



Golden Acres R. O. Association, Inc. 2024-2025

President	Tammy Davis
Vice President	James Schmitt
Treasurer	Randy Nickle
Secretary	Don Webb
Director	Dick Donnally
Director	John Nabb
Director	Gordon Spafford
Property Manager	Dianne Bargren / (Karin Desmone)

Golden Acres Recreation Committee 2024-2025

Chairperson	Maureen Shannon
Vice-Chairperson	
Treasurer	Glenda Spafford
Secretary	Richard Barnes
Bingo	Anne Knott
Kitchen	Deb Pollard
Member-at-Large	

Golden Acres Summer Recreation Committee 2024

Elaine Mackey
Gina Douthit
Fran Clark
Debbie Douthit

Events

Bingo Committee	Anne Knott, Marilyn McKay, Paula Bunevith
Darts League	
Fun Shuffle	Team Captains
Golf	Ron Tasior and Ed Richtmyer
Health and Welfare	Master of Ceremonies (Coffee Hour)
Indoor Exercise	Nancy Karhoff, Claudia Burke
Newsletter Editor	Sue Bailey
Paddling Club	
Pickleball	Staicy Boyd Gunter
Pool Exercise	
Progressive Cards	Dave & Lynn Roselli
Shuffleboard	Rose West

President's Report

By Tammy Davis #21

As we usher in the new year, I wanted to provide a few updates and reminders. We are wrapping up our meeting schedule with the various planning boards and anticipating our final approvals for our land use and zoning change for 1050 Main Street in the next few months. It has been quite a process with 5 meetings between the months of September and December, and a final public reading with Dunedin City Commissioners scheduled some time in January 2026. Our attorney has represented the park throughout this process.

If you missed the November Board of Directors special meeting, the board unanimously approved adding keyless entry to the clubhouse and pool area. Each resident will receive a key fob to gain entry to these common areas. We are hoping to install the new system in the December time frame and going "live" with the key fob system at a future date within the first quarter of 2026. We will keep you posted as we progress through this new initiative.

The Board has three seats available in 2026. Please consider running for a seat. The intent to serve must be turned into the office no later than 12:00 pm on January 9. Our annual meeting is scheduled for February 18.

Finally, if you plan on having people stay in your unit when you are not in the park, they must be approved through an application process prior to their arrival. Please stop in the office to obtain the necessary paperwork.

Wishing you and your family a beautiful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.



From the Editor's Desk

By Sue Bailey #188

suebail999@gmail.com



Happy New Year!

A new year is upon us. Wow! I hope that everyone has had a wonderful holiday wherever and with whomever you've chosen. Now, get ready for a busy social life here at Golden Acres. The calendar is really packed full of things to do this month. It's all there for you to enjoy.

I hope that you made New Year's Resolutions that are easy to keep, if you made any at all. One resolution I would welcome is for everyone to continue contributing articles and pictures for our monthly newsletter. Your input is what makes this newsletter a success, so please keep them coming. Many thanks to all of you that contributed articles and pictures for this month's newsletter.

As January progresses, here are some important days to remember:

Monday the 1st is New Year's Day. Monday the 19th the USA celebrates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who promoted Civil Rights through non-violent civil disobedience.

For those of you who just arrived from the north, welcome. For those of you confined to the north for whatever reason, we'll miss you but stay warm and have confidence that before long it will warm up again. May the New Year bring all of you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Quote of the Month: “Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.” – *Rumi, Persian poet and Sufi mystic*

Until next time,
May God bless and keep you well and safe...

Thrifting

By Norma Moore #54

Remember when we used to go ‘yard sale-ing’? Looking for those housewares or bits of furniture for our coaches. Well today ‘thrifting’ is ‘in.’ Going to thrift shops to look for treasures has become a fun activity for many people.

Not many of us who live at Golden Acres ‘need’ to look for bargains, but it is fun when someone pays a compliment to be able to say, ‘Oh yes, I paid \$5.00 for this designer sweater.’ ‘Really? Unbelievable!’

We know the importance of recycling, and we know that used clothing is a huge pollution problem. Clothes that are ordered online and don’t fit etc. and are sent back, are usually just ‘dumped.’ So, thrift shops give the public a chance to do that recycling. But of course, thrift shops have more than just clothes. They have *everything*.

When an older relative needs to downsize to a smaller home or go into extended care or just moves house to be closer to family, what is to be done with all that ‘stuff?’ Who else might want Grandpa’s old fishing equipment or Aunt Sarah’s art collection? These stores sell everything from books to Christmas decorations, fine bone chinaware to children’s toys, slow cookers to table linens, furniture to bicycles. At bargain prices.

Many items still have price tags on them; our consumer society encourages people to buy for the sake of buying. Never worn, never used. Just waiting to be taken and appreciated.

The thrift store where I volunteer, the Empath Resale Shop for Hospice, raises money for a really important cause. It is manned by volunteers. Many, I have discovered, want to ‘pay back’ because a close relative has been served so well by Hospice when care was needed. Some volunteers have worked there for years; many have told me that this is their ‘happy place.’ Men and women, young people when they have time off from class, elderly men and women who have many skills and love the social contact.

What is really of value is the way people feel when they visit. They leave happier than when they came! Whether, because of the ‘treasures’ they have found, or the smiling, helpful people who serve them, they go away with a warm feeling inside.

BINGO Report

By Anne Knott #189

Welcome back to Golden Acres for the winter. BINGO will resume on Monday, January 5th. Doors will open up at 6:30 and game starts at 7pm. We still need people to help out, callers, bankers, runners, and kitchen. Call Anne for information at 727-453-9720.

Also, this year we are raising our prices a little A full pack will be \$8.00, ½ pack \$4.00, and all specials \$2.00. Hoping for better pay-outs. Hope to have another wonderful BINGO season,

January Recreation Report

By Maureen Shannon #200

Committee Chairman

January 2026

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays, &
'Tis the Season!

To those still returning, Welcome Back!

As we move forward to the end of the year, we prepare for Christmas day dinner in the club house. I want to take a moment to say thank you to Anne & Bob Knott (189) for stepping up to host Thanksgiving dinner. Rumor has it, that it was great.

Remember, Wednesday Weekly is still on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. Please join us and feel free to ask questions, if you need an answer.

Moving forward, we have a few events coming up: Christmas dinner. Please sign up in the club house. 1. Dinner will be hosted by Paula & Joe Bunevith (202). If you have any questions, please see Paula. 2. Luminaries Please consider helping get set up for NYE. Sign-up sheets will be in the clubhouse. 3. Our final 2025 event will be our New Years Eve dance. Hosted by Jack Terry & Claudia Burke (141) and Eric Duling & Nancy Karhoff (67). The band will be *At Large*. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 a person. BYOY & BYOM. Doors open at 7:30 pm with the band starting at 8:15 pm.

The Rec activities schedule is always changing. Please check the schedule in the clubhouse for corrections or additions.

As previously reported, January starts our monthly/weekly activities: weekly bingo, monthly breakfast, 3rd Saturday of the month, progressive cards, 3rd Saturday of the month, and more. Watch for additions. Remember to join us, January 22nd for Meet and greet with Lyn and Mark Johnson. Watch for Jamin & other cards games.

Water aerobics will not have a coordinator this season due to some health issues. Please feel free to go to the pool, weather permitting M, W, & F at 10:30 am, if you wish. Someone is usually there to participate.

The Blood mobile plans to be back in January and March 2026. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the club house. Consider donating to a great cause.

Looking forward to a busy, happy, fun year.
Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

50th Anniversary 2025

By Paula Bunevith #202 & Kathy Schmitt #217

Did you get married in 1976? If you did you will be celebrating your 50th Anniversary in 2026. We would like to celebrate this special occasion with you.

On Sunday February 15, 2026, from 1 to 3 pm in our clubhouse. If you would like to celebrate, please contact one of us. Thank you

Kathy Schmitt #217 (607) 437-7935 or Paula Bunevith #202, (508) 826-1562.

Golden Acres Shuffleboard League

By Rose West #108

The Golden Acres Shuffleboard league has been in full swing since November 10, 2025, with a great start. A very warm welcome to all returning pre-holidays shufflers. Our first game was a resounding success with a score of 17-7 over Regency; our second league play versus Lake Highlander resulted in another fantastic win with a 17-7 final score! This is not a misprint! We were very happy to see the same end results. Way to go Golden Acres! What a great start to the 2025-26 season. Congratulations to all who shuffled those two games; it was indeed a show of great teamwork.

The Golden Acres Shuffleboard league will host Shuffling Under the Stars on Wednesdays 7-9 pm starting in January. In case of rain or very cool weather, kindly note that shuffle is not cancelled if you see that the lights are on, then that means that shuffle is on! Wishing everyone a happy healthy winter at Golden Acres.

Should anyone be interested in joining the shuffle league, kindly call Rose at 705-792-8852 or sign up at the Clubhouse shuffleboard.

Here are the 2024-25 shuffleboard league year end photo and year end banquet presentations photos.





New Year's Eve Dance

By Jack Terry & Claudia Burke #141, and Nancy Karhoff & Eric Duling #67

New Year's Eve Dance will be hosted by Jack Terry, Claudia Burke, Nancy Karhoff and Erick Duling. We've hired the husband-and-wife duo, At Large. Many of us have enjoyed listening to them at several venues in the past and they are FANTASTIC.

This year our party theme will be "TROPICAL", so please break out the Hawaiian shirts, leis and tropical dress ware. Tickets will be sold at the Wednesday coffee meetings starting in December along with further information.

Golden Nuggets Bowling

By Jack Terry #141

Golden Nuggets bowling league will be starting our 4th season, the 1st Wednesday in January at 3:00 pm at Dunedin Lanes. We will play every Wednesday in January and will end the last Wednesday in March, followed the next day, March 26th, with the 3rd annual H Ct Block Party.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Clubhouse for the bowling league. The Golden Nuggets have plenty of room for new bowlers. Last season we had 36 bowlers, some new to bowling and some more experienced. It's a lot of fun and you get some decent exercise as well, so please sign up. Any questions, feel free to reach out to Jack Terry - 727-358-5722.

Lip Sync Meet & Greet

Mark & Lin Johnson #174

Greetings Golden Acres,

We hope this message finds you all in a good place. Upon returning to the park in January, Lin and I will be hosting a Meet & Greet to help us reunite once again with our friends here at Golden Acres. We want to invite you to join us on Thursday, January 22, from 5 pm - 7:30 pm or so, at the clubhouse. The plan is to entertain each other with a lip sync party featuring music from the 50's and 60's. The venue will be staged with a good sound system, and we encourage guests to choose a song, and enhance their performance with costumes and choreography. We would like everyone to get into character, be creative, and have fun welcoming each other back to the park. Please bring an appetizer to share and the beverage of your choice.

If you plan to perform, we will need the name of your song and the artist you will be lip syncing. Please get this to us as soon as you are able. Some park members have already signed up, and songs will be on a first-come basis to avoid duplication. Feel free to contact us at ljohns9345@hotmail.com or call 727-365-9323. Solo and group performances are all welcomed.

Thank you for your time and inspiration.

Note:

There's still time to sign up for a 50's or 60's tune you would like to lip sync. Everyone is welcome to come listen to some classics from the Golden Age of Music. Grab your favorite 50's-60's attire and join us for a fun evening. There is no charge for this event. Hope to see you at the Meet and Greet!

Happy Holidays to you all.

Newsletter Editor Needed

By Sue Bailey #188

After 12 years as Golden Acres Newsletter Editor, it is time to pass the baton so I will be quitting by April 2026. It is important for the Newsletter to continue within the park. I will be more than happy to assist the new editor(s) before then. If you have any questions about what the position entails, please give me a call at (727) 729-2573 or email me at suebail999@gmail.com. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Newsletter over the past twelve years.

Florida Musings

DID YOU KNOW...

Ginnie Springs, located in Florida, is one of the clearest springs in the world. The water is remarkably transparent, allowing visibility all the way to the bottom, even at its deepest points. Some parts of the spring reach depths of around 30 feet (9 meters) or more.

Coping With Stress and Anxiety

From NIH (News in Health) newsinhealth.nih.gov

Learning what causes or triggers your stress and what coping techniques work for you can help reduce your anxiety and improve your daily life. It may take trial and error to discover what works best for you. Here are some activities you can try when you start to feel overwhelmed:

- Keep a journal.
- Download an app that provides relaxation exercises (such as deep breathing or visualization) or tips for practicing mindfulness, which is a psychological process of actively paying attention to the present moment.
- Exercise, and make sure you are eating healthy, regular meals.
- Stick to a sleep routine, and make sure you are getting enough sleep.
- Avoid drinking excess caffeine such as soft drinks or coffee.
- Identify and challenge your negative and unhelpful thoughts.
- Reach out to your friends or family members who help you cope in a positive way.

Tips for Spotting Charity Fraud When Donating

Make sure your money is going to a worthy cause, not a scammer

By Sue Bailey #188 as an AARP Fraud Watch Fighter

Free Helpline at (877) 908-3360 or

<https://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts/all/aarp-fraud-helpline/>

- **Signs of a charity scam**
Here are a few red flags that indicate the charity reaching out to you may not be aboveboard.
- **Pressure to give immediately.** A legitimate charity will welcome your donation whenever you choose to make it.
- **A request for payment by cash, gift card, or wire transfer.** These are scammers' favored payment methods because the money is easy to access and difficult to trace.
- **How to make sure you're giving to a genuine charity**
- **Be proactive.** Instead of waiting until a charity asks you, think about the causes you care about, and do your research when you have time to devote yourself to it, Styron suggests. That way "when somebody calls, you can say, 'Thank you, I appreciate what you do. But I have a group of charities that I already give to'" she adds.
- **Examine its website.** Look for specifics about its programs, finances, governance oversight and impact. This should be clearly laid out. "You shouldn't have to be Sherlock Holmes to figure out what the organization is actually funding," Weiner says.
- **Consider who runs the charity.** "I look at the board and the staff and look at their LinkedIn profiles to make sure they have expertise in the area," MacDonald says.
- **Charity scams**
 - Veteran charity scams
 - Cancer charity scams
 - Disaster relief scams
 - Charity scams
- **Check watchdog sites.** Sites such as Charity Navigator, CharityWatch and the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance monitor and evaluate organizations. (See Resources below.)
- **Check state licensing.** Contact your state's charity regulator to verify that an organization is registered to raise money in your state.

- **Avoid giving through third parties.** A third party can be legitimate but will take a cut. The best way to make sure that a charity gets your gift is to go to its website and donate there.
- **Use a credit card.** Not only can you check your statement to ensure the payment went to the charity, but you can challenge a charge if you later find that you were scammed, Styron says.
- **Don't share personal and financial information** such as your Social Security number, date of birth or bank account number to anyone soliciting a donation. Scammers use that data to steal money and identities. "If you're making a gift over the phone, a credit card number is all they need," Weiner says. "If you want a receipt for your taxes, all they need is your email."
- **Keep records and look at your accounts.** Keep a record of your donations and regularly review your credit card account to make sure you weren't charged more than you agreed to give or unknowingly signed up for a recurring donation.
- **Don't click on links** in unsolicited email, texts or fundraising messages on social media platforms; they can unleash malware.

Active-Duty Soldiers to Remember

Please take a moment to offer a prayer of thanks and remembrance to all those who help to protect our way of life. Keep them in your prayers until they return safely to their loved ones.

Adam Coburn (British Army), Nephew of Mildred and David Todd, Lot #2.

Damien Fitzpatrick (Tech Sgt. USAF) Grandson of Judith Fitzpatrick, Lot #87.

Sean Fitzpatrick (Major US Army) Grandson of Judith Fitzpatrick, Lot #87.

Reid Forster (Master Corporal with the 4th Royal Canadian Regiment) son of Dave Forster & Colleen Collins #128

Tim Joy, US Army Special Forces Green Berets, Fort Bragg, NC - Nephew of Jack Terry, Lot #141.

Daniel Jones (US Navy) Grandson of Carol Diniz, Lot #25.

Matthew Jones (US Navy) Grandson of Carol Diniz, Lot #25.

Brian Karhoff (US Army LTC) Son of Nancy Karhoff, Lot #67.

Colleen Terry, US Navy, Petty Officer 3rd class, Naples, Italy - Daughter of Jack Terry, Lot #141.

Joshua Ryan Torres Air Force National Guard Staff Sargent (EOD unit) deployed – Son of Susan Franco, Lot #17

So that we might get to know these courageous soldiers better, I would like to add their pictures to this section. Please forward any photos to Sue Bailey suebail999@gmail.com

For changes to the list of soldiers, please contact Sue Bailey suebail999@gmail.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries

By Norma Moore #54

Golden Acres January Birthdays

We want to mention all those who are celebrating this month and send them our absolute best wishes.

Paul Shannon	.....	January 1
James List	.....	January 2
Bill Obermark	.....	January 2
Frances Clark	.....	January 3
Elaine Janes	.....	January 3
Mary Blaney	.....	January 4
Randolph Nickle	.....	January 6
Maurita Reeves	.....	January 9
Clifford Cushman	.....	January 10
Deb Dundon Whitney	.....	January 10
Kurt Novakowski	.....	January 13
Norman McGaughey	.....	January 13
Alan Jewell	.....	January 19
Robert Knott	.....	January 19
Robert Mickle	.....	January 19
Mary Ann Zura	.....	January 21
Geoff Millen	.....	January 22
Kay Erickson	.....	January 26
Craig Houston	.....	January 26
Jean Franqueira	.....	January 28
Joseph Lemon	.....	January 29
Tom McGrory	.....	January 29
William Smith	.....	January 31

Golden Acres January Anniversaries

Kenneth & AnneMarie MacDonald January 21

January - 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Indoor Exercise 8am Walking with Belinda 10am Twisted Stitchers 1pm	2	3
4	5 Indoor Exercise 8am Blood Pressure Clinic 9:30-11am BINGO 7pm	6 Walking with Belinda 10am	7 Wednesday Weekly 9am Ping Pong 10am Shuffle under Stars 7-9pm	8 Indoor Exercise 8am Walking with Belinda 10am Twisted Stitchers 1pm Darts 7-9pm	9 Shuffle Team Practice 1pm	10
11	12 Indoor Exercise 8am Shuffleboard League 12-4pm BINGO 7pm	13 Golf League Countryway 7:45am Walking with Belinda 10am February Newsletter Deadline	14 Wednesday Weekly 9am Blood Drive 8:30-2pm Ping Pong 10am Bowling 3pm Swing Dancing 4-5pm Shuffle under Stars 7-9pm	15 Indoor Exercise 8am Golf League Tarpon Springs 8:30am Walking with Belinda 10am Twisted Stitchers 1pm Darts 7-9pm	16 Shuffle Team Practice 1pm	17 Pancake Breakfast – Clubhouse 8-9am Progressive Cards 7-9pm
18 Jammin' with Jim 7pm	19 Indoor Exercise 8am Shuffleboard League 12-4pm BINGO 7pm	20 Golf League Countryway 7:45am Walking with Belinda 10am Euchre League 6:30pm	21 Wednesday Weekly 9am Ping Pong 10am Bowling 3pm Swing Dancing 4-5pm Shuffle under Stars 7-9pm	22 Indoor Exercise 8am Golf League Tarpon Springs 8:30am Walking with Belinda 10am Twisted Stitchers 1pm Meet & Greet 6-8:30pm Darts 7-9pm	23 Shuffle Team Practice 1pm	24
25	26 Indoor Exercise 8am Shuffleboard League 12-4pm BINGO 7pm	27 Golf League Countryway 7:45am Walking with Belinda 10am	28 Wednesday Weekly 9am Ping Pong 10am Bowling 3pm Swing Dancing 4-5pm Shuffle under Stars 7-9pm	29 Indoor Exercise 8am Golf League Tarpon Springs 8:30am Walking with Belinda 10am Twisted Stitchers 1pm Darts 7-9pm	30 Shuffle Team Practice 1pm	31 Sip N' Paint 6-9pm