

The Bay Laker

Issue 176

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Newsletter Article Deadline.....June 15th for the July issue.
- Saturday Morning Coffee.....9:00 a.m. Free coffee & donuts ended May 3rd and may resume
.....one day sooner than you think.
- Romeos breakfast.....June 9th and June 23rd at 8:45 a.m. (see the sign-up sheet)
- The Juliets.....will dine for lunch on Thursday, June 11th at 1:00 p.m. at Pelican Ally.
- The Juliets.....will be going to 1st Watch Cafe at 9:30 for breakfast on Tuesday, June 16th
- July 4th Lunch.....Saturday at 1:00 (free for residents)

FROM THE EDITOR

contributor – Michael M Kloian 912-547-2416

THE COOLEST CAVE IN THE WORLD

Son Doong Cave, located in Vietnam's Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, is the world's largest natural cave. Formed 2-5 million years ago, it features a massive jungle, a fast-flowing river, 80-meter stalagmites, and unique skylights (dolines). Tours are exclusively operated by Oxalis Adventure, strictly limited to 1,000 visitors annually, and require high physical fitness for the 4-day trek.



Key Features and Fun Facts

- **Immense Size:** It is over 9 km long (5.59 miles long), with passages reaching 200m in height and 150m in width—big enough to fit a Boeing 747 or a 40-story skyscraper.
- **Underground Jungle:** Collapsed ceilings (dolines) allow sunlight to enter, fostering a localized jungle ecosystem (named "Garden of Edam") inside the cave, complete with monkeys and flying foxes.
- **The Great Wall of Vietnam:** A 90-meter high calcite wall located near the end of the cave that must be scaled with safety ropes to exit.

- **Unique Geology:** The cave holds massive, 80-meter tall stalagmites and "cave pearls" the size of baseballs.



Visiting Son Doong Cave

- **Exclusivity:** Only one company, Oxalis Adventure, is permitted to run tours.

continued on page 3

HOA Officers & Directors

President Gaetane Carrier
613-799-0055
Vice President..... Robert (Scott) Nekrasz
SecretaryLinda Nifong
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Treasurer..... John Kreta
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Director-at-large.....Kenny Nifong
Director-at-large.....Deb Kreta
Director-at-large.....Carrie Strano

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- **Cost and Booking:** Tours cost around \$3,000 per person and typically book out 6–12 months in advance.
- **Timing:** The expedition season runs from January to August.
- **Physical Requirements:** The 4-day/3-night expedition is challenging, involving 25km of trekking, 8km of caving, and steep climbs, requiring good physical fitness.
- **Experience:** The tour includes "glamping" with tents inside the cave, professional safety teams, and equipment.

Discovery

Local man Ho Khanh discovered the entrance in 1990, but it was officially explored and introduced to the world in 2009 by the British Cave Research Association.



Origin of the name Son Doong

Traditionally, those who found the cave will name it. Therefore, Ho Khanh and the expert team discussed and decided to call the cave Son Doong (a combination of 2 words: Son means mountain, Doong is the name of the valley where the ethnic minority Bru Van Kieu lives, and the Thuong river coming from, or also means the cave in the limestone mountain with an underground river flowing through).

Unique features of Son Doong Cave

The Son Doong Cave has a total length of nearly 9 km long and the volume is up to 38.5 million cubic meters, which makes this cave the largest natural cave on the planet. With this volume, Hang Son Doong is 5 times larger than Deer cave in Malaysia, which was said to be the largest natural cave (before Son Doong was discovered) with 9.5 million cubic meters of volume. However, what makes Son Doong special, recognized and well-known by the world is the unique hidden underground world inside the cave itself. It has many complex and giant stalactites (over 80m high), primaeval rain

forests growing inside the cave, its own ecosystem, weather or a mysterious underground river that no explorer has yet discovered to the end of it. Many visitors admitted that the Son Doong Cave is like another world. Ginger Zee from ABC News's - Good Morning America exclaimed that the sceneries in Son Doong were like those in the Avatar movie.

This amazing cave also houses an impressive ecosystem, inside the largest cave passage in the world. This huge and intricate cave system was created by the underground river, and filled with formations from the water that percolated down from a rainforest above. More of the highlights only found in this cave are:

Discovery and exploration

The journey to find Son Doong in Vietnam - the largest natural cave in the world started in 1994, when the expedition team had explored Hang En and Hang Thung, and realized there must be a cave in between. At that time, they had no idea what the cave would be like. Mr. Hồ Khanh is a local man, born and raised in Phong Nha Commune, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. Since he was a teenager, Ho Khanh was a lumberjack, spending weeks in the jungle logging and poaching for very little income. In 1990, on a trip to the woods, while looking for agarwood (a very expensive plant), he encountered a thunderstorm and had to find a shelter, finding a small cave entrance below a cliff. As he approached, Ho Khanh saw mist blowing out and heard the sounds of a roaring river inside.

When he felt the strong cold wind blowing out, he decided to return without any further inspection. As time passed, he thought that cave was similar to many others found on his jungle trips, so he did not bother to remember the exact location.



In 2007, Mr Howard Limbert and Ms Deb Limbert – leading the members of The British Vietnam Cave Expedition Team came to Phong Nha and did some

research and surveys of caves in the area. Based on the analysis of limestone topography, river systems and fault-lines., Howard predicted that there was a very large cave after the exit of Hang En but he did not know the exact location of the cave. In a talk with Howard, Mr Ho Khanh coincidentally mentioned the cave entrance that he accidentally saw with strong winds, dense fog and the loud sound of a roaring river echoing coming from the cave. Howard and Deb were very excited and urged Ho Khanh to try to remember the location and the way to where this cave is located.

Admiring the enthusiasm of Mr. Howard and his team members, Ho Khanh diligently searched for the mysterious cave many years later. Supposed to be forgotten, in 2008, on another trip to the woods, Ho Khanh was lucky to find the location of the cave entrance. He carefully memorized the location and mapped the route to get to the cave entrance in his mind by orienting the mountains and trees. When he returned, he then tried to find a way to contact the expedition team.



On April 07, 2009, Howard Limbert led a caving expert team in collaboration with the Geography Department of Hanoi University of Science to survey the cave. The first person stepping inside Son Doong was Peter MacNab, a member of The British Vietnam Cave Expedition Team. This was also the first time Ho Khanh went inside the cave. During this expedition, they determined that this is the world's biggest cave, in Vietnam with its own ecosystem. Ho Khanh and the cave expert team discussed and decided to call the cave Son Doong (a combination of 2 words: Son means mountain, Doong is the name of the valley where the Bru-Van Kieu ethnic minority people have lived since 1992 and it is where Thuong River comes from). Since then, Son Doong Cave has become known around the world and has become a famous cave in Vietnam.

***Please note:** ALL articles and submissions may be edited or censored for remarks or comments that residents may find offensive. We strive towards creating a newsletter that represents our compassionate, loving community that is all inclusive to all current and future residents. If by chance you read something in one of our newsletters that you find offensive, please don't hesitate to contact me, the editor, to discuss any concerns for future newsletters.*

ON-GOING EVENTS...

- Monday:** Cornhole (6:00 p.m.) clubhouse
- Tuesdays:** Cards -Texas Hold-em for BLE residents only 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays:** Golf in Venice (7:15 on Wed. when in season)
- Thursdays:** Cornhole – (3:00 p.m. clubhouse) Shuffleboard (6:00 p.m.)
- Fridays:** Golf in Venice - 6:30 Mahjong 1:00 p.m. Cards (dealer's choice) 6:30 p.m. Euchre 6:00 p.m.
- Saturdays:** Coffee & donuts at 9:00 a.m. Game Night 7:00 p.m.
- Sundays:** Domino's every week at 6:30 at the clubhouse-no sign up sheet.

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Using her skills, education during her attendance at Law School, and current job experience Beverly can help with numerous things and develop a host of legal documents at an affordable rate including various Trusts, Wills, POA's and many other important docs you may need. www.legaldocswithbev.com

Want your business or service listed monthly in The Bay Laker? Send your name, phone number, and a short description of your service/product to Editor@BayLakeEstates.org

JULY 4TH LUNCH

Michael Kloian & Debbie Kreta, host and hostess



250 YEAR ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

While we celebrate our freedom in this great country of ours let us enjoy the fruits of our labor, or I should say our forefathers fruits. There is a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse as of 06/01 which will disappear around June 26-27th. The menu will be BBQ ribs from either Gold Rush or Darrell's BBQ – Venice. Cole slaw or potato salad and a special blend of baked beans. Beverages and desserts will also be available. A correct head count is critical in order to place the order ahead of the 4th for the ribs for everyone to enjoy.

You won't want to miss this well planned free-for-resident's lunch. Guests pay \$10.00.

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**NEW PHONE BOOK
DIRECTORIES ARE READY**

You can pick one up at the office during office hours.



2027 RUMMAGE SALE

At the **March 3, 2026 HOA meeting**, the following members were appointed as **Co-Chairs for the 2027 Rummage Sale**:

1. Deb Kreta
2. Scott Nekrasz
3. Robin Izbicki (Plant Sale)

The rummage sale is always a wonderful community event, but it also requires a great deal of planning, organization, and help from volunteers to make it successful. As we hope to reclaim our storage shed in the coming months, preparations will be getting underway.

If you would like to be part of this fun community effort, **we would love your help!** Please feel free to provide your name to any of the co-chairs if you're interested in volunteering.

Let's come together as a community to make this event a wonderful success!

SCAM WARNING

contributor Steve Rollison (614)327-3792

Future Columns

My intention is to make Scam Warning a regular column in The Bay Laker. But different than this month's column which could be classified as "general scam education." Future columns will be shorter and focus on "actionable steps to prevent being scammed."

Planned Outline for Future Columns.

Different how? The focus will be on actionable preparations, rather than general scam-avoidance advice like you see above.

- The newest scam that has ripped off seniors
- How the scam works
- What the scammer will say to you
- The first thing you must do to avoid the scam
- Further steps to avoid being victimized
- Scammers are very skilled and devious. What to do if despite your best efforts you are scammed anyway.

BAY LAKE BOOK GROUP

by Karen Limkemann -

We would like to have more people come to our Reading Book Group. I know there are more readers out there. I see you reading books at the pool.

Joining a book club, turns a solitary hobby into a shared experience, offering discussion, debate, and intellectual and personal growth.

One of the great things about belonging to a book club is that you discover new genres, authors and challenging books that you wouldn't normally pick up.

You gain new perspectives and understand books and themes more deeply through varied interpretations and experiences from others.

Analyzing plots, characters and themes boost critical thinking. Keeping your brain active and engaging with complex ideas and stories sharpen your mind.



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A LITTLE HUMOR

There is also the socialization and meeting new people and making new friends when you join a book club.

We have been meeting on Wednesdays in the library at 1:00. But, to encourage more readers to come we are changing our time to 7:00 PM. Bring your own beverage, and dessert will be provided.

In March and April we start thinking about books that we would like to read and discuss for next season. If you have read a book that you think others would enjoy we would love to hear from you.

The book that we are reading this month is:

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston

It is about a kind lonely elderly man who is facing eviction. He is mistaken for a missing resident at a nursing home. It is a hilarious, feel-good novel about forgiveness, redemption and second chances.

Super fun book!

This is Anna Johnston's first book.

She refers to herself as a former baby, aspiring octogenarian, and debut Australian author with a love for the heartfelt and hilarious. She grew up in country Victoria before moving to Melbourne, by the beach, where she lives with her husband, two daughters, and elderly Italian Greyhound.

PLANT SALE?

Bay Lake Community. So, as Plant Sale Chairman, I would like to ask our residents to keep us in mind if you have no longer needed empty pots, unwanted plants, etc. Although the future plant sale is a year away, hopefully it will be paired with the Rummage Sale. You can call me at 860 608 3271 with Questions ROBIN IZBICKI 169 Oleander St.



You know you are too old when you have to scroll to your year of birth....



YOUR DAILY BREAD

contributor yung pueblo (Author)

essentials to remember on tough days:

- practice patience
- accept what you feel
- do not punish yourself
- make sure you get good rest
- give yourself ample kindness
- accomplish smaller goals that day
- do things that will calm your mind
- a bad moment does not equal a bad life
- struggle can be a space for deep growth
- this current discomfort is not permanent



June

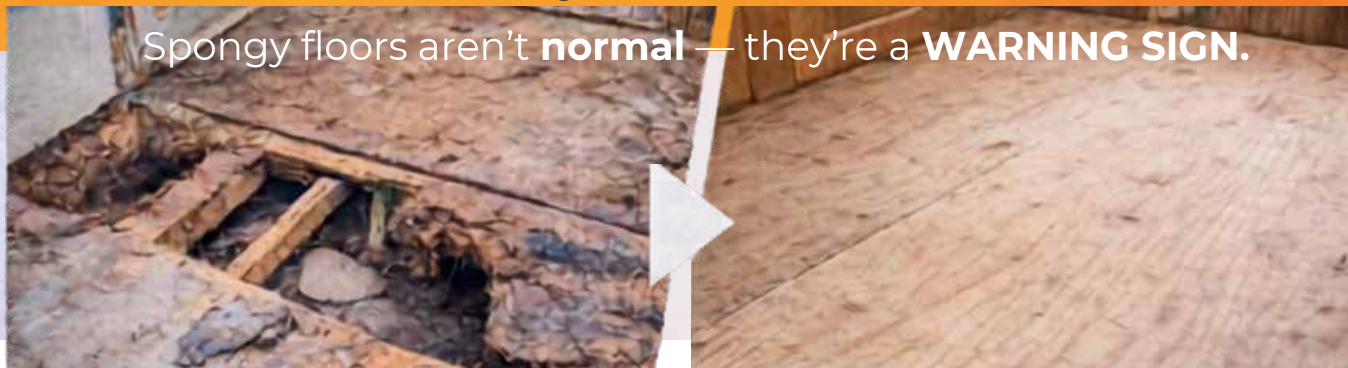
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- Soft or "spongy" when walking
- Sagging or dipping areas
- Squeaking or shifting
- Weak spots near bathrooms or kitchens
- Flooring separating or bubbling
- Musty smells coming from floor
- Floors can eventually collapse

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RECIPE OF MONTH

courtesy of Michael M Kloian

PAN SEARED TILAPIA

Purchase **wild caught** Tilapia from any fresh seafood market source. Pat the filets dry with a paper towel. In a bowl mix a little paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper, & a pinch or two of cayenne pepper. Using a spoon, or your fingers, sprinkle the seasoning on both sides of the fish and pat it down with your fingertips. Using either a plate or a bowl dredge the filets in flour and shake off any excess flour.

In a frying pan pour a little veggie oil or olive oil on medium low heat. Once the oil is hot enough place filets in the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side. When done place the cooked filets on a paper towel. Have on hand several lemon wedges to squeeze over the filets before eating, if desired. The flavor is such that you may not need tartar sauce, but that is always optional when eating fish.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NEWS

Please send us your request in order for us to send messages of condolence or to acknowledge an illnesses of friends/neighbors in Bay Lake. We will send out cards. Please email or call Debbie Kreta 513-237-0028 the kretas@gmail.com or Marian Brooks 519-710-2929 mbrooks 654@gmail.com



JULIETS LUNCH

Helen Baker 309-830-8449

The Juliets will dine for lunch on Thursday, June 11th at 1:00 p.m. at Pelican Alley.

Please use the sign-up sheet at the clubhouse.

JULIETS BREAKFAST

Judy Gerarge 847-401-0115

The Juliets will be going to 1st Watch Cafe at 9:30 for breakfast on June 16th.

Please use the sign-up sheet at the clubhouse.

THE ROMEOS

Tim Swain 317-258-3400



The Romeos (the men of BLE) meet for breakfast usually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. They leave the park at 8:45. PLEASE check the sign-up sheet in the clubhouse for the location and more details and to be certain breakfast is still scheduled.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN BAY LAKE ESTATES? STAY CURRENT

contributor Steve Rollison 941-375-8110

YOUR MOST VALUABLE ACCOUNT – EVENT ALERTS

What exactly are the Event Alerts, you ask?

They are short e-mail “blasts” sent out whenever there are news items, announcements, events or activities you’d want to know about. The Bay Laker Newsletter is great, but like any printed information, it’s pretty much out of date by the time you pick it up.

Alerts are the best way to stay on top of things at Bay Lake.

If you’re not already a subscriber, becoming one couldn’t be any easier. Just send Steve a request at: EventAlerts@SteveRollison.com

A brief “Please subscribe me,” along with your name, is all you need to send.

New residents are encouraged to subscribe so as to keep up with any last minute changes or events.

NEWSLETTERS

As you may have noticed with the May issue it was not delivered to your mailbox. Please pick up your copy at the clubhouse around the 1st of each month. You can always access past newsletters online at www.BayLakeEstates.org.

HOA MEMBERSHIPS

HOA memberships are on sale for 2026. All homeowners may purchase a membership for \$10.00 for the entire year. This is a fiscal thing, January – December.

Please note, when voting for the election of directors **only one member of the HOA per household** are allowed to vote, per #723 of the Florida Statute. Annual renters and occupants may purchase an Associate membership for \$10.00 a year as well. All members may vote on HOA issues and expenditures and attend HOA meetings. HOA memberships are important to receive discounts or to join special events, like the Welcome Back Breakfast, Ice Cream Social, Valentine’s Day dinner and dance, Halloween Party and more.

Memberships will be sold at Saturday morning coffee and at association meetings, or by calling John Kreta at 513-886-4201.

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

— Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own



WHERE TO DINE – WHAT TO ORDER

contributor – Michael M Kloian

In last month’s newsletter I featured Tuscany-Nokomis Italian Restaurant, formally Mama Leone’s, and the owner/chef, Jimmy, including his accolades he is best known for, though at that time I hadn’t eaten there until later in April when my brother and his wife flew in from CAL to visit me for the first time in Florida.

They ordered pizza and said it was some of the best pizza they ever had. I ordered the crispy roasted duckling served with orange sauce, which I found to be very delicious. On Tuesday pizza is half price (dine in only) and karaoke starts at 6:30 only on Tuesday’s. Their 200 seating capacity ballroom hosts dinner shows, live music (see photos) and line dancing lessons so check their calendar of events on-line each week or each month and prepare yourself for a real dining treat along with live entertainment.

The 2 photos reflect several events that took place in May. Help support this great venue sitting close to our community.

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

by Steve Limkemann (734) 419-9142

May Birthdays

- 6 Thom Danakas
- 9 Derk Bonin
- 9 Barbara Ludwig
- 9 Lorraine Slifer
- 9 Richard Slifer
- 12 Jeff Izbicki
- 13 Valerie Hopkins
- 13 David Smith
- 15 Deserie Marshall
- 16 Suzanne Jones
- 17 Greg Mizeur
- 21 Barb Hickey
- 24 Michele Van Dien
- 28 Fran Jones
- 30 Brad Bixbee
- 30 Karin Hoydilla



JUNE Anniversaries

- 5 Christine & Mat Madore
- 6 Boyd & Sharon Brewer
- 9 Bill & Diane Adamson
- 11 Laura & Stephen Medich
- 16 Deborah & John Kreta

HAPPY
Anniversary!

We may not have everyone's birthday and/or anniversary month and day. If you had a birthday and/or anniversary this month and we missed it, or listed it incorrectly, please send a correction to stevelim@wwnet.com. That's also the e-mail address to use to send your info if you are a new resident or have a phone.

Best of Venice 2025



From the Other Room

Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

A couple months back Karen wrote an article about one of our long time clients and his experience with women's voices. Apparently she struck a nerve with a lot of our families. We had quite a few calls about people struggling to hear women's voices clearly.

One gentleman came into our office in response to the article, and yes, I am withholding his name to protect him. He came in and said he is doing well with his hearing aids but has trouble hearing his wife. I asked him some questions, where is she when you don't hear her, what are you doing, how does she get your attention.

His answers caused Karen to burst out laughing. I am sharing this just in case you recognize someone you love in this story.

He couldn't hear her when she yelled from the bedroom while he was in the living room. Yeah, the door was closed.

She would be in the bedroom since he played the TV so loud it hurt her ears. She didn't want to move to a villa for fear of offending the neighbor with a booming TV.

We addressed both issues. First, we installed a TV system so the sound was streamed to him. Now the sound was not coming from the TV so she could be in the room with him. Second, we programmed his aids to have a priority for her voice, since she was willing to come in and talk to him while I was adjusting the program settings.

If you are struggling to hear women's voices clearly or your spouse must leave the room when you watch TV, call me and let us fix this for you.



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BOOK GROUP

2026 -2027

The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the library at 7:00 pm

Contact person: Karen Limkemann 734 890 9229

Date	Title & Author	Leader
November 18 (3rd week)	This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay pub: 2022	Susan Rollison
December 16	The Most Fun We Ever Had by Claire Lombards pub: 2019	Carrie Stranto
January 13	When We Believed in Mermaids by Barbara O’Neal pub: 2019	Diane Adamson
February 17	Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Felt pub: 2023	Raylene Baylis
March 24	Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen pub:1813	Karen Limkemann
April 14	The Housemaid by Freida McFadden pub: 2022	Marian Brook

BAY LAKE ESTATES BOOK CLUB 2026

Contact person: Karen Limkemann 734-890-9229

For the June Calendar on the final page kindly use ALL Dates to Remember and On-Going Events. Thank you! Also, please include GOLF on Wednesdays at 7:15 and Friday’s at 6:30 a.m. Also add Cornhole Mondays 6:00 and Thursdays 3:00. And Bridge as indicated.

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JUNE 2026

JUNE
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Cornhole (6:00 p.m.) clubhouse	2 Cards -Texas Hold-em for <u>BLE</u> residents only 6:30 p.m.	3 Golf in Venice (7:15 on Wed. when in season)	4 Cornhole - (3:00 p.m. clubhouse); Shuffleboard (6:00 p.m.)	5 Golf in Venice - 6:30 Mahjong 1:00 p.m. Cards (dealer's choice) 6:30 p.m. Euchre 6:00 p.m.	6 Game Night 7:00 p.m.
7 Domino's every week at 6:30 at the clubhouse- no sign up sheet.	8 Cornhole (6:00 p.m.) clubhouse	9 Romeos breakfast 8:45 a.m. (see the sign-up sheet) Cards -Texas Hold-em for <u>BLE</u> residents only 6:30 p.m.	10 Golf in Venice (7:15 on Wed. when in season)	11 The Juliets 1:00 p.m. at Pelican Ally Cornhole - (3:00 p.m. clubhouse); Shuffleboard (6:00 p.m.)	12 Golf in Venice - 6:30 Mahjong 1:00 p.m. Cards (dealer's choice) 6:30 p.m. Euchre 6:00 p.m.	13 Game Night 7:00 p.m.
14 Domino's every week at 6:30 at the clubhouse- no sign up sheet.	15 Newsletter Article Deadline Cornhole (6:00 p.m.) clubhouse	16 The Juliets 1st Watch Cafe at 9:30 Cards - Texas Hold-em for <u>BLE</u> residents only 6:30 p.m.	17 Golf in Venice (7:15 on Wed. when in season)	18 Cornhole - (3:00 p.m. clubhouse); Shuffleboard (6:00 p.m.)	19 Golf in Venice - 6:30 Mahjong 1:00 p.m. Cards (dealer's choice) 6:30 p.m. Euchre 6:00 p.m.	20 Game Night 7:00 p.m.
21 Domino's every week at 6:30 at the clubhouse- no sign up sheet.	22 Cornhole (6:00 p.m.) clubhouse	23 Romeos breakfast 8:45 a.m. (see the sign-up sheet) Cards -Texas Hold-em for <u>BLE</u> residents only 6:30 p.m.	24 Golf in Venice (7:15 on Wed. when in season)	25 Cornhole - (3:00 p.m. clubhouse); Shuffleboard (6:00 p.m.)	26 Golf in Venice - 6:30 Mahjong 1:00 p.m. Cards (dealer's choice) 6:30 p.m. Euchre 6:00 p.m.	27 Game Night 7:00 p.m.
28 Domino's every week at 6:30 at the clubhouse- no sign up sheet.	29 Cornhole (6:00 p.m.) clubhouse	30 Cards -Texas Hold-em for <u>BLE</u> residents only 6:30 p.m.				

First Day of Summer
 Father's Day

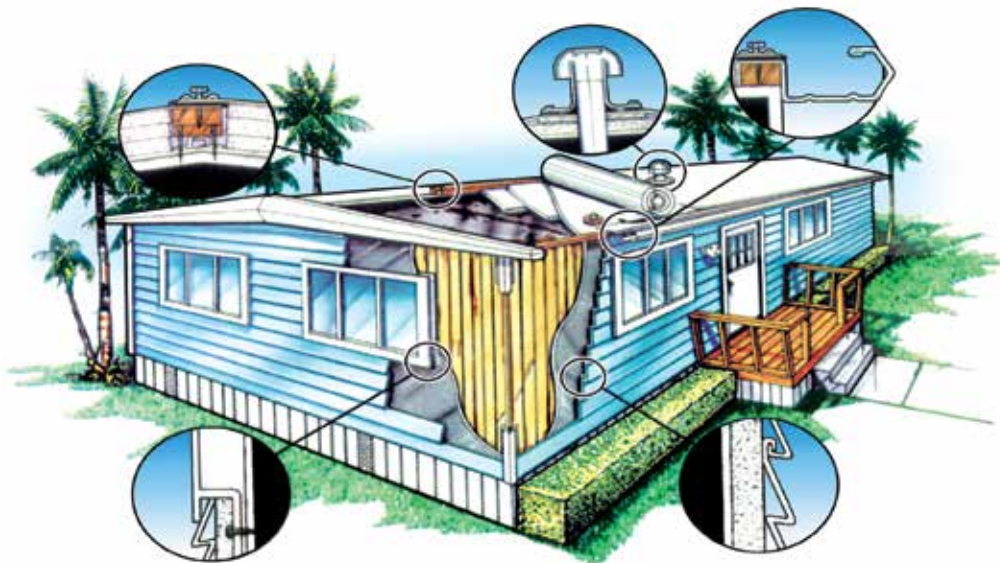


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