



June 1, 2026

# The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.  
Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 6 Page 1

## FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Website: [lightandlifepark.org](http://lightandlifepark.org)

Office Manager: Phil Allen  
phil@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones

### Mobile Homes for Sale

5317 Jordan —\$130,000

### RV's & Park Models

5323 Hebron Ct.—\$10,500  
5242 Zion—\$24,900

**No Villas or Block Homes are  
listed at this time**

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

I hope everyone is finally enjoying Spring weather, wherever you are. The Park Board is now operating under the off-season schedule and will have regular board meetings on the first Monday of every other month (June, August, etc.). Although we are in the off-season, the Board is still very involved in the major operations of the Park. We are actively supporting our Executive Director (Park Administrator), Lyndon Babcock, by reviewing and approving large projects and activities. Some of the current projects include:

- ◆ New Roof for Hood Hall
- ◆ Proposals for milling and repaving portions (or potentially all) of the Park roads
- ◆ Contracting for IT Support and Hardware Services
- ◆ Spectrum Business Service and Support for the Park facilities
- ◆ Investigating public funding for evaluating and controlling stormwater

During the off-season several small volunteer projects still arise. Right now, we need a volunteer(s) to do some small plumbing tasks and install baseboard in the Bathrooms and Hallway at Hood Hall. If you are available to take on this project, please contact Phil Allen in the Park Office.

I do encourage all of us to continue to constantly pray for our friend and Brother in Christ, Tim Smith, that he be healed and have a complete recovery from his recent accident. Of course, we are also praying for Tim's wife Becky, and all the family as they wait and hope for the best outcome.

We appreciate all Becky has done for our Board as President and the leadership and organization she has provided. Given Tim's condition, Becky has resigned from her position as President to devote her energy to Tim's care.

- Board report continued on Page 2

## Board Report continued

The Board met and decided that I will take over the role of President until the Board can determine future organizational decisions. So please reach out to Lyndon, me, or any of the other Board members with items that need our attention.

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*  
(Romans 12:10-13)

Ron Foster  
Acting President and Board Vice President  
607-765-7541

## News from Executive Director (Park Administrator)

I want to take a moment to echo Ron's message and share from the Office side of the Park. These past few weeks have been **challenging in several ways**, and through it all, we continue to lean on one another in faith, care, and community.

Even in the midst of these challenges, the work of the Park continues to move forward.

The office is actively coordinating several important initiatives for the summer months, including:

- Oversight of the **Hood Hall roof replacement project**
- Advancing **IT support and infrastructure improvements** for the office and key Park facilities
- Continued partnership with **Hillsborough County** as we pursue long-term solutions for our **stormwater drainage system**
- **Pool surface treatment** to enhance both its appearance and long term durability.

Exciting progress ahead—plans are underway **to improve and repave** sections of our Park roads this summer.

Behind the scenes, we are firmly in the **execution phase—implementing improvements, strengthening procedures, and ensuring the Park continues to operate with clarity and care.**

To support operations during this time, we are thankful to welcome **Boady Vista and Jeremy Hill** as part-time staff assisting with Park needs. In addition, **Greg Thomas** has returned in a **part-time, remote support role**, working closely with me on several key administrative items.

Through all of this, I am reminded of the strength found in community and in our shared faith.

Scripture encourages us:

**“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”**  
— *Galatians 6:2 (NIV)*

This is who we are at Light & Life Park—a community that walks together, supports one another, and trusts the Lord through every season.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and care for one another.

With gratitude,

Lyndon Babcock, Executive Director

## What's Going On at Light and Life Park this Summer?

**Men's Breakfast**—1st Saturday of each month at the Golden Corral. Meet at the church parking lot to carpool at 7:50 am.

**Cars & Coffee**—2nd Saturday of each month. Featuring cars of all years & models. Coffee and donuts served in the church parking lot.

**Bible Study**—Mondays at 2 pm. Home of Judy Casey.

**Potluck Dinner**—Mondays at 5 pm. Hood Hall.

**AquaSplash**—TBA on Neighborhood News

## Introducing—New Park Members!

We continue our focus this month on some of our new park members.



**DAVE AND CHARLENE GRINNELL** live in Vestal, NY when not at Light and Life Park. They have three grown children.

They are very active in their

local church and are very family-oriented, helping out with their six grandchildren after school and as needed.

Dave was a Project Engineer for Collins Aerospace where he designed flight simulators. One of his projects was the helicopter for the US President.

Charlene was a stay-at-home mom for a few years, and then went to work in a preschool. She later served as an administrative assistant at a nonprofit organization.

They were aware of Light and Life Park before retiring, having been members of the Free Methodist Church. When friends Ron and Lana Foster retired to Light and Life, they decided to rent a place for a month and check it out. They fell in love with the park, and were able to obtain a trailer that needed refurbishing at 5370 Beulah Land.

The Grinnells both enjoy getting exercise by walking, gardening and landscaping. Dave also enjoys heading to the woods with his son to deer hunt every year.

In Charlene's words, they "love, love, love Light and Life Park." And we're so glad they've chosen to become members!

**STEVE AND DEB READER** are restoring the former home of Tim Price at 5347 Bethel Dr.



They currently live in Leslie MI but will soon become residents at the Nazarene Campground in Vicksburg MI.

The Readers have three daughters and one son, as well as eleven grandchildren.

Steve learned some valuable skills while in high school and college—cement and brick laying, as well as plumbing repair and new installation. He has a BS in Business Marketing. He put all of knowledge to work as a business partner and manager of a plumbing supply company, until he retired in 2023.

Steve is an outdoorsman. He and Larry Angus are hunting and fishing buddies. He also enjoys using his vocal talent to lead worship with the praise team at his church.

In October of 2025 Steve had a heart attack. It was discovered that he had a 99% blockage so he underwent angioplasty and got stents and a new lease on life. He is a walking miracle!

Deb practiced nursing for 42 years, and retired from Henry Ford Jackson hospital in 2025.

Deb enjoys watching Hallmark type movies and reading. She is fascinated with stories of Amish life, although she doesn't think she would do well without modern conveniences.

Deb visited the park several times over the years, so when Larry Angus told them about the Price home being available, they were quick to check into it.

The Readers join other family members here at Light and Life—the Probsts, Beulah Boss, and the Clevelands.



**RANDY AND BRENDA TOLAND** have known many residents of Light and Life Park, as they are members of the Alpena, MI Free Methodist Church. To name a few—Carol Smith, JoAnn Shaw, Leroy and

Coralee Campbell, and Brenda's Aunt Shirley Wilder.

Unlike Randy, Brenda never thought she'd like to live in Florida. However, when they came and toured Light and Life Park she had a change of heart. The people are so friendly and she feels surrounded by like-minded folks. The park is beautiful, and a fairly safe place to live and for grandchildren to visit.

Their new home at Light and Life is at 5878 Mizpah, near Andrew Jr. and Jayme.

Randy and Brenda have four grown children—two guys and two gals, as well as three grandchildren and four, yes four kitty cats.

Brenda worked in food service for about 25 years, and retired as a certified dietary director at a skilled nursing facility. Now that she is retired, she is enjoying spending more time with the grandkids. She used to enjoy gardening and crocheting, but hasn't kept up with those hobbies in recent years. Even though she was in food service for many years, she still enjoys cooking when she can and is also a reader.

Randy is an "almost" lifelong member of the Boy Scouts. He started out as a cubbie and worked his way to Eagle Scout, the highest honor in scouting. He worked for the Boy Scouts for 30 years before retiring. He is now happily out of that organization and is having fun driving for a local transit company.

Randy is a jokester—when asked what his hobbies include he remarked "picking on my wife."

The Tolands haven't been able to spend a lot of time at Light and Life yet, but are hoping to be down for two or three months this winter.

We'll be looking forward to their return in January and becoming better acquainted.

Welcome Randy and Brenda!!

## STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

To give you some specifics, I sent another package of stamps you had helped collect to Alliance Stamp Ministry. It was a large size sneakers box stuffed to the gills with more than 4 pounds of stamps. I counted a small sandwich bag to get an idea how many stamps per ounce; that large package contained approximately 13,600 in total! And that's only one of the boxes for this year which Lynnette and I cut and sorted.

Now you know why IT IS SO IMPORTANT AND APPRECIATED for you to trim them to 1/4-1/3" borders (but not separating those in strips or groups) so she and I don't have to cut them all. Every little bit of your effort helps; every stamp counts! Through April this year alone the ministry raised \$10,000.



Canceled or not, new/old, domestic/foreign, damaged or not, standard/commemorative, on/off paper (don't remove them from paper). Save them until **FALL** then take them **ALL** to Hood **HALL** west **WALL**. I removed the cardboard box until then as the two metal containers grew legs and walked off. Thank you, Stampers♥

-Marilyn Stone, coordinator



## Library Notes

It is an exciting time in our library as we anticipate the treasures you will find when you come back for the winter. Hopefully, you will want to explore the special books we have and find the surprises that will encourage you and cause you to want to read the many different topics we have.

We will have a special area of the library highlighting various topics, authors, fiction and nonfiction including history, science and many genres of novels. We have tried to get more fantasy, science fiction, inspirational, and suspense. We have new authors we have not had in our collection which you can enjoy.

When you come to the back room, there will be a brand new glass-enclosed bookcase with many Free Methodist and Methodism books. Some of these books are dated 1857, a Bible from 1876, and many from the early 1900s. They will be protected because of their age. Some are of the Free Methodist history. It is exciting to see what we have, and you will be able to examine them if so desired.

During college, so many years ago, I enjoyed my missions classes and the books we were required to read from real missionaries. We have many stories at Hendricks in the 266 area of nonfiction. Some of these stories are from residents who live in the park. Others are from Free Methodist Missionaries all over the world. Of course, we have classic mission's stories too. It is our hope that you will open pages and discover new meaning with our missionaries and their lives.

The backroom will be completely updated in the database and will be for research and will be user friendly. The important men such as Charles and John Welsey and Benjamin Titus Roberts. There is also a section of Free Methodist Authors, so whose names will be very familiar to you on a wide variety of topics. There will also be commentaries, John Welsey's sermons and theology, plus biographies of many famous people.

We are looking for material and travel books that are no older than five years about other countries or from the United States. So, if you have any you would like to donate, please feel free to drop them off.

We are looking to expand classics in our library and have recently acquired a collection of Agatha Christie novels. So, again if you have any classics, in very good condition, we will consider adding those to our library.

Look for unusual books of interesting topics that just might change your mind about reading!

Please also let us know of magazines you would like to see in the library. Just drop a note or text to let us know.

Blessings,  
Gloria Welton  
[cactusgirlglo@gmail.com](mailto:cactusgirlglo@gmail.com)  
814-758-9943

### 1977

The 50th Wedding Anniversary Committee is looking for all those who were married in 1977. We would like to celebrate with you!

The Golden Anniversary reception is scheduled for the first Friday in February from 2-3:30 pm.

There is a short 20-30 minute program, which begins at 2:00, followed by a one-hour cake and punch reception.

So let us know if 1977 is your year. Email: [carolyn\\_lindley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com).

## Summer is Right around the corner— Time for Picnics!



The 5th Annual Saturday Before The Fourth picnic at Manton Christian Camp at 1:00 pm in Manton Michigan, 10 miles north of Cadillac.

A fun afternoon Potluck for previous, current and future residents and friends of Light and Life Park, hosted by Roy and Janet Wight.

Roy will be grilling— meat, plates, silverware, napkins & bottled water will be provided.

Since the party is so close to the 250th anniversary of USA the theme is red, white and blue. So, wear your patriotic colors, bring a chair, and a dish to pass. See you there on Saturday June 27, 2026.

## LIGHT & LIFE FRIENDS ANNUAL POTLUCK at SOMERSET BEACH CAMP OFF US 12 (Chicago Road)

Sunday, July 12th during Family Camp.

Come for the morning worship service and stay for lunch or all day. Worship service times are 10 am and 7 pm.



We'll gather in the Lakeside Pavilion between 12 and 1 and eat at 1 pm.

**BRING:** A large dish to pass  
Your own beverage  
Place setting & tablecloth  
Optional: Lawn Chairs

## Dinner in the Hood Continues All Summer Long!!

Come to Hood Hall every Monday night at 5 pm for a scrumptious potluck dinner and fellowship with friends. For more information contact Paula Daughenbaugh.



## Golf Tournaments in 2027—note March date change!

### *January 8th, 2027*

Two person (men and women) Tournament (18 holes Scramble)! Bring your partner! Men & women divisions. (Friday)  
Start time 10:00 AM

### *February 12th, 2027*

Club Championship Tournament (two flights each for Men & Women (18 holes) 10:00 AM start time.

(Note: closest to the pin and longest drive contest will be held as part of the Club Championship,)

### *March 5th, 2027*

Last Two person Blind Draw tournament (18 holes) Men & Women Categories (Friday) Shot gun start at 10:00 AM.

### *April 1st, 2027*

Three club Co-Ed tournament (Play your own ball). (Thursday) 18 holes. 9 AM start time.

Any questions? Contact Ed Stockwell  
[edstockwell48@gmail.com](mailto:edstockwell48@gmail.com)

## Aqua SPLASH News FLASH!



Christmas in June?  
No—but please “Save the Date” for a Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8th at Noon. All are welcome to join us. More details coming soon.

Meanwhile, our Aqua Splash water aerobic sessions continue. Monitor L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News for dates & times.

Karen Castle-Williams,  
ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor  
[allforyum@aol.com](mailto:allforyum@aol.com)

## Earl & Willie's Concert Schedule

If Earl and Willie are going to be in concert near you, why not pop in and surprise them with a visitor from home? They'd love to see their Light and Life friends around the country.



In June they'll be in OH, PA, and WV. In August and September they'll be in several MI locations.

For a complete list of tour dates, visit their website: [www.earlandwillie.com](http://www.earlandwillie.com)

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](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com) Please do NOT send announcements via text.

## GAD-ABOUTS NEWS

2026 Gadabouts trips were a lot of fun. We appreciate all that participated — especially our drivers!

All women who are at Light & Life Park any time in January thru March are invited to join us for these ladies-days-out. Its not a club and you and your friends and guests are always welcome. We usually sign up ahead of time, carpool, and have a lunch stop and enjoy an activity. Highlights of this past season was our trip to Ikea and the monster truck tour of the Citrus Farm.

During the 2027 season, we plan to have six outings. We haven't assigned a place to visit, but we have set the dates: January 14 & 28; February 11 & 25; and March 11 & 25! These are all Thursdays. Times will vary according to drive times and the event.

Some of the ideas presented are Boggy Creek Airboat near Kissimmee, Picassoz - Ceramic and mosaics in downtown Lakeland, a Thrift store expedition to Dade City. Other suggestions were Bob's Train Museum and Train ride near Sarasota, Amazon warehouse tour near Lakeland. Some suggestions to repeat are Silver Springs glass bottom boats, Solomons Castle, or The Tabernacle at Tarpon Springs.

We always announce our plans on Neighborhood News and put a notice on the Bulletin Board at Hood Hall in case you don't do email. Don't miss out, come along and make new friends or enjoy time with old friends. We are always looking for ideas of somewhere you would enjoy going! Email me at [pegjim2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pegjim2000@yahoo.com) or text me at 248-766-5537 or give me a call. God bless you all!

From Peggy Dunn (Please let me know if you would like to be on my planning committee) Thanks!