

THE *Magnolia* NEWS

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE RESIDENTS OF MAGNOLIA POINT

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2023



FOREWORD

Happy October...which is code for “*Here Comes Halloween!*” Christmas may be for kids, but Halloween brings **out** the kid in us. Especially when we’re behind the wheel of a golf cart, as you’ll see.

With this issue we introduce our **Op-Ed** page, shorthand for ‘Opinion-Editorial’ with which we will try to bring important community subjects into sharper focus, and we invite participation. In addition, you’ll find a link at the bottom of the page which will enable you to comment on the topic online. It’s a big step, a departure for us, and we deliberated long and hard and enlisted the advice of many of your respected neighbors. If **Op-Ed** is *not* a regular feature, it won’t break our hearts: we do not want this to descend into a monthly gripe-fest of carping and bluster. But it’s here this month because it’s an important topic, we think. **Page 4.**

‘Up-limbing’ is a **thing!** Leave it to Cindy Francisco to keep us current in ‘Landscaping Newspeak’. 3 Committee Chairs offer their reports on **pages 5-7.**



Quilter Extraordinaire Helen DiGuardia’s efforts in support of Fostering Care are profiled in **Our Page** on **page 9.**

“Grip Strength” is the subject of **Playing Through**, the kind of topic that best expresses the ‘mobility issues’ we bring forth each month, on **pages 11-12.**

MPWC Update includes profiles of two more past presidents, and news about the club’s exciting programs and charitable activities. **Pages 14-15.**

“Faces” this month profiles Norma and Joe Chao, and Annie, on **page 16.**

With regrets we note the passing of neighborhood legend, Grady Law on **page 18.** A colorful and well-respected neighbor, everyone has a ‘Grady Story’ they’d like to tell. In his remembrance, Bob Page tells several, eloquently.

This issue marks the premier of our new **Cart Trend** feature, which will spotlight local golf carts with unique designs in the categories ‘Classic’, ‘Custom’ and ‘Pro



Stock’. Got one? We want to write about it! **Pages 20-22, ‘Cart-Toon’ included.**



After begging her for a year, Susan Mitchell has agreed to contribute a monthly column on the new chapter that is her’s and Jenn’s lives! **Taking Charge** premiers on **page 23.**

Inside flows out, back in, at the Abbate home, this month’s ‘OutSide’, **pages 24-25.**

Fix-it-Friday is back, the popular monthly ‘Master Class in Minor Repairs’, at the home of Jenn and Perry Moore, 1880 Colonial Drive. **Page 26.**



As promised, ‘Weeds’ is the second installment of **Pond Views**, on **pages 28-30.**

Sadly, the **18-Hole League Report** is no more, due to dwindling membership. We miss already Ann Burden’s stellar accounts of each month’s play. We’ve assured her that her photographs of golfers, the course, whatever she likes, are welcome in The Magnolia going forward.

We’re still happy to have the companion **9-Hole League** report, **page 33.**

THE MAGNOLIA NEWS

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THE PHOTOGRAPHER-IN-RESIDENCE

Becky Hinson

THE COPY EDITORS

Ann Sims • Becky Hinson • Susan Mitchell

Cover: Becky Hinson





I have been the Association President for 6+ months and I truly had no idea how much work is involved and how much time would be required. Thank goodness I am retired and have 30+ years of varied business experience. The wonderful part of the job is the face-to-face



Anne, Jon (aka pop-pop), & our two grandsons Finley & Rory enjoying life.

conversations and experiences with residents indicating they are very happy living here in this beautiful well-maintained community and this is their forever home. That makes me proud to be part of something special. However, I was not prepared for the vocal minority of keyboard cowboys that spread angst and create a negative environment where residents are afraid to be criticized if they get involved or want to volunteer. This is not a new phenomenon and the resignations of many good board and committee members over the last four or five years says it all. As Queen Elizabeth II once said "It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult".

In September, the board voted to open Medinah Gate to visitors. Our expectation is that the Medinah Gate will have the same security capabilities as the front gate. A new visitor kiosk and entrance and exit cameras will be installed. Based on vendor estimates, it will likely be early 2024 (after the holidays) before everything is in place. A few of the operations issues are yet to be resolved and we will be surveying residents for their input. Access Control recommends we

provide 24x7 guarding (either from front gatehouse or remote center) where guards make sure the visitor is registered in TEKWave and is expected by residents and show their driver's license. This would make both community gates virtually equivalent.

A Flock Camera is being installed at Medinah Gate entrance in the next few months. A Flock camera was installed at the front gate in 2022. Flock cameras take pictures of vehicles and their license plates. That information is immediately sent to local, state and federal agencies to determine if that vehicle was involved in crime activity. Law enforcement highly recommends their use to help them track down criminals. Additionally, this camera will assist the GCS police when responding to vehicles causing gate damage. This will improve community safety.

The GCS Police had a Meet & Greet event at the Magnolia Point clubhouse on September 11 and as usual it was very informative. Acting police chief Shawn Hines and his community relations officer Josh Lee provided information about the police force improvements, community crime statistics, and answered resident's questions. The good news is they emphasized that our community is very safe and has very low crime. They also addressed the Florida House Bill 949 which changes golf cart drivers' requirements: 1) if 18 (+) years old the driver must carry photographic identification; 2) if less than 18 they must possess valid driver's license or learner's permit. Starting October 1st they will enforce this law in the City including inside the Magnolia Point gates.

Many residents have experienced problems with TEKWave. The CAMs assistant, while entering a new resident's information into the system, made a keying error, unfortunately it corrupted the entire database and moved everyone's lists around – many to either inactive or to the wrong category. They worked with TEKWave in an attempt to rectify the problem but were unable to restore the database to an earlier state. That being said, call Eddie Pustynovich (CAM's assistant) 904-940-1002 and he will glad to assist you, or you can fix it yourselves whichever works best for you.

JON BASTRESS



HEAVY OUR HEADS

(NOTE: As we are all the Association, the editorial 'we' is used throughout.)

From the exhaustive Strategic Planning Committee Report of last year, the thoughts that come to residents' minds when asked to describe life behind our gates are: 'peaceful', 'quiet', 'home', 'beautiful', 'safe & secure', 'friendly & relaxing'. For three of us, though, it has been a nightmare of sleepless nights, self-doubt, personal humiliation, and private pain. Families, too, have been drawn into the anguish, powerless to help, innocents. For two of these residents, the time and energies that had

fueled volunteer activities are now frittered away, unspent. And for one, soldiering on in spite of public rebuke, it's tough to get up in the morning and answer the volunteer's call.

We removed one resident from the Members Forum for violating 'policy' with no right to appeal, permanently. The cause of the ban is not to be litigated here; that was the

purpose of the appeal. But suffice to say the Forum's own rules were *misapplied*. This resident was known to regular visitors to the Forum, with input voluminous, and while controversial at times, well-researched. It was clear this neighbor enjoyed the efforts of community discourse, a pleasure and purpose now denied for violating Forum policy. Some miss the color and turn-of-phrase, but most the depth and logic it added to all debates. As one Board member who recently made a motion to reverse the decision, to consider it with an eye towards 'grace' noted, 'Even murderers can get a second chance'.

Another member of the community and former Board member is known for donating tens of thousands of dollars worth of personal labor and materials to

residents here. We removed this neighbor's post from the Members' Forum without warning, due to use of the word 'sell'. The gauntlet the resident ran following that was well-documented on social media, and the posts were not the community's finest moments. These events have left some nerves in the community frazzled, and has

caused many to question why they serve here.

Finally, in a development affecting a holiday project with community-wide impact, we slandered a neighbor also known for volunteering time and effort *in absentia*, for behavior said to have taken place a year earlier. Note that all parties named as 'offended' by the behavior deny this happened, and have protested the claim. This resident and spouse could not endure the injury, and quit the project, and as leaders, effectively terminated it. When we confronted this resident, we insisted the wording of the original message was not the intent, and blamed *another* resident. We have not apologized as of this writing, though many demand it.

'Policy' and 'rules' have guided the actions here. Yes, *all* volunteers here are hard-working, and *all* are committed to the success of Magnolia Point. We think *all* see it as a place of 'peace', 'quiet', home, a place that's 'friendly & relaxing'. We accept that some of us can misjudge 'the optics', can be indelicate and even plodding at times. We are even willing to forgive some for this. Let's hope they, that is, *we* want it.

We must more carefully weigh the potential impact of decisions directly affecting individuals, and exhaust every means of minimizing the impact on a member's life. We should consider more carefully the importance of an individual life vs. 'policy' when distinctions may not be black-and-white. We should apply with a fair hand only those policies in public view and have them available for review by any other resident who requests it. We say, "If the way to enforce is in doubt, let's wait until we figure it out."

Our neighborhood, while always bright and generally vibrant, looks to many to be fraying a bit around the edges. Committee Chairs are a vanishing breed, volunteers for committees are dwindling. Even the 18 Hole Ladies League has stopped reporting here. Our population of those willing to step up is never big enough to sustain such losses for very long.

EDITOR

"Heavy is the head that wears the crown" - Henry IV

[CLICK HERE TO COMMENT ONLINE](#)



ACCESS CONTROL

(Update to the September report.)

As many of you know there has been an issue regarding the visitor/guest lists in the TEKWave VMS software. While entering a new resident's information into the system, the CAM (May Management) made a mistake which unfortunately corrupted the entire database. This error caused many resident's lists to be moved, either to inactive or to a wrong category. And apparently TEKWave does not have a backup



that we could restore from and rectify the problem. So please check your guest/visitor lists and see if they need to be adjusted. The CAM has offered to assist you with fixing your lists if you would like them to, or you can fix it yourselves if that is easier. They sincerely apologize for the error and confusion and we are taking steps to see that this doesn't occur again.

At their September meeting the Board approved funds for opening the back (Medinah) gate to non-resident traffic as well as replacing the cameras and adding a Flock camera at the gate. As traffic to/from our community increases through that gate, opening it to visitor, contractor, and Club traffic is seen as a requirement by many in the neighborhood. We are proceeding with acquiring the necessary materials but implementing this proposal will probably won't be completed until early 2024. As a review from last

month's report, in order to open the gate to nonresidents in a secure manner, we will need to do the following.

1. Install a kiosk in the median (visitor lane) that can do any of the following: scan drivers' licenses, scan VMS QR codes, interact with Tekwave VMS, call resident's registered telephone number (resident can open gate via phone), or contact a remote guard.

Note: when a visitor or contractor is granted admittance by a resident via their phone, this bypasses all security screenings (e.g., no driver's license required and no TEKWave record or security screening will take place). Therefore, it is Access Control's recommendation that we do not use the resident admittance option and all non-residents must contact a remote guard (either at the gatehouse or off-premises).

2. If the remote guard option is chosen the kiosk can connect visitors to a guard either at the front gatehouse or off premise. Note: It is likely the front gate guard can monitor both gates between 11pm and 7am without additional guards and costs due to the low volume of traffic during that time.

A couple of options for remote guarding include:

a. First option - During the busiest gate hours (7am-3pm), add a second guard to the front gatehouse, 7 days a week, 8 hours/day. During non-busy hours (3pm-11pm) use an off-premises guard, 7 days a week, 8 hours/day. This option would cost approximately \$80K per year.

b. Second option - Use off premise guard 7 days a week, 16 hours/day. This option would cost approximately \$30K per year.

3. Replace the outdated cameras and network video recorder (NVR).

These new cameras will be used to identify visitors, their vehicles and license plates as required. Also included is pulling down our current enclosure where the NVR is located, replacing it with an air-conditioned unit, and rewiring everything inside.



Continued



COMMITTEE BLAST • II

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4. Replace/Update Medinah gate signage to provide instructions for visitor traffic as well as remove visitor lane bollards.

5. Update damaged electronic controller box at gate (shown right).

6. We will be also adding new Flock camera system (similar to the one at the front gate shown) to the back entrance. This camera will be installed late this year so it will be the first addition to the Medinah gate. As a reminder this system is a camera that can read a license plate and would notify local law enforcement of suspicious vehicles. This would



a

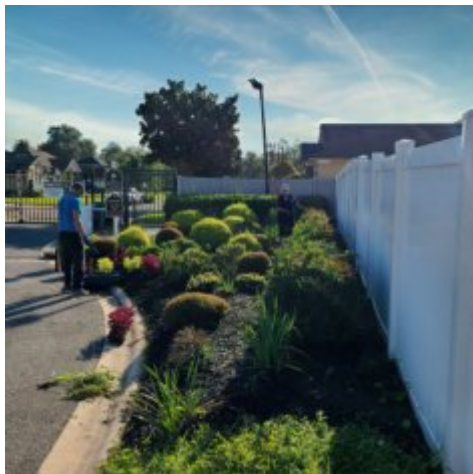
simplify the process of identifying those who hit the gate arms and increase our ability to get reimbursed for the damages.

7. We have been trying to get the streetlight at the corner of Baltusrol and Colonial operational for several months now. Well, it is now finally working. Green Cove Springs (GCS) restored power to the transformer which feeds this street light. And our contractor (T&M Electric) found another break in the powerline from the transformer to the streetlight and repaired the break, so we have this street light working again.



- PAUL WERRING

LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION



We're beginning to see seasonal changes as we go into fall. The two best times of year to plant in our hardiness zone (9a) are Spring and Fall. Early Fall is a good time to plant/

repair/replace sod, plant/transplant shrubs, plant bulbs and establish a cool weather vegetable garden. Suggestions for flowering bulbs are caladiums, callas, lilies, agapanthus and amaryllis. Now is also a good time to plant cool weather vegetables such as broccoli, brussel sprouts, spinach, carrots, onions and herbs including dill, fennel, oregano and sage.

The L & I Committee has been busy planning and prioritizing Landscape and Irrigation projects in

preparation for the FY 2024 budget year as well as working on current projects.

Tree trimming of the overhanging tree limbs on the community roads has been completed. Next up is the assessment and probable removal of the three trees in front of the Magnolia Point Blvd entrance sign at Harbor Rd. One of the two major limbs of one of the trees is dead and the other two trees are in declining health. The Committee is planning on planting three trees in the community to replace them. The MPCA Board approved funds for the assessment and possible removal at its September meeting and we currently have one estimate for this project and have requested more.

In addition, some of the trees in the Magnolia Point Blvd area are showing signs of health issues. Our plan is to have an ISA certified arborist assess the condition of these trees well. We are moving forward on the other items on the list of projects that the MPCA Board approved at its August and September meetings.

The bulk mulching of the hedgerows at the Magnolia Point Blvd entrance has been completed. The bedding plants have been installed at the Magnolia Point Blvd entrance, the gatehouse, the sign at the "T" intersection, and the beds at the Medinah gate. Up next are the sodding projects and the bed clean-out

Continued



COMMITTEE BLAST • III

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REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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and renovations at the Harbor Rd. entrance sign and the lawn area adjacent to Harbor Rd.

The Committee is seeking bids on additional projects including:

- 1) up-limbing of the ten Magnolias along the hedgerows at the Magnolia Point Blvd. entrance to improve aesthetics as well as the airflow and sun exposure to the shrubs.
- 2) power-washing and staining the fence along the cart path on the entrance side of Magnolia Point Blvd.
- 3) power-washing the fence along the road outside the Medinah gate entrance.

Irrigation: we are scheduled to meet with the commercial irrigation company to discuss the best and most cost efficient ways to add new irrigation zones on the entrance side Magnolia Point Blvd. near the gatehouse.

The Committee has started its fall planting projects. Transplanting of two of the three crape myrtles which are the wrong color near the sign at the T intersection is planned for October. We have started removing the agapanthus beds at the Magnolia Point Blvd entrance. The bulbs will be separated, cleaned up and replanted either at the sign or in another appropriate place in the community.

Other projects the committee has started working on are:

- 1) A major design and planting renovation at the front entrance sign on Harbor Road.
- 2) Renovation and planting of the community beds in front of Exit Realty once the irrigation is installed.

These projects will continue into next year until completed along with the following Projects that we are planning for next year:

- 1) doing a test project vinyl wrap of the large utility box at the intersection of Constancia and Magnolia Point Blvd. with a vinyl wrap of either plant leaves or a wildlife scene for community comments and evaluation
- 2) installing park benches on community property at the front entrance area and possibly throughout the Magnolia Point neighborhood.
- 3) adding trees throughout the community
- 4) the Medinah gate beautification project

We invite our fellow community members to help with finding homes with gardens that the community feels deserve recognition in its Yard-of-the Quarter Award. The next award will be for the fourth quarter of 2023-October through December. Please contact Cindy Francisco at pltluvr44@aol.com with your yard suggestions.

We would also like to invite our fellow Magnolia Point community members to join the committee and help us move forward on our various renovation and beautification projects. Please contact Cindy Francisco at pltluvr44@aol.com or any L & I Committee member listed on the MPCA website under committees.

Other community news- every 4th Monday of the month at 11:30 am, to 12:30 pm, the Clay County UF-IFAS extension provides a Free Horticulture Advice Series for Clay County residents at the extension facility adjacent to the fairgrounds on route 16. The program for October 23th is How to Care for Gardening Tools and Prepare for Winter.

- CINDY FRANCISCO

COVENANTS REVIEW & CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

Formation of this new Committee was approved at the September Board Meeting. If you go to the Governing Documents page of the MPCA website and open up the Governing Documents link, you will see a section titled "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Easements and Restrictions". In that section is a [table](#) that lists 16 documents that were created for the 16 phases of buildout of the Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club development. As homeowners in Magnolia Point, we have all agreed to abide by these Declarations. Our Committee's task is to review these documents and determine if and how these 16 documents can be consolidated into one Declaration document. Our Committee currently has 6 members. We could definitely use additional help. If you would like more information, please contact me: 904-635-2990 or alleneastman32043@gmail.com

- ALLEN EASTMAN



(LANDSCAPE BREAK)

PHOTOS BY MEMBERS OF THE LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE



UPPER LEFT: *DAYLILY*
BARB COKER

ABOVE: *DAYLILY*
BARB COKER

LEFT: *CALLA LILY*
CINDY FRANCISCO



OUR STORIES, OUR OWN OUR PAGE

- HELEN DIGUARDIA

Reflecting on my life in one of those "Ah ha" moments, I got to thinking about what I really love, family and country first, followed by my love of stitching and quilting. Having lived in other parts of the country where quilting was a "fun hobby", here in Florida it's big business! I have enlarged my circle of friends greatly by the wonderful women stitchers I have met along the way. We gather as groups and travel on quilting retreats. But those quilts, what do you do with them all?? Our family members have their share of treasured quilts and table runners, like the overflow of produce in the summertime, when your neighbors close their door because they just can't eat any more zucchini, those quilts begin to have the same result.



Along the way I met Janet Wells of **Fostering Hope**, a ministry of Fruit Cove Baptist Church. I came to know Janet as someone who spends her days doing for others. She is not only a quilter, but has a heart that lies with

those foster children who did not ask to be in the situations they are in. So how to make their lives better you ask?? We decided to quilt. Things come in 3's as they say, and we are now a core group, myself, Janet and Robyn who has added her long arm quilting machine expertise to our "production line". But there are countless women, many who we do not know. They drop their donation bags of fabric and thread and are gone. Yet their efforts live on for these children.

The ages we stitch for ranges from newborn to about 15 years old. Fabric accepted is 100% cotton fabric, all colors, solids and patterns are just fine. We come up with the patterns as per fabric we have. These quilts have created a sense of security for these foster children, something that belongs to them. Janet Wells says, "When the kids come to foster care, they usually come with nothing. When offered a chance to choose something to take with them to their new foster home, a quilt or snuggly blanket is high on the list. These "lovies" remind the kids that someone, somewhere does care and that reminder goes with them to their foster home, maybe back to their bio home or maybe on to an adoptive home."

This quilt in the photo above is one of many heading to **Fostering Hope**, is made of floral fabric donated as scraps from our friend April, the white background in an anonymous bag, the purple binding traveled in a box moved from New Jersey to Florida two years ago, all with a destiny to give a child some comfort and **HOPE**. So many hands have touched this quilt from its conception to birth, the end result speaks for itself: **HOPE!**

I will continue to take donations of thread and fabric and create an ongoing supply of quilts. It's the part I can do. I am a drop off for donations for this cause. We need to keep those needles moving for these children. There is a place for everyone and plenty to go around! 908-528-3292 or happytailstwo@yahoo.com

"I made this quilt for a local quilt shop that after marketing it, it was given back to me. I sent it along to Fostering Hope and it was pulled from our quilt donations, and was instead hung up in the hallway of the Hope Resource Center for inspiration. It means 'Fostering Hope' to me!"





October



WE LIVE HERE, WE WORK HERE, WE PLAY HERE
LET THE EXPERTS HANDLE YOUR MAGNOLIA POINT HOME!

Featured Listings

For Sale



300 Cedar Creek Rd
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For Sale



2854 Pescara Dr
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For Sale



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Top Producer

Courtney Looney



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PLAYING THROUGH

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GRIP STRENGTH!

Grip strength is essentially how strong your hand muscles are when you squeeze something. It might seem small, but it's crucial for various aspects of our daily lives.

You're trying to open a jar of pickles or carry a heavy grocery bag: if your grip strength is low, these simple tasks can become challenging. So, having good grip strength is crucial for maintaining your ability to perform everyday activities independently.

Frailty is a condition often associated with aging, where a person becomes physically weak and less resilient. This results in decreased muscle strength and bone mineral density. Such deficits increase the risk of falls, fractures, and decreased overall independence. Grip strength can be a good indicator of frailty. If your grip strength declines, it can be a sign that your overall physical strength and health are deteriorating, making you more vulnerable to injuries and illnesses.

Cognitive function is another interesting aspect. Some research suggests that there might be a link between grip strength and cognitive function! It's unclear why, but some studies have found that people with better grip strength tend to have better cognitive abilities. It's possible that there are shared underlying factors, like overall health and physical fitness, that influence both grip strength and cognitive function. Nevertheless, decreased grip strength can be an early sign of the need for intervention.

Now, let's talk about therapies to treat the causes of reduced grip strength and its related issues.

1. Strength Training: One of the most effective ways to improve grip strength is through strength training exercises. These can include using hand grippers, dumbbells, or resistance bands. Regularly strengthening your hand and forearm muscles can help maintain or even increase your grip strength. Whether it is joining a gym or incorporating your own home exercise routine, we all can benefit from strength training.

2. Nutrition: A balanced diet with adequate protein

and nutrients is essential for maintaining muscle strength. Therefore make sure you are eating well balanced meals with sufficient protein, fruits, vegetables, and vitamin D to maximize muscle strengthening.

3. Occupational Therapy: Occupational therapists specialize in many practice areas, one of them being upper extremity conditions. Using a holistic approach, occupational therapists enable patients to maximize their independence in daily activities that require ample grip strength. Some examples of these daily activities include bathing, dressing, meal preparation, cleaning, and more. To address these activities, an occupational therapist will directly work on the required hand strength, fine motor coordination, range of motion, joint protection strategies, and functional adaptations. Whatever your needs are, occupational therapy provides a personalized treatment plan to improve hand strength and function to regain and maintain your everyday independence.

4. Medication and Medical Treatments: In some cases, conditions like arthritis and carpal tunnel can cause grip strength to decline. Medications and treatments prescribed by a healthcare provider can help manage these conditions and improve grip strength. For maximal effects of these treatments, they should be in conjunction with strength training and proper nutrition.

5. Cognitive Exercises: To address the possible link between grip strength and cognitive function, engaging in activities that challenge your mind and fine motor skills, like puzzles, learning new skills, or social interaction may help maintain cognitive abilities.

6. Fall Prevention: If frailty is a concern, fall prevention measures, such as balance exercises and home modifications, can be crucial to reduce the risk of injuries. Yoga, Pilates and Zumba are great, low-impact, engaging exercises that will challenge and improve your balance. Regarding home modification, installing grab bars in your bathroom and removing unsecured rugs can also promote safety and decrease the risks of falls.

-Savannah Thompson, OTR/L
for The Magnolia News



Continued





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MPWC

UPDATE

- SANDY WALDRUP

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMEN'S CLUB • V

Pam Brame 2019-2020

After her presidency, Pam was one of the leaders for the Maggie's Meal program, which provided weekend food to children at Charles E. Bennett Elementary.

What was your greatest accomplishment as President? I feel my greatest accomplishment was the changeover from Blessings in a Backpack to our own Maggie's Meals program to provide weekend food for children at Charles E. Bennett Elementary. In 2012, after then CEB-principal Evelyn Chastain recognized that many children came to school hungry on Monday mornings, the Women's Club

researched and chose the national BIB program to follow in providing backpacks of weekend food. At one point, the Women's Club was providing weekend food for over 100 children. In 2016, the national organization proposed that each organization using their name pay a fee per child. After many meetings, it was agreed that the national organization would not offer us anything that our Club wasn't already providing, so we opted to break from them. Of course, that prompted a name change and after a survey of Women's Club members, "Maggie's Meals" was chosen.



What are the biggest changes you have seen in the Women's Club? The biggest changes I have seen in the Women's Club has been the eagerness of new members to help out in any project that arises.

What are your hopes for the Club? My hope for the Club is to continue activities that makes it possible for everyone to have an opportunity to participate.



Lorna Broughton 2021-22 & Current President

What was your greatest accomplishment as President? There were many important accomplishments and all were achieved because of the ideas brought to the attention of MPWC by forward-thinking members and the teamwork of the Board and general membership to bring these ideas to fruition. I think the greatest was bringing MPWC out of the COVID epidemic and finding a new normal for the way MPWC conducts business and reigniting member-involvement. Many changes were made to help streamline the Board and make the functionality of the Club more efficient, charitable, and fun for the membership. Some notable accomplishments, thanks to the assistance of members, were:

- Members were surveyed to ascertain whether they desired any changes to the way the Club conducted business that might promote greater member engagement.
- The organization of the Board of Directors was thoroughly defined and charted and our Bylaws were adjusted to reflect these modifications. The Club's job descriptions and guidelines were also rewritten to better describe the duties required.
- Maggie's Meals restarted at Charles E. Bennett Elementary to provide weekend food for children.
- The Membership and Hospitality Committee hosted mixers for new residents to welcome them to the community and recruit new members. The Activities Committee made meetings fun and sponsored wonderful off-campus social events.
- Fundraising events were outstanding, with the luminaria night being one of the most successful ever. The proceeds funded scholarships for young women from Clay High School senior class, which were also matched in partnership with the Clay Education Foundation. A spring arts & craft fair was held in May, as COVID contributed to the cancellation of the annual November fair.

Continued



What are the biggest changes you have seen in the Women's Club? The biggest change I have observed in the Women's Club is the loss of membership because many of our ladies have passed away or moved away. We are now seeing the upswing of new members keeping pace with the loss of old members as our community turns over.

What are your hopes for the Club? My hope is for the Club to continue as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. We are known for our charitable endeavors and I would like to see that continued, encouraged, and enhanced. I would also like to see the Club become even more social and fun. Of course, these hopes require the involvement of our wonderful members, which is my greatest hope of all.

OTHER NEWS

Welcome New Members! The new "year" is only 6 months old and we have welcomed 6 new members: **Melanie Carlson, Adele Murphy, Pattie Shears, Debbie Schoen, Cheryl Starnes and Joann Vann.** We have a great hospitality team comprised of **Diane Lochner** and **Pam Young** that personally welcome each new resident and provide them with a packet of informational materials about the Women's Club, the Homeowners Association and the Club facilities.

"Light Up Magnolia" Luminaria Event: The 23rd annual "Light Up Magnolia" luminaria fundraiser will be held on Saturday, December 9. Chair **Sarah McWhorter** has been securing block captains and organizing needed supplies. This fundraiser, supports the scholarship program for young women at Clay High School. A new feature this year is that residents will also be able to order and pay for their luminaria kits online, as an alternative to purchasing the kits from their block captains. Be on the look-out for more information!



Maggie's Meals Concludes: This school year is the first time since 2012 that the Women's Club is not actively involved in packing weekend food for children at Charles E. Bennett Elementary. The program, known as Maggie's Meals, grew from 80 children originally into over 150 children taking home weekend food. Members volunteered to pack bags every Friday morning (mainly) throughout the school year. Thanks goes to the numerous Women's Club members (and men) who headed up the teams, planned menus, scheduled weekly volunteer teams, shopped and made arrangements for food deliveries over the years – you know who you are! Going forward, the Women's Club will support other opportunities to provide food and necessities, including the CEB Pantry, when called upon.

Bannerman Learning Center: One of the schools in Clay County the Women's Club supports is Bannerman Learning Center, an alternative school located in Green Cove Springs. This year, the Club will support their Citizen of the Week students with a gift card from a local restaurant. School officials have noted that these rewards help promote positive behavior among the students. **Suzanne Foster** delivered the gift cards to Principal **Stephanie Palmer** last Tuesday.



Donna Habing & Suzanne Foster

AMIkids Clay County: The Club collected personal hygiene products to donate to AMIkids, a not-for-profit all-boys school in Green Cove. The school, which opened in Clay County in 2015, helps boys, some with troubled pasts, to develop into responsible and productive citizens. AMI (Associated Marine Institute) started when a judge in south Florida, determined to make a difference, arranged for a marine research project at FAU to take several boys to work on a research marine vessel. AMIkids has grown to help over 150,000 young men and women. **Donna Habing** and **Suzanne Foster** delivered the donations to the school on Tuesday, September 26.



Principal Stephanie Palmer & Suzanne Foster



3468 OLYMPIC DRIVE **FACES & NAMES**

How long have you lived at Magnolia Point?

Since April of 2010

Who's in your immediate family, at home here or elsewhere?

Norma: I have two daughters and a son, scattered over the southeast! I have 5 grandchildren and 2 great grands. Joe: I have four sons who live within ten miles of each other in the Canton, Georgia (Cherokee County) area. Eleven grandchildren also live near Atlanta.

Do you have any pets?

We have two spoiled Shih Tzus. Bogey is 15 1/2 and Annie is 2 1/2.

What was your passion at 16?

Norma: At 16 my passion was horses which remains to this day. Of course, there was music (Beatles) and boys. Now I enjoy reading books of all genres. I have also been doing genealogy for many years which has lead to finding cousins in England to visit, tromping through old cemeteries and dusty courthouse basements. Joe: At sixteen I was all about being a new driver, track and field and boating and was brought up in Jacksonville Beach. My other passion was track and field and cross country running. I held our school record for the mile run. I haven't mentioned interest in girls for fear that Norma might read this piece.

And now?

Joe: Golf with friends at Magnolia Point is a passion. A life-long passion has been flying. After starting as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, I owned several airplanes and was a part-time commercial pilot for several years. The most rewarding job was flying air ambulance missions but I also enjoyed flying for NASCAR teams and for the high rollers at casinos.

What advice would you give to a 16-year old today?

Norma: Enjoy this time of your life but with eyes to the future as far as education, volunteering in the community and a little work experience wouldn't hurt. Joe: Get a "useful" education and graduate from college with little or no debt. And learn to speak and write English. Speak plainly and use good grammar. Learn to create perfect documents.

What do you like most about your home?

Norma: My favorite place in my home would be my "office". It has everything I need for my reading and genealogy hobbies. I also love the screened lanai with the porch swing. Joe: the building is certainly more than adequate for two people. I like the open plan. I am a project person so having an air-conditioned garage might be the most attractive space for me.

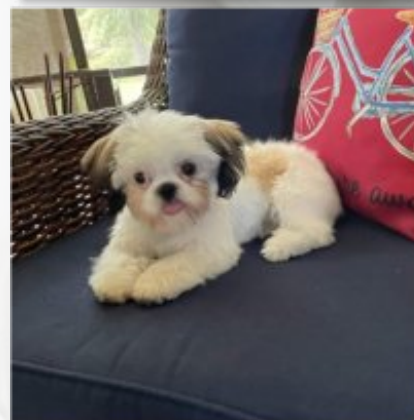
Do you have any household projects in the 'planning' or 'dream' stage?

Joe: We plan to do some bathroom upgrades soon. Fortunately, I am a retired general contractor, so I am able to do the work myself and cost is not much of a consideration.

Do you see yourself living here in 5 years?

I think so. We have wonderful neighbors.

NORMA &
JOE CHAO



New Listing at Magnolia Point!

3544 Grand Victoria Court

- 4 bedrooms / 3 baths
- 2771 square feet
- On the 7th Hole
- Built in 2017

\$569,000

I'm Clarissa Cummins

- REALTOR® since 1994
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It's that time of the year again when days are increasingly getting shorter meaning more people and pets on our narrow roads after dark. Some of you may have no choice for various reasons, one being work schedule but there are several ways to increase your safety if you must go out on foot. The important thing to remember is to make yourself seen by oncoming traffic. Yes, "oncoming traffic"- walk in the opposite direction of vehicles. This is not only "the law" but is safer than walking with traffic where you have no idea if the driver sees you and you will not be able to take evasive action if necessary. Bicyclists though, being considered vehicles should travel in the direction of traffic.

In order to make yourself be seen wear light colored clothing and something reflective. At a minimum carry a flashlight. Consider wearing a rechargeable flashing light vest and/or headband. There are several on the market for less than \$30. There are also lights available especially for pets. Technology has improved dramatically over the past few years and lights are no longer bulky or heavy and they emit enough light for you to be seen for blocks away. It may not be fashionable looking like a Christmas tree, but hey, it's dark and nobody will know who you are!

- STEVE WITHAM

SEE & BE SEEN!



GRADY LAW

1924 - 2023

Every day we lose 245 veterans of World War II. On Monday, September 11, 2023, Grady Law joined that group. Grady is much more than a statistic though.

Grady was born in Alabama and moved to South Florida as an infant. As a boy he enjoyed harvesting and eating the grapes, mangos and other wild fruit that was plentiful. This dietary preference lasted through his life and probably contributed to his long and healthy life.

Once he acquired a bicycle, he became an entrepreneur and operated a morning and evening paper route. He quickly learned that tips were better when the paper landed near the front door rather than the porch roof or bushes. A lesson that Grady would carry through life...always strive to do your best.

Grady graduated from high school in June, 1942. Like so many other young Americans he answered the call to duty and enlisted in the Navy. His aptitude testing identified him as a candidate for flight training. He hopscotched from base to base and completed his flight training by carrier qualifying on a converted cruise ship on Lake Michigan. Then it was off to the Pacific war front on the USS Cowpens and a part of Task Force 58.

Grady saw action in all the great Pacific battles and participated in the destruction of the IJN Nagato. The Nagato attack plan was for the dive bombers to dive under the fighters assigned to suppress anti-aircraft fire and launch their bombs and torpedoes. The dive bombers modified the plan and dropped their ordnance from above the fighters. Grady indicated he was startled to see bombs falling from above and narrowly missing the wings of his F6F. Upon returning to the carrier, a flight deck meeting was held and the plan clarified. Subsequent attacks had the dive bombers below the fighters.

Grady's squadron was assigned to secure the airfields around Tokyo in advance of the surrender ceremonies on the USS Missouri. The squadron chose to land on the grass in between runways, fearful that the Japanese had mined them. As Grady climbed from his



aircraft, a Japanese soldier appeared with a rifle in hand. Grady unholstered his revolver but recognized the soldier was surrendering and he accepted this prisoner of war.

Grady retired from active naval service and joined ARCO as a Sales and Real Estate Executive. He often put his flying skills to use by flying to various Florida cities and picking up payments that were due. Many times these stops would also involve a round of golf with customers. On one such occasion, the customer and Grady teamed up against two of the customer's golfing buddies. As golfers are wont to do, a bet was established for a Nassau of 1-1-1. Grady agreed to the bet thinking it was a \$1-\$1-\$1. Grady and his

customer won the bet three ways in addition to several "presses". Walking off the green Grady was handed \$600. A bit befuddled, Grady inquired what the \$600 was for and the answer was the bet. The 1-1-1 was in fact \$100-\$100-\$100. Grady confessed that he thought the bet was for \$1 and if he'd known it was \$100 he would have been too nervous to pull a club from his bag.

Grady played many, many golf courses throughout the United States. He was most pleased to have played Augusta National Golf Club. An experience that every golfer wishes they could claim.

Grady was proud to be the first resident of Magnolia Point. In addition to playing lots of golf at the club and other courses in the area, he served the City of Green Cove Springs as a Planning and Zoning Board member for many years. Other civic involvement included being an active Mason and past Grand Master in the

Green Cove Springs Cabul Lodge 116, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite, Shriners and OES Orange Park Chapter 226.

Grady was a great American who always answered the call to duty. He was a true friend and treasured golfing companion to many.

Rest in peace, Grady. We have the watch.

- BOB PAGE





BECKY HINSON



CART TREND

How long have you lived at Magnolia Point?

6 years this month

Year & make of your cart,

and how long have you owned it?

1999 Club Cart. Since Christmas of 2021.

A fine Mustang! How did you come upon such a classic?

We wanted something similar to an antique Ford Truck we'd seen, for a second cart to use around the neighborhood. We found the cart online. The gentleman selling the cart was a former Club

Cart dealer, who reconditioned carts that were 'turnovers' from golf courses.

Any other modifications?

The Mustang kit was all inclusive so other than new batteries, there have been no additional modifications.

How often do you drive your cart, and where do you take it?

When the weather is nice, we drive it around the neighborhood. Evening rides, going to the club or someone's house for dinner or cards.

If outside the gates, where do you go?

We have not taken it outside the gates.

SUSAN HANLINE'S - CLASSIC '66 MUSTANG CUSTOM

What do you do to maintain it?

The usual cart stuff, keeping the batteries full of water, washing with a soft rag, etc.

What is your favorite memory or experience with your cart, and what's best about owning it?

Someone once asked if we could rent it out for a music video. People notice the cart and talk about it. We like the convenience of having it to drive in lieu of using one of our automotive vehicles. Plus, it's the best Christmas present I ever received!

[Baptist Jax Golf Cart Safety](#)




Susan



Photos: Editor





There is a sport
Where you drive in a car
You don't go fast
You don't go far

There's a wheel and a seat
And tires on hubs
A place for the golfers
Their beers and some clubs

Some are electric
Some are gas
They ride on a path
Then onto the grass

Tug on the belt
With a catchy latch
Snuggle it safe
With a '*clicky clutch*'

Ride side by side
On solid ground
Around the bunkers
And out-of-bounds

You step on the pedal
To the ball where it landed
The brake is the same
If you're right or left-handed

Happy the times in a cart
You are spending
The envy of all
Your cart is ***trending!***



CART TREND

Poem & Illustrations: Editor





How long have you lived at Magnolia Point?
We purchased our home at 3304 Blackstone Court in November 2019.

Year & make of your cart, and how long have you owned it?

It's a 2014 Club Car Precedent and we have owned it since April of this year.

Cool cabin! How did you come upon such a cart?

Found it on Nextdoor. The couple were not going to play golf anymore because of his health. They moved up here from the villages to be near family

Any other modifications?

Modifications were already done by a custom cab company which builds on the original body. But the cart was in need of some overdue maintenance and a few parts which we sourced ourselves from a cart e-store and Curtis Cabs. We did upgrade the headlamp to a LED.



The doors are self-closing, and the cart can be driven with them open or closed.

How often do you drive your cart, and where do you take it?

We usually are out a few times a week for evening rides and take it out for lunch in the area.

If outside the gates, where do you go?

We have gone north as far as Winn-Dixie and south to Spring Park.



Kim

KIM BARTCH'S - CUSTOM 2014 CLUB CAR - WITH CAB

What do you do to maintain it?

Maintaining an electric cart is pretty straight forward, Keep the water and air up. Keep it charged. Keep it clean!

What is your favorite memory or experience with your cart, and what's best about owning it?

Memories like going for a Frosty, and then parking outside the back gate, and watching the fireworks on the 4th of July. Then the slow ride back home. Staying warm in the winter and dry in the rain has to be the best part of this cart! Remember when you're out there that everything smaller than you has the right of way, and anything bigger, let them go by!!

[Baptist Jax Golf Cart Safety](#)



Photos: Editor





Taking Charge

Part One - The Truck

About five years ago, my daughter and I started talking about touring the country. Having been a military spouse, she knew she wanted to go. But for me, I just wasn't ready to leave Magnolia Point. I told myself when the time was right, I would know. But we started researching RV trailers, tow vehicles, mobile Internet services, and remote work.



¾ ton, towing power of a hefty half ton, it's quiet, easy to park. What was the catch? Range, of course. It's always the range. It wouldn't be easy, but if we wanted adventure, we would have it. After many, many hours of research and a test drive in Orlando, we were sold! Would you believe 0 to 60 in 3 seconds? That's what 835 HP will do!

Then, in the spring of 2021, it dawned on me I was ready for a new adventure, a fresh start. My plan was to start turning over responsibilities for the women's club and the homeowners' association. Our plans changed a few times, but we were sure we'd be ready to hit the road by the summer of 2022, or so we thought. Instead, that April we hit a speed bump. A broken and dislocated ankle delayed everything. With all this extra time, we rethought our plans...again.

By now we were up to 30' Airstream, but we'd need more truck! After test driving several ¾ ton diesels, that was not what we wanted. They are huge, loud, bumpy, and so hard to park and see out of. Then Jenn asked me if I'd ridden in an electric truck.

Looking into them a little more, we found out they have a higher towing capacity in a smaller package. We were sold and got those plans in motion. That week on our way down to Orlando to buy a dual motor Lightning, we found out a stop order had been put on all dual motors, *the night before!* In the days following, we called all over the country trying to order one, but word was it would be Q4 at the earliest. Back to the drawing board.

Having been familiar with the Rivian, we thought about their truck, the R1T. But it's so small. How could it tow an Airstream? Then we found out it has the weight of a

A question we get from many is "What is it?" A Rivian.

"Who makes it?" Rivian.

"No, who makes it?" Rivian.

"Where's the dealership?" *There are none.*

"How do you get one?" *Order directly from Rivian.*

The R1T advantages:

Storage - Tons including a frunk, truck bed, gear tunnel, under the truck bed and under the back seats.

Cameras - Eleven cameras in all, from every angle.

Range - 314 miles when not towing, but that drops considerably when towing.

Drive Modes - Our model has ten driving modes ranging from Conserve to Rock Crawl.

Suspension - The air suspension allows you to adjust the ground clearance from 7.9 inches to 14.4 inches and when a door is opened, it automatically changes to the lowest clearance which is very nice when you are short. We love this!

Towing - 11,000 pounds *and* up to 1,800 pounds of people and cargo.

Size - Mid-size and

is 14 inches shorter than a Ford Lightning.

WIFI - Rivian provides free wireless in order to update the vehicle software.

The best feature is 'Pet mode' where you can leave your pets in the truck and set the inside temperature to keep them cool. Lola will love that!



- SUSAN AND JENN MITCHELL



house. It is a great gathering place for our large family when we are all able to get together. We added a large table with bar height chairs and a separate seating area that allows plenty of room for everyone. Two 86" televisions (one on the porch and another in the grilling area) ensures football season is a fun time at the Abbate home.

Is this your go-to space for your entertaining? Absolutely! There is so much room for friends and family to gather and spread out around the pool area and the porch. Having these spaces has definitely been a wonderful addition to our home.

The seasons obviously can affect your use, how might you adapt to them?

We installed a Cajun Cooling system on the porch that can cool the area by as much as 10-15

degrees during the summer months. You can add water to the base and the air coming out is so refreshing and cool! During the winter months, we use space heaters and the lava rock fire pit that is part of our dining table. We love using the outdoor fire pit by the pool, as well.

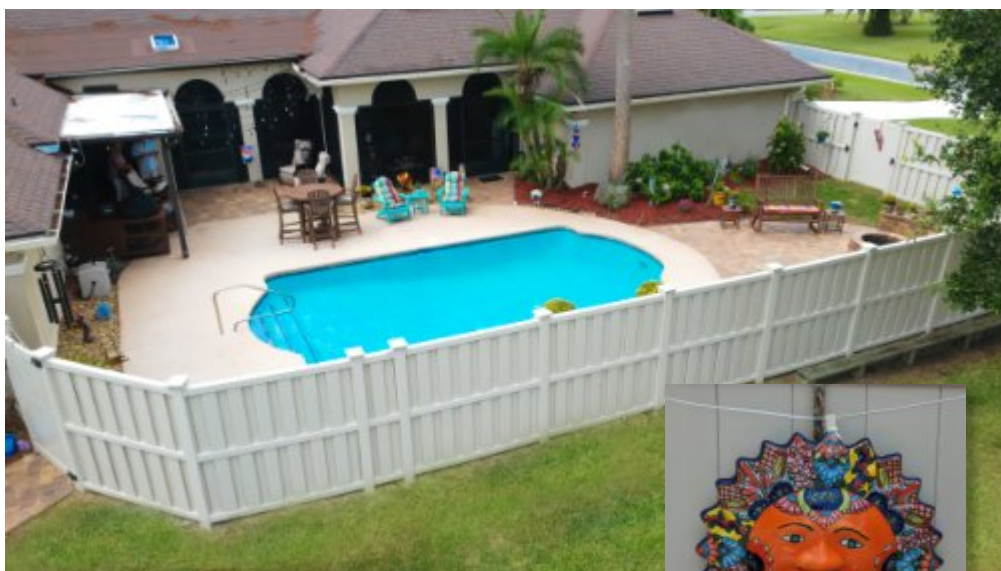
How long have you lived at Magnolia Point?
We moved to Magnolia Point in August of 2008.

Was this OutSide space here, or a remodel or addition, and if so, what did you do?

When we moved here, the pool was here, but the space it was in was very small and fenced in by a 4' picket fence. We resurfaced the pool and changed out the tile in the pool. The area size was doubled by replacing the fence with vinyl shadowbox and relocating it to the front corner of the house and adding 6' to the width of the area all the way around the pool. We added the firepit and 3 seating areas, and a covered area for the grills. We screened the entire porch and added a roof with four ceiling fans. We tiled the entire porch and changed the front door entrance. We recently replaced all the doors and put in double hung windows.

What do you like best about your 'OutSide' space?

We love the entire area! We use the covered porch as much as we use the inside areas of the



Continued



3631 KAPALUA COURT



We also moved the firepit and seating area when we expanded the paver areas around the pool during phase 2 of our renovations.

Did you work from formal plans, or work the design as you went?

A little of both! The contractor had formal plans that we worked from for the porch, but we worked

Were there any engineering obstacles, drainage, permitting, etc., that you overcame during the project?

We really didn't experience any obstacles with these projects. We had a drainage issue by the pool that was easily resolved by turning two of the border beds into French drains.

the design as we went with the pool area, which is why we had "phase 2" of those renovations.

What are you particularly proud of?

Simply the space we were able to create by enclosing the porch and combining it with the lanai, enabling us to be able to host our family and friends in a fun, relaxing environment.



What might you want to change in your OutSide space?

We are planning to convert the covered grilling area to a formal outdoor kitchen. We're both looking forward to it! We are also considering replacing the small grassy area with artificial turf by the pool area.



1880 COLONIAL DRIVE Fix-It Friday



Jenn and Perry Moore's garage is ideal for hosting Fix-It-Fridays

The Fix-it-Friday Prayer

'Give me your tired, your broken, your huddled appliances yearning to work again, the wretched refuse of your teeming kitchen cabinet or counter, your entertainment center, sewing room, play room, lanai or workshop. Bring these, the lifeless, damaged or defective to me, and together we will lift your newly-repaired lamp beside the golden door!'



A multimeter is the swiss army knife of fix-it gizmos, a versatile electrical testing tool that can be incredibly useful for various tasks around the household. They are invaluable for checking batteries, testing outlets and measuring their voltage, checking extension cords, appliance troubleshooting, checking light fixture wiring,

checking car batteries, troubleshooting solar panels, or checking your water heater or HVAC system. Name it: if it runs on electricity and is not working well or at all, a multimeter can save the day.

For this month's 'Fix-it-Friday', the theme in September was 'The Multimeter', which took place after a little time off on September 29th, at the home of Perry and Jenn Moore, 1880 Colonial Drive.

For the assembled guests, Perry offered up a Master Class in All Things Multimeter, and much was learned! Soon, attention turned to the other works-in-progress sprinkled throughout the Perry garage.



One project had been completed earlier, the restoration of a vintage child's rocking chair.

At a very young age, Dale Eichhorn was lulled to sleep to the music box strains of a German melody, safe in the arms of his own rocking chair. The chair not only

serenaded him, it *rocked* him gently to-and-fro, by means of an ingenious mechanism attached to the music player. At over 70 years, the mechanism had earned to right to some rest, and it broke. "It was the 'hardest repair I've ever done,'" Perry beaming over the star project of this month's F-I-F.

Later, in walked an impaired espresso machine, in the arms of a distraught resident. Perry analyzed the cause, and the water lines were unclogged with a few quick blasts of compressed air. And all was good.



-Editor

The next installment of **Fix-It-Fridays** will take place on later in **October**, watch Nextdoor for details. Bring your items for repair, come learn a skill, or just meet the neighbors. If you have repair skills and would like to lend your wisdom please come by. Bring personal safety equipment and beverages of your choice. **Time will be from 5:00pm until we're done, at 1880 Colonial Drive.** If you're not sure if we can fix it, message me:

perrylmorejr@gmail.com.

As always all services are free of charge.



OCTOBER 7: COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Gates open 8AM - close 4PM

Our next semi-annual Community Yard Sale is on Saturday, October 7th. Our association allows two community-wide sales each year, on the last Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October.

Both gates will open to the public at 8:00am and buyers CANNOT enter the community early. At 4:00pm, the gates will be closed. Both gates will remain open during the hours of the sale.

Residents who participate should display a balloon on their mailboxes, and the merchandise for sale should be set up in their driveways as close to the garages as possible.

Since the sale is open to the public, please monitor the parking in your area.

Our CAM will advertise the sale in the local newspapers and residents should advertise what they are selling on social media, including Facebook, NextDoor, Craigslist or any other media platform. Be sure to mention that this is a community-wise sale.

There will be a large banner on the railing at the corner of US 17 and Harbor Road on the day of the sale.

If you have any comments, contact communications@magpt.com.



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**DON'T THROW
AWAY THOSE
PORCH PUMPKINS!
REMOVE ANY WAX OR
DECORATIONS, BREAK
THEM UP AND TOSS
THEM IN THE WOODS,
WITH THE SEEDS, TOO.
THE WILDLIFE WILL
THANK YOU!**





POND VIEWS

TONY FREY

Magnolia Pond #32

WEEDS!

Take our weeds. *Please!* The Northern Florida ponds have three types of nuisance weeds: floating, submerged, and emergent pond weeds. Each presents unique challenges and hazards to us, wildlife, and aquatic life. Let's explore the causes, hazards, and control methods for each type:

Floating Weeds:

Floating weeds are plants like Water Hyacinth and Water Lettuce. They typically become a nuisance due to excess sediments or nutrients in the water, often from runoff or agricultural practices. These plants love the nutrient-rich environment. They can multiply rapidly and form dense mats on the water's surface. These mats can block sunlight, causing oxygen depletion, which can harm aquatic life. Plus, they clog waterways and interfere with the flow of water through the ponds here, important for maintaining water quality and drainage. Finally, stagnant water trapped by these weeds provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases.

Continued



The safest way to control floating weeds is through mechanical removal, like using boats with specialized equipment to skim the surface. Biological control, introducing natural predators, is also an option. In some cases, herbicides can be used, but they must be applied carefully to minimize environmental impact.

Submerged Weeds:

Submerged weeds, like Hydrilla or Eurasian Watermilfoil, thrive in ponds when the water is clear and nutrient-rich, often due to excess fertilizer runoff. These plants can quickly take over and outcompete native species. Oxygen depletion beneath their mats can harm or kill fish. Dense outgrowth can hinder water flow, affecting and flood control.

Divers or specialized machines can be used to physically remove submerged weeds. Grass carp (see next page) can be introduced to eat these plants, with some caution. Herbicides may also be used, but again, it should be done carefully and in accordance with environmental regulations.

Emergent Weeds:

Emergent weeds, like Cattails, Bulrushes or Water Primrose often establish themselves in shallow water or on the pond's edge due to nutrient-rich sediment buildup. They can crowd out native vegetation and disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem. Additionally, they can obstruct drainage and flood control systems.

Cutting or mowing emergent weeds can help control their spread. Herbicides specifically designed for aquatic use can be used, but these should be applied by professionals who follow safety and environmental guidelines.

It's essential to remember that controlling nuisance weeds in ponds should always be done thoughtfully and in accordance with local regulations. You want to minimize harm to the environment and avoid introducing more chemicals or practices that might worsen the problem. And of course, ongoing management to prevent excess nutrient runoff is crucial to long-term weed control.

POND VIEWS



Torpedo Grass - BAD!



Water Spider Orchid - GOOD!!

INTERVIEW WITH KYLE FOLLANSBEE, SENIOR AQUATIC SPECIALIST, SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT:

In our first installment, you mentioned that 'littoral planting', that is, along the shoreline of our ponds, would help with both algae and weed problems here. But 'emergent' weeds like Cattails, Bulrushes or Water Primrose, are a 'problem'. Tell us about the 'good' weeds.

First of all, I think we should address the term "Weeds." A weed is an undesirable plant which may be optioned to be controlled. This can include "invasive" plants which do not originate from the US and can force out beneficial native species. This is my primary focus. Some of these found at MPA are Torpedograss (*Panicum repens*) and Alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*.)

We also have plants that are deemed "Nuisance-native"

species. This includes vegetation from our country but has a tendency to become excessive or unsightly. For example, cattails (*Typha* sp.) and Primrose (*Ludwigia* sp.) are generally treated as they have a tendency to spread quickly and may be woody, depending on the species.

"Native" species are from here and usually considered beneficial in a waterbody in some way. It can help with nutrient control, suppression of erosion, as well as provide food and cover for wildlife. There are a few of these growing in MPA and we also have a possibility of installing more as needed. Some examples are Arrowhead (*Sagittaria* sp.) and Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*.)

Continued



One of my favorite native plants, the Water-spider Orchid (*Habenaria repens*) is popping up all over MPA. This true orchid is endemic to the Southern United States and considered a threatened species.

These are only the "emergent" plants. There are also many submersed and floating plants found in the ponds and have their own considerations.

How do you keep littoral plantings from getting out of control? What are the maintenance requirements?

Through Integrated Pest Management strategies, we work to maintain desirable and undesirable vegetation. Plants can be mechanically cut or removed or herbicides



applied to keep in check. Biological control methods such as the alligatorweed flea beetle (*Agasicles hygrophila*) help to control invasive vegetation while not harming our native species. I use chemical methods to help eradicate or maintain vegetation as needed.

Is there a point when we'll have to mechanically remove our weeds? What kind of equipment is used, and how would that be done?

Mechanical removal of vegetation involves utilizing heavy machinery to cut or remove the growth and then transport off-site so as not to introduce the nutrients back into the waterbody. There are several types of machines designed depending on the material being removed.

Do we really want to get rid of all grasses?

Good question. Submersed vegetation aids in reducing the nutrients that can contribute to algae; however, grass carp eat the submersed vegetation so the nutrients will go to algae. Due to the shallow depth of the ponds, the submersed vegetation tops off pretty quickly and requires managing. The increase of light penetration will contribute to the amount of growth, as well. Sometimes I utilize pond dye to reduce this.

Do we still have any grass-eating carp on the job in our ponds here?

Grass carp are a non-native species and controlled by the FWC by proper permitting. They are a means of biological control to aid in control of select submersed vegetation. We repaired outflow structures and stocked more grass carp earlier this year.



Is there anything homeowners here can do themselves to keep weeds under control?

Homeowners can help with the "Cultural" aspect of Integrated Pest Management by recognizing and controlling their part in the stormwater system. They can reduce the amount of nutrients that get into the ponds by limiting the grass clippings or fertilizer that make it into the water and streets. All streets throughout MPA are connected to the stormwater system, so that means that a resident living nowhere near a pond can make a significant impact on any pond in the community. Homeowners on ponds can keep a "buffer zone" when landscaping the pond's edge. This will allow for the beneficial vegetation to work as previously discussed. Also, if residents could ***stop throwing their dog feces bags into the ponds, we would all greatly appreciate it!***



Doo-doo NOT in our ponds!!



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A searchable archive of MPCA documents, including Covenants, By Laws, Articles of Incorporation, the Community Handbook, ARC Applications, and more. You can search words like 'cart' or 'fence' or 'parking'. NOTE: these are original MPCA documents and are for informational purposes only. Every attempt is made to keep this library current; consult magpi.com to confirm latest version(s).

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THE MAGNOLIA NEWS

It's Easy-Peasy!



Magnolia Point Women's Club Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, November 11th

10:00am – 4:00pm
Clay County Fairgrounds

2497 State Road 16 West, Green Cove Springs, FL

*** Open to the Public ***

Free Admission

50+ Vendors - Food Trucks

A variety of new vendors and some of your favorites!

Bring your Friends and do your Holiday Shopping!
Raffle Baskets & Silent Auction

Proceeds benefit the underprivileged in Green Cove Springs
and Clay County

www.mpwc.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



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For details, text Joe Chao
904-945-6529

* SPECIAL FOR MAGNOLIA RESIDENTS!

PET O' THE MONTH



Phenny -1549 Stonebriar





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Is your garage hot inside? Is your garage door insulated? A recent customer called stating their garage was overheated. Their garage door was not insulated, and it projected a heat level of 135 degrees on the inside. After insulating it, that same temperature the next day, full sun was down to 85 degrees inside as the insulation blocked all that heat. Why pay \$2500 for an insulated door?

Another recent customer, their kitchen sink fell out.....yup right into their cabinet. The granite contractor never installed the sink properly. I fixed it up in a couple of hours, added the required support brackets, and it's now just like new. I've seen it all.

Large or small jobs, I'd appreciate the opportunity to assist you with your home repairs.

Thanks - John

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THE 9 HOLE LEAGUE

- SANDY WALDRUP

It has been nice getting back on the golf course, even though it is still hot and humid. Glad we only play 9-holes. We have consistently fielded a fair number of golfers considering several of our members are still up north. This helps tremendously for our team games. Several potential new members have reached out and we hope they will be able to join us soon.

September 7 – Individual Game

We always start the season off with an individual game. Many of us have not played since our season ended in May. **Cheryle Newman** must have been secretly practicing all summer because she started the season off great – she had a chip-in on Hole 6 which scored her a birdie!

Flight 1

1st Place – **Cheryle Newman**; 2nd Place – **Barbara Shinn**

Flight 2

1st Place – **Janine O'Connor**; 2nd Place – **Sandy Waldrup**

September 14 – 1-2-3

We played a team game called 1-2-3, where the team score was 1 best net best score on Par 5s, 2 best net best on Par 4s, and 3 best net scores on Par 3s. **Barbara Shinn** also had a chip-in on Hole 18.

1st Place: **Barbara Shinn, Bede Johnson, Taunya Vise, Judy Sessions**

September 21 – Stableford

The group played Stableford as a play day game only, having voted last season to discontinue the season-long team competition. The group will play Stableford as a monthly game throughout the year. Hopefully, our team points will get better as the season progresses and we start getting some roll. The golf course is brutal right now. There were no chip-ins, so the pot rolls over to next week. There were some close calls though - **Barbara Shinn's** drive hit the pin on Hole 6/Par 3 and several other golfers hit the pins for chip-in attempts. At times, the pin can be our worst enemy.

1st Place: **Cheryle Newman, Bede Johnson, Janine O'Connor, Judy Sessions**

September 28 – Flags

Flags is a favorite team game, and is scheduled to be played several times during the season. Sadly, this day's play was canceled due to the weather!



Membership

Come join us! Dues are \$35. We welcome all female players with a handicap; although you can begin play without a handicap, playing while working to establish one. The current USGA Rule 4.5 says a total of 54 holes must be played and posted to your scoring record, and can be a combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds, which are then used to calculate your handicap index. No golf membership is required. We play each Thursday, rotating between the front and the back courses. We guarantee a sense of camaraderie with our ladies and an atmosphere of support to each player no matter her skill level. Please contact Cheryle Newman, Vice-President/Membership, with any questions (fnewman@bellsouth.net).



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MAGNOLIA POINT BRIDGE NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!

All games are friendly and we welcome new players. Sign up with a partner or as a single. One prize is paid out for each table, i.e., if there are four tables, the top four scores win money.

Duplicate and Social Bridge play on alternate Thursdays in the clubhouse dining room from 3 to 6pm. The fees are \$2.00 for Social and \$3.00 for Duplicate to cover the cost of prize money and supplies.

CONTACT

Social: Rannel Westberry REW5538@comcast.net

Duplicate: Jon Bastress JonBastress@gmail.com

Social Bridge, Thu, Aug 24

1. Connie Byers & Jola Greiner
2. Kim Belcher & Evie Ezzell
3. David Miller & Jerry Ritchie
4. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
- Jim Cardoza & Rannel Westberry (tie)

Duplicate Bridge, Thu, Aug 31

1. Phyllis Boyd & Alice Lodge
2. Connie & Michael Byers
3. David Miller & Jerry Ritchie
4. Jim Cardoza & Rannel Westberry
5. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings

Social Bridge, Thu, Sep 7

1. Kim Belcher & Evie Ezzell
2. Phyllis Boyd & Susan Mitchell
3. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
4. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
5. Sondra Costa & Marsha Parker

Duplicate Bridge, Thu, Sep 14

1. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
2. David Miller & Jerry Ritchie
- Connie & Michael Byers (tie)
3. Sondra Costa & Marsha Parker
4. Phyllis Boyd & Susan Mitchell

Social Bridge, Thu, Sep 21

1. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague
2. Phyllis Boyd & Sharon Sprott
3. Connie & Michael Byers
4. Kim Belcher & Evie Ezzell
5. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill





Editor

