



# The Retreat Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2022

Volume 19 Issue 4



## Meet Your Neighbor!

One of my favorite benches in the Retreat is on SE Retreat Drive, overlooking the large pond between SE La Creek Court and SE Maryhill Place. It's under a large tree so it's always shaded, there's usually a nice breeze, and the view of pond # 9 is very peaceful. It's also about the halfway point of my 6-mile bike ride through the neighborhood.

I was sitting there in June when a car pulled up. The driver rolled down her window and asked me:



View of pond from the bench

"Do you want to hear something interesting?" "Of course!" I replied.

Rita Rahenkamp told me that the bench was in memory of her husband Alan Rahenkamp, whom she lost 24 years ago. Alan was a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran, and after completing his military service, he and Rita were employed by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. When Rita moved into the Retreat, she was the first resident of SE Glacier Terrace. She later moved to her present home on SE La Creek Court. She purchased the bench for \$1,000 when they were first being offered.



Plaque on bench

I'd never really looked at the brass plaque before, but she pointed out that the names on the plaque (besides Alan C. Rahenkamp) were his widow Rita, her daughter Cara and former son-in-law Rick and

their son Ryan.

Rita told me how happy she was to see the bench being used and enjoyed. I've only seen it occupied a few times by a woman bike rider who appears to be writing in a journal. Rita also stops there while walking her dog, Murphy Brown. I'm happy to have learned of the names on the plaque, and to know that his family still remembers Alan after all these years.

—Jack

Many thanks to this issue's proofreaders: Coni McGuinn, Tom Kline, my sister Jean, and my lovely wife Linda.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WOMEN'S CLUB

### by Mona Wiley



This group took a delightful trip to The McKee Gardens in April. The gardens were founded in 1929, when Waldo Sexton and Arthur G. McKee purchased an 80-acre tropical hammock along the Indian River. Tropical landscape architect William Lyman Phillips was hired to design its streams, ponds, and trails. Its indigenous vegetation was augmented with ornamental plants and seeds from around the world. It was once known as McKee Jungle Gardens, a tourist attraction. The current Garden was formally dedicated in 2001. It is now a Florida landmark, and on January 7, 1998, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The gardens also feature dinosaurs and a garden area for children. It's a lovely place to stroll and enjoy a variety of tropical foliage and flowers. There's a restaurant on site, as well as a gift shop.



This summer has gone quickly, but between Marilyn and Maureen, we have been busy gathering for July 4<sup>th</sup> picnics and heading out to various restaurants for food and fellowship. Here's us having a picnic at the clubhouse July 4<sup>th</sup>! How 'bout Twisted Tuna!



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contact Coni McGuinn at (772) 545-3465

Don't forget that on the third Monday of October (10-17), we will get together for our first meeting of the year. This will be a time of socialization; catching up with each other and chatting about our summer. We can't wait to see everyone!



## Pickleball is Alive and Well Nationwide: Come on Down!

The Retreat Sizzlers took a welcomed Pickleball break for many players mid-summer. The fall is setting up to welcome back to The Retreat courts many returning folks that love this game. Great exercise in a forgiving workout and a chance to chat before and after play with good friends make a fun morning.

Remember to use our chosen online retailer: [www.pickleballcentral.com](http://www.pickleballcentral.com) and use code CRSIZZLERS for a 5% discount for you and a club credit to us for equipment. Paddles are abundant and the fun apparel is colorful, and sneakers, too!

The Retreat Sizzlers welcome new players. We play as mixed doubles in our matches with many players on our courts. The courts enjoy healthy competition on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning from 8:00 AM until about 11:00 AM.



Ron Doucette  
Pickleball Representative to the Clubhouse Committee  
[ronald@sunkist2.com](mailto:ronald@sunkist2.com)  
(772) 245-8484



Scerbo family team up



Pickleball paddles lined up



Tom Deloffi and equipment

I want to thank the readers who contributed to this issue. There were not too many reports of vacation trips. Apparently everyone in the Retreat is staying home this year (LOL).

Our residents have a variety of hobbies and interests. For the next issue, share a paragraph or two, a picture or two, of your favorite hobby.

Please email your contributions to: [spyker.oles@gmail.com](mailto:spyker.oles@gmail.com)

Keep in mind that the deadline for the next issue is October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Thanks! —Jack

## Bocce Ball at the Retreat at Seabranh



Bocce end-of-the-year party



Nick Lombardi and Tom Hartnett  
presenting the cake



An exciting 2022 bocce ball season ended with an end-of-the-year party and the crowning of the winning team: Kitty & Joe Reading and Phil Siemann & Janet Ross.





## Fall 2022 Bocce Ball Enrollment

- The Fall 2022 Bocce enrollment is now open.
- Season Dates are: September 26 - November 16 (dates include playoffs and final).
- Weekly Dates are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, with makeup games on Wednesdays.
- To sign up, please email:  
Tom Hartnett - tmhartn55@gmail.com  
Nick Lombardi - nickbardi@optonline.net
- See you all on the court!

Best wishes, Tom and Nick

## Spyker-Oles Family Visit



Lunch with the Spyker sibs

We haven't traveled in the last two years, and we haven't seen much of our families in that time. At the end of June we flew into White Plains, then drove into the Catskills near Delhi, Linda's hometown.

We got an interesting VRBO cabin in the middle of nowhere, and met the Oles clan (30+) at Perch Lake for hugs, barbecue and fun on the lake.

Then for several days we stayed in another VRBO on the east shore of Lake Cayuga, just above Ithaca. We met the other Spyker siblings and in-laws for a good visit, more hugs and a great lunch.

It was a wonderful week of catching up, seeing how the kids are growing and the old-timers are maturing.

Travel was smooth, on time, and reasonably comfortable. It would've been perfect if I hadn't left my phone in the WPB airport. —Jack & Linda



Got a question?

Looking for a form?

Not getting HOA email blasts?

[www.retreatatseabranh.com](http://www.retreatatseabranh.com)

Check out FAQ on the Home Page tab

Check out Members Only and subscribe to HOA Email

(Please, do not UNSUBSCRIBE if you want to stay informed)



That's a lot of Oleses!

## RETREAT ASSISTANCE NETWORK

For short-term needs:

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Rides for grocery shopping or hair appointments
- Prescription drug, grocery and mail pick-ups
- Check-in phone calls or friendly visits
- Minimal meal preparation



Call: Audrey DeLoffi at (772) 245-8420 or Nancy Strona at (772) 545-3993. All RAN information is available online at [retreatatseabbranch.com](http://retreatatseabbranch.com)

**Note:** In consideration of the times, all residents requesting services must be vaccinated and wear a mask during any contact with volunteers.

### The Summer of Reconnections

My husband Tom and I retired from Massachusetts, so we are native New Englanders and still have many friends and some relatives there. Initially we returned for at least five months to our cottage in ME. After selling our cottage four years ago, we began to rent for a few weeks each summer. Since COVID, our time north was curtailed and we hadn't seen many people there for several years. Before leaving to go north this summer, I started to make a list of the folks we would like to see. We had a very special summer in both Maine and Cape Cod. I have decided to call our time away "the summer of reconnections." Although we still did not get to



Friends (including Marlene Boobar)

be with all of the people on our list, we did reconnect with over 50 friends and relatives. We feel quite blessed to have had this special experience. And now we have returned to our special community of The Retreat.

—Audrey & Tom DeLoffi



Visiting with relatives

### Retreat Friends!! Take Note!

**PLEASE DO NOT** leave food donations on the kitchen counters or tables of the Clubhouse, or on the floor of the mailroom. We no longer have a food donation bin because we were finding trash and rotten food in the bin. If you want to donate canned goods, please drop them off directly to one of House of Hope's pantries in either Hobe Sound or Stuart. You can also watch for a Women's Club food drive, which they do periodically. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



Who: Kate Stine 561-762-6966 or jupitrlady@aol.com  
What: Ladies Bible Study  
When: Wednesdays from 10–11:30 AM starting 9-22-2022  
Where: The Retreat Clubhouse

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### Retreat Drive Looking East from the Traffic Circle

As David Letterman would have said: “If the road to your home doesn’t look like this, it’s just not happening!!”

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### Double Treat

Nancy and Steve Strona celebrated a *Mediterranean Feast* prepared by "Chef" Mary D'Avanzo on 19 August this year. The event was an auction item sponsored by the Women's Club to raise funds for the Community Dental Clinic of Stuart. The food was *delicioso*, the Stronas reported.

The feast also coincided with Nancy and Steve's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of home ownership in The Retreat. The Stronas look forward to many more happy years and feasts, living in The Retreat.

—Nancy Strona



Menu for the Mediterranean  
Feast, Chef Mary D'Avanzo



L-R: Steve Strona, Mary  
D'Avanzo, Nancy Strona



Close-up of the yummy delights

## **FROM THE HOA BOARD**

As we are approaching the end of summer I wanted to bring some things to your attention.

The Board has proposed some amendments to our documents. They are being sent to all residents via regular mail in the coming weeks. Please take the time to read these amendments because you will be asked to vote on them in the fall. We will be hosting informational meetings on the proposed amendments before the voting to give you the opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding of the proposals. Each amendment is to be voted on separately. These amendments were proposed based on residents' comments and requests over the last few years.

I also wanted to remind everyone that if you have not signed up for automatic email blasts from Signature and the Board, please do so because it is a great way to stay informed. The Signature Properties portal for the Retreat is another great resource. It allows you to view your account, make payments, submit work orders and access all guidelines and forms.

<https://www.signaturepropertymgmt.com>

<https://retreatatseabbranch.com>

The Rules and Regs for the Retreat are also a great resource. They can be accessed on the Retreat web site or the Signature Portal. Most are also printed in the Retreat Directory.

Finally, a recent rumor around the neighborhoods along Seabbranch Boulevard is that the County is going to extend Seabbranch Boulevard past The Retreat and connect to Willoughby Boulevard or to Cove Road.

I have heard back from County Commissioners Heard and Jenkins, as well as from a member of the County Planning Board, that this rumor is not true. The Planning Board member confirmed that Atlantic Ridge Park and the South Florida Water District would not allow any road construction through these areas.

Please share this information with your neighbors along Seabbranch Boulevard.

Karen Tyree  
The Retreat BOD-President

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Rick Renshaw  
The Retreat BOD-VP

[retreatrickrenshaw@gmail.com](mailto:retreatrickrenshaw@gmail.com)



## RETREAT NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

This newsletter is for the benefit of the residents of The Retreat. It is issued bimonthly except for July/August. It is available online at the beginning of every other month at:

<https://retreatatseabranh.com/resources/newsletters>


Printed versions are available in the mailroom; one copy per family, please.

The following topics are **allowed** for inclusion in the newsletter:

- News about Retreat club activities and sports
- News about Retreat life
- Stories of general interest to the residents
- Updates or reminders of HOA rules and regulation
- Notices of HOA meetings

The following topics are **not allowed** for inclusion in the newsletter:

- Religious, political or controversial articles
- Clearly self-promoting articles
- Articles that give medical advice without a reliable source
- Articles that give financial advice without a reliable source
- Articles that contain personal attacks or gossip
- Photographs that do not have captions or identifying information
- Photographs that do not have the subject's permission



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<b>RETREAT PROPERTY MANAGER</b>	Carlos Albert Signature Property Management carlos@signaturepropertymanagement.com		LCAM, CMCA Vice President of Management Support	
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<b>RETREAT COMMITTEES</b>	ACC Board Liaison	Rick Renshaw	772.546.1940	retreatrickrenshaw@gmail.com
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	Communications	John Curren	508.954.0827	retreat.johnc@gmail.com
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## Retreat Activities and Contacts

Retreat members and residents enjoy a number of social groups engaging in entertaining activities. Get involved! Meet your neighbors! Have fun! Here are some of the groups with their contact information. See the Activities Calendar for schedules.

Bocce	Nick Lombardi	914.815.1571	Retreat Assistance Network (RAN)	Audrey DeLoffi Nancy Strona	772.245.8420 772.545.3993	
Bunco	Marie West	910.327.0556				
Duplicate Bridge	Carol Flynn	722.359.8274		Retreat Newsletter	Jack Spyker-Oles	845.481.0581
Knot Just Knitting	Sandy Morrow Liz Plourde	772.545.1936 609.618.4626				
Ladies Bible Study	Kate Stine	561.762.6966		Social Bridge	Carol Flynn	722.359.8274
Monday 1 pm Mah Jongg	Ginny Franklin	561.339.4409		Social / First Friday	Fran Massey	772.233.3102
Morning Mah Jongg	Carol Flynn	772.546.4118		Tennis	Tom D'Avanzo	772.545.7229
Pickleball	Ron Doucette	772.245.8484		Women's Club of the Retreat	Pres: Sue Arnold Vice Pres: Meg Ochoterena Sec: Cindy Sibilia Treas: Fran Spaulding	216.409.1480 516.457.0476  908.295.6658 937.657.0249
Poker - Guys & Gals Fri. Nights	Otto Vernaccio Sr.	772.546.7523				
Poker - Texas Hold 'Em	Joe Ciocia	772.545.9767				



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