



# The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.  
Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 6 Page 1

## FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Park Administrator: Greg Thomas  
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Website: [lightandlifepark.org](http://lightandlifepark.org)

Office Manager: Phil Allen  
[phil@lightandlifepark.org](mailto:phil@lightandlifepark.org)

Office Assistant: Lori Jones  
[lori@lightandlifepark.org](mailto:lori@lightandlifepark.org)

Office Hours:  
April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon  
November 15-April 14: 8 am - Noon

### Lots Available for Lease

5313 Hebron Ct.  
5315 Hebron Ct.  
5317 Hebron Ct.  
5321 Hebron Ct.  
5311 Ebenezer Place

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

### Block Homes for Sale

5352 Bethany Way – \$65,000.00  
5416 Zion Ave. – Make Offer  
5311 Sharon Trail - \$95,000.00

## News from the Park Administrator

Hello, from Florida's Light and Life Park. Summer is in full swing here. It's hot, hot, hot. We are getting evening storms about 3 times a week. Not too much, but just enough to keep the Jordan flowing and the grass growing.

Phil and I are in the process of going through the reservation requests and assigning guest rooms, cabins and RV sites. We should complete this task in a few days and send out confirmation email/letters.

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.

We had a tree in the RV camping area drop a very large branch. The branch just missed a trailer. An arborist came out and looked at the tree. He advised the tree was decayed in the middle such that he believed the top of the tree would fall in the opposite direction. Therefore, we had the tree cut down and removed.

The pigs have been very active this summer. They are tearing up the golf course, the grassy areas on the north side of Deeson Rd. and in the field behind the wood shop. A few of us are spending some time in the evenings hunting them. If you are in the park and you come across some pigs, please don't approach them.

We began selling trailers to park members in June. The bid process took place in the week of June 16. We sold 6 trailers in the first round of sales. Sales will continue until we have got rid of all the extra trailers.

New doors have been ordered and are being installed at the bathhouses on Ebenezer Place and the RV section. Doug and Ryan will be replacing the old doors that were rusting and rotting.

Please remember to keep the park in your prayers. We are trying to keep everything maintained and in working order. At the same time, we are preparing for the next storm, whenever that may be. Life runs at a slower pace in the summer, but we are busy in the park.

God Bless You,  
Greg Thomas

## News from the Board of Directors

### Highlights of The Summer Update Meeting held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Ron Foster reported for the ARC that since the new member procedure was implemented in February, 21 applications for membership have been accepted. Reminder that they will not become Members of the Park until they purchase a home.

Administrator, Greg Thomas reported that a new gate has been ordered, hopefully it will be installed within the next 4-6 weeks per the dealer. Two of the travel trailers given to us by Hillsborough County have been sold and a procedure to dispose of the remainder of unused trailers is in process.

Additionally:

I met with Stan and Gloria regarding Brandi, their Service Dog in Training. Since no other Board Members were available at the park, I invited Pastor Roger to join me.

Before the meeting, I researched Florida's requirements for Service Dogs, contacting seven trainers listed on <https://usserviceanimals.org/> and consulting my nephew, who has trained service animals in both Michigan and Florida.

My findings revealed that Service Dog training in the U.S. is unregulated, with no requirement for documentation to prove a dog's status, unlike in Canada. Training varies depending on the dog and the owner's specific needs.

I requested that Stan and Gloria share their training expectations for Brandi, their Service Dog in Training, to evaluate their progress accurately. **Gloria provided** several pages of information on Psychiatric Service Dogs (PSD).

A Psychiatric Service Dog (PSD) is a **specific category** of service dog, trained to assist individuals with mental health conditions. This is the role Brandi fulfills, and understanding this distinction is important for our community.

From my research and our discussion, I confirmed that Brandi has completed two stages of Obedience Training. The next phase, tailored to Gloria's needs, will begin after Stan's surgery in June and may take up to a year.

I encouraged Stan and Gloria, assuring them that I'd update the Service Animal Committee, the Board, and the community as needed. I explained that we're committed to handling this process correctly for both the community and them. Unlike the fully trained Service Animal already in our park, Brandi's training is a new experience for us, and we're learning together.

Becky Smith  
Board President

### Board of Directors 2025

Becky Smith, President  
Larry Putnam, Vice President  
Dave Moffitt, Treasurer  
Ken Kendall, Secretary  
Ron Foster  
Jim Falconer  
Jim Thomas  
Larry Osborne  
Roxanne Smarszcz



*Wishing everyone a happy holiday! Have fun and stay safe!*

## Recycling Cardboard

A cardboard recycling bin is provided at the dumpster site. Only corrugated cardboard (as pictured below) can be recycled. No thin boxes, such as cereal or cake mix boxes should go into the recycle bin. Although most pizza boxes are corrugated, they should be kept out of the recycle bin due to food residue. Break it down before putting it into the bin.



### How to break down a box:

Cut along the seams on the bottom of the box with a sharp knife. This will allow you to flatten the box so that more boxes will fit into the dumpster. Do NOT try to break down the box by stomping on it or tearing it.

## 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 July Summer Dinner will be held on the first Monday of July (7<sup>th</sup>). Even though it is not scheduled for July 4, it will be "July 4 menu" consisting of hamburgers, brats, baked beans, chips, dessert, etc. Please sign up in Hood Hall by Thursday, July 3. The dinner is scheduled for 5:30 pm and the cost is \$8.00 payable at the door.

Come and spend some time enjoying the food and fellowship with your neighbors.

## Metal Cans

There are containers over in the enclosed space by the Garbage containers for recycling your metal cans and are picked up by Errol.

Pop/Soda cans are to be placed in the bins designated for aluminum cans and are to be separated from other metal cans.

Errol uses the proceeds from the metal to support his son who is a Pastor of a very small church.

Thank you for your support.

**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](http://www.lightandlifepark.org)



## What is That?

Last month we took a look at three entities at the park that you may not have been aware of, if you are a fairly new resident. We explored the Beautification Committee, Martha's Place, and The Sugar Creek Gang. This month we'll explain three committees and what they do, and how you may be able to assist them.

**THE FELLOWSHIP DINNER COMMITTEE** is responsible for planning and implementing the Monday night dinners and programs, which are held during the months of November through April. The dinners are usually held on the first Monday of the month. Occasionally the dinners are rescheduled for the second Monday if there are five Mondays in a month or if there is another event scheduled on or near the first Monday.

The committee members are responsible for finding greeters and volunteers for set up and clean up. They also brainstorm program ideas and produce a 45-minute to 1-hour program for each month. Posters to promote the dinners are produced and hung at various locations around the park, as well as on Neighborhood News.

Members of the community are asked to bring a large dish to pass at their table and to invite someone they don't know well to join them for dinner. Breaking bread with strangers is a great way to become fast friends. A donation basket is placed on each table to help defray the expenses of the program (honorariums, prizes, etc.) Whatever funds are left go into the general fund to cover the cost of janitorial supplies and paper goods.

Our most frequently asked question is "why don't we just do a potluck dinner instead of a mini-potluck at the table?" There are a few reasons:

1 – time constraints. Depending on attendance, going through a potluck line can take 45 minutes to one hour, pushing back the start-up time of the program. Holding the entire evening to less than 3 hours makes it easier for more folks to participate.

2 – dietary restrictions. Having mini-potlucks allows those who are gluten free, diabetic, or have other health considerations to plan their meal ahead with other folks to ensure they get a balanced meal.

For those who enjoy a good, old-fashioned potluck, a great alternative is to participate in Dinner at the Max which is generally held on Friday evenings, or the holiday potlucks.

Some of the programs that the Fellowship Dinner Committee has planned include: talent shows, comedy nights, honoring veterans, honoring our elderly residents, and reminiscing about the Good Old Days.

If you have programming ideas or would like to help, the committee Chair Marilyn Stone would love to hear from you. You can email her at: [jaxstone68@gmail.com](mailto:jaxstone68@gmail.com)

**THE 50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE** plans an annual celebration for those celebrating their golden anniversaries. The committee begins its work a year in advance, setting up the date, budget, theme, and seeking out couples to honor.

The celebration is generally held in early February in Hood Hall.

Each couple is given a display table to share photos, party favors, and precious mementos.

The celebration may include a brief program highlighting the love story of each couple, and a cake and punch reception.

Each committee member takes a responsibility, such as decorating, food preparation, greeting, set up and clean up, programming, etc.

If you would be willing to serve on this committee, please contact: [carolyn\\_lindley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com)

### What is That? (cont)

In the spring of 2020, a core group of ladies came together to form **THE BUCKET LISTERS**. The ladies' desire was and still is to work together to improve Light and Life Park.

Since 2020, The Bucket Listers have hosted:

Tuesday Night Movies  
 Tuesday Night Trivia  
 Cinnamon Roll Bakes  
 Pizza Parties  
 Banana Split Nights  
 Ice Cream Float Nights  
 Pulled Pork Dinner  
 Ice Cream Bars Sales  
 Hot Dog lunches at the fall and spring craft shows  
 Ladies Christmas party  
 Ribbon cutting ceremony  
 Refreshments at Tell Your Story  
 Served at a wedding reception  
 Helped at a 50th Anniversary Celebration  
 Helped with field day.

The Bucket Listers have also sponsored several Southern Gospel Concerts with Earl Galloway and Willie Ming.

In Hood Hall, The Bucket Listers have had puzzle shelves built on two separate occasions. Hurricane Milton destroyed the shelves Rev Kelly built.

Purchased eleven office chairs for the puzzle area.

Four chair racks were purchased to make moving and storage of chairs more manageable.

As a result of our fundraising efforts we were able to:

Purchase a bench in honor of Luanne Kelly,  
 Buy 2 bike racks  
 Purchase Christmas and Palm Sunday wreaths for the church.  
 Purchase announcement frames.  
 PAY for the entire sidewalk and solar lights that connects Ebenezer Place to the library, church and pool.

At the pool the Bucket Listers power washed the deck, purchased Christmas lights, pool noodles, small side tables, installed a new fan in the lanai area and paid for a deep cleaning of the pool. The Buckets Listers commissioned Wade Wilson to paint the amazing mural on poolside wall of the Fitness Center.

The Bucket Listers were also able to help other fundraising efforts:

Refurbishing three guest cabins.

Hood Hall fall 2024 food fund.

Missions

Martha's Place

Table and Chair Fund

Heavy Equipment Fund

Hurricane Ian Pine Island emergency funds

Adopted a family outside the park at Christmas.

The Bucket Listers wanted to install a permanent shade structure at the pool. However, as a result of permit issues with the county this is not possible.

All fundraisers this past year, except for the pulled pork dinner, were priced at a donation only basis. It was a fall and winter of uncertainty for all of us. The Bucket Listers most of all wanted residents to have activities to participate in without the added financial stress.

The Bucket Listers were blessed by the generosity of park members this past winter season. We are thankful for your participation and support of our attempts to make our park an amazing place to live.

-Janet Wight, contributor

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for reminding me  
 to keep Heaven at the top of my  
 bucket list every day.*

*Amen.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF GOODIES FROM PUBLIX & PANERA

There seems to be a lot of confusion about the days that there are goodies in the Park for any and all residents. For the summer, we will be getting it 4 days each week, so bread and sweets will be available on Monday, Tuesday and then again on Thursday and Friday. When Earl and I are in town, Panera items will be added on Friday. If we are gone, Roger and Sheryl Allen have been so kind to do the pick-up, and it is then available on Thursday mornings. During the fall/winter months when the "snowbirds" return we will need to re-evaluate how it is handled.

We never know how much we will get---some days there is a lot and other days not so much, you just need to come by and check it out. It is self-serve at this time of year, but please be mindful of others and do not open packages and please use gloves for the items that are not packaged.



Earl and I often take the "leftovers" to Lighthouse Ministries in Lakeland for their use, which is much appreciated. When there is a LOT of bread, especially the stick bread or harder rolls, Mike (our farmer neighbor) will take most of that. He has my approval to do so, and he is very careful to come in the afternoons when everyone has had a chance to get their favorite breads.

We could not do this without the dedicated volunteers that have a day each week. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!** (Doug and Judy Hall, Debbie Roberts, and Mel and Sylvia Stevenson). This ministry is open to all in the Park or Church and we truly hope that you will enjoy your goodies each week.

- Karen Wright

## Meanwhile...up in Michigan



36 Light and Life friends gathered at beautiful Manton Christian Camp for the fourth annual "Saturday before the 4<sup>th</sup>" picnic. It was a warm sunny day and a great time of fellowship.

A huge shout out to Roy and Janet Wight for the excellent job they did and always do to make these gatherings successful.

More Light and Life Friends picnics are being planned for this summer. See page 7 for details about one in South Central Michigan and one in East Michigan. Kent and Ann Enyart are also considering hosting one at a golf course near Grand Rapids in September. If you would be interested in attending, please contact the Enyarts for more information.

How about you folks from PA and NY? Got any plans for Light and Life get togethers? If so, we'd love to hear about it.



Did you get married in 1976? If so, then happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this next year. We'll be celebrating on February 13<sup>th</sup> and would love to honor you. Please let me know if you would be willing to participate in this celebration.

carolyn Lindley, 517-262-1482

Carolyn\_lindley@yahoo.com



## YOU'RE INVITED!

We're delighted to have some of our former L&L members and Canadian friends joining us at



**SOMERSET BEACH**  
CAMPGROUND & RETREAT CENTER

9822 Brooklawn Ct.  
Jerome, MI 49249

for our third annual Light and Life Friends picnic on Sunday, July 13.

Gather between 12 and 1 in the Lakeview Pavilion and be prepared to eat at 1 pm.

Family camp will be underway so come early for morning worship or stay late for evening worship in the big tent.

Bring: A large dish to pass and your own place setting. Optional: Picnic tablecloth and lawn chairs, beverage of your choice.



SBC recently acquired a pontoon boat that will seat 8-10 people. They are making pontoon rides available to us at a discount price of \$5 per person. Rides will be given from 2-2:30 and 2:30-3. If you wish to go on this excursion, please email me.

[carolyn\\_lindley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com)

517-262-1482 to RSVP for the picnic or for more information



**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

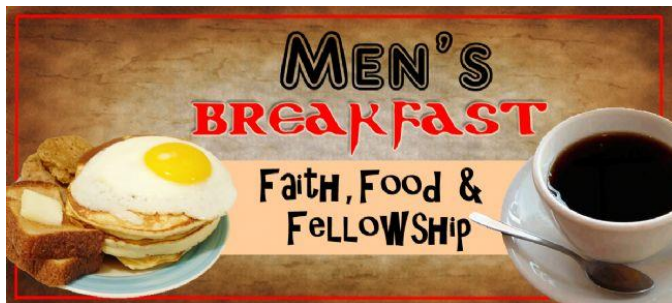
Hosted by: Carol Zeller 248-330-4474



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.



This Saturday is the first Saturday of the month (July 5) and is time for the men's breakfast and fellowship time.

Meet at the church at 7:55 to carpool. For more information contact Dale Schantz 989-975-6710

### CARS & COFFEE

July 12, 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



The monthly newsletter is a great way to stay informed, but there are also other resources available.

There is a Facebook page hosted by Chuck Tomasello, and an email service called Neighborhood News. You must include your name and contact information when using this service. If you would like to subscribe contact Judi Purdy at [judith\\_purdy@yahoo.com](mailto:judith_purdy@yahoo.com)

### 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 July 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  
[allforyum@aol.com](mailto:allforyum@aol.com)



Articles and announcements for the newsletter should be submitted to: [carolyn\\_lindley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. (Please do not text) The deadline for the August issue is July 20<sup>th</sup>.