

# AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

SPRING, 2025

VOLUME 4.1

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN SERENOA!



### SERENOANS GO GREEN!

On Sunday, March 16th, you could sense that Spring was in the air. The mouth-watering scent of boiled corned beef and cabbage filled the Clubhouse, the sounds of lively laughter mingled with friendly conversation, and the sea of green apparel signaled the arrival of Saint Patty's Day in Serenoa.

The occasion began with neighbors getting acquainted, catching up, and toasting in celebration, before sitting down to a traditional Irish feast courtesy of The Social Committee and "Salt & Pepper" caterers. A winning combination of great food and great company made for a "splendid affair". And... speaking of winning... John Yates certainly had the



luck of the Irish with him on that day, as he not only garnered the 50/50 winnings, but shared the championship prize money at the annual "Corn Hole" festivities. Clearly claiming the day's pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

John teamed with Eric Amati, who battled eight teams of skilled bean bag tossers throughout the afternoon before earning victory. Congrats to the participants, and especially to Colleen Milkowski, and the Social Committee, for reminding us how lucky we all are to live in this community.

### SPRING FORWARD

#### SO, WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME?

Some have said Benjamin Franklin started the practice in 1784. He wrote a satirical essay for the *Journal de Paris* proposing regulations to ensure early risers. Philadelphia's Franklin Institute, however, disputes the claim, and looks to New Zealand entomologist George Hudson, who proposed a two-hour clock rollback in 1895. The suggestion was inspired by his passion for collecting bugs, as he wanted more light after work to gather insects.

Still others credit British builder William Willet, who wrote a pamphlet in 1907 that encouraged moving clocks forward in the spring so that people could get out of bed earlier. Lighter and longer days were supposed to save energy, reduce the number of traffic accidents and help people be more active.

In 1916, during World War I, Germany became the first country to practice daylight saving time to conserve fuel, according to the Congressional Research Service. Other European countries soon followed, and the U.S. started practicing daylight saving time in 1918 to add additional daylight hours and help conserve energy.

Today's practice of starting daylight saving time on the second Sunday in March each year, and ending it on the first Sunday in November, was enacted under former President George W. Bush.



### PURGE & PROFIT! IT'S GARAGE SALE SEASON ONCE AGAIN!

On April 11th and 12th Serenoa residents have a golden opportunity to purge their closets, empty their storage bins, and trade their unwanted stuff for some unexpected coin. Garage-sale goers from all over Vero are invited to search, and sample, everything from collectible china to cheap chachkes.



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**Eat well and exercise regularly!**  
Eating healthy foods will keep your energy up so that when challenges arise, they won't feel as overwhelming or difficult as they could otherwise be without proper nutrition in place beforehand (and after). Exercise releases endorphins which makes us feel happier overall— and who wouldn't want more joy in their life?



## Seasons change. So does our mood.

The season of Spring is here, and with it comes a host of new emotions. Some people love this time of year, but others find themselves feeling overwhelmed, or even depressed, because of the changes that take place in their bodies, and minds, as spring progresses into summer.

You've got Spring fever! It's okay; we all do. In fact, it's normal for people who are prone to seasonal affective disorder (SAD) or just generally sensitive souls— and even those who aren't— to feel their moods shift with the weather as Winter gives way to Spring-time warmth and light. The transition can be tough on our bodies too— suppressing your feelings during cold months means they'll erupt once they no longer need suppressing. The same goes for repressing anger when tempers flare because of long winters spent indoors with others who aren't always easygoing or understanding.

The good news is that there are ways we can help ourselves through this tumultuous time period. Exercise regularly; eat well; get enough sleep; practice mindfulness techniques like meditation or journaling until they become second nature... and go outside whenever possible!

Spring is a time of year when we experience many emotions. It can be a time of renewal and rebirth, or it can be a time of sadness and loss. The weather may change from cold and dreary to warm and sunny, but our moods don't always follow suit.

Spring brings with it many different types of feelings: happiness, excitement, and joy; fear; sadness; and despair; anger at those who hurt us in the past; and love for those who stand by our side no matter what happens next in life's journey.

As seasons change, so do our emotions. Spring is a time of great transition and renewal. It's also a time when many of us experience emotional chaos and disruption— but it can also be one of excitement and joy!

Spring is an especially emotional season because it marks the end of Winter and its associated feelings, such as sadness or loss. You may have been missing your loved ones who live far away or feeling lonely without them during this period. Now... you're finally able to see them again! Or perhaps you've been holding onto some anger over something that happened last year around this time— and now that it's over (or at least fading), your emotions are returning to normal levels again too!

Welcome back Springtime! Make the most of this time, and head outside whenever possible. Vitamin D helps regulate our moods by lowering levels of serotonin which can exacerbate depression. Spring can be a time of emotional chaos, but there are ways to get through it that will make you feel better. The key is to pay attention to what's happening in your body and mind so that you can find ways to support yourself during this transition period.



## So when does it feel like spring in Florida?

Florida feels like Spring when temperatures start rising, usually in April when residents notice a temperature change... around 1 to 2 degrees. However, because temperatures rise and fall all day, the human body needs a more drastic temperature swing each day to notice a difference.

The most dramatic temperature change in April occurs when it's nearly 9 degrees warmer than February (82 degrees vs 73 degrees)— while still feeling quite pleasant. June on the other hand feels like summer— as the average high will be nearly 90 degrees. The heat sneaks up on you, so be prepared for a hot Summer by this point.

As far as precipitation goes, it will rain significantly more in June; however, Florida isn't a Spring-rain type of state—it's a Summer rain state.

Florida has a Summer monsoon season

that kicks off in June with a 145% increase in rain from May.

In a nutshell, April in Florida offers a taste of Spring, without the scorching summer heat that reaches up to 89 degrees. With temperatures hovering around 82 degrees, it strikes a perfect balance.

And, you'll find tons of people out enjoying the beach, water, and sunshine. While it may be slightly rainier compared to the Winter months of January and February, it's nothing compared to the downpour of the Summer monsoon season.

What's more, you'll enjoy an additional 2.5 hours of daylight in April compared to January—allowing you to enjoy the longer days. As for humidity, April provides a respite from the 20 days of high humidity you would experience in July, although it remains slightly more humid than January.

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## GREAT FUN! GREAT CAUSE!

Let's "Run Into Sea Turtle Nesting Season" together at the **Tipsy Turtle 2 Mile Fun Run and Festival**. 100% of the event's proceeds will benefit CCinc's mission of protecting coastal habitats for sea turtle survival. Race entry fee includes music, raffle, prizes, shopping, photo station, Easter Activities, and more!  
**April 19th: Jaycee Beach Park from 8am-10:30am. Registration ends April 18th.**  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/FL/VeroBeach/TipsyTurtle2Mile>



Vero Beach is serving up a 'Springtime Smorgasbord' of entertainment options.

## JOIN THE PARTY... LIVE... IN THE LOOP!

Three nights per week, **Riverside Theatre's Live in the Loop** becomes the local hot spot where some of the area's most talented musicians take the stage. Enjoy burgers, chicken, bbq, salads, ice cream, beer, wine, and cocktails. There's outdoor table seating and space for lawn chairs for casual dining, and plenty of parking lot space for tail-gating under the oaks.

**Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 5:30 pm - 9 pm at Riverside Theater.**

## THE BEST SEATS IN TOWN!

The **Vero Beach Film Festival** celebrates independent filmmaking, and enriches our community—both culturally and economically. The festival offers red carpet screenings, fabulous parties and filmmaker events that support both the independent and student filmmaker. Most important, the festival gives back to Vero, with free community screenings and thousands of dollars in donations to local charities. Four levels of entertainment options give festival owners entry to everything from film watching... to wine tastings... to VIP parties with filmmakers and celebs. **April 10-13 at venues around town. Reserve your seats today!** <https://vbfilmfest.org>



## FROM VAUDEVILLE TO CLASSIC POP, VERO IS GETTING RAVE REVIEWS!

Relive the history of the Golden Age on Tin Pan Alley at **The 28th Street Boarding House**. **May 2-18 At Vero Beach Theater Guild.** Follow the inspiring true story of Carole King's remarkable rise to stardom through the soundtrack of a generation. **Riverside Theater. April 15-May 11.**



## SAVOR THE VISUAL VARIETY AT VBMA

The **Vero Beach Museum of Art** is currently inviting art lovers to view an entirely refreshed experience. A variety of new exhibitions are on now showing in each of the Museum's four interior galleries. In the Holmes Gallery is the visiting **French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950**, on view through **June 22**. In the Stark Gallery is **Timeless: Robert Farber's Fashion Photography** on view through **August 31**. Spanning both the Schumann Gallery and Titelman Gallery is **Well-Dressed** through **September 14**— showcasing the lasting impact of clothing in art, and exploring the connections between fashion, identity, performance, and self-expression.

## A "MUST SEE" AT MCKEE!

Mark your calendars for a blooming extravaganza as **McKee Botanical Garden** prepares to host its much-anticipated **20th Annual Waterlily Festival on Saturday, June 14, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. This seasonal event promises a captivating display of over 80 varieties of waterlilies, making it one of the state's largest collections... at one of Vero's most celebrated destinations.

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## CONGRATS & GRATITUDE GOES OUT TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS!



GAIL MILLER

ED LENSKI

On February 25, The Serenoa Annual Meeting convened, and formally approved the appointment of two new members of the HOA Board. There was not a true quorum in attendance, but, due to the fact that only two candidates placed their names in the ring, an electoral count was unnecessary. The Board welcomes Gail Miller to her first assignment as a Board Member. Gail has previously volunteered as a member of several Serenoa committees, and will be assuming the duties of Serenoa Treasurer. Ed Lenski will be returning to the Board in the capacity of Director at Large—an appointed volunteer position he held with the previous Board.

The entire community recognizes the critical need for civic pride and volunteerism. The Serenoa family welcomes Gail and Ed with open arms, and sincere appreciation, for their service. We all wish them well during their terms of office. Homeowners can contact Gail and Ed directly through the Serenoa website.



## BOARD BIZ

Community directives, actions, and project approvals covered at the 3/13/25 Board meeting. ELLIOTT MERRILL CONTACT INFO

- Alexandra Agudelo, Community Association Manager (replaced Chris Madsen)
- Daisy Lindo, Asst. - daisy@elliottmerrill.com

### PONDS

- Info regarding the well permit application is on the Elliott Merrill portal under "Documents"/ "Public Documents"/ drop down to "Carter Engineering / St. John's Water"
- The well permit application has been finalized and is scheduled to be submitted this week.

### SIDEWALKS / CURB REPAIRS AND CLEANING

- Community sidewalk repair was approved. Treasure Coast Pavers has been contracted in the amount of \$4,200.
- The Board approved the cleaning, and power washing, of sidewalks, curbs and Miami drains. The contract was awarded to Big Little Guy in the amount of \$7,600. There will be an opportunity for homeowners to hire this contractor to clean their personal driveways on the day they are here. Details to follow.

### FRONT ENTRANCE INFORMATION

- The Board approved a lighting project on the interior entrance island and awarded the contract to Diaz Electric at a cost of \$2,100.

- This will include palm tree, and curb lighting, which will brighten the entrance at night—making the island curbing more visible, and improve aesthetics. Currently, the only light at the entrance is on the "Serenoa" sign. As a result, the extremely dark entranceway makes visibility problematic... and a safety issue.

### SERENOA RULES AND REGULATIONS

- The Board officially approved a set of Rules and Regulations. As required by law, a copy was sent to homeowners via an email blast on 2/25/25.
- These Rules and Regulations may be found on the Elliott Merrill portal under "Documents"/ "Rules and Regulations".

### COMMITTEES

- The Board voted to dissolve the Clubhouse Committee. While aware of remaining recommendations, The Board will consider, and budget, these items at a later date. The Board thanks the Committee for their hard work in researching options, and the best prices available, for the projects that have been completed.

The Board voted to continue the following committees and their respective members:

- **ARC (Architectural Review Committee)**  
Linda Yates, Yolanda Lipari, Herb Gray, Julie Vergara, Karen Gray
- **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**  
Colleen Milkowski, Kathy Inzano, Wendy Bushong, Phil Cervasio, Leslie Biaggi
- **HEARING AND FINES COMMITTEE**  
Carol Mester, Mike Puzzele, David Arcara, Terry Johnson
- **PONDS COMMITTEE**  
Randy Riley, Jeff Oakes, John Yates, Frank Frazier

- **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**  
George O'Malley, John Decker, John Marincas, Linda O'Malley

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

- The "Sing Along Happy Hour" turned out to be so much fun! Thank you to the volunteers who brought a karaoke machine which made singing and dancing front and center!
- The "St. Patrick's Day Party" was another successful Serenoa gathering with over 60 people in attendance. An entertaining cornhole tournament was won by Eric Amati and John Yates.

### Upcoming Events:

- Blood Drive Sunday, April 6, from 10am - 3pm (residents must wait 8 weeks between blood donations)
- Spring Community Yard Sale - April 11th and 12th, 2025 from 8am - 2pm. The gates will be left open on these dates and times.

### CLUBHOUSE

- The Board is in the process of obtaining quotes for a handrail to be installed at the front entrance of the clubhouse. The purpose of this project is to aid those in need of assistance while stepping up to the front door of the Clubhouse.
- Discussion of a pool chiller has been postponed, as the cost has not been budgeted for this year.
- Diaz Electric was hired to add a spotlight on the entrance portico to increase visibility on the handicap ramp. Additionally, they will replace a spotlight on the portico which was broken. Both are on motion detectors. Diaz also added a timer for the lights under the porch area. The cost of this work was less than \$600.00.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM

## Spring cleaning? Remember to recycle!

### Recycling in Indian River County

**Paper**

**Plastics #1-7**  
(Keep bottle caps on)

**Aluminum/Tin/Steel Cans**

**Cardboard**

**Not Recyclable**

NO Plastic Bags or Styrofoam™ • NO Tools or Heavy Metals  
NO Shredded Paper • NO Hoses or Cords  
NO Loose Bottle Caps- keep caps on bottles

ROLL With Us...RECYCLE!

For more info visit [indianriver.gov](http://indianriver.gov) or call 226-3212

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### Community Blood Drive helps save lives. Onsite lab saves time.

There's no substitute for blood. This critical bodily fluid cannot be artificially manufactured in a lab. Shelf life is limited—requiring inventory to be constantly replenished by generous blood donors. The only source for life-saving patient transfusion is volunteer blood donations.

On Sunday, April 6, Serenoans have the ability to save lives through a selfless act that only takes about 45 minutes. Walk-in donations are welcomed, but appointments are encouraged. Residents can avoid wait time by visiting [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and using sponsor code 74643.

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