



Parrish Village News

Published by the Parrish Civic Association

For an electronic copy of this newspaper, please visit www.ParrishFlorida.info

In this issue of the *Parrish Village News*



Great recipes for February! See page 5.



Ralph visits Ortona, Italy. See page 5.



Bob recommends St. Valentine's Day wines on page 11.



Andrea tells us to "Be Brave" on page 12.



Julie gives us some hints on contentment on page 28.

**Parrish Civic Association
General Meeting
Thursday, February 20
Parrish YMCA**

Parrish Civic Association General Meeting: Thursday, February 20, Information Tables - 6:30 - 7:00 pm; Presentations on Gamble Creek Development and Neighborhood Action Plan, Election of Officers, Fire Department Update - 7:00 pm; 8:00 - Opportunity to talk at Information Tables. Light snacks and beverages.

Volume 27, Issue 1

January 2020 FREE

2020 Heritage Day Festival/Chili Cook Off on March 7

You can buy tickets online and at Parrish 7 Eleven and YMCA

The 2020 Parrish Heritage Day Parade, Festival, and Chili Cook Off will be held on Saturday March 7 and for the many of new and long-time residents who have never attended, you really should give it a try. Tickets are only \$10 (\$8 if you buy them early at the Parrish Y or Parrish 7 Eleven) and this year they are available on-line at www.parrishchili.com. Kids 12 and under get in free.

The parade starts at 10:30 am and runs north on 121st Avenue ending at the festival. Gates to the festival open at 11:00 am and like last year, we will have free parking in the big lot behind Parrish United Methodist Church where you can catch a free shuttle to the event. You can enter the parking lot either off of 121st or 69th and there will be signs directing you to the parking.

We are running six shuttles between the parking lot at the church and railroad museum with the first one leaving the parking lot at 10:45 am and the last one returning to the parking area at 4:00 pm. Last year, many families took advantage of the shuttle arriving at the parking area early to get a good spot to watch the parade and then catch the shuttle to the event. The Festival and Chili Cook Off are held at the Florida Railroad Museum located at 12210 83rd Street East and, because of construction on a new building, parking on the Museum grounds will be limited to chili teams and judges, vendors and handicapped individuals.

When you enter the event through the main gate, you will be given a ticket with a map of the festival area and 28 numbered boxes on the back. You will show this ticket at each chili team booth to get a free sample of their chili and after you have finished sampling chili, you can use this ticket to vote for your favorite chili by putting it in a jar at the selected team's booth.

This year, we are trying something new in the chili team's area. Instead of two long lines of chili team tents, we are arranging the team's tents in groups of four. This gives access to the teams from two sides of their tent, thus reducing the lines that sometimes build up. The teams are set up near the stage where we have two bands providing live music and several dance and cheer groups performing during band breaks.

Formal judging of the chili takes place at 10:30 am with the winners announced at 3:15 pm after People's Choice votes are counted. In addition to best chili, there are awards for People's Choice (attendees get to vote for what they think is the best chili), Spirit Award (team that shows the most enthusiasm) and Showmanship (team that really puts on a great show).

If you want something other than chili, there will be various food vendors with a variety of offerings for sale and in addition to water and wine, the Bud-



weiser tent will offer several beers.

Other vendors will offer a variety of items and services for sale and most will also have a game for their visitors to play. One of the biggest draws each year is a ride on the Museum's train where for \$3 everyone gets a ride up the rails and back. There is also a working model train display for everyone to enjoy. There is a petting zoo, pony rides and a bungee jump and rock climbing wall, along with the Parrish Firefighters challenge for kids and the Y obstacle course. There are even some antique cars this year to enjoy.

So there are lots of fun things for everyone to enjoy. We encourage you to bring a chair to set up as you eat some food, listen to music or just enjoy watching the people have a good time. The best part of the entire event is proceeds go to The Parrish Foundation Grant Fund which each year provides grants to small not for profit corporations serving our Parrish area. Last year's grants brought our total to just over \$250,000 in grants awarded in just eight years. So by coming out for the Chili Cook Off and Festival you are having a good time while supporting our GREAT community. See you on Saturday, March 7th at the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish!

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Parrish Heritage Day Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off



Parade starts at 10:30 AM
on 121st Avenue
Festival and Chili Cook Off
at the Florida Railroad Museum
12210 83rd Street East, Parrish
Gates open at 11:00 AM

Advance tickets may be purchased at the Parrish 7 Eleven (cash only) and the Parrish Y.

Chili Tasting from over 25 Teams,
Train Rides, Rock Climbing Wall, Kid's Maze,
Kid's Bungee Trampoline, Antique Cars,
Live Music with 2 Bands, Food and Drinks,
Pie Eating Contest, Vendors! Fun for Everyone!!!!
Bring Your Lawn Chairs and Enjoy the Event!

Great News on Parking!!!!!!
Due to construction at the railroad, parking there will only be with a permit or handicap sticker. Public parking is in the big field behind the Parrish United Methodist Church. There will be free shuttle service from this lot to and from the railroad.

All proceeds go to
The Parrish Foundation Grant Fund.
Grants were recently awarded to the following
organizations who serve the Parrish Community and residents:

Friends of Rocky Bluff Library, Parrish Y,
Florida Railroad Museum, Parrish Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts,
Manatee County Youth Rowing, Take Stock in Children, METV,
Ellenton - Parrish Lions Club, Meals on Wheels PLUS, Manatee County 4 H,
Parrish Charter Academy, Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida,
Parenting Matters, Farmhouse Animal & Nature,
Parrish United Methodist Church Food Pantry, Tidewell Hospice,
and Parrish Playworks



We thank our terrific sponsors for 2020!



Storytelling Festival
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Food
Character Parades

See Page 33

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Parrish Community

Planning for the Growth and Development of Parrish

by Mimi Sheffer

The Mellgren Planning Group was selected to work with Manatee County and the Parrish community to create a Neighborhood Action Plan for the Village of Parrish. In January of 2019, they participated in an open meeting at the Parrish United Methodist Church to gather information and ideas about what issues were important to local citizens. Further study took place as well as interviews and input from members of the community.

The plan's purpose was to identify community needs and priorities, conduct an analysis for the suitability of development, and assess the market and trade conditions.

The group was tasked with developing a conceptual plan and establishing strategies for implementation of the plan. The three primary goals of the NAP were business and economic development, improvements in infrastructure and creating public spaces with a plan to make those spaces accessible and vibrant.

In September, the Mellgren Planning Group presented their Neighborhood Action Plan findings to the County, stating that the NAP was a "product of committed community planning efforts by the Parrish Village citizens and Manatee County Neighborhood Services Department. The two joined forces to coordinate a citizen-driven improvement effort using the neighborhood action plan process."

Parrish is experiencing massive growth and development. The report highlighted the importance of planning for employment centers for the future viability of the Parrish community. The suggestion was made for a public-private partnership for the coordination and facilitation of the planned redevelopment of the Village of Parrish.

Parrish Central Park will be an 'anchor' in the redevelopment area, located close to the new Parrish Community High School, and serve as green space and community recreation area. A collaboration with the YMCA was suggested for the area.

A Main Street project has been suggested, comprised of shopping and dining venues, to serve as a second anchor. Infrastructure improvements need to be made to the water and



sewer system, updates and improvements to the area's sidewalks and realignments and changes to some of the roadways.

There are several academic campuses that will soon be built in Parrish, forming an academic 'corridor'. This provides an opportunity to create partnerships to preserve land and create historic and cultural areas.

The Mellgren Reort represents a plan to incorporate the growth and development of the Parrish area with planned community spaces, providing green space and recreation areas while preserving the culture and rich history of the Village of Parrish.

Local Business Owner's Book Featured By Forbes

Parrish business owner Mimi Sheffer, recently co-authored Behind the Scenes: Secrets from the Top Coaches, Experts and Consultants. This professional development book was featured by Forbes in a January 9, 2020 article titled, 20 Books That Will Make You a Better Coach or Mentor. Mimi Sheffer, in collaboration with 23 other professionals contributed their expertise to encourage and inspire professionals building a team or business. The book offers advice on a host of topics – such as avoiding common pitfalls as a business owner, methods to develop a positive mental outlook, mastering the mindset game, and how to translate your skills to a workable business. This book inspires readers to take ownership of their thinking and harness it for good. Any business owner looking to launch their message, grow sales, and scale their business should read this book.

"It was an honor to be invited to participate in this collaborative project and I learned so much from working with the other authors," said Mimi. "To hit best-seller status and be featured in Forbes is proof that if you step out of your comfort zone to try new things, you allow yourself the opportunity to exceed your own expectations."

CEO Tip Talks offers a variety of services to help small-to-medium-size businesses with their marketing and social media. From Public Relations to Consultation and Strategy Sessions, Done-For-You Social Media Management and Graphic Imaging, the company is designed to help businesses and professionals develop strategies to brand and grow your business and portfolio using social media, advertising, e-mail marketing and imaging.

Mimi and her family have lived in the Parrish community for almost 20 years. She serves on the Board of the Parrish Civic Association, and is a contributing writer for the Parrish Village News.

#PCAOneVoice
To join the PCA fill out the membership form below.

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.)

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone No. _____ Email Address _____
(Information is for PCA use only. We do not give out or sell to outside parties.)

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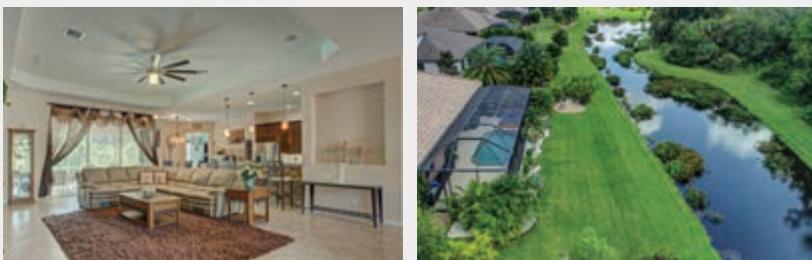
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Cooking with Cookie

Recipes for the Holidays

Sometimes you just want to do some cooking! The weather is cooler and food sounds good. Try these for this leap-year month!

Corn Fritter Appetizers

- 3 cups oil (for frying)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. white sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 Tbsp. shortening, melted
- 1 (12-oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained

Heat oil in heavy pot to 365 degrees F. In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Beat together egg, milk and melted shortening; stir into flour mixture. Mix in corn kernels. Drop fritter batter by spoonfuls into hot oil and fry until golden. Drain on paper towels. Yield: 12 fritters.

Breakfast Casserole

- 1 pound bulk pork sausage
- 1 (32-oz.) package frozen potato rounds
- 10 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 8 oz. Colby Jack cheese, grated
- 8 slices bacon, cooked crisp and drained

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray 13 x 9-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Heat a non-stick skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add the sausage to the skillet and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned; drain and set aside. Place potato rounds in baking dish. Arrange cooked sausage evenly over potatoes. Beat eggs with milk in medium bowl. Pour egg mixture over potatoes and sausage. Sprinkle cheese over eggs. Crumble bacon over cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 40 minutes or until eggs are set and dish has cooked through. Uncover and bake an additional 10 minutes. Yield: 6 servings.

Slow Cooker Pasta Fagioli (pictured at right)

- 1 pound lean ground beef, browned and grease drained
- 1 (15-oz.) can Kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (15-oz.) can cannelloni beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5-oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (10-oz.) bag of frozen bell peppers, onion and celery
- 1 (24-oz.) jar marinara sauce



- 1 (32-oz.) carton of chicken stock
- 1 cup uncooked elbow noodles

Add drained and rinsed beans to slow cooker with undrained can of tomatoes. Add browned ground beef, frozen vegetables, pasta sauce, and chicken stock to slow cooker. Stir well and let simmer on low for 6 to 8 hours. Before serving add uncooked noodles and stir well. Let noodles cook for 15 minutes in the soup or until tender. Serve immediately. Yield: 8 servings.

Chicken Marsala

- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 dried oregano
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, pounded to 1/4-inch thick
- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup Marsala wine
- 1/4 cup cooking sherry

In a shallow dish, mix together flour, salt, pepper and oregano. Coat chicken in flour mixture. In a large skillet, melt butter in oil over medium heat. Place chicken in pan and lightly brown. Turn over chicken pieces and add mushrooms. Pour in wine and sherry. Cover skillet; simmer for 10 minutes, turning once. Yield: 4 servings.

Peanut Butter Cup Trifle

- 4 cups cold milk
- 2 packages (3.9-oz.) instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 angel food cake, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 carton (12-oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 packages (8-oz.) Reese's mini peanut butter cups

In large bowl whisk milk and pudding mixes. Let stand 2 minutes. In a 3 quart trifle bowl, layer half the cake cubs, pudding, whipped topping and peanut butter cups. Repeat layers. Refrigerate until serving. Yield: 12 servings.

Enjoy and bon appetit!

Ortona, Italy

Ralph Bellrose



Photograph showing the deep water port of Ortona, Italy

Most of the towns and cities on the east coast of Italy are relatively unknown to travelers and tourists. Although they were founded and ruled by the Romans, they became part of the Byzantine Empire under Constantine and with the exception of Venice, didn't enjoy the prestige, history and wealth of western cities such as Rome, Naples, Florence and Genoa.

Ortona started as a Bronze Age settlement. It became a strategic seaport under the Romans because it was one of the few deep-water harbors on the Italian Adriatic coast. In 1258 the relics of the Apostle Thomas were brought to Ortona from the Greek island of Skyros and interred in the Cathedral of San Tommaso. When the Kingdom of Italy was established in 1860, Ortona became one of Italy's first Adriatic resorts. It remained a peaceful, quiet getaway until World War II when things changed dramatically.

Late in 1943, the Allies began the "Italian Campaign". It was designed to draw Italian troops from other parts of Europe, divert German troops from France and prepare for the major invasion at Normandy. Canadian and British forces fought their way up the east coast of Italy until they reached the Moro River near Ortona. Ortona's deep water harbor was needed to accommodate larger ships and shorten the "Allied" lines of supply. It was here that the Germans decided to make a stand. They deployed two war-hardened, elite paratroop divisions against a relatively untested Canadian division. It was brutal house to house, close quarters combat. Those who fought in the battle nicknamed it the "Italian Stalingrad". The Germans had hidden machine guns, booby traps and anti-tank weapons throughout the rubble of the town, making advances by tanks and infantry very difficult. The Canadians employed a clever technique called "Mouse-holing", which involved blowing holes in the walls of adjoining buildings, allowing soldiers to advance without having to use the streets, thus avoiding enemy fire. After eight days of fierce fighting, the Germans finally withdrew. The Canadians suffered over 1400 casualties, which represented almost 25% of all the Canadians killed during the entire "Italian Campaign." You can still see bullet holes in some of the older buildings that survived. A cemetery just outside the town holds many of the brave Canadians who died here and a plaque in a plaza near the city center memorializes their sacrifice.

After a brief tour of the old town, and a visit to the Cathedral and the war museum, we boarded our ship and sailed to our next stop, Comacchio.

Please see **Ortona** CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



Map showing location of Ortona on the eastern coast of Italy.

Recent Activities at Buffalo Creek Middle School

Math Classes Use "Snack Math" to Learn



Mrs. Murphy's Math classes made "Snack Math" using plotting, graphing and ratios. So fun!



Buffalo Creek FFA Shows Well at Manatee County Fair



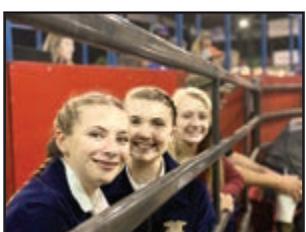
Our Buffalo Creek FFA Hawks had a fantastic showing at the Manatee County Fair, earning several ribbons. Way to go Hawks!

Geometry Students Use 3 D



Our Geometry students showed off their amazing 3-D projects under the leadership of our very own Mrs. Fugate!

More Kudos to FFA Students at Fair



Our Buffalo Creek Middle School FFA students worked hard at the Manatee County Fair in January. They earned several ribbons for their efforts.

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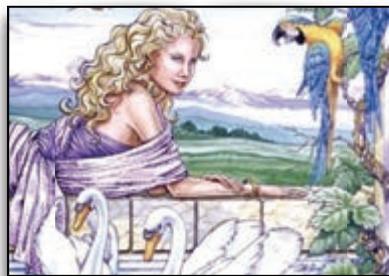
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FINE ART CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE IN PARRISH & ELLENTON AREA

Local Resident Artist - **Barbara H. Hart** is now taking reservations for students.



All Art Copyright
Barbara H. Hart



Born in the spectacular countryside of New Zealand, Barbara H. Hart has traveled extensively. She chose our diverse area with it's historic charm and friendly people 5 years ago to enjoy semi-retirement.

Her career in Fine Art, Graphic Design and Architectural & Interior Design, has enabled her to work and create along her adventurous pathway.

Creator of many commissions, large and small, public and private, across the nation and internationally, her Art has been displayed as well in Galleries in several States. Despite much artistic acclaim you will find her down to earth, humble and willing to guide you in your own artistic ventures.

From basic drawing to painting in all genres and all media, private group parties or individual and private lessons are available for young and old alike. You can sign up today for Monday classes: February 10, 17 & 24 from 1 - 4 pm.

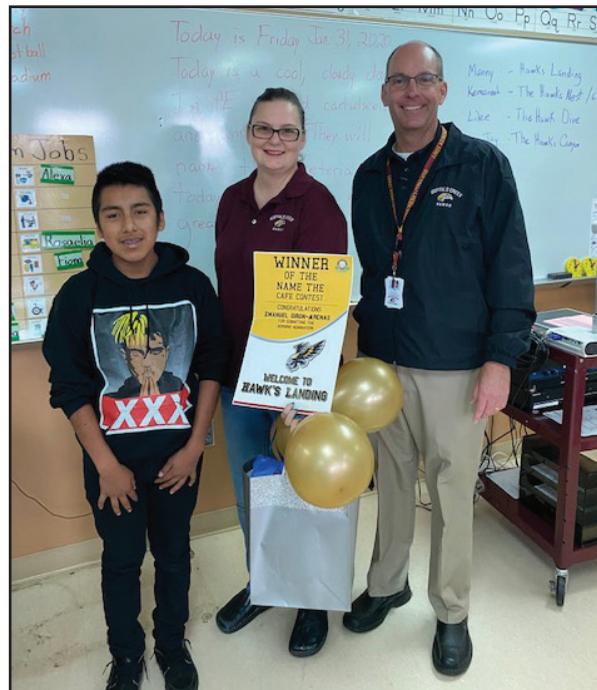
Call or text Barbara H. Hart, Artist for information & to reserve a class: 720.878.2500

View a selection of Barbara's Art and Classes at - www.FaceBook.com/bhhartist/

You'll find inspiring Art by Jerri Anne Phillips, Linda Howe, Hao Penghe, Wilma Kroese, Barbara Hart and local guest artists at -

GUITAR & ART STUDIO of John & Jerri Phillips
8251 US Hwy 301 N, Parrish. (Next to Raven Pizza)

BCMS Student Names School Cafeteria



Emanuel picked a new name for the Buffalo Creek Middle School cafeteria, Hawk's Landing it is! He won a new Ipad for his creative new name.



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Rotary Club of Parrish News



On January 9th, the Parrish Rotary Club welcomed Eddie Robinette of the Manatee River Rotary Club as their speaker. Mr. Robinette founded Escuelas Hermanas over 10 years ago. Escuelas Hermanas is a sister school program between students in Manatee County and the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala.

Participating schools in Manatee County are Wakeland Elementary, Johnson Middle School and Southeast High School. Likewise, the elementary, middle and high schools are supported by the program in Guatemala. Mr. Robinette, along with teachers, students and fellow Rotarians visit the Alta Veracruz schools at least twice per year to support the mission of Escuelas Hermanas. Spanish is the official language of Guatemala even though 65% of the population is Mayan and speak one of over 20 regional dialects. The native language spoken by the Alta Verapaz students bears no resemblance to Spanish. Mr. Robinette shared that one of the big challenges facing the Guatemalan students is making them fluent in Spanish so as to enable them to go on to productive careers. In this regard, the program curriculums are bilingual. Several of the students supported by Escuelas Hermanas have gone on to graduate from college and pursue professional careers such as teaching.

In addition to supporting education, Manatee River Rotary has funded and supports a program to install toilets, water filtration systems and solar lights in Alta Verapaz. Of note is the fact that the elementary school has no electricity. Mr. Robinette is seeking individuals and members of other area Rotary Clubs to join in supporting the mission of Escuelas Hermanas in other Guatemalan communities. For as little as \$3,500.00, it is possible to initiate such an undertaking.

In other news, Mariana Rojas, with the support of the Rotary Club of Parrish, has been selected as a Foreign Exchange Student and has been assigned to France for the upcoming 2020 - 2021 school year and will be departing in July. We are very excited for her. Mariana is currently a sophomore at Manatee School of the Arts.

As of this writing, the Rotary of Parrish is preparing for **Parrish Under the Stars** on February 1st, this being our 2nd annual event at the Florida Railroad Museum. We anticipate a spectacular night of food, drink, dancing and fun. The proceeds from this event will fund our club's pet project Ramp-Up, providing ramps for mobility-challenged individuals in our community.

Guests are always welcome for regular meetings of the club on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 5:30 pm. We enjoy dinner, fellowship and a guest speaker at Riviera Dunes Dockside Restaurant, 102 Riviera Dunes Way in Palmetto.

For contact information, see our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RotaryClubof-Parrish, ParrishRotary.org or email us at ParrishRotary@gmail.com.

The Grumpy Old Geezer

The Joys of Mobile Technology

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

I was watching reruns of NYPD Blue on Hulu the other day. Where do these companies get these names? Hulu, Uber, Google and the like. Seems strange.

Anyway, time and again the detectives were unable to reach one another or the suspects once they left the confines of the office. I instinctively wanted to say, "Hey, don't waste time, why don't you just call them on their mobile phone?" Then I remembered – the series was shot in the 90's, prior to the introduction of mobile technology.

I can clearly remember the first time I ever encountered a telephone that was not attached to a cable in a building. I jumped into the shotgun seat of my friend's Lincoln and there it sat – right on the floorboard between us. It was the size of a normal desk set phone anchored to the floor in some type of mechanical cradle. Back then they were called "car phones" and I was dumfounded.



My first personal mobile phone was a prototype provided to me by my employer in 1991 when I accepted a position in Washington, D.C. requiring that I be available 24/7. It was a grey "flip phone" that weighed a little more than a pound. Pretty neat, and it worked reasonably well, except that prolonged use resulted in its emitting a significant amount of heat. Significant! Which caused me some concern as to the safety of the darn thing. And the price for this amazing piece of new technology - \$2,500. Cash or check.

Since then, like most folks, I've been through a plethora of mobile phones. I've had Blackberries, flip phones and, of course, smart phones. I prefer the mechanics of a flip, but I enjoy the versatility of a smart phone. Basically, a computer in your hand that allows you to communicate as well. Someday they'll perfect a smart phone with flip action technology. But, alas, I fear that day is still pretty far off. Like maybe two years.

Like most people limited to the skills of the Baby Boomer Generation, I struggle at times to use the darn thing. My (computer genius) son recommended an iPhone some years ago and I switched. As he suggested the iPhone was pretty straightforward to use. Intuitive he said. So, I remained a satisfied customer for many years. But recently I decided to attempt to navigate the choppy waters of the Android.



Androids are a bit more complicated. Temperamental like a great diva. Wonderful when functioning fully, but a bit difficult at times requiring strategic thought. The problem is, of course, that you have to basically understand and think like a smart phone. Once you get the lay of the land you'll be OK. But searching for the right answers and learning the secret handshake can, and often is, frustrating.

It takes a while to learn the rules. What's the difference between Wi-Fi and Bluetooth? Why does it charge faster on Airplane mode? Why does every phone come with its own limited set of ringtones? Why is it if I set the phone on Do Not Disturb, I still get all those annoying Notifications?

My kids love Notifications. I don't know why. Frankly, I want information when I want it. And I don't want someone, or an inanimate object, tapping me on the shoulder every few seconds with some forgettable bulletin. "Rosie O'Donnell has a lot to say regarding...." Ugh.

Here's something that makes me nuts. The phone has a setting for the sensitivity of touch on its desktop surface. You can set it to be less sensitive to avoid pocket calling. But

Please see **The Grumpy Old Geezer** CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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Make Your Valentine's Date Sparkle

The year-end holidays are over and we're already looking ahead to the next one. The charming holiday of love and relationships... St. Valentine's Day.

St. Valentine's Day has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing of women with men by lottery. Wow, that must have been interesting. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I replaced Lupercalia with St. Valentine's Day.

There is no clear historical record as to the identity of the original St. Valentine. Regardless, formal valentine messages first appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used.

Valentine gifts typically take the form of chocolate candy and flowers. But as your wine guy, I'm going to suggesting something a little different, and every bit as spectacular and sexy... sparkling wine. And one American sparkler in particular... Gruet.

Sparkling wine is the wine of celebration. A new year... a new job... a wedding... all are occasions for the merriest of wine. Gruet is an excellent bubbly, unheard of by most consumers but typically appearing year after year on Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wine Values of the Year. Heralded for its crisp and refreshing brut-style, Gruet is a wine that I have happily introduced to both customers and readers since 1998.

The Story of Gruet

Born in Bethon, France, a village located in the revered region of Champagne, the late Gilbert Gruet began his winemaking career on land given to him by his father. Along with his wife, Danielle, the couple established the Bethon-based Gruet et Fils in 1967, focusing on their dream to make fine Champagne. It was at Gruet et Fils that Gilbert's son Laurent, Gruet's current head winemaker, first got his winemaking chops.

In the early 1980s European winemakers were buying up land in California, Gilbert began exploring the United States' winemaking regions with an eye toward expansion. Surprisingly he joined a number of other French vintners who were experimenting in the Southwest and ultimately decided to stake his claim in - New Mexico. That's right



folks, right up close to Albuquerque.

In 1983, the Gruets purchased a small vineyard close to the town of Truth or Consequences that would become the foundation for the famous winery. A year later Laurent and his sister Nathalie (the company's current president) moved to New Mexico to help make their dad's vision come true. In 1989, Gruet debuted two sparkling wines in the U.S. market.

Winemaking in New Mexico

There had been a long-standing tradition of wine grape growing in New Mexico for centuries, mostly from a variety called the Mission Grape. However, virtually all of Gruet's wines are made from the traditional blending of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, and in some cases Pinot Meunier.

It may seem odd that the American Southwest appealed to a Champagne maker, but central and southern New Mexico offer an environment where Pinot Noir and Chardonnay could thrive. The dry New Mexico air and windy conditions help to keep grape rot and pests at bay, while hot days tempered by chilly nights work to prolong the growing season and preserve acidity in the grapes.

The Méthode Champenoise (Champagne method) or the Méthode Traditionnel (traditional method), is considered to be the classic method of producing sparkling wine. After secondary fermentation has taken place in the bottle, the winemaker uses riddling, a time-consuming method in

which each bottle is slowly inverted, in order to disgorge the dead yeast cells, known as the "lees." All of this occurs in the original bottle that ultimately arrives on your table. The result is a clear, sparkling wine.

But Gruet maintains French connections (yes, pun intended). In addition to using equipment from France, Gruet sends samples of its wine for analysis to Dominique Leboeuf, a longtime family friend. Leboeuf, an oenologist for nearly 30 years in Champagne, is also a sparkling wine consultant and conducts lab analysis for luxury Champagne houses, including Moët & Chandon.

In 2013, in an attempt to diversify its agricultural holdings, the Pueblo of Santa Ana partnered with Gruet in planting and distribution of a 30-acre vineyard located only a few miles north of Albuquerque. Owned and managed by the Santa Ana Pueblo, an indigenous American tribe, the mile-high vineyard named Tamaya has helped fulfill Gruet's growing need for new sources of grapes, while also creating jobs for the community.

The Wine

Gruet produces a full-range of sparkling wines including Brut, Blanc de Blanc, Blanc de Noir and Brut Rosé. They are absolutely delightful. You can find them at many local wine stores for between \$16 - \$22. And while I am not saying that Gruet sparklers compare favorably to high priced Champagne, I am saying they compare quite admirably to most American sparklers - and better than many.

More importantly, a chilled bottle of Gruet Rosé Sparkling Wine makes for a wonderful beginning to a successful Valentine's Day date. Surprise that certain someone with an icy cold glass of bubbly. Love and laughter will result.

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Be Brave

Do you consider yourself brave? Neither did I. Not until I started to assess the world around me and decide that I was going to step up to the challenge of making it a better place. Where can I start? How can I do it? These are the questions I ask myself and that you should ask yourself as well. Asking the questions is just part of the equation. Answering the question is the other part...the other difficult part.

The definition of bravery is "the quality or state of having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty." I bet that you can find a part of your life that falls into one of these categories. Most of us can relate to fears and difficulties because we face them daily to varying degrees. Some are big, some are small, but they are always there.

So many times in life you are going to be stuck in a downward slide. You may be ill, suffering a financial demise, dealing with a broken relationship, coping with abuse or disappointment. You will only see dark side and it will be scary. But you can get through it. You must remind yourself that there is light ahead. It may take time for your heart to mend, or to repair the damage, but you will because giving up is not an option.

Martial arts taught me a lot about bravery. My first class was incredibly difficult for me. I looked around at the participants and thought that there was no way I could ever do any of it. I felt insecurity creeping in, and it required every inch of bravery for me to try it. It was one of the first times in my life that I decided to push through and not give up because of fear or worry. This pivotal moment in my life changed who I was forever.

As a beginner in martial arts, I discovered many truths about myself. One is that you are capable of so much more than you ever realize. Another is that when you learn something step by step, from beginning to end, you can succeed. Also, everyone learns at a different pace. The fast learners seem the best, but the learners who are slow and steady are committed. I also discovered that confidence is the key to success in many, many situations, including self-defense, professional advancement, living a positive life, and more. The kicking, punching, and blocking and physical training were the steppingstone that taught me everything that I needed to know about life.

Am I brave all the time? No, not even close. But I am brave a lot more often now than when I was before I learned martial arts. You and I will always allow fears or insecurities to stop us from being who we want to be on occasion. Now we know that we have

a choice - a braver choice - and we will reap rewards far greater than we ever imagined because of it.

You may only think that superheroes in the movies are brave. Look around. There are so many brave people around you. If you take a moment to think about it, you will quickly realize that their bravery helps you. Their example can guide you. You will finally understand the lesson and that is that you can choose bravery, too, in your own way and in your own time. Do not let situations control you but control them. Decide what outcome you want. Focus on how the moment can be positive. Push your fear to confidence. Stand tall and face the challenges knowing that you can break through to something better. Are you brave? Well, I guess that's up to you.

Here is my answer to that difficult question and my advice to you. Be strong. Be true. Be brave.



Andrea F. Harkins
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Read more by Andrea at:
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February at Rocky Bluff Library

Talk about a “packed calendar” at Rocky Bluff Library. We really have one for February. From Family Movies to Creative Aging Art Series, Sewing to Little Known African American History, the Rocky Bluff Library Book Club, a Valentine’s Day Card Program to aThe Gulf Coast Flute Choir - it’s all there and more!

Technical Help on Saturdays

Technical help for your cell phone, smart pad, electronic book device or other electronic devices will be offered on Saturday, **February 1 and 15**. You can stop by the library between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. Just bring in your portable device and let some technical folks help you answer your questions one-on-one! Don’t let these electronic machines baffle you. It’s wonderful.



Creative Aging Art Series

Offered previously and back by popular demand the Creative Aging Art Series is sponsored by the Friends of Rocky Bluff Library.

The library offers professional development opportunities and public programs that encourage community conversation on arts engagement, dementia awareness and creative aging through hands-on workshops, lectures and films.

This is a series of four sessions offered for ages 50+ individuals. It is scheduled for Tuesdays on February 5 and 12. Registrations is required and seating is limited. Stop by the library get registered ASAP.



Rocky Bluff Book Club

The book for February is *We Must Be Brave* by Frances Liardet. The discussion is on Wednesday, February 12 at 6:00 pm.

This book spans the sweep of the twentieth century. It explores the fierce love that we feel for our children and the power of that love to endure. Beyond distance, beyond time, beyond life itself.

One woman. One little girl. The war that changed everything.

December 1940. In the disorderly evacuation of Southampton, England, newly married Ellen Parr finds a small child asleep on the backseat of an empty bus. No one knows who little Pamela is.

Ellen professed not to want children with her older husband, and when she takes Pamela into her home and rapidly into her heart, she discovers that this is true: Ellen doesn’t want children. She wants only Pamela. Three golden years pass as the Second World War rages on. Then one day Pamela is taken away, screaming. Ellen is no stranger to sorrow, but when she returns to the quiet village life she’s long lived, she finds herself asking: In a world changed by war, is it fair to wish for an unchanged heart?

In the spirit of *We Were the Lucky Ones* and *The Nightingale*, here is a novel about courage and kindness, hardship and friendship, and the astonishing power of love.

Read the book and come to the discussion.



Wednesday Film Time

The film, *Where'd You Go Bernadette*, is offered on Wednesday, February 12 at 2:00 pm.

Based on the 2012 best-selling novel by Maria Semple and directed by Richard Linklater (*Boyhood*), the movie tells the story of an agoraphobic, eccentric architect, and mother who up and vanishes, leaving her 15-year-old daughter to crack the case and come find her. Emma Nelson stars as Bernadette’s daughter Bee, while Billy Crudup takes on the role of her husband, Elgie, and Kristen Wiig plays interfering neighbor Audrey. Lawrence Fishburne, Judy Greer, James Urbaniak and Troian Bellisario also star.



Trivia Time at the Library

A popular activity at Rocky Bluff Library is Trivia Time. In February it’s scheduled for Thursday, the 13th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Either come with your own team or match up with others who attend. You’ll have a great time trying to answer the questions. This event is offered once a month and has become very popular.

Hours of Operation

Hours of operation at the library 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.**

Don’t forget that you can borrow from the Library’s Library of Things.

See you at Rocky Bluff!

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Their spring Book Sale is a little more than a month away - from march 25 through March 28 and they always need more books to sell at bargain prices. All proceeds from the Book Sale go right back to Rocky Bluff Library to fund the library's programs and projects - like the Lunch and Learn Programs, Trivia Night, new furniture and items for the library and other special programs.

Just bring the books to the library and give to one of the staff members. The Friends appreciate your donation - and come to the Book Sale and purchase some books for your self that you have not read!

FEBRUARY QUOTATION
"February is always a bad month for TV sports. Football is almost gone, basketball is plodding along in the annual midseason doldrums, and baseball is not even mentioned."
 -----Hunter S. Thompson

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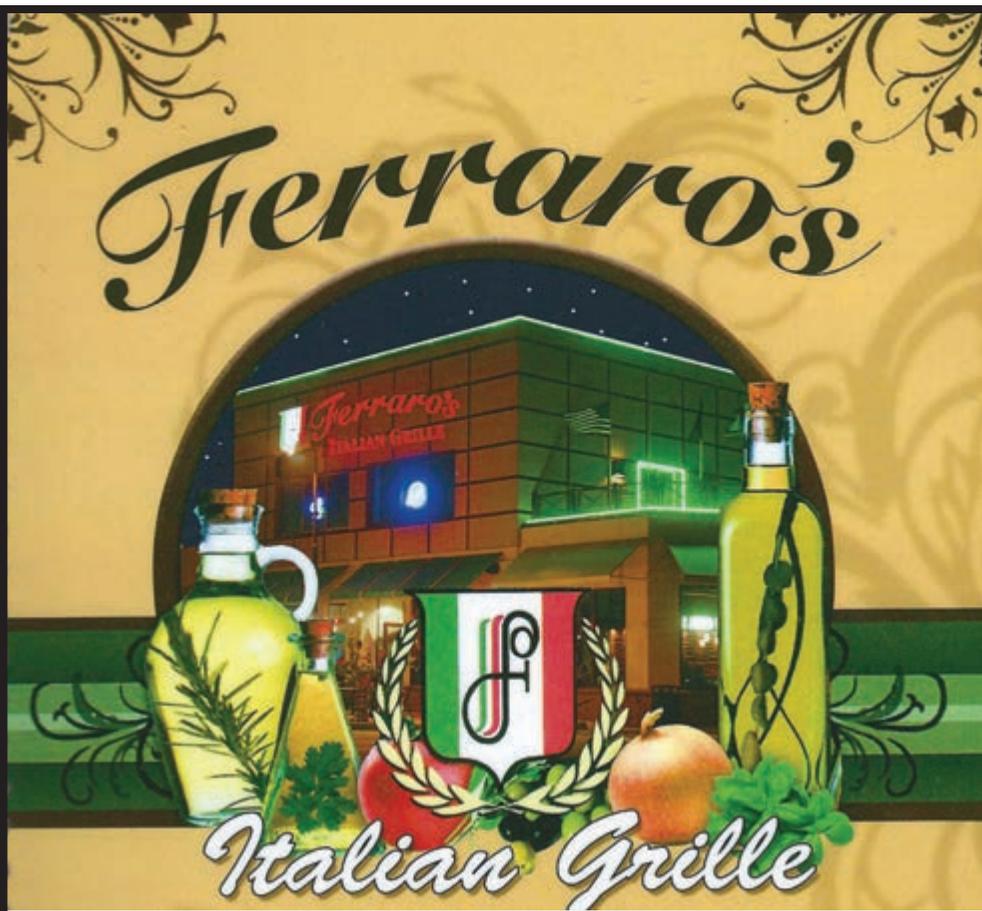


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February Trivia

What's up for 2020: Leap Year?
Here are some questions for February which will test your trivia power.



- Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?
- Which was Shakespeare's most romantic play?
- What kind of flowers are traditionally given to symbolize love?
- What other gift sometimes accompanies a bouquet of red roses?
- What was first created by Pope Gelasius in 500 AD, then deleted from the Roman Calendar of Saints by Pope Paul VI in 1969?
- "Valentine" was the name given to which kind of early Christians?
- What day is Valentine's Day held on?
- According to *Legenda Aurea*, or *The Golden Legend*, a fictional work, written by Jacobus de Voragine around 1260 AD, who wrote the very first Valentine's message on the eve of his execution?
- Who did the fictional St. Valentine send his message to?
- What had St. Valentine done for his jailer's daughter?
- What was the fictional St. Valentine being executed for?
- As well as being the unofficial patron saint of love, what occupation is St. Valentine also believed to be the patron of?
- The British Museum holds a letter believed to be the oldest valentine still in existence. Who wrote it?
- Today we associate love with the heart, but this wasn't always the case. In medieval times which internal organ was believed to cause love?
- In the 18th century, sailors used to give their wives and girlfriends a "busk valentine." What was this?
- Which Roman god was either depicted as a plump cherub with a bow and arrow, or as a handsome teenager?
- Which Roman goddess was Cupid's mother?
- In Japan, what do women give men on Valentine's Day?
- What is a Vinegar Valentine? Jealous of Psyche's beauty, Venus asked Cupid to make Psyche fall in love with some mean and horrible men, but her plan backfired. What happened instead?
- A poem called *The Parliament of Fowls*, which describes a man's dream of Cupid preparing his arrows in the Temple of Venus, is usually held to be the first cultural link between St. Valentine and romance. Who wrote the poem?

Trivia Answers can be found on page 32.

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Interesting February Dates in History

February 1, 2003 - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members. The accident may have resulted from damage caused during liftoff when a piece of insulating foam from the external fuel tank broke off, piercing a hole in the shuttle's left wing that allowed hot gases to penetrate the wing upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. This was the second space shuttle lost in flight. In January 1986, Challenger exploded during liftoff.

February 3, 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

February 6, 1788 - Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the new U.S. Constitution, by a vote of 187 to 168.

February 9, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

February 12, 1999 - The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton in the U.S. Senate ended. With the whole world watching via television, Senators stood up one by one during the final roll call to vote "guilty" or "not guilty." On Article 1 (charging Clinton with perjury) 55 senators, including 10 Republicans and all 45 Democrats voted not guilty. On Article 2 (charging Clinton with obstruction of justice) the Senate split evenly, 50 for and 50 against the President. With the necessary two-thirds majority not having been achieved, President Clinton was thus acquitted on both charges and served out the remainder of his term of office lasting through January 20, 2001.

February 17, 1909 - Apache Chief Geronimo (1829-1909) died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.

February 21, 1972 - President Richard Nixon arrived in China for historic meetings with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai.

February 23, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

February 24, 1867 - The House of Representatives voted to impeach President Andrew Johnson. The vote followed bitter opposition by the Radical Republicans in Congress toward Johnson's reconstruction policies in the South. However, the effort to remove him failed in the Senate by just one vote.

February 27, 1950 - The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms or a maximum of ten years in office.

February 2020 Daily Holidays, Special and Wacky Days:



- Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- Candlemas
- Ground Hog Day
- Superbowl Sunday
- The Day the Music Died - Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash in 1959
- Thank a Mailman Day
- National Weatherman's Day
- National Chopsticks Day
- Bubble Gum Day
- Boy Scout Day
- National Pizza Day
- Oscar Night
- Umbrella Day
- Don't Cry over Spilled Milk Day
- Make a Friend Day
- Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- Get a Different Name Day
- Ferris Wheel Day
- Valentine's Day
- National Gum Drop Day
- Singles Awareness Day
- Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- President's Day
- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- National Battery Day
- National Drink Wine Day
- National Chocolate Mint Day
- Cherry Pie Day
- Love Your Pet Day
- Card Reading Day
- George Washington's Birthday
- Be Humble Day
- National Margarita Day
- International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day
- National Tortilla Chip Day
- World Bartender Day
- Mardi Gras /Fat Tuesday
- Pistol Patent Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Carnival Day
- National Pistachio Day
- Tell a Fairy Tale Day
- Polar Bear Day
- No Brainer Day
- Floral Design Day
- National Chili Day
- Public Sleeping Day
- National Tooth Fairy Day
- Leap Day
- Open That Bottle Night



Florida Extension Classes and Activities for February

The Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service is offering a variety of educational classes during February 2020. 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.

New E-mail address for Manatee County Agriculture & Extension: manatee@ifas.ufl.edu

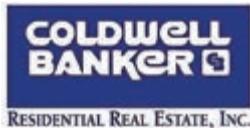
Workshops and Classes Offered by Extension Agents and Master Gardener Volunteers

Register online for classes and workshops at <http://uf-ifas-extension-manatee.eventbrite.com/>

Master Gardener School: Roses in Central Florida: Saturday, February 8, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Extension Office, \$5, Register Online or \$10 in person - Roses are a symbol of love and beauty at Valentines Day. Learn the lore of roses, their storied history, and cultivation in Florida. Included is a visit to the Master Gardeners' Rose Demonstration Garden to emphasize some lessons learned and practical observations on varieties for the area. Register online or call (941) 722-4524, ext. 1820.



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Herb Gardening: Saturday, February 15, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Extension Office, \$5, Register Online or \$10 in person - Start this growing season off with your own herbal garden! Let us introduce you to some of the herbs that thrive in our Florida climate. Explore how to grow them and use in your kitchen. Information will be given on their medicinal values and how they may affect or enhance your health. Register online or call (941) 722-4524, ext. 1820.



Master Gardener School - Growboxes: Saturday, February 22, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Extension Office, \$5, Register Online or \$10 in person - Grow your vegetables and herbs! We'll show you how to make an inexpensive self-watering planter that makes Florida gardening simple. Register online or call (941) 722-4524, ext. 1820.



Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Design Your Landscape to Your Site Conditions: Thursday, February 27, 10:00 am - 11:30 am, Extension Office, \$5, Register Online or \$10 in person - (This class is the first in a series of three workshops in a Florida - Friendly Landscaping™ Series taking place here at Extension in March, April and May. Anyone who attends all three of the classes will receive a free gift at the end of the third class.)

Description: Native plants can be very beautiful and quite beneficial but are still rather underused in the average landscape. They can do a lot to help sustain pollinators and other wildlife. Learn about some of Florida's gorgeous native plants that will work well for your particular area of the county; maybe you'll be inspired to add a few to your own landscape! Register online or call (941) 722-4524, ext. 1820.



Ask an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer!

Visit the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Information table and get answers to your gardening questions.

1st Saturday: Island Library located at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

2nd Saturday: South Manatee Library located at 6081 26th Street West, Bradenton, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

3rd Saturday: Central Library located at 1301 Barcarrota Boulevard West, Bradenton, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm.

2nd & 4th Saturday: Rocky Bluff Library located at 6750 U.S. Highway 301 North, Ellenton, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Or you can visit the Master Gardener Volunteers at the Extension Office. The Plant Diagnostic Clinic is staffed Monday through Friday, (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) and closed on Wednesday.

Educational Gardens - "Monthly Guided Tours"

Monthly guided tours of the Educational Gardens and Greenhouse will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. Guided tours are with certified Extension Master Gardener Volunteers lasting approximately one hour. Call the Master Gardener Plant Diagnostic Clinic to register 941-722-4524.

The gardens illustrate a variety of garden styles and techniques, demonstrate Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles, educate residents about plants that perform well in Florida landscapes, and inspire garden visitors to follow

Please see **Extension** CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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Deb's Helping Hands Expands Business to Include Pets



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Something wonderful continues in Parrish - Deb Carter the owner and operator of small local business in our area, Deb's Helping Hands, LLC! Deb said she has the pleasure of being a pet-sitter, dog-walker and have a doggie daycare in a safe environment her home! She also drives people to appointments like such as doctors, dentists, hair salons and other places. Deb also is a house-sitter!

Deb Carter of Helping Hands.



She started this business almost six years ago and finally found her calling with working with animals! Her love for dogs, cats, birds, turtles, fish and chickens are very special to her, because they are God's creatures! She is very humbled and honored to be part of their lives for all these years!! Her clients say that she is reliable, honest, responsible and a reputable business person in Parrish! She also carries Pet Care Insurance to protect our babies!

Her clients know she stays in touch with them through texting and attaching pictures of their babies! She makes sure that you always know that your pet is safe and happy! She has a free consultation to meet and greet all her new clients!

She has a master's degree in counseling from NY and was a BSC (Behavioral Specialist Consultant) for autistic kids in Pittsburgh! So, she has used her techniques and strategies on her canine clients, if needed! She also works with independent contractors who are pet-sitters, like Cathy Cousin, and dog trainers to assist her clients. She uses a simple formula which is exercise ruled with affection and love! This is how she has a successful business with strong bonds and rapport with all of her animals/clients and helps make your relationship with your pet even stronger.

Please text Deb at 724-816-7693 so she can set up a meet and greet with you and your pet! Deb has been a member of Parrish Professionals for six years and attends every Thursday of the month!

Parrish Professionals networking group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Beefs in Parrish, 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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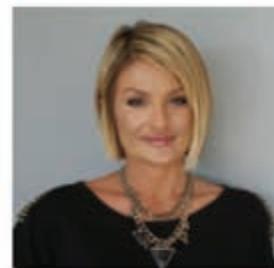
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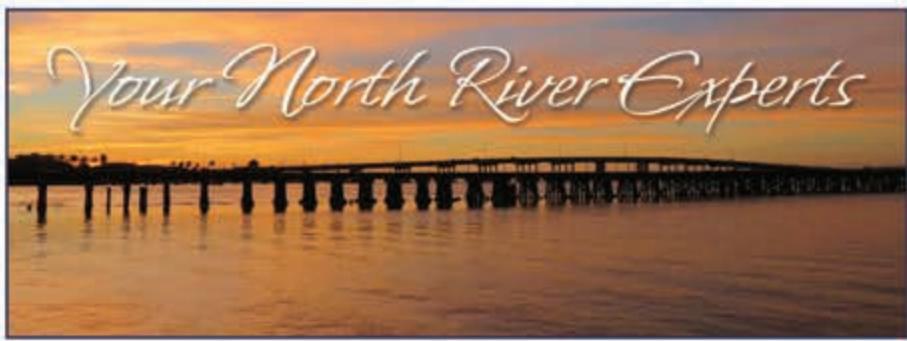
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Acclaimed Music Together® Classes Now To Be Offered in North River

“HalfSteps will offer the internationally-recognized Music Together® program in late January at Major Productions Studio of Dance, located inside the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex,” announced HalfSteps director Tanya Li Roth. Free demonstration classes will be held for children ages 0 to 5 years, and the grown-ups who love them, on Tuesday, January 14. The official 8-week semester of classes starts on January 21 at 5309 29th Street East, Ellenton, Florida 34222. The new North River location is the third location for HalfSteps classes, which includes classes in Lakewood Ranch and West Bradenton. To register for classes, please visit halfsteps.co.



A resident of Parrish, Tanya has been working for more than a year to secure the ideal location for her classes. “I am so proud to be partnering with Tracy Stratman and Major Productions Studio of Dance to now offer classes north of the river. I’m excited to be able to give back to my community in such a positive and long-lasting manner,” shared Tanya.

“When my son was a toddler, I drove 45 minutes to take him to Music Together classes. It was a trek, but it was worth it, since music learning supports so many other developmental areas, including cognitive and language skills,” recalled Tanya. “However, it can be hard for children to be in the car for so long—and it takes away from time they could be spending playing or bonding with their caregivers. My goal is to offer classes in various locations of Manatee County so that no one has to drive more than 20 minutes from home to get to one of our classes.”

Tanya started studying Suzuki violin at the age of 4, and as a lifelong musician, she understands the importance of creating music at home for your little ones. “Nowadays, it’s so easy to rely on ‘Alexa’ to play recorded music for us, but children also need exposure to live music, as the brain processes it differently,” explained Tanya, who also serves on the board of the Manatee Arts Education Council. That can start as early as in the womb, with parents singing lullabies or their favorite songs to their baby. “You don’t need to be an accomplished singer—or even to sing in tune—to help your child develop a love of music.”

About HalfSteps: HalfSteps offers exciting and playful programs, tools, and tips to help children grow into their best selves. HalfSteps offers the internationally-renowned Music Together® program as well as *Canta y Baila Conmigo®*, a Spanish-immersion music and movement program for newborns through age 6. Families are welcome to sign up at halfsteps.co to try a class for free. All babies under 4 months old attend for free until their 16-week birthday. Classes are held in Lakewood Ranch, West Bradenton, and Ellenton.

About Music Together: Music Together is an internationally recognized early childhood music and movement program for children birth through grade two. The Music Together curriculum was coauthored in 1987 by Kenneth K. Guilmartin and Rowan University Professor Emeritus of Music Education Dr. Lili M. Levinowitz, and offers programs for families, schools, at-risk populations, and children with special needs in more than 3,000 communities in over 40 countries. The company is passionately committed to bringing children and their caregivers closer through shared music-making and helping people discover the joy and educational value of early music experiences.

For more information about HalfSteps classes and to register, call 941.545.6965 or visit www.halfsteps.co.

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This Old Building - Sunny Tomatoes

12255 US Highway 301 North, Parrish, Florida

Iris Worth McClain

“This Old Building” has been located in its present site for a number of years. Imprinted in the concrete floor is “1917”. It was originally built for William Mason Tison to run a barbecue stand. However, before he could open the business, he passed away in 1970 while he was chopping wood to cook the barbecue and open the stand.

The stand sat empty for a while until Melva (Gillett) McCall, daughter of Frank B. and Lucy (Cecil) Gillett has the building remodeled and opened it as a fruit stand selling citrus from her groves.

In 2010-11, Tim and Hiedi Brown opened the stand and sold produce to their neighbors in the Parrish (and surrounding communities). Tim and Hiedi grew a lot of their vegetables right behind the stand and the citrus came from their own grove in Myakka. They also had a small petting zoo for the children to enjoy and view how farm animals live. It was located behind the produce stand. They also opened a food truck where they sold sandwiches, ice cream and other food items.

In 2019 Swack Daddy’s ran the produce stand and also offered mullet and other food items on weekends.

Just recently, new owners took over the business - Sunny Tomatoes. Elisa and Ed Chaney (formerly owners of Best Friends Pet Salon in Ellenton) opened Sunny Tomatoes in January.



They still have the animals - precious new born goats, chickens and roosters and other goats who call this place home.

Ed and Elisa have also added plants that you can purchase and offer an assortment of locally grown vegetables and fruits. Elisa makes soaps and lotions and also offers them for sale. They have made numerous improvements to the building and grounds and have big plans for the future.

There aren’t many produce stand around the area and Ed and Elisa are certainly welcomed into the Parrish area. They live not far away in Wimauma.



See additional story on Sunny Tomatoes on page 51.



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.



Iris Worth McClain

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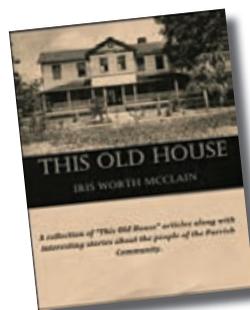
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This Old House, Articles about Parrish Homes and Buildings Is Available for Purchase



You can purchase a compilation of Iris McClain’s articles on “This Old House. Her book, *This Old House*, is available in paperback format. The book tells the stories and recollections of the town with the old houses, buildings, and the people that lived in them, our old churches, schools, post offices, etc. Iris has been writing articles for this newspaper for years. She has now collected them for this book.

The books are available at PJ’S Sandwich Shop, Manatee Village Historical Park and the YMCA in Parrish. A donation of \$10.00 will provide grants for children’s nonprofit organizations in our community to encourage them to participate in the arts.

Get on Board with Parrish Playworks for Murder on the Moonshine Express

Parrish Playworks, Inc. is pleased to collaborate with Florida Railroad Museum for the third year to present the comedic murder mystery, *Murder on the Moonshine Express*. It's the Roaring 20s and Prohibition is in full swing. When things get too hot for Frankie Four-Fingers and his crew from the Chicago Outfit, they come down to Florida to cool off and grab a piece of the local bootleg action. Everybody's invited to this party as Frankie celebrates the grand re-opening of his new speakeasy. Former owner Mama Bear Hunsucker and her family aren't in the mood to celebrate, however, and she's plotting a hostile takeover of her own. Join the mobsters, molls and Mama's family on the train ride out to Willow for a bit of mayhem, moonshine and maybe a -- Murder on the Moonshine Express. It's gonna be a party to die for . . .

The show opens as the train leaves Parrish and continues onstage in the dining tent of the Willow depot as passengers enjoy the catered dinner. On the return trip, the action resumes and passengers turn in their ballots to decide "Who dun it?" before the train rolls into the Parrish station. Guests are invited to join the fun this year by dressing up in Roaring 20s style, and a prize will be awarded for the Best Dressed at each show! Performances run weekends from February 14-16, 21-23, 28-March 1, and March 6-8, 2020. Curtain is at 6:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings, and at 2:00 pm for Saturday and Sunday matinees, and group prices are available.

Written especially for performance on the train, this year's show was authored by Parrish Playworks' director Karen Romant. After deconstructing or adapting mysteries for staging on a moving train for the last two years, Romant decided it might prove easier to write this year's show "from scratch."

"Because Florida Railroad Museum wanted a Roaring 20s show to celebrate its 20th year in operation in Parrish, we explored what was going on in our area during Prohibition." Romant explains, "Then we took an imaginative dramatic leap from there. We try to include some local references and cultural history in the original stories we perform, and this show does, too."

Since its inception in 2015, Parrish Playworks has premiered shows (starting with the *Red Rooster Tales* series) that feature local talent and history. Romant notes, "Our specialty is creating theater together in our hometown, wherever we can reasonably perform. Whether it's at the Manatee County Fair, the Rocky Bluff Library, local schools or churches, barns, wedding venues, community clubhouses or assisted living centers, we try to take our shows wherever there's a love of theater. Of course, we are delighted to work with Florida Railroad Museum again and are looking ahead to even more creative collaborations down the track."

Tickets are available through Florida Railroad Museum: Call 941-776-0906 or visit their website at <http://www.frm.org/Months/murder-mystery-train.html>. Group prices are available.

For more information about Parrish Playworks, Inc. visit: <https://www.parrishplayworks.org/>

Electronic Press Kit: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/kiZiACmVUzFD6/>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1a7uQl-f19yj6NNOSxNMFTw>



What's Coming for 2020 at the Florida Railroad Museum



Thomas the Tank engine will visit Parrish on March 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th and 21st.

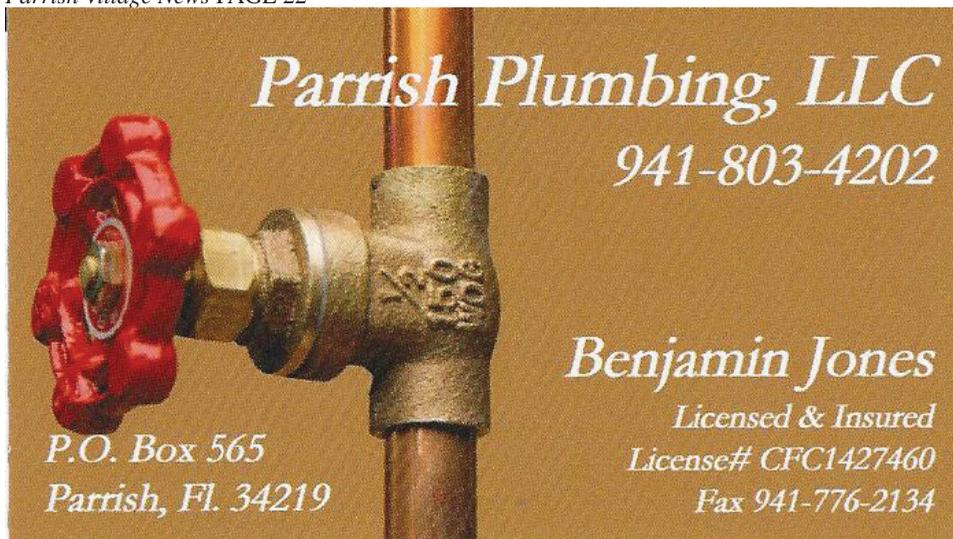
The Florida Railroad Museum has had a year for the record books, ending 2019 with the biggest and best North Pole Express ever. During December the museum rode over 19,000 people to the North Pole to meet Santa. The North Pole Express would not be possible without the museum volunteers and help from local volunteer groups and schools. The museum has had other great success in 2019, with two locomotives brought back to life, two new 600-foot yard tracks constructed in Willow and construction moving forward on the Parrish Station Complex.

February starts off with the Rotary Club's, *Parrish under the Stars* on February 1st. The annual Murder Mystery Dinner Train kicks off on February 14th with the "Murder on the Moonshine Express" which will be running for four weekends. Parrish's Chili Cook off will be on the museum's grounds on March 7th. Everyone's favorite blue engine, Thomas the Tank engine will visit Parrish on March 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th and 21st. Come out and spend Day Out with Thomas.

Interested in railroading? The museum's train crew is all volunteer; you, too, can be part of the action. Come on out and Join The Crew!

More information and tickets can be found on the museum's website at www.Florida-Railroad.com or by calling the ticket office Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at (941)776-0906.

Give this great, entertaining Parrish activity a try. Come out and ride the railroad for a fun time with your family.



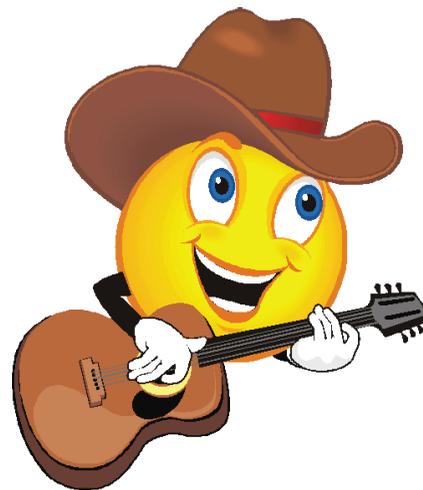
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When new students begin their studies with me, they will occasionally say to me, "I'm just going to try this for a month or so to see if I can do this."

My answer is always the same.

You can do this.

If your mind is made up to learn, there will be success. In fact, by selecting an experienced and qualified teacher, you will avoid the pitfalls and bad habits which actually cause beginners to fail.

Nonetheless, new students are often slightly surprised to discover that the process of learning the guitar is a bit more challenging than they had anticipated. This is due to a variety of reasons. Often, people will tell stories of a friend or relative whom, they claim, "can just pick up any instrument and play it." Other times they may have heard outrageous claims and sales pitches from people who say that they can teach you to 'master the guitar in six easy lessons.'

Okay.

In reality, whenever you take up something new, there is a bit of a learning curve.

The mind and body must be properly trained in order to respond the new demands being placed upon them. With time and patience, these techniques become more natural and playing the guitar becomes increasingly easier and even more fun.

The most difficult part, therefore, of learning the guitar will be those first steps. So, begin simply. Master the fundamentals. Learn some easy and fun songs.

My approach is to present the student with material which, while it may be slightly challenging, is easy to learn with daily practice. At the next lesson, the student receives something new which will be easy to learn, although slightly challenging. Every lesson builds upon the previous one. As time goes on, the student's understanding of music increases and their technique becomes more naturalized. Songs which they would once have thought impossible become easy and fun to play. The longer the student plays, and the more they apply themselves, the easier it becomes.

In conclusion, whether you are choosing to take up the guitar or any other instrument, do not be discouraged if you encounter difficulty in the beginning. Do not be dismayed when you hear skilled musicians and think, "I could never play like that." **Remember that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.** Take that first step. With diligence and patience, you will achieve your goal one step at a time.

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.



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Parrish Healthy Kids Running Series - Spring 2020



The Parrish Healthy Kids Running Series (HKRS) is heading into its second year! HKRS is a five-week running program for kids aged 2-14 years that gets kids active, instills in them a feeling of accomplishment, and helps lay the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. HKRS is a national, community-based, non-profit organization with series in over 200 cities throughout the country. The environment is fun, positive, and family friendly.

Each week kids race at an age-appropriate distance ranging from a 50 yard dash to 1 mile run. Kids compete weekly to earn points, and after five weeks the boy and girl with the most points in their division earn a trophy. All runners receive a finisher's medal on week five for their accomplishment. "The Healthy Kids Running Series is about having fun and encouraging our kids to remain active," said National Director Tamara Conan. "Our goal is to provide a fun and positive experience for every participant and see them improve over the five weeks."

All participants receive a race bag filled with goodies from local businesses, a race bib for each week, and a Healthy Kids Running Series tech shirt. The ¼ mile, ½ mile, and 1 mile races are timed so kids can track their improvement over the series. There is music, pre-race stretching, healthy snacks, and water at every race, and on the fifth week, parents can even get in on the fun with the optional parent mile. As an added bonus, the Parrish Fire Department came out to cheer on the runners and award them their medals on the final week of each series last year.

"I have been truly inspired as I've watched kids build their confidence and endurance during the course of each series," said Parrish coordinator Laura Stefanic. "They have fun, push themselves to improve, support each other, and realize that while it may be difficult, they can do it!"

The Parrish series is held at the Florida Railroad Museum. The spring 2020 series kicks off April 5th - races start at 4:30 pm each week. Registration is open and early registration pricing is available through March 15th. You can register online for the entire series for \$35 per child.

For more information, to register, to inquire about volunteer opportunities, or to learn about ways to support or sponsor this series, please contact the Parrish series coordinator, Laura Stefanic, at HKRSParrish@gmail.com or visit the series website at <https://healthykidsrunningseries.org/race-locations/parrish-fl/>.



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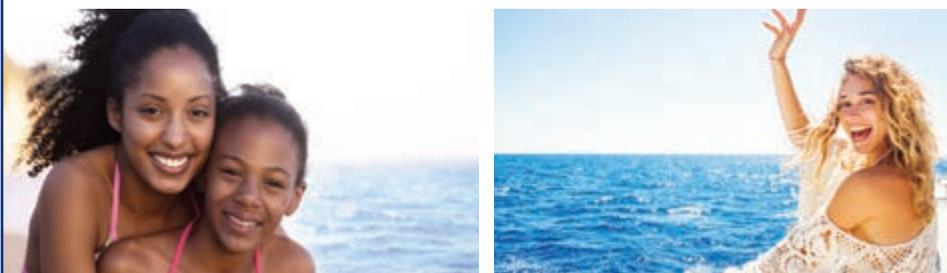


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Masonic Lodge Meets



Liberty Lodge No. 412 F&AM is a new Masonic Lodge in Florida and a daylight lodge that meets the 2nd Saturday at 9:00 am each month in Bradenton. We are located at 402 15th Street East, Bradenton, Florida 34208. We are looking for new Masons or those Masons that want to join a lodge.

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43rd Year for Heritage Days

Manatee County Heritage Days will be held March 1 - 31, 2020. This year marks the 41st year for Manatee Heritage Days, the time when Manatee County's historical organizations and sites come together to celebrate our community's heritage by providing opportunities for our area's residents and visitors to experience the past. Reenactments, special exhibits, lectures, classes, walking tours, open houses and family programming will highlight the month's events.

Originally a week in length, Heritage Days grew to nine days, and in 1995, Manatee Heritage Days expanded to a month long event. The activities are as varied as exhibits and parades. Events take place throughout Manatee County in many different communities. Through these events at area historical sites, participants will experience the pioneer lifestyle and learn how Manatee County has grown and developed.

Manatee Heritage Days is supported and organized by the Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court's Department of Historical Resources, under the auspices of Angelina "Angel" Colonnese, Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller.

Following is a schedule for events. Most are free, though some require a reservation or admission fee. For specific information about an event, please call the number listed on the schedule. For more information about the Manatee Heritage Days, in general, please call (941) 741-4070. Join with us in this countywide celebration of our community's past.

2020 Participating Organizations

- Anna Maria Island Historical Society
- Around the Bend Nature Tours
- DeSoto National Memorial
- The Folk School at the Florida Maritime Museum
- Florida Maritime Museum
- *Gamble Plantation State Historic Site
- Manatee County Agricultural Museum
- *Manatee County Historical Records Library
- *Manatee Village Historical Park
- Manatee Genealogical Society
- *Manatee County Historical Society
- Manatee County Library System
- Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources
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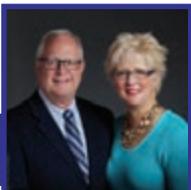
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Manatee Orchid Society to Meet

The Manatee Orchid Society meets monthly on the second Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at 3120 First Avenue West in Bradenton (Manatee River Garden Club building). More information can be found at their website: manateeorchidsociety.com.

If you love orchids, this club is for you. The membership includes all levels of expertise from beginners to experienced growers, men and women. They host knowledgeable speakers, have occasional orchid sales, monthly raffle table, potting sessions and orchid show participation. A friendly group who welcomes new members!



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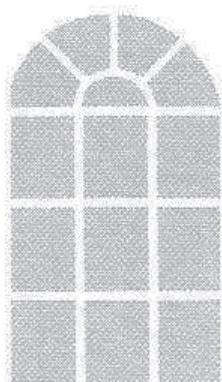


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State Of The Art Technology Improves Eye Care

Dr. Douglas K. Black

We live in an age of remarkable technological advances. Just think about some of the incredible things that we now use on a daily basis: cell phones that act as powerful mini-computers, wireless internet and high definition viewing are just a few examples. The health care field is no different. Advances in technology have brought about amazing new devices that we can use for early detection and better management of many conditions.

One of the most outstanding advances that has helped to improve eye care is the development and use of a technology known as "optical coherence tomography (OCT)." Simply put, OCT is an imaging device that can be used to examine the interior of the eye in a detailed fashion that was not possible in the past. How does it work? A good analogy is to think of OCT as optical ultrasound. It uses a beam of light to obtain a magnified image of the tissues of the eye in a resolution that is higher than both MRI and ultrasound. And there is no radiation involved with OCT.

By using an OCT device, we can now detect underlying conditions of the eye that may have previously gone unnoticed. During an eye exam, we routinely dilate the pupils to obtain a good view of the interior of the eye. Our view can go all the way to the back of the eye, where we can examine the retina. The retina contains many blood vessels and nerve fibers, and we examine these structures to detect any adverse conditions, such as glaucoma, complications from diabetes and hypertension, and macular degeneration, just to name a few. However, we cannot see beyond the foremost layer of the retina. This is where OCT becomes extremely useful.

With many of these conditions, adverse developments begin to happen beneath the surface of the retina before they progress into bigger problems. Since it is not possible for an examiner to see through the tissues of the retina, in the past these conditions could not be detected until they had progressed to the point of causing significant damage. By using OCT technology, we can now obtain an image of what is happening beneath the surface. This allows for much earlier detection of potential problems and earlier treatment, which



Dr. Douglas K. Black, O.D. is a Doctor of Optometry at Eye Center, Inc.

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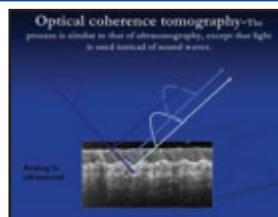


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can go a long way toward limiting any longterm effects or damage.

One of the best examples of how OCT has improved patient care is in the management of glaucoma. Our main concern in the management of a patient with glaucoma is the health of the optic nerve, which is the structure that becomes damaged from the pressure in the eye being too high. OCT can provide a high resolution view of the entire thickness of the tissues of the optic nerve. We can now see exactly how much damage has occurred to the nerve and how much healthy nerve tissue is remaining. This is extremely useful in following a glaucoma patient over time to monitor for any changes that may be occurring. We can also now detect the earliest stages of glaucoma so that treatment can be started sooner, preventing damage from happening.

In our office, I'm proud to say that we routinely use OCT to treat and monitor many conditions on a regular basis. It gives us the opportunity to provide the most thorough, state of the art eye care for our patients. As a health care provider, it is always exciting to have the opportunity to utilize new technologies that allow us to keep providing better care for our patients.

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Ponderings from Parrish

Julie Ann Cacianti

“Contentment” is a sustained inner peace, regardless of the circumstances, people or things in our life. Aristotle believed that the most basic longing people have is eudaimonia, best understood as contentedness of mind and soul. From the space of silence, contentment nourishes us with well-being and bestows a grateful heart for all we have. It does not ask “what if.” It allows us to unquestionably embrace and accept the joys and the challenges of our past lives in full knowingness that each experience was chosen to guide us on our unique path in life. Contentment quietly affirms that life, each and every day, is perfect and exactly as it should be. Not to be confused with happiness, complacency, apathy or resignation, contentment is a grounded consciousness that all is well and will remain well as we continue to reach for new and sustaining experiences in our lives.

For many people today, living a life of contentment seems highly implausible in a world characterized by fear, violence, hatred, greed and the constant pursuit of “more.” We can choose, however, despite the turmoil and chaos which surrounds us, to make a difference. Seeking contentment in own lives will also improve the lives of others, and ultimately, our world. There are many ways that we can begin to find the peace of contentment in our lives.

Making an active choice to simply give up struggle is one of the easiest ways to begin to achieve contentment. Fighting a battle that we know can’t be won comes with a heavy cost. Sometimes letting go, reassessing and looking for an easier and less painful resolution is worth the effort. Giving up does not mean compromising values or ethics but simply choosing not to swim upstream. You can choose to release struggle when you realize your need to be right or to prove a point is causing discomfort, frustration and anxiety in your life. Refuse to participate. Rethink beliefs that solutions must be difficult.

Know that you are entitled to peacefulness in your life. In the turbulent tsunamis of



life, stand still. There is much to be learned from the path of a river which uses the least resistance to find its way to the ocean. In its passage, the river avoids boulders and trees, but gently maneuvers twists and turns to reach its goal. It stays true to its mission but does not try to carve out its own path or travel upstream. It makes its journey in life with harmony and ease. Life is like a river. You can choose the rigors of traveling upstream or simply allow the current to carry you to your destination.

Perhaps the essence of contentment lies in the simple and soothing Serenity Prayer.

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
The Courage to change the things I can;
And the wisdom to know the difference.”*

Adopting this philosophy of life and its teachings of acceptance and trust, will allow contentment to seep into our lives, gently softening the rough edges in our world.

In February I will leave the beauty and serenity of Parrish, with its abundance of Sandhill Cranes, majestic sunsets and many people who have touched my heart in our community. It has been an honor to share my time with you, to get to know you in small and large ways. I will carry those memories with me. I wish you abundant peace, contentment and joy in your lives!

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- Walter & Linda Lysinger



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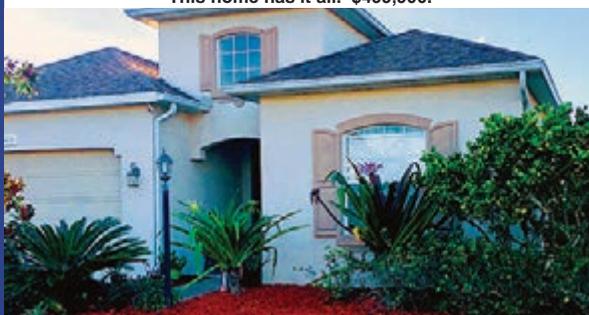
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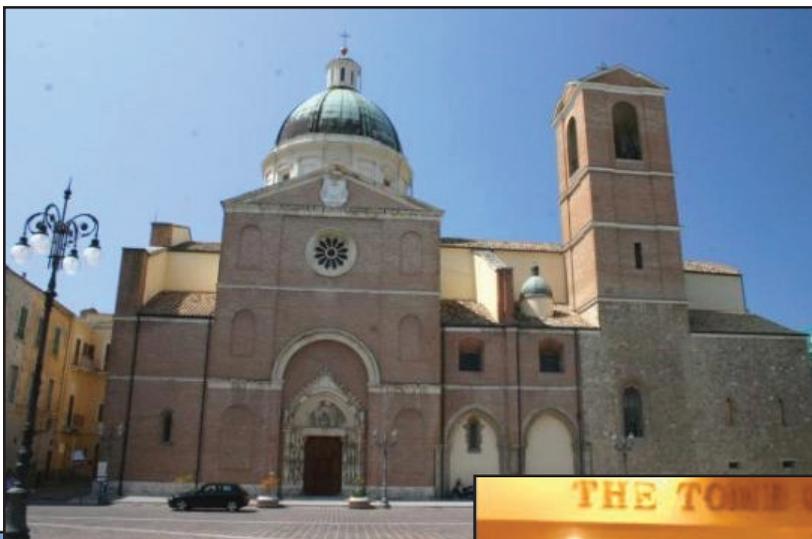
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Ortona CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



*Some photographs
from Ortona, Italy on
the western shore of
the Adriatic Sea.*

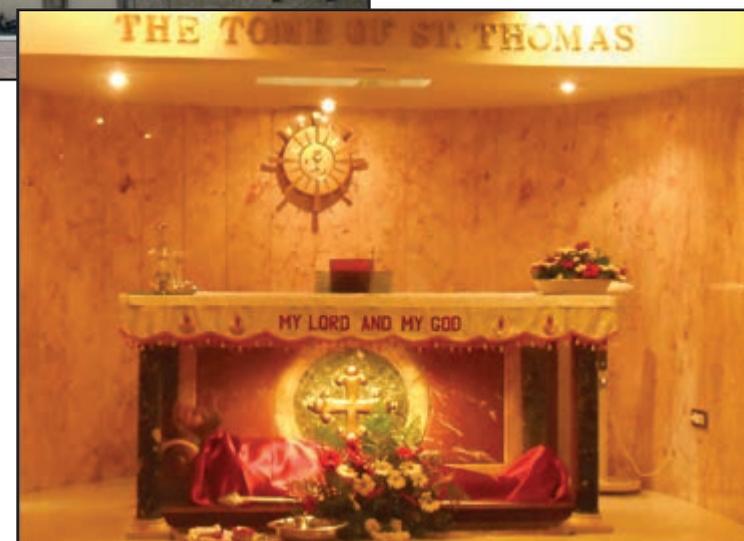


*Top left - the cemetery showing the
gravesites of the over 14,000 Canadian
soldiers.*

Bottom left - the fortress at Ortona, Italy.

Top - the cathedral at Ortona.

*Bottom right - the Tomb of St. Thomas at
Ortona, Italy.*



Look for Changes in Retirement Plans

James F. Morrison, Financial Advisor

It might not have made the headlines, but a recently passed piece of legislation could affect the IRAs and 401(k)s of millions of Americans beginning in 2020. So, if you have either of these accounts, or if you run a business, you'll want to learn more.

The new laws, collectively called the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act, include these noteworthy changes:

- **Higher age for RMDs** – Under current law, you must start taking withdrawals – known as required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan once you turn 70½. The new law pushes the date to start RMDs to 72, which means you can hold on to your retirement savings a bit longer.

- **No age limit for traditional IRA contributions** – Previously, you could only contribute to your traditional IRA until you were 70½, but under the SECURE Act, you can now fund your traditional IRA for as long as you have taxable earned income.

- **Limitation of “Stretch IRA” provisions** – Under the old rules, beneficiaries were able to stretch taxable RMDs from a retirement account over his or her lifetime. Under the SECURE Act while spouse beneficiaries can still take advantage of this “stretch” distribution, most non-spouse beneficiaries will have to take all the RMDs by the end of the tenth year after the account owner passes away. Consequently, non-spouse beneficiaries who inherit an IRA or other retirement plan could have tax implications due to the need to take larger distributions in a shorter timeframe.

- **No early withdrawal penalty for IRAs and 401(k)s when new child arrives.** Typically, you must pay a 10% penalty when you withdraw funds from your IRA or 401(k) before you reach 59½. But now, with the new rules, you can withdraw up to \$5,000 from your retirement plan without paying the early withdrawal penalty, as long as you take the money within one year of a child being born or an adoption becoming final.

Some provisions of the SECURE Act primarily affect business owners:

- **Multi-employer retirement plans** – Unrelated companies can now work together to offer employees a 401(k) plan with less administrative work, lower costs and fewer fiduciary responsibilities than individual employers now encounter when offering their own retirement plans.

- **Tax credit for automatic enrollment** – The new law provides a tax credit of \$500 for some smaller employers who set up automatic enrollment in their retirement plans. And a tax credit for establishing a retirement plan has been increased from \$500 to \$5,000.

- **Use of annuities in 401(k) plans** – It will now be easier for employers to consider including annuities as an investment option within 401(k) plans. Previously, many businesses avoided offering annuities in these plans due to liability concerns related to the annuity provider, but the new rules should help reduce these concerns.

The SECURE Act is the most significant change to our retirement savings system in over a decade. We encourage you to contact your financial advisor, tax professional and estate planning attorney to assess the potential impact on your investment strategies and determine any possible tax and estate planning implications of the SECURE Act.

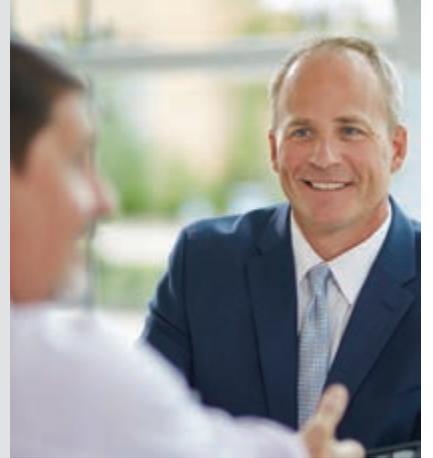


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Investing is about more than money.

At Edward Jones, we stop to ask you the question: “What’s important to you?” Without that insight and a real understanding of your goals, investing holds little meaning.

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*VALENTINE'S PROMOTION NOT AVAILABLE AT PIER LOCATION. **AGES 21+ ONLY.

Garden Club Program for February 19



Organization: Manatee River Garden Club
 Date and Time: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
 Location: 3120 First Avenue West, Bradenton
 Program Topic: "The Art of Ikebana"
 Presenter: Pat Bonarek
 Other Information: Pat is the president of the local chapter of Ikebana International and a certified instructor of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. She studied Ikebana in Japan and now shares her knowledge with others around the world. Her creative Ikebana arrangements are both traditional and modern and express the beauty of nature.
 Website: www.manateerivergardenclub.com
 Fee: No charge
 Contact: Barb Beury at (941) 744-7553 with questions.

the Y
VALENTINE'S DANCE SOAR
 Special Organized Adult Recreation

The Parrish Family YMCA is hosting a Valentine's dance fundraiser for adults and children with special needs. Special needs adults along with a caregiver, family members, and all friends of the community are invited to a night of dancing and fun!

February 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Parrish Family YMCA.

Admission is \$5 for all and free for a caregiver. Register at the Welcome Center or online at ManateeYMCA.org.

For More Information: Contact Amy Skillman at 941-798-9622 x 201 or (email) askillman@manateeymca.org

YMCA Mission: To put Christian Principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

ManateeYMCA.org
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The Grumpy Old Geezer CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



then you practically hit the icons with a hammer to get them to respond. So, I set it to normal sensitivity and the damn thing keeps going off in my pocket. It's embarrassing in Publix when a fellow shopper leans in close and says, "Hey buddy, your pocket is singing to you." My family and friends laugh like it's somehow my fault. I don't think so.

I also get miffed when the phone decides to change my settings without consulting me. This happens more often than you might think. Ringer on mute seems to happen magically.

I must admit that I do enjoy the many services provided by mobile phones. I enjoy being able to reach people by call or text, and to be able to review my email at any moment. I watch TV on my phone, play free music on it and make appointments for haircuts, reservations for restaurants, take photos and play Solitaire when I'm bored.

Mobile technology has taken over and is undoubtedly here to stay. But there are times – frequently – that I long for the days when I could just take a walk or a drive my car to be absolutely alone and unavailable. Privacy unabated. Ahhhhh!

Uh oh... hold on. My phone is ringing... Gotta take this, I'll get back to you soon.

Call today for a quote on your insurance needs.
941-531-9738

Elevate Couples Workshop: Taking your relationship to the next level
 January, February and March Classes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

1. The Manatee County Master Gardeners' monthly E-newsletter, The Master Gardening Bench, is available to download at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ecz5kkoif765rxl/AADsMgB2_cFQ0_HaVho6VxdKa?dl=0 – this is a new link for the 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. 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.

Answers to February Trivia

1. Dom Perignon
2. Romeo and Juliet
3. Red roses
4. Chocolates
5. St. Valentine's Day
6. Martyrs
7. February 14
8. St. Valentine
9. The daughter of his jailer
10. Cured her blindness
11. Performing marriages in secret against the wishes of the emperor
12. Bee keepers
13. Charles d'Orleans, captured by the English at Agincourt, and then kept prisoner for the next 25 years. He passed is time writing sorrowful poetry, including the St. Valentine's Day letter that describes his sadness at being parted from his love.
14. The liver
15. A Piece of carved whalebone or driftwood, which they'd wear to stiffen their corsets.
16. Cupid
17. Venus
18. Chocolates
19. A spoof or parody of a real Valentine's message
20. Geoffrey Chaucer

3rd Storytelling Festival to Be Held at Rocky Bluff Library on Saturday, February 29

Storytelling Festival Rocky Bluff Library

US Hwy 301 N., Ellenton, FL
34222



Enjoy a special appearance by Smokey Bear on his 75th anniversary. Brought to you by the National Park Service.

FREE ADMISSION



Celebrating The Magic of Storytelling

Enjoy a family fun day filled with activities for everyone!

- Prof. Storytellers**
- Jr. Storytellers**
- Strolling characters**
- Raffles**
- A Book Fair**
- Face Painting**
- Clowns**
- Games**
- Treats**
- Food**
- Character Parades**

We are Grateful to our Sponsors



Junior Storytellers



The Storytelling Festival is an event for the entire family! There will be activities for everyone: storytelling by Junior Storytellers and Professionals, strolling characters, drawings for prizes, a book fair, face painting, clowns, games, treats, food and a character parade. A special visitor will be Smokey Bear who celebrates his 75th anniversary representing the National Park Service.

Professional Storytellers



Tamara Green is a professional Storyteller whose topics often bring her listeners on a "roller coaster ride to a place called imagination!" She believes that Storytellers are keepers of present events and of times past. We are thrilled that this is her third appearance at our Storytelling Festival.



Katie Adams, celebrates 20 years as a professional storyteller and owns Make Believe Theater, a touring theater bringing puppet shows and storytelling shows to audiences throughout the southeast. Katie has been featured at the Florida Storytelling Festival, the Straz Center for the Performing Arts and the Florida Folk Festival.



Shannan Adams is a tenth grade honor role student at H. B. Plant High School. She is a storytelling ambassador with the Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival and traveled to Orem, Utah to represent Florida's Youthful Voices Storytellers in the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. Her other activities include chorus, piano and fiber arts.



Van Samuels - "TVSHKA", pronounced "Tuh-SHKUH", is a Native American word of the Choctaw language, which translates as "WARRIOR." He was raised in his native Choctaw Tribal community. His stories are of the Native American history and culture with legends that are shared through storytelling.

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Parrish Celebrates Heritage Day on Saturday, March 7



Parrish Heritage Days Parade and Festival with Annual Chili Cook Off: The parade runs through Parrish starting at the big field just south of the Parrish United Methodist Church off 121st Avenue and ending at the Florida Railroad Museum, 12210 83rd Street East, Parrish.

The annual parade featuring floats, kids, animals and bands. The Parade is FREE! Festival starts at 11:00 am and runs until 4:00 pm on the grounds of the Florida Railroad Museum.

There is a \$10 charge (\$8 in advance) to get into the family friendly festival (children 12 and under are free) where there will be rides, games, food and live music by several local and nationally known bands.

Winner of the chili contest receives a \$500 prize! To enter a team in the chili cook off (Prize is \$500!), go to www.parrishchili.com.

Parking is available on the north end of the big field behind the Parrish United Methodist Church with shuttle buses to take you to the event.

You may also purchase tickets online (for the first time) by going to www.parrish.chili.com.



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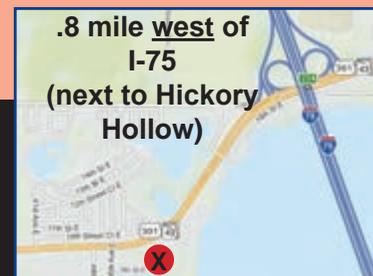
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Love Is in the Air (Good Thing It's National Spay and Neuter Month!)

Leo&Luckys

February is the Humane Society's National Spay and Neuter Month. The purpose of this awareness event is to encourage people to have their pets sterilized before the spring and summer months, when there is a widespread overproduction of puppies, kittens, bunnies, and more. Many animal shelters experience an unmanageable increase in animal intake. Sadly, an estimated 4 to 6 million animals are euthanized annually, as the ever-growing pet population is just too much for the number of available homes. Spaying and neutering is the best way to prevent these unnecessary deaths.

Spay and neuter surgeries are veterinary procedures that require minimal hospitalization and yet offer lifetime medical and behavioral benefits for the animal. Spaying a female animal involves removing the ovaries and uterus, and the benefits include preventing reproduction, as well as preventing uterine infections, uterine cancer and breast cancer. Neutering a male animal involves removing the testes, and in addition to stopping reproduction, it prevents testicular cancer. Neutering a male dog also has numerous behavioral benefits, minimizes marking and reduces mounting and roaming behaviors. The health benefits related to spaying and neutering your animal help reduce the cost of your animal's overall veterinary care.

Spaying and neutering procedures are very safe, routine, and pets heal quickly following their surgery. Generally, pets are dropped off at the vet in the morning and can be picked up the same afternoon. Puppies and kittens can be spayed or neutered as young as 6 weeks old, but speak to your veterinarian or Humane Society to decide the best time to have the procedure performed on your pet.

Common myths associated with spaying and neutering animals, such as weight gain or negative behavioral changes are just that: myths. A proper diet and appropriate exercise following healing from surgery will ensure a fit and healthy pet for many years to come. If your pet is gaining weight, it is likely that they simply need their diet altered and/or an increase in exercise. Your vet can help you decide what is best for your pet, or come see us in store for suggestions about feeding.

Several times each year, the Humane Society of Manatee County receives grant funding that allows them the opportunity to offer low cost and no cost surgeries available to the public. Call 941-747-8808 Option #1 to schedule an appointment, or use their handy online scheduler at www.humanemanatee.org.

The Animal Rescue Coalition, located in Sarasota, offers sliding scale surgeries and vaccinations based upon income for Manatee and Sarasota County residents. Reach them at 941.957.1955 ext. 1.

We hope to see you in store soon!

Oh yeah, and did we mention, we have changed our name and our look?! Visit us at LeoandLuckys.com for more information about this update (don't worry, we haven't changed much otherwise!)

February In-Store Events Leo&Lucky's

Saturday, February 1st - Mobile Pet Hospital, Low Cost Vaccines 1-3pm

Friday, February 7th - Southeastern Guide Dogs Visit!

Saturday, February 8th - Humane Society of Manatee Co. - Meet Adoptable Pets! 9am-12pm

Saturday, February 15th - Mobile Pet Hospital, Low Cost Vaccines 1-3pm

Saturday, February 15th - Doggy Dentals by appointment only, call 941-776-0770

Saturday, February 29th - Mobile Pet Hospital, Low Cost Vaccines 1-3pm

Saturday, February 29th - Doggy Dentals by appointment only, call 941-776-0770

LOCAL DELIVERY NOW AVAILABLE!

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Manatee County Clerk of Court Passport Application Event

The Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is hosting a passport application event from 8:30 am to Noon on Saturday, March 14th at the Manatee County Historic Courthouse located at 1115 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton. As an added convenience, the Clerk's office is equipped to take passport photos on-site for a fee of \$16.05. Clerk staff will be available to assist customers throughout the passport application process.

We encourage customers who are unable to apply during regular business hours to take advantage of these special Saturday hours. Please use the links below get a head start on the passport application process.

To save time when visiting our office – you can complete and print your passport application form in advance at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/requirements/forms.html>.

To prepare for the passport application process, the U. S. Department of State provides a tool guide to help you to apply at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/apply-renew-passport/form-finder.html>.

Fees: The most common reason the passport application process is not completed is due to incorrect payment. Please refer to our website at <https://www.manateeclerk.com/departments/passports/>.

For more information, contact the Marriage and Passport department at 941-741-4020 or marriageandpassports@manateeclerk.com.



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h2U Offers February Activities for Seniors

Why settle for an ounce of prevention when h2U can offer you so much more!

Living a healthier lifestyle is easy when you have the support of like-minded people. At h2U- Health To You, that's exactly what you'll find - active engaged members who never take good health for granted. Blake Medical Center's h2U- Health To You program offers three convenient locations to better serve Manatee 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 and local discounts, a generous partnership discount at the Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and Parrish YMCA and so much more! All of our seminars are open to the public. Simply call 1-888-359-3552 to register.

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 941-722-5683 for more information.

Healthy Living: Tuesday November 7th at 2:00 pm, Ellenton Center.

Aging Spine: Tuesday November 12th at 2:00 pm Bayshore Center.

Hip Pain: Tuesday November 19th at 2:00 pm, Cortez Center.

Monday

- 8:55 am - Take Control with Exercise (Chair Exercise)
- 9:55 am - Senior Cardio & Strength Training
- 10:55 am - Hatha Yoga with Carol (\$24/4 week sessions) bring a mat!
- 12:00 pm - Ukulele: Learn to Play with Sunny (Beginner)
- 12:00 pm - Cribbage
- 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 - Take Control with Exercise (Chair Exercise)
- 12:30 pm - Hand & Foot
- 1:00 pm - Mah Jongg

Thursday

- 9:00 am - Stretch and Tone (\$6 per class)
- 10:00 am - Eldergym Series: Balance/Flex/Strength (Chair Exercise)
- 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)
- 1:00 pm - Handicraft Social Club
- 11:00 am - Take Control with Exercise (Chair Exercise)
- 12:30 pm - Art Class \$40 (check for dates & upcoming projects)
- 2:00 pm - Alzheimer/Caregiver Support Group (Every 3rd Friday)

February Special Events: Registrations required.
Please call 1-888-359-3552 to register.

This is Tidewell: Thursday, February 6th at 2:00 pm, Ellenton Center.



Protecting your Identity: Thursday, February 27th at 11:00pm, Ellenton Center.

Support Groups - Please call to register
Stroke Support Group: for Stroke survivors and their loved ones, for more information please call Mary Ellen Bond at 941-798-6505.

Cancer Care Support Group: 1st Thursday of the month from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at IMG Academy. Call Jojo Smith at 941-920-5084.

Caring Friends Cancer Support Group: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at Blake Medical Center. Please call 941-798-6588.

Smoking Cessation: Presented by Tobacco Free Florida and Blake Medical Center. Please call for more information at 941-567-2839.

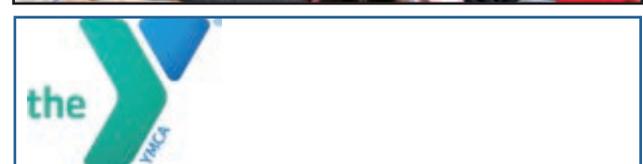
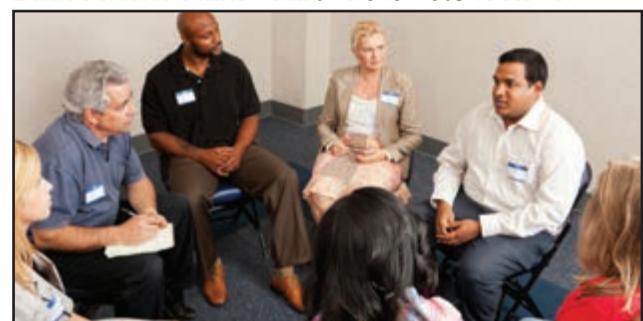
Amputee Support Group: 3rd Thursday of the Month from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the Dolphin/Pelican room at Blake Medical Center. Call Darlene Teller-Nelson at 941-798-6026 to RSVP.

Alzheimer/Caregiver Support Group: 3rd Friday of the month at H2U Ellenton Center. No reservation required.

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

Burn Support Group: 3rd Monday of the Month from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the Dolphin/Pelican room at Blake Medical Center. Call Katarina Anderson 941-545-2834 to RSVP.

Diabetes Support Group: 2nd Monday of the Month from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Dolphin/Pelican Room at Blake Medical Center. Call 941-545-4603 to RSVP.



Corporate Challenge membership for H2U Members

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL
Join the Y and pay \$0 Joining Fee + Corporate Discount (\$10 off per month)

Simple to Join:

At the Manatee YMCA, we are very excited to offer a Corporate discount to H2U members. Your discount, \$10 off each month toward a bank draft or annual membership is applied at sign up. Your discount is available at all three Manatee YMCA branches (listed below). Show proof of H2U membership to join and SAVE, it's that simple!

Please note: Corporate Challenge Membership discount is available to bank draft membership types or annual membership types only, and no other discounts will apply.

YMCA MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION \$10 PER MONTH

H2U Member Benefits at the Y:

- No Joining Fee
- \$10 off each month for bank draft or annual membership types.
- Senior Rates to join the Y
- FREE Fitness Assessment
- Two Complimentary fitness orientations
- FREE 12 Week to a new You Fitness Program
- 100+ FREE exercise classes at three locations
- Senior Strength Classes
- Water Aerobic Classes
- Volunteer opportunities
- Discounts on a variety of Y specialty programs
- Senior Social Time and Excursions
- Free account recommended weight loss & nutrition management program

MANATEE YMCA

Bradenton Branch / Lakewood Ranch / Parrish Branch
941-798-9622 www.manateeymca.org

YMCA - DISCOUNT & BENEFITS



The Y will waive the joining fee to all current members of H2U and discount \$10 per monthly membership, for all *bank draft membership types* (excluding annual and short-term membership types), to all current H2U members. H2U members who join the Y would have access to the Y Fitness Center, indoor heated pool plus...

- No Joining Fee
- FREE Fitness Consult
- FREE 12 Week Fitness Program
- 100+ FREE exercise classes at three locations

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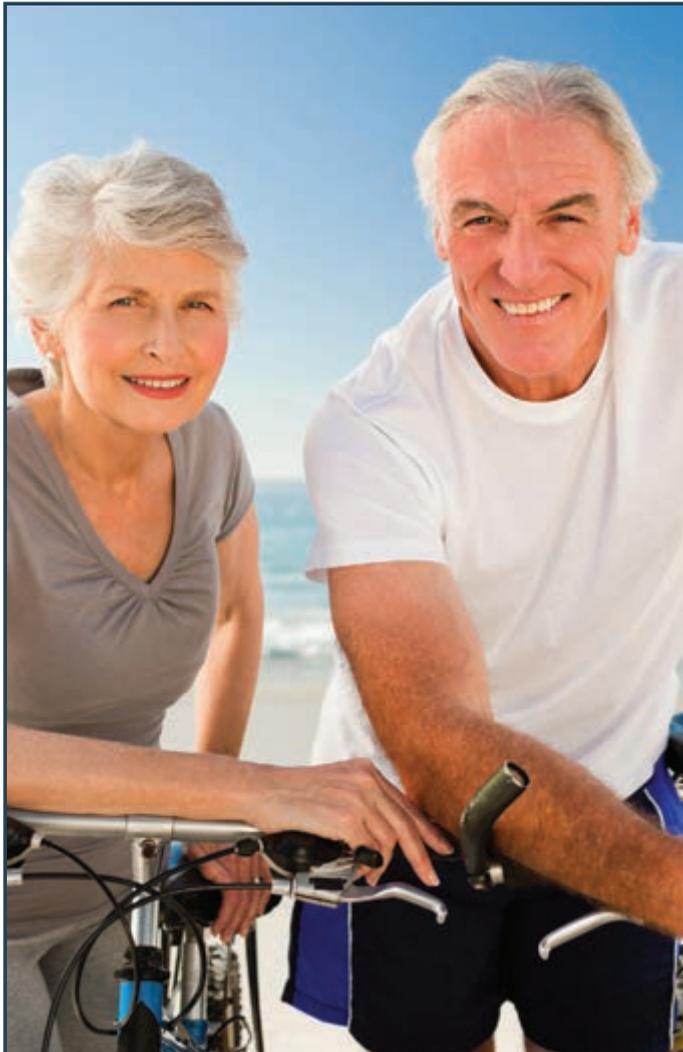
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Funding from Manatee River Garden Club

The Manatee River Garden Club, through the Elizabeth M. Eaton Charitable Trust Fund, is offering grants for community beautification projects in and around public areas in Manatee County. The Club is also offering two \$1,000 scholarships to students who wish to pursue higher education in horticulture, floral design or environmental studies and related fields. Both applications are available on their website at <http://www.manateerivergardenclub.com>. Both applications have a deadline of April 1st.

Mail completed application with project description, supporting documents and 501(c)(3) form if applicable to: Manatee River Garden Club, Attention: Director of Grants & Scholarships, P.O. Box 14662, Bradenton, Florida 34280-4662. Direct any questions regarding the application or process to the Director of Grants & Scholarships using the "contact us" page on our website: www.manateerivergardenclub.com.



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Google review by Dan Torony

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Signing Day for Recruit Class #2 at Parrish Fire District



Congratulations!!!!

It is with our great honor, Our District (Parrish Fire District) on the morning of Saturday, February 1, 2020 (signing day) swore in our new recruit Class #2 of potential Reserve Responders.

These firefighters will now start the extensive training and certification process of completing a two-month Firefighter training Task Book on their way of earning the title of Certified Reserve Responder and becoming contractual paid firefighters.

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Activities at Barbara Harvey Elementary School

From Learning to Tie Shoelaces to Going Back in Time to A One-Room School House



House of Alturismo completing their service project by helping kindergartners practice tying their shoes.



Harvey's 5th grade team preparing to BLAST OFF into their Space Unit.



Learning how to milk a cow; learning how to wash clothes; learning how to use a slate.



Children go back in time to see what it was like to be in a one-room schoolhouse.



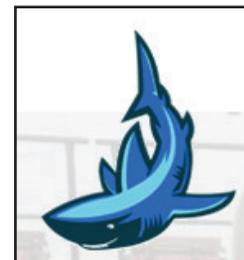
House of Amistad's service project assisted our janitors with keeping Harvey spotless.



Harvey 5th graders preparing to become NASA's future astronauts!



Learning from the past.





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Featured Listing



\$359,000

This lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is located in The Inlets and boasts 10 foot ceilings. As you walk in the front doors, the flow of the high end wide plank flooring leads you into the great room. The light, bright, spacious kitchen has quartz countertops and stainless appliances along with a large seating area with plenty of cabinet space. The great room exits to the pool area. The split plan affords privacy for all. Both baths have been fully updated. The master has dual sinks, updated cabinets, quartz counters, a large soaking tub and a walk-in shower. Two more bedrooms and a bath compose the west wing. The laundry room leads out to the 2 car garage. Most updates were done to this home in 2015-2016 including A/C and pool pump. Amenities include a park, walking trails, tennis courts, playground and kayak launch and storage. Located with easy access to I 75, shopping, Bradenton's downtown and River Walk and only 13 miles to the beach. This is an excellent location!

Jo Anne Curtan 941-809-2488
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Reduced



\$229,900

Beautiful 3/2, new flooring, new interior paint, open large great room/living area, spacious kitchen with great storage w/ stainless steel appliances, beautiful Master suite, 2 car garage, great quiet Parrish location, close to everything.

Sue Carroll 941-962-7737

New Listing



\$39,900

Impeccably maintained 2/2, turnkey furnished, open plan, lofted ceilings, lake view, spacious kitchen, great room, private Master suite, large guest bedroom, enclosed Sunroom, large shed, carport, 55+ community w/ great amenities.

George Sekerak 941-400-7755

Reduced



\$32,000

Beautiful, well cared for 2/2 located in sought after Country Lakes II, 55+ community, spacious, large living room with vaulted ceilings, sliders lead to an enclosed lanai w/ A/C, great kitchen, large master, pet friendly, beautiful community pool, tennis and more!

Jann Mink 941-779-6098

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January at Williams Elementary

Williams Celebrates 100 Days of School



Students Participate in Speech Contest



Congratulations to the school winners of the Manatee County 2019-2020 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Competition: 3rd place, Lily S "Taylor Swift"; Second place, Addison S "Donkeys"; and First place, Arianna C "Bullying". Arianna will represent Williams Elementary on Saturday, April 18th at the Manatee County Agricultural Center. A BIG thank you to our judges, Cookie Jordan (*Parrish Village News*), Pastor Michael Kennedy (North River Church) and Deborah Thomas (daughter of Annie Lucy Williams).

Second Grader Received Positive Referral



Second grader, Nolan, received a Positive Referral for helping to make a new student feel welcomed to his class.

Student Honored for History Essay



Noah Vanwey was recently honored for his outstanding essay that won first place in the Daughters of the American Revolution 'American History Essay Contest.' The American History Essay Contest was established to encourage young people to think creatively about our nation's great history and learn about history in a new light. The contest was open to students in public, private, parochial schools and registered home-study programs.



Student Council members help support our Color Run Fundraiser!

Thank you and great job!

All County Chorus Members



Congratulations to our 2020 All County Chorus members: Axton W, Mia C, Sophia S and Elijah R.

**Williams Elementary
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
Thursday, March 12th
11:30 am to 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm to
6:00 pm in the Media Center**



Please bring the following information to complete enrollment: Proof of residency (electric or water bill), Proof of identification (Driver's License), proof of physical within one year of registration, original birth certificate, Florida 680 Immunization Form and Social Security Card. Incomplete registrations will not be accepted.

Any questions, please contact Debby Hampton at 776-4040, ext. 79257.



4th and 5th Graders Participate in Science Fair

Congratulations to 4th and 5th grade students who placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention at our Science Fair. The Science Fair is for students to **HAVE FUN with science!** We are very proud of all our students, they did a great job.

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February - A Month of Change

Snook and Sea Trout Top the List

Capt. Jason Prieto



February is a month of change. It's a month that offers change from winter tactic spring. Typically our bait shows up on the markers and bridges and fish are not far behind the bait. Snook fishing towards the end of the month should be on fire. Once that bait shows up, you can count on catching Snook and with a cold January Snook will be on the prowl.

In addition to Snook would have to be Sea Trout. While our Trout fishing has been sub par in past years, I'm hopeful that this has just been an off few years and that they will bounce back this year with a normal winter.

Trout fishing is typically good throughout the winter but the big breeders come out to play around the end of February and into March. Trout is one of my top fish to target with artificials and you can't go wrong with a Zman Paddlerz.

My favorite color would have to be pearl white. If you are going to use live bait, shrimp work well with a #1 Daiichi circle hook. I also have a lot of success using Cajun Thunder Back Bay floats. Always use a Dehooker on Trout.

I see people everyday handing these fish on releases improperly and they are just not very hearty fish.

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 You tube from 6:00 to 7:00 pm every Wednesday evening - it's called called Get Spooled!!!!. Come join us in the fun.

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



Council of Catholic Women (CCW)
of St. Frances X. Cabrini, Parrish FL

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Reserve February 8, 2020 (Saturday) for this
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Bring the entire family!



When: 2/8/20 Saturday 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Where: Cabrini Center, Parrish
Donation: \$17 per person (Help & Participate
in the show & get a free ticket!)
To benefit organizations that help the
Homeless, victims of Human Trafficking,
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For more information, please call: Hermie Alo, (941) 981-2143

Parrish Heritage Day Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off
Saturday, March 7, 2020
Parade at 10:30 AM
Festival and Chili Cook Off at 11:00 AM
Parade on 121 Avenue - Cook Off at Florida Railroad Museum

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Showing Some Love

Everyone defines and measures "love" in their own way. Most of us would readily say we love our family and our friends. We love our pets, our neighbors, our teachers, our community and our country. However, we may also love chocolate ice cream, a favorite vacation spot, a car, a silly meme or a brand-new pair of shoes. Let's face it, LOVE is word that means many things and represents many emotions. But the deepest, most sincere, form of love isn't always something easily defined.

Recently we helped a couple sell a house they had built together nearly 50 years prior. From the moment you walked in the door, there it was...love. From photos and memory books, to the now faded pencil lines adorning the door molding; once upon a time marking their children's growth spurts over the years. There was no denying the feeling. It was a time capsule of sorts. For many years, the house stood still while life moved in, around and forward. The couple aged, and kids grew up, but the stories of a well-loved home were plentiful, and the house oozed of potential. For us, it was easy to "fall in love" with the idea of a new family making memories there as well.

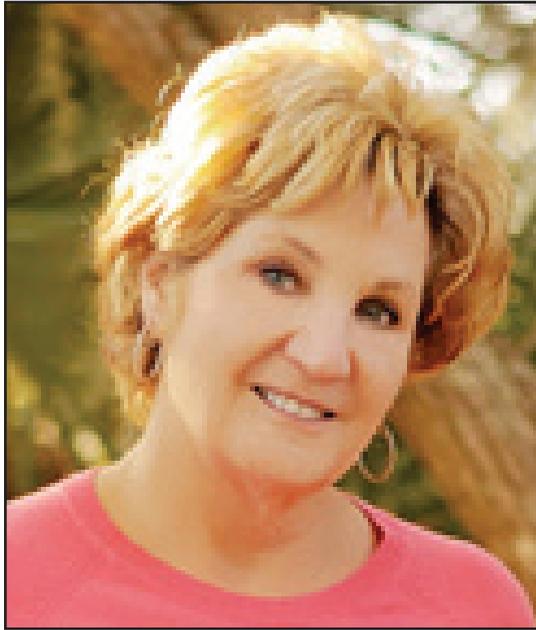
We spent a great deal of time with the sellers determining how we would handle the marketing; it was a unique situation as the sellers were unable to leave during showings. As Realtors, we have little control over off-handed comments some buyers make while touring homes. Updates were clearly needed, but the "good bones" were undeniable. We, along with the sellers were truly hopeful to find someone who would love this house as much as they had for so many years. We crossed our fingers and wished those who toured would not be too critical of the 70's vibe throughout. Side note - What's not to love about the 70's!

It turns out the love for the house was contagious! We made it work and a lovely couple with young children ooh'd and ahh'd the hidden treasure. They couldn't wait to love on the house and make it their home.

Yes, love can be subjective, but on that day two couples, generations apart, defined it together in a beautiful way. Love for the house, love for the memories, love for history and love for what is to come.

Because tomorrow is never promised, let's not let "love" become just a word. Instead, let's show love and kindness in everything we do. We all have extra hour that we could spare to read to a classroom, shop for a neighbor, or buy someone a cup of coffee. Define love your own way but spread it wherever you go. Happy Valentine's Day! Yes, this does mean chocolate for everyone? 🍫

By the way, it's American Heart month, so love yourself and get a checkup!



Leslie Wells.

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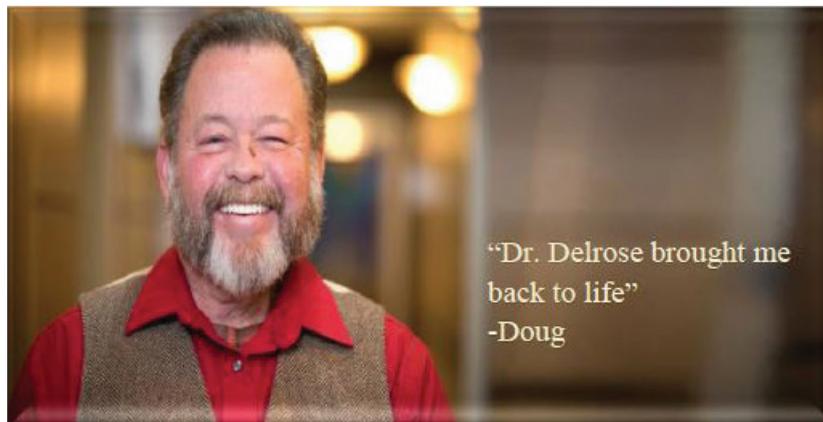
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The Parrish Civic Association welcomes our new and returning members!
Thank you for your support!

Basic

- Jenn Cintron
- Fred & Joan Dinse
- Kay Grybash
- Bernard & Sandra Hafinke
- John & Marilyn Kennedy
- Norma Kennedy
- George Kruse

- Danielle Morieko
- Malcolm & Mary Norwood
- Sawyer Ramsey
- Roger & Brenda Rodriguez
- Peter & Ann Quinn
- Kevin Wilcox

- Kenneth & Ellen Fine
- Velma Gillett

Basic Business Member

- Parrish United Methodist Church
- Rafter J Ranch - Mitchell & Teresa John
- Raymond James - Jim Zientara
- Smarter Advisors, Inc. - Kerri Carter

Community Booster

- Shaun Ausborn
- Bill & Jean Clark
- Ken & Sandra Chin

Join the Parrish Civic Association for 2020

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 2020. Forms are on page 2 and page 55. Clip one of them out, complete it, enclose a check and mail it in today! Help your community continue the efforts!



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Special Genealogical Seminar



The Manatee Genealogical Society will host a special seminar on Wednesday, March 18, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Westminster Courtyard, 222 12th Street W. (Old Main St.) in Bradenton. The keynote speaker, Ray Maki, a member of the Manatee Genealogical Society and New York historian, will present “*New York State Genealogy: Dealing with the Empire.*” There is no charge for this seminar.

Following the presentation there will be a Question & Answer period with the speaker and then a moderated open discussion period.

For Society information, go to the website at <https://mgsfl.org/>, Facebook at www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety or you can email questions to info@mgsfl.org.

“The Sons” from Branson, Missouri Will Perform at Parrish United Methodist Church



The group “The Sons” from Branson, Missouri, will be performing at the Parrish United Methodist Church on Friday, February 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm. There is no charge, only a “love” offering will be collected.

The Sons were “born” in August 2005 by Silver Dollar City, Branson Missouri, to sing cowboy music for the first Salute to the Great American Cowboy. This was the reason The Sons of the Silver Dollar (their original name) group was formed. The tight, three-part harmonies are what makes the blend of The Sons so unique. Besides utilizing a floating lead, they use unison periodically to achieve a very tight sound.

If you love music the way these guys love music, then The Sons concert is where you want to be. Gospel, comedy and popular music. This list just hints the fun you will have while listening to their tight harmonies as they entertain guest of all ages.

We hope to see you on February 14 at Parrish United Methodist Church, 12180 U.S. Highway 301 N., Parrish Florida.

Manatee Genealogical Society to Meet in February

The Manatee Genealogical Society meeting will be held on February 4 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Boulevard W. in Bradenton.

Margaret (Peg) Kapustiak, genealogy consultant, lecturer, and published author, will present “Fifteen Ways to Make Family History More Than Just a Name and Date.”

Following the presentation there will be a Q & A period with the speaker and then a moderated open discussion period.

For Society information, you may go to their website at <https://mgsfl.org/>, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety or email questions to info@mgsfl.org.



Peg Kapustiak.

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Parrish Charter Academy Kindergartners Visit MOSI



The Parrish Charter Academy kindergarten classes attended a field trip to MoSI (Museum of Science & Industry) on January 17th. The students had a great time working with the hands-on puzzles and stations in the "Idea Zone".

Children experimented with air power, a pendulum, magnets, the wind tunnel, circuits, dry ice, static electricity, and the tug-o-war. The kindergartners were also able to explore the NASA moon base and the planetarium during their visit.

As you can see from the smiles on their faces, the students had a great time exploring and learning on this educational field trip.

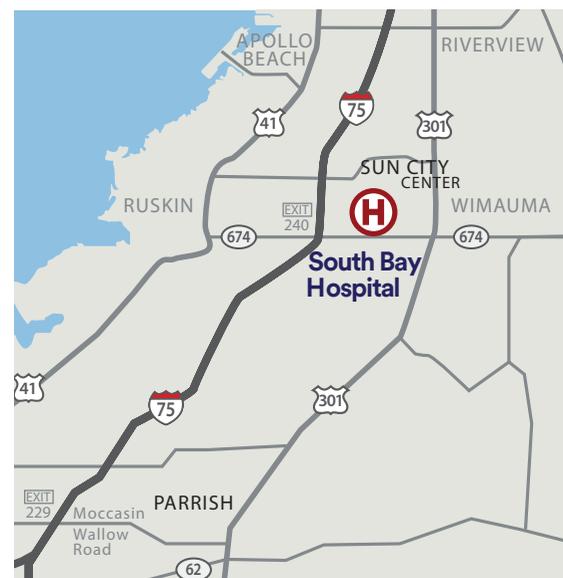


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Worship Service 10:30 am
(Children's Church & Nursery Available)
Worship Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Awana Club (Ages 3 -6th Grade) 6:55 pm
CrossEyed Youth 7:00 pm

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941-776-1533
www.firstbaptistchurchofparrish.org
Church12125@verizon.net

Sunday Services

Bible Classes, all ages.....9:30am
Ban Led Worship/ Gillett Chapel.....9:30am
Hymn Led Worship/ Worship Center.....11:00am
Evening Worship.....6:00pm

Wednesday Service

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.....7:00pm

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Evening Worship 5:00 PM

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Bible Classes 7:00 PM

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Sunday Services

9:15 AM.....Sunday School
10:30 AMWorship

Tuesday

9:30AM.....Women's/Men's Bible Studies

Wednesday

6:00 PM... Bible Study/Prayer/Children/Youth

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Sunday/ Domingo

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Rite II (Contemporary language) 10:00 am
Santa Eucaristía (Español) 1:00 pm

Wednesday/ Miércoles

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

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Worship Service - 10:30 AM

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Bible Study 7:00 PM each Wednesday

Pastor:
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www.harvestfieldcc.org

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



BETH ISRAEL

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SHABBAT SERVICES FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:45 PM
TORAH STUDY SATURDAY AT 12 NOON

Rabbi: Philip Aronson Cantor: Dr. Sam Isaac

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.



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



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

www.faithparrish.com
Rev. Patrick W. Pooch, Pastor
Saturday Service...4:30 p.m.
Sunday Service...10:30 a.m.

Sunday Christian Education...9:15 a.m.
Advent Services: Dec. 4, 11, 18 @ 4:30 p.m.

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

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Courses include:

- ◆ **Social Media Marketing for Small Businesses**
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February 11, 6-9 p.m.
March 10, 6-9 p.m.
- ◆ **How to Showcase Your Small Business at Exhibitions, Festivals & Conferences**
January 15, 6-8 p.m.
- ◆ **Planning for Retirement**
January 21 and 23, 6-8 p.m.
February 18 and 20, 6-8 p.m.
March 17 and 19, 6-8 p.m.
- ◆ **Techniques to Improve Your Memory**
January 22, 6-9 p.m.
- ◆ **Basic Conversational Spanish**
February 3, 5, 10, 12, 19 and 24, 6-8 p.m.
- ◆ **Basic Conversational French**
March 3, 5, 10, 12, 19, 24 and 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Absolute Beginner: Windows 10**
February 12 and 19, 6-9 p.m.
- ◆ **Excel 1**
March 11 and 18, 6-9 p.m.

Visit SCF.edu/CCDEnroll for complete course listings and registration information.

Register Today!

For more information, please call 941-752-5203.

Adult education classes do not apply toward a college degree. State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota does not discriminate on the basis of sex, pregnancy, race, religion, age, national origin/ethnicity, color, marital status, disability, genetic information or sexual orientation in any of its educational programs, services and activities, including admission and employment. Direct inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies to: Equity Officer, 941-752-5323, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34207.

Sunny Tomatoes Opens in Parrish at 12255 US Highway 301 North, Parrish, Florida

What a boon for Parrish! A new business has opened at 12255 US Highway North. It's called Sunny Tomatoes, but it's a great deal more than just tomatoes. Their sign says "Produce, Plants and More" and that's almost an understatement. It is so much more!

Elisa and Ed Chaney previously owned and operated Best Friends Pet Salon in Ellenton and they live in Wimauma. They know our area and many of the residents.

They have now been open for about 45 days, opening in December and working out any kinks in the operation. They have spent a great deal of time repairing coolers, pouring a new concrete floor, rebuilding fencing, erecting a covered awning for their plants, decorating inside, using burlap bags to cover the bottom of the produce bins adding working overhead fans and generally improving the entire building and its environs. What a lot of work!

Now, what do they have to offer? The answer is complex - lots!

They search for locally grown products. When I was by there in late January, Ed was busy trimming sweet onions. He had gone to Plant City earlier that morning and "pulled" the onions. Now these were not just ordinary onions. These onions grew along the perimeter of strawberry fields in Plant City to thwart insects. They had the benefit of growing in the sweet soil of the strawberry plants making them extra sweet Florida onions! Where else can you find these?



I wandered around the entire market talking with Elisa along the way about their produce. They really attempt to obtain locally-grown products - cabbage and collard greens from Wimauma, tomatoes from Ruskin and Wacchula, corn from the area, avocados, grape, Roma and green tomatoes, red and green bell peppers, various kinds of hot peppers, all kinds of potatoes (sweet, baking and creamer), eggplants, zucchini, cucumbers and lots of varieties of citrus including oranges, lemons, limes and tangerines.

And, talk about fruit juice. Boy, we now have an opportunity to buy it at Sunny Tomatoes - not the pasteurized kind - but the kind that has real pulp and that fresh taste - perfect for breakfast or for other uses. It comes in orange and strawberry-orange. Is it ever good. You can purchase a half gallon or smaller.



Elisa and Ed Chaney, Owners and Operators of Sunny Tomatoes, locate where Brown's Farm Market was previously located.

happened to get one flavored with Spanish red wine. There were many others from which to choose.

And, now one of the best parts - the animals they have. Proud roosters and hens, lots of goats including two newly born baby ones that are adorable. (I'll bet the children love them.) Big turkeys that are gorgeous and have names. These animals are for fun and for the families to enjoy while shopping.



These two baby goats shown with their mother were born in December and are thriving on goat feed, bananas and other food items.



And, on one entire side of the fruit stand is an array of canned items. You can purchase beets, salad dressings, salsa, barbecue sauce, honey, apple and pumpkin



butters, pears, peach halves, pickles and more.



Plus, you'll find lettuce, local eggs, cheeses and butter, bacon, sausages and soon Big Olaf Ice Cream.

Other Items at Sunny Tomatoes

We haven't even discussed what else Sunny Tomatoes offers. You'll find many plants that you can purchase - lots of succulents, flowers, herbs, vegetable plants and all kinds of pepper plants.

There are homemade soaps and oils made from goat milk and olive oil. They offer a variety of flavors and aromas. They even offer homemade dog biscuits.

There are various flavored sea salts - I

Plans for the Future for Sunny Tomatoes

Elisa and Ed are just beginning. They have purchased a food truck located behind the market and plan to offer food items later on this year. Perhaps you can get a quick meal for lunch or dinner, some snacks and a beverage.

They will offer "seasonal" items when available such as blueberries, strawberries (now), citrus items and more.

The market is an historic site (see page 20). We welcome Elisa and Ed to Parrish and look forward to a successful business endeavor for them. You can visit their Facebook page to view specials at Sunny Tomatoes.





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Blood Drives for February



Sunday, February 2, 2020: Walmart, 508 10th Street East, Palmetto, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Thursday, February 6, 2020: Veranda Springs, 9286 Sucia Circle 3, Parrish, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Monday, February 10, 2020: Winterset RV Park, 8515 US 41 North, Palmetto, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Thursday, February 13, 2020: Air Products, 2525 Inland Transport Street, Palmetto, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Friday, February 14, 2020: Tropic Isles Mobile Home Park, 3100 10th Street West, Palmetto, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Friday, February 21, 2020: Fiesta Grove RV Resort, 8615 Bayshore Road, Palmetto, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Saturday, February 22, 2020: Harrison Ranch CDD, 5775 Harrison Ranch Boulevard, Parrish, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Sunday, February 23, 2020: St. Frances Cabrini Church, 12001 69th Street, Parrish, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm.

Sunday, February 23, 2020: Chili's Grill & Bar, 6010 US Highway 301 N, Ellenton, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Monday, February 24, 2020: Publix - Gateway Commons, 9520 Buffalo Road, Palmetto, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 25, 2020: Sun Key Village, 8607 26th Avenue East, Palmetto, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 25, 2020: Walmart, 508 10th Street East, Palmetto, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm.

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NEWS



Sheila Gallagher-Montone, Parrish Arts Council

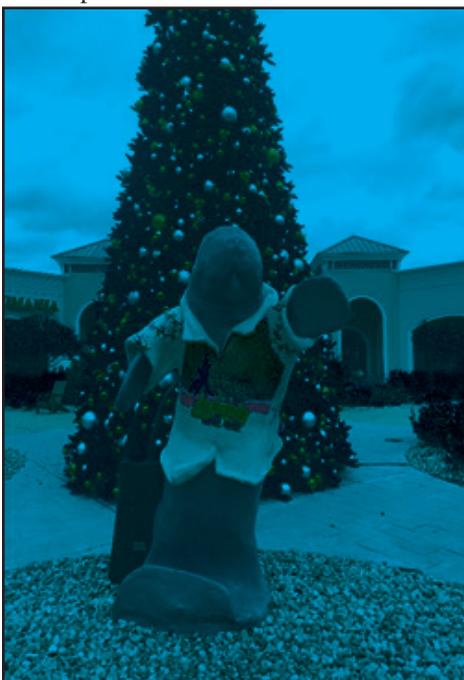
Manatees in Holiday Style

What makes a Christmas Tree lighting uniquely Florida? When it's surrounded by Manatees, handsomely dressed for the holidays, of course.

On Saturday November 23, 2019, Christmas came to The Ellenton Premium Outlets. The annual Tree Lighting ceremony was made extra special as the 2019 Holiday Manatees were unveiled to the delight of shoppers, members of The Parrish Arts Council, local student artists and their families.



For the second year in a row, Simon Property Group who manages The Ellenton Premium Outlets, hosted a spectacular tree lighting ceremony which included the mall's signature Manatees dressed in newly designed T-shirts. Each Manatee, sporting new hand painted attire, added to the spirit of a tropical Christmas.



"We were thrilled to welcome families to Ellenton Premium Outlets for our 2nd Annual Tree Lighting on November 23rd. We hope to continue this Christmas tradition and bring holiday cheer and joy to the families of Manatee County for years to come." said Zulema Vegas, Director of Marketing and Business Development at Ellenton Premium Outlets. "We are also

proud to continue our partnership with the Parrish Arts Council as they have connected us with a wonderful group of students from Parrish Community High School who submitted several creative designs for the Manatee sculptures. We have selected the top three designs for the holiday season and look forward continuing to work with them in the Spring."

The Parrish Arts Council again collaborated with Simon Property Group to make the Annual Tree Lighting an important event for the local Manatee County community, as well as thousands of shoppers from throughout the region.

In an effort to both localize this event, and bring area student artists into this creative process, PAC coordinated with Julie Hebert who serves as Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist at School District of Manatee County. Area schools were invited to encourage student artists to submit their original designs for 'Tropical Christmas t-shirts' that would be then painted on the fiberglass Manatee sculptures.



Under the direction of Parrish Community High School Art teacher, Ms. Hailey Patalano, 60 student designs were submitted. Judges from the Bradenton Chamber of Commerce and staff from Bradenton Area Convention center had the difficult task of choosing 3 winning designs and 3 runner up designs.

Winning student artists then became working artists as they painted their exceptional designs on site. Members of PAC were on site every step of the way to provide guidance, encouragement and kudos to these up and coming members of the Parrish arts community.

Winning student artists included Adriene Driscoll, Eva Heflin and Brook Gillespy.



2019 Painted Manatee winners and runner-up students along with Zulema Vega, Director of Marketing and Business Development Ellenton Premium Outlets, Hailey Palatano PCHS Art Teacher, Karalee Hammes, Board Member PAC.

Art education is a key component of the Parrish Arts Council mission. PAC Board Member, fine artist and Ellenton resident, Karalee Hammes, has served as Manatee T-shirt project leader year over year. Karalee's efforts help drive this successful initiative that links seasoned local artists with art students...all doing what they are passionate about. She exemplifies how PAC member artists can truly "cultivate an artistically inspired community" and promote the arts through the work of fellow artists.

Karalee Hammes is quick to remind this writer that having a good business neighbor is critical to the success of the Manatee T-shirt project.

The Ellenton Premium Outlets, along with Simon Property Group, are proven good business neighbors here in Manatee County. Not only did they insist on local student involvement in the 2019 project... they also provided tremendous incentive to participants. Parrish Community High School was awarded a \$1000 American Express Card for their outstanding level of participation and winning entries. Each of the winning student artists received a \$250 Gift Card and each runner-up received a \$50 Gift Card.



Simon Property Group, Inc. is a commercial real estate company, the largest retail real estate investment trust, and the largest shopping mall operator in the US.

The Parrish Arts Council is a 501©3 non-profit serving Manatee County and the surrounding region since 2013.

"PAC will support local artists and cultivate an artistically inspired community." By promoting Art Education, Artists and the Arts in Parrish and the surrounding communities, we inspire others while preserving our artistically rich history.

Some of the ways that PAC achieves its mission include this shining example championed by Karalee Hammes. Other ways include the following:

Calling all Artists for our "Wings" exhibition coming in March. The Jury Committee will be looking for artwork with "Wings" as the subject. All mediums are welcome. All artwork will be on display at the Rocky Bluff Library from March - April.

Calling members of the Parrish Arts Council, Harrison Ranch Arts Guild and Colony Cove Art Club for our Juried "Passionate" exhibition theme. The artwork will be on display at the ComCenter at Lakewood Ranch from March 9th to June 5th. Theme details and submission rules are on parrishartscouncil.org. Submission deadline is

February 15th.

Our current exhibition titled "Open" is on display at the Rocky Bluff Library now through February. This exhibition has multiple mediums with a variety of subjects. Stop by and check it out in the libraries foyer.

Our member's **ArtConversations** are now monthly. The next one is Wednesday, February 26th at the Rocky Bluff Library, 6750 US-301, Ellenton. This month is open where artists can bring whatever they want to work on and share. Meet other artists and enjoy the time together! RSVPs are appreciated at getinvolved@parrishartscouncil.org.

Call to Members: We are always looking for volunteers to help with various committees. If you would like to help, please contact the Parrish Arts Council at getinvolved@parrishartscouncil.org.

There are many advantages to becoming a member of the Parrish Arts Council. Every other month, members are invited to different local restaurants to enjoy a meal and socialize with other artists and art enthusiasts.

Additionally, **ArtConversation** is happening on opposing months at the Rocky Bluff Library. Members also enjoy free or discounted participation in art activities throughout the year. Single PAC memberships are \$25 annually, January through December. More information regarding membership may be found on our website: parrishartscouncil.org.

Social Media Marketing for Small Businesses February 11 6:00 - 9:00 PM

In February's class, we will discuss the social media platforms of Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

We'll explore the mechanics of each channel and how to maximize exposure on each platform.

Additionally, we will examine how to create meaningful content without spending days writing new content.

For more information, please call 941-752-5203.

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Parrish Civic Association

Parrish Village News

Letter from the Editor

February 2020

As we enter February, we have some big events in our future.

General Membership Meeting - Parrish Civic Association

We have a General Membership Meeting of the Parrish Civic Association approaching. It is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020. It will begin at 6:30 pm with an opportunity for attendees to talk with people from three areas (the ones who helped develop the Neighborhood Action Plan for Parrish, a Parrish Fire District Update and EMS Plan, and a chance to view the proposed Gamble Creek Development). All three of these areas will present at the General Meeting which starts at 7:00 pm.

At this meeting there will also be a General Election of Officers and Board Members of the Parrish Civic Association for the 2020 year. The slate is as follows:

Officers

- Gretchen Fowler - President
- Norma Kennedy - Vice President
- Treasurer - Tami Vaughan
- Secretary - Cindy Chin

Directors

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Shaun Ausborn | Alan Jones |
| Cookie Jordan | Iris McClain |
| Marshall Mills | Lorraine Prosser |
| Mimi Sheffer | |

Three New School Principals Selected as Grand Marshals for Parrish Heritage Day Parade

Parrish is so fortunate to have three new schools in the area this 2019 - 2020 school year - Harvey Elementary School, Parrish Charter Academy and Parrish Community High School. These three new schools bring so much to our community and provide an opportunity for Parrish area children to go to local schools. They also bring with them some wonderfully dedicated teachers and school administrators. We are so proud of them and the PCA has selected them to be Grand Marshals this year: Haley Rio from Harvey Elementary School, Dawn Patterson from Parrish Charter Academy and Craig Little from Parrish Community High School. Come out to the Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off and support these wonderful educational leaders new to our community! The event is on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Days to Mark on Your Calendars

On February 11, 2020, the Manatee County Commissioners will be recognizing Parrish. They are awarding medals to Cookie and Ben Jordan for their commitment to the growth, development, interest and positive contributions to our community. Come to the Manatee County Building on Manatee Avenue in Bradenton at 9:00 am on Tuesday, February 11 to watch Cookie and Ben receive the honors that recognize our Parrish community!

Then, on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, the Manatee Board of County Commissioners will proclaim March 7, 2020 as official Parrish Heritage Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off Day. This is the first time for such recognition for Parrish's biggest event. Wear your Chili Tee Shirt (if you have one) and support this exciting event!

And...plan to attend the Parade, Festival and Chili Cook Off on Saturday, March 7, 2020 for a great family, fun time with kid's activities, live music, vendors, antique cars, the Budweiser beer truck, lots of good food, and of course, tasting of all the chilis prepared by over 25 teams! The Parade is at 10:30 am and gates open for the Festival and Chili Cook Off at 11:00 am.

Cookie Jordan
 Editor/Publisher
 Parrish Village News
 RJo2344@aol.com
 941-776-9019



If you have not joined or renewed your membership, NOW IS THE TIME for 2020! With your support, the PCA can continue to work for our community and surrounding areas. LET'S SHOOT FOR 1000 MEMBERS OR MORE!

The Parrish Civic Association has worked hard over the past 12 months to help our community by the following:

1. The renaming of the High School
2. FDOT to install a traffic light at US Hwy 301 – SR 675 first part of 2020
3. Working with the county to obtain a Central Park location that will be close to the new high school and college.
4. Bringing back the Rural Development Committee that is working with the county on a master plan for Parrish to guide the growth that has come into our area
5. "Open Forum" monthly meetings to keep our neighbors and businesses updated and to listen to their concerns and answer questions regarding our community
6. Annual Chili Cook-off and Heritage Day Parade
7. Parrish "Hometown" Christmas Event
8. Increased the delivery of the "Parrish Village News" to 17,500 homes

All the work in the community is done by volunteers with a passion for our town. We are always looking for volunteers to help continue serving our community. Won't you be the one! Ask your neighbors, friends, businesses to get involved. #WeArePARRISH

Thank you, Norma Kennedy Membership Chair.

Parrish Civic Association
 (not for profit)
Membership Form
 (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email Address: _____
(Above information is for PCA use only. We do not give out or sell to outside parties.)

Please check one: New Member Renewal

\$25.00+ Basic Member

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\$75.00+ Community Sponsor

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This spacious Silverleaf home has a bright and airy floor plan and features 3 br/2.5 ba w/den and an extended patio with lovely pond views from several rooms. MLS #A4455165 **\$355,000**



Bike to our beautiful gulf coast white sandy beaches on Anna Maria Island! A little TLC will make this 3br/2ba with no deed restrictions the perfect place to call home. MLS #A4454537 **\$234,900**



No need to lift a finger, just move right in and start making memories in this charming home that offers elegant, turn-key spaces with a welcoming open concept. MLS #A4456323 **\$279,900**



Welcome to Bayou Estates! This beautifully remodeled 3 br/2 ba home is located on a quiet cul-de-sac and has a fully fenced back yard with room to park a trailer or small boat. MLS #A4455346 **\$245,000**



Start the new year off right! This well-cared for home is ready for your family and is located in Kingsfield Lakes, a wonderful community with a pool and 2 playgrounds. MLS #A4454470 **\$272,000**



Welcome to the gated and maintenance free community of Oak Trail! This 2 br home features an open concept, split floor plan with a large bonus room upstairs. MLS #A4456322 **\$189,900**



Surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the countryside, this picture-perfect southern colonial on 9+ acres in the Foxwood section of Panther Ridge boasts impeccable style. MLS #A4450802 **\$1,395,000**



Meticulously maintained and completely remodeled home with two master suites, pool, 5-stall barn on 3+ acres close to town and NO deed restrictions! MLS #A4449391 **\$659,900**



Great opportunity that has a "main house", an attached "apartment" (converted garage) and "carport with an over-sized studio apartment" on adjoining parcel. MLS #A4448296 **\$499,000**



Stunning executive home located in the beautiful Aberdeen community. This spacious home features 4 br/2.5 ba on an oversized preserve lot providing complete privacy. MLS #A4448010 **\$304,500**



Home is where the heart is; you have now fallen in love. Picture perfect, private, and pleasing to the eye as soon as you open the door to this beautiful home with upgrades galore. MLS #A4447659 **\$375,000**



Welcome to The Hammocks at River Wilderness - a maintenance free section of this golf community. This spacious 2 br/den/2 ba home is well maintained and move-in ready! MLS #A4447012 **\$298,900**



Simply perfect, is the best way to describe this stunning pool home in The Links @ Rosedale Golf and Country Club where you can enjoy Florida living at its best! MLS #A4447021 **\$564,900**

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