



Poinciana Today

DECEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by PAT SULLIVAN

December-the month of celebrating, creating memories, and the last chance to fulfill your New Year's resolution!

Last month PCG held a Meet and Greet at Mel's Way for the Grillo's to welcome them to our community. The Board of Directors of PCG and Association Presidents were in attendance. Everyone spoke about the great job the Grillo's have done in transforming our golf course. It has been a pleasure to see all the golfers using our beautiful course.

Last month the PBC Fire Inspector visited our Clubhouse. We are now in the process of updating, changing, and correcting some minor violations.

By the time you read this, the lighting on our Lake Worth entrance walls should be shining brightly for all to see. The landscaping in front of the walls will have begun. We will be adding some new plantings throughout the month.

The Clubhouse and our Associations have been hit with huge increases in our insurance coverage. Personal condo insurance costs have gone up as well. Although we have not been hard hit by hurricanes in the last few years, other parts of the country have been with floods, tornados, and other catastrophes. We all pay the price for what happens here in the United States. Let's hope that next year will be better and be reflected in less expensive insurance costs.

It's nice to see many of our residents using the Clubhouse pool. As a reminder, food and drinks are not allowed around the pool. New tables and umbrellas have arrived. If you open one of the umbrellas, please remember to close them before you leave. Thank you and enjoy! The tennis players now have comfortable new chairs to sit in and a new scoreboard.

This time of the year, our Associations are planning budgets and accepting nominations for board members. Please consider running for your board.

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This is an excellent way to understand the demands of a board member and develop an appreciation of your board's hard work and dedication.

Happy Holidays to you and your families. May all that is beautiful, meaningful, and brings you joy, be yours now and throughout the coming year.

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FROM THE EDITOR

by Joyce Graham

Self-care – The Behavioral Institute's *Library of Systematic Reviews* defines self-care as "the set of activities in which one engages throughout life on a daily basis, focusing on promoting health, preventing illness, and managing issues that come up." According to author Amanda Pauley, "the self-care trend gained momentum during the coronavirus pandemic with Google searches for "self-care routine" up 250% since the first lockdown in March 2021."

This holiday season, many people make an extra effort to reach out to family, friends, organizations, and strangers to add some joy to their lives and make sure others feel cared for and loved. But how many stop and consider what they are doing to spend a bit of time taking care of themselves? Are they getting enough sleep? Are they eating right? Do they find time to exercise? What else can one do to take care of oneself?

Paulo Coelho writes, "One day you will wake up and there won't be any time to do the things you've always wanted. Do it now." We lost so much time in quarantine. Some took advantage of the time and started studying new things or reading long put-off books. Some learned to cook healthier foods. I spent way too much time making bread and trying new cookie and cake recipes. Some of us watched a lot of television and played games.

Maybe the one thing we can do to take care of ourselves is to take a risk. To try the things we always wanted to do, know, learn, go to, and try. If not now, when? Whatever it is, taking the risk to try may mean that you are more inspired, happier, healthier, or meeting new people, making new friends, or simply enjoying your life more and more.

I recently decided that I wanted to give learning French a bit more effort than I did when I was in college, so I signed up on Duolingo. I was hesitant because speaking a foreign language as a newbie is intimidating and, sometimes, embarrassing. But I thought, why not? I'm at home, and I'll try it with strangers. So, I researched some programs and signed up for Duolingo. There is a free version where you can take over 106 different courses in 40 languages.

I spend about an hour a day doing the lessons,

From the Editor continues top of page 3

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Practicing, speaking, and reading the stories in the course. Some days I get really frustrated and wonder why the heck I thought I could learn a language, and other days I surprise myself by how much I'm remembering. I plan on using my new language skills on a postponed trip to France next year.

Many opportunities exist to expand your life and take better care of yourself – many right here in our community. Never baked – try one of Toni Mirobelli's recipes – there's an excellent Pumpkin Cookie recipe in this edition. Don't know where to go? Take time to visit the Flagler Museum – Thomas Leonard's article has all the information you'll need for a holiday visit. Ever been to Islamorada? Ina Baron has written about some great restaurants that are on my list of new places to go. Try a new skill – there are Yoga, Pilates, and Chair Yoga classes offered at the Clubhouse. Meet new people by joining the Book Club, the Bridge Group, Sit and Stitch, or Talk Time or going to a movie at the Clubhouse. Join the Tennis Club or the Ladies or Men's Golf leagues. They are a great way to engage in a sport and meet new people. Who knows – your game may also improve! Join the Ladies Social Club – they have wonderful meetings and events. Take advantage of the free classes and lectures offered by CSI. Come play Bunco on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Participate in all that is offered in this wonderful community and find new ways to take care of yourself!



To our members of our Poinciana Area Community
OUR CITIZEN OBSERVER PATROL UNIT NEEDS YOUR HELP!
The men and women of our unit are proud of their service to the Poinciana area for over 25 years.

We are actively seeking volunteers to become part of our team! To explain a bit further, C.O.P. stands for Citizen Observer Patrol, a volunteer Program for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. And the name tells you just what our volunteers do... Our volunteers observe and report to 9-1-1 anything that seems to need the attention of the Sheriff's Department. Examples include: suspicious persons, vehicle accidents, found property, graffiti, and more.

REQUIREMENTS:

If you'd like to become a part of this rewarding and productive community unit, the process is rather simple: You will need to attend basics 1 and 2 (2 full days), ½ day of computer class, and then Field Training – usually up to 4 half-day sessions. Once you've completed your training, you'll be issued a uniform shirt, and any other equipment you might need for a specialty unit – radio, bicycle, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
(Jeff Marcus 561-247-9596)

The AMBASSADOR by Sandra Wolf

Our holiday season has begun. Some of our residents traveled to spend Thanksgiving with family and friends. Pat and Al visited their children and grandchildren on Long Island, Sandi spent the holiday with family in South Carolina, and Annette finally went to Kansas to meet her newest great-grandson Garrett Steven. On to Chanukah (that came right after Thanksgiving!) Wishing those who celebrate a fun-filled holiday and lots of latkes!

Our building is buzzing with new residents and returning snowbirds! We welcome back Shirley and Frank, Barbara, Gaye and Bill, Moira, and Tom, and finally our Canadians: Gessie and Monique, Russ and Tuula, and Francoise and Jean-Louis. We look forward to a busy season enjoying each other's company.

December 1st was our budget meeting. A reminder that our Annual Board Meeting will take place on January 18th. We have two board positions open. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

A few reminders! All appliances need regular maintenance. Now is a perfect time to check. Be aware of the appliance's age, how often they need to be serviced, and when a replacement may be necessary.

Our barbecues with the Barclay will continue Mondays. We hope to have a new grill soon. Saturday pool exercise at 2 p.m. will continue, weather permitting.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, safe travels, Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!

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BARCLAY BITS

by Ina Baron

The Barclay has been spruced up! Our gardeners have pruned the trees surrounding the building. The gardens have been cleared of overgrown plants, and new shrubs and plants added.

Some of our snowbirds have departed for the holidays to spend time with their families. They will be back around the New Year. Some have not even shown up yet. They are watching the numbers for COVID. The rest of the building's residents are hibernating, and it is very quiet. New owners are busy renovating their units, and others are just staying behind closed doors. To the latter residents, try and mingle with the rest of the owners and make new friends.

We have a great view of the golf course from the Barclay, and we have noticed residents walking on the course. We must remember that walking on the Golf Course is NOT PERMITTED. The golf course is leased, and you are trespassing. Also, swimming in the ponds is a definite NO-NO and dangerous due to the alligators that dwell within.



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CONDO 1 & 2

by Joy Finer, President

The Holiday Season is upon us, and we hope it is a joyful and healthy one for all. We had a very successful Hot Dog Night to kick off the 2021/2022 season, with almost 50 residents in attendance. Tuesday Grill Nights are back, and we encourage everyone to attend starting at 5:00 p.m. The Social Committee is working on some great events in the next few months, so please check your bulletin boards for all times and dates. Would you please let the committee know if you have any ideas for a special night? It will be great to see everyone this season. Remember to invite any new residents, so they get to know their neighbors.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Please check your mail for notices and return any requested materials. It will be great to see everyone in person. It's been a long time

Please update all pertinent information with the office so we have the correct mailing addresses. If you have recently changed your locks, please deliver a new key to the office. Also, update your current insurance information.

The painting on the Margate building has been delayed due to weather and some unforeseen circumstances but will start very soon. Please be aware of construction areas and be careful while on catwalks and stairwells. Please move your cars when requested for your safety. Please check your bulletin boards for all notices. We thank you for your cooperation while we are in a construction/painting mood.

Hints of the Month

It is always great to see our residents making improvements to their units. When making decisions to improve your unit, we encourage you to hire qualified persons to do the work. Recently work was done in a unit that damaged a neighbor's unit because the contractor was not qualified to do the job. This is costly and time-consuming, and very unnecessary if you are diligent when hiring contractors. Please notify the office if you have construction done on your unit to install the pads in the elevators if needed. Please ask your contractors to cover the catwalks to avoid any construction debris.

Our association pool at 3663 Via Poinciana is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Condos 1&2 continues top of next page

Condos 1 & 2 continues from previous page

Enjoy and follow all the rules. Our website is always updated, and all pertinent information, required documents, reports, minutes, and updated information can be found by logging into it at www.poinciana1and2.com.

If you suspect a violation of our Rules and Regulations, please contact the office by email. Please continue to lock your vehicles and set your alarms. If you see something, say something. Any suspicious behavior, please contact the Sheriff at 911 IMMEDIATELY no matter what time of day.

We are so looking forward to enjoying a great 2021/2022 Season.

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

POINCIANA PLACE CONDOMINIUM 3 A, B and C by Ira Beckoff

December is a month full of holidays. Thanksgiving is behind us, and the newsletter will arrive in the middle of Hanukkah, from November 29th, 2021, to December 6th, 2021. Christmas is on Saturday, December 25th, and Kwanza from December 26th to January 1st, 2022. Don't put away your party clothes because New Year's Eve is Friday, December 31st, 2021. Happy New Year. Did you think we'd get to 2022 in one piece?

This season should be more typical for Poinciana 3. The birds from north and south are returning to their winter roosts. Today many Canadian cars started to fill up the parking lots. Welcome back. We will be greeting our friends and neighbors from all around the world as they return to Poinciana 3 for the 2021-2022 season. Welcome back, yea!

We are keeping a watchful eye on the pool. The water bill was up and the pool level down. We have done some leak testing and epoxy patching and seem to have stopped the problem. We also had to make repairs to the heat pump system of the pool.

The ravaged canal path along Birdie drive is looking better as Florida's fast-growing St. Augustine grass covers bare spots. We have been slowly replanting trees and shrubs along Birdie Drive. Many of them have been grown from cuttings that David Rubin has been growing. Let's give it some time.

Poinciana Place continues top of next column

The proposed budget for 2022 was mailed to all owners. It will be approved by a board vote at the meeting on Tuesday, December 7th, 2021, at 3 p.m., poolside. All of Florida is seeing significant increases in our condominium insurance costs. We have tried to keep our monthly payment increase as small as possible. If you talk to friends at the other Poinciana buildings, they have had similar increases. A real horror story occurred at Runaway Bay Condo in Bradenton Beach, FL. Read about their crisis.

"BRADENTON BEACH – The Runaway Bay Condominium Homeowners Association is experiencing a 337% increase in its annual property insurance premiums. Frank Witzmann, president of the condo association, said Runaway Bay's annual property insurance premiums are increasing from \$172,152 to \$581,259. The increase has resulted in the association's monthly assessment fee for a one-bedroom condo unit increasing by about \$160 per month per unit, with a two-bedroom unit's fees increasing by about \$220 per month per unit, he said.

Save the date for the Poinciana 3 Annual Members Meeting on January 19th at 3 p.m. at the pool. All owners are encouraged to attend.

See you next month.



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CARLISLE CHATTER

by Lynn Sands

Wow! It's December already; our snowbirds are gradually flying south. The cooler weather will be a most appreciated change from the heat and humidity of the summer. Hopefully, 2022 will be a healthier year for all of us. We look forward to more outings to restaurants, movies, social events, gyms, and travel. When out in public, remember it is still important to wear masks and keep social distancing.

Happy Birthday wishes to Carlisle December babies: Lenny Genovese, Ann Valquez, Gideon Colter, Loreley Caetano. Congrats guys! Any Carlisle resident who has not provided me with their birthday month, email me at gipsee1@yahoo.com or knock on my door, #105.

Let me know of any family news that you wish acknowledged in our "Poinciana Today" column. Your new grandchildren, graduations, weddings, and significant life events will be mentioned. Recent fun trips or pleasurable dining experiences would most interest our readers.

It has been reported that Carlisle is seeing non-recyclables in the outside bins. Please respect our rules. Our garbage disposals can handle rotted fruits, vegetables, and soft leftover food. Tin cans, plastics, glassware, paper goods, cardboard, and broken-up cartons, are the only items in the outside bins. Each bin is clearly marked. The garbage room is for non-recyclable items only. These rules are necessary to help unwelcomed animals to our grounds and in our homes. All throw-away furniture and old appliances are to be placed on the grass behind the bins. Pick up is Thursday. You need to call the number listed on the garbage room door to allow a big enough truck to pick up your larger items.

Our Social Committee is planning some great events for December through April. Our first event will be a holiday dinner at Chris' Taverna on Wednesday, December 8th. The poster and sign-up sheet are near the mailboxes. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, December 5th.

Carlisle's next event will be our annual New Year's Day Brunch and Chinese Auction. The poster will be up within a week or so. All monthly events are posted near the mailboxes, along with signup sheets. Our social committee works hard to provide these meetups. Your participation is important for its continuous.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!
More news next month!

DORCHESTER

by Marilyn Siegel

Yes, we are happy to see Fall and the holiday season return! In October, with kudos to Linda McKeown, who unofficially organized the event, we were able to have a fun and tasty Halloween Party. The submarine sandwiches from Publix were well received, along with salads and desserts made by our residents. Plans for the December Holiday Party are completed with a good list of residents signed up to attend.

The Dorchester happily welcomes back our snowbirds. Guy and Johane Boileau, and Michel Dion and Liette Coursol have returned from Canada. And from the state of Illinois, Bob Friedman has also returned to the warmth of our community. It's been a long 18 or more months since they were last here. We are so happy to reconnect with all of them.

The projects that go on around our building have slowed down. Only changing the rollers on the south elevator doors was needed. The Board has scheduled a December 1, Budget Meeting.

I enjoyed Thanksgiving and Hanukkah with the family I love. It is wished that everyone has a Merry Christmas, a Happy Kwanza, and a Happy New Year's with the family and friends you cherish. Please continue to stay well!

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HAMLET by Russ Donnelly

A warm welcome to our returning snowbirds. It's great to see you all again at the pool and our Wednesday barbeques. There are only a few of you still missing, but you all should be back here for the winter by the time this newsletter is out.

As you know, we had to make a few hard decisions concerning the 2022 budget. All of you were on the Board's minds, but I am sure we made the right decisions concerning our future. Over the past ten years, the Board has strived to update our building to meet today's standards, and we will have to meet the same obligations for the future. That being said, the Board appreciates your understanding in these matters. As President, I always considered myself and the Board lucky to represent a fine community within the Poinciana Community Group. Over the years, I have been honored to represent the Hamlet and have been extremely lucky to have a community that overwhelmingly supported the Board's endeavors.

A reminder that some men meet for breakfast every Thursday at 9 a.m. at Pete's off Forest Hills Blvd. All are welcome to join. Also, the Hamlet Ladies Club is back this year and meets on the third Wednesday of the month. They will be handling some functions here at the Hamlet over the season.

Upcoming events at the Clubhouse include the January 5, 2022, **Evening with Sinatra**, and tickets are still available, the **Left-Right-Center Tournament** on January 23, 2022, and **Night at the Races** on February 27, 2022. A special note, there will be a free show at the Clubhouse in the Poinciana Room on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 2 p.m. featuring R&B singer Ebonie Paris and all are welcome. Come in early for seating. As you know, in this community, anything that is free is sure to sell out. LOL! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope your December holidays are happy. Until next month...

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IMPERIAL BUILDINGS 8 & 9 by Dorothy Coustakis

Every day more of our snowbirds are returning. We see more of our most northern friends returning from Canada to our wonderful weather here in sunny Florida. Welcome to you all. We have seen more people moving in full-time. This is wonderful news for us, who have made Poinciana our full-time home. Welcome to all our new neighbors.

On Sunday, November 14th, we hosted a Veteran's Day BBQ at our pool. The day was beautiful. Our association boasts a large number of veterans who have served in all branches of the military. A **VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THEIR SACRIFICES.** You are the reason that we enjoy the life that we have.

We want to thank all of the people who volunteered to help. Thank you Phyliss Pabon, Anne Ezratty, Kathy Iacovangelo, Sandy Richter. Some of you brought delicious desserts, helped clean up and set up. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this a terrific day.

We will be doing other BBQs and would love to have more and more of you join us. We will be planning a BBQ twice a month. We will send out the flyers, post them on our bulletin boards and website. We encourage everyone to come and meet new neighbors and old friends. We began having BBQs right before COVID shut us down.

Your Board is working hard to accomplish the items we have spoken about in the assessment. The biggest problem is the lack of materials and the length of time it takes to get the materials. This has slowed us down as it has everyone.

As you know, costs have gone up. Water, electric, and insurance costs have skyrocketed. We are planning our budget based on the increases we have received. Have a wonderful holiday. Stay safe and healthy.



DUPLICATE BRIDGE by John De Maria

The Bridge Club is starting on January 6th in the Terrace Room from 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. We will be meeting every Thursday. Please contact John DiMaria 1-561-642-3265 if you are interested in participating.

ESSEX

by Toni Mirobelli

Welcome to new owners Gail Savage, and Leanne and Michael Kratofil. We hope you will enjoy your new home!

On November 3rd, we held our board meeting in the evening at the Clubhouse. We had previously announced that this was a crucial meeting regarding significant increases in our expenses, affecting your monthly maintenance. We arranged for our insurance representative to attend this meeting to answer questions directly from the owners to clarify why insurance rates have risen so dramatically. We also explained other rising costs. Unfortunately, only 11 OF 64 owners attended. Thank you to the owners who attended and are now informed.

Besides the significant insurance increase, the cost of water has increased, and we can no longer allow residents to wash their vehicles using the Essex building water. Cooperation is needed to keep our water costs more reasonable.

If you have not yet picked up a copy of the updated Rules and Regulations, new parking sticker, and new visitor parking pass, please see Toni Mirobelli in #111. We are in the process of having the Rules and Regulations translated into Spanish.

A couple of reminders to all owners. Plants, welcome mats, bicycles, etc. are NOT PERMITTED ON THE WALKWAYS. Installation of windows and screen doors MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO STARTING THE WORK. Also, this is a NO PET building. That means your guests may not bring animals to the building. It also means that you must have prior approval to have an Emotional Support Animal. Please contact CMC for the 10-page document. It must be completed by your physician and then reviewed for approval by our attorney BEFORE you bring an animal home. Failure to do so will result in legal action, and all costs will be the homeowner's responsibility. Finally, several residents have installed cameras outside of their doors. You must get approval before you have these installed. Do not put cameras on the soffits or near the sprinklers above your doors. A better solution is to install a doorbell that has a video camera included.

Phyllis Stacy has joined the Board of Directors, and we thank her in advance for her willingness to work to make her community better.

Essex continues top of next column

There is still time to contribute to the Poinciana Holiday Charity Project.

Please leave donations at the Activity Office at the Clubhouse or give them to Joyce Graham or Toni Mirobelli.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AT THE CLUBHOUSE AT 6:00 P.M. on December 15th.

Happy Holidays!

The Patio Homes by Ruth Ruttkay

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and Hanukkah! To everyone at the Patio Homes and all of Poinciana, a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

We will be having a combined Association Open Board Meeting and Nomination meeting later this month. The meeting will be for regular business and for Board Nominations. Three positions are open for the 2022-2023 term. Mary Anne Pirozzi's, Sheila Eastman's, and Ruth Ruttkay's two-year terms have ended. If you would like to nominate someone, please attend the meeting, or submit the nomination in writing, along with written acceptance of the individual nominated. Also, consider running for the PCG Board. The term is an annual one and a great opportunity to represent our owners, contribute to the larger community, and attend the monthly meeting. We hope to see a large turnout at this meeting. We must remember to act with respect at these meetings. Our community deserves this.

We are looking for an individual to chair the Election Committee. This job entails proofing the owners' mailing list and corresponding labels, preparing the secret ballot, collating the ballots, letters, envelopes, labels, and mailing them. Receiving and recording mailed ballots, attending the annual meeting, tabulating mailed-in ballots, and those from the meeting are also required and providing the results to attendees at the meeting. If you are interested or need more information, please get in touch with Ruth Ruttkay at 561-822-3958.



COPS
by Barbara Crespy

Welcome back, snowbirds! The members of Unit 39 are so happy to see you back. Remember to wave to your volunteers if you see them on patrol.

This is the start of the Holiday season. Please make sure your car doors and your home doors are locked. If you see someone trying to open a door that is not theirs, call 911 immediately. If you're shopping, make sure all packages are out of sight.

We are desperate for more volunteers. We are in danger of losing our patrol car if we do not log more hours of patrol. If we must share a vehicle, Poinciana will not have the full service we have today. Remember it is only a three-hour commitment per week, with one monthly meeting. Call now to find out how to participate.

Take care and stay safe,
Lieutenant Barbara Crespy. 215-813-7053
Captain Jeff Marcus. 321-514-6535
Sargent Debbie Lingenfelter. 561-335-9960

SAFE DRIVER CLASS

Essex resident and AARP volunteer, Toni Mirobelli, will instruct an AARP Safe Driver class in the clubhouse on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. The course has been updated with new participant workbooks and videos. Participants should arrive by 8:45 a.m., and the class will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Class size will be limited to 25 people, and walk-ins cannot be accommodated – registration is required.

Attendees may bring lunch for a half-hour lunch break. There will also be morning and afternoon breaks.

Upon class completion, participants will receive a certificate to present to their automobile insurance companies. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you verify with your insurance company before registering for the class to ensure they offer an insurance discount for this course.

To register for the course, or if you have any questions, please call Toni Mirobelli at 814-207-2200 by December 22, 2021.

Important note: Since the Covid pandemic is still unpredictable, it may be necessary to cancel/postpone the course based on conditions in January. In that case, all registrants will be notified.



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As a proud Poinciana Owner/Resident I have a vested interest in our community and the value of our homes. Please contact me for a free Comparative Market Report.



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Hablo Español

CSI Events December

RSVP REQUIRED - CALL (561) 603-7712

- 12/7** **Ice Cream Social**
 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 Community Room
- 12/15** **Memory Screening**
 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 Appointment Required
 Hospitality Room
- 12/16** **Mobile Dermatology**
 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 Appointment Required
- 12/21** **Bingo with Devoted Health**
 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
 Hospitality Room



THE NEW POINCIANA GOLF CLUB IS NOW OPEN!

We are receiving a lot of positive feedback from the Poinciana Residents and all players regarding the conditions and operations of the golf course. The summer growing season is now coming to an end, but the golf course conditions will continue to improve every week.

We are continually doing routine maintenance, fertilizing, weed control, watering, and maintenance on all the facilities. Our new Golf course Superintendent, Kerry Miller, and the rest of our staff are working very hard to make the conditions better and better for our customers and all the Residents to enjoy from their balconies! Please do not be alarmed. You may even see Kerry and his staff out there after dark or very early in the morning working on the course. The current golf carts we have are a temporary fleet until our new Yamaha carts, which are on backorder, arrive in January.

We appreciate all of you that have come to play and support us. We also appreciate all the positive feedback from the community, even from the non-golfers!

For those who reside in Poinciana who will be playing, please stop by the golf shop for your complimentary golf membership card to receive a golf discount.

Tee time reservations can be made by calling (561) 439-4721 or at our website www.poincianagc.com

We look forward to seeing you on the golf course!

ULTRA AIR CONDITIONING

(877) 333.0189

REPLACEMENT SYSTEMS

2 Ton System- Carrier \$3,150

(Rheem Systems avail \$200 additional)

2.5 Ton System- Carrier \$3,250

(Rheem Systems avail \$200 additional)

3 Ton System- Carrier \$3,450

WARRANTIES

10 years complete systems / 1 year first co Air-handler / 2 years labor all systems
 Includes: Digital thermostat, flood safety device disconnect box, hurricane straps, armaflex insulation, heater, permit fee, removal disposal of existing system, and labor

REPAIR DIAGNOSIS.....\$75

MAINTENANCE CHECK UP.....\$79

Duct sanitize

(up to 7 vents)\$295

Rotobrush duct clean with interior and viral whole house treatment

(up to 6 vents) 1000 sq ft..... \$395

*Additional cost from larger units and added vents will apply

*Emergency restoration service for water leaks



LIC: CAC1815439



GRAMERCY by Donna Lee O'brien

Due to the cost of everything going up, it is unfortunate that Gramercy will have to raise its maintenance fee. Our three major concerns are insurance, cable, and water. We want to remind our unit owners to please be mindful of their water usage. We have been shopping for insurance and comparing prices. We have also reached out to Comcast/Xfinity, but they have not returned our calls and or e-mails.

We are all aware of the rise in costs, and this is not only Gramercy's issue, but it has also become a community issue. Inflation has taken over, and unfortunately, we all suffer for it.

Gramercy wishes everyone happy, healthy, and safe holidays. Here's to hoping that the New Year brings the world love, peace, joy, and an end to Covid 19.



SIT AND STITCH by Joan Needle

This month, we share a photo of a blanket one of our talented needleworkers crocheted for the Poinciana Holiday Charity Project. We are happy to donate lap blankets and hats to this worthy cause.



Come join us every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Terrace Room on the second floor of the Clubhouse. We have people who are doing needlepoint and embroidery as well as knitting and crocheting. We look forward to seeing new faces!

For further information call:
Luanne at (561) 670-2334
Joan at (561) 649-8960



Poinciana Social Committee by Russ Donnelly

Our Social Committee held its first meeting Wednesday, Nov 3rd to discuss our future projects. Our new BINGO bulletin for the season is out with four dates confirmed for December 15th, January 19th, February 23rd, and March 16th. Bingo will be held in the Community Room at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m. Prize minimums will be guaranteed \$15.00 a game, and the coverall will reward a guaranteed \$150.00 minimum. There will be 8 games per session including the coverall. Cost will be \$10.00 for four Bingo cards.

We are looking into some day trips for this season, and some entertainment venues that will be sold on an individual basis this season if we can book them. Entertainment for next year is also now in the works, we are hoping to be able to sell show packages again for the entire season.

There will be a free show at the Clubhouse in the Poinciana Room on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 2 p.m. featuring R&B singer Ebonie Paris and all are welcome.

The Social Committee is seeking volunteers for the Committee to assist with some of its programs including **Bingo, Night at the Races, and the Left, Right, Center Tournament**. Please contact Russ Donnelly 561-963-8252 or email me at rdonn47@yahoo.com. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



Attention Bunco Players!

Bunco is the second THURSDAY of each month at 7 PM in the Community Room.

Admission Fee is \$5.00 and a small, unwrapped gift for the Loser Bag.

Reservations Required. Please call Mindy Dorffman (561) 328-8977 or (561) 778-2212

Golf Tips

By Jack Gale, PGA Master Professional

Golf Course Etiquette

A major part of playing golf is showing respect to the golf course and your fellow golfers. We can show respect to the course by filling in your divots with the seed mix from the container on your golf cart, fixing your ball marks after your approach shot to a green, and placing your trash in a proper receptacle. You can also watch the shots of your foursome to help others find their golf balls, rake bunkers after a shot from the sand, and parking carts on the cart path rather than the grass near the cart path. These small tips will make the game more fun for all involved.

We can show respect to our fellow golfers by doing our best to keep play moving on the course, moving quickly from the green to the next tee, and bringing a couple of clubs to your next shot so you will not need to return to the cart. You can also yell out "fore" when an errant shot heads toward another person and record scores on the next tee rather than on the previous green. Your fellow golfers will appreciate you doing this.

I hope to see you enjoying our Poinciana Golf Course. If you are a resident who has not played here, take the time to meet the new lessees, the Grillo family, see the excellent new greens, the much-improved overall conditions, and the pleasant atmosphere in the golf shop.

LADIES GOLF LEAGUE by Pat Murray



Hello again from Poinciana Ladies Golf! We are off and running with our 2021/22 season and loving our newly refurbished course. The new manager Paul greets us with a smile and gets us on our way. Everything is better except our scores. But that's golf for you.

We welcomed eight new members who are eagerly awaiting the return of the rest of our northern friends. We would like for you to join us.

We play at 8 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays. Come see what we're about! Call Pat Murray at 732-742-6845 .

POINCIANA MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE Tom Murray, President



Play has begun for the Poinciana Men's golf league. The guys say that the course looks great. This is a handicapped league, so anyone can join, no matter your skill level. We need to grow our league, so come out on a Monday or Friday at 7:15 a.m. and join us or call Tom Murray at 908-461-1592 for further information.

POINCIANA TENNIS by Kathy Graves



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and looking forward to more great holidays in December.

Our seasonal players are arriving regularly now. We are pleased to welcome back so far in November:

Keh Lin of Birdie C, Guy Boileau from the Carlisle, Robert Raifman of the Hamlet, Yves Robert of Birdie B, and Serge Tremblay of the Margate. Many more will soon be following later in November and early December.

Near the end of October, we also welcomed the arrival of our new chairs purchased by the PCG Board. Please stop by the tennis courts to see them. Chairs are corrosion-resistant aluminum for heavy-duty use, stackable, lightweight, and have armrests.

Our pre-season pizza party is scheduled for Friday, December 3rd, and will be held at the tennis courts at 11a.m. after regular tennis play. We will be having a post-season pizza party as well, probably in April. We will soon be planning and scheduling our annual January business kickoff meeting and luncheon, at which time we will conduct any business and hold an election of officers.

December's tennis joke: How can you say that your tennis opponents don't like your serve?

Answer: They keep returning it

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga 1P—Sit & Stitch	2 2P-Movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"	3 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis	4
5 6P—Sinatra Dinner/Show	6 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga	7 9:30A—Chair Yoga 10:30A—Talk Time 2P—CSI Ice Cream Social	8 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga 11A-Book Club 1P—Sit & Stitch	9 2P-Movie "Emma" 7P - Bunco	10 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis	11
12	13 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A -Yoga	14 9:30A—Chair Yoga 10:30A—Talk Time 11A—Charity Bingo @Mel's Way Bistro	15 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga 10A—CSI Memory Screening 1P—Sit & Stitch 7P—Bingo Community Room	16 8A—CSI Mobile Dermatology 2P-Movie "Uncut Gems" 5:30P—Ladies Social Club Holiday Party	17 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis	18
19	20 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga	21 9:30A—Chair Yoga 10:30A—Talk Time 1P—CSI Bingo Devoted Health	22 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga 1P—Sit & Stitch	23 2P—Movie "News of the World"	24 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis	25
26	27 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga	28 9:30A—Chair Yoga 10:30A—Talk Time 11A—Mel's Way Bingo	29 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A - Tennis 9A—Pilates 10A Yoga 1P—Sit & Stitch	30 2P-No Movie Happy New Year!	31 7:30A-Men's Golf 8A-Ladies Golf 8A - Tennis 7P—New Year's @Mel's Way Bistro	

Activities Office Hours - Monday - Friday 10-1
Wednesdays ONLY 10-1 AND 4-6

Please support your Golf Course & Bistro

POINCIANA SPECIAL
 BUY A \$50 GIFT CARD
 PAY \$40 CASH ONLY

PROMO GIFT CARDS
 CANNOT BE USED ON HOLIDAYS
 OR SPECIAL EVENTS

Mel's Way

Bistro

Poinciana Country Club

HOURS OF OPERATION
 TUES-THURS 12PM-8PM
 FRI & SAT 12PM-10PM
 \$20 MIN PP REQUIRED AFTER 5PM

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

Charity BINGO & Lunch

TUESDAY Dec 14th
 Doors open at 11 am

Please Bring an unwrapped toy For kids

\$20 PP INCLUDES LUNCH, 5 GAMES OF BINGO, BEVERAGE, TAX AND GRATUITY
 PROCEEDS TO SPEAK UP FOR KIDS BY POINCIANA COMMUNITY GROUP

Outdoor seating available
 PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FOR RESERVATIONS
 Info@melswaybistro.com



Dinner & Dancing

Fri & Sat 6-9 pm \$20 MIN PP REQUIRED

- FRIDAY DEC 3 RD *MAGIC MOMENTS*
- SAT DEC 4 TH *Angela* **Reminisce**
- FRIDAY DEC 10 TH **JOEY & THE PARADONS**
- SAT DEC 11 TH **BROOKLYN'S BEST**
- FRIDAY DEC 17 TH **Encore**
- SAT DEC 18 TH *Johnny T*
- SAT DEC 25 TH **XMAS PARTY W/ RAY THE DJ**
- SAT JAN 1 ST **HAPPY NEW YEAR W/ Cruzin**

MEL'S WAY BISTRO



Tuesday
 Prime Rib Special
 \$21.95 w/2 sides
 KARAOKE night
 5-8pm
 With Ray the DJ
 \$4 house wines



Wednesday
 Fish fry & shrimp dinner
 \$16.95 w/ fries & slaw
 Live music 5-8 pm
 \$5 martini menu



Thursday Ladies Night
 \$3 beer \$4 wine \$4 house cocktails
Crabcake Dinner \$22.95
 Dance to music by
 Dec 9th Leiza Michaels
 We celebrate Dec Birthdays
 Dec 16 th Donna Dean
 Dec 23rd Leiza Michaels
 Dec 30 th Latin Night w/ Yamir

\$20 min pp required

\$8 GOLF SPECIAL

TUES-SAT 12-4PM
 AT BAR ONLY OR FROM GOLF COURSE
 NO DISCOUNTS

- *FOOT LONG HOT DOG WITH FRIES
- *HOME MADE POTATO CHIPS WITH GRILLED ONION DIP
- *CHICKEN BITES WITH BUFFALO SAUCE
- *PULLED BBQ PORK SLIDERS (2) WITH FRIES
- *CHICKEN PARM SLIDERS (2) WITH FRIES
- * PITA CHEESE PIZZA
- *BLT SANDWICH W/ FRIES
- *6 WINGS WITH CELERY AND CARROTS

\$10 PITCHERS AT BAR ONLY

OF COORS LIGHT, BUD, BUD LIGHT, YUENGLING

\$16 COMBO (6) WINGS & A PITCHER OF BEER

FLORIDA FUN FACTS

by Thomas Leonard

December is one of the best times of the year to celebrate both religious and civil holidays. It is an excellent time to gather with friends, neighbors, and relatives for the occasion. Years ago, my wife and I found ourselves alone in this community and with no one to share any festive occasions. Fortunately, a neighbor realized our plight, and we were invited to join other neighbors in the same situation. Every place was closed for the holiday, but this lovely neighbor gathered all of us lonely souls, and we went to the nearby Brass Monkey's Special Holiday Dinner. We all became new fast friends with many who would become future best friends. So, the moral of this story is, don't leave anyone isolated and alone at this time of year. Reach out to your new best friend.

AN OLD-FASHION HOLIDAY: Are you ready for a nostalgic celebration of the Christmas Holiday as it once was? I recommend considering a December month-long program at the Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, in Palm Beach. Whitehall is the former home of Henry Flagler built in the 1890s for his wife, Mary. Throughout the year, there are many interesting events and musical programs available for the public. But in December, the home is turned into a Christmas Wonderland. There are 19th Century historically accurate trimmings and a 16-foot-tall tree in the Grand Hall. The tree has colored "Fairy" lights and Gilded Age ornaments. December 5th will be the official Tree Lighting. There will be Festive Music played on the large Odell Organ and by a pianist playing on a period-piece original Steinway piano. Special choir performances will appear at different times and at other locations in this large mansion throughout the month. It is suggested that the old St. Nicholas will make an appearance as the present-day Santa Claus. Of course, refreshments, sandwiches, and delicious appetizers will be available. (Detailed information at 561-655-2833)

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HANUKKAH to everyone who will enjoy the eight nights of the Festival of Lights. And, as Tiny Tim said in Charles Dicken's classic novel, A Christmas Carol, "God Bless Us, Everyone."

POINCIANA PLATES

by Toni Mirobelli

Going to a Cookie Swap? Planning which cookies to make for family, friends and neighbors? Just looking for a new and different cookie to make and enjoy with a hot cup of coffee or tea? These chewy and soft cookies will bring the holiday aroma to your home!

PUMPKIN SNICKERDOODLES

FOR THE SNICKERDOODLES:

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
 1 cup butter softened
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar
 1 cup sugar
 1 large egg and 1 yolk
 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup canned pumpkin puree

FOR THE COATING:

3 tbsp sugar
 3 tbsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400° and line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.

In medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt, and pumpkin pie spice. Set aside.

In a large bowl, beat together butter, brown sugar, and sugar until creamy. Add in pumpkin puree and mix well. Add in egg and yolk and beat until combined. Slowly add flour mixture into sugar mixture and beat well.

Roll one-inch balls in cinnamon sugar mixture to fully coat, press down slightly on the cookie and then place on prepared cookie sheet. Bake for 9 – 10 minutes. Remove from oven and let sit for 5 minutes before placing on a cooling rack.

Happy Holidays!!

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Holiday Charity Project



The Poinciana Community Group is organizing a holiday project to benefit Veterans and Meals on Wheels. We are accepting NEW items (listed below), as well as checks made out to PCG. Please drop off your donations to the volunteers in the Activity Office located in the Poinciana Clubhouse. Hours are Monday thru Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Wednesdays 10 AM to 1 PM and 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Donations will be accepted from October 1st to December 7th.

Please call Joyce Graham (609-335-5643) or Toni Mirobelli (814-207-2200) if you have any questions. If you would like to volunteer to help organize, bag, or deliver donations, don't hesitate to contact Toni or Joyce.

Donations Needed

Gift Cards

Walmart
Publix
Fast Food Restaurants

Non-Perishable Food Items

Peanut Butter Crackers
Cheese Crackers
Ramen Noodles
Granola/Cereal Bars (soft)
Juice boxes
Candy -Wrapped hard candies or small bags of hard candies
Cookies – Pre-packaged
Cocoa Packets

NEW Clothing Items in a variety of sizes (Men and Women)

Flip Flops
Shoelaces
Slipper Socks
Socks
Sweatpants
Sweatshirts
T-shirts
Underwear

Personal Care Items included but not limited to:

Bath bombs
Bath poufs/loofahs

Holiday Charity Project continues top next column

Body Wash
Comb and Brush Set
Deodorant
Lip Balm
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Scented Hand Sanitizer
Shampoo/Conditioner
Shaving Cream
Disposable Razors
Denture Cleanser
Denture Adhesive

Stationary

Address Book or Organizer
Pens and Mechanical Pencils



YOGA AND PILATES by Ruth Cassel

YOGA

Yoga is an excellent exercise that can help us age more gracefully. Regular practice helps to build strength, stamina, and flexibility.

Mat yoga with Shannon is offered on Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. The cash price is \$10. A contactless payment method is available at [ribbon.com/u/shannonsyogaspot](https://www.ribbon.com/u/shannonsyogaspot). Using this payment method will enable you to get discounted prices.

Chair yoga is wonderful for those who have movement restrictions, are uncomfortable touching the floor, or have cranky joints. It is excellent for managing stress and improving over-all health. Chair yoga is offered on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. will begin soon.

Pilates classes are on Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Pilates builds core strength especially in the belly and lower back. This workout will surely get your blood pumping. Cash price is \$10, but using the website, [ribbon.com/u/shannonsyogaspot](https://www.ribbon.com/u/shannonsyogaspot), will offer a variety of packages and discounts.

For mat yoga and Pilates, please bring your mat or materials such as blocks or towels that you might need. There is no sharing of equipment. Nothing can be left in the room. Concerned about Covid? Class size is limited, and the instructor is masked and vaccinated. Most of the students are vaccinated as well.



POINCIANA LADIES SOCIAL CLUB by Jackie Rome

It seems like just yesterday I was doing the November newsletter; they say time flies when you're having fun. Thank God we're getting out more and more, plus for most people, the weather is ideal.

We had our monthly meeting, and we hope everyone will be pleased with the events. Connie let us know that we have several new members. We are trying to plan fun events for all, at least that's our goal, and hopefully, you'll agree. Our installation luncheon was held in the Poinciana room on November 16th, and we all had a good time!

Our annual Holiday Party will be Thursday, December 16th at 5:30 p.m. For those who would like to order drinks, our first one will be at Happy Hour prices. The menu will start with a house salad and choice of Prime Rib, Crab Cakes, Chicken Piccata, Eggplant Lasagna, or Parmesan-Crusted Haddock. Desert and iced tea are included. Chairpersons are Phyllis Slaven, Joan DeLuca, and Gail Hoffmann. Call Gail for reservations at 561-434-9386. I want to thank Mel's Way for helping make things easy and wonderful.

Thursday, January 18th at 11:30 a.m. will be our Fashion Show. We will start with hors d'oeuvres and a luncheon. The menu has yet to be determined. The fashions are from Anthony's. The price will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. The chairperson is Mindy Dorffman, and you can call her for reservations at 561-328-8977. February 15th is our Membership Luncheon. Chairpersons are Fran Fox and Joanne Visconti.

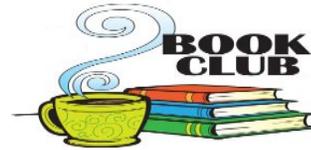
One of my favorite holidays is Thanksgiving, and I hope everyone enjoyed it with family and friends.

Talk Time

by Harvey Grodensky

We talk about current events and welcome all points of view. We cover local, national, and international happenings. Join the discussion every Tuesday at 10:30 AM in the Hospitality Room of the Clubhouse lobby.

For further information call:
Harvey at (561) 596-6769 or
Linda at (516) 779-4602



POINCIANA BOOK CLUB LA Glickman

Our November meeting was energetic. While some loved the book "Dark Sacred Night," some hated it. Analysis of the book certainly provided some dynamic discussions. It's always healthy to have opposing points of view respectfully.

Our next meeting will be in the Terrace Room on December 8, 2021, between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm. We have distributed "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides.

A book club meets to discuss, dissect, disagree, examine plot twists, character flows, and alternate endings. We are inclusive, nonjudgmental, and don't discriminate. A book club encourages a closer look at the details in a book and understanding of the story. In this way, we challenge assumptions, expand ones thinking, enable members to share differing perspectives and opinions - all this excitement and it doesn't cost anything!

If you would like to participate in this fun group, contact LA Glickman at **954-997-7757** or email at **glickmanla46@gmail.com** for additional information.

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- Dryer Vent Cleaning to protect against Fires
- 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

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Our agents speak **English, Creole, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Tagalog**.

Medicare Annual Enrollment is Coming
October 15th - December 7th
(Appointments Starting on October 1st)

We Offer No-Cost, No-Obligation Plan Reviews

In-Home Appointments

Over-the-Phone or Virtual Appointments

In-Office Appointments

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Medicare Supplements

Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plans

Dental Plans

Cancer Policies

Major Medical Plans

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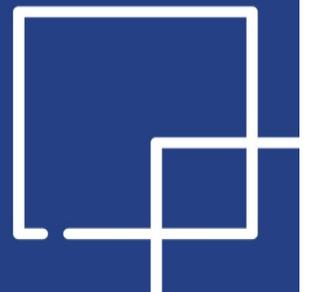
(Buttonwood Plaza, same as Dunkin Donuts & Ci Ci's Pizza)

7000 West Palmetto Road Suite 210-N22, Boca Raton

(Corner of Palmetto and Powerline)

1775 SW Gatlin Blvd Suite 104, Port St Lucie

*(Across from Sam's Club) ***Newest Location****





EATING IN ISLAMORADA

by Ina Baron

The restaurants in Islamorada are many and range from very reasonable to very expensive. Restaurants on the Gulf of Mexico side fit into this category. The Lorelai Restaurant and Cabana Bar is one of our favorites. There is a covered dining room, but seating is limited. The rest of the seating is at tables set in the sand. Signs state, "Beware of Alligators. Do not go too close to the water's edge." However, that does not deter the diners from enjoying their meal. Open for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. The menu is varied from Seafood Tacos to 12 oz. New York Strip Steak with lots of other food in between. It is one of the best places to watch the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico. The restaurant also has local, live entertainment.

Next on the list is the Islamorada Fish Company. This unique place is built over water, and people must travel over a Boardwalk to enter the restaurant. This restaurant is open for Lunch, Dinner, and Late-Night dining. Foods range from Seafood to Beef and Vegetarian Meals. Again, great views for sunset watching. Service at times can be a bit slow.

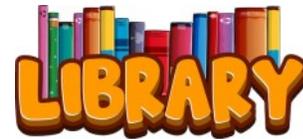
Pierre's is open for dinner only. This restaurant is a bit pricy with Entrees starting at \$45. The ambience is something else. It is built in an old Colonial Style Residence like those found in West Africa. Zagat lists it as one of the top all-around dining experiences. The food is French Fusion, and the Dress Code is Casual Elegance. Again, the view of the sunset over the Gulf is exquisite from one of two verandas.

Switching over to the Atlantic side of the road, the choices vary again. Lazy Days is an unusual restaurant. Dining is multilevel, and the lowest dining is on the beach. The Outdoor Patio Dining, Inside Porch Dining, and the Inside Dining Room are on the upper level. All have magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean. This place is open for both Lunch and Dinner. The staff will also cook your catch for a fee. Food ranges from Seafood to Meat to Vegetarian. Their chowders are wonderful. Be experimental and try something new. I had Alligator Steak that was coated in Panko, sauteed, and topped with fresh tomatoes, scallions, and grated cheese. One to try. Their wait staff is very attentive and pleasant.

Eating in continues top next column

Heading north, Chef Michael is in an old house. Dinner is moderately priced, starting at \$15. This restaurant is part of the Save the Reef Project. They promote the eating of Lionfish which are endangering the reef by eating the other reef fish. Their fins are poisonous. This restaurant is known for the preparation of this fish, and it is delicious. Another fish that is done to perfection is the Hog Fish. Their Key Lime Pie is awesome.

Continuing north, The Ciao Hound is located at the Postcard Inn. This Italian Restaurant is one of the better Italian restaurants in the area. Indoor and Outdoor seating is available. Their wine selection is varied, as is their menu. The Baked Spinach and Artichoke dip is excellent but a bit too much for one person. The dress is casual. **BONUS** – The Fish House and Fish Market in Key Largo is a very casual restaurant. Unusual food choices from Oysters Moscow, which consists of Oysters on the half shell, topped with a dollop of both Red and Black Caviar and Creme Fresh. Another goody is Oysters Key Largo. Smoked Fish is one of their specialties. They did not forget the meat lovers and have a varied selection of beef products.



LIBRARY NEWS

by Pat Sullivan

Don't be a "Biblioklept."

Perhaps you have been ill and haven't been able to return a book to the community library. Call the office at 561-439-4733, and we'll gladly pick it up for you.

Perhaps you forgot you have a book from the community library. This is a good time to look around your home and check for a library book from the community library. Sometimes we forget, so double-check.

I am anxious to start purchasing some new books but not if they continue to 'disappear.' Please double check your library and see if you have forgotten to return any books or maybe you have passed a book you enjoyed to a friend. I appreciate everyone taking a second look.

Thank you to all our residents who continue to make contributions to our library.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

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WORDS CAN GO IN ANY DIRECTION.
WORDS CAN SHARE LETTERS AS THEY CROSS OVER EACH OTHER.

TRADITIONS

by Toni Mirobelli

Tradition, by definition, is the passing on of customs or beliefs from one generation to another. Most often, traditions are witnessed around religious holidays. Some actions might not be recognized as “tradition,” but children having experiences with their families will undoubtedly continue these traditions as they age and have their own families:

- Leaving a gift from the Tooth Fairy
- Attending fireworks
- Having barbeques
- Having a set of not-to-be-missed Sunday dinners with family or taking a family vacation to a favorite spot.

Some traditions take the form of an object. My Mother’s most requested gift at Christmas was a Farmer’s Almanac, and I made sure she had it every year. Poinsettias have become associated with Christmas since the 1600s when priests used these colorful plants to make nativity scenes more festive. A menorah is central to family Hanukkah celebrations. African American culture uses a kinara, a seven-space candle holder, in their Kwanzaa celebrations.

Words and greetings on particular occasions are traditional. “Have a good day” is used every day by almost everyone. Phrases like Happy Easter, Happy Birthday, Happy Christmas are commonly used.....wait a minute, isn’t that Merry Christmas? While “Merry Christmas” has been around since at least 1534, many people in England (including Queen Elizabeth) use “Happy Christmas.” The royal family favored Happy Christmas because “happy” took on a higher class connotation than “merry,” which was believed to be associated with the rowdiness of the lower classes.

Food, of course, is a large part of most traditions. Latkes are eaten during Hanukkah, hamburgers and hot dogs are associated with the Fourth of July, and KFC chicken is enjoyed in Japan on Christmas! This interesting take on a holiday meal began in 1974 with a very successful marketing campaign, and now families order their chicken boxes months in advance or stand in long lines to purchase this meal.

In Ukraine, kutya (made with cooked wheat, honey, ground poppy seeds, and sometimes nuts) is a Christmas Eve treat. Spoonfuls of it are thrown at the ceiling, and if it sticks, it is believed there will be a good harvest in the coming new year.

Traditions continues top next column

My friend, Jan Chamberlain, and her son, Nathan, now 36 years old, have made gingerbread cookies together every year since he was two years old. Jan says the royal icing decorations on the cookies are all different and have gotten much neater since the early days. In years when Jan and Nathan couldn’t be together for the baking and decorating, they still did it together via FaceTime while enjoying carols and hot chocolate.

Another friend from the Essex, Krystyna Wilson, describes Christmas Eve in Poland as one of the most important celebrations of the year. Family and friends gather for an elegant dinner called Wigilia, which starts when the first Star appears in the sky, symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem. There is always one extra place setting for an unexpected guest. Each person breaks off a piece of a blessed wafer while wishing everyone good luck for the upcoming year. As a reminder of the 12 apostles, twelve dishes are served; however, meat is not included in remembrance of the animals who took care of baby Jesus. The Christmas celebration continues through Three Kings Day, January 6th, and decorations are kept up until then.

Especially in these turbulent times, traditions could not be more important. Traditions bring families together and give a sense of comfort that we may not recognize but are there. Traditions can be part of the foundation of a family. In these modern times, don’t let traditions slip away. Traditions can be fun, joyous, loving, and fulfilling. Give and keep the gift of traditions in your family.

DID YOU KNOW

The first traffic light was a manually operated gas-lit signal installed outside the House of Parliament in London on December 10, 1868.

The first crossword puzzle was published on December 21, 1913.

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, was introduced in a booklet written by Robert L. May and published by Montgomery Ward on December 25, 1939.



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