



## RCR—Better than ever in 2012

Are you ready for the new season? It promises to be one of the best!



**Halloween at Tarnowskis'**

First of all, everyone agrees that it's great to have an activities director again. Regina Kelley is doing a fabulous job planning and scheduling the myriad of activities in the park. If you think you can't find something to do at RCR just take a look at the calendar, the website, ([www.royalcoachmanresort.net](http://www.royalcoachmanresort.net)) our in-house TV channels (195 or 795), and don't forget to check the bulletin boards. There's something for everyone!

But...ask anyone who has been here for the past few months and they'll tell you the season isn't just starting! Heck, it's been going on for months! Back in October the highlight was the Halloween party. (Rita Jones won first prize for best costume). In November the Thanksgiving turkey and pot luck dishes made a feast for a king...especially one who likes desserts.

The Big Brother/Big Sister party in December launched the holiday season. Decorations and luminaries managed by volunteers give us a feeling of the holiday spirit.

As the snow birds started to return, so did the activities. Bridge games got underway even when there were only enough players for two tables. Other card and board games were started. The bocce court was active every day, and it took no time for the physical fitness programs to begin. Tennis is a given...the courts are always active. Various water exercises, Stretch and Sculpt, Tai Chi/Qi Gong, and the ever popular two-mile aerobics walk got into full swing.

For all the newbie's in the park, please note that the exercise programs are "come as you are." You don't have to sign up...just come when you want to and leave at any time. you don't have to stay for the whole program. Do as much as you are capable of...or simply inclined to do. Nobody is counting; And that's the great thing about RCR...Do your own thing and no need to apologize.



**Christmas at the Nelsons'**

## Christmas Cookie Exchange



**Donna Dosson, and others, check out the selection.**

On December 14, ladies of RCR got together at the 3rd annual Holiday Cookie Party. Twenty five women enjoyed drinks, cookies, music and games in the rec. hall, which was already beautifully decorated for Christmas. Everyone brought their favorite cookie or snack along with the recipe. They sampled the cookies, made up some special plates for RCR staff and for the musician, Bill Primeau, and then divided the rest to take home. At the end of the party, five guests went home with poinsettias as well as cookies, and the hostess, Connie Garrison, invited all back again next year with a suggestion that they each bring a friend. All agreed that the party was a great way to spend the afternoon, so watch for next years' party on the 2012-13 season calendar!

*Connie Garrison*



# News Around the Park

## Squirrels Are Not To Be Trusted

This is a fact that I feel I should share so that all may be aware. It stems from the following crazy experience of mine: It was 3 A.M. and I was sleeping soundly (I thought) in my bed in Frankfort, Michigan. But I was dreaming, and in the dream found myself on a deck with a broom in my hand. Out from a pile of leaves appears the head of a squirrel. I pushed the broom at it, and it disappeared. It appeared again, and again my pushing the broom sent it back into the pile of leaves. The third time it appeared, my pushing had no effect and the squirrel headed for me - at which time I propelled myself out of the bed and landed hard on my neck/back on the floor. Excruciating pain enveloped me. I soon realized that being the only one in the house, there was no one to call 911, but me, which eventually I managed to do. I was released from the hospital late in the afternoon of that day with the diagnosis of one or two compression fractures which are healing slowly but painfully. So if you see me walking as if I'm hurting, be aware that I am, indeed, a pain in the neck.



I am not the only RCR resident who can attest to the fact that squirrels are not to be trusted. A friend of mine while riding her bicycle in the park saw a squirrel approaching, and to avoid hitting it, slammed on her brakes, and was successful in running over only its tail. But the sudden stop caused her to lose control of the bike, and over she went. She was bruised, and ached for days afterwards, but fortunately had no broken bones. Another resident was driving her car and to avoid hitting a squirrel, turned too sharply and slammed into a tree. The car was totaled. Luckily, she was not injured. That these incidents happened to happen to women does not mean that squirrels have targeted only women. Men should also be aware. We all should be aware... because this park is full of squirrels. Squirrels are not to be trusted.

Mary Jane Franklin

## Computer Classes for 2012

Below is the current schedule for Computer Classes in 2012. Sessions are 1-3 PM in the Clubhouse. Sign-up sheets will be in the lounge on the wire rack. We try to bring current and relevant technology to the residents in a fun way. If you have any suggestions for other classes you would like to see please contact Pat Lang. We still have a couple of open dates we can get a class into. Electrical power will be available for your computers and the Clubhouse is equipped with WiFi. Hope to see you in class!

January 5th & 12th	Know Your Camera & Tweaking Your Pictures	Bob Townsend
January 19th	Open Lab-Bring ? On Word, Excel, & Power Point	Tom Marshall
January 26th	Tablet Class	Al Santini & Dick Lee
February 2nd	Smart Phone Update	Al Santini, Joan Cowan, Kerry Gonnam
February 9th	Security & Maintenance of Your Computer	Stan Cross
February 16th	Open Lab-Bring ? On Word, Excel, & Power Point	Tom Marshall
March 1st	Genealogy	Kerry Gonnam & Chuck Wallace
March 8th	Computer—How to ?	Stan Cross
March 15th	Open Lab-Bring ? On Word, Excel, & Power Point	Tom Marshall

**The Real Macaw** Sponsored by Encore RCR Super Park Manager: Jason Rosenberg  
 Editors: Ralph & Marion Barnes Layout: Ray Schilling & Kerry Gonnam  
 Contributors: Marion Barnes Mary Jane Franklin Kerry Gonnam Pat Lang, Regina Kelly, Connie Garrison, Bonnie Davis  
 Photos by: Kerry Gonnam, Mary Jane Franklin, Connie Garrison, Pat Lang, Regina Kelley

# 2010 Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas Party

The annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Holiday Party was held in the Rec. Hall on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a community outreach event sponsored by the Encore Royal Coachman management in partnership with the Venice office of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. RCR resident volunteers, once again, stepped up to the plate to be sure this year's party was a huge success. Over 40 residents worked to set up the hall, prepare beverages, serve pizza, park cars, and more! Many thanks to all who purchased gifts from the Angel Tree, baked cookies and brownies, helped with clean up, and interacted with the "Littles" to make it a special day for the boys and girls. I think we all agreed that it was heartwarming (and at times heart wrenching) to see the joy on the faces of the kids, and the happiness of having their picture taken with Santa (courtesy of Joan O'Callaghan). Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Frank & Dale Pawlitza) always make the day a special one for all!

Everyone involved should know that they truly did make a difference in the lives of those Little Brothers and Sisters. Merry Christmas! My sincere thanks to all who participated.

*Caroline Goode*

## Thanks to All the Elves





## News Around the Park

### GermanFest is Back!!!

Saturday, February 4th marks the return of our GERMAN-FEST Dinner/Dance.

With good food, free BEER, and the outstanding ALPINE EXPRESS Band, the night will certainly be a highlight of this season's activities.

**Tickets go on sale Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.** These tickets will sell out quickly, so be sure to mark this date on your calendar.



### Variety Show 2012-Vegas

The saying "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas" has been replaced with "What happens in Vegas comes to Royal Coachman Resort". With the talent we have in our park, this show should match or even exceed our previous shows. Once again, we hope that new performers (minimal talent required) and backstage assistants will consider becoming part of what many consider the Best Entertainment of the season.

Our first organizational meeting will be Monday, January 9th in the Rec. Hall at 1:00.



### Pancakes For Everyone!



Doris and Ed Fisher and their crew are back again making the monthly pancake breakfast something to look forward to. Pancakes with syrup, sausages, coffee, tea, orange juice all make a morning worth waking up for.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 17 and April 17.

Waiting to wait on their first customers are Doris Fisher, Marge Jones, Shirley Nelson, Nancy Brown and Noreen Brezowski.



## This and That...

### Royal Coachman Resort

“Stand together yet not too near together; for the pillars of the temple stand apart, the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other’s space.” Khalil Gibran

I visualize the Royal Coachman Resort as a shelter, a temple that is different from the outside world. It is supported by the lives that dwell within. In our individual Park Models and RV’s we form a support group that make the winter months at RCR a unique experience. It is a place where there is no show of wealth. We no longer have impressive careers or designations attached to our names. Our T-shirts and shorts reflect a lifestyle that doesn’t require designer labels or dry cleaning bills. Bicycles are our main source of transportation. We have come full circle and once again flourish in the simple pleasures of life as we did as children.

Although there are many people responsible for making life fulfilling at the RCR, some stand out to me like strong oaks. They tower above the rest by unselfishly giving their time to oversee and organize parties, shows, trips, clubs, seminars and classes that make RCR a unique vacation haven. Without these willing volunteers our shelter from the winter blast might survive, but it certainly wouldn’t thrive.

Our temple is also supported by folks who remind me of the huge cypress trees. Their roots reach out and teach others to paint, create, carve, exercise, play sports, golf, fish, swim, dance, sing, speak Spanish, meditate, play games, learn computer skills, write, sew, and enjoy this chapter of life. The outreach of the cypress provides light to the mind and enthusiasm for life that perhaps had been forgotten or had grown cold.

Although we are not biologically related, I believe we are part of a family at RCR. If a bad day tries to find us here in paradise our RCR kin is close by to administer a hug or offer a place to simply listen and provide support. Like close relatives we rejoice when we see others grow and offer strength when the winds of life hit the strongest. The enthusiasm for life is contagious here. The sunshine, the warm balmy temperatures and friendly people who care make our problems a little less daunting.

Like a temple, RCR is where people can come together and find a support system that is one of a kind in today’s world. The oaks, the cypress, those who dwell within find a true paradise far from the ravages of winter in a place where people truly care about one another.

Bonnie Davis

*(Bonnie, 536 Pelican Loop, is offering “Memoir Writing” classes this year.)*



Bonnie Davis

### 3 Generations at RCR

In 1980 Ed & Reba Marshall of Gregory, MI. purchased a camper trailer and tow vehicle from his brother, Don Marshall and wife Jean, who were leaving RCR for a unit at Bay Indies. Thus began a 32 year experience at Royal Coachman. Ed & Reba were among the first to purchase a park model on Macaw Dr when they settled into #477. In Oct. of 2002 their daughter Jill and her husband Stan Cross, of Brighton, MI., purchased #509 on Osprey Loop and they began their participation in the RCR experience. Now their daughter, Michelle Cross, has established residence with Stan & Jill and we have all three generations living here. All three generations have been very active in park activities. We all know Stan as “Mr. Computer” and Michelle is becoming “Miss Apple” by helping various Apple users with their devices. Jill is a Crafts leader and organizes the Holiday dinners we have all come to enjoy. Ed was one of two that began the Stained Glass Club amongst many other accomplishments and Reba coordinated Holiday dinners and organized line dancing instructors.



Picture: Top l-r Jill, Michelle, and Stan Cross. Seated l-r Ed and Reba Marshall



## News Around the Park

### Women on Women

For many years (far more than ten) a group of RCR women have been gathering on Wednesday mornings for an hour of study, sharing, and friendly discussion. We meet in the Card Room from 10:30-11:30 and all park women are welcome. This year we are reading together and discussing the book, "When Everything Changed", which is the amazing journey of American women from 1960 to the present. The author is Gail Collins, New York Times columnist and bestselling author. The book is a comprehensive mix of oral history and keen research - covering politics, fashion, popular culture, economics, sex, families, and work. "Older readers (that would be us) will be startled as they are reminded of what their lives once were". Yes, indeed, already we are saying to each other, "Hey, I've been there - done that!" So, if this sounds interesting to you, come join us on Wednesday mornings. If you can't come each Wednesday, come when you can.

*Mary Jane Franklin*

*Attending a recent WOW meeting were l-r Norma Armstrong, Sarah Boehmer, Mary Jane Franklin, Ruth Roantree, Nancy Kline, Kay Eason, Jeann Reuss and*



### A Word from the Activities Director



*Regina Kelley*

Greetings to you all. I am excited to be directing the activities at RCR. So many of you are activity and event leaders or assistants that you make this an easy and exciting job. Contact me with your equipment and supply needs. The "room usage" calendar is kept in the office for you to check and sign up for room and time availability. I will update the Encore RCR channel 195 (or 795) every few days. Don't forget to fill out the TV channel form and leave it in the office. Announcements for the three bulletin boards (Veranda, Rec Hall, Clubhouse) should be delivered to the office to be posted. Those announcements that you may be tempted to tape to windows or staple to trees should be given to me to post in the Park Personals bulletin board located between the Card Room and the Exercise Room.

Special January events: something new! Bonnie Davis is beginning a Memoir Writing class on Thursdays at 10 am in the Card Room. Learn how to write your life stories to share with family or possibly publish. Mary Burke Mockler continues with the Creative Writing class on Wednesdays at 1 pm beginning Jan. 18. The Travelogue on Jan. 18th will be "A Castles and Vineyards Cruise on the Rhine and Moselle Rivers" hosted by the Gonnams. Enjoy comedic music with The Bodacious Brothers on Sunday, Jan. 15th. Several residents can attest to the talented Patty Waszak who plays several musical instruments and entertains you during her Show on Tues., Jan. 22nd.

Just a reminder: there are still several residents who need to pick up a goodie bag which includes the 2011-2012 resident directory; available during activity office hours on Mondays and Thursdays 2-4 pm. On a final note: please check your mail, read the bulletin boards, and watch the RCR channel on a regular basis. Thanks!

**[www.royalcoachmanresort.net](http://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 Gonnams or Al Santini to place your announcements or news on the site.



## Residents Association News

Although we arrived later than usual this year, we have been kept up to date by friends and associates and so far it seems like this year the park is in excellent shape. My congratulations to Jason and his staff for the work they have done. Yesterday I took a leisurely bike ride around the streets and truly enjoyed the new pavement. And, aren't the new street signs attractive and more visible?

Last year our new Activities Manager Regina Kelley and her husband Paul began a series of newcomers' meetings designed to acquaint new residents with the workings of the park and how to enjoy the area. Attending these meetings I was able to make new friends and hopefully let our new residents know the importance of our Residents Association. As I explained, the RCR staff and ownership is responsible for the physical attributes of the park, while the residents are responsible for many of the activities and the ambience of the park. Example: the clubhouse is a good facility but without the resident volunteers doing their part, there would be few activities in it to enjoy.

This is where the Residents Association Advisory Board enters the picture. This nine person board is responsible for conveying the needs and desires of the residents to the park management and working with them to better the park experience. If you live here you are automatically a member of the association. We have an annual meeting every year, (Jan 28th this year), to go over what we have accomplished and take new suggestions for the betterment of all. It is also the time to elect new members of the board. This year a minimum of three seats will be filled. So, attend our meeting and become involved in your resort. There is also an association suggestion box in the mailroom for you to use. Make sure we have your name and site # on your submissions so we can get back to you. I look forward to Winter 2012 at RCR. I hope you do, too.



**Kerry Gonnam**  
**Bd. President**

## Message from the Manager



**Jason**  
**Rosenberg**  
**Pk. Manager**

The staff did a phenomenal job again this summer preparing everything for your return. We completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a five-year road improvement plan during 2011 and I am quite pleased with the results. We completed the showers in the ladies room in the Club House over the summer. The restrooms in the Rec Hall were renovated as well and we are in the process of renovating the showers in both of the bathrooms. Due to the age of the plumbing in the Rec. Hall bathrooms, we were forced to abandon the lines in the floor and installed new lines above the drop ceiling. A storage shed was purchased to house all activity supplies. The Shop Club constructed shelves and they were installed right after Thanksgiving. New street signs were purchased for the Park Model section and were installed right before Thanksgiving. The wooden boardwalk plank that surrounded the pool was removed and replaced with brick pavers. The surface area of the stage was increased by 40% which will allow chorus, entertainers and other events to safely utilize the stage.

I want to remind everyone that all renters must continue to sign in at the desk in the front office. It is critical that we are aware, especially during the summer, of any new residents/tenants. Also, if you rent your unit for 30-days or more, a criminal background check is required. This is for your safety and security. It is also very important for you to make sure that your unit is clean and in good working order before you turn it over to a renter. I have had numerous conversations with unhappy guests who rented a unit either sight unseen, or after viewing pictures via email or snail mail. Please take care of your unit.

Also, Private Sales cannot be finalized until a Background Check has been performed on the prospective new residents. This is a Corporate Policy and we must adhere to it. Again, this protects you and your property and is necessary.

Please obey the park speed limit. I have seen far too many residents speeding through the gate, around corners or on straight-aways throughout the resort and it is both dangerous and unacceptable.

Remember to view the Resort News Channel (195) for updates! Have a great season!

Jason



## More...News Around the Park

### Meet Jim Dahl

There were no park models in the “300” section when Jim and Mae Dahl came here to spend their winter vacation 25 years ago. They parked their motorhome at site No. 326 among other RV’rs, and that was their spot until construction began on the park models and they moved into the circle.

Jim said they had been vacationing previous years at the Pinellas County Fort De Soto Campground but when they showed up there in the fall of 1986 without a reservation they were told that there were no vacant sites and the suggestion was made that they try the RCR campground in Nokomis. Except for a few years hiatus, he’s been coming here ever since.

Jim’s a full time Rv’r now, spending half the year in his fifth wheel - he is now in his fourth - at RCR and the rest of the year at campgrounds in The Black Hills of Spearfish, South Dakota, where he grew up on his father’s farm; in Akron, Ohio, where he worked for 35 years as an equipment designer at Goodyear Tire Company; and traveling to visit his family.

He likes to tell the story of how he returned to Hettinger, North Dakota, to celebrate its centennial celebration in 2007 and was taken by his aunts to the midwife’s house where he was born.

Jim enlisted in the US Army when he graduated from high school and spent 20 months of his service time at Gen. McArthur’s headquarters in Japan.

He and his wife, Mae, were married in 1949 when he was studying mechanical engineering at South Dakota State University. He still has the photo of her that went with him to keep her close when he was away from home. They



had many happy years together and especially enjoyed the trips they were able to make across the country during his retirement, and, of course the winters here at RCR. She died in April of 2001 and he returned to Akron a short time later to sell their home and become a year round RV’r. He takes every opportunity now to spend time with his three daughters, Susan, Arlene and Elizabeth, and his three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A few years after his great granddaughter was born, twin great grandsons joined the family on May 5, 2006, Cinco de Mayo. Each year their birthday is celebrated with a real Mexican fiesta...piñatas and all.

Jim’s an avid golfer, plays three times a week, and is especially proud of the hole-in-one trophy on display in his unit.

He lives and travels alone, and when he was asked if he is interested in dating, he chuckled and said, “I was married for 51 years to a wonderful woman who let me do what I wanted to...I doubt that I could find anyone like her

### Bulletin Board Etiquette

There are three bulletin boards for in-park events: on the veranda, at the clubhouse and at the rec. hall. Items to be posted should be left in the office. 8 1/2 x 11 is the best size for posters. Space is limited, and in-season there is so much going on that sometimes the boards get a little crowded.

The “For Sale” and “For Rent” announcements must be submitted on a 3 x 5 index card. It would be greatly appreciated if the office is notified when an item is sold or rented so the cards can be taken off the board.

Sorry, we cannot post commercial announcements.

As you know, we now have a bulletin board for in-park personal announcements. Here is where you can put up thank you notices, obituaries, newspaper clippings, and special events such as block parties, birthday celebrations, etc. Leave notices at the office for Regina to post. Please do not tape anything on windows and doors in the park buildings