

Sandalwood Park News April 2026



Sandalwood Park Homeowners, Inc.
Venice, Florida

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A Letter from Your President

Dear Members,

I am writing to clear up some misconceptions concerning our contracts with our out-going cable provider, Comcast/Xfinity, and our incoming glass-fiber provider, Blue Stream.

Our current contract with Comcast/Xfinity covers Limited Basic Service, Expanded Basic Service, and Broadcast TV. As most of you know, this does not include any internet connection, which, for those of us who choose to do so, we currently are paying for out of our own pockets.

When Blue Stream becomes active, it will include Direct TV Entertainment and Internet Services. For myself and my husband, this will cost us about \$53 less per month than we currently spend, and that is probably true for many or most of us. Perhaps some of you have different internet costs, or no internet plan at all. However, just for the sake of comparison, if we were to use the personal savings in my household as a norm (\$53 x 239 units), as a community, we would be saving over \$150,000 per year.

The misconception that I alluded to at the beginning of this letter is the expectation that we will be able to lower the quarterly HOA fees because of the savings this change provides. Those savings, though real, will not lower our HOA fees, as all internet fees will then be paid corporately rather than individually. This will, in fact, raise our HOA fees by approximately \$37 per quarter.

Kind regards,
Patricia









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Office Number 941-485-3646
Monday-Friday



SANDALWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia German President (763) 333-0553 2029
pgsandalwood@gmail.com

Phil Hellriegel VP (765) 432-6886 2028
phellriegel@yahoo.com

Rosemarie Re Treasurer (941) 223-1233 2029
rare1954@gmail.com

Patty Mitchell Secretary (423) 914-3664 2028
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Frank Cacciatore Director (716) 622-3627 2027
frankcacciatore@ymail.com

Larry Reed Director (603) 770-0960 2027
lare405@gmail.com

Regis Holland Director (440) 529-0669 2028
dnallohpr@gmail.com

The Sandalwood Board of Directors has the responsibility of administrating the wishes of the Shareholders.

Contact any board member with your concerns or suggestions. They will act in the best interest of the park.

Written comments may be sent to the office.
sandalwoodoffice@gmail.com



SANDALWOOD PARK ACTIVITIES CLUB, INC.

SAC Board Members

Elise Anton, President 802-689-0287

Sue Hart, Vice President 410-207-7039 2027
Skhart66@comcast.com

Jan Kroen, Treasurer 314-7501914

Joan LeBlanc, Secretary 508-883-9861 2026

Members At Large

Linda Fleming 941-445-2668
lf9353@yahoo.com

Barb Moore 810-537-2450
blmoore2020@yahoo.com,

Gail Pellitteri 941-882-4605
gpell@yahoo.com

Rose Buffington 913-593-7205

The SAC Board of Directors has the responsibility to plan, coordinate and implement our many activities and events.

Contact any board member with your suggestions, we will gladly look into it.



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F Y I

Office The office is open for business 9 am – noon, Monday-Friday

Board Meetings are held each month from November through April. SAC meets every second Tuesday, SPH meets every second Wednesday.

Shareholders Annual Meeting is always the third Thursday of January.

Maintenance Fees are due the 1st of January, April, July and October. It is encouraged to use ACH/auto-pay.

Newsletters will no longer be delivered, remember to get your copy at the clubhouse.

Directories One directory per household is available in the office.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ARE LISTED IN THE DIRECTORY AND NEWSLETTER

Trash and Recycling are on Tuesdays.....on Mondays if there is a holiday during that week

CABLE TV BASIC CABLE is free to all shareholders. Please call or go to Comcast/Xfinity office for your digital box. All other services will be billed to you directly. (DVR, internet, etc)

1617 US 41 Bypass S, Venice, Fl. 888-266-2278

Clubhouse is open to all shareholders. Should the office be closed, use your key. Unless open for an event, please do not access the clubhouse between the hours of 10pm and 6am. Your key to access the clubhouse also gives you access to the back gate on Pinebrook Road.

Laundry There are two washers and two dryers available at a cost of \$1.75 per machine and may be used by renters/visitors. We also have clotheslines should you prefer air drying.

Medical Equipment walkers, commodes, shower chairs, handweights, etc, are located in the laundry room and are available to borrow as needed. Please advise Peggy when you borrow/return something.

Mowing Lawns are mowed every other week during the winter months. Every week as the weather warms and the grass grows faster.

Plantings All new plantings must be submitted for approval.

Air pump is located by the shed near the putting green.

Speed Limit 15 MPH, Stop Signs Mean Stop. Protect our residents and their dogs.

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Hosting Happy Hour

Our Thursday “Happy Hour on the Patio” has become a fun event with terrific attendance. But why limit being happy to just Thursday? Starting this season, happy hour may be hosted by any resident on any day of the week. All residents are invited and asked to bring a food item to share – no signup is required. Those interested in hosting will need to do the following:

Signs for happy hour need to be placed at both entrances 3-4 days ahead of the planned date.

These signs are in our storage room, contact a SAC board member to access.

Keith, our maintenance man, will see the signs and clean up the patio as well as rearrange the tables. If for some reason he’s not available, this will be the host’s responsibility. Ice buckets need to be filled as well as making sure trash cans have a trash bag inside. Afterwards, cleanup is required (people attending usually help with this), and trash bag(s) should be taken to the dumpster.

Contact any SAC member for the plates, napkins, tablecloths and utensils the day of the event.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

If you know of someone who can’t walk or drive but would like to attend our events, please reach out and give them a lift to the clubhouse.

Ladies’ Lunch

The April Ladies’ Lunch will be held on April 21st at 1:00 at the Café Venice, 101 W. Venice Avenue. Please sign up at the clubhouse or call/text Colleen Campbell at 617/372-6815. We need a headcount, so signup before April 19th. Hope to see you there.



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Sandalwood Activities Club – Where Does the Money Come From?

Where Does It Go?!

Some residents wonder how activities here in the park are funded. SAC is a volunteer organization that has the responsibility to plan, coordinate, and implement our many activities and events. It receives no funding from our park dues; instead, funds come from our annual park rummage sale, and 50/50 raffles at events. SAC's ability to offer activities is dependent on 1) how much money we are able to fundraise, and 2) how many folks step up to coordinate and help at events.

Funds raised are used to subsidize costs for catered meals, DJs at dances, and entertainment at our Showtime events. SAC buys supplies for bingo and card games, pays for kitchen equipment and supplies for our many food-related events (potlucks, Happy Hours, ...), and other activity-related needs. All residents are encouraged to attend the meetings to share their ideas, give feedback and volunteer to help with/coordinate activities. Please consider attending the meeting and sharing your thoughts. This is your club! Your participation is needed and appreciated.

The Taxman Cometh

The AARP Tax Aide service offers free federal income tax preparation and filing. You do not have to be an AARP member to take advantage of this service. Tax preparation is by appointment only and your appointment must be made in person.

A flyer has been posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse, listing the locations and times for you to come by and set up your appointment.

If you have any questions, feel free to stop by one of the sites during the listed times, and a volunteer will help you.

Sandalwood Upcoming Activities

APRIL

13th Trivia – 6:30

14th SAC Board Meeting – 10:00

15th SPH Board Meeting – 10:00

21st Ladies Lunch – 1:00

Let's Play Bocce

If you have never played bocce, it's an easy-to-learn and a fun-to-play game. If you have played before, then you will agree with the previous statement. That being said, we are trying to organize leagues to play during the winter months.

Games will be played Monday through Friday at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM; sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Four, six or 8 players are needed to play. Decide when you want to play and put your name and house # on the selected date and time, feel free to play more than once a week. We also need some alternates in case a team member can't play for whatever reason. Any questions, please call Gail Pellitteri at 941/882-4065.

Don't know how to play? No problemo, lessons will be given.



*Living with a dog consists of 90% following each around,
watching each other go potty, and wondering what
the other has in their mouth*



SUDOKU

Puzzle from <https://www.printable-puzzles.com/>

	2			7		6		
6			9		4	3		
		4					2	1
			2				5	
	9				5	7	6	2
		7			3	1		
							9	
	7	3	5		8			
	4		1	6				

(Solution on page 17)

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Sandalwood Park Homeowners

Reconvening Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:00AM

Sandalwood Clubhouse

1. Call to Order by President
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Proof of notice of meeting by Secretary – the notice was posted on February 18, 2026. Meeting notice, proxy and budget were mailed on February 20, 2026 to all residents
4. Proof of Quorum was established (131)
5. Votes were counted: 122 for Compilation (minimum requirement by the State of Florida) cost of \$2k+; 7 for Review cost of \$6k+ and 2 for Annual Audit cost of \$8k+
6. New business by Shareholders – will be brought up in flex time in the following board meeting
7. Patty made a motion to adjourn and Phil seconded it. All members voted yay.

The Shed is Opened for Business

The shed is now empty and awaiting your donations for next year's sale (it will be here before you know it). During the summer months, Linda Fleming will be Shed Monitor. Please call her at 941/445-2668 to gain access to the shed. Please do not leave donations outside the shed to get rained on, chewed on by critters or grow legs and walk off.

yall my grandma wild as hell this is how she decorated her door at the nursing home 🤪👵🎄





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Best of Venice 2025



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I'm going to share a story about "Joe". Yes, his name has been changed to protect him. During his regular cleaning, he mentioned that he felt constantly on alert when his kids were in town. While out to dinner, he had to look at who was speaking to make sure he heard clearly. When at home, he was always listening for someone to speak to him.

Joe bought mid-level technology four years ago when he lived up north. Now that they are full-time residents and more active with people coming to visit, he has noticed that his hearing aids aren't keeping up.

I offered him a chance to try premium-level hearing aids for a few days so he could hear the difference. Premium technology offers better clarity in noisy situations, and I recommend my socially active clients try them.

He came in beaming.

Joe shared that he and his wife went to eat at Bogey's and golf was on one of the channels. His wife was talking about one of the kids while he was watching the golf. He responded to her question, and in mid-sentence, yelled about the amazing golf shot that just happened.

He went on to explain that in that moment, he realized he was just hanging out. He wasn't intensely focused on his wife while out to eat. He was just being casual.

With his new hearing aids, he has enjoyed being relaxed and at ease while listening to his family and friends when they get together.

As I shared with him, the higher the technology the more heavy lifting they will provide so you can relax. Some of the new dual chips have technology that listens for clues to enhance hearing. If people walking is noticed then the speech module will brighten in anticipation of someone talking to you. When the clanking of dishes is heard, the chaos of noise is dampened. All this occurs in the background without your need to do anything.

If you would like to try hearing aids that can help you relax while out with friends and family, call me to demo premium hearing aids.



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Showtime Was A Show Stopper

46 people came out to see comedian Al Ernst and were glad they did. It was an hour and a half of laughs for Al and the 2 comedians he brought along. If you didn't come to see Carnival Cruise Lines entertainer of the year, well, I guess you missed the boat.



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SAC Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10am. Board members in attendance – Jan Kroen, Sue Hart, Rose Buffington, Joan LeBlanc, Gail Pellitteri and Linda Fleming.

Old Business

Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance - Saturday, February 14th Joan and Fred LeBlanc chaired. Broadway catered roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and rolls. Residents brought desserts along with ½ sheet cake from Publix. 83 attendees. Good turnout and fun time.

Park Sale – February 20- 21st. Sale went well thanks to 40+ volunteers from Wednesday – Saturday. Co-chairs Rose Buffington, Sue Hart. Sales netted \$ 3,736. Expenses \$160

Resident Art Exhibit/Sale – Thursday, February 26th Martha Bouchard chairperson reported lower attendance than last two years. Change time to 2- 4pm. Possibly do every other year. Advertise on Next Door.

Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, March 7th 66 attendees, thanks to Tony Ellis and Crew for another season.

Showtime – Sunday, March 8th at 7pm. – Comedian Al Ernst. 46 attendees enjoyed the comedy.

Financial Report YTD November thru Showtime 3/8/26 – Income \$7,632 Expenses \$5,788 = net \$1,844 less other expenses = \$ 1,024 profit.

Upcoming Activities in March 2026

St Patrick's Dinner/Dance – Tuesday, March 17th \$10 charge. Colleen Campbell chair, traditional Irish meal (or ham) catered by Broadway. Entertainment is DJ Jenny B. Box office March 5th 3-4pm & 10th 11-12pm.

Annual Park Picnic-Saturday, March 28th Doors open at 12 noon, lunch served at 1pm. Chair persons Joan LeBlanc and Jan Kroen. Must sign up, \$5 per person, box office Tues, 3/17 11-12noon, Thurs 3/19 3-4pm and cut off date Tues 3/24 11-12noon. Picnic lunch will be BBQ meal from Gold Rush. Need chairs persons for –

Box Office Check in at door 50/50 (Gail) Raffle
Door Prizes(Linda) Servers

Raffle baskets – Tickets \$5 for 3, \$10 for 8. New England (Elise Anton), Beach (Nancy Schwartz), Alcohol (Joan LeBlanc), Lottery Tree (Gail Pellitteri). Linda TBD.

Discussion to make games available if someone willing to setup – corn hole, horse races.

New Business

Cost of event ticket for ages 12 and under is ½ price.

SAC board elections. Beginning Nov. 1st President: Elise Anton 2029, Vice President: Sue Hart 2027, Treasurer: Jan Kroen 2028, Joan LeBlanc: Secretary 2029. Members at Large are Rose Buffington, Gail Pellitteri, Barb Moore and Linda Fleming.

Reestablish the Welcome Committee so new residents immediately understand the purpose of SAC, feel personally invited to participate, and see clear reasons to attend our meetings.

Other Business

Calendar for '26 – '27 season will be done at April meeting.

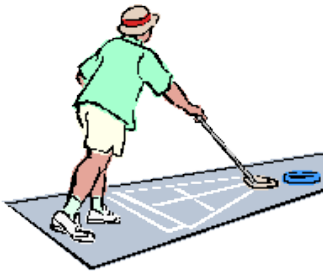
Meeting adjourned 11:15 a.m.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All articles and information for the newsletter are to be submitted only through The Sandalwood editor. Anything sent directly to On Trac Publishing will not be printed. All articles must be in Microsoft Word and submitted on or before the 13th of the month. Please send your information to:

Gail Pellitteri
gbpell@yahoo.com
941/882-4065





SHUFFLEBOARD IS COMING BACK TO SANDALWOOD AND YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US! EVERYONE WELCOME!

Meet us at the shuffleboard court on TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS at 10:00, except the 2nd Tuesday when SAC (Sandalwood Activity Committee) meets - then we will play at 11:00

3 games and start off by drawing for partners for each one. You will be meeting and playing with new people each game. Please show up on time.

Please text Nila -816/810-0044 or call Craig -816/942-1820 with your name, phone number and e-mail so we can communicate any necessary info. Please pass on this news and invite others!!

SEE YOU AT THE SHUFFLEBOARD COURT ON TUE & THUR at 10:00 WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS AT LEAST 60 DEGREES.

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Board of Directors Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 3/11/26 10:30 AM
Sandalwood Clubhouse

Meeting called to order 10:30 a.m.

Quorum established, all members present

Pledge of Allegiance was said in the reconvened annual meeting. A prayer was said by Lori Kay for the board members and all residents.

Patty made a motion to approve February 2026 meeting minutes, 2nd by Regis. All members voted yay.

President's Comments: Patricia German

Frank Cacciatore was introduced as the new board member due to Carl's resignation. Frank was sworn in and Patty made a motion for Phil to become the vice president. Rosemarie seconded the motion. All members voted yay.

Residents were reminded not to move any of Blue Stream's flags as they will soon be in the park digging for the installation of the fiber optics cable. WIFI will start in June 2026 and TV cable will begin with Blue Stream November 30, 2027. We will follow-up with Blue Stream on the cost of WIFI so that it can be put on Sandalwood's website.

Reminder to let the office know when you have guests and when you leave for the summer.

Treasurer's Report: Rosemarie Re

The 2026 budget was mailed out with the annual meeting notice. Rosemarie reported that there are two deceased homeowners that have outstanding dues. One will be collected when the sale is final on 533 Walnut. SRQ will send out late notices on the delinquent accounts (16) that Rosemarie can't collect on. There was \$6,271 collected in March from delinquent accounts. Businesses owe \$13,534 that Rosemarie is working on collecting. There will be a late fee of \$25 assessed to accounts not paid after the 15th of April and thereafter the 15th of each quarter. Rosemarie stated that the new HOA fee for the next three quarters will be \$532 a quarter.

The budget will be revisited for next year. Phil made a motion to approve the budget and Regis seconded the motion. All members voted yay. Rosemarie will give a financial report each board meeting. Rosemarie made a motion to give Peggy a 5% pay increase and Keith an increase from \$19/hr. to \$21/hr. All members voted yay.

Rosemarie stated that the two lots that Sandalwood rents hasn't had an increase since 2023. The lot rents are \$1,696 a quarter and Rosemarie made a motion to increase them to \$1,960 a quarter and Phil seconded it. All members voted yay.

Old Business:

There are sign-up sheets in the hallway for various committees. We need your help on filling these committees.

Update on 533 Walnut – The property has sold and in the process of closing.

Update on 412 Longwood – The attorney has sent a letter for payment to the Butterworth family. They have thirty days to respond before the next step (lien) can be taken.

A resident asked what was going on with the Porter (439 Spruce) property. The response was that property has been sold and the current owners are in the process of repairs before putting it up for sale.

Cortina Fence-Regis commented that focus has been on landscaping. Mulch has been placed at the front and back entrances to the park. Thank you to Carl and Nancy Schwartz for working on the flowers and all the volunteers helping spread mulch.

Clothesline Update – Regis reported that by the end of the week one set will be complete and work will begin on the other section.

Pinebrook Wall Update – Larry reported that Sarasota County is working on wall repairs. He will talk to them about completing the repairs and painting the wall.

Website update-Jenny Burger reported the website is now live. The URL is sandalwoodpark.com

NEW BUSINESS

The kitchen floor needs to be stripped and steam cleaned. We will need to get estimates to have that done. It was suggested to have that done once a year.

Patty made a motion to have Patricia as the attorney contact person and Rosemarie seconded it. All members voted yay.

A motion was made to purchase a TV for the fitness room, but Carl Griffith said he had one to donate. Keith will get with Carl to get the TV and have it installed.

Frank will get with Mike to discuss the HDMI Transmitter that Mike presented to the board last month. If the cost is \$150 or less, Rosemarie made a motion to purchase the needed equipment and Larry seconded it. All members voted yay.

Flex Time

Questions were asked about Blue Stream installation and getting set up. A meeting will be held (TBD) with Blue Stream to answer all questions.

The board is working on the ability to do Zoom board meetings when people are away from the park or not able to attend for whatever reason. More information to come in the near future.

Motion made to Adjourn by Patty Mitchell, 2nd by Regis, all 7 members voted yay

THE HISTORY OF TAX RETURNS



Tax returns—documents individuals and businesses submit to report income and calculate taxes owed—are a central part of modern government finance. While the process may seem routine today, the concept of reporting income to the government has a long and evolving history that stretches back thousands of years.

The earliest forms of taxation date to ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China. In these societies, taxes were often paid not in money but in goods, labor, or crops. Records from ancient Egypt show that scribes kept detailed accounts of grain harvests and livestock, allowing rulers to collect a portion as tax. These early records served a similar purpose to modern tax returns: they documented resources so the government could determine what was owed.

In the Roman Empire, taxation became more structured and systematic. Roman citizens were required to participate in a census that recorded property ownership and wealth. Based on this information, taxes could be assessed. While citizens did not file a “tax return” in the modern sense, they were responsible for declaring their assets and income during census periods. This practice represented one of the earliest examples of individuals reporting financial information to authorities.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, taxation was largely based on land ownership and feudal obligations rather than personal income. Monarchs often levied taxes to fund wars or major public works. One famous example is England’s Domesday Book, compiled in 1086 under King William the Conqueror. The survey recorded land ownership and resources across England, helping the crown determine taxes and obligations owed by landholders. Although it was a one-time record rather than a recurring filing, it reflected the growing importance of financial reporting for taxation.

The idea of a modern income tax—and the tax return associated with it—emerged much later. One of the earliest national income taxes was introduced in Great Britain in 1799 by Prime Minister

William Pitt the Younger. The tax was designed to help fund the war against Napoleon. Citizens earning above a certain threshold were required to report their income so the government could determine how much tax they owed. This system laid the groundwork for the modern tax return.

In the United States, income taxes were initially introduced during times of national crisis. The federal government first implemented an income tax in 1861 during the Civil War to help pay for military expenses. Americans were required to report their income, marking one of the first uses of a formal tax return in the country. However, this tax was repealed in 1872 after the war ended.

A permanent federal income tax system was established much later with the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1913. This amendment gave Congress the authority to tax income without apportioning it among the states. Soon afterward, the federal government introduced official tax forms requiring individuals and businesses to report earnings, deductions, and other financial details. These documents closely resemble the tax returns used today.

Over the twentieth century, tax returns became more common as income taxes expanded to fund government programs and services. The process also became more standardized and regulated. In the United States, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) developed specific forms, filing deadlines, and procedures to ensure accurate reporting.

Technology has continued to reshape how tax returns are filed. What once required handwritten forms and manual calculations can now be completed electronically using tax preparation software or online filing systems. E-filing has made the process faster, more accurate, and more convenient for millions of taxpayers.

From ancient grain records to digital tax forms, the tax return has evolved alongside governments and economies. Although the format has changed dramatically over time, the underlying purpose remains the same: providing a transparent record of income so societies can fund public services and infrastructure.

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6	8	1	9	2	4	3	7	5
7	3	4	8	5	6	9	2	1
4	1	6	2	9	7	8	5	3
3	9	8	4	1	5	7	6	2
2	5	7	6	8	3	1	4	9
1	6	5	7	3	2	4	9	8
9	7	3	5	4	8	2	1	6
8	4	2	1	6	9	5	3	7

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		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2	3	4
5	6			7	8	9	10	11
12	13		Trivia – 6:30	14	15	16	17	18
19	20			21	22	23	24	25
26	27			28	29	30		
WEEKLY EVENTS								
Pinochle 2:00	Cardio Exercise 8:00 Aerobics 8:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Water Aerobics 10:00 Mah Jongg 1:00 Hand and Foot 5:50	Cardio Exercise 8:00 Aerobics 8:00 Chair Yoga with weights 8:45 Landscaping Committee 9:00 Shuffleboard 10:00 Bingo 6:00	Cardio Exercise 8:00 Aerobics 8:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Water Aerobics 10:00 65 Poker 6:00	Cardio Exercise 8:00 Aerobics 8:00 Chair Yoga with weights 8:45 Shuffleboard 10:00 Euchre 7:00	Cardio Exercise 8:00 Aerobics 8:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Water Aerobics 10:00 Mexican Train 1:00 Bingo 6:00			
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