

Valencia Lakes Social Scene



February 2017



February Events:

Please join us at the upcoming February events that the Social Committee has planned!

2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off & Meet and Greet

Saturday, February 4, 11am-1pm

Dig out your favorite chili recipes and join us for a fabulous Chili Cook-Off & Meet and Greet! This will be a wonderful time to meet and enjoy time with our neighbors while savoring the delectable chili concoctions of your fellow Valencia Lakes residents. For \$1 each, residents may sample all of the chilis and enjoy complimentary corn bread and fresh brewed iced tea. Residents may enter their own chili by signing up on the sign-up sheet in the clubhouse or by emailing the Social Committee at vlncs@hotmail.com. Chili sign up is appreciated, so that we can be certain to have enough tables set up. Attendees will vote for their favorites and the winner or winners will receive the money collected. .

2nd Annual Pet Parade for "The Other Valentine in Your Life"

Saturday, February 11, 11am-12:30pm

Show your love for your pet while participating in our "Pet Parade". Costumes & outfits for your pets are welcomed, but optional. Spectators are welcome. Hot Dogs, Chips and beverages will be served!

Attendees will vote and we will award prizes for:

- Best Valentine Costume
- Best Parade Performance
- Most Original Costume
- Most Unusual Pet

Parade participants are encouraged to donate items for homeless pets awaiting adoption on behalf of the Naples Humane Society. This list of supplies that are always needed are: unscented cat litter, bleach, liquid dish and laundry detergent, glass cleaner, disinfecting wipes, XL trash bags, 13-gallon kitchen trash bags, disposable cleaning gloves, bath size towels, and monetary support. Puppy, kitten, dog and cat food are appreciated but will be transferred to other needy shelters, as the Humane Society receives their food from Hill's Pet Nutrition. Resident Jack Major is coordinating this donation project. Thank you for your generosity!

Congratulations to our Holiday Lights Contest Winners!

There were an abundance of entries – so many beautifully lit homes that it was difficult for our volunteer judges, Tim Aten & Larry Clark, to choose winners. Fortunately, this year, we had a total of 5 signs to give out to our contest winners, making it a little bit easier.

Our winners were:

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| 1st Place | Ed & Nicole Tregae, 2623 Orange Grove Trail |
| 2nd Place | Tony & Linda Kolaskoski, 2164 Grove Drive |
| 3rd Place | Tony & Ginny Benevento, 2231 Grove Drive |

Honorable Mention:

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| Reinhard & Monika Schomburg, 2258 Grove Drive |
| Bryan & Brittney Bo, 2887 Orange Grove Trail |



'Twas the Night Before Christmas...

Caroling with Santa while drinking hot chocolate and eating cookies – what better way to spend an evening? This year, our Caroling event was held inside the clubhouse. Our most adorable Santa regaled the children with the “Night Before Christmas”, while the children wore their Santa hats, pajamas and glowing candy cane necklaces. The adults sang festive carols and discussed the elaborate and creative holiday lights throughout the community. Again, our sweet spot of 30 attendees was reached, and filled the room comfortably.





We met new neighbors at our January Meet & Greet Breakfast!

Beverages and breakfast goodies were had by around 30 residents. We enjoyed the company of a couple of our HOA Board members, which was a wonderful bonus. If you weren't able to make it out this time, please join us next time!



Ho Ho Ho!

Our Children's Christmas Party was a hit, with approximately 30 children in attendance. There was fun with crafts, games and Santa plus the added attraction of our hilarious and very talented own resident ventriloquist, Brenda Stelzer. Check out her website at brendavent.com.



December's Ugly Sweater Meet & Greet

We may have been short on ugly sweaters, but there were plenty of breakfast goodies and holiday cheer. Approximately 30 residents joined us in our festively decorate clubhouse to celebrate our community and the holiday season.



Get to Know Your Neighbor

This month we are featuring your neighbors, Ginny and Tony Benevento, who reside on Grove Drive with Ginny's Mother, Molly and their 6-year old Irish setter, "Duke".

Ginny and Tony originate from Staten Island, New York. For several years, their family enjoyed vacationing on Vanderbilt Beach in Naples where they had a "time-share". Way back then, Tony had always said, "this is where I want to retire."

Before making the big move to Florida, they took a detour to Cincinnati, Ohio for a job transfer for Tony. The move to Cincinnati also included Ginny's brother and brother-in-law, who all worked for the same Company in New York. They lived in Ohio for 12 years and it was Ginny who really liked living in Cincinnati; they had settled in a rural area which was slower-paced and a good place to raise their (3) sons.

Fast forward, it is retirement time for Tony...in January of 2003; they built their beautiful home on Grove Drive. Ginny's Mother, Molly, joined in their journey from New York to Ohio and Florida. Two of their three sons remained in New York, while one resides in Kentucky. Ginny has a brother living in Florida, as well as cousins living in Valencia Lakes.

During the school year, Ginny works at Corkscrew's cafeteria which allows her time to work as one of our pool monitors during the summer. In her free time, Ginny enjoys cooking, baking, reading and crafts.

Being one of the original builders/owners at Valencia Lakes, they have seen a lot of changes in our community and say "everything is getting better". A big factor has been the enforcement of our Rules and Regulations. Ginny and Tony are very happy with their decision they made so many years ago to retire in Naples and, in particular, Valencia Lakes.

Ginny and Tony received "3rd Place in the Valencia Lakes Christmas Lighting Contest" this year. Also, they will be celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary in September of 2017; congratulations!

If you would like to be featured in the "Get to Know Your Neighbor" section in a future newsletter, please send an email to the Social Committee at vlpsc@hotmail.com.

Raucous laughter was had by all at the 2nd Annual Comedy Night for Valencia Lakes.

Raucous laughter was had by all at the 2nd Annual Comedy Night for Valencia Lakes. Graciously sponsored by Kevin McKenzie and "AllAmerican Landscaping", 50 residents laughed and mingled for hours, enjoying appetizers and beverages and especially the comedic talents of Mariannette Torres, Devin Siebold, James Yon and Frank Del Pizzo. The room was open for a couple of hours after the show, so that residents could linger and converse, and this went so well, that should there be a next time, we plan to open up the room before the show as well. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and made this evening a total success!





Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to help plan and staff events.

Community Volunteers Helping to Make YOUR Community a Better Place!

The goal of the Valencia Lakes Social Committee is to foster a sense of community by planning events and programs to meet community-wide social needs and activities throughout the year, geared towards bringing our community and neighbors together for fun and entertainment! We are always looking for volunteers to help plan and staff the events. We meet at the Clubhouse the 1st Monday of every month at 7pm [Exception: February's planning meeting will be held on Tues., Jan 31st at 6:30PM.] Please join us and help make your community a fun place to live! If you have any ideas or suggestions for activities, please feel free to contact the Social Committee at vlpsc@hotmail.com.

Please note that the new email address for the Valencia Lakes Social Committee is vlpsc@hotmail.com. Samantha Bogert has stepped down as the head of the Social Committee and various committee members have taken over her previous responsibilities, though she will still be involved with the committee. Thank you for your wonderful service, Sam! You may always contact us at vlpsc@hotmail.com. Thank you!

All events are free to attend & held @ the clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Events for 2017:

Please note that the Social Committee now has a convenient drop box in the Clubhouse lobby where residents can drop off checks (no cash) for events where there is a cost.

Community Blood Drive & Meet and Greet **Saturday, March 4, 2-4:30pm**

- Come out and meet your neighbors and enjoy complimentary coffee, tea, and goodies. Please join us in donating blood (if you are able). To sign up, you may use the sign-up sheet within the lobby of the clubhouse, or you may email us at vlpsc@hotmail.com.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt **Saturday, April 15, 10-11:30am**

The first age group will begin their egg hunt at 10am. Children ages infant through age 12 may participate. There will be prizes and snacks and a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Pancake Brunch **Saturday, May 6, morning** Details TBA.

End of School Ice Cream Social **Sunday, June 4, afternoon**

Non-Sponsored Events

Walking Group **Mondays & Thursdays @ 6pm** Meet in front of the Clubhouse

Water Aerobics **Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays @ 8am** *Water Aerobics is suspended until the pool repairs are complete.*

Fort Myers Beach Pub Crawl **Saturday, February 25, 4:30-11:30pm** • \$30 pp. Contact Samantha Bogert at sambogert@hotmail.com or text 610-509-5418. **Deadline is February 1st** to purchase tickets. See flyer at end of newsletter.

2nd Annual Casinville Bus Trip **Saturday, March 25, 9am** • Bust trip to Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, FL. \$45 pp. Contact Samantha Bogert at sambogert@hotmail.com or text 610-509-5418. See flyer at end of newsletter.

If there is anyone interested in the below activities please contact the appropriate party via e-mail:

- Learning how to knit or crochet, contact Donna Evans at deedae@aol.com.
- Adult co-ed basketball pick-up games on Monday nights, forming a Co-ed Softball League, or playing organized corn hole, e-mail the Social Committee at vlpsc@hotmail.com.



FORT MYERS BEACH PUB CRAWL

2/25/17

4:30pm to 11:30pm

\$30pp – 13 seats remain!!



(Includes Tip for Driver, roundtrip from Valencia Lakes clubhouse and games and giveaways!)

BUS SCHEDULE:

4:30pm- LEAVE VALENCIA LAKES

5pm -PICK UP AT BELLA TERRA ESTERO

6-10pm- FORT MYERS BEACH DOWNTOWN TOWN SQUARE DROP OFF

11pm- DROP OFF ESTERO BELLA TERRA

11:30 pm- DROP OFF VALENCIA LAKES

THERE ARE MULTIPLE BARS, THE PIER, PLACES TO EAT AND SHOP IN DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS BEACH! YOU WILL HAVE 4 HOURS TO GO TO WHERE EVER YOU WOULD LIKE AND THEN THE BUS WILL PICK EVERYONE BACK UP AT THE SAME SPOT. SUNSET WILL BE AT 6:27 PM ON THIS DATE SO WE WILL BE THERE TO TOAST THE SUNSET IF YOU WISH!!!!

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO ORDER TICKETS PLEASE EMAIL OR TEXT SAMANTHA BOGERT AT SAMBOGERT@HOTMAIL.COM OR 610-509-5418

DEADLINE IS 2/1/2016 TO PURCHASE TICKETS



HOLLYWOOD, FL



“2ND ANNUAL “

CASINOVILLE BUS TRIP

3/25/17

\$45pp

16 SEATS REMAIN

The 36 passenger motor coach will be leaving Valencia Lakes Community Center Parking Lot at 9am. It will arrive at the Hard Rock Casino of Hollywood Approx, 10:45.

You can chose to get off and hit the casino or stay on the bus and continue on to Jimmy Buffett Resort Margaritaville of Hollywood arrival approx. The resort has many restaurants, bars, and live music, sits right on the Atlantic Coast and beach is right there!!!. You can chose to spend the entire day at either place or at approx. 3 pm the motor coach will leave Margaritaville and go back to the casino to do a switch so you can enjoy both places. Hollywood Beach also has a boardwalk with shops and restaurants, and a trolley for \$1 each way that will take you around to different areas of town.

MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE TO ATTEND THIS BUS TRIP

It is \$45 pp, and seats are not held until payment is received. To reserve your seats please contact Samantha Bogert at 610-509-5418 via phone call or text, and or sambogert@hotmail.com. You can pay for your seats via check made out to Samantha Bogert or via PayPal send money to sambogert@hotmail.com. Please call Samantha with any questions.

Please include with all forms of payment.... your name, number and email address and how many in your party.