

VENETIAN PARK ESTATES GONDOLIER

December 2021



From Left: Ruth Sampson, center, Merle Carey (Phyllis Correia's mom), right, Doris Cutler, founding member of VPE Corp in 1988



VENETIAN PARK ESTATES

8885 S Tamiami Trail

Sarasota FL 34238

Office: (941) 966-4622

website: www.vpeonline.com

email address: venetianparkestates@comcast.net



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Submissions Cassie Dionne 603-361-4313 cassiedionne@yahoo.com

Anniversaries/Birthdays Sue Loolen

Sunshine Reporter Cassie Dionne

Activities Gina Miller

Getting To Know You Amy Newman

Safety committee vacant

Recipes Cheryl Smith

Household Hints Nancy Garrett

Couriers Jay and Bonni Andrews, Diane McElhaney, Pat Ojala, Danielle Wojik, Pat Morales, Pat McGee

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JANUARY 2022 GONDOLIER CUT OFF DATE
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Weekly Activities

MONDAYS: 1pm Hold'em • 6:30pm Aggravation

TUESDAYS: 1:00pm Euchre • 7:00pm Bingo

WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm Mexican Dominos

THURSDAYS: (starting 12/16) 5:00pm Hold'em

FRIDAYS: 1pm Hold'em • 6:30pm Hand and Foot • 6:30pm Cribbage

Watch the bulletin board and our FaceBook page for any changes

NEWS FROM YOUR ACTIVITIES



COMMITTEE

By Gina Miller

Hello VPE friends and neighbors! It's me again! It seems as though it's been a long time since we've seen a Gondolier. It's finally back. The Gondolier as it was done in the past, took hours and hours of work. Phyllis Murphy edited it for years and then Bev Schumacher took over the huge task of editing the newsletter. We thank each of them for all of the hours they put into the Gondolier and all of their hard work. We will be doing things a little differently now as we are going through a different printing company. We won't have sponsors or patrons. It will still be delivered to your door and if you aren't here and want it sent north, just make sure to give us some stamps and we'll mail it to you. We should have our familiar advertisers and if there is someone you'd like to see advertise, let us know and we'll give their name to the new publisher. Cassie Dionne will be the new point person for the Gondolier but hopefully it won't involve as much time or work.

Covid 19.

What can we say about Covid 19? And let's keep it clean! We hope you've all had your vaccinations and are continuing to stay safe. None of us are sure about how much activity to plan or how close in proximity to be to others. Maybe we will have to decide for ourselves on the risks we are willing to take. For the activity committee, it is hard to plan parties or dances and try to figure out whether people will want to participate or stay separate and safe.

Jan Coble planned a successful and fun bicycle parade on Memorial Day with quite a number of residents participating and then gathering at the clubhouse for some refreshments and social time. Jan, along with lots of help from Pedro and Pat Morales, Doreen Moser, Diane McElhaney, Jan's grandson Ian, and Nancy Garrett organized a 4th of July picnic that was well attended and enjoyed.

In October, a Monday style Texas Hold'em day was added to the schedule. We now have the All-in style Hold'em on Mondays and Fridays at 1 pm.

Our old style Thursday night version of Hold'em, run by Mike Anderson, will begin again sometime in Dec. We will keep you updated as to when it starts. There was much interest in starting Euchre again, so Pat Morales stepped up to run it. It is on Tuesdays at 1 pm. If you're interested in playing, sign up at the clubhouse on the bulletin board.

In November, Carolyn Wood presented an interesting Veteran's Day program for us at the clubhouse. Her father was a survivor of Pearl Harbor and she gave us lots of info and displays. Thank you Carolyn and thank you to all of our veterans for your service to our country.

We are hoping that by December we will feel safe enough to have our annual Christmas party/dance. It will be Dec. 18th at 7 pm. We'll have games, prizes and lots of holiday fun. Please join us. We are also hoping that we can have our Christmas dinner at the clubhouse. We do have volunteers for that, so hopefully people will feel safe enough by then to get together. We will have our annual New Year's Eve party/dance organized by Bonni Andrews. Make sure to come to that, Bonni's parties are always great!

Going forward, your activities committee will be planning and working hard to bring us all safe and enjoyable activities. Watch for updates and info about activities on the bulletin board, on VPE Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and in the Gondolier. Please continue to stay well, be safe, and enjoy your VPE friends and neighbors.



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2021-22 Activities Committee Members

**Members from top left, Selma Ridenour, Gina Miller, Bonni Andrews.
From bottom left; Sue Loolen, Jan Coble, Pat Ojala, Diane McElhaney**



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WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL 4 DAYS.
PLEASE CALL PAT MORALES
451-8680

SUNSHINE REPORT



by Cassie Dionne | 603-361-4313

It's good to be back! Welcome to all new and not so new residents. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Several of our neighbors have suffered illness and accidents this summer.

Sue Loolen had a fall which resulted in a broken shoulder. Her address is 1727 S. Morningside Dr. Port Clinton, OH 43452. ph 419-577-1667. I spoke to her recently, she is healing and expects to come south soon.

Ruth Smith also suffered a fall resulting in back injury. Cards can be mailed to 475 Lane 201 Long Beach Lake, Fremont, IN 46737. Email is ruth_smith45@aol.com

Don Detzler is recovering from surgery in May. Their address is 149 N Estates Dr. Gaylord, MI 49735 ddetzler@chartermi.net

Joan Barone was injured in an auto accident in August. Her address is 2121 Ca'd Oro Dr. Sarasota, FL 34238. fred_neuman@me.com

Fran Patterson is recovering from a fractured pelvis after a fall this summer. She returned home early Nov. She is still unable to drive. Cards, visits, calls much appreciated. 2281 Gondola Dr. 941-966-0009 rp2281@comcast.net

Hazel Frasier is recently home from being in the hospital. Cards to 2224 Ca'd'oro Dr. Speedy recoveries to all from your friends in VPE.

Alice Kudlak died 7/21/21 after a decline in health. Our sympathy to her daughter Andrea and family. Andrea's address is 2131 Piazza Dr. Email: andreacuddles7@gmail.com

Gloria Rubin passed away in Sept. I know you all join me in sending condolences to Irv and their family. Burial was at the National Cemetery in Sarasota on Sept 17. Several friends and neighbors attended. Gloria is fondly remembered for her big smile and

generous heart. Irv's address is 2127 Ca D' Oro Dr. 941-350-5493. Email: u2scuba@aol.com. A memorial service in the clubhouse is scheduled for Jan. 15, 2022 at 11:30 All are invited.


Larry Hackett died on 9/5/21. We join Sue, David and the rest of the family in mourning everyone's favorite "Pawpaw." Larry was well known for bringing us fresh vegetables and strawberries in season. For many years he and Steve Parent stocked Pawpaw's Produce cart with fresh fruit and veggies for us from Plant City. And who can forget the sweet and tender corn the Hacketts grew and shared at pot lucks? Sue's address; 2612 Dover Ct. Lebanon, IN 46052 ph 3317-473-1683.

Harry Smith passed away on 9/28/21 after a long illness. He is mourned by his wife, Cheryl and family. Their very close family members in VPE are Cheryl's sisters Gina Miller and Lee Kohlmeier and Mom Maxine, along with brothers in law Paul Miller and Jack Ormiston. Our sympathy to all of you and your families. Cheryl Smith can be reached at 7345 Arbor Glen Place. Concord, OH 44060. email; gsloyd@aol.com

Mary Ellis died 11/2/21 in Michigan after a short illness. She has many friends and relatives in MI and Sarasota. Vikki Roofoe, her daughter, passed away earlier this year here in VPE. Our sympathy to Julie Weiss and all the family. Cards may be sent to Julie Weiss 2216 Cadoro Dr. Tel 989-366-0279 email julievikki@yahoo.com



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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Amy Newman



As we reboot the Gondalier what better way to start the "Getting to Know You" feature than with Anita Wood, who is our longest year-round resident. Anita has lived at 2076 Ca'D'Oro since February of 1982. As a single woman with a penchant for travel, Anita emigrated from Germany in 1970 and lived on both US coasts as well as in the north and south. With her myriad of job experiences throughout America, including translation work, Anita settled on Sarasota to make her permanent home. She purchased her then-9-year-old home for \$25,000 at a no-age limit, non-resident-owned VPE. The park became resident owned in 1986, and during those years Anita recalls jumping right in and helping with mowing, painting homes inside and out, decorating, caring for snowbirds' homes, and gardening.

Interestingly, Anita recalls the landscape in the early 1980s surrounding VPE as all woods, no shopping centers (no Publix!), no traffic, and 41 was an easily transversed two-lane road. She reminisced over empty beaches, especially enjoying Turtle Beach. As the years passed Palmer Ranch first began developing behind Chez Vous and has exploded ever since. Because of the quiet woodsy environment, all shopping and errands were done on Clark Road.

Singleness suited Anita well for many years, but as love would have it, while waitressing at the counter at M&D restaurant (now Max's Table in Osprey), a patron named Ben, whom she chided for his stingy

tipping, stole her heart and they were married in 1990 until his passing in 2017. Anita's work ethic continued to drive her as she served patrons for over 14 years at Dutch Valley Restaurant.

Approaching 40 years at the park, Anita has always felt safe and never feels alone even though she lives alone. She finds VPE to be a big family with lots of good times here including activities like "carry-ins," a bowling league in the past, and playing cards all along.

Be sure to stroll up to Anita and her 15 1/2-year-old pup Bella as they walk our streets and enjoy her accent, and even more, her glowing memories as our unofficial "park historian."



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NEWS FROM AROUND PARADISE

NOTICE: VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Mr. Pagano will no longer bring food or clothing to Resurrection House. We thank him for his faithful service. Resurrection House is a forward thinking, faith-based resource center committed to transitioning at risk individuals to a path of self-sufficiency." Many of us have donated our time and resources to this worthy cause. Our president, Sally Ruebesam is temporarily taking items there as they appear in the donation box at the front of the clubhouse. She will gladly assist the volunteer(s) to learn about this job. Please contact the office 941-966-4622 if you wish to help.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR JAN 2022 GONDOLIER IS DECEMBER 5

We plan to take delivery of our new Gondolier at the end of Nov - Dec 1. Volunteers will deliver to each coach. We are delighted to tell you that we will be able to mail our newsletter to those who are out of town. Supply Tony in the office with your name, address, postage and let him know you are requesting a mailed copy. At this time we're not sure of the postage amount.

Information coming when available.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Jessie McLain Hoffman, new wife of Ed Hoffman, has expressed a desire to host weekly Bible Study in her home Tuesday mornings at 10:30. If you are interested in attending, contact Jessie at 386-402-6766. The bible studies will begin when enough people express an interest.



Cis Gavin is hosting low impact exercise to music in her driveway at 2077 Ca'd'oro Thursdays at 10am.
Lots of fun!



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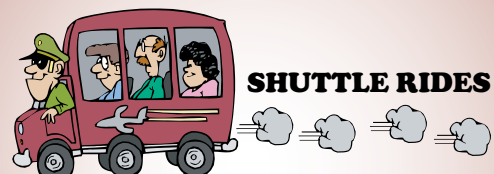
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Paul Miller:
941-966-5993

BINGO NEWS



by Bonni Andrews

This is the news you have all been waiting for. On Dec. 7th we will start Bingo again.

Please bring small bills. Please come and purchase your papers no later than 6:45. We will begin at 7pm. If you have a cough or cold, please help prevent the spread and don't come to Bingo. We will have a 10 minute break about halfway through. Please make sure your table is wiped off and all trash is thrown away before you leave.

Thank you, Bonni and committee



In need of a wheelchair, walker, cane, assistive device?
Contact Bonnie Ryan at
bonniedancingnurse@gmail.com



COFFEES IN THE CLUBHOUSE

A great way to meet your neighbors; usually held twice a month. Coffee, donuts, bagels served. Bring your own cup. Look for the reminders on the bulletin board and in Neighbors Helping Neighbors on facebook.

Sign up on the clubhouse bulletin board. We always need volunteers to host coffees. We'll teach you how to do it too.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Cheryl Smith

If you didn't get your fill of pumpkin over Thanksgiving, here is a quick and easy recipe perfect for those busy days around Christmas. It takes less than ten minutes to put together and is so yummy!

Pumpkin Spice Dump Cake

- | 15 oz. pumpkin purée
- | 12 oz. evaporated milk
- | 4 eggs
- | 1 C. sugar
- | 1 T. pumpkin pie spice
- | ½ t. salt
- | 1 box yellow cake mix
- | 2 sticks melted butter
- | Chopped pecans



- | Mix together everything except the cake mix and butter until combined.
- | Now "dump" it into a greased 9 by 13 baking pan. Top with the yellow cake mix. Don't stir it in; just
- | spread the cake mix evenly over the top. Next
- | pour the melted butter evenly over the cake mix. Top with chopped
- | pecans. Bake at 350* for one hour. To serve, spoon into a bowl and top
- | with whipped cream, ice cream or even caramel.



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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Lee Kohlmeier
Kathryn Tregler
- 3 Sue Mertz
- 5 Gary McGee
- 9 Chris Friedrich
- 16 Anita Wood
- 17 Manny Lejuene
- 19 Nick Mallos
- 22 Hazel Frazier
- 28 Chuck Baxa
Roy Walker
- 30 Brian Walker
- 31 Donna Lejuene

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- Gary and Pat McGee December 16, 2000
- Allen and Ellen Alexander December 18, 1965
- Bill and Joyce Hayes December 24, 1966



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VPE GOLF 2022

by Jim Tomes

**Attention Golfers, Duffers, Divot Diggers, Sand Blasters, and More...**

To all our returning Hackers and Smackers and new members interested in golfing. VPE members and their guests will be golfing at a par 3 golf course every Tuesday starting in January until the end of March.

Tuesday starting January 4, 2022.

There are 2 ways to join:

1. Ladies golf new for 2022. Few ladies have joined our group in the past, so I'm suggesting that we try to get a group of ladies who would like to golf together every Tuesday starting in January. If there is not enough for a ladies group, I would ask you if you were interested in joining the regular group (#2).
2. Tuesday golfers. VPE men and women who would like to golf at our par 3 course together on Tuesday's starting January 4, 2022.

Golfers from above should sign up at the clubhouse so that we have an idea of how many tee-off times we need at the golf course.

On Tuesday, January 4, 2022 come down to the club house at 8:45 a.m. to pay and register to play 9 holes of golf at **Village Green Golf Course 3500 Pembroke Drive**. The golf course is just past Bee Ridge off of Beneva on the right hand side. The cost for the mainly par three, 9 holes of golf is \$17 if you walk and \$25 if you take a golf cart and ride. To those who would like to continue on and play 18 holes the total cost is \$24 walk/ \$36 ride.

The first tee time this year at Village Green is at 9:42 am.

You don't have golf every Tuesday if you sign up. Pick and choose which dates are best for you. You can direct your questions to Jim Tomes 204-831-6310 or at tomesj@mymts.net



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF VENETIAN PARK ESTATES:

Founded in 1970, converted to resident owned June 15, 1988*

In 1970, Sam and Doris Cutler and Doris' brother Karl Bigelow, were looking for possible land investment opportunities. While driving north on Tamiami Trail, they discovered a great piece of land, perfect for a mobile home park. It was located adjacent to the Trail and Catfish Creek. Upon further investigation, they decided to buy the land from a Mrs. Giordano. They cleared the land and divided it into 197 lots suitable for the intended park. Thus began the development of what we now know as Venetian Park Estates. The owners paved the streets, built the clubhouse, swimming pool and shuffleboard courts. Mary Ellen Bigelow, Karl's wife, named the streets---Venetian Drive, Ca'D'Oro Drive, Chez Vous Drive, Gondola Drive, Piazza Drive, Palazza Drive. Venetian Park was established and ready for operation. The monthly rental fees at that time were \$45.00 & \$55.00 per month depending on the location. The residents rented the land for their coaches, which they individually owned. Betty Eichelberger, Frances Lewkowski, Lucy Poole and Cecil & Ida Mae Rodgers were some of the first residents.

The photo on the front page is of Doris Cutler, original landowner, and others living here. Merle is mom to Phyllis Correia who lives on Palazza Dr.more history next year...

*taken from park publication, "The History of Venetian Park Estates, 2004"

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are moving right along with the improvements on the Clubhouse. The roof is repaired, sealed and looking like fresh fallen snow has landed on it! By the time you get this issue of the new Gondolier, the patching and painting of the outside of the Clubhouse and shutters should be done. We would like to thank all those wonderful people who generously donated to pay for the new awning over the Clubhouse house entrance. The updates should be a welcoming sight to all that are returning from the north. Activities are picking up with more to start in December. Everyone has been patiently waiting for Bingo.

Remember that we have two meetings on December 15th. The first one is an Annual meeting to count the proxies find out the results of the voting. Make sure to get your proxies emailed back, put in the ballot box in the Clubhouse, or mailed back to the office. If you have any questions about what to do contact any officer of the board for help. The regular Board meeting will be held right after the Annual meeting. We certainly are a hot spot for home sales. Our homes are selling before they are even listed. This is the place to live and enjoy the winter. Welcome all to Paradise. We would like to thank all our residents who make VPE a special place to live. There are so many generous, caring, supportive people in this park that truly make this a wonderful place to live. May you all have happy holidays and join us for the start of another Happy New Year on New Year's Eve at the Clubhouse with snacks, dance and merriment.

Your Board of Directors



THANK YOU

We want to recognize Tony for all the phone calls, emails, notices, mailings, and record keeping he does for us everyday. A big thank you from us all.



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First Child's Name:

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Bonnie Ryan and her son Tyler recently visited Marie Lavasseur at her new home in the Towers, She reports that she is happy and healthy and misses us all



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DECEMBER 2021

NOVEMBER
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

JANUARY 2022
S M T W T F S
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm Mexican Dominos	2	3 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage	4 9:30am Coffee Hour
5	6 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Aggravation	7 1pm Euchre 7pm Bingo Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 6:30pm Mexican Dominos 7pm Activities Committee Meeting	9	10 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage	11 Music Night Out Watch for details of time & place
12	13 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Aggravation	14 1pm Euchre 7pm Bingo	15 6:30pm Mexican Dominos 9:30am BOD Annual Membership meeting	16 5pm Hold'em	17 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage	18 9:30am Coffee Hour Christmas Party/ Dance
19	20 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Aggravation	21 1pm Euchre 7pm Bingo First Day of Winter	22 6:30pm Mexican Dominos	23 5pm Hold'em	24 Clubhouse Closed Christmas Eve	25 Dinner at 4pm Clubhouse Closed Christmas
26	27 1pm Hold'em 6:30pm Aggravation	28 1pm Euchre 7pm Bingo	29 6:30pm Mexican Dominos	30 5pm Hold'em	31 New Year's Eve Party/Dance New Year's Eve	



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