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# From the Editors

## **Rice Creek RV Resort Newsletter**

Also available in color on-line at www.ontracnewsletters.net Thank you to all the people who have contributed to this edition, as well as our managers, activities directors, and coordinators.

Please submit your ideas or articles in writing or by email with your name, address, and phone number.

Doug or Robin Vaughan, 11109 Peru Creek Dr. (813) 503-6255 or (813) 217-1141 douglasmvaughan@gmail.com or robinavaughan@gmail.com

## **Manager's Corner**

**By Bill & Lois Brimmer** 

Good Day!

It's that time of year again! The hummingbirds have gone to South America, the songbirds are headed south, and the Snowbirds are on the way! It has been a long, hot summer and we have been very busy preparing for your return.

The front wall and building have been painted. Many electric and water repairs have been done with further repairs in progress. Unfortunately, this doesn't mean that we won't have any surprises.

At this time both spas are working. Not sure how we were able to get it done, but, somehow between Hawkins and our crew we found the right combination!

With all this said, Lois and I, plus the full crew are anxiously awaiting your return!

#### YARD OF THE MONTH

Wilder Corporation has requested that we start a monthly contest for the best-looking yard in the park. The district manager along with Bill, Lois and Prudy will award a \$50 gift card to the resident and post a Yard of The Month sign on the



lot. The winner must be in good standing with the park, current with their rent and have no violations. The winner can only win once in a 12-month period. The first prize will be awarded this month (November). Looking forward to seeing all the things our residents do to beautify our park!

There is no soliciting allowed in our park. If you see any salespeople or meat trucks, etc. please report it to the office immediately.

# **Activities Directors**

**Prudy and Dave Hodsdon** By: Prudy Hodsdon (603) 312-1461

Another season is about to start at Rice Creek! The Snowbirds are slowly returning and there are more lights on in their homes every week. It's been a long, hot summer and we who live here have missed you! This is a good time for those of you who want to learn some of the games we play – lots of card games, shuffleboard and horseshoes. It's also time to let me know if there's an activity you'd like to start - just come and see me in the office and then we can come up with a time to put it on the calendar. Make sure to watch the weekly note on Facebook's Rice Creek Activities page along with postings on the bulletin boards located around the park. Call me anytime! Thanksgiving Dinner is on November 23rd @ 2pm.



# **SUB-FLOOR & FLOORING EXPERTS!**

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During the current times we wanted to let you know that we are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We check workers' temperatures each morning and have limited the amount of contact our crews have with each other. Our crews work in Tyvek suits with respirators which helps to ensure your safety as well as theirs.

As a company, we want your business and there is no need for any contact if you so choose. Our business is deemed an "Essential Business" and we are here for you when you need us. You can schedule your inspection by calling 1-800-681-3772.

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#### **EDITORIAL**

By: Robin Vaughan

It was a hot summer! But then, they all are, which is why most of you head north to your summer homes! We did well with the storms, having only been brushed by one hurricane. (Please bear in mind that I am writing this article in October and there is still more than a month of hurricane season. Hopefully, we won't have any more!). I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone – when you close up your homes before you head up north for the summer, please, police your home and lot. Secure any loose screens, gutters, garden furniture and decorations. Anything that can become a projectile in high winds needs to be put away. Also, please put a new battery in your smoke detectors before you leave. Thank you!

Prudy has a lot of plans for the upcoming season! There will be something for everyone! We hope you come out and enjoy as many as you can. It's a great way to make new friends. We have so many wonderful people in Rice Creek! You can't have too many friends!

Doug and I are happy to see all of you again and look forward to another fun-filled season! Please feel free to get in touch with either of us if you have any suggestions for the newsletter. We are always happy to hear your thoughts and feedback!



**BINGO** By: Paul Albert

Every Thursday nickel bingo begins at 6pm. 25 nickels, 5 dimes and 6 quarters is all you need for this entertaining night. If you want, add a dollar for each 'jug' ticket.



## BILLIARDS

Billiards tournament every Wednesday at 6:30pm, up to 20 people. 11 people or less we play singles. 12 people or more and we draw cards for partners. \$5 entry fee-- All money is paid out as follows:

1 50/50 drawing, plus 1st, 2nd and 3rd place - Doug Moorhouse is the Administrator (503) 320-1453

8-Ball singles tournament every other Saturday at 6pm. Limited to 10 people, \$10 entry fee. All money is paid out as a 60/40 split for 1st and 2nd place.

Next one is November 11th - "JJ" Johnson is the Administrator (843) 599-3885

All are welcome! There are no separate divisions for women and men.

Sign-up sheets are in the billiards room on the bulletin board. Park residents will always take precedence over non-residents, but non-residents are welcome if not enough residents are playing! Those on the sign-up sheets will have precedence over those that just show up to play.

So, sign up!!! Let's all HAVE FUN!!!!

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

At the back of the hall. Post notes on 3"x5" cards. Write date posted on the card. This board will be checked and kept neat. The cards will be removed every two months. For more information see Prudy.

## **Friday Morning Meeting**

Coffee and \$1 donuts at 7:45am. Information meeting at 8:30am This is the place to find out what is happening in the park and any changes to scheduled events. All are encouraged to attend.



#### November 2023

#### BREAKFAST

By: Scott Denson

### HOT DAWGS



Scott will be serving up hot breakfasts this month. Check the bulletin boards for dates and times.

By: Floyd Anderson Come and get 'em! Floyd will be serving them hot at noon every other Saturday and the first cookout is November 4th!





**UP THE CREEK** 

# CHAPEL

By: Chapel Elder Vincent Donnell, Pastor **"Fall For Jesus. He Never Leaves"** 

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

The Lord knows when things need to fall away from our lives, and we can trust Him also to bring us again to a season of growth and new life. It's a new season. A perfect opportunity to do something **NEW**, something **BOLD** and something **BEAU-TIFUL**. It's great to be back and welcome back our Rice Creek Family! The first Chapel Service will be on **Sunday**, **November 5**, **2023**. Mark your calendars and spread the word. We are so excited for the new season of Chapel Service and fellowship with our community of family and friends.



Join us in the hall for **Chapel Service** every Sunday at 9:00am. Followed by fellowship coffee hour.

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## **PROFESSIONAL & EXPERIENCED**

# SOME LOCAL AND NOT SO LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US Hwy 301 N, Tampa, FL https://www.indiafestivaltampabay.com

#### 11/9 – 11/12 9am-5pm TAMPA BAY FALL RV SHOW

Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US-301, Tampa, FL https://www.frvta.org/show/tampa-bay-fall-rv-show

11/12 9am–3pm BRANDON SUNDAY MARKET 788 W Lumsden Rd, Brandon, FL https://tampa.beyondthenest.com/content/brandon-sunday-market

11/17 5pm-10pm, 11/18 10am-5pm PLANT CITY PIG JAM 1401 Gordon Food Service Dr., Plant City, FL https://plantcitypigjam.com

# 11/17 - 11/20 and 11/26 - 11/27 SANDING OVATIONS MASTER'S CUP

10400 Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island, FL https://sandingovationsmasterscup.com

11/18 9am-1pm WINTHROP POP UP MARKET Sullivan St, Riverview, FL

https://www.winthroppopupmarket.com

#### 11/18 10am-6pm DUNEDIN CELTIC MUSIC & CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Highlander Park, 903 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin, FL <u>https://www.dunedinscottisharts.com/celtic-mu-</u> <u>sic-craft-beer-festival</u>

#### 11/22 11am TAMPA BAY DOWNS OPENING DAY

11225 Race Track Rd., Tampa https://www.tampabaydowns.com

#### 11/25 2pm MONSTER TRUCKZ TOUR

East Bay Raceway, 6311 Burts Rd., Tampa, FL https://tickets.monstertruckz.com/event/tampa-fl





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Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and of our customers. Our employees are closely following the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines and recommendation, like frequent hand washing, social distancing, and staying home if they are feeling ill.

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We want to build a great customer relationship with you. Call today for a Free Inspection. (800) 377-7885. Stay Safe and continued Good Health.





Come have some fun! You do not need your own shoes to participate. Practice is Monday through Friday at 9am, with a tournament every other Saturday, beginning on November 11th.



#### by: Dave Hodson (603) 312-1461

Join us on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9am for a morning of shuffling! We will also be playing at 6pm on Sunday evenings. If you'd like to learn a new game, contact Dave and he'll be happy to teach you!



CARDS

If you like to play cards (or would like to learn), the following are options you might consider:

#### HAND, FOOT AND ELBOW

Monday nights, at 6:00pm in the craft room or the hall.

#### PINOCHLE

Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 6:00pm in the craft room.

#### **FIVE CROWNS**

Friday mornings at 10:30am in the craft room.

Want to be part of a new card game that's sweeping the nation? Want to join some friendly people? Five Crowns is not difficult. It's a version of Rummy, saving sets and runs. It can be played with 2-7 people in one group. Although you're playing in a group, you will not have a partner. You don't need anything; we already have everything... except YOU! So...grab your spouse, partner, neighbor, friend, or someone you run into on the street, and join us!! We'll begin on Friday, November 3. You will not be committed to playing every week! Come and check it out!!

WHEN? Friday at 10:30am WHERE? Card room in the Hall Questions? Call... Linda Seese 480-516-7333



By: Nancy & Ron Ferdinandsen (586) 871-5333 Welcome back bowlers!

We sure missed you over the summer, but here we are again getting READY to kick off the new 2023-2024 Season.

We will be putting up a sheet on the bulleting board in the hall. Don't forget to sign up each week you'd like to play!

I've already checked with THE ALLEY and they are ready for us to start. There are no changes, we still have the VIP ROOM at 12:30pm on Tuesdays. Practice will start at 12:50pm and bowling starts for score at 1:00pm.

The price is still \$10.00 per bowler and we still play with the Color Pins so we can make lots of money! LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW SEASON! COME ONE COME ALL FOR A FUN DAY OF BOWLING AT THE ALLEY!

YOUR BOWLING BUDDIES RON AND NANCY

## Yard Games

Bocce ball, ladder ball and corn hole games are available for your use and are located in the library.



#### **RICE CREEK STITCHERS**

By: Linda Seese (480) 516-7333

Rice Creek Crafters and Stitchers, I'm so excited to be writing this note for our newsletter! Know why?? It means you're back, and our Winter Fun can begin! I really hope you will consider joining our crafting and stitching group. This is a very diverse, wonderfully friendly group of your friends and neighbors. We have all levels of abilities, and many different interests. We have times of learning, sharing, teaching, laughing, snacking...Please join us!! Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7.

WHAT? A crafting and stitching group. WHO? You!!! WHEN? Tuesday, 2-4pm WHERE? Craft Room in the Hall. Questions or Ideas? Call Linda at the number above.



### **CELL PHONES**

*By: Robin Vaughan* We all have them. Where would we be without them? Remember the Dick Tracy comic strip where he communicated by talking into his watch. Or, how about Maxwell Smart talking into his shoe. Who thought the concept of having face to face conversations over a phone would ever happen. It was super futuristic at the time. And yet, here we are.

Walk into any restaurant, very few people are actually conversing. Their heads are down looking at their phones. The waiting room at the doctor's office, has signs posted everywhere asking to "please silence your phone." Invariably, someone's phone will ring. ("Ring" is a loose term and a throwback to the time when they really did ring. Now the "ring" could be a duck guacking or the theme from Star Wars.) The person will look around like they have no idea the noise and vibration in their pocket is their phone. Finally, it dawns on them, they pull it out of their pocket only to look at it, while the ringing goes on and on. It's like a foreign object, and they don't know what to do first, silence it or answer it. Then there is the dilemma of how to silence it. Is it the button on the side or the one at the top. Is there one at the top? Don't get me started about people talking on the phone while driving, because of course you can't use your turn signal when you're holding your phone in one hand and the steering wheel in the other - duh! Or the person on the treadmill next to you who feels like they're multitasking by talking on the phone and walking on the treadmill. Nope, I do not want to hear your side of an argument with your sister.

There is no doubt that we, as a society, are addicted to our phones. We use them to navigate, to keep in touch with friends and family, to research, to watch sporting events, to play games to make our minds nimble (at least I do), and to take pictures. So how about we all take a minute to think about the usage of our phones in public and try to be a little more considerate of our fellow humans. Call me if you have any questions.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

By: Robin Vaughan

I know we ran this article last season, but it bears repeating. That feeding bears, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, pelicans, alligators, crocodiles, sandhill cranes, and wild monkeys is illegal in the State of Florida?

We have many compassionate folks in the park who feed our local wildlife. While the animals love it, a quick and easy meal is not always in their best interests. For example:

#### **Muscovy Ducks:**

Have been illegally released in Florida primarily by private individuals for ornamental purposes or as pets. They are extremely prolific, and their local populations can increase dramatically in a short time. They are non-native and are considered an invasive species. They create problems through competition with native species, and damage to property. Its not healthy for them to become dependent on human food. They use the neighborhood as their bathroom, and their droppings can spread diseases to humans and to other wild waterfowl.

#### Feral Cats:

Can populate a city of their own in a very short time. Female cats can begin having litters at 5 months old and can have 2 to 3 litters of one to eight kittens per year. Cat food attracts skunks, raccoons, opossums, rats, and mice, who often spread illnesses among the cats, who in turn spread diseases to humans through their use of your yard, and the yards of your neighbors, as a litter box.

#### Raccoons:

Are dangerous to people and pets when cornered or protecting their young. They carry rabies. Diseases such as salmonella, leptospirosis, and raccoon roundworm are all carried in urine and fecal matter. They can cause significant damage by pulling apart vents, soffits, and roofing to get inside your home. Females can have up to 5 litters per year.

So please, for the animal's sake, and your relationship with your neighbors, don't feed the wildlife. They will be just fine on their own.



### **FUN WITH RIDDLES:**

1. What has a bottom at the top?

2.1 have cities, but no houses. I have forests, but no trees. I have water but no fish. What am I?

3. David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and \_\_\_\_\_?

4. How do you spell COW in thirteen letters?

5. Why is Europe like a frying pan?

**Riddle Answers:** 1.Your legs 2.A map 3.David 4.SEE O DOUBLE YOU 5.Because it has Greece at the bottom.

2023	Saturday	9 9am Shuffleboard 12 noon Hot Dawg Roast 6:30pm Pool Tourney	11 8:30am BREAKFAST 6:30pm Pool Tourney 7pm - 9:30pm MUSIC "MID-LIFE CRISIS" \$5	18 gam Shuffleboard 12 noon Hot Dawg Roast 6:30pm Pool Tourney	25 8:30am BREAKFAST 9am Shuffleboard 6:30pm Pool Tourney		
	Friday	7:4,5am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 10:30am Five Crowns	10 7:45am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 10:30am Five Crowns	17 7:45am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 10:30am Five Crowns	24, 7:45am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 10:30am Five Crowns		
	Thursday	gam Shuffleboard 6pm Nickel Bingo	9 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Nickel Bingo	16 gam Shuffleboard 6pm Nickel Bingo	23 2pm THANKSGIVING DINNER	30 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Nickel Bingo	
	Wednesday	6pm Pool Tourney 6pm Pinochle	6pm Pool Tourney 6pm Pinochle	15 6pm Pool Tourney 6pm Pinochle	52 6pm Pool Tourney 6pm Pinochle	29 6pm Pool Tourney 6pm Pinochle	
	Tuesday		7 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Pinochle 12:30pm Bowling/Alley	14 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Pinochle 12:30pm Bowling/Alley	21 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Pinochle 12:30pm Bowling/Alley	28 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Pinochle 12:30pm Bowling/Alley	
	Monday		6 8am ROMEO breakfast 6pm Hand,Foot & Elbow	13 8am ROMEO breakfast 6pm Hand,Foot & Elbow	20 8am ROMEO breakfast 6pm Hand,Foot & Elbow	27 8am ROMEO breakfast 6pm Hand,Foot & Elbow	
	Sunday		5 gam Chapel	12 9am Chapel	19 9am Chapel	26 9am Chapel	



#### THE TAMPA RIVERWALK

By: Doug Vaughan

The Tampa Riverwalk is a 2.6-mile path that runs along the waterfront of downtown Tampa. It connects various attractions, parks, restaurants, bars, hotels, and cultural landmarks, making it a vibrant and diverse destination for locals and visitors alike. Whether you want to explore the history, art, nature, or entertainment of Tampa, you can find something to suit your interests along the Riverwalk.

One of the main attractions of the Riverwalk is the Florida Aquarium, where you can see more than 20,000 sea creatures, touch stingrays, watch dolphin shows, and even swim with the fishes. The aquarium is located at the south end of the Riverwalk, near the Port Tampa Bay cruise terminal and the Channelside Bay Plaza. Also located here is Sparkman Wharf, a lively outdoor space that features a variety of food options from local chefs, a biergarten with craft beers, and a green space with live music and games.

The Tampa Bay History Center is a museum that showcases 12,000 years of Tampa Bay's heritage, from the Native Americans to the cigar industry. It is also close to Amalie Arena, where you can watch the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team or catch a concert by a famous artist.

As you continue north along the Riverwalk, you will pass by several parks and public spaces that offer scenic views and recreational opportunities. You can rent a water bike, a stand-up paddleboard, or an e-boat at the Sail Pavilion and enjoy the river from a different perspective. You can also relax at the Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, which hosts concerts, festivals, and other events throughout the year.

The Riverwalk also connects some of Tampa's most iconic cultural venues, such as the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, which hosts Broadway shows, opera, ballet, comedy, and more. You can also visit the Tampa Museum of Art, which displays modern and contemporary art as well as ancient Greek and Roman artifacts. Another popular spot at the North end of the Riverwalk is Armature Works, a restored trolley barn that houses a food hall with more than a dozen restaurants and bars.

Tampa Riverwalk is more than just a walkway; it is a cultural and recreational hub that reflects the diversity and vitality of Tampa Bay. It is also a great way to experience the waterfront and enjoy the beautiful weather at this time of year! <u>https://www.visittampabay.com/things-to-do/tampa-outdoors-nature/riverwalk/</u>



## SPECIAL DATES AND HOLIDAYS IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 1: Dios Los Muertos (a two day celebration, widely observed in Mexico, when family and friends gather to celebrate and remember loved ones who have passed away.)

November 2:	Men Make Dinner Day (I am a little worried about this one)		
November 5:	Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. (also a good date to check the batteries in your smoke detectors)		
	National Nacho Day		
November 11:	Veteran's Day		

November 13: Sadie Hawkins Day (Sadie Hawkins Day originated in the classic comic strip Li'l Abner, by Andy Capp, in 1937. Sadie Hawkin was the daughter of Mayor Hekzebiah and was described as the "homeliest gal in all them hills". She was still a spinster at the age of 35 and her father was worried she would live at home for the rest of her life. In desperation, he called together all the unmarried men of Dogpatch and declared it "Sadie Hawkins Day". A foot race was decreed with Sadie pursuing the bachelors. If she caught one, he would be forced to marry her. Today the name is typically given to a dance or party where girls ask boys to be their dates.)

November 15: National Clean your Refrigerator Day

November 19: Have a Bad Day Day

November 22: National Tie One on Day a/k/a Drinksgiving or Blackout Wednesday (*The night before Thanksgiving has* become the biggest drinking night of the year. Many folks head home for the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, therefore, making it the perfect time to hit the bars to meet up with friends and other family members to catch up before the busy weekend. Also, and I have no knowledge whether its true or not, it has been noted that Thanksgiving dinner is a great hangover cure!)

November 23: Thanksgiving Day (USA)

November 28: French Toast Day

November 30: The ever-popular National Mason Jar Day Enjoy!



Up The Creek

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To our valued customers:

During the current times we wanted to let you know that we are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We check workers' temperatures each morning and have limited the amount of contact our crews have with each other. Our crews work in Tyvek suits with respirators which helps to ensure your safety as well as theirs.

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UP THE CREEK

## LOCAL RESTAURANT DAILY SPECIALS (UPDATED OCTOBER)

#### Monday

\$6.99 Classic Burger with Fries - Applebee's
\$7.99 Build Your Own Burger with Fries - Beef O'Bradys
\$9.00 Buffalo Chicken or Pulled Pork Sandwiches – Glory Days Grill
\$9.99 Endless Garden Bar - Ruby Tuesday
\$10.99 6 oz Rib Eye – Ruby Tuesday
\$10.99 Stuffed Rib Eye Quesadilla – Ruby Tuesday
\$17.99 Rib Eye & Ribs Combo – Ruby Tuesday

#### Tuesday

\$1.99 Select Tacos – Fuzzy's Taco Shop
\$6.99 Two Tacos, Chips & Drink – Tijuana Flats
\$6.99 American Smashed Burger – Ruby Tuesday
\$6.99 Ruby's Cheeseburger – Ruby Tuesday
\$6.99 Select sandwiches – Ruby Tuesday
\$7.99 Two Tacos plus Chips and Salsa - Beef 'O' Brady's
\$9.99 Chicken Tenders with Fries - Applebee's
\$10.00 Endless Boneless Wings - Glory Days Grill
\$10.00 Nachos - Glory Days Grill
Buy 3 Tacos get One Free - Cali Aji
Half off Flatbreads (Dinner) – Kazbor's

# TRIVIA CORNER

1. Which kind of bulbs were once exchanged as a form of currency?

- A. Daffodils
- B. Crocus
- C. Tulips

2. Who is often credited with creating the worlds first car?

- A. Henry Ford
- B. Karl Benz
- C. Gottlieb Daimler

3. How old was Rose in the Titanic movie when she was recounting her story?

- A. 75
- B. 100
- C. 105

4. Who was the actor to first portray James Bond?

- A. Sean Connery
- B. Roger Moore
- C. Barry Nelson

5. Which country originated the sport of curling?

- A. Canada
- B. Scotland
- C. Iceland

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 14)

#### Wednesday

\$0.99 Wings or BOGO Boneless Wings - Beef 'O' Brady's
\$0.99 Columbian Empanadas - Cali Aji
\$7.99 Endless Salad Bar (Lunch Only) - Ruby Tuesday
\$9.99 6oz Top Sirloin with two sides - Applebee's
\$10.00 Wannabe Shrimp - Glory Days Grill
\$11.99 Half Rack of Ribs with Fries - Ruby Tuesday
\$17.99 6oz Rib Eye & Ribs Combo - Ruby Tuesday

#### Thursday

\$1.00 Wings (Dinner) - Kazbor's
BOGO Boneless Wings (Dinner) - Kazbor's
\$7.99 Burrito, Chips & Drink – Tijuana Flats
\$9.99 Half Rack of Ribs with one side - Applebee's
\$10.99 Philly Cheesesteak with Fries – Beef'O' Brady's
\$11.59 Chicken Steak or Shrimp Fajitas – Beef'O' Brady's

**Friday** \$7.99 Chicken or Cheese Quesadilla – Ruby Tuesday \$8.99 Philly Cheesesteak with Fries - Ruby Tuesday \$9.99 Double Crunch Shrimp with fries - Applebee's \$9.99 Fish and Chips with coleslaw - Applebee's \$9.99 Fish and Chips with coleslaw – Ruby Tuesday \$10.99 Fish and Chips with coleslaw - Beef 'O' Brady's \$12.00 Friday Fish Fry with coleslaw - Glory Days Grill

Saturday\$8.99 Salad Bar (Lunch) - Ruby Tuesday\$9.99 Pick Any Pasta - Applebee's\$23.99 Rib Eye, Ribs, & Shrimp Combo – Ruby Tuesday

Sunday\$9.99 Fiesta Lime Chicken - Applebee's\$10.99 6oz Sirloin (Dinner) - Ruby Tuesday\$12.99 Ribs & Crispy Shrimp Combo – Ruby Tuesday\$23.99 Rib Eye, Ribs, & Shrimp Combo – Ruby Tuesday

# COMEDY CORNER

Submitted by Betty Sue Robie

In the Washington Post's *neologism* contest (*editor's note: I* had to look this word up – it means 'a newly coined word or expression), readers were asked to supply alternative meanings for common words:

COFFEE (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.

FLABBERGASTED (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

ESPLANADE (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

WILLY-NILLY (adj.), impotent.

LYMPH (v.), to walk with a lisp.

BALDERDASH (n.), a rapidly receding hairline

#### Up The Creek



RECIPES



Did you know that winter squash, which includes butternut squash, acorn squash and zucchini, is highly nutritious and is a quality source of vitamins, minerals and fiber. I have chosen acorn squash for my recipe this month. It is low in calories, high in vitamin C and loaded with antioxidants.

#### Stuffed Acorn Squash with Sausage

2 acorn squash (halved through from the stem to the base, remove seeds)

Salt and pepper

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon olive oil

For the filing:

4 teaspoons olive oil (I use Extra Virgin)

1 pound ground Italian sausage (chicken, turkey or pork – your choice)

8 ounces mushrooms (you choose what kind – I use the small brown ones. Clean and stem, then finely chop) 1 small yellow onion chopped

1 medium sweet-crisp apple (cored and finely diced –

peel on or off as you desire)

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

<sup>1</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> teaspoon nutmeg

1/8 teaspoon allspice

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage (or thyme or a mix)

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup shredded parmesan cheese

#### Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Arrange the acorn squash halves cut side up on a rimmed baking sheet. Brush with 1/2 teaspoon of olive oil. Bake for 40 minutes or until fork tender. When the squash is done set aside and turn the oven down to 375 degrees. Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the sausage. Brown the meat breaking into small pieces, for 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms, onion, apple, salt, pepper, nutmeg, allspice and minced garlic. Cook, stirring frequently, until the sausage is cooked through, the vegetables and apple are softened, and have given up their liquid, and the liquid has cooked off, about 8 minutes. When the squash is cool enough to handle, scoop out the flesh, leaving a wall about 1/4 inch thick. Add the scooped squash to the sausage mixture. Stir in the herbs and ¼ cup of parmesan cheese. Taste and adjust salt and pepper as desired. Mound the filling in the squash shells equally. Sprinkle the remaining parmesan cheese over the top. Return stuffed squash to the oven and bake until cheese is melted and the filling is hot, about 15 minutes. Sprinkle with additional herbs as desired. Serve hot.

#### **Apple Cider Sangria**

This would be a yummy accompaniment to the stuffed squash:

- 1 Granny Smith apple, sliced
- 1 Honeycrisp apple, sliced
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 1 orange, sliced
- 2 cups apple cider
- 1 (12 oz.) can ginger beer
- 1 (750 ml.) bottle of white wine

Fill a large pitcher with the sliced fruit, then add the apple cider, ginger beer and wine. Chill. Stir the mixture before serving.



#### **TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1.C 2.B

2.D 3.B

3.1

4.C

5.B



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