



A message from your Board...
by Scott Sims, President

Happy New Year to all. Looking back at nearly two years of Forums, COVID-19 has been the lead topic and unfortunately continues to be so. As of this writing in late December, Omicron is the latest variant and of great concern. We are strongly advised to continue mask wearing when in crowds indoors and out, as we know that this strain is extremely contagious. It seems that being fully vaccinated means being boosted as well in order to minimize the severity if we come down with the disease. Your Board continuously monitors advice from the CDC as we adjust our recommendations for the community.

Our annual meeting is just a month away, and while we have passed the deadline for Board of Director candidates to submit their notice of intent to run, we will be taking nominations from the floor at the February 3 meeting. If you wish to serve on one of our committees, there is still time to download the form from our website (under the "Forms" tab) and submit it on line or at the office. The Board is especially encouraging new residents to take part.

We continue to be concerned about nonresidents entering the community without registering at the main entrance with the gatehouse personnel. Tailgating through the back gate is an issue of great concern. The security committee is addressing this issue with top priority, and will be advising the Board. It is so important for all of us to lock our homes when we leave, if only for a short time. If you see something suspicious, first call 911, NOT the gatehouse.

Falls Forum

January 2022

Every minute counts, and we want law enforcement to respond without any delay.

If you were not in attendance or read the minutes of the December Board meeting, your Board approved the repair of the road depression at Kariba and Victoria. A contract has been signed for the repair and work should begin in the next month. In addition, we look to have the new sound system for the Grand Salon installed by the time we hold our annual HOA meeting.

Speaking of the annual meeting, it will be held at the clubhouse at 7 pm on February 3. Please consider attending either in person or online with Go-To-Meeting. It is so important for all of us to fill out and submit the ballots for Board of Directors in advance or in person at the meeting. Details will follow.

Until then, a very Happy and safe New Year.



LRF ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Scott Sims: President@lakeridgefalls.org
VP, Suzanne Weinstein: VicePresident@lakeridgefalls.org
Treasurer, Calvin Fitzgerald: Treasurer@lakeridgefalls.org
Secretary, Judy Buffa: Secretary@lakeridgefalls.org
Director, Nancy Blair: Director@lakeridgefalls.org

Committees

Architectural Review Board (ARB)

Scott Sims, Board Liaison
Suzanne Weinstein, Co-Board Liaison
Lanny Weintraub, Chairperson
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am

Budget Committee

Scott Sims, Board Liaison
Calvin Fitzgerald, Co-Board Liaison
Dick Dorn, Mitch Matte, Co-Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Buildings Committee

Nancy Blair, Board Liaison
Co-Board Liaison
Lori Klein & Ilyne McQueen, Co-Chairpersons
Meetings: As needed, 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00am

Community Relations Committee (CRC)

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Dan DeRoner, Chairperson
Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month at 10:00am, as needed

Landscape Committee

Nancy Blair, Board Liaison
Rod Hayden & Roger Miller, Co-Chairpersons
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00am

Pool Committee

Suzanne Weinstein, Board Liaison
Dorie Parsons, Chairperson
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 2:00pm

Roads and Grounds Committee

Calvin Fitzgerald, Board Liaison
Rod Hayden, Chairperson, Harold Sabot Co-Chairperson
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00am

Security Committee

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Barry Starkell, Chairperson
Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the Month at 10:00am

Hurricane Preparedness Group

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Jim DuGranrut, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Social Committee

Jane Kintz & Leigh Selby, Co-Chairpersons
Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 10:00am

Art League

Jackie Hathaway, President
Meetings as needed

4200 Lakeridge Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34243
Lakeridgefalls.org

Property Manager Report

by Oded Neeman

2022 Elections – Time flies when you are having fun. LakeRidge Falls is once again happy to announce that the Annual Meeting and Election for Directors will take place on February 3rd, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. at:

LakeRidge Falls Clubhouse

4200 LakeRidge Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34243

and

Go-To-Meeting Video Conferencing

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/720226373>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 720-226-373

In the next few days, you will be receiving the Second Notice of the Annual Meeting of the membership and election for the Board of Directors. In the envelope, you will see a detailed explanation regarding the meeting and election. **Please read it carefully.**

Committee Signup – On a related matter, the committee signup sheets are now available online and in the Clubhouse. Thanks to Ms. Dorie Parsons, a member of the community, members and residents can submit their applications for the Architectural Review Board, Budget, Buildings, Community Relation, Landscaping, Pool, Roads & Grounds, and Security Committees, online by clicking [here](#). For those who don't feel comfortable with applying online and/or wish to apply using the more traditional way of

Office

Property Manager: Oded Neeman
Phone: 941-360-1046 Line #101
email: PropertyManager@lakeridgefalls.org
After hours Emergency Only - 941-951-4034

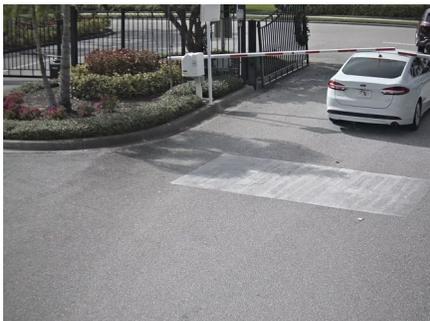
Association Assistant/ LRF Falls Forum: Andrea Householder
Phone: 941-360-1046 Line #103 Hours: M-W-F 9:30am - 3:30pm
email: Andrea@lakeridgefalls.org

Guardhouse: 941-355-1328 / Security@lakeridgefalls.org

a hard paper copy, we added the paper version of the application to the website. If you wish to print a copy, please visit the Association's website or click [here](#). As mentioned above, hard copies are also available at the Clubhouse near the bulletins boards. The Board of Directors strongly encourages homeowners and residents to join the different committees as it provides a feeling of ownership and is a great opportunity for you to become active and involved within the LakeRidge Falls community as committees play a vital role in the operation of LakeRidge Falls.

Home Security – A disturbing incident took place last month which was very similar to one that took place back in July of this year. On December 14th at around 1:30 pm, we got a report that an African American male wearing a mask and a baseball cap attempted to enter a residential property on Kariba Lake Terrace. The homeowner, who was at the house at the time, confronted him and he thereafter fled the scene with his car. The following is what the security cameras revealed to us.

The intruder sneaked into the community at around noontime from the back gate located at Lockwood Ridge Rd. As can be seen in the picture below, the intruder was driving a white sedan, license plate #CORZIN. In the process, the intruder hit the arm gates. Later video footage showed that the intruder was testing the exit gates before continuing to roam the community. Needless to say, the Association filed a complaint with Manatee County Sheriff Department. However, it was too late.



Therefore, we must stress again, and this time in bold letters, that:

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS URGING YOU TO CALL 911

If you recall, Deputy Russell Younger from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office's Crime Prevention Department urged all to call

911 in a similar situation instead of calling the gatehouse.

Think about it for a second. What can the gatehouse do with a report of a potential intruder? The guard on duty can't leave his/her post. Furthermore, the guard has zero tools to enforce the law. Therefore, we urge you, beg you to please call the Manatee County Sheriff's Office without delay the second you experience and/or witness suspicious activity.

With this in mind, please make sure to:

- Report suspicious activity to Manatee County Sheriff Department. Remember, call the Sheriff's Department first! It may save valuable time which may assist in intercepting suspicious individuals. Understandably, members and residents may be afraid to make a call to the Sheriff to report suspicious activity. However, it is always better to be safe than to be sorry.
- Consult with private security companies on how to better protect your house.
- Install timers while you are on vacation, out to dinner, or even while you are at work maintaining an appearance of occupancy.
- Consider a second locking mechanism for your windows and doors such as an extra lock, pan head top screws, and/or bracing devices.
- Install a security sign in your front yard even if you don't have an alarm.
- Consider installing smart security cameras such as doorbell cameras, floodlight cameras, etc., which are widely available, relatively inexpensive, easy to operate, and simple to install.

Also, members and residents must understand that the fact that LakeRidge Falls is a gated community does not mean that crime can't and will not "hit" or spillover from areas around the community. Yes, the more security rings (i.e. guards, wall/fence, cameras, etc.) the better we are. However, these security measurements should not create a false sense of security when it comes to personal security and safety. Therefore, following these simple steps mentioned above will help keep LakeRidge Falls a safe place to live.

Continued on Page 4

Waterfall – As reported in the Weekly Reports, the waterfall was down for a couple of days last month. Here is why. Recently, we noticed a hairline crack in the waterfall basin. After bringing the matter to their attention, a Project Engineer from Karins Engineering, a local structural engineering firm, determined that the “crack appears to be a shrinkage or expansion crack in a coating, not a structural crack in the concrete.” Knowing that the basin was resurfaced back in late 2018 and therefore still under warranty, we contacted the company that performed the work, Mr. Marcite. It took several back-and-forth communications with a few site visits, but eventually, a Mr. Marcite’s technician arrived to perform the repair. Following the curing stage, the waterfall was filled back up and turned on. We are happy to say that the waterfall is up and running again at full force.



Pool Maintenance – on a somewhat related issue, we received a report that one of the pool tiles located on the east side of the pool was broken, as can be seen in the picture below. To prevent pool users from cutting themselves on the broken tile, Smiley Pool Services, LakeRidge Falls’ pool maintenance company, applied epoxy on the broken section as a temporary solution. For a permanent solution, we placed a service call with Mr. Marcite, which is the same company that resurfaced the community pool and spa as well in 2018.



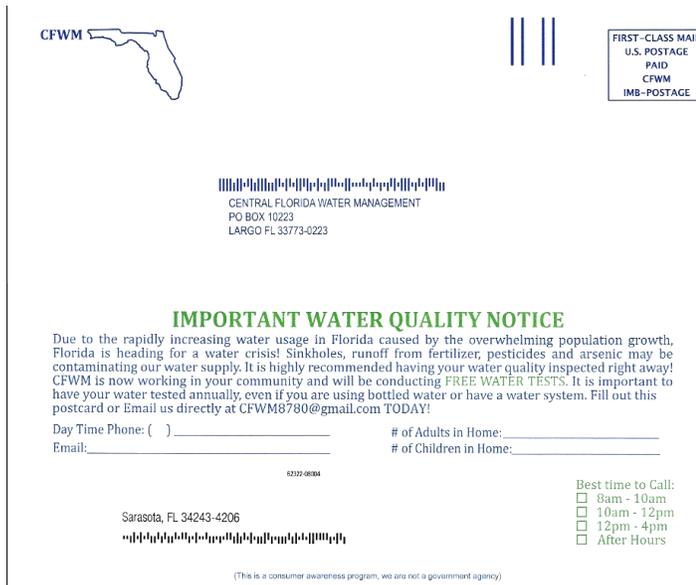
While on-site, Mr. Marcite replaced another broken tile that was never reported to us and discovered a few more that had a horizontal crack. While they don’t pose a safety issue according to him, he suggested they be replaced on a later date as a measure of best maintenance practice. Of course, both the Board of Directors and the Pool Committee will investigate the matter and formulate an action plan to address this issue. With this in mind, please note that after a couple of tiles were replaced, we were asked to allow the repairs to cure. Therefore, and unfortunately, the pool remained close for two days. As with the waterfall, we are happy to say that the pool is up and running again.

Brown Water – Last month, we received a few reports from residents throughout the community stating they experienced some brown water coming out of their faucets. As in past years, the cause for this phenomenon lays with Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue. As common maintenance practice, Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue tests fire hydrants by annually flushing them. While such tests may be performed outside the community, flushing fire hydrants can cause some sediment to stir into the system causing the water to turn brown. To correct this matter, Manatee County Utilities Department (MCUD) crews were dispatched on-site to flush the fire hydrants on the streets where the reports came from. As advised in the past, residents must contact MCUD Customer Service at 941-792-8811 and report similar situations, i.e. brown water, directly to them.

Water Quality – Ironically enough, or maybe not, several residents contacted us at the same time the brown water issue was reported regarding a correspondence they received in the mail from Central Florida Water Management. The correspondence, which is titled **Important Water Quality Notice**, states that “...Florida is heading for a water crisis!” and thereafter offers residents “**FREE WATER TESTS**.” Residents who brought this matter to our attention attested that this correspondence made them feel uncomfortable and wonder if immediate action was warranted. However, a closer look into it revealed that at the bottom of the correspondence it stated in parenthesis that “**this is a consumer**

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“this is a consumer awareness program, we are not a government agency.” In other words, it is an advertisement that came in the mail.



Knowing that marketers often use what is considered scare tactics, you must be very wary of mailings such as mentioned above. Companies that implement such marketing strategies hope you get worried so fast that you will act without giving their correspondence a second thought. However, before you act, please take a moment and look into it. Here are some suggestions when you receive such correspondences:

- **Research the Company.** Look at consumer protection agencies or consumer reviews online. If there are bad reviews, consumer alert notes, or no information at all, you know not to do business with such a company. In the case of Central Florida Water Management, there are 3 Google reviews and only one star out of five.
- **Research the Offer.** Look into the proposal and see if you need it. On its website, Manatee County Utilities Department states that the County “provides drinking water that meets all safety standards and strives to provide drinking water to each tap in our system that is free from unfavorable odor or tastes. Sometimes customers report a mild taste or odor. The [Water Odor Taste Fact Sheet](#) describes some of these concerns, details possible causes, and for some, provides diagnostic procedures that can be performed by homeowners.”
- **Request More Information.** Ask the company that offers a service to provide you with written materials about their offer before scheduling any service

call. Also, don’t forget to ask for references.

- **There is No Need to Act Fast.** If you feel the quality of the water is so bad, there is plenty of water in Publix and Walmart as hurricane season is almost over. Therefore, take your time and invest some of it in researching the matter.
- **Ask for a Second Opinion.** In this case, contact the Manatee County Utilities Department. A few years ago, the County sent a Water Quality Compliance Supervisor to speak with residents about the quality of the drinking water provided by its local water treatment facility. The County is sensitive to residents’ concerns so please make sure to take advantage of it and do not hesitate to contact them.

Sulfur Smell in the Clubhouse – Some residents may have smelled a worrying odor in the clubhouse, similar to a rotten egg smell, a couple of weeks ago. Well, here is the reason. Back in October, Piper Fire Protection, LakeRidge Falls’ Fire System Service Company, was on-site performing the annual fire sprinklers and alarms inspections. While the systems were said to be in good working condition, Piper Fire Protection suggested replacing four fire sprinkler heads. Of course, the suggestion was accepted and approved. While the work was scheduled for a later date, Piper Fire Protection called us on Monday morning advising that due to a canceled job they could be on-site with an hour. Knowing no other activities were taking place in the clubhouse at the time, we welcomed the offer presented to us.

As one can imagine, the fire sprinkler system has constant water in it for an undesirable situation of fire. Therefore, Piper Fire Protection had to shut down the standpipe and drain the water in the system in order to replace the fire sprinkler heads. Because the water in the system is standing water, i.e. they are not circulated, the system contains some traces of hydrogen sulfide and/or sulfur bacteria build-up. Hence, the smell of a rotten egg in the air. Please note that this foul odor was not harmful and thankfully didn’t linger for too long. Nevertheless, we thank all who made sure to bring this matter to our attention and understanding during this period.

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First Aid Kit – Recently, a resident approached the office asking if there is a first aid kit around because he needed a bandage to dress a scab that opened. This made us think. If one resident is not aware that the Association has fully stocked first aid kits in both the clubhouse and pool area, there might be others. For this reason, we went ahead and purchased a couple of directional signs to ensure that those who may need one will be aware of their location. As can be seen in the pictures below, the one kit is located in the one and only cabinet which is inside the pool area. The other kit is located in the clubhouse kitchen in the cabinet above the microwave. Please take a moment and familiarize yourself with these locations just in case you may need an item from the kit or direct others to them.



Alligators – An interesting story for you. Back in August, we reported that a resident stopped by our offices to report that a small alligator was spotted around Lake # 14, the long lake located between the Tuttle Ave wall and uneven homes along Stirling Falls Circle. Following the report, a call was made to the Nuisance Alligator Hotline, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission program designed to protect the alligator population while keeping public safety in mind. We also reported back in August that past incidents taught us that it may take the certified and licensed nuisance alligator trapper a few visits before the alligator could be located and caught.

Fast forward to December, we received a couple more reports that an alligator was spotted at the same Lake. We of course wasted no time and placed a call to the Nuisance Alligator Hotline. To our surprise, we learned that the permit for the alligator report from August was still open. Puzzled by it, we called the trapper who was assigned to locate the alligator back in August. What we learned next surprised us. Based on the trapper’s account, he “harvested” a 5.3 feet alligator from that lake in early November... The meaning of this report is that for the first time in the community history two separate alligators were spotted within a very short period.

Therefore, please, now more than ever, take a moment and read the brochure called [Living with Alligators](#), which is published by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It provides safety tips and other important information. Remember, please don’t attempt to handle the alligator by yourself if you spot it. Furthermore, don’t attempt to feed alligators as it is both dangerous and illegal. Please make sure not to leave pet food in the lanai nor leave your pet there unattended. Thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Picking Up After Your Pet – As in the past, we wish to remind all that they are obligated to clean up after their pets. Domestic animal feces are a major nuisance and an environmental hazard. The reason why we take the time to remind residents of their obligation once again is that we have received a few complaints of residents failing to pick up their pet's feces. This is simply unacceptable. Please note that Manatee County Animal Ordinance “requires pet owners to remove feces deposited by their animal from any public property or private property of another.” This means that one must pick up and dispose of their pets’ feces and not hope that someone else will do it for them. Manatee County and the Association have enforcement tools to handle matters like this. However, we are sure this issue can be resolved without using any of those tools. Therefore, we kindly request that when you walk your pet to please make sure to pick up after it and dispose of the bag. Please help us keep this community clean and healthy.

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2021 Nominating Committee News

Well here we are again, the time of year for those of you LRF denizens who really want to make a difference by considering running for the Board of Directors. Though it takes focus and hard work the satisfaction and pride you would gain by serving your community would be meaningful.

At our annual meeting on February 3, 2022, there will be 3 vacancies to fill, each for a 2-year term. The only requirements are you must be an owner (listed on the deed) and willingness to devote talent and time towards the betterment of LRF.

Though everyone who has ever served knows the job is challenging, they would agree the benefits, both personal and to the community, outweigh the effort. Here is your opportunity to help keep LRF in its well-earned place of esteem.

Please contact any of your Nominating Committee members about serving or with a recommendation of a nominee.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Martin Kasper, Jane Kintz and Paul Urbanick

Art League

The Art League had it's first meeting in quite some time. A new exhibit/reception is being planned for Sunday, March 20, 2022 from 4-6 pm. The theme for this exhibit is "Asia". Please mark that date and time and plan to come see some wonderful art! More information will follow as we get closer.

Dues for the Art League are now being accepted for 2022. Checks made out to "LRF Art League" for \$10 per member are accepted by Jackie Hathaway, President and Alice Dorn, Treasurer. The next meeting will be held Monday, January 10, 2022 at 1:30 pm. Plans for outside events and more clubhouse activities will be discussed. Come help us get the Art League back up and running.

Frances Frongillo is once again conducting her art classes and sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board



Jackie Hathaway



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Classified Ads are to be submitted by
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Only \$1.00 per line, five line limit. Deadline is the 20th
of each month. Call Andrea at 941-360-1046 ext #103



To our advertisers
for supporting the
Falls Forum and Resi-
dents Directory!

Please let them
know you saw their

Seasoned Singles Pot Luck Dinner

If you are single and ready to mingle, this is for you!! The LRF Seasoned Singles
group is sponsoring a POT LUCK DINNER

January 17th 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Sign up on Bulletin Board in Clubhouse or by
calling Andrea. Please indicate if you will bring a
side dish, entrée or dessert.

Set Up for Dinner is at 2:30. Hope to see you there!!!



Dining Divas

Met on December 3rd at Seasons 52

Check out these photos.



Many new residents have ask me for a map of LakeRidge Falls with the street names.
Hope this helps.



4200 Lakeridge Falls Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-360-1046

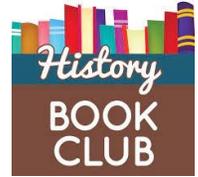


THE HISTORY BOOK CLUB

A history book club has been formed for anyone with an interest in discussing American and Global History. Monthly 1 hour meetings from 2 to 3 East Coast time. Our “Zoom meetings” will be held on the third Tuesday of each month. Everyone is encouraged to recommend history books and facilitate our discussions on those books. Participants will receive a Zoom link about two days prior to the meeting. Anyone interested in joining should contact Stu Sutin at: sutindoc@gmail.com

Scheduled discussions currently include:

- January 18, 2022. Lynne Olson **Freedom’s Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830-1970.** Paul Urbanick facilitator
- February 15, 2022. Joseph Ellis **Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation.** Stu Sutin, facilitator



Travel Club

January 20, 2022—4:00 pm Grand Salon

The purpose of the club is to provide information and travel ideas for a potential group trip for residents, along with individual trips for interested residents. Mitzi Hogoboom is a part-time agent and has a wealth of travel knowledge. Watch for more information in the Weekly Reminders.

Sociable Stitchers

This is the second Holiday Season that the Sociable Stitchers of LakeRidge Falls have either knitted or crocheted many beautiful lap blankets and scarfs for the home bound receiving Meals On Wheels of Sarasota. Each item either the lap blanket or scarf was made with a colorful pattern and precise detail. The Sociable Stitchers are dedicated to their craft and the results are evident. We can’t thank them enough for their generous gifts to the Meals On Wheels home bound!

Thank you all again—Meals On Wheels Volunteers

Sharon Rosenthal and Adele Lepow



Coming in January

Thursday Afternoons

Hand & Foot and Mexican Train.

Watch the Weekly Reminders for more details





**2nd Monday of
Each Month**

BINGO

Cards/chips go on sale at 6:30 pm

**Game starts at 7:00 pm in the
Grand Salon.**



Sociable Stitchers

Every Friday from

10:00 am—12:00 pm

In the Activities Room.

All LRF Residents are welcome



*Meet the 1st Friday of
Each Month at 11:30.
Various Restaurants are
selected. Check out the
Weekly Reminders for
updates.*



**Painting Classes
with Frances Frongillo**

Decorative Painting Classes begins Wednes-
day, January 12, from 9:30—11:00 am. \$40
plus supplies.

Landscape on Canvas Classes begins
Wednesday, January 12, from 1:00—2:30
pm. \$40 plus supplies.

Sign up on Bulletin Board.

Romeo Luncheon

*Meets the 1st Friday of each month at
12:00. Various Restaurants are selected.*

Car pooling is available.



**Tuesday Morning Coffee Club
Every Tuesday**

10:00 am—11:00 am

in the Grand Salon

Discussions can wander from the trivial to
today's most important issues. We do not
discuss politics, or religion. New residents are
invited and encouraged to join us.

Your first donut is on us!!!



**Chair Yoga
Mondays & Thursdays
9:30 am—11:00 am
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Nancy Escobedo
Barber/Owner/Mgr



A huge “thank you” to all who attended our December events ~ the Holiday Party and the outing to Snook Haven.

The Social Committee is planning events for 2022. Save these dates:

January 28th TGIF

February 20th A special music event

We would like to encourage both established and new residents to come and socialize at our events. It is a great way to catch up with friends and meet new residents.

The Committee would also like to invite interested residents to join our committee. We meet the 1st Monday of every month at 10:00 in the Activities Room.

Submitted by: Jane Kintz



Women’s Breakfast Meets Every 4th-Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 at the Honey Tree Café.

Check out the Weekly Reminders

Upcoming EVENTS

Monday, January 3 and Thursday, January 6— Chair Yoga 9:30—11:00 (Every Monday & Thursday watch Weekly Reminder for Date Change)

Thursday, January 6—Mexican Train/Hand&Foot 1:00 (every Thursday)

Friday, January 7th—Dining Divas 11:30 — Carrabba’s

Friday, January 7th—Romeo Luncheon—12:00 Valentinos

Monday, January 10—Art League Meeting 1:30

Monday, January 10—BINGO—7:00

Tuesday, January 11—Euchre 6:30 (Every Tuesday)

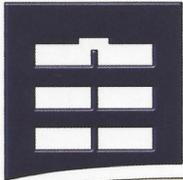
Wednesday, January 12 Painting with Fran 9:30—2:30 (Every Wednesday)

Monday, January 17—Pot Luck Dinner 5:00—7:00

Saturday, January 22—Information Saturday

Tuesday, January 25—Women’s Breakfast 9:30

Tuesday, January 25—Wine & Fiction 7:00



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Leslie (941) 266-5308

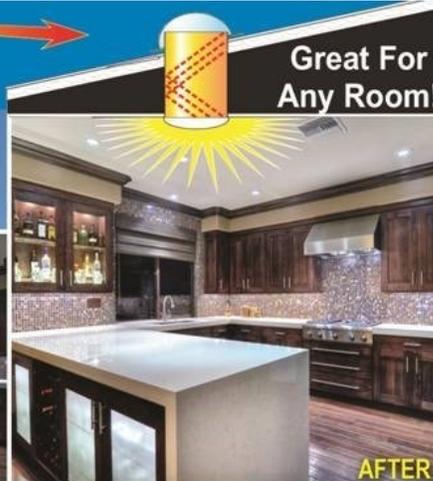
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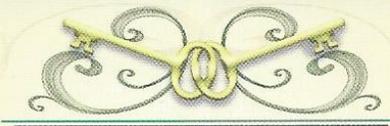
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