



*Conquistador*  
*February 2025*

*Newsletter*



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **CHA President**

### **Renee Drentkiewicz**

#### **Dear Neighbors:**

I would like to congratulate the Conquistador Community, our fantastic manager Bonnie, the CHA Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. For the first time in Conquistador history, our CHA Community has reached over \$1,000,000.00 in our total accounts. We have also just passed the five year mark since the last special assessment at the CHA level. This is quite a financial accomplishment of which we should all be very proud.

The new color palette for the buildings, presented by the Architectural Review Committee, was approved by the majority of the buildings. We should start seeing the new updated colors on some of the buildings soon.

The Lighting Committee has worked very hard this past year. The contract for FP&L has finally been signed, which includes 63 new lampposts and light fixtures, that will start to be installed at the end of 2025. They will certainly help to brighten our neighborhood for safety and will be aesthetically pleasing as well. Pictures are on display in the foyer at the Clubhouse.

Please take the time to enjoy all that our Community has to offer. Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, was our first event of the season. The Strawberry Festival was a huge success. It was held in the Clubhouse with a record number in attendance. On Saturday, February 8, The Night at the Races will be sponsored by Building 4 and will be held in the Clubhouse Ballroom from 5-8pm.

With all our successes, we know from time to time, there will always be some challenges. Rest assured these challenges will be met head on, and know that as a community, we will rise to each occasion.

Remember that we're always looking for new faces and fresh ideas to continue making Conquistador the special place it is to live. Please volunteer to help us.

*Renee Drentkiewicz*

## **MANAGER'S CORNER**

### **Bonnie Guenther**

The big news is that a contract has been signed with FPL, and the installation of streetlights should begin in mid-December of 2025. The accomplishment of this community goal highlights the importance of our committees. Without the Lighting Committee, there would be no lighting project. The hard work of volunteers that serve on committees and Boards cannot be diminished. If you are an action-oriented person who would like to serve the community while making new friends, join a committee or serve on a Board next year. The list of committees is in the Clubhouse foyer and posted online.

A renovation of the front wall landscaping will begin in March. I think some of the front wall plants were installed by the developer back in the 70's! The new landscaping plan is clean and simple. I am looking forward to seeing the final outcome.

The ultimate goal of the community is to keep moving forward. Stagnation is not an option for HOAs and condo associations with all the hurdles the state of Florida keeps throwing our way. I know sometimes it does not feel this way, but the challenges we have faced have made us a stronger community. We are healthier financially than we have ever been, and the community looks better than ever.

**However, we cannot become complacent.** Our survival as a community depends on us being proactive so that we can keep growing and changing.



# EVENTS COMMITTEE

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The event committee would like to invite Conquistador residents to an open meeting on *February 3rd at 9:30 am* in the card room.

This will be to explain the committee's duties and discuss the end of season party and answer any questions. This is a good time for new residents to learn how events are planned. Eventually we will have to make a decision regarding next year's board or committee.

We hope everyone enjoyed the Strawberry Festival and look forward to the Night at the Races and the Mardis Gras party. We would like to extend kudos to Susan Schieren and Martha Gorton and all the volunteers for a terrific Strawberry Festival.

*Lona Ciliotta - 772-221-0749*

*Sharon Kelly - 413-333-9785*

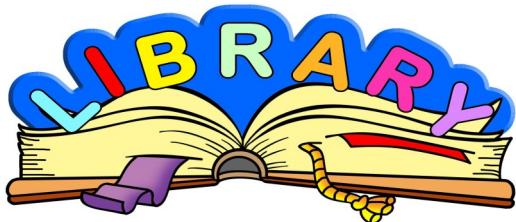
*Karen Milligan - 585-315-6920*

*Eleanor Rizzi - 516-238-3615*

*Kathy Smith - 401-419-5171*

*Diane Encarnation - 401-578-7494 -*

*Treasurer*



## LIBRARY NEWS

**Shirley Reilly**

Greetings fellow book lovers! Our library is full of great books thanks to new purchases and resident donations. Please try to return books promptly especially book club books and recent best sellers. As I shelve books each week I am dismayed to find books that have been kept from six months to a year or longer. Check your shelves in case you have a long overdue book. I would like to keep the "honor code" in place rather than use a check out system. Several favorite authors have new books coming out this month and will be available mid February in our library. We also have received several puzzle donations.

Be sure to check out our puzzle collection. I will be culling the older puzzles and making them available as FREE along with older books and duplicates.

Your suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. There is a suggestion box next to the candy dish. Let me know if you have a favorite author or have heard of a great book. Finally, some gentle reminders: the library does not accept magazine donations. Donated books published prior to 2015 are not accepted unless by a popular author and not in our collection. Please do not return any books you have taken from the FREE baskets.

*Happy Reading!*

## BOOK CLUB

**Karen Thomas**

Please join us on *Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM*

in the Card Room. Jackie Williams, our resident Non-Fiction Specialist, will be presenting:

**The Woman Behind**

**the New Deal: The Life and**

**Legacy of Frances Perkins**

by Kirstin Downey. "Kirstin

Downey's lively, substantive

and—dare I say—inspiring

new biography of Perkins . . . not only

illuminates Perkins' career but also

deepens the known contradictions of

Roosevelt's character." —Maureen

Corrigan, *NPR Fresh Air*.

Our Book Club attendance numbers have been increasing monthly. In January we had 17 residents attending.

Jackie's presentations

usually draw a large crowd

also. We are always

looking for guest

presenters. Please feel free

to volunteer to be one too.

Next month, *Wednesday,*

*March 12, 2025 at*

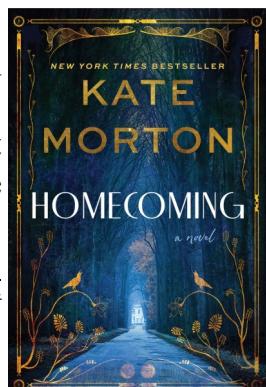
*6:30PM,* we will be

reviewing **Homecoming**

**A Novel** by Kate Morton. The

highly anticipated new novel from

the *New York Times* bestselling



author of *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, a sweeping novel that begins with a shocking crime, the effects of which echo across continents and generations.

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek on the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most baffling murder investigations in the history of South Australia. Many years later and thousands of miles away, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for two decades, she now finds herself unemployed and struggling to make ends meet.

A phone call out of nowhere summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother Nora, who raised Jess when her mother could not, has suffered a fall and is seriously ill in the hospital.

At Nora's house, Jess discovers a true crime book chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. It is only when Jess skims through its pages that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this notorious event – a mystery that has never been satisfactorily resolved. An epic story that spans generations, *Homecoming* asks what we would do for those we love, how we protect the lies we tell, and what it means to come home. Above all, it is an intricate and spellbinding novel from one of the finest writers working today.



### SHUFFLEBOARD

#### Dennis Weinand

Shuffle board is on Thursday's at 3PM. Hope you all come down and enjoy the game!! Bring your favorite beverage and snack!! It's fun with lots of laughs!!!

*See you at the courts!!!*

### CRIBBAGE

#### Rick Stenseth

Our Cribbage Crew continues to grow, and we are having so much fun! Come and join us. We have a chair just waiting for you. Would you care to learn or brush up on your skills? Call Rich Stenseth Bldg 11-108 - 312-406-2644; Mondays - Game Room 1:30 PM start.

*Please come early.*



### HAND AND FOOT

#### Pat Stenseth

An enjoyable, easier, version of Canasta. Join us for fun, laughs, and friendly competition. We play in The Cardroom.



Tuesday 12:30 PM and Thursday 6:30 PM. Come a little early.

We sign up for each week so please call. Want to learn or brush up? We're glad to teach you.

Contact: Pat Stenseth 815-545-0507

### TENNIS

#### Kathleen Murphy

The faithful tennis players are hoping to get back on the courts after the holidays, hopefully with new fencing and refurbished courts. If you are not already part of our stalwart crew and would like to be, call or text Kathleen Murphy at 518 744 2115.



### MAHJONG

#### Marilyn Brown

Mahjong is played every Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the Clubhouse Cardroom.





## PICKLEBALL Leo Calderone

The pickleball courts have been resurfaced and restriped and they look great! The covered off court seating area is being fabricated off site

and will be installed next. Once this is complete, the wind nets will go up. Two new nets have been installed and a new net system added. The new net system is a big improvement and should last longer. Please make sure when moving all nets that the wheel brakes are off so the wheels don't drag on the court. When play is complete, release the tension on the nets as this helps them last longer. Feel free to text me at 203-314-4122 if you have questions or concerns.

Regards,  
Leo Calderone

## MAY I Anne Allbee

May I is an easy to learn "Rummy Game" played on Thursday's at 1PM in the card room.



The Fran Dorman Bridge Tournament was a big success. Played on December 20, the team event was won by the Garnet Team (as opposed to the

Gold Team). The color teams represented Fran's favorite college football team, the Florida State Seminoles.

Each member of the Garnet Team received a medal – "The Frannie" (sort of like "The Oscar" but certainly more coveted!).

A dinner catered by TooJays followed the tournament.

To join in the fun, you can join the Bridge group that meets every Friday at 12:45 in the Card Room at the Clubhouse. The group is open to all.

To sign up to play, call or email Jackie Williams at 772-285-0677 or jackiew37@yahoo.com.

## CONQUISTADOR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Our Telephone Directory is posted on our website, [Conquistadorliving.com](http://Conquistadorliving.com).



It is updated on a regular basis. Call the office if you need the community logon password.

You can look people up by last name or scroll past the alphabetical listing to find their names listed by lot number or building with unit number. We have added email addresses. If yours is not listed, and you would like it to be listed, please let the office know:

[bookkeeper@conquistadorliving.com](mailto:bookkeeper@conquistadorliving.com)

## ELEVATOR HELP

If you have an issue with the elevator in your condo building, please contact your Board President. **Unless someone is trapped in the elevator...then call 911 immediately!** The Board President will then contact Bonnie in the office, TK Elevator, or the fire department.



**Please be considerate and pick up  
your dog's waste.  
Let's keep Conquistador clean!**



## LOST & FOUND

If you have left anything behind in the clubhouse or by the clubhouse pool, check the lost and found basket in the office hallway.

**LOST & FOUND**



## BINGO Eileen Thibeault

!!!!!!BINGO!!!!!!

January. BINGO was fun even though the cold and rainy weather rolled on! There were 22 and 35 participants playing and catching up. Thank

you all who helped by bringing smaller dollar bills to purchase lucky cards! It really helps! On the 21st, almost \$200 in winnings was awarded. There was even a winner of the jackpot round. The BINGO games will take place the rest of the season in the ballroom.

*February 4th and 18th PM—Doors open at  
6:30 PM start time is 7 PM  
Come join the fun!*



### BUNCO HAPPY “HOUR”

**FUN – FUN – FUN!!**

**And so VERY EASY to Learn**

**(5 minute “Learning Curve”)**

**Bring your favorite drink and snacks to nosh on as you enjoy this really, fun - and - maybe profitable evening.**

**\$5.00 per person and ALL**

**proceeds are split between the winners!!!!**

**Since BUNCO is a very interactive game, it is a GREAT way congregate with “old” friends AND - meet new friends**

**Please call Felicia 914-907-2491 or Deborah 412-443-5121 with any questions.**

**February 26th - Wednesday**

**Starts at 5:30 so come a little early - Clubhouse Card Room.**

**Felicia Calabro and Deborah Pavlic**



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## CONQUISTADOR NEIGHBORHOOD

### CRIME WATCH

**By Mike McPhillips**

Greetings Neighbors. We have a couple of things to pass along in this month's column for the newsletter.

Most importantly, I would like to report that our community lighting project is moving forward. Earlier this month, our president signed a contract with FPL initiating the long-awaited street lighting project that will light our streets dramatically improving safety in Conquistador. You will, I am told, hear more about the project from Renee Drentkiewicz, our HOA President. On January 9<sup>th</sup> we attended the Monthly Civilian Intel Meeting at the Martin County Sheriff's office (MCSO) where coordinators from local Neighborhood Crime Watch groups and members of the Civilian Intel Group were introduced to the newly elected Sheriff, John Budensiek. Sheriff Budensiek told us he strongly supports the community groups and intends to continue supporting the Neighborhood Crime Watch and Civilian Intel Group at the same high level as former Sheriff Snyder. The new Sheriff also indicated that he would avail himself to attend Community group meetings throughout the county to introduce himself and talk about his department and the department's efforts to combat crime.

Additionally, Captain Moore, from the Community Services Division conducted the remainder of the meeting informing the group of crime trends throughout the county. The captain warned that there have been several auto burglaries in Martin County. Most of the crimes targeted unlocked automobiles. He stressed that residents needed to make sure they are locking their automobiles and removing valuables. Do not leave weapons in your cars. It seems like every month we are informed of weapons being stolen from vehicles.

Also, there was a discussion about a trend in gift card scams. Apparently there have been thefts of gift cards where offenders will steal the cards from stores. They remove the cards from the store and copy the pins and card numbers from the cards. They then take the cards back to the store and place the cards at the front of the displays. Someone will unwittingly purchase the card and subsequently activate it. The thief will go on-line, enter the card number and pin they copied earlier from the card and use the card to purchase merchandise. Make certain when purchasing gift cards to ensure the cards have not been tampered with!

Finally, we were reminded that illicit text messages and emails designed to scam unwitting victims are big concern when using the internet or text messaging. Pay attention to the origin of messages or email and do not respond to suspicious communications from people you do not know.

*Stay safe and stay well!*

## **WATCH YOUR SPEED WHEN DRIVING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY!**

The safety of residents, guests, and pets are at risk when people speed. If you witness an extreme speeder, contact the office with their tag and make/model of their vehicle.

**SLOW  
DOWN**  
**YOU LIVE HERE, WE LIVE HERE**



## **"A Night at the Races!"**

### **When:**

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
5:00 - 8:00 PM

### **Where:**

Conquistador Downs (Clubhouse Ballroom)

### **Menu:**

Coffee & Dessert  
Provided

Bring Appetizers To  
Share With Your Table

BYOB

### **Cost:**

\$5.00 per person

### **Entertainment:**

4 Exciting Races -



1<sup>st</sup> Post Time @ 6:00 PM

BETTING IS CASH ONLY

\$1.00 & \$5.00 bills much appreciated

Sponsored By: Building 4

**Ticket Deadline:**

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025



## **PILATES**

Interested in building core strength and flexibility?? Try Pilates!

This regimen is a series of non -cardio exercises intended for any age and level of fitness. Pilates builds strength, flexibility and muscle tone as well as improves balance.

No experience necessary. Modifications will be provided for all levels of fitness. All participants should bring a yoga sticky mat, water and a towel. Contact insured, ESA certified instructor, Sharyn Kalinkewicz at (518) 928-0179 for more information.

*Thursdays at 10 AM in the Ballroom*