

# AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

WINTER, 2022

VOLUME 1.3

## SERENOANS WARM UP TO WINTER A FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Leave it to McKee Botanical Gardens to get you in the spirit of the holidays. Visit with Santa, view outdoor holiday movies, catch some snow flurries, enjoy performances by local entertainers, and sample special holiday treats from the Garden Café. Thousands of bright, colorful holiday lights illuminate the Garden pathways—along with lighted holiday displays and festive decorations. In addition, the Garden will be host holiday-themed crafts throughout December. Please check the website for a complete schedule of event dates and times. [www.mckee garden.org](http://www.mckee garden.org)

### Clubhouse sparkles with Holiday Cheer

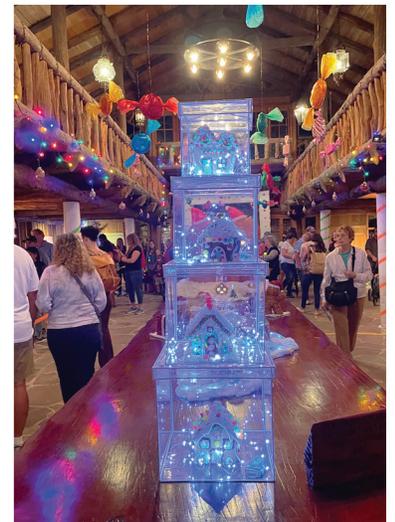
On December 9th, the Clubhouse was bursting at the seams with holiday revelers eager to celebrate the season with their Serenoa family. Naturally, the festive scene was filled with spirited conversations of neighborhood news, plans for upcoming family get-togethers, and New Year's resolutions in the making. Guests chatted with friends, renewed acquaintances, and welcomed new neighbors to the fold—sharing seasons greetings, libations of choice, and platters of scrumptious hors d'oeuvres—before a fabulous buffet dinner was served... compliments of the HOA. As party goers satisfied their sweet tooth desires from platters of pastries

and holiday cookies, social committee prez Diana Layton doled out door prizes, and cash winnings from the 50/50 drawing. A large gift basket of goodies was awarded, as well as two beautifully painted shell ornaments—created, and graciously donated, by Robin Dapp. The 50/50 drawing gleaned over \$300! Roseanne Marincas claimed the winners share, sharing the spoils with the Social Committee, who will put those funds toward a New Year's Continental Brunch for the community on January 15th (details to come). Given a thumbs up by all who attended, we offer kudos to the tireless efforts of all the committee members.



### TOYS FOR TOTS

*Serenoans stepped up big time—displaying a level of generosity that exceeded Holiday expectations by donating well over 100 toys and gifts for underprivileged kids during this season of giving.*



Smile... you live in Serenoa!

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS SERENOA!

## 'Twas the Night Before Tuesday

'Twas the night before Tuesday,  
and all round the square  
Not a gecko was moving...  
not a tortoise, or hare.  
The trash bins were placed  
at curbside with care,  
In hopes that Waste Management  
soon would be there.  
Serenoaans were nestled  
all snug in their beds;  
While recycled bottles and  
cans danced in their heads;  
I had slipped on my PJ's,  
my wife in her nighty,  
Under the covers— tucked in...  
nice and tidy.  
When out on the lawn  
there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see  
what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew  
like a flash,  
Cranked open the hurricane  
shutters and stroked  
my mustache.  
The moon was diffused  
by a blanket of fog...  
Lighting what seemed like an  
early riser out for a jog.  
But my pounding heart nearly  
came to a stop,  
When I spotted a small yellow  
plane, with bi-wings and prop.

With a fit, little pilot so nimble  
and spry,  
In that moment I recognized Alex,  
the Home Team guy.  
He beckoned his crew to  
get up and go,  
Eight tiny landscapers, and a  
spray lady named Flo.  
They covered the grounds  
with clippers and blowers,  
and sped round the house  
on chem carts and mowers.  
Alex whistled, and shouted,  
and called them by name:  
Go Martin! Go Pablo, Go Jorge & Bo!  
Go, Carlos! Go Benjy, Sam, Luca & Flo!  
From the lanai... to the porch,  
the makeover was stunning!  
All the while... the airplane  
kept running.  
The crew worked tirelessly  
and quick— worth every penny  
they earn.  
When they completed their task,  
it was Alex's turn.  
He sprang into action,  
knowing this was his chance,  
To spray, squash, and sweep  
those pesky spiders and ants.  
We watched in amazement  
as he continued his work—  
Scouring, and searching,  
every cranny and nook.

He was dressed for protection,  
from stingers and sun,  
Loose and lightweight—  
geared to keep on the run.  
His eyes— how they twinkled!  
He never stopped grinning!  
As he battled those bugs, you  
knew he was winning.  
Alex acknowledged our presence,  
and laughed... well aware,  
That the neighborhood  
trash bins were still full...  
and still there.  
At least our landscaping and  
pests were maintained.  
This group of hard workers was  
steady, and trained.  
They had done a fine job.  
We couldn't hope for much more.  
Our smiles said it all.  
They were ready to soar.  
Alex sprang to his plane,  
and he called to his crew.  
They piled in behind him,  
as he bid us adieu.  
He rolled down the street,  
and soared above the preserves,  
as they toasted the day,  
and snacked on hors doeuvres.  
But I heard him exclaim,  
as he flew out of sight—  
"No worries Serenoa...  
dead mosquitoes don't bite!"



### Ringling in the New Year means a night on the town.

Welcome 2023 at two of Vero's hottest beachside venues. Raise a toast to friends and loved ones, dance the year away, and feast on late-night munchies under the stars. **Costa d'Este Beach Resort & Spa**, and **Heaton's** host separate NYE parties. Pre-reservations and tickets are required and available through [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

**WINNER OF 5 TONY AWARDS® INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL!**

## MAN OF LA MANCHA THE MUSICAL

*Dream The Impossible Dream*

**JAN 3 – 22**

Music by Mitch Leigh  
Lyrics by Joe Darion  
Book by Dale Wasserman

### DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM IN '23

Riverside Theater presents one of the most honored musicals of the American theater. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' 17th Century master piece, *Man of La Mancha* is a five-time Tony Award winner— and a perfect way to begin the new year.

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## VERO BEACH BLUES FESTIVAL



# CHECK IN CHILLOUT

A Winter Wonderland of Entertainment Options!



### CLASSICS PARKED IN THE PARK

Automobile buffs and nature lovers converge on the scenic grounds of McKee Botanical Gardens to admire a diverse display of classic autos and motorcycles. Meet and greet the owners and learn the in's and out's of motorsport collecting. "Car Collector's Favorites" takes place on **Saturday, February 11, 2023— from 10 am - 3 pm.**



### HOME IMPROVEMENT MADE EASY

IRC residents will be flocking to the 9th Annual Vero Beach Home and Remodel Show & Crafts Expo at the Indian River Fairgrounds. This 2-day event inspires homeowners with improvement options, ideas for new design projects, and a wealth of new products and services on the market. **January 7-8, 2023.** Free admission and parking. Food & music on-site.

## BRING YOUR AIR GUITAR. YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT!

You don't want to miss this unique two-day music festival experience— combining the love of Blues, and "Blues Rock" musical talent, and scrumptious festival food and beverages— just an amazing weekend to remember with friends, neighbors and family. Ten bands will be performing on the blues stage backed-up by professional sound and lighting talent. RV Camping is welcomed on site as well! Plus... 180 merchandise vendors will feature their wares throughout the event. Stroll through the "miles of aisles" of crafts artists and local business vendors— and hit the fully stocked bars for beer, wine and cocktails— day and night at the festival. Only \$5.00 admission per person, per day, under 13 free. **February 26-27. SAT 11 am to 10 pm and SUN 11 am to 6 pm. Free Parking at the Indian River Fairgrounds.**

## 11th Annual Bark in the Park

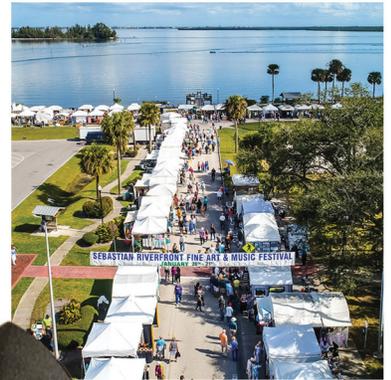
Dog lovers... It is time once again to collect your canine babies, and head over to Riverside Park for enjoyable family fun, festivities, wagging tails, good eats, and vendors! Keep up with all the puppy proceedings by following the Facebook page at "Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County!" This event is a great way to support the local Humane Society's mission to offer compassionate services to people and pets in our community. It's going to be a dog-gone good time, and we hope to see you there! **Saturday, Jan 7, 2023 10 am - 6:00 PM at Riverside Park.**



## STROLL THE RIVER FIND A TREASURE!

The Sebastian Fine Art & Music Festival is a fabulous way to kick-off the IRC public arts calendar of events. The sponsorship's sole purpose is to promote interest in, and appreciation of, the arts, and to promote cultural enhancement and awareness through public exhibition and performance within the City of Sebastian and its environs. Parking is free, the music is wonderful, the art is amazing, and the local restaurants are open for business. **Jan 21 and 22, 2023, Sat 10-5 / Sun 10-4.**

Remember that *Under the Oaks Art Show at Riverside* is held **March 10-12.**



## GARDENFEST 21 years & growing!

It's the 21st Anniversary of this popular family event in lovely Riverside Park. Vendors will feature current trends in gardening— selling plants, Florida species, flowers, orchids, trees, pottery, furniture, garden art and much more. There are youth activities, raffles and a food court. Free admission and parking. Attendees are encouraged to bring a wagon. **Saturday, February 4, 2023 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday February 5, 2023, 9am - 4 pm at Riverside Park.**



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## What are the origins of Valentine's Day?

While some believe that Valentine's Day commemorates the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the Ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. A ceremonial sacrifice, and celebration would ensue—ending with the young women placing their names in a big urn. The bachelors would choose a name, and become paired for the year with that woman.

Lupercalia survived the rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed "un-Christian"—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14, St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that the day began birds' mating season. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowles," writing, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."

## Vero's most romantic beachside restaurants.

- Cobalt**— "Spectacular ocean front setting."
- Chez Frenchies**— "Ooh La La. A hidden gem."
- The Tides**— "Cozy charm. Winning food."
- The Wave**— "Simple. Savory. Seaside."
- Trattoria Dario** — "Carbonara to die for."
- Maison Martinique**— "Elegantly romantic."
- Ocean Grill**— "Amazing Food. Service. View."
- Polo Grill**— "Always yum. Always consistent."
- Citrus Grill**— "Casual seaside comfort food."
- Havana Nights**— "Upscale, piano-bar style."



True happiness resides in the place you love most.



## Recent upgrades give us more reasons to love Serenoa.

Serenoa's majestic entrance has been a trademark feature since the onset of the community. When infectious disease struck several of the stately palms earlier this year, removal was the only course of action. But, happily... our signature gateway has been restored.

It's rare that a coat of paint, contemporary change of color, and a few stylish touches can transform a structure so dramatically—inside and out. Our clubhouse facelift is a welcomed change for residents and visitors. Many thanks to Tom and Barb Cosgrove for the donation of the tasteful entranceway compass.

What a huge improvement poolside! The new seating areas and pool loungers add so much style and comfort for social get-togethers, quiet moments and chilling under the sun. The simple, sturdy luxury was supplied by... who else? Sunshine Furniture.

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