

C.O.C.A. NEWS



Published by Crystal Oaks Civic Association

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Club Members and Neighbors. The summer has come to an end and most of us are back in Crystal Oaks. The FDOT has begun "fixing" the potential accident problem at St Rd 44 and Crystal Oaks Dr. They have been alerted that more needs to be done. We are revisiting the stop sign issue with Commissioner Kinnard and he is investigating alternative solutions. I reminded him the current decisions will affect us years from now. I will keep after this. The front entrance sign is still an issue and we will resolve the problem soon. This is the season for many events. Dana and the social committee have great plans and we look forward to big turnouts for these events. Our October meeting will be an election meeting. Please attend to voice your opinion.

Ken Walters. President

C.O.C.A. FUNCTIONS & SOCIALS

(Submitted by Dana McGrath)



Social Summer Sleep is Over!

As a committee we were all busy with summer activities. We had a July 4 celebration and a Labor Day Picnic.

In October:

1. Soup Night Saturday, October 5 @ 5 pm. See sign up sheet in clubhouse. We need number of people for set up and planning.
2. Garage & Bake Sale, Friday, October 18 from 8-2. See sign up sheet at clubhouse.
3. Halloween Party Saturday, October 26 @ 6 pm. Sign up soon in clubhouse. It's gonna be spookialicious! See sign up sheet at clubhouse.

In November:

1. Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, November 28 @3 pm. Sign up at the clubhouse will help with attendance. This is one of our biggie events!
2. Holiday Set Up Friday, November 29 time TBA. Come celebrate the beginning of the holiday season by helping us decorate our beautiful COCA clubhouse!

In December:

- 1 BYOWine and Cheese party- a little different this year.
2. Cookie Swap

3. Holiday Dinner- this year Christmas and Hanukkah fall on the same day. Date/time TBD.

Please join us at 1 p.m. for our monthly Social Committee meeting on Friday, October 4 and Friday, November 1 at the COCA CLUBHOUSE. THE HOTTEST SPOT NORTH OF TAMPA. We'll get the cadence soon...

Best- McG and the Social Committee

(Submitted by Carol Mertz)

Hi Everyone!

As you know our annual Garage/Bake Sale is being held at the clubhouse on Friday, October 18th starting at 8am. We are looking for lots of things to sell as this event is one of the club's biggest fundraisers. Please check your closets, garages, storage bins, attics and drawers and donate these items to the sale. We need either "new" or slightly used items that you just aren't needing anymore and they are taking up valuable space in your home. Along with the garage sale we are also having a fantastic "Bake" sale. We need members to volunteer to make some goodies for the sale. Whether you like to make cookies, cupcakes, cakes, or whatever your favorite thing is to bake. There is a signup sheet posted on the bulletin board at the club. We need lots of bakers, so please help us out with this.

I am also looking for volunteers to sort and price the gently used items for the sale. We will be getting together on Sunday, October 13 at 3:30 pm. Then again on Thursday, October 17 at 11 am to set up the tables for the next day's sale. If you can help out, that would be great. Thank you in advance. Call Carol Mertz with questions: #267-939-3724

If anyone has ideas for upcoming events at the clubhouse or is interested in hosting an event, please reach out to the Social Committee. Our meetings are held at the clubhouse on the 1ST Friday of each month at 1pm. We welcome your input and are happy to assist in any way possible. Thank you!

C.O.C.A ACTIVITIES



Friday, October 18, 2024

8am to 2pm

Crystal Oaks Clubhouse

and at homes throughout the Crystal Oaks community

It is that time of the year again! Cooler evenings, beautiful sunsets, football games and the annual Crystal Oaks Civic Association's Garage and Bake Sale.

This is a major fundraiser for the club so please go through your closets and garages for items to donate. Remember, *One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure!* Make sure you stop by and do some shopping for yourself. If those cute granite monkey bookends don't appeal to you, I am sure the chocolate cake will!

This is a community-wide event so many residents may be having garage sales in front of their homes. Both gated communities will be open for the sale.

For additional information, please contact Carol Mertz at 267-939-3724.

Don't be square, see you there!

LABOR DAY FESTIVITIES AT THE CLUBHOUSE



LITERARY SOCIETY

This is really POKER Night, every Monday night at 6:45 pm at the Clubhouse. Ladies and gentlemen are both welcome to join us. If interested, come down to the Clubhouse and enjoy a fun night and maybe go home a little richer.

BINGO NIGHTS

The first, second and third Thursdays of every month are Bingo Nights. Come try your luck and meet members, both old and new. The fun starts promptly at 7:00 PM (Door opens at 6:30 PM). Please HELP by bringing small denomination bills. Don't forget to bring bingo chips or pennies or something to cover the numbers.

SHUFFLE BOARD

All shuffle-board equipment is kept in the storage room outside in the pool area. So come on out and enjoy yourselves knocking some pucks around like the good old days.

LENDING LIBRARY

For those who are new to C.O.C.A. we would like you to know that we have a lending library of magazines and books in the Clubhouse. **NOTICE:** Due to limited space in the C.O.C.A. library, please do not leave magazines over 6 months old, or any catalogs, or financial reports. Please use your own discretion when bringing books or magazines to the library. Also, do not put returned books back on the shelf; please return them to the Return Bin. All books are organized and alphabetized by author. Thank you. -- C.O.C.A. Board

TO ALL C.O.C.A. MEMBERS:

Remember, when leaving the Clubhouse, doors, windows, and the Pool Gates **must remain locked** at all times. **LIGHTS AND FANS OFF--OUTSIDE AND INSIDE.** Failure to do so, will cost us to spend more money. Clubhouse security lights come on at night and are off at 6:30am. If for some reason the alarm is tripped while you are in the Clubhouse, please wait for a Board member or a representative from the Clubhouse. or a representative from the Police Dept. to respond before you leave the Clubhouse. Thank you..... C.O.C.A. Board.

TO ALL C.O.C.A. MEMBERS

According to C.O.C.A. Rules and Regulations, member families may bring two (2) guests into the Clubhouse. However these guests may not be Crystal Oaks residents. All Crystal Oaks residents who access our Clubhouse must be C.O.C.A. members. The rationale for this rule is if one wants to use the Clubhouse, they should join C.O.C.A..... C.O.C.A. Board.

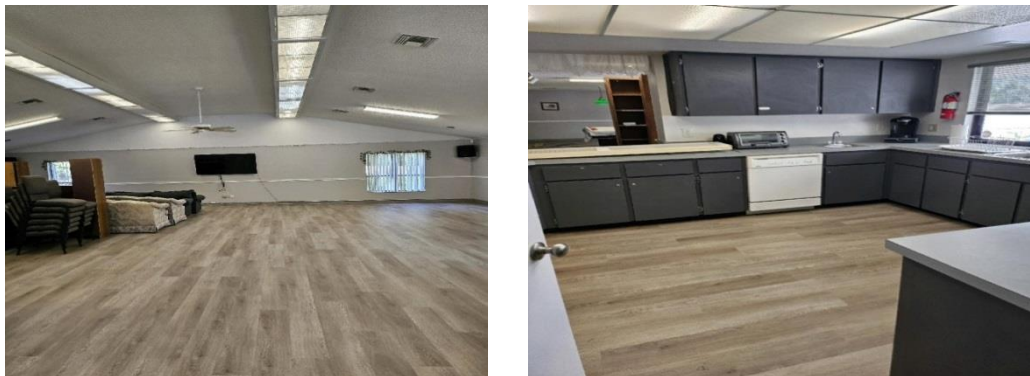
SUGGESTION BOX

Please drop your suggestions and comments, for consideration by the Board, in the Suggestion Box located near the front door. Please remember to give your name Thank you.....C.O.C.A. Board

CLUBHOUSE SIGN-IN BOOK

Please don't forget, when you come into the Clubhouse for any reason, sign-in with your name and the name of any guests. **DO NOT WRITE DOWN YOUR CODE NUMBER.** This is true for anyone in your household who uses your code. There is now a separate book for the pool users. Thank you. C.O.C.A. Board.

NEW FLOORING IN THE CLUBHOUSE



COMMITTEES

2024 C.O.C.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Walters	President	954-298-1373
Cathy Trask	Secretary	716-378-4684
Debbie Guilmette	Vice President	352-212-8542
Rick Mertz	Treasurer	267-992-3724
Janet O'Brien	Membership Chairperson	508-369-6459
Dana McGrath	Social Director	845-430-4977
Al Jannen	Building & Grounds	631-487-5768

Clubhouse and Grounds:
Al Jannen 631-487-5768

Pool Manager:
TBD

RV Compound:
Keith Williams 352-584-3625

Building Rental and C.O.C.A. Advertising:
Carol Mertz 267-939-3724

Membership Welcoming Committee Chair:
Janet O'Brien 508-369-6459

Sunshine Chair:
Betty Westerfield 352-527-3270

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT

Keith Williams, 352-584-3625, is in charge of the RV compound. If you happen to be walking by the Clubhouse at night, please check that all is well. Make sure lights are out and the doors are locked. Do not confront anyone. Call a board member or 911.

C.O.C.A. RENTAL CHAIRPERSON REPORT

(Submitted by Carol Mertz)

The clubhouse is available for all party rentals including weddings, baby showers, family reunions, funeral lunches, meetings, etc. The rental rate for COCA members for a (4) hour event is \$125. + tax. The non-member rate is \$250. + tax. Additional hrs. are \$20. + tax each. You also receive 2 additional hrs., a hour for setting up and a hour for clean up. Total of 6 hours! A refundable security deposit of \$100. reserves your date. These rates are good through December 2024.

Call Carol Mertz #267-939-3724

SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

(Submitted by Betty Westerfield 352-527-3270)



Sympathy card was sent to:

Wendy Mitchell and family on the Loss of their Mother Carla Skinner.

Get well card sent to: Wei Wei Ritzhaupt.

"FRIDAY NIGHTS ON THE
C.O.C.A. POOL LANAI"

Join us on Friday evenings at 7 pm out
on the pool lanai for
some good conversation and music.
Meet your neighbors! Make new friends!
Bring your favorite snacks and beverages.
All members invited!
Hope to see you there!
C.O.C.A. BOARD

HOLIDAY WOMEN IN BUSINESS EXPO!

**Wednesday, December 18th from 5pm-7pm
Crystal Oaks Clubhouse ~ FREE ADMISSION!**

Together
**WE
WIN**

*Come meet and learn about
local businesses, hosted by:*
WOMEN IN NETWORKING

- Everyone is Welcome!
- Light Refreshments
- Door Prizes & Giveaways



FOR MORE INFO: Text Kim Justice: (352) 228-0877
Or email Kim at: WinCitrus@gmail.com



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407-467-8301

 DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK, SUNDAY
 NOVEMBER 3 AT 2AM



TREASURER'S REPORT:

(Submitted by Treasurer Rick Mertz)

Balances Effective as of **Sept 2024:**

Checking Account Balance:	\$23,662.02
Cash Bank:	<u>\$400.00</u>
For a Combined Operating Account Balance:	\$24,062.02
CD Account:	\$78,712.73
Money Market Account:	<u>\$15,817.04</u>
Total balance of all accounts:	\$118,591.79

The checking acct for **August 2024** has been balanced.

If you have any questions regarding club finances, please call Rick Mertz at 267-992-3724. Thank you

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**Thank
 You!**



OCTOBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Hand & Foot 1-4pm RENTAL NATIVE PLANTS 5:30-8pm	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am RENTAL 6:30-9:30pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm BINGO 7pm	SOCIAL COMMITTEE MTG 1pm HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	SOUP NIGHT 5:00pm
6	Literary Society 6:45pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm RENTAL HOA MTG 7pm	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am Clubhouse Closed For Cleaning From 8:30-11am	Hand & Foot 1-4pm BINGO 7pm	RENTAL 10:15-11:15am HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	RENTAL 2-10pm
RENTAL 9am-3pm	happy COLUMBUS DAY Literary Society 6:45pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am RENTAL W.I.N. 4-6pm	COCA BOARD MTG 10am Hand & Foot 1-4pm	GARAGE/BAKE SALE 8am-2pm HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	
20	BUNCO 1-4pm Literary Society 6:45pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am Clubhouse Closed For Cleaning From 8:30-11am	Hand & Foot 1-4pm C.O.C.A. GENERAL MTG. 6:30pm	HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	HALLOWEEN PARTY 7pm
27	Literary Society 6:45pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am	 Hand & Foot 1-4pm		

A LITTLE TIDBIT (Submitted by Betty Westerfield)



Whew! What a relief to know this.....

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was? It's a very common experience called the "**doorway effect**". It's a psychological phenomenon characterized by short-term memory loss when passing through a doorway or moving from one location to another. We tend to forget items of recent significance immediately after crossing a boundary and often forget what we were thinking about or planning on doing upon entering a different room. Essentially because the brain updates its focus to the new environment, causing a temporary memory lapse related to the previous space. Research suggests that this phenomenon occurs both at literal boundaries (e.g., moving from one room to another via a door) and metaphorical boundaries (e.g. traversing a doorway, or when moving from one desktop window to another on a computer).

Thank goodness for studies like this. It's not our age after all, it's the damn door!



NOVEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					SOCIAL COMMITTEE MTG 1pm HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	RENTAL 11am-6pm
	CLUBHOUSE CLOSED FOR GENERAL ELECTION 	CLUBHOUSE CLOSED FOR GENERAL ELECTION 	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am Clubhouse Cleaning 9am-12pm RENTAL 6:30-8pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm BINGO 7pm	RENTAL 10:15-11:15am HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	
	BUNCO 1-4PM Literary Society 6:45pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm RENTAL NATIVE PLANTS 5:30-8pm	RENTAL HOA MTG 7pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm BINGO 7pm	HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	
	Literary Society 6:45pm		RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am Clubhouse Cleaning 9am-12pm RENTAL W.I.N. 4-6pm	C.O.C.A. BOARD MTNG 10am Hand & Foot 1-4pm BINGO 7pm	HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	
	Literary Society 6:45pm	Hand & Foot 1-4pm C.O.C.A. GENERAL MTG. 6:30pm	RENTAL Affiliated Pros 7-8:30am	THANKSGIVING DINNER 3pm	DECORATE CLUBHOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS 10am HAPPY HOUR AT THE LANAI 7-9pm	DECORATE CLUBHOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS 10am

"KITCHEN KORNER"

(Submitted by Ellen Carson)

APPLE CRISP



Ingredients:

- Apples
- Graham Crackers
- Brown Sugar
- Cinnamon
- Nutmeg
- White sugar
- Baking dish
- Stick of butter
- Whip Cream

Directions:

400* oven temp.
 Peel and slice approx. 6 cups of Granny Smith Apples or apples of your choice in large bowl.
 Add: 1 tsp. cinnamon
 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
 2 Tbsp. White sugar
 Mix into your apples put apple mixture in 9x12 baking dish.
 Combine: 1 C Graham Crackers crumbled
 3/4 C Brown Sugar
 1/2 stick of butter
 Crumble with your hands until all butter has been mixed into your crackers /sugar.
 Place on apple mixture and place in oven for 20 min. Or until your apples are cooked
 Spoon into small dishes, serve with Whip Cream and/or Ice Cream.

ENJOY!



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THE C.O.C.A. NEWS STAFF

Editor: Hank Rios 352-746-6101
 Co-Editor : Carol Mertz
 If you have any items, ideas or articles for an upcoming printing of *The C.O.C.A. News*, you may direct them to an Editor or any other person on the staff for consideration. The preferred format to use is Microsoft Word with Arial 10pt font. Submit them via e-mail to the Editor (rios08@gmail.com).

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

(Submitted by Janet O'Brien - Membership Chairperson)

COCA membership is 120 households. Welcome to our new members and we hope to see you at some of the upcoming events at the clubhouse. Come and mingle and make some new friends. As always, please refer folks interested in joining COCA to me at 508-369-6459 or I can contact them. I will be glad to discuss what the club offers.
 Janet O'Brien, Membership Chairperson



The C.O.C.A. membership list is issued to all members once a year. To keep your list current, we will publish, in this section of the Newsletter, additions of members.

Chris & Rachel Garlock - 355 N. Turkey Pine Loop - Chris:521-439-9303 – Rachel:727-638-4229

Tony Griffin - 105 S. Harrison St, Beverly Hills, 34465 - 352-257-1300

Gregory Marks & son Anders - 50 S. Cayman Terr, Lecanto - 352-445-2680

Britnie & Zach Reed - 199 N. Skyflower Pt. - 205-603-7292 & 205-504-4049

Martin & Ivette Shepherd - 5222 W. Kristina Loop - 917-935-2609

WELCOME... SEE YOU AT THE CLUBHOUSE!



Janet O'Brian- Membership Chairperson

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



October's birthstone is the Opal which symbolizes Hope. November's birthstone is the Topaz and the flower is the Chrysanthemum.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rachel Garlock
- 8 Mary Scala
- 9 Mike Ditre
- 9 Sharon Stapley
- 11 Rebecca Kapili
- 11 Matthew Merrill
- 13 Leigh Larson
- 14 Marlee Merrill
- 16 Willie Joe Frazier
- 18 Lily Williams
- 31 Betty Attianese

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bob Bravo
- 3 Hank Strong
- 3 Robert Boykiin
- 4 Joshua Hahn
- 4 Kevin Lutkenhaus
- 8 Dean Daley
- 9 Susan McMahan
- 10 Anders Marks
- 14 Kevin Crowell
- 26 Edie Adamson
- 26 Roger Weaver
- 28 Elsie Cougias
- 30 Connie Taylor

Birthdays and holidays are wonderful to look forward to, but each little moment has its own magic. Enjoying a sip of cider, reading a good book, raking leaves with children—we can find something to celebrate in every day.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Best Wishes and Happy Anniversary to all of you

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 John & Sarah DiLorenzo

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Chris & Rachel Garlock
- 12 Lindsay LoSurdo & Justin Taylor

