

VENETIAN PARK ESTATES GONDOLIER

February 2024



Len Pagano, winner of the Welcome Back Party 2024 50/50 drawing, with Sis Gavin.



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VENETIAN PARK ESTATES

8885 S Tamiami Trail

Sarasota FL 34238

Office: (941) 966-4622

website: www.VPEonline.com

email address: venetianparkestates@comcast.net



BOARD OFFICERS:

Louise Novak..... President
Irv Rubin Vice President
John Wuerzburger Secretary
Mike Anderson..... Treasurer

Glenn Newman..... Director
Paul Censki Director
Pat McGee..... Director
Jeff Edelman..... Director
Dennis Callan Director

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

Deb Cinco..... Chair
Jan Coble Vice Chair
Amy DeBruin Secretary
JoEllen Wuerzburger Treasurer

Anne Heller..... Trustee
Cathy Censki Trustee
Mary Jo Zajeski Trustee

GONDOLIER STAFF:

Submissions Cassie Dionne.....603-361-4313 cassiedionne@yahoo.com
Anniversaries/Birthdays Gina Miller
Sunshine Reporter Cassie Dionne
Activities..... Deb Cinco
Getting To Know You..... Amy Newman
Recipes..... Cheryl Smith

Couriers.....Pat Olsen McGee
Sheila Bacon
Gina Miller
Paul Miller
Debby Steele,
Sally Ruebesam,
Pat Morales,
Dorrene Moser

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



Weekly Activities

See monthly calendars, our website VPEonline.com and watch the bulletin board and our facebook page for changes. (Facebook page is Neighbors Helping Neighbors).

Board Meeting: Feb 21, 2024 9:30 AM
Annual Members Meeting:
March 20, 2024 7 PM

Activities Meeting: Feb 14, 2024 1 PM
March 13, 2024 11:30 AM

Deadline for March 2024 Gondolier articles is: February 15. Send as a word document attached to an email to:cassiedionne@yahoo.com

NOTARY PUBLIC:
Denise Achin is offering FL notary services to anyone in the park. These are free of charge to park residents. Contact her at 321-369-8635..



BAD DAD JOKES



Q. Why should you never share a bed with Punxsutawney Phil?

A. He always hogs the covers.

Q. What did the groundhog say when his handler grabbed his tail?

A. That's the end of me.

Q. How do vampires know if they had a successful Valentine's Day?

A. If it was love at first bite.

Q. What is Cupid's favorite band?

A. Kiss

Q. What did the scientist say to her Valentine?

A. "I think of you periodically."

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bill Kalchick
- 4 Debra Winans
- 8 Patty Boston
Dawn Gasak
- 10 Alma Zabel
- 11 Neta Conrad
- 17 Len Pagano
- 18 Debbie Phillips
- 20 Linda Longto
- 24 Bernie Koenig
- 27 Al Genestra
John Fortin
- 29 Greg Ryan



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Brad & Debra Winans
- 19 George & Linda Barnet
- 27 Alan & Linda Nelson



If you would like to be included in the Birthdays/Anniversaries, contact Gina Miller at 260-246-3551

MUSIC NIGHT

Sunday February 25th from 4 PM-6 PM

Please join us and bring your favorite wine & cheese for an evening of live entertainment performed by Tom Cahalan, local musician at the Zebra Piano Bar in Venice. He will be singing and playing his keyboards for us at VPE! Weather permitting, Tom will perform under the alcove on the pool deck therefore make sure you do NOT bring glass. This is a bring your own beverage and food event.



We will also have a **MYRTLE'S SWEET TREATS** here during the event. Please see the menu below so bring your cash for sweet treats!
<https://myrtlessweettreats.com/>

Menu

Siesta Pops- \$5

Strawberry Cheesecake- Gluten Free.
Mexican Chocolate- Gluten Free.
Cookies & Cream- Gluten Free.
Key West Lime- Gluten Free.
Rainbow (Strawberry, Blueberry & Mango)- Dairy & Gluten Free
Cotton Candy- Dairy & Gluten Free
Spiderman (Strawberry Lemonade & Blueberry Lemonade) - Dairy & Gluten Free
Banana, Strawberry & Pineapple- Dairy & Gluten Free, Low Sugar

Cartoon Face Pops - \$5

Tweety - Batman - Miraculous- TMNT (Raphael) - Sonic - Powerpuff Girls

Additional Treats & Prices - \$1- \$3

- Strawberry Shortcake - \$3
- Chocolate Eclair - \$3
- Big Dipper Cone - \$3
- Bomb Pop Cup - \$3
- Rosati Ice Cotton Candy - \$3
- Rosati Ice Cherry - \$3
- Bubble Gum Bar - \$3
- Cotton Candy Bar - \$3
- FrozFruit Coconut - \$3
- Raspberry Sherbet - \$1



GETTING TO KNOW YOU



by Amy Newman

Gary & Tonda Eastman have lived on Gondola for the past nine years in three different homes. They purchased their current home (on the street pronounced two different ways depending on one's dialect, gon-da-la or gon-DOH-la; but I digress) from Lynn Bowen several years ago at 2257 Gondola. The Eastmans live in Bangor in central Maine in the off season. They have the blessing of a daughter and family in Maine, a son and family down the road in Venice, and mom and dad Eastman joined them here in Florida a few houses down and across the street!

Though they have different backgrounds and hail from different coasts, they have their military service, though different branches, in common along with their hairdresser careers. The Eastmans met, not surprisingly, at a salon in the mall in Maine in 1985. Tonda was getting her hair cut by a friend there and was noticed by Gary.



Gary is the third child of eight of Reggie & Yvonne. He was raised in Keazer Falls, Maine and at 17, with his mother's signature, followed his two older brothers into the military and joined the Army. He was a medic in Germany and upon discharge, with the help of the GI bill, went to hair-dresser school and bought his own shop which he owned for 37 years. In addition, Gary was a realtor for 25 years. He is an avid walker, cyclist, and both he and Tonda spend much of their time with family both here and in Maine.

Tonda was born in Salem, Oregon to a single mom and was raised by her grandparents until she was in tenth grade when she moved to Maine to live with two spinster aunts. Her upbringing was difficult yet attributes her survival to a relationship with Jesus since she was eight years old. A side blessing is through the genealogy site 23 & Me she has uncovered 11 half siblings. Tonda served in the Air Force in the security forces and then the Air National Guard upon discharge. She has been in

police work, a nurse, and a long-time hairdresser with the shop she and Gary owned. She now humorously calls herself a "carport coiffure." Tonda was our HOA President in the past and is involved with helping out with her granddaughter in Venice.

Laughter ensues a visit with them. In addition to Gary's comedic nature, they have an amusing indoor cat that plays fetch. Only at VPE folks!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



by Cheryl Smith

I heard so many comments about how much people liked the salad at the Welcome Back Party, I had to include a recipe that is very similar. It is a copy-cat version of the famous Columbia Restaurant's 1905 salad. The dressing is what makes the salad. Make the dressing first to allow the flavors to meld together.

Just before serving, top the salad with Worcestershire sauce and lemon juice. Do not skip this part. You won't be disappointed.

Columbia 1905 Salad

½ C. extra virgin olive oil
 2 T. white wine vinegar
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 2 t. dried oregano
 ½ t. salt
 ¼ t. pepper
 5 C. iceberg lettuce, chopped
 1 ripe tomato, cut into thin wedges
 ¾ C. baked ham, cut into 2" by 1/8" strips
 ½ C. salami, cut into ¼" squares
 1 C. Swiss cheese, cut into 2" by 1/8" strips
 ½ C. pimento stuffed green olives
 ½ C. Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
 Juice from 1 lemon

Whisk together olive oil, vinegar, garlic, oregano, salt and pepper. Set aside. In a large bowl, toss together the lettuce, tomato, ham, salami, cheese and olives. Just before serving, add in the Parmesan, Worcestershire and lemon juice. Toss together well. Enjoy!

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SUNSHINE NEWS

by Cassie Dionne

Welcome back to all you northerners. I for one am missing the Florida sunshine...but today (1/15/24), looking at the weather map I think we are all glad to be here, rain or shine.

Card and sunshine sent to Jerry Bacon who remains up north with some health issues. 1893 Brick Schoolhouse Rd. Hilton, NY 14468. email:jb2pepsi@aol.com

On January 15th. 2024, just nine days shy of his 90th birthday, Jack McCarthy, former resident of VPE passed away. Jack's quick wit and jovial nature, as well as his participation in the Hootenanny's will not be forgotten.

Carolyn has asked for prayers for Jack, his family and friends. Cards can be sent to:

Carolyn McCarthy
21105 Cardinal Pond Terrace
Ashburn, Virginia
20147

Jack's generosity of spirit lives on in those whose lives he touched. He was the kind of a person who made the world a better place. Rest in peace dear Jack.

THANK YOU CORNER

From Anita Wood; A big thank you to David, Kenny, Ray, Jeff, Roy. Thanks for cutting down trees in my backyard.

From Constance Mileski; Thank you VPE friends for the prayers that got me through the surgery... for the cards and flowers that cheer me up...for the visits that get my mind off my pain. Thanks to Sally, Debby, and Pat for lending me equipment.

From Ruth Beck;

I want to thank all the ladies who collected the tee shirts from their husbands clothes closets and gave them to me to make jump ropes out of them for kids who have no toys. I just finished the last batch and counted 45 sets to be turned in. My neighbors always come up with the items I work with and donate what I ask for. Thank you and God bless you for helping me. I'm sure I will come up another project that I may need your help again. In fact I need a new project, so if any of you know of something, just let me know.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Please try to follow the speed limits posted for our safety. Remember, pedestrians, and those on bicycles have the right of way. Please be kind and responsible neighbors.

Thank you.

ACTIVITIES

by Deb Cinco

On January 3 at Bingo the two Cookie Jars were won. Each was \$250, the 1st one went to Katie (a guest of Jim and Deb Denning) and the 2nd one went to Phyllis Murphy. Our attendance continues to increase. On January 9th Anita Wood and Dorrene Moser split the Progressive pot of \$125.

Everyone enjoyed the Welcome Back party. Fun was had by all. The one thing I do need to mention is that 35 people that signed up did not go and didn't notify anyone. This in turn resulted in 20 more pizzas purchased than was necessary. This expense was incurred by the activities committee which could have been used elsewhere. Please if you sign up for an event, either arrive or cancel with someone so this does not happen again. Shuffleboard began in January and they are going to start cornhole on Sunday afternoons as soon as the weather cooperates.

On January 20th Jay once again chaired the annual Pancake breakfast. Thank you Jay and helpers.

Tired of cooking? Check out the food truck at the clubhouse 2/20/24 4:30-6:30pm.

We are having an Italian Dinner and Game Night on March 1st. Dinner will be at 5pm and various games will follow. If you want drinks other than water or tea, you will have to bring your own. Other details will be noted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse or the VPE website.

Coming Events:

St Patty's Horse Races 3/17
Year End Picnic 3/23
Coffees 3/9 & 3/30

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DO YOU PLAY POKER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN?

You're invited to play Texas Hold'em (no limit) every Monday and Friday from 1:00PM to 3:30PM in the Clubhouse.

If you'd like to learn to play, please come to the Clubhouse at 12:30PM for a short introduction. (We assume that you know how to play basic poker).

EUCHRE

We're always looking for Euchre players on Monday nights and players for Hand & Foot on Friday evenings. We need 4-6 players for Hand & Foot. They are fun games and we'll teach you how to play!



HARLAN DOMBER

On Saturday, February 10th at 9:30am, Harlan Domber, attorney for the park, will be here for a Q&A session during our coffee hour.

Please submit questions using the GONDOLIER drop box by the Office by January 31st. These will be provided to him ahead of time.

VPE NFL SB PARTY

FEB 11, 2024

SB kickoff approx. 6:30pm

Trivia (football knowledge not required) and guess the winner plus \$1 and \$5 boards

Heavy hors d'oeuvre at 5:00pm till Game MVP announced

Bring your own snacks. B.Y.O.B.

Come join the party and cheer for your team with your VPE neighbors and watch the **GAME**, Commercials, and Half time.



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This is the first notice of election of Board of Directors for Venetian Park Estates, Inc. to take place on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM** at the **Annual Membership meeting** in the clubhouse. The three current directors' terms expiring this year are Louise, Novak, Glenn Newman and Pat Olson-McGee. The following procedures shall be followed according to the by-laws, article 4.2.

1. Advising each unit owner desiring to be a candidate for one of the three (3) vacancies on the Board of Directors shall give written notice to the Corporation, at 8885 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. 34238 on or before Friday, February 9, 2024.
2. At the meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the Board will accept any additional nominations for the Board of Director vacancies.
3. On an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper, the prospective candidate may provide their qualifications for the position of Director of the Corporation to the Secretary of the Board on or before February 9, 2024.
4. The Corporation will mail on or before February 16, 2024 to each member a list of Candidates, prior to the Annual Membership meeting with a ballot and copy of their qualifications.

CALVARY'S HILL QUARTET

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 6:30 pm

We are excited to announce that VPE will be Blessed that evening with a concert of Gospel music from Calvary's Hill Quartet.

Calvary's Hill operates completely on Faith and Free Will Offerings! You will not be disappointed in their musical talent. Invite your friends, families, and your church members to join us!

Friday, February 16, 2024 6:30pm in the clubhouse.



YOUR ASSESSMENTS ARE ABOUT TO GO UP AGAIN!

Act Now Before It Is Too Late!

The Florida Legislature is dangerously close to passing legislation that prohibits a Florida community association from charging a fee for the preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate!!! The text of Senate Bill 278, along with its companion House Bill 979, fully prohibits condominium and homeowners' associations from being able to charge the requesting party a fee for the preparation of the estoppel certificate. However, the professional who assists the association prepare and issue the estoppel, such as the attorney, will now charge the association and not the party who requested the estoppel. This year's legislative session starts very early, on January 9th. Your legislators need to hear from you that you do not want them to support these bills because they will cause financial harm to our association.

Why should we be stuck with the bill for the estoppel? This bill will fully shift the financial responsibility for the estoppel from the buyer or seller right on over to the association. In other words, the association still has to pay its agents, be it the management company or attorney, etc., to prepare the estoppel. At times it takes a lot of work, coordination and effort to timely issue the estoppel, let alone all of the liability that comes along with its issuance.

Please call or write to these legislators and tell them NO. You will not be asked to give your personal information.

Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka
(filed the bill)

209 House Office Building, 402 South Monroe
Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300, T
el: 850-717-5078

or

Suite 208, 2120 Main Street, Fort Myers, FL
33901-3010, Tel: 239-338-2328

Senator Joe Gruters
(VOTE NO FOR THE BILL 278)

381 Interstate Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240,
Tel: 941-378-6309

or

413 Senate Bldg., 404 South Monroe St.,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100, Tel: 850-487-5022

Representative Fiona McFarland
(VOTE NO FOR THE BILL 979)

212 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe St.,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300, Tel: 850-717-5073

or

Suite 206, 3131 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL
34239-5101, Tel: 941-361-2465

If you have any questions, please call the office.

Thank you,
Tony Turlenko
Office Manager
Venetian Park Estates, Inc.
8885 S Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34238
941-966-4622



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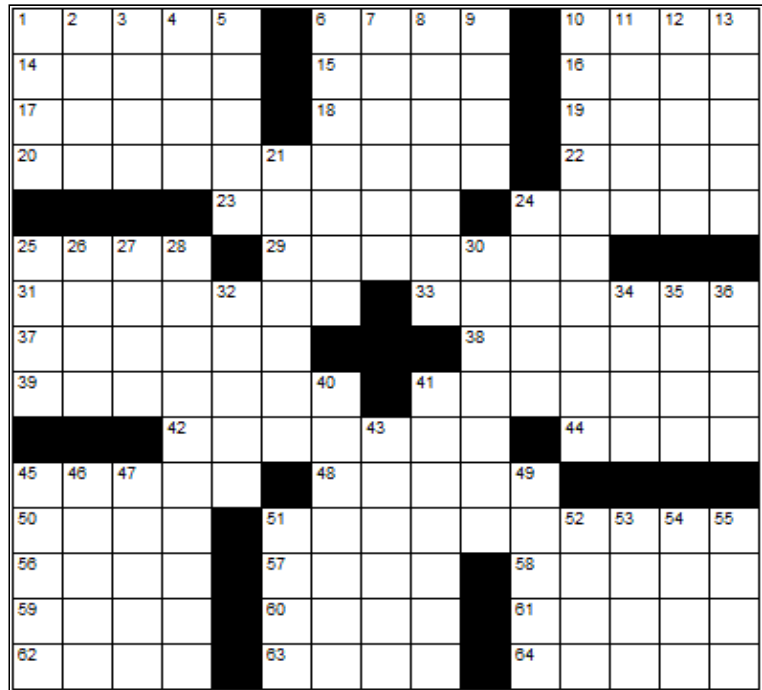
2024 WELCOME BACK PARTY FEATURING LISA RIDINGS BAND.



February Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Reliance
- 6. Taxis
- 10. Raindrop sound
- 14. Eagle's home
- 15. Affirm
- 16. Wealthy
- 17. Sail supports
- 18. Hindu princess
- 19. Aware of
- 20. Poulticing
- 22. Average
- 23. Grin
- 24. Pal
- 25. Stops
- 29. "Hush!"
- 31. Spotted feline
- 33. Cuddle
- 37. Ravel classic
- 38. Trader
- 39. Intestinal
- 41. Type of pony
- 42. Heat-related
- 44. Poi source
- 45. Thick-growing
- 48. They connect points
- 50. Nitpicky to a fault
- 51. In a slow, laborious manner
- 56. 5280 feet
- 57. Rodents
- 58. Red Sea peninsula
- 59. Sounds of disapproval
- 60. Curved molding
- 61. Economic down time
- 62. Hotels
- 63. Flippant
- 64. Affirmatives



DOWN

- 1. Pack down
- 2. Genuine
- 3. Celestial bear
- 4. Seats oneself
- 5. Quizzes
- 6. Toted
- 7. Services
- 8. Types of hat
- 9. Large and hurried swallow
- 10. Proclaim
- 11. Delineated
- 12. Group of eight
- 13. Fake
- 21. Involve deeply
- 24. Music genre
- 25. River to the North Sea
- 26. Used in advertising signs
- 27. Buffoon
- 28. Too shocked for words
- 30. Brought on
- 32. Impressive display
- 34. Pleased
- 35. Extend credit
- 36. Therefore
- 40. Montage
- 41. Way of thinking
- 43. Violent troublemaker
- 45. Famous baby deer
- 46. Labor organization
- 47. Beauty parlor
- 49. Pantywaist
- 51. Brace
- 52. Egyptian river
- 53. Wildebeests
- 54. Hardly believable
- 55. Puppy sounds



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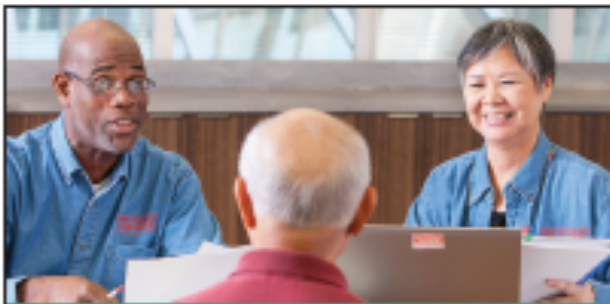
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How it works:

- 1 Patronize the advertisers in this month's newsletter
- 2 Ask the business for your Community Cash ticket **OR a copy of your receipt & clip this ad**
- 3 Mail it back to us at:
Community Media | 220 Bahama St. Venice, FL 34285
- 4 Every month we draw new tickets for **CASH PRIZES** and mail winners a check!

Every Month is a New Chance to Win!

ONE drawing for \$100 | TEN drawings for \$10

Winner	Vendor	Prize	Drawing Date - 1/10/2024
Donna Miller.....	Heller's Mobile Home Washing	\$100	
Joseph Fayocavitz	Ron Wyngarden Mobile Home Wash	\$10	
Dorothy Clegg	Battleline Termite & Pest Control	\$10	
Richard Dawley	Air Masters of Pinellas	\$10	
Pat Puerling	Bill the Carpet Guy	\$10	
Thomas Musko	Jones & Sons Plumbing	\$10	
Carol Mills.....	O.E. Wilson Insurance	\$10	
Martin Dietz.....	Battleline Termite & Pest Control	\$10	
Norma Torres Lugo	Boss Electric	\$10	
Thomas Leppanen	Community Roofing	\$10	
Valentine Pietrkiewicz	The Plumbing Patrol	\$10	

- Limit one ticket per advertiser's service per quarter (3 month period) •
- Customer must have paid for advertiser's service to play •
- Contest void where prohibited by law •
- Checks will be mailed within 120 days of drawing date •

Questions?: info@4communitymedia.com or 941-375-3699

FEBRUARY 2024

JANUARY
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

MARCH
S M T W T F S
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
4 Flea Market Clean Up volunteers needed in am	5 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 10:30am Dance lessons 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 pm Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 7pm Euchre	6 9:30 Exercise Sis's driveaway (2077 Ca D oro) 7pm Bingo	Jan 31 Flea Market set up- clubhouse closed.	1 9:30am Exercise Sis's driveaway Flea Market Setup clubhouse closed; flea mkt.open house for residents 2-4pm	2 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics Flea Market open 8-4 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 Flea Market Open 8-4
11 NFL SB GAME : Party	12 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 10:30am Dance lessons 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 pm Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 7pm Euchre <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13 9:30 Exercise Sis's driveaway (2077 Ca D oro) 7pm Bingo <i>Mardi Gras</i>	14 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water aerobics 6:30pm Mexican Dominoes Valentine Party <i>Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day</i>	8 9:30am Exercise Sis's driveaway 5pm Texas Holdem	9 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 pm Hand & Foot Drum Circle on the lawn	10 Coffee 9:30am speaker; Harlan Domber, park attorney
18	19 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 10:30am Dance lessons 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 pm Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 7pm Euchre <i>President's Day</i>	20 9:30 Exercise Sis's driveaway Food Truck: 4:30pm- 6:30pm 7pm Bingo	21 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water aerobics 6:30pm Mexican Dominoes	15 9:30am Exercise Sis's driveaway 5pm Texas Holdem	16 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 Calvary's Hill	17
25 Tom Cahalan, piano/ singer	26 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 10:30am Dance lessons 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 pm Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 7pm Euchre	27 9:30 Exercise Sis's driveaway (2077 Ca D oro) 7pm Bingo	28 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water aerobics 6:30pm Mexican Dominoes	22 9:30am Exercise Sis's driveaway 5pm Texas Holdem <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	23 9:30am Shuffleboard 10am Water Aerobics 1pm Texas Holdem 6:30 pm Hand & Foot	24 Coffee 9:30am.
				29 9:30am Exercise Sis's driveaway 5pm Texas Holdem	March 1 Italian dinner & games	

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