



# The Polo Park Press

ALL THE NEWS  
FOR THE  
POLO PARK  
COMMUNITY

*January 2025*

VOLUME 27

## **Polo Park HOA Office**

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E-mail:

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Website: **poloparkhoa.com**

### **Office Hours**

Mon. / Weds. / Fri. 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Tues. & Thurs. 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Closed Saturday, Sunday & Major Holidays

**ProShop 863-424-3341**

## **2024 Board of Directors**

### **Daniel Basham**

*President & Veterans*

*Director, Rules & Regs, ARC*

President@poloparkhoa.com

863-616-3892

### **Mike Wright**

*Vice President & Golf*

Golf@poloparkhoa.com

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### **Marianne Helmprecht**

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### **Linda Bailey**

*Secretary & CAP/CERT, Activities*

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863-420-0825

### **Scott Rapp**

*Director, Buildings & Grounds*

buildings@poloparkhoa.com

407-361-7774

### **Jeff Polston**

*Director*

336-399-4886

## **Message From The Editors**

Happy New Year! We have so much to celebrate in this New Year! Thanks to the coordination and very hard work of many dedicated volunteers in our park, soon we will have a newly refurbished Challenger Clubhouse! And it will be ready just in time for the many special events scheduled in our very busy month of January. We have The Dukes, the Annual Cookie Social to welcome new residents, the Business Fair, and A Snow Ball Dinner Dance sponsored by PPIPs. Many will be happy that Bingo is back as well as all of the Line Dancing classes. Winter Games 2025 will begin on January 27th.

Please plan on attending the Annual Homeowners Meeting on January 13th and cast your votes on the Budget and the amended governing documents.

Welcome back to all of our Snowbirds who have arrived recently.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!



• **January 5**  
*Communion*

• **January 19**  
8:30 a.m. at  
*Challenger Club House.*

*All are Welcome!*

## **★ Polo Park Press**

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## Polo Park Business

### ★ BOD Meeting Minutes

*Monday, December 9, 2024*

The Minutes of the December Board of Directors Meeting are posted on the bulletin boards of both Clubhouses. If you would like a copy to take home, copies are available in the HOA office. You can also read the Minutes at the Polo Park website, [poloparkhoa.com](http://poloparkhoa.com). Please take the time to read the Minutes and be sure to attend the Board of Directors meeting on January 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Challenger Clubhouse. The January minutes will be posted in the clubhouses a week after the meeting

### ★ Golf Committee Meeting

*Monday, January 6 • 9:30 a.m., CCH*

All homeowners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### ★ Buildings and Grounds Meeting

*Monday, January 6 • 11:00 a.m., CCH*

All homeowners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### ★ Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting

*Monday, January 6 • 1:00 p.m., CCH*

All homeowners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### ★ Pool Committee Meeting

*Tuesday, January 7 • 10:30 a.m. BCH*

All homeowners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### ★ Annual HOA Meeting

*Monday, January 13, 2025 • 7:00 p.m. CCH*

*Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for early registration;  
Meeting convenes at 7:00 p.m. • Come early to register*

The Clubhouse will be open, starting at 2:30p.m., for registration. ***You must bring your government issued picture I.D. in order to register and vote at the Annual Meeting.***

Yes/No voting cards will be distributed ***after*** 5:30 p.m. If you have pre-registered earlier in the day, you can avoid waiting in line. An exchange ticket will be given from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. so when you return you can receive your Yes/No cards. Please read the official Notice of the Annual Meeting and review the proposed budgets mailed to each owner in December. A member vote will also be held to approve the proposed amended governing documents. You can review the documents on Polo Park HOA website or pick up a printed copy from the office.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors will meet to elect Officers. The 3 open director positions will be filled by the 3 candidates who applied:

***Scott Rapp, Shirley Hosner and Pat Hess.***

Robin Harris, Election Committee Chairperson

### ★ Attention all Activity Chair People

***Welcome Committee Cookie Social***

*Marcia Rockinson, 863-420-0345*

The Welcome Committee will be hosting its annual Cookie Social on Sunday, January 12. This year we are offering a 4X4 table for each committee representative to display information about your activities and answer questions. To reserve a table, please contact Marcia Rockinson, 863-420-0345.

### ★ January Welcome Committee Meetings

Due to tax training in the Boulevard Clubhouse, the Wednesday January 8 Welcome Committee meeting will be held in the Challenger Clubhouse at 9am. We will also have a Welcome Committee meeting on January 29 at 9am in the Challenger Clubhouse.

*Thank you, Marcia.*

### ★ Safety Article for January

***Protecting your ID on line***

January 28th is Data Privacy & Protection Day, an international holiday. The goal of this holiday is to raise awareness of protecting privacy online.

#### **1. BE ALERT TO PHISHING**

Phishing is an email that impersonates a trusted business. Check spellings carefully. NEVER give out personal information( credit card, SS number or Medicare number) to someone you have not initiated contact with.

#### **2. HAVE A STRONG PASSWORD**

The longer your password the harder it is for cyber criminals to hack. You should include letters, numbers and symbols. You should also change your passwords often.

#### **3. DO NOT ANSWER SOCIAL MEDIA QUIZZES**

Scammers use these to get information without you realizing it. If you answer things like “Who was your favorite teacher?” or “What was your first car?” These are answers to many security questions.

#### **4. IRS or POLICE WILL NEVER CALL YOU**

The police will NEVER call you announcing they have a warrant out for your arrest. IRS will never ask for payment in the form of gift cards. If you are unsure who is actually calling you, hang up and call the official number listed.

**BE ALERT, PROTECT YOUR ID!!**

### ★ Polo Park HOA Raffle

***Drawing Monday, January 13, 2025 at HOA Meeting***

***• Tickets, \$20 each***

*Dave & Pat Hess*

Dave & Pat are selling tickets. The drawing will be held at the first board meeting in 2024. Last year two lucky winners had their HOA fees paid for the entire year! Tickets can be purchased at the pro shop, or you can stop by and pick up tickets at our house 517 Tivoli Park Dr. Tickets are \$20 each. The maximum number of tickets to be sold is 264.

## Polo Park Business

### ★ “ATTENTION ALL COOKIE BAKERS”

Cookies will be needed for the annual Welcome Committee Cookie Social on Sunday, January 12. All cookies will need to be at the Challenger Clubhouse by 10am Sunday. If you would like to bake please contact Tricia Ecker at 863-424-2774

*Thank you, Marcia.*

### ★ ARC (Architectural Review Committee)

Happy New Year! Along with the new year come new rules for ARC, so, I have a few things to share. First off, there are new documents with all the changes for 2025. Please reference them before you plan any outside projects. Also, please keep in mind that Florida state statutes supersede our documents. You can find them at: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/> under the tab LAWS. Those that apply to ARC start with 720.3035. One area under the state statutes is Flagpoles. This Florida statute is section 720.304 2.a if you'd like to read the whole thing. The key points here are: 1) you can fly 2 flags; 2) they can't be larger than 4 1/2 feet by 6 feet; 3) you can have one flagpole no higher than 20 feet; 4) the flagpole can not be in the easement. If you need an ARC form, new ones can be found in the Blvd clubhouse. Not sure you need to fill one out? When in doubt, fill one out. Along this line, please turn in your ARC form before you start your project. That way you know what you're planning is both Polo Park and Florida statutes approved. If you would like to come to our weekly meetings you are welcome to come. We meet at 10:30 on Wednesdays at the Blvd. Clubhouse. As always, thank you for helping to keep Polo Park beautiful.

### ★ Clubhouse Availability

**Call HOA Office 863-420-1591, M – W – F 9am to 3:30pm & Tues and Thurs 9am to 2:30pm**

If you need to use one of the clubhouses for any future activity or function, call the HOA Office for scheduling.

Our bylaws provide for the use of the clubhouses for private parties. At the April 2023 meeting, the Board approved the fee of \$200.00 for private parties to help with the costs of maintaining the clubhouses. The \$200.00 fee will cover the use of the clubhouse for (6) six hours. Use of the clubhouse beyond the (6) six hours will be charged an additional \$100.00 per hour. An additional \$200.00 refundable deposit will be due 48 hours prior to the event. Notice of a private party will be posted on the door of the clubhouse during a private function. Please.....let's have respect for our neighbors and their families who are having a private function. We're sure you would want the same respect and consideration given to you.

### ★ Use of Challenger Clubhouse Kitchen

*Barb Dundore, Kitchen Coordinator 517-896-4126*

Whenever individuals or groups use the kitchen of the clubhouse for parties or private functions, there is a fee which includes the use of some products and appliances. The current fee for use of the kitchen is 10% of profit up to \$40.00. If you are planning an event that will require the use of the kitchen, please contact Barb regarding this fee. Board meetings and funerals are exempt from the fee.

### ★ Veterans Memorial Committee

*Sam Harris, President, 727-643-3969*

Part of the mission statement of the Veterans Memorial Committee of Polo Park is to assist US Military Polo Park veteran residents and their spouses. If you find yourself in need of assistance, we invite you to contact the Veterans Memorial Committee. The Committee's criteria for consideration is that you live in Polo Park and are able to prove service in the US military (or are a widow/widower of a US service member). Please contact me, Sam Harris, President, for consideration by the Committee. 727-643-3969. Requests for assistance will be handled in confidence.

### ★ Residents' Photos For New Neighbors (and Old)

*Linda Bailey, 863-420-0825*

The Photo Albums in Challenger Clubhouse contain photos of residents arranged alphabetically and by street. These albums need constant updating. We have many new residents who have not had pictures taken and some residents who have never had their picture added to the albums. I would like to undertake a project to correct that! I am willing to visit each home, by appointment, to take pictures of every new resident and anyone who does not have a photo in the albums. Just give me a call and we can set up a photo session. *Thanks, Linda.*

### ★ Income Tax Preparation

Tax Preparation will begin February 5th through April 9, 2025 at the Blvd. clubhouse - On Wednesdays only. Appointments can be made Starting January 6, 2025 by calling: 863-578-7575. If no answer, please state your name and phone number SLOWLY and your call will be returned within 24 hours. For those who have access to a computer, you may visit: [poloparktaxaide.com](http://poloparktaxaide.com) and select the date and time you desire. You must include your name, phone number and email address. You are encouraged to print and complete the Intake and Interview Sheet which allows you less time waiting in line to see an Interviewer.

### ★ Polo Park Golf News

Happy New Year!! Wednesday Work Crew - The next project on the agenda for Wednesday Work Crew is to edge all around both sides of the Cart Path. We are hoping to get this project started after the first of the year. Thank you to all who have and will volunteer their time to the Golf Course. Pro Shop - Although there is still a lot of work to be done on the Pro Shop starting Tuesday, December 3, 2024 the new hours will be 7:30 am to 2:00 pm. Jim Rose has posted the new pricing and memberships available for 2025 on Facebook and Nextdoor. Ranger Volunteer Program - we are looking for volunteers for January thru April, Goings On - Sunday Funday has started, as well as Friday Night Golf. We look forward to seeing you at these fun activities. The Winter Games schedule for golf is - Scramble February 11th, Lag Putting, Closest to the Pin February 5th and Golf Putting February 9th .



## Polo Park Business



*Polo Park Residents* really came through for Toys for Tots this year. Your generosity surely made many young boys and girls very happy Christmas morning. You donated more than 40 bikes and 100's of toys to this worthy cause. Thanks to all of you for your thoughtful donations this year. We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and will have a Joyous and Prosperous new year.

## Thank You Polo Park



Here are the winners of the Veteran's Committee at Polo Park Raffle basket winners for 2024 that were pulled after the Pearl Harbor Flag raising ceremony.

- **Booze Box:** Bill Schawe of Polo Park
- **Patriotic Basket:** Mary Ann Koedel of Polo Park
- **At the Movies:** Bill & Debbie Consiglio of Polo Park
- **Game Night Basket:** Connie Tambling of Polo Park
- **Money Tree/Lottery Basket:** Lori Wimer of Winter Springs, FL

*Congratulations to all our winners and, again, a HUGE THANK YOU for all your support this season!*

## Polo Park's Weekly Events

### ★ Coffee, Donuts & Chat

Will resume soon - check Facebook and Nextdoor for announcement • Tuesdays, 7:15 – 8:30 a.m. CCH

*Ria Treur, 863-399-8371 • Sandra Bradford, 513-519-1865*



Come to the Challenger Clubhouse for breakfast on Tuesday mornings. We have donuts and bagels, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. It's a nice time to meet your friends and neighbors. We meet from 7:15 - 8:30 a.m.



## Polo Park's Weekly Events

### ★ Cheeseburger Tuesdays

Tuesday, January 7, 11:00-12:30, CCH Patio

*Judy Husted, 231-239-4510*

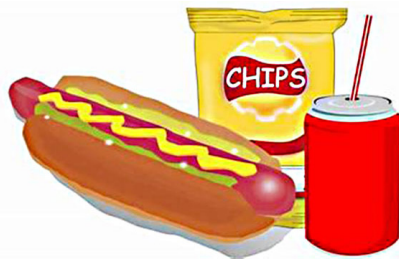
The PPIPS committee serves cheeseburgers on the first Tuesday of each month. For the low price of \$6 you will get a hamburger or cheeseburger (your choice) with the fixins' of your choice, chips, drink, and a cookie. And you can visit with your friends and neighbors!

### ★ Hot Dog/Bratwurst Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 11:00 – 12:30, CCH Patio

*Judy Husted, 231-239-4510*

The PPIPS Committee serves Hot Dogs or Brats, chips, a drink, and a cookie every Tuesday for lunch, on the Patio behind the Challenger Clubhouse. Come for a quick, inexpensive lunch (\$5) and social time!



### ★ Thursday Morning Coffee Chat

Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. BCH

*Vikki Lafontaine, 860-597-2072 • Laurie Wares, 703-801-5961*

Come join your fellow neighbors for coffee, chat, fellowship, and a little breakfast treat. Coffee Chat is free for Polo Park residents. Please bring your own coffee mug.



### ★ Bingo

Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m., CCH • Last tickets sold at 5:30. Pull tabs start at 5:30 with Bingo to follow  
Bingo Kitchen 4:00-5:30

*Terry Crosby, 863-256-5424*

Tickets will be sold between 4:30 and 5:30. Come join the fun at BINGO. We look forward to seeing you. If you are interested in becoming a Bingo Caller, please contact Terry at 863-256-5424. We are in need of more volunteers for this position. We will train you and you will only need to call once per month and most likely for only a half session.

**Bingo Kitchen** will be open 4:00-5:30, offering a lite fare menu. Bingo Kitchen is in need of a few more volunteers for prep work and serving. Please call Laurie Wares, 703-801-5961 if you'd like to help.

## Polo Park's Special Events

### ★ Barnyard Roadkill (formerly Barnyard Bingo)



Wednesday, January 8, 6:00 p.m. CCH  
Donation: \$12.00, call Terry for tickets

*Terry Crosby, 863-256-5424*

Come play our special form of Bingo and have a lot of fun! We will begin the evening with a special dessert, coffee and tea. If you wish to have anything else to drink, please bring your own. We'll play 60 games of Barnyard Bingo and you may win enough meat for a delicious dinner! Also, we'll have a 50/30/20 raffle and door prizes. Call Terry if you have any questions.

### ★ The Dukes

Saturday, January 11, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. CCH • Doors open at 6:30 • Tickets: \$13 Presale • \$15.00 At The Door. Call Marianne for tickets.

*Marianne Helmprecht, 631-672-1418*

The Pool Committee is sponsoring The Dukes. The Dukes keep the music of the 50's and 60's alive by singing their unique blend of Doo Wop and Rock & Roll. BYOB and snacks to enjoy while listening. 50/50 raffle too! This is going to be an awesome night.



## Polo Park's Special Events



### ★ ANNUAL COOKIE SOCIAL TO WELCOME NEW HOMEOWNERS

**Sunday, January 12, from 1-3 pm, CCH**  
**Sponsored by The Welcome Committee**

*Marcia Rockinson at 863-420-0345.*

The Welcome Committee will be hosting its annual Cookie Social on Sunday, January 12, from 1-3pm in the Challenger Clubhouse. The purpose of the Cookie Social is to WELCOME all of our new neighbors who have moved into Polo Park this past year. Most of our activities will have representatives available to answer your questions. This is a fantastic opportunity to find out what goes on in Polo Park and to get involved! EVERYONE is welcome to attend, make some new friends and of course enjoy some delicious cookies. For more information please contact Marcia Rockinson at 863-420-0345.

### ★ ATTENTION ALL ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSONS

If you would like to host a table to highlight your activity during the Welcome Committee Cookie Social on January 12, please contact: Marcia Rockinson at 863-420-0345 or Toby Marzullo at 863-424-1933 This is a great opportunity to introduce your activity to ALL your neighbors!



### ★ VEGETABLE and FRUIT GIVE AWAY

**Tuesday, January 14, 10-11 a.m.**  
**Boulevard parking lot near the tennis courts**

SaludVIP Care and FL Blue will be here on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10-11am for a Vegetable and Fruit giveaway. The FL Blue RV will be parked by the tennis courts.

### ★ Marathon Bingo

**Saturday, January 18, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CCH**  
**Tickets \$40, call Terry or Rose**

*Terry Crosby, 863-256-5424 • Rose Ryback, 407-394-6821*

Join us for a day of fun, raffles, instant bingo, and lots of bingo games! The cost of \$40 includes lunch, which will be lasagna. Please call Terry or Rose to buy your ticket.

### ★ 3D Mobile Mammography Bus

**Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m - 2 p.m.**  
**Boulevard parking lot near the tennis courts**

*Marcia Rockinson at 863-420-0345*

The 3D Mobile Mammography Bus will be in Polo Park on Saturday, January 18, from 9-2. They will be parked in the Boulevard parking lot near the tennis courts.

To schedule an appointment call 844-546-5871 or on line at [3dmobilemammography.com](http://3dmobilemammography.com). We MUST have at least 20 appointments scheduled for them to come.

They accept ALL insurances.

### ★ Polo Park Business Expo

**Monday, January 20, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CCH**

*Marcia Rockinson, 863-420-0345 • Karen Grant, 401-486-4224,*

Polo Park will be hosting its ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO on Monday, January 20, from 11-1:30 in the Challenger Clubhouse. There will be 20+ local businesses represented to help improve your home and life.

FREE \$25 gift card drawings every 1/2 hour

FREE admission

FREE tote bags to the first 100 families. Given by POLO PARK STRONG

Lunch will be available for purchase

Come join us for an informative and fun afternoon.



### ★ WINTER GAMES 2025

**Entry forms are due January 20**

*Jerry Braden, 703- 881- 2689*

Winter Games begin Monday, January 27, and ends with our luncheon on Saturday, March 1st. Winter games are for everyone to come out, have fun, and make new friends. Sign up sheets are in the Pro Shop and the BCH. Until further notice, you need to turn them in at the BCH using the envelope system. Other options could be available later. Due to inflation, the cost is \$20.00 per person, which includes all the games and the award luncheon. Monday, January 20 is the cut off date to return the sheets. Come sign up and join the fun.



## Polo Park's Special Events

### ★ PPIPS Annual Dinner Dance A Snow Ball

**Saturday, January 25, 6:00 p.m. CCH**  
**Doors open at 5:30 p.m. • Tickets \$22 at CCH**  
**Patio starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 2nd**  
**Tickets will be sold on Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**10:00-12:30 until sold out**

*Denise Lundin, Dinner Dance Chairperson, 716-785-1270*  
*Denise Lundin, Ticket Sales/Seating, text 716-785-1270*

As anyone will tell you, the PPIPs Annual January Dinner Dance is an event that never disappoints. Remember last year's Groovy Disco Party? The Tailgate Party? The Roaring Twenties Party? Hooray for Hollywood? The Love Boat? This year's party will have a Wintery January theme. Most of us remember very well how pretty that first snowfall is, how to build a snowman, and have a snowball fight. We promise to take you back to that for one fun filled evening. Feel free to interpret this theme any way you wish to. Maybe you'd like to wear an elegant white dress. Maybe you'd like to wear a knit hat, scarf, and mittens. Maybe

you have an old snowman costume from Halloween 20 years ago. Of course there is no need for any special attire. We just know that some people love to dress for the theme of these parties, so these are just some suggestions. Linda Bailey and Kelly Ferry will be overseeing the Photo Booth again. The same great band that played last year, The Mixx, will be playing again this year. Jenell Kilgo is planning to serve one of her specialties- Company Chicken.

We will be serving coffee and tea. Of course you are free to bring whatever you usually like to drink. We will also have a basket raffle and a 50/30/20 drawing. Tickets will go on sale January 2nd.. This event sells out very quickly every year, so don't hesitate to buy your tickets. At this event, we have assigned seating so when you buy your tickets, tell us the names of your friends so we can put you all together.



### ★ Dementia Informational Session

**Wednesday, January 29, 3-5 p.m. BCH**

*Sally Franklin, 816-289-0234*

Hi to all and hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It is now time to get back into the groove of our busy lives. We have a representative from the Alzheimer's Association and Dementia coming to give us some information on Wednesday January 29th from 3:00 to 5:00 at the Blvd. Club house. Anyone interested in learning something about this devastating disease is welcome to attend.

They will be bringing their testing bus with them, so you could possibly be tested. Hope to see you there.

### ★ Community Carport Sales

**Saturday, February 1, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

It's time to clean the house! If you are having a sale at your house, please drop off your address to the office by January 29, so that your house can be listed on the handout. No charge. The flyers will be handed out at the Boulevard Clubhouse on the day of the sale and will direct people to your house.

### ★ Hot Dogs During Carport Sales

**Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. BCH**  
**Hosted by Polo Park Pickleball Players**

Polo Park's Pickleball Players will be selling hot dogs, chips, soda and water at the Boulevard Clubhouse as part of the Carport Sales on February 1st.

### ★ Community Bake Sale during Carport Sales

**Saturday, February 1, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (or sold out) BCH • Hosted by Polo Park Pickleball Players**

Polo Park's Pickleball Players will be hosting the Community Bake Sale. If you are a baker and would like to contribute to our offering of baked goods, it would be greatly appreciated! Please bring your baked goods to BCH after 7 a.m., and have them ready to be displayed for sale (i.e. cookies in sandwich bags, etc). Don't worry about pricing, we'll take care of that for you. For more information, call Barb Woodrich at 248-252-0925.



### ★ Polo-Ettes Garage Sale Benefiting Palm Krest Assisted Living

**Saturday, February 1, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
**1809 Challenger Avenue**

*Linda Bailey, 863-420-0825*

I will begin taking any donations for the garage sale beginning January 29 at my home at 1809 Challenger. The Polo Ettres have raised over \$5,000 in the last 4 years for Christmas gifts for the 36 residents of Palm Krest in Haines City. Any items are greatly appreciated.

## Polo Park Future Events

### ★ End of the Yellow Brick Road Show & Dance

**Saturday, February 15, 6:30 p.m. doors open at 5:45  
at CCH • Tickets are \$13 and will be sold on Tuesdays,  
11:00-12:30 on CCH Patio starting January 21**

*Carol Aldrich, 734-476-9079*

The February Dance Committee has many surprises in store for us. The Happy Days Band is back to entertain us and there is a rumor that Sir Elton John may be making a surprise appearance! Bring your own beverages and snacks to share at your table.

## Clubs And Groups

Polo Park has many different Clubs and Game Groups which meet on a regular basis. A couple of clubs will be highlighted each month. A listing of all clubs, with contact numbers, can be found on page 5 of the Resident Directory. Please refer to the Daily Activity Schedule in this newsletter for meeting times.

### ★ BIBLE STUDY • Rev Charles Brown

**Thursdays at 7:00pm CCH**

Beginning Thursday January 16, 2025, Rev Brown will be hosting a study on Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. He will provide a syllabus (no cost) and will have his book for sale (\$15 book optional). The study will run January through March.

### ★ DOMINOES

**Every Monday, 1:00pm • Blvd. Clubhouse**

*Shirley Wilkins 585-490-3123*

Dominoes is played every Monday at 1PM in the Blvd Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome to come and play. Bring your dimes and good luck.

### ★ Polo-Ettes

**Meets First Wednesday of each month (Thursday this month) at 11:00 a.m. at Challenger Patio**

*Linda Bailey 863-420-0825*

The Polo-Ettes are a charity based organization started nearly 20 years ago by former resident Lucy Hall to help in buying Christmas presents for the 30-40 residents of Palm Krest Assisted Living Home in Haines City. We have four major fundraisers each year: yard sales in February and November, a pie social and a soup and salad luncheon. The ladies meet for lunch the first Wednesday of each month. We have a short meeting at Challenger Clubhouse Patio to discuss who will be heading the next meeting and where we will be going for lunch. We have \$5.00 annual dues and a small monthly donation. New members are always welcome.

## Physical Fitness And Sports

Polo Park has many different ways to keep fit and have fun. A couple of sports and/or fitness groups will be highlighted each month. A listing of all organized sports, with contact numbers, can be found on page 5 of the Resident Directory. Please refer to the Daily Activity Schedule in this newsletter for meeting times.

### ★ Pickleball

**Monday thru Saturday at 8:30 a.m. At the tennis courts**

*Gary Mrowka, 716-545-3001*

Please join us Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. If you have never played and would like to learn this fun way to exercise, we would love to teach you this game. It is great exercise and a lot of fun! The more players, the better, as we can divide up according to skill level. If you have any questions, please feel free to call anytime 716-545-3001.

### ★ CORNHOLE

*Karen and Russell Bushey 802-585-0444*



Cornhole will be played near the horseshoe pits on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:00pm. All are welcome to play, novice and expert.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### ★ Wednesday Golf Course Maintenance

**Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.**

*Mike Wright, 419-303-6383*

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., volunteers meet at the Pro Shop to do light work on the golf course for a couple of hours. Some of the things we do are laying sod, trimming tree branches, putting stakes in the ground with rope to keep carts on the cart path. If you enjoy doing this type of work, please join us!

### ★ Well of Hope Food Bank

*Mira Haack • 863-604-0896*

The Chapel continues to support the Well of Hope Food Bank with financial donations – NOT FOOD. The need has become great for families and with the addition of seniors also needing help. Anyone interested in helping us support this with financial donations, call Mira Haack at 863-604-0896. Thank you!



## Volunteer Opportunities

### ★ Care Bears

Gloria Gabrielse • 616-723-3976

The Care Bears program sends cards to residents during an illness or after a death. If you know of an illness or want to report a death, please contact Gloria. Thank you.



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Polo Park CERT • Rising to the Challenge During Hurricane Milton



Hurricane season always brings challenges, and this year, our Polo Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was ready to step up once activated by Polk County Fire and Rescue's Disaster Management team.

**Preparing for the Storm** • Their first priority is always the safety of the team members and their families. Once they ensured their personal readiness, they shifted focus to hurricane preparedness as a team. This included checking and organizing our equipment, ensuring everything was operational and ready for deployment.

**Community Outreach** • Next, they turned their attention to our neighbors. In the lead-up to Hurricane Milton, they contacted 40 residents who might need assistance during the storm. The response was incredible—every single resident had an evacuation plan in place! This demonstrated that their earlier community communication efforts had truly made a difference. The residents of Polo Park were prepared, and CERT couldn't be prouder.

**The Impact of Hurricane Milton** • While the residents were

well-prepared, the biggest challenge during Hurricane Milton was flooding. Rising waters from the ponds overflowed into the streets, creating a barrier that prevented some from leaving their homes or the park. Thankfully, with the help of their dedicated team members and spontaneous volunteers, equipped with large trucks, they were able to assist those in need. Their efforts were invaluable and showcased the incredible spirit of our community.

**Looking Ahead** • While their efforts during Hurricane Milton were successful, they recognize that there is always room for improvement. Continuous learning and preparation will help them face future challenges even more effectively.

*A huge thank you goes out to our CERT team, spontaneous volunteers, and all the residents who worked together to ensure everyone's safety during this storm. The strength of Polo Park lies in its community spirit, and Hurricane Milton reminded us of just how strong we are when we come together.*

## Travel

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