

MISSION HILLS POST



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Welcome to one of the coldest winters to hit Florida in years. I don't know about the rest of you, but long johns and hats were not ever in my thought process when I was buying my home in Florida and relocating from the Northeast.

I'm also hearing reports daily of residents struggling with different illnesses. Be it the flu, in all of its forms or any other type of sickness. What we would ask is that if you're sick, please stay in your home, and call the office. We can help provide you with food if you need it delivered. We can help provide you with resources to get you any assistance that you may need. What we don't need is to spread the germs that you're carrying any further. We have a lot of elderly people here. We have a lot of immunocompromised people here. So we're asking that if you're sick and not feeling well do the right thing and think of others and we will think of you and help in any way we can.

I am going to refer to this winter in Florida as the year of the great hibernation! Truth be told there is not a lot going on at Mission Hills right now. Our maintenance crew is working to get all our equipment in fine working order for the spring. They are keeping our lawns looking lovely, chasing sticks all the time that are constantly being blown around and in general fixing anything that they find that's broken and every day at Mission Hills you can find something that's broken. We recently completed the project of having all of the roofs, drains and scuppers cleaned professionally so that now the burden on our maintenance crew to keep them cleaned and running properly has been greatly lightened. We do have a maintenance wish list that we are forming, and we are looking at ways to potentially sell some equipment that we don't need any longer to be able to buy some other equipment that would serve us better in the long run. We will be discussing that further at one of our board meetings, but trust me, nothing will be sold without the general approval of the entire community.

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We have some very important items coming up with our annual proxy vote as well as our election for the Board of Directors of Mission Hills. Please make sure that you attend one of the Document Committee's informational sessions on how to properly fill out your proxy so they can be counted and please take the time to familiarize yourself with your candidates for the new 2026 Board of Directors here at Mission Hills.

We have had some outstanding community members step up this year and attempt to get quite a few of our recreational activities going again. We have Penni Dietrich leading the charge on the shuffleboard courts on Tuesday night. We have the ever-strong bingo committee on Monday night. We have a fun group of people at left right center on Wednesday and Dorothy Blewis and others leading the charge in the swimming pool with an aqua size class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Almost every night of the week there is something going on in the clubhouse, so please get involved, join your community. We have breakfast once a month, and there's always an ice cream social; we have dances going on. We have a potluck supper coming up. We have a luau planned. The Booster Club works very hard on these events and they're a lot of fun and a good opportunity to meet other people. Please get out and become part of the community here at Mission Hills. We always welcome new faces and we really enjoy new ideas so head for a booster club meeting. They meet once a month in the rec hall. Check the calendar that's attached to the post and look for some of these events. Many of them are free, some of them have a small cost, most of which is underwritten by the booster club, please don't let finances prevent you from attending. There's always a solution that can be worked out.

I still am hoping to get a few volunteers to become part of a census committee here at Mission Hills. I would like to conduct a census and get some accurate information on owners, renters, current residents, birthdays, and phone numbers in case of an emergency. So much of this is lacking in the office. I for one know that I live here by myself. Yes, all of you know me. I'm a face in the crowd, but if anything were to happen to me, I want to make sure that someone can notify my children and get me the support that I may need at that time. Please know we're not asking for this information to be invasive. We're asking for this information so that we can see that you have whomever you want available to help you if there is a time of need.

February will find me mainly in the state of Wyoming, I'm going to attend an interesting event that I would encourage you all to look up on YouTube. It's called skijoring; I will also be skiing and enjoying all the other winter sports that Wyoming has to offer. Please make the most of the month of February folks! I hope it's warm because where I'm headed -30 is the average temperature every day. I'll see you all again in early March.

Oh, and in closing, go Phillies. Our neighbors are back. If you have the opportunity, getting up to a spring training game is a lot of fun.

Stay Warm!

Jelly



MISSION HILLS DIRECTORY

Board of Directors:

President: Pat Banning mhcadirector.pat@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ron Stock mhcadirector.ron@gmail.com

Secretary Christine Esperti mhcadirector.christine@gmail.com

Member at Large Barnaby Smith mhcadirector.barnaby@gmail.com

For Your Information:

Clearwater Police; (727) 562-4242

Mission Hills Office: (727) 797-6402 missionhillsfl@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm (lunch 1pm-2pm)

Friday Office Hours Will Vary

Ameri-Tech Community Management: For emergencies when the Mission Hills office is closed, please call (727) 726-8000. Follow the instructions provided on the recording. Provide your name, address, phone number, that you are calling from Mission Hills, and state the nature of your emergency.

Property Manager: Lexi Sesto asesto@ameritechmail.com

Committees and Activities:

**Bingo- Kay Hunt (810) 845-6597

**Booster Club President- Vicki Loper (610) 248-1158
vwunderly52@gmail.com

**Crafters- Dorothy Blewis (505) 220-1542

**Documents Committee- docscommittee@yahoo.com

**Neighborhood Watch- Susan Salesses (727) 754-8421

**Red Hat Society- Mary Ann Sheehy (727) 669-2016

Jean Eldredge (727) 314-4353

**Email Blast- Helen Strupczewski vetnerz2@gmail.com



There will be a funeral mass for

Gerri Downs

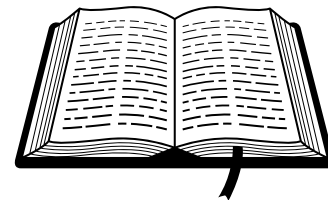
on Friday, February 27th at 2:00pm
at Light of Christ Catholic Church.

There will be a celebration of life for her on
Saturday, February 28th at 7:00 - 9:00pm
at the Mission Hills Clubhouse

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 3
1:00 pm
Cricketers British Pub
2634 Bayshore Blvd
Dunedin

All Ladies Welcome!!
RSVP: Jean Curtis - 727-791-1942



Mens Bible Fellowship
Friday nights
7 - 8 pm
Club House Living Room
text John Core 727-520-4681

Come learn/play Hand and Foot
at the clubhouse!
The fun takes place on Thursdays at 12:30pm.
Contact Rose Feneck at (781) 718-7975



In Memoriam

Ernie Baron

passed away on Saturday, January 17th
Ernie was a revered NYC Fire Dept. Captain

DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE UPDATES THE LAW OF THE LAND

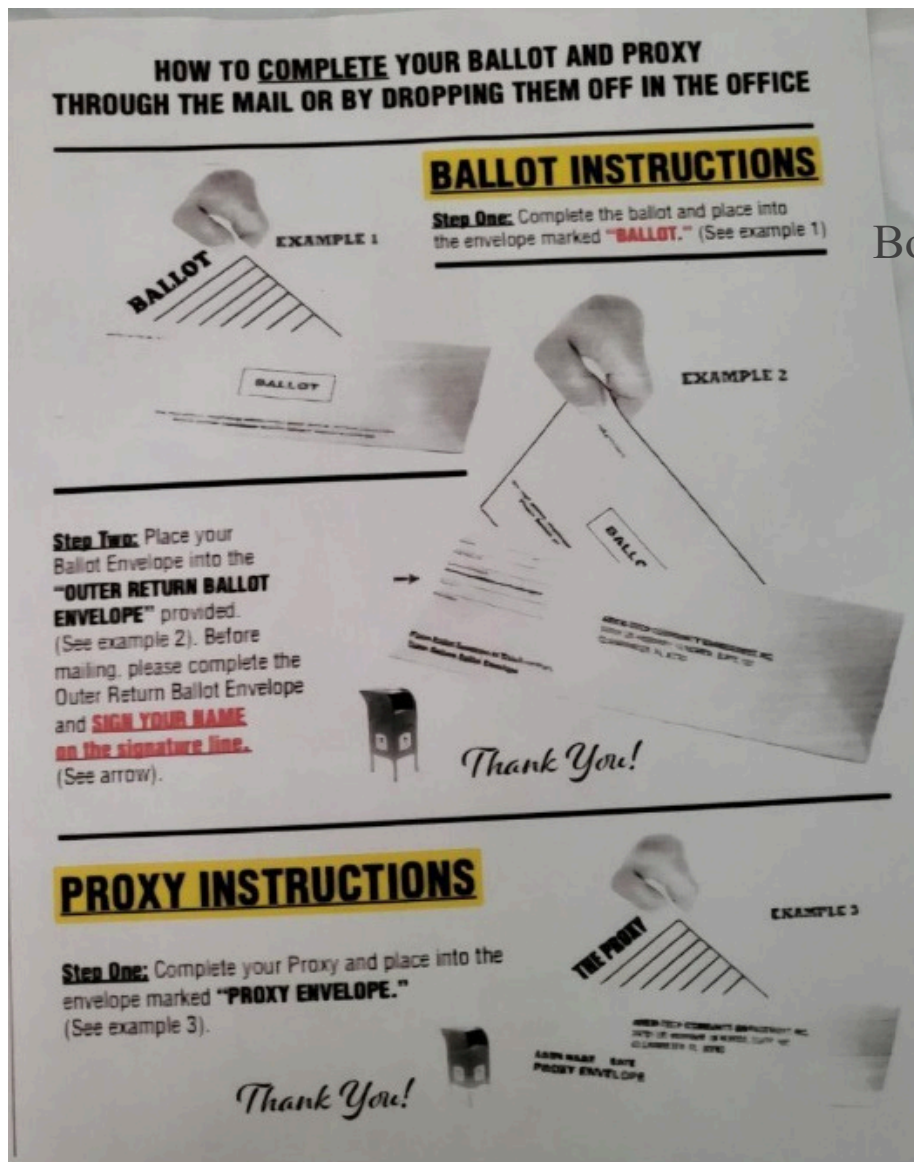
(submitted by the MH Documents Committee)

The well-laid plans of mice, men and all that jazz.

Due to various schedule changes, here is the most updated information for our upcoming Educational Seminar and Proxy/Quorum Help Desk.

On Thursday, February 12th at 7PM, all residents are invited to attend the Education Seminar regarding the proper process for filling out and correctly returning your ballots and proxy. There have been a few updates in recent years, and we want to ensure that all of us are up to speed. We don't want ANY of our votes to become null and void simply by not following the correct process. We encourage you to bring your Ameri-Tech paperwork with you that evening to further assist if necessary.

In addition, we will also be available during the first week of March to offer further assistance if necessary. On the first Monday, the 2nd, from 1PM to 3PM, we will be set up in the living room for your convenience. The following day, Tuesday, the 3rd, we will be available from 1 to 3PM and again from 6 to 8PM, also in the living room or the conference room. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, the 4th with more details coming from our Board of Directors. Here is a graphic of what the correct process is and must be followed. Remember: even if there is no voting issue on the proxy, you **MUST** properly complete it in order for us to obtain a quorum to hold our annual meeting.





TREASURERS REPORT



December Treasurer's Report

Expenses exceeded Revenue in December. Revenues were \$298,752 and Expenses were \$337,1186. The primary reason for this is because we paid the normal monthly insurance costs and renewed insurance for 2026. Thus, in essence we paid two months insurance costs in one month.

We ended the year with total Revenues of \$3,559,203 and Expenses of \$3,684,279. We had unspent revenues from last year that covered the difference. Delinquencies went up slightly. They currently are \$55,920 from last month's total of \$53,538.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH by coordinator Susan Saleses



Each night, a dedicated group of people takes turns patrolling the Mission Hills Streets.

They look for carport lights and street lights that are out, illegally parked cars, suspicious happenings, etc.

The team also makes sure that those leaving the clubhouse after evening events arrive home safely. The team goes out after 9pm each evening and patrols for 45 minutes to an hour.

Our team is now down to about eight people and we would love to have a team of at least 14. So, we are in need of your help. Can you volunteer twice a month to help us protect our neighborhood?

Training is provided and we need to have a few more volunteers.

If you are interested, please contact Susan Saleses at 727-754-8421 or smags457@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

. . . you must own your unit for at least one year before you may rent it out?

Also, rentals must be a minimum of three months. Mission Hills is NOT an Airbnb community.

. . . each resident is asked to keep their outside light on for the safety of their neighbors and the community?

We so appreciated those who do this and are looking for 100% participation. It makes a difference! LED dusk to dawn lights are available for purchase and cost only \$1.75 a year in electricity.

. . . all cars parked in Mission Hills must be currently registered?

Unregistered cars are given tickets and will be towed if not registered.



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



First event is February 20th @ 12:30 (for Jan & Feb birthdays) in the clubhouse.

MH is celebrating our residents again! Every month we will provide a themed luncheon in our clubhouse to celebrate everyone's birthday for that month. We need your help by supplying us your birth date and if you are a full time or seasonal resident. We are asking for a \$5 donation each month from non birthday attendees to cover food & supplies. These can be given to Becky or Shirley any time or at the event. Any leftover donations will go toward the next month.

Please contact Becky Anderson at 727/542-3453 (TEXT only) or Shirley Laurie at 401/302-1914 to RSVP or if you have any questions.

Each month's date will be posted on our FB page, on Helen's blast & in the post.

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BOOSTER CLUB EVENTS:
Submitted by Vicki Loper

We had another successful Black and White Dance. Thank you to everyone that attended and helped with this event, especially Becky for her beautiful table decor, the board/booster club members for setting up and cleaning up. It takes a village!

A big thank you goes out to the anonymous person that made a donation of \$40 to our Booster Club. It was very much appreciated. Thank you to Dee Laymon for her \$20 donation.

Thank you to our bingo team for all your hard work on Monday nights. Bingo card sales end at 6:50pm and bingo starts at 7pm. Come and join the fun and win some \$\$\$\$! Please remember NO LARGE BILLS! Thank you to our volunteers, Kay, Peggy, Judy, Cindy, and Jelly.

All tickets for Booster club activities must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to the event, with the exception of the Ice Cream Social. Tickets are available at bingo, LCR, Dominos and around the pool. Please contact our ticket sellers, Joanne Dunn 617-686-4078, Shirley Laurie 401-302-1914, Helen S 609-706-7214

A big thanks to our Sue Rousett for changing our signs for events every week.

Thank you to Penni Dietrich for taking charge of our monthly breakfast scheduling, and to all our cooks, servers, and all volunteers.

Thank you to Janet, Kathy and her volunteers for the ice cream social and Regina for hosting trivia.

Thank you to our Dunn sisters for always handling the 50/50 and ticket sales.

Thank you to all the community members that help the Booster Club for all of our events. We are always looking for new people to volunteer. We appreciated each and every one of you! Thank you to our Booster Club board, who work tirelessly to continue to provide monthly events for everyone to enjoy. We are always open to hearing some ideas of what you would like to see here in the Hills. Contact Vicki at 610-248-1158 or come to a Booster Club meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm. If you are interested in running for the Booster Club, Board elections will be held at the March meeting.

Please DO NOT drop off unwanted items in the clubhouse/or kitchen without checking with Vicki Loper first. 610-248-1158

Continued next page...

...Booster Club Continued

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

No Movie night in February

Bingo every Monday at 7pm in the clubhouse. Card sales end at 6:50pm

February 1 Booster Club Ice Cream Social/Trivia 7pm

February 8 Super Bowl Pot Luck/BYOB (free) 5pm-cheer on your Super Bowl team and wear your favorite team gear. Please bring your favorites to share. NO HAPPY HOUR

February 14 Booster Club Valentine’s breakfast 9am to 10am. \$10 p/p. Cooks for this month are Cathy Harris, Janet Russell and their helpers. They are preparing a french toast casserole, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee.

February 19 Booster Club meeting 7pm. All are welcome! Let's see some new faces.

February 21, 2026 Drum class 10am

February 21, Hawaiian Luau \$20 p/p- Happy hour 4 -5pm, dinner 5pm followed by Robert’s Horseracing (desserts are always welcomed) This price is being subsidized by the Booster Club

SAVE THE DATES FOR MARCH

March 1 Booster Club Ice Cream Social 7pm

March 14 Booster Club Breakfast 9am

March 21 Booster Club St. Patrick’s Baked Potato Bar w/salad 5pm

March 19 Booster Club Meeting 7pm (Election of Board)

MEET THE MAINTENANCE CREW

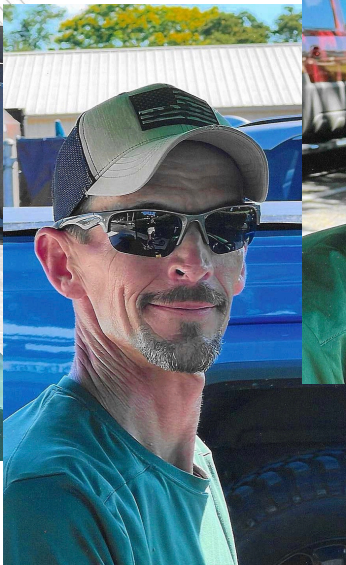
They keep MH looking great!



Eric



Jason



Daran



Joe



Raul



Shawn



Bored in retirement?

Want to feel useful and connected again?

An amazing opportunity exists in Pinellas County schools to become the reliable friend and mentor to a school child. There are multiple programs available to fill your time but the one I wish to promote is known as "Lunch Pals".

What does a Lunch Pal do?

Once a week you meet during school lunch with a child wanting a reliable adult to be their friend. What do you do during your meeting time? Listen and play games! Absolutely the worlds BEST volunteer job!

I need to warn you - this can become addicting!

I started with one lunch pal and now have a dozen.

For information on the Lunch Pals program and how to become one check out Pinellas County Schools web site below.

<https://www.pcsb.org/departments/district-services/strategic-partnerships/mentoring/lunch-pals>

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US TO DO A DOOR TO DOOR SURVEY TO GET AN ACCURATE RESIDENT UPDATE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES SINCE THE COMPLETION OF THE HOPA FORMS.

THIS WILL HELP US GET A HOLD OF PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES AS WELL AS A HEADCOUNT FOR SAFETY. THIS WILL ALSO GIVE US A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHO IS RENTING. THERE ARE SO MANY NEW FACES THAT WE HAVE NOT REALLY MET YET.

ALL HELP IS WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED!

PLEASE CONTACT LEXI IN THE OFFICE OR
PAT BANNING, PRES OF THE BOARD



Kielbasa Pineapple Bites

(a Facebook recipe submitted by Helen J. Strupczewski)

Ingredients:

1 lb kielbasa, sliced into bite-sized pieces
1 fresh pineapple, cored and cut into bite-sized chunks
(or 2 cups canned pineapple chunks, drained)
1/4 cup honey
2 tbsp Dijon mustard
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
1/2 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes (optional, for heat)
Chopped parsley for garnish (optional)
Toothpicks for serving

Instructions:

Cook the kielbasa: In a large skillet, heat the kielbasa over medium heat for 4-5 minutes, until slightly browned.

Add the pineapple: Add pineapple chunks to the skillet with the kielbasa and cook for 2-3 minutes until the pineapple is slightly caramelized.

Prepare the sauce: In a small bowl, whisk together honey, Dijon mustard, soy sauce, apple cider vinegar, garlic powder, and crushed red pepper flakes (if using).

Toss everything: Pour the sauce over the kielbasa and pineapple in the skillet, stirring to coat all pieces evenly. Let simmer for 3-4 minutes until the sauce thickens and becomes sticky.

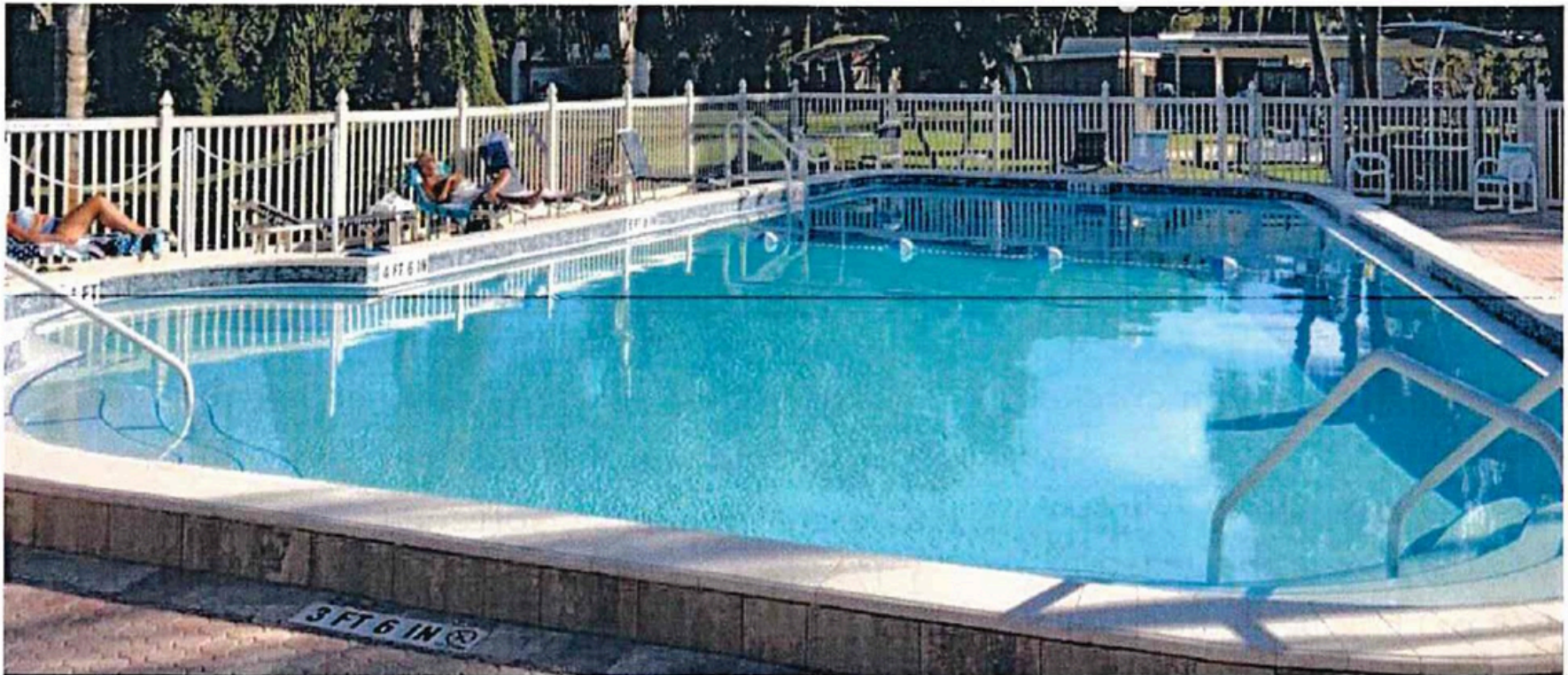
Serve:

Transfer to a serving platter. Thread each piece of kielbasa and a pineapple chunk onto toothpicks. Garnish with chopped parsley if desired.

A tasty hors d'oeuvre for a potluck. or a luau????

Any of our Hillers ready to share a recipe or two with us?

Just eMail that to Helen at: vetnerz2@gmail.com



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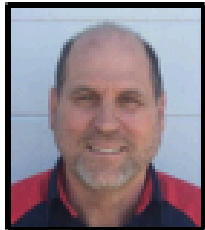
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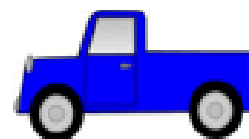
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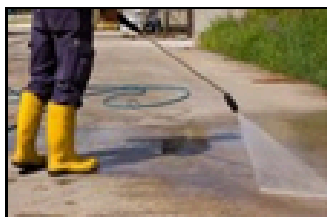
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Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Submitted by Melody Walsh

Please save your soda and other can tabs and deposit them in the PINK bin located in Clubhouse lobby. They will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House to be used for their needs to make the families' stay easier and more comfortable.

They greatly appreciate any help that we can provide.



Chair Exercise

Submitted by Joanne Dunn

Come join us every Friday morning in the Clubhouse living room at **10:30 AM** for a little exercising and a few laughs! It's time to get in shape again! Bring weights if you have them.



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