



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

February 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 1 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: Greg Thomas
greg.t@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell:
Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
Website: lightandlifepark.org

Park Administrator: Stan Welton
(Cell: 863 608-3982)
Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
Website: lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Office Hours:
November 15-April 14: 8 am- Noon
April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon

News from the Park Administrator

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).
As I run around in crisis mode for most of my work day, I realize that I am not taking the time to "be still." Moving from the Office Manager to Park Administrator would be a tough enough transition. But it is even more challenging when the park is trying to rebuild from a natural disaster. Especially, during our busiest season of the year. As I make it a priority just be still, I pray you all do as well. Rebuilding is a tough time. Take the time to refresh yourself and talk to our savior, Jesus Christ.

Trailer, trailers everywhere. I appreciate your patience as we work through our plan with the trailers. They are a blessing to those members who need a place to stay. To others, I can see how they may be considered an eyesore. But please don't look at them in that way. They are a blessing. We will be able to use what we need and sell of the rest. It will just take some time. If you are using a trailer to live in as a long term place to stay or you are just using it for a couple of weeks, accept it for the blessing that it is. I have been inside a lot of these trailers. They are not perfect. They have been used. But, THEY ARE FREE. If the trailer doesn't meet up to your standards, you can look for other accommodations.

Lots Available for Lease

There are currently no lots available to lease for a RV or Park Model.

The following lots are available for a modular home to be put on them:

5359 Beulah Land
5885 Shiloh Path

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

If you still haven't paid your 2025 annual fee, please do so. Lori has been given the task of calling those who are behind. She will let you know what you still owe.

I look forward to what this park will be like when all of the work is finished and the dust settles. I will do my best to help the park move forward and become a Light to the community and show them what a Life in Christ exemplifies.

Greg

News from the Board of Directors

First on a personal note, Barb should be cleared for travel sometime in late February Praise the Lord. It has been a long health journey that started about the same time as Milton hit our park. We have so much to be thankful for. And, are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you all for your participating in the meeting Monday night January 27. We truly believe that this will help us as a Board to guide the future of Light and Life Park.

It is great to see that in many ways life is getting back to normal in the Park. Trivia is back, movie night, pickle ball and fellowship dinners and Mugs. Although many are still rebuilding, recreation and fellowship is important in getting back to normal.

The nominating committee has been busy fulfilling their duties in interviewing candidates for the Board of Directors. In the February 10 members meeting we will be announcing those candidates. Also as a reminder, in that February meeting nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee for the 2 open positions will be accepted. This committee may one (1) non FM on the ballot. The Bylaws Review committee also has 2 open positions. Please be in prayer and bring those nominations to the meeting that night.

Future Planning committee will be working on the process of connecting with the county and any other officials as to why we suffered so much damage and how to prevent in the future. Pray that we can get some answers. Also, remember the newest property and 5580 Deeson? That also will be back on our "radar".

We serve a Great God. He has been with us the whole way answering our prayers to make Light and Life Park better and better.

God Bless and keep praying

Larry Putnam



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 during snowbird season and free of charge.

Currently we are not on a "set" day of the week due to weather conditions. However, spring is around the corner! Updates are posted on L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News. Kindly share this with your friends!

GAME NIGHT – EVERY FRIDAY!

Game nights are held at Maxwell Commons on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. Bring a snack to share and your favorite table game (some games are available there).

Some folks also play at Hood Hall and in homes.



Where to Donate your Goods

The donations given at the Park to help others are appreciated. **Please take your donations to the following places:**

Food donations for Briarwood may be left on the designated table in Hood Hall.

Slightly used linens may be donated for Senior Orphans in Hood Hall. Please refer to Senior Orphans article in this newsletter.

Jean Whipple takes several items to Talbot House weekly. See that article in this newsletter for details.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Medical Equipment Available

Maxwell Commons at The Villa has some medical equipment available that can be borrowed by any Park resident.

Call someone you know in the Villa to help you. Please sign out the equipment you are borrowing. There are wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, portable pots, and shower seats. Please notify a Villa member when you are returning an item, so we know it has been returned. Please **don't** leave it on the porch. We are **not** presently accepting any equipment donations due to lack of storage space.

Talbot House Ministry

The ongoing deliveries of prescription bottles, unused medicines, **good clean clothing** that you no longer use, and small household items is an ongoing project. Please continue to save these helpful items for the homeless shelter and the Good Samaritan Clinic.

Please put all clean, washed clothing as well as all other items in bags and leave it in my porch on Fridays. We will deliver on Saturdays. If it is not clean and/or bagged it will be thrown out. I am not able to do that part anymore. Thanks for your cooperation.

Should you wish to help financially or take your own items yourself the address is: 814 North Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland.

Thank you! Jean Whipple

Stamps for Missions

We continue to collect foreign and domestic postage stamps, new or canceled, which are then sent to Alliance Stamp Ministry who in turn sell them to stamp collectors. Profits are used to produce Sunday School materials in Spanish to be used here and abroad. Please carefully trim a 1/4 to 1/3-inch border on all sides then take them to Hood Hall where a box is located near the mailboxes by the NW door. When stamps are adjacent or in a strip cut around the grouping not between individual stamps. IF some are given to you which have been damaged, torn or cut too closely we can still use them, they just don't generate as much revenue. Do not attempt to remove stamps from the paper envelope/package by wetting/soaking them. Foreign stamps are more profitable if as much of the postmark as possible is still there. We also collect new/used postcards for the same purpose; leave stamps attached.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated and they matter to little Spanish readers!

Marilyn Stone

Coordinator



Metal Cans

There are containers over in the enclosed space by the Garbage containers for recycling your metal cans and are picked up by Errol.

Pop/Soda cans are to be placed in the bins designated for aluminum cans and are to be separated from other metal cans.

Errol uses the proceeds from the metal to support his son who is a Pastor of a very small church.

Thank you for your support.

Heavy Equipment Fund

The park purchased a brand new Bobcat T-450. We were able to finance the Bobcat at an excellent 0% rate. We also purchased a new bucket grapple attachment to use with this Bobcat.

We are starting a "heavy equipment" fundraiser to pay down the loan. If you want to donate to this fund, we will accept your donation at the office. Please put "heavy equipment" on your check. This Bobcat is an answer to prayer. It will be extremely useful in the park.



All functions sponsored and organized by the Beautification Committee are canceled for 2025. This includes the Beautification Parade. We will resume functions in 2026. This decision was a result of many members having to deal with the aftermath of hurricane Milton, including myself. Hopefully everyone will understand.

Tom Lake
Beautification Committee President

Fellowship Dinner with Programs

Be sure and watch for announcements about the next Fellowship Dinner with a program. The date for the March program has yet to be determined, but will be announced soon.

Flyers for the upcoming dinners are placed at various locations around the park and on Neighborhood News.

Fellowship dinners are mini-potlucks for tables of eight. Regular potluck dinners are very time consuming – as 200 people going through the serving line takes 45 minutes to an hour. Also – a mini-potluck enables those with special dietary needs to ensure that there is something they can eat at their table.

To prevent “cliques” of people always eating with the same folks – be sure and invite someone new to your table each month.

For more information about the dinners contact:
Marilyn Stone, chairman jaxstone68@gmail.com

Blood Pressure

You can still get your blood pressure taken on a regular basis if necessary.

I can come to your house, or you can come to mine, 5437 Bethel Dr.

JoAnn Willet RN
989-615-8430



Cars and Coffee

2nd Saturday of every month

8 am to 10 am.

Vehicles of all years, sizes, and shapes are welcome at Light and Life Park, 5730 Deeson Road (at the end of the road) Lakeland, Florida.

The gate will be open. You can see cars parked in the parking lot under the trees on the left. Come have coffee and donuts. Join in the fun!

Larry Thomas 540-447-0458



BOWLING

Due to our unusual circumstances at the park this year, bowlers are invited to an “open bowl” activity on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. This enables them to bowl without the time commitment or expense of being on a league.

For more information about the open bowl activity, contact Barb Hartson at 814-397-6274.

Shuffleboard

Let's meet at 1:00 on Tuesdays and at 6:00 on Thursdays to practice our shuffleboard skills. We will get together and set up teams to play.

The cost to play is \$1 per game or \$10 per season – payable at the park office.

Any one new to shuffleboard come and learn how to play. For more information contact Dale Schantz (989) 975-6710.

Gad-About 2025

- Feb 13 Scenic Boat Tour n lunch at Harborside Restaurant in Winter Haven
- Feb 27 Christian Movie n Lunch at local restaurant in Lakeland
- Mar 13 Russell Stover's Outlet n lunch Sumner Lake in The Villages
- Mar 27 Lake Mirror Gardens n lunch Garden Bistro

Flo Grabowski Cell 931-797-2639
coachfollc@gmail.com

Peggy Dunn Cell 248-766-5537
pegjim2000@yahoo.com

Annual Park Spring Craft Show and Bake Sale

Friday, March 7th
 10-2 pm @ Hood Hall

Please let me know if you would like to participate so I can have a count of tables needed.

Becky Smith
 email: becsmith62@gmail.com
 Text or Call: 231.349.2993



Check out the park website!

Copies of the newsletter, the Park calendar, places for sale, and much more can be found there.

www.lightandlifepark.org

50th Anniversary



RECEPTION SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST Light and Life FMC

2-4 PM

There will be a short (20 min.) program at the beginning of the reception. Be there by 2:00 so you don't miss it. Use the double doors leading into the foyer. The side doors will be locked and the annex closed off until the reception begins at 2:20.

If you haven't already done so, be sure to stop by your bank or credit union and get a few gold dollar coins. There are four couples (so far) that are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and we want to shower them with gold coins and golden wishes. There may be a few more that we are unaware of at this point, so you might want to get some extra coins just to be safe. We will have some cards available for you to sign. Those who bring gold dollars will not need to purchase greeting cards - unless you choose to.

Those being honored are, Don & Nancy Duman, Chuck & Annie Frankenfeld, Myke & Pamela Merrill, and Mike & Roxanne Smarscz.

Carolyn Lindley
carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com
 50th Anniversary Chair

Mugs on Monday

We are looking forward to a great season of MUGS ON MONDAY the second and fourth Mondays of each month **through March** at **8:30 AM** in The Hood.

Everyone is welcome to come fellowship, drink coffee and eat a donut, if you choose.

The purpose is to get together and enjoy our time smiling a lot and getting to know each other

Bucket Listers

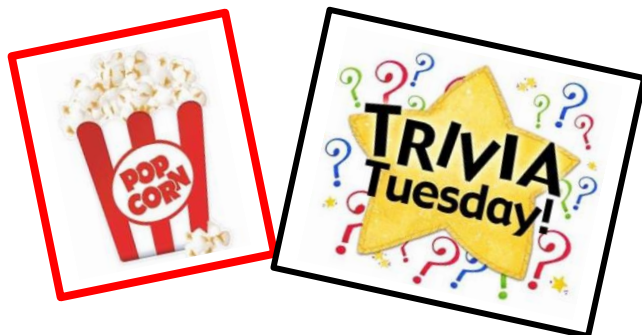


Thank you for your participation and support at Tuesday Night At The Movies and Tuesday Night Trivia. We are all exhausted from cleaning up after Milton but it feels good to watch a movie or laugh with each other.

On 1-28-25, all of the donations from the pop and popcorn sales at Tuesday Night At The Movies was donated to the Heavy Equipment Fund to help pay for the new Bobcat. Together we raised \$353.35!

The Bucket Listers will continue to sponsor trivia and movies on Tuesday night through the end of March.

Remember the cinnamon rolls that the Bucket Listers baked last year? We plan on making some this spring. More details to come.



Calling all golfers in the park!

February 21st, 2025 (Friday)

Club Championship Tournament at CPC (two flights each for Men & Women (18 holes) 10:00 AM start time. Includes closest to the pin, and longest drive. Prizes provided by Chick-fil-A.

Registration is required by February 18th. (Let Ed know which flight you want to be in? Handicap or Champions).



The Players Club
Ed Stockwell
517 861-0481

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI REUNION

Join us as we cheer on the Detroit Tigers with fellow SAU alumni, staff & friends

March 7, 2025 | 6:05pm (gates open at 4 pm).

- Joker Marchant Stadium

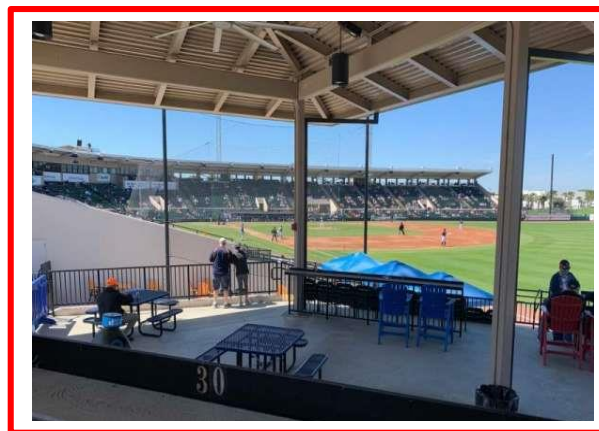
- Pepsi Pavilion

- \$55 per ticket | Includes all-you-can-eat buffet from 5 - 8 PM

- Tigers vs. Orioles

Register by Feb. 14.

Contact alumni@arbor.edu or 517.750.6673 for any questions.



PEPSI PAVILION

Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to **The Life and Times** are delivered to the newsletter editor, Carolyn Lindley by the **20th** of the month prior to publication.

Email is the preferred method.

carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com

The March deadline is February 20th unless the activity is in the latter half of the month. Then check with me to see if you can still make it in.

Carolyn Lindley, Editor