



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

April 1, 2026

Volume 14 Issue 4 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

5604 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
Phone: 863 858-7504
Fax: 863 859-9775
Emergency: 863 608-3984

Park Administrator: Lyndon Babcock
Lyndon@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell: 863-608-3984)

Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
Website: lightandlifepark.org

Office Manager: Phil Allen
phil@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Mobile Homes for Sale
5317 Jordan Blvd—\$130,000
5801 Moriah Pl—\$54,500

Block Homes for Sale
5332 Bethany Way – \$120,000
5423 Zion Ave. – \$125,000

RV's & Campers for Sale
5323 Hebron Ct.—\$10,500
5242 Zion Ave—\$24,900
5308 Ebenezer —\$7,900 w/lease

Villa Apts. For Sale
5401 Bethany Way Villa #2—
\$54,000

Call the Park Office at 863-858-7504 for information. Photos on website.

News from the Park Administrator

“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.” — Psalm 145:3 (NIV)

As I close out my first **90 days** as your Park Administrator, I am deeply grateful for all that God has allowed us to accomplish together in such a short time. These first months have been energetic, meaningful, and filled with both progress and promise. I am continually reminded that this community thrives because of the heart, service, and unity of its members.

Highlights From the Past 30 Days

This has been an especially productive month across Light and Life Park:

- **Martha's Place Renovation Completed** — A fully refreshed, beautiful space brought to life through exceptional volunteer effort and leadership.
- **Shiloh Path Infrastructure Project Completed** — Improving long-term safety, drainage, and system reliability.
- **Cabin 9 Improvements Completed** — Repairs and upgrades to ensure safe, comfortable guest accommodations.
- **Mini Golf Course Renewed** — Old carpet removed, new turf installed, and surfaces leveled—all thanks to another strong showing of volunteer teamwork.
- **Committee Strengthening & Governance Improvements** — Clear structures have now been created for the Pool Committee, Woodshop, Martha's Place, Golf/Mini Golf, Shuffleboard, and Future Planning initiatives.
- **Growing Volunteer Impact** — The value, skill, and spirit of the volunteers in this Park continues to be one of our greatest strengths. Thank you for stepping up again and again.

News from Park Administrator cont.

- **Infrastructure Outreach** — The office has actively engaged companies specializing in:
 - o Water systems
 - o Wastewater/Sewer feasibility
 - o Stormwater management
 - o Cellular coverage and WiFi These conversations will shape real solutions for long-standing concerns.

Looking Ahead: The Next Six Months

As we transition from early-stage assessment into long-term planning, we will begin focusing on areas that drive **sustained performance and responsible growth**:

1. Roads & Infrastructure

Prioritizing road assessments and planning future resurfacing based on engineering input and long-term strategy.

2. Stormwater & Drainage

Working with Hillsborough and Polk County experts to complete comprehensive assessments and identify permanent solutions for runoff, retention, and culvert needs.

3. Committee-Led Facility Improvements

Implementing plans emerging from the Future Planning Committee and Buildings & Grounds, Including:

- Fencing and securing the **2-acre parcel** outside the gate
- Clean-up and beautification efforts
- Early planning for long-term land use and master planning.

4. Technology & Connectivity

Continuing evaluations with service partners to improve:

- Cellular signal quality
- WiFi stability and coverage

Office technology and network reliability

5. Strengthening Internal Processes

Building on the 30-60-90-day plan to improve:

- Communication flows
- Work order handling
- Committee coordination

Safety and compliance procedures

This next phase will focus on **steady, disciplined growth** that supports residents today and positions Florida's Light and Life Park for a strong future.

A Personal Word of Thanks

These 90 days have been an incredible blessing. Your prayers, patience, encouragement, and support have made all the difference. Together—with God's guidance—we are building a strong foundation for the months and years ahead.

If you ever have an idea, concern, or word of encouragement, my door is always open. I am here to serve this Park and serve you.

With gratitude and expectation for what God will do next,

Lyndon Babcock

Park Administrator

Florida's Light & Life Park

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As I write this, many our members are already making plans to head back north. I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and spiritually enriching journey ahead.

Our nominating committee did an outstanding job identifying several highly qualified candidates for the Board of Directors. I'm grateful to each of them for their willingness to serve.

Three members were elected to three-year terms. Ron Foster, Glenn Teal and Roger Allen. Ron Foster was re-elected for a second term. Glenn Teal was appointed last fall as a replacement and has been elected to his first full term and Roger Allen is serving for the first time.

The Board conducted a ballot vote and elected the following members to serve on the **Executive Committee**:

- **President:** Becky Smith
- **Vice President:** Ron Foster
- **Secretary:** Roger Allen

Treasurer: Dave Moffitt

The other board committee assignments will be finalized during our regular board meeting on **April 6th at 9:00 a.m.** in Hood Hall.

While the Board handles both policy and hands-on responsibilities, this park simply could not thrive without the dedicated teamwork of our staff and the generous leadership and efforts of so many volunteers.

Your newly elected Board of Directors is fully committed to serving and supporting our community in the months ahead.

Thank you all for the trust you've placed in us and for your active participation throughout this past winter season. As we look forward to the future together, please keep our Board, our Dedicated Staff, and One Another in your prayers.

Blessings,

Becky Smith
Board President

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JIM MARTIN



SATURDAY, APRIL 18 2 PM
FIELDHOUSE - SOMERSET BEACH
CAMP

9822 BROOKLAWN CT. SOMERSET CENTER, MI

LIVESTREAM: LAKELAND
LIGHT AND LIFE FMC (Facebook page)

Beautification Committee Herb Garden

Suggestion from the Beautification Committee -
Using **Rosemary** from the greenhouse garden.



Rosemary is a shrub with fragrant, evergreen, needle-like leaves and purple or sometimes white, pink, or blue flowers. It is a member of the mint family.

Rosemary butter is a versatile and delicious compound butter recipe, making the perfect butter for topping steak, roast meats, vegetables, pasta, or mashed potatoes and for spreading on a piece of toasted rustic bread.

Ingredients

8 oz salted butter - cubed (*slightly softened*); use the best butter you can afford

1.5 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves finely chopped

1 garlic clove - core removed and crushed

1 tsp fresh lemon juice

Instructions

In a bowl, combine butter, rosemary, garlic, and lemon juice.

Mix well until combined with a potato masher or a fork).

Once combined, place in a small canning jar or roll up in parchment paper and twist both ends in the opposite direction (like a bonbon). Refrigerate until needed.

Source: [Rosemary Butter - Chef Not Required...](#)

- Kathy Cole, Contributor

EVOLUTION OF THE TRADING POST

When I first came to Light and Life six years ago one of the “old timers” told me about the “Light and Life Kmart” where you could obtain lots of household goodies. I soon discovered that “Kmart” in front of a tree near the pond. I quickly became a frequent shopper and contributor.

One day I went to the Kmart and discovered that a sign was posted on the tree which read “FREE TREE.” So the Kmart became the Free Tree.

Oh the goodies that I have found there! Pots and pans, curtains, clothes, small appliances like coffee pots and toasters, Christmas trees and other decorations, CD’s, radios, clocks, tools...and the list goes on.

Sadly, in the fall of 2024 a hurricane took down the Free Tree. It laid on the ground for weeks.

When I returned to the park after the hurricane and flood, I became very emotional when I saw the Free Tree. To me, the tree wasn’t a mere tree—it was a symbol of community and sharing, an expression of love and unselfish generosity. It felt like the storm had attacked the spirit of our Light and Life community.

Some folks came up with the idea of using the lumber from the Free Tree to build a “Share Shed,” but before that plan could be implemented a work crew came and sawed the tree into logs.

The death of the Free Tree didn’t stop the flow of generosity, however. Soon the ground near where the tree had stood was littered with boxes and bags of household goodies. I realized that the cold and often wet ground was no place for some of the items that were left to be shared. Pillows, towels, and clothes could not withstand the moisture of the ground. It was then that I decided to donate my heavy plastic table for the cause. Soon someone brought out a second table, and now there are three.

The Free Tree unofficially became the Free

Table, at least that is what I called it.

Recently a new sign has appeared at the site. The Free Table is now officially the L & L Trading Post. Fittingly, the sign is attached to a wooden post.

Whether you want to call it by its new title, the Free Tree, or the Light and Life Kmart, the spirit of community and sharing goes on.

I want to personally thank all who have contributed to making this little corner by the pond a special place. Many, many times I have had a need for an item—told the Lord about it, and then found it at the Free Tree. God is SO GOOD and you, his kids, are also good and generous.

-Carolyn Lindley, Editor



FROM THE PARK ADMINISTRATOR:

To keep this a safe and enjoyable spot for everyone, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Only leave items in good, usable condition.
- (If it’s broken, dirty, or unsafe, please don’t leave it here.)
- No food, chemicals, sharp objects, or anything that could be harmful.
- Please place items neatly so the area stays clean and inviting.
- Take only what you truly need so others can enjoy the space too.

Remember, the Trading Post is about sharing thoughtfully — sometimes a treasure, sometimes a laugh, but never garbage.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

In this past two years, over 30 individuals and couples have become members of Light and Life Park. Denise Tomasello has been endeavoring to introduce many of them at community gatherings, but keeping up with all of them is a real challenge.

We'll spend the next few issues of the Life and Times introducing you to some of the new neighbors so that you can become better acquainted and extend a warm hand of fellowship to them.



DAVID AND JANICE WELLS have a history with New Tribles missionary service, having spent 11 years serving in Papua, New Guinea.

After retiring from Dave's sales job and

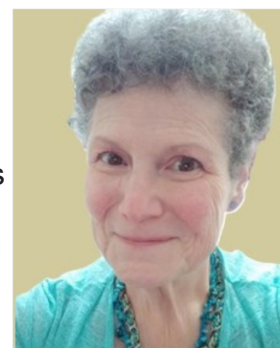
Janice's work with a Christian nonprofit called International Aid, they returned to New Tribles as volunteer workers in Sanford, FL and wintered there. When they were unable to keep up with the work there, they began looking for another winter home here in FL. A mutual friend of Ruth and Eben Smith told them about Light and Life, and they began to winter here in the fall of 2022. This year they became members, residing at 5323 Hebron Ct.

When not in FL, the Wells make their home in Grand Haven, MI. They love the outdoor life—camping and biking at the top of the list. Dave loved to hunt and fish until an injury curtailed those activities. Janice likes to read and they both have enjoyed doing volunteer work.

The Wells have two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Their most favorite thing in the world is being with their grandchildren. After having grandkids, they didn't think it could get any better—until the great grandkids came along!

They are thankful that God led them to Light and Life Park. Wintering here has been a real blessing.

CAROLYN TEACHOUT is just about finished up with the remodel of her home at 5894 Mizpah Ct. She was raised in Otisville MI and currently resides in Spring Arbor MI when she is not here at Light and Life.



Carolyn has brothers who live in Cape Coral, so making her winter home at Light and Life enables her to be close to family. She grew up Free Methodist, so she has known many people who resided here over the years.

Carolyn came to Light and Life as a teenager when she was in the musical group, Teens for Chrst. It has always been in the back of her mind that spending her retirement years here was a viable option.

Carolyn is a retired educator and elementary school counselor, and was in the education field for over 41 years, mostly in Northwest Jackson (MI) School District. She is a licensed professional counselor, and has dedicated herself in service to God and folks in need of her gifts. She serves as a pastoral counselor at the Arbor Church, and spends many hours tending to the emotional and spiritual needs of folks in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As she puts it "I feed the blind, rub sore feet, and hold the hands of the dying, I encourage the discouraged, comfort the fearful, pray with and for the doubters, listen to lots of reminiscing, deliver hugs, and even sing along with the songs of the 30's, 40's, 50's, and 60's with my peeps! I love my job!

Carolyn loves music, reading, and enjoys sewing and doing puzzles, although she rarely finds time for those activities. She has a passion for serving others and her Lord.

Please make Carolyn welcome here at Light and Life Park!!





JIM AND CINDY PRESLEY

were introduced to Light and Life Park by some of their church friends—the Fergusons, LaBries, and the Cox’s.

They recently purchased their home at 5302 Zion Avenue.

Cindy hails from Lake Orion, MI and Jim is from Burton, MI. They currently reside in Columbiaville, MI when not here in FL.

Between the two of them, the Presleys have eight children and eleven grandchildren.

Jim is a sports fan—the Michigan Wolverines, Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Lions are his favorite teams. He also enjoys riding motorcycles, and was part of a group called “Hogs in Ministry.”

Cindy loves riding her Harley and bicycling, and her favorite pastime is walking on beaches. She is very “into” her grandchildren and loves spending time with them. She also enjoys doing crafts and puzzles, and you might get a glimpse of her at the puzzle table in Hood Hall.

Cindy has held a variety of jobs over the years—she has run her own business, been an office worker, and a hair stylist.

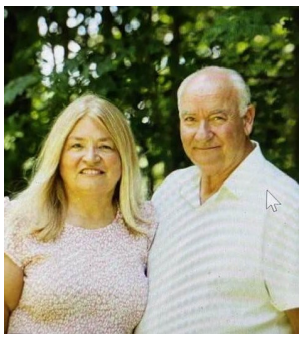
Jim worked in the automotive industry and retired from GM Buick division.

The Presleys love Light and Life Park because it is comfortable, friendly, the people are helpful and wonderful. And there is lots to do!



LARRY AND RUTH CRUM live at 5318 Ebenezer Place while in FL and in Howell, MI otherwise.

Larry is a retired Nazarene minister with 40 years of service in that denomination. In the fall, you might find Larry in the woods hunting.

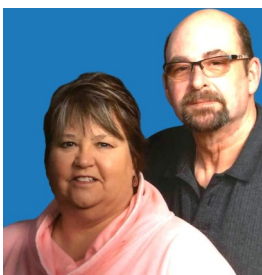


Ruth had a career in Event Planning. One of her larger events was Auto Shows. Her hobbies include crocheting and reading.

The Crums will celebrate 52 years of marriage in August of this year.

Larry and Ruth have been blessed with two sons and two daughters, who have given them eleven grandchildren—three girls and eight boys.

One of the Crum’s sons is married to the daughter of Tom and Cathy Blake, who introduced them to Light and Life Park. Please let Larry and Ruth know that we’re glad that they chose to make Light and Life their winter home.



LOREN AND MARIE HUNTLEY

have followed family tradition in choosing Light and Life Park for their winter home. Marie has visited the park many times, as her parents were residents here. She

joins family members Brenda Miller (sister) and (aunts) Eva Gardner and Carolynn Orrison, making her home at 5315 Ebenezer.

When not in FL, Loren and Marie live in Lapeer, MI, and spend summers volunteering at Covenant Hills Camp. They have one daughter and one son, as well as six grandchildren ranging in age from 3-23. They also have a great-grandchild who is two years old!

Loren had a career with General Motors for 30 years, and also served as a firefighter for 33 years in the City of Lapeer. His hobby was racing limited, late-model circle track cars—until there were just too many crashes!

Marie had a 43 year career as a Dental Asst. and Dental Office Manager. She sometimes subs at her old job when in Lapeer.

We welcome them to our park family!

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Many are starting to leave for their northern homes. You may take postage stamps that you have carefully cut with 1/3" borders to the west wall of Hood Hall before you head out. Please remember to collect stamps and bring them back with you when you return to the park: new or vintage, damaged, on or off paper, domestic or foreign, standard or commemorative, entire albums, etc. as well as postcards with or without stamps.

Proceeds from the sale of these stamps are used to produce and distribute Spanish Christian literature.

I especially want to thank Lynnette Robar who so willingly, faithfully assisted in trimming and sorting thousands of stamps. What a tremendous helper these past two winters! Thank you to all who contribute to this project! ☺

- Marilyn Stone, coordinator

L& L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

Come & enjoy fun in the sun with a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & well being. Routines are choreographed to music and designed to promote improved muscle strength, endurance, flexibility & core balance without the stress of land exercise.

No previous experience required!

Splash times are offered year round and free of charge.

Our spring/summer schedule will vary based on the heat index and the availability of those interested. Please look for more updates via L&L

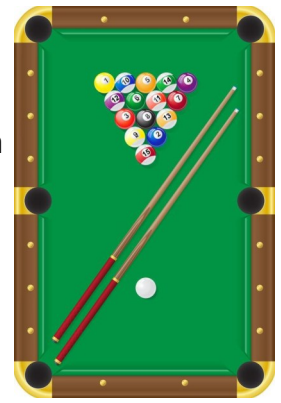
Facebook and Neighborhood News.

Karen Castle-Williams,

ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor

Articles, announcements, and items of interest must be submitted by the 20th of each month to ensure publication in the following month's newsletter. Please email carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com Please do NOT send announcements via text.

If there's anyone that would be interested in playing pool/billiards we currently meet on Friday afternoons at 2:00 PM in the recreation center. All playing levels are invited.



Questions? Call me at 989-878-1634.

Steve Zimmerman

Comedy Night



Our final FELLOWSHIP DINNER and PROGRAM for this Nov-April season will be April 6 at Hood Hall at 5:30 with a Comedy Night program following at 6:15.

Your place settings can be taken over in the afternoon after the board meeting. Bring a large dish serving 8-10 to share with those at your table. As usual you MAY arrange your menu in advance but that is not mandatory, and, as always, you do NOT have to have a full table of 8-10 people but can leave a few places open for others to join you that evening.

There are many who like and prefer:

- *the convenience of knowing ahead of time where they are going to sit especially since we usually have a full house Feb through April, last time we only had one empty table and the rest were full
- *having less to carry in at arrival time
- *not having to go through serving lines (mobility issues, standing in lines, carrying plates of food, "decision time", portion control, etc)
- *Having hot food hot and cold food cold
- *eating very soon after arrival
- *and having one meal each month where there is an option to safeguard their severe allergies.

Please join us for FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP!

Plan now what clean joke, funny skit, comedic snippet you can share. Certainly you have heard, read, seen something that tickled your funny bone; come prepared to share with all!

Residents on EBENEZER will do the set-up and clean-up afterwards. We thank them in advance!

Contact me if you wish to be on the docket. Marilyn Stone Jaxstone68@gmail.com; TEXT 863-308-2813