

VENETIAN PARK ESTATES GONDOLIER

January 2022



***Veterans Day 2021: from left J.Moosmann,J.Ralston,F.Neuman,K.Allen,
I.Rubin,C.Fladzinski,G.Reymond, Carolyn Wood***



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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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

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Please note – call Community Media – 941-375-3699 ext. 100 Darin for **ALL ADS** or e-mail darin@communitymedia.com

February 2022 GONDOLIER CUT OFF DATE
WILL BE January 11th, 2021

Send articles in document form as an attachment to an email to cassiedionne@yahoo.com

I cannot correct or attach text written as an email to the document I send to the publisher



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

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



by Amy Newman

This month's feature is two of the park's many Ohioans, Chuck and Sue Loolen, who live near the shores of Lake Erie in Port Clinton during the off season. They were high school sweethearts in Norwalk, Ohio from their sophomore year to the present, having been married now 54 years. After high school Chuck was drafted into the Marines and began his training in California. Sue drove out to California not long after where they were married. At 19 years old Chuck was sent to Vietnam in service to his country in February of 1968. On an early August morning that year, north of Danang, Chuck's platoon of 12 was ambushed and fired upon; 9 of the men were killed and Chuck's arm was badly wounded. After 24 hours of heavy gunfire he was finally medevacked out with gunfire possibly hitting the chopper yet arrived safely in South Vietnam. Once stable, Chuck was flown to Japan for 3 months of treatment and recovery and then to Bethesda Hospital. His bravery aptly earned him a Purple Heart. When asked, Chuck never suffered any PTSD or night terrors from his 9 months in service. Sue attributed his sense of humor as his coping skill in getting him through and certainly having a bride waiting for him helped!

The Loolens went on to raise 3 children in Ohio. They have 8 grandchildren with another on the way this winter. Chuck's employment career was at Tenneco and Sue worked in a factory and various offices.

Chuck and Sue heard about VPE through friends from their kids' school, VPE owners Sue & Jerry Schwan. Initially, they were renters and enjoyed working at Myakka State Park and other local stores while wintering here. In 2007, they bought their home at 2136 Palazza which was owned by the Smiths, relatives of Phyllis Buechner. One of their happiest memories was seeing their new coach arrive and have so enjoyed the space and amenities in their updated home. They encourage

anyone considering the purchase of a new coach that they will find it so very worth it.

Sue enjoys belonging to the Red Hats of Milan, Ohio, and while at VPE she enjoys entertaining and having teas. They keep busy with activities, playing cards, bingo and meeting new people. Chuck is often seen riding his bike and enjoying the pool and spa. They both love to dance and were seen by yours truly dancing poolside to a Patsy Cline song alone one day last March.

This past August Sue suffered a fall and broke her arm at the shoulder. While convalescing she found the cards she received from VPE friends to be such an encouragement. She was able to drive she and Chuck down from Ohio with her can-do spirit and their love of warm weather and the VPE community.



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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

WELCOME BACK PARTY- **SATURDAY JANUARY** **15TH, 2022 AT 5 PM**



Our welcome back pizza party will be held at the clubhouse. This is a free event. Everything will be furnished. To attend, you must sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the clubhouse. We need to have an accurate count. If you find you are unable to attend, please remove your name from the list. Thank you. Selma Ridenour, Chair

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Resident,
Hazardous waste will be collected Tuesday, Jan. 18 from 9-11 am. Do not park in front of the Clubhouse. Have your hazardous waste in your trunk, ready to unload.

ITEMS ACCEPTED: aerosol cans, paint thinner & solvents, automotive products, adhesives & glues, paint, cleaners, pool chemicals, fertilizers, weed killer, insect killer, mercury, fire extinguishers, propane cylinders (BBQ size only), small rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, vehicle batteries, motor oil, oil filters, electronics (no TVs or monitors).

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: medications, needles or syringes, ammunition, fireworks, flares, radioactive materials, empty containers larger than 5 gallons, and tires.

Thank you, Tony Turlenko

SUNSHINE REPORT



by Cassie Dionne

Happy New Year. They fly by don't they?



Lorraine Bailey is recovering from surgery for fractured hip. Cards may be sent to: 2241 Gondola Dr. Sarasota 34238 ph-203-640-4476. Get well soon

Lorraine.

Sympathy and friendship to Terry Deer who lost her uncle in November and to Judy Jennett who lost her brother Terry- 2087 Palazza Dr 317-250-0511 Judy- 2258 Piazza DR 941-313-4004

Joyce Lammon died suddenly on 11/27/21 of a heart attack. She is a 70 year resident of Sarasota and had many friends in VPE. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She is survived by her 3 children; daughter Julie Hildebrand, sons Jeff and Kevin Lammon. She has 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She was an active member of Pine Shores Presbyterian Church for 65 years. A celebration of her 89 years will be held in February. Julie Hildebrand 5738 Sweet Leaf Way, Sarasota, FL 34238 Rest in peace dear Joyce.



Joyce Lammon

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ATTENTION GOLFERS, DUFFERS, DIVOT DIGGERS, SAND BLASTERS, AND MORE...

by: Jim Tomes

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 to 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

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Sally Rubesam



It is hard to write about what has happened a month before you read about it, but it is wonderful that everyone gets an issue of the Gondolier to read with a calendar of events for the coming month'. For those of you without the internet, it must be wonderful to be able to keep up with all that is going on in VPE. We have heard nothing but positive responses to the first issue of the new Gondolier. Many thanks and much praise to Cassie and Gina for a fabulous job! We will continue to update the park with the removal of 2 palms that have gotten old and diseased in the island and replace them while also replacing the 4 hibiscus bushes we lost to disease the past few years. Then we can get the mulch spread around the common areas. The trees throughout the park should be trimmed by the time you read this. TJ had a problem getting parts for his lift which held up the trimming of the trees. The budget for 2022 should have passed at the December 15 Board meeting. Things are happy around the pool deck with a new heater in place for the hot tub. If you see something you would like improved or you would like to volunteer to help out on a committee or work on a project please feel free to contact a Board member or the office. We hope the New Year brings health and happiness to all of you throughout the year.



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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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MUSIC NIGHT OUT



by Jeff Palumbo



After a nearly 2-year hiatus, I'm excited to announce the resumption of a very popular VPE event - Music Night Out!

For the newer people at VPE, Music Night Out was an outside monthly get-together at different

places that could cater to our needs for seating, comfort, food, drinks, socializing, dancing, and enjoying various types of music.

These affairs were well-attended and a lot of fun. I've kept all previous contact information for band, restaurant and nightclub management, and will continue exploring newer ones. The former and current activities committees have OK'd this continuance, which I'm happy to do for you.

The next Music Night Out event will be on Saturday, January 22nd at Pop's Sunset Grille. It is advised

that we get there by 4:00pm for choice seating. At 5:30pm, the Lisa Ridings band will be playing, an excellent oldies/current music dance mix. The food and atmosphere at Pop's is generally considered to be excellent.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, and reminder posts on the VPE Facebook page. Hope to see you there!

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Cheryl Smith

Even though most of us are in Florida now, some days are cooler and call for comfort food. This chicken pot pie will warm us up on those cold winter nights. It has a lot of ingredients but most of them you already have. It is quick and easy and so yummy.

Chicken Potpie with Crescent Roll Topping

- 3 T. butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- ½ C. frozen peas
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 C. shredded cooked chicken (I use rotisserie chicken)
- ¼ C. flour
- 1 ½ C. chicken broth



- ½ t. dried thyme
- 2 t. dried parsley
- 1 t. salt
- ½ t. poultry seasoning
- ½ t. garlic powder
- ½ t. pepper
- ¾ C. heavy cream or half and half
- 1 8 oz. tube of crescent rolls



Melt the butter in skillet and cook the onion, celery and carrots until tender, about 5 minutes. Add the peas in about the last minute. Add the garlic and cook for about a minute. Add the chicken. Now sprinkle the flour into the skillet and stir. Cook for 2 more minutes and then add the chicken broth. Cook for another 2-3 minutes until it starts to thicken but stir constantly. Add the thyme, parsley, salt, poultry seasoning, garlic powder and pepper. Stir in the cream and cook another couple minutes until thickened. Pour into a sprayed deep-dish pie plate. Spread the crescent rolls over the filling. I put the wider end of each roll at the pie plate edge and the tip at the center. Bake at 375 degrees for about 15 minutes or until the crescent rolls are golden.

NEWS FROM AROUND PARADISE/VOLUNTEERS AT VPE



On November 19, our new hot tub heater was installed. The volunteer work was done by Kenny Deer, Chuck Baxa, Pedro Morales, Glenn Newman and Jay Andrews. A big "thank you" to them all.

Our New Awning



ANNUAL CHARITY DRIVE



By Gina Miller

Years ago, Venetian Park Estates adopted two foundations to be our official charities. One of them is the All Faiths Food Bank. The other is Resurrection House. In the past, we went Trick or Treating up and down the streets to collect money for the charities. Since we haven't had a Halloween party in a couple of years, we thought we would ask for your donations in January. If you'd like to donate, you can leave a check at the office, or mail one but the easiest way might be to bring it with you to the Welcome Back Party on January 15th. You can read more about the Welcome Back party elsewhere in this Gondolier. We feel we are all blessed and we want to share the blessings. Thank you all in advance.



TRIVIA NIGHT AT VPE

By Pat McGee

Venetian Park Estates will host a Trivia Night on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the clubhouse. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board, Please sign up by Thursday, January 6 for a team. Teams vary from 2 to 8.

A moderator will read a series of six questions with answers varying from six to eight for each topic. Teams will have 8 minutes to confer, list answers, and turn them in for checking. After answers are scored each round, the moderator will read off the standings.

Please bring a beverage of choice and a snack to share. A winning team will emerge and receive acrown.

If you are curious and want to practice this format, attend Trivia Night at Pub 32 a bit north of here at 8383 S. Tamiami Tr. Take a team to Trivia Tuesday and see how you fare!



VOLUNTEERS

We are still looking for volunteers to bring the food that accumulates in the baskets at the front of the clubhouse to Resurrection House and All Faiths Food Bank. These are the 2 charities the park supports. It involves making 1 trip per month to deliver these items.

In the Spring when snowbirds leave, it may require 2 trips that month. Be a part of something that changes people's lives for the better. Interested? Contact the office 941-966-4622



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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dawn Stern
- 2 Jan Coble
- 5 Jennifer Walker
- 8 Kate Bise
- 12 Barbara Stanley
- 13 Pat McGee
- 15 Anne Heller
- 19 Art Rootes
- 23 Bonnie Ryan
- 24 Barbara Irvine
- 25 Jake Jacobsen
- 27 John Stern
Pat Waites
Pedro Morales
- 28 Fran Patterson
- 30 Jane Jack



JANUARY ANNIVERSARYS

Reggie and Yvonne Eastman January 2, 1956

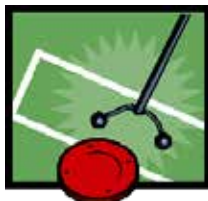


If anyone would like to add or delete their birthday or anniversary for publication, contact Sue Loolen by phone or text. 419-577-1667

SHUFFLEBOARD IS BACK!

By Pat Morales

Shuffleboard will start again on January 10. There will be a signup sheet in the clubhouse for anyone who would like to join. We have teams on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 9:00am.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF VENETIAN PARK ESTATES(CONTINUED):

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

After 14 years the property was offered for sale for \$2,200,000.00. At this time, only 20% of the residents were willing to purchase the property, so the Cutlers and Bigelows sold the property to a group of Michigan investors. When the rent was subsequently raised to \$149.00 per month a group of 12 residents of the park formed a committee to pursue incorporation under the new laws established by the state of FL.

This committee retained the services of Attorney William Korp. (Later, Attorney Harlan Domber became the park's legal representative). Venetian Park Estates, a non-profit organization was registered with the state of FL on June 5,1984. This action gave the residents "limited right of first refusal" should the park again be offered for sale.

The committee also served as a liason with management and consulted with the Federation of Mobile Home Owners and officers of other resident owned parks.

The twelve members of the committee became the first officers of the new organization and contributed towards the required attorney and registration fees.

These members were: President: James Andrew

Vice-president: Seth Rutzen

Secretary/treasurer: Marie Nelson

Board members:

Robert Alger, Lou Breisinger, Emerick Coppola, James Coyle, George Nelson, George Sampson, Ralph Vitale, Robert Watt, George Whittall.

To be continued...

authors note; children and grandchildren of many of these residents still own property here

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






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LEN PAGANO'S BIRTHDAY

I am planning on having a 91st birthday party for my dad, Leonard Pagano, at the VPE Club-house on Sunday, February 20th at 2 pm. All VPE residents are invited. No gifts please.

Bonnie Pagano-Ryan

2225 Gondola Drive

Sarasota, FL 34238

Tel: 860-798-8887

Email: bonniedancingnurse@gmail.com



COFFEE AND DONUTS

COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AT THE BIMONTHLY COFFEE AND DONUT SOCIAL AT THE CLUBHOUSE. BRING YOUR CUP. JAN 8 and 22 @9:30



ATTENTION

VPE will no longer provide wheelchairs, canes, walkers, etc. for temporary use. Insurance regulations prevent this. Many thanks to Bonnie Ryan for meeting this need in the past.

NEWS FROM YOUR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE



By Gina Miller

Hello friends and neighbors! How did you like the new Gondolier? This has been quite a learning experience. Thanks to all of you who submitted an article or message. Thanks to Cassie for

taking it on! I think we'll have a lot more advertisers because of the publisher's connections. We hope you love it!

This is a little confusing writing the January news in early December. I hope you all enjoyed our December activities. We welcomed back Bingo, Thursday Hold'em, had a coffee hour, a Christmas party, a Christmas dinner and a New Year's Eve party. Maybe life is starting to return to the old normal.

January should be a busy month too. In addition to the regular weeknight games, we'll be starting golf and shuffleboard this month. We have scheduled a

coffee on January 8th and 22nd. We'll be having a big Welcome Back party on Saturday, January 15. You can read more about that party elsewhere in the Gondolier. We had scheduled a Music Night Out for December but plans weren't able to be finalized at that time. Everyone's good friend and former neighbor, Jeff Palumbo will be arranging these Music Nights Out for us just like he did when he lived here. We are hoping to have one in January and you will be kept up to date on VPE: Neighbors Helping Neighbors and there will be a signup sheet at the clubhouse with all of the details. At the end of the month, we'll be getting ready for our regular big winter Flea Market.

Speaking of the flea market, we want to send our sincere thanks to all who helped with the one in November. The flea market is our biggest fundraiser. Without money, we would have no activities. Pat and Pedro Morales work all year long to make these sales a success and we owe them a lot. But we couldn't have them without your donations of goods and your help. We had lots of volunteers and that made it successful and fun! What a good place we live in, where we all help each other!

One thing I would like to reiterate is the need for volunteers to get things done. Everyone in the Park is a member of the Activities committee. Many people think that the Activities board is responsible for every activity but we need your help. Parties, dinners, coffees, sports, games and entertainment all are wonderful things to have but they don't miraculously appear at the clubhouse. Someone has to organize, plan, buy the supplies, etc. for these things to happen. That's where we as volunteers come in. So, we are asking...if you enjoy any of these pastimes, please consider volunteering to help with any of them. Volunteering not only gets things happening, it's a good way to make friends. And who among us doesn't need more friends, right? As Jay always says...VPE -Volunteers Prove Excellence.

Make sure to check the bulletin board at the clubhouse and on Facebook VPE: Neighbors Helping Neighbors for updates on activities. Enjoy your time here in our little Paradise, be safe and stay well.





Coffee Hour



Robyn Hogan was recently gifted a rickshaw by her brother. Here she is shown preparing to take Paula Neumeier for a ride. It just proves you can have ALL kinds of fun at VPE!



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<div> <div> <small>DECEMBER 2021</small> <small>S M T W T F S</small> 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 </div> <div> <small>FEBRUARY</small> <small>S M T W T F S</small> 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3 All-in Hold'em 1pm Aggravation 6:30pm	4 Golf 8:45am Euchre 1pm Bingo 7pm	5 Mexican Dominoes 6:30pm	6 Hold'em 5pm Epiphany	7 All-in Hold'em 1pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage 6:30pm	8 Coffee 9:30am Trivia Night 6:30pm
9	10 Shuffleboard 9am All-in Hold'em 1pm Aggravation 6:30pm	11 Golf 8:45am Shuffleboard 9am Ladies Bible Study 10:30am TBD Euchre 1pm Bingo 7pm	12 Mexican Dominoes 6:30pm Activities meeting 7:00pm	13 Shuffleboard 9am Hold'em 5pm	14 All-in Hold'em 1pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage 6:30pm	15 Welcome Back Party 5:30pm
16	17 Shuffleboard 9am All-in Hold'em 1pm Aggravation 6:30pm Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	18 Golf 8:45am Shuffleboard 9am Ladies Bible Study 10:30am TBD Euchre 1pm Bingo 7pm	19 Board meeting 9:30 am Mexican Dominoes 6:30pm	20 Shuffleboard 9am Hold'em 5pm	21 All-in Hold'em 1pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage 6:30pm	22 Coffee 9:30am Music Night Out
23	24 Shuffleboard 9am All-in Hold'em 1pm Aggravation 6:30pm	25 Golf 8:45am Shuffleboard 9am Ladies Bible Study 10:30am TBD Euchre 1pm Bingo 7pm	26 Mexican Dominoes 6:30pm	27 Shuffleboard 9am Hold'em 5pm	28 All-in Hold'em 1pm Hand & Foot 6:30pm Cribbage 6:30pm	29
30	31 Shuffleboard 9am All-in Hold'em 1pm Aggravation 6:30pm					

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