



Welcome Back!

The first Macaw of the year is always “Welcome to the new season”...but actually, for those who have been here year round, the “new season” begins when the snowbirds start to arrive in the fall. By the time Halloween rolls around there are enough residents in the park to gather for a pumpkin contest and best costume competition. What they lack in numbers they make up in enthusiasm.



RCR Residents

In another couple of weeks, the population will have doubled. The birthday/anniversary party, shows and movies in the rec hall, and special concerts are among the many activities that have begun.

It’s sort of a preview of coming attractions



Rich & Kay Hildebrand—Vivian Hincy



First Place—Donna Gonnam



Chuck Long & Tammy Amodea



Santeforts & Coopers



News Around the Park

Volunteers Make It Happen

As residents we all know that RCR is a 5***** park because of our volunteers. Our daily and monthly calendar is full of activities and events that happen because we make them happen. Over the years, I have heard comments such as *“I’d like to volunteer, but I don’t know who to contact”* or *“I need someone to help us [in an activity] and haven’t been able to find someone.”*

In an effort to solve this problem, two forms have been developed: if you are new to RCR or new to volunteering in the park, please fill out the short registration form, which is available in the Lounge in a blue folder on a side table. Complete it and return it to Pat Lang, Site #544, and she will add your name to the data base and give your name to the leader of any activities/events you have an interest. She will also contact you when a volunteer is needed in the area(s) you have indicated you are interested in. Likewise, if you are the leader of an event or an activity and need volunteers, there is a form in the Lounge for you to complete or you can contact Pat at Site 544, 941.412.8882. If you have already volunteered during the past few years, you are already on the “list”. Lori Lilly and Pat have been using this system since early October and it seems to be working well.

Requests for volunteers have been received in the following areas:

- Assistance with building sets for the Variety Show
- Coaches for Senior Games events; specifically at

this time, the Golf Ring Toss in the pool

- Individuals trained in taking blood pressure (such as nurses and technicians)
- Many people do not realize that the volunteer meeting held each month is open to all residents of the park....come to find out what is happening and where you can find an activity that you would be particularly interested in.

Pat Lang



Volunteers sport their new aprons at the recent birthday/ anniversary party L-R - Carolyn Avery (who made the aprons), Roy Anderson, Jan Anderson and Pat Lang

2014 Computer Classes

Once again the RCR Computer Whiz Kids are presenting a series of classes on computers and other devices. These classes are to be held in the Clubhouse on Tuesdays at 1 PM and will last about 2 hrs. Schedule is as follows:

Date	Topic
Jan 7	What Computer Device Should I Buy?
Jan 14	I bought a computer, now how do I use it?
Jan 21	Computer Security & Maintenance Issues
Jan 28	How to navigate Windows 8
Feb 4	Assorted Topics and Neat Stuff to do with Your Computer
Feb 11	Facebook
Feb 25	Using Microsoft Office
Mar 4	Tablets - Apple, Android, & Windows
Mar 11	Open. TBD
Mar 18	Assorted Topics and Neat Stuff to do with Your Computer
Mar 25	Open. TBD





Coming Activities at RCR



Lori Lilly

Welcome back, everyone! We have had a lot of fun things happening already and it is not going to slow down in the coming months. The pumpkin decorating contest for the annual Halloween party was amazing. Brian from White Cement has had one mulch sale and will be returning again on January 11th. The first dinner show with John Reno doing a tribute to Jim Croce was spectacular: a great evening of music and good food. The next dinner show January 11th featuring Johnny Rogers in Buddy & Beyond will be something you won't want to miss. Happy Hour Picnic is back and the variety of live entertainment very well received. This month the picnic, January 15th, will have Andrew Dean and his wife performing. The concert series for this season will be January 30th, February 22nd and March 15th. You can buy reserved seat tickets for these three shows costing \$36pp until January 16th. The reserved seat tickets also will include a pre-party before the first show featuring "Soul & Inspiration". Tickets for these three shows will also be sold at ticket sales or at the door for \$15 per show.

Also returning this year will be the Italian Fest, Hippie Party, Health Fair Seminar & Casino Night in January; check your calendar for a complete list. The other new thing added this year with great response is the RCR Book Club.

With all the changes in the TV system there will no longer be the in park station for announcements. The best way to keep up on what is happening and updates is by the e-mails I send out. If you are not receiving these please contact me with a current e-mail address. Also check your calendars to mark changes with the flyers posted by the mailroom entrance. There is ALOT of things happening that you won't want to miss!

Have a great season!

Lori Lilly/Activities Director

Senior Games 2014

The games will be held **Saturday, February 15th thru Sunday the 23rd** with much of the same activities, competition, and good food enjoyed in previous years. As in past years, the games will be open only to park residents and registered campers aged 50 years and over and a separate registration form will be required from each participant. Registration for this year's games will be held on **Monday thru Wednesday, January 27th to 29th** in the lounge.

A planning meeting will be held on January 8th at 1pm in the club house. All event coaches are asked to attend. Please join us if you would like to suggest any changes or new games to this year's event. Registration forms will be available on our web site by January 15th. If you know of anyone who wants to participate but will not be arriving until the 1st of February, please let them know that they may print a copy of the registration and either mail it back to me (the form must arrive before our registration deadline) or ask a friend or neighbor to register them. Registration forms and programs will be available in the lounge on January 20th.

Bill Maier, Site 360

Calusa Park

It is easy to see that a lot of progress has been made on the new housing development to our north. The ground has been cleared and they are finishing the retention pond now and working on the streets, sewers, and utility lines. Following is their proposed schedule.

February, 2014

Underground and utility improvements complete

March, 2014

Entry wall is scheduled to be constructed with gate installation to immediately follow

Perimeter fence will be erected, which abuts our property

May, 2014

First model home scheduled to commence construction

August, 2014

Model home opening and sales launch

The above dates are subject to change.



RCR Residents Bring Holiday Happiness to Venice Area Children!



The 7th annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Holiday Party was held in the RCR Rec Hall on Saturday, December 7th. The party is a community outreach event sponsored by the Encore Royal Coachman management, in partnership with the Venice office of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, which serves Venice, Nokomis, Osprey, and Northport families. Many thanks to our RCR volunteers who, once again, stepped up to the plate to ensure this year's party was a huge success. Over 50 residents worked to set up the hall, prepare beverages, serve pizza, park cars, and more! Our Christmas bakers filled four tables with delicious, homemade brownies and cookies which had our guests (70 "littles" and 60 "bigs") eagerly waiting for dessert!

Many thanks to all who purchased gifts from the Angel Tree! Your generosity made it possible for each "little" (ages 6-17 years) to receive one gift from Santa and one raffle gift. You cannot imagine the energy and excitement kids have awaiting their turn with Santa and hoping that *their* raffle ticket number gets called; it was really fun to see! In response to the question, "Why was my gift bag repackaged?" The Big Brothers/Sisters staff knows each and every child attending the party. A few days before the event the staff picks up our gifts, brings them to the Venice office, and organizes/sorts the gifts by age and by value. From Santa, each child receives a gift that is about the same value (thus the repackaging). The same goes for the raffle items. Should you purchase a big money item that was on sale, the staff holds it in the office for the area's neediest families to "shop" for their children the week before Christmas. All children come from needy families and some are homeless. Rest assured that your donation is going to children who most need and appreciate it.

Special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Frank & Dale Pawlitz) and their favorite Elf, Connie Garrison, who brought smiles to each and every little face! By the smiles we saw, the kiddoes loved the handmade afghans by Doris Fisher, Gretchen Ryan, and Stella Karas, scarves by Gloria Clukey, and hats by Marcy Chabot; thank you so much. A big thank you to our lead volunteers, Peter Crich and his parking crew, Dick Lang and his pizza prep crew, Noreen Brezowski and her pizza servers, Diane Goodman and her dessert servers, Marty Nowosad and his set-up crew, Bob Hebden for his photography, and our drink prep gals, Doris Fisher and Pat DeWitt!

Please know that your gifts and your time do make a difference in the life of a child, thank you and bless you all!

Merry Christmas!

Caroline Goode





RCR Sweet Treats Party

On December 11, the ladies of RCR met for their fourth Holiday Sweet Treats party. The hours were moved from afternoon to 11 am so we could substitute cookies and candy for lunch! About thirty women attended, each bringing a batch of their wonderful sweet treats to share. Punch, coffee, tea and diet drinks were served by the hostess, Connie Garrison. Many recipes of low fat, low sugar and diet cookies, (lots of them from the Weight Watchers menu), added a new twist to the party and were much appreciated by the dieters in the group. Those cookies were also delicious!

Many friends chipped in labor to move tables, decorate and clean up. Bill Primeau played Christmas music for us, and Santa (Frank Pawlitz) and his sleigh driver (Bill Spiller) showed up for a surprise visit and to munch on some cookies. Many of the ladies took the opportunity to sit in Santa's lap and whisper their Christmas wishes to him. Charlene Green was sharp and won the first prize for Christmas movie trivia, and Judy Spiller won a consolation prize for having the longest list of Christmas things she had never done. Everyone at the party was urged to do everything they can to help zip up Judy's Christmas this year to make up for all the things she has missed! The ladies made up plates of cookies to donate to the RCR staff and maintenance crew, and then to take to neighbors and friends who couldn't make it to the party. Everyone exchanged favorite recipes and then took samples home for later. Someone shared the new trend of Floridians making sand angels (like snow angels) on the beaches here. Just as pretty, but lots warmer!

If you see ladies running around shopping, decorating and singing carols like crazy, it's just the sugar high from the party!

Connie Garrison



Goodies at Party



Bill Primeau Rocks



Ladies Enjoy Cookies



Janet Crich & Santa

RCR Christmas Lights

Over 10 years ago, Beverly and Keith Pixley decided to light candles in front of their unit on Christmas Eve. They were familiar with the tradition of luminaries, candles placed in paper bags and lit at dusk. Neighbors thought it was so nice that the next year Sandpiper Road was lined with lights....candle lights. Anybody who was here this Christmas Eve knows how that lovely tradition caught on and the streets in the park were lined with luminaries.

Each year Bev and her volunteers package up hundreds of candles, holders, sand and plastic containers (to replace paper bags). It's become a tradition to make Christmas really special for those of us who are here for the holidays.



Marcy Chabot & Toni Skiver Sell Kits



RCR Street Scene at Christmas

Happy New Year From the Macaw Staff



More, Around the Park

Variety show 2014 -- Anything Goes, Then And Now!

As the title suggests, this year's show will feature acts that are new to our stage and acts that have drawn rave reviews in previous shows. In effect, anything goes!!

Once again, we hope that new performers (minimal talent required) and folks who would like to help with sets, decorations, tickets, etc. etc. etc. will come forward and become part of what many people consider The Best Entertainment for your scarce, retirement dollars.

Our organizational meeting will be Monday, Jan.6th, at 1:00 in the Rec Hall.

Peter Crich

German Fest 2014 Is Coming

On Saturday, Feb. 1st, the Rec Hall will certainly be the place to be!! With good food, good beer, and the outstanding Alpine Express, this dinner/dance will once again be a highlight of this winter's activities. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, Jan.14th. As was the procedure last year, each couple living in RCR may buy a maximum of four tickets. These tickets normally sell out quickly, so mark this date on your calendar.

Peter Crich

Bulletin Boards

The association is assuming responsibility for posting the "items for sale" bulletin board on the veranda. These postings are limited to residents in the park. RCR takes no responsibility for implementing this program, but the office crew has agreed to accept notices on index cards to be posted for 30 days.

Sorry, we cannot accept ads for services. It's all a matter of liability. We cannot take the chance of being held responsible for some unfortunate accident that might occur.

Marion Barnes

Timber!

One of the ongoing maintenance programs at RCR is the constant trimming or cutting of trees. In September we were lucky enough to come upon a crew that was disposing of a large tree on Owl's Nest Rd. It seemed like a spectator sport as a small crowd gathered to watch a worker cutting off huge branches and finally felling the entire tree, all the while singing Spanish folk songs.



Fire!!

May 23rd, soon after most of us had headed north for the summer, lightning struck the woods across the ditch from Poinsettia Dr. and caused quite a stir. No damage was done to the park but it did damage a portion of those woods and the Nokomis Fire Dept. had to access it from our roads. Thanks to Jill Cross for the pictures.

A result of this was the state forestry department came out to inspect the damage and saw the Tortoise Preserve had not been kept up to their standards and ordered the park to clean it up. Which is why the Tortoise Preserve looks as it does now.





More Around the Park

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

Celebrate your birthday or anniversary with your RCR friends and neighbors. No need to make a cake; RCR provides it for you. All residents are invited to the party whether it is your birthday or anniversary or not. Birthday/anniversary parties begin in November and celebrate the current “in-season” month and the “off season” month, six months later: November/May, December/June, January/July, February/August, March/September, April/October.

Come enjoy getting to know the celebrants – each is asked to fill out a short information sheet and our emcee shares the information with those in attendance. Of course, the information is embellished a bit – all in good fun. Photos are taken of the birthday group and the anniversary group. Each celebrant is the recipient of the celebration photo.

Pat Lang



Dec/June 2013 Left - Ed & Doris Fisher married 59 years. Birthdays– Joanne Holmes, Mo-rey DePaepe, Harlean Jordan , Donna Dosson, Keith McGrail, Sue Duram, and Jerry Spittler

Residents Association News

Welcome back, everyone. This seems to be a perfect year to enjoy the warmth of RCR and avoid the cold of the north. I know I got my fill of driving in snow Thanksgiving week.

This appears to be a year of change here at RCR. A new TV system, a new Wi-Fi system, and a new park manager are all items we will have to deal with. I want to wish Jason the best in his new position. I have enjoyed working with him over the past few years and I believe we accomplished quite a bit.

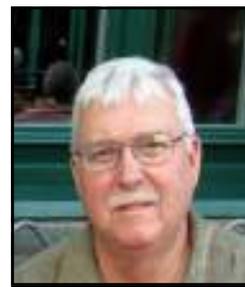
The new communications systems are still a work in progress. The Wi-Fi system has made more progress than the TV. It is running at a reasonable speed and has improved accessibility; especially with the edition of M2 receivers for account holders. My system is running fine. The TV system is working technically very well; but, they are working on improving the basic channel selection and making the rates for options more competitive.

January, of course, is the month we hold our Annual Residents mtg.(Sat. Jan. 25) and elect new people to fill

board positions. We have three positions to fill so I hope we have some residents willing to run and serve.

Our activities staff has lined up some outstanding events. Having attended the Jim Croce Dinner/Show I highly encourage you attend the Johnny Rogers Show. The food is good, the entertainment is wonderful, and it is a fun format. Other shows are coming, the Craft Market is back, Ron’s Car Show will be back in March, and all the great craft classes and workshops are available for your enjoyment.

This will be my last report as your Bd. President. While I have enjoyed the past 4 yrs. as president it is time to step aside and let new blood take over. Thank you for the many kind comments over the past years. And many thanks to my fellow board members for their efforts.



**Kerry Gonnam
Bd. President**



People You Should Know

Bill Rogowski

Volunteerism is a large part of Royal Coachman Resort. It can be very rewarding and it also allows you to meet some extraordinary people. For instance, if you were to volunteer to cook pancakes at our monthly pancake breakfasts you could find yourself next to a man who belongs to not one, not two, not three, but four halls of fame. Bill Rogowski has led a rewarding life in Western New York; first as an athlete, second as a teacher, and third as a public servant.

Bill's athletic career began in JFK Sloan High School and included football, basketball, and his favorite, baseball. After four years of varsity baseball he was signed to a professional contract by the Phillies and played two years in the Florida State League. After that he played Semi-Pro ball until he was 38 yrs. old and played on teams that won 3 NY State titles and a National Title. He also played softball for 20 years. These achievements allowed him to be placed in the JFK-Sloan Hall of Fame, the Western NY Softball Hall of Fame, and the Western NY Baseball Hall of Fame. Just for variety he bowled a 300 game in 2001.

Bill's vocation was teaching; he taught and coached in the West Seneca Central School System for 34 years. He taught media, communications, drivers' ed. and technology and was twice nominated for teacher of the year. He coached football 2 years, basketball 9 years, and baseball 9 years.

However, one of his most remarkable legacies is his career in public service in the Village of Sloan, NY. Beginning with his election at the age of 24 to the position of village trustee he served in various positions for forty years. At 26 he was elected Mayor becoming the youngest mayor in NY and the second youngest in the US. His longest service was 23 years as a Councilman on the Cheektowaga Town Board. His final three years were as tax receiver for Cheektowaga. (The day he retired from this position his son was sworn in as Cheektowaga Councilman and just completed his third term.) In 1980 he was recognized as "Citizen of the Year" by the Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper.

Bill has been married to his wife Corrine for 44 years and when I asked her how she handled all this she laughed and said they didn't see each other enough to fight. They did see each other enough to raise three sons, (2 teachers and a state fraud investigator), who have brought them seven grandchildren. When I asked Bill what he was most proud of, he thought a minute and said "All of it." And he was dead serious. When he walks into his old school and sees his picture & name in the "Most Distinguished Graduates" Hall of Fame he feels a great satisfaction. The funniest story he told me was when the IRS called him in to audit the mileage on his return. Mr. Organization had all his mileage perfectly recorded and presented it to the auditor. After looking it over he asked Bill if he could copy it to prove to his fellow auditors there were people like Bill who were such dedicated public servants.

Bill Rogowski is one of many residents of RCR who have led a very rewarding life prior to coming here. If you get a chance, thank him for his service and volunteer yourself here in the park. You never know who you might meet.

Kerry Gonnam



Bill & Corrine Rogowski

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.