

MEMORIAL DAY



May 25th



The Lakes Life

Volume 4, Number 5

A Newsletter Covering Life In The Lakes

May, 2026



Lots To Celebrate In "Merry Month Of May"

By Elise Ross

There's lots to celebrate in the "Merry Month of May." May 1st is May Day. When I lived and worked in downtown Providence, RI, many years ago, hotels and churches would offer an early morning pancake breakfast in celebration of the day. My mother's college yearbook (1932) highlights her leaving "her talents to be divided among future May-Day Pageant costume designers." Google tells me that in England, Germany, Scandinavia and in certain US locations "dancing around the Maypole" still occurs.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on May 5th focusing on Mexican heritage and culture. The "Mexican Hat Dance" is widely considered the national dance of Mexico and enjoyed especially on May 5th along with traditional Mexican cuisine like tacos, guacamole and margaritas!

Mother's Day is always the second Sunday in May which is the 10th this year. As I have shared in past years, I often recognize the "gifts" my mother left me during our short time together.

Memorial Day (celebrated the last Monday of the month) closes out May. It was first recognized shortly after the Civil War. As we look forward to the many approaching celebrations of this great country's 250th anniversary, we recognize that these celebrations would not be held if it were not for those who served in the various conflicts but did not come home.


In modern times, there is now:

Star Wars Day (May 4th)

National Nurses Day (May 6th)

National Day Of Prayer (May 7th)

Armed Forces Day (May 16th)

World Baking Day (May 17th) 

Volunteers Served Our Hard-Working Contractors

By Carolyn Snider

On March 25th, landscape committee members and volunteers were on hand to serve workers who keep our community pristine and running smoothly. Approximately 40 guys and gals from our landscape, irrigation and fertilization companies showed up to enjoy a well-deserved lunch and respite from the workday.

Early that morning, landscape committee members set up tables and chairs, followed by other committee members decorating with a Spring/Easter theme, then heading over to Publix to purchase food and other items. Little Caesars showed up as scheduled with 20 pizzas. At noon, we were prepared to welcome our visitors who were invited to enjoy pizza, fruit, water, soda and, of course, Easter candy and cookies!



We also delivered goodies to our gate house and to Marilyn, our mail person. And, our painters enjoyed left-over pizza for their dinner.

All this was possible due to the generosity of our Lakes homeowners who contributed to our annual drive to show appreciation to these hard-working guys and gals. We plan to do it again in July, giving them another opportunity to hydrate & escape from our 90+ degree weather. Stay tuned for further updates!



More Florida Fun Facts

There are more lightning strikes in Clearwater, Florida than anywhere else in the nation.

The sand on Siesta Key beach is composed of 99 percent pure quartz crystal, which is why it feels cool when walking on it with bare feet and why the sand's color is pure white.

Every public building in Florida has outward opening doors to prevent them from being forced open by strong hurricane winds.



More than 200 pairs of sunglasses are turned into DisneyWorld's Lost and Found every day. That's the equivalent of over 70,000 pairs per year.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo, Florida is the very first underwater state park in the United States.

Ray Charles, the music icon, was raised in Greenville, Florida and educated at the St. Augustine School for the Deaf and Blind.

In the town of Zephyrhills, Florida, you'll find the shortest donkeys in the world. They're just over 2 feet tall, and a popular attraction in the town.

In Florida, there are plenty of cities with strange names and strange origins. Boca Raton is clearly one of the most unfortunately named. The name Boca Raton is derived from *boca de ratones*, a Spanish term for "rat's mouth."

Florida is home to the most Art Deco buildings in the world, with most located in Miami Beach.



Ingrid Sarmiento
Property Manager



As hurricane season begins on June 1st, now is the time for residents of The Lakes at Tradition to start preparing. A little planning ahead can make a big difference when a storm approaches. Whether you are new to the area or simply have not experienced the intensity of storm preparation, having a simple plan and the right information readily available is the best approach.

We encourage homeowners to take a few proactive steps, such as testing your hurricane shutters in advance - they may need minor adjustments or lubrication. If you have the original hurricane panels provided by the Developer, be sure all hardware is accessible and ready for installation. Securing or removing outdoor items ahead of time will also help avoid last-minute stress and reduce potential hazards. These small actions help protect not only your property, but also your neighbors and the community as a whole. If you are a seasonal resident or plan to be away during hurricane season, please make arrangements with a property management service, friend, or family member to prepare your home if needed.

One of the best local resources available is the City of Port St. Lucie, which hosts an annual event to help residents prepare. The next Hurricane Preparedness Expo will be held Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 10am to 2pm at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, 9221 SE Event Center Place, 34952. This free, family-friendly event connects residents with businesses, emergency professionals, and community partners who can help you prepare for extreme weather.

In addition, our community updates the Lakes at Tradition Hurricane Preparedness Plan each year. This guide is available on the community website at lathoa.org Simply scroll to the bottom of the landing page to locate the file. No login is required.

Please be assured that in the event of a storm, the HOA office will maintain continuous communication, providing updates, resources, and guidance to help our community prepare and respond to any severe weather event.

Let's work together to stay safe and prepare for this year's storm season.






Editor: Elise Ross
Layout and Design: Thomas Klein
Staff Writer: Carolyn Hammer

Community Events

Kentucky Derby Party Coming May 2nd

By Carolyn Hammer



Join Your Neighbors to experience the excitement of the 152nd Run for the Roses! Our Annual Kentucky Derby watch party, held at the Lakes clubhouse on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 begins at 5:30pm. The post time for the race is slated for 6:57pm.

Enjoy a complimentary Derby drink. Ladies, wear your Derby hats, there will be a prize for Best Hat.

Admission is **free!** Please bring a main dish or heavy hors d'oeuvres to share. Dessert will be provided.

For more information, please contact Carolyn at: (201) 805-6153 or Helen at: (603) 325-0758.



Circle of Friends Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

By Paulie Briggs



First, a little history...Cinco de Mayo (the Fifth of May) is an annual event to celebrate Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Mexico, under the military leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza defeated the Second French Empire. Unfortunately, Zaragoza died a few months later never to see Napoleon withdraw all troops from Mexico after the American Civil War. A yearly commemoration is ceremonial in the city of Puebla with parades, battle reenactments, and festivals.

The holiday became more widespread in the U.S. when American advertisers for beer, wine and tequila companies found they could take advantage of growing Mexican American popularity. Who doesn't like a good Fiesta?!

We invite our Lakes at Tradition neighbors to celebrate with the **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** in a **CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA**. It will take place on the patio behind the clubhouse (inside if inclement weather), on **TUESDAY, MAY 5th, at 5pm. THIS IS A FREE EVENT.** We will provide the Tragos, Cervezas and festive Musica. We just ask that you bring a Fiesta-style dish to share.

So that we may determine attendance, please RSVP:

circleoffriendspsl@gmail.com

Wine & Cheese Event Is June 6

By Helen Jackman



Come pop a cork with us! Your Neighbors invite you to "unwine"d with us at the Lakes Clubhouse on Saturday June 6th at 7pm for a relaxing evening of conversation, wine, cheese and music. If Backgammon is your game, bring along your set.

The price of admission is: A bottle of your favorite wine and a slab of cheese, both to share for tasting. Cups will be provided, as well as sliced apples and pears.

Come and enjoy sharing your cherished refreshments while listening to the folk music of Russell Breiter Acoustic.



Charades Night! At The Clubhouse

Join us for an evening of laughs, fun and friendly competition! **Sunday, May 17th at 5pm.** Bring your energy and your best acting skills - no speaking allowed! All are welcome, come solo or bring a team! Light snacks and refreshments encouraged.

Let The Games Begin!



BINGO NIGHT
AT THE LAKES!

The Lakes
AT TRADITION

May 13th & 27th at 7pm in the Clubhouse
Doors open 6:30pm - Cost is \$10.00 - Age 18 & older
BYOB & your favorite snack - All residents & guests

Tradition Community Association
Managed by Castle Group

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30p
Office Phone: (772) 345-5101
Email: ashepherd@castlegroup.com



Florida Highwaymen Museum Grand Opening May 20

By Tom Klein

After four years of planning, the Florida Highwaymen Museum held a soft opening on February 20. Located at 1234 Avenue D Street in Fort Pierce’s historic Lincoln Park neighborhood, the museum honors the life, legacy, & enduring influence of the 26 original *Florida Highwaymen*: self-taught Treasure Coast African American landscape artists who began selling their artwork along Florida’s highways in the 1950’s.

The Highwaymen created over 200,000 paintings, many depicting Florida’s natural beauty before rapid development erased it: Royal Poinciana trees, reflective wetlands, turbulent clouds, and empty coastlines. Their canvases are now recognized as both cultural artifacts and environmental documents, offering a window into Florida’s landscape and the dynamics that shaped its history.



In 2004, all 26 Highwaymen were inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. The Highwaymen didn’t just paint Florida’s landscape, they preserved it.



One of the museums most iconic visual features is a large-scale exterior mural spanning the side of the museum’s building reflecting the vivid skies, coastal palms, and Royal Poinciana trees that were central to the Highwaymen’s signature style. A full grand opening celebration is slated for May 20th 2026 which the public is encouraged to attend.

For more information on the grand opening celebration and museum hours, log onto:

originalfloridahalloffamehighwaymen.org



Clubs & Classes

Book Club - meets Monday, May 18th in the Clubhouse veranda room at 7:00pm. This month they’ll be discussing: *Cross Creek* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Contact Lois Rosen at: loro781@aol.com

Bridge - plays every Monday afternoon in the veranda room of the Clubhouse at 1pm.

Canasta - plays every Tuesday in the main room of the Clubhouse at 12pm.

Cards & Games - various cards and games play every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1pm in the main room of the Clubhouse.

Cribbage - plays every Tuesday afternoon at 1pm in the Clubhouse.

Dancercise - meets every Monday & Tuesday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 10am.

Senior Exercise - meets every Tuesday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 9am.

Mah Jongg - plays every Thursday evening at 6:30pm in the main room of the Clubhouse.

Yoga - meets every weekday morning (except Tuesdays) in the main room of the Clubhouse at 9am



Outdoor Groups

Aqua Fitness Class

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 AM, and Saturdays at 9:30 AM at the Lakes Resort Pool.

To join them, please contact Winnie Tompkins at: wtompkins@ymail.com



Circle Of Friends Bocce

A casual group of mixed players join up & play Bocce every Monday at 5:30pm. Want to try it? Beginners are welcome.

Just show up at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse. Have a little exercise, a little conversation & some fun.



Thought For The Day

“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years.” - Abraham Lincoln

On Our First Trip To Europe, Paris Really Impressed!

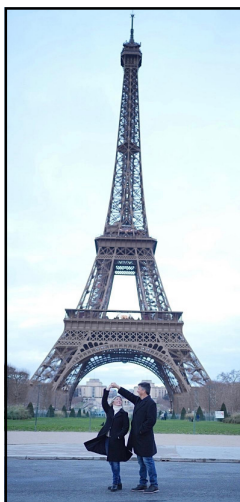
By Rick Shea

In what was my first trip to Europe, Paris could not have impressed me more. After hearing stories about the general disdain that the French have for Americans, I was a little apprehensive. What I found out was that the Parisians, although not big small-talkers, were courteous and polite.

We landed @ 6am in the morning with snow on the ground. Although the weather was similar to New England, cold & damp...being off-season was well worth it as it cut down on the wait times at all the tourist destinations.

My first recommendation is to buy a ticket to the Batobus, which is a boat ride on the Seine where you can get on & off at any & all the landmarks over a two day timeframe. The food and drink were outstanding. There were food stands galore and cafes on every street corner. And the best part was everything was walkable from our hotel.

We made the right call of getting a hotel room with a view of the iconic Eiffel tower. It would give us our own personal sparkling light show every night for 5 minutes on the hour from 6pm to Midnight.



The architecture in every part of the city was so intricate yet built to last. The old cathedrals, such as the renovated Notre Dame and Saint Chapelle, would take your breath away, but nothing on this trip or in my lifetime was more impressive than the Louvre. I am not a museum lover per se, but the sheer size and volume of paintings & sculptures and the details in the Louvre itself was outstanding.

I would also recommend a day trip just outside the city to take in some of the non-touristy areas where they have more of the boutique & local shops and restaurants to savor.

Leasa, who is the world traveler, was also impressed with her first trip to Paris. We will be going back some day and that trip will include going to Normandy and we will try to take in all that France has to offer.



Our Favorite Recipes

Carol Klein's Lemon Squares

BASE:

- 1-2/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup margarine or butter, chilled, cut up

FILLING:

- 1 (8oz.) carton (1 cup) refrigerated or frozen fat-free egg product, thawed (Egg Beaters or store brand)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 cup lemon juice (about 2 med./large lemons)
- 1 tablespoon graded lemon peel

GARNISH:

- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar

1. Heat oven to 375F. Lightly spoon flour into measuring cup and level off. In a large bowl, combine 1-2/3 cup flour & 1/2 cup powdered sugar, mix well.

2. Using pastry blender or fork, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press mixture into bottom of ungreased 13x9 inch pan. Bake at 375F for 14-17 minutes or until edges are light golden brown.

3. Meanwhile, in medium bowl, combine all filling ingredients except lemon juice and lemon peel; blend well with wire whisk or fork. Stir in lemon juice and lemon peel. Pour filling over base. Bake an additional 18 to 25 minutes or until center is just set. Cool completely. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons powdered sugar.

Cinco de Mayo Word Puzzle

Find each word from the list below in the puzzle. The words can share letters as they cross over each other & can go in any direction. Answer is on page 8.

T	E	Q	U	I	L	A	Q	B	A	T	A	L	L	A
W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	A	S	D	F	G	H
F	J	K	G	U	E	R	R	A	P	L	P	Z	X	C
E	I	V	B	N	M	Q	W	E	I	R	U	T	Y	U
L	I	E	O	P	A	S	D	F	N	G	E	H	J	K
I	L	Z	S	C	V	B	N	M	A	Z	B	X	C	V
Z	B	N	M	T	Q	W	E	R	T	T	L	Y	U	I
O	P	A	S	D	A	F	G	H	A	J	A	K	L	Z
X	C	V	B	N	M	Q	M	A	R	I	A	C	H	I
V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I

FIESTA MARIACHI TEQUILA GUERRA
PINATA VICTORIA BATALLA FELIZ
PUEBLA

The Best Seat In The House: Mothers Day as a Grandmother

By Ellen Leyden

This Mother’s Day, I find myself in an oddly advantageous and beautiful position. For decades, I was the one in the trenches—the one packing the diaper bags, soothing the midnight fevers, refereeing the sibling rivalries while signing the permission slips and planning the dinners—all part of the chaotic magic of raising a family. But this year, the view has shifted. I am a new grandmother, and watching my daughter become a mother has given me the best seat in the house!

There is a unique joy in seeing motherhood from the outside looking in. When you are the parent, you are often too tired to notice the poetry of the moment. You’re focused on the logistics of nap time or the mess on the floor. But as a grandmother, I get to see the quiet glory of it all.



Baby Parker entered our lives last July and there has been nothing more incredible than watching my daughter, Parker’s mom, find the incredible strength, patience and grace she didn’t know she had. From this viewpoint I am witnessing the continuation of a legacy, the passing of the baton in the relay race of life. And then there is Parker - sweet, tiny, and full of promise; she has already brought so much light into our lives. Everywhere she goes, she brings smiles to people’s faces. Her presence is a reminder of how powerful love can be - how it grows, multiplies, and carries forward across generations.

To the new mothers finding your footing, and to the veteran mothers and grandmothers who paved the way: Happy Mother’s Day. May you take a moment to see yourself through a grandmother’s eye - full of wonder, strength, and a love that never ends.



ACC - Did You Know? Roofing Edition

By Lucille Wesnofske



Did you know that our community has designated community-standard roof tiles to make the replacement process more efficient for homeowners?

As our neighborhood ages, more residents are reaching the point where roof replacement becomes necessary. To keep the process smooth, the ACC is committed to ensuring homeowners are aware of products that meet our HOA requirements. Keep in mind that this is a constant work in progress.

Designated Tile Collections

The HOA requires that any new roof use tiles that are substantially similar in size, color, shape, and material to the developer’s original tiles. To simplify your project, we have identified two collections that meet these standards:

- **Boral Galena Collection:** Nevada Clay, Desert Tan, Terra Cotta
- **Barcelona 900 Collection:** Citrus Clay, Paradise Island Tan (newly reviewed and recently added!)



Benefit Of Choosing A Designated Tile

While all roof replacements require a formal ACC application and approval before work begins, selecting one of the colors above waives the requirement to submit a physical tile sample. This streamlines your application and speeds up the administrative review.

Want To Use A Different Tile?

You still can! If you find another cement tile that appears to match the required profile and color range, you may submit it for review. However, for non-standard selections, you must:

- Submit a formal application.
- Provide **physical samples** of the tile and color.

The ACC will evaluate the product and, if it meets the community standards, forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Please Keep In Mind

This custom review process involves additional steps and may take several months, so plan ahead if you are considering an alternative product.



The Lakes at Tradition HOA

Managed by: FirstService Residential

HOA onsite office located on the west side of the clubhouse

Best time to visit for a vehicle decal: 9am to 2pm

Email: Ingrid.sarmiento@fsresidential.com

Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9am to 4pm

Phone: (772) 345-0690

Our website is: Lathoa.org



Pet Scam Alert!

By Linda Baughman

As a former volunteer at the PSL Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, I feel this new scam reported by AARP is important to share with my fellow pet owners. Apparently, detailed descriptions of missing pets posted on pet finder websites, etc., are being used by heartless individuals to scam hundreds of dollars from pet owners seeking the return of their beloved dog or cat. What seems to be happening is the scammer impersonates a staff person at a "humane society" and calls the telephone number on the postings. The scammer tells the pet owner their pet has been found but, unfortunately, the pet has been hit by a car and must undergo immediate surgery and the veterinarian needs the money right away. The pet owner is then instructed to send the money via digital cash, i.e., PayPal. The worried pet owner then spends hours waiting for the post-surgery call that never comes. Finally, the pet owner calls the ID spoofing number from the scammer, which made the original call appear realistic, only to find out that "humane" society does not exist.



If you lose your pet and receive such a call, I urge you to say you'll call back. Then take the extra few minutes to look up the agency's official number and call back.



SLC Sheriff's Foundation Gives Back

By Carolyn Hammer

The Sheriff's Office Foundation was established in 2025 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to provide additional support to the St Lucie County Sheriff's Office and the greater community in St Lucie County.

The Foundations provides essential support for the men and women who serve in the Sheriff's Office, as well as the local communities that they serve. They help to procure equipment, materials and supplies for the SLC Sheriff's Office and support community activities that are aimed at reducing crime.

The Foundation proudly supports youth and education initiatives that provide positive experiences with law enforcement, from school programs and scholarships, to leadership and mentoring opportunities. They also invest in community outreach efforts that reduce crime, and empower neighborhoods.



In 2025 The Foundation sponsored or contributed to a number of initiatives, including the Sheriff's Quarterly Awards, the countywide School Resource Deputy training, a birthday celebration for a veteran celebrating 101 years, as well as a contribution to the Boys and Girls Club Chili Cook-Off.

In January of 2026, they supported the 16th annual Interfaith Memorial Celebration held in honor of the late Rev Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Sunlight Church in Port St Lucie. They also provided financial support to agricultural students who had worked long and hard, but had faced sudden livestock losses prior to the County Fair. The support enabled the students to continue growing and learning, while pursuing their agricultural goals.

Membership is \$50 per year. If you'd like to be part of this team visit: <http://slcsfoundation.org/>







A Warm Welcome To Our New Homeowners:

Daryl & Judy Wilcox - 10828 Dardanelle
Earling & Michelle Teigen - 10798 Dardanelle
Rebecca Dale & Tanner Blizzard - 10399 Stratton
Mary Ellen Lieto - 12045 Elsinore
Hugh & Kelly Diamond - 11221 Northland
Kelly Keenan - 12160 Elsinore

We Know You're Gonna Love It Here Because,
"Life Is Better At The Lakes"



In Florida, we salt our Margaritas, not our sidewalks!



Tradition CDD
 Managed by: SDSInc.
 Office Phone: (772) 345-5119
 Email: jgallagher@sdsinc.org

A Story Within A Story By Helen Jackman

In Ashland NH, located off Route 3 at the end of Little Squam Lake is a 61-foot covered bridge built by Milton Graton in 1990. It crosses over the Squam River and features town lattice truss and a single lane with a walkway for pedestrians and bikers. When I saw the Squam Bridge photo that Tom Klein added to my story about my hometown of Ashland, New Hampshire, in the last edition of *The Lakes Life*, I realized there was another story to tell! The story relates back to my second grade year at Ashland Elementary.

In October of second grade, I moved from the city of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to the small, rural town of Ashland, New Hampshire. Even though I was only seven, I noticed some stark differences in the students and the school system. Portsmouth was a thriving city with a topnotch school system. Ashland was a poor mill town populated almost entirely by people of French Canadian descent. English was a second language for many of the students and their parents.

When I moved to Ashland, I experienced culture shock. One of the biggest drawbacks for me was that in my second-grade classroom there were only thirty-two desks. I was student number thirty-three. The desks were made of heavy wrought iron and wood and bolted to the floor, with attached, drop-down, bench-type seats the width of the desk. My teacher, tall, stern Mrs. Burroughs, arranged for me to share a desk with another student - Stanley Graton. Our desk was located in the far corner of the room in the opposite corner from the teacher's desk. The teacher seemed a football field away, and as I remember, she stood in one spot near her desk during all our lessons. I didn't feel comfortable being so far back in the classroom or sharing a desk, especially with a boy.

A few weeks after my arrival, I was sent to the principal's office by Mrs. Burroughs, who complained that I spoke too softly when she called on me. The principal, Mr. Kimball, dressed in a gray suit, sat stiffly behind his desk and lectured me on the reasons why I needed to "speak up" in class. I felt humiliated, ashamed, sad, and confused. Didn't only bad kids get sent to the principal's office? How I yearned to be back in my previous school with my teacher, Mrs. Berriman, who was so nice to me and where I had my own desk and where the children spoke the way I did.



I survived second grade and the mean teacher, Mrs. Burroughs. Thankfully, Stanley was a kind, gentle, rather quiet boy, and we were generally compatible seatmates - so much so that he asked me to marry him. As diplomatically as possible, I turned him down. As a second grader, I wasn't ready to make a commitment. What Stanley and I didn't know then was that somewhere in the back of that same classroom sat my future husband, Ronald Jackman. As for Stanley Graton, we were good friends all through school and graduated from Ashland High School together, all thirty-three of us, including Ron - the largest graduating class in recent years.

The Ashland covered bridge was built by Milton Graton, and his two sons Arnold and Stanley. Interestingly, when several bridge builders were being interviewed for the job, Milton Graton was eliminated as a prospective builder because he didn't have the appropriate credentials. When the contract was awarded to a company that was chosen to build the bridge, that company subsequently hired Milton Graton to build the bridge! The Ashland Covered Bridge is easily accessible and is probably the most photographed structure in Ashland. It was built at a cost of \$200,000 and paid for by many people. There were various fund-raising ventures and many private contributions that brought the bridge from an idea to a reality. It is said that the bridge was pulled into place by teams of oxen! The bridge is located where Little Squam Lake connects with Squam River.



Out of curiosity, I recently did a Google search of Stanley Graton. The results are as follows: A bit off the beaten path from Squam Lakes, but well worth the trip, is the Smith Bridge in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Originally built in 1880, the first Smith Bridge was destroyed by arson in 1993. In 2000, **Stanley Graton** replaced the old Smith Bridge with the strongest covered bridge in the country. It crosses the Baker River and is ½ mile north of NH Route 3A, 2 ½ miles west of Plymouth Village.

I haven't seen Stanley since we graduated from Ashland High School, but maybe, just maybe, I will look him up while I am on vacation on Squam Lake next summer. I promise to write a story about it.





TRADITION EVENTS

Food Trucks and Tributes - This month, get ready to be "Smooth". Head on down to Tradition Square on Friday May 1st from 5-9pm and enjoy a live tribute concert to **Santana**. Don't miss this night of musical magic!



Stretch & Balance - Come on out every Monday & Wednesday 10-11am at Tradition's Gazebo for a calming and restorative Stretch And Balance class! This class focuses on improving flexibility, coordination, and balance through gentle stretching exercises and mindful movements. It's the perfect way to start your day feeling refreshed and balanced. Classes are free, but you must pre-register. Go to traditionfl.com and open the Events Calendar; click on "Stretch And Balance."



Neighborhood Farmer's Market - There can't be a better way to spend your Sunday than strolling the square and supporting local businesses. Grab a cup of coffee or a bite to eat and shop around every Sunday from 9am-2pm at Tradition Square.



Our New Administrative Team Member

By Ingrid Sarmiento

We are pleased to welcome Cynee Carpin as the new Administrative Assistant for The Lakes.

Cynee has joined our onsite team and will be assisting with daily operations, including homeowner inquiries, work orders, ACC submissions, and general office support. As we continue to enhance our service to the community, her role will help ensure timely communication and efficient handling of resident needs.

For assistance, Cynee can be reached at:
Cynee.Carpin@fsresidential.com

We appreciate your support as she transitions into this role and becomes familiar with the community. Please join us in welcoming Cynee.

Birds Of The Lakes

Great White Egret By Tom Klein

The Great Egret is a large, all-white majestic wading bird often seen in our lakes. It has a long, elegant s-curved neck, a long orangeish colored dagger-like bill and long black legs. Standing 3 feet high, it has a wingspan of 5 feet in width. In flight, its long neck is kept tucked in with its long legs held straight back. They fly very long distances without stopping to rest.

They hunt mostly at night and spend most of their days perched quietly high up on a tree limb discretely hidden by its dense foliage. Their average life span is about 22 years. They feed mainly on fish, mice, crickets, grasshoppers and aquatic insects.



Egrets are mostly solitary birds, but in breeding season will congregate in large groups called rookeries. They are seasonally monogamous remaining with one mate per year. It will build its nest high up in a large tree often over water.



Egrets can be territorial and aggressive defending their space with sharp bill jabs and loud calls. Tilting its head down toward you indicates aggressive behavior intended to warn you that it wants you to leave.

The Great White Egret is said to stand as a symbol of purity, grace and resilience.



Celebrating Success!!

By Elise Ross



Tom and Carol Klein marked their 50th wedding Anniversary on April 24th, 2026. To celebrate that milestone, they sailed on a 6-day cruise on Royal Caribbean's ship Independence of the Seas visiting the island of Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean.

* * * *

The newsletter team would like to recognize resident success. So, if you have made a hole-in-one, bowled a 300 game, celebrated a milestone birthday or wedding anniversary, please let us know by sending an email to: newseditorlathoa@gmail.com

We Do It All For You

Gene Wesnofske has restrung older umbrellas that were being stored in the maintenance shed, which are now ready to be reused as replacements when one of the current umbrellas being used at the pools fails.

At the 2026 Annual Meeting, our management team presented a visual summary highlighting key Board & Management accomplishments in 2025. To view the video, aim your device's camera at the QR code.



Answer: Cinco de Mayo Word Puzzle

T	E	Q	U	I	L	A		B	A	T	A	L	L	A
F			G	U	E	R	R	A	P	P				
E	I								I	U				
L	E								N	E				
I		S							A	B				
Z			T						T	L				
				A					A	A				
								M	A	R	I	A	C	H
V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A							

**FIESTA MARIACHI TEQUILA GUERRA
PINATA VICTORIA BATALLA FELIZ
PUEBLA**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm	2 Kentucky Derby Party 5:30pm
3	4 Yoga 9am Dancercise 10am Bridge 1pm Cards & Games 1pm	5 Senior Exercise 9am Dancercise 10am Canasta 12pm Cribbage 1pm COF Cinco de Mayo Fiesta 5pm	6 Yoga 9am ACC Committee 10am Cards & Games 1pm	7 Yoga 9am Mah Jongg 6:30pm	8 Board Workshop/ Board Meeting 10am Cards & Games 1pm	9 Private Event - Clubhouse Closed
10 	11 Yoga 9am Dancercise 10am Bridge 1pm Cards & Games 1pm	12 Senior Exercise 9am Dancercise 10am Canasta 12pm Cribbage 1pm Landscape Comm. 3pm After Loss: Neighbors Supporting Neighbors 7 pm	13 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm Bingo 7pm 	14 Yoga 9am Mah Jongg 6:30pm	15 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm	16
17 	18 Yoga 9am Dancercise 10am Bridge 1pm Cards & Games 1pm Finance Committee 4pm Book Club 7pm 	19 Senior Exercise 9am Dancercise 10am Canasta 12pm Cribbage 1pm	20 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm Town Hall- 6:30pm	21 Yoga 9am ACC App. Deadline 12pm Mah Jongg 6:30pm	22 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm	23 Private Event - Clubhouse Closed
24	25 Yoga 9am Dancercise 10am Bridge 1pm Cards & Games 1pm 	26 Senior Exercise 9am Dancercise 10am Canasta 12pm Cribbage 1pm	27 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm Bingo 7pm 	28 Yoga 9am Mah Jongg 6:30pm	29 Yoga 9am Cards & Games 1pm	30
31	Please Note: The basketball, pickleball and tennis courts are closed for reconstruction. Estimated time for completion is three months. During reconstruction, all three courts are off limits to residents.					