



Volume 28/29, Issue 11/12
August/September 2026

Beacon Terrace manufactured home community

2425 Harden Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33803

The official publication of the home owners of Beacon Terrace

From the Editor

Greetings!

When I moved to Beacon Terrace four years ago, it was also my first time in Florida. I remember watching residents walking around in coats during the winter and thinking to myself that I wouldn't wear a jacket back home until it got down to 25 degrees or colder. My manager, whose brother also lives in Florida, told me, "Just wait, you'll be doing the same thing in a few years." I replied, "No way, ain't gonna happen!" This past winter, as you might guess, yours truly was wearing a sweatshirt when it was 45 degrees. When it dropped into the 30s, I was plain freezing, with the heat on!

As I write this in mid-June, we are already seeing some impressive temps along with a decent amount of rain.

This is the time of year I would get some of my best sunrise photos from the back of my house.

Since purchasing our forever home, I no longer have that view, but I do see a lot of interesting critters.

The first week of June, I took the dog out for her morning routine and, to my surprise, there were three red foxes in my neighbor's yard. Again, still being somewhat new to Florida, I didn't know if I should pick



One of three photos I took

up the dog and run or stand still until they left. Instead, the photographer in me grabbed my iPhone and started taking pictures. I figured if I were going to meet my demise, there would be evidence on my phone.

See you in September! (originally recorded by *The Tempos* in 1959).

Bryan

What's inside:

Did You Know?02

America 25007

Resident Spotlight09



Message from our H.O.A President



Cathy McLean, Lot 211
mcleancathy60@gmail.com
416-464-0361



Hello,

Here we are — the middle of summer already.

Some of you may have met our new Property Manager, **Kimberly Pruitt**, who started on June 29th. She's spent the last three weeks training with Sandy and Taylor. Kimberly is new to the business, so let's all be helpful to her.

Our new Office Manager is **Yolandie Vandenberg**. She has a lovely accent and seems to be settling in nicely.

I've had several conversations with Kimberly over the past three weeks and have given her the list of everything left unfinished when Taylor departed. The fountain and pool shower are at the top of her list. Also on it:

- **Laundry room concrete**
- **The dead edging around the sea walls and front pond**
- **The island swing**

- **The dock railings**
- **Lights on the clubhouse**
- **Picnic tables on the island**
- **Retaining walls upgrade**
- **BT sign repainting**

We also have a new bookcase in the library to display our puzzles, so they can be easily seen and borrowed.

I also had an inquiry from a resident about Spectrum group contracts — specifically, whether the park has one. If anyone can shed some light on this, I'd appreciate it.

As always, I'd love to hear from any or all of you. My body may be located in another country, but my mind is always thinking about you and our community. I'm always reachable by phone or email.

Cathy
416-464-0361
mcleancathy60@gmail.com

In Loving Memory



5/26/26
Gayle Brown #142

6/17/26
Herb Bates, formerly #224

6/22/26
Chick Sweeney #240

Did You Know?

Fun Facts • Interesting Info • Something New

Why we say "bite the bullet"

The popular story goes that soldiers undergoing battlefield surgery were given a lead bullet to bite down on to endure the pain. The true origin is less dramatic but more interesting. In 1796, a military dictionary described soldiers biting bullets during flogging, a punishment that carried a strict code of silence. Biting a bullet kept a man from screaming or biting off his own tongue. The phrase first appeared in print in Rudyard Kipling's 1891 novel *The Light That Failed*, meaning to endure something painful with stoicism. The surgery story came later and stuck harder than the truth usually does.

Why we say "sleep tight"

The rope bed story is a good one: mattresses once rested on interwoven ropes strung across a wooden frame, and tightening them regularly kept the bed from sagging. Telling someone to sleep tight, the story goes, was literally wishing them a well-strung bed. The problem is that the phrase does not appear in writing until 1866, in a woman's diary, by which time rope beds had already been replaced by metal springs. Most linguists trace the word tight here to its older meaning of soundly or properly, the same way Shakespeare used it. Sleep tight simply meant sleep well. One of the most beloved bedtime phrases turns out to be built on a bedtime story about itself.

Why September is named wrong?

September comes from the Latin *septem*, meaning seven. It is the ninth month of the year and has been for over 2,500 years. The original Roman calendar had only ten months and began in March, making September the seventh. Around 713 BC, two months were added to the front of the year, pushing everything back by two. Nobody bothered to rename September, October, November, or December, even though their names now meant the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months of a twelve month year. September has been in the wrong position longer than it was ever in the right one. Nobody has complained loudly enough to fix it.



**NEED A HELPING HAND?
GIVE OUR GUYS BELOW A CALL!**

Terry Castle: 412-973-4587
Al Gulla: 704-562-4829
Joe Little: 405-850-5088

From the Social Committee

Events • Community • Fun

July surely didn't disappoint with the rain we got! In a few short days, our ponds were filled and even overflowing (after the almost 4" rainfall in one day). The ducks have returned and all is good at Beacon Terrace.

The community had a wonderful Fourth of July picnic, hosted by Connie Tonkin, Nicole and Nate Noble, with additional help from Rebecca Tromley, followed by a golf cart parade. Joanne Henderson won best decorated golf cart, and Linda and Chuck Castor won best dressed. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the residents who step up to host these fun events. The Social Committee and our BT community truly appreciate you.

The bocce ball courts are finally being mowed, but it's too hot to play right now, so we'll resume in September. Line dancing will also start again in September. Although attendance at the Christmas in July dance with DJ Simply Pablo was smaller than usual, we had one of our best dances to date. For those who enjoy the dances and activities organized by the Social Committee, we are on the lookout for others to join us in planning and lend a helping hand – the more the merrier!

Ladies' luncheons, men's night out, and Dine Out will continue through August and September. There are also a variety of new bands booked starting in October. Look for the October "Beacon" for the dates and names of these upcoming bands.

Here's our weekly events:

Pool Exercises – Monday through Saturday; 9:30-10:30am

Hand & Foot in the Clubhouse – Sundays; 1:00pm

Mexican Train in the Clubhouse - Mondays; 1:00pm

Chair Yoga in the Clubhouse – Tuesdays; 10:00am

Line Dancing in the Clubhouse – Wednesdays; 4:30pm (starting 9/9/26)

Crafts in the Clubhouse – Thursdays; 1:00pm

Bocce – Thursdays; 2:00pm (starting 9/10/26)

Social on the Island – Thursdays; 4:00pm

Bridge in the Clubhouse – Fridays; 12:00pm

AUGUST

9th - Community Get Together and Ice Cream Social; 2:00pm

10th - Men's Night Out at Food & Beer; 4:30pm

12th - Social Club Meeting in the Clubhouse; 3:00pm

15th - "Dog Days of Summer" Dance with DJ Simply Pablo; 6:00-9:00pm

20th - Ladies Luncheon at Beef "O" Brady's; 11:00am

26th - Splish Splash, Pool area; 4:00pm

31st - Dine Out, Catfish Country; 4:30pm

SEPTEMBER

7th - Labor Day Picnic (time and place TBD)

14th - Men's Night Out (location to be determined); 4:30pm

17th - Ladies Luncheon (location to be determined); 11:00am

19th - Dance with DJ Simply Pablo; 6:00-9:00pm

24th - Splish-splash, pool area; 4:00pm

30th - Dine Out (location to be determined); 4:30pm

Please join us for these fun events. As always, events are subject to change so check the weekly updates on Facebook and e-mail blasts. The monthly calendar in the clubhouse foyer is updated regularly, and sign-up sheets are also inside the clubhouse.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

And Now for Something Completely Different!

You know you're over 60 when ...

1. Someone mentions a celebrity and your first question is "is he still alive?"
2. You'd rather be home. You're already home. Excellent.
3. You keep a drawer of cords for devices you no longer own, just in case.
4. You've watched a full weather forecast for a state you don't live in.
5. You've caught yourself narrating what you're doing while you do it.
6. You still tell people your age like it's a surprise. It isn't.
7. You know the names of all your neighbors' dogs and none of their grandchildren.
8. Your phone has three text messages, all from your wife, all sent from another room.
9. You have a "good pen" and you know exactly where it is.
10. You've fallen asleep in a chair, insisted you were awake, and cited plot points to prove it.



This Month in History

Key Events • Fascinating Stories • Lasting Impact

August

1959 — 500,000 steelworkers walked off the job, shuttering nearly every steel mill in the country. The strike ran 116 days and was the largest industry-wide strike in U.S. history, and also the last.

1965 — Mariner 4 flew past Mars and returned close-up pictures of the surface, proving the planet's so-called canals were an illusion.

1971 — In a live television and radio broadcast, President Nixon stunned the country by announcing he would visit communist China the following year. The speech ran about three and a half minutes, from a Burbank studio at 7:30 p.m.

1975 — The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project began. Soviet cosmonauts Leonov and Kubasov lifted off first, followed seven and a half hours later by Americans Stafford, Brand, and Slayton. Two days later came the first handshake in space.

1978 — The Longest Walk ended in Washington, D.C. The 2,800-mile trek for Native American justice had started in California with several hundred marchers and arrived accompanied by thousands of supporters.

1979 — President Carter addressed the nation on live television about the energy crisis and the recession. Remembered now as the "crisis of confidence" or "malaise" speech.

2006 — Odeo publicly released Twttr, later renamed Twitter. The vowel-free name followed the fashion of the time and fit the five-character SMS short code limit. They bought the proper spelling about six months later.

September

1959 — Nikita Khrushchev landed in Washington, the first Soviet leader ever to set foot in the United States. He insisted on flying in the experimental TU-114 to show off Soviet engineering, over his own son's objections. The trip later included a tantrum when security barred him from visiting Disneyland.

1965 — "Lost in Space" premiered on CBS at 7:30 p.m., following the Robinson family toward Alpha Centauri. The Robot's warnings became some of the best-remembered lines on television.

1968 — The Soviets launched Zond 5 from Baikonur carrying two Russian steppe tortoises, along with worms, flies, and plants. They flew around the Moon and came home safely, the first Earth lifeforms to make the trip. Scientists found them in good health afterward, a little lighter than when they left.

1971 — An old halibut boat renamed Greenpeace raised a green sail and left Vancouver headed for Amchitka Island to protest nuclear testing. That voyage gave the organization its name.

1978 — Muhammad Ali beat Leon Spinks at the Louisiana Superdome to take the heavyweight title a third time, the first fighter ever to do it. A record crowd of 63,350 watched, with Joe Frazier singing the national anthem.

1981 — The Smithsonian fired up the John Bull and ran it beside the C&O Canal in Washington, exactly 150 years after its first run in America. It became the oldest operable steam locomotive in the world, and is thought to be the oldest operable self-propelled vehicle of any kind.

1997 — The google.com domain was registered, a full year before the company itself existed. Google still counts September 27, 1998 as its birthday.

The Travel Corner

Adventures from our community



Wow, I can't believe how fast this year is going!! We have already put

together day trips for Fall 2026 through Spring 2027. We now have the 2028 cruise posted on the bulletin in the clubhouse.

We have 90 signed on for the 2027 Royal Caribbean cruise to Belize City, Costa Maya and Cozumel aboard the Radiance of the Seas. Don Cook told me there were fewer than ten rooms available. There have been two price reductions, so this is a VERY attractive deal. By the Beacon publish date, these may be gone. Even so, you can still call Don Cook 863/226-4772 to see if there are any rooms available. Remember, if you have traveled Royal Caribbean in the past, you may have points available towards your cruise.

We are already seeing interest being sparked for the 2028 Royal Caribbean Freedom of the Seas. This 9-day cruise will take us to Curacao, Aruba, Cabo Rojo and Nassau. Early booking rates are available right now.

If you recall, we cancelled the day trip to Vero Beach's McKee Botanical Gardens. We have now rescheduled for Tuesday, October 20th, 2026. These beautiful gardens have been viewed by over 100,000 visitors. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We will have lunch at Waldo's in The Driftwood Inn. Round trip transportation, tour, lunch, tax and gratuities are all included for \$119.00.

November 12th, we will head to Ft. Myers to visit Thomas Edison's and Henry Ford's Winter Estates. You will be able to view original equipment in Edison's Botanic Research Lab. \$129.00 covers round trip transportation, both estate entrance fees, lunch, tax and gratuities.

OTHER PLANNED TRIPS

- **December 12th, 2026** - Kingfisher Cruise and Dinner
- **January 12th, 2027** - Asian Lantern Festival & P.F. Chang's
- **February 9th, 2027** - Marina Jack Yacht Cruise and St. Armands Circle
- **March 8, 9 & 10, 2027** - Amelia Island Extended Tour
- **April 5th, 2027** - Speakeasy Murder Mystery Dinner Show

Cruise flyers are available at the clubhouse and #261 Hibiscus.

If you have any questions, call Jan Trask 863-660-1741.

Notary services

Available for all residents in Beacon Terrace. Please give me a call, Sharman Carney, at (863) 521-6834 to schedule a convenient time. I am in Lot #21. (This is free for all HOA members)

America at 250

Neighbors • Food • Music • Flag

Two hundred and fifty years, and we marked it the way Americans always have: with neighbors, with food, with a little music, and with the flag out front where everyone could see it.





Resident Spotlight

Friendship • Neighbor • Family

Meet Barney

*How one 19-pound Scottie opened up our new neighborhood - **Johnny Walker / Lot 201***

Since moving to Lakeland from Minnesota three years ago, I admit to going through quite a culture shock. No more frigid weather; no more falling on my icy driveway; no more shoveling two feet of snow just to open our front door; and no more finding our van out in the street after it had quietly slid down the icy incline of our driveway in the middle of the night.

This is where it begins...

In March 2025 we made the decision to adopt Barney, our "infamous" 19-pound Scottish Terrier, the last-born Scottie in the U.S. for 2024. He came to us from a far-away place called Cavern Kennels in western Tennessee. When we met Barney in Dalton, Georgia, we had no idea what the future held for our new family of three.

My wife Kay immediately assumed the twice-daily duties of "airing Barney out." On those walks she has met an extensive and friendly BT subculture of dog walkers. Twice a day I eagerly quizzed her about who she'd met, the names of their dogs, and how the "encounters" went.

Barney is especially intrigued by treats from passing golf carts, and more than a little jealous of his cart-riding canine friends as they smile down at him, gleeful and proud, on their way by.

While Kay was in Minnesota for a week in early June, I assumed the daily walking duties, much to Barney's disappointment, as his walks were cut short by this out-of-shape old man. It has been to my benefit, though: I've met our fine neighbors, with and without dogs. The experience forced me up much earlier and left me healthier, requiring me to walk, walk, walk, all while groaningly bending over to retrieve his "business." (I wish God had made our arms longer so we wouldn't have to bend so far.)

Barney has certainly opened our world to new neighbors. We now realize the responsibilities of ownership have led to a growing and loving companionship, along with a healthier, happier life. Come and meet him. He loves people, especially dogs. (Rabbits, not so much.)



"The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world... is his dog."

HAPPY Birthday

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Shirley Bretell Provost
Joan Goldberg
Nancy Langton | 14 Christine Gaudet |
| 2 Larry Cook
Helen Roberge | 15 Debra Marrocco |
| 3 Richard Brown
Cathy McLean
Nicholas Scime | 17 Luz Gonzalez |
| 4 Ruth Cottingham
Dave Dunn | 18 Bob Patterson |
| 5 Jim Merritt | 19 Doug Howison
Nicole Noble
Jan Willis |
| 6 Bob Provost | 22 Annette Pompay |
| 7 Trudy LeBlanc | 23 William Peck |
| 8 Charlotte Miller | 25 Marilyn Baker |
| 12 Paul Willis | 28 Coral Dauphinais |
| | 29 Evelyn McAneny |
| | 31 Teresa Dassa
Thomas Foster |

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Mary Fran Foster
Marjorie Vetoich | 14 Debra Peck
Hugh Stein |
| 2 Dean Clawson | 17 Joe Little |
| 4 Ruby Skellen
Arlene Woodworth
Alfred Smith | 19 Moe Roth |
| 5 Janet Provost | 20 Christine Birdwell |
| 6 Michael Ogonowski | 21 Jane Townsend |
| 7 John Emerling | 23 Jan (Mr. Jan) Vlach |
| 8 Joe Levengood | 26 David McComish |
| 10 Carol Edwards
Gary Gearheart | 27 Patricia Panick |
| | 29 Deborah Brown
Chuck Snavelly |

Recipe Corner

Delicious recipes from our community kitchen

Awesome Chocolate Cobbler

Submitted by Sheri Little

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1¾ cups white sugar divided
- ¼ cup, plus 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder divided
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups boiling water

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Place the butter in a 2-quart baking dish (8" square) and set in the oven to melt. Keep an eye on the butter and remove from the oven when it has melted. Set aside.
- Combine the flour, baking powder, salt, ¾ cup sugar, and 2 tablespoons cocoa powder in a medium mixing bowl. Whisk to combine. Add the milk and vanilla. Whisk again until smooth.
- Combine the remaining 1 cup sugar and ¼ cup cocoa powder in a small mixing bowl. Whisk to combine.
- Pour the liquid batter over the butter in the baking dish. Sprinkle with the sugar and cocoa mixture. Slowly pour boiling water over the top as evenly as possible.
- Bake for about 30 minutes, just until the top has set. Cool for 15 minutes before serving...ENJOY!



August 2026

August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises
2 1:00PM Hand & Foot	3 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train	4 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises	5 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises	6 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 10:00AM Crafts with Bonnie 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Social on the Island	7 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	8 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises
9 1:00PM Hand & Foot 2:00PM FREE Ice Cream Social by Amerilife	10 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train 4:30PM Men's Night Out - Food & Beer	11 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 9:30AM Chair Yoga	12 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 3:00PM Social Committee Mtg	13 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Social on the Island	14 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	15 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 6:00PM - 9:00PM Dog Days of Summer Dance
16 1:00PM Hand & Foot	17 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train	18 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 9:30AM Chair Yoga	19 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises	20 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 11:00AM Ladies Luncheon - Beef 'O Brady's 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Social on the Island	21 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	22 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises
23 1:00PM Hand & Foot	24 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train	25 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 9:30AM Chair Yoga	26 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises	27 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Splish Splash	28 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	29 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises
30 1:00PM Hand & Foot	31 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train 4:30PM Community Dine Out - Catfish Country					

September 2026

September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 9:30AM Chair Yoga 2:00PM Bocce Ball	2 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises	3 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 10:00AM Crafts with Bonnie 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Social on the Island	4 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	5 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises
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13 1:00PM Hand & Foot	14 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train 4:00PM Men's Night Out - TBD	15 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 9:30AM Chair Yoga 2:00PM Bocce Ball	16 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 4:30PM Line Dancing - Clubhouse	17 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 11:00AM Ladies Luncheon - TBD 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Social on the Island	18 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	19 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 6:00PM - 9:00PM Dance the Night Away with Pablo
20 1:00PM Hand & Foot	21 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Mexican Train	22 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 9:30AM Chair Yoga 2:00PM Bocce Ball	23 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 4:30PM Line Dancing - Clubhouse	24 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 1:00PM Hand & Foot 1:00PM Crafts 4:00PM Splish Splash	25 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises 12:00PM Bridge	26 8:00AM Coffee 9:30AM - 10:30AM Pool Exercises
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The Federation of Manufactured Home Owners (FMO) protects the rights and interests of manufactured/mobile home owners.

FMO is our advocacy group; without it, we are at the mercy of city and state agencies. The more members we have, the greater our voice will be.

You can join for \$40.00 for one year or \$120.00 for three years.

For applications you may contact me:

Alice Murray, FMO Representative

Lot # 72

(863) 255-4475

Beacon Terrace Homeowners Association, Inc. Mission Statement

To promote, provide & encourage healthy, beneficial, & enjoyable living conditions for the benefit of all residents.

Social Activities —Promote social activities, bingo, dinners, games, educational events, and general good fellowship for all residents

Support Groups —Cooperate and support the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners of Florida, Inc. (FMO) and Lakeland Inter-Park Council (LIC) for the benefit of all residents

Park Facilities — Promote and encourage the proper care of all facilities in the Park by all residents

Rules and Regulations — Establish reasonable rules and/or regulations for all activities in the best interest of all residents and such rules are not to conflict with those of the Park management

Problem Resolution — Promote cooperation between residents and Park management where differences arise and seek agreed resolution; represent residents to seek proper resolution

Water Valve – Zone Chart

ZONE	HOMES	VALVES
1	119-128	1, 3
2	22, 57-60, 77-95, 98-118	3, 4, 10, 14
3	96-97, 243-256, 258-274	4, 5
4	233-242, 257, 275-288	5, 6
5	40-56, 61-76	10, 11
6	1-21, 23-39	12, 14
7	129-161	9
8	162-167, 188-190, 195-231, 297	7, 8, 12
9	168-187, 191-194, 232, 289-296	6, 7, 8

Come join your fellow
BT residents every Saturday for
"Coffee in the Clubhouse"
at 8.00 am





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BEACON TERRACE HOA DISCLAIMER

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BT Emergency (863) 315-1256

Beacon Terrace Office (863) 687-1695

Lakeland Electric (863) 834-9535

POLICE non-emergency (863) 834-6966

Bulk Trash Pickup (863) 834-8773

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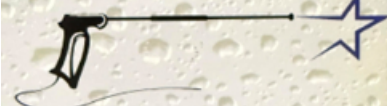
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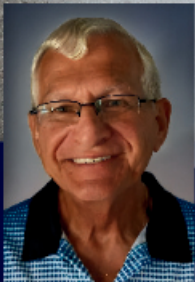
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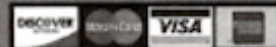
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