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CRYSTAL LAKE

• C O U R I E R •

May • 2015

**Issue 3
39th Year**

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**Avery holding the flag with his "Papaw"
(Sherrell Weathers) of Shady Lane Oaks**



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HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HOA Board Officers

President:	Cliff Shaffer
Acting Vice President:	Joan Mrowiec
Secretary:	Kim Haswell
Treasurer:	Rosalie LeBlanc

Neighborhood Watch

Corky & Vickie Craver, (727) 288-3991
Richie Vega, 813-284-8071

Courier Editor

Violet Escobar
727-278-7310
MyCrystalLake9301@gmail.com
2L8again@gmail.com



Photographer/Media

Richie Vega
813-284-8071



Block Captain Coordinator

Vickie Craver, 248 Circle Drive
Assistant: Andi Rodriguez, 211 1st St.

Crystal Lake Facebook group link:

See/Call/e-Mail -
Violet for your Invitation to join

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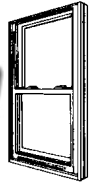
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BLOCK CAPTAINS – (CHANGES)

- Circle – 242 - 267.... Vickie Craver (248)
- 1st St – 200 - 241..... Richie & Margie Vega (262)
- 2nd St – 184-199..... Dan Whallon (190)
- 3rd St – 164 -183..... Belinda Banks (167)
- 4th St – 111 – 161.... Kim Haswell
- 5th St – 89 – 110 Kim Haswell
- 6th St – 65-86 Kim Haswell

We are always grateful to our Block Captains who bring your copy of the Courier to your door every month. Block captains also hand out flyers and notices when needed.

To contact Vickie: call 727- 288-3991 or see her at lot #248 after 3 o'clock.

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

Violet Escobar, mycrystallake9301@gmail.com, 727-278-7310

WELCOME OUR NEW MANAGEMENT

If you've been fortunate to attend the 2 (two) "Meet and Greet with Management" meetings we've already had, you will have met our New Manager. If you will remember, this kind of meeting is something we've been asking for over 2 years! I believe that we now have a manager who will really listen to our issues and will make positive changes where needed. Jim has already shown us that he's a "get things done" kind of guy.



He knows about the roads and the trees and the pool. The palm tree trimming is almost completed and the road work is scheduled to begin in June. Jim has assured us that these are on the top of his list of our needs and he's in constant communication with Corporate concerning the changes that need to be made in our park.

NOT AN EXIT

One of the things discussed at our last Meet & Greet was the park entrances and exits onto 49th Street. What a nightmare! People are still using the first entrance (going North) as an Exit. It's not and Exit. Exiting there has already been the cause of several accidents.

When a car is waiting to exit, any car trying to turn in off of 49th street has to come to a stop making them vulnerable to other vehicles approaching from behind.



Jim is having bigger “NOT AN EXIT” signs made to help residents, visitors and service vehicles be more aware and to make it safer to come into the park at that entrance. Get used to it. We were told that this rule will soon be enforced for our safety.

Our park is small and it’s not that much farther to go around to the exit by the Circle. All you have to do there is to stay to one side or the other and not take up the whole driveway. This is not only for our safety but it’s also common courtesy.

Another point of discussion at the Meet & Greet was the fenced-in area behind the clubhouse. Right now there are satellite dishes in there from the Direct TV promotion of several years ago. Jim is having the “dishes” removed so this space will be available to use for other purposes. Any suggestions? See Jim.

Have you noticed that the tree trimming is almost completed? It has made such a difference in the appearance of our park. Looking good!

The old picnic table by the laundry area has been removed and replaced with a much better one. There will soon be a standing grill there for anyone to use.

Jim has had the **washers and dryers** worked on by their owners so they should be working better now. Let him know if you are still having any issues with them.

However, It is our responsibility to do our part in making our own home sites as appealing as possible so that we can be proud of our homes and so that others will want to live in our beautiful little community.

Check out the bulletin board in the Clubhouse under Helping Hands Classifieds to find someone in the park who can help you to spruce up your property and give them a call.

THE HOMEOWNERS’ ASSOCIATION

The Homeowners’ Association would like to ask you to please support the organization that works hard to make our community a safe and secure.

There is a Membership Drive going on right now and throughout this month. We need a strong HOA to prove to Corporate that we are united in our quest for improvements to our community and show that we have the “strength of numbers” to keep pushing until we get more of what we need for our safety and happiness. I firmly believe that we can make them listen if we work together and don’t give up.

Our little park is so beautiful, but there are things that corporate needs to do in the way of

...continued on page 9

Did You Know About These Great Monthly Media Services?

Summer Mailings - If you are heading north for the summer but still want to receive a printed copy of your monthly newsletter, just call our office and sign up for Monthly Media's Summer Mailing Service. We will ship (USPS 1st Class) a printed copy of each month's newsletter to your northern address, for as long as you're away, the cost is \$4 per month. Dozens of residents are already taking advantage. Please see our brightly colored insert for more information.

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 located the bottom of this page.



Emporium/Classified Listing - Do you have an event in your community such as a Bake Sale or Flea Market? An item for sale like an old set of golf clubs that needs to go? Help needed or vendors wanted for an event? Maximize the people that see your listing and use the Emporium! Your listing will be printed & delivered to over 20,000 homes in Pinellas County. See the Emporium page toward the end of the newsletter for more info.



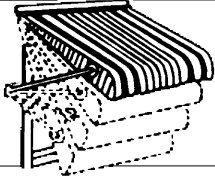
Larger Print Newsletters - At the request of some residents we are now offering Larger Print Newsletters to those who request them. The newsletter type will be approximately 20% larger (16 pt article body type vs. 12 pt normally). There is a small service charge of \$2 per newsletter for those who request. The larger type newsletters can either be delivered to you every month like they are now or we can mail them directly to your home for an additional \$2 per issue shipping charge. Please call Monthly Media (phone number listed below) for more information.



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improvements and amenities; there are also things that we can do to show them that we deserve what we ask for by doing our part at our own home sites. Clean them up!

We have discussed the issue of rent increases until we are blue in the face with no apparent results other than it is only increasing by small increments each year. What we really would like is to see improvements and amenities that keep up with the rent increases.

This is where you come into play. You have a great team working for you but they need your input and ideas; they need your voice and backing for strength. Is this going to be your permanent home and a place you can be proud of or is it just a stop along the way?

I mentioned a Membership Drive. The Board has offered to award \$30 to the person who sells the most PAID Memberships by the 29th of May... but you have to sell at least 5 memberships to qualify. Here are the rules:

- ✓ You can take a pledge from someone as long as they pay before the 29th (\$12.00 per household)

- ✓ If anyone wants to pledge now and pay by the 29th, you will still get credit for that paid pledge

- ✓ Recruiters can include themselves in their 'count' if they are also paying for a membership for themselves

- ✓ For every 5 memberships you sell, your name will go into a drawing for chances to win the \$30 so there will be no 'ties'

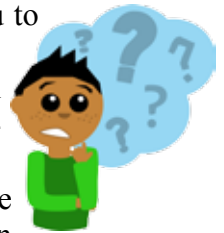
Then in June, the HOA will host an Italian Dinner for Members only to express their gratitude. Now start selling and Good Luck to all ...

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Cliff says there's not too much coming into the mail slot these days and yet I hear things as I go about my day in the park. This is a great opportunity for you to express concerns or get answers to your questions.

Remember that you can submit these things any time; just write them down and sign them (so that if Cliff or a board member needs to talk to you personally, they'll know who to reach) and slide them into the slot.

Doing this in advance of the meeting gives the Board time to provide the most honest, accurate answer to your question or if it is a subject for discussion, the Board will be better prepared with facts to present at the following meeting.





KNOW YOUR HOA BOARD

This article was published in last month's Courier but I wanted to print it again in case you missed it and I think it's worth giving you another chance to read it. He made some very valid and important points.

INTERVIEW WITH OUR HOA PRESIDENT - CLIFF SHAFFER

Cliff Shaffer describes himself as an ordinary, simple and humble person, who has problems and situations in everyday life just like everyone else. He says he is grateful to my family and friends who have always supported him.

Cliff is on his 2nd term as President of the HOA. In his first term, he and his Board worked to acquire an updated park prospectus which is something that has been difficult for us to get from management for a very long time. We should see the results of that very soon.

Cliff is slowly bringing back some of the activities that residents have enjoyed in the past such as our monthly breakfasts. He has indicated that as long as residents are coming out to show that they enjoy these things, activities will be increased.


He reminded us that past Management had stopped all of our activities because of the many complaints and issues brought to her office by a few unhappy residents. Cliff added that due to these same issues, turnout to our activities and events had become very low which depleted money from our budget and was, in general, hurting the morale of the majority of our residents. All of us suffered! He added that many of these issues have consequently been resolved and that with the help of his Board, will continue to move forward in a positive direction.

Cliff continues to speak with Management (when possible) on behalf of ALL home owners about the condition of the roads and other community concerns and problems. Some issues have been taken care of but many have not yet been resolved. He promises he will continue working for the betterment of the park.

Cliff stated that one key to the success of having a happy and peaceful park is RESPECT for each other. We don't have to agree about everything somebody says but we don't have to fight about it either. We don't need to bully people and have gossip sessions and whisper about others. Life is too short for that. We can accomplish so much more with understanding and RESPECT.

He added that his plan is to continue the good work that has been started. He would like for everyone to get involved in their community in such a way that will benefit all of the community. He would like for all our residents to take part in the activities, meetings and have positive conversations with people so they'll know what's going on: to come to the functions, to get involved and to meet and get to know the people around them; to come out of their houses and live the free and happy lives that they should be living at this time of their lives. We have a beautiful park. Get out and enjoy it while you can!

Cliff and his Board want to emphasize that fact that there is "Strength in Numbers". If ten people go to Management or Corporate with a complaint they will know that 10 people are not



happy... so what?!

If 100 people have that same complaint, they will sit up and know that the grievance is a serious one and they better pay attention because these people are sticking together and they mean business!

One way you can show your strength is to become a member of the HOA. For only \$12 a year, per household you have a valid voice and you become a part of a community that will stand up for their rights as residents and fight for what they need for their community. Stand Together!! Your \$12 not only pays for activities and expenses, it pays for **CLOUT**.

To say that the HOA doesn't do anything is just wrong! And to use that as an excuse not to join is part of a problem. Remember what Cliff said, "Strength in Numbers!" If we have a whole park backing us, we have **CLOUT**. Clout is what we need to get the Big Wigs to know we're not going to just sit back and take the little that they offer.

FMO NEWS

Since 1962, FMO has not only enthusiastically supported the rights of manufactured home owners, but has innovatively anticipated problems and moved to preemptively strike any attempts by park owners to challenge those rights. Ever vigilant, FMO's Board of Directors, Lobbyists, and Legal Counsel, keep watchful eyes on Tallahassee and on the industry, sentries that ensure that you remain safe at home.

(The above brief article was taken from our FMO publication.)

A Silver Membership for 1 year is \$25. See me for an application to join or go online to: www.fmo1.org

Applications will also be available at the HOA Meetings.

At this time our park has 4 Annual members and 1 Life Time member.

To help you better understand what FMO means to you and why as a Mobile Home Owner you need to have them 'watching your back' and protecting you from Park Owners' sometimes underhanded ways, see me (Violet): I'll give you information explaining exactly what it is FMO does to protect our rights under Florida Statutes 723. NO ONE else will fight for you like they do!

NOT SO FLUSHABLE!

FYI – our sewer pipes are very old --- about 60 years old and things were done differently back then. Recently while talking to a plumber who was working on the Clubhouse bathroom clog I got to know how things are connected in our underground sewer system and I came to this conclusion: Nothing should go into our toilets except what was meant to go into our toilets! No paper towels, no napkins, no tampons, no baby wipes or 'adult' wipes. No one wants the cost or inconvenience of non-working toilets and the embarrassment of having our back yards dug up to fix a problem that we could have prevented! Think before you flush!

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EVENTS IN MAY

Submitted by *Richie Vega*

■ FACTS

May is the fifth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days.

May is a month of Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere and spring in the Northern Hemisphere (Summer in Europe). Therefore May in the Southern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent of November in the Northern Hemisphere and vice versa. No other month begins or ends on the same day of the week as May in any year. This month is the only month to have these two properties. However, May like all other months does share starting and ending days with various months of both previous and following years: every year, May starts and ends on the same day of the week as January of the following year.

Additionally, in years immediately before common years, May starts and ends on the same day of the week as October of the following year; it also ends on the same day of the week as February of the following year. In years immediately before leap years, May starts on the same day of the week as April of the following year; it also both starts and ends on the same day of the week as July of the following year.

In a common year, May both starts and ends on the same day of the week as August of the previous year; it also ends on the same day of the week as November of the previous year. In a leap year, May both starts and ends on the same day of the week as March of the previous year; it also starts on the same day of the week as November and ends on the same day of the week as June, both of the previous year. In a leap and a year immediately after that, May starts on the same day of the week as February of the previous year.

■ SYMBOLS

Its birth flower is the Lily of the Valley and the *Crataegus monogyna*. It is native through the cool temperature Northern Hemisphere in Asia, Europe, and in the southern Appalachian Mountains in the United States, but has been naturalized throughout the temperature climatic world.

- Its birthstone is the emerald which is emblematic of love and success.
- The zodiac signs for the month of May are Taurus (until May 20) and Gemini (May 21 onwards).
- The “mayflower” *Epigaea repens* is a North American harbinger of May, and the floral emblem of both Nova Scotia and Massachusetts. Its native range extends from Newfoundland south to Florida, west to Kentucky in the southern range, and to Northwest Territories in the north.

■ MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES

- Italian Heritage Month
- National Stroke Awareness Month

...continued on page 15

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- 
- National Brain Tumor Awareness Month
 - Jewish American Heritage Month
 - Mental Health Awareness Month
 - National Military Appreciation Month
 - Skin Cancer Awareness Month
 - National Bike Month (in the United States)
 - National Foster Care Month
 - National Electrical Safety Month
 - National Burger Month
 - Hepatitis Awareness Month
 - National Osteoporosis Month
 - National Pet Month
 - National Water Safety Month
 - National Golf Month

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Submitted by Ricardo Vega

The Neighborhood Watch consists on the participation of EVERY resident in our park who wants to feel protected and take a part in making Crystal Lake a safer place to live.

There are many ways in which you can help. As for now, we provide you a partial list of things you can do:

a) Be a Watch Captain - Collect information from patrols in your designated area, remind people in your area about meetings and encourage them to attend.

b) Be a Street-Patroller - make a note of anything you see that seems suspicious on your daily walks such as unidentified vehicles (We're looking into getting decals for authorized cars), people walking or biking through looking into carports or walking between houses, etc.

c) Be a Window Watcher - Be more observant and take a minute or two to make a note of anything you see on your street that just doesn't look right. Save this information for your Watch Captain to deliver to the Coordinator for record-keeping or a necessary action.



So you see there's something for everyone to do to have a part in keeping our park safer and always remember: If you see something suspicious, pick up the phone and call the Pinellas Park Police Department at (727) 541-0758.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Submitted by Ricardo Vega

EIGHT THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. "Of course I look familiar. I was just here last week posing as a door-to-door salesman."
2. "If I leave an advertising flyer on your door, you will tell me if you are home by seeing how long it takes for you to pick it up."
3. "I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions or if you've seen my "lost pet" or offer to do work around your home. Then, I'll move to the next house where nobody answers the door."
4. "When I case a neighborhood, I usually carry a clipboard. Sometimes I wear a "uniform" and try to sell you my "products or services." I never go out looking like a criminal."
5. "I'll break a window to get in even if it makes noise. It's human nature for your neighbor to wait to hear the sound again before he/she thinks there's something wrong. If he doesn't hear it again, he will go back to what he's doing."
6. "Be sure you talk about your vacation plans and dates on Facebook. It's easier than you think for me to find your address and visit your house while you are away."
7. "I'm not complaining but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system than leave your house without arming it?"
8. The two things I hate most: BARKING DOGS and NOISY NEIGHBORS."

SAFETY TIPS

Here are safety tips to keep in mind for your vehicle:

- ✓ Never leave any items or valuables in plain sight in your vehicle. Always lock packages, purses, electronic equipment and other items in the trunk.
- ✓ Always turn off your engine, roll up the windows, lock the doors and take your keys, even if you are just making a quick stop.
- ✓ Don't leave spare keys in your vehicle. An experienced thief knows all the hiding places; Store spare keys in your wallet.
- ✓ Park in well-lighted, visible areas near your destination. Avoid parking close to trucks and other objects that obstruct visibility and provide hiding places.
- ✓ Check your vehicle if you hear the alarm sound, but don't try to stop a person attempting to break in. Get a good description of the person and call the police.
- ✓ Chain bicycles to stationary objects when unattended.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For a real emergency: Police, Fire, Medical, please dial 911.

For non-emergency situations, please call the Pinellas Park Police Department: (727) 541-0758

If you need to go to the Police Station:

Pinellas Park Police Department

7700 59th Street (Between 77th and 78th Avenues)

Pinellas Park, FL 33781

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MAY • 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
3	7P Homeowners' Meeting	4 6:30P - Sweatin' Oldies Cinc
10		11 6:30P - Sweatin' Oldies
	Mother's Day	
17		18 6:30P - Sweatin' Oldies
24		25 6:30P - Sweatin' Oldies
	Memorial Day	
31		

Crystal Lake

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30P Bingo & Snack Bar	2
7:30P n' to the 5	6 6P Line Dancing	6P- 7P Sweatin' to the Oldies 7P - 10P Game Night National Day of Prayer	8 6:30P Bingo & Snack Bar	9
7:30P n' to the 12	13	6P- 7P Sweatin' to the Oldies 7P - 10P Game Night	15 6:30P Bingo & Snack Bar	16
7:30P n' to the 19	20 6P Line Dancing	6P- 7P Sweatin' to the Oldies 7P - 10P Game Night Happy B'day Marlene Lloyd	22 6:30P Bingo & Snack Bar	23
7:30P n' to the 26	27	6P- 7P Sweatin' to the Oldies 7P - 10P Game Night	29 6:30P Bingo & Snack Bar	30
				JUNE 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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NEW NEIGHBORS

Have you seen many new faces lately? Yes, they are our new neighbors that found their homes in Crystal Lake. So, next time you see them around, say "HI" to them and make them feel welcome. Information provided here was collected by Richie (Neighborhood Watch Patrol), ordered by home number and collected from people that moved to the park recently.

205 Ryan
186 Adelina & Jenny
183 Jason & Jodee
171 Laura



NOTE: Our apologies to Jenny, 93186, who was not mentioned during our April edition of the Crystal Lake Courier.

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BINGO & SNACK BAR

Every Friday night is a night of fun and fellowship with good friends. For just a short walk to the clubhouse and a \$5.00 investment per a 10-game packet, you can expect about 2-plus hours of fun.

The snack bar is open early so that you can munch while you socialize and play.

You are asked you to show up by 6:30pm to buy your \$5.00 and \$1.00 tickets and find a good seat with your friends. Play begins at 7pm.

If you don't play Bingo, you are always invited to come and have a cheeseburger or hotdog dinner before bingo and visit with the players.

Cliff has been our "caller" most nights and does a superb job but if you are interested in helping out by "calling bingo" occasionally, please call Cliff 727-504-7012 so we can give him a break.

NOTE: Thank you so much: Cliff, Belinda, Richie, Margie, Maria and anyone else (whom I might have missed) for the wonderful jobs you do each week to give us a fun-filled night of entertainment and food. We all enjoy and look forward to our Friday nights in the CH. We know you work hard while we play and we just want you all to know that you are very much appreciated.



LINE DANCING



Line dancing is entertaining and great exercise! You should come out and give it a try. Sherry and Ginny are there to provide music, instruction and dance with you the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 6:00 – 7:30pm.

You can always go at your own pace. You can take a break and rest for a while and then get up and go again. It's also fun to watch while you catch your breath. If you like synchronized dancing, this is for you!

SWEATIN' TO THE OLDIES

The turnout for the first week of Sweatin' to the Oldies was a great success. We counted sweatin' (exercising) and chillin' (watching). You gotta love that Rock & Roll! Make it a date to get into shape every Tuesday and Thursday with the guys and girls dancing to the Oldies. See you there.



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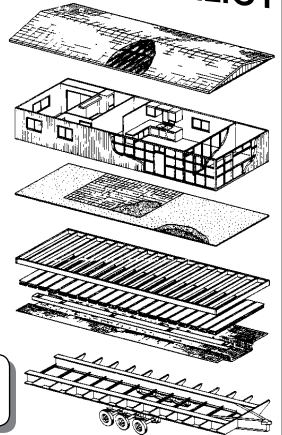
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Maybe you'd like to shoot some pool (billiards) or take a dip in the pool after; I hear the water is just right. Not too hot, not too cold.

LET'S GO FISHING!

Fishing is one of the things our park offers that is available to everyone anytime. Not only is it relaxing but can be very exciting when you reel in that "big one". Our lake has all sizes and many kinds of fish including, blue gill, tilapia, large-mouth bass, catfish, and others.

Most of us have a "catch and release" policy but if you want to fry up a few of your catch, go right ahead. You don't need a fancy pole... pretty much anything with a line and a hook will bring you hours of fun.



WEBSITES YOU MIGHT LIKE

www.allrecipes.com
www.dictionary.com
www.flylady.com




DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

► [EZride Program](#) – this is a fee for service transportation program offered by Neighborly Care network. The program serves Pinellas county residents aged 55 and older, and disabled residents.

EZride service is offered for ANY trip purpose in Pinellas County with destinations that also include southern Pasco, as well as specific destinations in northern Hillsborough, such as H. Lee Moffitt Cancer center, the VA Hospital/Medical Clinic and the University of South Florida Medical clinics at a flat rate fee.

...continued on page 26



EZride requires an annual membership fee of just \$25, which can be given as a gift. The cost of each trip is based on a \$3.00 pickup fee plus a charge of \$1.50 per mile for each one-way trip. You can visit the website at www.Neighborly.org or call 727-571-4384. Not too bad for a quick trip to the Dr. or the Grocery store or pharmacy.

► Neighborly Care Network Senior Services Transportation Program is the second option.

This is a door to door service, pick up and drop off for medical appointments. At this time there is NO FEE for adults who are 60 or older or transportation disadvantaged and not on Medicaid

Medical trips must be within 10 mile radius from pick-up. Vehicles are wheelchair accessible. Clients must register by phone before service begins.

Call to register: 727-571-4384

DECISIONS ... HOW TO MAKE THE BEST!

Sarie de Jesús

You wake up in the morning and it's inevitable that a series of questions go through your mind: What do I eat for breakfast? What clothes should I wear? What shall I do today? The answer to these questions depends on something very important in the life of every human being: "Decisions". Some are very relevant, and others are simple everyday questions. But the decisions that often really worry us are those that can most affect our environment significantly. These are the decisions that often make us stop to think how much we are willing to risk if we are wrong in that decision.

But, how do we know which the right decisions are if we are not a prophet and don't know the future? While the future is unpredictable, every decision involves some level of risk. By evaluating the risks, it helps to see if our course of action is reasonable. Although we are not psychic there are some important elements to consider and evaluate when making important decisions, and today I share them with you.

- Avoid getting obsessed with right or wrong decisions. There are decisions that seem wrong but can bring good results, while those that seem perfect won't work. The important thing is to assume any result by finding ways to learn from the acquired experience.

- If you are in doubt, it is not the time to decide. Wait to feel safer in the decision by exploring alternatives and possible consequences.

- Zero self-deception. Sometimes we tend to find reasons that endorse our ideas and reject the reasons that question them. We do worse when we surround ourselves with people who think like us. It never hurts to evaluate issues with people who see things differently as it can help us evaluate things that were not seen before.



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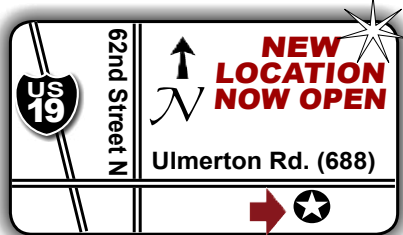
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- 
- Avoid impulses. Usually decisions that are made lightly without reflection nor analyzing the consequences, lead us to repentance. Rarely luck is involved.
 - Do not rely so much on others. By letting go of everything, making decisions in accordance with the opinions or wishes of others only pleases the aspirations of others and not you. In the end you will always feel dissatisfied.
 - On the other hand, don't be too independent. Listening to others never hurts because it will help you explore and balance options and risks.
 - Be rational, seek information, analyze, explore and prepare to take the risk that involves the decision made.
 - Avoid harming others with your decisions. Sooner or later selfishness takes its toll with negative results.
 - Follow your values, remembering that you are a product of your conscience and what you do to improve as a person. There is nothing like a tranquil conscience to feel peace whichever be the final result.

Success in your decisions!

CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo is annually observed on May 5. It celebrates the defeat of the French army during the Battle of Puebla (Batalla de Puebla) in Mexico on May 5, 1862. It is not to be confused with Mexico's Independence Day.

Cinco de Mayo is a day of Mexican pride and heritage.

Cinco de Mayo is seen as a day to celebrate the culture, achievements and experiences of people with a Mexican background, who live in the United States. There is a large commercial element to the day, with businesses promoting Mexican services and goods, particularly food, drinks and music. Other aspects of the day center around traditional symbols of Mexican life, such as the Virgin de Guadalupe, and Mexican-Americans who have achieved fame, fortune and influence in the United States.

One of the largest Cinco de Mayo celebrations are in cities such as Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, San Antonio, Sacramento, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Denver and El Paso in the USA's south-western regions. In these cities, a large proportion of the population has Mexican origins. Many people hang up banners and school districts organize lessons and special events to educate their pupils about the culture of Americans of Mexican descent. In some areas, particularly in Pubelo de Los Angeles, celebrations of regional Mexican music and dancing are held.

Cinco de Mayo officially commemorates the anniversary of an early victory by Mexican forces over French forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. It is not the anniversary of the defeat and expulsion of the French forces by the Mexicans, which occurred in 1867. It is also not, as is often assumed, the day of Mexico's celebrations of independence, which are actually held on September 16. It is believed that the origins of Cinco de Mayo celebrations lie in the responses of Mexicans living in California in the 1860s to French rule in Mexico at that time.

Source: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/cinco-de-mayo>

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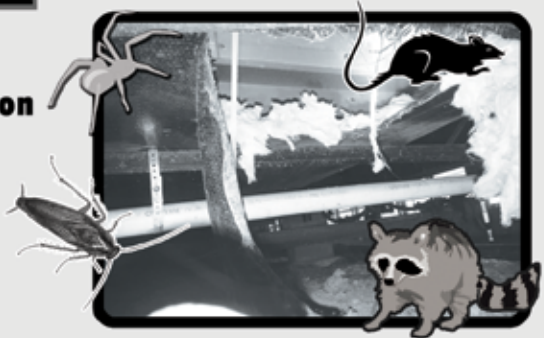


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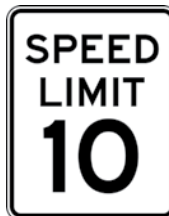
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SPEED LIMIT

The speed limit in the park has always been 10 mph. Watch out for dog walkers, bicycles, golf carts and wildlife (birds, ducks and otters) especially at intersections and blind corners. Please remind your guests to drive slowly and cautiously when in the park also. Let's all try to be safe and injury free.

We still have many speeders in the park. PLEASE SLOW DOWN



RECIPES

Mexican Rice

Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 1 (14 ounce) can beef broth
- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers
- 1 (15 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon minced cilantro
- 1 1/2 cups uncooked white rice
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese



Directions:

1. In a medium stock pot, brown the ground beef over medium heat. Drain any fat. Add onion and green pepper. Cook until onion is tender.
2. Stir in the beef broth, corn, tomatoes with green chile peppers and tomato sauce. Add salsa, chili powder, paprika, garlic powder, salt, pepper and cilantro. Mix thoroughly. Bring to a boil and stir in rice.
3. Cover and cook until rice is done, about 25 minutes.
4. Sprinkle Cheddar cheese over the mixture and continue cooking 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted.

MEXICAN TORTILLA SOUP RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cups water
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) stewed tomatoes
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes with green chilies, un-drained
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed tomato soup, undiluted
- 1 can (10-1/2 ounces) beef broth
- 1 can (10-1/2 ounces) chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 10 corn tortillas (6 inches)
- Shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream and sliced green onions, optional



Directions:

1. In a Dutch oven, sauté onion in oil until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in the next 13 ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1-1/2 hours or until beef is tender.
2. Tear tortillas into bite-size pieces; add to soup. Simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes; let stand for 5 minutes. Garnish individual servings with cheese, sour cream and onions if desired. Yield: 10 servings (2-1/2 quarts).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

21 - Marlene Lloyd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We are unaware of any wedding anniversaries this month.

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Thanks!

-Monthly Media Staff

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

***We would like to acknowledge all birthdays and anniversaries in our newsletter each month. Because this information was gathered at the Meet and Greet, not everyone was available to fill out the very short form. Please call, e-mail me or see me so that I can get this information from you. Thank you so much for your participation.

STOP CALLING ME!!!!

Are you bothered by telemarketers or solicitors calling you? Here's the solution.

Pursuant to its authority under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), the FCC established, together with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), a national Do-Not-Call Registry. The registry is nationwide in scope, applies to all telemarketers (with the exception of certain non-profit organizations), and covers both interstate and intrastate telemarketing calls. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if your number is on the registry, subject to certain exceptions. As a result, consumers can, if they choose, reduce the number of unwanted phone calls to their homes.



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Subscribers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call registry by telephone or by Internet at no cost.

Consumers can register on-line for the national do-not-call registry by going to www.donotcall.gov. To register by telephone, consumers may call 1-888-382-1222; for TTY call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the phone number you wish to register.

SOURCE: <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/do-not-call-list>

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(Allow 4-6 weeks for mailing of check). **This month's cash winners are:**

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Scott Ellsworth \$10.00	Donna Bucher - Wagner Realty	Sharon Schlemmel \$5.00	Notebooks Plus
Jan Hart \$10.00	Sage Biscuit Café	Lois Howd \$5.00	Bill the Carpet Guy
Jim Maher \$10.00	Air Masters of Pinellas	John Hemeon \$5.00	E & E Gliddon Air
Terry Agona \$10.00	Ray Duncan Plumbing	Benjamin Dorsey \$5.00	Bob's Mobile Home Washing
Mary Buote \$10.00	Chambers Specialty Inc.	Blake Starratt \$5.00	Barron's A/C & Appliance Service
Jim Schroder \$10.00	Battleline Termite & Pest Control	Sue Vossler \$5.00	Largo Plumbing Co.
Lee Armstrong \$10.00	Heller's Mobile Home Washing	Marilyn Webb \$5.00	Buggin Out Termite & Pest Control
Julie Poloncarz \$10.00	Shonna Bender Massage Therapy	Fred Catterall \$5.00	Doll Bros. Carpet Cleaners
Diane Connolly \$10.00	Sunset Appliance Service	Bob Drucis \$5.00	Air Masters of Pinellas
F. C. Smith \$10.00	Recreational Golf Cars of FL	Robert Wert \$5.00	Imperial Electric Service of Pinellas
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