

What Is The Difference Between Memorial Day And Veterans Day?

By Candace Huetteman, Herons Glen

The federal holidays of Veterans Day and Memorial Day are both designated to celebrate the U.S. military, but there are a few key differences between them. Memorial Day originated after the Civil War to honor those who lost their lives during the war. Veterans Day, first known as Armistice Day, is a day to honor all service men and women, especially those living who can share their experiences with us.

Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day, because it was a day designated to decorate the gravestones of roughly 620,000 to 800,000 people who died during the Civil War. In 1873, New York was the first state to declare Decoration Day a legal holiday. By 1890 it was widely recognized in the United States. At the end of World War I, focus shifted from the Civil War soldiers to all U.S. military men and women. In the years following, Decoration Day became Memorial Day - a day to remember.

In addition to local school and business closures and parades, gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery and throughout the United States are decorated with American flags. A wreath is placed at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and flags are flown everywhere at half-mast. In 2000 President Bill Clinton signed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, which encourages Americans to pause their Memorial Day activities at 3 p.m. local time to reflect on those who died serving their country.



Two famous Memorial Day quotes:

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke, but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts and make immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

President James Garfield

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

President Harry S. Truman

Marbles Tournament

By Patti Cummings, Herons Glen

The 2022/23 marbles season ended with the last play date on April 2. After seven rounds of play on Sunday evening from October 2022 through April 2023, the season ended with men winning 113 games vs. women winning **99 games.** Each month those who gathered for an evening Anne Robinson and Marsha of fun with friends had a really good time. We hope to see



more players next season. So, watch for the new schedule and maybe learn the game over the summer months so you and your friends may join in the fun.



and Larry Cummings

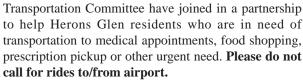


Jim Ingersoll, Dave McDonald Anne Billings, Sharon Richards and Wilma Puckett

Need Transportation

By Jack Cotter, Herons Glen The Veterans of the Glen

Outreach Committee and Friends Helping Friends



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 May 1 through Sept. 30.

VOG Committee Chair Jack Cotter, (860) 490-2183; Mike Zarella, (541) 292-2714; Dee Hanks, (239) 470-6593; Bob Agate, (609) 731-5909; Bruce Johnson, (716) 472-3860.

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact Jack Cotter if you have an interest in volunteering.

Highlights From The HOA **Bulletins**

From Your HOA Communications Committee

Welcome to our new monthly article, Highlights of Recent HOA Bulletins. This article has been developed to summarize important issues that affect every property owner, their renters, vendors, and guests. If you have questions about a subject, you can locate the full article from the bottom left link on the HOA web page; then click the link titled HOA News Bulletin EXTRA! EXTRA! www.hggcc.com/hghoa/ files/office_news.html.

These bulletin subjects have been identified as an aid to a better understanding of the actual requirements for our deed restricted community and include safety information. The subjects are identified by current issues within Herons Glen. Reading and understanding these could eliminate escalation of problems that may result in potential fines.

April 15 - CO2 detectors and cyber security presentation

April 7 – CERT safety tip regarding first responders

April 1 – CERT safety tips golf cart and garage door

March 31 – Flagpoles, flags, and banner guidelines March 24 – Parking and vehicle rules and regulations

March 17 - Landscape standards on lawns and herbicides

March 10 – Parking and restricted vehicles

March 3 – Rentals and forms

March 1 – Sign restrictions

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



Is This You?

Do you like educating others? Do you have a love for creating? Would you enjoy working with some of the most pleasant residents of Herons Glen? Would you like to work with a committee where every meeting ends with a positive result and enjoyable actions for the next meeting? Would you like to influence the communication processes within Herons Glen HOA?

If so, please join the HOA's new and improved Communications Committee by sending your name, email and preferred method of reaching you to lori.hghoa@gmail. com. We are looking for full-time members and we will also consider ad hoc members to help with short-term projects.

Community News

Correction

In the April issue of The Heron the name of the charity which benefits from the annual Pretty In Pink events was incorrectly identified. "Partners for Breast Cancer Care Inc." is the actual name of the charity that benefits from our annual Pretty In Pink events.

Article Deadlines For The Heron

Issue Month/Year Date Due To The Heron

June 2023 July 2023

Saturday, May 20 Sunday, June 18

Articles should be sent to HGNewspaper@gmail.com.

Editorial Staff Volunteers

Photos by Dick Muller



Becky Gignac - Editor



Karen Jessop - Editor



Linda Lynch - Editor



Jack Nelson - Editor



Pam Scheid - Editor





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The HOA Communications Committee serves as the supervisory body for The Heron per Article IX of our by-laws.

Christine Kozak is the committee liasion 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.

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Herons Glen HOA President's Report April 2023

By Rick Romine, HOA President

As you know, there is a lot of activity throughout the Glen during April as "high season" comes to a close. The Activities Committee held an ice cream social on Sunday, April 16 as an end of season get-together and a chance to say goodbye to our snowbirds. The HOA and HGRD sponsored a joint volunteer appreciation reception on Wednesday, April 19. Volunteers received their invitation for their efforts in 2021/22.

Unfortunately, our community experienced a fatal golf cart incident in March. Please be especially careful in the Glen and out as you drive, bike, walk, jog or drive a golf cart. Obey the stop signs and speed limits and watch out for each other.

Coming Soon

May 11 Food Trucks

2		0
May 11	Butterfly Society	Activities Room "A"
May 11	Ron Lorenzo and Cody T	yler Restaurant
May 18	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
May 18	Tat 2	Restaurant
May 25	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
May 25	Double Dare Duo	Restaurant
May 29	Memorial Day	
June 1	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
June 1	Jay Smith	Restaurant
June 8	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
June 8	Rick Austin	Restaurant
June 15	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
June 15	Ron Lorenzo	Restaurant
June 19	Bloodmobile	Parking Lot
June 22	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
June 22	Wendy Renee	Restaurant
June 26	Dermatology	Parking Lot
June 29	Food Trucks	Parking Lot
June 29	Smalltown	Restaurant

Welcome

William Eshbach Janice and Terry McElfresh

In Memoriam

Robert Loffredio Alan Roach

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 May 8 To June

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

May 9 Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m.

May 10 Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

May 11 Grounds Committee, 1 p.m.

Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m. May 23

May 25 Finance Committee, 1:30 p.m. May 26 SSEP Committee, 8:30 a.m.

June 6 Board Workshop, 1 p.m. June 8 Grounds Committee, 1 p.m.

June 13 Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m.

June 14 Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

June 22 Finance Committee, 1:30 p.m.

June 23 SSEP Committee, 8:30 a.m.

Architectural Review Committee, 9 a.m. June 27

Calendar Of HGRD Meetings May 8 To June

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

Golf Committee, 9 a.m. May 11 June 8 Golf Committee, 9 a.m. Budget Review, 9 a.m. June 12 Budget Review, 9 a.m. June 13 Budget Review, 9 a.m. June 14 Budget Review, 9 a.m. June 15 June 16 Board Meeting, 9 a.m.

CERT Safety Tip

By Gerry Lecavalier and Barry Glaudel, Herons Glen

When first responders are needed for a medical emergency at home or apartment, use the acronym LOVED.

Lights, turn outside lights on to make it easier for paramedics to find your house.

Obstacle, remove pets and any obstacles from the area. Vehicles, are not blocking access to the building.

Elevator, make sure one is holding the elevator, or that it is put into freight or service.

Door, make sure door is unlocked so paramedics can get into building.

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Community Interests

It's All In The Numbers

By Jack Nelson, Herons Glen

Imagine life without numbers. With today's lifestyle around the planet, we'd be lost. What would the stock market do? Probably crash. We wouldn't know what time of day it is, or the date. Then



there are the prices of goods and services. Would everything be free? Not likely. What about the airlines? What would they do without flight and gate numbers, dates, and departure and arrival times?

Every time we pay a visit to our doctors, they check our vitals: blood pressure, heart rate, body temperature, and weight. If someone were to ask me my weight without numbers, I'd respond "heavy." And my reply to visual acuity, "blurry." So, numbers of our vitals are vital.

Now, let's get into some mind-boggling statistics. There are about eight billion human beings roaming planet Earth today. That's a lot of people. Let's say the average height of a person is 5 feet. That statistic is debatable, of course, and could be considered arbitrary. If you multiply those two numbers, the result is 40 billion feet. If you divide that number by the number of feet in a mile, your result would be about 7,600,000 miles. That's how far we'd be in outer space, with each person stacked head to toe. The last person out there would certainly be a long way from home.

Next, let's put our human chain in trips around the globe. How many trips would there be? Try figuring it out before you read on. I'm basing my estimate on the Earth's circumference at 24,000 miles. Some people call it 25,000. My estimate is based on our shrinking ice caps. If your division is correct, there would be about 317 trips around the world. Think of the frequent flyer miles we'd all have!

Want to go to the moon? Our chain would be able to make no less than 16 round trips. NASA, eat your heart out!

I'm sure we all remember our happy days in elementary school. Our teachers taught us the times tables by rote, but adding and subtracting came first. Finally, along came division. We learned the names of the numbers: divisor, dividend, and quotient. In my teaching days, I can recall trying to teach division with two-digit divisors, and at times, it was a nightmare, both for me and most of my fifth graders. I empathized with them as they struggled to work out solutions. I haven't caught up with today's trends in teaching math, but I've heard that the kids use calculators now. And, as an aside, cursive writing is a thing of the past. Such a pity! How will folks sign checks?

Finally, let's think about infinity, a.k.a. foreverness. As I see it, there are four infinities: time, space, numbers, and us. "Us?" you may ask. Yes, the human race since the beginning of the cave people. Think of the number of tears and joy that have been shed. Think of the number of heartbeats. Think about the number of coughs and sneezes, the blinking of our eyes, the smiles and frowns. Endless!

Now enters Mother Nature. Try to imagine the number of leaves that have fallen from our trees since the beginning of time. Our calculators couldn't handle such a number. Next, tell me how many raindrops have fallen over the last 10,000 years. If you can, and if you're correct, you may go to the head of the class and I'll give you two gold stars on your report card. Trying to prove your answer may take forever, another infinity.

Finally, there is one last infinity: the number of times I've had to use the bathroom in the middle of the night.

Aftermath Of Hurricane Ian

By Sarah Schoon, Herons Glen Photo by Doug Schoon, Herons Glen

There have been many unusual sights after *Hurricane Ian* terrorized Florida. One of the more interesting things I have seen is in this photo: bunny ears now growing inside a shrub.



"Bunny Ears"



By Karen Mars,

Telecommunications Team, Herons Glen

If you're tired of waiting for all the upcoming news to appear on the screen, turn to Channel 901 or 902. Our new TV channels 901 and 902 provides upcoming highlights of events occurring in the next three days. Save time and get the information you need. Stay informed, change to Channel 901 and 902 each day!



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Community Activities

Pretty In Pink 2023 FINALE! Part One

By Peggy Lindquist, Herons Glen

The word part of "Pink" was really there on March 22 for Herons Glen Pretty in Pink (PIP) Day! The day was so long and eventful that this news article has been divided into three parts. Enjoy.

PIP Golf Tournament Day

The day began with a healthy start breakfast coordinated by Nine Hole League's Peggy Mason. White sacks stenciled pink with sayings like "You've Got This!" and filled with a **huge** muffin, and goodies lined the table along with a basket of bananas, water and coffee. Along with stenciled sacks was the putting green approach where Pam Bedore and Janice Boots stenciled pink ribbons; thus, spinning a festive mood toward a heartwarming day.

At 8:15 a.m. a full field of carts went out shotgun style to play a step aside scramble organized by Christy Coleman and Val Treichel. Upon arriving to your first destination, sponsor a hole signs purchased by friends and relatives were placed next to the five and six tees honoring those lost to cancer or who survived. Fran Schroeder was in charge of this fundraiser. Her 11 assistants coordinated responsibilities with the Men's Golf Association to place the signs on the appropriate holes. Fran's efforts earned her close to \$13,000 which was contributed to the PIP fund!

Eleven of the 18 holes had a twist to the basic scramble. Hole No. 4, overseen by Paul Koenig and John Cowgill, awarded golfers with a pink ball **if** they made it on the green. Hole No. 7, cared for by Larry Pedersen and Carl Smith, ensured your putting was challenged by pink flamingos scattered all over the green!

The back nine holes had three holes where the men





Val Treichel, Christy Coleman Fran Schroeder



D'Arcie Kisner, Karen Roberts, Peggy Mason, Carol Ross, Peggy Rabb

assisted in the game format: hole No. 11's closest to the pin was managed by Charlie Miller and Ed Schroeder. Mary Ann Polvinen missed a hole in one by an inch! Better luck next time Mary Ann!); Hole No. 13 was dubbed "Pro Show Time" allowing a low handicapper man hitting one tee shot per team. Those helping were Bruce Harris, head pro; Mike Loppnow, assistant golf pro; and residents Glen Price, Rich Morea, Eric Sunburg and Denis Wright. Paul Chipman and Terry Treichel looked over hole No. 14's closest to the pin shots while Bill Hebert, Robert Perry and Walter Westfall collected PIP donation money from the ladies and allowed them to move up to the 150-yard marker.

To be continued.

Ohio Club

By Rosie Swisher, Herons Glen

The Ohio Club cul-de-sac gathering was hosted by Keith Burnfield and Ron Camp on March 30 on Wheelock Drive. The setting was great with shade trees to provide relief from the hot sun, while still providing enough room for 24 folks to gather, share food and enjoy fellowship.

The Ohio Club will try to meet in late April, hopefully for a bocce and/or shuffleboard activity. Details will be provided via email as soon as they are available.

Singles Of The Glen

By Louise Roessler, Herons Glen

Twelve members of the Herons Glen singles group enjoyed the wonderful Easter buffet at The Nest on April 9.

Thirty-eight attended our last meeting, April 12 and we welcomed new members Gloria Bleser, John Corda, Kathy DeLanoy, Barbara Drews, and Dan Schach. Marla Pierce arranged a trip to Koreshan State Park in Estero on Saturday, April 29. We met at the clubhouse at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. We had a guided tour of the 11 restored and historic buildings erected by the Koreshans in the late 1800s and had lunch afterwards. Bob Agate arranged a trip to PopStroke Miniature Golf in Fort Myers on Monday, May 1. We met at the clubhouse at 3:30 p.m. to carpool and had a light supper there before playing.

On May 13 we will be attending the Celtic Fest at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda. Ginny Varney is arranging a trip to Cape Cabaret in south Cape Coral on Wednesday, May 24 to hear a tribute to the Eagles band and have dinner before the concert. Bob Agate is arranging a trip to Visiani's Supper Club in Punta Gorda to see comedian Anthony Rodia on Thursday, June 22.



Left to right: Ilena Budde, Gary Olson, Anne McAlvey, Madelyn Moffat, April McGarvey, Barbara Drews, Rosemarie Prud'homme, Louise Roessler, Everett Dehn, Cindi Rich, Marla Pierce, and Barbara Benke

Sign-up sheets with instructions for obtaining tickets, where needed, are in the lobby book and are open to all singles residing in Herons Glen.

We meet the second Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. in the private dining room with the option to stay for dinner afterwards in the restaurant and will continue to meet during the summer months. If you are single and living in Herons Glen and would like to be added to our member list to get notifications of events and changes that may occur, just send an email to Louise Roessler at fnlroessler@att.net with your name, and phone number.

Travel Club Annual Potluck

By Jim Gormley, Herons Glen

The Herons Glen Travel Club held its annual potluck on Monday, April 10. Due to the construction in the pool area, the usual grilling was replaced with servings of fried chicken courtesy of the Travel Club. The shared dishes for the potluck were set up in Activities Room



"A," as well as the tables for dining. A total of 64 people attended this event and everyone was able to eat and drink until they were full.

This potluck was the last meeting of this season. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 12, which will kick off the 2023/24 season. The program will be a DVD presentation by Jim Gormley of highlights of this past season.



Time Of The Season

By Sarah Schoon, Herons Glen

Photo by Doug Schoon, Herons Glen

As we were driving through Herons Glen this week, we saw a growing number of houses with their hurricane shutters in place. It reminded me of a 1960s tune: "It's the time of the season." Although you would have to substitute the words: for part-time residents to prepare "for the journey back to their other home," which doesn't sound as good as the song by The Zombies.

My husband came back from Lowe's with another sign of the season. He purchased the last container of Wet and Forget on their shelves.

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Time Of The Season on page 5



WE TAKE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE

Sports News

Bocce Get-together

By Debbie Baker, Herons Glen

Even though the courts are still under construction, 125 members of the bocce community gathered together to renew friendships and catch up with each other at the second annual Bocce Award Dinner Dance on March 25.

The evening was highlighted by the announcement of the recipient of the Glasgow/Turcot Award for Dedication to Bocce, Bob Sheehan.





Time Of The Season from page 4

It is possible to get a list of recommended preparations, and if you are like me, I seem to add more to an ever growing list. We have added to the list a farewell party with our neighbors, those who are headed elsewhere and those who are full-time residents.

Safe travels to all who will be traveling, and for those who are staying. I hope that Mother Nature is kind this summer.



Carla and Harold Sloan, Marilyn and Howard Schaeffer, Teresa and Dennis LiCalsi, Jan and Joe Cyr, Mary Sloan, Vivian and Declan Dunn

Socialites

By Janet Kerns, Herons Glen

Janet Kerns welcomed 116 socialites and their guests to the ballroom for the last luncheon with a program of the season. Catherine Murtagh-Schaffer, PA-C, Shipley Cardiothoracic Clinical Strategy Manager and Program Coordinator for Substance Abuse Program and her colleague, Bridget Cortes, of Lee Health located at HealthPark spoke at the Socialites luncheon.

The Board for 2023/24 year was introduced and the committee chairwomen for 2023/24. She then introduced Rhonda Parkinson who will be the new program chairwoman for 2023/24, replacing Christine Crews. Martie Shay informed the members of the summertime schedule, the third Thursday of May, June, July, August and September. They will meet in the lounge for an informal lunch at noon. Bev Groft, treasurer, reported that April's member contributions for All Souls Food Bank totaled \$574.

Following the dessert, Rhonda Parkinson introduced Cathy Murtagh-Shaffer and her colleague, Bridget Cortes both of Lee Health, speaking on women's heart health.



Rhonda Parkinson, Catherine Murtagh-Schaffer and Bridget Cortes





Cathy has been a physician assistant for more than 30 years in cardiothoracic surgery. Her current mission is to establish the Women's Cardiac Surgery Program with the goals of promoting awareness of the biological gender differences in physiology between men and women and how those differences affect the development and treatment of heart disease. She is a spirited promoter for women's heart health and feels strongly that understanding the disease can make women better advocates for themselves. For fun and relaxation Cathy is a competitive ballroom dancer with multiple national titles and an amateur photographer and writer. She recently completed her master's degree in international diplomacy and conflict resolution and actively supports Kimmie's Recovery Zone for those suffering with substance abuse issues. She lives in Fort Myers with her toy poodle Sadie.



This award, started in 2022, honors an individual who has gone above and beyond for the bocce community. Bob certainly has done so. Among his many contributions is his long service on the HGBA board – the longest serving director serving from 2013 to 2023.

In addition to helping maintain the courts over the years, Bob made the infamous measuring "cans," which we believe are unique to the Glen. He has put together the rugs that brushed the courts for many years, and more recently refurbished the scoreboards so they could be used on the new courts. Bob has also had a league play award named after him – the Sheehan Award, which is given to the player who gives the most points to the opposing team by knocking out his/her own team's point. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Bob!

Sports News on page 6



April 14 - May 20



Follow Deloris, a disco diva, as she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look...a convent! Masquerading as a nun, and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she

unexpectedly rediscovers her own. She makes new friends and breathes new life into the church, but in the process, blows her cover! This high-spirited musical comedy is a shining tribute to the universal power of friendship.

May 26 – July 1



A lively city boy moves from Chicago to a small farming town where rock 'n' roll and dancing have been banned. After the culture shock sets in, he tries to shake things up and overturn the extreme ban. In the process he catches the attention of the lovely

preacher's daughter. The Oscar and Tony-nominated Top 40 score includes *Holding Out For A Hero, Let's Hear It For The Boy, Almost Paradise* and the title song, *Footloose*.

Dates may be subject to change.

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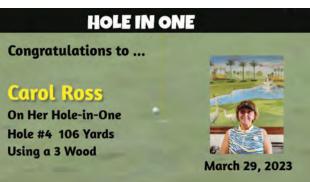
Sports News from page 5

Billiards

North Fort Myers Seniors – Spring 2023 8-Ball League End Of Season – Team Standings

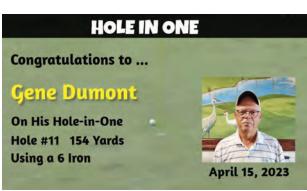
	Team	Weeks	Won	Lost	Win %	Points	Games Won
1	Del Tura 1	9	44	10	0.815	1593	155
2	Pine Lakes 1	9	40	14	0.741	1599	155
3	Tamiami Village	9	35	19	0.648	1587	141
4	Del Tura 2	9	34	20	0.630	1582	114
5	Six Lakes	9	25	29	0.463	1527	116
6	Buccaneer	9	23	31	0.426	1519	110
7	Horizon Village	9	19	35	0.352	1526	86
8	Herons Glen	9	19	35	0.352	1512	95
9	Lake Fairways	9	19	35	0.352	1498	92
10	Pine Lakes 2	9	12	42	0.222	1429	61













Close Of The Bowling Season

By Mike Stropes, Herons Glen

After a slow start, thanks to *Hurricane Ian*, the Herons Glen Mixed Bowling League had an exciting season finish. The league bowls two halves and, if needed, the winners from each half have a roll-off to determine the overall league champs. The winners of the first half, Steve Levin, Bob Barney, Andrea Helms and Linda Protani on team "Maybe Today," played against the second half winners, Joann Owens, Jack Peckham, Betty Ward and Augie Spagnolo on the "Herons." The Herons were victorious and are the overall league winners for the 2022/23 season.

All the other bowlers were invited to participate in a nine-pin no-tap tournament. If you get nine pins on your first ball, it counts as a strike! This can make for some dramatic scores, especially since the event is handicapped. Therefore, it is possible for the high handicappers to have unusually high scoring games. There were two bowlers having scores over 300 which is the highest you can roll without a handicap. Bonnie Stropes had a 314 and Cetti Clock had a whopping 342. It was great fun seeing those high-handicap bowlers racking up so many strikes.

As president of the league, I want to thank everyone who participated this year. There were 60 regular bowlers plus a number of substitute bowlers. We had lots of laughs,

entertaining moments (maybe the adult beverages helped) and some nail-biting competition, but **fun** was the name of the game. We hope to see all this season's bowlers returning as well as having new bowlers in the fall. Please consider returning or joining this fun group for the 2023/24 season.

Final League Statistics

League Stats As Of March 14

	Men	Women	League Total
Number of bowlers	27	28	55
Average scores	144	114	129

March 21 Roll-Off Scores				
Men's 3 Highest Games	Women's 3 Highest Games			
Jack Peckham - 174	Linda Protani - 197			
Augie Spagnolo - 154	Betty Ward - 169			
Bob Barney - 141	Joan Owens - 129			
Steve Levin - 141				
Men's 3 Highest Series	Women's 3 Highest Series			
Augie Spagnolo - 455	Linda Protani - 552			
Jack Peckham - 430	Betty Ward - 429			
Steve Levin - 400	Joan Owens - 333			

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Set For May 13

Harry Chapin Food Bank and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties will once again partner with the National Association of Letter Carriers as part of the Stamp Out Hunger food drive. The annual food drive will be held on Saturday, May 13.



Now in its 31st year, the Stamp

Out Hunger food drive is the largest single-day food drive in the nation and provides residents with a convenient way to donate food to those in need. Customers can leave donations of nonperishable food items next to their mailboxes on May 13. Mail carriers will collect donations along their regular postal delivery routes and distribute the items to food banks and other participating organizations.

Winter residents heading back up north before May 13 can still participate in the food drive by dropping off unopened, nonperishable food items in the lobby of the post office nearest their home. These items will be collected and distributed as part of the Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

Nonperishable food items include unopened, nonbreakable containers, such as peanut butter, pasta, tuna, rice, beans, canned meats, fruits, vegetables and soups.

Harry Chapin Food Bank and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties partner with the National Association of Letter Carriers to ensure the food drive can be held each year. Hundreds of volunteers assist letter carriers by picking up food, unloading trucks and sorting items at postal drop-off sites.

Food collected in Lee County will be distributed by Harry Chapin Food Bank and other participating agencies, free of charge. The National Association of Letter Carriers food drive is pivotal in helping food banks, such as Harry Chapin Food Bank, and the agencies they serve continue to be supplied with food during the summer months, when school is out and there is a significant increase in food insecurity for children and families.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

We live in a generous community, so much that many of the letter carrier trucks overflow with food. The United Way Volunteer Center will be coordinating volunteers to assist with driving a carrier route and helping pick up food.

Volunteers will have a choice of driving routes primarily in the areas of Cape Coral, North Fort Myers and Fort Myers. As other areas are identified, they will be added to this list. Volunteer driver routes will start later in the morning to coincide with residents placing their food at mailboxes and the peak times when mail carriers are on their routes. This opportunity works best when volunteers team up in pairs, a driver and a navigator. Those under the age of 18 are welcome to help with written parental permission.

If volunteering in teams of two, both the driver and navigator volunteer must register. If one of the volunteers is under the age of 18, the legal guardian will register and sign a waiver for themselves and the minor. Once registered for the opportunity, you will be contacted for your location preference. You may have to create a user profile first if you are new to volunteering with United Way or have not completed a user profile with us in the past.

To sign up to volunteer please visit https://volunteer. unitedwaylee.org/need/detail/?need_id=795514.

History Of Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day

National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day is conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers (N.A.L.C.). The drive was started in October 1991 as a trial program and took place across 10 cities in America. It was highly

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Gulf Coast Writers Association Announces Writing Contest

Deadline For Entries Is May 31

A writing contest open to the general public including adults and youth was



announced recently by the Gulf Coast Writers Association (GCWA), with winners to be named in July.

Submissions are being accepted in the adult section from persons 18 years old and older in four categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and



Children's Stories. In the youth section, submissions are being accepted from persons 11 to 17 years old in three categories: Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry.

The deadline for entries, to be submitted online, for both sections is May 31 at 11:59 p.m.

"This annual contest advances our goal of encouraging writing and recognizing outstanding writers," said Irene Smith, president of the Fort Myers, Fla., based nonprofit in making the announcement.

GCWA's contest last year received recognition from Reedsy, a marketplace of freelance publishing professionals, as among the Best Writing Contests.

Winners will be announced at the GCWA monthly meeting on July 15. The list of winners will be posted on the organization's website (https://gulfwriters.org). All monthly meetings, currently held at Word of Life Church, 6111 South Pointe Blvd., in Fort Myers at 10 a.m. on the third Saturday, are open to the public.

Judges for the contest are members of GWCA as well as experienced writers from the community. Judging is done on a blind basis and members who submit entries will not judge their own entries.

Adult Section

Sponsors of the adult section of the contest include *Fort Myers Magazine* and writers' guides Firstwriter.com and Duotrope®.

All winning entries in each category will be published on the GCWA website.

There is no limit to number of submissions, but entrants may win only one prize. GWCA members may participate in the contest in addition to the general public.

The entry fee for the adult section is as follows: Nonmembers: \$20 for first submission, \$10 for each additional entry. Members: \$10 for first submission, \$5 for each additional entry.

Youth Section

Winning entries will be published on the GCWA website. Entries are free and limited overall to three per person. Only one prize to an entrant will be awarded.

"A winning entry would look good on any student's college application," noted Smith.

Entry Forms

Entry forms, guidelines, judging criteria and additional information are posted on the GCWA website, https://gulfwriters.org.



Additional information for entrants is also available by emailing specialprojects@gulfwriters.org.

Only entries submitted online will be considered. **About GCWA**

Founded in 1995 and incorporated in 2004, the Gulf Coast Writers Association Inc. (GCWA) provides a forum for fellowship, education, and information for writers. GCWA's well-regarded annual writing contest draws a wide range of authors. Based in Fort Myers, the organization attracts members from throughout Southwest Florida from Marco Island to Tampa. At monthly meetings, speakers and workshops offer expert advice on such topics as writing techniques, publishing, and marketing. Participants at these meetings also have the opportunity to read their works. The organization's members include published as well as unpublished writers and professional editors, agents and publicists. The literary genres run the gamut from poetry, adult fiction and nonfiction to children's and young adult, historical fiction, romance, mystery/thriller, memoir, essays and screenplay. Members include full-time writers as well as corporate professionals, teachers, and business owners, all still working or retired. GCWA's website is https:// gulfwriters.org.

Tell Your Hurricane Ian Story

Where were you? How did you fare? What have you learned? Who became your hero?

In partnership with Alliance for the Arts, Gulf Coast Writers Association (GCWA) invites stories written by those who survived *Hurricane Ian*, those who volunteered in its aftermath, and those who witnessed heroic deeds. The stories of this unprecedented disaster will be compiled in an anthology to be printed and made available to the public in September 2023. Stories may be submitted via the following web links:

- Alliance of the Arts website (www.artinlee.org/stormstories)
- GCWA website: (https://gulfwriters.org/home-new/home/)

All who experienced the storm are encouraged to submit their stories. There is no fee to enter. Alliance for the Arts will create a monthlong event in September to commemorate the anniversary of *Hurricane Ian*. In addition to Storm Stories, the event will feature a *Hurricane Ian*-themed art exhibit and photos by Kinfay Moroti.

GCWA will edit Storm Stories submissions before the book is printed. The timeline for printing requires that to be included in the book, stories must be submitted by May 1, 2023. Alliance for the Arts will continue harvesting stories until their exhibit opens in September.

The mission of Gulf Coast Writers Association is to foster the love of words, to encourage emerging writers, and to create an inclusive environment for writers and would-be writers. Membership is open to all. Visit https://gulfwriters.org/home-new/home/.

For further information, contact Gulf Coast Writers Vice President Mary Charles at mary@marycharles.com or (718) 848-4031.

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successful and has continued every year since. The initiative was formed by a union wanting to give back to those in need, whether it be by donating funds to a charity, collaborating during times of disaster, or protecting victims of calamities and crime.

The date for the drive was later moved to the second Saturday of May. The N.A.L.C. decided that the best time of year for the food drive would be in the late spring. This was because food banks and pantries ran out of food by May as donations decreased after Thanksgiving and Christmas.

It was the postmen who mostly saw the obstacles that communities faced. Thus, on this day, the postal carriers both deliver mail and collect food donations. As they deliver orders, bills, and postcards, people get to help out by filling their mailbags with nonperishable food donations.

One billion pounds of food have been dispatched over the last two decades. The mailmen deliverers representing the N.A.L.C. receive support from rural letter carriers, other messenger employees, and volunteers. In 2010, The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive was awarded numerous badges, which include two Presidential Certificates of Achievement.

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day FAQS

What Is Special About Nonperishable Food?

Nonperishable foods, such as canned goods and dried fruit, have a long shelf life and don't require refrigeration to keep them from spoiling.

What Percentage Of Americans Use Food Banks?

One in seven people in our nation utilizes our network of food banks.

Who Refers You To A Food Bank?

Professionals such as social workers, health visitors, and doctors must refer people to a food bank for them to receive a voucher that can then be exchanged for food.



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