



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

August 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 7 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Office Assistant: Lori Jones
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RV Lots Available for Lease

5313 Hebron Ct.
5315 Hebron Ct.
5321 Hebron Ct.

Lots With RVs for Sale

5311 Ebenezer Place
5317 Hebron Ct

Block Homes for Sale

5352 Bethany Way – \$65,000
5416 Zion Ave. – \$189,900
5311 Sharon Trail - \$95,000

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

News from the Park Administrator

Greeting, from Florida's Light and Life Park. I can't believe I'm having to write up an article for the August Newsletter already. This summer is going by fast. I know you have all had a hot summer up north. It has been very hot down here as well. We won't get a reprieve until the end of September.

If you are a current owner and will be renting your home out, please notify the office. We need to know who you are renting too and when. If you don't have any renters in mind, let us know. We have a list of people looking to rent private residences during the winter months of 2026.

The park sold 6 trailers in June to members and 8 in July to non-members. We still have several to sell. We are working through a process to sell the remainder of trailers that will not be needed in the fall/winter. Keep an eye out for an email if you are still interested in purchasing a camper but have not done so yet.

If you have events you want entered into the park calendar for the 2025-2026 season, please contact the office. We can let you know which dates are available for your event and enter it into the park calendar.

Driving around the park today, I noticed a few lots that have high weeds growing. This is a reminder that it is your responsibility to have the trimming done around your place. The park will only mow where a zero-turn mower with a 60" deck can go.

If you put in a request for lodging for the 2025 – 2026 season, confirmation letters were sent in July. Please read your letter to make sure we have the correct dates in the letter.

Doug has begun anchoring RV's to the ground. Any RV located in a lot in the park during hurricane season must be tied down. The only exceptions are trailers in the RV camping area or in the field behind the woodshop. We moved all the trailers from the creek area to the field behind the woodshop. We also moved trailers that had been used by people rebuilding to the field as well.

The gate is still not in service. The new components were installed. But then we had issues with connectivity to the call box. That was fixed, but now the brand new display on the call box does not work. We are hoping that once that is replaced, the gate will operate correctly and will be put back in service. The BOD has approved a fund raiser so that you can make donations to cover the cost of the new gate.

Have a blessed day.
Greg Thomas, Park Administrator

News from the Board of Directors

Dear Light and Life Family,

Florida's heat and humidity have been intense, with "feels like" temperatures often exceeding 100°F. I'm continually impressed by our Maintenance Staff's dedication, working tirelessly despite the heat.

It is so nice to see many of you getting together up north for fellowship and fun. It shows that we are truly a family!

A group of us have been meeting to assess the lessons learned from Hurricane Milton's destruction.

We have discussed and are developing an After Action Report (AAR) divided into four phases.

1. Immediate Pre-Hurricane (10/2/24 – 10/9/24).
2. Post Hurricane (10/10/24 – 10/17/24)
3. Mucking Out Phase (10/18/24 – 11/30/24)
4. Rebuilding Phase (12/1/24 – 5/14/25)

For each phase, we are evaluating what we did well, what we did poorly, and how we can improve.

The AAR will enable us to develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that outlines our preparedness and response strategies for emergencies at the Park. The EAP details procedures for readiness, evacuation, communication, and specific actions to take before, during, and after crises such as fires or natural disasters. A well-developed EAP will minimize harm and loss by providing a clear roadmap for all involved.

Here are a few things we believe we did well:

- A. Communication on safety to the current residents and knowing where they were.
- B. Prepared equipment that may be needed.
- C. Pulled together as a community for meals and spiritual support.
- D. Turned off breakers to all residences.
- E. StarLink was hooked up for communication.
- F. Got Dumpsters and Porta-Potties.
- G. Got Command Center up and running.
- H. Pulled skirting and opened windows for ventilation.

- I. Ability to receive donations of tools, equipment and set up Benevolence Fund.
- J. Requested and received many volunteers.

Here are some examples of areas where improvement is needed:

- A. Make sure we have a way to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- B. Off-Premises place to be able to resume Operations if needed.
- C. Develop Paperwork for residents to sign, allowing Post-Disaster entry to their homes for damage inspections.
- D. Improve communication regarding when residents can return.
- E. Establish a Chain of Command following the Incident Command System (ICS).
- F. Training and morning meetings for Zone Captains, Team Leaders and Delegate's in several areas such as Logistics, Meals, Recruiting Volunteers, Communications, Operations, Safety and Purchasing, etc.
- G. Communicate the need for volunteers to assist in the above areas to prevent burnout among the few.
- H. Improve Tracking and Job Request forms.
- I. Inter-Operational Communication (Handheld Radios w/ Earpieces). Set up a designated stop point for volunteers & supplies to be accessible.

This is not a complete list of our discussions and remains a work in progress. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to assess the After Action Report and develop the Emergency Action Plan.

I pray everyone enjoys the final weeks of summer!

Becky Smith
Board President

Recycling Plastics?

While the park provides a place for cardboard and for cans to be recycled, there is NOT a recycling area for plastics. The park administrators have NOT been able to find a company willing to pick up recyclable plastic. So **PLEASE DO NOT** put plastic jugs, water bottles, bags, or other recyclable plastic in the recycle area.

Bottles should be crushed and put into a trash bag before throwing into the garbage dumpsters. The more we compact what we put into the trash bags, the more room we'll save in our own bags but also in the dumpsters.

When throwing your trash bags into the dumpster, try to toss it as far back or over to the side as possible. This will allow better utilization of the space and not block the door.

If you really want to recycle your plastics, find a recycle center in the area and take your clean plastic there. Publix has a recycle program for soft plastics. Call or visit their website for more information.



Dinner at the Max Thursdays 5:30 pm

Hey Everyone!

We will continue to have Dinner at the Max throughout the summer (which in Florida means all year). However, during the off season months of June through October, Dinner at the Max will be held on THURSDAY evenings at 5:30 (as we used to do) in order to accommodate some of our neighbors who are unable to attend on Friday.

Dinner at the Max will return to Friday evenings in November to allow everyone to participate in both DATM on Friday and activities at Hood Hall on Thursday.

SUMMER DINNERS AT HOOD HALL

The August Summer Dinner will be held on Monday, August 4th at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$8.00 per person. Sign up by August 1st.



The menu is: turkey Ala king over biscuits or mashed potatoes, green salad, dessert and drink.

Come and join your neighbors for a good meal and fellowship. If you can help with cleanup, that will be appreciated. Contact Dave Cook if you have questions.



This Saturday is the first Saturday of the month (August 2) and is time for the men's breakfast and fellowship time. Meet at the church at 7:55 to carpool. For more information contact Tom Lake at 269-207-5776.



Remembering Chuck Shields

A Memorial **Service** will be held at
The Orangeville Baptist Church
6921 Marsh Rd
Plainwell MI, 49080
Sunday, August 10th at 12:15 pm.

What is That? – Chapter 3

This month we are continuing our informational series on various committees and activities available for park members to be involved in. We explored the Beautification Committee, Martha's Place, the Sugar Creek Gang, the Bucket Listers, the Fellowship Dinner committee, and the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee. This month we'll dive into various activities around the park, and who to contact if you want more information about how to join in the fun.

Athletic/Activities Committee

There is a committee that meets a couple of times per year and spearheads all of the activities at the park. This committee is headed by Larry Angus. They keep track of what equipment needs we have, what needs to be replaced, how to obtain the needed replacements, etc. There are also sub-committees that take care of specific programs, such as the swimming pool committee.

In January, a list is given to all of the residents with the contact information of the person spearheading that activity. This list is subject to change from year to year.

Here is a brief overview of what activities are offered, and who oversees those activities. A more complete list will be provided by the Athletic Committee in January.

AQUA SPLASH – meets in the mornings during the summer months, afternoons in the winter months. One or two sessions per week. Led by certified water aerobics instructor Karen Castle-Williams.

BICYCLING – Scott and Rosalee Cox organize group bike rides – often once per week.

BOWLING – day and time to be determined. Has generally met on Tuesdays but because of the extenuating circumstances after Hurricane Milton, the normal league was suspended and folks were encouraged to attend open bowling on Wednesday mornings.

CORN HOLE – The park owns beautiful corn hole equipment but needs a leader to organize days of play, tournaments, etc. If this interests you – contact Larry Angus.

GOLF – Ed Stockwell does a great job of pulling folks together to maintain the golf course, which is a constant battle due to fire ants, wild boar, weeds, etc. The golf course has 9 holes. Some folks play daily and others on occasion. There is also a group who golf at a neighboring location once per week. Tournaments are held at Light and Life for men, women, and mixed golfers.

HORSESHOES – Light and Life has a wonderful horseshoe pit. If you love the game and would like to help out by organizing game times, contact Larry Angus.

LINE DANCE – Marge Wilkins leads some boot scootin' fun once per week at Hood Hall. Check with her for days and times.

MINI GOLF – In the past, there have been ladies' mini golf tournaments. There is a golden opportunity for YOU to be in charge of this happening again. Let Larry Angus know if this is right up your alley.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS – Join Dale Schantz's gang as they ride to various destination points around central Florida. The weekly trips generally include a stop for brunch or lunch.

PICKLEBALL – Get up a game of pickleball on your own, or contact Denise Tomasello for some names of folks who like to play. Watch Neighborhood News for game days and times.

POOL – A pool table is located in the recreation center. You can obtain a key from the office if you would like to use the facility, or call someone on the Athletic Committee. If you use the equipment – be sure and put it away when you're done!

RECREATION CENTER – is next to the swimming pool and has exercise equipment for your use. Obtain a key from the office.

What is That? (cont)

SHUFFLEBOARD – Find a partner and join the shuffling good times. Dale Schantz has all the low down on what shuffling involves, when and where to meet, and how to participate in the tournaments. If you're a newbie to the sport, he'll even give you some instruction – you can't beat that!

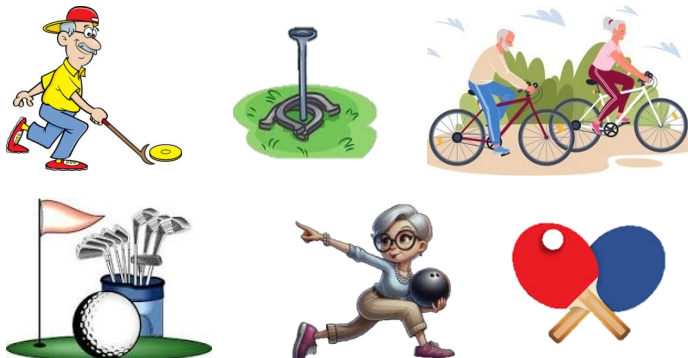
TABLE TENNIS – Max and Betty Videto would love to welcome you to table tennis matches at the recreation center. There are specific times set aside for the ladies, and other specific hours are just for the men.

WALK AROUND THE PARK – Do you enjoy walking, or at least need to walk everyday? Walkers generally have more success if they have walking partners or at least some accountability. So if you are that person who has the get up and go to start up a walking group, please contact Larry Angus, because he is looking for YOU!

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Watch Neighborhood News and the Facebook page for more details as we get closer to the winter season. Note: some activities have a fee, so be sure and ask about that when you sign up.

Most of these activities get underway in January and February. However, the facilities are open and available year round. So get some friends together and go have fun!

Contact: Larry Angus 517-740-4085 to find out even more. You don't have to be a long-time resident to lead an activity – jump in!



## L&L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

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

No previous experience required!

Splash times are offered year round and free of charge.

Our August schedule will vary based on the heat index and the availability of those interested. Please look for more updates via L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News.



Karen Castle-Williams,

ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor

Come and support Earl and Willie in concert if you live nearby.

Aug 22 -



Somerset Beach Camp Jerome MI Time TBD

Aug 24—Somerset Beach FMC 10 am

Aug 30—Corners Community Church  
Benton Harbor MI 4 pm

Aug 31—Yankee Springs Bible Church  
Middleville, MI 10 am

Covenant Hills Camp Otisville MI  
Time TBD



## STORY OF LIGHT & LIFE GATE

After we bought the park from the conference in 1998, the park board decided to replace the entrance. It had an old gate with a chain and padlock. When you entered or left someone had to open and close it manually.

Duane Cain and George Holsworth, both board members, laid all the brick for the entrance. One brick is put in backwards, as a joke. At that time the gate was open during the day but closed at night. It was a beautiful black gate, and we bought our openers for \$25.00.

Soon after it was finished, a drunk driver came speeding down Deeson Road, plowed through the north gate, turned around and plowed through the south gate going out. There just happened to be Hillsborough detectives watching the property next door, and caught the driver.

The gate was replaced and soon we had another drunk teenager come down the road, but he went through the north brick section. Once inside he stopped and threw out his beer cans and his cell phone and left. Grandma was listed on the phone, so they called the number and Grandma said yes her Grandson had her car.

George and Duane replaced the hole in the wall. The board decided they had to do something, so decided to paint the gate white, put a spotlight in it, installed the 2 reflective "L"s on the gates, and installed the red flashing light just outside the gate. That has stopped the runaway



drunks.

We have had mechanical problems with the gate, and have repainted the gate when the power washer removed the paint. Duane and George also laid the brick facing on Hood Hall.

## PICNIC INVITATION FOR EAST MICHIGAN

Some of our Light and Life Park members are or have been affiliated with the Missionary Church. Their camp meeting is held each summer in August at Brown City, which is in the thumb of Michigan. Carol Zeller has been attending that camp meeting since she was an infant, and has cordially invited all to a picnic.



### You are invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Light and Life Friends Picnic at Missionary Church Campgrounds

8700 Wilcox Rd. Brown City, MI

Thursday, August 7 (During Camp Meeting)

12 pm

Pavilion by Cafeteria

Hosted by: Carol Zeller 248-330-4474



### 2024 Attendees Pictured

Bring a dish to pass and a couple \$ for chicken.

Paper products will be furnished - but tablecloths would be appreciated. Looking forward to seeing everyone!! The date is August 7th at noon!! Spread the word!! Any questions contact Carol Zeller. Let her know if you're coming so she'll have an idea of how much chicken to buy.



## FRIENDS, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

This summer has brought several opportunities for Light and Life members to come together to reunite and fellowship together. The dinners at the Max as well as the summer fellowship dinners have brought our year-round residents together.

In Michigan, there have already been two Light and Life friends picnics – one in the north at Manton Christian Camp, and one in the south at Somerset Beach Campground.



Over 70 Light and Life members have attended one or both of these picnics.

Two more opportunities for fellowship are in the works in Michigan. Carol Zeller is hosting a picnic in east Michigan at the Brown City Missionary Camp (see details on previous page). Kent and Ann Enyart are cooking up a picnic and golf outing in west Michigan at the Mullenhurst Golf Course in Delton (south of Grand Rapids).



Reunited with former L&L residents at the SBC picnic.

## Light and Life Park Goings On



Carl & Marilyn swimming with Andy the gator.

### CARS & COFFEE

August 9, 2025 8 am to 10am

Vehicles of all years, sizes, and shapes welcome at Light and Life Park  
5730 Deeson Road (at the end of the road)  
Lakeland, FL 33810

The gates will be open. You can see cars parked in parking lot under the trees on the left. Come have coffee and donuts. Hope to see you there!



Jo Anne Thomas  
540-447-0288

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles and announcements for the newsletter should be sent to:  
[carolyn\\_lindley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. The deadline for the next newsletter is August 20<sup>th</sup>. Ideas for articles or items of interest may also be submitted!