

# Ocean Resorts Island Times Newsletter March 2024

## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY!



## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE by Sue Ertel

March was a busy month starting with our second Wine Pairing event on March 5th. Nancy and Michel entertained an audience of 48. Nancy created delicious Grilled Shrimp Sushi and Lamb Lollipops served with pineapple chutney, and, of course, wine (and Saki).

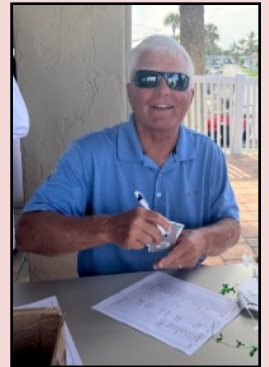


The Hot Dog/Hamburger Roast, scheduled for March 6th was postponed to March 13th because of a forecast of severe thunderstorms, gusty winds and possible hail (WHICH NEVER HAPPENED, typical FL weather).

Our very popular Poker Run was held on March 14th. Fifty-two teams of 2 scurried around the Park walking or on golf carts, or bikes, to perform silly tasks in order to earn a playing card to complete their Poker hand.



First Place went to Aunika (granddaughter of Steve and Mary Wilson) and her friend, Zinnia; Second Place went to Bear and Sue Brown; Third Place went to Ron and Jean Stanish. In addition, 12 door prizes were given out at the Happy Hour that followed. A big thank-you to Jim Ertel for creating and updating the spreadsheet to figure out who the winners were.



Our last event of the season will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 30th. (Sign-up sheets are in the Post Office.)

Bingo will be ending on April 2nd. A big thank-you to Barb Connors for chairing Bingo for so many years. Denise and Dana Smith will be taking over next season.

The Activities Committee also makes an annual donation to the Easter Brunch and the OR Volunteers Lunch. Our last meeting of the season will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at 1:00 in the Clubhouse. We will be discussing the Calendar for the 2024-25 season. New members are always welcome.



The **Indian River Lagoon Boat Trip** was a success! We had 31 O.R. people and the weather couldn't have been better. We saw a bald eagle's nest from a distance and got to see several dolphins, and a lot of smiles from our O.R. group. I played the theme song from Gilligan's Island at the end and Captain Chop Lege, along with a crew member, came up to the front of the boat and addressed all of us saying that we are proof we made it back from Gilligan's Island! Everyone had a good time and a laugh. (Story and photos submitted by John Hudspeth)



**COMING NEXT SEASON:** Keep your eyes open for the multitude of bird sculptures that grace our community!! Elizabeth and Ed have been taking pictures of the sculptures (23 so far!) and we will be running the pictures next season for a community-wide scavenger hunt. Prizes will be awarded!!

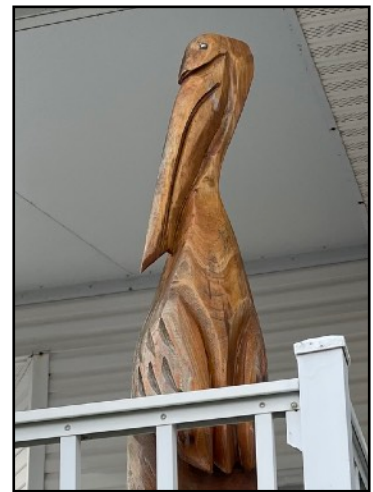


Photo from 2022

**YOGA by Nancy Wilder** I probably write this every year, but each year I'm surprised by the feeling. I have a spring in my step again! Its a joy to feel a little peppy, as I am a sedentary being. I like my computer, my books and British TV detective shows. All this involves sitting, my favorite position. But I know better. Use it or lose it is true, especially at my age. So I go to yoga twice a week. I gather up my mats (I'm using two together as I think the floor has got harder), my water and off I go. The camaraderie of the group is fun. Its coed and covers a range of ages. We're always complaining about sore parts or something before we start. But then Jean steps up, the soft music drifts into the room and we start the warm up. You may begin with a sweatshirt as the club house can be cold, but after ten minutes of up and downs, the room warms up fast. You become so involved with your movement and breathing that time goes by quickly.

Jean works with muscle groups, balance and special breathing techniques. Somedays I'm like a wet noodle at the end of class, wondering how I will get down the stairs. Other days I am perky. Who knows? But the result of a season of yoga is obvious. I have more strength, more stamina, better balance and I can get up off the floor if necessary. We are coming to the end of our yoga sessions. The first week of April will be our last classes. This could be the time to try it out. If you like it there are community classes almost everywhere. And please, if you are too busy now, plan to join us next season. You too can feel better.



## O.R. Celebrates our Nonagenarians **TOM KISSELLE** Interviewed and Photographed by Bill Howe

It is a rare and treasured moment when you get to talk with a 90-year-old, especially one who is one of the early settlers at OR. Tom, with his wife Judy, are two such treasures who appreciate and love to tell of their early years of marriage here at the infancy of Ocean Resorts.

Tom and Judy married in 1961 near Bowling Green University in Ohio. At the time, Tom had quite an athletic history having played football (tight end) at BGU, then, later on the US Marine football team as assistant coach while assigned to an armored tank unit overseas. After leaving the Marines Tom continued his coaching experience at Kent State University and Western Michigan University. At this time, Tom would escape the cold northern climates of Michigan and Ohio with Judy to visit his father who was assigned to the Space Center in Cape Canaveral Florida. Exploring the east coast of Florida on one such visit, Tom and Judy stopped by Ocean Resorts and were impressed with the pool, marina and several athletic opportunities. At that time, most of the lots at OR were camping or trailer sites.



Tom and Judy lived on Fourwinds Way for the first several years at OR then moved near the tennis courts. Naturally, having a handball background from his time in the Marines, he was drawn to play tennis, eventually playing for OR's traveling team. Having been the recipient of some of Tom's lightning serves and magical spins to the tennis ball, I can attest to his high level of athleticism. His competitive spirit bled over to his swimming, bocci and to the traveling softball team, then coached by current OR resident, Dan Darrow.

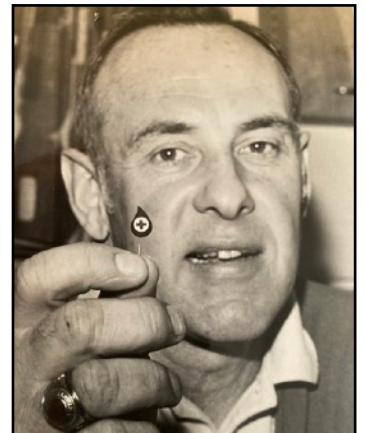


Following the 2004 hurricane that struck OR, Tom and Judy bought their present home next to the Post Office in 2006. Tom says that his dogs have played a big part of his time at OR having raised several German Shepherds and Labs on the beach and streets of OR. He told me that he has boarded dogs at their rural home in Ohio for 23 years as their sons manage the kennels in their absence while at OR.

Tom says many of his longtime friends have not been able to return to OR and he misses them. However, he says that he still values the friendly atmosphere here in the park and appreciates that hospitality and goodwill remain the same as new faces filter in.



One of Tom's passions for the past 50 years is the gift of donating blood to the Red Cross. Tom has donated over 34 gallons of blood through the years and he takes every opportunity to encourage others to donate if they are able. I told him I would pass on the message and encourage others to donate as well.



# 2024 Craft and Art Show/Sale

The annual Art in the Park Craft and Art Show, organized by coordinator Allison Alvandian, was held on Sunday, March 10 at the clubhouse. Seventeen talented crafter's and artist's wares included ornaments, paintings, jewelry, knitted and crocheted garments, throws, various sewn items, and books by Ocean Resorts resident author Linda Smolarek.



New crafters this year were students Ella Grace and Arya Ocean who sold dog toys, book marks and sun catchers. The Caring Hearts group, who makes blankets and hats for Lawnwood NICU, promoted a table to raise funds for their supplies.



Photos by Barb Goodman

The popular raffle that was held helps offset the costs of supplies for sessions lead weekly by the talented volunteers. Everyone's support for the raffle and the Caring Hearts group is appreciated.



Photo by Kathy Jankovic

Allison is already planning for the 2025 season's schedule. She is always looking for new ideas and volunteers to lead weekly sessions. Art in the Park meets each Monday from 10:30-12:30 in the clubhouse, January through the end of March. The 2025 session will start on January 6, 2025. If you have suggestions for sessions or are willing to lead a session contact Allison Alvandian at 1-203-887-0290.





## BOCCE by Marie LeClair and Tassy Davis

Our 2024 bocce season ended with a Pizza Party held on Monday, March 18 at the Club House. It was attended by players, substitutes, and spouses, We had a total of 22 teams with a list of substitute players. We played Tuesday and Thursdays and, when necessary, had games rescheduled to accommodate those who had conflicts.

It seemed to Tassy and myself that we had a winning season for all. Bocce is about having fun, meeting new people and learning new shots to improve our games. Bocce brings us together.

We thank you all for participating in our league and we look forward to having another great season in 2025. Remember, there are always bocce balls in the toy box by the courts for anyone to use for practice.



### TUESDAY: 3-Way Tie for 1st Place

- Team 1: Cibby and Gary Gardiner, Donna and Lou Barbara
- Team 7: Marie and Luxy LeClair Ken and Beth Reeves
- Team 9: Mary and John Dombro Jean and Tom Starr

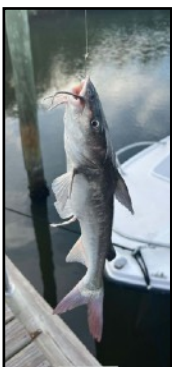


Photos by Barb Goodman



### THURSDAY: 2-Way Tie for 1st Place

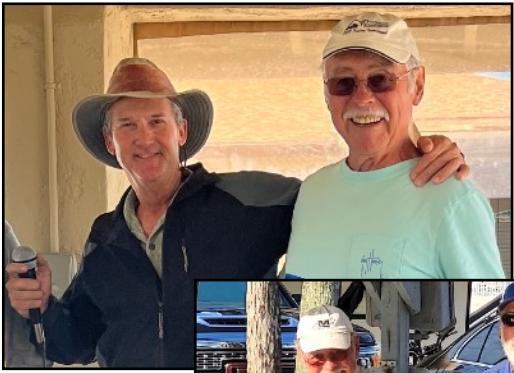
- Team 16: Vance Truncellito, Al Funari, Ron Heagney and Tom Ospuni
- Team 19: Marie and Luxy LeClair, Christi and Jeff Chambers



## A FISH STORY by Kathy Jankovic

Casey Nesbitt, great grandson of Galley Way original owners Mary and Herb Huth, caught this gafftopsail catfish at the marina during his spring break visit to Ocean Resorts. Casey only learned how to fish 2 days earlier. Way to hook 'em Casey!





Photos by Barb Goodman



### 2024 FISHING TOURNAMENT WINNERS

DOLFIN	David Cross	6.40 lbs
WHITING	None Caught	X
PERMIT	None Caught	X
POMPANO	Luxy LeClair	3.20 lbs
SNOOK	Al Parna	8.50 lbs
REDFISH	Not Eligible	X
SHEEPSHEAD	Luxy LeClair	2.75 lbs
BLACK DRUM	Luxy LeClair	3.10 lbs
BLUE FISH	Andy Stanish	3.10 lbs
SEA TROUT	Andy Stanish	3.20 lbs
KING MACKEREL	Rich Shakespeare	5.40 lbs
SPANISH MACKEREL	Andy Stanish	1.70 lbs
ANY SNAPPER	Joe Goodman	3.65 lbs
ANY OTHER FISH	Gerry White	64.6 lbs
	(Black tip shark)	



LANDSHARK by Andy Stanish



## LUAU sponsored by the Social Committee, by Donna Comolli

Our Luau was fantastic! Our new DJ, Above & Beyond Entertainment, definitely made the party successful! I have never seen the dance floor so crowded! Our meal was great - Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Gouda Mac and Cheese, and delicious desserts. The Mai Tai's and beer were flowing which helped get everyone up dancing. Everyone looked very festive with their very colorful Hawaiian shirts and dresses!



Photo by Cibby Gardiner

A HUGE thank you to Kathy Antonovich and Joan Naylor for orchestrating the show and to Lou Barbaria as our MC. Another huge thanks to the Social committee members - Cibby Gardiner, Mary Dombro, Joan Naylor, Kathy Antonovich, Carmel Jolly, Amanda Rader, Sue Giebel, Pina Dyer, Tanya McKewon and Joan Foley, who did a tremendous amount of work to make this event so successful.

Our entertainment of the night was hilarious, as you can see from the pictures. We had native Island Fire dancers from Hawaii - Denny, Evert & Obie!. Their outfits and make up were great and they put on quite a show, keeping us laughing the whole time! We even had a limbo bar - how low can you go? Thankfully no one got hurt!



Photo by Kathy Antonovich



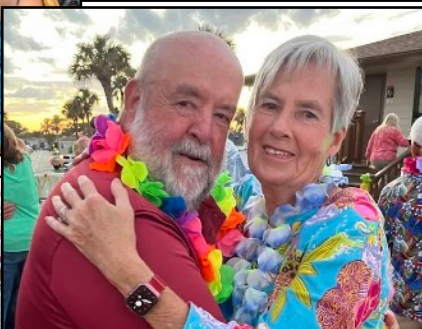
Photo by Cibby Gardiner



I'm sure everyone will be looking forward to the Luau next year! And, we are planning one last Happy Hour, mid April, so look for a date at the Post Office.



Photo by Joe May



Photos by Cibby Gardiner







# CANADA PARTY!!



Photos by Barb Goodman



On February 26, the Caring Hearts group and the Art in the Park group joined forces to make 14 baby blankets. These blankets were donated to Lawnwood Hospital and Cleveland Clinic for premature babies along with hats that Caring Hearts made. Blankets also go to the Caring Center for Women which works with new moms. So far this year, Caring Hearts has made 150 hats and 60 blankets. If you would like to help with a contribution for fabric, please contact Debbie Feehan (419) 494-7092.



Photos by Deb Feehan





Photos by Cibby Gardiner

It 'twas a grand day for the **8th Annual St Patrick's Day Parade**. We had more carts and participants than ever. Thank you all for taking the time to decorate and for joining in on the shenanigans! Also, thanks for all the spectators along the route!

This was my last year of organizing this event. I've enjoyed doing it but it's time to turn it over to new folks. If a committee or individual is interested in taking it over for 2025 that would be great. Contact me for info. Cibby Gardiner



Photos by Lee Koesema



Photos by Barb Goodman



## LET'S EAT OUT by Karen Wroblewski

**Kyle G's Prime Seafood & Steaks** 10900 S. Ocean Drive  
Hutchinson Island South, FL 34957



Tuesday afternoon Ken and Beth Reeves, Roger, and I decided to drive to the South Island to celebrate a great year of Bocci. Kyle G's was our destination. From O.R. it's approximately a 37 - 40 minute easy drive on the South Island. You can ask for an ocean view table, but seriously every table has a lovely view. The four of us opted to look at a dinner menu where we found a delicious sounding item. It was called Crab Oscar Filet with Bernaise Sauce, mashed potatoes, and grilled asparagus. Not cheap at \$85 but large enough to share. Domenic was our waiter and was cheerful and attentive. As soon as drinks were ordered, a basket of delicious warm rolls arrived with plenty of whipped butter.

The views of the ocean are spectacular throughout the restaurant. There is also a bar/patio area in case you prefer sitting outside. So, back to the food. Although it was all delicious – it was not hot!!! It was barely warm. Domenic called the manager over and we explained our problem. He had no solution other than to offer us a free dessert and an apology. Long story short.....go enjoy the view... but the Ocean Grill is closer, cheaper, and has a similar view of the Ocean.



## THE JOY OF READING by Nancy Wilder

I am a huge fan of the public library system. Not to overlook the Ocean Resort's library, which is well stocked, well run and user friendly, thanks to Cathy Moon, but there's always room to explore and the six branches of St Lucie County libraries, provide for an abundance of opportunities.

The closest branch (and my favorite) is the Joyce Broom Kilmer library in downtown Fort Pierce, located by the Saturday market. Take the elevator to the second floor of the library for outstanding views. Sit down, take a few deep breaths, gaze at the water and relax. There is an extensive collection of magazines to page through as you settle into one a comfy chair by a window. This can be an escape when the market is overcrowded and you just need a quiet break. Additionally, this floor offers computers, printers, fax machines and more.

On Tuesdays, multiple tech classes are available for free. You can learn how to use your phone, digitalize your photos and much

more. Other nearby branches offer classes on cloud storage, Apple and Android basics, browser and search engines etc. All for free!

But its not all tech. Later in April there is a Karaoke night, a" jazz jam" and even a ukulele fest on April 12 at the Morningside branch. And going back to books, there are multiple book discussion, and movie and book discussion groups at all branches.

The library couldn't function this well without great staff. There is a warm and welcoming atmosphere at the Kilmer. You are always greeted as you enter. Books are neatly organized and staff are eager to help.

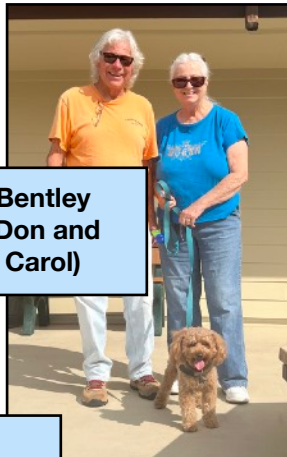
I remember when libraries were very different. Stern librarians glared at you even if you whispered, books had fines if late in return (no more fines!) It was a place to get in and out of quickly. Thats all changed. Libraries are community centers now, a place for all to enjoy in multiple ways.

I am hanging copies (available in lobby of the Kilmer library) of "What's Happening at the Library" on the board in our library. Please read it and seek out some of the activities offered. Hope to see you there!

# MORE DOGS of OR (and their people!!)



Eloise (Barb)

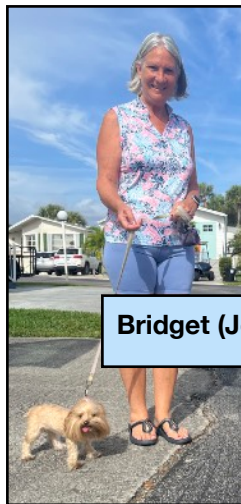


Bentley  
(Don and  
Carol)



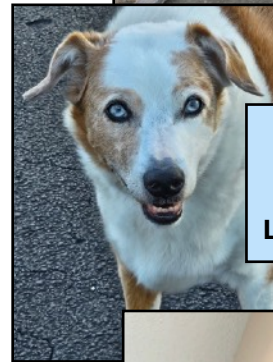
Foxy  
(Dominick  
and Casey)

Photo from Allison Alvandian



Bridget (Joan)

Remy  
(Bart and  
Darla)



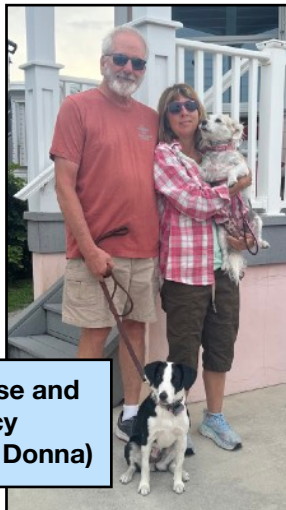
Bucky  
(Al and Pat)  
Photo from  
Lee Koesema



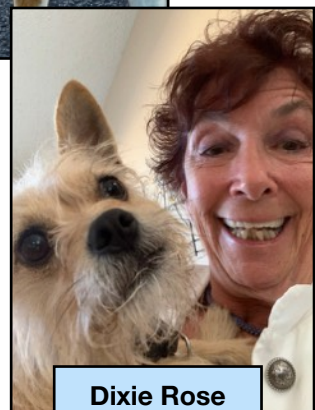
Blue  
(David)



Karsyn  
(Craig)



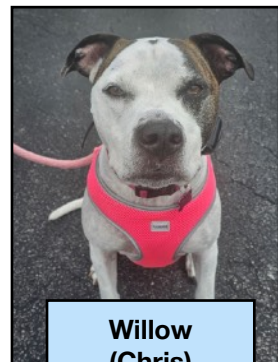
Andi Rose and  
Lucy  
(Dan and Donna)



Dixie Rose  
(Nancy)



Hoka and Gidget  
(Ed)



Willow  
(Chris)  
Photo from  
Lee Koesema



Ruthie and Bella  
(Gerry)



Coco and Trouble  
(Dolly)



Oliver  
(Deb)  
Photo from  
Lee Koesema



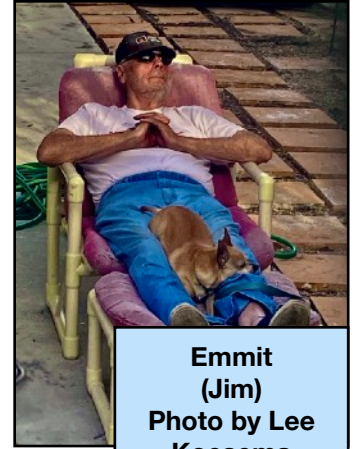
**Molly  
(Heather)**



**Onyx  
(Joe and Barb)**



**Cody  
(John)**



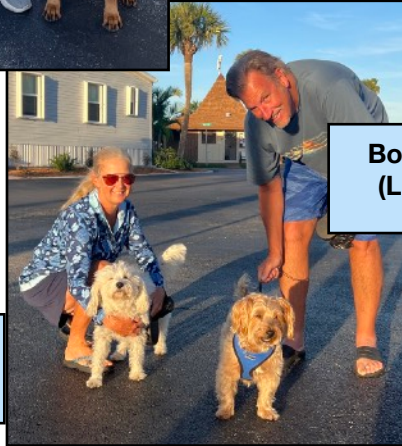
**Emmit  
(Jim)  
Photo by Lee  
Koesema**



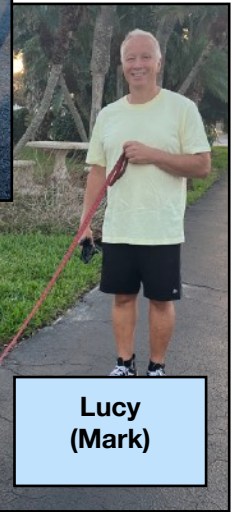
**Jesse  
(Kevin)**



**Tater  
(Jim and Linda)**



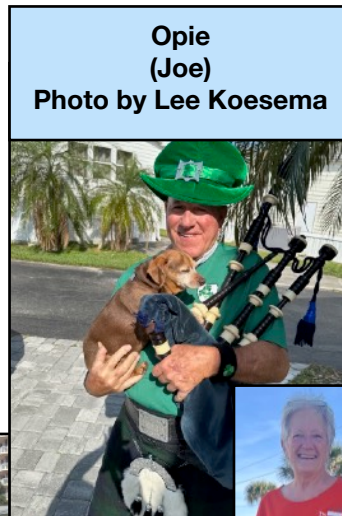
**Bodie and Harper  
(Linda and Kurt)**



**Lucy  
(Mark)**



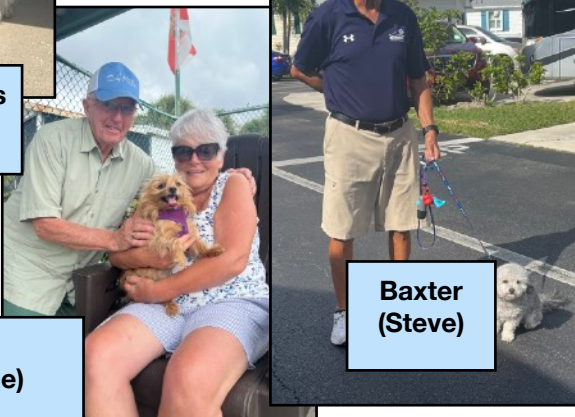
**Henry and Ruby  
(Sally)**



**Opie  
(Joe)  
Photo by Lee Koesema**



**Geordie and Fergus  
(Pat)**



**Baxter  
(Steve)**



**Callie  
(Vonda)**



**Pepper  
(Woot)**

**Peanut  
(Wayne and Irene)**

## NATURE AT OR - A Seldom Seen Visitor

by Linda Smolarek



We were graced with the visit of bobcat, witnessed and photographed by Bill Howe last month. Thanks Bill!

Often confused with lynx, bobcats are found from southern Canada, down through the USA and Mexico. Unlike the lynx, they are not found in the northern latitudes where deep snow restricts their movements.

These tough little cats survive mainly because they are secretive, cantankerous, and are habitat generalists, meaning they use almost all types of habitats; forest, fields, swamps, urban areas, beaches, and some agricultural areas. Mainly ground dwellers, they prefer areas with thick cover for hunting and will commonly climb trees or swim in search of food. They are opportunistic carnivores and will eat whatever they can catch, preferring rabbits and rodents. Bobcats will also eat small reptiles, birds and carrion. Most of their hunting is done at dawn, dusk and through the night but it is not uncommon to be seen in the daylight.

Males and females associate only during the breeding season. They are twice as large as a

domestic cat with brown/tan and white fur, small black spots and a short “bobbed” tail tipped with black. Their body length is between 2-4 ft, weighing about 15-35 lbs, and they can live 3-4 years in the wild. Thankfully, bobcats are thriving throughout most of their range, but fragmented landscape has limited the resilience of these little cats. Rapid development in Florida may be reaching a threshold within which even the bobcat cannot persist.

Because predators are a critical component of a healthy ecosystem, it is important to monitor bobcat populations and implement conservation actions. Bobcats are native to Florida and connecting tracts of suitable habitat for bobcats and their prey may help keep stable populations and prevent bobcats from joining so many of their feline cousins on threatened and endangered species lists.

How to help: support wildlife on your property by growing native plants and thick cover. Reduce urban conflicts by securing garbage cans, monitoring small pets and keeping food indoors.

Rest assured that bobcats do not attack people. In fact, bobcat attacks are virtually unknown. However, never attempt to touch or handle a wild bobcat or her kittens. If you see a bobcat pick up small children or pets, give the bobcat space and back away slowly. Let the bobcat know you are there by talking or making noise. If the animal approaches you, stomp the ground, clap your hands or yell loudly.

It's nice to know there is a bit of wild joining us on our island paradise of Ocean Resort.

**CANINE CORNER:** We are thrilled to have delicious, fresh, cool water to drink in our dog park. It really quenches our thirst on hot and playful days and keeps us healthy. Thank you from our paws to our tails. Beloved Dogs of Ocean Resort and their Devoted Owners! (Submitted by Casey Sweet Valenti)

# COURTS COMMITTEE



**Men's Doubles Tournament Winners** - Gary Gardiner and Peter Hartl. 2nd place - Bill Howe and Gene Williams **Photo by Sue Ertel**



**Women's Pickle Ball Tournament Winners** Michelle Hamre and Joan Fair; 2nd place - Tassy Davis and Margaret Ticknor **Photo by Barb Goodman**



**Women's Doubles Tournament Winners** - Karen Howe and Connie Hey; 2nd place - Ginger Endreson and Kathy Smith **Photo by Bill Howe**



**Men's Pickle Ball Tournament Winners** Al Parna and John Mann; 2nd place - Carl Ticknor and Gary Gardiner **Photo by Barb Goodman**

## END OF YEAR PARTY!!

Photos by Cibby Gardiner





### It's *Food Drive* time again

Between now and mid-May is when the mail carriers will hold their **Stamp Out Hunger** Drive.

Ocean Resorts typically collects a LOT of food to send to the area food banks. Let's do it again.

If you have excess NON-PERISHABLE, UNBREAKABLE food items, you may leave them in the collection box in our post office building anytime between now and May. We will package and store the food as it comes in. In May (Mother's Day weekend), it will be delivered to Mustard Seed Ministries, where it will be distributed to food-insecure people in the surrounding area.

**The DONATION box is in the post office (back counter, on outgoing mail side)**

### MEDITATION - ADVICE TO LIVE BY by Nancy Wilder

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety. Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in. Forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays."

**BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

**Ken Klas' container garden**



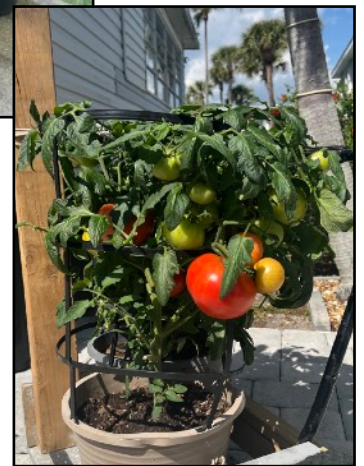
### HOW GREEN IS YOUR GARDEN?



**The Meredith's on Fourwinds** - A beautiful restoration of a classic Ocean Resort home. We especially love the grass lawn!  
Submitted by Linda Smolarek



**David and Gloria Almeida's backyard garden**



**OCEAN RESORTS ISLAND TIMES STAFF**  
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Kathy Jankovic, Lee Koesema, Linda Smolarek, Nancy Wilder  
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