

**Congratulations
Graduates!**

See Pages 10 & 11 for more info



**Enjoy the OC 4th
of July Events!**

See Page 2
for more info.

**The CCA & CRD Boards
have openings.**

See Pages 2 & 3
for more info.

Notice of Board Meetings

Monday, July 10, 2017

CRD Executive Meeting: 6 p.m. • CRD Regular Meeting: 6:30 p.m. • CCA: No Meeting in July
Carrollwood Rec Center - 3515 McFarland Road
Residents welcome to attend.

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Carrollwood Recreation District
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www.originalcarrollwoodCRD.com

the
Caroler



by Jim Powell, CCA President



We had a very engaging meeting in our June session. We said goodbye to our departing Board members Kendra York and Tiffany Higgins. We really appreciate all your work over the years Kendra, you did an amazing job and we will be forever grateful! And, thank you Tiffany. We welcomed in two new Board members Mark Georgiades and John Perez. They will be great additions to our team. We still have one position on the Board open. If you're interested, please let us know. During our meeting

Jamie Sheer went through our financials and we continue to be in great shape. Our Standards Chairman, Josh Shaffer, was also busy in the meeting with several applications on projects that are going on in the neighborhood. Thank you Josh for your efforts! We discussed the upcoming July 4th parade, barbecue and water ski show. Please check out our article below for more information. This is a great event and we invite you all to join us! ~Jim



Come Out & Enjoy All the OC 4th of July Events!

PARADE: Starts at 10 a.m. Runs from Rec Center to White Sands Beach. Begin gathering in the parking lot of the Rec Center at 9:30 a.m.

SKI SHOW: Begins at 11 a.m. at White Sands Beach. Bring your beach chairs, blankets and sunscreen! Please do not open your umbrellas or put up your tents until after the ski show.

BBQ: Whaley's BBQ and hot dogs from Burger Monger will start serving at 10:45 a.m.

AWARDS: Judges will be along the parade route looking for spirited 4th of July families and individuals. We are judging for the "Most Patriotic Family" and 1st runner up. "Most Patriotic Adult," male and female, and 1st runner-up, and "Most Patriotic Kid," male and female, and 1st runner-up. Awards will be presented at the beach.

NO PETS
NO FIREWORKS
NO GLASS!

Questions: Contact Neil Norden at NeilNorden@originalcarrollwood.com or 904-742-8649 cell.

Service Hours: *Student volunteers are needed for everything from setting up, serving food, crowd control and cleanup. If you need Community Service hours, please come WITH your paperwork to White Sands Beach. Volunteers should show by 8:30 a.m. at White Sands Beach to help with set up. Neil Norden – CCA Social Co-Chair will sign paperwork.*



by Mark Snellgrove, CRD President

The CRD Board is pleased to announce the adoption of the 2017-2018 budget. The budget cycle begins October 1, 2017, and

runs through September 30, 2018. We look forward to seeing everyone at the July 4th parade and picnic.

**Carrollwood Recreation District
Approved Budget
October 2017 through September 2018**

AQAAAAK FAS

Income

GENERAL

605 · Rec Center Room Charges	22,500.00
610 · Interest	1,100.00
615 · Special Assessments	529,000.00
620 · Other	16,000.00
625 · Accumulated Funds	32,702.00
Total GENERAL	601,302.00

Total Income

601,302.00

Expense

PRESIDENT

820 · Contingency & Other President	5,000.00
825 · Gatekeeper Service	3,650.00
830 · Insurance - Bonds	157.00
835 · Insurance - Officer D&O	3,850.00
845 · Insurance - Property/Liability/Umbrella	34,200.00
850 · Insurance - Workers Comp	1,800.00
870 · Operating Supplies	5,700.00
900 · Professional Services	5,500.00
960 · Utilities - TECO	11,000.00
970 · Utilities - Water	7,500.00

Total PRESIDENT

78,357.00

TREASURER

805 · Accounting-Bookkeeper	4,500.00
810 · Accounting - Auditing	10,000.00
815 · Accounting - Bank Charges / Fees	75.00
875 · Board Fee - State	175.00
910 · Property Taxes - Non-Ad Valorem	325.00
920 · Rent/Leases - CCA	28,000.00
977 · Debt Service - Principal	161,000.00
979 · Debt Service - Interest	29,000.00

Total TREASURER

233,075.00

WHITE SANDS BEACH

855 · Lake Testing	1,000.00
924 · Repairs & Maint WS Beach	10,500.00
940 · Guard Service WS Beach	25,000.00
985 · Capital Improvements WS Beach	16,000.00

Total WHITE SANDS BEACH

52,500.00

SCOTTY COOPER PARK

925 · Repairs & Maint Scotty Cooper	12,000.00
986 · Capital Improvements Scotty	10,000.00

Total SCOTTY COOPER PARK

22,000.00

Original Carrollwood Park

926 · Repairs & Maint OCP	13,000.00
987 · Capital Improvements OCP	10,000.00

Total Original Carrollwood Park

23,000.00

TENNIS COURTS

927 · Repairs & Maint Tennis	3,500.00
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Total TENNIS COURTS

3,500.00

RECREATION CENTER

865 · Office Supplies Rec Center	2,000.00
885 · Payroll Taxes	2,800.00
890 · Pest Control Rec Center	350.00
895 · Postage	150.00
915 · Recreation Center Cleaning	2,600.00
928 · Repairs & Maint Rec Center	20,000.00
930 · Salary - Maintenance	19,000.00
935 · Salary - Office	14,500.00
941 · Security Monitoring Rec Center	2,000.00
950 · Telephone	2,700.00
965 · Utilities - Trash	1,770.00
988 · Capital Improvements Rec Ctr	3,000.00

Total RECREATION CENTER

70,870.00

GROUNDS

860 · Landscaping Monthly	61,000.00
929 · Repairs & Maint Grounds	25,000.00
955 · Tree Trimming	12,000.00
990 · Capital Improvements - Grounds	0.00

Total GROUNDS

98,000.00

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

989 · Capital Improvements	20,000.00
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Total COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

20,000.00

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$601,302.00

The CRD Board has an opening. If you are interested, please contact the Business Office or Mark Snellgrove for details. This position will be filled through the appointment process. The Board will likely discuss selecting someone at the July meeting.

What a *Perfect* Day

by Kendra York

What a perfect day for an Easter Egg Hunt. The weather was beautiful and the donuts and coffee were hot!

Our neighborhood enthusiasm for the Bonnet contest and Handsome Hare did not disappoint this year. Our judges had such a bunch to choose from. We had success in

finding the Golden Eggs.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and my neighbor, Stephan Georgis, for being my Easter Bunny this year! He was a tall one!

Have a great summer! 🌈



Ava Metcalf



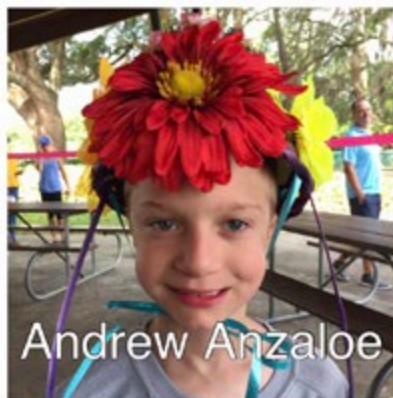
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3016 Sabal Road Jean Pelak



Thank you, thank you for recognizing me again, as a winner of "yard of the month." I have added so many plants and trees since I've moved here in 2010. This neighborhood is the best of what Tampa has to offer. All our amenities from our Lake Carroll, to the tennis courts, to the oak lined neighborhoods, make this area a prime place to live and enjoy life.

I learned my passion for landscaping from my mother, Margaret Pelak. She taught me about transplanting, prepping the ground, picking the right plants based on sun or shade, and, of course, enjoying the view of it... when it's done.

My dog, Morgan, a Basset Hound/ Labrador Retriever (Basador), loves walking the neighborhood with me. She's good for about a half mile every day. So, I drop her home after her walk, then continue on my way. I see the same familiar faces out walking or jogging every day. Life is Good. Morgan also is lucky to have a pool in the backyard that she enjoys swimming/ playing/fetching her frisbee in.

Now my yard. I've put in over 15 varieties of palm trees. Easily over 100 in the front and back yard. I also love the Trumpet Hibiscus plants... I have three beautiful colors (yellow, white and pink). The back yard has a Royal Poinciana tree, which has bright orange flowers from May thru August. Poinsettias don't have to be thrown away



after Christmas... you just need to plant them in the shade. What I enjoy most about my yard, is the variety of colors. The Crape Myrtles, Bird of Paradise, Clerodendrums, Crotons, Irises, Orchids, Red sisters, white hawthorns, just to name a few of my plants, all add to the variety of color to accent your home.

If you love plants and trees... it's NOT really work. The years of smiles from watching it grow into a colorful home.... is definitely worth it. 🗨️

NOMINATE A YARD!

- Address of nominated yard
- Reason for nomination
- Your name
- Your phone number
- Your email address

If possible, please include a photo of the yard with your nomination. Thank you!

Email your nomination to:
YardoftheMonth@OriginalCarrollwood.com.
Nominations can also be made at the Community Center, in person at Board Meetings or by visiting www.OriginalCarrollwood.com

YardoftheMonth@originalcarrollwood.com

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	JPowell@originalcarrollwood.com	
Vice President & Long-Range Planning	Mark Tempest	935.0540
	MarkTempest@originalcarrollwood.com	
Treasurer	Jamie Sheer	932.7825
	JamieSheer@originalcarrollwood.com	
Secretary	Amy Cariello	
	AmyCariello@originalcarrollwood.com	
Legal	Eric Pellenbarg	703.448.4121
	EricPellenbarg@originalcarrollwood.com	

COMMITTEES

Crime Watch	Mark Georgiades	
	georgiades@mindspring.com	
	Crimewatch@originalcarrollwood.com	
Newcomers	Jim Blanco	930.2420
	JimBlanco@originalcarrollwood.com	
Lake Carroll	Bryan Huls	930.0044
	BryanHuls@originalcarrollwood.com	
Social & Events	John Perez	
	jprailnyc@gmail.com	
	Neil Norden	904.742.8649
	NeilNorden@originalcarrollwood.com	
Standards Enforcement	Josh Shaffer	493.1244
	JoshShaffer@originalcarrollwood.com	
Construction & Dock Permitting	Jimbo Woodroffe	549.9425
	JimboWoodroffe@originalcarrollwood.com	
Member-at-Large	Bryan Yarborough	240.0006
	BryanYarborough@originalcarrollwood.com	

Carrollwood Recreation District BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Mark Snellgrove	265.2828
	MarkSnellgrove@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
Vice President/ Rec Center/Tennis Courts	Mickey Jaap	765.1161
	MickeyJaap@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
Treasurer	Ryan Maas	230.5038
	RyanMaas@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
Secretary	Joe Costa	932.4269
	JoeCosta@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	

COMMITTEES

Community Development	Jess Rasemont	813.817.4691
	JessRasemont@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
OC Park	Michael Carelli	784.4860
	MichaelCarelli@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
Grounds	Bill Lais	936.7673
	BillLais@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
Scotty Cooper Park	David O'Donnell	936.9737
	DavidODonnell@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	
White Sands Beach	Kevin Shidler	931.1662
	KevinShidler@originalcarrollwoodCRD.com	

Carrollwood Recreation Center

3515 McFarland Road; Tampa, FL 33618
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The Caroler

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Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Jeff Carson, Community Resource Deputy • 247.0330
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Jim Blanco, Newcomer Chairman
813.930.2420
jimblanco@originalcarrollwood.com

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Last name: _____

First name(s): _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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Names of children (optional): _____

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Thanks for your help.



the Caroler

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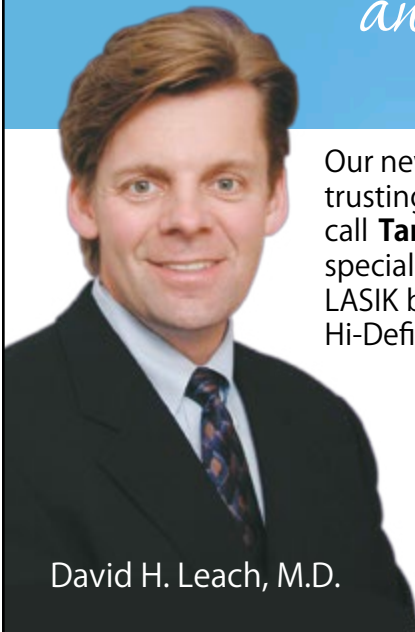
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Congratulations OC Graduates!

Christopher Carnes

Christopher graduated from Harvard University with a degree in Engineering Sciences and a minor in Economics. Chris plans to return home to pursue career opportunities after completing a semester of study abroad at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand.



Michael C. Guarino

With great pride and joy, Michael A. Guarino and Michelle Guarino, announce the graduation of their son, Michael C. Guarino, from Jesuit High School, Tampa, May 23, 2017. Michael worked and excelled at JHS where he received a stellar education that encompassed rigorous academics, as well as, formation as a young man; mind, body, and soul. Michael loves soccer and he is a world traveler. He is very active in his parish in Lutz where he is a peer mentor and frequent volunteer. Michael plans on attending USF, majoring in Pre-Med. Our hearts are filled with gratitude. May God continue to guide and protect our beloved son, and hold him in the palm of His hand.



Jake A. Coniglio



Jake graduated from Steinbrenner High School. Jake grew up in Original Carrollwood and attended Bowman Academy, Carrollwood Elementary, Learning Gate Community School. In his free time, Jake enjoyed playing baseball at Forest Hills Youth Baseball and soccer for the FC Tampa Lutz Rangers. Jake started wrestling at Steinbrenner

High School and made varsity as a Freshman qualifying for regionals. That led him to focus on wrestling through high school. Off the mat Jake volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Florida Aquarium while working at our Publix Supermarket for three years.

Jake recently accepted an Academic and Athletic Scholarship at Truett McConnell University in North Georgia mountain town of Cleveland, GA., where he will compete in the National Athletic Intercollegiate Association's (NAIA) Appalachian Athletic Conference.

Jake's family, friends and neighbors wish Jake well this fall.

Congratulations also to Emily Powell, Regan McCormick, Lilly Shaffer, Fitzhugh William Rawls, and Bridget Ann O'Carroll featured in last month's issue of *The Caroler*.

Graduates are featured every year in the June and July issues of The Caroler.

Lauren Leach



Lauren, daughter of Dr. David and Nancy Leach of Carrollwood Drive, is a graduate of Tampa Preparatory School. There, she was a member of the National Honor Society, on the Varsity Crew Team and Varsity Track & Field Team, Creative Writing Club, Thespian Troupe, National Art Honor Society and President of Common Ground. Lauren also has a talent for visual art and

has had her pieces on exhibit at the Tampa Museum of Art and at county-wide art shows. She has been active in the Lake Magdalene United Methodist Youth Group and enjoyed mission trips with them. With a lifelong love for animals, Lauren will be attending Furman University pursuing a degree in Biology. If you walk your dog in the neighborhood, chances are great that Lauren has stopped you to meet your pet! Her family is very proud of Lauren and all of her accomplishments!

Tom Mitchell

Tom graduated with a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C., on May 20, 2017.

He grew up in Carrollwood attending Carrollwood Elementary, B.T. Washington Magnet Middle School and Tampa Bay Technical High School. He received his undergraduate degree in political science at Furman University. After graduating from seminary he, his wife Jaci and their daughter will be returning to Florida where he will start his ministry.



Jordan Payne

Jordan graduated with honors from Tampa Preparatory School. He is the son of Dale and Angie Payne and has been a residents of OC since 2004. Jordan is the recipient of the Male Multi-Sport Athlete of the Year award for Cross Country, Soccer, and Track and Captain of the Cross Country team and played varsity for four years in the three sports. Jordan will be heading to Waynesburg University to run both Cross Country and track for three years then off to Penn State to finish up his Engineering degree in a 3/2 program.



Mitchell David Norden



Mitchell graduated from Berry College with a Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance. Growing up in Original Carrollwood, Mitchell attended Carrollwood Elementary and graduated from Tampa Catholic High School in 2013. He is the son of Neil and Shannon, sibling to Ryan and Ellie Norden, and the grandson of Chuck and Marianne Sincell. Mitchell attended Berry College to

play fullback on the inaugural Vikings football team. In addition to participating in the Berry Investment Group, he was an active participant in the Berry student work program where he received numerous promotions over his four years. Mitchell has also interned with Pepin Distributing for the past two summers.

Justin Alexander Ure



Justin is the son of Thomas and Caroline Ure and longtime resident of Samara Drive. Justin graduated Magna Cum Laude from Cambridge Christian School with honors. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Key Club member. While attending Cambridge Christian School, he was an active participant in men's choir and the men's

basketball team. During his time in middle school and high school, he was actively involved in all campus drama productions and was honored in his senior year to be named Stage Manager for the production "Oklahoma." Justin will be attending USF St. Petersburg campus in the fall majoring in Entrepreneurship.



Ryan Charles Norden

Ryan graduated with honors from Middleton Engineering Magnet. He is the son of Neil and Shannon Norden and the grandson of Chuck and Marianne Sincell. Ryan is an Eagle Scout, Electrathon Captain, earned the Electrathon Team Leader Award, Electrathon of Tampa winner, Electrathon Southeastern Florida runner-up, awarded the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze ROTC Medal, and lettered in Marksmanship. He also received the Presidential Education Award and is a member of the National Technical Honor Society.

He has been certified in NCCER Core Certification, PLTW Engineer Core Certification and OSHA 10.

Ryan will be attending Virginia Tech to study Mechanical Engineering





You're Invited! OC Bridge Club

Join us! The OC Bridge Club meets the second and fourth Friday. Game starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Rec Center. No charge to play, but RSVP is required. Call Michele Shahnasarian at 931-4356, or Dorothy Miller at 932-9819 to RSVP or to get more information.



OC REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE - 101 VENTING and OTHER SAFETY THOUGHTS

by
Wayne Wilson, Realtor and
OC Resident
43 Years

Do you have a fire pit lurking in your attic? Where is your clothes dryer venting? Lots of building practices that took place during the time that our Original Carrollwood homes were built would not stand up to code today. I would say that, generally, many construction practices were not considered to be detrimental and, thus, went on for long periods of time.



One of those was the practice of venting dryer airflow through the ceiling and into our attics. Recently, inspections in some of my pending homes in Original Carrollwood have revealed this practice. Lint is typically a highly flammable source and when these vents terminate inside the attic the lint piles up making for a risky situation.

You can easily check this out in your home and if your vent is not going outside of the house you need to get that fixed. The cost is usually nominal. But you have to make sure that the repairman THOROUGHLY cleans the attic area where the lint has settled.

Another item that could be very costly to you is the water heater. When our homes were built, builders were not concerned so much about the damage that a leaking water heater could cause. In my house, there was a slight lip down in the flooring where the water heater was installed so that if the water heater broke the water would, hopefully, flow in that small space to the back door and then outside. Water heaters in those days did not have planned short life expectancy like they do today. In fact, my first 40 gallon water heater lasted in my home for over 40 years. Life expectancy now can be as short as 10 years.

Code requires that a retention pan be located under the water heater with a drain to the exterior of the house. I have seen some with the pan but without a drain to the exterior of the home. That could be very costly to you. Consider having your water heater located in your garage if at all possible, especially if it is currently located where an exterior wall is not nearby, and with a drain pipe from the pan to the outside of the house.

A further hot button in our homes is the wire connected to the garbage

disposal. Originally these were installed and the wire connecting them was not protected. Because so much stuff is stored under our sinks and some of it even sharp objects, there is the risk of wearing the insulation down to the bare wires. A simple fix is to cover it with a protective cover found at Home Depot or Lowe's so as to prevent damage to that wire casing.

I mention these items because they keep popping up in the inspection reports that I get. Again, these are things to look out for whether or not you are selling your home. They are safety items that make sense!

OC Listings as of The Caroler deadline:

A=Active; P=Pending; S=Sold in the last 30 days

Status	Address	Htd Sq Ft	Price
A	11511 Areca Rd	2,250	\$335,000
A	10506 Carrollview Dr	3,427	\$524,900
A	3313 Korina Ln	1,783	\$299,900
A	10312 Lake Carroll Way	1,416	\$229,000
A	10713 Lake Carroll Way	1,650	\$265,000
A	11712 Lipsey Rd	3,624	\$630,000
A	3516 Nakora Dr	1,740	\$289,400
A	2811 Samara Dr	3,411	\$797,000
A	3316 Valencia Rd	1,464	\$260,000
P	10904 Bent Tree Pl	2,601	\$400,000
P	10903 Juniperus Pl	1,882	\$349,900
P	10915 Juniperus Pl	1,996	\$295,000
P	3306 Korina Ln	1,374	\$200,000
P	3305 Lacewood Rd	1,648	\$359,000
P	3304 Latania Dr	3,946	\$649,000
P	3309 McFarland Rd	2,366	\$385,000
P	10506 Orange Grove Ct	1,865	\$300,000
P	11412 Paldao Rd	2,050	\$340,000
P	3003 Sabal Rd	2,108	\$369,900
S	10615 Carrollwood Dr	2,252	\$462,000
S	11404 Lipsey Rd	2,264	\$360,000
S	10506 Lake Carroll Way	2,047	\$360,000
S	11404 Paldao Rd	1,780	\$315,000
S	3120 Samara Dr	1,411	\$263,500
S	3324 Valencia	1,632	\$209,000

(continued on Page 14)

neighbor neighbor

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Marketing Your Business with Library Resources

July 5 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Jimmie B. Keel Library, 2902 W. Bearrs Ave.

For more info, call 813-273-3652

Knitting @ Jimmie Keel

July 7, 14, 21 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Jimmie B. Keel Library, 2902 W. Bearrs Ave.

For more info, call 813-273-3652

Lipi the Juggler: Juggling Around the World

July 14 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Jimmie B. Keel Library, 2902 W. Bearrs Ave.

For more info, call 813-273-3652

Rumpelstiltskin: Bits N Pieces Puppet Theatre

July 28 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Jimmie B. Keel Library, 2902 W. Bearrs Ave.

For more info, call 813-273-3652

National Dance Day Celebration!

July 29 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Jimmie B. Keel Library, 2902 W. Bearrs Ave.

For more info, call 813-273-3652

Happy
Independence
Day!



Continued from Page 12

OC Running Club Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Meet in front of The Brass Tap, 10047 N. Dale Mabry. For more info call, KT Tershowski at (813) 503-1117

Exercise and Meet New People!

Join the Carrollwood Walking Program led by a certified instructor/ no cost / bring a friend! Call (813) 463-4221 for details.



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Residents! Help keep Lake Carroll clean and safe. Financial contributions are needed from everyone. Funds are used to offset expenses for vigorous water sampling and testing, and other lake maintenance and monitoring needs. Contributors are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in *The Caroler*.

Make funds payable to: Carrollwood Civic Association; 3515 McFarland Rd.; Tampa, FL 33618. Please include this form OR donate through

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Amount: _____

*Thank
You*
for your generous
Lake Donations!

- Sam and Nilla Leto
- Mike and Patty Harvey



Awesome Pasta Salad

16 oz. cooked and drained pasta of your choice (Gemelli works great!)

1 lb. fresh chopped broccoli florets (no stems)

½ lb. cooked and crumbled bacon

2 cups mayonnaise

½ cup diced red onion

½ cup red wine vinegar

½ cup sugar

2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. fresh ground pepper

Instructions:

Stir together sugar, red wine vinegar, mayo, salt and pepper. Combine pasta, broccoli, and mayo mixture. Stir well! Cover and chill in refrigerator for three hours or overnight to allow flavors to combine. Stir in bacon and sprinkle some on top to make look and taste extra delicious. Serve and enjoy!

This recipe was a huge success at the family gathering in June. Even my non-broccoli eating brother loved it!

Have a recipe or cooking tip to share? Please e-mail it to Caroler@roxc.graphics for publication in a future issue. Or, mail it to the editor, Roxanne Clapp, 26504 Whirlaway Terrace, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544



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Ice Cream Season

Match the numbered event with the lettered date of occurrence. Then go enjoy some ice cream (optional).

- 1) Creation of the Waffle Cone
- 2) Chocolate Ice Cream invented
- 3) First known ice cream recipe
- 4) First ever Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Ice Cream goes on sale
- 5) The Sundae was invented

- a) 1665
- b) 1692
- c) 1890s
- d) 1904
- e) 1991

Email your answer to the Editor at Caroler@roxc.graphics before July 10. All that reply will have their name, along with the solution, posted in the August issue of *The Caroler*!

Illustration: Michael Cassell | Dreamstime.com

Thank you for submitting answers to last month's puzzle!

Tom Shea

Nilla Leto

Edward J. Sarrin

Dianne Ferris

Roger Clapp Jr.

Doug Norton

Wayne Plaster

Kyle Mixon

Charlie Ross

Ashok Modh

Art Fuxan

Karen Riley

Source: puzzles-to-print.com

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S FATHER'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

What do you call a monkey who is just like his father?

A chimp off the old block!



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5 Budget-Friendly Things to Do This Summer

by Maria Larcomb, *Caroler Journalist*

Often we hope and wait all year for summer to arrive. However, when it finally does, we frequently are left with excess free time and no ideas as to how to spend it. Summertime offers the perfect chance to spend time with family and friends, relax, and spread kindness to others. So, if you are searching for inexpensive things to do with your family, friends, or self this summertime, consider these five options:

1 WATCH A FILM: A great and relaxing way to spend time with your family or friends—or both—during the summertime is to watch a movie together. Many movie theaters offer special screenings of free movies during the summer. These free films are played at multiple different theater locations around the Tampa Bay area and range from G to PG ratings. *The Secret Life of Pets*, *The Lego Batman Movie*, and *How to Train Your Dragon 2* are a few of the popular films being shown. While tickets to the theater are typically expensive, these free summer movies allow you and your family or friends to enjoy great films in a budget-friendly manner.

2 SUMMER-CLEANING: Although thorough cleaning—like spring-cleaning, but in this case, summer-cleaning if you missed completing it this spring—is not necessarily the most thrilling way to spend summertime, it provides great benefits and costs absolutely nothing! In fact, it can even earn you money. Cleaning your home can provide you with the chance to start over again in a new, cleaner environment. After you clear out any unwanted stuff, you can either sell or donate the items—giving them a chance to start over again as well.

3 VOLUNTEER: Similar to how donating your old stuff can help out other people, volunteering over the summer season provides you with the same chance. Food drives, soup kitchens, old folks' homes, and animal shelters all offer countless volunteer opportunities to partake in. You can volunteer by yourself, or you can even organize a group of

family members and friends to work alongside you.

4 GET OUTDOORS: Even though it can get incredibly hot in the afternoon, Florida provides countless opportunities to enjoy the sunshine and beauty of nature all day long. Whether you choose to spend the entire day at the beach, go to a rose garden to gaze at the flowering blossoms in the morning, or just simply take a stroll in your neighborhood in the evening, (take your camera and email a photo to appear in *The Caroler!*) you are guaranteed to get a glimpse at the beauty of nature for little to no cost!

5 DIY: While participating in activities with your loved ones and doing acts of service for others are great ways to spend the summer, it is also important to take some time for yourself; making summer-themed DIY crafts can help you do just that! Crafting provides you with a budget-friendly way to spend time relaxing and creating something new. A quick Google search can provide you with countless craft ideas that will allow your artistic side to flourish. While some craft stores sell their products at relatively high prices, be sure to check the clearance section for great bargains on marked-down craft supplies! 