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For Information, Comments,
Questions contact:

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CARRYING THE TORCH 40 YEARS & BEYOND!



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SEPTEMBER 20 - 26, 2026

PLANTATION OAKS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CERT

October 17 at 3:00 PM in the Clubhouse

See Article on Page 5



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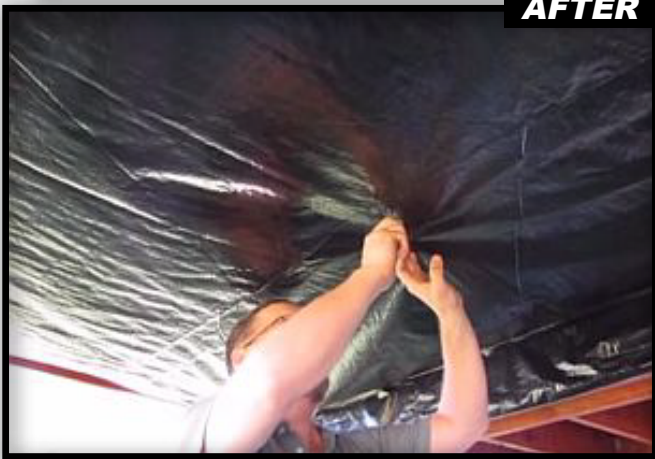
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By Nick Burnett



Today I had a very enjoyable visit with Fred and Joan Lainhart at their lovely home at 1 Claremont Drive. I had spoken to Fred on a couple of occasions as I passed their house. They have an incredibly beautiful lawn and gardens that I admire, and on one occasion, he was washing his boat after

fishing, and we spoke about fishing for a few minutes. I hadn't met Joan yet and really knew little about them. When I asked Fred if I could interview them for this article, he said, "Well, we're not very interesting, and I think you'll find us pretty boring." I found them anything but boring.

When I asked how they found Plantation Oaks, they told me that they were visiting Joan's son in Palm Coast and they had only recently gotten married, and Fred suggested they should just move to Florida. Joan's response was, "You don't have to ask me twice!" Her son then checked out 55+ communities and told them this was the best kept of all he saw. They were back in Kentucky when they bought their first house, sight unseen! And they haven't regretted it one minute!

Fred and Joan were both widowed and 35 years earlier had lived across the street from one another. Their children were good friends, and the memories were very special. I'll let them tell you how they bumped into each other after so many years, but it did not take long for them to realize they enjoyed the company of one another, and they married and moved to Florida. They both claim they are the happiest they have ever been, and that was apparent to me with all the laughing we did as we visited.



Fred worked for the biggest paint manufacturer in the world for 31 years, and Joan had retired from a company that made centrifuge brakes for big trucks and Caterpillars, along with raising a family. Joan really loves animals and talked about the many pets she's had over the years. She recently had a squirrel and has even had groundhogs and skunks as pets. She liked to hunt too, but she never got into fishing. She does love to do picture puzzles, and she takes a lot of animal photos. Together, they like to visit areas of interest here in Florida and got me excited to visit the Warbird Museum.

Both have 3 children; one has two girls and a boy, and the other has 2 boys and a girl! Because they had spent time as neighbors, the two families have become one! In fact, a year ago, one of Joan's daughters married one of Fred's sons! Now that is a blended family!

The Lainhart's are the most welcoming people, and I found them to be so much fun and easy to get to know. Fred invited me to go fishing with him, but he reminded me he leaves at 4 a.m. I am still considering that offer!



By Rich Bencal



Happy September and Happy Labor Day to all in Plantation Oaks. Our daylight is getting a bit shorter each day, and slightly cooling temperatures hopefully are upon us soon. This month's trivia questions are about various parts of the human body. Good luck, and as always, the answers will appear on another page of the POP.

QUESTIONS:

1. Total number of teeth in a normal human body?
2. Total number of bones in an adult?
3. What organ in the body filters blood?
4. How much blood is in a human?
5. What is the largest internal organ?
6. What is the largest bone in the human body?
7. What is the normal body temperature?
8. What is the longest nerve in a human body?
9. What is considered normal blood pressure?
10. What is the smallest bone in the human body?

REMEMBERING MY UNCLE THOMAS

Submitted by Jeanie Scionti



My husband passed away recently. To celebrate his life, I decided to submit this essay written by my nephew, Michael Vincent. Michael's words captured the nature and essence of the man I married 59 years ago.

When I was little, I remember my dad pointing and saying, "That's my big brother, Thomas." I remember thinking, "Wait... Dad has a big brother?" In my mind, my dad was the biggest person in the world. So if he had a big brother... well... he had to be somebody worth knowing. And he absolutely was.

Going to visit Uncle Thomas and Aunt Jeanie was never just a family visit. It was an adventure. Back then, we had to take the ferry across the water to get there, and as a little kid, that alone made it feel like we were leaving one world and traveling into another.

One visit has stayed with me all these years. Aunt Jeanie called upstairs, "Michael, go get Uncle Thomas. Breakfast is ready." I remember walking upstairs expecting to find him doing what adults were supposed to do. Maybe paperwork...balancing a checkbook... whatever mysterious things adults did. I remember standing outside the door and knocking. From inside I heard, "Come in!" I opened the door... and stepped into what felt like another world.

It wasn't just a room; at least not to a little kid. To me, it was his chamber. There were books everywhere; wizard statues, fantasy artwork, and strange treasures sitting on shelves that looked like they all had stories of their own. Every corner seemed to whisper that another adventure was waiting to be discovered. Somewhere in the middle of it all was Uncle Thomas, completely absorbed in either a game of "Myst" or commanding armies in "Wizard Chess".

I remember standing there thinking, "Wait... this is what adults get to do?" That moment taught me that growing older never meant you had to stop wondering. It never meant you had to stop imagining. It never meant you had to leave adventure behind. So, if anyone has ever wondered who to blame for my love of fantasy, Tolkien, video games, wizard chess, and just about anything involving an adventure... well... now you know who started it all.



Looking back now, I realize Uncle Thomas didn't just love fantasy...He lived it. Not by pretending the world was magical, but by reminding everyone around him that there was still magic left to discover.

Then there was Christmas. I remember opening a present from Uncle Thomas and Aunt Jeanie. It was *The Sword in the Stone*. I'll be honest... my first thought was, "A book? Ugh..." I've never really been much of a reader. But inside that book was a handwritten note.

Looking back now, I realize it wasn't just a Christmas inscription. It was an invitation. An invitation into a world they had already fallen in love with... a world they somehow already knew I would love too. They weren't simply giving me a story. They were saying, "Come with us." And I did.

That one book became another: *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Ring*, *The Chronicles of Prydain*. Those books didn't just entertain me. They expanded my world. They shaped the way I see courage, friendship, hope, sacrifice, wonder, and even my faith.

To this day, I've never really been much of a reader. However, almost every book I've ever truly treasured has one thing in common. Inside the cover is a handwritten note from Uncle Thomas and Aunt Jeanie. Those were always the books worth reading.

Now, years later, when I begin reading those same stories to my own children, I don't start with Chapter One. I start with that note. Because the invitation that was once extended to me is now the invitation, I get to extend to them.

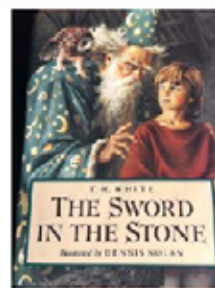


To me, Uncle Thomas will always carry that quiet reminder that the world is still full of mystery if we're willing to keep our eyes open.

So today is hard. And we're going to miss him more than words can ever say. But as someone whose life was forever changed by the worlds Uncle

Thomas introduced me to, I can't help but picture him one last time. I picture him boarding a white ship, his destination already set for the Undying Lands. A place where every adventure he ever imagined is no longer imagination. Where every story that stirred his heart has become reality. Where every glimpse of beauty we've only caught through books is finally seen face to face.

(continued on next page.)



So while today our eyes are filled with tears...I know his are filled with wonder. One day, I look forward to hearing that voice once again saying, "Come on, Michael... there's one more adventure to take." Thank you, Uncle Thomas, for inviting me into your world; I can't wait to see the next one with you.



CERT NEWS

By Donna Bruno



The Community Emergency Response Team of Plantation Oaks recognizes National CERT Week and Celebrates 40 Years of Community Preparedness

Flagler Beach, FL – September 2026 – The Community Emergency Response Team of Plantation Oaks

is joining communities nationwide in recognizing National CERT Week, September 20 - 26, 2026, and celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

The 2026 National CERT Week theme, "*Carrying the Torch 40 Years & Beyond*," honors the dedication and service of generations of CERT volunteers who have worked to strengthen and prepare their communities for four decades.

Established in 1986, the CERT program provides community members with training in disaster preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, team organization, and other skills that help individuals and neighborhoods prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The **CERT of Plantation Oaks** was reorganized in **January 2026** and has been active in preparing the community for disasters.

Come Celebrate 40 Years of CERT!

CERT Week is September 20–26, but because of our clubhouse renovations in August and other commitments in September, we'll be celebrating a little later—and we hope you'll join us! Mark your calendar for October 17 at 3:00 PM in the clubhouse as we celebrate 40 years of CERT. Pastor Tom Olney, a CERT trainer and local pastor, will present "Disaster Psychology," followed by cake, ice cream, and an opportunity to celebrate the important work CERT teams do in communities across the country.

We hope you'll come out, enjoy some fellowship, and show your support for your Plantation Oaks CERT Team!

August and September will also be busy and important months for our team as we work to finalize our Standard Operating **Procedures and corporate structure**, helping ensure CERT is prepared, organized, and ready to serve our community when needed.

BLOCK CAPTAINS

By Donna Copeland



As the Block Captain Coordinator, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Block Captains for their invaluable years of service. I also want to extend my warmest welcome to the new volunteers who have stepped up and joined us. Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm!

Zone 2 (Winthrop) Marlene Anderson has taken over from Claire Hamel. Dawn Anderson will be her assistant.

Zone 4 (Part of Winthrop & Habersham): Shannon FitzPatrick has taken over from Carol Marchetti.

Zone 7 (Morington) Brenda Souza has taken over from Diane Williams.

Zone 8 (Chatsworth) Jim McNeil has taken over from Grace Patrick.

Zone 11 (Tobias) Deborah Dalgewicz has taken over from Bob Matlock.

Zone 13 (Ashbury) Patty Watkins has taken over from Betty Shaver. Mary Jean Gucciardo has volunteered to be her assistant.

Wow, thank you so much to all the amazing community volunteers! Your hard work and dedication make our community so special and wonderful. You're all the best!

The POP Editor and Authors would also like to add their sincere appreciation for the work the Block Captains and assistants do each month. We are so happy to have you as part of the POP Team!

BRAIN TEASERS

Submitted by Linda Morrison

New Series: 5 Each Month!

Here are the 4th set of teasers:

Example: 16 = O in a POunces in a Pound

Answers found on another page in this issue.

1. 4 = Q in a G
2. 24 = H in a D
3. 1 = W on a U
4. 5 or 9 = D in a Z C
5. 57 = H V



THE DREADED PROSPECTUS

By Dana Matlock



I've been getting requests from residents to include a monthly POP article that breaks down the different parts of the prospectus. First things first, let's understand why the prospectus is important to us. Just a heads up, I'm not an attorney, so I can't give you legal advice, but I'll do my best to provide clear and helpful info based on what I know and research.

So, what exactly is a prospectus? For a leased-land manufactured/mobile home park in Florida, it's like a legal document that the park owner, or the seller has to give to anyone buying a home here. It's all about explaining what you're buying and the terms under which our park owner will lease the land beneath our homes. Here are some basic items covered in our prospectuses:

- **Community Description:** This is where you'll find out about the park's location, size, any age restrictions, what amenities and services are available, and more.
- **Lot Lease Terms:** This is where you'll learn about the length of the lease, how rent is calculated, when it can go up, and how the park will let you know if there are any changes.
- **Fees and Charges:** This is where you'll see the current lot rent, utility charges, maintenance fees, any other recurring or one-time charges, and more.
- **Rules and Regulations:** This is where you'll find out about the community's rules regarding pets, landscaping, parking, guests, home maintenance, recreational facilities, and other things that residents are expected to be aware of and follow.
- **Amenities and Services:** This is where you'll learn about all the cool facilities like clubhouse, pool, tennis/pickleball courts, and who's responsible for taking care of them.
- **Resident Rights and Responsibilities:** This is where you'll find out about your rights as a homeowner under Florida law, how to resolve disputes, and what the park management is responsible for.
- **Park Owner's Obligations:** This is where you'll find out about the park owner's responsibilities for maintaining roads, common areas, utilities, drainage, and other infrastructure.

Why it matters: You own your home, but you rent the land beneath it. So, the prospectus covers a lot of things about living in the community. Once you sign it, it becomes part of the agreement between you and the park owner.

Florida law: Florida manufactured/mobile home parks are mostly governed by Chapter 723 of the Florida Statutes. This law protects homeowners in leased-land communities. It requires the park to give out prospectuses and has rules for changing park rules and lot rents.

No one looks at that thick document given to us just before or at closing and says, "Wow, I can't wait to read that!" We didn't read ours when we got it in 2002. Heck, we didn't even know what a prospectus was or how to spell it! But after a little education we realized the importance of knowing what is in that document. I suggest starting with your rental agreement (Exhibit C) and the Rules and Regulations (Exhibit B).

Plantation Oaks prospectuses - Prospectus 1 (P1) & Prospectus 2 (P2) have been amended over the years. The last change was Amendment 15 in November 2025. The Park owner can only change the "text" of the prospectuses if everyone who's affected agrees, or for one or more of the specific reasons listed in Rule 61B-31.001(4) in the Florida Administrative Code (FAC). This Code is included behind the text of Chapter 723 of the Florida Statutes.

Next month's article will touch on Rules and Regulations. I hope this helps! Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.



JUST FOR FUN

An old man and a 20 year old are paired together at a golf tournament. They're playing a long par 5 that dog legs around some tall trees. As the 20 year old sets up his tee shot to hit onto the fairway the old man notes "when I was your age we used to hit over the trees - not around to the side." So the 20 year old readjusts and tries to hit over the trees - but can't clear them and loses his ball. He tries again and loses that one too...

Then the old man says "of course, when I was your age, the trees were only 6 foot tall."

A guy is about to undergo surgery. Just as the anesthesia is about to be administered, he hears the surgeon speaking, "Don't worry Bill, this is just a routine operation. There's absolutely nothing to worry about." The guy looks over and says, "thanks, but my name isn't Bill." The surgeon says, "I know. I'm Bill."

I asked my barber if he could cut my hair too short on one side, leave a bald patch on top and make it look ragged in the back. He said No, I can't do that. Why not?, I asked. You did it last time!

INTERNATIONAL BACON DAY: CELEBRATING A CLASSIC WITH A FRESH APPROACH

By Chef Kevin Gallagher MS, CECE



International Bacon Day arrives on Saturday, *September 5th*, and it's one of those food holidays that genuinely earns its place. Bacon is universal — a bridge between breakfast and dinner, comfort food and modern cooking, nostalgia and everyday practicality. It's the ingredient

that can turn a simple dish into something crave-worthy with just a few crisp, smoky pieces.

Part of bacon's appeal comes from its chemistry. When heat hits the pan, the Maillard reaction creates those golden edges and deep caramel notes that make bacon irresistible. The cut matters: thin slices crisp quickly and evenly, while thick-cut bacon offers chew and structure. Smoke level is another lever — applewood brings gentle sweetness, hickory leans bold, and maple adds round warmth. Used thoughtfully, bacon adds savory depth to fresh produce and lighter meals without overwhelming them. This month's featured recipe is my **BLT Salad With Basil Mayo Dressing**, a dish based on the classic salad concept originally created by Marni Mead for *Make It Erie*, a publication of the Erie Times News, from my hometown, Erie, Pennsylvania. Mead's work often highlights simple ingredients elevated through thoughtful technique, and that spirit carries forward here. The foundation is familiar — bacon, lettuce, tomato — but the proportions, details, and dressing I have reshaped for our late-summer cooking.

This salad captures everything people love about a BLT but reframes it for the table instead of the sandwich. Crispy Romaine, juicy cherry or grape tomatoes, warm skillet-toasted croutons, and smoky bacon come together under a basil-forward dressing that's creamy, bright, and balanced. It's the kind of dish that works for Labor Day weekend, a casual dinner, or a potluck where you want something fresh and yet still feels indulgent.

The dressing is the anchor. Using bacon drippings adds savory depth, while Greek yogurt lightens the texture without sacrificing richness. Fresh basil brings fragrance and lift, tying the whole dish together. The homemade croutons — toasted in a skillet with a splash of bacon fat — add warmth and crunch that store-bought versions simply can't match.



Assembling the salad just before serving keeps the textures crisp and lively. The contrast between warm croutons, cool lettuce, and the creamy dressing makes the dish feel layered and satisfying without being heavy. A final sprinkle of basil chiffonade adds color and a fresh herbal note.

International Bacon Day may be playful, but it's also a reminder of how a single ingredient can excite the palate and bring people together. Whether you're cooking for two or feeding a crowd, this BLT salad is a fresh way to celebrate a beloved classic — and a fitting addition to our September table.

BLT Salad With Basil Mayo Dressing

Based on the original recipe created by Marni Mead, Erie Times News, Make It Erie

Ingredients

Salad

- ½ pound bacon
- 4 medium slices French bread, cut into ½-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoons bacon drippings
- 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved pole to pole
- 1 pound Romaine lettuce, rinsed, dried, torn into bite-size pieces
- 1 tablespoon fresh basil leaves, chiffonade (sliced very finely into ribbons)
- Ground black pepper

Dressing

- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup non-fat plain Greek yogurt (*or all mayo*)
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Salt to taste
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ cup fresh basil leaves, very finely minced
- 2 tablespoons reserved bacon drippings

Method

1. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, cook bacon until crisp. Drain, crumble, and reserve 3 tablespoons drippings.
2. Whisk together 2 tablespoons bacon drippings, mayonnaise, Greek yogurt, vinegar, pepper, and minced basil. Adjust flavor with salt, if needed. Let stand at room temperature.
3. In a skillet over medium heat, season bread cubes with salt and pepper. Drizzle with the remaining 1 tablespoon bacon drippings and cook until golden.
4. Combine Romaine, tomatoes, bacon, and croutons. Add dressing and toss gently. Finish with basil chiffonade.



MUSINGS

Submitted by Keith Mowling



1. Debra Winger was the voice of E.T
2. Pearls melt in vinegar.
3. It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.
4. It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
5. Humans are the only primates that don't have pigment in the palms of their hands.
6. The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," uses every letter in the alphabet. (Developed by Western Union to test telex/two communications)
7. Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
8. A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
9. The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.
10. The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the "American Pie." (Thus the name of the Don McLean song.)
11. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts -Charlemagne; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar.
12. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
13. Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down-hence the expression "to get fired."
14. Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.
15. The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, G.P.
16. The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado.
17. The only two days of the year in which there are no professional sports games (MLB, NBA, NHL, or NFL) are the day before and the day after the Major League All-Star Game.
18. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
19. The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was actually a Captain Kirk mask painted white.
20. If you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom.
21. Snails can sleep for 3 years without eating.
22. Actor Tommy Lee Jones and vice-president Al Gore were freshman roommates at Harvard.
23. The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene
24. Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a "Friday the 13th."



25. The man who plays Lt. Commander Montgomery Scott on Star Trek is missing the entire middle finger of his right hand.
26. The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
27. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
28. All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4.



GLORY Lights Up Flagler First Friday, Veterans Park September 4, 6 PM.

Bring a chair, bring your crew, and get ready to groove with Glory. We're serving up an all-killer, no-filler night of iconic girl-powered hits — the ones you forgot you loved but can't stop singing. Pop, Rock, R&B, Country, Disco, Oldies – If it's female-fronted and dance-worthy, it's in the mix. Family-friendly, wildly fun, and 100% unforgettable.



GRANDPARENTS DAY
September 13, 2026

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Herb Schneider	16 Mary Rago
4 Donna Copeland	16 Tom Greene
5 Patti Deater	17 Jim Grazioso
7 Kathy Hillis	18 Florence Card
7 Lisa Etherington	18 Betty Lou Cranston
8 Paula Davies	18 Ben Cerney
8 Robin Love	19 Cyndie Heintz
9 Greg Harrell	20 Frank Schafer
9 Greg Pankau	21 John Clabaugh
10 George Byrne	22 Joe Ciccio
10 Jim Bowen	22 Jan Nichols
10 Rob Maxwell	22 Ed Raynor
13 Lorraine Donohue	23 Dawn Anderson
13 Richard Lothian	23 Gail Young
13 Cynthia Easter	24 Ann Greene
13 Pete Case	25 Debbie Dinkins
14 Meg Brown	27 Don Hamel
14 Kirk Dalgewicz	29 Tank Burbridge
16 Chris Girard	30 Carol Pursley

We try hard to get it right but if we have missed your birthday or anniversary, have the dates wrong or name misspelled, please contact dbmatlock@live.com to get it corrected.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

6 Don & Kathy Esty
7 Jeff & Laura Dawkins
9 Dan & Eileen Biers
9 Don & Kathy Esty
9 Alan & Jean Newell
9 David & Wendy Wile
11 Jon & Marilyn Campbell
12 Roger & Eileen Lemelin
15 George & Cathleen Niedhammer
19 Tim & Dawn Anderson
27 James & Carol Pursley



SO, YOU THINK YOU ARE MARRIED

Submitted by a Friend

Listen up, folks! I've got a wild tale to share from a resident of Plantation Oaks. It's about a couple who had an experience straight out of a movie. They wanted to spill the beans, but they wanted to keep their names under wraps, so I've changed the names for this true story.



When Fred and Mary were married Fred owned and ran a gas station and repair shop. After a few years, they decided to sell the business. On the day of the closing, at the attorney's office (with their two-week-old daughter on Mary's lap), the attorney, Mr. Lee, asked if either Fred or Mary had ever been married before. Mary said yes, and her ex-husband, Ralph, was in the military at the time.

A few months later, the marriage wasn't working out, and they got divorced. Mr. Lee asked where the divorce decree was filed. Mary said Alabama. "Oh my!" Mr. Lee said. He explained that some decrees filed in Alabama are signed by a clerk instead of a judge. He said he would let them know.

They went ahead with the closing of the gas station sale. A few days later, Mr. Lee called and said that Mary hadn't been legally divorced. Because of that, Mary and Ralph would have to get a new divorce. So, they went to court and got divorced, all legally this time. (Ralph had just bought a new home.)

After eight years and two kids, Mary and Fred decided to tie the knot again. They called Mr. Lee, who told them he's a magistrate for the municipality on Wednesdays. They should show up early in the evening to get married. So, they went to pick up the marriage license application and were told they needed a blood test. The clerk filling out the application asked if either of them had been married before. Mary said yes to Fred and another guy, and Fred said yes to Mary. The clerk was completely confused and asked them to come back the next day to give him some time to get more instructions. So, they went back the next day, paid the three-dollar fee, and got their application. They then got their blood tests, and everything was good. A few weeks later, they picked up their good friends Peter and Polly, stopped off at Mr. Lee's municipality and tied the knot. So, they officially became married, and as of today, they're still happily going strong after an incredible 56 years!



Welcome

We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome Committee Chairs:

Linda Theriault & Linda Morrison



Jim & Carol Batkin

27 Ashbury Lane

(Carol was not available when picture was taken.)

Jim & Carol Batkin are from Melville, NY. Jim used to work as a truck and auto salesman.

They have three daughters – one resides in California and two in New York. They came to Florida for the weather. They enjoy bike riding, hiking and walking. They made a great choice when they chose Plantation Oaks.



Andy & Carol Gulotta

21 Ashbury Lane

Andy and Carol moved here from Palm Coast. They recall seeing ads for developing Plantation Oaks around 30 years back. Before settling in Florida, Andy worked for a

transit company in the bustling city of New York. Andy is a passionate golfer, while Carol loves staying active. They have a rescue dog named Maggie, who's nine years old and a mix of lab and terrier. They are a great match for Plantation Oaks!

THE OLD COOT MISSES THE BUMPER!

By Merlin Lessler

Submitted by Dan Behanick



I first aired this gripe, in print, 24 years ago. It's time to recycle it in modified form.

The car bumper is history. That shiny, chrome, steel bar that once graced the front and rear of our Detroit dinosaurs has disappeared; it has been replaced with a plastic, bumper-like object that shatters when it "bumps" into something. Some pick-up trucks and a few SUVs still sport a metallic bumper, but not cars. It's another change I didn't notice taking place. Now it's too late. It's too bad. It's not just the shine that's gone; so is the pride that we took in slathering chrome polish on our bumpers to finish off a ritualistic Saturday afternoon

car wash. We lost functionality too. Where are you going to tie the baby shoes and tin cans when the bride and groom drive away from the church? And where are businesses going to wrap the thin pieces of wire that held their cardboard bumper ads saying, "We had a blast at Hershey Amusement Park," or "I visited Howe Caverns?" There's no place to wrap the wire. Where will you stand to pick apples from a farmer's tree when he isn't looking and where can you attach a piece of rope to pull a friend out of a ditch? It's more than the shine that's gone. It's a way of life that slipped away. And nobody said a word.

When I tell my grandchildren about my favorite childhood Halloween prank, tying a stuffed dummy to somebody's car bumper when they stopped for a red light in downtown Binghamton, they won't know what I'm talking about. "What's a bumper," they'll ask? They won't be able to understand how we got even with the "meanest" woman on the south side of Binghamton on a blustery fall day in 1956. - The stealth we employed to fasten a length of clothesline to her bumper while she was in her backyard hanging out clothes to dry. - The care we took to cover the rope with leaves so we could connect it to her garbage can without it being visible. - The patience we exhibited as we waited for more than an hour in the shrubbery before she finally came out of her house and drove off. She turned left on Pennsylvania Ave, hell bent to get to a sale at Fowlers Department Store, oblivious to the racket she was making, oblivious to the now empty garbage can bouncing, rattling and leaping in the air behind her. My side still hurts from that laughing fit so many years ago.

The kid who also blew a gasket laughing while hiding in the shrubs with the rest of us, the kid who had tied the rope to his mother's bumper, turned to me and said, "Now let's do it to your mother's car!"

It can't be done anymore. There is no bumper to attach to. We've lost a lot more than a shiny piece of chrome. We've lost a way of life. Let's take a moment of silence for another passing. "The car bumper is dead!"



BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS

1. 4 = Quarts in a Gallon
2. 24 = Hours in a Day
3. 1 = Wheel on a Unicycle.
4. 5 or 9 = Digits in a Zip Code
5. 57 = Heinz Varieties



SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Cyndi Easter



Our activities for the month of August were canceled due to the clubhouse renovations. Our snowbirds should begin coming back this month and we have a lot of things scheduled for the rest of the year. As always, we need volunteers to help with our events, for example, decorating, pre-meal preparation, and clean-up.

SEPTEMBER

September 7 – Labor Day -Low Country boil
 September 8 – Coffee & Doughnuts (Flyer: next column)
 September 18– Monthly Dinner - 5:00 pm. Chicken Marsala, rice pilaf, broccoli, salad, and dessert.
 September 19 – Movie Night
 September 27 – Ice Cream Social



OCTOBER

October 3rd – Casino Night – 6:00 – 10:00 pm. Ticket sales will be September 8 (due to the Monday holiday), 9 and 10 Ticket prices will be \$12.00.
 October 17 – Movie Night
 October 24 – Pig Roast
 October 25 – Ice Cream Social



NOVEMBER

November 7 – Monthly brunch
 November 14 – Movie Night
 November 20 – Thanksgiving Dinner
 November 29 – Ice Cream Social



DECEMBER

December 5 – Monthly Brunch
 December 27 – Ice Cream Social
 December 31– New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance. Music by DJ Patch.

The Committee has been working on some ideas for next year:

- Variety/talent show coming soon and a Murder Mystery in January.
- Senior Prom and Dinner on February 13.
- Fish fry in March.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions for future events, you can contact me, Cyndi Easter at (618) 558-9976. We are always looking for volunteers for our events. We welcome all the help you are willing to give.

The Social Committee meets on the first Monday of every month, unless there is a holiday, at 1:30 in the clubhouse. The next meeting will be on September 14, and we urge our residents (especially our new residents) to come and get involved with your neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there!

A NOTE FROM OUR PORA PRESIDENT

By Gary Watkins



As we continue to move through summer things have slowed down a bit. But don't worry, coffee and doughnuts are coming back this month after a little break! Marlene Anderson is taking over from Betty Shaver, and Donna Brunno is helping her out. The free coffee and doughnuts are sponsored by PORA and its members.

I think we all should give Murex a thumbs up for renovating the clubhouse and keeping it in such great shape. Even though the clubhouse was closed during the renovations in August, I'm sure it will be worth it. I also appreciate the office keeping the community updated on the renovations and trying to keep some areas open as possible.

I will harp on it again – please join PORA and be a part of your resident's association. I've noticed that some of our previous members haven't joined yet. If you have any reason why you're not joining, please let me know. You can check out our website at ourpora.org. Last month, our PORA board of directors had a workshop, and I also met with most of the committee heads to listen to them and make sure they had everything they needed. See ya around the neighborhood!

WE'RE BACK!

The Plantation Oaks Christian Fellowship will meet on Sunday, September 13, from 3:00 to 4:30 in the Clubhouse.

The Plantation Oaks Christian Fellowship is a non-denominational group where everyone is welcome to learn and grow in their faith of Jesus Christ. Contact Carol Cerney 507-213-0121 if you have any questions.



2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Gary Watkins

386-986-6246 – gwatty62@cfl.rr.com

Vice President – Stanley Niedzwieki, Jr.

386-569-1068 – nedz1@cfl.rr.com

Secretary – Sue Kline

717-418-3713 – prdgranma@comcast.net

Treasurer – Tony Faust

920-979-2528 – agfaust91@gmail.com

Director – Phyllis Holdsworth

862-266-1397 – phyllisholdsworth@gmail.com

Director – John Clabaugh

570-772-2499 – jclabaugh7@yahoo.com

Director – Sam Miller

386-372-8786 – highwaysam@aol.com

PORA website: ourpora.org

2026 Quarterly meetings held the 1st Sunday of the month at 7 PM in the clubhouse:

September 6, December 6

(Workshops: Aug. 30, Nov. 29)

Annual Meeting January 16, 2027

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 32 | 6. Femur (Thigh bone) |
| 2. 206 | 7. 98.6 degrees |
| 3. Kidneys | 8. Sciatic nerve |
| 4. 5-6 liters | 9. 120/80 MMHG |
| 5. liver | 10. Stapedius (Middle Ear) |



THE PLANTATION OAKS PRESS (The POP)

The POP was started by, and continues to be produced by, a group of Plantation Oaks residents. Community Media prints and ships the completed newsletters to us. PORA supports our efforts by purchasing the door hanging bags for ease in delivery. We publish monthly and our wonderful Block Captains deliver to your door before the beginning of each applicable month.

Editors reserve the right to edit submitted material for proper grammar, punctuation, content, and length. To submit an article for consideration, simply email it to: dbmatlock@live.com. Or you can drop off a written copy to 4 Tobias Lane or call me at 386-439-3443 and I will pick it up. Include your name and contact number. All efforts are made to ensure accuracy of information contained but cannot be guaranteed. If you notice inaccuracies or omissions, please notify the editors.

To view or print our current or previous POP newsletters, go to the PORA website: ourpora.org. Click on: Contacts/Links/The POP. If you are unable to reach this site, you can also access the publications on www.4communitymedia.com; click on the Newsletters tab on the right-hand side of the page and scroll through the list until you find Plantation Oaks – Flagler Beach, FL. Click on it and then you will have access to recent newsletters published.

Don't forget to support our advertisers if you can.

They keep this newsletter coming to you!

We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future topics. Thank you for being an integral part of our community!

PLANTATION OAKS Federation of Manufactured Homeowners (FMO) Representative



Dana Matlock - 386-439-3443



NEW! 2026 Mission Statement: To educate and assist our Community to mitigate damages or harm to our residents before, during, and after an emergency situation especially when first responders are unavailable or delayed. *All residents are encouraged to register at PO.CERT2026@gmail.com with any special needs or assistance you may require during an emergency.* This will greatly assist us in planning and executing an emergency response. Also, residents are encouraged to join the Community's CERT Team. Training will be ongoing and tailored to our Community. Please plan to attend our meetings, seminars and training exercises. For information, please email PO.CERT2026@gmail.com.

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1. Muscle spasm
6. Outcropping
10. Style of hairdo
14. Female demon
15. Relative of a rabbit
16. Neophyte, in modern slang
17. Kick out
18. Put _____ words
19. Storage site
20. A political government philosophy
22. Leg joint
23. 3 in Roman numerals
24. Rewrites
26. Sitting room
30. Complete
32. Give or take
33. Fantasy world
37. Small amount

1. Musical staff symbol
2. All-night party
3. In the center of
4. Rodents
5. Nationalist
6. Ground beef with peppery powder
7. Hindu princess
8. Cultural doings
9. Euclidean topic
10. Poorly done
11. Sharp end
12. Handouts
13. Double-reed woodwind
21. What we breathe
25. 24 hour period
26. Flat masses of soft material
27. Dugout shelter
28. Wander
29. Brightness
30. Dogs wag these
31. Greasy
33. Golfer's cry
34. "Oh dear!"
35. Exploded star
36. Regard
38. Deserving a curse
41. The collection of rules
42. Beach footwear
44. Hair style
45. Dismissed
46. Circular
47. Ocean trenches
48. Naked
50. Swiped
51. Not false
52. Away from the wind
53. Mark down
54. Impact sound
55. Exhausts



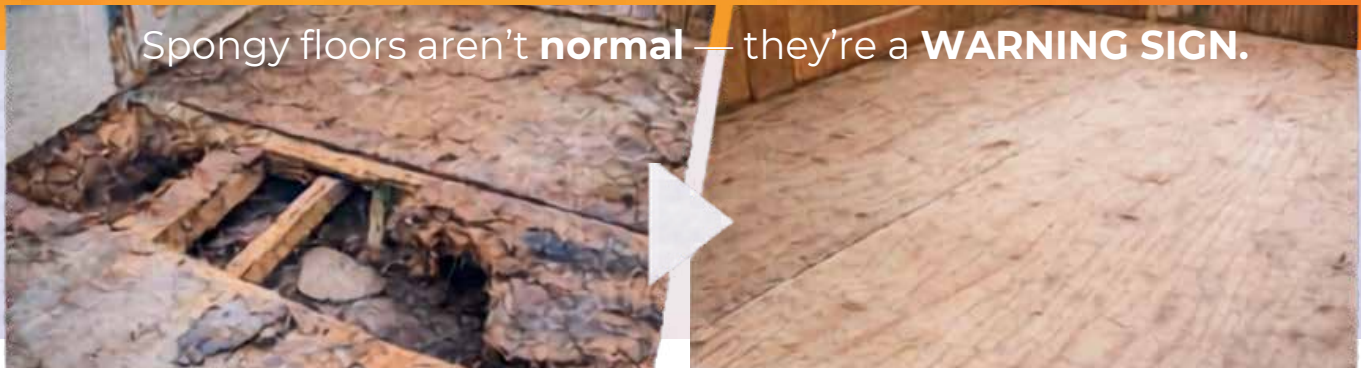
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- Soft or "spongy" when walking
- Sagging or dipping areas
- Squeaking or shifting
- Weak spots near bathrooms or kitchens
- Flooring separating or bubbling
- Musty smells coming from floor
- Floors can eventually collapse

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Hurricane Season is June 1st to November 30th

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit

- ☐ Water and non-perishable food for several days
- ☐ Extra cell phone battery or charger
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- ☐ Cash and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



FEMA
www.ready.gov/kit

