

Four Seasons @Smithville



Official Newsletter of the Four Seasons Community at Historic Smithville

May 2026



Floral Splendor at Longwood Gardens *By Bruce Ryerson*

FIND OUT WHY OVER 100 OF YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE CHOSEN OUR FOUR SEASONS PROMOTION IN THE PAST 2 YEARS

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- 📍 450 Ebony Tree Avenue
- 📍 3 Highbury Court
- 📍 101, 103 Hyannis Court
- 📍 6 Keswick Street
- 📍 403, 405 Kingston Court
- 📍 261 Limerick Street
- 📍 14 Manchester Street
- 📍 1 North Kendall Court
- 📍 538, 541 Newbury Court
- 📍 540 Newport Court
- 📍 37 North Quail Hill Boulevard
- 📍 5, 28, 30 Northampton Road
- 📍 105 Oxford Court
- 📍 25, 31 Pembroke Way
- 📍 545 Revere Way
- 📍 108 Salisbury Court
- 📍 14 Sander Place
- 📍 416, 426 Scarborough Court
- 📍 106, 113, 121 Sheffield Court
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- 📍 115 Warwick Avenue
- 📍 111 Warwick Road
- 📍 1, 35 West Donegal Lane
- 📍 513, 515, 526 Weston Drive
- 📍 30 Wordsworth Street
- 📍 130, 153, 154, 170 Brewster Drive
- 📍 502, 518, 526, 532 Salem Way
- 📍 549, 552, 553, 555 Falmouth Court
- 📍 531, 535, 560, 564, 565, 572 Chatham Way
- 📍 26, 27, 29, 30, 34 Crowndale Place
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- 📍 7, 10, 11, 16, 23, 25, 31, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 55 Derby Drive
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Articles

Anyone may submit an article or photograph to our publication. The newsletter staff will decide if it will be used based on appropriateness and space requirements. In accordance with professional practice, we will not knowingly print submissions that are duplicated in other publications.

Articles should be received by May 20 for the June issue. Please email your article, attached as a Word document, to fourseasonsnewsletter@gmail.com or leave in the Newsletter box on the desk in the clubhouse.

Letters to the Editor

What is appropriate to print has been debated throughout history. It is clear that there are no absolutes but always limits. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled long ago that "Freedom of speech does not mean you can yell fire in a crowded hall." Letters to the editor also have limits. We *encourage* challenging letters. They can be tough, but not acrimonious, attack positions, but not persons. We seek a sense of balance and decorum; we reject the inflammatory, and respect reasonableness. Criticism is welcome; slanderous statements are not. Our aim is to create an atmosphere for vigorous discussion.

Like to report, write for the Newsletter?
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Journey's End

By Barbara Dove



"All Gave Some... Some Gave All"

By Bob Simms | Photos by Geri Cali

April showers brought forth those flowers used in May to decorate the graves of the fallen, and family members who we remember. Our Vets will dedicate the May meeting to remembering our friends who have gone before us by listening to their names again, and thinking of them then, and as we pass curbside mail posts waving 1,000 flags placed by Vets.

Thinking back 250 years....

May 15, 1776, witnessed Virginia instructing its delegates to the Continental Congress to propose a resolution of Independence from Great Britain. This is considered a pivotal moment in the fight for Independence.

May 17, 1776, saw Rhode Island become the first American colony to renounce allegiance to King George III.

Now, the Present...

Monday, April 13th Monthly Meeting. Following **Chaplain Joan's** Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance led by **President Satterfield**, we were reminded that April is the month our charter requires the nomination of officers to guide us through 2026 and 2027. He received the Club's support to continue as President, while **Adam Miklovis** and **John Coyle** were nominated to continue as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. Elections will be held in May preceded by the opportunity for members to add additional nominees as well as a candidate for Secretary.

Vet **Jerry Thompson** introduced attendees to SCORE, an organization of retired business leaders who now volunteer their time as mentors to people just starting small businesses or are trying to improve their business's performance. If you are interested in joining Jerry as a SCORE mentor, give him a call at 321-662-8633, or Email gerard.thompson@scorevolunteer.org. Jerry is a proud SCORE Mentor!



Jerry Thompson

Presentations Co-chair **Jim Cali** then introduced our program for April. First, we heard short briefings from:

- Alicia Kagan, NJ Division of Veterans Affairs, who specializes in guiding Vets through the VA Claims process,
- "Mick" Devlin, SNJ Outreach Officer for the US Department of Veterans Affairs who focused on healthcare issues involving VA Priorities (1-8), associated co-payment requirements, available women's unique healthcare, behavioral care available for the Vet and family members at the SNJ Vets Center on Fire Road, and a host of other treatments and benefits for Vets.
- Jay Slobodenko representing the "Visiting Angels" discussed the "Angel's" role in providing companionship, meal preparation, running errands, and such tasks for Vets approved for these services by the VA.
- Finally, Mike Bates, USMC, Retired, spoke from the user's view of VA services.



Front Row: L-R Mike Bates, "Mick" Devlin, Jay Slobodenko, and Alicia Kagan Back Row: John Coyle and Jim Cali, Vets Club Presentation Team

Following these short introductions, each speaker met with attendees to provide further personal answers or schedule follow-up meetings to ensure all Vets obtain the benefits they deserve.



Four Seasons Vets get answers and encouragement

Monday, May 11th Monthly Meeting. All residents are invited to join us in the ballroom at 1:00 PM as we remember those Four Seasons Vets who have passed over the years. Our bagpiper will play appropriate music as he leads our procession from the ballroom to the gathering space where we honor those who have made our lives at Four Seasons better.

Friday, May 15th Field of Dreams, (FOD).

Volunteers from our club and Four Seasons will distribute refreshments to baseball players and cheering fans from the no-pay concession stand at Absecon's FOD. Come out for a heart-warming night of baseball played by challenged youth. The FOD is located in Pitney Park off 10th St/ Morton Ave in Absecon.

Friday, May 22nd Memorial Services at the Richard Squires Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery.

Ceremony and service begin at 2 PM and is usually well attended. Plan to be there no later than 30 minutes before to ensure nearby parking, and seating. Attendees may want to take your own folding "beach chair" just in case.



Monday, May 25th Memorial Day. Return to 20th century practices. Think of veterans and family members who have passed, visit cemeteries to decorate graves. Then, picnic!

Calendar Markers

Monday June 8th Annual Vets Luncheon. Please consider joining your fellow Vets and spouses/ significant others who have already made their reservations for our twenty-third annual "Dining Out." This year we gather again at the Smithville

Inn and will help celebrate the 250th birthday of “Old Glory”! Call **Bob Simms** at 609-404-9318 to claim your seats!

Saturday, July 4th Independence Day # 250! Plan to participate in the Galloway July 4th Parade, and our Vets (and family) get together on the pool deck after the long march! We will need any help from drivers with convertibles to transport Vets no longer up to walking the distance. **If you can drive your convertible and help us out, please contact Bob Simms** at 609-404-9318. The pool deck gathering is our July meeting.

Every Month Shoe Box Chair, Diane Ott, asks you to bring donations to leave in the Clubhouse lobby area basket or bring to the meeting donations of non-perishable foods or hygiene products. Currently, Diane is supporting the Church-By-The-Bay’s outreach to homeless Veterans in the Galloway area. She also needs our help supplying the Meadowview Home Wing that is for Vets only.

This month she is looking for (travel size) soaps, toothpaste and toothbrush, face cloth, mouthwash, shampoo, deodorant. Donations of canned fruit, pasta and sauce, tuna, and chili are always appreciated.

The Four Seasons Veterans Club meets the second Monday of every month at 1 PM in the clubhouse ballroom except in June (annual luncheon/dinner), and July (after the 4th of July Parade we meet by the pool deck grills). There is no meeting in December. The club is open to all Four Seasons residents who have served as regular or reserve members of the U.S. armed forces including the National Guard and the Merchant Marine components. World War 2 Veterans are non-dues paying Honorary Members. Auxiliary members (departed members’ widows) and significant others, spouses, significant others, and interested non-Vets and neighbors are invited to attend meetings that interest them.

Pet of the Month



Wexford residents, Dominick and Kelly Giacalone, write:

After KeKe, our cat, has breakfast he lies by the shower door waiting for someone to take a shower. If you jump in the shower and close the door, he scratches the door and cries until you let him in for his shower. He is one strange cat, but we love him.

PORT REPUBLIC TRAILS – BOG TRAILS

“Where My Feet Have Taken Me”

By Dennis Demarest



Trailhead

There is a Green Acres site in the Clarks Mill area of Port Republic that is a great place to hike if you like to explore the landscape and take time to appreciate the scenery. The trailhead is in a location you likely haven't passed by before. To get to the Bog Trails from downtown Port Republic, travel west on Main Street to the stop sign where Main Street ends. Then, continue straight merging onto Pomona Avenue and proceed west for a short distance. As the main road begins to curve left, take a slight right onto Upper Pomona Road, a dead-end street. The street takes a sharp turn to the right and becomes Indian Cabin Road. The Green Acres signage and a few stone-surfaced parking spots at the trailhead will be on your left.

The “Bog Trails” tag comes from a hiking resource website, Trailforks.com, which identifies the various routes in this area as Bog Trail, Upper Main Bog Access, Bog Hill Trail, and Nuthatch. There is a lake on the property that is fed by Clarks Mill Stream. Based on historical maps the lake was formerly a cranberry bog, formed sometime between 1912 and 1931. A cranberry bog is shown on a US Geological Survey quadrangle map as recently as 1998, but it is unlikely that it was still operating at that time based on historical aerial photographs. I find that the Trailforks website's map does not accurately represent the current conditions at the site. The purpose of this article is to describe my recommended route to hike these trails.

As you enter the trail through the opening in the split rail fence adjoining the parking spaces, take a moment to appreciate a vegetation interpretive sign on a post with Troop 21 carved in the face of the post. Along this initial portion of the trail, you will encounter additional interpretive signs mounted on posts engraved with ascending Boy Scout ranks; Tenderfoot to Eagle. My guess is that this was a Scout Troop 21 undertaking or an individual boy scout constructed these signs as a project for a merit badge. Also in this section, down and to your left, you can see a portion of the lake. There are some paths that would take you to the water, but I suggest staying to the right to first hike the Nuthatch trail through the upland forest. A little farther along the trail, take note of a path going off to the left that is absolutely straight. Depending on the time of day and the seasonal vegetative cover it almost looks like a tunnel. This trail is called Upper Main Bog Access. My route directions will lead you back to this location and you can walk that trail later. The Nuthatch trail, mostly flat and winding, runs roughly parallel with Indian Cabin Road. Soon you will hear traffic noise from the Garden State Parkway and then the northbound lanes will come into view. At some point along this section of trail, you have crossed over the westerly boundary of Port Republic into Galloway Township. However, the properties in this section of Galloway are assessed to either the City of Port Republic or the NJ Department of Transportation.

Before you reach the edge of the woods at the Parkway, the trail ends and you emerge onto a woods road running parallel with the Parkway lanes. You will be retracing your steps back to this intersection, so take note of a landmark here so you can easily find the Nuthatch trail again. A good landmark is a distinctive tree or the gully running perpendicular to the road. Turn left to head south on the woods road. In a few hundred feet the woods road fades into two trails; take the path to the right. A few steps later the trail forks again; this time bear left. This path ends at the edge of Clarks Mill Stream. It doesn't matter if you take a route other than the one I described because every path in this



Clarks Mill Stream

Clarks Mill Stream is a relatively broad, shallow body of water with noticeably clear water. The stream and its tributaries encompass an extensive drainage area with the headwaters originating at the White Horse Pike near Cologne. If you can disregard the traffic noise from the Parkway, the area along the stream is quite pleasant.

After enjoying the scenery at the stream, head back northward to the wood's road. Retrace your steps along the road to the Nuthatch trail and then back to the Upper Main Bog Access trail previously noted. Walking the Bog Access, you will note that it is a man-made berm through a wetland area. This trail ends at a section of Clarks Mill Stream close to the upper end of the lake. This location was likely the water inlet control site for the former cranberry bog.



Former Bog

From here you must backtrack again by retracing your steps along the berm, but instead of going up the hill back to the Nuthatch trail bear right to

take the Bog Trail along the water, which here is somewhat of a lagoon. Watch for turtles and other aquatic animals along this stretch. Where the lagoon meets the main part of the lake, there are a couple of benches where you can relax and enjoy the scenery.



Flume

Now continue east on the Bog Trail along the edge of the lake. Shortly the trail goes up and over a large mound and then ends at concrete walls that likely were part of the flume regulating the flow of water from the bog into the lower section of Clarks Mill Stream. In the distance you can see a bridge that was once Clarks Mill Road but now private property. Head west through the woods back towards the lake. There is no established trail here, but the woods are sparse so you can see Indian Cabin Road and the lake to stay oriented. Take note of the rusted piece of farm equipment with the tree growing through the middle. This appears to be the



Bog Equipment

remains of a spring toothed cultivator or harrow which would have been used for cranberry bog maintenance.

Upon making your way back to the Bog Trail along the lake, continue west until you see a trail going up a steep hill, obviously the Bog Hill Trail. This short climb will take you back to your vehicle.

Before driving away, take a short walk down Indian Cabin Road to the cemetery you passed driving in. This is the "Clark Burying Ground" and the location of Clark's Mill Meeting House built in 1762. The building no longer exists but the graveyard that remains is maintained by the Atlantic County Department of Public Works, Division of Parks, and Recreation. Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here, and all burials were in 1820 or earlier. Take the time to read the signage that tells a brief story of this interesting historic site.



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President's Corner

By Dave Carey

We are welcoming Spring/Summer - with many changes in our activities. During this changing time, we also have several issues with the 4 Seasons community. The

welcoming of Jackie at the front desk as Kim's replacement seems to be going well. We will soon (or have already) filled Lindsey's role in the assistant manager position. These are very important integral parts of our staff. Please do your best to make it a smooth transition.

The seemingly unending rehab of the indoor pool is finally reaching its end. The end of the month will bring the opening of the outdoor pool. We will be resealing and relining our parking lot which requires several adjustments for the vendor and for those who use the lot.

As the weather permits other projects are in the works. Painting of the bocce court supporting columns and the pool railing will be on the list. We will be looking at the recurrent cracks in the tennis courts. The ponds will be treated for algae, raked

and cleaned. Other ongoing maintenance items are handled in-house by our staff and vendors employed on projects that are larger in nature.

We are all aging and learning many things in the medical field that we probably wish we didn't know, and losing friends and neighbors while gaining new residents, friends and neighbors. Let's welcome them.

Please deal with these changes in as polite a manner as possible.

Join me in taking care of yourself and those you may love.

“

Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons; it's a rebirth of the spirit.

TONI SORENSON

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Community News

Condolences...

...to the family and friends of Catherine Mary Atkinson, Wexford Village, who passed away on February 23rd, 2026.

...to Bob LaFaye, and family and friends of Margaret "Margie" LaFaye, Devonshire Village, who passed away on March 27th, 2026.

...to the family and friends of Catherine "Cathy" Mayfield, who passed away on March 28th, 2026.

About the Cover

I captured these images in the Longwood Gardens Main Conservatory during a visit organized by the Four Seasons Trip Committee.

Bruce Ryerson



BOT Workshop Meetings

By Lorraine Gicas

The following are the highlights of the workshop meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

The library was filled with thirty-three residents and the full Board of Trustees.

Old Business:

Vince Accardi gave the pool update: closer still. A decision was made for a uniform floor surface application. It is a one-day project to be completed after the punch list of things yet to be completed.

New Business:

1. The BOT approved two water filling stations, one in the lobby and one in the gym at a cost of \$7,000.
2. Five requests for proposals (RFP) were sent with only two returned. The Board approved the lower bid from a former vendor, SJ Sealcoating and Striping at \$13,500. Crosswalk work is not included.
3. New member was approved for the Community Ed Committee: Mike Mandracchia.
4. A new irrigation timer was approved to replace the damaged one in Falmouth (with no labor costs).
5. Seeding/aeration will be done in the fall for the entire community home lawns at a cost of \$144,000.
6. They have been holding off on the storm damage to trees, but now eighteen workorders have been approved costing \$10,600 from the tree budget.
7. 2020/2027 insurance renewal is \$112,231 higher than last year. The BOT okayed this with the decision to pay up front. (if a payment is late or missed threatened to drop us).

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Nineteen residents joined the Board of Trustees for this April meeting.

Old Business:

1. The update on the indoor pool: bearing needs replacement and the humidity is too high, which effects the surface floor application.

New Business:

1. Some changes have been made by the ACC Committee in the color uses for our doors and shutters. One color has been removed from the approved list: grasshopper green (Previous use of that color has been grandfather in). Really teal, as a new color, has been approved.
2. A new applicant for the Website Committee has been approved: Cheryl Merlino.
3. A PIF (Project Initiation Form) has been received dealing with one tennis court. S&S will determine whether the cracks on the court present a trip hazard and will review whether it is safe to use. AMP will address the repair of said cracks. The courts are on an unstable site which contains sink holes.
4. A proposal from Pool Media for the filtration system in the outdoor pool. Pool Media uses a sand base for filtering and purifying the water. This has not been done in years. At a cost of \$8,000 ninety-two filters will be addressed. BOT approved this measure to be completed before the Memorial Day week-end opening.

The next BOT meeting will be held on May 5th in the library.





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Community Education Committee

By Pat Allen

Mother Nature, please don't go right into summer. As I write this, I'm still wearing a turtleneck sweater and fleece jacket inside!

But this time next week the forecast is for close to 90°... really?

Looking back just a couple weeks ago, we had a wonderful visit with Anne Harlan, Ph.D. Her considerable accomplishments were balanced by her good humor. We had a wonderful audience for my debut as an interviewer, LOL! Thanks for bearing with me, but my interviewee was terrific. She had a chance to visit with so many attendees after the program. My thanks to Irene Zilinski and Ann Wallace for handling the physical and technical aspects of the evening. It just may be possible to post the video of the interview on the website; I'll keep you posted. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find some photos of the evening. They definitely show how much Anne was enjoying her visit to Four Seasons.

Our Cape May Whale Watch & Research Center program was so informative. Our presenter, Melissa Laurino, got her Master of Science in Data Science and her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology with a minor in Jazz Performance from Stockton University. She started her career with the Cape May Whale Watch & Research Center as an intern in 2013 and quickly became a Marine Naturalist and Educator on the American Star. As the Director of their Internship and Research Program, Melissa oversees all research and data collection with their team and curates the multiple marine mammal catalogs, including the Cape May, New Jersey, Bottlenose Dolphin and Humpback Whale Catalog and the Lewes, Delaware, Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin Catalog, which contribute to the Mid-Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin Database to improve their understanding of the Northern Migratory stock. They are currently looking into posting some of her videos on the website. This was an interactive evening; Melissa and the audience members, who had such enthusiasm, had an extended Q&A session, a great indicator of a successful program.



Melissa and Jackie

Join our pod.



Dennis Clark, Irene Zilinskii, Melissa Laurino and Jackie Sarner

Thanks to Jackie Sarner for planning the evening and to Irene Zilinski for her technical assistance.

Later in May you will be able to purchase one of eight spots for Joanne Kinsey's Tuesday, June 9 program: Two Tasty Breads: Simple Multigrain Bread plus an Overnight Rise Bread. "In this class we make two simple breads, one to knead in class, then bake tonight; and one to bake tomorrow! Both breads freeze well." The class is from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Clubhouse kitchen and signups for this class will be held Thursday, May 21 at 11:30 AM following our regular Community Ed meeting in the craft room.

Save the date: Thursday, June 4 at 6:30 PM for the celebration of our 250th Birthday! Author Ellen D. Alford is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a degree in English and communications, and she studied American history in the graduate program at Rutgers University-Camden. Ms. Alford has worked as a newspaper journalist, teacher, and college administrator as well as an author.

Her program is titled "America 250, From Hearth and Home to the Battle: The Black Colonial Presence." She will cover how N.J. was more than "The Crossroads of the Revolution"; it was also the state where soldiers, slaves, and common citizens were in the crosshairs of danger and in the line of fire. Her program will present black colonial life and black soldiers from South Jersey in particular, during the Revolutionary War.

My history books were not rich in this information although the part played by people of color, including Native Americans, was crucial to the outcome of our struggle for independence.

Her book Abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey: Not Without a Fight will be available for purchase.



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An evening interview with Anne Harlan, Ph.D.

A wonderful group attended Community Ed's first-ever in person interview. Our guest enjoyed the experience and with great good nature and donned her "Dana Carvey" wig when we discussed the South Jersey Area Wind Ensemble's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' in which, as a regular member, she performed.



Anne Harlan's amazingly diverse accomplishments along with her joyful attitude made this evening entertaining and inspiring. Her husband, Jay Nichols, beamed as he listened to his wife of 50 years!



...with Bruce Ryerson



...with Pat Allen



...with Mary Carey, husband, Jay and Kelly Hunt

After the program she had an opportunity to visit with attendees and old friends many of whom, like Anne, have long been members of the Stay Focused Photo Club. Our thanks to Dan Myers, President of Stay Focused, for taking these photos.

...and with the photo she says is her true self. LOL.



Arthritis and Diabetes: The Risks!

By Barbara Ann Gattullo, Nurse Practitioner Diabetes, Health and Wellness

Diabetes and arthritis frequently co-exist, with over 61% of people with Type 2 diabetes developing osteoarthritis (OA).

Arthritis is a broad disease term for any condition causing joint inflammation, swelling and stiffness. OA is caused by wear and tear of cartilage, the protective covering of joints.

Some of the common symptoms of OA are:

- ▶ Joint pain, swelling, stiffness and tenderness.
- ▶ Decreased range of motion, and heat around the involved joint.
- ▶ Chronic stiffness, which patients report as worse in the morning hours.
- ▶ Fatigue and skin appearance changes may be reported as well.
- ▶ Crepitus or a grating sound may be heard when the joint is moved.

Risk factors of Arthritis:

- ▶ Increased age.
- ▶ Obesity and being overweight places extra stress on the joints, especially the knees.
- ▶ Injury history and repetitive work movements.
- ▶ Elevated blood sugars can cause inflammation which leads to decreased cartilage, abdominal obesity and increased joint stress.

Key Connections between diabetes and arthritis:

- ▶ Increased risk: Individuals with diabetes are more likely to develop OA.
- ▶ Shared risk factors: Obesity, age, and inactivity contribute to both Type 2 diabetes and OA.
- ▶ Inflammation and Damage: High blood sugar (hyperglycemia) damage which produces inflammatory responses which damage cartilage and weaken tendons.
- ▶ Complications: Reduced mobility from arthritis can make it difficult to exercise, worsening diabetes management.

Management and Treatment Strategies:

- ▶ Blood Sugar Control: Consistently managing blood sugar levels is crucial for reducing inflammation and preventing joint pain.
- ▶ Weight Management: Losing weight is the first-line treatment to decrease stress on the joints.
- ▶ Exercise: Low-impact aerobic exercises, such as walking or swimming, improve joint function and lower blood sugar.
- ▶ Physical therapy and medications: By consulting with a healthcare provider these can be used.

Symptoms to monitor for:

- ▶ Increased stiffness and decreased mobility.
- ▶ Pain in the joint that continues to worsen along with elevated blood sugar readings.
- ▶ Numbness, tingling or in some cases joint instability or deformities.

Following advice of one's healthcare provider for each of these chronic diseases is vital.



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Safety & Security Report

By Walter Paczkowski

Enjoy the Warm Weather

Summer is almost here after a long blustery winter. Seems to me

that this was one of the windiest winters in recent memory. The weather caused many problems that are being corrected as Spring and warm weather embraces us. With it comes more walkers, bike riders and people out enjoying the outdoors. Use caution and courtesy when approaching people walking. Many of us don't hear as well as we used to and get startled when someone walks or rides past us from behind.

New E Bike (Electric Bikes) Regulations

In January of 2026, the New Jersey Legislature passed new regulations regarding the ownership and operation of E-Bikes. These new rules will start to be enforced on July 1, 2026. Anyone owning one should have been preparing for this enforcement. This involves operator licensing, helmets, insurance, registration as well as operational rules. Look into this if you haven't already done so, to avoid unnecessary costs and/or fines associated with new regulations.

Fishing in the Ponds

Fishing is a great way to relax and enjoy, especially with the grandchildren. Please follow the rules for everyone's enjoyment. Ponds are for Four Seasons "Residents Only" Guests must be accompanied by a resident and most importantly, Catch and Release only!

Sidewalks and Trees

Many sidewalk panels have had to be replaced or shaved due to tree roots lifting them. This is an ongoing project and seemingly endless as out trees grow and age. Removing them is not always a desirable solution but is a necessary and cost-efficient result. It is always advisable to use caution while walking and report any hazards you may encounter.

Soliciting

Soliciting unfortunately is allowed in Four Seasons as long as they have a Galloway Township permit. They can be overbearing sometimes but you do not have to entertain their sales pitch. My

suggestion is to use the website for contractors or recommendations from friends and neighbors.

Scams

This is a never-ending problem. These people use every trick they can think of to take your money. They pretend to be from every government and major company there is and try to appear legitimate. They operate everywhere. Phone, text, email, any way they can contact you. You need to be diligent and don't send or give anyone money, gift cards, credit card numbers, social security numbers, or any banking information. Only do business with places that YOU yourself contacted from known numbers. If you think you have been scammed, contact The Galloway Police and make a report.

Safety Reminders

With warmer weather it is important to remember to Lock Your Doors! Car, house, garage when you are not present. Make sure to close your garage doors at night. Call your neighbors if they forget. Thieves look for "Crimes of Convenience" such as open doors and valuables in plain view.

Calls for Service

Galloway Twp. Police responded to fifty-five calls for service during the month of March. The majority were property checks at twenty-four. Some others are as follows: five welfare checks, four medical calls, three unconscious persons, three animal complaints, two domestic violence, one fraud as well as various others.

The Safety and Security Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 10 AM in the clubhouse Craft Room. Guests are always welcome. Stay safe!

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Recreation Committee

News & Updates

*By Bob McCarthy, Recreation Committee
Chairman*

GOLF LEAGUE

Our golf season started playing on April 30th. Interested players can still sign up. All men and women of Four Seasons are invited. Level of golf players can be anywhere from beginners to experienced. Golf dates will be Thursdays at 9AM. The first outing was at Greentree. We would like to expand to other courses, such as Frog Rock, this season.

For additional information/questions, please feel free to contact our Golf Club Coordinator, Kevin Hughes at 609- 661-9662 or email hughes28kevin@yahoo.com.

SOFTBALL

Spring warm-ups were held on April 28th. Play has begun every Tuesday in May and will run through August.

SOCIAL BOCCE

Our 2026 Social Bocce Season started on May 4th and ends on August 21st. The championship playoffs are tentatively scheduled to be conducted during the week of August 31st, and our annual Bocce Awards Luncheon will be held on October 13th at the Smithville Inn.

For more information, please contact the Social Bocce Coordinator, Peggy Clark, at 215-668-1416 or email at peggy.clark413@gmail.com.

2-PERSON TEAM BOCCE LEAGUE

Our league play started April 13th and will run through the end of June. We will announce the winners in a future edition.

OPEN PLAY BOCCE

Open Play Bocce will also be offered this year. It is held on Saturdays and Sundays from May through July from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Open Play Bocce sessions are non-league, independent sessions where all Four Seasons residents are invited to play

against other Four Seasons residents. There are no pre-organized matches or tournaments, and players of all levels can participate. Equipment for Open Play will be available in the storage bin marked "For General Use." This is the only equipment to be used for Open Play Bocce. The sessions will be conducted on a "just show up basis." No formal sign-up sheets will be used. Residents are reminded that if they have a guest who would like to participate in this activity, the resident must be present on the bocce courts at all times a non-resident is participating in Open Play Bocce.

For more information, please contact the Social Bocce Coordinator, Peggy Clark, at 215-668-1416 or email at peggy.clark413@gmail.com.

HORSESHOES

Horseshoe season started Monday May 4th and runs until the end of August.

OUTDOOR SHUFFLEBOARD

Outdoor Shuffleboard started on May 11th. There are six sessions, each comprised of 6 teams, on: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:00 PM. If you would like to participate in this fun activity as a regular player or substitute, please contact Sue Henshaw at 609-568-5617.

PICKLEBALL

The season has begun. Are you interested in participating in this challenging but fun sport and getting some exercise while socializing with other residents? The playing times are set up through the Team Reach App/Four Seasons Galloway – code "Bossbaby". For questions/additional information, please feel free to contact our Pickleball Coordinator, Barbara Hann, at blh326@comcast.net.

2026 WII BOWLING SEASON

The Wii Bowling Season started on January 5th and ended on March 27, 2026. There were 12 sessions, each session consisting of 8 players. The results for the season are as follows:

First place, Thursday, 2 PM session: Captain Dom Centrone. Total of 27,506 pins. Team players were Pam and Dom Centrone, Marie and Rick Florio,

Kathryn Gariabaldi and Bill Burkett, Geri and Jim Cali.

Second place, Thursday, 11 AM session: Captain Catherine Trainor. Total of 26,685 pins.

Third place, Friday, 11 AM session: Captain Joanne McDermott. Total of 26,048 pins. High game - Pam and Dom Centrone, score of 289. High series - Pam and Dom Centrone, score of 785.

Thanks to all captains and team players that participated in the 2026 Wii Bowling Season.

2026 WINTER INDOOR SHUFFLEBOARD RECAP

The twelve-week winter season commenced on 1/19 and ended with the Championship on 4/16. Sessions were held on Monday morning, Wednesday evening, and Friday morning. Six teams were in each pod, with the players having the most wins (not necessarily teammates) of each pod qualifying for the playoffs. The individuals or team having the next highest number of wins, regardless of pod day, also advanced.

Congratulations to the playoff participants: Monday: Frank Miller-18 wins and Lois Dunay-17 wins; Wednesday: Judie Burcham and Stephen Shivers-19 wins each; Friday: Joe Giamanco-18 wins and Pat Brink-14 wins; Fourth seed: Beth and Bob McCarthy-15 wins each. After 2 semi-final matches and the final match were played, the championship was secured by Judie/Stephen with scores of 16-14, 16-6.

Indoor Shuffleboard is a year-round activity, so the 2026 spring season will start very soon. Residents will be notified of spring season sign-up sheet posting, as well as the possible inauguration of a beginner/instructional league. Please note: Our Indoor Shuffleboard coordinator, Stephen Shivers, has posted an engaging and comprehensive review of the winter season, along with lots of additional shuffleboard news and tidbits on the Four Seasons website's Message Board, under the heading "Leisure", category "Sports & Activities". I encourage you to read it.

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Trip Committee

By Dolores Grayson



Tropicana Casino:

- **June 25** – Sweet Carolina, a Neil Diamond tribute
- **July 23** – Music of Mama Mia
- **December 3** – A Very Motown Christmas Show

Price and selling dates. (TBA). Contact:

Diane Kelley 908-334-7089 or

Linda Hilton 609-573-5141.

The Ark Six-day trip scheduled for **October 18-23, 2026**. Flyers with the full itinerary are available at the main entrance of the Clubhouse.

Contact: *Diane Kelley 908-334-7089*

- \$1,335 pp – double occupancy
- \$1,661 pp – single occupancy
- \$1,289 pp – triple occupancy

Broadway Show: “Just in Time.” The Bobby Darin Story. **July 1st**, 2:00 PM Matinee. Cost: **\$165**. Sale Date: April 28th 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Contact: *Vivian Josephy 201-410-2063.*

Baseball Game: Phillies vs Yankees. July 25. Check-in at Clubhouse at 3:30 PM, arriving at stadium at 5:15 PM. Game at 6:05 PM. Cost: **\$115 pp**. Section 204. Sale dates are Monday, May 4 @ 9:00 AM in the library. (May 5th if necessary) For further information contact: *Anthony Orsini 856-296-7349 or Nancy Moony 609-204-8035.*

Surflight Theater: Pretty Woman, Musical. Sunday, **August 2nd**. The total fee of **\$125** covers transportation by bus, show admission, gratuities, and dinner at Waterfront following the performance. Sale dates June 1–2 in the library 9:00 to 10:00 AM.

For further information contact: *Anthony Orsini 856-296-7349 or Dolores Grayson 609-415-2582.*

1776, Musical: Tuesday, **August 25th**. The **\$125** cost covers the bus, show tickets, tips, and dinner at Waterfront following the show. Sale dates July 6–7 in the library 9:00 to 10:00 AM. For further information contact: *Anthony Orsini 856-296-7349 or Dolores Grayson 609-415-2582.*

Planning Stages:

River Lady – late spring

Pizza tour of Brooklyn

Joshua, Sight & Sound Theatre

Whale Watching, Cape May

Winery Tour



By Steve Pauler

Mark Your Calendars for More Upcoming Events In 2026

July 11 – Juicy Band

September 5 – Jersey Four

October 31 – Halloween Party with DJ and Phot Booth

December 5 – British Invasion Show with Retro on Roc

December 31– New Year’s Eve with a DJ

Two Important Notifications

By GeorgeAnne Tutunjian



TRASH

At a recent open board meeting a homeowner brought up the subject of trash inside and around our ponds. Now that warmer weather is upon us many people are out and about, whether walking or fishing. Please be respectful of our community as well as

our neighbors and do not litter. Trash receptacles are located throughout all the communities. If trash is just thrown on the ground it can eventually get blown into a pond which can affect fish and turtle life as well as just looking darn ugly. Be considerate in keeping our ponds clean.

BIRD FLU

In a recent e-mail update from our great state of New Jersey one of the topics is about bird flu. New Jersey continues to monitor the outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza affecting wild birds statewide.

Signs of HPAI include diarrhea, nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, and loss of coordination. Some birds show no symptoms before death. Don't touch sick or dead birds. Don't try to handle them yourself. While HPAI can, technically, infect humans, the CDC has determined this outbreak poses low risk to the general public. This is primarily an animal health issue and reporting helps the state track and contain it.

If you see sick or dead birds, especially groups of five or more, report it immediately. Go to NJ.gov and click on NJ Fish and Wildlife. Scroll down to Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form, complete and submit.

Do Not Touch Dead Birds No Tocar Aves Muertos

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Bird Flu has been confirmed in New Jersey and has caused the deaths of wild birds throughout the state.

If you see sick or dead wild birds, do not handle them and report sightings on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form by scanning this QR code:



Website Committee

By Jean Reilly

Visits to our new community website, 4seasonssmithville.com continues to increase. For the monthly report period ending April 9th, we had almost 1,200 active users with almost 24,000 webpage views! No surprise that the Message Board is one of the most widely-used features. We are continuing these articles to provide you with an overview and instructions for getting the most from your community website. If you missed the website topics for March and April, click on “**View Newsletters and Scoops**” under “**Activities & Events**” on the top menu.

To register, go to the website, scroll down the right side of the Home Page and click on “**New User Guide**” for detailed instructions. All of the features below require you to login.

The following online service request and safety-related forms are located under “**Community Forum**” on the top menu line:

Service Request - Use this form to request a work order for **NON-SAFETY property issues within Four Seasons**. Service requests will be electronically sent to community management to generate a work order that will be assigned to the responsible party for action. You can expect to receive a status update within 72 hours after you submit the request. For municipal services, go to “**General Info**” on the top menu line on the home page and click on “**Area Services for Seniors**.”

Incident/Hazard Report - Use this form to report all **SAFETY** issues, accidents, unsafe conditions (such as a raised sidewalk), and criminal acts, however minor. Incidents such as malicious damage to property, thefts, suspicious persons or activities, leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident, prowlers, and any other suspected criminal activities should **FIRST** be reported to the Galloway Township Police (dial 911 for emergencies) prior to completing this report in order to ensure a prompt police response. Residents are requested to fill out an Incident/Hazard Report even if they have contacted the police. This report is electronically sent to community management and our Safety & Security Committee who will contact you to follow up.

Property Alert Service - Unfortunately, property and mortgage fraud is a fast-growing crime in our country. In some cases, fraud on real property is not discovered for years. This service is the first step in protecting your property, one of your most important assets. It provides a direct link to the Atlantic County Clerk’s Property Alert Service. This is a **FREE** service to notify you immediately via email whenever a document with your name is recorded in the County Clerk’s Office. Fill out the online form to sign up and protect your property from fraud. It’s quick, easy and free.

Report A Street Light Outage – This link takes you directly to Atlantic City Electric’s interactive street light outage map. By zooming in, you can see the locations of your nearby street lights. Just click on the location where the outage is, and it automatically goes into their outage system. (From experience, it is the fastest way to get a response.)

Please note that the menu locations may be different on a tablet or phone.



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- Dizziness/balance/vertigo
- Gait training/walking

ad# 8324

What Happened to Our Jersey Tomatoes?

By Pat Hanahoe-Dosch



Every summer, my father always grew a garden with lots of tomatoes. He claimed the tomatoes were so good because of the New Jersey soil and water. They were slightly tart as

I bit into them, but then became sweet and juicy. We ate them like fruit cut up on our plates or in sandwiches with lettuce between slices of Wonder bread slathered with mayo, sometimes with strips of bacon, too.

I remember my mother buying bags of tomatoes at a local farm stand on Mill Road. The farmer grew what he sold right there on the land surrounding the stand. That land is now a housing development, but we used to buy cider and apples there in fall, and tomatoes, corn and watermelon in summer.

Years later, as I drove between my parents' house in NJ and my house in Lancaster, PA, I always stopped at a farm stand along the way to buy Jersey tomatoes. I bragged to my friends in Lancaster that Jersey's tomatoes and blue berries were the best in the world. None of them were impressed by the tomatoes because, I have to admit, Lancaster's are pretty good. Over the years, the local farm stands in NJ became fewer and offered less fresh produce. It became easier to bring bags of Lancaster produce, including tomatoes, to my parents when I visited because it was so easy to buy fresh produce of all kinds up there. I still bought tomatoes occasionally from a stand on Route 40 in NJ, but I never really noticed that the taste of the tomatoes had changed because I mostly just cooked with them.

The summer after I moved to Galloway, NJ, I stopped at a local farm stand on the White Horse Pike. Looking around, I was astonished to see a sign on a large wooden display shelf of tomatoes: "They're here! Lancaster, PA, tomatoes!" and on a similar shelf across from it, another sign in front of other tomatoes: "Jersey tomatoes. The Lancaster ones are better. See over there" with an arrow

pointing to the other shelf. "Hey," I said to the man stacking boxes in the corner. "I just moved here from Lancaster, but I grew up in Jersey. How can you say Lancaster tomatoes are better?" My tone may have been a bit indignant. He shrugged. "The tomatoes we get now," he said, "aren't the ones we grew up with. They used to be delicious, but local farmers discovered they could make more money growing pulpier varieties and selling them to companies to be canned. I think Rutgers is trying to bring back the old varieties, but I don't see much success in that."

I bought a couple of Jersey tomatoes out of loyalty. At home, I tasted them and had to agree; they were nothing like the tomatoes I remember.

According to an article by Paula Span in *New Jersey Monthly*, changes in distance, speed, and frequency in how and where produce is shipped made it necessary to shift to hybrid tomatoes with "thicker skins and interior walls (and less taste)." A few scientists at Rutgers University are trying to bring back the older hybrid varieties that were so popular in New Jersey between the 1950s and 1980s, the ones that "are the Jersey tomatoes that induce nostalgia."

According to an article by Paige Britt of *NJ.com*, Rutgers University researchers have "resurrected" a number of varieties, including the Ramapo and the Rutgers 250, while developing newer ones.

Few farmers are changing the varieties they grow for the same reasons they changed them in the first place, but individuals who want to grow the older varieties and tastier new ones in their gardens can find the older varieties' seeds and new ones developed by Rutgers or others at the Authentic Jersey Tomato Seed Collection's website at the Authentic Jersey Tomato Seed Collection's website. The collection gives a very brief summary of each variety's history and description. You can learn more about the seeds Rutgers University brought back or developed at the website for Rutgers University Office for Research, Rutgers Tomatoes.

For links, see the June digital edition on our website.



An Ounce of Prevention...

By Bill Puentes, Health and Wellness

We all experience a myriad of physical, psychological and emotional changes as we age.

Many of these changes are expected and can lead to positive outcomes (think about the adage ‘Older but wiser’). Older adults, however, may begin to experience changes that are more challenging to adapt to. Sensory changes may lead to visual disturbances that impair driving ability or even the ability to safely ambulate. Hearing changes can affect the ability to engage in conversations or enjoy listening to music and television. Tactile changes may lead to the inability to distinguish the temperature of hot water leading to scalding burns or the inability to recognize the severity of skin injuries. Visual changes can affect depth perception which may lead to a higher likelihood of falling.

But it’s not all bad news. Along with the seemingly negative changes associated with aging, we also have had the opportunity across our lifetimes to develop a vast repertoire of adaptive skills that can help us successfully adjust to these changes/challenges.

The potential for a fall becomes higher as we age and may be one of the most devastating consequences of aging changes. Even as we begin to experience changes that can elevate fall risk, most of us minimize our fall potential. The first step in mitigating the negative impact of a fall is to understand one’s risk. There are several publicly available resources to help an individual understand their fall potential. A good example can be found on the National Council on Aging website [see: <https://www.ncoa.org/tools/falls-free-checkup/>].

This tool helps an individual understand the physical manifestations that indicate fall potential and helps to understand how seemingly unrelated issues (think medication use and disrupted sleep behaviors) can increase fall risk.

Once you understand your risk there are many things you can do to minimize a negative outcome. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) [see: <https://www.cdc.gov/falls/prevention/index.html>] provides a list of suggestions to help you begin to develop your own fall prevention regimen.

CDC Recommendations for Preventing a Fall

- Talk to your doctor for help in evaluating your fall risk and identifying specific things you can do to mitigate the risk.
- Get screened for osteoporosis; weakened bones increase the potential for a fall.
- Do strength and balance exercises; exercise can make your legs stronger and improve your balance (Tai Chi is a good example of this kind of exercise).
- Have your eyes checked; vision changes can affect depth perception which can contribute to increased fall potential.
- Make your home safer:
 - a) Get rid of things you could trip over.
 - b) Add grab bars inside and outside your tub or shower and next to the toilet.
 - c) Put railings on both sides of stairs.
 - d) Make sure your home has lots of light by adding more or brighter light bulbs.

Falls can have a devastating impact on the quality and quantity of life for older adults. The good news is that there are many things we can do proactively to mitigate fall potential and enjoy life to its fullest.

Prevention Tips

- Keep moving and stay active
- Keep your bones strong
- Go for regular eye checkups
- Always stand up slowly
- Wear proper non-slip footwear
- Light up your living space
- Install assistive devices

...and more





Tasty Tidbits

By Susan Jensen

Pork Apple Burgers

Great for Memorial Day BBQ

(Prep 20 min, cook 10 min)

- 2 lbs. ground pork
- 1 Granny Smith Apple, peeled, cored, chopped
- 1 sweet onion - finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup teriyaki sauce
- 1 egg
- 8 hamburger buns
- 1 20 oz. can sliced pineapple

- Pre-heat grill for medium high heat
- In a large bowl, mix together ground pork, apple, onion, garlic, teriyaki sauce and egg. If too dry add some juice from the can of pineapple slices.
- Form into 8 patties.
- Lightly oil grill grate. Grill pork burgers for 10 minutes or until well done.
- Toast buns on grill. Serve burgers on toasted bun topped with pineapple slice.



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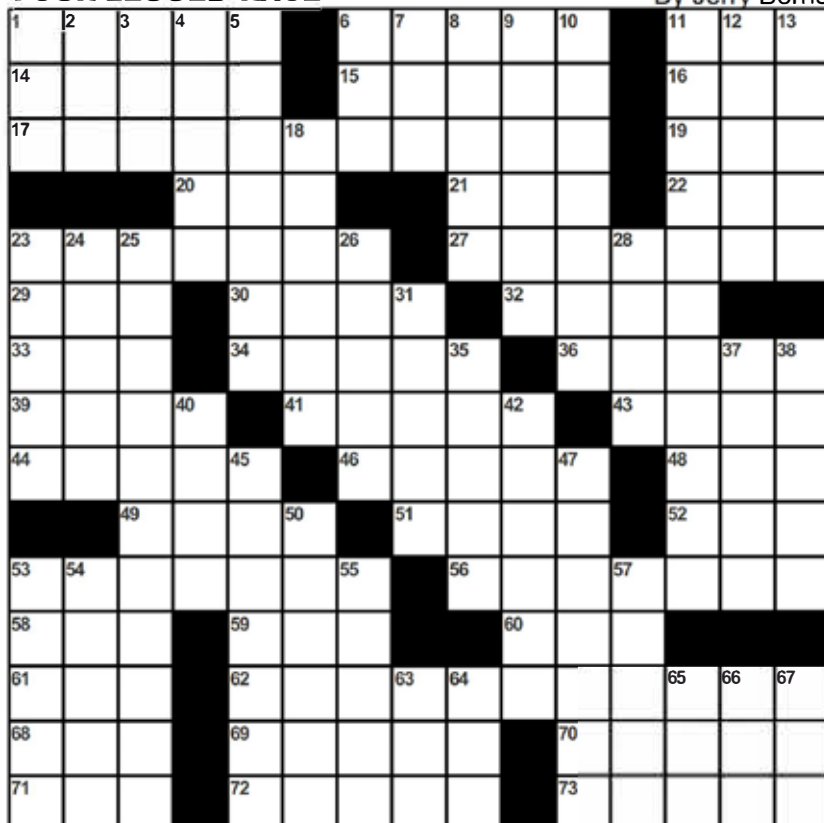
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Hairdos | 43) Folklore monstrosity |
| 6) Led off | 44) 100,000 make a newton |
| 11) Gridlock component | 46) Back-up sounds |
| 14) Alternative to bottled | 48) Shoot the breeze |
| 15) Arctic dwelling | 49) "Able to ___ tall buildings ..." |
| 16) Feel regret over | 51) Edible tuber of Polynesia |
| 17) Sellers of illegal alcohol | 52) Superlative suffix |
| 19) Hard to explain | 53) Christmas tree sheddings |
| 20) Emulate a bunny | 56) False fronts |
| 21) Snacked | 58) Special-interest grp. |
| 22) "Dear" mister | 59) Crater creator, perhaps |
| 23) Living in water | 60) Barely defeat |
| 27) Grandeur | 61) Compass reading, sometimes |
| 29) It's certainly not a show dog | 62) In a disgraceful way? |
| 30) "Happy" mollusk | 68) A, in Berlin |
| 32) Kind of food or mate | 69) Not just "no!" |
| 33) Vicksburg combatant, briefly | 70) Auto contract, sometimes |
| 34) Old rail riders, stereotypically | 71) Knight or Nugent |
| 36) Animal variety | 72) Garbo of "Ninotchka" |
| 39) It was Persia | 73) "___ of Iwo Jima" |
| 41) Black-clad teens, often | |

DOWN

- 1) Picnic discard, sometimes
- 2) Lady associated with the Beatles
- 3) "Am ___ believe ...?"
- 4) Jazzy Earl Hines' nickname
- 5) Large irregular spot
- 6) Above average in size
- 7) Coop ovoid
- 8) Faint flicker
- 9) Main arteries
- 10) Rhinoplasty
- 11) How Buddha sits
- 12) Attend a class for no credits
- 13) Remove more moisture from
- 18) Concluding speech (var.)
- 23) Bitter-tasting
- 24) Ask
- 25) Bit of modern folklore
- 26) One spelling for a meal on a skewer
- 28) 100 cents, somewhere
- 31) Short choral composition
- 35) Bundle of grain
- 37) Delete, as messages
- 38) Mortgages, e.g.
- 40) "No ___ to apologize"
- 42) Pounced
- 45) Preserving, as pork
- 47) Tea parties, e.g.
- 50) Author
- 53) Group of nine
- 54) A Muppet
- 55) Martin of comedies
- 57) Breathing problem for heavy sleepers
- 63) Allow
- 64) The-lower-the-better pitching stat
- 65) Thing acquired on a beach
- 66) "Acid" drug
- 67) "All right!"

FOUR-LEGGED RACE

By Jerry Berns



Answers on Page 40

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Book Club

By Tina Seibel

By the time you read this,
winter should be long gone.
On some of the warmer days
in April, you could find me

on my screened-in porch, reading a couple of new releases by favorite authors, and enjoying the sounds of songbirds and squirrels chattering away. My hummingbird feeders are in place, but, so far, I have not seen/heard their arrival.

Before previewing our May selection, here is a recap of our March and April books:

We read/discussed two very different novels—John Boyne’s *The Heart’s Invisible Furies* and Kirsten Miller’s *Lula Dean’s Little Library of Banned Books*—that share a surprising thematic kinship: both explore the lifelong consequences of intolerance, the power of chosen community, and the quiet rebellions that shape a person’s identity.

Boyne’s sweeping, decades-spanning novel follows Cyril Avery, a man born into a fiercely judgmental midcentury Ireland and forced to navigate a world that refuses to accept him. The book is equal parts tragic, darkly funny, and tender. Boyne uses Cyril’s life to expose the cruelty of institutional shame — particularly around sexuality — while still celebrating the resilience that comes from love, friendship, and self-acceptance. It is a novel that feels both epic and intimate, with emotional punches that land long after the final page.

Miller’s novel takes a more satirical, contemporary approach. Lula Dean, a self-appointed guardian of “decency,” runs a Little Free Library with an iron fist — until a mysterious rebel begins stocking it with banned books. What follows is a sharp, witty unraveling of small-town politics, moral panic, and the absurdity of censorship. Miller balances humor with heart, showing how literature can crack open even the most rigid world-view. The book is breezy and fun, but its commentary on who gets to control stories — and why — lands with real weight.

Though wildly different in tone and scope, both novels interrogate the damage done when society polices identity and expression. Boyne approaches the theme with emotional gravity, Miller with comedic bite. Together, they offer a compelling

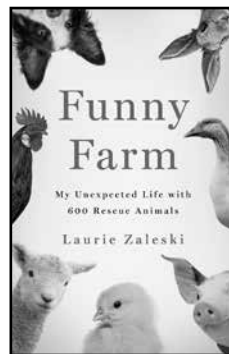
reminder that stories — whether hidden, banned, or hard-won — shape who we become.

Now for the May selection: *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley is the kind of mystery that sneaks up on you — in the best way. Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, a chemistry-obsessed misfit with a razor-sharp mind, discovers a dying man in her family’s garden and decides she is far more qualified than the local police to uncover the truth. What follows is a delicious blend of wit, eccentric English village charm, and a heroine whose curiosity is as dangerous as it is irresistible. If you are craving a story that feels clever, cozy, and just a little wicked, this one is a treat waiting to be devoured.

Since pool/beach weather is upon us, here are three summer reading recommendations:

1. *Funny Story*, by Emily Henry - A light-hearted tale about love and friendship, ideal for beach reading
2. *One Golden Summer*, by Carley Fortune - A nostalgic second-chance romance that captures summer’s essence.
3. *The Five Star Weekend*, by Elin Hilderbrand - A captivating tale that combines friendship and romance.

Save the Date! Mark your calendars now for a “not to be missed” author visit, July 27th at 1:00 PM. Laurie Zaleski, author, and owner of Funny Farm Rescue & Sanctuary in Mays Landing will be our guest speaker. Watch for more details in the Scoop and upcoming newsletters.



The complete list of 2026 selections are posted on the Four Seasons Book Club website.

All residents of Four Seasons are invited to join us on the 4th Monday of the month.

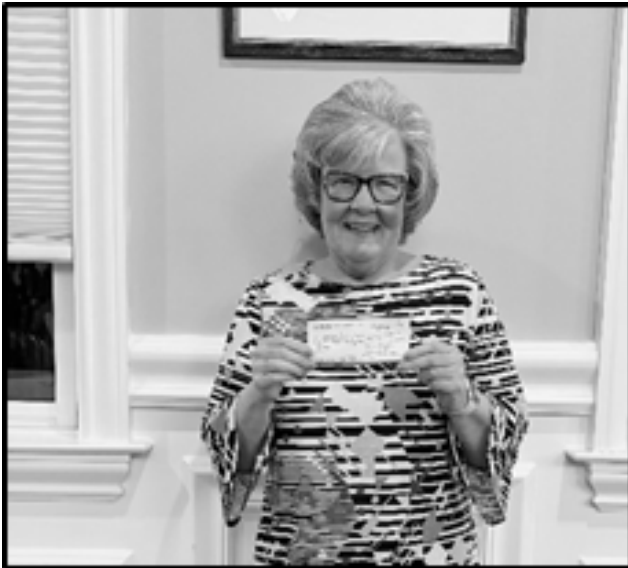


Four Seasons Bingo

By Susan Herman and Debbie O'Brien

Spring is finally here along with the much-appreciated warmer weather. Passover and Easter have come and gone, and we hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Happy Spring!!!

The statistics for March 22nd, March 29th and April 12th are: 192 players, 55 winners, and total winnings of \$3,182. That total includes the Progressive Jackpot won on March 29th by Susan Squillace. That night we were in the ninth week of the 10-week Progressive Jackpot cycle. Susan won \$1,031 when Steve Hodousek called N37 on the 58th number of the game. She won \$1,031 and was, needless to say, very happy!!! We had 80 residents come out for Bingo that night. That's the highest turnout in a long time. Congratulations Susan!!!



The week after Easter, we had an unusual thing occur. Sandy Schamach was the caller, and we were on the Crazy "L" game. The game went a very long time without a winner, especially since the other games that night had been won very quickly. When bingo was finally called, eight players had bingo! We don't think we ever had so many winners for one game.



All residents are invited to come play Bingo. Don't forget to check the pink calendar that comes with the Scoop to see when Bingo is held. We will be off for Mother's Day and Memorial Day in May.

Please remember that the doors open at 6:00 PM with the last card sold at 6:55. Come early to get a good seat. We try to start Bingo promptly at 7:00. Feel free to bring your own snacks and enjoy the coffee/tea provided.

As I mentioned in the last article, please bring small bills (1s, 5s and 10s) to pay. This makes it so much easier for our cashiers to have change for the prize money, especially when we have multiple winners.

Please remember – only Four Seasons residents are permitted to play Bingo due to the constraints of our license.

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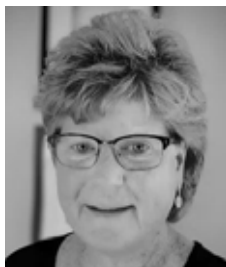


Sudoku

The goal is to fill in each of the cells with a number from one through nine. The digits must be placed so that each appears only once per row, column and box.

Answers on Page 40

	6					2	1	
5				1	3			
					7		4	
				8			5	
	4			7				
			9		2	8		
9	8				4			
1			8			5		
3								2



The Joy of Collecting

By Susan Joy

Welcome to “The Joy of Collecting,” Four Season’s own version of The Antiques Road Show!

We all have a collectable item or two that was handed down or purchased years ago on a trip or at an estate sale and often wonder if it’s a rare 18th century heirloom or simply a month tourist souvenir. Hopefully this column can help you identify your collectable’s history and possible value in today’s market. Hopefully all readers will find an interest in your “treasure’s” history.

Each month I will pick 2 to 3 items to research and showcase in the column. If you have an item of interest that you’d like to find more info on, as well as its possible value, please email me clear pictures taken from several angles along with as much information you can provide, including dimensions, colors and provenance. Please, no jewelry or sports memorabilia.

Q. Our uncle’s estate includes this Victrola console. As a former RCA employee, this was a prized possession of his and we have fond memories of him cranking the handle and dancing with our aunt and grandmom at the holidays. It appears to work perfectly, and we would like to learn more about its history and collectability. Thank you. T.C. Devonshire Village



A. The Victrola—introduced in the early 1900s by the Victor Talking Machine Company—was one of the most transformative pieces of early home entertainment. Building on earlier innovations by

Emile Berliner, Victor refined the gramophone into something both practical and beautiful. Earlier machines relied on large external horns, but the Victrola’s defining feature was its internal horn,

cleverly hidden in a finely crafted wooden cabinet. First introduced around 1906, these machines quickly became a centerpiece in American homes throughout the 1910s and 1920s, symbolizing both modern living and a love of music. The company’s iconic “His Master’s Voice” image—featuring Nipper—became one of the most recognizable trademarks of the era.

Beyond its design, the Victrola played a pivotal role in shaping how people experienced music. Before radio became widespread, families gathered around their Victrola to enjoy opera, jazz, early popular recordings, and even the spoken word. It helped bring professional performers into everyday homes and contributed to the rapid growth of the recording industry. By the late 1920s, the company evolved into RCA Victor, and while newer technologies eventually took center stage, the legacy of the Victrola as a cultural and technological milestone was firmly established.

An important part of the Victrola story is the records it was designed to play—primarily 78 RPM shellac discs. These records, typically 10 or 12 inches in diameter, were made from a brittle shellac compound rather than the flexible vinyl used in later decades. Each side usually held about three to five minutes of audio, which is why early recordings often feel short and concise. Victrola records covered a wide range of material, from classical arias and big band music to early blues, jazz, and spoken word. Today, these records are collectible in their own right, with value influenced by rarity, artist, label, and condition. While many common titles remain affordable, certain recordings—especially early jazz, blues, or niche labels—can be surprisingly sought after by dedicated collectors.

From a collecting standpoint, Victrolas continue to appeal to a wide range of buyers, thanks to their craftsmanship, history, and decorative presence. Each piece reflects an era when furniture and function were seamlessly combined, making them as much a design statement as a music player. At the same time, their collectability often depends on finding the right buyer, someone who appreciates both the mechanical charm and the aesthetic presence of these pieces. Collectors are typically drawn to well-preserved cabinets, distinctive styles, and examples that retain their original components,

as these details enhance authenticity and overall appeal.

In today's market, values can vary depending on condition, style, and presentation. Many Victrolas remain accessible with entry points for collectors under \$500, while especially clean, decorative, or higher-end models can command stronger interest and pricing. As with many estate sale finds, thoughtful staging and storytelling can make all the difference—transforming a Victrola from a simple antique into a meaningful piece of history that resonates with the right buyer and brings the music-filled past to life.

Susan Joy is a Four Season's resident. She has honed her extensive research skills and collectables knowledge via years of retail, estate liquidation and online sales experience. She loves collecting old postcards and vintage toys. She is not a certified appraiser and the information provided is for entertainment purposes only.

Please send your submissions to Susan at willowtreeestatesales@gmail.com. Unfortunately, due to time and space limits, not all submissions can be answered.

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Ornithophobia

This is an oil painting on museum board entitled Ornithophobia by John Genzo.

"This oil painting represents my Surrealist style depicting an intense irrational reality of a dream like state. "

— John Genzo

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From These Honored Dead

By Joseph Picard | Photos by Theresa Picard

Remember the epic Civil War movie “Glory”? It depicted the history of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the second African American regiment mustered in the conflict, and memorialized the courage and commitment of these men who fought directly for their freedom, with defeat meaning certain death.

The 54th was not the only black regiment to march to glory. There were about 170 African American regiments formed after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. One of them, the 25th US Colored Regiment, mustered near Philadelphia, contained free black enlistees from New Jersey, including three young men from Port Republic — brothers Josiah and Charles Boling and brother-in-law Alexander Smith. They served in North Carolina, Louisiana and Florida and all three survived the war. A family friend, William Lee, enlisted a little later in the 24th US Colored Regiment. He too served and survived.

These four patriots are buried in the Boling family cemetery, a place you may have passed by several times without noticing. The plot is at a corner of the intersection of Pomona and Moss Mill roads. It is cordoned off by a split-rail fence and partially shaded by a couple big pines. There are headstones for the four Union soldiers, and a fifth headstone for a Boling son who served in World War I. Local historians believe that the family patriarch, Henry Boling, his wife Grace and as many as 15 other people are also buried there.



The Boling Cemetery

Atlantic County placed an informational sign at the spot in 2023, to honor those interred, as well as the black community known as the Boling Settlement that once thrived in that place and the surrounding area.

That is, the sign was placed 113 years after the last known person was buried there. And several decades had passed since a handful of concerned people acted to save the site from destruction and to implore that these neglected Americans be shown proper respect.

“For over 30 years we’ve been trying to get the county to do something about the site,” said Doris Bugdon, a local historian and former member of the Port Republic City Council.

Bugdon became aware of an effort to remove the cemetery around 1990.

“A woman who worked for the county office that investigates properties and their owners told me that the Smithville Corporation was selling the property on Moss Mill Road at the graveyard site and the surrounding area,” Bugdon said. “They wanted to sell the land and get rid of the cemetery.”

4 Union Soldiers Remembered



Josiah Boling



Charles Boling



Alexander Smith



William Lee

Bugdon, a member of a local Civil War roundtable, gathered allies and pressed Port Republic to buy the land and save the historic site.

“The city said it did not have the money to buy the land and, even if it could afford to buy, it couldn’t afford the necessary insurance to maintain it,” Bugdon said. “Honestly, some people just did not care about the site.”

Advocates for preservation did manage to stop the sale and destruction of the property, and their efforts drew other supporters to the cause. Early in the 1990s, Wendel White, a professor of art at Stockton University, became aware of the Boling cemetery. For decades, through published research and photography, White has been drawing attention to nearly forgotten black communities throughout the region and the nation. He brought his expertise to the evolving fight to save the cemetery. “Wendel White joined us and came up with all the history,” Bugdon said.



Samuel Boling, Veteran of WWI

“Information about the origins of the cemetery was difficult to find because there was no longer a black community at the location or in the town,” White writes on his website *Small Towns, Black Lives*. (<https://blacktowns.org/>). (Go to the website, click the link for the 2003 version, and view White’s original work on the Boling cemetery.)

“Henry and Grace Boling purchased the property somewhere between 1850 and 1852,” White said. “They established a church there, with a churchyard. Family members, related folks and friends lived there at the Boling settlement, which at the time extended on both sides of Pomona Road, towards where the Garden State Parkway now runs.”

White has studied race relations throughout American history. He noted that the last residents at the Boling settlement left the area around 1920, about the time the Ku Klux Klan was having a revival in New Jersey. But, according to White, relations between the white and black communities in Port Republic appeared to be better during the latter half of the 19th century.

“White residents wrote letters of recommendation for their black neighbors, so that the former soldiers could receive their benefits after the Civil War,” White said. “I have seen the evidence.”

Black and white people formed the group of locals who continued to push for recognizing the Boling site.

“Sonya Harris, a friend and former employee of the county, advised me of the cemetery,” Michael Bibb said. “She subsequently put me in contact with Doris Bugdon.”

Bibb, a resident of Egg Harbor Township, is a U.S. Air Force veteran and a member of a local NAACP.

“My interest was based upon a desire to see these men honored for their service to the Union and the site not be forgotten as many African American gravesites have been,” Bibb said. “Plus, I think it is a truly interesting story that this family acquired land during that period and so many from the same family joined the Union Army.”

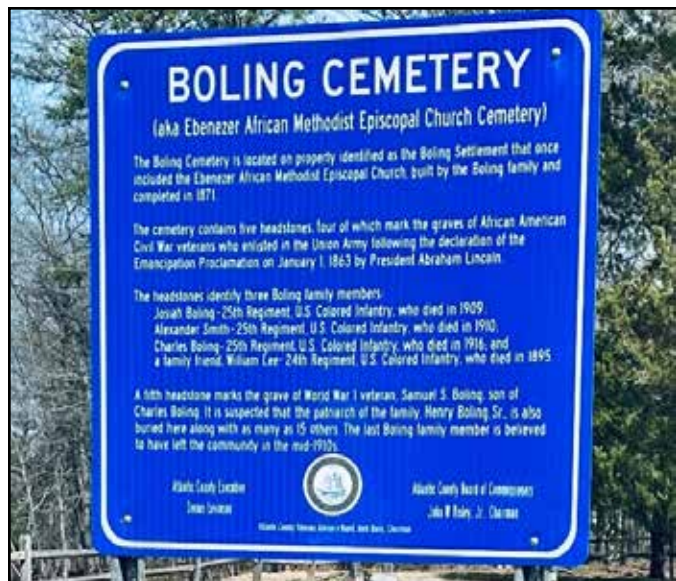
The fact that the neglected headstones belonged to American veterans also struck a nerve with Paul Stern, an officer with the Jewish American War Veterans Post 39, out of Margate. Stern became aware of the Boling cemetery while on a bus tour in 2012. He began advocating for its redemption and led Post 39 volunteers in maintaining the site ever since.

Stockton University — whose main campus is two miles from the gravesite — joined the work to bring the site’s history to light, with a tour and an on-campus exhibition in 2013. The online version of the exhibition can be found here. (<https://blogs.stockton.edu/bolingsettlement>)

The county Veterans Advisory Board, of which Bibb is a member, joined with the longtime advocates and their combined efforts paid off, at

least in part, in 2023, when Atlantic County placed the informational sign.

“Thousands of people have driven by the spot, not realizing what it was,” Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson said. “Everybody ignored the site for years. But veterans’ groups and others said something must be done.”



Bibb said it is unclear who now owns the land. The Smithville Corporation, according to a title search, acquired the property sometime after the last of the Bolings moved away. The Smithville Corporation is now defunct.

“The Atlantic County Parks and Recreation Department cuts the grass,” Bibb said. “Last year members of the Veterans Advisory Board volunteered a day and replaced rotted fences.”

Bibb, Bugdon and others think the county should do more for the historic site.

“I believe ownership should be resolved and the county should take responsibility for its upkeep and improve the site for visitors to the area,” Bibb said.

At least now, through the persistent efforts of thoughtful citizens, the Boling settlement and what it means to human history — the work, faith and courage of those largely disrespected individuals — will not be lost to this and future generations.

Puzzle Solutions



4	7	9	5	1	2	8	6	3
3	8	2	4	6	9	1	5	7
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2	4	1	7	5	6	3	8	9
8	3	5	2	9	1	4	7	6
6	9	7	3	8	4	2	1	5
7	2	8	6	4	3	5	9	1
9	5	4	1	7	8	6	3	2
1	6	3	9	2	5	7	4	8

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Hugs and Stitches

By Coleen Glen

This year Armed Forces Day is on the 16th of May and we will celebrate Memorial Day on the 25th. On these days we specifically honor our active-duty military and remember all those who served our country.

One of the ways the ladies of Hugs and Stitches try to show appreciation and say thank you to our vets is by working with our hands, on Thursday mornings as a group and then at home. Lately we made lap robes and blankets for our service members who are in hospice at Mainland and the Atlantic City campus of Atlantic Care hospital. We have also made them for all the vets at Meadowview in Northfield.

The women who made these are Eileen Castaldo, Joanne Duffy, Virginia Giumara, Coleen Glen, Carolyn Peltz, Zena Slater and Gloria Vladovic. These pictures show some of them.

Let us never forget those who served and those who are currently serving.



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- Top Recognized Luxury Real Estate Company Globally

Spring Is In The Air!



 **SURETY**
TITLE COMPANY