Garden Variety

Newsletter of the Palm Gardens Activity Association

August 2026

Vice President's Message

Hello friends!
It's another hot summer! Please, everyone, take care of yourselves by using sunscreen, wearing wide-brimmed hats, and drinking plenty of water.
I hope everyone is enjoying our summer activities. A special thank you to all those involved in renovating the South Hall! It looks great and will work much better for us.
Thank you to Ed and family for a great 4th of July luncheon. It made our holiday special.
And as always, thank you to all of the volunteers who make all of our activities successful.
Everyone, enjoy the rest of the summer!
Jerry

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 2026-27

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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
Larry Felkins
Stan Schraufnagel
Janis St Marie
Dave Sharp
Kenneth Kirby
Bernard Papon

Losing a friend, whether through death, distance, or conflict, is a deeply emotional experience, and acknowledging your grief is the first step toward healing.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Our yummy Ice Cream Social will be held on Tuesday, Aug 4th and Aug 18th at 5:45pm in the South Hall. All you can eat for $2.00. What a deal!!

THREE-MILE WALK

Our 3-mile walk class will be on Mon/Wed/Fri at 8:15am beginning on May 4th at the South Hall. For questions, see Mona Jones 480-265-5277 or sp 690.

SUMMER GRILL & CHILL WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5TH at 4PM

Join us on August 5th for burgers. Sign up will be posted at the South Hall board until August 4th end of day. Service is from 4pm-5pm. $5.00 meal includes: meat, chips & desert, drinks are $1.00. Contact Cindy Lund, sp 66, 602-703-8609 with any questions.

SPECIAL JUKE BOX DINER MEAL

On August 19th instead of a regular grill night, we will be having a chicken & noodle Jazz club style meal for $7.00. It will include: salad, garlic toast & ice cream.

You will need to pre-purchase tickets for this meal at grill night on the 5th or Saturday coffee (August 1st, 8th or 15th) or by calling Terry Jaskiw, lot 130, 619-484-8329.

SUMMER BINGO IS HERE!

We are back with new equipment and ready to start the games Tuesdays, Aug 11th and 25th at 6pm. We have lots of prizes and fun. Bring a snack and join us!

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 $2.00 for a donut. Sign up weekly at the South Hall bulletin board.

SHOW ME THE MONEY

We will be playing Show Me The Money on Sunday, Aug 16th, in the North Hall at 4:00pm. Bring $5.00 in quarters and your own drink.

Nomophobia, the fear of being without your phone, may be the "phobia of the 21st century"! About 19.2 million Americans suffer from phobias, including **omphalophobia**, "an intense fear of the belly button"!

GARDEN VARIETY DELIVERY

If you would like to be added to the "delivery" list, call Marianne Borg, 320-405-7815 or Penny Shank, 215-620-7113 for information.

DART "HAT TRICK"

One of the primary goals of a recreational Dart player is that all 3 darts thrown in a turn land in the 1.25" diameter bullseye in the center of the board. Since Darts were started up again in Palm Gardens in 2024, no one has achieved this "Hat Trick" until Sunday July 5th when Anita Maerker (above photos) accomplished this feat!! A very conservative estimate is there have been 4-5000 attempts during this time period. CONGRATULATIONS Anita. Check out the South Hall Pool room on Sundays at 2:30pm. All are welcome. Any questions, call or text Ed Palmreuter (Lot74) at 602-320-6486.

MUSIC BINGO

We will be having Music Bingo in the South Hall on Monday August 17th at 6pm. Bring a treat to share and your own drink. Enjoy the music, fun and cash prizes. We even sing-a-long!! For more information, contact Pat Baker, sp 146, 208-569-7805.

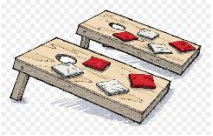
SUMMER SOCIAL HOUR/POTLUCK AUGUST 27TH

Gather with your summer friends and neighbors on Thursday, August 27th at the South Hall for the Social/Potluck. Social hour starts at 4:15pm and Potluck is served at 5:00pm.

Bring a dish to share. IDEAS: salads, appetizers, entrees, casseroles, crockpot dishes…and desserts.

Place settings are provided but bring your own drinks. Contact Cindy Lund, lot 66, 602-703-8609. The final summer Social Hour/Potluck will be Sept 24th.

SUMMER CORNHOLE



Summer cornhole is here for you. When? Every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30am. Come on out and have lots of fun with your neighbors and friends!

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.

TRASH CAN PLACEMENT

The City of Mesa provides the following rules for placement of your trash can:

- Place barrel on the asphalt on the service side of the street. Do ***not*** place it on the concrete curb or sidewalk.
- Leave **3 feet** of clearance between barrels and other obstacles such as lawn ornaments.
- Do ***not*** approach truck or barrels during

service. Do not attempt to pass the truck.
- No street parking on service days (Friday, in this Park).

RESIDENTS HELPING RESIDENTS

KNIFE/SCISSOR/YARD TOOL SHARPENING

Carmen Serio Sp. 260

YARDWORK

Yard care by Debbie Morris lot 453, call 208-520-0538

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.

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:

August 4	Ice Cream Social	SH	5:45pm
August 5	Summer Grill Night Burgers	SH	4:00pm
August 9	Summer Trivia	SH	6:00pm
August 11	Bingo	SH	6:00pm
August 16	Show Me The Money	SH	4:00pm
August 17	Music Bingo	SH	6:00pm
August 18	Ice Cream Social	SH	5:45pm
August 19	Juke Box Diner meal	SH	4:00pm (tickets required)
August 23	Summer Trivia	SH	6:00pm
August 25	Bingo	SH	6:00pm
August 27	Social Hour/Potluck	SH	4:15pm

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From Pat Mettee - #131

A few weeks ago we were saddened to hear of the death of Lila Thompson, a longtime resident of Palm Gardens. Lila was a remarkable lady who would have celebrated her 106th birthday this coming December. She was a dear friend to many and had many remarkable memories and stories of her long stay here at PG.
She baked a mean peanut butter pie, hopped in our pickup truck like a young teenager, and was never short on conversation! We miss you, sweet lady!

From Marilyn Zeller - #157

Jim and I moved here in 2007. I became acquainted with Lila pretty quickly, and we became good friends. I would see her at least once a week.
She would tell me so many stories about Palm Gardens, how she and her husband were among the first couples to live here, even before it was owned by the Stewarts. They were very active in the social life of the park, and I'm sure Lila was the life of the party.
She would also tell me about her past. One of her favorite stories was about the time she sat on a keg of dynamite on George Washington's head during the carving of Mt. Rushmore.
She was an active outdoorswoman. Hunting and fishing. When she lived in the Dakotas, vacationers would come to her door asking for fishing tips and where to go. Would she go with them?
She wouldn't talk about WWI, as her brother was killed almost immediately after being deployed. It was her task to tell her mother.
Lila had a quick wit, she never gossiped, and had many, many friends in the park. She was especially fond of John and Karen Fairchild. They were good friends and neighbors to her, looking after her daily needs and uplifting her with song.
She also enjoyed the singing group that came to visit her in her later years. She knew the words to every song they sang.
I miss her a lot, and it's hard to see that empty lot where we shared a good talk and a cup of tea or coffee. Love you, Lila.

PALM GARDENS ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE-AUGUST 2026

MONDAY		
CHAIR EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
3-MILE WALK	SH	8:15 AM
BUNCO	NH	9:30 AM
SWEDISH WEAVING	SHCR	1:00 PM
PASS PINOCHLE	NH	1:00 PM
TUESDAY		
EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
SEWING	SHCR	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
3-MILE WALK	SH	8:15 AM
POOL	PR	9:00 AM
MAHJONG	NH	1:00 PM
TEXAS HOLD EM	SHPR	6:00 PM
THURSDAY		
RECYCLING PICKUP	PG	6:30 AM
EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
SEWING	SHCR	9:00 AM
BRIDGE	NH	1:00 PM
HAND & FOOT	NH	6:30 PM
FRIDAY.		
CHAIR EXERCISE	SH	7:30 AM
3-MILE WALK	SH	8:15 AM
CORNHOLE	SH	9:30 AM
OMAHA POKER	SH	NOON
EUCHRE	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
DOMINO MEXICAN TRAIN	NH	6:00 PM