

VALENCIA LAKES the echo

Volume 28, No. 6

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June 2026



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Meet the Valencia Lakes Lightning, Division Champions of the 2025 Winter Boomer League

Front row:

Lori Friedman, Linda Kessler, Iris Gross, Mary Gottlieb, Dale Kuznetz, Michele Rose, Laurie Intondi; Madeline Hirsch

Back row:

Al Cittadino, Meryl Cittadino, Joyce Kneuer, Jerry Cohn, Linda Zalkin, Marelle O'Meara, Jazmin Davidson, Joel Katz

Kneeling:

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Absent from team photo

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Bambi's Bulletin *By Bambi Rainbeau, President*



“Deer” Valencia Lakes residents,

It is truly wonderful to see how engaged our residents are and how many thoughtful questions and ideas are brought forward. The Board values this involvement and remains open to listening, discussing, and exploring suggestions that support the well-being of our community. At the same time, HOAs must follow specific procedures and legal requirements before making changes to common areas or adding new amenities. These rules ensure fairness, transparency, and responsible stewardship of community resources, and they guide every decision the Board makes on behalf of all homeowners.

Previously, the idea of placing a fence on top of the berm along Hagen Ranch had been discussed. Because installing a fence in this location is considered a new amenity, it would require a community vote, a months-long process. It's also important to remember that the community recently invested \$133,000 to remove the failing ficus hedge and replace it with green arboricolas, which are now growing in well. Placing a fence there now would destroy these new plantings and undo the progress already made. In addition, the county will only allow for a 4-foot fence, which could be climbed over.

One resident suggested exploring electronic perimeter systems instead, but these come with significant challenges, especially in Florida's environment. Beam alarm systems may seem like a simple solution, but they come with significant limitations in Florida's environment. Wildlife is the biggest source of false alarms by breaking the beam and triggering alerts throughout the day and night. Weather, especially heavy rain, fog, humidity, direct sunlight, and blowing debris, frequently disrupt the infrared signal. The equipment also requires perfect alignment, which can shift over time due to soil settling, wind, storms, or landscaping activity, leading to missed detections or constant maintenance.

Coverage is limited as well. Each beam pair only spans a few hundred feet, so longer perimeters require multiple posts, wiring, or solar units, increasing both cost and upkeep. Landscaping presents ongoing challenges, since growing shrubs, swaying branches, and lawn equipment can easily interfere with the beam path. Power interruptions—whether from batteries, wiring, or solar—also cause downtime. For these reasons, beam systems are not a low-maintenance or highly reliable option for irregular, landscaped berms like ours.

One idea that may offer some benefit is placing a beam-style alert system across the sidewalks and roadway before the guardhouse, rather than along the berm. In this location, the system would not be used as a perimeter barrier but as an early-notification tool. If triggered, it would simply alert the guard that someone is approaching on foot or by bicycle, allowing the guard to be more vigilant and attentive as individuals enter the community.

The good news is that the new arboricolas have rooted and are beginning to knit together. As they continue to mature, they will thicken and interlock, forming the same type of dense, natural hedge that previously prevented people from climbing over the berm. With time and continued care, the plantings will provide the solid, living barrier residents were accustomed to before the ficus removal.

We appreciate everyone's interest and care for our community. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we allow the landscape to do what it was designed to do.

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where the ad/article can be found!**

June is even side of the street parking and the beginning of hurricane season.

Hurricane Preparedness for Our 55+ Community

Living in South Florida means enjoying sunshine most of the year—but it also means preparing wisely for hurricane season. For adults 55 and better, proper planning is not just recommended; it's essential.

Understanding Your Risks

Hurricanes can bring strong winds, flooding, power outages, and limited access to medical or emergency services. Knowing your vulnerabilities—such as mobility limitations, medical needs, or reliance on electricity-powered devices—helps you create a plan that truly protects you.

Before the Storm: What Every Resident Should Do

- Create a Personal Emergency Plan — Identify where you will go if evacuation becomes necessary, how you will get there, and who will assist you if needed.
- Assemble a Hurricane Supply Kit — Include at least 7 days of water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio, and copies of important documents.
- Prepare Medical & Mobility Needs — Ensure you have extra medications, backup power for medical devices, and a list of your healthcare providers.
- Secure Your Home — Bring in outdoor furniture, secure loose items, and close existing shutters.
- Stay Informed — Sign up for local alerts from Palm Beach County and monitor trusted weather sources.

Special Considerations for 55+ Residents

- Mobility & Evacuation: If you may need help evacuating, arrange assistance early with neighbors, family, or community staff.
- Medical Devices: If you rely on oxygen, CPAP, insulin refrigeration, or other powered devices, plan for backup power or alternative arrangements.
- Pets: Prepare carriers, food, medications, and ensure your evacuation location accepts animals.
- Communication: Keep a written list of emergency contacts in case your phone battery dies.

During the Storm: Safety First

- Shelter in a Safe Interior Room — Stay away from windows and glass doors.
- Avoid Using Elevators — Power outages can trap occupants.
- Keep Emergency Supplies Nearby — Especially medications, water, and flashlights.
- Do Not Go Outside — Even during the “eye,” conditions can change instantly.

After the Storm: Proceed With Caution

- Watch for Hazards — Downed power lines, flooding, and debris can be dangerous.
- Check on Neighbors — Many residents may need assistance or reassurance.
- Use Generators Safely — Never operate them indoors or near windows.
- Report Community Damage — Notify the HOA office so repairs can be prioritized.

Community Support & Resources

Our community will provide updates through email and emergency text alerts. Residents who need additional assistance—whether mobility support, medical considerations, or transportation—should notify the office before a storm is approaching so arrangements can be made.

Palm Beach County also offers:

- Special Needs Shelter registration
- Transportation assistance
- Emergency medical support

More Than Just a Flyer

Over the past several weeks, many of you may have noticed a new look to some of our flyers, announcements, and promotional materials around the community. From refreshed event graphics to updated newsletters and activity advertisements, I've been spending a great deal of time working on the way we communicate here at Valencia Lakes.

When I first arrived, I made a very conscious decision not to immediately come in and start reinventing the wheel. Quite honestly, this community already had a pretty impressive wheel. There are so many residents, volunteers, clubs, and committees here putting countless hours behind the scenes to make this community active, welcoming, and fun. Before trying to add my own big ideas to the calendar, I felt it was important to first understand what already makes this place special.

That has meant spending a lot of time learning about the facilities, meeting residents, getting to know our vendors, and figuring out how everything operates together. It has also meant listening—a lot of listening. Sometimes planned listening...sometimes accidental listening while walking through the clubhouse trying to quietly refill my coffee.

One thing became very clear early on: there is an enormous amount of work happening behind the scenes every single week. Residents are organizing events, planning activities, coordinating clubs, decorating rooms, selling tickets, moving tables, sharing ideas, and volunteering their time constantly. My initial goal has been to make sure the communication surrounding those efforts reflects the energy and dedication already happening every day.

Sometimes that means redesigning a flyer, so it actually catches your eye instead of immediately blending into the voluminous list of details we provide. Sometimes it means rewriting announcements to make them clearer, more fun, or easier to follow. Other times, it simply means trying to present information in a way that feels exciting and welcoming. Good communication is more than just dates and times—it should make people want to participate.

Now, while we certainly have some exciting programming already underway—including our upcoming Lifelong Learning Series featuring six outstanding speakers, our Memorial Day celebration, and the return of our Winter Show Series—I'll admit that my biggest contribution so far has probably been making your bulletin boards work a little harder.

And honestly? I'm okay with that.

I have plenty of ideas, future events, and activities I'm excited to bring to the community over time. But before introducing a wave of new programming, I believed it was important to first support and elevate all of the incredible things this community was already doing long before I arrived.

I also want to sincerely thank everyone for the warm welcome. The kindness and patience I've received from residents has been incredible. I'm learning faces quickly, and the names are slowly catching up. Although, as hard as I try to avoid it, I've somehow already learned most of the clubhouse gossip too. Apparently, that comes with the job.

Truthfully, one of the best parts of being here has been seeing just how much pride residents take in this community. People genuinely care here, and that makes a tremendous difference. I'm excited for what's ahead, grateful to now be part of it all, and looking forward to continuing to build something special together—one flyer redesign at a time.



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Valencia Lakes Pap Corps for Cancer Research

By Debbi Broder, VP Education, Cindy Sierra, President



I'm happy to begin June's article with gratitude and thanks. Last month, the Valencia Lakes Wine Club, in conjunction with the Valencia Lakes Chapter of the Pap Corps, held a fundraiser for cancer research. Whenever a club or community group will work with the Pap Corps to raise funds for cancer research, it deserves the ultimate recognition; a mere thank you feels insufficient. I was deeply touched by the generosity shown by the community, who purchased raffles and 50/50 drawing tickets, enabling the VL Pap Corps to make a significant donation to the Pap Corps at large. A special thank you to Cheryl Bluth, Cindy Sierra, and Debbie Lazinsky from the VL Wine Club; without them, this event would not have been possible. Their partnerships with Flakowitz and with Dr. Watson's band, the Gritty Grove, allowed us to eat, drink, and dance the night away. Erna Levine and Blanche Moss, our fundraising co-chairs, created crowd-pleasing raffle baskets that kept the raffles flowing! To all who made this event possible, the VL Pap Corps extends our heartfelt thanks!

Research shows that as we age, our bodies are more susceptible to developing cancer. The female reproductive system can be a host for many types of cancers. Some gynecological cancers I have yet to write about are endometrial cancer, uterine cancer, and cervical cancer. Each of these cancers has unique causes and treatments.

Endometrial cancer begins in the inner lining of the uterus. Each month, the lining of the uterus thickens and releases; this is menstruation. Endometrial cancer is the most common of the aforementioned cancers, usually developing after menopause. Risk factors for endometrial cancer can be early menstruation, late menstruation, having had no or few pregnancies, and having used hormone replacement therapy. Symptoms may include atypical vaginal bleeding; therefore, it is usually found in early stages and is easier to treat. There are no screenings for endometrial cancer.

Uterine sarcoma begins in the muscular wall of the uterus. (A sarcoma is a solid tumor.) Genetic factors and radiation for other cancers can increase the risk for this type of cancer; however, its cause remains unknown. A uterine sarcoma is hard to detect. It is an aggressive tumor that is hard to treat. There is no screening for this type of cancer. Cervical cancer starts in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus. It is caused by the human papilloma-virus (HPV). HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that can cause anal, vulvar, and vaginal cancer as well. When detected through screenings, precancerous cell changes can be seen and managed, preventing cancer from developing. Cervical cancer screenings with HPV tests and Pap smears are recommended for women ages 21-65. (American Cancer Society.)

There are many ways that gynecologic cancers can be treated. Options include surgery, traditional chemotherapy, and radiation. Newer treatments include targeted therapies, hormone-blocking therapies, antibody-drug conjugates, and immunotherapies. Combination therapies are showing the best results but can come with undesirable side effects. A gynecologic oncologist can explain treatment options based on the specific cancer and a woman's overall health. The Mayo Clinic is testing a tampon-like device that will be able to detect all types of gynecologic cancers. Worn for 40 minutes, the device is then sent to the lab where its secretions are tested for DNA markers. This type of test may be available within 5 years.

If you need a referral to Sylvester, call Alice Kruger (561-317-1137) or Sandy Markowitz (561-732-9199). Kudos to fundraising chairs Blanche Moss and Erna Levine. Moms all enjoyed their Mother's Day orchids. Another thank you to Helene Blum and Marion Gilbert; the Mother's Day cards were the perfect addition!

WAYS TO DONATE:

Tribute Cards: Cards to celebrate many occasions are available AND can now be personalized! Call Helene Blum (516-205-7246) or Marion Gilbert (561-736-5124).

Join the Giving Train: Join for a recurring, tax-deductible monthly donation of as little as \$10. 100% goes toward cancer research! (www.thepapcorps.org)

SAVE THE DATE:

July 26, 2026: Paint & Sip. Mel's Way Bistro. \$45. Paint a canvas beach bag, sip wine & eat appetizers. Look for Pap Corps flyers and emails.

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Rabin Hadassah *by Joanna Rothstein, Advocacy and Zionism*

Hadassah women bring both heart and voice to Hadassah's advocacy. On March 6, 200 Hadassah leaders arrived on Capitol Hill for the organization's *Day of Impact*, urging lawmakers to maintain a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, confront antisemitism, and protect women's health. More than one hundred meetings with members of the House and Senate elevated the voices of Zionist women and Jewish communities nationwide. Priority issues include increased funding for the *Nonprofit Security Grant Program*, which helps protect American communities at risk of terrorist attacks, and support for medical innovation and U.S.-Israel medical partnerships that disproportionately affect women.

Following Hadassah's *Day of Impact*, several lawmakers signed on to co-sponsor the bipartisan *U.S.-Israel FUTURES Act*, while others are actively advocating for increased funding and stronger protections to help keep communities safe through the *Nonprofit Security Grant Program*.

The Washington *Day of Impact* reflects the organization's broader national advocacy network, mobilizing members across all 50 states to engage policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels.

On March 30, a cadre of local Hadassah women, including myself and our education chair, Lois Gordon, met with our representative, Lois Frankel, as part of *Day in the District*. Congresswoman Frankel, a Hadassah member, continues to support many of our policy priorities, which were discussed during the meeting. She has co-sponsored H.R. 768 (Holocaust Education and Antisemitism Lessons Act), H.R. 2588, which would coordinate federal study, assessment, response to, and reporting of antisemitic threats and acts, along with H.R. 5645 (Pray Safe Act of 2025). These are just a few of the many pieces of legislation she has supported. We sincerely appreciate her continued support of women, the fight against antisemitism, and Israel.

We continue to pray for peace and for the safety of our dedicated hospital workers. Donations to Hadassah Medical Organization are especially meaningful at this time.

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Why HOAs Strive for Conformity

HOAs don't push for conformity just to be strict—there are practical, legal, and financial reasons behind it. In Florida especially, where communities are dense and property values are closely tied to appearance, consistency plays a major role in stability.

1. Protecting Property Values

Uniform standards help ensure that no single home's appearance drags down the value of surrounding homes.

- Consistent landscaping
- Well-maintained exteriors

Predictable architectural styles These create a cohesive look that buyers expect—and pay for.

2. Preserving Community Identity

Every HOA has a “look and feel” that defines it. Conformity helps maintain that identity over time, even as owners change and trends shift. This includes:

- Paint palettes
- Roof styles
- Landscaping themes

Signage and lighting standards

3. Reducing Neighbor-to-Neighbor Conflict

Clear, uniform rules prevent disputes by removing subjectivity. Instead of neighbors arguing over taste, the HOA's published standards make decisions predictable and fair.

4. Ensuring Fair and Consistent Enforcement

Florida law requires HOAs to enforce rules uniformly to avoid claims of selective enforcement. Conformity makes enforcement:

- Defensible
- Transparent

Consistent across all homes

5. Maintaining Safety and Functionality

Some conformity rules aren't aesthetic—they're practical. Examples include:

- Driveway materials that reduce flooding
- Approved hurricane shutters

Landscaping that doesn't obstruct sightlines or emergency access

6. Supporting Long-Term Planning and Budgeting

When homes follow similar standards, maintenance and replacement planning becomes easier and more cost-effective. For example:

- Predictable roof types
- Standardized fencing

Uniform mailbox systems

This helps the board budget responsibly and avoid unnecessary expenses.

The Architectural Control Committee exists to protect the appearance, harmony, and long-term value of the community. Its role isn't to make things difficult for homeowners—it's to ensure that changes to homes and landscaping follow the standards everyone agreed to when they purchased in the community.



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Bowling League *By Joel Winograd*

Things are heating up at the Lucky Strike Lanes, much like the hot weather which has returned for its annual visit to South Florida.

I recently did some research on the physical and mental benefits of bowling for seniors, some of which surprised me.

Before giving updates on the performances of the Valencia Lakers bowlers, I'd like to tell you about the physical and mental benefits of bowling for seniors. Bowling is an excellent low-impact physical activity, offering a combination of physical exercise, mental stimulation, and social engagement. It is highly accessible for senior adults of all ages and abilities. In the Senior Handicapped Leagues at Lucky Strike Lanes in Boca Raton, we enjoy 3 hours of trying to roll bowling balls as light as 8 pounds down the lanes with varying degrees of success. Win or lose, a good time is had by all as we share competition, stories of family, vacations, the happenings of the day in the changing world we live in, and one of the most important things camaraderie and social activity. The bowlers representing Valencia Lakes have enjoyed everything above, including making new friends from other G.L. Home communities and various communities in South Florida.

As I write this column, we have completed 4 weeks of play in the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon leagues. Sadly, the teams represented by Valencia Lakers, Diane Messer and yours truly, are off to a very slow start. Joel Cohen's team, Ten Pin Mafia, is in 14th place in the 18-team league. Joel remains very consistent with an average of 167, with his best 3-game series of 581 and a single-game high score of 216. Diane's team, the Alley Cats, is currently next to last place, with Diane coming in with an average of 117. The Lane Surfers, the team Allen Schwartz and I bowl for, have gone from the penthouse to the outhouse, as we are in last place after winning the last half of the Winter/Fall Season. Allen's average is 129 as his game slowly improves. My hot hand has continued in the new season, opening the first week with a 3-game score of 707, with a single-game high of 259.

In the Thursday League, Ten Pin Mafia is leading the way with a record of 27-8. Joel has been a little less consistent, with his average dropping to 164 with a high 3-game score of 526 and a single-game high of 199. My team, the Alley Gators, is hanging in the middle of the pack in 8th place, with a record of 19-16. I have been able to maintain an average of 201 despite slumping some the last couple of weeks. Diane remained amazingly consistent, rolling to a seasonal average of 117 per game, the same as her average for the Tuesday league.

If you used to bowl when you were younger and think that bowling is something you may be able to have fun with again, please feel free to contact me. We can arrange a practice session to see if your skill set, stamina, and health will allow you to try a game that people of all ages take part in and enjoy.

I can be reached at 914-330-5866 or jcw2108@hotmail.com Joel Winograd

Current Events Club *By Gideon Buczyner*



Join a group of your neighbors discussing many topics presented by various members covering national and world news and then opened to the members for discussion. Meetings are on the first Monday of the month and our next meetings will be on June 1st from 1 to 3 PM in the social hall. For more information contact Gideon Buczyner at 561-752-2001.

Diabetes Support Group *By Leslie Eatock, President*

Our group is open to all individuals living with diabetes—at any stage—as well as their family members and friends. Diabetes is a progressive disease, and no one should have to navigate it alone. We offer support, shared knowledge, personal experiences, and encouragement in a welcoming and understanding environment. Our goal is to address your questions and concerns as thoughtfully and thoroughly as possible. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM in the conference room. For more information, please feel free to contact me at 619-792-9819.

Duplicate Bridge ♡♠♦♣♡♠♦♣ *Faithfully Submitted, Elyse Magram*

So with the sunny weather, we are losing some snowbirds. But, amazingly, we have been running 7 or 8 tables a week. There has been some attrition due to illness. We gladly welcomed back Stan Zions, who had his second knee replaced.

We were thrilled to see Sylvia Saks back from surgery. Karen has been out checking with doctors. Several of the women have had medical issues with their mates. Then there are those who still go on cruises, spend time with their out-of-town children and/or with their siblings. As you can see, we aren't always able to attend every session. Still, Muriel Dramer comes back after falls. Susan Feiler is there with help from her cane or walker. Ellen Norden has had some cause for absence. Harry Hoffer doesn't always have a partner, and there are people who substitute for others. The room is full of walkers, wheelchairs, and cheer. Alice sported a mask after a bout of bronchitis. We were very proud of Jim Champlain and Arlene Lipton, who missed bridge because of rehearsals for the wonderful *South Pacific*.

If I didn't notice your absence, I did miss you, but I probably forgot. I spend a lot of time myself trying not to fall with my walker, looking down instead of up.

On to the terrific winners. Very impressive!

4/6/26

N/S. Bergers (1), Schoens (2), Feilers (3), Zions (4)

E/W. Nancy Bregman & Shirley (1); Myra B & Arlene L (2); Sylvia S & Nancy (3); Alice S & Barbara (4)

4/13/26

N/S. Diane & Barry (1), Schoens (2), Zions (3), Feilers (4)

E/W. Bergers (1); Sophie & Sandy (2), Wendy & Mitch (3), Billy & Charles (4)

4/30/26

N/S. Only 5 tables. Too small to score.

4/27/26

N/S. Harry H & Billy (1); Diane & Alice (2); Sylvia & Nancy N (3); Ellie & Joan (4)

E/W. Schoens (1); Nancy B & Shirley (2); Sophie & Sandy (3); Nancy & Shirley (4)

With so many great players, getting (5) is GREAT!

Thanks to Nancy Newman, who scores and keeps me posted.

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Fitness Committee

By Terri Zionts



The Mission of the Fitness Committee is to promote health, wellness, and active living by offering inclusive, engaging, and accessible programs that support the physical, mental and social well-being of all residents.

Our monthly program offers 10 classes each week for \$65.00 per person per month. Community Wellness Concierge provides excellent instructors for our 5 indoor classes (9 -10 a.m. Monday-Thursday, 8:30-9:30 Friday in the MPR) and 5 aqua fitness classes (10:30-11:30 Monday-Thursday, 10-11 Saturday in the lap pool). All levels are welcome. Monthly fees are payable to CWC by check (deposit in Box 17), by credit card on their app, or through Zelle. Two week passes are available for \$40.00 and guest passes are \$10.00 for visiting friends or relatives. Every resident may take one free class at any time, after signing an insurance waiver.

Tai Chi is a FREE class, weekly, on Fridays at 9:45 in the MPR. Come one, come all. Tai Chi is a form of meditation in movement. No sweat. No equipment. NO COST. No pressure.

Water aerobics classes are particularly wonderful as the Florida summer heats up. Put on your sun screen, hat, sunglasses, and a smile. Join us in the lap pool. See times and days above.

Questions? Call Terri Zionts 716-867-2429 or Joan Tucker 954-562-1817

Garden Club

By Linda Zalkin 561-399-2474 Lindajzalkin@gmail.com

The primary birth flowers for June are the Rose and the Honeysuckle. Roses symbolize honor and devotion, while the sweet fragrance of honeysuckle is said to bring positive energy. I have never been much of a rose gardener myself, but I will certainly never refuse a dozen roses — especially pink ones — for my table vase anytime!

Although our club is on vacation from June through August, I will still be dropping little “seeds” of gardening information each month — pun intended! After our April garden crawl, many of us were so inspired by Jayne Fulton’s beautiful butterfly garden that we immediately went out and purchased butterfly plants of our own. Now we can all enjoy the beauty of butterflies gracefully visiting our properties. This is exactly what we learn from one another through this wonderful club!

Allen and Laurie Vann had the most magnificent bloom happen in May — The Queen of the Night Cactus. It blooms at night and wilts by dawn! Reach out to Allen or Laurie for the photo.

My next project, besides watching the butterfly plants flourish, is discovering the magic of air plants. As I visit local community street fairs and nearby nurseries, I have started collecting these fascinating specimens. Many are native to Florida. The ones I found at the Delray Street Fair are now gently nestled inside two conch shells that had been sitting in my garage. They are happily enjoying life on my lanai in a mostly shaded area. Air plants require very little care — just a light misting with a spray bottle twice a week.

Lastly, the events at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden are truly like no other. If you have the opportunity, try to attend the Mango Festival on June 13–14. www.fairchildgarden.org

We are always open to your suggestions or ideas. Send them my way anytime. Lindajzalkin@gmail.com 561-399-2474. Call or text me.

June is a month of transition, with the start of summer, the rainy season, and hurricane season (which lasts until October). Summer arrives June 21st, with average high temperatures of 85 to 90 degrees and nights at 75 degrees.

Because of the heat and rain, weeds and landscape plants are growing very fast. For gardening in June: trim, prune, weed, and spray to keep weeds, plants, and insects at bay. Weeds have accelerated growth due to the hot weather. Insects love the new plant growth stimulated by the hot, rainy summer weather. Periodically inspect your plants and yard for insect damage and weeds, and seek treatment ASAP.

When you prune your plants, try to promote better growth and form. Trees are pruned now to help them go through hurricane season by allowing them to develop a stronger structure and to allow more airflow through the canopy.

There are three major fertilization times in Florida – March, June, and October, so be ready to fertilize in June with an 8-2-12 (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) + minor elements with as much slow release as possible.

If your landscape is needing improvement, June is the time to do it. Plant trees and shrubs as they will quickly become established and grow. Plant palms before the start of the rainy season (usually late May to mid-June). They require large amounts of water until well established. You can also help your garden bloom more by removing spent flower heads (deadheading), so the energy of the plant will go into stimulating more flowers.

Prepare for the 4th of July by planting a red, white, and blue patriotic garden in June. We can include red, white, and blue in our garden by planting some of the following: a) Red: Begonias or Pentas, Sage, and Tropical Red Anthurium; b) Blue: Plumbago, Blue Salvia, Blue Daze, and Iris; c) White: White Salvia, Wax Begonia, White Pentas, and Spider Lily.

Florida is the lightning capital of the United States, so use common sense and go inside during rainstorms and do not seek shelter under trees. Slow down, travel, enjoy life, stay cool, and have fun this summer! Good health and good gardening.

Two plants you may want to try are: 1) the Queen Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), a flowering tree that blooms starting in late May and into the summer with purple, pink, or white blooms. It is a hardwood tree that will grow to 30 to 40 ft. and be more spectacular every year, and 2) the Hanging Lobster Claw (*Heliconia rostrata*), a plant that flowers for 4 to 5 months during the summer, thrives in either full sun or partial shade, does well in our climate, and likes hot and humid weather. It will grow approximately 4 to 6 ft. tall and 3 to 6 ft. wide and likes moist, fertile, well-draining soil.

Residents: Please share your pictures, stories, jokes, and any other item you would like to see in an issue of the Echo. Send them to blriphone@bellsouth.net

Karaoke Club *By Michael Cowan, Ed Moss, Larry Bachove, Norma Kirschner*

Hello to all VL Karaoke Club members and guests! We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends at our next VL Karaoke Club meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, in our cafe from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This month we will have a guest karaoke DJ, Angela Canora, for something a little different and exciting. This month's theme is *Singer's Choice*, so you can sing whatever you like.

We're thrilled to welcome our new enthusiastic karaoke singers who recently signed up and would love to see even more new faces. Once you see how much fun this is, you won't hesitate to join us. So grab a friend (or two) and come join the fun! Annual dues remain at \$20. You can drop your check off at the clubhouse mailbox or bring it to the next Karaoke Club meeting. Prefer to try it out first? No problem! Guests are welcome for \$5 per evening, which will accrue until the \$20 is met for the year. Please remember, there is never any pressure to sing, but you certainly can if you want to. And if you'd like to try it out, there's always a member who will happily sing a duet with you until you're ready to sing solo.

As always, there will be refreshments and coffee, and you are welcome to BYOB if you'd like. See you at Karaoke! Please note: The VL Karaoke Club will be on vacation in July and August and will return in September. See you in September!

Lifelong Learning Summer Series Takes Flight — From Florida Birds

The Lifelong Learning Committee is excited to continue this year's Summer Series with some outstanding upcoming programs designed to educate, entertain, and inspire.

On Tuesday, June 10th, we welcome Emily Rademacher from Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands for a fascinating presentation on Florida birds. Emily will share insights into the unique species that call South Florida home, their behaviors, habitats, and the important role they play in our local ecosystem. Whether you are an avid birdwatcher or simply enjoy Florida's natural beauty, this promises to be an engaging and informative program you won't want to miss.

In addition to our lineup of speakers for the Summer Series, we are thrilled to announce that on Tuesday, September 9th, residents will have the unique opportunity to hear from Jeff Hessel, who will present an exciting program on NASA's Artemis Project — the groundbreaking mission designed to return humans to the Moon and pave the way for future exploration of Mars.

Jeff Hessel brings firsthand knowledge and behind-the-scenes insight from his years as a NASA engineer, along with his current role as a Cape Canaveral ambassador. His presentation will explore the goals of the Artemis program, the technology driving the mission, and what this new era of space exploration means for the future of science and discovery.

Best of all, the September program has been added to the Lifelong Learning Summer Series package at no additional cost for subscribers.

Residents who have not yet purchased the Summer Series are encouraged to do so soon. The entire series is available for just \$35 per person and can be conveniently purchased online using a credit card through the Lifelong Learning webpage.

Don't miss these wonderful opportunities to learn something new this summer — from the beauty of Florida wildlife to the future of space exploration!

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Fitness Committee

By Cathy Lanyard (Sent by Terri Zions and Joan Tucker)

You don't want to miss the best fitness deal in all of Southern Florida!!! Because you smiled and sweated through the special Sunday morning exercise classes organized by the Fitness Committee we are bringing them back in May!!

Join us for a series of four Sunday morning group exercise classes. Danielle, our fabulous trainer, will be teaching May 3rd and May 17th and the Fitness Committee will be "teaching" on May 10th and 24th. Classes will be in the MPR, start at 10:00 AM and last for 30 minutes and will include a handout.

For just \$10 a person you can enjoy ALL 4 Sundays or just come for one!
Just write a check for \$10, payable to the VL FITNESS COMMITTEE and drop it in our brand new mailbox (located outside the Conference Room).

Spread the word and forward this to all your friends. Together, we can make our Fitness Challenge last the entire year!

We need a minimum of 15 signups to run this special program so please RSVP with your check ASAP. If you have questions please call Terri (716-867-2429) or Joan (954-562-1817).

Show Committee *By Barry Zins and Steven Ward*

Do you know that the very best deal to see Broadway level entertainment is *not* on Broadway? *It's right here at Valencia Lakes!*

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Saturday, January 16, Jesse Hamilton
Sunday, January 24, Roz Brown Motown to Disco
Friday, February 12, Dreamboats
Saturday, February 20, Decades in Duet AND Frances Dilorinzo
Saturday, February 27, Trenyce AND Jeff Laub
Sunday, March 7, Jon Courtenay AND Lindsey Alley
Sunday March 20, David Shannon & Zoe Tyler, 90 Years of Abbey Road

What could be better than 7 nights of music and comedy surrounded by your fellow Lakers? Buy your tickets online on our Club website – www.valencialakes.org - or call or stop in to see Lifestyle Director Joe Gerena and pick out your favorite seats.

VL in Stitches

We meet every Friday from 10 AM to 12 PM in ARTS/CRAFTS ROOM. We knit, needlepoint/crochet, do diamond art, we talk, we laugh! If you already know how to knit or needlepoint, or if you want to learn, come join us.

Bambi Rainbeau,



Valencia Lakes Singles Group

Come join us if you are single and want to make new friends. We meet on the second Saturday of every month at 11 AM in the conference room. We would like to plan on going to restaurants, movies, etc. We hope to see you. Let's make some plans together. Call either Rita Fuchs (561-740-9225) or Lorri Lissoy(561-738-0419) for further information.

Valencia Lakes Wine Club *By Debbie Lazinsky*

There is no Wine Club event in June. Please look for our next article in the July/August Echo.

Parkinson's Support Group *By Robert Mittleman*

We meet on the third Thursday of every month in the clubhouse conference room at 1 PM for a support group discussion. We also meet on the second Thursday of every month in the clubhouse at 1 PM for game day (either pool or ping-pong). Please see the Parkinson's Support Group page on our website for more information or contact Robert Mittelman at 516-729-6800.

**Residents: Please share your pictures, stories, jokes,
and any other item you would like
to see in an issue of the Echo.**

Ordering a pizza in 2023

CALLER: Is this Pizza Hut?

GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

CALLER: I must have dialed a wrong number, sorry.

GOOGLE: No sir, Google bought Pizza Hut last month.

CALLER: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

GOOGLE: Do you want your usual, sir?

CALLER: My usual? You know me?

GOOGLE: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

CALLER: Super! That's what I'll have.

GOOGLE: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

CALLER: What? I don't want a vegetarian pizza!

GOOGLE: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

CALLER: How the hell do you know that?

GOOGLE: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

CALLER: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetarian pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

GOOGLE: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once at Lloyds Pharmacy, 4 months ago.

CALLER: I bought more from another Pharmacy.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

CALLER: I paid in cash.

GOOGLE: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

CALLER: I have other sources of cash.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your latest tax returns, unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law!

CALLER: WHAT THE HELL?

GOOGLE: I'm sorry sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

CALLER: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without the internet, TV, where there is no phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

GOOGLE: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

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Margery Marcus
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Emily Rademacher
Florida Birds
6/10/26



Anette Isaacs
Levi Strauss Story
7/22/26



Meredith Ellis
Spring Street Project
8/26/26

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Jeff Hessel
Back to the Moon
9/9/26



Robert Watson
American History
9/30/26

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Through rare photographs, personal letters, artifacts, and expert interviews, this compelling documentary explores the struggles, sacrifices, and divided loyalties faced by Jewish families during one of America's most turbulent eras.

The program also examines:

- General Ulysses S. Grant's controversial order expelling Jewish families from parts of the South
- The appointment of the first Jewish army chaplain
- Synagogues serving as stops on the Underground Railroad
- Judah Benjamin's role as Secretary of War and Secretary of State for the Confederacy

Following the film, Dick Goldman will lead a community discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

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Chatter Box



Left: Dick Goldman delivered a fascinating presentation to the Jewish Connection, sharing what first inspired him to trace his many relatives through DNA and how anyone can begin uncovering information about their own family tree. His talk blended personal discovery with practical guidance, offering residents an engaging look at the world of genealogy. We are especially grateful to Dick for stepping in on short notice to substitute for an ill presenter and providing such a meaningful and well-received program.

Below: A wonderful group of VL friends and our friend Jill Miller on her 70th birthday at Mimosa Cafe. Named back row, left to right: -Zappone, Vicky Galper, Andi Cooper, Jill Julie Fraitag, Stephanie Lurie, Harriet Frie Front row, left to right: Carol Cohen, Nanc



Right: The playoffs and finals of the Inaugural Bocce Tournament were held on Saturday and Sunday, May 16th and 17th. The photo shows both the winners and runners-up. Photo L to R: winners — Alan Gelfand, Julie Gelfand, Michal Gelfand, and Darryl Gelfand; runners-up — Wendy Bergman, Mitch Firger, Kevin McElroy, and Suzanne McElroy. It was an exciting finish, with both teams winning a 12-point game and then battling through a tie-breaker to 6-6 before Team 15 captured the final frame with two points to win. Now it's time for Summer Bocce — "Bocce and a Bite" begins June 3rd at 6 PM.



Below: A fun Zumba session brought plenty of energy, laughter, and great moves to the room.



Right: The Canasta Cuties and Mahjong Mavens got together at our Cafe' to celebrate the birthday of Sharon Meyers. She is now old enough to drink-Maalox!

Above: A fun-loving group hit the stage at Karaoke Night, belting out their favorite songs and getting the crowd cheering along.



gathered to celebrate
y at a fan favorite —
ht: Caryn Bergenfield
I Miller (birthday gal),
edman, Debbie Jaffe.
y Hecker.

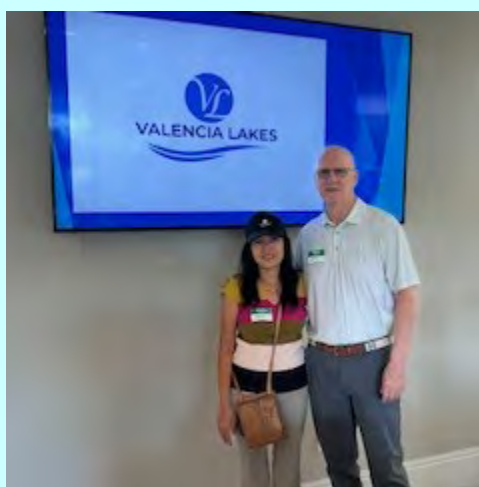


Left: Joanna Rothstein was honored with the prestigious Henrietta's Dream Award at a recent Hadassah Regional Luncheon at Benvenutos, presented by our Region President and fellow Valencia Lakes resident, Susan Wakshul. Joanna served as Rabin Hadassah's President for six years and continues to contribute meaningfully as our Advocacy/Zionism representative.

Right: Residents who joined in celebrating Joanna Rothstein were Eileen Danton, Sharon Azoulay, Reesa Litman, Nancy Newman, Fran Romer, and Anne Gorenstein, pictured here with Joanna and Susan.



Left 2 pictures: Diane Lyon, Arlene Lipton and Wendy Bregman all celebrated their birthdays at the Duplicate Bridge game in the evening, adding a festive touch to the night of play.



Above and above left: Welcome to our new residents! Left to right (above): Marcelle & Richard Gornitsky, Randi & Jack Gold, Faye Demare (Dino not pictured), Arlene & Stuart Silver-stein, Lisa Somer & Gil Hollander. (left) Noreen & Bruce Shinn



Below: Sixteen of the weekend tennis ladies finished off the season with a delicious Sunday morning brunch in our café. Stephanie Ferrara, Susan Feit, Cynthia Klein, Fran Cole, Andrea Klubok and other others had a fabulous season playing tennis together.



Sandy Weber, Realtor
954-547-3617
Swebs@Comcast.net



Denise Salzman Weber, Realtor
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FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Jack Owen, Jr.,
Esquire, CPA**
ATTORNEY AND CPA
**Estate Planning Attorney
since 1985 and a CPA
since 1981**

Jack Owen, Jr. Esq. is not
affiliated with Kirsner
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Craig Kirsner, MBA
PRESIDENT AND
INVESTMENT ADVISER
REPRESENTATIVE
**Speaker, Author,
Investment Adviser
Representative and
a licensed Insurance
Professional since 1994**



Steven Kao, MBA, CAIA
FINANCIAL ADVISOR
AND DIRECTOR OF
PORTFOLIO
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**Portfolio Strategist,
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TaiChi Anyone? / The Benefits of Tai Chi *By Terri Zionts*

TAI CHI Tai Chi continues to meet weekly, on Fridays from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30, in the Multi-Purpose Room. Come for a group hug, some easy movement and a relaxing session. You can't do it wrong. No SWEAT. No COST. No fancy clothing or equipment. Brought to you by The Fitness Committee

Stay Connected with the Valencia Lakes Website!

Register Today to Receive Emails from the Office! Have you registered on our *Valencia Lakes website* yet? If not, now is the time!

To receive important emails and announcements from the office, every resident must register their name and email address. It's quick and easy — simply go to ValenciaLakes.org and follow the prompts for "NEW MEMBER Signup." Need Help?

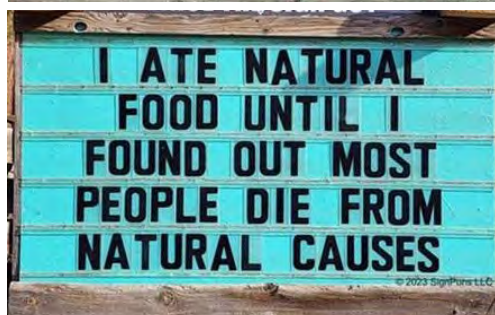
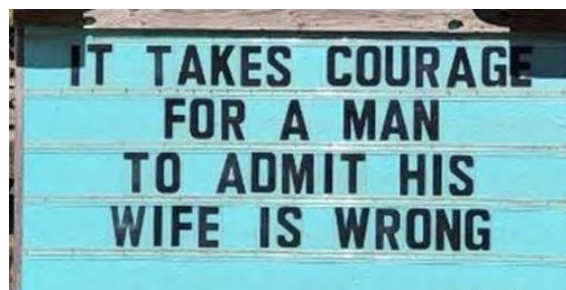
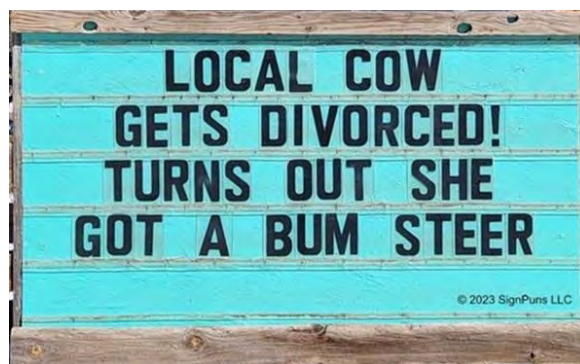
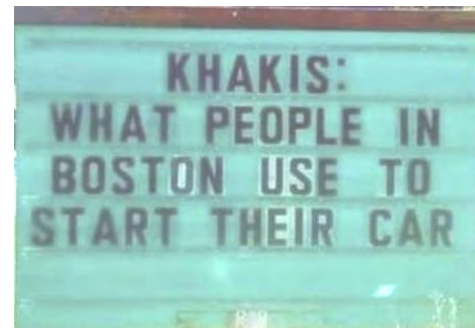
The Valencia Lakes office staff is happy to guide you through the registration process.

And That's Just the Beginning! The website is your one-stop hub for resources that make life at Valencia Lakes easier, more fun, and more connected.

Here's what you'll discover:

- ☐ Committees & Clubs – Explore the many ways to get involved and share your talents.
- ☐ Social Events Calendar – Keep track of exciting activities, programs, and gatherings.
- ☐ Work Orders – Submit requests quickly and conveniently online.
- ☐ Neighbor Directory – Look up an address or connect with fellow residents.
- ☐ Message Forums – Ask questions, share recommendations, or post items for sale. Whether you're searching for a new doctor or hoping to find a new home for your bicycle, the forums are the perfect place to connect with neighbors.
- ☐ The community website truly is your go-to source for everything happening at Valencia Lakes.

Don't Miss Out — Register Today and Stay Connected!





Rabin Hadassah of Valencia Lakes Chapter

2026 READERS CIRCLE BOOKS

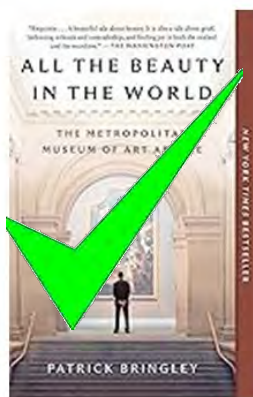
9:30 a.m.

VL Clubhouse Card Room 1



January 8

Led by: Terri Zions



February 5

Anne Gorenstein



March 5

Phyllis Harris



April 9

Joan Blitman



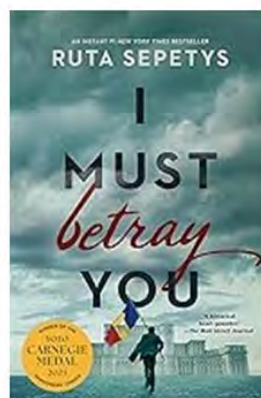
May 7

TBA



June 4

Debby Miller



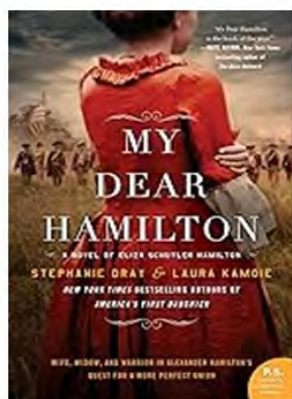
July 2

Sue Champlin



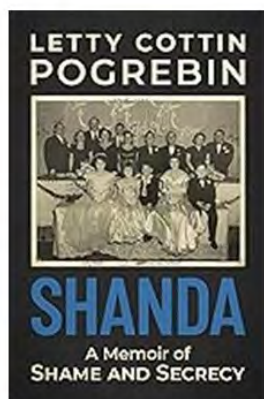
August 6

Barbara Mandell



September 3

Sharon Schwartz



October 1

Elyse Magram



November 5

Bunny Rosenberg



December 3

Sylvai Saks

LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Water Talk

Get the facts...

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES AND FLOOD PROTECTION

The Lake Worth Drainage District

Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) is a Special District of the State of Florida that manages storm water flood control for 200 square miles in southeastern Palm Beach County. It is one of the largest water control districts in the state with over 500 miles of drainage canals and associated rights-of-way.

In addition LWDD provides water supply to several municipal well fields.

LWDD was created in 1915 for the purpose of reclaiming the lands within its boundaries and for the further purpose of providing water control and water supply for settlement and agriculture.

Sharing the Responsibility is



Southern Palm Beach County's geographic makeup of flat, low-lying land and subtropical climate, dictates that we may occasionally experience flooding conditions. Seasonal rainfall between 50 to 60 inches per year requires state and local governments; developers and residential associations to share the responsibility before, during and after the storm.

Lake Worth Drainage District

13081 Military Trail
Delray Beach, FL 33484
Phone: 561-498-5363
www.lwdd.net
email: rrayman@lwdd.net

The most important actions a residential association can take to protect their community from flooding is regular inspection and maintenance of the community's drainage system. This is to ensure the Discharge Control Structures (DCS), swales, drains and outfall pipes have an unobstructed flow. This maintenance may include:

- Exercising the DCS several time a year
- Clearing lawn clippings from drains
- Disposing of trash properly
- Mowing of vegetation from swale area
- Keeping landscaping well maintained



Blockage of vegetation and trash

Inspection and maintenance of the drainage system is the sole responsibility of the residential association, however, LWDD staff is available to assist with any questions you may have and can arrange on-site visits to discuss your community's drainage system.

Most modern day drainage systems do not require any human intervention. Average rainfall will flow into the lake system through swales and drains and over the Discharge Control Structure (DCS) and into LWDD canals. During a severe storm, temporary street flooding is expected for a short time until the natural progression of drainage occurs.

It may be permissible for residential association to open their operable DCS in preparation for a storm event, or after the storm event by requesting authorization from LWDD. Remember if the predicted rainfall is not received, the communi-

ty's lake levels may remain low until additional rainfall occurs.

The residential association must pre-designate, in writing, the individuals who are authorized to act on behalf of the community regarding the maintenance and operation of its DCS. These individuals may be board members, drainage committee members or individuals from a property management company.



Operable Discharge Control Structure

It is the responsibility of the residential association to keep this contact list current by contacting the LWDD office at 561-498-5363. It is suggested that the names be submitted each year even if there are no changes to the list.

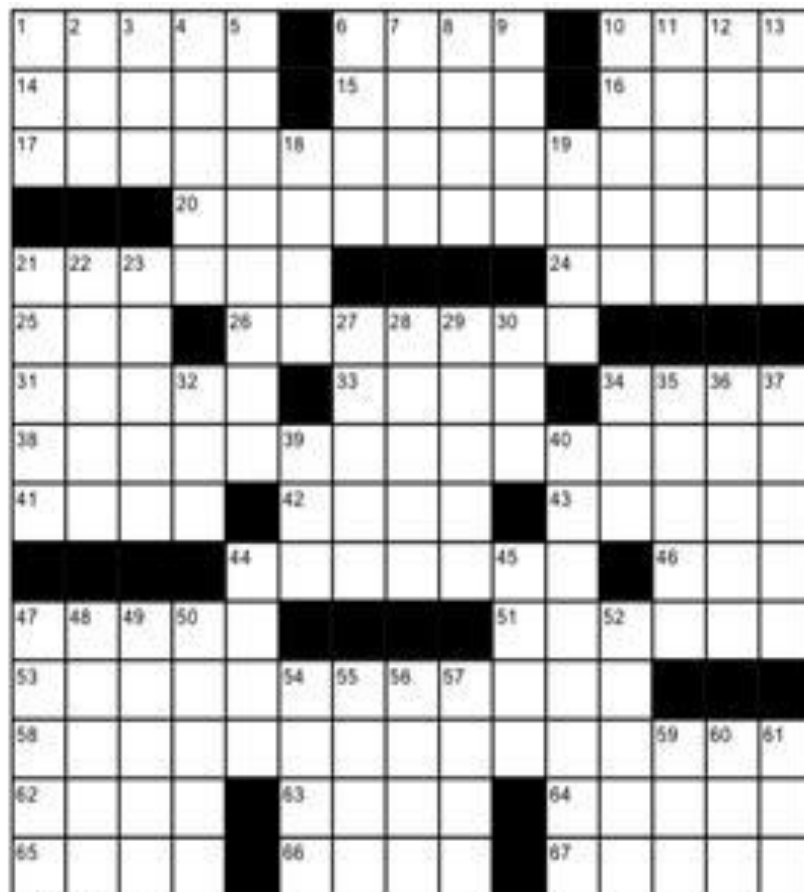
LWDD recommends that residential associations establish Storm Teams as follows:

- Storm Teams consisting of residents or property management representatives that are approved by the association's board
- Storm Teams will be responsible for operable Discharge Control Structure (DCS) operation & maintenance. Storm Teams will obtain the required authorization from LWDD before opening any adjustable structure.
- Storm Teams will help educate their community on how their drainage system works.

Quality flood protection requires governments, developers and residential associations sharing the responsibility before during and after the storm.

ACROSS

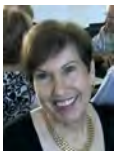
1. Jungle vine
6. ERA or RBI
10. Wife's place, in Chaucer tale
14. Montezuma subject
15. Play by oneself
16. Switch add-on
17. Horatio Hornblower's horrible hangovers?
20. Medication for "Wall Street Journal" founder Charles?
21. Gliding dance step
24. Pompous fools
25. C, to Pythagoras: Abbr.
26. Bad-mouths
31. Ike's opponent in 1952 and 1956
33. "The Wind in the Willows" character
34. III * XIX
38. What some NASCAR races might end in?
41. Here, in a way
42. Prod
43. Pull on
44. Hall of Fame Dodgers manager
46. "Evil Woman" gp.
47. Dishwasher brand
51. Verdi opera based on a Shakespeare play
53. Coach's lament after a blowout?
58. Zugzwang and Catch-22 ... or what 17-, 20-, 38-, and 53-Across represent
62. Carrier whose name literally means "skyward"
63. One-name model whose real name is Melissa Miller
64. Composer Bruckner or Dvorak
65. Armed conflicts
66. Conger and moray
67. Knife brand



© April 27, 2006

DOWN

1. ___ Vegas
2. Real ending?
3. Off-road transportation: Abbr.
4. They are often basic, but never acidic
5. Word puzzle enjoyed by Queen Victoria
6. Mil. rank
7. 1/760th of an atmosphere
8. Plant used widely in pharmaceutical preparations
9. "Animal House" party wear
10. Grins from ear to ear
11. Buenos ___
12. Heavy weight, in France
13. Leno and Letterman
18. Decorative pitcher
19. Orgs. with class-y agendas
21. "Hanging" problems in the 2000 election
22. Many-headed monster slain by Hercules
23. "Sounds like ___!"
27. 7 for N, 8 for O, etc.
28. Extremely successful, in slang
29. More vigorous
30. Part of a college e-mail address
32. Gray, in a way
34. "Charlie's Angels" costar Lucy
35. Catch for Papageno, in "Die Zauberflöte"
36. Counting everything
37. Playground retort
39. W.W. II agcy.
40. It helps pay for roads and schools
44. Wimbledon surface
45. Qatar capital
47. Ford succeeded him
48. Cabbage
49. He shared Nobel Peace Prize with Menachem
50. Simon and Diamond
52. Site of first enclosed shopping mall (Twin Cities suburb)
54. "___ dead people" (famous line from "The Sixth Sense")
55. "Newsweek" rival
56. WWW code
57. Calendar abbr.
59. Like some drugs: Abbr.
60. "Death Be ___ Proud"
61. ___-cone



From Rock to Runway: The Surprisingly Cool History of Glasses

Nobody grows up dreaming about needing glasses. Yet somewhere between squinting at a menu and finally booking an eye exam, most of us end up with a pair perched on our face. What's wild is how far the humble eyeglass has traveled — from monks and polished stones to pirates, Hollywood icons, and the front row of Fashion Week.

It Started with a Stone

Long before anyone framed lenses and hooked them over their ears, people knew certain objects could make small things look bigger. In ancient Rome, Emperor Nero reportedly watched gladiator fights through a polished emerald. The real leap came in the 11th century, when Arab scholar Ibn al-Haytham explained how lenses bend light. His work reached Europe, where monks discovered that placing a polished, dome-shaped glass on a page enlarged the text. These “reading stones” were a lifesaver for aging eyes.

Enter the Frame

By the late 13th century — around 1286 — someone in Italy (often credited to Pisa) mounted two lenses into a simple frame that balanced on the nose. No arms, no earpieces — just two discs perched like a delicate seesaw. These early specs were luxury items, worn by scholars and clergy. A 1352 painting by Tommaso da Modena even shows a cardinal reading in glasses — one of the earliest depictions in art.

The Long Road to Comfort

For centuries, glasses were awkward. They slipped constantly, and people tried everything — strings, weights, loops on hats — to keep them in place. In the early 1700s, London optician Edward Scarlett introduced rigid side arms that rested on the ears, finally making glasses practical. By the 19th century, they were common among workers, clerks, and everyday people. Benjamin Franklin's bifocals (circa 1784) helped push them further into daily life.

Hollywood Changes Everything

In the early 20th century, glasses carried a “nerdy” stigma. The bookish kid wore them; leading men rarely did. But Hollywood shifted the narrative. Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, and James Dean were photographed in stylish frames, and by the 1950s and '60s, cat-eye and horn-rimmed glasses became fashion staples. By the 1980s and '90s, designer brands like Armani, Versace, and Ray-Ban turned eyewear into full-fledged accessories.

Specs Today: Fashion First

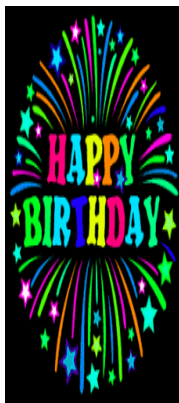
Here's the twist: many people wearing glasses today don't need them at all. Clear-lens fashion frames exploded in the 2010s, embraced by pop stars and tech leaders alike. Meanwhile, lens technology has never been better — ultra-thin materials, blue-light filters, and progressive lenses that would've seemed like magic to medieval monks. Smart glasses are quietly waiting in the wings, promising everything from audio to real-time translation.

So next time you nudge your glasses up your nose, take a moment to appreciate the journey. From polished stones to couture runways, glasses have earned their place as one of history's most quietly remarkable inventions — not bad for something that began as a fancy pebble.

Sylvia Lippe 

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Sierra	3
Harry Hoffer	6
Marilyn Grossman	8
Alice Siegel	13
Paul Sherman	17
Michele Cowan	18
Mark Jakubow	20
Marlene Rothstein	21
Ken Margolis	26
Eileen Perino	26
Shirley Fant	27
Harvey Kaufman	27
Helene Unger	29
Jack Kopleton	30



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Ruth & Mel Call	4
Karen Blank & Al Monosoff	4
Sue & Mal Moses	4
Stan & Terri Zions	5
Marsha & Ira Hubel	8
Ed & Linda Hirsch	12
Maddy & Bob Cohen	15
Andrea & Michael Klubok	15
Cheryl & Ken Green	18
Donna & Mark Jakubow	22
Carol & Jack Kopleton	23
Claire & Bob Eisenberg	25
Arlene & Mel Schoen	25
Barbi & Ken Lew	28
Cheryl & Joel Winograd	29



THANK YOU



Irma Bady would like to thank the wonderful Valencia Lakes community for the love and affection deeply expressed for her husband Jerry Bady who passed away at 102 on January 1, 2026. Jerry was a true gentleman, a loving caring husband, father and grandfather. His family meant everything to him. He will be deeply missed, and he will always be remembered with much love and respect.

NEW RESIDENTS

Lester & Carla Abernathy
11637 Castellon Ct.

Steven & Robin Colten
11577 Puerto Blvd.

Elizabeth & Roger Fielding
11447 Corazon Ct.



Deborah & Mark Janssen
11636 Puerto Blvd.

Jodi Schulma
11948 Habana Ave.

Jerry & Maxine Stern
11820 Castellon Ct.

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Bike Club

By Patti Mittelman, President

Patti.Mittelman@gmail.com

The Bike Club meets Every Wednesday, and Sunday at 8 AM at the seating area by the main entrance on the corner of Valencia Lakes Way and Valencia Lakes Blvd. Please contact Michele Anderson if you are interested. MLAND220@gmail.com

Golf Club

by A Lady Duffer (Paula Harris)

Anyone could ask, "What's going on with the Valencia Lakes Golf Club? It doesn't look like the old and ancient golf club it once was." And they would be right. Under the newly elected Golf Club Board of Directors and leadership of President Norm Solomon, the club has expanded its membership and number of opportunities to play at more golf courses, and has also become a hot spot for social activities for golfers and their non- golfing partners.

Club membership has increased by 10%, bolstered by more than 10 women members, and several new residents as well as non-residents. Not only does the Club play on Tuesdays and Fridays at Westchester Country Club, and on Mondays and Fridays at The Links in Boynton Beach, but the Club is returning, after a short hiatus, to Kings Point on Wednesdays, all of which offer a broad range of courses and days that our members can take advantage of with set tee times. We all know that golfers need a place to talk about the great rounds they played and lie about the length of the putts they sank, and laugh about the horrible shots we all took, not to mention eat and drink in the company of friends. And the Golf Club Social Committee, chaired by Wendy Bregman, is providing those opportunities.

This summer, the club is planning a trip to the Palm Beach Par 3 for golf and lunch at their excellent restaurant, Al Fresco, as well as an outing to Drive Shack for fun, food, and golf games. Also on the agenda are a Welcome Back Snowbird Party in October, a Holiday Breakfast Brunch in December, our annual Dinner/Dance in February, and an April Final Round of the Masters Pizza Party.

What more could this Club provide? How about golf lessons to improve our skills? Yes, we've got that too. Thanks to the efforts of Board Member Bob Geller, group lessons were arranged at The Links for the very minimal cost of \$15. For those of you who want to get back in the swing, this is an excellent way to brush off the rust or refine your skills. For more information on any of the activities we sponsor, or for membership information, please contact anyone mentioned in this article. See you on the course.

Valencia Lakes Ping Pong Club

Mitch Tilkin, President mitchtilk@gmail.com, Jim Talens, Vice-President italens@verizon.net

Everybody used to play Ping Pong, right? It's like swimming or riding a bicycle; you recover the old skill quickly, and of course the sport has been shown to enhance eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills, which are crucial for cognitive function—whatever your skill level. We are hugely fortunate in having two tables in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), with good paddles and plenty of practice balls. The MPR is open for Ping Pong Monday through Thursday after 11 a.m., and midday Friday through Sunday afternoon. There are two open play evenings, Monday and Tuesday 6–9 pm, when everyone is invited to play.

We also use an app called Team Reach for players to find available table times and to arrange or schedule play with others. It is basically a group messaging system so you can ask an individual to play or broadcast your availability to the other 50+ registered members. The app is free, downloadable to Apple or Android phones, and it is customizable. Once installed and running, select Group Code **vlpingpong2025** to register yourself. Team Reach is really helpful in coordinating use of our two tables. Any questions? Please contact Mitch Tilkin, mitchtilk@gmail.com

Racquet Club-Between the Lines

By Marcie Glickman



Pickleball Schedule:

- *Monday-Sunday: 8:30 am-9:30 am, Social Pickleball. Put your paddle in the rack and play!*
- *Monday-Sunday: 9:30 am and later, Open play subject to courts being reserved for team matches, practices or Racquet Club activities. Please check the tennis bulletin board for information.*

Pickleball Team Practice Schedule

- *Tornadoes - Monday 5:00 - 6:30 Team Captain & Co-Captain: Natalie Rosental & Iris Gross*
- *Thunder - Wednesday 3:15 - 4:45 Team Captain & Co-Captain: Lenny Lichter & Steve Tanklowitz*
- *Lightning - Wednesday 4:00 - 5:30 Team Captain & Co-Captain: Marcie Glickman & Craig Rosenthal*
- *Storm - Monday 5:30 - 7:00 Team Captain & Co-Captain: Cheryl Bluth & Eileen Perino*
- *Hurricane - Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 Team Captain & Co-Captain: Mike Perino & Jack Snyder*

Tennis Schedule:

- *Mon. - Fri: 8:30 am - 10:00 am Doubles /singles games, contact Ari (arikronfeld@gmail.com)*
- *Thurs. Eve: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Mixed doubles, contact Regina (rkstonebraker56@gmail.com)*
- *Sat - Sun: 8:30 am - 10:00 am Women's doubles/singles, contact Susan (sftennis@aol.com)*

Racquet Club Events to look forward to: An international food soirée, October 17th, our second annual Field Day, November 15th at 10, Holiday Party, December 16th at 6, and our Triathlon - Date TBD

"Hey Jude, don't make it bad...take a sad song and make it better." No sad songs at The Beatles & The British Invasion on May 2nd—just a fantastic blend of trivia, music, and great company off the courts. A big thank you to Jack Snyder, Gary Romer, and Bari Snyder for making it such a memorable night. This month's Echo cover proudly features Lightning, champions of the 2025 Winter Boomer League.

Pickleball Reflection: The snowbirds have left, and summer is just around the corner. A calm has settled over Valencia Lakes. Some favorite activities take a break for a few months, while others continue, just at a slower, more relaxed pace. Pickleball is one of those constants. The ball never stops, but the tone and rhythm shift. With the leagues on summer hiatus, the nature of our play changes too. There is no focus on practicing with next week's partner. Instead, we simply play, enjoying the game and the company of all our partners and friends. It's time to worry less about the competition and focus more on the friendships being built, because those are what truly last. Growth is better when it is shared, and the bonds we create along the way matter more than any finish line. This is not to say we won't miss our snowbirds. They bring such a welcome energy to our pickleball community. We look forward to their return, but while we wait, I'd like to share a few of my favorite, perhaps lesser-known pickleball anecdotes I discovered with you.

- Pickleball wasn't named after a dog chasing balls around the court. While there was a dog named Pickles, the name actually came from the "pickle boat" in crew, the boat made up of leftover rowers. Much like the boat, pickleball was a mix of borrowed elements from tennis, badminton, & ping pong.
- Back in 1965, the pickleball founders were simply trying to entertain their families with whatever equipment they could find. The net wasn't quite the right height, the paddles were homemade, and the rules were a work in progress. It makes you wonder what our games would look like today if we were still playing by those original standards.
- The "kitchen," one of the most talked-about areas on the court was created to keep players from camping out at the net and smashing every ball. It forced the game to become a blend of patience, touch, and just the right amount of strategy.
- The first pickleball paddles were simple pieces of plywood. No graphite. No special cores. Just a love of the game and a willingness to play.
- NEW (INTERESTING) RULE...Blowing the ball over the net now results in an automatic fault.
- The most surprising insight of all isn't about how the game began, rather how it's played. Points aren't won with spectacular shots. They're lost to simple mistakes. It's a gentle reminder that often, the smartest play is also the simplest one.

In closing, at Valencia Lakes, the score may fade, but the laughs, the friendships, and the stories we create on the court stay with us long after the last point is played.



Another tale that may have you rethinking the consequences of a legal decision!

Susan, a widow living in Valencia Lakes, was chatting with friends during a canasta game when one woman described a recent visit to her attorney. She had signed a deed transferring her home, her only major asset, equally to her three children while retaining the right to live there for the rest of her life. Her friend explained that the arrangement would help the children avoid probate, a costly court process that delays the distribution of assets.

Susan's situation was similar. She owned her home free and clear, had some savings, but few other assets. She contacted her attorney to ask about the same type of deed. Susan felt relieved after signing the paperwork. Her children would inherit the house automatically when she died, while she could continue living there and paying the expenses. No probate.

Then Susan became ill and needed nursing home care. Her children, unaware of the deed she had signed, helped arrange the move and planned to sell the house to help cover the cost of care. But there was a problem. Susan no longer fully owned the house. She held only a life estate. Once she permanently moved out, the property belonged to the children, and all of them had to agree to sell it. One son refused. He wanted the home sold after his mother's death to take advantage of the tax benefits tied to the property's date-of-death value. A family dispute followed, and Susan's plan unraveled.

What had she signed? A Ladybird deed.

A Ladybird deed can avoid probate because ownership transfers automatically to the named beneficiaries upon death, with no court involvement. During her lifetime, Susan retained control of the property, making this type of deed attractive for retirees, single homeowners, and those with modest estates. Florida homestead protections remain in place, and the deed may also provide Medicaid planning advantages and a stepped-up tax basis for heirs.

However, when families have complicated relationships or multiple beneficiaries with differing opinions, problems can arise.

Ladybird deeds are valid only in Florida, Texas, Michigan, Vermont, and West Virginia. They are, as you might have guessed, named after Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson, wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Do you have a Ladybird deed? Any questions? Email tziontz@yahoo.com

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The Art of Neighboring #3—Volunteering *By Jodi Smith*

Living in an HOA is more than just living in a regular neighborhood. Joining an HOA is a commitment to community. Of course, in a community, being a good neighbor is important. Those ready to go above and beyond can volunteer to help the community thrive. Even with terrific professional staff, HOAs function because of an active volunteer base.

It may be unpaid, but volunteer work is still work. It is said volunteers contribute their time, treasure, and talent. As you prepare to volunteer in an HOA setting, there are some important questions to ask yourself.

1. **Do I have the time?** Take a quiet moment to consider your life, lifestyle, and schedule. There are many types of volunteer opportunities. Can you volunteer for a day? For a project? For an event? For a committee? Some volunteer tasks are time-specific and others are flexible. Are the meetings in person or via Zoom? Is the project over the next few weeks or a commitment for a year? What do your days, weeks, and years look like? Is your travel scheduled or sporadic? As you learn more about the volunteer opportunity, you should pointedly and specifically ask about the time commitment. If the person asking cannot give you an approximation, that itself is a red flag. Know what time obligation you are committing to before you agree.
2. **What are my talents?** Everyone has a superpower; you should know yours. What are you good at doing? Play to your strengths and volunteer where your forte can make the biggest difference. Unsure of your superpower? Ask your family, friends, and neighbors. There are things you do so effortlessly that you may not even realize you have a skill others lack.
3. **What are my areas of expertise?** These are the places where you have specific knowledge. Something you went to school to learn, something you were trained for on the job, or even something you picked up along the way. Where are you proficient in a way that will be of use to the community? Your know-how can potentially save another volunteer hours of work or research. Use your big, beautiful brain to help position the HOA well for the future.
4. **Where will I be most useful?** Take a moment and look to see what has been neglected or underserved. Which committees have volunteers who are shouldering the heaviest burden? There are always going to be areas of any HOA that have not gotten the attention they deserve. Offer to bring your volunteer hours to one specific area and help make it a little better.
5. **What would I find most fulfilling?** One of the best-kept secrets of successful volunteering is weighing the opportunity against your expectations. If you are looking to make connections and friends, be sure to choose an undertaking where there is plenty of opportunity for interaction, such as manning a registration table. If you are seeking to keep busy, choose an undertaking where there are lots of administrative tasks. Really think about what would make you feel good about this volunteer role. Choose wisely to make the most of your volunteer hours.

A bit of introspection and honest self-assessment while answering these six questions will help you truly match what you are willing and able to do with what is needed in your community.

Lastly, as soon as you volunteer, you should begin considering your exit strategy for the role. Does it end after a specific event or project? Does it change with a new election cycle? The moment you begin to think of a committee, event, or project as “yours,” you know your ego has taken priority over the good of the organization. That is the time to disengage, at least for a little while. No committee “belongs” to anyone. Its work and accomplishments belong to the community.

The old adage about volunteering is that as soon as you accept a position, part of your role is to start looking for your replacement so that, by the time you are ready to step away, there is someone trained, confident, and ready to take your place.



Sharing with Sharon!

by Sharon Adams

561-470-1621, sadams@pbclibrary.org



Welcome. This month let's take time to reflect on Juneteenth and let's take time to honor Fathers and those who have filled that role in your life

We will spotlight the Adult Activities for Hagen Ranch Library located @ 14350 Hagen Ranch Rd, Delray Beach, FL 33446. The main number is 561-894-7500. If there are any activities that you would like to attend, please go to <http://www.pbclibrary.org> if registration is required. Now let's make your selections.

Knit & Crochet with Project Linus Wednesday, June 3, 10, 17, & 24, 9:30am–11:30am Bring your favorite pattern, needles, bright yarn and a giving spirit. The blankets you make go to children in need.

Calm Coloring & Collage Wednesday, June 03, 1:30pm–3:30pm A quiet space to relax and color with others or to play with paper creating a collage. All materials provided. **Registration opens May 20 at 12:00am**

Book Discussion Wednesday, June 03, 2:00pm–3:00pm Join us for a discussion of Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. **Registration opens May 20 at 12:00am**

Senior Social Thursday, June 04, 10:00am–11:00am Looking for a fun way to connect with other older adults? Join us for meaningful conversations, meet new friends, and leave with a sense of belonging. **Registration opens May 21 at 12:00am**

Microsoft Word Basics Friday, June 05, 9:30am–11:00am Learn the basic features of Microsoft Word, including entering and editing text, formatting, and more. **Registration opens May 22 at 12:00am**

Tech Talk: Android Basics Monday, June 08, 2:00pm–3:30pm An introductory program for Android smartphone users that covers essential Android phone skills—navigation, settings, apps, connectivity, and safety—through short lessons and hands-on practice time. Related Resources: **Android...** **Registration opens May 25 at 12:00am**

Any Book Book Club Tuesday, June 09, 6:00pm–7:00pm It's a book club for busy people! Discuss a book you recently liked and hear suggestions for what to read next. **Registration opens May 26 at 12:00am**

Tertulia Literaria Wednesday, June 17, 2:00pm–3:00pm "Proyecto Hail Mary" de Andy Weil. Hay copias impresas del libro disponibles. El libro electrónico está disponible a través Cloud Library. **Registration opens June 3 at 12:00am**

Jeopardy! Music and Movies Trivia Night Thursday, June 18, 6:00pm–7:30pm Compete with others in a Jeopardy!-style trivia game about music and movies; we supply the answers, you supply the questions. **Registration opens June 4 at 12:00am**



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Decision Making Society Names Award in Honor of Stan Zionts

The International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making has renamed its annual Presidential Service award in honor of Stanley Zionts, Alumni Professor Emeritus of Decision Support Systems, and UB Distinguished Professor Emeritus. The honor will now be known as the Stan Zionts Presidential Service Award, honoring Zionts' unique contributions to the society and its research.

Zionts founded and served as the first president of the society from 1975-1992, and was awarded its Gold Medal Award and the Presidential Service Award. In addition to teaching on campus, he taught in the school's programs like Riga, Latvia; Montpellier, France; Dalian, China; and Beijing, China. Zionts retired from the School of Management in 2005 after 38 years of service

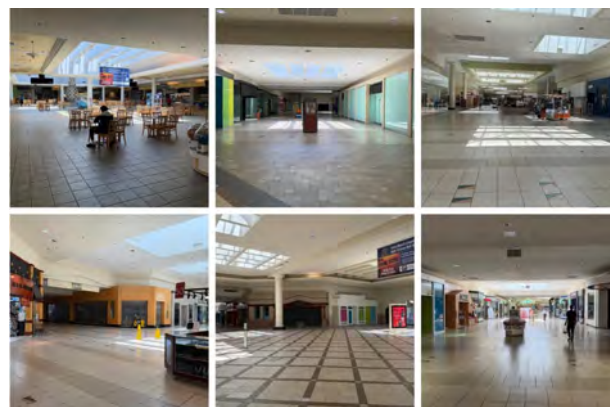


Life Outside of Valencia Lakes By Debby Miller The Struggling Boynton Beach Mall and What Might Replace It

Two major malls in Palm Beach County are facing the same reality: the traditional indoor mall model is fading fast. While The Mall at Wellington Green is moving toward a mixed-use future -- a proposed 620-unit apartment project is replacing its long-vacant Nordstrom building -- the future of Boynton Beach Mall carries even bigger implications for local residents.

Opened in 1985, Boynton Beach Mall was once a thriving retail hub. But years of declining foot traffic, growing vacancies, and shifting shopping habits have cast a long shadow over its future. As thousands of new residents move into developments along Congress Avenue and Boynton Beach Boulevard, developers increasingly view the property less as a shopping center and more as prime redevelopment land.

City officials have discussed transforming the site into a large mixed-use district with more than 1,400 homes, plus restaurants, retail, offices, and entertainment. Such a project could bring new businesses and a more walkable environment to the area -- but it would also add density and traffic to an already congested corridor.





The Best Chickenless Chicken Soup with Matzoh Balls

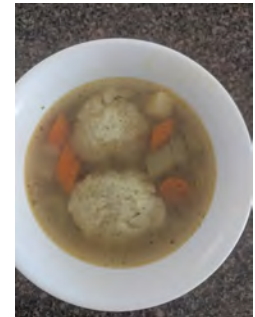
6 cups of water
1 whole onion with skin. Cut off each end.
2 parsnips peeled and sliced
A handful of fresh dill (keep in freezer)
salt and pepper to taste
Wing tips , chicken skin , section of frame from a rotisserie chicken. Any or all of the above in your freezer.

3 chicken bouillon cubes
3 peeled and sliced carrots
2 celery ribs cut into bite size pieces
1 tsp. sugar or Splenda

Place all ingredients in a pot and cover stirring occasionally. Cook for one hour on medium low heat. Remove chicken parts, whole onion and dill with tongs. Add salt and pepper to taste

Matzoh Balls (makes 20)

1 1/2c. Matzoh Meal
1 1/2 tsp. Salt
1/8 tsp. Pepper
1/8 tsp. Garlic powder
3 tsp. Baking powder
1/3 c. Safflower or Canola oil
6 beaten Eggs
1/2 c + 1 Tbs water



In a bowl mix all. Chill for 30 minutes.

Boil water. Drop in golf ball size balls and cover. Cook on medium heat for 40 minutes. Remove to a large bowl with a slotted spoon. Add to soup. Enjoy!

From Our Residents—Pain and Old Age *By Jules Cwanger*

Bad weather often carries a heavy, negative connotation for many older adults. Aches and pains seem sharper, moods can shift quickly, and the thought of going out becomes unappealing, leaving some to face a long, lonely day indoors. Yet a rainy day can also be surprisingly productive. Rain nourishes every living thing, replenishes the earth, and ultimately provides the water that sustains us — even becoming a vital source of drinking water.

So, how can we relate rain to the elderly in a positive manner? To do this, we can draw an *analogy*: *what rain does for the earth, we "old folks" can do for the people around us.* Rain is essential for sustaining life, and in much the same way, we are essential to the generations that follow us. We planted the first seeds, nurtured our children to maturity, and they, in turn, planted seeds of their own. When we care for our offspring with patience and devotion, they grow into adults who produce their own beautiful fruits.

Therefore, just as rain nourishes the earth, we nourish our descendants — offering guidance, wisdom, and love that help them flourish.

In this eighth year of “Dining Local,” we occasionally mention that when we discuss “Italian food,” we are talking about *Italian-American* or *Italian-inspired* dishes. Regional specialties cross oceans, inevitably evolving as immigrants open mom-and-pop eateries and pass on recipes to future generations. Take, for example Jersey residents Stephen and Angela Ruocco. Almost a decade ago, Chef Steve and family fulfilled his dream of opening a fine-dining restaurant inspired by traditional recipes of his *nonnas* – his grandmothers. The Manalapan NJ eatery earned a large, loyal following, enough so that Chef, wife Angela and son Steve Jr. set sights on South Florida. With daughter Isabella running the Jersey original, the Ruoccos opened a second upscale spot last year, tucked into a Congress Ave. strip mall. In the blink of an eye, Ruocco’s has become a runaway sensation!

You’ll love the Zuppa di Clams and Zuppa di Mussels (spicy red or white wine sauce), Grandma Salad (an antipasto salad with ‘everything’) and an excellent Caesar with a delicious balance of cheese, homemade croutons and dressing. Standout appetizers include *Arancini*, traditional breadcrumbed cheese-stuffed rice balls, given the “Ruocco touch” in a pool of black truffle cream sauce, and the traditional Sicilian street snack, *Panelle*, creamy chickpea flour fritters, served with ricotta and shaved Parmigiano Reggiano. Sauces from scratch are full of flavor, enhancing generous portions. The classics as well as a few surprises include Rigatoni *Bolognese* topped with meaty *ragù* and ricotta, and Spaghetti *Carbonara*, enrobed in luscious cream sauce studded with pancetta bacon shallots and peas. What we unknowingly ordered turns out to be Chef Steve’s own favorite: Crab & Panko, a hefty portion of linguine tossed in garlic, olive oil, anchovy and breadcrumbs, topped with a cascade of jumbo lump crab meat. (OMG!)

Traditional entrees are consistently bright with flavor, particularly veal (or chicken) Scallopini Marsala, replete with rich sauce and an abundance of mushrooms; and chicken (or shrimp) *Limone* in buttery white wine-lemon sauce. *Do not* miss the pan-seared Dayboat Scallops on Saffron Risotto, topped with Chef’s bacon jam -- one of 10 Signature Entrees. Bronzino is the house fish, served Oreganata, Piccata (lemon, white wine capers) or Puttanesca (red sauce with capers, olives, onions). Jersey Shore folks will recognize a Double-Cut Pork Chop “Murphy Style,” pan-seared with vinegar peppers and roasted potatoes in rosemary *demi-glace*. Finish with a delicious dessert; we were lucky enough to score a special, Nutella *crema bruciata* (crème brûlée) last week. Heavenly!

Like Jersey, Chicago is another bastion of Italian-American cuisine. Legendary Chi-town restaurateur Rich Melman, founder of Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises (they put creative theme restaurants on the map), was determined to create an eatery reminiscent of Italian family gatherings 45 years ago. Hearty portions and old-world Italy charm. Melman created Maggiano’s became a big hit. Five years later, Maggiano’s concept went national; today there are 52. Yet the magic of Maggiano’s is that it doesn’t *feel* like a chain. Walk into Maggiano’s at Boca’s Towne Center and you’ve stepped back in time. Rustic charm courtesy of imagineers plus top-notch, friendly service. For us, this is THE place to come with a group because the family-style menu is easy to order from and affordably priced per-person, NOT per dish. For quality *and* quantity, it’s the best buy in town: Elevated Italian-American Sunday dinner classics – Caesar and Italian Salad, any two appetizers and four entrees, plus three kinds of dessert.

Giant Fried Zucchini strips, savory Parmesan-Stuffed Mushrooms, and hefty Italian Meatballs are great starters. Mom’s Lasagna and Eggplant Parm are popular entrees, but Our Famous Rigatoni “D” tops the pasta list. Created by original Chicago chef David Di Gregorio, rigatoni is tossed with herb-roasted chicken, roasted mushrooms, caramelized onions and creamy Marsala sauce. Delicious entrée picks include Chicken Piccata, Beef Tenderloin Medallions, and Blackened Salmon with Crispy Calabrian Shrimp. Sweet endings include platters of Tiramisu, NY Style Cheesecake *and* Gigi’s Butter Cake. Everyone takes home leftovers ‘cause there’s always way toooooo much!!

Still hungry? Check out 200+ “Dining Local” recommendations at maddyslittleblackbook.com

About COBWRA

COBWRA is a volunteer-led, nonpartisan, civic organization representing the residential communities of West Boynton Beach and West Lake Worth in unincorporated Palm Beach County. From our initial founding of 7 communities 42 years ago, COBWRA represents 140,000 residents in 108 community associations and our area includes 5 of the 7 County Commission Districts.

COBWRA protects, preserves, and enhances property values and quality of life for its members and provides for the exchange and distribution of information. This enables member associations to present a unified position in dealing with all governmental and civic bodies. For over 4 decades, COBWRA has made a difference as a voice for its residents with developers, elected officials, government agencies and nearby municipalities.

The COBWRA area is home to the Ag Reserve 22,000-acres designated over 20 years ago to preserve farmland and wetlands to enhance agricultural activity, environmental and water resources, and open space. Preserved parcels include those owned by the US Government, South Florida Water Management District, and lands owned by Palm Beach County purchased through a bond approved by voters. Uses are limited to:

- Agriculture
- Conservation
- Low density residential development

Non-residential uses that serve the needs of farmers and area residents

COBWRA Safety and Security Weekly Alerts

ADT Suffers Massive Data Breach (Again)

<https://scamicide.com/2026/04/28/scam-of-the-day-april-29-2026-adt-suffers-massive-data-breach-again/>

South Carolina Woman Victimized by Jury Duty Scam

<https://scamicide.com/2026/04/27/scam-of-the-day-april-28-2026-south-carolina-woman-victimized-by-jury-duty-scam/>

How to spot the top scams that started on social media

https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2026/04/how-spot-top-scams-started-social-media?utm_source=govdelivery

Virginia Sheriff Warns About Dangers of Check Washing; currently in Palm Beach County

<https://scamicide.com/2026/04/29/scam-of-the-day-april-30-2026-virginia-sheriff-warns-about-dangers-of-check-washing/>



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Gannon Tax Talk—June, 2026

Dear Friends,

Amid our busy professional lives, personal commitments and the fast-paced nature of the work we do here in Palm Beach County, it can be easy to forget how much a few moments of movement can reset our perspective.

Whether it is a brisk stroll through one of our beautiful local parks or a quiet walk through the neighborhood as the sun begins to set, there is a unique joy in slowing down. For me, walking is not just about the physical benefits—though those are certainly a plus—it is about the mental clarity that comes with the exercise. It is time to disconnect, breathe in the fresh air, and appreciate the vibrant surroundings we are so lucky to call home.

Studies often highlight how walking boosts creativity and reduces stress, but I find the true value lies in the sense of balance it restores. Taking that time for yourself allows you to return to your tasks and your community with renewed energy and a clearer focus.

This June, I encourage each of you to find your own path. Whether you use that time to listen to a favorite podcast, catch up with a friend, or simply enjoy the silence, I hope you find the same refreshment in the journey that I do.

Stay safe, stay active, and enjoy the beautiful Florida summer.



Anne M. Gannon
Constitutional Tax Collector, Serving Palm Beach County

With the start of hurricane season on June 1, preparation is not just a suggestion, it is a necessity. To give you a head start to be ready for any storm, we invite you to request your copy of our Hurricane Guide, a comprehensive resource designed to help you protect your home and loved ones.

The guide serves as a one-stop shop for essential storm intelligence. It provides:

- **Emergency Contacts:** A vital directory of phone numbers for everything from FPL power outages to animal care and control.
- **Clear Definitions:** An easy-to-understand breakdown of storm categories and the difference between a "Watch" and a "Warning".
- **Preparation Timelines:** Comprehensive checklists for preparing for a storm.
- **Supply Kits:** Comprehensive list of food, water, first-aid, and pet supplies needed to sustain your household for at least five days.

Do not wait for the storm to start planning. This pocket-sized guide is an invaluable resource for navigating South Florida's weather, helping you pinpoint your evacuation zone and build a robust family emergency plan. It is a must-read for anyone new to the area who has yet to experience hurricane season.

Preparation is the best protection. Do not wait for a storm to appear on the horizon to start your planning. You can access our comprehensive hurricane resources today at www.pbctax.gov/resources/hurricane-guide-request. View the digital version online or request a convenient, pocket-sized copy to be sent to you.

COBWRA

COALITION OF BOYNTON WEST
RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS

DELEGATES MEETING HIGHLIGHTS • APRIL 22, 2026 • VALENCIA SHORES

HOST COMMUNITY – VALENCIA SHORES

- Joel Cohen, Delegate & COBWRA Director, and HOA President Mark Gussin welcomed the Delegates.

BREAKFAST SPONSOR – ETERNAL LIGHT MEMORIAL GARDEN AND BETH ISRAEL MEMORIAL CHAPEL

- Mark Beyo, Eternal Light Memorial Garden Managing Partner, spoke of offering care for the deceased and their family, while meeting the needs of the community.

MEETING DEDICATION

- The meeting opened with the Procession of Colors by the PBCFR Honor Guard and PBCFF Pipes & Drums.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

MAYOR SARA BAXTER – Spoke of a county-wide master plan to deal with traffic congestion, lowering taxes by prioritizing and eliminating waste, and a pilot program to streamline the permitting process.

VICE MAYOR MARCI WOODWARD – Noted the Canyon Park Phase II opening, and how COBWRA works with the County for COBWRA members and non-members alike.

COMMISSIONER MARIA SACHS – Explained that COBWRA is united on issues surrounding the protection of land and our way of life.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR KAREN BRILL – Spoke of the upcoming School Board hearing to settle the teacher's pay impasse, and live-streaming of graduation ceremonies.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ERICA WHITFIELD – Has been a School Board member for 12 years and was happy to be attending the COBWRA Installation.

TAX COLLECTOR ANNE GANNON - Explained that vehicle registration kiosks have been installed in more Publix supermarkets to provide faster services for the 1.5 million Palm Beach County residents.

STATE ATTORNEY ALEXCIA COX - Noted it is National Crime Victim Rights Week, they are hosting a Sole for Justice Walk in Bryant Park, and there are no victimless crimes. For a scam/fraud presentation, contact the State Attorney's office.

PBC CLERK & COMPTROLLER MIKE CARUSO - About 10,000 people a month are signing up for property fraud alerts through the PBC Clerk & Comptroller website. For faster service, go west to the Royal Palm Beach office. Independent auditors gave the Office a clean bill of health.

FIRST RESPONDERS' REPORTS

PBSO LT. CHRIS CARIS

- Stated crime is down this quarter. Commended the District 6 Deputy of the Month, Benjamin Sacks for his law enforcement efforts and observational skills which resulted in a recent arrest of a criminal.

PBCFR BATTALION CHIEF BILL STANSBURY

- Community CPR and AED training is available and can be combined with pickleball tournament challenges.
- The 3300 calls responded to by Battalion 4 during the past month was a slight reduction from the month prior because of snowbird departure. Customer satisfaction remains high at a rate of 99%.

FEATURED PRESENTATION – INSTALLATION OF THE 2026-2027 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Master of Ceremony, PBSO Captain Byron Smith, welcomed all to the Installation Ceremony and commended the community dialogue fostered by COBWRA leadership.
- Battalion Chief William Stansbury thanked the 2025-2026 COBWRA Board and discharged them of their duties.
- The 2026-2027 COBWRA Officers - Treasurer Debbie Mindlin (Valencia Sound), Secretary Cheryl Dodes (Valencia Isles), 2nd VP Irwin Cohen, (Valencia Bay), 1st VP Debbie Murphy (Pine Tree CC Estates) and Barbara Roth, President (Bellaggio) were installed by Tax Collector Anne Gannon, State Attorney Alexcia Cox, Commissioner Maria Sachs, Commissioner Marci Woodward, and Clerk & Comptroller Mike Caruso, respectively.
- Directors Lainey Brooks (Valencia Cove), Joel Cohen (Valencia Shores), Jack Leicher (The Cascades), Myrna Rosoff (Aberdeen), Steve Slade (Avalon Estates), and Gene Wyss (Lakeridge Falls) were nominated by Pres. Roth, and sworn in by Clerk & Comptroller Mike Caruso.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – BARBARA ROTH

- Thanked Valencia Shores for hosting the meeting, Eternal Light for their breakfast sponsorship, and all who participated in the Installation program - including PBCFR Honor Guard and PBCFF Pipes & Drums, elected officials, and first responders. Acknowledged the contribution of community residents, delegates, committee members and chairs, and past presidents, who have all made COBWRA what it has become as we celebrate 45 years and counting.



Thank You, Breakfast Sponsor!	
ETERNAL LIGHT MEMORIAL GARDENS	BETH ISRAEL MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Save the Date! Delegates Meeting May 20, 2026 • 9:30 AM • Valencia Cove <i>Highlights by Linda Levine, Cheryl Dodes and Debbie Murphy</i>	

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WEBSITE

How To Login to the Valencia Lakes Website

NEW RESIDENT SIGNUP – STAY CONNECTED WITH VALENCIALAKES.ORG

If you are not registered on ValenciaLakes.org, you are not receiving important HOA emails!



These emails contain both fun community news and critical administrative updates, so don't miss out.

How to Sign Up

1. Go to: www.ValenciaLakes.org
2. Click the “New Resident Signup” button on the homepage.
3. Fill in your information (name, address, email, etc.).
4. Create a username and password for future logins.
5. Check your email for a confirmation message from ClubExpress and click the link to activate your account.

How to Log In After You're Registered

1. Go to: www.ValenciaLakes.org
2. Find the Member Login link at the top right corner of the screen.
3. Enter your Username and Password, then click Login.
4. If you check the “Remember Me” option, you shouldn't need to enter your login info each time.

Trouble Logging In?

Click “Forgot My Username/Password” on the login page.

Enter the email address you use for HOA communications and your first name.

If a match is found, you'll receive a new temporary password by email.

If no match is found or you are in need of further assistance, please contact the HOA office at 561-737-8498 or email darlene.senisi@fsresidential.com

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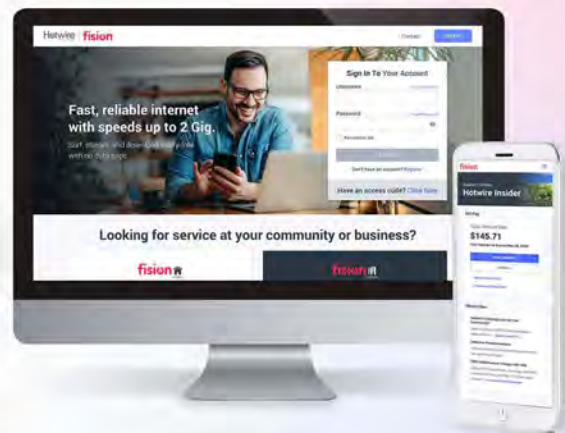
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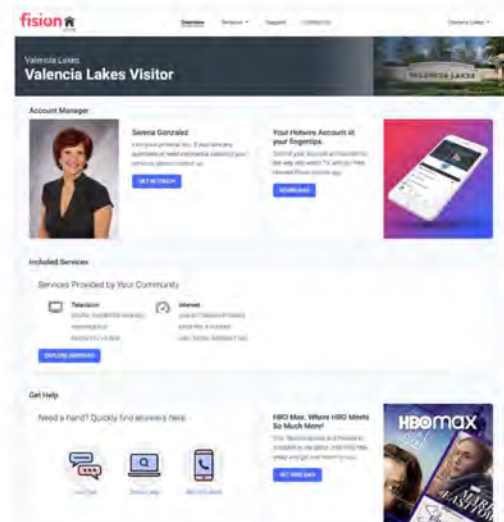
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