



*Conquistador HOA*

*February 2026*

*Newsletter*

## **CHA President Renee Drentkiewicz**

Dear Neighbors:

It's time for a big **thank you** to our Event Committee. They have been keeping us all very active this year with quite a variety of events. This includes the speakers, bunco, bingo, trivia, music and all the other scheduled events. We applaud and truly appreciate their efforts and look forward to the next few months.



Based on the recent vote approved by the membership, the Association will be instituting a maximum hedge height of eight (8) feet on all properties. This change reflects the collective decision of the membership and is intended to promote consistency, visibility, and overall community appearance. We are in the process of having a Landscape Architect draw a design that will show how properties should look regarding Article X., Use Restrictions, Section 5a. Implementation of this standard will begin over the next few months. Property owners whose hedges currently exceed the approved height are asked to make the necessary adjustments within this timeframe. We appreciate your cooperation and your participation in the voting process.

Due to liability concerns, non-residents and their guests should remain off the sidewalks and grounds of all other condominium buildings. Residents and guests do not walk on the house properties, and they should not walk on other condo properties. Also, remember that Buildings 1, 5 & 9 are no-pet buildings. Please be mindful of this policy and ensure it is always followed.

And last but not least, please remember to maintain the 15<sup>mph</sup> speed limit throughout the community for everyone's safety. Many residents and pets regularly walk in the streets and lower speeds make a real difference in preventing accidents and injuries. Driving slowly allows for better visibility, quicker reaction time and a safer, more welcoming environment for all who live here.

Thank you all for doing your part to keep our neighborhood safe and comfortable for everyone and thank you for your continued support.

Renee Drentkiewicz

## **Manager's Corner Bonnie Guenther**

It is reported that the Blue Stream installations are going great. Residents have reported that they are impressed with the installation crew and their professionalism. This makes me very happy to hear as there are hiccups with any large project, but they have been manageable.

The common areas will be some of the next installations. This will include the Clubhouse, LRA1 and 2, and the dock which will be converted from code access to FOB access once internet is installed.



The bocce ball court is almost complete but is being used to the fullest. It is a great addition to the community. Thanks to John Calabro for his big idea (He He)!

I have also added some new minor gear to the Fitness Room: New mats and some kettle bells. Per the request of owners, I will be adding some storage to hold personal belongings very soon.

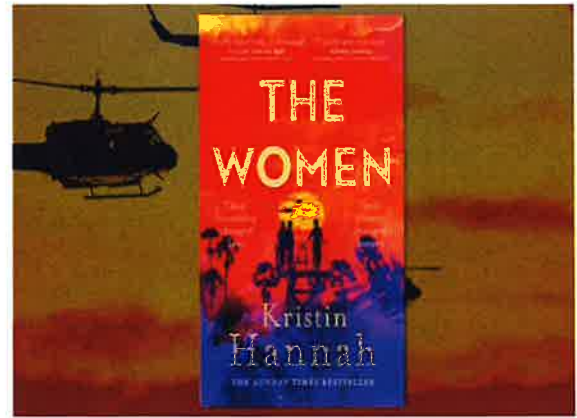


The office is especially busy at this time of year as it is year end. E mail is always the fastest method of communication with the office as even when I am away from my desk, I still receive e mail on my phone. Please welcome our new administrative assistant, Claudine LoForte. She is a welcome addition. Please wish her well when you meet her.

## BOOK CLUB Karen Thomas

**Conquistador Book Club, Wednesday,  
February 11, 20206 at 6:30PM in the  
Card Room**

***The Women*** is a 2024 historical fiction novel **by Kristin Hannah** about Frances "Frankie" McGrath, a young nurse who serves in the Vietnam War, highlighting the experiences of women in the war and their often-overlooked sacrifices, and exploring themes of friendship, patriotism, and trauma as she returns home to a changed America. The book became a #1 New York Times bestseller and is being adapted into a major motion picture.

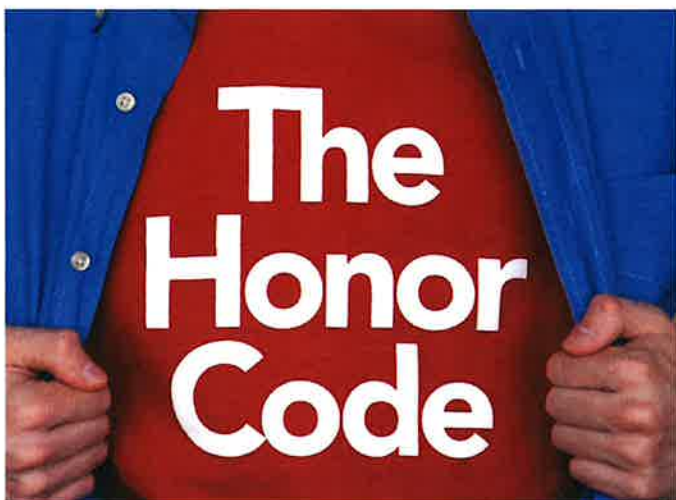


### Key aspects of the novel:

- **Protagonist:** Frances "Frankie" McGrath, a sheltered nursing student from California who impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps.
- **Setting:** The Vietnam War and its aftermath in the 1960s and 70s.
- **Themes:** Female heroism, the bond of female friendship, the trauma of war, and the struggle for recognition for women who served.
- **Genre:** Historical fiction, war, and domestic fiction.
- **Reception:** A major bestseller, praised for its portrayal of a transformative era and its memorable heroine.

## 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. Let me know if you have a favorite author or have heard of a great book. 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. Finally, I am glad so many of you are enjoying the candy bowls. I do this at my own expense. Please consider donating a bag of mixed mints or candy. You can put them in the book donation box.  
Happy Reading!

**EVENTS COMMITTEE  
SEE ATTACHED.**

**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR  
ATTACHED**

## TENNIS



**8:15AM on Thursdays on the courts. Be there!!!**

## PICKLEBALL Leo Calderone

Conquistador Pickleball News Conquistador pickleball season is in full swing. We've had as many as 33 players show up to play. As suggested, using the team reach app to communicate is preferred to keep all involved. We will be holding our annual pickleball tournament on February 13th. This year it will be a mixed doubles format which means a team will consist of one guy and one lady. We will also implement rally scoring, which means every rally is a chance to score a point, not just when serving. So, find a partner to have fun with and stay safe especially when going back for lobs.

Tip of the month: When you are pressured by your opponent or off balance it's best to hit a soft shot into the kitchen called a 'reset' to regain your balance and regain your position at the kitchen line vs trying to hit a hard shot. If you need assistance using the Team Reach App, feel free to reach out to me. Dink well with others.

Leo C

**BOCCE BALL**  
**John Calabro**



Questions? Call: *Rich Stenseth Bldg 11 at 312-406-2644.*

*See you soon!*

**CRIBBAGE**

**Rich Stenseth**

Our Cribbage group meets every Monday at 1:30 pm. Join us all you seasoned players. If you have never played and think you would like to learn, it really is a lot of fun.

For more information:

Call Rich Stenseth Bldg. 11-108  
312-406-2644



**BINGO**  
**Feeling lucky????**  
**2/3 and 2/17 7PM**

Ciao,

**Conquistador now has a Bocce court!**

We have started a league and have 79 people that have signed up to play.

To accommodate all, we will use the court on Tuesday from 11:30 to 5:30 and Wednesday from 10:45 to 5:30!

If rain/snow causes us to skip a day, then we will use the court on Friday from 9:30 to 4PM.

Hopefully, there will be no rain, and I'm pretty sure our maintenance men will shovel whatever snow is on the court.

Any questions, please contact me and I or my little brother - Tommy Mileti - will get back to you.

Bona Fortuna!!!!

John Calabro

jcalabro@charter.net

**SHUFFLEBOARD**

**Rich Stenseth**

Welcome back fellow shuffle boarders.

**New Time - Thursday 1:30 to 3:00 pm.**

Come anytime to get a game in (or two or three).



**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**Come test for knowledge!**  
**2/25 6:30PM**

**HAND AND FOOT CARD GAME**  
**Pat Stenseth**

An enjoyable, easier version of Canasta. Join us for fun laughs, and friendly competition. We play in the Cardroom Tuesday at 12:30 PM and Thursday at 6:30 PM.

Come a little early. We sign up each week so please call.

Want to learn or brush up? We're glad to teach you.

Contact: Pat Stenseth  
815-545-0507  
Bldg 11-108

**BRIDGE NEWS**  
**Jackie Williams**

The Duplicate Bridge group meets every Friday at 12:45 in the Card Room at the Clubhouse. We are always happy to have new people join us.

**MAY I**  
**Anne Allbee**

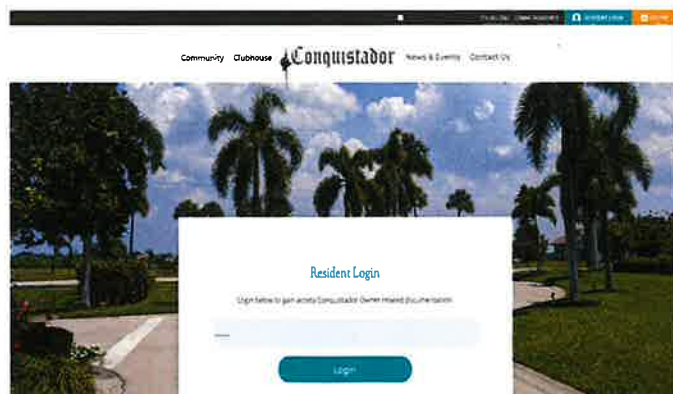
May I is an easy to learn "Rummy Game" played on **Wednesday's** (formerly **Thursday's**) at 1PM in the card room. Please contact Anne Allbee 860-213-1217 to sign up and find out more information.

**MAHJONG**  
**Virginia Callender**



If you enjoy playing Mahjong, please come join us every **Thursday** (formerly **Wednesday**) in the Clubhouse card room from 12:30PM - 4:00PM. We have a \$3.00 limit so be sure to bring your quarters, nickels and dimes. (If you lose your \$3.00, you still continue playing and possibly win your money back!)

**CONQUISTADOR WEBSITE**  
[www.Conquistadorliving.com](http://www.Conquistadorliving.com)



The Conquistador website is the only official site for all Conquistador news and information. Included on the site:

- Telephone/E mail directory
- Agendas and minutes
- Community forms, i.e. sales, lease, & Architectural Review applications, pest control request forms, etc.
- Governing documents
- ProPay payment system link
- Condo association webpages which include agendas, minutes, governing documents, reserve studies, wind mitigations, etc. for all associations
- And MUCH more

Contact the office or your Board for the password to the main resident page or to your condo association webpage.

## ELEVATOR HELP



If you have an issue with the elevator in your condo building:

- Contact your Board President and the office to report exactly what is occurring with the elevator.
- **If someone is trapped in the elevator, call 911 immediately!** The Board President will then contact Bonnie in the office, TK Elevator, or the fire department.

## LOST & FOUND

The lost and found basket is located just outside of the Clubhouse office. Only remove items that belong to you.



## CRIME WATCH Mike McPhillips

Greetings, neighbors. I hope this month's contribution to our newsletter finds you well. We attended the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Citizen's Intelligence-Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting earlier this month, learning about crime trends, major issues and important arrests over the last five weeks in the county. Sheriff Budensiek conducted the meeting assisted by Trisha Green and others.



Previously, we have addressed the issue of fraud within our community (Martin County), and over time, we have observed a concerning increase in the incidence of scams and fraudulent activities. According to Sheriff Budensiek, county detectives investigated 885 cases of fraud in 2025 with losses reported over \$13.7 Million. That is almost three cases per day. Several scams were highlighted including a reported \$140 thousand "love scam." Consequently, not only do we have to be vigilant working together with our neighbors to protect our community from ordinary street crime, including burglary and theft, but we must also be alert with our personal use of cell phones and the internet. Beware, I was recently contacted by phone by a fraudster claiming to help me eliminate an "over-due tax liability." This was definitely a bogus call. The IRS will never call you by phone to "help" with tax problems, but they will send you a letter by mail with any bad news. It's tax season so I guess we can expect those calls.

The recent January 17<sup>th</sup> shred event, medical take back event at the Sheriff's office on Monterey appeared to be a success. Residents were able to bring as many as three banker's boxes of paper for shredding at no cost. We attended and moved quickly through the line. The next event will be in June or July. Additional discussion involved a very burglary of nearby Sewell Hardware where professional criminals broke into the business and removed numerous containers of power tools. The crooks were in and out of the store in less than two minutes fleeing before police arrived. Also there have reportedly been several reports of skimmers found at local gas stations and some stores. Be very cautious and look for credit card scanners ensuring that any of these skimmer devices have not been placed on the gas pump or store scanners. You may want to make sure you don't use bank cards for these transactions. Credit cards give some protection.

Further matters discussed at the Intel meeting included thefts of GPS, Garmin and other electronics from boats in marinas and slips in Stuart, Port Salerno and Manatee Pocket where 18 boats were damaged in one

night. The thieves reported worked very quickly causing a lot of damage to the boats. The good news, 4 arrests were made. Other crooks have been identified and apprehensions are anticipated.

Finally, we were informed of several arrests by MCSO including 3 arrests for stolen auto, an arrest for burglary and the arrest of a suspect Kynard Williams (2) from Miami. Williams reportedly represented himself as an employee of the Bank of America and subsequently convinced a victim to set up an Apple Wallet account and to deposit \$15,000 for him. Following Williams' arrest, detectives determined he was an employee of US Postal Service, and he had been committing scams all over the US totaling over \$170,000.

In conclusion, stay vigilant and be safe! Report all suspicious activity or crime promptly to the MCSO by calling 9-1-1.



- 1 OFFER TO HELP
- 2 SAY NICE THINGS
- 3 LISTEN WHEN OTHERS ARE SPEAKING
- 4 BE HAPPY FOR OTHERS
- 5 SHARE AND TAKE TURNS
- 6 INCLUDE EVERYONE
- 7 USE GOOD MANNERS
- 8 SMILE
- 9 PLAY FAIRLY
- 10 ENCOURAGE OTHERS

# EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hello Conquistadorians!

Our first event for 2026 will be the Welcome Back Party on 1/29/26 from 5-8:00pm, sponsored by the Houses. Please join us and reconnect with your neighbors!

We have some exciting and new events for this season (see below). Our February events will include the Night at Races 2/21 and the Art Show on 2/28. Tickets for the Night at the Races will go on **sale January 28, 2026**.

We have started a centralized ticket process. Tickets will go on sale 3-4 weeks prior to an event. Please contact **Julie Fall** to order your tickets - [jfall.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:jfall.stuart@gmail.com); **603-781-1226**.

If you are interested in volunteering at an event, we will have sign-up sheets at the Welcome Back Party. You can also contact any of the Event Committee members listed below.

Please join us for our planned events, happy hours, Trivia nights, Speaker Series and more. Come see the new “CHA BAH”. A beautiful addition created & built by Julie Fall and painted by Diane Montuoro. It will liven up all our events while serving a “specialty cocktail” for your enjoyment.

As you can see below, we have a full calendar of Events for the 2026 Season! We hope you make plans to attend and join us in the fun.

- 1/21/26 - Speaker Series – Woody Spring - Astronaut – Sponsored by Jackie Williams - Bldg 4
- 1/28/26 – Trivia Night - Sponsored Jackie Williams -Bldg 4
- 1/29/26 – Welcome Back – Margaritaville - Sponsored by the Houses
- 2/18/26 – Speaker Series Robert Longstaff (Bldg 4) - Carriage Houses – Sponsored by Jackie Williams – Bldg 4
- 2/21/26 – Night at the Races – Sponsored by the Events Committee
- 2/25/26 – Trivia Night - Sponsored Jackie Williams -Bldg 4
- 2/28/26 – Art Show – Sponsored by Beth Sherlock
- 3/12/26 – Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre – Murder at the Masquerade- Sponsored by the Event Committee
- 3/18/26 – Speaker Series – Rick Cass (Bldg 4) – Abraham Lincoln – Sponsored Jackie Williams- Bldg 4
- 3/25/26 – Trivia Night - Sponsored Jackie Williams Bldg 4
- 3/30/26 - Fashion Show – Sponsored by Bldg 1
- 4/16/26 – Caribbean Nights – End of Season Party - Sponsored by Bldgs 7 &10

If you are interested in helping at any 2026 Events, please contact a member of the Event Committee below:

- Patti Cobb - [pattiv\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiv_99@yahoo.com); 845-489-8052
- Diane Encarnation - [charlieanddiane@verizon.net](mailto:charlieanddiane@verizon.net); 401-578-7494
- Julie Fall -- [jfall.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:jfall.stuart@gmail.com); 603-781-1226
- Faye Lizotte - [flizotte5380@comcast.net](mailto:flizotte5380@comcast.net); 954-812-6645
- Laurie Thor -- [thorlaurie@hotmail.com](mailto:thorlaurie@hotmail.com); 908-309-3548

Happy Valentine's Day!

