

DEEP CREEK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DEEP CREEK NEWS



JULY/AUGUST 2026
ISSUE NO. 04

Happy
★ 4th of July! ★

Turning Strangers in
Neighbors –
And Neighbors Into
Friends





America 250: Celebrating Freedom by Honoring Those Who Serve

*A reflection on the 250th anniversary of America
and the service and sacrifice of our military community.*

AMERICA
250

On July 4, 2026, our nation will mark 250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. This milestone, known as America 250, is more than a birthday celebration. It is a moment to reflect on the ideals that shaped our country and to honor the generations who have defended them.

Independence Day is often filled with fireworks, flags, parades, music, and family gatherings. Those traditions matter because they bring neighbors together and remind us of the freedoms we share. But this year's 250th anniversary also invites us to pause and remember that freedom has never been protected by words alone. It has been carried forward by service, sacrifice, and commitment.

Here in our community, one meaningful way to celebrate America 250 is to honor our veterans, active-duty service members, military families, and the loved ones who stood beside them. Their stories are part of America's story. From the Revolutionary era to today, men and women in uniform have answered the call to protect our country, support our allies, respond in times of crisis, and preserve the freedoms we enjoy each day.

This July 4th, consider taking a moment before the fireworks begin to thank a veteran, visit a veterans memorial, fly the flag respectfully, attend a patriotic observance, or share a family story of military service with the next generation. These simple acts help keep history personal and meaningful.

America's 250th birthday is not only about looking back. It is also about looking forward. As neighbors, we can honor the past by strengthening the community we share today—with gratitude, respect, service, and unity.

This Independence Day, may we celebrate proudly, remember thoughtfully, and give special thanks to those who helped keep America free.

*“Freedom has been
carried forward by
service, sacrifice, and
commitment.”*



Fun Facts About the 4th of July & America 250

Celebrating 250 years of American independence on July 4, 2026

★ A quick page of patriotic trivia for readers of all ages ★

1 250 Years of Independence

July 4, 2026 marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.

★ 250 ★

2 A Big Word: Semiquincentennial

The 250th anniversary of an event is called a semiquincentennial. America 250 is the nation's semiquincentennial celebration.



3 The Declaration Was Adopted on July 4

The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia.



4 56 Signers

Fifty-six delegates ultimately signed the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock's signature is the most famous.

John Hancock

5 The First July 4 Celebration

One of the earliest organized Independence Day celebrations took place in Philadelphia in 1777, just one year after independence was declared.



6 Fireworks Were Part of the Vision

John Adams predicted the holiday should be celebrated with 'illuminations'—one reason fireworks became a July 4 tradition.



7 A Remarkable Date in History

Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. President James Monroe also died on July 4, in 1831.



8 The First American Flag

The original U.S. flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes to represent the first 13 states.



**BONUS
FACT**

America 250 is a chance not only to celebrate the past, but also to reflect on the ideals of freedom, service, and unity.



Have a Safe, Fun & Patriotic 4th of July!

Wishing everyone in Deep Creek
and our Southwest Florida community
a happy Independence Day.

WELCOME TO
Deep Creek
GATEWAY TO
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

AMERICA
250

CELEBRATING
AMERICA 250

HONORING 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE • 1776-2026

4 FRIENDLY SAFETY REMINDERS

-  Stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.
-  Plan ahead for traffic, parking, and weather.
-  Keep pets safe and indoors during fireworks.
-  Celebrate respectfully and enjoy the holiday responsibly.

*Enjoy the fireworks, the fun,
and the freedom we celebrate together.*

Proud. ★
Grateful. ★
American. ★
LET FREEDOM
SHINE ★

★ Happy 4th of July ★ Deep Creek / Punta Gorda / Port Charlotte ★

★ America 250 ★ Activities Near Deep Creek

July 4, 2026 • Deep Creek / Punta Gorda /
Port Charlotte area

A one-page guide to public July 4 celebrations,
military and heritage-related activities,
and at-home viewing options.

★ ★ ★ ① Main July 4 Events ★ ★ ★

① Fourth Fest 2026 at Lashley Park



Saturday, July 4 • Lashley Park, Punta Gorda • Gates open 3:00 PM • Fireworks 9:00 PM. Free general admission. Family-friendly festival with the United Way Kids Fun Zone, vendors, shopping booths, festival food, beverages, live music, and what organizers call the most spectacular fireworks display in the event's history over the Peace River. VIP and reserved covered seating are also available.

More info:
puntagordafireworks.com

② Fishermen's Village Independence Day Celebration



Saturday, July 4 • Fishermen's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda • Village festivities from noon to evening • Fireworks 9:00 PM. Waterfront setting with dining, shopping, strolling, and a popular harbor fireworks view. A good option for residents who want a festive but walkable Punta Gorda destination.

More info:
fishermensvillage.com/events

③ King Fisher Fleet Sunset / Fireworks Cruise



Saturday, July 4 • Departs 7:30 PM from Fishermen's Village • Returns about 9:30 PM. Ticketed harbor cruise that tours Charlotte Harbor at sunset and then watches the fireworks from the water. Boats have bathrooms and beverages/snacks are available for purchase.

More info:
kingfisherfleet.com/cruises/fireworks-cruise/

④ Happy Birthday USA – Charlotte County Celebrates America's 250th Birthday



Saturday, July 4 • William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park, 20499 Edgewater Dr., Port Charlotte. Community patriotic observance in a veterans memorial setting. Ideal for readers seeking a more reflective, honor-focused way to mark the nation's 250th birthday.

More info:
charlottecountychamber.org/member-events

⑤ North Port Freedom Festival: Cheers to 250 Years



Saturday, July 4 • CoolToday Park, North Port • Begins 6:00 PM • Opening ceremonies 7:00 PM • Fireworks 9:00 PM. Free community event with activities, vendors, food, and a large evening fireworks show. Slightly outside the immediate Deep Creek area for some readers, but still a good nearby option worth checking.

More info:
cityofnorthport.com

② Military, Heritage & Veteran-Friendly Options ★ ★

⑥ Military Heritage Museum



900 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. A meaningful America 250 stop for residents who want more historical context this year. The museum highlights U.S. military history across multiple eras and features 18th–19th century, 20th century, and 21st century galleries, the War Room, the Veteran's History Project, interactive experiences, and the Gulf Theater. It is a strong option for veterans, families, and history-minded residents who want to explore the meaning behind the 250th anniversary beyond fireworks alone.

Useful site sections include Plan Your Visit, Buy Tickets Online, Day at the Museum, and Upcoming Events.

Museum home: militaryheritagemuseum.org
Day at the Museum: militaryheritagemuseum.org/day-at-the-museum/
Upcoming events: militaryheritagemuseum.org/find-upcoming-events/

⑦ Veterans Memorial Setting



William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park remains one of the most fitting local places to reflect on service, sacrifice, and national history during America's 250th year.

For some readers, pairing a morning observance with an evening fireworks event may be the best balance of remembrance and celebration.

Community listings:
charlottecountychamber.org/member-events

③ For Members Staying Home: TV & Online Options



1. PBS – A Capitol Fourth
National Independence Day concert and broadcast.
pbs.org/a-capitol-fourth



2. NBC / Peacock – Macy's 4th of July Fireworks
Major televised fireworks special.
nbc.com
peacocktv.com



3. National Archives
Read and explore the Declaration of Independence from home.
archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration



4. America250 Florida
Florida-wide America 250 information and background.
america250fl.com

★ Helpful Notes



Verify final times, parking, and weather before leaving home.



Bring water, sun protection, medications, and a chair when needed.



Crowds and fireworks may be difficult for some veterans, pets, and noise-sensitive residents.



For a lower-stress day, consider the museum, a harbor cruise, or TV viewing from home.

With 4.00% APY* Max Checking, nearly

\$600 in annual earnings goes a long way.

JUST A SUGGESTION, IGNORE IF DESIRED -

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*Happy
4th of July*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

Summer is here in Deep Creek, and what a wonderful time to be part of this vibrant community! As we enjoy the longer days, warm evenings, and the beauty of our neighborhood in full bloom, I want to take a moment to share a few thoughts.

As we celebrate this Fourth of July, let us also reflect on something truly remarkable — our nation's 250th anniversary. Two hundred and fifty years of independence, freedom, and the enduring spirit that built this great country. It is a milestone worth honoring, and I hope we all take a moment to appreciate the sacrifices and vision of those who came before us.

First, a heartfelt thank you to our incredible volunteers and committee members. From the newsletter team to our event organizers, garden club leaders, and everyone who gives their time behind the scenes, your dedication is what makes Deep Creek such a special place to call home. None of what we accomplish as an association would be possible without your generosity and hard work.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. Whether you just moved in or recently joined the DCCA, we are thrilled to have you. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself at our next event or reach out to any of our board members. This community thrives when neighbors connect with one another.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Al, one of our Deep Creek neighbors, who has graciously contributed his time to write an article for this newsletter with the help of his wonderful neighbor Randy Reed. Al is our very first contributor, and we could not be more grateful. I am sure all of us have a story to tell, and we would love to have more neighbors share their experiences in future issues. If you do not consider yourself a writer or would like some help, do not worry — we have ways to make it happen. Thank you, Al and Randy!

As we move through July and August, I encourage everyone to stay involved. We have wonderful events and activities planned, and your participation makes all the difference. Keep an eye on our website at www.deepcreekcivic.org, join our Facebook group, and follow us on Nextdoor for the latest updates, announcements, and opportunities to get involved.

Deep Creek is more than a neighborhood. It is a community built on friendship, pride, and shared purpose. I hope you and your families enjoy a safe, relaxing, and fun-filled summer.



**WARM REGARDS,
ROB WILSON, PRESIDENT**

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**NEED MORE INFORMATION?
IN THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE DCCA NEWSLETTER,
WE INCLUDE CLICKABLE LINKS WHENEVER
AVAILABLE. IF YOU SEE BLUE OR UNDERLINED TEXT,
SIMPLY TAP OR CLICK IT TO VISIT A WEBSITE, SEND
AN EMAIL, OR LEARN MORE ABOUT AN EVENT OR
TOPIC.**

CLICKABLE
LINKS
PAGE



REMINDERS ON PAGES THROUGHOUT NEWSLETTER

WELCOME NEW MEMEBERS

WELCOME
New Members!



We're so glad you're here!

Thank you for being part of DCCA.

- Sheila Kaye
- Joanne Plasky
- Donna Buck
- Thomas Werner
- The Forbidden Shelf
- Linda Joy Weidemann
- Joan P Picco
- Paul Penzel
- Becki Davis
- Pamela Jones
- Debra Case
- Gregory Marshall
- William Hill
- Joan Sause
- Linda Piotrowski



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2026

JULY 3 [DCCA BINGO NIGHT](#)
5:30-7:30P7PM @ PILGRIM CHURCH
Fun, All Cash Prizes, 50/50 tickets; BYO Food & Drinks (No Alcohol)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED * SPACE LIMITED

JULY 6 [DCCA MEET & GREET HAPPY HOUR](#)
5-7PM @ ELKS LODGE
1133 CAPRICORN BLVD, PG
Meet new people and reconnect with friends

JULY 21 [DCCA MEET & GREET HAPPY HOUR](#)
5-7PM @ DEEP CREEK GOLF CLUB
1260 SAN CRISTOBAL AVE, PG
Meet new people and reconnect with friends

JULY 23 [MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES](#)
5:30-7:30 PM @JB'S CORNER CAFE
1533 RIO DE JANEIRO, PG
Register for our monthly game. Seats are limited so register online. Beginners welcome!
REGISTRATION REQUIRED * SPACE LIMITED

JULY 26 [DONATE BLOOD](#)
12N-6PM @WATSON'S ICE CREAM
1540 RIO DE JANEIRO, PG
Appointments @ oneblood.org/donate-now
Sponsor Code 68280
\$25 Gift Card; Big Red Bus T-Shirt; Chick-fil-A coupon; Wellness Checkup

AUGUST 2026

AUGUST 1 [BACK TO SCHOOL FUNDRAISER](#)
10A-1P @ LMCU - 2120 KINGS HWY, PC
Come join the fun and gather some free school supplies donated by local businesses and Charlotte County Residents
[CLICK TO GO TO AMAZON WISHLIST](#)

AUGUST 3 [DCCA MEET & GREET HAPPY HOUR](#)
5-7PM @ ELKS LODGE
1133 CAPRICORN BLVD, PG
Meet new people and reconnect with friends




AUGUST 14 [CREATIVE CELL PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY](#)
[4-5:30PM SESSION 1](#)
[6-7:30 PM SESSION 2](#)
@ LMCU - 2120 KINGS HWY, PC
Bring your charged cell phone; Learn how to take amazing photos
REGISTRATION REQUIRED /SPACE LIMITED

AUGUST 18 [DCCA MEET & GREET HAPPY HOUR](#)
5-7PM @ ELKS LODGE
1133 CAPRICORN BLVD, PG
Meet new people and reconnect with friends

AUGUST 27 [MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES](#)
5:30-7:30 PM @JB'S CORNER CAFE
1533 RIO DE JANEIRO, PG
Register for our monthly game. Seats are limited so register online. Beginners welcome!
REGISTRATION REQUIRED * SPACE LIMITED

CLICKABLE
LINKS
PAGE

Calendar FAQs

-  click on the event name & it will take you to the event page
-  you will find all details & registration (if applicable)
-  dcca website has the most up to date information on events

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT



MEET ALVIN "AL" MESSER: A LIFE OF HARD WORK, SERVICE, AND DEEP CREEK FRIENDSHIP

FROM GROWING UP DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION TO SERVING IN KOREA, BUILDING A FAMILY, AND BECOMING PART OF THE DEEP CREEK COMMUNITY, ALVIN "AL" MESSER HAS LIVED A LIFE FILLED WITH RESILIENCE, HARD WORK, AND MEANINGFUL MEMORIES.

BY RANDY REED

I live in Section 20 and was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1929, during the Great Depression. Most residents at the time had no jobs and very little money. As a result, the government brought in bulk food by semi-trailer, allowing people to line up for free food.

My parents and I lived in a house with an attached two-car garage. Much of the time, there were seven or eight Gypsies staying in the garage. I attended kindergarten at a school about three blocks from home. After some time passed, my dad got a job and was able to buy a house outside of Detroit.

To earn spending money as a youngster, I would pack up fish worms at night and sell them to fishermen the next day.

"Ten gallons of gas for a dollar" was on a sign I still remember across the street from where I sold the worms.

I later attended first through sixth grade. In the 1940s, we moved to a rural farming area, where my dad and I built a small house using old lumber and used nails. I retrieved the nails from the lumber and straightened each one by hand. My parents and their four children lived there with no running water, only a hand pump in the kitchen.

I then attended a one-room schoolhouse for seventh and eighth grade. High school was not an option for me at that time. My neighbor gave me a job cleaning chicken coops and milking a cow.

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED ...MEET ALVIN "AL" MESSER: A LIFE OF HARD WORK, SERVICE, AND DEEP CREEK FRIENDSHIP

At 16, we moved to a small town a few miles away. I got a job working at a bakery six nights a week, 10 hours a day, and I worked there for five years. My pay was \$70 a week, plus a dozen doughnuts and a loaf of bread each day. At 21, I was drafted and completed Army basic training at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Next, I completed 10 weeks of training to learn about vehicle parts, becoming a parts specialist. I was then sent to Korea to relieve a parts man who was returning to the United States. I was stationed in an active combat area and, at times, saw actual dogfights. Later, our division moved to Japan, where I ran a parts room and took care of many vehicles. After a while, it was time to return to the United States, and I received my honorable discharge. Back in the United States, I tried to hitchhike home in my full Army uniform, carrying a duffel bag with my belongings. Many automobiles passed me without offering a ride. Finally, a passenger bus stopped and gave me a ride. I offered to pay, but the bus driver said, "No charge."

I then got a job selling real estate. I met my wife, Grace, in the 1950s, and we married in 1960. We had two daughters.

Real estate became so competitive that I could not make a living at it, so I got a job at a Chrysler auto plant and worked there for four years. Next, I became an FHA appraiser for two years. I then went back to baking for another six years. During this time, I attended adult education classes and received my high school diploma.

Next, I worked at the post office, where I retired after nine and a half years. We then moved to Deep Creek in 1999. There were lots of activities in Deep Creek to enjoy. I played horseshoes and had regular tee times with my group of friends. I took care of Grace during the last 10 years of her life while she was sick. She passed away in 2024. We were married for 64 happy years. One of my daughters also passed away.

Editor's Note: My friend Al is a great guy who could use more people to spend time with. By the way, he likes to dance. Please consider introducing yourself to Al the next time you see him.

PETS OF DEEP CREEK

Meet Our Pets

Page 2

1



Rosie

Maryanne Feroce Blanchette
Rosie is our beautiful GSD/lab rescue pup. She was one of 11 pups left out in a quarry in South Florida. She had 2nd degree burns on her tail as a result (healed beautifully, you'd never know now). She protects me from the lawnmower, the mailman and considers herself the "guardian of the green belt". I protect her from cheese wrappers, oven mitts and the ironing board.

2



Felix, Ope, Vader & Bruno

Monica Gregory
Our fur babies.

3



Sammy

Selina Wood
Our Sammy!!

4



Nova

Karen Miller
Nova. Big voice, slightly neurotic, loveable girly..... until a bird squaks over head and she runs for the house like a scaredy cat!

5



Oliver

Sheri Burke
Oliver is enjoying a little Florida sunshine. He was found in a home with 30 dogs in it. We're both living our best lives together.

6



Nova & Sage

Mary Russo
Nova & Sage.

7



Max

Deb Lashua
Our beautiful boy, Max. Rescued from a kill shelter in W. Virginia. Loves chasing geckos on the lanai.

8



Morkie, Ahna & Lucy

Victoria Schmidt
Left to right—Morkie, Ahna, and Lucy. Morkie was a recent addition when my aunt passed away, Ahna was a special needs rescue from Las Vegas (they needed someone familiar with dogs with seizures) and Lucy is our Covid rescue pup. Lucy is short for Lucifer or "you got some splaining to do, Lucy" depending on the day!

9



Boone

Kelly Mason
Boone, a beagle mix. Hobbies: taking walks, eating, and his favorite.. napping.

10



Maggie & Bella

Melodye Demastus
Maggie and Bella! You know, those mean pit bulls... best doggos ever! They are both as sweet as sugar pie!

PETS OF DEEP CREEK

Meet Our Pets

1



Daisy

Linda Anders

Daisy. She is a rescue and is very independent. She thinks she is a watch dog.

2



Petey

Chris Walsh

This is my little guy Petey. He'll be 14 in a couple of months. We rescued him when he was 4 months old up in Connecticut. His litter was saved in a raid on a dog fighting camp in South Carolina. He and his brothers and sisters were to be used as blood dogs. The first few months we had him he was a nervous wreck, frightened out of his mind and distrustful. It took a lot of love and gentle attention to get him to believe that he was part of our family. He's been a wonderful wingman and my best friend since 2013. Most folks up here around Barranquilla Avenue know him and love to see him every morning!

3



Barnes

Debbie Mogavero Slater

This is Barnes, he's 4 1/2.

4



Stitch

Tony Billing

She showed up at my wife's dealership in 2015 begging for help because her whole hind end had been mauled by an unknown animal. We spent two months of twice-a-day wound care, and many vet visits, to get her back on track. She is the most lovable and appreciative cat we've saved.

5



Eli

Ashley Kusmierkiewicz

Eli is a 3 year old black pug who is an AKC Grand Champion that not only earns conformation titles but also excels in sports and performance events. Eli has traveled to various states to show in many prestigious dog shows.

6



Bingo

Tom Regan

This is Bingo! He's a blonde Silky Terrier. We rescued him a little over a year ago. His nickname is Tank, because he has no fear when we play!! He throws his body around with no regard for his personal safety!! He makes use of the furniture when he gets the zoomies!!

7



Ginger

Joe & Maura Yousko

This is Ginger. She is a Shiba Inu and has lived in Deep Creek for almost 13 years now with her mommy and daddy. She is originally from Hollywood, Fla. She will be 15 in August.

8



Bambi

Cindy Peterson and Teri Wilson

Rescued from Pug Rescue of Florida/Georgia in 2025. She is 11 years old this year. She lost her eye in 2025 when relinquished to the Rescue due to eye disease. We are happy she is part of our lives now and very spoiled. She is our 7th rescue.

9



Bear

Nancy Boulanger

Meet Bear, our 5 year old, 110 pound catahoula leopard/lab mix. He's a fierce protector of family and children, is a balance assistance dog, pool attendant and cat friend. Bear was diagnosed with aggressive cancer in January 2025, underwent surgery & chemotherapy and is now cancer free.

10



Bodi

Jennifer Smith

Bodi is an 8yrs old, Piebald Dachshund. He was adopted at 2yrs old from a family with a feral, untrained, handsy toddler. 16 months after his #GotchaDay, he had to have IVDD surgery. He survived surgery and regained 95% mobility. You can barely see the scar along his spine and he walks with a slight swagger. Sometimes he looks like he's running sideways and he can't run very far. Otherwise you can't tell he had any issues. Bodi acts and sounds like a grumpy, old man because he growls a lot—even when he's getting pets—and he snores when he's sleeping. He's scared of thunder & lightning and has severe reactions to ant & mosquito bites. Bodi's favorite toy is a squeaky, rubber burger. Mom always keeps at least 2 backups at all times—just in case.

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Contact Us!

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

35th Annual Freedom Swim – July 4, 2026

A longtime local Independence Day tradition returns to the Peace River on Saturday, July 4, 2026. The Freedom Swim begins at 10:00 a.m., with a brief discussion for swimmers at 9:50 a.m. Participants may paddle, swim, or float across the river in this fun community happening.

★ EVENT DETAILS ★

- **Start time:** 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 4, 2026
- **Swimmer discussion:** 9:50 a.m.
- **Start location:** North end of the southbound US 41 Bridge
- **Gathering area:** In the water offshore of the public beach and Riverwalk boardwalk at the northwest side of the north end of the northbound US 41 Bridge
- **Route:** Across the Peace River to Fishermen's Village
- **Estimated crossing time:** 40 minutes to 3 hours
- No trolley service
- No land access to the starting point
- No access from Sunseeker Resort
- Swimmers must arrive by boat
- This is intended to be a happening, not a race
- Each swimmer is responsible for their own safety and support team
- Swim with a buddy — it's safer and more fun
- Boaters must operate at idle speed in the Peace River Channel from the US 41 Bridge to Marker No. 2 while swimmers are in the channel



Contact: Michael P. Haymans • 941-661-5622

SECTION 20 & 23 POA NEWS

**BOTH SECTION 20 & SECTION 23
HAVE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.
MAKE SURE TO CHECK YOU EMAIL
AND WEBSITE FOR ELECTION
PROCESS & CANDIDATE
INFORMATION**

SECTION 20 PROPERTY OWNERS

**WE ARE USING GETQUARUM, AN
ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM THIS
YEAR! THIS WILL SIMPLIFY OUR
ANNUAL PACKET MAILING, AVOID
THE CONFUSING DOCUMENTS AND
QUICKLY PROVIDE US WITH A FAST
THIRD PARTY RESULTS. PLEASE LOOK
AT YOUR EMAILS AND SIGN UP!**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Deep Creek Civic Association

UPCOMING Events

FUN • COMMUNITY • CONNECTION



BINGO Night!

FUN • PRIZES • COMMUNITY



Friday, July 3, 2026
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Pilgrim Church
24515 Rampart Blvd.



Cost: \$25 per person
100% of entry fees
paid back to players

- ✓ 5 cards per player
- ✓ 12 games
- ✓ 50/50 tickets
- ✓ Bring your own food and beverages
- ✗ No alcohol permitted



REGISTER ONLINE! www.deepcreekcivic.org



MEET & GREET



1st Monday of each month
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



Elks
Casual
community
gathering



3rd Tuesday of each month
6:00 p.m.



Deep Creek
Golf Club



Meet neighbors, make friends,
and stay connected.



MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES



Last Thursday
of the month



5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



JB's Café



Join us for a relaxed evening of
dominoes and community fun.
Bring your dominoes set (if you have one).

CREATIVE

CELL PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY



Friday, August 14, 2026



Sessions: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Location: LMCU



Instructor: Jim Austin



Class size: Maximum 8
people per session



Cost: \$35 for members;
\$40 for non-members



Bring your charged cell phone



REGISTRATION REQUIRED



LEARN MORE & REGISTER
www.deepcreekcivic.org

STAY CONNECTED.
GET INVOLVED.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Lake Michigan Credit Union
and the
Deep Creek Civic Association
are hosting



BACK TO SCHOOL

Come join the fun and gather some free school supplies
donated by local businesses and Charlotte County residents!



Saturday
August 1, 2026



10:00 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m.



LMCU Parking Lot,
2120 Kings Hwy,
Port Charlotte

FUN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Bounce house/slide, cash machine, and photo booth
- ✓ Coupon for (2) free tacos from El Guero Tacos
- ✓ Free haircuts for the kids by Illusions Salon & Spa
- ✓ Free vision evaluations provided by the Lions Club
- ✓ Free dental evaluations provided by Soul Dental

DONATIONS NEEDED!!!

We will be accepting donations during the entire month of July at these locations:

- 📍 Lake Michigan Credit Union: 2120 King's Highway, Port Charlotte
- 📍 Deep Creek Section 20 POA office: 24710 Sandhill Blvd., Punta Gorda
- 📍 Deep Creek Section 23 POA office: 26217 Rampart Blvd., Punta Gorda
- 📍 Illusions Salon & Spa: 115 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
- 📍 Soul Dental: 941 Tamiami Trail, Suite F, Port Charlotte
- 📍 Watson's Ice Cream: 1540 Rio de Janeiro Ave., Punta Gorda



If you have any questions, please call **Deb Bambrick** at 330-703-1133.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WISH LIST:

- Pencils
- Composition notebooks
- Glue sticks
- Hand sanitizer
- Tissues
- Notecards
- Safety scissors
- Black markers
- Crayola crayons
- Cap erasers
- Index cards
- Pencil boxes
- Notebook paper
- Single subject notebooks
- Pocket folders
- Etc.



AMAZON WISHLIST:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CQ3RRSCX2U27/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS



DONATE BLOOD



**SAVING LIVES TOGETHER:
THE DEEP CREEK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
& WATSON'S ICE CREAM**
Sunday July 26th
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

All donors will receive*:

- **\$25 eGift Card**
- **Big Red Bus T-shirt**
- **Chick-fil-A Coupon**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

**Location: 1540 Rio De Janeiro Ave
Punta Gorda, FL 33983**



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code **68280**.

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood
Share your power.

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DEEP CREEK WILDLIFE CORNER

DEEP CREEK WILDLIFE CORNER: *The Florida Bobcat*

Submitted by Deb Bambrick

Florida is home to two predatory big cats: the wild bobcat and the panther. The bobcat, sometimes called the Florida lynx or wildcat, is the smaller of the two, and you're much more likely to spot it in the wild—or even in your backyard. In fact, the bobcat is the most abundant wildcat in the U.S. and has the greatest range of all wildcats native to North America.

Florida Bobcat Appearance—The Florida wild bobcat (*Felina rufus* or *Lynx rufus*) is about twice the size of a domestic cat and has long legs, large paws and a short tail – it is its "bobbed" tail that gave it the name "bobcat" – that may be only 1 to 7 inches long. A male bobcat weighs 20 to 30 pounds, and a female weighs between 15 and 25 pounds.

The bobcat has tufted, triangular-shaped ears, tufts around its face and a spotted coat. Its coat ranges in color from gray to reddish-brown, and its spots may be brown or black. The bobcat's belly and the backs of its ears are white with black spots. Young bobcats have more distinctive mottled or spotted marking on their faces than adults. A bobcat often appears completely black when it is wet, but only the tip of the tail is actually black. The bobcat is an extremely efficient mover, putting its back feet in the same place their front feet stepped, to avoid disrupting its surroundings any more than it has to. The bobcat has sharp teeth designed to acquire and eat prey, like all carnivores. The bobcat has retractable claws, like house cats.

Florida Bobcat Habitat—The Florida bobcat can be found all over the state, from swamps and forests to suburban backyards. It is a solitary animal with a tendency to mark its territory with urine and feces, and by scratching trees along the boundary of its home. A female bobcat's territory can cover up to six square miles of both wild and developed areas, while a male bobcat's territory can cover up to 30 square miles. Females and males only come together during breeding season, living separately at other times. When building a den, the bobcat favors hollow logs, tree hollows, caves, rock outcroppings and openings in the ground. It can live close to people and doesn't pose any great threat – it's too small to hunt or eat people and rarely preys on game or domestic creatures – but it is not suitable to keep as a pet. It may have more than one home, building several "backup" dens.

Florida Bobcat Behavior—The bobcat is a competent, typically nocturnal hunter. However, it's not unusual to spot a Florida bobcat during the day because it sleeps for only two to three hours at a time and may hunt in daylight if necessary. It can kill prey much bigger than itself, but mainly preys on rats, rabbits, raccoons, opossums and squirrels, and occasionally domestic chickens or feral cats. During winter months, it also feeds on robins, towhees, catbirds and other ground-dwelling, migrating birds that are passing through Florida to head south. The bobcat has excellent eyesight and hearing and can swim and climb trees, which helps protect them from other animal enemies.



In the wild, it can live for up to 14 years and can coexist with the panther because they do not target the same prey.

Bobcats vs. Panthers—Unlike the bobcat, the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*), a subspecies of puma, is protected under the Endangered Species Act. It is extremely rare to spot a panther in the wild in Florida, as fewer than 200 of them exist across the state with the majority living in south Florida.

Another difference between the bobcat and the panther is that the panther is much larger – up to four times larger than the bobcat. An adult male panther weighs about 130 pounds and an adult female panther weighs about 80 pounds. A panther also has a much longer tail than a bobcat.

One of the quickest ways to identify a wild cat is by looking at the tracks they leave on the ground. An adult panther's front paws leave tracks 3 inches long by 3 inches wide, and its rear paw tracks are slightly smaller. Both adult and young panthers leave larger tracks than bobcats – they are actually more similar to the tracks of coyotes and dogs. Panthers are usually yellowish tan in color, with white under the chin and black on the back of the ears.



VOLUNTEER WITH DCCA

GET INVOLVED! VOLUNTEER WITH THE **DEEP CREEK CIVIC ASSOCIATION!**



SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENTS!

- ✓ **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**
- ✓ **EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**
- ✓ **NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT**
- ✓ **LEADERSHIP ROLES**

Please contact **Deb Bambrick** at
specialevents@deepcreekcivic.org
if you have questions or would
like to get involved

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN DEEP CREEK!

COMMUNITY GIVING



**Proud to Support.
Committed to Give Back.**



DEEP CREEK IS ACTIVE IN GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO LETTING OTHERS
IN OUR COMMUNITY KNOW HOW THEY CAN
SUPPORT & GIVE BACK



**ARE YOU INVOLVED IN GIVING BACK?
WE WANT TO KNOW!**



SHARE WHAT YOU ARE DOING &
HOW DEEP CREEK CAN HELP
TO COMMUNICATIONS@DEEPCREEKCIVIC.ORG

Join DCCA
For the Fun

♥ AND TO DO GOOD ♥



COMPASSION
We care for
one another.



COMMUNITY
We're stronger
together.



COMMITMENT
We show up and
make an impact.



GIVING
We believe in
making a difference.



TOGETHER
We build a better
tomorrow.



Proudly Supporting
Our Community
Today and Every Day.

PAST EVENTS RECAP

EVENT RECAP

Mexican Train Dominoes

WHAT A NIGHT OF FUN, FRIENDS & BIG WINS!



Casino Bus Trip

We hit the road for a great day of fun, laughter, and a little luck at the casino!

Thank you to everyone who joined the ride!



PAST EVENTS RECAP

EVENT RECAP

Succulent Workshop

A creative morning of plants, friends, and fun!



LET'S PLANT
by Kathy Kobrzycki
Succulent Workshop



Let's Plant
DIY Succulents To Go

INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARE YOUR POT
Add soil to the pot.
Leave a little room at the top for your succulents.

REMOVE SUCCULENT FROM NURSERY POT
Gently take the succulent out of its small pot.

PLANT YOUR SUCCULENT
Place the succulent into the prepared pot.

FILL IN WITH SOIL
Add more soil around succulent
lightly press down to secure it in place.

ADD YOUR TOPPINGS
Place pebbles, rocks, glass, or another topper on the surface.

CARE TIPS
Water lightly—succulents don't like too much water!

kathy@littlecraftyloft@gmail.com | 860-736-6533



Thank you to everyone who joined us for a wonderful morning of creativity, learning, and community! ❤️

GARDEN CLUB



DEEP CREEK GARDEN CLUB



Class of 2026 Scholarship Winners

Supporting Our Future Leaders



Three (3) \$1,000 Scholarships
have been awarded to:

—+—
Brody Schneider (FLSWCHS)

Scott Mason (CHS)

Haley Narine (CTC)

*Congratulations to these outstanding students!
We are proud to support your bright futures.*



GARDEN CLUB



NOTICE FROM GARDEN CLUB

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DUE TO THE REMOVAL OF THE RAMPART MONUMENT, THE GARDEN CLUB HAS MOVED ALL MEMORY BRICKS TO THE SANDHILL MONUMENT LOCATION. GO TAKE A WALK TO FIND YOURS AND LET THE GARDEN CLUB KNOW IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM.

CINDY BROWN, PRESIDENT

LAWN OF THE MONTH



Lawn of the Month.

This month's LOM comes from the Section 20 home of Cindi and Doug Bents who reside at 27415 Deep Creek.



BUSINESS EXCELERATORS

DCCA BUILDS STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS Through *BESWFL*



The Deep Creek Civic Association (DCCA) was invited by **Natalie Proctor**, Branch Manager at Lake Michigan Credit Union, to join a dynamic networking group known as **Business Excelerators of Southwest Florida (BESWFL)** approximately two and a half years ago.

BESWFL brings together small businesses, contractors, financial professionals, charities, and insurance providers with a shared goal: supporting one another through referrals and community connections.



FROM THE START...

At the time, **Steve Arnold**—then serving as Director-at-Large and now DCCA Vice President—began attending meetings. During his first meeting, he was asked to introduce the DCCA and explain its value to the group.

His response was simple but impactful: Deep Creek is home to approximately 7,400 households and nearly 17,000 residents during peak season—representing a strong potential client base for every business in the room.



The reaction was immediate. A member called out, **“You’re in!”**—followed by laughter and a unanimous vote welcoming the DCCA into the organization.



The **Business Excelerators of Southwest Florida** is a network of local small businesses committed to growth through collaboration and community partnership. Members meet weekly to share ideas, discuss strategies, and connect with fellow entrepreneurs. The organization actively supports nonprofits like the **Deep Creek Civic Association** through sponsorships and donations.

BESWFL AT A GLANCE



About 60 members



Meets every Thursday



8:00 AM for one hour



Focus: Referrals, Relationships & Community Support



A PARTNERSHIP THAT GIVES BACK

Over the past two-plus years, Steve has built both professional and personal relationships within BESWFL. These connections have translated into meaningful support for DCCA initiatives.

WHEN DCCA HOSTED ITS FIRST GOLF TOURNAMENT, BESWFL MEMBERS STEPPED UP:

- ✓ One member pledged a \$1,000 sponsorship
- ✓ Another donated a \$1,000 professional photography package

BESWFL MEMBERS HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO NUMEROUS DCCA EVENTS, INCLUDING:

- Cornhole Tournament
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- Bi-annual Community Clean-Up Days



Notably, members have even donated dumpsters to assist with neighborhood clean-up efforts—demonstrating a true commitment to community partnership.

HOW BESWFL WORKS



The meeting opens with announcements from the elected president



Guests and prospective members are introduced



Each member shares a brief introduction and any current “asks”



A featured speaker presents their business, services, or expertise

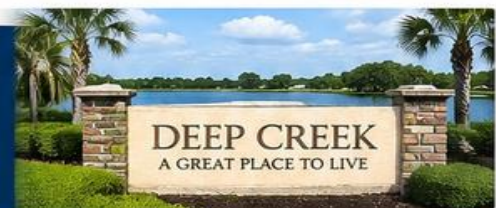


Members report referrals made during the week and thank the speaker



A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

BESWFL has been a strong supporter of the DCCA and continues to be a valuable resource for residents. Whether you’re looking for trusted local services or ways to support businesses that give back to the community, this network plays an important role in strengthening Deep Creek.



CLICKABLE LINKS PAGE

Strong Businesses. Strong Community. Stronger Together.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

CHARLOTTE COUNTY DISASTER GUIDE



**Prepare
NOW**

**Survive
DURING**

**Be Safe
AFTER**

If a disaster struck, would your family be ready? Would your business be ready? Follow the tips and checklists in this guide to protect your loved ones, your home and your business.

OVERVIEW:

Prepare before hurricane season starts. Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1.

Know what to do before, during, and after a hurricane: prepare now, survive during, be safe after.

Put together a **disaster plan** with your family and for your business before a hurricane.

Have **emergency supplies** in place at home, at work, and in the car.

Know your local community's **evacuation** plan and evacuation routes and how to receive alerts.

Listen to local officials.



Inside This Guide

Prepare NOW: Put Together a Plan	2
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CERT and CCFLARES Amateur Radio	5
Evacuate or Stay?	6
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CHARLOTTE COUNTY

What Is Charlotte County's My Neighborhood?



My Neighborhood is an online lookup tool from Charlotte County that helps residents find helpful neighborhood and property-related information for a Charlotte County address — all in one place.



How it works:

Enter a street address to view neighborhood details. You do not need to enter the city or ZIP code.

What You Can Find



Property basics, tax links, and property appraiser details



Government information, including elected officials and voting resources



Garbage and recycling service information



Water and sewer utility information



Public school information and community resources



Flood zone and flood-related information



Evacuation zone and public safety resources



Zoning, land use, and future land use information



Helpful county links such as parks, recreation, and transit resources

Why It's Helpful



Puts commonly requested neighborhood information in one convenient place



Helps residents quickly find county service and safety information



Useful as a starting point before contacting the appropriate agency for final confirmation



Good to know

Some fields may take a moment to load. Certain information may not appear for protected citizens. The tool is intended as a helpful guide, and information should be confirmed with the appropriate governmental entity when needed.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Learn more: charlottecountyfl.gov/my-neighborhood

DCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Clyde Sweatt

SECTION 23 POA LIASON

Jennifer Smith

Chairpersons

WELCOME WAGON

Diane Gorman

GAREN CLUB

Sylvia Kelsey

The DCCA Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Section 20 Property Owners Association Office, promptly at 6:00 PM.

Meetings are generally open to all members.

Individuals wishing to address the Board or submit items for inclusion on the meeting agenda are requested to contact the DCCA Secretary in advance, please secretary@deepcreekcivic.org



*Turning Strangers into Neighbors –
and Neighbors into Friends*

HAVE AN ARTICLE OR INFO FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

COMMUNICATIONS@DEEPCREEKCIVIC.ORG

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

Contact Laura Doerr
Advertising/Business Director
advertising@deepcreekcivic.org

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