The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

November 1, 2026

Volume 14 Issue 10 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Mobile Homes for Sale

5317 Jordan Blvd.—$125,000 (reduced)
5876 Moriah Place—$55,000
5850 Deeson Rd.—$78,000 (reduced)
5317 Ebenezer—$38,000
5801 Moriah—$49,500

RVs and Park Models for Sale

5242 Zion Ave.—$19,500 (reduced)
5335 Hebron Ct.—$12,500

Camper (LeRoy Campbell) $3,000

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

Executive Director & Board Update

Greetings Light & Life Park Family,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I want to thank everyone for their continued support, encouragement, and involvement in the life of our community.

Since last month's newsletter, we have continued making progress on several important initiatives, including financial planning, membership approvals, governance and bylaw review planning, maintenance project prioritization, and preparations for the return of our winter residents. We have also been working through several operational matters to ensure the Park remains strong and well positioned for the future.

As many of our seasonal residents begin returning, we are excited to welcome familiar faces back to the Park. The fall and winter months are always a special time as our community becomes more active and fellowship opportunities increase.

Please note that the **next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 7th**. **There is no regular Board meeting scheduled during November.**

As always, thank you for your prayers, volunteer service, and commitment to making Florida's Light & Life Park a wonderful place to live.

Scripture of Encouragement

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

May the Lord continue to bless our Park, our residents, and all those who call Light & Life home.

Blessings,

Lyndon Babcock
Executive Director
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.



Library Hours

The library is open 24/7. Starting in November, the librarian will attempt to be there from **9:00 to 1:00** on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**. On **Tuesday and Thursday** from **1:00 to 5:00**. Other arrangements can be made for your **convenience**. Just call 814-758-9943.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with library chores throughout the week. These duties should only take up one or two hours of your time per week. They include activities such as:

- ◊ Restocking the coffee bar and wiping it down
- ◊ Replacing books on shelves when they are turned in
- ◊ Labeling new processed books
- ◊ Straightening bookshelves
- ◊ Being there when someone needs help
- ◊ Processing books into the data system
- ◊ Check shelves to make sure books are placed correctly

Please see Gloria Welton if you are interested.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER and PROGRAM



Our upcoming fall FELLOWSHIP DINNERS will be Nov 9 and Dec 7. The November PROGRAM will honor our Park Veterans and recognize both Thanks-giving and USA's 250th Birthday.

The December PROGRAM will be a Christmas/ winter Sing-Along led by Earl & Willie.

Our annual VARIETY SHOW will be in MARCH. Start now to "Get your act together." Snowbirds may need to bring props, instruments, costumes, etc. from their northern residence. Recommendations and suggestions for participants and ideas are very welcome. We've had requests for a male quartet: any volunteers?

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 26th

12 PM (Noon)



Look for the sign-up sheet in Hood Hall on or around the second weekend of November. This will be a "planned potluck" - so when you sign up, indicate which of the items on the menu that you plan to bring.

This year's dinner is being organized by The Bucket Listers. Any questions can be directed to Janet Wight.

NEW GROWTH GROUPS FORMING

Meeting together with other believers in a small group setting is beneficial to spiritual growth. The leadership team of Light and Life Church is encouraging everyone to get involved in a group to pray, discuss scripture, and apply that scripture to everyday life.

If you would like to start a group or join an existing group, you can contact the church office for more information.

Friday Dec 4th
10am-2pm
Hood Hall



Contact:
Becky Smith
231-349-2993
to reserve a table.

Hot Dog lunch will be provided by the Bucket Listers for a donation.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES



PAULA DAUGHENBAUGH moved to Light and Life Park with her father, Pastor Bob Daughenbaugh four years ago. Since his passing, Paula applied for membership and is now one of our newest park members.

As a PK (pastor's kid), Paula grew up in several places, including Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan. As an adult, Paula made her home in Atlanta, GA where she taught elementary school for 23 years.

Paula is grateful for the wonderful Christian home that she and her sister grew up in, where family devotions took precedence and she came to know Jesus as a small child.

Paula loves outdoor activities, especially walking and playing pickleball. She also enjoys travelling, live theater, and going to garage sales.

Paula is responsible for starting the Monday night potlucks—after she spotted a senior dining alone. She serves the Lord with gladness, whether it be to help a neighbor or lend her beautiful voice on the praise team at church.

In leisure time Paula likes to bake, read, and do jigsaw puzzles. She enjoys attending concerts and especially likes jazz music.

When Paula was a student at Spring Arbor College back in the 70s, she stayed in one of the cabins here at Light and Life with her softball team. She had no idea that one day she would be a park member.

Paula has loved making friends here at Light and Life Park. She and her dad both felt that this park has been a real blessing in their lives.

We welcome Paula into membership!!



MARY ELLEN BURCHEL came to Light and Life Park as a newlywed to Dr. Hal Burchel. Dr. Hal and his late wife, Ruthann, had been members of the park previously, and he always spoke glowingly and lovingly of his time here. So Mary Ellen suggested that maybe they should move here.

Mary Ellen grew up in Ohio and was the daughter of a pastor. She had one brother and two sisters. After high school, she attended Southern Wesleyan College and later Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University). Her pursuit of a teaching career ended when she discovered that teaching was not her gifting, so she left college after her junior year and went to work as a secretary at the Wesleyan Publishing House.

Mary Ellen met and dated Hal for a period of time in her early 20s – little did she know that she would become his wife 58 years later.

She remained at the Wesleyan headquarters for 20 years. 17 of those years she worked with various General Superintendents of the denomination. When the church headquarters moved to Indianapolis, she took a job as division secretary at Indiana Wesleyan, and worked there until 2009. She served as administrative assistant for various university presidents during that time.

In 2018, she moved back to Ohio to be closer to family. A few years later, she was facing shoulder replacement surgery, and a friend mentioned that one of his buddies, Hal Burchel, had undergone that surgery a short while ago. When she explained that she knew Hal, he encouraged her to email him in Nairobi, as his wife had recently passed and he could use a friendly greeting from home. That began their courtship.

Mary Ellen has several interests and hobbies – she enjoys sewing, reading, cooking, baking, and traveling. (She has especially enjoyed her three trips to Nairobi with Dr. Hal). Among her collectibles are English Bone China, teapots, and depression glass.

Mary Ellen loves the atmosphere here at Light and Life. The spiritual tone, the church family and Pastor Jeff have been wonderful. Living in the park has been a tremendous blessing to her – and we are certainly blessed to have her in our community.

TALBOT HOUSE

MINISTRIES

Stan and Jean Whipple collect good clean clothing, household items (for setting up apartments), linens, and medicine for Talbot House Ministries.

Talbot House Ministries provides shelter, food, healthcare, and long-term support to individuals experiencing homelessness. With over 1,700 homeless households in Polk county alone—and nearly 17,000 unsheltered across Florida—they stand in the gap, offering stability and renewed purpose. Every day, they help neighbors take the next step toward independence and dignity. *

Currently, the most urgent needs are:

Soap – solid or liquid
Laundry detergent
Men's jeans (sizes 30-36), pants and shoes
Toothbrushes (not toothpaste)
Shower gel or body wash
Shampoo
Bottled water or other drinks
Individually packaged snacks (granola bars, crackers, etc.)
Towels
Twin-sized bedding
Gallon-sized plastic bags (Ziploc or similar)
Travel-sized deodorant and sunscreen
Rain ponchos*

If you plan to donate over the counter and prescription medications please call Stan or Jean @863-608-1742 for instructions. Prescription meds are distributed only by a licensed physician.

You may leave donated items in the screen room at the Whipple's home, 5866 Deeson.

**Information copied from Talbot House website*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



This year's packing party for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child is scheduled for November 6th at 9 am in Hood Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Remaining items needed for the boxes:

- ◊ boxes of crayons,
- ◊ colored pencils
- ◊ coloring and or story books glue sticks
- ◊ spiral notebooks. Note pads
- ◊ Socks ages 2 to 4, 5 to9, and 10 to 14.
- ◊ Donation toward items or for shipping 200 boxes at $10.00 a box.

These and other toy items may be placed in the box below the display table at the back of the church auditorium.

If you would like to take a box and fill it on your own, that would be appreciated as well. Be sure to label it and mark whether it is for a girl or boy and what age range.

You can donate to Operation Christmas Child on the churches website or by writing OCC on the church envelopes.

Set up dates are November 3,4,5th at 9am. Distrabution day is November 16th at 10:30.

kathymiller5159@gmail.com
716-598-1924

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to cut (1/3 " border all sides) and save postage stamps (all varieties and conditions) and postcards (with stamp on them if used) for the very worthy cause of producing Spanish Sunday School literature for missions. I'll let you know when I return to the Park so they can be turned in. Thank you very much for your support of this project! EVERY ONE MATTERS!

-Marilyn Stone

GAD-ABOUTS NEWS

If you are a lady, and are at Light & Life Park any time in January thru March, please join us for a ladies-day-out. Its not a club and you and your friends and guests are always invited. 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. New ideas are The Lazy Maid in Brooksville and Whimseyland in Safety Harbor. 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 or text me at 248-766-5537 or give me a call.

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

- Peggy Dunn



Celebrating 50 years of Marriage

February 5, 2027

2-3:30 pm Hood Hall

PROGRAM: Begins promptly at 2 pm

RECEPTION: 2:30-3:30 pm

BRING: A card or a gold dollar for each of the couples.

HONORING: Tom and Cathy Blake
Steve and Lyn Roberts
Chris and Nancy Ware

If you or someone you know is also celebrating 50 years of marriage, please contact Carolyn Lindley at carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com

NEW COFFEE STATION



As reported by Lyndon Babcock earlier, the coffee station in Hood Hall had become very expensive to operate. The donation of .50 per cup was not covering the cost of the coffee. Therefore, we now have a new coffee machine and some extra goodies such as a variety of creamers and hot chocolate. The requested donation is now $1.00 per cup, which is a bargain when compared to coffee at a restaurant or coffee shop.

BUCKET LISTERS

The Bucket Listers are starting to return to the park and they are getting excited about sponsoring various social activities for you!

Thank you for bringing puzzles with you as you returned to the park! . Everyone is invited to work on a puzzle at Hood Hall or take one back to your residence and complete it. Just remember to put a rubber band around the boxes so the pieces don't get lost.

No need to sign out puzzles they are available to everyone without a tracking system.

Look for the Bucket Listers at this year's Annual Christmas Craft Show in December. We will once again provide a hot dog lunch for a donation.



The Bucket Listers are sponsoring a Christmas Caroling event in the park on December17 to include root beer floats, for a donation, afterwards. More details to come.

The Bucket Listers are also planning on continuing with sponsoring Tuesday Night movies and Tuesday Night Trivia starting in January. There will be pop and popcorn available for a donation at each of these events.

As a result of your participation and donations at these events we are able to make our park a fantastic place to live.

Bucket Listers will continue to provide funds for flag replacements as they become faded or torn in our park.

It's going to be another great winter season!

We are so blessed!





November 3-6 Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
November 26 Thanksgiving Dinner
December 4 Craft Show & Hot Dog Lunch
December 8 Aqua Splash Christmas Luncheon 12 noon
December 25 Christmas Dinner
January 28-29 Shuffleboard Tournament
February 5 Golden Anniversary Reception 2-3:30pm
February 7 Ice Cream Social 7pm
February 12 Golf Club Championship 10am
February 18-22 Challenge Shuffleboard
March 5 Ebenezer Day & Park Wide Yard Sales
March 5 2-person Blind Draw 10am
March 12-14 Earl & Willie Homecoming
April 1 Golf Co-ed Tournament 9am

Fellowship Dinners with Programs
November 9, December 7, January 4
February 1, March 1, April 5 5:30pm
Dinner at the Hood—2nd-4th Mondays Each month 5pm
Movie/Trivia Night—alternating Tuesdays January-March 7pm
Men's Breakfast 1st Saturday each month 8am
Gad Abouts (Ladies Day Out)
January 14 & 28
February 11 & 25
March 11 & 25

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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.