

The **POP**

February 2026

Plantation Oaks Press

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Galentine's Day
February 13, 2026
Celebrating Women's Friendship

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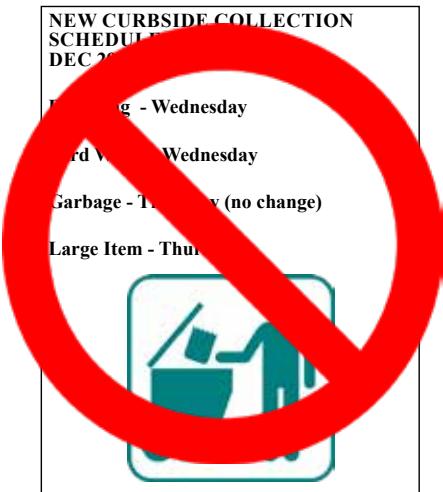
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Valentine's Day is a yearly celebration on February 14th. It started as a Christian holiday to remember a brave man named Valentine who was killed for being a Christian. Over time, it became a big deal in many parts of the world, not just for religious reasons, but also for celebrating love and romance.

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ATTENTION PLANTATION OAKS COMMUNITY



Community Media, your publisher,
deeply apologizes for the
Collection Schedule misinformation
in your December 2025 issues.

This article on page 15 was added in mistake.
There is **not** a new collection schedule.

Please contact Community Media,
941-375-3699, with any questions.

**Thank you for your understanding,
Community Media Staff**



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GROUNDHOG DAY

By Joe Cortese



Have you ever experienced *déjà vu*? It's one of our favorite lines from the classic movie "Groundhog Day". Groundhog Day is always celebrated on February 2nd in the United States and Canada, with roots in Pennsylvania Dutch traditions.

The tradition holds that if the Groundhog emerges from its burrow and sees its shadow then we will have six more weeks of winter. This means little to a native of Miami where we typically (or tropically) don't see six days of winter let alone six weeks but for some reason (maybe *déjà vu*?) I've become trapped in a time loop with the Groundhog.

Glenda and I have watched this movie countless times over the years. Since it came out in 1993, we could be called "cult fans." The movie stars Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. It's a fantasy romantic comedy about a grumpy meteorologist named Phil Connors. Phil gets stuck reliving the same day over and over again after arriving in the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania for the annual Groundhog Day festivities. Although the movie isn't particularly deep or serious, it does beg the question what would you do if you could live the same day over and over again. Perhaps we would do the same as Phil.

In the movie, Phil initially lets his instincts take over and uses his gift for bad purposes. But then he realizes he could use this time to win Rita's heart. Andie MacDowell, as Rita, played Phil Connor's producer at the Pittsburgh news station. Phil tries to convince Rita that he's a better man, and guess what? He actually becomes a better man in the process and ends up winning Rita's heart. Only after this transformation and winning Rita's love does Phil finally break free from the time loop and starts living a normal life.

So after watching this movie countless times it occurred to me that I do wake up every morning with a fresh start and ready to make a positive change. This year I haven't made any of my usual New Year's resolutions, but I've got a new one. Like Phil, I'm going to use yesterday's mistakes to improve on today's reality. That way, I won't get stuck in the same old *déjà vu* trap and instead I'll start making good decisions over and over - so Glenda prays.

I've never figured out why this movie appeals to us so much, but maybe it's the outstanding acting, the delightful music, or that a comedy can produce so much



food for thought. Speaking of food, our favorite line in the movie comes from Phil at the bed and breakfast he was staying in. Phil asks the owner, "Do you ever have *déjà vu*?" and she responds, "I don't know, I'll check with the kitchen."

MATURE DRIVER

License Renewal for Older Drivers

Submitted by Dana Matlock



Driver License

A Florida Class E driver license must be renewed every eight years for customers 79 years old and younger. At age 80, driver licenses must be renewed every six years. Customers may be eligible to renew their Class E Florida driver license online. Visit MyDMV.Portal to see if you are eligible to renew online.

Customers who are 80 years of age or older and are not eligible to renew their driver license online are required to pass a vision test. The test may be taken at a Florida driver license service center at no additional charge. Customers may also have a Florida-licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or an optometrist administer their vision test. Once a customer passes the vision test, they or their doctor must submit the *Mature Driver Vision Test* form (HSMV 72119S).

If the vision test reveals medical conditions that result in a referral to an eye specialist, such as a Florida-licensed ophthalmologist or an optometrist, a customer will need to submit a completed *Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Report of Eye Exam* Form: HSMV Form 72010.

ID Card

The time may come when driving is no longer a safe option and, when that time comes, FLHSMV encourages customers to surrender their driver license and obtain an ID card. Florida's ID card functions exactly the same as a driver license for the purpose of providing proof of identification. It can be used in airports, doctor's offices, banks or anywhere a photo identification is needed. In addition, the documentation needed for an identification card is the same as a driver license. Customers may obtain an ID card at a Florida driver license service center.

Driver License and ID Card Fees

For a list of our current fees, please view the fee schedule. All state-operated (FLHSMV) service centers accept American Express, Master Card and Discover credit cards. Accepted credit cards may vary at County Tax Collector's Offices. Please contact the service center you intend to visit in advance if you have questions about fees or acceptable methods of payment.

February 5-16, 2026: Florida State Fair.



It boasts the largest midway in the USA, but its core purpose, celebrated for more than 100 years, is to showcase Florida agriculture and its history. This fair returns to Tampa with twelve days of wild rides, over-the-top fair food, live entertainment, and adventures for all ages. Visitors can also explore Florida's agricultural roots through interactive exhibits and livestock shows. In 2026, the Fair joins the nationwide America250 festivities as America's Sunniest Celebration, commemorating 250 years of U.S. history with special tributes, performances, and red, white, and blue flair! Ticket pricing varies by date and ticket type: please visit floridastatefair.com/fair.

February 7-8, 2026: Annual Creekside Festival.

**Princess Place Preserve,
2500 Princess Place Road,
Palm Coast, Saturday and
Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4
p.m. each day, admission is**



\$10 per person, kids 12 and under get in free. Free parking. Gather under the majestic oaks for this local tradition that celebrates the natural beauty of Northeast Florida. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a variety of music including bluegrass, country, rock and classic hits. Shop rows of unique arts and craft vendors. There'll be historic demonstrations from a blacksmith, a fur trapper and pottery wheel creations. Kids zone with train rides, pony rides, petting zoo, hayrides, bounce houses. Big food court. Fall festival brews in the beer garden. Explore the Princess Lodge and other historic sites.

9th Annual Strawberry Fest - February 21 & 22, 2026.

At the Florida Agricultural Museum: 7900 Old Kings Rd N, Palm Coast 32137. Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm. Admission \$7 Cash Only. Kids 2 & Under Free. For a \$1 off admission, visit our website for coupon or bring a canned good for discount. Benefits the local food pantry.

Family Fun & Festivities, Fresh Strawberries, Art & Crafts, Beer & Wine, Delicious Food, Free Cirque Show, Free Bounce Houses, Strawberry Shortcake, Axe Throwing Tournament, Classic Cars, Live Entertainment, Free Rock Painting, Strawberry Fudge, Pony Rides, Free Strawberry Relay, Face Painting,

Free Hula Hoop Contest, Pie Eating Contest, Free Petting Farm, Berry Cute Baby Contest, Free Sack Races, Free Corn Hole, Yummy Treats & Much More! For more info: www.PalmCoastFest.com

February 26-March 8, 2026: Florida Strawberry Festival at Plant City



The Florida Strawberry Festival® rolls out the red carpet to welcome visitors from throughout the Sunshine State and the world. Guests come from near and far to enjoy exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture, and crafts. The fabric of American life is woven into the Festival through social events, contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment, and parades with glorious floats and high-stepping marching bands.

The Florida Strawberry Festival represents a piece of Americana, a time in American history when fairs and festivals brought communities together through celebrations of their harvests. It has continued to grow in popularity year after year through the preservation of this heritage. Central to its focus, the Festival continues to preserve and enhance the agricultural and historical legacy of the Florida strawberry.

February 27-March 8, 2026, Daytona Bike Week.

For more than 75 years, motorcyclists have gathered in Daytona Beach for a spring fling and this year, they're expecting a half million.



MIRANDA LAMBERT IN DAYTONA



Daytona International Speedway announced that three-time Grammy award-winning country music superstar Miranda Lambert is set to perform the DAYTONA 500 pre-race concert, Sunday, February 16. The most-awarded artist in Academy of Country Music history is set to kickstart the festivities prior to the 68th running of The Great American Race.

MY FAVORITE POSSESSIONS

By Jeanie Scionti



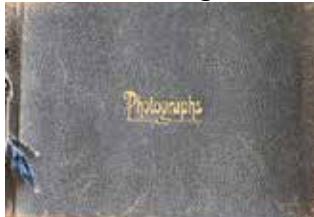
Since February is such a loving month, I thought I'd share with you an answer to a question my grandson posed to me, "What are your favorite possessions Grammy?"

First: My children and grandchildren are my dearest possessions. Oh, wait! They are not my possessions, but I still like to take ownership of them. My grandson smiled.

Second: My childhood doll Suzy. She now sits on a shelf looking as beautiful as ever. Nothing would ever upset me, as long as I had Suzy by my side. My mom saved that doll and delivered Suzy back to me many years later. My grandson's response, "Dolls are creepy."



Third: An old and faded blue leather bound photograph album with the title "Photographs" embossed in gold lettering on the front cover. It



belonged to my mother. She kept it hidden in her cedar chest for many years. When I was a child, I would sneak into her room and rummage through that chest. I'd take

out the album and go through the black and white small pictures of my parents, grandparents, and all the cousins and friends they had during the 1930s and 1940s. I still, occasionally, go through those old photographs.



My grandson, a budding photographer, likes perusing the album, and agrees it is nice to have it.

Last: My engagement ring. I remember on our tenth wedding anniversary my husband wanted to replace the small solitaire engagement ring with a larger stone in a new setting. I was aghast at that thought. I thanked him for the gesture and added that a replacement of any part of that set of rings would never happen.

That ring is a story of two young people...very much in love...who were checking out engagement rings in a store window of the Diamond Exchange, in Manhattan, NY. A salesman came out and ushered us into his store and on that day, we started on the road to a marriage. After we made our purchase, we went to my intended's apartment. My man wanted to have his elder landlord

not only meet his future wife but also allow him to see the engagement ring. After our friendly introductions, Mr. Marini, the landlord, smiled at me and said how lucky Thomas was to have such a lovely fiancée. He then asked to see the ring. With it in hand, he went to a cabinet and took out a 'Loupe' to inspect the diamond. He insisted on a closer look. I remember thinking to myself, *"Is this guy for real?"* He pronounced it a clear and fine diamond set in a simple and elegant setting. Thomas took his inspection to heart and gave a sigh of relief.



I still wear that ring today. I vividly recall that day, even though it was over 60 years ago. And, with love, I still remember Mr. Marini.

TRIVIA

By Rich Bencal



Welcome back to the Plantation Oaks version of Trivia. Once again, I've been digging into different sources for this month's trivia, and I think I've got a mix of easy and a bit trickier questions. Good luck, and remember, the answers will be on another page of the POP.

QUESTIONS:

1. How long was Ken Jennings winning streak on Jeopardy?
2. Who was the first woman to win the CMA Entertainer of The Year award?
3. What is the longest running radio broadcast in the US?
4. When was the last episode of MASH?
5. When did Prohibition end?
6. What was the first state to ratify the US Constitution?
7. What country was the first to use fingerprinting to solve a crime?
8. What is the tallest mountain in the world?
9. What is the hardest natural substance on earth?
10. How many bones are in an adult human body?

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I think I nailed it but nobody saw it.

OLD COOT REMEMBERS HIS BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER

Written By Merlin Lessler

Submitted by Daniel Behanick



It happened when I was seven, the best Christmas present a kid (in the fifties) could hope for, was under the tree. A bicycle! My sister, Madeline, and I both got bikes that year, second-hand, but freshened up with a new coat of paint. We didn't care; they sparkled, as did our eyes when we saw them under the tree. But, into the basement they went, to wait for Spring to arrive. Finally, the first robin arrived and the bikes came out. We lived on a hill; it was steep and a terrible place to learn how to ride. My father helped me push it up to a flat street at the top of our hill that hardly had any traffic on it. I still remember the exhilaration of staying upright while he pushed me. I remember even more vividly, the terror I felt when I looked over my shoulder and discovered he wasn't there. I panicked and crashed to the ground. He eventually convinced me that I'd kept the bike upright all by myself and didn't need his help, except to get started. I hopped back on, and like Hopalong Cassidy, my cowboy hero, rode off into the sunset. One problem; I didn't know how to dismount. When I came to a stop, I simply fell over.

My sister solved the problem. She raced ahead, jumped off her bike and caught me as I came to a stop. Later on, I just stopped near a curb and put out my foot so I could climb off. It wasn't my fault; the bike was too big, like everything in those days. We had to "grow into" stuff: shoes, clothes, skates, sleds and yes, bikes. I went around in oversized jeans (we called them dungarees) with a six inch cuff, shoes with wadded up newspaper stuffed in the toes and to top it off, I had to use a curb to get on and off my bike. Now that I'm in my 80's, I still use a curb when one is available.

I developed a deep relationship with that two-wheeler. I don't think a cowboy ever loved his horse more than I loved that bike. It was freedom; it was status; and it taught me how to fix things. I learned to take it apart and convert it into a racing bike, by removing the fenders, reversing the handlebars and raising the seat. Sometimes, I decorated it with red, white and blue crepe paper and rode at the tail end of Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades. A lot of kids did. We also clothespinned a piece of cardboard to the fender support so it would flap against the spokes and made it sound like we were riding a motorcycle. It didn't take much to entertain a kid back in the fifties.

When I turned 12, I found a lightweight, English bike, with hand brakes and three gears under the tree. It was brand-new and the exact right size. I was ecstatic, but I'll always think of that used, repainted first bicycle as the best Christmas present ever. I hope your Christmas was as merry as mine was back then.

MURPHY'S OTHER LAWS

Submitted By Keith Mowling



Need a laugh today?

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
7. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
8. The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.
9. Give a man a fish and he will eat
10. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
11. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
12. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people, who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

FEBRUARY'S PRACTICAL TABLE

By Kevin Gallagher, MS, CEC Emeritus



February has always been a practical month in the culinary calendar. Historically, it was a time when households relied on staples—grains, beans, preserved vegetables, and whatever could be coaxed from winter storage. Before modern refrigeration and global shipping, February meals were built on resourcefulness. You cooked what you had, stretched what you could, and leaned on dishes that were warm, filling, and uncomplicated.

Even now, with full grocery shelves and year-round produce, February still carries that instinct for simplicity. It's a month that invites straightforward cooking: fewer ingredients, slower moments, and meals that feel grounding without being heavy. Think of it as the bridge between winter comfort and early spring practicality.

One of the most enduring staples across cultures has been the humble bean. In medieval Europe, beans were a primary source of protein during the late winter months. In early American kitchens, they were essential—affordable, filling, and adaptable. Today, they remain one of the easiest ways to build a satisfying meal without fuss.

This recipe leans into that tradition. It's simple, hearty, and built from ingredients most people already have on hand all-in-one pan! It's the kind of dish that fits February perfectly: warm enough for a cool evening, light enough for a mild Florida day, and flexible enough to adapt to whatever you find in your pantry. The two toppings boost flavor and richness without dramatically shifting overall nutrition.

Creamy White Beans with Garlic & Herbs

Servings: 2

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 can (15 oz) white beans, drained and rinsed
½ cup chicken broth
1 tbsp butter
½ tsp kosher salt
¼ tsp black pepper
½ tsp dried thyme or oregano
1 large handful of baby spinach
Topping: grated Parmesan and a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil



Instructions

1. Warm the olive oil in a deep skillet or medium-sized sauce pan over medium heat. Add garlic and cook 30–45 seconds until fragrant.
2. Add the beans, stirring them into the garlic oil.
3. Pour in the broth and bring to a gentle simmer. Cook 5 minutes to warm thoroughly.
4. Stir in the butter, salt, pepper, and herbs. If desired, mash a few beans lightly with the back of a spoon to thicken the mixture.
5. Add spinach and cook 1–2 minutes until wilted.
6. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Top with a healthy sprinkle of Parmesan cheese and a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil. Serve warm with crusty bread or spooned over toasted sourdough.

Note: To make this dish vegan:

1. Sub olive oil for butter
2. Sub vegetable stock for chicken broth
3. Remove Parmesan cheese topping.

Nutritional Info Per Serving:

Calories: 392; Protein: 16g; Carbohydrates: 36g; Fiber: 9g; Fat: 19g; Saturated Fat: 5g; Sodium: 435mg; Potassium: 600mg



Boil up easy-to-peel eggs:

Cold eggs go into boiling water and then an ice bath once cooked. The drastic temperature changes help the shells separate from the cooked eggs.

New York Times

**I burned 3,000
calories yesterday.
That's the last time I
take a nap while
brownies
are in the oven.**

PUNS FOR FUN

Submitted By *Keith Mowling*



1. Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
2. What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.
3. Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.
4. Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.
5. If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.
6. Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.
7. A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.
8. I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
9. Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.
10. How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.
11. I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.
12. My friends and I have named our band 'Duvet'. It's a cover band.
13. I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.
14. Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c? Because you can't see in the dark.
15. Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.
16. When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, they gave me a blank stare.
17. Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."
18. Prison is just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.
19. Scientists studied the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.
20. I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.
21. I got over my addiction to chocolate, nuts, and marshmallows. I won't lie; it was a rocky road.
22. What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.
23. At a toy store I asked where the Schwarzenegger dolls are. The assistant replied, "Aisle B, back."
24. What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture self.
25. I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness

HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS

FOR FLORIDA HOMEOWNERS

Submitted by *Dana Matlock*



Paying attention to – and taking care of – home maintenance tasks is not just a good idea; it can actually leave you with more money in your pocket. You save by preventing larger, and costlier repairs and injuries.

Take Care of the Small Stuff

Not only is it cheaper to perform preventive measures or minor repairs as they're needed, but regular checkups and routine repairs of your home can ensure it remains a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable place to live. Get started with these preventive home maintenance tasks:

- **Keep outside gutters clean** – it's one of the easiest ways to ensure standing water won't damage your home.
- **Replace air filters** – it improves air quality in your home, reducing the risk of respiratory issues.
- **Clean the dryer vent after each load** – this helps your dryer operate efficiently and can help protect your home against the most common cause of dryer fires.
- **Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** monthly; replace the alarms every 10 years.
- **Check gauge/expiration date on fire extinguishers** to ensure they'll operate as they should in an emergency.
- **Flush toilets and run water through all faucets** in the house to make sure everything is functioning as it should. Keep an eye out for leaks, slow drains, and unpleasant smells – which could indicate a plumbing issue, clogs or faulty fixtures, and the presence of stagnant water or bacterial growth.
- **Turn each circuit breaker off and on** to ensure all is working as it should.
- **Press the "test" button on all GFCI outlets** – these are typically found in bathrooms, the kitchen, near a washer and dryer, in garages, and outside the house.
- **Inspect all electrical cords** for signs of tears or fraying, making it unsafe to use.
- **Apply caulk** wherever it has cracked or pulled away from windows, doorways, bathtubs, toilets, sinks, etc. for proper insulation.
- **Drain your hot water heater** – doing this once a year can reduce the likelihood of sediment buildup and prolong the life of your heater. This is especially true throughout Florida, where hard, mineral-laden tap water is common.
- **Professional cleaning of HVAC and dryer vent** – your AC should be professionally cleaned and maintained at least twice a year, and your dryer vent (the tubing going from your dryer to outside your home) once a year.

Florida Peninsula Insurance

February 17 is National Random Acts of Kindness Day

A day dedicated to small, meaningful gestures that make a big difference in someone's life.

FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Vicki Hedrick | 16 Doris Ledrich |
| 2 David Nestor | 18 Judy Dungan |
| 2 Paul Goeller | 19 Kathy Pasquariello |
| 2 Frank Carl | 21 Linda Capuano |
| 3 Rose Addotta | 21 Barbara Granieri |
| 3 Jon Campbell | 21 Pat Ladoux |
| 3 Joan Haught | 21 Larry Alimo |
| 6 Art Bookwalter | 22 Cynthia Bowen |
| 7 Lynn Tull | 23 Malcolm Fraser |
| 7 Jeanie Thorne | 23 Jan Bancroft |
| 8 Eileen Lemelin | 23 Linda Theriault |
| 9 Linda Morrison | 24 Magdalena Gonzalez |
| 10 Lydia Paterno | 25 Stan Niedzwiecki |
| 11 Susan Boyer Kline | 25 Jeff Williams |
| 12 Brenda Souza | 27 Gary Paterno |
| 15 Patricia Dooley | |

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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| 1 Jim & Janet Grazioso |
| 2 Steve & Pat Hamer |
| 10 Joe & Noreen Bartolotta |
| 11 Rolando & Magdalena Gonzalez |
| 14 Mike & Laurie Struhar |
| 14 Kevin & Kathy Gallagher |
| 14 Frank & Rita Schafer Jr |
| 14 Herb & Connie Schneider |
| 18 Mike & Martha Duncan |
| 24 Bill & Maude Streett |



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BIRD – PARROT



Spunky, smart, colorful and filled to the brim with personality, parrots always inspire smiles. While they're perhaps most recognizable for sitting on pirates' shoulders, there are more than 350 types of parrots in the world—and plenty of them live in the wild.

"I love this this bird because every single time my shutter would snap, he would pose. I took this picture at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska," *Katelyn Cheek*.



ANTHONY WILD

February 6, 6 PM, An All American Blues Musician. With inspiration and experience ranging over years of the Blues, Anthony Wild brings you back to a time when music was pure, raw and exciting.

Sponsored by Flagler Beach & Surf 97.3 FM

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 74 games and it ended on November 30, 2004
2. Loretta Lynn
3. The Grand Ole Opry of station WSM, Nashville TN started November 28, 1925
4. February 28, 1983 and was 2 1/2 hours long and titled "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen"
5. December 5, 1933
6. Delaware, December 7, 1787
7. Argentina
8. Mount Everest
9. Diamond
10. 206



2026 PORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Dana Matlock



We're thrilled to introduce our new Plantation Oaks Residents Association (PORA) board members! Let's give them a warm welcome!

President: Gary Watkins

Vice President: Stanley Niedzwiecki

Treasurer: Tony Faust

Secretary: Sue Kline

Director: Phyllis Holdsworth

Director: John Clabaugh

Director: Sam Miller

A huge shoutout to all our amazing volunteers! Your hard work and dedication to our residents and protecting our rights are truly appreciated.



AMAZON PRODUCT EXPLODES — URGENT RECALL

INIU portable power banks recalled by CPSC

Submitted by John Mercurio



Over 200,000 dangerous power banks sold through Amazon are now under federal recall after causing fires and burn injuries, exposing how unsafe foreign-made products continue flooding American markets through online platforms.



Story Snapshot

- 210,000 INIU portable power banks recalled by CPSC due to fire and burn hazards
- At least 15 overheating incidents reported, including 11 fires causing injuries and property damage
- Products sold on Amazon between August 2021 and April 2022 with specific serial numbers
- Consumers must stop using immediately and contact INIU for full refund

Dangerous Power Banks Spark Federal Safety Action
The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued an urgent recall for approximately 210,000 INIU portable lithium-ion battery power banks sold exclusively through Amazon. These model BI-B41 devices, marketed as 100,000mAh capacity units, pose serious fire and burn risks to American families.

The recalled power banks feature black or blue cases with the INIU logo and distinctive paw-print LED lights, making them easily identifiable to concerned consumers who purchased these dangerous devices.

Proper Disposal Prevents Environmental Hazards

The recalled power banks cannot be disposed of through regular trash, curbside recycling, or standard battery collection boxes. The previous landfill on Old Kings Road takes household hazardous waste products.

FEDERATION OF MANUFACTURED HOMEOWNERS OF FLORIDA (FMO)

By James Pursley, FMO Representative



Hey everyone, how's it going in this New Year?

Can you believe it's a new year already? When I was younger I was super excited about the new year because of all the parties and watching the Ball drop. As most of you know, I'm from Georgia, and we like to do things our way (sometimes). So, the bigwigs in Georgia had this brilliant idea to have a Peach Drop instead of a ball since we're known as the Peach State. The peach looked absolutely stunning! The first year, everything went off without a hitch. There were huge crowds, all the local TV stations were there, and it was a blast. But then, the countdown started, and something went wrong. It got stuck! The year went on, and it hasn't happened since.

So, about those New Year's resolutions, I hope you're doing great! Now, I'm not sure if this counts as a resolution, but I've started drinking again. Before you start calling my lovely wife, she already knows. No, it's not what you think. It's coffee that I've started drinking again. When I was younger, I used to drink it straight - black coffee, nothing in it. I liked to have a few cups a day, nothing too big. Then, out of nowhere, I quit. I went for a few years of never having a cup. Then, my son treated me to an iced coffee at a local chain restaurant, which didn't go over very well with my stomach. I swore never again would I drink coffee. Time went by, and someone offered to take me to one of the well-known expensive coffee houses. What a difference! Now, the moral of the story is that I'm brewing eight cups at a time.

Another thing that is hard to believe is the Federation of Manufactured Homeowners (FMO). They've been around since 1962 and are a statewide consumer advocacy group that protects the rights and interests of manufactured homeowners who live on leased land. If you're interested in learning more, head over to fmo.org. They've got all the info you need there. And if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at jpinvest129@gmail.com. I'm James, the one with coffee running out of my ears. Happy New Year!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Patty Watkins & Cyndi Easter



Our Social Committee would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to **Diane Williams**, who has decided to retire from her long-held role selling tickets for our community events. Diane's dedication, reliability, and warm presence have been a true gift to our neighborhood, and we are deeply grateful for her years of service. As Diane steps back, we are delighted to welcome **Peggy Grandin**, who will be taking over the ticket sales. Peggy brings wonderful enthusiasm to the role, and we're excited to have her join the team.

With a new season of activities ahead, the Social Committee has been busy planning events that bring neighbors together and keep our community lively. February and March are filled with opportunities to connect, celebrate, and enjoy time with friends.

We encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings, held on the first Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to connect, share ideas, and be involved in our community. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to Cyndi Easter at (618) 558-9976 or Patty Watkins at (386) 986-6245.



Your Committee Needs You!

Upcoming Activities



February Events



- **February 7 – 10:00 am. Monthly Brunch** Ticket sales: February 2, 4, and 5
- **February 10 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Doughnuts**
- **February 14 – 5:00 pm. Love and Marriage Game** Dinner includes a potato bar with all the fixings, salad, bread, and dessert. Enjoy an evening of love, laughter, and friendly competition.
- **February 21 – 7:00 pm. Annual Wine & Cheese Party** Bring a bottle of wine to share; snacks will be served.
- **February 22 – 6:00–7:00 pm. Ice Cream Social** Free to all.

March Events

- **March 7 – 10:00 am. Monthly Brunch**
- **March 14 – Spring Fling Dance** Details to follow.
- **March 20 – 5:00 pm. St. Patrick's Day Dinner** Ticket sales: March 9, 11, and 12
- **March 29 – 6:00 pm. Ice Cream Social**



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AT PLANTATION OAKS



Did you know the Bible is packed with life principles that can help us make better choices every day? We'd love for you to join us at Christian Fellowship on Sunday, February 8th, to learn more about how the Bible can guide our daily lives.

We'll be starting early to accommodate the Super Bowl gatherings – new time for February only 2:00-3:30.

The Plantation Oaks Christian Fellowship is a non-denominational group where everyone is welcome to learn and grow in their faith. Contact Carol Cerney at 507-213-0121 for questions.

Check out the calendar of events on ourpora.org. There are many card games and other activities that you might enjoy, such as:



Chair Volleyball: Thursdays, 1 PM

In the clubhouse, rain or shine.

A fast, fun, and exciting game for everyone!



Shuffleboard: Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, at the shuffleboard courts right side of the clubhouse. Come out for fun and laughs!



Cornhole: Sundays, 5:30 PM

In the clubhouse, rain or shine. Join us for fun and camaraderie!



Water Volleyball: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 2 PM. In the pool behind the clubhouse. Great exercise and loads of fun.

FREE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Last Sunday of every month

6 PM in the Clubhouse



LINE DANCING

Every Wednesday, 11:30–1:00 PM



Can I order a replacement body please, this one is constantly malfunctioning



2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS President –

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PORA website: ourpora.org

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

March 1, June 7, September 6, December 6

(Workshops: Feb. 22, May 31, Aug. 30, Nov. 29)

Annual Meeting January 16, 2027

EAUTY TIPS

by Terry Johnson



How To Ward Off Oily Hair

oasy roots weigh down locks, leaving them and lifeless. Solutions: use fingertips to rub a teaspoon of cornstarch into roots. The talc powder will sop up excess oil as your scalp produces it.

Posted a photo of my clean house and it was flagged and removed as “Fake News”



Mission Statement: To provide emergency assistance to our community when State/Local emergency services are delayed or otherwise unavailable. All residents are invited to register with us any special needs or emergency assistance you (or someone you know) may require in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. This information can be helpful in executing search and rescue, planning, and purchasing necessary supplies and

ment. To register contact Donna Copeland, dmocopeland50@gmail.com, 704-886-7706. Currently, we have 52 members and are always looking for new people. Please join us at our next meeting. For more information give me, George Bryne, a call at 845-728-4679. For information on how to sign up for red alert warnings log on to www.FlaglerEmergency.com. Register for special needs evacuation assistance on this site or call 386-313-4200.

THE PLANTATION OAKS PRESS (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, Dana Matlock and Kevin Gallagher, 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, kjgallagher13@gmail.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 all of our 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) Representatives
Dana Matlock - 386-439-3443
James Pursley - 386-986-9632



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SCAM  **ALERT**

facebook.com/help

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- Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know**
Scammers may create fake accounts in an attempt to friend and manipulate people.
- Watch out for suspicious links and malicious software**
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Presented by
COMMUNITY media

How it works:

- 1 Patronize the advertisers in this month's newsletter
- 2 Ask the business for your Community Cash ticket
OR a copy of your receipt & clip this ad
- 3 Mail it back to us at:
Community Media | 220 Bahama St. Venice, FL 34285
- 4 Every month we draw new tickets for **CASH PRIZES** and mail winners a check!

Every Month is a New Chance to Win!

ONE drawing for \$100 | TEN drawings for \$10

Winner	Vendor	Drawing Date - 1/10/2026
Judy Matthews	\$100	Med RX Hearing
Cheryl Hewak	\$10	Air Masters of Pinellas
Douglas Howland	\$10	Air Masters of Pinellas
Bill Dixon	\$10	Air Masters of Pinellas
John Cobb	\$10	Barron's A/C
Evelyn Ruppel	\$10	Batteline Termite Pest Control
Floyd Morin	\$10	Bay Area Aluminum Services
Philip Willix	\$10	Boss Electric
Sharon Fusner	\$10	Boss Electric
John Anderson	\$10	Buggin Out Termite
Bill O'Sullivan	\$10	Gulf Coast Powerwashing

• Limit one ticket per advertiser's service per quarter (3 month period) •

• Customer must have paid for advertiser's service to play •

• Contest void where prohibited by law •

• Checks will be mailed within 120 days of drawing date •

Questions?: info@4communitymedia.com or 941-375-3699