

# The Seagull

Lakeside Terrace | 24 Sunrise Lane, Fruitland Park, FL 34731  
[www.lakesideterrace.net](http://www.lakesideterrace.net)

August 2024



*photo by  
Carol Roberts*



The Seagull is published by the Lakeside Terrace Social Club



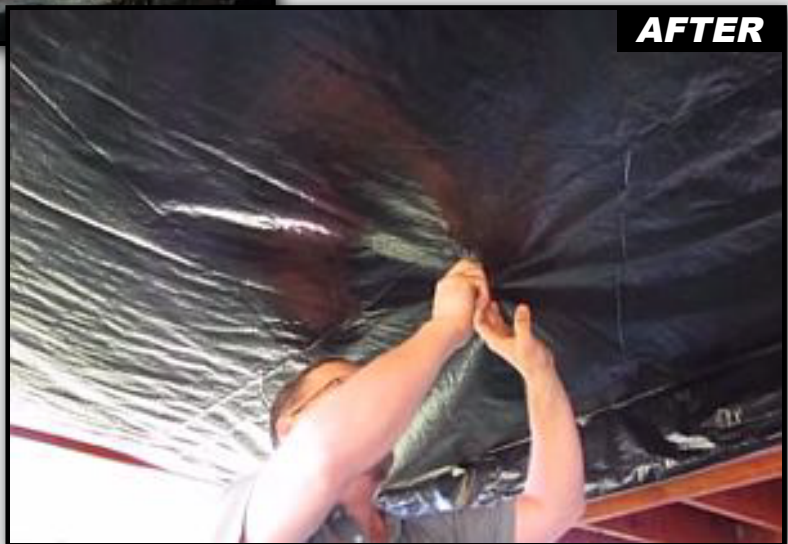
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## Social Club Calendar

### **AUGUST 2024**

Friday, August 9, Book Club, Clubhouse at 2 PM

Thursday, August 15, Birthday Party, Clubhouse at 5 PM

Tuesday, August 20, Guys n Gals, Millers Ale House at 1 PM

## Recurring Activities (Monthly)

2nd Fri	Book Club 2 PM
3rd Tue	Guys 'n Gals Luncheon 1 PM
3rd Thu	Birthday Dinner 5 PM
3rd Fri	Grandma's Bingo + Wine 6:30 PM

## Recurring Activities (Weekly)

Sunday	1 PM Billiards
Sun	6 PM Euchre (Bring \$.50; Prizes)
Monday	7 AM Exercise with Peg
Mon	10 AM Pool Aerobics
Mon	1 PM Wii Bowling
Mon	5 PM Bingo
Tuesday	1 PM Billiards
Tue	2 PM Left, Right, Center
Wednesday	7 AM Exercise with Peg
Wed	10 AM Pool Aerobics
Wed	6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo
Thursday	9 AM Chair Yoga
Thu	1 PM Mahjongg
Thu	1 PM Shuffleboard
Thu	5:30 PM Pennies
Friday	7 AM Exercise with Peg
Fri	10 AM Pool Aerobics
Fri	1 PM Billiards
Fri	6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo

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## Social Club News

*Martha Grove, President*

Greetings from your Social Club. Hopefully everyone is well and keeping hydrated. It's been a little warm out there.

Your Social Club board has been busy and continues to work on keeping our residents active and entertained. A huge thank you to Linda Greer and her team for all the work that was put into the 4th of July party. Thank you also to everyone that participated. It was so much fun!

We are finishing up the plans for Labor Day, and we are always open to new ideas.

As always, check the kiosks and the bulletin boards in the clubhouse as well as the Facebook page so you don't miss out on any activity.

## Greetings from the HOA

*Randy Ellis, President*



As I write this article, it is July 15.

The HOA held a meeting on July 13, and I want to thank all those who attended. We will skip August, and our next scheduled meeting

will be September 14 at 9:45AM. Again, the HOA will provide coffee & donuts.

The highlights of our July meeting included a discussion of clubhouse updates, infrastructure, helping hands, garden water, and Neighborhood Watch.

- Clubhouse Updates: For the first time we were told that ELS in Chicago has approved the blueprints for the clubhouse remodel project. As we reported at the January annual meeting, it was projected for work to begin this coming fall (possibly November). The job is now out for bid and then securing the permits. Stay Tuned.

- Infrastructure & Helping Hands: Because we are lacking a maintenance person, Rich McFadden talked about the idea of forming a committee to help the park and alleviate some of the maintenance workload for Malinda and Darlene. If we recall we did the same thing after Tommy left.

- Garden: There is a concern about the water being transported to the rain barrels at the community garden. It was discussed briefly, and Patty Kendrick and Carol Roberts will be meeting with the Garden Club members for further discussion.

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- **Neighborhood Watch:** As we know, there are concerns about intruders entering our park. A series of vehicle break-ins occurred last November and December, and more recently, intruders are using the pool. A discussion about a Neighborhood Watch Program was discussed at the February meeting. Linda Greer contacted the Lake County Sheriff's Community Service Department about how to properly set up a Neighborhood Watch Program at Lakeside Terrace and spoke about this problem at the July 13 meeting. Arrangements were made with the Community Service Department, and they will be conducting a seminar at the clubhouse on July 25 at 3:00PM. (Sign up in the clubhouse to attend.)

- *The HOA Board conducts meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the each month (September – May and July + September) at 9:45 AM and an annual meeting on the 2nd Tuesday evening in January. We encourage you to attend and assist the board in making decisions about the future of our park. Keep in mind, every one of us is on the same TEAM.*

*If you are not on Facebook, and do not have an email address and would like to receive a hard copy of my communications, please message me and I will do my best to provide you with such. If you are not receiving Emails from the HOA, please contact us so that you can be added to our emailing list. Any information that the HOA receives from a resident is not shared with any outside groups. With your consent, it can be shared with the Social Club and our in-park directory. Resident Information Forms are located at the Clubhouse for anyone that needs to update their personal information with the HOA. We also have a new Comment/Wish List Slip at the Clubhouse and a locked box where anyone can submit these particular forms or slips.*

*If anyone has any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.*

*Randy Ellis – President*

*Lakeside Terrace Homeowners Association Inc.*

*Randyellis01@gmail.com*

*Lakesideterracehoa@gmail.com*

*Telephone: 508-697-8745*

## Golf Cart Parades



Someone 85 or Older?

Let's have a birthday parade!

Contact: Carol: 810-964-5606

or Linda: 916-541-7305

## Manager's Corner

Malinda Brown

**Stay cool; Stay safe, Friends!**



## We NEED Your Help



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by placing either a clip of some kind or a basket/  
container at your door!!

Santa's Elves will also appreciate this help in  
delivering your Christmas cards to you.

## Garden Update

Patty Kendrick and Carol Roberts

As a group, we have not met for a while. Several plots have changed hands, and some may have been abandoned. A general meeting is planned for Wednesday, August 28 at 10:45 AM. We hope to determine which plots remain under cultivation and to reassign any which may be abandoned. Some gardeners will not be in residence in August, so please view our private Facebook group page to provide your input. If you are not yet a member at our page, we sent an email invitation. If you did not receive an invite, please request to join at the page. (The page will be visible on Facebook during August.)

TO JOIN: Soiled Rotten Community Garden hosts a FB page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/9726927267333118>

or contact Carol Roberts (937) 409-2844 / carolbroberts43@gmail.com



## Too Hot to Cook? —of course it is

### Chicken Tostadas

**Pick up a rotisserie chicken (or use canned) have on hand**

1 cup fresh cilantro (or try parsley, mint, basil, or dill)  
½ cup tomatillo salsa (salsa verde) (or other salsa, canned chilis, Rotel)

1/3 cup mayo

1 ½ Tbsp. fresh lime juice (or bottled), plus wedges for serving

1 tsp. kosher salt, divided

8 tostadas ready-to-eat (or use nacho chips) blender, large bowl, tray to serve

**optional** - large ripe avocado, shredded lettuce, matchstick radishes, chopped onion or scallion, cotija cheese (or feta, shredded Mexican mix)

Add cilantro, salsa, mayonnaise, lime juice, and 3/4 teaspoon salt to blender. Process until smooth, about 20 seconds. Pour into a large bowl. Add chicken to bowl and toss to combine. Heat tostadas in microwave.

Top with sliced or mashed avocado and shredded lettuce, then add chicken mixture. Season further with radishes, cilantro, onion—whatever you like.

This would also be good as nachos.



### Chocolate Eclair Cake

**Pick up large tub of Cool Whip have on hand**

2 boxes of French vanilla instant pudding

1 box graham crackers

3 ½ c whole milk

1 can chocolate frosting

bowl, whisk, 9X13 pan

Mix pudding and milk in large bowl and allow to set up and thicken

Fold Cool Whip into pudding

Line bottom of pan with whole graham crackers, breaking to fit

Top crackers with half pudding mixture

Top pudding with a second layer of crackers

Top with remainder of pudding mixture

Top with final layer of crackers

Open frosting and heat in microwave safe container for about 1 minute

Stir thoroughly and pour over top of assembled dessert.

Refrigerate until frosting sets up, then cover and chill overnight.

(thanks to Kim DesRochers for this suggestion)



## Stay Chill! with Fast, Easy, No-Cook Recipes

### Shrimp Toasts

**Pick up cooked shrimp have on hand**

onion

garlic

vinegar

salt

cherry tomatoes

corn (fresh, frozen, or canned)

jar of roasted red peppers

basil pesto (jar or refrigerated)

sourdough bread or baguette (or any that can be toasted)

bowl

**optional** - edamame (or can of cannellini/chickpeas, well drained)

Stir together 1 cup chopped shrimp, ½ cup sliced onion, ¼ cup white vinegar, ½ tsp grated garlic, ½ tsp salt. Let marinate for 10 minutes. Stir in 1 ½ cups halved cherry or grape tomatoes, 1 ½ cups corn kernels, ¾ cup chopped roasted peppers, and beans, if using.

Toast 8 slices of bread—whatever type you are using. Spread each toast with 1 tbs pesto and ¾ cup shrimp mixture. Garnish with basil (or whatever you might like—feta, goat cheese)



### Chocolate Cookie Parfaits

**Pick up chocolate chunk cookies have on hand**

bananas

coffee liqueur (or just leftover coffee)

toasted, chopped pecans (or just nuts)

Cool Whip (or maybe sweetened yogurt)

cocoa (or shaved chocolate candy, or chocolate chips)

small bowl, individual ramekins (or parfait glass)

Dip each cookie into coffee liqueur or coffee, place in bottom of ramekin to cover.

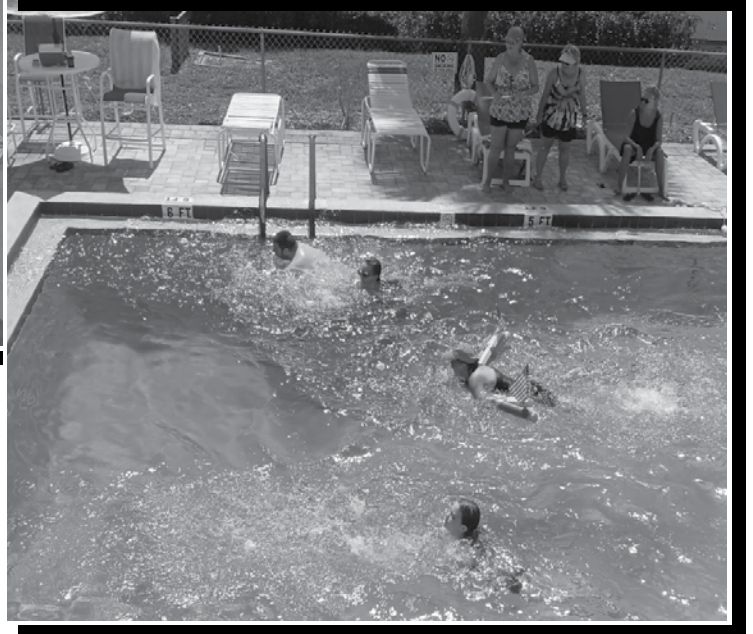
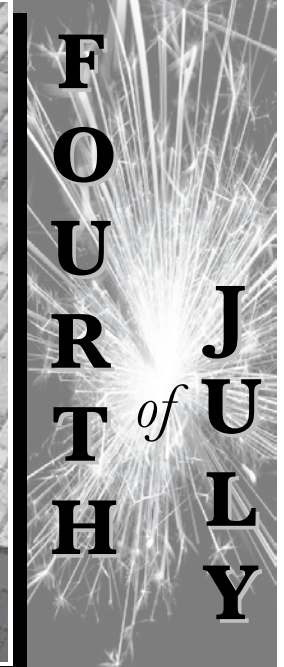
Slice banana over cookie, to cover.

Top banana with whipped topping.

Repeat layer(s) to container top, sprinkle with nuts, dust with cocoa or shaved chocolate (or chocolate chips.)

Freeze for two hours before serving. (Makes as many as ingredients will allow.)





*clockwise from top left:*  
Liz Dziedzic judges the short race;  
Linda Greer personifies the theme;  
Peg Aniol and Liz distribute ducks;  
The long race has a close finish;  
Chef Rich McFadden has dogs on the grill.

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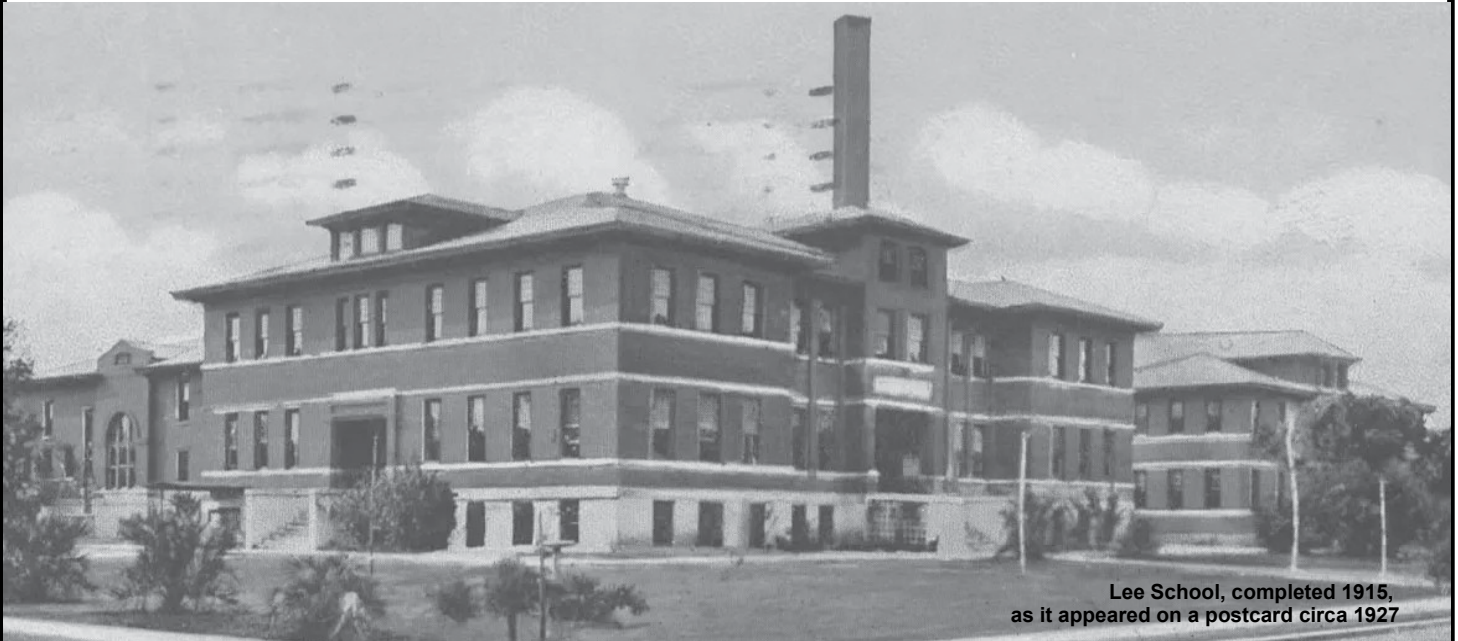


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## Out and About: Leesburg, Then and Now



Lee School, completed 1915,  
as it appeared on a postcard circa 1927

**Leesburg's first public school** was established in 1889 when the citizens of Leesburg purchased a brick building on 13th Street, where the Melon Patch Theatre is located today. The school operated until 1914, when population growth indicated need for better facilities. Lee School, designed to hold grades 1 through 12, was completed in the spring of 1915 and expanded to a second building in 1923. By 1995, still in use as Lee Adult Education Center, the buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. By 2008, the buildings no longer in use, the school sat abandoned and listed for sale for six years until 2014 when a local developer purchased the buildings. However, plans to restore the site creating an assisted living community did not materialize. In 2018, a second buyer with similar plans took over the site, but restoration plans collapsed by 2019 when too many structural and safety issues were discovered during inspection. The Leesburg Historic Preservation Board struggled to prevent the demolition of a listed site, first demolishing only the north building, with plans to restore the 1915 original structure creating apartments. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic slowed any work and further deterioration occurred. Despite being listed by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in 2020, the remaining 109-year-old building was finally demolished in May of 2024.

*Resources:*

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2024/05/10/leesburg-lee-school> <https://abandonedfl.com/lee-school/> <https://floridatrust.org/>  
<https://www.nps.gov/> [https://leesburgflorida.gov/my\\_city/departments/pnz/historic\\_preservation.php](https://leesburgflorida.gov/my_city/departments/pnz/historic_preservation.php)

Remainder of 1915  
building being  
demolished May,  
2024



JULY  
 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

# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 1 PM Billiards 6 PM Euchre (\$.50)	5 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo	6 1 PM Billiards 2 PM Left, Right, Center	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM N Grandma's
11 1 PM Billiards 6 PM Euchre (\$.50)	12 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo	13 1 PM Billiards 2 PM Left, Right, Center	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM N Grandma's
18 1 PM Billiards 6 PM Euchre (\$.50)	19 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo	20 Guys n Gals 1 PM 1 PM Billiards 2 PM Left, Right, Center	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM N Grandma's
25 1 PM Billiards 6 PM Euchre (\$.50)	26 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo	27 1 PM Billiards 2 PM Left, Right, Center	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM N Grandma's

# SEPTEMBER 2024

SEPTEMBER						
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					

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3
	9 AM Chair Yoga 1 PM Mahjongg 1 PM Shuffleboard 5:30 PM Pennies	7 AM Exercise with Peg	10 AM Pool Aerobics
7	8	9	10
Exercise with Pool Aerobics Not Your Bingo	9 AM Chair Yoga 1 PM Mahjongg 1 PM Shuffleboard 5:30 PM Pennies	7 AM Exercise with Peg Book Club 2 PM	10 AM Pool Aerobics
14	15	16	17
Exercise with Pool Aerobics Not Your Bingo	9 AM Chair Yoga 1 PM Mahjongg 1 PM Shuffleboard <b>Birthday Party 5 PM</b> 5:30 PM Pennies	7 AM Exercise with Peg	10 AM Pool Aerobics
21	22	23	24
Exercise with Pool Aerobics Not Your Bingo	9 AM Chair Yoga 1 PM Mahjongg 1 PM Shuffleboard 5:30 PM Pennies	7 AM Exercise with Peg	10 AM Pool Aerobics
28	29	30	31
Exercise with Pool Aerobics Not Your Bingo	9 AM Chair Yoga 1 PM Mahjongg 1 PM Shuffleboard 5:30 PM Pennies	7 AM Exercise with Peg	10 AM Pool Aerobics

**The <Summer> Seagull**

Carol Roberts, Editor  
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Vice President.....916 - 541 - 7305  
**Sue McFadden**  
Secretary.....352 - 874 - 1318  
**Lorri Rowe**  
Treasurer.....203 - 297 - 1342

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## The "Great Commandment"

Kelly Veilleux

Recently I had the opportunity to play "bingo" up at the clubhouse with my son. We were invited to sit at a table with one of our neighbors and her two grandsons; it was a nice evening, and my son Daniel even won two times! It was especially heartwarming to see how our neighbors are so kind to the family members visiting in our "hood." I am truly thankful to live in this caring community! It reminds me of a bible verse from the New Testament, book of Mark, chapter 12, verse 31: "Love the Lord thy God with all your heart and love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

Jesus is speaking in this verse in answer to a question by a person who was trying to define what is really important. The question was about which is the greatest commandment, and Jesus makes it clear that loving God and loving our neighbors was top of His list of priorities!

So, the all-important question is "who is our neighbor"? Is it just the person that lives next door to us or on our street? Or would you agree that He



means our community and beyond, maybe even our entire city or county or world? Of course, this would include the homeless person that stands with the sign asking for help. It would even include the dirty smelling person that cuts in front of you in line at Walmart. How about the young adult that waited on you at your favorite fast-food restaurant, you know—the one that could not make correct change, and it really irritated you that someone who "can't even count" works there? Could this verse even include people who are coming into our country undocumented, and perhaps the man that pulled the trigger that left a family with no husband and father . . .

I am the first to admit that I have not learned to love to this degree, but I do believe this is the kind of love that Jesus is talking about in this verse. Jesus is reminding us that all of humanity is on His heart, and it is His desire that we too would learn to love our neighbors (humanity) like He does. With the many challenges we face here in our country and the continuing increase in homelessness here in central Florida, I would like to remind each of us to keep these words of Jesus in front of us and ask Him to teach us to love like He loves.

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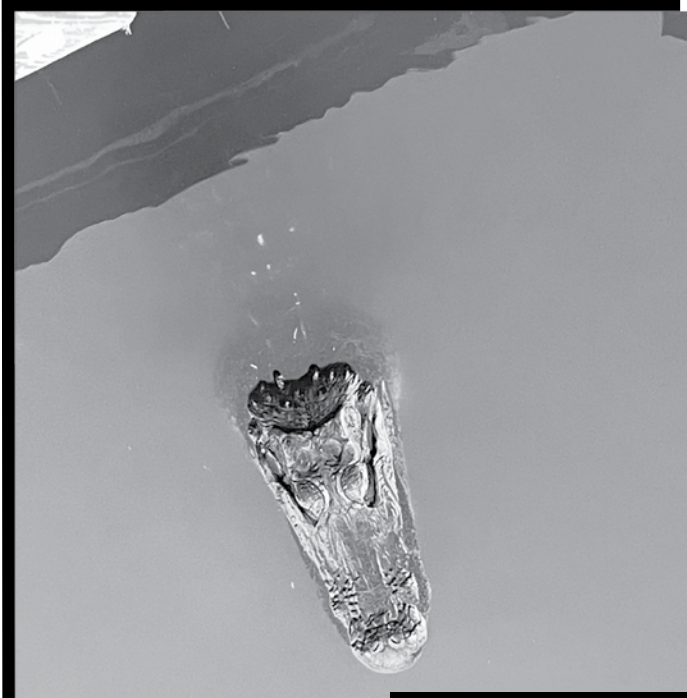
# Happy AUGUST Birthday!

Mary Jane Beckhans, George Clody, Rob Cruse,  
Dianne Henry, Joyce Feltner, Ed King, Bob  
Larmay, Brenda Pierce, Harry Salmon, Sherry Shaw,  
Kathleen Smales, Carolyn Thompson, and Dee Walker.



# Happy AUGUST Anniversary!

Martha & Ron Grove, Richard & Sue McFadden,  
Bucky & Susan Neely, Don & Mary Ann Paquette,  
Debbie & Mel Porritt, Deborah & Gary Serdar,  
Dave & Kathleen Smales, and Anne & Terry Walker.



## Summertime, Summertime

*Sum – Sum – Summertime*

*Coming to Your Neighborhood:*

## The *REAL* Residents of Lakeside Terrace

The initial cast of a local Florida reality show has been announced by producers. Watch naps, walks, treats, and hi-jinks as the newly discovered performers navigate Florida life. Open auditions will continue at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/240828046002465> Please submit a recent resume, including name, photo, and special talents. Please, no agents; amateurs only.

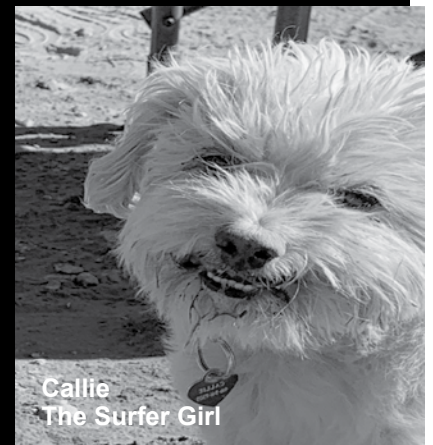
for more information: contact editor: Lakeside Terrace Summer Seagull  
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Piper  
The Demo Specialist



Pugsley  
The Party Guy



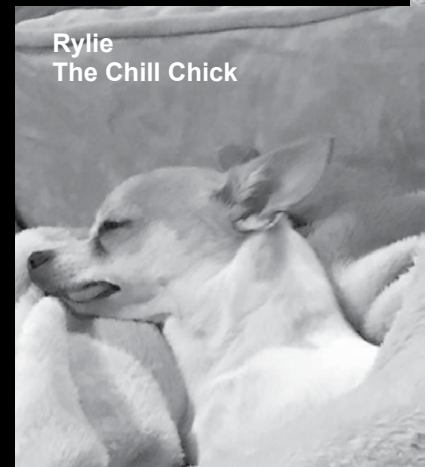
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The Chill Chick



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Copper  
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Theo  
The Feel Good Optimist


# Reflections on 248 Years of Celebration

*Rich McFadden*

As we celebrate every July 4th, we need to reflect back on how we became a free and independent nation.

- In the Beginning: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 1776. Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee spoke these words to the Second Continental Congress: "that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that political connection between them and Great Britain ought to be dissolved."
- A year earlier at the First Continental Congress, the original Bill of Rights was proclaimed and Patrick Henry spoke his immortal words: "Give me liberty, or Give me death." 
- History remembers the "Boston Massacre" of unarmed colonists by British troops in 1770 and the famous "Boston Tea Party" in 1773

which further embodied a revolution and the push for independence.

- The first actual military engagement was at Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. A group of militia volunteers known as the "Minute Men" exchanged gunfire with British troops. The British army was victorious but suffered heavy losses.
- In July 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, including the words: "We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776, but it was not actually celebrated until July 20th. 
- The Revolutionary War commenced in earnest with the appointment of George Washington as general of the Continental Army. After five years of conflict, the

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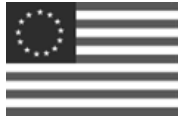
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American army persevered, culminating with British General Cornwallis surrendering to General Washington on October 19, 1781. On September 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed, officially recognizing the American colonies as a free and independent nation.



- On every July 4th, we must reflect on those that have served and have died protecting our independence. We should celebrate their sacrifice every day.

## Turning Pages

Carol Roberts

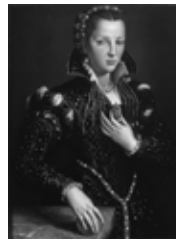
Some of the BTT book club readers don't like "history," so even historical novels can be a challenge. But recently we read *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell, and despite its detailed description of an historical period, this one had plot—the kind of plot we like, the kind of suspense we like, and even the kind of characters we like.

In *The Marriage Portrait*, O'Farrell reimagined the marriage of Lucrezia di Cosimo de' Medici to Alfonso II d'Este, Duke of Ferrara. The real Lucrezia was married to Alfonso at thirteen and died two years later. Even in her time, her death was suspect. It was whispered by his enemies that her husband poisoned her. In 1842, the poet Robert Browning immortalized their marriage in his work *My Last Duchess*. In Browning's work, the Duke of Ferrara is seeking his second wife, following the death of Lucrezia. Browning seizes upon the rumors following Lucrezia's death—and no doubt on the history of murder and assassination surrounding the Medici. In the poem, the Duke is entertaining an emissary sent to negotiate the new marriage. In the course of touring the castle, the Duke presents the marriage portrait of Lucrezia and reflects on their short time together. As they look at the portrait of the late duchess, the Duke reveals his deep jealousy—“. . . 'twas not [my] presence only that made her happy, he tells the envoy, “. . . she had a heart too soon made glad.” He continues, “I gave commands; then all smiles stopped together.” In the ultimate exercise of power, the Duke has ordered his wife's murder, confirmed by Browning



who acknowledged: "I meant that the commands were that she should be put to death . . ."

O'Farrell's novel opens on the night before Lucrezia's plotted death, and Lucrezia herself is aware of the plan. Her husband has taken her from court to his hunting lodge where, she is sure, he intends to murder her. After a "romantic" dinner that leaves Lucrezia feeling ill, Alfonso abandons her at the lodge, riding off to his own pursuits. When her servant Emilia arrives, on the pretense of escorting the portrait's artist to his place of payment, Lucrezia confides in her, and the two women desperately seek a way out for Lucrezia. As the story further unfolds, the narrative alternates between the time of the impending murder and the backstory of



Lucrezia's childhood. The author's description of 16th century noble life is both terrifying and lushly beautiful. The depth and detail of description help create the sense of place and time for the novel—a slower, luxurious, and privileged life embroidered equally with beauty, ritual, and wealth. And for women, especially, a dangerous and confining fate, bartered by a father, owned and controlled by a husband, valued only for fertility and dowry, and continually doomed to risk death in childbirth. As she retells the important incidents of Lucrezia's life—her distant relationship with her mother, her attachment to the servants, her estrangement from her sisters, her fascination with nature and her father's menagerie, her artistic and independent nature are developed for the reader. O'Farrell invents an engaging character for Lucrezia—intelligent, talented, bold, yet also isolated, secretive, and innocent. Some critics fault the author for her interpretation of Lucrezia, arguing that a 16th century woman of noble stature could not be so naive, innocent, and free-spirited.

But O'Farrell knows her modern audience and is willing to take liberties with historical truth to create a story imbued with feminism and individualism. In an astonishing twist, Lucrezia escapes her noble fate. Her husband is infertile; she never becomes pregnant. Lucrezia is left to her own devices, sometimes for weeks at a time, secretly exploring the castle and grounds and entertaining herself with her art and the companionship of her maid, Emilia. Emilia and Lucrezia are excessively close, are "milk sisters" as Emilia's mother nursed Lucrezia as a baby. The two women are similar in size and

Continued on page 18

appearance, like true sisters, and in a return to the security of her nursery, Lucrezia asks Emilia to stay with her during many lonely and terrifying nights, to share her bed rather than sleep on the floor.

Although Alfonso's cruelty is apparent, it is not directed at Lucrezia, but wounds her through those dear to her, executing his sister's lover and threatening Emilia while at the same time pampering Lucrezia. By the time Alfonso commissions her marriage portrait, Lucrezia cannot be sure that her duke does not love her, cannot be sure that he wishes her harm—although hints abound. As the portrait progresses, Lucrezia's loneliness reveals itself in an unlikely connection with the painter's apprentice, Jacopo. While the duke may be suspicious, he is willing to dismiss any incidents; after all, she will be dead soon. As the two narratives of Lucrezia's life come together, O'Farrell has revealed the qualities that will allow the duchess to save herself. Sure that the assassination will take place, Lucrezia leaves her bedchamber to steal silently to the kitchen door and to the companionship of Jacopo, who awaits her escape. When the assassins approach Lucrezia's bed, they find a sleeping woman whom they smother, but not without a prolonged and violent struggle. In the daylight, the body is so bruised and swollen as to be unrecognizable as Lucrezia, but the duke is satisfied, and Lucrezia is free. Quite fairy-tale like in its simplicity of plot, the book succeeds well in its underlying commentary on life, gender, and class.

## Once We Were Anchored in the Dark

*Jeanne Sullivan*



We were anchored in a section of the inland waterway. We encountered a couple of scary incidents on this trip, this night the scariest.

The water was calm, and there were few other boats around. After securely setting our anchor, we settled in with a simple dinner. Since both of us were readers, we finished the evening engrossed in our books until darkness made it impossible to read. We retired early knowing we would reach West Palm Beach easily the next day. It was our goal to spend most of the winter there. We looked around, and all the other boats had left. It was not

unusual for us to anchor where there was no one else. We were not concerned.

I don't know how long we slept when we heard the sound of a power boat coming closer to us. Bill stepped up to the deck just as the boat looked like it was headed straight for us. It veered at the last second, throwing a large wake of water into our boat and soaking Bill. We could hear them laughing as they drove away. We watched them until they disappeared from sight. Just a couple of nuts, we thought, probably drunk. They were traveling fast, no lights.

No sooner than we laid our heads down, we heard them coming again. Now we were concerned. We heard many rumors of boats being hijacked for the drug trade, even sailboats. After they used them for a drug run, they would abandon them or sink them. It was not unusual to hear that the boat owners were harmed or killed in the process. Once again they veered away at the last moment, sending another wave of seawater our way. Laughing like idiots, they drove away very pleased with themselves. We waited; they did not come back. We headed back to bed, knowing we would be nervously lying there until dawn.

We heard them coming back. We did have a rifle. Bill grabbed it and quickly climbed up on the deck. He told me to get the search light, which was good for something like five miles. Bill stood steadily ready with the gun and said to turn the light on them when it was too late for them to get away. As they neared our boat, Bill carefully raised the rifle to a shooting position. Just as they confidently approached our boat, I turned the light on them. They could see Bill with the gun. As they tried to get away, I kept the light on them. They panicked.

"Hey, that guy's crazy," someone on the boat shouted. "He's got a f-ing gun."

"You f-ing SOB," someone yelled as they tried to get away from the light. They kept turning and twisting as they drove away. I kept the light on them until they were out of sight. They did not come back.

We were not sleepy now, and sat silently together in the moonlight. We did not put up the sails. Instead we used the auxiliary motor, getting out of there as quickly as possible. We did make it to West Palm Beach that day and found that a couple of people we met along the way had made it there as well.

We knew there would be a lot of sea stories told that evening. And there were.

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