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Issue 3

Year

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AMBER GLADES HOA MEETING IS 1st TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

CORPORATE DIRECTORS:

President &	Norm Goldberg	#366	215-913-4877
Vice-President			
Secretary	LeeAnne McHugh.	#334	727-458-8134
Treasurer			
Corp. Dir. & Complaints	Craig Rodgers	#341	502-435-1612
Corp. Director			
Corp. Director			

April 4th was the last HOA meeting until Fall; however, the Board will still meet with Management every month to bring up issues. If you have something that needs to be on the Agenda, please contact a board member.

If you have not paid your 2023 HOA Dues, please either put them in the dues box in the clubhouse or give them to Pat Peterman, #205, 618-960-9284. Dues are \$15/year.

Notes from the HOA Board of Directors

T's hard to believe that it's already that time of year when our northern neighbors and friends leave our sunny paradise and go back home for the next 5 or 6 months. We wish them all safe journeys and hope they all stay well until we meet again in the fall.

April may be the beginning of Spring, but it is also the time of year when we deal with the warmer weather, hurricane preparation and a slow down on the group activities in our community. March and April saw the return of our weekly food bank donations to Dunedin Cares Food Bank. Jackie LaFountain at Lot #44 will pick up donations you have on Saturdays around noon. Place your canned goods on your driveway or steps to be collected. Jackie also reminds us that we may bring them to her home @ Lot 44 and leave them in the tote in her carport or place them in her lanai. Dunedin Cares is holding a contest of sorts called the PBJ & More Challenge from April 1 to May 1, 2023. It requests donations of peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce and dry cereal. They will issue awards based on donation pounds and money donated. Amber Glades Estates doesn't need any prizes for our kindness, but let's get together and fill this ever-increasing need and do what we can to combat food insecurity.

Your Board of Directors has worked hard to bring our residents events and items to help us enjoy our lives at Amber Glades. We will soon have a pickle ball court. We now have a dart board machine in the clubhouse and will create a "cheat sheet" of sorts to help you learn how to play dart games. This is a fun and competitive game for any skill level and it would be fun to get more and more people to play.

Park Management will begin delivering the Park Info Tubes to each residence as noted earlier. If you need help installing the tubes on your mailbox post, please call Norm Goldberg @ 215-913-4877 or Craig Rodgers @ 502-435-1612.







AMBER GLADES ADVOCATE MAY, 2023 N

SUB-FLOOR & FLOORING EXPERTS!

COVID-19 NOTICE:

We are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We are checking employee temperatures daily, limiting contact between crews, and offering no customer contact if you choose. We are an "Essential Business" and here for you when you need us.



The Bingo committee will be getting a new larger TV to be used in the clubhouse for Monday night Bingo, so you can look forward to better Bingo games and newer TVs in the work out room and game room.

Park Management is investigating how best to set up additional golf cart parking near the shuffleboard courts. This will allow better access to the pool and clubhouse as requested by residents.

Management would like to again remind residents that trash is not to be set out on their curb prior to 7:00 pm Monday or 7:00 pm Thursday night. Violations are still occurring.

A MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH is planned for Sunday, May 14th to celebrate all that mothers do. Please visit us between 10 a.m. and noon for croissants and fresh fruit. Moms will be treated for free, but all others will pay \$5.00. Gluten free pastry will also be available. Mimosas will be provided by a donor at a nominal fee. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the clubhouse, or you can call Lee McHugh @ 727-458-8134 to leave your name and lot # and if you require gluten free.

A MEMORIAL DAY BRUNCH catered by St. Pizza Catering is scheduled for Monday, May 29th at 10:00 a.m. "Your way" omelets are on the menu along with biscuits, coffee and tea. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the clubhouse, or you can call Pat Peterman @ 618-960-9284 or Lee McHugh @ 727-458-8134. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

WE NEED A SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Tolunteers are needed to step forward to work with friends and the HOA Board to organize events in the park. Would you like to hold a dance or food truck or special game night or poker tournament?

Would you like to have a mystery ride for lunch or museum? Care to have a pajama party or talent show or open mic evening? What about a Movie night, red carpet party, car wash or starting a bowling league? You could plan a pool party with karaoke equipment we can supply. You must have some ideas that can put smiles on someone's face. Please contact the HOA Board if you do. We would be pleased to discuss it with you and help you make plans. We don't expect weekly major events or for you to do it all by yourself, we just hope to have good ideas for fun gatherings. Please contact any HOA Board to see how we help you make things happen.

SAVE THESE DATES IN MAY

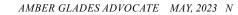
ay 14th – Mother's Day Brunch May 29th - Memorial Day Omelet Breakfast by St. Pizza Catering











WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS – New Residents

- Lot 166, Michael Gatti;
- Lot 191, Edward and Nancy Moore;
- Lot 192, James McEneany Sr;
- Lot 402, Catherine Faracco;
- Lot 418, Mary O'Keefe;
- Lot 8. Charles Gotti PLEASE MAKE THESE NEW RESIDENTS FEEL WELCOME!!

FITNESS CLASS

new fitness class is being held in the Clubhouse on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. All levels welcome - exercises can even be done sitting in a chair. For more information, contact Cindy Heath at 267-994-1565.

KOFFEE KLATCH

offee Klatch is every Tuesday at 9:00 am. at the Clubhouse. Coffee will be free and you are welcome to bring a, snack to go with your coffee.

CRAFTS

rafts are cancelled until fall.

ROCK PAINTING

This is a newer activity sponsored by Rene Pelligrino, Lot 120, 815-528-2346. It is being held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday.

COLORING

oloring is held on Tuesday at 11:00 am on Tuesdays and 1:00 pm on Thursdays. If you don't have supplies, they can be provided for you. For any questions, contact Sharon Kachinski at 727-725-3745! This is a great way to alleviate tension.











LORING BOO









BUNCO R unco is cancelled until the Fall.

GAME DAY

We have added a game day on Wednesdays at 11:00 am. Residents have been playing several games such as Horses, CLR, dominos, etc. All are welcome to join. Attendance was impressive before the holidays but has fallen off – we encourage residents to attend so we can keep this going for those who don't have anything to do. Its good for your mental health to get out and socialize.

PRAYER GROUP

prayer group has been formed and is meeting every Thursday at 1:00 PM in the Clubhouse Library. For questions, contact Eva Rivera at 917-662-1428. All are welcome!!





SHUFFLEBOARD

nother successful year of Shuffleboard league was completed with a banquet in April. Pat Marks did an excellent job chairing this event.

DID YOU KNOW????????

KNOW The Clubhouse is available for residents use for private events. interested, contact Marsha Lemons at 727-412-1433 to check

schedule for availability on your date. If available, office will have you sign a contract for the event and pay a \$75 refundable deposit. Deposit is returned if Clubhouse is left in same clean condition as before event. No alcohol is allowed.

WALKERS & WHEELCHAIRS

The HOA has several walkers and wheelchairs that are available to Amber Glades residents to borrow when needed. These should be returned when □ need is over. For information contact Norm Goldberg at 215-913-4877.

AMBER GLADES FACEBOOK PAGE

t et connected to Amber Glades Facebook page. Pictures of events are posted there by residents and interesting discussions are often seen. Join in and "friend" the Amber Glades Facebook page We also have an Amber Glades Marketplace page where residents can sell and buy items and an official HOA page - Amber Glades HOA Approved - where the board will post notices and activity announcements.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE UPDATES

10

pdates for the June 2023 Media Guide need to be turned in to Pat Peterman, #205. 618-960-9284, patt74429@yahoo.com by May 8, 2023. This includes calendar updates.

View this Newsletter in full color at www.monthly-media.com right click with mouse to download to your computer







DID YOU







Get Your Picture on the Cover - We select a new and interesting picture every month to be printed on the cover of your newsletter. If you or your neighbors have fun events or activities please send in a picture and we'll enter it to be selected. Please include a description of the image and a brief release allowing us to reprint the picture. Our mailing and email address are here: Picture



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Block Captains Chair, LeeAnne McHugh, Lot 334, 727-458-8134

=			
Linda Bearley	#6	128-154	618-709-3388
Pat Budney	#399	383-403, 36-56	727-385-5724
Joe D'Amico	#111	77-93	727-463-3952
Sharon DesJardins	#438	94-107, 425-440	727-488-7422
Janet Fether	#34	23-34, 288, 404-411	727-474-7978
Patty Goldberg	#366	325-339, 366-382	727-265-9744
Cindy Heath	#304	239-252	267-994-1565
Liz Johnson	#263	253-265	618-791-6555
Pat Marks	#38	308-324	419-304-5568
Janet Ludden	#12	56-76	260-704-0218
LeeAnne McHugh	#334	4-21, 287, 412-418	727-458-8134
Mary Ann Misselwitz	#293	289-307	727-724-4788
Dorothy Mulaly	#115	108-127	727-417-0396
Pat Peterman	#205	183-210	618-960-9284
Lori Richards	#157	340-356	802-558-1379
Linda Silvie	#240	266-286	828-773-2166
Lou Smith	#238	357-365, 155-182, 2-3	217-836-4721
Alice Zarr	#219	211-238	727-614-9128

Activity Chairpersons 2021-2022

Bingo Chair	Donna Miller	#434	727-724-0306
Bingo Co-Chair	Dave Karns	#337	727-723-0346
Block Capt. Chairperson	LeeAnne McHugh	#334	727-458-8134
Bunco	Donna Miller	#434	727-724-0306
Bunco	Dorothy Mulaly	#115	727-417-0396
Color Your Heart Out	Sharon Kachinski	#165	727-725-3745
Crafts/Needlecrafts/Hobbies	Faye Rahrig	#239	419-277-2753
FMO Representative	Norm Goldberg	#366	215-913-4877
Library	Jackie LaFountain	#44	802-342-6604
Kitchen Manager	Rose Hendershot	#26	727-641-7309
Library	Rose Hendershot	#26	727-641-7309
Media Guide	Pat Peterman	#205	618-960-9284
Sunshine Committee	Patty Goldberg	#366	727-265-9744
Welcome Committee	HOA Board		

A Complete Listing of Resident Services can be found on the page before your calendar



Mobile Homeland

by Sarah Baird

The country music I grew up with loves to wax poetic about family traditions. There's Hank Williams Jr., whose warbling, smoke-tinged voice explains away his drinking and smoking as a simple hazard of the bloodline. There's Garth Brooks, who justifies showing up in boots to a posh cocktail party by blaming it "all on his roots." But if I ever penned a tune inspired by my rural upbringing, my family's legacy would sound a little bit different: We know a thing or two about buying and selling mobile homes.

My dad, David, spent the better part of his teenage years working on a Clayton Homes lot in Richmond, Kentucky: setting up the new arrivals, hauling the units, getting down into the nuts and bolts of the houses. He was a high school student when he began at the company during the mid-1970s, and continued on as he put himself through Eastern Kentucky University as a first-generation college student. The "Clayton era" is a distinctive epoch in his personal, and our family, history.

Years earlier, his older brother, Randy, purchased a mobile home when he returned from service in the Korean War. Randy had a new wife, a young daughter, and no real credit, so a traditional home loan was impossible. They set up the unit in my grandparents' backyard, where the foundation and water hookups jut out of the ground to this day.

And the sales lot where my dad worked also still exists—conveniently catty-corner to my grandparents' home. As a child, I'd walk between the models on my way to more interesting destinations (the Dairy Queen, the bowling alley), hopping over axels and jumping up to peek in the empty windows of the For Sale units. I'd watch interested customers do walk-throughs and tap the vinyl siding of their potential futures, trying to imagine themselves inside.

Today, as we creep ever deeper into an affordable-housing crisis, my desire to understand this massive housing market seems more pressing than ever: structurally, socially, environmentally, politically.

"I just now threw away all my paystubs from back then," my dad laughed when I told him I was working on a series of stories about manufactured homes. "Maybe I should've kept them another 40 years."

Selling factory-made homes today requires linguistic and branding dexterity on several levels, but perhaps the most important is this: Never, ever call them mobile homes.

Those within the sales and production side of the industry are dogged about ensuring that any model created or sold after the adoption of the 1976 HUD Code is not discussed with the same lingo as those units made before federal regulations kicked in. The stigma that's attached to the term "mobile home" is a kind of housing scarlet letter in the eyes of the industry, and one that many advocates have been hell-bent on shaking for decades. No matter how nice it is, people don't want to buy a mobile home, their collective wisdom seems to dictate, but call it something different and they'll leap at the occasion. Hm.

"Mobile homes in the 1960s were for young people who were starting out and making their place in the world. Anything after 1976, though, can't be called a mobile home," says Patricia Boerger of the Manufactured Housing Institute, an organization for manufacturers. "But people still think the quality isn't good, and that they're going to get blown away in a tornado or something. That's just not true. Every manufactured home today has been through vigorous wind safety tests."



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Three presidents, all Founding Fathers — John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe — died on July 4?

Bats are the only mammal that can actually fly?

The earth's circumference is 24,900 miles?

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Sunday		Monday	Т
S M T W T F 1 2	S 3	1	Koffee 9 am
11 12 13 14 15 16	10 17	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Colorir
18 19 20 21 22 23 25 26 27 28 29 30	24	Bingo 6 pm	Exercia 6 pm
	7	8	Koffee 9 am
		Water Aerobics 12 pm	Colorir
		Bingo 6 pm	Exercia 6 pm
Mother's Day	14	15	Koffee 9 am
Brunch 10-12		Water Aerobics 12 pm	Colorir
Mother's Day		Bingo 6 pm	Exercis 6 pm
	21	22	Koffee 9 am
		Water Aerobics 12 pm	Colorir
		Bingo 6 pm	Exercis 6 pm
	28	Omelette Break- ²⁹ fast 10 am	Koffee 9 am
		Water Aerobics 12 pm	Colorir
Pentecost		Bingo 6 pm Memorial Day	Exercia 6 pm

Amber Glades

uesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Klatch ²	3	4	5		6
ıg 11 am	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Coloring 1 pm	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Food Donation Pickup 12 p,m	
se Group	Exercise Group 6 pm	National Day of Prayer	Cinco De Mayo		
Klatch ⁹	10	11	12		13
ng 11 am	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Coloring 1 pm	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Food Donation Pickup 12 pm	
se group	Exercise Group 6 pm				
Klatch 16	17	18	19		20
ng 11 am	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Coloring 1 pm	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Food Donation Pickup 12 pm	
se Group	Exercise Group 6 pm	Ascension Day			
Klatch 23	24	25	26		27
ıg 11 am	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Coloring 1 pm	Water Aerobics 12 pm	Food Donation Pickup 12 pm	
se Group	Exercise Group 6 pm	Last Day for Omelette Reserv.			
Klatch 30	31				
ng 11 am	Water Aerobics 12 pm				
se Group	Exercise Group 6 pm				



FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY

To our valued customers:

During the current times we wanted to let you know that we are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We check workers' temperatures each morning and have limited the amount of contact our crews have with each other. Our crews work in Tyvek suits with respirators which helps to ensure your safety as well as theirs.

As a company, we want your business and there is no need for any contact if you so choose. Our business is deemed an "Essential Business" and we are here for you when you need us. You can schedule your inspection by calling 1-800-681-3772.

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AMBER GLADES ADVOCATE MAY, 2023 N



She pauses. "But don't be foolish! You're still above ground. A tornado isn't going to discriminate." (Nor will a hurricane—particularly in Florida, manufactured homes are at risk in major storms.)

My dad worked on the lot through the HUD adoption, but he mainly noticed the technical differences in the models. Ask him about it and he'll point out the elimination of aluminum wiring, the improvements in generators—not the shifted sales push of the industry. Mostly, he says, people still called them mobile homes.

And, decades later, many advocates still do—if for no other reason than simplicity's sake.

"My issue with all this name changing is simple: You cannot change how people talk and you cannot change a product's reputation by calling it a different name. I've called these awesome adobes 'mobile homes' my entire life and I'm not stopping now," writes Crystal Adkins, the blogger behind Mobile Home Living. "The industry needs to focus on improving themselves and offering the best product at the best price possible and stop worrying about a term used by the people living in them or buying them. We only want to enjoy our homes."

And within the factory-made housing industry, there's ever-increasing competition for what kind of prefab homes a family can buy and enjoy. The most popular kissing cousin to the manufactured home is the modular home, which is made in a factory but assembled on site—not hauled there. Then there are tiny houses, which have struck an eco-friendly, minimalist chord with millennials, but technically fall more in the recreational home (RV) family than manufactured homes. Ask anyone in the manufactured-housing industry about the other branches of their family tree, and you're sure to be met with the verbal equivalent of an eye roll.

"Tiny houses are different, because they're built to the RV code," says Boerger. "It's a different demographic than [those] who want manufactured homes, typically. But we find some of our members are building much smaller homes to appeal to that group."

It's a complicated web of terms: Mobile homes aren't manufactured homes, and modular homes aren't mobile, and tiny houses aren't either (whew). But one thing's for sure: In a world where affordable housing stock is growing scarcer by the day, prefab homes, manufactured and modular alike, are gaining serious steam for the first time since Richard Nixon was elected president.

While the death knell prophecy hasn't proven quite true (there are dozens of private mobilehome retailers still today), Clayton has changed how other companies approach manufacturedhome sales over the past decade—and generated quite a few copycat efforts. Being a kind of manufactured-home "one stop shop" is par for the course these days, with retailers not only selling the model itself, but doing their fair share of handholding by providing a package deal for home buyers (insurance, financing, the works) who might be leery of such a large investment.

And if the past 15 years are any indication, people are leery for good reason. According to industry experts, manufactured-home sales suffered during the housing bubble of the early 2000s because loans for traditional, site-built homes were so readily available—even for those with poor credit. We all know how disastrously that turned out, leaving families underwater with massive mortgages and homes that wouldn't sell. Far too many people saw friends and loved ones lose everything in the crisis, and don't want history to be repeated.

What's more, getting a traditional mortgage as a low-income individual right now is practically impossible. This means that manufactured homes are perhaps the final means of homeownership for a staggeringly large percentage of working-class American families.





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Creating community

hat's in a name when it comes to manufactured-home communities?

W Whether people call them trailer parks, trailer courts, mobile home parks, or—for those in high-end areas—land-lease communities, there's a certain stigma that persists about what it means to live in a neighborhood built for manufactured housing or (older) mobile homes.

Particularly across the Southeast and Midwest, where these stereotypes seem to persist most viciously, it's not uncommon to hear snobbery, if not outright vitriol, against the manufactured-home communities in a town. Like so many other terms aimed at low-income families and individuals, "trailer park" and "mobile home lot" have long skewed negative.

But scratch the stereotyped surface, and an entirely different picture of mobile home parks begins to reveal itself. Dig even deeper, and it quickly becomes clear that, in their highest form, the social fiber of these communities is everything a more traditional neighborhood wishes it could be.

For starters, the majority of trailer parks are uniquely safe. A 2014 study by the department of criminal justice at the University of Nevada found that "trailer park sites showed the lowest rate of violent crime calls for service" compared to similar non-manufactured dwellings. What's more, the physical layout of the communities themselves actually works to protect residents.

"Designing housing layouts to create 'sight lines' which allow neighbors to have a direct view of the nearby homes is invaluable in reducing property crime," the study notes, "and the close housing proximity [in manufactured-home communities] creates a community of guardians, making illegal activity much easier to detect."

They are also places with fairly strict aesthetic guidelines. In well-managed manufacturedhome communities, the rules and regulations regarding exterior maintenance and cleanliness are typically robust, and often result in fines if the rules are broken.

Sundial Mobile Home Park in Salem, Oregon, even gives a blow-by-blow of what paint colors residents can use on their homes: "Each tenant shall be responsible for maintaining and keeping clean and in good repair the exterior of their mobile home as well as all structures such as decks, steps, carports and fences at all times. Homes must be washed and painted as needed with colors pre-approved by landlord. Neutral or light colors are acceptable and may be trimmed with a contrasting color."

Tell that to the guy down the street who hasn't mowed his grass for three months, or the woman with her lawn gnome collection displayed like a small army.

And, perhaps most importantly, the term "mobile" home is misleading: Most park residents spend years (if not a lifetime) in the same spot.

Manufactured-home parks are a two-part scenario: there's the land the home sits on complete with water and sewer hookups, a foundation, trash service, and more—and the home itself. Individuals usually own the home, but not the land, which is leased from the park. This leads outsiders to believe folks are going to pack up and hit the road at a moment's notice because they're not perceived as being rooted in the land. Not so.

More often than not, these residents aren't going anywhere, and in states like Vermont,





people live an average of 11 years in a single manufactured-home community, with many staying for decades.

Manufactured homes have been the largest source of unsubsidized affordable housing in the country since the late 1990s, offering up the dream of homeownership for millions of Americans. Contrary to what one might imagine, though, the majority of the properties (almost two-thirds) sit on privately owned land—not in a community setting. This means that the mobile homes are standalone dwellings or clustered in multigenerational family estates in rural areas, not unlike more traditional site-built houses.

But for those manufactured-home owners who opt in to a community scenario, whether by choice or because they live in a densely populated region, the social and emotional benefits of such a network can be extraordinary.

One of the first advocates for the potential of manufactured homes as models of community and social support was landscape design expert J.B. Jackson. Writing about Jackson in his 1999 book, Country of Exiles, William Leach praises Jackson's ahead-of-its-era vision:

"Jackson ... claimed that many of the new trailer parks actually represented new kinds of blue-collar 'villages' that fostered openness and hospitality among people. They encouraged people to 'go outside' rather than to stay inside and to rely on one another in the public square for pleasure and comfort. Such villages, Jackson argued, compared favorably with middle-class dwellings, which were divided into discrete spaces to ensure isolation, privacy and limited interaction with neighbors. Mobile homes, on the other hand ... brought people together into something of an organic community, into a 'super family' or an 'us.""

Gloria Steinem, who traversed the country in a trailer as a child, discusses being smitten with the air of camaraderie at a women-only park in the Southwest. Much like Jackson, she is particularly taken with how the park makes use of public, communal space.

"In 2001, I discovered an all-female trailer park near Tucson, Arizona. After being let through a double gate with a security code that changed daily, I found myself on streets named for admired women in history," Steinem writes in My Life on the Road. "Suddenly, I could imagine living on the corner of Emma Goldman and Gertrude Stein, or following Dorothy Height to Eleanor Roosevelt. At the center of all the neat rows of trailers was a clubhouse where women could gather for everything from book clubs to gambling."

Mobile- and manufactured-home parks have also long attracted—and proven to be a safe haven for—the LGBT community. The Resort on Carefree Boulevard, a lesbian manufacturedhome community in Fort Myers, Florida, for example, has amassed such popularity since opening in 1994 that the founders recently broke ground on a second (woodsier-themed) location in North Carolina.

For those looking to be more permanently on the road with their homes, there's also an extensive network of queer-friendly RV parks. Cataloged online under the masthead RainbowRV, communities range from male-only and clothing-optional spots with a volleyball court in New York to a place in Michigan for female-identifying individuals interested in watersports.

Using collective identity and (relative) close proximity as a communal safety net is a key feature of manufactured-home parks, and one that's particularly important for a burgeoning demographic: older Americans. Mobile home communities that cater to 55-plus populations provide a means of maintaining independence while offering necessary social (and, occasionally,



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medical) support.

"For the 55-plus communities, people really like that sense of a neighborhood. Everyone is close by and working together to maintain the community," says Patricia Boerger of the Manufactured Housing Institute. "The park owners and people are all aging, but have good neighbors that look after them, so they're able to age in place, and more often than not, on a single story, which is important for those with mobility issues."

They also know how to have fun. One look at the monthly newsletter from a 55-plus community—like Jet Mobile Home Park in Palmetto, Florida—and you'll likely start wishing your golden years would get here a little faster: Activities include cook-offs, shuffleboard, choirs, movie nights, and formal dances.

"Say, 'Howdy!' to the folks you meet, Meeting some on every street, Sometimes, it just makes your day complete, at Jet Park," reads a chipper limerick from the March edition.

Of course, not all manufactured-home communities are flanked with swimming pools and collectively tended gardens. For parks with neglectful landlords, infrastructure can swiftly fall into serious disrepair, resulting in everything from poorly maintained water systems to cracking driveways and foundations to trash overflow.

Other times, a more dire situation emerges. If a landlord receives an offer to sell a park to a different management company, residents are often left stuck in limbo, unsure whether the new ownership will actually maintain the property, raise rents significantly, or even force evictions.

And most of the time, residents are trapped. They have little recourse to fight back in these situations, revealing that a trailer park's most defining element is also one of its most fraught: the divergence between home and land ownership. This means an unscrupulous new management company can boost rent through the roof, knowing that the likelihood the resident will be able to move his or her home—due to both physical and monetary constraints—is practically none.

But those facing the sale (or foreclosure) of their park can work together to take back their communities.

Since 2008, Resident Owned Communities (ROC) USA—a New Hampshire-based nonprofit—has been helping mobile-home park residents form co-ops and collectively purchase their communities from private owners. Through a special means of financing that, ROC president Paul Bradley says, "allows low- and middle-income families to act like deep-pocket investors," ROC USA works with community residents to navigate the process of unifying and purchasing the park, ultimately providing a new level of comfort and stability by removing the threat of having their land quite literally taken out from underneath them.

ROCUSA's model—which is now being replicated in 14 states through partner non-profits might be the most radical, and potentially beneficial, development for manufactured-home residents since the updated HUD Code of 1994, which strengthened regulations surrounding manufactured-home construction.

"When you look at the outside view of what a manufactured-home park means, you have so much prejudice that exists. A resident who lives at Park Plaza Co-op [in Fridley, Minnesota] said, 'People called us trailer trash before,'" Bradley notes. "But you work in these neighborhoods, and find amazing capacity, commitment, and smart, hardworking people. And the contrast of the prejudice and the reality has inspired me to get on the side of helping these



homeowners."

Currently, there are 200 Resident Owned Communities across the U.S. representing 12,150 homes, and a network of partner nonprofits are working to replicate the model in eight new states.

"There's a community in Meadow Valley, New York, that was up for foreclosure, and we helped them through the process," Bradley says. "They purchased the community—it was a courthouse auction—and one of the early presidents of the co-op told us almost immediately, 'People are now fixing up their homes and paving driveways because we own it now. There's an inherent vulnerability with trailer parks, but once you have landownership, there's the confidence to invest in your own home and property."

And Bradley isn't afraid to practice what he preaches: His mother recently moved into a manufactured-home community (an ROC, of course) for people 55 and older.

"My mom downsized, and it was absolutely the most affordable thing she could do," he says. "She moved into a single-floor living space so that she could age in place, and when we walked into it, she said, 'I like this one. It feels like a house to me.' Now, she's getting her hair done at the community center once a week with her neighbors."

Silly One-Liners:

three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces: 'I'm looking for the man who shot my paw.



My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

I'm on a whiskey diet. I've lost three days already.







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