



# THE OSPREY

A Publication of Country Club Manor



Volume 34 Number 4

1701 N SR19 Suite 1 • Eustis, FL 32726

April 2026

### Country Club Manor Office:

Phone.....352-357-6644

Fax.....352-357-6655

Clubhouse .....352-589-9815

#### **Email**

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#### **Website**

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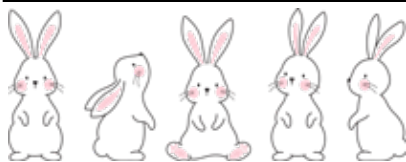
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### OSPREY

Editorial.....(352) 977-4848  
ospreyccm@gmail.com



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# APRIL 2026 OSPREY ONGOING RELEVANT INFORMATION



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For any Non Emergency situations that need the local police their 24 hour phone number is 352-357-4121

**WARNING**  
**DO NOT FEED THE ALLIGATORS**



**Osprey DEADLINE**  
**The 15th of Each Month**  
For more information contact Editor at (352) 977-4848 or email: [ospreyccm@gmail.com](mailto:ospreyccm@gmail.com)

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After hours leave message or email.

**CCM clubhouse PRIVATE PARTY RENTAL**  
*Did you know you can rent the clubhouse for private parties?*  
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Additional information and a rental application is available on the CCM Website.

PLEASE BE AWARE AND HONOR THE SPEED LIMIT WITHIN COUNTRY CLUB MANOR

**SPEED LIMIT 15**




TO SEE COLOR PICTURES FROM CCM EVENTS & MUCH MORE!

NO GOLF CARTS ALLOWED ON THE CCM BRIDGES AS THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS!



**Have you signed up for CCM Emails?**  
If you want to see the monthly Osprey full color edition, be sure that the CCM office has your email address. Amy (in the office) sends out the color edition to everyone for whom she has an email address. If you are enjoying the monthly Osprey, you will surely like it even better in full color.  
Of course, being on the email list will have many more benefits. You were learn quickly ... such things as ... if there is a bear in the park, if water is being cut off, or other news that effects and possibly affects us residents.  
Are you receiving occasional CCM emails? If not, please contact Amy and let her know you would like to be on the list.



**SAC**  
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

We would like to remind ALL RESIDENTS that you are automatically members of the Social Activities Club (S.A.C.). We welcome your suggestions and comments at our monthly meetings typically held on the 1st Saturday of each month after coffee hour between October and March. At the meetings, you have the right to make motions from the floor to vote on the proposals before the group.

**Hospitality**  
Are you a new resident at CCM? Your Hospitality Greeter is Valerie Helms. The duties of the Greeter is to connect with you, order your Name Tags, fill out an information sheet, provide you with an info package about CCM which includes the various activities, and answer any questions you may have. You will also receive a small gift from CCM. **Please call Valerie at: (518) 524-7272**

**WELCOME**

**CCM SUNSHINE CLUB**  
ACTS OF KINDNESS

Spreading Cheer & Kindness in Our Community!

Country Club Manor's Sunshine Club performs caring acts for residents who are ill, in the hospital, in need of encouragement, or have passed away.

- Get Well & Sympathy Cards
- Memorial Wreaths
- Announcements at Saturday Coffee Socials

Becky Neilson: (407) 963-1760  
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# IT'S OK TO OUT LOUD - AKA FUNNIES

Ahh... April—the only month that begins with a Wink and a Warning: April Fool's!  
So in the spirit of harmless mischief, here are a few *Far Side* favorites to tickle your funny bone and inspire a little foolishness.

Contributed by Joni Hanchett,

*Osprey's Chief Collaborator*



3 drunk guys entered a taxi. The taxi driver knew that they were drunk so he started the engine & turned it off again. Then said, "We have reached your destination". The 1st guy gave him money & the 2nd guy said "Thank you". The 3rd guy slapped the driver. The driver was shocked thinking the 3rd drunk knew what he did. But then he asked "What was that for?". The 3rd guy replied, "Control your speed next time, you nearly killed us!"

## A SHOUT OUT TO LOCAL 'GOOD EATS' RESTAURANTS

by Cheryl Watts



Located just 17 miles from Country Club Manor on Lake Weir in Weirsdale is this gem of a restaurant. The menu is crafted by Chef Dave Del Rio, blending Southern and Louisiana flavors. Their full-service bar, comfortable beach vibe, and menu with options from fish and seafood to burgers and chicken offer a perfect setting for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Eaton's Beach Sandbar & Grill provides a memorable dining experience with delicious food, stunning views, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Editor's favorite: 12 oz tender and sizzling pork chop cooked to perfection! (Eat half and take half home)



Homestyle food with a hometown atmosphere. Right Across the Street from Country Club Manor

Recent reviews highlight the exceptional Philly cheesesteak omelet, the biscuits and gravy are especially praised, and the lively atmosphere adds to the charm. Overall, the restaurant provides a great dining experience with friendly staff, tasty food, and reasonable prices. The menu also features delicious options like the senior liver and onions and the senior burger with fries. Be sure to try their corn nuggets with a sweet, crunchy exterior and soft, sweet interior.

*Let's Support these local family-owned businesses!*

## LETTER TO OUR READERS

Hello everyone:

April showers may bring blooming flowers, but there's so much more to look forward to this month. Special celebrations include Passover beginning April 1, Easter on April 5, and Earth Day on April 22.



At Country Club Manor, April 15 is about more than the tax deadline. It is a day to give thanks to those residents who came before us and worked tirelessly to convert CCM into a legal co-op—allowing all of us to enjoy its many long-term benefits.

In 1993, a group of visionary residents recognized the value and uniqueness of CCM and successfully transformed it into a resident-owned cooperative community, giving residents greater control over their future. On April 15, 1993, The Wilder Corporation sold the park to Country Club Manor Co-Op, Inc., and it officially became a resident-owned community.

Many fond memories are shared by those who have lived here the longest. As you'll see in the article "Old Man on a Pink Bicycle" (page 10), Jim Merrick recalls an old-timer—gone, but still remembered as one of the many colorful characters in our community.

As we reflect on the beginnings of CCM, it's hard not to feel nostalgic for those simpler, joyful times so beautifully captured by former resident poet Fran Ellsworth Asher in her now classic poetry featured on page 14.

Residents fondly remember when both sides of the Clubhouse were filled to capacity for events, and when Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners brought neighbors together in celebration and friendship. One tradition that continues is the well-attended Saturday morning Coffee Socials—where, unbelievably, even after all these years, you can still get coffee and a donut for just \$1. (Yes... really!)

An anniversary is not only a time to celebrate our history and values, but also an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community and connection. Let us express our gratitude to those who made the co-op possible through their dedication and hard work.

We, as a community, have so much to be thankful for. *How fortunate we are to have found this Oasis on Trout Lake, here in the Land of Over 1,000 Lakes.*




**To Country Club Manor  
NEW RESIDENTS**

Edgar Lucas and Fernando Espana  
Teresa and Thomas Fresquez  
Loretta Pambianchi

### HERE'S WHAT READERS ARE SAYING ABOUT MARCH'S



- ❖ “Loved the cover photo of Florida participating in winter...first laugh of the morning!”
- ❖ “The comics are hilarious, as always, (especially the snowman and his ill-fated trek to FL 🇺🇸). Thanks for the chuckles.”

• Readers are encouraged to share their comments and feedback. Your anonymous contributions may be published in the next

### WHAT READERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE OSPREY

**Cheers to CCM!** Cheryl Watts,  
Editor

*Together,*

**WE MAKE IT WORK - and that's what makes CCM special.**

• ————— • • • • • ————— •  
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**SAC EVENTS DURING MARCH**

The highlight of March was the **Welcome Luncheon held on March 8th** and hosted by SAC. With over 90 new and current residents in attendance, it was the most well-attended CCM event since before COVID.

SAC outdid themselves with a delicious catered luncheon, beautifully decorated tables, and a lineup of speakers representing various community groups:

- SAC: Barb Duckwall
- Board: Jane Stover
- Men's Club: Herb Southern
- Women's Club: Sue Frost
- Hospitality: Becky Neilson
- The Osprey: Cheryl Watts



Following the presentations, Herb Southern went around the room introducing new residents to those in attendance, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. We hope this Meet & Greet marks the beginning of neighbors connecting, forming new friendships, and participating in the many events and activities CCM has to offer.



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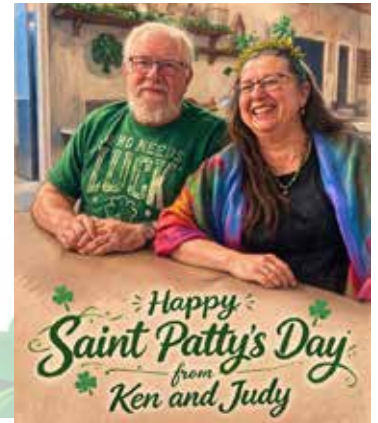
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# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

## THANKS TO SAC

It's often said that a picture is worth a thousand words—and the smiles say it all! The photos below capture the fun and energy of the *March 17th Saint Patrick's Day Dance Party*.

Nearly everyone got into the Irish spirit, showing up in festive green—shirts, headdresses, sparkling ties, beads, and more. The music, provided by DJ "That Dave Guy," was lively and kept the dance floor buzzing all evening.



St. Patty's dance at Clubhouse 2026



Cheryl and Rick enjoying the Luck of the Irish!



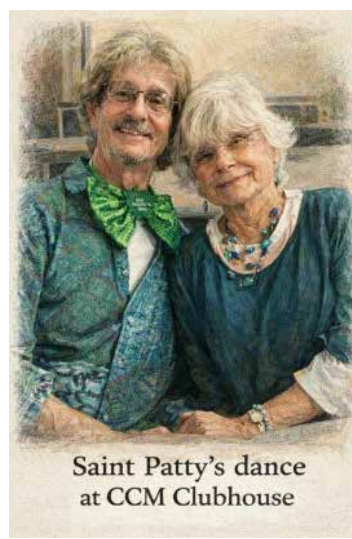
Girls just wanna have fun! Happy Saint Patty's Day...Cheers from Geri!



We're having too much fun at CCM's Saint Patty's Day party



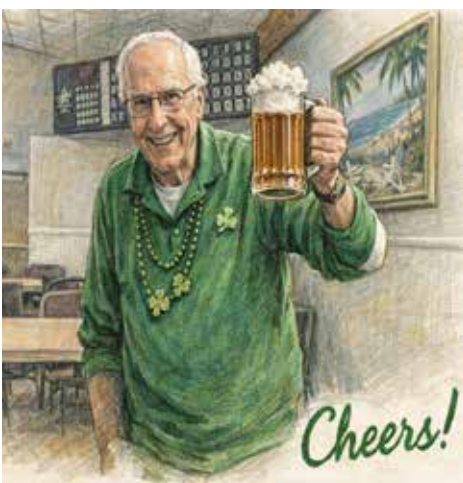
Geri and Terry... 65 years married and still love to party!



Saint Patty's dance at CCM Clubhouse



Having a fun time on Saint Patty's Day!



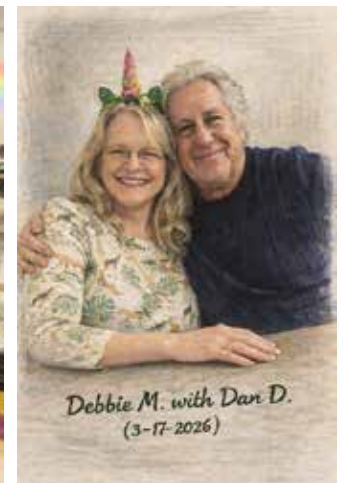
Cheers!



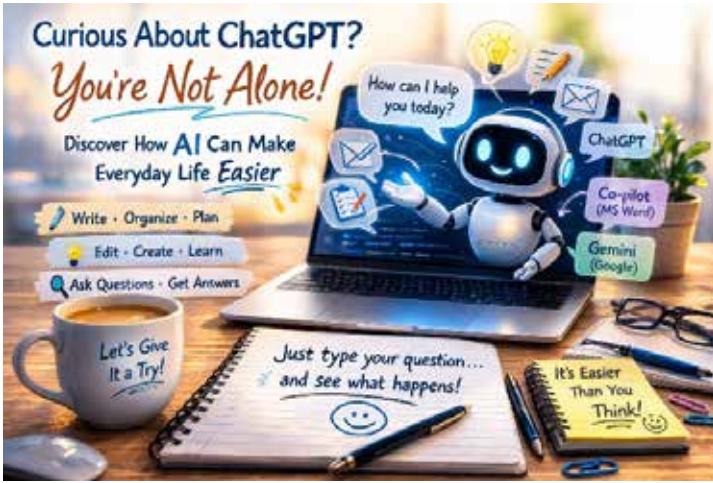
John M. with Jacqueline Saint Patrick's 3-17-2026



Searching for that Pot of Gold (3-17-2026)



Debbie M. with Dan D. (3-17-2026)



by Cheryl Watts

You’ve probably heard people mention “AI” lately — maybe on the news, from friends, or even inside programs you already use like Word or Google. It can sound complicated, even a little intimidating.

But here’s the truth... It doesn’t have to be.

AI tools like ChatGPT (from OpenAI), Copilot (built into Microsoft Word), and Gemini (from Google) are simply helpers. Think of them as a friendly assistant that’s available anytime — day or night — ready to help you think, write, learn, or solve a problem. That’s it. Nothing mysterious.

### So... What Can It Actually Do?

You might be surprised. These tools can help with everyday things like:

- Writing a letter or email
- Fixing grammar or punctuation
- Creating a grocery list or meal plan
- Planning a trip
- Explaining something confusing
- Brainstorming ideas
- Summarizing long articles
- They can also help with bigger projects:
- Editing stories or newsletters
- Creating invitations or announcements
- Organizing thoughts into clear writing
- Turning rough notes into polished pieces

In other words... they help take what’s in your head and turn it into something clear and complete.

### You Don’t Have to Be “Tech-Savvy”

This is one of the biggest misconceptions. You don’t need special training or to understand computers. If you can type a question, you can use AI. It really is that simple. You just start with a question or a request, like:

“Can you help me write a thank-you note?”

“Can you fix this paragraph?”

“Can you explain this in simpler terms?”

And the program responds — instantly. You can even ask it to try again, make it shorter, or change the tone. It works with you, **not against you.**

### Think of It as a Conversation

The best way to use AI is to treat it like a conversation. You don’t need perfect wording. Just say what you mean. The more you interact, the better the results become. It’s not about getting it right the first time — it’s about refining together.

### A Little Curiosity Goes a Long Way

Many people hesitate to try something new, especially when it sounds technical. But this is one of those tools that becomes easier the moment you begin. There’s no risk in experimenting. Try asking it something small and see what happens. Adjust your request if needed. Before you know it, you’ll find your own ways to use it — whether that’s writing, organizing, learning, or simply saving time.

### Why It Matters

These tools aren’t just for businesses or technology experts anymore. They’re for everyone. They can make everyday tasks easier, help you express your thoughts more clearly, and even spark new ideas.

### Final Thoughts

You don’t have to understand how it works to benefit from it. You don’t need special skills or to be an expert. **You just need curiosity and be willing to try.** You may be surprised at what you discover.

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## OLD MAN ON A PINK GIRLS BIKE THE LARRY STALLARD STORY

by Jim Merrick

### PREFACE:

Jim Merrick has been a resident of Country Club Manor since 2006. Over the years, he has written a series of light-hearted memoirs about memorable neighbors and friends he has known in our community. He titled this collection “*A Collection of Memorable CCM Characters.*”

Many of the individuals Jim writes about are no longer with us, but their personalities, quirks, and contributions remain part of Country Club Manor’s shared history. Long-time residents will recognize familiar names, while newer neighbors will enjoy being introduced to the colorful characters who helped shape the spirit of our community.

Many of our residents may know Jim as “**The Happy Easter Guy**” as regardless of if it is Christmas, Thanksgiving or just another day, his parting words are “Happy Easter.”



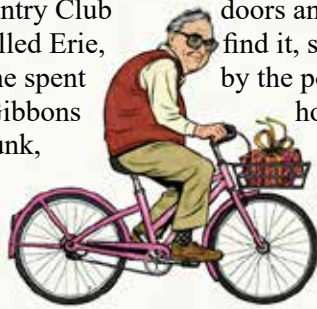
Larry Stallard was a snowbird resident of Country Club Manor for many years. Larry and wife Marian called Erie, PA home in the summer months. When at CCM he spent most of his days following his best friend Jerry Gibbons around the compound. Both, looking for useful junk, others had thrown away.

That’s where he found the pink girls bike. Of course he had to paint it pink, with a brush and paint he found in the compound. The tires were dry rotted so bad it was surprising that they held air. Patches on the inner tubes were cheap as he found those in the compound as well. The pink golf hat he wore 24/7 was also found in the compound. If my description of Larry gives you the sense that he was cheap, I should be clear. He was a penny pincher of the first order.

Larry lived on Shady Lane and Jerry Gibbons lived on Live Oak near the compound. Larry would ride his bike to Jerry’s house and the two would go scavenging in the compound on foot. I would go by Jerry’s house on my cart on the way to the Clubhouse. One day I stopped and moved his bike behind Jerry’s house. **No big deal...** The next day I moved it behind the neighbor’s house. The next day I moved it three houses away. The next day I held the handlebars while I drove my cart and took it to his house. Knowing Larry, I figured he would think he walked to Jerry’s. About this time, he headed north to Erie for the summer.

Of course, he left the bike in his carport for the summer. Even Larry knew no one would steal it, except me. I knew the day he was returning, so I put it front and center in the island of the entrance road. He couldn’t miss seeing it and then would have to walk back to get it. Marcia Fowler was president of the board that year and she couldn’t miss seeing it either. I can still feel the heat from her yelling at me. I begged for forgiveness and she said “Don’t do it again!”

So, the next time I swiped it I hid it in Floyd Finch’s shed. Larry looked for it for a week. Floyd’s shed had two



doors and Larry only looked in one. I figured he’d never find it, so Floyd and I hung it from one of the live oaks by the pond. Marcia realized that talking to me was hopeless, so she spoke to my wife, Pat. **Oh boy!** Lucky for me about that time the snowbirds left, so I had all summer to come up with new ways to give Larry grief.

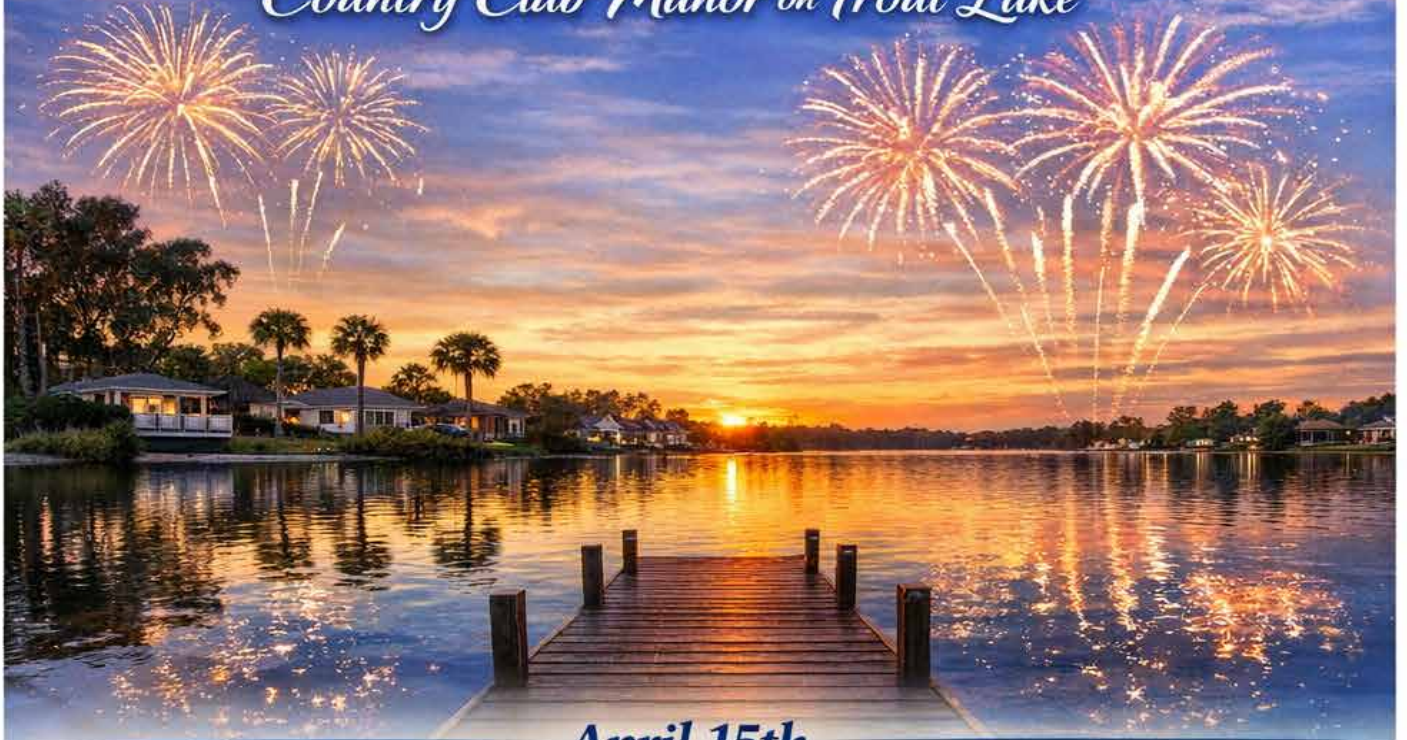
The bridge and waterfall at the pond were new then. So, the day Larry returned, the bike was in the middle of the island. After that, it was in the middle of the waterfall. I lost interest for the rest of the winter. But the next fall, I had an extra set of handlebars and a seat. With two lengths of PVC pipe, I pushed one into the mud on the left side of the bridge and put the handlebars into it. The second pipe went on the right side of the bridge with the seat on it. It looked like the bike was under the bridge. Of course, the real bike was hidden in a friend’s shed. When Larry arrived for the winter, he looked all over for his bike. He finally walked down to the pond and discovered the bike. It wasn’t until he was laying on the bridge to pull it out that he realized what had happened. I was out of ideas by this point, so I quit picking on him.

That spring break two of his grandchildren came to visit Larry and Marian. They were in their early twenties, just out of college. They thought Larry was getting too old to ride a bike. They knew Larry would never spend the money for a golf cart so they asked me to find him one they could afford. It turned out that my neighbors were selling their house to move north and I secured a good deal on their cart. The kids had been gone for a week when we delivered his cart. I don’t think you could ever find a prouder grandfather than Larry. *I knew better than to try to steal his cart. **Hard to believe, but true!***

*Larry passed on October 15, 2021, and Marion on April 25, 2024. I still find myself missing those days—especially around April Fool’s—when pranks were part of the fun.*

# HAPPY 33<sup>rd</sup> CCM CO-OP ANNIVERSARY!

*Country Club Manor on Trout Lake*



**April 15th**

Not only is this **Tax Deadline Day**...  
It also marks a very special milestone for **our community!**

In 1993, Country Club Manor became a co-op—  
and **33 years later**, we continue to enjoy the many benefits of that decision.

## **A Community Worth Celebrating**

- Neighborly spirit
- Shared ownership
- A beautiful lakeside lifestyle
- The place we proudly call home

## **Take a Walk Down Memory Lane**

Curious about how it all began?

Newsletters dating back to **1987** are available in the Clubhouse Library.

Filled with:

- Early community stories
- Photos and updates
- Fun and sometimes humorous glimpses into the past

**Please Note:** These newsletters are **for reference only** and may not be removed from the library.

*Celebrating 33 Years of Community on Trout Lake*

*APRIL 2026 OSPREY*  
**MEET OUR 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*\*See cover page for respective titles*

God bless them in their new roles & responsibilities.

Please thank them for their willingness to serve when you see them & support them in their volunteer roles.

**OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**

**A huge thank you to Kathy Herman, our outgoing 2nd Vice President, and Mary Ann Irvine, Treasurer, for their dedicated service—often in roles that can feel both endless and thankless.**

Kathy served as Treasurer for four years and as 2nd Vice President for two years. Mary Ann also served for four years holding both the positions of Vice President and Treasurer.

Their knowledge, commitment, and many contributions have been invaluable, and we are truly grateful for the time and energy they have given to our community.

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**COUNTRY CLUB MANOR'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Many residents have reported that when trying to access CCM's Facebook page, they are instead directed to a different group with a similar name. If most of the posts seem unfamiliar, you are likely on the wrong page.

To find the correct group, type "Country Club Manor Residents" (not just "Country Club Manor") in the Facebook search bar.

To confirm you're in the right place, look for this picture and the label:

**Private Group - 265 Members**

That's your clue that you're on the official Country Club Manor Residents page.

**LOST & FOUND REMINDER**



If you find a personal item, please do not place it on the Mail Room Ledge. Items left there are considered free "give-away" items and may be taken by other residents. **Instead, please place any lost or left-behind items in the Lost and Found container, located below the Slant Board in the Clubhouse Information Center.** Thank you for helping us return misplaced items to their rightful owners!

**BOARD MEETINGS**

*The CCM Board meets every Third Thursday at 2:00 PM  
Next Meeting: April 16th*

**Board Workshop Meeting**

will follow the Board meeting. A form is available for submitting questions, issues, complaints, or concerns. Please complete the form and submit it to the appropriate board member by the Friday prior to the April 16th meeting.

With residents' cooperation, the Board will have adequate time to research each matter and prepare a response for the April 16th meeting.



**MEETINGS ARE IN THE CLUBHOUSE**

*Stay informed about CCM news and community issues.  
All residents are encouraged to attend.*

**ATTENTION**

*Do you have a worn or tattered U.S. flag?*



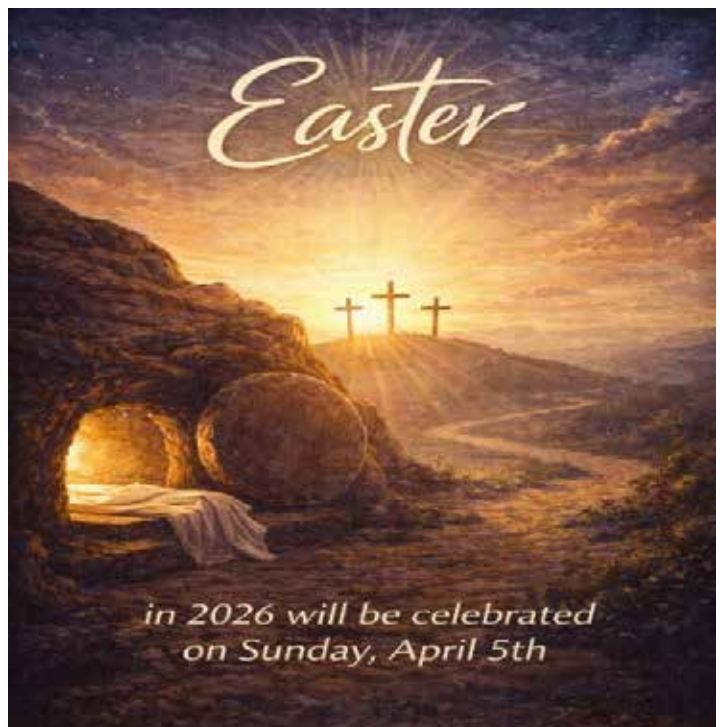
When an American flag is no longer fit for display, the U.S. Flag Code recommends destroying it in a dignified manner, preferably by burning, but other options include burial or donating it to organizations that will properly retire it.

**There is a blue milk crate under the Slant Board in our Clubhouse where you can place these flags. Mary Witty, of CCM's newly formed Military Appreciation Committee will ensure that these flags are properly retired.**

  
**PASSOVER 2026**  
*begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 1  
and ends at nightfall on Thursday, April 9*



*Easter*



*in 2026 will be celebrated on Sunday, April 5th*

QUOTES CORNER

Thoughts About Friendship

- ❖ “I have learned that friendship isn't about who you've known the longest, it's about who came and never left your side.” *Yolanda Hadid, Dutch - American television personality*
- ❖ “Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” *Jane Howard, British actress, model and novelist*
- ❖ “May you always have love to share, health to spare, and friends that care.” *Eddie JakuHo, Holocaust survivor, author and humanitarian, known as “the happiest man on Earth” for his philosophy of hope and joy despite surviving Nazi concentration camps.*



**BRILLIANT**  
PUN of the month



**OSPREY TAX SEASON**


*The Osprey Mascot Tackles Tax Season*

I'm glad I learned about **Parallelograms** in High School instead of how to do taxes. It comes in so handy during **Parallelogram** season.



POETRY CORNER

FROM THE ARCHIVES



*The Poetry of*  
**FRANCES ELLSWORTH ASHER**

Research indicates that **Frances Ellsworth Asher** wrote regional poetry celebrating Florida's landscapes and reflecting the life of a retiree wintering in Country Club Mobile Manor.

Her verses frequently appeared in the community newsletter and celebrated the seasons, faith, and the simple joys of life in Florida.

Though little biographical information survives, records indicate that Asher later published a collection titled *Down South Poems about Florida* (1980), suggesting her love for the state and its natural beauty.

Through this series, *The Osprey* is pleased to share selections of her work once again — preserving a small but meaningful piece of our community's history.

COUNTRY CLUB  
**MOBILE MANOR NEWS**

VOLUME 3 APRIL 1976 NO. 4

**Easter Time**

When flowers are dressed up in their best,  
And blooming all day long;  
When happy songbirds join the rest,  
To sing a tuneful song;  
When brightest eggs are tucked away  
In spots of every size,  
And smiling children romp and play  
While searching for a prize;  
When new thoughts of faith and glory  
Ring out in sweet refrain,  
Bringing us the sacred story  
Of our Savior once again —  
We know it's Easter time.

—Frances Ellsworth Asher



COUNTRY CLUB  
**MOBILE MANOR NEWS**

VOLUME 2 APRIL 1975 NO. 4

**SPRINGTIME**

New springtime traveled to the southern lands today —  
today —  
Fresh harbingers surround us everywhere;  
Although the summer is not yet far away,  
New miracles of nature fill the air.  
An odd note from a feathered throat resounding clear —  
Sweet fragrance traveling on a winsome breeze —  
While fresh new greenness spreads a carpet far and near.

And tiny leaf-buds deck the live oak trees,  
The lake appears to have an added sparkle, too,  
Where misty fingers lift the fog at morn.  
I feel new zest for life in everything I do,  
Enjoying all this beauty newly-born.

New springtime traveled to the south today —  
A gift for all who chance to pass this way.

—Frances Ellsworth Asher



**CCM APRIL ACTIVITIES**

*\*Be sure to check the April CCM CALENDAR and CLUBHOUSE BULLETIN BOARDS for UPDATES on activities.*

**CHEERS TO CCM**

# HAPPY HOUR



Every Thursday  
Clubhouse Patio @ 4:30pm

BYOB- APPETIZERS APPRECIATED .BUT NOT NECESSARY TO ATTEND.

**CCM MEN'S CLUB**



**MEETING DATES**  
EVERY TUESDAY  
@ 8:30AM

All CCM Residents are Members  
JOIN US AT THE CLUBHOUSE!

**HELPING HANDS**



We also have the Helping Hands aspect available to folks who need a **Helping Hand**. All that you need do is **Ask**. If needed, we can lend residents a walker, hand truck or 6' stepladder.

**JOIN US AT THE POOL!**

# WATER AEROBICS



**EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**

Beginning March...  
Water Aerobics will begin at 9am

**MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS**

**THURSDAY**  
April 16th  
AT 7PM

Movie To Be Announced



**Saturdays**

Coffee Hour begins at 8:30am

Donuts served at 9am



Join us at the Clubhouse.  
and bring your own mug.

**CCM CLUBHOUSE**

EVERY WEDNESDAY

## MUSIC JAM

3PM-5PM

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?  
COME ON OUT AND JOIN THE JAM CIRCLE!



Or just want to celebrate Hump Days then, Come and Give a Listen.  
**All are Welcome!**

**KARAOKE NIGHT**

WITH RICK BROWN

Saturday, April 11st  
The Clubhouse 6pm



JOIN US AT THE CLUBHOUSE!  
BYOB AND SNACK TO PASS

CCM Trivia Night




JOIN US AT THE CLUBHOUSE!  
**Friday, April 17th**  
at 6:30PM

Sign-Up Sheet on the Slant Board

If you don't have a team, start one and people will join!

**CCM WOMEN'S CLUB**



**NEWS**

Women's Club Committee Officers  
2026-2027

President....**Sue Frost**  
VP....**Pat Nazzaro**  
2nd VP....**Carol Bacon**  
Secretary....**Linda English**  
Treasurer....**Connie Kamerer**

The Women's Club wishes to thank our outgoing 2nd VP Carla VanKessel and Sheila Roane, VP (deceased) for their many contributions. Our Spring Luncheon was held at Magnolia Breeze Restaurant where the installation of officers also took place. A special thanks to Becky Neilson and Linda English for arranging the luncheon.

Monday, April 9th is the last meeting for the 2026 season. Our Fall season will kick off with our first meeting on Monday, April 13th at 9:30am.

Have a Safe and Enjoyable summer!  
See you come November

**BINGO**



**CCM CLUBHOUSE**

Every Monday @ 7pm

**MAKE IT - TAKE IT**

**Friday, April 17th**  
1pm At Clubhouse  
\$5 Each

(Pay at the Door)  
Sign up sheet on Slant Board

**CARDS! CARDS! CARDS!!**

**Monday** .....Uno, Swoop, Phase 10, Sequence.  
Tabletop Games and Cards are offered and vary from week to week.

**Tuesday** .....Texas Hold'Em

**Wednesday** .....Euchre

**Thursday** .....Pinochle (Single Deck, Pass Three) Ask Linda if you want lessons.

**Friday** .....Bridge, French Hearts, Texas Hold'Em

And on **Sunday afternoons**, Mexican Train (dominoes) is played. Everyone is welcome and if you don't know the rules, someone will happily teach you. **Most start at 1pm but check CCM calendar for exact times.**

(Linda's Phone Number is in the Directory)



APRIL 2026 OSPREY  
APRIL ACTIVITIES



**POKER RUN**

Sunday, April 12th  
2pm

**\$5 Per Person**

Best five card poker hand wins half the pot.  
(Other half at Coordinator's discretion)  
One hour time limit.

**SIGN- UP SHEET ON THE SLANTBOARD**

**Potluck**

April 14th • 5:30 pm

Come join your neighbors and friends at the Clubhouse for an evening of good food and Fellowship. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Remember to sign up at the Slant Board so we know how many & what is coming. April 15th is the anniversary of CCM becoming a co-op so might have a little tribute to that as well.

Can't wait to see you there!

**Celebrating CCM's 33rd CO-OP Anniversary**

Becky Neilson, Coordinator

**Did You Know?**

April 1 is named FOOL'S DAY, after Steve April. He was born on 1st April 1579. He did 105 businesses in his lifetime. He lost all his father's assets, and so everyone started calling him father of the fools.

At 19, he married a 61-year-old woman who divorced him after a year because of his foolishness. He used to read all kinds of fake stories like you are doing now.

Happy April Fool! 😊😊😊

**BAND PRACTICE**  
SUNDAYS  
5PM  
At Clubhouse



One of the endearing qualities of the *Osprey* has been our long-time resident Barry Wyatt's contributions to the newsletter. Barry and his wife Sharon came to CCM in 2000. This talented cartoonist jumped right in and began contributing monthly cartoons circa February 2003. His cartoons became a fixture in the monthly newsletter, and has graced many pages since that time.

To the *Bottom Right* is a timely sample of Barry's cartoon. It appeared first in the April 2010 *Osprey*.

Thank you, Barry, for so many amusing contributions to our newsletters.

**MILITARY APPRECIATION COMMITTEE**



**NEXT MEETING... APRIL 14TH AT 10 AM in the Clubhouse...After Men's Club Meeting.  
All are welcome!**

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS: THEATRE**

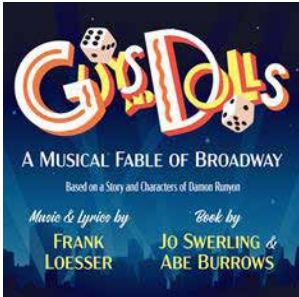
**OTHER LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

**SONNENTAG THEATRE**  
at the ICEHOUSE

1100 N. Unser Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757  
Box Office: (352) 383-4616  
[www.icehousetheatre.com](http://www.icehousetheatre.com)

The Icehouse Players first opened to a full house in the former Ice Plant in 1949 and have been going strong ever since.

**MARCH 20 - APRIL 12, 2026**



**GOOD GUYS AND DOLLS**  
A MUSICAL FABLE OF BROADWAY  
Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon  
Music & Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER Book by JO SWERLING & ABE BURROWS

**ORANGE BLOSSOM OPRY**



Located 22 miles from Country Club Manor

The Orange Blossom Opry is a 550-seat live music venue that features a diverse lineup of mostly country music Tribute bands. You get a lot of bang for your buck as the very talented Orange Blossom Opry house band is excellent and typically does a pre-show. There literally is no bad seat in the house, the stage is easily visible, great acoustics and the prices are reasonable. **Performances are too numerous to publish.** For ticket information, call or check website.

**16439 SE 138th Terrace Weirsdale, FL 32195.**  
<http://www.obopry.com> | (352) 821-1201

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**THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND BOO**  
by Christopher Durang  
April 10-26, 2026  
Hideaway Performing Arts Center  
431 Plaza Dr Eustis  
352-541-0041  
[www.HideawayPAC.com](http://www.HideawayPAC.com)


**EUSTIS 1ST FRIDAY**  
Historic Downtown Eustis  
**FOOD VENDORS MUSIC MORE**

(From 6pm until 9pm)  
Location: 111 N. Eustis Street

**Music Concert and Potluck**  
Every 3rd Saturday/ Next Date = April 18th  
Starts at 7pm and music by 7:30pm. Cost is \$7  
**Trout Lake Nature Center**  
520 E. C.R. 44, Eustis, Florida 32726  
Visit <https://troutlakenaturecenter.com>  
**Please Bring a dish to share.**




WORLD PREMIERE 2026  
**The Belles of Birmingham**  
By Eddie Lucas  
Directed by Dennis Gleason




Mattresses at 2:00: April 5, 11, 12, 19  
Fridays at 7:30: April 4, 10, 17, 18  
Tavernes Community Theater  
914 West Main Street, Eustis  
Tickets at [tavernescommunitytheater.org](http://tavernescommunitytheater.org)  
Box Office: 352-848-9947

**The Fresh Market**  
The Fresh Market, organized by Whimsy Market, will be held every **Wednesday from 5pm – 8pm in Ferran Park**. The market will feature local vendors and food trucks, live music, and a beautiful view of Lake Eustis. For more info:  
<https://www.eustis.org>



Ferran Park

**LAKE COUNTY FARMERS' AND FLEA MARKET**  
At Lake County Fairgrounds - 2101 C.R. 452, E u s t i s  
Every Thursday: May through September 8am to 12pm  
October through April 8am to 1pm



Fresh vegetables and fruit from local growers and vendors offering jewelry, tools, clothing, toiletries home décor and much more.

**LAKE COUNTY FAIR**  
The 105th Lake County Fair  
**APRIL 10 - 19, 2026**  
At the Lake County Fairgrounds  
101 County Rd 452, Eustis  
This annual event celebrates agriculture, arts and community activities.  
Fair Hours:  
• Weekdays: 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM (gates close at 10:00 PM)  
• Weekends: 1:00 PM – 10:00 PM (gates close at 10:00 PM)  
[www.lakecofair.com](http://www.lakecofair.com)



**12th Annual Mount Dora Blueberry Festival**  
Saturday, April 25 & Sunday April 26 | 9am-5pm  
Donnelly Park - 530 N. Donnelly Street  
In the heart of Mount Dora  
[www.mountdorablueberryfestival.com](http://www.mountdorablueberryfestival.com)




Local blueberry farms will be selling freshly picked berries along with a variety of delicious blueberry products. This FREE event features live music, crafters, blueberry beer and wine, and a Pancake Breakfast served from 9 AM to 12 PM. Don't miss the Blueberry Pie Eating Contest at 2 PM on both days! Sign up at the stage before 1 PM to secure your spot and compete to win a fresh-baked blueberry pie, an official Mount Dora Blueberry Festival T-shirt, and the annual bragging rights!

APRIL 2026 OSPREY  
**GRACEFUL AGEING** (#39)

*What Life Teaches Us About True Friendship*

- ❖ If a friend loves you, they can sense if you are unhappy with an action they have done, or an action that should have or could have been done.
- ❖ A Friend who responds to your needs is a friend indeed.
- ❖ A friendship is not always self-serving – but shows love by showing up and simply being there.
- ❖ You cannot make a person do what you want them to do. You can influence that person, but he/she has Free Will.
- ❖ Give thanks for the gift of friendship for it is alive with the spirit of Love, joy, peace, gentleness, comfort, compassion, and wisdom.
- ❖ The faithfulness of true friendships is a privilege that should never be taken lightly.
- ❖ The Lord is our Good Shepherd and we are the sheep in the pasture. May the Good Shepherd bless and guide our friendships and give it lasting life. (Psalm 23)
- ❖ You cannot put a collar or a chain around someone that you love.
- ❖ Amid pain and suffering and the woes of this world we can experience comfort and joy thanks to the power of friendship and fellowship.



- **"Friendship multiplies joy and divides sorrow." -- Nicky Gumbel**
- **"To share a Joy is to multiply it as Happiness was born a Twin." -- Lord Byron**

In a world that often moves too quickly, friendship reminds us to pause, listen, and care for one another. The friends who walk beside us—through laughter, tears, and ordinary days—are among life's greatest blessings. As the years pass, we learn that friendships are among life's most precious treasures. When cared for with kindness, honesty, and grace, they become a lasting source of comfort and joy.



Stay tuned in for next month's Graceful Ageing column.

**CLOSING THOUGHTS**

**The Legend of the Florida Bunnygator**

*Florida folklore tells of a curious springtime creature known as the Bunnygator.*

*Once each year, just before Easter, it quietly appears to help deliver colorful eggs across the Sunshine State. It's elusive, but if you happen to spot one, consider it a sure sign that spring has arrived.*



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