



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

October 1, 2026

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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)

Motor Home—\$38,000

2004 Holiday Rambler Imperial

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

News from the Park Administrator

Dear Light & Life Park Family,

As we enter the fall season, there is a renewed sense of excitement around the Park. The return of many familiar faces is just around the corner, and our staff, volunteers, and committees have been working hard to ensure Light & Life Park is ready to welcome everyone home. Looking back, we have much to be thankful for; looking ahead, we have even more to anticipate.

One of the highlights of the past month was welcoming approximately **20 students from Southeastern University (SEU)** to the Park on **September 12th**. These students generously gave their time and energy helping us plant trees, clean gutters, and remove weeds around the front entrance and other areas of the Park. Their servant-hearted attitude and willingness to jump in and help was truly encouraging, and we are grateful for their partnership. We look forward to welcoming them back again this year as opportunities arise.



The verse that has been on my heart this month is:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell

on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" *Isaiah 43:18-19*

This scripture reminds me that while it is important to celebrate what God has helped us accomplish, it is equally important to keep our eyes on what lies ahead.

As many of you know, we remain in the middle of hurricane season, and storm preparedness continues to be one of our highest priorities. The Park Office is actively reviewing and updating our emergency response plans, communication procedures, and operational strategies. We continue learning from past storms and evaluating how we can improve our readiness should we face a significant weather event in the future. Our goal is not simply to react well, but to be prepared before a storm ever arrives.

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News from Park Administrator cont.

One area receiving significant attention is **storm-water drainage**. We continue making progress as we work through engineering reviews, assessments, and long-term planning. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is one of the most important infrastructure challenges we face, and we remain committed to finding practical and sustainable solutions.

We are also excited to officially have **Jeremy Hill and his family** living in the Park. Jeremy has stepped into the role of **Grounds and Maintenance Supervisor**, and his leadership has already been a tremendous blessing to our operations. With numerous projects underway and a busy season ahead, having dedicated maintenance leadership on site strengthens our ability to serve residents and care for the facilities and infrastructure that make Light & Life Park such a special place.

Top Priorities for the Next 30–60 Days

1. Stormwater & Drainage Planning

Continuing assessments and developing recommendations for long-term improvements.

2. Fall & Winter Season Readiness

Preparing facilities, grounds, and common areas for the return of seasonal residents and increased activity throughout the Park.

3. Operational Excellence

Strengthening maintenance operations, communication processes, and technology systems to support residents and Park activities more effectively.

The summer has been productive, challenging, and rewarding. Through it all, I continue to be encouraged by the volunteer spirit, dedication, and care demonstrated by so many in our community.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We look forward to welcoming many of you back soon and sharing another wonderful season together.

With gratitude,

Lyndon Babcock,

Executive Director (Park Administrator)

FROM ACTING BOARD PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to returning to the Park around October 1st for the Fall and 2027 season. During that time I will be working with Lyndon, our Park Executive Director, staff, the Board of Directors and Park Committees to review our governing documents, Park procedures, and the 2027 proposed Budget to align them with our future vision for the Park.

Over the past two years, since Milton's devastating impact on more than 160 of our nearly 270 Park residents, we have now shifted from major recovery and rebuilding to planning for the future and catching up on normal maintenance that was postponed due to recovery efforts. I want to commend the efforts of our current and past administration, staff and volunteers for maintaining the critical infrastructure during that period and for the recent major projects that have been completed.

On September 8, Lyndon distributed the 2027 Rate Sheet for the Park. We have received a few comments on the recent increases in the Annual Resident Fee. You may recall that following Milton, the Board decided not to increase the Annual Resident Fee for 2025, due to the financial impact to residents. However, for 2026 and now for 2027 the increases are more significant.

I want to add some details to clarify the information Lyndon provided:

- ◇ Operating costs for items including, but not limited to, insurance, taxes, fuel, utilities, contracted services, etc. have increased significantly (as all of us have experienced with our own personal expenses).
- ◇ The Park's Operating Reserves have been somewhat depleted due to the significant Milton recover costs for Park owned facilities, equipment rental, dumpsters, etc.
- ◇ The Park Board is budgeting to restore our Operation Reserves over time to the level prior to Milton.

Continued next page

From the Acting Board President cont.

- ◇ The Park received income during 2025 and 2026 from trailer sales that will not be received in future years. This income stream helped offset some of the Operating Budget Increases in 2025 and 2026.

I am sure that I have not touched on all of the budget impacts, plus or minus, that were considered by the Finance Committee in preparing the 2027 Rates and draft proposed budget. I want the membership to know that the Board takes any increase cost to you very seriously and does not approve these increases without prayer and extensive discussion. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback.

The next Park Board meeting will be the first Monday in October (10/5/26) at 9:00 am. Zoom instructions will be distributed prior to the meeting. If you want to attend, click on the link to be provided, identify yourself and wait for the host to connect you to the meeting.

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

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 Thanksgiving 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?

Looking forward to another great year of your participation in these events!

- Marilyn Stone, chairman

NEW MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR



Jeremy Hill has been working at Light and Life Park since last Spring. After the passing of Doug Jones, Jeremy was hired for the position of Maintenance Supervisor.

Jeremy is the son of Pam Hill, our Light and Life FM Church secretary. He is originally from Buffalo, NY but has lived in Florida since he was 14 years old.

In 2016 Jeremy married his wife Amber, who is a native of Florida. Jeremy and Amber have one child, two-year old Nora.

The Hills are currently residing at the parsonage guest house. They will soon be moving to the end of Bethel Drive in Project 14.

Jeremy enjoys motorcycle riding. His wife, Amber, loves to bake and do crafts. Amber is employed in administrative work at a fertilizer company called Sylvite.

Jeremy's job entails everything at the park that has to do with maintenance. He meets with contractors and employees on a daily basis. His favorite part of working for Light and Life is being around the people here.

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.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES



DALE & BEVERLY TAYLOR hail from Hopkinsville, KY, near the southwest border of KY and TN. Theirs is the latest double-wide to be brought to Light & Life – at 5315 Joppa.

The Taylors have two married daughters and three grandsons.

Dale and Beverly were both raised in the church. When they married, they vowed to each other and God that they would always attend church together and always tithe. God has blessed them abundantly in their marriage.

Dale is a machinist and a welder. He retired from Ft. Campbell Military Base. Beverly held a variety of jobs including clerking at the Social Security Administration, supply clerking at Ft. Campbell, and carrying mail for the US Postal Service. She also served as a proctor for Civil Service exams and high school military aptitude tests. At 42, she went to college and earned a nursing degree, which led to her obtaining a position in the clinic at Fort Campbell, where she worked until her retirement.

Dale and Beverly's talents and skills enabled them to serve the Lord in many missions trips, both domestically and abroad. They have always been active in their church – Beverly as a nursery and toddler worker and Dale as a Sunday School and Wednesday night teacher. They even taught a group of 4th-5th graders together.

Dale started singing lead in a quartet while still in high school. He always participated in church choral performances, and currently is a member of a male quartet that has travelled and sang for 32 years.

Dale's favorite hobby is golfing. Beverly likes to sew, bake, and cook. The two of them have also done a fair share of remodeling and renting out houses for supplemental income.

Before coming to Light and Life Park, the Taylors spent a couple of winters in Zephyr Hills. Their pastor introduced them to the Whipples, who took them under their wing and brought them to Light and Life Park – and we're so glad they did!

LARRY BELISLE makes his home in Lapeer, MI. At Light and Life, he lives in the former home of the Childerhoses on Bethel. If you go by there you will see that his home has been raised three bricks higher to compensate for possible flood waters.



Larry is a long-time friend of Tom LaBrie, who encouraged him to come down to Light and Life Park. He first visited in 2022 and has been coming back ever since. Sherry LaBrie's maiden name is Belise, so he figures they must be distant cousins, making Tom both his friend and cousin.

Larry has a son who lives in Hawaii, and a daughter in Oakland County, MI. His daughter has two boys, one and four years old.

For 35 years Larry owned a carpet cleaning business, and then worked as an overnight courier for FedEx until his retirement.

After coming to know Christ as Savior, Larry was involved in a prison ministry and bus ministry at his church. After moving to Lapeer, he served the church there by mowing the lawn – until health issues demanded that he give that up.

Larry enjoys riding his Harley, and hopes to participate with some of the motorcycle rides with folks at the park. He also enjoys recreational shooting.

Larry expressed that he has never been to a place that is more loving and nurturing than Light and Life Park. He loves that people greet each other when out walking, and stop by to offer a helping hand to those in need.



**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 Tourn.
**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 of
Each month 8am
Gad Abouts (Ladies Day Out)
January 14 & 28
February 11 & 25
March 11 & 25

BUCKET LISTERS

The Bucket Listers are ready for another exciting, entertaining and relaxing winter season. How about you?

Hope you packed and brought with you some jigsaw puzzles for the Hood Hall Puzzle Corner. You are invited to do work on a puzzle at Hood Hall or take one back to your residence and complete it.

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 planning on continuing with sponsoring Tuesday night movies and trivia starting in January. There will be pop and popcorn available for a donation at each of these events.

Make sure you check out the new pool chairs at the pool. Because of your support at activities the Bucket Listers were able to purchase these for everyone's use at the pool.

Pray you had a wonderful summer!

It's going to be another great winter season!

We are so blessed! See you soon!

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS – THEN AND NOW

Judi Purdy came to Light and Life Park with experience serving on boards in Oakland County, MI – such as Berkley and Oakland County School Boards, as well as the Sugar Springs Board of Directors. The communications tool that these boards used was Constant Contact – so Judi introduced then park administrator Ron Wyncoop, who began using it to communicate to the park residents.

About 17 years ago, Judi had an idea for park residents to be able to keep each other informed. She went to the president of the board, Bill Ayres and received his permission to create Neighborhood News.



On February 9, 2009 the first issue was sent to everyone in the park.

Neighborhood News has been a real asset to the residents of Light and Life.

Community announcements, buy and sell, and prayer requests are just a few of the benefits that we have enjoyed over the past 17 years. Judi indicates that utilization of this tool was so helpful during the planning and construction of the new pool.

The job of distributing this email service may seem easy at a glance, but it takes dedication and perseverance to read every email and screen it for compliance to community standards and to make sure the message is clear and understandable. Judi has spent many hours each week doing just that. We appreciate her willingness to serve her Lord and the community in this way, and her expediency in passing the messages along.

Judi states “Now it is my privilege to turn it over to Stan Welton, who can continue to provide these services for many more years.”

A Note from Stan Welton

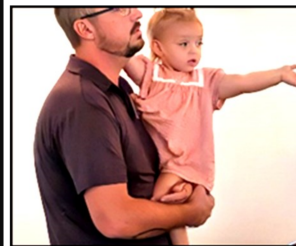
As some of you have heard, I’ve stepped into the role of managing Neighborhood News. This platform is here for our members, residents, and their families, and it works best when every post helps build up our community. If a submission doesn’t support that purpose, I’ll decline it and let the sender know why.

I’ll be sharing a content guide soon so everyone knows what types of posts will be approved. You may have also noticed that I’m asking folks not to use “reply all.” Most replies are meant for the person who originally posted, so if a response goes out to everyone, I’ll ask you to resend it privately.

Please remember to include your name and contact information at the bottom of each submission, just as we’ve always done.

True Worship

Pastor Jeff has developed a concept of worshipping and honoring God through singing, meditation, and prayer. We have also encouraged families with children to become participants in our services.



This can be seen in little Nora Hill, an observant two-year-old whose parents Jeremy and Amber Hill allow their daughter to engage in worship. She walks down the aisle with her hands folded in

prayer. Her mom calls her back and she says, “Pray”. When singing, she places both hands spread out above her shoulders, sincere in her praise to our Heavenly Father. What a lesson in the hands of one of God’s little ones!

Continue, Nora, we’ve got you!

- Gloria Welton, contributor

NATALIE'S BALLET BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

Natalie Smith is raising funds to help with the cost of her ballet classes, dance events, and summer dance education. As part of her homeschooling, she continues developing her God-given gifts through the Christian, worship-focused Nanette Boyer Ballet Dance Studio and programs such as Ballet Magnificat!, a Christian ballet summer program.

BAKE SALE ITEMS

Lg Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 Dozen: \$15

Banana Bread

1 Loaf: \$15

Pumpkin Bread

1 Loaf: \$15

Brownies

1 Pan: \$15

Add nuts or chocolate chips to breads or brownies for **\$5 extra**.



Baked goods will be hand delivered. Delivery is free in the Kathleen area and at Light & Life Park. A delivery charge may apply to locations outside these areas. We are unable to mail baked goods.

Natalie is also accepting donations and sponsorships. Each individual ballet class costs approximately \$750 for the full year.

Ballet Magnificat! Summer Dance Intensive:

- 2 Weeks – \$2,750
- 4 Weeks – \$4,250 Donations may be made toward either program, or sponsors may cover all or part of the cost.

TO ORDER, DONATE, OR SPONSOR:

Contact Kathy Smith

Call or Text: (989) 817-3845

Email: kathymcclain25@gmail.com

When placing an order be sure to leave your Full Name, Address, items you want to order with the quantity of each. We will contact you to confirm your order.



Thank you for supporting Natalie!

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



Library Notes

- Gloria Welton, Librarian

When everyone comes back to Light & Life Park, you will notice a few changes happening in the library. There is a revolving rack in the front room, filled with books and short summaries of their content.

These are books from all over: fiction, nonfiction, missionary stories from our own Free Methodist servants, and interesting biographies. These are books you would not take a second look at but show the richness in our inventory.

Every two weeks they will rotate and new books will appear. We have unsurpassed treasures that will enrich your reading pleasures! You will be able to check them out and truly enjoy interesting information.

In the back room, a glass enclosed bookcase protects some very important books. These date from the mid and late 1800s, to early 1900s. They are placed in a locked area to protect them from deteriorating. Fascinating books on the history of Methodism and Free Methodism along with biographies about the people who began the movement of our religious heritage. If you are interested in examining them, it can be arranged through the librarian.

Checking Out Books

We have a new process for checking out books. Many are feeling that they cannot handle the new system. However, it is not difficult to learn, and people are willing to help, even if it takes several attempts to become familiar with it. We are available to meet you at the library at your convenience.

The Church library is for your enjoyment. It is for the residents here. There is a process that needs to be followed by every single person. That means please do not take books out of the library just because you can without checking them out. Their loss affects all. We have lost several books and do not have the funds to replace them all. Thank you for cooperating!

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.

ATTENTION BAKERS AND CRAFTERS

Christmas Craft Sale
Friday Dec 4th
10am-2pm
Hood Hall

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



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.