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Forest Park Newsletter

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *By Heather Flavin & Monte Johnson*



Kenny and Joyce Parsels

Volunteering to help with projects in Forest Park by putting together an event, a dinner, or assisting your neighbors all have the goal of making Forest Park a better place to live. The old saying that “many hands make light work” certainly applies when it comes to a neighborhood with 400+ homes and all the amenities we offer to our residents.

One well known couple was surprised to be recognized by your Social Club at the January Membership Meeting for their involvement

and volunteerism. Between the two of them, it’s difficult to find something they have not participated in, helped with, or been in charge of, in our little piece of Paradise. From playing card games, dominoes and pickleball, to serving meals at dinners or to shut-ins, Kenny and Joyce Parsels make time for most activities in the park.

Kenny and Joyce brought a wealth of experience to Forest Park when they arrived 8 years ago. Ken was a Building and Grounds Superintendent for a school system while Joyce was employed as a mail carrier for 28 years. While holding down their “regular” jobs, they raised two boys, many animals, and enjoyed being involved in their community.



While they left their beloved kids, grands and greats back in New York, their love of community continues here in Forest Park. Kenny was soon involved in the leadership of FPPOA, and led us during covid and Florida’s worst hurricane ever, IAN. Joyce was by his side the entire time, especially focused on our residents who needed a little extra care. The Parsels are thankful we had no fatalities in the park during the pandemic or when Ian devastated many homes. Kenny says the cooperation of all residents during those trying times helped to get the park back in shape much more quickly than other neighborhoods. Everyone worked together toward the same goal.

Kenny still leads groups of volunteers to tackle large jobs like cleaning up the McDaniel property or smaller jobs like painting the posts around the clubhouse. Joyce continues to assist many shut-ins and our more fragile residents. She believes in doing whatever you can for those in need. She feels it was all returned to her when she had a medical emergency and Forest Park came together to help with meals, transportation, appointments and overall support.

The work and dedication of the Parsels remind us that a community willing to pitch in, help each other, and be involved is a gold mine during a crisis. Without their commitment, service, and leadership Forest Park would be a very different place today. Thank you, Kenny and Joyce.



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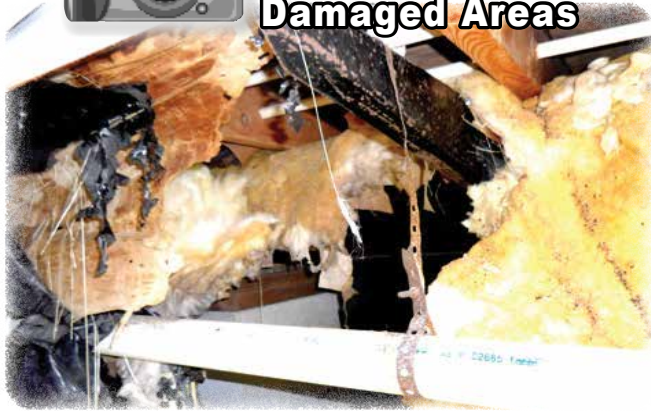
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PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

By Forest Park Compliance Committee

March Winners

Mitzi Winkleman & Jeff Rogers, 519 Pine Tree Court

Ron and Gloria Zylstra, 343 Shrub Lane South

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.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Batson Passos



As President of the HOA, I want to take a moment to talk about where we are — and where we need to go.

The environment in 2026 looks very different than it did even a few years ago. Communities that stay current with safeguarding measures — whether that's security, financial planning, maintenance standards, or updated policies — are the communities that thrive. Those that stand still risk falling behind.

If we don't continue moving forward, our property values can suffer. Our curb appeal can decline. And attracting new homeowners who want to invest in a vibrant, well-maintained neighborhood becomes more difficult.

But this isn't just about property values. It's about

preserving the close-knit feel we all appreciate. It's about protecting what we've built together and making sure our community remains a place we're proud to call home.

Moving forward doesn't mean losing our character — it means protecting it.

I ask all of you to become engaged, stay involved, and help keep our community strong - by coming to our General Membership Meetings, listening to new ideas and voicing your own. Hope to see YOU there!

Barbara Batson Passos

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Hello Everyone, this is my first monthly report on Compliance. My name is Bob Charles. I serve on the Board of Directors as First Vice President and I am taking over as head of the Compliance Committee. My fellow members are Warren Starks, Lucinda King, Kevin Mann, and Bill Russell.

Everyone has had ample time to fix up their homes since Hurricane IAN and the Park looks really nice, thanks to all your concerted efforts. Going forward, we will be following and enforcing our governing document's timeliness for ALL violations.

As our snowbirds begin to migrate back north later 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!

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STOP SIGNS

NEW STOP SIGNS were recently installed on Forest Park Drive at the intersections with Knotty Pine Circle west bound and Hollyberry Court east bound. These are a legal traffic control device and require a complete stop. Please help keep Forest Park safe by remembering to come to a complete stop.



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

MARCH 19, 2026 Board Meeting 9 AM
MARCH 26, 2026 Membership Meeting 7 PM

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

By Heather Flavin

Walter Finch (9/2/1941 – 5/5/2025)

Last Spring 2025, I met with Jay Finch and learned a great deal about Forest Park and how instrumental his father, Walter Finch, was in the development of this park back in the 70's.



Jay and his wife, Laura Freeze have worked on and settled into 5141 Forest Park Drive. The home that Walter had purchased in 2010. Easy to recognize, the statue of a soldier stands proudly on their front porch.

In 1971, Walter relocated to the Fort Myers area from Pennsylvania. He sought work selling mobile homes and Larry Sickler, co-owner of MAR-FLO mobile homes, was hiring. MAR-FLO Homes was originally named after the spouses of the owners, Marjorie and Florence. Ironically, Larry and Walt were from the same county of Bradford in Pennsylvania. Things went well for Walt, with him buying out Larry's partner and becoming a co-owner of MAR-FLO.

Larry's brother Bud was another shareholder and worked mainly behind the scenes.

In 1973 Hart Dairy Farm went up for sale and MAR-FLO purchased some of the land and developed this community. Walt and Larry were the backbone of the development. Streets were named and model homes were located throughout the park. The sewer plant was installed. (the empty area, located to the left of our mini golf course) The very first model home was on Timber Lane South. The clubhouse, original sauna and pool were all part of the package when you bought your mobile home in Forest Park, the real plus was owning the land your home was on. Jay recalled as a young boy riding around in a golf cart when his dad and Larry were selling homes. At that time, Walt lived on Bayshore Road where Tractor Supply is now.

Jay's family has been in the mobile home business since 1961. Walt returned to Bradford County in 1979 and established 2 manufactured housing dealerships. Jay worked in sales. Walt also owned a manufactured home community in Bradford County.

Until 1989, MAR-FLO held the maintenance rights for the park. The Forest Park Property Owners Association formed and bought the park. (I clearly remember my dad talking about the residents coming together and buying the park, \$3,000 each.) The association made a commitment to being a resident managed park.

Walt eventually returned to Southwest Florida and lived in the area. Forest Park always remained dear to Walter and in 2010 he purchased 5141 Forest Park Drive. He was very proud of building this place. And it's safe to say, we're grateful.

The statue, standing tall at 5141 Forest Park Drive is a soldier, Walter served with the 82nd Airborne Paratroopers in the states and worked with Army Intelligence. He purchased the statue in honor of his nephew Brad Gillan, who is a major in the Army.



Hurricane Ian gave this statue additional special meaning to our residents that were working tirelessly to clean up the aftermath of that horrific storm. By this time, Walt had entered an assisted living facility nearby and Jay and Laura were the owners, living out of state. They arrived on the Wednesday after Ian, pulling into the park and seeing the wreckage of the storm, it was so heartwarming to get to their home and see the soldier still standing strong. This symbol of strength was featured on the cover of our November 2022 newsletter.

Walter passed away on May 5, 2025. Jay's sister Tammy lives in North Fort Myers with her husband Colin. Jay and Laura have made Forest Park their permanent home. We welcome them. I enjoyed putting this article together with Jay, it is endearing to sense how proud he is of his father.

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EDITOR THOUGHTS

By Monte Johnson



It is with tremendous sadness that I write this today. In my opinion, Forest Park is losing the best leadership this park has ever had. Ken and Joyce Parsels came here in the spring of 2018 and immediately began volunteering to make our Park a better place. Sometimes anonymously, like when someone forgets to shut off the lights or fans in the Clubhouse, they go over and shut them off. The thermostat gets left turned down, they turn it back up. Someone forgets to turn off the radio for the pool, they go over and shut it off. The oven needs to be lit in the kitchen, Ken lights it.

The Board of Directors had an opening for a directors position in 2018 and Ken was elected. Being a former village official in New York provided him the knowledge to step up as our president for five years beginning in 2020. The walking trails rebuild or repair, storm drain project, Clubhouse floor, Shrub and Timberlane N. Fences, and Swimming Pool Refurbishment, are the major projects that occurred during his presidency. Leadership comes naturally for these two. Virtually every project that required volunteers over the last eight years was led by them. The March Freewill Donation meal to support the shut-ins, organizing people to assemble mailings for the office, picking up aluminum cans, bus trips to U.S. Sugar or baseball games, delivering meals every Friday to the shut-ins, Joyce was the organizer for all of these undertakings or events. Ken's list encompasses every job in the Park that required volunteers for work inside or out. Painting street stripes, rebuilding the gazebo ramp, siding the Bocce and Shuffleboard sheds, repairing the Clubhouse floor, clearing the McDaniel property, installing the mesh fence at the R/V Park, installing the new lights in the Clubhouse, and we will never forget the leadership provided during the aftermath of Hurricane Ian! Kenny and Joyce are going to be missed. Sooo.... FOREST PARK who is going to step up to fill these shoes?



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SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS

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Friday, March 6th at 9:00 am will feature J. R. SCHERER from STYLECREST Mobile Home Parts & Supplies. SWAG & \$50 GRAND PRIZE.



Due to extenuating circumstances beyond our control the Horse Races were cancelled and replaced by the **NOT SO NEWLYWED GAME**. Couples from right here in Forest Park will compete by answering questions to see how well they know each other.

**THE NOT SO NEWLYWED GAME
SATURDAY, MARCH 7th- 6 PM**

Ever wonder how some couples manage to stay together for years and years? Well, at this event you may discover the secrets to their success. You may also discover some of their secrets you never knew before! Couples will be competing for the win in a hilarious, fun filled game. This event is free. All you need to do is BYOB and snacks and join us for a night of laughter.



Meet our fantastic couples:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Don /Maureen Hesketh | 6/29/63 |
| 2. Mike/Kathy Martin | 3/27/71 |
| 3. Mark/Terry Snyder | 6/24/72 |
| 4. John /Betty Schlectic | 3/31/73 |
| 5. Hoyt/Carolyn England | 4/26/75 |
| 6. Rick /Toni Foote | 6/30/77 |
| 7. Brian/Kathy Revels | 7/08/78 |
| 8. Kevin/Robin Mann | 12/22/06 |
| 9. Bob /Ann Charles | 5/21/09 |
| 10. Don Edwards/Sue Caudill | 5/05/10 |
| 11. Greg /Patti Sadowski | 11/25/17 |

**COMEDIAN R. C. SMITH ENTERTAINER
FRIDAY, MARCH 13th - 7 PM**

His style is rapid-fire, relentless and nonstop! R. C. has headlined all over the US and Canada and is a regular in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. He has appeared as a warm up comic on shows like Rachel Ray, Stephen Colbert, and more.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the Activities Building Box Office on Sunday, March 1st and 8th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. BYOB and snacks. This will be a night of entertainment and laughter.

**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY
CELEBRITY GOLF CART PARADE
SUNDAY, MARCH 15th - 7 PM
(line up at 6:30 in front of the Clubhouse)**

They say everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. This is so true in Forest Park when folks decorate their golf carts in bright green shamrocks and drive around the Park tossing out candy. Put on some green clothing, decorate the carts and join the festivities. Afterwards enjoy a little Taste of Ireland in the Clubhouse. If you want, please feel free to bring snacks and a drink to share. You do not need to be in the parade to enjoy the after party. For more information call Wayne Meyer 414-469-0652.



**2026 Forest Park Poker Run & Potluck
Hosted by: Sally Miller and the Social Club**

Date: Saturday, March 21st

Time: Starts promptly at 2:30 PM at the Clubhouse

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Get ready for an afternoon of fun and laughter! You'll drive around the community in groups of two to four—on a golf cart or bicycle—solving clues to build your best poker hand. No poker experience is necessary. Please bring your Forest Park Directory and a pen. The three best poker hands will win the pot!

Potluck & Food Drive

We invite everyone in the park to join us at the clubhouse at 4:00 PM for the potluck dinner and food drive, whether you participated in the Poker Run or not.

- Bring: A dish to share (appetizer, dessert, salad, or main dish) and your own drink.
- Donate: Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food drive.
- Provided: Plates, napkins, and plasticware.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Sally Miller at 517-282-8200 via phone or text. See you there!



**Social Club's Annual Freewill Donation Dinner
SUNDAY, MARCH 22 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

The **Social Club's Annual Freewill Donation Dinner** features our own **Great Chef Andy and his beautiful wife Julie Fuschino**. This year's event will be **carry out only**, from the **Clubhouse** beginning at **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm** or until all the meals are gone. All money will go to supplying meals for our residents in the park, who are ill or shut in their home.



**Spring Fling
SATURDAY, MARCH 28 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Those of us who attended last April's Spring Fling day in the Pavilion will agree it was a fantastic event. The food was good, the music was entertaining, the games were a lot of fun, but best of all was the experience of sitting around and visiting with Park friends and neighbors.



This year's Spring Fling is going to be bigger and better! Ann Sousa will be singing music from all eras. A cornhole tournament will take place at 2:00 pm East of the Pavilion. See Kevin and Robin Mann to sign-up at 1:30 at their sign-up table. To make things interesting there will be a \$2 entry fee per person, double elimination, speed format, blind partners, all points count, games go to 21, must win by two points, and **WINNER TAKES ALL!**

The infamous water balloon toss is back by popular demand. Mini golf, bocce, along with good old fashioned horseshoes and croquet will be available for folks up to the challenge.

Lunch will be hamburgers or hotdogs and all the fixings. Meal tickets must be purchased before the day so volunteers will know how much food to purchase. You can get your tickets at the **Activities Box Office on Sundays March 8, March 15, and March 22**. Watch the Marquee or for an email blast for cost and additional information to be coming soon!

Dig out your lawn chairs, sharpen up your game skills and join us **for a fun afternoon**. By the way, **more volunteers will be needed so please sign up to help by contacting Ellen Heigham at 617-448-1748**.



FOREST PARK CRAFT CLUB

By Arline Norman Bennett, Vice President Sambear2@yahoo.com, 860-227-0563

March Craft Club News



Be sure you come and join the Craft Club for the 2026/27 Season. Meetings are every Wednesday from 9 - 11 am in the Clubhouse coffee/snacks with lots of laughs, meet new friends, we are looking forward to getting to know you. Dues are only \$10.00. Everyone is welcome.

We want to send a BIG thank you to all of you who donated articles to our Trash to Treasure sale. Thanks also to all the craft girls and guys who worked for two days to set up the sale. It was a great success and gives us a chance to help the Veterans, Abused women and children, Meals on Wheels and to our own Forest Park.

Hope you also enjoyed our spaghetti and meatball dinner. We enjoyed serving you. Our next meal will be a **MEATLOAF DINNER** on **MARCH 18**. We will be **serving from 5 to 6:30** with **take outs available at 4:30**. Remember to bring your own plates and silverware. Another special for you on March 18 is that **the Calendar Girls will entertain you after dinner**. They sponsor the Veteran guide dogs in case you want to help them with a donation. EVERYONE is welcome to come March 18.

Many crafts have been worked on this season, on Wednesdays. We have made plaques with doilies, clothespin wreaths, Valentine activities and cards for the children at ACT, and will be working on address plaques soon. Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9. We are working to make it a fun and friendly place to meet new friends. Hope to see you there.

Our new officers for the next two years have been elected. Carole Beconder will be President, Vice President is Diana Power, Judy Collar is secretary and Gloria Hartz and Barb Wood will be co-treasurers. Congratulations to all of you.

Social Club Officers

President	OPEN
1st Vice President	Ellen Heigham eheigham@gmail.com 617-448-1748
2nd Vice President	Paula Batson shaht12@aol.com 201-874-4980
Co-Secretary	Kathy Revels kathy.revels@gmail.com 517-243-2755
Co-Secretary	Nancy Cooper floobme@gmail.com 207-632-7544
Co-Treasurer	Mary Kurucz kuruczmary@gmail.com 740-310-3002
Co-Treasurer	Monte Johnson fpsocialclubtreas@gmail.com 319-415-2816

NORTHEAST CLUB CHICKEN DINNER

MONDAY, MARCH 23 @ 5:00PM, CLUBHOUSE

By Deb Johnson

Hard to believe, but here we are rolling fast into the third month of 2026 already. March looks to be another exciting fun night at the Northeast Club dinner/meeting. Our meeting this month will be Monday, March 23rd at 5:00 PM in the clubhouse. Fried Chicken will be on the menu, followed by some fun games and awesome prizes. Cost is \$12 per person for dinner. You must be a member of the Northeast Club to attend. If you have not yet joined, but would like to, we would love to have you. Membership is just \$5 per person for the season. We will be at the Box Office every Sunday from now through March 15th selling tickets. If you are new in Forest Park we invite you to come check us out. We look forward to seeing you all there.



OCALA SPRING CRAFT FAIR

By Kathy Revels

Anyone up for a road trip? A short 3 hour drive will bring you to the craft show of your dreams at the Ocala World Equestrian Center where over 200 of the region's finest artisans & crafters will showcase their talents on March 28th and 29th. An enchanting array of handmade treasures, from stunning hand-blown glass and exquisite jewelry to whimsical toys and rustic woven goods wait for you.

Explore booths filled with captivating artwork, charming home decor, artisanal candles, and beautifully crafted pottery. The Ocala Spring Craft Fair isn't just an event—it's a celebration of artistry and a gathering of those who cherish unique, handmade creations. Dive into this vibrant atmosphere, meet the talented makers, and find that perfect, one-of-a-kind item that speaks to you. Mark your calendars for a weekend of inspiration and wonder! Be sure to bring your walking shoes!

This venue is absolutely huge and filled with artists. Limited food is available onsite. Doors open at 10 am and the entry fee is \$5 per person. Parking is free. The address is 1598 NW 87th Court Rd, Ocala. The Equestrian Center has an onsite hotel, and many others are available nearby.

QUIET HOURS IN THE PARK HAVE CHANGED. QUIET TIME BEGINS AT 10:00 PM AND ENDS AT 7:00 AM.



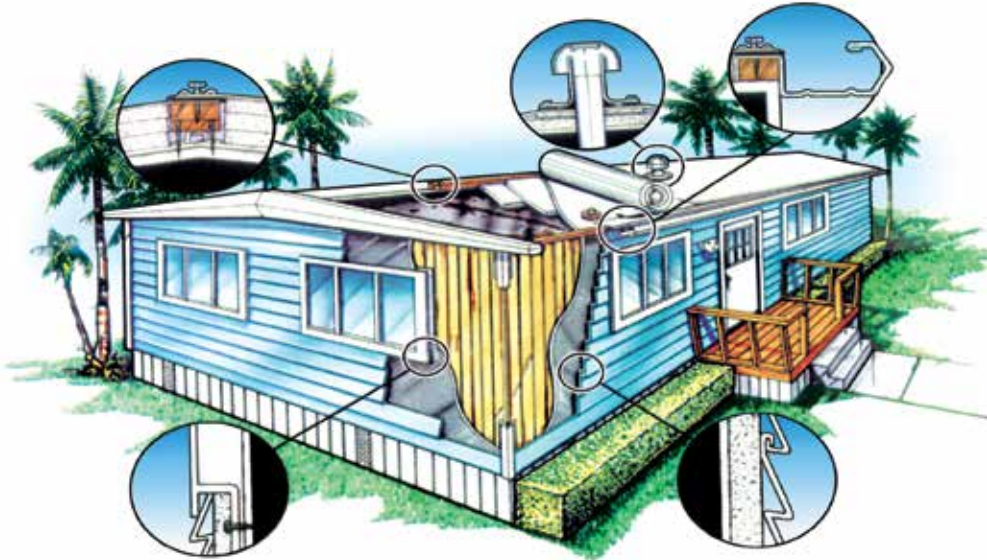


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SOCIAL CLUB NEWS!!

By Nancy Cooper



It was nice to see so many at the February meeting. Most of the Park's clubs had representation and several residents came as well. It gave everyone a chance to talk about Park activities, make suggestions and volunteer to help where needed. Nominations were held and officers and directors were voted in for the next year. The Directors are Barbara Batson, Carole Beconder, Bob Carson, Deb Johnson, and Lucinda King.

Unfortunately no one stepped up to be President so that slot is still open. The 1st Vice President, Ellen Heigham, is organizing events for '26-'27 in hopes of making the leadership position less daunting for anyone serving. The past couple of years have been very successful thanks in part to the willingness of many to pitch in and help. *All the Social Club needs now is a President to work with and lead a terrific team.* Please consider joining us.

Special People for Special Children

By Paula Batson

They say that the Lord gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers in this life and that we are all put on this earth for a purpose. These quotes epitomize Forest Park residents Tony and Karen Nash. Both originally from the Bluegrass State of Kentucky, they opened up their hearts and home to over 30 special needs children over a 20 year period. The Nashes provided a loving home for kids that were born into abusive homes, drug addiction and other horrific conditions. Children that would have had minimal opportunities to flourish without a loving home found a place where they could thrive. Karen says she wouldn't change a thing from those years, and enjoys keeping in touch with children that spent time in their home.



It may have been divine intervention (with help from a mutual friend) that brought two young people together to eventually touch many other lives. Karen and Tony shared a background of strong faith and experience with medical challenges that set them apart from others in childhood. They soon formed a strong bond, became best friends and then said "I do." The Nashes started their family with two boys, Daniel and Samuel, but a daughter and another son would eventually join the boys.

When Samuel attended pre-school, Karen worked as a class aide to help with the children that were challenged. It only took the love of one little girl to whom Karen had

nurtured, to open the family up to the idea of fostering. Every single child that was taken into their home was a family decision. The boys were all in for extending their family, with one condition: that they were always the oldest of the kids. It was a 24/7 job for Karen since Tony drove a tractor trailer for employment. He helped out when he was home, and his emotional support was much needed on the challenging days. Every single child required a lot of support and encouragement. The long days consisted of many therapy and doctor appointments. At one period they had 7 children in their care, and (believe me) that takes a tremendous amount of selflessness. The Nash's were awarded "Foster Parents of the Year" and the prestigious "Kentucky Colonel Award." This award is handed out by the Governor of Kentucky. It recognizes good deeds, notable achievements, or outstanding service to the community, state, or nation.

Most days here in Forest Park you will see Tony driving around in his golf cart with their son Philip in the passenger seat. Phillip was officially adopted when he was just a baby. While the doctors said he would not live past 2 years old, he is now 34 years old. Karen and Tony can not imagine their lives without him. Each and every child that passed through the front door of the Nash home was treated with kindness, dignity, love, inclusion and dedication. The Nash family provided them with life skills needed to become the best version of themselves. Most have families of their own and stable productive lives. I titled this article "Special People for Special Children" and believe the Nashes are the epitome of the title.



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FOREST PARKS HOME CHURCH**“THE LIGHT”***By Roberta Rizas*

I will start off with, “Happy Valentine’s Day“ to everyone. A great day to share your love with family & friends and even those you don’t know yet. Love, joy and peace to all, love being the most important one. God loved us so much he sent his precious son Jesus to earth to give us all Eternal Life with him. Just ask forgiveness of your sins and through your faith, invite him into your heart.

Our church is at 457 Jacaramba Court every Sunday night at 6 PM. You are all invited to attend, just walk right in to be welcomed.

I also want to share with you a message I copied from Pastor Jim Stultz about “less than a penny, or, the gospel penny.” He is the pastor at PEACE RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH in Punta Gorda. Several of us from our Park, about nine of us, found out about a Concert Series they have every Friday night from January through April. We have attended the last five Fridays already. We love it, as not only is there a different concert each Friday night but they have an Old-fashioned Hymn Sing for 45 minutes prior to each Concert. You just call out a page number from their hymnal and we all sing it! We love it, all singing Christian songs before the Concert starts. Hymn Sing starts at 6:15 to 7 p.m. Anyone interested in coming, let us know, we share rides & follow each other. This Feb.6th we will hear, Mark Trammell Quartet, & Fri. the 13th will be The Weismann’s.

So...on with the “penny” info I have on a paper from the Pastor.

You can’t seem to find anything that costs a penny anymore. The US penny is being phased out and will stop being manufactured in early 2026. The decision to end penny production was made to reduce waste and save money, as the cost to produce a penny exceeds its face value. The greatest value that anyone could ever receive costs less than a penny. As a matter of fact, it is entirely free. Our salvation from sin and assurance of eternal life has been purchased for us. If you would take a penny out of your pocket and notice that it has heads and tails. It also has the inscription: “ In God We Trust”. Our salvation involves repenting of our sins and trusting in God by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and faith, two sides of the same coin. You can’t seem to find anything that costs a penny anymore, even though the penny is basically worthless. It can remind us of the most precious story ever heard, the gospel. The penny also teaches us what we ought to do with the gospel. On

the back of the penny the words: One Cent, are inscribed. As followers of Jesus, we too are “ones sent” to share the gospel message with others. Finally, the penny teaches us about THE URGENCY OF SALVATION. In 2026 the penny is being phased out. You and I will not see any more pennies made. The gospel has an expiration date marked on it also. When death overtakes us, we will not have the opportunity to receive God’s great salvation. That is why the Bible says in second Corinthians 6:2 behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation.

Have you cashed in on the greatest value of all time? Your sin debt has been paid off, your possession of Eternal Life and heaven has been secured, and you have the assurance of an indwelling Savior who loves you and will never leave.

All this, for less than a penny.

Have you cashed in your gospel penny? Thank you Pastor Jim Shultz for this wise information.

WOOF, WAG, & WIGGLE*By Paula Batson*

This month’s dog hits near and dear to my heart ! Meet Pip, affectionately known as Pippy or Pipster, who is a loving family member of the Revels (Brian and Kathy) of Knotty Pine Circle. This handsome 10 year old grey standard poodle is the Revels second rescue poodle.



Like many of my other submissions, Pippy endured a very sad start in life due to a neglectful situation. Kathy had a dear friend who knew a woman who rescued Poodles. They spoke and Brian and Kathy adopted their first poodle. That sweet girl lived to be 15 years old. After her passing Kathy’s friend started trying to convince them to adopt another poodle. She asked Brian and Kathy to “babysit” a rescue while she was visiting in the area. Pippy was the lucky boy and he never left his forever family.

The Revels took him in at 5 years old, even though he had some physical problems. He was suffering from congenital bone disease which requires a lot of lifting and helping him . Pippy couldn't have asked for a better life with the Revels family. He has thrived in his home, with amazing dedication and care. Pippy, in return, has brought them such love and affection ,his way of being grateful.

...continued on page 12

A couple of years ago a scary incident struck and Pippy once again was so lucky to have his parents. He suffered an acute episode of bloat and needed emergency surgery to tack his stomach in order to prevent it again. (Side note: Most dogs prone to bloat, flipping of the stomach, have very deep chests.) He recovered well with some restrictions that he takes in stride.



Pippy is a smart boy, like most poodles. Petting him puts the biggest smile on your face and his . He loves his little walks and a good breeze on his face. Due to his disabilities he can not play a lot but does have a favorite toy, his blue monkey. Pippy is a special dog and you know that from the minute you meet him. He is so kind and gentle and loves people. He walks from room to room to check on his mom and dad when they are out of sight and rests when he finds they are both okay. To look into his face and not see his amazing soul is not possible.

For me personally, Pippy is truly a blessing on so many levels. To have met him in Forest Park for me makes this place even more special in my heart. If you see them riding around in the Herbie the Love Bug golf cart, don't be surprised to see Pip laying down in the back, living his best life in a homemade bed that he absolutely loves. Writers note: as this is published, Pip was diagnosed in December with a very aggressive cancer. He is being kept on the best medication to help him with pain and he will enjoy everyday here with his parents and the friends he has made in Forest Park . #bestdogever

KITTY CORNER

By Paula Batson

Allie aka Albert



Owned and Loved by

Jeff Rogers and Mitzi Winkleman, Pine Tree Ct.

Allie won't be found in an alley, but on Pine Tree Ct.

Where Allie holds court daily with Jeff and Mitzi.



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



Come one and all...left feet and right to our easy line dance class every Tuesday at 12:45 review of steps, 1:00-2:00 class

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**. 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 are willing to help out a neighbor, or if you need a helping hand with what is described, **please contact Lenann at 207-705-2256 or Rebecca at 630-441-6279**. We're excited about being involved with our Caring Hearts Club--Hoping to make Forest Park the park with a **BIG Heart**. Let's do it. Together.



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PINE TREE KNOTS QUILT CLUB

By Cindy Trepanier

The quilt club is asking for help. If you know of someone in the park that has cancer, an illness or surgery, please let the office know. We give quilts to let them know we are thinking of them and a quilt is like a warm hug during this trying time.



We meet **on Thursdays at 9:00**. No matter the level, beginner to skilled, everyone is welcome. I always learn something new each week from the group. We discuss issues and techniques. We have fabric and machines to make Park quilts, so please join us.

FOREST PARK TOOL CLUB

By Monte Johnson



The Forest Park Tool Club wishes to expand with the help and support of the Board of Directors of the FPPOA. The Tool Club received two hundred and sixty signatures from park residents in support of a new facility for the club. The current shed is overflowing with tools, full of termites, and inadequate for our expanding membership. We have the financial means to purchase, insure, and maintain a 12 x 44 ft. mobile construction office trailer which will benefit our membership and everyone in the park. An air conditioned, 588 square foot office trailer, with a 12 x 24 ft center room and two 10 x 12 ft rooms will provide the ample storage space needed to adequately store our current inventory of tools, and allow the tool club to offer a wider variety of tools to our membership.

The Tool Club wishes to locate the office trailer on the south side of the McDaniel property, next to the fence north of the aluminum can storage area. Currently there is electricity on a pole at that location. The Tool Club will fence, provide motion activated lighting, and night vision cameras around the perimeter of the trailer, which will provide for added monitoring of the R/V Park and McDaniel property. We will have access from McDaniel Drive.

The cost of this project will be **100% borne by the Tool Club**. There will be **NO EXPENSE to Forest Park, NO INCREASE in monthly fees, and NO ADDED insurance risk or expense to the park**. The Tool Club needs the Board of Directors to approve the application for a limited development order permit from Lee County for the Tool Club to proceed. The Tool Club will pay for all permitting, inspection, setting up, or any other expenses related to the acquisition.

With the Tool Club having a larger facility, the Park benefits by having another amenity to advertise to potential residents, better monitoring of the R/V Park, and a place for club members to work together. The Tool Club members have volunteered on many of the previous projects in the Park and will continue to do so. Having this facility would provide a place for the club to create projects that would allow us to donate monetarily to the Park. Bird feeders, plant stands, cutting boards, house number signs, yard ornaments, the list is endless. We have the tools and equipment, we just need the facility.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am in the Billiards room of the Activities Building. We have over 55 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 Hotdog 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.

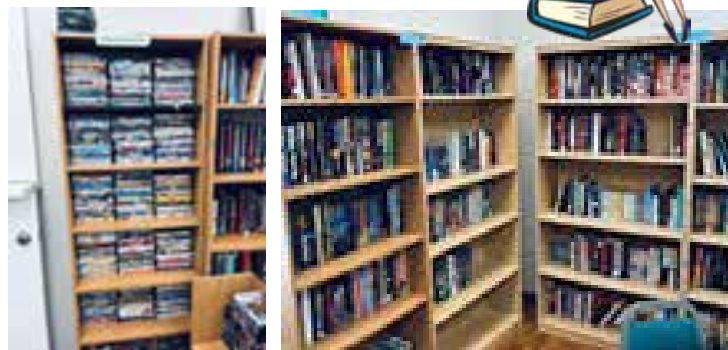
LIBRARY NEWS

By Maureen Hesketh

The Forest Park library is fully stocked and ready for you to choose your favorite author. Lots of great mysteries and dramas are here to while away these cool days.

Come and browse at your leisure.

Your librarian,
Maureen Hesketh
508-962-5979



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**ATTENTION: FULL TIME RESIDENTS.**

Many of our snowbirds will be leaving for up north at the end of this month. 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 will need: Sheriff # 239-477-1000**



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

RESIDENTIAL SAFETY - HOW TO DETER THIEVES

If you missed the special JOYNT KOFFEE KLATCH on February 5th at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse presented by your Social Club, you missed a great meeting. Over 70 people were in attendance to hear Community Liaison officer Mark Sherman, from the Lee County sheriff's office, explain the services provided by our sheriffs department.

Deputy Sherman gave numerous real life examples of scams, what to look for if you expect you're being scammed, and what to do or not to do if you expect you're being scammed. He also covered many aspects of how to protect your home, valuables, and vehicle. The following handout was provided by the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

checklist on page 16

RED HAT LADIES

Contact Pam Salk 260-385-6407



We have a reservation for March 10th at 11 am. We will meet at the Clubhouse at 10:15 and caravan. This will be the final event for the season; so come out and Enjoy The Island Vibe. If you have not signed up, please text Pam at 260-385-6407 at least 2 days before the event.

Pam Salk

BOCCE BALL

Contact Carlo or Lee Luberti – 239-851-9543

Bocce ball is played on Monday and Thursday at the Bocce courts at 2:30 PM. Arrive at 2:15. New Members Welcome. Open Bocce Ball on Saturday Mornings at 10:00am. There are no dues.

**MARQUEE**

Check out the marquee regularly to know "what's happening" around here! If you need a notice placed on the marquee, please get in touch with



Cathy Holle: 317-403-0137.

Residential Safety - How to Deter Thieves

Home:

- Take a walk around your home (LCSO offers residential security surveys)
- Illuminate dark areas with motion-activated lights
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed
- Close garage door
- Secure sliding doors with auxiliary locks or pins
- Lock your doors and windows - **always**
- Use deadbolt locks, solid doors, sturdy hinges and peepholes
- Use film on glass doors or windows near doors (consider noor locks)
- Install and use alarms and/or cameras - advertise security
- Keep blinds/drapes closed at night and open during the day
- Keep a light on inside at night (id possible, use timers while away)
- **Never** open your door to strangers or allow strangers inside
- Be cautious of salespeople and sc1vice people
- Never hide keys outside
- Do not mention travel plans on social media
- Shred important documents

Valuables:

- Store in a place, other than the master bedroom (this is where thieves look first)
- Keep a record - inventory, list and video/photograph
- Attach trackers on bicycles, golf carts - even wallets

Vehicle:

- **Always** lock your car (even in the driveway)
- Remove valuables, including guns, wallets and electronics

Neighborhood:

- Greet/engage people wirb eye contact
- Check on your neighbors - consider forming a Neighborhood Watch group
- Let neighbors know when you go on vacation (request LCSO Vacation House Check)
- Report suspicious people, behavior, and vehicles (239) 477-1000
- Report a crime-in-progress or an emergency by calling 911

Criminals:

- Hate light and noise/attention - they do not want to risk being caught
- Dislike dogs, nosy neighbors and they look like an "average person"

SHUFFLE BOARD

Contact Bill Madill 519-634-5619

The shuffle board is going fine. By the time you read this we will have had the king and queen sponsored by Ellsworth Plumbing and Heating. We've had our hotdog shuffle and still have to get through the fun shuffle. All in all everybody seems to be enjoying the shuffleboard season. We will keep on shuffling along, thank you. Captain Bill Madill.



- Shuffleboard Fun Night – Everyone is invited to play shuffleboard every Wednesday night at 6:30 PM through December.
- Ladies' Shuffleboard – Ladies play shuffleboard every Tuesday morning at 10 AM. Come enjoy, ladies.
- Mixed Shuffleboard – Men and women play shuffleboard on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm.

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

by Monte Johnson

All articles, news or photographs should be submitted to this email 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. 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!**

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.



TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO

Don't forget to come on out for our weekly Bingo on **Tuesday nights** in the Clubhouse.

Be there at 6:45 pm, games start at 7:00 pm. Lots of Fun!!! No ink daubers needed, we provide all supplies. Bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.



Birthdates for March

Sue Q Llang	1	Betsy Maugans	20
Nikki Spina	2	Nancy Wilder-Pierce	20
Robert Adamson	3	Linda Chapman	21
David Loper	5	Pamela Hall	22
Shannon Shelton	8	Kerry (Coach) Cullin	24
Carrol Provence	11	Hugo Chow	24
Diana Power	12	Shawn Glover	25
Donald Hesketh	13	Lorrie Blanchard	25
Sandy Bagge	14	Wendell Cox	26
Jack Malone	16	Gerard Guiney	26
Mary Kurucz	17	Sandra DeMeester	28
Douglas Schenk	18	Mary Ann Crisman	29
Karen Moor,	18	Danny Angell	30
Brent Crisci	19	Kathy Martin	30
Amy Lynch	19	Mindy Reed	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Carlo & Lee Luberti	March 1, 1957	Congratulations 69 Years
Mike & Gloria Hartz	March 20, 1965	
Mark & Jeannie Olson	March 20, 1983	
Mike & Kathy Martin	March 27, 1971	
John & Betty Schlectic	March 31, 1973	



WELCOME TO FOREST PARK

Ron Murphy	Phillip & Mary Lipolis
315 Shrub Lane S.	613 Pinegrove Ct.
Home State: FL	Home State: FL
	239-938-6765

IN MEMORIAM

Gerard (Gerry) Bauer was born on May 1, 1950 in New York and passed away from a heart attack on January 24, 2026 at the age of 75 years, 8 months and 23 days.

Gerry resided on Shrub Lane North for many years in Forest Park Mobile home park in North Fort Myers. He was well known in Forest Park for installing many of our wifi antennas before and after Hurricane IAN. Gerry was always ready to help with a smile, his tools, and ladder.

Gerry also power washed homes throughout Forest Park and would be seen walking his dog at Peace Lake Park. A memorial service was held in the Clubhouse on February 8, 2026.



TAI CHI CLASS

by *Lenann Crisci*

I have been a student of Tai Chi since 1997. I started my lessons to improve my concentration. In other words, pay better attention to the moment. I know now it gave me a lot more. Wow, almost 30 years ago! I took over a Sensei position in 2010, so I have been teaching for 16 years. Maybe it even saved my life when I was out in the woods with a broken Femur for 32 hrs. I love to tell that story. Just ask me. I am grateful for all Tai Chi has given me and I love passing the Art on to my students. I would like to personally invite you to come join me on Wednesday at 2:30pm. I look forward to seeing you.



CONTACT: LENANN CRISCI
207-705-2256

FOREST PARK WEBSITE

www.forestparkonline.com

By: *Jan Provence, Webmaster*

All residents that have a Member Share in our park may access the Member's Only Pages on our website. On these pages, you will find the latest information with the FPPOA board and member minutes, and many other documents that you will need to keep updated on our community. To receive a username and password, contact the FPPOA office. (fppoainc@gmail.com) If you need further information, contact me at webmaster@forestparkonline.com.

EXERCISE CLASSES

By *Jane Cullin and Carole Beconder*



Jane's Cardio, Weight and Core Exercise last class will either be Monday, March 2nd or the 9th at 8:30 am to 9:30 am (Note the 15 minute later start time.) In the clubhouse. Bring a mat or towel.

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

GAMES ANYONE ?

Have you checked out the Forest Park Online Calendar for the latest activities available for all Forest Park residents. There is something for everyone. Come on out and try something new.

- Pickle Ball
- Bocce Ball
- Shuffleboard
- Hand & Foot
- Dominoes



Weekly Calendar Events

Every Monday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
8:30 am Cardio, Weights, & Core with Jane - Clubhouse
9:00 am Dominos – Clubhouse
9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball
10:00 am Co-Ed Shuffleboard
10:30 am Pool Exercise
2:30 pm Bocce Ball

Every Tuesday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
9:00 am Walking and Weights with Carol B - Clubhouse
9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball
10:00 am Ladies Shuffle Board
10:30 am Pool Exercise
1:00 pm Line Dance Class, beginners at 12:30 pm - Clubhouse
6:00 pm Texas Holdem Tournament- Activities Building
6:45 pm Bingo - Clubhouse

Every Wednesday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
9:00 am Craft Club - Clubhouse
9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball
10:30 am Pool Exercise
2:30 pm Tai Chi Class - Clubhouse
6:30 pm Euchre - Activities Building

Every Thursday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
9:00 am Pine Tree Knots Quilt Club - Clubhouse
9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball
10:00 am League Shuffle Board
10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
10:30 am Pool Exercise
2:30 pm Bocce Ball
6:00 pm Hand and Foot, Domino's - Clubhouse
6:30 pm Mixed Shuffleboard

Every Friday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball
10:30 am Pool Exercise

Every Saturday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
9:00 am Walking and Weights with Carol B. - Clubhouse
10:00 am Open Bocce Ball

Every Sunday

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball
2:00 - 4:00 pm Forest Park Box Office
6:00 pm Home Church
6:00 pm Texas Holdem Tournament- Activities Building
6:00 pm Hand and Foot - Clubhouse

All events are if enough residents are here to participate.



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3 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$6,100.00
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4 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$6,500.00
5 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$7,000.00

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