

# The BEACON

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*Shedding Light on What's Happening in Your Community!*



BEACON WOODS EAST  
HOMEOWNERS' ASSN., INC.

## MEETING

TUESDAY, December 2, 2025  
at 7:00 p.m. in the clubhouse



### President's Corner

The Board has an open slot for a director. Call the office for more information.

Just a reminder, there is no street parking allowed day or overnight. Emergency Vehicles cannot get through to assist when streets are lined with cars. This is a Pasco County Ordinance.

**Beginning January 1, 2026,** All 3rd violations are sent via Certified Mail. The actual cost of this certified mailing will now be billed directly to the resident's ledger.

**Dog Owners** - Please Be Considerate we've had several residents complain about dog owners not picking up after their dogs. Please make sure you clean up after your dog whether it is in another homeowner's lot or the common areas. And of course, do not throw the "doggie bags" in the storm drains. Please be considerate and responsible.

## Berkley Woods Residents

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RSVP to Kelley 727-597-0535



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# Happy Holidays

*We appreciate your community spirit and wish you a wonderful Christmas and a successful new year.*

### BWEHA ASSESSMENT

If you haven't already paid October assessment fees,

**They are past due as of October 31, 2025**

**Please pay \$117.00 that includes the late fee of \$25.00**

Quarterly Payments are Due January 1, April 1, July 1 & October 1 as of January 1, 2026 assessment fees will be \$100 per quarter

Mail or deliver to BWEHA Clubhouse  
8421 Clayton Blvd. • Hudson FL 34667

Lot # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## BWEHA Directory

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beverly Botte, President  
 Robert Rossi, Vice President  
 Margaret Murphy, Treasurer  
 Allison Pierce, Secretary  
 Dan Hess, Director  
 Daniel Daws, Director

### ASSOCIATION OFFICE

727-863-5447

Hours: Monday thru Friday  
8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

The office is closed for  
lunch 12:30-1:00 daily.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jane Katzen, Community  
 Association Manager  
 Rozanna Maltbie,  
 Office Assistant  
 Richard Sweet,  
 Maintenance Tech



## BWE Mission Statement

- To maintain the property values and enhance the desirability of homes in the Beacon Woods East community by judicious and fair enforcement of our legally adopted Covenants and Deed Restrictions.
- To maintain our Common Areas and recreational facilities for the use and enjoyment of our members.
- To provide social and recreational opportunities to our members at reasonable cost and within our financial and physical capabilities.

*The monthly newsletter, the Beacon, is published by Sieber Graphics. The newsletter serves as the official publication of the association and only information pertaining to BWEHA are submitted by the Association Office to inform the community of relevant news. The Association has no input or control over the advertisements. All advertising is handled by Sieber Graphics.*

## Summary of Meeting Minutes of Beacon Woods East Homeowners' Assn., Inc. Board of Directors • November 4, 2025

President Botte called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Directors Beverly Botte, Rob Rossi, Margaret Murphy, Allison Pierce, Dan Hess and Daniel Daws. Also let the records show that Jane Katzen was present... The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Ms. Pierce stated the minutes of the last meeting of October 7, 2025, were published in the *Beacon*, posted on the bulletin board, and made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were accepted.

### Correspondence

None

### Treasurer Report:

Ms. Murphy reported that there is \$46068.08 in the operating account; \$8,324.46 is pre-paid leaving a balance of \$37,743.62. There are 115 delinquents, 1 deceased, 17 liens/pre-liens, 1 foreclosure/ bankruptcies for a total of 10 in various stages of collection. We have 7 liens for \$6,333.89, 10 intent to lien \$3,339.67, for a total of \$9,673.56. We have a total of 36 homeowners that owe two or more quarters \$8,949.82. 79 homeowners that owe one quarter \$8,768.47.

### Community Association

#### Manager's Report:

None

### Architectural Control &

#### Deed Restrictions:

Ms. Murphy reported that two (2) third letters were sent in October.

Lot 801 Debris stored in front of garage

Lot 478 Grass exceeds 8" in height

### Old Business:

Title search. Emailed the County Attorney Nicki Spirtos and the County Real property Manager Heather Wolfe. As of yet we still have had no response. Regarding the strips of land along Fivay. The County should be maintaining these 3 strips of land.

### New Business:

Choose dates for 2026 Craft & Bake sales and Garage sales.

Getting information on a hot dog vendor for craft and bake sales.

Charging \$1.00 more for a table at craft fair for coffee & donuts during set up.

### 2026 Event Calendar

March 21st Craft and bake Sale  
 March 28th Community Garage Sale

October 10th Craft and bake sale

October 17th Community Garage Sale

Volunteers for all activities would be appreciated.

### Suggestions:

### Organizational Reports:

None

### Announcements and

#### Reminders:

The next meeting will be held on December 2, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

### Open Forum:

Homeowner asked if resident has agreed to pay for the pool ladder. Yes, they are going to pay.

Resident is worried that the people that are on SNAP and are not receiving them at this time. She would like to help and have other people volunteer to take people from the community to the food banks or to sign up for some type of help that is needed in the household. Or they can even call 211 which is a free service that connects everyone in our community with help and answers from thousands of health and human service agencies and resources right in their local communities—quickly, easily and confidentially. There are no eligibility requirements, income standards, or any other restrictions.

### Anyone can connect with 211!

Homeowner had a basketball, that she bounced so she could show and tell everyone what her neighbor does each night till 10 p.m. She knows that ordinance is 10 p.m. and nothing can be done to stop neighbor from bouncing ball.



## DEED RESTRICTIONS AT WORK:

Letters were sent in October the Architectural Control & Deed Restriction Committee to correct verified deed restriction violations listed below:

- 2 Grass exceeds 8" in height
- 1 Vehicle parked on grass overnight
- 1 Vehicle parked on grass
- 1 Vehicle parked on street overnight
- 1 Debris in front of garage

### 2nd Notices

- Lot 452 Grass exceeds 8 inches in height
- Lot 454 Vehicle parked on grass overnight
- Lot 576 Vehicle parked on grass
- Lot 476 2 vehicles parked in street overnight

### 3rd Notices

- Lot 494 Grass exceeds 8" in height
- Lot 801 Debris in front of garage

*Thanks for your compliance – the following violations have been corrected:*

- Lot 343N High grass
- Lot 338 Grass exceeds 8 inches in height
- Lot 259 Grass exceeds 8 inches in height
- Lot 097N Hedges exceed the height of 5 feet

Homeowner also said that one of her neighbors has a dog that is kept in the backyard and spends all the time in a cage 6x12x5 with no roof and the dog has no shade in the hot weather. All that can be done is for her to call Pasco County Animal Control.

### Adjournment:

President Botte adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Jane Katzen,  
 Recording Secretary  
 Allison Pierce, Secretary

Identity theft is a very real threat in the digital age. While it once was complicated for criminals to collect personal data, such as identification numbers, emails, phone numbers, and more, the connectivity the internet offers can sometimes make stealing information as easy as clicking a button.



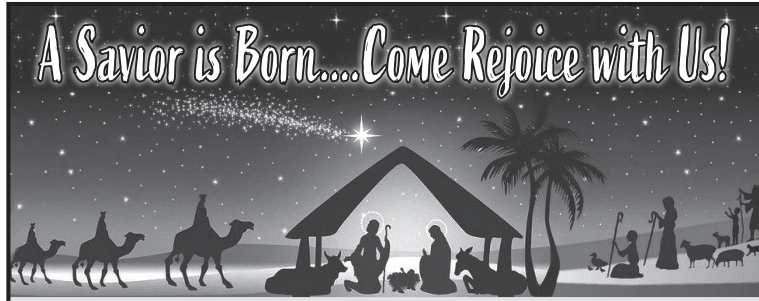
## Tips to Protect Your Personal Financial Information

In 2024, the Federal Trade Commission fielded more than 1.1 million reports of identity theft. Credit card fraud was the most common crime. Also, 2024 saw the largest data breaches in history, impacting billions of users and subjecting customers to the potential of having personal data exposed and ultimately exploited.

Although there is no foolproof way to keep personal and financial data safe, people can take several steps to safeguard their information.

- **Use strong, unique passwords.** Have several different and complex passwords for each online account to prevent a compromised password from providing access to all of the accounts. People can use a password manager to help create and store these unique passwords. The U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency says that strong passwords should be at least 16 characters; feature a random string of mixed-case letters, numbers and symbols; or comprised of a memorable phrase of four to seven unrelated words, known as a passphrase.

- **Use two-factor authentication.** Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on all accounts to add an extra layer of security.



Longest Night Service • Saturday, Dec. 20th • 6 pm  
 Christmas Eve Service • Wednesday, Dec. 24th • 7 pm  
 Christmas Day Service • Thursday, Dec. 25th • 10 am  
 Advent Services: Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th • 4 pm

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## Advent Craft Workshop

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This second form of verification often comes by the way of a texted or emailed code that must be entered to log into an account.

- **Consider extra security for your credit report.** Individuals can contact the three major credit bureaus and bolster their credit-related security. A fraud alert tells businesses to check with the person before opening a new account to verify if it is really him or her. An initial fraud alert or active duty fraud alert expires in a year, while an extended fraud alert lasts seven years, but requires an FTC identity theft report. A credit freeze is a greater measure of security that keeps others from getting into the cred-

it report at all (with a fraud alert the credit report can still be accessed). That means no one can open a new credit account while the freeze is in place. It must be lifted each time a person wants to open a new account.

- **Protect your identification numbers.** Individuals should not carry a Social Security card in a wallet or give out their Social Security Number (Social Insurance Number in Canada) unnecessarily.

- **Exercise caution on the phone and when answering emails.** Scammers can mislead others by using seemingly legitimate phone numbers or email addresses to solicit information.

Always verify the validity of requests before sharing personal information.

- **Regularly check accounts.** People should double-check all financial accounts periodically for suspicious transactions. Each year individuals are able to request and check a free credit report from Experian, TransUnion and Equifax.

- **Use a secured internet connection.** To reduce the risk of data being stolen, only review financial information when utilizing a secured (password locked) internet network.

Taking strides to protect personal data is important to safeguard one's financial security.

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*Fall and winter provide plenty of opportunities for merriment, including Chanukah, which encourages the Jewish community to gather and celebrate their faith together.*



## Shining a Light on Chanukah Celebrations

**What is Chanukah?** Chanukah (also spelled Hanukkah), is a Jewish festival that lasts eight days. It starts on the twenty-fifth day of Kislev, which usually falls within the month of December, and commemorates the rededication of the Jewish Temple in 165 BC by the Maccabees. The Temple had been previously desecrated by the Syrians.

**Why is Chanukah eight days?** After the Maccabees fended off the Syrian-Greeks and reclaimed their Temple, they sought to light the Temple's menorah. However, they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination, according to Chabad.org. Miraculously, the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity. Sages subsequently instituted the festival of Chanukah to commemorate and

publicize this miracle.

**Menorah lighting:** The menorah is the centerpiece of the Chanukah celebration. It holds nine flames, one of which is called the "shamash" (attendant). That candle is used to kindle the other eight lights. By the eighth night of Chanukah, all eight lights are lit and glowing. The menorah is placed in a doorway or window.

**Oily foods:** Since the Chanukah miracle focuses on oil, it is customary to enjoy foods fried in oil. Potato latkes are commonly enjoyed, as are jelly-filled donoughs called "sufganiyah."

**Giving:** Chanukah really isn't about exchanging gifts. The tradition actually is to give out Chanukah gelt, which is gifts of money to children. Also, individuals reward positive behavior and devotion to Torah study. The cash gifts enable kids to give to charity.

**A minor holiday:** Although it is a significant and widely observed festival, Chanukah is a historical rather than biblical holiday. It doesn't carry the same religious weight as other Jewish high holidays like Yom Kippur, for example. Its emphasis may be due in part to Chanukah's proximity to Christmas.

Chanukah celebrations enable faithful Jews to celebrate together and focus on their faith during a festive time of year.

*Driving is often associated with independence. The freedom that comes with being a licensed driver is often noted when newly minted motorists get a driver's license. But the sense of independence that comes with being a licensed driver affects all motorists, including seniors.*

## Signs an Aging Driver Might No Longer Be Safe Behind the Wheel

Many seniors have spent half a century if not longer behind the wheel. That history undoubtedly makes it difficult for aging drivers to relinquish their keys should factors beyond their control begin to jeopardize their ability to drive safely and thus pose a threat to themselves and others. In such instances, family members may need to step in and make difficult decisions for aging relatives in relation to their driving. Before that decision is made, families can keep an eye out for various signs that a loved one might

no longer be safe behind the wheel.

• **Frequent accidents or near misses:** The National Institute on Aging notes that aging drivers who are in multiple vehicle crashes or near misses may no longer be safe to drive. Even drivers who are not at fault in a given accident may otherwise have been able to avoid being involved if not for diminished abilities behind the wheel. The NIA notes that slower reaction time and reflexes are two driving abilities that can diminish over time, and that

can increase the chances aging drivers are in an accident.

• **Vehicle damage:** Another sign an aging driver may be experiencing diminishing driving abilities is the presence of new dents or scrapes on a car. The NIA notes that stiff joints and muscles and difficulty seeing are some common age-related health conditions that can affect a driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. When such problems begin to appear, drivers may experience difficulty navigating areas like parking lots and narrow streets that do not have ample shoulder space. The results can be vehicle damage like dents or scrapes.

• **Increase in traffic tickets:** The NIA suggests two or more traffic tickets or warnings within the last two years is a sign drivers' skills are diminishing.

• **Anxiety about nighttime driving conditions and other motorists:** Aging drivers who express anxiety about driving at night may no longer be safe to drive, especially after the sun goes down. Some aging drivers simply stop driving at night, which suggests they might be capable of driving safely during the day. In addition, drivers who have anxiety or make frequent complaints about other drivers' actions, includ-



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ing their speed and decision-making in regard to actions like lane changes, may be experiencing diminished abilities behind the wheel.

There's no universal age when older drivers should stop driving. But families can keep an eye open for various signs suggesting aging drivers are no longer safe behind the wheel.





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Cook. Bake. Celebrate!

### Ginger Cookies Fit Right in During Holiday Baking Sessions

Holiday baking sessions are a beloved tradition in many households. A family baking day during the holiday season is a great activity that appeals to loved ones of all ages, making a day spent in the kitchen an ideal way to bring multiple generations together under one roof.

There's no shortage of options when baking together as a family, but no treat embodies this season of baking more than cookies. Whether you're baking cookies for Santa Claus, bringing them along to a holiday party or simply whipping them up for some extra energy when decorating the tree, these "Ginger Cookies" from Lines+Angles are sure to please this December.

#### Ginger Cookies

Makes 48 cookies

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 large egg
- 2 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Granulated sugar, for rolling

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Lightly grease baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray.



sugar, shortening, molasses, and egg together until light and fluffy. Stir in all remaining ingredients, except granulated sugar.

3. Shape dough by rounded teaspoonfuls into balls. Dip tops into granulated sugar and place balls, sugar side up, on prepared baking sheet, about 3 inches apart.

4. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until just set. Remove from cookie sheet immediately to wire rack to cool. Serve.

**Tip:** Before measuring molasses, spray the measuring cup with cooking spray; the molasses won't stick to the sides of the cup.



### Adorable Cookies Add to the Festive Feel of the Holidays

Food helps to set the festive atmosphere that has become synonymous with the holiday season. Celebrants asked to recall their fondest memories of the holiday season undoubtedly would point to nights spent surrounded by loved ones at the

family dinner table, which serves as a testament to the unifying power of food during a special time of year.

Holiday hosts looking to food to set a festive tone can consider these "Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies" from Lines+Angles. These cookies are flavorful and the finished product is adorable, which can help celebrants feel even more festive during seasonal celebrations.

#### Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies Makes 48 cookies

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 48 large red M&M candies
- 96 mini semisweet chocolate chips

Pretzels, broken into 96 1-inch pieces

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl, beat together butter, peanut butter, sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla extract and mix until combined.

3. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls, and place at least 1 inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake only 10 to 12 cookies at a time. Refrigerate the

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bowl of dough in between batches. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes, until the cookies are just set.

4. Immediately place one M&M in the center of each cookie for a nose (press down a bit if your cookies aren't flat enough), 2 mini chocolate chips for the eyes, and 2 pretzel pieces at the top for antlers. Carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

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There are many reasons to welcome the arrival of winter each year. The holiday season, recreational activities like skiing and snowboarding, and the undeniable beauty of snow-covered landscapes are just some of the reasons to look forward to winter.



## Snowbird Survival Guide

Winter certainly has its positive attributes, but some may shudder at the thought of colder temperatures and shorter hours of daylight. In fact, some people dislike the cold so much they take to the road each winter and make for locales noted for their mild temperatures.

Snowbird is a term used to refer to individuals who depart their homes around the beginning of winter so they can spend the ensuing months in warm climates. Snowbirds often are retirees, but the flexibility of remote working has enabled more and more working professionals to become snowbirds, too. Those considering a pivot to the snowbird lifestyle can consider these tips to make that transition successful.

• **Find the right locale.** Those new to the snowbird lifestyle might assume anywhere that isn't cold will fit the bill, but warm weather isn't the only variable to consider when choosing where to spend your winters. Many snowbirds spend several months at their

winter destinations, so you will want somewhere that can accommodate the lifestyle you've grown accustomed to. First identify your priorities and then consider variables like the accessibility of nightlife, the availability of recreational activities and opportunities to socialize. A warm but especially remote location

might appeal to some, but those who like to get out might do best spending their winters in a more vibrant locale.

• **Get a firm idea of the cost.** Though there's ways to save on the snowbird lifestyle, it can be costly. Whether you plan to rent a winter home or purchase a second home, there's notable costs that come with each approach. The costs of renting might seem more straightforward, as renters may think a deposit and monthly rent is all the added expense. But snowbirds who plan to work during the winter will need to consider the tax implications if they will be living and working in a different state or province. Buying a second home also comes with its own tax implications, so it might be best for aspiring snowbirds to work with a certified financial professional who can help

them navigate those costs. Certain locales may be tax-friendly for retirees, who also can work with a financial professional to identify locations where the financial implications of snowbirding might not be too significant.

• **Don't forget your pets.** Pets merit consideration when pondering the feasibility of the snowbird lifestyle. If you plan to rent lodgings for the winter, you must find a pet-friendly option, which can prove difficult depending on the type and size of your pet(s). Pets' comfort also merits consideration. If you have a dog, a winter residence with access to a yard or nearby dog park should be a priority. And some complexes that specialize in offering winter lodgings may restrict pets or charge hefty fees to allow them.

**Snowbird continued on 22**

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## Local HAPPENINGS

**West Pasco Model Train Club Open House on Saturday, December 13th** from 10:00-3:00. Our location is at 11441 Osceola Dr. New Port Richey FL. Check us out on our website [wpmra.org](http://wpmra.org) and check us on Youtube and Facebook.

**Are you looking to honor local Veterans?** You might want to consider **volunteering** for Gulfside Hospice. If so, call Gulfside Hospice Veteran Volunteer Services Program Coordinator Janie Bennett @ 813-576-8851 for more information and to sign up. We offer a 1 day training at no cost to you! Lunch is provided. Look forward to hearing from YOU!

**Nature Coast Bridge Club (NCBC)** is now located at Hernando County Shrine Club, 13400 Montour St., Brooksville. **We are actively seeking new members.** If you are a social

bridge player and would like to learn duplicate, we invite you to join us. We will give you a free lesson and, if you like, an NCBC member will shadow you as you play on your first day in case you need assistance. For more information, call Penny at 352-340-5120 or email [Naturecoastbridge@gmail.com](mailto:Naturecoastbridge@gmail.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

**Hudson Beach Yacht Club** will hold their **December General Meeting** at the Sea Ranch Club house, 13711 Veronica Dr. in the Sea Ranch subdivision off US 19 on **December 4th**. Doors open at 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Visitors are encouraged. Boat ownership is not required. Visit our website at <http://www.myhbyc.com> or call 727-808-0909, leave your name & phone number to ask for information.

**Hudson First United Methodist Church** presents **Love Came Down At Christmas**. A Musical Spectacular featuring:

The Voices of Praise, Bellaires, J. R. Farley's Anclote Symphonic Winds. **Saturday, December 6th** at 3:00 pm. Free Admission. (Donations Appreciated, Cash or Canned Vegetables for Food Pantry). Music Director, Joanne Kelly, Organ/Piano, Pat Deighton and Nancy Cox, Director of Anclote Symphonic Winds, Christopher Greco.

**Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club:** Our Clubs provide an outlet for all walks of life and nationalities to have fun, learn and socialize. Our Clubs are Poker, Crafts, Pine Needlers, Mexican Train Dominoes, Texas Hold'em (6:30 p.m. Thursdays), Pinochle, Mah Jongg, Rockhounds and Cards & Games. Bingo starts at 1 p.m. Thursdays. **Open to the public.** Call 352-251-8404 for more info. WWSCC, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606. Proceeds benefit building funds.

**Volunteers are needed for the Pasco County Free Tax Prepa-**

**ration program.** Good computer skills are the only qualification needed! We will train you to prepare income tax returns for low and middle income clients and you will become an IRS Certified Advanced Preparer. Work one or two half-days a week from February to April 15. For more information email bill.humphrey@earthlink.net or call 727-808-4482.

**Dementia Spotlight Foundation Caregivers Support Group Meeting,** Hudson First United Methodist Church, 13123 US 19, Hudson, **Tuesday, December 2nd** at 10:30 am. Contact Laura Arnold, 727-808-2053, [larnold32@gmail.com](mailto:larnold32@gmail.com)

**Caregivers** who take care of **Loved Ones with dementia.** **Support meeting** at Hudson First United Methodist Church, 13123 US 19, Hudson, **Tuesday, December 18th** at 10:30 am. Contact Laura Arnold, 727-808-2053, [larnold32@gmail.com](mailto:larnold32@gmail.com).

**More Local Happenings on 22**

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## New Year's Eve Celebration Ideas for Families

The New Year's Eve countdown is on, with people eagerly awaiting the opportunity to say goodbye to this year and welcome the possibilities of the year ahead. The month of January's name was derived from the Roman god Janus, who was the god of beginnings, endings, doorways, and transitions. Symbolized by his two faces looking in opposite

directions, Janus presided over many transitions.

Billions enjoy celebrating the arrival of a new year. While New Year's Eve may be known for its raucous nature, complete with overflowing cocktails and packed dance floors, parents looking to celebrate with their young children have plenty of options to turn NYE into a more family-friendly affair. Explore these ideas for family-friendly NYE fun.

- **Noon Year's Eve:** Staying up until midnight might be a stretch for young children, who tend to get wired and cranky the later into the evening they go beyond typical bedtime. Instead of waiting until 12 a.m. for the countdown, move it back (or ahead) 12 hours to 12 noon. Young children won't mind if it's the sun out instead of the moon, as long as they get to make noise and throw confetti.

- **Homemade noisemakers:** Making noise is part of the fun of welcoming the new year. Kids can get in on the act of crafting their own noisemakers from items that already may be around the house. Collect empty toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tubes for this purpose. Cover one end of the tube with masking tape or a round piece of plastic. Fill the tube with beads, small seashells, rice, or dried beans, leaving enough room for the materials to move around inside the tube. Seal the other end and allow the kids to deco-

rate their noisemakers. Then it's only a matter of shaking them when it's time to welcome 2026.

- **Dress-up photo booth:** Many people love to dress up for a special occasion. At a family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration, set aside a corner of a room with dress up props like funny glasses, feather boas, top hats, and NYE-specific items. Explore digital disposable camera apps like POV, Lense or Pixel Party. Guests simply scan a QR code for the event that the party host has established for a low price, and can snap moments at this "photo booth" that are shared effortlessly to one digital place.

- **Kids beverage bar:** Ensure that younger guests can be age-appropriate mixologists with sodas, fruit juices, citrus slices, and maraschino cherries. Or set up a hot cocoa bar with miniature marshmallows, whipped cream, chocolate shavings, and peanut butter chips.

- **Family-friendly dance club:** Put together a playlist of popular songs and choose the "clean" versions so children will not hear questionable lyrics. Clear an area of the party to serve as the dance floor, and utilize strobe lights or a disco ball to enhance the atmosphere.

Families can celebrate New Year's Eve with kids in entertaining ways that are appropriate for everyone in the home.

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# - - - BWE Social Scene - - -



## CHAIR YOGA

Lori-Ann Lynde our yoga class instructor has added chair yoga to Mondays monthly calendar at Beacon Woods East Clubhouse from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. The cost is \$5.00 for members & \$6.00 for guests.

### What is chair yoga?

Chair Yoga allows you to perform yoga poses while seated or using a chair for balance. Chair-based yoga offers the same benefits as traditional yoga, like boosting strength, flexibility, and mental well-being. It promotes relaxation, reduces stress and improves mental clarity. Like other forms of exercise, seated yoga may also help improve mood, your confidence and relieve anxiety and depression. This yoga is a slower paced flow for beginners or those that want to focus on the pose without having to worry about balancing. Chair yoga poses engages your legs, upper back, lower back, shoulders, hamstrings, hips, glutes and feet. The poses elongate and lengthen the back and can help improve your core muscles and core strength. It can also help relieve stiffness in your shoulders, back, arms and legs.

## BWE YOGA CLASSES

Yoga Classes are held at the BWE Clubhouse on Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Classes are led by Lori-Ann Lynde, a Certified Yoga instructor. Join her for relaxing music to help stretch, strengthen, and build posture and balance in your body while relaxing your mind. All you need is a yoga mat, a towel for your head, comfortable clothes and a water bottle. The cost is a \$5.00 donation and \$6.00 for guests. For additional information call Lori-Ann 727-505-7703.



Now let me tell you a little about myself. My name is Lori-Ann Lynde and I am a 500 hour Yoga Instructor with a specialty certification in Chair Yoga. I modify poses for those that may need it. I have been a member of the Yoga Alliance for 5 years. I would love to have everyone come out and give it a try. All you need to do is show up to class. I recommend you bring a towel and a bottle of water to stay hydrated.



While we are busy creating some wonderful gifts and works of art, the additional benefits have been the dear and marvelous friends who have been made along the way. This group works in all mediums including knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, quilting, and more.

Couldn't find more caring or sharing people anywhere. Come join in the fun on Weds., 1-3 at Beacon Woods East Clubhouse on Clayton Blvd.



## Tai Chi / Chi Kung

Tai Chi/Chi Kung is a fun, slow simple exercise that's EASY so everyone will benefit.

Increase focus, flexibility, energy, coordination. Improve balance, breathing, posture and lower blood pressure. A donation for members is \$5.00 and \$6.00 for guests.

Class is 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Call Pat, Grand Master has taught over 20 yrs.

Join the fun! 992-7896



## Joanie's Beginners Line Dance Class

Every Monday beginning September 8th.

Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Cost \$3.00 for BWE members, \$4.00 for nonmembers.



There's **SNOW PLACE** like home for the holidays!

### Thanks to Our Readers:

Just a note to thank our readers for patronizing the businesses in this publication and letting them know you saw their ad in *The Beacon*. The advertisers make this free magazine possible to all the residents in Beacon Woods East.

Thanks again — Your friends at Sieber Graphics

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# Welcome New Neighbors

The Board of Directors and staff of the Beacon Woods East Homeowners' Association would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new neighbors and association members.

**Berkley Village**  
Iinvestments LLC  
8635 Braxton Drive

**Ravenwood Village**  
William Natal  
8209 Rugby Ct.

New owners are reminded that we are a Deed Restricted Community with regulations governing the maintenance and appearance of their property. We charge small association fees payable quarterly, semi-annually or annually. All new members agree to this arrangement in writing at closing.

We encourage new owners to visit our Clubhouse, check out our swimming, sports and playground facilities, and find out about our community activities.

The BWEHA Board of Directors meets once a month on the first Tuesday. New members are invited to attend these meetings and learn about the workings of our Association. They can participate in the formal Board meeting by speaking or asking questions during the Open Forum part of the meeting.

All members receive the monthly **BEACON** newsletter and are encouraged to read it for important news about the community and its people.



## BWEHA Operating Statement • October 2025

<b>INCOME</b>			
	HOA FEES	\$	72,894.37
	GUEST FEES	\$	112.50
	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	\$	5.00
	RENT CLUBHOUSE	\$	600.00
	INTEREST INCOME RESERVES	\$	554.12
	INT INCOME _ASSESSMENTS	\$	15.35
	ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATES	\$	450.00
	ATTORNEY FEES	\$	919.54
	LATE FEE	\$	574.00
	ELECTION - VOTING	\$	600.00
	OTHER INCOME	\$	1,819.15
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 78,544.03</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
	<b>UTILITIES</b>		<b>\$ 3,065.59</b>
	<b>SERVICES</b>		
	POOL REPAIRS	\$	1,665.17
	COMPUTER & INTERNET EXPENSE	\$	32.10
	LIABILITY/ECT. INSURANCE	\$	11,649.13
	SOCIAL GATHERING	\$	49.28
	ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES	\$	200.00
	MISC. EXPENSE -REFUNDS	\$	292.00
	RETENTION AREA MAINTENANCE	\$	926.05
	COPIER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT	\$	66.67
	LAWN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	\$	2,000.00
	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BEACON NEWS	\$	135.00
	LAWN/SHRUB FERTILIZATION	\$	530.00
	POOL SUPPLIES	\$	340.25
	INTERIOR PEST CONTRC	\$	33.17
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 17,918.82</b>
	<b>MAINTENANCE/SUPPLIES</b>		
	COMMON AREA MAINTENANCE	\$	428.82
	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 428.82</b>
<b>PAYROLL</b>			
	SALARIES		\$ 13,131.82
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 34,545.05</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>POOLING RESERVES</b>	<b>STANDARD RESERVES</b>	
\$ 44,756.94	\$ 176,219.10	\$ 220,976.04	
RESERVES - DEPOSITED \$5,000.00 TO EACH RESERVE ACCOUNT IN OCTOBER			

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## 3 Metrics That Can Help People Gauge Their Financial Health



Effective money management can help men and women achieve their short- and long-term goals. Wise investment strategies and a commitment to saving for retirement are great ways to manage money over the long haul, but it's important to seek ways to do so in the short-term as well.

Monitoring financial health is a short-term strategy that can keep individuals on a path toward long-term security. While various metrics can be looked to as indicators of financial health, adults can keep these three variables in mind as they look to utilize short-term strategies to ensure their long-term success.

**1. Debt-to-income ratio:** Debt-to-income ratio can be a good indicator of financial health. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau defines debt-to-income ratio (DTI) as all your monthly debt payments divided by your monthly gross income. Lenders uti-

lize DTI to determine the creditworthiness of loan applicants, but individuals also can use it as a metric to gauge their financial health. Monthly debt payments include mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and other debt payments, including credit cards. Individuals whose debt payments total \$2,000 per month and who earn a gross monthly income of \$6,000 have a 33 percent DTI. The credit experts at Experian suggest a DTI of 35 percent or less is indicative that debt is being handled well, so that's a figure to keep in mind.

**2. Savings balances:** Savings accounts don't generate as much interest as they did throughout the 1980s and 1990s. According to Nasdaq, savings interest rates climbed as high as 8 percent in the 1980s, but have fallen below 0.25 percent since the financial crisis of 2008. That's led some to devalue savings, but savings balances can be a good indica-

tor of financial health. A substantial savings account can help individuals avoid taking on debt when costly emergencies and expenses arise unexpectedly, thus helping them keep their DTI in a financially advantageous range.

**3. Credit score:** Credit score is another strong, and easily accessible, indicator of personal financial health. Individuals can now access their credit scores for free each month through their banks and credit card providers. Experian notes that credit scores range from 300 to 850, and where a score falls in that range can indicate if a person is managing credit in a healthy or unhealthy way.

Experian reports scores 740 and above are very good, while scores between 670 and 739 are considered good. Scores between 300 and 579 are considered poor, while a score between 580 and 669 is considered fair. Scores below 669 indicate there's room to use credit more wisely, which involve reducing reliance on consumer credit, making payments on time and ensuring payments are more than the monthly minimum.

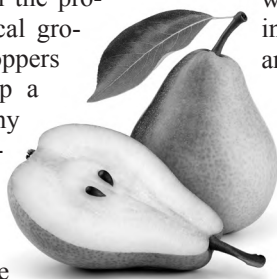
These three metrics and others can be utilized by individuals looking to gauge their financial health in an effort to realize their short- and long-term goals.

## The Nutritional Value of Pears

A journey through the produce aisle at a typical grocery store offers shoppers a chance to pick up a wide range of healthy foods. The nutritional value of fruits and vegetables is undeniable, and some produce aisle staples garner more glory than others.

Unlike apples, pears might not be touted as a daily means to avoiding doctor visits. But pears are a nutritional powerhouse nonetheless. Recognition of the many health benefits of eating pears may compel more people to eat more of this often unheralded yet highly nutritious fruit.

**• Pears are a great source of dietary fiber.** Dietary fiber benefits the body in numerous



ways. Dietary fiber increases the weight and size of stool, helping people avoid constipation. A diet high in dietary fiber also helps to lower cholesterol levels and reduce

risk for colorectal cancer, hemorrhoids and diverticulitis. A single pear contains roughly 21 percent of the daily recommended value of dietary fiber, placing it among the most beneficial fruits a person can eat in an effort to ensure adequate fiber consumption.

**• Pears are an ideal low-calorie snack.** Healthy snacks can help anyone maintain energy levels throughout the day, while less healthy items consumed between meals can con-

tribute to fatigue and other adverse side effects. Pears are fat- and sodium-free and a single, medium-sized pear contains roughly 100 calories. That makes pears an ideal snack for those who need a low-calorie snack to keep their energy levels up between meals.

**• Pears are a good source of potassium.** The National Institutes of Health notes that potassium helps to ensure proper nerve function and maintain a regular heartbeat. The NIH also notes that a diet rich in potassium can offset some of the harmful effects of sodium, particularly in regard to blood pressure. That's good news for pear lovers, as USA Pear reports a medium-sized pear contains roughly 190 milligrams of potassium, or about 4 percent of the daily recommended intake of this important mineral.

**• Potassium provides a significant amount of vitamin C.** Vitamin C is a notably beneficial antioxidant that the Mayo Clinic notes performs a variety of important roles in the human body. Vitamin C helps with the formation of blood vessels, cartilage, muscle, and collagen and also helps to protect the body against cell damage. A medium-sized pear provides roughly 8 percent of the daily recommended value of vitamin C, which serves as another reason to include pears in your dietary regimen.

Pears pack a nutritional punch that can benefit anyone looking to eat healthier and reap the rewards of a nutritious diet.



Healthy inside.  
Happy outside!

# PEARL HARBOR

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

December 7

### 12 facts about Pearl Harbor

December 7 is a solemn day marked by remembrance of an event that lives on in the minds of many people — particularly those who are old enough to remember the ravages of World War II. On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, resulting in more than 3,500 American troops and civilians being wounded or killed. The Japanese attack brought the war much closer to home, shocking the country and the world.

In honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, here's a look at

some interesting and surprising details about the attack and Pearl Harbor in general.

1. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor as part of a strategy to expand its empire into Southeast Asia for oil and other vital resources. Japan was threatened by U.S. opposition and the oil embargo placed on the nation by the United States.

2. Pearl Harbor is an American lagoon harbor on the island of Oahu, which is west of Honolulu. It often was visited by the Naval fleet of the United States.

3. Pearl Harbor lies approximately 3,800 to 4,000 miles

from Tokyo, Japan. It is much closer to the U.S., at roughly 2,600 miles from Los Angeles, despite Hawaii often being described as centrally located in the Pacific.

4. To catch the Americans by surprise, Japanese ships maintained strict radio silence throughout their trek from Hitokappu Bay to a predetermined launch sector 230 miles north of the Hawaiian island of Oahu, according to the National World War II Museum. Planes lifted off at 6 a.m., followed by a second wave an hour later.

5. The first wave of planes arrived shortly before 8 a.m. that Sunday morning, with hundreds of Japanese fighters descending on the base.

6. Pearl Harbor Tours says many people do not know that Americans fired the first shot the morning of December 7. The Wickes-class destroyer USS Ward attacked and sank a Ko-hyoteki-class midget submarine near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. It was the first shot fired on that day.

7. Japan's plan was to destroy America's Pacific Fleet so the Americans would not be able to fight back. Radio silence only was broken once Captain Mitsuo Fuchida was perched above the American ships and shouted, "Tora! Tora! Tora! (Tiger!, Tiger! Tiger!)," the coded message informing the Japanese fleet that Americans were caught by surprise.

8. All nine battleships in Pearl Harbor sustained significant damage. All but the USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma and the USS Utah were eventually salvaged and repaired.

9. Half of the 2,403 U.S. personnel who perished at Pearl Harbor were aboard the USS Arizona. The sunken battleship serves as a memorial to all who died in the attack.

10. The Japanese suffered casualties during the attack. One hundred twenty-nine Japanese soldiers were killed.

11. The attack on Pearl Harbor was the catalyst for the U.S. to enter World War Two. On December 8, 1941, Congress approved President Roosevelt's declaration of war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy (Japan's allies) declared war against the United States.

12. Japan misjudged the American resolve and resilience, as well as the Americans' capacity to wage a protracted war. Nearly four years later, World War II would come to a close after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 7 and August 9. More than 100,000 Japanese were killed and thousands more injured by radiation sickness.

The attack on Pearl Harbor is a day that has lived in infamy, marking not only a reason for the U.S. to get involved in World War II, but showing the world that Americans would not be bullied into submission.



**Come New Year's Eve,** it's customary to count down the last 10 seconds until the clock strikes midnight and the new year officially begins. It seems like the 10-second countdown is as old as time itself, but the tradition actually is much

more modern. According to Alexis McCrossen, a history professor at Southern Methodist University, prior to the twentieth century, New Year's Day was celebrated rather than New Year's Eve. And even up until the mid-twentieth century, countdowns were not associated with New Year's Eve or even festive occasions. However, the tides turned on countdowns with the Apollo moon launch in 1961. After that, countdowns for radio hits and other fun activities began. Although some TV announcers in the 1960s began counting down to the new year, it wasn't until 1979 that

the crowd at Times Square in New York City began joining in. This was despite the first New Year's Eve ball drop being held more than 70 years earlier in 1907. Publisher Adolph Ochs organized the first New Year's Eve party in Times Square in 1904, while the first-ever ball drop took place three years later when the city banned fireworks for the celebration. Yet it was not until the final year of the 1970s for it to be fashionable for a crowd to gather and participate in shouting out the 10-second countdown, a practice that is now tradition.



The holiday season is an enjoyable time of year for a variety of reasons. Individuals get to spend time with friends or family members they may not see very often; gifts are purchased and exchanged; and plenty of delicious foods and beverages are consumed. The holiday season can be an indulgent time of year, but most people cast aside the excess in January as they make and heed annual resolutions.



## Drink Safely This Holiday Season

Alcohol tends to be part of holiday indulgence. From mulled ciders to creamy egg-nogs to cranberry-infused cocktails to champagne toasts, there are plenty of spirited ways to raise a glass in good cheer. Alcohol, when enjoyed in moderation, can be part of holiday celebrations. However, people must be mindful to consume alcohol safely and responsibly. Here are some tips to avoid getting tipsy this holiday season.

### Understand standard drink sizes

Drinks like beer, wine and distilled spirits contain varying amounts of alcohol. Therefore, the "size" of a drink varies depending on one's beverage of choice. The National Association on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism says a 12-ounce bottle of beer at 5 percent alcohol by volume is one standard drink, as is a five-ounce glass of wine at 12 percent alcohol by volume. Those who enjoy distilled spirits should recognize that a 1.5-ounce shot glass at 40 percent alcohol by volume is a standard drink. The higher the alcohol volume, the smaller the portion size one should have.

### Follow the "1-2-3" rule

The 1-2-3 rule is a guideline for more responsible drinking. Typically it means having no more than one standard drink per hour, no more than two standard drinks per occasion,

and no more than three standard drinks per day. This will help the body to process alcohol safely and prevent binge drinking.

### Consider the "20-minute" rule

Another guideline for reducing alcohol consumption is to pause for 20 minutes after finishing a drink before having another. This allows time to decide if a second drink is truly desired. This strategy, although not scientific in nature nor based on any general guidance on safe moderate drinking recommendations by health experts, simply is a way to drink less by slowing down consumption.

### Eat food prior to drinking

Johns Hopkins University notes eating before drinking slows the rate at which alcohol reaches the small intestine. This helps to taper absorption to a pace that the body can handle more effectively. Eating food while drinking alcohol also increases the rate of alcohol elimination from the bloodstream by 25 to 45 percent. Foods that blend a mix of protein, fat and carbohydrates work best for this purpose.

### Alternate with water or seltzer

Drinking still or sparkling water between alcoholic beverages gives the body time to process any alcohol being consumed and helps to prevent dehydration (alcohol is a di-



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uretic). An added bonus is that drinking water between alcoholic drinks slows the rate of consumption.

### Skip driving

Alcohol affects one's ability to make sound decisions and also impairs reaction times and motor skills. That is why it is essential to have a plan for get-

ting home before consuming alcohol. Taxis, rideshare services and designated drivers are each better means of getting home than driving oneself after consuming alcohol.

Alcohol may play a role in holiday celebrations. Through responsible and safe behavior, the holidays can remain merry.

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## Are There Better Times to Purchase Big-Ticket Items?

Consumers know that advice is never hard to come by when purchasing expensive items. A beloved uncle might insist he knows which time of year to purchase a new car, while a co-worker might claim to have the scoop on when to buy a new couch. Timing can be important when buying big-ticket items, but are there really ideal times to purchase such products? Though that question may not have a definitive answer, consumers may actually have an advantage when buying items like cars, appliances and home furnishings at certain times of year.

• **Cars:** Automobiles are among the most expensive items consumers can purchase, but shopping in September or October might help car buyers find better deals. New models tend to begin arriving on dealership lots in September and October, and dealers may be looking to unload their existing inventory in anticipation of

those arrivals. Some may facilitate that changeover in inventory by offering more buyer-friendly deals on the outgoing year's models.

• **Appliances:** The financial experts at NerdWallet cite various holidays as great times of year to find deals on appliances. Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Black Friday are holidays when consumers might be able to find great deals. Holiday-affiliated sales tend to be advertised weeks in advance, and on-sale items might go quickly. So consumers looking for deals around these holidays should do their homework in the weeks before the holiday and then be ready to pounce once sales begin. NerdWallet also notes the weeks after the popular technology conference CES, which is held each January, also might lead to more deals. New tech products are rolled out at CES each year, so consumers might



be able to find great deals on outgoing appliance models in the months after the popular trade show.

• **Furniture:** Consumer experts note two distinct times to buy furniture, and that depends on which type of furniture people are shopping for. NerdWallet notes deals on outdoor furniture typically can be found after Labor Day, which many view as the unofficial end to summer. As outdoor entertaining season ends, outdoor furniture retailers may be looking to unload their existing inventory to make room for new items that will be coming in the months ahead. American Home Shield® notes

that the end of winter is a good time to buy indoor furniture, but great deals also can be found around winter holidays like Presidents' Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Presidents' Day in January might be an especially good time to find deals on furniture, as retailers confronting a post-holiday season slowdown may be more motivated to offer deals than they will be as the calendar gets further and further away from December.

Big-ticket items are expensive, but savvy consumers may find good deals when shopping for various items during particular times of year.

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## Countdown to Christmas Dinner at Your House



**\* Five days before:** Plan the menu and the place settings, table decorations and center pieces.

Plan the system and decide whether guests will fill their dishes before going to the tables or whether you will have serving bowls on the tables, which is more work. Ask someone to say the meal prayer.

**\* Three days before:** Check your ingredients against the menu to make sure you have everything.

**\* One day before:** Make some foods in advance so you can just heat them. Peel potatoes and put them in cold water in the fridge. They will stay fresh if you want to make mashed potatoes. Make your pies and desserts. If you don't have a portable oven, borrow one for the day so you can bake or heat different foods at the same time.

**\* The night before:** Set the table. Have salt and pepper shakers in place and fill the butter dishes. Get someone to help with setting up another table if you need one, and bringing in the chairs.

**\* Christmas day:** Be ready to serve guests a beverage when they arrive. When someone asks how they can help, have them cut cakes and pies into servings. People won't cut an uncut pie to serve themselves.

**\* At dinner:** Ask guests to hold hands for the prayer, if it is your tradition.

**\* After dinner:** If the women have cooked, the men can clear the table after dinner.

### Across

1. Similar
5. Chap
8. Celebes ox
9. Opening time, maybe
10. \_\_\_ cheese
11. Cutlass, e.g.
12. From one side only
14. "C' \_\_\_ la vie!"
15. Narcotic
18. Kind of store
19. Enormous birds of myth
21. "Idylls of the King" character
22. "Beetle Bailey" dog
23. "Wanna \_\_\_?"
24. Hail Mary, e.g.

### Down

1. Ed.'s request
2. Sabotage
3. Cajole
4. Impeded
5. Gold-plated
6. Restrained stage performances
7. "Absolutely!"
9. A chemistry Nobel: 1946
13. Death on the Nile cause, perhaps

## Quick Pic

1	2	3	4		5	6	7
8					9		
10					11		
	12			13			
			14				
	15	16				17	
18					19		20
21					22		
23					24		

The headline is a clue to the word in the shaded diagonal.

16. Leave out
17. Bit
18. Center of a ball?
20. "Help!"

**Puzzle**  
**Answers on 22**



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# Toy Types to Avoid When Gifting Kids Under 5



The holiday season presents plenty of opportunities to spread cheer and bring joy into the lives of others. That's particularly true for parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles of young children. Few things are more enjoyable come the holiday season than watching a youngster's eyes light up upon receiving a sought-after gift. Well-meaning adults and even older kids anxious to give a younger sibling or cousin a coveted gift must remember to keep safety in mind when shopping for especially young children. Certain toys may pose a threat to children age five and under. As holiday shoppers begin to search for gifts for children in that age group, they might want to avoid the following types of toys.

• **Toys with lots of small pieces:** Toys with small, detachable pieces can be hazardous to kids age five and under because kids might intentional-

ly or mistakenly put the tiny pieces into their mouths, which increases their risk of choking. Legos are a wildly popular gift come the holiday season, but it's important that shoppers read the package and purchase a Lego set that's age-appropriate. According to a recent report from Consumer Product Safety Commission, 9 percent of toy-related injuries in kids age four and younger occurred while the children were playing with building sets. Though building sets provide a host of benefits, not the least of which is the fun children get from playing with them, it's imperative to purchase age-appropriate sets.

• **Toys with an electronic component:** Toys with electronic components can pose a number of dangers to children five and under. Such products can heat up, potentially causing burns. And wire coverings can fray over time and thus expose

children to electrical currents. When shopping for children five and younger, skip toys with an electrical component.

• **Motorized gifts:** Motorized gifts like scooters, cars and non-traditional bicycles also pose a threat to children five and younger. Motorized gifts may reach speeds that kids cannot safely manage, as youngsters' motor skills are not fully developed by age five.

• **Toys with sharp points:** Sharp points also pose a threat to children five and younger. Kids can easily suffer lacerations, eye injuries or other issues that pose a threat to their physical safety when playing

with toys with sharp points or edges. Toys with soft, rounded edges and no points are ideal for children age five and under.

• **Projectile toys:** Toys that shoot projectiles pose a danger to children and anyone who happens to be in the room with youngsters playing with such items. Eye injuries and bruises are two injuries that can occur when children five and under play with projectiles.

The chance to light up a child's eyes with the perfect gift is part of what makes the holiday season such a special time of year. But it's imperative that shoppers find age-appropriate toys for children.

## Daily Tasks to Keep Your Kitchen Clean

The kitchen may be the heart of a home, but health experts notes it's also the dirtiest room in the house. According to the National Sanitation Foundation, areas where food is stored and prepared



have more fecal contamination and bacteria than other places in a home, like the bathroom. The NSF found more than 75 percent of dish sponges and rags tested positive for salmonella, E. coli and fecal matter. This is a much higher percentage than bathroom faucet handles, 9 percent of which were found to contain these harmful microorganisms. Kitchens also are vulnerable to

additional pathogens. Since food is found in kitchens, there may be higher rates of insect and animal pests, which come with their own health dangers. Pest droppings can be a serious health hazard that contaminate food sources and spread airborne pathogens that can trigger asthma and allergic reactions. Pest waste also can lead

*Kitchen Clean continued on next page*

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### Kitchen Clean *continued*

to gastrointestinal upset. Kitchens require frequent cleaning. In fact, the following daily cleaning tasks can help keep people safe and healthy.

• **Wash dishes.** Hand wash all dishes or load them into the dishwasher promptly after use.

• **Clean away clutter.** Remove unnecessary ingredients, tools and other items that do not need to be on countertops, as such items may be vulnerable to contamination.

• **Address surfaces.** Use an all-purpose cleaner to clean countertops and the stovetop. Clean up spills as they happen. Look for cleaners that offer microbial protection, but warm, soapy water also works.

• **Clean frequent-use items.** Cutting boards, the coffee maker, the kitchen sink, and areas of the refrigerator that come in contact with uncooked and unwashed food require frequent, thorough cleaning.

• **Soak sponges.** Sponges can collect germs. Heating damp sponges in the microwave for a minute can kill bacteria, offers Healthline. Sponges also can be soaked in a quart of warm water with half a teaspoon of concentrated bleach. Others have said to run sponges through the dishwasher cycle to sanitize.

• **Wipe down handles.** Take time each day to wipe refrigerator handles, stove knobs, microwave handles, faucets, and light switches in the kitchen.

• **Replace towels.** Frequently switch out kitchen towels, and especially if they have come in contact with raw food. Use a separate towel for drying hands

than you do for drying dishes.

• **Clean the floor.** Vacuum the kitchen floor each day, particularly after dinner. Routine mopping also ensures floors remain clean.

Keeping on top of kitchen cleaning each day can keep these popular areas safe for all.



*Wishing all our readers a very joyful and peaceful holiday season.*

*May good health and love and laughter be yours in the New Year!*

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## Local HAPPENINGS

— CONTINUED —

The Nature Coast Botanical Gardens will hold their 18th annual Christmastime event on Saturday, December 6th. Children of all ages are invited to par-

ticipate in Holiday in the Gardens Elf Parade. Dress as your favorite elf and join Santa in a short parade around the Gardens at 11:00 a.m. Please call 352-600-7707 to register for the event and arrive at 10:50 a.m. for the line up.

America's Garden of Quilts,

West Pasco's Quilt show will be February 13th, 14th, and 15th, 2026 at NPR Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6630 Van Buren Street in New Port Richey. Over 400 quilts will be on display. Daily admission Donation of \$10. Multi-Day admission donation is \$15. Free trolley service from West Pasco Art Guild, West Pasco Historical Society and First United Methodist Church of NPR.

The Poinsettia planting at the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens will be held Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those wishing to bring Poinsettias in memory of loved ones may bring them to the Poinsettia Garden located inside the Botanical Gardens. Greeters will be present to direct you to the Garden. We are located at 1489 Parker Ave in Spring Hill. Visit our website at: [naturecoastgardens.com](http://naturecoastgardens.com).

Village of Pawsitivity is a non-profit animal rescue. We're celebrating Betty White Day by hosting a Flapjack Fundraiser, with a 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, and kitten adoption. Visit our website: [villageofpawsitivity.com](http://villageofpawsitivity.com) or our Facebook page: village of Pawsitivity to learn more about our mission. Cost \$12 for 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, and choice of beverage. Coffee, tea, juice or soft drink. Applebee's 10601 County Line Rd., Spring Hill. January 17th from 8 a.m. 10 a.m. Call Joy at 708-562-2089 to purchase tickets or have questions.

## Snowbird *continued*

Don't forget your current home. Snowbirds also need to arrange for the homes they live in most of the year to be looked after. If you plan to rent your primary home over the winter, that might come with hefty tax implications. If not, someone will need to look after the home while you're gone. Snow removal and security are two notable components of winter home care that will need to be arranged before you head for warmer locales.

The snowbird lifestyle is tailor-made for people who prefer year-round warm weather. But several variables merit consideration before adults can commit to the snowbird lifestyle.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

S	P	A	S	P	E	T	B	E	T
O	T	O	D	I	N	E			
S	R	O	C	E	I	M	E	D	I
A	H	I	A	M	O	R	P	M	O
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S	O	L	D	S	A	M	O	L	D
N	E	N	I	N	A	N	O	N	A
Y	G	U					H	S	U



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	<p>7 9:30a Tai Chi 10:00a Architectural/Deed Committee Meeting 10:30a Line Dancing 5:00p Chair Yoga</p>	<p>8 <i>Office Closed for Elections</i></p>	<p>9 1:00p Yarn Group</p>	<p>10 9:30a Tai Chi 5:00p Yoga</p>	<p>11 10:30a Knitters for Charity</p>	<p>12 13</p>
<p>14 </p>	<p>15 9:30a Tai Chi 10:00a Architectural/Deed Committee Meeting 10:30a Line Dancing 5:00p Chair Yoga</p>	<p>16 10:30a Tai Chi</p>	<p>17 No Yarn Group</p>	<p>18 9:30a Tai Chi 5:00p Yoga</p>	<p>19 10:30a Knitters for Charity</p>	<p>20 <i>Clubhouse Rented</i></p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30a Tai Chi 10:00a Architectural/Deed Committee Meeting 10:30a Line Dancing 5:00p Chair Yoga</p>	<p>23 No Tai Chi</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 10:30a Knitters for Charity</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30a Tai Chi 10:00a Architectural/Deed Committee Meeting 10:30a Line Dancing 5:00p Chair Yoga</p>	<p>30 No Tai Chi</p>	<p>31 <i>Office Closed for Christmas</i> </p>	<p></p>		

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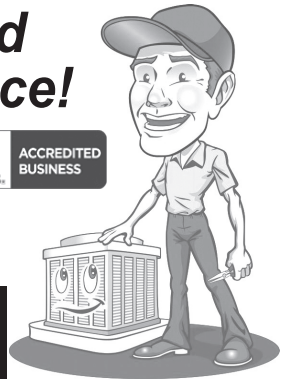
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