

THE

Magnolia NEWS

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE RESIDENTS OF MAGNOLIA POINT

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2026



Hello January!

We welcome a new year, and the first stirrings of Spring, as heralded by the **Camillia**. As these elegant blooms brighten our neighborhood, they remind us of the natural charm that makes our community a special place. We look forward to a season filled with color, growth, and shared moments outdoors...at 25 MPH, please!

'Camillia' is our nod to Roy Lichtenstein, the American artist, and whom we hope we've honored with our cover for the occasion!



This month, *Extra!*, with Santa's help, rips the band-aid off a festering problem, **clickers!** On **page 3**.



Learn some handy keyboard shortcuts to help you through your busy HOA day, on **page 21**.

Our Maestro of the Leavened Loaf shares a Gorgonzola *secret*, in this month's '*Traveling Fork*', **pages 22-23**.



Three snaps of the wildlife on one day in Palm Coast during a Thanksgiving break, **pages 13-15**.

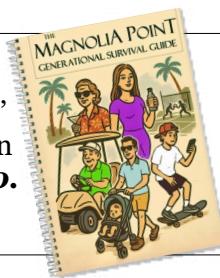


'Take It Away. Part 1.' This month, Christian begins an examination of what happens when you get '*handsy*', **pages 16-17**.



'MIXmagic' this month features the booze as an option; another sign of the times, **page 27**.

By popular demand, the 'Generational Survival Guide' continues with a primer on Slambooks, **pages 19-20**.



THE MAGNOLIA NEWS
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Front, Back Covers, 'Camillias': Editor

MAGNOLIAresidents.com

DEER SEASON OPENS JANUARY 1, 2026!

It's Open Season on Deer in Open Spaces - Adopt One Now!
Any deer in common areas are fair game for adoption; please don't trespass on private property. If you have any doubt, knock on the nearest door!



The Magnolia News does not accept political, social commentary, or opinion pieces for publication.



EXTRA!

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

“BREAKING NEWS FROM BEHIND THE HEDGES”

JANUARY 2026



CLICK BAIT

At the gated edge of a neighborhood basking in the glow of safety, hums a quiet scandal, a soft click in the night, a red eye winky-blink, untracked, uncounted, handed from palm to palm like contraband candy.

For years they whispered: *The clickers are out there!* Hundreds, or more, roaming free, blinking little garage-door winks in the hands of landscapers, dog walkers, best friends of friends, delivery drivers with dubious badges, shortcut seekers, or the guy who just know a guy who knows a guy, who once lived here. And one home with **24 clickers...because it's so big!**

And then, Christmas 2025, the truth arrived...*four hooves times eight, not too early or late!*

Santa, yes indeed, *that* Claus, lined up with his team at the front gate with the patience of someone who has seen centuries of nonsense and scams and hoodwinks of many a cloth, in many far flung lands, and, quite frankly expects a bit more from a neighborhood in possession of the full list of *‘Cliqueurs non Comptabilisés’*, and still debating, *year after year*, as to what should be done about it! And then and there, Santa was seen to hold up a clicker, black-market chic, the kind that changes hands on quiet front porches and diners and where folks park next to each other, far from all other cars and prying eyes.

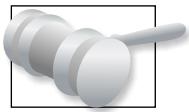
The guard blinked, waved the sleigh through, and someone in line whispered, ‘*Oh no...Santa, too?!*’

Old Saint Nick just winked, as if conspiracies were cookies on a plate near the fireplace. Said he could’ve flown **over Magnolia Point**, yes, of course! But he had a *clicker list*, and every good gift deserves a *field test!*

“Clickers,” he clicked, “are the hit of the show!” *and through the gate...did the team and sleigh go!*

- STORY, PHOTOS: EDITOR





MPCA NEWS



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2026

COMMUNICATIONS.

At the December MPCA meeting, the Board appointed me as Communications Committee Chair. A nine-year resident of Magnolia Point, I've served as the Women's Club President, Vice President, Advisor, Scholarship Director and Fundraising Director, bringing my leadership, team building, editing, and web skills to the committee. The Communications Committee covers many aspects of resident communication including member approval list maintenance, Newsgram postings, web management and more. Sandy Waldrup, Member Management, will continue to be part of the committee. We have worked together on similar projects for many years. Lee Bell, the newly appointed Board Director-at-Large will be the committee's liaison.

As the Committee begins its work, the primary focus will be on a review of the existing site with some minor changes, and the development of new website that should be much more user friendly for MP residents. One change that residents can anticipate is the

availability of a basic 'Search' option to cut down on wondering where particular information is located. Work has begun with the hope that the new site will provide a positive experience for all residents seeking to navigate through a lot of good information to get a needed answer.

Presently, the committee needs a volunteer to assist with site monitoring. Anyone wishing to volunteer also should be comfortable with computers. Position responsibilities have not been fully flushed out at this time and could be broader than stated depending on the skills of the volunteer. If interested, please contact me.

The Communications Committee thanks Bill Nisley, outgoing Communication Chair, for all of his past contributions to this committee and to the MPCA Board.

- JOANNE LABEOUF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year to all our residents. We hope you enjoyed a restful holiday season and are entering 2026 with renewed energy and optimism. We extend our sincere appreciation to all volunteers and outgoing board members who have dedicated their time and expertise to the community. Your service makes a meaningful difference.

As we begin a new year, we want to share important updates, highlight ongoing community matters, and outline what to expect in the coming months. Your participation, whether attending meetings, submitting feedback, or simply staying informed, helps keep Magnolia Point strong.

As we close out the previous year, we want to thank all residents for your continued cooperation, engagement, and support. A few highlights from the past year include:

51 new families moved into Magnolia Point in 2025. Welcoming new neighbors is an opportunity to be inclusive and show them who we are as a community.

We authorized **\$1.2M+ in Operating Budget expenditures** to maintain the beauty and character

of the community, including landscaping, irrigation, utilities, insurance, management services, security, and much more.

We invested **\$219,000** in maintaining and repairing our roads and drainage infrastructure. Despite these necessary expenses, our **Reserve Fund remains strong at \$2 million**.

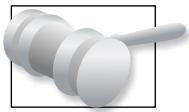
In 2025, **eight board members served**, but only **three served the full year**. This level of turnover has made it challenging to maintain continuity, get new members up to speed, and sustain progress on long-term initiatives.

Several important matters are currently in progress and will require board attention and community awareness in early 2026:

- **Front Gate Widening (Magnolia Point Blvd)**- Our civil engineer is finalizing plans and drawings to widen and repave the front gate area—an improvement that has been delayed for years. Pending board approval, work is expected to begin within the next 60–90 days. Security and traffic-flow logistics are being developed in parallel.

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- **2026 Board Election-** In March 2026, two Board positions (currently Ernie Young and David Sprinkle) will be up for election. In January, residents will receive notices outlining the process for self-nominating as a candidate. Qualifications are simple: you must reside in Magnolia Point and have your HOA accounts in good standing.
- **2026 Reserve Study-** HOA best practices call for Reserve Studies to be updated every 3–5 years. The 2026 study is now underway. Our civil engineer is preparing long-term recommendations for roads and drainage; once approved by the Board, these will be incorporated into the final study expected in early 2026.

- **Club/MPI Use Agreement-** The Board and association attorney are in agreement that the Club/MPI is not in full compliance with the **2015 Use Agreement**. We are documenting the areas of noncompliance, and next steps will depend on their response.

We encourage all residents to stay engaged as we move into a busy and important year for Magnolia Point. Your involvement strengthens our community and supports thoughtful, informed decision-making.

- JON BASTRESS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

While originally scheduled to be off for the holidays, the Strategic Planning Committee met upon short notice to discuss the website upgrade project with the new Communications Chair and committee. We handed over the RFP, analysis and recommendations that we had completed for implementation by their team. SPC stands ready to assist with testing and quality assurance if needed.

- ANN SIMS

ACCESS CONTROL

It bears repeating: many of you (and not just Santa), have noticed long lines of vehicles at the front gate (visitor side) waiting to be processed in, especially at peak hours during the week. You may have also heard complaints from some of your guests regarding the wait time they had at the front gate. **This has been a problem for some time and does not seem to be getting better.** The primary reason for such delays is that residents are not pre-registering their visitors ahead of time. This results in the guard attempting to contact the resident for permission to allow them in.



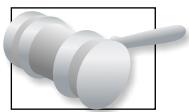
Additionally, many visitors come to the gate not knowing the address they are going to visit. This can also cause delays, especially if it is a common name with others in the neighborhood.

Whether it be contractor or guest, **please** register them using the VMS app! It really improves the processing time at the gate. You have the option of sending your guests a pass (QR code) which is quickly scanned by the guard at the front gate or can also be used at the rear gate visitor kiosk. If you need assistance using the app, contact May Management or Access Control at access.control@magpt.com, and someone will assist you. Calling the guard to have them input your visitor information for you is not the right way, it only results in more delays as it will likely take you several tries to get through. So please, use the VMS, we are all paying for it!

- CHUCK COX

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LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION

The following is a summary of the tasks performed or overseen by the Committee in December:

Landscaping:

- Removed and replaced the 17 dying/dead jack frost ligustrum in the community owned property in front of Exit Realty.



- The flowers in the beds at the Harbor Road sign, the gatehouse and at the Medinah entrances were completed in time for the Holidays. We used cold tolerant flowering plants: snap dragons in various colors and dusty millers. We were hoping to try ornamental Kale at the gatehouse bed, but it was not available in our area. Did you know it's edible? We've been told it's bitter.
- Installed mulch on the recently renovated islands and medians at the Constancia/Red Hawk/Magnolia Point Boulevard intersection.
- Installed pine bark mulch in the bed along the shadow box fence. Trimmed up the hedgerows.
- Removed the 4 dead ligustrum at the end of the hedgerow in front of the pond on Colonial at Turkey Creek.
- Planted two of the four replacement copper-top sweet viburnum. This area does NOT have irrigation and requires manual irrigation by the Committee for several weeks.
- We are using this as an opportunity to try using irrigation bags to help establish the new plants.

Following Board and GCS Electric Utility approval we were ready to go on the design the Committee had chosen. We had to change the design for the vinyl wrap because the original photo did not have enough pixels to give good resolution when expanded to 7 ft across. Our new design will include white muhly grass as the central feature with beds of pink and purple flowers adjacent to it. Mr. Van Royal has generously contributed to the cost of hopefully the first utility box we do in our beautiful ommunity. Hopefully, it will be installed before you read this!

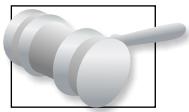
Irrigation: The new bluetooth irrigation system continues to operate well. Thank you Josh Boucher of Duval Irrigation for bringing our beloved community into the 21st century with your installation of our bluetooth/Wifi hybrid irrigation system!

Next up:

- Necessary removal of two (2) trees at the Magnolia Point entrance to accommodate the widening of the Magnolia Point entrance
- Remove the declining variegated pittosporum and various orphan plants, and roses and replace with new pittosporum, azaleas, ornamental grasses in the community owned property in front of Exit Realty.
- Trim and limb up trees that are encroaching on the roads throughout the community. This will mean cutting back limbs in the right of way

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easements at the front or side of some residents properties.

- Pruning the trees in the medians, and both entrance and exit sides of Magnolia Point Boulevard.
- Continue our fall/winter planting along the shadow box fence on the entrance side of Magnolia Point Boulevard: add camellias, azaleas and some native plants and ornamental grasses.
- Mulching the Medinah gate beds and possibly adding two holly trees
- Consider the Board's suggestion to mulch the Magnolias on the center median in front of the gatehouse.

January 2026 Planting Tips: We have recently been experiencing warmer than normal temperatures and we are tempted to trim and shape our shrubs, as usual for this time of year. Please remember that when you prune or trim when the plant is not dormant, you are stimulating the plant to produce new growth. If we experience a cold snap following pruning, it can damage the shrubs and other plants because they are not dormant when cut.

Planting recommendations for January:

- Continue planting cool-season crops, including broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce.
- Consider planting agapanthus or crinium bulbs.
- Camellias, Hollies, gardenias and pittosporum can still be planted as well.



Cold protection: Be ready to cover tender plants to minimize damage, especially due to recent warm weather. Frost or freezes are likely this month and next.

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Arbor Day: Florida has its own Arbor Day (the third Friday of January). Consider planting a tree in your yard. A hurricane-resistant tree, such as live oak, bald cypress, cabbage palm, or crapemyrtle would be a good choice.

Lawns: They will be going into dormancy and do not require as much watering. Do not fertilize your lawn this month as the grass will not be able to use it because they are dormant.

Pests: Winter is a great time to control persistent scale insects on citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees we experienced in the summer months due to our hot, humid weather. Try applying horticultural oil while plants are dormant.

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 plthuvr44@aol.com or any L & I Committee member listed on the MPCA website under committees.

UF-IFAS Clay County extension- Gardening Day of Education- Save the Date! Feb 6, 2026 more info to come! 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 extension facility adjacent to the fairgrounds. This month, on Jan 26, 2026 is 'Recognize Your Yard as a Florida Friendly Landscape'.

- CINDY FRANCISCO, REPORT & PHOTOS



"Sure, I'm stuck to this rake now, but before the committee I was stuck to a golf club, so it's really an upgrade."





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Outreach: Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Volunteer Women's Club members rang their bells with enthusiasm as they wished "Merry Christmas" to the shoppers at Winn Dixie on December 1-2 and December 4. Outreach Chair **Jackie Maneval** organized another great group of volunteers to support the Salvation's Army Red Kettle fundraising drive and shoppers were very generous in their giving. Bell ringers were **Marlene Abbate, Anne Bastress, Lorna Broughton, Clarissa Cummins, Dianne Dearth, Marsha Fields, Susan Hanline, Kimberly LaPorte, Jackie Maneval, Bobbe Marion, Adele Murphy, Lynn Powers, Jackie, Cheryl Smith, Bonnie and David Sprinkle, Brenda Taratus, Linda Thill, Cindy Triay, Sandy Waldrup and Pam Young.** Special thanks to Jackie's husband, **Don**, who popped in with Jackie to pass out treat bags and say "hi" to the bell ringers.



Holiday Home Tour

On Tuesday, December 9, a Holiday Home Tour was held in preparation of the Women's Club's 25th anniversary celebration that will take place in 2026. Members toured six homes beautifully decked out in Christmas and seasonal decorations, and it was amazing that all homes were decorated very differently. Special thanks to **Adele Murphy**, Vice President, for organizing the event and to **Kim Belcher, Marty Essex, Joanne LaBeouf, Adele Murphy, Lynn Powers** and **Sandy Waldrup** for opening their homes to the members. Photos of the decorated homes can be viewed at the Women's Club website – www.mpwc.org.

Members' Holiday Party

By **Pam Young**, President

On Wednesday, December 10, over 60 Women's Club members gathered for a festive "Jingle and Mingle" happy hour. The party took the place of the regular member meeting. The Green Cove Food Pantry arrived to pick up the generous donations provided by members, a collection done at the yearly December celebrations. Thank you **Jackie Maneval** for organizing the collection again this year!

Delicious food and drinks were shared, along with lots of laughter involving a game called "snowball relay"! A Christmas trivia game was played to close out the event. Thanks to the Activities Committee, led by Director **Susan Hanline**, for organizing the fun event. Many thanks also to the staff for providing excellent service. The Women's Club wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



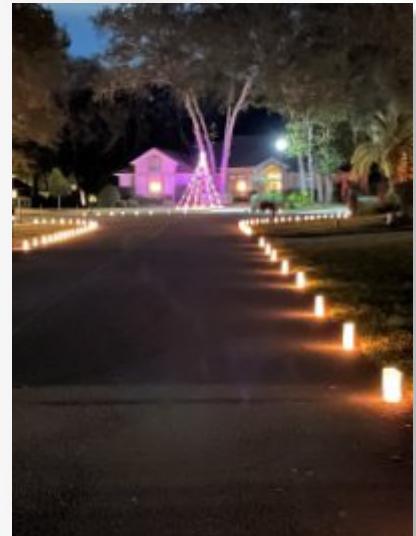
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MPWC

Another Successful Luminaria Night

The candles have all burned out and the bags have been discarded but for one magical evening, Magnolia Point was aglow! Thanks to Luminaria Chair **Nancy Mills** for organizing another successful “Light Up Magnolia Point” fundraiser. Many thanks also to the residents who participated in the event through their generosity in purchasing kits and/or making a monetary donation. The residents’ support grows every year and is greatly appreciated. The profit from this annual event funds the Women’s Club scholarship program, awarded to deserving young women graduating from Clay High School.



New Members

New members are always welcome, and beginning January 1, they can join at a discounted rate of \$20 until the end of April 2026. 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.scorpio@gmail.com.



The Activities Committee

dp





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7:41 AM



1:43 PM



7:55 PM

Playing Through



CHRISTIAN SMITH

TAKE IT AWAY. PART 1.

Since we are still somewhat in the giving season, I thought it only fitting to talk about *taking away!* Taking the club away that is. This is a follow up to a previous article but based on common flaws I've seen recently with some of my playing partners that just make the swing harder than it needs to be. The takeaway really sets you up for the downswing, so if you do certain things incorrectly, it makes it really hard for your body to kind of go on autopilot as you change direction and get into the impact zone. I am going to focus on the most common fault where people get the club too far behind them in the backswing which results in what we call getting 'stuck'. There are three main areas of focus that contribute to the swing getting behind someone in their takeaway; wrist action, arm swing, and hip turn. In this first edition, I am going to focus on the wrists and how they can become a culprit in putting you in a bad position.

Wrist action: One of the most damaging things I see a lot of players do is to turn their wrists parallel to the



ground as they are taking the club back. It's often called radial deviation but basically means you are turning your wrists side to side, in a horizontal fashion that directs the clubface around your body. This is detrimental for a couple of reasons. One is that the clubhead is twisting and moving more horizontally to the ground. This flattens the swing plane which makes it very hard to hit down on the ball. The other is that when the clubface gets so far inside, there is no way to go but out on the downswing so it causes the swing to reroute into a steep position that produces a glancing blow to the ball. Also, a lot of horizontal or radial wrist action causes the clubface to work independently of the rest of the swing which forces you to control the clubface with the small muscles in your hands and fingers which is extremely difficult to do. The clubhead gets very heavy when moving at our typical full swing speeds, so controlling it with our small muscles creates instability, an increased reliability on timing, and a very inconsistent golf swing.

So, what you want is to have your wrists setting in a more up and down type of hinge, not left and right. This keeps the club more in front of your body as you turn back and promotes a more upright plane which allows

Continued



you to deliver the club to the ball much more easily. A great way to feel the correct movement is to set up over the ball like you normally do. From there, set your wrists upwards towards your chin so that your thumbs are parallel to the ground.

Without any further movement in the wrists turn your shoulders and arms so that your back faces the target (or as close as you can get). This is the upward wrist inflection that is needed to set the club properly. The club will still follow the turn of your body and move inside, but it won't be doing it independently which allows your larger muscles to maintain control.

Another thought I have which I find useful is to act as if you were going to throw a tennis ball at the ground in front of where the golf ball would be in your normal setup position. To do this, your trailing hand would set back towards the wrist to get that snap you want when you throw something. You wouldn't have your wrist stiff with your hand and wrist in line with no angle. That slight bend, or set back of the wrist is the angle we

shoot for with the trailing hand at the top of the swing. The lead hand just tracks along with that movement and falls into that little cradle with the grip of the club between the two hands.

Lastly, picture a pane of glass that would be a couple of inches behind your heels and extend vertically above your head. If you twist the wrists horizontally and parallel to the ground as you start your swing, the clubhead would quickly route behind your body and break the glass.

When the club is on plane and not getting behind you, it makes it exponentially easier for your body to turn and deliver the club back to the ball. Give a few of these drills and thoughts a try and I'll bet you'll realize you were making it a little harder than it needed to be.

And, many thanks for all of your support for the newsletter and my articles! See you on the course!

CS



Photos: Editor



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Generational Survival Guide - *Chapter 3: From Slambook to Facebook*

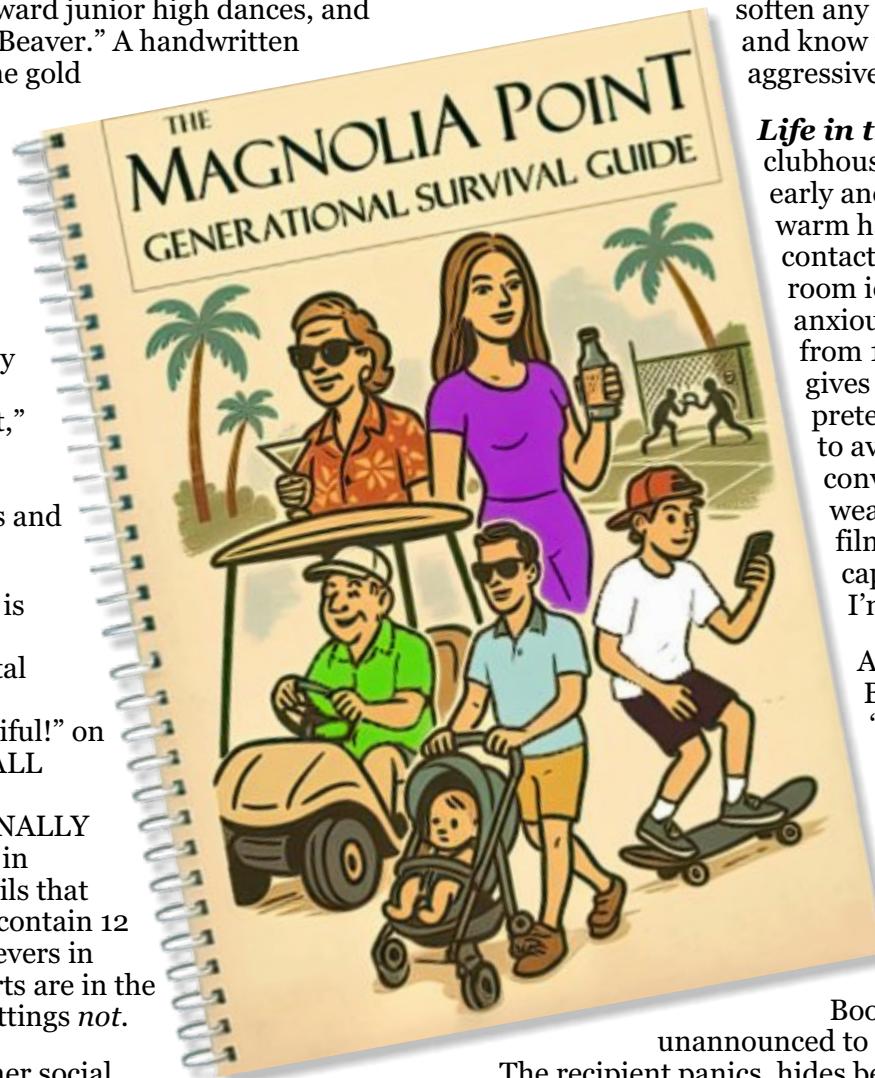
Boomers: Social graces for Boomers were learned from Emily Post, awkward junior high dances, and reruns of "Leave It to Beaver." A handwritten thank-you note was the gold standard of class, and "dropping by unannounced" was considered not rude, but friendly. They regard phone calls as both efficient and polite, often leaving voicemails so long they require snacks. If you mention a "group chat," they may think it's something held at the clubhouse with snacks and a whiteboard.

Their online presence is robust but puzzling: Facebook is their digital front porch. Expect comments like "Beautiful!" on unrelated posts, and ALL CAPS updates like "TOMATOES ARE FINALLY IN!" They still believe in forwarding chain emails that promise good luck or contain 12 JPEGs of golden retrievers in sunglasses. Their hearts are in the right place, privacy settings *not*.

Back in the day, Boomer social media was 'Slambooks', notebooks passed around in class, each page labeled with a person's name or a topic, and left open for anonymous "feedback." Think of them as analog Facebook walls, but with more glitter pen drama and a guaranteed teacher confiscation. Unlike today's curated profiles, Slambooks were chaotic, brutal, and wildly off-topic ("She wears too much Love's Baby Soft" was a common grievance). The original burn book, but with worse handwriting.

The Rest of Y'all: You were raised on AIM, MySpace, and a healthy distrust of anyone over 30 online. Your social decorum includes ghosting someone kindly and crafting the perfect "seen at 10:04 pm" reply delay. Your thank-you note is a well-timed GIF, and your RSVP a "maybe" emoji with an ironic GIF of Nicolas Cage. Phone calls are for emergencies, or your mother.

Your digital life is fragmented across group texts, Discords, Slack channels, and an archipelago of apps none of which your Boomer relatives can pronounce. Your Facebook account exists only to see if Aunt Carol has posted more cryptic minion memes. You



understand the complex etiquette of typing "LOL" to soften any vaguely serious sentence and know that the passive-aggressive "K" is the nuclear option.

Life in the Wild: Picture the clubhouse social. A Boomer arrives early and greets everyone with a warm handshake and full eye contact, unaware that 67% of the room identifies as socially anxious and would prefer to nod from 14 feet away. A Millennial gives a tight-lipped smile and pretends to look at their phone to avoid a spontaneous conversation about the weather. A Gen Z-er is busy filming a 12-second video captioned "Me Pretending I'm Not Here."

At the HOA meeting, a Boomer politely offers to "reply all" with meeting notes, triggering a group-wide existential crisis among younger members, who immediately create a secret Slack called "Operation: Email Containment." Later, a Boomer neighbor swings by unannounced to drop off banana bread.

The recipient panics, hides behind the couch, and texts, "why is she here. help"

Your Survival Play: Should a Boomer attempt a surprise visit, respond with the sacred words: "I'd love to catch up, can we schedule something next week?" This preserves civility while reasserting your deeply held boundary of "not now." Compliment their graciousness while gently guiding them toward asynchronous communication, e.g., "Your email was so thoughtful! I saw it in my promotions folder!"

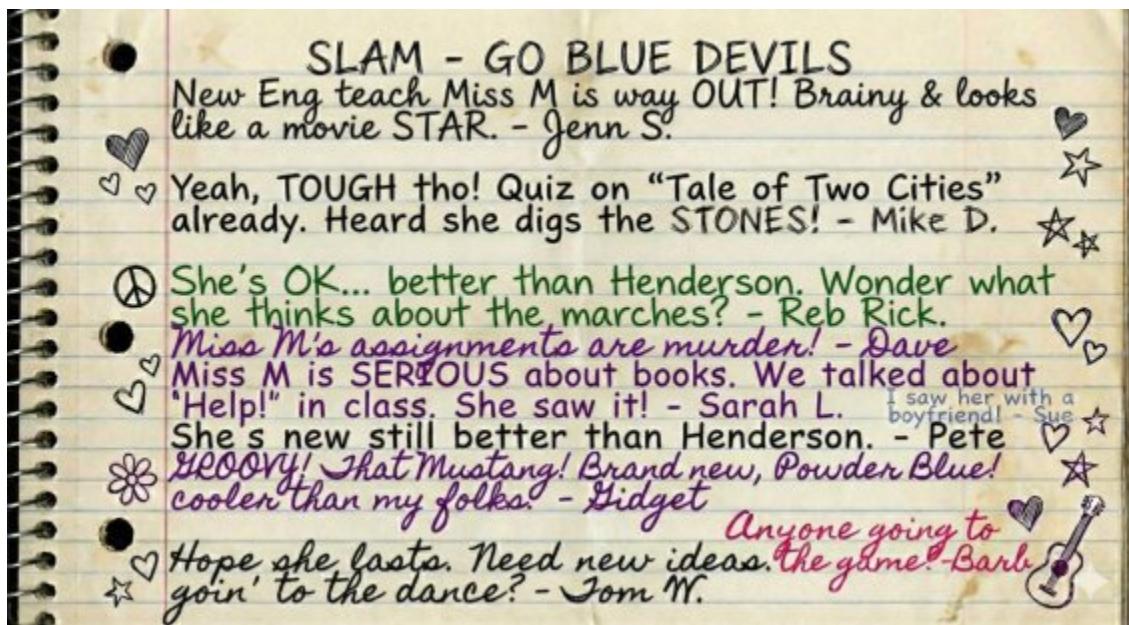
If a Facebook comment appears from a Boomer on your 2012 vacation photo ("You look great here, hope your foot healed!"), respond with a heart emoji and nothing else. This shows respect while signaling the limits of public digital discourse.

If caught in a group convo about etiquette, nod solemnly and mutter, "People just don't write thank-you notes anymore," which will earn the respect of all generations, despite the fact that you sent yours via Bitmoji.

Continued



Chapter 3: From Slambook to Facebook (cont'd.)



Part of a page from an actual Slambook from Clay High, circa 1965

What Happened to Them?

How things worked out for the 'Clay High 6', above:
Jenn, Mike, Reb, Sarah, Gidget and Tom:

Jenn "The Dreamer"

Jenn chased Miss Murdoch's glamour straight to the skies as a Pan Am stewardess, where her greatest triumph wasn't seeing Rome, but charming a hijacker into surrender with a rum and coke in 1974. Though a messy divorce from a pilot who was Henry VIII in Cary Grant's skin left her grounded, she reinvented herself as Jacksonville's sharpest realtor. She refuses to check the mailbox without lipstick and proving that while her "Jet Set" era ended, her class never did.

Mike D. "The Rocker"

Mike's life took a sharp turn from the Rolling Stones to the draft board, sending him to Vietnam where artillery fire stole his hearing and dreams of rock stardom. After a "lost decade" haunting the local marina, he found his rhythm again by opening "Vinyl Countdown," a beloved vintage record store in Orange Park. He spent his later years fronting a dad-band called "The Retreads" and is currently riding the wave of vinyl record revival.

"Rebel" Rick "The Activist"

Rick traded his picket signs for a briefcase when the reality of a mortgage hit, shaving his beard to become a Public Defender in Clay County. He eventually found his revolution within the system, famously winning a landmark case against a river-polluting chemical company in '98. At the reunions, he's the only one who still fits into his original denim jacket, secretly blasting Creedence Clearwater Revival in his Volvo as a quiet nod to the boy who once questioned everything.

Sarah L. "The Intellectual"

Inspired by Miss Murdoch, Sarah moved to New York to write the Great American Novel, spending years proofreading toaster oven manuals while her dense modernist tragedy was rejected by everyone. She returned South to become a beloved community college professor, finding success writing a trashy, best-selling mystery series under a pseudonym. With her royalties, she bought a beach condo, happily accepting that the "low brow" fiction she once critiqued paid for the view.

"Gidget" Barb "The Trendsetter"

Barb married the high school quarterback immediately after graduation, but the fairy tale faded as his hairline receded and the domestic trap of three car seats replaced her convertible dreams. Following a mid-life crisis involving a disco phase and a perm, she channeled her energy into a booming landscaping business. She got a powder blue Mustang at age 58, terrorizing her grandchildren by driving top-down and blasting the Beach Boys, reclaiming the "cool" she had put on pause.

Tom W. "The Organizer"

Tom stayed behind to run his father's hardware store, living a life of "almosts"—almost moving away, almost investing in Apple, and almost asking Miss Murdoch for a drink years later. However, when his store burned down in '92 and the whole town rallied to help him rebuild, he realized his life of stability was actually one of deep, essential connection. He became the eternal keeper of the flame, organizing every single class reunion for fifty years, creating name tags that everyone complained about but secretly cherished.

- STORY, ART: EDITOR





Keyboard (and other) Shortcuts for HOA Compliance

General HOA Shortcuts

- **Ctrl + Shift + O** (for "Over-reach"): Instantly mute your microphone and feign a bad connection when the topic of your lawn gnomes comes up during a virtual meeting. (*Cell Phone: Double Tap Power Button*)
- **Alt + F4** (for "Force Quit"): Instantly generate a "sudden and urgent errand" text message to your spouse, allowing you to gracefully exit a tedious conversation with a neighbor about their meticulously manicured petunias. (*Phone: Swipe Down with Three Fingers*)
- **Win + R** (for "Run Away"): Automatically open your car door and start the engine with the press of a button, ensuring a swift getaway when you see the HOA president approaching your driveway with a clipboard. (*Phone: Shake Phone Vigorously*)

HOA Violation Notice Shortcuts

- **Ctrl + U** (for "Undo"): Automatically generate a long-winded, but ultimately polite, email to the board, explaining that the "unapproved" color of your front door is actually a pre-approved shade of "suburban gray-beige" with a subtle undertone of "HOA-approved sadness." (*Phone: Long-Press Email Icon*)
- **Shift + Tab** (for "Back-pedal"): Immediately change the subject to the latest neighborhood gossip when a board member brings up the fact that your trash cans were visible for 15 minutes past the approved time. (*Phone: Scroll Rapidly through Photo Gallery*)
- **Ctrl + C + V** (for "Copy and Victimize"): Automatically paste a previous violation notice you received from the HOA and send it to your neighbor, with a single keystroke, to let them know they're not alone in the struggle. (*Phone: Screenshot a Text...to Anyone*)

HOA Committee Meeting Shortcuts

- **Ctrl + S** (for "Save Yourself"): Instantly change your Zoom background to a looping video of a cat playing a piano. This will give you a valid excuse for the inevitable disruptions and allow you to blame "technical difficulties" for your lack of participation. (*High Volume, Activate Siri/Google Assistant...Say Nothing*)
- **F1** (for "Help!"): Immediately send a pre-written SOS text to your significant other that reads, "I'm trapped in a discussion about the proper height of a mailbox. Send wine." (*Draw a "Z" on the Screen*)
- **Esc** (for "Escape"): Allows you to press a key and have a pre-recorded message pop up on your screen that says, "I'm sorry, my HOA-induced rage has caused me to spontaneously combust. Please continue the meeting without me." (*"Accidentally" Drop Phone*)



"CAM says 'dirty roof'? Point your phone at it and press 'Power + Volume Down'...that gets you an extra thirty days."

- STORY, ART: EDITOR





GORGONZOLA BREAD

This month's food offering is a delightful bread that I came to know on our recent Mediterranean Cruise. It is a delightful bread with Italian components. I have long been a disciple of breads, but never heard of this one until it was experienced on our recent Mediterranean Cruise.

It was one of several recipes that I asked the Head Chef on board for, and he was most gracious in sharing them. The difficulty was reducing them to our simple kitchen as compared to the ship's kitchen. Reducing the quantities and converting the metric measures has been the task involved.

So, here is the family kitchen-sized recipe in English measure. Testing the final recipe before presenting it here was the fruit of my labor. Notice three of the ingredients, gluten, dough conditioner, and Italian seasoning are easily found online.

Further, let's clear the air about gluten, which has gotten a bad rap of late. If you're one of the 1% of folks allergic to it, you have nothing to worry about, other than missing out on an important component of the taste and texture of fresh-baked bread, should you skip it here! Gluten is a complex, quality protein that is easily digested by those of us who aren't allergic to it. Having disposed of any ethical or dietary issues, I herewith tender the recipe for Gorgonzola Bread. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Ingredients

1 cup Gorgonzola cheese, grated (set out first to warm to room temperature)
 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 3 tbsp dry white wine
 1 egg
 1 cup warm water
 1 tbsp brown sugar
 2 tsp baker's yeast
 1/2 tsp black pepper
 1 1/2 tsp salt
 2 tsp Italian seasoning
 2 tbsp non-fat dried milk
 2 tsp gluten
 2 tsp dough conditioner
 2 cups bread flour
 1 3/4 cups whole wheat flour

Recipe

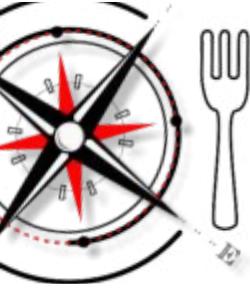
Grate the Gorgonzola cheese, set aside at room temperature so it can warm up while you prepare the other ingredients.

In a small container, add the olive oil and white wine; beat 1 egg into this mixture until well combined, set aside.

In another small container, add 1 cup warm water, stir in 1 tbsp brown sugar until dissolved, then gently stir in 2 tsp baker's yeast.

Continued





THE Traveling Fork

Recipe (cont'd.)

Set aside and allow the yeast to activate while you prepare the dry ingredients.

In a large dish pan or kneading pan, measure and add the black pepper, salt, Italian seasoning, non-fat dried milk, gluten and dough conditioner; stir lightly to distribute evenly.

Add to the same large dish pan the bread flour and whole wheat flour; mix gently.

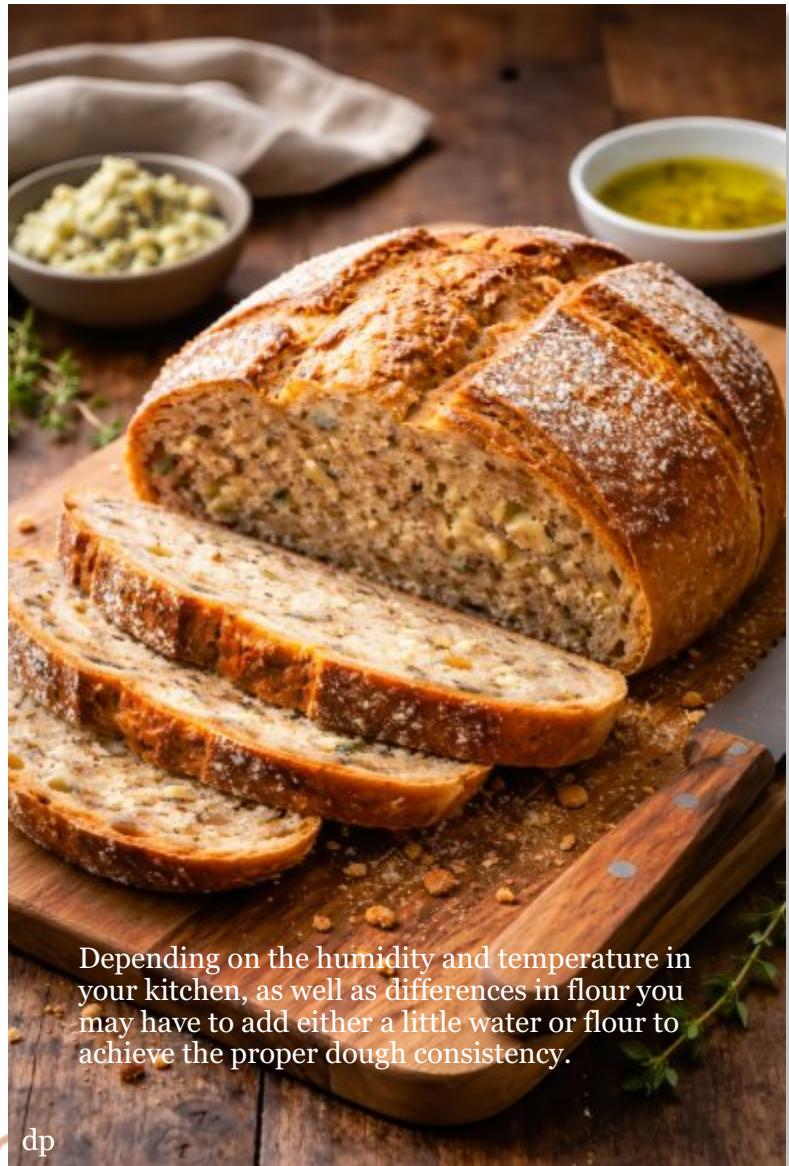
Pour the yeast mixture into the flour mixture; add the egg, oil, and wine mixture.

Mix until a shaggy dough forms, then add the grated Gorgonzola cheese to the dough. Knead until the dough becomes smooth, elastic, and evenly incorporates the cheese.

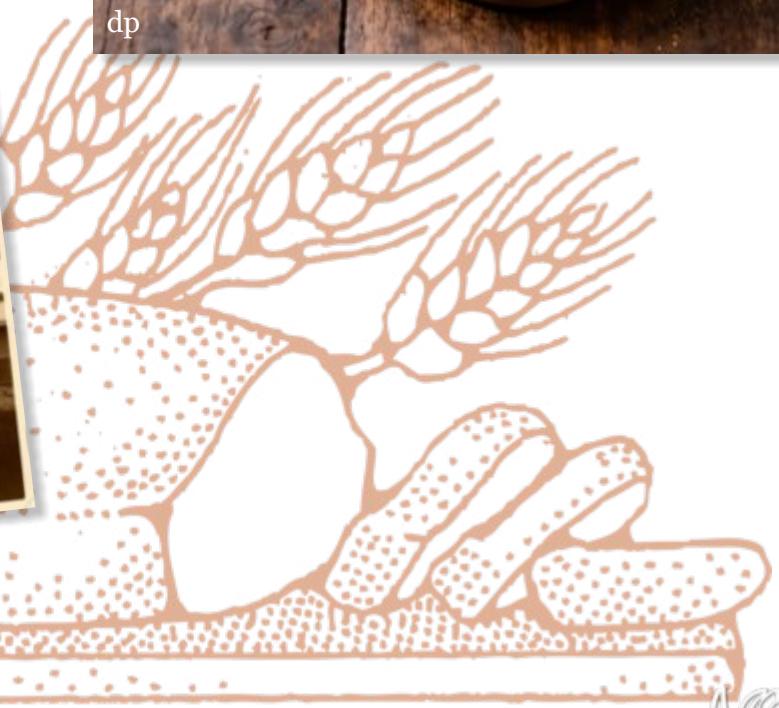
Place the dough on a flat pan in a warm oven or whatever warm environment you may have and allow it to rise for about an hour. Then, work it down and knead it for another 6-8 minutes. Shape the dough into the loaf you want. Place it into a lightly oiled bread pan and let it rise for another hour. Then, carefully (so as not to collapse it) place it into a 350°F pre-heated oven and bake for one hour. Take it out and let it cool before slicing and eating.



Courtesy: Gorgonzola DOP



Depending on the humidity and temperature in your kitchen, as well as differences in flour you may have to add either a little water or flour to achieve the proper dough consistency.





2 Couple's NINE HOLE LEAGUE

- DIANNE DEARTH

December 14 - It was a beautiful afternoon for our Holiday league play. Seven couples played a Couple's Scramble and the scores could not have been closer! We had a tie for 1st **and** a tie for 2nd! We have tie breakers setup via a scorecard playoff for when this occurs.

1st Place - Bruce & Jeanne Gorman - 41
2nd Place - Pat O'Neil & Rita Altman - 41
3rd Place - Bob & Diane Gove - 42
4th Place - Rick Koenig & Gail Larson - 42

December 28 - Six couples turned out for a beautiful December day of golf. Temperatures reaching a balmy 75 degrees. We welcomed back Bill Grasch & Anita O'Donnell as well as Den & Janine O'Connor. Bede Johnson filled in as sub today, and we appreciated it.

1st Place - Don & Dianne Dearth, Wayne Costa & Bede Johnson - 37
2nd Place - Rick Koenig & Gail Larson, Dennis & Janine O'Connor - 41



LADIES 9 LEAGUE • HEAD-COVER BIRDIES

- DIANNE DEARTH



"My covers were a gift from my husband Tom. I got them to show my loyalty to my University of Florida. I haven't had them for very long. They replaced some (also Gators) that had worn out. I find it fun to have Gator head covers, because I get a 'Go Gators!' from people on the course as we cheer or commiserate on the fortunes of our teams."

- *Sharon Sprott*



“I love roosters!”

"I ordered all the club head covers from a catalog, about six years ago. I chose the rooster, because I love roosters and I used to live in Key West where they roam freely. The sloth is slow and methodical, maybe not my traits! But a fascinating animal. The gopher is a throwback to Caddy Shack, a favorite movie. The pink flamingo because they are beautiful and I used to see them on the beach in South Florida."

- *Taunya Vise*



"My husband Jef and I have two daughters and three grandchildren who have graduated from Virginia Tech. We follow VT sports and activities whenever we can and also have lots of memorabilia gathered over the years! This was received while the children and grandchildren were in Blacksburg, VA. I fondly think of my kids and "Go Virginia Tech!" when I grab this club head cover."

- *Val Flemming*



LADIES 9 LEAGUE

- DIANNE DEARTH

December 4 - Twelve brave souls came dressed to play today! The game was **9 Hole Christmas Scramble**, challenging but very fun!

1st Place - **Cheryle Newman, Bede Johnson, Val Flemming and Karen Lioce - 40**

2nd Place - **Deb Elsea, Dianne Dearth, Donna Hirsch and Janine O'Connor - 44**

December 11 - Eight brave souls headed out on the course to play Stableford, a team game. The ground fog was still hovering at tee time. The final team scores although very close, Stableford Scores were a spread of 12 points. The winning team of **Dianne Dearth, Deb Elsea, Karen Lioce and Janine O'Connor - 66**. Congrats go to Dianne Dearth with 26 points.

December 18 - We had seven players to play Individual Game Day! Two players were in the 1st Flight and five in the 2nd Flight, making for a competitive game.

1st Place - **Bede Johnson - 56**

2nd Place - **Karen Lioce - 59**

3rd Place - **Dianne Dearth - 63**

Congratulations to Sandy Waldrup, who had a 50-yard chip-in on hole #13, paying out \$7.50!



dp



Ingredients

- Sweet Tea Base 4 oz - Strong-brewed black tea, sweetened to your liking, chilled.
- Fresh Citrus Juice 1.5 oz - Blend of Blood Orange and Grapefruit juice (or just one).
- Simple Syrup 1/2 oz - Optional; adjust based on the sweetness of your tea and citrus.
- Sparkling Water Top-off - Plain or a complementary citrus flavor.
- Garnish 1 slice - Orange wheel or Grapefruit twist, and a sprig of Rosemary.

Recipe

1. Fill a tall glass (a Collins or Highball) with ice.
2. Pour the chilled Sweet Tea Base, Fresh Citrus Juice, and Simple Syrup (if using) into the glass.
3. Stir gently to combine the liquids.
4. Top the drink with Sparkling Water until the glass is full.
5. Garnish with an Orange Wheel and a Rosemary Sprig to release a wonderful, earthy aroma.

Alcoholic Version

Sweet Tea Base: 3 oz

Fresh Citrus Juice: 1 oz

Gin or Spiced Rum: 1.5 oz

Aperol or Campari (optional): 0.5 oz - Adds an extra layer of bitter complexity



Flavor Profile - This spritzer combines the comforting tannins of black tea with the bright, sharp flavors of winter citrus (the blood orange and grapefruit), balanced by a touch of sweetness. Its aroma is that of bright citrus and warm tea and the primary notes are: sweet, tangy, and deeply aromatic and the texture is bubbly, refreshing, and crisp! *Yum!*

- RECIPE, PHOTO: EDITOR



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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

Duplicate: Jon Bastress JonBastress@gmail.com

Duplicate Bridge, Thu Oct 30

East/West Winners

1. Evie & Joe Ezell
2. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill

North/South Winners

1. Phyllis Boyde & Alice Lodge
2. Kim Belcher & David Miller
3. Jef Fleming & Rannel Westberry

Social Bridge, Thu Nov 6

1. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
2. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
3. Evie & Joe Ezell
4. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague
5. Ann Bastress & Sandy Waldrup
6. Don Maneval & Nancy Petillo

Duplicate Bridge, Thu Nov 13

East/West Winners

1. Kim Belcher & David Miller
2. Connie & Michael Byers
3. Jim Cardozo & Ed Hayes
4. North/South Winners
5. Brad Lucas & Jerry Lunt
6. Sharon Sprott & Ed Szymanski
7. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill

Social Bridge, Thu Nov 20

1. Susan Mitchell & Anne Porcello
2. Jola Greiner & Sharon Sprott
3. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
4. Monica & Steve Harmon
5. Dottie Lunt & Val Sheppard

Social Bridge, Thu Dec 04

1. Connie & Michael Byers
2. Marty Essex & Cindy Jennings
3. Susan Mitchell & Marsha Parker
4. Jola Greiner & Sharon Sprott
5. Evie & Joe Ezell
6. Alice Lodge & Kaaren Tague

Duplicate Bridge, Thu Dec 11

East/West Winners

1. Marty Essez & Cindy Jennings
2. Sharon Sprott & Ed Szymanski
3. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill

North/South Winners

1. Connie & Michael Byers
2. Joan Sabanski & Carol Studer
3. Jim Cordozo & Ed Hayes

Social Bridge, Thu Dec 18

1. Jon Bastress & Joe Thill
2. Connie & Michael Byers
3. Mary Kendall & Sharon Murphy
4. Lorna Broughton & Raquel Dutton

Tied Kim Belcher & David Miller



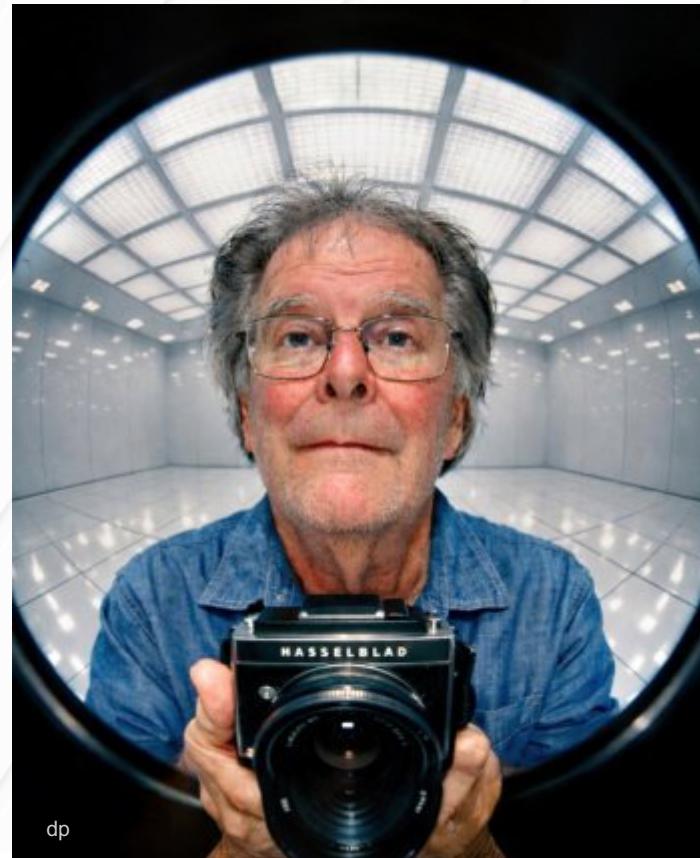
- SHARON MURPHY

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*Bill Blackwell
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