

# VENETIAN PARK ESTATES GONDOLIER

March 2026

Hello  
March



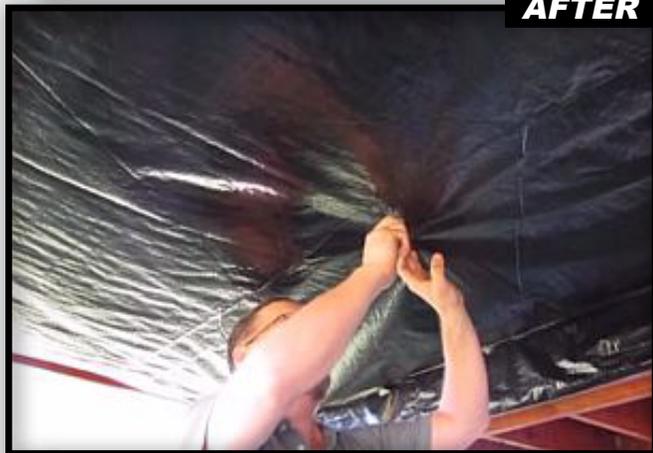


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**GONDOLIER STAFF:**

**Submissions** ..... Gina Miller  
Email: ..... gmgondolier@gmail.com  
**Anniversaries/Birthdays** ..... Gina Miller  
**Sunshine Reporter** ..... Cassie Dionne  
**Activities**..... Brenda Park  
**Getting To Know You**..... Amy Newman  
**Recipes**..... Cheryl Smith



From left seated: Amy DeBruin, Katie Strand, Anne Heller. From left standing: Barb Orebaugh, JwoEllen Wuerzburger, Paula Neumeier, Brenda Park

Being part of this Activity Committee means that they are one of seven members that are considered the Engagement Team within VPE. These are not the only residents that are part of this committee. Every resident within VPE is part of this Activity committee and are able to Host Events, with support from this Engagement team. If you are interested in supporting this Engagement team, please reach out to any of them.

**Please note** – call Community Media – 941-375-3699 for **ALL ADS**, or e-mail newsletter@4communitymedia.com

**MEETINGS**  
March Board of Directors Meeting  
March 18 9:30am  
Membership meeting  
March 18 7pm  
Board Organization meeting  
After membership meeting  
March Activities Meeting  
March 23 11am

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**  
The deadline for submissions for our April Gondolier is March 16th. Please submit to Gina Miller at gmgondolier@gmail.com. Send good quality pictures as an attachment to an email.



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

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

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

By Cheryl Smith



It has been unusually cold so far this winter so a rich, hearty soup sounds great. This soup is one of my favorites. In just 35 minutes you can have a comforting dinner on the table.

**Ham and Potato Soup**

- 1 T. oil
- 2 large carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. garlic, minced
- 1 t. dried parsley
- ½ t. dried thyme
- ¼ t. pepper
- 4 C. low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 # russet potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 C. cooked ham, chopped or shredded
- 1 ham bone
- ¼ C. butter
- 2 T. flour
- 1 ½ C. heavy cream
- 1 C. cheddar cheese, shredded
- Shredded cheese and sliced green onions for garnish

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

Ray and Jane Jack      March 23, 1979



If you would like your birthday and or anniversary included in the Gondolier contact Gina Miller at [gmgondolier@gmail.com](mailto:gmgondolier@gmail.com) or call (260) 246-3551.

**BIBLE STUDY**

By Keith Elcock



Bible study continues to be a blessing every Thursday morning at 8am in the clubhouse. All are welcome.

**BINGO!!**

By Deb Cinco



Bingo continues every Tuesday evening. The crowds are getting larger and that means the pots are larger too! Come down to the clubhouse before 6:45pm to buy your cards and join in the fun!

In a large soup pot, heat oil. Add carrots, onion and celery. Sauté until soft, about 4-5 minutes. Add salt, garlic, thyme and pepper and cook for one minute. Add chicken broth, ham, ham bone and potatoes to the pot. Scrape the bottom with a wooden spoon to remove any browned bits. Bring to a simmer.

When the potatoes are tender, remove the ham bone and pull the meat from it and stir back in. Now whisk the flour and melted butter into the cream and stir into the soup. Simmer 1-2 minutes more or until thickened a little. Add the cheese. Before serving, top with additional cheese and green onions.



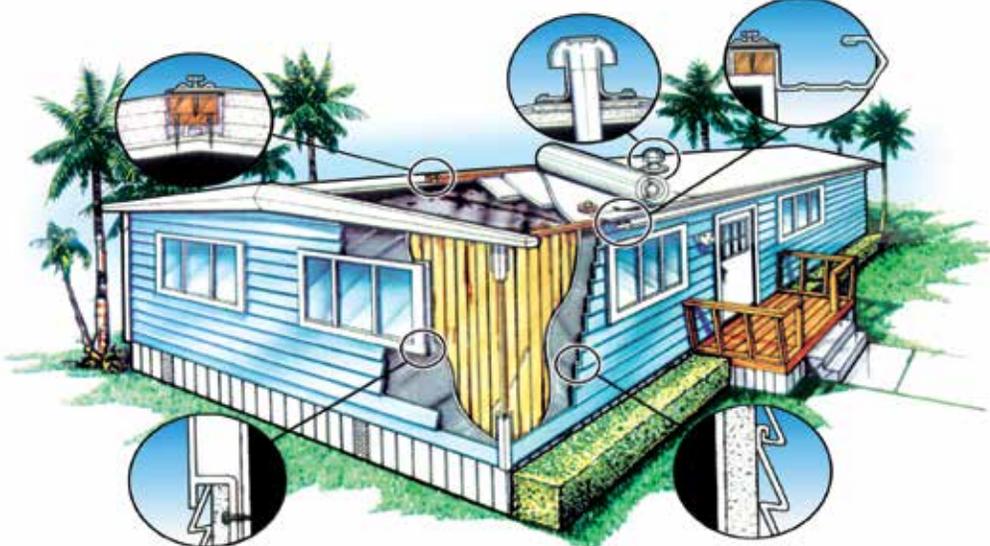


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## **SUNSHINE CORNER**

By Cassie Dionne



It's good to see Larry Fisher of Chez Vous Dr. back in Sarasota following a period of ill health this winter. Welcome back Larry!

John Fortin, a former resident of Chez Vous Dr., is having a 100th Birthday Celebration given by his family in his northern residence in NH. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from you. He and his wife Natalie (now deceased), lived here for many years. They brought joy to our community and we miss them. His address is The Residence at Silver Square 100 Sterling Way Dover, NH 03820.

Paul Miller had carotid artery surgery recently. He is now at home and doing well. He was riding his bicycle up to the Flea Market last weekend! Paul and Gina thank you for your prayers and well wishes. Paul's address is 2152 Palazza Dr.

Jerry Ralston has been hospitalized recently. He is recovering in rehab at Sarasota Point Rehab Center 2600 Courtland St. Sarasota 34237. Cards, phone calls and visits are welcome (call first, 941-331-4362). Jerry and Ruby's cell is 941-780-7419.

Lee Kohlmeier is recovering from recent surgery. Cards may be sent to 2135 Ca'D'oro Drive.

Alice Chafer had surgery earlier in February, she is home and recovered. Address: 2183 Ca'D'oro Drive.

Patty Boston has passed away after experiencing some health problems this year. Our deepest sympathy to her daughter Kim, who also lives in the park. Patty and Kim lived together at 2161 Palazza Dr.. They have been residents for many years. She could often be seen walking her niece's dog. Julie Weiss told me Patty had lived on a boat when she was younger. Cards may be sent to her daughter, Kim Boston 2161 Palazza Dr..

Ellen Matthews, another long time resident of Ca'D'oro Dr. until last year, has passed away. She has a daughter and a son. When I receive more information, I'll post it. Our sympathy to her family.

I still have not heard from Jake Jacobsen's family. When I receive an address for you to send a card, I'll post it. Jake passed in December. We miss him.

We are losing our VPE "veterans" at an alarming rate. Let folks know you appreciate them while they're still here.

## **BOOK CLUB**



The book club is going strong with members voicing how much they enjoy it. The next meeting is on Thursday, March 19th at 1pm. The library has many new books and has introduced an "Author of the Month" which has become quite popular. If you haven't recently checked out the library, come see what's new.

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

by Amy Newman



As the fourth couple to buy into VPE from neighboring Royal Palms this past year, Tom and Karen Zajac are the proud owners of 2240 Ca'D'Oro, formerly owned by Bill and Joyce Hayes. The couple's primary home is in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where both were born and raised. A historic city, Uniontown was established on July 4, 1776, and is located in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, approximately 40 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Fort Necessity was the site of a pivotal battle where George Washington's forces (1754) surrendered to the French and its allies, marking the beginning of the war that would lead to the American Revolution.

Mining coal was a major industry for the area located near Maryland and West Virginia of



which Tom was a fourth-generation coal miner. His career included mechanical work in the mine followed by 15 years as the safety/union rep and where he additionally investigated explosions in mines all over the country, the UK, and Nova Scotia. He also worked as an elected International Executive Board Member for the United Mine Workers of America. Upon retirement Tom managed his rental properties which were primarily laundromats.

After her children were raised, Karen pursued a

Licensed Practical Nursing degree where she then worked in a nursing home setting for nine years in the Alzheimer's unit followed by working as a private nurse for children with special needs which eventually became part time when she and Tom began snowbirding a decade or so ago.

After being introduced by coworkers in 1999 and married several years later, the couple keeps busy with their blended family consisting of Tom's three sons and Karen's son and daughter and now includes 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Tom loves to garden from seed and together the couple cans the fruit (or veggies) of their labor. Other significant interests include golfing, biking, boating, and RV trips out west in particular, and have their sights on a trip to the northeast, where they have yet to visit.

The Zajacs have jumped into VPE by joining aerobics and shuffleboard. They often attend concerts at Centennial Park in Venice and await the reopening of another favorite, Snook Haven. Welcome to the park, Tom and Karen. We look forward to getting to know you!

## **PUBLIC SERVICE** **ANNOUNCEMENT**

*By Tony Turlenko Office Manager*

Many of our neighbors have health challenges, or are without reliable transportation. They could use a helping hand with simple but important tasks. We are looking for volunteers who can occasionally assist with:

- Grocery shopping or picking up prescriptions
- Providing rides to medical or other essential appointments

Helping with small errands

Even a few hours a month can make a big difference in someone's life. If you are willing to volunteer, please let us know your availability and the type of help you are comfortable providing.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this kind of support, we would love to hear from you as well. To volunteer or request help, please contact the office by phone or email. Together, we can ensure that no one in our community feels alone or unsupported. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve your neighbors.

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## **TRIVIA NIGHT**

Trivia, hosted by Pat McGee, will be March 14 at 6:30pm. Get your teams together now (2-8 people) and sign up at the clubhouse. Come join us for some fun with your neighbors and make new friends!

## **LADIES LUNCHEON**

The monthly ladies luncheon is on March 26th at noon. Meet at the clubhouse at 11:30am if you need a ride, Paradise Grill, 1097 N. Tamiami Trl in Nokomis is the site of the March luncheon. Come join in the fun! Please sign up in the clubhouse.

## **STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

It's that time again. COME AND GET IT!

There will be a strawberry social on March 8th from 2-4pm. Tickets will be sold door to door for \$5 or for \$6 at the door.

Contact Pam Seitz or Joan Flanagan for advance tickets if you are missed at your door.

## **DRIVEWAY AEROBICS W/SIS**

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am 2077 Ca'D'Oro

## **TEXAS HOLD'EM**

Everyone is welcome to play Texas Hold'em on Monday and Friday at 12:45 and on Thursdays at 4:45. If you know poker hands, we can easily teach you. Or if you already know how to play, come on down to the clubhouse and join in!

## **ROMEO'S**

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

@ GECKO'S

Thursday March 19, 2026

Leave the clubhouse at 11:30

## **ROMEO'S "HOOTER'S DAY OUT"**



## **NFL CHAMPIONSHIP PARTY**



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## **MARTIN HOUSES ARE BACK**

*Courtesy of Ty Ridenour and Jeff Edelman*



## **COFFEE HOUR**

Who's Smarter than a 65th Grader? was the theme during the Sponsored Coffee Hour by Sunshield Agency on January 24th. Chris Murray returned with his quarterly presentation on Medicare and Medicaid updates. He quizzed our residents on their knowledge and rewarded them with prizes in hand such as a stack of \$2 bills and donated bottles of wine.



## **WELCOME BACK PARTY**

The Welcome Back Fiesta Party was held on Jan. 18th with 118 tickets sold. This was chaired by a committee member, JoEllen, as well as supported by all the remaining Committee members, either by clubhouse staging, décor or serving Mexican style food to



the residents. After dinner, we were able to boogie down on the dance floor with music provided by a returning favorite, Ramona Hermansa. As this Committee Chair, I recognize how this was a good example of how each of these Activity Committee members volunteered their time to pull off such a wonderful evening for this community and I personally want to say 'Thank You' to not only them but also to Carolyn Wood who supplied homemade salsa, guacamole and beans



## **COMMITTEE POSITIONS**

The Activities Committee had announced openings for all (7) positions with only (2) nominees coming forth. It was decided during the February Activities Committee mtg. to continue to accept nominations up until the March BOD/Membership mtg. This is to try and prompt more volunteers to come forward and be nominated. If a minimum number of nominees do not come forth, there will be no election held and no Committee going forward. There are options to revise the Charter, if a minimum of (5) nominees would step forth, and allow the Committee to go forward. The new date for the March Activities meeting will be the 23rd. What does this mean to this community? All monies that have been raised, including this year, will be turned over to the Board of Directors to control. If a resident is wanting to volunteer to host an event, they will need to seek approval and monies from the BOD. Please plan to attend the Membership mtg on the 18th to gain a better understanding of where we stand with nominees and if this gap can be resolved, to allow an Activities Committee to go forward.

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## **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!!**

If you enjoy park events or if you would like to see changes or additions to that event schedule, step up and join the Activities Committee! We need people to volunteer to serve on the committee and be part of the planning process. Committee members are not required to do all the work at events. The function of the committee is to schedule events and coordinate volunteers. Your involvement is limited to the time that you are willing and able to give. Let's keep our park vibrant and active! Everyone has something to contribute so lend your talents to the committee and get to know your neighbors, make good friends and have good times! Any questions, ask any current Activities Committee member. You won't be alone, we have at least 2 volunteers and possibly 3, and so many people who are offering help.



## **GALENTINE'S CELEBRATION**

Pretty in Pink was part of the theme at the Galentine's Celebration that was held on Valentine's Day. The event was kicked off with a toast of bubbly from the Mimosa bar on Empowerment of Women. The clubhouse was decorated in hues of pink with an abundance of flower arrangements filling the décor. If you were a romantic and were knowledgeable enough on Valentine's trivia you had a chance to walk away with one of these arrangements that the Activities Committee members created to support the theme. Trivia, not your game? You still had a random chance to win a bottle of wine, just by choosing your seat. This winner was selected by cupid's arrow under your dinner plate. A light lunch was served with finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, cookies and of course, chocolate-dipped strawberries. Every woman was given the opportunity to share romantic, funny stories or maybe just fun facts or memories of loved ones. The twist on our traditional tea party was received well by 24 guests and hosted by Paula Neumeier with support from the Activities Committee. Much appreciation goes to Mary Jo Zajeski for volunteering to help with the event preparation. To keep your memories, a bench, backdrop, flowers and bubbles were provided to take a quick snapshot.



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## **ABC YEAR END PUBLIC SALE**

A true sense of community filled the clubhouse on the first day of the year end public sale by the sheer number of volunteers that showed to help move tables. It did not stop there, we continued this same day to pull items from the shed and set up in the clubhouse, which lightened the load for the next day of staging. Many of the volunteers were anxious to get started with actual sales, since they were given first dibs on making purchases. This felt well received from all and was provided to them as a 'Thank You' for their support. The next day of sales was an opportunity for residents only and gave them a jump on some high-end items before opening to the public. Public sales began on Friday, with a line of yearly customers standing outside the clubhouse doors 45 minutes early. The fresh, new 'boutique' look was received well by all, based on comments and feedback from customers. This excitement continued throughout the day. As items sold, they would be replaced on mannequins, furniture/décor rearranged to be sold to the very next customer. Items sold so quickly on the first day of sales we were able to bring the outside holiday decorations inside and condense them from the back patio and shed. This brought some warmth to the volunteers, literally, since we were having such a cold spell with our Florida weather. As you entered the clubhouse on the second day of public sales you were greeted by a volunteer providing you with a bag to fill for just \$3. This hyped up the sales and moved our donations very quickly from tables. This allowed us to get a jump start on table removal and get items back into storage before the sale ended. This was received so well that we had to stop the sale at around 1:30pm, versus the scheduled end time of 4pm. As tables were cleared of only a few remaining items, they were loaded back into the shed to be sold the following year. What did it take to pull off this new 'Let's Make A Deal' style sale? I had over 50 volunteers help in one way or another, from parking, setting up, staging, selling or providing meals. Our Café Coney Dog Meal Deal was provided to each volunteer as well as sales to the public. I know what you are all waiting to hear.....Was it worth the time and effort? Yes, it was! I am proud to announce that this Sale was able to net \$5420 and provide food for our volunteers as well as some great deals on their purchases. I want to send out a huge 'Thank You' to all volunteers for their time and efforts that

they put forth to allow this to be such a success. Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you all so much for your concern and prayers. I really believe my recovery was a miracle, helped along by prayer. Your cards, calls, and food meant a lot to me. It is wonderful to live in a place where you are surrounded by friends that feel like family.

Paul Miller

## **THANK YOU FROM CALVARY'S HILL**

Scotty Baker, Kevin Smith, Richard Toms and the guys of Calvary's Hill want to thank Venetian Park Estates from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to be a part of this last week. Each of the guys have told me about people coming up to them saying how much they enjoyed the group's singing and their company. I myself loved talking with Ms Phillis, Paul, Sue, David, Angel, Danny, Ms Carolyn M. B., several Mikes, and many others. Richard and I enjoyed playing poker with everyone who played on Thursday. The group has received a number of replies about how great the evening was Thursday and asking when we would be returning? Each one of the members wants to thank everyone who came to hear us. We pray blessings upon everyone in the park who was at the singing and those who were not. We also pray we will be able to return next year in February. It has been our honor to be with everyone at the Estates and may the Lord Bless y'all.



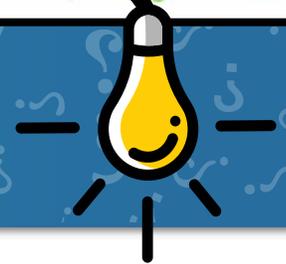
# ST. PATRICK'S DAY HORSE RACES

By Gina Miller

Bring your \$1 bills and your senses of humor and come to the annual horse races. Wear some green and get in the spirit by backing your favorite horse or jockey. Proceeds go to the Activities Committee. Light refreshments will be offered. Byodrinks (anything). 50/50. Get ready to laugh and have some fun.



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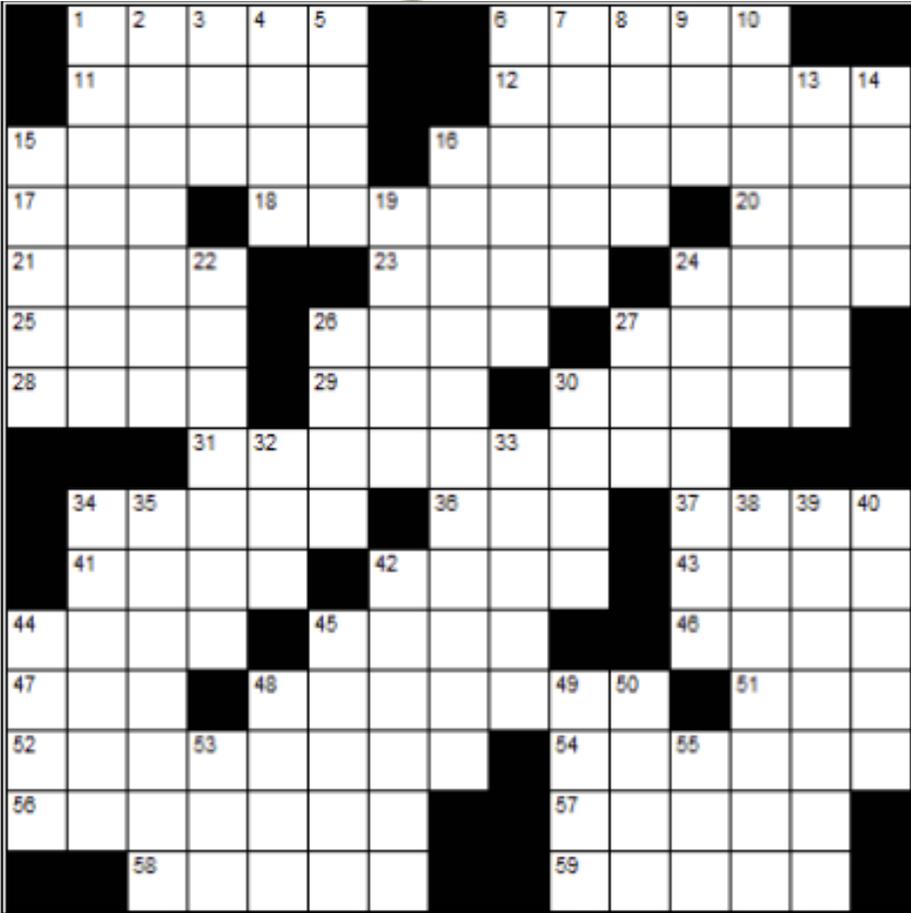
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# MARCH CROSSWORD

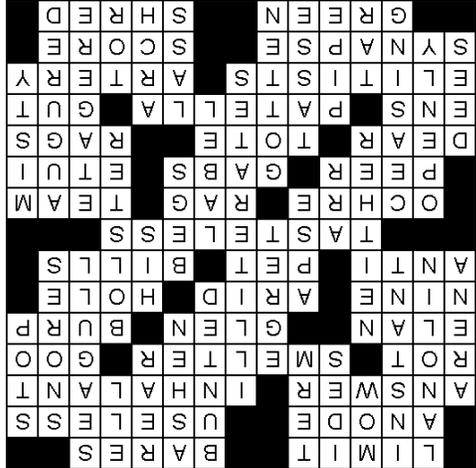


**ACROSS**

- 1. Boundary
- 6. Reveals
- 11. Battery terminal
- 12. Futile
- 15. Reply
- 16. Nasal spray, for example
- 17. Decay
- 18. Metal refinery
- 20. Sticky stuff
- 21. Distinctive flair
- 23. Secluded valley
- 24. Belch
- 25. One less than 10
- 26. Dry
- 27. Puncture
- 28. Against
- 29. Animal companion
- 30. Invoices to pay
- 31. Flashy
- 34. Earth tone
- 36. Small piece of cloth
- 37. A cooperative unit
- 41. Jury member
- 42. Chats
- 43. Decorative case
- 44. Darling
- 45. Carry
- 46. Tatters
- 47. N N N
- 48. Kneecap
- 51. Destroy the interior of
- 52. Snobs
- 54. Blood vessel
- 56. Nerve junction
- 57. Tally
- 58. Color of most grasses
- 59. Rip up

**DOWN**

- 1. Ointment ingredient
- 2. Blink of an eye
- 3. Cut grass
- 4. Mid-month days
- 5. Duration
- 6. Tapped without swinging
- 7. Pale
- 8. Towards the back
- 9. Addition
- 10. Mostly white aquatic bird
- 13. Breathes noisily while sleeping
- 14. Cease
- 15. Sporting venue
- 16. Nonreaders
- 19. Wading bird
- 22. Not one or the other
- 24. Fortify
- 26. Abbey area
- 27. Not hers
- 30. Pleads
- 32. Arrange (abbrev.)
- 33. Record company
- 34. Candidly
- 35. Discontinuing
- 38. Knickknack holder
- 39. Foretold
- 40. Foggy
- 42. Received
- 44. D D D
- 45. Thigh armor
- 48. Tube
- 49. Young woman
- 50. Curve
- 53. Driveway surface
- 55. Craggy peak



# March Word Search

L	E	M	C	L	E	A	R	E	P	O	R	T
U	N	R	O	F	Z	G	T	U	B	E	D	R
N	A	L	U	N	D	E	R	W	A	Y	M	O
A	I	E	A	T	T	E	R	E	C	K	O	P
R	C	A	V	E	C	H	S	O	M	E	B	S
E	I	A	H	I	P	E	M	P	C	E	I	N
D	N	E	L	C	T	P	T	A	I	K	L	A
E	H	O	R	W	L	A	A	I	J	T	E	R
E	C	C	L	I	A	R	R	T	H	O	E	T
P	E	E	C	C	T	R	E	E	R	C	R	Q
S	T	A	N	D	K	N	C	G	P	U	R	H
N	T	N	X	N	I	G	E	B	A	M	S	A
E	X	P	E	N	D	I	T	U	R	E	I	T

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 technician  
 tier  
 transport  
 tree  
 trust  
 underway  
 vane



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- Better Protection from the Elements
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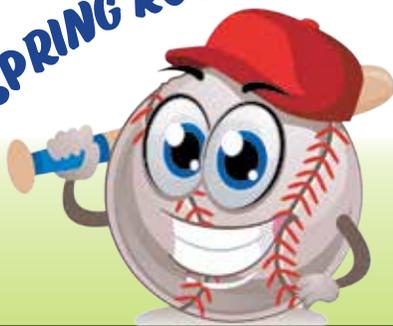


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# MARCH 2026

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

APRIL  
S M T W T F S  
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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	2 Shuffleboard 9:30am Water aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Rummikube 6pm Games 6:30pm	3 Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Bingo 6:45pm	4 Shuffleboard 9:30am Water Aerobics 10am Dominoes 6:30pm	5 Bible Study 8am Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Shuffleboard 9:30am Hold'em 5pm	6 Water Aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Hand and Foot 6pm	7 Coffee 9:30am
8 Strawberry Social 2pm  Daylight Savings Begins @ 2am	9 Shuffleboard 9:30am Water aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Rummikube 6pm Games 6:30pm	10 Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Fibernow mtg 10-4 Bingo 6:45pm	11 Shuffleboard 9:30am Water Aerobics 10am Fibernow mtg 10-4 Dominoes 6:30pm	12 Bible Study 8am Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Shuffleboard 9:30am Hold'em 5pm	13 Water Aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Hand and Foot 6pm	14 Trivia 6:30pm
15 Horse Races 7pm	16 Water aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Rummikube 6pm Games 6:30pm	17 Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Bingo 6:45pm  St. Patrick's Day	18 BOD mtg 9:30am Water Aerobics 10am Dominoes 6:30pm Membership mtg 7pm	19 Bible Study 8am Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Book Club 1pm Hold'em 5pm	20 Water Aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Hand and Foot 6pm  First Day of Spring	21 Coffee 9:30am
22	23 Water aerobics 10am <b>Activities Mtg 11am</b> Hold'em 1pm Rummikube 6pm Games 6:30pm	24 Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Bingo 6:45pm	25 Water Aerobics 10am Dominoes 6:30pm	26 Bible Study 8am Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Ladies lunch 11:30am Hold'em 5pm	27 Water Aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Hand and Foot 6pm	28 Park picnic
29   Palm Sunday	30 Water aerobics 10am Hold'em 1pm Rummikube 6pm Games 6:30pm	31 Aerobics/Sis 9:30am Bingo 6:45pm				

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