



Your NEW Garden Gnome News! "with a little help from my friends!"

Volume 1, Issue 3

HOME OF THE GNOME!

March, 2016

I re-started the newsletter because I want the unit owners to have a place to share info, get to know each other, stay up to date on condo laws and alleviate apathy by fostering an environment where everyone feels they have a voice. So, please enjoy and be sure to **SPEAK UP!!!** ~ Bekki, Editor and Creator

Daylight Saving Time (United States) 2016 begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 13 // & ends at 2:00 AM Sunday, November 6



Please be alerted to the fact that originally, our pest control peeps came monthly.. now they will only be here 3-4 times per year. (not sure how that happened .. *I* sure wasn't alerted to be able to vote on that..

So for US to prevent sugar ants and other tiny livestock from invading our little cocoons we call HOME, know that you can spray a one part clorox to 4 parts water mixture on all our sills, outside our front door (because there is no BACK door!! LOL) to keep ourselves vermin-free. Here is more info on natural pest repellent.

For ANTS: KEEP IT CLEAN FOLKS!

Ants seem to have an aversion to **cucumber**, so when you have one, scatter the shaved peelings in the access areas where they seem to come in.

Also, **bags of mint tea**, or if you are growing it, chop it up and place that at the points of entry as well.

Light up the area with a **night light** for a couple nights. The sudden light disturbs them and they will abandon that route.

Build a moat: if you have pet bowls, clean the area around the bowls, so it eliminates the previous ant trails they can scent and set the bowls in flat pans of water.

Diatomaceous Earth and a little sugar. The ants will eat it and the coarse crystals of the DE will puncture their exoskeleton causing them to dehydrate and die.

Commeal: they eat it, can't digest it and after a week, unless it rains, they die.

Here are some good mosquito-repelling essential oil blends to add to your candles from About.com:

Recipe #1 – Simple and

Spicy

5 parts Citronella

5 parts Lavender

5 parts Clove

Recipe #2 – Bright and

Energetic

5 parts Citronella

5 parts Lavender

5 parts Peppermint

Recipe #3 – Deep and Green

10 parts Citronella

10 parts Cedarwood

5 parts Eucalyptus

5 parts Rosemary



Spiders HATE Peppermint, Coconut oil and vinegar sprays, Any sort of citrus oils



Homemade Insect Repellent Recipe

8 oz apple cider vinegar, witch hazel, or vodka

45 drops Peppermint Essential Oil

15 drops Lemon or Wild Orange Essential Oil

Mix ingredients in a spray bottle and apply liberally. Store in the fridge when not in use. Should last 2-3 months.

Read more in depth: <http://www.onegoodthingbyjillee.com/2013/05/31-natural-pest-control-methods-for-those-little-things-that-really-bug-you.html>

AND GUESS WHO IS OPEN AGAIN!!

BASILS ON THE CORNER!!!



(239) 690-3037

Philly Cheese Steak Pizza

Basil's Pizza & Subs

4023 Palm Beach Blvd/ Fort Myers, FL 33916

They deliver to Seminole Gardens! Ali and Amar own the shop and they are fabulous and so is their food!!

This March 2016 issue of the Garden Gnome Newsletter is sponsored by **Williams Hardware, Inc. & Basil's Pizza & Sub**



Check out my Tech Blog (Bek-the-tech) about what you need to know to keep you safe using your computer and dealing with the internet: <http://bek-the-tech.blogspot.com/>

And to catch up on the theater reviews of each current production at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre and Herb Strauss Sanibel theatre, check out my Blog-O-Bek: <http://theblogobek.blogspot.com/>. Enjoy and please drop me a note wanting to have answers to your tech questions and I'll make it a blog for you!



It's Florida law (and, with variations on the theme, that of many other states, too): When passing a stopped emergency vehicle with flashing lights (tow truck, police, fire, ambulance, etc..) you have two choices: (1) Move over leaving an open lane between you and the stopped vehicles; or (2) If you can't move over, slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit (or more) as you go past. ~ Tony Vervena (vervena@juno.com) (It's also law that you MUST turn on your headlights in rain and USE YOUR TURN SIGNALS when changing lanes or going off the thorofare.)



William's Hardware:
4519 Palm Beach Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL33905
64 YEARS in Business
Regular Hours Mon - Fri:
8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

4 Creative Cauliflower Recipes to Try This Week *Bek - The Tech Windows 10 Info:*

Before you down load Windows 10:

- ***. *Create a restore point..* I showed you how in the January issue, drop me a note to remind you, or google it to find out.
- ***. Once downloaded, you'll find that Win 10 has graciously given us back the start button.

When Microsoft dropped the Start Menu from Windows 8, the chorus of protests was so loud that the company had to backtrack. When you power up 10, you're going to look down on YOUR left & there is a window, THAT is the new 'START' button..

This video is brilliant! Click on the link below:

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/windows-10-has-a-secret-start-menu-heres-how-to-127237900404.html>

Please NOTE: I'm Bekki in E4 and I create the monthly Newsletters (with lots of help from my Friends). You will be getting these emails because you reside in our Condo Family Area.

If at *ANY TIME* you decide you no longer want to receive this email Attachment, *PLEASE* click "reply" and state "*UNSUBSCRIBE*" in the subject line. Your address will be removed *IMMEDIATELY*!

And may Peace, support, respect for each other and our deep friendships never perish here. We are a small band of merry folk and have some wonderful neighbors here. There are also many who will find leaving their single family dwelling to co-reside with others sometimes hard.. Always know we are all here for each other .. unless we are *SOMEWHERE ELSE* for each other!

'And in the end, the love you get is equal to the love you give,' ~

Paul McCartney of Our beloved BEATLES



Can't we all just GET ALONG???

TO SPONSOR THE GARDEN GNOME NEWS

The first month's news was sponsored by *Tech in a Flash*. (www.techinaflash.net) This February edition sponsored by **Glenn Bracket, realtor.**

If you would like to help defray the cost of monthly production of this newsletter, we will need your business card, perhaps a discount if the newsletter is mentioned or brought in with your advertisement in it. We would like a 'blurb' about your business, & a photo of the owner or the 'crew'.

We will also include your website.

If you have a FaceBook page, I will also feature it on my personal wall: Bekki.Shanklin, where I have 1800 friends & 1,000 followers on my twitter.

The donation? \$50 cash/check/paypal for the advertisement.

Paypal: bekkihere@gmail.com

Our In-House Food Maven

The Vervenias in A building told us about this place and it is consistently very good.

Phensri Thai Cafe, 4085 Hancock Bridge Parkway 239.439.4639

We learned of this wonderful small eatery from neighbors. It is a little gem in a strip mall, on Hancock Bridge Parkway, my favorite kind of place. Tucked away but with well lit ample parking.

The venue is small, welcoming, calming and clean. The lighting is dim - something I find peaceful while dining. It seems to be a family business (open for 6 years according to waitstaff) and each server was more handsome than the next ! Service attentive but not unctuous. No feeling of being pressured or rushed.

And the food !!! always pay attention to items marked as "house specialties" since they are, after all, specialties. Our server brought deep fried noodles with a thin and delicious dipping sauce. On the house and a perfect start while we waded through the menu. My deep fried frog legs in basil sauce were excellent; perfectly spicy, as was our appetizer, a seafood-peanut-vegetable crepe. The rice is brought to your table in a covered dish and you are served as much or as little as you would enjoy. A nice personal touch.

There is beer and wine at a reasonable price for those who enjoy it. We were too full for dessert but will save room next time. Moderate to medium priced; \$8 appetizers with entrees hovering at the \$13 mark. Should you share an entree there is a plating fee but well worth it. Please remember to tip as though you BOTH had an entree since, only divided. As a former food server in my youth I still believe if you cannot afford to leave a decent tip, you can't afford to dine out.

If I were a paid food critic like JLB of the Times Press, I'd give it an 8.5 out of 10. A great place, out of the way with a wonderful staff, menu and food. Enjoy!



Veterans Authorized Flag Salute: It's a little known fact that the rendering of the hand salute by Veterans during the raising, lowering and passing of the flag was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008. In 2009, authorization for the hand salute during playing of the Nation Anthem was added.

~ Tony Vervena (vervena@juno.com)



Federal Tax Tip: Earned Income Tax Credit is often missed; one of every five eligibles fails to claim it. If you worked and earned income of less than \$53,267 (single or filing jointly) you may qualify under revised rules for 2015. Check your eligibility using the EITC Assistant tool at www.irs.gov Could mean significantly reduced taxes - or even a refund. ~ Tony Vervena

Tech In A Flash
Matthew Rebstock & Bekki Shanklin at your service!



Most in our complex have eaten there..

AND they DELIVER!!!

Be sure to check them out.. right around the corner!!



Not Your Grandmother's Cauliflower

It's official: We are cauliflower obsessed. Not only does one cup of the veggie contain just 27 calories and provide more than half the daily recommended value of vitamin C, but it may just be the most versatile vegetable in the produce section. Thinking outside the box when it comes to incorporating cauliflower into your diet will help slim down your favorite meals while adding a dose of protein, fiber, zinc, potassium, iron, and magnesium to boot.

Here are ten recipes (click link below) that really put the veggie to work. Get ready to have your mind — and your taste buds — blown!

~*~*~

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?zx=v9sb3cdc0bk0#label/A-RECIPES/1531b991ee6f231f>

Fun Events in the Clubhouse!!!
8-Ball on Tuesdays, around the 6-7pm area
Quilting and Crafts every Friday, most of the day
Poker on Saturdays, around the 6-7pm area

Get to know your Neighbors!!

George and Dorothy Douglass:

George and Dorothy were both born in the same town in Pennsylvania, now married going on 47 years.



George was born at home and was the 3rd oldest of 11 children. Dorothy was born in a hospital and waited 12 years til her brother was born.

George's first career was in a restaurant starting out as a dishwasher and his mom was second cook. The he rose to soda jerk and then to short order cook. Next he worked at an entertainment radio station, WPEN, and met Jimmy Durante and Lucille Ball. He then went on to manage the restaurant at J.C. Penny's in the largest mall at that time in King Of Prussia, PA.. He then went to work at the Brass Rail Food

Service of New York.

From there to sales rep for Canada Dry in Philadelphia for 22 years. There were 30 routes available and he kept building and taking over more and more routes from that 30 until he retired.

Dorothy graduated High School and went on to be a file clerk at Crosley Refrigerators, who was the first company to put shelving in the door! After 5 years, she went from file clerk, to billing and then to sales. Then on to Maytag sales for 5 years, then on to 5 years as dispatcher in the service department, then in inventory for all the men and trucks. Then to Raymond Rose distribution for Whirlpool for 20+ years. She was sent to Benton Harbor, Michigan to learn the teletype programming to be taught how to do all the appliance ordering and then on to Administrative Assistant for the Whirlpool Sales Manager.

Dorothy went to Bible College in PA and service 20 years as the Youth Director at Roxborough Baptist Church, where she and George met and they were married January 1, 1969. They bought their first house in November and Dorothy's first Christmas present was an 8 week old Hungarian Sheepdog puppy. Their combined love of dogs continues to this day.

Their first love is cruising and they've enjoyed over 4 cruises, their next love is camping. Their first camper was a 15' Dutch Craft, their last was a 32' Vega which they totally loved. In their travels, they've met so many wonderful, like-minded people who wintered in North Fort Myers. They also attended Northside Presbyterian Church where Dorothy was the Senior Coordinator for 10 years.

They started coming every February around President's Day to a two week time-share they purchased in Fort Myers Beach for 32 years, which they just sold this past October. They bought a mobile home before they retired at River Estates and lived there for 10 years, then after retirement, moved to Carriage Village. And now they reside here with us and love it!



Jack and Sandy O'Neill

Both Jack and Sandy were born in Dedham, Mass. Jack was in the Navy. 4 Both Jack and Sandy were born in Dedham, Mass. Jack was in the Navy. 4 years in the Navy and spent 3 of those years in Texas at the Training Command facility where they trained Navy Pilots.

In the first year of Jack's service, he met Sandy, still in High School. Fell in love and married her right out of high school. Her parents said it would never last, but, guess what? They've been married for 50 years as of the 29th of December of this year! While Jack was in the Navy, Sandy did the usual Navy Wife stuff, but added delivering newspapers into the little orange tubes at the mailboxes driving 200 miles a day and made the extra money so her daughters (of which they have 2) could take driving lessons and help her with her deliveries. Their only problem was learning to drive consistently on the CORRECT side of the road!

One day she was pulled over by a cop who asked if she was drunk. She shook her head said, "Delivering newspapers. Want one?" He declined and let her go. And then became a crossing guard on a busy highway for 7 years.

After Jack was relieved of his duties in Texas, they were then moved to Massachusetts and to work in a high security position for General Dynamics where he helped build surface ships for a while, then to help build submarines for the rest of his 43 years of ship-building and continued in nuclear Quality Control all over the northeaster Naval shipyards. He worked on the last overhaul of The Nautilus, overhauls on other missile boats and worked on all of the 17 Trident missile boat with from 16-24 tubes. The last 12 years he was at the New London Submarine Base located in Groton Ct. He retired from General Dynamics electric boat in Groton,

After retiring, Jack and Sandy have traveled the world, starting in 1994, where they have logged on 200 days at sea on both sea and river cruises. They have been on the 3 longest rivers in the world: Amazon, Nile and Yankzee. To a balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings in a 24 passenger gondola and one of the biggest balloons they'd ever seen. They mentioned that all the tombs are on the west side, where the sun goes down. Two times to Alaska, then to Australia, New Zealand, all over the Mediterranean France, Germany, and the Baltic, most by sea and river boat excursions. They were in Cairo when the outbreaks happened, but also admonished to always go in groups as they are there to protect their charges, whereas single, 'off on their own' people don't have their protection and back up.

This summer they are taking their entire family on an 18 day cruise to Norway and the Netherlands. An amazing couple that have decided to reside with us here in their journeys and retirement. Thanks for hanging with us here!

