

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!!

Ocean Resorts Island Times

December, 2019

LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON By Judy Smolarek

About 50 ladies enjoyed delicious salads, sandwiches and desserts at the Activities Committee's annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 16th in the Rec Hall. Conversations were shared with friends and everyone participated in a Christmas trivia game. Christmas Cacti were the door prizes and they added to the Christmas theme decorations.

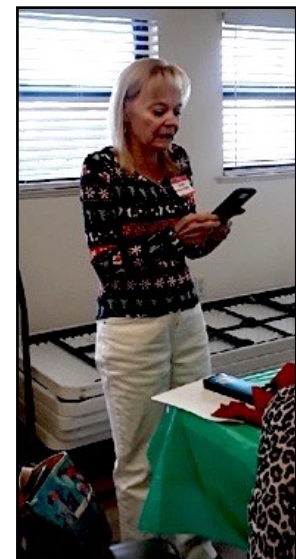
Many thanks to all those who helped decorate, set up and clean up. Everyone enjoyed their afternoon.



Photos by Elizabeth Flaherty



Photos by
Lee Koesema



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT UP NIGHT

Sponsored by the Beautification Committee; Mary Dombro, Chairperson

A large group of residents attended the annual lighting of the Ocean Resorts' Christmas tree, on Sunday, December 8th. The Christmas spirit was definitely in the air! Both young and old helped to decorate the tree. All participated in a couple of fun Christmas activities followed by the countdown to the lighting of the tree. Refreshments were enjoyed by all, thanks to the Activities Committee. Poinsettias were presented to winners of those individuals whose raffle tickets were drawn because they made a non-perishable donation towards the food pantry.

Many thanks goes to Donna Comolli and all the volunteers who helped decorate the park for the Christmas holiday. Your time and effort is very much appreciated.



Photos from Mary Dombro



More Beautification Committee News

By Mary Dombro

As you stroll through the park, it is very difficult to not notice all the variety of plants that are growing in the common areas. This is all due to the "green thumb" talents of Ray Zwart. He told me that he experiments with many plants just to see which ones would grow best in particular areas. In my opinion, he has done a fabulous job to enhance the beauty of the park.

Now that the Clubhouse has been beautifully renovated, the Chicken Barbecue will return on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Look for details on the Post Office bulletin board in early February.

MANAGER'S REPORT by Donna Perez

I hope everyone is well and all had a Happy Thanksgiving. Season is here and a lot of you have arrived just in time for Christmas.

Hurricane season officially ended on November 30th and thankfully we were spared yet another year. I thank everyone for their cooperation following the rules and By-Laws this season.

As most of you know, the Clubhouse is open and operational. There are a few things left to be done but we are close to 100% completion.

We have had some problems with garbage over the last few weeks as seen in the pictures below.



It seems after hours when the staff is gone, people are hauling their trash to the garbage truck and either piling it up or setting it on the ground front of the truck. Nine times out of ten the animals have gotten to it by the morning and have made quite the mess leaving needles, diapers, sanitary products and many other hazardous items on the ground for our staff and volunteers to clean the following morning.

Garbage is picked up curbside three times a week and I ask that you please hold your items for pick-up day. If you are leaving on a weekend and need someone to take your trash can up from the road for you we would be happy to do so. Just send the office an email or call and we will arrange it for you. There are many times large debris items get left down at the storage area (such as construction debris). The trash truck is not meant for such items and these must be hauled away by yourself or the contractor completing the work. I am working on getting an open top dumpster here over the next few weeks for bulk items. We will do this a few times a year.

December quarterlies were mailed out. Just a friendly reminder that they are due January 1st and are considered late if received after the 2nd since the 1st is a Holiday.

The office will be closed and staff will be off to celebrate Christmas with their families on December 24th and December 25th. We will return to business as usual on Thursday the 26th.

I hope everyone has a safe and joyous Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE by Pat Broderick

We have two meetings scheduled (2nd and 4th Thursday's) @ 10:00 January thru April. That, of course, is based on the Board of Director's directions AND that if Board continues meeting on the third Thursday of the month.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Ocean resorts I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all Happy Holidays with family and friends.

We are making headway with the clubhouse; It is usable! On Thanksgiving, the Activities Committee sponsored a very successful dinner at the hall and is planning another one for Christmas.

The new garbage truck is on the road and looks and runs great. Joe Harding has posted a schedule of both drivers and helpers to work the truck. New volunteers are always needed.

We have received bids from engineering firms and have awarded a contract to Carter Associates to oversee the Sewer project. They are in the process of acquiring bids to do the job. This project could be costly and will probably require an assessment.

On a brighter note, our new Dock Master, Andy Stanish, is doing a great job. The Marina Committee plans to continue with both the Spaghetti dinner and the Fishing Derby with hotdog roast. It seems like the Marina could be full this season.

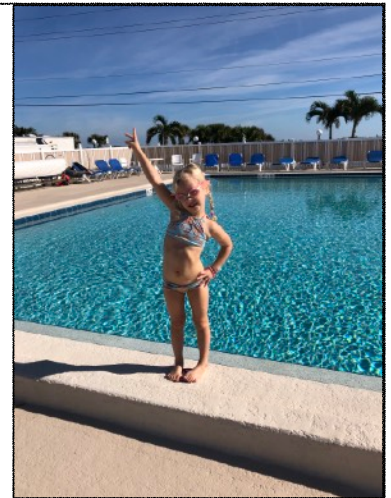
Many of the committees are in need of new members. What makes our community so unique is the social environment, so please step up and volunteer. All of the activities here at Ocean Resort are run by your friends and neighbors.

For those traveling back to us after the holidays, have a safe trip.

"Until we meet again"
David Comolli

POOL COMMITTEE by Sue Ertel

The pool was a very popular hang-out during the month of November. Weather was perfect, but the nights are starting to get cooler. We need volunteers to help cover the pool when the temperatures drop below 65 degrees. If you can help, even if it means signing up as a sub, please sign my Volunteer Sheet hanging in the back of the Post Office.



I am back in NY until 1/7. When I return, I will be organizing the Committee schedule. Thank you to Nancy and John Provance for putting up the wind shields. Our winter swimmers appreciate this very much. Also, coming this winter - lane ropes will be added for our morning lap swimmers.

(Photo is of Jim and Sue Ertel's granddaughter, Scottie.)



BOCCE by Mary Dombro and Luxy LeClair

This is a reminder to all interested in playing bocce this season. We begin Monday, January 13, 2020 or January 15, 2020. The league is nine weeks long, with a tournament and pizza party during the tenth week. Sign-up sheets are in the Post Office on a clip board. Please indicate your interest by January 7th or you can email us and we will put your name on the list.

mawdombro@hotmail.com

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Submitted by Judy Smolarek

With the Clubhouse open, the Activities Committee is bustling with events. We already held our first Flea Market with a Hamburger/Hot Dog Roast in November. The Ladies Christmas Luncheon was moved to December 16 and the Children's Christmas Eve Party is being planned, along with the Christmas Day Pot Luck Dinner.



Many events are planned in January that are sponsored by our group. The next Flea Market, Hamburger/Hot Dog Roast is planned for January 8th. On the 11th, we will supply "goodies" for the "Meet the Candidates" afternoon. January 13th we will host a Pampered Chef demonstration in the Club House. The following day we will once again have our Chili Bowl, so save the date for lunch. The final activity for January will be our Second Annual Poker Run, followed by Happy Hour in the Pavilion.



More items are being ordered for our OR Logo "store". Shirts, hats, etc. can be purchased in the office or at the Flea Markets, along with the latest edition of OR Directories.

The Activities Committee would like to thank everyone in advance for attending and supporting our functions. Any monies earned are put back into Ocean Resorts for such things as benches on the beach.

New members or even just occasional helpers are always welcomed. Check Bulletin Board for details.

SOCIAL EVENTS

by Donna Comolli

After many, many years, Kathy Bruckler and her dedicated committee have decided to step down and have passed the reins down to me. I am asking for volunteers for this committee, as many hands make light work!!

Our big event is the Luau in March, which is the most popular one of the season!! We also have the Western Dance in January and the Oktoberfest in the fall.

Kathy has given me all her information for the events so we don't have to re-event the wheel. Please give me a call/text or stop in and see me if you would like to help out on this committee. Thanks for your help!!

401-744-6912

5288 Keel Way

YOGA

by Nancy Wilder



Yoga will start the season on January 6th from 10:00 to 11:00 am, in the Clubhouse. Julie will be there to guide new and experienced practitioners in balance, stretch and strength postures.

Don't worry if you have never done yoga before. Its a coed non-judgmental exercise that is kind to your body. Everyone is welcome in a yoga class.

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat (available everywhere now). I look forward to seeing you.

OCEAN RESORTS "HAPPY HOUR" by Sharon English

SEASON SCHEDULE 2019-2020

This year HAPPY HOUR will be from 5:00-7:00 PM at the pavilion. It is a BYOB & APPETIZER to share event. All residents, guests and renters are welcome to meet up with old and new friends. Look for Happy Hour posters with information at the post office every month.

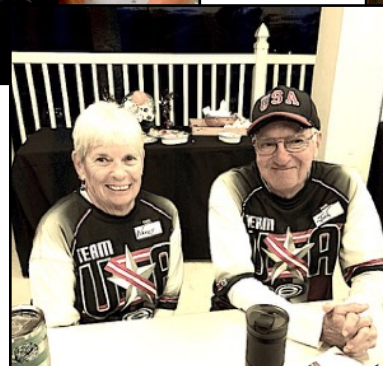
HAPPY HOUR this year will have a monthly theme, as listed below:

- *Tuesday, December 31st - NEW YEARS EVE 5:00-8:00 PM
(Followed by the bonfire on the beach).
- *Thursday, January 30th - HAPPY HOUR-POKER RUN
(Happy Hour will follow the Poker Run at 5:00 PM).
- *Thursday, February 27th - MARDI GRAS 5:00-7:00 PM.
- *Thursday, March 26th - BYE BYE Snow/BIRDIES 5:00-7:00.
- *Thursday, April 30th - National Bugs Bunny Day-hop!

Thank you to Wilma and Scott Gebhard for volunteering to help with set up and clean up each month. Any questions call Sharon or Tom English at 412-445-8209.



HALLOWEEN (October) and TEAM SPIRIT (November) HAPPY HOUR PICTURES





OCEAN RESORTS TENNIS SEASON 2020

By Gary Gardiner

Welcome to another fun filled season of tennis at Ocean Resorts! Our programs will begin the first of January and are open to all levels of tennis, Open Round Robin for all levels is **held every evening** at 5:00-6:00. No sign up necessary...just come with a racket and enjoy! It's a lot of fun and a chance to meet people.

Ladies: Morning Tennis is at 9-10 a.m. and 11-noon Monday - Friday

Contact Cathy Moon - jimoon@aol.com or 772-465-2814 if interested in playing.

Ladies' Afternoon Tennis is 4-5p.m. Monday - Friday

See tennis bulletin board for sign-up. We are looking for someone to do the scheduling. If interested, please contact Gary Gardiner at 410-465-2199.

Men's Morning Tennis is 8-9 a.m. and 10-11 Monday - Friday

Contact Marie Glover - mculver524@gmail.com or 231-327-2282

Men's Afternoon Tennis is 3-4 p.m. Monday - Friday

If anyone is interested, a sign up sheet will be at the tennis courts.

Lessons for beginners and intermediates will be held again this year with Bob Obidinski, Dean Rayle and Evertt Ekland. Days and dates will be announced later.

Tentative Dates for special events are:

Mixed Doubles Tournament: January 25 & 26

Blue & Red Team Tournament: Feb. 14, 15, and 21 (at night)

Pancake Breakfast: Feb. 19

Men's and Ladies Doubles Tournament: TBA

End of the Season Party: March 14th The theme this year is **High School Prom**. The event will be coordinated by Jan and John Sheehan and held at the Irish American Club in Vero. We are hoping, like in the past, that many will volunteer to assist them! If you'd be willing to help in any way please contact either of them. Nan92551@msn.com or 712-490-6728. This is always a fun time!!! Put your thinking caps on for great costumes, gowns, tuxes etc. and decorations!

We're looking forward to another great season of tennis !

Gary Gardiner (President) ggardiner11@yahoo.com 401-465-2199

V. President: Bob Tobias, Sec.: Cathy Moon, Treas.: Marie Glover, Bd. Liaison-Bob Fusco

DON'T FORGET the Ocean Resorts WEBSITE!!

<https://www.oceanresortscopinc.org>

Especially during season you will find information about upcoming events, an updated Activity Schedule, updated listings for Sales and Rentals, all important shareholder documents, including ByLaws, Rules and Regulations, Quarterly Statement Information, and Proprietary Lease information. You can also find past issues of the Ocean Resorts Island Times and links to the Ocean Resorts History website and other pertinent websites related to Ocean. Resorts.

Look for upcoming information about an on-line Trading Post to sell and trade furniture, golf carts, and other items. I am hoping to get that started sometime in January.



MEDITATION by Nancy Wilder

Do you know about labyrinths? A labyrinth is a winding path moving in and out towards a center, like a spiral. I have read that labyrinths have been dated back 3500 years. They have been called a tool for meditation, and help in dealing with grief and anger. I walk a labyrinth at a Unity Center on Cape Cod, but I heard there was one in Vero. "My" northern labyrinth is painted on a cracked tar parking lot, behind a busy urban area. Some paths have mountain or water views, But its not the setting, its the rhythmic slow walking, eyes down, aware of your steps, you fall into a sense of peace. You begin to practice walking meditation. As soon as I return, I'll check out the location of labyrinths in our area. Maybe we can do a road trip!

Meditation on Monday starts 4:00 to 5:00 PM at my home, starting January 6th. **All are welcome.**

MAHJONG by Nancy Wilder

Another season starts at Ocean Resorts! Mahjong will begin January 13th at 6:30 PM in the Clubhouse. I have not played in so long, I'll have to be at the beginner's table, so all you new players, don't be intimidated. As usual we will have betting and non-betting tables (three dollar limit, if you lose that much you play for free). Also there will be someone to help you get started learning the game. Feel free to bring a beverage of choice. This is a fun event.



On Wednesdays at 12:30 PM, Mahjong players will meet in the card room by the office. Traditionally we have newer players on Wednesdays but there's always a good group of experienced players as well. Sometimes a day game fits the schedule better.

I look forward to seeing you.



MORNING EXERCISE GROUP by Donna Comolli

The morning exercise group meets 9:00-10:00 AM everyday at the clubhouse. We exercise to Leslie Sansone walking/jogging tapes. You can go at your own pace and do one mile or four miles. Join the fun!!!



John Dombro and Spencer waiting for Mary on a rainy day!



THE OSPREY

First to greet us on our return to the beach was the osprey, wings spread soaring high overhead wearing the dark eye stripe of a bandit. A single loud, shrill chirping whistle *teeeeeaaa* heard from overhead. The osprey ever vigilant; hovers above the water, patrolling for fish hidden below.

Even though found across continental United States, there is something quintessentially Floridian about the Osprey where it is a year-round resident. Mostly solitary and weighing about three pounds, Osprey, also called sea hawk, fish hawk or river hawk, perch and nest on isolated trees, poles and towers. Besides fish, osprey eat rodents, hares, reptiles and other birds.

They mate for life and begin breeding when they are 3 to 5 years old. The large, rangy hawks do well around humans and have rebounded in numbers following the ban of the pesticide DDT.

Ospreys are unusual among hawks in possessing a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind. Barbed pads on the soles of the birds' feet help them grip slippery fish. When flying with prey, an Osprey lines up its catch head first for less wind resistance, kind of like a plane carrying a missile.

Studies have shown Osprey are excellent anglers, spending about 12 minutes catching fish on at least 1 in every 4 dives.

The name osprey is a Medieval Latin phrase for "bird of prey." The oldest known osprey was at least 25 years old and lived in Virginia, banded in 1973 and found in 1998.

THE MANTA RAY

In early November a group of us were privileged to witness a large flattened diamond shaped creature off the shore of our beach. A distant relative of the shark, it was a Manta Ray.

Manta Rays are sometimes called a devil ray because their pectoral fins form broad pointed 'wings' looking like a devil's horns. Mantas feed using their head fins to funnel plankton, fish, shrimp and other small marine creatures into their wide mouth.

THE NATURE OF OCEAN RESORTS

by Linda Smolarek

Unlike sharks, Manta Rays do not have teeth and instead sieve food particles out of the water using rows of tiny plates (gills) in their mouths.

Manta Rays have been noted to swim in circles, individuals "stack" behind one another while feeding. The one in front gets the most but they switch places as they swim so each gets a turn in the leader position.

They rest and splash on or about the surface, alone, in pairs or groups moving through the water column as if they are flying. Young develop in the mother's body and give birth to live offspring, producing one pup per year. Manta Rays frequent warm waters along continents and islands.

Manta Rays, just like their stingray cousins, have a long whip like tail, but there's nothing to worry about. They DON'T HAVE a poisonous tail stinger that many of their relatives have. Manta rays CANNOT hurt you. Manta rays are harmless to humans. Steve Irwin was killed by a stingray barb. And Manta rays teeth are not sharp enough to tear flesh and they rely on their large size to avoid predators.

A manta ray moves at a speed of 14 kph but can reach burst of up to 35 kph. Research has shown mantas have huge brains, the biggest of any fish with especially developed areas for learning, problem solving and communication. The giant rays are playful, curious and might even recognize themselves in mirrors, a sign of self-awareness, true of elephants, dolphins and people too. It is thought that they can live between 40 to 50 years but more information is needed to establish their exact longevity.



Manta Ray photo from viator.com
Osprey photo from Cornell Lab of
Ornithology

LET'S EAT OUT! by Sharon English

DINING OUT ON 14th AVENUE, VERO BEACH

Vero Beach has a great variety of restaurants in a few short blocks on 14th Avenue. Stroll down the street for a choice of international dining, a sophisticated steak house, Southern and more. I will list the places we have tried and would recommend.

There are some we haven't tried, so you will need to go exploring for yourself. Maybe you will discover a hidden gem and let me know about it.



BACI TRATTORIA

1918 14th Avenue, Vero Beach

772-794-4747

Open Daily 7am-3pm for Breakfast and Lunch

www.bacivero.com

BACI TRATTORIA'S website describes the bistro as a funky Italian food experience and it is! I have had the Lemon Ricotta pancakes, Poached Eggs over fried green tomatoes, Shrimp over polenta, and omelets. All were delicious and freshly cooked to order. The inside of BACI is very small but they now have delightful outside dining area in a covered patio. The new restaurant next door, PRIMA Pizza and Pasta, shares the outside dining area at certain times of the day. Tucked into a small shopping area, BACI is a little hidden gem for sure.

Other 14th Avenue restaurants we have tried are Taco Dive, Post & Vine, Southern Social, Saigon Sushi, Sean Ryan's, Vero Prime, and the Italian Kitchen. For more new restaurant ideas, I highly recommend the website Vero Beach Foodie. It's free to sign up and postings frequently have photos.

Art in the Park 2020 by Cibby Gardiner

Tuesday's 10:00-noon in the clubhouse or under the pavilion

We've got exciting projects for Art in the Park this season. Start collecting seashells – large ones and small, driftwood (small and medium size), bring any sea glass or similar items if you have any, mosaic tiles, glue guns etc.. Each week there will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard inside the Post Office in the back right hand corner. **PLEASE** make sure you sign up so the leader will know how many supplies to bring. We've had challenges in the past with folks not signing up and coming anyway. There weren't enough supplies for those that did sign up. NOTE: If you bring your own things you may attend without signing up!

Each week there will be flyers on most of the bulletin boards throughout Ocean Resorts explaining about the upcoming project. This is a fun morning, with new and old friends. All are welcome!! We're looking forward to seeing you all in 2020 and creating lots of fun and great crafts!

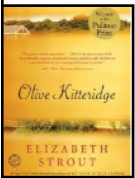
Art in the Park 2020 Schedule

- Jan. 7 – Cibby Gardiner – sea glass/pebbles on wooden blocks
Jan. 14 – Kathy Smith – TBA
Jan. 21 – Anita D’Ambrosia – driftwood key rack
Jan. 27 – Barb Reynolds – BLING Birdhouses or Fairy Homes
Feb. 4 – Kathy Jankovic – Magazine beads
Feb. 11 – Ray Zwart – dry air plants and holders
Feb. 18 – Carol Thorne – driftwood sailboats
Feb. 25 – Kathy Janovik – Bath salts scrub and decorative jar
Mar. 3 – Cibby Gardiner – driftwood/shell mermaids
Mar. 10 – Karen Stampfli – shell trees
Mar. 17 – Lona Sapoznika – mosaic jewelry holde
Mar. 24- Lona and Karen = finish projects (shell trees & mosaics)



The Art Show & Sale will be held on Sunday, February 23rd.

THE JOY OF READING by Nancy Wilder



I am writing this on December 3rd, on Cape Cod Ma. It's a snowy, cold day and I just put the tree up. This is my kind of reading day. A couple of years ago I read "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout. The location is a small town in Maine and the author writes beautifully of the Maine seacoast and the local people. Olive and her experiences remind me of "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine", the same odd but admirable lead character type. It was a bestseller (and a movie) and now she's back again. Aptly named "Olive Again", the book is a great read. The stories follow Olive as she ages. From living alone (the good and the bad), dealing with friends and family and even assisted living, Olive grows on you. There's a particularly poignant passage where Olive curls up with a transistor radio pressed against her ear, trying to block out the world with a stranger's voice. And then of course, the "poopy pants" will have you smiling. You will enjoy the books.

I belong to a book group on the Cape also. This month I want to share our book with Ocean Resorts. "**An Episode of Sparrows**", by Rumer Godden, is a hidden gem. Published in 1955, the author has written a wonderful book. The setting is post World War Two London. Two street tough kids want to build a garden in a town piled with bomb debris. As there are no public gardens and the children are not "allowed" to play in private gardens, Lovejoy and friend, Tip, plot how to plant a secret garden. Abandoned by her mother, being fostered by a colorful couple with their own problems, Lovejoy just wants to plant beautiful flowers.



Now this is more of a preview, but I'm reading "**The Dutch House**" by Ann Patchett, and I've been pulled in very quickly. A huge famous old house is the center backdrop of the novel. Two siblings (likable right away), motherless, live with their wealthy father and loving house staff. But then, a soon to be stepmother appears with her two young children. The book spans many generations and I'm anxious to see how this develops. Ann Patchett is a well known author and I have always enjoyed her books.

**"Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book" _
Jane Smiley**

Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 24 1:00-2:00 PM in Rec Hall



**MUST SIGN UP BY 12/21
IN POST OFFICE**

**Bring wrapped gift to rec hall ½ hour prior to party*



New Year's Eve

Bonfire on OR Beach

9:00 PM till...

Please bring chairs & beverages



Questions? Ask Judy & Dave Smolarek 5331 Montego Circle 716-397-8939

WEATHER PERMITTING!!

OR Chili Bowl

Tuesday - January 14, 2020
11:00-1:00 Club House

- Bowl of chili
- Cornbread muffin
- Various toppings & spicy seasonings
We make it mild, you spice it up!
- Lemonade or Iced tea

\$5.00 **Pre-sale** tickets only
Tickets sold at PO
3:00-4:00 p.m.
January 6, 8, 9, 10

Questions - contact
Kathy Jankovic
312-350-5298



WESTERN DANCE

The season has started!! Get your boots, hats and denim out, it's time for the Western Dance!!

It's a **free** event!!
Saturday, January 18th from 2-6 pm.

We have a great band, **Just Us**, so get ready for dancing!!

Please bring your own snacks/appetizers and beverages.

It's always a fun time - **YeeHaw!!**

Sponsored by the Social Committee,
Donna Comolli, Chairperson

Ocean Resorts Island Times Staff

Editor - Barb Goodman

Staff: Sharon English, Cibby Gardiner, Bill Howe, Lee Koesema, Linda Smolarek, Nancy Wilder

If you have ideas for articles, please email: bgoodman7@me.com