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November 2026

Golden Acres R.O.A Board Members 2026-2027



Tammy Davis
President



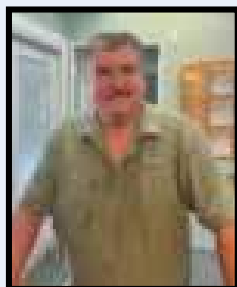
Jim Schmitt
Vice President



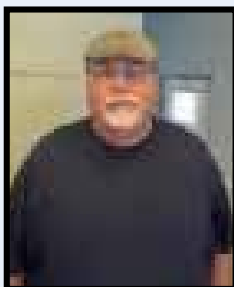
Randy Nickle
Treasurer



Gordie Spafford
Secretary



John Nabb
Director



Steve Robertson
Director



Dan Perry
Director

Email: goldenacresroa@gmail.com
Web site: www.goldenacresfl.com

President's Report

By Tammy Davis #21

Hello Golden Acres Family,

November is here which means budget time. Our budget members' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the clubhouse. We will also have this meeting available on zoom. Please return your proxy to Karin in the office prior to the meeting. You should have received your packet in the mail and/or email. If you need a copy, please contact the office. If you have any questions or concerns about the budget, please reach out to a board member.

As you settle into the season, please consider volunteering for a committee. The Recreational committee is always looking for help as they plan a fun-filled season of events for us. We have a variety of clubs available to participate in so why not try golf, cards, shuffleboard, ping pong, darts, knitting/crocheting, exercise, bowling, billiards, water aerobics or pickleball.

Are you new to the park this year? Make sure you join us at coffee on Wednesday mornings at 9:00. Coffee hour provides updates on all our activities and association updates.

Safe travels back to GA and Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Tammy Davis



Greetings from the Office By Karin Desmone

Please welcome Sal & Anne Fanelli, Unit #162, and Tony & Joan Rausch, Unit #125 to the park. Congratulations and may you find lots of happiness, fun, and laughter at your new residence.



Editor's Message

Chris Rainsforth Unit 215

On behalf of all GA family members, I want to thank all of the volunteers in the Park. Did you know we even have a few that just simply fix it, if they see an issue, they step up, no fan fare, not looking for recognition or thanks? Let me assure you that you are noticed and highly respected. I name no names as I could miss one of you. There has never been an instant when I have requested some advice or guidance that, you have not answered the call. That is what family does.

I am calling on all of you to read this message and hope that some of you will take a look at some of the areas of coverage we are missing and help by hosting or joining committees. The Rec Committee has worked very hard scheduling Park Activities for this 2026-2027 Season.

Whether you are a full-time Floridian or a seasonal resident enjoying the beautiful Gulf breeze, stepping into a volunteer role is the ultimate way to bring our close-knit, 225-unit community together. Living in a 55+ neighborhood gives us a unique blend of vibrant energy and incredible lifetime wisdom, and our park thrives when we share those gifts. By volunteering to help organize park events, lead activities, or step up for our resident associations, you are doing more than just filling a calendar—you are creating the very heart of the place we call home.

Our park is incredibly special because of its energetic mix of American and Canadian neighbors. Volunteering bridges those miles, turning next-door neighbors into lifelong friends over shared projects, social hours, and community cookouts. Your time is the spark that keeps our clubhouse lively, our traditions strong, and our park welcoming to everyone, no matter which side of the border they come from.

Ways to Spark Connections in Our Park

Social Event Planning: Join a committee to host park-wide social hours, holiday dinners, dances.

Park Governance & Self-Management: Put your lifetime of career skills to work by joining the resident board, helping with park communications, or welcome-wagon committees that greet new seasonal arrivals.

Retirement is the perfect time to channel your wisdom, energy, and life experiences into something truly trans-formative by becoming a volunteer. Stepping into a volunteer role lets you stay deeply connected to your community, keep your mind active, and discover a renewed sense of daily purpose. Beyond the incredible impact you will make on the organizations and people you help, volunteering is a fantastic way to meet like-minded friends, share the skills you spent a lifetime building, and even learn completely new ones. Your time is one of the most valuable gifts you have to offer, and by sharing it, you can create a lasting legacy of kindness while filling your own schedule with joy, connection, and fulfillment.



Rec Committee Report

Maureen Shannon Unit 200 GA Rec Committee Chair

November, 2026

Wow! Can't believe it time to start getting ready to head back to GA. As usual, looking forward to a fantastic winter season in Golden Acres.

As in the past, Weekly Wednesdays start in November. Please see the sign up sheets in the clubhouse to help us get started.

Before we realize it, Thanksgiving will be here. Our thanks to Anne & Bob Knott (#189) for stepping up again to host dinner for the community. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the clubhouse. The community is grateful to Anne & Bob!

The up coming year appears to be busy. Christmas will be right behind Thanksgiving. We still do not have a host for dinner, Friday, December 25th, time to be determined. Please consider helping host the dinner. See any Rec Committee member for more information. Remember, an updated calendar will be posted in the clubhouse, but be aware, changes are always happening.

Following Christmas will be the New Year's Eve bash hosted by the Sinclairs (#147), the Nabbs (#165), and the Nickles (#225). We have a DJ scheduled. More information to follow.

As in the past, January will start most of our monthly activities: Bingo, Breakfast, Progressive cards, and more. Please remember to check the calendar in the clubhouse, but anything is subject to change.

Due to personal issues, Richard Barnes has resigned from the Rec Committee. We now have an opening. If interested, please consider joining the committee. See any Rec Committee member for more information.

Just a reminder, One Blood is scheduled to be at GA on Veterans Day, Wednesday, 11/11/26 from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Please consider donating your blood to help someone else in need. We have tentative dates set up for Wednesdays, January 13th, March 17th, and November 17th, 2027. Times to be determined.

Our Meet & Greet for January this year will be Thursday, January 21st. The Rec Committee will host a chili and baked potatoes dinner. More to follow.

Once again, I would like to thank the Summer Rec Committee for all they do. We can never say it enough. "Thank you", Deb & Gina Douthit for always stepping up. That being said, this opportunity is becoming available. The ladies are taking a well earned break. Consider hosting the 2027 Summer Rec Committee. For more information, see Deb or Gina at your convenience.

As you/we are traveling back to our great community, GA, please "Be Careful and Be Safe."

Rec Committee Golden Acres 2026-2027				
Position	Name	Unit	Contact Phone	Email
Chair	Maureen Shannon	200	508-771-7308	mshannon@capecod.edu
Vice-Chair				
Treasurer	Anne Knott	189	774-601-0140	anneknott@gmail.com
Secretary	Tina Sinclair	147	807-407-2378	deadbroketina@gmail.com
Newsletter	Chris Rainsforth	215	226-224-5503	goldenacresr.o.newsletter@gmail.com
Bingo	Glenda Spafford	151	416-500-1291	glspafford@gmail.com
Kitchen	Deb Pollard	221	765-491-9246	stevepo@geetel.net
Board Rep	Steve Robertson	213	630-551-6017	dsrobertson106@comcast.net

Activities Updates Golden Acres 2026-2027

Glenda Spafford Unit 151 G A Bingo. 2027

Jan 4, 2027- March 29, 2027 13 weeks

Welcome back to another season of Bingo

I would like to thank all of our volunteers without you we would not be able run the bingo

There will be a sign up sheet in the clubhouse please add your name so we can get started on Jan 4 .

Nancy and Claudia Clubhouse Exercise With On Mondays and Thursdays 2027

Clubhouse walking will begin Monday, January 4.

We meet inside the Clubhouse on Mondays and Thursdays at 8am. We walk to dvds. Feel free to bring hand weights or stretch bands. Be sure to bring water to drink. If you have any questions, please tell free to contact

Claudia Burke @ 603-401-7357 or Nancy Karhoff @ 419-203-7767. Come join the fun at 8am!

Walking With Belinda Unit Unit 45 765-480-8473

Starts walking on Tuesday's and Thursday's in

December. Belinda invites you to join her starting at 10:00am. All welcome to join in.

Jack Terry Unit 141 Golden Nuggets Bowling League

The Golden Nuggets are calling out for more people who think they might want to join our fun, competitive team league. **Teams are forming now.**

The league plays every Wednesday afternoon at Dunedin Lanes at 3 p.m.

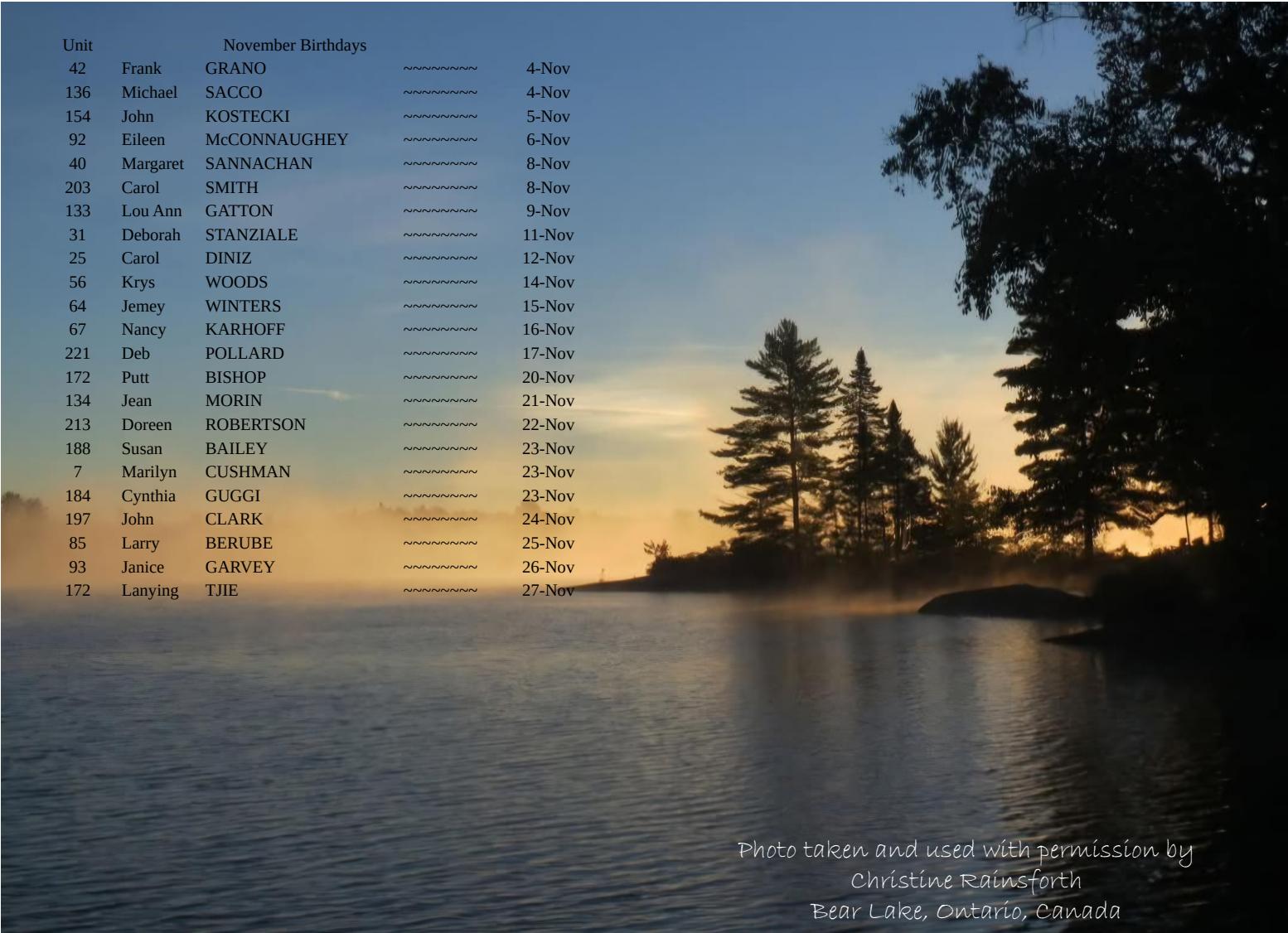
The season will start on January 13th, and we will bowl every Wednesday until March 31, 2027.

Anyone interested in picking up this wonderful, low impact sport, call

Jack Terry Unit 141 on H Court or call 727 358 5722

Event	Names
Bingo Committee	Glenda Spafford glspafford@gmail.com
	Paula Bunevith capecodpj@msn.com
	Kevin Rainsforth kevin.rainsforth1@gmail.com
Progressive Cards	Lynn and Dave Roselli lroselli24@gmail.com
Bowling	Jack Terry jdterry57@yahoo.com
Indoor Exercise	Nancy Karhoff nkarhoff@gmail.com
	Claudia Burke claudiaburke7@gmail.com
Walking With Belinda	Belinda Sebenski bsezbenski@gmail.com
Ping Pong	Lori Barnes barnesrlm@yahoo.com
Jamming With Jim	Jim Davis tspabis@gmail.com
Can Am	Jim Davis
Fun Euchre	Tammy and Jim Davis tspabis@gmail.com
Pickle-ball	Staicy Boyd Gunter esboyd@yahoo.ca
Shuffle League Under the Stars	Rose West 12roses12@gmail.com
Aquafit	Deb Farris
Pancake Breakfast 8:00 – 9:00 am	Jim Schmitt golfer13335@yahoo.com

Volunteers are becoming a disappearing commodity. The Rec Committee requires a number of volunteers to host Dances/ community meal hosts/ Social Committee Members Please consider helping out so that Golden Acres remains the vibrant Community we all love. None of the positions are difficult, it is a great way to get to know your fellow residents. Please See Maureen Shannon for details and volunteer positions that are available. We need some people to step up.



November Birthdays				
Unit				
42	Frank	GRANO	~~~~~	4-Nov
136	Michael	SACCO	~~~~~	4-Nov
154	John	KOSTECKI	~~~~~	5-Nov
92	Eileen	McCONNAUGHEY	~~~~~	6-Nov
40	Margaret	SANNACHAN	~~~~~	8-Nov
203	Carol	SMITH	~~~~~	8-Nov
133	Lou Ann	GATTON	~~~~~	9-Nov
31	Deborah	STANZIALE	~~~~~	11-Nov
25	Carol	DINIZ	~~~~~	12-Nov
56	Krys	WOODS	~~~~~	14-Nov
64	Jemey	WINTERS	~~~~~	15-Nov
67	Nancy	KARHOFF	~~~~~	16-Nov
221	Deb	POLLARD	~~~~~	17-Nov
172	Putt	BISHOP	~~~~~	20-Nov
134	Jean	MORIN	~~~~~	21-Nov
213	Doreen	ROBERTSON	~~~~~	22-Nov
188	Susan	BAILEY	~~~~~	23-Nov
7	Marilyn	CUSHMAN	~~~~~	23-Nov
184	Cynthia	GUGGI	~~~~~	23-Nov
197	John	CLARK	~~~~~	24-Nov
85	Larry	BERUBE	~~~~~	25-Nov
93	Janice	GARVEY	~~~~~	26-Nov
172	Lanying	TJIE	~~~~~	27-Nov

Photo taken and used with permission by
Christine Rainsforth
Bear Lake, Ontario, Canada



November Anniversaries				
Unit				
189	Robert & Anne	KNOTT	~~~~~	4-Nov
94	Michael & Debra	MORAN	~~~~~	10-Nov
120	Anthony & Lorraine	FITTIPOLDI	~~~~~	11-Nov
84	Paul & Bonnie	COLBY	~~~~~	11-Nov
30	Jon & Cynthia	KENNEY	~~~~~	15-Nov
77	Lance & Denae	NORMAN	~~~~~	23-Nov
100	John & Barbara	KANNEY	~~~~~	23-Nov
223	James & Marcie	ZWEIFEL	~~~~~	25-Nov
65	Rennie & Mary	WITTENBOLS	~~~~~	25-Nov
224	James & Theresa	QUINN	~~~~~	28-Nov

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Giving Thanks by Norma MooreUnit 54

As a Western society we have many reasons to give thanks. High standard of living, opportunity for education, employment, health. Whoa! Health is something that is easy to take for granted, especially if you are well, isn't it? I want to tell you a story that may make you more appreciative of your own health.

My friend lived on the West Coast where she had had many medical tests because she simply was not well. The test results were ominous and she took them to her doctor, who chose to ignore them, to minimize the results. She went to others; no one wanted to tackle her problem. After much prayer she took the giant step of selling her house and moving to the centre of the country, Eastern Ontario. That took courage. She felt she would have a better chance where there were more medical specialists. She would not give up.

And indeed, she did find help, but the diagnosis was pretty frightening – stage four lymphoma, a cancer of the blood. But she had a good medical team and treatments started; radiation, chemotherapy. But treatment did not work and the disease progressed. The team elected to perform a stem cell transplant, done by the surgeon who had actually pioneered this procedure.

But it did not work, her body was too weak from the chemo and radiation. But the surgeon did not give up; 'We will try again.' So, she was kept alive for weeks with blood transfusions until her body became strong enough to try again. The second stem cell transplant was watched anxiously, and slowly, gradually, blood cell numbers increased, a positive trajectory was established.

It was a long process of recovery, but she did recover completely. That fall we had a big party for her 60th birthday, roasting a whole pig on a spit. She wanted to thank her entire medical team and all the friends who had stood by her and helped her recover. Now that was a day of thanksgiving, seeing her shining face, her glowing health! Prayers

Joan, Mother of Patricia VanderHeyden (Tony) Unit #23 Patricia's Parents Joan and Bill ran the shuffle league for years. Our condolences to the family



Obituary Joan Leslie

It is with deep sadness that we share the peaceful passing of our beloved mother Evelyn "Joan" Leslie (nee Collier) on September 22, 2026 surrounded by her loving children.

Born January 8, 1930 in Oakville. Joan was deeply connected to her siblings, Barb, Ted, Ron, Marilyn and Dianne. Joan is survived by her children Patricia VanderHeyden (Tony), Kerry, Tony(Lorraine), Lindsay(Sinead), Catherine Hunt(Shaun) and Andrew(Audrey); by her 16 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She shared 60 years of enduring love and partnership with her beloved husband Bill (predeceased Sept 23, 2011). Together they built a home filled with warmth and love. Mom was most proud of her six children and enjoyed every moment spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren

Joan graduated from Oakville Trafalgar high school in 1947, two years of business college, then joined her father at Frederick Harris Music in the publishing business. In 1970, Joan established Leslie Music Supply, publishing and promoting the music of many Canadian composers. Joan most enjoyed attending Children's choir concerts and gave herself an A+ for music appreciation.

An avid gardener, enjoying many years with Bronte Horticultural Society. She was a wonderful poet and took great pleasure in creating short stories written for her grandchildren. Joan loved to host big family parties of which we all have fond memories.

Joan was so loving, kind and gracious. She had a generous spirit, finding the good in everyone. a devout Catholic and faithful servant of God, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, touching countless lives with Christ like love, charity and grace. Joan was a devoted member of St. James Roman Catholic Church for over 60 years, prior to moving to Post Inn Village in 2020.

Joan's family extends their deepest gratitude to the staff of Post Inn Village, who provided endless comfort and compassion to Joan.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Anthony F. Fittipoldi on September 20, 2026, in Washington Township. He was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, teacher and mentor whose memory will be cherished by his family, friends, and the many young people whose lives he touched.

Anthony's life was a remarkable story of perseverance, hard work, and devotion to family. He grew up in Philadelphia during the difficult years of the Depression and lost his father when he was just four years old. His mother, an Italian immigrant and seamstress, raised the family with the help of Anthony's older brother, Nicholas, who became an important father figure in his life. From a young age, Anthony worked to help support his family, including shining shoes and selling produce throughout the neighborhoods of Philadelphia.

As a young man, Anthony learned the upholstery trade and became a skilled craftsman. He enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1948, ultimately attaining the rank of Sergeant. During his service he was activated and spent time in Germany and Austria, and he received an honorable discharge in 1951.



Anthony F. Fittipoldi

After returning home, Anthony resumed his work in upholstery and was given an opportunity to teach the trade to returning veterans. What began as an extension of his craftsmanship became his life's profession. He continued his education by attending the University of Pennsylvania at night, obtaining the credentials necessary to continue teaching in the Philadelphia public school system. Anthony went on to spend his career teaching upholstery to young people in Philadelphia's inner-city schools. He was far more than an instructor. He became a mentor and advocate for his students, using his relationships with local businesses and manufacturers to help many of them find jobs, learn a trade, and build productive lives.

His dedication was formally recognized on June 12, 1963, when the School District of Philadelphia presented him with the President's Award, honoring his "pioneering spirit, professional skill and appeal to young minds and hearts," as well as his commitment to education and his students.

Anthony's greatest devotion, however, was to his family. He met his beloved wife, Lorraine (née Araneo), in the Pocono Mountains, and the two married only three months later. Their marriage would span nearly 70 years. Together they raised their family and created a lifetime of memories.

During his years as a teacher, Anthony made the most of summers with his family. Although money was often limited, the family traveled extensively, camping in state and national parks and exploring the country together. A gifted craftsman in all aspects of his life, Anthony even built a pop-up camping trailer that the family used for many years. Later, he and Lorraine enjoyed traveling with their travel trailer to places they loved, including Cape Cod, the Poconos, Rehoboth Beach, the Carolinas and Florida.

In later years, Anthony and Lorraine spent their winters near Florida's Gulf Coast, where they developed a close circle of friends and enjoyed an active social life. Their travels also took them on cruises and eventually to Europe, including Italy, connecting Anthony with the country from which his family had come.

Anthony leaves behind his devoted wife, Lorraine, who stood by his side throughout life's journey. Together they created a loving family, blessed with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought immense joy to their lives.

He is survived by his daughter Lisa Fittipaldi and her wife Lori Zimmaro; his son Frank Fittipaldi; and the family of his late daughter Carol Newman, including her husband Frank. Anthony was a proud grandfather to Kara, Anthony (Emily), Kathleen, Kelsey (Russell), Francesca, Luciano and Andre. His legacy continues through his great-grandchildren Giovanni, Kaleb, Nora, Hallie and Francis "Frankie." He is also survived by dear nieces and nephews.

In addition to his immediate family, Anthony is remembered fondly by his friends and extended family. He was predeceased by his siblings Nicholas and Genevieve Fittipaldi, who were dear to him.

Anthony will be remembered as a fine craftsman, dedicated educator and mentor, devoted husband and family man, and a compassionate person who spent much of his life helping others find their way. From humble beginnings in Philadelphia to a long career devoted to educating young people, his was a life defined by perseverance, generosity and service to others. His influence lives on in his family and in the generations of students whose lives he helped shape.

We extend our condolences to Lorraine and her family on the loss of Anthony. They have been together in our Golden Acres family for 17+ years and Anthony will be missed by their many GA friends. Their home away from home is Unit 120 at the end of 2nd Street. Condolence cards can be sent to her Golden Acres Address and hopefully cards will be sent to their forwarding address by US Postal Services.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Anthony's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Boys Town.

If you would like to leave an on-line condolence and share a memory or Photo please visit

https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/anthony-fittipoldi-obituary?id=62584807&utm_source=webshareapi&utm_medium=share_button&utm_campaign=wsapimobile_beta#guestbook

Active-Duty Soldiers to Remember

Please take a moment to offer a prayer of thanks and remembrance
to all those who help protect our Countries
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 Lot#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 Sergeant (EOD unit) deployed

- Son of Susan Franco, Lot #17



Please send updates to Chris Rainsforth Lot 215 to goldenacresr.o.newsletter@gmail.com

OUR HOME TOWN

My Home Town - Larry, Debbie, and Gina Douthit

What is special about Flora, Illinois, besides it is where the Douthit crew spent a good portion of our youth. Our little hometown is just packed with all kinds of talent, fun, and early American history. Flora is a small, rural town in south, central Illinois, about 245 miles (4-5 hours) south of Chicago and about 100 miles or so (2 hours) east of St Louis, MO. I would say most of the baseball fans are St Louis Cardinal fans rather than Chicago Cubs fans. Population of Flora is less than 5,000. Everyone knows everyone and who their relatives are.

As a child, if you were mischievous mom and dad knew about it before you could get home.

Flora was founded by a man named Samuel White in 1854. He purchased 85 acres of land from the State of Illinois and donated a good portion of this land to secure the infrastructure and growth of the town.

Flora's main industry was and still is agriculture. The land donated by Samuel White was once full of apple orchards and now corn, wheat, and beans as well as other crops and livestock. And you will also see many oil wells. Illinois produces over 6 million barrels of crude oil a year.

Flora owes much of its early growth to railroads. The rail lines went from Cincinnati, OH to St. Louis, MO and from Shawneetown, IL to Beardstown, IL. As a budding small town, the depot employed half of the wage earners in the community, employing over 300 people.

Our Granddad Dillman was an engineer for the B&O Railroad. One of the many childhood memories were the train rides into St Louis at Christmas time. We spent the day shopping and got a chance to meet Santa.

As the roads and interstates improved, much of the transportation became car and truck. Passenger service from the Flora rail station ended in 1973. The train lines from Flora to St Louis were cut in 2015 due to declining traffic. And then we would occasionally see a train parked on the tracks up until 2022. Thus, the end of the railroad era. The Flora Depot, built in 1872, burned in 1916 and restored in 1917, is now a museum and was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 20, 1998.

Factories are also a major source of employment for the surrounding area residents. Most notable are North America Lighting and HELLA (vehicle lighting and electronics), SILGAN Plastics, and Cargill processes the grain grown in our fields for food and livestock feed.

In 1960, Flora was selected for the site of a gigantic promotion by the Ford Motor Company and was designated as Fordtown, USA. Every car owner in town was given a week's use of a brand-new Ford vehicle. Our brother-in-law was brought home from the hospital as a newborn in one of those Ford cars. So, every September we celebrate Fordtown with an antique car show.

A life size statue of Colonel George Rogers Clark is at the Historic Flora Depot to commemorate Colonel Clark and his troop's (the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State Militia) grueling trek from Vincennes, IN through Clay County to Kaskaskia, IL in 1779.

What do the people of Flora, Illinois do for fun? There is always something going on. Our schools, churches, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce hosts events like concerts in Library Park, movies in the park, farmers market, brats and burgers on the grill, and the best Halloween Parade north of the Florida state line.

The little local theater (Nostalgia Theater) is a not-for-profit stage for many performances by our local talent offering on stage programs, music and art shows, dance performances, murder mysteries, comedy and theater productions.

In September the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce presents a fun hay wagon ride through Elmwood Cemetery called Shadows of Elmwood. Local volunteers perform skits to reenact stories highlighting the lives and history of former area residents and events. A couple of those stories include Brigadier General Lewis Baldwin Parsons of the Union Army during the American Civil War and LtCol Leo A. Hettiger. LtCol Hettiger commanded a B-24 bomber during WWII and was shot at over Austria but safely crash landed the aircraft in what was then Yugoslavia. He later served in the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War earning the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. So many other fascinating stories are told during this fun tour through the cemetery.

Shadows of Elmwood is one of our largest fundraisers with proceeds supporting community projects like our Rotary Kids Park, tennis, basketball and pickleball courts, Charley Brown Park, skate park, disc golf and other festivities in our little town. And of course, Santa always comes to visit and sets up his little hut for all the children to come and visit. So many memories were made riding our bikes around town, going to Charley Brown Park to ride the Little Toot train, swim in the pool in the summer and sledding down the slopes in the winter.

The pride of Flora is the Wolf Pack. Flora is the home of the Flora Wolves (high school) and Flora Pups (middle school). Youth athletic programs run throughout the year and are a huge community event. We have one of the best tennis teams in southern Illinois and our football, basketball and baseball teams frequently make it to championship rounds. The coaching staff are great mentors who cultivate respect, team spirit and good sportsmanship. We are proud of our hometown teams and when they win we celebrate!

"For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack." – Rudyard Kipling

The Florida Department of Health (DOH)

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) manages these notices on a county-by-county basis. As of October 2026, an active dengue outbreak has impacted at least eight counties, alongside several areas experiencing heightened West Nile virus activity.

Impacted Counties

The DOH categorizes areas based on risk severity:

- Under an Alert (Highest Activity): Alachua, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Pasco, and Pinellas counties. Hillsborough County remains the hardest hit, having extended its local emergency due to a high concentration of local dengue cases.
- Under an Advisory: Brevard, Broward, Leon, Palm Beach, Polk, and Walton counties. Broward County recently issued its advisory following its first locally acquired case of dengue fever.

The Specific Threats

1. Dengue Fever: Transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes. It causes severe flu-like symptoms, exceptional muscle and joint pain (often called "breakbone fever"), high fevers, and rashes. It is not contagious between humans.
2. West Nile Virus: Detected recently in counties like Orange, Martin, Citrus, and Bay after local "sentinel chickens" (used by the state to track viruses) or human cases tested positive. While 80% of cases are asymptomatic, it can cause fever, headaches, and body aches.

How to Protect Yourself

Health officials urge both residents and visitors to practice the "Drain and Cover" protocol:

- Drain standing water: Empty out buckets, flowerpots, garbage cans, pool covers, or toys at least once a week. Mosquitoes can breed in pockets of water as small as a bottle cap.
- Cover skin: Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors.
- Use repellent: Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing active ingredients like DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Secure your home: Ensure all window and door screens are free of holes and tears to keep bugs outside.

OUR HOME TOWN



Thanksgiving Day in the USA

The 1621 Harvest Feast:

Modern American Thanksgiving is modeled on a three-day harvest celebration in 1621 at Plymouth Colony. English Pilgrims shared a meal with the native Wampanoag people, who had critically helped the colonists survive their first year by teaching them agricultural and hunting techniques.

Becoming a National Holiday:

For over two centuries, days of thanks were celebrated sporadically by individual states. Author Sarah Josepha Hale campaigned for 36 years to establish a national holiday. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln officially declared a national Thanksgiving Day during the Civil War to foster unity. It was later codified by Congress in 1941 to always fall on the fourth Thursday of November.

Modern Traditions

Today's celebrations center heavily around family, community, and entertainment:

The Thanksgiving Feast:

Families gather for a massive meal. The traditional menu features roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Parades:

Large-scale processions are a staple morning activity, most famously the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, known for its giant character balloons and marching bands.

Football:

The NFL has hosted games on Thanksgiving Day since its inception in 1920, with the Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys playing legendary annual home games.

The Presidential Turkey Pardon:

Every year, the U.S. President ceremonially "pardons" a live turkey at the White House, sparing it from the dinner table to live out its days on a farm.

Giving Back: Many families participate in charity work, such as volunteering at soup kitchens or organizing local food drives for those in need.

Thanksgiving Day USA and the History behind Black Friday

Black Friday occurs the day after Thanksgiving because it marks the official start of the holiday shopping season, a tradition heavily shaped by historical department store parades and retailer agreements. Here is exactly why the timing worked out this way:

1. The Parade Tradition & "The Unwritten Rule"

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, major department stores like Macy's, Eaton's, and Gimbel's sponsored massive Thanksgiving Day parades. These parades always concluded with an appearance by Santa Claus, signaling to the public that the Christmas season had officially begun.

An unwritten rule existed among major retailers: no store would advertise holiday shopping or discounts until after the Thanksgiving parade was over. Therefore, the very first day stores could launch their Christmas sales was Friday morning.

2. "Franksgiving" and the 1939 Presidential Intervention

The connection between Thanksgiving and shopping is so strong that a U.S. President actually altered the calendar to protect it.

In 1939, during the Great Depression, the last Thursday of November happened to fall on the very last day of the month (November 30). Retailers panicked, fearing that a short three-week Christmas shopping season would devastate their businesses. They petitioned President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move the holiday up. Roosevelt agreed and legally moved Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday of November instead of the last.

This intentionally guaranteed an extra week of holiday shopping starting on Friday. (Critics mockingly called it "Franksgiving" until Congress permanently codified the fourth Thursday rule in 1941).

3. The Practical Holiday Weekend

From a practical consumer standpoint, Thanksgiving always falls on a Thursday. Because most schools and many corporate employers grant workers a four-day weekend by giving them Friday off, the day after Thanksgiving naturally became the busiest travel and leisure day of the year—making it the perfect day for families to hit the stores together.

The term "**Black Friday**" has a fascinating history that is quite different from what most people expect. It actually went through several iterations before becoming the major shopping holiday it is today.

1. The True Origin: Philadelphia Police Chaos (1950s–1960s)

The term was first used in relation to post-Thanksgiving shopping by Philadelphia police officers in the 1950s and 1960s. Hordes of suburban tourists and shoppers would flood into the city on the Friday after Thanksgiving to start their holiday shopping and attend the annual Saturday Army-Navy football game. The massive influx created massive traffic jams, accidents, and a surge in shoplifting. Because police officers were forced to work extra-long, exhausting shifts to handle the bedlam and could not take the day off, they dreadfully dubbed it "Black Friday". Local merchants tried to rebrand it to "Big Friday" to make it sound positive, but the original nickname stuck.

2. The Corporate Rebrand:

Going "Into the Black" (1980s) In the late 1980s, the term began spreading nationwide, but retailers wanted to get rid of its negative, chaotic connotation. They cleverly reinvented the narrative using an old accounting concept: In traditional accounting, losses were recorded in red ink and profits were recorded in black ink. Retailers propagated the story that most stores operated at a loss ("in the red") for most of the year, but the massive surge in holiday shopping the day after Thanksgiving finally pushed them into profitability ("into the black"). This corporate narrative is what popularized Black Friday into a positive, anticipated day of deals.

3. The Historic Misnomer: The 1869 Financial Crash Long before it had anything to do with shopping, the very first recorded use of "Black Friday" occurred on September 24, 1869. It referred to a severe U.S. financial crisis when two Wall Street speculators tried to corner the gold market, causing the market to crash and bankrupting many investors.

Modern Evolved Traditions:

Over the last few decades, Black Friday has spawned its own weekend ecosystem: Small Business Saturday: Encourages people to shop at local brick-and-mortar independent businesses. Cyber Monday: Shifts the focus entirely to on-line e-commerce deals. Month-Long Deals: Rather than limiting door-busters to a single chaotic Friday morning, many major retailers now spread their promotions across the entire month of November.

Veterans Day in the United States is a federal holiday observed annually on November 11th to honor military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

In 2026, Veterans Day falls on a Wednesday.

Key Details

Purpose: It honors all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, with a primary focus on thanking and celebrating living veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Origin: Like Canada's Remembrance Day, it began as Armistice Day to mark the end of World War I hostilities at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. It was officially renamed Veterans Day in 1954 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower to honor all American veterans.

Traditions: Major observances include the Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, regional parades, and a voluntary two-minute period of silence at 2:11 p.m. EST.

Closures: As a federal holiday, federal government offices and banks are closed, and mail delivery is paused. Schools and private businesses choose their own closure policies.

Veterans Day vs. Memorial Day

Americans often distinguish Veterans Day from Memorial Day using this general rule of thumb:

Holiday When Observed Primary Purpose

Veterans Day November 11th annually
Honors all who served, especially thanking living veterans.

Memorial Day
Last Monday in May
Mourns and honors those who died while serving.

Golden Acres R. O. Social Committee Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Please Note**Most Activities do NOT start until January 2027 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3	4 Wednesday Weekly Update9:00 am	5	6 Aquafit 10:30 am Instructor Deb Farris	7
8 Volunteers are appreciated please contact Social Committee Member to volunteer.	9 Election Day	10	11 Veterans Day USA Remembrance Day Canada Wednesday Weekly Update9:00 am Blood Donor Clinic 9-2:30 Veteran's Day	12	13 Aquafit 10:30 am Instructor Deb Farris	14
15	16	17	18 Wednesday Weekly Update9:00 am	19	20 Aquafit 10:30 am Instructor Deb Farris	21
22	23	24	25 Wednesday Weekly Update9:00 am	26 "Thanksgiving Dinner" Anne & Bob Knott 2:00 pm Thanksgiving Day	27 Aquafit 10:30 am Instructor Deb Farris	28
29 First Sunday of Advent	30					DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31