



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

July 1, 2022

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FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Office Assistant: Lori Jones
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

5332 Ebenezer Place
5325 Ebenezer Place
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

Several people—especially new full-time residents—have mentioned to me how quiet it is here during the summer. They're right. The Park seems like a different place in many ways. There are fewer people and activities. The office is not as busy, and we have more time to spend training new staff. It is a welcome pause from the busyness of the winter season. I am happy to report that the baby sandhill crane has survived through the most vulnerable months of life. The baby is nearly as large as his parents, and I have even seen it take low altitude flight. Mom, dad, and baby can be found anywhere in the Park. I have seen them in the retention pond behind Project 14, across from the office, behind Hood Hall, and outside of Maxwell Commons. I find it exciting to watch the baby grow to adulthood.

Over the past several weeks, I have been updating our newly redesigned website. If you haven't visited it yet, take a moment and look around. There is still much I want to update and items I'd like to see added. If you have any interest in taking on a piece of upgrading the site or have suggestions for improvements or additions, please let us know.

The rainy season has not started in full swing yet, but it has been raining more often lately. That means the grass and weeds will be growing much faster. Remember that you are responsible for the trimming around your residence even though you may not be here during the summer. I will be touring the Park from time to time to make sure every place looks great. If I find a residence that needs some attention, I will contact the owner to remind them of the need to help the Park look its best.

Early in June, we held our first "informational" Board meeting via Zoom. By all accounts, I believe it was a success. The Board decided earlier this year that it was important to keep the Board up to date with happening in the Park. It was decided to conduct Board meetings every two months throughout the summer. If you missed the meeting in June, be sure to watch your email for announcements about the next Zoom meeting to be held in August.

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I do not have any updates regarding the property purchase. Continue to bring this matter before our Lord.

The staff and volunteers have been hard at work with projects and improvements. The circle inside the gate has a bench, new shrubbery, and a fresh look. We discovered a leak in the discharge drain at the pool that has been repaired. The bridge to the east of (behind) the library has been demolished. The footers and end walls have been poured, and work will soon begin on the new deck and railings. Later this summer we will begin work on the bridge between the library and the pool. Some new playground equipment was donated and installed for your (great)grandchildren to enjoy. Some trees were donated and planted for future generations to enjoy. What great people we have here!

The hurricane season is here! If you have left the Park for the summer, you were to have ensured that all outdoor items were secured. Should you have items that you wish to keep that are not secured, please contact a friend who is still in the Park to secure them for you. Otherwise, your items may be disposed; we do not have the manpower or time to follow-up on everything that may pose a danger when there are high winds. For those who are still here, we will be having a hurricane preparedness meeting soon.

Although things are much slower than in the winter season and we enjoy the pause, we will be looking forward to seeing everyone that has taken to places distant. Enjoy your time away and come back refreshed.

Jan

**Beautification Parade
2023**

February 23, 2023
(rain date is the 24th)

Theme is Bible Stories

Luncheon in Hood Hall following parade.

Office Manager

It's July and the middle of summer is here. Fortunately, the weather has not reached its full summer potential yet, although we have had a taste of it. As we finished up June, the morning walks I have had were actually refreshing and not overly humid. That doesn't usually happen in June.

Some things have changed during the month of June. Lori Jones got to have a vacation and much needed time with husband, Doug. While she was gone, we added one more to our office staff. I want to welcome Greg Thomas to the office. He is going to work with me and learn my job. We are enjoying having him here and his fresh perspective on what we do.

I have been working on the reservations. The cabins are almost completely settled and the RV lots are close. The guest rooms are settled except for confirming some of the details. When I am sure all are confirmed, I will be sending out the confirmation letters.

I have many more people wanting to rent than I have available space. If you know you are going to rent your home for part of the winter season, please let me know and I will also let you know if I have someone wanting your month or months.

The Park July 4th dinner is coming up on that date. We always serve hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, coleslaw, and cowboy beans. Dessert is homemade ice cream and Texas sheet cake. Why don't you join us? Sign up in Hood Hall by Friday, July 1.

The Park needs some large equipment like an excavator, man-lift (cherry picker), and a dump vehicle. If you know someone who might be selling any of these at a very reasonable price, please let us know. In fact, if you would make this a matter of prayer we would appreciate. These are the kinds of things that don't fit our budget but would greatly help us in maintaining the Park. A miracle might be in order.

Property changes have slowed down, especially since there are not too many available. In June, new members, David and Tammy Blough purchased 5322 Bethany Way which was formerly owned by Connie Houtz. Currently, we are completing a sale of 5860 Moriah Place. It was formerly Herb Hendricks and Teil Buroker is purchasing it. We are also completing a sale at 5337 Ebenezer Place with Harry Bowers and Deano and Darlene Pulice who are new members from New York. Congratulations to our new owners and welcome to the Bloughs and Pulices!

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I will be out of the Office from July 11 until August 1. Lori and Greg will be working during that time, as well as Stan. If you are wanting to visit to look at property, please be aware that an appointment is necessary to assure that Stan is present to assist you.

We continue to need Free Methodist purchasers on property changes. The percentage is very close, but we continue to check after each sale and are trying to get to that place where we can open it up to non-FM approved purchasers.

Please remember that the Newsletter is being shifted to Barb Hartson and use her email address (bfhartson@gmail.com) for articles. For now, please send it also to me at sherry.loflin69@yahoo.com.

Enjoy July and your celebration of our Country's independence. It looks like we are beginning to have the usual hot and humid conditions so July will truly be more like Florida summer. Hope you are staying warm, as well.

Blessings,
Sherry

News from the Board of Directors

As one writer once said, **"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."** With that in mind, we who reside at Light & Life Park would agree that we all are experiencing the "worst of times" at the gas pumps. The price of a gallon of gas has reached record highs, zooming past \$5.00 per gallon and reportedly headed for \$7.00 a gallon in some states! That has to qualify as a "worst" for most of us.

And yet, in spite of this example, we who reside in our Park have a lot of "Best of Times" to offset the price of gasoline. We live in a country with the most freedoms anywhere in the world. If you doubt this, just ask anyone in the crowds gathered at our southern border. And we enjoy a Christian environment and fellowship in our Park where God's love encourages all of us. This is supported by the record number of applications for memberships in our Park.

But this is not all the "Best" news for us in the Park. We know how it all ends by reading our Bible. And from our Bible, we are instructed to tell others of the love of Jesus and what the future holds for those who love Him.

So, as we approach Independence Day, July 4, let us give thanks to God for our country, our Park and the freedom we have to worship God who truly provides for us "the Best of Times."

God bless you all.

Jim Falconer

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. It costs \$9.60 to mail a shoebox full of stamps.

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.

If you would be willing to deliver them, contact Colleen Sellers for information.

Thank you.

Colleen Sellers



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LIBRARY2GO SCHEDULE

Library to Go has been suspended for the rest of summer due to a lack of staffing.



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

2023 CPC golf tournaments!

Two-man scramble Tournament
Jan 13, 2023 (Friday)

Ladies Four-person Scramble
1-20-23 (Friday).

Club Championship Tournament
Feb 3, 2023 (Friday)

Ladies Club Championship
Feb 24, 2023 (Friday)

Two-man Blind draw tournament
March 10, 2023 (Friday)

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

The Player's Club
Ed Stockwell
517 861-0481

edstockwell48@gmail.com

Bowling

Last January we voted to continue to support CEF in our area so after contacting the local chapter I have some exciting news! They have just hired a new missionary, Tim Stevens, and he is in the process of raising funds right now. I told them we would like to support Tim and I have sent him the first check with the amount that we voted on at the beginning of the year. We will discuss the ongoing support at our next meeting which will be Monday, January 2nd 2023.

Thanks,
Barb Hartson
bfhartson@gmail.com



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 space.

Summer Fellowship Dinners

The next Summer Fellowship Dinners will be on Monday, July 4th at 5:30 pm in Hood Hall. Cost is \$6.00.

The menu is hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, cowboy beans, slaw, etc. with homemade ice cream and cake for dessert.

Sign-up sheets are in Hood Hall. You will need to sign up by Friday, July 1.



The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (also called the Consumer Confidence Report) is NOT being mailed to the Park's residents. Instead, a copy of the report is located on the counter at the communications center in Hood Hall and online at <https://lightandlifepark.org/ccr-2021-web/>.

If you have difficulty locating any of these resources, please notify the office.

Stan Welton, Administrator

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.

Bucket Listers



We are continuing to enjoy our summer but miss our friends from the park and a warmer pool!

The Bucket Listers will be selling gourmet caramel corn and a hot dog lunch at the craft show on December 9, 2022.

The Bucket Listers will also be sponsoring Trivia Night and Movie Night on alternating Tuesday nights in January, February and March next year.

Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to **The Life and Times** are delivered to the newsletter editor, Sherry LaBrie or new editor Barb Hartson, by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Please use this email: sherry.loflin69@yahoo.com. Email is the preferred method. You may also drop your submissions off at the Park Office or email Barb Hartson bfhartson@gmail.com. **The August deadline is July 15.**

Gadabout News

I have taken over as coordinator for the ladies' events from Peggy Dunn and Verneta Dunn. They will still help when they can. Also, Lana Kendall, Barb Hartson, Ruth Bridgeforth will be helping too.

We are looking forward to another season here in the Park next year. Lord willing, I will be back mid-November to first of December. We welcome your input on other places to go.

GAD-ABOUTS TRIPS 2023

January 12 - Ringling Museum of Art, Circus & Bayfront Gardens, Sarasota

January 26 - Lavender & Lace Tearoom, Lake Alfred

February 09 - Old Testament Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Tarpon Springs

February 23 - Flea Market, TBA

March 09 - Strawberry Festival Senior Day, Plant City

March 23 - Bok Singing Tower & Gardens, Lake Wales

For more information contact me. Prefer text or email to calls.

Flo Grabowski

Cell 931-797-2639

[Email coachfllc@gmail.com](mailto:coachfllc@gmail.com)

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 not be accepting "linens" for Senior Orphans until 2023.

Jean Whipple takes several items to Talbot House weekly. See that article in this newsletter for details.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Purchasing Benches

If anyone is interested in purchasing a park bench for your home at Light and Life Park or for the Park, please contact Ed Hamilton at 765-714-1228. The prices have changed: gray = \$295, green, blue, yellow = \$345, 2 benches the same color = \$320 each.

Library Information



Book Reviews by Gloria Welton

Heaven Sightings: Angels, Miracles, and Glimpses of the Afterlife

by James Stuart Bell

Every one of us can recall a situation where we could see God's hand in our life. God works in mysterious ways. In James Stuart Bell's book, *Heaven Sightings: Angels, Miracles, and Glimpses of the Afterlife*, the author retells stories of people who experienced God's presence in different situations. These included such aspects forgiveness, a special miracle happening in one's life, and seeing supernatural beings when close to death. This book has many short stories which show God's hand working right beside us. They are inspiring and make us think about the angels God sends, the people, and his presence right beside.

This is a must read for those of us who do not always understand how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit work in our lives. You will find it in the miracles section of our library, 235.2 in nonfiction. Read and contemplate on them one story at a time.

The Unfolding (Stories from McKenzie Street #1)

Annie Hamilton doesn't expect her life to change dramatically when she opens her modest home to a rootless and pregnant neighbor. But when the young woman abandons her newborn son, Annie A summons her courage and decides to raise the baby as her own. All is well--until the day the birth mother returns to claim her child. Distraught, Annie searches for answers--and finds them in the most unlikely places. Can this path of darkness be the way that God unfolds His plan for her? This deeply moving story will open readers' eyes to the power of redeeming love--and the power of faith.

This is a story about a single woman living on McKenzie St, Chicago. Besides owning and running a laundry, Annie Hamilton takes everyday objects and creates fascinatingly beautiful shadow boxes that sell for as much as \$300 on consignment.

As she grows in faith, she is sorely tested to live her life as an example to others. From housing a run-away teenager, taking in an unwanted newborn baby to raise as her own; to meeting the scorn of "well-meaning"

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and trying to build a romantic relationship, she does a balancing act with the events in her life.

A very compelling book that will challenge you to reach out to others and to allow love to lead you to do what is right to do.

As a former foster mom to a baby that husband and I had hoped to adopt but who was returned to his birth mother for a short time until she lost custody again, this was a good story for me to read - the difference being this "foster" mom did get to keep the baby until the young teenage mom wanted him back, but not for noble reasons that had anything to do with being his mother and raising him in a safe and loving environment. AHHHH! Hurt, hurt, hurt for foster mom. The author did a GREAT job.

Happy reading!



2023 50th Wedding Anniversary February 10, 2023

The Park has quieted down since many snowbirds have already gone north. We too are heading there.

To date, I only know of 6 couples at our Park that will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at our Open House on February 10th, 2023. If you do hear of any other couple, please let me know. 734-646-8080, bks4545@gmail.com

Brenda Stockwell
50th Anniversary Open House Chair

Aquafit 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. However, spring is around the corner! Updates are posted on L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News. Kindly share this with your friends!

Light and Life Free Methodist Church

5730 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810

Phone: (863) 858-6361
Fax (863) 858-3982
Email: church@lfmc.org

Pastor: Chuck Frankenfeld
Evangelism & Outreach: Jeff Bellinger
Secretary: Pam Hill

Briarwood Outreach

The Outreach to Briarwood continues and we encourage you to contribute to the Food Pantry by making donations to the designated area in Hood Hall. Also, you may donate money even though it is no longer going through the church. Make checks payable to Randy Williams. We are grateful to Randy and Karen Williams for their continued support of this ministry. Also, there are many volunteers who make this possible. We are fortunate to have so many with volunteer hearts.

More help will be needed for the summer months. If you are willing to help show up at Hood Hall on Monday afternoon at 3:30 pm

God bless you all for all you do. Let's keep up the good work.



A Note from Pastor Chuck...

The morning I write this for the newsletter, my Bible reading is John 21. The disciples are out fishing following the resurrection and a recorded appearance or two of Jesus sightings. They are fishing but come to shore finding Jesus already cooking breakfast...fish. How did that happen? Jesus instructs them to bring some of their catch and presumably they all enjoyed this time of breaking fast.

Jesus pulls Peter aside and three times asks him, "Do you love me?" We have heard various sermons about Peter's response and Jesus instructing him to "Feed my lambs; Take care of my sheep; Feed my sheep." What caught my attention this morning was the "follow me" instruction.

Peter hears Jesus tell him to "follow me." Peter does what we frequently do...he looks around and says, "what about him?" Jesus reiterated his words to Peter, "follow me." I can almost hear him saying, "You, follow me."

Each of us has a story in Jesus' call to follow him. Peter's story belongs to him, not John and John's story belongs to him, not Peter. In hearing Jesus call on your own life do you find yourself following Jesus or being strongly influenced by self-interest or even other people? As Jesus calls to us, "follow me" how are you doing? Are you following?

In Christ,
Pastor Chuck

