

Tidbits

Bonfire 55+ Mobile Home Park Newsletter

To view on the Bonfire website go to: www.bonfiremhp.com/life/newsletters.html

October 2026

Editor- Shelley Divall. Please email Tidbits submissions by the 25th of the month to bonfiretidbits@gmail.com

2026 - 2027 Board of Directors

President: Paul Shortsleeve

Vice President: Dave Lashua

Treasurer: Cheryl Hytinen

Secretary: Dave Niles

Director: Ken Dixon

Director: Tom Eddy

Director: Pat Carpenter

From the Office of the President- *Paul Shortsleeve*

OFFICE PERSONNEL CHANGES

Candice Thrush, Bonfire office manager, has left Bonfire to pursue another job opportunity. We appreciate her service to the community for the past 7+ years and we wish her well in her new venture. The board of directors will be conducting a job search to place a second person in the office. Meanwhile, Ms. Bette Ranson will be handling the office activities. Ms. Ranson is highly qualified as she has vast experience in the operation of resident-owned communities, having been our representative from Parent Management for over two years. During this time of transition, we ask everyone's patience and understanding. Please direct any concern or questions to a board member.

Thank you,

Paul Shortsleeve, President

Bonfire Village Board of Directors

REMINDER: If you have a problem, question or concern about something in the park, please contact a board member or the office by phone or in writing (and place it in the mailbox at the office). Facebook is not a proper avenue to get your concerns resolved or questions answered. Thank you!

NEW OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please use this for all correspondence with the office.

Gmail: bonfiremhp620@gmail.com

NEW BONFIRE PHOTO DIRECTORY

YES, we are planning to print a photo directory this year. Everyone's cooperation will be necessary to pull this off. Your part is easy! Just provide us with a headshot photo you would like to be in the directory or let us take one.

NOTE: If you are a couple, please send a picture of both of you together.

Look for Margaret Willis at the clubhouse during any event to have your picture taken or email to amw423@gmail.com.

You can also text or Facebook message your picture to Margaret Willis.

A photo directory is SO helpful in getting to know who your neighbors are!

Please submit this photo by November 1, 2026!

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

**Health & Safety Committee members: Lee Semon, chair;
Joanne Leddy, Susan Pierce, and Susie Lorch.**

It is the Health and Safety Committee's mission to promote safety and well-being through awareness and education. Whether it's a qualified guest speaker, an article in Tidbits, a post on FaceBook, or our board in the clubhouse, we strive to provide information to help you to live your best life.

FRAUD AND OLDER ADULTS

Defrauding older adults is a lucrative business. Americans age 60+ lose billions to financial scammers each year.

Most scams follow the same playbook using these tactics:

- pretending to be someone you trust
- creating urgency
- playing on fear or excitement
- asking for unusual payment methods

Fraudsters and con artists tend to go after older adults because they believe we have plenty of money in the bank. But they don't just target wealthy older Americans. Those of us who live on low incomes also can be victims of fraud.

Plus, many people are embarrassed to report financial scams. And they can be tough to prosecute. Criminals therefore consider these crimes “low-risk.” But, these scams can be especially devastating for older adults whose ability to recover their losses is limited. Many of the scams affecting older Americans are in the category of imposter scams. The criminal poses as a trusted person or organization (family member, government agency, bank or company) to trick an older person into sending money or sharing personal information.

Scams are specifically designed to catch us off guard, and they can happen to anyone. There's nothing to be ashamed of if you think it's happened to you. Keep important phone numbers handy, including the local police, your bank, and Adult Protective Services.

Many people assume reporting a scam won't make a difference, but sharing what happened can help authorities identify trends and strengthen consumer protections.

If a business, government agency, or even a grandchild in need contacts you, it's critical to check who you're really dealing with. Never panic or react quickly. Contact them at a number you know is real to verify.

Scammers constantly change their stories, but they rarely change their tactics. They create trust, urgency, and emotional pressure to convince people to act quickly. If someone asks you to send money immediately, share personal information, or keep the conversation secret, pause before responding. Taking a few minutes to verify the request could save thousands of dollars—and a great deal of stress.

Source: [The Top 5 Financial Scams Targeting Seniors and How to Avoid Them](#)

2026 - 2027 Social Club Board

President: Charlene Zeunik

1st Vice-President: Candy Santamaria
(Tidbits, Calendar)

2nd Vice-President: Brenda Flint
(Flea Market, Fundraising Meals)

Secretary: Jamie Anderson

1st Director: Connie Leeseberg
(Karaoke, Entertainment, Spring Fling)

2nd Director : DeAnna Barnhill
(Kitchen; non-fundraising meals)

Treasurer: Margaret Willis

The duties of each of these board members are detailed in the Social Club By-Laws. A copy of these can be found on the Bonfire Website: www.bonfireMHP.com. Login and password are found in the Bonfire Village directory.

“The purpose of this Social Club shall be to promote social activities and friendship among residents of Bonfire Mobile Home Village.”

Notes from Social Club President, Charlene Zeunik:

Hello October!

We had a great vacation, I hope everyone had a great summer and ready for a fall season filled with lots of fun activities. Oktoberfest, National Chocolate Day Party, Halloween Golf cart Parade, Pet costume contest and our Halloween Costume Party featuring live music by the Avalanche Band.

I always look forward to seeing Fall/Halloween decorations around Bonfire and our surrounding communities.

That's just October! There are more fun activities and trips scheduled for Nov-March. See articles in Tidbits for more information, dates and times. See you around the neighborhood



Due to the expense and time involved in printing the Tidbits, we ask that if you *really* need a paper copy, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Indicate which months you need copies and whether you need the entire newsletter or just the calendar. Thank you!

OCTOBER EVENTS

It is important to sign up for activities in advance as it helps the committee members to better plan for the programming and obtain the supplies that are needed to have a successful activity.

Oktoberfest Potluck

Contact Person: Robin Semon

Thursday October 1, 2026 @ 2:00 pm

Good Times are near! Bring your German dish to share (If you don't want to bring German, bring any special dish you want to share) and yodel your way over to the Clubhouse for fun and good cheer!

If you really want to get into the spirit, dress in your best Oktoberfest attire.

Don't forget your tableware. Also bring cash for 50/50.

Lemonade and Tea will be provided.



LADIES' LUNCH

Contact Person: Cindy Hotchkiss

Date: Tuesday, October 20 @ 11:30am

Location: Jeremiah's, 500 N Highland St, Mt Dora



Please Sign up by Saturday, October 17 to give restaurant a headcount.

MEN'S LUNCH

Contact Person: Jim Hotchkiss

Date: Tuesday, October 20 @ 11:30am

Location: Salsa Restaurant, 2270 Vindale Road, Tavares



Please Sign up by Saturday, October 17 to give restaurant a headcount.

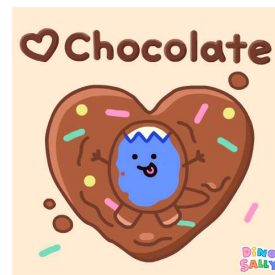
National Chocolate Day

Contact person: Brenda Flint

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 2pm-4pm

Celebrate with your neighbors and friends
Bring your favorite chocolate item to share
Bring cash for 50/50 and an exciting gift basket drawing!
Please sign up so we can plan properly.



Regular BINGO resumes on Monday, October 19th.

Contact persons: Margaret Willis and Charlene Zeunik

Must be inside by 6pm to play.

Cost: \$3 per set of cards, \$0.25 for extra coverall card, \$1 for Hotball ticket.

50/50 tickets are 3/\$1.

Exact change is IMMENSELY appreciated.

As always, we have a need for callers. Let us know if you're interested in learning.



KARAOKE

Contact Person: Bert Zeunik

Dates: Saturday, October 10 & 24 @ 7-10 PM (Practice @ 1pm)

Come and sing, sing along, or just enjoy the music. If you want to practice a song, come to the clubhouse at 1pm. Singing starts at 7. Hope to see you there!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Our annual Thanksgiving Day Potluck will be on Thursday, November 26, 2026. The Social Club will pay for the turkey, gravy and rolls. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve these items. Contact Charlene Zeunik to let her know of your availability.

Remember, these events CANNOT happen without your help!



BONFIRE HALLOWEEN



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DECORATED GOLF CART PARADE

Friday, October 30, 2026 @ 4pm

Decorate your spook-mobile and meet at clubhouse and then
parade around the park.

Contact person: Candy Santamaria



PET COSTUME CONTEST

Saturday, October 31, 2026 @ 4pm

In front of clubhouse.

Dress up your four legged fur baby and compete in the following categories:

- Cutest
- Scariest
- Most original
- Most Elaborate
- Funniest.



Treats for all participants. Please sign up so enough treats will be available.

Contact persons: Jim & Cindy Hotchkiss

NOTE: PLEASE CONTACT CINDY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A JUDGE.



Halloween Party and Costume Contest

Saturday, October 31, 2026 @ 7pm to 10 pm

Cost: \$6 at the door

Live Music by: *Avalanche*

Costume Contest

Prizes for the best costume in the following categories:

- Scariest
- Funniest
- Most Original
- Most Elaborate
- Group

Be sure to get your 50/50 tickets: \$1 ea or 6 for \$5

- Bring your own Witch's Brew
 - Bring Halloween themed snacks to share
 - Popcorn and Coffee will be provided
 - You won't want to miss the **BIG Monster Bash!** Come in costume (**not required**). Enjoy the live music and (if you dare) dance with witches, ghouls and goblins!
 - Visit with friends and have a howling good time!
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Your Day at a Glance

-  Pickup Location: Bonfire Mobile Home Village
-  **10:45am** Meet the Bus
-  **11:00am** – Depart Bonfire
-  **1:00pm**'ish – Arrive in St. Augustine
-  Free Time to Explore Enjoy shopping, sightseeing, dining, attractions, and holiday festivities
-  **6:00pm** - Nights of Lights Trolley Tour Departure
-  **7:45pm** – Meet Back at Bus
-  **8:00pm** - Depart for Home
-  **10:00pm**'ish – Approximate Return Home

Your Day Trip Includes

- ✓ Roundtrip motorcoach transportation
 - ✓ Free time to explore St. Augustine
 - ✓ Dream Team Vacations host assistance
 - ✓ Driver gratuities included
- Transportation Package-- \$49 Per Person**

Optional Add-Ons

- Historic Hop-On Hop-Off Trolley-- Add \$46 Per Person**
- Nights of Lights Trolley Tour @ 6:00 PM--Add \$25 Per Person**

*Go to website using this link to see all the details
and make your reservation.*

<https://cruise.dreamteamvacations.com/1-5-27-bon-staugustine>

DON'T WAIT... TRIP LIMITED TO FIRST 55 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS

See Calendar for regular weekly events.

Watch Facebook for Pop-up Events

THIRSTY THURSDAY GAME NIGHT

Every Thursday @ 4pm in the clubhouse.

Bring food to share, your own beverage (tea & lemonade will be provided).

Prepare to enjoy games, laughs, food and fun.

No need to sign up, just come and plan to have a good time.



DECEMBER BAHAMAS CRUISE

If you reserved your room on our upcoming cruise in December, we have arranged for a bus to shuttle us from Bonfire to the Port and return to Bonfire. The fee including gratuity for the bus driver and port luggage handlers is estimated to be \$62 per person. Shelley Divall will be collecting these funds in November and further details will be forthcoming closer to our departure...BON VOYAGE

A list of residents attending the cruise will be posted on the social club board in the clubhouse.

Sunshine Report

If you know of anyone in the park who has been ill or in the hospital, or anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, please contact **Rosa Sherwood** via text with your requests for cards to be mailed out.

Get Well Cards were sent to:

JD Lawson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all those celebrating birthdays in October!



<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1	Karen Heid	12	Dawn Comins	19	Walter Kreiser
	Joyce Wertz		Jody Seigfried		JoAnn Hathaway
	Dawn LaPlante	13	Maria Duvall	21	Sharon Elder
4	Richard Wertz		Francis Clifton	25	Becky (Sheley) White
5	Dana Shampang	14	Renee Licht		Michelle Mertz
	Bev Jeffrey		Brenda Flint	27	Denis Bausick
6	Bill Carroll		Dean Mayfield		
	Mark Bafia	15	Brooke Idalski	28	Mel Winchell
7	Barbara Herald		Jody Race	29	Jay Colwell
8	Julie Pudenz	18	Cookie (Vada) Neal	31	Rusty Gould
10	Albert Willis		Marcia Thorpe		
11	Debra Poley		Alan Smith		

Please notify Shelley Divall via email bonfiretidbits@gmail.com if you would like your name added or removed from this birthday list

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

A huge warm welcome to our newest residents, please greet them when you see them around.



<i>New Owner(s)</i>	<i>Address of New Purchase</i>	<i>Purchased From</i>
Pereiro, Ricardo	790 Sandi Dr	Ray & Janet Sawyer
San Miguel, Janice	522 Tammi Dr	Rick & Donna Kelley
Douglas, Kirk & Michelle	668 Lori Dr	James Titus

FUTURE EVENTS

Your entertainment committee has developed and planned many exciting events for the coming season. If you want to organize a trip or other event, please contact us with the information.



Note: this list is not complete and is subject to change

Saturday Nov 7 Poker Run
Wednesday Nov 11 Veterans' Day Program and Lunch
Saturday Nov 14 Social Club Membership Meeting
Saturday Nov 21 Fall Festival
Thursday Nov 26 Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday Dec 3 Karaoke Christmas Program
Saturday Dec 5 Christmas Bazaar
Sunday Dec 13-Thursday Dec 17 Bonfire Bahamas Cruise
Friday Dec 25 Christmas Dinner
Thursday Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party
Tuesday Jan 5 Bus Trip to St Augustine
Saturday Jan 16 Social Club Membership Meeting
Tuesday Jan 19 Casino Night
Saturday Jan 30 Chicken Dinner
Saturday Feb 6 Party with Live Entertainment
Sunday Feb 7 Welcome to Newcomers Party
Tuesday Feb 9 Mardi Gras Potluck
Wednesday Feb 10 Shareholders' Meeting
Saturday Feb 13 Special Valentines' Karaoke
Sunday Feb 14 Valentines Day Potluck and Super Bowl Party
Saturday Feb 20 Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday Feb 27 Canada Day
Saturday March *date TBD* Indoor Flea Market
Tuesday Mar 9 Costume Karaoke
Saturday Mar 13 Social Club Membership Meeting
Sunday Mar 14 Pi Day Pie Party
Saturday Mar 20 Spring Fling: theme St Patrick's Day/Irish
Sunday Mar 28 Easter Potluck
Saturday April *date TBD* Outdoor Yard Sale
Saturday May 1 Kentucky Derby Day party
Wednesday May 5 Cinco de Mayo Potluck
Sunday May 9 Mothers' Day breakfast
Monday May 31 Memorial Day Potluck

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1 9am - Water Aerobics 2pm – Oktoberfest Potluck 4pm - Thirsty Thursday 6pm - Poker	2 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Euchre	3 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Nickel Nickel
4 5:45pm – Texas Holdem	5 9am - Water Aerobics 2pm - Girls Night Out	6 9am - Water Aerobics 6:30pm - Jam Session	7 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Nickel Nickel	8 9am - Water Aerobics 4pm - Thirsty Thursday 6pm - Poker	9 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Euchre	10 9am - Water Aerobics 1pm – Karaoke Practice 7pm - Karaoke
11 5:45pm – Texas Holdem	12 Columbus Day 9am - Water Aerobics 2pm - Girls Night Out	13 9am - Water Aerobics 11am - Finance Budget Meeting 6:30pm - Jam Session	14 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Nickel Nickel	15 9am - Water Aerobics 4pm - Thirsty Thursday 6pm - Poker	16 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Euchre	17 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Nickel Nickel
18 5:45pm – Texas Holdem	19 9am - Water Aerobics 2pm - Girls Night Out 6pm - Bingo	20 9am - Water Aerobics 11am - Finance Budget Meeting 11:30am - Men's & Ladies Lunch 6:30pm - Jam Session	21 9am - Water Aerobics 10am - Board of Directors Meeting 6pm - Nickel Nickel	22 9am - Water Aerobics 4pm - Thirsty Thursday 6pm - Poker	23 9am - Water Aerobics 6pm - Euchre	24 9am - Water Aerobics 1pm – Karaoke Practice 7pm - Karaoke
25 5:45pm – Texas Holdem	26 9am - Water Aerobics 2pm - Girls Night Out 6pm - Bingo	27 9am - Water Aerobics 11am - Christmas Karaoke Planning 11am - Finance Budget Meeting 6:30pm - Jam Session	28 9am - Water Aerobics 2pm – National Chocolate Day Party 6pm - Nickel Nickel	29 9am - Water Aerobics 4pm - Thirsty Thursday 6pm - Poker	30 9am - Water Aerobics 4pm - Decorated Golf Cart Parade 6pm - Euchre	31 9am - Water Aerobics 4pm - Pet Costume Contest 7pm – Halloween Costume Party