



# Veterans Day Dinner Dance, A Time For Remembrance And Celebration

By Pam Scheid, Herons Glen

Photo by Dan Lim, Herons Glen

Every ticket was sold for this very special event sponsored by the Veterans of the Glen (VOG). In addition to the three-entrée buffet dinner, the anticipation of perhaps holding winning tickets for impressive door prizes, and the lively music, it is the military and patriot tributes which make this evening special. Guests were led in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance and singing *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*. Veterans proudly stood as the theme song for each branch of service was played. Don DeWitt gave the invocation.

The most memorable moment of these tributes was the story of “The Missing Man Table.” VOG president Bruce Johnson explained the significance of each item on the table which represented the serviceman who was not present.



Missing Man Table

The ceremony of “The Missing Man Table” is performed at formal military dinners and other occasions. It serves as a reminder of all those in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice and whom we must “never forget.” Bruce told the story of one man who was MIA since 1944, and to the strains of

*Taps*, in the background, read government statistics citing 86,539 service men and women since World War I who are still missing.

Bruce concluded his solemn tribute to the missing and fallen by declaring it is also important to honor our heroes by celebrating their lives. He ended with “let’s party!”

Soon the floor was filled with energetic celebrants dancing to the music by the popular band Zodiac.

Parties like the VOG’s Veterans Day Dance do not happen without a lot of planning and work. And since it is its major fundraiser for its charities, the VOG depends on the generous sponsorship by friends of veterans. In the printed program and by announcement those sponsors were publicly thanked: Laura Steil of Starlink Realty for sponsoring the band; The Glen Group Realtors for providing the grand door prize, a 65-inch smart TV; Alpha Delta Alpha sorority for the patriotic table decorations; Alpha Delta Mu sorority for running the 50/50 drawing and for joining with Patrick and Shari Sanders for the two red, white, and blue dessert cakes; and Hogbody’s Bar and Grill for their longstanding support and for door prizes.

Appreciation was also expressed to those who purchased tickets, the VOG board members, Mike Zarella and Sandy Herde were recognized for their work soliciting for door prizes and Jenn and Jack Cotter for their program design. And finally, to all who participated and helped the VOG raise nearly \$7,500, all of which will be donated to veterans’ causes.

# Activities Fair

By Donna Piascik, Herons Glen

Want to get to know your community better? Mark your calendars for **Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024** and attend the Activities Fair being held in the ballroom between 12 and 3 p.m. This is sponsored by the HOA Activities Committee.

Come learn about the wonderful array of organizations, sports, clubs, and other opportunities in Herons Glen awaiting your participation. These groups provide a great way to have fun, to make new friends and to become more involved in our community.

For information on how to host a booth for your group, please contact either Donna Piascik ([dfpiascik@gmail.com](mailto:dfpiascik@gmail.com)) or Shirley Hrabar ([snagy2001@yahoo.com](mailto:snagy2001@yahoo.com)).



# Fasten Your Space Belts!

By Jack Nelson, Herons Glen

Why? Because we are embarking on the journey of a lifetime! The first 100 Herons Glenners to sign up for the trek will be guaranteed a seat, and for the low low airfare of only \$1 million, you’ll be richly rewarded for the experience of a lifetime. Visa and Mastercard will be accepted. No personal checks please. Included in the package is a space camera, which will provide each of you with breathtaking photography.

My name is Captain Dirk Kirk, and I will be honored to be your pilot in command. Our spaceship, the *USS Entersurprise*, is powered by four thermo-dynamic double coupler electromagnetic turbine engines, capable of delivering 60 million pounds of thrust. We will be departing from launchpad 40B at Cape Captiva, Fla., and we will be zipping right along at a speed of 600,000 miles per hour.

Our trek will cover all of the planets in our solar system, from blistering Mercury all the way out to frigid Pluto and will depart on Dec. 31, 2025. There will be an extravagant New Year’s Eve party held aboard the ship, and don’t worry about spilling your drinks. The *Entersurprise* is equipped with artificial gravity, and when you need to use the men’s/ladies’ bathrooms, that problem is also solved.

Our first orbit will be Mercury, only 43,000,000 miles from the sun and 131,000,000 miles from Earth. It will take us only nine days to get there. Our second orbit will be Venus, which has the densest atmosphere of all of the planets and is hotter than Mercury. Our flight time from Mercury will be only a little over two days. After our Venus orbit, we’ll skip our home base and head straight to Mars.

The flight time from Venus to Mars will take a little



Our Solar System

over five days, and, unlike the other planets, we will actually land there. You Glenners will be provided with spacesuits and special containers to scoop up not more than one pound of soil. My flight engineer will have a scale to ensure that you do not exceed the limit. Thank you for your understanding and honesty.

After we blast off from Mars, we’ll be heading for the big one, that giant of the skies, Jupiter. This monstrous orb was blessed with a big black eye. Maybe it got into a fight with Saturn. It will take us about 24 days to reach it. We’ll be orbiting much farther out because of its strong gravity. The circumference of this beast is longer than the distance from Earth to moon!

Saturn, with those beautiful telltale rings, is a time distance of 28 days from Jupiter. Saturn is a gas giant and is second in size in our system. Its density is only one-eighth that of our home planet. If we were to travel straight to Saturn from Cape Captiva, it would take two months. As we pass

through the rings, your sensitive ears might start ringing due to the pinging of the ice crystals against *Entersurprise*’s skin. But not to worry. We will offer, at no extra charge, anti-ringing-due-to-pinging earphones to protect your hearing.

In a little over two months, we’ll reach Uranus from Saturn. William Herschel discovered this gaseous giant in 1781. A primordial deity in Greek mythology, Uranus personified the sky, the heavens, and the air.

It will take us about 70 days to reach Neptune from Uranus. Neptune is the final planet in the Solar System. It is more than 30 times as far from the sun as Earth. A year on this planet is equivalent to nearly 165 Earth years! Neptune is the Roman god of freshwater and the sea.

In 61 days, we’ll reach Pluto from Neptune. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) downgraded the status of Pluto to that of a dwarf planet because it did not meet the three criteria that the IAU uses to define a full-sized planet. Essentially, Pluto meets all the criteria except one: It “has not cleared its neighboring region of other objects.” I, as your captain and tour guide, do not understand the meaning of that last statement, but I *do* know that Plutonians are hopping mad about being downgraded, and they’re filing a petition to the Inter-planetary Council of Governors for readmittance as a first-class planet. I hope they succeed!

So, there you have it, my fellow Glenners. I’m certain that you’ll enjoy every space-traveling minute on the journey of a lifetime. Those of you who may suffer from space sickness need not worry. My sick bay staff will have a medication that will keep your stomachs in a happy mood. And when we return to Cape Captiva, your friends and neighbors will not be much older than when we left. Guaranteed!

## Article Deadlines For *The Heron*

Issue Month/Year	Date Due To <i>The Heron</i>
January 2024	December 15
February 2024	January 20

Articles should be sent to  
HGNewspaper@gmail.com

### Editorial Staff Volunteers

Photos by Dick Muller



Karen Jessop - Editor



Linda Lynch - Editor



Jack Nelson - Editor



Pam Scheid - Editor



Becky Gignac  
Newspaper Coordinator



Rick and Pat Scharf  
Delivery Coordinators

The HOA Communications Committee serves as the supervisory body for *The Heron* per Article IX of our by-laws.  
Christine Kozak is the committee liaison from the HOA Board of Directors.  
**The Heron Editorial Policy is on file in the HOA office.**  
Articles for *The Heron* may be dropped off or mailed to  
The HOA Office,  
2250 Herons Glen Blvd., N. Fort Myers, FL 33917  
or emailed to [hgnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:hgnewspaper@gmail.com).



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# Community News

## Coming Soon

(Note: Based on restaurant completion some ballroom events may be in the restaurant.)

Dec. 11	Singles	Activities Room "A"
Dec. 12	Socialites	Ballroom
Dec. 14	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Dec. 14	Double Dare	Ballroom
Dec. 15	VOG Dinner	Ballroom
Dec. 16	Candlelight Dinner	Restaurant
Dec. 17	Marbles	Ballroom
Dec. 21	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Dec. 21	Mike Morris	Ballroom
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas	
Dec. 28	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Dec. 28	Sunset Duo	Restaurant
Dec. 30	Trivia	Ballroom
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Dinner	Restaurant
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Party	Ballroom
Jan. 1, 2024	Happy New Year	
Jan. 4	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Jan. 10	Singles	Activities Room "A"
Jan. 10	VOG	Ballroom
Jan. 11	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Jan. 13	Concert Series	Ballroom
Jan. 14	Marbles	Ballroom
Jan. 16	Socialites	Ballroom
Jan. 18	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Jan. 18	Showcase	Ballroom
Jan. 25	Farmers' Market	Parking Lot
Jan. 27	Concert Series	Ballroom

## HOA And HGRD Schedule Of Meetings

The following is a listing of HOA and HGRD meetings known at the time of publication. As these **dates are subject to change**, please check the Herons Glen website calendar and the community channel for updates.

### Calendar Of HOA Meetings Dec. 12 To January

All committee meetings are via Zoom/HOA Conference Room unless noted otherwise.

Dec. 12	Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m.
Dec. 13	Annual Meeting and Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Ballroom
Dec. 14	Grounds Committee, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20	Communications Committee, 1 p.m.
Dec. 21	Activities Committee, 10 a.m.
Dec. 22	SSEP Committee, 8 a.m.
Dec. 26	Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m.
Dec. 28	Finance Committee, 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 2, 2024	Board Workshop, 1 p.m.
Jan. 9	Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m.
Jan. 10	Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
Jan. 11	Grounds Committee, 1 p.m.
Jan. 17	Communications Committee, 1 p.m.
Jan. 18	Activities Committee, 10 a.m.
Jan. 23	Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m.
Jan. 25	Finance Committee, 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	SSEP Committee, 8:30 a.m.

### Calendar Of HGRD Meetings Dec. 11 To January

All committee meetings are via Zoom/Card Room C unless noted otherwise.

Dec. 11	Board Meeting, 9 a.m.
Jan. 4, 2024	Facilities and Amenities Committee, 1 p.m.
Jan. 8	Finance Committee, 9 a.m.
Jan. 8	Resident Events Committee, Activities Room "A"
Jan. 8	Golf Committee, 1 p.m.
Jan. 15	Board Meeting, 9 a.m.
Jan. 22	Long-Range Planning Committee, Activities Room "C"
Jan. 29	Finance Committee, 9 a.m.

## In Memoriam

Barry Hart  
Roman Kilar  
Richard Misener  
Bruce Weyne

## Welcome

Tracy and Richard Eilers  
Joanne and Ernest Piche

## In Case You Missed It ... Highlights From The HOA Weekly Bulletins

### From Your HOA Communications Committee

This listing highlights important articles covered in recent HOA Herons Glen Weekly Bulletins distributed by email to residents listed with the HOA Office. These issues affect every property owner, their renters, vendors, and guests.

The articles are intended to help residents better understand the actual requirements for our restricted community and may also include safety information. Reading about and understanding these issues could eliminate an escalation of problems that may result in potential fines.

If you have questions about a subject, you can locate the full article from the bottom left link on the HOA website at [http://hgccc.com/hghoa/files/office\\_news.html](http://hgccc.com/hghoa/files/office_news.html), then click the link titled HOA News Bulletins, **Extra! Extra!** Or you can see the issues listed by date in the middle of the web page under HG HOA News from Management.

- **Nov. 17** – Annual Membership Meeting and Proxy Form; Process for Required Visitor Management Password Reset
- **Nov. 10** – Common Lot Irrigation System (CLIS) Update and HGRD Irrigation Policies
- **Nov. 3** – HOA Board Meeting to Consider Amendments to ARC Construction Standards for HG; Tips for Deep Frying Turkey from SSEP
- **Oct. 27** – HOA Board Approved Amendments to Flag, Banner and Flagpole Guidelines and Standards; HOA Home Sale Policy
- **Oct. 20** – HOA Candidates for the Board; HG Rental Rules, Restrictions and Forms; Visitor Management
- **Oct. 13** – HOA Pet Rules and Regulations
- **Oct. 6** – HOA Rules for Placing Decorative Items on a Home or Property, Home Cooking Safety Tips (from SSEP)

**Please keep this reference guide in a location that's easy for you to find when needed.**



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# Community Interests

## Pretty In Pink: Giving A Fighting Chance

By Janet Slater, Herons Glen

Pretty in Pink, the multi-event annual fundraiser sponsored by the Ladies Golf Associations of Herons Glen raises thousands of dollars each year to support Partners for Breast Cancer Care, a local nonprofit organization. Here's one client's story.

It was on Canady's birthday that she discovered the first lump in her chest area. She was in her mid-40s, a widow since her husband had passed away a couple of years earlier. When she found another lump the next month, a friend urged her to go to the doctor. But Canady had no medical insurance.



Canady Benjamin

As a nurse working in Lee County, she knew what a lump could mean – and having two was especially scary. She prayed that God would take them away, but the second lump grew larger.

One day in the office of the building where she worked, she saw a notice about Partners for Breast Cancer Care (PFBBC) posted on the wall. "I hadn't heard of them before," she says. "But I gave them a call."

PFBBC exists to serve women like Canady – uninsured, low-income, unable to pay for breast care to even find out if they have a problem. PFBCC paid for her mammogram and biopsy, and when the tests showed she had Stage 3 triple-negative breast cancer, she was directed to a breast surgeon. She then was given a genetic test, which showed she had one of the "breast cancer gene" mutations.

By the time Canady had her surgery to remove both breasts, she had insurance in place. Two weeks after surgery she was back at work. For her six months of chemotherapy, she took off only the day of each treatment. During the six weeks of daily radiation that followed, she had treatment on her lunch hour.

Sustained by her faith, Canady saw her cancer as an "inconvenience." And Partners stood by her, checking up on her, even after their financial help was no longer needed. She explains, "Janet [Darnell, director of PFBCC], with all that she has to do to make the nonprofit successful, she still had time to hold my hand, to take my questions, to listen." Although Canady has since moved out of state, they are still in touch.

It's been over six years since Canady's diagnosis, and she remains cancer-free. "Who knows what would have

happened if I hadn't gotten treatment when I did," she says, noting that her cancer was a very aggressive form. "I wouldn't have had a fighting chance. That's what Partners did – they gave me my fighting chance."

## Pretty In Pink Cookbook: Last Chance!

By Janet Slater, Herons Glen

We hope you are already enjoying some of the great recipes in the *Pretty in Pink Cookbook!* There are over 300 of them, all from your friends and neighbors in Herons Glen. When you purchase a cookbook, you're also supporting Partners for Breast Cancer Care, the local organization that receives the funds raised by Pretty in Pink. Find out how to get yours before they're all gone by contacting: Sue Atkin, (615) 202-9045, susanatkin2004@yahoo.com or Andy Edmunds, (239) 560-6800, alaswim@yahoo.com.



## The Turkey That Lives To See Another Day

By Candace Huetteman, Herons Glen

I hope all of my friends in Herons Glen had a happy Thanksgiving. But as you sat at the dining room table filling up on turkey and stuffing, did you ever stop to think about the poor turkey on the platter at the end of the table? His only purpose in life is to fill your face as you sit around with friends and family and argue about politics or religion, and, hopefully, remember what you have to be grateful for. But do not despair. There are Thanksgiving turkeys that live the good life after the fourth Thursday in November. These are the Thanksgiving turkeys that have been pardoned.

The First American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 to commemorate the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colony after a harsh winter. In that year, Gov. William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. The colonists



celebrated it as a traditional English harvest feast. They invited the local Wampanoag Indians to join them on this first Thanksgiving Day.

By the mid-1800s, many states observed a Thanksgiving holiday, and today all over the United States families gather to give thanks and to eat the most anticipated part of their meal, the **turkey**. In fact, over 40 million turkeys are eaten each year. But some lucky turkeys do not end up on the dining room table. These are the turkeys that are pardoned each year according to a tradition that started with presidents in the 1900s.

Each year since 1947, the National Turkey Federation and the Poultry and Egg Board have given a turkey to the President of the United States at a White House ceremony. At that time, presidents had been more likely to eat the turkey than to give it a reprieve. An exception to this was when, in 1963, President Kennedy, referring to the turkey given to him, said, "Let's just keep him." It wasn't until the first Thanksgiving of President George H.W. Bush's term in 1989 that a turkey was officially pardoned.

Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump continued the pardons begun under the first Bush. Some confusion about the origin of this practice has crept into recent presidential speeches though. One story claims that Harry Truman pardoned the turkey given to him in 1947, but the Truman Library has no evidence of this. Another story claims that the tradition dates back to Abraham Lincoln pardoning his son Tad's turkey.

What's certain is that since 1989, a turkey and its alternate have been pardoned each year. An alternate is chosen in case the first bird is unable to – perform its duties? For 15 years, through 2004, the pardoned turkeys were given to Kidwell Farm, a petting zoo at, believe it or not, Frying Pan Park in Herndon, Va. There they would reside at the turkey barn after enduring a turkey "roast" full of poultry humor and history.

In 2005 and 2006, the turkeys were flown to Disneyland in California where they served as honorary grand marshals for the Thanksgiving Day parade. After that, they spent the rest of their days at a Disneyland ranch. I'm sure Disneyland is much nicer than a place called Frying Pan Park. Lol!

While these turkeys may not be clever or memorable, some of their names certainly are: Drumstick and Wishbone, May and Flower, Mac and Cheese, Corn and Cob, and in 2021, Peanut Butter and Jelly. With Christmas and Hanukkah just a few weeks away, you can "pardon" a turkey this coming holiday by eating ham instead. Happy holidays to everyone in the Glen.

Community Interests on page 4

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Community Interests from page 3

## The Importance Of Safe Driving

By Barry Glaudel, Herons Glen

One may not realize that in every car they pass, there is a driver or passenger who is loved by many people. Driving responsibly can not only save your life, but it can save the lives of thousands of other people. According to the Center For Disease Control (CDC), two million people a year are injured in car accidents. With a few simple steps that all drivers can take, this number can drastically be reduced.

Driver's Education is a program that helps new drivers learn the rules of the road and much more. Some of these are the teaching of road signs, how to safely change lanes, and vehicle safety and maintenance. Some may argue that you can learn this while driving with your parents, but they do not dive into the consequences of doing these wrong or explain them in depth. Driver's Ed not only teaches new drivers the rules of the road but prepares them for almost every scenario they could run into while driving such as construction or a car accident. If all new drivers were to take Driver's Education, the number of deaths involving car accidents would decrease.

Another way to reduce deaths related to driving is

by avoiding distracted driving. Turning your phone on silent or storing it somewhere out of your reach could be the difference between arriving to your destination safely or ending up in the hospital. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) states that in the five seconds you look at your phone while going 55 mph, you travel the length of a football field. These five seconds could be the difference between life and death for not only yourself but others, so turn your phone off and give your full attention to the road.

Actions everyone can take to drive more safely include not going on your phone or engaging in other activities such as applying makeup, eating, or smoking. Some solutions to avoid doing these are to pull over or have your passenger help you out such as responding to your texts for you.

Although I have never had a firsthand experience with a car accident, I am aware of the importance of driving safely. I believe everyone should be educated correctly on the rules of the road and the consequences of driving irresponsibly.

## Back Home In Florida Again

By Sarah Schoon, Herons Glen

It is so good to be back in Florida for the season.

One of the first things I did when I arrived was to hop on my bicycle to try the new cart path. What a difference! I can still remember some of the worst spots that would almost make my teeth rattle. The path is much improved. I was surprised to see the addition of the words "Stop" at intersections with streets. Personally, I don't need any reminders, but I won't criticize additional safety measures ever.

As I was riding my bicycle near the clubhouse one morning I heard the familiar sound of the sandhill crane, and sure enough, I could see one looking out over one of the ponds. It was almost like a welcoming cry. We have nothing like them in Iowa. In addition, I saw herons and ibis. I love them all.

Later I had to check out the new and improved swimming pool deck. The problem is I couldn't remember exactly how it looked before, but I could tell that the area has definitely been expanded with additional furniture. The swimming pool is one of my favorite places here because I use an indoor pool back in Iowa, and it just isn't the same. I love the palm trees surrounding it and the sunshine. It just feels so tropical.

I was curious to see how some of my newer plants did in my absence. Usually, plants get along better without me. I had only one plant that wasn't happy. The others looked great. There is always a lot of sprucing up to do, but it is a joyous activity for me.

As always, I am happy to see my Florida neighbors. I anticipate our Canadian friends arriving sometime soon.

## Desserts And Coffee And Social Time

By Kathy Hollander, Herons Glen

Rhonda and Duane Parkinson hosted her Alpha Delta Alpha (ADA) sorority sisters and their spouses for some social time, desserts and coffee in their home on Monday, Nov. 13. Besides four kinds of pies that she and ADA sister, Jo Potts, prepared, Rhonda had cooked homemade peanut brittle and baked cookies (recipe below). Many comments were uttered about the desserts being delicious. The presentation was unique and decorative.



Dessert assortment

### Laura Bush's Cowboy Cookies

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1½ cups (3 sticks) butter, room temperature
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 1½ cups light-brown sugar, packed
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 cups sweetened flake coconut
- 2 cups chopped pecans

#### Instructions

Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. In a medium bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.

In a separate very large bowl, beat the butter with an electric mixer until creamy. Gradually beat in sugars and mix until thoroughly combined. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each.

Mix in vanilla.

Add flour mixture and beat on low until just combined. Stir in chocolate chips, oats, coconut, and pecans.

Drop dough in ¼-cup portions, 3 inches apart onto ungreased baking sheets.

Bake 15 to 17 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through. Cookie edges are lightly browned.

Remove to a wire rack to cool. Enjoy!

## Herons Glen Official Sources For Information

**Herons Glen Golf and Country Club website:**

<http://hgccc.com>

**Herons Glen Homeowners Association website:**

<http://heronsghna.org>

**Herons Glen Recreation District website:**

<https://heronsghncc.com>

**Herons Glen Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/HeronsGlen>

**HOA weekly bulletin emails and online:**

[http://www.hgccc.com/hghoa/files/office\\_news.html](http://www.hgccc.com/hghoa/files/office_news.html)

**HGRD weekly newsletter emails and online:**

<https://heronsghncc.com/group/pages/communications>

**The Heron newspaper online:**

<http://hgccc.com/hghoa/files/newspaper.htm>

**Community TV Channels 901 and 902**

## Caught On Camera



Hunters Moon by Dick Mueller

## Transportation

By Jack Cotter, Herons Glen



The Veterans of the Glen (VOG) Outreach Committee and Friends Helping Friends Transportation Committee have joined in a partnership to help Herons Glen residents who are in need of transportation for medical appointments, prescription pickup, grocery shopping or some other essential transportation needs. **Please do not call for rides to/from airport.** Residents may contact individuals from either organization listed

below. A 24-hour advance notice would be very helpful. Call a volunteer from the list below during the period of Oct. 1 through May 30, 2024.

Transportation volunteers consist of the VOG Committee Chair, Jack Cotter, (860) 490-2183; Bob and Kathleen Colletti, (239) 822-1573; Mike Zarella, (541) 292-2714; Dee Hanks, (239) 470-6593; Nick Dinoto, (301) 807-4580; Ed Schmidt, (616) 745-9057; Dave Wingert, (573) 552-2030; and Bruce Johnson, (716) 472-3860.

We are always seeking volunteers, please contact Jack Cotter if you are interested in volunteering.

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# Community Activities

## Ring Out The Old – Ring In The New

By Jean Perillo-Roman, Herons Glen

New Year's Eve Dance in the Herons Glen ballroom on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are nonrefundable at \$20 per person, a real bargain. Purchase your tickets starting Nov. 28 at the HGRD office. The music is by Don Lorenzo and the Funk Factory, starting at 8:15 p.m.

**Food:** You can bring snacks for your table to share; taste testers at the ticket table are available if needed. A buffet is available for purchase in the dining room from 5 p.m. to closing.

**Tables:** You can purchase tickets for yourself and for friends who you want to join you. Bring their names and account number, so they can pay their own way. You may purchase one table with a maximum of eight per table, but if you smile when asking, you can have 10 at your table.

**Other odds and ends:** No beverages may be brought into the dance. Buy your drinks at the dance. Dress is casual or get all decked out; no prizes for outfits.

For a fun, festive way to end 2023 and welcome 2024, meet us Dec. 31 in the ballroom of Herons Glen Country Club.

## A Successful Butterfly Society Plant Sale

By Kim Basile and Linda Lynch, Herons Glen  
Photo By Kim Basile, Herons Glen



The Butterfly Society of Herons Glen, the group responsible for our lovely butterfly garden along Herons Glen Boulevard near the 18th hole of the golf course, just held their annual plant sale on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 16, and it was a great success. Lots of folks stopped by where the popular Thursday vendors were assembled.

There were many types of plants for sale that Butterfly Society members had been growing for several months, including host plants for butterflies, nectar plants for bees and butterflies, tomato plants, bromeliads, and air plants.

The final Butterfly Society fundraiser for this year is the fabulous bake sale, to be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to sell out. The event will be held in front of the restaurant.

Many seasoned bakers will delight residents with their tasty treats, and the society also will be having a raffle that will include a beautiful basket and a gorgeous bench that would enhance anyone's lanai or yard! This is a do-not-miss event!

These two fundraisers help the Butterfly Society to maintain the garden and keep it gorgeous. As always, thanks to all the residents of Herons Glen for the incredible support. We hope to see you at the garden.

If you are interested in joining the Butterfly Society, please contact Kim Basile at (443) 253-5062. Happy holidays to all!

## Travel Club To Palm Beach

By Duane and Rhonda Parkinson, Herons Glen

On Nov. 9, 43 members of the Herons Glen Travel Club excitedly boarded a tour bus to head due east to the Florida Atlantic Coast. We were anticipating a fantastic time seeing the huge mansions on Palm Beach and seeing how the "1-percenters" live! Jim Gormley had planned a fantastic itinerary for us; unfortunately, due to his and his wife's continuing health issues, Jim had to cancel going on a club trip. So, he asked Rhonda and me to be the "tour guides" for the trip; we quickly accepted that request.

The group made a short stop about halfway there for a quick lunch and arrived at our hotel in West Palm Beach for a short rest break. Then we all boarded the tour bus again to head to the Sailfish Marina for our two-hour chartered boat trip to see the mansions on Palm Beach and the expected gorgeous sunset. The partly cloudy sunset was disappointing; however, the mansions sure weren't.

Our tour boat captain was extremely knowledgeable about the owners of the huge homes and their values. Some of the mansions and homesites are worth tens of millions of dollars. And if you can afford a \$50 million home in Palm Beach, then it's probably just one of your many homes. Some of the most famous previous or current residents of Palm Beach are past President Donald Trump ("Mar-a-Lago", which is now a resort), Sylvester Stallone, Jeffrey Epstein (yep, "that" guy), E. F. Hutton, Estee Lauder, Bernard Madoff ("that" guy again), Jimmy Buffett, Michael Jackson, John Lennon, Rod Stewart, Harold Vanderbilt, and Henry Flagler (more on him later).

Plus, we also saw a piece of the Palm Beach Country Club. The initiation fee there is "only" \$700,000. And the members are

required to donate at least \$300,000 annually to charity. I don't know about you, but that is a little beyond my price range.

The mansion and yacht waterway tour were amazing, but the cloudy sunset was somewhat disappointing. Then we had dinner at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant; good, old-fashioned country food.

The next morning, we decided to make an itinerary modification and drove down to Mar-a-Lago to see if President Trump would invite us all in for morning drinks. Unfortunately, the gate guard somewhat forcefully waved our tour bus past the entry turn lane and wouldn't let us enter. Besides, Trump was in New York City at his civil trial, so we wouldn't have seen him anyway. Well, it's their loss.

So, we continued northward to our scheduled tour of the Henry Flagler Mansion. Flagler is most well-known for building the railroads up and down the Florida East Coast from St. Augustine down to Key West in the late 1800s. He also is known as the founder of Miami and Palm Beach, making Florida the vacation hot spot that it is. He was the "money man" with John D. Rockefeller to form Standard Oil. And his mansion in Palm Beach showcased his wealth – it is absolutely "over the top" in gold leaf, decorations, furnishings, room size, etc. – in general, very pretentious. It was breathtaking, the docent's comments during the tour were extremely informative.

We had lunch in West Palm Beach at the Gun Club Restaurant, named after the street name it was on. Again, good, old-fashioned country food.

One of the best parts of the whole trip was the absolutely gorgeous sunset we saw as we were approaching our own slice of paradise called Herons Glen. Those people over in Palm Beach might have larger houses than we do, but our sunsets are just as beautiful.



## Players Of The Glen

By Janice Radcliff, Herons Glen  
Photo by Janice Radcliff, Herons Glen

The Players of the Glen urge you to mark your calendars for March 15, 16, and 17, 2024. Spread the word and get ready to experience an evening of entertainment and wonder at our annual play performance. This season's selection of *Drinking Habits* promises to have you holding your sides from laughter.

Director Trish Perry led an acting workshop on Nov. 27 covering a range of fundamental acting techniques, improvisations, character development, and methods. She gave the participants insights into the world of theater and live performance.

Auditions were held on Dec. 2 and 3. To the actors who participated in auditions, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for sharing your talent and passion for the stage, making the selection process truly inspiring. We look forward to announcing the cast selection of *Drinking Habits* in January.

If you're ready to be a part of the excitement, please sign up to be a volunteer. We welcome volunteers of all backgrounds and experiences. There are a variety of opportunities to suit different skills and interests. Our volunteers play a crucial role in the success of our production. Join us for a volunteer sign-up session on Jan. 15 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Activity Room A.

Stay tuned for updates on the production and ticket sales via *The Heron*, Herons Glen Google, the HGRD Electronic Newsletter, Herons Glen TV, and the bulletin board in the breezeway.



Phyllis Johnsen, Trish Perry, Rose Hansford

## Singles

By Louise Roessler, Herons Glen  
Photo by Dee Hanks, Herons Glen

Sunday, Nov. 5 Rita Lehman arranged for 11 members of the Herons Glen Singles to carpool from our clubhouse to Fishermen's Village where they boarded a King Fisher boat for the cruise to Cabbage Key and a casual lunch at the historic Cabbage Key Inn built in 1938. The weather was perfect, and dolphins played alongside the boat almost the whole way over and back. A special bonus was seeing the Thunderbirds perform in the distance at the end of their cruise, and a wonderful time was had by all.

There were 40 at our Nov. 8 meeting and we welcomed seven new members: Judy Begin, Alice Gloor, Leonor Gomez, Lynne Kerschner, Katherine Larsen, Tom Mooney, and Richard Smolen. Also, in November, 16 of our group attended the Veterans Dinner Dance together, and 12 had Thanksgiving dinner in the Nest at one big table. Our group has two tables playing Trivia, and Dave Goers has a monthly Bunco game on Friday night at 7 p.m. in Card Room C.

Our December meeting was followed by a potluck Christmas party at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11 in Activities Room A organized by Rita Lehman. Bill Beadle has organized a trip to the Edison-Ford Estates to see the Holiday Lights display preceded by dinner at Joe's Crab



Singles on page 6

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# Marbles Season 2023/24 Begins

By Patti Cummings, Herons Glen

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 13 tables of Marbles players gathered in the ballroom for the start of another season of fun playing the popular board game. During play from 6:30 p.m. until about 9 p.m., lots of laughter and shouts of winning teams could be heard.



Jo Moyer, Rikki Nelson

After three games each, the result (so far) is men have 22 wins, and women have 16 wins. Only three teams were able to sweep (meaning they won all three games played) and they are pictured.

Be sure to get your team of four to as many as eight people together, bring your game and team to the ballroom on **Sunday, Dec. 17** for the next playdate. Tables and chairs are provided with space for four, six, or eight players.



Jim Ingersoll, Dave McDonald, Larry Cummings, Jim Mars



Jim Richards, Joe Billings, Dave Puckett

*Singles from page 5*

Shack on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Sign-up sheets are in the Activities book in the lobby for both the New Year's Eve dinner and the party afterward.

If you are single and living in Herons Glen, you are welcome to join us. Our next meeting will be 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024.

## For Socialites, Thanksgiving Is A Time For Giving

By Pam Scheid, Herons Glen

Gathering in the ballroom around tables decorated by Rose Swisher's committee with children's books and magnetic letters, Socialites were treated at their November luncheon with a presentation by members Linda Nickerson and Nancy Liebner. Linda is responsible for organizing Reading Buddies at the nearby Littleton School. Over the years many Herons Glen residents also have become involved with the program.



Linda Nickerson and Nancy Liebner

A Reading Buddy is assigned to a kindergarten or first-grade child with whom to share reading time, either in person or virtually. The Reading Buddies have also donated over 200 books to the Littleton School library. Three times a year, each child is given a bag of books and also a Christmas gift.

Nancy described the upgrading of the school library supervised by a Reading Buddy volunteer. The library has now become a place frequented by young, eager readers. Lee County statistics show that 70 percent of these children live below the poverty line. Before the Reading Buddies, many of these children had no books in their homes. Since the involvement of Reading Buddies, there has been a 6 percent rise in standardized test scores for reading and math at Littleton School.

This program became too big for the HG volunteers, so other communities including Magnolia Landing and Six Lakes were recruited. Reading Buddies now qualifies as a 501(c)(3) so it is eligible to hold fundraisers, such as the dance held recently in the HG ballroom.

Several Socialites are Reading Buddies currently volunteering in some capacity, but Linda and Nancy offered application forms to others who would like to join.

Another giving opportunity for Socialites is the Angel Tree project chaired by Joan Thompson and Karen Coburn. Members contribute to a fund to purchase Christmas gift cards for HG employees' children. Also, each month members can make cash donations to the All Souls' Food Bank. Bev Groft reported this month's contribution totaled \$444.

## Halloween Dance

By Martie Shea and Jean Perillo-Roman, Herons Glen

The Halloween dance was a monstrous success with residents having a wonderful time.

The Double Dare Band was outstanding. They kept the dancers hopping all night in the ballroom and really knew how to read the crowd. The band also judged costumes while guests paraded around to *The Monster Mash*. We haven't seen so many costumes in years! Kudos to all who were so creative!



Check-in hostess

The Resident Events Committee presentation of decorations set the perfect mood for a haunted Halloween night. So much fun to look at with all the creepy crawlers around the ballroom.

President Janet Kerns called on Cheryl Dawes to introduce two new members and to welcome eight members who, due to personal circumstances, had been absent.

The next meeting is Dec. 12, and Rhonda Parkinson reminded members students from The North Fort Myers Academy of Arts will be the entertainment. Kathleen Colletti described the new way members will be required to make their reservations via a personal email.

## Portrait Of A Bride: An Evolving Silhouette

By Mary Ann Simpson, Herons Glen

Alpha Gamma Nu is pleased to host Leigh Ann Brown, a vintage bridal enthusiast on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024 from 1 to 3 p.m. *Portrait of a Bride, an Evolving Silhouette* is an in-depth program depicting the life of the average American woman as seen through a bride's eyes from 1890 to the present, with an impressive display of vintage gowns.

Leigh Ann has been collecting antique and vintage gowns for more than 20 years and has a collection of more than 300 gowns. Originally, she took her show on the road just displaying the dresses, but quickly learned that the dresses told a story not only of the wedding but of the woman who wore them and what was going on in that period of history.

There will be between 15 to 20 gowns on display from the Victorian era to the present (shown sequentially) each with a date card to tell the era the dress is from. Guests will be able to walk around and view the gowns, take pictures, and ask questions of Leigh Ann. She will then do her presentation that Leigh Ann states is not just fashion or just history. Instead, it is a combination that allows for various anecdotes about the original brides to be told. Light refreshments will be served following Leigh Ann's program.

Tickets are \$25 and will go on sale in January on the following dates: Jan. 15, 17 and 18. Watch further announcements for exact times and locations for ticket sales.

Profits from the event will support local charities such as Harry Chapin Food Bank, Immokalee Fair Housing Project and the All Souls' Outreach Program.



Leigh Ann Brown

**\* 5 Star Rating** (Google, NextD HomeAdvisor)

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Patrick and Diane Battaglia

Chef Steve, Janine, and the staff created the perfect buffet lineup for the fall season! Pumpkin bread pudding with caramel sauce and whipped cream was delectable! The event was well staffed with lots of smiling faces from our waitstaff.

The best group costumes went to 17 people who came together as *The Wizard of Oz* characters. The best couple costumes went to octogenarians Barbie and Ken, a.k.a. Patrick and Diane Battaglia.

The next big event is the New Year's Eve dance. See you then!

# Sports News

## Herons Glen Mixed Bowling League 2023/24

### League Results For First Half Bowling To Date

<b>Oct. 3</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Dave Badger - 192	Pat Spagnolo - 163
Owen Tarrence - 184	Nancy Beaupre - 142
Zee Zielinski - 169	Skipper Cook - 141
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Dave Jager - 495	Linda Protani - 511
Frank Krawczyk - 492	Mary Kelley - 374
Bob Barbal - 482	Cindi Woodard - 344
<b>Oct. 10</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Owen Tarrence - 189	Ruth Poster - 160
Dave Jager - 185	Cindi Woodard - 142
Joe Gornick - 171	Andrea Helms - 141
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Dave Badger - 499	Linda Protani - 547
Bob Barbal - 483	Pat Spagnolo - 419
Terry McElfresh - 455	Nancy Beaupre - 404
<b>Oct. 17</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Frank Krawczyk - 204	Pat Spagnolo - 170
Terry McElfresh - 185	Nancy Beaupre - 146
Owen Tarrence - 173	Shelly Christiansen - 141
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Dave Jager - 523	Linda Protani - 478
Dave Badger - 497	Ruth Poster - 396
Bruce Kelley - 470	Skipper Cook - 382
<b>Oct. 24</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Dave Jager - 225	Ruth Poster - 144
Owen Tarrence - 204	Nancy Beaupre - 135

Tony Protani - 195	Kimberly Bock - 133
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Frank Krawczyk - 640	Linda Protani - 487
Leroy Moyer - 484	Rita Lehman - 380
Bob Barbal - 478	Mary Kelley - 369
<b>Oct. 31</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Leroy Moyer - 182	Ruth Poster - 170
Dave Badger - 179	Kimberly Bock - 139
Dave Jager - 174	Mary Kelley - 139
	Skipper Cook - 125
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Dave Badger - 499	Linda Protani - 547
Bob Barbal - 483	Pat Spagnolo - 419
Terry McElfresh - 455	Nancy Beaupre - 404
<b>Nov. 7</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Zee Zielinski - 192	Ruth Poster - 153
Owen Tarrence - 184	Bonnie Stropes - 151
Bob Barbal - 180	Stacy Badger - 147
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Frank Krawczyk - 532	Linda Protani - 488
Dave Badger - 498	Cindi Woodard - 410
Ed Schmidt - 494	Skipper Cook - 410
	Andrea Helms - 359
<b>Nov. 14</b>	
<b>Men's Three Highest Games</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Games</b>
Ed Schmidt - 214	Bonnie Stropes - 172
Chris Eibling - 179	Nancy Beaupre - 154
Joe Gornick - 166	Kimberly Bock - 143
<b>Men's Three Highest Series</b>	<b>Women's Three Highest Series</b>
Dave Jager - 632	Linda Protani - 440
John Pope - 486	Mary Kelley - 422
Zee Zielinski - 450	Pat Spagnolo - 406

## Playing To Win

By Janice Radcliff, Herons Glen  
 Photo by Janice Radcliff, Herons Glen

Our own Stephanie Wagoner made her LPGA Amateur Golf Association Tournament debut Oct. 20 to 21 on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Oxmoor Valley, Ala. The event was an amateur match play competition in two stages of play. The Cup Qualifier was 18 holes of Four Ball and 18 holes of Singles, completed over two days to determine the teams to advance to The Cup Finals. Stephanie and her team, representing the Lee/Charlotte Chapter of the LPGA Amateur finished 36th out of a field of 280 teams and came very close to winning their Four Ball match. The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) is one of the longest-running women's professional sports associations in the world. Founded in 1950, the organization has grown from a playing tour into a nonprofit organization involved in every facet of golf. The LPGA Amateurs is a recreational amateur arm of the LPGA. Many women will remember the Executive

Women's Golf Association (EWGA) that was acquired by the LPGA.

Stephanie and her husband Gordon, previously from Niles, Mich., moved to Herons Glen in December of 2022. Before moving to the Glen, they lived briefly in a non-golfing community in Fort Myers. Joining the Lee/Charlotte County Chapter of the LPGA Amateur Organization paved a path to meet golfing friends and play different courses. Moving into Herons Glen has given Stephanie the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Herons Glen Ladies Golf Association,



Stephanie Wagoner

as well as join in playing with several other golf groups. When asked if she has a "go-to club," Stephanie shared that she calls her 5-wood her Amazon club and depends on it for a command performance when needed.

Golf isn't Stephanie's only sport where she has excelled. No stranger to national level competition, she played in the 1997 ASA Women's C Slow Pitch National Finals in Montgomery, Ala., and remains great friends to this day with the many women she played with on her team.

Although, Stephanie did not return to Herons Glen this time with a LPGA Amateurs winner's trophy, she did enjoy a dance party with her teammates and the other teams after the closing ceremony.



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