

MAY 2026

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T.P.H.O.A. Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Wow! Our seasonal residents are heading north again! Safe travels back home! We'll miss you and can't wait to see you back in the fall. As a year-round resident, I think we have two seasons at Tropical Palms: high and low season. Each has its own charm.

High season is a blast! The park is alive with activity. The pool is packed, amenities are in full swing, and there's always someone to chat with or join an activity.

Low season is a peaceful retreat. The pool isn't as crowded, many houses are closed, but it's a great time to unwind and recharge. Both seasons have their unique joys, and I truly appreciate them both. We will see everyone again soon.

*Pam Timmins
President*

TPHOA LEGAL FUND

Thank you to the residents who have generously donated to the Legal Fund in anticipation of legal expenses.

The Board and the Homeowners' Committee continue our efforts to ensure homeowner's rights regarding our prospectus and our quality of life at Tropical Palms. We anticipate that such actions will result in legal fees and ask that you consider a contribution to the Legal Fund. Any amount is appreciated.

To ensure confidentiality, please give any donations directly to Treasurer Patsy Lund (40 Pine) or Co-Treasurer Roberta McEwen (48 Pine). (checks should be made to TPHOA with Legal Fund noted on the memo line).



L to R: Pam, Pat, Jim, Patsy, Mike, Lorraine, Roberta, Kerrie, Dee, Susan

2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Pam Timmins	Lot 267
Vice-President	Mike Washington	Lot 223
Secretary	Dee Harrison	Lot 99
Treasurer	Patsy Lund	Lot 40
Co-Treasurer	Roberta McEwen	Lot 48
Directors:	Jim Lee	Lot 185
	Kerrie Kelley	Lot 250
	Susan Duchesneau	Lot 193
	Lorraine Dufour	Lot 284
Parliamentarian (without vote)	Pat Stowell	Lot 24



Leaving Florida?

Don't miss any issues of the newsletter while you're away for the summer!

Sign up for Summer Mailing:

- Call our office to sign up for Summer Mailing
- \$5.00 flat fee per shipped issue
(International is \$6.00)
- Newsletters are shipped at the beginning of the month
- Pay by check

(941) 375-3699
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WHAT HAS THE ELS MANAGEMENT DONE FOR US?

Upgrades since April 2024

Clubhouse:

- New water heater
- New sinks, drywall and wainscoting replaced in men's and women's restrooms
- New compressor for A/C in ceiling
- Replaced double door

Laundry Building: New split A/C unit

Office: New A/C, New electrical panel

Infrastructure:

- New overflow pump for retention pond
- New electrical panel for overflow pump at retention pond
- Lift Station #2: New electrical panel/upgrade, Both pumps replaced/upgraded in size
- Lift station #3: Both pumps replaced
- Lift station #4: Volutes replaced
- Sewer lines: Gravity drain cleaning/TV and repair of any broken pipes, New ARV valve and pull box
- Ground water engineer survey - by Kimley/Horn: Discovered missing weir, submitted findings for recommendations to address flooding problem
- Water treatment plant: Replace RO system pump, Replace high service pumps
- Well inspection done on wells 3A and #4: pumps dropped 20 feet lower, Pump control box replaced on well #4, Drop pipes replaced on well #3A and well #4 with section pipes
- Fountain for pond on order

Gate: Gate call box replaced, Gate arm motors relocated and then replaced, Gate doors replaced with aluminum doors so wind can go through, Cameras and license plate reader installed

Entrance: Retaining wall repaired, Replaced electrical and lighting at front entrance

Pool: Resurfaced interior of pool/coping, Repaired pool cage, Replaced both pool pumps, Replaced pool heater, Replaced ORP system, New landscaping at edge of pool cage for privacy barrier, New pool furniture

Dog Park: Installed seating with umbrellas for shade

UPDATES TO DIRECTORY

CORRECTED: Off Hours Emergency:
979-446-9436

New Residents:

15 Pine - Teresa & Steve Rennells

90 Evergreen - Larry "Cotton" Adams & Ellen Petrey

186 Cedar - Steve & Debbie Merz

210 Spruce - Kris & Don Ewing

2026 HOA MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!

Only \$25 per year

It's time to renew or join for another great year at Tropical Palms! 2026 TPHOA memberships are now available for purchase. Your membership helps fund the many activities, events, and improvements that keep our community vibrant and welcoming.

Membership benefits include:

- Enjoy HOA-sponsored events and activities
- Support for clubhouse supplies, decorations, and community projects
- A stronger voice in keeping Tropical Palms beautiful and fun for everyone
- Right to participate at Membership meetings and the Annual Meeting

You can purchase your 2026 membership from:

- Pauline Gagne at Lot 84 Evergreen
- Or pick one up at any upcoming community event!

Join or renew today and help make 2026 another fantastic year at Tropical Palms.

OUR HEROES

A few weeks ago I asked everyone to think about someone who deserves recognition for their contributions to our community. This is a new feature that we would like to see continue monthly, so if you have found yourself impressed by some of the kindness of one of your neighbors, please contact Dee Harrison via Facebook Messenger, text at 828-467-0037, or email at dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com. Please include the person's name and a detailed (up to 200 words) description of what makes this individual special!

Our Heroes for May are:

Michelle Crowley, 242 Balsam:

When we needed someone to continue the TACO TUESDAY tradition many wondered, "Would this be the end of Taco Tuesdays???" Cue dramatic music playing in the background.

Suddenly, the far-off sound of a Mariachi band began growing louder! Taco Tuesdays would live on! Michelle Crowley stepped up (as she often does) and agreed to take on this project with her trainee, Jim Lee! And their first joint venture last month was a big success.

This tradition, along with the SLOPPY JOE DINNER "trial run" organized by Michelle and held prior to a bingo night in March, have tickled our taste buds and treated us to nights with no cooking on our part. Yay! It is no surprise that Michelle has a flair for the culinary arts, she is a true artist at heart. Her beach-style paintings are creative and beautiful. I'm told some of her works of art already hang in Tropical Palms homes and more of her creations are available.

Michelle is quite "crafty" as well! Let's not forget her skillful organization of our Annual CRAFT FAIR!

For these and many other contributions to our Tropical Palms community, I tip my sun hat to Michelle!

Larry Dustin, 89 Evergreen:

Larry, we would like to thank and honor you for all the time and energies you have graciously and humbly given to the residents of the Tropical Palms Community. Not only have you served on the TPHOA Board for two separate terms, you have coordinated and distributed the TPHOA newsletters since 2021. You and your "elves" have collected, collated and distributed Christmas cards to everyone in the community for the three or four weeks before Christmas, bringing Christmas cheer to the entire community over the past six years.

You are always willing to help at the activities and events without hesitation, and always with a smile on your face. Thank you for all you do!

Randy Friedel, 173 Cedar:

There is someone in this park who needs to be recognized. This gentleman has faced great adversity and challenges that few of us could imagine. But having his life ripped apart and in peril did not diminish this guy at all. Instead, he not only has fought valiantly to heal his body, but has never forgotten his friends and neighbors, never letting his physical limitations stop him from helping

others every chance he can. In spite of his pain and uncertainty of the future, he always has a smile on his face and a very positive attitude. He is inspirational to all he meets.

Ted Ingle, 162 Cedar:

I would like to praise Ted Ingle. His dedication to teaching us different dances and never losing patience with us is amazing. I know it can not be easy when some of us have two left feet! I have never seen him lose patience, and I have never seen him in a bad mood. His smile is contagious and his attitude is always so positive. He works very hard to uplift others, and is quick to speak up when he sees an injustice. His sense of humor is wonderful. This summer will seem empty without him here.

Brian Steeno, 242 Balsam:

I needed help to hang a tv and I was sent an angel. Brian came knocking at my door and did the work I needed. A few days later I asked him if he could fix my toilet. It was running. He fixed that as well. He does excellent work and he's reasonably priced. We have a little piece of gold here at TP.

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WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

A Warm Welcome to Our New Residents at Tropical Palms!

We're delighted to welcome all the new residents who have recently joined our Tropical Palms community! Whether you've moved here for the sunshine, the lifestyle, or the wonderful neighbors, we're so glad you're here.

Get Involved and Meet Your Community

Tropical Palms is a vibrant place to live, with activities and events happening throughout the week. We encourage all newcomers to join in - whether you enjoy cards, crafts, exercise classes, dinners, or simply connecting with others, there's something for everyone.

Participating in activities is a great way to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and feel right at home.

Join Us for Coffee Chat and Stay Informed at HOA Board Meetings

We also invite all new residents to attend the Coffee Chat and HOA Board Meetings. These meetings are a helpful way to stay informed about community updates, upcoming projects, and ways to get involved. Your voice and participation are always appreciated.

Welcome Package is Waiting for You

Contact Pauline Gagne to make arrangements to receive your Welcome Package. Stop by Lot 84 East Cypress or call Pauline at 774-365-2605 so she can visit you at a convenient time.

The package is filled with helpful information about the community, amenities, services, and activities - everything you need to settle in comfortably.

We're Glad You're Here

Welcome once again to all our new neighbors! We hope you find Tropical Palms to be a friendly, supportive, and enjoyable place to call home. We can't wait to see you around the community!

Pauline Gagne
Welcome Committee Chair

SUNSHINE REPORT

Get Well Cards were sent to David Harrold #27 Pine, Mickey McNeil #130 Evergreen, Gloria Stephens #259 Balsam, Wes Davis #254 Balsam and Marlene Teed #138 Evergreen.



Please contact me if you know of anyone who could use a note of encouragement or condolence from our community. Cards are typically sent for illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths of community members or immediate family but only if the information is given to me.

Remember, if you **DO NOT WANT** your family's information posted in the newsletter, please contact me before the 10th of each month. If I do not hear anything from you, I will assume I have your consent to publish the information and continue to wish our best-wishes for recovery.

Lorraine Dufour, Director and Sunshine Chair
284 Evergreen Circle
Phone: 978-580-1127
Email: lorrainebo59@gmail.com

MEMORIAL DAY HOT DOG



COOKOUT



MAY 25
2 pm

Bring a side or dessert to share

TPHOA EVENTS FOR MAY

The events listed below are planned. We will post any event announcements or changes on signage near the entrance to the park, on Facebook and on the Bulletin Board in Club House.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

- 9 Coffee Chat & Board Meeting - 10 am
- 10 Mother's Day Ice Cream - 2 pm
- 12 Taco Tuesday - 4 pm until we run out
- 19 Sloppy Joes - 4 - 6 pm or until we run out
- 25 Memorial Day Cook Out - 2 pm

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Billiards, Bingo, Corn Hole and Cribbage will continue through the summer months at their scheduled times. Other activities may be continued or added if there is interest. An up-to-date list will be posted in the Clubhouse and on the Facebook page. If you are interested in facilitating an activity, text Pam Timmins at 603-661-4488 or contact Dee Harrison at 828-467-0037 or dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com.

TACO TUESDAY



Join the fun!



April 14

4 pm until sold out

Menu:

Tacos - \$3 each

Nachos - \$5

SEASONAL RESIDENTS

Don't forget to notify the Office when you leave the park. In case of emergency it's important that they know which homes are occupied. Turn off your water and secure all outside furniture, grills, trash cans and decorations. Be sure to ask a friend or neighbor to watch your home and contact you if anything goes amiss. Have a good summer and safe travels! We look forward to seeing you next season.

IT'S SLOPPY JOE TIME!

May 19
4-6pm
(or until we run out)



Menu:

Sloppy Joe Plates - \$6

(Includes sloppy joe, chips, pickle, soda)

Single Sloppy Joe - \$3

Dessert - \$2

HALO - HOMEOWNERS AGAINST LANDFILL ODOR

Community Advocacy | Accountability | Public Health

Who We Are:

HALO is a community advocacy group representing citizens affected by odors from the Waste Connections SLD Landfill on Zemel Road.

Our mission:

protect public health, quality of life, and property values.

What We Do:

- Advocate for residents affected by landfill odors!
- Support enforceable, science-based monitoring and response!
- Promote accountability, transparency, and regulatory compliance!

Our Goals:

- Stop the Stink
- Prevent landfill expansion until full legal and environmental compliance
- Update consent decree to include landfill best practices
- Establish independent monitoring and enforcement protocols



How You Can Help:

- Join Stop the Stink Facebook group: "Stop the Stink-Zemel Road Dump"
- Report Odors: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8659554/Zemel-Road-Facilities-Survey-Form-Revised>

Our Representatives:

Mike Washington and Pam Timmins represent Tropical Palms Homeowners' Association as part of the Working Group along with residents from Heron's Glen and other area communities. Included in the Group is an attorney who lives in Heron's Glen and is providing his services *pro bono*.

MOTHERS DAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL



MAY 10
2-4 pm
Free ice cream for
all mothers



KARAOKE

Is taking a break for
the summer
It's been great fun
Thanks to our hosts
Bob Bray and Lorraine
Dufour
Looking forward to
more great times in the
fall!



POETRY BY PENNY

"TODAY"



*Sunshine and blue skies
Capture my eyes*

*As I look out my window
At passers by*

*The breeze embraces
Flowers and bowers*

*Of multiple colors,
Thirsty for rain.*

*I'm thankful for the scene
As I look through my screen*

*On the fleeting time
Known
ONLY
As today!*



PUNTA GORDA WEATHER IN MAY

May in Punta Gorda marks the official transition from the "Dry Season" to the "Wet Season." While the first half of the month is often hot and arid, the humidity ramps up significantly by Memorial Day, ushering in the famous afternoon thunderstorms that define Florida summers.

Typical May Temperatures

May is consistently hot. It is the month when "90-degree days" become the standard rather than the exception.

- **Average High:** 89°F
- **Average Low:** 68°F
-

Daily Temperature Normals (May)

The temperature climb in May is steady as the sun reaches its highest point in the sky:

Date	Typical Max Temp	Typical Min Temp
May 1	85°F	64°F
May 15	88°F	68°F
May 31	90°F	71°F

All-Time May Weather Records (1914–2026)

May records reflect the building heat and the potential for early-season tropical moisture.

Category	Record Value	Year(s)
Record High Temp	98°F	1945 (May 23)
Record Low Temp	45°F	1945 (May 1)*
Max Monthly Rain	11.41 inches	1957
Min Monthly Rain	0.01 inches	1967
Max Wind Gust	71 mph	2020 (Severe Squall)

* 1945 was a year of wild contrasts for Punta Gorda, holding both the record low and record high for May.

Fascinating May Weather History (Last 25 Years)

The 2020 "Super Squall": On May 4, 2020, a powerful line of storms swept through Charlotte County. Punta Gorda recorded a non-tropical wind gust of **71 mph**, which is stronger than many tropical storms. This event caused localized power outages and damage to lanai screens across the area.

The Early Start of 2012: While hurricane season officially starts in June, **Tropical Storm Beryl** made its presence felt in late May 2012. It brought early torrential rains to the region, ending the dry season abruptly and providing a "false start" to the summer monsoon.

The Drought of 2007: May is usually when the rain starts, but in 2007, the "rainy season" was nearly two months late. Punta Gorda saw less than **0.20 inches** of rain for the entire month, leading to significant water restrictions and record-low levels in local aquifers.

The 2024 Humidity Spike: In May 2024, Punta Gorda experienced a record-breaking streak of "Heat Index" days. While the air temperature stayed around 92°F, the dew point surged to 76°F earlier than usual, making the "Feels Like" temperature soar to **105°F** before the first week of June.

The "May Transition"

One of the most fascinating aspects of May in Punta Gorda is the **Rainfall Surge**. On May 1st, the average probability of rain is only about **15%**. By May 31st, that probability jumps to nearly **50%**. It is the most dramatic shift in weather patterns of the entire year.

History of May Tropical Activity (Last 25 Years)

Statistically, a tropical system affects Florida in May about once every 7 to 10 years. In the last quarter-century, there have been several notable early-season events:

Tropical Storm Alberto (May 2018): This was a massive rainmaker for the Gulf Coast. While it made landfall in the Panhandle, its "dirty side" swept across Southwest Florida, bringing tropical-storm-force gusts and contributing to the **record rainfall** seen that spring.

Subtropical Storm Andrea (May 2007): Formed off the east coast of Florida. While it didn't bring a direct strike to Punta Gorda, its outer circulation pulled extremely dry air into Southwest Florida, ironically worsening a drought before finally bringing high surf to the coasts.

Tropical Storm Ana (May 2015): Though it stayed mostly north, it marked the beginning of a multi-year streak where named storms formed *before* the official June 1 start date, a trend meteorologists have been watching closely.

The "Unnamed" 2020 Surge: While not a named storm, the end of May 2020 saw a tropical disturbance cross the peninsula that dumped over **5 inches of rain** on Punta Gorda in 48 hours, effectively ending the record drought of that April in a single weekend.

ANNUAL GARNET MEMORIAL CONEY ISLAND - CHILI DOG DAY

Thanks, Ed!



TACO TUESDAY



CELEBRATING APRIL, MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS



MOONRISE, MOONSET, AND PHASES

Punta Gorda, FL (May 2026)

Date	Moonrise	Moonset	Moon Phase	Illum.
May 1, 2026	7:51 PM	6:25 AM*	Full Moon	100%
May 15, 2026	5:11 AM	6:26 PM	Waning Crescent	~3%
May 31, 2026	8:58 PM	6:25 AM*	Full Moon	100%

Astronomical events for May:

The "Blue Moon" Month (May 1 & 31)

As we noted in the table, May 2026 starts and ends with a Full Moon.

- **May 1:** The **Flower Moon** rises.
- **May 31:** The **Blue Moon** occurs.

Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower (Peak: May 5–6)

This is one of the year's best meteor showers for Florida residents. These meteors are actually debris left behind by **Halley's Comet**.

- **The View:** Because Punta Gorda is at a more southern latitude, the "radiant" (the point where the meteors seem to come from) sits higher in your sky than it does for folks up north, giving you a better show.
- **The Catch:** In 2026, the moon will be a "Waning Gibbous" (about 84% full) during the peak. This extra moonlight will drown out the fainter meteors, so your best bet is to look in the very early hours before dawn on May 6th, keeping the moon at your back.

Planetary Conjunctions

Early May features a series of "close encounters" where the moon appears to pass very near our neighboring planets:



- **May 5:** A close approach of the **Moon and Mars**. They will be visible together in the early morning sky.
- **May 6:** The **Moon and Mercury** will appear near each other, though Mercury can be tricky to spot as it stays quite close to the horizon during twilight.

Skywatching Tips for Southwest Florida

Go Dark: If you can, head slightly inland toward the **Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area** or down toward **Cape Haze**. The light pollution from the Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte corridor can make it harder to see the fainter meteors.

The "Zenith" Advantage: In May, the Sun and Moon are climbing higher in the sky. This means less atmospheric "murk" to look through, making the stars appear sharper and more stable.

May Tides

In Punta Gorda, the tides in May follow a **mixed semi-diurnal pattern**, meaning there are typically two high and two low tides each day, but they often vary significantly in height.

Because May 2026 features two Full Moons (May 1 and May 31), you can expect **Spring Tides** around the beginning and end of the month. During these periods, the gravitational pull of the sun and moon aligns, resulting in higher-than-average high tides and lower-than-average low tides.

Tide Extremes: Punta Gorda (May 2026)

Date	First High Tide	Second High Tide	First Low Tide	Second Low Tide
May 1 (Full Moon)	4:32 AM (1.3 ft)	3:00 PM (1.9 ft)	9:15 AM (0.8 ft)	10:55 PM (0.0 ft)
May 15	1:52 AM (1.4 ft)	1:40 PM (1.7 ft)	7:45 AM (0.6 ft)	8:50 PM (0.2 ft)

Date	First High Tide	Second High Tide	First Low Tide	Second Low Tide
May 31 (Blue Moon)	4:25 AM (1.2 ft)	3:15 PM (2.0 ft)	9:30 AM (0.9 ft)	11:15 PM (-0.1 ft)

May Tidal Trends

The "Blue Moon" Swell: The highest tide of the month occurs around the **May 31 Blue Moon**, reaching approximately **2.0 feet**. Conversely, the lowest tide will drop to about **-0.1 feet** late that same night.

The Afternoon Push: Throughout May, the strongest "incoming" tide generally occurs in the early afternoon. **This is a great time for fishing or bringing a boat into a canal.**

The Neap Tides: Around the Quarter Moons (May 9 and May 23), you will notice much less "swing" between high and low water. The water may seem relatively still or "lazy" during these days.

Local Tip: Wind vs. Tide

In Charlotte Harbor, remember that a strong **Southwest wind** can "stack" water in the harbor, making a high tide appear much higher than the chart predicts. Conversely, a strong **Northeasterly wind** can push water out, making the low tides exceptionally shallow, regardless of what the lunar cycle suggests



ASK DEE

Dear Neighbors:

My name is Loki and my mom is Dee Harrison. She usually writes this column but didn't have anything to say this month, so since I am a service dog I decided to step up and help her out. I just want to clear up the misconception that everyone has, that dogs are such pampered creatures and have such perfect lives. Don't get me wrong, I love my mom but this is NOT an easy life!! She wakes me out of sound sleep in the mornings so I can go out to use the bathroom...when SHE wants me to go!! (she won't even build me an inside bathroom, I have to go outside even in the rain!) Then she sits at her desk all day talking to some big machine. (She refers to it as working. I don't know, it seems like the only thing that is "working" is her fingers and her mouth!) When I bark because I am trying to do my job and protect her against the scary Amazon man, she tells me to shush! Can you imagine the audacity? She bought this round monster that goes around on the floor on its own and cleans up my hair, then LAUGHS when I run away from the horrible creature! Personally, I fail to see the humor! When she gets done "working", she sticks me in the golf cart and we go riding. I like that! We go to the park sometimes and she throws balls for me to bring back to her. But other times we just ride around and she stops

and talks to people. To EVERYONE. Talks and talks and talks. If I try to protest, she tells me to shush. Humph!! Double standard, wouldn't you say? Dogs don't have thumbs, so I have to wait for her to open the doors for me and stuff. She will disappear sometimes for forever. Once it was a whole hour!!!! So nervy!! She will give me a snack at night, but then tell me I can just have one. Really? She sure doesn't stop at one!! Such hypocrisy!! I like that she loves on me and grooms me, I like looking nice. But she bought me a bottle of Paris Hilton doggie shampoo. Really? Do I look like the Paris Hilton type to you? She is going to make me the laughing stock of the doggie community! I mean c'mon, I have a reputation to uphold!!! She even ordered me a baseball cap with my name on it and little holes for my ears. It wasn't even a designer brand! I made sure that thing came off of me immediately before someone saw it!! One of my human friends in the park has dubbed me "Lord Loki of Tropical Palms". I wish my mom would recognize my aristocracy!! But at the end of the night, when you realize when you have a good human that you love, and who loves you back, then keep them. After all, it IS a "dog's life"!!!

Dee (Denise) Harrison resides in Tropical Palms and in Spruce Pine NC with her puppy Loki. Questions for this column are generated from within this community and from outside sources. Please send inquires to dharriuncounseling@gmail.com The identity of all contributors is kept confidential.



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DID YOU KNOW ?

DID YOU KNOW?

May has historically been a month of significant "firsts".

Early History & Exploration

- **May 14, 1607:** The first permanent English settlement in North America was established at **Jamestown, Virginia**.
- **May 1, 1707:** The Acts of Union took effect, joining the kingdoms of England and Scotland into a single sovereign state called **Great Britain**.
- **May 14, 1804:** Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began their famous **expedition** from St. Louis to explore the Louisiana Purchase and find a route to the Pacific.
- **May 10, 1869:** The "Golden Spike" was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, completing the **First Transcontinental Railroad** and linking the eastern and western United States.

World Wars & Global Conflict

- **May 7, 1915:** During WWI, a German U-boat sank the British ocean liner **RMS Lusitania**, killing nearly 1,200 people. The event shifted public opinion in the U.S. toward entering the war.
- **May 8, 1945: VE Day (Victory in Europe Day).** Nazi Germany officially surrendered to the Allied forces, marking the end of World War II in Europe.
- **May 26, 1940:** The **Dunkirk Evacuation** (Operation Dynamo) began, a massive rescue mission that saved over 330,000 Allied soldiers trapped on the beaches of France.
- **May 7, 1954:** The French were defeated at the **Battle of Dien Bien Phu**, effectively ending French colonial rule in Indochina and leading to the division of Vietnam.

Science & Tech Achievement

- **May 24, 1844:** Samuel Morse sent the first official **telegraph message** from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. The message read: "What hath God wrought?"
- **May 6, 1937:** The German airship **Hindenburg** burst into flames while docking in Lakehurst,

New Jersey, bringing a tragic end to the era of passenger airships.

- **May 6, 1954: Roger Bannister** became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes (3:59.4) at Oxford, England.
- **May 5, 1961: Alan Shepard** became the first American in space, piloting the Freedom 7 spacecraft on a suborbital flight.
- **May 20, 1927:** Charles Lindbergh took off for the first **solo non-stop flight** across the Atlantic, landing in Paris the following day.
- **May 29, 1953:** Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people confirmed to reach the **summit of Mount Everest**.

Social & Political Milestones

- **May 17, 1954:** In the landmark case **Brown v. Board of Education**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.
- **May 10, 1994: Nelson Mandela** was inaugurated as South Africa's first Black president, signaling the formal end of Apartheid.
- **May 1, 1886:** A nationwide strike began in the U.S. to demand an **eight-hour workday**, leading to the Haymarket Riot and the eventual establishment of "May Day" or International Workers' Day.

Major Global Traditions

- **Cinco de Mayo (May 5):** While often associated with parades and parties in the U.S., this day commemorates the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla.
- **Vesak / Buddha Day (May 1, 2026):** Celebrated by Buddhists worldwide, this day honors the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Gautama Buddha. In places like Thailand and Sri Lanka, it involves lantern processions and acts of charity.
- **Eid al-Adha (Expected May 27–30, 2026):** One of the most significant holidays in Islam, the "Festival of Sacrifice" involves communal prayers, feasts, and the sharing of food with the less fortunate.
- **Vallenato Legend Festival (April 30 – May 4, 2026):** Held in Valledupar, Colombia, this is one of the most important musical cultural events in the country, celebrating the folk traditions of Vallenato music.

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Arts & Entertainment

- **Cannes Film Festival (May 12–23, 2026):** The world's most prestigious film festival takes place on the French Riviera, debuting major international cinema and hosting the iconic "red carpet" events.
- **The Venice Biennale (Opening May 9, 2026):** One of the oldest and most famous contemporary art exhibitions in the world, transforming Venice into a global hub for artists and curators.
- **Key West Songwriters Festival (April 29 – May 3, 2026):** A major event in Florida where hit songwriters perform in intimate venues across the island, offering a "behind the scenes" look at famous tracks.
- **Sueños Music Festival (May 23–24, 2026):** A massive celebration of Latin music and culture held in Chicago's Grant Park, featuring Reggaeton and regional Mexican artists.

Heritage & Awareness Months

- **AAPI Heritage Month:** In the U.S. and Canada, May is dedicated to celebrating the contributions and history of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

- **Jewish Heritage Month:** Recognized in North America to highlight the culture, history, and achievements of the Jewish community.
- **Haitian Heritage Month:** A month-long celebration of Haitian culture, often peaking around **Haitian Flag Day (May 18)**.

Unique Regional Events

- **Chelsea Flower Show (UK):** Usually held in late May, this is the world's most famous gardening event, showcasing cutting-edge garden design and floral displays.
- **Fiesta de San Isidro (May 15, 2026):** Madrid's largest traditional festival, featuring locals in 19th-century costume (*chulapos*), open-air dancing, and concerts.
- **Lei Day (May 1):** A statewide celebration in Hawaii honoring the culture of the islands and the spirit of aloha, often featuring lei-making contests and hula performances.

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APRIL 11 MEETING SUMMARY

All board members and 50 residents were present. New residents at lots 90 and 210 were welcomed.

Updates from park management:

- Reuse of the former horseshoe pits area is being discussed. Options include an all purpose area with a picnic table and grill, and/or some outdoor exercise equipment. Other alternatives being considered are public raised garden beds.
- Don is replacing mailboxes by building off site and installing as each group is completed so mail can be delivered without interruption.
- Tree trimming is occurring in public places. Residents are responsible for the trees in their yards, People with dead trees who were asked to remove them will be given one more written notice before ELS will have them trimmed/ removed and will bill the affected resident (as in our prospectus).
- Gutters in the front of the clubhouse will be replaced.
- Joshua Tree is working on cleaning out swales.
- The situation remains the same with the discontent involving the dog park. Residents are reminded that all dogs regardless of size are allowed in the park at any time. FYI: ELS top management are not fond of dog parks and if the discord continues, it could potentially be removed.
- Two bridges are unusable. If the remaining one is to be rebuilt, it would have to meet ADA standards. Al Grelling advised that a culvert with earthen surround would be maintenance free. Pam will mention to Tiki.
- Some houses in the community are slated for demolition in the near future. Michelle Crowley asked if the residents could “strip” them of appliances, fixtures, etc. Pam advised her that was not possible because once the demolition company had been contracted, house and contents were now their property. Linda Taylor asked about a house close to her, and Mike Washington stated that only houses #120 and #132 had been mentioned thus far. Pam added that park management might “camouflage” the homes until demolition.
- Barb Harader said a house near her appeared abandoned and has dead trees. She was advised that if the owner was still actively paying all fees, then those trees were the resident’s

responsibility.

- Violet White mentioned that there is a home close to her that was in very bad shape, but was occupied. Pam suggested that the community pitch in and try to help residents who were unable to maintain their homes, but cautioned that this would need to be done with discretion.
- Since the laundry room has been used for some activities now, management is considering renovations to convert it to an all purpose room, with more tables, and some rearrangement. The continuing need for a large capacity washer for comforters has been mentioned to Tiki.
- The clubhouse is slated for some renovations including lighting, painting of interior walls, new kitchen countertop, floors, lights over pool tables. Dart boards will be repositioned as part of that. Ginette Baillargeon asked if all renovations would be done at the same time to avoid long term closing of clubhouse.
- Post-and-chain fences are being installed where swales cross under roads.
- Pam read a long list of the work that has been completed (see ***What Has ELS Management Done for Us?*** in this newsletter). Christine Gnass commented that she felt the work done was simply what was needed for park maintenance. Pauline Gagne asked if the drain in the kitchen sink was being repaired, Mike and Michelle Crowley explained that it works but that there was a certain way to handle it.
- Pam explained the survey and expressed gratitude for the responses she has received. Christine Gnass complimented the board for “finally” doing this, and stated that everyone that had concerns should voice their opinions via the surveys.

Committee Reports/Updates:

- **Landfill Odors:** Mike Washington reported that a petition for a hearing has been filed by the “Stop the Stink” movement, and that the city and counties are writing endorsements. He encouraged everyone to go on the website and file a complaint every time they smell the dump (see ***HALO - Homeowners Against Landfill Odor*** in the newsletter).
- **Lawsuit Status:** Mike Washington explained that ELS is open and accepting of our demands and that now it is a matter of processing of paperwork, etc.

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- **Directory:** Pat Stowell provided a form to be completed in the event of any changes. The forms could be given to any Board member or to Welcome Coordinator Pauline Gagne.
- **Event Committee:** Dee Harrison reminded all of the upcoming events for April. Michelle Crowley added that she would be doing Sloppy Joes on 4/22 at 4.

Board Actions:

- **Secretary's Report:** March meeting minutes were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2026 was read and posted on the clubhouse bulletin board.
- **Sunshine Committee (Lorraine Dufour):** Get well cards were sent to David Harrold #27, Micky McNeill #130, Gloria Stevens #239 and Wes Davis #254
- **New Business:** Kerrie Kelley will assume the responsibility of summer liaison and will also act as off season coordinator of newsletter distribution.

Questions/Comments from Residents:

- Pam Timmins mentioned that when seasonal people are ready to leave, they should inform the office for safety reasons. Pat Stowell added that the office updates the computer system immediately. Linda Taylor commented that it is good for the office and neighbors to know who is away so they can watch for squatters and other problems.
- Clara Alvarez expressed gratitude for the ice cream cart.

Roberta McEwen won the raffle and donated it to the HOA.

Respectfully Submitted, Dee Harrison, Secretary



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MAY 2026 AT TROPICAL PALMS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Coffee Chat & Board Meeting 10 am
		Cinco De Mayo		National Day of Prayer		
10 Mother's Day Ice Cream 2 pm Mother's Day	11	12 Taco Tuesday 4 pm	13	14	15	16
				Ascension Day		
17	18	19 Sloppy Joes 4 pm	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day Cook Out 2 pm Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
Pentecost						
31						

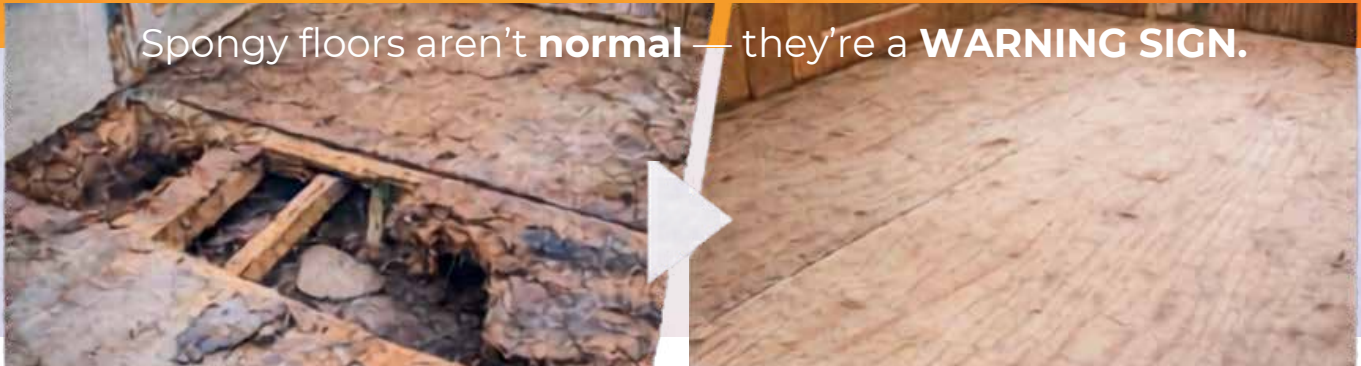
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- Squeaking or shifting
- Weak spots near bathrooms or kitchens
- Flooring separating or bubbling
- Musty smells coming from floor
- Floors can eventually collapse

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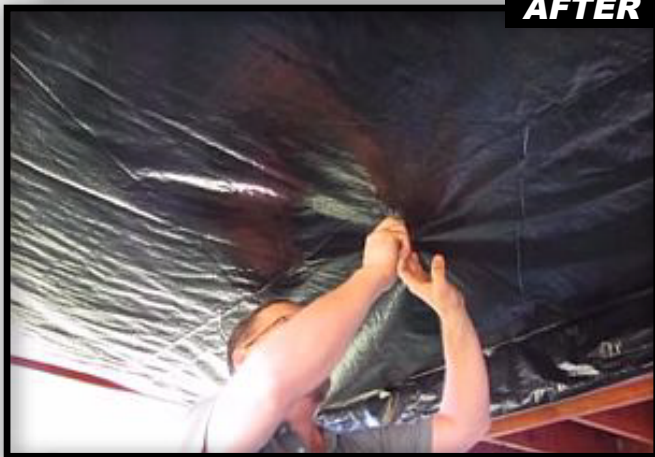
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BEFORE



AFTER



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