

APRIL 2026

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T.P.H.O.A. Newsletter



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



April is the month where there is a change in the air. It is also the beginning of a new board structure and the welcoming of newly appointed board members.

I want to thank our outgoing president (and now Vice President) Mike Washington for an outstanding 2 years of leadership for the TPHOA. Because of him we are pretty sure we are nearing the end of the road with this lawsuit.

We have had to say goodbye to Larry and Kelly. Thank you for your service to our community. We welcome back Lorraine, and welcome Jim, Kerrie and Susan.

I see a year of a board working together for the best of the community. Nothing is ever perfect but I am encouraged by the cohesiveness and the drive of our HOA. Everyone wants to be here, everyone wants to work and everyone is committed to serving and advocating for our community. Do we promise perfection? No. Do we promise we will do everything in our power to represent you to the best of our ability? YES! Please feel free to approach any board members with your ideas and concerns.

See you around the park!

*Pam Timmins  
HOA President*

## NEWSLETTER

The monthly Tropical Breeze newsletter endeavors to provide timely information on upcoming events and news or articles shared by several residents. Photos, tips, recipes, stories, are just examples of what can be included as space allows. If you have something you would like published in an upcoming edition, please forward it by email to newslettertphoa@gmail.com (or text 774-722-3395) by the 11th of each month. Thanks!

*Pat Stowell  
Editor*



L to R: Pam, Pat, Jim, Patsy, Mike, Lorraine, Roberta, Kerrie, Dee, Susan

## 2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                                   |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| President                         | Pam Timmins      | Lot 267 |
| Vice-President                    | Mike Washington  | Lot 223 |
| Secretary                         | Dee Harrison     | Lot 99  |
| Treasurer                         | Patsy Lund       | Lot 40  |
| Co-Treasurer                      | Roberta McEwen   | Lot 48  |
| Directors:                        | Jim Lee          | Lot 185 |
|                                   | Kerrie Kelley    | Lot 250 |
|                                   | Susan Duchesneau | Lot 193 |
|                                   | Lorraine Dufour  | Lot 284 |
| Parliamentarian<br>(without vote) | Pat Stowell      | Lot 24  |

## TPHOA LEGAL FUND

Thank you to the residents who have generously donated to the Legal Fund in anticipation of legal expenses.



The Board and the Homeowners' Committee continue our efforts to ensure homeowner's rights regarding our prospectus and our quality of life at Tropical Palms. We anticipate that such actions will result in legal fees and ask that you consider a contribution to the Legal Fund. Any amount is appreciated.

To ensure confidentiality, please give any donations directly to Treasurer Patsy Lund (40 Pine) or Co-Treasurer Roberta McEwen (48 Pine). (checks should be made to TPHOA with Legal Fund noted on the memo line).



## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Water and Sewer problems - always contact manager first! During workday - 239-731-7200 (when office is closed - 239-887-5955)

Drinking Water Machine maintenance - 941-697-2551

Emergency - Fire, Police or EMS - 911

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### **Park Manager's Office (business hours)**

239-731-7200

### **Tropical Palms Off Hours Emergency**

239-887-5955

### **Clubhouse**

239-731-5533

### **Charlotte County Fire (Non-Emergency)**

941-833-5600

### **Charlotte County Sheriff**

(Non-Emergency) 941-639-2101

### **ShorePoint Health ER & Urgent Care**

239-242-1357

### **Lee Health Convenient Care**

239-424-1655

### **LCEC (light dept)**

239-995-2121

### **To report non working street light**

239-656-2300

### **Waste Management - Bulk pickup**

941-629-1106

### **Animal Control**

941-833-5690

### **Mosquito Control**

941-764-4370

### **US Water (first contact Park Manager)**

866-753-8292

### **Century Link (send text to)**

888-320-3452

### **Comcast/Xfinity**

877-229-5999

### **Notification of Road Closures/Public Safety sign up at [alertcharlotte.com](http://alertcharlotte.com) or call**

941-833-4000

### **Aging Services: For rides, meals on wheels, etc.**

800-677-1116

### **Red Cross:**

866-438-4636

### **United Way:**

211

### **Hope Coalition - They can direct people to places with resources for different things.**

866-388-4673

## WHAT HAS YOUR HOA DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

YOUR HOA board members have been WORKING FOR YOU. Here are just a few examples from March:

- Arranged for and held a Medicare Information session
- Invited and hosted a speaker on Cremation options
- Organized an ELS - sponsored St Patrick's Dance
- Sponsored a Pot Luck Supper
- Sponsored Taco Tuesday
- Sponsored National Sloppy Joe Day celebration
- Refreshed bulletin boards in clubhouse
- Shopped for supplies and food for monthly events
- Represented you in ongoing discussions with ELS management and with neighboring mobile home communities

## 🌴 2026 HOA MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE! 🌴

It's time to renew or join for another great year at Tropical Palms! 2026 TPHOA memberships are now available for purchase. Your membership helps fund the many activities, events, and improvements that keep our community vibrant and welcoming.

Membership benefits include:

- Enjoy HOA-sponsored events and activities
- Support for clubhouse supplies, decorations, and community projects
- A stronger voice in keeping Tropical Palms beautiful and fun for everyone
- Right to participate at Membership meetings and the Annual Meeting

You can purchase your 2026 membership from:

- Pauline Gagne at Lot 84 Evergreen
- Or pick one up at any upcoming community event!

Join or renew today and help make 2026 another fantastic year at Tropical Palms.



## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

### A Warm Welcome to Our New Residents at Tropical Palms!



We're delighted to welcome all the new residents who have recently joined our Tropical Palms community! Whether you've moved here for the sunshine, the lifestyle, or the wonderful neighbors, we're so glad you're here.

#### Get Involved and Meet Your Community

Tropical Palms is a vibrant place to live, with activities and events happening throughout the week. We encourage all newcomers to join in - whether you enjoy cards, crafts, exercise classes, dinners, or simply connecting with others, there's something for everyone.

Participating in activities is a great way to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and feel right at home.

#### Join Us for Coffee Chat and Stay Informed at HOA Board Meetings

We also invite all new residents to attend the Coffee Chat and HOA Board Meetings. These meetings are a helpful way to stay informed about community updates, upcoming projects, and ways to get involved. Your voice and participation are always appreciated.

#### Welcome Package is Waiting for You

Contact Pauline Gagne to make arrangements to receive your Welcome Package. Stop by Lot 84 East Cypress or call Pauline at 774-365-2605 so she can visit you at a convenient time.

The package is filled with helpful information about the community, amenities, services, and activities - everything you need to settle in comfortably.

#### We're Glad You're Here

Welcome once again to all our new neighbors! We hope you find Tropical Palms to be a friendly, supportive, and enjoyable place to call home. We can't wait to see you around the community!

*Pauline Gagne  
Welcome Committee Chair*

### FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

Plan to Attend the  
**COFFEE CHAT & BOARD MEETING**  
April 11 at 10 am



Open to all Residents

## SUNSHINE REPORT

Get Well Cards were sent to Bob Bray, #284 Evergreen Circle, Roberta Savio, #136 Evergreen, and Cathy Pardee, #131 Evergreen.



Please contact me if you know of anyone who could use a note of encouragement or condolence from our community. Cards are typically sent for illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths of community members or immediate family but only if the information is given to me.

Remember, if you **DO NOT WANT** your family's information posted in the newsletter, please contact me before the 10th of each month. If I do not hear anything from you, I will assume I have your consent to publish the information and continue to wish our best-wishes for recovery.

*Lorraine Dufour, Sunshine Chair  
284 Evergreen Circle  
Phone: 978-580-1127  
Email: [lorrainebo59@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainebo59@gmail.com)*

## TPHOA EVENTS FOR APRIL

The events listed below are planned. We will post any event announcements or changes on signage near the entrance to the park, on Facebook and on the Bulletin Board in Club House.



- 4 Senior Scams speaker & refreshments - 11 am
- 7 Soup Fest - 5:30 pm
- 11 Coffee Chat & Meeting - 10 am
- 11 Hot Dogs with Ed - 4 pm
- 12 Karaoke - 6:30 pm
- 14 Taco Tuesday - 4 pm until sold out
- 25 Farewell Potluck w/ activities - 5 pm
- 26 Karaoke - 6:30 pm

### SOUP FEST



April 7  
5:30 pm

No tickets needed!

We simply ask that everyone contribute to the meal.

Bring a Soup, Salad, Bread or Dessert to share  
Water, Ice and Soda provided



# SPOT THE SCAM!!!

Protect yourself from senior scams

If it feels rushed, confusing, or too good to be true — PAUSE.

- Learn common senior scams and red flags
- Get practical tips to avoid phone, text, email fraud
- Know what to do before sharing personal or financial information

### Presentation details

## Tropical Palms

April 4 at 11:00 AM

Refreshments will be provided

Presented by  
**Natasha Kroshkin Gellatly**  
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 941-315-6761

## HOT DOGS



with Ed  
 All are welcome!  
 Join the fun!  
**April 11**  
**4 pm**  
 at the Club House  
 Hosted by Ed Prentice



## TACO TUESDAY



Join the fun!

April 14

4 pm until sold out

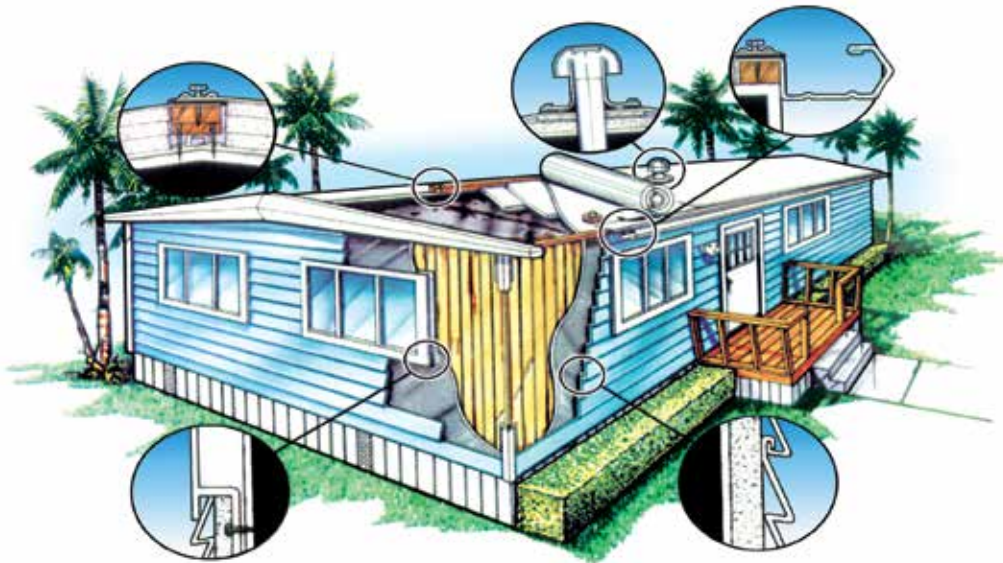


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## OUR HEROES

A few weeks ago I asked everyone to think about someone that deserves recognition for their contributions to our community. This is a new feature that we would like to see continue monthly, so if you have found yourself impressed by some of the kindness of one of your neighbors, please contact Dee Harrison via Facebook Messenger, text at 828-467-0037, or email at dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com. Please include the person's name and a detailed (up to 200 words) description of what makes this individual special!



Our Heroes for April are:

### **Larae Fedor, 207 Spruce:**

My home and yard, which I cherish, was being neglected due to my many medical conditions.. This lady was recommended to me and after a short conversation she started working and did not quit! I was ashamed at what happened to my home but she jumped right in to bring it back. I hope to be back to health soon, and be out in my sorry little yard soon enough to bring it back, but she deserves the accolades.

### **Gene Spence, 70 Pine:**

It all started when they decided to rent for a season - he and Gay were hooked - loved the community and the people - bought a home and the rest is history. Attending each meeting, asking questions, offering suggestions - then, he became a Board member. Using his background and interest in technology, Gene did slide shows posting the agenda and reports on the TV in the Clubhouse during meetings, upgraded the microphone system (a never-ending project), organized several events including New Year's Eve at the Clubhouse. He helped edit and print the newsletter, and, in an effort to reduce costs, he researched and found a company that prints monthly newsletters and annual directories at no charge (they make their money selling advertising) for a yearly savings of over \$700. He developed a user-friendly system for tracking resident addresses to enable a more accurate directory and ability to easily communicate with residents. This proved invaluable during COVID as the Board needed to keep in touch with residents who were scattered

throughout the US, Canada and beyond. Since leaving the board, Gene has continued his involvement in several ways: assisting with software problems, microphones, and offering suggestions for new efficiencies. Most recently, he continues to use his research and writing skills as he serves on the Homeowners' Negotiating Committee, as Nomination Committee chair, and contributes to the newsletter - all this while remaining the friendly, fun-loving man can be found playing golf, trivial pursuit, helping a neighbor, walking the park each day, with a smile on his face and a friendly greeting for everyone - thus enjoying his retirement at Tropical Palms!! Thank you for all you do, Gene!

### **Willard, Marlene and Chris Teed, 138 Evergreen:**

Thanks for inviting me to visit. I especially thank Chris for bringing me. Their hospitality has been exceptionally great. They have taken me to many different sightseeing and eating places. I have enjoyed every minute of my stay. They have introduced me to all their friends and neighbors. Everyone is special and they make me feel welcome. I will never forget anyone and I will carry them all in my heart forever. This has been the best holiday I even had. Thank you. I bless you all.

## SEASONAL RESIDENTS

Don't forget to notify the Office when you leave the park. In case of emergency it's important that they know which homes are occupied. Turn off your water and secure all outside furniture, grills, trash cans and decorations. Be sure to ask a friend or neighbor to watch your home and contact you if anything goes amiss. Have a good summer and safe travels! We look forward to seeing you next season.

### **FAREWELL POT LUCK**

with fun activities  
April 25 5 pm  
All Are Welcome  
Bring main dish, salad, bread,  
or dessert to share



FAREWELL

# PRESIDENT TRUMP PARDONS CANADA

The sun beat down on the Rose Garden as a podium was wheeled out, flanked not just by American flags, but by a single, slightly confused-looking Mountie holding a bottle of maple syrup.

The President stepped up, adjusted his tie, and leaned into the microphone with a conspiratorial grin.

"We're doing something very special today," he began, waving a hand toward the North. "A lot of people don't know this—most people have no idea—but Canada, they're very feisty. Very aggressive. Back in 1814, they came down here. They did a number on the White House. Total teardown. They burned it to the ground!" He paused for dramatic effect, nodding solemnly.

"And frankly? I want to thank them. It was a terrible building. Small rooms. Low ceilings. Very nasty decor. Probably full of mold. By burning it, Canada gave us the ultimate renovation opportunity. They did us a favor. They provided the clearance for a much better, much more beautiful White House. A total upgrade. So, Canada, on behalf of the real estate industry: Thank you! Thank you!"

The Mountie blinked.

A journalist in the front row tried to mention that it

was actually the British, but the President was on a roll.

"Because of this great service—this historical demolition—I am issuing a Full and Total Pardon to the country of Canada for the fire. We're moving past it. It's over. And because I'm in such a good mood, and because Justin—who's a fine guy, very

good hair, not as good as mine, but fine—sent me some very high-quality bacon this morning... we're doing the tariffs. We're getting rid of them." He mimed a giant scissors cutting a ribbon.

"All of them! The lumber, the steel, the poutine. Gone. We're going to have a beautiful relationship. No more taxes on the hockey sticks. We're going to have so much trade, your head will spin. It's going to be a win-win, but mostly a win for us because we have better snacks."

He leaned in close,

whispering into the mic.

"But tell them to keep the smoke up there this summer. I like a clear view of the golf course. Very important."

With a final thumbs-up and a wink at the Mountie, he marched off to the tune of Yankee Doodle, leaving a trail of bewildered diplomats and a sudden, massive surge in the value of the Canadian Dollar.



**Published by:**



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media**

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## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On the last Friday of each month from 2 - 3 pm ladies are invited to come to the Club House to learn about ourselves and how God has blessed us to be the women we are.

This will be a time to refresh our hearts and minds. So dust off your Bible and come. If you don't have a Bible we will share!

Facilitator Barbara Harader (19 Pine)

### POETRY BY PENNY "A Bunny"



*If I were a bunny  
Would you think I was funny  
Hopping around  
With my ears on the ground?*

*Delivering my eggs  
And making my rounds  
Puts smiles on faces  
Where there used to be frowns.*

*If I were a bunny  
I'd think it funny  
To expound on ways  
You think are so punny.*



## ELDERBERRY SPRING

*by Susan DiGregorio*

**At Comfort Hills Retirement Home  
the mature members of the staff  
work the overnight shift.  
The residents know why,  
and their families don't care.**

All winter my children had rationalized moving me out of the small bungalow where they'd grown up to nearby Comfort Hills Retirement Home. En masse they focused on possible worst case scenarios using my latest dance floor fracture at Bertha's Ballroom as an example of my inability to "age gracefully". I was worn down by their collective projections of my body's "inevitable decay". The objective of this propaganda campaign, of course, was to scare me into acceptance of 24-hour nursing care that they could delegate to strangers.

I chose not to disappoint them by pointing out that I was functioning independently and that nursing care wasn't necessary - not yet, maybe never. My real home was a mystical place inside my head anyway. Gradually I'd become less motivated by a drive

to do something important with my life and more convinced that kismet had been smiling at me all along. That realization put a new spin (more like a gentle swirl) on my life.

I had lots of time to think during that definitive winter. Memories, family myths and personal memoirs formed whirlpools of reflection. My children were thinking about other aspects of my life. Their concerns zeroed in on my real estate, my stocks and bonds, and my conveniently decrepit carcass. By the time the spring day came - as my children knew all along it would - for my transfer to Comfort Hills, I'd been so unsettled by their infernal harping on the drawbacks of taking care of myself that I was ready to move on, accept the inescapable, and give us all a chance to relax. Besides, I'd been in contact with Lilly who'd lived nextdoor in an identical bungalow until her family also shuffled her off to Comfort Hills. She'd told me what to expect.

The children were proud of themselves. I could tell. Their efforts to make this move nontraumatic (for them) hadn't been unproductive. It had been easier to synchronize than they'd anticipated. The professionalism and dedication of the youthful employees they'd encountered on the dayshift had tamped their sputtering flares of guilt.

I insisted on wearing my most alluring dinner dress for the activities of the pivotal day. My choice initiated sidelong looks which clearly said, "We're getting this done in the nick of time. Her mind is bound to be the next thing to go." When I declined the admitting nurse's suggestion to 'get into something more comfortable' (meaning a shapeless cotton shift), she joined my children in another round of patronizing looks.

"Those looks are what are going to make my 'lonely' days without visitors so relaxing - but it's the nights that will put the roses back in these old cheeks," I muttered as I smiled a too-old-to-comprehend sweet smile at my turnkeys. No one was listening. They were arguing about my hat-pin collection.

After the goodbyes were said I dined with Lilly and a gentleman resident who wheeled himself up to our table to meet "the new girl". (That's me.) Lilly whispered. "The wheelchair is for the benefit of the daytime staff. Wait 'til you see him do the bunny hop. He has the cutest little tail!"

It had been a tiring day for me and I was ready to slip my favorite fuzzy nightgown on over my dinner dress and climb into my metal hospital bed. What a docile old thing I was, swallowing the pills the pubescent

nurse brought to me in a paper cup. She flipped off the light switch and threw a “welcome back to Comfort Hills” back over her shoulder as she scurried out of the door.

The young staffers clocked out at 11:00pm and an elderly set of employees clocked in: The time had come for the inmates to take over the asylum. Every light in the building flashed on at 11:15 and my eyes flew open. I could hear a 50’s style rock and roll band checking their sound system in the recreation room - “testing, testing” - as their drummer flew through a few riffs.

I jumped out of my cold bed pulling my nightgown off before I hit the floor. Velcro shoulder tabs are made for nights like these! ‘Ruby, Ruby, oh Ruby will you be mine?’ was reverberating off the walls. I did ‘the stroll’ over to my door and down the hallway to the recreation room where I peeked in to see if Lilly had



been exaggerating. Could it really be the chimera she portrayed?

Well, it was a sorority house the night of the big Greek ball. It was a balcony of Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras. It was Hugh Hefner partying at the mansion with his contemporaries. It was talcum powder and moth balls, Asti-Spumante and Metamucil, bald heads and grey chest hair. It was bobbie pins and cellulite, varicose veins and gold lame’. A banquet table featured steaming elderberry pies arranged around a sparkling fountain of elderberry wine. The whole scene shimmered with orgasmic decadence. Stiff old bones were floating over the dance floor brushing against other old bones. It was life as it should be: the old ones were on spring break, totally engaged in their creative choreography. I was Olivia Newton John, and Comfort Hills was Xanadu.



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# TRIVIA - APRIL 2026

April is a bit of a "teenager" month—it's full of unpredictable moods (weather), a little bit of mischief, and a lot of growth.



## The Name and the Origins

- The "Opening" Month: The name April likely comes from the Latin word aperire, which means "to open." This is a nod to buds and flowers opening up during the spring.
- **The Diamond Month:** April's birthstone is the **diamond**, symbolizing innocence and longevity. It's a pretty high-end month to be born in!
- **Daisy & Sweet Pea:** These are the official birth flowers. One represents loyal love, while the other represents blissful pleasure.

## History & Quirks

- **April Fools' Day:** Pranks and silliness. See if you can find any such occurrence within the pages of this newsletter.



## Fun "National" Days

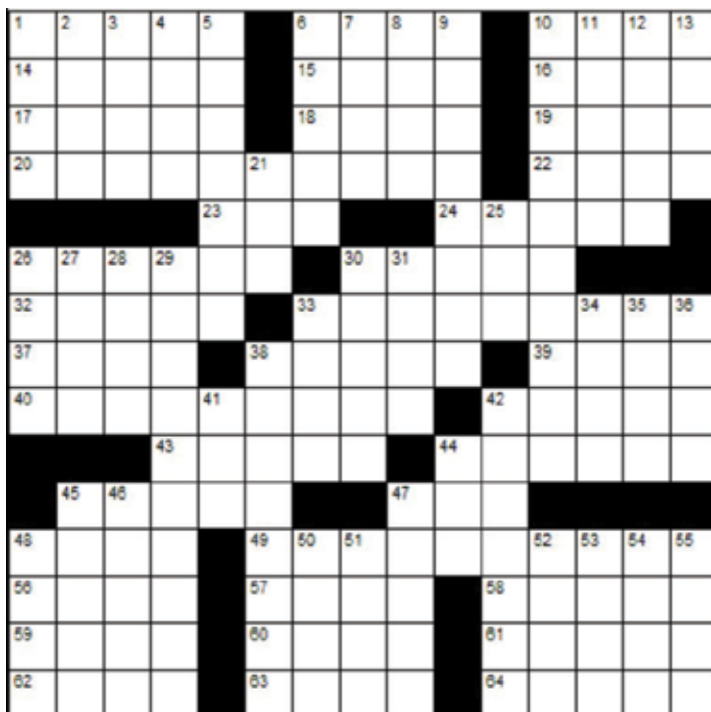
April has some of the most oddly specific holidays on the calendar:

- **April 14:** National Ex-Spouse Day (for those keeping it civil).
- **April 17:** National Bat (mammal, not baseball) Appreciation Day.
- **April 25:** World Penguin Day.
- **April 30:** National Honesty Day (a nice way to balance out the pranks from the 1st).

## STANDING ROOM ONLY FOR JIMMY'S MAGIC SHOW



# APRIL CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Adhesive
- Ice hockey disk
- Bog
- Female egg organ
- Metal used in steel
- Decorated, as a cake
- Spooky
- Being
- Fifty-three in Roman numerals
- One of three copies
- Advanced
- Night before
- Couples
- Fancy
- Domain
- Leases
- Mustache style
- Poi source

### DOWN

- He writes in stanzas
- Affirm
- Indian dress
- Voyage
- Unseeing
- Fragment
- Celestial bear
- Price
- Sometimes used by gardeners
- 10 to the centimeter
- More aloof
- Harnesses
- Rewrite
- Climbing vine
- Ever last one
- Illustrated
- Overhaul
- Prefix meaning "Within"
- Stuffiness
- Positions in a social hierarchy
- Terminates
- In this location
- Matted cotton for stuffing
- Asian nurse
- Depend upon
- Any unspecified person
- Roll of bills
- Gruesome
- Be mistaken
- Eagle's home

### ACROSS

- Dispatches
- Domestic
- Cabinetries
- Nickel or steel
- Diversions
- Ribald
- Parenthetical comment
- Circle fragment
- Not fatty
- Bestride
- Sea eagle
- Black-and-white cookie
- Vast
- Assists
- Found on rotary phones
- Swift
- Lock openers
- Scream
- File

- Like most beaches
- Coral reef
- Fluid escape
- One of the Great Lakes
- Marine mammal
- Small amount
- Blockhead
- Den
- Countercurrent



## HISTORICAL EVENTS IN APRIL

### **Conflict and Resolution**

- **The American Civil War Begins (April 12, 1861):** Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.
- **The Appomattox Surrender (April 9, 1865):** General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant.
- **The Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (April 4, 1968):** sparking a wave of national mourning and riots across the United States.
- **The Rwandan Genocide Begins (April 7, 1994):** Following the shooting down of the President's plane, a mass slaughter began in Rwanda, resulting in the deaths of approximately 800,000 people over 100 days.

### **Exploration and Science**

- **The First Human in Space (April 12, 1961):** Soviet cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** orbited the Earth once aboard the Vostok 1.
- **The Launch of the Hubble Space Telescope (April 24, 1990):** This event fundamentally changed our understanding of the universe's age and expansion.

### **Global Awareness & Secular Traditions**

- **April Fools' Day: April 1** A global tradition of practical jokes and hoaxes. In France and Italy, it's known as "April Fish" (Poisson d'Avril), where children pin paper fish to the backs of unsuspecting friends.
- **Earth Day: April 22** An international day of environmental action and awareness. Expect tree-planting events, community clean-ups, and global rallies focused on climate change.
- **Anzac Day: April 25** A major day of remembrance in **Australia and New Zealand**, honoring those who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. It is famously marked by "Dawn Services."

April is a wonderful time to visit the "continent." Here are a few activities for travellers looking for something different.

### **Literary & Intellectual Milestones**

- **National Poetry Month (USA & Canada): All**

**Month** Organized by the Academy of American Poets, this is the largest literary celebration in the world. In 2026, keep an eye out for "Poem in Your Pocket Day" (usually in late April), where people share verses in person and across social media.

- **World Book and Copyright Day: April 23** A UNESCO initiative to celebrate the power of books. Each year, a "World Book Capital" is named; for 2026, the honor goes to Rabat, Morocco. The city will host a year-long program of literary festivals, writing workshops, and debates.

### **Fine Art & Crafts**

- **European Artistic Craft Days (JEMA): April 7 – 12** Celebrated across several European countries (most famously in Paris), this event opens the doors of "secret" artisan workshops. You can watch master lace-makers, bookbinders, and glassblowers at work—traditions that have been passed down for centuries.
- **Circulation(s) Festival (Paris): March 21 – May 17** Held at Le Centquatre, this is the premier festival for young European photography. It's a great place to see experimental and "intellectual" photography before the artists become mainstream stars.

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL SLOPPY JOE DAY



## ASK DEE

Dear Dee:

My boss is a nice guy, and we all enjoy his company. We have a good work place and our families all get together sometimes for cookouts or dining out. However, I am starting to have problems with the way that he micro-manages me. I have an important position in the company, and I do a good job. He tells me frequently that he is pleased with my work. But it seems like he is constantly butting in. He makes me feel ineffectual. Like I said, I like him, but my feelings of resentment are starting to interfere with how I feel about him. How can I save the relationship and keep my job? My wife says just to ignore him, but I don't think I can. Help!

Dear Neighbor:

Dude, I feel your pain! I have been in that situation in the past, and it seems to bring out the worst in me!! It is insulting, frustrating and rather embarrassing.

The first thing we need to do is to try to understand why some people tend to micro-manage. Those in control sometimes micromanage others for various reasons:

- One possible reason could be a need for Control. Many micromanagers have a strong desire to feel in control of their work environment. This desire can be almost pathological at times, imitating OCD (Obsessive -Compulsive Disorder) behavior and consuming a great deal of their thoughts.
- Another potential reason may be lack of trust: A common cause is a lack of trust in employees, leading to close supervision and avoidance of delegation. Unfortunately, the employees are acutely aware of this distrust, so this often leads to feelings of resentment and hostility.
- Insecurity can also result in micromanaging. Inexperience or insecurity as a manager can drive them to fear losing control. So their way of dealing with it is to try to control EVERY detail!
- Also, some micromanagers are perfectionists, want tasks done a certain way, and are of a mindset that the only way to get it done right is to do it themselves!

So how do we deal with the stressors of working with a micro-manager and dealing with the daily blows to our self esteem and self confidence? Well, as is often the case in troublesome situations, understanding

the psychology behind their behavior is half the battle. Realizing that your manager may be insecure about his abilities, or has trust issues may help you to work with him to overcome these issues. It is also important to be able to communicate with him in an effective way, assertively but respectfully to express how his behavior is impacting you. An example might be something like; "John I know how important this project is to you, it is to me as well. I feel frustrated and ineffective when it appears that you do not trust me enough to work on this alone". It may be helpful to set some boundaries at this time. In many cases, a micro-manager is not even aware that they are behaving in this manner!

I hope you can resolve this with him and reduce some of the stress you are experiencing! Best of luck!

*Dee (Denise) Harrison resides in Tropical Palms and in Spruce Pine NC with her puppy Loki. Questions for this column are generated from within this community and from outside sources. Please send inquires to dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com The identity of all contributors is kept confidential.*

## SUMMARY MINUTES - TPHOA ANNUAL MEETING

February 21, 2026, 10:00am

The annual meeting was called to order at 10.00 am by President Mike Washington.

Board members present

were: Mike Washington, President; Pam Timmins, Vice President; Dee Harrison, Secretary; Patsy Lund, Treasurer; Roberta McEwen, Co-Treasurer; Lorraine Dufour, Director; Larry Dustin, Director; and Kelly Ballard, Director.

There are currently 132 members; 61 members were present plus 3 proxy votes. The quorum of 27 members was met.

The 5 candidates were introduced: Susan Duchesneau, Lorraine Dufour, Colleen Keller, Kerrie Kelley, and Jim Lee. As there are only 4 vacancies, members were instructed to vote for no more than 4. Ballots were collected by Deb Levesque and counted by the Election Committee. There were 64 ballots cast including 3 absentee ballots.

The following candidates were declared duly elected:

- Lorraine Dufour
- Susan Duchesneau
- Kerrie Kelley
- James (Jim) Lee

President Mike Washington gave his annual report



**BOARD MEETING**

(as printed in the March 2026 Tropical Breeze).

**Homeowners Committee Report** - Mike Washington: The Committee met with ELS representatives on Thursday, February 19. Mike explained that until the results are in writing, the committee is not at liberty to discuss, but assured everyone that the outcome appeared positive. Mike explained that it was not possible to determine a final timeline due to logistics of paperwork, filings etc. However, our lawyer and the committee continue to work toward a satisfactory conclusion.

**Secretary's Report:** the previous Annual Meeting minutes were approved by the Board at the March 2025 meeting. The minutes are posted on the Bulletin Board.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report for the period ending January 31, 2026 is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board.

**Audit:** A motion to approve the annual audit as prepared by Linda Stanley was made and carried unanimously.

**2026 Annual Budget** was presented by Mike Washington. Questions, comments and clarifications on certain items were discussed. The motion to approve the budget was approved (60 votes to approve and 1 opposed).

**Memorial Recognition:** The names of residents who have passed away in the last year were read as a red rose was placed to honor them.

#### **Other Business:**

- Barb Harader announced the addition of a ladies Bible study group starting in March.
- Pam Timmins reminded residents that she was still needing donations for the silent auction
- The plan to continue the delivery of newsletters was confirmed
- Patsy Lund suggested that we pay a printer to print our welcome packets
- Steve Reynolds inquired about getting hot tubs
- Debbie King asked why art class is no longer on Thursday nights - the class has relocated to the laundry room area.
- Christine Gnass inquired as to why the treasurers were using Quickbooks when there were free platforms that could be used. Mike explained that the treasurers are comfortable using this program and learning a new platform may be problematic. He added that we continue to look at other options. Violet White added that it has been her experience that most "free"

systems are troublesome.

- Kelly Ballard inquired about the monetary system that is used for ELS funded events, Mike and Patsy explained the process.

The meeting adjourned at 11.28 am

#### **POST ELECTION BOARD MEETING NOTES**

Following the Annual Meeting, the new board members met to elect the following officers for the 2026-27 year. Pam Timmins, President; Mike Washington, Vice President; Dee Harrison, Secretary; Patsy Lund, Treasurer; and Roberta McEwen, Assistant Treasurer. Lorraine Dufour volunteered to fill the 2 year term; Jim Lee, Kerrie Kelly and Susan Duchesneau will serve 3 year terms.

Committee chairs were assigned: Bylaws, Pat Stowell; Off Season Liaison, Kerrie Kelley; Event and Activity Director, Dee Harrison; Sign maintenance, Jim Lee and Lorraine Dufour; Supply Inventory, Mike Washington, Jim Lee and Susan Duchesneau. The Homeowners' Committee (Mike Washington, Pam Timmins, Gene Spence, Pat Stowell and our lawyer) will continue.

The formal meeting concluded and continued as the Calendar Committee. The Tentative Calendar for the remainder of 2026 was set. As it was nearly 3 pm, the meeting recessed for the day and was reconvened on March 2 at 7 pm. The 2027 Tentative Calendar was developed and the meeting concluded at 8 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Dee Harrison, Secretary*

#### **TASTE OF ITALY & SILENT AUCTION**





## Crude Oil and Your Wallet: The Simple Story

Crude oil isn't just one kind of black liquid. It changes depending on where it is found underground. To keep things simple, the oil industry groups it by its **weight** and its **smell**.

### The Two Main "Flavors" of Oil

#### The Weight: "Light" vs. "Heavy"

- **Light Crude:** This oil is thin and runny, like water or vegetable oil. It is very popular because it is easy to pump and clean.
- **Heavy Crude:** This oil is thick and "sludgy," like molasses or tar. It is harder to move and costs more to turn into fuel.

#### The Smell: "Sweet" vs. "Sour"

- **Sweet Crude:** This contains very little sulfur. It is the "premium" version of oil because it is easy to turn into gasoline.
- **Sour Crude:** This has a lot of sulfur. It can damage equipment and adds a lot of extra cost.

#### "Gold Standard" vs. "Workhorse"

When you hear about oil prices on the news, they are usually talking about **WTI** (from the US) or **Brent Blend** (from the North Sea). These are light and sweet, making them the "top shelf" choices for gasoline.

However, "Heavy and Sour" oils—like **Western Canadian Select (WCS)** — are the "budget" versions **and the primary source of fuels in the USA**. They are cheaper to buy (20% to 40% cheaper) and refiners on the gulf coast are heavily invested in the processing machinery for this "Workhorse". Although WCS is cheaper, its cost rises and falls as worldwide trends dictate.

#### Why are Gas Prices Going Up?

Crude oil is the main "ingredient" in gasoline. It makes up about half the cost of what you pay at the pump.

**The \$10 = 25¢ Rule:** if the price of a barrel of oil goes up by \$10, the price of gas usually goes up by about **25 to 30 cents** per gallon.

#### Current Prices (March 12, 2026)

In the past month, **oil prices have increased by \$32**. You can see the impact in this table:

| Location                         | Today<br>(March 12<br>2026) | 1 Week<br>previous | 1 Month<br>previous |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Crude Oil<br/>(WTI)</b>       | <b>\$94.91</b>              | \$81.01            | \$62.65             |
| <b>National<br/>Gas Average</b>  | <b>\$3.60</b>               | \$3.25             | \$2.94              |
| <b>Florida State<br/>Average</b> | <b>\$3.72</b>               | \$3.24             | \$2.94              |
| <b>Punta Gorda<br/>Average</b>   | <b>\$3.74</b>               | \$3.25             | \$2.94              |

If your gasoline purchase last month cost you \$100.00 per month, it is now at least \$127.00 - **an increase of \$27.00 per month**.

#### Beyond your Gas Tank:

The price of oil impacts the cost of many of the consumables you purchase.

**Shipping Costs:** Groceries - about 3.5% of the cost of your groceries is related to fuel used for shipping. An increase of \$32.00 per barrel will add about 2% to the shipping cost of groceries.

**Production Costs:** The price of product at the farm gate accounts for up to 20% of your grocery bill and is directly impacted by fuel costs. Planting, fertilizing, crop husbandry and harvesting are all impacted by fuel costs. Diesel for all the machinery is the major factor but oil is also used in the chemical process to produce the mandatory fertilizer and weed/pest sprays.

An increase of \$32.00 per barrel will increase costs at the farm gate by about 10%. This adds another 2% to the grocery bill.

**The End Result:** Using an example of a \$600 monthly grocery bill, a **\$32.00 increase for oil adds at least \$24.00 to your monthly grocery bill**. Add groceries and car gas together and **your monthly costs go up by about \$51.00 per month**.

Note: Other products in the food chain like plastic packaging are not included in this analysis but they too, will be directly impacted by the cost of oil further adding to the cost of groceries.

*Editor's Note: Costs can vary dramatically based on location, type of product, etc. This analysis uses generic averages across the US, not product or location specifics.*

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# APRIL 2026 AT TROPICAL PALMS

| Sunday                  | Monday | Tuesday                      | Wednesday        | Thursday        | Friday      | Saturday   |
|-------------------------|--------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|
|                         |        |                              | 1                | 2               | 3           | 4<br>Senior Scams talk<br>- 11 am                                    |
|                         |        |                              | April Fool's Day | Maundy Thursday | Good Friday | Holy Saturday  |
| 5                       | 6      | 7<br>Soup Fest - 5:30<br>pm  | 8                | 9               | 10          | 11<br>Coffee Chat &<br>Meeting - 10 am<br>Hot Dogs with Ed<br>- 4 pm |
| Easter                  |        |                              |                  |                 |             |  |
| 12<br>Karaoke - 6:30 pm | 13     | 14<br>Taco Tuesday -<br>4 pm | 15               | 16              | 17          | 18   |
| 19                      | 20     | 21                           | 22               | 23              | 24          | 25<br>Farewell Potluck<br>- 5 pm                                     |
| 26<br>Karaoke - 6:30 pm | 27     | 28                           | 29               | 30              |             |  |



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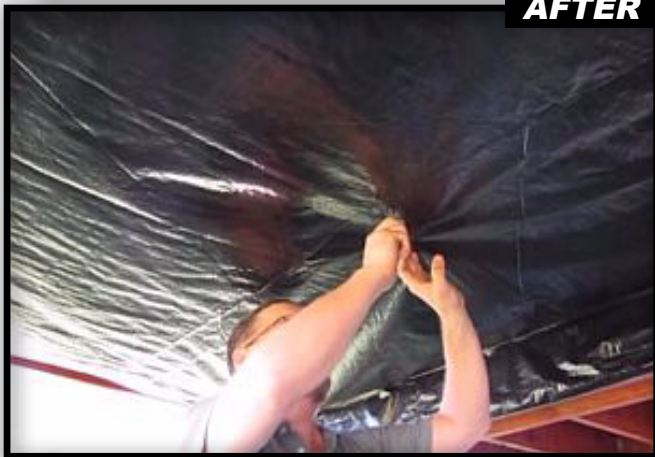
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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Cynthia Wilson..... \$10     | Air Masters of Pinellas           |                          |
| Frank Toner..... \$10        | Air Masters of Pinellas           |                          |
| Annette Caldwell..... \$10   | Allpride Pressure Washing         |                          |
| David Shuttleworth..... \$10 | Battleline Termite & Pest Control |                          |
| Paul Giroux..... \$10        | Boss Electric                     |                          |
| Karen Woods..... \$10        | Boss Electric                     |                          |
| Kristine Sommers..... \$10   | FL Termite & Pest Control         |                          |
| Eddie Ursic..... \$10        | FL Termite & Pest Control         |                          |
| Jerryl Londo..... \$10       | FL Termite & Pest Control         |                          |
| Beth Fleming..... \$10       | Gulf Coast Powerwashing           |                          |

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