



Harbor Lights Beacon

617 Tamiami Trl. N

Venice, FL 34285



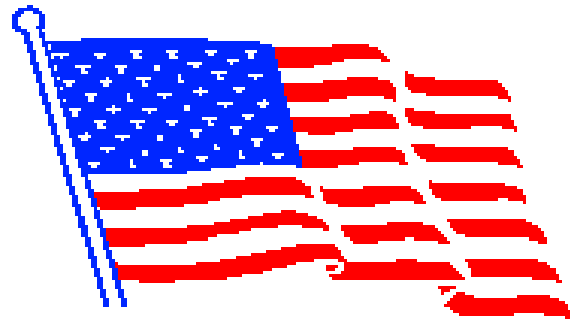
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Volume XXXVI, Issue 5

May 2026



May 10



Memorial Day

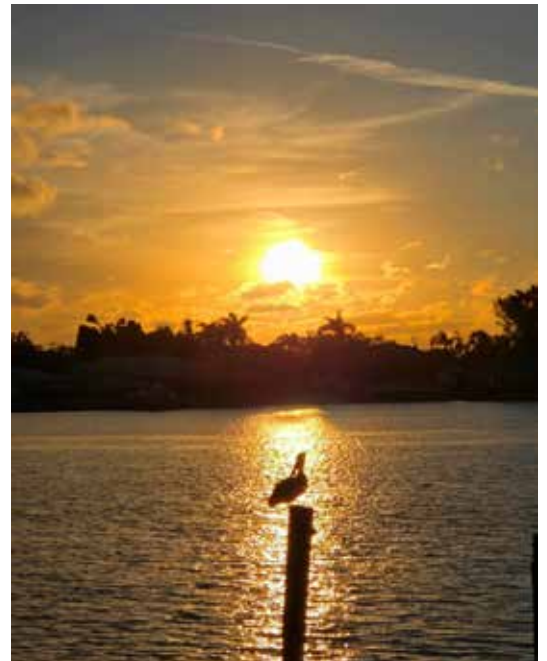
May 25



EASTER BRUNCH



SUNSET AT HARBOR LIGHTS



The Easter brunch was enjoyed by all including the Easter bunny.
Pictures of sunsets at Harbor Lights,
Thanks to Debbie McRoberts for the great photos. More to come next month.

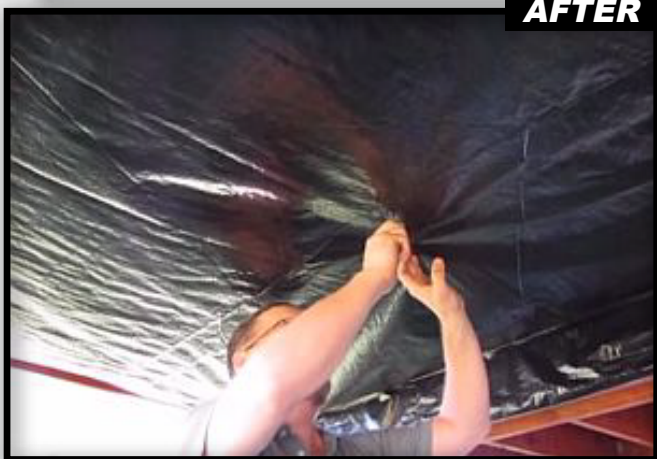


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MANAGER'S REPORT

Groundskeeping

We greatly appreciate and thank all the residents who came forward to help with landscaping while Gloria is out recovering from a bicycle accident. We are looking for a temporary solution while she is convalescing, possibly hiring a contractor for an 8-week period, if I can find a contractor to agree to a temporary contract.

Pool

We would like to inform residents that the community pool will be temporarily closed for approximately eight weeks during the summer months (June–August) to complete important improvements. This work includes repairing a structural crack, resurfacing the pool, and elevating pool house equipment to enhance safety and long-term reliability. We understand this may be an inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we invest in maintaining and improving our community amenities. Further details and exact dates will be shared as the schedule is finalized.

We are also still reviewing the deck lighting for the pool.

Secure Your Areas

Residents leaving for the season or a long period of time, please secure any items around your home, including flowerpots, chairs, tables, or any loose items they may be carried away with the wind. We cannot store resident's personal property so please be aware of the items around your home. If you rent a space in the boat yard, please make sure any items in your area are orderly and secure.

- **Seasonal Water Shut Off** - Turning off the water at the street level (also known as the curb stop or meter) when leaving a home vacant for a long period of time is a highly recommended practice to prevent catastrophic water damage from burst pipes, failed supply lines, or running toilets. While turning off the main valve inside the house is

effective, shutting it off at the street provides an extra layer of security by protecting the service line that runs from the street to your house. If you would like your water shut off at the street level, maintenance will shut your water off for residents. The city of Venice will charge a fee for this. Please notify the office if you would like this done for your home.

- **Hot Water Heater Shut Off** - In addition, the hot water heater in your home should be shut off. Leaving a hot water heater on for 6 months while away is generally not recommended due to wasted energy (higher utility bills) and unnecessary strain on the unit. While the tank will remain full, the constant, unused heating cycle increases risks of premature heater failure, leaks, and safety hazards if a small leak causes the tank to empty while active.
- **Secure Propane and Shut Off**
If you have a propane tank, please be sure to secure the tank and shut the valve OFF. There are only a few residents with propane gas tanks and if you need assistance, please call the office.
- **Notify Office**
For safety and security reasons, please let Ann know when you are leaving the park and possible return plans and if anyone is checking your property in your absence. Thank you.



Harbor Lights BEACON

EUCHRE

March 12

First place: Susie Lane
Second place: Shirley Reindl
Third place tied place: Mark Grady
Joyce Skorka



March 19

First place: Shirley Reindl
Second place: Rosie Knapp
Third place: Mark Grady
Joyce Skorka

March 26

First place: Phillip Roberts
Second place: Jenny Grady
Third place: Margie Elmer

April 2

First place: Carolyn Welton
Second place: Susie Lane
Third place: Shirley Reindl

April 9

First place: Dottie Meier
Second place: Carolyn Welton
Third place: Shirley Reindl

BRIDGE

February 25

1st Linda Bolender 3070
2nd Sue Wolters 2080

March 4

1st Sheila Williams 3370
2nd Linda Bolender 2740

March 11

1st Jane Dellina 2900
2nd Sue Wolters 2630

March 25

1st Carolyn Welton 2910
2nd Ron Schenkel 2290

April 1

1st Ron Schenkel 2720
2nd Linda Bolender 2430

April 8

1st Ron Schenkel 2750
2nd Carolyn Welton 2130

FYI - As we head north, please do not leave any alcohol products in the clubhouse.

EASTER BRUNCH

Our annual Harbor Lights Easter brunch was held on Sunday, April 5th. Thank you to Bob and Danette Ward and their crew for hosting, organizing, and preparing this event. As always our Harbor Lights cooks added to our extensive buffet table with many side dishes and desserts.

We even had a special guest—the Easter Bunny!! Our guest visited each table handing out a candy treat along the way. Thanks for stopping by Easter Bunny, aka, Cindy, Carolyn Welton's daughter. Hope everyone enjoyed the day.

TGIF

Thanks to Donnie Butler for hosting a relaxed TGIF on Friday, April 17, 2026. A beautiful evening, superb snacks, great conversation, and music rounded out our get-together around the pool. It was nice to see our neighbors and wish safe travels to many of our residents as they head north for the summer.

Donnie announced he plans to have one each month as we head to the 2027 season. Watch your calendar for future dates!



BINGO

March 24

Canadian flag – Marsha
American flag – Tim Timmons

March 31

Canadian flag – Cathy Forbes
American flag – Jan Utley

April 7

Canadian flag – Cindy Drefke
American flag – Cathy Forbes

April 14

Canadian flag – Ruth Batjes
American flag – Ruth Batjes



ON THE COVER PAGE

The Easter brunch was enjoyed by all including the Easter bunny.

Pictures of sunsets at Harbor Lights,
Thanks Kim, manager, for photos.

FYI – BEACON

We have a website for Harbor Lights Co-op and it has the monthly newsletter and real estate info. Plus a slide show of the park.

Anyone interested in getting the newsletter by email, instead of mail, please contact me at jjujmuf@gmail.com or call at 941-220-9290.

You can also get it on the website. Saves on postage.

Thank you, Jan Utley #103

FYI – SUMMER ACTIVITIES

During the summer months some activities go on vacation: bingo, bocci ball, game night and organized golf. Pickleball, ping pong, mahjong, bridge and euchre are played year round.

Enjoy you summer and see you in the fall.

HARBORLIGHTS RESIDENTS FROM GLORIA,

I want to thank you from my heart for the wonderful help and support before and after my accident. Thank you to the residents that went home and those still here.

I will be waiting to see you next fall.

Love, Gloria



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**SEAWALL UPDATE -
WHERE WE ARE NOW
Fiduciary Duty of the Board**



Repairing the seawall in a Florida community is a core fiduciary duty of the Board because it directly protects the cooperative’s physical assets, financial stability, and resident safety. A deteriorating seawall can lead to erosion, flooding, and structural damage to common elements, which increases liability and long-term repair costs.

The community has now received two independent engineering reports confirming the need to proceed with seawall repairs as soon as possible. Based on these findings, the Board is moving forward into the bidding phase and has requested a budgetary bid from one contractor to assist with planning and cost evaluation as part of the process.

Budgetary Bid = Budget Estimate

A budgetary bid package is a preliminary estimate provided by a contractor for a large capital project—such as seawall repair—based on limited design details. It typically includes a rough scope of work, estimated costs, assumptions, and possible ranges, but it is not a final or binding price. Communities use it for planning purposes, such as budgeting, evaluating project feasibility, and prioritizing capital improvements. The budgetary bid came in at approximately \$1.6 million.

Formal Bid Phase

When planning a major marine construction project like a seawall repair, the process begins with an engineer preparing detailed designs, specifications, and required permits. A formal bid package is then created and sent to qualified marine contractors so all proposals are based on the same scope of work.

Contractors typically visit the site, review conditions, and submit bids that include materials, labor, equipment, and timelines. The Board then evaluates the bids based on cost, experience, and qualifications—not just the lowest price.

Once a contractor is selected, a contract is executed, and the project moves forward under engineering oversight to ensure all work meets required standards and permits. We are currently in the formal bid process with 4 qualified marine contractors and we should be receiving their bid packages in a few weeks.

Financing our Shoreline Protection

Why did we ask for a loan?

It’s important to demonstrate that the community has the financial capacity to fund a large capital project before work begins because contractors need assurance they will be paid on time and in full. Providing proof of funding—such as reserves, approved financing, or a special assessment—builds credibility, helps secure better pricing and contract terms, and reduces the risk of delays, work stoppages, or disputes. It also protects the community by ensuring the project can be completed without interruption once it starts. The limited proxy vote resulted in approval of the Board’s authorization to obtain a loan to fund seawall repairs, with 113 “yes” votes and 25 “no” votes out of 138 total.

Grants for Seawall

Although we have met with several city officials in Venice, there is no interest on their end to partner with Harbor Lights for the seawall repair.

Municipalities rarely partner with private communities to pursue federal grant funding because most programs prioritize public access, control, and long-term public benefit. In many cases, the government must hold some level of ownership, easement, or oversight of the improved

property to meet funding requirements. For waterfront communities, this can mean granting access or restrictions that may limit private control of shoreline areas and certain riparian rights (such as docking, use, or improvements). As a result, while grants can provide funding assistance, they often come with conditions that may not align with a private community's preferences for ownership and use of its property. In essence, as a private community Harbor Lights would have to give up their riparian rights.

Grants for Shoreline Protection

The community continues to actively pursue grant opportunities to support shoreline protection through living shoreline solutions, including the strategic placement of EcoWADs® and the planting of mangroves.

The wave attenuation study currently in process by Dr. Ping Wang and his associates will give us the data we need to move forward with our shoreline protection plan. This includes repairing and replacing the years of mangrove erosion off of the point. Also, Dr. Wang's study should help us appeal to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to reduce the speed of boats in Roberts Bay on the intracoastal side of Harbor Lights, helping us protect the mangroves and the homes around the point.

Kim Witkop
Property Manager



MAY

		7				6		
			4	7	3		8	
5	9			6		3		
		9	2	3				1
		3			1	8	4	
	1							
	7	2	6	9				
6								
	4	5						





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MAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Clutch
- 6. Engage in
- 10. Combines
- 14. Eagle's home
- 15. Minerals
- 16. Voucher
- 17. Coniferous forest
- 18. Regrets
- 19. Bay
- 20. Stuporous
- 22. Detail
- 23. Not new
- 24. Low point
- 26. Worldwide
- 30. Stash
- 32. Scrutinize
- 33. Pomp
- 37. Pretentious person
- 38. Desert watering holes
- 39. You (archaic)
- 40. Idioms
- 42. Offering little or no hope
- 43. Twiddled one's thumbs
- 44. Purchasers
- 45. Chocolate source
- 47. Not thin
- 48. Roman robe
- 49. Hyperactive
- 56. Wicked
- 57. Knockout
- 58. Custom
- 59. Peddle
- 60. Distinctive flair
- 61. Genus of heath
- 62. 3
- 63. Break
- 64. Adjust again

DOWN

- 1. An international trade treaty
- 2. Towards the back
- 3. Diva's solo
- 4. Portent or omen
- 5. Navy jacket
- 6. Planet
- 7. African sheep
- 8. Nerd
- 9. Flavoring extracts
- 10. Without intention
- 11. Hindu loincloth
- 12. Scuba user
- 13. Flower stalk
- 21. Addition
- 25. Revelation response
- 26. Sharp intake of breath
- 27. Moon goddess
- 28. Scent
- 29. According to the Bible
- 30. Enclosed
- 31. Anagram of "Sage"
- 33. Rate
- 34. You (archaic)
- 35. Big laugh
- 36. Guffaws
- 38. Witness
- 41. American Dental Association
- 42. Meat retailer
- 44. Sheep sound
- 45. Shroud
- 46. Nimble
- 47. Not back
- 48. Exam
- 50. Low-lying area
- 51. Nestling hawk
- 52. Empty weight
- 53. Nile bird
- 54. Moral weakness
- 55. French for "State"



May Word Search

E	S	O	O	L	K	S	U	R	I	V	E	R
E	V	U	P	D	A	T	E	E	E	Y	D	N
P	C	T	S	T	I	L	L	S	V	N	E	O
I	C	I	H	U	Y	O	Y	I	L	I	S	S
H	A	B	O	U	T	O	F	G	O	A	T	R
S	U	R	R	V	I	H	I	N	V	M	R	E
R	S	O	T	V	V	C	T	A	N	E	U	P
E	E	Y	L	L	I	S	R	T	I	R	C	J
N	C	D	P	L	T	I	E	I	E	V	T	R
W	A	T	E	R	C	N	C	O	S	I	I	E
O	R	E	V	E	A	L	E	N	B	D	O	M
Y	B	U	E	P	O	L	E	V	N	E	N	I
T	N	I	A	P	I	M	P	L	E	O	Y	T

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cause
certify
destruction

envelope
event
goat
involve
loose
obey
orbit

ownership
paint
pane
person
pimple
rely
remain

remit
resignation
reveal
river
school
short
silly

still
update
video
virus
voice
water

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I recently had a consultation with a guy who was frustrated that he couldn't hear well in restaurants. He shared that he had bought cheap hearing aids specifically for use when going out. He explained that he didn't feel the need to invest in higher-quality devices since he only wanted to use them while dining out.

I understood his thinking. He believed hearing aids could simply filter out background noise, allowing him to focus solely on speech. Hearing aids, however, don't work quite that way. They amplify specific frequencies. Premium hearing aids use artificial intelligence (AI) to recognize and reduce background noise, making speech brighter.

His reasoning wasn't entirely off. He understood that hearing aids could help improve speech clarity in noisy environments. However, what he overlooked was how the brain processes new sounds.

It's the introduction of new sounds that thwarts his intention. When we hear an unidentified sound our brain goes on alert, part of our flight, fight or freeze survival mechanism. New sounds are initially perceived as potential threats, and the brain reacts to each one. I often explain this by saying the brain is "showing off" all the sounds it can hear.

The best way to train your brain to hear well in a restaurant is by wearing your hearing aids consistently. Wear your hearing aids in a quiet house, running into the grocery store or even stopping by the library. Regular use of your hearing aids helps your brain adapt to different sounds. Over time, your brain will learn to tune out unwanted noise and focus on what's important like conversations.

By wearing quality hearing aids which brighten speech in noise and training your brain, you are able to be more engaged while dining out with friends.

If you're struggling to hear well when out with friends, call for a free hearing test.



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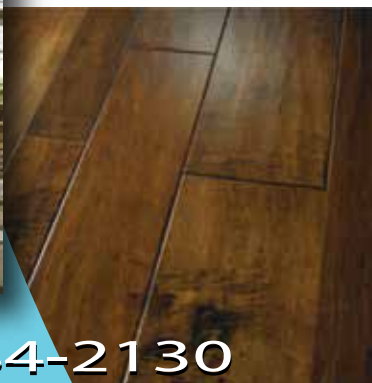
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