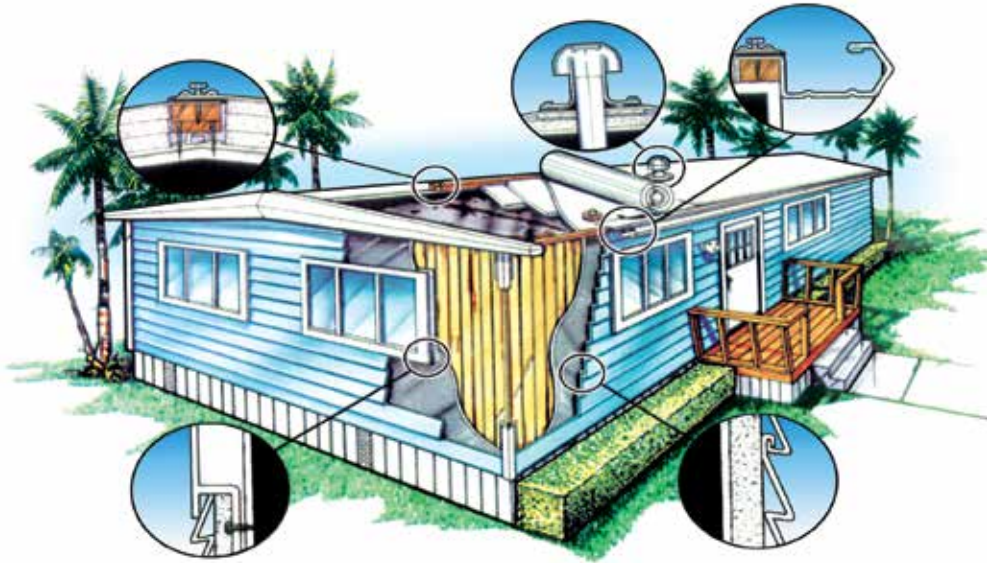


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## EDITORS THOUGHTS

By Monte Johnson



The referendum that was voted on in February was to essentially move Forest Park into the 21st Century. Something that should have happened over twenty five years ago. The results are listed below. There are 408 members of the Association. In order to make amendments to our Deed of Restrictions (DOR), Florida law requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of all members of the association. The reason is because our fifty year old documents do not address what majority is required to amend.

The third question on the referendum was to address this by going with a simple majority of 50% +1 of all Association members. The only vote which requires all members to vote, *is to amend our DOR*. Our By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority of a minimum of 75 members attending an association meeting, thereby establishing a quorum; as well as any expenditures exceeding \$20,000. The Rules and Regulations are established and voted upon by the board of directors, and **DO NOT** require a membership vote.

Of the 408 Association members, 322 returned their ballots. **THANK YOU** for exercising your rights to vote. Unfortunately, because the other 86 members did not vote, a very, **misinformed, vocal minority has Forest Park still living in the last century.**

Over 72% of our residents who voted were in favor of establishing a simple majority of 50% +1 to amend our DOR. Had 36 more residents voted yes, just 42% of the 86 who did not vote, we would be able to better manage the changes that have occurred in the past and what will occur in the future. The first and second questions on the referendum pertained to conducting background checks on potential renters or purchasers of homes in Forest Park. Again, the vocal minority was able to prevent progress that is long overdue for our park. Over 77% of our residents who voted, were in favor of conducting background checks. To the 71-72 residents who voted NO, if you couldn't currently pass a background check, you would still be allowed to live in Forest Park. The potential required background check was not retroactive. All the neighboring parks have background checks, we are the exception. Just 24 & 25 more yes votes is all it would have taken to keep violent criminals and sex offenders from living next door.

The last question on the referendum was a vote to change our current language from the minimum age of the second occupant in a home from 30 years of age to 40 years of age. The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD) administers home owners associations and authorizes the 55+ designation under HOPA, (Housing for Older Persons act). They have an 80/20 rule which states that as long as 80% of the population is 55 years of age or older, an HOA qualifies under HOPA as a 55+ and may restrict the age of residents. It would be possible for someone who is 55 to have a 30 year old "friend" or spouse to move into our park with children under the age of 30 to stay as "guests" for 3 weeks as our documents currently allow. The issue becomes, after 3 weeks, how does the Board evict these people? It recently took over a year to legally evict some loud, drunken, obnoxious, squatters, at a large legal expense to the association. Just ask the residents on Knotty Pine Circle.

**What does all this mean to our residents?** The combination of more corporations purchasing homes in the park **will mean more undesirable renters**. Not requiring background checks **will mean we are allowing convicted violent criminals to purchase or reside in our park** and not raising the minimum age from 30 - 40 means that **legally** the board **MAY NOT** stop someone with a violent criminal past, who has a "friend" or spouse the age of 30 or older with children, from moving into the park next door to **YOU!** Less than 30% of the people controlled the outcome of this vote. **OH, BUT ITS OKAY TO LIVE IN THE GOOD OLE DAYS OF THE 20TH CENTURY!!**

David Hillstrom, from the Board of Directors, Kathy Martin, Head of the elections committee along with the Document Review Committee members, volunteers, and the Park attorneys, spent over a year, and many hours working on these document amendments. Without resolving these issues, our park will continue to deteriorate, more undesirable people will move in next door, property values will continue to decline, and you may have a new neighbor with a violent criminal past. Think about **that** when these referendums come back up for a vote again!!

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**Deed of Restrictions Ballot Referendum  
Returned Ballots - 322  
Approval Necessary: (408) 2/3 = 270**



Amendments	Yes	No
#1 Background Checks New Renters	251	71
#2 Background Checks New Owners	250	72
#3 Percentage Needed to Amend DoR	234	88
#4 Age Minimum Requirement	250	72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>

2 Spoiled

**— Dave Hillstrom  
On behalf of the HOA Board**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Due to the fuel price increase because of the war in Iran, the May Newsletter will be delivered by carrier pigeon!! April Fools!!

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Security at Forest Park is everyone’s business and in our best interest. After Islamists hijacked four airplanes on September 11th, 2001 (almost 25 years ago already) we repeatedly heard “see something say something”. Terrorists and the invaders of our borders, also known as illegals, thrive on fellow Americans' short memories.

Recently, I learned of someone getting upset when a fellow resident asked someone if they live in the park. This particular incident was after dark. Clearly the resident “saw

something and said something”. He saw someone walking alone after dark (probably without a flashlight regardless of park recommendations) and asked them if they lived in the park. A terse response led to further conversation asking for an address, a plausible address was given. Unfortunately, the person being questioned was overall belligerent. A more appropriate response would be thanking the questioner for their attention to the security and wellbeing of our park.

On another occasion nearing dusk one of our residents witnessed a younger couple walking along Forest Park Drive. Their disheveled appearance and wearing a backpack was a clue that they didn’t belong here (read crackheads). He questioned them about living here. Since they didn’t live here they were advised the park is private property & they left graciously. Ironically, the vagrants were more cooperative regarding our security than a resident of our park.

I recommend people question all unusual activities. My suggestion is to have a response ready for anyone who is rude to you. My response is to ask how their divorce is going. Alternatively, you may ask if they stopped beating their mother or animals yet. Put a little humor into the situation. Most importantly, If you see something suspicious & you don’t feel safe questioning, then call the **Lee County Sheriff’s Office at (239) 477-1000 (option 1 will get you non-emergency assistance)**. In an emergency call 911 of course.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Schenk, 5410 FPD.

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**To the Editor,**

Living in a small HOA community is something many of us chose intentionally. We value the sense of familiarity, the friendly waves, the shared amenities, and the feeling that this is more than just a neighborhood — it's our home. Preserving that spirit is important. But preserving a community does not mean resisting every change that comes our way.



Growth and change are a natural part of any thriving neighborhood. New ideas, updated policies, fresh faces, and improvements to our amenities are not threats — they are opportunities. When we respond impulsively or defensively, we risk creating division where there doesn't need to be any. When we pause, listen, and engage respectfully, we build something stronger.

Protecting our community should mean protecting its character, its safety, and its sense of belonging — not protecting personal preferences at the expense of progress. Not every proposal will be perfect. Not every idea will be widely supported. But approaching change with open minds and constructive dialogue ensures that decisions are made thoughtfully and with the greater good in mind.

We all share the same goal: a well-maintained, welcoming, and harmonious place to live. Embracing change responsibly — rather than fighting it reflexively — allows us to evolve while still honoring what makes our community special.

Let's choose collaboration over conflict, discussion over division, and long-term vision over short-term reaction. That is how we truly preserve our little community — for everyone.

Sincerely,  
A Neighbor

**Letter to the editor,**

Heroes among us.



I got to thinking recently about my WiFi. I must admit in the 12 months in the winter that I have lived here in Forest Park, I have only thought about it on the occasions it flashed “not connected”. But that changed when, at the last member meeting, I heard that it might no longer be one of the Park's amenities. Then I began to ask questions like “when did it become an amenity”? I had not heard of Forest Park 15 years ago, but was told that it began about 15 years ago. It was started by the computer club, which at that time, had a peak membership of about 30 anxious to learn about the new technology. A group of about 10 members formed a WiFi committee led by Doug Ford (since departed) and Jim Schleter (still here). The group established a very limited system that has since evolved into the robust system we have today. It has worked well but the support group dwindled down to only one person — Brian Hafer. He has carried the technical load for 5 long years. We repeatedly asked for volunteers to help, but had no viable response. After 5 years, Brian has burned out. There is no computer club with 10 members to help. Where are the 10 people needed to re-build that once-thriving computer club?

I did the math, and based on recent quotes from ETHX, in the 12 months I have been here, Brian has saved me \$600. Someone who has been here for 120 months would have saved 10 times as much, \$6,000. Multiply that by 300 users!

In the 2.5 years that I have been a snow bird I have very much appreciated the WiFi being included in my park fee. A big THANK YOU! To Brian and I hope to see your picture on the front page of the newsletter. You really deserve it.

Five years ago we surveyed the park, and there was a great deal of interest in keeping the Park's WiFi. If you would like a copy, call me.

The in-house WiFi is a major saving. If we can pay for other employees, surely we can pay for a WiFi manager, if it comes to that. Or, maybe we need to pay for house calls?

I have gathered as many facts from the past history as I could. I don't guarantee that they are perfect but good enough to “get the picture”. Thanks for listening.

Lenann Crisci

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## GOOD BYE FOREST PARK

By Nancy Cooper

As I pack to get ready for moving day my mind goes back to all the wonderful memories I have of being a Snowbird for 23 years in Forest Park. When Bob and I arrived on Knotty Pine Cir we were greeted with friendly faces, smiles and welcoming hellos. Complete strangers, soon to be friends, offered to help us settle in, run errands for us, cook meals or help navigate our way in our new community. When I innocently hung a rug to dry in the carport my next door neighbor gently told me only cars were allowed in that space. No shouting or cussing, just a little reminder that the Park had certain rules we needed to learn. (Which we quickly did.)

As we became more involved in the Park we came to realize the importance of being involved and volunteering. It was by doing those things we met people all the while making Forest Park our southern home, a place we grew to love. A special thanks to all those folks who replaced floors and fences, painted buildings, cleared land, cut metals, cleaned the clubhouse, ran wifi, as well as those who held office, hosted social events.....the list is long but you know who you are. Thank you too to all my neighbors who watched my house while we were away, and offered a hand, many times without being asked.

## Second Acts— Exploring Our Neighbors

By Laura Freeze

*They came for the sunshine, but they bring a lifetime of stories.*

*This column digs into the fascinating lives of our neighbors, long before they made Forest Park their home.*

### Patricia (Trish) Tegeler

At 92 years young, Patricia has called Forest Park home since 2009. Her journey here started many years ago. She was born in Chicago, IL and raised as a “Navy brat”, constantly moving from Chicago, California, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Long Island. From a young age she always had a sense of adventure, creativity and a yearning to learn. Upon graduating from high school, she once had an older friend ask, “What do you want to do with your life?” She said, “I want to go to school”.

In the 1950’s, not many women attended college and if they did, most were there to find a husband while their parents paid the way. There were only a few that were independent and paid their own tuition. Determined to



go to college, Patricia worked as a switchboard operator back when everything was done manually. She eventually saved enough money to attend Pratt University, a prestigious private university in Brooklyn. At 19 years old, she earned an honors certificate in fashion design. When asking if she could continue on to get her bachelors degree, the college said, “Kid are you crazy? With those grades of course you can!” She went on to receive a scholarship for the next three years.

Looking back, Patricia was ahead of the women’s lib movement. She described herself as tenacious back then. She felt her passion deep down in her soul and knew that she wanted a career in shoe design. In her early 20’s, she was hired at a NYC shoe design company called Capezio. Knowing she didn’t want to commute, she moved to a West 10th street women’s residence in Greenwich Village. There she met women from all different countries and quickly became friends, all having a sense of adventure. Although she was scared to death on her first day, her dreams of a shoe designer had begun. She loved the sense of adventure with a curiosity for the city. As a child moving frequently, lasting friendships were difficult. The city filled her with different design ideas and friendships filled that void.

Trish loved solving women’s shoe design challenges. It seems that they always had heels that slipped. She recalled the last shoe she designed. Women were looking for a tall shoe with no seam on the top. She strapped leather on her feet and filled it with self leavening clay to make the design. This shoe went on to be introduced by Lord and Taylor, which quickly sold out. A catchy slogan was inserted in each shoe box explaining to women exactly how to put the shoe on their foot. The slogan was “Like wearing a kid’s skin glove”.



As life moved on, Patricia married in 1958 and adopted two boys. In the 1960’s, it was common that women become stay at home mothers and would not usually work outside the home. Throughout the years, Patricia still had that inner creative drive. Once her children were in school, she was able to have one creative day and chose to attend a pottery class once a week. Her pottery eventually sold in gift shops. As shoe design companies left the US for Europe, she leaned into the textile aspect of design. At the Niddy Noddy (a weaving fabric clothes store) she began to do clothes design. She created Tapeline Patterns to show the public how to make

fabric into clothes which had huge designs in the fabric. A large company, Serendipity, discovered she made dress patterns and started to promote them. In that era, women would wear long dresses to entertain at home, so at the store's premier, the owner wore one of her designs. She went on to FIT to build a portfolio in the 1980's.

She loved to travel throughout the years. Her sister lived in Cape Coral for forty years and Patrisha visited the area often. At 77, with much convincing from her sister, she decided to retire. They explored SWFL and felt that Forest Park was the perfect place for her and her short haired border collie, Baby. She recalled that the park used to have a travel group come to speak with residents. At a time when everyone was afraid of traveling outside the US, for fear they would be trapped, a trip to China was offered with the full cost of \$1500. Six to eight residents from Forest Park accepted the offer. Delores Holmes, who lived in the park and was looking for a travel partner, so off they went. Patricia has traveled to the Caribbean, China, London, Brussels, Holland, Italy, Spain and Paris.

Patricia has lived in the park for the last 16 years on Forest Park Drive. She has experienced many changes here. The most positive being the resident's involvement. She feels that people now, more than ever before, are involved in our community here.

Life has slowed her down and she isn't able to go out and have all the adventures like she once did, but she has many memories to hold onto. Puzzles, games and embroidery fill her day now. So if you ever feel like a board game, Patricia is always looking for a partner.

### Hazardous Waste in the RV Park

Effective immediately, the Forest Park Board decided we **will not** be processing any hazardous waste in the RV Park. This includes but is not limited to paint, batteries, oil, solvents, etc. Due to State regulations, we would be required to provide a covered structure that is raised off the ground to continue collecting hazardous materials. Lee County offers a viable alternative.



Lee County provides free disposal of hazardous waste for all residents. Otherwise, it costs the park to handle and transport this waste to the county facility. You may take your hazardous waste to the following location:

#### Household Chemical Waste and Electronics Recycling Facility

6441 Topaz Court,  
Fort Myers, FL.

An alternative for paint is to stir in cat litter and let

stand until a solid is formed. Once this happens, the paint is considered a solid waste and can be safely disposed of in our construction bin. DampRid is not considered hazardous if the water is discarded and only solids are left which can be put in the

construction bin. If you have pavers, the water from DampRid works well to kill the weeds that pop up between the pavers.

The Board of Directors thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### FOREST PARK CRAFT CLUB

*By Carole Beconder, President*  
**April Craft Club News**



Our Meatloaf dinner was our last one for this season. Thank you for your support and a great big thank you for supporting the Calendar Girls. They do such a great job for the Veteran Guide Dog program. We will be back in December for our Holiday Breakfast. See you in the Fall, have a wonderful Summer.

### SPECIAL JOYNT KOFFEE KLATCH

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3, @ 9:00AM CLUBHOUSE**

Welcome Courtney Allen from **Mobile Physician Services** as our guest speaker for our **Joynt Koffee Klatch** on Friday, April 3rd at 9:00 am in the Clubhouse. **Mobile Physician**

**Services (MPS)** provides comprehensive, personalized medical care to patients in your own home. If you are home bound, don't care to drive in the Florida traffic, are a snowbird finding it difficult to find a primary care physician while you're here in Florida, then **MPS** is for you. Don't miss this informational meeting. Coffee and Donuts are provided. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug.

The **Men's** Koffee Klatch is on Friday, April 10th at 8:00 am to 9:00 am in the Clubhouse. Coffee and Donuts are provided. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug. (2nd Friday each month)

The **Women's** Koffee Klatch is on Friday, April 17th at 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the Clubhouse. Coffee and Donuts are provided. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug. (3rd Friday each month)



## NORTHEAST CLUB GOING AWAY PICNIC IN THE PARK

By Deb Johnson

**FOR KEN & JOYCE PARSELS  
MONDAY, APRIL 13 @ 5:00PM  
PEACE LAKE PARK**



Everyone is invited. You do not need to be a member of the Northeast Club. We wanted everyone in the park to have an opportunity to say “Goodbye” to Ken and Joyce Parsels who are going to be moving from the Park after eight years. Our very own Tom Treece will be entertaining us with his delightful music and we will be serving hamburgers, chips and baked beans at Peace Lake Park. Tickets are \$12 per person and will be on sale at the box office in the Activities Building from 2-4 through April 5th. Please note the dates for April are different from other dinners because of our snowbirds heading home. Again the picnic with music in the park will be Monday, April 13th at 5 PM and you must purchase your ticket no later than April 5th. So get your tickets, bring your lawn chairs, and your favorite beverage. We are furnishing the tableware. Come join us for a relaxing, entertaining evening at Peace Lake Park and say "Goodbye" to Kenny, Joyce and our neighbors who will be heading north. If it rains we will have it in the Clubhouse.



## SOCIAL CLUB NEWS!!

By Monte Johnson

*Correction: The Social Club news last month should have stated: “It was nice to see so many at the “January” meeting.”*



The Social Club held its regular meeting on Friday, February 27th at 1:00 pm in the Billiards room of the Activities Building. Arline Bennett was nominated and elected as your new President. Nancy Cooper has resigned as a Co-Secretary as she has sold her home. We need a new Co-Secretary to assist Kathy Revels with her duties to spread the workload. Since the Association BOD assigned the Social Club the responsibility of scheduling the Clubhouse, Maureen (Moe) Hesketh has volunteered to handle the Keep & Share Calendar schedule for our Main, Clubhouse, and Billiards Room calendar schedules.

Most of the clubs and organizations in the park had their representatives in attendance to present their calendar of events for the 2026 -2027 season. They were all compiled on the calendar and Moe will be inputting the list into the Keep & Share Calendar for next season.

### Social Club Officers

<b>President</b> .....	Arline Bennett
Sambear2@yahoo.com .....	860-227-0563
<b>1st Vice President</b> .....	Ellen Heigham
eheigham@gmail.com .....	617-448-1748
<b>2nd Vice President</b> .....	Paula Batson
shaht12@aol.com .....	201 874-4980
<b>Co-Secretary</b> .....	Kathy Revels
kathy.revels@gmail.com .....	517-243-2755
<b>Co-Secretary</b> .....	OPEN
<b>Co-Treasurer</b> .....	Mary Kurucz
kuruczmary@gmail.com .....	740-310-3002
<b>Co-Treasurer</b> .....	Monte Johnson
fpsocialclubtreas@gmail.com .....	319-415-2816

## SNOWBRIDS HEADING NORTH

If you have non-perishable canned food goods that may expire before you return next season, why not donate them for our residents in the Park who are shut in? There is a box inside the sliding door to the Clubhouse for you to deposit your cans and boxes of food. Thank you in advance!



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## FOREST PARKS HOME CHURCH “THE LIGHT”

By *Roberta Rizas*

Hello, my April friends. Wishing everybody a blessed, happy Easter in the month of April. Also, Earth Day and Arbor Day are celebrated in April. We will also see lots of April showers to bring our May flowers. A great month to celebrate together, no more cold days like we had in February.



I have something to share with you this month about getting together a survival kit. Hope you enjoy reading it.

### SURVIVAL KIT

A stick of gum.. To remind you to stick to it. A match... To light your fire when you feel burnt out. A chocolate kiss.... To remind you that you are loved. A Tootsie roll.... To remind you not to bite off more than you can chew. A tack... To keep you sharp. A Smartie... To help you on the days that you don't feel so smart. A Starburst... To give you a burst of energy on those days, you don't have any. A Snicker... To remind you to take time to laugh. Confetti... To remind you to have fun. A bag.... To keep it all together and to give you food for thought.

I think that was written to be read on April Fools day, what do you think?

Before I leave I want to invite all of you reading this to join us every Sunday at 6 pm at 457 Jacaramba Ct. for our Home Church Services. Praying you will come.

## Keep&Share

How many of you know about our Forest Park Calendar. It is called the **Keep & Share Calendar (K&S)**. If you are reading the print version of this newsletter, go online to the Forest Park website and click on **News**. From there you can read this newsletter. Scroll down to this article and click on the Forest Park Calendar. You will see Keep & Share and under that is **FOREST PARK MAIN CALENDAR**.

The board determined in its February 19th meeting that the Social Club would be in charge of scheduling the Keep&Share Calendar. **Maureen (Moe) Hesketh** has volunteered to manage the Main, Clubhouse, and Billiards room K&S calendars. To schedule or change a previously scheduled event, contact Moe. You also may choose the calendar for the **Clubhouse** or the **Billiards room**. If you are reading this online, just click the underlined link at the top of this article.

For more info call **Maureen (Moe) Hesketh 508-962-5979**

## LINE DANCE CLASSES

By *Ellen Heigham*



The season has flown by and all my special line dancing friends have done an amazing job! I will not continue in April...it will give you time to practice. This season we have worked on Ah Si, Fireball, Cowboy Charleston, Wagon Wheel, Uptown Funk, King of the Road and most of the line dance steps. I look forward to starting up again in the fall.

See you on the dance floor!

For more info call **Ellen 617-448-1748**

## CARING HEARTS & HELPING HANDS CLUB

By *Lenann Crisci & Rebecca Tybor*

**CARING HEARTS & HELPING HANDS** is a new volunteer organization being formed this year. We meet on the second and fourth Monday, every month at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse. (Only for the month of April, we will meet on Thursday, April 16 th at 7:00 pm for the 2nd meeting instead of Monday) We are an arm of the Forest Park Social Club that believes there are Angels among us. Becki Tybor will be working with Lennan Crisci to make Forest Park a park where no one feels left out. Park residents help or assist our residents who are shut-in by just stopping by to visit, run an errand, or pick up a prescription. We are in **dire need of volunteers** to join the Caring Hearts & Helping Hands. We have residents who are no longer able to drive, who are lonely and just want to visit or play cards, or just need an Angel with a caring heart to give them a helping hand with their garbage or recycling.



If you would like to assist a neighbor, or if you need support with what's mentioned above, reach out to Lenann at 207-705-2256 or Becki at 630-441-6279. We are excited about being involved with our Caring Hearts Club--Hoping to make Forest Park the park with a BIG Heart.

Some things we are working on include: The **Mobile Physician Services**, Lenann is excited about this service. They will assess your needs and will appoint you a family care physician. This physician will come to your house so there is no need to make Senior Bus appointments or find rides! They also have Specialists like Audiologists, Podiatrists, X-Rays, Bloodwork, etc. Please call 855-232-0641 and dial 1 for intake. They will check your

insurance, as most health advantage plans are accepted for this service. Please call Lenann if you need help with this. Come to the **JOYNT KOFFEE KLATCH** on **Friday, April 3rd at 9:00 am in the Clubhouse** to learn more about **Mobile Physician Services**.

We are also checking with churches – Youth Groups, Service hours for Confirmation Students, etc. for volunteers helping with yard work and around the house; Fur Factor Mobile Pet care 239-233-6803 for pet grooming that comes to your home; and Mobile Hair Care Services. Becki is contacting Walmart to see if they will make a delivery to Forest Park for free to the Clubhouse at least once a month for all that would like to make online orders. We encourage you to share any further suggestions, which could be included in a Senior Brochure featuring useful details and essential phone numbers, and distributed to all households. If you offer a discounted service and wish to be included in this brochure, please contact Becki. Let us do it. Together.

## FOREST PARK TOOL CLUB

By Monte Johnson

### Hamburger Dinners coming in April.

For our dinners on Monday, April 6th and 20th we will be offering a Quarter Pound Hamburger or Cheeseburger dinner with chips and a drink for \$6 or a Double Quarter Pound dinner for \$8. We will still have our All Beef Hotdog Dinners for \$5 and \$7.



We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am in the Billiards room of the Activities Building. We have over 60 members who wish to **thank everyone** who is coming out for a hotdog dinner, breakfast, and 50/50 raffles. Our residents' support is essential in the continued success of the Tool Club. We will be hosting a dinner prior to Karaoke **every first and third Monday of the month through April**. We are accepting new members and will be purchasing new tools for our members to borrow at no cost. **Dues for the year are only \$10.00**. We currently have the normal yard, gardening, hand and power tools used for home or construction projects. But we also have a wet tile cutter, concrete mixer, mig welder, two generators, a chain saw, buffer/polisher, and an assortment of nails, screws, bolts, washers, and nuts.

If you have any questions, wish to join, donate cash, or tools you no longer use, please reach out to Bob Carson 607-857-0320, Jerry Waters 217-361-7736, Mark Snyder 716-939-0237, or Monte Johnson 319-415-2816.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

### ATTENTION: FULL TIME RESIDENTS.



Many of our snowbirds are leaving for up north. We will be switching to our full time resident night patrol roster for April. Please consider **VOLUNTEERING** for **Neighborhood Watch/Night Patrol**. It's only **one night per month**. If you are **full time or new to the park**, feel free to pick up information and a **volunteer** form at the office. Keeping a watchful eye on our park residents and residences is vitally important to the safety and security of everyone in our Park. In the past we have had bicycles, golf carts, and tools stolen, as well as squatters moving into vacant homes. We have also had drug activity. No one wants that in our Park. **Info you see something suspicious or you will need to call: Sheriff # 239-477-1000 if an emergency call 911.**

Patrol Hours: Suggested patrol hours 11:00 pm-1:00 am. But...to deter anyone, you may vary your hours. If you are a night owl 🦉, feel free to take a ride at any time during your assigned evening. You drive up and down each street, check the clubhouse and activity/office doors, and surrounding outdoor areas.

Sit at the entrance for about 15 or so minutes. Your presence makes a lot of difference to those driving, walking, and riding bikes on Hart Road. Our presence with that flashing light makes all of us feel safer.

CHECK Doors at clubhouse, activity building, and pool restrooms. They automatically lock around 8:00 pm.

**BE SURE YOU PICK UP THE BACKPACK IN THE ACTIVITY BUILDING AND RETURN IT BY**

**NOON THE NEXT DAY. INSIDE YOU WILL FIND A FLASHING LIGHT, 🚓 NOTEBOOK, FLASHLIGHT, AND MAGNETIC SIGNS FOR YOUR VEHICLE, PLUS SOME INFO AND PARK DIRECTORY**

If you find doors unlocked, lights on, try to turn them off and lock doors. Sometimes the restroom doors are not locked. Go inside and lock the interior door. **NOTIFY THE OFFICE THE NEXT MORNING OF ANY ISSUES.!!**

If any of the street lights are out, get the number on the pole, street, and closest house number and report this to the office.

**NEVER CONFRONT ANY INTRUDER OR TRESPASSER... CALL THE SHERIFF IMMEDIATELY 🚔** The Night Patrol Coordinator for the Park is **Gloria Restko**. Gloria has been a full time resident of the Park for many years. You may see Gloria and Mr. Bill in her white golf cart out and about. **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS WHO ARE VOLUNTEERING 🚓**

**Gloria Restko 813-841-9920**

## RED HAT LADIES

Contact Pam Salk 260-385-6407



Another season has come to an end. Such a good time we had exploring new and different locations ! Looking forward to next season; starting with the second Tuesday in December. In the plans for next year is a wonderful idea by Joy to attend a Tea Party, hosted by “Le Petit “ (A Tea Room Experience) she says that it is a total delight!! It is located in the Cape; 2301 Del Prado Blvd, South. They can host a group of up to 30 at one time . You can also make a reservation for any size . I am always open for help in choosing locations ! See you in December ☺ or the season; so come out and Enjoy The Island Vibe.

Pam Salk

## RV STORAGE PARK

By John Hill



Remember to keep your info up to date and your item tagged, insured, and in working order. **If you have not moved your RV, trailer, boat, etc. in the last 9 months, you are depriving someone else of a spot in our park.** Our rules state that if you have not used your spot for 9 months, your spot may be reassigned to someone else. If you have not moved it in 9 months, it may be considered not using your spot. You are abusing the privilege of a **FREE** spot (for now). Other residents may be waiting for a spot. If you no longer need your spot, please let the office know. If you need a spot to store your RV, trailer, boat, etc let the office know so you can be put on the list. **IF YOU HAVE A BOAT, CAMPER, OR TRAILER IN YOUR DRIVEWAY FOR OVER 48 HOURS; THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE RULES & REGULATIONS THAT YOU AGREED TO WHEN PURCHASING IN FOREST PARK! PLEASE INQUIRE OF A SPACE IN OUR R/V PARK OR FIND A COMMERCIAL STORAGE AREA TO RENT.**

Thanks,  
John Hill  
330-268-0066

## KARAOKE

Karaoke with Chris Tybor is held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, **from 7-9 pm Note the time!!** BYOB and snacks.!! We need more talented people to come out and enjoy an evening of free entertainment with your friends in the park. Bring your singing voices and a list of songs that you would like to sing, or just sit back and listen. Forest Park has many good singers. Hope to see you there.



## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

by Monte Johnson

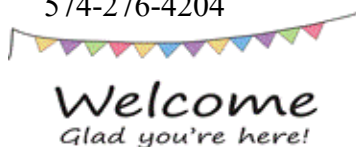
**All articles, news or photographs should be submitted to this email [fpsocialnews@gmail.com](mailto:fpsocialnews@gmail.com) and are due by the 12th of each month for the following month's newsletter.**

Remember, newsletters are printed year-round for all residents and always available for snowbirds online at [forestparkonline.com](http://forestparkonline.com). Your Forest Park Newsletter is totally run by **volunteers** who gather the information and photos, write the articles, request articles from others, proofread, arrange the articles, proofread, work with the publisher, proofread, distribute the newsletter and put it online. The newsletter is free because the advertising pays the expenses. Printed Newsletters usually arrive by the end of the previous month and are available in the Clubhouse or in the Activities building. They are always available online a few days later. **Some months the Newsletter has more articles submitted, which may cause a favorite puzzle or Sudoku to be omitted for that month. These are fillers that the publisher supplies. The editor has no control over the filler puzzles or games!**

## WELCOME TO FOREST PARK

Sue & Doyle Brasher 511 Pine Tree CT Home State FL 864-316-2936(S) 864-316-3586 (D)	Charlie & Connie Sheridan 401 Timber Lane N Home State TX 336-762-3170 Charlie 336-762-7819 Connie
---	--

Shelly Tobolski 211 Shrub Lane N Home State IN 574-276-4204	Mark & Angie Mundy Wynelle Morris 400 Twig Ct N Home State FL 912-687-0962 (W) 912-425-0073(M)
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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ronald & Cindy Trepanier April 12, 1980  
Paul & Cheryl Buening April 11, 2017  
James & Concetta Mooney April 13, 1975  
Warren & Linda Starks April 19 (no year given)  
Mary & Michael Linscott April 24 (no year given)  
Wayne & Theresa Hall April 24, 2004  
David & Nancy Schepers April 26, 1982  
Chris & Ronnie Corey April 2, 2019  
Paul Ehlert & Gianna Wachholz April 27, 2008  
Michael & Joan Fotta April 28, 1995



**Birthdates for April**

Jack Watson 1	Doyle Brasher 13
Murry Barhorst 2	Peg Hull 17
Deb Forsyth 3	Greg Sadowski 17
Carol Pandola 3	Jim Schleter 19
Bob Bagge 5	Nancy Ayers 21
Steven Huck 7	Christine Micus 22
Carol Cottrell 10	Patsy Provence 24
Don Edwards 10	Dixie Tedrow 24
Terry Reed 10	Wade Plein 25
Thomas Castor 12	Carolene Applegate 27
Jeannie Olson 12	Donna Sisto 30
Warren Starks 12	Michael Gray 30
Charles Blanchard 12	Terry Lewis 30



**IN MEMORIAM**

***Geraldine Pauline Wooley***

Geraldine (Jeri) P. Wooley, 102, of Bridgman went to be with her Lord on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at Woodland Terrace of Bridgman. Jeri was born on December 20, 1923 in Bridgman, the daughter of the late Edward and Minnie (Krumrie) Spitzer. She graduated from Bridgman High School and then attended Benton Harbor Secretarial School. On September 14, 1946 she married Richard D. Wooley of Coloma. While in Coloma they grew vegetables and fruit. Later they moved to Sawyer and then to Three Oaks, MI where they raised livestock, vegetables, grain and 4 children.



Geraldine was a secretary of the New Troy Schools until it became part of the River Valley School District where she worked until 1979. After her retirement she and Richard

enjoyed travelling across the United States and overseas. They then became snowbirds at Forest Park, North Fort Myers, FL where she greatly enjoyed playing shuffleboard and was one-year crowned Shuffleboard Queen. She liked visiting with all of her neighbors and riding her 3-wheeled bicycle throughout the park.

Jeri was a huge sports fan, cheering on the Detroit Tigers and all of the Michigan State University teams. She attended many New Troy Trojans athletic events first as a ticket taker and then as a fan watching her sons play. She attended games watching her children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren play.

Geraldine didn't slow down until the very end. For her 100th birthday she flew down to Dallas, Texas where she had a party with her children. Jeri was a long-time member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sawyer where she was involved with the Lutheran Ladies Aid and the Altar Guild. After moving to Bridgman she called Immanuel Lutheran her home church.

Geraldine will be greatly missed by her three children – Cheryl (Ronald Geik), of Culver, IN, Robin (Janet), of Las Vegas, NV and Randy (Alan Smith), of Dallas, TX. She was a loving grandmother to David (Casey), Rachel (John Clark), Scott (Nadia), Adam (Cheyenne), Nicole (Eric Meyers), and Kelsey (Lauren Hedstrom), and seven great-grandchildren – Owen, Lincoln, Jolie, June, Jada, Jacob and Kara. She is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews especially nieces, Diana Prittinen, Rebecca Freehling, and nephew John Gelesko and his wife April who were such an amazing support system.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her husband Richard in 2005 and her son, Richard E. Wooley in 2022, nephew Jim Gelesko, two brothers Tierney and Mike Spitzer and three sisters, Ruby Gelesko, Elsie and Alice Spitzer.

The family would like to thank the care team at Woodland Terrace and Corewell Health-Hospice for all their loving care and support for Geraldine and the family.

**Charles W Baker, Jr.**

Charles W. Baker Jr., 62, of Avon Lake, Ohio, passed away peacefully in his home in Florida on February 25, 2026, after a year-long battle with leukemia.

He was born June 20, 1963, in Cleveland, Ohio. He is survived by his wife Lynne, children Charles Baker III (Regina), Chad Baker (Amanda), Michelle Jones (Adam), Matthew Mudry (Jessica), stepdaughters Tiffany Gainer and Jessica Stemple (Patrick), siblings Fran Moravcik (Gary), Kevin Baker (Mary Kay), and Cheryl Lubertazza (Carney), and many beloved grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father Charles Baker Sr., mother Edna Baker, and his grandparents.



Charlie always sought to help others and had a strong sense of community - - he was a volunteer firefighter for 15 years for Seven Hills, volunteered at the fish fries for St. Joseph Parish, and was involved with the VFW. Charlie was dependable and hardworking, always willing to lend a hand. Quick-witted and funny, he made friends no matter where he went or what he was doing. Despite his volunteerism and busy schedule, Charlie always had time for family and friends, always ready to fix something, dole out advice, or play a board game. He watched the Cleveland Browns games, but was an avid fan of the Cleveland Cavaliers. Charlie loved to host, from annual clambakes to poker games to impromptu get-togethers.

He will be greatly and forever missed by all that knew and loved him.. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph Church, 32929 Lake Road, Avon Lake, OH on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 11 AM.

## Steven Charles Burnham

Steven Charles Burnham age 75, peacefully passed away on March 5, 2026 in Cincinnati Ohio after struggling with a lung disease for many years. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Norma Jacobson Burnham, his sisters Sheila Burnham Gall and Peggy Burnham Tidwell.



Steve is survived by his loving wife of 54 years Suzanne (Jones) Burnham; Sister-in-law Catherine Jones Doan (Ben); and many cousins, nieces, nephews.

Steve was born March 7, 1950 in Gardner, Massachusetts. He graduated from Narragansett Regional High School, Templeton, Massachusetts in 1968, from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor in Education in 1974, and Xavier University with a Masters in Education in 1982.

Steve devoted 30 years to teaching, spending the majority of his career with the Princeton City School District as a middle school science teacher, influencing the lives of thousands of young people. Known for his engaging instruction and enthusiasm, he made learning come alive, especially during the much anticipated rocket building and launching projects that became a highlight of the year. He invested deeply in the lives of his students, serving not only as a teacher but also as a steady role model and an encourager. Steve was equally valued among his co-workers, giving generously of his time as a team leader and as trusted friend and mentor to many, many colleagues.

Along the way he enjoyed the outdoors and spent many summers hiking and fishing in Colorado. He also enjoyed skiing, horseback riding, boating, was an avid golfer, and volunteered at an animal shelter. Upon retiring from teaching, he worked at the Twin Run Golf Course from 2004 to 2012. More recently he spent winters in Florida golfing, boating, fishing, and beaching. As his health declined and limited his activities, watching sports was still a favorite pastime, as was spending time with friends and family. He will be truly missed.

There were no public services held. Friends wishing to make a contribution in his memory may wish to consider: Animal Friends Humane Society, 1820 Princeton Rd, Hamilton Ohio 45011 or donate online at: [www.AnimalFriendsHS.org](http://www.AnimalFriendsHS.org) please designate it is to help provide for homeless senior pets. Other considerations are planting a tree in his name somewhere you will see and visit it or through an organization such as <https://shop.alivingtribute.org> which plants trees in our National Forests. Please share any stories you know about Steve on his Facebook account: Steven Burnham

## Roger Robert Wagner

Roger Robert Wagner, age 78, of the Township of Poy Sippi, died peacefully on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Fort Myers Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Florida. He has walked to his heavenly home after a year long battle with pancreatic cancer.



He was born October 16, 1947, in Berlin, WI, the son of Edwin and Lillie Zabel Wagner. He was confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Auroraville. Roger was a 1965 graduate of Berlin High School. On October 3, 1970, he was united in marriage to Shirley Standke at Peace Lutheran Church in Wautoma. His Lutheran faith was strong, and he served on various church boards, most recently as a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Berlin.

Roger was proud to be a farmer for the better part of his life, raising hogs and later crop farming. He had driven a school bus for the Berlin School District, worked as a field supervisor for Green Giant, and at Fleet Farm in Waupaca, where he was the "go-to guy" in the farming department. Roger was very active in the community and proud of his civic duty for over 40 years. He served on Town of Poy Sippi and Waushara County Boards with additional work on Waushara Highway, Zoning and Livestock committees. He was a supporter of the 4-H program, Farm Bureau member and on the Waushara County Fair Board until this past year.

He is survived by his two daughters, Lori (Rick) Ryckman and Sherri (Ryan) McElroy; five grandchildren, Ashley, Andy and April Ryckman and Andreanna and Alexianna McElroy; one brother, Allen (Donna) Wagner; sisters-in-law, Maxine (Rich) Assaff and Lorraine Kiersten; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends, especially Bob and Barb Waterman and the Mary Kurucz family. Roger was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Shirley, on April 30, 2014; and in-laws, Dennis (Carol) Standke, Christine (Don) Graydon and Emily (Albert) Pomplun.

Anyone wishing to send a sympathy card to the family, please mail to Roger Wagner, c/o Barbola Funeral Chapel, PO Box 201, Berlin, WI 54923.

IN LOVING ♥  
*Memory*

### TAI CHI CLASS

by Lenann Crisci



The science of Tai Chi shows that it leads to longer life, more vigor and flexibility, better balance and mobility, and a sense of well-being. Cutting edge research now supports long-standing claims that Tai Chi improves the heart, bones, nerves and muscles, immune system and mind.....A 12-week controlled study of Tai Chi in heart-failure cases found that participants were able to walk longer and faster, and had an improved quality of life. ...A Harvard study shows it also improves bone-density. You can have all these benefits free just by joining us every Wed at 2:30 PM.

CONTACT: LENANN CRISCI

207-705-2256

### EXERCISE CLASSES

By Jane Cullin and Carole Beconder



Jane's Cardio, Weight and Core Exercise has ended for this season. Please join Jane next fall when she returns.

Carole's Walking, a little Yoga and light weights. Exercise class is every Tues. and Sat. from 9-10 AM. In the clubhouse.

### Notes of Cheer

By Robyn Johnson

Did you know that Social Club has a cheer person that sends out cards to residents that have been ill, had surgery, or have lost a loved one. Social Club provides the stamps and relies on residents to donate blank, get well and sympathy cards.



Karen Nash happily fills the position. If you know of anyone in need of some cheer, please reach out to Karen at 859-462-2280 or you may email her at knash@blueone.net.

Also, if you have any of the cards listed above and would like to donate them, please bring them to Karen Nash, or you may drop them off at the office.

Thank you

Karen Nash 859-462-2280

or

Robyn Johnson 651-341-8346

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