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March 2024



# March



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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 Edelmann..... Director  
Dennis Callan ..... Director

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:**

..... Chair  
..... Vice Chair  
Amy DeBruin ..... Secretary  
JoEllen Wuerzburger ..... Treasurer

Anne Heller..... Trustee  
..... 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



Board Meeting: March 20 at 9:30am.  
Annual Members Meeting: March 20 at 7pm.  
  
Activities Meeting: March 13 at 6:00pm.

**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).

Deadline for April 2024 Gondolier articles is: March 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..



## **VOTING**

Voting package for membership: Please know that VPE needs at least 132 residents to vote on the 3 ballot measures. So, PLEASE VOTE! If you have any questions regarding the ballots or voting procedures, please contact a Board member or the office. Packages can be mailed to you if necessary... contact the office 941-966-4622.



## **FROM THE OFFICE**

There were 3 openings for the Board of Directors.



Glenn Newman and Louise Novak submitted their written intention to re-run for the Board of Directors. JoEllen Wuerzburger nominated Terry Deer from the floor during the Feb. 14, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. Terry Deer has accepted the nomination. No further nominations were presented. Therefore all positions have been filled and a vote from the members is not necessary. Members will be sworn in at the Membership Meeting March 20, 2024.

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**



*by Amy Newman*

Phyllis Buechner has been a VPE resident since 1985. She and her late husband Ed began snowbirding in Sarasota several years prior at a mobile home park called Philippi Creek, which was sold and where The Landings high-rise now stands. As new retirees Phyllis and Ed would fish from their boat in Philippi Creek and elsewhere in the area. She boasts of a big sheepshead catch, the fish with the gnarly teeth, that spilled out of a 5-gallon bucket from her hand-over-hand efforts off a bridge at Lido/St. Armand's. Through friends, the couple heard of Venetian Park Estates, which at the time was not resident owned, and moved to 2130 Piazza in 1985. They became full-time residents in 1988. She and her husband were leaders in the drive to ascertain earnest money from the residents to purchase the park and incorporate. Aside from herself, Anita Wood and Jan Kostrzewski are the other residents who were involved in those early days of transition to becoming resident owned. Phyllis was on the VPE Board for three years as was

her husband before her.

She grew up in northeast Fort Wayne, Indiana, with one sister, and enjoyed spending time at Sylvan lake in Rome City, Indiana during her formative years. She had two children, John, who passed away, and Cindy, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



After her children were school age Phyllis worked in various part-time positions including managing the school lunch program.

As an independent travel agent, Phyllis organized many trips for the park residents to Orlando and elsewhere. One especially memorable trip was to Tennessee for Country Christmas with 50 park residents. Additionally, she and her husband enjoyed traveling via cruising to Alaska, Panama, and the Caribbean, and traveling to Germany among other locales. In later years, Phyllis has played bridge weekly with the Ralstons and Eddine Brill. She still enjoys counting ballots at the annual meeting and has a keen mind and knows many of the residents.

Just shy of 96 years old, when asked about any special memory or comments, Phyllis would like to say thank you to all of the neighbors and friends here who look after her since she quit driving two years ago, often picking up groceries and checking in. And thank you, Phyllis, for your part in the indefatigable drive to obtain our resident-owned community.



Free Balance classes will be offered in the Clubhouse every Wednesday for 8 weeks between 2-4 p.m. beginning March 27. Sign up sheet in the Clubhouse.

# Are you concerned about falling?

Instructors: Kelly Ward



MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

## A Matter of Balance

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

**March 27 - May 15**

**Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.**

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A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to help people learn practical strategies to manage falls and increase physical activity levels.

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- view falls as controllable
- set goals for increasing activity
- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength and balance

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- anyone concerned about falls
- anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- anyone who has fallen in the past
- anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

To register contact Kelly Ward at

[kelly.ward@flhealth.gov](mailto:kelly.ward@flhealth.gov)

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**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 6 Jeannie Porter
- 8 Sue Loolen
- 9 Debra Denning  
Billie Hurley
- 10 Phyllis Murphy
- 15 Amy Newman  
Ruby Ralston
- 16 Bill Milsop
- 18 Terry Deer  
Paul Pinkham
- 20 Bob Brodeur
- 21 Robert Hawthorne  
Linda Nelson
- 26 Cathi Censki
- 28 Doreen Moser  
Tina Pontoni



**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

by Cheryl Smith



These green beans are a favorite of my grandkids. They will make a nice side dish with ham or lamb with your Easter dinner.

**Bacon Braised Green Beans**

- Olive oil
- (2) smashed garlic cloves (not chopped)
- Pinch crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2# button mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2# thick bacon, cut into small pieces
- 1# fresh green beans, cut into 1" pieces
- 1 C. chicken broth

Coat a large skillet with olive oil. Add bacon, garlic and red pepper flakes and cook over medium heat until the bacon is brown and crispy and no fat on it. Throw out the garlic and all but a small amount of the bacon grease. Add the mushrooms, season with a little salt and cook 2-3 minutes. Add the beans and chicken stock. Cover and cook over medium heat for 40-45 minutes. (If the liquid reduces too much just add a little water.) Remove the lid and cook until almost all of the liquid is gone. When done the beans will be very tender.



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

Ray and Jane Jack March 23, 1979



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

CONSIDER STEPPING UP TO CHAIR THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL (3/10) OR THE EASTER DINNER (3/31)

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# **MARCH ACTIVITIES REPORT**



by Deb Cinco

February started with the Flea Market. This was a very successful event bringing in over \$5000 for the Activities Committee. It has been discussed that next year Gina Miller and her sister are going to set up a cafe to sell coffee/donuts and hotdogs. This will bring in more funds for activities.

We had a great turnout for the Valentine's Dinner (49 in attendance). Lasagna, salad, bread, and dessert were served. There was a total of \$165.29 profit made. The drum circle was a hit and there will be several other days of the drum circle. The last Saturday of each month at 7pm will be Trivia.

We have 3 new members for the Activities Committee for the '24-'25 year; Paula Neumeier, Brenda Park, and Joe Ranuro. They will be replacing Deb Cinco, Cathy Censki, and Jan Coble.

Our next meeting will be March 13th at 6pm.

## **COMING EVENTS**

March 1st	Spaghetti Dinner & Game Night	5:00 PM
March 3rd	Drum Circle on the Lawn	6:00 PM
March 9th	Coffee	9:30 AM
March 10th	Ice Cream Social - Tentative	ONLY IF CHAIRED
March 13th	Activity Board Meeting	6:00 PM
March 17th	St. Patrick's Day Horse Races	7:00 PM
March 20th	Board Meeting	9:30AM
March 20th	Annual Members Meeting	7:00PM
March 23rd	Year End Park Picnic	4:00 PM
March 24th	Drum Circle on the Lawn	7:00 PM
March 30th	Coffee	9:30 AM
March 30th	Trivia Night	6:45 PM
March 31st	Easter Dinner - Tentative	ONLY IF CHAIRED



\*All of us sincerely appreciate the time and talent of our Activities Committee members.. We enjoyed so many great new events this season. Thank you Deb, Cathy, and Jan. Welcome Paula, Brenda, and Joe.

## **BAD DAD JOKES**

Q. Why is everyone so tired on April 1?  
 A. Because they just finished a long 31 day March.

Q. What do you call a fake diamond in Ireland?  
 A. A sham-rock.



Q. What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four leaf clover?  
 A. A rash of bad luck.

Q. Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?  
 A. Because real rocks are too heavy.

Q. What did the Irish potato say to his true love?  
 A. I only have eyes for you.

## **II DAY TRIP (PIE DAY)**

March 14 at Der Dutchman on Bahia Vista. We will car pool from the Clubhouse at 1:30pm. Please sign up by March 13 at the Clubhouse.

See Mike Anderson for details 812-616-0335



## **VPE R.O.M.E.O.'S LUNCH;**

Place to be determined. Thursday March 21. Leave the Clubhouse at 11:30am. Sign up sheet will be in the Clubhouse.



## CORNHOLE

The Gondolier Activities Calendar now shows Cornhole on Sundays at 2:00 PM.

However the Cornhole equipment is available to all residents and their guests to use anytime they wish.

The boards and bags are stored in an all weather container located behind the clubhouse on the back patio area.

The Cornhole "court" area is located just outside the pool fence on the east side of the pool by the sidewalk. There are new concrete pads for tossing the bags. The boards are available to all. We just ask that the equipment be used in the designated area and not be taken to anyone's home.



## GIANT JENGA

Giant Jenga game is located in the clubhouse for your entertainment. This was donated for all to use from a shareholder! Thank you to our 'Neighbor helping neighbors'!



## SUNSHINE NEWS

by Cassie Dionne



Lorraine Bailey remains in Rehab at this printing. She is recovering from a fall with broken bones. We send our warmest wishes for her recovery. Cards may be sent to: 2241 Gondola Drive Sarasota 34238. Cell:203-640-4476.

Jake Jacobsen was hospitalized in January with pneumonia. He has returned home. Cards and get well wishes go to 2257 Ca D Oro Dr. Sarasota 34238.



## THANK YOU CORNER

Cheryl Ludwig wishes to thank all for their get well wishes as she recovers from a broken ankle. Special thanks to Judy and Joyce for their delicious soups; to Lee and Jack for lending me the scooter; to Ed for searching FB Marketplace for equipment; to Cecile, Kelly and others for their offers of help. And to my sisters, Cindi and Cassie and bro in law, Ray for being by my side day and night. God bless you all!



KUDOS to the staff in charge of the **Valentines Dinner**, it was great. The pasta meal was delicious, salad good and desserts were gone before you knew it. Good job !!!

FANTASTIC DINNER .❤️..thank you Cathy and all your helpers!!!!

It was delicious!!! Salad, home made lasagne, Italian bread, lots of desserts and beverages!! All for \$5.00 !! What a deal! 50/50 winner received \$41.00 congrats to Barbara. Thanks to Cathy Censki and crew, all did a great job.

A big thank you to Debbie for all the time and love put into her delicious homemade lasagna for the Valentine's dinner. Thank you also to all those who served and helped put it together. It was a gift.



*Enjoying a Valentine dinner with friends and neighbors at the club house. The ladies did a fantastic job, the food was fantastic along with the company.*

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## TAX TIME

Free tax preparation with AARP Tax Aide begins February 5th!

It's almost time to do your 2023 taxes, so please drop by at one of the locations/times below to make an appointment at one of the preparation sites below in the Venice area. Tax preparation services will take place from February 5 to April 11.

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Venice Community Center	9:00am – 3:45pm	9:00am – 3:45pm	Closed	11:00am – 6:45pm	Closed
Jacaranda Library	Closed	10:00am – 4:45pm	Closed	10:00am – 4:45pm	Closed
Woodmere Park	9:00am – 4:45pm	Closed	9:00am – 4:45pm	Closed	9:00am – 12:45pm

To check for other sites near you, check the AARP website at the following link and search for locations in Sarasota County, Florida, USA: [https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/locations/](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/)

The Venice area AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program provides in-person tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide is the largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program in the U.S.

Tax-Aide offers tax preparation services on an appointment basis in the Venice area. Taxpayers visit one of the sites and make an appointment where they receive instructions and preparation tools. At the tax preparation appointment, the taxpayer sits with a Tax Aide volunteer addressing questions while the return is prepared. Once completed a second volunteer will review the return for correctness and with the taxpayer. Upon agreement with the taxpayer, the return will then be filed.

### **Why it matters**

The U.S. tax code is complicated. As a result, many taxpayers overpay, turn to services they can't afford, or don't file — missing out on credits and deductions they've earned.

### **What we do — and how we do it**

During the 2022 tax season, more than 25,000 volunteers provided taxpayers in over 3,000 communities with free tax preparation and filing services. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.

For the 2022 tax season, more than 25,000 volunteers served more than 1.2 million taxpayers, nearly 700,000 of whom were adults over 50 with low income. Tax-Aide participants saved more than \$1 billion in refunds and credits; older adults with low income saved almost \$375 million.

### **APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE IN PERSON.**

**SITE STAFF AT VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER, JACARANDA LIBRARY AND WOODMERE PARK CANNOT MAKE APPOINTMENTS.**

**APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE AT ALL VENICE TAX-AIDE LOCATIONS DURING NORMAL TAX-AIDE HOURS. LAST APPT OF THE DAY 75 MIN BEFORE CLOSE.**

Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave S. Venice, FL 34285 (Closed 2/19 & 2/29)

Jacaranda Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd Venice, FL 34293

Woodmere Park. 3951 Woodmere Park Blvd Venice, FL 34293 (Closed 3/11,3/13,3/15)

This song was found by Activities Comm members who were sorting old music from the player piano. Submitted by Mary Jo Zajeski. Enjoy...folks haven't changed much in 30 years!

## OUR VENETIAN PARK

Sung to tune "Oh Tannenbaum"

Venetian Park, Venetian Park, oh how we all adore you  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, where air is clean, lawns neat and green  
 We have a pleasant office staff, play cards, complain, know how to laugh  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, a Haven for us old folks.

Venetian Park, Venetian Park, we own our homes we own our lot  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, far better than a cemetery plot  
 Play shuffleboard, feed gators, ducks, enjoy our pool, potlucks  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, what would we do without you.

Venetian Park, Venetian Park, on Tuesdays we have Bingo night  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, where Herbie called the numbers right.  
 Bicycles keep our limbs from creaking, we jog to keep old age from creeping.  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, a Sarasota Paradise.

Venetian Park, Venetian Park, where security is stable  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, kind volunteers are able  
 We go to bed and sleep all night, knowing all's well till morning light  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, we thank you all and love you.

Venetian Park, Venetian Park, where friendship grows and gossip flows  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, where willing hands, gratitude demands,  
 I ask you most sincerely, is this not living heavenly?  
 Venetian Park, Venetian Park, what the hell would we do without you?

Written by Elinor de Torri Hudson  
 Christmas 1990



**March 10th**



# SCS

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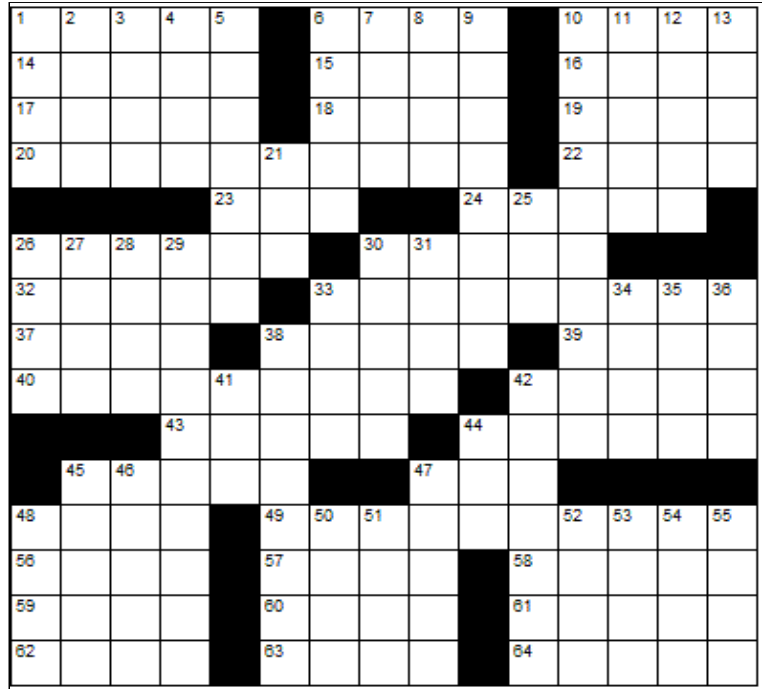
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# March Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1. Fire remnant
- 6. Clean
- 10. Noggin
- 14. Sorceress
- 15. Away from the wind
- 16. Therefore
- 17. Respond
- 18. Big bash
- 19. Annual high school dance
- 20. The criminal class
- 22. Pitch
- 23. Anagram of "One"
- 24. Fatigued
- 26. Highway divider
- 30. Musical genre
- 32. Occurrence
- 33. Stalemates
- 37. Dispatched
- 38. Villain
- 39. Egyptian river
- 40. Comes before
- 42. Small and light boat
- 43. Avarice
- 44. Aureate
- 45. Transparent green gemstone
- 47. Male child
- 48. Fizzy drink
- 49. Quenchless
- 56. He writes in stanzas
- 57. Neophyte, in modern slang
- 58. Cloudless
- 59. Ammunition
- 60. Chutzpah
- 61. Once more
- 62. Russian emperor
- 63. Footwear
- 64. Spear



**DOWN**

- 1. Beige
- 2. Bearing
- 3. Small fastener
- 4. Behold, in old Rome
- 5. Withdrawal
- 6. Cart
- 7. Winglike
- 8. Peddle
- 9. Oncoming breeze
- 10. Having seven sides
- 11. Mistake
- 12. Suffering
- 13. Covered stadium
- 21. Was victorious
- 25. Finish
- 26. Plateau
- 27. Not odd
- 28. Depression
- 29. A person who integrates
- 30. Horse
- 31. Grows pale
- 33. Adjacent
- 34. Discover
- 35. Ice sheet
- 36. Observed
- 38. Impressions
- 41. Weep
- 42. Cone-shaped
- 44. Obtained
- 45. Prolonged loud noises
- 46. Swelling
- 47. Expensive fur
- 48. Expectored
- 50. He built the ark
- 51. Alone
- 52. Seaweed
- 53. Leguminous plant
- 54. Nonclerical
- 55. Sea eagle



# MARCH 2024

FEBRUARY  
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

APRIL  
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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner & Game Night 5:00 PM	2
3 Drum Circle on the Lawn 6:00 PM	4 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Dance Lessons 10:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	5 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Golf Check-in @ Clubhouse 8:00 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	6 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM	7 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	8 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	9 Coffee 9:30 AM
10 Ice Cream Social - Tentative Daylight Savings Begins @ 2am	11 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Dance Lessons 10:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	12 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Golf Check-in @ Clubhouse 8:00 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	13 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM Activity Board Meeting 6:00 PM	14 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	15 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	16
17 St. Patrick's Day Horse Races 7:00 PM St. Patrick's Day	18 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Dance Lessons 10:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	19 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Golf Check-in @ Clubhouse 8:00 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM First Day of Spring	20 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM Board Meeting 9:30 AM Annual Members Meeting 7:00 PM	21 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	22 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	23 Year End Park Picnic 4:00 PM
24 Drum Circle on the Lawn 7:00 PM Palm Sunday	25 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Dance Lessons 10:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	26 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Golf Check-in @ Clubhouse 8:00 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	27 Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM	28 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Cad'oro 9:30 AM Shuffleboard 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	29 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	30 Coffee 9:30 AM Trivia Night 6:45 PM Holy Saturday
31 Easter Dinner - Tentative Easter					Good Friday	

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