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ISLAND IN THE SUN

• S E N T I N E L •

E

April • 2025

**Issue 2
49th Year**

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Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

This publication, Island in the Sun Sentinel, also referred to as the Monthly Media, contains names, contact information, community articles and information, an activities calendar as well as general interest articles. IITS residents can contribute ideas, articles, and photos to the publication. Contact Linda Olone at 727-214-7334, email linda.olone@gmail.com, or Lot 73

Manager Editor: Linda Olone
Media Delivery Team: Nancy Bilcheck, Ernie Grow, Roy and Jan Wisdom, Sudie Borders, Cheryl D’Andrea; Sue Morley; Steve Marshall, Mike & Cynthia Sadusky, Phil Tursi, Sonny Dumlao and Cecile Morock

May 2025 Media Deadline April 4, 2025
Please e-mail articles and photos submissions to: iits.sentinel@gmail.com
You can also drop off articles not sent via e-mail at Lot 297.

Representative to the Federation of Manufacturers Home Owners (FMO):
Need Volunteer
Please submit corrections to linda.olone@gmail.com or report to an HOA Board member.

Island in the Sun HOA Board

President.....	Tammy Blaisse	Lot 297	580-301-4828	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com
Vice - President	Pattie McDonough	Lot 266	727-475-0360	mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com
Treasurer	Cathy Ralston.....	Lot 184	203-257-3376	
Secretary	Ken Gonska.....	Lot 313	303-704-5555	
1 yr	Steve Malara	Lot 202	732-977-4867	smbombers@aol.com
2 yr	Lisa Hoffman.....	Lot 125		
3yr	Kimberly Riesenbach.....	Lot 185		

Non-Board Positions

Robo Call	Chrissie Riley	Lot 290	404-353-1801	chrissiegriley@gmail.com
Neighbor Helping Neighbor	OPEN			

2025 Committees

Committee.....	Name/Chair	Lot#	Phone#.....	Email
Activities Committee	Pattie McDonough	266	727-475-0360	
	Chrissie Riley	290	404-353-1801	
Bingo.....	Linda Olone.....	73	727-214-7334	
Bingo Callers	Linda Olone.....	73	727-214-7334	
Dominoes	Teresa Amato			
Ladies Lunch.....	Cindy Sadusky.....	14	717-587-2498	
Library.....	Cindy Sadusky.....	14	717-587-2498	
	co chair .. Nancy Bilcheck	184	203-913-9450	
Media Delivery	Nancy Bilcheck	184	203-913-9450	
Membership	Tammy Blaisse	297	580-301-4828	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com
	Rusty Leslie.....	310	865-232-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com
Phone Book.....	Tammy Blaisse	297	580-301-4828	
Pickleball.....	Paul Ranck.....	134		
Remembrance Corner	OPEN			
Shuffleboard	Elaine Ranck.....	134		
Rummikub.....	Rose Leduc.....	160	727-797-8026	
Sign Board	Chrissie Riley	290	404-353-1801	
Texas Hold’Em	Rick Morabito.....	174	303-704-9772	
	co chair... Rose Leduc.....	160	727-797-8026	
Welcoming	Rusty Leslie	310	865-232-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com
Yoga	Kathy Bowen			

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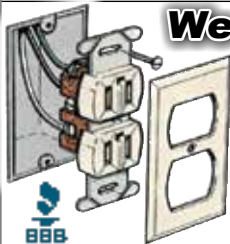


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From The Editor

It's April already! Easter, flowers, and warm weather is in the air! Unfortunately so is season allergies. (Read my article on Florida allergy season)

I want to thank my friend Rusty Leslie. She provides article to me every month to help make this guide something people want to read. I appreciate her timeless effort! I strive to be her!

Please send any articles, suggestions, or photos to me at linda.olone@gmail.com or stop by Lot 73. If you would like to be highlighted or have a resident event highlighted in an upcoming edition for any of our sections, please let me know.

Thank you - Linda Olone – linda.olone@gmail.com – 727-214-7334.

From the HOA president



Presidents Message

POur activities committee has been busy planning events for next year, they sound like a lot of fun! But for these events to happen we need several things, 1. Hosts, 2. Volunteers, 3. Most importantly attendees! The Activities committee has decided to place a sign-up sheet for all activities in the book at the clubhouse. There must be at least 35 people signed up for an event at least 2 weeks prior for the event to happen.

Dues are past due this month. Unlike everything else going up in price our dues remain \$15.00 per year. Remember, if you want to vote for your board next year or on any issues you need to become a member. Your membership allows you to have a voice in how the HOA is run, provides the community to have a louder voice with Cal-Am when needed, such as community issues and negotiations which are in a few short months. Please see Cathy Ralston at Lot 184 or bring your dues to a HOA meeting. I have people asking why they should join the HOA, it obviously does look better when we have more members, but I will never say that is a good reason for joining. For me the main reason was to have a voice in the community that is heard by Cal-Am when needed, to help the community become a community again, not just individuals living in the same area. As a community we need to come back together and stop holding grudges against prior boards, I have talked to people that will not join because of a board that has not been around for over 5 years. We are not those people and only want to help, but I must be honest it is hard to have the drive and desire to continue when people do not support us because of past prejudices.

Please reach out to your Board Members if you have any questions or concerns, we will all do our best to help you.

IITS HOA President
Presidents Message
Tammy Blaisse - tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com

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FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

Four ways to find out all about our events:

1. Make sure you sign up for the robocalls as well, as event information is being sent via robocall, too. Contact Chrissie Riley at chrissiegriley@gmail.com or Tammy Blaisse at tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com with your lot #, telephone number and name to join the list. These numbers are shared with no one.
2. Check out the Marquee at the park entrance by the clubhouse for upcoming events. HOA Events and announcements are located on the front and Resident Sponsored Activities are located on the back, if you would like your activity listed on the back please let Tammy Blaisse know.
3. The calendar is kept current in the glass case at the Clubhouse.
4. Please join any or all of these IITS Facebook Groups, we post activities on these pages only.
 - a. Island in the Sun Social Group
 - b. IITS uncensored, sort of
 - c. The Official Island in the Sun HOA (HOA Members only) This page is only for HOA business.

Please contact the activities committee for activities you would like to start at mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com, chrissiegriley@gmail.com We will provide you with help to get started.

OPEN POSITIONS:

We have a few open positions if you are interested in volunteering for anything.

NON-Board Positions

1. We need volunteers for Bingo. Duties would vary...set-up, front table help, floor help, callers. It would be once every other month. You don't have to play to help! If you are interested, please call Linda at 727-214-7334.
2. Neighbor Helping Neighbor – OPEN - need Volunteers.





Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthdays
7 Jack Oosterhuis
9 Kathy Stevens
9 James Smith
14 Jasmina Forcan
18 Dave Kurinsky
30 Steve Olone

April Anniversaries
3 John Holbach & Gail Spark
7 David & Rose Simmons



We would love to add your birthday and anniversary to our list! E-mail your name and date to linda.olone@gmail.com so your friends and neighbors can help you celebrate your special days!

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

These activities are not HOA or Cal-Am sponsored activities. They are resident led.

- The Boys who Brunch - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse.
- The Ladies who Lunch - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse.
- Like to shoot pool? Every **Saturday at 10 am** there is a group who play 8 or 9 ball at the clubhouse. They are always looking for new players.
- Texas hold ‘em Poker is played in the clubhouse on **Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30 pm**. Come prepared to have fun.
- Bingo – **Every other Monday** in the clubhouse.
- LRC (Left, Right, Center) – 3rd Tuesday of every month – bring your dollars!
- Anyone wanting a resident activity to be spotlighted in the Media Guide please contact Linda Olone.

See the calendar in the Media Guide or on the clubhouse board for upcoming daily activities, HOA activities and Cal-Am activities.
Please note: the 2 calendars don’t always sync up, so if in doubt, please call Pattie McDonough for HOA activities, and the Cal-Am front office for Cal-Am activities.

CAL-AM EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE HOA EVENTS

April 12th East Egg Hunt – lots of adult fun!
May – Kentucky Derby Party



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Paul Salisbury..... \$10Air Masters of Pinellas
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Activities Committee



HOA UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE

Hi everyone.
The Activities committee has the following activities planned for each month this upcoming year. Please contact Pattie McDonough if you have any questions or would like to volunteer

Volunteers are always needed to host, set up and tidy up – please let Pattie or Chrissy know if you would like to help out at any of these events.

Thank you to all those who volunteer their time to make these events great for our community.

April 5th – Spring Craft Fair, Host Linda Olone

April 19th – Community Scavenger Hunt, Host Rusty Leslie

Items will be hidden in common areas around the community - More to come

May 3rd –Kentucky Derby Party, Host Tammy Jackson - More to come

Memorial Day picnic If we can get a host

June – Pool party with Games - More to come

July – Back to School Pizza Party - More to come

August - Breakfast at the Clubhouse - More to come

September 1st, 11 am Labor Day Cookout - More to come

October 31st 6:30 PM Halloween Golf Cart parade and Party immediately afterwards

There will be cart and house judging this year, we will also be having a chili cook off at the party

November – Arts & Craft Fair

November – Collecting items for our Veterans, will be taken to the Veterans before

Thanksgiving

December 31st New Years Eve Party - More to come

Effective February 1st all events will have a signup sheet at the Clubhouse. Over 35 people must be signed up at least 2 weeks prior for the event to happen.

We need hosts for many of these events or they cannot happen as planned. The HOA cannot afford to continue to support events without hosts and participation. I know many people are unable to host, but we have a lot of able-bodied people who can host or co-host. Once you try it, you'll find it is not as tough as you would imagine, the activities committee will always be there to help and guide you through the process.

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



Communications

Notice: Cal-Am will be communicating information to the residents via texts. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please). If you need help setting this up please contact Katy at the office or Tammy Blaisse, we will be happy to help you.
HOA will continue to use Robo call.

SIGN UP FOR IITS ROBOCALL TO STAY INFORMED

Cal-Am has a new way of communicating information to the residents. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please)

- HOA will continue to use Robo call.
- The phone messaging service is used to:**
- Remind residents of HOA meetings
 - Announce/Remind/Poll activities and events
 - Communicate information to specific groups (Bocce, Shuffleboard, etc.)
 - Announce safety concerns in the community and surrounding area
 - Other uses approved by the IITS HOA Board of Directors.

Please provide your information to Tammy Blaisse at 580-301-4828 or at tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com. Your information will be used strictly for this messaging service and will not be shared with anyone else.

Lot # _____ Telephone Number _____
Name(s) _____

WELCOME WAGON CORNER

by Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie



Welcome to my little corner of the world and to April and Spring and Easter bunnies
If you are new to our community and manufactured home living, I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Our activities are listed in the center of this media guide.

I hope you take advantage of all the activities we offer and that you love living here as much as I do

Have a wonderful April - Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie
I am in Lot 310 - corner of Nassau and Windward.
Just come to my screened porch and ring the bell.
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April 5th – Community Craft Show



The craft show is coming up! We want to see what you got! Residents can purchase a table for \$5.00. Our last craft show was a great success! Come join the fun! Please see Linda O'Lone for reserving your table! Spaces are limited so please get signed up early!

Vendors can be crafts, bake sale items, or general wares. A 2nd table may be purchased on the day of the show, if spaces are available. You can only reserve one in advance.

Bingo!! Bingo!! Bingo!!



Bingo is scheduled for every other Monday. Check the calendar and Facebook page for dates. Please come out and support this activity. Bingo is \$18.00 to play, and that price includes all games. You have the option to purchase extra sheets as well. Hope to see you all soon! Thank you ~ Linda Olone

Texas Hold Em



Texas hold em is played on Sundays \$11 to play, Wednesdays \$31 and Fridays \$21. If you want to learn how to play, the group will teach you. Anybody can play. The order of poker hands : Royal Flush, Straight Flush, Four-of-a-Kind, Full House, Flush, Straight, Three-of-a-Kind, Two Pair, One Pair, High Card

Local Business Recommendation

We need your help!!!! Which local businesses do you recommend? What services do you offer to our residents? Are you a handyman, a painter, electrician, house cleaner? Let us know!!

We once had a list of those in the community who offer services to others.

Let's do this again!!

Send me your info – contact info below.

Please help get these lists going!!!

Send any information to Rusty - 865.232.9072

email kohanadancer@gmail.com

stop by 310 - message me on messenger - Let's help each other.

Thank you.

Rusty

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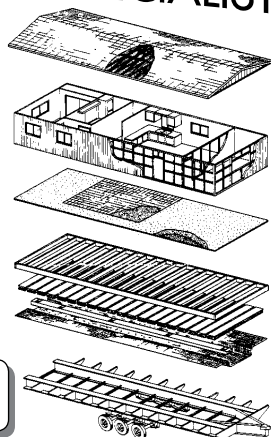
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Be Active



Being physically active can help you stay strong and independent. For older adults, regular physical activity supports a number of health benefits, including brain function, balance, and bone strength.

- Try to get at least 150 minutes (or two and a half hours) of moderate activity per week. Moderate means any activity that gets your heart beating faster.
- Do activities that make your muscles work harder than usual at least two days of the week.

Here are some ways to enjoy retirement:



- **Set goals:** Set small goals to give yourself a sense of purpose.
- **Develop a routine:** Create a schedule to help you take care of yourself and channel your time and energy.
- **Eat well:** Eat a balanced, nutritious diet to help maintain a positive outlook.
- **Exercise:** Aim to do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week.
- **Exercise your mind:** Challenge yourself mentally by learning a new language, instrument, or getting a qualification.
- **Travel:** Explore places you've never been, or take an international trip.
- **Give back:** Volunteer to connect with your community and others who share your values.
- **Join a community:** Put your work experience to good use by becoming a mentor or coach.
- **Practice gratitude:** Count your blessings to have a more positive outlook on life.
- **Prepare for ups and downs:** It's normal to feel lonely or lost at times, so prepare for these feelings.
- **Seek social support:** Keep in touch with friends from work, or join a community of retirees.

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Did You Know?

April Fools' Day was started in France in the 1500s?

The famous quote, "Houston, we've had a problem!" occurred on April 11, 1970?

April celebrates the birth of Queen Elizabeth II, Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare and Thomas Jefferson?



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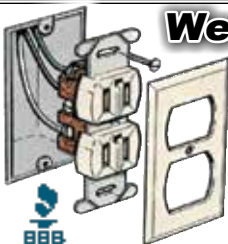
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1 pm F 10 am 6:30 pm 7 pm H April
6 6:30 pm Poker	7 1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball 7 pm Bingo	1 pm F 10 am 6:30 pm
13 6:30 pm Poker Palm Sunday	14 1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm R 10 am Y 6:30 pm 7 pm L
20 6:30 pm Poker Easter	21 1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball 7 pm Bingo	1 pm F 10 am 6:30 pm
27 6:30 pm Poker	28 1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm F 10 am 6:30 pm

Island In The Sun

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rummikub Yoga 4 pm Pickleball HOA Mtg 1st Fool's Day	2 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	3	4 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	5 9am - 2pm - Craft Fair
8 Rummikub Yoga 4 pm Pickleball	9 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	10	11 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	12 2 pm Scavenger Hunt
15 Rummikub Yoga 4 pm Pickleball R,C	16 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	17 Maundy Thursday	18 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker Good Friday	19 Holy Saturday
22 Rummikub Yoga 4 pm Pickleball	23 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	24	25 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	26 9 am Activities Meeting
29 Rummikub Yoga 4 pm Pickleball	30 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker		1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	

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Documents you should have in order



- A**dvice from an attorney
1. IF YOU DO NOTHING ELSE, put a beneficiary on all of your financial accounts like checking savings CDs, Life Insurance, investments etc. You don't need a will for them to get to your money, just a death certificate. And make a list, preferably by hand instead of your computer, either give it to your trusted person, spouse or put it in your security box at the bank. If the person doesn't know you have a savings account or a CD at XYZ Bank, they can never go get the money. Make sure you have a trusted person that is a signer on the security box at the bank. **IMPORTANT** information to get your affairs in order!! Make sure all bank accounts have direct beneficiaries. The beneficiary need only go to the bank with your death certificate and an ID of their own.
 2. TOD = Transfer On Death deed if you own a home. Completing this document and filing it with your county saves your heirs THOUSANDS. This document allows you to transfer ownership of your home to your designee. All they need to do is take their ID and your death certificate to the county building and the deed is signed over. Doing this will avoid the home having to go through probate.
 3. Living Will: Allows one to put in writing exactly what you want done in the event you cannot speak for yourself when it comes to healthcare decisions as well as other final decisions.
 4. Durable Power of Attorney: Allows one to designate a person to make legal decisions if you are no longer competent to do so. Power of Attorney for Healthcare: This document allows one to designate someone to make healthcare decisions for them.
 5. Last Will and Testament: Designates to whom personal belongings will go to, who the Administrator will be. But if you have a beneficiary on any of your financial accounts, that will override a will. For instance if you say I leave all of my possessions to my daughter Susie, but on your savings account the beneficiary is your best friend, then the money goes to your best friend
 6. Funeral Planning Declaration: Allows one to say exactly one's wishes as far as disposition of the body and the services.

If the above documents are done, you can AVOID probate. If all the above is not done, you have to open an estate account at the bank. All money that doesn't have direct beneficiaries goes into this account. You have to have an attorney to open the estate account. The attorney also has to publicize your passing in the newspaper or post publication at the county courthouse,

continued on page 28



to allow anyone to make a claim on your property. - It's a complete PAIN. Make a list of all banks and account numbers, all investment institutions with account numbers, lists of credit cards, utility accounts, etc. Leave clear instructions as to how and when these things are paid. Make sure heirs know where life insurance policies are located. Make 100% sure SOMEONE knows your Apple ID, bank ID account logins and passwords! Make sure you have titles for all vehicles, campers, etc! Set up a TRUST for intended beneficiaries, especially those that are too young, and appoint a trustee of said trust. MOST IMPORTANTLY!!!! - Talk with those closest to you and make all your wishes KNOWN. Talk to those whom you've designated, as well as those close to you whom you did not designate. - Do this to explain why your decisions were made and to avoid any lingering questions or hurt feelings. Hope this helps! Hope this lights a spark to encourage all your friends and family to take care of these things to make it easier for those we all leave behind! My hope is that the above list at least helps you start an important conversation with your loved ones...

Laws Varies State to State...check yours

CAN-AM party was a great success

Gertie

Island in the Sun celebrated our Can/Am party February 15th 2025. What a great party. Areas like Clearwater and the Gulf Coast celebrate Can/Am-Canadian/American days ,because of the large influx of Canadian snowbirds who visit during the winter months, making it a significant part of the local economy and tourism industry during that time. Essentially, it's a way to welcome and appreciate Canadian visitors. We love our time here and hopefully will be able to spend many more winters here. We love our American family at IITS.





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Seasonal allergies

Spring allergies in Florida are common and can include tree pollen, grass pollen, and weed pollen. The warm, humid climate allows plants to release pollen nearly year-round. The worst months for allergies in Florida are April, May, and September. These months have the highest pollen counts.

Why are these months so bad?

- **Warm, rainy climate**

Florida's climate supports year-round plant growth, which leads to a long pollen season.

- **Different plants pollinate**

Many different plants pollinate throughout the year, including trees, weeds, and grasses.

What allergens are common in Florida?

- **Oak pollen: Most problematic in late winter and early spring**

- **Mold spores: Thrive in the humid summer months**

- **Ragweed: A prominent allergen in the fall**

- **Dog fennel: A weed that causes allergies from May through December**

- **Sorrel and dock: A secondary weed pollen season from March through July**

Symptoms

Runny nose, Coughing, Congestion, Sneezing, Headaches, Scratchy throat, Itchy eyes, Watery eyes, Hives, and Asthma symptoms.

Tips to reduce allergies

- Avoid spending extended periods outdoors during peak pollen times
- Shower after spending time outdoors
- Keep doors and windows closed
- Vacuum often
- Use a nasal rinse to move allergens out of your nasal passages
- Protect your home with HEPA filters
- Check local pollen counts regularly
- Plan yard work around pollen spikes

Balance and stability

Here is a wide variety of exercises and tips to improve balance, including heel-toe walks, standing on one leg, and heel-raise squats. You should also be sure you are getting enough sleep, it helps to maintain balance as well.

Exercises

- **Heel-toe walk:** Stand next to a wall and walk heel to toe, then turn around and walk back
- **One-legged stand:** Stand on one foot for at least five seconds
- **Tandem stand:** Put the heel of one foot on the toe of the other foot and hold for more than 10 seconds
- **Toe tap:** Stand with one hand on a wall and lift one leg out in front of you, then touch your toes to the ground
- **Heel-raise squat:** Squat down, then stand back up, lifting your heels off the floor as far as you can

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Other tips

- Work on standing with your feet shoulder-width apart and eyes open
- Try closing your eyes while balancing to increase the challenge
- Get enough sleep

Balance can decline with age due to vision loss, muscle weakness, and inner ear issues. Certain medications can also affect balance. A rehabilitation program can help people make significant improvements.

Protect Yourself from Fraud

AARP offers a variety of resources to help protect members from fraud, including the Fraud Watch Network, a helpline, and a scam-tracking map. AARP also hosts events and offers online support sessions.

<https://www.aarp.com> to learn more. Search “Fraud Watch”

Fraud Watch Network resources

- Scam-tracking map: Shows scams reported in your area in real time
- Tip sheets: Provides information on common frauds
- Watchdog alerts: Free alerts that you can sign up for

AARP Fraud Watch Helpline

- Call toll-free at (877) 908-3360 for free guidance from trained specialists

Other AARP resources

- Community education: In-person and virtual events to help protect members from fraud
- Shred fests: Free events to destroy personal and financial documents
- Online support sessions: A safe place to address the emotional impact of fraud

Additional tips to protect yourself from fraud:

- Set limits on social media
- Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know
- Don't respond to random messages from strangers
- Put a credit freeze in place with all three major credit reporting agencies

You can also report fraud to the:

- Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov
- FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.IC3.gov/complaint



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Time to stretch my wings and fly

Rusty Leslie

I was gone for over two and a half months living in Knoxville, another world, familiar yet strange. My friend, who has lived alone for years, allowed me to stay with her the entire time – and we are still friends!!! Was it because we get along so well, or was it the wine?? We will never know!! I got to spend time with the family as well as friends both new and old and then, suddenly, I was behind the wheel heading home.

Living back here in Florida was another adjustment. I have never been gone from home for so long before. And now I was living completely alone, as I lost my little Roxie before I left for up North. Living here without her was a huge adjustment. I have never lived completely alone before either, so a really big change for me.

The first thing I did was start walking in the morning before breakfast, walking me instead of the dog. That went well until I caught the stomach virus and my body said that's it. After all those months of stress we are forcing you to slow down and take it easy. And so for the next two weeks I hibernated allowing my body to recuperate.

My welcome back has been wonderful. It is so heartwarming to know that I was missed, that people cared, that while I was recuperating, people made sure that I was okay because they had not seen me. What a wonderful community we live in here. I am working on new daily routines now, changing old habits. I have a fresh start. What am I going to do with it???

My thoughts are many. I need to spend more time being social as I am an extroverted introvert who loves to hermit in her home. I am going to explore my city and learn to do things on my own. It is so easy to only plan things with friends, but that does not force me to be comfortable doing things alone. So I am planning small pleasures for me like visiting the Clearwater Aquarium, walking local parks, stopping at a diner for breakfast and then head to the beaches to walk there. Do things I have wanted to do but did not have a friend to do it with. There is so much life out there and I need to start living it!! My puppy is gone but I am here!! Time to stretch my wings and fly!!



hello
SPRING





April Fun Facts

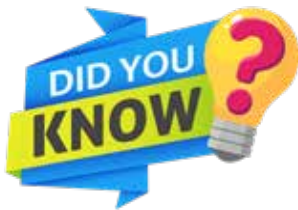
April, it's fascinating origins and the meaning behind its name.

April's name is derived from the Latin word "aperire," meaning "to open," referring to the opening or blossoming of flowers and trees in spring. In Old English, April was known as "Eastermonath," named after the goddess Eostre, associated with spring and fertility.



Natural Phenomena and Weather in April

- April brings significant changes in nature and weather patterns across different parts of the world.
- The famous saying "April showers bring May flowers" originated from a poem by Thomas Tusser in the 16th century. [Suggested read: 50 Fun Facts About May: Blooming with Surprises]
- April is historically one of the most active months for tornadoes in the United States, with a long-term average of approximately 200 tornadoes during this month.
- Cherry blossoms typically reach peak bloom in April in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, including Japan and Washington D.C.
- The Lyrid meteor shower, one of the oldest known meteor showers, peaks annually in mid-April.
- In the Arctic, April marks the beginning of 24-hour daylight, known as the "midnight sun."



Cultural Celebrations and Holidays in April

- Earth Day, observed annually on April 22nd since 1970, promotes environmental awareness and protection.
- April Fools' Day, celebrated on April 1st, has its roots in ancient Roman festivals and medieval European traditions.
- World Health Day, observed on April 7th, commemorates the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948.
- April is Autism Awareness Month, promoting understanding

and acceptance of autism spectrum disorders.

April's Impact on Nature and Wildlife

- Many migratory birds return to their breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere during April.
- April is typically when bears emerge from hibernation in North America.
- The spawning season for many fish species begins in April, including salmon in some regions.
- Monarch butterflies begin their northward migration from Mexico to the United States and Canada in April.
- In the Southern Hemisphere, April marks the beginning of the autumn migration for many bird species.
- April is the only month with an "i" in its name in the English language.

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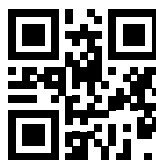
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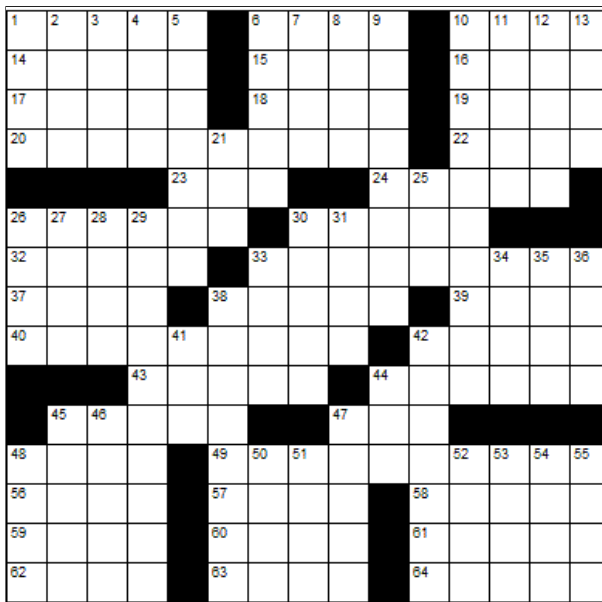
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ACROSS

1. A picture-in-picture
6. Scottish lake
10. Birdbrain
14. Capture
15. African sheep
16. Holly
17. Elicit
18. Waist strap
19. Vitality
20. Ancient tiger
22. Smooth or level
23. Blemish
24. Go inside
26. Lug-nut protector
30. Fortuneteller's card
32. Enlist
33. Lowest female voice
37. In place of
38. Formerly it was a planet
39. Neophyte, in modern slang
40. Heavy rains
42. Useful



DOWN

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Frosts, as a cake | 21. Faucet | 41. Greek god of flocks |
| 2. Nil | 25. Neither ____ | 42. Upward air current |
| 3. Ticket part you keep | 26. Grasped | 44. Flowery verse |
| 4. Behold, in old Rome | 27. Freshwater mussel | 45. Goat antelope |
| 5. Relating to heat | 28. Beer | 46. Cognizant |
| 6. Work hard | 29. A member of a council | 47. Express a thought |
| 7. Black-and-white cookie | 30. Guided visits | 48. Speck |
| 8. Religious spinter group | 31. Picnic insects | 50. River in Spain |
| 9. Until now | 33. Hint | 51. Brace |
| 10. Amateurish | 34. A certain cut of meat | 52. Sticking point |
| 11. Martini garnish | 35. Fee | 53. Look at flirtatiously |
| 12. Postpone | 36. Follow orders | 54. Diversion |
| 13. Beasts of burden | 38. Not requiring stamps | 55. Require |



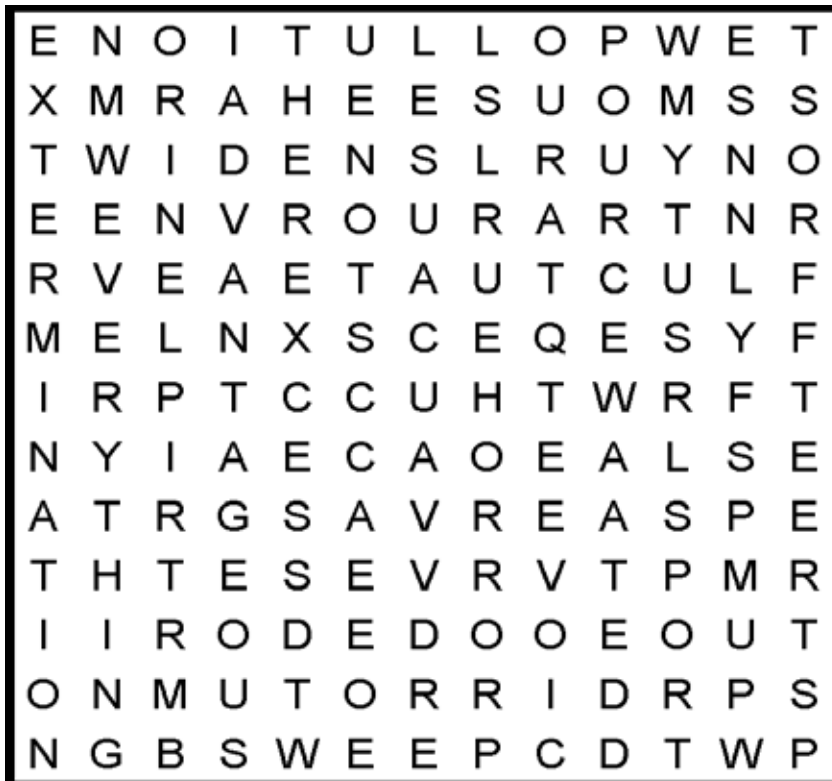
April

Crossword





April Word Search



advantageous

arrow

avoid

carve

cause

cheap

devote

dreary

everything

excess

extermination

flavor

fluctuate

frost

harm

horror

mouse

pollution

pour

pumps

rescue

rode

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stone

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swerve

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SCAM ALERT

Romance Scams

www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes

Romance scams occur when a criminal adopts a fake online identity to gain a victim's affection and trust. The scammer then uses the illusion of a romantic or close relationship to manipulate and/or steal from the victim.

The scammer's intention is to establish a relationship as quickly as possible, endear himself to the victim, and gain trust. Scammers may propose marriage and make plans to meet in person, but that will never happen. Eventually, they will ask for money.

If someone you meet online needs your bank account information to deposit money, they are most likely using your account to carry out other theft and fraud schemes.

Tips for Avoiding Romance Scams:

- **Be careful what you post** and make public online. Scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.
- **Research the person's photo and profile** using online searches to see if the **image, name, or details have been used elsewhere.**
- Go slowly and ask lots of questions.
- Beware if the individual **seems too perfect** or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or social media site to communicate directly.
- Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.
- Beware if the individual **promises to meet in person** but then **always comes up with an excuse why he or she can't.** If you haven't met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.
- **Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.**

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