

# Ventura Lakes Community News – Feb 2012

Editor: Anne Hawthorne Website <http://venturasocialclub.com> Email: [venturanews@live.com](mailto:venturanews@live.com)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Here we are at the beginning of February! Seems like we just put the Christmas decorations away and now we are putting out the Valentine's Day decorations! Whew! Where does the time go?

January was a good month hopefully for all. We had a great potluck featuring soup, chili, soup and desserts. I left there disappointed as I didn't have enough room to try all the delicious offerings. Next came the Magic Show. This gentleman was the same person we enjoyed last year and he promised a new and different show. He did not disappoint us. The show was great and very obviously enjoyed by the many of us that attended. The next time you see Bridget Wass, ask her if she enjoyed the show!

Coming soon will be the Annual Garage Sale and Valentine's Dinner and Calcutta Night. Calcutta night will be a new experience for some of us and I for one am looking forward to something completely different to be involved with. Hope you will all be there.

Dick Neill, President, Ventura Social Club

## MANAGEMENT NEWS

The managers meeting was held in the clubhouse on 25 Jan. We discussed several items:

We have started the updating of the shuffleboard courts. We have removed half of the benches to refinish the wood, concrete bases and the cracked sidewalk around the playing area. Our plan is to begin the resurfacing of the court area in the week of 20 Feb. Once this work is completed, we will turn our attention to the miniature golf course.

The entryway plants are almost done. We added new rock around the entrance, plants in the center island and additional curbing around the trees and bushes inside the gate. Thank you for the many positive comments about our effort in this project.

We have hired Jose to trim around the community perimeter to push back the growth. The next phase of work will be on the wash outs and drainage issues around the lakes.

The lake health is improving. We have completed sending samples to the University of Florida for testing. The results indicate we have a non-toxic red algae bloom in our lake. We have spoken with several lake maintenance companies and now have a plan in place to tackle this problem. It will take some time to correct it, but with some hard work we will see some positive results. This work will begin next week on 30 Jan.

If you see anyone in the community throwing any trash into the drains in the street, please notify us at the office so we can take the proper steps to keep this from happening. All of the street drains connect to the lakes and anything that is deposited into those drain grilles is passed directly into the water that we all enjoy and share.

Please take the time to look at your homes from across the street to make sure they are in good condition and clean: shutters painted, landscaping maintained and the house free of molds and mildew.

Dave and Ted, [venturalakes@gmail.com](mailto:venturalakes@gmail.com)

*Happy Valentine's Day*



## A SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP MESSAGE

I received this message from the "drummer" who performed at the Ventura Lakes New Year's Eve Party. He is the son of Frank & Edna Hetzler (#233).

***"Although not said at the time, may it be known Mr. Dennis Stebner was on my mind and in my heart during my performance on New Year's Eve. It was his original vision, years back, to have us perform for you at this event. Thank you Dennis, in memory and dedication."***

Thank you Frank Jr. (The Danny Morris Band)

## SUNSHINE – No news is good news!

### LIBRARY

The library volunteers invite you to visit the Library during the garage sale 10 and 11 Feb. There will be a very large number of books for sale and the best part is every cent goes to the social club. The books will be sorted according to author. There will be a wide selection of authors and types, as we have received several duplicate copies. Gail and Terry Rutledge will return to help us with this event.

Several years ago when we were traveling, we saw a sign that said "Stop please Stop! Three kids in College, please stop." Now we are saying "BUY PLEASE BUY". We need the shelf space for new books. Happy Reading.

Dianne Dalzell & Shirley Braddock

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## MEET YOUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE – DON & JUDY FIKE, #297



Don and Judy moved into Ventura Lakes in Aug and already he has volunteered to be Vice President of the Social Club. As you get to know them, you may be interested in their backgrounds.

Don was raised in a small coal mining town south of Pittsburgh. He served in the Navy and then he married, had 2 children, and was widowed at a young age and he moved to Florida. Judy was raised in Wheeling, WV, married, had 2 children, was also widowed at a young age and moved to Florida.

Don and Judy met on a blind date. Judy remembers that cold, dark rainy night when it took forever to drive to the chosen restaurant in Captiva. She didn't have any idea where she was and was thinking to herself "what have I gotten myself into?" But Don, with his happy outgoing disposition was singing and talking and laughing all the way so she was not only put at ease but found she couldn't help but fall in love with this charming man. Because Captiva was the place of their first date, they chose to be married at the "Chapel by the Sea" on Captiva 27 years ago, and they chose to be married on New Year's Day because Don says: "He would always be able to remember the date of his anniversary."

The Fike's are boaters. They started with a 25 foot Sundance and have owned 3 different boats in which they cruised up and down both coasts of Florida and on all the water in between the coasts. Don says that wherever there is water in Florida, they've been on it. All their boats were named "Togetherness" reflecting their feelings when the two of them are together and with God during those beautiful days of cruising. They first lived in Ft. Myers but then moved to Burnt Store Marina where they lived for the last 21 years enjoying the boating life.

Don started his own insurance agency years ago and then became an Investment Advisor. He is still

working today focusing now on working with people to get into "guaranteed" investments. Judy's family were contractors, so she believes that designing those buildings is in her blood. How lucky she has been to always have loved the work she did. She graduated from design school and has had 25 years experience decorating homes, boats, airplanes, professional offices, etc. She has her international license and understands the decorating desires of those clients she services from other countries. When Burnt Store was just beginning its development, Judy got an exclusive 8 year contract to design the homes and condos. She is now semi-retired, but still available for work.

As the years went by, Judy found that her asthma acted up when they were out on the boat. This forced them to give up boating. They found they had also tired of condo living and Don started to look around. He discovered Ventura Lakes with its friendly lifestyle, and convinced Judy this was the place for them. They say they have done more social things in the 5 months of living here than in their 21 years in Burnt Store Marina.

Don has been involved with community politics when he was President of his condo group several terms. When our President Dick asked him to consider being our Social Club Vice President, his answer was that he was "too new to the community to take on the job" but Dick's answer was, "we can always use new blood". Don believes that wherever you live, you should give back, and that's how he came to agree to be the Vice President of the Social Club. Judy keeps herself busy with volunteer work both at Hospice and also in a nursing home. Her special love is cooking which keeps Don happy because he loves to eat!!!!

Don has a unique hobby. He collects and writes "sayings". He has a book in which he keeps thousands of sayings that he has categorized, and he is hoping to publish it one day. One of his favorites is "We don't stop doing things because we're old. We get old because we stop doing things." Or even better: "We don't stop. We quit." How appropriate this saying fits this active man who you would never believe is 82 years young!!!!

Say "hello" to Don when you see him out walking their Maltipoo named Buddy. You will recognize Don by his friendly easygoing manner and after you meet the both of them I'm sure you'll agree they are a great addition to the Ventura Lakes family. Marilyn Stebner, 639-5608

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## FEBRUARY EVENTS

### **1 FEB – FOLLOW-UP COMPUTER CLASS**

Several residents were cruising during the first computer class, therefore, a follow-up class will be held immediately following the Wed morning coffee on 1 Feb. This class is an overview of the most current Microsoft system and will last approximately one hour followed by a Q&A session on any technology concerns. Class members will also choose what the next topic will be for the Feb session. Contact Ollie Niccolls, 941-575-2332 if you require additional information.

### **3 FEB – MASSACHUSETTS DAY**

**Reminder:** You're invited to attend the potluck luncheon at th clubhouse on Friday, 3 Feb from **12 – 3 pm**. Bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided including coffee, tea and cranberry juice. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Bring a friend and meet more from the Taxachusetts state! There will be lots of trivia questions, food and fun!  
**Richie & Cathy Smith, #30, 941-637-0825**

### **4 FEB - MONTHLY BREAKFAST**

Don't forget the monthly breakfast at the clubhouse on Sat, 4 Feb from 8-9 am. It's a great time to meet your neighbors and it's always fun to have breakfast out.

### **9 FEB - LADIES LUNCHEON**

Place: Elephant Bar Restaurant  
4125 Cleveland Ave.  
Ft. Myers, Fl. 33901  
Time: Thurs, 9 Feb, 11:30 am

This restaurant is located outside of Edison Mall.  
Meet at the restaurant.  
Carol Clements, 575-2230

### **10 & 11 FEB – ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

Come one, come all to the Ventura Lakes Annual Garage Sale. Residents only on Friday night from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Open to the public on Sat morning from 8 - 1 pm. See you all there!

### **14 FEB – *Valentine's Day***

### **18 FEB – VALENTINE/CALCUTTA DINNER**

Join us at the clubhouse for this favorite event. Give away is estimated at \$1600 - \$2000 in cash and prizes. Social hour begins at 5 pm. Chicken dinner will follow. All tableware is furnished. Please bring your own drinks. Coffee will be furnished. Tickets are \$12. Last day for purchase is Wed, 8 Feb. Contact Ed Combs at #306, 639-6457 or at Wed morning coffee.



### **FEB EVENTS – THE SOLO'S**

**18 Feb, Sat. - Calcutta Night.** **Reminder** to all those who have purchased tickets to the Valentine's & Calcutta Night Dinner. A table is reserved for our group.

**25 Feb, Sat. - Game Night.** Meet at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. Please bring a snack to share and a beverage.

**28 Feb, Tues. - SHELL FACTORY.** Meet at 10:30 am at the clubhouse. We will carpool to the Shell Factory where we will browse the facilities and have lunch at Capt. Fishbone's Restaurant. Please RSVP to either Claire Watts at 575-4064 or Geraldine O'Neil at 637-8370 by 21 Feb.  
Bonnie Massaro, 575-7530

### **3 MAR – ANNUAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT**

The annual tournament starts Sat. 3 Mar at **10 am**. The finish will commence after coffee on Wed, 7 Mar, approximately 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome.  
Ed Combs, 639-6457

### **TRAVEL NEWS – FEB 2012**

Reminder of dates for future trips:

04 Feb	Barbara B. Mann (Jersey Boys)
08 Feb	Broadway Palms (Me and My Girl)
21 Feb	Bonita Springs - Afternoon at the Dog Track/Poker
10 Mar	Barbara B. Mann (My Fair Lady)
31 Mar	Barbara B. Mann (Wicked)

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## **THEATER DATES FOR FEB**

Feb is a busy month for our theater participants. On 4 Feb, we are going by motorcoach to attend the great story of "Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons" in Jersey Boys. We will eat (on your own) following the performance. If you have a ticket for this performance and would like additional details, please check the travel bulletin board in the clubhouse. This should be a great afternoon and evening.

The following Wed, our group of forty individuals will be attending our final performance for this season at Broadway Palms Dinner Theater. We have enjoyed some great shows this season. We will plan to subscribe to this venue again next season. As soon as details are available, a posting will be on the travel bulletin board.

## **WE'RE GOING TO THE DOGS!**

On 21 Feb, we are going to Bonita Springs to the Dog Track. In addition to watching the dog's race, a casino style poker room is available for your enjoyment. We will meet at the track at 11:45 am. For details and sign up, see the travel bulletin board.

## **Opportunity for a Russian River Cruise - 2013**

Barbara Anthony of Punta Gorda Travel is escorting a River Boat Tour of Russia. The trip is scheduled for 20 May 2013 for twelve nights on the Viking Ship "Rurik" and will be sailing down the Volga River from Moscow to St. Petersburg. In addition to visiting some wonderful ports, you will enjoy additional days in both of these cities. This should be a great adventure. If you have an interest, please call Barb at 637-8023 (h) or 380-1090 (c) for additional information.

Karen Coldiron, 575-0065

## **PHOTO DIRECTORY – CHANGE 2**

Change 2 to the photo directory will go to print in late-Feb. If you want your picture taken or retaken due to a change in status, please contact me as soon as possible. It is anticipated the cost will be \$1.50 for each change, to be paid at the time of receipt. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board on 1 Feb. Anne Hawthorne, 269-964-4941

**MARCH NEWSLETTER** – Send your news articles to [venturanews@live.com](mailto:venturanews@live.com) no later than 21 Feb. If you want to add, change or delete your name to the email list, send a note to this address. You can also view the newsletters on web site <http://venturasocialclub.com>.

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

4-Feb	Ken Schnaitmann
5-Feb	Sandy Klice
6-Feb	Diane Cunningham & Bernie Riopel
7-Feb	Jim Manfredo
9-Feb	Paul Bilicic
12-Feb	Al Laundry
13-Feb	Howell Upchurch
16-Feb	Rita Murphy
17-Feb	Nick Chavasse, Susan Dean & Marjorie Smith
18-Feb	Jim Nix & John Schulze
19-Feb	Catherine Chavasse, Charlie Cyopik, Claude Diehl & Geraldine O'Neil
20-Feb	Phyllis Richardson
21-Feb	Linda Odabashian
23-Feb	Ralph Bliven, Donna Downey & Carol Niccolls
24-Feb	Frank Reilly & Dick Runkle
26-Feb	Peggy Bryson
27-Feb	Jim Bowman
28-Feb	Bob Fehring, Arlene Frazier & Dick Goyette

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

1-Feb	Joe & Meliany Martin
6-Feb	Craig & Cindy Scholle
9-Feb	Scott & Heather Ferris
10-Feb	Frank & Midge Cascio
13-Feb	Tom & Dolly Geffert
14-Feb	Bob & Pat Cheadle
14-Feb	Jim & Rachele Pastorfield
16-Feb	Lou & Dottie DeMaria
21-Feb	Jerry & Lois Pelkey
23-Feb	Dick & Betty Runkle
24-Feb	Frank & Ethel Reilly
28-Feb	Wayne & Carol Crist
28-Feb	Dick & Patty Myers
28-Feb	Pete & Ann Waldern

Please send corrections or additions to Cathy Aleshire, #239, 639-8135 or email [Retired87@gmail.com](mailto:Retired87@gmail.com).

