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FL 34695

• B U G L E •

December • 2023

**Issue 10
47th Year**

Happy Howl-idays!

Thanks to Alana Korol-Tisland and Gigi of Regency Heights for submitting this great photo from last year's Christmas card!



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Briar Creek Officers & Committees

Directors Phase I

President Bob Barr (727- 644-8136)
 VP/Director Kim Ramalho ... 508-423-1691
 Secretary Connie Holmes (423-297-5627)
 Treasurer Al Hartin (727-223-8805)
 Director Gene Arend (727-725-5844)
 Director Pat Rivera (305-546-2714)
 Director Mike Moore (813-629-8216)

Phase II

Bob Raynor (239-595-5531)
 Sam Oliverio (219-718-3117)
 Bonnie Briggs..... (262-496-7594)
 Joan Davis (726-4829)
 Phil Chabot..... (207-514-4517)
 Skip Taylor (518-863-6762)
 Jim Tashjian..... (518-378-8882)

PHASE I

Inspections & Architectural Requests:
 Kim Ramalho (508-423-1691)

Clubhouse:
 Gene Arend (727-725-5844)

Infrastructure
 Al Hartin 727-223-8805

Roads and Grounds
 Bob Barr **Primary** (727-454 1821)
 Secondary (727-644-8136)

Pool & Spa
 Pat Rivera (305-546-2714)

Trees & Lawn
 Mike Moore (813-629-8216)

Sales/Leases
 Connie Potter-Holmes (423-297-5627)

PHASE II

Home Sales & Rentals, Financials, Fobs
 Joan Davis (727-726-4829)

Pool Area Amenities/Shuffle/Bocce
 Sam Oliverio (219-718-3117)

Alterations/Renovations
 Jim Tashjian (518-378-8882)

Secretary/Office Organization
 Bonnie Briggs (262-496-7594)

Clubhouse & Roads/Exercise room
 Bob Raynor (239-595-5531)

Home inspections
 Skip Taylor (518-863-6762)

Garage/Truck/Lawns/RV area
 Phil Chabot (207-514-4517)

Water Committee
 Dick Little (260-358-6610)
 Ed Prevost (603-662-7170)

Social Club Officers

President Mike Benoit (727-692-7868)
 Vice President..... Al Hartin (727-223-8805)

 Corr. Secretary. Elsie Anderson (727-330-8713)
 Record. Secretary .. Kim Ramalho (508-423-1691)
 Treasurer Gene Arend (727-725-5844)
 Asst. Treasurer Roy Martin (727-433-7926)
 Auditor Al Hartin (727-223-8805)
 Past President
 Parliamentarian Gene Arend (727-725-5844)
 Amendments Gene Arend (727-725-5844)
 Clubhouse Phone (727-796-3033)

Pam Edwards (312-505-0410)
 Peggy Raynor (239-298-2230)
 Pres. Elect Carol Smitley (727-644-4842)
 Amber Oliverio (219-796-6762)
 Carol Rodrigues (413-427-8580)
 Pete Loranger (727-421-2321)

 Nancy Hall (613-849-1444)
 Barbara Bergling (727-204-6457)

 TBA
 (727-669-0119)

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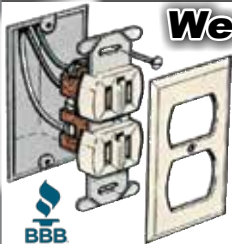
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DECEMBER 2023 BRIAR CREEK PHASE I NEWS

Ginnie Berge gkberge7@gmail.com 701-429-3279

Al & Donna Hartin, Distribution 223-8805

The Bugle is also available on our website at mybriarcreek.com. Please submit articles and/or information for publication by **email** to gkberge7@gmail.com. If you do not have access to email, you may drop your handwritten article(s) off to Ginnie at 43 Sugar Bear Drive.

The email address for any office matter is: briarcreekoft@gmail.com

Important Phone Numbers

Urgent Care House Calls: 888-908-0553 (or) 813-537-3043 Dispatch Health

Life-threatening emergency - **911**

May be used for wellness check calls 727-582-6200

Sheriff's Office **non-emergency - 727-582-6200** (use for issues at the BC pool)

Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas 1-800-963-5337

Lift Assist 9-1-1 ask for non-emergency EMS when you or a loved one falls and cannot get up.

If You Suspect a Scam - 877-908-3360 M-F, 8-8 ET

2023 ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING – DECEMBER 4, 2023 – 10am

Connie Potter-Holmes, Secretary

If you have not received these papers, a board member can make you a copy, as well as a copy of the Proxy form to vote for the three questions. (Question 1) You will be voting on the Proposed Amendment to the Amended and Restated Declaration of Condominium of Briar Creek Mobile Home Community 1. Please read our community's attorney's opinion and vote your conviction. (Question 2) You will be voting whether to fully fund the Reserves at a monthly fee of \$309.97 or a reduced level consistent with our budget which remains in good financial state as you can see by the info enclosed, at \$211.00 a month. (Question 3) You will be voting whether we pay for a review of the audit of Progressive Management, which has already been completed.



We need your proxy as soon as possible so we can plan to definitely hold the meeting. We must have 159 proxy(s) in hand or people at the meeting for this to occur. If we do not have 159, your dues will automatically be billed at the higher rate until another meeting can be scheduled, with mailouts being sent and the meeting held. It is IMPORTANT!

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE FEE

Al Hartin, Treasurer

As an owner in Briar Creek Phase#1 you pay a Monthly Maintenance Fee. Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions:

Why do I pay a Maintenance Fee?

What is the money used for?

Why does it seem that it goes up each Year?

Each year, as mandated by the By-Laws for Briar Creek, the Board of Directors prepares a Budget for the next fiscal year's common expenses. The Budget is a zero-based budget meaning that Expenses must equal Revenue. The Monthly Maintenance Fee is used to pay for the common expenses of the Association. Listed below I have broken down the FY2024 Monthly Maintenance Fee of \$211.00 by category.

<u>EXPENSE CATEGORY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% TO TOTAL EXPENSES</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 8.68	4.1%
UTILITIES	\$123.79	58.0%
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$ 8.81	4.1%
LEGAL & INSURANCE	\$ 10.64	5.0%
LAWN SERVICE	\$ 26.28	12.3%
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	\$ 9.28	4.3%
RESERVE/ DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	\$ 25.92	12.1%
LESS OTHER INCOME OFFSET	(\$ 2.41)	
TOTAL MONTHLY FEE	\$211.00	



Breakdown of expense categories by specific type of expense:

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES – These consist of Management and Office Expense.

UTILITY EXPENSES – Included in this category are: Electric, Water, Sewer, Storm Water and Trash. These expenses account for 58% of our Total Expenses.

REPAIR & MAINTENANCE – Expenses for Repair of: Water & Sewer Lines, Roads & Grounds, Buildings, Pool, and Trees.

LEGAL & INSURANCE – Legal Expenses and Insurance for Buildings and our Truck.

Continued on page 7

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LAWN SERVICE – Expenses for lawn mowing, pesticide control and sprinkler maintenance. This expense accounts for 12.3% of our Total Expenses.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE – Included in this category are: Clubhouse Expenses– Cleaning, Pest Control, Air Conditioner Maintenance and Fire Extinguisher & Emergency Lights Maintenance. Also included in this category are: Buildings Roof Inspection and Maintenance and Pool Cleaning and Maintenance.

RESERVE/DEFERRED MAINTENANCE – Funds set aside for future replacement of facilities such as Roads, Building Air Conditioners, Pool Equipment, Major Water & Sewer Lines repair or replacement, etc.

As you can see, Utility Expenses and Lawn Service account for 70% of our Total Expenses and these expenses are managed by either the City or County or private companies and we are subject to rate increases set by them. We do have control of the amount of water and electricity we use, so remember that when you decide to water your lawn or plants to turn off your sprinklers in a timely manner. If water from your sprinklers is running down the road then you have over watered your lawn or plants!

- This year’s Monthly Maintenance Fee increased by \$11.00 due to the following:
- Sewer – usage increased by 3% and rate is forecasted to increase 5% starting in October 2024
- Insurance – Rate forecasted to increase by 30% in FY2024
- Lawn Service – Cost increased 7%
- Facilities Maintenance – Increases in Pool Cleaning and Clubhouse Cleaning

2023 TOYS FOR TOTS

Connie Potter-Holmes

Join us for the Toys for Tots Sing-a-Long and Desserts. Fun begins at 6pm on December 1st at the Phase 1 Clubhouse. We will gather to enjoy an evening of fun, music and desserts honoring the Marine Corp Toys for Tots campaign. Bring a NEW, unwrapped gift to donate. \$5.00 donation if you do not bring a toy. What a great way to share the joy!





ANNUAL BAZAAR

Kim Ramalho



Our department heads will be Mary Kay Brown & JoAnn Barr- 50/50, Ginnie Berge- Bakery, Annette Lemieux- Clothing, Lee Palmer- Jewelry, Mike Benoit- Kitchen, Sue-Ann LeCompte & Kathleen Corey- Christmas, Ray Jablonski & Al Hartin- Liquor Raffle. The housewares and furniture (Trash & Treasurers) will remain at the BC Mart supervised by Ray Jablonski. The other departments will be situated in the Clubhouse. Many of you helped in the various departments last year. We hope to see you all again this year. Please reach out to each of the respective department heads and offer your support. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in the past, please contact the department heads and offer your support. These are the major departments for the bazaar, however we are always open to new ideas. This, as many know, is our annual fundraising which helps to financially support the many events held by the Social Club. This year we will hold the Bazaar on Friday December 8th from 5 PM to 7 PM (later if needed) and on Saturday December 9th from 8 AM to 11 AM (later if needed).

PULL TABS

Toni & Don Beaton



Little things make a big difference! You can help support Ronald McDonald House by donating the tabs you pull to open soda, soup and other aluminum cans and help the environment at the same time. We recently took a large bag of pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in St. Petersburg and received the following thank you note: “Dear Briar Creek Community, Thank you for your donation of pop tabs! The pop tabs go a long way to help provide for needed amenities for the families at the Ronald McDonald House. Your recurring support is making a profound impact on the lives of countless families. With Gratitude, The Staff and Team at RMHC – St. Petersburg” You can place your pull tabs in the envelope located at the back door of the clubhouse, drop them off at our house, 126 Juniperus Dr. or just hand them to us as you see us around the park. Pull for the house! Thank you!

NAME BADGES

Al Hartin

Want to get to know your neighbors and other residents of Briar Creek. Come to Coffee Hour on Wednesdays from 8:30am to 10:00am and wear your Name Badge. Don't have one: See me each Wednesday at Coffee Hour and I will order you one. Cost is \$9.00 prepaid. You could win the \$5.00 drawing but more importantly you will meet and get to know a lot of your fellow “Briar Creekers”. Hope to see you at Coffee Hour!

REMINDERS

Al Hartin



FOBS

Last year the Board replaced the keys to the Clubhouse and Pool Area with FOBS that increase the safety of all residents of Briar Creek. Remember to bring your FOB with you when you are going to the Clubhouse or Pool. Do not assume that someone will be there and open the door or gate – this defeats the purpose of issuing FOBS for security.

CLUBHOUSE/POOL AREA

After use of the Clubhouse or Pool Area remember to do the following:

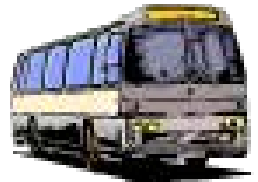
- Relock any doors you dogged in the open position
- Turn off lights
- Turn off any fans you used – also fans on back deck by the pool
- Return any items you used from the kitchen and, if needed, empty the trash

BRIDGE BEHIND POOL

Walk your bike or scooter or any other item across the Bridge. There are signs on both ends reminding you of this!

TRAVEL CLUB

Gene Arend



As a result of our community Travel Club meeting, we are looking into the following. We do not have a date or firm cost per person. The team is only in the research / investigation of these ideas. We will post when information is available

- Dinner Theater January
- Central Park Performing Arts
- Ringling & Sailors Circus Bus Trip (Sarasota)
- Tiffany Museum Bus Trip (Winter Park)
- Dinner Cruise on Starlite Yacht

Watch your email and the Travel Page www.upcsportshub.com for more details

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

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INSPECTIONS & ARCHITECTURAL REPORTS

Kim Ramalho, Vice President



Inspctions - Please start thinking about the upcoming inspections. Now is the time to begin sprucing up your properties (e.g. house exterior washing, weed removal, gutters cleaned out, house trim painted, etc.)

Architectural Requests - ALL ARCHITECTURAL REQUESTS MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE any work can be done. I am happy to work with any residents who submit a request to ensure it complies with regulations. Any Architectural Requests can be dropped off at the Clubhouse Director's Office or placed in my Rock Box @ 39 Deer Trail Court.

LAWN AND TREES

Mike Moore, 813-629-8216



The lawns will be mowed ONCE in December.

IN MEMORIUM

Mary Houpt, Bereavement



Resident, Ed Finnegan, 87 Cypress Drive, passed away up North on November 3, 2023. Ed was the son of Art Finnegan.
Sympathy to Ed's wife, Rita Finnegan, at the above address.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kim Ramalho



First Name	Last Name	Month	Day	Year
Martin & Vivian	Shapiro & Rodriguez	December	5	2015
Ronnie & Stan	Zeichner	December	5	
David & Connie	Holmes	December	13	2014
Andy & Sharon	Philyaw	December	14	1963
Leonard & Aleece	Montoya	December	24	1988
Robert & JoAnn	Barr	December	27	1978

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kim Ramalho

First	Last	Month	Day
Jeannine	Vale	December	1
Pat	Arend	December	1
Diane	Arguin	December	3
Anthony	Carregal	December	4
James	Muir	December	4
Dave	Hunkins	December	5
Toni	Beaton	December	6
Barbara	Lee	December	7
Judy	Bloom	December	7
Roy	Martin	December	10
Thomas	Kalbfleisch	December	10
George	Calder Jr	December	12
Ken	Cichy	December	13
Kathleen	Cory	December	14
Mary Kay	Brown	December	14
Patricia	Naegle	December	14
Betty	Jones	December	15
Jeanne	Glasheen	December	15
Karen (French)	Roberts	December	15
Katherine	Scanniello	December	15
Ruben	Encalado	December	15
Tim	Glasheen	December	15
Matthew	Boisselle	December	16
Gloria	Merrill	December	18
Phil	Fiacable	December	19
Barbara	Thomas	December	20
Bill	Bloom	December	20
Don	Beaton	December	20
Walter	Slayden	December	21
Carol	Keller-Michaelis	December	23
Karen	Mbiad	December	25
Betty	Chatigny	December	27
Christina	Tambasco	December	27
Thomas	Williams	December	27
Barbara	Hepler	December	28
Lorraine	Wilson	December	28
Fred	Mbiad	December	29
Dee	Corricelli	December	30
Nancy	Verzi	December	30
Sarah	Rudolph	December	30
Anthony	Marsella	December	31
Dennis	Arguin	December	31



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BINGO

Your Phase One Bingo Team



Tuesdays - P1 BINGO - doors open at 5:00pm

Keep an eye on the two Briar Creek Facebook groups for more info or contact Jeff Clark via phone or text at 585-613-6218.

POKENO

Flo Bombadier



Join us on Sunday afternoons at 1:00pm in Phase 1 clubhouse.

EUCHRE

Margo Keyes



Every Thursday at 6:30pm in Phase 1 clubhouse. Bring 50¢ and nickels for Euchres. Questions, contact Margo at 518-528-3227.

LINE DANCING

Helen Coar



Join the line! Come and enjoy the music and exercise. Wednesday, 6:30-7:30pm. If you are a beginner, arrive at 6:00 for a quick lesson. Hope to see you then.

Season's Greetings

BRIAR CREEK BOOK CLUB (Phase I & II)

Jane McKenzie



Enjoy discussing books chosen by the members. Our book club meets in the Phase II Clubhouse at 3:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month, however, we do not meet May-October. The December book is *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin, and the January book is *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining or have questions.

Jane McKenzie

651-353-2602

jgmckenzie4647@gmail.com

BOWLERS 25 OR MORE PINS OVER AVERAGE

Gene Arend

October 13th

Gene Arend 28 – 37

Bob Barr 40

Lee West 56

Joe Simpson 33

October 20th

Lee West 36

Bob Barr 46

October 27th

Bob Barr 43

Joe Simpson 27

Ken Homme 34, 49

Lee West 48

Linda Fitton 39, 37

November 3rd

Alice Williams 35

Arnold Williams 27, 32

Glenn Jensen 29

Jim Beatty 38

Lee West 33

Mike Moore 30

Pete Fedelem 33

Bowlers Men 200+ -

Ladies 175+

October 13th

Bob Barr 207

Lee West 226

October 20th

Lee West 206

Bob Barr 213

October 27th

Bob Barr 210

Ken Homme 204

Lee West 218

November 3rd

Lee West 222



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

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Frank Gaffney and Anthony Carregal



UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT 4:00PM

POTLUCK AND HOLIDAY DECORATING AND WHOOPEE!

4:00pm: DECORATING THE CLUBHOUSE

5:30pm: POTLUCK DINNER

6:30pm: WHOOPEE!!

Bring an entrée or side dish to share and a wrapped (and fun) present to swap!

DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED. BYOB.

This is a FREE event.

YOU MUST SIGN UP ON THE PHASE I BULLETIN BOARD TO ATTEND.

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 6:00PM

TOYS FOR TOTS CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Bring an unwrapped, new toy and join us for desserts and a Christmas sing along, with our favorite pianist, Connie, at the piano.

FREE if you bring a toy; \$5 donation if you don't (the money will go to Toys for Tots)

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 6:00PM

kRaZy KaRdS

If you have never played, we can teach you in 10 minutes. There are cash prizes and dessert at the break. YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE TO PARTICIPATE. (Sorry, we cannot accommodate walk-ins.)

\$3pp (for prizes and dessert)

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 7:00PM

WINTER DANCE PARTY with RootRocks

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 – TIME TBD

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

PHASE TWO CLUBHOUSE.



Continued on page 19

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6020 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park, FL 33781

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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.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 4:30PM

GREEK SUNDAY DINNER with pianist John Shirley
PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 6:00PM

MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES returns!

Every Monday, we will watch one of 2023's Oscar-nominated movies.

And there will be snacks and popcorn!

A FREE EVENT. Donation accepted.

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – TIME TBD

MARDI GRAS PARTY

PHASE TWO CLUBHOUSE.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 AT 7:00PM

APPRECIATION NIGHT

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 AT 4:30PM

ST. PATRICK'S DAY with D.J. Les N. More

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 – TIME TBD

ITALIAN DINNER

PHASE TWO CLUBHOUSE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 AT 1:00PM

THE ANNUAL PICNIC with Rockin' Rob

PHASE ONE CLUBHOUSE.



SATURDAY, MAY 4 – TIME TBD

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

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Briar Creek Bugle Phase II – DECEMBER 2023

(Pete Loranger - Editor Phone 421-2321)
(E-Mail: ploranger006@gmail.com)

Board of Directors:

Bob Raynor – President

We've all seen utility trucks come in to BC and workers insert different color flags in the ground indicating specific utility locations. All too often, it seems those flags stay in the ground for months on end and we wonder what work is being done and when will those flags ever be gone. So where do we start.

For digging projects large and small, Florida law states that property owners and excavators **MUST** call 811 or go to “sunshine811.com” at least two full business days prior to digging to ensure underground utility lines are marked at the dig site.

Sometimes the owner makes the 811 call but more frequently, it's the specific vendor that's doing the work that completes this requirement. Once the permit for the digging is issued, there is a 30 day expiration date after which, if the work is not completed, the permit must be renewed.

Prior to the work beginning, it is necessary to mark underground utility lines using color codes before construction or digging. The required color codes are:

Blue: Water	Yellow: Gas/Oil
Green: Sewer	Orange: Communication/Telephone/Cable TV
Lavender: Reclaimed Water	Pink: Temporary Survey Markings
Red: Electric	White: Proposed Excavation

When we work with a contractor directly, we normally know what is going on and why. The problem we most frequently encounter is when a utility simply shows up without notice and starts placing flags in our yard(s). In Florida, each homeowner is subject to a designated parcel of land that gives utility companies the right to access private property for the good of the community. For example, a utility company has the right to dig and bury updated power lines or telephone/internet cables.

Because much of the digging work is completed by companies contracted by companies such as Duke, Spectrum, WOW, etc., homeowners are not always informed when the digging is complete. That's when we find flags still in yards for, sometimes, up to several months. This is frustrating for us as flagged lawns are not mowed or maintained.

Here is the recommendation for owners going forward. Take note of when flags are planted in your yard and note when work begins. After 30 days, if the flags still are in the ground, call 811 to check on the dig status. If the permitted work has been done, remove the flags. If the permit for the work has been renewed, note the date and repeat this process. While you may be asked for and don't have a permit number, providing your address should be sufficient.

...continued on page 27



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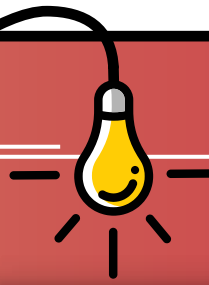
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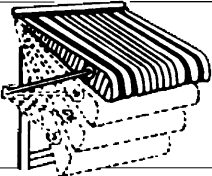
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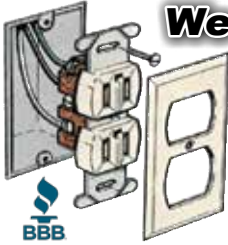
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<p>JANUARY 2024</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>		
<p>3</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sit & Stitch 1PM Cardio & Strength Class 9AM ANNUAL CONDO MEETING 7PM</p>	<p>Bowling Strength Class 10 Karaoke All med January</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Sit & Stitch 1PM Cardio & Strength Class 9AM BINGO – Sales 5pm – Play 6pm</p>	<p>Bowling Strength Class 10</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Sit & Stitch 1PM Cardio & Strength Class 9AM BINGO – Sales 5pm – Play 6pm</p>	<p>Bowling Strength Class 10</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Sit & Stitch 1PM Cardio & Strength Class 9AM</p> <p>Christmas</p>	<p>Bowling Strength Class 10</p>
<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>		

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Briar Creek II

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Chair Yoga Class 10AM	2 8AM Coffee Hour 845AM Social Club News Blood Pressure checks at coffee hour
5 & Balance 30AM practice 4pm <u>via info due for 2024 by 5pm</u>	6 Earlybird Breakfast 830AM EVE'S Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Pinochle – 600PM Cribbage – 630PM	7 Strength & Balance Class 1030AM Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Chair Yoga Class 10AM	9 8AM Coffee Hour 845AM Social Club News
12 & Balance 30AM	13 Earlybird Breakfast 830AM EVE'S Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Pinochle – 600PM Cribbage – 630PM <u>Food Pantry collection 8:00-10am</u> Ladies Luncheon 1PM	14 Strength & Balance Class 1030AM Genealogy Group meeting 7pm	15 Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Chair Yoga Class 10AM	16 8AM Coffee Hour 845AM Social Club News 845AM Social Club Board Meeting
19 & Balance 30AM	20 Earlybird Breakfast 830AM EVE'S Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Pinochle – 600PM Cribbage – 630PM	21 Strength & Balance Class 1030AM MINGLE 430pm BUNCO 700pm	22 Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Chair Yoga Class 10AM First Day of Winter	23 8AM Coffee Hour 845AM Social Club News
26 & Balance 30AM	27 Earlybird Breakfast 830AM EVE'S Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Pinochle – 600PM Cribbage – 630PM	28 Strength & Balance Class 1030AM	29 Cardio & Strength Class 9AM Chair Yoga Class 10AM	30 8AM Coffee Hour 845AM Social Club News

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Sam Oliverio – Director

Welcome back to our Northern neighbors. We hope you've all had a good summer, and are ready to enjoy the Sunshine for the next several months.

We've stayed busy while you've been gone; making sure that Briar Creek would be ready for your return.

The Pool and Hot Tub are ready for your enjoyment, and as long as the weather cooperates, should be a nice relief from the weather you've left behind.

Again, welcome back to "The Creek"!

Philip Chabot – Director Phase - Garage, Lawns, Ponds and RV Lot

As we end this calendar year of 2023, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Please be safe during the holiday season, don't drink and drive and most of all enjoy your family, friends and neighbors here in Briar Creek.

Jim Tashjian – Director

It's December already and the holiday season is in full swing. People are decorating their homes, yards, and even their golf carts. More and more people are walking and riding around phase I and phase II enjoying all the festive decorations...especially in the evening when the lights are on. It really is the most wonderful time of the year!

So are you thinking about putting lights on your house? Do you plan on decorating a tree in your yard? As director of outside alterations there is one thing I want you to know. You do NOT need approval from me, the board, or anyone else to decorate for the holidays. So decorate as much or as little as you like! We can't wait to see it. Please be careful on those ladders and step stools; nobody wants to spend the holidays in the hospital or rehabilitation center.

If you are planning any actual alterations, please submit your request form and get board approval before work begins. Blank request forms can be found just outside the office door. (in the library area) Once filled out they can be dropped in the office mail slot or in my rock box at 193 Clubview Dr.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and well-decorated holiday season.

Merry Christmas.


WATER/SEWER CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR BRIAR CREEK II

The Board



Our Phase II water/sewer estimated costs for 2023 are \$163,260. The budgeted 2024 water/sewer costs are \$174,684 due to forecasted rate increases. One water saving initiative to help control costs is to offer a voluntary service of detecting water leakage

...continued on page 28



by testing water pressure. Locating water leakage is a very important issue to consider and we should be actively working towards monitoring to help lower our monthly expenditures.

This project initiative is the idea of Bill Russo who has generously agreed to Chair this program and work with volunteers and residents who would like to participate. He has worked hard to formalize this program which was discussed at our October, Phase II Board Meeting. Bill and his team will be reaching out to residents or you can feel free to contact him by calling him at (406) 980-0838.

Bill and his team plan to begin offering a free water leakage test for our residents beginning in mid-December 2023. The test is totally optional and there is no requirement for residents to participate in this program if they chose not to. Our resident team of testers will be contacting homeowners to offer this leakage test. It will work like this: The testing will be performed outside your home only.

We will need to turn off your outside main “water shut off valve” for 10-15 minutes to perform the test. A written Inspection Sheet will be left in your rock box informing you of the results of the test. Because this test detects leaks within the home, it is the homeowner’s responsibility to take corrective action to repair the leak.

This water/sewer conservation program, again, while voluntary, should benefit us all and, hopefully, cut down our water/sewer costs. Thank you for your help and cooperation with this conservation program.

Social Club President

Pam Edwards



THANKS! THIS IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

- Thanks for the support I received and the opportunity to give back to Briar Creek. I’m so glad I was able to cover for Barbara last year and take over as President of the Social Club for 2023. We’re so fortunate to live in a community like Briar Creek. Giving back makes living here even better. THIS IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE! - Thanks to all of the Committee chairs and volunteers who work tirelessly to make THIS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!
- Thanks to the Board for taking on the BIG projects and supporting the Social Club to make THIS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!
- Thanks to Pete who works behind the scenes to make THIS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!
- Thanks to Carol Smitley who will continue to make THIS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE by taking over as President and who covered for me over the summer.

Happy Holidays

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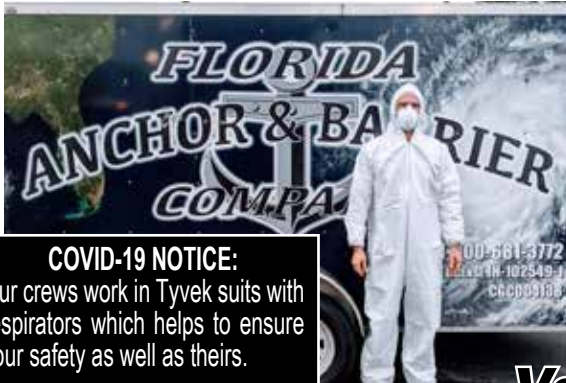
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The BC2Connection is the Phase II email system.

If you have not signed up yet and want to be on thebc2connection, send an email to our email address with your name, address, and email address. If a member of your household is the one getting the emails and you never know what's going on? Sign up, we have several families that have more than one person in the home getting the emails.

If you signed up but aren't getting the emails, check your trash/spam box first to see if they have gone there. The emails are going out and almost everyone is getting these emails so there may be a problem in your account. If you are unable to find the emails, please email us at thebc2connection@gmail.com and we will see if we can help.

It is important that everyone can receive these emails because this is our way of reaching out to our community for fun events, but also important "need to know" information. Let's work together on this project to be sure everyone is receiving important information.

Travel Club

Pat B

The Briar Creek Travel Club has a number of trips and excursions available. Two cruises, one on Radiance of the Sea, March 2, 2004 and another on Wonders of the Sea, January 5, 2025 have been booked. Details and sign-up forms can be found at upcsportshub.com or in the clubhouse. Details for Ed Fletcher Dinner Theater, January 26, 2024 and the Starlight Dinner Cruise, February 21 have been posted both on the website and sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

A small group excursion to Folly Farms Holiday Lights has been posted on the bulletin board. A link to purchase trolley tickets (\$5.00) can be found at the upcsportshub.com. Two other suggestions, the Francis Wilson Playhouse and Central Park Performing Arts Center have been suggested for small group travel. Information can be found on the bulletin board or on the Hub.. Contact your travel reps Christine Hetherington, Arlene Preston or Pat Bieniewicz if interested in getting a small group together to go to either of these.

Food Pantry

Joan Davis/Arnold Williams

NOTE DATE CHANGE

December 13th, Wednesday At 8-10 AM in front of clubhouse.

Please remember my dear friend Sonny Whitehouses's wife and family during this time of year.

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for your support during this past year!

Joan and Arnold

Everyday A Holiday

Song by Dr. Marty Finkelstein



Don't need an alarm clock
Just the sunrise to wake up and put a smile on my face
Best time to sun gaze
To feel those sun rays
And open my third eye awake
Can smell the coffee brewing
Nothing I need doing
But being in the miracle of the day
Cause I don't know if it's Monday or Friday or the Weekend or the Weekday
Though it doesn't really matter
Cause each day feels like a holiday
A little bit of Chi Gong some stretching have fun
And wash any worries away
There's a pickleball craze
I can play tennis any day
In my 70's still feel quite okay
Maybe go to the beach
Bring a book to read and meditate to the sound of the waves
There's always music in town
Festivals are all around
Or I'll sit by the Dock of the Bay
Put a guitar in my hand
Julie's my favorite band
To sing or write a song I play
The sun begins to set down
Colors dance upon the ground
Like the magic closing of the day
Cause I don't know if it's Monday or Friday or the Weekend or Weekday
Though it doesn't really matter for each day feels like a holiday
I use to wait for Thanksgiving
Anticipate Christmas and New Years
But now I am living where each day feels like another holiday
Enjoy the holidays my friends.
Dr. Marty Finkelstein lives in Briarcreek with his wife Julie

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John 3:16

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Carol Zapiecki, Clearwater, FL



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Sit & Stitch

Darlene Beyer & Sandy Fassett



Well I must say that we are still making lap robes and shawls for the Cancer Patients having chemo . We are proud to announce that we have made and given 222 shawls as of the end of October. This is quite Commendable for a small group of women that have made these. I'm sure that there are more of you that would like to be a part of this community project. If you are unable to help by knitting or crocheting these items, then you can help by donating a 12 ounce or 16 ounce skein of Caron knitting worsted which will make 1 whole shawl. The reason we use this yarn is because it is soft and soothing to the touch. If you don't wish to shop for this yarn then a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated to purchase this yarn.

We would personally like to give a Big Thank You to those who have been making all these shawls and hope you will continue to help us make more.

At some undetermined date we may be planning a couple of classes. If so then we will announce the class and date @ Social Club, in the monthly media, and,or, through the BC Connection.

Entertainment

Bettye Gilreath



Events Happening In Briar Creek 2 during December 2023

December brings lots of fun to our neighborhood. The Social Club Christmas Dinner on December 9 is always a very wonderful night!

Delicious ham & rolls and all the side dishes make it a feast! The entertainment for the evening will be sung by "Miller & Mark" band.

New Years Eve Party is December 31st

Phase 1 & 2 neighbors will gather to ring in 2024 in fine style. We suggest semiformal attire to help make the evening special. Doors will open at 8:45 with music provided by Les N More, from 9 pm - 12:30. Donations will be \$20pp as the cost of entertainment escalates for New Years Eve.

You can expect hors d'oeuvres to be served, and a midnight champaign toast to the new year. BYOB and any other snacks you want to share.

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

A Christmas Message

Bob Raynor, President



2023 has been a challenging year for the world in which we live. Wars, global turmoil and the political divisions our country are experiencing have affected how people relate to each other. We may question what the future holds for each of us and our Briar Creek community and how can we make things better for our family, neighbors and friends.

As 2023 comes to a close, we have the opportunity to reflect on the challenges we have faced in the last year as individuals and as a community. As 2024 approaches perhaps one way of thinking about how we would like to see our community in the year ahead is to be reminded of what Christmas truly means.

The spirit of Christmas is one of a birth that brought hope, peace, togetherness and gratitude. It's a time of selflessness in which we care more about others than ourselves. It is a time in which we give hope to others and coming together as a community to promote peace and goodwill. It's a time to give thanks for the many blessings we have.

One place to start is by saying thanks to all those who worked so hard to keep our community safe and secure during the most difficult of times. Thank you to those in our Briar Creek family who went out of their way to support their neighbors and friends with both those big as well little things that mean so much. Thank you to those who fostered a sense of community when it was most needed. Thank you to our past Board of Directors who made tough decisions to help keep us safe and secure. Thank you to those who inspire us with their courage to foster peace and give us hope. So in the coming year, let us celebrate our good fortune by looking forward to coming events, united as a caring community, and with a sense of hope and appreciation. Join your board by volunteering and participating as we work to enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Together, let's help make 2024 a wonderful year in Briar Creek II.

Merry Christmas, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, and to 2024 when we again try to keep our New Years resolutions to eat healthy, exercise more, lose ten pounds and can say after two months that we haven't given in to our ice cream urge.

Pinochle Scores

Sharon Cann



Alice Williams 330

Sharon Cann 329

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BOWLING

Arnold Williams

The Bowling Season is starting to roll along. We have our recent averages after 3 weeks of bowling now. Have had a few folks come down from the north with a few more showing up weekly and more yet to come but the snow is starting now. Below are the people who have bowled +25 pins over their averages. Thank You Arnold Williams

Week 1 10/10/23

Ken Homme	177	Gene Arend	179
Glen Jensen	202	Lee West	214
Alice Williams	184		

Week 2 10/17/23

Joan Davis	163 & 176	Vern Browe	157
Bob Barr	234	Lee West	258

Week 3

NO BRIAR CREEK BOWLERS!!!

Week 4

Kathy Morrison	153	Greg Zimmer	154
Ray Jablonski	177 & 178	Tom Lacey	195
Mike Moore	201	Lee West	225
Phil Willix	173		



Exercise Class



Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Cardio and Strength at 9 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday – Strength and Balance at 10:30 a.m.
Friday – chair yoga at 10:00 a.m.

These classes are open to all residents of phase I and II. She teaches “silver sneaker” classes, designed for the mature adult and there is no charge for any person with insurance that has a “silver sneakers” benefit as part of their plan. If not, the cost is a nominal \$2.00 per class. A punch card is available for \$20 for 10 classes. Come join us, you find it much easier to get up and out of your chair after just a few classes.

Bingo

AL & Diane Merando



Phase II Bingo’s jackpot continues to grow as our snowbirds return to beautiful Briar Creek. We’ve welcomed several new players who are getting lots of help from their neighbors. Don’t hesitate to join us if you’ve not played before- there is always someone willing to show you the ropes.

...continued on page 40

Due to the holiday season we will **NOT HAVE BINGO** on December 4th (board meeting), December 25th and January 1st.

Have a wonderful holiday season and get ready for 2024!

Ladies' Luncheon

Darlene Beyer

Here we are in December already and may need a break from Christmas shopping and decorating, so let's all decide to attend the Ladies Luncheon. This month due to many requests, we will be eating at Longhorn Steakhouse. The date is pushed to December 13th at 1:00 pm so it won't interfere with your other plans you may have for the season.

All new residents, snowbirds, and regulars, the sign-up sheet is still located on the bulletin board in the Phase II Clubhouse. If you are unable to get to the clubhouse, please give Darlene a call @. 727-403-9957 if you would like to attend.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

GOLF

Carol Rodrigues

There are separate golf leagues at Briar Creek. A mens leagues plays at Countryway Golf Course on Monday mornings at 7:30 a.m. and at Lansbrook Golf Course on Thursday morning. Men from phase I and II are invited to join. Call Clark Woodard 413-896-7278 for additional information. The women's leagues plays at Countryway Golf Course on Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. and women from phase I and II are all invited to join. Contact Arlene Preston at arlenepreston@gmail.com. for additional information.

A new group is forming at the phase II clubhouse Wednesday evenings at 6:30. We will start playing cribbage. If you are a pro or just learning the game, all are welcome from both phase I and phase II. Call Carol Beatty for more information 727-216-3715.

Bereavement

Barbara Bergling

Please be advised I am now in charge of bereavement. When a resident passes inform me by email hepgramma43@gmail.com or call 727-204-6457. I will put the information on the phone tree: no calls will be made. The flag is lowered according to the wishes of the family. If a memorial service is planned a member of the family will contact me and that information will be on the phone tree. Thank you for your cooperation.





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BUNCO

Marge Grohskopf

We have made a slight change for Bunco timing. We will begin Playing Bunco at 7:00pm. Our dessert will be served at our normal break between games 2 and 3. You can now arrive at 6:50.

Due to holidays our schedule for November and December will be the third Thurs of the month November 16 and December 21. As of Jan. we will return to the following schedule January 25, February 22, March 28, April 25, and May 23.

Please sign up at Clubhouse 2 or call Marge.(727-533-6603) Last minute walk-in are always welcome. You can learn how to play Bunco in 10 minutes. 7:00 we begin playing \$3 for prize money. Come join us. Try something new!

Briar Creek Book Club (Phase I & II)



Enjoy discussing books chosen by the members. Our book club meets in the Phase II Clubhouse at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, however, we do not meet May-October. The December book is *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin, and the January book is *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining or have questions.

Jane McKenzie

651-353-2602

jgmckenzie4647@gmail.com

Humane Society & the Haven

Barbara Bergling



Thanks for all your generous donations for the Humane Society and the Haven. I used to be able to donate clothes, but they no longer accept them. The exception is new socks for children and thongs in all sizes for use in the show.

The humane society and the Haven also don't accept sheets. Remember that if your linens are in good condition, we sell them at our bazaar.

The humane society request is for everything you are donating but especially towels. Also, they receive a lot of dog food and treats but very little cat food or treats. Thanks to all of you for your donations. As I have said before, Briar Creekers are extremely generous.

Thanks again everyone

Barbara Bergling

NAME BADGES

Marsha Bowlby

Get to know your neighbors...Let them get to know you! ... Wear your Name Badge at social events at the clubhouse and at the Saturday morning coffee hour (possible win \$\$\$ at Saturday Coffee for wearing your name badge) They are available with pins or magnets, and all the basic Crayola colors are available. Name Badges are available and ordered through Marsha Bowlby. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the clubhouse. Name Badges are \$8.50 and must be paid for before being ordered.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Pete Loranger



Birthdays

12/01	Margaret Fake	12/07	Gloria Boettger	12/21	Leo McCarthy
12/02	Alice Williams	12/09	Arnold Grohskopf	12/26	Richard Whipple
12/04	John Ames	12/10	Jo Cicale	12/26	Henry Kalinoski
12/04	Richard Howd	12/11	Ken Kellerman	12/27	Ed Hoage
12/04	Brian Bailey	12/15	Jackie Labounty	12/29	Tom Feeley
12/05	Russ Lipari	12/15	Donna Stockmaster	12/29	Russ Jordan
12/05	Carol Beatty	12/16	Gerald Mudge	12/30	Bonnie Briggs
12/06	Michael Schmidt	12/21	Wayne Clark	12/31	Betty Rizzo

Anniversaries

12/07/1957	Art & Stella Tavenor – 66 years
12/09	Jim & Carol Beatty
12/23/1965	Les & Judith Smout – 58 years
12/28/1996	Doug & Nancy Hall – 27 years



If your info is not listed, I have not received a Resident Info form from you. Also, let me know of any corrections.



Updates for the Dial Directory (yellow book)

New Owner – Les and Judith Smout – 92 Laurelwood Dr delete Michael Siggia
New Owner – Patrick Bruno – 72 Red Fox Run – delete Linda Freiburghaus
New Owner – Gerald Scott Floyd – 136 Vinewood Dr – delete Chas. Donovan
New Owner – William Escher – 138 Pinewood Ter – delete Kathleen Schiano

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OTHER		WANTED
<p>GOLF club re-gripping and repair in Largo. Call/text 301-466-7090</p>	<p>HELLO CANADIANS! Canadian Club Canadien Gulf Coast Florida, having survived COVID, is now regrowing to promote fellowship among Canadians in Pinellas County, and foster goodwill with American people. Join us; for our monthly lunch with informative speakers, weekly golf, MLB game, dinner/theater, museums, deep sea fishing. Your first lunch is FREE! For information, email: cccgcf1@galt.biz.</p>	<p>PART- TIME FOR NOW, SEMI OR RETIRED FULL GOSPEL PASTOR FOR PARADISE ISLAND CHURCH IN THE PARK. PLEASE EMAIL SHORT RESUME TO: Serena Johnson at smjpray@aol.com</p>
EVENTS & PROGRAMS		
<p>Ranch Mobile Park, Park-wide Yard Sale, Saturday, December 2nd, 8:00am - 2:00pm at 6800 - 150th Ave. N., Clearwater (Largo)</p>	<p>Craft Sale 12/9/23 9AM -1PM at Ranch Mobile Park Clubhouse. Refreshments and food sale too</p>	
<p>CRAFT FAIR 12/2/23 10 a.m. to Noon. AMERICANA COVE Clubhouse 7201 1st Street NE Saint Petersburg</p>	<p>The Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County, having survived COVID, is regrowing to continue supporting local Veterans, and providing social activities for new and existing Canadian Legion Members. Join us for our monthly Membership Meetings, Remembrance Ceremonies, VSO visits, raids, invasions, MLB game, dinner/theater, museums, etc. For information, email: info@relpost144.org.</p>	<div data-bbox="887 665 1256 1047" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Monthly Media Staff</p> </div>
<p>CRAFT SHOW, BAKE SALE and RAFFLE. Saturday December 2, 9-1. Southwind MHC, 795 Country Road 1. Palm Harbor. 440.227.5906</p>	<p>CRAFT SHOW/ Lunch, Saturday 12-02-2023, 9am- 1pm, AMBER GLADES Clubhouse, 3113 State Road 580, Safety Harbor</p>	

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Arlene Hall..... \$10	Boss Electric			
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