



# The Life and Times

*Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.*  
*Newsletter*

September 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 8 Page 1

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

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### Mobile Homes for Sale

5347 Bethel Dr.—\$4,000  
(needs rebuild from flood)

### 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

Greetings, from Florida's Light and Life Park. Things are going well in the park. The heat and humidity will continue through the month of September, here in FL. The summer rains have been spottier this year, here at the end of Deeson Rd. We hear thunder in the distance most evenings, but the rain misses us most times. They seem to go right around us. This means we do not have the standing water that we had last summer. We are praying this is good news leading into the hurricane season.

If you have turned on a weather channel at all recently, you can see we are in the midst of hurricane season. Hurricane Erin stayed to the east of FL and remained out to sea. While I am writing this article (8/20/25), there are more systems in the southeastern Atlantic chugging along. We pray they also stay out to sea. However, we are more prepared than ever. Here are some of the things we have accomplished in our preparation:

1. A team of employees and volunteers met this spring and summer to cover lessons learned from Hurricane Milton. We looked at what we did correctly, what we did poorly, and how we can improve. An After Action report was completed. We have a better idea and plan as to what needs to happen before and after a hurricane.
2. We have anchored almost all the campers that are not parked in field behind the woodshop.
3. We have ordered and received a new Starlink system that can be used by the office if we lose Spectrum internet services.
4. We purchased handheld radios for employees and volunteers for communication in the park.
5. Permission Forms were sent out to residents. Residents may sign this form and send it back, giving park employees and volunteers permission to open the homes that are damaged and turn off breakers. The idea is to get permission now so that time does not have to be spent getting permission after a disaster.

## News from Park Administrator cont.

We will have a new directory available this year. If you have changed your phone number or address in the past two years, please send the park office your newest information so the new directory is correct.

If you are mailing tithe or other correspondence to the church please use the correct mailing address of 5730 Deeson Rd., Lakeland, FL 33810. The park office is receiving mail that was meant to go to the church because people are using the park office address.

A quick request to you while you are in the park, if you leave a restroom or a building such as Hood Hall and you are the last person to leave, please turn out the lights. We sometimes find lights on in buildings and restrooms that are unoccupied.

The gate is back in service and working correctly. The old remotes and codes work as before. If you need a remote, we suggest purchasing a 10 channel (dip switch) garage door opener on Amazon.

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.

There are no more trailers currently available for sale. I saved some trailers to be used by members who will need them while they finish rebuilding their home. Those trailers will be sold at a later date.

If you have any 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.

(continued next column)

We are planning to have a new member event in January. If you became a new member of the park in 2025, we will have an event to welcome you to the park and provide you with important information about the park. This event is still in the planning stages, but we anticipate it occurring in the first week of January. We will send out an email with an invitation.

Have a blessed day,

Greg Thomas, Park Administrator

## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Light and Life Community:

I recognize that some of the board's decisions have been met with resistance, and I ask for your understanding, as these choices are vital to preserving our Park as a thriving space for generations to come. This community is deeply meaningful to us all, filled with shared memories and connections.

Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded that even amidst profound loss, we have been blessed with grace and support from strangers, friends, family, and, above all, our Lord. Though our Park has been irrevocably changed, we are resilient and capable of moving forward, building new relationships and creating lasting memories.

I cherish what we have here and am dedicated to working with the board to ensure the Park remains a vibrant and sustainable place for all.

With gratitude and commitment,

Becky Smith

Board President



## What is That? – Chapter 4

In the previous three months we have been addressing various committees and activities at Light and Life Park, because we have such a rich and vast array of opportunities to be involved in community. Yet sometimes those opportunities are hidden from view, especially by newcomers to the park.

This month our focus is on our Board of Directors and the various committees that do the “business” of keeping the park going strong.

The Board of Directors is an elected body of nine members, each serving a three-year term. Board members may not serve more than seven consecutive years. After the second consecutive full term, the board member must not be reelected for a period of one year or more.

Board members are nominated by a nominating committee, which is made up six members, with three-year term limits. Each year two members’ terms are expired and two new members are elected by the full membership at the annual membership meeting.

The Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of each month. Those who cannot attend in person may do so via an internet connection or phone line.

There are three subcommittees of the board which are made up exclusively of board members—the **APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**, the **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**, and the **SERVICE ANIMAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**.

Committees that are chaired by a board member but may include non-board members are:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** consists of five members: the treasurer and president of the board, and three other members chosen cooperatively by the president and treasurer and approved by the Board. This committee will oversee the fiscal affairs of the Park, and make financial recommendations to the Board.

## FUTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: To faithfully guide the future of our Christ-centered community through prayerful vision, thoughtful stewardship, and strategic planning. Rooted in our commitment to holiness, fellowship, and service, we seek to preserve the spiritual and physical well-being of Light and Life Park—ensuring it remains a place of light, life, and lasting legacy for current and future generations of believers. Contact any of these Board Members to get involved:

Ken Kendall [ken.kendall@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kendall@gmail.com)  
Larry Putnam [lbputnam2@gmail.com](mailto:lbputnam2@gmail.com)

## RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: To help promote a better understanding of Light & Life Park Rules & Regulations for Park Members and Visitors by performing periodic review to assess clarity and effectiveness. Contact any of these Board Members to get involved:

Dave Moffitt [moffitt.dave@gmail.com](mailto:moffitt.dave@gmail.com)  
Larry Osborne [bwr311@gmail.com](mailto:bwr311@gmail.com)  
Roxanne Smarszcz [rsmarz@gmail.com](mailto:rsmarz@gmail.com)

## BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: To obtain and update information to aid in decisions regarding Park facilities. Building, property and infrastructure needed to maintain and operate the Park. This may include:

- Assist with evaluation to build or repair buildings.
- Assist with cost quotations for proposals to improve the Park.
- Meet with contractors, county and state officials to assist with quotes, or approval for projects requiring outside permits.
- Assist with planning for infrastructure improvements to water lines, sewer lines, storm drains, & electrical service.
- Make cost reduction suggestions where applicable in the Park.
- Assist Park maintenance with transit readings when requested.
- Other projects as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- Report progress to the Board of Directors on Park projects.

## What is That? – Chapter 4 cont.

Projects assigned to the Building & Grounds Committee may be made by requests from the Office staff, the Park Board, or the committee itself. All requests for assignment to the committee must be confirmed by the Park Board President.

Contact any of these Board Members to get involved:

Jim Falconer [falconer\\_j@yahoo.com](mailto:falconer_j@yahoo.com)  
 Ron Foster [lssfoster4@gmail.com](mailto:lssfoster4@gmail.com)  
 Larry Osborne [bwr311@gmail.com](mailto:bwr311@gmail.com)

Other standing committees may but need not be chaired by a member of the board. They include:

**FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE** consists of three members elected on the date of the Annual meeting to three-year staggered terms. Mission: to conduct or supervise an annual review of Park funds and report the results at the February business meeting.

**BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE** is made up of six members elected to three-year staggered terms. It shall review the Bylaws of the Park and, after consultation with the Board, submit a report with recommendations, preferably at the January meeting of Members, for appropriate action at the following meeting of Members.

**Member Meetings** are held on the second Monday in January, February, and March. If there are five Mondays in January, the meeting is held on the third Monday. The March meeting is referred to as the Annual Meeting. Members unable to attend in person may join via internet or phone lines.

**Elections** are held each March on the date of the annual meeting. A paper ballot is provided with the nominees for the Board of Directors, the Standing committees, and the Social Committee chairs.

Further information about the various business procedures of Light and Life can be found on the park's website under Guiding Principles—Bylaws.

## Stamps for Missions

PLEASE continue to SAVE and carefully trim postage STAMPS, including printed ones, and postcards with stamps attached. Take them to the box on the west side of Hood Hall..

These benefit an organization that uses the proceeds of selling these to produce Sunday School literature in Spanish.

Blessings to ALL of you who take time to contribute towards this worthy cause.



## 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.







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

8/30 - 12 Corners Community, Benton Hrbr, MI 4 pm

8/31—Yankee Springs Bible, Middletown MI 10 am  
Covenant Hills Camp, Otisville MI 7 pm

9/3-9/5—Covenant Hills Camp, Otisville MI  
Golden Living Retreat for Seniors

9/14—Gallatin TN Free Methodist Church



### **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.



Pictured: This month's birthday girl, Nina Alden at the Beach Party, one of the themed Dinners at the Max

## **SUMMER DINNERS AT HOOD HALL**

A huge THANK YOU to Dave and Gail Cook for preparing the summer fellowship dinners.



Their last dinner for this summer is on Monday, September 1 at 5:30 pm, and will feature beef stroganoff over noodles, glazed carrots, salad and dessert.

In October, the fellowship dinner will be prepared by different cooks, and our winter seasonal mini-potlucks resume in November and will include a program following the meal..

### **You Are Invited to A Picnic and Golf Outing at**



**9877 Mullen Rd. Delton, MI**

**September 20 1:00 pm**

Hot Dogs with all the fixings and tableware will be provided. Bring a dish to pass. Tee time will follow the picnic. Those not wishing to golf are invited to Enyarts home with Ann (across the street).

## L&L'S SWIMMING POOLS— THEN AND NOW

Several people mentioned there was a diving board in the old pool. They saw it when they visited their parents years ago. Yes one was put in, but when the parks' insurance company learned we had one, they increased our rates, so the board was removed. The state came out with new regulations, and it would cost a lot to bring the old pool up to code, so some residents decided to just build a new pool.

A new pool required handicapped rest rooms, and that was important. Judi Purdy headed up a committee to investigate. The state later backed off from enforcing these new rules, but the committee decided to proceed. It was decided that the committee would raise the funds to build a new pool. We had several resident builders and many pool users on the committee.

Our park board authorized fundraising for a new pool. Three spots were located where a pool could be put. One was in front of villas, but Villa residents shot that down. The other two spots were behind the current wood shop and by the WMI building (fitness center). The residents voted for the current spot, because the water and sewer were closer, and it was more centrally located. And we could hook onto the building for bathrooms.

The fitness building was originally built for WMI meetings, with 2 guest rooms on the east end sharing a bathroom. The WMI moved to Hood hall and building was converted to fitness center.. Shared bathroom gave us water and sewer close for bathrooms. We talked about converting guest room into 2 bathroom, but builder said it would cost more to convert them than to build on new ones.

After a county inspection, the pool was opened and men went in and removed the wall between the fitness center and 2 guest rooms. This allowed access to the bathrooms from the fitness center.

Solar heating was something new, and we decided to add panels to the roof of the fitness center. The contractor said we would not need to cover the pool or add a heater, that the solar panels would heat it good enough. When we opened the pool we found we needed both. The contractor never told Mike Lower, the pool maintenance man, how to manage the system. We also found it was installed wrong, so although it was heating the water on the roof, it was not getting that hot water into the pool.

Our builder recommended we only go 5' deep to save cost of water and chemicals for the pool. At 8' we could not put in a diving board anyway, so that is what we chose to do.

Judi suggested that the deep end go across to give a longer swimming area and longer area for aerobics and area for small children.

Our wish list had included a handicap lift and hot tub. Both are nice but costly. It was decided to construct a pool as cheaply as possible, and then add those later if funds became available. We didn't want to spend years fund raising and some of us never get to use it. We talked about screening the pool to keep out the bugs and leaves. Someone went online and quoted the % a screen would block the sun on people and the water. Winter sun bathers won, so that meant we had to put up a fence.

The fencing regulation height was 4'. We talked of 5' or 6' and voted on 5'. We then faced deck surface, cement or blocks. Blocks are easier to remove if we wanted to add either the hot tub or lift. Blocks won. One fund raiser was memorial blocks. These blocks are installed outside the west entrance to the pool. We also had a couple raffles of donated items. They were a lot of fun, a lot of work, and raised a lot of money. One former Park Board member remembered that when he was on the board, it was voted to build a restroom by the old pool, and that money was voted to fund it. However, the county shot that down and refused to allow it. He checked to see where that money was put and found it was put back into the general fund. He asked the current board if that money could be put in the pool fund, since we were to build a bathroom. A vote was put to the residents and passed to add that money to the building fund.

Palm trees were installed around the pool. They were watered over the summer and growing very good until we had a hard frost that killed the trees. Trees were replaced and again watered over the summer and growing good when a frost again killed the trees. It was then decide to not spend any more money on palm trees. The Bucket listers then asked Wade Wilson to paint a mural on the side of the building, so we have a beautiful ocean view at our pool. Bucket listers have also raised funds for more furniture, and the colored lights.

- Marilyn Barrett Otto, contributor





## 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 September 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



Carol Zeller hosted a Light and Life Friends picnic at Brown City Missionary Campground in August. As you can see by the above picture, she had a great turnout and it was a very enjoyable get-together with a portion of our dear Light and Life family!

## Happy 100th Birthday!!



Nina Alden is having a special birthday. Help us celebrate her 100th birthday on Saturday, September 6th. It will be held at the Villa Commons at 2pm. Please come by and wish her a Happy Birthday!

For those who can't make it and would like to send a card, Nina's address is 5401 Bethany Way #10, Lakeland FL 33810

## Holiday Craft & Bake Sale



**Friday, December 5,  
2025**

**10 am—2 pm  
Hood Hall**

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](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com) Please do NOT send announcements via text.





**IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!**

**Pack a Shoebox**

**Samaritan's Purse®**  
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

Please give and spread the word of Jesus!  
Let's see how many boxes we can send this year. Here are the ways you can give:

Monetary gifts are always helpful for shipping or getting last minute items to fill up boxes.

We have an Amazon gift registry. Go to Amazon, then gift registry, type in Shoe Box ministry or Operation Christmas Child. Pick from the list of items, purchase and it will be sent to my address.

Or you can Build Your Shoebox Online! - Operation Christmas Child <https://share.google/UFZe3DU9mqij6ctbq> This credit will go to our Light and Life Church as total boxes packed.

Or pick up empty shoe boxes at the church to fill and return.



(Packing Party 2023)

Continue to collect items to fill our shoeboxes at a packing party in November.

Remember no liquid and no bar soap.

- Kathy Miller, Shoebox Coordinator



(2023—Shoeboxes lined up at church to be prayed over before being shipped out. Not just the box for safe delivery, but for the child who would receive it.)



