

THE
Magnolia
NEWS



NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE RESIDENTS OF MAGNOLIA POINT VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 4 APRIL 2024



FOREWORD

It's a month of special events around town: The Clay Fair *and* Calavida! Between the two, Green Cove rocks for half of April! And our community yard sale comes at the end of the month.



Are the Nutria back at Magnolia Point? Are they ***everywhere?*** You'd think so, considering what you'll find lurking in this issue. And we hear that at county fairs all over, they're flying off the prize shelves!

Between the this month's covers, we feature, starting with: our Yard of the Quarter winners, **Charlene and Kevin Jenkins** of Colonial Drive, **pages 12-14.**



Rule #1 in golf: *It's the short game!* In 'Playing Through' this month, Christian Smith reports on the highs and lows of wedge shots, **page 15.**

Next, this month's 'Faces & Names', our very own Centenarian **Ms. Mary Bates**, *101 years young!* Special thanks to **Nancy Catudal** for nominating Mary, and putting it together! **Page 19.**

In Cart Trends, John takes a look at additions to your cart that won't break the bank, it's the '5 Under \$100'...cool stuff! **Pages 20-21.**



Brenda Frey paddles her way up Governor's Creek, finding wildlife along the way, **page 24.**

Bill Blackwell reviews the **Green Papaya**, a Thai/Sushi restaurant worth checking out, **page 25.**



The Mitchell girls 'Take Charge' this month, and with a confidence from a few months on the road, they settle in to enjoying the ride...and the scenery, **pages 27-28.**

Becky laces up her sneaks and strikes out in the lovely landscape of Sweetwater Wetlands in Gainesville. Well worth the drive; a day there will leave you with memories forever, **29-30.**



The Clay County Agricultural Fair starts on April 4, and is highlighted in this issue on **pages 36-37.** And CalaVida returns to downtown, **page 38.**

And that's it! A record 39 pages this month for *The Magnolia*, and we hope you like reading as much as we did putting it together! And thank you to all who contributed!

THE MAGNOLIA NEWS

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THE PHOTOGRAPHER-IN-RESIDENCE

Becky Hinson

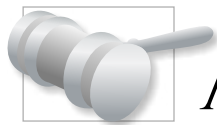
THE COPY EDITORS

Becky Hinson • Susan Mitchell

Front & Back Covers: Editor

MAGNOLIA *residents.com*





Are you a glass half empty or glass half full person? Perhaps, a glass broken may more accurately assess your view of life. Whatever the case may be, I believe we have some healing to do, both as a country and as a community. I have talked to a lot of neighbors lately and have not heard from one that does not love living here in our beautiful community. Many have shared their experiences here in Magnolia Point, some from its early inception and some who have moved here in the last few years.



Each person I spoke with has their own list of likes and dislikes. This is to be expected. We do not all have to agree to be good neighbors. We do, however, need to be civil with one another.

I am reminded of a trip on a WMATA subway in Washington DC that I was on in 2012 after spending the day lobbying for the National Railroad Contractors Association. I introduced myself to a gentleman sitting next to me and asked him why he thought our political system was so off kilter. I asked him if he thought that it was due to all the lobbying? He chuckled and told me that he was a lawyer and professional lobbyist in Washington DC and had been one for the past 35 years. He went on to say that he became close personal friends with Tip O’Neil and grew to respect him very much. I asked him why. He told me that Mr. O’Neil was a die-hard Democrat who was also committed to getting things

done for the American people. Mr. O’Neil had found out early in his career that he was not going to Steam Roll legislation or his ideas over anyone. Rather, he learned quickly the need for compromise and mediation as the most important role of a legislator. My new found friend went on to say that Tip “reached across the aisle” and worked long hours to reach agreements with other legislators, both Republican and Democrat, for the good of the people. He went on to say that he felt the problem with America today is that most Americans have lost the ability to compromise and were not very effective mediators either. This problem has grown to infect all levels of government, non-profit organizations and yes, even HOAs.

Let’s all take a deep breath, take a step back and search for common ground to stand on while we work together to make our community a better place. We all have a part to play.

- DAVID SPRINKLE



LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION



The crape myrtle trimming, clean-up and shaping for approximately 64 trees was completed. Several trees are undergoing rejuvenation due to long term neglect and/or severe pruning sometimes referred to as “Crepe Murder”.

Our tree replacement project had a minor setback. The Borden Lane median has too many major underground utilities running through it to accommodate additional large trees we had hoped to plant on either end. We will be conducting site visits throughout the community to find locations better suited to the trees. We will also be conducting site visits to areas that have been identified by committee members as needing renovation work.

We reviewed estimates we received for work at the top of the Committee’s priority list. We will be removing and transplanting the rest of the Jack Frost *ligustrum* in front of the Magnolia Point sign on Harbor Rd. and will be grading and sodding most of the area, leaving space for bedding plants around the sign. In addition, 5 Podocarpus shrubs and additional ligustrum shrubs will be planted on the Exit side hedgerow. The hedgerow and the beds around the crape myrtles on the Exit side will be mulched.

A meeting was held with Laura Burgess, Jon Bastress and Van Royal of EXIT Realty to discuss vinyl wrapping the utility boxes with custom nature and wildlife scenes. At the time of the meeting we had made contact with the local company that designed and installed this type of vinyl wrap in Orange Park, and will determine if our community would like to continue the project.

As the weather warms, we will be purchasing bedding plants to replace the cold tolerant, heat sensitive flowers as they begin to die back and replacing dead and declining shrubs. When replanting flower beds, it is important to add compost and slow or controlled release fertilizer before installing the new bedding plants.

We had an irrigation issue near the front entrance that required temporarily shutting down the irrigation system. Duval Irrigation located and fixed a broken pipe. Another issue with the Borden Lane clock developed and Duval has been scheduled for diagnosis and repair of that clock.

Other community projects we are planning and working on are:

- 1) Cleanup of the area on the exit side of Magnolia Point Blvd at Harbor Rd.
- 2) Identification of areas in the community frequented by residents where trees and/or park benches can be installed.
- 3) Planting flowers at the bases of the columns on the entrance and exit sides of the Magnolia Point Blvd, entrance when the right bedding plants for the conditions at that location becomes available in sufficient numbers.
- 4) The committee received approval for the release of funds to power wash and stain the wood privacy fence along the side of the cart path on the entrance side of Magnolia Point Blvd. We have contacted the vendor selected



Continued



COMMITTEE BLAST • II

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for the project and are working on verifying the required licensing and insurance documentation.

5) Heavy trimming or possible removal and replanting of the overgrown and declining shrubs on the Borden Lane median. The median is located between Magnolia Point Blvd and Borden Lane that originally had shrubs planted around them to hide the utility boxes and other utility equipment located on that median.

6) Tree removal and redesign of the median at the intersection of Constanica and Magnolia Point Blvd.

FYI: The hardiness zone for our area was revised to 9b from 9a in 2023 meaning that plants that require a slightly warmer average temperature are now recommended for planting in our area. If you would like to know for sure what plant hardiness zone you are in, just go to the USDA hardiness zone website; you can now type in your zip code and it will tell you.

[2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#) | [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#)

April Planting Tips: This is a busy month for gardening in North Florida. Now is the ideal time to plant Caladium, Canna and other bulbs, heat loving herbs, such as rosemary, oregano, basil and sage and warm season vegetables. Be on the look-out for aphids as they love tender new growth. It's division time for bulb clumps such as agapanthus, ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials. April is also the time to apply fertilizer when you see new growth.

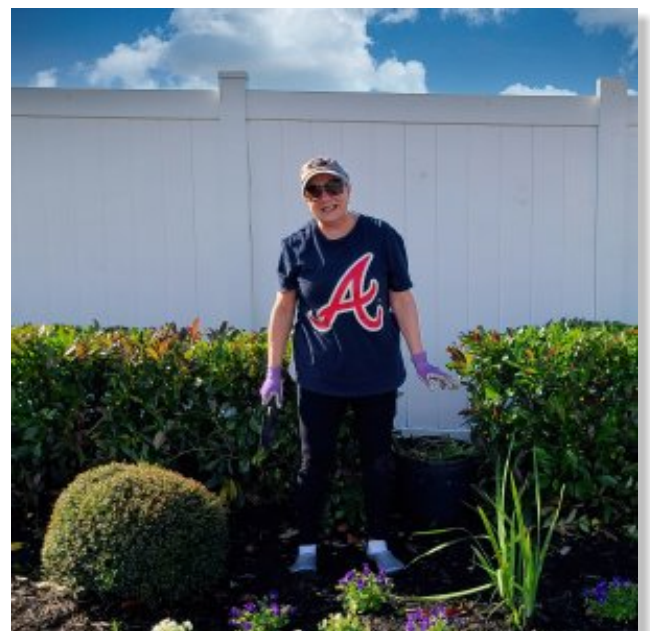
We would like to invite our fellow Magnolia Point community members to join the committee and help us move forward on our various renovation and beautification projects. Please contact Cindy Francisco at pltlvr44@aol.com or any L & I Committee member listed on the MPCA website under committees.

Other FREE community programs for gardeners- 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 April 22 is "How to Care for Fruit Trees".

- CINDY FRANCISCO



JoAnn Johnson, Jane Myrick & Jean Fox



Cissy Burnette

Continued



COMMITTEE BLAST • III

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ACCESS CONTROL

As some of you are aware we had a big backup at the front gate on Thursday, March 21st, that extended well past the corner on Harbor Road. After investigating the problem, I discovered that there were a few factors that caused the delay. There was an estate sale that added to the normal traffic, and there were contractors showing up without their driver's license who needed to be turned around. But the biggest reason for the backup was contractors/visitors showing up and not being in the Visitor Management System (VMS). If a non-resident shows up and they are in the VMS they are processed in a matter of seconds. If a non-resident shows up and is not in VMS, per the Post Orders, the guard is required to call the resident to get their permission to let them in and this takes from a few to several minutes. The guard was following the proper procedure as generated by us (the HOA) and agreed to by the Securitas District Manager. To avoid these backups in the future we need residents to put their visitors and contractors into the VMS. Download the ['Visitor Management Desktop Guide for Residents'](#) for guidance on how to enter your visitors into the system.



The HOA Board approved at their February meeting the funding to put a new street light in the vicinity of 3455 Olympic Drive. It will have a Visionaire light fixture which will provide maximum illumination. This area it has a curve that has no lighting which makes it very dangerous. Also, there is a wooded lot across from this address that has been used to gain access to our neighborhood to conduct criminal activity. This new street light will help with both of these issues. It is taking our electrical contractor, T&M Electric, longer than anticipated to acquire the materials needed but they hope to have the new light installed this month.

At their September meeting the Board approved funds for upgrades at the back (Medinah) gate. This work included adding a kiosk (for eventually opening the gate to non-residents), replacing the cameras, and upgrading the associated electronics. The new cameras feature a 3 in 1 camera unit that contains a camera that looks at the gates, a camera that looks at the island where the new kiosk is located, and a camera that looks down Madinah Lane towards SR 315. It also originally included two new IR license plate reader (LPR) cameras that we have discovered were incompatible with our servers. These LPRs are going to be replaced at no cost to us with conventional cameras. The Kiosk has several options that can be individually configured for our neighborhood as we see fit. A survey has been developed to get residents input for which mode(s) to utilize for granting access to visitors.

- PAUL WERRING



Continued



COMMITTEE BLAST • IV

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COVENANTS REVIEW AND CONSOLIDATION

If you were at the Annual Membership Meeting, you heard our report on where we are in our project, how large the task is and how it can't be accomplished without participation of our Board, our Committees and at least 75% approval from a vote of the membership of the Association. Quoting from that report: "So we, as MPCA members, have a challenge, which is also an opportunity. An opportunity to update and upgrade our Governing Documents, to broaden our communication channels, and to establish a clear path for making decisions as a whole organization."

The current Declarations of Covenants state, "this Declaration may be amended at any time upon the request of the Developer (now the Association), if such requested amendment is approved by the affirmative vote of 75% of votes cast by Owners at a duly called meeting of the Association". Our Committee has to gain an understanding of exactly what those words mean in our given situation where there are 16 Declaration documents, so that the Association can proceed with the required voting process.

Several observations of our recent Association vote at the March 12th Membership Meeting:

1. Of the 967 lot owners/members, 44% cast a vote
2. Removing the invalid ballots, 38% of the members cast a valid vote.
3. Level of participation is a big factor in the results.

We, as an Association, need much higher participation in the membership voting process. Certainly a goal worth striving for. If you did not attend the Membership Meeting, please stay informed by reading the newsgrams about the meeting and the meeting minutes. Our Committee activity is documented on the webpage on the Association website. Take a peek.

- ALLEN EASTMAN



An explosion of Amaryllis at the home of Janet and Chuck Schlaeffler. Janet started dividing bulbs from a small plot 6 years ago, and now they number over over 1,000 blossoms across a dozen beds.





April



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

Featured Listings

For Sale



5299 Deer Island Rd
Green Cove Springs
Courtney Looney

For Sale



1793 Preston Trail
Magnolia Point
Rosalind Arnold

For Sale



1898 Quaker Ridge
Magnolia Point
Kelly Rogers/Brooke Smith

Top Producer

Courtney Looney



Top Producer

Kelly Rogers



Top Producer

Douglas Senecal



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MPWC

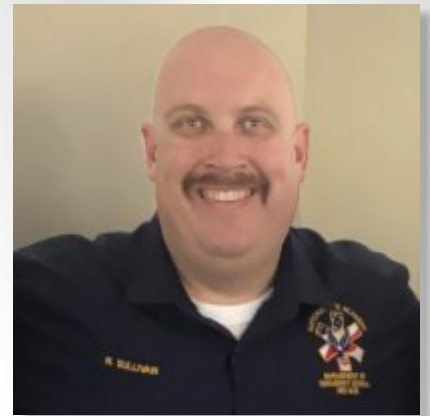
UPDATE
- SANDY WALDRUP

Proposed Executive Officer Slate

The Women's Club "year" runs from May 1 through April 30. At the recent March meeting, incoming President Donna Habing presented the executive officer slate that will help assist her next year: Pam Young, Vice President; Bobbe Marion, Recording Secretary; Adele Murphy, Corresponding Secretary; Linda Werring, Treasurer; and current President Lorna Broughton will be the Immediate Past President/Advisor. The slate will be voted on at the April meeting, but nominations for any position can be made from the floor prior to the vote being taken. New members have also volunteered to help on the various committees – thank you for volunteering!

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, most fire and carbon monoxide alarms have a life span of 8-10 years? After that time, the entire unit should be replaced. The date of manufacture is inside the unit on most alarms but if you cannot find a date, it is recommended the unit be replaced. This information was provided by Robert Sullivan, a Clay County resident, son-in-law of member Marlene Abbate, and who serves as a District Chief with the Alachua County Fire Rescue in Gainesville. Mr. Sullivan was the guest speaker at the member meeting on March 13 and spoke on numerous topics from his experience as a Certified Fire Fighter/EMT and Critical Care Paramedic, responding to major incidents as an Incident Commander. Several other important take-aways from his presentation were to always stay on the line with a 911 operator until the EMTs arrive, have a fire escape plan for your family and conduct fire drills with grandchildren and guests, CPR is now done through chest compressions to the beat of "Staying Alive", and EMTs decide on which hospital a patient will be transported to depending on their symptoms.



Robert Sullivan

Upcoming Programs

There are only 2 member meeting left in the "year". At the April 10 meeting, Magnolia Point's Chef Meeks will be demonstrating different ways to use risotto and sharing secrets to make it easy. He will also provide samples of a new dessert. We are looking forward to his presentation.

The May 8 meeting will be a luncheon for the installation of the new officers. The meeting program will be "Who Are They?" and members are asked to provide a high school graduation picture so that other members can guess who each member is. The format for the pictures can be a black-and-white photograph (lightly write your name back and the year of your graduation) or a digital version. Please submit your photo to Cindy Triay, Activities Director, no later than May 1. Cindy will also provide more details at the April meeting.

Continued



Membership Renewal

In conjunction with the new business year starting, members will be asked to renew their membership beginning May 1. Membership Director Marguerite Martin will pass the baton to Dianne Lochner at the May meeting; Dianne recently served on the Hospitality sub-committee that falls under the auspices of the Membership Committee. More details on the membership renewal process will be announced at a later date.

In the meantime, if you know of someone who would like to become a Women's Club member, please have them contact Marguerite Martin at memsells@att.net. To join, you must be a Magnolia Point resident or property owner or be a member of the country club.

MPWC - INCOMING OFFICERS



Donna Habing - *President*



Pam Young - *Vice President*



Bobbe Marion - *Recording Secretary*



Adele Murphy - *Corresponding Sec'y*



Linda Werring - *Treasurer*



Lorna Broughton - *Past Pres/Advisor*



SATURDAY, APRIL 27: COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Our next Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th, from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Association rules allows two community-wide sales per year, on the last Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October.

The gates will open to the public at 8:00am and buyers will NOT be allowed to enter the community prior to that time. At 4:00pm, the gates will be closed to the public.

Residents who participate should display a balloon on their mailbox, and the merchandise 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,

the Times Union and Clay Today. There will also be a banner on the railing at the corner of US 17 and Harbor Road.

Residents should also advertise what they are personally selling either on NextDoor.com, Craigslist or any other social media platform. Be sure to mention that we are having a community-wide sale that is open to the public.

The rain date is Sunday, April 28th.



Magnolia Pond #23



Photo: B. Hinson

'Mating Season!'

They're ba-a-a-a-a-ck! It's that time of year when a young gator's fancy turns to love. And things he loves to eat. And protect. We have our spring fairs and festivals, the gators will soon have nests and young and will

***defend** them. If you have to stop and think about whether you're giving them enough room, you're already too close!*

Remember, this is what he sees when he looks at you →



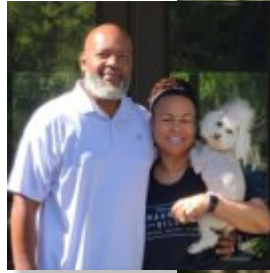


YARD OF THE QUARTER

CHARLENE & KEVIN JENKINS

1742 COLONIAL DRIVE

The Magnolia Point Landscape and Irrigation Committee announces the Charlene and Kevin Jenkins residence located at 1742 Colonial Drive as our selection for the 2nd Quarter 2024-Yard of the Quarter. They are the first owners of their beautiful home which was completed in July of 2020.



The building package included the pool/screened enclosure, outdoor kitchen and landscape design and installation. Charlene and Kevin worked with the landscaper to design the garden area, placement of trees and choosing the plants. Soon after they moved in, they found that the deer loved some of their landscape choices as much as they did. This required a change in some of the landscape choices.

The Jenkins love to work in their yard and gardens. They use color, shape and texture of the leaves to provide contrast. In two of the front beds, they planted sunshine *Ligustrum*, chocolate *Loropetalum* and *Podocarpus* (Japanese Yew). there is a large bed with azaleas and 2 areas near the front door with ferns and bromeliads. There are two large ligustrum on either end of the front gardens, framing the house. Charlene is interested in topiary and has four beautiful specimens flanking their front door that she meticulously maintains herself.

They planted two crape myrtles in the front lawn for added color and have two large staghorn ferns suspended from the live oaks on either side of the front lawn. There are two new additions to the back yard, as the Jenkins purchased and had two large Sylvester date palms recently installed.

- CINDY FRANCISCO

Continued





YARD OF THE QUARTER



Continued





What are some of the main improvements you've done to the yard?

We started from the ground up, and the building package included landscaping the yard.

What was your first 'success' with it?

We worked with the landscape designer to pick the trees and shrubs and moved plants around during the installation process.

What do you enjoy most about your yard?

We enjoy working on the yard and then sitting on the front and back porches relaxing and enjoying the fruits of our labor.

What are your plans, if any, going forward?

We just added two large Sylvester Palms to the back yard. We purchased the day before we did this interview!

Do you work with a landscaper on design ideas?

Yes we did. The builder had a landscaper as part of the package who we worked with to come up with the design. Since then we've been on our own.

What do you consider when shopping for flowers, shrubbery, or ornamentals?

We like to go to local nurseries for inspiration and then research the plants on-line.

Please share your tips for fertilization and watering of your yard and its featured plantings.

We have used "The Lawn Care Nut" website as well as the Scott's app for advice for years. We are a retired military family and have moved frequently.

Do you do your own maintenance, and what does that entail?

Yes we do. We mow, trim, prune, weed, and replace, add and move plants. For example, when our crotons died off during the freeze we had in Dec 2022, we did research on the plants that grow well here in the Jacksonville area and toured the neighborhood to see what was growing well in Magnolia Point that appealed to us.

Your advice to those considering a yard makeover

Do research and ask questions. Then **do** it!



PLAYING THROUGH

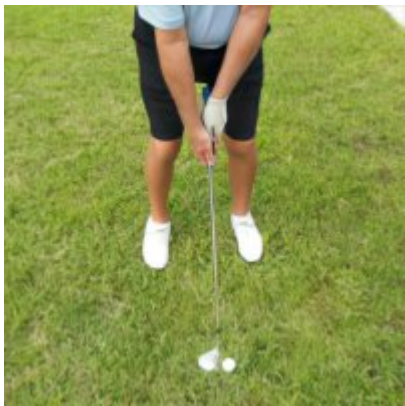
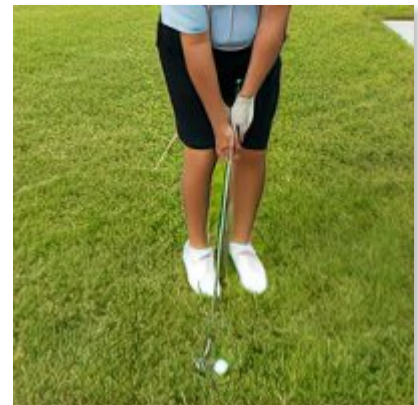


Say hello to Christian Smith, Magnolia Point Resident and Golf Member, current handicap "0". Christian graduated from Stetson University where he played number one on the university golf team. One will often see Christian practicing and playing at Magnolia Point. In addition to local and state amateur events, Christian is in demand as a partner in our Magnolia Point events. Thank you for the tips Christian.

HAND POSITION ON THE GOLF CLUB FOR LOW VS. HIGH WEDGE SHOTS

Golf is a game of precision and control, where the slightest adjustment can have a significant impact on the outcome of a shot. Hand position on the golf club is always critical, particularly when executing wedge shots. The position of the hands can determine the trajectory, spin, and distance of the ball, making it a fundamental skill for golfers to master.

For low wedge shots, "chip shots" or "bump and runs," the hand position is crucial in keeping the ball flight lower and promoting a more controlled roll upon landing. To achieve this, you should position the hands slightly ahead of the ball at address. This forward hand placement encourages a steeper angle of attack, resulting in a descending blow that imparts less loft on the ball. Additionally, the hands should lead the clubhead through impact, ensuring that the loft of the clubface is reduced, and the ball is struck with a more delofted face. This technique helps to minimize the ball's backspin and launch angle, allowing for a lower trajectory that is less affected by wind and provides more predictable roll on the green.



In contrast, high "lobs" or "flop shots," require a different hand position to achieve the desired high trajectory and soft landing. For these shots, golfers should position their hands level with or slightly behind the ball at address. This setup allows the clubhead to slide under the ball more easily, utilizing the full loft of the wedge to launch the ball higher into the air. The hands should remain passive during the swing, allowing the clubhead to release naturally and add loft to the shot. The goal is to create maximum backspin, which helps the ball stop quickly on the green, even from short distances. This technique is particularly useful when facing obstacles such as bunkers or when the pin is closely tucked behind a hazard.

Understanding the relationship between hand position and ball trajectory is essential for golfers looking to improve their short game. Again, for low wedge shots, a forward hand position promotes a lower ball flight and greater control, making it ideal for situations where the golfer needs the ball to run out on the green. On the other hand, a neutral or slightly rearward hand position is key for high wedge shots, where stopping the ball quickly with minimal roll is the priority.

In conclusion, the hand position on the golf club plays a pivotal role in executing both low and high wedge shots effectively. Golfers must practice and develop a feel for the correct hand placement for each type of shot, as it can greatly influence their ability to navigate various course conditions and scoring situations. By mastering the art of hand positioning, golfers can add versatility to their short game, ultimately leading to lower scores and a more enjoyable experience on the course.

- CHRISTIAN SMITH



POND VIEWS



*Magnolia Pond #19
'Mating Season!'*



dp



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REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS



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FACES & NAMES

MARY ARTICO-BATES
101 YEARS YOUNG!



How long have you lived in Magnolia Point?

I have lived here in Magnolia Point since 2006.

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

My daughter, Angie who lives in Panama visits several times a year. She will be staying here this summer and fall.

Do you have any pets?

Through the years I have acquired several pets, although they presented the opportunity to me, I never "chose" any of them. Just one year ago, at age 100, I went to a local rescue shelter and adopted my beautiful Tortoise Shell cat, Eve, though I call her 'Kitty'.

What was your passion at 16?

I loved playing sports! I played basketball, field hockey, and archery. I enjoyed family events as well.

And now?

I enjoy time with my cat, word search puzzles and being on my screened porch. I have a wonderful lady that visits me everyday when my daughter isn't here and we go out to eat lunch every day.

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

Educate yourself as much as possible and travel as much as you can.

What do you like most about your home?

My home is just the right size for me and my daughter. I love my screened porch to look at the animals that frequent my yard. I have wonderful neighbors as well.

Places lived:

I was born in New Castle, PA in 1923. I went to college and afterwards heard about a job opportunity to work for the state department. I wanted to travel and this seemed to be the perfect job for me. I met my husband while working for the Foreign Service Branch of the State Department in Angola. We visited 57 countries while working for the state department and vacations. My favorite country is Italy.

Special memories:

I met then President Nixon while living in Moscow. While living in Cairo, Egypt I had the opportunity to walk on the newly discovered Pharaoh Khufu's boat. This was a 144 foot long vessel that was found buried in a pyramid. Needless to say shortly afterwards the government decided it wasn't a good idea to have people walk on the deck and it was moved to a museum.

Secrets to longevity:

I believe it all started with eating healthy. My family had a garden and my father hunted and fished. Be open-minded about things in general. Travel as much as you can. You will learn so much by seeing and understanding different cultures and lifestyles.

Special thanks to Nancy Catudal for interview & photos.



Let's talk about accessories for your golf cart. Your golf cart for most is your second form of transportation whether it's a round of golf or maybe riding to the clubhouse for dinner and a beverage.

Our golf carts are a direct extension of us and who we are. We tend to accessorize our carts, but we don't want to break the bank. For new golf cart owners who have never owned a golf cart it is also an exciting time doing things to your cart. Where to start most people might say and what do I want to get for my cart or where to buy from. For many people today we might google golf cart accessories or go check out a local shop close to you. Not everyone is a DIYer so most would rather have someone who knows what they're doing to put it on. Also, the question of so many different options and brands out there you might be overwhelmed by which accessory to choose. So, for you first time owners or possible novice owners let's talk the top five golf cart accessories that are a must have and number ten won't be under \$100.00 but will be well worth the money for most.



1. *Mirrors are an essential part of the cart or your vehicle so every golf cart should have a pair of mirrors.*

2. *Steering wheel replacement is a cool feature that can differentiate your cart and make it stand out amongst the crowd. They come in a variety of styles and colors.*



Multicolor



3. *How about a cool set of wheel covers for your cart? They're stylish and affordable and pop on like a hub cap. Don't be fooled because there are carts out there that have wheel covers on them that look just like a set of wheels to the untrained eye.*

4. *A battery monitor is a key and crucial accessory for your golf cart. A digital or needle gauge will keep you from being stranded if your batteries get low and serve as reminder to charge those batteries.*



Continued



5. Seat belts are not a necessity but if you have little ones or grandkids, they are a def must for the golf cart. They're a great safety feature if you're looking to make your cart street legal and they'll be there when and if you ever need them.

So, we've gone through the list of accessories for your golf cart under a \$100 or less and yes some are sexier than others, but I saved a bonus one for the golf cart enthusiast who loves their cart and uses it often and enjoys entertaining and listening to music while cruising the course or maybe riding the family to food truck Friday or around the neighborhood. Soundextreme by Ecoxgear makes a sound bar that delivers a concert-like sound and light show that won't drain your pocketbook. Or your batteries! Let me introduce you to the SEB-28 wireless Bluetooth soundbar for your cart. 500 watts of sound for starters, and comes with a wireless remote to manage a variety of functions that will surely impress. A rechargeable lithium-ion power pack supplies over 20 hours of listening enjoyment which means it won't affect your cart's battery life. This 28" sound bar has a two-year warranty and is waterproof so if you get caught in the rain there are no worries. And did I mention 20 hours of on a charge, and no wires to your batteries or connection issues? A light show while enjoying your favorite music. You'll impress the crowd or the family when you pull up with this addition on your cart.

The Ecoxgear SEB-28 is a little pricey for some, but is one of the hottest must haves for your cart. Good luck and happy carting. Hope to see you out there cruising the neighborhood.



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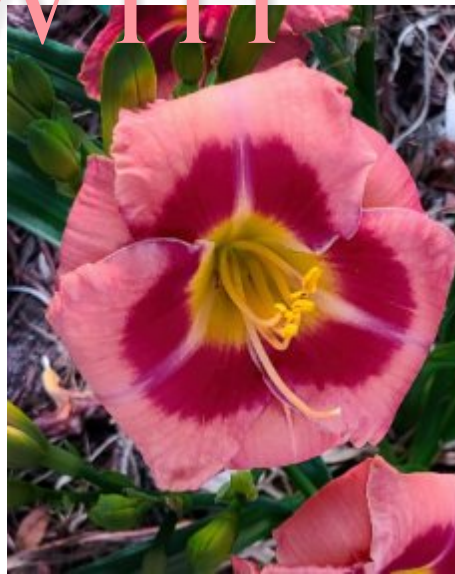


BECKY HINSON

NEW GROWTH



Meet **Grancys Gray Beard**, aka fringe tree, aka *Chionanthus virginicus*, a North American native tree. This one was planted within the last year on cul de sac the corner of Colonial and Cherry Hills. One of my favorite early bloomers!



Walked out behind the pool enclosure and there it was! Just coming up last week. **Dwarf Reblooming Daylily** a 'Kokomo' from the Bahamas Pink Sky cultivar.

- CINDY FRANCISCO



I, NUTRIA



dp

"We're happy to pitch in, ma'am. Now keep it moving, please."



Governor's Creek



BRENDA FREY





THE *Traveling Fork*

- BILL BLACKWELL



Today, we will feature an eating experience at the **Green Papaya** Restaurant at 8635 Blanding Boulevard just off I-295. This restaurant features Thai and Sushi cuisine, and it has a very pretty pictorial menu showing each particular menu item. The menu is extensive in content and our orders matched the pictures in the menu.



Marcia and I both like most ethnic foods and our appetites were well served here. The only problem (and it's a nice problem to have) is there are so many food entries on the menu and they are so attractively displayed by the pictures that choosing the orders is made difficult.

We started with a shared Green Papaya Sampler featuring 2 egg rolls, 2 fresh spring rolls, 2 skewered chicken strips, 2 crab Rangoons, 2 coconut shrimps with Thai garlic sauce and a peanut sauce, and an order of seaweed salad. Marcia ordered a Philadelphia Sushi Roll with smoked salmon, avocado and cream cheese. I got a Drunken Noodle dish made of rice noodles stir fried with fresh Thai basil, green peppers, onions, scallions, bean sprouts, and scallops seasoned to a #4 level ("heat index").



For dessert we ordered an ice cream item called "Mochi Ice Cream" in an adventurous spirit. It was served on a plate with a vanilla cream in the center, surrounded by strawberry, green tea, and mango mochi balls, with flavored ice cream in the center encapsulated in mochi rice coatings. As ice cream lovers, we were not fans of this dessert item. We would rather have the ice cream with no mochi rice coverings. Other than our dessert, we were well pleased with this eating adventure. We plan to go back to try some of the many other interesting menu items.



I, NUTRIA



dp

Nutria. Sweet.



Electric Road Warriors Susan & Jenn hit the highway.

Taking Charge

Did you ever want to pinch yourself to see if you are dreaming? That's how I feel most mornings these days. Having the freedom to explore the country. Making my schedule my own. Chasing 70-degree weather. And seeing some of the most beautiful places in the US. Some have told me this is crazy or that I am too old, but most friends and family are incredibly happy for me and some wish they could be tagging along.



Jenn & Sixty

Selling everything you own and investing in a nomad lifestyle is not for the faint of heart. Fortunately for me, my daughter had the same dream. Without her, this would not have become reality. But anyone can give this lifestyle a try on a small scale by renting a Class B or B+ RV, or a campervan, which is drivable, self-contained, and easy to set up and break down—an effective way to test the waters.

After a couple of months on the road, we have figured out how we like to travel between destinations. Jenn still works remotely, so moving is limited to weekends. If we have more than 200 miles to go (and we have gone more than 500 miles in a weekend), we make Saturday a long, long travel day with a few hours to go on Sunday. And then we try to spend two weeks in one spot so Jenn can have a weekend with no travel in between. We have also found that the best EV charging is along the interstates, as is the access to free overnight parking at Cracker Barrels for our Saturday night stops.

In March, we spent an extra week in South Carolina to visit with friends, staying in a new campground, Crossroads Coach Resort at the ROB in Lake City, which has a small, artsy downtown area with fun shops and restaurants. From Lake City, we moved to Foley, Alabama. To get there, we had to figure out how to avoid Atlanta's nightmare traffic. We changed our timing a bit to sneak through Atlanta at 10pm on a Saturday night. Thankfully, we breezed through the area.

Foley is an upcoming area on the gulf coast. It was particularly special since I was able to have dinner with a high school classmate that I had not spoken to in 62 years. After wondering what we were going to talk about, we talked non-stop and realized so many things in our lives have had a common thread.

We left Foley early on a Saturday morning, heading to Texas. We traveled through Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana and arrived in Texas late Saturday night. It is amazing how much of our country looks the same, at least along the gulf coast. I realized that I have never driven west of Dothan, Alabama, so it has been a treat to see from the ground and not just "fly over" these states.



Tip of the Month – We had no problems and felt safe spending the night both at a Walmart in Texas and a Cracker Barrel in Georgia. For a quick overnight stop without having to unhitch makes it easy to get on the road early the next morning. Be sure to give them a call to confirm they allow parking overnight.



Colorado County courthouse, c. 1891



Out our window



The Pro shop. No, really!



THE P • A • R • K • S

Featuring the fine stalking and camera skills of our own Becky Hinson on her visits to local wildlife preserves and parks



Photos this page courtesy of City of Gainesville

Are you ready for a new pair of walking shoes yet? If you're on my exercise plan, you're probably on your third pair by now. If so, lace them up and head over to Gainesville to the **Sweetwater Wetlands Park**. It's a great place to exercise safely and view wildlife at the same time. Plan to make it a day as the Park is 59 miles away or approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

While you're in the neighborhood, stop by Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. It's more of an escape into the wilderness so be



ready to hike. If you're lucky, you'll see bison and wild horses there.

Sweetwater is located at 325 SW Williston Road in Alachua County. They're open from 7am to sunset daily. Entrance fees are \$5 per car and \$2 per person for bicyclists, pedestrians and buses. Bring correct change to leave in the honor box. Mobility tours are available on request by calling 352-554-5871. You must schedule these tours at least two weeks in advance. If you have other special needs accommodations,

Continued



call the number above 48 hours in advance. Included is almost one mile of ADA accessible trail on pervious concrete and boardwalk surfaces and viewing platforms. The walking areas are clean and well maintained. Restrooms are available.

The park consists of 125 acres of man-made ponds and wetlands. The purpose of Sweetwater was to improve water quality of wetlands in both Paynes Prairie and the Florida Aquifer. Water is filtered as it flows into Paynes Prairie from Sweetwater Branch. The origin of this creek is located northeast of downtown Gainesville. Stormwater runoff has been diverted into the creek for over a century, buried in culverts throughout the city. In the 1930's ranchers cut canals through the prairie killing off the wetlands. Plans were made to build a natural water filtration system and the hiking trails were a bonus. The result was a beautiful spot to enjoy the beauty of Florida.

Because of the potential conflict with alligators and other wildlife, pets are never allowed in the park. Biking, horseback riding, camping or driving cars are not allowed. Fishing is also not permitted but you can photograph as long as you don't use a drone.

The park has 3.5 miles on crushed gravel trails and boardwalks surrounded by beautiful native plants, animals, birds, turtles, bobcats, otters, butterflies and more. In fact, it's home to more than 260 species of birds and animals. I was lucky enough to see the Cracker horses, in the distance, on my last trip.

Gainesville is home to many nature parks including the Morningside Nature Center, Loblolly Woods Nature Park, Bivens Arm Nature Park and Clear Lake Nature Park. Don't forget to stop by the Butterfly Rainforest at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Get off that couch and take the family to Gainesville for an afternoon stroll through the park!

Photos this page Becky Hinson



THE P • A • R • K • S



I, NUTRIA



dp

"GEE, I HOPE HE FOUND THAT BALL."

THE 9 HOLE LEAGUE - SANDY WALDRUP

February 28 – Cha Cha Cha

We had 2 4-somes that participated in Cha Cha Cha, a team game similar to Flags for scoring. Since the group played the Back/Blue 9, the team recorded their team score as follows: Holes 10, 13 & 16 – 2 best net balls; Holes 11, 14 & 17– 3 best net balls; and for Holes 12, 15 & 18 – 1 best net ball was used.

Congratulations to **Cheryle Newman** for her birdie on Hole 15, giving her a net 2 for a double eagle. Way to go, Cheryle! There were no chip-ins, so the pot rolls over for a third week.



1st Place – Janine O’Connor, Donna Hirsch, Barbara Shinn, Shirley Orvosh

March 7 – Stableford

There were 2 groups of 4 playing team Stableford. **Dianne Dearth** continued her winning ways, getting a chip-in on Hole 4 and being a member of the first-place team.

1st Place – Dianne Dearth, Donna Hirsch, Shirley Orvosh, Sharon Sprott

March 14 – Flags

The group favorite game of Flags was played, with 9 golfers forming 3 groups that went off the Back/Blue 9. Flags is a team game where the team score is recorded depending on the color the pin or flag is on each hole. There were no chip-ins, so the pot rolls over.



1st Place – Val Flemming, Barbara Shinn, Judy Sessions

2nd Place – Donna Hirsch, Shirley Orvosh, Jenn St. Mary



March 21 – Individual Game

The group played their own individual game with the field flighted into 2 flights, with the low nets in each flight placing. The payouts are based on the “population” in each flight; Flight 1 only had 3 players as opposed to Flight 2 with 8 players. There were no chip-ins again this week, so the pot rolls over.

← **Flight 1** - 1st – **Sandy Waldrup**; 2nd – **Cheryle Newman**

Flight 2 - 1st – **Donna Hirsch**; 2nd – **Sharon Sprott**; 3rd – **Janine O’Connor**; 4th – **Val Flemming**

Membership

Come join us! We welcome all female players with a handicap; although you can begin play without one, establishing your handicap while playing. The season ends on May 23, but if you would like more information about the league, 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

Duplicate Bridge, Thu, Feb 22

1. Phyllis Boyd & Alice Lodge
2. Kim Belcher & Jola Griener
3. Connie & Michael Byers
4. Joan Richardson & Carol Studer
5. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
6. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
Sharon Sprott & Ed Szymanski
(Tied)

Social Bridge, Thu, Feb 29

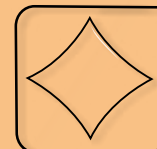
1. Connie & Michael Byers
2. Val Flemming & Dottie Lunt
3. Kim Belcher & Ed Hayes
4. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
5. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
6. Sondra Costa & Marsha Parker

Duplicate Bridge, Thu, Mar 7

1. Connie & Michael Byers
2. Mary Kendall & Sharon Murphy
3. Sondra Costa & Marsha Parker
4. Jim Cordozo & Rannel Westberry
5. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague

Social Bridge, Thu, Mar 14

1. Connie & Mike Byers
2. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
3. Monica & Steve Harmon
4. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague



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THE MAGNOLIA NEWS

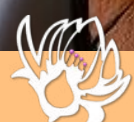
It's Easy-Peasy!





Even a Cavewoman Can Do It!

dp





IT'S HERE!

The Clay County Agricultural Fair, a yearly event since 1987, opens **Thursday, April 4th** and continues through **Sunday, the 14th**, at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Be sure to check their website for special events and offers on admission. As always, it's a "A Family A*Fair"

NEW THIS YEAR:

- Poultry Pals
- Cow Patty Bingo
- Husband Calling
- Agri-Cadabra
- The Milking Trailer
- The WOW Factor Science Show Stilt Fun
- The Shrunk 3D Booth
- Agri-Golf
- Hilby: The Skinny German Juggle Boy
- Circus Incredible

SPECIAL SHOWS:

- First Friday Fireworks 10pm
- World Famous Frisbee Dogs
- Rosaire's Royal Racers
- Lew-E's Comedy Circus
- Mobile Glass Blowing Demos
- Pirate Man Dan
- Tims Trains
- Dennis Lee Show



PARKING

Parking is **FREE** at the Fairgrounds. Please allow the Clay County Sheriff Deputies to direct you to park. Be sure to lock your vehicle, and take note of where you have parked.

WHAT TO BRING

Be prepared with sunscreen and visors on warm sunny days. Have a jacket or sweatshirt for cool evenings. A poncho or umbrella is a good idea if the skies turn grey. Tune into News4Jax for your daily "Fair Weather" report.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

PETS: We love pets, but the fair is not pet friendly. Pets are not permitted on the Fairgrounds except service animals in compliance with the ADA.

COOLERS: No bottles, cans, coolers or picnic baskets are permitted on the fairgrounds.

ALCOHOL: We are an Alcohol and drug free event.

claycountyfair.org



APRIL 4-14!



CLAY COUNTY
Agricultural FAIR



Photos: Editor



Mandalla

Junco Royals

Hawkins Highland Dance

Groove Coalition

Lonesome Ride

Jimmy Beats

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Mariachi Primera Costa

Chrome 57

Peru Jax

Viva Panama

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CHILDREN'S ART VIA WITH HARRIST DE LUNA
ATOMIC SKETCH THE ART ROOM
OLIVIA GONZALEZ RED'S WINE BAR WITH GUITARIST PAUL IVEY

TUES. 4/23 BRIDGES OF HARMONY 7PM-8PM 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARIACHI PRIMERA COSTA 7PM-9PM LA CASITA RESTAURANT

WED. 4/24 VIVA LA GUITARRA! 6PM-8PM GREEN COVE METHODIST
LONESOME RIDE 7PM-9PM THE CORNER POCKET

THURS. 4/25 OPHELIA, FLORIDA SUFFRAGIST 12:00PM VIA
RARE SONG 7PM-8:30PM ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FRI. 4/26 50's SOCK HOP 6PM-8:30PM SPRING PARK POOL PAVILION

SAT. 4/27 SATURDAY IN THE PARK NOON-8:30PM SPRING PARK
PERODANCE, HAWKINS HIGHLAND, VIVA PANAMA NOON

JIMMY BEATS BAND 1:30PM
JUNCO ROYALS 3:45PM YOUTH ARTIST - CALVIN WAICURU
GROOVE COALITION 5:30PM
MANDALLA 7:00PM
CHRISTOPHER FOSTER EVENT EMCEE

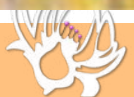
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