

VENETIAN PARK ESTATES GONDOLIER

November 2022

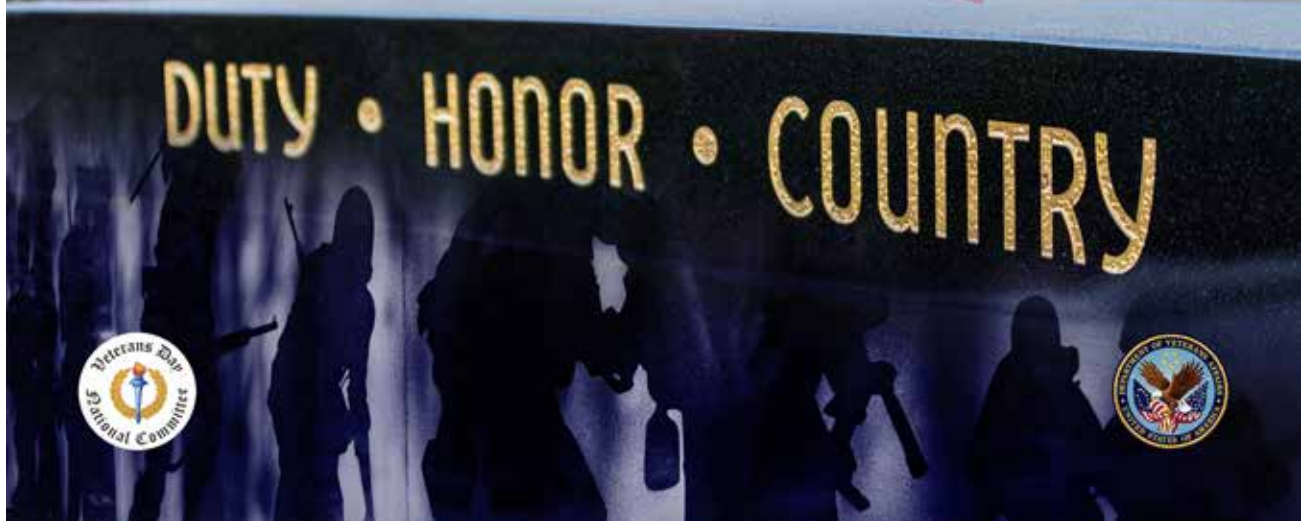
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November 11, 2022

VETERANS
DAY



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VENETIAN PARK ESTATES

8885 S Tamiami Trail

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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

Couriers Jay and Bonni Andrews, Diane McElhaney, Pat Morales, Pat McGee, Gina and Paul Miller

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

DEADLINES FOR ARTICLES FOR UPCOMING GONDOLIERS:
Dec 2022 : deadline is Nov 8
Jan 2023: deadline in Dec 6
cassiedionne@yahoo.com



Weekly Activities

MONDAYS: Water Aerobics 9:30 am • All in Holdem 1:00 pm • Aggravation 6:30 p
• NEW Pegs & Jokers (board game) 6:30 pm

TUESDAYS: Bingo 6:30pm (starts in November)

WEDNESDAYS: Water Aerobics 9:30 am • Mexican Dominos 6:30pm

THURSDAYS: Hold'em 5:00pm (starts December)

FRIDAYS: Water Aerobics 9:30 am • Hold'em 1pm • Hand and Foot 6:30pm • Cribbage 6:30pm

Watch the bulletin board and our Facebook page for any changes

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Amy Newman



Dennis Callan and Karen Click purchased their home at 2160 Ca'd'Oro Drive from Jeff Palumbo in December 2020. Their interest in VPE dates back many years as Karen's late brother, Pat and wife, Annie Click, own Annie's parents former home on Piazza.

Annie was instrumental in advising them of homes for sale in the park. In the off season the Callans reside in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Dennis was born in Trenton, NJ as a middle son of three, living an idyllic childhood that included baseball, Boy Scouts, the Jersey shore, bike riding, a paper route, high school sports, and math club. Karen also grew up with two brothers. Childhood in Lincoln Park, Michigan was memorable for riding her bicycle from dawn to dark, activities with the local park district, and playing soccer, among other activities. However, she suffered the loss of her mother at the age of eight and grew up quickly, learning to cook and clean.

Dennis graduated with a chemical engineering degree in 1974 from the oldest engineering college in the nation, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 1982, he earned a MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. Dennis' work took him from New Jersey, Michigan, Illinois and to Ohio, ending up his career in Texas. He worked in personal care, household and industrial cleaners; rubber chemicals; electrodes in the aluminum industry; resin, pitch, oil-field drill chemicals, and finally, natural gas liquids. He sites highlights of his career as hiring many good people and building two plants almost from the ground up. He is the father of three children. Retirement is spent biking, enjoying music, playing ice hockey, investing, travel and reading.

Karen, on the other hand, stayed in the same area as a life-long Michigander. She found her calling as a dental hygienist, graduating from the University of Detroit summa cum laude in 1985. She worked in the field for 34 years. Karen co-authored an article on medical emergencies in the dental office which was published in the Journal of Michigan Dental

Association. She also discovered oral cancer in two of her patients. Her proudest achievements have been buying her own home and raising her daughter Gabrielle as a single parent. She enjoys gardening, traveling, walking, bicycling, reading, and time with friends and family.

Dennis and Karen met in 1979 through his hairdresser who was a friend of Karen's. The couple dated a few times and then life moved on. Fast forward 30 years when Dennis contacted Karen through reunion.com. He discovered that Karen was still in the Detroit suburbs and he was living not far south in the Toledo, Ohio area...until work took him to Texas. Then began the long-distance relationship for two years (too long) and they got married in 2016.

In the winter season they fill their time biking The Legacy Trail, following the local music scene (after all, Dickey Betts from the Allman Brothers only lives a short distance away from VPE of whom Dennis has seen well over 50 times in concert!), among other activities. Living in VPE is special with sister-in-law Annie a few streets over and having ready-made friends of Pat and Annie they now count as their own.



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HONOR FLIGHT

by Paul Neumeier and Jerry Ralston

Paula: To say that our experience on the Honor Flight was amazing is nothing short of an understatement. From our arrival at the St. Pete airport September 20 at 4 in the morning, to the moment we walked down the airport corridor at 8:30 that evening to greetings by a welcome home committee, it was the stuff of magic. Our flight had 72 veterans, 72 guardians and 20 support staff. While waiting to board the plane it occurred to me that the level of respect that was shown to these veterans was off the charts. As we were waiting, a WWII vet played each of the service hymns on the harmonica; he was great.

We flew into Baltimore and boarded a bus to Washington, DC. Our Washington tour began with a stop at the Air Force Monument, its three tall spires represent the USAF Thunder Birds "bomb burst" maneuver. It was simply outstanding and awe inspiring. We stopped briefly at the Iwo Jima Memorial and the marines on the bus gave a proud cheer. Our next stop was at the Lincoln Memorial, Korean Memorial, and Vietnam Wall complex.

At the Korean Memorial, upon seeing the first statue in The Column, we were struck by the feeling that the soldier was looking right at us; such was the feeling when seeing each of the 19 men depicting a platoon on a dawn patrol. Nearly 37,000 names are engraved on the granite wall honoring the men and women that were killed in the Korean War.

It was a short walk to the Vietnam Wall. The names of 58,320 dead, missing, or prisoners are listed in chronological order from 1965 to 1975. I was able to see the name of Captain John H. Crews III, the name on the POW bracelet I wore from 1971 to 1975. Seeing John's name among the thousands brought home to me the enormity of the cost that so many dearly paid with their lives.

The final stop of our tour was the World War II Memorial. We were met by a bagpipe player in full regalia. My dad held a Navy banner for a very special picture with the piper. The piper played a mournful tune as we walked around the pillars of the states. My dad stood proudly in front of the Indiana

pillar. There are 4,048 gold stars representing the deaths of over 4,000 Americans who lost their lives in WWII.

We boarded the bus to the airport and talked about all that we had seen in the past few hours; it was a whirlwind. My dad said, "it really gives me hope for our country and its future," and I feel the same way. It was such a privilege and an honor to share this experience with my dad. God Bless America!

Jerry: Paula's article gives you an idea of what the Honor Flight program is all about. We could write volumes about our day but had to do a condensed version. From morning to night we were treated with honor and respect. If you want to know more just ask and we will be happy to tell you about it. The Honor Flight program is amazing and the experience gives those who attend a new outlook on life. I would recommend any veteran or his/her family to look into this. It's a once in a lifetime experience.

Note: Jerry Ralston served in the US Navy, aboard a destroyer from 1952-1956, during the Korean War. He and his wife, Ruby have lived here for 16 years. They are originally from Indiana. Their daughter, Paula, also lives in VPE.

Have you heard of the Honor Flight program? They fly groups of veterans to Wash. DC for a day trip. They get a military send-off from here, and get military greeting when they arrive. They have a day of touring the war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. It is offered to Veterans at no charge. They do have to have an escort who pays his/her expenses. It was originally offered to WW2 vets, but is now open for Korean & Vietnam Veterans.

Contact information for Honor Flight West Central Florida: Beverly Frey (727-498-6079)







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ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NEWS

By Gina Miller



What a blessing it is to be able to say again, "Hello friends and neighbors!". We made it through a terrible storm! I know many of us had some damage, some worse than others, but none of us lost our homes. No one was injured. What a blessing we had that it wasn't worse than it was!

On a happier note, let's get those activities started again! There will be an activities meeting on Nov. 9th at 7pm. Pat Mcgee is putting on a Veteran's Day presentation for us on Nov. 11 to honor all of our vets. The time will be announced later. There will be a Music Night Out at Pop's. That time will be announced later as well and there will be a sign up sheet at the clubhouse. On Sat. Nov. 11, at 7pm Bruce Shelly, a local singer, will be at the clubhouse to entertain us and we will be able to dance along! There will also be a coffee on Nov. 11 and on the 26th. Our Thanksgiving dinner will be Nov.24, at 4pm. Volunteers will be needed to set tables, carve turkey, clean up and serve. Your help will make it an easy and enjoyable day for us all. There will be a sign up sheet in the clubhouse. After dinner, feel free to gather and play games.

We have an active year planned. We have many new residents who don't know about or realize how much fun we have. Let's all grab a new neighbor and get them involved in the activities. Who doesn't need more friends, right?

Please note: "Sarasota County will be using our Clubhouse on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 as an election location."

The Board Meeting will be held November 9 at 9:30am in the clubhouse instead of Nov 16.

BIBLE STUDY AT JESSIE HOFFMAN'S HOME
POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY

Join us for Water Aerobics; M-W-F 9:30am at the pool. All are welcome.

HURRICANE IAN

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

3:05 PM CATEGORY 4 150 MPH



On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, VPE was in the path of a once in a century hurricane.

Landfall was at Cayo Key Island, near Sanibel and Captiva Islands at approximately 3:30 PM.

I was hunkered down in Venice, FL. The winds at the western or northern eye wall of the hurricane were in excess of 150 MPH. The winds at VPE were only slightly less, perhaps 100-120 MPH.

On Thursday morning, I left Venice at 7:00 AM to return to VPE. The roads were strewn with storm debris. None of the traffic signals were working. Each intersection needed to be observed as a four way stop. I arrived at VPE at 7:25 AM

The Park roads were littered with all sorts of debris, and some were blocked by downed trees. I walked up and down the streets meeting with people, asking how they were and assessing the damage. Bill Milsop, our Maintenance Manager, was already on the job cutting tree limbs and clearing the roadways. By 10:00 AM, with the exception of the roadway in front of Tina Pontoni's and Manny Lejuene's homes on Ca'd'Oro Drive, both lanes of all the roadways were passable. In that case, Katy and Brian Strand's roof was ripped off and landed on Ca'd'Oro Drive.

At this time, I discovered that our sewer plant (specifically the lift station pump) wasn't working because we lost our electricity. So, Bill and I went to examine the lift station. We lifted the cover and found that it was filled to the top. Any additional inflow into the lift station would result in an overflow and spillage onto our grounds. So, we turned the water off.

Without the internet and poor cell phone service, if any, I found as many residents as I could and explained that because the lift station was full, any water in their home should not be flushed or poured down their drains. They would need to wait until our power was restored and the lift station was once again working.

At 11:00 AM, my daughter and son-in-law arrived. They helped us remove debris, mail boxes, siding,

tree limbs, etc. Without phones or texting, I realized no one was coming... we were on our own for the foreseeable future! Without power and technology, we could only communicate by word of mouth and person to person. Some people got information, and some people didn't.

After some time off to rest, I returned to the Park at 5:30 PM and stayed until sunset or about 7:30 PM. I told everyone I could, that when the power came back on, they could contact me at my daughter's house at any time and I would return to the Park to turn the water on.

7:30 the next morning, Friday, I spent about 3 hours going through the Park. I met with Rafael Ayala, the pool maintenance man. He explained that without power to the pumps, the filters are off and the pool was unsafe to use. He treated the pool and said he would be back the next morning to "shock" the pool before it turned "green" and became a major problem. I found Pat and Pedro Morales and asked them to close the pool and clubhouse while I spread the word. Meanwhile, Ruby and Jerry Ralston volunteered to make "Closed" signs for the pool. After taking a lunch and rest break, I returned at 5:00 PM and stayed until it was dark.

By this time my phone was somewhat working. A few calls came in and a few went out; with a lot of disconnects. I finally reached Jim Novak, who manages our sewer plant. He told me that all his employees and equipment were south, where the major storm damage was. My reason to call him was to ask him to pump out the lift station, so we could temporarily turn on the water to allow our residents some limited use of their toilets. Then, after a day or two, maybe he could again pump out the lift station or maybe the power would come back on.

On Saturday morning, my phone was making better connections. I called Jim Novak to make the point that we needed the lift station pumped now, but again he said that his people and equipment were tied up south of us. So, I said, "For 30 years we have employed and paid you to run our sewer plant. And you earned it. But now that we need you, you tell us you cannot help us? Maybe we chose the wrong company; maybe we need to find someone else." I

may have been bluffing.

But, 3 hours later, Jim Novak's son, David, who now runs the company, showed up at VPE. He jury-rigged a pump to the lift station and removed 2,700 gallons of sewer waste. From my calculations of our water usage, I thought that would give us about 7 days of service with careful usage. So, we turned the water back on and I went through the Park letting people know that we have water, but to use it sparingly. Before leaving, David Novak told us to check the level of the lift. He said to call him when the level reaches the top and he would return to empty it as often as needed or until the power was back on.

At the end of the day I went to bed thinking this will be a long haul. The next day a power truck with Texas plates was here. He told me he was checking power lines for a "resistance surge" which would indicate a line break or stoppage somewhere in the grid, a large area. I asked him if he finds the surge, would we get our power back. He said, "That's not my department. FPL will determine when that happens." Luckily, by 1:00 PM the power came back on.

I called Tony to ask him to come in early Monday morning to take care of the many emails and texts to send out or be answered. Informational emails and texts were sent out to owners, phone calls were made and received.

Always remember: Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's learning how to dance in the rain.

Irving Rubin,
President

HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS

I'd like to acknowledge the people who put in their time and effort in helping us clean up during and after the hurricane. A special thanks to John Sanson, Joe Brock, Pedro and Pat Morales and Ruby and Jerry Ralston, with a special thanks to Bill Milsop, our do-everything Maintenance Manager.

Irving Rubin,
President



VPE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:



*From top left: Ed Hoffman ,Paul Censki, Mike Anderson, Traci Clay
2nd row from left: Sarah Ruebesam, Pat McGee, Jay Andrews, Irving Rubin, Louise Novak*

BAD DAD JOKES

- Q. How do you catch a unique rabbit?
A. Unique up on it.
- Q. How do you catch a tame rabbit?
A. Tame way. Unique up on it.
- Q. How do crazy people get through the forest?
A. They take the psycho path.
- Q. What do you get from a pampered cow?
A. Spoiled milk.
- Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
A. Frostbite



THANK YOU CORNER

To everyone that helped me in my yard, fed me, gave me water, hugs, encouragement and love thank you! You Are My Angels! YOU ALL ARE THE BEST! Love and Thanks, Anita & Bella

Be sure to see the prayer of thanks in the wake of Hurricane Ian written by Cal Fladzinski. It's posted in the clubhouse on the bulletin board.

I wish to recognize and thank Irv Rubin our president, other board members, residents and our employees Tony and Bill for working tirelessly to safeguard the lives of those who did not evacuate. They acted to protect all of our properties and infrastructure before, during, and since Hurricane Ian. Thank you Irv for your leadership in the face of this disaster. C. Dionne



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BINGO!

By Bonni Andrews



Hi Everyone! Bingo is still set to start Nov. 1st. Doors open for Bingo at 6:15pm.

NO Bingo papers will be sold after 6:45pm!! Play starts at 7pm with a 5-10 minute break halfway through.

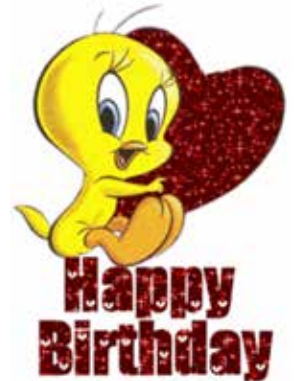
PLEASE...NO LARGE BILLS!!

Please bring small bills, no larger than a \$10 bill. REMINDER...NO BINGO ON THE 8th OF NOV. DUE TO VOTING IN THE CLUBHOUSE.

Thank you, Bonni and Committee

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sharon Pinkham
- 4 Gina Miller
- 5 Glenna Absher
- 7 Bonnie Empel
- 8 Dennis Schumacher
Pam Seitz
- 13 Ellen Matthews
- 16 Beverly Schumacher
- 17 Diane Banash
- 18 Sharon Davis
Kim Carpenter
- 19 Bill Shook
- 20 Emily Snuttjer
- 21 John Sanson
- 22 Doris DeWitt
- 24 Jan McCoubrey
Joanne Hawthorne
- 26 Chuck Loolen
Jerry Ralston



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Cheryl Smith



Butternut squash is a great fall vegetable. This recipe is simple and delicious. It is special enough to add to your Thanksgiving meal.

Crispy Parmesan-Roasted Butternut Squash

- (1) 1 ½ lb. butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into ¾-inch pieces
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1/3 C. grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ t. dried thyme



Put squash into 15x10-inch baking pan coated with non-stick cooking spray. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Toss to coat. Roast in preheated 425 degree oven for 15 minutes. Stir in Parmesan cheese and thyme. Roast for 5 minutes more or until squash is crispy and tender.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 18 | Jerry and Shelia Bacon | 1967 |
| 26 | Paul and Gina Miller | 1994 |
| 28 | Glenn and Amy Newman | 1981 |



If you would like your birthday published, contact Sue Loolen. Her address is in our book.





THE GONDOLIER IS ONLINE

Did you know you can see the monthly issue online at our park website? It is available 1 day after the printed copy is delivered. Simply Google Venetian Park Estates or

<http://www.VPEonline.com>

Go to the website & open it

Click on the button labelled Gondolier

Another word about the VPE online website; there are password protected portions for members only. Get your password from the office.



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Before



After

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11 -11 11AM 1918 -The armistice between the Allies and Germany begins; the war to end all wars, WW I, is over. Honor and thanks to living veterans of all wars, as well as remembrance of those service members who are deceased is formally celebrated yearly on November 11. Parades, commemorations, laying of wreaths , religious services, verbal expressions to current and former service members, are many of the ways we celebrate and honor our veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. In the US, a wreath is laid on the Tomb of the Unkown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Canadians observe the 2nd Sunday in November as a day to recognize and give thanks to and for those who serve. On 11/11 2 minutes of silence commemorate the 1918 armistice. Red poppies are worn near the heart during the 2 weeks leading up to Nov 11. Official events in recognition of the day take place. What began on Nov 11, 1920 and 21 , in London and Paris, as acts of remembrance, continues year after year in many nations around the world. The living are celebrated, the deceased are honored, and the citizens remember that freedom is not free.

“Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom for they’ve suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us.”

President Ronald Reagan, 1983 radio address *

* Reference: US Dept of Veteran’s Affairs- Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



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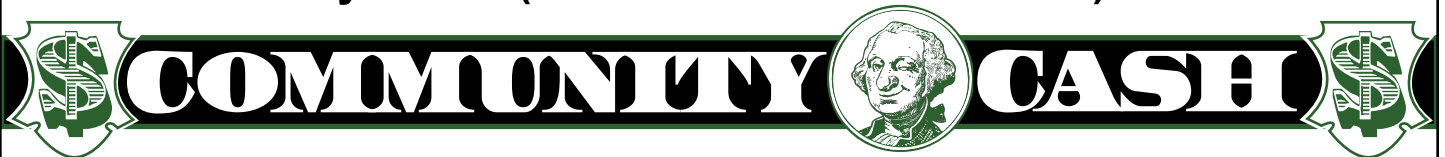
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Dave Floyd \$10	Heller's Mobile Home Washing
Marilyn Barney \$10	Jones & Sons Plumbing
Rafaela Burgos..... \$10	Boss Electric
Robert Polloct..... \$10	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
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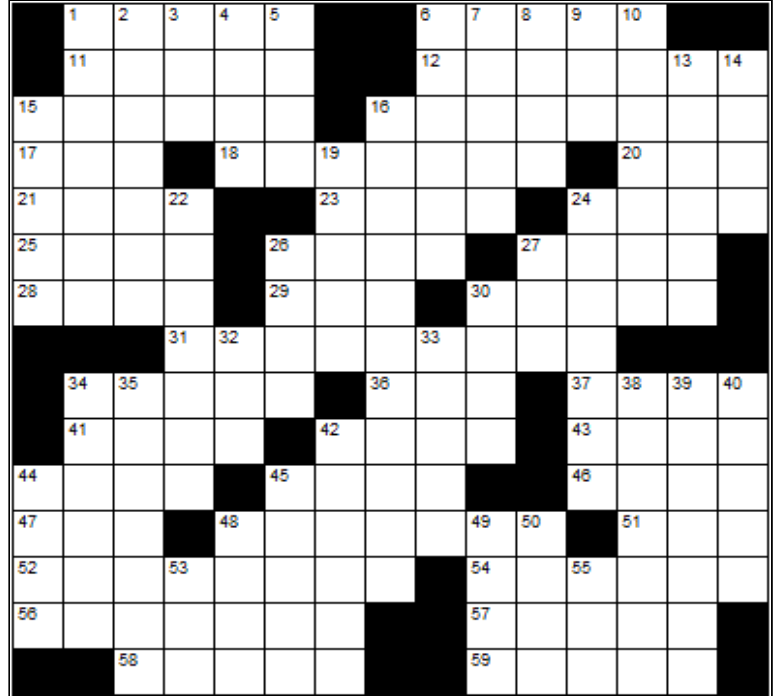
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November Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Degrade
- 6. Initial wagers
- 11. Sail supports
- 12. Torment
- 15. Type of bowling
- 16. Narrow flag
- 17. Chapter in history
- 18. Let go
- 20. Male adult
- 21. Finger jewelry
- 23. Behold, in old Rome
- 24. Cloak-like sleeveless garment
- 25. Cicatrix
- 26. Songbird
- 27. Empty weight
- 28. Lack of difficulty
- 29. Employ
- 30. Nymph chaser
- 31. Cabaret
- 34. Someone who is owned
- 36. "Eureka!"
- 37. Mid-month days
- 41. Neat
- 42. Baby's bed
- 43. Let out
- 44. Rate
- 45. Earth
- 46. Information
- 47. How old you are
- 48. Filters
- 51. Permit
- 52. Liking
- 54. First-aid item
- 56. Alloy
- 57. Publish
- 58. Aromatic solvent
- 59. Marsh plant



DOWN

- 1. Common name for the US
- 2. Elongated crescent-shaped fruit
- 3. Viper
- 4. Arouse
- 5. Slave
- 6. Assault
- 7. Scandinavian
- 8. Tall woody plant
- 9. Greek letter
- 10. Abridgement
- 13. Harvester
- 14. Sea eagle
- 15. Brusque
- 16. 1973 Triple Crown winner
- 19. Tether
- 22. Small exploder
- 24. Type of American songbird
- 26. Racing sled
- 27. Letter after sigma
- 30. Thick slice
- 32. Climbing vine
- 33. Ground beef with peppery powder
- 34. Levels
- 35. Permission
- 38. Conducting
- 39. Rapprochement
- 40. Condition
- 42. Intersection
- 44. Daddy
- 45. Phase
- 48. Monarch of Iran
- 49. Bites
- 50. Achy
- 53. Director's cry
- 55. Accomplished





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						3	7	
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		5				9		
			1					
	2	1		3		7		
	1							7
	6			8			4	
4			6		3		9	



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5	6	9	7	8	2	1	4	3
3	1	2	9	5	4	8	6	7
9	2	1	4	3	5	7	8	6
7	3	6	1	9	8	4	2	5
8	4	5	2	7	6	9	3	1
6	5	3	8	4	7	2	1	9
1	7	4	3	2	9	6	5	8
2	9	8	5	6	1	3	7	4

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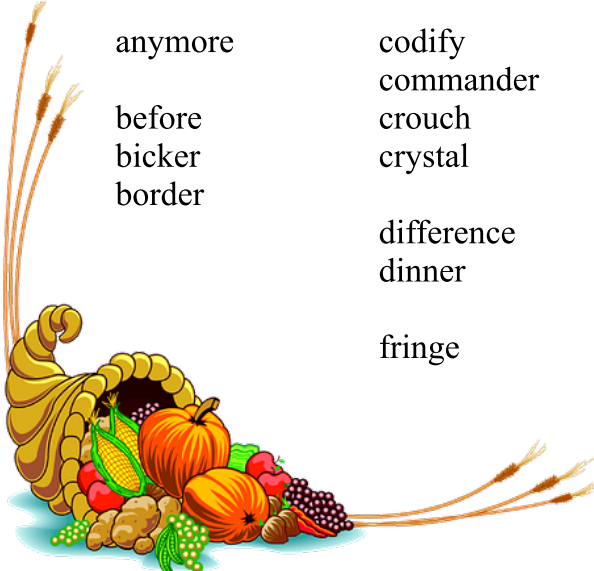
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NOVEMBER 2022

October
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

December
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 Bingo 6:30 pm	2 Water Aerobics 9:30 am Mexican train dominoes 6:30 pm	3 Hold'em 5:00 pm (starts December)	4 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Hand & Foot 6:30 pm (card game) Cribbage 6:30 pm	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends	7 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Aggravation 6:30 pm Pegs & Jokers (board game) 6:30 pm	8 Don't forget to vote!! Clubhouse Closed for Voting Election Day	9 Board Meeting at 9:30am Water Aerobics 9:30 am Mexican train dominoes 6:30 pm Activities Meeting 7pm	10 Hold'em 5:00 pm (starts December)	11 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Hand & Foot 6:30 pm (card game) Cribbage 6:30 pm Veterans Day Celebration Veterans Day	12 coffee 9:30am Bruce Shelly/ singer/dance 7pm
13	14 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Aggravation 6:30 pm Pegs & Jokers (board game) 6:30 pm	15 Bingo 6:30 pm	16 Water Aerobics 9:30 am Mexican train dominoes 6:30 pm	17 Hold'em 5:00 pm (starts December)	18 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Hand & Foot 6:30 pm (card game) Cribbage 6:30 pm	19
20	21 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Aggravation 6:30 pm Pegs & Jokers (board game) 6:30 pm	22 Bingo 6:30 pm	23 Water Aerobics 9:30 am Mexican train dominoes 6:30 pm	24 Thanksgiving Dinner 4pm	25 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Hand & Foot 6:30 pm (card game) Cribbage 6:30 pm	26 coffee 9:30am
27	28 Water Aerobics 9:30 am All in Hold'em 1:00 pm Aggravation 6:30 pm Pegs & Jokers (board game) 6:30 pm	29 Bingo 6:30 pm	30 Water Aerobics 9:30 am Mexican train dominoes 6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Day		

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