



1070 Laurel Rd. E, Nokomis, FL 34275 ~ (941)488-9674 ~ Website: rvonthego.com

Manager's Corner

... And Welcome Back!

For those of you just getting back, remember to pick up a January Activity calendar! RCR Activities are in full swing this month, and there is a lot to choose from!

Just some things to remember:

- ❖ Make sure you have your site number on your mail forwarding address; it makes it much easier for us to process the mail.
- ❖ If you are setting up an account with FPL, you need to bring us your account number so we stop reading your meter and billing you for electric use.
- ❖ New Guest Directories will be available in the office by the middle of January. If you have changed your phone number or email address recently please let Chuck Genrich know at cgenrich9@mowisp.net. Please visit RoyalCoachmanResort.net and view a pdf. directory to see if your information is correct. We will be charging \$1 per directory to cover our copying costs.
- ❖ You have a choice of free park provided television service or starting an account with Comcast. For WiFi, there are still the same hotspots in the Clubhouse, Rec Hall and Lounge/Pool area. Chestnut internet is no longer available in the resort. There are two choices for WiFi on the RV sites- Jabba or Comcast. The park models do not have the option of Jabba WiFi yet.
- ❖ Please remember to keep your pets on a leash when you have them out in the park.

MOST OF ALL, please remember to RELAX AND HAVE FUN! We are so glad to see you back!

Regards,

Bev Malouin

Beverly Malouin, Resort Manager



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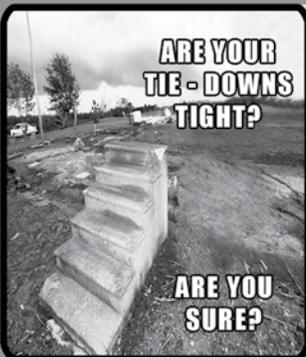
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Royal Coachman News

Royal Coachman RV Resort

1070 Laurel Rd. East
 Nokomis, FL 34275
 941-488-9674 (phone)
 941-485-5678 (fax)
 Royalcoachman@equitylifestyle.com
 Customer Service 941-232-3021 or 941-400-3134 (after-hours)
 Call 911 for Emergencies

Office Hours

Daily 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
 Quiet Hours 10:00 P.M. - 8:00 A.M.
 Check In Time 12:00 P.M.
 Check Out Time 11:00 A.M.

AMENITIES

- 111 acres of wooded Bay Front property
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- Canoes
- Mail Room
- Mini Golf Course
- Pavilion
- Ping Pong
- Horseshoe Pits
- Pickleball courts
- Bocce

More Amenities listed on pages 10.

Citizens Patrol

We are ramping up again for night patrols on the grounds at RCR.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact Dick Brown at **941-486-8497** for details.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Have a new idea? Want to write a story? We want to hear from you! Remember to send pictures, articles, club news, etc. to **royalcoachman_rec@equitylifestyle.com** by **January 10th** for inclusion in the February newsletter. Or stop by the Activities office with your submission.



Maintenance Log January 2017

By George Shepard

Welcome back to all!

I would like to be the first to wish you a fun filled season. I feel everyone will be very happy with our wonderful activities coordinator Amanda and our wonderful manager Beverly.

Thermostats have been replaced in the Rec hall. We have installed 7-day programmable controllers which will make the line dancers more comfortable, and the bingo players will not be cold on bingo nights. The thermostats from the Rec Hall are now in the Clubhouse. This will make the guests who play cards during the day more comfortable and the guests who play at night happy as well. Please let me know if the settings need to be adjusted in any of our buildings. I want to make it more pleasant and comfortable for all our guests.

Please drive slow, 10 MPH. Watch out for turtles and pedestrians. Everyone knows as we get into season this is very important. Also, when walking at night it's a good idea to carry a flashlight.

Reminders:

- Pile pick up Monday 400's & 500's; Tuesday 200's; Wednesday 300's; Thursday RV section & 600's
- Please keep pine needles separate from other yard debris. Please remember as everyone returns and rakes, I will schedule additional pick-ups as needed.
- If you would like late access to the Club House, Rec Hall, Card Room, and Lounge area, please remember to call 941.400.3134 to make arrangements in advance.

Have Fun... Enjoy... Be Happy!!!



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A New/Old Name

Hopefully, you have noticed the new masthead to this newspaper. The RCR Advisory Group (formerly the Resident's Association Board of Directors) thanks Beverly and Amanda for advancing the idea and following through in changing the name of the park newspaper from the *Gazette* to *The Macaw*. There is a lot of history in the name. The Advisory Group, and the previous editor and publishers of *The Macaw* are heartily in favor of the change. We encourage everyone to consider writing something for inclusion in *The Macaw*.



Royal Coachman Kayak Storage Policy

Due to the high demand for kayak storage and the limited space we have on site, we are changing the policy on using Kayak storage. Effective May 1st, 2017, we will be charging \$10 per month to store your kayak on the rack by Dona Bay. *We will draw up new contracts for all those who wish to keep their kayaks on the racks and pay per month for storage.*

Effective immediately, we will allow guests to store their kayaks on their sites. The only restriction is that we ask if you are in a park model; please lean the kayak(s) up against the skirting so they are not just lying out in the yard. If you are on a RV site, please store either under or against the side of your RV, again so it is out of the way.

If you are leaving at the end of season, please take the kayak into your park model or store underneath your RV/Coach Home.



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If your home moves even a few inches during a storm your home will suffer severe damage. Loose tie downs do not protect your home, they must be tightened every 3 to 5 years. Have your tie-downs inspected NOW, before the storms!



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Meet Your Staff

Written By: Jazz Compton, Photos by Amanda

Maintenance Department



Vasyl, his wife, Likeria, son and daughter emigrated from the Ukraine in 2005. Prior to coming to the United States, Vasyl worked as a driver in a factory. During his first year here, he began working for the Royal Coachman in the Maintenance Department. A construction enthusiast, his hobby is building and repairing things.



Donnie is the “go to guy” of the Maintenance Department, and has worked here for 11 years. The park is just one of two jobs Donnie currently works; this has allowed him to put his two daughters through college. He visited Sarasota with his mom and sister on vacation from Newark, New Jersey, and moved to Englewood once he graduated from high school. Donny’s a passionate restorer of antique/vintage cars, and is currently working on a ’67 Pontiac and a ’79 Generation 3 Corvette. He loves to boat and fish with his daughters, and the family vacations at Disney World twice a year.



Brenda has been at the Royal Coachman for 3 1/2 years. Originally from Wabash, Indiana, she moved to southwest Florida twenty-nine years ago to be near family. Prior to joining the park’s team, she was a Certified Nursing Assistant who provided private care to seniors. She has two sons in Florida, and loves to bake for her grandson. Brenda describes her life as “nice and simple and happy”. It shows in her cheerful greetings to park residents!



Eric, fondly known as our “Gentle Giant” joined the maintenance staff in August, 2015. He and his wife moved to Florida from Pennsylvania, and his in-laws moved here after the first Christmas apart. He has three step kids; the sixteen year old girl lives with them. Eric’s hobbies include boating and fishing.



Charlie, the newest member of the Maintenance Department, has been a Florida resident for 35 years. He retired from his job as a brick layer six years ago, got bored, and began working at the Royal Coachman a few months ago. The father of a 33-year-old son and a 31-year-old daughter; he and his wife of 33 years are also the proud grandparents of five. Since he loves spending time with his kids and grandkids, he flies the family down twice a year for vacations. Charlie loves spending time at the beach, and is a drummer for the band “FUSION”.

Front Office



Wally is often the first person to greet guests at the Royal Coachman, and has been doing so for the last ten years. He moved to our beach town to escape the brutal cold of Buffalo, New York. As a young person Wally played a street version of football. An accomplished lapidary artist, Wally creates sculptures from semi-precious stones that he wraps with wire. These unique pieces of art provide him with a creative outlet and many hours of satisfaction.



Cheri, the Administrative Assistant, came to the Royal Coachman 2 ½ years ago. She moved to Florida from Minnesota 12 years ago to enjoy sunny days at the beach. Married for twenty-eight years to an entrepreneur, she is the mom to two daughters who graduated from Pine View School, Florida’s top ranked school for gifted kids. Cheri’s hobby is gardening, and she is an avid botanical watercolorist.



Kathy moved to Southwest Florida from New Jersey five years ago, and joined the Royal Coachman staff 1 ½ years ago. A travel aficionado, Kathy has traveled to most American states, crossed the Caribbean, visited England & Ireland, France, Italy, Mexico, and even attended Carnival in Rio de Janeiro! She has a broad range of hobbies that include: Mah Jongg, going to the beach, playing pickle ball, and reading historical fiction. Kathy also loves bike riding, and attending theater and rock concerts.



Danny has been in Florida for the last year. He moved here from Chicago to assist his Dad. Danny has a 12-year-old daughter named Grace Ann who he loves spending time with. His hobbies include hanging out with friends, going to the beach and seeing comedy and action movies. His favorite pastime is racing motorcycles, and he’s currently looking for a Florida ready bike.



Charmaine sorts and distributes the residents’ mail. For a decade she was a columnist for the Sarasota Herald Tribune who wrote the music column; she was also a Contributing Editor for Sarasota Magazine. At age three, Charmaine could read and write, but how she learned is still a mystery. At four she wrote her first story! Currently she is very involved in animal rescue, and has published articles for the Humane Society that are part of a cross training program. Since child abusers frequently abuse their pets, and other people are more likely to report animal abuse than child abuse, animal rescue workers can legally, and more easily, enter a home; with this new training program they’re taught to recognize signs of child abuse and report this to the appropriate authorities.



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81966ASIX



About our Photographer, Cathy Reyka

In 1997 I was no longer willing to except snow as a winter way of life so I packed up my RV leaving the Cleveland area and moved to South Florida. Never was a fan of the cold! I arrived at a beautiful RV Resort in Nokomis, The Royal Coachman Resort and 20 years later I'm still here. The resort has 112 acres of Pine trees and is located right on Shacket Creek; talk about Paradise.

Sixteen (16) years later in 2013 I purchased my first digital Nikon Camera. Needless to say I was hooked by the second day. I found myself using the camera 3 to 4 hours a day; so very much to learn. My focus seemed to be birds. When asked by a dear friend, why birds I responded with this. It was the challenge of catching the birds in flight and getting the tips of the wings crisp. Still my biggest challenge today! I also enjoy photographing flowers and focusing on the pollen and then there's that outside chance of catching a bug staring back at me!

I find myself always looking up and around everyplace I go and I'm always amazed at the beauty that surrounds me. When I pass someone here in the resort looking up I ask what they are looking for and they respond by saying, we are looking for what you see every day. It's a great feeling to know that I have people starting to look around.

The biggest joy for me is being able to share what I see with my photographs. Two years ago a snowbird neighbor said to me as they were packing to go north, I hope to see your photos on Facebook Daily. Two years later I have not missed a day of my morning post.

November 2016 I decided to Retire and take my Photography to the next level. Cathy Reyka Photography LLC was born. Hopefully the rest will speak for itself. Thanks for visiting my web site and many thanks to all of you who take the time to view my photos on Facebook. Always remember to look around and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us each and every day!



GLASS SHOP OPEN HOUSE Sunday, Jan. 8th, 1 – 3 p.m.

Stop by, visit, and sign up for:

- Beginner's Stained Glass
- Fusing Classes
- Stepping Stones
- Etc.

Can't make it? Call Ray Maida, 989-225-1270

SAVE THE DATE:

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Amenities

- ☺ **Air Pump** Air for vehicle tires is located at the back of the Resort, at the Dump Station. We do not supply a gauge.
 - ☺ **Bulletin Board** Any notices to be posted must be brought to the Office. Please use a 3"x5" index card to list items for sale/rent. All other notices must be appropriate size. Bulletin boards are located throughout the Boardwalk and at the Recreation hall and Clubhouse.
 - ☺ **Campfires** No Ground Fires are permitted. Above the ground covered fire containers are permitted. If it is an extremely dry season, the Office will post notices regarding campfires
 - ☺ **Canoes** They are available at no cost. They are located across from site 67 on the Outer Circle. To sign out canoes bring your driver's license to the Office. We will hold your license for you to pick up after returning the canoe. Paddles and life jackets are available in the locked shed by the canoes. You must be 18-years-old or older or accompanied by a parent to use the canoes. There is a 2-hour limit for usage and they are available from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily.
 - ☺ **Kayak Racks** To utilize the kayak racks you must sign a contract at the office and lock your kayak on the assigned spot. Any canoes/kayaks found unaccounted for may be disposed of.
 - ☺ **Laundry Room** Located at the Clubhouse. No cash accepted. Credit/Debit card required for use.

Small load \$1.50	Medium Load \$1.75	Large Load \$2.00
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 - ☺ **Car & Boat Wash** There is a car, RV and boat wash located by the Maintenance Shop, available on a first-come, first-serve basis
 - ☺ **Dump Station** An RV Dump Station is located in the back of the Resort near the Maintenance Shed.
 - ☺ **Emergency Shelter Information** Please check the Bulletin Boards on the Boardwalk and Clubhouse, or our Facebook page for Sarasota County Emergency Shelter Locations. There is an evacuation plan for viewing available at the Office.
 - ☺ **Faxes and Copies** The Office will fax your document(s) with a cost of \$1.50 for the first page and \$.50 for each additional page. Please notify the Office if you will be receiving a fax. Incoming faxes are \$.15 per page. Copies are \$.15 per page for black and white. We will not make color copies.
 - ☺ **Fitness Center** The Fitness Center is located on the Boardwalk. You must be 18-years-old or older to use the center. The entry code is with your arrival documents.
 - ☺ **Garbage and Recycling Center** The garbage compactor and recycling containers are located at the back of the Clubhouse. We recycle cardboard, newspaper, plastic jugs and clear plastic bottles and glass. Plastic bags do not go into the recycling containers. Please break down all boxes and follow posted directions for the disposal of trash. *This area is only for trash; not furniture, appliances, tires, batteries, etc.* For large items, etc. you can take them directly to the Sarasota County Landfill. It is located at 4000 Knights Trail Rd., Nokomis 34275. Call for their daily hours 941-861-1573.
 - ☺ **Ice** It is available at the Office during business hours for the cost of \$2 for a 10-pound bag.
 - ☺ **Internet Café** Located on the Boardwalk. A computer is available to use or bring your laptop for complimentary Wi-Fi. Entry codes are in your welcome packet.
 - ☺ **Mailroom** Please verify that your site # is on your incoming mail to prevent any delays. Also, please make sure that your name is listed on the mail; if a package/letter is addressed to Grandma/Grandpa/Pet's name/Etc., your mail may not be delivered. As a courtesy, we do our very best to deliver the mail promptly. Should you desire to obtain your mail at the local post office, the information needed is: **Nokomis Post Office
Laurel Rd., Nokomis, FL**
- Rates at the Nokomis Post Office vary from \$17 for 3-months to \$400 for 12-months, variable by the size of your box. Caller service is also available.*
- ☺ **Pavilion** The pavilion is a large covered area that is available for picnics, parties, etc. for big groups of our guests. Electricity is available. Sign up on the Blue ONE-TIME ACTIVITIES sheet in the Lounge and give it to the Activities Director.
 - ☺ **Paws Park** Pets are welcome, but ALL cats and dogs must be leashed at all times when outside of the Paws Park. Owners MUST pick up after their pets. No pets should be left unattended or tied up outside. No fences or playpens allowed. Pets are not permitted in activity buildings (i.e. Clubhouse, Rec Hall, etc.) pool area or in the bathrooms/showers. Paws Park is open from 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily and is located behind the car wash. Pets should not be an annoyance – i.e. "Excessive barking" and unleashed.
 - ☺ **Sports Equipment** Basketballs, volleyballs, golf clubs, etc. are available at the Office.
 - ☺ **Wood Shop** The Wood Shop is located near the Maintenance Building at the back of the resort. Skill is required. Contact Gil Field at 941-928-6136 (NEW NUMBER!!) for more information.



We want to say what a fantastic job you and all our guests that volunteered to make the

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Christmas Party

December 3, 2016

another very special day for so many folks, specifically all the little Brothers and Sisters - it was absolutely perfect in every way as a result of all the hard work by our volunteers. We think this is one of the most rewarding events in the park and are so very proud to be a part of it as you see the smiles on the faces of so many happy boys and girls - and SO a *VERY BIG THANKS* to you all for making this day happen once again at our Resort!!

~ Noreen Brezowski, Chair





Top 40 Professionals 2015



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Can You Help My Ears?

Expo season is upon us. We have already been in the Chamber Expo, which hosts local businesses. Then we were part of the Sun Fiesta. We have upcoming events in some of the homeowner community events.

When Karen has attended events, she has heard the husbands say, "I hear fine." And Karen always responds, "You don't get a vote, your wife does." Then she turns to the wife and, more often than not, the wife says, "He needs to come in and see you."

At these events, people approach us and tend to ask similar questions. Sometimes people who ask me, "What's new in hearing aids?" just aren't sure what other questions they could ask. They might have a hearing loss, or someone they love does, and they might not be ready to proceed.

This is a difficult conversation to have.

The real question Karen discovered while having lunch downtown with a new acquaintance is, "are you just gonna sell me hearing aids or try to help my hearing loss?"

If you have worked with me, you know the answer. I will work to help you hear better in your life. I won't sell you more technology than you need, and I won't sell you so little that you would be frustrated with the hearing aids.

Being in this industry for 17 years, I am passionate about helping people hear well. Like most people, I really enjoy people appreciating my services. We have received a lot of testimonials and posted many of them on our website. I have heard that these letters gave new clients confidence. If you have enjoyed our services, please send us your story that we can share with others.

If you had the time to drop by our table at an expo and say hi, thank you. I really do enjoy saying hello to everyone.

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Save The Date...

- **Ticket sales:** resort shows, events and dances are sold on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – Noon in the Lounge.
- **GERMAN FEST 2017** arrives on Tuesday, January 31st. The outstanding German Band, *Alpine Express*, will once again entertain everyone with a wide variety of dance music (not just polkas) as well as solos on an Alpine Horn, Cowbells, a Saw, and a Xylophone. A Trumpet-Led Congo Line, a Yodeling Competition, and other ingenious forms of entertainment will ensure everyone gets full value for their \$20 ticket. Gary and Lucy Steinwachs from *Buffalo Bills* with their wide experience in catering German events provided excellent fare last year and will be doing the same this year. Your \$20 ticket price will include two wine/beer tickets. *A limited number of tickets will go on sale starting Tuesday, Jan. 3rd. They go quickly, so don't delay.*
- **Afternoon bridge** on Mondays is a social bridge played Chicago style. You don't need a partner so come and join them from 1 – 3 pm in the Clubhouse. Contact Bev Pixley, site 417 with questions.
- **Like to sing? Only sing in the shower? Don't read music? Like to have fun with people at RCR?** Do we have the activity for you! The RCR Chorus is a large group of people who like to sing on Thursday mornings from 9 – 11:30 a.m. "Parts" will practice every other week, Wednesdays, 3 -4 p.m. Altos and Sopranos will begin meeting on Wednesday, January 11th. Tenors and Basses will begin meeting on Wednesday, January 18th. The head choral director, Arline Wilson, says that music supplies extra oxygen to the brain; and therefore, slows down the aging process. So join the group and stay young. It's a great group and all enjoy it tremendously. The Chorus is always searching for new members and pianists so stop by and give it a try. For information, contact Peg Kennedy; RCR Site 121; 618-562-5598; Lamplight7@gmail.com or Arline Wilson 519-681-0410.
- **Attention All New Englanders:** The New England Get Together is on Thursday January 12th from 4 to 6 PM, at the Rec hall. There will be music provided by "Paul Vrakas and Friends," plus we will have many Vermont products to give away and a 50/50, with proceeds to go to the band. Everyone is to bring a "Heavy Hors d'oeuvres". Bring Your Own Beverage and your utensils - plates provided. Please sign up in the lounge so that we have a count for set up.
- **RCR'S VARIETY SHOW 2017** organizational meeting is Monday, January 9th at 1 p.m. in the Rec. Hall. This year's show, ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT, once again will be the best entertainment value in Florida (probably the continent)!! Our esteemed director is in intense negotiations with last year's stars (these older folks can be really stubborn) but he reports that most have agreed to a minimal 10% pay increase. We also invite newcomers to come and participate either on stage or backstage (lights, decorations etc.). If you are nervous about being on stage remember everyone is ROOTING for you and admires your courage to try. Interested newcomers should attend the Jan. 9th meeting or contact the director, Peter Crich, at [941-786-9977](tel:941-786-9977) or at site 499.
- **Shop Club Dinner Dance** – Tuesday, February 21st, Military Theme with Full Circle music.
- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - Saturday, January 21st in the Rec. Hall from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Cost: \$4 - Tickets will be available the week before in the lounge for guests not wanting to carry cash. 50/50 Cash prize sold at the door. We serve 2 large buttermilk pancakes (a third is available to anyone who asks); served with breakfast link sausages, Orange Juice and coffee or tea. We will serve and entertain you while you enjoy a great breakfast.
- **Mah Jongg Reminders** – Games have resumed in the Card Room on Mondays at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! Classes for guests that wish to learn the game commence at 7 p.m. Wed., January 4th in the Lounge. – Collecting for the 2017 cards - \$8 regular print, \$9 large print. Must submit cash or check by mid January made out to Sonya Saposnik. You can leave the money in the mail bag at site 331. Cards will be mailed directly to you at the address you designate by April 1. Questions? Email or call Sonya 941-483-1978, sonyas@hotmial.com.

More Save the Date on Page 15.



Remembering Royal Coachman

By: Leona White

Leaving Pennsylvania for Florida I flew down to Tampa and we were met by friends that lived at RCR. They had called and said there were places for sale (just two) they also showed me Terra Cove, and Kings Gate, but I bought at Royal Coachman. Our friends had a new trailer but in the summer before, they were very pleased to be here. Their Park Model is still here today; mine was taken out and moved to Nectar 373 many years later.

Now what was the park like in 1985? The beautiful pool was there, the office was where the lounge is now; the mail room was where there is storage now and there was, at one time slot machines where the exercise room is now. The Levine's ran the Park, they owned it. They were a couple that had five children, Nancy, wife and mother was the manager and her husband was a lawyer named Lester. To get a call there were phone stations in the park, the call went to the office and they had a bull horn and they would call a name out to go to the phone station. That ended the year we moved here. My husband needed a phone, but the man next door was to have it but they didn't want a phone (they finally worked it out). Phone lines were buried but not very deep and every year the lines were cut during the summer. The men were out there digging to have service again.



The park models had awnings and some had screen rooms, dirt floors with green carpet, when it rained hard the carpets would float and next the men built wood floors, which was a big help. The big improvement; the park turned the trailers, from slanted to straight, this meant they got rid of the one road in the back of the trailers, then they put cement pads and everyone built a lanai. Oh yes, those sandy streets – We came back one year and they were all paved! That made for happy campers. Today, you know how we all like improvements, bigger and better, but not too big. We need our own fun time.

This park has been a happy place to live and many activities have been added and I have participated in many. Did you know where the bike trail is there was a railroad track that carried the animals for the circus and they would come by and we would go out to see them unload in Venice near the South Bridge. While I am on the subject of trains there used to be a hobby enthusiast that set up trains where the post office is now. When we came here there was a laundry in the Rec Hall, then the stage was on the front of the laundry. They then moved the stage to the middle of the building and made the space much larger. That is when the laundry was moved to the Clubhouse. Can you believe that the road we drive past Terra Cove belonged to this park and they wanted to buy it? The Levine's sold it to them with a 99 year lease. Two Levine brothers bought Terra Cove, the other Royal Coachman. The Clubhouse had a grocery store that closed the year after we were here.

The Levine's did offer us to buy our lots, but nothing else and the price was very high. We have had many managers since the Levine family sold the park. The Levine's lived in a double wide before the right hand circle where there is still a cement pad. After the Levine family moved to Casey Key the engineer Bob Chapman and his wife lived there till he retired and moved to Tampa. That was when the doublewide was taken out, but the carport stayed. All the park models were sold by the Levine's. They made arrangements with the company that built the park models to bring them into the park, there were two or three on the side of the road by the side road as you come up toward the gate. We would all go have a look and they had hot dogs and wine to get people there to look at them. The park filled up and then they made the loops. Once the pool area was done with pavers, then the people started to put them by their park models.

The garbage was picked up at the edge of the road by your park model, then they had the garbage station, the first one was by the office so on your way out or going in that area you could dispose of your garbage.



Remembering Royal Coachman Continued...



Photo courtesy of ELS Properties, Inc. website, MyMHCommunity.com

Then it was moved to where it is now. The gate has changed, as they had cards to open the gate which we bought at the office and some put it on a wooden paddle to make it easier to reach. Then it was changed to the current system. The outside of the buildings were all grey by the Boardwalk and I was very happy when they changed the color to look like Florida. The volunteers were treated every year to a trip to eat and a stage show at Forty-one Venice; once to Sarasota to Asolo Theatre and food at intermission; a boat trip from Sarasota Harbor; another time pizza and

music in Ellenton; once to Sailor Circus (young performers) in Sarasota, before they built the current pavilion and the wonderful Maine people used to take orders for lobsters and prepare a feast for a price. OH! That was delicious, count me in!

Church in the Clubhouse has been here for many years. At first the minister came from outside the park and a song director as well. We never felt connected to his scriptures but the song director held it together. After that group left, our volunteers took over and it has grown. There have been craft shows for many years that started before I came, but have participated by showing China plates, vases, and many other items that included dolls that I made from green ware, to making all the clothes.

The choir started over 31 years ago by Katie Morris from her 'home' and it has grown. The Variety show has been going on for many years and the twins Mary Jane & Margaret always did a fun act. You may remember there was a monkey cage near where the office is now and a Toucan with a large curved beak was in another cage. There was a cage with many Macaws, one night someone stole all but Zak, a green one. There was another cage where the extended Tiki Hut is now, which had many parrots, and when it was gone one year, they planted a rose garden. Oh yes, there was a white Cockatoo and it was kept in the office. The Car Show has been held for many years but not when I first came. There was an exercise course called Vita course and you walked to each station and did the exercise. My husband and I enjoyed walking through the park every morning and doing the exercises; sometimes friends would join.

I found a receipt from the office dated 1992 and it had "this is the parks 23rd year", so that would make the park 48 years-old and I have spent thirty-one of those years here.

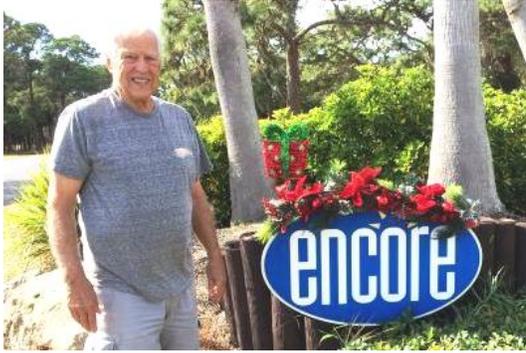
More Save The Date...

- **Dolls, DVDs and Jean** - January 16th 3:30 -4:30 p.m. at Clubhouse. Doll program. Bring a smile and come to Jean Grout's talk on antique dolls plus a humorous DVD program of her dolls antics. Jean has given programs at conferences and conventions in many states and written articles for Doll magazines.
- **Health Fair - Tuesday, February 28th, Rec Hall.** Please call to schedule 1-888-667-7587. Medical Flex and HSA cards accepted. Also Personal Checks, Major Credit Cards and Cash. No Prescriptions needed. All Results & Film Mailed In 2 Weeks. Look for flyer posted for more information, costs and details.
- **Rockin' Around with NY and Friends** - Come along and Rock around with NY and Friends, January 17th. Tickets on sale (same time as all ticket sales listed at top of page). We'll be having dinner gift certificates, basket raffles and a 50/50. Dinner will be the Champagne chicken and pork, veggies, potatoes, salad, rolls and of course NY Cheesecake that was raved about and demanded back. Spotlight Ent. is Rockin' us again this year with their awesome group. Wear your best 50's outfit for prizes and dance to the Rockin' 50's tunes as well as others for more prizes. So come join us for a real 50's Rockin' Time!
- **Community Yard Sale** – The first one of the season is Wednesday, January 18th. Please sign up to participate in the Lounge. The sale is from 9 a.m. – Noon.



Decorating for the Holidays

Deck(ing) the halls ... and the grounds ... and the Veranda ... and the Boardwalk ... and the pool fence ... was what was happening from the day before Thanksgiving until the end of November. How beautiful the Resort looks thanks to the committees of volunteers for the various areas.



Each "area" has a group of volunteers who work to make their space festive. New volunteers are always welcome to join in a group, so if you didn't get the chance this year, let it be known early next year.

The Club House decorators (Barb and Bob Persinger,



Freeman and Jean Grout, and Barb and Bill Jones had some extra help this season. Two young ladies who were here for Thanksgiving weekend joined Jean Grout in decorating the trees. One came to the Veranda the next day to assist Laurie Pelletier and Judy DeCoste with the trees there. The Veranda decorators (Joan and Tom Mouglin, Laurie and Terry Pelletier, Judy DeCoste, Jean Huebner, Mary Lou Flowers) missed Terry Ludban's height and had to resort to ladders in order to hang some of the decorations there). The Rec Hall group (Peter and Janet Crich; Nancy and Dave Selover; Doris Fisher; Annie Kurpiela; Andrea and Ed Lundin; Bill and Rose Primeau) just "falls" together in making the space festive, not only for us, but also for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Christmas Party. Annie Kurpiela directs those decorating the windows; that's been her "job" for many years.

Roger Goodman, with some assistance from Bill Rogowski lights up the outside area. Anyone entering the Resort from *Terra Cove* will notice the decorations on our signs donated and decorated by Sharon and Gene Guswiler. The group that decorates the entrance to the Office (Doreen and Carl Klopshinske, Pat and Peggy Kelley, Joe and Joan O'Callaghan, Larry and Donna Falcone) light up the way beautifully. Noreen Brezowski with some help from Sandy Brent made the pool fence festive, and our Boardwalk Trees group (Marcy and Al Chabot, Ron and Bev Schaefer, Janet Remus, Andrea Lundin) give us (as Burl Ives sings) *the silver and gold on every Christmas tree*. The Lounge (Luanne Gogolin and Jim and Doris Chiste) and the Internet Café,



Mail Room, and Card Room (Ron and Eileen George) round out the beautifully decorated areas in the Resort. If you see any of them, please thank them for making our season brighter.





A monthly column exploring local restaurants that include American and international flavors (and personal favorites). To suggest an exploration & review, contact Jazz at: jazzcompton@icloud.com

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Yummy House is consistently rated the best Chinese food out in our area, so several friends joined me for dinner there. Our group included adventurous foodies, standard Chinese food lovers, and an "I'll eat anything as long as it's cheeseburger" guy. This local chain, owned by two immigrants originally from Toishan, China, has six locations in the greater Tampa/Sarasota area. Sarasota Yummy House is located just south of the Sarasota Airport, and despite the 30 minute drive, I can't wait to return.

Each of us chose a dish, guaranteeing a variety of ingredients and cooking techniques. To begin, we ordered Salt and Pepper Seafood, Hot and Sour Soup, and Spring Rolls. The "Best of Tampa" award winning Salt and Pepper Mixed Seafood appetizer consists of a generous platter of batter fried shrimp, scallops, and squid (calamari). The seasoning mixture is salt & pepper, fresh chopped cilantro & green onions, roasted garlic, and hot Chile peppers. The seafood was served on top of the spicy seasoning, allowing individual diners to adjust the heat level to their taste. In addition to the mixed seafood, Salt & Pepper style dishes can be ordered with oysters, chicken wings, eggplant or Tofu. While this dish was one of the night's winners, more wonderful tastes were still to come. Historically, Chinese foods were chosen for their healing properties, and Yummy's Sweet and Sour Seafood Soup is full of them: chicken broth for overall healing, tree fungus and black mushrooms to increase circulation, and the antiseptic properties of vinegar. While this soup is clear out your sinuses hot, the heat is primarily from white pepper. This soup was perfection in a bowl: full of shrimp, scallops, tofu, sliced wood ear mushrooms, bamboo, and seafood, in a luscious stock of nuanced flavors that included white pepper, vinegar, ginger, cilantro, & sesame; these gave the soup a sophistication not found elsewhere. Skip the Spring Rolls, they were boring and flavorless.

Our entrees arrived steaming hot, or sizzling on a platter. The Spicy Grouper, was lightly breaded, then cooked in a clay pot with eggplant & wood ears; the fish was fresh, but the dish has very similar flavors, yet more mild, found in the Hot & Sour Soup. The Cashew Chicken was sautéed with fresh onions, celery, and zucchini in a very light sauce. As if often the case with chicken in a white sauce, the meat is not browned first, leading some diners to think it was undercooked. I disagree; it was cooked through, but cornstarch dredged chicken that isn't browned has a different texture, and it lacks the crispness and caramelized flavors. While very subtle, its flavors are a nice contrast to the spicy dishes. The Chicken Lo Mein had lots of lightly seasoned sautéed noodles and very little of anything else. The XO Seafood Chow Fun was prepared with wide rice noodles, assorted seafood, fresh vegetables and the house's special, a mild sauce. XO sauce is described as "one of the most expensive sauces in Hong Kong cuisine", and is made with dried scallops, shrimp, ham, Chilis and five (unnamed) spices; Very Yummy, indeed. Since the restaurant charges a buck for white rice, Shirley, our friendly, helpful and efficient waitress, suggested we order fried rice. This is not the over fried, greasy stuff from the corner take-out; offered in several variations, including Duck with Dried Grapes, Shrimp and Scallops, and twelve other versions. Our group ordered the vegetable version; it is fragrant, lightly fried with finely minced veggies, and to die for Umami flavors that put this dish in a league of its own. For more on umami, see info below. As our vegetable dish, we ordered the Snow Pea Tips with Heart of Bamboo. Snow pea tips are not tips of snow peas, but rather the leaves, stems and tendrils from the snow pea plant. They are full of flavor and sturdy; not tough, but toothsome. Sautéed in a light sauce, they're my new favorite green. Heart of bamboo is not anything like a bamboo shoot in either texture or taste. It is spongy and flavorless; I found it to be weirdly unappealing, Ellen was its only fan. I look forward to ordering the snow pea tips with mushrooms or roasted garlic. Soon.



Dim Sum (Stock photo pictured left), invented in Taiwan, is a meal consisting of small plates. At Yummy's one orders from a menu of thirty

Continued on next page.



dishes; choices include several types of steamed, fried and sautéed buns, dumplings and Shumai; rice dishes, soups, salads and desserts. At the end of the meal, the server adds up the number of different plates, with each plate representing a different price. At \$3.99 to \$7.99 in price, Dim Sum is a great way to explore new dishes you might skip otherwise. My friends John and Ellen, from our original dining group, returned for Dim Sum, and gave it rave reviews.

As an adventurous eater, I'm looking forward to returning to Yummy's for the Jelly Fish Salad, Frog Legs in Garlic Sauce, and splurging on the \$38 Abalone with Mushrooms. If you're interested in joining others for an adventurous dining experience, let me know, and I'll coordinate a group. Tomorrow isn't too soon for me!

If you're not familiar with the term "umami", it is the 20th century discovery of a fifth taste to the sweet, salty, sour, and bitter group. Because umami tastes are experienced over the entire tongue, it is responsible for that wonderful, rich taste of delicate savoriness. Check out umamiinfo.com for more info.

BETTY'S CORNER - FLORIDA NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS

Article and Photography by Betty Baird

The beautiful songs that the northern mockingbirds are able to imitate and produce are nothing short of amazing. They are best known for the habit of mimicking the songs of other birds and the sounds of insects and amphibians, often loudly and in rapid succession. The northern mockingbird is mainly a permanent resident in warm climates but those residing in northern climates may move south during harsh weather.

Specific Identification as *turdus polyglottos* meaning 'many-tongued mimic' occurred in 1758.

The northern mockingbird is the state bird of Florida.



The northern mockingbird eats both insects and fruits. Often, it is found in open areas and in grassy land at the edge of forests. They are known for their intelligence. In 2009, a study showed that the bird was able to recognize individual humans, particularly being wary of those who had previously been intruders or threats. They remember and return to the breeding spots in

which they had greatest success in previous years.



The mockingbird has influenced United States culture in many ways. The bird is a state bird of five different states, has been used in book titles, and has also been used in popular songs and lullabies. We have many pairs of mockingbirds residing in our park. When you hear a lovely song full of variety, look around or follow the sound and you will have the pleasure of enjoying this lovely bird up close and personal.





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Volunteers - one of the greatest resources of RCR.

Pat Lang, Volunteer Coordinator, Site 544 941.412.8882 or 603.731.8373 rpm2g4@aol.com



Volunteer: a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

And RCR has many, many guests who meet that description. Look around the Resort at all of the Christmas decorations; attend the Pub Night Picnic, enjoy a campfire with beverages and s'mores; buy tickets to events; celebrate your birthday or anniversary; exercise, dance, work on a craft or hobby; play your favorite card game ... and

the list goes on and on ... and the guests keep on giving their time.

Our volunteers have been very busy, and there are still many activities/events scheduled. Remember to let me know if you need volunteers for an event or if you wish to volunteer. There's always a place for someone "new". Remember, too, the importance of attending the **Volunteer Information Meeting** on the **second Wednesday of the month**, from October through April. **The meeting begins at 1 p.m. and is held in the Club House.** A very important part of the meeting is the review of the up-coming month's activities. *This is the opportunity to make changes to the calendar – not after it has been printed and distributed.* Questions/Announcements, requests for volunteers, and signup sheets are also included in the agenda. *On behalf of all of the guests who have enjoyed all of the activities/events that have taken place, **Thank You!*** for making these happen.

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RCR Sewing Group

RCR Sewing Group chooses a different charity every year to donate our projects to. This year they chose the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Christmas Party. Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 four members (Donna Gonnam, Sue Duram, Jill Cross & Kathy Snowball) gathered to finish the pillowcases that were donated to the party held here at RCR Dec. 3, 2016. Other items to be donated include backpacks, pillows, blankets, zip pulls, etc.

The RCR Sewing Group is open to any residents of the resort and meets every Monday at 9:30. Come to our Annual Show & Tell Monday, Jan 9th, in the Clubhouse to see our projects for the upcoming season.



RCR Sportswear ~

T-shirts, Polos, Sweatshirts and Zipped hooded cardigans can be ordered! Contact Donna Gonnam, Site 4 or at the Craft market. This is a fundraiser that supports the RCR sewing Club.

Senior Games 2017

Get ready for the **2017 Senior Games!** A planning meeting will be held on **January 13th** in the Clubhouse. Check the calendar. All event coaches are asked to attend and everyone is also welcome to join us, especially if you would like to suggest any changes or new games. This is your chance to be heard.

Registration for the 2016 games will be held **Monday, January 30th, Tuesday, January 31st and Wednesday, February 1st** in the lounge. The games will start with Mixed Bocce on February 10th and 12th and Golf on February 11th. Tennis and Horseshoes will start on Monday, February 13th. The T-shirts and name tags will be distributed at 10 a.m., February 17th, in the Card Room. The majority of the Games will start on Saturday, February 18th and continue through Saturday, February 25th with the banquet on Sunday, February 26th with all of the spirited competition, games and good food as in previous years. As before, the games are open to all of those in the park aged 50 and over and anyone wanting to participate must submit a registration form.

Registration forms and Programs will be available in mid January in the Lounge and at www.royalcoachmanresort.net. If you know of anyone who wants to participate but will not be arriving until after February 1st, please let them know that they may print a copy of the registration form 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 February 1st.





January Dinner & A Movie

Tickets are available! Join us on Saturday, January 14th for dinner served at 6 p.m. in the Rec Hall. This month's meal will be catered by Brew Burgers. **Dinner Menu:** Burgers, Chips, Slaw and a burger topping bar.

The free movie starts at 7 p.m.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles: Two days before Thanksgiving, marketing consultant Neal Page (Steve Martin) races to catch a plane home to Chicago, only to find that his flight has been delayed. Hours later, he boards the plane and ends up next to obnoxious salesman, Del Griffith (John Candy). When the flight is detoured to Wichita, the mismatched pair is forced to find their own way to Chicago-by any means necessary.

You don't have to join us for dinner to see the free movie.



Coffee, Donuts & Your Welcome Bag at the Pool Veranda! One bag per site, per year. Bags only available at these events, so please stop by!

RCR Lend & Share – We have a program with items you might want to borrow when your family visits or you might have items willing to lend to others. A list of current items can be found on the bulletin board by the Mailroom. **PLEASE** feel free to add anything to the list you would be willing to share with other guests.

Utilities & Extras

Florida Power & Light (FPL)

- Please supply the office with your FPL account number as soon as you have it to prevent incorrect billing.
- For guests that are not utilizing FPL and are with us for one month or longer, we will have your electric fee at the office.
- For those of you with FPL, please be sure to discontinue your service with them on your departure date and inform the office when you do so.

Comcast

- For internet service: auto-pay and eco billing must be utilized to receive the \$19.99 monthly rate. You must go to the Venice Comcast office directly to receive this special rate.
- If additional cable is needed, Royal Coachman will run it, thus saving you a \$50 install fee.

Wi-Fi

Complimentary wireless Wi-Fi service is available:

- Lounge/Internet Café/Pool: cdgroup, cdgroup 2.4 and cdgroup 5
- Clubhouse/Recreation Hall: cdgroup 2.4, cdgroup 5

Log in information is not needed to connect. Please remember that this is an open network so watch your password and privacy settings.

Propane

Gapps Propane began deliveries on Monday, October 31st around 9 a.m. and continues every Monday throughout the season. A sign-up sheet will be in the Lounge. Remember to remove your tank and put it out by the road. Payment is YOUR responsibility.



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CELEBRATE

Many celebrants, friends, and neighbors enjoyed cake and beverages in the Rec Hall on December 13th for the December & June Birthday/Anniversary Party.



Celebrating (from left): Bob and Carolyn McDonald, Gretchen and Chuck Ryan, Eileen and Ron George, Joyce and Don St. John, Carol and Chuck Genrich, Nancy and Dick Brown, Sandy and David Barnard



Celebrating their birthdays (from left):

Rich Hildebrand, Morey DePeape, Dick Brown, Jan Anderson, Patty Taylor, Jane Haley, Roger Cooney, Chuck Genrich, Donna Dossan, Bill Brigham

You Are Invited to attend and to celebrate your birthday or anniversary OR to celebrate with your friends and neighbors as they celebrate theirs. The Birthday and Anniversary Party happens on the second Tuesday of the month, from November through April.



Recycling? Yep. We do that here! Ever notice the white boxes over by the Garbage & Recycling Area? Well, all Aluminum cans that we recycle get turned into donations for the local Boy Scouts. If you see a recycle bin, please use it! Such an easy way to give back to our community!

