

Garden Variety

Newsletter of the Palm Gardens Activity Association

April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joe Vitiritto, President

Hello Everyone,

Well, March was a very busy time in the Park. Thank you to Mona Jones for running the Patio Sale. Everyone said they had a lot of people show up and that it was very organized, Next we had Casino Night. Thanks Rick Fowler and all your crew. This is the Association's best money maker. You people really rocked it with all your games and other money makers.

Next came cleanup week and Brats and Hot Dogs. Thank you Floyd and Richard for all you did. Thanks, also, Terry Jaskiw, Jerry Lund and Denny Spieker for fixing all the hot dogs and brats. Thanks to all the helpers - you rocked.

Thanks to Linda and Jim Kuchenmeister and your crew for making St, Patty's such a big success.

Last, but not least, thanks Pat Serio and all the Board Members for making the Farewell Dinner a huge success.

Thank you Nelson and Christina for all the financial support that helps make this Park such a great place to live and enjoy all the activities.

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 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:

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jvitiritto@jkwinc.com

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gnoel31652@aol.com

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Believe.sulli@gmail.com

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tpwhittravel@yahoo.com

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480-353-8166

Woody Borg, Sp 620
320-405-8434

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
Jimmy Stewart
Carl Wilkinson
Steve White

Former residents:
Vernee Bierle

"True friends are the ones who never leave your heart, even if they leave your life for a while."

Meet Your New Sales Team at Palm Gardens Mobile Home Community



Hello Palm Gardens residents, My name is **Nelson Alvarado**, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new **Sales Coordinator** for our community. I'll be here to help you find the perfect new home, answer questions, and make

the buying process smooth and enjoyable.

We're also **reopening our brokerage**, which means we can now assist residents who are interested in **selling their homes**. Whether you're buying, selling, or simply exploring your options, I'm here to support you every step of the way.



A Little About Me

- Originally from Illinois
- Served 4 years in the **United States Marine Corps**
- Moved to Mesa after completing my service
- Proudly working in the **55+ housing industry since 2013**

I look forward to meeting everyone and becoming part of the Palm Gardens community. Please feel free to reach out anytime.



Contact Information

- **Office:** 480-687-2494 ext. 105
- **Cell:** 480-200-7761
- **Email:** sales@palmgardensonline.com

PALM GARDENS ACTIVITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

The Annual Board Meeting will be held the first Saturday of April. The Board will pay for the donuts and coffee.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Apr 14th at 11:00am in the South Hall. Everyone is welcome.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Charland, Debra, sp 15,
ph:480-510-1424

Davenport, Kelvin/Rachelle, sp
250, 807-934-6663 (K), 807-
938-7153 (R)

Salo, Lynn, sp 607, ph 763-
482-0942

Butler, Steve, sp 618, ph 480-
584-2077

Hartle, John/JoAnn, sp 687, ph
509-860-3273 (J), 360-929-
8817 (JoA)

THANK YOU

To our Palm Gardens Family: Thank you for your generous outpouring of support and love this last month. On Feb 9th our trailer burned down. It has been overwhelming to process, attend to paperwork details and rebuild our lives here. However, we have so much to be thankful for. Above all, we are grateful that the Lord protected us and kept us safe. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement. So many of you have been the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing us meals, clothes and household items. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the very generous donation of money from Palm Gardens. We were blessed by your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your prayers, which continue to sustain us through this difficult time. The Bible verse that we are clinging to is: "He will bestow on them the crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair: Isaiah 61:3. May God bless you and your family, as you have blessed us during our time of need. Pat & Del Just

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



Hallelujah! He is Risen! Come join us on Easter Sunday, April 5th for our Easter Sunrise Service. 7:00am at the South Hall. For questions, see Rita DeMars, sp 143, 406-431-6237.

GOSPEL JAM



ONE MORE TIME

While we still have some players, we'll try to squeeze in one more Gospel Jam before the Summer. In fact, it comes on Easter Night which makes it even more appropriate. So, finish off your Easter celebration with some good old Gospel Music in the South Hall at 6.

FOOD TRUCK



The **final food truck of this season** will be here on Friday, April 3. **360 Kitchen** will be at the South Hall from 11-2pm.

LADIES LUNCHEON 2027



Ladies — it's time to dust off your cowgirl boots and hats!

The theme for the 2027 Ladies Luncheon will be "A Little Bit Country!" (Date and time to be announced.)

Seasonal residents, please remember to bring your best country-western outfit with you when you return in the fall. Year-round residents — now is the perfect time to start planning your look!

There will be prizes awarded for the best country outfit, so get creative and join us for a fun and festive gathering. We look forward to celebrating together!



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.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



The next Ice Cream Socials will be Tuesday, April 7th and April 21st at 5:45pm in the South Hall.

BINGO!!



We gave away some big money again last month! Not to worry — the hot ball starts at \$100 and continues to climb. Come play and see if you can win! We play on Wednesdays at the South Hall. Sales begin at 6:00pm. The last day of play for the season is April 8th. We will start back up on Wed, Nov 4th.

GRILL NIGHT WEDNESDAY'S at 4PM



Grill Night will continue into April with juicy burgers served the first three Wednesdays of the month (April 1, 8, & 15) with Brats and Hot Dogs being served on the fourth Wednesday, April 22nd. We will be serving from 4-4:45 on each of these days. You will need to sign up for brats & hot dogs. Signup sheet will be posted starting April 15. This is so we can prepare the correct

number of brats and hot dogs. See you there! Note: There will be no Grill Night on April 29th.

IT'S TIME FOR PANCAKES



Come join us on April 25th for the last 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

A Tibetan monk sees the face of Jesus in a tub of margarine. He raises his eyes to the heavens and exclaims, "I can't believe it's not Buddha!" (I heard that groan!)

MOVIE NIGHT



Movie Night is Sunday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in South Hall. We're showing LaLa Land, a 2016 musical romantic comedy drama. This film stars Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling as an aspiring actress and struggling jazz musician who fall in love while pursuing their dreams in L.A. They almost but don't quite get it all. This must be a great film for 3 reasons: Rotten Tomatoes rates it 91%, it won 6 academy awards and it's one of the very few musicals Stan hasn't fallen asleep at 5 minutes into the film. But fair

warning on our part, it's a tearjerker. Popcorn and other snacks will be served. BYO drinks and kleenex. Contact Stan Schraufnagel at 715.821.0436 with movie suggestions.

SUMMER BINGO IS COMING SOON!



Hello, my fellow Palm Gardens neighbors, this is Sandy, your summer Bingo lady. I can't believe how fast this season has gone. We will have summer Bingo coming shortly. I'm reaching out to everyone, especially our neighbors who will be leaving to go home for the summer. Our summer bingo relies heavily on the donations we receive. I'm asking you to take a look around and see what you may have that you can donate. You can drop it off at #89 or call me, and I will pick it up. Thank you, Sandy. 480-835-1338

Ronald McDonald House – Banner Children's Hospital Center

We truly appreciate the effort everyone puts into collecting can tabs. Many of you even have friends and family collecting tabs at home and bring them back with you in the fall.

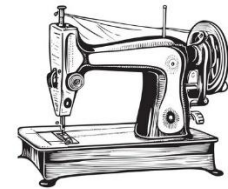
If you've ever wondered what they're used for, the proceeds from recycling the tabs help provide a place for families to stay while their child is in the Critical Care Unit. Ronald McDonald House also receives

bonus funds when bulk tabs are delivered from their center. We delivered **75 pounds in December**, and we are already at **63 pounds** toward our next delivery.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute and support this effort.

Doug Greenway

SEWING GROUP



The Sewing Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the South Hall Craft Room from 9 AM to noon. Stop by to help us with a project or bring your own project - we even have sewing machines you can use! Contact Mary-Alice Muraski 715-222-6841 Lot 163.

2ND ANNUAL PALM GARDENS PICNIC



The 2nd Annual Palm Gardens Picnic will be on Friday, April 24th at 11:30am. We will be having a picnic at a new park: PCourtside Park at 3130 E Southern.

GOLF LEAGUE



The gold league awards banquet was held Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Rudy's Country Store - B-B-Q. The Simonson cup trophy for men was presented to Bill Amen. The Simonson cup trophy for ladies was available for Rachelle Davenport, however she did not attend the banquet. Carol Theisen was presented with a hole-in-one trophy for her ace at Little Oasis GC. The putting contest was held prior to the Dinty More tournament with the winner, Colin McDonald, receiving \$25 for the least putts and John Hartle receiving \$6 for putting a ball closest to a given target.

At the banquet, we held a putting contest with Colin McDonald winning \$30 for sinking three putts. Drawings were held for door prizes and gift cards. Officers were elected for the next season with Bob Gruchalla, President; Colin McDonald, Vice-President; Judy Mathias, Secretary and Roger McCombs, Treasurer. Tim Dunlop will be the golfing coordinator for Little Oasis GC which is Wednesday golf. Bob Gruchalla will be the coordinator for Greenfield Lakes GC, which is Monday golf. Bob Gruchalla, Lot #451, 503-559-6925

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.

THE LAST WINTER SOCIAL HOUR



Get your friends and neighbors together for fun and casual conversation at the last winter **Social Hour and Potluck at the South Hall Apr 14th**. 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.

SUMMER SOCIAL HOUR



Please join us on Thursday, Apr 30th at 4:15 for some socializing in the cool South Hall. We will start serving at 5:00. Bring a dish to share. Place settings will be provided. BYOB, Main dishes, desserts, soups, veggie dishes and salads are always welcome. Cindy & Jerry Lund will be your hosts, lot 66 if you have questions. The next Potluck/Social Hour will be May 28th. See you there.

TRIVIA NIGHT



Trivia folks just don't want to quit. As we put another year in the books, we've seen new teams and new winners and some interesting questions (not to mention interesting pictures). So, by popular demand, we'll give it one more shot on April 12th. The usual rules apply so watch for the sign-up sheet on the South Hall bulletin board and gear up for the 25-26 finale.

SCOOP THE LOOP



We'll be having our next Scoop the Loop on Sunday Apr 26th. Meet up in your golf cart, bike or whatever at 4:00pm at the North Hall.

I CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR NAME

HELLO
my name is

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 Jerry Noel, Sp. 477, 307-267-6097**. He 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

KNIFE/SCISSOR/YARD TOOL SHARPENING

Carmen Serio Sp. 260

YARDWORK

Yard care by Debbie Morris lot 453, call 205-520-0538

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

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

APR 3	FOOD TRUCK	SH LOT	11AM-2PM
APR 4	ANNUAL ASSN MTG	SH	8AM
APR 5	EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE	SH	7AM
APR 5	EASTER POTLUCK	SH	1PM
APR 5	GOSPEL JAM	SH	6PM
APR 7	ICE CREAM SOCIAL	SH	5:45PM
APR 8	LAST BINGO		
	FOR WINTER SEASON	SH	6:45PM
APR 12	LAST TRIVIA NIGHT	SH	6PM
APR 14	BOARD MEETING	SH	11AM
APR 14	LAST SOCIAL HOUR		
	FOR WINTER SEASON	SH	4:15PM
APR 15	GRILL N CHILL	SH	4PM
APR 17	FOOD TRUCK	SH LOT	11AM-2PM
APR 19	MOVIE NIGHT	SH	6:30PM
APR 21	ICE CREAM SOCIAL	SH	5:45PM
APR 22	GRILL N CHILL	SH	4PM
APR 24	PICNIC AT FALCON FIELD		11:30AM-2PM
APR 26	LAST PANCAKES		
	FOR WINTER SEASON	SH	7AM
APR 26	SCOOP THE LOOP	NH LOT	4PM
APR 30	SUMMER SOCIAL HOUR	SH	4:15PM

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PALM GARDENS ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE-APRIL 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
BIBLE STUDY	NH	10:30 AM (last one on 4/2)
.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
SHUFFLEBOARD	NH	9:00 AM
CORNHOLE	SH	10:00 AM
OMAHA POKER	SH	NOON
EUCHER	NH	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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