



# LaCasa News

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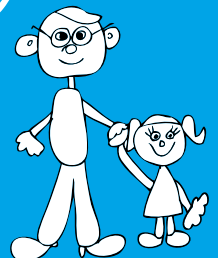
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June 15<sup>th</sup>

3:30 - 6pm

June 17<sup>th</sup>

# Happy Father's Day!



**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
LA CASA ACTIVITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Articles may be placed in boxes provided in Rec Hall and Club House or at Editor's home – 469 Loma Linda  
Editor's E-Mail – [vantas@verizon.net](mailto:vantas@verizon.net) (If used, please send articles as an Attachment)

**WEB SITE FOR LACASA NEWS: [www.cmnewsletters.com](http://www.cmnewsletters.com)**

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CLINT VAN TASSELL will temporarily be doing all the scheduling for the use of our buildings. Call him at 426-6647.

**NEWSPAPER POLICY & GUIDELINES**

1. The purpose of the "LaCasa News" is to provide information to residents regarding social, recreational and community affairs.
2. No complaints or opinions, deemed personal or controversial will be accepted for publication.
3. All copy is subject to editing. The appropriateness of any submitted material shall be determined by the Editor under the control of the elected Board of Directors of the LaCasa Activity Association, Inc. The printer is empowered to solicit advertising to cover the

cost of printing the newspaper. The Board of

Directors of the Activity Association, as the publisher, has control over the contents of the newspaper, but not of the advertising contained therein. **Neither the Homeowners Association nor Activity Association Boards endorse any advertisers.**

4. Copy must be submitted in legible format preferably typed. Articles should be CLEAR AND CONCISE, and indicate name and phone number of person submitting.
5. All articles should be no longer than 300 words. Articles should be of interest to club members and others, and should not contain "insider references" which are not understood by other readers. Articles should not contain personal gripes.
6. The deadline for submission is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month unless notified otherwise. Articles should be placed in the LaCasa News boxes either at the Rec Hall, Clubhouse, or the Editor's home, 469 Loma Linda.
7. It is the responsibility of each organization to have information submitted in a timely fashion. It is NOT the Editor's responsibility to seek information from your Club. Board of Directors-LaCasa Activity Association, Inc.

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## **A Message from Your Editor**

*Betty Van Tassell*

Our Publisher, Community Media, contacted me and asked if LaCasa would be willing to be part of a "June Supplement" in addition to our regular May/June and August/September issues of the LaCasa News. He explained that it would help him with his advertisers if we had 12 issues instead of 10. After some serious thought, I decided to at least, try this new idea.

In addition to the pages we are providing, the rest will be advertising, puzzles, some interesting articles, all provided by Community Media.

As it turns out, there are several "new" articles which we are including. These will also be included in our regular July/August issue.

We are not asking our regular delivery people to deliver this door-to-door. If you are reading it, you have picked it up at the Rec Hall or Club House. Let me know if you found this worthwhile.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Summer Coffee Hours**

The first summer Coffee Hour will be on **Wednesday, June 13th** at 9:15 am. The speaker will be:

**Dr. Charles Toman**  
**Orthopedic Surgeon**

Mary Borst will be arranging one coffee hour each month, featuring a speaker, usually from the medical field. Dates and speakers for July, August and September will be announced later. Come out and enjoy an interesting and informative speaker and, of course, a cup of coffee and a donut!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Happy Hour**  
**Friday - June 15th**

**Look for the Poster we've included! This will be a great afternoon!**  
**\$3.00 at the door! - BE THERE!**

## **LaCasa Egressing** **From Randy Burlison, President, HOA**

Well, we've been asking and asking for help from the State of Florida in safely leaving and entering LaCasa. It's been so long, and now finally it's going to take place.

Some time in mid-June of 2012, there will be a new sign indicating that south bound traffic on 41 will no longer be able to make a U-Turn to go north at our exit. Traffic would have to proceed to the light at Ortiz to make a U-turn to go north. Also, there will be new striping in the intersection as you egress out of LaCasa to go northbound. New stop signs; new striping on the sidewalks where people ride their bikes; maybe more to come in the near future.

Thanks go out to many people in the State of Florida and to the HOA Board and the management of LaCasa. Finally, we're getting some action.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Grandmother's Club** **Summer Luncheons**

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Rec Hall for each of the summer luncheon dates. The first is on Tuesday, June 12th at 12 noon at Farlow's on the Water. Helen Borisko is in charge. Call her if you have not signed up.

Following that will be Tuesday, July 10th at Boca Royale Country Club. Carol Curley and Maureen Lynn are in charge. If you have not already signed up in the Rec Hall, call either of them.

Marilee, Shirley and Sally have signed up to take charge in September. The date for August is OPEN. If you would be interested in taking charge, put your name and a destination on the sign-up sheet.

These summer luncheons have become a tradition for the Grandmother's Club and are always most enjoyable. More on these in the July/August paper.

**Enjoy!!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## **Summer Pot Luck** **Friday, June 22 - 5:00**

You know the drill for Mary Borst's Pot Lucks! Bring a dish to share to serve 8 and your own beverage (if you want more than coffee - wine is always good!) and your own table service.

AND - A nice surprise! After dinner, our own "Jersey" Joe Giamella will entertain us with songs and his guitar. This will be a nice evening! Don't sit home alone -- come out and enjoy a evening with your neighbors. LaCasa has great pot luck dinners!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **News from Up Front** **Randy Browning, Manager**

### **Road Work**

LaRosas, LaCosta, Balonia, and LaPaloma will be milled and re-asphalted. The work is projected to begin the end of May or the first part of June. All affected areas will be notified in advance. (This may already be finished.)

### **Rec Hall Stage**

The condition of the Rec Hall stage was brought to the attention of the HOA not long ago. On May 7, 2012, the stage floor was resurfaced and looks wonderful, and is an even, safe surface.

At the same time the Activity Association has added a second curtain and new side curtains, which conceal the risers and define a smaller area for small performing groups. Together with the new floor, our stage looks beautiful! A great improvement!

### **Putting Green and Corn Hole**

The synthetic putting green and playing surface was installed on May 9th and 10th. At the same time, Corn Hole finally has found a permanent home. This is the area directly behind the Club House pool. We've included some pictures, so you can see how nice it looks!



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**LA CASA HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
2:00 P.M. - MAY 16, 2012**

**Call To Order:** President Randy Burlison called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. with 42 shareholders in attendance, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call** Present: R. Burlison, K. Farrar, E. Medling, L. Morris. By phone: B. Calnan, S. Libby and C. Welch Absent: J. Freeman and J. Lewandowski.

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda:** Motion by C. Welch. Second by B. Calnan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Shareholders Request to Speak:** None

**Open Forum on Agenda Items:** None

**Secretary's Report**

- April 18, 2012 HOA Bd Mtg Minutes – Motion by R. Burlison. Second by K. Farrar. Motion approved unanimously.
- April 30, 2012 Special HOA Board Meeting Minutes – Motion by Randy Burlison. Second by Skip Libby. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Barb Calnan, gave a detailed report (copy on file) ending with a total balance of \$2,647,813.33.

**Standing Finance Committee Report:** No Report

**La Casa Real Estate** - Tom Lehnis, LCRE Treasurer, reported that 8 Shareholder homes closed by 4/30/12 making 24 YTD. Fourteen had closed this period in 2011. No Non-Shareholder homes closed in April making 1 YTD. Seven closed this period in 2011. No Vacant Lots closed in April making 1 YTD and 2 closed this period in 2011. As of April 30, 2012, 18 Shareholder sales are pending and no pending Non-Shareholder sales or pending vacant lots sales. The average sales price for Shareholder homes is \$65,067, \$37,000 for Non-Shareholder homes, and \$55,000 Vacant Lots. Beginning 5/1/12 the Cash Operating Account was \$45,501

**Park Manager's Report** - Park Mgr Browning, reported that: **(1)** Road repair is scheduled for La Rosas and La Paloma end of May/first of June. Notice of work will be given approx one week prior to start. **(2)** Rec Hall stage floor has been resurfaced. **(3)** The synthetic putting green and playing surface has been installed. **(4)** FPL cleaning the primary power line on the 40 acres in order to allow bucket trucks to make repairs.

**President's Report:** President Burlison asked that whoever is vandalizing his home by putting nails in his driveway to stop. He pointed out that decisions for running the park are made by a nine member board of directors, not the President. He reported no new developments regarding another egress out of La Casa.

**Directors Reports** – **B. Calnan:** No Report, **K. Farrar:** No Report, **J. Freeman:** No Report, **S. Libby:** No Report, **E. Medling:** Everett Medling reported that the Club House Renovation Project is on schedule with 3 bids due May 29, 2012 and a start date of July 15, 2012. Clubs using the Club House will be notified to remove all of their items prior to start date. The renovation will include minor renovations to the Billiard Room. The renovations should be completed by October 15, 2012.

**L. Morris:** Larry Morris made a motion to cancel the HOA Board Meetings for June, July and August. Meetings can be scheduled and advertised should the need arise. The motion was seconded by Skip Libby and passed unanimously.

**Colette Welch:** No Report

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None



**Open Forum:** Gail Fryer, 710 El Rio, thanked the HOA Board of Directors for their professional and thorough handling of the Club House renovation. She also stated that any changes to the By-Laws and/or Rules & Regulations should involve input by the shareholders.

The motion to adjourn was made by Barb Calnan with a second by Kent Farrar. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Next Hoa Board of Directors Meeting is September 10, 2012 at 2 pm in the Rec Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Farrar for HOA Secretary, Joe Lewandowski

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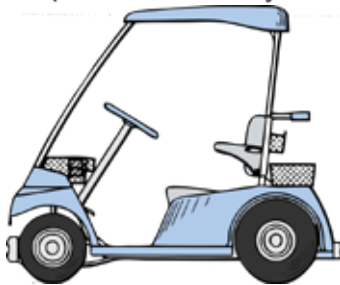
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### Club House Renovation Randy Browning, Manager

On May 29, 2012, LaCasa will have bids in hand. A board meeting will decide the project contractor. The chosen contractor will pull all required permits. Upon approval of permitting the contractor will lock in the start date.

During demolition and construction the Club House Building will be closed and off limits to all but approved personnel. Once the work begins it is expected to take an estimated 90 days. If all schedules hold, your renovated Club House may be open for use by October-November.

The unknown is the permit time processing; then the County final inspection approvals. It is expected that all plans will hold to schedule; the Activity Building and pool areas will stay open for use, except that the pool may be closed temporarily for roof work as required. Parking will be restricted as posted. Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Golf Cart Parade

Independence Day Celebration! We're planning on our usual **GOLF CART PARADE** right after the formal ceremony at the flag pole, and before lunch. How about participating this year if you haven't before? Or if you have decorated your cart before, do it again! Now is the time to think about what you could do! With all the golf carts in LaCasa, we ought to be able to get a pretty good parade! Incidentally, do you know how many we have registered? 139!! 15% would be 20! Can we aim for that? Can we do better?

Come on, help me out! I get stuck with this job every year! It's always fun!

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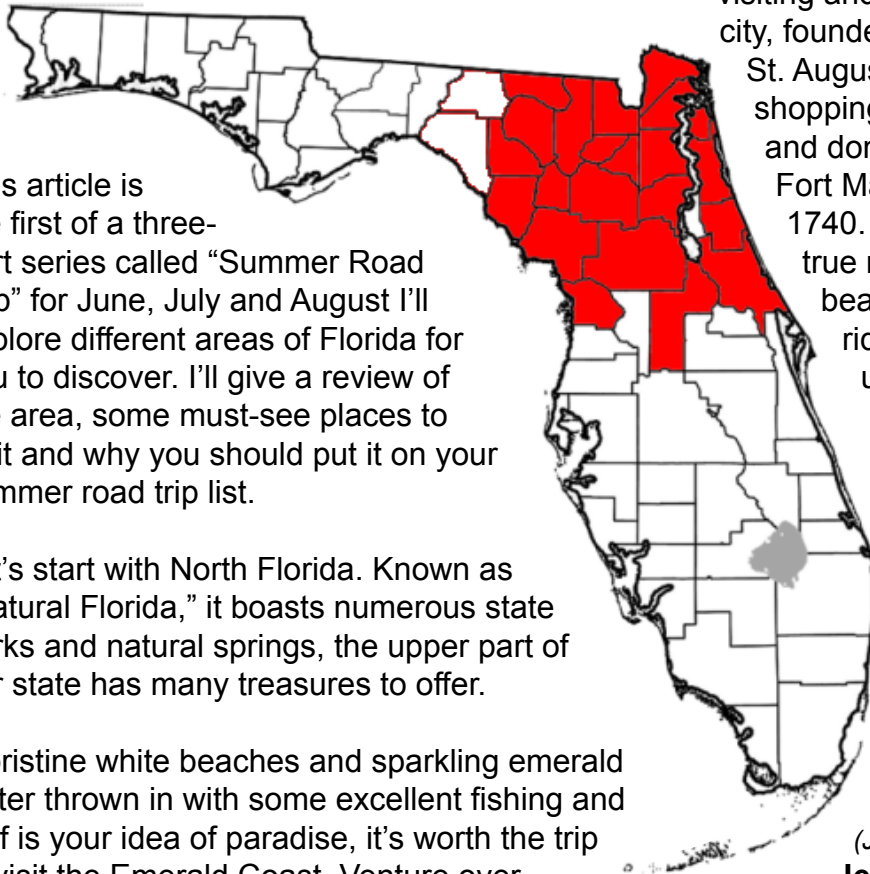
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# Summer Road Trip: North Florida

By *Elissa Rodrigues, Community Media Staff Writer*

Summer is officially here! The kids are out of school, and families are gearing up for vacation season. Last year, to economize, many people opted for a “staycation” to stay in town and take advantage of what the local area had to offer. This year I’m suggesting something one step up. When was the last time you saw the beautiful white sand beaches of Destin, or ate some amazing Cuban food in Miami? Why not take advantage of all your beautiful state has to offer? It’s road trip time.



This article is the first of a three-part series called “Summer Road Trip” for June, July and August I’ll explore different areas of Florida for you to discover. I’ll give a review of the area, some must-see places to visit and why you should put it on your summer road trip list.

Let’s start with North Florida. Known as “Natural Florida,” it boasts numerous state parks and natural springs, the upper part of our state has many treasures to offer.

If pristine white beaches and sparkling emerald water thrown in with some excellent fishing and golf is your idea of paradise, it’s worth the trip to visit the Emerald Coast. Venture over to Ft. Walton Beach or Destin, which is known as “The World’s Luckiest Fishing Village” and claims to have the largest fishing vessel fleet in the state of Florida. Or head over to Panama City Beach for a little amusement with the kids or grandkids like the Shipwreck Island Waterpark. Then visit St. Andrews State Park Recreation Area and board a tour boat to Shell Island for some exploring.

Looking for a charming small town? With a population of 2,533, Monticello is very quaint. Don’t

miss seeing a musical or theater production at the historic 19th century opera house. Fun fact: unlike Thomas Jefferson’s home in Virginia for which it was named after, this Florida city is pronounced “mont-i-SEL-o” not “mont-i-CHEL-o.”

As you head north, don’t miss our state’s capital Tallahassee. It boasts the Florida Supreme Court and an impressive number of colleges such as Florida State and Florida A&M Universities, just to name a few.

If you haven’t been to Amelia Island or St. Augustine in the northeast coast, both are worth visiting and very different. As America’s oldest city, founded in 1565 by a Spanish explorer, St. Augustine is rich in history. If you like shopping, hit up the St. George Street shops and don’t miss the famous lighthouse or the Fort Matanzas National Monument built in 1740. Amelia Island is a destination for true relaxation with its natural beauty, beaches, golf and resorts. Try horseback riding at Amelia Island State Park for an unforgettable experience.

## June’s Upcoming North Florida Events:

- **Sounds of Centre concert**  
(June 1, Amelia Island)
- **56th Annual Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival**  
(June 1-4, Ft. Walton Beach, FL)
- **Outrageous Artwalk**  
(June, 9, Amelia Island)
- **Gulf Coast Pirate Festival**  
(June 9-10, Pensacola, FL)
- **Jefferson County Watermelon Festival**  
(June 15-16, Monticello, FL)
- **Panhandle Watermelon Festival**  
(June 22-23, Chipley, FL)
- **Latin Salsa Festival** (June 23, Ft. Walton Beach, FL)

For more details on the above festivals with links to their websites, please visit <http://www.festivaltrek.com/festivals-location/USA/Florida>. Also, please visit [www.visitflorida.com](http://www.visitflorida.com) for more vacation destinations and to plan your trip. Have a wonderful month, and please drive safe in your travels!

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## **CHECK OUT THESE TAX BREAKS FOR SENIORS**

By: Bryan J. Archer, C.P.A. - Hough & Company

When it comes to taxes, growing older has its advantages. Here are some of the tax breaks available as you reach a certain age.

- Higher standard deductions. You're eligible for a higher standard deduction once you reach age 65. On your 2012 tax return, you can claim an extra \$1,450 deduction if you're single. If you and your spouse are both 65 or older, your combined extra deduction is \$2,300.
- Tax credit for the elderly. You may qualify for this direct credit against taxes if you're age 65 or older during the tax year. There are limitations if your tax-free pension benefits, such as social security, exceed certain levels. Income limitations may also apply.
- Tax breaks for social security benefits. Generally, you'll pay no tax on social security benefits if the total of one-half of the benefits plus all other income is less than \$25,000 (singles) or \$32,000 (married filers). Above those levels, you'll pay tax on up to 50% of your benefits. High-income seniors could be taxed on up to 85% of their social security benefits.
- Possibly escape filing a tax return. Because of the higher standard deductions and potentially tax-free social security benefits, your taxable income may not reach the filing threshold. The filing threshold depends on your filing status. For example, if you're single and 65 or older, a 2012 return is not required if your income is less than \$11,200. A married couple over age 65 doesn't need to file if income is less than \$21,800.
- Higher contributions. Once you reach age 50, you may contribute more to your retirement account – an additional \$1,000 to an IRA, \$2,500 to a SIMPLE, and \$5,500 to a 401(k). At age 55, you can contribute \$1,000 extra to a health savings account for 2012.

- Additional breaks on state taxes. Some states offer special breaks on taxes for seniors. Also check whether you qualify for deferral programs or other breaks on your property taxes. Please contact our office to make sure you're receiving all the tax breaks for which you qualify at any age. The information in this article is general in nature and should not be acted upon without first checking with a professional to determine its applicability to your situation.



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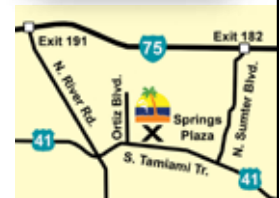
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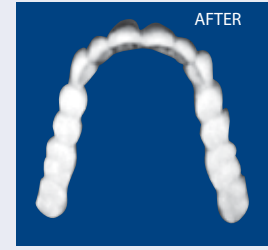
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