



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

March 1, 2023

Volume 11 Issue 3 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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sherry@lightandlifepark.org

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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

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

Busy. One word that has characterized this season for me. The office frequently has several members asking questions, making payments, finalizing sales, and stopping in just to say "hi". It's not limited to the office either. There are many activities to choose from—sometimes forcing us to decide between two equally attractive options. This busyness is one thing that makes the Park so inviting.

If you haven't noticed, there are many projects happening this season and many volunteers helping!

- The sidewalk between the pool and the library is nearly complete with one more cement pour that will happen soon.
- Replacement of the water lines between the homes along Ebenezer and Zion is well underway. When this project was envisioned, we thought we knew the extent of the work. We soon discovered that it required three times the pipe than was originally thought.
- Painting of the guestroom/office building is nearing completion. We still need to paint the final coat and do some trim work.
- The bridge to the old pool has been largely demolished. We plan to repurpose the steel beams on which the bridge was constructed. I will update you on our plans when we are more certain.
- The surveillance system is also nearly complete. Some final wiring needs to be completed and the cameras installed.
- Our plan to rework the stormwater at the outflow of the Jordan has been held up. The electrical and lighting poles that are along the west side Jordan Avenue need to be relocated. We are waiting for a relocation proposal from TECO. Once they have moved the poles, we will begin work on that project.

I have received many complaints about safety issues on the roadways. The most common are about drivers not stopping at stop signs and going too fast.

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I can't emphasize enough that safety is vital. Going too fast and not stopping at stop signs is a recipe for disaster. Please do your part to keep our Park safe.

The Park's digital directory has expanded dramatically over the past month. Using the app, you can locate members' addresses and call, text, or email them. There are also pictures of many of the participants which helps us associate faces with names. If you haven't yet signed up to be part of the directory, please check at the office to learn how. If you have signed up, but do not have the app on your phone yet, get the app called *Instant Church Directory* from your app store.

The next Board Meeting is March 6. Remember, if you are unable to attend in person, the meeting will be available on Zoom.

One question I have heard several times recently relates to Park events. We try to make sure scheduled events are on the calendar. So, the first place to look if you have a question about what's on the calendar is on the Park website, www.lightandlifepark.org. The calendar and a lot of other information can be found on the site. You should browse the site if you haven't done so recently.

Yes, there has been a lot going on this year. My observation is that many of you are enjoying the busyness. The Park wide field day was a great example. The lunch that day had an hour-long serving line, and the number of people participating in the afternoon games was impressive. I love to see so much going on and so many of you jumping in!

Jan



Office Manager

March is here and some will be thinking about departing for their other home. There may be many reasons for going, but March is still prone to cold in the northern states. Maybe you should stay a little longer.

February has brought unexpected events and challenges. I believe that God is working a revival in this place and many others. He has certainly been touching me and renewing a right spirit in me. I am thankful for the heartfelt conversations that have even reached into the business at the office.

Some of you will decide to pack up and go this month. We hope your stay has been as you had planned and that you will be able to return. If you are renting, be sure to turn in your request for a Guest Room, RV lot or Cabin for next season. The office will do the best job we can to find you lodging for next season and hopefully the one you requested.

If in your planning to go north you are also making the decision to sell a home here, let us know so we can help guide you through that process. Before you sell, the Administrator will schedule an inspection to help prospective buyers. The requirement for a Free Methodist buyer remains in effect as of this writing.

If you are looking to purchase a home and have never purchased before, it would be a good idea to check with us about filling out and submitting a Membership Application. Once you are approved the Application is good for 2 years. We will be glad to try to help you find a home.

I know some of you like to help out your friends or make it easier on you to find your own buyer. Please realize that we have many who are ready to buy and are already approved to purchase a home and become members. The office is always glad to assist.

Many events have come and gone for the season, but March will still have Mugs on Monday, Movie nights, Trivia nights, the monthly Fellowship Dinner (and talent show), and many other special events. Check the calendar on the website for information.

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There are a few changes in residents that did take place in the past month. We have two new leases. Joe and Kim Childs have decided to make their location at 5325 Zion Avenue their leased lot. Doug Webber has leased 5332 Ebenezer Place and will move after our current RV renters have departed. Steve and Lynn Roberts have made 5244 Bethel Drive their home now and have sold their place at 5311 Ebenezer Place to Wayne and Barb Vibbert.

Thanks for all the participation in the digital and pictorial directories. I so enjoy being able to look so many up in my phone and look forward to receiving that pictorial when it is delivered.

Before we know it March will fly by and our season will definitely begin to wind down. Until then, we look forward to sharing times with you and assisting you in the Office with those things you need. We appreciate each of our residents and the times we have with you in our very short season.

We welcome our renters and visitors that are arriving for the month of March and wish the best to those who must go for whatever reason.

May God bless you richly in the days to come.

Blessings,

Sherry LaBrie

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.

If you have pictures of an activity you would like to share, send them to me I will do my best to put them in the newsletter.

Please use this email: bfhartson@gmail.com (Barb Hartson) or sherry.loflin69@yahoo.com (Sherry LaBrie). Email is the preferred method.

The April deadline is March 15, unless the activity is in the latter half of the month.

News from the Board of Directors

It seems the New Year has just arrived and already it is March! This is the month members of the Park elect new people to positions on the Park Board and various committees, which serve our Park in many ways. These volunteers, who serve without pay, are critically important to the function of our community. Without them many things we enjoy here would not be possible since we could never afford to pay people enough to do them for us.

So, get to know more about the people volunteering for positions, and vote for your choice in the elections coming up on Monday, March 13th. The voting will take place at Hood Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and results will be announced in the member meeting at 7:00 p.m.

This is my last month on the Park Board. It has been a pleasure to serve the Park these past six years. I have learned a lot and made many new friends throughout the Park. And, I have worked with a great group of dedicated people on the Board, who have helped me do a better job. My best thanks to each member of the current Board of Directors for their support and help. I also want to thank our Administrator, Stan Welton, for his advice and support on the many park projects and especially for his friendship. We are fortunate to have him as our Administrator.

May God richly bless each one of 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.

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 will now be 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.

The Stamp ministry is up and running again after the hurricane and they are back in their original building. Thank you for taking your time to contribute to this ministry.

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



Hope you got a chance to see the new fan in the lanai by the pool! It looks very tropical. Thanks to Ron Orrison and Larry Senter for installing it.

Work continues at the sidewalk that will connect Shiloh Path with the library, church and pool! Cement was poured on 2-14-23 as a part of Phase 2. Thank you to all of those who have worked on this project! When the cement is dry, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at the sidewalk and refreshments in the lanai. All are invited to attend.

Tuesday nights continue to be busy with either a movie or trivia at Hood Hall. Refreshments are available at each event for a donation and the winners of trivia receive a prize!

- Trivia was held on 1-24-23 and 2-7-23. There were 12 teams that participated each evening.
- Play The Flute was shown on 1-31-23.
- The Perfect Race was shown on 2-14-23,
- On 2-2-23, the Bucket Listers provided refreshments for an evening of “Stories at The Hood”, an evening of inspirational and personal stories as told by park residents.
- The Bucket Listers entered a decorated golf cart in the Beautification Parade on February 23, 2023, depicting the Lord’s Supper.
- The Bucket Listers sold ice cream bars at this year’s Beautification parade.

Earl Galloway, southern gospel artist, will be singing at Light and Life Free Methodist Church on March 22, 2023.

The Bucket Listers will be sponsoring a hot dog lunch during the March 17, 2023, craft show.



2023 CPC golf tournaments!

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

Two-person blind draw tournament (18 holes) (for both men and women).

March 10, 2023 (Friday) at 12:00 PM

Pre-registration required by Wednesday evening, March 8th

Check in and draws at 11:40 AM for teams, Friday the 10th.

Winning team both men and women will win \$25 each.

Tournament prizes sponsored by FMC foundation.

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

The Player’s Club

Ed Stockwell

517 861-0481

edstockwell48@gmail.com



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



Fellowship Dinners

Plan now to join us for our next Park Fellowship Dinner on Monday, March 6 at 5:30 in Hood Hall. Our Variety Show featuring our own residents will follow at 6:15. Residents are welcome to come to the program even if they were unable to be at the dinner though we love to have you be at both.

Please bring a large dish of food to serve 8-10 at your table. If you prefer to invite ones to join you and arrange a balanced meal for your group, that is just fine. Many of you are doing a beautiful job of including singles and newer residents when inviting. Wanting to be surprised to see who you will share a meal with and what you will eat when you arrive is also perfectly acceptable as not everyone enjoys nor has the time for pre-planning for a group of eight.

Your place setting can be taken over in the afternoon. This really facilitates a smoother flow of everyone coming to the dinner at approximately the same time while carrying food and dishes and looking for a place to sit.

As in the past, please share this info with your neighbors who do not have internet. We expect a capacity crowd as we had in February.

Fellowship Dinner/Program Committee

Marilyn Stone



Golf Cart Parade

Congratulations to the Jericho float for winning first place in the Biblical Story Parade.

Eben Smith was Joshua and Ruth Smith was Rahab. Bruce McNutt (mastermind of the walls of Jericho construction and the falling walls) and Alan Wilson were the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. The soldiers protecting the Ark, were Doris and Dewey Walker, Tamra Wilson, and Denise Tomasello. Within the walls of Jericho were Chuck Tomasello the King, and Elaine McNutt the pulley operator.



The Beautification Committee

Annual Spring

Craft Show & Bake Sale

Friday, March 17th

Hood Hall

9am - 3pm

Contact Becky Smith

becsmith62@gmail.com

Blood Pressure Clinic

The blood pressure clinic will be on Thursday March 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



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.



Park Wide Field Day

Lots of planning and preparation went into this event. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up to make it such a special day. We thank God for the good weather and all that participated in each event.



"If there is someone who would like to see Field Day continue and is willing to step up and take over leadership. **There is an opening.**"

Cliff and Carolyn Nicholas

Baseball

Greenville University will be playing baseball in the Russ-Mat tournament in March. Their schedule follows:

Mar 13; 11:15 AM; Lake Myrtle Park (Auburndale) v Cornell College.

Mar 14; TBA

Mar 16; 12 PM; Lake Myrtle; Anderson College.

Mar 16; 3 PM; Lake Myrtle; v Wisc. -Superior.

Mar 17; 11:30 AM; Lake Myrtle; v Beloit.

I have not included two games in Davenport, as that is 40+ miles from L&L. There is a \$10 charge for each day's admission. I plan to attend several games. Please contact me if you would like to ride along. I have discovered in past years that the published schedule can be changed. The GU athletics website might include any schedule changes.

--Mel Starr
m-starr@sbcglobal.net

Gad-About News

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

We are planning two more outings for March of this year.

The first is Thursday, March 9. We are planning to go to Winter Haven! (only 25 miles away). We plan to have lunch at Harborside Restaurant and then shop downtown where there are a variety of stores clustered together.

On Thursday, March 23, we are planning to go to Bok Tower! Of course, we will plan on lunch also.

So, save those dates and watch Neighborhood News for all the details. There will also be information and sign-up sheets posted on the Bulletin Board in Hood Hall about 10 days before these trips. So, save the dates and join us. Gad-Abouts is not a club. It is just a chance to get together and meet new ladies in the Park, or to see your old friends.

There are also some suggestion cards on the bulletin board right now! Please fill one out with suggestions for next year! Pin it back up or text/email it to Flo Grabowski or Peggy Dunn. We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Flo Grabowski

Cell 931-797-2639 coachflllc@gmail.com

Mugs-on-Monday

Mugs on Monday is held the second and fourth Mondays of the month, at 8:30 am, in Hood Hall.

This month, March, the dates are the 13th and the 27th.

Watch for the sign to go up near the gate to announce the fun times.

Wade, Marge, and our wonderful crew.



Library Information



Book Reviews by Gloria Welton

Library Notes

1. Kudos to Les Sellers! Thank you for your leadership these past years in the library along with all the contributions made. If you see Les around thank him!
2. We had a successful book sale thanks to those who helped before, during and after. Also, those who came and purchased books. A super high five to the Meadors. Roy was the head librarian at Springs Arbor. He and Donna, his wife, offered to help show what would be beneficial or what was taking up space in order to turn the library into a better resource center for residents. We appreciate you greatly!
3. Please be aware that there are instructions for checking books out. Books are for 1 month. If you have late books, please do not take out another book until it is returned. If not brought in, you will be charged for the book, DVD, or CD.
4. It is exciting to see people devouring books, along with seeing the hustle and bustle in the library. Positive and unique surprises are coming. Next season will see many opportunities.'
5. There is a treasure trove of books which have not been checked out in years. Why? No one knows but they are here, check it out!
6. Look for the library survey on what you want as goals for the library. This is God's library to serve you.
7. Please write a note for any suggestions you have for the library. Place them in the suggestion box on the counter!
8. Did you know what went on at Jesus's trial was illegal in many ways. He should have been acquitted. To learn more stay tuned!

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!



Woodworking News

Greetings to all woodworkers. We hope you are having a great "winter" in Light & Life Park. We want to thank those who helped at the Spaghetti Dinner and to all who bought tickets to support our club: We now have a new variable speed wood lathe.

The park-wide spring craft show is March 17th, so if you have any items you would like to show or sell, this is the time. Please stay tuned to the park news for updates.

Eldon Babcock's Camping stick kids are asking us to help sort, lightly sand, inspect and package in bundles of 10, up to 2000 sticks. This needs to be done soon and is a great opportunity to enjoy our great "wood activities" building by helping in his mission.

Wood carving meets on Thursday nights. We are always looking for someone to lead a class on any wood project.

March 3 at 9 AM is our last meeting for this year. It is the election of officers for next year and we would like a great turnout.

We hope to see you there.



Larry Putnam

Wood Shop President

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

Our HORSESHOE pits are open.

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

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

Help yourself to horseshoe fun.

Keith Childerhose

Shuffleboard

Our final meeting for the 2023 season will be March 16th at 12 noon. We will have a meal together and discuss next year's activities.

This does not mean Shuffleboard is over though, because the courts are always open.

We will still meet together for fun, instruction and fellowship on Monday's at 1:00pm and Thursday's at 6:00pm.

Join the fun.

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. We are a little over halfway of the 12 week season.

Our final celebration will be at Golden Coral at 12 noon on Friday the 31st of March.

We can still use substitutes for the next 4 weeks so if you want to try it out let me know.

Barb Hartson

bfhartson@gmail.com



**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 Bellingier
Secretary: Pam Hill
Email: church@lflmc.org

Mission Week Schedule

March 2-5

Thursday March 2, 6:00 pm, Al and Diane Mellinger

Friday March 3, 1:00 pm, Sharon Freed missionary with One Mission Society in the Philippines and Eldon Babcock, camping sticks Kids Ministry.

Friday March 3, 6:00 pm, Dan and Heather Fisher, Oakdale Christian Academy.

Saturday March 4, 6:00 pm, informal gathering at Hood Hall with the missionaries. Light refreshments will be available.

Sunday March 5, 10:00 am, Al Mellinger

Sunday March 5, 6:00 pm, Dan Fisher

A Note from Pastor Chuck...

Light and Life FMC begins the month with a bang! Missions Conference begins Thursday. Al and Diane Mellinger will be representing our denominational missions work. They will start us off by speaking Thursday evening. As I write this, Dan Fisher will speak to us Friday evening representing Oakdale. There are plans in the making for a Friday afternoon meeting, stay tuned and see our flyers. Saturday evening will be our informal meet at Hood Hall. Sunday morning and evening will again have our missions folk speaking to us.

March 17 - 19 will be "Prayer Warrior Boot Camp" led by Thomas and Noni Ramundo. This will be composed of a Friday evening session, two Saturday sessions (usually both held in the morning,) and a concluding message Sunday morning. Brochures for a further description will be available Sunday morning. This will be a powerful time so clear your schedules and plan to attend!

Onward and upward,

In Christ,

Pastor Chuck



will be hosting at Hood Hall
Wednesday March 1st

Strawberries and Ice Cream Night!

Everyone in the park is invited to attend!

We start at 7:00 PM.

Come and have a Sweet Treat with your friends!

Sponsored by FM Financial!

Dave Moffitt-Scott Blakemore-Tim Burkhart

March 4-8 Oakdale students will be coming to Lakeland Light and Life Park for a short renewing of friendship but will also be presenting a program.

Dr Fisher and Mrs. Odell will be coming with 3 young men. The young men will need housing. If you can house one of them, it would be greatly appreciated. They will need a bed and a shower. Food will be provided at the Lyon's house at 5323 Zion Ave. Thank you for considering this. If you can house one of the guys - please email me at emersonlk817@yahoo.com by March 2.

See you soon!!

Judy Lyon
5323 Zion Ave