



Welcome Back!

This is my first full year being at the helm of the good ship *Macaw*. Hopefully, I can do as good a job as Marion Barnes. The residents of Royal Coachman deserve the best. You will continue to see articles by people you know. They are a great group. I am not going to make any drastic changes in the *Macaw* but I do hope to make it even better. Please remember that just like the *New York Times*, the *Macaw* is available in digital form. Go to www.royalcoachmanresort.net and click on the *Macaw* link. You will find the last four years of the *Macaw* plus the current issue.



As we launch the January issue, welcome to all. I am sure that you are glad to be here and not buried in some snow storm. I know, there are some who are here all year. However, most of us are seasonal and glad to be in the warm weather. I believe that the best way to enjoy the snow is watching The Weather Channel. There has been a steady influx of residents since the middle of October and the numbers always rapidly increase through December and into the heart of the winter season. The park will probably be completely full in January, February and maybe even March. We have already had a number of one-time and annual events and more are on the way. We have musical shows, Senior Games, state parties, picnics, pancake breakfasts, auctions and on and on. So, lean forward and enjoy yourself during a great 2014/2015 winter season at Royal Coachman.

Chuck Genrich

Senior Games 2015

The games will be held **Saturday, February 14th through Saturday, February 21st** with the banquet on Sunday, February 22nd, with all of the spirited competition, games and good food as in previous years. This year we will be adding golf to the list. As before, the games are open to all of those in the park aged 50 and over and every one wanting to participate has to fill out a registration form. Registration for the 2015 games will be held **Monday, January 26 through Wednesday, January 28th** in the lounge.

A planning meeting will be held at 1:30 pm, **January 7th** in the club house. All event coaches are asked to attend. Please join us if you would like to suggest any changes or new games. Registration forms will be available in the lounge starting on January 19. Registration forms will also be available on the RCR web site in mid January. If you know of anyone who wants to participate but will not be arriving until after January 28th please let them know that they may print a copy of the registration and either mail it back to Bill Maier at site 360 or ask a friend or neighbor to register them. If mailed, the form must arrive before January 28th.



News Around the Park

American Alligator



During heavy rainfall in the summer of 2012, this **American Alligator** was observed in our park's south storage area. It measured close to eight feet in length and was captured and removed by the County.

The American Alligator is one of the largest reptiles in the world. Males can attain 19 feet in length while females are somewhat smaller on average. Their bodies are covered with horny plates which protect them from predators; and their eyes, ears and nostrils are located on top of their heads allowing them to function mostly submerged in water. They have valves on their ears and nostrils which they can close allowing them to stay under water for up to 60 minutes. With tails approximately half the length of their bodies and 80 teeth housed in strong jaws, they are formidable in capturing and killing their prey.

Alligators feed mostly on fish, birds, snakes, turtles and small mammals. They feed mostly at night. They often drown their prey but must surface to eat it because they cannot swallow underwater. They cannot chew and therefore swallow their meal whole or in large chunks. They can go for weeks without eating during the winter months.

Mating season is April through May and they breed in open water. After conception and constructing a nest, the female will lay 30 – 70 eggs. She will cover them with a mound of vegetation which incubates the eggs. The temperature inside the mound determines sex – more warmth produces more males. After typically nine weeks, hatching occurs, the mother breaks open the nest and leads them to water. The young will stay with the mother for 18 months until she hatches the next year's litter.



Be aware that these amazing creatures can and have been in our park. They, too, are a blessing to observe BUT not up close and personal.

Article by Betty Baird Photography by Cathy Reyka

Aluminum Can Recycling Project

Some of you noticed that, for a while, the aluminum can cottages near the dumpsters were nailed shut. Habitat for Humanity has terminated its remote can recycling program due to lack of manpower/volunteers and liability issues. The original plan was to remove the can cottages from all remote locations. Connie Garrison contacted the Habitat office in Venice, and they agreed that if we would eliminate their logos from the cottages, Habitat would give the cottages to RCR homeowners and we could keep them in place and continue recycling aluminum cans. Lori Lilly reached out to Jim Lucas, who volunteered to head up the recycling program here at RCR. Jim will recycle the cans by donating them to a Boy Scout troop at his church. If you wish to donate your aluminum cans to Habitat, they will still take can donations brought by individuals to their Venice Restore location at 1400 Ogden Road off Center Road in Venice. Thanks for your aluminum can donations and your contribution to the environment and the local Boy Scout troop.

The Real Macaw: *Sponsored by Encore Royal Coachman Resort Manager: Carla Easton*

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Photos by: Cathy Reyka, Kerry Gonnam, Chuck Genrich



Coming Activities at RCR



Lori Lilly Activities Director

Welcome back everyone! We are off and running for another great season at RCR. The fun times started off with the annual Halloween Party. The residents reunited for a crazy night full of dancing and catching up with each other. Everyone voted for their favorite pumpkin and cheered on the best costume. Prizes, fun and it is great to be back together. Gregg Clemons helped us bring in the holiday season at the Christmas concert. We have had picnics, beach parties, pool parties, dinners, movies, birthday/anniversary celebrations, pancake breakfast and the list goes on and on!

There has been a lot happening so far and so much more to come. Momma Bear's Ice Cream cart serving Bentley's Ice Cream is on site every Wednesday from 12-2 in the front lot. You can enjoy your favorite flavor or order a pint to take home. The clubhouse picnic is now serving beer along with hot dogs. Bring a dish to share and listen to some great music on the first Wednesday of every month 4:30-6:30. Come meet some friends and help us welcome our new residents at the poolside for sunrise coffee and donuts. This will be the first Monday of every month from 8 to 9 am. Dinner & Movie for January will be showing "Jersey Boys". We will be "Wine-ing Under the Stars" on January 14th poolside. This will include California wines for tasting, wine sorbet from Bentley's and finger foods. Music will be provided by our favorite Dave Daviski. Tickets are \$8pp. The concert series January, February and March will be spectacular with a very talented list of musicians and performers. Johnny Rogers will be returning for an Elvis Tribute on January 27th.

Now, if you are still bored you still have Italian Fest, New York party and German Fest that will be happening in January. What a great place to be and how lucky are we to spend time together. There is A LOT of things happening that you will not want to miss!!

Enjoy your season!

Fall RCR Group Campout

For the fourth year a group of friends from Royal Coachman gathered in September for a week of camping. This year the chosen spot was Elkhart County in Northern Indiana. Rod & Joyce Yates, Tom & Kathy Marshall, Al & Lana Hoffmeyer, Al & Carol Santini, and Kerry & Donna Gonnam journeyed to Eby Pines Campground in Bristol, IN, just off of I-80.



RV Lifestyle



At the RV-MH Museum in Elkhart, IN

From there we ventured into the Amish country in the county known for its RV industry. While the girls shopped in Shipshewana, Goshen, Middlebury, and Nappanee; the guys enjoyed the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, IN, the Hudson Museum in Shipshewana and the New York Central Museum in Elkhart. We all visited the RV-MH Museum to learn the history of the RV Industry. Food was not a problem with all the good restaurants in the area. Evenings were spent relaxing by the fire and catching up on our busy lives.



Volunteers Make It Happen

Here we go again! Volunteers did a wonderful job of getting the season off to a great start by working on the Halloween Party. This was a fun event and a preview of the activities and entertainment for the 2014-2015 Season. As of December 10, there have been 210 volunteers reported from the dozen or so events. A total of 122 individuals have “worked” so that all residents can enjoy movies, parties and entertainers.

As the season continues, there will be many requests for volunteers to assist at events or share their expertise. We will continue to use the procedures that we used last year:

1. If you are the leader of an activity, please check with your current volunteers about their availability. If you find you need new or additional volunteers, you can fill out a **Request for Volunteers Form** or call Pat Lang to give her the information.
2. If you are new to the park or a “new” volunteer, please fill out the **Volunteer Registration Form**. It is helpful to note the type of activity (ies) you would be willing to work on. Your name will be added to the data base and activity leaders will be notified of your interest. You will also be notified that your request has been received. (*If you have volunteered before, your name is in the data base*)
3. **The Volunteer Hours Report by Activity**. Leaders, please submit this report at the conclusion of the activity. For activities that take place in March or April, or those activities which do not end until March or April, leaders must submit the report form by March 1. Please make sure your information is **complete** when submitted. (*I will get the form to you close to the time of your activity.*)

A Volunteer and Informational meeting is scheduled monthly. At that time the upcoming month’s calendar is reviewed and Lori Lilly, our Activity Director, presents information regarding activities and expectations. Any volunteer requests are brought forward at the meeting, and questions/comments related to volunteers and activities are welcome.

Looking forward to another fun-filled and entertaining season. You, the volunteers, will help to make it happen.

At an October meeting with Carla Easton, our manager, it was mutually agreed upon that the guidelines created last season for the Volunteer Luncheon will continue.

Volunteer Luncheon Requirements:

1. Residents must volunteer for a minimum of three activities. In the case of an on-going activity such as Pancake Breakfast, Setup Committee, etc., a volunteer must be actively involved in three separate dates.
2. Leaders of on-going activities are automatically invited. These are the Exercises and Sports, Games and Hobbies and Classes which are shown on the “daily” side of the calendar.
3. Private activities such as block parties and state- or area-sponsored activities (such as NE and Canada Day) are not included in the requirement of volunteering in three activities (even if the activity is open to the entire park).

Our resort continues to be a fun and active place to be because of you, the **Volunteers** and your efforts. Thank you for all you do.

Pat Lang

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Wed., Dec 10th, 19 ladies enjoyed the latest version of the RCR cookie event that was highlighted by a cookie walk which allowed the attendees to select the cookies they wanted to take home. Games were led by Linda Gaudet and Nancy Cain. The committee of Donna Gonnarn, Doris Fisher, Janet Crich, Jean Sivret, and Betty Sagdalen kept the ladies entertained and in a festive mood. Music was provided by Bill Primeau.



Christmas Happenings at Royal Coachman

2014 Big Brothers & Big Sisters Party

Experiencing Christmas through a Child's Eyes

Everyone had a wonderful time at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas Party, from the children to the volunteers. I cannot say enough about the residents at Royal Coachman. They are the most amazing people. Thank you, to everyone, for all the wonderful gifts.

To see the faces of the children we had the honor to host December 6th, makes it all worthwhile. I have been a Big Sister for over eight years now. Many people say to me "what a wonderful thing you are doing" and I say "Anyone that has invested time in a child, knows it is returned two fold."

Noreen Brezowski and I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time, took the time to make a purchase or made homemade gifts for these wonderful children. We cannot forget all the wonderful baked goods, thank you! You made their experience at Royal Coachman one they will never forget!

Sandra Brent



Joy Mahler Executive Director of BBBS flanked by Noreen Brezowski and Sandra Brent



Santa and All His Elves



Santa & Mrs. Claus



Cookies, Pizza, Presents and Plenty of RCR Volunteers make for an exceptional party. Thanks to all who helped!





News Around the Park

Meet the Manager

The hospitality industry, just like other businesses, has periodic management changes. That is the case for Royal Coachman. After several years of good work, Jason was promoted and we now have a new park manager, Carla Easton. I thought that it would be a good idea to use the Macaw to introduce her to the residents.

She has been with Equity Lifestyle Properties (ELS) since 2003, first working in accounting and then quickly moving into management and has worked at a number of ELS properties in Florida. Prior to arriving at Royal Coachman she was the manager at Ramblers Rest RV Campground in Venice.

Ms. Easton was raised in a military family, living at a number of locations around the U. S. and when a U. S. Army recruiter visited her high school in 1987 she decided to join the Army. With a specialty in finance she spent eight years in the military at a series of Army posts located in Germany and Panama.

Prior to being selected by ELS to manage Royal Coachman she had just the basic knowledge of Royal Coachman being in the Encore system. Do not take that as a disinterest in Royal Coachman. Park managers have more than enough to do taking care of their own parks to be very interested in someone else's problems. She stated that her first impression of Royal Coachman is that it is a beautiful park. She believes that there is a uniqueness in every park and is currently in the learning phase to fully understand how this particular park is best operated. Ms. Easton said that she has an open door policy and any time park residents are in the front office and her door is open you are welcome to stop in.



Square Dancing at RCR

During the 2012/2013 season, a small group from RCR went for square dance lessons at Woodmere Park. It was great fun and the group decided it would be even better if square dancing could be taught in RCR. In 2013, by working with Lori Lilly, the group was able to arrange the use of park facilities for the 2013/2014 season and the park manager agreed to pay for the first lesson. This allowed people to try dancing without a commitment to determine if they liked it. Lessons after that were paid for by residents at \$5 a week per person. Up to sixty people followed up with lessons for the year and all seemed to have a great time. The first 2015 square dancing session will be offered in the Rec Hall again this season on Jan 3, 2015, from 12 pm to 2 pm for those with some square dance experience. Subsequent sessions will be in either the rec hall or the pavilion as weather and schedule permit. A beginning class will also be offered in the rec hall Jan 5, 2015, from 2 pm to 4 pm. The price remains at \$5 per lesson. Details and signup sheets are posted in the library. If you are interested, please come and try square dancing. After the first three classes, registration will be closed so that the classes are not constantly starting over.



We learn dance steps, make many mistakes and do not strive for perfection. We wear street clothing not costumes. The social interaction and the exercise make it fun. Our caller, Red Bates, is a very experienced and patient person; he adds lots of dry humor to the events.

You may come as a couple or an individual. Individuals will be paired with partners. We hope you will try at least one of the first three lessons. After that, we think you will be hooked.

For further information just ask one of the following: Clarence and Joyce Trachsel, Ed and Stella Holmes, Tom and Vivian Hincy, Dale and Mary Kay Siegelin, Bob and Barb Persinger, Bill and Diane Vangel, Jim and Doris Chistie or Betty Rooney and Ray Dominici or any others that participated in square dancing last year.

Stella Holmes



News Around the Park

RCR Association Board News

It has been a very busy season for the Board. Back in September, George Shepard resigned as president. We wish him well. The next problem we faced was the issue of Grandma's Attic. Larry Falcone, Bill Rudy, Judy Spiller and I met with park management and the Bakers to come up with a solution. To our disappointment, this could not be worked out. Consequently, Dale and Cliff offered to purchase the contents. All residents received a letter concerning this agreement.



I am pleased to report that most of the other activities are proceeding as in the past. The clang of horseshoes is being heard, the bocce boys and girls are at play, the shuffleboarders are shuffling, Don Morency and Darrell Robinson advise that all is well in the tennis world. Ron Cournoyer is planning the biggest car show ever. Events such as the New Year's Eve dance, Italian Fest, German Fest, Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day dances, Shop Club dinner dance and all state parties were reviewed and approved by our new manager, Carla Easton.

The park will continue to buy the supplies for the pancake breakfast with the proceeds to be deposited in the residents' fund. Through the efforts of George Hendry and Bill Moore, two golf nets will be set up. The Board agreed to purchase them. At the request of the volleyball players, the park has delivered sand for the courts. Dick Brown and his group are taking care of this. With the help of our advisor, Kerry Gonnam, the Board continues to work on other issues.

There will be at least three openings on the Board. We encourage you to consider becoming a nominee. If you are interested, please talk to one of our board members, Bill Rudy, Judy Spiller, Larry Falcone, Patty Hicks, George Hendry, Maddie Trimby or Rod Yates.

Ed Fisher

2015 Computer Classes

Here we go again. The RCR Computer Whiz Kids are presenting a series of classes on computers and other devices. These classes are to be held in the Clubhouse on Tuesdays at 1 PM and will last about 2 hrs. Internet and power are provided so bring your computer or device.

Schedule is as follows:

Date	Topic
Jan 6	What Computer Device Should I Buy?
Jan 13	I bought a computer; now how do I use it?
Jan 20	Necessary Computer Security & Maintenance
Jan 27	Getting Started with Windows 8.1
Feb 3	Using Excel
Feb 10	Using Cut, Copy, Paste, Files, Shortcuts & Other Neat Stuff
Feb 24	Assorted Topics within Windows 8.1
Mar 3	Backing Up Your Computer
Mar 10	Power Point
Mar 17	Photo Manipulation
Mar 24	Using Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
Mar 31	Using the Cloud



OMG! What have I done??





News Around the Park

Halloween 2014

The Halloween party was held October 25, 2014, at the Rec Hall. Ghosts and goblins were everywhere. I personally encountered Zorro, Captain America, a Hot Dog, a Foot, Gypsy Girl, Raggedy Ann & Andy and Maleficent. There were many more outrageous costumes everywhere you looked. Each table was decorated with black and orange polka dot tablecloths, plus each sported a decorated pumpkin for the contest.



Lots of snacky foods, soft drinks and pumpkin pie were available for consumption. The music for the evening was provided by David Daviski, "Classics in Concert." He has a wonderful voice and gave us a spectacular performance; at one point, dressing in his own costume, a gigantic tutu. It was hilarious.

Costumes were voted on by those attending. Raggedy Ann & Andy, (Joanie and Jack Cowan) won first place, followed by Captain America (Ray Taronowski) and Two Nuts (Bill and Rita Jones). Winners of the Pumpkin Decorating Contest were Frank and Maren Manzo, first place; Bill and Carol Maier, second place and Carolyn Avery, third place. We have an abundance of talent in the park. This was the best attended Halloween Party thus far. A good time was had by all.

Gina Haisley



A Great Thanks....giving!

With the largest crowd ever at 296+, RCR friends gathered together to celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving. Tons of food, fun and friendly conversation gave the touch of a real family holiday. Thanks to all the wonderful people who contributed their time, effort and lots and lots of delicious food!

A special thank you to all the people that helped put this great feast together to make it run so smoothly, and Carla and the staff who "saved the turkeys!"

Sarah Boehmer

Left: Mary Jane Franklin gives Grace as Sarah Boehmer, Activity Chairman looks on.

Right: RCR residents patiently wait for their table to be called.



www.royalcoachmanresort.net

Visit our website for more news and information. Current Monthly Calendar, Park Directory, Photo Galleries, important safety information, Activities Guide, and more are all available anytime. Contact Kerry Gonnam or Al Santini to place your announcements or news on the website.