



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

February 1, 2023

Volume 11 Issue 2 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Lots Available for Lease

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

5332 Ebenezer Place

5325 Ebenezer Place

5321 Hebron Court

5323 Hebron Court

News from the Park Administrator

Celebrations! We love them. We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and annual holidays. This February, Gloria and I are celebrating our 3rd Park anniversary (is there a special name for that?). It is hard to believe that three years have passed already; and it is an anniversary worth celebrating! I love working here. We love being a part of the activities and enjoy getting to know you all. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity.

Volunteers continue to make huge improvements in our Park! Work on the sidewalk between the library and the pool is progressing well. Once the curbs on the bridge finish curing, concrete will be poured to form the bridge deck and the sidewalk. Digging began in late January to start relocating the 2" water main running under some of the Ebenezer residences. This will enable us to repair water line breaks in that area much more easily.

Plans are underway to rebuild the stormwater flow from the Park into the Jordan as the river leaves the Park. However, we need to move some electrical services before we will be able to proceed and we have to coordinate with TECO before we can move forward. This is a continuation of the goal of improving the entire stormwater infrastructure in the Park.

The truck we purchased recently has already been put to good use pulling the dump trailer. We have been hauling sand as well as brush and grass from the creek. As we mentioned at the members' meeting, we are accepting donations toward the purchase of the truck. We are also looking for donations that will allow us to purchase a skid steer to replace our old, worn-out Bobcat. Research shows that a used one will run somewhere around \$50,000. This is a piece of machinery we would use nearly every day to make improvements to our Park. We will provide a receipt acceptable for income tax purposes if you wish.

If you haven't noticed already, we have replaced some faded stop signs to make them more visible. I hope that this means you will see them better and know to stop.

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We have also replaced some stop signs with yield signs. The purpose of the change was to encourage you to stop at the intersections at which you cannot see well and allow you to proceed with caution at those intersections where cross-traffic visibility is better. You will also note that there are pedestrian signs cautioning drivers of the possibility of foot traffic at the end of the sidewalk coming from the church on to Bethel Avenue. Keep in mind that we want to keep our walking/running/biking members and guests safe!

Group Activities' fund balances have been posted in Hood Hall. If you have questions about what was allocated to your group for this season, please contact me.

Just a couple of days ago, a fire broke out in one of the dumpsters. Do **NOT** throw anything that could ignite into the dumpster. If you have hot coals, be certain they are fully extinguished before putting them in the trash. To fully contain the fire, we had to dump the contents of the dumpster onto the ground.

I won't go into a long list of items that were discovered, but I do want to point out two. First, I saw several aluminum cans. Did you know that we recycle those, and the Park receives money for them? That money is set aside for special uses in the Park. So, please place your empty aluminum cans in the appropriate tub located in the white fenced in area. The second items I saw were several canned-goods cans. There is also a tub in the white fenced in area for those. The gentleman who collects our metal recycles those. As I understand it, recycling metal is his livelihood. Let's honor him by giving him all our clean food cans.

The Park's digital directory (an app available on your phone) is becoming what we hoped it could be. More people are signing up to be included, and more photos have been added. I have heard from so many how useful the tool is. Right from the app, you can look up addresses, call, or text someone, while associating a face with a name! If you want to be included, but haven't signed up, or you need help getting started, please stop by the office.

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Four years ago, Gloria and I were wondering what we wanted to do in the next phase of our lives. We considered RV ministry but never imagined that we would be able to live and work among such great people as you, but God had a plan. So, a short time later, we found ourselves at Light and Life Park. Here's to many more celebrations!

Jan

Office Manager

What happened to January? It seems like it was just December, and everyone was beginning to arrive. Now things are in full swing and every time I turn around something new is happening.

Speaking of that, if you are responsible for an alumni event, please check Hood Hall for what you need. If you are missing placemats or napkins of certain color or other supplies, please let me know so I can make sure we are prepared.

Our first Mugs on Monday was short of some decaf coffee, but we made it through. All the coffee has been replenished and we should be good now for the rest of the season. Don't forget to watch for the signs by the gate and go to Mugs on Monday for fellowship, coffee, and rolls, and of course, Wade's "great" jokes.

It's nice to see the Sugar Creek Gang kicking into gear with some of the many projects that are lined up for them. Be sure to let Greg Thomas know in the office if you want to be a part of the activity. We need all kinds of help. Painting, digging, cement, etc. are all just part of the needs.

The pictorial directory activity has been providing us with pictures for the digital directory. We have updated the pictures taken from the first sittings. We will complete the second sittings as soon as we can. It is great to open that digital directory in my phone and see almost everyone with a picture. If you would like to be added and haven't been able to get in the digital directory, please call the office and we will help you accomplish this.

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We are still selling property only to Free Methodists. There are not that many places available currently, but I'm sure that will change. We do have a couple of changes from January. Christine Aurich has purchased 5401 Bethany Way, Villa #15. Larry Senter has purchased 5315 Ebenezer Place. Please congratulate them on their new homes.

Be sure to find those activities that you really enjoy and participate so that you can also enjoy the fellowship of the many wonderful neighbors we have here.

Bible Conference in January gave us much to think about. I hope for me, it will give me the ability to be more in tune to what Christ would have me be. That's plenty to think and pray about as we start February.

February will be another month full of activities. Some of our favorite events happen in this shortest month of the year. Be sure to pay attention to all the activities happening in the Park and participate.

Blessings,

Sherry LaBrie

Beautification Parade 2023

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

Theme is Bible Stories

Luncheon in Hood Hall following parade.



News from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has been busy in January. Much work has been done on the budget for the Park in the new year. The operating budget is in place and working, and the capital projects budget is soon to follow.

The Sugar Creek Gang is busy on projects to improve our Park. Stop by and see what they are doing when you see them working. You might even be invited to help! We welcome all the volunteers who help make our Park a better place to live and worship. And we could use some younger, more able-bodied volunteers to help with projects. If you are interested see Greg Thomas in the Park Office.

Our Park is an ideal place to live and enjoy retirement. Retirement means relaxation and less pressure on our time each day. And yet, we still struggle with a big problem – sometimes called “Lead-foot Syndrome” when driving in the Park. Our 15 mph vehicle limits are frequently exceeded, creating unnecessary risks to our members and guests. So think carefully about your grandchild, or your elderly neighbor being struck by your car and **SLOW DOWN !!!**

We welcome all first-time residents, campers, and visitors to our Park. This is a great place to make new friends, enjoy the many recreational opportunities and be part of our various social activities. We encourage all Park residents to take advantage of the many ways to share in Christian fellowship and the Love of God with our new people here at our Light & Life Park.

May God bless you

Jim Falconer
Board President

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

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 once again accepting "linens" for Senior Orphans. Please refer to Senior Orphans article in this newsletter.

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

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

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.

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. Because of the Hurricane we were not able to contact them but **Praise the Lord we just got word**, they now have a new location and are in the process of setting up and running again

Thank you. *Colleen Sellers*

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

SENIOR-ORPHANS IS BACK!

For several years prior to covid, residents of Light and Life Park had the opportunity to bless those less fortunate through a program called Senior Orphans.

Senior Orphans helps local, indigent seniors living with no family support and meager monthly incomes.

We will again be collecting items to donate to this foundation. Please feel free to drop off clean, gently used bedding, linens, and towels to the totes in Hood Hall designated for Senior Orphans.

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Boda at 5378 Bethel Drive or phone 434-270-2840.

Bucket Listers



On December 13, 2022, work began on Phase Two of the highly anticipated sidewalk project. This sidewalk will connect Shiloh Path with the library, church, and pool. When the sidewalk is completed the Bucket Listers will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony! Refreshments will be served in appreciation for all the hard work that went into getting this sidewalk completed. The Bucket Listers funded this project through YOUR generous support at our fundraisers.

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

On 1-11-23 the movie *The Mulligan* was shown starring Pat Boone. There were 120 in attendance.

Refreshments are available each night for a donation. Watch for reminders on neighborhood news and our [Light and Life](#) Facebook page.

The Bucket Listers sponsored a Banana Split fundraiser on January 17, 2023, right after the Tuesday night session of the Bible Conference.

Good news! Earl Galloway will be back in our park for a concert in March, watch for details.

Thank you for your puzzle donations! It is so exciting to see boxes of new puzzles delivered to the puzzle area. Remember you can do a puzzle at Hood Hall or take the puzzle home and do it.

Mugs-on-Monday

Everyone is invited to come enjoy coffee and a donut, if you choose, and experience some fun and laughs with your neighbors. There is a nominal fee of \$2 per person to offset the cost.

We meet on the **second** and **forth** *Mondays* of the month in Hood Hall at 8:30 am. In February it will be the 13th and 27th.

We love to see fresh faces. There are some surprises too. Come join us!

Marge and Wade Wilson



2023 CPC golf tournaments!

We're asking everyone to register your team to make it easier on the day of the tournament.

Club Championship Tournament Feb 3, 2023 (Friday)

The Player's Club has decided to expand this year's Club Championship to include two flights for the ladies, Championship and Handicap, (Both flights require playing your own ball).

So, ladies if you want to play (February 3rd) please register.

Same rules apply as the men, except ladies can use forward tees on hole 3 & hole 8. Prizes will be awarded for each flight, men & women!

Feb 18, 2023, park wide Field Day! Golf in the morning, Closest to the pin, longest drive, Scramble. (9 holes) 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Feb 24, 2023 (Friday) Ladies Club Championship (Two flights) (18 holes)

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

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

The Player's Club

Ed Stockwell

517 861-0481

edstockwell48@gmail.com



Game Night

Game Night is held on most **Friday evenings** at 7:00 PM in **Maxwell Commons**.

Bring your favorite game and friends and have an evening of fun and fellowship.



Fellowship Dinners

The next Park Fellowship Dinner will be Monday, February 6 at 5:30 in Hood Hall. A program to honor our nonagenarians will begin at 6:15.

Please bring a large dish of food to serve 8-10 at your table. Some prefer to arrange the menu ahead of time, others prefer "Let's wait and see what we get and who we can sit with!" Ice water is provided; coffee/tea is available to purchase. Remember to include newer residents and singles at your table.

Your place setting can be taken over in the afternoon. We will have all individual (separated) tables the following few months to accommodate all our park residents who wish to attend which includes those residing in the guest rooms, RVs, and cabins.

Plan now to join us and share this info with those who do not have internet.

Fellowship Dinner/Program Committee



Marilyn Stone

2023 50th Wedding Anniversary

February 10, 2023

There are 7 couples at our Park that will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at an **Open House from 2pm to 4pm on February 10th, 2023 at Hood Hall.**

Ted and Donna Zook, Bruce and Vonnie Denton, Richard and Carolyn Lindley, Cliff and Carolyn Nicholas, Keith and Elaine Childerhose, Charles and Rose Richard, and Bob and Kathy Zook.

Everyone is invited to come to congratulate them and enjoy some cake and punch.

We could use a few people to lend a hand with placing lace tablecloths, runners and simple centerpieces on tabletops in preparation for the 50th Wedding Celebration. All supplies will be provided! This will take place on Wednesday, February 8th from 1PM-3PM.

I will send out reminders as the date gets closer! I so appreciate your willingness to help!

Let's make it a beautiful event!



Karen Castle-Williams
704-502-0466 allforyum@aol.com

Brenda Stockwell

50th Anniversary Open House Chair

Aqua Splash 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!

Karen Williams



Blood Pressure Clinic

The blood pressure clinic will be on Thursday February 8th and 22nd in Hood Hall after the Women's Bible study. It will be from 11am to 12pm.

Everyone is welcome to get their blood pressure taken.

JoAnn Willet RN



Park Wide Field Day

Saturday, February 18, 2023

“Laughter is Good Medicine

This event is for **everyone**, and you are all encouraged to participate in the sport of your choosing.

8:15am Men/Women golf on the Cow Pasture Course

To sign up for Long Drive, Short Drive or 9 Holes contact Ed Stockwell at 517-861-0481 or edstockwell48@gmail.com.

9:00am Men/Women mini golf

Get your team of two ready to compete (surprise prizes!)

12:00pm Lunch provided at Hood Hall.

Lunch will be followed by ventriloquist/comedian, **Chaplain Jill Bryan aka Jillybean**. Plan for some “Belly Laughs”.

1:30 – 3:30pm Play Games of your Choice

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Shuffleboard | Bocce Ball |
| Corn Hole | Mini Golf |
| Horseshoes | Pickle Ball (Church Parking lot) |

COME, PLAY FOR FOOD AND ENJOY A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP!



Cliff and Carolyn Nicholas

Gadabout News

We have had to make some adjustments to our original schedule, but fear not, we are still going to “Gad about”.

We will be making arrangements to go to such places as Tarpon Springs, the “Villages”, Bok Tower and of course a flea market.

We don’t have specific times and dates yet so watch Neighborhood News for the details.

Flo Grabowski

Cell 931-797-2639 coachflllc@gmail.com

Peggy Dunn

Cell 248-766-5537 Email: pegjim2000@yahoo.com

East Michigan Snowbirds Gathering

If you have ever been connected to East Michigan Conference, you are invited to celebrate with us, February 25, at Hood Hall from 11AM to 2PM.

Come and greet old friends and meet new ones.

Supt. Dale A Woods Jr. will be our speaker.

It is very important that you call Mary Mace (810-240-3677) if you plan on attending.



Library Information



Book Reviews by Gloria Welton

One Beat at a Time Living with Sudden Cardiac Arrest

by Matthew Noble

Did you know that there are multiple stories about the Lord providing wisdom, comfort, healing, and so much more in the lives of residents here at Light and Life Park? Talk to 10 people and you should get 10 different stories!

Sue Noble is one such person. She and her family went through this ordeal for many years. The excruciating years of living in uncertainty, wondering if the next heartbeat of her son, Matt, would be his last. Doug and Sue had a very strong faith in the Great Physician and those that treated Matthew. This book is *his* story, told through *his* eyes that will show you the true meaning of faith, hope and love for many years to come.

Matt had a serious life-threatening condition, Sudden Cardiac Arrest. His first episode was at five years old. "I'll wake up in heaven, right mom?" That's a question Matthew must have asked his mother repeatedly; one she never wanted to answer to her five-year-old. Doug and Sue were told that he would not live past five years old. Little did they know the power of God.

In Matthew's own autobiography he seems to be sitting beside you, telling the miraculous stories through *his* eyes. This is one fantastic, "**must read**" book; from our own family here. You can find this book in the New Book section under biography. To find out how Matt is doing now, ask Sue!

More to come about our library and what it has to offer!

Happy Reading!

Thank you from Randy Williams and Team

God is Good and he is moving mightily in Briarwood! Have you noticed the way the lots have been cleaned up, the drug houses that are no longer there and no Sheriff's cars there every week? These improvements are in no small part a result of your prayers and giving. Thank You!

A good read

Mel Starr, our resident author, has copies of his medieval mysteries, including the newest, #15, **SUPPRESSION AND SUSPICION**, which was released in October. Look him up you won't be disappointed.

Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., in the church annex.

We will be continuing to study the early ministry of Jesus Christ. This class is open to **anyone** who wishes to participate.

Les Sellers

Women's Bible Study

Join facilitator **Joni French** at Hood Hall on Wednesday, for the Ladies Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

The study "Elijah" by Priscilla Shier is a 7-session video bible study on the life of Elijah. In this faith-building study, you will discover how Elijah's obedience to God kept him anchored, sharpened his faith, broadened his impact, and invited heaven's fire to fall. God is also working in your life today to fashion a fiery, bold faith that will empower you to share the hope of Christ with your family, friends, co-workers, and community.

You will not want to miss it!



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.

The March deadline is **February 15**.

Our HORSESHOE pits are open.

The pits are located between the miniature golf and shuffleboard courts.

For night time play the light switch is inside the miniature golf shed on the east wall.

Help yourself to horseshoe fun.

Keith Childerhose

Woodworking News

The woodworking activities will soon be in full swing again.

Remember to stop in the Park office to pay your \$10.00 yearly dues, sign your liability waiver and get your new door code for 2023. You will also receive a *Welcome Back* letter with a reminder of some of the rules for using the wood shop equipment,

The first membership meeting will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Wood Activities building. All members are invited to come and give their input on the plans for woodworking in the new year. If you are not a member, but have questions about it, you are welcome to attend and get answers.

We hope to see you there.



Larry Putnam

Shuffleboard

We get together on Mondays at 1:00 and Thursdays at 6:00 to enjoy the sport of shuffleboard.

If you have never played shuffleboard, come down on Monday afternoon or Thursday evening and someone will be there to help you learn the game.

We will be having our Challenge tournament on 2/23, 2/24, 2/27 this year.

Check for the sign-up sheet on the club house door. There are two starting times, 10am and 1:30pm put your name under the starting time of your choice. Looking forward to meeting new people at the courts.

Dale Schantz at 989 975 6710 or 863 816 5422

L & L Bowling League

We had our organizational Meeting Jan 2nd, at 1:00pm in Hood Hall. We have thirteen teams of 4 participating this year.

Our League started bowling Jan 10th, 1:00 pm, at Orange Bowl Lanes. **Just try it out, become a substitute.** Let me know if this is something you would like to do. It seems we are always in need of subs.



Barb Hartson
bfhartson@gmail.com

Cornhole

We will be playing cornhole every Friday at 1:30 for the next few months. It will be set up over in front of the shuffleboard courts and the miniature golf.

Come show us your skills!

Haley Stockwell 734 255 8744

**Light and Life
Free Methodist Church**

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Email: church@llfmc.org

Pastor: Chuck Frankenfeld
Evangelism & Outreach: Jeff Bellinger
Secretary: Pam Hill
Email: church@llfmc.org

Briarwood Outreach

Dear Light & Life Friends,

What a great start to the New Year! There are a couple of stories I'd like to share with all of you who support the outreach ministries of Briarwood and Children's Ministries.

One single mom of four found herself without a working range. One of your friends saw the need in Briarwood Neighbors (if you haven't joined on FB yet, please do so) and donated money for a very nice GE range. While delivering, I told her a couple had donated the money for the stove and she asked me who and then disappeared while we got it in their home. She came back with a folded paper thank you note for this couple. I know that would not have happened a couple years ago. Her three older kids have come to children's church and have come to know the Lord. She has noticed the difference and we have noticed the change in her.

Another donation of a coffee maker, when the need was expressed in Briarwood Neighbors, was met by another friend of the ministry. The neighbor who needed it was Tammy, an older lady who takes care of her middle-aged disabled son. Her coffee maker had broken, and she loves her morning coffee! When I dropped it off on Christmas morning, I wish you all could have seen her smile. It is the first time in 4 years that I have ever seen her smile. It was a simple blessing that meant so much to someone who has so little!

Randy Williams

A Note from Pastor Chuck...

"I thank **God, whom I serve**, ...with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." 2 Timothy 1:3 (NIV) "Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly - not for what you will get out of it, but because you are **eager to serve God.**" 1 Peter 5:2 (NLT) Praying for the folks of the Park and Church helps to give one a clear conscience because when you go before the one true living God, the creator of the universe you cannot help but be thankful for God and his mercy. Prayer opens the doors of heaven to seeing supernatural intervention. Being in His presence either results in a clear conscience or revealed guilt that can then be addressed and surrendered. The above scriptures seem aimed at overseers or Pastors but at a more universal level they reveal a principle to instruct us to serve God and serve one another.

When I look into the past of Light and Life FMC I see no Pastor that has served here grudgingly and or for what they could get out of it. All have served God out of a desire to see lives transformed and God glorified. This place has a rich heritage, and you are part of that heritage. Annie and I consider it a privilege to be praying for you and seeing with you what God is yet to do. After all, "Jesus is enough."

In Christ,

Pastor Chuck

Briarwood Outreach Continued



Four Students from Briarwood who were baptized