



617 Tamiami Trl. N

Harbor Lights Beacon

Venice, FL 34285

Volume XXXVI, Issue 4

April 2026



Four generations of Wallace's



Where is the pot of gold?



Resin tray craft class



March ladies luncheon - salads

EUCHRE

February 12

First place Mark Grady
Second place. Joyce Skorka
Third place. Margie Elmer

February 19

First place. Tony Gratto
Second place. Jenny Grady
Third place. Dolores Gratto

February 26

First place Margie Elmer
Second place. Philip Louis Roberts
Third place. Joyce Skorka

March 5

First place. Joyce Skorka
Second place. Carolyn Welton
Third place. Margie Elmer

ART IN THE PARK

Thank you to our seven residents that displayed their wares for Art in the Park. Paintings, silk scarfs, colletions of cards from around the country, shark teeth collections and creations, sea glass and shadow box art, crocheting bracelets, intricate box art, and rope bowls some of our displays. HL talent at their best!!!

Appreciated all that attended to support our crafters! Perhaps you picked up a few ideas to try.

March Ladies Luncheon

March ladies luncheon – salads. We enjoyed 19 delicious salads and an informative presentation of the history of Venice. Harry Klinkhamer from the Venice Museum presented the talk, with a slide show. It is the 100th year anniversary of the founding of Venice, on July 4th. They plan a big celebration that day and this year.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY COOKLUCK

Harbor Lights was wearin' the green on Saturday night for our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner! Everyone enjoyed our traditional Irish meal of corn beef. Thank you Bob and Danette Ward for hosting this event. The cook shack and kitchen team prepared and cooked a tasty meal for all of us.

Following dinner, our entertainment was the horse race run by Cindy and Neal Drefke and their team. Pick your lucky horse and make a wager!! Hopefully you had the luck of the Irish and were a winner!

Recreation Board

ON THE COVER

Four generations of Wallace's (#139) on the front page. Doug celebrated his 101 birthday and his great granddaughter's 1st birthday. Daughter Jan, Doug, granddaughter Jennifer and great grand daughter Ada.

A rainbow arch covered the sky above Harbor Lights Clubhouse. Maybe we should go out looking for the pot of gold.

Resin tray craft class, was enjoyed by many. Just a few trays, 13 were made.

Salads for the March Ladies Luncheon.

GOLF NEWS

The sun is out and warm weather has returned.

March 1st

Hole 27 was Gary Figler

50/50 was John Bone

March 9th

Hole 20 closest to the pin was Kim Simpson

Hole 25 closest to the was Nancy Thomson

Hole 27 longest putt was Tim Leary

50/50 Timothy Leary

March 16

Hole 20 closest to the pin was Jack Utley

Hole 27 longest putt was Bob M.

50/50 was Kevin Simpson

Donna Leary

BINGO

February 24

Canadian flag – Barb Laudet

American flag – Tania

March 3

Canadian flag – Joan Dahl

American flag – Barb Laudet

March 10

Canadian flag – Carol Dauterman

Joan Dahl

American flag – Ron Ganance

March 17

Canadian flag – Jane Dellina

American flag – Margie Elmer

We are still collecting canned goods for the food pantry during April.

Park Crawl

A great afternoon and evening was had by many during the Park Crawl. Thank you to the house hosts. Sharon and her lemon drop crew, Jim, Marylee and their crew, Laura and Barefoot Mike, Jerry and Wendy, Kim and Kevin and Donnie and Darlene. The evening continued at the marina with 70 music from Chris and his band. Thank you to Todd Cumming and Donnie Butler for organizing this fun event.



Manager's Report

Real Estate Sales Update

Real estate activity at Harbor Lights Cooperative continues to show a **positive trend**, with several recent sales and additional homes currently under contract.

We are pleased to welcome **new neighbors** to the community. The home at **16 Port Drive** recently closed with buyers from **Massachusetts**, and **72 4th Avenue** has closed with new residents coming from **Michigan**. We extend a warm Harbor Lights welcome to both households and wish them many happy years in the community.

Sales momentum continues with **two additional homes currently under contract**. Properties located at **33 Starboard** and **101 2nd Avenue** are scheduled to close in **April**, bringing more new residents to Harbor Lights.

The continued buyer interest highlights the appeal of the Harbor Lights lifestyle- **waterfront living, an active community, and a prime location near downtown** Venice. We look forward to welcoming our upcoming neighbors and wish them a smooth closing process.

Night Swimming at the Pool

This issue of offering night swimming was raised a few years ago and with all the new people coming to the park, we are taking another look at offering extended pool hours.

A swimming pool deck lighting study is being conducted to determine what additional lighting may be required to achieve illumination levels necessary for safe night swimming in compliance with the standards of the Sarasota County Health Department. The study includes a **photometric survey and analysis**, which measures the amount and distribution of light across the pool deck and surrounding areas.

The purpose of the study is to ensure that lighting is sufficient for **safe swimmer visibility, deck safety, and proper supervision**, while also identifying any areas where additional lighting or fixture adjustments may be needed to comply with applicable health and safety regulations.

Resident Electric Upgrades

We have had a positive response with residents when we contact them about their electrical issues that need upgrading. As mentioned last month, we noticed several resident electrical issues that require prompt attention, including rusted and deteriorated

electrical pedestals and areas where wiring has become exposed. These conditions present safety concerns and must be corrected to maintain compliance with applicable codes. We are trying to be proactive to ensure all necessary repairs are identified and completed before Code Inspection from the city of Venice comes through the park. Thank you to all the residents that we are contacting. We appreciate your cooperation.



Harbor Lights Peninsula Shoreline Protection Plan

The proposed shoreline protection plan for the peninsula at Harbor Lights Cooperative is designed to stabilize the shoreline along Roberts Bay while improving long-term resilience and environmental health. The plan combines traditional structural repairs with modern “living shoreline” techniques to reduce erosion, protect property, and enhance marine habitat. Over time, wave action, storms, and natural coastal processes can gradually erode shorelines and weaken existing seawalls. To address these concerns, the proposed plan combines traditional shoreline protection with environmentally friendly “living shoreline” methods. This hybrid approach is designed not only to stabilize the shoreline but also to enhance marine habitat and water quality.

Key components of the plan include:

- **Seawall Repair:** Traditional seawall repair using **vinyl panel inserts** is a common and effective method for restoring the structural integrity of aging seawalls. This technique is often used when an existing seawall has developed cracks, voids, or erosion behind the wall but still has a basic structure that can be reinforced. In this repair method, **interlocking vinyl sheet piles** are driven into the ground directly in front of or alongside the existing seawall. These durable vinyl panels form a new continuous barrier that helps stabilize the shoreline and prevent soil from washing out behind the wall. The vinyl material is highly resistant to corrosion, saltwater, marine organisms, and weathering, making it well suited for long-term use in coastal environments.
- **EcoWAD® Wave Attenuation Structures:** Engineered EcoWAD® units from Living Shoreline Solutions are large precast concrete marine structures designed to sit and reduce wave energy before it reaches the shoreline. The EcoWAD® would be strategically placed based

on a wave attenuation study performed by Dr. Ping Wang of W&R Coastal Sciences and Solutions. These structures function similarly to a reef system, dissipating wave force while encouraging marine growth and habitat development.

The size of the EcoWAD® is custom made for each location but they can be 6 feet tall with each unit weighing in as much as 9,000 pounds (about 4–4.5 tons). The large weight helps the structures: stay stable on the bay bottom, even during storms; dissipate wave energy effectively rather than simply deflect it; and provide a solid surface for oysters, barnacles, and marine life to attach, creating habitat similar to a natural reef.

- **Mangrove Planting:** Native mangroves would be planted along suitable shoreline areas. Their root systems naturally stabilize soil, trap sediment, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife while helping buffer storm surge and waves.
- **Rip Rap Rock Protection:** Strategically placed rip rap (large stone) along vulnerable shoreline sections will help armor the shoreline and prevent further erosion in higher-energy areas.

Together, these elements form a **hybrid living shoreline system** that blends engineered protection with natural coastal processes. By combining these approaches—seawall maintenance, EcoWAD® wave attenuation, mangrove plantings, and rip rap protection—the Harbor Lights shoreline plan aims to create a **balanced, resilient coastal protection system**. This strategy supports both structural stability and environmental sustainability.

The Board believes that taking proactive steps now will help protect the peninsula for many years to come while maintaining the natural waterfront character that makes Harbor Lights Cooperative such a special community. As planning progresses, residents will continue to be updated through newsletters and meetings regarding project details, timing, and next steps.

APRIL

Birthdays

- 2 Jim Fox #55
10 Carolyn Welton #11
Jack Utley #103
19 Jan Rundquist #92
25 Phyllis Cherry #26
28 Pat McRoberts #119

Early MAY

- 6 Shirley Sweet #69
10 Laurie Holder #29
15 Jan Utley #103

APRIL

Anniversaries

- 3 Neal and Cindy Drefke #15
16 Gary and Jane Gunterman #109
21 Larry and Wendie Bunnell #64

Early MAY

- 11 Frank and Jane Friberg #107

**NEW DIRECTORIES ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE
OFFICE.**



DIRECTORY CHANGES:

#16

DELETE: Ellison

ADD: Mark and Cheryl Connolly

#151

DELETE: Tom Kelly

ADD: Kenneth and Beth Gankofskie

CONDOLENCES

We wish to express our sympathy and condolences to Kevin Leary #85 and family. Connie passed away March 2. Cards and prayers would be appreciated.

We wish to express our sympathy and condolences to the Aldridge Family. Marcie Godleski, daughter, and family Bette Aldridge (#147) passed away March 5. Cards and prayers would be greatly appreciated.

PAST RESIDENTS

We wish to express our condolences and sympathy to the families of Vee Cassada (#64) and Nancy Young-Addy (#34), they passed away the end of February.