



# THE TOWER

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## HOA AT-A-GLANCE

For more information on these HOA Sponsored Events see center section

- ▶ Halloween Party Pictures ▶ Health Fair
- ▶ Ring In The New Year here in Del Tura - See Flyer!
- ▶ Divas 3 - See Flyer! ▶ CERT Golf Tournament



## HALLOWEEN GOLF CART PARADE

By Elizabeth Wilkerson, Parade Committee



### Contest Winners:

1st place:  
Dusty Laurie and Glenn Holmes

2nd place:  
Ellen Locascio and Debbie Welty

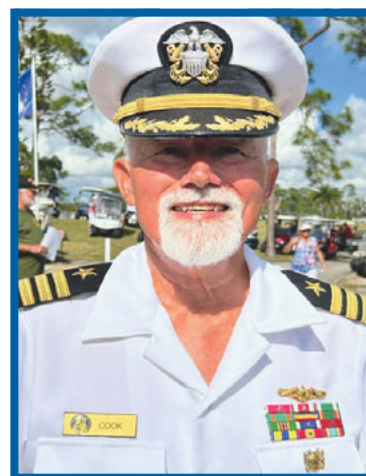
3rd place:  
Holly Spangler, Sharon Reisenfeld and Estelle White

Costume Contest photos on Page 13



## VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Leigh Anne Lawson



Sherwood Cook (U.S. Navy)



Left: Rob Stevens (British Royal Navy)  
Right: Bob Harmon (U.S. Navy)



**TOWER DEADLINE:** The 10th of the month, for the following month's issue. All articles and flyers must be submitted in a Microsoft Word document format, or you may drop off at the HOA office in a TYPED or HAND PRINTED format only. Questions - please contact us via e-mail: [dttoweredit@gmail.com](mailto:dttoweredit@gmail.com) or drop them at the office. Thank You





## VETERAN'S CORNER *By Steve Banko*

### The Magic in the Music

For me, Christmas will always be found in the music.

From those long-ago days of grammar school innocence when the nuns embarked on the crusade to drill the words of every carol in Christendom into my brain, until today – with innocence a faded memory but the joy of Christmas a constant prayer, I found great delight and consolation in the music of Christmas.

Some of my most enduring memories involve those nuns, the songs they taught me, and the way we sang them. The holiday seemed so much simpler back in grade school when the annual Christmas pageant was followed by Skippy Cups, Christmas cookies, and an hour or so of caroling. It hardly mattered that puberty rendered the male voices in our choir much more akin to a pond of bullfrogs than the Vienna Boys Choir. The real music wasn't in our voices anyway. It was in the words – in the hope and the promise, and the triumph of Christmas.

Less than a decade later and a half-world away from the well-scrubbed faces of grade school and light years away from the simple joy of ice cream and mothers club cookies, I spent a different kind of Christmas under the spell of the carols. I'd just arrived as a patient in Yokota, Japan. I'd taken two bullets to my right knee

and a pound or so of shrapnel all over my body. I was on the verge of losing my leg to a raging infection and my mind to the horror of a five-hour battle playing over and over again in my mind. At the end of that bloody day, our rifle company was gone. We sustained 86% casualties, almost every man killed or wounded. Through three weeks and four operations, the doctors struggled to save my leg from a savage infection. They turned the fight over to docs in Japan.

I arrived late on Christmas Eve, 1968. The friendly faces of nurses I'd come to know were replaced with strange faces in a new hospital. My body hurt but my mind was worse off. I was frightened by what this pain might mean for my future. I was angry for what my country made me do and endure in its name. But more than anything, I was lonely. Christmas was always something to be shared and now, I was alone. My only consolation came from the sound system piping music through our ward.

"The First Noel" ... "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" ... "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" ... by the time the carols recycled for another rotation, I was on the verge of believing there could really be joy in the world but the pain in my knee and the sadness in mind kept me mired in despair.

I was interrupted in my self-pity by a low moan from the bed next to me. My neighbor was covered

in plaster from the tops of his knees to his lower jaw. Gauze covered his face and head and only cutouts for his eyes, nose, and mouth broke the field of white. His arms were held away from his body with metal rods. His hands were the only skin not covered. The sounds of hope and love and triumph were frequently punctuated by the sounds of pain, the result of man's inhumanity. Throughout, however, the man in the cast could issue only low moans. I couldn't conceive of what unspeakable horror had left him like this; what terrible pain wracked his body; what hopes and dreams had been crushed by the brutality that rendered him so helpless. Suddenly, my pain didn't seem nearly as important and my loneliness became more tolerable. When the nurse came around with our pain meds and the lights were dimmed, the strains of "Silent Night" were my last recollections of that strange Christmas Eve. Before I nodded off, I asked the nurse to push my bed closer to the man in the cast. She looked puzzled but complied. I reached out and touched my comrade's hand. Finally, it did seem as though "all was calm, all was bright." No words were spoken. None were needed. I felt a gentle tightening on my hand and for the first time that awful December, I believed that I might survive and for the first time in weeks, I wanted to.

For me, Christmas will always be in the music.



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# HOA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

To have the right to vote in the 2024 HOA Board of Director election your dues must be paid by January 12, 2024. Through January 8th, there will be a membership table set-up at Tuesday Coffee (from 8:00 am until 8:55 am) to assist you with renewing your membership or joining the HOA. You may also sign-up at the HOA Office, 609 Sierra Madre during office hours.

Checks should be made payable to HOA in the amount of \$12.00. If paying in cash, we ask that you bring the exact amount. For current HOA members, you will only need to verify and/or correct your information we have in our database.

New members signing up between October 1st and December 31st will be required to fill out a new membership form; you will be an HOA member immediately through the end of 2023 and all 2024.

HOA OFFICE HOURS (October thru April)  
Monday 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Tuesday after Tuesday Coffee - Noon  
Wednesday 9:00 am - Noon  
Thursday 3:00 - 5:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - Noon

Ruth Ann Blevins - Cindy Brinton  
Membership Committee Co-Chairs



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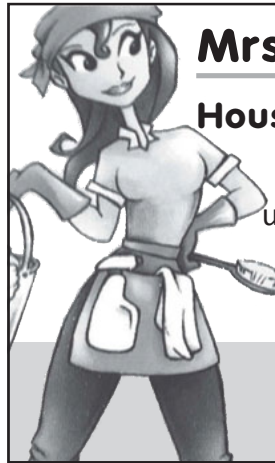
# SUGGESTION BOX



In addition to the suggestion boxes in the Starlight Ballroom and the HOA Office, you can email your suggestions to us at DTHOASuggestionBox@gmail.com. Please include your NAME, STREET ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER along with the issue you would like the HOA to address.

Briefly describe your issue/concern and any possible solutions. You will be notified when your suggestion is brought before the BOD, and what actions will be taken regarding it.

By sharing your concerns with us you can help continue to make Del Tura our piece of paradise! ~ Your HOA Board of Directors



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**DEL TURA HOA BOARD INFORMATION**

It's HOA Board of Directors Election Time again!

Hi, I am Daniel Cruz and I am honored to have been once again appointed by our Board of Directors as the Chairman of the Nomination and Election Committee. This is my fourth year in grateful service to our community, and along with my fellow Committee members, we look forward to delivering another honest, transparent, and accurate election process.

Del Tura HOA members who wish to serve on the Board are encouraged to read the HOA Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Manual, and speak with current Board members to understand the role and responsibility of a Board member. Those who wish to serve may submit their application to the HOA office on or before January 10, 2024. Additionally, nominations from the floor will be accepted at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled for January 10, 2024, after which nominations will be closed. If there are more candidates than

open positions, an election will occur. Members should be alert for details regarding an informal "Meet and Greet" with candidates which may occur on or about January 13, 2024.

Pursuant to the HOA Bylaws, residents and HOA members are reminded that in order to be eligible to receive a ballot and vote in the 2024 Board of Director elections, you must pay for or renew your membership by not later than January 12, 2024. If mailing your renewal into the HOA, please allow ample time for delivery. Any new membership applications or membership renewals received after January 12, 2024 will be deemed ineligible to vote.

When you see our current board members, please take a moment to thank them for their service to our community.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating and Election Committee, or if you have any questions about the election process, please feel free to call me at 239.442.7278 or email me at daniellecruz@gmail.com.

**DEL TURA EDITOR'S NOTE**

*By Leigh Anne Lawson*

Have a wonderful Holiday Season! Please be safe during the upcoming holidays. If out shopping, be aware of your surroundings and people around you. When walking through parking lots, keep your phone in your pocket, get your keys ready in the store, and pay attention to moving vehicles in the dark that might not have

turned their lights on yet. Be aware of others in the parking lot. When placing your purse in your cart, it takes two seconds to wrap the child seat belt around the straps of your purse. Be extra cautious out on the busy roads. Happy New Year!!

**DEL TURA AROUND THE GROUNDS**

*By Darlene Fincham*

The Grounds Committee would like to say thank you to the residents who are doing their part to help keep Del Tura beautiful and a place we are proud of. We thank you for cleaning up your tables in the courtyard and pools by throwing paper and plastic disposable items in the trash so they don't find their way into our shrubs and plants. We also appreciate that you bring empty pitchers, condiment containers and utensils back into the pub since we do not have pub service in the courtyard or pool. Please do your part to keep our paradise looking nice. Since we can see pop-up storms with a lot of wind, let's protect our tables and umbrellas by closing your umbrella when leaving a table, both in the courtyard and at the pools.

If you spot something in a common area that needs repair, please don't post it on Facebook, because that won't get it fixed. Facebook is not being monitored by HTA or the Grounds Committee. Either call the office so a work order can be generated, or send an email, including pictures and exact location (very important), to delturagrounds@yahoo.com and a work order request will be opened with Hometown America. For larger items, which are capital expenditures, our HOA leadership continues to work with Hometown America on a monthly basis. Residential property issues are outside the Grounds Committee jurisdiction so please work directly with Donna in our administration office.

**DEL TURA SAVE THE DATE**

It's that time of year when we need our Activity Chairpersons to **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

The Welcome Committee is hosting the New Resident Fair on January 30th, 2024 from 4:30-6pm. Food, beverages and door prizes will be provided.

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 Let's see How You Roll, come join us.  
 Please contact Janet DeCosmo at 239.776.9161 for more information.



# NIGHT AT THE RACES

SAVE THE DATE

NIGHT AT THE RACES - January 27, 2024

Details will be coming!

Questions/information call Marylou Buss at 612-718-7878



# AN EVENT IS COMING BACK!

Del Tura has enjoyed this event for many years pre-Covid so we are bringing it back!!!

Always a sellout and so much fun and great foods!

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 9, 2024

**\*\*INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL\*\***

Please contact me if you would like to prepare food. Questions/information contact Marylou Buss 612-718-7878.



# SUNNY DAYS ICE CREAM TRUCK

Be on the Look Out!!!!

SUNNY DAYS ICE CREAM TRUCK is back for your Ice Cream enjoyment. Sunny days ice cream will drive around the community with your favorite novelty Ice cream treat for sale.

From 4pm- Dark or Sell out on the following dates:

December 10th, January 7th, February 4th, March 3rd, and April 14th

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# Can you make charitable giving less 'taxing'?

Once again, it's the season of generosity. In addition to considering gifts for your loved ones, you might want to think about charitable gifts as well. But what should you know before making gifts to charities? And what impact might these gifts have on your financial and tax situation?

First, you may want to create a gift budget by deciding just how much you will give to charitable organizations over the rest of the year.

Next, look closely at the groups to whom you wish to contribute. You can find many reputable charities, but some others may be less worthy of your support. One of the red flags of a questionable organization is the amount of money it spends on administrative costs versus the amount that goes to its stated purpose.

You can check on the spending patterns of charitable groups, and find other valuable information about them, on the well-regarded Charity Navigator website ([charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)).

Once you've established a gift budget and are comfortable with the groups you choose to support, you might turn your thoughts to another key issue connected with charitable giving: tax benefits. A few years ago, changes in the tax laws resulted in a large increase in the standard deduction, which meant that many taxpayers found it more favorable not to itemize — and lost the ability to take charitable deductions. But if you still do itemize, your charitable gifts or contributions to tax-exempt groups — those that qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations — can generally be deducted, up to 60% of your adjusted gross income, although lower limits may apply, depending on the nature of your gift and the organization to which you're contributing.

Other, more long-term avenues also exist that combine charitable giving with potential tax benefits. One such possibility is a donor-advised fund, which allows you to make an irrevocable charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. You can give cash, but if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, your tax deduction would be the fair market value of the assets, up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Plus, you would not incur the capital gains tax that would otherwise be due upon the sale of these assets. Once you establish a donor-advised fund, you have the flexibility to make charitable gifts over time, and you can contribute to the fund as often as you like.

Another possible tax benefit from making charitable contributions could arrive when you start taking required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and 401(k). These RMDs could be sizable — and distributions are counted as taxable income. But by taking what's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can move money from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charitable organization, possibly satisfying your RMD, which then may be excluded from your taxable income. You must start taking RMDs at 73 but you can begin making QCDs of up to \$100,000 per year as early as age 70½. (This amount will be indexed for inflation after 2023.)

Establishing a donor-advised fund and making qualified charitable distributions are significant moves, so you'll need to consult with your tax advisor first.

But if they're appropriate for your situation, they may help you expand your ability to support the charitable groups whose work you admire.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Advisor. Edward Jones, member SIPC*



**Adam Hromiak, AAMS™, CRPC™**

Financial Advisor

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*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consider your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

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**DEL TURA HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**  
**DEC. 8TH 5-7 PM • DEC. 9TH 9AM-2 PM**

Get your shopping bags ready, because the 2023 annual Del Tura Holiday Craft Fair is going to be the best one yet! We have 60 local vendors, with close to 1/3 of them being fellow Del Turians. They will be bringing with them unique hand-made craft items such as ceramics, glass, jewelry, wood, pottery, wearable and decorative sewn, crocheted and knitted items, holiday decorations, sports items and much, much more. With so many creative gift options, the Del Tura Craft Fair is a perfect opportunity to knock out some of that special occasion and holiday shopping, while supporting local small business crafters.

Come, bring a friend, enjoy getting together with neighbors, stroll through the vendors' creations to find those special gifts (located throughout all of the ballrooms), and take some chances on the beautiful hand-made items at the Raffle Table. All proceeds go directly to Partners for Breast Cancer Care.

**Holiday Craft Fair**  
 Del Tura Golf & Country Club

**DEC 8th, 2023 5-7 (Open to Del Tura Residents Only)**  
**DEC 9th, 2023 9-2 (Open to the Public)**

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**TICKET PRICE: \$15 (THEATRE SEATING)**

I found this play that I think everyone will enjoy. I have a great cast who are excited to start work on this production. They will make you laugh, it also has pathos mixed in. It is suitable for all ages and genders so ladies bring your husbands, boyfriends, partners and have a fun evening with us.

**TICKETS GO ON SALE JANUARY 30TH AT COFFEE HOUR AND IN THE CLUB HOUSE LOBBY ON THURSDAYS FROM 4- 5 PM (First day of sales for HOA members only)**  
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# SPOTLIGHT ON BARRY AND SHERRY PLISCH

By Stewart Williams

When we bought our home in Del Tura in 2004, one of the first couples we met was Barry and Sherry Plisch. Barry is retiring this December from being our "Gatekeeper" and ex-Rover, usually on Fridays and Saturdays, but fills in on other days too. He has greeted all of us since 2004 and helped to protect our community and keep us safe. You might want to say a word of appreciation and if you see him on December 7th, you can also wish him a Happy Birthday! Barry is a walker and is often seen walking through Del Tura. Over the years, he has picked up over 1,000 nails, screws, etc. and has no doubt saved many of us from getting a flat tire. As a U.S. Navy veteran, Barry has participated in Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

His wife, Sherry, is a valued community leader and volunteer. She has been a member of FISH and was the co-chair along with Rick Rudzik of the Del Tura Fruit Tree Project, which donated thousands of pounds of fruit, from our trees to food banks in the Fort Myers area every year. She also

co-chairs the Save Our Strays program, along with Karen Azza, which helps to maintain a healthy feral cat population in the community. Barry has been right by her side in both of these efforts and I cannot tell you how many hours they put in on a weekly basis. Basically, two really nice people doing so much, usually behind the scenes, to make Del Tura the great community it is.



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**DEL TURA SHUFFLEBOARD LEAGUE** *By Glenn Tointon*

This year's Friday shuffleboard league has increased to twenty teams plus nine substitutes. We added several new teams as well as keeping us "old timers." New to the league this year are: Dave and Nicki Ackerman, Chuck and Becky Troeller, Denny Major, and Jim Ashe. The following new subs are: Ron Abascal, Dee Izzo, Rolando Tecun, Mark Dietrich, Vito Sinicropl, Brenda Snyder, and Sandy Stagily. If you wish to become a sub please call or text me at 920-309-1294 as we would love to have you join us.

For those of you new to Del Tura, shuffleboard IS NOT just for old people! In fact, many states have shuffleboard leagues for kids as young as nine. Once you truly learn the game, you will find there are special set ups, blocking, when to score and when to play defense, planning shots ahead, and so much more. It definitely

is a fun and exciting game. So much so that several Del Turians play at the county in pro/am tournaments. In fact, we have three pro's living right here in Del Tura who travel all over the state weekly to play in tournaments.

Come watch us or come join us. We have free play every Tuesday at 2:30 and our league is every Friday at 10:00. If you come on Tuesday there are several who will help you learn the game if you haven't played before. All are welcome (even you kids under 60!).

Congratulations goes out to Judy Lessard and Mariannella Tamayo as they placed 3rd and 4th respectively in the amateur single tournament held at Lee County on January 13-14. Way to go girls! Also participating from Del Tura were Marcella Carothers, Deb Morman, Glenn Tointon, and Martha Annessansley. All did very well.

**DEL TURA BOWLING** *By Cindy Baron*

Hello from Bolero Coral, the new name of Bowland Cape Coral. The Del Tura bowling league began league play on Tuesday October 31. We play Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 and are beginning our new season with 12 teams. This is a fun league with bowlers of all skill levels and is a great afternoon to spend

with friends and enjoy the sport of bowling.

If you would like to participate, subs are always needed. League officers are Denise Rose, Cindy Baron and Sue Brown. If you are interested in additional information, please contact Denise Rose at 816-222-6466.

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E & M Mech.



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 <b>Del Tura Contact Info</b>		
Choralaires	Janelle Shallenberger	765-437-2130
Coffee Hour - Tues. AM coordinator	Kathy Williamson	239-825-5708
Librarian	Barb Jones	239-543-6922
Del Tura Repertory Company	Jacque Keen	239-464-5544
Entertainment Committee Chair	Dot Barilla Lynn Brenfleck	239-850-2306 603-738-1001
Fish Medical Equipment Loans		239-997-3474
Loan Closet (Cots, Pack-N-Play, High Chairs, etc.)	Denise Rose Sandy Vassallo	815-222-6466 248-755-1176
FISH - Friends in Service Here	Laura Dritt	630-759-1757
FMO Membership	Susan Bell	714-454-9972
Front Gate Guard	Barbara Schmolze	239-731-2523
HOA Membership Tech	Cindy Brinton	267-642-6477
HOA Membership	HOA Office	239-731-3461
HOA Office - Clubhouse Lobby	Ruth Ann Blevins Tuesday after Coffee until 12pm Wednesday 8 am-12pm Thursday 4pm-6pm	239-220-9381
HOA GROUNDS Committee	Darlene Fincham	delturagrounds@yahoo.com
Homeowners' Issues/Grievances	Clubhouse Office	239-731-3433
Memorials	Kathy Williamson	239-825-5708
Name Tags	Wendy Wells	309-264-9147
Save Our Strays/ Feral Cat Information "SOS"	Sherry Plisch Karen Azza	239-707-5613 239-220-0563
Outdoor Electronic Billboard	Cindy Brinton	267-642-6477
Tower - Advertising - BrionPalmer@yahoo.com	Brion Palmer	941-312-0665
Tower - Editor	Leigh Anne Lawson	740.503.0085
Tower - Distribution Chairperson	Sue Brown	847-531-3726
Tower - Distribution Coordinators	Dan Larson Sue Larson	763-360-3193 763-360-3192
Veterans: Bricks 4 Vets	Jeff Meehan	651-398-6964
Welcome Committee	Sherry Cottini	239-770-7711
<b>Lighting &amp; Sound</b>		
Lighting Coordinator	Art Keen	210-279-2093
Sound Coordinator	Art Keen	210-279-2093

Please send changes to Dennis Cottini 847-707-1435 or dcottini@comcast.net

**NON-EMERGENCY CALLS - SHERIFF'S DEPT. (239) 477-1000**

**SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

News Items for "The Tower" – Please email article, flyer, and photos (if any) to: [dttoweredit@gmail.com](mailto:dttoweredit@gmail.com)

**THE HOA WEBSITE - [www.deltura-hoa.com](http://www.deltura-hoa.com)**

To have events listed on the HOA Website and/or the Electronic sign please email flyer, photos (if any) & text for electronic sign to:

**Website Content: [dttechsvcs@delturahoa.com](mailto:dttechsvcs@delturahoa.com)**

**Electronic Board: [dttechsvcs@delturahoa.com](mailto:dttechsvcs@delturahoa.com)**

**HOA BOARD INFORMATION**

**Dorothy Cook, President - (2026)**  
614-499-1864, [dcook2023@yahoo.com](mailto:dcook2023@yahoo.com)

**Art Keen, Director (2024)**  
210-279-2093, [arkeen3@gmail.com](mailto:arkeen3@gmail.com)

**Cindy Baron, Vice President (2025)**  
603-398-8001, [cbaron50@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaron50@yahoo.com)

**Kathy Williamson, Director (2025)**  
239-825-5708, [toocheep2call@aol.com](mailto:toocheep2call@aol.com)

**Darlene Fincham, Treasurer (2026)**  
609-617-6869, [Darlene.Fincham@gmail.com](mailto:Darlene.Fincham@gmail.com)

**Lisa Bellanca, Director - (2025)**  
847-833-3258, [llbellanca@comcast.net](mailto:llbellanca@comcast.net)

**Dave Tomaszewski, Secretary (2024)**  
586-567-9290, [justforfun300803@yahoo.com](mailto:justforfun300803@yahoo.com)

**Irma Backelant, Director (2024)**  
303-501-0491, [irmabackelant@gmail.com](mailto:irmabackelant@gmail.com)

**HOA office on 609 Sierra Madre reopened Sept. 5th**

**HOA OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY . . . . . 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
TUESDAY . . . . . After Coffee - noon  
WEDNESDAY . . . . . 9:00am - noon  
THURSDAY . . . . . 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
FRIDAY . . . . . 9:00am - noon  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY . . . . . Closed  
Should you need assistance contact Ruth Ann Blevins (239) 220-9381

**HOA ADDRESS: 609 Sierra Madre  
239-731-3461**

**THE TOWER EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Editor**

Leigh Anne  
Lawson

**Distribution Coordinators**

Dan Larson,  
and Sue Larson

**Staff**

Darlene Fincham  
Dennis Cottini

**Distribution Group**

Mark Donahue, Steve Fincham,  
Sandy Rolando, Sandy Vassallo,  
Patty Large, Karen Miller  
and Sue Larson

**HOA Website**

Cindy Brinton

**Distribution Chairperson**

Sue Brown

And 60+ Delivery Volunteers

HOA Liaison: **HOA President**

*Many thanks to all the volunteer residents who have donated their time to "The Tower".*

*We are looking for more volunteers. Please Help!*

**DID YOU KNOW...**

If an HOA sponsored committee holds a fundraiser, it is raising funds for that committee only. All proceeds, after expenses, are deposited into that committee's financial account for that committee's use. HOA acts as the banker only and can provide all income and expense details.

*The Del Tura Phone Book is not compiled by "The Tower". It is produced by Hometown America. Please contact the HTA office (Carol Umberger) 239.938.6799 for errors and omissions.*

**GENTLE REMINDER**

Please be aware that when you hire an unlicensed/uninsured person to do work at your home, you accept the liability.



**FISH**

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

Anyone needing to borrow equipment from the Medical Equipment Loan Trailer. Contact FISH at 239-997-3474.

**NAME TAGS**

Any resident wishing to purchase a "Name Tag" may do so on Tuesday mornings at coffee, before the start of announcements, or call Wendy @ 309-264-9147.

A name tag with magnet backing is \$8.00, cash only.

Tags are normally available for pickup the following week.

**Tower - Advertising**

**Publisher: Island Visitor Publishing**

To advertise in print, contact: Brion Palmer at 941-312-0665 or email us at [BrionPalmer@yahoo.com](mailto:BrionPalmer@yahoo.com)

Contributing writers are acknowledged with bylines accompanying their submissions. Attribution for photos are not included unless supplied. We sincerely thank everyone for their contributions. Your articles help showcase the strong and diverse community that makes up Del Tura.

*The Tower* is published monthly from October through May. Summer issues are condensed: June/July and August/September. All ads are subject to the approval of the publisher. It is the responsibility of the party placing any ad for publication in *The Tower* to meet all applicable legal requirements in connection with the ad such as compliance with town, county and state codes in first obtaining an occupational license for business, permitted home occupation, or residential rental property.

**DISCLAIMER: Please be aware that when you hire an unlicensed/uninsured person to do work at your home, you accept the liability. Island Visitor Publishing is not responsible for claims made by advertisers.**

**DEL TURA GARDEN CLUB** *By Sandy Gove*

The LADIES' TEA is now a pleasant memory, and Garden Club is grateful for the positive response to its first Tea event. We hope all who attended enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having it. The committee appreciates the contributions and efforts from its members as well as the help and support from spouses, friends and HOA. We were delighted to have a wonderful trio of musicians: Teresita Weber (harpist), Janelle Shallenberger (flute) and Janet Keller (flute) who provided the lovely music for our event.

UPCOMING CLASS: If you're wondering "What shrubs should I plant?", Rosemary's class Recommended Shrubs for Del Tura-33903 on December 11, is for you! The class begins at 1:00 pm in the Card Room. Featured will be 35 shrubs that do well in our area, are not invasive, messy or high maintenance, as well as some that are wind resistant and natives that are beneficial to the environment, along with other favorites. Register for the class with Rosemary at Tuesday Coffee or contact her at Rosemary\_eiden@comcast.net.

**GARDEN CLUB BUS DAY TRIP TO SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS on FEBRUARY 16, 2024**

SAVE THIS DATE! JANUARY 16TH, the deadline to reserve your seat for the Garden Club's bus tour February 16 to the Grand Opening of the expanded Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in downtown Sarasota. Karen Toothman and Rosemary Eiden will lead this bus tour from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Fill out the Registration Form below and select your lunch with Rosemary\_Eiden@comcast.net or reserve your seat with Rosemary at Tuesday Coffee until the deadline. Fees will be collected prior to the January 16 deadline. Remember, a day with a friend on a bus trip is always a fun thing to do. Boasting 15 acres on beautiful bayfront property, Selby offers eight greenhouses and more than 20,000 plants. Best known for its collection of 6,000 orchids, it is the only U.S. garden to specialize in epiphytes or "air plants", and forward-thinking environmental conservation. Stroll at your own pace, relax in a peaceful Banyan grove or enjoy the variety of colorful plants. Please sign up early to guarantee a seat.

**Itinerary 50 Seat Bus!**

**Deadline for reservations: Jan. 16th, 2024 at Tuesday coffee.**

- 8:45 am Check-in, lower clubhouse parking lot
- 9:00 am Board Bus for Selby Gardens
- 10:30-12:30 pm Tour of Selby Gardens on your own
- 12:30 pm Lunch at the Selby Cafe
- 1:00 pm Time for shopping
- 1:45 pm Check-in with the bus
- 2:00 pm Board Bus for Del Tura
- 3:00 pm Arrival at Del Tura

\$80/pp includes bus rental, bus driver tip, Selby admission, Lunch box at Selby Cafe, water & snacks

\$65/pp includes all above and bring your own lunch

\$57/pp includes all above minus membership fee\*

\*Membership to Selby includes: Naples Botanical, Edison, & Pease River Botanical.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024**

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**Sunday, December 31, 2023**  
**Starlight Ballroom @ 8:00 PM**  
**Doors Open @ 7:30 PM**

**Ticket Sales**  
 HOA Members \$10 ... Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> ..... @ 7:30 AM  
 Non – HOA ..... \$12 ... Tuesdays, December 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 AM

**Box Office in Clubhouse Lobby**  
 Thursdays, December 14<sup>th</sup> , 21<sup>st</sup> , 28<sup>th</sup> From 6:00 to 7:00 PM

HOA Sponsored – No Refunds  
 For more information, call Lynn Brenfleck 603-738-1001

**DEL TURA TOWER DELIVERY INFORMATION**

**When can I expect to receive the Tower?**  
 (10 issues, June/July and August/September are combined issues)  
 The Tower is delivered to the HOA Office or designated location the last Wednesday or Thursday of the month. The papers are then placed in packets, divided into routes and distributed to Deliverers, who then deliver the papers to their assigned addresses. If you do not receive your paper by Monday please contact the distribution group: Sue Brown (847-531-3726), Sue Larson (763-360-3192); Dan Larson (763-360-3193). NOTE only HOA members receive the Tower.

**From your Tower Distribution Group**  
 FYI: For those of you who are curious on when and how the Tower is delivered to you, this is taken from the Tower Distribution section of the HOA Policies and Procedures. Remember, the printer sets the delivery date and we aren't notified until the day before they deliver to us. Also, all these (approximately 50) people, Distributors and Deliverers are VOLUNTEERS.

**Tower Distribution--**  
 e. The Tower is delivered to the HOA Office or designated location from the publisher on or about the last Wednesday or Thursday of the month. This will vary depending if the first falls towards the end of the week or holidays may affect the delivery day.

f. Following The Tower delivery the Distribution Chairperson and Coordinators count and place the papers into packets per the assigned delivery quantities along with the delivery list. The packets are placed in containers along with the list of Deliverers for the Distributors. The Coordinators call the Distributors to notify them their containers are ready for pickup. The Distributors deliver the packets to the assigned Deliverers, after which the containers are to be returned to the assigned location. The Deliverers deliver the papers to address listed on delivery list. The papers should be delivered no later than the following Monday.

The Tower Distribution Group; Sue Brown (847-531-3726), Sue Larson (763-360-3192); Dan Larson (763-360-3193). Please contact us if you have any distribution or delivery issues, we can answer the questions, Facebook can not.

**NOTE TO ALL TOWER DELIVERERS:**  
 1st: Thank You for all the deliveries you have made.  
 2nd: Your January baggie will be full of Towers, one for every address on your route. Everybody gets to enjoy the January Tower!

**DIVAS 3**

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

**Ticket Sales**  
 HOA Members \$22 ..... Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30 AM  
 Non-HOA Members \$24 ..... January 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 AM

**Box Office in Clubhouse Lobby**  
 Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> , 11<sup>th</sup> , 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 7:00 PM

HOA Sponsored – No Refunds  
 For more information call Lynn Brenfleck 603-738-1001

HOA Tower Delivery Mailing Information

If you would like to have your Tower mailed to another address while you are away from Del Tura please complete this form and mail it or turn it in to the HOA office at 609 Sierra Madre with payment in full for the number of issues you want mailed.

The cost of mailing the Tower is USA \$2.55/Canada \$3.50 per issue. June/July and August/September are each one issue.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Del Tura Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

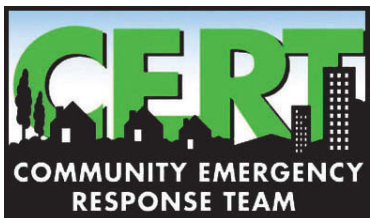
Address to mail Tower to: \_\_\_\_\_

Months you want the Tower mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (make checks out to Del Tura HOA)

**DEL TURA CERT** By Lisa Bellanca

We have made it through another Hurricane Season. That being said, you never know what mother nature will bring to SW Florida. Always be ready for the unexpected.



Please SAVE THE DATE! On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, your Del Tura CERT Team is hosting a 6 man/women team "Hit and Sit" Golf Tournament. We would love to fill all the spots. Not only will it be a fun day, but it is for a great cause. Our goal is to purchase a community trailer to keep all of our community emergency equipment in.

If you have any questions, would you like to join the Del Tura Cert team, or have questions or suggestions please contact Bertie Dugo at 617-974-8502.

# HALLOWEEN PARTY COSTUME CONTEST By Elizabeth Wilkerson



**Best Single Costume:**  
Jilly Dodds  
"One Night Stand"



**Best Couples Costume:**  
George Divis, Laurie Divis  
"Mad Hatter, Queen Of Hearts"



**Best Group Costume:**  
Dusty Laurie, Glen Holmes, Jacky Wendorf, Jack Wendorf, Karen Handley, Mark Donahue "Roller Coaster"

*This year's Halloween Party featured some very creative and fun-loving Del Tura residents!*



*Two of our renowned and illustrious leaders!  
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and Scrumptious Dorothy Cook!*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

**MARCH 30 | 6 MAN HIT & SIT**  
SATURDAY 2024 | DEL TURA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

REGISTRATION 7:30AM  
SHOTGUN START 8AM  
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

MEMBER	NON_MEMBER
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1:13 PM Mon Sep 4 48%

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## MEN'S GOLF *By Dan Haag, President DTMGA*

Hello fellow golfers! The season is officially underway with our first tournament in the books. The President's Cup was held in November and 73 golfers signed up to participate. As of this writing I don't know who the winners are but we will announce it in the January Tower, hopefully with some pictures of the winners in each category. We held our first board meeting and general membership meeting of the season in early November. An election was held for the Vice President and we want to welcome Tom Adgate as our new Vice President! Butch Webb, the new General Manager of the Golf Course, came to the meeting and spoke about updates and plans that will be put in motion this season. Jason Noel, the Grounds Superintendent, also came to the meeting and spoke about plans for the golf course.

The next general membership meeting will be in the Starlight Ballroom, December 6th at noon. We would like all members to try to attend and bring their thoughts and ideas.

Our next big golf event will be the ever popular Jack and Jill! This is a fun 2 days of golf for couples, both 9 hole and 18 hole categories. The dates are January 3rd and 4th, 2024. The sign up sheets (9 and 18) will be in the 'Dungeon' starting mid December. An email will be sent out to all members when they are posted.

If you are a member of the DTMGA and not receiving emails please let me know. Also, please mark your calendars for the Awards Banquet and Dinner! It is being held in the Starlight Ballroom the evening of January 13, 2024. The cost for the dinner is still to be determined and an email will be sent with details when sign ups begin. Sign ups for the dinner will be in the Pro Shop. If you would like to join our association, either 9 holes or 18, all you need is a current handicap and a \$25 check for the annual membership. Please take your check to the Pro Shop. Any questions? Please don't hesitate to call or text me at 614-206-9002.

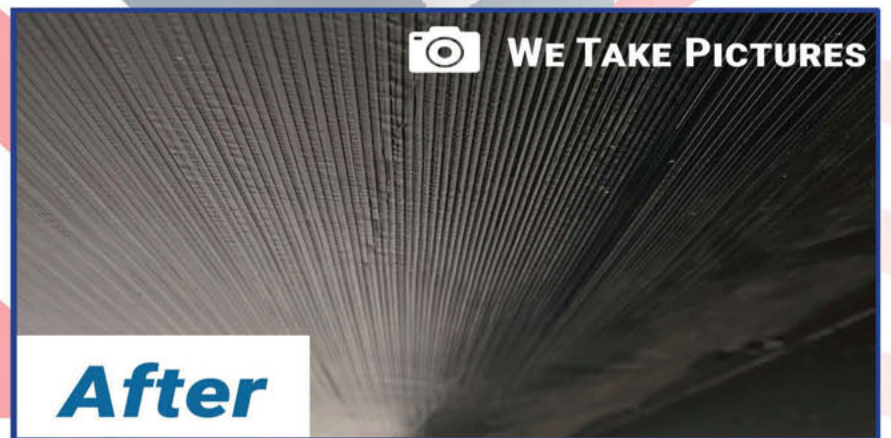


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# DAILY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

The Daily Activity Schedule is updated on a monthly basis. Contact Dennis Cottini, [dcottini@comcast.net](mailto:dcottini@comcast.net), or Leigh Anne Lawson, [dttoweredit@gmail.com](mailto:dttoweredit@gmail.com) with any changes prior to the 10th of each month.

Activity	Location	Contact	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Exercise</b>									
Tai Chi		Bonnie Carrol 309-454-4329	8:00-9:00		8:00-9:00		8:00-9:00		
Tap Dancing	Starlight Ballroom	Deb Cali 239-567-2925				11:45-12:45			
Tura Zumba / Dance Fitness	Starlight Ballroom	Adele Guthreau 973-865-8336	9:00-10:00		9:00-10:00		9:00-10:00		
Water Arthritis (Nov-Apr)	Main Pool	Laura Strickland, Certified Water Arthritis Instructor, 614-805-2173		10:00-11:00		10:00-11:00		10:00-11:00	
Water Aerobics	North Pool	Betty Scheetz 609-477-9147	11:00-12:00		11:00-12:00		11:00-12:00		
Water Noodle Aerobics	North Pool	Marylou Buss 612-718-7878		11:00-12:00		11:00-12:00			7:00 PM
Water Walking	North Pool	Marylou Buss; 617-718-7878	8:00-11:00	8:00-11:00	8:00-11:00	8:00-11:00	8:00-11:00	8:00-11:00	8:00-11:00
Yoga Relaxation	Starlight Ballroom	Dea Wells 283-5603			10:30 - 11:30		10:30 - 11:30		
<b>Sports</b>									
Billiards, Men's	Billiards Room	Ernie Page 239-599-4272	1:00-3:00						
Billiards, Women's (Nov-Apr)	Billiards Room	Ann DeGrande 989-2206			6:30-9:30				
Bocce (Nov-April)	Bocce Ball Court	Peggy Terrasi 603-236-2209 <a href="mailto:peggyterras@gmail.com">peggyterras@gmail.com</a>	4:00 PM						
Bocce and Burgers (All Year)	Bocce Ball Court	Janet DeCosmo 239-776-9161							4:00
Bowling Mixed League (Nov-Mar)	Bowlero Coral on Santa Barbara	Denise Rose 815-222-6466		1:20					
Bowling For Fun	Bowlero Coral on Santa Barbara	Barb Green 302-463-7577						2:00	
Golf, Men's 18 Hole League		Bill Gronek 810-990-5878			8:00				
Golf, Men's 9 Hole League		Bart De Graaf 239-599-4404			8:00				
Golf, Women's 18 Hole League		Margie Blackwell 239-789-8060				8:30			
Golf, Women's 9 Hole League		Kathy Klein 715-927-1163				8:30			
Horseshoes	Horseshoe Court	Del Tura is in search of a Horseshoe Activity Contact. Playing time is TBD. Please contact Dennis Cottini							
Pickleball	Pickleball Court	Janice Dodge 608-225-5227	open play	open play	open play	open play	open play	open play	open play
Pickleball Practice	Pickleball Court			5:00		5:00			5:00
Ping Pong	Jacaranda Room	Joe Rivera 631-786-6430				2:00 - 4:00			
Shuffleboard, Fun Couples	Shuffleboard Court	Darlene Brinker 586-431-0022	7:00 PM						
Shuffleboard, Traveling Team (Dec-Mar)		Glenn Tointon 920-309-1294			12:30				
Shuffleboard Open (Oct-Mar)	Shuffleboard Court	Judy Lessard 239-217-0924		2:30					
Shuffleboard Open (Apr-Sept)	Shuffleboard Court	Judy Lessard 239-217-0924		10:00 AM			10:00 AM		
Softball	Punta Gorda	Jim Hamilton 208-313-1321	5:30		5:30				
Tennis, Mixed, Open		Alice Harmon 954 478 4033 <a href="mailto:allieoop33@gmail.com">allieoop33@gmail.com</a>	8:00-10:00		8:00-10:00		8:00-10:00	8:00-10:00	
<b>Games</b>									
Bingo, doors open at 6:00pm, sales end at 6:45pm (Oct-Mar) (HOA Sponsored)	Starlight Ballroom	Jack & Janet Blevons 731-0892				7:00-9:30			
Bingo (all year)	Starlight Ballroom	Liz Poniatowski 800-2935	11:00-12:00						
Bridge, Duplicate	Jacaranda Room	Connie Larson 239-768-3316			1:00-4:00				
Bunco, (*All year, 1st & 3rd Wed of each month)	Poinciana Ballroom	Patty Large 559-285-2389			6:00-8:30				
Canasta	Jacaranda Room	Jean Cornwell 239-731-1580		1:00-4:00					
Dominoes	Royal Palm Room	Ruth Anten 997-9779			5:30-9:30				
Euchre	Poinciana Room	Marcella Carothers 239-233-6153		7:00-9:00					
Farkle	Poinciana Ballroom	Ruth Anten 997-9779	6:00-9:00						
Hand, Knee & Foot Card Game	Poinciana Room	Claire McNair 508-344-9920	12:45-4:00		12:45-4:00		12:45-4:00		
Left Center Right	Poinciana Room	Donna Henriques 239-540-1204	2nd & 4th Wed from 6:00 - 8:00 pm						
Mahjong	Jacaranda Room	Jean Cornwell 239-731-1580	1:00-4:00						
Mahjong	Card Room II	Pat Steele 863-446-2685				6:00			
Mahjong	Card Room I	Dianne Bevilacqua 567-2234		1:00-5:00					
Mahjong	Jacaranda Room	Ruth Anten 997-9779		6:00					
May I Card Game	Royal Palm Room	Jane Sheaffer 330-201-6128			1:00-4:00				
Mexican Train	Jacaranda Room	Barbara Turner 301-367-0917					1:00-4:00		
Pinochle	Jacaranda Room	Marcella Carothers 239-233-6153			6:45-10:00				Friday w/Claire McNair 508-344-9920
Rummi-kub	Jacaranda Room	Jean Cornwell 239-731-1580			1:00 - 4:00				
Samba	Royal Palm Room	Sandy Vassallo 248-755-1176 OR Debbie Welty 239-229-3928			1:00 - 4:00		12:45-4:00		
Texas Hold 'Em	Card room 1	Mark Clover 239-980-3964	3:00		3:00		3:00		
<b>Other Activities and Clubs</b>									
Blood Pressure Readings (before coffee)	Starlight Ballroom	Marcella Carothers 239-233-6153		8:00-9:00					
Card Making (Oct-April)	Royal Palm Room	Mary Kay Tointon 920-309-2121 Gay Dye 614-519-8045			9:00-12:00				
Ceramics	Across from bocce court	Ruth Ann Blevins 239-220-9381	9:00-12:00		9:00-12:00		9:00-12:00		
Choralaires, (Sep-Mar)	Starlight Ballroom	Janelle Shallenberger, 765-437-2130		6:30					
Coffee & Social Hour	Starlight Ballroom	Kathy Williamson 239-825-5708		8:00					
Creative Writers Group	Royal Palm Room	Nancy Davy 239-599-4631	4:00 PM						
Garden Club, (*1st Friday of month)	Jacaranda Room	Rosemary Eiden 813-220-9269					10:00-11:00		
Good Timers, (*1st Tuesday of month)	Starlight Ballroom	Sandra Boykin 410-491-8824		4:00*					
Library, open every day	Clubhouse, Lower Level	Barb Jones 239-543-6922 Kathleen Quigley 239-543-1067							
Quilting/Sewing Club	Starlight Ballroom	Wendy Wells 309-264-9147		After Coffee until 3:00					
Wood Carving (Nov-May)	Ceramic Room	Bernie Forsey 239-217-6024	9:00-12:00						

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## REFLECTIONS

By Dianne J. Roderick

### Reflecting on Life's Humorous Side Part Two

Happy December Everyone! Last month I shared some humorous moments of my sometimes crazy life with you and I thought that this would be a good time to share another one of my "Lucy Moments" stories with you. This story takes place a few years later.

We were now a family of four and needed to find a larger tenement. We were lucky to find one on the same street. Three bedrooms and a yard for the children. We were in Heaven! It was so spacious, with very high ceilings and a beautiful bay window in the parlor. The perfect place for our Christmas Tree! We were so excited!! I couldn't wait!! This would be the most perfect Christmas!

Off we went with our little family to the country Christmas Tree farm. We saw many pretty trees. Then we saw the most beautiful evergreen that we had ever seen! Okay, maybe I might be exaggerating, but just a little. It towered over all the others and was as full as it was tall. There was no doubt. This was our tree! After securing it to the top of our station wagon we couldn't wait to get it home and place it on its stand. And then this happened.

It seemed that the ceilings that we thought were nine feet tall seemed to be a bit shorter so we needed to take a bit off the top so to speak. Not a problem. That's an easy fix! Right? Wrong! That was just a tip of the iceberg. We now needed to get it into the stand. And it was here that all the beauty of that tree turned ugly. It seemed that the trunk was just a bit too thick for our stand so my husband decided he would shave some of it and all would be fine. All I needed to do was hold that tree steady while he was underneath with his trusty saw. That's when I began to feel a bit uneasy and felt a "Lucy Moment" coming on. It may have been a good idea if I was as strong as Paul Bunyan but as you already know from my previous story, holding onto things isn't my best strength. Add two distracting toddlers to the mix and ... you guessed it!

The monstrous tree toppled over, swallowing him up in no time. The worst part of all was there was no sound, or movement coming from underneath at all. I thought oh my God I've killed my husband! As I frantically searched through the branches, hoping that wasn't the case, I finally came across his twisted glasses and then heard him murmur as he was coming to.

Continued on page 24

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# AT-THE-HYDRANT

By Justine Fitzgibbons

With so many new homeowners and renters, it is very important for pet owners (as well as non-pet owners) to be aware of the following **WARNING!**

### The Cane Toad or "Bufo" marinus

Also known as the giant or marine toad, cane toads have the distinction of being on the Global Invasive Species Database of "The 100 World's Worst Invasive Species" and are here in Del Tura!!

Their potent poison is contained in glands in the skin and in the immense parotid glands on each shoulder. These toads are poisonous in all stages of their lives—as eggs, tadpoles, toadlets, and adults. The secretions of cane toads are highly toxic and can sicken or kill animals that bite or feed on them, including our precious cats and dogs. They have a bony head and bony ridges over the eyes. Their most distinctive feature is their parotid glands, a large swelling on each shoulder behind the "ears" and extending down the sides that contain the toxin. Their body is usually covered with warts that are tipped with small spines that also discharge toxin. Males are "wartier" than females and some females do not have any warts. Young cane toads lack conspicuous parotid glands. The toads respond to threats by turning sideways so that the parotid glands are directed toward the attacker. The toxin usually oozes out of the glands, but it can be squirted in a spray for a short distance. The toxin also is released when pressure is applied to the glands such as results from an animal such as a dog or cat taking it in its mouth. The milky white toxin is absorbed through the dog or cat's eyes, mouth, and nose. In humans it can cause intense pain, temporary blindness, and inflammation.

There are various instructions on eliminating these toads on the internet (euthanasia being the number one deterrent) or various repellants or even local exterminating businesses.



IF YOUR PET IS SPRAYED or if you think that your pet has come into contact with a bufo toad, immediately rinse out your pet's mouth with a soaking wet washcloth several times to remove any toxin from the mouth. Thoroughly wipe out the insides of the lips and cheeks, as well as the gums on the outside of the teeth. Seek veterinary assistance immediately.

Let's all keep an eye out for these invasive poisonous creatures and do what we can to eliminate them from Del Tura and keep our pets safe!

*If you have a pet story you would like to share about your dog, please email me at [jfitz818@aol.com](mailto:jfitz818@aol.com).*

*Please send a picture along with your story (300 words).*

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## 18 HOLE WOMEN'S GOLF

By Margie Blackwell

The fall season has begun for the 18 hole women's golf league and we are excited to welcome back all the seasonal players. In addition to welcoming new players to our league. This year there are a lot of fun and challenging games planned. We ended October with a Halloween scramble with several players wearing fun costumes. The most original costume was a fork in the road worn by Sandy Weddelton and the scariest worn by Pat Steele.

The 18 hole golfers enjoy playing 18 holes which takes about 3 hours. Every ability level is welcome to join. We have 4 flights with players that have different handicaps. You play against people with similar ability skills. On special game days, we mixed the flights so that you enjoy meeting all the different players in the league. The cost to join is \$35.00, which if you are new to the group you can

play November 1 and it will carry through until January of the following year. We often gather together after golf for refreshments in the pub.

The league plays on Thursdays at 8:00. If you are interested in joining please call Margie Blackwell 239-728-7546 or email her at mlbmargie@gmail.com. Come join the fun!



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# NINE HOLE WOMEN'S GOLF

By Nancy Ashe

It was a perfect day for our annual Couples Challenge on November 1, 2023.

West Course: The winners are:

- First Place: Greg and Martha Stockinger.
- Second Place: A tie for second place Don and Diane Skinner and Dave Liddle and Nan Walsh.

South Course The winners are:

- First Place Glen and Mary Kay Tointon.
- Second Place: Floyd and Mary Ann Light.

All players gathered in the Starlight Ballroom for a great dinner hosted by our Social Committee. A great day.



Mary Ann and Floyd Light



Mary Kay and Glenn Tointon



Nan Walsh and Dave Liddle



Diane and Don Skinner



Martha and Greg Stockinger



# BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS IN DEL TURA

Beginner Ballroom dance lessons will be offered on Mondays in January and February in the Starlight Ballroom from 5-6 pm beginning January 8, 2024.

Partners are not needed. Come and learn some basic beginner steps of popular dances that can be used on the dance floor of Del Tura.

For safety, please wear smooth soled shoes, no flip-flops.

Please contact Cindy or Ken Baron at 603-398-8001 with questions

Hope to see you in January!



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## THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO *By Jack Blevons*

Hello. Janet & I are happy to be back here to run our Thursday night Bingo again. We ran two nights in October & by the 2nd night we had more people coming & we hope as more snowbirds arrive, that will continue because the more people that come, the more money we can give away. With the holidays & craft fair in December we will only have Bingo on the 14th & 21st. In January we will be back to having it every Thursday night. Everything is the same as last year both for what it costs to play & also the times. Doors open at 6:00 & we sell game sheets until 6:45. Then we start playing at 7:00.

I do want to mention how much we appreciate all the help we are getting in both setting things up before we play & also taking everything down & putting it all away again. Also, for all you team members who help us run it. We couldn't do it without all your help in everything that we do each Thursday night. As long as we have all that help & HOA wants us, we will continue to run the HOA Bingo Thursday nights while we are here. So, keep coming to enjoy playing & like us, hoping we can win once in a while too.

~ Jack & Janet Blevons



## TUESDAY NIGHT EUCHRE

*By Marcella Carothers*

Come join us on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 in the Poinciana Room. Here are the latest winners from the past month.

10-24-23

1. Bruce Mars, 2. Tony Winn,  
3. Don Dowell, 4. Chic Palmer/Susan Arnold

10-10-23

1. Bruce Mars, 2. Jean Wiley

10-17-23

1. Jean Wiley, 2. Kathy Boesel,  
3. Bruce Mars

10-31-23

1. Darlene King, 2. John Thayer/Greg Roberts,  
3. Lynn Everett

- 11-7-23: 1. Bruce Mars, 2. Rita Elliot,  
3. Tony Winn/Darlene King

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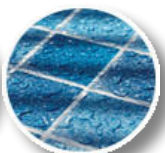


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# EX-GATE GABBER *By Michael Johnson*

## Meet Mr. Lucky... and Mr. Unlucky

My wife Margaret and I spent some time early in our marriage going to casinos and playing slot machines. It was a way to spend time together and enjoy each other's company. We lived about two hours from Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut and Foxwoods Casino also in Connecticut. We preferred Mohegan Sun. It was smaller and the general atmosphere was more friendly. There was a financial connection between Mohegan Sun and The Atlantis Casino on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Apparently, Mr. Kutcher was a financial backer for both casinos. Therefore, our host at Mohegan Sun was able to arrange occasional compensated stays at The Atlantis.

On one such visit I was entered in a slot tournament. There was a fancy dinner before the event, a wonderful luncheon the second day of the tournament and a final day's celebration, where winners would be named. As Margaret and I sat at our assigned table and began conversations with other members of the group sitting with us, there were about ten tables of ten people each. It was quite an event. As I started talking about how many points I had accumulated in the tournament I began to realize many of the other participants had fewer points. But, because there were so many people and I didn't have the opportunity to speak with all of

them I just thought I had more points than other people at our table. Well, the evening progressed and the announcements were upcoming. Margaret and I sat and waited. The winner was announced and it was not me. Oh well, there was still second and third place to be announced. The winner received \$15,000.00 US. Second place was \$10,000.00 and the second place winner was ME !!!! What a wonderful evening. What a wonderful surprise. It certainly made the remainder of our stay most enjoyable.

*~ Mr. Lucky!*

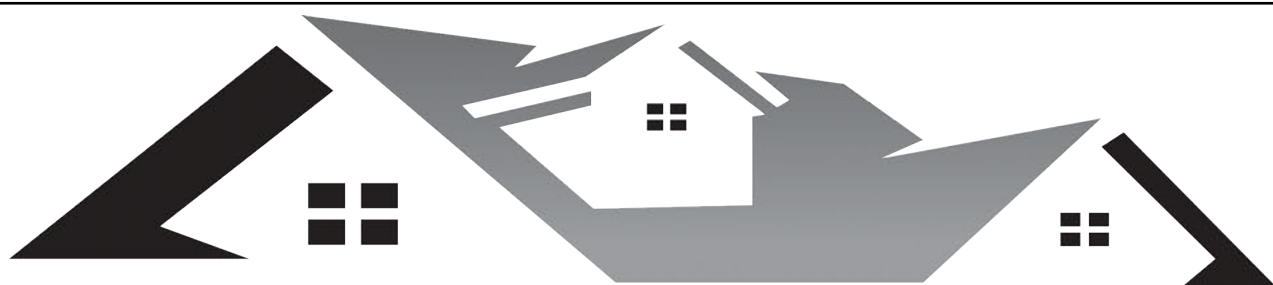
About 3 years later Margaret and I were at Mohegan Sun Casino. We were playing slot machines next to each other and enjoying the evening. Margaret asked if I'd like to go to the lounge across the hall and get a snack and a cocktail. I hesitated because I was doing well at the machine I was sitting at but I did join her in the lounge. We were there in the lounge for about fifteen minutes when I said I'd like to return to my machine and see if I could continue my lucky run. When we got back to the machines we noticed security around the machine I had been playing at and a young man with a cocktail in his hand and a huge smile on his face. He had just won the Progressive Jackpot of EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS! Margaret and I are still married. Happily married I might add. Poorer, but happily married! *~ Mr. Unlucky!*

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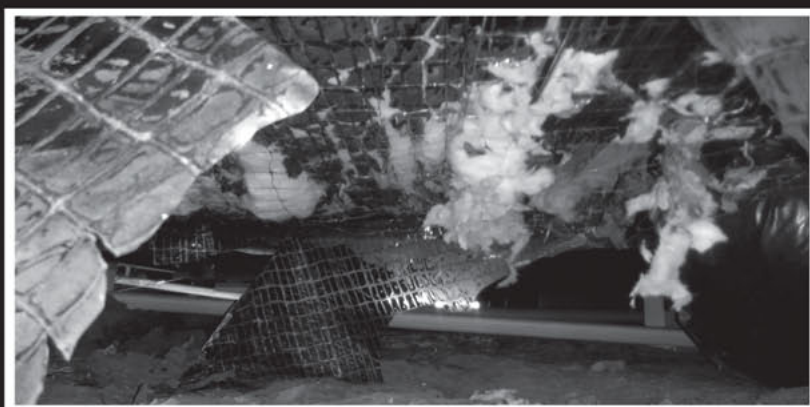
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# TENNIS AT DEL TURA *By Stuart Rosenthal*

This is our upcoming home schedule for play of our Women's Tennis teams at Del Tura as well as mixed tournaments and events here. Our Annual Meeting and elections of new officials will be held on Sunday January 7th at 1pm. There will be a Free catered event but you must be up to date on your annual dues AND sign up for it in the tennis room by Court 1 by December 26. By unanimous vote of your board, I will be responsible for the food!

More later...Best, Stuart Rosenthal, President of DTTA

### LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES HOME GAMES BY DATES

#### 2023-2024 SEASON DDTA HOUSE LEAGUES

Group 1: Every Fridays 8:30 - 10:30 am

Group 2: Every Tuesdays 9:00 - 11:00 am

Note: Del Tura leagues will stop as of Dec. 22, 2022 to start up again on Jan 9, 2023

#### PRACTICES:

Bronze/Swift Teams: Mondays 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

3.5- Team: Mondays 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Nickel Team: Mondays 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Up and Down tennis day and PotLuck: December 10, 2023 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Friendship Tournament: January 13 & 14, 2024 - 7:30am to 4:00 pm

Friendship Tournament: March 9 & 10, 2024- 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

#### SWIFT and LCWTL - TEAMS PLAYING IN DEL TURA

##### NOVEMBER:

- November 3, 2023 - 10:30 am, Lexington Slice Girls Nickel team
- November 8, 2023 - 10:30 am, Golf Harbour Racquettes Bronze team
- November 10, 2023 - 10:30 am, Pelican Landing Nickel team
- November 15, 2023 - 10:30 am, Crown Colony Bronze team
- November 16, 2023 - 10:00 am, Tara Woods SWIFT team
- November 17, 2023 - 10:30 am, Somerset Nickel team
- November 29, 2023 - 10:30 am, Pelican Preserve Bronze team

##### DECEMBER:

- December 1, 2023 - 10:30 am, Colonial Nickel team
- December 13, 2024 - 10:30 am, Kelly Greens 3.5 minus team
- December 13, 2023 - 12:00 pm, Lexington Volley Girls Bronze team
- December 14, 2023 - 10:00 am, Sabal Springs SWIFT team
- December 15, 2023 - 10:30 am, Heritage Cove Nickel team

##### JANUARY:

- January 10, 2024 - 10:30 am, Gateway 3.5 minus team
- January 17, 2024 - 10:30 am, Lexington 3.5 minus team
- January 18, 2024 - 10:00 am, Six Lakes SWIFT team
- January 24, 2024 - 10:30 am, Crown Colony 3.5 Minus team
- January 25, 2024 - 10:00 am, Herons Glen Volley Girls SWIFT team
- January 31, 2024 - 10:30 am, CCYC 3.5 Minus team

##### FEBRUARY:

- February 2, 2024 - 10:30 am, CCYC Nickel team
- February 7, 2024 - 10:30 am, Heritage Palms 3.5 minus team
- February 8, 2024 - 10:00 am, Pine Lakes SWIFT team
- February 14, 2024 - 10:30 am, Cross Creek Estates Bronze team
- February 15, 2024 - 10:00 am, Lake Fairways Hot Shots SWIFT team
- February 21, 2024 - 10:30 am, Pelican Reserve 3.5 Minus team
- February 23, 2024 - 10:30 am, Landings Nickel team
- February 28, 2024 - 10:30 am, Kelly Greens Bronze team

##### MARCH:

- March 1, 2024 - 10:30 am, Heritage Palms Nickel team
- March 8, 2024 - 10:30 am, Renaissance Nickel team
- March 6, 2024 - 10:30 am, Lexington Dream Team Bronze team
- March 13, 2024 - 10:30 am, Heritage Palms Bronze team
- March 20, 2024 - 10:30 am, Gulf Harbour 4 Love 3.5 minus team
- March 29, 2024 - 10:30 am, Lexington Racketeers Nickel team



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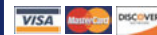
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# WRITER'S WORKSHOP

By Nancy Davy

We are enjoying this season's Creative Writers Workshop, and look forward to meeting on:

- Monday, December 11th at 4 pm in the Royal Palm Room
- Thursday, December 21st at 4 pm in the Royal Palm Room

If you'd like to join us as a new member, please text (607-769-5766) OR email me to let me know if you are interested. My email address is ndavy01@gmail.com You'll need to provide me with your name, your email address, and your cell phone number. Our challenge this time is a personal essay; a piece of writing that serves to describe an important lesson gathered from a writer's life experiences. The essay often describes a significant event from a first-person perspective, and can be done in various writing styles. I hope that you'll enjoy our submission by Nancy Ashe:

## EQUALITY by Nancy Ashe

Education is monumental in all our lives. As individuals, we learn differently at various times. As a young married woman, I was employed in the Trust Department of a large bank that offered many branch offices in our city. The work was demanding and important, as I was handling huge sums in various accounts along with stock certificates and all the activity it created. As time passed, I noted that my male counterparts, doing the exact same work, seemed to be earning a lot more income than I was earning. I accepted that fact, knowing they probably had more experience. I loved the work and the people around me, therefore I was thankful for the employment. Eventually, I ventured out to open a checking and savings account at another bank for privacy reasons. My visit to this bank was very short. I was prepared with income information and my impressive (or so I thought) accumulated savings from my earlier years that had my dad's name on the passbook along with mine. The bank employee was very pleasant; however, I was not able to open a bank account in my own name. I had to have a cosigner to activate the process. I gave in and opened a joint account with my husband. He never signed a check or paid a bill but apparently the bank assumed I wasn't capable. The following weekend, my sister-in-law, who was in her third year of nursing, needed to get a loan to purchase a newer vehicle to commute to work. The dealership demanded a co-signer on the loan specifically because she was a female. Naturally, we were happy to co-sign to help her out but of course my signature had no value. It had to be a male co-signer. Female friends experienced the exact same discrimination. If they were single and wanted to move into an apartment, it was mandatory to have a father, uncle or brother to co-sign. Please note, it was never a mother, sister or aunt. Very Discriminatory!!!!

Fortunately, my generation had enough and with tough breaks, many peaceful rallies and not so peaceful rallies, women who could prove their credit, solid income and occupation like a man were finally given the right to be their own person. There is still discrimination out there, but it's so much better than what the 70's had to offer. I am extremely proud of the women of my generation, who fought together to earn what should have been their right from the start.

My daughters cannot believe or understand what we endured. It may be the reason we married at younger ages than their generation.

I moved on and went into the finance world where your income came strictly from your output of company transactions. Yet the company I worked for was sued because, again, equal pay for transactions were less for females!!! As time passes and we see what is happening in our world today, I sincerely hope we do not fall back to the past. Most importantly, many countries in the 21st century are still denying equal rights to women in all areas of their lives.

I'm thankful to be an American. The mental capacity of a human being has nothing to do with their sex.

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Scott Lovrin	12/09 Mike Stephens	12/20 Wendy Smith
12/01 Mary Lou Cannata	12/10 Julia Guffey	12/22 David Lewis
12/01 Dorothy Barilla	12/10 Deb Hunter	12/22 Fred Domanski
12/01 Judi Urbanek	12/10 Jean Furlong	12/23 David Jacobs
12/02 Bruce Raymond	12/11 Victor Robitaille	12/24 Dave Toothman
12/02 Edward Ippolito	12/11 Brenda Bengé	12/24 John Moore
12/02 Helen Trout	12/11 Susan Koppenhofer	12/24 Donna Crawford
12/03 Sharon Carlson	12/11 Kathy Simmons	12/25 Linda Swartz
12/03 Teresa McConnell	12/12 Jan Mismas	12/25 Scott Gallup
12/03 Bob Dellar	12/12 Tina Sullivan	12/25 Bill Larion
12/03 Karen Hahn	12/12 Tom Ziegler	12/26 Bart DeGraaf
12/03 Debbie Welty	12/13 Charles Dearing	12/26 Jack Dunigan
12/04 Ray Hahn	12/13 Bobby Iwankow	12/26 Sandra Ptashinski
12/04 Bill Johnson	12/13 Brenda Blasie	12/27 Bryant Greer
12/04 Terry Henkel	12/13 Hilton Green	12/27 Jacquie Johnson
12/04 Stephanie Barney	12/13 Jane Larsh	12/28 Barie Fez-Barrington
12/04 Lorraine Thompson	12/14 Marc Morrison	12/28 Karl Muller
12/05 Robert Radosevich	12/14 Debbie Norton	12/28 Bev Swisher
12/05 Jim Miller	12/15 William Jones	12/28 Lauren Divis
12/05 Joan LeCause	12/15 Karen Farrar-Ledger	12/29 Stew Williams
12/06 Karen Guzzi	12/15 Nuno Hilton	12/29 Steve couwenhovsn
12/06 Andrew Halek	12/16 Larry Sim	12/29 Joyce Simmons
12/06 Sandy Rolando	12/16 Henry Shahar	12/29 Mary Fitzgerald
12/06 Jacqueline St-Jean	12/16 Shirley McGilvray	12/29 Sherri Kramerson
12/06 David Tomaszewski	12/17 Melinda Gallup	12/29 Carolyn Forsey
12/06 Ken Goulette	12/18 Joe Ptashinski	12/29 Donna Thake
12/06 Sue Douglass	12/18 Darlene Brinker	12/30 Francis Furlong
12/07 Linda Nakaishi	12/19 Bill Grimes	12/30 Jerry Pyle
12/07 Kim Manuel	12/19 Thomas Hayden	12/30 Pam Sergeichik
12/07 Patty Regulbuto	12/19 Joan Smith	12/30 Beverly Magnone
12/08 Jody Weigand	12/19 Sue Evans	12/30 Linda Campbell
12/08 Diane Brodsky	12/19 Jean Newquist	12/31 Rick Tobias
12/09 Carol Reynolds	12/20 Michael Abbitt	12/31 Lindy Sacuta-Baney
12/09 Cindy Danzinger	12/20 Linda Petersen	12/31 Mary Dold

# DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/02/06 Dave & Sue Frost, 17 years	12/13/91 Kevin & Anne Zimmerman, 32 years
12/02/61 Bill & Judy Michael, 62 years	12/14/01 Bob & Peggy Deems, 22 years
12/02/88 Debby & Dan Goodwin, 35 years	12/16/89 Ed & Nancy Fries, 34 years
12/03/05 Linda & Peter Moreton, 18 years	12/17/09 Vickie Rogers & Dan Rethman, 14 years
12/03/72 George & Marianne O'Malley, 51 years	12/18/71 Sharon & Bruce Hirschlein, 52 years
12/03/83 Mike & Barbara Newman, 40 years	12/21/91 Gilbert & Gail Lawrence, 32 years
12/6 Bill & Emily Mormann, ? Years	12/23/78 Curtis & Linda Nakaishi, 45 years
12/07/01 Victor Robitaille & Brenda Jacques, 22 years	12/24/90 Dan & Wendy Smith, 33 years
12/07/74 Tony & Karen Durand, 49 years	12/25/13 Mickey Lange & Kristy Watson, 10 years
12/08/20 Mike Raymer & Nancy Joseph, 3 years	12/28/01 Will & Kat Rossmann, 22 years
12/09/76 Mike & Justine Fitzgibbons, 47 years	12/28/13 Daniel & Germaine Duffy, 10 years
12/09/81 Warren & Carolynn Wyckoff, 42 years	12/28/62 Wayne & Jane Shepherd, 61 years
12/10/11 Richard & Mary Charlebois, 22 years	12/28/73 Gary & Dorathy Biddinger, 50 years
12/11/20 Kathryn Montemaggi & Tom Bannister, 3 yrs	12/28/91 Jeff & Mary Jane Wolfe, 32 years
12/11/99 Jeff & Kim Bartleson, 24 years	12/29/06 Paul & Marie Nolan, 17 years
12/12/12 Jack & Janet Blevons, 11 years	12/30/78 Kim & Cindy Cunningham, 45 years

# REFLECTIONS Continued from page 16

I was so upset at that moment that it was very difficult for me to see any beauty in that monster tree! He seemed a bit dazed but thankfully nothing serious. At that moment I didn't even want to celebrate Christmas. Later, when everything settled down, I dried my tears, and we have laughed about it every

Christmas since then. We truly enjoyed a most memorable Christmas shared with family and the most beautiful tree that we had ever seen! Life has a funny way of reminding us that some of our most anxious moments can somehow turn into beautiful, heartfelt memories. Even with all of its craziness!

# DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 <b>Holiday Craft Fair</b>	9 <b>Holiday Craft Fair</b>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 <b>Ring in the New Year Party</b>						