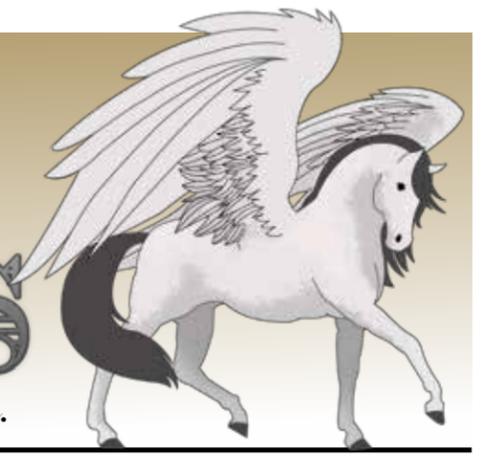




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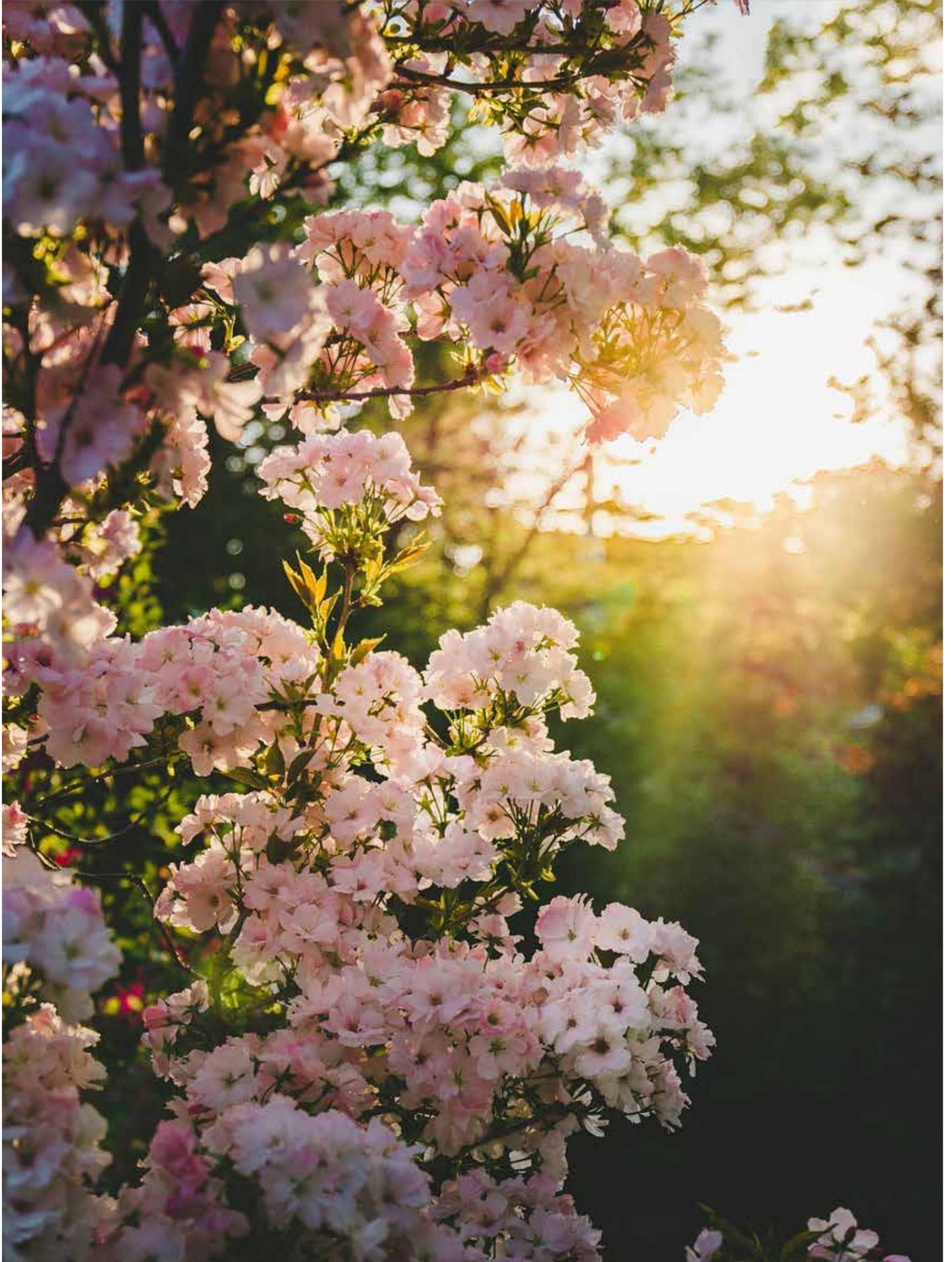
*The Official Publication of the Four Seasons at Manalapan Homeowners Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

[www.fourseasonsatmanalapan.com](http://www.fourseasonsatmanalapan.com)

APRIL 2024





# MANAGEMENT NEWS



Dear Residents,

Spring is finally here! Here are a few updates and reminders that we hope you find helpful. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Management Office at any time – we are here to help!

**Spring Clean Up ~ American Lawn and Sprinkler (ALS)**

ALS has begun working their way around the community performing spring cleanup. As a reminder, if you need something addressed in the common area, you are required to submit a work order to the Management Office, and we will see that it is completed. Please do not report anything directly to the landscaper, as they are not permitted to take direction from anyone other than their supervisor and/or Management. You may submit a work order by sending us an email, completing an online e-form Work Order Request via the community website, or completing a hard copy of the Work Order Request Form.

**Spring Clean-Up By Residents**

We are beginning to experience nicer weather. If weather permits, please be sure to remove your snow stakes and any old faded ribbons displayed on your mailbox. Many of you still have a mailbox cover for a holiday that has passed, etc. Let’s get spruced up and ready for spring!

**Mulching of Street Trees Not Permitted**

Please be reminded that you are *NOT* permitted to install mulch around the street tree in front of or adjacent to your home. This tree is maintained and mulched by the Association. In the past, we have seen residents installing their own mulch in this area. Please refrain from mulching this tree and/or decorating it or pruning it, as it is not permitted according to the rules and regulations of the Association. If you feel the tree is in need of attention, please contact the Management Office and we will assist you.

**Outdoor Amenities**

The outdoor pool is scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. The pool will have normal operation, and residents will check in with the badge checker by presenting their ID and any guest passes for those with them. Additional details will follow via eblast when we get closer to Memorial Day weekend. Chairs will be provided to the residents. Guests will be permitted for the 2024 season but will need to bring a chair on weekends and holidays in order to be permitted entry. Passes will be available for sale from the Clubhouse Committee at a price to be decided. Details on obtaining passes will be sent out via eblast to the community. The outdoor pool will be open from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. daily following its first open date.

As a reminder, the Tennis Courts, Bocce Courts, and Pickleball Courts will open for play on April 1, 2024. Shuffleboard is temporarily unavailable at this time. A reservation is available for play in all areas. Having a reservation ensures that the time will be available. Those without reservations may make use when the courts are otherwise not reserved but must give primacy to those with reservations. Please keep in mind that once the Pickleball project is approved, the courts will then be closed until the project is completed. We will send out an email blast in advance of the closure to inform all residents.

Should you have any questions about the community or anything listed above, please feel free to contact the Management Office at 732-786-1725. The Management Office hours are Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

*Sincerely,*

*Tara Lesnick, CMCA - Community Manager  
 Jaime Moritz, Assistant Community Manager  
 Susan Schovanec, Lifestyle Director  
 Kimberlee Roberson, CMCA - FSM Supervisor  
 On Behalf of the Board of Trustees*



## We want to reach you ...

We want to make sure all of our residents who want to receive activity eblasts are receiving them. These emails include information relative to trips, entertainment, clubs, committees, etc. If you feel you are not receiving the many eblasts that we send out, please contact the Lifestyle Director Susan Schovanec.



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**Monroe**

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 420 Forsgate Drive

**Wednesday, April 10th**

10:00am | 2:00pm | 7:00pm

**Freehold**

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**Thursday, April 11th**

10:00am | 2:00pm | 7:00pm

You may register by calling our office at (732) 238-6000 or online at [www.levinefurman.com/seminars](http://www.levinefurman.com/seminars).

Most attendees choose to make an appointment at the end of the presentation, so please bring your calendar with you.



# PEGASUS PRESS STAFF

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 Monthly Columnists..... JoAnn Abraham, Goldie Golden,  
 Jacquelyn Kirczow-Smith,  
 Steve Resnick, Mark Tabakman, Debbie Weissman  
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 Barbara Sugarman (Co-Editors),  
 Carol Krimko and Bunny Libenson (Co-Editors),  
 Rich Leimsider,  
 Jill Drummond and Ginny Jennings (Co-Editors).

## Community Services

*Community Property Manager* Tara Lesnick  
 tlesnick@taylormgt.com  
 44 Palomino Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726  
 Fax - 732-786-1728

*Assistant Property Manager* Jaime Moritz 732-786-1725  
 jmoritz@taylormgt.com

*Lifestyle Director* Susan Schovanec 732-786-1727  
 susans@taylormgt.com  
 44 Palomino Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726-9566

*Gatehouse* 732-446-6478  
*KHOV Homeowner Services/Warranty Dept.* 877-832-6231

## Important Phone Numbers

*Emergency phone numbers during non-business hours (5 P.M. - 8 A.M.)\**

Four Seasons Common Area Emergency Hotline ..... 888-992-9288  
 Plumbing Emergency ..... F & W Mechanical ..... 732-286-4747  
 HVAC Emergency..... Kool Vent..... 732-905-3756  
 Electric Emergency ..... Mac Electrical Contractors ..... 732-684-1129  
 732-522-7088

*\*In the event that you experience an emergency after normal business hours, please inform your Homeowner Service Coordinator on the next business day.*

*Emergency phone numbers during normal business hours (8 A.M. - 5 P.M.)*

Fire & Rescue..... Manalapan Fire Dept.....Emergency 911  
 732-462-1112

Police.....911  
 732-446-4300

Electric Company..... JCP&L ..... 800-662-3115  
 JCP&L: .....1-888-LIGHTS (1-888-544-4877)

Gas Company..... NJ Natural Gas Co..... 800-221-0051

Telephone Company..... Verizon ..... 800-675-9966

Sewer..... Western Monmouth Utility Authority  
 732-446-9300

Garbage..... Manalapan Twp..... 732-446-8404

Irrigation..... Management Office..... 732-786-1725

Water..... Suez Water ..... 888-770-6030

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Centerfold created by The Pegasus Press Staff**

All irrigation questions and work orders should be reported to the Management Office, in writing. American Lawn and Sprinkler is no longer accepting work orders directly from homeowners. The Management Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Irrigation emergencies that occur when the office is closed should be reported to the Taylor Management Emergency Hotline at 888-992-9288. Examples of irrigation emergencies are: Water is flooding in an area or roadway or the irrigation system won't shut off. All other problems or concerns should be reported to the Management Office during normal business hours.

## Statement of Editorial Principles

*Pegasus Editorial Staff*

The goal of the *Pegasus Press*, the official publication of the Four Seasons at Manalapan community, is threefold:

- To provide information to residents of FS@M from the Board of Trustees, its committees and clubs, the property management company, and the township
- To inform the residents of FS@M as to social, cultural, and educational events in the community and surrounding area
- To establish a means of communication within FS@M that fosters community spirit and goodwill among residents

All articles and opinions expressed in the *Pegasus Press* represent the viewpoint of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the FS@M community or its editors. We assume no responsibility for the contents or the accuracy of the same.

*Pegasus Press* reserves the right to reject, edit, or condense all submissions and will not accept any article it deems libelous, inflammatory, plagiarized, or in bad taste.

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# From Your Board of Trustees



Arnie Klein   Liz Thornton   Roger Colarusso   Gail Gnesin   Jimmie Mesis

*Professionally managed by Taylor Management Company*

44 Palomino Drive • Manalapan, NJ 07726   (732)786-1725

*Submitted by Gail Gnesin*

In February, the Board of Trustees (BOT) had their regular meeting on the morning of February 19, 2024, via Zoom teleconferencing. Many items of interest to homeowners were discussed during the meeting. The following Trustees were in attendance: Gail Gnesin, Roger Colarusso, Liz Thornton, Jimmie Mesis. The following Trustees were not in attendance: Arnie Klein. The following Management representatives were present: Tara Lesnick, Susan Schovanec, and Kimberlee Roberson.

The minutes from the January 15, 2024, BOT meeting were unanimously approved by the BOT.

Residents were advised that questions would be taken regarding topics being discussed during the meeting.

The following motions were made and unanimously approved by the BOT:

- Controlling of pests and rodents on the property by AMCO Pest Control at the cost of \$170.00 per month
- Moving of sprinkler heads out of landscape beds of homes on the west side of the community by American Lawn & Sprinklers (AL&S) in the amount of \$75,000
- Replacing of concrete driveway aprons by Reino, being funded by Reserves in the amount of \$81,500.00
- Repairing of nine catch basins by Rothberg in the amount of \$14,980.00
- Removing Arnie Klein from the Four Seasons at Manalapan Chase debit card account and adding Liz Thornton and Tara Lesnick

Community Manager Tara Lesnick (TL) advised the following:

- January's financial statements will be delivered to the BOT and Finance Committee (FC) when completed by Taylor Management's (TMC) accounting team.
- There weren't any resales since the last BOT meeting.
- There were nine email blasts sent out since the last BOT meeting.
- The Palomino gate barrier operators for one of the exit gates and the entrance gate were found to be in need of replacement. This work has been scheduled along with the replacement of the two exit arms with light-up arms. Parts for the repairs are on order.
- There were a few minor damages due to snow plowing. Repairs have been scheduled for a couple of mailboxes that were damaged.
- On Maremanna, there is a loose Belgium block that was removed. It will be replaced once the weather is warm enough.
- Onsite Tree Surgeons (OTS), the new name for the company the community arborist works with, has been going through the community leading up to and following up with some issues in the wood lines. They have completed most major work and will maintain the areas going forward for any dangerous tree work.
- The Ballroom stage lighting was installed and used for the New Year's Eve party. Two other events are scheduled with lighting.
- The Clubhouse handicapped parking project is currently tabled and will be looked at again once the pickleball courts have been completed.
- Kal Silverman (KS) was appointed by the BOT as the lead on the pickleball/shuffleboard courts project. Kal has experience with projects of this nature and will be an asset for moving it forward. The Clubhouse Committee (CC) solicited and received proposals from three vendors to undertake the project. The CC and Management will be interviewing all three vendors this week. Once a vendor is selected, the CC will send their recommendation to the BOT for approval.
- As is usual each year, the concrete at the outdoor pool and pergola will need painting in the spring. This is currently scheduled for late March/early April.
- Aprons and sidewalks are scheduled to be repaired in the spring of 2024, with a redo of the ones done in 2022, along with additional work to be done on the east side of the community. Going forward, small numbers of aprons and sidewalks will be done yearly rather than large numbers of them being repaired at the same time.

- The Grounds Committee (GC) will be obtaining pricing for the work indicated from this year's drainage study to be undertaken in the spring. This has been budgeted for in 2024.
- The GC received proposals from AL&S, Elite Landscaping, and LAN exteriors for improving the plantings around the gazebos as their possible project for the spring of 2024. They are still in the process of reviewing the proposals.
- As a reminder, the next BOT Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. via Zoom.

The Social Committee (SC), represented by Al Lassoff (AL), advised the following:

- Casino Night held last Friday was a tremendous success.
- Game Show Night and Music Bingo are both sold out.
- The Strictly 60's Band event, scheduled for April 12, will go on sale on February 29.
- Also upcoming are the Memorial Day BBQ, Music in the Ballroom, Friday night movies, and happy hours.

The GC, represented by Bob Button (BB), chairperson, advised the following:

- Base reports of lawn seeding were not overly successful. They will be reviewed for better recommendations.
- The GC is targeting seeding for September, depending on the weather.
- The tree replacement program will be continuing.
- The pond refurbishment projects including wildflower reviews are continuing as well.
- AL&S will be doing the 1100 sprinkler head moves on the west side of the community.

The CC, represented by TL, advised the following:

- Three bids were received for undertaking the pickleball/shuffleboard courts project. Once a vendor is selected, the recommendation will be given to the BOT for approval.
- Exercise classes with Clark Fitness are still being assessed regarding whether to use the Ballroom or the Aerobics Room.

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC), represented by David Davidowitz (DD), chairperson, advised the following:

- There will be no meeting in February.
- The next meeting will be held in March.

The FC, represented by Liz Thornton (LT), BOT liaison to the committee, advised the following:

- Frank D'Amadeo has resigned.
- A replacement committee chairperson is being sought.

The Judiciary Committee (JC) had no activity this month.

The Election Committee (EC) represented by Edward Fisher (EF), advised the following:

- Three positions are up for election to the BOT.
- This afternoon, the committee will be getting together to stuff envelopes for the election announcement and call-for-candidates.
- An e-blast and electronic notices are being sent out to advise residents of the upcoming election, candidate interest, and voting options.
- Forms are available for digital votes.

A motion was made to accept all the following submitted club minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by the BOT.

- Grounds Committee: February 6, 2024
- Social Committee: January 11, 2024 and February 7, 2024

At the conclusion of the meeting, the BOT opened the meeting to all questions from the residents who were present at the virtual meeting.

## From Your Board of Trustees



Arnie Klein    Liz Thornton    Roger Colarusso    Gail Gnesin    Jimmie Mesis

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The April BOT meeting will be held at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, April 15, 2024. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend the BOT meetings. The monthly BOT meetings usually take place on the third Monday of the month via Zoom at 9:00 A.M. unless otherwise communicated. A link to the meeting is sent via email as part of the agenda for the upcoming meeting. Reminders about the meeting are sent approximately one week in advance of the meeting.

Please remember that the best way to obtain current information regarding community operations is by attending the monthly BOT meetings as well as through eblasts sent out to the community. In addition, detailed minutes from each BOT meeting are available on the community website within a week of the actual meeting.

Our community would not be such a desirable place to live without the efforts of all the residents. We have many committees and clubs whose members devote untold hours to helping preserve the aesthetics and provide the activities that we all expected when we bought homes at Four Seasons. Sincere thanks to those of you who selflessly give your time! To those of you who would like to help, please reach out to our BOT members or to our fabulous management team: Tara Lesnick (Community Manager) and Susan Schovanec (Lifestyle Director).



**“Found”:**    New Co-Managing Editors of the Pegasus Press:  
*Helen Brown and Barbara Shapiro joined our staff in March.*

**“Lost”:**        One Copy Editor:  
*Jill Drummond will retire on May 1.*

**“Found”:**    New Copy Editor:  
*Debra Ross joined our staff in March.*

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Answers on page 13

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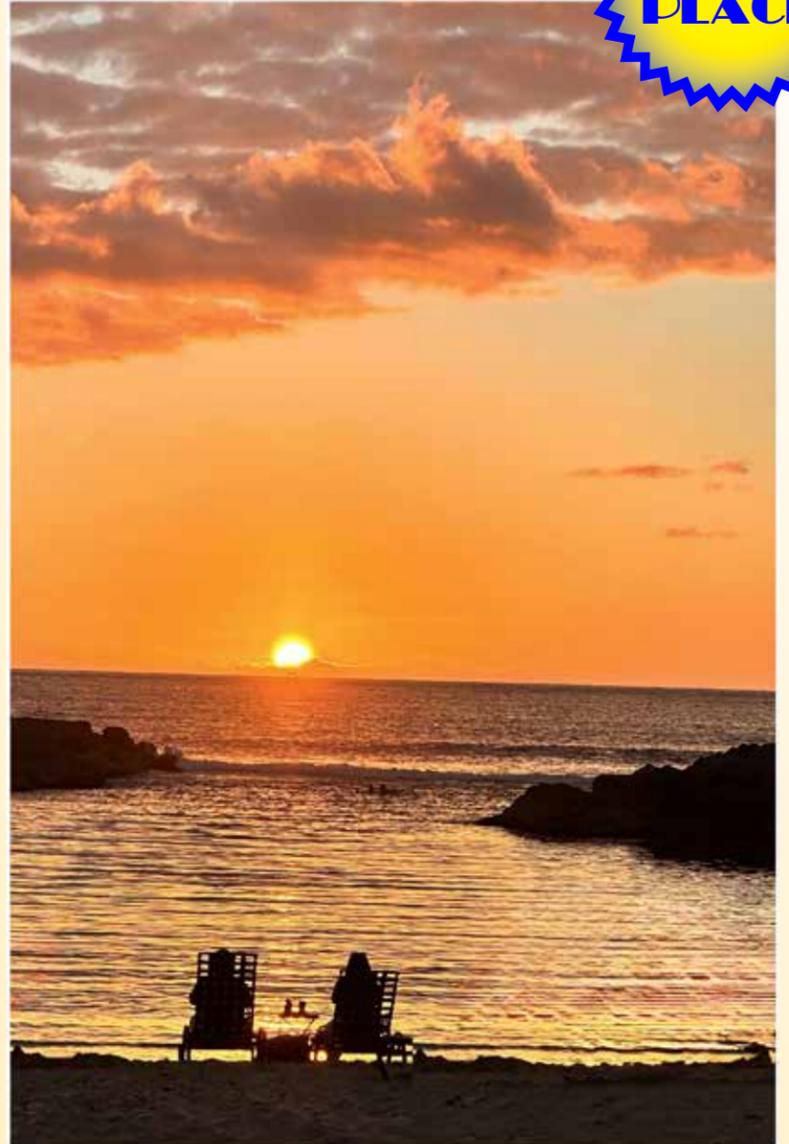
"Tree Flower"  
by Howard Sherry

**2nd  
PLACE**



"Ten Preparing Chicken for Sale"  
by Howard Sherry

**3rd  
PLACE**



"Watching the Sunset"  
by Ben Gold

Advanced



**1ST PLACE**

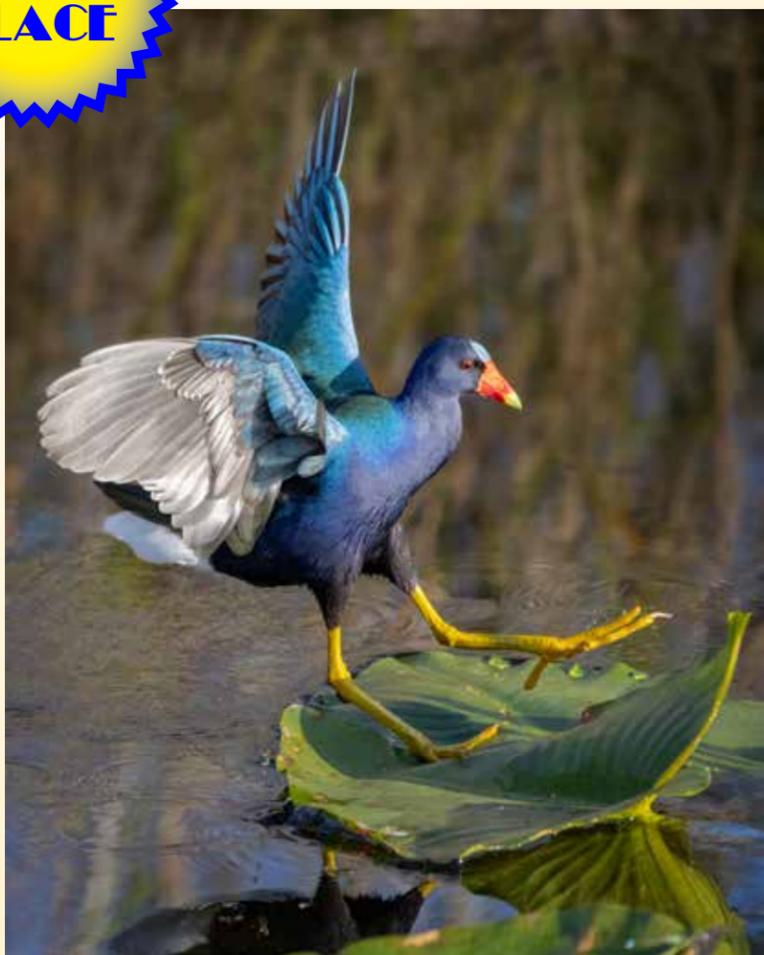
"Green Heron Perched"  
by Jerry Deutsch



**2nd PLACE**

"Delivery Service"  
by Jerry Deutsch

**3rd PLACE**



"Lily pad Landing"  
by Jerry Deutsch

# Calling All Writers



Are you full of ideas and eager to share them with fellow Four Seasons residents? Well, there's no time like the present to get started. You may have a special interest you'd like to share with others, like cooking, music, volunteer work, or home repair. Other people are probably interested, too. Think of the benefit your experience or expertise might bring to our readers! Would you like to interview people? You might like to meet with new residents and spotlight them in a monthly column. Or you might like to write poetry that touches the heart or challenges the mind.

The Pegasus Press staff wants to hear from you! We invite you to submit articles, essays, short prose, or poetry directly to the Pegasus Press submission email account at [fsmpegasuspress@gmail.com](mailto:fsmpegasuspress@gmail.com). You'll receive an auto-reply confirmation email to let you know your submission was received. The deadline for submission is the 8<sup>th</sup> of every month if you'd like it to be included in the following month's edition.

If you have questions about writing or submitting articles, please contact Jill Drummond at [jilldrumnj@gmail.com](mailto:jilldrumnj@gmail.com).



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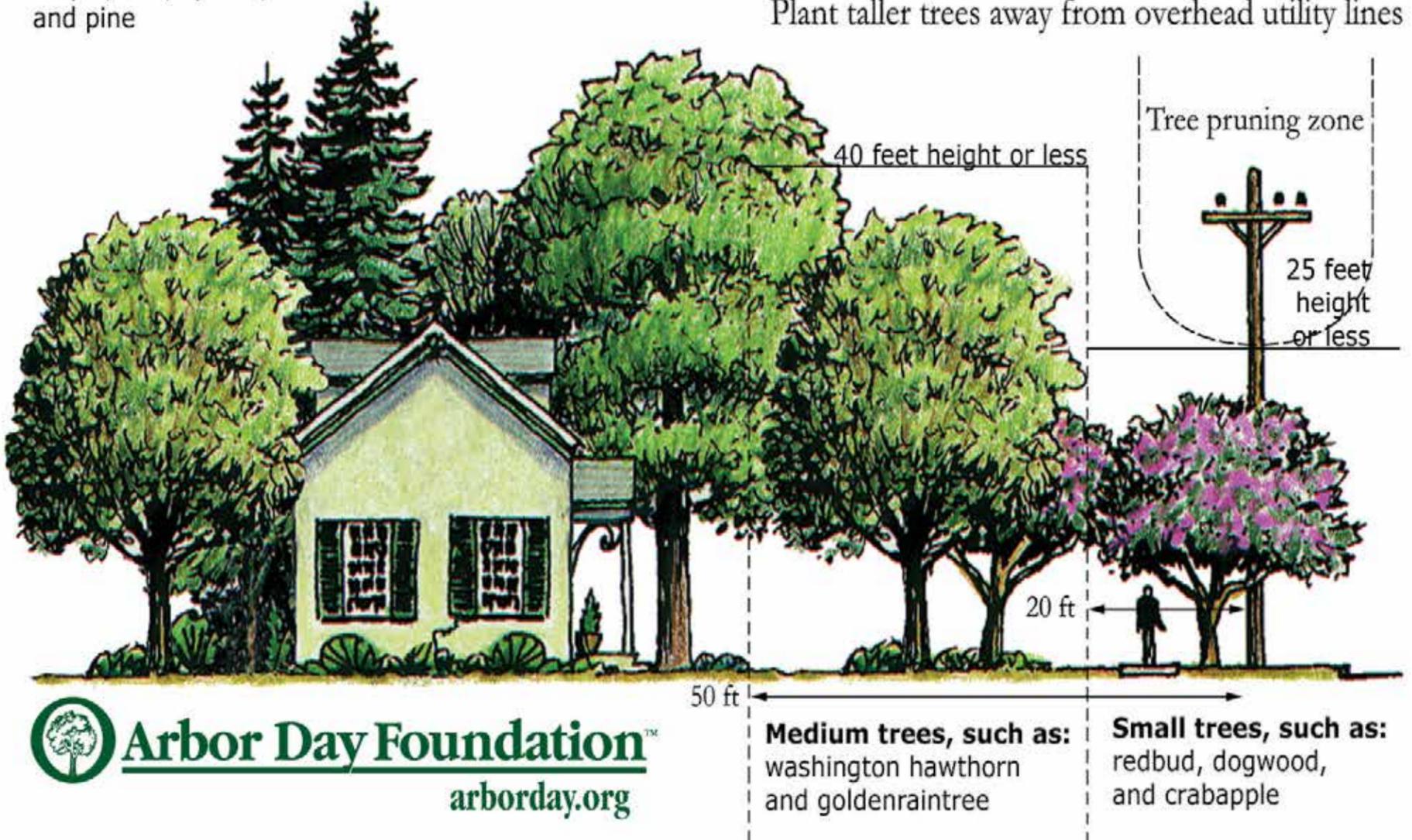
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- What is an Advanced Health Directive and why do I need one?
- How do I navigate New Jersey's Medicaid process?
- What is my estate and why do I need an estate plan?
- I have a will—is it still valid?
- How do I make sure my doctor follows my wishes?
- What are the core estate planning documents?
- Asset protection—what do I need to know?

**To be seen, reserve your 15-minute time slot and indicate your topic.**

**RSVP by April 12 to Allison Nappi at 732-576-6097 or [anappi@springpointsl.org](mailto:anappi@springpointsl.org)**



ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE



# What Goes Around Comes Around Again: We Go to The Circus!

By Mark Tabakman

One of the joys of grandparenting is the joy, the inalienable right, if you will, to pamper and spoil the little ones. One of the inestimable pleasures involved in these endeavors is to be able to take them places, like Sesame Place, maybe a beautiful national park, but most especially, the Circus. That is the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus. Our big day was last Saturday, in the worst teeming rain of the year. We bought the best tickets, lower level center, fourth row from the arena floor! We talked about it for months, not only with Lily and Max, but with my son and Erica. They were as excited as the kids. That made us glad in its own right.

First things first - the preparation. We met at the Concourse in the Prudential Center, at ground zero middle of dozens of booths and souvenir stands selling everything dubbed "Ringling." Grandma Jill emphatically announced, with a smile, that they could get "anything they wanted." The kids took her up on that. We found it funny that, although they both have literally dozens of little cars and trucks at home that they push around and talk to, they only wanted Ringling Brothers mounted motorcycle men. And, like for so many other kids, Grandma absolutely knew they had to have a long bubble blowing pipe, maybe four feet long, that glowed! Each one had to have one of those. Pushing a button shot a really long stream of projectile-like bubbles up into the air or at the person (like me) they would aim at. So, the air became a hazy, wet cloud wherever they went.

The Circus no longer uses animals, like we all remember growing up. No elephants, tigers, or lions. But there are many acrobats, high-wire performers, and clownish characters. Note that I didn't say clowns because clowns can scare little kids. (It seems clowns may not be politically correct these days.) Lily has been doing gymnastics for a few years, so every time an acrobat would perform or make an impossible jump, I would tell her to watch because she is doing the same kinds of things in her class. She heard that. As I have written about before, maybe what she saw will inspire her, perhaps subconsciously, to pursue gymnastics for its athletic beauty.

Ever watch a young kid when they are gazing, from four rows up, at the big arena with so many crazy things going on at once? I could read on their faces a moving combination of utter rapture and uneasiness, which then morphed quickly into happy astonishment. There is so much to take in at once, with acts on all sides and others at different heights on different platforms. Performers walking on high wires. Riding fifteen-foot-high unicycles. Performers jumping onto one end of a seesaw, catapulting the young performer perched on the other end way up in the air, landing, incredibly, on a seat held high by someone else. Someone being shot out of a cannon and landing safely on a huge foam mattress. An amazing barrage for their young senses.

Lily's brown eyes widened when she saw that. She sat next to my wife, who was half looking at the show and half looking at Lily enjoying the show and there was I, watching both of them. Both kids (along with me, my wife, and the rest of the audience) were absolutely mesmerized by the two acrobats on the revolving hamster cages. These were cylindrical treadmills; the acrobats danced and weaved in and out of them, sometimes dangling and landing perfectly, sometimes walking on the top of a cylinder and jumping for dear life to catch the cylinder revolving to him. I ask Lily what she thinks of this spectacle; she does not answer, but her eyes again say it all. An answer in itself. I watch Max wave his hands in the air, trying to time his motions to the movements of the performers. Truly enjoying it in his special, two-year-old way.

But there was a moment, and it was only a moment, of changed mood. There were pyrotechnics in the show and several big signs had warned of them. We worried a little that Lily might be afraid because she does get fearful of unexpected or loud noises or events. When the fire jets went off with a pop and shot upwards, we were so close that we actually felt the heat and heard the popping in a magnified fashion. She covered her eyes for a moment and started to whimper just a little, but then, in another moment, she gathered herself and was fine. For Max's part, he seemed enthralled by the huge jet of flame, but maybe (I thought) he did not know enough to be scared. Or, maybe he just loved it.

When the Circus ended, we asked the kids what they liked the best. They said "everything" naturally, but after reflecting, Lily said she liked the cannon shot and the acrobats, and she also loved the Master of Ceremonies, a wonderful singer. Max said he liked the fire jets. We went to Don Pepe's afterward for dinner and tried to engage them in further conversation, but they just wanted to play with their new Ringling motorcycles and eat bread. For me, it took me back to Valley Forge where we took our kids when they were little, exploring that special historical site and having dinner after. I remember feeling a moment of supreme happiness, just reveling in the warm thought that this was *my family* and we had just created a family memory from our wonderful trip to this place. That same sublime feeling of joy came over me again as I sat at the table, watching them play with the

cars. I (again) realized that these are the moments that lifelong memories emanate from and that life, at its very best, truly consists of. I will always cherish the memory that Lily and Max's first trip to the wonderful Circus was with us, and that memory is forever a part of their childhood, of their life experience.

As it is ours...

## Clothes Make the Girl

By JoAnn Abraham

Who wouldn't want to be a Scout. For a moment, forget the discussions about who can and cannot be a Scout. Ignore the whole Boy vs. Girl Scout thing. Focus instead on what's important: what third grader of any gender wouldn't want to wear that cool uniform to school?

There was one girl in my school who was a Scout and she looked so terrific in her uniform that I would have moved heaven and earth to be just like her.

Which is just about what was necessary because there was no Brownie troop in my area. There were several girls requesting one, but no mother was willing to be the Brownie Leader. Certainly not mine. She couldn't understand why I, who was interested in very little other than softball and long bike rides with my buddies Joey and Dick, would even contemplate being a Brownie.

Truth be told, I had no idea what Brownies actually did. I'm fairly sure I never even asked. Because I didn't care. I lusted after that uniform.

And I fairly quickly figured out that what stood between me and it was my mother. If I could get her to be the Leader, I could join, and then I would get the uniform. Thus began my campaign.

I already had a healthy respect for my adversary. She was not a monster. However, she was quite clear on her priorities. Although she loved me, her number one was my dad, who was always able to take some time off during the summer. My mother's favorite activity was traveling, and summer was when they took off. In order to allow them to leave home knowing I was well tended, I was sent to summer camp.

The fly in the ointment was that I hated the camp. After the second summer, I cried every afternoon after school for three solid months, begging not to be sent back. My hysterics finally ended when my mother sat me down and calmly explained that, in her words, "If you think you are staying home and ruining my summer, you are sorely mistaken. You will go to camp. If you don't like this one, we'll find another."

All of which is to say that my mother was extremely rational. An emotional appeal would not work. But she was involved in the community and active in a number of organizations. It did not take much sophistication to know that identifying a dire need that only she could fill was the probable path to success.

Which is what I did.

It didn't work the first or second or fifth time. But eventually, she relented. Then, within what seemed like a flash, she had a list of girls eagerly waiting to actually become Brownies. Soon after that, my very own uniform arrived, and a date was set for the very first meeting, which would be held in our basement rec room.

I fairly strutted into school that morning, all decked out in my brand-new duds. I couldn't wait for the final bell, and raced home, ready for what I was certain would be the first of many extraordinary afternoons.

Which is not exactly what happened.

For starters, all the other girls were in the same class, at a school different from mine. Although much has changed between then and now, one thing has not: girls are cliquey.

The frost between them and me might actually have been visible, had my mother had a moment to look. She was too busy following her outline for the meeting to see anything except whether her directions were being followed.

Our activity for that day was to make a pad, called a Sit-Upon, on which we would sit during all our future meetings. At some point during that process, I realized that these meetings would be sedentary. No softball. No bike rides. Lots of sitting. Which was – and still is – the one thing I really do not like to do for long periods.

That's when I decided I didn't want to be a Brownie anymore. I left the basement, climbed the stairs to my room, and stayed there for the rest of the afternoon.

Later, after all the girls had been picked up, I explained to my mother, calmly, that I was done with the whole Brownie thing. It was not one of our best moments. I honestly don't think she ever forgave me.

She did get her revenge, though, sort of. Each of my sons petitioned to be Boy Scouts and fully enjoyed the experience. Guess who got to be a Den Mother, twice.

## Spending Time With My Granddaughter

By Debbie Weissman

A few weeks ago, I had the most exciting experience with one of my granddaughters. Where she goes to religious school, they were having a Build a Buddy as a fundraiser, as well as a crafting experience with other friends. I was a volunteer, but was fortunate enough to be spending shared joy and a bonding experience at the same time.

From the time she walked into the room, the atmosphere was extremely high with anticipation. Seeing her eyes survey the room, along with all the other excitement, it was interesting to see how she observed rows of fuzzy animals waiting to come to life.

Her furry animal was picked out prior to going; she picked a koala. They also had to name their new fuzzy friend because they were coming alive with a name and date of birth. She named hers Kiki. It was very appropriate for her koala.

She started her adventure with her new fuzzy friend by picking out five personality traits she had wanted for her koala: quiet, sassy, loving, caring, and smart. All these traits were put on the back of their birth certificates.

Now the fun started - stuffing their friend to help them come alive. At the table where the stuffing was taking place, the smiles and giggles became infectious. You were witnessing the once flat creature being transformed into a plump, huggable friend. Now the stuffing was done, and the five personality traits were then hidden inside her koala, with five different colored stones that represented their traits. The last part was a big, beautiful star. She made a wish upon it and that too was stuffed in her koala. Once the wishes were done and the fuzzy new friend was closed up, you saw the quick connection woven between her and her new friend.

They did not have a grooming table of clothing, but the loving hugs and smiles reflected the unique style and personality of Kiki. When Kiki was complete, we both stepped back to admire the handiwork, which brought about a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Building Kiki together wasn't about creating a stuffed animal; it was more about creating precious memories, bringing out her imagination, and strengthening the bonds between the two of us. We also found a treasure of memories to cherish for years to come.

As we left the room hand-in-hand, our hearts were brimming with love and joy. While she was cradling her new close friend, I knew that her Kiki wasn't just a stuffed animal but a cherished keepsake, something tangible of the bond we both shared.

I will always hold dear the time we spent and the warmth of our connection, and marvel at the magic of building her Kiki.



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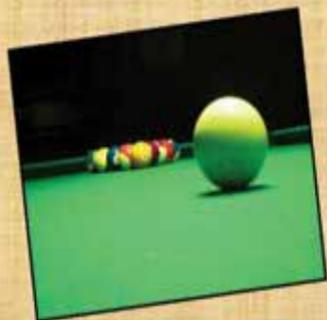
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June 2024

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play in the next tournament.

## Congratulations and Condolences

Submitted by Bunny Libenson

Bunny and Lenny Libenson joyfully announce the birth of their first great-granddaughter. Charlotte Belle Kirk, daughter of Haley and Jacob Kirk, was born on March 3rd. The entire family, especially Bunny and Lenny, are already "over the top" in love with this little girl!

*If you'd like to let others in the community know about an important family event, such as a birth, death, or marriage, please send your announcement to Bunny Libenson at [bunlen@optonline.net](mailto:bunlen@optonline.net).*

9	1	6	7	2	3	5	4	8
8	4	2	5	6	1	9	3	7
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# The Lincoln Lawyer

By Steve Resnick

*The Lincoln Lawyer* is the second in a series of books. It was made into a television series. The books and television programs are about a somewhat flamboyant twenty-first-century defense lawyer in Los Angeles who sometimes uses his Lincoln Navigator luxury car as his law office; thus, the title: *The Lincoln Lawyer*. But the lawyer portrayed in these books and in the TV series has nothing to do with Abraham Lincoln or Mary Lincoln or their children, or the Lincoln Tunnel or even Lincoln, Nebraska, or any other person or place named after the sixteenth president. The protagonist of *The Lincoln Lawyer* should not be confused with Lincoln the lawyer. The books and television stories are called *The Lincoln Lawyer* because the hero in these productions drives a Lincoln automobile. That's it; that's the only reason for the title. Now, I am all for fiction and creativity and such, but this seems a bit extreme. Then again, what do I know about it?

I will tell you what I do know about, not that you asked. Having read hundreds of nonfiction accounts of Lincoln and his times (that's Abraham, not the TV guy,) I tell you that the nineteenth-century guy (that's Abraham, again) was a man born on the frontier who was mostly self-educated, who read for the law, became a lawyer and had a law office in Springfield, Illinois, and never drove a Lincoln automobile. The nineteenth-century Lincoln was more pedestrian in both senses of that word. He was never in his life in an automobile, always walking or riding in a carriage or, later in his life, in a railroad car. He was, for the first four decades of his life, a common man, one who lived an average, boring, uneventful life.

Abraham Lincoln did develop a successful law practice. He was, in the middle of the nineteenth century, well-known in and around Illinois, but really no place else. He represented poor farmers, people on the frontier, and people with personal legal troubles. As his practice grew, he also represented well-to-do people, railroad companies, and other business enterprises that, in the mid-nineteenth century, were on the cutting edge of science and progress. He was well-known in legal circles and among Illinois state politicians. In the 1840s, he even served a term in Congress. His only claim to fame at that time was his "Spot Resolutions." He authored a series of resolutions of Congress demanding President James Polk to show Congress the "exact spot" on U.S. soil where Americans were attacked, which had been Polk's justification for the Mexican War. Probably not as impressive as *The Lincoln Lawyer* books that sold many copies or the television series viewed by millions, but it was something. After all, you go with what you got, and that's what he had.

But then, at the end of the 1850s, because of his opposition to slavery and its perpetuation, Abraham Lincoln became a national figure. What propelled him to become a national figure was "Popular Sovereignty," the shorthand name for a law Congress passed a year or two earlier. The law was the brainchild of the incumbent Senator from Illinois, Stephen Douglas. "Popular Sovereignty" revoked an earlier congressional law of 1820 that required a balance between the number of slave and non-slave states, to maintain a voting balance in Congress. Douglas' law permitted the residents of new states to decide if slavery was to be allowed within a new state's borders. "Popular Sovereignty" had an immediate, negative impact on the then-new states of Nebraska (a free state) and Kansas (a slave state) that was well known at the time, a blood bath referred to even today as Bleeding Kansas.

Given the limited communication of the era, you may ask how Bleeding Kansas became so well-known at the time. Even though there were no televisions or radios in the 1850s, there was what we would today call media coverage: newspapers, telegraphs, orators, and sermons. In the non-electronic era, many people got their news from local newspapers. Those local papers got distant news from telegraphs. In addition, in that era before mass media, a popular form of entertainment was listening to professional speakers pontificate on a subject of concern or on anything that would hold an audience's interest. Two such speakers who gained worldwide fame filling theaters were Charles Dickens, reading aloud from his books, and Mark Twain, who hadn't written many books yet but was renowned as a humorous speaker. Another speaker, not humorous but well-educated and sought after, was Edward Everett. In fact, Mr. Everett had been hired to address the attendees at the dedication of a cemetery. He spoke for more than two hours, exactly what the crowd expected and came to see and hear. But I digress.

Abraham Lincoln became known nationwide without writing a book or having a television program. Over time and without mass media, Lincoln became as well-known as his namesake, the lawyer who, 160 years later, had his office in his car. Lincoln chose to run for the Senate in Illinois in 1857. He started to become known nationwide in 1858 due to a series of debates he had with the incumbent Illinois Senator seeking reelection, Stephen Douglas. Lincoln lost the election. The newspapers across the U.S. reported on the debates, and many focused on Lincoln's pragmatic and ominous metaphor, taken from the bible, that "A house divided against

itself cannot stand." This became a newspaper story all over the country and led to Lincoln's consideration by the new Republican party as a viable choice for the presidency. This, in turn, led to an invitation to address a New York City gathering of influential Republicans at the Cooper Union in Manhattan. Lincoln's presentation at the Cooper Union is best described by twentieth-century historian David Donald, "Lincoln's ungainly appearance, ill-fitting suit, and shrill voice gave an initially poor impression to listeners, but he soon warmed up, and his oratory improved. The clarity and logic of his speech quickly wiped away any doubts the audience had."

Abe was on a roll, and just a few months later, he was nominated as the Republican candidate for the presidency. As the Civil War approached, Lincoln became the symbol of all that was right and wrong with the country. I base this statement on first-hand descriptions of him by people who knew him personally, both before and after he was assassinated in 1865. Many, if not all, of those comments that came before the assassination were contemptuous of him and negative about his policies. He was described as the "Original Gorilla" and other not-too-flattering catchphrases. After the assassination, for the most part writing about him became a tidal wave of adoration and affection by those who claimed to have known him in the nineteenth century and the professional historians and biographers who came after them up to the present. Even the idea of naming a motorcar "Lincoln" and a TV lawyer after the car, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, can be viewed as a continuation of that adulation.

Lincoln was one of the most hated men in America for the years of his presidency because of the animus brought about by the Civil War. And yet, I don't want you to think Abraham Lincoln doesn't deserve the subsequent praise, adoration, and affection he received after his death. I believe the shock of the assassination, the first of a president in this country, immediately after the conclusion of the bloody war, contributed to the sea-change in attitude. In addition, over time, the limited but moving oratory he created, poetic in parts, induced the people to see him not as a common politician but as a statesman of far-seeing ability. One example of his important but low-key diplomatic decisions: when a U.S. Navy squadron forcibly removed two Confederate envoys from a British ship, an incident referred to as the Trent Affair, Great Britain massed troops at the Canadian border and threatened war. Most of the cabinet and the newspapers wanted to counter the threat. Lincoln's quiet but forceful response: "One war at a time."

As for his poetic oratory, three of Lincoln's speeches stand out. The first was his appeal to the southern states before the secession. At the end of his first inaugural address, he said, among other things:

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The second example of his poetic oratory was the brief speech he gave at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the dedication of a cemetery, the same event to which Edward Everett had been invited to be the main speaker. Lincoln, following Everett, spoke so briefly that the photographers had been unable to set up their tripods and other paraphernalia. His speech ended before anyone expected it to, resulting in little applause or other reaction. It was, of course, reported in the media, meaning newspapers and telegraph. I'm sure you know it. Almost every American child has heard it at some point. It starts with "Four score and seven years ago..." and ends with "these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Edward Everett, after reviewing Lincoln's speech, wrote in a letter to him, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Thereafter, in his final speech, his second inaugural, just weeks before the assassination, in a statement of how he would proceed to rebuild the country, Lincoln said,

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations"

Take that, Lincoln Lawyer!

## The Grounds Committee

### Weeping Cherry Trees *The Weeping Cherry*

Blossom, *Prunus pendula*, is an ornamental tree that has been cultivated in Japan for many centuries. They were introduced into the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their slender and flexible branches arch gracefully, sometimes touching the ground. This ornamental tree is renowned for its beautiful springtime display of flowers. So, it is not surprising that it is included in gardens and parks around the world. Many of the private landscape beds in FSM feature this tree, adding to the beauty of our community.



This deciduous tree typically grows 15-25 feet in height and can spread 15 feet in width. The dark, smooth bark provides a crisp contrast to the lighter foliage and flowers. Undoubtedly, the main attribute of this gorgeous tree is its blossoms. In early to mid-spring, before the leaves appear, the tree is covered with delicate, pale pink to white flowers. Each blossom has five petals and is quite fragrant. The dwarf species is more suitable for our petite private beds.



The blossoms attract pollinators as well as songbirds. The ebony-colored cherries are a source of food for the birds who will deposit the seeds throughout the landscape. This is why you may notice cherry trees in unexpected places, such as woodlands and meadows.

After the blooms have carpeted the ground below, glossy, elegant leaves emerge. They provide summer interest and shade. In the fall, the dark green leaves turn to shades of yellow and red, adding magnificent color to the landscape. Their bare, drooping branches and bronze bark enhance the gardens in the winter, unlike most other trees.

Weeping cherry trees of all species and cultivars feature root systems similar to those of other ornamental trees within the *Prunus* genus. The tree roots are usually two feet underground and spread to the width of the tree's canopy. These trees have a non-aggressive root system, meaning they do not spread quickly.

According to Buddhist lore, the cherry is representative of fertility and femininity.

Throughout Japan, the cherry or "Sakura" tree symbolizes good fortune, new beginnings, and revival. Folklore says that when the Sakura spirits release their gorgeous fragrance in springtime, their gift of beauty and elegance is to be celebrated.

Cherry trees are even mentioned in the Bible. There is reference to Christ commanding a cherry tree to bend down so Mary could presumably reach and eat the cherries.



The weeping cherry tree is easy to grow and will tolerate conditions other trees would not. It does require well-drained soil; however, it will tolerate a wide range of soil types, from clay to sandy soil. Slightly acidic soils will deliver the best performance. This tree prefers full sun but will still thrive with less. These ornamental cherry trees favor the morning sun and will appreciate protection from the hot afternoon sun and strong wind. The weeping cherry is not suited to the extreme cold of the far North or the heat and humidity of the deep South.

One disadvantage of the weeping cherry tree is that it is susceptible to infestations of borers (both adult and larval). Sap leaking out of the trunk is a sign that you have a borer problem. Severe infestations are fatal and will necessitate tree removal. Other common pests like aphids, spider mites, caterpillars, and Japanese beetles can also cause problems.

Hard dark swellings (black knot disease) can be treated, if caught early, by cutting off an infected branch at a point below the gall and applying fungicides three times annually: in spring, just before flowering, and just afterward.

The best fungicide for cherry trees with leaf spot should contain the active ingredient myclobutanil or "captan." Use it sparingly, as the leaf spot fungi may develop resistance if it is applied too often. A natural insecticidal soap or BioNeem solution can also be used as an alternative treatment for diseased trees.

Both ornamental and edible cherry trees can suffer from foliar diseases known as leaf scorch and leaf spot. These lead to unsightly yellow or brown leaves.



#### Leaf Spot

Check the soil around your cherry tree to determine if additional watering is needed. A good soaking around the roots every 7-10 days should be adequate, depending on rainfall. Overwatering or poor drainage can lead to root rot, which causes the roots to become dark and mushy. Symptoms of root rot are dry, wilted leaves that remain attached to the tree.

You may also wish to fertilize your weeping cherry with a nitrogen blend. Apply once in the spring or spread the blend over 2-4 equal applications spanning early and late spring and summer. The healthier your weeping cherry, the more fragrant and numerous your blossoms will be.

Pruning your tree is not difficult. Remove old blooms in the winter to promote growth in the following season. Prune your weeping cherry tree during dormancy and always remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches.

Tip: Always sterilize your tools with rubbing alcohol for a healthy cut during pruning.

If you are considering adding a dwarf weeping cherry to your landscape, the Snow Fountains Weeping Cherry may be an option. Always check on

16 the mature size to make sure it will fit your space.

Many people enjoy visiting Washington D.C. when the cherry blossom trees bloom. The blooming season usually peaks between the last week of March and the first week or so of April. The 2024 National Cherry Blossom Festival is free and runs from Wednesday, March 20, through Sunday, April 14.

The two most common types of cherry blossom trees on display in Washington D.C. are Yoshino and Kwanzan. The Yoshino cherry trees circle the Tidal Basin and spill north onto the Washington Monument grounds.



### Washington D.C.

Did you know that New Jersey has more cherry trees than Washington D.C.? Branch Brook Park in Newark, N.J., has over 4,000 cherry trees in one single park! Branch Brook Park runs through Belleville and Newark. The Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival is being held April 6-14, 2024.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future articles. Please contact us by emailing Jacque at [jacque@jacquelynsksmith.com](mailto:jacque@jacquelynsksmith.com). Include Pegasus Communications Subcommittee in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you!

*The Grounds Committee  
Communications Subcommittee  
Jacquelyn Kirczow-Smith*

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## Six things you should know when planting a tree.



- 1. Call Before You Dig** - Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.
- 2. Handle with Care** - Always lift tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.
- 3. Digging a Proper Hole** - Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.
- 4. Planting Depth** - The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the top-most roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches.
- 5. Filling the Hole** - Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.
- 6. Mulch** - Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

5. For more tree-planting tips and information, visit [arborday.org](https://arborday.org).

Source: **Arbor Day Foundation**  
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