

The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

May 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 4 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:
April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon
November 15-April 14: 8 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

Wow, is it May already? Where has spring gone? May comes with heat and humidity. And lots of sunshine. For those of us still here, our outdoor activities will be limited to mornings and evenings.

Once the afternoon/evening rain begins, the grass will start growing and need to be cut more frequently. If any year-round residents are interested in mowing grass during the summer, please come see me in the office. We need at least one more person to help with the summer mowing. It will help if you have experience in using a zero-turn mower.

Work has begun on the floor in Hood Hall. Thank you to the guys from Covenant Hills who came down again and put up the beadboard and chair rail. Also, thanks to Cliff Nicholas and Ron Ford for painting the beadboard and chair rail. The installation has hit a snag but I have been assured the work will be completed before the first Summer Dinner on 5/5/25.

We have received the light poles for the sidewalk that leads to Ebenezer Place. Doug, Andrew and Ryan will be working on this during the next weeks.

I have been asked by numerous people about the sale of the extra trailers. Presently, I am working through how many extra trailers we will have. I need to know who will need to stay in a trailer this fall while they are still rebuilding. If you are one of those people, please let me know. There is a committee of four people who will come up with a price and a process for selling the trailers. Once that has been determined, an email will go out from the park to the membership.

I pray you all have a safe and healthy summer.

Greg Thomas
Park Administrator

News from the Board of Directors

Happy May!

This month, I encourage you to join committees that guide our community's future and enhance the enjoyment of the park's fun activities. If any of the following areas spark your interest, simply reach out to the social committee chair or a board-appointed committee member to get involved.

Building & Grounds Committee

(Non- Board Members Welcome)

Jim Falconer falconer_j@yahoo.com
 Ron Foster lssfoster4@gmail.com
 Larry Osborne bwr311@gmail.com

Future Planning

(Non- Board Members Welcome)

Ken Kendall ken.kendall@gmail.com
 Larry Putnam lbputnam2@gmail.com
 Mike Smarszcz

Rules & Regulations Committee

(Non- Board Members Welcome)

Dave Moffitt moffitt.dave@gmail.com
 Larry Osborne bwr311@gmail.com
 Roxanne Smarszcz rmsmarz@gmail.com

2025 Social Committees

Chair(s)

Easter Dinner	Jim & Robin Thomas
Thanksgiving Dinner	Barb Lake
Christmas Dinner	Rose Martin
Hood Hall Decorations	Sue Noble
Fellowship Dinners	Marilyn Stone
Beautification Committee	Tom Lake
Park Media	Stan Welton
Fiftieth Anniversary Party	Carolyn Lindley

With your support, we can look forward to an exciting winter season filled with vibrant plans and fun.

Becky Smith
 Board President

Board of Directors 2025

Becky Smith, President
 Larry Putnam, Vice President
 Dave Moffitt, Treasurer
 Ken Kendall, Secretary
 Ron Foster, Jim Falconer, Jim Thomas
 Larry Osborne, Roxanne Smarszcz

The Board of Directors meets the first Monday of each month. All park members are invited to attend via Zoom. Invitations are sent out by email in advance of the meetings.

Executive sessions are private meetings for board members only.



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. Upcoming May dates include:

Monday, May 5th @ 2PM

Wednesday, May 7th @ 2PM

(No sessions May 10th-24th)

Please look for more updates via L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News.

Karen Castle-Williams,
 ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor



Married in 1976? Then, congratulations on your upcoming 50th wedding anniversary! Please let me know who you are - and plan to celebrate your anniversary with all your friends at Light and Life. There is much planning to be done...so please do not delay in contacting me.

Carolyn Lindley, chair
50th Anniversary Celebration
Carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com
(517)262-1482

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.

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.



Hendricks Library Update

Many of you mentioned that you missed going to the library this past winter season. It was difficult to see the library idle while people worked and still are working on their homes due to Hurricane Milton. Praise the Lord, we are in the final stages of clean-up and soon the homes will be back to normal. Now, we can focus on other buildings like Hood Hall and Henderson Library.

Our library had a wealth of information. We appreciated the great job the previous librarians had done. The library had approximately two feet of water in it and at least 1,000 books were thrown out. Books were packed away. We are in rebuild mode and our vision for the library has changed to meet the needs of the present. We have a vision to make the space more usable and pleasant along with brand new computers!

When you walk in the front door, the counter will look basically the same. It will have a computer on the right-hand side so that you will be able to look up books available in the library. The check out and book return will be there. Where the two public computers were there will be perhaps a bookshelf, a couple of chairs and a place to sit and relax.

As you enter the main room, you will see a small coffee and tea bar between the two restrooms. There will also be a computer beside it for public access. The outside walls will have bookcases like they had previously. There will be a couple tables with chairs in the middle. We will focus on fiction, with up-to-date books and a smaller nonfiction section. The magazine section will be updated with your choice of magazines.

In the back room, there will be a long conference table for meetings and bible study. The DVD selection will be less but updated with new movies. We will also have two or three places for public computers that are separated for more privacy. Our Bible Study selection will be revamped becoming more user friendly.

The atmosphere of our new Henderson Library will be focused on reading enjoyment, small group gathers, and casual comfort. We need your thoughts and input. What magazines would you want in the library? What type of Bible Study materials? Do you have ideas on furniture or books? What other suggestions do you have? Please email me your thoughts or give me a call. If you would like to help with the preparation and updating of our material you are welcome to stop by. You may also email the church office to leave ideas.

Woodshop Update

The woodshop board would like to thank everyone that helped to restore the wood shop walls and tools back to a usable condition. The Wood Shop is Almost back to normal. There has been a lot of work done to remove rust from the machine beds and many of the tools. If you see rust on one of the machines or some of the shop tools there are white cans of R-9 rust inhibitor spray in the metal cabinet at the front of the shop, please spray any rust you see with the R-9 rust inhibitor then wipe off the excess with a paper towel.

The clean-up efforts in the shop are getting done, but there are a few things that need work yet. If you can spend a little time in the shop cleaning areas that need it and emptying the trash barrels, we urge you to do so. The list of jobs to be done is on the table in the shop. As always, we thank you for your time spent to make our wood shop look clean and attractive.

Please be cautious using the Wood Jointer as the blade guard is missing. We are looking for a replacement, but due to the age of the machine we may have to replace the machine next year. (If anyone can find the parts to replace the guard, please let us know as the machine is about 75 years old.)

The next meeting will be January 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the wood shop. All members are urged to attend.

We encourage you to take advantage of the wood shop for your wood projects or just for an opportunity to learn a new skill in wood turning or carving. We hope to offer some classes in woodworking next year. Our wood shop is an excellent place to learn.

Lee Stevens
President,
Woodshop



Gadabouts News

Greetings to all the ladies of Light & Life Park. Thank you for participating in the trips we took this year. Thank you to the drivers and thank you if you invited a new lady to join us. We plan to have 2 activities a month next season, Lord willing!

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 - A Thrift Store Expedition and lunch!

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026 - Weeki Wachee Springs Park and Mermaid Show

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 - Flea Market and lunch, Zephyrhills

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026 - Silver Springs Glass Bottom Boat tour

Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026 - Fancy Farms Visit

Thursday, Mar. 26, 2026 - John's Pass Pier and optional Dolphin Boat Ride



If you have any suggestions of places you would like us to go, let me know. These are almost all return trips and if you have a new place, that would be fun too. We can always make changes. Gad-Abouts is not a club and all visitors and park members are always invited. We usually announce on Neighborhood News and have sign-up sheets we put up in Hood Hall.

If you have any questions or suggestions, let me know. Thank you, Peggy Dunn
248-766-5537 or
e-mail: pegjim2000@yahoo.com

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

New Arrivals

March and April have been especially fruitful for our little herd of goats as we were blessed with not one, but FIVE kids! If you haven't had a chance to visit our new arrivals, we encourage you to take a trip to the goat pen and see them. We are blessed that all are happy and healthy.

Zoey gave birth to twins on March 4th. One didn't survive. However, Carl, the other baby, is doing well.



He is now introduced to the rest of the group. Yes, he is named after our own Carl Otto!

Another kid was born on March 24th to Blondie. Her name is Cloe.

Then, on April 10th Belle had triplets - two females and a male. The male kid is named JR, of course after our own Junior, AKA Andrew! One of the females is Beth. and perhaps a good name for the second would be Betty or Becky; however, her name has not yet been decided! You wonder who the Daddy is—our own Dagwood, the goat with the blackish head and black on his ears.



Mike Lower left Light & Life Park a legacy with our goat herd. They were more than his responsibilities. He was a goat whisperer. He loved them like pets. They responded to him and as he showed them affection, they did likewise. When Doug Jones came, he offered to let the goats back into their pen at night, and thus he was able to take over their care when Mike passed. They are now Doug's pets and he loves taking care of them.

Sometimes when he needs to be away from the "busyness" of L&L, he needs someone to take care of them. If you are interested in giving Doug a helping hand, please let him know. Andrew and Tom have helped some, but they are not always in the Park.

Rhonda Luna is our local "goat lady". She comes and helps when they are ill or need shots. She has been a wealth of information for Mike and Doug and is just a call away! Thank you, Rhonda.

You might notice the two tractor tires in the goat pen. They love climbing up on them and playing King of the Hill! There were two picnic tables from the RV section that floated away during Hurricane Milton. They were recovered and now are platforms for the goats to play on. There is only one thing missing, a slide for them to go down when they are playful. Yes, they do make slides for these critters!

When Mike was here, wild dogs broke into the goat area. They tried to attack the little ones, but the older goats attempted to protect them. We lost at least two of the older ones. The fence around the ponds where the goats graze and around their barn need replaced. Doug would like a shed to store their feed and supplies safely away from the weather. He would love to buy a round bale of hay for their housing and food. He also has a machine where people could get pellets to feed the goats. This also would need a roof over it for protection from the sun and weather. We are looking into opportunities to fund these repairs. Please let Greg Thomas and/or Doug know if you are interested.

People often wonder what is good to feed the goats. There has been a sign placed near the goat barn that states not to feed them when they are in there. Yet often there is food thrown into the area which causes vermin to get into the site.

The safe things to feed the goats are those items which would be from the garden. No breads, or meal scraps; just vegetables. One goat died from someone feeding the wrong item., so please take heed and keep the goats safe.

-submitted by Gloria Welton, who says "Tune in for new additions!"

Bucket Listers

Well January, February and March flew by because we were busy with all kinds of activities at the Hood!

What a great winter season we had! The Bucket Listers are so appreciative of your participation and financial support at these activities.

The Bucket Listers would like to thank Lee Stevens, Bruce Falconer, Ed Lamoreaux and Ron Ford for building and painting not one but two puzzle shelves. These shelves will hold community puzzles at Hood Hall. Come down to Hood Hall and work on a puzzle or take one home to do. We had lost our previous shelving units in Hurricane Milton. Thanks guys for helping out!



CARS & COFFEE

May 10, 2025 8 am to 10am

Vehicles of all years, sizes, and shapes welcome at Light and Life Park 5730 Deeson Road (at the end of the road) Lakeland, FL 33810

The gates will be open. You can see cars parked in parking lot under the trees on the left. Come have coffee and donuts. Hope to see you there!



Jo Anne Thomas
540-447-0288

SUMMER DINNERS AT HOOD HALL



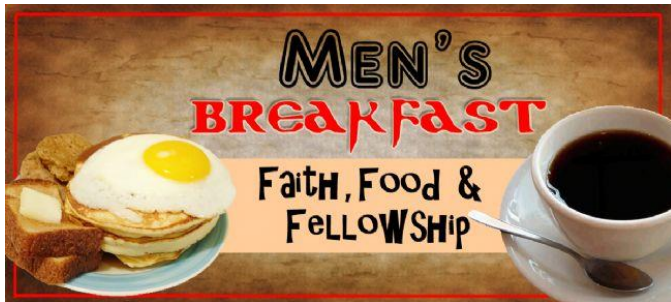
There will be a summer dinners starting in May. They will begin May 5th. They will be on the first Monday of each month. The first dinner will be Stuffed green peppers, roasted potatoes, southern cooked green beans, green salad, dessert and a drink. The cost is \$8.00. Dinners will be at 5:30. Please sign up no later than Friday May 3rd. A sign-up sheet will be available Friday in Hood Hall.

Dave and Gail Cook will be preparing the dinners. You may contact them with questions.

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.



This Saturday is the first Saturday of the month (May 3) and is time for the men's breakfast and fellowship time.

Meet at the church at 7:55 to carpool. For more information contact Dale Schantz 989-975-6710

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Many of us are snowbirds. However, the need for funds for Spanish Christian literature continues year round. Thankfully no matter where you are any day of the year you can continue to LOOK for, CUT (with a 1/4-1/3 inch border), and SAVE postage stamps, foreign or domestic, commemorative or standard, also preprinted, cancelled or not, new or old, as well as postcards, which are then sold to collectors. From fall through spring you can take them to Hood Hall.

Your relatively small efforts produce huge results as we're working toward the second million in dollars raised. Please contribute your stamps and PRAY for this worthy cause. THANKS♥



The monthly newsletter is a great way to stay informed, but there are also other resources available. There is a Facebook page hosted by Chuck Tomasello, and an email service called Neighborhood News, hosted by Judi Purdy.

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Our Park FELLOWSHIP DINNERS WITH A PROGRAM are held monthly NOVEMBER through APRIL - usually on the first Monday of the month. Sometimes an exception to the established date occurs for very good reasons (too close to a holiday meal or the Golden Anniversary event, covid, the hurricane relief efforts, etc.)

During these "off" months, however, you can be thinking about how YOU can be assisting with our programs: an entertaining solo or group participation whether vocal or instrumental, a skit, a joke or funny story, serious or silly. You may also recommend someone else who may have a hidden ability or skill. For example, it's been a long time since we heard a gospel quartet. We love featuring our own residents and enjoying your uniqueness!

Additionally, your suggestions for program themes are appreciated, even repeat performance of a past program. Please share your thoughts! THANKS!

Neighborhood News

Neighborhood News is an email service where you can buy, sell, trade, ask questions, make announcements, etc. You must include your name and contact information when using this service.

If you would like to subscribe contact Judy Purdy at judith_purdy@yahoo.com. If you're subscribed and not seeing it in your emails, be sure to check your spam folder before contacting Judi, as sometimes mass emailings go into spam inadvertently.



There are a few opportunities over the summer months to reunite with your Light and Life friends. For Michiganders, there are three options in various parts of the state. Here are the details:

Mark your calendar!
Save the date!
Saturday, June 28
1:00 pm

The Fourth Annual Saturday Before The Fourth Picnic at Manton Christian Camp in Manton, MI

The pavilion by the flag pole is reserved.

Potluck-Bring a dish to pass.
Roy and Janet Wight will provide the meat, tableware and ice water.



See you there!

(Editor's note: There is camping and overnight lodging available at the camp if you would like to make it an Up North excursion. Contact <https://www.mantonchristiancamp.org> for accommodation information.)

Sunday, July 13
(During Family Camp)
1:00 pm

Somerset Beach Campground
off US 12 near Somerset Center, Michigan



Missionary Church Campgrounds

Brown City, MI

Thursday, August 7
(During Camp Meeting)
Time and location TBD



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 June deadline is May 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