

AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

AUTUMN, 2022

VOLUME 1.2



DRESSED IN THE COLORS OF AUTUMN... SERENOA IS LOOKIN' GOOD!

Just Chillin' with Chili and batches of baked goods!

Nothing epitomizes an Autumn afternoon like a spicy bowl of homemade chili, a wedge of freshly baked cornbread, and a backdrop of Fall foliage along a country road. Diana Layton and her crew created the perfect scenario for the First Annual Serenoa Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off Challenge—held at the Clubhouse on October 15—complete with enough chili and cornbread to feed a small New England hamlet... and even a picturesque, scenic Fall backdrop for all the selfie takers. Five incredible chefs shared their gastronomic chili dishes with the festival attendees—Roseanne Marincas, Bob Shepard, Gayle Miller, Mark Steinberg, and Blaine Layton—who garnered first place in the competition. Gayle Miller took home second place honors, and Roseanne Marincas' "Chicken Chili" third. The Social Committee shared the "50-50" winnings with Randy and Marge Riley, and Lani Becker took home a beautifully-painted shell ornament—created, and generously donated, by Robin Dapp. The ultimate winners were the Serenoa faithful who shared the camaraderie, and a fabulous Autumn-inspired dining experience—from the tangy chili dishes to the "Oh so Sweet" dessert table.



We always look forward to welcoming Trick-or-Treaters with open arms, and lots of goodies! It's best to set-up in your driveway so you don't miss the fun... and a chance to swap ghost stories with the neighbors!

The top twelve Florida Fright Sites!

1. *The Lighthouse*— Saint Augustine
2. *Biltmore Hotel*— Coral Gables
3. *The Devil's Chair*— Lake Helen-Cassadaga Cemetery— Cassadaga
4. *Robert the Haunted Doll*— Fort East Martello Museum— Key West
5. *The Devil's Tree*— Oak Hammock Park— Port St. Lucie
6. *Greenwood Cemetery*— Orlando
7. *The Devil's School*— Jacksonville
8. *Capitol Theatre* - Clearwater
9. *Fort Pickens*— Gulf Islands National Seashore
10. *Bellamy Bridge*— Marianna
11. *The Cuban Club*— Tampa
12. *Ashley's*— Rockledge

HALLOWEEN HAUNTINGS ABOUND IN FLORIDA!

Saint Augustine was founded in 1565, and considered the oldest city in the United States. Saint Augustine has also



earned a reputation as the most haunted city in Florida. One of the most legendary haunted sites in St. Augustine happens to be the 165 foot-tall St. Augustine Lighthouse, which was constructed in

1874 and features 219 spiral steps to the top. Some visitors to the haunted lighthouse have reported hearing children's laughter and footsteps (two teenaged children of a lighthouse worker reportedly drowned in the adjacent bay in the late 1800s). While others have heard mysterious voices, smelled cigar smoke, viewed a shadowy figure at the top of the lighthouse and/or run into the so-called "Man in Blue" in the basement of the former lighthouse keeper's house.

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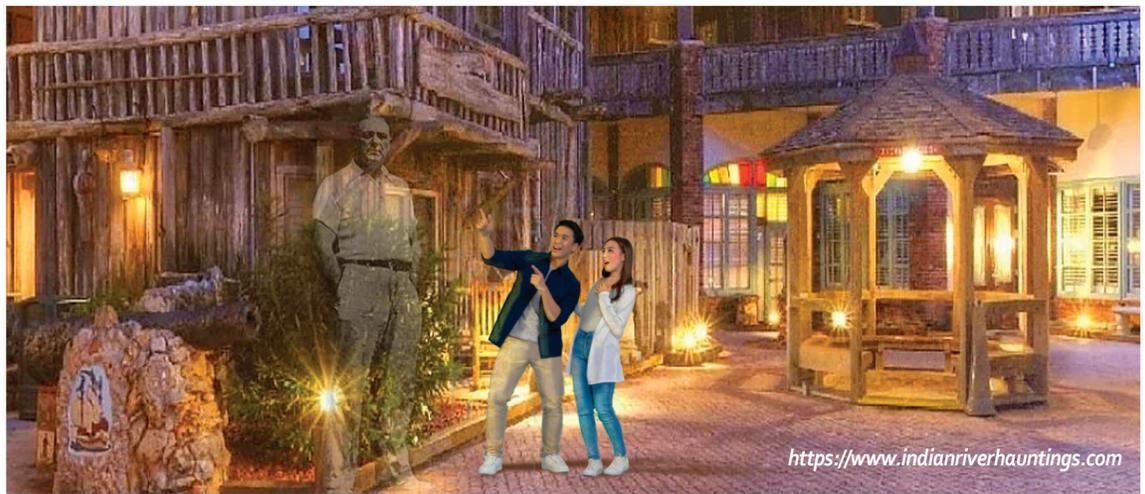
Beachside Goblins, Ghouls & Ghosts

Indian River Hauntings is a live event experience that guides guests through a paranormal adventure—applying investigative techniques, explorative gadgetry, historical facts and ghostly stories for a hands-on search for the unexplained. Owner and ghost hunter, Larry Lawson, believes that when investigating paranormal locations and historical structures, it is just as critical to gather and preserve empirical evidence to support the existence of worlds and entities beyond the norm. Educated, well-adjusted people have claimed to have experienced inexplicable events—hinting that there may be a dimension that some ascend to after leaving this existence. Lawson notes that there is evidence of nu-

merous hauntings throughout IRC—particularly at the historic Fellsmere School, Marsh Landing Restaurant, and many of Vero's landmark buildings built by Waldo Sexton, including the popular Driftwood Resort, and Sexton's home (known today as Waldo's Secret Garden). Waldo was a world traveler and a passionate collector. Treasured antiques, weaponry, and art,

are a large part of his decorative appeal. Waldo was especially fond of bells—amassing a collection of 250 types and sizes—many on display at the Driftwood Resort. It is said the ringing was a welcome to guests on their arrival and a farewell on their departure. It seems that Mr. Sexton, who died in 1967 at age 82, is still a presence at his beloved oceanside

inn. Guests have heard noises coming from rooms that once were part of the original Sexton house, called Breezeway, where, on his rounds, a security guard claims he felt a tap on his shoulder only to turn and discover an empty hallway. Some say they often hear the clang of bells late at night. Perhaps a nearby wind chime... or a message from beyond the grave.



<https://www.indianriverhauntings.com>

MONSTERS ON THE MENU

No other restaurant in Vero comes close to such inspired holiday decor than The Ocean Grill (another Waldo Sexton landmark). In late October, Vero regulars don't want to miss the "spook-tacular" transformation of the Ocean Grill for Halloween. Unless you are unusually lucky, table availability on "the big night" itself, is a long shot, when members of the restaurant staff bid to out do one another for scariest costume. But, the ghosts and goblins will be lurking amid the spider webs all month—so get your ghoul on, and head over to "The Grill" for a great meal—dripping with frightfully good fun!

And remember to make your Thanksgiving Dinner reservations early. The bird tastes better at the beach.



Turkey Trotters

Lace up your running shoes and help run poverty out of town at the 15th Annual Thanksgiving Day Trot Against Poverty 5K. Back for the 15th year. This event is for runners, joggers and walkers of all ages and abilities. Its goal is to raise funds and awareness for the nonprofit United Against Poverty—inspiring and empowering people living in poverty to lift themselves and their families to economic self-sufficiency.



More details and sign-up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/VeroBeach/TrotAgainstPoverty>



Serenoa opens its gates to bargain hunters in search of the old, the obsolete, the outlandish, and the out-of-circulation.

Twice per year, Serenoa residents have a golden opportunity to purge their closets, empty their storage bins, and trade their unwanted stuff for some unexpected coin. On October 7 and 8 the community welcomed garage-sale goers from all over Vero to search and sample everything from collectible china to cheap chachkes. About a dozen homes participated, and most who worked the driveway displays enjoyed the friendly banter as much as the hard-earned cash that came their way. This weekend has quickly evolved into a welcomed social event that goes far beyond the financial rewards. We'll do it all again come Springtime.

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CELEBRATE RIVERSIDE'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Vero's landmark theatre has been showcasing theatre classics, romantic comedies and heightened drama for half century. The 50th season kicks off with **Butterflies are Free**, a funny, touching, and emotional, play about the risks that go with loving someone. The golden anniversary curtain goes up on October 25th. It's a limited run, and tickets are fleeting. Don't miss out!

A Romantic Comedy

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE

Love is Blind

OCT 25 – NOV 13

By Leonard Gershe



VUNDERBAR OKTOBERFEST!

Put **October 22 and 23** on your calendar when a fun-filled, authentic Oktoberfest comes to the Indian River Fairgrounds. Soak in the atmosphere, food, beer, full liquor bars, and live bands beneath the huge Biergarten tent. Stroll the grounds, featuring 150 vendor booths, and party with rock, country and blues bands along the way! For more details—oktoberfestverobeach.com

Fall Flings



YSF's Alex Delamater In Heavy Air

Youth Sailing Foundation sails the Optimist National Championship on the Columbia River Gorge

As Summer transitions to Fall, we reflect on a remarkable youth sailing season culminating a winning effort by by our local YSF team. Junior sailors Alex Delamater (13), Skyler Dussan (12), and Ashton Evers (13) sailed in the 2022 Optimist National Championship on the famous Columbia River Gorge in Oregon. Over two hundred of the best junior sailors from all over the United States competed for the honor of representing the United States on the National Optimist Team. YSF's racing coach, Roberto Ayala prepared the team with a grueling six-week bootcamp on the Indian River Lagoon. YSF's Alex Delamater's score earned him an invitation to the final selection regatta in the Spring of 2023.

YSF is a non-profit providing free sailing instruction to the children of Indian-River County. Founded in 2009 by Charlie Pope, the mission is to use sailing to build character and provide the

basic building blocks for a successful life. Sailing requires focus, perseverance and resilience. Success builds confidence and self-esteem allowing the child to achieve their full potential. Alex personifies what can be achieved. The young man is not only a great sailor, but thoughtful and eloquent beyond his years.

Stu Keiller, Executive Director of YSF reflected: "Everyone at YSF is very proud of the three boys and Coach Ayala. They competed against the best sailors in the United States in daunting sailing conditions. Just as importantly, their sportsmanship and maturity under extreme pressure confirms our programs go beyond just sailing to impart lessons and memories that will last a lifetime."



TASTE OF THE HARVEST

Located in Fort Pierce, **Summer Crush Vineyard & Winery** is the Treasure Coast's first, and only, winery on Florida's Central, and Southeast, coasts. Sweet by nature, these flavorful wines are made from Muscadines—one of North America's true native wine grapes. Bar favorites also include drier varietals, area micro-brew beers, ciders, slushies, Sangrias, and mocktails. Summer Crush and casual fun go hand in hand, with fabulous food and music every weekend, as well as themed, seasonal festivals and car shows throughout the year. Chill out in the shade, sip some wine, and enjoy the natural beauty, and country charm, of a this scenic vineyard with friends and family.

THE CELLAR DOOR



A new face in town offers wine fans far more than wide brand selection, unique varietals, and price options. **The Cellar Door**, on 14th Lane, brings a casual, sophisticated "tasting room" experience to VB — complete with "NAPA technology" taste dispensing, guest sommelier education, and in-depth selection advice based on taste preference, body, balance of sweetness and acidity, and cost. The "Cellar" is a great location for date night, small celebrations, and social get-togethers. If you love wine. this is the place to **"try it before you buy it"**.

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SERIOUS GAMERS TURN OUT FOR A BINGO NIGHT BATTLE!



Game players lined up their cards, brushed up on their "Bingo Lingo", and counted on Lady Luck to pull up a chair, when "Tuesday Night Bingo" came to the Serenoa Clubhouse on September 6th. Individual game cards were purchased for one dollar each, which meant that this game was serious, money-on-the-line Bingo! The bigger the pot... the greater the stakes! Karen Vinciullo expertly handled the microphone duties as Bingo Caller—taking charge of game choices, number drawings, and winner verification. As the evening began, novice players might not have known the difference between a "Dancing Queen" (17), and a "Dirty Gertie" (30), or known their way around a "Full House", or a "Layer Cake" pattern, but they weren't too shy to shout "BINGO" as their cards filled out. Congrats to Mike and Colleen Milkowski, who took home the winners' share, but for all who attended, the evening proved to be an such an enjoyable, fun-filled evening,, that an upcoming Bingo Night has been scheduled for November 7. Another 'win-win' for Serenoa and the Social Committee!

TRIVIAL TIDBITS

- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time—1/100th of a second.
- All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the \$5 dollar bill.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- Leonardo DaVinci invented scissors.
- There are more chickens in the world than people.
- Women blink twice as much as men.
- There are 293 ways to make change from a dollar.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.



And long may it wave!

An appreciative salute goes out to John and Roseanne Marincas, who thoughtfully arranged for the purchase of a new clubhouse flag through the American Legion... and for seeing to the proper retirement of our well worn, and weathered, old glory.



Where for art thou ROMEO?

If it's lunchtime, and the first Wednesday of the month, ROMEO (*Retired Old Men Eating Out*) can be found chowing down at one of Vero's favorite watering holes. Good food... Good Neighbors... Good times! All are welcomed! Contact Jim Kordiak at jkordiak@comcast.net for details.

Serenoa Small Talk

What's the latest community chatter?



Volunteers make quick work of overgrown entrance preserves.



Serenoa is blessed with an abundance of natural preserve greenery that provides a safe haven for regional wildlife, as well as a picturesque boundary for our secluded community. Unfortunately, these preserves also provide fertile ground for destructive, invasive flora that can destroy a healthy ecosystem. Wendy Swindell has made preserve maintenance her life's work, and Serenoa is fortunate to have such an informed source as a neighbor and committed volunteer. Recently, Wendy organized a local effort to remove, and control, invasive plant life from the preserve areas on both sides of the community entrance. For nearly 2 hours, a small, but determined, group of 15-20 neighborhood volunteers tackled the exhaustive task of invasive plant removal and root treatment — once again transforming our welcoming preserve back to its natural pristine beauty. Let's all admire nature's artistry, and the neighborly volunteerism committed to its preservation.

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