



Parrish Village News

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In this issue of the
Parrish Village News

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March 2018 FREE

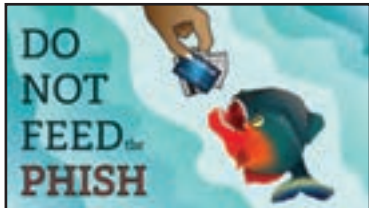
Record Crowds Turn Out for Parrish Heritage Day Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off



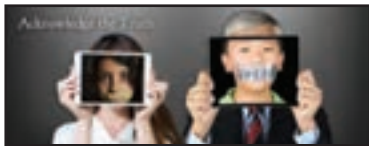
Ground beef is
so versatile. See page 5.



Ralph visits Wales.
Read about it on page 5.



Jan makes us aware of
“phishing” scams
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Andrea talks about
acknowledging the truth
on page 12.



Kathryn tells us about her
keeping of a journal
on page 25.



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awareness and
acceptance on page 28.



Photos courtesy of Todd and Aliyah
Anderson and Andy Gregory.



MARCH/APRIL CALENDARS

- 3/6 **Parrish Civic Association Board Meeting**, Parrish YMCA, 7:00 pm, 12214 US Highway 301 N, Parrish, FL 34219. Open Forum 6:00 pm - representatives from the PCA Board of Directors will be present to hear your thoughts. 7:00 pm regular meeting. If you would like to attend the Board Meeting, please contact a Board member.
- 4/21 **Rally at the Railroad**, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. A family fund raising event featuring local food trucks, craft beer, vendors, activities, live music and raffles.

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Parrish Village News



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Safety

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as a service to our community.*

Parrish Community

The Parrish Civic Association has been busy working for your community and we couldn't do it without our many volunteers who step up on a regular basis when we ask for a hand.

Our annual project, the Parrish Heritage Day Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off is a perfect example of many volunteers coming together to do something special for the community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Heritage Day Committee members: Alan Anderson, Todd Anderson, Cindy Chin, Angelstar Colon, Xavier Colon, Paul Cote, Gretchen Fowler, Jim Gertz, Jennifer Hamey, Ben Jordan, Cookie Jordan, Toby Kelley, Parl McCraw, Jamie Rusnak, Tami Vaughan, Mike Williamson, and Arthur Wright. These volunteers have spent many hours working to make the Festival an awesome event for the community to enjoy every March. We thank them for their tireless dedication.

Member Spotlight

Members of the Parrish Civic Association make opportunities to help others In the community. A few of these members step up regularly to help or create their own community support Imitative. The PCA would like to thank a few of these members who have recently stepped up to support the people in our community. We will spotlight more of our volunteers in articles to come.



Jennifer Hamey, PA

Jennifer was born and raised in Northeast Ohio. It is there that she began practicing law in 2006. She move to southern Florida in 2016 and opened her own practice. She feels she has a holistic approach to the practice of law. "When a client comes to see me, they are most likely facing a stressful legal matter, which can affect many areas of their lives. My goal is to try and solve the legal issue you are facing and reduce the stress that comes with the issue." Jennifer has been an invaluable asset for the Parrish Heritage Day Festival and Chili Cook Off, helping to coordinate and organize the chili teams.

Rhonda Rivera

Ronda Rivera has been in the banking industry for over 14 years and most recently joined Premier Community Bank in May 2017 as the Branch Manager of the Parrish



Branch. Premier Community Bank is the only local community bank left in Manatee County. Ms. Rivera has lived in the Parrish community for over 8 years. Over the years Ronda has been active in Parrish, volunteering her time and support for events and with the PCA. She helped facilitate the Parrish Hometown Christmas, and the PCA meet and greet, both hosted on the Premier Community Bank grounds. Ronda also lends a hand with other events in and around Parrish always with a smile and "what else can I do to help".

Kim Betts

Kimberly was born in Bradenton, FL and began singing as a young child at family gatherings and church. After her parents divorced, the family moved to North Carolina where Kim's mother put her in dance and cheerleading to keep her busy. Kim thrived in front of an audience and went on to perform in HS choir, swing choir, drama and Cheerleading. Having been blessed with two beautiful children, Grant and Nicole, she decided to settle down back home returning to the Sarasota area in 2007. 2011 brought a transition in Kimberly's life as her father, famed Dickey Betts, came to watch one of her stage productions asking, "Why don't you go into music?" That was all it took to get the ball rolling in another direction and Gamble Creek Band was born. Kim offers her talents to many events in and around the Parrish area. She, her family and her band are seen frequently around town together helping with community events. Kim has become an asset to Parrish, willing and available to entertain us. #PCAOneVoice

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out the membership
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Cooking with Cookie

Versatile Ground Beef

Whether you use ground beef, ground sirloin or ground chuck, here are some favorites that can be made fairly inexpensively and easily with any of the above. I hope you enjoy them.

Easy Beef Enchiladas (pictured at right)

1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef
Salt and Pepper
1 small white onion, peeled and diced
1 (4-oz.) can diced green chilis
1 (15.5-oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained
8 large flour tortillas
3 cups Mexican-blend shredded cheese
1 can enchilada sauce
Optional: 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking pan with cooking spray. Set aside. Cook ground beef in a large saute pan over medium high heat until browned and completely cooked through, using a spatula to break up the beef. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the beef to a separate bowl and set aside. Reserve 1 tablespoon of the remaining grease and discard the rest. Add the onion to the saute pan and cook for 5 minutes until soft and translucent. Stir in the green chilis and beans and cook for 1 minute to warm. Remove pan from heat and stir in the ground beef and 1/4 cup enchilada sauce into the onion mixture until combined. Set aside. To assemble the enchiladas, arrange in line: tortillas, enchilada sauce, ground beef mixture and cheese. Lay out a tortilla and spread two tablespoons of sauce over the surface of the tortilla. Portion about 1/8 of the ground beef mixture and spread it in a line down the center of the tortilla, then sprinkle with 1/3 cup cheese. Roll up tortilla and place in the baking dish. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Spread any remaining enchilada sauce on top and sprinkle remaining cheese. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes, Remove from oven and serve immediately, garnished with fresh cilantro.

Yield: 8 servings.

Stuffed Peppers

1 cup uncooked long grain white rice
2 cups water
Sauce:
1 onion, diced
1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 cups marinara sauce



1 cup beef broth
1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
Peppers:
1 pound lean ground beef
1/4 pound hot Italian pork sausage, casing removed
1 (10-oz.) can diced tomatoes
1/4 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
1 pinch cayenne pepper
4 large green bell peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded
1 cup finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, plus more for topping

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Bring rice and water to boil over high heat, then reduce to medium low, cover and simmer until the rice is tender. Set aside. Cook onion and olive oil over medium heat about 5 minutes. Transfer half of onion to large bowl and set aside. Stir in marinara sauce, beef broth, balsamic vinegar and red pepper flakes into the skillet; cook and stir for 1 minute. Pour sauce mixture into 9"x13" baking dish and set aside. Combine Ground beef, Italian sausage, diced tomatoes, Italian parsley, garlic, black pepper, salt and cayenne into bowl with reserved onions; mix well. Stir in cooked rice and Parmigiano-Reggiano. Stuff green peppers with beef and sausage mixture. Place peppers in baking dish over tomato sauce; sprinkle with remaining cheese, cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake until meat is no longer pink - an additional 25 minutes.

Yield: 4 servings.

These recipes look complicated but really are not and do have lots of ingredients that make them taste so good. You can use store-bought sauces that will help make them simpler (which I do if I can).

I hope you enjoy them and have a great St. Parick's Day and wonderful March!

Bon appetit!

The British Isles (Wales)

Ralph Bellrose



A view of "Fishguard Center" is pictured above.

We sailed overnight from the Scilly Islands to the coastal town of Fishguard in south-western Wales. Wales is about the size of New Jersey, is officially bi-lingual (English and Welsh), and is part of the United Kingdom, but is recognized as a sovereign country similar to Scotland.

Humans have lived in Wales for over 30,000 years. At the end of the last ice age, Central-Europeans crossed the land bridges that existed between England, Ireland, and the mainland and settled in what was to become Great Britain. By 8000 B.C., the North Sea and the Irish Sea had formed and the British peninsula became an island.

The Romans began their conquest of Wales in 48 A.D. and ruled the area for over 300 years. They were attracted by the abundant minerals they found including gold, copper, lead, zinc and silver. (These valuable mineral deposits, along with coal, also contributed to significant economic growth during the industrial revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries.) In 383 A.D., the Roman General Magnus Maximus, who ruled Britain, decided to make a bid for imperial power over the entire Roman Empire. He relocated all the Roman soldiers and administrators to France (Gaul) and transferred power over Wales to several prominent families. Maximus created a Welsh aristocracy and is considered to be the father of the Welsh Nation. A chaotic period followed as Welsh nobles battled with each other for control and fought off numerous external invasions. Finally, a single king emerged, Gruffudd ap Llywelyn, who ruled from 1057 until 1063. Upon his death the chaos resumed until King Edward I of England invaded and conquered Wales in 1277. However, it wasn't until 1282 that the rule of the Welsh princes ended completely and the remaining Welsh nobles pledged their loyalty to Edward. To secure his position over the rebellious Welsh, Edward built over 600 castles in Wales (he would need them!) and named his son, the future

Please see **The British Isles** CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



A map showing where Fishguard, Wales is located.

Let's go Phishing!

Jan Kaufman

I had other plans for this month's article but life has a habit of driving us up to a fork in the road. From there we made a decision. Which way do we go? And so this month I would like to talk about computer safety on your own home.

My husband and I both had Facebook accounts that we enjoyed. Both of our email addresses have been long-standing addresses that are well known and have been used for well over 15 years. We have both received the scams about the lottery wins from someone in Nigeria, or the links that someone sends that end up being a virus and all that garbage over the years. If you've been on a computer for a while you know what to look for and you know not to click on those links. BUT.... We were not prepared for what happened in late January.

My husband went to log into his Facebook and he couldn't get in. He thought it might be a problem with his password so he tried to get a new password but the email on his Facebook account was not his email. It was a close variation to it though and you'd miss the change if you didn't look carefully. After reviewing his email he noticed he had received an email from ... Guess Who? From HIM-SELF! It read something like this...

I'm sitting here with tears in my eyes.

My family and I came down here to Cardiff, Wales for a short vacation. Unfortunately we were mugged at the part of the hotel where we stayed. All cash, credit cards and cell were stolen off us but luckily for us we still have our passports with us.

Jan is currently in hospital due to the stress. We've been to the embassy and the Police here but they're not helping us at all. Our flight leaves in less than three hours but we're having problems settling the bills and the hotel manager won't let us leave until we settle the bills.

Am freaked out at the moment. I need your help urgently....

Well, we weren't in Cardiff, Wales. We were right here in Parrish, Florida. And then the phone began to ring. We had calls from across the US, Canada and even a few from Europe with people concerned about us and offering us money and assistance. We quickly put their concerns at



ease and let them know it was a scam. While fielding all the calls I got in touch with Facebook and I let them know that someone had hacked into Marty's Facebook and had changed everything in there. We also contacted AOL about the problem. And finally we actually contacted the FBI due to the fraud and possible identity theft.

Marty's AOL account had also been hacked. Not just hacked though. His entire contact list was erased. Fifteen years of gathering up email addresses for friends, family and literally thousands of people we know through our involvement with sports car racing. There was no way for him to email everyone and let them know it was all a scam. There were several people who didn't realize it was a scam. They replied to the "fake" email address and sent their phone numbers back to the hacker offering to help including some friends who live in Europe who were close by and were ready and willing to come to help us.

Four hours, 80 phone calls, lots of computer time and time we are still spending trying to rebuild our email contact listing – it's such a waste of time but that is only one of the scams that are going on these days.

There's the "grandparent/relatives" scam where a young person calls and says "Hi, it's me!" When you ask who it is the person says something like "You don't know your own grandchild?" and YOU respond with a name usually in the form of a question like.... "Steven, is that you?" And of course they say "yes." Now they know you have a

grandson named Steven and they play on that saying they are in trouble and need money and they don't want their parents to find out.

Another popular scam comes under the disguise of a bank or credit card saying there is a problem and your account has been suspended until you get the billing information corrected. Now think about it – banks and credit card companies will always call if there is a problem on your account. They would never email you on something like that. Anyone who has ever missed a payment knows that. Yet another one appears to come from a government agency – often the FBI. It looks so official with the logo and the name of the head of the FBI in the email. The immediate alert I saw on that one was the horrible spelling and sentence structure in the email. I knew that one was a scam – or our government is hiring people who can't spell.

And there is the ever popular AOL billing scam saying they need you to update your billing information. And with tax time just around the corner there is an IRS scam out there now saying you are owed some extra money. And there's the email that comes from a friend of yours that says "I've found a way to make lots of money" with nothing but a link.

These types of scams are referred to as **phishing**. The hackers/scammers are "phishing" around trying to hook someone and get some money from you. Everything might sound legitimate or it might look official but they are not. The worst thing you can do is respond to those emails and you should never, EVER open an attachment from them. This experience has been quite an eye opener for me. This showed us about how vulnerable we all are on our computers if we don't take precautions to ensure our own safety. Here are a few ideas I've learned along the way that might help you as well.

1.) Change your passwords at least twice a year. Yes, I know it's a bother to do it but it's for your own protection. Here's a helpful hint – Put a reminder on your calendar to change your passwords. I've got reminders already on my calendar for two password changes later this year – once
Please see **Let's Go Phishing** CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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The Storytelling Festival at Rocky Bluff Library

Under the tent at Rocky Bluff Library on Saturday, April 14, there will be a Storytelling Festival! Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends as there will be activities for every-one. To promote literacy and to celebrate National Library Week, the Friends are holding this First Annual Storytelling Festival.

For the festival, we have invited professional story tellers, authors and local educators to tell their stories and promote the "Art of Storytelling". From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the festival will present continuous staged performances under the Storytelling Tent on the grounds of Rocky Bluff Library.

In addition to the performances, there will be games, clowns, face painting, roving activities, treats for purchase, raffle baskets and a book sale.

Storytellers are the keepers of our histories, our culture and who we are as a people. Storytelling requires a language sophistication beyond ordinary conversation and the storytelling experience encourages broader oral comprehension which can serve as a building block toward early literacy development. An aid to literacy is Storytelling.

By using the library as a resource and engaging drama coaches and interested participants from local schools, we hope to encourage community children and adults in the storytelling art and teach them how to present their own stories at future festivals with local children and adults becoming the performers along with the professionals.

Entertaining us with their stories are Tamara Green - Storytelling Using Imagination; DM Jack - Author and Storyteller, Les McDowell - Tales of Cowboy Dan, Sanndi Sylver - Storyteller Ventriloquist, Parrish Playworks - History of Parrish, John Phillips - Guitarist and Sparky the Clown.

This Storytelling Festival is free; however, you can support this function with a donation which will be gratefully appreciated and no donation is too small to ensure the success of this event.

As Friends of Rocky Bluff Library, our mission is to raise awareness of Rocky Bluff Library as a community resource for children and adults, with literacy being a key to personal and professional success within the community.

We thank our gracious sponsors: Program Sponsor - The Islands on the Manatee River, Supporting Sponsors - Publix, Lee Wetherington Homes, Judy Aarnes with Coldwell Banker, David and Barbara Hewitt, Kim Vole and State farm Insurance, River Wilderness Literary Divas, Dick, Johnson and Johnson Insurance, Pets Plus, Fifth Third Bank, Mark M. Moore and the Storybook Cafe.

We hope to see you there.

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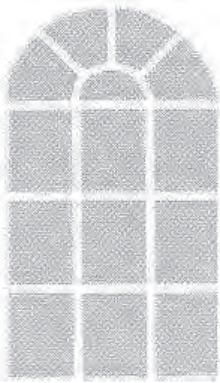
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The Art of Selective Memory.

*Pat Walsh, PGA Golf Professional
at River Wilderness Golf & Country Club*



One of the greatest keys to success for any professional golfer is his or her ability to master the art of selective memory. Basically it means being able to recall wonderfully struck golf shots in vivid detail. It also means being able to completely wash out any memory of a poorly played shot... IMMEDIATELY!

Unfortunately many amateurs have a reverse selective memory process and can only recall the missed shot and tend to immediately forget the great shot. To become a better golfer instead of just working on the physical swing we must also work on the mental aspects. Start a diary and keep records of those pure shots you hit:

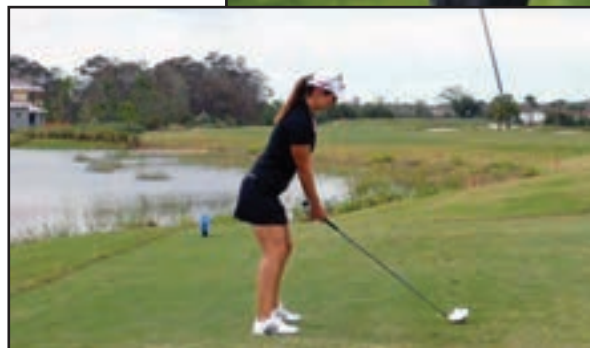
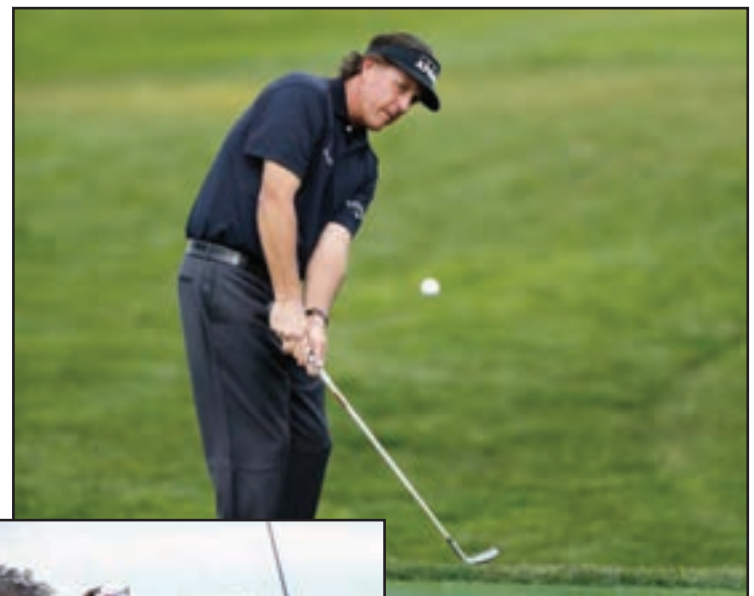
- The awesome drive
- The chip you holed
- The bunker shot with lots of spin
- The crisp iron shot that backed up
- The 3-metal you picked cleanly off a tight lie
- The magical-breaking putt you holed

It's amazing how quickly you'll start recalling these moments when in similar conditions and how many times you'll be able to 'pull the shot off' instead of standing over the ball with negative thoughts. Also, when you hit an extremely poor shot work on throwing that memory away as quickly as possible and going on to the next opportunity.

For more golf tips you can YouTube: Pat Walsh PGA Golf Professional or visit our club's Facebook page at River Wilderness Golf and Country Club. Individual and Group Golf Lessons are also available by calling Pat Walsh at 941-776-2602.

Pat Walsh , PGA Golf Professional

*Start a diary
and keep
records of
those pure
shots you hit.*



*It's amazing how
quickly you'll start
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Swirl Away For More Bouquet

Wine Guy Bob Monica



Have you ever been out with a friend enjoying some wine and noticed that she was constantly swooshing the wine around in her glass? "Why in heaven's name," you wondered, "does she do that?"

Well, there is a good reason... it's because it makes the wine experience better.

Wine is not like soda pop or iced tea. It is chemically complex, evolving in your glass. So by swirling the wine centrifugally in your glass you aspirate it – meaning to add oxygen to its composition. This softens the wine and enhances the bouquet. That effect makes the wine friendlier and more appealing.

Researchers tell us that about 80% of the flavors we perceive as taste actually come from what we smell. The olfactory gland has a powerful influence on our perception of flavors. And the more powerful the aroma the stronger the taste. Therefore, it stands to reason that if you can enhance the potency of the aroma the wine will have more flavor.

Now your wine glass is your primary tool for increased wine enjoyment. An appropriately designed glass is tear shaped, holding 16 to 22 ounces. A very thin glass with a long stem and sturdy base is best. A good glass allows the light to enter properly showcasing the color of the wine. It also allows the wine to glisten and sparkle adding to the beauty of the visual experience. It also funnels the bouquet of the wine directly to your nose, allowing your olfactory gland to take command.

Of course, only wine that is in contact with air will give off an aroma. Therefore, only the wine on the top surface of your glass is emanating bouquet. But if you gently swirl (the word is swirl not swoosh or swish) the wine in the glass you will coat the outer walls of the glass multiplying the amount of wine that is in contact with air enhancing the nose of the wine.

Voila! More bouquet – more flavor.

Practice this simple action to enhance your wine enjoyment. Hold the glass by its stem and place it firmly on a table, counter or bar top. Now draw tight little invisible circles with the bottom of the glass that causes the wine to swirl gently. The smaller the circle you draw the more successful you will be. If you are right handed it is typically best for you to draw counter clockwise while lefties will draw clockwise. But this is a matter of personal preference. Remember to swirl gently allowing the wine to coat the inside of the glass. Then take a big sniff.

CAUTION: In the beginning be sure to keep the glass firmly in contact with the table. You may be tempted to pick the glass up and swirl it around freestyle. Especially after a glass of wine or two. But if you are not yet skilled in the art of swirling this may end up with a trip to the dry cleaners.

So join the ranks of the wine swirlers. You'll notice the difference. It costs no more while improving your wine experience. What could be better?

Cheers.



Researchers tell us that about 80% of the flavors we perceive as taste actually come from what we smell.



10 Reasons to Stop Avoiding the Truth

I believe that there is one key leadership component missing in the world today. It may be the very thing that is holding you back from success, accomplishment, or improvement. I wish that I could say everyone is doing exactly what they need to do to reach their goals and dreams. But, something is lacking - something very big - and until it is recognized, you will forever remain searching for the reason you feel stuck.

The leadership component about which I am speaking is acknowledging the truth, and not placing blame on other people or situations.

Everyone would like to believe that they have full control of their lives. They set goals and work toward them, and in some cases, they achieve. But, what if there is more? What if they have limited themselves to smaller success than they deserve? That is because they have not yet taken responsibility for who they are, and who they want to be.

In martial arts, I would love to be considered an amazing practitioner, better than all the rest! In writing, it would be awesome if I was considered an expert, making millions of dollars! In life, I would love to say that I have reached the peak of what I need to know and did not have to worry about ever learning another thing! Grandiose dreams are nice to have, but they are often inaccurate and unfulfilling, and not the truth.

While I encourage everyone to believe in themselves, this self-belief includes an element of self-analysis and reflection on where you are today, and where you need or want to go. This process requires you to identify your weaknesses, flaws, and mistakes, so you can learn from them and grow. Once you realize that mistakes have a purpose and they are not meant to destroy or deter you, a whole new world will open for you.

In front of martial art class while teaching recently, I stopped in the middle of a pattern of movements to address an issue, and then forgot where I was. I had to apologize to the class and send them back to the beginning. I could have made up excuses why I lost my place, but all I needed to say was the truth, and move on. I forgot where I

was.

The truth will bring you more respect than almost anything. If you can agree that you made a mistake, everyone, including you, can move past it quickly. When you decide to start placing blame upon situations or others, it will drag everyone down. Your students, friends, or family will realize that all you care about is you, and figuring out how to make it seem like you never make mistakes.

Every person can face the truth and make it work in their favor. Mistakes are going to happen. After all, we are human



and fallible. Here are some ways to gracefully face the truth and make it work in your favor:

- 1. RESPECT.** People respect a person who can accept their mistakes and not make excuses.
- 2. GROWTH.** Every mistake offers the possibility to grow and learn.
- 3. CONFIDENCE.** If you can admit to a mistake, you have a good sense of self-confidence. You believe in yourself enough to know that mistakes will happen, but they do not change who you are.
- 4. POSITIVITY.** You will not live your life focused on mistakes, but instead focused on the positive.
- 5. CHANGE.** The only constant thing that there is in life is change. Be truthful with yourself and understand that all change, even if challenging, can be positive in the long run.
- 6. FORGIVENESS.** Are you still holding a grudge over a mistake, issue, or confrontation that happened a long time ago? Be wise enough to know that you may have contributed to the situation. Forgiving a person may bring them to forgive you, all of

which can bring balance back to your life.

7. LEADERSHIP. Would you rather have a boss who covers up his mistakes or blames others, or one who faces the truth and addresses it with dignity and self-awareness? Apply this to your life.

8. LOVE. Do you truly love someone? Then recognize that love has its ups and downs and if you face that truth, you will find an everlasting commitment and dedication in your relationship.

9. ANGER. If you are angry, face the truth about the source of your anger, and give it time to subside before taking any



Andrea F. Harkins
Author, Motivator & Martial Artist
Read more by Andrea at:
www.themartialartswoman.com

actions or making any decisions. The truth that is revealed may indicate that you have overreacted, and your anger has no true merit.

10. APPRECIATION. Recognize that others have contributed a lot of good things
Please see **10 Reasons** CONTINUED ON
PAGE 32

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March at Rocky Bluff Library

Our Rocky Bluff Library is one of the greatest assets in our community. There are so many activities each month for children, teens, tweens and adults. From technical help for everyone to story time, color therapy to having the Master Gardener available from the Florida Extension Service, Trivia, Book Sales - it's all there at the library and more!

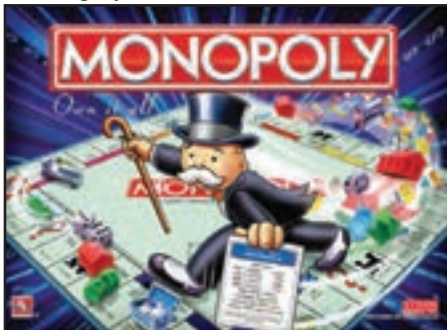
Internet ABCs and Technical Help

If you need help negotiating the Internet and improving your online skills, you can come to Rocky Bluff Library. Technical help will be available on Saturdays from 10:00 to 12:00 noon on March 3 and March 17. Bring your iPad, E reader, cell phone or other electronic device and come to your library for one-on-one help!



Play Chess, Mah Jongg or Board Games

On March 6, 13, 20 and 27 (Tuesdays), you can take advantage of playing board games, mah jongg or chess at the library. You will meet new people and take part in an activity you might like. Games like Monopoly, Scrabble and others are available. All ages and skill levels are welcome. The games are from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Mah Jongg is from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Come enjoy the fun and test your skills as a player.



"Friends Book Shoppe around the Corner"

Next time you're at the library, visit the Friends Book Shoppe located around the corner by the cafe and across from the computer stations.

There you will find a varied selection of best selling authors like James Patterson, Daniel Steele, Jodi Picoult, Anita Shreve and others, all gently used. Paperbacks are \$.50 or \$1.00, and are sold on the honor system. Payment is placed in the box located at the end of the shelves. Any paperbacks you have to donate are greatly appreciated.

Please support the Friends Book Shoppe where all proceeds go toward funding children's and adult's library programs.

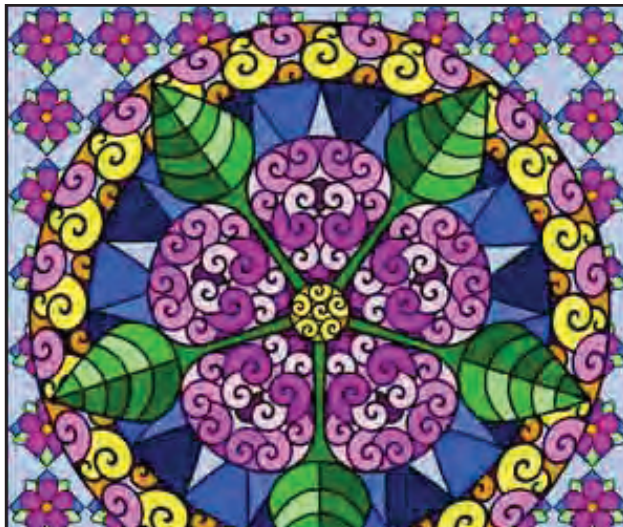
Pre-School Story Time

Pre-School Story Time continues on Tuesdays in March on the 13th and 27th at 10:15 am and on Fridays March 2nd, 16th and 30th at 10:30 am. Your pre-school aged child can interact with other children and the Children's Librarian to enjoy a really good time learning about reading.



Color Therapy for Adults

One of the newest activities really having a great deal of popularity is coloring different designs - *for adults!* It's called Color Therapy and is offered on Thursdays in March on the 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 2:00 pm. This is a new craft opportunity testing adults' coloring skills with colored pencils, chalk, water colors or even acrylics. The designs are pre-done and all you have to do is decide what tools you will use to color the design - or you can bring your own project. Come on out to the library and test your skills. See if you can stay within the lines!



Spring Book Sale at Rocky Bluff Library

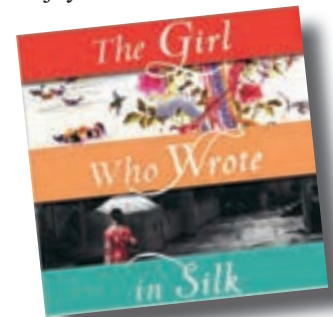
The Spring Book Sale starts on Wednesday, March 7 at 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Wednesday is for Friends of Rocky Bluff Library. Then on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the sale is open to everyone. Thursdays hours are 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. Friday is 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. And, Saturday is from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come out and enjoy browsing through gently used books and find some real bargains. If you are looking for a specific author, you might find some of his or her books. Come support the Friends group at the Spring Book Sale. All proceeds go to projects and programs for our library.

Rocky Bluff Book Club

On Wednesday, March 14, there will be the Rocky Bluff Book Club. This month's book is *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes.

Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core — and force her to make an impossible choice.

Inspired by true events, Kelli Estes's brilliant and atmospheric debut serves as a poignant tale of two women determined to do the right thing, and the power of our own stories. You'll enjoy the discussion of this book!



Hours of Operation

The library is open Tuesday through Saturday. The hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday and Friday - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; Wednesday and Thursday - 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm; and Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The library is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

See you at Rocky Bluff!

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Giving up meat for lent? Don't worry. Come into Ferraro's Italian Grille for some linguini with clam sauce or a personal favorite mussels marinara!! And . . . there are other wonderful dishes you can select.

Also, Ferraro's is now offering a Friday Night special. You'll find some interesting "off the menu" selections that will please your palate. Just the other Friday, Ferraro's had pork shanks. Try out the Friday night selections for a really different and excellent meal!

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In honor of Anthony's adventurous spirit and love of sports, AFF Inc. is providing grants for youth sports equipment for four individuals who reside in, attend school in, and/or play sports in Parrish, Florida. This year, two \$100 grants for recreational/middle school level sports and two \$200 grants for competitive/high school level sports are available. Applicants must be between the ages of 6 and 18, participate in any sport at any level, and show proof of at least 10 hours of volunteering/community service. To request more details and an application, please contact sportsgrant@affinc.org.

Applications are due no later than April 14, 2018.
Grants will be awarded on May 1st, in celebration of Anthony's birthday.



The Anthony Fowler Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing emotional, financial, and educational support to families affected by the unexpected loss of a child due to tragic accidents and other unforeseen events.

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Chadwick, Gary, Penny, Courtney

Parrish Village News PAGE 16

March Trivia

Jim Casey, Smartphone Trivia Game Show Host seen at Wolves Head Pizza
Wednesday 1t 8:30 PM

It's time for the Annual Parrish Florida Chili Cook Off on Saturday, March 3rd. Think you know about chili? I have some trivia questions about chili, the Cook Off and the upcoming St. Patrick's Day.



- What year was the First Annual Parrish Chili Cook Off?
a. 2010 b. 2011
c. 2012 d. 2013
 - What is the event that happens immediately before the Cook Off?
a. Railroad Museum Parade of Trains
b. Pepto Bismol Relief Parade
c. Parrish Heritage Day Parade
 - What is the heat scale for chili peppers called?
a. Mouth Burning Scale
b. Tabasco Scale
c. Kelvin Scale
d. Scoville Scale
 - What is the substance called that makes chili peppers so hot?
a. Campiarin b. Carotin
c. Capsicin d. Cayennin
 - What state is chili the official state food?
a. Florida b. Louisiana
c. Texas d. Alaska
 - According to legend, St. Patrick drove what out of Ireland?
a. Rats b. Snakes
c. Dogs d. Humans
 - Why do we drink on St. Patrick's Day?
a. A way to wash all the chili down from the Parrish Chili Cook Off
b. To celebrate fallen leprechauns
c. To celebrate the church lifting the alcohol ban
d. To celebrate the Irish / American bond
 - In what city was the first American St. Patrick's Day parade held?
a. Boston b. New York
c. Philadelphia d. Parrish
 - Sean's Bar in Ireland is said to be the oldest in the world. What year was it opened?
a. 1641 b. 1542
c. 1216 d. 900
 - Another prefix that many Irish names have is the "O" such as O'Riley. What does the "O" represent?
a. Father of b. Elder of
c. Grandson of d. Descendant of
- Trivia Answers can be found on page 32.**

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 **Clip and Mail**

Some Interesting March Dates

March 1, 1932 - The 20-month-old son of aviation pioneer Charles A. Lindbergh was kidnapped from his home in Hopewell, New Jersey. The Lindberghs then paid a \$50,000 ransom. However, on May 12, the boy's body was found in a wooded area a few miles from the house.

March 4, 1681 - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania.

March 5, 1946 - The "Iron Curtain" speech was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control.

March 6, 1836 - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on February 23rd, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.

March 10, 1880 - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.

March 12, 1609 - The island of Bermuda was colonized by the British after a ship on its way to Virginia was wrecked on the reefs.

March 15, 44 B.C. - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked "Et tu, Brute?" (You too, Brutus?) Caesar then gave up the struggle and was stabbed to death.

March 23, 1775 - Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

March 24, 1989 - One of the largest oil spills in U.S. history occurred as the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound off Alaska, resulting in 11 million gallons of oil leaking into the natural habitat over a stretch of 45 miles.

March 27, 1977 - The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

March 31, 1933 - The Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC, was founded. Unemployed men and youths were organized into quasi-military formations and worked outdoors in national parks and forests.

March 2018

Daily Holidays, Special and Wacky Days:



- Peanut Butter Lovers' Day
- Purim - begins at sundown
- Employee Appreciation Day
- World Day of Prayer
- Caregiver Appreciation Day
- Holy Experiment Day
- Oscar Night
- Multiple Personality Day
- National Frozen Food Day
- National Crown Roast of Pork Day
- International (Working) Women's Day
- Panic Day
- Middle Name Pride Day
- Johnny Appleseed Day
- Girl Scouts Day
- Ear Muff Day
- Jewel Day
- Learn about Butterflies Day
- National Potato Chip Day
- Ides of March
- Freedom of Information Day
- Incredible Kid Day
- National Quilting Day
- Submarine Day
- Saint Patrick's Day
- Goddess of Fertility Day
- Supreme Sacrifice Day
- Poultry Day
- International Earth Day
- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day
- National Agriculture Day
- Spring (Vernal) Equinox
- Tea for Two Tuesday
- Credit Card Reduction Day
- Fragrance Day
- National Goof Off Day
- National Chip and Dip Day
- National Puppy Day
- Near Miss Day
- National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day
- Feast of the Assumption
- Pecan Day
- Palm Sunday
- Waffle Day
- National Spinach Day
- National "Joe" Day
- Something on a Stick Day
- Weed Appreciation Day
- National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day
- Smoke and Mirrors Day
- Good Friday
- I am in Control Day
- National Doctor's Day
- Passover begins at sundown
- Take a Walk in the Park Day
- Bunsen Burner Day
- National Clam on the Half Shell Day
- World Backup Day

Florida Extension Classes and Activities for March

The Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service is offering a variety of free educational classes during March 2018. The Extension Service is an educational program within county government which brings the resources of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to Manatee County to: solve local problems, provide educational opportunities,

promote economic enhancement and development, and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS: Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free and are held at the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service, 1303 17th Street West, Palmetto, Florida 34221. Minimum workshop size is required; workshop size is limited. Please register in advance online via our website at <http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu> (click on Calendar of Events located at center, bottom on website) or call 941-722-4524 for all workshops.

Join the Extension Master Gardeners on An Educational Stroll through Manatee County Preserves

Emerson Point Preserve - 2nd Saturday, March 10, 9-11 am, Emerson Point, Free: Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.



Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve.

Riverview Pointe Preserve/DeSoto National Memorial - 2nd Saturday, March 10, 9-11 am, Riverview Pointe, Free: Stroll through Riverview Pointe Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.

Robinson Preserve - 3rd Sunday, March 18, 9-11 am, Robinson Preserve, Free: Stroll through the Robinson Preserve's salt marshes to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Trail consists of shell paths with little shade. Good walking shoes, drinking water, hat, and sunscreen are recommended. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.

Rye Preserve - 3rd Saturday, March 17, 9-11 am, Rye Preserve, FREE: Take a hike through upland habitats along Rye Branch and learn about Florida native plants, natural history, and early settlement of the area. Drinking water, sturdy shoes, and hiking sticks are recommended. Visitor Center open 9 am - noon and 1- 4 pm. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.



Stroll through Rye Preserve.

Irrigation Designing - Thursday, March 1, 10 am - noon, Extension Office, Free: Join Don Adkins, Irrigation Program Assistant, as he discusses the basics of great irrigation designing and helpful tips and tricks for installing your irrigation system! This class satisfies the irrigation educational class requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Register online or call Joann.

Stunning Stagorns - Saturday, March 17, 10-11:30 am, Extension Office, \$20 Materials Fee: Do you love the look of staghorn ferns but never knew how to care for them? We will teach you how to care for along with how to mount a staghorn on a piece of wood to take home and enjoy. Space is Limited! Registration and advance payment for plant and mounting materials due by March 9 (cash or check only, payable to Friends of Extension). Register on-line or call the Extension Master Gardeners.



Learn how to care for Staghorn Ferns.

For Kids Only! - Ages 4-7, "All the Pretty Flowers," Saturday, March 24, 10 - 11 am, Extension Office, Free: Children find flowers irresistible! In this class, children will learn to identify the parts of a flower and the function of each part. They will gain a basic understanding of the life cycle of flowers and the role pollinators play in the garden. Class includes tour of the educational gardens as well as hands-on activities and a take-home project. Register on-line or call the Extension Master Gardeners.

Invasive Plants - Saturday, March 24, 10-11:30 am, Extension Office, \$5 Administrative Fee: Learn more about the invasive plants that can be found in Manatee County, keys to identifying them, and the importance of removing them to prevent further spreading. Register on-line or call the Extension Master Gardeners.

Landscape Tips for Water Conservation - Tuesday March 27, 10 am - noon, Extension Office, Free: This class satisfies the landscape educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Topics will focus on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ tips such as right plant vs right place, watering efficiently, and the benefits of mulch. Register online or call Joann.



Irrigation with Water Conservation in Mind - Thursday, March 29, 10 am - noon, Extension Office, Free: This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Topics will focus on how to adjust your in-ground sprinkler system to conserve water, how you can repair parts, and the benefits of installing smart irrigation devices. Register online or call Joann.



Learn about irrigation and water conservation.

Please see **Extension** CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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Parrish Ballerina Dana Thompson Invited to Houston Ballet Summer Intensive Program

Parrish Ballerina Dana Thompson has been selected to attend a rigorous ballet program at the Houston Ballet this summer. The program runs from June 18 - July 27, 2018, and is known to be one of the top programs in the United States. This will be Dana's first "Ballet" trip outside of Florida for the summer, where she will live in student housing for six weeks. This workshop will enable her to improve and expand her dancing abilities and be exposed to varying artists and opportunities.

Dana has been taking Ballet lessons since she was 4 years old. She is currently enrolled in the Sarasota Ballet Margaret Barbieri Conservatory Pre-Professional program



and is hoping to become a professional dancer at some point in her future.

If you would like to help Dana with her trip, check out her "Go Fund Me Page" and YouTube video which has been set up to help her raise money for the workshop. <https://www.gofundme.com/houston-ballet-summer-intensive>.



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County. To join h2U visit any location or go to H2U.com. Annual memberships only \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. h2U members receive hospital VIP benefits, national & local discounts, and so much more! Volunteer opportunities available at h2U & Blake Medical Center!

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h2U Ellenton Center: 7042 US 301 N, Ellenton.
941.722.5683

h2U Cortez Center: 6670 Cortez Rd W, Bradenton.
941.792.0211

h2U Bayshore Center: 6012 14th St W, Bradenton.
941.758.8343

Blake Medical Center, Medical Arts Building: 2010
59th St W, Bradenton.

h2U Ellenton Ongoing Activities for Members.
Please call for more information.

Monday

9:00 am: Take Control with Exercise (Chair Exercise)
10:00 am: Senior Cardio & Strength Training
11:00 am: Hatha Yoga with Carol (\$20/4 week sessions)
bring a mat!
12:15 pm: Ukulele - Learn to Play with Sunny (Beginner)
1:00 pm: Rummikub

Tuesday

9:00 am: Hula Dancing Experience
10:00 am: Eldergym Series - Balance/Flex/Strength
(Chair Exercise)
11:00 am: Tai Chi for Health with Tom (\$36/6 week sessions)
12:30 pm: Canasta
1:00 pm: Bunco

Wednesday

9:00 am: Take Control with Exercise (Chair Exercise)
10:00 am: Senior Cardio & Strength Training (Bring hand weights)
11:00 am: Ukulele - Learn to Play with Sunny (Advanced)
12:30 pm: Hand & Foot
1:00 pm: Mah Jongg

Thursday

9:00 am: Zumba Gold
10:00 am: Eldergym Series: Balance/Flex/Strength (Chair Exercise)
11:00 am: Tai Chi w/ Tom (\$36/ 6 weeks)
12:00 pm: Tai Chi w/ Tom (\$36/ 6 weeks)
11:00 am: Book Club (Every 4th Thursday)

Friday

9:00 am: Take Control with Exercise (Chair Exercise)
10:00 am: Senior Cardio & Strength Training (Bring hand weights)
11:00 am: Handicraft Social Club
12:30 pm: Art Class \$40 (4th Friday, check for upcoming)
Please see h2U CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

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“This Old House”
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“This Old House” was built in the early 1900’s for John Henry and Mary Estelle (Sheffield) White. It was originally located on State Road 62. It was moved to its present location when John Henry retired from the cattle business. John Henry and Mary Estelle were married in 1913 and had three children: Gladys Ellen, Beulah F. and Lewis D. John’s parents were Henry Jasper and Margaret Ann (Gilley) White of Manatee County and passed away in 1960. John was born and raised in Parrish. Burial is at the Fortner Cemetery in Parrish.

In 1986, Mary Estelle “Stella” White sold this home to the Parrish United Methodist Church for use as Sunday School classes for six years.

In 1992, the church saw a great need for a Thrift Shop for the community; they soon ran out of room in the Thrift Cottage and expanded it to the old Methodist Parsonage next door. At that time, items were collected, sorted, priced and sold by volunteers to help the church as well as the community. For the past 26 years, it has served as a place where the people of the community could donate items they no longer needed or wanted. In doing so, it was a win-win effort and very successful for Parrish. It is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Parrish Civic Association would like to show our appreciation to the Parrish United Methodist Church by helping paint the outside of the buildings of the Thrift Cottage. The paint is donated by David Prosser Painting Company. The PCA Restoration Committee will set a date for painting the buildings. If you are interested in volunteering, to paint and/or clean-up before and after, please call Dion Schaal at 772-485-7252 or David Prosser 941-877-1350.

If you have not visited the Thrift Cottage before, come in and take a look around. I never leave empty handed; they have many great items in each building. Hope to see you there sometime soon. Information collected by Iris McClain, Norma Kennedy and PCA members.

Iris Worth McClain, widow of Merle McClain, moved from Sarasota to Parrish in 1973 with two young sons, Kenneth (Kenny) and Larry. Her boys went to local schools, made lifelong friends, went fishing, hunting and raised cattle. After retiring from a career in banking, Iris became actively involved in the Parrish community with the Parrish Civic Association, The Parrish Foundation, the Parrish Chili Cook Off, the Parrish Arts Council and the Parrish Y. She coordinated the Children’s Christmas Party for needy children in Parrish and loves to read and learn about Florida history. She wants to provide interesting stories of old homes and old buildings to preserve the history of Parrish and promote the vitalization of Parrish.



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Kelly McConnell is originally from Strongsville, Ohio. She completed her undergraduate studies and was recruited to play division one soccer at St. John’s University in New York. Dr. McConnell received her medical degree at Schell College/Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago, Illinois. She went on to complete her residency training in podiatric medicine and surgery at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc, Michigan, where she served as Chief Resident. She is board qualified in foot, rearfoot and ankle reconstructive surgery.

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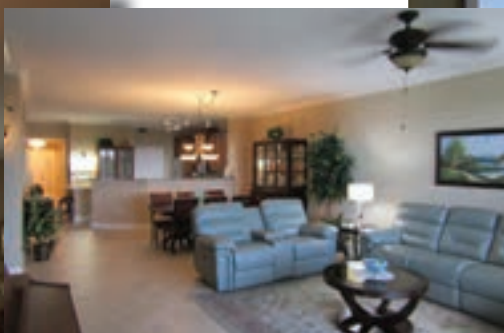
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The Sensei
John Phillips



As regular readers of this column know, I am an avid practitioner of both the guitar and the martial arts. I often spot similarities between the two disciplines, and occasionally discuss them here. Today’s topic is the meaning of the word “Sensei,” a word often used in martial arts, and how it applies to teachers of any discipline.

We have heard the term Sensei. Most often, we relate the word “Sensei” to martial arts. In Japanese culture, however, the phrase is an honorific title which is also used to refer to teachers, religious leaders and ancestors. We assume that the word means “master,” as it is often used in this context in movies and television. The true meaning of the word, however, is much different and, I believe, much deeper.

The meaning of the word “Sensei” is, literally, “one who has gone before.” It is in this definition that we find the true value of a good teacher. The teacher is one who has already been where you are as student. He or she has already made mistakes and has learned how to correct or avoid them. The Sensei has experienced both the successes and the struggles which come when you seek to master a skill. A good teacher knows how to make a plan which, when followed, will assure the most efficient path to the realization of your goals. He or she will chart a course for continuous advancement and will be able to offer encouragement when things become challenging.

Having said all of this, I obviously don’t go by the title of Sensei among my guitar students. The principle, however, is still the same. The teacher is, in many ways, still a student himself. Good teachers are constantly studying and practicing to improve their own skills, and they know what it takes to do so. As a student who wishes to learn a new skill, or who seeks to improve upon your existing skills, your best chance for success is to study with someone who has ‘gone before’ and who knows how to get where you would like to go.

If you have any questions regarding music or topics which you would like to see in future columns, contact John Phillips on his website at www.guitarlessonsmanatee.com. To inquire about guitar lessons or gift certificates, call 941-915-4694.

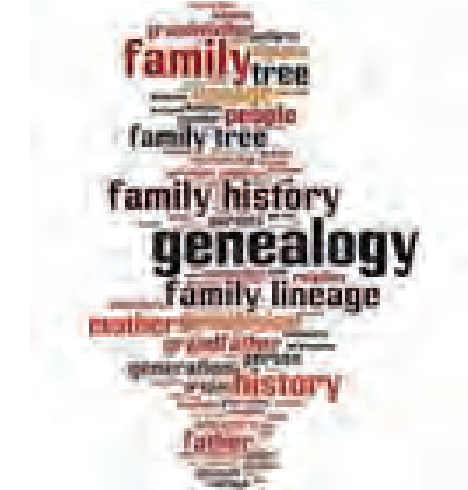
Manatee Genealogical Society to Meet March 6

The Manatee Genealogical Society meeting will be held on March 6 at 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, at Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W., Bradenton. Drew Smith, acclaimed genealogy consultant, speaker, and co-host of “Genealogy Guys Podcast” will present “Using FamilySearch.org to Find Genealogical Records.”

Following the presentation there will be a Q & A period with the speaker and then a moderated open discussion period. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions relative to their issues or “brick walls” and get help from MGS members and meeting attendees.

A “HELP desk” will be staffed with experienced MGS members who can answer questions relative to your genealogical pursuits or suggest sources to address your question.

For Society information, you may go



to Facebook: www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogical or email questions to mgs.society@gmail.com.



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What You Leave Behind

I haven't written my own epitaph, and I'm not sure I should. Whatever it is, I hope it will be simple, and that it will point people not to me, but to the One I served.

-----Billy Graham

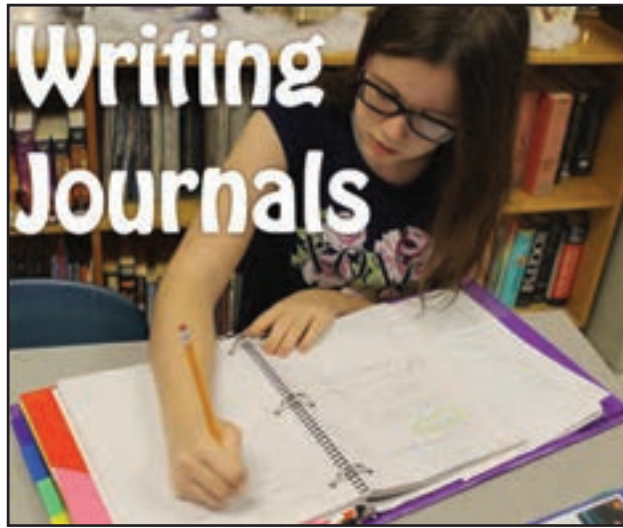
Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/billy_graham

I've been journaling since I was 12. I started journaling for several reasons. I think the first inclination to journal was simply because it was common or trendy to journal or 'keep a diary' as we referred to it back when I was 12. It seemed like every episode I watched of popular shows like *Family Ties* or *The Facts of Life* had someone (almost always a girl) who kept a diary, typically hidden and under lock and key.

The second reason I started 'keeping a diary' was to share my deepest, inner-most thoughts on the pages of ordinary paper allowing me to pour out my human angst, hidden hopes and fears and let go of pent-up hurt, anger, insecurities and all those hysterically crazy, pubescent emotions associated with being a tween.

As I got older, however, the purpose of my 'diary keeping' became far more than an opportunity to pen childish, spoiled-brat things about my parents because they wouldn't buy me that pair of \$80 Guess Jeans I wanted or write about how much I despised this kid or that kid because of my deep insecurities and relentless need for being liked. No, the purpose of my journaling became more of a desire to chronicle the journey of my life, my experiences, thoughts, aspirations and tell of all the people I met along the way.

Since 'keeping a diary' was for children and I had become, in my own estimation, a mature, serious thinker, the term 'journaling' was easily adopted as my idiom when referring to my profound love of writing my memoirs. Sure, I still wrote about silly, sophomore issues and my feelings about everything, but my approach to writing became more of a perspective of how my life events could shape me, teach me something or change me. I as journaling with a purpose.



The juvenile diary I had once kept as a place to go spew my sulking outbursts, tattle on my sisters or say all the ugly words that weren't appropriate to say in public had eventually become the journal that opened its ears to listen to my heart. My journal became the non-judgmental friend with which I could share every part of me - good and bad.

The more I journaled, the more aware I became of life around me. I would make mental notes throughout the day to remind myself to comment on this subject or write down what I observed from that experience. I would often find myself journaling in my head - the words I should use or the tone I needed to take when I'd finally be reunited with my journal once home.

I both mentally journaled and physically journaled. From waking to sleeping, my life was enveloped with a

constant requisite to compose the multitude of thoughts, feelings, perceptions and solutions into words. During classes I would calculate every observation I needed to journal when I got home. During conversations, I would evaluate and determine what parts of the discussion I needed to journal when I got home.

Needless to say, my incessant need to journal became exhausting - almost addictive. I started to feel lost inside of my own crowded head of thought upon thought and reflection upon reflection. I had become overly introspective as if in a competition with myself to narrate every single detail of every day. I was obsessed with reporting the specifics of my mundane, teen-age life so that I could unleash the frustrations and sentiments bottled up inside me. I was journaling to have a voice; or so I thought.

In my junior year of high school, I signed up for an advanced English credit in a class called Creative Writing. I wanted to be more creative in my expression and application of thought and word formation and I needed another English credit, so I assumed this class would give me the desired instruction I wished to receive.

The first semester was a study of great short works of creative writings like Edgar Allen Poe's, "The Cask of Amontillado" and "A Rose for Emily," by William Faulkner. The class wasn't actually about the stories themselves or the styles with which its authors wrote, but more about the practices and processes the authors employed in their writing. The class was about why the authors wrote, not about what the authors wrote. I found this why objective disappointing, since my quest was to become a better writer, not achieve a better understanding of the author's

Please see **What You Leave** CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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From Old Junk to High Art

Bob Monica

Randy Grotowski is an interesting fella. Easy going, affable... but, in a very special way he is unique and complex.

Like many local residents his roots are in the Midwest. Auburn Hills, Michigan, to be precise. He worked on the Rouge Plant Assembly Line for Ford Motor Company for 30 years. So you won't be surprised to learn that he is very mechanically inclined.

At the age of 11 he began creating things. Easy things at first - like lamps made out of whiskey bottles (no he didn't drink the whisky himself). Then he entered what he calls his woodworking phase - making furniture. Some of it pretty nice. Eventually he earned extra cash by remodeling kitchens and other home related projects.

But it was in 2011 that he discovered his real passion. While visiting the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids he happened upon a display of life-like sculptured animals, created out of bicycle parts by the artist Leonard Struckfus. Bang! Randy was hooked.

"I went home that night and I couldn't sleep," he says with intensity. "I went back the next day just to take photos. Not to copy mind you. I would never, ever copy. But, I wanted to document the beauty of the work. I knew down deep that somehow I could do that as well. That I wanted to do it." So he began to research Struckfus and discovered similar artists along the way...like Jud Turner. He found it all fascinating.

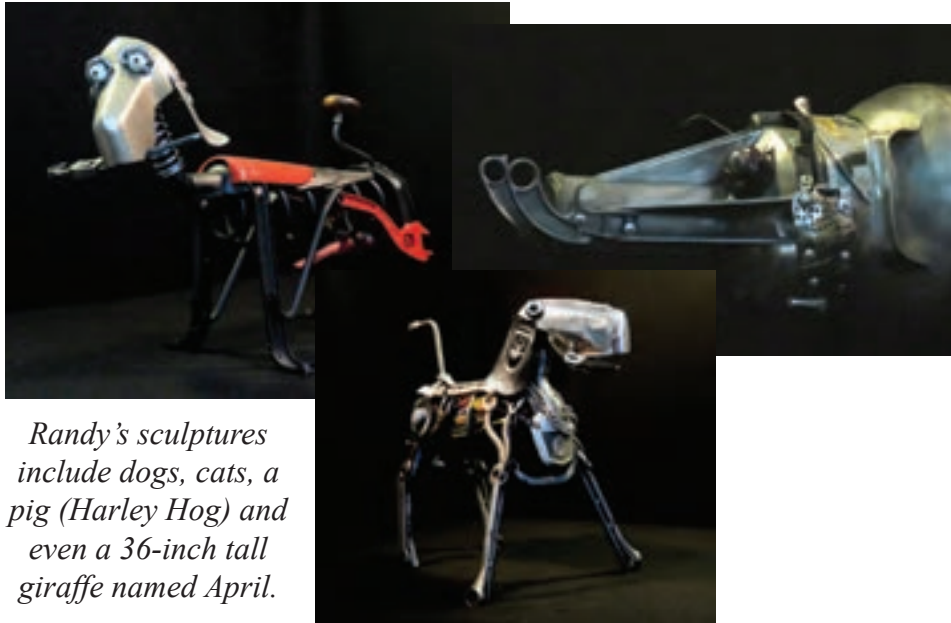
Since that time, Randy has been creating sculptures out of recycled parts from automobiles, motorcycles, coffee pots, vacuum cleaners and much, much more. "All of the parts I use are metal, no plastic," he states emphatically. "And I take special pride when I can use parts from American made products. That's very important to me." Randy's employs no multi-production techniques. Each sculpture is a uniquely inspired, one-of-a-kind piece of art.

A key element of the artistic process is what Randy calls, "The thrill of the hunt." By that he refers to salvaging for parts that inspire his work. He goes to recycling centers wearing heavy duty gear because he often has to wade through some pretty large and dangerous pieces with sharp edges. Care must be taken to prevent injury. It's not a hobby for the faint of heart.

Somehow in the middle of all of this (shall we say junk?) material he finds a piece or two that gets his juices flowing. That's when he hurries home to his workshop to begin the hammering, drilling, screwing, bolting and soldering that results in redefining that material into an inspired work of art. His sculptures include dogs, cats, a pig (Harley Hog) and even a 36-inch tall giraffe named April. All are given names and dates of birth. Each is a personal expression of his artistic genius. And often his wry sense of humor.



Randy Grotowski



Randy's sculptures include dogs, cats, a pig (Harley Hog) and even a 36-inch tall giraffe named April.

While some of his sculptures are fairly simple and cute, others are more complex. The Harley Hog includes a genuine Harley-Davidson logo attached to the back of his neck as well as a chain leash with a Harley hasp lock. The perfect gift for any Harley motorcycle enthusiast.

"As my skills have improved I have begun to produce larger, more complicated works," he says. "My current project is an elephant. He weighs more than 100 pounds. I'm really enjoying the challenge."

He has also been asked to create works in the image of a particular pet. "That's a special challenge. 'The kind I enjoy,'" says the artist. "I'm working on that too."

As you can imagine Randy's work is very much in demand. He sells his creatures online through his Facebook page at www.RandysRecycledRascals.com and at local art shows.

If you're interested in Randy's sculptures he can be reached at randysrecycledrascals@gmail.com.



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Can You Wear Contact Lenses If You Need Bifocals?

Dr. Douglas K. Black

One of the most common complaints that we hear from patients is that as they get older, it becomes much more difficult to read things that are closer to them. This affects things like everyday reading, desk work, and computer work. What these patients are experiencing are the effects of the onset of a condition called presbyopia, which is the loss of flexibility in focusing that occurs in most people around the age of 40 or shortly thereafter. It is the time of life when people now may need to use reading glasses, bifocals, or progressive lenses. This affects a large percentage of the patients that we see on a daily basis. Even eye doctors who write monthly articles for the *Parrish Village News* are not immune to developing presbyopia!

Presbyopia is especially frustrating for people who wear contact lenses. It becomes much more difficult to focus on things at near while wearing contacts. Many patients who have worn contacts for several years eventually end up discontinuing contact lens wear during this stage of life because they are either not pleased with their vision or they do not like the idea of wearing reading glasses with their contacts to see things at near.

One option that many contact lens wearers with presbyopia may be familiar with is something called “monovision.” This is a situation where a contact lens prescription is done with one eye being focused at distance while the other eye is focused at near. It is a compromise that is usually done because the patient does not want to have to wear reading glasses. However, monovision definitely has its shortcomings. Optimal vision is achieved with both eyes working together as a team. With monovision, the eyes are not working together. This can lead to problems such as an overall loss of clarity, problems with depth perception, and glare with night driving.

Fortunately, there are exciting new options for patients with presbyopia. Contact lens development has advanced greatly throughout the past 10 to 15 years, providing newer lens designs. We now have the ability to help patients achieve much better vision with their contacts after they develop presbyopia using newer multifocal contact lens designs. The biggest advantage that multifocal contacts have over a monovision set-up is that mul-



Dr. Douglas K. Black, O.D.
is a Doctor of Optometry at
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tifocal contacts allow the patient to view things with both eyes working together. This provides much more natural vision.

Another exciting development in contact lenses has been the development of “hybrid” contact lenses. Hybrid lenses provide a much smoother optical surface than soft lenses (leading to clearer vision) and are far more comfortable than rigid contact lenses. This is a great option for patients who have astigmatism. Hybrid lenses are now also available in a multifocal design.

As you can see, even though the onset of presbyopia is inevitable and everybody’s vision changes over time, it doesn’t necessarily mean that you have to give up wearing contact lenses. It is true that for many people, glasses are a better option than contacts. But with advances in technology we now have more options than we have ever had in the past.

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Ponderings from Parrish

Julie Ann Cacianti



This I know: if we resist learning the lessons that life so generously gives us, we will be blessed with an abundance of learning opportunities vigorously and relentlessly intended to get our attention. It is through learning these intended teachings that we spiritually advance in life, slowly becoming the “better self” we aspire to be. For me, these lessons have always been about awareness and attachment,” and very specifically, the attachment to expectations. Admittedly, just becoming “mindful” of these seemingly simple concepts, no less attempting to apply this arduous philosophy to all of life’s challenges has taken nearly a lifetime, hence the continuing avalanche of like experiences.

Case in point: On January 24, I left my residence in my trusted vehicle, turning onto Golf Course Drive. About 100 feet from the intersection of Golf Course and Rye Road, I observed three dogs on a dead run on Rye Road. Unable to assess their intent, I slowed my car to a crawl and I watched the dogs turn onto Gulf Course Road directly in my path. I stopped my car and moments later heard a thunderous pop, and felt a huge jolt as a pick-up truck melded into the back of my 2002 Lexus SC 430. My vehicle was a two-owner car with only 80,000 miles and my pride and joy. Fast forward - car totaled. Life as usual for the driver who hit me (truly a nice guy not deserving of my silent indecorous ruminations.) The owner of the dogs stated, “Sue me; I don’t have anything.” The insurance company receives up to \$9,000 in salvage fees and offers a settlement of \$6,000, less than the replacement value for my vehicle. Awareness: (regretfully after a period of time.) Attachment to my car, combined with crushed expectations of perceived fairness result in suffering - the gnashing of teeth.

The initial “ego” choices that sprung to life in the unfolding aftermath of this event included at least two considerations: Impetuously flinging myself to the floor and wailing like a baby at the inherent injustices in the world, and/or allowing such perceived wrongs to take root in the form of anger, revenge and negative emotion and energy. It was “awareness,” though, as soft and elusive as a kitten’s purr that eventually rose from the dark depth of the thorny ego to a place of soul consciousness. It was that still voice from within that always reveals the wisdom of the spirit, propelling us, urging us, with love and gracious compassion, to be our highest self. The tiny voice sending the message that my car was just a thing, a material possession, and certainly not an object which deserves to impact my happiness and well-being in any capacity. It is a concept aptly described by “Epictetus,” who simply stated that “man should so live that his happiness depends as little as possible on external things.” To be sure, life always affords choice but that choice will define who we are. In the words of Thich Nhat Hahn, “At any moment you may have

Please see **Ponderings from Parrish** CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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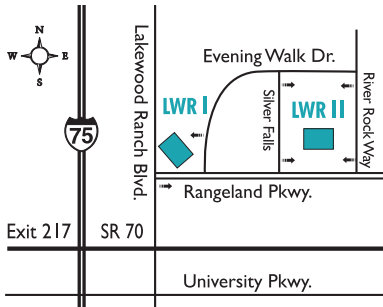
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The British Isles CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

King Edward II, the first English Prince of Wales, the title now held by Prince Charles of England.

Our first stop today was a local farm. Visiting farms outside the U.S. can cause problems when you return to the States. (Disease transfer, etc.), so, as we exited the bus, we put on the blue plastic booties you get in hospitals. We could therefore claim we "had not set foot on a foreign farm"! I'm a city boy, so farms, with their pungent odors, are not my favorite places. Fortunately, the cows were out in the fields and the tour of the dairy barn was tolerable. The small, independent, Welsh farmers have two major issues, a loss of subsidies if England withdraws from the European Economic Community and a lack of interest by the next generation in the hard, unpredictable, low paying life of a farmer. Their future is very uncertain. We got back on the bus and headed for downtown Fishguard.

Fishguard is a "very" small fishing village (population 4,000). It doesn't even have a stoplight, just a roundabout in the town center. It is famous for being the site of the last invasion of Britain. In 1797, 1,400 French soldiers attacked the town but surrendered two days later. The battle is depicted in the "Fishguard Tapestry," which is proudly displayed in the town hall, which doubles as the local library. The tapestry, completed in 1997, is 100 feet long, uses 97 colors of embroidery thread, and required over two years of effort by seventy women. A memorial stone in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church honors Jemima Nicholas, a local woman who supposedly captured 12 French soldiers with only a pitchfork. (They obviously weren't very interested in fighting!) The local thespians entertained us with a short play about the incident while we sat in the well-worn church pews. Fishguard's other claim to fame is that the movie Moby Dick, starring Gregory Peck, was filmed here in 1955.



Above left: the gravestone of Jemima Nicholas.



Above right: the "Fishguard Tapestry."

Below: A typical dairy farm in Wales.
At right: St. Mary's Church in Fishguard,
Wales.



After a bit of souvenir hunting, we headed back to the ship.
Next time we continue our tour of Wales with a visit to Holyhead and the impressive Caernarfon Castle.

What Should You Do with Your Tax Refund?

James F. Morrison, Financial Advisor

You may not get much of a thrill from filing your taxes, but the process becomes much more enjoyable if you’re expecting a refund. So, if one is headed your way, what should you do with the money?

The answer depends somewhat on the size of the refund. For the 2017 tax year, the average refund was about \$2,760 – not a fortune, but big enough to make an impact in your life. Suppose, for example, that you invested this amount in a tax-deferred vehicle, such as a traditional IRA, and then did not add another penny to it for 30 years. At the end of that time, assuming a hypothetical 7 percent annual rate of return, you’d have slightly more than \$21,000 – not enough, by itself, to allow you to move to a Caribbean island, but still a nice addition to your retirement income. (You will need to pay taxes on your withdrawals eventually, unless the money was invested in a Roth IRA, in which case withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.)

Of course, you don’t have to wait 30 years before you see any benefits from your tax refund. If you did decide to put a \$2,760 tax refund toward your IRA for 2018, you’d already have reached just over half the allowable contribution limit of \$5,500. (If you’re 50 or older, the limit is \$6,500.) By getting such a strong head start on funding your IRA for the year, you’ll give your money more time to grow. Also, if you’re going to “max out” on your IRA, your large initial payment will enable you to put in smaller monthly amounts than you might need to contribute otherwise.

While using your refund to help fund your IRA is a good move, it’s not the only one you can make. Here are a few other possibilities:

- Pay down some debt. At some time or another, most of us probably feel we’re carrying too much debt. If you can use your tax refund to help reduce your monthly debt payments, you’ll improve your cash flow and possibly have more money available to invest for the future.
- Build an emergency fund. If you needed a new furnace or major car repair, or faced any other large, unexpected expense, how would you pay for it? If you did not have the cash readily available, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments. To help avoid this problem, you could create an emergency fund containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Your tax refund could help build your emergency fund.
- Look for other investment opportunities. If you have some gaps in your portfolio, or some opportunities to improve your overall diversification, you might want to use your tax refund to add some new investments. The more diversified your portfolio, the stronger your defense against market volatility that might primarily affect one particular asset class. (However, diversification, by itself, can’t protect against all losses or guar-

antee profits.)

Clearly, a tax refund gives you a chance to improve your overall financial picture. So take your time, evaluate your options and use the money wisely.



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February Events at Williams Elementary

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students enjoyed Donuts with Dads



A great time for all prekindergarten and kindergarten students!

Williams celebrates Counselor Appreciation Day.
Thank you, Ms. Lane for all you do for our school!

Students Art at Gamble Plantation



Ms. Lane is pictured at left.



The following students' artwork was on display at the Gamble Plantation Annual Arts Festival: Dillin C, Jonecka R, Emma H, Madison M, Sarah P, Nora S, Cruz L, Drew S, Claire C, Jasper W, Alannah R, Adalyn L, Chase L, Luke C, Jonah W, and Briana M.

Jonah W. (2nd grade) received Second Place for his Metallic Skull drawing, and Adalyn L. (3rd grade) received Honorable Mention for her Hurricane Watercolor picture of IRMA. All students received participation certificates. Congratulations on a great job!

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the workshops identified above, several other opportunities are offered to receive free gardening information:

1. The Manatee County Master Gardener monthly E-newsletter, The Master Gardening Bench, is available to download at <http://bit.ly/ManateeMGnewsletter> -- look for The Master Gardening Bench on the right of the page and click on "Monthly E-newsletter."
2. Can't make it to the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service office to get advice or to solve your gardening problems? E-mail us at manateemg@gmail.com. Be sure to include as much information as you can in your e-mail and include your telephone number in case additional information is needed. Attach photos if possible. Remember, a photo can be worth a thousand words!
3. Get FYI from FFL (Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program). Visit the Manatee County Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program page on Facebook and "like" us to stay current on workshops and classes, events, publications, tips for your landscape, plant information, and more.
4. Ask an Extension Master Gardener! - Every 2nd Saturday (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.), Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions. Location: South Manatee Library, 6081 26th Street West, Bradenton.
5. Ask an Extension Master Gardener! - Every 2nd and 4th Saturday (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.), Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions. Location: Rocky Bluff Library, 6750 U.S. Highway 301N, Ellenton.
6. Interested in having a beautiful landscape while saving water? The Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service offers a Mobile Irrigation Lab with a FREE evaluation of your landscape and irrigation system. Call 941-722-4524 today to schedule your free evaluation.

Ponderings from Parrish CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

a choice that either leads you closer to your spirit or away from it," the choice is always ours. Attachment and expectations will always lead to ego choices preventing our spiritual growth and thwarting happiness and peace in our lives.

Our greatest attachments in life are often physical attachments to the material possessions in our lives that own us (not vice versa.) Attachment is not about having things, but rather "clinging" to possessions, people, and expectations, (along with a multitude of other possibilities) with the belief we cannot live nor be happy without them. We thus reside in bondage to those things we revere and fear losing. Non-attachment is not indifference, but rather compassionate acceptance of what is. Buddhist teachings advise that the root of all evil is attachment and that attachment is the root cause of all suffering. For most of us, it is not a concept that is easily incorporated in lives filled with valued material possessions and ego dominated lives, but consider only this: What would happen in our lives with a commitment to the awareness and elimination of just one attachment, that of expectation? What would our lives (and the lives of others) be like without the negative emotions (sorrow, anger, nagging, annoyance) spawned by expectation? Listen to that small inner voice: no expectations.

Answers to March Trivia

1. c. 2012
2. c. Parrish Heritage Day Parade
3. d. Scoville Scale
4. c. Capsaicin
5. c. Texas
6. b. Snakes
7. c. To celebrate the church lifting the alcohol ban
8. a. Boston in 1737
9. d. 900 AD
10. c. Grandson of



About the Author: Jim Casey is a Parrish-based Game Show Host and has entertained thousands in the Bradenton and Sarasota areas since 2010. He invites you to email your question suggestions to jim@floridagameshow.com.



10 Reasons CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

to your life! No success is ever achieved without the support and encouragement of others.

The truth is probably one of the most difficult things we ever must face. Do not avoid dealing with your mistakes. Understand that there is always a bit of blame that you can place on yourself, which is a stepping stone to positive self-improvement. Others will respect you because you are a team player who recognizes that everyone's contributions - and mistakes - matter.

I am not implying that it is easy to accept the truth as it unfolds, but I do know one thing. You will lift a heavy burden off your shoulders if you have always believed that you are not allowed to make mistakes. In many ways, recognizing and dealing with your mistakes, and your truths, is a lot more efficient than placing blame or covering up.

I know this has been said before, and I mightily agree. The truth will set you free.

Pick up one of Andrea's inspirational books, *The Martial Arts Woman* or *Martial Art Inspirations for Everyone* on Amazon!

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What You Leave CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25
reason for writing.

From the first day of class, the teacher had made us keep a journal to write our thoughts about what we were learning while in her class. Though I had become quite used to journaling and found it easy to share my thoughts, I was also disappointed with this aspect of her syllabus since my goal was less journaling, more writing.

By the second semester, however, a certain discernment was beginning to emerge from my time in her class. The why someone wrote was taking precedence in my investigation of writing more than the what someone wrote. The intentions and motives of the

writer for any given work started to flash in my comprehension like a neon sign over a theater.

When I conveyed this epiphany with my teacher, she grinned from ear to ear and shook her head in agreement. I told her I had taken her class to wean myself from my constant journaling thinking I was losing touch with reality. I told her I believed I had been a journaling addict because of my need to have a voice - my need to have something that would listen to me.

She told me she believes people journal because of their desire to leave something behind - something that may help, encourage or build up someone else. "We journal because

we want to remember where we've been and inspire ourselves and others to keep looking forward towards growth and not stay stuck in any one place," she shared. "We journal because we are effectually saying, I'm dealing with this aspect of my life or I'm aware of how this particular event affected me."

I now have over 25 years of journals packed away in various boxes. On the pages of those many volumes of journals are life experiences, life lessons, loss and regret, joy and celebration. There are words of great failure and words of sweet success. There are truths I found out about myself, my motives, my intentions. In these journals, I grew wiser, stronger, more humbled, more grateful. These journals will someday be left behind, when I step over into eternal life. I pray they will provide comfort, wisdom, instruction and my ultimate motive and intention; that others would know Jesus and His simple grace and love.



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Florida Guide Dogs and Robin Waltz

At the February Parrish Professionals meeting, we heard all about Florida Dog Guides from our guest speaker Robin Waltz. In 2004, Robin moved back to Bradenton and began working alongside her mother, Arlene Dickinson, founder of Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf and Disabled, Inc. Between 2004 and 2015, when Arlene passed away, Robin learned every aspect of training dogs. In 2015, Robin became director of Florida Dog Guides FTD, Inc. Robin brings her passion to help others and her love of dogs to the program.

Robin continues to work as a trainer, helping people regain their independence with the help of a trained and certified service dog. She also teaches training classes for prospective trainers, is an American Kennel Club Certified Evaluator and active in her community. She lives with her husband, John and their two German Shepherds, Prince and Duchess.

Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf and Disabled, began in a park in Manatee County in 1984, by Arlene Dickinson. Arlene was a visionary who saw the need for a program to help the deaf and hearing impaired within our community and throughout Florida.

As the years passed, Florida Dog Guides staff and board of directors realized there was also a need to help the troops returning from war, as well as those with mobility issues. Today, FDG provides programs for not only the hearing impaired, but also for people suffering from PTSD, (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), along with Service Dog training for those with mobility issues, missing limbs, therapy dogs and basic obedience training to the public.

FDG is a 501c3 non-profit, solely sponsored by the local community, without any support from the local, state or federal government. Florida Dog Guides FDG, Inc. is located at 2016 27th Street East in Bradenton, Florida 34208. You can reach them at 941.748.8245.

Parrish Professionals networking group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, and we welcome your participation. For more information, visit our website: www.ParrishProfessionals.org or call Jackie Felix 941-504-2376.

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What to Do About Pet Skin Issues

The condition that is often referred to as “dandruff” by pet owners, is highly common in dogs and cats. Most often, scaly skin has fairly benign origins and is not a big deal, but excessive cases of scaly skin / dandruff can point to an underlying cause. There are numerous reasons a pet can be experiencing skin issues, so tests must be done to determine the specific cause and the proper treatment. Here are some common causes:

Primary or Secondary Infections

Infections from bacteria or yeasts can result in a host of skin problems. Bacteria will commonly show scaly skin, while yeast will create greasy skin. Both can be easily diagnosed and managed with medications from your vet.

Parasites or Ringworm

Fleas are the worst, especially in Florida when hard freezes are rare to stop fleas in their tracks for a few months and help control their population. They can wreak all kinds of havoc on pet skin, so it’s important to use a monthly preventative, especially for pets with sensitive skin. Mites and ringworm are also common culprits of skin scaliness. Your vet can diagnose and treat these unwelcome critters with a simple tests and medications.

Allergic Skin Disease

Allergic skin disease is common in areas with high levels of seasonal allergens. Pets with this condition may lick or itch themselves until they break the skin, and exhibit excessive greasiness in their skin and/or coat (or on the other end of the spectrum, present with excessive dryness and scaliness.) Managing the common issues listed above is the essential first line of defense. Allergic skin disease doesn’t always have a specific cure, but finding and treating the underlying issue(s) and reducing irritants will help increase the level of comfort for your pet. Your vet can administer a blood test to check for common allergies, and may instruct you on how to test your pet for food allergies with a challenge diet. Antihistamines and essential fatty acid supplements can reduce itchiness in many animals.

Internal Disease

Internal diseases can present problems with the skin and coat. Speak with your veteri-



narian to rule out any serious diseases.

No Underlying Cause

And, finally, some dogs and cats can show excessive scaliness without an underlying cause, and sometimes it’s worse during certain seasons. Winter, especially up north, can bring out the worst in flakiness, due to lower humidity exacerbating dryness. Vets may recommend regular bathing with medicated shampoos, holistic treatments, fatty acids, and/or antioxidants. It’s important to test for other issues before arriving at this conclusion, though. See your vet with any concerns.

Fight Skin Issues with Diet

A high quality, natural food is critical for minimizing scaliness that can occur when a pet is sensitive to the additives and poor quality ingredients found in lower-end pet foods. Like people, pets can be sensitive to certain ingredients in their food, and pets with allergic skin can benefit from positive changes in their food, such as choosing a grain-free or raw diet. If you have questions about making a change to your pet’s food, speak with your vet and come see our highly trained employees at Pets Plus. We offer a wide variety of raw and freeze-dried foods, as well as grain-free, and other premium kibble. Supplements may also be useful for controlling skin issues. We are happy to help you select products that will help encourage the well-being of your pets.

Pets Plus March In-Store Events

March 3rd- Mobile Pet Hospital 1-3p

March 9th- Doggy Dental Day 9a-3p (appointment needed)

March 10th- Doggy Dental Day 9a-3p (appointment needed)

March 17th- Mobile Pet Hospital 1-3p

March 31st- Mobile Pet Hospital 1-3p



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Manatee River Garden Club to Hold “Bradenton in Bloom” on April 7

The 13th Annual Garden Tour, “Bradenton in Bloom,” sponsored by the Manatee River Garden Club will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

You can take a self-guided tour of five lovely gardens in Bradenton. Enjoy a gourmet lunch at the clubhouse for \$10 and visit the vendors and raffle baskets.

Tickets can be purchased for the tour in advance at \$15 each at Crowder’s Gifts and Gadgets (Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch) or on their website at www.manateerivergardenclub.com using check or PayPal. On the day of the tour, you may purchase tickets for \$20 at the clubhouse (3120 First Avenue West in Bradenton).

If you have advance tickets, download the map and directions from their website. On the day of the tour, you’ll get a booklet with directions at the clubhouse. For more information, call 941-870-2259 or visit the website.

Grants and Scholarships Available from the Manatee River Garden Club



The Manatee River Garden Club (MRGC) is offering grants and scholarships to non-profits and students in Manatee County. MRGC is awarding two \$500 scholarships to qualified Manatee County students who wish to pursue higher education in horticulture, floral design, gardening, and/or environmental concerns.

MRGC administers funds from the Elizabeth M. Eaton Fund to be used for community beautification projects in and around public areas in Manatee County. The organizations that apply should be non-profit.

Applications can be found at www.manateerivergardenclub.org. Click on the Grants and Scholarship tab. Applications need to be returned by April 1, 2018.

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Blood Drives for the Month of March



- Friday, March 2, 2018:** Ruby Tuesday, 5802 20th Street East, Ellenton, 3:30 - 7:00 pm.
- Sunday, March 4, 2018:** Gamble Mansion, 3708 Patten Avenue, Ellenton, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018:** Mosaic - Wingate, 1295 Duette Road, Parrish, 8:30 - 11:30 am.
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018:** Southeastern Guide Dogs, 4210 77th Street East, Palmetto, 1:00 - 4:00 pm.
- Thursday, March 8, 2018:** Esplanade at Artisan Lakes, 4725 Los Robles Ct., Palmetto, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Thursday, March 8, 2018:** Virgil Mills Elementary School, 7200 69th Street East, Palmetto, 1:00 - 4:00 pm.
- Thursday, March 8, 2018:** MCR Health Services Headquarters, 12271 US Highway 301 N, Parrish, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- Friday, March 9, 2018:** Fiesta Grove RV Resort, 8615 Bayshore Road, Palmetto, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- Saturday, March 10, 2018:** Colony Cove Homeowners Association, 7615 Lakeshore Drive, Ellenton, 8:00 - 11:00 am.
- Sunday, March 11, 2018:** Holy Cross Church, 505 26th Street W, Palmetto, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.
- Monday, March 12, 2018:** Tidevue Estates, 4214 11th Street Court E, Ellenton, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Tuesday, March 13, 2018:** Country Lakes Village, 5700 Bayshore Road, Palmetto, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Wednesday, March 14, 2018:** Palmetto Mobile Home Club, 1201 8th Avenue W, Palmetto, 7:00 am - 12:30 pm.
- Friday, March 16, 2018:** JET Mobile Home Park, 506 5th Avenue W, Palmetto, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Monday, March 19, 2018:** River Wilderness Golf & Country Club, 1 Wilderness Drive, Parrish, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- Monday, March 19, 2018:** Piney Point MHP, 8600 29th Avenue E, Palmetto, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Tuesday, March 20, 2018:** Sun Key Village, 8607 26th Avenue E, Palmetto, 8:00 - 11:30 am.
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018:** Tree Lakes Resort, 2215 73rd Street E, Palmetto, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm.
- Thursday, March 22, 2018:** The Coach House Mobile Home Park 4907 28th Avenue E, Palmetto, 8:00 - 11:30 am.
- Monday, March 26, 2018:** Terra Ceia Manor, 5619 Bayshore Road, Palmetto, 8:30 - 11:00 am.
- Monday, March 26, 2018:** Florida Power & Light, 19050 SR 62, Parrish, 12:00 - 3:30 pm.
- Thursday, March 29, 2018:** Veranda Springs, 9286 Sucia Circle 3, Parrish, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Saturday, March 31, 2018:** Walmart, 508 10th Street E, Palmetto, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

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The Grumpy Old Geezer

Beware the Actor

A column for seniors who find their views of today's American marketplace of ideas more than a little bit bizarre.

I'm going to tell you a secret. Listen closely, because I will not say this a second time.

I started out in life as a professional actor.

I first worked professionally at the age of 16. I attended one of the country's most respected colleges for theater arts. I worked on many stages in leading roles, including such prestigious platforms as the legendary Paper Mill Playhouse. I was - an actor.

Ultimately I chose another course. I never fit in to the acting community culture. Too weird. I married, had kids and a great career in another industry. The truth is that I probably never had what it takes to make it big anyway. No complaints. No regrets.

But I came away from that experience with two clear impressions about actors: 1. The best of them are amazing artists with the skills to make us laugh, make us cry and transport us to another dimension. I love and admire them. 2. Off stage or camera most of them are the zaniest group of characters you'll ever encounter, incapable of managing their personal lives on even a most fundamental level.

Now this is obviously a gross generalization and not true of every actor. It would be unfair to label every actor with this description. But I tell ya', you would be shocked by how large a percentage of the community fall into the category of "really bizarre."

Most wind up broke. Even those who earn the biggest fees. Ultimately they find their way to failure because they just don't have the fundamental skills or self-discipline to manage their own financial affairs, often falling prey to corrupt business managers who rob them of their wealth.

Their personal lives tend to be a complete mess. Numerous marriages and divorces. Troubled kids. Drugs. Alcohol. The law. You know the drill. They hate the paparazzi. Until their careers decline. Then they'll do anything for some publicity.

Actors tend to be out of touch with society and the "normal" world. You would recognize it were you to spend much time with them. Yet their communication skills allow them to represent themselves as great thinkers when they address us. Don't be fooled.

I worked with the Broadway star, Anthony Newley. Nice man. But a kook. Like many stars he was pampered to the point of delusion. He once complained to a hotel manager that his room's air conditioner made too much noise and kept him awake. The manager reminded him that the weather was nice and he was high up. Why not just open a window? Apparently he had tried that, but the noise from the adjoining air conditioners kept him from sleep as well. His solution? Turn off the air conditions throughout the entire building. He was not kidding. He expected that everyone else in the hotel should be inconvenienced to accommodate him. Weird.

Yet every day we see a parade of famous personalities on TV, radio, the internet, Facebook, Twitter and other media compelling Americans as to what is morally right. How the country should be run. Apparently they know.

And they are increasingly becoming emboldened with aggressive and often obscene denunciations anyone or any organization or personality with whom they disagree. Especially conservatives, Christians or other God fearing people or entities. And, of course, the current Administration.

So now here comes Ms. Jennifer Lawrence, JLaw as she is known to her fans. She recently announced that she was going to take a year off from acting to "fix our democracy." She's gonna fix it single handedly. And in only one year. Wow!

Have you ever heard a more sophomoric statement?

Now I like Jennifer Lawrence. She's drop dead gorgeous and an amazing acting talent. I see her films and enjoy her work. She's a terrific actor. But her last formal educational experience was at Kammerer Middle School in Louisville, KY. That's it. No more. Do you think she



knows the definition of bicameralism?

She was "discovered" at the age of 14 and has worked in the "Hollywood" environment ever since. She became an "A List" superstar at the age of 22, which of course means she was a multi-millionaire. So basically she has never had to write a resume, apply for a job or commute to work. I would be willing to bet that she does not shop for or prepare her own meals, and she definitely doesn't do the dishes. She doesn't balance a check book, reboot the router or care for any household duties.

In short, she is out of touch with American life in every normal way! And all of that is fine. I don't care. It just another weird part of the American culture. I thank her for the fun movies and bless her future.

The Grumpy Old Geezer CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

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March Activities CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

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Tai Chi (Wu-style): Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am. Movements are slow, soft and circular. \$5 (\$3 for members).

Tai Chi (Yang Style - Most popular style): Tuesdays, 11:30 am - Beginners. Thursdays, 11:30 am - Intermediate. Movements are slow, soft and circular. \$5 (\$3 for members).

Yoga for Cancer Survivors: Thursdays, 10:00 am. Sponsored by JFCS. Call 941-366-2224 for more details. Free.

Qi Gong Meditation: Thursdays, 10 am to 10:30 am. Experience the many benefits of meditation. \$5 (Free for members).

All activities take place at the Enrichment Center at Renaissance on 9th unless otherwise noted. Call 941-749-0100, ext. 2100 for reservations, to check on cancellations or obtain additional details.



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2:00 pm: Alzheimer/Caregiver Support Group (Every 3rd Friday)

Saturday

11:30 am: Tai Chi with Tom (\$36/ 6weeks)

12:30 pm: Tai Chi w/ Tom (\$36/6 weeks)

March Special Events: Registrations required. 1-888-359-3552

Scramble your eggs, not your brain. Mar. 2nd, 2:00 pm. Seminar. Ellenton Center

Hatha Yoga: Mar. 5th, 11:00 am. 4 week session. \$20. Ellenton Center

Saturday Luncheon: Mar. 10th, 11:00 am. Panda Buffet. Bradenton

Pain in the Lower Back: Mar. 13th. 2:00 pm. Seminar. Bayshore Center

What is Causing Your Hip Pain?: Mar. 20th, 2:00 pm. Seminar. Cortez Center

Food, Fueling for Energy: Mar. 28th, 2:00 pm. Seminar. Medical Arts, 1000

Thinking about Joint Replacement, Let us Help!: Mar.29th, 2:00 pm. Seminar. EL-

lenton Center

Dinner Out: Mar. 22nd. 4:30 pm. Ruby Tuesday. Ellenton

Book Club: Mar. 22nd. *The Shack* by William Paul Young. Ellenton Center

Art Class: Mar. 23rd. 12:00 pm. \$40. Ellenton Center

S.H.I.N.E Counseling by Appointment: Call for appointment times.

Support Groups

Stroke Support Group: Mar. 14th & 28th. 4:00 pm. Blake Medical Center, To RSVP call (941)798-6505

Smoking Cessation: Mar.. 8th. 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Blake Medical Boardroom. Please call (941)518-9187

Mended Hearts Support Group: Feb. 15th, 12:00 pm. Blake Medical Center, Medical Arts Bldg., Suite 2700. To RSVP Call (941)798-6500

Amputee Support Group: Mar. 15th 5:30 pm. Blake Medical Center. Call (941)798-6026.

Alzheimer/Caregiver Support Group: Mar. 16th. 2:00 pm. Ellenton Center

Caring Friends Cancer Support Group: Wednesdays, 5:30 pm. Blake Medical Center Call (941)798-6588

NEW Burn Support Group: Mar. 19th, 5:00 pm. Blake Medical Center. Call (941)545-2834

Cancer Care Support Group: Mar. 1st from 4 pm – 6 pm. IMG. Call (941)920-5084

Diabetes Support Group: Mar. 8th. 7 pm. Blake Medical Center. Call (941)545-4603

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Harrison Ranch Art Guild Hosts Painting Fundraising Night on March 16



*Photographs from
previous
Painting Fundraising
Nights at
Harrison Ranch Art
Guild.*



On Friday, March 16th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm the Harrison Ranch Arts Guild is hosting its 3rd Painting Fundraiser Night at 5755 Harrison Ranch Boulevard. This is a fun night of watching five local artists paint with acrylic paints on five separate canvases. Each artist chooses his/her own subject and after 15 minutes they switch canvases with the next artist. In the end, all five artists will have painted on each canvas to result in some very unique and delightful works of art! All the canvases will be silent auctioned off and 100% of the painting proceeds will directly benefit local nonprofits and charities of the artists' choosing. There will also be a \$100 Art Supply Gift Basket by Keeton's Office & Art Supply of Bradenton raffled off.

This year the artists are: Liz Estes, Barbara Hart, Mavis Jan-Lai, Jerri Phillips and Sally Wooldridge. Liz Estes' painting will benefit the Parrish YMCA. Barbara Hart's painting will benefit the Florida Railroad Museum. Mavis Jan-Lai's painting will benefit the Rocky Bluff Library. Jerri Phillips' painting will benefit the Parrish Arts Council. Sally Wooldridge's painting will benefit the Bishop Animal Shelter. All five artists are local painters that reside in Parrish and the surrounding community.

This is a free event. Cheese and crackers will be provided. Attendees may bring a beverage of their choosing. From 6:30 to 7:00 pm, attendees will have the chance to get to know the artists and at 7:00 pm the painting begins. Don't miss out on this interesting evening! It's a super fun way to support local nonprofits.

The Harrison Ranch Arts Guild is a collection of artists that reside in the Harrison Ranch community that volunteer their time to create events to help enrich the community. For more information call Chi Kulig at 860-983-3767.

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in the late spring and once in late fall. Do not use your birthdates or your name in your passwords. Come up with something that only you would know. Be sure to use capital letters, lower case letters, numbers and possibly symbols. Here's an idea for a password using our own town – Parrish44^. Or using my last name but using some numbers in the middle – kAUF44man.

2.) If you get an email where it appears to be a person you know who needs money for an emergency – do NOT respond. Pick up the phone and call that person to find out what's going on. They may not know their system has been hacked. But just think about it. If that person truly needed money for an emergency – do you truly think they would be emailing you? Don't you think they would have picked up the phone and called you already? Once you've found out that it is indeed a scam – just delete the email.

3.) A phone call from someone who you "might" know (maybe a grandchild) asking for some emergency money – Take down some information but do not promise anything. Then – investigate it further.

4.) Those AOL billing emails, or bank and credit card billing update requests – just delete them. You can always go into your own personal accounts directly just to double check but do not, under ANY circumstances, EVER click on the link on the email and provide that information there. While the link might look legitimate it is just a way for the hackers to get your information and before you know it your bank account is emptied or your credit card is maxed out.

Your Other Office

Where do you go when you need a banner, brochure, or business cards? Chances are you probably didn't think about your local UPS store right here in Parrish. But, Kevin and Sheila, the owners, want to change that. Everyone knows UPS means shipping, of course, but The UPS Store offers all kinds of business support services in addition to shipping, everything from faxing and notary to printing banners and booklets. They can even print your artwork on canvas and mount it.

Kevin and Sheila, husband and wife, have recently passed the one year anniversary of owning The UPS Store in the Publix Shopping Center, Parkwood Plaza. Five years ago they moved from Arkansas to settle in Bradenton. They have two children, Amber and Brad, and they are about to be grandparents. Amber is having a boy, due in May!

Sheila and Kevin have been entrepreneurs for 18 years. Most recently they owned the Pinch-A-Penny pool company in West Bradenton on Manatee Avenue. When Mary the previous owner of The UPS Store wanted to retire, it seemed like a good opportunity to own another business and become involved in the growing Parrish community, servicing the needs of local businesses and residents.

Their first year was spent assessing and listening to the community. What they discovered led them to invest in a fair amount of new equipment to bolster the business services they already offered to quicken the turnaround time and offer a better finished product. The new wide format printer prints banners and posters, prints on canvas, yard signs, and Peel N' Stick vinyl used for making giant wall displays that can be removed.

Ever think of wallpapering your wall or putting up a mural but stopped because wallpaper is difficult to change? Now there is an answer and it can be customized just for you or your business. Soon to arrive is a very large print production machine capable of printing high quality commercial print jobs. In conjunction with the new industrial hydraulic cutting machine it is a veritable print shop in your own neighborhood, something that has been lacking.

To finish off the most impressive marketing pieces, Kevin and Sheila also hired a graphic designer to fill the need for personal design services that are missing with online services. Businesses don't often have the time and or skillset to develop their brands or design and chase down the right service online. That is part of the well-rounded business service package that The UPS Store can offer.

"The response has been great. We have a full day of work every day because the local businesses have been starving for a place close by that can help them produce professional advertising material. In fact, if you know of any creative types, proficient with the graphics, printing, and social media, we are hiring," Kevin said. "It was an interesting first year. We didn't quite know what to expect going into the winter holidays. It was quite a ride. Now, it's a new year and we excited to ramp up our services to support our community."

There is a great website that will tell you about all these types of scams, urban myths, and more. When you get a chance go to www.snopes.com. They have lots of information about the Top Scams, including the Top 25. It's really interesting reading and gives you lots of information about how to differentiate a scam from the real deal as well as how to protect yourself.

Most important, well almost anyway, if it sounds too good to be true, it is. If it sounds like a scam, it is. If it seems too strange to be true, it is. Just investigate things before you respond in email. It's far too easy for someone to steal your online identity and try to scam your friends and family.

Now.... most important. There was something very special about the scammer who got into Marty's email. It was truly heart-warming to know that so many people care. We talked to friends we had not spoken to for a very long time. Friendships were renewed. That was the silver lining that resulted from all the frustration and aggravation we suffered due to the hacking.

And a side note – After all the chaos that morning and after the dust had settled we got a call from our dear neighbor, Ben Jordan. He said he went to every neighbor and he was able to collect an entire \$1.50 to help us get back from Wales! That Ben.... What a great neighbor! We've got the best neighbors in the world – Kind of nutty, but the Best!

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They still do shipping and plenty of it. If you are planning on shipping any boxes, Kevin and Sheila would like to offer a few tips. It is not necessary to wrap boxes in brown paper because paper can rip off in route and without the paper there is no address to know where the box needs to be delivered. Also, save your duct tape and use clear shipping tape only. Duct tape is not as strong and the edges curl and stick to other things.

Still have questions about what they can do? You can call 941.776.0899 or email store2744@theupsstore.com or visit. They are in the Parkwood Square Shopping Center, 8955 US Highway 301 N., near Publix.

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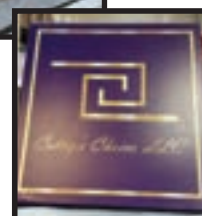
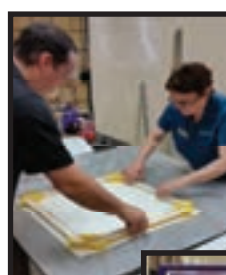


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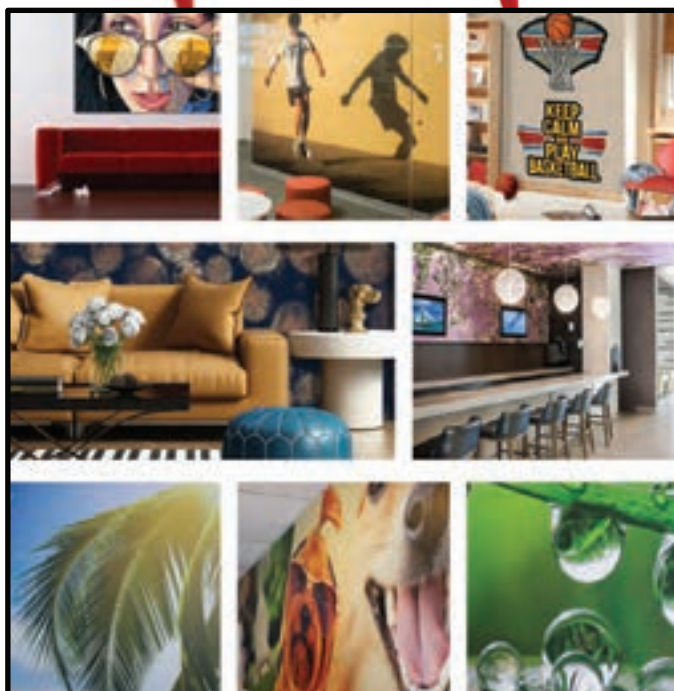


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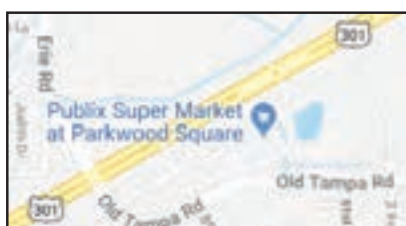


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Warmer Weather Makes for Spring Fishing Early

Capt. Jason Prieto



2018 brought a cold start to the year. It was one of the coldest months since 2010 when the big Snook kill happened. Many including myself thought we were in for a long cold winter and some wondered if we would have another Snook kill. February hit and it was like someone turned on the sunshine and heat. Since then, we have not looked back with tons of Snook and Trout being caught day after day. It feels good to be in Florida.

Trout fishing this month is great. This is a month when the big breeders show up and use the outer flats of Tampa Bay to breed. Looking for thick grass with good tidal flow is key. Using greenbacks is always my first option as chumming always makes it easier to gather up the fish into a feeding frenzy. Artificial baits will also be productive and help cover more ground as well. I have had good success throwing the Zman Streakz matched with a weedless hook in the thicker grass. Another great Trout rig would be a Cajun Thunder Back Bay tied with 30lb Fluorocarbon leader and a 1/8 ounce Jig head with a Houdini Paddlerz. Using the popping technique will be a deadly combination on Trout.

Snook fishing has made a heck of a comeback. Since the 2010 kill, we are catching and seeing a bunch of healthy Snook day in and out. Live bait is the ticket for Snook and this time of year a frisky Greenback will be hard for them to turn down. With the warmer weather this year, fish have moved on the flats earlier than normal, so going into the beginning of March we are in full force with Snook. Using a basic free lined set up will be simple but very effective. Water this time of year is very clear so using longer leader with smaller hooks will make a difference on those tough bite days. A Daiichi #1 or 1/0 circle hook should be the perfect match.

Shallow water Grouper fishing in the bay is another hidden gem this time of year as well. Fishing the edges and rock piles in the bay will surprise you. Tampa Bay has hundreds of rock piles, ledges, wrecks and reefs that all are productive one time or another. This can be a bit challenging but with a little time on the water and the use of modern technology you will find the hill a little easier to overcome.

I have become a better reef and wreck fisherman simply due to the use of my Simrad Evo 3 and its Structure Scan and chirp technology. Mix this with Rhodan Marine System GPS anchor and you will be able to find spots fast and cover more spots in a day. You will also find a bunch of other fish while fishing these areas. Don't be surprised to pull up Mackerel, Mangrove Snapper, Sheephead and many others.

Captain Jason Prieto is a native resident of Tampa and has fished Tampa Bay and its surrounding waters for the past 20 years. He is owner and operator of Steady Action Fishing Charters which is based out of lower Tampa Bay. To book a charter, you can reach him at 813-727-9890 or www.steadyactionfishingcharters.com. If you would like to catch him on the Internet tune into Tampa Fishing Outfitters Fishing Show on Facebook live and YouTube from 6 to 7 pm every Wednesday evening. Come join us in the fun.

**For charter information
contact Capt. Jason
at
813-727-9890
or
www.steadyactionfishingcharters.com.**



The Grump Old Geezer CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

In short she is out of touch with American life in every normal way? And all of that is fine. I don't care. It just another weird part of the American culture. I thank her for the fun movies and bless her future.

But when a child of privilege has the temerity to announce that she is going to "fix our democracy" in a year... I take offense.

First of all, I'm not in any way certain that our democracy is broken - even in these troubled times. But I am absolutely confident that whatever problems we have... Ms. Lawrence ain't the solution.

The question is, "Why do we pay any attention to these loud, self-aggrandizing actors?" In a word - fantasy.

It's fun to fantasize about these people. The characters they play are often heroic and almost always larger than life. We associate them with the roles they play. They distract us from the hum drum of daily life. And if they're out of touch or their politics are a little over-the-top... well that's OK. It's no big deal.

But beware - these actors are rarely logical thinkers. They are by nature servants of emotions who respond without thoughtful analysis to events and conditions. They are quick to anger and despair, but they don't have the intrinsic knowledge or skills to devise a solution. So it's all noise and vitriol.

Am I suggesting that we disallow actors a voice in our marketplace of ideas? Absolutely not. They have a right to their opinions and a right to express them freely.

But be cautious as to the true nature of the radical from any political bent. It feels good to yell, scream and complain society's problems. However, a song and dance, no matter how well choreographed, does not necessarily a solution make.

A salesperson offering you lovely seaside real estate in sunny Arizona may make the purchase sound great. But be careful that you don't ultimately find yourself swimming in the sand with a butt full of cactus.

It is wise to be prudent about the words that inspire you, even when their streaming from the mouth of Katniss Everdeen.



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Our Town!

From the upcoming Chili Cook Off to all the Heritage celebrations in the month of March, our community pride certainly shows through. Hands down, Parrish is a fantastic place! It's no wonder so many people these days are calling it home. In fact, since 1990, our population has grown 437.57%. Wow!

If you are a frequent reader of my articles, you know I LOVE real estate statistics. I enjoy sharing interesting stats with my office agents as well as those searching for the perfect home. Whenever I meet someone relocating to Parrish, my first question is always Why? It's not because I doubt how wonderful we are, it's simply because I am often curious to know the individual stories of those who continue to help build this fine community.

According to the 2017 National Association of REALTORS® Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends report, 88% of all buyers purchased their home through an agent. The first step nearly all buyers (92% to be exact) take is to look online for properties, neighborhood descriptions, school information, etc. This seems to help zero in on the community of interest way before an agent is involved. Of all the places one could choose to live, why Parrish? Why Manatee County? Is it our fantastic proximity to recreational opportunities and nearby beaches? Is it our diverse mix of young families and retirees? Is it our long, warm summers or our fabulous mix of tropical foliage and ancient oaks that helps to seal the deal? Could it be all the great nearby golf courses? I honestly believe we have the total package!

More than 50% of those who browse online end up picking their new home via that method. Though an agent is still used for the actual walkthrough, negotiations and closing, it's interesting to note that traditional shopping methods are becoming less of the norm. For example, these days only 8% of homes are sold because of the yard sign/open house exclusively. Today's savvy sellers know that digital marketing is essential to the overall home buying experience. When I began my real estate career many years ago, signs were number 1 followed by print media. Today, print media accounts for only 1% of sales! This isn't to say those methods don't work. Rather, instead of being the drivers of the transactions, they are now serve as the reinforcers of the decision to buy.

So, what are online shoppers looking for? New home buyers clock in at about 14% while buyers of previously owned homes made up 86%.

Bottom line, if you're looking to sell your home, don't discount the fact a buyer will most likely research everything about it (and the neighborhood) online before they ever pick up a phone. Make sure to work with your agent for a great digital presence and listen to buyer feedback! You may not see hundreds of people walk through your open house but trust me...they are watching!

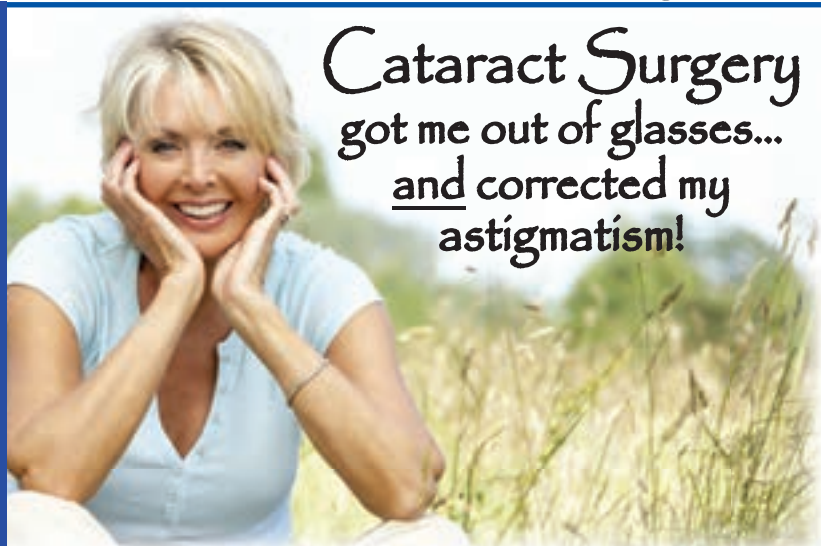
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Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Kick Off 2018 Cookie Season

Council celebrates over a century of female entrepreneurs

Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida has entered the next century of Girl Scouts selling cookies. The Girl Scout Cookie Program® teaches girls essential entrepreneurial skills while powering amazing experiences for them across the United States. After last year’s 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts selling cookies, troops in the Gulfcoast Council are kicking off this season with the return of Girl Scout S’mores™, the most popular flavor to launch in the 101 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies. Consumers can now help fuel transformative leadership experiences and build the next generation of entrepreneurs by purchasing Girl Scout S’mores and classic favorites like Thin Mints® and Samoas®.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each Girl Scout sets out to sell the iconic cookies while building entrepreneurial and business skills that are imperative for leadership and future success. Almost 1 million Girl Scouts across the country participate in the cookie program each year, generating nearly \$800 million in sales during the average season. And all of the net revenue raised locally—100 percent of it—stays within the Gulfcoast Council. The Council uses cookie earnings to power amazing experiences for girls through their programming, while girls and their troops decide how to invest in impactful community projects, personal enrichment opportunities, and more. Further, skills girls learn in the cookie program also influence later success: data shows more than half (57 percent) of Girl Scout alumnae in business say the cookie program was beneficial to skills they possess today, such as money management, goal-setting, and public speaking.

This year, girls will sell cookies door-to-door and at booth sales as well as through the Digital Cookie® platform, an innovative and educational web-based addition to the cookie program that helps girls run and manage their Girl Scout Cookie businesses online. Now in its fourth year, the Digital Cookie platform continues to bring Girl Scout programming into the future by providing girls with invaluable business and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills that prepare them for 21st-century leadership.

As a thank-you to men and women serving in the armed forces, Girl Scouts will also be accepting orders for their Mints for the Military program. Cookies may be purchased from any Girl Scout and will be shipped directly to military personnel serving overseas. The program offers an easy way for individuals to send a taste of home the troops while supporting the largest girl-led business program in the world.

Cookie booths will be open throughout the community from February 11 to March 11. To find out when and where Girl Scouts are selling cookies near you, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app, free on iOS and Android devices. For more information about Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, visit www.gsgcf.org.

About Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc.: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA and serves more than 6,000 girls in 10 counties including Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier. For more information about Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, visit www.gsgcf.org.



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2 Corinthians 1:3-4



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4-H Giving Back for a Greener Environment



Above 4-H participants from Hillsborough, Manatee and Pinellas counties pose during the District IX LIFE event at the Terra Ceia Preserve State Park in Terra Ceia.

Below District IX LIFE event adult volunteers enjoy cleaning up the environment for a greener tomorrow.



At left 4-H participants remove trash from the mangroves during the District IX LIFE event.



At right 4-H participants survive a short hike of the preserve during the District IX LIFE event



Recently District IX youths and their parents lent their hands to help Manatee County 4-H give back to our earth by attending the District IX's Coastal Cleanup event. The event was held at the Terra Ceia Preserve State Park in Terra Ceia. The day included an educational lesson, business meeting, and clean-up opportunities; all encouraging youth to get involved in projects that create a greener tomorrow for LIFE (Living in Florida's Environment).

The Haley House and the preserve itself was a big hit as AmeriCorps' volunteer Connor Wagner shared its history and the significance of prescribed burns in maintaining the sensitive eco-systems.

The "Keep Manatee Beautiful" presentation shared by Jennifer Hoffman was a revelation and at the end, youths and adults recited the pledge, "I promise to keep Manatee beautiful." The group picked up an old tire, greenhouse frame and 390 pounds of trash.

Future environmental and leadership projects were discussed during the District Council meeting. The group will be heading to Pasco County in March.

The day concluded with numerous teachable moments during the trail hike led by AmeriCorps' volunteer Connor Wagner. The Reed family from Pinellas County was so excited and shared, "We could spend the whole day here."

Everyone attending the District IX event enjoyed spending time learning, cleaning up the local environment, and tasting an Old Florida orange-swirl cone of ice cream from The Citrus Place, courtesy of the Manatee County 4-H Youth Council.

For more information on 4-H environmental education programs, please contact the Manatee County 4-H Office at 941.722.4524. 4-H programs are open to all youth (ages 5 and above) without regard to race, color, sex, handicap or national origin.

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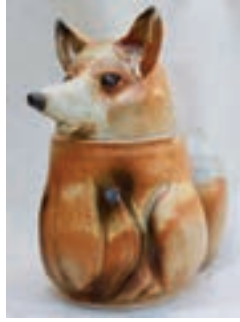


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It's a crisis again for dogs at Manatee County Animal Services! We'll be at 150 animals very soon and the dogs are living in 1/2-size cages. All they do is lay down for nearly 23 hours a day! Please find one to two hours a week just to take a dog out of a cage and sit with it in our outside play yards. If you cannot, maybe you can donate hard Nyla-Bones with rough sides for the dogs. These poor creatures need some stress relievers and the bones help.

They also need collars, harnesses, rubber balls, toys that squeak and jars of peanut butter. On summer days they would love your coming by and dropping some ice cubes in their water bowls whether in the am or afternoons.

For those living in nearby RV communities, try coming over once or twice a week, visit the same dog and he'll be your unofficial dog! If you have friends who can do three-month fostering, in their homes, it would be great. Animal services supplies the dog food and any meds the dog may need. The dogs need you!

Type in manateecountyanimalservices.org/pets, then look for volunteering. Take the one hour orientation and join the family of dog lovers. Time to enjoy fresh air with a new "best buddy!"



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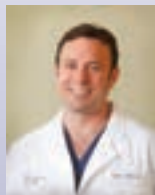
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- 2. Suffered from diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney disease, heart attack or stroke while on INVOKANA or FARXIGA
- 3. Suffered from injury or damage as a result of being implanted with ETHICON MESH or C-QUR MESH
- 4. Diagnosed with heart failure after taking ONGLYZA or KOMBIGLYZE XR
- 5. Suffered from hair loss lasting longer than six months after discontinued use of TAXOTERE, DOCETAXEL or DOCEFREZ

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The Parrish Civic Association welcomes our new and returning members!
Thank you for your support!

Basic

Henry Burmeister
Bill & Jean Clark
Tony & Bev Covella
Claudia Hartung
Melissa Lilly
Dennis & Theresa Reed
Roger Rodriguez
Jim Smalec
Rocky Trombacco
Delores M Vought

Community Booster

Vin & Vinnie Burns
Ken & Sandra Chin

Gretchen Fowler

David & Carmen Johnson
John & Marilynn Kennedy
Craig & Jane McEwan
Karen Mohl
Michael & Chari Milligan
Bob & Barbara Mustain
Malcolm Norwood
Barbara Quinn
Dottie Seawright
James L Staub
Thomas & Nerina Stepanovsky
Tom & Rosemarie Svitek
Gerald & Sharon Szczygiel

Minh C Ta

John Thacker
Jerry & Sandra Titsworth
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Join the Parrish Civic Association for 2018

The Parrish Civic Association has been going strong for over 30 years. In the beginning, it accomplished a really significant thing for Parrish - helping to establish the Parrish Fire Department. This has had so much importance to Parrish.

After all these years, the Parrish Civic Association is still working hard for the common good of the community: organizing the Parrish Heritage Day Festival including the parade and Chili Cook Off, helping with the Parrish Children's Christmas Party for needy children and families, helping to get the Y established in Parrish, developing Overlays to the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan and the Village, hosting the Christmas Tree Lighting, bringing important programs to PCA meetings during the year, and currently working with the Parrish Arts Council on cleaning up the corridor along 301 from CR 675 to Moccasin Wallow Road. We still have work to do.

Help us out in this effort by joining the Parrish Civic Association in 2017. A form is on page 55. Clip it out, complete it, enclose a check and mail it in today! Help your community continue the efforts!

Worship Services



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PARRISH

12125 71st Street East
Parrish, FL 34219

941-776-1533

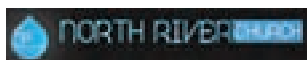
Rev. Joe Skidmore, Pastor

Sunday Services

Bible Classes, all ages. 9:45 AM
Morning Worship. 11:00 AM
Evening Worship. 6:00 PM

Wednesday Services

Youth Group Meetings. 6:30 PM
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. 7:00 PM
Parrish Baptist Learning Center
Monday through Friday
6:30 AM to 6:00 PM



casual atmosphere, engaging music
relevant teaching, fun kids programs

@ Williams Elementary School
3404 Ft Hamer Road
941-803-4722

Check our website for
Sunday Service Times
www.gonorthriver.org



Faith Lutheran Church
9608 Highway 301 North
Parrish, Florida 34219
941-776-1395

www.faithparrish.com
Interim Pastor - Kenneth L. Hinrichs
Saturday Service - 4:30 PM
Sunday Services - 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM
Bible Study - 9:15 AM
Sunday School - 9:15 AM

Saint Frances X. Cabrini Catholic Church

12001 69th Street East
Parrish, Florida 34219
941-776-9097

Saturday Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses:
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Confessions - Saturday 3:00 PM

St. Mary's Baptist Church Erie Road Parrish, Florida 34219

Reverend Fletcher Lawson, Jr., Pastor
941-776-3723

Fellowship Alliance Church
5735 69th Street East
Palmetto, Florida 34221
Phone: 941-723-9593

www.FellowshipAllianceChurch.com

Sunday School - 9:30 for all ages
Sunday Services - 10:45 AM
Wed. Eve. - Dinner 5:30 PM - \$3 per person
Bible Study - 6:00 PM
Prayer Time - 7:00 PM

2nd Friday each month - Friday Night Coffee House - 7 to 10 PM. The coffee house offers: praise music, a featured artist or group (genre varies from month to month), open mic and free refreshments

Small Groups - call Church Office for times
Email: FellowshipAllianceChurch@gmail.com

Crossroads Christian Church
1400 10th Street W, Palmetto, FL

941-729-2327

Pastor Jeff Mohler

Bible Study - Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Church Services - Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study - Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

PEACE
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Church-PC(USA)
12705 Florida 64 East
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peacepcusa.com/

Holy Week Services

PALM SUNDAY
8:30 & 11:00 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY
7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY
7 pm

EASTER
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

• **Sundays** •

Worship · 8:30 & 11:00 am
Lively Learning · 9:45–10:45 am
Nursery · 8:15 am–12:15 pm

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

9422 Old Tampa Road
Parrish, Florida 34219
Church Office - 776-8687
www.nhbconline.org

Kevin Thompson

Senior Pastor

Sunday Services

Sunday School (for all ages) . . 9:15 AM
All Ages

Worship 10:30 AM
Children's Church 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Nursery available for all services

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 PM
Awana Club (ages 3-6th Grade) . 7:00 PM
Word of Life (Teens) 7:00 PM

Everyone Welcome

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

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941-776-2568

Rev. James W. Berrien, Pastor

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Service Time:

Sunday 10:00 AM
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North River Church of Christ

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Parrish, Florida 34219
(941) 776-1134

www.nrchurchofchrist.org
mail@nrchurchofchrist.org

Sundays

Bible Classes (all ages) 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesdays

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Audio Sermons Available

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8305 Highway 301 North
Parrish, Florida 34219
Church Office - 722-0218

Dr. Scott Douglas, Pastor

Website: ebcparrish.org
Email: office@ebcparrish.org

Sunday Services

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM.
.Worship/Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30 AMChildren's Church

Tuesday

9:30AM.....Women's/Men'sBibleStudies

Wednesday

6:00PM...BibleStudy/Prayer/Children/Youth

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Pastor Phillip Hamm

1020 4 Street West
Palmetto, Florida 34221
www.fbcpalmetto.com
941-722-7795

Sunday Worship Services
9:15 am Encounter Service
9:15 am Celebration Service
10:45 am Celebration Service

Sunday School Classes
8, 9:15 & 10:45 am



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

(Iglesia de Santa Maria)

1010 24th Ave W
Palmetto FL 34221

(941)722-5292

The Episcopal Church welcomes you!
La Iglesia Episcopal le da la bienvenida!

Holy Eucharist/ Santa Eucaristía

Sunday/ Domingo

Rite II (Contemporary language) 7:45 am
Rite II (Contemporary language) 10:00 am
Santa Eucaristá (Español) 1:00 pm

Wednesday/ Miércoles

Holy Eucharist and Healing 9:30 am
Grupo de Oración y Alabanza 6:30pm

The Rev. Glen Graczyk, Priest
The Rev. William de la Torre, Sacerdote

First Baptist Church of Gillette

3301 Moccasin Wallow Road
Palmetto, Florida 34221
(941) 722-1937

contactus@gillettefbc.org
www.gillettefbc.org

Sunday Service

Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Children's Worship - 10:30 AM
Worship Service - 10:30 AM

Everyone Welcome! (Nursery Provided)



Parrish United Methodist Church

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Traditional Worship 8:15 AM
Contemporary Worship 9:45 AM
Blended Worship 11:11 AM
Sunday School 9:45 AM

www.parrishmethodist.com
12180 Highway 301 North
and CR 675 @ flashing yellow light

Back to the Word Church

Pastor : Dr. Jim Parker

7710 121st Ave. E, Parrish, FL 34219
155 W. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870
941-773-7081



Sabbath Services:

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Saturday at 5:30 PM - Sebring, FL

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Sundays
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Bible Study 7:00 PM each Wednesday

Pastor:

Rev. Terry L. Cary - 941-725-4150
www.harvestfieldcc.org

*"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to
send out workers into his harvest fields."*
Mat. 9:38 NIV



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Carl Pallas 941-720-0723



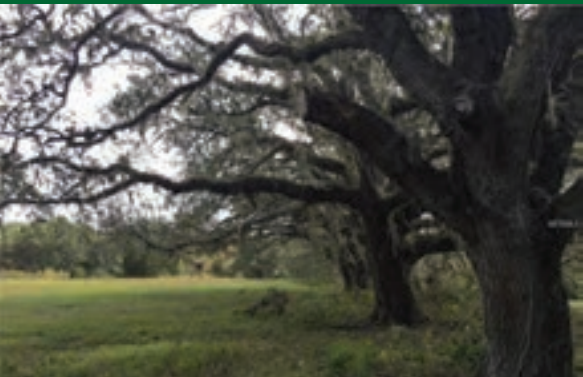
SNEAD ISLAND

1721 Amberwynd Circle W.
A4210315 - \$745,000
Lynda Melnick 941-730-5180



TIMBERLY VILLA

3323 92nd Ave. E. - Parrish
A4211327 - \$258,995
Stacey Limberg 941-685-3412



EAST COUNTY - MYAKKA CITY

38355 Taylor Rd. - 10 ACRE PARCEL
A4201834 - \$209,000
Dawn Atkinson 941-224-3479



OAKLEY SUBDIVISION - ELLENTON

5712 31st Ct. E. - 4BR 3BA
A4198433 - \$280,000
Rebecca Compton 812-240-2141



WEST PALMETTO NEAR RIVER

515 15th Ave. W. - 5BR 3BA
A4205900 - \$259,900
Gail Adams 941-725-1945



HERITAGE HARBOUR - BRADENTON

6715 Rookery Lake Dr. - 3BR 2BA
A4211648 - \$399,000
Nancy Allen 941-720-7482



FOREST CREEK - PARRISH

11758 Fennemore Way - 3BR 2.5BA
A4208119 - \$299,900
Doug Booth 941-932-0239



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The Rotary Club of Bradenton, along with the support of their neighboring clubs, has announced the formation of a new club in Parrish. An organizational meeting will be held in early March at the River Wilderness Country Club which will be the site of its weekly meetings.

In order to receive its Charter from Rotary International, a minimum number of twenty members is required. Membership is by invitation and is open to any adult who demonstrates good character, integrity, and leadership; has a good reputation within their business, profession and community; and be willing to serve in Rotary's local and international projects.

The new club plans to hold its weekly meetings at 5:30 pm each Thursday. Known within Rotary as a “Happy-Hour” Club, the meeting time accommodates those members who have difficulty attending traditional Lunch Meetings due to business and personal matters, commuting times, and other conflicts. An informal “Meet and Greet” is followed by the Club Meeting and Guest Speaker. Adjournment is one hour later to allow members to enjoy their regular evening activities.

The first Rotary Club was formed in Chicago in 1905. It started with the vision of one man, Paul Harris. The Chicago Attorney founded the club so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful lifelong business and personal relationships, and give back to their communities. Rotary's name came from the group's practice of "rotating" meetings among the offices of its members.

Since its founding, the organization has grown to a membership of over 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. Their work brings together a network of volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Their efforts impact the lives at both the local and international level. This commitment includes such diverse causes from helping the needy in their own community to its commitment to erase Polio from the World.

In 1985, Rotary launched its “POLIO PLUS” campaign, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccinations of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize 2.5 billion children in 122 countries.

With the assistance of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which pledges a 2-1 Club Contribution, and donations from participating countries, over \$7 billion have been raised. In 2017 less than 30 cases were confirmed worldwide compared to over 1,000 cases in 1985. The effort continues today with the hope to totally eradicate this scourge by the end of this year.

For further information contact: Charles Badgley at (813) 335-5261 or cabadgley@msn.com or Rich Zang at ((941) 545-4823 or richzang4512@gmail.com.



River Wilderness CC Head Pro, Pat Walsh, and Sales Director Chris Orr, Director of Sales, and Rotarians Chuck Badgley and Rich Zang are seen planting the Rotary Emblem at the meeting site of the new Rotary Club of Parrish.

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Humane Society of Manatee County Clinic Is Open to the Public

Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. The clinic, located at 2415 14th Street West in downtown Bradenton, offers a full range of veterinary services. The expansion of clinic services continues to move forward to meet the growing demands in the community for high quality, low-to-moderate cost veterinary care. Last year more than 15,000 cats and dogs visited the clinic. Two full-time staff veterinarians and a team of contract veterinarians, in addition to a highly trained medical support team, continue to provide our community’s animals the care they need and deserve.

As the clinic expansion of services continues to grow, a third staff veterinarian will be joining the Humane Society of Manatee County medical team in the summer of 2018. Spay and neuter surgeries continue to be a primary focus as the humane answer to homeless and stray animals as well as easing the burden of overcrowding in our community’s animal shelters. Wellness exams, vaccine clinics, diagnostic services, dental procedures, heartworm treatment and minor surgeries continue to grow and expand at the clinic.

As Manatee County’s human population continues to grow, outpacing the growth in the state of Florida, the number of companion animals continues to rise as well. There are currently 200,000 owned cats and dogs in Manatee County and in five (5) years that number is expected to reach 250,000.

The clinic’s services are not restricted to owned animals; feral or community cats also benefit from the growth taking place at the Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic. TNR (trap/neuter/release) programs for feral and community cats are growing to meet the need providing spay and neuter surgeries to control this population. Vaccines are administered to all of the cats as well, making our community healthier for the cats and humans.

In addition to the growth of the medical services, current HSMC Clinic clients can buy Pet Meds at the clinic or online as well as flea and tick prevention products that are available for purchase by the general public. Prescription dog and cat food can also be purchased at the clinic at discounted pricing.

Humane Society of Manatee County has several options throughout the year for low cost and no cost (FREE) spay and neuter services. For information on current spay and neuter programs, please contact one of our client services staff by calling 1-941-747-8808 Option #1.

The clinic is open to the public by appointment Monday through Saturday. Appointments can be made by calling 1-941-747-8808 Option #1 or by email: clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org.

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Back to the Word Church
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The Parrish Arts Council News

Jerri Phillips

Happy Heritage Month in Manatee County! What inspires us to create art? Whether it is holding tradition or developing something new, many find the creative need to make art. Your art becomes history. When artists are creating, they do not always realize they are creating history. Whether you write, draw, paint, photograph or carry down stories from our past, you make a difference. We hope you get out there and create while enjoying our heritage!

Congratulations are in order for Palmetto Elementary School’s Music Department! The Parrish Arts Council hosted our 2nd Annual Winter Paint-around fundraiser at Keeton’s Office and Art Supply to raise funds for a local school’s arts department. Palmetto Elementary will be producing a stage play in the spring. The arts are an integral part of enriching our children’s lives. Thank you for all who attended and donated to this cause! The Parrish Arts Council will be contributing to four other local schools’ fine arts or performing arts programs this month from the proceeds of the book “This Old House” by Iris McClain.

The Parrish Arts Council is hosting Rocky Bluff Library’s “New Beginnings” Exhibit runs from March 1st to April 27th. This juried exhibit features paintings in acrylic, oil, watercolor and alcohol inks as well as photographs. The following artists were selected based upon their submissions: Jamie Selbe, Mara Trumbo, Karl Ford, Jon Schiller, Wes Powell, Sue Lynn Cotton, Todd Rogers and Fran Kain. The display case will feature children’s ceramic arts created by the RBL Kids’ Art Club in January led by Harrison Ranch Arts Guild members, Mavis Jan-Lai and Chi Kulig. Visit the Rocky Bluff Library located at 6750 US Highway 301 N, Ellenton, to enjoy the arts.

New activities coming up are a Photography Contest, Parrish En Plein Air painting group outings, Member Socials and more. The arts are building steam in the Parrish community, so be a part!

Our mission is to utilize the arts as a tool to re-establish the identity of the Parrish Community, to preserve its history and to jumpstart the revitalization of its economy. Now is the time to get involved!

Jerri Phillips is a local artist and the current President of The Parrish Arts Council. Learn more about the Parrish Arts Council on www.parrishartsCouncil.org or call (941) 809-5059 for more information. See Jerri’s art and learn about her art studio and gallery on www.artisticflorida.com.



(L-R) Jerri Phillips, PAC President; Christine Howze, Media Specialist, Karl Sidnam, Music Teacher, both of Palmetto Elementary School; and Nancy White, PAC Treasurer and Event Planner.

150th Traveling Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society to Visit Bradenton

ArtCenter Manatee is honored to host the pre-eminent 150th Traveling Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society International Exhibition. Chosen from a field of 150 water media masterpieces selected into the International Exhibition (from 1200 entries), the traveling show features the work of 40 artists. This year’s show is sure to inspire artists and art lovers.

As one of only five venues in the country and the only in Florida to host this show, ArtCenter Manatee will display the amazingly diverse water media work in the Kellogg Gallery from February 13 through March 23 2018. Admission is \$5, which assists in covering the cost of bringing such a prestigious exhibition to the ArtCenter and Bradenton.

While inclusion in this exhibition is itself an honor, participants also compete for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals of Honor, and 34 other awards/medals totaling more than \$50,000 in prize money.

Accompanying the exhibit will be the annual aqueous show by the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society (FSWS) in the Reid Hodges and Searle Galleries. FSWS was formed in 1983 to foster the advancement of and promote excellence in the art of watercolor painting. They seek to inform and educate through exhibitions, lectures and painting demonstrations as to the best work currently being done in watercolor.



Parrish Civic Association Corner

Message from the PCA President

March 2018

March in like a lion...

Mostly this references the weather in March, although the Parrish Civic Association is coming into March like a lion and plans to continue on through the month as a positive force in the Parrish area. March is the month of spring, a symbol of new beginnings as the flowers bloom and the birds are chirping. That doesn't mean we sit back and hide in the Ides. We at the PCA are working assiduously as your voice at the county and state level, advocating for Parrish and the North River area. The Rural Development Committee has hired a planner to help put a plan in place for Parrish so we are not left out as the area is developed. You can learn more about our efforts at the PCA meetings.

Working with the Board of County Commissioners

We have regular contact with our County Commissioners and various departments in Manatee County and at the state level. I even stopped into FDOT one day to ask for their help. There are various open meetings and the Board of County Commissioner meetings are open and televised (Yes, someone from the PCA watches them and the school board meetings). If anyone wants to volunteer to sit in on some of these meetings on behalf of the PCA, please contact us; we can't do this alone. Our presence is vital in keeping Parrish on their minds as they make decisions for us.

March 1st there will be a work session for the BOCC discussing pending land development code and comprehensive plan changes, sign ordinance and centralized addressing. Representatives from the RDC attended the last presentation and will have representation at this meeting.

Exciting times and sad at the same time; we are watching our sleepy town disappear. Changes are in progress and will continue to push forward, with or without us. I won't allow the 'without us' to happen without our voice being heard. We have a vision for Parrish. I hope you all will join us and become the OneVoice for Parrish and the North River area.

March is Heritage Month

From March 1-31, the annual Heritage Days celebration returns. The Parrish Heritage Day Festival and Parade was March 3rd. We started over 30 years ago as a gathering with a parade and potluck dinner on the grounds at the old Schoolhouse (now the Parrish YMCA) and music in the afternoon.

It continues today, carried on by the volunteers with the Parrish Civic Association. The parade took off down 121st Ave E, ending at the Heritage Day Festival at the Florida Railroad Museum where gates opened at 11:00 am.

Seven years ago the Chili Cook Off was added to the Festival as a fundraising event for The Parrish Foundation, an organization in Parrish that provides grants to charities serving the Parrish area. Three years ago Parrish Pioneering was also added to give a look back into Parrish's settlement days. There were vendors, children's activities, food and beverages and live bands to entertain the entire family.

#PCAOneVoice
Gretchen Fowler
President, Parrish Civic Association
gmfowler68@yahoo.com
941-704-8883



PCA Membership Matters



My goodness...It's March already!! Membership Drive is doing well. If you have not joined or renewed your membership, it is NOT to late! To be in good standing, your renewing dues should be in by the end of March. Of course, you can join at any time during the year as a new member and renewing your membership.

Why should you join our effort? Well, as you know, we are in an unincorporated area of Manatee County. We are the voice to county/state officials as well as developers. You will see #PCAOneVoice around town as our branding identification. With your involvement and as a large group, we can take a stand as ONE VOICE.

Why are you needed? Well, the growth is among us, your voice is relevant, remember, it takes a village! We need your help in all categories of the PCA:

- Membership committee
- Finance/Budget/Bookkeeping
- Event Chairman/committee
- Program Committee
- Parrish Heritage Day/Parade committee
- Parrish Pioneering/Heritage Day
- Marketing/Publicity committee
- Fundraising committee
- Social Media/Website committee
- Christmas Tree lighting committee

Did you know? The PCA is forming a **Parrish Business Alliance group**. If you are a business owner in the Parrish area, you are welcome to become a part of this group. The **Rural Development Committee** is continuing to work with the County regarding the Village of Parrish and surrounding area. Alan Jones is our spokesperson with the county representatives. The PCA publishes the **Parrish Village News!** A monthly newspaper keeping you up to date with Parrish News. We give a shout out to **Cookie Jordan**, our editor for all the time she puts into putting the paper together. THANK YOU!

Be sure to visit our Facebook page: [parrishcivicassociation](https://www.facebook.com/parrishcivicassociation) and our website: www.PCAFLA.org

Norma Kennedy
Membership Chairman
norma.kennedy@verizon.net

JOINING
THE
PCA



GETTING
INVOLVED
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY

**Join the Parrish Civic Association.
Just clip out the form below and
mail it in with a check for your dues.**



Parrish Civic Association Membership Form

I wish to join the Parrish Civic Association. Here are my dues.
Mail to Parrish Civic Association: P. O. Box 257, Parrish, FL 34219. (Please print.)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone No. _____ Email Address _____

(Information is for PCA use only. We do not give out or sell to outside parties.)

Please check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal
☐ \$15.00 Basic Member (Member and Spouse) ☐ \$25.00 (Community Booster)
☐ \$50.00 (Parrish Sponsor) ☐ \$100 or more (Community Sponsor)
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 Amount Enclosed \$ _____



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This Twin Rivers home is on a premium homesite and displays a pride of ownership. It has been tastefully updated with all of today's most popular features. MLS #A4210765 **\$479,900**



Ready for you to add your personal touches! 3 bed/2 bath home with fireplace and a quiet shady backyard setting over-looking wide open views of pond. MLS #A4210438 **\$234,000**



Welcome to this gorgeous, well-kept home in Covered Bridge Estates. This home boasts 2566 square feet of living space on a large lot and a privacy fenced back yard. MLS #A4210160 **\$315,000**

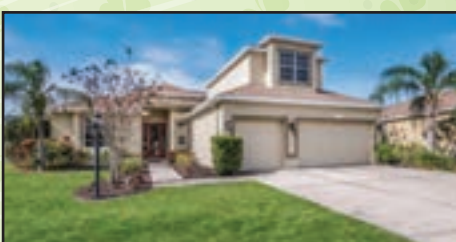


Nothing to do but move in! Beautiful and spacious both inside and out, this Lexington home has many high-end upgrades and is situated on a tranquil cul-de-sac. MLS #A4208955 **\$368,900**



Rarely do you find a pool home with beautifully appointed upgrades, secluded backyard with mature landscaping in a quiet gated neighborhood at an affordable price... until now! MLS #A4209676 **\$320,000**

It's Your
Lucky Day



This spacious 4 bed/3 bath, 2,744 sqft home is MOVE-IN READY! Freshly painted inside and outside and new carpet in all of the bedrooms and the bonus room. MLS #A4209516 **\$369,000**



Amazing and well-maintained, upgraded room by room, to make this a cozy home. A fully fenced back yard with a pergola and fire pit outside that's great for entertainment. MLS #A4208876 **\$274,500**



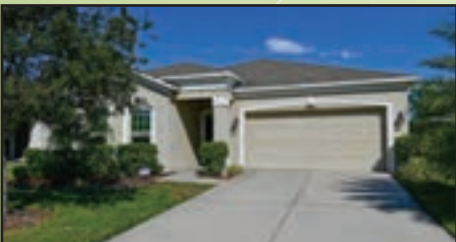
Welcome Home to this charming 3 bed/2 bath home, which features a versatile floor plan with plenty of space perfect for a growing family or those who are looking to downsize. MLS #A4208167 **\$234,900**



Pride of ownership prevails throughout this meticulously maintained, one owner split floor plan home in Ancient Oaks. Don't let this one get away! MLS #A4208231 **\$274,900**



Updated NW Bradenton pool home! This home offers a brand-new, exceptionally designed kitchen, fresh paint (inside and out) and new tile flooring. MLS #A4207789 **\$315,000**



Upgrades can be found throughout this well maintained 3 bed/2 bath home on a premium preserve lot in the desirable Creekside Preserve gated community. MLS #A4207987 **\$253,000**



Fantastic opportunity to own this executive home on a half-acre preserve lot in Greyhawk Landing! This elegant home is ideal for entertaining with an abundance of living space. MLS #A4183555 **\$475,000**



Come live the carefree lifestyle and enjoy the many amenities Forest Creek has to offer! This low maintenance, 2bed/2.5bath townhome is move-in ready! MLS #A4187680 **\$192,000**



Flowering tropicals greet you as you enter this pristine zero-step entry, wheelchair accessible, nearly new single-story home with designer level upgrades! MLS #A4193486 **\$362,500**