

AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

SUMMER, 2026

VOLUME 5.2

SERENOA'S STAR-SPANGLED SUMMER IS HERE!

HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY? PARTY LIKE IT'S 1776! JUST ADD BURGERS, BRATS & BEER!

Circle Saturday, July 11th on your social calendar. Serenoa is celebrating America's Semiquincentennial with a Barbecue Blast!

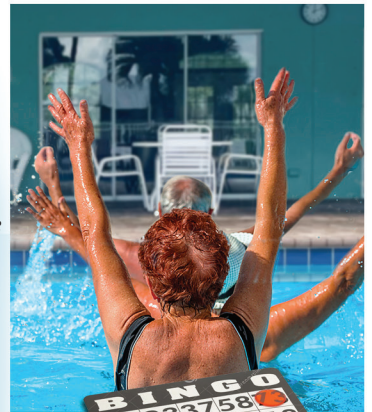
As the ink was drying on the Declaration of Independence John Adams pondered how the newly-formed republic would commemorate the event for generations to come. *"I am apt to believe with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and Illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more."*

For Serenoa, the occasion will be observed simply with a rousing get-together of good friends, good food, and good fun. Neighbors are invited to convene at 4 pm for an old fashioned summer barbecue at the clubhouse. Make sure to reserve your seat for only \$10 per



guest before July 4th with an RSVP to Phil Cervasio at (631) 495-3022. All of your grilled stand-bys will be served buffet style... complete with the fixin's, cold salads, and seasonal desserts — compliments of the HOA's Social Committee! And... don't forget to bring some small bills for the popular 50/50 Raffle, cold beverages of your choice, and, of course, a hearty appetite.

The story of Uncle Sam traces back to Samuel Wilson, a meatpacker from Troy, NY, who, during the War of 1812, supplied barrels of meat to the U.S. Army. Wilson marked the shipping crates with the initials "U.S." to stand for United States property, and because he was affectionately known locally as "Uncle Sam", his co-workers joked that the stamps stood for "Uncle Sam". Soldiers brought the nickname globally, and local newspapers picked it up. Over time, Uncle Sam was adopted as a humorous, patriotic personification. Political cartoonist Thomas Nast popularized his physical traits, but James Montgomery Flagg's World War I recruiting poster ultimately established the character.

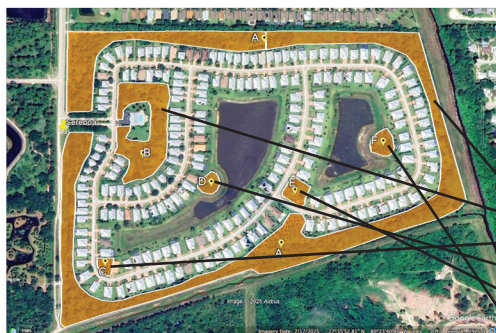


YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL VERY FAR TO ENJOY SOME SUMMER FUN!

Looking to break out of the summer doldrums this year? Check out the non-stop social scene at the Clubhouse. From high energy exercise options to challenging games of skill and chance — from bookworms to bourbon lovers... there's a unique diversion for everyone.

Don't sit around all summer scanning your social media. Expand your horizons, and drive down to the Clubhouse for some summer fun. Better yet, walk over, and save your gas money for some extra bingo cards. Check the online calendar for dates and times.

HOT TOPIC: PRESERVE PRESERVATION



The planned maintenance schedule calls for clearing the outer preserve rim first, and then working inner-community terrain sequentially to complete the work.

- PLOTA
- PLOT B
- PLOT C
- PLOT D
- PLOT E
- PLOT F

Maintenance clearing is currently underway on the ever-growing issue that envelops the entire community. The botanical health of Serenoa's sprawling preserves is the obligation of the HOA, and every resident has a stake in keeping the green space picturesque and vital. Allstate Resource Management has been tasked with the job of clearing the preserves of invasive plant growth... including Pepper trees — thus maintaining a pristine visual beauty.



Smile... you live in Serenoa!

★ THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM SPARKS THE BIRTH OF A NATION ★

DID YOU KNOW THAT FLORIDA RESISTED AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE?

Happy 4th of July Serenoa!

But it's an important reminder that, during the American Revolution, Britain's two Florida colonies—East Florida and West Florida—remained fiercely loyal to the Crown. Rather than joining the rebellion, they served as critical Loyalist safe havens and strategic military supply hubs for the British.

The defining historical events and features of Revolutionary Florida include:

Two British Colonies: Great Britain had divided the territory into East Florida (capital: St. Augustine) and West Florida (capital: Pensacola). Both regions rejected an invitation to send delegates to the First Continental Congress.

Loyalist Stronghold:

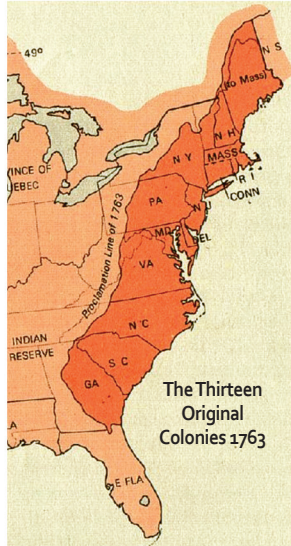
The population consisted largely of recent immigrants from Britain and Loyalists fleeing the rebellious northern colonies. St. Augustine even served as a prison for captured American patriots, including some signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Failed American Invasions: General George Washington authorized five attempts to capture Florida—though only three were carried out. The first major invasion occurred in August of 1776 when Major General Charles Lee and Major General Robert Howe attempted to capture St. Augustine. Lee and Howe marched south from Savannah, Georgia, with 2,500 men. But mass desertions due to lack of supplies and poor planning caused the mission to be aborted.

The Battle of Thomas Creek marked another failed attempt by the Continental Army to gain control of East Florida. In May 1777, Continental forces crossed out of Georgia to gain a foothold on the far side of the St. Mary's River. However, loyalist Thomas Brown with his East Florida Rangers, Native American allies and British troops launched a surprise attack on the Continentals campsite at Thomas Creek. Outnumbered and ill-prepared, the Continental forces retreated, leaving Brown and his Rangers free to continue raiding into south Georgia. In January 1778, Major General Howe planned a third East Florida invasion, hoping to rely on Continental regulars. But Thomas Brown and his Rangers took advantage with a surprise attack at Fort Barrington that forced the Patriots' surrender.

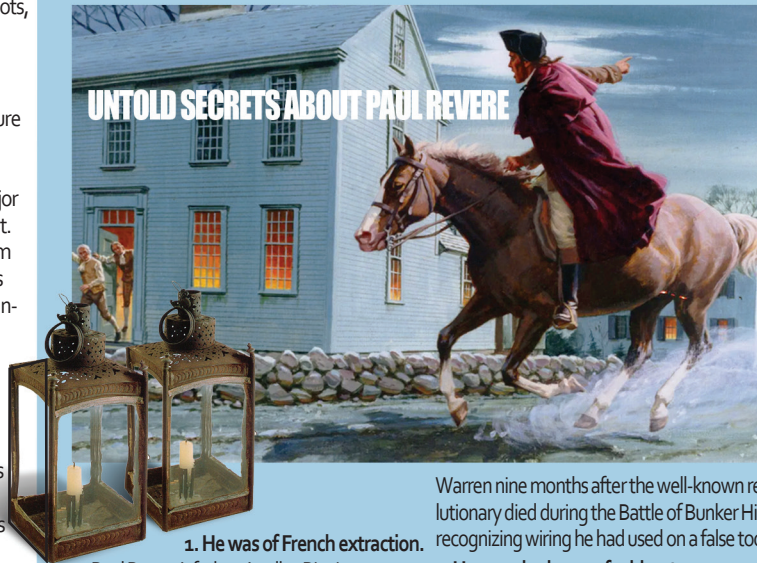
Under the 1783 Treaty of Paris, Britain formally returned both Floridas to Spain in exchange for control of Gibraltar.

This transition prompted an exodus of around 10,000 British Loyalists to the Bahamas and the Caribbean.



HERE ARE 9 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST ENDURING HISTORICAL FIGURES

UNTOLD SECRETS ABOUT PAUL REVERE



1. He was of French extraction.

Paul Revere's father, Apollon Rivoire, was a French Huguenot who immigrated to Boston at age 13 and Anglicized his family name before marrying a local girl named Deborah Hitchbourn. Born around 1734 and one of 11 or 12 children, Paul never learned to read or speak French.

2. A silversmith by trade, he sometimes worked as an amateur dentist.

Revere used his skills as a craftsman to wire dentures made of walrus ivory or animal teeth into his patients' mouths. In 1776 he unwittingly became the first person to practice forensic dentistry in the United States.

He identified the body of his friend Joseph

Warren nine months after the well-known revolutionary died during the Battle of Bunker Hill by recognizing wiring he had used on a false tooth.

3. He was also known for his art.

When he wasn't smithing or dabbling in dentistry, the multitasking Paul Revere produced some of the era's most sophisticated copper plate engravings, creating illustrations for books, magazines, political cartoons and tavern menus.

4. He led a spy ring.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency, Paul Revere founded the first Patriot intelligence network on record, a Boston-based group known as the "mechanics." Prior to the American Revolution, he had been a member of the Sons of Liberty, a political organization that opposed incendiary tax legislation

such as the Stamp Act of 1765 and organized demonstrations against the British.

5. The well-known Longfellow poem about Revere has many inaccuracies.

For one thing, Revere was not alone on his mission. Both William Daves and Samuel Prescott, rode alongside him, and by night's end, as many as 40 men on horseback were spreading the word across Boston's Suffolk County. Revere never reached Concord, as the poem recounts. Overtaken by the British, the three riders split up and headed in different directions. Revere was detained by the British at Lexington and Daves lost his way after falling off his horse, leaving Prescott the task of alerting Concord's residents.

6. His most famous quote was fabricated.

Paul Revere never shouted the legendary phrase "The British are coming!" as he passed from town to town. The operation was meant to be cloaked in secrecy, and *all* colonial Americans still considered themselves British.

7. A borrowed horse served as his worthy steed on the night of April 18, 1775.

It is believed that the Charlestown merchant John Larkin loaned him a horse, which was later confiscated by the British.

8. He became a successful businessman. After the American Revolution, Revere opened a hardware store, a foundry and eventually the first rolling copper mill in the United States.

9. He had a lot of kids.

Revere fathered 16 children—eight with his first wife, Sarah Orne, and eight with Rachel Walker, whom he married after Sarah's death in 1773.

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Vero Beach is hosting a full day of festivities celebrating America's 250th birthday!



Celebrate the 4th of July in Vero Beach with a day-long event lineup of patriotic fun for the whole family. From the downtown parade and antique car show to live music, food trucks, contests, and a fireworks finale over Riverside Park, "USA All Day" is the perfect way to spend Independence Day while celebrating America's 250th birthday. For updates, parking maps, or entry applications, check the [City of Vero Beach July 4th Information page](#) or the [Visit Indian River County Blog](#).



STRONG AS STEEL, SOFT AS LACE

Set in a small Louisiana town, *Steel Magnolias* centers on the lively women who gather at Truvy's beauty salon to share gossip, laughter, and life's ups and downs. Among them are strong-willed M'Lynn and her spirited daughter Shelby, whose upcoming wedding brings both joy and concern due to Shelby's health struggles. When tragedy strikes, the women lean on one another, discovering resilience, humor, and enduring love in the face of heartbreak.
Vero Beach Theater Guild / September 11-27, 2026



Vero sizzles with summer showcases!

AN OPEN INVITATION TO DRINK, DINE AND DANCE UNDER THE OAKS!

Kick off your night beneath the shade of the oak trees at *The Loop Kitchen and Bar*, the perfect casual stop before your performance at Riverside Theatre. This laid-back, outdoor space blends fresh flavors, crisp craft drinks, and the natural charm of the Florida breeze.

Settle in at a table under twinkling lights with locally-sourced bites and atmospheric live music drifting through the oaks, creating the ideal soundtrack to ease you from daytime into showtime.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday / 5:30 pm-8:30 pm



NOT YOUR ORDINARY ORCHIDS ON DISPLAY

McKee Botanical Garden, in partnership with the Vero Beach Orchid Society, is pleased to present an exhibition of exotic, historic and rare orchids as well as special presentations for the collector or enthusiast. *Saturday, September 5th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday, September 6th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm*



A FRESH LOOK AT FLORA & FAUNA

"At Work" celebrates James Prosek's deep observation, curiosity, and reverence for the living world—chronicling the realms of migratory animals with stunning realism.
Vero Beach Museum of Art July 11-October 25, 2026

A COMMEMORATION OF COMFORT FOOD!

The 11th Annual Burgers & Brews Festival is back, and it has a brand-new home at the Indian River County Fairgrounds! Admission is FREE. Come cast your vote for the Best Burger in Indian River County, sample local craft beers, enjoy live music from East Harbor, and check out the classic car show. For more information, visit their website! Slider & Brew tickets are on sale now!
Saturday, June 27, 2026 - 11 am - 4 pm IRC Fairgrounds

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The perfect park for a beach stroll, Jaycee Beach has the longest boardwalk in Vero Beach and plenty of parking. The large park area has covered pavilions (perfect for a picnic), playground equipment, and an iconic waterfront restaurant that has served Jaycee Park visitors since 1957. The Seaside Grill, originally known as the "Seaburger," and city-owned, was later leased to various operators before becoming a beloved Vero Beach institution operated by the Culumber family for 30 years.

Today, the restaurant continues to operate in the blue-and-white pavilion, retaining its classic charm. Current operators have expanded the vision of the classic burger-and-breakfast joint by adding dinner service alongside ocean views. The Seaside is a welcoming destination for early risers and sunset watchers.

MADE IN THE SHADE AT JAYCEE PARK



STORMY WEATHER?

Forecasters with NOAA's National Weather Service are predicting a below-normal hurricane season for the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30, predicts a 35% chance of a near-normal season, a 10% chance of an above-normal season, and a 55% chance of a below-normal season.

The agency is forecasting a total of 8-14 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 3-6 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1-3 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA has a 70% confidence in these ranges. An average season has 14 named storms with seven hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.



After assessing damages done from hurricanes in the past few years, Floridians are encouraged to have at least 7 days of supplies. These supplies include food, water, medicine, batteries, etc. Each family and business is advised to be adequately stocked and prepared to face this hurricane season.

BOARD BIZ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- The Board approved a \$25,000 transfer from the Operating Fund to the Reserve Fund at the 5/14/26 Board meeting.
- The Board approved increasing the Capital Contribution (Initial Assessment) amount for new buyer resales to \$1,700.00 at the 5/14/26 Board meeting (currently \$1,450.00), and effective September 1, 2026.
- The Board accepted the resignation of Board Director Gayle Miller who held the Treasurer position. An email blast was sent seeking volunteers who have an interest in being appointed.
- The Board is looking for a resident to fill in for John Marincas, the Go-To-Meeting operator, in the event he is not available. This is a simple task and John will provide training and support as needed. If you are interested, please contact Janice at 631.848.3357.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please do not leave food outside for the animals as there are hidden dangers:
 - A constant food source may alter the behavior and population dynamics of local wildlife by losing their natural foraging instincts, causing a dependency and a decrease on their ability to survive without human intervention.
 - Outside food may become contaminated with diseases and parasites that can be transmitted between animals. This puts domestic pets and wild animals at risk.
 - Outside food may impact the environment by causing litter and pollution.
 - Outside food attracts pests, which contributes to the degradation of local ecosystems and water quality.
- As a reminder, the current St. Johns River Water Management District regulations are as follows:
 - No landscape watering between 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
 - Limit watering to one (1) hour per day
 - Residential watering is allowed on Wednesdays and

Saturdays at ODD-NUMBERED houses.

- Residential watering is allowed on Thursdays and Sundays at EVEN-NUMBERED houses.

LANDSCAPING COMPANY

- Contact Elliott Merrill at hannahm@elliottmerrill.com with questions / issues re: Palm Island
- Palm Island will perform landscape work for individual homeowners. We have received positive comments from residents that have used them. Contact information: 772.713.1490 / Brandon.Palmsland@gmail.com
- Quarterly meetings have been tentatively scheduled with Palm Island for discussions / issues as follows (location is Clubhouse):
 - Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 10:00 am
 - Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at 10:00 am

PONDS

- All of the north pond silt fences have been removed.
- Work on the removal of the peppertrees and overgrowth is in progress.
- Palm Island is adhering to the lawn cutting lines on the north pond as has been established.
- Additional work on the south pond will begin upon completion of work on the north pond.

CLUBHOUSE / POOL / ENTRANCE

- Asphalt Care Services resealed and striped the Clubhouse parking lot at a cost not to exceed \$2,800.00. This will extend the life of the parking lot pavement until the first phase of roads and parking lot is resurfaced.
- Palm Island has replaced the flowers around the flagpole which were lost due to the cold weather.
- Palm Island is working on removing and replacing additional plants within the common areas which were lost to the cold weather.
- A new bike rack has been installed at the Clubhouse.

COMMITTEES

Architectural Review Committee (ARC):

- At the 5/14/26 Board meeting, revisions were made to the current ARC Guidelines.
- The updated ARC Guidelines has been email blasted to residents and posted on the EM portal.

Social Committee:

The Social Committee is looking for additional volunteers – contact secretary@serenoa.org if you are interested – fresh ideas are always welcome!

Upcoming Social Events:

- Bingo – June 15, 2026 at 6:30 in the Clubhouse
- Pot Luck / Happy Hour – June 20, 2026 at 4:00 in the Clubhouse (bring dish and BYOB)
- Summer Barbecue/Pool Volleyball – July 11, 2026 at 4:00 pm at Clubhouse (details to follow)

A popular exercise class has been formed by residents on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Clubhouse from 9:00 am – 10:00 am. The open class means personal exercise choices are encouraged (bring weights and bands if desired).

Current On-Going Activities at the Clubhouse / Pool

- Mahjong – every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. If you would like to learn, contact Janice Shepard at 631.848.3357.
- "Hand and Foot" Canasta – Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. If you would like to learn, contact Janice Shepard at 631.848.3357
- Samba Card Game – Thursdays at 1:00 pm. If you would like to learn, contact Janice Shepard at 631.848.3357, otherwise prior notice is not required.
- Poker – Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Contact Ken Fensin at 508.963.3780 if you'd like to sign up.
- Billiards – Monday and Fridays, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Contact Terry Johnson at 305.653.0059
- Water Aerobics – Mondays-Fridays at 9:00 am.
- Mexican Train – the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact Ken Fensin at 508.963.3780.
- Book Club – the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Contact Kathi Inzano at 732.710.2655 to sign up
- Bourbon Club – the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Contact Gerry Smilen at 954.305.0849.
- Exercise Class – Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am – 10:00 am. Prior notice not required.

ELLIOTT MERRILL INFORMATION

- Our new CAM is Summer DeSouza – summerd@elliottmerrill.com / 772.569.9853 x 115
- Hannah Morrison is Administrative Assistant – hannahm@elliottmerrill.com

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