



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

December 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 11 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

5604 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
Phone: 863 858-7504
Fax: 863 859-9775
Emergency: 863 608-3984

Park Administrator: Greg Thomas
greg.t@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell: 863-608-3984)

Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
Website: lightandlifepark.org

Office Manager: Phil Allen
phil@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Mobile Homes for Sale

5892 Moriah Place - \$69,000.00

5317 Jordan Blvd. - \$150,000.00

Block Homes for Sale

5423 Zion Ave. - \$139,900.00

5332 Bethany Way - \$120,000.00

5416 Zion Ave - \$189,900.00

RV's and Park Model's

5323 Hebron Ct. - \$13,500.00

Lots Available for Lease

5313 Hebron Ct.

5315 Hebron Ct.

5317 Hebron Ct.

5346 Ebenezer Place

5314 Ebenezer Place

News from the Park Administrator

Greetings, from Florida's Light and Life Park. Welcome to the Sunshine state. The park is beginning to fill up. It feels like everyone is coming a month earlier than usual. Remember to check in with Lori Jones at the office when you arrive.

If you have an event that you want entered into the Light and Life Park events calendar, please let the office know. If you want to view the calendar, go to the Park's website at www.lightandlifepark.org

We have added two construction dumpsters to the park to assist those residents who are still doing repairs to their homes. These dumpsters are located at the west end of Mizpah Ct. and beside Cabin 5209 in the camping area. These dumpsters are an additional expense to the park. The park requests that you make a donation if you use them.

The invoices for the 2026 Annual Operating Fees and 2025 Taxes & Storm water fees were mailed out and hand delivered. We also sent them out via email. It is possible that we mailed them to your home up north while you were in transit. If you did not receive your invoices, please come to the office and we can print them out for you. The 2025 Taxes & Storm water fee invoice is due by 12/25/25. The 2026 Annual Operating fee is due by 1/15/2026. Please remember to pay these on time so that you don't get assessed a late fee. The late fee is \$25.00 for each month that the invoice is not paid in full.

The BOD formed a search committee for the new Park Administrator. Applications were due by 11/16/25. Initial interviews were held by the search committee the week of November 17, 2025. Qualified applicants will be interviewed by the board. Please pray for discernment for the BOD during this time.

WE HAVE PRINTED DIRECTORIES THIS YEAR!!! Pick one up when you check in at the office. We are limiting them to one per household. We also have a limited supply of wall calendars. You may get one of those as well, while supplies last.

There are some new properties for sale or lease. Please check these out on the park's website if you are looking for a new place.

Have a blessed day,

Greg Thomas, Park Administrator

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family of the Park,

We want to share two important updates as we look forward to the year ahead. First, Greg has submitted his resignation as Administrator. We are profoundly thankful for his faithful and dedicated service throughout this past year and for the passion he has poured into the Park. Though we will miss him greatly, we are grateful that he has agreed to remain with us through the end of January to ensure a smooth transition and to help train the incoming Administrator. Please join us in expressing heartfelt appreciation to Greg and in praying for him and his family as they follow the Lord into the next season He has prepared for them.

At the same time, we are actively searching for the person God has called to serve as our next Administrator. Applications closed on November 16, and we have been encouraged by the quality and number of candidates who applied. The search committee has already met several times and has begun the interview process. In the coming weeks, the board will meet with the finalists.

We are trusting the Lord's perfect timing and guidance every step of the way, confident that He will bring exactly the right leader to the Park for this new chapter. We would greatly appreciate your continued prayers for discernment, unity, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading as these important decisions are made.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer during this season of transition.

In His service,
Becky Smith
Board President



Library Update

We now have an email address for our library: hendrickslibrary@gmail.com. It has just been set up so it will take some adjustments to get it to run smoothly.

It's exciting to see the progress that is happening in the reconstruction of our library. The colors that have been chosen are soothing. The care gone into the furniture and pictures choices are appealing. The goal is to have the library open and running by the beginning of January.

If you take a walk through the library you will see that the fiction area is half the size that it was. Please do not take any books out of the library or off the shelves. We are in the process of implementing a new computer program and all of the books must be entered into the data system. This takes time and will include many details. Please be patient with us.

We are blessed that a lot of our nonfiction books will be going to South Eastern University, an Assembly of God affiliate. They are extremely excited to be able to utilize books that do not fit into the purpose of our library and will benefit the students there.

Please feel free to give suggestions for what you would like to see in our library. This includes books, DVDs, magazines, Bible studies, types of drinks you would like to be available. You can leave a note in the library office, or call, email and/or text Gloria Welton, the librarian. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

There is much help needed in processing the books and preparing materials. If you would be willing to help, please let me know.

Thank you for being patient. Transformation takes time!

Blessings, Gloria Welton, Librarian

LIGHT AND LIFE PARK WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday-10 am Worship at L&L FMC

Thursday- 5:30 pm Dinner at the Max
followed by table games & fellowship

Friday- 10 am Distribution of Panera and
Publix Goods at Hood Hall

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

- ♦ Men's Breakfast at Golden Corral 8 am
1st Saturday
- ♦ Fellowship Dinner 5:30 pm Dec. 9th
- ♦ Cars and Coffee at Church Parking Lot
8-10 am 2nd Saturday



**Friday, December 5,
2025**

**10 am—2 pm
Hood Hall**

**Hot Dog Lunch
available beginning at
11:30 am
by donation to
The Bucket Listers**



BLOOD PRESSURE

Do you struggle
with high or low
blood pressure?

Come and get a
free blood
pressure check
from 11-12 on
January 14th
and 28th in
Hood Hall.

Success! Christmas Shoe Box Ministry

This year's Christmas Shoe Box Ministry was a huge success. Kathy Miller did a superb job in leading our Light and Life Church in creating 167 amazingly filled shoe boxes. There must have been twenty-five to thirty volunteers who were part of this process from purchasing items, sorting, taking tags off, to the final product of filling the boxes.

What was different this year was the event was spoken about throughout the previous months. We didn't wait until October to start gathering materials. A lot of thought went into the types of items that were chosen to please each and every child including the wow items, socks, underwear, small toys and stuffed animals.

One thing that will be included next year are actual sizes for the clothing items per age group to make it easier to purchase what is appropriate without guessing. This will include how many of certain items so that all the boxes have much needed supplies.

In watching the boxes get filled this year the excitement and willingness to go above and beyond was evident. I do believe the blessings we receive from furnishing the items to building each box was more beneficial to us as volunteers than to the children who will receive them.

It's not too early to start planning for next year's Christmas Shoe boxes. Please send any ideas to Kathy Miller throughout this year and start planning what you will provide to fulfill this great opportunity for the next time. Kathy's goal is 200 boxes!

- Gloria Welton, contributor

WOOD SHOP NEWS

As a new year comes around we need to be thinking of what needs to be done at our January board meeting. The next meeting will be January 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the wood shop. All members are urged to attend.

Some of the things on the agenda will be:

Reading of the meeting minutes from last year.

1. Discussion about replacing or refurbishing the table saw. There have been several people who have said the bearings may be going out which affects the accuracy of the cuts.
2. The Wood Jointer has the blade guard is missing. We are looking for a replacement guard, but due to the age of the machine we have not had any luck finding one so we may have to replace the machine. (If anyone can find the parts to replace the guard, please let us know as the machine is about 75 years old.)
3. There has been some discussion about adding an oscillating spindle sander. This would be helpful for sanding parts with radius's when making projects on the scroll saw or band saw.
4. Classes that might be offered in 2026.
5. Board elections for two of the board members for 2027 will need to be conducted at our next meeting.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
-------------	---------------------

Larry Putnam, Leadership Member	2026
---------------------------------	------

Mel Stevenson, Vice President	2026
-------------------------------	------



The clean-up efforts in the shop are getting done, but there are a few things that need work yet. If you can spend a little time in the shop cleaning areas that need it and emptying the trash barrels, we urge you to do so. As always, we thank you for your time spent to make our wood shop look clean and attractive.

We encourage you to take advantage of the wood shop for your wood projects or just for an opportunity to learn a new skill in woodworking, turning or carving. We hope to offer some classes in woodworking next year. Our wood shop is an excellent place to learn.

I have some maple, cherry and walnut boards I would like to donate the woodshop, but no way to transport them from Michigan to Florida. If there is anyone going that way before the end of the year with a truck or trailer that could take a few boards please contact Lee Stevens at 989-721-0106 or lcsquality@hotmail.com

If anyone has materials from their summer project lying around in the shop, please insure it is removed by the end of November. We need the shop clean and orderly for the New Year, so if you value your project, please take care of it.

- Lee Stevens
President, Woodshop

SHUFFLEBOARD

You're invited to meet on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and Thursdays at 6:30 pm for shuffleboard at Light and Life, with a spring meeting at Hood Hall on January 15, 2025, and a \$10 fee for shuffleboard court supplies.

Note

- ◆ Contact Dale Schantz for more information about the shuffleboard fee.
(989) 975-6710
- ◆ Attend the spring shuffleboard meeting and pay the \$10 fee.

2026 GOLF TOURNAMENTS



You are invited to participate in the Light and Life golf tournaments, including a Scramble, Championship, Blind Draw, and Co-Ed event.

January 9th 2026

Two person (men and women) Tournament (18 holes Scramble)! Bring your partner! Men & women divisions. Start time 10:00 AM

February 13th, 2026

Club Championship Tournament (two flights each for Men & Women) (18 holes) 10:00 AM start time. (Note: closest to the pin and longest drive contest will be held as part of the Club Championship.

March 13th, 2026

Last Two person Blind Draw tournament (18 holes) Men & Women Categories (\$50 to each winning team). Plus names on a trophy in Hood Hall. (Friday) Shot gun start at 10:00 AM.

April 1st, 2025 Three club Co-Ed tournament (Play your own ball).
(Wednesday) 18 holes. 9 AM

- Ed Stockwell, Players Club

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

December 8 5:30 pm

Bring your place settings (which can be taken over in the afternoon), and a large dish to share with those at your table. Our program will be at 6:15, led by Earl Galloway and Willie Ming.

Your ASSIGNMENT for a fun activity: bring 2 rolls of toilet paper per person and something to put on a snowman, as we are going to be playing a game. Willie says "I wonder what Earl has up his sleeve?"

HELP NEEDED: if you surname begins M-Z please contact Barb Vibbert (717-309-4215 or [wbvibbert3@gmail.com](mailto:wvibbert3@gmail.com)) ASAP if you can help with set-up and clean-up for this event. Many hands make light work!

Note the DATE is DEC 8 (Yes, that rhymes 🎵) Having our dinner on the second Monday is often customary when there are five Mondays in the month, it spaces a large meal further away from Thanksgiving, and allows more travel time for others to arrive in the park.

- Marilyn Stone, committee chairman

Hope Mats for the Homeless

Imagine having to sleep outdoors under the stars night after night. The blanket on the ground covers the grass. There's another blanket on top. As the dewpoint becomes reality, the ground blanket soaks up the dew, becomes cold and damp. No comfort tonight; no relief from the wetness.

Light & Life Park residents are part of a ministry to enable homeless to stay a bit drier and warmer. In fact, students from Southeastern University helped create these special mats earlier this month. These mats are crocheted from plastic bags, and the finished product is approximately six feet by four feet with a carry handle. They are thick and help keep the dampness away from the covers on the ground, keeping the homeless a bit warmer.

This is quite a complex process. Start with 800 -900 plastic grocery bags, folded widthwise in fourths. Cut off the top handles and cut in strips. Then loop a strip through another one and pull tight. Do this until you have several strips hooked together. This is just the beginning!

After many strips are tied together, they are rolled like a skein of yarn, into a ball about the size of a small soccer ball. After completing several of these balls, it's time to start crocheting the mat to make one 6x4 mat which takes about one week. Once completed, they are sent to Lighthouse Ministries which distributes them.

Jean Whipple reported that Lighthouse Ministry gave feedback from one man who received a mat and stated that he is very pleased and it has made a difference in his comfort!

Six mats have been completed since October. It's crocheting with a purpose. If you would like to be part of this ministry, you are welcome to join the group on Sundays at 4:00 P.M. at Hood Hall. Some just cut strips of bags while others do the crocheting. If you would like to learn to crochet there is someone there to teach you. Become part of this unique Light and Life ministry and receive the blessings that are included!

- Gloria Welton, contributor

Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

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

No previous experience required!
Just bring your towel and a smile.

Sessions will be held @ 2PM on: 12/2, 12/9, 12/10, 12/12, 12/16, 12/18, 12/20, 12/22 & 12/26. Please monitor L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News for updates and any weather cancellations.

Karen Castle-Williams,
ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor

Cars & Coffee

December 13, 2025
8 am to 10 am

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

J A Thomas
540-447-0288



Christmas Potluck

December 25th—details coming soon
on Neighborhood News!

Stamps for Missions

CHRISTmas cards and letters: what a golden opportunity to cut and save postage stamps that can be resold to collectors. Proceeds are used to produce and distribute CHRISTian literature in Spanish to introduce CHRIST to others and disciple them in their CHRISTian walk. After trimming a border of a minimum of 1/4 inch take them to Hood Hall, put them in the designated box along the west wall.

Marilyn Stone
Stamp coordinator

Articles, announcements, and items of interest must be submitted by the 20th of each month to ensure publication in the following month's newsletter. Please email carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com Please do NOT send announcements via text.