

THE  
*Magnolia*  
NEWS

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE RESIDENTS OF MAGNOLIA POINT

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025



*The Legend of*  
PUMPTY DUMPTY

## Welcome October!

A year ago in our October 2024 issue, we introduced 'Sleeves Up', a community volunteer recognition program. We're proud to announce our first 'Volunteer of the Quarter Award'; see below.

Saratoga Springs rises ½ mile west of our Medinah gate. We will be following the progress in future issues. **Page 3.**



He's back and he's better than ever; Mark Twain visits his keen wit on us, just in time for the holidays, **pages 25-26.**



'Volunteer of the Quarter' recognizes an individual who gives of their time to the community, and the first goes to Paul Werring, **page 4.**

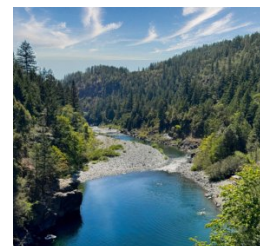


It's Part 2 of all things 'grip', and these are Christinan's hard-won tips about holding your club, **pages 28-29.**

It's 'The Legend of Pumpty Dumpty', Magnolia Point's own silent and mischevious superhero, **pages 12-13.**



It's the Mitchell girls *times three!* Emma joins Jenn & Susan for adventures on the Left Coast, **pages 31-33.**



Say hello to the West family, (and 'Toonces the Driving Cat') in this month's 'Faces & Names', **page 14.**

A savory dish *with history*, Cajun Beef Stew is Bill's installment this month in the 'Traveling Fork', **page 21.**



'Magnolia Chrome' returns with a look at a classic '55 Chevy, Cary Arnold's pride, on **pages 23-24.**



It's the 'Lickety Split', a banana-infused slushie for the season, this month's 'MIXmagic' on **page 35.**

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[MAGNOLIAresidents.com](http://MAGNOLIAresidents.com)

We do not accept political, social commentary, or opinion pieces for publication.





# EXTRA!

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 10

"BREAKING NEWS FROM BEHIND THE HEDGES"

OCTOBER 2025



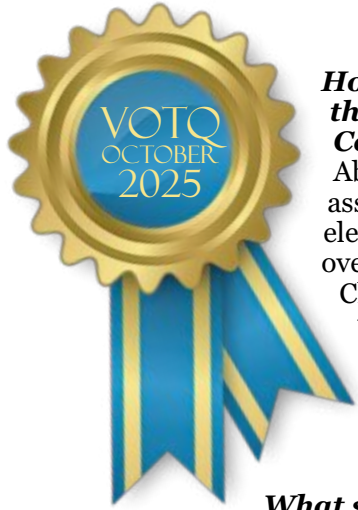
dp







## PAUL WERRING VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



### ***How long have you served on the Access Control Committee?***

About 6 years. First as an assistant to Jon Bastress until his election to the HOA Board. I took over the Access Control Committee Chairmanship from Jon and held that position for 4 years. Now I am an assistant to Chuck Cox who took over the Committee Chairmanship earlier this year.

### ***What skills from your background or career serve you particularly well as a volunteer on Access Control?***

My 35 years in the Navy taught me to adapt and overcome. And anyone who is familiar with Access Control knows you need to adapt and overcome to the many issues that are thrown our way.

### ***What's the hardest part of serving on this committee?***

Getting calls about something going wrong at all times of the day/evening and on weekends.

### ***What's the most rewarding?***

The many people who are constantly thanking us on the Committee for keeping the gates and other equipment associated with Access Control operational.

### ***How do you think we could get more neighbors to volunteer here?***

Maybe put out an invite to show people how the Access Control Committee operates. We could show them the gatehouse and the operation of the gates and other equipment, i.e., cameras, monitors, kiosk.

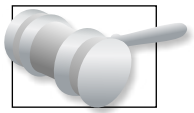
### ***Are there others on this committee, or any others, that you'd like to shout out to?***

I want to thank Chuck Cox for stepping up and taking over the Chairmanship of the Committee. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that people are unaware of in order to keep Access Control afloat. Chuck has jumped in and already improved many of the procedures and processes to try make things run smoother and maybe reduce our workload.



Volunteering 'Deep Dive' Podcast





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *What Has the Board Been Up To?*

As a board member, I often run into new residents during my day-to-day activities. Once they learn that I am on the board, a common question follows: "What's is the board doing?". This kind of comment catches me off guard. Most do not think about the significant efforts of the board and volunteers to maintain and improve this beautiful and safe community. The fact is that most board actions are only visible to those who attend meetings or read the minutes. So, to bridge that gap, here's a summary of key actions and accomplishments from this year:

**Infrastructure:** The board continues to prioritize essential infrastructure projects, including drainages systems, ponds, roads. This year we approved and spent:

- Drainage repairs and improvements \$127K
- Pond maintenance and repairs \$28K
- Road repairs \$26K
- In August, the board approved hiring a professional civil engineer to provide expert guidance on these projects. He now attends monthly board meetings to offer recommendations and long-term support.
- Landscaping & Irrigation: The board has approved \$49K for landscaping improvements, irrigation repairs, and tree remediation.

**Access Control:** This year, \$167K was spent on gate staffing and \$23K on technology repairs and upgrades, including lightning protection for the Medinah Gate. We are considering Deionizer technology to further protect the Medinah gate area from lightning. (Note: The front gate is naturally protected by surrounding trees.)

**Online Voting:** To improve accessibility and reduce costs, the board approved electronic voting via Election Buddy. We encourage all residents to sign up to use electronic voting; click [here](#) for the form.

**Xfinity Contract:** We approved a new 10-year marketing agreement with Xfinity, which will generate \$160K in revenue for the community.

**Collections Process and Status:** This year, the board and May Management have renewed their focus on collecting unpaid assessments. Unpaid assessments place a burden on residents who pay on time and can lead to increased assessments for everyone. Currently, there are \$156K of unpaid assessments, Alliance, the association's collections company, has collected \$52K so far this year.

### Items Pending by the End of the Year:

- **2026 Operating Budget:** The preliminary budget of \$2M has been submitted for board review. In October, residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback before final approval in November. Operating budget costs increased across the board including:
  - Vendor contractual CPI-based increases
  - Increasing insurance, legal counsel, and professional engineering services costs
  - Increasing member communications and offsite meeting costs, and website upgrades
  - Increasing Reserve Fund contributions
  - Smaller infrastructure items (under \$10K) with unpredictable lifespans will be shifted from the Reserve Fund to the Operating Budget to align with industry best practices.

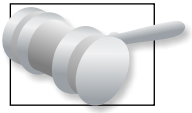
**Reserve Fund Study:** The board selected Reserve Advisors to conduct a new Reserve study. Their civil engineer has completed a site survey, and Nevin Engineering Services (the Association engineer) is developing a comprehensive plan for road repaving and drainage improvements. These detailed engineering plans will be integrated into the Reserve Study, with preliminary results expected by November.

**Use Agreement Revisions:** As promised, the CLC committee has provided a revised Use Agreement to the board for review and comments. The board has included additional revisions to remove obsolete sections, tighten financial reporting requirements, and add items to improve the appearance and services provided. In October, we expect to share the revised Use Agreement with residents for review, feedback and voting.

- JON BASTRESS

Continued





## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Last month, the Strategic Planning Committee worked with Chuck Cox to complete a more detailed survey on the subject of Access Control. At the September Board meeting, we requested to send this survey through Election Buddy.

Although the Survey has been sent to May Management to send out, the Board and May are currently going through the implementation process to prepare for the vote on the Use Agreement later this month, so the Survey may be postponed until after that implementation process has been finalized.

We are still encouraging everyone to complete their profile information with May Management to include at least an email address, but also to opt-in to Electronic Voting. This will make communication with residents much easier to accomplish and will save the HOA (and you) a significant amount of money in postage and printing costs.

- ANN SIMS

## LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION

In addition to the regular L&I Committee work sessions this month, we held a planning and priorities meeting. Our new Board Liaison, Ernest Young attended. Topics we discussed included vinyl wrapping the large electrical boxes, purchasing and installing park benches, using more native plants and perennials in our landscape projects. We are also working on adding more color to our entrance beds year round. The following are projects performed or overseen by the committee in Sept., 2025.

### **Landscaping:**

- Cleaned out/weeded the beds around the Harbor Rd. sign, trimmed the shrubs
- Cleaned out the new bed in front of the utility boxes at the end of Borden Lane nearest the Colonial/Muirfield/ Magnolia Point Boulevard intersection and added mulch.
- Began our fall planting behind the gatehouse: removed the invasive ferns, planted Holly ferns, and Caladium bulbs
- Weeded the area inside the fence at the back of the gatehouse
- Purchased and planted yellow and red coleus in the flower bed in front of the gatehouse
- Limbed up the Japanese Blueberry shrub/tree that was interfering with the line-of -sight at the Stonebriar/Colonial intersection and cleaned out the bed around it.

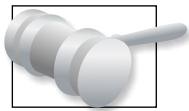
### **Irrigation:**

An irrigation leak was discovered under the live oak at the corner of Colonial and Magnolia Point Boulevard next to the pond. It appears the root system that is directly beneath the oak, has damaged the water lines. It is currently being worked on.

### **Next up:**

- Finding a vendor to install a vinyl horticulture wrap on our test utility box at the Constancia intersection.
- Purchase and installation of the plants to be added to the community bed in front of Exit Realty: azaleas, dwarf camellias, ornamental grasses, jackfrost ligustrum are under consideration.
- Purchase and installation of camellias, azaleas, hydrangeas a saw palmetto and other shrubs for the bed along the shadowbox fence
- Continue replacing the flowers in the beds at the Harbor Rd. and Medinah entrances.
- Replace some of the shrubs at the Magnolia Point sign at Colonial/Muirfield/Magnolia Point Boulevard that are declining
- Continue the renovation of the islands/medians at the Constancia /Red Hawk/Magnolia Point Blvd. intersection.
- Limbing up some trees on the roads throughout the community that interfere with passage of large City and County utility trucks and emergency vehicles.

*Continued*



## October 2025 Planting Tips:

Fall has arrived and we are now in our area's second major planting season. Days are still warm, but the nights have cooled, lowering the soil temperature. The cooler weather gives the plants an opportunity to concentrate their energy on developing a strong root system. For shrubs such as Camellias, hollies, some ornamental grasses and ferns such as the shade loving holly fern, it is their primary planting season.

It's also a good time to consider planting sod due to the cooler soil temperatures reducing the heat stress. It takes about two to four weeks to establish roots and about 6-8 weeks for full establishment. Start with frequent, shallow watering and then increase the length of time but decrease the frequency.

For flowering plants, consider trying allyssum, dianthus, dusty miller, geranium, pansy, petunias snapdragon verbena, viola -including pansies. October is the last month for planting strawberries. If you are interested in growing your own herbs, consider planting parsley, dill, chives, sage, thyme, mint, rosemary, and basil. It's time to plant fall vegetables such as onion and garlic bulbs, broccoli, collards, kohlrabi, and strawberries.

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

FREE community programs for Clay County gardeners from the Clay UF-IFAS Extension: 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 facility adjacent to the fairgrounds. This month, on Oct. 27, 2025, the presentation is "Advanced Fertilization Strategies" presented by a member of the MPCA L&I Committee.

- CINDY FRANCISCO



*Cissy, Diana, Mary & Suzanne on Borden Lane*

# HOLIDATES

THE SEASON BEGINS...  
SOME DATES TO KEEP HANDY:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

COMMUNITY YARD SALE - [MORE HERE](#)



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

MPWC 'DESIGNER BAG BINGO' - [MORE HERE](#)



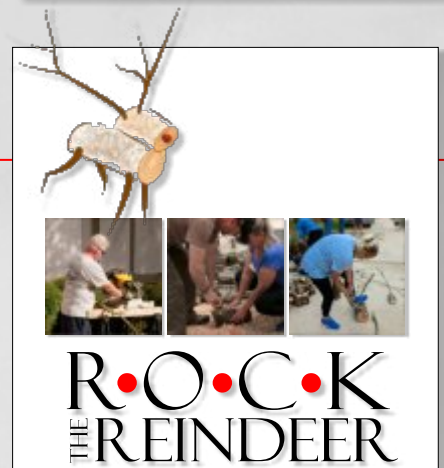
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

CARTS 'N CANDY



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

ROCK THE REINDEER - [MORE HERE](#)







**Clay High Boys Golf Team:** The boys' golf team at Clay High School recently held a golf tournament fundraiser on September 13 to raise money for their team. The Women's Club sponsored a hole for the fundraiser event, and President **Pam Young**, Schools Director **Judy Sessions** and member **Marlene Jacobs** presented the donation to Coach Jon Love and the golf team.

## It's All About Supporting Our Schools

The past few months, Schools Director Judy Sessions and her committee have been extending the Women's Club generosity to the various schools that the Club supports. The Club's members donated back-to-school supplies for the "Stuff the Bus" drive and the Club recently donated books to Spring Park Elementary as part of the Sunshine State Young Readers program.

**Bannerman Learning Center:** The Women's Club also supports Bannerman Learning Center, an alternative learning school located in Green Cove Springs. Bannerman works to prepare non-traditional students for success in a global and competitive workplace by acquiring positive life skills and becoming life-long learners. Bannerman also provides a positive, safe and supportive environment that promotes excellence in teaching and learning. One way that teachers prepare the students is by recognizing exceptional behavior from the students through the use of gift cards. The Women's Club donates gift cards for that use and Laura Emery, the liaison for Bannerman, recently delivered 50 \$5 gift cards purchased by the Women's Club to be used for their rewards program.

## Green Cove Springs Junior High School:

**Barbara Szymanski**, liaison for Green Cove Springs Junior High School, has been working with the Assistant Principal and guidance counselors at the school. The Women's Club will be assisting the school this year with their Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). PBIS is a way the school rewards students who engage in good behavior on their campus. Students earn "cougar cash" as a currency that allows them to buy something, like a trinket or snack, at the Cougar Store each Friday after lunch. The Club, through Barbara's assistance, has sent the school items from Amazon and will also assist several more times this school year.

**AMikids:** an alternative school for boys in Green Cove Springs that the Women's Club supports through in-kind donations. The school helps boys ages 11-15 build self-awareness, learn about potential careers and develop plans for reaching future goals. There is also a workforce program for ages 14-21 that assists youth to learn job readiness skills and necessary certifications to transition to the workforce. The program combines school-based and work-based learning to assist them. **Donna Habing** is the liaison for the school. Members will have an opportunity to donate toiletry items to the school in October.

*Continued*







**Charles E. Bennett Elementary:** On August 28, members delivered 29 curriculum-supported books for the Charles E. Bennett Elementary third grade classes. The books were requested by CEB's Principal Amanda Strickland. CEB School Liaison Clara Gilbert coordinated the project and former principal Janice Tucker and Kathy Gillespie donated funds for the book purchase. Schools Director Judy Sessions, liaison **Clara Gilbert**, Principal Strickland, CEB's librarian and ten other members of the faculty, including five third-grade teachers, were all present to receive the new books. There is a need at both elementary schools for community volunteers to read to or be read to by students, especially at the lower grades. If anyone is interested in volunteering, fill out the easy and simple background check at [here](#); once approved, each school librarian will schedule the time to volunteer.

### Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser

Ready to have fun while making a difference? The Women's Club invites you to its **Designer Bag Bingo!** This event will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge located at 702 South Orange Avenue. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with bingo starting at 6:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$30 per person, which includes 10 3-card games and 1 raffle ticket. Extra cards will be available for purchase as well as raffle tickets. Snacks and drinks are available for purchase. Win **Michael Kors, Vera Bradley, Scout, Kate Spade** and **Coach** bags! Seating is limited so get your tickets at [www.mpwc.org](http://www.mpwc.org). Players must be 18 years old. All proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to improve the lives of our underserved residents, offer educational incentives and opportunities to children in Clay County, and the Club's scholarship fund. More [here](#).



Kimi

### Member Social Outing – October 14

Activities Director **Susan Hanline** and her committee have organized an outing to Mt. Dora on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, for a fun day of shopping at the many boutiques and antique stores or a visit to one of the museums. Members will join together for lunch at a restaurant of their choice. If any member is interested in going, please contact Susan at [shortsue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shortsue@sbcglobal.net).

### New Members

New members are always welcome. Any woman who is a Magnolia Point resident or property owner, or a member of the Country Club, can become a member. If you know of someone who would like to become a Women's Club member, please have them contact **Diane Lochner**, Membership Director, at [diane.scordio@gmail.com](mailto:diane.scordio@gmail.com).



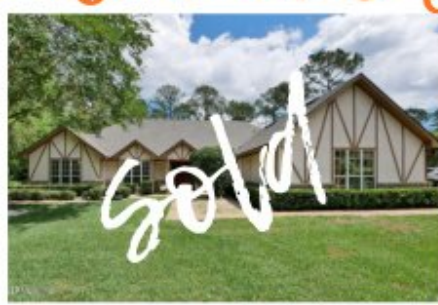


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# THE LEGEND OF PUMPTY DUMPTY



Every year, the residents of Magnolia Point festoon their golf carts with cobwebs, skeletons, inflatable ghouls, and lights that twinkle like Jack-O'-Lantern smiles. The parade snakes through the winding lanes of the neighborhood, golf bags temporarily replaced with candy buckets atop additional seating. Children ride, wave, and collect sweets while judges tally up scores for "Most Frightening," "Most Creative," and "Best Use of a Sand Wedge in a Costume."

'Carts 'n Candy' is a night of laughter and sugar highs. It is also, though few will admit it openly, a night of sorrow. For atop a stone wall at the edge of the community, in front of a stucco home with warm windows glowing in the dusk, sits Pumpty Dumpty.

Pumpty was no ordinary Jack-O'-Lantern. His body was broad, rounded, and firm, the kind of pumpkin you'd expect to win ribbons at the Clay County Fair. His face, carved with broad cheerful strokes, glowed not merely with candlelight, but with a personality all

his own. And he sported with pride, snugly stretched across his spherical form, a crisp white polo embroidered with 'MAGNOLIA point'.

Residents swore he had been there forever, though no one remembered carving him. Over the course of many Halloweens he simply appeared, perched on the stone wall like he had always belonged there. Some said the grounds crew put him out, others whispered it was the board's doing, though the Board strenuously denied responsibility. "We don't handle pumpkins," the president grouched, "That's Landscaping's job." Which prompted Cindy, in turn, to address 'Pumpkin Care and Cultivation in Zone 9' for her report in *The Magnolia News* that month, referring all other non-horticultural inquiries to May Management. Laura, in turn, pointed back to the Board. Through all the gyratory attributions, Pumpty sat silently, grinning at the world.

Every October evening leading up to 'Carts 'n Candy', children stopped by Pumpty's wall. They patted his round belly, posed for photos, and confided their costume plans. "I'm gonna be a *dragon* this year, Pumpty," little Caleb from Olympic whispered one night. "Think the judges will like it?!"

Pumpty's grin seemed to widen in approval. But when the parade night arrived, Pumpty was never invited. He could only sit, lantern-light flickering, as the golf carts jingled by in gaudy Halloween splendor. He longed to ride among them, his polo-shirted rotundity perched proudly on *someone's* passenger seat, *anyone's!* He longed to hear the joy in the children's laughter up close, the rush of the parade, the hum of the tires, the rustling of the candy in the buckets. Yet he could not move. The stone wall was his home, and prison.

It was during 'Carts 'n Candy' 2021 that Pumpty's mood shifted. That year, a cart festooned with plastic gravestones rolled by, one of which bore the words, a fiction, surely a prank, for it defied Humpty's hale and hearty presence on that stone wall in a yard on Medinah that very night:

***"Here lies Pumpty. Fell off the wall,  
Once was enough, Once and for all."***

The children laughed nervously. Adults clinked their wine glasses in approval of the joke. But from where he sat on his wall, Pumpty's triangular eyes glowed redder that night, and for the first time in his long history, a low grumble echoed from within his hollow chest.

Continued







That was when Pumppty vowed: if he could not join in their revelry, he would *haunt* it! Not cruelly, Pumppty was no villain, but mischievously, with a dry wit befitting the manicured lawns and tidy hedges of Magnolia Point.

The haunting began subtly, though there was no doubt it was at the command of Pumppty, who remained eerily colorful, firm and plump long past a pumpkin's expiration date for this climate. The first of Pumppty's shenanigans was suspected during a November golf tournament, where every player's ball seemed magnetically drawn to the water on #7. "Uncanny," muttered the pros. "A gravitational impossibility," declared the marshal. Yet Pumppty, from his stone perch, chuckled silently. At the December holiday gala, the dessert buffet suffered a peculiar mishap: every gingerbread man emerged from the oven wearing a frosted polo shirt. Guests swore they heard faint laughter: round, hollow, and 'hauntingly pumpkin-like', wafting through the dining room.

Pumppty's 'curses' were never cruel, just inconveniently humorous. And they went on: during the following January's Board meeting, the president's carefully prepared PowerPoint glitched, every slide replaced by a photograph of a smiling Jack-O'-Lantern in a Magnolia polo. At the Valentine's dinner, every rose in the centerpiece arrangements turned into baby carrots. In March, the St. Patrick's Day pickleball tournament was delayed when all paddles inexplicably morphed into shamrock shapes. At April's Community Yard Sale, one homeowner holding an impromptu auction opened bidding on a "Weekend Getaway to Hilton Head" only to reveal a certificate for a free pumpkin pie at Sweet Sensations. Residents shook their heads, laughed nervously, and someone was heard muttering, "*That Pumppty again...!*"



That year, no cart was seen to bear gravestones mocking Pumppty. Instead, several were decorated in his honor, some seating round orange balloons wearing little white polo shirts. And for 'Carts 'n Candy', however, a new award



category was christened: "Best Tribute to Pumppty Dumpty."

And so it happened that year that he was gone from his stone wall perch, gone without a trace. But not from the hearts and minds of his admirers; it continues each autumn, when the air cools and golf carts sprout instant cobwebs, and Magnolia Point turns its collective gaze, and hopes, toward that stone wall. Pumppty is always there for the true believers: grinning, glowing, polo pressed, but the community insists on a formal "search" nonetheless. And so toddlers are turned out to trundle about with flashlights as bright as their futures, teenagers feign reluctance but secretly hope to be the first to "find" him, and retirees approach the affair with binoculars and clipboards, as if tracking rare birds. Some call it "community engagement." The children call it "fun." And every year, someone gasps theatrically at some 'discovery', as though a rotund pumpkin in a branded polo might ever blend seamlessly into the landscaping. Still, the ritual persists, part hide-and-seek, part homage, part stubborn Southern tradition. And in the laughter that follows, Pumppty Dumpty remains what he has always been: found, beloved, and still very much watching over all.

- STORY, PHOTOS: EDITOR

Continued







***How long have you lived in Magnolia Point?***

We have lived in Magnolia Point for 28 years.

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

Jon and I have 2 boys, Garrett age 26 who works in sales in Orlando and Gage age 25 who lives at Jax Beach and is a Clay County Firefighter and part time at Ace GCS.

***Do you have any pets?***

We have the cutest cat, [Toonces!](#)

***What was your passion at 16, and now?***

Passion at 16 was enjoying high school school, now is living a healthy lifestyle.

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

Work hard in high school and to be kind to everyone.

***What do you like most about your home?***

What I like about my home is all the wildlife in our yard. Deer, tortoises, birds, squirrels and lizards! [More here.](#)

***Do you have any household projects planned?***

We are preparing to renovate two bathrooms and update our kitchen.

***Do you see yourself living here in 5 years?***

Jon and I don't plan to live anywhere else!!







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# WELCOME ALL!

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*The chapsaw shrieks, drills wail, the axes chop a beat. Jola and Albert Greiner host the third annual Reindeer 'Build' at their home on Colonial Drive and you're invited, **2025** marking the **4th anniversary!** Special skills are not required! And all ages are welcome!*

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Photos: Editor







## CAJUN BEEF STEW

This month we'll discuss, among other things, the Dismal Key Pepper. What, you reply, is that? Well, the Dismal Key Pepper, as it has come to be known, had its discovery in the early 1900s when a pioneer member of the Everglades City community, whose surname was Storter, found these peppers growing in the wild on Dismal Key, a large, uninhabited mangrove key in the 10,000 islands of southwest Florida. I have fished these islands throughout my adult life.

How do I know this? Well, I used to be associated with

2 lbs. Boneless beef stew meat in 1 in. cubes  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 tbsp minced garlic  
3 potatoes, scrubbed and diced  
1 stalk celery, minced and save the leaves  
1 28 oz. can diced or chopped tomatoes  
2 carrots, scrubbed and chopped  
1 tbsp cumin  
1 tbsp thyme  
1 tsp to 1tbsp seasoned salt, to taste

1 tbsp oregano  
1 bay leaf  
1 Dismal Key Pepper  
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 10 oz. bag frozen corn  
1/4 head cabbage, chopped  
1 and 1/2 tbsp Cajun seasoning (*if you can't find it, here's how to make it: combine 3 tbsp thyme, 1 tbsp paprika, 2 tbsp garlic powder, 1 tbsp black pepper, 1 tbsp white pepper and salt to taste.*)

Preheat unit to medium heat and brown meat in olive oil. Add remaining ingredients and and bring to boil over medium heat. Turn heat to low and simmer at least one hour (longer is better).

Note: without the beef, this is an awesome vegetable stew.

So there you have it. Some history of the Dismal Key Pepper, and the mangrove island that bears that name, Dismal Key. If you like the dish seasoned "hot", add another Dismal Key Pepper, or more, until your tolerance for "hot" is blown away.

a hunting group with access to the large Scofield Ranch in Collier and Hendry Counties of southwest Florida. One of the members of this group was the grandson of the original Mr. Storter, one Major Gavin Storter, U.S. Army, Retired, who is a friend of mine. Gavin knew of my taste for hot things and brought some of these peppers to the hunting camp, along with the story of his grandfather's discovery of them

In approximately the year 1902, while gathering oysters along the shoreline of Dismal Key, he ventured onto one of the large shell mounds made by the Calusa Indians or their ancestors, where he discovered these hot peppers. According to my friend, Gavin, no one ever knew how these pepper plants prospered on Dismal Key; if you don't know why it is called Dismal Key, just go there sometime (with a guide) and you will understand the name given that Key. Speculation is that birds may have ingested the peppers elsewhere and deposited the seeds; or a bad hurricane may have borne the seeds from somewhere in Cuba, or perhaps Central or South America. The Storter family has cultivated it ever since, and given peppers and seed to others.

I have personally cultivated and ingested these peppers ever since Gavin gave them to me. They are perennials and will grow well here in GCS if protected from freezes, e.g. near your enclosed swimming pool. If you would like to sample or grow them, see me for a supply.

That brings us to the recipe of the day, utilizing this wonderful little pepper—Cajun Beef Stew. Use an electric skillet or a Gourmet Slo-Cooker. This recipe will serve 8 (1 cup servings):





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## MAGNOLIA *chrome* CARY ARNOLD'S 1955 CHEVY 210

***What year and make is your car, and what attracted you to it?***

1955 Chevy 210, my first car was a 1956 Chevy and I've always liked the 'Tri-Five' Chevys.

***Can you tell us about the history and original use of your car?***

The seller did not give me a lot of history on the car but he restored it inside and out.

***How did you acquire it, and how long have you owned it?***

I bought the car in Atlanta in August of 2022 and after driving it on the expressway, I knew this was the '55 I had been looking for and had it shipped to Magnolia Point



*Continued*





# MAGNOLIAchrome 1955 CHEVY 210

**Have you restored or customized the car, and if so, can you tell us about the process?** I have not done any restoring to the car since the seller did a great job. However, I have had a complete new wiring system installed, a large aluminum radiator, new oil pan and a shoulder seat belt restraint

**How often do you drive your classic, and where do you take it for drives?**

I drive it about once a week and have taken longer trips to the Daytona Turkey Run, Statesboro Ga, Jekyll Island, Ga and St. Augustine.



**What do you do to maintain it and keep it running well?**

Just keep the oil/filter changed on a regular basis. It is garage kept and I try not to drive it if it looks like rain (but we're in Florida!!)

**Are you a member of any classic car clubs or organizations, and have you participated in any events or shows?**

No local clubs, but I am a member of the "Vintage Chevrolet Club of America". I have not at this time participated in any events but would like to in the future.

**Are there any unique features or quirks about the car that you enjoy? Ones you don't?**

It has A/C and P/S which a lot of cars that are 70 years old do not have. A/C was a must have for me living in Florida!

**What is your favorite memory or experience with your car, and what do you love most about owning it?**

I enjoy the thumbs up response I get and car lovers stopping to admire the car and wanting to take pictures of it. It's such a rare thing to see a Classic Car on the road and I get enjoyment out of seeing others appreciate such a fine '55!



Photos: Editor





# ✂ MAGNOLIA LIVING'S PAST & PRESENT ✂

## ***Address to the Good Citizens of Magnolia Point***

By Mark Twain, Awakened from the Dust  
and Proudly Festooned in a Forest Eyeshade!

Ladies, the odd Gentleman, Members of the  
MPWC, and Those Who Were Just Looking  
for a Potluck:

I greet you this fine evening as one not  
unfamiliar with resurrection, having watched  
my books come in and out of fashion like  
suspenders and common sense. I thank you  
for the invitation to your little Floridian  
Eden, this home to so many front doors, and  
just as many opinions, all of them expressed,  
loudly, before breakfast.

We assemble here on 'All Hallow's Eve', your  
'Halloween', a yearly celebration that teaches  
us one great truth among many: the young  
dress up to look older, and the old dress up to  
look younger. And everyone, without  
exception, ends up looking like their father.

*(Laughter.)* "People ask if I believe in ghosts.  
I don't. Except for the one that whispers  
'dirty roof!' every time I open a letter from  
May Management." *(More laughter.)*

Thank you. Now, I admit I had my doubts  
about returning to the world. Last time I was  
here, typewriters were the cutting edge of  
treachery. Imagine my surprise when I was  
introduced to a notion called 'word  
processing' and told to dictate into a 'cell'. It  
transcribed every word, *every word*,  
instantly, which I found disturbing. It used to  
take three weeks and a typesetter with gout to  
ruin my prose, and now it happens in the  
instance you call '*real*' time.

This '*social media*' business, as well!! Lord  
help us! I mean, *you!* It's a mighty thing to see  
humanity gain the power to speak to the whole world  
and immediately use it to complain about coffee,  
politics, or the placement of a neighbor's ornamental  
flamingo. *Twitter, Facebook, Nextdoor:* I've seen less  
hysteria in a saloon brawl. Never in history have so  
many said so little to so many so often with so much  
punctuation and, forsooth, overcapitalization beyond  
the pale!

On a lighter note, I'm pleased to be greeted by one item  
known in my own age, these delightful treats you call  
'Candy Corn', though when first introduced in 1880,  
this confection was then called 'Chicken Feed'. And  
special thanks to the Women's Club for lavishing me  
with such an ample supply of these little treats!

*Continued*



But I digress. Let's return to Magnolia Point, your  
charming, gated menagerie where the wildlife on the  
outside of the walls is often less feral than that within.  
I have taken a liking to your many lovely ponds,  
teeming with life: alligators lounging like senators on  
recess, armadillos clanking around in armor that would  
shame a French dragoon, and birds with names that  
sound like half-remembered passwords, *ibis, egret,*  
*heron!*

And your many glorious trees, lavishing shady canopies  
over your quaint roadways. A haven for wildlife, is this  
sprawling Point, with its pockets of teeming wilderness  
and generous open spaces! I encountered a fox by the  
7th hole, his home, not mine, it was plain. We regarded  
each other briefly. He seemed to disapprove of my





ever-troubled backswing. I respect that, and his right to a home unmolested.

And the manatee! Lord, what noble sea sausages! They drift through the waters of the lovely, lazy St. Johns like tenured philosophy professors, unbothered by time or tide. I aspire to be one someday. (The aquatic mammal, not the slothful, bloviating academician!)

Now, it must be said that Southern hospitality is alive and well, and nowhere more gloriously than in your kitchens. I've been fed grits smoother than diplomacy, catfish fried in something approaching witchcraft, and a bourbon that burned its way through my afterlife and out the other side. I had forgotten what it meant to eat until I met your cooks, and the venerable *Maggie P!* Your Southern cooking is proof that God loves us and wants us to nap.

A word now about your gates, those noble barriers that open on your command, and separate the civilized world of MPCA covenants from the savages beyond, those who let their hedges grow like anarchists. These gates are attended by trusted souls who wave with one hand and log license plates with the other. I tipped my hat to one as I entered, and he nodded with the knowing weariness of a man who's seen too many deliveries of that singular delight you call 'pizza' arrive without authorization.

And the golf club, that gilded battleground ruled by the cruel physics of a small dimpled ball, visited by the sports-minded, regardless of whether they swing clubs or merely swing by the bar.

To the retired, silver-haired guardians of tradition, I commend your diligence, your meticulous observation of grass height, and your tireless vigilance in the war against mildew.

To the younger families, who arrive with optimism and fruit snacks, I welcome your energy and your belief that a two-year-old on a scooter poses no threat to national security. Keep your spirit, and invest in knee pads.

To the Women's Club, a formidable cabal of grace, gumption, and unparalleled fund-raising: I salute you, sage enough to hire yours truly here to speak among you! I thank you, and, I suspect you run more of this place than the board does, and with better minutes. God bless you. You are the crown jewel of Magnolia Point, and if I had a bonnet and a Bundt cake, I'd join you myself. Should you have me! You have more influence than Congress and better taste in centerpieces.

Now, I have been asked for my advice, which is a dangerous thing to give, especially to people who are still legally permitted to vote me off the island. Here it, or they, are; unpublished till this moment and dedicated to the MPWC:

*If you argue, do it with pie nearby. No man ever launched a coup between bites of pumpkin spice.*

*Never assign a task to someone who smiles too much during meetings.*

*A newsletter is a sacred text. Do not defile it with the loathesome font 'Comic Sans'.*

*On Halloween, wear masks for fun; at HOA meetings, for survival.*

*And never, ever try to ban a lawn ornament unless you're prepared to become one in effigy.*

Lastly, words of caution: outside your gates, the world is changing. Subdivisions pop up as mushrooms in a cow pasture. A great expressway has come, and with it, people who do not understand the sacredness of pond-fed irrigation or the appropriate format for filing an REC complaint. You must prepare, and not just your bylaws: steel your hearts and gates, with courage and a bigger budget. In a word, or words:

- *Be neighborly, not nosy.*
- *Be flexible, not ferocious.*
- *Remember that no one will ever be convinced of anything by being yelled at on your beloved 'social' media.*
- *And know that if you see a ghost tonight, don't be alarmed. It's probably just the spirit of the last man who thought he could win an argument at a Women's Club luncheon.*

Remember: your neighbors are not your enemies. They are your fellow passengers on this great, slow cruise ship of suburban Florida, dodging hurricanes and homeowners' complaints with equal tenacity. Treat them not as obstacles, but as backup singers in your great chorus of property values.

I shall leave you now, but not without gratitude. I came here a ghost, and one not in costume. I leave with a new appreciation for bourbon, grits, and unearned opinions. That's as good a resurrection as any man can ask for. Thank you for your ears and your tolerance. If ever you wish to summon me again, just bang a ladle against a Dutch oven and leave out a neat pour of Kentucky's finest. And I'd be the last to refuse any 'Reese's Piece' or two, or more, left over from this season of confectionary abundance.

I bid you all a safe and happy Halloween. May your pumpkins glow bright, your candy corn bowls stay full, and may the REC never discover your inflatable witch is three inches over the property line.

Yours in eternal bemusement and buttermilk biscuit crumbs,

**Mark Twain**

*Posthumous Observer of the Human Zoo*

- EDITOR





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*"It's supposed to be eternal rest, not eternal rough."*





# PLAYING THROUGH

## GRIP TIPS - PART 2

In the last article, we touched briefly on the types of grips; Overlap (Vardon), Interlocking, and 10-finger (baseball), but mostly addressed hand position on the club as it relates to weak, neutral, and strong and the impact it has relative to the position of the club to your hands at the top of the backswing and at impact. This

another variable right off the get-go. Also, children don't possess the strength yet where the dominant lower hand becomes a liability and takes over in the swing. I have also seen this grip used for people who just lack strength in general and could use the extra leverage; again children, maybe senior citizens, and



Photos: Editor

month, we'll dive into those three types of grips and which one might be most beneficial to you. We'll also discuss a few other nuances of the grip which are more circumstantial when facing certain shots on the course.

**10-Finger ('Baseball')** – This grip is when all 10 fingers are on the club, but most notably, the fingers on the lower hand are all on the club. This grip is rarely if ever used by professional golfers and top level amateurs. Moe Norman, and Bob Estes dabbled with this at points in their careers, and I believe Scott Piercy is the only one that has used it for any lengthy period of time on Tour. The main reason for this is that it puts the bottom hand (right hand for right-handers) in a very strong or dominant position. While it does create a lot of leverage, it also takes away from the unity of the hands working together in the swing and tends to produce more erratic results. There are some scenarios where it is useful. One is with children (and potentially others) who are just beginning to learn the game. The golf swing feels odd enough when people are first starting and sometimes it is better not to introduce

people who are just built more slightly. It can also be beneficial for people with arthritis in their hands. In these cases, the benefits of the grip and comfort can outweigh any performance detriments.

**Overlap (Vardon)** – This grip is where the pinky on the bottom hand is placed on top of the bottom fingers of the upper hand; typically between the index finger and middle finger gap. It is sometimes called the Vardon grip because Harry Vardon made this grip popular at the turn of the 20th century. I usually recommend this grip for players with larger and stronger hands, and to some extent longer fingers. With shorter, stubbier fingers, the overlap can feel uncomfortable and not create the control you feel like you might need. The advantage of this grip is that it creates a very unified feel of the hands working as one. It also negates the dominance of the lower hand which for stronger players is very likely to take over during the swing. As the club swings faster, it requires more force to fight its natural tendencies. If the bottom hand takes over, this usually results in hooks (sometimes

*Continued*





# PLAYING THROUGH

quite wild hooks) that usually end up with the ball out of play. This grip helps negate that and lets the player swing naturally with less fear of the bottom hand taking over. Players you might know that used the overlap; Hogan, Palmer, Els, Watson, Mickelson, to name a few.

**Interlock** – The interlock grip is similar to the Overlap/Vardon grip in that the pinky on the lower hand is used in harmony with the bottom fingers of the upper hand, but in this case the pinky actually goes through (interlocks) with the index and middle fingers of the upper hand. Think of this as a hybrid between the 10-finger and overlap grip; more leverage than overlap, more control than 10-finger. I typically recommend this grip for player with smaller hands and shorter fingers just from a comfort perspective. This grip still negates some of the dominance of the lower hand, but allows the hands to work as one. Players of note who use the interlock grip; Tiger, Jack Nicklaus, McIlroy, Spieth.

**Grip Pressure** – There are varied thoughts on how hard you should hold the club. Sam Snead said to hold the club like you were holding a baby bird, firm enough that it wouldn't fly away, but not so firm that you would injure it. Others like Nick Faldo advocate a little more

pressure in the grip. For standard shots, I recommend a lighter grip pressure so that you are truly swinging the club and allowing the hands and wrists to react naturally (more like what Snead advocates). A firmer grip restricts the natural movement and makes the hit more rigid and forced. That said, there are times you want to grip the club more firmly. If you are in heavy rough, the grass will typically grab the club and specifically the area where the shaft meets the clubhead which in turn flips the toe (farthest outside portion of the club) over and will send the ball left (for a right hander). When in heavier rough, I grip the club tighter with my upper hand specifically as to not allow the grass to turn it over. Gripping harder with one hand than the other is useful in this situation, but in general you want the grip pressure to be consistent with both hands. This goes for full shots and pitch shots around the green. You will notice this grabbing of the club in our thick Bermuda rough, especially if it is the slightest bit wet.

**Extra Nugget** – There is one other application of the grip that I would suggest you try. This applies to pitch and chip shots. We discussed the overlap grip, but in this grip I do the reverse of the bottom hand pinky being positioned in the slot between the index and middle finger of the upper hand. In this case, I actually put the index finger of the top hand between the pinky and ring finger of the bottom hand! Why, you say?!! Your bottom hand is the power hand, and in pitch and chip shots we are not looking for power. When you employ this 'reverse overlap' grip, the ball comes out softer and lands softer. This allows you to take a little more swing without the fear of the ball shooting off on you. It also puts your upper hand, which is the lead/direction hand in a more dominant position which helps with direction as well.

There is no written rule on which grip type you should use, only guidelines and what feels comfortable for you and allows you to achieve the best results. I do find that a person's strength, hand size and finger length play into what tends to be comfortable for a player. Give these a try and you might find that a change makes you feel more at ease and helps you to play better. You may already have that grip that works for you, but it's good to know the options.

Until next time, enjoy some cooler weather, and I'll see you on the course!

- CHRISTIAN SMITH







**September 4** saw the start of a new season. Twelve players (*above*) were happy to see one other and excited to play. The game today was Individual Play:

*Flight 1*

1st Place- **Laurie Bracken**- Net 41

2nd Place- Tie: **Cheryle Newman** and **Sandy Waldrup**- Net 42

*Flight 2*

1st Place- Tie: **Deb Elsea** and **Bede Johnson**- Net 40

2nd Place- **Anita O'Donnell**- Net 41

3rd Place- **Judy Sessions**- Net 45

**September 11** was a *Stableford*, and a beautiful day awaited on the back 9! The winning team with a total of 79 Stableford Points was:

**Judy Sessions** (as the 'Blind'), **Barbara Shinn**, **Deb Elsea** and **Sandy Waldrup** (*pictured left to right*)  
**Shirley Orvosh** chipped-in on hole #17 for a pot of \$28!



**September 18** was a hot day on the links! We welcomed back Donna Hirsch and Karen Lioce! The game was '123', on the front 9. There was No Chip-In today!

Congratulations: **Barbara Shinn**, **Karen Lioce** and **Cheryle Newman**

**September 25, 2025** was another hot and humid one! The game played was 4 Flags on the back 9.

Our winners: **Deb Elsea**, **Barb Shinn**, and **Shirley Orvosh**

*Tying for second:*  
**Cheryle Newman**, **Anita O'Donnell** and **Janine O'Connor**  
**Laurie Bracken**, **Sandy Waldrup** and **Karen Lioce**





# Taking Charge



Let's hope you're not following our cliffhanger like Dallas and the shooting of JR Ewing because instead of a big reveal this month, we decided to give ourselves a more time to mull it over until year's end. And Emma got thrown a curve ball with her moving plans as well, so she's thinking about plan B and C.



Emma is here visiting us this week and wanted to send you all a note, "Hello MP, I miss running in the neighborhood and seeing all the friendly neighbors! My moving plans have hit a slight bump; the company I work for decided to let me move only to Ireland or Germany. After spending the past five months with my heart set on (and a pre-approval from my company for) southern Europe, I am not losing sight of that goal and still plan to move at the end of the year!"

When the calendar turned to September, we headed down to California. Just over the border from Oregon, we explored the Redwoods, came across a large group of elk, went to the beach, listened to the calls of seal and sea lion covered giant rocks, and toured around the coast.

From there, we moved into California wine country. First stop, Petaluma as a jumping off point to Russian River, Healdsburg, and Sonoma. Emma came to visit for some tastings, a visit to the original Williams-Sonoma (restored to the original 1950's hardware store it started out as), and a hike in Muir Woods with Jenn. From there, we moved to the Woodbridge/Lodi area which used to grow all the "cheap" wine grapes,

*Continued*





but now has some specialty grapes that will only grow in that area with the cool breeze that comes from Tahoe down the Truckee River.

After wine country, it was time to say goodbye to Cali and head towards our “biggest rock” of the year, the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta! We were off to Williams, AZ, a small town south of the Grand Canyon that we just love. While there, Jenn and Emma took a day trip to Page, Horseshoe Bend, and Antelope Canyon.



Continued







## Side Trip: Antelope Canyon

Jenn and Emma got to Horseshoe Bend at 5:30am to be there before sunrise, and what a view! If you can see the tiny colored dots near the river on the first page of this article, those are kayakers who camped at the bend overnight. After that early hike, they refueled and made their way to Lower Antelope Canyon. The upper canyon hike is accessible, flat, and in-and-out, but the lower canyon has many stairs and tight spaces. You enter at the top and hike through to the end of the canyon. With a Navajo guide, they saw breathtaking landscapes and natural sculptures, shaped by millennia of water, wind, and sand. They stood next to views that you've seen on your PCs and Macs as screensavers or on the cover of National Geographic. At the end of the hike with their Navajo guide, they thanked Mother Earth and Father Sky for the beautiful memories and images they took with them.

- JENN, SUSAN & EMMA MITCHELL





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# MIX *mafié* LICKETY-SPLIT

(October Banana Rum Slushie)



## **Ingredients:**

1 ripe banana (frozen for extra creaminess)  
2 oz light rum (sub coconut rum for a twist)  
1 oz dark rum (for depth and richness)  
1 oz crème de banana liqueur (or banana schnapps)  
1 oz pineapple juice  
½ oz fresh lime juice  
½ oz simple syrup (for richer sweetness)  
1 cup crushed ice

## **Optional Garnishes:**

Whipped cream, cherry, or pineapple slice

## **Recipe:**

In a blender, combine all ingredients.  
Blend until creamy and smooth, about 30 seconds.  
Pour into a tall, chilled glass or tiki mug.

## **Flavor Profile:**

Creamy and frosty from banana and ice with sweet, tropical notes from pineapple and banana liqueur. Rum gives it warmth and subtle spice.

*Omit the alcohol for a refreshing 'Lickety Split Jr.'*

- RECIPE, PHOTOS: EDITOR





## MAGNOLIA POINT BRIDGE

### *New Players Welcome!*

All games are friendly, and we welcome new players. Sign up with a partner or as a single. For social one prize is paid out for each table, i.e., if there are four tables, the top four scores win money. Duplicate pays first three winners NS and EW with Mitchell movement.

**Duplicate and Social Bridge** play on alternate Thursdays in the clubhouse dining room from 1:30 to 5:30PM. The fees are \$2.00 for Social and \$3.00 for Duplicate to cover the cost of prize money and supplies.

### CONTACT

**Social:** Marty Essex [mamers3@bellsouth.net](mailto:mamers3@bellsouth.net)

**Duplicate:** Jon Bastress [JonBastress@gmail.com](mailto:JonBastress@gmail.com)

### Duplicate Bridge, Thu Sep 04

#### East/West Winners

1. Connie & Michael Byers
2. Monica & Steve Harmon
3. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill

#### North/South Winners

1. Sharon Sprott & Ed Szymanski
2. Jola Greiner & Joan Richardson
3. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings

### Social Bridge, Thu Sep 11

1. Connie & Michael Byers
2. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague
3. Dottie Lunt & Rannel Westberry
4. Kim Belcher & David Miller
5. Jola Greiner & Sharon Sprott
6. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings

### Duplicate Bridge, Thu Sep 18

#### East/West Winners

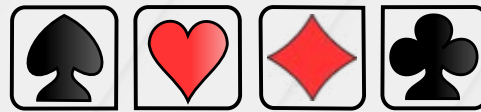
1. Sharon Sprott & Ed Szymanski
2. Brad Lucas & Jerry Ritchie
3. Kim Belcher & David Miller

#### North/South Winners

1. Evie & Joe Ezzell
2. Sondra Costa & Marsha Parker
3. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill

### Social Bridge, Thu Sep 25

1. Don Maneval & Nancy Petillo
2. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague
3. Monica & Steve Harmon
4. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings  
*Tied* Barb & Bob Barclay
5. Kim Belcher & David Miller



- SHARON MURPHY

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