



ISLAND TIMES NEWSLETTER

February 2020

I LOVE OCEAN RESORTS LUNCHEON!!



Photos by Kathy Jankovic





BINGO!!

by Kathy Jankovic

During I Love Ocean Resorts week, Scott Gebhard was the winner of the \$15.00 prize donated by the Activities Committee. The 3 specials for the evening were "I", a ♥ shape, and the letters "OR " on the winning card held by Scott.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH by Lee Koesema

Our last activities committee event of the season will be the Children's Easter Egg Hunt being held at the Pavilion Area on Saturday, April 11th. You should come see this event, even if you don't have young ones. Children hopping, finding eggs, holding eggs on spoons, playing games, digging for gold and winning toys. It's truly a fun time for all.

Our committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in our many programs this season. Thank you again Barbara Goodman and her staff for "reinventing" the park newsletter. It's a great way for committees and various groups and individuals to communicate with residents and guests.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

02/20/2020

by Gary Gardiner

I'd like to welcome all the new shareholders to Ocean Resorts. We hope you will become involved in the many activities and amenities that our wonderful slice of heaven has to offer.

I look forward to working with the newly elected board (see below), and all of you in keeping Ocean Resorts the incredible community it is. As Shareholders and Renters, we are all responsible to help things run smoothly with common sense, kindness and respect for everyone living here. This is a Co-Op; and that means ALL of us **co-operating** with each other for the good of O.R..

O.R. has always been a community of volunteers who become like family; working together, with the same goals of keeping it the unique, wonderful place it is. The Board is committed to working closely with all of you in this effort. We will be holding open workshops to hear your opinions and concerns on certain topics as often as needed. I urge you all to attend. Last month we had a great turnout to discuss the By-Laws and the need to present a

clean document. Lou Barbaria and his committee have put in a lot of time and effort on this and are in the final stages of presenting it to us.

We have gotten the bids on the sewers and will notify the Shareholders about their assessment ASAP. We weathered the "storm" of the clubhouse being renovated so I know we can get through the sewers being fixed!

I would like to end by thanking Dave Comolli for stepping in to be President this past year. His experience and insight have been very appreciated in showing some of us "greenhorns" the ropes. Also, thanks to Bob Fusco, who is stepping down after serving his 2 year term. Thank you Bob for your contributions!

Sincerely, Gary Gardiner

2020-2021 Board of Directors:

President - Gary Gardiner

Vice President - Vicki Neuman

Treasurer - Bob Tobias

Secretary - Jim Buysee

Board members - Jim Rocco, Jim Connors and Jim Kraszewski

(Someone once suggested we get a "**gym**" in OR; we got 4!!!)



POKER RUN !! by Judy Smolarek

Fifty two teams (104 people) participated in our second Poker Run on January 30th, sponsored by the Activity Committee in conjunction with the January Happy Hour. Some drove golf carts, others were on bikes, and there were even some walkers who completed the course. Everyone enjoyed following the directions, doing an activity at each of the 5 stations, and collecting their playing cards. The best hand winner was Steve Pascoe and 15 other participants won in a random drawing. Thank you to the volunteers who helped at the stations and to all those who participated.



Photos by
Lee Koesema
and
Cibby Gardiner



FASHIONS BY TIFFANY

The Activities Committee sponsored a Fashion Show on February 25. Models were Judy Smolarek, Elizabeth Flaherty, Sue Ertel, Lee Koesema, Tanya McKewon and Sue Stabach.

Proceeds from the sale benefit the entire OR Community through purchase of many items used by all.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

by Donna Comolli

Get your Hawaiian shirts and dresses ready, the Luau is March 28th, 3-7pm!! Our social committee is busy working on the menu and help is needed to run this event!! The Social Committee needs new members, so please think about joining our committee. Sign up sheets will be out soon at the post office.

This will be the last major event of the season; come socialize and snowbirds can say good bye to all their friends!!



LET'S EAT OUT! by Sharon English

NEW to ME and MAYBE to YOU TOO!

This month I don't have a theme or one restaurant review to share. There are always new restaurants opening up that I hear about from pool conversations or Mahjong. Here is a list of new eateries (to me) that we have tried and enjoyed. These 5 restaurants range from an outdoor sandwich shack to fine dining, all to be found in the Vero Beach area.



CAFE 66 - 870 66th Ave SW, Vero Beach 32968 (corner of Oslo and 66th), 772-567-6700, Daily 7 AM- 3PM (closed on Sundays). Comfort food, Breakfast, BBQ, Burgers, outdoor seating. Next to Audrey's Feed & Tack with cool stuff.

DAVILA'S PIZZA - Harbor Point, 5240 US-1, Vero Beach 32967, 772-257-5168, davilaspizza.com. Open daily. Italian dishes, Subs, Salads and Pizza. Casual setting. *Enjoyment Coupon book



DINNER REVOLUTION - 755 27th Ave SW (corner of Oslo Road), Vero Beach 32968, 772-617-2298, dinnerrevolutionverobeach.com, Daily 2-10PM. Dinner Revolution has a bi-weekly revolving menu specializing in delicious fresh dishes.

MICHAEL'S on 7th - 2217 7th Ave, Vero Beach 32960, 772-213-8554, michaelson7th.com, Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner (closed Monday). Hours vary so call or check website. Nice atmosphere, raw bar, great crab cakes and bar.



SAVOR RESTAURANT- 901 21st St., Vero Beach, 32960, 772- 925-1187, savorvero.com, Daily 4-10PM, Sun. 4-9PM. Casual fine dining with the tapas menu from their previous location, 121 Tapas in Ft. Pierce. New locale offers more entrees.

Ocean Resorts salutes our Nonagenarians - Barbara Sydow by Nancy Wilder



Born on December 10, 1929, Barbara was the second of five siblings raised on a farm in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. It was a happy childhood with strict and loving parents. Education was valued highly, and good grades and homework were a top priority. Church was also an important part of the family's life.

In high school, Barbara moved with her family to nearby Ashland, MA. Barbara was a good student, played basketball and became a cheerleader. After graduation, she attended Wilfred Academy in Boston to study hair and beauty design, eventually working in a local salon.

About that time, Barbara met her soon to be husband, George. Tall, good-looking and a little older, George was considered a "good catch". But most important, as soon as they met, "it was love at first sight". George and Barbara were married for 55 years and raised two children in their lakefront home in Framingham MA. And now there are three grown grandchildren and six great grands! George did very well in his career and owned two auto dealerships. It was a busy time, the family was involved in scouts, Sunday school, sports, music (Barbara plays the organ), and all the boating and water skiing the lake provided. Not busy enough, Barbara had a professional hair salon built in the house. While the children napped or when George was home, she saw clients. The neighbors thought it was wonderful to have someone so talented, close by.



In 1988, After the children were grown, Barbara and George moved to a Florida golf community. Golf was their passion, Barbara says "we played golf eight times a week". They also found time for bridge, church and many community activities. George died about ten years later after a long struggle with Parkinson's. Barbara eventually moved to Lake in the Woods in Vero and joined a church group for grieving family members. Always ready to help, she was very active in the group for several years and gave much support to the members.

It was in that group that Barbara met Jay Holmes, her beloved companion of almost 9 years. Jay eventually convinced Barbara to move to OR and their life together began. Barbara took up tennis at 80, and Barbara and Jay were regulars at the tennis courts. Avid travelers, Barbara and Jay counted 20 cruises on Princess Line, river cruises, trips to China, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and more. They had great times all over the world. Jay passed away in 2016.

Today, Barbara continues an active life, still playing tennis, knitting, crocheting, meditation and daily exercise, Barbara's hand knit sweaters are treasured by their owners. Made to order or available at the craft show, the sweaters are beautiful, with intricate detail. She also crochets lush afghans and lovely infant items. Barbara is a regular church goer and is still involved with the grief group.



When asked for words of wisdom for the Ocean Resort community, Barbara does not hesitate to encourage us to be kind and caring of one another. That's the Ocean Resort spirit she loves and wants to maintain.

Barbara is an amazing woman and it was an honor to do this interview.

Ocean Resorts salutes our Nonagenarians - John Virgilio by Bill Howe

John Viriglio and Phyllis, his wife of nearly 65 years, have been at Ocean Resorts for 23 years. This past June, John celebrated his 90th birthday at his Henrietta, N.Y. home, a home that he has occupied since his birth in 1929.



John and Phyllis originally found OR while vacationing after retirement near Okeechobee and Ocala, Florida. The first 5 years they rented on Osprey and Galley Way. The draw of the ocean and the pet-friendly atmosphere of Ocean Resorts solidified their desire to become shareholders on Fourwinds Way. John enjoyed sitting on the beach and listening to the waves, however he is quick to say he never learned to swim.

John has been retired for several years, but has enjoyed a varied and colorful life, working since he was just 14 as a farm hand. John went to work in a cider mill when he was 16, often sneaking “hard cider” to hide in the barn to “enjoy later”. From there John became a custodial engineer at a local high school where he later semi-retired. Phyllis worked 7 more years as a teacher so John, after retirement, went to Nazareth College and received training in Boiler Engineering, schooling that led him to be responsible for the boilers on the Nazareth campus.

When John came to OR he immediately saw the potential in the long vegetable growing season during his 5-month stay and planted 55 tomato plants, numerous pepper varieties and a special garlic crop. Generous with his labors, John and Phyllis shared the ‘product of their labors’ with neighbors when they left for the season.



His favorite times at OR were attending the old time Country Western Dances at the pavilion. John added that he is talking of the “old time” country music of the 50s and 60s, not the contemporary brand that the younger set line dance with today. The highlight of John’s seasonal visit is when he and Phyllis host an historic railroad documentary each year in the clubhouse involving both railway travel videos and discussion. John is well known in Henrietta where he bought and installed a retired steam locomotive in his front yard. That is dedication to a hobby!

John concludes that OR, all around, “cannot be beat. It is a beautiful place to bring our dogs, to grow vegetables and be near the ocean”.



NATURE at OR: Turtle or Tortoise? by Linda Smolarek

The slow moving turtles we see crossing the road are actually gopher tortoise, a species of land turtles, native to southeastern United States. The gopher tortoise is a keystone species because the burrows it creates provide shelter for at least 360 other animal species. On average burrows are 14 feet long and 6 feet deep. The gopher tortoise often lives in more than one burrow spending 80% of its time underground.

They are herbivores and can live 40-60 years in the wild and 90+ years in captivity.

The male has a concave plastron or shell, while the bottom shell of a female is flat. To estimate the age pick out one 'scute' (ring on shell) and count the inner rings to determine age.

Gopher tortoises cannot swim and easily drown.

The mating season is April through July. The females lays her eggs in the sandy mound in front of a burrow known as the "apron" to ensure there is plenty of sunlight for incubation.

If a turtle is crossing the road, safely park your car and move the turtle to the far side of the road in the direction it was traveling in...

The primary threat to gopher tortoise is habitat destruction.

There is a Gopher Tortoise Smartphone App to report any gopher tortoises you encounter. If you suspect that someone has unlawfully destroyed or harmed a gopher tortoise or its burrow, report it to FWC's toll-free Wildlife Alert hotline at 1-888404-3922 or text TIP@MyFWC.com

MARINA COMMITTEE by Andy Stanish

The marina is close to full capacity. Walk on down to the fish cleaning tables at night to see the Snook and other fish in the underwater light. A few manatee are around but the otters have not been seen this month. The fishing tournament is held the entire month of February but fishing has been tough with all the windy weather.

I tried to catch a keeper Snook with live pinfish down at the Ft. Pierce inlet turn basin and hooked the biggest Jack Crevalle of my life! This is one of the toughest fighting fish and the size was world class. Only to have 3/4 of it taken by the "tax man", meaning a huge Bull Shark bit off everything but the head:



I continued fishing and finally caught a Snook:





SHARK!!!!

by Jerry and Marge Smith of Jibway

It was New Years Day, 2020, a beautiful day to go fishing. So we invited our friend, Vivian Thompson to go with us. Vivian, a recent "nonagenarian", has been a fisherwoman her whole life, but this was her first time catching a shark. Even with her competitive nature, this guy gave Vivian the fight of her life. What an exciting day we had!

Being that we did not know the rules, and this Bonnethead shark was only 30", we released him, with Marge saying "go back little one, and grow up." It shows that fun has no age limit.



Another successful Chicken BBQ Dinner sponsored by the Beautification Committee!!





OCEAN RESORTS TENNIS

By Tom Smith,
President
Photos by Bill
Howe



There has been a lot of activity so far this tennis season. The Mixed Doubles tournament was held in January (see January's newsletter for photos of the winners). The RED and BLUE Tournament was held on February 14th and 15th followed by a party to be held February 28st. A huge thanks goes to Andy Bonetti as the Chairperson this year. The outcome was the BLUE TEAM being victorious, 6 sets to 5, leaving the RED TEAM to provide food for the winners!



The annual Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the OR Tennis Club, was held on February 19th. That is always an enjoyable morning; yummy food served with smiles.

Our annual tennis party will be held on March 14th. Jan and John Sheehan so graciously accepted the challenge of chairpersons this year. They chose the theme as "PROM NIGHT". Please bring photos of those prom days and be prepared to feel like a kid again!





MEDITATION

by Nancy Wilder

Over time, the more consistently one responds in a certain way, the stronger the underlying neural pathways become, and thus the more difficult it is to alter our initial response when we perceive something as threatening. However, a regular meditation practice can teach us to pause, to take a breath, and to think about our feelings and needs, before reacting.

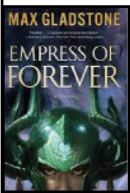
For example, if you get short tempered when you're tired or hungry, or if you yell when you're stressed, instead of automatically snapping at everyone, take a moment, recognize the overwhelming problem and address the issue. I sometimes tell people straight out, "I'm tired, I need a bit of time to get myself together". I've found people understand me saying that I'm tired, much more than just snapping and growling. By that change in response you have started to build a new and better neuron circuitry.



**Yoga and
Mahjong
continue...
JOIN THE
FUN!!**



THE JOY OF READING - Give science fiction a chance....by Nancy Wilder



A radio interview of Max Gladstone, author of *Empress Forever*, was so interesting I sought out his book. I am not a science fiction fan, but I love a well written, engaging book of any genre. Vivian Liao, the main character, is a billionaire entrepreneur, who discovers a portal through time. There are evil politicians chasing her for her discoveries, she hides away in Boston for a bit (my home town), she meets mind blowing characters in her travels...Don't give up, I know it sounds like something you would never read, but its an engrossing, fun ride through time. And good triumphs over evil!

I was in my local library a few months ago checking out my books. No sci-fi, probably cookbooks and mysteries. Out of nowhere the librarian asked me if I had ever read *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. I love recommendations, so I headed for the stacks to track it down. Scanning the first few pages, I was really puzzled as to why she would suggest this book to me, but I took it home and it was incredible. I've read it twice. This is a multi-layered book with a deep philosophical thread. Think of the consequences of colonization, despite good intentions in most cases. Picture a young scientist hearing a transmission of beautiful songs. A discovery mission led by a team of Jesuits and civilians is sent forth. Contact is made. The group is received in peace. The descriptions are exotic but familiar in some ways. The characters are unforgettable, as the team settles in to living with these beings. It is a fascinating book, I would love to discuss it with other readers.



TOP O' THE MORNIN TO YE!

The 4th Annual St. Patty's Parade will be held on **Tuesday, March 17** starting at **4:00** at the Pavilion. Start thinking about how you can decorate your bikes, beach wagons, golf carts, pets, and yourselves for this fun-filled afternoon/evening.

Spectators are encouraged to hoot and holler and hand out Irish nourishments etc. as the parade ambles down the streets of OR.

Prizes for Best Golf cart, Personal Costume, Best Bike – Adult and Child, Best Pet, Best Team Spirit and more! Around 5:00 an Award Ceremony and POTLUCK will be held. Irish music and sing alongs will add to the festivities.

Get your GREEN on and join us on St. Paddy's Day!!!

I love a parade.....Cibby Gardiner



**Pictures
from the
2019 Parade!**

RETIREMENT BENEFIT:

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safe with
your friends.

They can't
remember
them either.



THE SENILITY PRAYER :

**Grant me the senility to forget
the people I never liked
anyway,
The good fortune to run into
the ones I do,
and the eyesight to tell the
difference...**

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ART IN THE PARK! by Cibby Gardiner

The year has flown by all too quickly! Folks were busy creating sea-glass blocks, driftwood key holders, birdhouses and Valentine's door wreaths. The rest of the year will be just as great.



Here is the schedule for March Tuesdays ART in the Park. Come join us and have fun while getting your creative juices flowing!

Most classes are free unless posted otherwise. You MUST sign up in the post office. It will be posted if you need to bring supplies.

MAR. 3 - Kathy Jankovic: Bath salts and decorative jars

MAR. 10 - Lona Sapoznika: mosaic jewelry holder; (bring broken dishes, pottery, mosaic pieces)

MAR. 17 - Karen Stampfli - Shell trees (bring sea glass if you have some)

MAR. 24th - finish mosaics and trees with Lona and Karen.



SEE YOU IN 2021! Next year if you'd like to lead a class or assist in one please contact Cibby Gardiner. 401-465-7666 or cibbyg@aol.com I know there are many talented folks in the park who would share their ideas with! Anyone who can lead a class in Line Dancing? Anyone with technical/computer knowledge (most of us are useless with our phones etc. and could use help!), cooking/cake decorating etc. Your talent doesn't have to be art or craft related. Think it over and let me know.



THE HISTORY OF OCEAN RESORTS

This month we are starting a recurring column about the History of Ocean Resorts. The information and pictures will all be taken from the official Ocean Resort History website created and maintained through 2016 by Carolyn and John Leaman, former residents of OR. We want to thank Carolyn and John for the many hours of research and development they put into creating this website. Credits for information and pictures will be noted, if available. Unfortunately, although the website is still 'live' on the internet, it is not being updated at this time. If anyone is interested in looking at the website, it can be found at historyor.com.



Photo by Suzanne Couch

The story of the development of Ocean Resorts began when one of the first registered pieces of property on the Island was purchased from the government by Mr. Daniel McConville. He purchased all of the land that is now known as Avalon Park, Ocean Harbour North and Ocean Resorts. The plat plan was recorded in 1891 in the County of Brevard -- St. Lucie County did not become a County until much later. The transaction was recorded on September 1, 1891.

O.R. opened as a campground in the 70's. By 1978 the campground was called Bryn Mawr CampResort. Bryn Mawr Corporation was a struggling - 9 million in debt -- real estate, restaurant and bus company. 51.5% of it was bought by entrepreneurs Gino N. Pala and David K. Brewster. Mr. Pala moved to Florida and began selling off Bryn Mawr's assets. This resulted in \$25 million in assets for Bryn Mawr.

Pala and Brewster then bought 13 percent of the Joseph Dixon Crucible Company. The pair convinced them to approve a merger between Bryn Mawr and the company became the Dixon Ticonderoga Company, in 1983. Headquarters were shifted to Vero Beach, Florida -- the home of Bryn Mawr.

Consequently, during these times, 1978 - 1983, the Bryn Mawr CampResort, became: Bryn Mawr Ocean Resort, then Ocean Resorts Co-op Inc. Lots were sold as a unit with a Proprietary Lease. The developer sold lots for the first few years until all 400 units were gone. The final lots being sold about the end of 1983.



Each unit had a connection for recreational vehicles with water, sewage and electrical hookups provided. Each owner was given a Proprietary Lease, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations. Because it was still a recreation vehicle park with the right to rent out the units owned by shareholders, rules and regulations were necessary.

THE HISTORY OF OCEAN RESORTS (continued)



Original owners were given a prospectus at the time of sale. A Board of Directors was established with owners and developers, consisting of seven individuals. They were elected for three year terms, the first year with staggered terms. The longest an owner could occupy a lot (unit) in one year was six months. When the developer finished sales, the Board was comprised of seven owners. The transfer was painful. The last of the lots were being sold by the Developer in 1983.

The original lots consisted of a cement pad large enough for a travel trailer or small motor home and an asphalt drive. As some were negotiating purchases, a cement pad, roughly 10' x 40' was being poured and landscaping installed. The demand for larger pads on the units was being addressed. The electricity was not adequate for the larger RV's manufactured and more changes were necessary. Trash became a problem and the expansion of some of the facilities necessary.



Mobile Homes were being manufactured and owners wanted permanent dwellings and longer occupancy. Rules and Regulations and Governing Documents were constantly under revision because of owner demands. St. Lucie County finally granted year around occupancy and began to tax owners for the units. Park Models and any improvements were added to the tax roles. At the same time, at least three quarters of the units were occupied by RV's.

The park owned a store/office building, four comfort stations with Laundromats, a recreation building and almost Olympic size pool with diving boards, a dirt floored small maintenance shop, a closed pavilion which held all kinds of pin ball machines and similar games, two tennis courts, a small marina with one dock, four shuffle board courts, 1,000 feet of open beach, security gates and a guard house, water lines, sewage lines, and electric lines. There was roughly 3.8 miles of road, fencing and a storage area. The private docks along the river were a dream. The recreation building had two fire places.

There was a very small play area for children. There were no street lights. The palm trees in the park were added as the lots were sold. Owners were entitled to trees on a lot when purchased, if they were not already planted. Through the years, there were many more amenities and facilities added.



Photo by Nancy White

To be continued next month.....

TALENT SHOW

The OR Talent Show is
March 4th 2:00 PM
at the pavilion.



MARDI GRAS HAPPY HOUR

February 27
5:00-7:00
Pavilion

BYOB and Appetizer to share

Wear your beads!!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MARCH 01 - FISHING TOURNAMENT
AWARDS CEREMONY & HOT DOG
ROAST

MARCH 11 - FLEA MARKET, HOT
DOG/HAMBURGER ROAST

MARCH 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARADE 7 POT LUCK

MARCH 21/22 - TENNIS
TOURNAMENT: MEN'S & WOMEN'S
DOUBLES

MARCH 28 - LUAU

APRIL 11 - CHILDREN'S EASTER
EGG HUNT

APRIL 12 - EASTER SUNDAY
SERVICE - ON THE BEACH



When: Friday,
March 13, 2020
10:00 am to 2:00
pm.

Where: in front of
your house.

Set up a table, price
your items and get ready to have fun! 😎

This is not sponsored by any committee, it is just
for you!

If you have questions, please call Pat Harding -
467-1585.

Ocean Resorts Island Times Staff

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