

# What's Happening in St. Lucie County

When you go over Seaway Drive to South Hutchinson Island, peek over the bridge as much as you can. The new marina is open on the old site of the Causeway Mobile Home Park on the south side of the highway. Power boats are tied up at docks, and sailboats are anchored just outside the channel to the marina. Look to the north and you'll see mega-yachts at the Port of Fort Pierce. And there's more to come as the port is developed.

There's plenty going on at the Treasure Coast International Airport as well. Have you been to the Islamorada Brewing Company yet? The governor will soon be appointing someone to fill the vacated position of county commissioner for District 2 in the south part of the county. So far eight people have filed to run for the office. This race will be decided in November. Just a reminder, our county commissioner for District 5 is Cathy Townsend who lives in St. Lucie Village.

What's happening with All Aboard Florida's "Brightline"? Recent deaths at railroad crossings in Boynton Beach and other places to the south are raising more questions about the safety issues of running these trains through the highly populated towns and cities in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties. Some people think the trains are inevitable. Others don't, and continue to argue the need to move the trains west to the I-95 and Turnpike corridors. Carl Hiaasen (one of my favorite Florida authors) wrote a column which appeared in the December 31, 2017, issue of the Treasure Coast newspapers. He called the first short leg of the project "Tri-Rail on steroids". He then wondered how much the "Boondoggle Express" will lose and how fast it will lose it once the price of the tickets is decided. Private funding, or lack thereof, is still an issue. The train involved in the latest fatality in Boynton Beach was traveling at 78mph.

Kathleen O'Brien

1.

## **COP** News

FYI - For the year of 2017 we drove a total of 5,485 miles (over 1,000 trips around SLCCV) and a total of 2,894 hrs. We also did 5,195 house checks over the summer for seasonal residents.

**Christmas Lights Decoration Contest:** 1<sup>st</sup>: 6 Montoya- Jacinthe Asselin and Steve Hogan,; 2<sup>nd</sup> 54 VerdeVista, Ted and Melinda Bruey; 3<sup>rd</sup> 17 La Puerte del Norte, Donald Cole. Consolation prize, 147 Calle de Lagos, Frank Clymer - 0.2 point less than 3<sup>rd</sup> place!

\$3,674.80 in prizes were provided by Steve Smith A/C, Chubbies, Nino's, Dr. Emilio Martinez (dentist), Pre-Owned Homes, Wood n Spoon, Velde Ford, Sutherlin Nissan, Vero Vista Auto, Just Cuts, Waves Auto Spa, Airport Storage, CVS, Loutinas, and Subway.

C.O.P. members are mourning the loss of C.O.P. volunteer, Harold Eten, in December. Our sympathy goes out to Bonnie and family.

#### Your Courts Up Close

Sponsored by the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, serving Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, Free Four Night Event—Tuesdays, February 20<sup>th</sup> and 27th, March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13th, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Have you ever wondered what happens in Juvenile Court? How do you file a lawsuit? Where does the evidence go after a trial? What is Probate? Learn how the court system works for you! Meet judges, attorneys and more. Have questions? This is the event for you. Seats are limited so contact them today to reserve your seat at: your courts@ Circuit19.org or call 772-807-4370, St. Lucie County Courthouse, 218 South Second Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

Other programs that are educational and interesting are the Citizens Police Academy and the Citizens Fire Academy sponsored by the Sheriff's Department and SLC Fire District. Some of our C.O.P. volunteers have attended these great programs.

Kathleen O'Brien



# Help for Veterans Courtesy of Representative Brian Mast

Exciting news: After more than a year of cutting through bureaucratic red tape, I'm opening the first-ever Congressional office inside a VA facility with the other Members of Congress from our area. This is a big bi-partisan win for our area's veterans so they can get the help they need, when they need it! Have a problem you need resolved at the VA? Just walk down the hall! Have a positive experience you want to share? Just walk down the hall! We'll be there to ensure our veterans' voices are never forgotten!

Your 18th District offices are available to help with a number of issues. Our Washington, D.C. office handles issues related to legislation and other matters pending before Congress. If you need help with a federal agency or another personal issue, our local offices are best equipped to help. Feel free to call us at any time. If you'd prefer to visit us in person, we'd love to see you:

The West Palm Beach VA Medical Center Office is staffed jointly by the West Palm Beach area Congressional delegation on the following schedule:

Rep. Brian Mast – Mondays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rep. Lois Frankel – Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rep. Ted Deutch – First Wednesday of the Month: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings – Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You may call ahead to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Veterans may also receive assistance at any of our other offices at any time.



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Reduce your energy use — even with tremendous growth in solar and wind power, most US energy is produced using fossil fuels. The greenest energy is the energy you never use. Turn off lights and unplug electronics and appliances when and where you can.

#### Spanish Lakes Service Corporation (Water and Sewer System)

On Wednesday December 13, 2017 your SLCCV Board had the opportunity to tour the water and wastewater facilities that serve the residents of SLCCV. The tour was led by Board Vice President Eric Wynne, who was joined by board members Craig Martin, Carol Fensterer and Steve Hogan.

As you may know the Services Corporation is a separate non-profit entity incorporated by Florida statute that operates the facilities, including the wastewater collection and water distribution systems. It is empowered to collect fees and charges and has its own Articles of Incorporation and by-laws. Both the water and wastewater systems are owned by the residents of SLCCV who automatically become members of the corporation upon leasing a property. The Corporation contracts for the daily operation, repair and replacement, and management of the water and wastewater treatment, distribution and collection facilities through the year 2021.

During the tour we had an opportunity to inspect the physical facilities and received a thorough and informative explanation from Eric Wynne as to the specific functions of various components of the plant. Eric is certified to operate these facilities and we have several on our staff who have dual certification for both of the plants. While the water and wastewater systems are more than 35 years old, the integral components of the plants have been repaired, replaced and upgraded as new technology became available. For example, the water plant which draws water from four wells located around the park (no water is drawn from the lakes which consists of groundwater and rainfall) was upgraded to a reverse osmosis (RO) system sometime around 2001. The RO system, along with the application of a careful balance of chemical additives, provides a significantly higher level of drinking water quality that meets or exceeds state standards. But just to make sure, water plant staff are constantly monitoring and sampling the water output at various sites around the park, as well as keeping a close eye on the plant.

Next, we visited the wastewater facilities. Once again Eric gave an overview which was supplemented by Brian Pertock who explained the process and the challenges with the plant operation. Somewhat surprising was the level of difficulty in maintaining a biologically active balanced nutrient environment that kept the "good bugs" happy. Staff

maintain this environment by constant monitoring and testing (20-30 times per day). However, the biggest challenge was preventing foreign objects disposed into the system by residents from impairing the system to the detriment of the plant operation. Examples of prohibited items are (surprisingly) disposable diapers, plastic candy wrappers, condoms, band-aids, q-tips, baby wipes, rags and clothing, etc. Over 100 pounds of these items are removed by plant staff each day. (We saw a sock and underpants kept as 'souvenirs"). If these items were not removed they would eventually deprive the good bugs of the nutrients needed to survive. And that would not be in the interest of anyone. In conclusion, both the water and wastewater plants appeared to be in good condition, with very capable staff, and each met or exceeded state requirements for potable water and the treatment of wastewater.

> Steve Hogan Board member, SLCCV Service Corporation.

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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors Do You Know Which Area You Are In?

**Arboles Del Norte** Area 2

**Azul** Area 7

**Bolero** Area 13

**Buenos Aires** Area 7

**Calle De Lagos** 1 – 22 in Area 7 24 – 67 in Area 6C 68 – 97 in Area 5C 98 – 149 in Area 14 150 – 180 in Area 12 181 – 187 in Area 11 188 – 192 in Area 8

**Cordillera** Area 7

**Danzar** Area 7

**Ecuador Court** Area 6A

**Ecuador Way** Area 6B

**Felicidad Court** Area 6C

**Flores Del Norte** Area 3

**Grande Camino Court** Area 5A

**Grande Camino Place** Area 5A

**Grande Camino Way** Area 5D **Ipanema Way** Area 4

**Jose Martin** Area 13

**Joya** Area 4

**Julia** Area 4

La Puerte Del Norte Area 1

La Villa Court Area 15

La Villa Way Area 15

Lagos Del Norte 1 – 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, & 29 in Area 4 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37 in Area 1 36 - 60 in Area 2 62, 64, 66, 68, 71, 73, 75 & 77 in Area 3 70 72, 74, 76, 78 & 80 – 91 in Area 5B

Las Casitas Area 13

Montoya Area 12

Nuestra Isla Area 12

**Octavio** Area 12



Puerto Sol Area 11

**Peru** Area 11

**Quito** Area 11

**Rio De Palmas** Area 11

San Felipe Area 11

**San Luis Obispo** Area 8

**San Roberto** Area 9

**Sierra Del Norte** Area 1

**Tosca** Area 11

Vera Cruz Area 9

Verde Vista Area 10

Villa Blanca Area 9

Villa Maria Area 10

Villas Del Norte Area 2

**Vista De Laguna** 1 – 41 in Area 10 43 – 63 in Area 11.

#### **Do You Know Your Coordinator?**

- Area 1 Jan Beatty c. 315-338-3163 & Arlene Waggett 772-466-5498
- Area 2 Lynn Grantham 315-652-3000, Ellin Gallagher 772-464-4631, Ann Sephton 772-468-1827
- Area 3 Beth Reeder 570-594-3886
- Area 4 Joan Aldridge 860-682-3009, Dacia Stoll 772-465-3014
- Area 5A Mary Madden 772-461-0462
- Area 5B Jo McPherson 772-489-3135
- Area 5C Kim Jornov
- Area 5D Dail Allen
- Area 6A Rose Maginn 772-595-5554,
- Area 6B Anita Weiss -c. 772-480-0291
- Area 6C Pat Daniell, c. 919-219-9886, Priscilla McNees 772-464-6611
- Area 7 Mary Madden 772-461-0462, Anne Cardone 631-830-727
- Area 8 Cathy Bugbee 772-466-2047, Kay Wojcik 772-466-4992, Martha Dewey 772-429-1872
- Area 9 Kathy Searl 772-332-7708
- Area 10 Coordinator (vacant), Patty Hiltzer (helper) 472-465-9804
- Area 11 Carol Fensterer 772-595-1457, Claire Cartier 860-335-1952
- Area 12 Mary Ann Secreto 845-332-9254, Patricia Venable 410-790-0716, Ed Broomfield 772-595-1752
- **Area 13** Linda Minde 772-464-9984 Suzanne Alexander 607-592-6576 Joyce Warriner 315-380-7987
- Area 14 Naomi Cottrell 772-236-8090, Kay Olson 772-461-8634

Area 15 - Carol Kelly - 772-467-2402, BettyAnn Condello 215-520-5524

 NHN FORM COORDINATORS: Ja Floyd c.616-635-1055 and Gerrie Purcell – (h) 772-461-4810 (c)

 508-454-9596

 RAMPS: Charlie Mongrain 540-809-8740

 VIALS OF LIFE: Bob Mullens 772-595 0903

 CHAIRMAN: Joan Aldridge – 860-682-3009

 Rev. 1/13/2018

# Letters to the Editor

My family and I would like to express our sincerest thanks for the kindness and generosity shown during the passing of my beloved wife Pat.

We greatly appreciate your kind words, cards and tremendous support. You all went the extra mile for us and we are forever indebted to our Spanish Lakes family.

Steve Lavallee

Thank you friends for all your well wishes and prayers during my husband Tom's short illness.

Thank you again for your support, your kindness and your many cards of condolence after his passing.

I can't begin to tell you how much it meant to both of us to be living here in the loving, caring and crazy fun community of SLCCV.

Cheryl Henderson

I am very sorry to report another theft from the library. After losing items from the library workers' drawer recently, we are now missing the wheeled cart we use to transport heavy bags of books. These are very mean-spirited thefts and not the only missing items around the park.

Please, if you see anyone around who shouldn't be there, please alert the desk, or call 911 if more appropriate.

Carol Fensterer Editor and Library Worker

## **Try Some New Restaurants**

If you like sushi or hot, spicy Thai food, there's' a new restaurant, Wasabi Thai Sushi, 217 Orange Avenue, in downtown Fort Pierce. Cuisines offered are Thai, Japanese and sushi. It's across the street from Lorenzo's. You can find their website on line.

This one isn't new, but it looks good! We like the large portions at Chubbie's so it's a good bet that Tubby's Famous All American Sub Shop will not disappoint. Located at 3212 Aviation Blvd. in Vero Beach it just might be a good stop after shopping. No web site, but Tubby's has a facebook page. Soups and salads are available.



# **The Perfect Medium Rare Roast**



Multiply the weight of the roast times five to get the length of time to roast. Spread <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup softened butter mixed with your favorite spices all over the meat. Pre-heat the oven to

500 degrees.

Place uncovered roast in roasting pan in oven. Set the timer for your calculation of weight times five; for example 4 pound roast times 5 = 20minutes at the 500 degree temperature. When the timer goes off, turn off the oven. DO NOT open the oven door for two hours. After you remove the roast from the oven, let it sit 10-15 minutes before carving. Perfect results! If you want the meat done a little more, leave it in the oven at 500 degrees another 5-10 minutes.

# Let Me Introduce You To The Azores

This fall I had the pleasure of being introduced to the Azores Islands. The Azores Archipelago are nine Volcanic Islands off the coast and part of Portugal, a two-hour flight to Lisbon and only four hours from Boston.

We first went to Terceira, the third largest Island, and definitely a step back in time. The homes were little white cottages with bright trims of Pink, Blue and Yellow. The streets were cobblestones, a Portugal of several hundred years ago. However, there is a Geo-Thermal plant just a few miles away. There are walls built of volcanic rock all around the fields, they hold the sun's heat. The vineyards have the vines planted inside 10x10 walls; thus the fruit ripens much faster. Their wine production is mostly for themselves and very good.

Adventure is everywhere, hiking, biking, sailing, fishing, scuba, whale watching, water sports of all kinds. Positioned in the ocean they are very green islands. Hydrangea bushes line most all the roads. This island is where there have been many international conferences of country leaders as the US had a large military base here.

One of my adventures was to climb 300 feet down into a former volcano. Way above your head you could see a little bit of light. This was amazing! Another unusual area was called the Baths. Sunbathers would lay their towels on concrete walks built out over the volcanic rock by the sea, as the waves come crashing in against the rocks you are sprayed with the surf.

Our second stop was San Miguel Island, more modern, and the largest island. Here we did a Zodiac ride to see the Whales, unfortunately we only saw dolphin and it was very rough. We were treated to a very unique meal called Cozido das Furnas, which is cooked in a large pot buried underground at Furnas Lake. When ready, it is dug up and taken to the restaurant that planted that particular pot. The meal resembles a large stew, and is very good. The island also has several Thermal Baths that have been in existence since the 16 century as Health and Wellness is very important. One of the main crops here is tea, grown on small bushes. They are also big into dairy and beef production.

As you can imagine, this trip is full of picturetaking moments, from the various vast sea expanses to the beautiful lakes and waterfalls. Even the sunsets are magnificent. I highly recommend a visit to the Azores, take a step out of your busy life and enjoy it all before everyone else discovers it.

Jean Russ, MCC,

Part time resident of Country Club



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# **Idle Thoughts**

Things that go through your mind when you can't fall asleep —

\*f you attempt to rob a bank you won't have any trouble with rent/food bills for the next 10 years, whether or not you are successful.

\*Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?

\* What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

\* If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

\* Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

\* Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

\* Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

\* Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty

\* The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

\* Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

\* 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

\* Your future self is watching you right now through memories.

\* The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.

\* If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them. \* Many animals probably need glasses, but no-

body knows it.

\* If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

\* If 2/2/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day". (It does fall on a Tuesday)





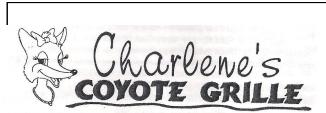
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#### Cashews



We all know that cashew are good for you, and they come in several flavored varieties. Do you ever wonder where cashews come from? You might think they grow inside a shell like any other nut, but their true origins are far more bizarre.

First of all, cashews are not actually nuts, but rather fruits from the cashew tree, a large evergreen tree that thrives in tropical climates. The tree produces red flowers, which in turn produce yellow and red oval structures resembling apples. These so-called cashew apples are very juicy and pulpy, and their juice is often added to tropical fruit drinks. However, cashew apples are not actually fruits in a scientific sense; the real fruit of the cashew tree is the kidney-shaped formation growing at the end. These fruits, also called drupes, are harvested and become what we know as a cashew nut. In their raw form, the outer layer of the fruit contains multiple toxins including anacardic acid, a powerful skin irritant similar to the toxin found in poison ivy that must be removed prior to eating. Roasting the cashews destroys the toxins, but roasting must be performed carefully outdoors because the smoke can irritate the lungs, sometimes to a life-threatening degree. When they are roasted, cashews change from their natural greenish-gray color to the light brown nut sold in stores.

Next time you crack open a tin of cashews, take a moment to appreciate the long journey those little c-shaped nuts took from the tree to your table!





# Pests—Termites—Lawn Spray Best Against Pests Since 1980

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#### **Under The Oaks**

If you are from Western New York and you miss the Allentown Art Festival, check out "Under the Oaks" in Riverside Park. The 67th Annual Fine Arts and Craft Show will be on March 9th,  $10^{\text{th}}$  and  $11^{\text{th}}$  from 9am-4pm.

Over 220 artists from around the nation gather at this juried show. There's plenty of parking in the field across the street.

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# **Tidbits from KATHY**

**St. Lucie County Fair**: Friday, February 23 rd through Sunday March 4th. The hours for three exhibit buildings are 4pm-9pm on weekdays, noon until 9pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The midway is open longer on the weekends. The exhibit buildings are used for all sorts of displays including 4-H, Home Arts, crafters, the county school exhibits, and lots more. The fairgrounds are located west out Okeechobee Road at the intersection with Midway Road. When you see the "Bridge to Nowhere", you're almost there.

**New York Mets:** It's official! Tim Tebow has been invited to major league spring training at First Data Field in St. Lucie West. The Mets open Grapefruit League play against the Atlanta Braves on February 23 at 1:30pm. Check out their web site for details. Last year Tebow played with the St. Lucie Mets which drew more fans for local games. Check out the St. Lucie Mets web site for tickets, specials, and lots of activities at the ball park.

Airboat Rides: If you haven't gone on an airboat ride through swamps to see the alligators sunning themselves, it's a fun time! There are several airboat captains who offer rides in the Blue Cypress Conservation Area, west of Vero Beach, Route 60 and County Road 512. You do need reservations so find an ad in the paper or on the internet, and enjoy a couple of hours looking for gators! This conservation area was private land that included a horse racing track which was flooded many years ago.

**Frog Leg Festival in Fellsmere**: Darn, I missed it again! It was in mid-January. I'll get another chance next year!

Florida Artists: The Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, has wonderful exhibits of Florida landscapes. Anita Prentice, a talented mosaic artist is noted for her more than 150 decorated benches placed throughout St. Lucie County. Doretha Hair Truesdell is the widow of the first Highwayman artist, Alfred Hair. Now an artist in her own right, Truesdell's art is on exhibit where her husband got his start.

**FPL and Irma:** Did you know that we are still paying fees to FPL for "restoration costs" after the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005? FPL has

dropped its plans to charge customers for Irma. It credited a windfall from federal tax reform approved by Congress and signed by President Trump. FPL has the potential opportunity to avoid a general base rate increase for up to an additional two years, saving an average of \$250 per customer through 2020.

**Restaurant Re-opens**: Remember last year when an impaired driver plowed into *A Touch of Brooklyn Pizza*? The restaurant is now open again in the Taylor Creek Commons Plaza at Shorewinds Drive and U.S. 1.

(Editor's Note; In my opinion, rhe best pizza around.)



#### From a Minnesota State Trooper

I made a traffic stop on an elderly lady the other day for speeding on MN State Highway 210 at Mile Marker 197 just east of McGregor, MN. I asked for her driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. The lady took out the required information and handed it to me. In with the cards I was somewhat surprised (due to her advanced age) to see she had a Concealed Carry Permit. I looked at her and asked if she had a weapon in her possession at this time. She responded that she indeed had a 45 automatic in her glove box.

Something—body language—or the way she said it—made me want to ask if she had any other firearms. She did admit to also having a 9mm Glock in her center console. Now I had to ask one more time if that was all. She responded once again that she did have just one more, a 38 special in her purse. I them asked her what she was so afraid of.

She looked me right in the eye and said "Not a damn thing."

# Do you need to sell your home?

Call your neighborhood specialists! We have sales agents in all five parks. (Disclaimer: Pre-Owned Homes, LLC is in no way affiliated with the Spanish Lakes Communities) Roland & Kathleen O'Brien, Managers 21 Villa del Norte, Fort Pierce, FL 34951 Residents of Spanish Lakes Country Club Village (Licensed Florida Mobile Home Brokers) License #BH/1037318/1 (772)332-0570 (Roland) (772)475-8553 (Kathleen) roland693@hotmail.com rolandobrien.mhvillage.com Rosie Manchester, Fairways resident (908)915-1173, Email: rociogre@att.net Zaida Sackett, SL Golf Village resident (480)335-7000, Email: zadamhz@hotmail.com

#### CALL US TO SELL YOUR HOME!

# Into Every Life a Little Rain Must Fall

I talked to a homeless man this morning and asked how it was he ended up this way. He said, "Up until last month, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat, my clothes were washed and pressed, I had a roof over my head, I had TV and Internet, and I went to the gym, the pool, and the library. I was working on my MBA on-line. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical coverage."

"So what happened? Drugs, alcohol, divorce?" "Oh, nothing like that. I was paroled."

#### **Just for Today**

Just for today I will live though this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow.

Just for today I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me.

Just for today I will accept what is. I will face reality.

Just for today I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable.

Just for today I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

Just for today I will do something positive to improve my health.

Just for today I will gather the strength to do what is right.

#### **And Finally!!**

An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones. The wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy. One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote: If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears...... I love you."

The husband texted back to her: "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."



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# DEPARTED FRIENDS

We shall miss the following departed friends. These are the deaths known to the front desk from December 31, 2017 to February 1, 2018.

Ly nn Desotle Robert Ashcroft Harold Eten Patricia Lavallee, Jimmy Allen Camille Foote Ed Mulvaney Lizzy Gilbreath Margaret Hotchkiss

#### VILLAGE VOICE

Newsletter of Spanish Lakes Country Club Village Home Owners Association Editors: Carol Fensterer and Kathleen O'Brien Assistant: Gerrie Purcell Setup and Computer: Carol Fensterer