



# The TR Times

Travelers Rest Resort  
Dade City, FL



Vol. 40, No. 9

Friday, February 7, 2025

The TR Times is also available in color at [www.travelersrestresort.com](http://www.travelersrestresort.com)

## Hi Lites



### Busch Hall Sunday Night

Sammy Lane plays your requests this Sunday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. See Page 2.



### Coffee Seminar Dade City Parks

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 8 a.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 6.



### TNM

Presents the movie "Blitz" on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. in Citrus East. See Page 2.



### Coffee Seminar

TR Welcoming Committee Thursday, Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 6.



### Lake Margaret Garden Club

will host Hearts in the Garden Walk, Friday, Feb. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. See Page 11.



### TR Fire/Rescue pulled-pork, drive-thru dinner.

Saturday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. behind Busch Hall. See Page 5.

## Activity Reminders

### Veranda Chat

Monday, Feb. 17 at 3 p.m. Busch Hall Front Porch.

### Michigan Luncheon

Sunday, March 2 at 12:30 p.m. in Citrus East. See Page 6.

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## If these walls could talk . . . Chapter 7



THE PAUL RUTH PLACE

File photos

by Margaret Emmetts

I'll bet you did not know I was adopted. It's true! Unlike the rest of my family I did not begin my life here at TR.

Back in 2001 I was living on Route 41. Would you believe I was a model? I was a sample building designed to be used for classrooms. Unfortunately I never made it as a classroom and remained empty.

Norm Hewer, a former TR resident, was driving on Route 41 one day and spotted me. I was for sale and Norm knew that TR needed more meeting space for activities. He brought me to the attention of the Whites who were then the park managers.

Long story short, I was purchased and plans were made to move me to my new home at TR.

But, here is where things get sticky. You see, unlike most of my brothers and sisters here at TR, I was a poured concrete building. As such I had to be moved in one piece and I was pretty heavy.

I would have to travel down Ayres Road and then Bellamy Brothers Road. Aside from obtaining the necessary permits, cranes were needed to lift me and plans had to be made to move wires and other items that would impede my passage.

Nevertheless I eventually made it to TR where I was placed behind Busch Hall next to the pool.

Once here my formerly lonely existence quickly changed. I was an activity building serving the same purposes as Citrus Center. At one point I ceased housing activities and became the office of the



PAUL RUTH FITNESS FACILITY

Board of Directors due to a shortage of space in the Main Office. That period of my life only lasted a brief time and I once again became open for activities.

Nothing being static, my life was to change yet again when I became home to the exercise equipment formerly housed in the Hobby House.

Of course, after my adoption my name had to be changed to be consistent with the rest of my new family. This is how I became the Paul Ruth Room named after the park's first manager. I was really happy to leave my lonely life

behind and become part of this active new family.



The Paul Ruth porch is a cozy place to gather with your friends.

## Second Resident Forum of 2025 covers a lot of ground

by Bob Curran

The second Resident Forum of 2025 was held Monday, Feb. 3 in Busch Hall with all directors present except Wolf Reimann. Ray Hill and Donna Sullivan were not in attendance.

In her opening remarks, President Deborah May welcomed all attendees, introduced those Board members in attendance and then turned the microphone over to Terry Halbrook for the treasurer's report.

His wide-ranging presentation included updates on several topics. Among them: the ongoing development of a new activities policy book and the new availability of deposit and expense forms at the Post Office entrance to Busch Hall that activity leaders need to use to submit their collected sales tax. He also noted that if activity chairs need to request budget money for next year, those requests must be submitted by close of business on Friday, Feb. 14.

President May then spent some time sharing insights on the impending installation of the waste treatment plant's new sewer pumps and the plan to fix sewer pipes throughout the park using a slip-line system.

May said the new sewage pumps have been delivered and the park is now waiting on electrical components before securing a contractor with a boom to install them.

She noted that TR's current terracotta sewer pipes are very old, and tree roots have been piercing the pipes leading to clogs. Plans are to replace the old system with a new slip-line system, which is

basically a pipe within a pipe. Due to the expense, installation is planned in stages during the summer months and as clogs occur.

May expounded on the new activity policies saying that plans are to move activity policies from the TR Policy Book to a new TR Activity Policies Book. As the Golf Association has been running and maintaining the course, as well as collecting fees since October 2024, they have been asked for their input into the new book. She shared that if there are any activities that want policy revisions or a new policy added, they can submit their requests to the Board for consideration. When the new policy book is completed, it will be published on the TR website. If activities do not adhere to the policies, they will be subject to review by the Compliance Committee.

May said the Disaster Protocol Plan has been completed and would be submitted to the Board for approval in the ensuing days. Once approved, "It will be printed and sent out to all lease holders," she said. Lease holders are asked to keep their copy in a safe, accessible place in the event there is a need to implement it.

Speaking of disasters, the Board is still waiting on recommendations to fix the creek erosion between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues that occurred during Hurricane Milton. The repairs under the culvert and spillway should be completed in the next few weeks.

May then announced that the AGM packets had been mailed. "Please vote your ballot," she said. Ballots indicate that shareholders

may vote for up to five candidates, but shareholders do not have to vote for five, they may vote for fewer than five. The top three candidates receiving the most votes will serve the (three) three-year terms and the others will serve the (two) one-year terms. May also asked shareholders to confirm their addresses are correct on the packets. If address changes happen at any time, shareholders should notify the TR Office.

President May informed the residents that the AGM is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 2 p.m. in Busch Hall and she encouraged everyone to attend. "We need 334 residents to have a quorum," she noted.

President May invited the four board candidates in attendance to tell the audience about their personal and professional background and their reasons for seeking a board position.

Scott Fuller, Kelly Newbury, Ruth Reeve and John Toombs all proceeded to do so and they all seemed to share a common perspective and goal: keeping TR the "lovely place that it is."

Activity Director Weik provided a brief update on the park's more than 100 activities. He promoted the Health Fair (held Tuesday, Feb. 4) and mentioned ongoing plans for a park-wide chili cook-off/happy hour on Thursday, Feb. 27.

President May opened up a Q&A session with residents.

The first two inquiries involved TR finances. One resident voiced concern about continued delays in getting access to the Park's financial statements.

Halbrook offered to provide an unaudited profit/loss statement and President May apologized for the delay.

A second query regarding financials focused on TR's investment accounts. Halbrook assured all residents that all TR funds are invested in either treasury securities or certificates of deposit. "There are no risky investments," he assured the crowd.

Several residents voiced concerns about road safety within the park, including driving at excessive speed, ignoring stop signs and residents walking in the roads while wearing dark clothing in the evening and early morning hours. May encouraged everyone to remember the speed limit is 10 mph. and to exercise caution.

In response to questions about missing street signs and shrubbery obstructing street signs, President May encouraged residents to fill out work orders in the TR Office requesting these be corrected.

The final Resident Forum is scheduled for Monday, March 3 at 1 p.m. in Busch Hall.

### Do you have a question or comment for the Board?

In addition to the opportunity to ask questions or make comments at one of TR's Resident Forums, residents are welcome to submit them in writing to the TR Board of Directors at any time.

"We will endeavor to answer all letters and questions in a timely manner," said President Deborah May.

# Busch Hall Sunday Night Sammy Lane plays your requests



Sammy Lane at the keyboard.

by Ken and Sandy Langell

We have a few traditions surrounding Busch Hall Sunday Night. One of the best is Sammy Lane on Super Bowl Sunday. Sammy is a remarkable pianist and vocalist. His show is amazing because he doesn't come with a set list. He simply takes requests from the audience and plays ANYTHING that is requested. He rarely turns down a request and he seems to know every song ever written.

If you are not a football fan, or your team isn't playing, come to Busch Hall for a wonderful alternative.

There are really two stars of this show. This is an opportunity to show off our coveted Yamaha Grand Piano. If you've never paid much attention to it, you might not know how exceptional it is. Through the years there have been many master pianists at our keyboard and they all but drool

over it. Sammy always tunes the piano before his show so it is in top form on Super Bowl Sunday.

Blind since birth, Sammy started playing the piano at age 2 1/2, mimicking his mother who was a church pianist. While growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., he says he often was asked to play piano when attending nursery school. He began formal lessons when he was 7. At age 12 he learned to read music in braille when he began attending a catholic school for the blind in the Bronx. In the late, his family moved to Sarasota. A graduate of Sarasota High School, he then went on to Oberlin College in Ohio as a music major with a specialty in piano performance, graduating in 1976. Since then he and his wife Anita have made their home in Florida, where he was house pianist for many years at Longboat Key. He serves as church organist and pianist, maintains a frequent performance schedule and piano tuning business.

The show is Sunday, Feb. 9, in Busch Hall. Ice cream treats are available for purchase from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. Announcements start at 6:45 p.m. with the program immediately following. Admission is free.



## Friday Afternoon

by Donna Probes

Hola, it's time for another Mexican Fiesta today at 2:30 p.m. Busch Hall will go south of the border for a grand fiesta of music and food.

Bring your favorite Mexican dish or snack food to share on the potluck table. Back by popular demand will be Mariachi Contemporaneo. This band of six amazing musicians will light up the hall with authentic sounds including trumpets, violins, songs and the big Mexican bass guitar. Bring a couple of bucks to stuff into the bass guitar to tip the band for bringing big fun to our community. This, of course, is freewill and optional.

TR's favorite DJ, Dave Kat, has put together a nice mix of Latin and Mexican musical fun to get things rolling before the band starts and after the band is done, to keep the good times rolling. Don't miss this great afternoon of festivities!



File photo  
MARIACHI CONTEMPORANEO

### 2025 TR TALENT SHOW ENTRY FORM

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Performing Act: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(required to avoid duplicates - first received will be accepted)**

Type of performance (please check):

VOCAL \_\_\_\_\_ How many performers? \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENTAL \_\_\_\_\_ How many performers? \_\_\_\_\_

SKIT \_\_\_\_\_ DANCE \_\_\_\_\_ How many performers? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your act.

**NOTE: EACH ACT LIMITED TO MAXIMUM OF 5 MINUTES.**

**Audio requirements:** (check where needed)

Stage microphone (suspended ceiling) \_\_\_\_\_

Floor microphone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Stand microphone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Hand microphone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Headset microphone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Special audio needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
(What exactly is needed?)

CD \_\_\_\_\_ (you must provide 2 CDs to the sound booth)

**Other Assistance Needed:**

Music stands \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_ Chairs \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (if not listed above; each act will be asked to provide all special needs for your act so that the stage crew is prepared to assist). Please indicate on the opposite side of this form what will be used for your act and how it will be used.

**Return entry form to Donna Neer - Lot 10-71  
No later than Tuesday, Feb. 25**

## Tuesday Night Movies

by Carol and Jim Henrikson

"Blitz" will be shown this Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7p.m. in Citrus East. Director Steve McQueen brings us the movie "Blitz." In WWII London, nine-year-old George is evacuated to the countryside by his mother Rita to escape the bombings. Defiant and determined to return to his family, George embarks on an epic, perilous journey back home as Rita searches for him.



The TNM movie on Feb. 18 is "Wicked" followed by "Wolfs" on Feb. 25.

The 2025 lineup continues into March with "News of the World," March 4, "Reagan," March 11, "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," March 18. The final movie for the 2025 TNM season will be "Napoleon."

The new LG projector is working well. Along with the excellent SONOS sound, Citrus East is a great place to catch the movies that you love.



TNM messages in *The TR Times* and InTouchLink will provide more related information and scheduling for our entire 2025 season. Hope to see you soon. Take care.

TNM popcorn is very popular and delicious. It is available salted and unsalted.

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# Briefings from the Board



**DEBORAH MAY**

by Deborah May,  
President/CEO  
TR Board of Directors

Florida weather has finally returned to Florida. The warm weather is bringing the residents out in full force. The outdoor sports areas are seeing a lot of activity and even the indoor activities are busy. Waving to your neighbors when you pass is a Travelers Rest tradition. It's so nice the waves from the residents to one another. We truly have great neighbors and friends who will help out at a moment's notice. Taking care of one another speaks volumes about the people who chose to call Travelers Rest Resort home.

You have received or will be receiving your AGM packages shortly. Please read over all the material that is included and return your ballot asap. We need your ballots to ensure we have a quorum for the election.

Immediately following the election, there is a lot of activity by the Board in preparation for the upcoming year. First the new officers must be chosen. Policy N2050 deals with Board Committees. Not later than the first regularly scheduled Board meeting the month after the Annual Meeting, the President will assign committee appointments to the members of the new Board as needed or required. Liaisons are also appointed by the President. Policy N2070 defines a liaison as an appointed Board member who functions as the main point of contact between an activity and the Board. A Liaison's function is:

1. To attend appointed resident activity meetings as requested or invited.
2. Enables intergroup communication, this includes coordination or exchange of information and/or aiding in the planning of joint efforts.
3. If needed, may provide input relative to existing policy.
4. At times, shall communicate to the Board, a complaint or grievance, which cannot be addressed by other means of resort problem management. Not all activities will have an assigned liaison.

Often problems occur within the resort that need to be resolved beyond a verbal discussion between residents. These may or may not include violations of rules and regulations. Policy N2060 states that Shareholders/Lesseees should report all violations directly to the TR Office. Shareholders/Lesseees reporting a violation must provide all pertinent information, including location, time, identity and address of the violator, as appropriate, and if at all possible. Lesseees must make complaints in writing. Verbal issues or complaints and anonymous reports will not be acknowledged.

Policy N2055 Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee is created in accordance with Section 607.0825, Florida Statutes and shall be composed of the following members of the Board of Directors: President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President. If any Director(s) is in conflict with any issue or person being investigated, it is their responsibility to recuse themselves from this Committee, for all such matters for which a conflict exists. In such event, the Board will then appoint a replacement for the conflicted Director(s). The duties of the Compliance Committee shall consist of the following:

1. Reviewing compliance issues, relative to the Rules and Regulations, which cannot be addressed by management.
  2. Addressing specific issues referred by management.
  3. Meeting with Shareholder(s), Lessee(s) or Guest(s) who present compliance concerns or any issues of a more serious nature (i.e. threats, abuse, harassment, etc.).
  4. Resolving these concerns and issues for the good of the resort, which may include, but is not limited to, recommending the imposition of sanctions, fines, fees, probation, prohibition or other resolutions as may be deemed appropriate. To familiarize yourself with the Due Process Requirements and fines, please read all of Policy N2060.
- If you have any issues, complaints, suggestions or just questions, please remember that I and any other board member will be willing to listen and help you in any way we can. The Board of Directors is made up of volunteers, who are doing their utmost to ensure that Travelers Rest remains a wonderful place to spend the winter months or to live year-round.

# AGM packets are in the mail

by Pam Watkins

What are AGM packets? Also known as stockholder packets, these envelopes contain informative documents related to TR's annual general meeting (AGM), and more importantly, they contain a Ballot/Proxy Assignment Form, the tool stockholders need to exercise their right to vote at the AGM. The contents and process by which AGM packets are prepared is set forth in law, TR's Bylaws and TR Policy.

The Florida Business Corporation Act, also known as Florida Revised Code Chapter 607, provides that unless directors are elected by written consent in lieu of an annual meeting, every corporation shall hold a meeting of stockholders annually for the election of directors and for the transaction of any proper business, at a time stated in or fixed within the bylaws. Annual meetings provide stockholders with an opportunity to participate in directing how a corporation is managed. TR's 2025 AGM is scheduled on Tuesday, March 11 in Busch Hall. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the meeting will start at 2 p.m.

Article 1 of TR's Bylaws sets the annual meeting date, location and notice requirements for the meeting, while TR Policies O0000 through O11005 provide the process and procedures to prepare for the AGM. Following determination of the meeting date and the record date, or the date fixed to determine a stockholder's entitlement to AGM notice and AGM vote, AGM packets are prepared and mailed.

TR Policy O2010 outlines the items that are to be included in each AGM packet such as the notice of meeting, candidate resumes, proposed resolutions, if any, and Ballot/Proxy Assignment Form.

Policy O2015 provides a preparation list for the packets, e.g. number of packets, envelope size for mailing, what is to be printed on the labels that are affixed to the Ballot/Proxy Assignment Forms and the pre-addressed envelopes to return Ballot/Proxy Assignment Forms.

Policy O2020 outlines the steps for assembling the packets such as ordering materials, labeling the materials, sealing the envelopes and notifying the TR Post Office to have sufficient postage on hand to take care of the mailing.

According to TR Policy, it is the Corporate Secretary's responsibility to prepare and mail the Notice of the Annual Stockholders Meeting, but preparation of the AGM packets is the responsibility of the Board's First Vice President or duly appointed Board member (O1035, O1042). Florida Revised Code section 607.0705 provides that a corporation shall notify stockholders of the date, time and place of each annual meeting no fewer than 10 nor more than 60 days before the meeting date. TR Bylaw Article 1, Section 4 sets the timeline to no fewer than 30 and no more than 60 days before the meeting date. The Stockholder Notice of Meeting is contained in the AGM packets. These dates do change. TR Policy O5000 provides a table to easily determine the mailing deadline for AGM packets and under March 11, this year's date for the AGM, packets are to be mailed between Jan. 10 and Feb. 9.

When you receive your packet, it will contain everything you need to understand the AGM's business agenda. It also includes that most important of stockholder rights—a Ballot/Proxy Assignment Form. A Ballot/Proxy Assignment Form serves as EITHER a ballot OR a proxy assignment depending on which box the stockholder checks on the front of the form. Whether the form is used as a ballot or proxy assignment, it also serves to establish the stockholder's quantity of share(s) as being present at the meeting for the purpose of establishing quorum. Finally, a stockholder has the option of submitting the form without checking any of the boxes or voting for any of the candidates. In this case, the share(s) are counted for quorum, but no votes are recorded.

Please review your AGM packet carefully. Consider the reports, resolutions, if any, and director candidates. Stockholders who are entitled to vote have the right to vote the number of share(s) owned and recorded in his/her name with TR by the record date for up to as many persons as there are directors to be elected and for each resolution, if any. Next, EITHER check the "I vote my shares as indicated on the reverse side of this ballot" and mark your vote(s) on the other side OR assign a person of your choice or the Board's designee as your proxy on the front side of the form. If you assign a proxy, you do not vote on the back. You may also check no boxes on the front of the form and not vote on the other side. This means you will be counted for quorum only, no vote.

Finally, you may submit or mail your Ballot/Proxy Assignment form to the TR Office prior to the AGM OR submit it in person at the AGM. If you do not plan on attending the AGM, it is important that you timely submit/mail your Ballot/Proxy Assignment form to the TR Office so that you are counted as represented to meet quorum. Use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to do so. The envelope is marked PROXY VOTE because it may contain either a proxy assignment or a vote.

As a reminder, quorum is defined as one third of TR's issued and outstanding shares, which is 334 shares, represented or in person at the AGM in accordance with TR's Articles of Incorporation.

Watch for your AGM packet in the mail. Review its contents so you can make informed decisions, and exercise your right to vote at the AGM on March 11.

**2025  
Annual General  
Meeting**

**The AGM is on Tuesday,  
March 11 in Busch Hall. The  
doors will open at 1 p.m. and  
the meeting will begin at 2 p.m.**

## What is that blue light?

No, it is not a Kmart special. Located on the northwest corner of the Post Office, the blue light when lit, indicates that residents' mail has been distributed.

## Policies to practice

D6275: STORAGE OF VEHICLE ON SITE: During the summer, a car and a golf cart may be stored on the site in the place normally occupied by the RV or on the patio. Use of the patio for such a purpose will require prior submission of a completed *Request for Summer Storage of Vehicle on Site Form*, indicating the existing condition of the patio and signed by the lessee and the Manager. Any subsequent damage to the patio will result in the lessee bearing the complete cost for removal and replacement of the patio structure. The Manager will be the sole judge of damage done to the patio.



**Veranda Chat**  
Monday, Feb. 17, 3 p.m.  
Busch Hall - Front Porch.

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## It is not a toy!

TR is home to hundreds of golf carts and their operators. You might be one of these people. My question is: Are you a safe driver?

Golf carts are motor vehicles, not toys, and as such subject to all the "rules of the road" that apply to cars. But, do you operate your cart in the same way you would drive your car?

Would you, for instance, drive your car the wrong way on a one-way street in town just because you did not see any other vehicles in the area? I certainly hope not. Yet I continue to see people doing just this at TR. The roads around Busch Hall are one way. Even the parking lot in the rear of the building has an entrance and exit which make them one way. You would think following these driving directions would be simple. Apparently not for many otherwise intelligent residents. My fear is that one day someone will be backing their car out of a Busch Hall parking space and strike a golf cart going the wrong way.

All drivers know that when on the open road the law requires that you move over to allow emergency vehicles to pass. Shouldn't the same law apply to TR. If you attend any of the monthly Forums you would know that many roads in TR are county roads, not private drives.

I was deeply disturbed by a story related to me by our Fire Chief. In at least one instance our fire truck was headed to an emergency in the park. Sirens were blaring. You would think that anyone would quickly move out of the way of the truck. Unfortunately, not so. A golf cart calmly proceeded on its way, blocking the progress of the fire truck.

To the best of my knowledge, the only time that our fire truck goes around the park in a non-emergency situation with its siren sounding, is during the annual Christmas Parade. Surely if your unit was on fire you would want the fire truck to reach you as soon as possible. You would not expect a golf cart to be blocking the truck's progress.

Remember, golf carts are not toys. Please drive your cart responsibly.

mre

### The TR Times

#### Vision Statement

To be a trusted source of information for the TR Community.

#### Mission Statement

To promote activities and events, recognize achievements, encourage resident support of our advertisers and report topics of interest in a manner that positively supports the TR Community.

### The TR Times

TRAVELERS REST RESORT, INC.  
Box 2817, 29129 Johnston Rd.  
Dade City, FL 33523-6128

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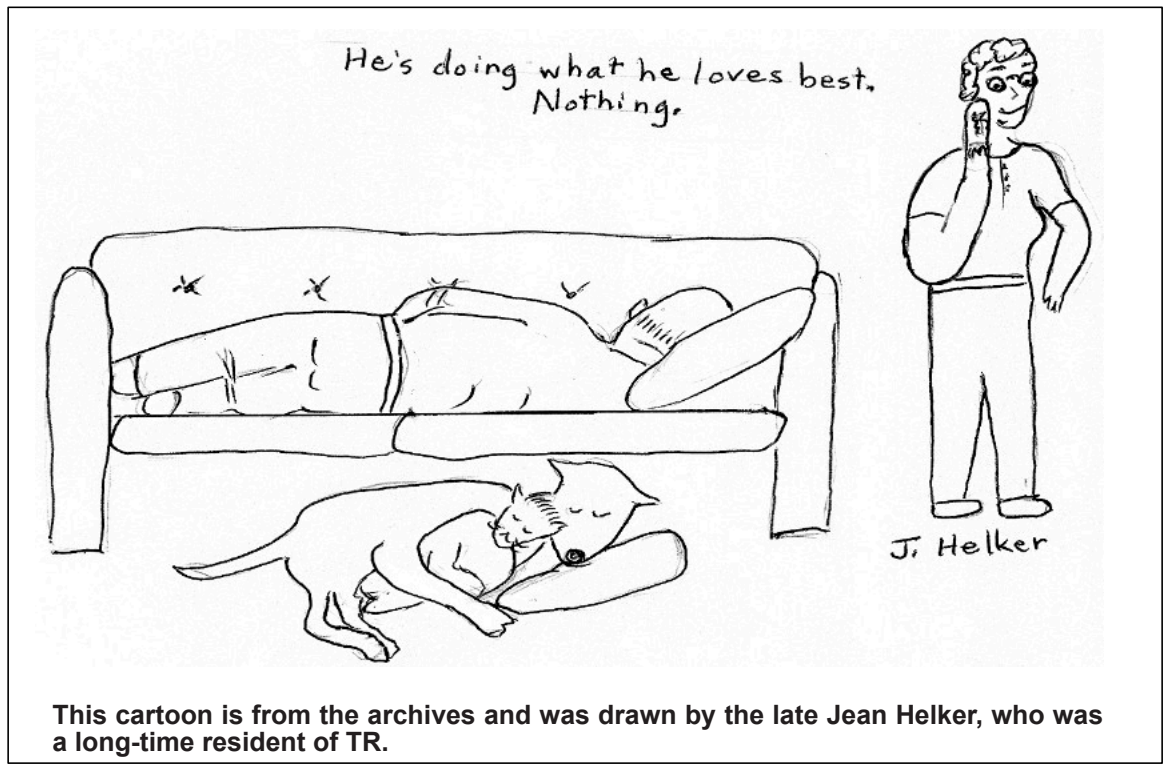
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This cartoon is from the archives and was drawn by the late Jean Helker, who was a long-time resident of TR.

## The Servant's Plow

### No excuse for faulty faith

by Chaplain Anthony Shipe

The story is told of a man who wanted to go to Los Angeles so he boarded a train at the station to go to Los Angeles. Unfortunately, the train he boarded was going to New York. It didn't matter how much he wanted to go to Los Angeles and it didn't matter how sincere he was in his desire. He was going to end up in New York because he didn't bother to check with those who set the rules about the consequences of boarding the train he boarded.

As silly as it seems, a lot of people treat religion in this same manner. They say that it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere, without ever checking with the God who has explained things to us to see where a particular set of sincerely held views lead. The man in our story could catch the next train from New York to Los Angeles, but the wrong belief, no matter how sincerely held, has permanent consequences.

Polls show that about 94% of all Americans admit to a belief in some sort of God. But when questions become more specific, it appears that only about 14% to 18% believe that they have fellowship with God because of the forgiveness of sins through Christ's atonement for them.

We run into the real people who believe this every day. Most people believe that there is some virtue in believing that there is a God. However, very few have a daily walk with Him through their living faith in their Savior. Is there any virtue in simply believing that there is a God?

James 2:19 says, "You say that you have faith, for you believe there is one God. Good for you; even the demons also believe this



CHAPLAIN ANTHONY SHIPE

and tremble." Acceptance of the fact that there is a real God is so basic that Scripture states that only the fool rejects such an idea (Psalm 14:1). The denial of God that takes over a person, and how it controls all of their thinking, ultimately results in very serious challenges in the ability to reason the truth of the Bible. This is why Scripture takes the position that there is no virtue in accepting the obvious – there is a God. The idea that there is no God is simply so outrageous as to be beyond anything reasonable. There is no excuse (Romans 1:20).

This brings us back to those who think that belief in God, or at least something spiritual, has some sort of virtue. Very often they are ignorant of what God teaches about Himself in Scripture, but sometimes they have simply rejected Scripture as an accurate revelation of the God they think exists.

It is these people who are most often ready to accept a mixture of spiritual ideas and they are especially ripe for picking by the New Age proponents. Those church

members who may know that their children are receiving New Age teaching in their public schools, and think that these spiritual values are better than none at all, are in this category as well.

The seemingly innocent error of accepting that there is some sort of God or spiritual values, without taking the revelation of Scripture seriously, ends up in a very shallow and faulty faith. It should be no surprise then, when we learn that many New Age educators talk about "spirit guides" who lead the many to new insights. We already know exactly what those spiritual forces are. Forces other than God. Nor should we be surprised if these "guides" end up teaching things which appear, at face value, to be good, since Scripture has also warned us about this also in 2 Corinthians 11:14 where Satan is disguised as an angel of light.

The real test is to compare New Age teachings about man and God with what the Bible teaches about the nature of man, his need for a Savior, sin and the grace of God in Jesus Christ. When this comparison is made, you will find that New Age teaching offers a worldview that is exactly the opposite at every point to what we find in the Bible. But since the starting point of Scripture is Creation, while the origin-point of New Age is Evolution, this is exactly what we would expect. New Age thinking, which is clearly demonic and clearly contrary to Scripture, helps us make the religious aspects of Evolution very clear!

Get to know our loving God through a relationship with Jesus and build a rock-solid, unwavering faith. The gift of Eternal Life is truly a precious free gift.



**Travelers Rest**  
CHURCH ASSOCIATION

#### Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Bernie Gutridge

#### Sunday Service

Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Hymn Sing 10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Anthony Shipe

#### Holy Communion

First Sunday of the month.



*Sacred Heart*  
*Catholic Church*

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Dade City, Florida 33525

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Vigil Mass**  
Saturday, 4 p.m.  
**Sunday Masses**  
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
**Daily Masses**  
7:30 a.m. Monday - Friday

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday 9:05 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.  
Rev. Krzysztof Gazdowicz, Pastor  
(352) 588-3641



# The Siren



adapted by Jim Doggett with permission from Jean Cobb

An Ambulance and a Fire Truck? Why? None of us like to travel by ambulance to the hospital. It's scary, bumpy and costs money. So why do the TR First Responders and Pasco County Emergency Squads think it is a good idea most of the time when you are severely ill or injured, or when you are having symptoms of a heart attack or stroke?

Recently I was asked "Why an ambulance and a fire truck and why don't they go as soon as they get the patient on board?"

The simple answer to the question is because the ambulance is equipped to handle almost everything between your residence and the Emergency Room. Imagine that you decide despite advice, to drive or have someone else drive you to the hospital. What happens if your condition deteriorates during the 20 to 30 minutes it takes to get to the hospital? That's a terrible position to be in and an awful predicament for the driver of the car... no equipment, potentially in the middle of nowhere. So the Ambulance waits while equipment is set up to care

for the patient and the hospital is contacted to make certain they are open and ready for this patient.

You get priority care when you arrive by ambulance, entering directly into the treatment areas. That means you are evaluated and treatment has started from the beginning of the ambulance ride. With critical issues such as a heart attack, stroke, or hemorrhage, we know that seconds count and can make the difference between life and death. When you arrive by private car, you may end up in the ER waiting room for quite a while before you are seen.

What about cost? Those covered by U.S. Medicare should have most of their ambulance trip paid for. A secondary insurance to Medicare may pay most or all of the remainder. Canadian residents should check with their insurance provider to determine the best way to be sure ambulance trips are covered.

Where is the ambulance going to take you when you leave TR? The answer for virtually every ambulance in the U.S. is this: They will take you to the hospital you prefer in the local area UNLESS you have a life-threatening emergency. In that case, they will take you to the closest hospital capable of treating your condition. The ambulance driver also knows the current traffic conditions and how busy the local emergency rooms are and may choose another hospital to expedite getting care. The closest capable hospital to TR that can treat life-threatening conditions is Advent Health Dade City. Local hospitals for

non-life-threatening conditions in Pasco County also include Advent Health Zephyrhills and Advent Health Wesley Chapel.

What should you take with you to the hospital? First, your picture ID and insurance cards are a must. Next, take a complete and current list of your medications or the actual bottles. Be aware that the bottles may get misplaced at the hospital. Make sure your Vial of Life information is up-to-date. Finally, take your cellphone and your cellphone charger along with a list of emergency/family numbers because you might need them.

The TR First Responders will help lock your residence, work on making sure your pets are cared for, assist your loved one with plans to get to the hospital and other details here at TR. Your job will be to work on getting well!

Why do they send a Fire Truck? They provide extra muscle and extra brains. Look around and you will realize that sometimes it takes many hands to get you out of your rig and out the door. The professionals that respond to the 911 call want to make sure they have everything you might need with them. Having everything you need, eases the stress level for everyone.

A quick reminder: Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb.15, the TR Volunteer Fire Association Fundraiser. The drive-thru, take home yummy pulled pork dinner is being offered at last year's price of \$13. Come and support your TR First Responders. Watch for ticket sale announcements.

## Interested in CPR and AEDs?

by Gayle Sunde

Learn about the importance of CPR and how to apply and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Members of TR's Fire Rescue will hold multiple seminars and classes in February and March.

A Pet CPR class will be held Monday, Feb. 10 from 3 to 4 p.m. in Citrus. Please register on the

sign-up sheet is in Busch Hall.

An informational seminar about CPR will be offered on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. The seminar will offer some hands-on exercises but does not earn CPR certification. A sign-up sheet is located in Busch Hall.

If you are interested in learning CPR for certification, several

small classes will be held in the Fire Station later in February and March. Sign-up sheets for the CPR certification classes are on the wall in Busch Hall.



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# Veterans Flag Retirement Ceremony

by Ken Hankinson

Plans are still being developed for this season's flag retirement ceremony, but the date and location have been finalized. As with the 2023 ceremony, the event will be returning to the Valdez Farm on Bellamy Brothers Road. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at 1 p.m. with the ceremony expected to last approximately 45 minutes. For those of you who attended the 2023 program you will probably recall what a picturesque site it is.

It really is a great place to hold an outdoor event and we are fortunate to return again this year.

As the date gets closer, watch *The TR Times* for additional details and directions to the event. At some point, probably around March 1, we will post a sign-up sheet in Busch Hall so we can get a better idea as to the expected attendance.

For now, save that date, Saturday, March 22 at 1 p.m. and watch for additional details as they become available.

## TR Veterans fundraiser in March

by Ken Hankinson

The TR Veterans Group is excited about their recent partnership with a Brooksville Veterans Support Group, The Heat Factory, and the American Culinary Foundation (ACF) in jointly hosting an important fundraising brunch event. All proceeds from this event will go directly to supporting Veterans and First Responders suffering from PTSD.

The event is scheduled to be held in Busch Hall on Sunday, March 16 starting at noon immediately following the Sunday Church Service. The tentative menu and food selections will be a combination of entrees from area chefs and select food trucks, several of which are owned by Veterans. Food for this event is

being supplied on a no-charge basis with 100% of the proceeds going directly to the Heat Factory to further their efforts in assisting their clients who suffer from PTSD and trauma.

While some of the details for the event are still being finalized, we want to get the March 16 date out so you can put it on your calendar and plan to attend this special fundraising event.

Our TR community has always been very supportive of events that serve important causes and our vets feel very strongly that this cause is definitely worthy and hope you will plan to attend. Additional details on this event will be announced in future articles in *The TR Times*; please watch for them.

## Help Support TR Fire/Rescue BBQ Pulled Pork Dinner

Pulled Pork sandwich, coleslaw, baked beans and a cookie

Drive-Thru Pick up Behind Busch Hall

5 p.m.

Feb. 15

Tickets \$13 each

Only 2 times left to buy.

Tickets for sale Sunday, Feb. 9 before entertainment. Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2 to 4 p.m. outside Post Office

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# Activity Affairs



**GUY WEIK**

by Guy Weik

Closing up Busch Hall. We are lucky to have several great facilities in which we conduct so many of our activities here at TR. I thought it would be helpful to review procedures for keeping Busch Hall, our most important facility, as clean and secure as possible.

Busch Hall is used for everything from multiple card games to concerts, dances and dinners. Residents are very conscientious and make sure any tables and chairs used are put away in the chair room at the end of their activity. If your activity is the last one of the night, it's important to

also make certain the doors are locked and the lights and fans are off. Most of the exterior doors are locked by the key card system. When you leave the building, if you wait a few seconds after closing the door, it should be locked. I recently learned that if someone's standing inside the door while you are checking it on the outside, a sensor on the inside will keep the door from locking. There are other doors in Busch Hall that need to be locked manually, such as the doors leading to the Post Office and the bathrooms. The kitchen is often used to get the microphone and activate the speakers, so it's a good idea to make sure the kitchen door is also locked, even if you didn't use it. The door to the laundry will eventually work with your key card and maybe it will be fixed by the time you read this article. In the meantime, if you notice it propped open with a chair, please close it.

The microphones that are kept in the Busch Hall kitchen are used for many different activities, such as dinners, dances, seminars and karaoke. We recently had a situation where the remote used to activate the speakers was misplaced. Please don't be tempted to

hold onto the remote until your activity is over; return it to its case immediately after using it.

It's important that I take a moment to talk trash here. If your activity generates garbage, please have someone take it to the dumpsters. This is especially important on the weekends, as Maintenance doesn't work on Saturday and Sunday. I have arranged with them to check the trash cans in Busch Hall at the end of their work day on Fridays, so weekend dinner and dance activities aren't removing trash that they didn't generate. New bags can be found in the cans, unless someone has taken them. Please don't ever steal these bags for your own use, as they are needed for this system to work.

The overhead lights are on timers and will eventually turn themselves off. Lights in the chair room, kitchen and in the hall between the kitchen and the bathrooms are not on timers and should be turned off. The switch for the fans is on the wall to the left of the door by the pool. They also need to be manually shut off.


As always, your cooperation in keeping Busch Hall as clean and secure as possible is greatly appreciated.

## TR Chili Cook-off, give us your best

by Rosita Williams

Thursday, Feb. 27 is National Chili Day, and you are invited to celebrate with a park-wide happy hour and to register to participate in a chili cook-off. Chili dishes will be judged in a blind tasting by the residents and guests who come to Busch Hall. You can vote for your favorite selection(s). Judges, one each from The Village, Cabana Section, RV South and Golf View/Oak View, will determine from your votes which chili offerings are deemed the best. There will be winners in first place, second place and third place as gold, silver and bronze medalists.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. in Busch Hall.



**CHILI COOK OFF**  
Registration Form

Type of Chili \_\_\_\_\_  
Please, for allergy reasons, include Ingredients.


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to Rosita Williams, lot 10-72.

## Upcoming Luncheons

### Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia

by Linda Gough

The Kentuckians, Tennesseans, West Virginians and Friends Luncheon will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 1 p.m. in Citrus East. Anyone with ties to Kentucky, Tennessee or West Virginia or knows friends from those states are invited.

Please bring a covered dish or two to share, your table service and a beverage. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Busch Hall Bulletin Board. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gough, lot 11-14 or by phone at 615-400-3332 or Deborah May, lot 11-22 or by phone at 304-888-8207.

### Back home again in Indiana

by Carol Yoder

"Back home again in Indiana Where it seems that I can see, The gleaming candlelight still burning bright on the Wabash Then I long for my Indiana home."

This beautiful song by James Hanley and Ballard MacDonald (1917) brings back memories of our Hoosier State.

Join us for Indiana Day on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. for a delicious lunch at Papa Joe's Restaurant, 6244 Spring Lake Hwy., Brooksville.

We will be ordering off the lunch menu. Each attendee will be responsible for the cost of their meal and tip. Please contact Carol Yoder, lot 2503 or 260-820-3481 by Saturday, Feb. 15.

### Michiganders set the date

by Tawnya Rowden

We are welcoming all Michiganders to the Annual Michigan Luncheon on Sunday, March 2. Please come to Citrus East at noon to help with the room setup and then the Social. The Luncheon will follow from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Look for the orange bordered Michigan map sign-up sheet that will be posted in Busch Hall from Sunday, Feb. 16 until the luncheon. Please indicate the dish you plan to bring. Bring your own table service, drink and a big smile. See you on Sunday, March 2.



## Friends at TR to host Scavenger Hunt

by Laurie Lasure

On Saturday, Feb. 22 all residents are invited to join in an epic scavenger hunt throughout our Travelers Rest. Sign up has begun at the Post Office Activities Board in the outside lobby. Pull together a team of 2 to 6 "Hunters." If you don't have a team, we will find you one that Saturday.

riddles and follow clues around TR. Don't forget to bring at least one cellphone for photos and at least one TR key card per team.

The last clue of the day will bring your team to the location of the TRGA sponsored picnic that begins at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend both of these fun-filled events.

Gather in The Grove near the stage at 12:45 p.m. with instructions and clues handed out at 1 p.m. Feel free to use your golf cart, bike, or just enjoy the walk, as you solve

Questions about the Scavenger Hunt, you can contact Dan or Marla Varner or Ken or Laurie Lasure. Their contact information is in the TR Directory.

## Two Coffee Seminars are offered this week

by Leslie Ewing

Will Toner, an employee of the Dade City Public Works Department, will present at the morning Coffee Seminar on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 8 a.m. in Busch Hall. He will talk about Dade City Parks and what they have to offer.

around here? This Coffee Seminar will provide some answers.

### TR Welcoming Committee

Diana Hill is the chairperson of the TR Welcoming Committee. She will present the Coffee Seminar on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. in Busch Hall. Diana will talk about events that are planned for those who are new to TR.

The time is coming for grandchildren to visit grandparents at TR. Every year residents ask where can we take our grandkids? What can they do for fun

Coffee and breakfast items are available at 7:30 a.m. The Coffee Seminar begins at 8 a.m.

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## Amateur Radio Club completes emergency exercise



by Jim Johnson

During the weekend of Jan. 25 and 26, the Amateur Radio Club (ARC) participated in a nationwide emergency communications drill called Winter Field Day (WFD). The purpose was to test our ability to operate using emergency power and improvised antennas, simulating a grid-down, antenna-down situation.

We operated two stations; the first is the usual Communications Center and the other, a temporary setup at the Snack Shack Pavilion. The improvised-antenna portion at the main station was easy. Since we are unable to use the normal tower due to damage that occurred in the Fall, we had to use our backup antenna. Yes, the tower was leaning prior to Hurricane Helene striking TR. We have been using the backup antenna, referred to as an end-fed long wire. This antenna was used during Winter Field Day and is keeping us on the air as tower repairs are completed. Temporary antennas were strung

in the trees at the Snack Shack Pavilion and were stowed by Sunday afternoon.

Emergency power was a completely new experience for us. Instead of noisy, smelly generators as used in the past, we relied on a series of batteries and vehicles. Last year, the ARC purchased a new 300 Amp-Hour Lithium battery for just this sort of use. It performed flawlessly providing power for the whole exercise. We also proved that Joe Colao's Cybertruck was capable of powering the whole building if it's ever required. You can read more about Joe's Cybertruck on Page 5 of the Dec. 20, 2024 TR Times.

For power at the Pavilion, we used a combination of a member's Jackery Portable Power Station, and the on-board generating capabilities of a Ford F-150 pickup with built in on-board generator. Both worked very well.

This year's event was a great success with no issues with power and a total of 279 contacts, more than twice the number of contacts from last year.

The capabilities demonstrated during WFD are the basic reason for Amateur Radio to exist. It's also the reason that TR sponsors the ARC. If you are interested in more information or are ready to start a Ham Radio journey, please reach out to Jim Johnson, lot 11-11. We have the resources to get you started.

## TR Model Railroad



Photo by Brian Krupicka

### GOLF COURSE IN MINIATURE

by Brian Krupicka

At today's meeting we discussed general categories of operations, scenery and rolling stock.

Operation covers items such as electrical choices and structured or free-lance running. Scenery involves landscaping, buildings,

figures, animation and lighting. Rolling stock can involve a time-frame or era, painting, weathering, decals and graffiti. If you have any questions, please contact-Brian Krupicka at [TRTrains@dbcomserv.com](mailto:TRTrains@dbcomserv.com) or call 630-961-1243.

## SawStop table saw donated to TR Wood Shop

by Nancy McDowell

The Wood Shop had a full house on Jan. 29 as they celebrated the generosity of Jim Weigand. He donated, in his father Bill's name, a highly-prized SawStop table saw for the Wood Shop. The event began with retired minister Gene Gough giving a brief blessing. Jim then shared his reasons for such a generous gift, which he noted, if it saves one finger it is worth everything he spent on the saw. Two plaques have been placed in the Wood Shop commemorating the donation and the Weigands. Refreshments were served.



Larry Kurkowski (far left) and Deborah May (far right) thank Jim Weigand and Tawnya Rowden for their generous donation.



Jim Weigand explains the donation in memory of his father, Bill.



Michael Biser and Roxi Rowden Bass demonstrate one of the safety features.



Wood Shop members Jeff Montgomery, Bill Bigelow, Terry Sander and Bob Englert install the new saw.

Photos by Nancy McDowell and Michael Biser



The SawStop is made ready for use by members Bill Bigelow, Dwight Greene, Jeff Montgomery and Vince Smith.

## Quilt-A-Rama 2025



File photo

Many beautiful quilts were completed during last year's Quilt-A-Rama as shown by Pat Greene, Cloie Morgan, Brenda Varty, Diane Krupicka, Deborah Etchill and Joan Ledbetter.

by Shala Wilson

The TR Quilt Guild members are hard at work preparing for the 2025 Quilt-A-Rama on Tuesday, March 4 and need your help. Please sign the Volunteer For Quilt-A-Rama sign-up sheets posted in Busch Hall and mark the area you would like to work. If you are new to the park and wonder what Quilt-A-Rama is, you are likely not alone. Imagine an assembly line of sewers, ironers, runners and others with a single purpose of making twin-sized quilts to donate to local charities. Quilt-a-Rama 2024 donated 140 quilts.

Members of the Guild are planning a fun-filled productive day and urge you to join us in making quilts for non-profit local organizations. The Snack Shack will be on hand to take lunch orders and will deliver your order to Busch Hall. Sign up and join this amazing group for a day of service and fun.



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## Welcoming Committee reaches out

by Susan Stahley

If you are new to Travelers Rest, please stop by the Welcoming Committee table in Busch Hall on Sunday nights. We can help you with navigating the Resort and answer any questions you might have. You can also get your red dot.

The Welcoming Committee meets the first and third Thursdays of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Citrus West. If you have not found your volunteer spot yet, we have many tasks both out front and behind the scenes that might interest you. We would be happy to get to know you and have your help. Please let us know you are interested.

## Outstanding golfers



Photo by Joan Hyde

Hole-in-one by Jim Trescott.



Photo by Kathy Reimann

Golf ladies Susan MacPhee, Stella Loiselle, Paula Currier and Mary DeWeerd, model some cozy golf shirts.

**Bulletin Board***Travelers Rest Resort Activities*

<b>ACOUSTIC JAM SESSION</b> PICKIN' & GRINNIN' - Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Hobby House. November thru March. <b>Rob Werner Harold Keefer</b>	<b>BRIDGE: BEGINNERS</b> Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. in Hobby House. January-March. <b>Jim Weigand</b>	<b>CRIBBAGE</b> Mondays, 6:30-9:00 pm, in the Activity Building. January-March. <b>Jeri Miller Bob Luther</b>	<b>GAMES NIGHT</b> Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m. at Snack Shack Pavilion. Non-contact games. New game each week. January-March. <b>Linda Smith Joan Colao</b>
<b>AMATEUR RADIO CLUB</b> 2nd and 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m. in the Jeri Miller Activity Building. November-March Meetings open to all. Amateurs can check into the 8 a.m. Two Meter Net on 146.430 Mhz Monday thru Saturday. <b>Jim Johnson</b>	<b>BRIDGE: INTERMEDIATES</b> Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. in Citrus West. January-March. <b>Connie Bradley</b>	<b>SATURDAY DANCE NIGHT</b> Various available Saturdays in Busch Hall. 7-10:00 p.m. DJ or recorded music. Check InTouch schedule for updates. <b>Diane Hill</b>	<b>GARDEN CLUB</b> Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 11 a.m. at Lake Margaret (Nov-April). <b>Stacy Grier</b>
<b>AQUATICS - (WATER AEROBICS)</b> Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the pool. Year Round. <b>Linda Smith</b>	<b>BRIDGE: PARTY/PARTNERS</b> Party Bridge with partners - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. in Citrus West. Partner not required. Singles will be teamed up. January-March. <b>Jen Furman</b>	<b>DIGITAL PHOTO- CAMERA</b> Mondays, 9:00 a.m. to noon in Jeri Miller Activity Building. January 6-February 10 (6-week class). <b>Carey Box</b>	<b>GENEALOGY</b> Fridays, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in Citrus East. Nov. 15-April 18. <b>George Adamson</b>
<b>BALLROOM DANCING</b> Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. in Busch Hall, and Wednesdays (Review class) 10-11:00 am, Citrus East. January thru March. <b>Jeffrey Duquette</b>	<b>BULLETIN BOARD IN BUSCH HALL</b> For information or help with a notice or ad contact: <b>Betsy Behler Guy Weik</b>	<b>DIGITAL PHOTO- POST PROCESS</b> Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. in Jeri Miller Activity Building. January 7-March 18. <b>Carey Box</b>	<b>GEOCACHING</b> Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m. in Citrus West. Outings 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. January thru March. <b>Jack Zanca</b>
<b>BEADAHOLICS</b> Mondays, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Citrus East. January thru March. <b>Kathy Kushman Kathy Lemke</b>	<b>CALLIGRAPHY</b> Tuesdays, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Jeri Miller Activity Building. December-March. <b>Richard Peebles</b>	<b>DINING WITH FRIENDS</b> 2nd Saturdays, Busch Hall, 5 to 7:00 p.m., January thru March. <b>Harold and Marlene Hughes</b>	<b>GOLF - LADIES LEAGUE</b> Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. at Starter Shack. <b>Kathy Reimann</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY- EVERYONE</b> Mondays, 5:00-7:00 p.m. on the Busch Hall Stage. January 13-March 10. <b>Anthony Shipe</b>	<b>CAMPFIRES</b> Third Thursdays, January-March, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Fire Pit. Songs that you know! <b>Susan Stahley Cindy Watson</b>	<b>DOMINOES</b> Thursdays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Busch Hall. January-March. <b>Linda Gough</b>	<b>GOLF - MENS LEAGUE</b> Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. at Starter Shack. <b>Barry English</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY, WOMEN'S</b> Tuesdays, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in Citrus West. January -March. <b>Christy Trotter</b>	<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> Fridays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Sundays 8:45 a.m. in Busch Hall. Join us. <b>Bernie Gutridge</b>	<b>DULCIMER JAM</b> Thursdays, 6:30 to 9 pm in Citrus East. December-April. <b>Lois Showers</b>	<b>GOLF - SCRAMBLES</b> 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday mornings at 9:00 at Starter Shack. <b>Dave &amp; Dawn Pulley</b>
<b>BICYCLING</b> Tuesdays and Fridays, meet at 845 a.m. at parking lot behind Busch Hall. Watch Cycling Bulletin Board in Busch Hall for rides. <b>Rick &amp; Carol Yoder</b>	<b>CHURCH ASSOCIATION</b> Sunday Activities: All events in Busch Hall, 8:45 a.m.: Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.: Bible Study. 10:15 a.m.: Hymn Sing. 10:30 a.m.: Worship service, Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month. <b>Anthony Shipe, Pastor</b>	<b>DULCIMER LESSONS</b> Mondays in Citrus West. Beginners: 9:30 a.m. to noon. December-March. <b>Lois Showers</b>	<b>GOLF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS</b> Monthly meeting 2nd Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. in Hobby House. All members/golfers are welcome. December-March. <b>Gene Lockhart</b>
<b>BINGO</b> Nov.-Dec.: 1st and 3rd Saturdays; January-March: Weekly. 7 to 9 p.m. in Citrus East. <b>Linda Smith Jim Walsh</b>	<b>CHURCH COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b> 3rd Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m. in Jeri Miller Activity Building. November-April. <b>Harold Hughes Roy French</b>	<b>ENTERTAINMENT SUNDAYS</b> Announcements begin at 6:45 p.m. with program following. Performances will be in Busch Hall. <b>Ken and Sandy Langell</b>	<b>GOLF LESSONS</b> Tuesdays, Practice Range with all levels of expertise from 9 to 11 a.m. <b>Lynn Meyers</b>
<b>BIRDING</b> Tuesdays, 8 a.m. at Post Office Veranda. Bring binoculars and cameras. December-March. <b>Tom Butler</b>	<b>CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b> 3rd Fridays, 1 to 2:00 p.m. in the Church Office. <b>Harold Hughes</b>	<b>EUCHRE</b> Fridays, 7 to 9:00 p.m. in Citrus East. November-March. <b>Mary De Weerd</b>	<b>HABITAT FOR HUMANITY</b> Volunteer to help build homes in Pasco County. Projects January thru March TBA. <b>Barbara Colton</b>
<b>BLOOD DRIVE AT TR</b> Blood drives are held the 1st Monday in December and March. The Blood Mobile will be parked next to the TR Fire Station from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. unless announced otherwise. <b>Ken Neer</b>	<b>CLOGGERS OF TR</b> Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 to 11:30 a.m., Saturdays 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Citrus East. November-March. <b>Donna Neer Donna Smith</b>	<b>FIRE/RESCUE 33</b> Firefighters-Tues, 9 to 11 am- Fire Station. First Responders-Tuesday, 11 to 1, JMAB. Thursdays, 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m., Paul Rife Room. Business Meeting - 3rd Tuesdays, 9 a.m. in Paul Rife Room. <b>Larry Polzin</b>	<b>HAND AND FOOT</b> Thursdays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Busch Hall. January-March. <b>Diane &amp; Brian Krupicka</b>
<b>BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING</b> Tuesdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m. in Paul Rife Room. <b>Larry Polzin</b>	<b>COFFEE &amp; DONUTS - RADIO CLUB</b> 1st Saturday (during Flea Markets), and 3rd Saturdays during Yard Sales. 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or until sold out. Donuts and coffee served in Busch Hall. Nov.-Mar. <b>Jim Johnson Dee Manos</b>	<b>FIVE CROWNS</b> Wednesdays (non-concert nights only), 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Citrus West. November-April. <b>Jackie Thackery</b>	<b>HAPPY HOURS</b> Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Backup venues (weather): Cabana: SSP (always); RV South: CW; Village: HH. <b>Shala Wilson (Cabana) Ken Neer (RVS)</b>
<b>BOCCE</b> Scheduled games and competitions, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. November 15 thru March. <b>Jim Ridolfi</b>	<b>COFFEE SEMINARS</b> Thursdays, 8 to 9 a.m. in Busch Hall. Watch The TR Times and online calendar for updates. <b>Leslie Ewing</b>	<b>FIVE HUNDRED CARDS</b> Saturdays, 6:45 to 9 p.m. in Citrus West. November-March. <b>Deborah May Connie Bradley</b>	<b>ICE CREAM SOCIAL</b> Sundays, 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. in Busch Hall. <b>Rosita Williams</b>
<b>BOOK BROWSERS</b> 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2 to 3:00 p.m. in Citrus West. January-March. Book discussions. <b>Nan Feeny Lance</b>	<b>COFFEE SOCIAL</b> Monday thru Friday, 7:30 to 9 a.m. in Busch Hall. January-March. <b>Rose-Ann Boucher</b>	<b>FLEA MARKET</b> Flea Markets are held in Busch Hall the first Saturday of each month, November thru March, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Setup at 7 a.m. Coffee & donuts for sale. <b>Rick and Amy Peebles</b>	<b>IPHONE CLASS</b> Thursdays, 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Jeri Miller Activity Building. January 9-March 20. <b>Susan Stahley</b>
<b>BOWLING</b> Fridays at 2:00 p.m. at Pin Chasers Bowling Lanes, Zephyrhills. Dec. 6-March 28. <b>Leslie Price</b>	<b>CONCERT SERIES (WEDNESDAY)</b> Alternate Wednesdays starting January 8. Busch Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., shows start at 7:00 p.m. Check InTouch and TR Times for program details. Season tickets or pay at the door. <b>Kathy Shawver Lacy Shawver</b>	<b>FRIDAY AFTERNOON LIVE!</b> Certain Fridays, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at The Grove Stage. Check dates on the InTouch schedule and TR Booklet. <b>Donna Probes</b>	<b>JOKER</b> Mondays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Citrus West (Jan-Mar). Fridays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Citrus West (Nov-Mar). <b>Bob &amp; Deb Englert (Mon.) Deborah May (Fri.)</b>
<b>BRASS ENSEMBLE</b> Wednesdays, 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Jeri Miller Activity Building. All Brass players welcome! January-March. <b>Bill Watkins</b>	<b>CORNHOLE</b> Wednesdays, 7-9:00 pm, at the Shuffleboard Courts. January-March. <b>Dan Varner</b>	<b>FRIDAY NIGHT DANCES</b> Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Busch Hall, starting January 17. The dance schedule and themes are listed in the TR Booklet and on the InTouch app. <b>Sharon Fosnight</b>	<b>JUBELLATION</b> Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Busch Hall. November-April. <b>Bernie Gutridge</b>





# Travel News



**DAN AND SHARON ZILE**

**by Sharon Gilbert Zile**  
Volunteer TR Tour Director

TR Travelers have enthusiastically responded to this season's day trips with two full buses for the Jan. 23 StarLite Sapphire Luncheon Cruise and one totally full bus is scheduled to attend the Al Capone Dinner and Show on Feb. 18 at their new venue in Kissimmee. Approximately a dozen seats remain available for the March 7 day trip to Lake Cypress near Kenansville. Wild Florida is a private nature preserve where we will experience an animal safari and a 30-minute airboat ride in the central Florida headwaters of the Everglades.

Locals and tourists alike travel to Wild Florida to experience the Central Florida Everglades airboat tours as it provides a unique way of seeing Florida's native wildlife and the beauty of nature up close. The airboat rides are a great way to experience Central Florida from a fresh perspective and will give you a chance to see the real Florida and trek through a privately-owned nature preserve that's home to a



**Larry and Shala Wilson met new TR friends, Lora and Sean Davis.**

number of animals and plants that make up the Florida Everglades ecosystem.

We will also travel down gravel paths within the drive-thru Safari Park and discover more than 150 native and exotic animals roaming freely. During our journey, we will have the opportunity to observe a variety of animals. We will see species from as far away as the African savanna to others from the deciduous forests of North America, all from the



**Joan and Dennis Ledbetter having a little fun before lunch is served.**

comfort of our bus. Expanding across 170 acres of untouched scenic landscapes, the wildlife and safari park presents a unique opportunity to bring you up close and personal with wild animals such as giraffes, zebra, Eland antelope, Scimitar Oryx, American bison, Mouflon sheep and more. As we travel down the four-mile unbeaten path, we can enjoy an exploration just feet away from animals you normally only see on TV. Bring your cameras. If you have not yet made a reservation for this adventure, do so today. Cost is \$115 pp with all checks payable to Small World Tours and mailed to Sharon Zile at #2540. Departure will be at 7:45 a.m. and return to TR at 5:30 p.m.

Holly Griggs of Small World Tours will accompany our TR travelers to Biloxi and New Orleans on March 10-14. Holly, Dan and I met last spring to set the itinerary for the tour with each of us contributing experiences familiar to us. Holly has tested and tweaked the itinerary with another group and found it to be wonderful exposure to NOLA. Next week's article will share some of the highlights of our tour of the Big Easy.



**Randy and Billie Doell on a recent luncheon cruise.**

It is already time to be considering Florida day trips for next year. Do share your thoughts and wishes with us. Many TR newcomers may wish to become more familiar with Tampa? Someone mentioned the NASA Space Center to me this week? Yes, we have gone in a previous year, but we have a whole lot of new-TR folks who may wish us to repeat some of our favorite day trip destinations. Are there other areas within about a 1-2 hour bus ride that would make awesome day trips? We're all ears! Additionally, it's not too soon to plan for a multi-day trip during next season. Where would you like to go with our TR group? Let us know!

To quote the famous New Orleans trumpeter and vocalist, "And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."

**Take The TR Times on your next vacation and send us a photo.**  
[thetrimes@gmail.com](mailto:thetrimes@gmail.com)



*Photo submitted by Kim Rehfeldt*  
**Susan Larsen at her home in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., enjoying The TR Times.**

## Travelogue presents "How Trains Built the Panama Canal"

**by Bert Contractor**

I had an opportunity to see some of the slides and the narration of the upcoming Travelogue as Brian Krupicka prepared for his presentation, "How Trains Built the Panama Canal." It is fascinating to say the least. If you want to learn about the massive undertaking of building the Panama Canal, do not miss this Travelogue on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Citrus East.

This is how Brian describes his presentation: The Panama Canal is considered by some as the 10<sup>th</sup> wonder of the World. It was



**Digging out the main canal January 1910.**

built on the backs of men at a time when modern technology was not available. It could not have been built without the railroads of its

day. This presentation will take you through the evolution of a dream in 1845 through modern-day operations. Early attempts failed but perseverance prevailed.

You will see how it changed from a tourist attraction to a 21<sup>st</sup>-century world shipping center. The railroad technology needed was conceived, designed and built in a wilderness.

Travelogues are presented in Citrus East from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

- Feb. 12 - Brian Krupicka - "How Trains Built the Panama Canal."
- Feb. 26 - Barbara Colson - "314 Days Zig Zagging the World."
- March 12 - Alan Kenney - "Newfoundland from Coast to Coast."
- March 26 - Jerry McRoberts - "South America and Antarctica" Cruise.

Let us get an early start for next season. If you are interested in sharing your travel adventure, please contact me via text or call 980-334-5050. If you need assistance preparing your slideshow, I will be glad to help. In the meantime, keep on traveling happily and safely.



*Pictures submitted by Brian Krupicka*

**Modern Day "Mules" guiding ships through the locks.**



## The dream becomes a reality - Chapter Five



*Photos by Barbara Colson*

**Barbara and the view from the Fire Tower at Juma Lodge.**

**by Barbara Colson**

The Amazon Jungle - part of Brazil. When most people think about the Amazon, they think of vast green forests alive with the sound of monkeys, colorful birds and millions of insect species. But what lies beneath the surface? The Amazon Rainforest, teeming with life and biodiversity, home to millions of species of plants, animals and insects, was made possible by volcanoes, colliding tectonic plates, the uplift of the Andes and Ice Ages. The Amazon, then, is hundreds of millions of years in the making. Earth history is long, slow and punctuated by climate changes, moving continents, volcanic eruptions and mass extinctions. Humans are a tiny piece of that timeline, but as we

know well, have incredible power to both destroy and protect this ancient and fascinating place ([rainforestpartnership.org](http://rainforestpartnership.org)).

The Amazon Jungle was another stop on my bucket list. I wasn't quite sure what I was getting into here. Sleeping in a little tree house high above the river with just screening for windows and a fan if it was hot and humid, was like camping with a roof over your head and a full indoor bathroom. I felt quite safe as I was above the floor of the jungle and no crawling snakes would get me. Or at least that is what I hoped for. Every day for four days was an adventure which included flying to Manaus and taking a fast boat across two rivers, the Ponta Negra and the Amazon. The Negra

River is black, the Amazon is brown. There is a distinct line you can see where the two rivers meet. Hopping on a blue school-like bus, over ruts and dirt roads, coming to the edge of the river, boarding another fast boat for another hour ride through the jungle to our Juma Amazon Lodge. Being greeted by an excellent staff and guides begins the adventure. One of the daily tours took us piranha fishing. One or two people caught a fish and threw it back in the water. We went on several boat rides, visited an indigenous family where we had a snack and watched the owner make cassava flour from the plant. This plant contains some arsenic, which they boil away before grinding it into flour. During Covid they used the boiled juice as it has antibiotics and no one died from Covid. One day we traveled to see one of the largest trees in the jungle. Another day we climbed the fire tower to see the view. I'm not much on heights but I did it anyway. The view was breathtaking.

Just a few more interesting facts about this jungle. This is the largest jungle on earth and stretches across nine countries. The Amazon area produces about



**Fishing for piranhas.**

20% of the Earth's oxygen, thus it is called the "Lungs of the Earth." The Amazon is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth, containing approximately 10% of all known species. The Amazon is home to over 400 indigenous

tribes, some of who remain out of contact and live isolated from the outside world. For more facts you can find them at: <https://scientificorigin.com/17-mind-blowing-facts-about-the-amazon-rainforest-ecosystem>.



**View from the hammock on my porch overlooking the Amazon River.**



# Library News

by Mary Kosbab

“Books possess an extraordinary capacity to assist individuals in coping with grief. They provide comfort, understanding, and a sanctuary for emotions. They offer moments of escapism and solace while also imparting practical knowledge and coping mechanisms. Above all, books can instill a sense of hope and resilience, reminding us that, even when confronted with loss, the potential for growth and healing remains. When you find yourself grappling with grief, consider turning to the pages of a book to guide you on your journey toward healing and recovery.” (The Farewell Guide Limited).

The TR Library staff has come to realize that we have not done justice to books on grieving. We have an Inspiration collection; however, we have not had a collection dedicated completely to grieving and the grieving process.

On the tall bookcase behind the library desk we now have dedicated a shelf to this genre. On it you will find books that we hope will help those who are going through the difficult time after losing a loved one. There is also a white holder of folders which are for people to take and keep giving some important steps to take.

Following the heartbreaking passing of Cindy and Jim Watson’s daughter, Sarah, we found some books on the library desk which they donated, hoping they would give comfort to others. Frank and Connie Swanson’s daughter’s



Photo by Nancy Carini

Find the grief collection in bookcase behind the library desk.

book club generously donated \$150 in Swanee’s memory.

Both of these donations are greatly appreciated and are the beginning of a much-needed grief collection.

Nancy Carini, who is in charge of our Inspiration and Religion collections, has selected books from those collections to add to this new shelf. Connie Swanson and Nancy are working together on this undertaking.

Some of the new books added to this collection are listed below. They were written by Gary Roe, former missionary, pastor, hospice chaplain and award-winning author of “The Good Grief Series.”

We hope those who are in need of support and comfort will find some in the books and folders on our new shelf.

“The Grief Guide Book” - The beauty of this book is that you can read straight through or simply go to the question that’s currently on

your mind and heart. Consider this a reference manual for your grief process.

“Please Be Patient, I’m Grieving” - This practical and easy-to-read book provides the answers you need to make a difference in your own life and in the lives of others.

“Shattered, Surviving the Loss of a Child” - The death of a child cannot be fixed. But comfort, compassion, guidance and hope can be found in these pages.

“Heartbroken” - The loss of a husband or wife is traumatic. You will never be the same but you can heal and grow.

“Surviving the Holidays Without You” - Coping with loss is hard enough. Holidays can make life seem impossible. “Surviving the Holidays Without You” will reassure you that you’re not alone and that you will make it through these times.



## Book Browsers

by Nan Lance

The vote is in! These are the books selected by the Book Browser group for the 2025 season:

- Feb. 12 - “The Women” by Kristin Hannah.
- Feb. 26 - “The Ship of Brides” by Jojo Moyes.
- March 12 - “The War Nurse” by Tracy Enerson Wood.
- March 26 - “Grandma Gatewoods Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail” by Ben Montgomery.

The Book Browsers meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month through March in Citrus West, 2 to 3 p.m. Please join us for some good reading and great conversation. All are welcome.

# Garden News



by Nancy McDowell

Staghorn Leghorn, I grew up on cartoons and whenever I see a staghorn fern, I cannot help but think of Foghorn Leghorn. Why? Probably just due to my limited imagination.

The Spruce website provides this information on the staghorn plant - “This type of fern is known for its shape, which mimics deer or elk antlers. ... A staghorn fern grows best in warm, very humid conditions, bright, indirect, or dappled sunlight, in a base of organic soil, and it prefers temperatures between 50 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit.” I cannot think of a more ideal place for it to grow than right here. In fact, the Lake Margaret Garden has a few staghorn ferns.

Like orchids and bromeliads, staghorn ferns are epiphytic, meaning they grow on other plants for support, but are not parasitic. Mr. Plant Geek describes the staghorn fern on his website - “Platynerium bifurcatum has two types of fronds: shield fronds and bifurcated (forked) fronds. The former are located at the base of the plant and grow flatly, often appearing dried out or dead. The bifurcated fronds are what gives the plant its common name as their forked appearance is reminiscent of deer antlers.”

There are 18 varieties of staghorns. The most popular, easiest to find and care for, is the Platynerium bifurcatum. Now, you have to love some of the other



Photos by Nancy McDowell

Garden staghorn hanging.

species’ names - Platynerium coronarium: Crown Staghorn; Platynerium elephantotis: Elephant Ear Staghorn; Platynerium grande: Grand Staghorn; Platynerium madagascariense: Madagascar Staghorn; and my favorite: Platynerium superbum: Superb Staghorn (superb, indeed!).

The way I read the science on these plants is they are ferns and like all ferns, they do not produce seeds. How do they reproduce? As Mr. Geek says, “the old fashioned way,” by producing spores. How fun is that?

These plants can get big. Big enough to require support to stay aloft. I have seen them propped on tripods and hung by heavy metal chains. So keep that in mind if you are considering getting one for your own personal garden.

Here is my segue or topic transition, if you will. Some types of staghorn ferns resemble big hearts. Speaking of hearts...

Mark your calendars for our Valentine’s Day “Hearts in the Garden” event. We will have a photo booth, a place where you and your Valentine can cuddle up and have your love captured in digital form. There will also be a “Make Your Own Valentine Day Card” station. Even if your Valentine cannot join you in the garden that afternoon, come do something artsy and bring them back a token of your adoration.

I say, I say, I say... Come take a stroll through the TR Garden and seek out our staghorns.

Upcoming Lake Margaret Garden Club events:

Join us on Friday, Feb. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. for the Hearts in the Garden. We will have a photo booth and make your own Valentine’s Day Card station.

Sunday, March 9 is the Annual Art in the Garden Walk.



A tripod was erected to support this staghorn fern.

## Pickle Ball Jam winners



Photo by Sherie Grissinger

The Friday, Jan. 31 Men’s King of the Court bracket winners were Mike Clark, Garrett Box and Randy Smith.



The winners of the Mixed Doubles on Tuesday, Jan. 28 were Mike and Merendia Caldwell.

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# Pets on Parade

by Judy Leister

I'm sure many of you are like me. If you see a pretty polka dot-Dalmatian dog, you automatically think "firemen."

Dalmatians have a long history of being associated with fire departments but even before that they rode in the carriages of royalty in Europe. All of this was long before engines were invented so firefighters went racing to the fires in wagons pulled by a team of galloping horses. Dalmatians were great hunting dogs, fast on their feet with lots of stamina, making them perfect for the job of running with the wagons. Sirens hadn't been invented either so these dogs barking as they ran next to the wagon warned everyone to stay out of the way. Surprisingly, the horses never stepped on them. The dogs had an unusually strong bond with the horses. While the firefighters were offbattling the blaze, the dogs protected the horses and helped keep them calm.

Russ and Rhona Fuller have had Dalmatians for many years. In fact, they have had eight of them. You guessed it, Russ is a fireman. He served 50 years as a volunteer fireman with the last 22 years teaching firefighting in various parts of Connecticut. He recently retired and they will be snowbirds here at TR.

Their seventh Dalmatian had passed over the Rainbow Bridge and Russ said "No more dogs." That idea worked until Rhona retired from her banking job and found being alone at home very lonely. Russ agreed to get another Dalmatian if it met the criteria. First, it had to be longhaired which can not be bred for. It's a genetic throwback so it just happens to show up in a litter. Second, it had to be a male. Third, it had to be under six-years old but not a puppy. Fourth, it had to be located in either Florida or Connecticut. Wowza that's a lot of requirements! Rhona looked



Photo by Rhona Fuller  
**Cosmos**

online and in just 24 hours Cosmo showed up at South Florida Dalmatian Rescue. He was a perfect match.

Out of all the other Dalmatians they have had, Cosmo adapted unbelievably well. He was better behaved than any other dog they had ever had. The day after they picked him up in Miami they took off for a three-day trip of 35 hours on the road, headed to Connecticut. Cosmo was a good boy. Not a peep out of him on that long haul.

When they arrived at their two-story home in Connecticut, Cosmo had his first encounter with stairs. He looked up that long flight of steps and launched. Oops...his idea of getting to the top in one giant leap was not going to work. He soon found running to the top worked a lot better.

Cosmo loves to go for long walks, especially if they end up at the TR North Paw Dog Park where he can do zoomies around and around the park. He also loves to take rides in the car.

Dalmatians have very sensitive tummies so Cosmo doesn't get table scraps. Human food tends to go right through him. He loves mealtime and is alert and ready to eat promptly at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

When I sat down in their living room, I was greeted by this 70 pounds of loving dog. He tapped a gentle "hello" to me with his paw and then laid his head in my lap, giving me the sweetest look with his eyes. This pooch definitely talks volumes with those big, warm eyes.

## The TR Times QR code



SCAN ME

Above is the QR code for *The TR Times*. Scan the code with a smart phone or tablet and you will be directed to the website where *The TR Times* is located. The current newspaper is available there along with the previous issues starting with the 2019-20 season.

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Always use a QR scanning application with builtin security. Not all QR apps are secure. If you find a malicious code you should report it to the business where you discovered it. Approach QR codes with caution and use good judgement to keep from getting scammed.

# Birding Activity



The article below is reprinted from the TR Times archives. by Tom Butler

What floor would you like?

This is a question we have heard many times when we step into an elevator. If you were in the company of a variety of birds, you would hear a variety of different answers. Imagine a grocery store with multiple floors offering different food selections. When it comes to wooded areas, every tree is divided into different floors – I mean levels. Each level, top to bottom, creates a mosaic of habitats and dietary offerings that provide what is essential for each type of bird. While we can find each bird at different levels, each species has a personal favorite. Let's start on the ground floor and see what is available.

**Forest Floor:** This is the recycling station for decaying leaves, fallen trees, animal scat, moss and detritus. These waste items are broken down by fungi, insects of many descriptions and earthworms (a bird favorite). Insects and seeds attract doves of all descriptions as well as wrens, thrushes, robins and many species of sparrows. The Ovenbird, a warbler species, not only spends most of its time on the forest floor feeding, it builds its nest on the ground in the shape of a pizza oven. Insects on my pizza – no thank you. How about we check out the second floor?

**Herb Layer:** Herbaceous or soft-stemmed plants as well as grasses, ferns, flowers and various ground covers are found here. These plants and flowers attract additional examples of insects and, in turn, more species of birds with just a little different dietary demand. The mere addition of

flowers, at this level, creates an ample supply of seeds and nectar that bring in many newcomers to this floor – err layer. Hummingbirds seek out tubular flowers for the energy-giving nectar while Goldfinches flock to Purple Cone flowers, Zinnias and Thistle plants. Warblers of many descriptions enjoy the seeds found at this level. Yum! Let's push the button for the next floor.

**Shrub Layer:** Woody-stemmed vegetation makes up the next level. With bushes, brambles and berry-producing plants, this is a very different food source and, therefore, another change in species that flock to this layer. Flock is the perfect word for Cedar Waxwings because they are a very social bird that stays in large groups and descend onto just about any source of berries. When cool weather descends on the woods there is a decrease in the number insects available. Many birds including Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers and our state bird the Northern Mockingbird turn to a variety of fruits that becomes available. Beauty Berries are found in our park and are a favorite of these incredible creatures. Next floor up, please.

**Understory:** This level consists of smaller trees, saplings and immature trees that have not yet reached the upper canopy level. This layer provides food, shelter and protection from larger predators such as hawks and owls that frequent the canopy above. Nearly a third of migratory birds frequent the understory level which makes us realize that we need to search higher levels with our binoculars. Looking at bird feeders is great, but you may be missing additional species if you

don't search all levels of the habitat. Many of these trees are larval hosts which means that insects lay eggs on leaves that will provide food when they emerge. More insects, larvae and caterpillars can only mean one thing – more birds! Grosbeaks, Tanagers, Orioles and Cuckoos can be seen on a regular basis when viewing this level. Next floor please.

**Canopy:** This level is where the crowns of trees meet to form a thick layer. Much like an umbrella, wildlife are provided some shade, wind and rain protection as well as an abundance of fruits and nuts. In a rainforest you would likely find nearly half of all the wildlife residing at this level. Parrots are common in the rainforest while our canopy has a different cast of characters. Owls and Hawks love to perch on the large branches in our park and peer down on the food sources available before making their dining selection. Yikes! Wood Ducks, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and others use these branches to roost at night. Last stop on our ascent coming up.

**Emergent Level:** Trees that penetrate the canopy, or emerge, provide incredible observation perches for some of the larger predators like an Eagle. When perched near water, the Eagle has a bird's-eye view of fishing opportunities. Other large predatory birds will feed on mammals, reptiles and birds that frequent the canopy below. A place for everyone! So, as we descend back to the forest floor, check your shopping list and decide what tasty morsels and snacks you just can't live without. You should be able to find yourself something scrumptious.

## Travelers Rest Resort Birding Group

by Pat Butler

Are you a nature lover? Do you have an interest in bird watching and identification? Do you enjoy getting out on TR's scenic trails? If so, you might want to join the TR Birding Group. Led by Tom Butler, this group takes a weekly walk around TR's extensive birding trail. There have been sightings of over 150 different species of birds here at our park and TR is officially

known as a State of Florida birding hotspot by Cornell Labs, ornithology experts with worldwide influence. They believe our slice of paradise is special. Birding hotspots are locations created by eBird users that allow birders to enter data for shared locations creating aggregated results available to other birders.

The TR Birding Group leaves the front of the Post Office at 8 a.m. each Tuesday morning. Along the

trail the group identifies various birds and takes beautiful photos of the daily visitors. There is always time allowed for resting on nearby benches. Come on out and enjoy nature at its best; you won't be disappointed!



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# Busch Hall declared the 11<sup>th</sup> Canadian Province



CSA's Ontario Director Kimberly Tetzlaff displays a symbol of the current exchange rate.



Daryl McLeod and wife Belinda (not shown) along with Ralph and Val Smith co-chaired the event while Eleanor and Don Buchser served as liaisons for the Canadian Snowbird Association members.



Dee Branchaud and Hazel English sport Canadian headdresses.



CSA guests of the day are Ralph and Kimberly Tetzlaff and Karen and Bill Huestis.

by Margaret Emmetts

Busch Hall was filled with Canadians and their guests to celebrate the annual Canadian Luncheon. In tribute to their national colors, most attendees were sporting red and white outfits. Two long tables overflowed with delicious food and two more held desserts.

The program was opened with declaring Busch Hall an honorary 11th Canadian Province.

A highlight of the affair was the presence of Kimberly Tetzlaff, Ontario Director of the Canadian Snowbird Association, and Karen Huestis, National President of the Association, and their spouses.

The CSA was formed to enhance the rights of Canadian travelers. Tetzlaff gave a most informative presentation about concerns of travelers crossing the U.S. border. She covered topics such as health benefits, moving money, exchange rates and bringing pets, among others.

I'm sure non-Canadians were impressed by what Canadians have to go through to winter at TR. Their attendance and volunteering spirit are always an asset to the park.



Jim and Sandi Walsh, Stan and Sharron Motycka in national colors.



Linda Murphy presents painted rocks to winners of a drawing. Each rock has a Canadian flag on one side and a saying on the reverse.



One of the colorful table decorations.

*Photos by Pam Watkins*



Joan Hyde, Linda Murphy and Jamie Hyde show off their Canadian spirit.



Attendees stand to sing both the American and Canadian National Anthems at the start of the program.



A long table at the front of the hall held a variety of door prizes as well as flags of the various Canadian Provinces.

Betty Teichert displays a hand-crafted stained glass piece that she created and donated as one of the prizes.



Jean Morrow, reported to be TR's oldest Canadian, won one of the door prizes.



## Classified

**Village home at 2501.** The first house in the Village. Custom built open floor plan home with two spacious bedrooms, two full baths and plenty of closet space. Huge master bedroom, bath with garden tub and walk-in shower. Two screened porches and attached shed. Vaulted ceilings, vertical blinds and stucco walls throughout. Carport and RV pad with full hookups. Weatherproof aluminum roof, new refrigerator and appliances included. Separate inside laundry room with washer, dryer and cabinets, den or office with French doors. Furnished except for master bedroom and a few personal pieces.

**2501 Betty Gilson**  
870-615-1668

**Lovely fully-furnished Village home** located on a large lot in a cul-de-sac. Home has a wonderful private backyard. New kitchen appliances, two bedrooms, one bath, large eat-in kitchen, new kitchen floor, new windows and plantation shutters. Screened-in lanai completed three years ago. Sale does not include golf cart or share. **\$170,000.**

**2615 Wylie and Gail Downing**  
203-241-2537

**2016 Rockwood Forest River 8329SS travel trailer** for sale **\$29,500** obo. Sleeps up to 4 people. Welded aluminum frame with three large slides. Power leveling jacks, electric tongue jack, electric, propane hot water heater with new anode rod just serviced December 2024. Air conditioner replaced December 2023. Two electric awnings, new electronic entry lock, vent lids on all overhead vents, professionally maintained. Shed with large double door shed and clamshell. Washer, dryer and refrigerator in shed with shelves for plenty of extra storage. Lease paid through July 2025. Does **not** include stock share.

**15-35 Russ or Rhona Fuller**  
860-747-1193 or 860-805-4321

**RV South Home lot 06-58.** Park model and lanai on a concrete pad. Fully furnished including plug-in generator, washer and dryer.

**06-05 Wolf Reimann**  
816-308-9948

**2019 41' Hy-Line** at lot 13-07. Cabana 12 X 24, washer and dryer and share of stock. Remaining lease through July 31, 2025, **\$108,990.**

**13-07 Frank Meier**  
**new price** 586-918-4266

**2008 35' Luxury Glacier Bay fifth wheel trailer** with 3 slides, canvas awnings have been replaced with hard metal roof, trailer has been professionally leveled, blocked and anchored.

Electric awning, bedroom with queen bed and full cedar-lined closet with mirrored sliding doors. Pull out bed in living room, recliner loveseat, electric fireplace, office desk, full galley with 3-burner stove top and propane oven, dinette with 4 chairs, lots of storage inside and out. Comes with share and balance of the lease. **\$19,000.** Make offer.

**07-07 BB Taylor**  
**new price** 517-655-3788

**2016 Forest River, 35'7" class A motorhome**, Berkshire 34QS, Cummins 16 340HP Diesel, Freightliner chassis, four slides and awnings, dual a/c, auto-leveling, original owner, 67K miles, serviced annually, Freightliner Oasis, Gaffney, S.C. Featuring new flooring, water heater, AC, refrigerator and king bed. **\$109,900.**

**17-30 Barry Zimmerman**  
910-232-5300

**Classified ad submission**

Ads are due the Friday before the paper is published. Provide item name, along with a short description, the asking price, your name and lot number.

Send your information to [thetrimes@gmail.com](mailto:thetrimes@gmail.com).

**This Airstream Limited 34'** queen rear bed RV has newer appliances and two TVs. You can boondock with two XL solar panels and 2,000 watt inverter. Shed has refrigerator and washer and dryer.

You don't need a golf cart at this premium location. It is close to everything TR has to offer. The front room of the cabana is set up as an office and craft room with two desks and plenty of storage. The main cabana space has a sleeper sofa, two Lazy Boy chairs and extra seating. Enjoy grilling on your patio with tables and seating for six. Enjoy the vast green space behind you.

All this and a share for **\$84,000.**

**11-17 Ed and Ethel Polsdof**  
734-347-1433

**Roll-top desk**, excellent condition. **Make an offer.**

**2551 Phil Simmers**  
330-533-3820

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## FOOD MENU

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11:30 - 1:30

### MAINS

HAMBURGER	4.25
CHEESEBURGER	4.50
DBL HAMBURGER	5.75
DBL CHEESEBURGER	6.50
HOT DOG	2.25
ADD GRILLED ONIONS @ NO CHARGE	
ITALIAN SAUSAGE	4.00
WITH GRILLED PEPPER BLEND	
HAM & CHEESE SAND	4.00
TURKEY SAND	4.00
CHICKEN BREAST SAND	4.50
HAM SALAD PLATE	5.75
TURKEY SALAD PLATE	5.75
VEGGIE SALAD PLATE	4.50
EXTRAS .50 EA	
COLE SLAW	
CHEESE	
ADDITIONAL CHEESE	
BEANS	
SAUERKRAUT	
POTATO CHIPS	.75
ICE CREAM	1.50

### DAILY SPECIALS

MONDAY		
CHILI	3.25	
TUESDAY		
SOUP	3.25	
WEDNESDAY		
CHILI DOG	2.50	
PULLED PORK	4.00	
THURSDAY		
CHOWDER	3.25	
FRIDAY		
TUNA SALAD	5.75	
TUNA SAND	3.75	

### BEVERAGES

SODA POP	1.00
ICED TEA	1.00
BOTTLED WATER	1.00
TEA & COFFEE	.75

## The TR Times advertising policy

by Margaret Emmetts

The TR Times has an advertising policy that has evolved over the years. While I will not go into all the details of the policy, I will list some of the more pertinent concepts.

No material of an abusive, unsavory, libelous, seditious, derogatory, nature, etc. will be accepted.

Articles must adhere to The TR Times vision and mission statements, that is they should reflect TR in a positive light. Submissions must include contributor's name.

No discussion of personnel matters within the park are acceptable.

HiLites only refer to articles in the paper.

The Editor and Operating Committee are the sole judges of what is to be published.

Acceptance of ads is at the discretion of the Operating Committee.

**Obituary submission**

The TR Times includes obituaries of former residents in its various issues. Sharon Cook is our Obituary Editor and is responsible for writing these obituaries.

Please submit your obituaries to the newspaper via email at [thetrimes@gmail.com](mailto:thetrimes@gmail.com).

Ads are free to residents only for the sale of personal items, not business, work-related items or services.

Letters to the Editor size limit is 250 words and must be signed by the person submitting. If the letter is rejected by the Operating Committee the writer will be notified.

Ongoing events such as Flea Market, Yard Sales and club activities will not be published unless the chairperson submits an article.

Articles from the Internet will not be published without authentication and proper credit/permission from author and/or source.

Articles must be of interest to residents and current in nature. No political or world events.

Business advertising must be contracted and invoiced at current rates.

Should you have any questions about our policy, do not hesitate to contact us.

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