



# *Poinciana Today*

## FEBRUARY 2021

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

by **LOU RODINO**

Dear Poinciana Residents,  
I hope your holiday season was happy and safe. Now that our new year has begun we are looking forward to getting back to our routines. I sincerely hope that 2021 will be a good year for us all.

Poinciana Community has gone through some very trying years in the 14 years that I have been on the Board of Directors. We have come a long way in making our Community and Clubhouse the success it is today.

The budget was passed on January 18, 2021 and the maintenance will not increase. We are debt free and have a reserve of \$70,000 and around \$35,000 from last year to help accomplish the improvements we wish to make. As I mentioned in my last newsletter we must repair the Poinciana Country Club wall on Lake Worth Road, new trees must be planted along Lake Worth Road to replace the ones that the county required we remove. We are also looking to replace the flooring leading up to the Community room. The idea is to spend our money wisely this year.

This past month Poinciana lost two men who gave of their time to our community. Mitch Eisner was very active on the Community Board, representing the Gardens for several years. He was also an avid poker player. He will be missed. Harold Gold also passed. You may remember Harold as the gentlemen who sang several years at our Memorial Day celebration. Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

Until next time be well, be happy and be safe.  
Lou Rodino, President  
Poinciana Community Group

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#### **Newsletter Email:**

**PCGNewsletter20@gmail.com**

**Editor:** Joyce M Graham

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Clubhouse Telephone: 561-439-4733

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**FROM THE EDITOR****by Joyce Graham**

As I started to put together the February edition of the Poinciana Newsletter, I thought a lot about routines. Last month getting the newsletter to the printer seemed overwhelming. I wasn't sure who all the writers were, how to get in touch with them, my responsibilities, and the timelines to get this all to the printer on time and get the newsletter picked up from the Clubhouse. More than once, I called Pat Sullivan to say that I was sure I wasn't the right person for the job. She kept saying I'd be okay. I didn't believe her. Truthfully, I was only okay because of the help that she and Ted Suss provided. Believe me, some things ended up being left out, put in incorrectly, or not changed as it should have been. I'm learning!

Reflecting on last month, I realized that what was missing were routines. What are the routines I need to establish, so I'm not overwhelmed? How can I improve communication with writers and advertisers? How often do I send reminders, and when? Do I edit articles when they come in or all at once? How do I continue to do this and stay sane? Routines are starting to emerge and form. It's getting easier—bit by bit. I've had a lot of help and support.

Why are routines important? Early in my teaching career, I learned about their importance. For several days I substituted for in a Kindergarten classroom. From then on, I referred to the teacher as The Queens of Routines. It became apparent in the first 10 minutes that the 5-year-olds knew exactly what to do even when their teacher – The Queen – wasn't there! Firmly established, their routines were a critical part of their day.

They had assigned roles and specific tasks for every routine (lining up for snacks, handing out art supplies, cleaning up to go home). I learned more about classroom management that day than I did in four years of teacher education. Routines are critical because they create a safe, predictable environment for children to learn. They allow space and time for teaching. The days flow predictably – well, not every day but most days. Establishing routines for instruction and later in my educational publishing career and my personal life were the structures I thrived on.

*From the Editor continues on top of page 3*

*From the Editor continued from page 2*

When I retired, I quickly realized that I felt lost and untethered because I no longer had a routine, a predictable environment, and I struggled to create one. And the same thing has happened to many of us during this Pandemic. Our routines have been disrupted for over ten months. What to do with our days without attending book club, playing cards, socializing, going to restaurants with friends, seeing our families, traveling? The list is endless. How have we fared without our routines? What new routines have you established? What have you learned about yourself?

I now understand why pioneer women had routines! Monday: Washing, Tuesday: Ironing, Wednesday: Sewing, Thursday: Marketing, Friday: Cleaning, Saturday: Baking, Sunday: Rest. Keeping busy and knowing what you're going to do every day helps you stay engaged with others and keeps your life reasonably predictable, and, for some, it helps keep them sane!

I haven't been great at establishing routines during the Pandemic. I'm still struggling to find my way. Editing the newsletter has helped me develop new routines, and I've learned a few new things!

This month you'll find resources for learning how to use Zoom. There is also the first of a new monthly feature, Florida Fun Facts by Thomas Leonard. Toni Mirobeli has written an article "Why Volunteer?" and has interviewed a few of our residents. Also, be sure to check out the date for the February Shredding Event and the first Lunch and Learn from CSI.

A big thank you for the calls and notes expressing appreciation for publishing the newsletter. Another big thank you to the contributors for their patience as I find my way. You have all made this easier.

Stay safe, be kind.



## AMBASSADOR by Pat Sullivan

Last month several residents of the Ambassador and the Barclay held a luncheon at Mel's Way to remember John Elter, our friend and neighbor who passed away in May of 2020. Several people spoke fondly of John. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, his love of "oldies" music, and his generous spirit in helping others.

Slowly, our neighbors from the North are returning. Welcome back to Joe and Lynn and Mario and Madeline. We continue to observe all CDC guidelines by wearing a mask when we are in the common areas, practice social distancing. Thank you for cooperating and making the Ambassador a safe place for all.

On February 8th, we will have a SHREDDING EVENT at the clubhouse parking lot from 10 am to 11 am. Staples are acceptable, but NO CARDBOARD OR PAPER CLIPS.

A word to the wise...What kind of flower should you never send on Valentine's Day? Answer: Cauliflower.

Smile and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

**CRAIG THE HANDYMAN**

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## THE PATIO HOMES by Ruth Ruttkay

February is here already, along with a burst of cooler weather. It feels good and such good sleeping weather. We'll look back mid-summer and remember how refreshing January and February were!

We are grateful everyone has stayed safe in our little piece of Paradise and hope that everyone signed up for and will hopefully receive the Covid 19 vaccine before too long.

While not much is going on here in the way of entertainment, remember to keep our Golf Course and Mel's Way Bistro in your thoughts for things to do.

Our Board Elections took place on January 31, but unfortunately, not in time for this publication.

Stay Safe, and remember to look out for your neighbors!



## SHREDDING EVENT AT THE POINCIANA CLUBHOUSE

**WHEN:** Monday, February 8, 2021

**TIME:** 10 am to 11 am

**WHERE:** Parking lot at the Clubhouse

All Associations and owners are invited to come and have your unwanted paper shredded for FREE.

- Stables Permitted
- NO CARDBOARD
- NO PAPER CLIPS

Everyone must wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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641-0200

## BARCLAY BITS

by Ina Baron

Belated Happy New Year to all our Residents. I sure hope this year is better than the last one. Please make sure that your car doors are locked, and nothing is in sight. It is also a great idea to have locking lug nuts installed on your car if you have not already done so. There have been too many cars that have been vandalized recently. Slowly our Snowbirds are starting to arrive.

We all have been under a lot of stress with COVID. Hopefully, the new Vaccines will work their magic and things will start to go back to normal. In the meantime, we must be diligent and continue to wear masks to stores, in the elevator, and on the catwalks, and in restaurants. Don't forget to wash your hands after coming in. If you use the supermarket carts in our building, please remember to wipe down the hand bar after use. Thank you.

### COVID 19 SCAM

We all must deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and the current limited availability of vaccines. Scammers are taking advantage of the early vaccine distribution to scam people. In one of the scams, people receive phone calls that appear to come from the Social Security Administration, inviting them to sign up to receive a dose of the Pfizer vaccine. However, as a part of the sign-up process, they ask for your name, address, Social Security number, Medicare number, and even in some instances, your bank account information or credit card information. In some cases, the scam victim is asked to pay a fee to receive priority in the distribution of the vaccine. These are just scams to get your personal information and use it to make you a victim of identity theft. No legitimate company or government agency is calling offering the vaccine and asking for personal information. No program has people pay a fee to be put on a priority list to receive the vaccine's first doses.

For those who have bulk items to be thrown away – they need to be put out in the driveway by the trash garage door by Wednesday night

for Thursday pick up. Please do not put them out days earlier.

Not only is it unsightly, but it invites garbage pickers to come on our property.

A big Thank You to Eva Mirek, our Resident

## Using Zoom by Joyce Graham

Initially, this was going to be a step-by-step article on how to download and use Zoom. As I was researching information, I realized there were much better How-To guides and videos on YouTube and online than I could do so; instead, I found a few clear, concise, and useful resources for you to use.

I spend an inordinate amount of time on YouTube because you can learn how to do almost anything there. This video for Seniors was the best that I found on YouTube:

- **Join a Zoom Call for the First Time; Fun and Easy** by Marcia Chadly from Creative Life Center - 8 minutes

If you prefer written directions, you can do a Google Search. I googled Zoom for Seniors and found:

- **SeniorsGuide.com/zoom** and this very clear and easy to understand article: **“A Step-by-Step Guide to a Zoom Meeting.”**

And finally, **AARP.org** has an excellent article and video:

- **How to Use Zoom to Stay Connected During the Coronavirus**

In this article and on the video, you will find instructions for joining, hosting meetings, muting, chatting, screen sharing, and more. The video and article were developed in partnership with SeniorPlanet.org. This site (in addition to the AARP site) provides excellent resources for seniors.

The best advice I can give for using Zoom is try it. It's easy to download and join a meeting, and if you make a mistake, it's easily corrected. Good luck!

*Barclay Bits continued next column*

## CONDO 1 & 2

**Jamison, Kendall, Lenox, Margate,  
Norfolk, Oxford & Princeton.**

Welcome back to our snowbirds. We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. This article is being written in early January. As of this date, we are about to send out the required "Second Notice of Election and Annual Meeting." By the time you read this, we will have the results. There was no election required for our Condo Board, but an election for the Clubhouse Board was required. We thank all our volunteers who help throughout the year. We also are grateful to those who have served in the past.

Our association pool at 3663 Via Poinciana is open from sunrise to sunset every day. The bathrooms and the entire pool area are cleaned 7 days a week. Please sign in and out of the pool each time you are there and do your part to maintain social distancing. Shuffleboard and Bocce have been repaired and spruced up - enjoy and, again, maintain social distancing.

**HELP KEEP THE PROPERTY TIDY.** Daily garbage should be bagged and thrown down the trash chute or placed in the dumpster on the first floor. Recycled items should be placed in the yellow and blue bins - NO bags, please. Do NOT throw cigarette butts on the ground. Remember that this is OUR HOME.

**STOP UNNECESSARY REPAIR COSTS.**

Do NOT flush any kind of wipes down your toilets. Do NOT put any type of oil or grease down your kitchen drains. If you fry, wipe out the pan with a paper towel and throw it away. We've had a number of very expensive repairs to our drain system.

**PLEASE HELP US!!!**

There are no scheduled activities in the clubhouse, and the meeting rooms, fitness center, and other amenities remain closed. Please continue to support our Golf Course and Mel's Way Bistro. They are both open and adhering to CDC and Palm Beach County guidelines. Mel's Way is open Tuesday - Saturday and available for private parties on Sundays and Mondays as well. Check your bulletin boards for their entertainment schedule.

*Condos 1 & 2 continued next column*

The golf course is open every day. They both bring life to our community, and we thank them.

If you see any suspicious behavior, please contact the Sheriff at 911 IMMEDIATELY. For the most up to date information, bids, financial information, floor plans, and every type of association information, please register for our website at [www.poinciana1and2.com](http://www.poinciana1and2.com). Our website complies with the Florida statute for a secure website. You will need to create an account with your email and a password of your choice. We will verify that you are a resident and approve your account. You will then have access to all required documents, reports, minutes, and updated information.

## CARLISLE CHATTER by Lynn Sands

Goodbye 2020 and Welcome 2021. The previous year's Pandemic had most of us suffering boredom as well as anxiety for our friends and relatives. This should be a better year for all. With Covid-19 inoculations and continuing safety measures, we hope to see a major decline in this horrific virus within the next few months.

Carlisle Social Committee will be starting as soon as we can all safely meet up. It will be most welcomed to enjoy social engagements with our neighbors once again. Activity events will be posted near our mailboxes with signup sheets once safety restrictions are lifted.

Our new outside lights are all in place. The parking lot as well as the catwalks are brightly lit for Carlisle safety.

Carlisle welcomes our new owners and residents: Vadim Zima and Natalia Labova, Verona Blake, Rosemarie Solimine.

Stay safe. More news to come next month.

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## ESSEX

by Toni Mirobelli

Welcome back to the Essex Joan and Eli Apteker, Marlene and Jack Ripka, Virginia Fiore, Mariela and Fernando Serna. It's good to see you.

Prep work and planning continues for the repaving of our parking lot. As of this writing, the prep work has been done. Residents will be advised of parking changes while the repaving is being done.

It seems the Covid virus will be with us for some time. A reminder for Essex residents and your guests - masks must be worn when walking around the building and parking lot, walking to and from the pool, and especially in the elevators. Your guests and contractors must also follow these County rules. At this time, guests are not permitted at our pool. There have been Covid cases in the Poinciana community, so it is important to follow local laws to protect yourself and others.

Please be aware that scams are circulating regarding the Covid vaccine. It could be in the form of a call, text, email, or even a knock at your door. You can report a suspected scam to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov). The Palm Beach County vaccine appointment hotline is not currently operational. You can send an email to [chd50feedback@flhealth.gov](mailto:chd50feedback@flhealth.gov) to request an appointment for vaccination. You must include your name, date of birth, and phone number in your email. You may or may not receive an acknowledgment, and it could take some time to get your appointment due to vaccine supply issues.

You may have heard that there have been several car break-ins in our area. Please lock your car and never leave valuables in your vehicle. A reminder to owners: trucks are not permitted to park here overnight.

Some information regarding our trash rooms: large cardboard boxes must be flattened and placed next to the **1st** floor dumpsters. Smaller cardboard boxes should be broken down and placed in the yellow bins.

*Essex continued next column*

Recently someone filled a Yellow recycle bin on the weekend and no one else could get anything in the bin. Recycling is picked up on Tuesday. Remember that you are not the only person using the trash rooms. There are often items placed in the trash rooms that should not be, i.e., large items (like a Christmas tree that was left in the 4th floor trash room and should have been placed outside in the Large Item Pick Up area), paint cans and construction debris. Nothing should be left on the floor in any 2nd, 3rd, or 4th floor trash room. Contractors and residents are responsible for removing construction materials from the work site and the building. Building dumpsters are not to be used for any construction materials including blinds, lights, doors, etc. Remember that there are cameras, and we are checking the footage. Those responsible will be charged with excess trash fees. Please do your part and help us keep costs down.

If you would like to have any birthdays, anniversaries, or other family events mentioned in this column please let me know. Have a great day every day and stay safe and well!

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- Fan Replacement
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- Closet and Garage Organization
- Lock Replacements
- Shower/Tub Enclosures, Safety Bar Install
- Equipment Installation/Replacement
- Garage and Closet Organizing Systems
- Security Camera Installation
- AC Maintenance / Repairs
- Shower, Tub Enclosures
- Caulking and Grouting
- Marble Restoration

IF its NOT on this LIST Call Anyway  
Marc can most likely do it

**100% SATISFACTION**

FREE ESTIMATES

## DORCHESTER by Marilyn Siegel

As the cooler weather blows through our little neighborhood, we begin a new year with the hope for everyone to stay well until the vaccine becomes available to all of us.

While some snowbirds have made it back to the Dorchester, and some remain caught in the frigid weather north of the Covid closed Canadian border, we have welcomed new residents Juan Panqueva and Angela Torres. Philip and Barbara Antico will also have moved in by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Our Board President, Allen Taschner, has had non-Covid related health issues. He has fought it back. We are grateful that he continues to improve and stay active with the Board. We've also had two residents with this dreadful virus, who have recovered with excellent medical care and good luck.

In the last days of December, we had the pool area, including the deck, shed, and railing, pressure washed. It looks so much fresher and inviting, and we look forward to using it again as soon as the weather warms.

Dynamic Elevator will soon start the North Elevator new equipment update and repairs. We thank everyone who made their assessment payments in a timely way, allowing this much-needed work to move forward quickly. The current Board has begun working to replace our rusting pool furniture. It's been a lesson to know steel legs are to be avoided because they rust! The Board is also exploring other Insurance Company options to hold down future costs that have been exploding in this past year.

The Dorchester Annual Meeting will be held on February 10 at 11:30 AM at the pool. Masks and social distancing continue to be required. We ask all owners who are here to please attend as the new Board will be elected.

It's been reported that there have been break-ins to cars in other areas of the Poinciana Community. Please be sure your cars or trucks are locked.



No Minimums - Accept Long Term Care Insurance, Private Pay, Medicaid Managed Care Programs, and Veteran Benefits - One Hour Visits to 24 Hour Care - Respite Care, Personal Care - Transportation for Doctor's Appointments, Grocery Shopping and Pharmacy Pickup - Safety Assessments and Medication Management - Light Cleaning, Laundry, Linen Change

## Tuesday February 9th 12pm - 1pm LUNCH and LEARN

### Advance in science to help us prevent and detect early signs of Dementia

**\*Limited Seating\***

Located in the Poinciana Clubhouse Across from the Fitness Center  
3536 Via Poinciana Lake Worth, FL 33467  
RSVP REQUIRED - CALL 561-603-7712

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# **HANDYMAN**

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FOR INFO [WWW.MELSWAY.COM](http://WWW.MELSWAY.COM)  
HOURS OF OPERATION  
TUES-THURS 12PM-9PM  
FRI & SAT 12PM-10PM  
SUN & MON CLOSED

# Mel's Way Bistro

*Poinciana Country Club*

**PATIO DINING, CURBSIDE PICK UP & DELIVERY**

FOLLOWING ALL CDC GUIDELINES TO KEEP YOU AND OUR STAFF SAFE  
**MASKS ARE REQUIRED**  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED AT BAR & RESTAURANT  
\$20 MIN PP REQUIRED ON ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTS

**HAPPY HOUR  
TO GO**  
TUES-SAT  
12PM-6PM  
\$4 HOUSE WINES &  
HOUSE MIX DRINKS  
\$3 DOMESTIC BEER

## BINGO & LUNCH

**TUESDAY FEB 2<sup>nd</sup> & FEB 16th 12PM**  
INCLUDES, 5 GAMES OF BINGO, LUNCH, BEVERAGE  
**TAX AND GRATUITY - PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE**

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**Tuesday**  
Prime Rib Special  
\$18.95 w/2 sides  
KARAOKE night  
5-8pm  
With Ray the DJ  
\$4 house wines



**Wednesday**  
Fish fry & shrimp dinner  
\$14.95 w/ fries & slaw  
Dance to the music  
By LOLA 5-8pm  
\$5 martini menu



**Thursday**  
*Ladies Night*  
\$3 beer \$4 wine \$4 house cocktails  
Crabcake Dinner \$21  
W/ 2 sides  
\$5 Latin Cocktails  
Feb 4th Leiza Michaels  
Feb 11th Richard Frank  
Feb 18th This is Us Duo  
Feb 25th Latin Night w/  
Oscar 5-8pm

**LUNCH SPECIALS \$7**

**BREAKFAST MENU 12PM-3PM**

CARD PLAYING ALLOWED IN PATIO OR BACK OF RESTAURANT  
MUST CALL TO RESERVE- MIN OF \$5 PER PERSON REQUIRED  
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### NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL

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Available 12PM-6pm TUES-SAT CALL 1HR PRIOR for DELIVERY  
**FREE DELIVERY TO POINCIANA RESIDENTS**

- PENNE PASTA PRIMAVERA \$12**  
WITH SPRING VEGGIES IN A GARLIC OLIVE OIL OR MARINARA
- SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS \$12**
- BROILED HADDOCK \$12**  
TOPPED WITH BREADCRUMBS AND SERVED WITH LEMON BUTTER SAUCE WITH SAUTEED VEGGIES
- LEMON HERB GRILLED CHICKEN \$12**  
Lemon herb butter sauce WITH SAUTEED VEGGIES
- BONELESS PORK CHOPS \$12**  
With apple walnut chutney with roasted potatoes
- SALISBURY STEAK \$12**  
Ground beef patties in a mushroom gravy with mashed potatoes
- CHICKEN PARMIGIAN \$12**  
With penne marinara
- TALAPIA ALMONDINE \$12**  
With sauteed veggies

- SIDES \$3 CUP OF SOUP OF THE DAY \$4**  
SIDE SALAD, CAESAR SAL, POTATO SALAD, STEAK  
FRIES, COLESLAW, FRESH FRUIT, FRESH VEGGIES OR GARLIC  
BROCCOLI SWEET POTATO FRIES OR GARLIC SPINACH \$5

**SORRY NO DISCOUNTS OR GIFT CARDS ALLOWED**  
**MENU AVAILABLE ONLY FOR TAKE OUT OR DELIVERY**



**PATIO DINING  
LUNCH OR DINNER**

## **POINCIANA PLACE TOWNHOMES** **by Michael Reardon**

Are you feeling more than just a little couped up in your home? With Covid-19 raging across the country, and especially here in South Florida, it remains important that we maintain social distancing. But I sure wish I could visit with my friends and family. I imagine that most of you feel the same way. I see more neighbors out walking the community streets lately. Just getting out for a leisurely stroll is a good release from sitting in front of the TV all day. I hope that you get a chance to get out and enjoy the cooler weather while it lasts. All too soon, it will be too hot to walk during the day.

We have several new neighbors that moved into our community over the past year. Cindy and David Maunder on Quince, Melissa and Patricia Weigand and Ieda Gomes on Peony, and soon Zofia Suraez also on Peony have all made the Townhomes their new home. Please do your best to make them feel welcomed. It is difficult for people moving into a new community during a pandemic, which keeps everyone social distancing.

I want to encourage everyone to use our community website ([www.pptha.org](http://www.pptha.org)). Mark Roth maintains the site, and it is the best way for owners to keep with activities in the community. Board Meetings are listed there, along with notices and important information. Our web site has been divided into a Public Area and a Member's Only Area (MOA). Our financial information and a new Member's Forum are contained in the MOA. The Member's Forum provides a convenient area for our members to conduct a dialogue and share ideas regarding several topics of interest to our owners. Your Board of Directors monitors the Forum, so it is a good method to ensure that your Board members are aware of your views and concerns. Our members are encouraged to participate in the Forum. This website is a valuable resource for those who use it and or the Board. Stay up to date by visiting our website regularly. While here, use the link at the bottom of the page to join our Email Notification List. Another website that is available to all Townhomes owners is hosted by our property management company – Allied Management.

*Poinciana Place Townhomes continues top next column*

If you are not currently using this helpful site, please contact Allied at [www.alliedpmg.com](http://www.alliedpmg.com) and ask about their portal for Townhome members.

Our next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 PM on the Zoom platform. Look for details on the website.

If you have a topic that you would like the Board to consider during one of our Board Meetings, please use the Send Email to Management and Board link at the left, selecting the subject Suggested Agenda Item, or send us an email at [ppthboard@pptha.org](mailto:ppthboard@pptha.org) so it can be considered for the agenda.

## **POINCIANA PLACE** **CONDOMINIUM 3 Inc.** **by Ira Beckoff**

It's February 2021, and we welcome all the brave souls who have dared to leave their distant homes and traveled to their winter home in Florida. By the time you read this, we will have had our annual members meeting on January 21st at the pool. Since this is being written before the day of the meeting, I cannot give you any updates.

Covid, Covid, Covid, what more can I say. I know we are all hoping that the COVID-19 vaccine will be widely available by now and that we have received our vaccinations. Today, January 7th, I heard the news that at many of its 1252 locations, Publix Supermarkets will be giving vaccinations. Appointments will be made through an online website. It's not here in Palm Beach as I write this; let's keep our fingers crossed that we'll see it soon.

As our buildings and property age, we have to make necessary repairs as needed. In January, we worked on two major maintenance issues. We discovered that our swimming pool was leaking water and increasing our monthly water bill by more than triple. The pool maintenance expenses also increased to cover the cost of additional chemicals to keep the pool clean and safe. A swimming pool water leak detection company discovered leaks around two of the pipes that are part of the pool water filtration system. The technician was able to stop both of

*Poinciana Condominium 3 continues top next page*

*Poinciana Condominium 3 continued from page*

those leaks by using underwater epoxy cement. This eliminated more than 90% of the leaks and returned the pool to its normal water usage. Although this repair cost over seven hundred dollars, it was far less expensive than cutting open the pool deck to find the leaking pipes underground. It was also discovered that there is a minor leak in the roof of Building A. Luckily, it was only leaking in the closet on the rear balcony of one apartment. We expect that most of the repair will be covered by our roof warranty, which still has almost 2 years to go. A roofing specialist has inspected the roof and sent a report to the roofing material manufacturer. Hopefully, the repairs have been completed at this time.

I wish I could include a schedule of upcoming community events at our condo, but that is still not possible. Let's hope we will soon be able to barbeque, drink, and dance together at our pool.

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## IMPERIAL 8 & 9 by Dorothy Coutsakis

Happy New Year to all of our neighbors! Hopefully, you have all had a wonderful, safe, and healthy holiday.

We are happy to see some of our snowbirds have returned. A reminder for you all; our pool and pool area are only for the residents of PPCA IV, Imperial Buildings 8 and 9. Please do not bring guests, visitors, or other Poinciana residents to our pool. We want to keep everyone safe, and we need to be considerate of all unit owners.

We miss our BBQs, but hopefully, we can start them again soon.

We ask that you do not use our BBQ equipment at this time. We're hopeful that as soon as the CDC lifts the lockdown on certain areas, clubhouses, etc., we will be able to have BBQs at the poolside once again.

By the time this newsletter goes out to the owners, we will have had our Annual Meeting, which was held on January 29th, 2021. For those unable to attend, you will find information on the website, and we will put some updates in the next newsletter.

### A Reminder Worth Reading Again!

We have been advised that the Fire Department has a system in place to keep a lockbox (either a Knox Box or a standard lockbox) on your door. The Fire Department will have access to the code that will open the box. No one from the Board will have the ability to open your lockbox. We strongly suggest that everyone look into this. This will prevent the Fire Department from breaking a door or window to gain access in an emergency.

So many residents have sold and moved. We will miss them wish them well. A big, warm welcome to our new residents. We wish you many happy years here at the best-kept secret in Florida.

We know that it is extremely difficult to get appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine for the time being. If we can get any further information about where and when it is being given out, we will post the information on our website.

If you do not have your decal for parking, please send an email or come to the office on Wednesday between 1 pm and 3 pm.

Stay healthy and safe during the new year!

## POINCIANA PLATES by Toni Mirobelli

With Valentine's Day celebrated this month, I wanted to share a sophisticated but easy to prepare dinner plan. You don't have to have a Valentine date..... invite family, friends, or neighbors for this special dinner. This recipe serves 4.

### Shrimp Scampi Risotto

3 tbsp. butter, divided  
1 large onion, diced  
4 cloves garlic, minced and divided  
1 cup arborio rice  
Kosher salt, to taste  
4 cups low-sodium chicken broth  
1 ½ cups dry white wine, divided  
Juice of 2 lemons  
2 tbsp fresh chopped parsley plus a bit for garnish  
1 tsp crushed red pepper flakes  
1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled and deveined  
1 cup fresh grated Parmesan

In a large deep-sided skillet or pot, over medium heat, melt 1 tbsp butter. Add onion and cook until soft, 5 to 6 minutes, then add 1 clove garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 to 2 minutes. Add rice and stir until combined, then season with salt to your taste. In batches, begin adding broth ½ cup at a time, making sure broth is fully absorbed before adding the next batch. Once the broth is done, add 1 cup of wine and simmer, stirring occasionally until fully absorbed.

Meanwhile, cook shrimp: In a large skillet over medium heat, melt remaining butter. Add remaining garlic, lemon juice, parsley, and red pepper flakes and stir for about 2 minutes, then add shrimp and season with salt to your taste. Cook shrimp until pink, about 3 to 4 minutes, then add the remaining ½ cup wine. Bring to a simmer, then add shrimp mixture and Parmesan to risotto and stir until combined and creamy. Notes: While making this dish, I made the following changes: I only used the juice of one lemon. I did not have fresh parsley and used dry. I used the full cup of Parmesan but feel it would be okay with ¾ cup. (I drank the remainder of the wine!)

Serve this dish with a salad and grilled asparagus or steamed broccoli.

For dessert, serve a good vanilla ice cream with fresh strawberries or red raspberries.

Enjoy! Happy Valentine's Day!

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## POINCIANA TENNIS by Kathy Graves

The entire Poinciana Tennis Club would like to extend our very best wishes to all our friends and fellow residents here at Poinciana for a healthy, covid-free 2021. We are all looking forward to a better year in general, personally, and tennis-wise.

We extend a big welcome to newcomer Mike Glenn, who has just joined our group and is a new resident at Jamison. We also welcome back to the group Linda Bladen who resides in Birdie 3.

The courts, on these nice, slightly cool days, are just hopping with energy and enthusiasm. Many of our tennis players just can't get enough play and are out six or sometimes seven days a week. Just about all of our seasonal players are here now, but we do miss our many Canadian friends and players. We have four playing courts, so players rotate in when all courts are in play.

We customarily hold our first big event of the year in January with a big kick-off meeting and buffet luncheon in the Poinciana Room, but that had to be canceled as well as our usual pizza party in early December at the courts. The new 2021 rosters, which we normally would be receiving at this event, will be available at the courts mid-January.

We have high hopes that some of our much-looked-forward-to social events can resume later in the year. We have a great group and enjoy the real camaraderie we share.

We invite our Poinciana residents to join us at the courts at 8:00 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Our officers will remain the same since the January business meeting couldn't be held. President Klaus Bandle, Jamison; Vice-President Luanne Utter, TownHomes; Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Graves, Patio Homes.

## LADIES GOLF by Pat Murray



Hello again from Ladies Golf! It's great to be back! Welcome to our returning members and our new members. We miss those of you who could not return. Hurry back! Just as the 2019/20 season ended so suddenly, we were about to announce our winners. So here they are:

18 Hole League: Low Gross, Linda Sokol and Rachel Amorosi (tie),  
Low Net, Heather Meany, and Diane Kling, Most Improved.

9 Hole League: Low Gross, Ann Dell, Low Net, Shirley Stern, and Most Improved, Kathy Iacovangelo.

A special thanks to our past presidents Barbara Saltman and Gail Hall for their guidance, to our statistician Suzanne Swartz for the excellent job she does in keeping the records, and especially to our game coordinator Karen Freeman for setting the pairings in this socially distant world of ours. Karen will be co-president this year along with Pat Murray, and Treasurer will be Jean Arthur. We still need a secretary!

We are a friendly group of women who enjoy the game. We play on Monday and Friday at 8 am. If you think you would like to join us, now is the time. Call Pat at 732-742-6845. We would love to hear from you.



## SIT AND STITCH by Joan Needle

The "headline gremlins" were at work last month and messed up our group's new name. That caused the first sentence of my article to sound pretty dumb.

Hopefully, as you can see, we have modified our name to reflect that we do more than knit! For more information please call either Luanne or me at the number below.

Luanne at (561) 670-2334  
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## WHY VOLUNTEER?

by Toni Mirobelli

A volunteer is defined as a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. Centuries ago, volunteerism was primarily used in a military sense as men CHOSE to volunteer to enter military service. Later, it was used in non-military situations, referred to as community service.

During the U. S. Civil War and World Wars, volunteers stepped up to meet military needs and help families on the home front. We all remember Clara Barton from our history lessons. She founded the American Red Cross in 1881 and organized women to perform many tasks during the Civil War. Today, the Red Cross continues its work through all types of disasters.

There are many more organizations devoted to helping those in need such as the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity, etc. People volunteer in many areas of life – preserving the environment, guiding young people, protecting the elderly, religious groups, providing food to the food insecure, helping the homeless, assisting in education, and doing other community services.

Everyone is familiar with John F. Kennedy's most famous quote ("Ask not what your country can do...") but this is a quote of his that I have tried to live by: "One person can make a difference and everyone should try."

I started working at age 16 and was fortunate to be able to retire early. Because of my parents' work ethic instilled in me, I knew I would not be able to sit at home after retirement. When I lived in Pennsylvania, I volunteered at a food bank. It was back-breaking work packing boxes of food, but I knew there were families on the other side of the building waiting for the boxes. You tend to forget about your own aches and problems.

When I moved to Florida, I volunteered for a few months with a hospice program and visited with terminal patients who did not have family here.

I was not able to continue with this work as it was very emotional. People often try different volunteer positions to find an area where they feel most comfortable and can offer the most help.

*Why Volunteer continues top next column*

It is usually in the field in which they are most experienced. I then found an opportunity to volunteer with AARP. I started as an instructor for Driver Safety classes for seniors. With AARP's continued training availability and encouragement, I added Trainer, We Need to Talk Facilitator, Car Fit Tech, and District Coordinator to my skill sets. Currently, I work as a Zone Coordinator leading four districts of like-minded volunteers who are committed to helping seniors.

I understand why I volunteer and thought I would ask my colleagues and friends why they do so. Jan Chamberlain, an Essex part-time resident, was a teacher, guidance counselor, and principal in Canada. Now retired, she volunteers with several retired teacher groups, including one for which she arranges theatre visits and international travel. Jan says volunteering "expands your social contacts at a time in life when people have often left the workforce, and their social opportunities lessen." She adds, "It provides me with a meaningful avenue to connect with my community."

Marcus Vinson, AARP Florida Driver Safety State Coordinator, worked for 40 years at General Motors in various engineering, marketing, and customer service positions. He has been a volunteer with AARP for nine years and has worked with his church groups, the Salvation Army, Goodwill and served on the board of Habitat for Humanity. Marcus encourages people to volunteer because they will be able to see their efforts assist others. He said, "retirement does not have to change or limit you." With AARP, there are many different opportunities for volunteers to remain active, meet new friends, and be part of a team that educates and assists seniors.

Hamlet resident, Barbara Crespy, taught high school math for 35 years (God love her!). She now volunteers with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office as the Lieutenant of Unit 39 Poinciana COPS. Barbara gets personal satisfaction "knowing that I am helping to keep Poinciana safe."

Al Salvi, AARP's Florida Chief Trainer and Instructor, was a transportation manager for 28 years. Besides his work with AARP,

*Why Volunteer continues top next page*

*Why Volunteer continued from page 16*

Al also volunteers with Spinal Cord Injury Support Group Broward for people with disabilities. Al enjoys volunteering as it "keeps my mind active, alert and occupied." When he is screening volunteer prospects, he looks for commitment, communication, computer skills, and diversity of experience to match the individual to an opportunity.

Steve Cohen, AARP Florida Driver Safety Deputy State Coordinator, told me that "We all have differing 'tools of life' that we have acquired through life experiences, work and leisure pursuits. Volunteering gives us a venue in which to stretch, grow, and nurture our inner strengths." There are far too many volunteer opportunities to explore here. Search online for "volunteer opportunities near me." If you try an opportunity and it doesn't work out, please look at another. I did and I found my niche with AARP. The Driver Safety program provides full training, online and in-person, all supplies needed, and best of all, a team framework with the same commitment to helping seniors drive as long as they can safely; also, in most cases, giving them an automobile insurance discount. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact me at Tmirobelli@gmail.com.

Barbara Crespy of the COPS Unit informs me there is only a three-hour commitment per week, and all training is provided. Most Poinciana residents see the COPS car on patrol and appreciate their service.

Barbara can be reached at 215-813-7053 or Cherokee4@gmail.com.

I hope you find your opportunity to volunteer.

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## **FLORIDA FUN FACTS**

**by Thomas Leonard**

Florida has always been a beacon of hope and personal freedom during times of political or economic unrest. This is true today, just as it has always been in past centuries. During a revolution in Cuba in the 1860s thousands of Cubans moved to Florida to escape the warfare and social unrest. Key West and Tampa became the homes of a new economic industry: Cigar Factories. Thousands of Cubans who were in the cigar industry suddenly found themselves unemployed. These people all had the expertise to use their skills in

*Florida Fun Facts continues top next column*

Florida. Because of their work, the international market for Cuban Cigars was again supplied.

Sitting at a table with other workers just rolling cigars all day was a tedious task. There was no radio or television or a simple diversion to occupy the minds of these workers. The problem was solved by "Lectors"—men who would sit on an elevated platform so workers could better hear them. Each worker contributed a small donation to compensate for the Lector's work.

The routine was as follows: In the morning after work had started, the Lectors would begin by reading all the available newspapers to the employees. When the Lectors finished reading the newspapers, each Lector had access to books, novels, short stories, poems, and written pieces that would be of interest.

Finally, the day ended with political information. This included information on the United States government and how branches of our government operated. This practice was never intended to be an educational program, but that was one of the program's unofficial benefits.

In the 1890s, Cubans revolted to overthrow the Spanish Governor in Havana. Jacksonville, Florida became the center of support for the rebels. A vast supply of weapons in the Northern States was available. Many were old and leftover from the Civil War, which had ended in 1865. Still, there was a market for them, and Florida warehouses soon held a good supply. The city was filled with American Gun Runners, or smugglers, and spies. One of the biggest gun smugglers was Napoleon Broward.

The revolt against the Spanish was successful in part because of the arms supplied to the rebel forces. Napoleon Broward used his new fame to win an election for the Florida Governorship in 1904. Years later, he won an election for Congress, but he died from a heart attack before taking office. Today he has a county named for him.

It is widely believed today that the Cuban immigration to Florida started around 1960 with the Castro Communist Government seizing political power. But, in fact, the immigration and influence of Cubans have added to Florida's prosperity for a long time.

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