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February • 2026

Issue 12
49th Year

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Secretary	Rita Atwood.....	315-725-9237
Treasurer	Candice Bailey-Gray	815-307-1779
Director	Bill Vaughan.....	813-493-4660
Director	Skip Simpson	727-480-9447
Director	Jim Gibson.....	440-840-3739

CO-OP Emails:

pimanager@ paradiseislandlargo.com
piadmin@ paradiseislandlargo.com

RESIDENT'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE

President.....	Paulette Rich	304-582-2285
Secretary	Betty Simpson	727-409-8669
Co-Op Directors:		
.....	Barb Mullins	678-570-2558
.....	Brenda Struble	727-533-5672
.....	Nancy Jonas	727-221-9613
.....	Christine Sheetz.....	301-466-7027
.....	Kim Gibson.....	440-840-4093
Liaison:	Ken Jonas.....	727-221-9613

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Annual Craft Fair	Claudia Gisvold	612-386-3515
Bible Study/Prayer Fellowship	Serena Johnson	727-530-5905
Bingo.....	Jana Wolf, 317-432-8480 Nikki Phinney	727-614-9264
Blood Drive.....	Jana Wolf	317-432-8519
Bocce Ball	Paul Snellenberger 815-592-2829 Mike Casey	317-409-3372
Book Club:	Ruth Billings	570-606-6362
Bowling -	Claudia Gisvold 612-386-3515	
.....	Nancy Jonas	727-221-9613
Bulletin Board.....	Ruth Billings	570-606-6362
Bunko.....	Patti Hess	727-412-1900
Card Bingo.....	Bonnie Mason	520-240-1931
Clubhouse Decorating.....	Claudia Gisvold 612-386-3515	
Clubhouse Phone		727-216-6655
Clubhouse Reservations Calendar	Co-Op Office	727-535-2172
Community Holiday Party.....	Men's Club.....	Ken 727-221-9613
.... Social Committee	Paulette Rich	304-582-2285
Craft Club - Weekly	Toni Tichon	330-590-3143
Cribbage		Inactive Status
Dances	Judi Mitchell	716-258-9247
Darts	Larry Kraus	727-560-2996
Euchre	Beverly Mortimer	727-543-4571
Exercise 8:45 am.....		OPEN
Chair Yoga.....	Linda Carver	330-990-5880
Flagman.....	Ray Olley	484-467-9853
Flea Market	Tiffani Neu 713-922-9025 Liz Neumann	727-242-4597
FMO	Ray LaBelle	678-462-5339
Food Collection.....	Bonnie Melke	727-240-4162
Golden Anniversary	Brenda Struble	727-533-5672
Golf Cart Parades.....	Liz Neumann	727-242-4597
Golf, (Men)	Bob Pultorak	315-796-2153
Horseshoes		Inactive Status

Media Editor.... Harold Noeller .. 727-744-3181

HOA OFFICERS

President.....	Kenneth Hopkins	727-303-3417
Vice-President	Tom Billings	570-793-5238
Treasurer	OPEN	
Secretary	Vicky Ellis	727-831-2665
Director	Michelle Griffith.....	603-438-5382
Director	Liz Newmann	727-242-4597
Director	OPEN	

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Deacon - Pastor Shawn Johnson

Deaconess - Jenny Caldarello

Vice-President - Jim Sayre

Associate Treasurer - Peg Sayre

Secretary - Pat Murphy

Deaconess - Betty Simpson

Church In The Park Outreach

Bible Study - Thursdays 9:30 AM - Pastor Serena Johnson 727 530-5905

Bible Study - Saturdays 9:30 AM led by Skip Simpson 727 480-9447

Choir Practice - Thursdays 10:30 AM. Music Director Jenny Caldarello 678 633-0947

Communion - Skip & Betty Simpson - 727 409-8669 (2nd Sunday of the month)

Bible Study - Friday at 10:30 am - Shawn Johnson

All Outreach held in Clubhouse



Sunshine Committees

Greeting Cards (sending) Jeanne Czikowsky (860) 575-5348

New People Contact - Beverly Spikes (727) 430-2824

Prayer Bears - Wilma Largent (260) 316-1296

Co-op Updates

By Al Noeller, President PI Co-Op

As you are aware, the Monthly Media articles must be compiled by the 15th of each month as a deadline. So, the celebration didn't happen by then, but it has happened by now, and we did/do hope the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Paradise Island, with about 400 residents in attendance, was a great time for all who attended.

Whether a seasonal or full-time resident, we hope that you are enjoying your time with us here, and hope you are taking advantage of and attending the PISC, Church and HOA events, and enjoying the changes that were made to the community during your absence. As a reminder and to help us understand any concerns, we do have suggestion boxes, so please consider leaving us a note with specific suggestion(s) for possible changes that we might make to improve our community so everyone can better enjoy their piece of paradise.

Hopefully all the home owners are taking advantage of your Vantaca portal access, so you can stay updated on your account and other documents that are available for your information. If you need assistance working with the portal or other issues, please contact the office and our team will try to assist you.

I'm hearing good comments regarding our new Traffic Light at Willow and Starkey. I see that they installed a sign indicating that the project was part of the Penny for Pinellas tax program. Note: Stop at the Stop Bar or the signal might not know you are even there and please always stay safe.

Please take the time to Enjoy Paradise!



HOA UPDATE

By Ken Hopkins



Wow! Here we are 1/12 into 2026 already. Where does the time go? Well, Happy New Year again, and hope all is starting off for you on a positive note. Your HOA is just beginning our planning for the year and we will be updating you as we move forward. As for now:

ELECTION: The election was held on January 7th, with the following results: President, Ken Hopkins: Vice President, Tom Billings: Secretary, Vicky Ellis: Board Members, Michelle Griffith and a warm welcome to Liz Neuman. We still have 2 positions open on the board, and hope to have them appointed in the near future.

BINGO: Bingo has kicked off under the new structure and is running smooth, Thanks to the great Team that has stepped up and coordinated this vital activity. New programs are being discussed and perhaps enhancements will be coming soon, In the meantime, come on down and enjoy!!

We welcome your ideas and input---do not hesitate to contact any board member with any questions or concerns, We are here to help to the extent possible. Here's to a great February--May your hearts be full and happy. Be well.

Neighborhood Watch

By Nancy LaBelle



Everyone is always welcome to attend our meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10AM. Meet the Block captains and Officer Keith Bowling our LARGO PD liaison. We are not HOA or COOP.

Our mission is to improve neighborhood SAFETY, SECURITY and WELL BEING through awareness of all residents and by reporting suspicious or concerning activity to 911 or the non-emergency number 727-587-6730.

We do not have suggestion box, however, if you ever an IDEA that would benefit the community and stay within the parameters of our mission statement, please call your Block Captain to discuss. Always leave a message for a call back.

The FREE SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM with the Red Cross continues. Call Block Captain Jim Rich to sign up and he will set you up! You must be home for the installation. Home safety assessments are still on going with lock boxed back logged a few months.

Your Block Captains can be found inside the cover of this media magazine. Call them 9AM to 9PM with any concerns. Leave a message. Call 911 if you see a situation needing immediate police attention.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING
BE SAFE AND BE KIND**

continued on page 6



Did You Know?

By Co-Op BOD



You could be missing out on some great free perks that come with our Spectrum service. Did you know that with the cable plan we offer in Paradise Island, you can enjoy several streaming services for free if you sign up for them? The value of these streaming services, which are available for free, is over \$75 a month. These include Disney+ (which includes Hulu & ESPN), Peacock, HBO Max, Paramount+, ESPN, and AMC.

HOW TO ACCESS:

1. Log in to your account on the Spectrum website using your Spectrum credentials.
2. Navigate to the "Services" or "TV Streaming". You'll see icons for the streaming platforms included with our TV package.
3. Select the arrow next to the service you'd like to activate. Click "Start Streaming" or "Activate" for each service to create separate logins for each platform. Enter your email address and create a password to set up your subscription(s). You'll want to keep these credentials handy for logins and account management.

These offers are for additional subscriptions and won't take the place of any existing subscriptions you may have. If you already have a subscription, you MAY have to choose a different email address or cancel your existing account. They do not all handle the new subscription the same.

If you have any issues with access/ setup, please contact Spectrum for assistance at 1-833-697-7328 (Bulk Account).

TO WATCH:

You'll be able to stream from anywhere using your favorite supported platforms, including Smart TVs or streaming devices, such as mobile devices and web browsers. Download the apps on your device and sign in with the newly created accounts.

Smart TV: If your app library doesn't already have these apps installed, you'll need to download them to your TV. Then, open the app and sign in using your email and password.

Web Browser: Sign in using your email and password for that service.

Mobile Device: Download the app and sign in using your email and password.

Note: *These procedures may vary depending on the TV or phone brand used.*

Also, Spectrum does not notify the Co-Op when additional services are added; those communications come directly from them to our residents. You may want to inquire about availability & cost for "XUMO", which is an upgraded piece of equipment that combines Spectrum TV with streaming services for ease of access.

We hope you enjoy these great services included for all Paradise Island Residents.



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Let's All Celebrate

By The PI Anniversary Committee

CELEBRATE!

January is upon us and our 20th Anniversary Celebration will be taking place on January 31, 2026

We have received a great response to the Celebration and I hope you have all secured your tickets. Anyone who is arriving in January and have arranged for your tickets to be reserved, will have their tickets delivered to your home during the week of Jan. 19th, 2026. If you prefer you may pick them up at the clubhouse on Monday Jan. 19th, 2026, in the evening between 6-7 pm. For anyone who didn't reserve a ticket this night is the only time we will have tickets available. Be sure to mark your calendars to get your tickets on this date.

Celebration starts at 3:00 pm with games geared for all ages in our community including anyone handicapped needing a walker or wheelchair for assistance. We have designed sit down games for you so that you can join in the fun. At 5:00 pm we will start the drawing for the prizes you can all win, and at 5:30 we will have the food set up and ready for you to enjoy.

The evening music and will start at 7:00 pm and end at 10:00pm. We will have additional prize drawings at 8:30 pm for those of you who are attending at night as well. You may join us for dancing or just sit and listen to the music of the past 20 years. This celebration is for all of you so just enjoy it anyway that you wish to.

Every attendee will receive a ticket upon entering for at least one chance at the prizes. Play as many games as you can and you win tickets at each game for additional chances. We have over 100 prizes to give away. Additional games will be played during the evening session revolving around the dance floor.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN... THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS BUT YOU DO NEED A TICKET TO ENTER.

Questions: Call Marcia White 727-452-3839

H E L L O
F E B R U A R Y





Paradise Island Social Committee Calendar 2026

Questions contact Paulette Rich (304)582-2285

Tickets for all Events are sold on Monday nights from 6-7pm at the Clubhouse

Date

2/7	Bandingo	\$5	Clubhouse
2/14	Valentine's Day Dance	\$12	Suncoast Band
2/21	Men's Club Event	TBD	Jeff Gordan-Elvis Impersonator
3/1	Golden Anniversary	NC	Clubhouse
3/15	Men's Club Event	TBD	Dave & Daphne-Singer/Musician
3/21	St Patrick's Day Dance	TBD	Shakes Society Band
3/27	Set up for Flea Market	NC	Set Up For Flea Market
3/28	Spring Flea Market	TBD	Clubhouse
4/4	Men's Club Event	TBD	Ron Mitchell
4/11	Dance	\$12	Tangent Band
4/28	Blood Drive	NC	Donate Blood-Big Red Bus N Parking Lot
5/30	Dance	TBD	Flashback
9/26	Dance	TBD	Red hawk Band
10/31	Halloween Dance	TBD	Suncoast Band
11/6	Set up for Craft Show	NC	Set Up For Craft Show
11/7	Craft Fair	TBD	Clubhouse
11/14	Men's Club Event	TBD	Clubhouse Louis Fortunato/Singer
11/25	Set Up for Thanksgiving Dinner	NC	Clubhouse
11/26	Thanksgiving Dinner	TBD	Clubhouse
12/4	Set Up Christmas	NC	Clubhouse
12/5	Ladies Luncheon	TBD	Clubhouse
12/19	Christmas Ladies Luncheon	TBD	Clubhouse Dinner/Jason Ensor
12/31	Christmas Dinner/Show	TBD	Red Hawk Band
	New Year's Eve Dance	TBD	



FEBRUARY





Social Committee Update

By Paulette Rich



A Heartfelt Hello to February! As February 2026 begins, the Social Committee and Men's Club have a month full of entertaining events. We begin with a fun night of Bandingo on 2/7. A Valentine's Day dance with the Suncoast Band on 2/14, followed with a Men's Club event on 2/21, with Jeff Gordan-Elvis Impersonator.

The SC and Men's Club take great pride in planning, organizing and searching for entertainment and activities for our residents' enjoyment. Officers, directors, chairpersons, participants and volunteers play a huge part as well.

Here is a glimpse of 2026 activities and entertainment:

Men's Club: 7 entertainment events. Dances: 7. Golf Cart Parades: 4. Pool Parties: 3.

Annual Craft Fair: 1. Spring/Fall Flea Market: 2. Blood Drive: 1. Food Pantry: 4.

Thanksgiving Free to Residents Dinner: 1. Golden Anniversary Recognition 1. Christmas Dinner/Show; 1. Ladies Holiday Luncheon: 1.

The Social Committee oversees more than 40 activities that take place at our clubhouse and in our community, including Monthly Media delivery, Welcome Team, Golf Cart Parades, Sunshine Outreach, Bowling, etc.

Our goal and purpose is that we all can work for the greater good of our community!

PI CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE WINNERS

By Vicky Ellis

The Paradise Island Residents certainly delivered the light of the Holiday Season! Our community was truly festive and bright and the HOA sponsored Christmas Showcase Committee had a tough job to do choosing this year's winners.

1st Place went to the Burley's at 797 Paradise Island, 2nd Place went to Polseno/Bourgeais 820 Bonaire, 3rd Place went to Riendeau/Beauvais at 400 Bermuda. Our Honorable Mention went to Lagenoek/Crawford at 545 Freeport, also known as Candy Cane Lane. The committee truly loves doing this and are grateful for the spirit of the season shown by all who go above and beyond with their decorating. Our community enjoys and appreciates your efforts.



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Horseshoes

By Stacy Pupecki



There are no organized horseshoes at this time but the courts may be used at any time. The horseshoes are locked up so if they are needed or for more information, please contact Stacy at 860-919-7325.

Dart League

By Larry Krause



Dart League is in full swing. We play every Monday evening at 6:30 at the Clubhouse. Come join us for a fun evening with our neighbors. If you're interested in playing give Larry Kraus a call at 727-560-2996.

Bowling

By Claudia Gisvold

Subs needed

Top bowlers

12/11/2025.

Steve Wilson. 156. Shirley Pultorak. 159

12/18/2025

Tom Dunne. 198. Cheryl Dunne 173

01/08/2026

Tom Dunne. 190. Claudia Gisvold. 168



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

SHUFFLEBOARD

By Gary MacDonald



Join us for drop-in shuffleboard every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:30 am. Please arrive by 9:25 for random team selection. No experience necessary - we simply play for fun. Cues are provided. We look forward to welcoming new players. Hope to see you on the courts!

Just a reminder that our Shuffleboard courts are available all year for our residents. The storage shed at the courts is secured outside of our organized play. Call Gary at 727 474 6420 for key access should you wish to play.



Paradise Island Flea Market

By Tiffani Neu



Call For Volunteers, Donations, and Raffle Items

Liz and Tiffani are gearing up for the March 28th Community Flea Market, benefiting the Paradise Island Social Committee. One of our sheds is stuffed to the gills, but we have room in the second shed. If you have donations, please contact Liz Neumann or Tiffani Neu (both are in the yellow book). If you happen to have furniture to donate, please contact us, but we may need you to hold it until March 27th (depends on size and our storage capability). We are also now putting a call out for volunteers - this March event is the BIG ONE and we need plenty of hands to help set up on Friday, March 27th and help sell items on the 28th. If you can volunteer, please contact Liz or Tiffani. We'll need folks Friday, March 27 from 10 am - 1:00 pm (approx. - depends how long it takes to set up), and on Saturday, March 28 from 7:45 am - 3:00 pm. You do not need to do both days. And we can stagger volunteers on Saturday if you can't stay the whole time. One last ask - we will have a raffle table, so if you have anything like artwork, hand crafted items, refinished items (furniture), or anything new (still in box/unopened), contact Liz Neumann. She'll be checking things out and collecting the raffle items. At the very least, mark your calendars to attend the Saturday, March 28th community flea market!

Ladies Monthly Luncheon

By Beth Pieckiel

We are in full swing for the 2026 Paradise Island season. The Monthly Ladies Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 at 11:30 am. I plan this luncheon on a Saturday every other month so that the ladies working outside of PI can attend and join us for lunch. The Monthly Ladies Luncheon is open for ALL the ladies who reside here in PI, feel free to bring guest from outside the park as well. This month we will be going to an area favorite and the restaurant is:

Rumba's Bar & Grill
1800 Gulf to Bay
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 446 - 7027



As always you will find the sign up sheet for this luncheon on the bulletin board in our clubhouse. If you do sign up to join us and then find you are unable to attend, PLEASE scratch your name off the sign up sheet. This is so your hostess can give the restaurant of her choice an accurate headcount to set us up for service.

If you should have any questions regarding this luncheon, please contact me, Beth Pieckiel at (214) 538 - 7094. I look forward to seeing more of the ladies of PI come out and join us for an always fun afternoon with your fellow female residents.

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New England Plus

By Gail White

The New England + Dinner group will meet at 4 p.m., Feb. 4 at the Zom Hee Chinese Restaurant, 9015 Park Blvd., Seminole.

We'll be celebrating the Chinese New Year – and the Year of the Fire Horse, which begins Feb. 17. It's the first Fire Horse year since 1966.

All Paradise Island residents are welcome!

Questions? Contact dinner coordinators Gail White (412-561-5943) or Maureen Ronney (248-835-8127).

Men's Club

By Ken Jonas



Wow, Thank You to all who turned out for the January Show! It was great to see so many folks (well over 200) having a good time right here in our park!

Now is the time to get your tickets for the February 21st presentation of Elvis Impersonator Jeff Gordon! Tickets are available from 6 to 7 PM at the clubhouse on Mondays 2/2, 2/9 and 2/16 and are still only \$10 each! This show could very well be a sell out, so get your tickets early!

Then, on Monday 2/23, tickets will be available for the March 15th (Sunday) presentation of Nashville Duo Dave and Daphne!

Hope to see all of you Gentlemen at our next meeting on Tuesday, 2/3, with coffee and donuts at 8:30 and a short meeting at 9:00 AM.

BOCCE BALL

By Paul Snellenberger and Mike Casey



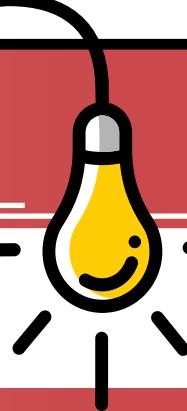
Join us for **Bocce Ball** every Saturday afternoon (weather permitting) - 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse Bocce Ball Courts next to the Shuffleboard courts. **Beginners are welcome.** No experience is necessary. Bocce Ball is easy to learn. Have a lot of fun, get some fresh air, and enjoy some easy exercise while meeting new friends!

Questions contact : Paul @ 815-592-2829 or Mike @ 317-409-3372

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Did You Know?

Due to the extra 'r' in the word February, it is considered one of the most misspelt words in the English language, along with words like 'Definitely' and 'Believe'.



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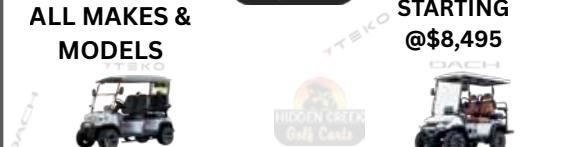
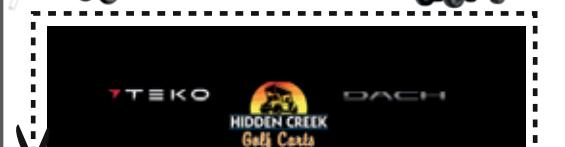
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
9:30am - *Church-B 1pm - *Card Bingo-F	1 8am - Men's Golf 9am - *Water Aerobics 10am - *Quilt Club-F 12pm - Men's Golf Luncheon 1pm - *8 Ball Pool 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 3pm - *Pinochle-F 6pm - Event Ticket Sales-M 6:30pm - Dart League - F Groundhog Day	2 8:30am - 1 9am - *W 9:15am - S 12:30pm - Jongg-M 12:30pm - 6pm - *P 6:30pm - 6:30pm -
9:30am - *Church-B 1pm - *Card Bingo-F	8 8am - Men's Golf 9am - *Water Aerobics 10am - *Book Club-F 12pm - Men's Golf Luncheon 1pm - *8 Ball Pool 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 3pm - *Pinochle-F 6pm - Event Ticket Sales-M 6:30pm - Dart League - F	9 9am - *W 9:15am - S 10am - So Committe 12:30pm - Jongg-M 12:30pm - 6pm - *P 6:30pm - 6:30pm -
9:30am - *Church-B 1pm - *Card Bingo-F	15 8am - Men's Golf 9am - *Water Aerobics 10am - *Quilt Club-F 12pm - Men's Golf Luncheon 1pm - *8 Ball Pool 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 3pm - *Pinochle-F 6pm - Event Ticket Sales-M 6:30pm - Dart League - F President's Day	16 9am - *Wat 9:15am - Sh 10am - Nei Meeting - F 12:30pm - 12:30pm - 4pm - HOA Meeting-F 6pm - *Poo 6:30pm - * 6:30pm - B Ma
9:30am - *Church-B 1pm - *Card Bingo-F	22 8am - Men's Golf 9am - *Water Aerobics 12pm - Men's Golf Luncheon 1pm - *8 Ball Pool 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 3pm - *Pinochle-F 6pm - Event Ticket Sales-M 6:30pm - Dart League - F	23 9am - *W 9:15am - S 12:30pm - Jongg-M 12:30pm - 6pm - *P 6:30pm - 6:30pm -

Paradise Island

uesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Mens Club -M Water Aerobics Shuffleboard - *Mah - *Poker- FR ool - Pill Pool *Euchre-F Bunko-M	4 8am - Wood Carving -M 9am - *Water Aerobics 1pm - Bocce Ball 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 1pm - Craft Club-F 4pm - New England Plus Dinner	5 9am - *Water Aerobics 9:15am - Shuffleboard 9:30am - *Bible Study-F 10:30am - *Choir Practice-F 12:30pm - Bowling 4pm - *Kitchen Open 4-6 pm -K 6pm - *BINGO-B	6 9am - *Water Aerobics 10:30am - *Prayer Meeting-R3 1pm - Chair Yoga - M	7 9:30am - *Bible Study - F 1pm - Bocce Ball 7pm - Bandingo
10 Water Aerobics Shuffleboard ocial ee Meeting-F - *Mah - *Poker- FR ool - Pill Pool *Euchre-F Bunko-M	11 8am - Wood Carving -M 9am - *Water Aerobics 1pm - Bocce Ball 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 1pm - Craft Club-F	12 9am - *Water Aerobics 9:15am - Shuffleboard 9:30am - *Bible Study-F 10:30am - *Choir Practice-F 12:30pm - Bowling 4pm - *Kitchen Open 4-6 pm -K 6pm - *BINGO-B	13 9am - *Water Aerobics 10:30am - *Prayer Meeting-R3 1pm - Chair Yoga - M	14 9 am SETUP Dance-B 9:30am - *Bible Study - F 11am - Reserve Tables - M 11:30am - Midwest Lunch 1pm - Bocce Ball 7pm - DANCE - B
17 er Aerobics uffleboard ghbor Watch *Mah Jongg -M *Poker- FR A BOD ol - Pill Pool Euchre-F unko-M ardi Gras	18 8am - Wood Carving -M 9am - *Water Aerobics 1pm - Bocce Ball 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 1pm - Craft Club-F	19 9am - *Water Aerobics 9:15am - Shuffleboard 9:30am - *Bible Study-F 10:30am - *Choir Practice-F 12:30pm - Bowling 4pm - *Kitchen Open 4-6 pm -K 6pm - *BINGO-B	20 9am - *Water Aerobics 10:30am - *Prayer Meeting-R3 1pm - Chair Yoga - M	21 9 am SETUP Men's Club Event-B 9:30am - Bible Study - F 10am - Reserve Tables - M 1pm - Bocce Ball 6pm - Social Hour for Men's Club Show 7pm - Men's Club-Jeff Gordon Show - B
24 Water Aerobics Shuffleboard - *Mah - *Poker- FR ool - Pill Pool *Euchre-F Bunko-M	25 8am - Wood Carving -M 9am - *Water Aerobics 1pm - Bocce Ball 1pm - Chair Yoga - M 1pm - Craft Club-F 5pm - Clubhouse Closed 6pm - Co-op BOD Meeting-B	26 9am - *Water Aerobics 9:15am - Shuffleboard 9:30am - *Bible Study-F 10:30am - *Choir Practice-F 12:30pm - Bowling 4pm - *Kitchen Open 4-6 pm -K 6pm - *BINGO-B	27 9am - *Water Aerobics 10:30am - *Prayer Meeting-R3 1pm - Chair Yoga - M	28 SET UP Golden Anniversary -B 9:30am - Bible Study - F 11:30am - Ladies Luncheon 1pm - Bocce Ball

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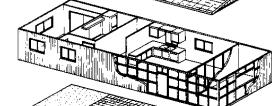
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- FEB. 28, SAT. — BISHOP PLANETARIUM/DESOTO PARK...\$89

PLUS Lots More on our Website or call for a list!

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Paradise Island Facebook Group

By HOA Media Committee

The Facebook group, Paradise Island Largo, is an exclusive group for ALL Paradise Island residents for the sole purpose of keeping all residents informed of community events, committee happenings, meeting schedules, and contact information for your community leaders - anything that is deemed to be newsworthy and informative to assist you as you live the Paradise life!

All postings will be screened and approved by the PI Largo group administrator(s). The commenting option will be turned off for each posting. Posting will inform you as to who to contact if you have questions or concerns.

This group is purely for informational purposes

You may sign up by following these steps:

1. *On your Facebook page search for: Paradise Island Largo*
2. *Click - Join*
3. *Answer all of the questions – DO NOT CLICK SUBMIT UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL THE QUESTIONS AND YOU AGREE TO THE RULES.*
4. *Click - Submit*
5. *You will receive a notice when your membership has been approved.*
6. *If you are having trouble joining contact: Cindy at 727-248-7146 or dclord80@hotmail.com*



Vicki at 727-831-2665 or wldthng55@gmail.com

that are archived for you to be able to reference previous posts on the page. They are organized by categories for easy access.

Updated: January 7, 2026 Be sure to take a look at the GUIDE TAB at the top of the page!! This is where you can see various postings

The Sunshine Committee

By Gloria & Wilma

When a neighbor is facing illness or loss, a simple gesture—a heartfelt card, a kind word—can make all the difference.

If you know someone who could use a little extra thoughtfulness right now, whether they're healing or grieving, The Sunshine Committee would love to reach out with warmth and care.

 To send a Get Well card, contact Gloria Garafola at (727) 463-7307

 For Bereavement cards, reach out to Wilma Largent at (260) 316-1296
Call or text—we're here, always.



Paradise Island Church in the Park

By Pastor Serena Johnson



Happy Valentine's Day!

February brings to mind - love. Love should be year-round, giving and receiving. God gave His Son Jesus to die in our place for our sin. We need to ask for forgiveness and receive Him into our heart and life so that we have spiritual birth and receive eternal life and when we leave this earth, we will go to be with Him. No more suffering, no more pain. Incredible! GOD IS LOVE.

Everyone is cordially invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Clubhouse. We are a non-denominational church, we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and we welcome all, and look forward to meeting you. Come feel the love of God as we worship the Lord together. Pastor Skip Simpson is our Associate Pastor and ministers at least two Sunday's each month. We look forward to his messages. Pastor Shawn Johnson will be assisting him during the service. If you are unable to come to a service you can view it on YouTube under "P I Church in the Park.".

You are welcome to attend our Bible Study on Thursday mornings in the Clubhouse at 9:30AM led by Pastor Serena, After Bible Study on Thursdays we have Choir Practice from 10:30 to 11:30 AM led by Jenny Caldarello. Prayer meeting on Fridays at 10:30 AM led by Pastor Shawn, Room 3 Clubhouse. Saturdays at 9:30 AM in the Clubhouse is a Bible Study led by Pastor Skip Simpson. Come, join in, there is always room for YOU.

If you know of someone who needs prayer and you would like to add to or take off our prayer list, please contact Pat Murphy by email:pamurphy51@gmail.com, with pertinent information.

BE AWARE WE CARE! If you know of someone in the Park who is ill and/or needs some encouragement and a Prayer Bear please contact Wilma Largent at (260)316-1296 or largentw6048@gmail.com.

If you know of someone in the Park who has an urgent need, please let us know. All requests are confidential. We would like to help if we can. Please call one of the numbers below and we will look into what we can do to help,

Do you have need of prayer or would like a visit, please do not hesitate to contact: Pastor Serena Johnson (727)530-5905 or Pastor Skip Simpson (727) 480-9447 If no answer please leave a message and you will be called back asap

If you need a ride to church, please call Pastor Shawn @ (727) 253-1045, Thank you.

Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays. — Soren Kierkegaard

**A Complete Listing of Resident Services
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Editor's Corner

By Harold Noeller



- For the March 2026 edition, articles are due by February 14, 2026 as are the dates you might want on the calendar for March 2026 events, meetings or dinners.
- If your name, Lot number, birthday or anniversary is incorrect, e-mail me at the media email address and it will be corrected.
- Please send all articles to: (monthly.media@paradiseislandlargo.com)
- If your phone number or address is incorrect in the Park's Yellow Phone Directory, notify the Co-Op office at 535-2172 or send an e-mail to: piadmin@paradiseislandlargo.com

Please note the persons in charge of delivery of the Monthly Media are Dave and Elaine De Yong. If you don't receive your copy of the Media please call them at (727) 531-8426.

• **Disclaimer:** Remember, this publication is for News & Events for the benefit of Paradise Island residents. The Board of Directors of Paradise Island Co-Op and the Editor of the Monthly Media are not responsible for the content of any articles submitted. If the article is determined not to comply with the 'News & Events' concept, it will not be printed. If you have a 'Letter to the Editor', a section is provided for opinion related articles not of a negative nature! Also, articles might appear in the media before the actual event date.

Also, there are 5 places to look for an activities date and time either in the current month or in future months. They are:

- Within the media, there might be an article with all of the details.
- The calendar section of the media.
- The Bulletin Board in the Clubhouse.
- Our web site at www.paradiseislandlargo.com under the Amenities link.
- Facebook group, 'Paradise Island Largo'

Letter(s) to the Editor VETERAN'S CORNER

By Bob Behm

Operation Underworld: How an Italian Mafia Boss in Prison Helped the US Invade Sicily in World War II - A luxury ocean liner burned and capsized in New York Harbor on Feb. 9, 1942. The SS Normandie, being converted into a troopship, caught fire during welding work and took 6,000 tons of water from firefighting efforts before rolling onto its side in the Hudson River. One worker died and more than 1,500 people evacuated the vessel. Commander Charles Haffenden of the Office of Naval Intelligence needed help



continued on page 30



investigating the incident and protecting the waterfront. He turned to the one man who could make dock workers talk, Charles Lucky Luciano, who was serving 30 to 50 years in New York's Dannemora Prison for running prostitution rackets. The Navy approached Luciano through his attorney, Moses Polakoff, in March 1942. Intelligence officers offered better prison conditions in exchange for Luciano's help securing the docks. Luciano agreed. The Navy moved him from Dannemora to Great Meadow Prison in May 1942, closer to New York City and easier for his associates to visit. Luciano ordered his criminal network to watch for saboteurs, report suspicious activity and prevent labor strikes that could disrupt the war effort. Joseph Socks Lanza, who controlled the Fulton Fish Market and United Seafood Workers Union, became a key contact.

Lanza told Haffenden during their first meeting: "You let me know where you want the contacts made, or what you want, and I'll carry on." Albert Anastasia, who ran the Brooklyn docks and Murder Inc., guaranteed cooperation from the longshoremen. Dock strikes stopped after Luciano became involved. No major acts of sabotage occurred in New York Harbor for the rest of the war. Lieutenant Maurice Kelly, a former New York Police Department officer who joined Naval Intelligence after Pearl Harbor, testified years later in the Herlands investigation about the success of Luciano's connections. "From the time Commander Haffenden made these contacts with Luciano there was a very open and cooperative condition that existed between the investigators and the people that were very influential on the various docks in the Port of New York," Kelly said. The Navy's covert partnership with organized crime, codenamed Operation Underworld, achieved its immediate goal of securing the docks.

Planning for Operation Husky, the Allied invasion of Sicily, began at the Casablanca Conference in January 1943. President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed Sicily would be the first step toward defeating Italy and opening a southern front in Europe. The Navy encountered a major problem. American intelligence on Sicily remained limited. There were serious gaps in knowledge about Italian and German defenses on the island. Local customs, beaches, tides, terrain and other features were also unknown. Traditional intelligence sources could not provide the detailed local information needed for a successful amphibious assault. Haffenden formed the F-Target Section to gather intelligence on Sicily. He turned again to Luciano, who maintained extensive connections to the Sicilian Mafia despite 20 years in America. Luciano provided names of Sicilian contacts in the U.S. who could be trusted. Meyer Lansky brought these contacts to Naval Intelligence for debriefings. Sicilian immigrants living in New York provided maps, photographs of coastlines and harbor layouts. Some offered corrections to existing naval charts. The information came from fishermen, merchants and former residents who knew Sicily's terrain, ports and villages from personal experiences. Luciano also provided valuable names of local leaders and Mafia connections on the island that American forces could turn to once the troops stormed ashore. Operation Husky began July 10, 1943. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on Sicily's southern coast in the largest amphibious assault of the war. Lieutenant General George Patton commanded the U.S. Seventh Army while British General Bernard Montgomery led the Eighth Army. Italian coastal defenses melted away, German-Italian counterattacks were pushed back, British forces moved north to Messina as Patton blitzed west against staunch Italian defenses. Many Italian-American

continued on page 33

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soldiers experienced their familial homeland for the first time or found themselves fighting on soil they had emigrated from years prior.

For his help with the war effort Luciano petitioned for clemency on May 8, 1945, the day Germany surrendered. His attorney cited invaluable service to the military, particularly regarding the invasion of Sicily. Governor Dewey, who as a prosecutor had put Luciano in prison, now weighed the commutation request. On Jan. 3, 1946, Dewey commuted Luciano's sentence on condition of immediate deportation to Italy. Luciano had served nine and a half years of his 30-to-50-year sentence. Dewey's statement acknowledged Luciano's cooperation but was vague about its true value.

Bob Behm LTC (RET)

In Memoriam

By Jenny Caldarello



Irene Phillips, age 95, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026. Irene was born in Wooten Green, England, on August 30, 1930, to William and Winifred Pennycook. She spent her formative years there and met her future husband, Bernard Phillips during WWII while he was stationed in England. Irene and her husband moved to the United States when he retired from the Air Force. She spent her life raising her family and making many friends. Everyone that knew her was charmed by her English accent and genuine warmth. She loved bingo, gardening, cooking, knitting, sewing, her electronic Yahtzee game and puzzle books. However, she truly loved all sports. She often watched several games simultaneously, switching channels frequently. Irene fiercely loved her husband and children. She was always so supportive and will be greatly missed. Irene was very independent and lived on her own until the very end. She never wanted to burden anyone. She was blessed with two great grandchildren in 2025 and looked forward to pictures and videos. Irene is survived by her daughters, Lesley and John Myer, and Teresa Phillips-Moston; her son, Brad Phillips. She is survived by several children and great grandchildren and family members living in England. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard Phillips.

Memorial Service is January 26 at 1:30, Bay Pines National Cemetery.

David Meeker, formerly of lot 13, passed away on December 28th, 2025. He is survived by his two daughters, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Many residents here will remember him from his daily walks around the park. He was always ready with a smile, a story, and a helping hand for whoever he met. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service for Dave will be held at the Paradise Island Clubhouse on Saturday, February 7th, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.





New Residents Joining our Community

By the Welcome Team, Betty Simpson & Nancy Jonas

Hello to all of our new residents in Paradise Island. Betty and I would love to meet with you soon, to give you information about all of the many activities available here in our park. We also have a few gifts that will enable you to join in on those fun times. You should be hearing from us soon to set up a time to meet with you at your convenience.



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By Bonnie Melke

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February Birthdays

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677	Kathleen Jachlewski	February	1	252	Forbes Adams	February	17
737	Tom Doty	February	1	77	Vera Bedynek	February	18
394	Suzanne Bolick	February	2	176	Buck Steele	February	18
579	Diana Ell	February	2	182	Linda Wells	February	18
657	Richard Hakenson	February	2	247	Dena Payonk	February	18
737	Diane Doty	February	2	319	Patricia Hess	February	18
178	Marguerite Bifano	February	4	352	Gordon Mcmillen	February	18
139	Jill Wood	February	5	659	Rogers Rogers	February	18
742	Delores Calonita	February	6	747	Bob Gilmour	February	18
270	Lindsay Laux	February	7	19	Bennett Wallace	February	19
512	Philip Moldenhauer	February	7	54	Rick Snap	February	19
770	Ron Ellis	February	7	65	Barbara Steinmetz	February	19
683	Eileen Smith	February	10	95	Brian Goff	February	19
689	Janet Adair	February	10	768	Mary Jaeger	February	20
49	Deborah Stutler	February	11	439	Virginia Thomsen	February	21
206	Joyce Crisco	February	11	197	Larry Thompson	February	22
423	Tim Mccoy	February	11	218	Charles Bifano	February	22
741	Bunny Carter	February	11	531	Jon Wilhelm	February	23
191	Bernard Basel	February	12	626	John Wolf	February	23
374	Dale Anderson	February	12	756	John Kenny	February	23
28	Elaine Wells	February	13	12	Martha Knudsen	February	24
60	Coy Newberry	February	13	433	Eddie Gray	February	24
187	Joann Lane-Atkins	February	13	797	Maria Burley	February	24
761	Scott Smolen	February	13	585	Frank Hamadock	February	25
188	Christy Mcdonald	February	14	84	Kay Stein	February	26
734	Jackson Brown	February	14	231	Michael Mitchell	February	26
824	Brian Peterson	February	14	407	Donna Farmer	February	26
826	William Frank	February	14	752	Helen (Bonnie) Mason	February	27
370	Robert Noble	February	15	169	Ron Hobot	February	28
383	Margarida Cotovio	February	15	244	Carol Schultz	February	28
662	Deborah Diskin	February	15	419	Victoria Ellis	February	28
691	James Gatteri	February	15	700	Patricia Eades	February	28
508	Regina Lubeck	February	16	171	Ray Peruski	February	29
615	Scott Roland	February	16	554	Maria Hinse	February	29
779	David Padgett	February	16				

Cherish all your happy moments; they make a fine cushion for old age. — Booth Tarkington



February Anniversaries

535	Walter & Deanna Pinkerton	February	2	1957
571	Greg & Brenda Flowers	February	2	1974
430	Jay & Elsie Powell	February	3	1956
727	Randy & Kimberly Lightfield	February	3	
217	Kerry & Jim Rayment	February	5	1988
730	Lou & Renee Mcelhaney	February	8	1990
762	Charles & Carol Cinquegrana	February	9	1963
305	Don & Linda Coburn	February	10	1968
440	Brian & Joanne Hannay	February	10	1990
755	Wayne & Ann Ruth	February	11	
543	Ronald & Vilma Marcissuk	February	12	1972
695	Rick & Mary Pat Mcchesney	February	14	1987
502	Jerry & Linda Welborn	February	14	1996
257	Kenneth & Dorothy Skonecki	February	14	1998
438	James & Nancy Mccann	February	14	1998
15	Duane & Eileen Bober	February	14	2000
488	Kenny & Sharon George	February	14	2008
724	Charles & Karen Clator	February	14	
283	Don Hunt & Barb Davis	February	16	2013
659	Roger & Connie Rogers	February	17	1962
433	Eddie & Candy Gray	February	18	2018
387	Jeff & Deb Bristle	February	23	1974
244	James & Carol Schultz	February	23	2007
455	Ronald & Patricia Murphy	February	26	1971
736	Danny & Sandra Michel Jones	February	27	1965
585	Frank & Susan Hamadock	February	28	1966
95	Brian & Edna Goff/Munoz-Soto	February	28	2022

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.
— Mignon McLaughlin



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O	A	I	E	C	I	G	N	E	U	Z	L	I
R	R	C	D	B	M	U	G	D	L	Y	E	C
F	E	O	I	A	S	N	M	A	E	D	V	I
U	P	S	S	T	I	P	S	E	G	R	A	P
L	O	T	T	S	C	L	T	L	S	E	R	S
Z	E	S	U	M	H	A	O	H	L	A	T	U
R	T	N	O	A	V	N	R	J	G	A	E	S
N	N	W	O	L	B	E	Y	P	J	I	B	L
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ARTICLES FOR SALE	DORAL VILLAGE YARD SALE BAZAAR, Saturday, February 28th, 8am-1pm, 29250 US Hwy 19 N, Clearwater. Furniture, Clothing, Linens, Books, Electronics, Glassware, Jewelry, Kitchen Items, Baked Goods, Lunch, and Great Raffles and Prizes!	Rummage Sale, Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Rd, Clearwater, Saturday March 7, 8am-2pm. Kitchen ware, home decor, books, clothing/accessories, linens and more
EVENTS & PROGRAMS	 ATTENTION RESIDENTS! Did you know this Emporium/ Classified listing reaches over 21,500 homes in Pinellas County? It goes into 60 community newsletters (just like this one) from Dunedin to St. Petersburg. This is a great market to sell items, advertise your next event, try and get help for a function, and many other things. Remember to think about this the next time you're planning something. -Monthly Media Staff	Crafters Wanted March 21st at Palm Hill Country Club. 401 8th Ave, Largo, 8am - 1pm. Contact Tom Sagitas at 727-315-4369. \$20 per table.
ANNUAL RANCHERO VILLAGE CARPORT SALE. Ranchero Village, 7100 Ulmerton Road, Largo, will be hosting their annual carport sale on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 8 AM to 8 PM. A wide variety of items will be for sale throughout the park!	Embassy Mobile Park, Inc. Rummage Sale, Saturday, February 7th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the clubhouse on 4th Street. 16416 US Highway 19 N., Clearwater - Largo area. Off East Bay just West of Tri-City Plaza; come in by Wendy's onto Pine Forest Drive.	Paradise Island Annual Flea Market, March 28th 9am-2pm. 1001 Starkey Rd. Largo. 8am early entrance \$1.00. Large selection of home goods, tools, furniture, linens, clothes, bake sale and more. Follow signs for Clubhouse.
Clearwater Cascade park-wide yard sale. Saturday, February 21, 8:00am - 2:00pm. 9790 66th Street N, Pinellas Park	Blue Jay Estates - Annual Community Rummage Sale. Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28, 2026. 8am - 1pm. Bake Sale and Lunch available both days. In clubhouse and deck. 2755 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34684	

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