



Pub Night Plus !

Pub night chair Judy Spiller says that the recent “Crazy Hat” event was just the beginning! The plan is to have a different theme for each month to add a little more excitement to the evening. Bill Jones with his crazy pony tail hat was considered tops, but Mary Burke Mockler and Maddy Trimby were only a fraction behind. Pub Night is one of the most popular events in the park....Watch the bulletin boards and TV channel for next month's “theme,” and then come on down to participate in the fun!



Mary Mockler



Bill Jones



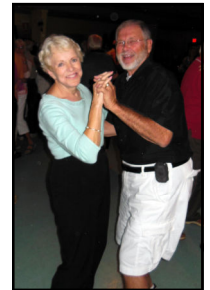
Maddy Trimby

German Fest Sold Out Again!

For the second year in a row the German Fest was a total sellout on the first day tickets were available. The evening of fun and frolic included a German dinner from Angelo's catering and of course, the Alpine Express from Orlando performed an outstanding show. The committee of “crazy Canadians and crazier Americans” put on a great event.



2013 GermanFest Committee





News Around the Park

New Neighbor — Calusa Park Development

There has been a good amount of talk around the resort about the proposed development to be built between Laurel Rd. and the RCR boundary adjoining the Legacy Trail. 25 Acres of land have been purchased by Vanguard Land LLC and their plan is to develop a gated community of 90 single family homes. In an effort to determine the facts of this project and bely some of the rumors that have been floating around Jason Rosenberg and Kerry Gonnam met Friday, Feb. 8th, with John Peshkin, CEO of Vanguard. Mr. Peshkin was very forthright with his answers and answered any question asked of him with no hesitancy. Following is a brief description of the project.



Possible Calusa Lake Home

The homes proposed are planned to run between \$225,000 and \$300,000 for units between 1850 and 2250 sq. ft. on a single level. While more expensive 2 story homes will be available; it is expected the majority of homes will be single story construction. Although the actual builder has not been picked yet, they are in negotiations with a number of builders and plan to choose one soon. They are proposing to build a wall along Laurel Rd. on either side of the main gated entrance and a 6' privacy fence along the trail and the RCR boundary line with a 15' landscaping barrier outside of the fence. They have had an environmentalist survey the property to determine if there are any wildlife concerns, and have found none. Construction on the property is scheduled to begin in June or July of this year.

Mr. Peshkin promised to keep us informed of any changes in their plans and we will pass along that information to you, the residents.

Kerry Gonnam

Residents' Association Buys Grill

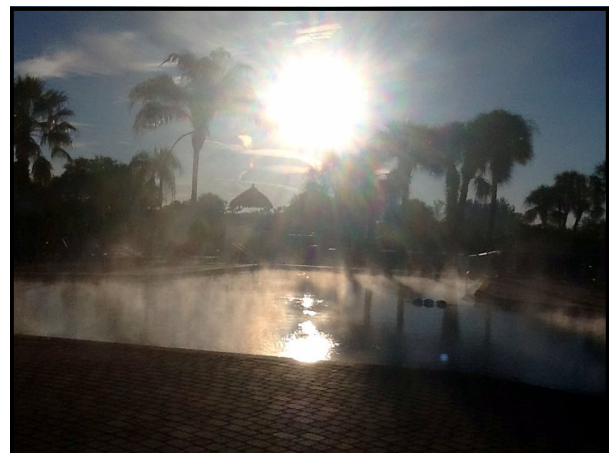
Your RCR Residents' Association has used some of the Association Activities Fund to purchase a new 4 burner Weber propane grill for use at major functions here at the resort. In addition to the \$1400.00+ spent on the grill there will be a secure cabinet built for the grill so it can be permanently stored in the Pavilion. Groups using the grill are responsible for furnishing their own propane and are also responsible for maintaining the grill in good condition and cleaning it after its use.



Peter Crich & Darrell Robinson admire new grill.

Dawn at the Pool

Sally Frechette was walking by the pool one morning and snapped this beautiful picture of the sun rising over our tropical pool area. Thank you, Sally.



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.



Coming Activities at RCR

Well here it is March! Can you believe how fast time goes? We still have time left to throw in some more fun. The Fun Auction will kick off the month on March 2nd. So get rid of all that last minute stuff and let it become someone else's treasure. If you haven't had a chance to stop by the meet-n-greet, that is March 4th in the card room....please do. This is a great way to welcome new residents into our park and find out about things that are happening or coming to the park. We also talk about area businesses and events in our area. Not only does the park have a lot to offer, but there are things happening around us. So join us for a cup of coffee and get some fun info and even make a new friend. The Variety Show, which is always a super performance from our residents, will be the 9th & 10th at 7:30 in the Rec Hall. Pub Night will have a new twist this month. It's a Happy Hour Picnic! Yes, we will be serving hot dogs, snacks and soda. Please feel free to bring your favorite beverage and a dish or dessert to share. This will be combined with Paul Vrakas and his band from 4:30-6:30 in the clubhouse and side parking lot. All the games will be in place and come with your team of six for the new baseball game. The time is early enough that you can still make your evening activities and you won't have to cook. The Car Show is back again on the 16th in the front parking lot and around the pool veranda. Ron and his team always provide us with another fun day at Encore. This year is going to be bigger than ever. Along with many super looking vehicles there will be food and craft vendors, and they will be selling Car Show t-shirts. St. Patty's will "bring in the green" in style at the dance on the 17th in the Rec. Hall. The dance starts at 7:00 and tickets are on sale in the lounge on Tuesday and Thursday. Cahal Dunne will be our third act this season and will be on the 19th at 7:00 in the Rec hall. Known as "Ireland's Happy Man" he is a great singer, songwriter, story teller and comedian.



Lori Lilly

The Sarasota Encore Health Fair will be held here this year on March 25th from 9-12. You will be receiving information in your mailbox about the seminars that day. We will be having several different organizations giving 15 minute seminars throughout the morning. The last seminar will be 11:15-12:15 covering "Protecting Seniors from Fraud". The topics and times will be posted so you can choose if you want to attend any. There will also be on hand a lot of information to pick up from area vendors. Blood pressure and bone density testing will be available. Prevention Plus will also be offering stroke and vascular screening. No prescription needed. Some of these testings do have a fee. This will be an event you won't want to miss with the info you will be able to gather. The Easter Bunny arrives for the egg hunt on Saturday the 30th at 9:00. A lot of fun for everyone!

Lori Lilly

For next season we are selling reserved seat season tickets for three shows: Soul & Inspiration, Comfort Zone, and Leanne Williams, Women of Country Music. Reserve yours before going home for the summer in the lounge on Tuesday and Thursdays. The cost for the three shows is \$36 pp. We will also be having a Christmas show in December to bring in the holiday spirit. Tom Decker & wife present "Christmas With a Tan".

March Movie Nights

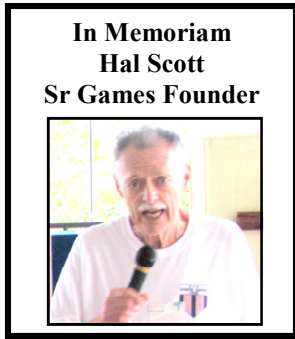
This month we will be featuring two great films. March 16th we will be showing "Failure to Launch" featuring Matthew McConaughey & Sarah Jessica Parker. In a desperate attempt to push their thirty something son Tripp out of the nest, a frustrated mother and father hire a beautiful "relationship consultant" with a patented plan to move him out of the house. You can also join us before at 6:00 for dinner which will be catered from the Butchers Gourmet. Dinner will include sliced chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls and ice cream. Tickets for dinner will be \$7.50@ and are available in the lounge on Tuesday and Thursday. You can come just for dinner or just attend the film.

The second film in March will be on the 30th and is "RV". Climbing aboard their mammoth recreational vehicle for a cross-country road trip to the Colorado Rockies, the Munro family prepares for the adventure of a lifetime. But spending two weeks together in a small space has a way of cramping their style. RV is a joyride! Full of lots of laughs and clean humor, this movie takes you on a RV adventure of one laugh after another as Robin Williams, a virgin RV'r struggles to get his family close together. You will laugh a lot so give this movie a try, everyone needs to laugh. With a lot of families here for Easter I thought this would be a great choice.



2013 Senior Games Recap:

What an amazing week of events. A total of 470 people registered for the 2013 RCR Senior Games. The games started off a little rocky with Miniature Golf being postponed until the following Sunday because of rain. Then it was pretty cool for the Monday morning Shuffleboard. However, the rest of the week couldn't have been any better. Jack Cowan, Ben Green, and Bernie Elliot took home the most ribbons among the 464 ribbons awarded. The Women's Bocce team took home the gold once again against the Men's Bocce team. Way to go ladies. Registration for the 2014 games will be January 27th, 28th, and 29th with the games beginning on Saturday, February 15th. Thank you everyone for all of your kind words and help to make this year such a success.



Dale Baker



More Pictures?
www.royalcoachmanresort.net
Photo Galleries



Thank You for Participating—See You In 2014



People You Should Know

Rod Poppe inducted to Marengo Comm. High School Hall of Fame

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, our own Rod Poppe was inducted into the Marengo, Ill., High School Hall of Fame under the heading of "Commitment". Following is the Induction Speech by Becky Chayer.

After graduating from Marengo Community High School in 1950, Rod Poppe went on to dedicate 37 years of service to the district in a number of positions. Poppe graduated high school with major letters in football, baseball, track, and was honored with an American Legion Award. He attended Valparaiso University where he continued his excellence in athletics as a letterman in baseball for 2 years and served as team captain for the football team winning the MVP award in 1954. In 1955 he graduated from VU with his B.S. and high distinction honors. For the next 2 years, Poppe served his country in the U.S. Army stationed out of Fort Hood, Texas. Poppe then joined the faculty at MCHS in 1957 as a teacher and a coach.



Rod Poppe

Over the years Poppe taught PE, driver education, history, geography, and government. On the football field, Poppe served as head coach for 23 years and led the Indians to 7 undefeated seasons in this time. From 1965 to 1973 the Indians only lost 6 games. Poppe's lifetime coaching record included 144 wins and only 54 losses. In 1989 he was inducted into the Illinois Football Hall of Fame. Additionally, during his time with the district, he also served as sophomore basketball coach for 13 years and as head baseball coach for 8 years. During his 37 years of service, Poppe was the athletic director for 25 years. To honor his dedicated service in this position, in 1990, he was inducted into the Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and similarly honored when his alma mater inducted him into the Valparaiso University Athletic Hall of Fame. His other extensive honors include being granted the Valparaiso University Alumni Achievement Award in 1984, establishing the Valparaiso University Endowed Scholarship Fund in 1984, and having the MCHS Athletic fields named after him in 1993. Poppe has been married to his wife Irene since 1955 and their four children all attended MCHS.

Never take anything for granted at RCR....Something new is happening all the time.

The first time you walk on the veranda in the morning and the wonderful aroma of coffee stops you in your tracks, you know you're in for a treat! Neil Cooper lives here in the park and got the idea that people would love a good cup of coffee at a reasonable price....and he sure was right! He starts brewing at 7 am, and just for an extra treat, he offers delicious cookies to add to the temptation.

If you wonder where you can get a name sign such as the ones you see around the park...keep an eye out for "Sculptor, Mike and Sammy." There are ready-made signs on display, or a special one will be created to suit your preference. If you're not in the market for a new sculpture, you are welcome to observe! It's amazing to watch a simple piece of wood evolve into something so creative.

Where else can you live where you have your very own green grocer show up twice a week. Plant city strawberries, fresh tomatoes, and a score of other garden fruits and vegetables are right around the corner Wednesday and Friday mornings. Are we lucky, or what?

Marion Barnes

Rt: Neil Cooper of Nomad Coffee

2nd Rt: Green Grocer

Far Rt: Sculptor Mike and Sammy





Message from the Manager



Jason Rosenberg
*Park Mgr.
Pk. Manager*

Please remember to obey the speed limit in the resort and through the s-curve. People are still driving too fast as they approach the gate. Make sure that you clean up after your dogs, especially if they relieve themselves in someone's yard.

I had a meeting last week regarding the 2013 Capital Improvement Plan. I have asked for a modification to the plan to include two Pickle Ball courts. I am unsure if we can make a change to the CI Plan this late, but should know soon.

Please do not move a car, trailer, dolly or RV into either storage location without clearing it with the office. Space is very limited and we are required to have storage agreements for all vehicles/units. Also, an empty site does not mean that it is not reserved.

The Resort has to approve all unit renovations that include, but are not limited to the following: driveway, lanai, awning/canopy, fence, shed (must be no larger than 6' X 6'), porch etc.

Car ports are not allowed, even a temporary structure. If anything is built or installed without prior approval, you will be asked to remove the structure immediately.

I am looking forward to the Volunteer Party! We are going to have a great time.

Have a great month.



Residents Association News

By the time you read this column we will be "over the hump" and sliding into the end of our winter season. At our annual meeting in late January the residents elected two new members to our board, Larry Falcone & George Shepard, and re-elected Ed Fisher to his third term on the board. Congratulations to all three and I look forward to working with all three for the betterment of our resort.

The board is looking for ways to spend our Activities Fund monies that benefit the most people. One item that meets that criteria is a new bbq grill for the pavilion that can be used at many group functions. The grill will be purchased and stored on the pavilion in a structure built expressly for it. Our hope is that all who use this grill will treat it with respect and keep it clean and functioning.

The other major project I have been involved in is working with Jason to learn all about Calusa Park. (See

article on page 2) There are many changes in the area with this development: the new Publix on Pinebrook, the renovation of our current Publix on Tamiami, and the extension of Honore Ave. all the way to Laurel Rd. I also heard at the NACA meeting that the county is looking into repaving Laurel. By the time next season rolls around we'll have lots to learn.



Kerry Gonnam
Bd. President

So far this year we have been lucky not to have any accidents in the park. Please remember, whether we are driving a car or a golf cart, riding a bike, or walking; we are all responsible for our actions. BE SAFE!



People You Should Know

Paul Vrakas: Musician, Restaurant Owner, Elected Official.

Over the past few years we have been pleased to bring you stories about your fellow RCR Residents. Recently we had the pleasure to sit down with Paul Vrakas of Waukesha, WI. We found Paul to be one of the most engaging and positive individuals we have ever interviewed. Spending most of his life in Waukesha he owned and managed a series of restaurants, became the city's longest serving mayor, and kept the residents dancing with his music.

Born to Greek & Italian parents at the beginning of the depression he was too young to serve in WWII. After the war he and some friends joined the 32nd Division of the Wisconsin National Guard. He also worked for a period of time in a mens' clothing store. While serving in the Guard for five years he became a mess sergeant which was a beginning in food service for him. His father then asked him to manage a family restaurant whose family had lost interest in it. After five years he started a 16 stool hamburger restaurant in downtown Waukesha, followed by a 32 stool restaurant which led to a 100 seat facility. In 1978 he purchased a deserted building downtown and opened a 6 shop mini mall and another 100 seat restaurant which he operated until 1993. This facility is still in operation today. While operating these ventures he became involved with the Jaycees which led him to a very accomplished career in elected government service.

Paul's government service began in 1960 when he was elected to a four year term as an alderman. This was a period of rapid growth for the city and county of Waukesha. Many people were leaving the city of Milwaukee and headed for the suburbs looking for better schools, nicer housing, and different employment opportunities. Paul recognized the need for a fresh outlook for the city and some reorganization. In 1970 he became the full-time mayor of Waukesha and was elected to 4 two year terms leaving office in 1978. He took a break from 1978 until 1986 and then ran again, being elected to 2 four year terms for an additional 8 years. His 16 years of service still stands as the longest mayoral service in the city.

Paul achieved many things during his mayoral terms. He is most proud of the creation of housing for all income groups, industrial development, Fox River development, central city redevelopment, improved operations at City Hall, and introducing capital projects and program budgeting. After leaving the mayoral post in 1994 he served 8 years as a County Supervisor. All told, Paul served his community for 28 years and helped Waukesha

become a model community. While Mayor, Paul traveled to Kazakhstan to establish a "sister city" relationship with one of their cities.

Remarkably, during this period of time from 1945 until now, really, he maintained his musical career. Although he started on a guitar in the late 1930's he picked up the clarinet in high school and with friends performed many dates as a dance band or combo over the years.

According to Paul he never made enough money at this so he could "quit his day job" as the saying goes. In 1946 he traveled 8 states with the Cal Myers Band and learned he did not want to make music his career.

Besides all the above, in 1951 he married Evelyn Schroedel and they raised a family of three boys. Her support allowed Paul to accomplish all he did. Currently their second son is following Paul in government service. At the age of 66 Paul retired and started playing more musical gigs. About 1999 they were encouraged to spend a couple of weeks at RCR and rented a unit on the same street they live on now. Apparently they liked it since they bought their unit in 2002. Paul has been active in the RCR Orchestra and currently takes part in the "Happy Hour Group" held on Wednesdays in the clubhouse. If you like jazz and swing music it is something you should check out.

Sitting down with Paul to do this interview was an interesting experience. His take on government service and how to get necessary things done was refreshing in comparison to our current political climate. At that time all elected officials ran as non-partisan (Wisconsin law) and he indicated that while political affiliations existed they were not the over-riding factor in how government worked. Maybe we should send him to Washington to straighten them out.

Kerry Gonnam



Paul & Evie Vrakas