

Villadom

Volume 45, Issue 2

The Villas de Golf Monthly Newsletter

December 2024

General News and Information

Shuffleboard:

We are excited to announce the shuffleboard courts have been refreshed with new paint and markings. The shuffleboard season will start on Wednesday Jan 15. We will have 3 flights (9am, 10:30 & 12:30) Anyone who would like to play contact Carol to sign up. Condo #2205. 260-710-1752.

Looking for teams or singles, newbie's or experienced players. All levels welcome. \$7.00 per person for the season. We will have open play on Dec 27 & Jan 3 at 10:00am for anyone who would like to learn play or anyone who would like to get in a little practice.

Largo Public Library offerings in December:

- **“SHINE”** – Medicare counseling.
If you are celebrating your 65th birthday this year, recently retired, or just want to know more about your healthcare options under Medicare. **SHINE** may be able to help on Wednesday, December 4th.
SHINE schedules free, unbiased, and confidential counseling appointments each month at Largo Public Library.*Please bring a list of your current prescriptions to your appointment.*
Call 727-587-6715 for an appointment.
- **Around the World with Cookies**
Monday, December 16 / 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Learn about cookies from countries around the world and make your own cookies that you can take home and bake! (**Registration Required**)

St Jeromes Concerts

- Dec 6th Advent Christmas Concert
Dec 20th All Choir Concert

Indian Rocks Baptist

- An Indian Rocks Christmas, 2 Shows
Sat Dec 7th at 4:00 to 5:30 and
Sun Dec 8th at 4:00 to 5:30

News from the Board Tamara Smigels

Happy Healthy Holidays to everyone and welcome back snow birds!!

We made it through some serious rain storms and two hurricanes - Helene and Milton. We are grateful and blessed that nobody was hurt in our community. We have lost two carports and several palm trees; these are material things that can be replaced.

We want to thank everyone who has helped prepare for storms/hurricanes and participated in the massive cleanup activities! We greatly appreciate all the volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of hours and effort to make our community beautiful.

I want to thank the volunteers who participate in the Monday working sessions, your efforts help to reduce the cost to the community.

The Mansard Project was kicked off in October, and the crew is making great progress. We appreciate your support of this activity and the movement of cars to help ensure safety for the project.

In closing, we wish everyone health, happiness and look forward to building new memories.

Tampa Bay, a Closer Look at ...

The Three Gifts of Paradise

What makes the Holidays special when the weather speaks to spring or sometimes summer temperatures. Nothing raises the spirits like the illumination of our greatest assets, our incredibly special gifts. This year let's remember what was and celebrate what lies ahead.

WATER... Mother Nature was not our friend when Helene roared ashore in September with her catastrophic impact on our beaches and marinas. Yet, we who live here, know the celebration of our waters will be back as beaches are being revived,

Men's Golf League

Jim Schauf

Our first league outing of the new season was held on November 21st. We had 4 groups participate. I'm sure that number will grow rapidly. First place was captured by John Bradley with a net score of 62. Three players tied for second with net scores of 64, Sandy Brown, Bob Mulhern, and Dave Yarmey. No league play held on Thanksgiving. The next competition will be December 5th. The season is off and running. Looking forward to seeing the rest of our members soon..

Tampa

restaurants are being restored plank by plank and for this Holiday season several of our towns will continue the tradition of the Lighted Boat Parades. Annual Lighted Boat Parades are planned by Madeira Beach on Dec. 14th and by Treasure Island on December 21st.

FLORA...who doesn't love a swaying palm tree, an early blooming hibiscus, or a burgeoning bougainvillea along with the elegant Bird of Paradise. One of our treasures here in Largo is the Botanical Gardens, within walking distance for many of us here at VDG. The Gardens will sparkle with a million twinkling lights throughout the gardens that will wow us as visitors. Visit, after dark, for a beautiful experience!

FUN...Who doesn't love that the brand of the City of Largo is 'Play Largo'. What better way to play and have some fun than enjoying the Holiday Lights and Carnival Rides in Largo Central Park from Nov. 28 thru Dec. 29.

Have a Holly, Jolly time at the Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting on Dec. 7th. Enjoy the holiday displays, performers, and tree lighting at 6pm. Closer to home, enjoy the Concert Series on the Breezeway, at our neighbor Largo Golf Course on December 13th and enjoy the music of Guilty Pleasures.

Happy Holidays to All

Bernadette Moriarty

Hurricanes

Submitted by

Marge Fischer and Laura Van Wingerden

"In 1933 a song written by Harold Allen with lyrics by Ted Koehler, 'Stormy Weather' was first performed at Harlem's Cotton Club by Ethel Waters." Ninety-one years later, the lyrics were about the weather coming and not about my man leaving. "It keeps raining all the time."

The summer of 2024 was truly stormy weather. Several intense tropical storms made the ground pretty saturated. Then along came Debbie, our first hurricane of the season. In retrospect, a rather mild one; pouring rain and wind. We lost a palm tree and another one had its head blown off. Branches were picked up and the campus was beautiful again. Is "the sun in the sky"? Yes, for a little while. During that time the Live Oaks got trimmed. Great job and fun to watch. Helene came with wind and sand. During the five or six days between Helene and Milton, the palm trees were trimmed. My uneducated guess is that the trimming saved our trees. Debbie was bad, Helene was vicious, destroying the beaches, and coastal homes. But then, even before Helene was gone Milton was upon us with a vengeance.

What was it really like? We are not in a flood zone nor an evacuation zone, but there was water, water and more water. We watched the parking lot fill up with water, yes it was draining but it was raining faster and harder than it was draining. Friends were texting each other to be sure everyone was safe. Hildi commented that she was fine and rather calm until far away family and friends started telling her to leave. We were already into a day of driving wind and rain that sounded like hail. Eddie evacuated rather late with her son and his family. Five hours through Tampa and they were still in the hurricane. James could feel his wall and windows pushing in and pulling out.

Laura tells the story well. To describe what it feels like to experience a hurricane you have to start about a week before. There is the threat of a coming storm. One starts checking the weather several times a day. As it gets closer and looks like a near hit, one considers the options. Fly out now, drive somewhere or stay put. Three days out it's too late to go anywhere. There is an adrenaline rush and a little pit in your gut. Make sure you have water, both to

Building & Grounds

Kent Ward

Welcome Back Snowbirds Volunteers.

The board wants to thank Keven Duross for his past work on the board and as head of the Building & Grounds Maintenance volunteer group. With that "downer" information the board is now looking for someone with the ability and fortitude to take on the challenging work of leading our volunteers to keep our great community in such great shape (after the roofing project gets done and cleaned up). Please consider this opportunity to serve our community. If you would like to take charge of a particular project (painting railings, cleaning washers & dryers, cleaning out AC drain lines using our new generator or any other projects we come up with) we would welcome this.

We are fortunate to have this participation to help keep our costs down. If this sounds like too much to take on, we could separate the Building Maintenance from the Grounds to lessen the load. We do have a great group that is looking for great leadership on Monday mornings. This could be you!! Please contact a board member.

The VILLADOM is produced monthly from November to April of each season, Tom King is editor and publisher and any information or articles for publication should be given to him or sent to: tomking46@gmail.com

Board Members and Officers are:

- President..... Tamara Smigels
- Vice President..... Kent Ward
- Secretary..... Open
- Treasurer..... Bonnie Boak
- Director..... Dan Boruch
- Director..... Sam Kuntz
- Director..... Greg Frank

Hurricane

drink, wash and flush. Make sure you have food, especially snacks. Gas up your car. Get the laundry done. Have a prayer meeting. Figure out how many people will come to your condo because we are in a non-evacuation/safe zone. 24-48 hours before impact the highways are jammed and there is no gas. Airports are closed. Businesses are boarded up. Family and/or friends arrive and the official "hunkering down" begins. It begins to rain and you spend the next 24-48 hours staring at the weather stations and eating snacks.

The wind begins to howl and the rain comes down harder. Trees bend in the wind. Some snap. What was that bang? Carport down! It gets dark and now you can't see what's going on outside very well. You pray that you don't lose power. You hope you made the right decision to stay put. Wind gusts rattle your windows and doors. Rain is blowing sideways. It's very scary! This goes on for hours. Finally the storm makes landfall. The wind subsides a bit and you feel safe to go to bed. You look out into the street lights and see the trees still swaying heavily in the wind and realize that if this is better, it must have been worse than you would let yourself believe! The next day you survey the damage. Trees down everywhere. Cars flooded. Water intrusion destroys everything in its path. Mobile home parks with aluminum twisted and thrown around like a toy.

Debby had some strong winds. Helene had a huge storm surge so flooding was an issue. It rained very little. The coastline homes and streets were left with 3' of sand on them. In places like Cedar Key the cottages on the coast floated away completely. Milton had a massive amount of rain causing flooding and wind damage. Hurricane season ends and we take a deep breath and count our blessings.

December Activities

November has come and gone. The breakfast on Nov.9th was well attended and delicious. We welcomed several new residents. New friends in the making. Thanks to all the workers from buildings 1 & 5. Special thanks to the many bags for non-perishable food items donated at the breakfast. Several gift cards for Publix and Walmart along with cash were included. St. Jerome's Lifeline Ministries was grateful. This ministry served 96 families at a single distribution.

Cards are being played in the clubhouse on Wednesdays. Bingo is being called on Thursdays. These are fun events that will welcome new players. Think about trying it out.

The exercise classes are in full swing at 10:00 daily. Tai Chi &/or Yoga stretch and push on M,W,F. Water aerobics splashes on Tu,Th, Sat. You do feel good when you are done.

Thanks to all who helped decorate for Christmas. Everything is festive and beautiful. December 18, from 1-3 you will have an opportunity to make a couple resin Christmas ornaments at Bridgette Miner's Resin Art workshop. There is a materials fee but the real fun will be in the clubhouse with other "non-artists".

Check the bulletin boards for a cookout and Christmas dinner at the Presbyterian Church. The cookout is still in the planning stage. After the Holidays, they will be scheduled on the calendar. December breakfast is scheduled for the 7th. Buildings 2 & 3 are the hostesses. Rumor has it that it might be sausage, fruit and French Toast. Thanks to everyone who makes all this happen.

We are sad to report the loss of Sal Pulizotto #10101, Richard Baldwin 9101, Woodrow Silver #7107, Catherine Evans #1202 and Joseph Jay #7201 and Helen Walihura 9205.

We welcome new residents, Patricia Priest 2202, Jerry Deutsch 3101, Nina Mjagkij 4204, Jason & Kristy Leikem 6207, Matthew & Jennifer Parker 8207

Guys and Dolls

Reene Schauf

Please read carefully as I made a mistake at our pizza party. The corrected date for the Guys and Dolls scramble is **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**. This is a change from what we discussed.

After the golfing we will have dinner at the clubhouse prepared by some talented chefs who are as yet non Michelin rated. Join us by signing up at the clubhouse when it is posted, or call Reenie at (608) 633-0712.

Our first fall outing was held on November 23 with four teams competing for pride and prizes. It was a tight race as three of the teams tied at 61 and one team eked out a 60 to win. Barb, Bob and Reenie won first place. The tie breaker for second was not determined until the fifth hole. Dee, Sharon, Judy, and Bob were declared the winners.

Congratulations to Judy and Bob who were closest to the pin on the second hole. And Judy was really close!

December teams will no longer keep households together. The plan is to mix 'em up or scramble 'em into teams allowing us to play social golf.

Join us. All abilities are welcomed.

<<<<<< WEEKLY EVENTS >>>>>>

Monday- Tai Chi 10:00

Tuesday - Water Exercises 10:00

Wednesday- Tai Chi 10:00, Poker 6:30, Euchre 7:00

Thursday- Men's Golf, Water Exercises 10:00,
Bingo 7:00

Friday - Tai Chi 10:00

Saturday – Water Exercises 10:00

Villas de Golf December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Monthly Breakfast 9:30
8	9 Volunteer hours 9-11	10	11 Eucher 7 pm	12	13	14 Guys and Dolls Golf
15	16 Volunteer hours 9-11 Bridge 7 pm	17	18 Art Workshop 1-3	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Shuffle Bd practice 10 am	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve	1	2	3	4