

Garden Variety

Newsletter of the Palm Gardens Activity Association

February 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joe Vitiritto, President

Hello Everyone! The time is really flying by when we are having fun. We will be having many activities in February. The Stewart's are providing a Luau on February 10th at the South Hall. All Palm Gardens residents are invited, so please come and enjoy the fun and the show. Then, on the 14th, is Valentine's Day, with a dance and dinner hosted by the Anderson's. Bring your sweetheart and dance the night away. Finally, on the 27th, the Ladies Luncheon, hosted by Judy Mathias, will be at the South Hall.

During the month we have many more activities, so please come and join the fun!

Please do not forget that we will be having elections for the Association Board on March 6th so if you would like to run for a position, please contact Smitty Smith, Pat Serio or Tom Whitaker.

Have a wonderful February and enjoy our Park.

Regards, Joe



If you are a new resident or just coming back from a long stay away, contact Ronnie Vitiritto, 515-238-9075, or Jan Opp 480-494-7231, who represent our Welcome Committee. They are here to extend a warm greeting, provide information about community events and activities and encourage you to participate and connect with other residents. You can even find out about volunteer opportunities. Contact the knowledgeable Welcome Committee members here once you get established.



Recycling

RECYCLING THURSDAY AM

Your volunteer recycling team picks up aluminum cans and PET1 or PETE **clear** plastic bottles (without caps) from your container or bag at the curb by **6:30 AM Thursday mornings or preferably the night before**. Help us to help you by following our simple rules. **PLEASE REMOVE THE TABS FROM YOUR CANS!** You can put them in the box at the SH for donation to the **Ronald McDonald House**. **Please no milk cartons or opaque plastic bottles.**

PALM GARDENS ACTIVITIES ASSN. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26

President:

Joe Vitiritto, Sp. 145
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406-788-4126

Mary-Alice Muraski, Sp.163
715-222-6841
Mary-alice.muraski@uwrf.edu

SPECIAL REMINDER



PLEASE take down your tattered flags. Leaving them up when damaged is disrespectful. You can dispose of them at most Home Depot stores. Thank you. Bob Foley



Norm Hobbs
Curley Spurrier

"The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears." - Irish Proverb

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your cards, memorials and sympathy. Your thoughtfulness, during this time of my husband, Lloyd Olsgard's passing, was comforting. Sandra Olsgard #660.

REMEMBRANCE GOSPEL JAM

It is an annual event when we remember those of our Palm Gardens family who have died in the last 12 months. On the first Sunday in February we will hold our Remembrance Gospel Jam. There will be our regular Gospel music in addition to this special time so plan to be at the South Hall at 6 on Sunday February 1st.

PALM GARDENS ACTIVITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb 10th at 11:00am in the South Hall. Everyone is welcome.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Spear, Bill & Lora, Sp 244, B/503-951-1274, L/503-871-7069
Schlaht, Cindy, Sp 452,701-320-4487
White, Stephen, Sp 652, 925-771-0999
Croley, Jill, Sp 672, 517-627-2415
Lange, Larry & Carol, Sp 713, L/218-330-9507, C/218-727-1059

ALOHA! IT'S A LUAU!!



The Stewart's will be hosting a Luau on Tuesday, February 10th at the South Hall. Social hour (BYOB) will start at 4PM, food will be served at 5PM and entertainment will begin at 6PM. Dress HAWAIIAN!

VALENTINE'S PARTY



The annual Valentine's Day Party will be held at the South Hall on Saturday, February 14th. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Dancing will be from 7-10pm (BYOB) with the Tin Trailer Band. Tickets are \$10/person. For more information see Joanie Anderson, Sp 32.



PALM GARDENS ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW FEBRUARY 18TH

Come join us at the Annual Classic Car show on Wed, Feb 18th 10am-2pm. Come see some beautiful old cars from our youth. Rock Star Hotdogs Food Truck will be on-site for lunch. We will also have music by EagleRock West. For more information contact Gail Theberge, lot 432, 602-816-7333

FOOD TRUCK



Friday, February 6 we will have Rosie's Kitchen (Italian cuisine) and Friday, February 20 will be Taqueria Las Palmas (Mexican cuisine). In addition, we will have Rockstar Hot Dogs on Wednesday, February 18 for the Car Show. Watch the South Hall bulletin board for menus and further information.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



The Ice Cream Social will be the first and third Tuesdays of the month, Feb 3rd & 17th in the South Hall at 5:45pm. All you can eat with many wonderful toppings.

BINGO!!



And we have a WINNER! We had one lucky player go home with \$500 from our Jan 21st bingo session. Not to worry, we still have one hotball at \$500 and another should be well over \$400 at our next session. Come play and see if you can win! We play on Wednesdays at the South Hall. Sales begin at 6:00pm.

GRILL NIGHT WEDNESDAY'S at 4PM



Come join us for a juicy burger at Grill Night **every** Wednesday night from 4PM to 5:15PM. Your meal includes chips and dessert. Pop is sold separately. If you'd like, you can order your burger with cheese or without a bun! Condiments are included (catsup, mustard, mayo, relish, pickles).

I may not be that good looking or athletic or funny or talented or smart ... I forgot where I was going with this but I do know I love bacon!



ZUMBA GOLD

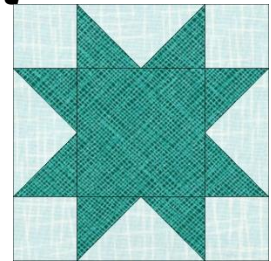
Join us for some fun, music, and dancing at Zumba Gold from 8:15-9am Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the South Hall. No prior experience is necessary! Come laugh, sing and make new friends! Contact Mary-Alice Muraski, sp 163, 715-222-6841.



MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night is Sunday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the South Hall. We'll be showing Dunkirk, a 2017 film depicting the World War II evacuation of over 300,000 soldiers from Dunkirk across the channel to England. Dunkirk was written and directed by Christopher Nolan and is considered one of the greatest war films ever made. Popcorn and other snacks will be served, BYO drinks. Contact Stan Schraufnagel at 715.821.0436 with movie suggestions.

QUILT RAFFLE



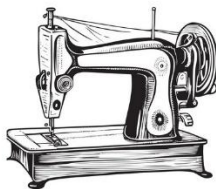
The Sewing Group is holding a quilt raffle to raise funds to purchase a tabletop quilting/sewing machine. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be available at various events including Saturday morning coffee or during our Tuesday & Thursday sewing club from 9 to noon in the South Hall Craft Room. Drawing will be held February 14th at coffee. Contact Mary-Alice Muraski 715-222-6841 Lot 163.

BIRTHDAY - ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The Birthday and Anniversary celebration will be held on Thursday, February 5 and will feature a return of Gordy and Debbie, who were quite the hit last year. We will honor those whose birthdays and anniversaries are in February, June and October. Watch for further information on the South Hall bulletin board! As a head's up - the comedian is coming in March !

RIP, TEAR, BUTTON OFF, OR ZIPPER BROKEN? WE CAN HELP!



Have you been putting off some mending? The Sewing Group will be accepting light mending on the first Tuesday of every month through April. See us at South Hall Craft Room 9 am to noon on February 3. We can fix missing buttons, ripped seams or hems, holes, etc. Contact Mary-Alice Muraski 715-222-6841 Lot 163.

SUPER BOWL PARTY FEB 8TH



Don't forget the Super Bowl Party at the South Hall on Feb 8th at 4:00pm. We'll be showing the game and having some fun. Come cheer you're favorite team - and if they aren't playing, cheer for both teams! BYOB and snacks! See you there. For questions, see Howard Mettee, sp 131, 615-519-1880

ASSOCIATION BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Nomination Committee of Smitty, Pat Serio, and Tom Whitaker, has begun preparations for this year's Association Board election to be held March 6, 2026. Positions up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees. If you would like to run for any of these positions, please let a committee member know.

PICKLEBALL

Our Pickleball group is still scheduled for 9am M-F. Our numbers are down but those of you who still have the drive to enjoy fun competition and the occasional good shot, please join us. Call Dennis Chapman at 805-796-2110 for more information.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE & NEWS



Come on down to the South Hall every Saturday around 7:00am for a nice hot cup of coffee and a yummy donut! Stay for the Park updates and info. Announcements begin at 8am then, what you really came for, the donuts. Cost is \$1.00 for coffee and \$2 for a donut. Sign up weekly at the South Hall bulletin board.

IT'S TIME FOR PANCAKES



Come join us on February 28th for ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES WITH A SIDE OF SAUSAGE & COFFEE FOR \$3.00! SUCH A DEAL!! Contact Sonja Martin, SP 447, 805-657-5598.

Whoever came up with the word "dentures" really missed an opportunity to call them "substitooths".

WURLITZER WONDERS AND PIZZA GALORE



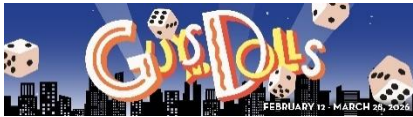
Thrill to the great big sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer Theatre pipe organ and enjoy some fantastic pizza at the Palm Gardens annual pizza party at Organ Stop Pizza on Monday, March 9 at 1:00pm (located at Southern and Stapley). Ticket sales (\$10.75 per person) by Gloria Wetzel or Pat Mettee at upcoming scheduled activities.

SOCIAL HOUR



Get your friends and neighbors together for fun and casual conversation at **Social Hour and Potluck at the South Hall February 24th**. Social setting starts at 4:15 PM with potluck food served at 5 PM. Bring a dish to share such as salad, casserole, appetizer, meat or dessert. Bring your own drink. Place settings will be provided. All residents are welcome at this free event. The food is always top notch. Contact Sonja Martin, Sp 447, 805-657-5598.

LAST CALL AT THE BOX OFFICE



Get your **GUYS & DOLLS** tickets by **February 18th**.

We have seats reserved at the Hale Center Theater in Gilbert at 7:30 pm, on Sat. **March 7, 2026** to enjoy this Smash Hit musical.

Tickets are at a special group rate of \$45 each (a discount of \$20 per ticket). The sign-up sheet is on the South Hall Bulletin Board. Cash or check due by Feb. 18th to Gloria Wetzel #413, 734-771-7185

TRIVIA NIGHT



Our January Trivia night was a great success with three winners sharing the spoils. As always, it's a fun night. Due to the NFL having some special game on the second Sunday, we've shifted to the third Sunday at 6 in the South Hall. The sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board with one addition that whoever signs up we're asking you to id the lot number of the person signing up the team so we can track down any conflicts or find a place for individuals who don't have a team. Teams can be up to 8 people and those without a team can sign up and we will find a spot for you

SUNDAY DARTS AT 2:30PM



The Dart group is growing! It's a fun event and lasts about 1 ½ hours. Darts are supplied, so give it a try in the billard room in the South Hall. Any questions, call or text Ed Palmreuter (Lot74) at 602-320-6486.

LADIES LUNCHEON FRI, FEB 27TH



Wear an apron that was Grandma's or made by 🧡 or a special one you have. Think of a story to share about your apron with others at your table. Tickets are \$12 and will go on sale at Grill night and Saturday morning coffee starting Wed, Feb 4th. If you want to sit together with someone at a table, please bring an envelope with the names & money. Also, put by each name if they would like white or dark chicken for lunch. This makes it much easier to set-up. Thanks!! Hope to see you February 27th. For more information see Judy Mathias, sp 45, 701-840-8960.

BEANBAG BASEBALL



Two concurrent games creates a lot of noise in the South Hall after coffee. We can use more players. Any questions, call or text Ed Palmreuter (Lot74) at 602-320-6486.

I CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR NAME

Save people here at Palm Gardens from having to ask again and again. It's hard to remember so many new acquaintances, so help them out. **State name tags for \$10.50** are available from Gloria Wetzel, 734-771-7185.

REMINDER TO ALL: Wear your name tags to all activities. Others will appreciate you.

CALENDAR UPDATES? KNOW THE PROCEDURE

If you would like to add an event to the calendar or revise one you currently host, please contact **Association Vice President Sonja Martin, Sp. 447, 805-657-5598.** She

coordinates the calendar and use of facilities for Association programs and for those who wish to reserve a hall for a private party.

RESIDENTS HELPING RESIDENTS

HANDYMAN

Available to help with pet sitting, general maintenance and repairs on your home. This can include a wide range of jobs, such as fixing leaky faucets, assembling furniture and minor electrical work like installing light fixtures **and more.** Handyman and pet sitting references available. Call or text Jeff Polette 206-679-0888.

JERRY'S ERRAND & DELIVERY SERVICES

Helping Palm Gardens residents with fast, friendly service – within 10 miles!

Services Offered:

- Local Errands (Post Office, Pharmacy, etc)
- Delivery Pickups (Prescriptions, Takeout, Packages)
- Grocery Shopping
- Laundry Drop-off & Pick-Up

Easy, Transparent Pricing:

- Local Errand (within 5 miles): \$10 flat fee, 6-10 miles: \$15
- Extra Stops (on same trip): +\$3 per stop
- Grocery Shopping & Delivery: \$15 (list provided)

Call to Schedule: 307-267-6097

KNIFE SHARPENING

Carmen Serio Sp. 260

LENDING CLOSET

Our volunteer-based lending closet allows residents of Palm Gardens to borrow durable equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, canes or other items. If you need something short-term, **contact Dave Sullivan 815-985-2524, Laurie Sullivan 815-621-3413 or Diane Wehr 317-431-4437** for immediate assistance.



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK

You can get current information about events happening in and around the Park by checking out the FACEBOOK COMMUNITY PAGE which connects over 370 residents through this exclusive group.

HOW TO CONNECT:

1. Log into your FB account.
2. Click on the magnifying glass/search at the top of the page and type in "OUR COMMUNITY" and run the search.
3. Look for the banner featuring cactus and a mountain.
4. Click the JOIN button. ANSWER a few questions and you should be accepted within 48 hours.

PALM GARDENS 2026



Saturday, March 14, 2026 South Hall

Food ~ Fun ~ Games ~ Prizes ~ Grand Prizes

Food: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Games: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Baked Goods Silent Auction 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

MENU

Sloppy Joe Sandwich with Chips -\$5 5:00 pm -6:00 pm
Soda, Bottled Water or Ice Cream - \$1 sold all evening

GAMES

Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Fortune Wheel, Bingo, Chuck-a-luck, Horse Racing, and Human Slot Machine \$3 gets you a bag of chips and a DOOR PRIZE ticket.

Door prizes will be drawn throughout the evening,

RAFFLES

\$1 EACH, 6 FOR \$5, 12 FOR \$10, OR 25 FOR \$20
Available: 5:30 - 8:00 pm Drawing held at 8:15 pm

AWESOME PRIZES!!!

(NO NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN THESE RAFFLE PRIZES)

GRAND PRIZES

\$5 EACH Drawing held at 8:30 pm (after the raffle)

(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

First prize = One month base rent Second prize = % month base rent

All proceeds go to the Palm Gardens Activities Association to help fund activities throughout the year.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

FEB 1	GOSPEL JAM	SH	6:00PM
FEB 3	ICE CREAM SOCIAL	SH	5:45PM
FEB 5	BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY	SH	6:00PM
FEB 6	FOOD TRUCK	SH LOT	11AM-2PM
FEB 8	SUPER BOWL PARTY	SH	4:00PM
FEB 10	LUAU PARTY	SH	4:00-7:00PM
FEB 12	JAMMERS	SH	2:00PM
FEB 14	VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER	SH	6-10PM
FEB 15	TRIVIA NIGHT	SH	6:00PM
FEB 17	ICE CREAM SOCIAL	SH	5:45PM
FEB 18	CAR SHOW	NH LOT	10AM-2PM
FEB 20	FOOD TRUCK	SH LOT	11AM-2PM
FEB 22	MOVIE NIGHT	SH	6:00PM
FEB 22	SCOOP THE LOOP	NH LOT	4:00PM
FEB 24	SOCIAL HOUR/POTLUCK	SH	4:15PM
FEB 26	JAMMERS	SH	2:00PM
FEB 27	LADIES LUNCHEON	SH	12:00PM
FEB 28	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	SH	7:00AM

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PALM GARDENS ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE-FEBRUARY 2026

MONDAY

CHAIR EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
ZUMBA	SH	8:15 AM
SHUFFLEBOARD	NH	9:00 AM
BUNCO	NH	9:30 AM
PASS PINOCHLE	NH	1:00 PM
SWEDISH WEAVING	SHCR	1:00 PM
NO PASS PINOCHLE	NH	6:30 PM

TUESDAY

EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
3 MILE WALK PROGRAM	SH	8:15 AM
SEWING/QUILTING	SHCR	9:00 AM
SHUFFLEBOARD	NH	9:00 AM
CORNHOLE	SH	9:30 AM
PASS PINOCHLE	NH	1:00 PM
SWOOP	NH	6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

CHAIR EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
ZUMBA	SH	8:15 AM
POOL	PR	9:00 AM
SHUFFLEBOARD	NH	9:00 AM
DIME POKER	SHPR	NOON
MAHJONG	NH	1:00 PM
GRILL NIGHT	SH	4:00 PM
TEXAS HOLD EM	SHPR	6:00 PM
BINGO	SH	6:00 PM

THURSDAY

RECYCLING PICKUP	PG	6:30 AM
EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
3 MILE WALK PROGRAM	SH	8:15 AM
SEWING	SHCR	9:00 AM
SHUFFLEBOARD	NH	9:00 AM
LINE DANCING	SH	9:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY	NH	10:30 AM
.25 POKER	SHPR	NOON
BRIDGE	NH	1:00 PM
HAND & FOOT	NH	6:30 PM

FRIDAY.

EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
ZUMBA	SH	8:15 AM
MATTER OF BALANCE	NH	8:30 AM (1/16 TO 3/13)
SHUFFLEBOARD	NH	9:00 AM
CORNHOLE	SH	10:00 AM
OMAHA POKER	SH	NOON
EUCHER	NH	1:00 PM
CROCHET	SHCR	1:00 PM
CRIBBAGE	NH	6:00 PM

SATURDAY

COFFEE & ROLLS	SH	7:00 AM
BEANBAG BASEBALL	SH	8:30 AM
POOL/8 BALL	PR	9:00 AM
FIDDLER/JAM PRACTICE	NH	10:00 AM
DOMINO MEXICAN TRAIN	NH	6:00 PM

SUNDAY

DARTS	PR	2:30 PM
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