

Founders' Memories

- ♥ In Oak Hammock's early days, three hurricanes impacted Gainesville: Charley in August and Frances and Jeanne in September 2004. Being nowhere near full, Oak Hammock doors were opened to employees and their families who felt safer here than in their homes. Staff managed to feed us during utility outages, even if only sandwiches, raw veggies, and fruits. Our first blessing for being here!
-Bill Castine
- ♥ I remember meeting with Sara Lynn McCreia Gibbs and Katherine Osman when we discussed the best use of our one little bus for travel adventures and other cultural activities. One early trip was to the Stephen Foster State Folk Life Center for their amazing Festival. Many more adventures have followed through the years.
-Edna Hindson
- ♥ In July 2004, on my first evening at OH, my son, Michael, and I went to dinner to find only 6-8 others in the formal dining room, the only one open. The maître d' took me aside and told me that my son should not wear shorts to dinner but made an exception for us that evening since I was new!! As the population grew at OH, the outcry about a dress code at dinner became louder. That rule was quickly squelched, and the maître d' did not last long either.
-Valerie Griffith
- ♥ In April 2005, asleep on our 2nd night, an alarm went off at midnight. Pat and I hurriedly dressed, ran out into the atrium and were devoured by mosquitoes. We did not move out, enjoyed so many good friends through the years (many still here), and I enjoy life now as a single in the same apartment. It could not have been a better move.
-Emily Patton
- ♥ At 12, I was taken to boarding school; at 76 my husband and I drove to my final "boarding school." It was like before, getting acquainted, borrowing hammers and coffee cups, and finding the dining room. Boxes filled the apartment, and we couldn't find bed linens. It was a happy time; we made life-long friends and became family.
-Betty Kramer
- ♥ Indoor pools were a main attraction to Oak Hammock. Jim Janke and I were always waiting, impatient and wet as the "Pool Warden" unlocked them at 8 a.m....or whenever. Today the pools are open 24 hours, thanks to Wayne Forehand's FLICRA research. I am happy!
-Pat Liston
- ♥ Many in our energy-filled sixties and seventies joined OH finding the community a blank, open canvas! With excitement, we poured our energy, vision, ideals, and decision making into creating the resident-fueled, vibrant OH of today.
-Mary Sue Koeppel

♥ 2004's move to OH was exciting. Everyone was new; we wanted to meet neighbors and build our community. I had lived in many places! When asked where I was from, I replied, "Everywhere. But now I'm from here. This is my forever home and family."



-Catherine Morsink

Seated l-r: Bill Castine, Sally Glaze, Edna Hindson, Catherine Morsink
Standing: Mary Sue Koeppel, Hikmet Bates, Roanne Coplin, Emily Patton



*Seated l-r: Hugh Wise, Nancy Green, Ron Schoenau
Standing: Linda Damico, Pat Liston, Nancie Jones, Judy Satterthwaite, Val Griffith, Janet Janke*

- ♥ Alarms frequently went off, and everyone gathered outside in pj's and bathrobes. Modesty was soon lost! My husband, Carl, commented often he was glad we moved here. He was happy and really liked Oak Hammock. -Judy Satterthwaite
- ♥ After the paperwork, we were given keys, pendants, and elevator fobs. Arriving at #1220, there was a ribbon on our door and flowers on the ledge. -Janet Janke
- ♥ We were all newcomers, left families far away, and found new families. We celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, went to restaurants, theatre, and concerts together, and enjoyed a drink before dinner at each other's apartments. Life was good. -Hikmet Bates
- ♥ Special dining room memories include bananas foster, cherries jubilee, and salads tossed tableside. -Juanita Miller
- ♥ There was a sense of community, so much sharing, and neighbors on our floor signed up to help each other. We served on committees and learned a lot. -Gene Anderson



Individual founders not pictured: Marian Collier, Stella Makara, Juanita Miller, Rhoda Morrison, Karl Schwartz, Clementine White -Sandy Furches



*Seated l-r: Gene Anderson, Cynthia Clements, Ruth Perraud, David Grundy, Carol Hayes Christiansen, Charles Mohr
Standing: Betty Kramer, Betty Porter, Marjorie Johnson, Carol Ash*

Welcome New Resident: Mike Foley

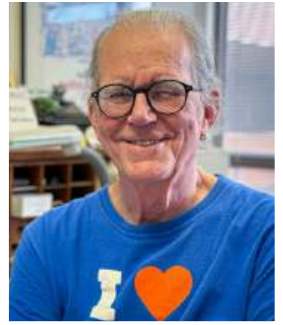
Mike has joined the third-floor family in The Woodland (Building 2) and is happy to be here. His wife, Suzette, is in Memory Support. He has two daughters in California.

Born in Rockford, IL, Mike shares a birthday (but not the year) with George W. Bush and Sylvester Stallone. Places he has lived include Clearwater, Tampa, and St. Petersburg. In his younger days, he played bass guitar in a band and Suzette was the singer. Ask Mike about his military draft experience!

Mike holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in communication, both from UF. He is still working and is the Hugh Cunningham Professor in Journalism Excellence in the UF College of Journalism, where he has taught for 23 years. Prior to joining the UF faculty, he was with the *St. Petersburg Times* for 30 years, where he rose to Executive Editor. He was named UF Teacher of the Year in 2006-07, has been National Journalism Educator of the Year, and was included in Princeton's Best 300 Professors, along with two other UF professors.

As to how Mike came to Oak Hammock, he met Leah Watkins socially and learned about Oak Hammock. He visited and was so impressed that he decided to move in. He says if he had hobbies, he would retire and looks forward to finding new interests at Oak Hammock. Mike is grateful for how nice the people at Oak Hammock are. Give him a hearty greeting!

-Bill Castine, content; Houston Wells, photo



Welcome Rich and Maggie Weigold

The Weigolds grew up in Ohio and that is where they were educated and worked. They met while working for AT&T, Rich in the Engineering Department and Maggie in Customer Service. Both have degrees from the University of Cincinnati, Maggie in foreign languages and Rich in electrical engineering. Rich also has an MBA in finance from Xavier University.

They found their way out of the cold and down to The Villages where they enjoyed their lifestyle. In the past few years, however, they found that The Villages has become ultra busy and not conscientious with its growth patterns. The couple began to investigate CCRCs around the country, and Oak Hammock fit their requirements.

Camping, hiking, biking, and gardening are some of the interests of this active couple. With RVs of varying sizes over the years, they have traveled to most of the United States. Rich enjoys photography, especially of flora and fauna, and Maggie enjoys reading, needlework, and playing a musical keyboard. They snatched up a garden plot right away.

The couple has been involved with Habitat for Humanity and has helped build houses in Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, and Alabama. Maggie even worked on a house that was known as a total woman build, where men showed up only to do the heavy lifting. With this kind of background, you know the Weigolds will be valuable assets to Oak Hammock.

-Beth Paul



New Neighbor, Jan Anschuetz

Jan was born in St. Petersburg and considered that her home base. She spent summers working at her family's seasonal business, The Goldenrod, in York Beach, ME, founded in 1896, and still serving its saltwater taffy, ice cream, and "luncheonette." While in ME, she started elementary school, adapting to St. Petersburg's calendar midyear. Her father, a building contractor, moved the family five times, building a new house each winter, leading Jan to change schools frequently until graduating in St. Petersburg. Meeting people and working in a business atmosphere helped shape her life.

Working in various roles, including cashier at Cox Lumber Company - where she met her future husband, Dave - and as a medical secretary, Jan also launched a successful catering business, "Effortless Entertaining." Her love for cooking, inspired by her mother and Julia Child, is evident with Julia's cookbooks prominently displayed. Jan's Key Lime Pie won a *St. Petersburg Times* contest, although she confesses the recipe came from a postcard purchased at Eckerd Drug Store!

Nature is another passion. A highlight was her visit to Trinidad's Asa Wright Nature Center to observe birds and butterflies. After 48 years in St. Petersburg, she has adjusted her gardening to Oak Hammock's climate and is eager to grow in her new plot. Unpacking hasn't slowed Jan down—she's looking for walking buddies and hopes to watch birds in her free time.

-Barbara Dockery, content; file photo



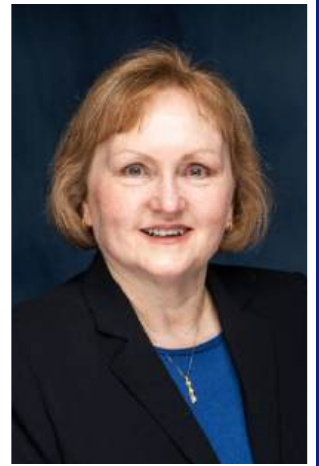
New Board Member Ann Horgas

Ann Horgas, Professor and Executive Associate Dean, UF College of Nursing, is the second member of her family to serve on the Oak Hammock Board. Her husband, Michael Marsiske, UF professor in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, served during the Praxeis years.

Professor Horgas trained at Penn State and came to the Gainesville area 24 years ago. Her research is concentrated on controlling pain in older adults. She is looking forward to learning more about Oak Hammock and assessing how she can contribute to the lives of our residents. She intends to focus on building relationships so hopefully we can work with her in exposing more nursing students to career opportunities in long-term care.

She and her husband enjoy spending time with their adult son who lives locally and their three dogs.

-Karen Miller, content; file photo



New Board Member Margaret Portillo

Just in time to become involved with the Oak Hammock growth and renovation project, Professor Margaret Portillo of the UF College of Design, Construction, and Planning has joined our Board. Professor Portillo recently served as Associate Dean and Chair of Interior Design. She is currently on sabbatical. After earning her PhD in Interior Design at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she taught for 13 years at the University of Kentucky before being recruited to join UF in 2004.

Since moving to Gainesville with her then 2nd and 6th graders who attended P. K. Yonge, she has assumed several administrative roles at UF in addition to her teaching duties. She has a deep interest in human development across the life span and is interested in the research opportunities that may present for her students at Oak Hammock and the benefits that may accrue to those of us living here. We are looking forward to discussing with Professor Portillo how her research and that of her students can be utilized to enhance our Oak Hammock environment.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, swimming, exercising, and spending time with her family, including a boxer.

-Karen Miller, content; file photo



Happiness in the Health Pavilion!



-Chrissy Smoak

Read with a Dog

Pat Bellis teaches Tai Chi at Oak Hammock twice a week. Sometimes one of her three therapy dogs—all rescue animals—adds to the class fun. Recently Pat received the Neflin Award (Northeast Florida Library Network) for the outstanding program “Read with a Dog.” She organizes and schedules teams of certified pets and their owners to share the love of reading. Who can resist lounging on a colorful beanbag chair AND the ears of a receptive dog? One mother shared that her young daughter didn’t want to go into the library - until they learned about dogs being there.

It’s not unusual to have over 20 children eager to read with a dog at the Alachua County Library headquarters and branch facilities! Through Pat’s pet therapy teams, Gator Paws, she is committed to excellence for people of all ages. View the video: <https://youtu.be/uGDuQ80WUk?si=Hq4guKbTfuG5AuZh>. Thanks, Pat, for giving extra mileage to our Alachua County tax dollars! *-Barbara Dockery*



20th Anniversary: Financing Oak Hammock

Note: This is Part 5 of a series on the history of Oak Hammock (OH)

As **Leslie Bram**, OH project leader (and current resident), said, the team had “no history, no credit, and no money.” UF President **John Lombardi** had mandated that a UF-affiliated CCRC be first-class and self-sustaining with independent governance and funding. The project had efforts from Bram and **Bruce DeLaney** at the UF Foundation, access to UF alumni and donors, and time and expertise from Lombardi, deans, and staff, with expertise from community and business leaders. Alum **Frank Duckworth** provided \$300,000 for a feasibility study, and alum **Jerry Davis** provided a \$5 million (later increased to \$6 million) loan guarantee for property acquisition seed money, architectural design, and marketing to achieve 70% pre-sales of independent living (IL) units. Property acquisition included about 50% donation, state match, and pre-sales of IL units including refundable \$1,000 priority list deposits and buyers’ 10% entry deposits.



Matt Weaver

The challenge was raising \$125-130 million for construction and to cover the initial development expenses. As a not-for-profit, OH could access tax-exempt bonds, but as a start-up the interest rate was 8% - prohibitively high. Fortunately, Professor **Gordon Streib** introduced President Lombardi to **Matt Weaver**, a principal at Asbury Development & Management (later PRAXEIS). Asbury had expertise financing start-up CCRCs and had contacts with banks offering credit at about 5%. (Asbury undertook the OH feasibility study and provided development and financial consulting.) They had educated banks regarding CCRCs and had successfully obtained letters-of-credit for 7 military-focused CCRCs, including Fleet Landing, Jacksonville. Asbury developed and promoted a credit scoring tool; OH scored high. By getting credit from banks, the bond rating was based on the banks’ ratings, not the lower rating of a start-up CCRC.

In 2001-2002 Asbury began working on OH financing, but the 9/11 terrorist attack had spooked the financial industry. Only 4 banks were available for an OH letter-of-credit. BNP Paribas, a French bank, became the lead bank. The banks required 15% equity to secure a letter-of-credit for the \$107.5 million of senior bonds. The UF Foundation provided \$3 million guarantees against construction and initial operations overages, and \$15 million in secondary bonds were purchased personally by UF leaders, alumni, and OH founders.

As part of due diligence, the banks approved Bruce DeLaney as OH construction manager but were concerned he might leave the job. His effective answer? “My mother (Margo Powers) is a founding member, and I can’t let her down.” Another major factor in the banks’ credit approval was attendance by the banks at an exciting 2001 UF-Georgia basketball game. The lead bank’s contact later told Weaver the experience convinced him of the strength of the UF connection and the viability of OH plans.

In September 2002, the Alachua County Health Facilities Authority approved issuance of \$125 million in tax-exempt bonds; on October 8, the county commission approved. The senior bonds portion backed by the banks’ credit were initially at a 5.3% floating rate, with the subordinate bond portion at 7.5%. With bond approval, OH could proceed with construction efforts. *-Neill Hollenshead, content; file photo*

Cats in Autumn

Cats cannot be neglected, so here is their answer to the Dog Days of Summer article which appeared in *The Oak Leaf*, August Issue. An abundance of cat owners excitedly shared their photos, although it is obvious that one cat refused to cooperate, a typical cat behavior.

Halloween is around the corner and cats are often negatively associated with this holiday, especially black cats. That's a shame because cats have been pleasing their owners for thousands of years. They have been domesticated since approximately 12,000 BCE, at about the same time as dogs, and the necessary eradication of pests such as mice has elevated the importance of cats through the ages.

Egyptians were devoted to cats. These honored felines were not allowed to be exported, and anyone who harmed a cat in Egypt could face execution. A couple of the included cat photos mimic that regal behavior.

Children have grown up chanting "a cat plays a fiddle and a cow jumps over the moon" and "3 little kittens who lost their mittens" nursery rhymes. The Cheshire Cat has thrilled fans of Alice in Wonderland for about 150 years. It's no surprise that Oak Hammock loves its cats as much as it loves dogs.

-Beth Paul, content; Joe Berkow, Laura Berns, David Boyd, Marcia Brant, Dick Cofer, Bev Cone, Sonda Dawes, Jack Dickson, Diane Haines, Marty Johnson, Mary Kilgour, Jane Polkowski Levy, Margarete Ruth, Jack Spencer, Jim Sullivan, Sherry Surdam, Paul Walker, Jane Wood, Walter Wynn, Bill Zegel, photos



How *The Oak Leaf* Got Its Name

Inquiring minds want to know—How did *The Oak Leaf* get its name? You must go back to the beginning of Oak Hammock to get this piece of information. At its inception, the newsletter committee sent out a request for suggestions for the title of the newsletter. After tallying the results, the overwhelming choice was *The Oak Leaf*.

Janet Janke's late husband, the Rev. James Janke, designed the logo, which is still used today.

-Beth Paul

Sunset Before Milton



-Alice Gridley

Tailoring the New Icon Platform to Oak Hammock

The sources of new information we residents receive daily have grown tremendously, requiring us to devote time to identifying what's personally most important.

Do we really need both Infoh.us and residentapps.com (aka Touchtown)? Could residents and Management work collaboratively to distribute as much information as possible through a single, jointly managed website—especially one that incorporates the most appreciated features of both platforms? Since 2014, when these two platforms became available, data have clearly identified many preferred features, enabling gradual improvements to both platforms. But the aging of these sites now presents challenges that signal a need for an entirely different approach.

Members of the TCS RC committee vetted four potential alternative platforms and identified ICON as the only viable one that includes the options required by both residents and staff. Importantly, ICON staff has agreed to create new features tailored for us, enabling a new information delivery system that incorporates the best features of our current platforms but also provides exciting new features that would be impossible now.

Once ICON has been tested here, training sessions will be offered to residents and staff. We believe that you will enjoy ICON. Creating, curating and maintaining Infoh has been an enjoyable, if sometimes challenging, adventure. It spurred us to keep us on our toes and to contribute further content as we merge Infoh into ICON.

-David Brumbaugh, Bill Castine, and Michael Levy





Ebony Surdam



Henri Levy



Alphie Haines



Annabella Walker



Bootsie Margoluis



Princess Johnson



Archie Dickson



Lucy Dawes



Ella Zegel

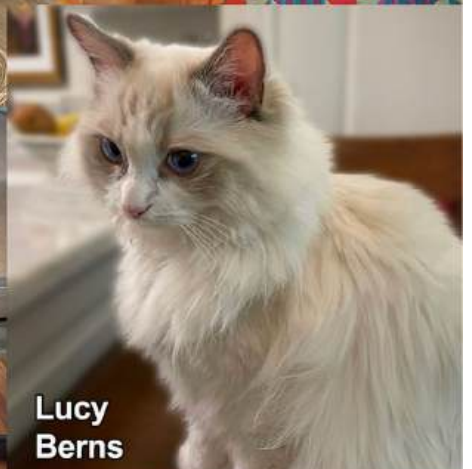


Morchie Wynn

Blondie Wynn



Micah Cofer



Lucy Berns



Neferkitty Hutchinson-Kilgore



Wyatt Sullivan



Simba Berkow



Mushi Ruth



Midnight Brant



Sheba Spencer



Spot Boyd



Leia Cone



FLiCRA's statewide annual conference will be in Sarasota on October 24. All FLiCRA members are eligible to attend. The agenda and registration form were in the latest issue of the FLiCRA *Resident Connection*. The speaker will be Tommy Gregory, former Florida State Representative and current President, State College of Florida. His topic: "Florida's Focus on Healthcare Education and Healthcare Worker Shortages."

The 2025 regular session of the Florida state legislature will run from January 9 to March 8. Bill filing and interim committee meetings have already started. The state FLiCRA office will keep us informed of all legislation affecting our interests.

Our house district will continue to be represented by State Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson, who is unopposed in this year's election. Our State Senator, Keith Perry, will not be returning because of term limits. The candidates for his seat in the upcoming general election are Democrat Sylvain Doré, a retired UF professor of anesthesiology and neuroscience, and Republican Stan McClain, currently a state representative for parts of Marion, Lake, and Volusia counties.
-Tom Gire

Library Window – Time's Up!

Ann Elnicki stays awake at night thinking up ideas for the library display case. The present window, which showcases clocks and watches, is a brilliant one, and please take a moment to check the lengthy list of those who so willingly contributed their time pieces as mentioned in the window.

The Salvador Dali clock catches everyone's eye, and who knew how many of our residents had Mickey Mouse watches or old railroad pocket watches. The Biltmore Clock is Ann's favorite and her write-up on its history is quite interesting.

A display of clocks wouldn't be complete without a photo of the giant Musee d'Orsay clock, which overlooks the Seine. Winston Churchill's favorite pocket watch, nicknamed "The Turnip," is included, and of course, Hickory Dickory Dock has a special spot.

Clocks and watches in literature, movies, art, and comics captivate our attention, and this display is sure to interest you. Many thanks to those who shared their special items with us.
-Beth Paul, content; John Furches, photo



Congratulations Bob Virnstein

On Sunday, September 22, Bob Virnstein took part in three swim events at the 23rd Annual Senior Games, winning a second-place medal for the 200-yard Individual Medley, a second-place for the 100-yard Breaststroke, and a third-place medal for the 200-yard Freestyle. This year marked Bob's 10th year of participation in Senior Games. Oak Hammock friends, Ray Goldwire and Robert Dean, cheered him on. The Senior Games, for athletes 50 and up, feature competitions from archery to track and field and can lead to State Championship meets.
-Elisabeth Virnstein



Two Unwelcome Visitors

First Hurricane Helene gave us a left jab as she sideswiped us on her way north, then Hurricane Milton delivered a right cross as he traversed southwest and central Florida. Talk about a one-two punch!

The hurricane preparedness Oak Hammock has developed in 20 years was most effective preventing much serious damage. Trees on or through roofs and debris scattered across the property necessitated vigorous cleanup efforts. First priority was to ensure the safety of all residents and staff members. Early morning calls and visits by numerous staff members were quite reassuring; rapid responses to imperative recovery demands made the situation less frightening.

Helene scooted up the Gulf coast from Cedar Key northward, making landfall near Perry. She left a trail of destruction up into North Carolina, with over 200 deaths.

With Milton expected to make landfall in the Tampa Bay area, Oak Hammock hosted Skilled Nursing evacuees from a Westminster facility in Bradenton. Thirty-seven of their residents and 12 of their staff spent 4 nights in the Oak Room, where all events were cancelled for the week.

We are indeed grateful to Kevin Ahmadi for leading the follow-up operations and to so many staff members who willingly participated in picking up the pieces from the double whammy. The dining staff kept us fed, the maintenance staff kept us functioning, the activities staff served our residents and guests, and the housekeeping staff suspended normal service several days to focus on more immediate needs. Thank you, one and all!

-Bill Castine and The Oak Leaf Staff, content; Bill Brant, photo



Andrew Davey, CFO, setting up cots with a smile at 9 p.m. the evening Westminster Skilled Nursing evacuees arrived.

The Dining Corner

Welcome to The Dining Corner. A big thanks goes out to our dining staff for keeping us fed during and after two hurricanes. It was a difficult time for all of us but, as usual, they rose to the occasion. Let's hope their families and homes fared as well as we did here.

Hopefully, by now you are all familiar with the changes we have made to meal ratings to guide Dining Services. The goal was to present critical information "at a glance," with backup info available if needed. Taste is already on a 5-point scale. We have converted the recommendation score to a 5-point scale. These are averaged, added together, and multiplied by 10 to give a score from 20-100. This number is called the TR (Taste and Recommendation) score. Any score below 60, the mid-point, is considered unacceptable, meaning the meal should be eliminated or changed. These scores will be highlighted in red. A score above 64 is considered acceptable and is highlighted in green. Anything in between will be highlighted in yellow to indicate it should be looked at and possibly adjusted. No information is lost. The information to "fix" meals that need fixing is still there. The TR scores will be posted beside the hostess stand twice weekly. It will also be the last field before "submit" on the daily surveys. That's all until next issue.

-Steve Gird, content; John Furches, photo

Survey Report for Oct. 3-5

Taste/Recommendation (TR) Values

Veal Marsala	61	
Lollipop Chicken	81	
Vegetable Egg Rolls	70	
Catch of the Day	83	
Sandwich of the Week	82	

Color TR

65-100

60-64

20-59

Hurricane Helene Visits



At about one in the morning, Marie Brumbaugh thought she heard something suspicious so got up to investigate. She found nothing to concern her, so she crawled back to bed. But when security and then Kevin called them at 6 a.m. to see if the Brumbaughs were all right, they looked again. Dave Bumbaugh still saw nothing until he realized why it was dark outside his front door: part of a huge tree from my house next door had cracked at the top and toppled onto their roof, crashed through the garage, and covered the entire front of their house.

Forrest Crawford was also woken by some noises but ignored them. When he opened the front door in the morning to walk the dog, he found the entire front of the house blocked as well as a hole in the garage roof. Security and Kevin also checked on him early in the morning.

Strange things that happen during storms? The light under the Brumbaugh's microwave mysteriously started working. And 20 years ago, before the Crawfords moved in, a tree took out the entire back of their house.

The tree removal company blamed the damage on a microburst, and promptly and professionally dealt with huge trunks and debris. No one had to beg for a crane to come in and remove dead trees so that their car could get out of the garage. Kevin and Maintenance cannot be thanked enough for such an excellent response time.

-Beth Paul, content; Keith Berg, Forrest Crawford, and Beth Paul, photos

Join Team Oak Hammock at the Gainesville Area Walk to End Alzheimer's

Saturday, October 26
Trinity United Methodist Church
Ceremony is at 10:00 a.m.
Walk is at 10:30 a.m.

Preregister with Mary Salvamoser
Reserve your spot on the bus in the transportation book!

The Oak Leaf Archives



<https://infoh.us/oak-leaf-issue-index-2004-2023/>

Schools Tour

On September 30, a full Oak Hammock bus visited Idylwild Elementary, Caring and Sharing Learning School, The Einstein School, and Queen of Peace Catholic Academy. The Community Foundation of North Central Florida organized the tour with Nancy Perry and Linda Kallman. The new principal of Idylwild, Casey Karas, was surprised and grateful to receive 400 children's books from Oak Hammock thanks to Janet Janke, our Oak Hammock schools ambassador. We were greeted by Shane Andrew, Superintendent, Alachua County Schools. Touring through classrooms at Caring and Sharing charter school, it was impressive to observe children being taught skills beyond their grade level. Two parents shared success stories of their children with dyslexia at The Einstein School. Student house captains at Queen of Peace facilitated our tour ending in the library with lunch. Volunteers are welcomed at each of the schools as well as donations for specific needs. Watch for the next community tour that will be focused on local businesses. -Sandy Furches



Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

Thanks to Marvel and Frank Townsend, several Oak Hammock residents enjoyed a trip to Santa Fe College on September 21 for Panamanian music, costumes, and dances that captured our attention.

The music is dominated by drums, sometimes a stringed instrument, and/or maracas. Costumes are elaborate and influenced by Spain, Africa, or Europe. The women's Pollera is a long full skirt essential for the dances, a ruffled blouse that can be adorned with colored ribbons, and matching shoes. For formal occasions, both blouse and skirt can match. Hair pieces, Templeques, are elaborate. Jewelry and a straw hat with a rim complete the costume. Men wear a Montuno, a shirt with colorful embroidery around the neck, shoulders, cuffs, and lower edge. Knee length pants complete the Montuno. The men performing for us all wore Panamanian flag colors of red, white, and blue on a small purse with a long strap. Typically, their sandals were of handwoven leather. Men's hats, like the women's, were straw with broad brims and figured prominently in the dances. Dances are often performed in a circle formation with couples while clapping and subtly moving their hips. Look for a similar celebration next year!

-Mary Brenner



Peanut Butter Challenge

Remember the summer camp song "Peanut, Peanut Butter"? We're singing it at Oak Hammock during the "Peanut Butter Challenge," running until the end of the month. This is our fifth year competing, and we aim to collect over 203 pounds of peanut butter in 2024. We're currently about halfway there!

As before, all donations will go to UF students, faculty, and staff facing food insecurity through UF IFAS Field and Fork Pantry (<https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu>). Keep singing and bring your peanut butter jars to the Lower Commons collection site!

-Ray Goldwire, content; Bill Zegel, photo



Employee Scholarship Fund Quarterly Financial Report

As of September 30, 2024

Balance June 30, 2024	\$181,138.01
Donations received in July	4,255.00
Scholarships awarded July	(1,750.00)
Balance July 31	183,643.01
Donations received in August	1,366.82
Scholarships awarded in August	(4,735.83)
Balance August 31	180,274.00
Donations received in September	1,955.00
Scholarships awarded in September	(5,724.41)
Balance September 30, 2024	\$176,504.59

Memorial Donations

Ken Berns, Cecilia Caton, Bob Graham, Kay Koons, Katherine & John Lowe, Robert Porter, Martha Wroe, Susan Young

Honor Donations

Julie Ann Ariet, Doris Greene, and Pat Liston

-Lori Fishel

By the Numbers October 1 Independent Living

	Total	Sold	Available
Houses	57	57	0
Apartments	212	208	4

Health Pavilion

	Total	Occupied	Available
Assisted	52	52	0
Memory	12	11	1
Skilled	73	72	1

-Andrew Davey and Nadia Luna

U-Shaped Courtyard

The Oak Hammock Landscape Committee has been working hard on a new landscape plan for the “U-Shaped Courtyard” since this large area was cleared in August 2024. This courtyard, located outside of the pool and exercise area, is intended for use by all residents (Independent Living and Health Pavilion). All residents were surveyed on August 30 for desired amenities. Common requests: shade, chairs, benches, and an attractive garden area.

Dr. Gail Hansen, UFL/IFAS Horticulturist, Professor, and Landscape Designer, has proposed a beautiful plan. Amenities include curved 5-foot-wide concrete lighted pathways, trees, lots of color, benches, chairs, and 3 separate sitting areas: reading/meditation, gazebo, and fountain.

If you or I were living in a unit or apartment that overlooks this courtyard, we would expect to see a colorful, well-kept garden. We also aim to enhance the overall experience for all residents of Oak Hammock. Everyone can soon enjoy a new destination: a usable, beautiful, Florida-friendly garden.

-Jan Lowenthal, Mary Ann Parsons, Bob Virnstein

PACE Center for Girls

Empowerment for girls ages 11-19. A clean, orderly, and uplifting environment. This is the Pace Center for Girls in east Gainesville that 12 residents toured on October 3. It’s more than a school. Pace stands for **Practical academic and counseling education**. The Department of Juvenile Justice (46%), Alachua County School Board (21%), Federal government (5%), and grants and donors (28%) fund this successful approach to learning, social and emotional development, and inspiration for a transformed future.

Generous Oak Hammock residents have donated to Pace at their fundraising luncheons and four were named during the comprehensive tour. We met in the **Carole Eastman Zegel** room. A classroom bears the name of the **Phil & Barbara Emmer** Family Foundation. **Nancy Perry** bought the first bus that enables field

trips to destinations like the Kennedy Space Center and **Mary Sanford** was thanked for funding their GED and guidance programs.

Meeting girls where they are, creating a challenging experience with high expectations, and being a home away from home are all characteristics of this impressive program. Testimonials of 2024 graduates include: “I learned it’s okay to ask for help, I have a unique dynamic personality, I can let my guard down and go for it, I developed a ‘can do’ attitude, I can communicate better, I am not alone.” Staff describe their ladies as “resilient, fierce, curious, compassionate, and creative.” Kudos to Heidi Keegan, Executive Director, the Board of Directors, and all who make this “opportunity school” possible.

-Sandy Furches



Oak Hammock Art League News

The annual Gainesville Fine Arts Association judged show has just been hung in the Art Gallery and will be up through January 3, 2025. Come to the opening reception on Sunday, November 3, 3 - 5 p.m., in the Upper Commons for wonderful hors d'oeuvres and wine. Around 4 p.m., the popular presentation will include 11 awards.

We are excited that Vicki Santello will be with us October 22 at 4 p.m. in the Oak Room. You may remember her breathtaking wildlife photography exhibited in our Mini Gallery. Her works will be on our large screen as she shares the exciting story behind each one.

Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jenna Weston returns to Oak Hammock for a colored pencil workshop. The 2025 lineup already includes:

January 7, 9, 14 & 16 - Continuing Watercolor classes with Gloria Nelson

January 13, 15, 20 & 22 - Beginning Watercolor classes with Gloria Nelson

January 25 - Acrylic and Oil Workshop with Frank Barone

February 15 - Watercolor Workshop with Lynn Ferris

-Nancy Dickson



Fox sighting by George Arola.

Making Pots— an Artistic Dream

Oak Hammock receptionist Ruth Lehmann is also an accomplished potter! "I was ten when introduced to a pottery workshop, a real potter, and wheels. It was in Denmark where my family lived for a year. I came across an atelier (artist's workshop) years later, while living in Paris. I took clay up to my fifth-floor room to sculpt small figures and animals."

In 1967, Ruth's husband worked on a master's at Cornell. Through the Cornell Women's Club, she discovered a student craft workshop offering classes in clay making. Ruth signed up. *She was hooked.* Always ambitious and needing money, Ruth worked in the program using the department's facilities to create her pottery. Glaze and kiln workshops followed. Her husband finished his degree, and it was time to move. "We had a huge sale. I remember counting the money on the bed. It was over \$2,000 for stuff I made, mostly for free."

In Africa for 12 years, Ruth built a pottery in Durban and 2 in Nairobi, Kenya. Ruth and their two children spent summers in upstate NY, building a pottery there. Leaving Africa, they relocated to NY, but cold winters drove them to FL.

Ruth has built 9 potteries. The 2 in Florida are on Archer Road and southeast of town. "Despite the dust, back breaking lifting, and brittle fingernails, I still have an incredible energy for pots ... **they are my passion!** I cannot stop making them."

-Barbara Dockery, content; Sandy Furches, photo



Visit the new pedicure spa chair (reflected in the first mirror) when you stop by our updated beauty salon. Call 352-548-1032 for appointments.

-Sandy Furches

The Benevolent Fund

Donations of \$1,420 were given in memory of Andy Adams-Smith, Jim Fischer, Kathleen Koons, Margo Pettway, and in honor of Pat Liston.

-Jonathon Mann



The Long and Short of It

Here's an undoctored photo of Myra Jones from the Transportation Department beside the Gators' freshman recruit, 7-foot-9 Olivier Rioux, world's tallest teenager, set to become the tallest college basketball player ever. This will definitely be an exciting basketball season that hopefully will help everyone forget about football.

-Beth Paul



Orchids Make Us Smile

It's hard to walk by Cal King's door without stopping to admire his blooming orchids—and smile! "That's why I share them. They're too beautiful to keep inside for myself," admits Cal. "My mother was an avid gardener. Grew the family's vegetables. And flowers all over the place." His addition of unusual antiques, interspersed among the colorful orchids, lends an unusual smile factor. For a treat, stroll by Cal's atrium apartment 3210 in the Woodland (Building 2). The blossoms change frequently, echoing the beauty of nature. And there's no charge for admiring!

-Barbara Dockery



Hurricane Party

The October 9 second floor party in The Woodland (Building 2) became a Hurricane Party as neighbors gathered to enjoy a chili cook-off and welcomed evacuating family members from the FL west coast as Milton approached.

-Sandy Furches





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EAF Deadline Approaching

Since it's time to consider a donation to the Employee Appreciation Fund, it helps to recall the services our staff members provide for us. Some comments we've heard from residents over the years are: "I really feel safe here." "I love using transportation instead of driving at night." "I'm so glad I don't have to clean gutters or do yard work anymore!" "We sure were grateful to be here when my husband needed skilled nursing." "It is such a luxury to have housekeeping each week." And my personal favorite: "I love that someone else cooks for us!"

Before moving here, we probably paid for services to do repairs at our homes, do lawn work, and housekeeping. I'm guessing we all tipped or gave gifts to those who provided those services during the holidays or anytime we chose. Since we cannot tip or give gifts here, **this** is our opportunity to express our sincere appreciation generously.

As you can guess, I'm going to wrap this up by asking you to consider offering your gift of gratitude to our staff for the Employee Appreciation Fund **by Monday noon, November 11.**

This is our opportunity to show our appreciation to our employees in a tangible and heartfelt way that can make a big difference in their lives. I thank you in advance for your generosity and for doing your part to make Oak Hammock such a wonderful place for our staff and for all of us who live here.

-Marcia Brant, content; John Furches, photo



2024 Residents' Council

President: Donna Johnson johnsodc01@gmail.com

Vice President: Nancy Dickson nancyjackathens@hotmail.com

Secretary: Nancy Wood nancywood.oh@gmail.com

Assisted Living Representative: Fred Harden gatorfred552@aol.com

Committee	Meeting Time	Chairperson	E-Mail
Active Lifestyle	1 st Monday 11:00 am	Marilyn Crosby	mcrosby908@aol.com
Charitable Giving	1 st Tuesday 3:00 pm	Mike Plaut	smplaut@gmail.com
Food & Nutrition Services	1 st Friday 10:00 am	Steve Gird	stevegird097@gmail.com
Growth & Renovation	2 nd Wednesday 3:15 pm	Martha Rader	martharader1@gmail.com
Landscape & Grounds	2 nd Thursday 10:00 am	Bob Virnstein	seagrass3@gmail.com
Health & Wellbeing	3 rd Tuesday 3:30 pm	Ellyn Ahlstrom, Nancy Dickson	eahlstrom@me.com nancyjackathens@hotmail.com
Buildings & Infrastructure	3 rd Wednesday 1:30 pm	Bob Brown	robertbaldwinbrown@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship	3 rd Thursday 1:30 pm	Pat Kelley	pkelley@khsatty.com
Technology & Communication Services	3 rd Friday 10:00 am	Bill Zegel	wzege@gmail.com

The Council meets at 10:00 am on the second Friday of each month in the Oak Room and via Zoom. Committees meet using a variety of formats and locations. Please contact the Committee chair for specifics.