



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

March 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 2 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Office Manager: Phil Allen
phil@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

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.

News from the Park Administrator

Hello from the park office. It is hard to believe the winter season is two thirds over. While some things have returned to normal, most of the park is still trying to rebuild and establish a new normal. I want to thank the Bucket Listers for resuming their usual events such as Trivia Night and Movie Night. This has brought back some normalcy to the park and given the residents a time to enjoy each other and forget about the work still to be done.

During the month of February, the board approved at least seven new parties to purchase or lease at the park. I have received commitments from people to rebuild nine trailers that were damaged in the flood. There are just three or four trailers waiting to be rebuilt. There are three damaged homes still on the market to be sold.

Places in the park waiting to be rebuilt are as follows:

1. 5244 Zion Ave.
2. 5318 Ebenezer Place
3. 5319 Hebron Ct.

Places in the park that were damaged and on the market to be sold are as follows:

1. 5875 Mizpah Ct.
2. 5347 Bethel Dr.
3. 5829 Shiloh Path (Sale Pending)

This is a long ways from where we were just a month or two ago. At one point I had over 12 places waiting to be rebuilt and five places on the market to be sold.

On Monday 2/24/25, Phil Allen started as the new Office Manager. It will take some time for me to get him up to speed. But that is not his fault, it is mine. I am so busy it is hard to get time to train him. I have total confidence that Phil will catch on quickly and do a great job.

We continue getting the travel trailers situated throughout the park. We are still assigning them to people who need a place to stay while they rebuild their place. I may soon be at a place where the park will be able to rent trailers to visiting family members.

Continued next page.

Please be in prayer for the park, the employees and the board members. This has been a trying time for all of us. We will try to keep the park moving forward. My prayer for us in the park is much like that of Paul in Philippians Chapter 1, Verses 9-11.

“that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; that you will see the difference between what is important and what is not and choose what is important; that you will be pure and blameless for the coming of Christ; that your love will be full of the many good works that are produced by Jesus Christ to bring glory and praise to God.”

Greg Thomas, Park Administrator

News from the Board of Directors

March is upon us and spring is right around the corner. The old adage of time flies is certainly true, especially around our Park. People are still busy working on homes but also finding time to golf at the CPC, play shuffleboard, play trivia or go to movie night.

Things continue to move towards normalcy. Take some time for yourself remains good advice.

At the last members meeting you nominated 3 candidates for the Nominating Committee. They are: Gloria Welton, Barb Lake and Cheryl Allen. They will be on the ballot come March 10. Also the candidates for 4 Board open positions were announced: Glenn Teal, Alice Garcia, Jim Thomas, Steve Roberts, Becky Smith, Dave Moffitt and Larry Osborne. Our annual elections are approaching fast. They will be at Hood Hall on March 10. The times to vote are from 10 AM to 3 PM. Results will be announced that evening at the members meeting. It will be in the Light and Life church. This is a very important part of the operation of the Park every year at this time. So, get to know the candidates and VOTE on March 10

As work continues around the park residences, volunteer groups are still needed to help with many projects. So, if you know of any groups that would be interested please let us know.

Hood Hall remains the command center for supplies. But, is still usable for the many activities. Some more good news: The wood shop is back in full operation.

The board continues to receive new member applications. We still remain short of the total of 269 residences. This is a great time to spread the news about Light and Life Park. Many opportunities remain for new members.

Continue to pray for answers and action from the government agencies as to why this flood disaster happened. Also, that our FEMA application will be approved.

Be safe out there. Help your neighbor and Pray Pray Pray.

God Bless. *Larry Putnam*



L& L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

Experience 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 generally offered twice a week during snowbird season and free of charge. During the month of March, join us on Mondays & Wednesdays @2PM (weather permitting). Updates are posted on L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News! See you poolside!

Coordinator:
Karen Castle-Williams
ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor

Shuffleboard

There will be a Shuffleboard Meeting and Luncheon Thursday March 13th. We will be discussing plans for next year and filling several positions on the Board: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and at least one board member. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. For the committee to continue, we need people to step up to serve.

Please plan to attend. The top 3 men and women winners from the Challenge Tournament will be recognized. There will also be a couple door prizes. We would like for you to sign up to attend, so we can determine how much food to buy/prepare for the lunch. The sign-up sheet will be posted at the courts. Questions: Contact Ruth Bridgeforth 540-649-4394 or Dale Schantz 989-975-6710

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.

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



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/packaging 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 grapppler 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

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



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.

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



Upcoming Missions Events!

March Missions Madness Opportunity!!

Save up your dollars and give to missions!!
For the month of March, every dollar given towards missions

will be matched up to \$5000.

Every dollar you give will be doubled.

Be sure to designate your gift towards "missions" on the offering envelope!

Mission Sunday March 16th Both morning services Speaker: Josh Fajardo

Josh is one of our FM missionaries that our Light and Life Church supports.

Josh serves as the Europe area director and lives in Spain with his wife Susy. Josh is a part of Impact Europe, an initiative for community church planting.

Vonnie Denton
Missions Committee

GAD-ABOUTS

The Gad-Abouts have two trips planned for March! On Thursday, March 13, we plan to go to Russell Stover Chocolates and to the Villages for the St. Patrick's Day Festival! The Festival Celebration is at the Lake Sumpter Landing in the Villages from 4 to 9 pm. They will have live Celtic Bands as well as other demonstrations, Bagpipes, Market Vendors, Food Truck vendors, plus.

We will leave our Park around noon and our first stop will be Russell Stover shopping. We will then meet at Cody's Roadhouse in the Lake Sumpter Landing area of the Villages to eat at 3:30 and then attend the street festival. We should return to the Park here by 7 to 7:30 p.m. Watch Neighborhood News and the Bulletin Board at Hood Hall for more details.

Then on Thursday, March 27, we have planned to have lunch at the Garden Bistro right here in downtown Lakeland. It is located on beautiful Lake Mirror. We will then tour the Lake Mirror Gardens which should be in full bloom by then. We look forward to traveling with any lady who would like to sign up and come along

Gad-Abouts is not a club and anyone is welcome. This is a wonderful way to get to know other ladies in the Park and make new friends. For questions, call Peggy Dunn at 248-766-5537. Or e-mail pegjim2000@yahoo.com

Mugs on Monday

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 better. Come join in.



A great BIG THANK YOU to all of our generous blood donors!

84 people may benefit by the 28 donations that were given. Remember, up to three people can be helped by each donation!

Don't forget, you are a precious GIFT to someone in need!!

See you later in March, when the Big Red Bus will be here again.

Blessings & Love,
Margie & Jack

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

Dinner at the Max

Fridays 5:30 pm

Come and enjoy an old fashioned potluck dinner. Catch up with old friends and make new friends, all while feasting on the delicious home cooking of the park residents.



WOOD SHOP NEWS

Great News! The wood shop is back in operation again after Hurricane Milton damaged our building. With help from a number of volunteers the walls are repaired and the equipment is back in position. Many people who are rebuilding their residences are wanting to come and cut boards and other woodwork. It is time to remind everyone of the rules for use of the wood shop.

Each one who uses the shop must sign up as a member at the office, pay their dues of \$15.00, and sign the Liability Waiver sheet. At this time, you will be given the new door code for access to the shop.

As always, we ask that you clean up after your project, to help keep the shop free of clutter and useable for others. Under no circumstances should you just abandon leftover lumber in the building. Talk to one of the leadership board members who will advise you where to put it.

There will be a general Membership meeting for *all members* on **March 10, 2025 at 9:30 AM** after Mugs on Monday. We will meet in a back corner of Hood Hall to conduct business and elect leadership members for next year. This is a very important meeting to insure we keep the wood shop functioning well, both now and for next year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jim Falconer – Wood Shop Secretary

FELLOWSHIP DINNER & PROGRAM

The next Fellowship Dinner will be Monday, March 17 at 5:30. Bring a dish to pass at your table that serves 8-10. Water is furnished.

Invite new people, singles/widowed, or someone who hasn't come in a while to join you.

You can take your place setting to Hood Hall in the afternoon to reserve a place; when you come to eat you'll know where you'll sit ahead of time, reduce the amount to carry in, and speed the flow of traffic with everyone arriving at about the same time for the meal.

Several of our residents will entertain you at the VARIETY SHOW which will begin at 6:15 whether or not you can eat with us - but you'll miss the FELLOWSHIP and the delicious food ☘

Marilyn Stone, chairman



**Volunteers
needed**

If you can lend a hand to help at one of the homes being fixed up, or one of the trailers, please let the folks at Command Central in Hood Hall know. Volunteers are needed for a few hours in various capacities, so don't let your limitations stop you from serving. Also, if you know of a church, school or other organization that could send volunteer help, please contact Kyndra or Jayme.

BUCKET LISTERS

The Bucket Listers have been busy hosting Tuesday Night At The Movies and Tuesday Night Trivia. One of the Tuesday Night Trivia concession donations this past month was donated to Missions.

The park's guest cabins were completely flooded during Hurricane Milton. The Bucket Listers have been busy refurbishing three of the cabins for the spring break season. Thank you for your donations to this project.

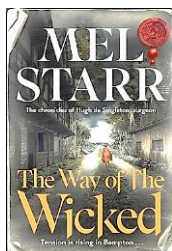


At Tell Your Story on February 13, 2025, Banana Splits were scooped up. What an overwhelming response we had. Thank you for your support and patience!

As a result of your support to our sponsored activities we are able to assist with funding various projects in the park. Thank you for your support.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

The Way of the Wicked, Mel Starr's latest book, is only available here at Light and Life until the end of March. An autographed copy is available for \$12. The same book is available on Amazon for \$15 – without the autograph!



On February 24, 2025, a Pulled Pork Dinner was catered by Dave and Gail Cook. Everyone enjoyed a dinner of pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, Boston baked beans, cole slaw and cheesecake.

Thank you Dave and Gail for your hard work and mastery in the kitchen!

Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to ***The Life and Times*** are sent 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 April deadline is March 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