



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

October 1, 2022

Volume 10 Issue 10 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

5604 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810

Phone: 863 858-7504

Fax: 863 859-9775

Park Administrator: Stan Welton
(Cell: 863 608-3982)

Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com

Website: lightandlifepark.org

Emergency: 863 608-3984

Office Manager: Sherry LaBrie
sherry@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell: 863-255-3776)

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Greg Thomas
Greg.t@lightandlifepark.org

Office Hours:

November 15-April 14: 8 am- Noon

April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon

Lots Available for Lease

The following lots are set up for an RV or Park Model and available for lease

5340 Ebenezer Place
5332 Ebenezer Place
5325 Ebenezer Place
5321 Hebron Court

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

Water, water everywhere. The rainy season seemed to be a long time coming. Since the rains started, though, it has rained nearly every afternoon/evening. As a result, you have to be careful where you go when golf-carting, or you will get stuck—just like I did recently. I pulled up to the west side of the church and thought, with little concern for the mower tracks in the grass, "I'll pull under that big tree so the cart will be in the shade!" Oops—not just shade but lots of mud. The cart could not go forward or backward. Fortunately, there was a good Samaritan who walked by and helped me out of the muck.

The office has been hard at work getting ready for the winter season. Be sure to check Sherry's article to see the many things we have been working on. One thing she did not mention is that we received the property tax pre-notice recently. Upon review, it appears that most property taxes have increase about 10%. I do not know yet how much of an increase, if any, there will be for the stormwater tax since that was not part of the pre-notice. You will be receiving the property tax billings sometime mid-November.

The bridge behind the library is now open to pedestrian, bicycle, and golf cart traffic. The bridge is wider than the previous bridge, so no one should be hitting the railings. Further, the bridge has been formed so that more water is able to flow under it to allow for faster stormwater drainage from the Park. Many volunteers helped with the project over the last several months. If you were one of them, the residents of the Park join me in thanking you!

There has not been any movement on the possible land purchases. Although the deadline for accepting the sales contract for one property expired on August 31, we extended it until the end of the year. I will continue to advise you of any progress that is made.

In the future, I will be reminding you more about Park safety. Here's a preview. Recently, I realized the importance of traffic safety when I was approaching an intersection where the opposing traffic had a stop sign. Although the vehicle approaching me stopped, I wasn't sure the driver saw me or the stop sign. It was a reminder that it is important to obey Park speed limit and stop signs. I'm sure no one wants anyone injured.

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One of the budget items approved for this year was to upgrade the surveillance system. That project is well underway. We are planning to add one camera to the gate area that may help us identify license plate numbers when necessary. We are also adding cameras to surveille the outside entrances to the guest rooms and inside the offices. The cameras have been delivered and, although not set up on location, several of the cameras have been tested and are ready. We will have to run new cable to the gate before going live with the cameras there.

The fifth named storm of the season formed recently and has strengthened to hurricane force. It is a reminder that we need to be alert and prepared. For those of you who stay here all summer, remember to have your "to-go" bag ready and a supply of drinking water on hand. If you are a winter resident, but plan on a short visit in the next several weeks or have visitors staying in your residence, check with me to know how to best be prepared for a major weather event.

There is one more VERY important detail you need to follow. If you have relatives or friends using your residence, you must let us know that they are here and for how long. Also, they need to check in with us, so we have contact information to be able to notify them ahead of an event. During an emergency is not the time to realize we don't have that information. In the event of a major storm, we need to be able to account for everyone that is in the Park. We don't want to miss someone because we haven't been advised they are here.

We will soon be preparing the budget for next year. If you haven't done so already, please submit your organizational budget requests to my email (floridallpark2@gmail.com) as soon as possible. The deadline is November 1st. However, I would like them sooner so that I can begin to work the requests into the proposed 2023 budget. Be aware that not all requests are granted by the Board, and the amount for some is reduced before granting approval.

Good Samaritans often show up "just in time" just like when I sunk into the mud. Many of you have probably experienced the blessing of being helped when in need. Many of you have also been blessed because you were the good Samaritan. I pray we will all be ready for those opportunities when we can talk about Jesus with someone in need of a good Samaritan. See you soon!

Office Manager

Fall comes to Florida with much less color than in the northern states, but there is still a feeling in the air. September brought the rains we had missed this summer. Water levels in ponds and the creek are better than we've seen in a while. For me, October seems like a good time to get my last vacation in before Y'all head south.

First, I would like to thank all of you for your expressions of love and condolence as well as all the cards. Mom is in a much better place, and we are missing her but celebrating her heavenly home.

We have been doing some clean up in the Office during September. We are reviewing the Park rules to clarify and reorganize them. Then we will submit our suggestions to the Rules Committee.

We have reviewed the email list for the Office emails. It needed considerable revision. If you are not receiving any emails from the Park Office, but you wish to, please contact the Office.

We discovered that we needed to clean up the list of numbers at the gate box. You may get a call from one of us to be sure we have the right phone number at the gate. This will assure that you may let people in when they call from the gate box.

Our tracking of gate openers has been highly inefficient. We have been reviewing it and may contact you to clarify just what openers you have. Please help us if we need to clarify with you about your openers. Then we will have the information in our new tracking system.

Some of you have called us with requests to open your home for a service person or a relative that is visiting, and we have found that the keys in our box do not fit your locks. Please be sure you provide the current key to the Office upon your return. We cannot help you with service calls or your family access to the home if the key you have on file is no good.

If you have family coming it is your responsibility to notify the Park Office and make any special arrangements for them to get into your home. We do not clean a home or let someone in without speaking to you.

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The last 3 homes that were for sale have sold. The last sales were as follows:

- Norma Gummo has purchased 5869 Shiloh Path from Dennis and Judy Crowe. Norma is from Pennsylvania.
- Suzie VanHal has purchased 5860 Moriah Place from Teil Buroker. Suzie is from Michigan.
- Bob and Kathy Zook have purchased 5329 Hebron Court from Steve and Lois Johnson. The Zooks are from Michigan.

Sales status currently is that there are no eligible homes for sale and that the next sales will have to be to Free Methodists regardless of the status of the current owners. We are right at 75%. Please check with the Office before negotiating any sale in the future.

The directories will go to print the first of October. Please be sure we have your most current information. As for the digital directory, we would love to help you get set up and get your picture included.

As you can see there is plenty to do here in the summer. I am tired just writing about it. I guess I'll go take a vacation. ☺

*Blessings,
Sherry LaBrie*

Pictorial Directory 2023

The Church/Park is doing a pictorial directory in 2023 with Color Craft Co. The dates for the photos will be: January 12-14 and January 26-28.

On these dates photos only will be taken. Color Craft will return 2 – 3 weeks after each photo session with a portfolio of pictures that you can purchase.

This process is a little different from what we have done in the past because we are having to use a different Company. However, Color Craft is as eager to work with us as we are with them.

There will be more information next month concerning times and dates for reserving your photo shoot.

Pat Wilkins & Barb Hartson

News from the Board of Directors

As we move into October, we see again the unmistakable signs of change. The leaves on the trees are turning color (in Michigan) and the weather is becoming cooler. Most of us are beginning to make plans to return to Light & Life Park for the winter. And we hope each of you will be able to join us there as well.

While you will be meeting again with friends both old and new, stop a moment and remember those families who have lost a loved one this year. Families of Paul Walton, David Dexter, Al Lake and Ginny Brannon to name only a few that have passed away recently. You know the rest of the names. Give their families love and encouragement when you have an opportunity, and you will be the hands of Jesus bringing comfort to them.

The office is working on the park on-line directory update. They need your help to get your picture included. See Sherry or Lori for details on how you can choose the picture that is used, or they will take a new one for you,

The Park is busy with summer work to get ready for the new season. Give the staff a big "Thank You" for all their hard work.

God bless each one of you!

Jim Falconer
Board President

Shuffleboard



We try to play shuffleboard on Mondays at 1:00 and on Thursday evenings at 6:00 if the weather permits.

**Beautification Parade
2023**

February 23, 2023
(Rain date is the 24th)

Theme is Bible Stories
Luncheon in Hood Hall following parade.

Bucket Listers



As we begin to winterize our pools, campers, cabins and homes our thoughts turn to the warmth of the friendships and weather we experience at Light and Life Park. We are getting excited for the new winter season and all the activities and projects.

On December 9, the Bucket Listers will be selling gourmet caramel popcorn at the Light and Life Arts and Craft Show. We will also host a hot dog lunch on that date.

Tuesday nights in January, February, and March the Bucket Listers will be hosting either a night of trivia or a movie. Refreshment will be available each night for a donation.

If you have a suggestion for a park project, there is a suggestion box in Hood Hall, back by the puzzle table.

When the sidewalk is completed connecting Ebenezer Place with the church, library and pool the Bucket Listers will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the bridge's completion.

Before returning to the park, remember to pack those jigsaw puzzles!



Bowling

Bowlers...If you are even the least bit interested in bowling come join the Park league starting in January. It is a great way to meet people and have fun at the same time.

We will have our organizational meeting on January 2nd, 1 PM, Hood Hall.

We will start bowling January 3rd, 1 PM, Orange Bowl Lanes.

Barb Hartson
bfhartson@gmail.com



**2023 50th Wedding Anniversary
February 10, 2023**

The Park has quieted down since many snowbirds have already gone north. We too are heading there.

To date, I only know of 6 couples at our Park that will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at our Open House on February 10th, 2023. If you do hear of any other couple, please let me know. 734-646-8080, bks4545@gmail.com

Brenda Stockwell
50th Anniversary Open House Chair

Aquafit Water Aerobics

All are welcome to come & enjoy fun in the sun with a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & wellbeing. Routines are choreographed to music and designed to promote improved muscle strength, endurance, flexibility & core balance without the stress of land exercise.

Splash times are offered, twice weekly, and free of charge. Currently we are not on a "set" day of the week due to weather conditions. Updates are posted on L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News. Kindly share this with your friends!

Stamps for Missions

All donated stamps are sent to Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers where they are sold to dealers. The money is sent to a publisher in Buenos Aires, Argentina where they publish Sunday school material in Spanish that are sold to at least eight Latin American Countries as well as Spain and the US. They are used by over 40 Protestant Denominations.

Try to leave at least 1/4 inch or more around each stamp or strip of stamps.

They now collect picture post cards both unused and used. If used, please leave the stamps on the cards. Thank you.

The container is in **Hood Hall** for your convenience.

If you would be willing to deliver them, contact Colleen Sellers for information.
Thank you.

Colleen Sellers

A note about pop/soda cans:

Thank you for saving your aluminum cans which are taken by us to a recycling center in east Lakeland. The money received is being used to buy benches for the Park.

I am happy to pick up your pop/soda cans to haul to the Recycling Center, however it will make my job a lot easier if you remember the cans from canned goods **CANNOT** go in with the aluminum pop cans. These are picked up by someone else and need to be kept separate.

There is a bin in the metal recycling collection center near the dumpsters which is marked "POP CANS"--that's the one to use!

Thanks for your help.

Wes Crist

2023 CPC golf tournaments!

Two-man scramble Tournament
Jan 13, 2023 (Friday)

Ladies Four-person Scramble
1-20-23 (Friday).

Club Championship Tournament
Feb 3, 2023 (Friday)

Ladies Club Championship
Feb 24, 2023 (Friday)

Two-man Blind draw tournament
March 10, 2023 (Friday)

Three club Co-Ed tournament
April 1, 2023 (Saturday)

The Player's Club
Ed Stockwell
517 861-0481

edstockwell48@gmail.com

Purchasing Benches

If anyone is interested in purchasing a park bench for your home at Light and Life Park or for the Park, please contact Ed Hamilton at 765-714-1228. The price is \$275.00 each and you can pick out any color the company makes.

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.

Summer Fellowship Dinners

The last Summer Fellowship Dinners will be on Monday, October 3rd at 5:30 pm in Hood Hall. Cost is \$6.00.

The menu will be lasagna, salad, garlic toast and pie ala mode.

There are sign-up sheets in Hood Hall. You will need to sign up by Friday, September 30th.



Park Cruise 2023

This cruise is on Celebrity Constellation sailing out of Tampa. If we have enough people going, we will see about getting a bus to transport us both ways. Ports of call will be Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, San Juan, Puerto Rico

The following cabins are available: (all rates per person)
Balcony \$2689.62 plus \$149.62 taxes and port fees
Oceanview \$2330.62 plus \$149.62 taxes and port fees
Inside \$1950.62 plus \$149.62 taxes and port fees
These fees are based on two persons in a room.

A deposit of \$450 per person is due by October 10, 2022, to Dick Zinck. Final payment will be due December 15, 2022.

Insurance is available:
Balcony - \$229 per person
Oceanview - \$189 per person
Inside -\$149 per person.
Credit card info for all payments needs to be provided.

Contact Dick:
Phone: 863-859-1910
Text 863-581-2709
Address 5341 Sharon Trail, Lakeland, FL 33810

Talbot House Ministry

The ongoing deliveries of prescription bottles, unused medicines, good clean clothing that you no longer use and small household items is an ongoing project. Please continue to save these helpful items for the homeless shelter and the Good Samaritan Clinic. Please deliver them to the Whipple's porch at 5866 Deeson Road any time. Jean will get them delivered.

Jean will take your items on Wednesdays. PLEASE leave things in Jean's screened porch any day just inside the door. Thank you.

Should you wish to send financial assistance to this work, the address: 814 North Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland.

Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to ***The Life and Times*** are delivered to the newsletter editor, Barb Hartson or former editor, Sherry LaBrie, by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Please use this email: bfhartson@gmail.com (Barb Hartson) or sherry.loflin69@yahoo.com (Sherry LaBrie). Email is the preferred method. You may also drop your submissions off at the Park Office. **The November** deadline is **October 15**.

Where to Donate your Goods

The donations given at the Park to help others are appreciated. We want to remind you where to take your donations.

Food donations for Briarwood may be left on the designated table in Hood Hall.

We will not be accepting "linens" for Senior Orphans until 2023.

Jean Whipple takes several items to Talbot House weekly. See that article in this newsletter for details.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Gadabout News

I have taken over as coordinator for the ladies' events from Peggy Dunn and Verneta Dunn. They will still help when they can. Also, Lana Kendall, Barb Hartson, Ruth Bridgeforth will be helping too.

We are looking forward to another season here in the Park next year. Lord willing, I will be back mid-November to first of December. We welcome your input on other places to go.

GAD-ABOUTS TRIPS 2023

January 12 - Ringling Museum of Art, Circus & Bayfront Gardens, Sarasota

January 26 - Lavender & Lace Tearoom, Lake Alfred

February 09 - Old Testament Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Tarpon Springs

February 23 - Flea Market, TBA

March 09 - Strawberry Festival Senior Day, Plant City

March 23 - Bok Singing Tower & Gardens, Lake Wales

For more information contact me. Prefer text or email to calls.

Flo Grabowski
Cell 931-797-2639
[Email coachfollc@gmail.com](mailto:coachfollc@gmail.com)



Library Information



Book Reviews by Gloria Welton

Women and Their Emotions

by Miriam Neff

Are emotions ruining your life? You can change the way you feel. *Women and Their Emotions* is a healing look at emotional wounds, hard-to-break habits, and pitfalls...and how to overcome them. From her experience as a counselor, Miriam Neff combines biblical truths and psychological principles to help women understand and master their emotions.

Women and Their Emotions is a book written especially for women. God made men and women different physically, mentally, emotionally, etc. There are emotions we are basically familiar which include anger, bitterness, fear, contentment loneliness, and love. But other feelings such as worry, anxiousness, grief, depression, and guilt are also clearly explained. She gives biblical support and how to handle each of them. The author also writes about how to break out of emotional pitfalls and discipline for women committed to personal growth.

Please take time to read this book, filled with information we should already be aware of but sometimes fail to remember. You can find this in the main library room, the nonfiction section, 305. Please let me know what you think.

The Silver Shadow (True Colors Series)

by Liz Tolsma

Many of us enjoy reading crime mysteries, they stimulate the brain cells while looking for clues which will explain what happened. We have a new series Les picked up this past year, *True Colors*. They are true cold cases, which have never been solved. These books are not for the queasy. They are historical novels based on the actual cases.

The Silver Shadow takes place in Denver, Colorado around 1900. Someone is intent on harming women. Polly Blythe, the main character is a reporter and is seeking to write an article that will set her career off on a high note. August 20, 1900, proves to be just that. Two women were attacked that night, within a two-minute walk of each other. Policeman, Edwin Timmer

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does not buy into Polly's hypothesis that it is possibly a serial killer, until there is another attack.

The two of them get entwined in the mystery and work together to get it solved, thus a romantic relationship begins. Although romance is not the main plot it does put an interesting twist in a story that is totally about finding the killer before he strikes again.

The spiritual thread came out toward the end because Edwin and Polly feeling helpless, have to rely on God. The criminal shows a distorted view about how actions please God.

This book is well-researched, based on true facts, with many interesting twists and turns. You will find it in the "New Book" shelves or in the regular fiction stacks.

The 11 Be Attitudes of Prosperity: God Given Guidelines to be Blessed Beyond Belief

by David B. White

Making money. All of us are interested in improving our financial status. However, David B. White's book shows how to do so with clearly marked Christian values. Remember the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount?

The 11 Be Attitudes of Prosperity is extremely well-written, practical, and helpful. It shows us God's way in a Biblically grounded, creatively written, and delightfully readable book that you will not want to miss. This book is for all of us, with nuggets of wisdom easy to apply.

A few of the Chapter Titles explain the book well:

Blessed are the grateful...

Blessed are the debt free...

Blessed are the cheerful giv

Blessed are those on the right path...



The book is easy on the eyes due to the spacing of sentences and written on a level easy to understand. You can find it presently in the "New Book" section and then in nonfiction 320. It's Worth your time!!

Happy reading!

Light and Life Free Methodist Church

5730 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810

Phone: (863) 858-6361
Fax (863) 858-3982
Email: church@lflmc.org

Pastor: Chuck Frankenfeld
Evangelism & Outreach: Jeff Bellinger
Secretary: Pam Hill

Briarwood Outreach

Michael Gardner has been our anonymous donor and is willing to take over the shopping duties for our Monday food distributions. I readily agreed and as I don't like handling the donations, have run them through Northside Assembly @ 411 W Robson Rd 33805. You can still do that to get your tax-deductible statement or leave them with Michael at 5333 Hebron Court or at the Williams' house @ 5356 Zion. Michael's cell is 772-877-4756.

When the program for children was started at Northside, we had 2 kids who were the pastor's grandkids. It has grown to 27 kids (most from Briarwood) on some Sundays and is still growing as is our congregation. We are adding more members soon through a membership class.

We are looking for more shoppers like Michael and donations of food or money to help support this ministry. The food pantry and Northside are two ministries that are growing. This is because of the many gifts and prayers for them. God uses all your prayers and donations.

Roderick Smithson from L&L Park reported meeting a young woman in Virginia that had been a recipient of Light and Life's blessings while living at Briarwood. Imagine, Virginia!

Children who have received hope and a hand up and are able to move out from the poverty in which they had grown up, are experiencing better lives. You helped make this possible.

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A Note from Pastor Chuck...

At my recent 50-year high school reunion one of my classmates had a question for me. Okay, a couple of questions. He asked about so many denominations having different beliefs about Jesus (and thus salvation) so what can you believe? My response was that all Christian denominations have the same core beliefs. Paul states, "For what I received I passed on to you of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

He then asked about Jesus saying if you break a part of the law, you break the whole law. "What is he saying?" While I do not remember my exact words, we recognize Jesus was pointing out you can't work your way to heaven by following the law. No one can keep the law perfectly thus if you break the least of the law...you break the whole law. The answer to reaching heaven is following Jesus who fulfilled the law and is risen from the dead.

Let us remember the cost of our salvation and celebrate the King of glory who gives us new life. PTL!

In Christ,
Pastor Chuck

Availability of donations through local food pantry distribution centers remains unavailable.

"Thank you to all of you who have contributed to allow us to stay open while many others are giving up. Our food pantry is not alone in trying to find donations. The people we help really need and appreciate what you all make possible".

Michael was moved by Roderick's testimony and concerned by the lack of available provision so along with others has been purchasing groceries for distribution. We like to provide food boxes for 15 families weekly. The cost is approximately \$250 + weekly. Food donations directly to Hood Hall are an excellent way to help, as well.

Think of what God is doing, **27 children! 15 families**